



## on the bench

with Bob Hoffman

**ROUND-AND-ABOUT** — Chuck Clements is rumored to be in line for the Gastonia High School football coaching job. Chuck is a former Gastonia mentor, who left for a hitch at Davidson College.

Reports indicate that Russ Bergman has been approached by the Gastonia American Legion post in an effort to bring the old master back to the Junior baseball coaching ranks.

Last week's Sporting News was devoted to a great extent to telling the Jackie Robinson story pro and con, and gave a lot of background on Robinson's major league debut.

Ted Abernathy was not among those players listed by Washington as being "unobtainable" in trades. Might mean that the Stanley hurler will be playing under different colors. The Yanks have long liked the looks of the swift southpaw.

Clemson lost 13 men off its Orange Bowl squad this season. Doug Cline, the Valdese flash, will no doubt be figured on heavily in the replacement department by Frank Howard. Cline had a very good freshman year this past season.

Coach Shu Carlton will have two of the best quarterbacks in the state running his West team in the annual East-West clash. Bolick of Hickory, and the Canton field general will handle the signal calling. This probably means that John McGinnis will be running at his old position of halfback.

Shu reports that he has a lot of "baef" on the team and that his line will average around 200, while the little backfield will hit about a 187 average.

If Shu is again recreation director for the summer, and I feel that he will be, he has plans cooking for a low-cost playground set-up that will bring sighs of relief from mothers of the city. This plan would establish some two or three playground areas, probably at elementary schools, that would operate in the mornings with high school students in charge. This would at least keep the kids from under foot til noon.

UNC will rest on its laurels and enjoy its undefeated basketball season for the next week or so during exams. The Tar Heels are going to be rough, but Frank McGuire doesn't look for an undefeated season. I go along with that — the Big 4 put out some fair country basketball teams. Ask those other boys like West Virginia that journeyed down for the Classic these past two years.

Ice hockey has found a good many followers in this area according to the reports of persons that have attended the matches. These will be more and more as tv games continue to interest others that have not caught the bug.

Kings Mountain High School will play a couple of night baseball games this spring. The Mountaineers will play Rutherfordton here on April 23, and will meet the same team in a night contest there on May 3. Looks like night baseball in the local school would draw better than the afternoon affairs.

A recreation program should be high on the list of things the city needs when budget time rolls around for the city fathers. Many cities around us have large budgets set aside each year for recreation of its citizens. Kings Mountain doesn't have facilities for a full - time program, but plans should be made to obtain these facilities in the near future.

Peahead Walker still makes a jaunt through North Carolina occasionally to pick up some talent for his Montreal pro team. Joel Wells and Bill Hudson of Clemson along with Ken Owens of Ga. Tech are among the ones the old deacon signed this trip. Peahead would be worth a large salary to some college just to scout and recruit. He seems to have a knack for getting good football players.

Bob Rush has just signed to play his 10th year in the majors. Last year he won 13 while losing 10 with the Chicago Cubs. Anyone that can win 13 games with the Cubs deserves really good pay.

For years the Yankees did not like to give out salary figures, claiming they were too personal. Now they are releasing the figures and bragging that they have the highest payroll in baseball. Yogi Berra gets \$58,000 this next season and Whitey Ford will knock down 35 gees. A high priced battery, even for the Yanks.

The Dodgers are planning to travel in style for the next while. The club has purchased a 44-passenger airplane at a cost of \$800,000. St. Paul and Montreal, Dodger farm clubs, will also use the sky buggy for transportation.

The college baseball boys are feuding with the major league clubs over snatching of players out of college. The pro boys come back with the report that in some instances they have had to pay a boy's college coach more than they did the player in order to get his signature.

In my opinion, if a kid is smart he will get a college education clause in his contract when and if he turns pro. The major league clubs can certainly afford to educate a boy, and it helps everyone concerned. A college education never hurts anyone and prestige is important in baseball.

Bob Feller says one of his ambitions is to own a part of a major league ball club. Bob would probably be a good man for baseball management, and his name alone has meant baseball for thousands of kids for the past 15 years.

