

on the bench

with Bob Hoffman

LEGION SLAUGHTER — Fred Wither's Gastonia Green team is no doubt the most powerful squad in these parts.

The Greens opened the season by knocking off Shelby's White Sox by a 32-1 score, and Thursday night they came back to trounce a strong Paw Creek team by a 22-1 margin.

Gastonia has always been a rough team to beat on its home field, and the 1956 season has been no exception thus far.

LOCAL OUTLOOK — Kings Mountain's Juniors have taken a brighter look in the past three ballgames. With the boys finally finding the hitting range, the Post 155 boys could be tougher in the second round play-offs.

Ken Baity and Doug Rathbone, both of whom are good ball players, have missed a couple week's action due to a two-week trip with the National Guard. They will be back for the second go-round, and will probably give Coach Gus Hartsoe a little more bench strength than he has at the present time.

Incidentally, Baity was the only Kings Mountain boy to gain a berth on the Southwestern Conference All-Loop baseball team. However, through some queer way to thinking, six outfielders and only one pitcher were picked. Many think that Keith Layton should have been selected on the hurling corp, but Ray Searcy was the only pitcher chosen.

Layton has been a thorn in the side of Area legion bosses this season. The big portside has a 2-1 record, having struck out 30 men and walked 14 in the three games he has worked. He has given up only 16 hits in these contests.

Keith should have had a perfect 3-0 record, except Rutherfordton got lucky and eked out a 3-2 win on a mere three hits.

The Kings Mountain team batting average is right around the .200 mark, with Ken Armstrong's .417 leading the pack for the first six games.

Layton has a .357 mark, John McGinnis a .270; and Wayne Appling has raised his average to .287, and Jerry Munday is hitting .250.

McGinnis and Kermit Williams of Gastonia are the two best second-basemen in the conference, without a doubt. Williams, Belmont High School hotshot, resembles McGinnis further in that he was also a basketball star for the Raiders.

MANTLE'S MUSIC — The biggest argument among baseball fans today is will Mickey get 60 or will he fall short of the magic mark set by Babe Ruth.

Many fans are sure that the Yankee star will by-pass the homer record, while others say the old injury-bug will catch him before the season is over.

One fan said to me the other day, "I don't pull for the Yankees—just Mantle."

I am still trying to figure out how he can pull for Mantle to hit home-runs and not pull for the Yanks to win ballgames.

Either way, Mantle is the hottest drawing-card the majors have seen in a many a day. He will pack them in as long as he maintains his pace with the big stick.

Its ironical to note that Mickey is making the tremendous salary of \$30,000 a year, while George Kell and others are making \$40,000 to \$100,000 for sitting on various benches around the nation.

FINALLY FOOTE — Speaking of baseball, Foote Mineral finally won a Gaston Textile League game.

After losing a dozen straight, the Foote boys grabbed the win in their 13th tilt against Talon Zipper.

Congratulations to Carl Wilson and his team for getting on the victory road, and for not giving up in those dark weeks. Foote has a much improved squad, and may take a lot more games before the season is over.

Charlotte Defeats Locals 8-3 For Third Straight Area 4 Loss

With the help of shoddy Kings Mountain fielding, Charlotte won its third Area 4 Legion ball game at Richard Field Tuesday night.

The Hornet's Nest Post boys banded out an 8-3 win, though collecting only four hits off the slants of Billy Hardin and Keith Layton.

Kings Mountain's hitting was far below par as the locals only got five hits off the pitching of Farris, a second-string twirler.

Charlotte took an early lead in the seven-inning contest by tallying twice in the second frame on three Kings Mountain errors and a single. They scored six runs in the fifth on three walks, two hits, a hit batter and two errors.

Kings Mountain tallied their first run in the fifth on a walk, wild pitch and Charlotte's first of two errors during the game. The locals could not manage to tally again until the seventh, when they scored two runs on a walk, wild pitch, error and a base hit by Ken Baity.