**CONGRATS TO SHU** — Shu Carlton was a very deserving winner of the Jaycees Young Man of the Year Award for 1956. Coach Carlton has turned in a good job at the helm of Kings Mountain's football team, and brought home conference championships during the past two seasons. He is liked, respected and admired by players, fellow coaches, and sports fans alike. A very good choice for a very big honor.

## "B" Team Cagers Win Pair Here

Kings Mountain's "B" team cagers defeated the Forest City Jaycees in a pair of contests here last Thursday to bring their season records to a 1-1 split.

Shu Carlton's boys downed the visitors in a 34-28 thriller, and the girls of Coach Lib Collette dropped their opponents 43-37 in a wellplayed tilt.

Tommy Thomas paced the local boys with 10 points, while Connor and Biddix hit nine each. Medford hit nine for top scoring honors for Forest City.

Evelene Oliver dropped in 30 points to pace the Kings Mountain girls. Judy Medlin hit nine for runner-up honors. Bailey was

almost the entire show for the visitors, with 34 of their 37 points. Jones hit the other three markers.

BOYS		F C 28	
Kings Mtn. 34	Gladden 4	Owens 6	Ayers 1
Thomas 10	Connor 9	Medford 9	Biddix 9
Medford 9	Biddix 9	Greenlee 1	Cunningham 1
Bowers 2	Marshall 3	Watkins 5	

GIRLS		F C 37	
Kings Mtn. 43	Ormand 2	Bailey 34	Jones 3
Ormand 2	Medlin 9	Rhymer	Padgett
Oliver 30	Edwards	Harris	Alley
Medford 9	Scruggs		
Edwards	Pearson		
Scruggs	Black 2		
Pearson	Goforth		
Black 2	Lynn		
Goforth			
Lynn			

## Locals Drop Pair To Tri-High; Bridges, Medlin, Falls Pacers

Kings Mountain's high school basketball teams are still taking their lumps in Southwestern AA play, as both teams dropped decisions to Tri-High there Tuesday night.

Don Parker's boys trailed the entire game but threatened several times to pull ahead for their second win of the season. Final tally was 52-44.

Playing in the ill-lighted, small Tri-High gym, the Mountaineers found the long shots of the home towners too much to cope with. Kings Mountain outscored Tri-High from the floor, but fell behind from the foul circle.

Charles Bridges, who did not start, came off the bench in the second period and played one of his better games of the year leading the local scoring with 15 points. Keith Layton tossed in 11 and John McGinnis added 10.

Hamrick paced the Tri-High squad with 15 points and was trailed by Pleasant and Reynolds who hit 10 points each.

The girls fell behind 27-15 at the end of the first period and were never within striking distance throughout the remainder of the ball game. Kings Mountain's team has shown much improvement and played a good ballgame, but the superior height and experience brought the Tri-High lassies through to a 83-62 win.

Judy Medlin and Pratt Falls hit 21 points each to pace the local attack. Philbeck was the big gun for Tri-High with 30 markers. She got plenty of help from Raye with 24 and Rhymer with 18.

Tri-High's girls are third in the conference, having lost only two games.

These losses gives the boys a 1-6 record, while the girls are second in the win column with an 0-7 mark.

BOYS				
KINGS MOUNTAIN				
PLAYER	FG	FT	PF	TP
Layton	4	3-6	2	11
Baity	4	0-0	5	8
Pressly	0	0-1	1	0
McGinnis	4	2-3	3	10
George	0	0-0	0	0
Bridges	7	1-3	3	15
Blanton	0	0-0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6-13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44</b>

TRI-HIGH				
PLAYER	FG	FT	PF	TP
Childers	3	0-0	4	6
Pleasant	4	2-2	0	10
Hamrick	6	3-6	0	15
Reynolds	3	4-4	3	10
Mitchell	1	5-10	0	7
Roach	1	2-3	2	4
Shew	0	0-0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16-25</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>52</b>

SCORE BY QUARTERS:				
KM	6	13	13	12-44
Tri-High	14	10	14	14-52

GIRLS				
KINGS MOUNTAIN				
PLAYER	FG	FT	PF	TP
Smith	3	1-3	1	7
Falls	9	3-5	1	21
Cansler	5	3-8	3	13
Lawrence	0	0-0	4	0
Beam	0	0-0	4	0
Dean	0	0-0	4	0

TRI-HIGH				
PLAYER	FG	FT	PF	TP
Philbeck	13	4-4	1	30
Rhymer	9	0-0	1	18
Raye	9	6-9	3	24
Phillips	0	0-0	4	0
Branch	0	0-0	1	0
Quinn	0	0-0	3	0

**SUBS:** Kings Mountain—Medlin, 21, Pearson, Scruggs, Edwards; Tri-High—Webb, S. Walker Canniffeld, Waters, Phillips 3, Gibson, Seay Hill, Robbins.