Billy Hardin, making his first start for Kings Mountain, looked very good in his four inning stint. He gave up but three hits, and two walks while whiffing five batters. Layton relieved with one out in the fifth, and struck out five men during his stay. However, he allowed a big hit, a triple by Harry Caddell that drove in a pair of markers, walked one and hit a batter.

Harry Caddell's triple won him Charlotte batting honors, while John McGinnis had two of Kings Mountain's five hits. Jerry Crawford came up with a double, the locals only extra base hit of the game.

Threatening skies, and no umpires caused Coach Gus Hartsoe and Coach Charlie Horn to decide on a seven-inning contest. Chief Hugh Logan and two other fans were doing the umpire duties.

KINGS MTN.	AB	R	H	PO
Baity rf	4	0	1	0
McCartier lf	4	0	0	0
Hughes 2b	4	0	0	0
Clark cf	2	0	0	0
Hardin 3b	3	0	0	0
Crawford c	3	0	1	10
Rathbone 3b	2	0	0	2
Hambrick 1b	2	0	0	4
Layton p	1	0	0	0
x-Hughes	0	1	0	0
x-Waters	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	28	3	4	18

CHARLOTTE	AB	R	H	PO
L. Caddell 3b	4	1	0	0
Puckett lf	2	1	0	0
Wingate ss	3	1	1	0
Justice 1b	3	1	1	0
Norman c	3	0	0	8
H. Caddell cf	3	1	1	0
Stanton if	2	1	0	1
McQuay 2b	2	1	1	1
Farris p	2	0	0	4
Ballard if	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	24	8	4	21

x-Walker for Rathbone in 8th; xx-on by error for Hambrick in 8th.

Mauney Mills Take Early Baseball Lead
Mauney Mills has jumped into the lead in the City Recreation Baseball League having won a pair while losing one game.

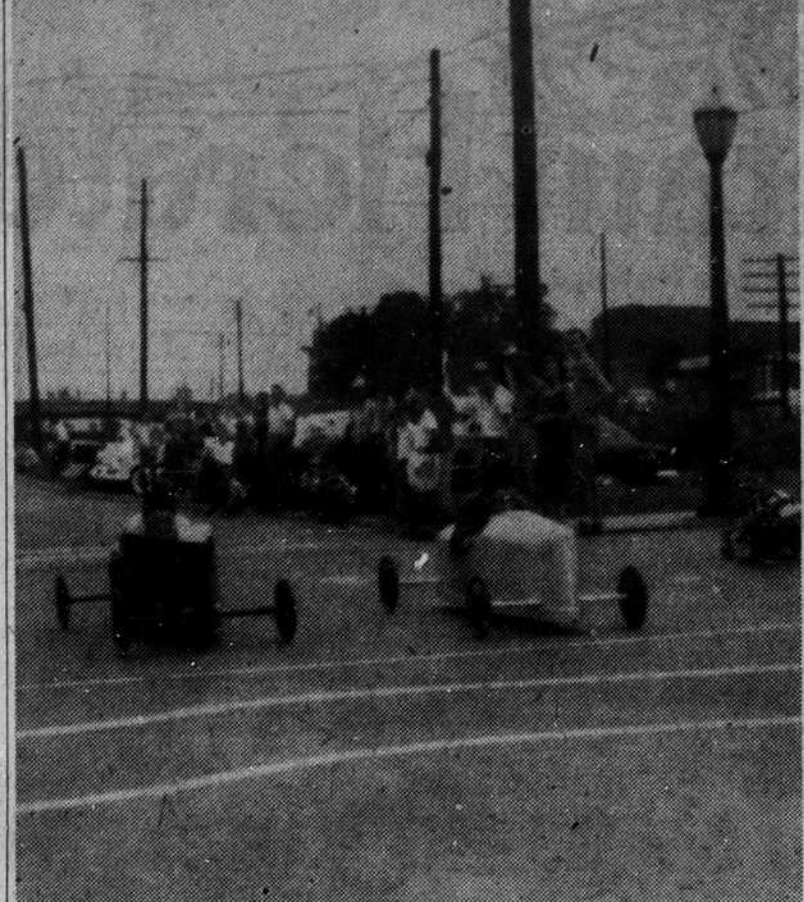
Games during the past week saw Margrace defeating Moose Lodge by a 4-1 score, while Mauney edged the Rebels by a 5-3 margin.

Tuesday rain washed out the Mauney-Moose Lodge contest, while the Rebels took a 6-4 win from Margrace.

The Rebels and Moose Lodge boys tied a game last week by a 6-6 score, and the rained out contest leaves Moose Lodge with only two complete games played.

Standings after the first two weeks of play are as follows:

TEAM	W	L
Mauney Mills	2	1
Margrace	2	2
Moose Lodge	1	1
Rebels	1	2



PRACTICE RUNS — Ronald Willis of Shelby is shown edging Tony Hampton in what is almost a photo-finish in the practice run for Soap Box Derby entrants held last Wednesday at Victory Chevrolet. Willis took first place while Hampton copped second position. Mike Dixon of Kings Mountain finished third in the heated runs. All of these boys will be entered in the Annual Charlotte Soap Box Derby set for June 27.

Rutherfordton's Big Bats Claim 11-9 Win As Locals Drop Fifth

Kings Mountain's Junior Legion boys lost their fifth game of the season Saturday night, as Rutherfordton took a wild and woolly three-hour contest by a 11-9 margin.

Coach Gus Hartsoe could count but 11 ball players when the game started, and was definitely in need of some bench strength. Pitching was a big worry for the local team. Keith Layton had to come in from left field to toe the slab for the second night in a row, after David Hughes weakened in the seventh.

Rutherfordton also had pitching troubles, as Coach "Wham" Carpenter used four pitchers, and called upon his starter, Troy Searcy, to come from left field to finish the contest.

Each team committed six errors during the action, but Rutherfordton's superior long ball hitting was the deciding factor.

Rutherfordton collected four doubles and a home run against a lone double for the Post 155 boys.

Jim McDonald was a one-man gang for the visitors as he collected a pair of Doubles and a homer, driving in six tallies. Keith Layton, Jerry McCartier and Darrell Hambrick each had a pair of hits in the Kings Mountain 10-hit attack.

Rutherfordton took a 5-4 lead in the fifth inning, but the local team tied it in the sixth. Then the visitors broke loose for four runs in the seventh to pull ahead once again. The local lads got three

Kings Mountain Boots Another, As Gastonia Greens Cop 14-3 Win

Gastonia's Greens discovered a new pitching star in Gastonia Friday night when little Jimmy Miller walked calmly out on the mound and held Kings Mountain to five hits as he picked up a 14-3 win in his first start for Fred Withers' team.

Kings Mountain gave the Gastonia fans something to buzz about when they picked up a pair of runs in the top of the first on a pair of hits and a three base error by catcher "Pokey" Dellinger. Connie Clark's triple was the big blow of the frame.

Billy Brandon held the first two Greenie batters in check easily, but a base on balls, a hit batter, and a pair of Kings Mountain errors to total five runs before the third out could be obtained.

Lefty Keith Layton came on to relieve Brandon in the top of the second, after he walked the first batter to face him. Layton pitched a good ballgame until the fourth, when Gastonia banded out four hits, including triples by Coon and Williams.

Meanwhile, Miller was having no trouble in putting the Kings Mountain boys down. He scattered three more hits throughout the eight innings, but was never in real danger.

Kings Mountain scored its third run in the fifth when Layton walked, McGinnis singled, and Armstrong hit deep into the hole to shortstop to drive in Layton.

The Post 155 boys had another rough fielding frame when they committed five more bobbles in the sixth, giving the Greens two runs on a single hit.