SCORE BY QUARTERS:				
KM	15	15	21	11-62
Tri-High	27	20	22	14-83

## AAU Should Revise Amateur Rules To Help U. S. Olympic Athletes

More concentration on the so-called "minor" sports which caused the United States to lose the unofficial 1956 Olympics team championship to Russia and liberalization of our definition of "amateur" are urged by the nation's retailers of sporting goods and sports associations.

These are two of a number of conclusions regarding the international games brought out through a survey conducted by The Sporting Goods Dealer, national business magazine published at St. Louis. The results appear in the January issue of the publication.

Over-all, the retailers of sports equipment feel that America's failure in the various shooting events was the most deplorable development of all, because of our pride as a nation of outdoorsmen. Actually, the U. S. did not even enter a team in the trapshooting events, largely because its best marksmen are classed as professionals. They traditionally compete for cash prizes, which rarely even pay for the ammunition used.

Another difficulty in shooting, according to The Dealer, is that Europeans, and especially Russians are able to devote themselves to extensive training without expense. The magazine quotes F. C. Daniel, secretary of the National Rifle Association, as follows:

"Vassili Borissov, the Russian who won the 300-meter free rifle

championship, has shot in practice with the same coach for the last five years and shoots approximately five hours every day. I know of no civilian sportsman in the United States who could conceivably hope to match this."

The only solution, Daniel states, is closer co-operation between the manufacturers of firearms, the National Rifle Association, the Armed Services and Congress, in sponsoring and financing marksmanship programs.

However, the problem of defining an amateur is cited by most retailers as America's No. 1 Olympic problem in view of Russia's out-and-out subsidization of athletes and the far less restrictive attitudes in most other countries.

"The AAU had better realize that our athletes need more help. The AAU should wake up to the fact that these are the 1950s, not the 1890s. Athletes should be able to accept help or even earn money through endorsements, public appearances, etc., without being ruined by arbitrary rulings. Either kill the rules or bring them up to date."

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mented: "If we intend to take the Olympics seriously as presently set up, we had better teach our athletes to eat gold medals. Otherwise, put in the pros and bury the opposition."

## Raiders, Cherries Next Cage Foes

Belmont's Red Raider cage teams will invade Central High gym here Friday night for their first meeting of the year with the Kings Mountain hoop squads.

The Raiders, picked as one of several pre-season favorites in the Southwestern AA loop, have not been as sharp as predicted. Kermit Williams, sharp-shooting guard, was regarded as the big Belmont gun, but has failed to live up to his expectations thus far.

On the girls' team, Linda Mauldin is the big scorer, and she can knock the bottom out of that bucket. The girls are regarded as pretty rough competitors, and will no doubt emerge victorious here.

On Tuesday night, the Mountaineers open the second half of the conference schedule by traveling to Cherryville for a pair of tilts with the Ironmen squads.

The Cherries were leading the conference in the boys' standings but dropped a contest to Lincolnton by a 49-38 margin Tuesday. This may mean a drop to second place or at least a tie for top spot for the Ironmen.

Cherryville's girls are also rated among the top four teams in the lower end of the conference and took a 70-52 win over Kings Mountain in their last outing. However, the local lassies have improved since that opening tilt, and a closer game is seen for the next meeting.

Judy Medlin turned in a very impressive game against Tri-High and may get a starting nod against Belmont. Pratt Falls also looked good Tuesday night, especially on long set shots from the floor.

Coach Don Parker will probably go along with his same starting five. Charles Bridges came off the bench Tuesday following a short benching period to bucket 15 points and turned in a nice game on the court. Lack of point production from the pivot spot has hampered the Mountaineers, but Bridges gave indications Tuesday that this trouble may be taken care of.

The girls' game starts at 7 p. m., and the boys' contest follows.

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