Kermit Williams was the big gun for Gastonia getting two triples and driving in five runs in four trips. The speedy little second-sacker also scored a pair of runs and made several sensational fielding plays around the keystone.

John McGinnis turned in a fine defensive game for the local team, going into shallow right field several times to pull down balls that looked like sure hits. Connie Clark broke his hit fame by collecting a pair of the Kings Mountain hits.

KING MTN.	AB	R	H	PO
McGinnis 2b	4	1	4	0
Munday 3b	4	0	0	3
Armstrong cf	3	0	1	1
Appling ss	3	0	1	1
Clark rf	3	0	2	1
McCartier lf	3	0	0	7
Crawford c	4	0	1	7
Hambrick 1b	4	0	1	0
Brandon p	1	1	0	0
Layton p	1	0	0	0
x-Hughes	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	32	3	14	27

GASTONIA	AB	R	H	PO
Coole of	5	1	0	1
Smith lf	5	2	3	5
Coon rf	5	3	2	5
Dellinger c	5	2	2	5
Suggs 3b	4	2	2	4
Williams 2b	4	2	2	4
Beam 1b	5	1	0	8
Brandshaw ss	5	0	1	1
Miller p	4	0	0	1
Whisenand rf	4	0	0	0
Bradley if	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	14	10	27

x-Flew out for Crawford in 9th. E-Dellinger, Munday, Crawford 2, Appling 2, Hambrick 3, Brandon, McCartier 2, RB-Clark, Armstrong 2, Coon 2, Suggs, Williams 3, SB-Coon 2, Williams 2, Suggs, Clark, SB-Cook, Beam, SF-Armstrong, DP-Appling to McGinnis; Hambrick; LEFT-Gastonia 8, Kings Mtn. 5; BB-Layton 7, Miller 2; SO-Layton 7, Miller 7; HO-Brandon 2 in 1st; Layton 8 in 7th; HB-Brandon 3; Suggs; WP-Layton 3; PB-Crawford 1; W-Miller, L-Brandon; T-2-30.

Park-Grace Takes Two, Widens LL Lead

Park-Grace is continuing to roll along in the city Little Leagues, and tightened its grip on first place last week by winning a pair of contests from Kiwanis and Bur Mil.

Kiwanis went down Monday 10-0 as Wilson twirled a no-hitter for the league leaders. Bur Mil made it a little tougher as they finally bowed 12-11, Wednesday.

Other games saw Kiwanis knock off the Jaycees by a 9-5 margin, and Jaycees and Bur Mil were rained out Monday.

Complete Little League standings are as follows:

TEAM	W	L
Park-Grace	11	3
Jaycees	6	7
Burmill	4	7
Kiwanis	4	8

The increase in dairy support prices this year may bring North Carolina dairymen \$280,000 more than they received last year.

Second-Round Is Starting Tonight

Second round play-offs in Area 4 Legion baseball will begin tonight.

Kings Mountain will take the field in a two out of three series against either Paw Creek or Rutherfordton in their first second round series.

Charlotte and Kings Mountain are vying for fourth and fifth place in the League 1 standings. Charlotte has a 3-7 record, while Kings Mountain has a 3-6 record with one rained out game with Shelby. This Shelby game will not be played, according to Fleete McCurdy, Post 155 athletic officer.

Charlotte could demand that the game be played or forfeited by Kings Mountain. In the event of a forfeit, Charlotte then would be tied for fourth place and the two teams would match for position.

According to the pairings for second round play, Gastonia will play the Shelby White Sox; Rutherfordton will play the number five team, which will be either Charlotte or Kings Mountain, and Paw Creek will meet the number four team, which will also be Charlotte or Kings Mountain.

Since the number one, two and three clubs are home teams for the first series, Kings Mountain will play only one game of the first series here. This game will be at City Stadium Friday night at 8 p. m.

No doubt left-hander Keith Layton will be called upon to bear the brunt of the pitching duties in this series. Coach Gus Hartsoe has been fielding only 11 or 12 men for the past several ball games, and Charlotte was in no better shape Tuesday night as they had only 12 men.

Kings Mountain will undoubtedly be eliminated early. The club's fielding has been very weak, and hitting is not much better. Pitching has also been a sore spot, with Keith Layton getting the majority of the hurling chores, either in starting or relief roles.

Billy Brandon, the team's second best pitcher, has not been present for the past two ball games, and is not expected to return. Jerry Munday, who also hails from Clover, which is Brandon's home town, has also left the team. Ken Armstrong of Bessemer City is another player that has not been around for the past few games.

Slo-Pitch Loop Starting Play

A slo-pitch softball league, being sponsored by the city recreation department, opened action here yesterday afternoon.

In a practice tilt last Friday, the Independents defeated Lithium Corporation by a 6-3 score, with George Harris banging a home-run for the winners.

This game was played only to allow softball fans in the city to get a look at the way slo-pitch softball is played.

The complete schedule for the six-week season shows that games will be played on Wednesday afternoons at 4:45 o'clock. The schedule is as follows:

- June 27 Presbyterian at National Guard Independents at Lithium July 4 Open July 11 Independents at Presbyterian National Guard at Lithium July 18 Presbyterian at Lithium Independents at National Guard July 25 National Guard at Presbyterian Lithium at Independents August 1 Presbyterian at Independents Lithium at National Guard August 8 Lithium at Presbyterian National Guard at Independents

Blassie And Von Hess To Team Up Friday

Southern heavyweight champion Freddie Blassie returns to the Gastonia Army wrestling ring Friday night—and he will bring along with him one of the roughest characters in the grapple game as his partner in the tag-team feature match.

Blassie's mate in mat mayhem will be Karl Von Hess, the goose-stepping Prussian storm-trooper, who also happens to be just about the most unpopular wrestler to climb through the Gastonia ropes in quite a spell. Von Hess has raised the ire of Gastonia wrestling fans with his victories over popular young Dick Steinborn in recent weeks.

Friday's foes for Blassie and Von Hess wouldn't rate the favorite's nod in a popularity contest in Gastonia, either—speaking of Hombre Montana and Jack Vansky, who last Friday night scored a one-fall, time-limit victory over Southern tag-team Champions Leo and Chick Garibaldi. The match, however, was not a title bout, much to the disgust of Montana and Vansky.

Promoter Marvin Hutchins lists the feature bout on Friday's card as the best two of three falls, with a one hour time limit. Another bout will round-out this session. The co-feature scrap will pit Dick Steinborn, not-so-fresh after four straight weeks of tangling with Von Hess, against Frank Altman, a 220-pound new-comer to these parts from Kansas City. The bout also is carded for the best of three falls, with a 60 minute time limit.

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We Are Reducing Our Entire Stock of Mens Summer Suits For Early Clearance. This Is Your Chance To Get Your Summer Suit At A Great Saving And In Time For This Summer's Wear.



Group No. 1
Rayon Tropicals in Tan, Grey, and blue.

\$19.98 Values

\$14.98

Group No. 2
Linen weaves, Rayons, Dacrons and Rayons. Light and dark colors.

\$24.95 Values

\$19.98

Group No. 3
Rayon Flannels in light grey and light blue. Center and side vents.

\$22.50

Most all sizes in the above suits, but not all sizes in every color and style.

MENS' SUMMER SHOE SALE

Our entire stock of Men's Summer ventilated and two-tone dress shoes are being reduced this week for early Clearance.

Group No. 1
Includes leather and mesh combinations, ventilated leathers, black and white loafers and oxfords, beige and brown and beige and black oxfords, light smoke and beige oxfords and loafers. Neolite, crepe and leather soles.

Values to \$8.98

\$5.98

Group No. 2
Ventilated leather oxfords in black or tan with leather soles.

\$10.98 Values

\$7.98

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Dress Shop • Second Floor