

Area Four Junior Lineup Grows; Legion Moguls Meet Here Sunday



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Moguls To Plan Sports Seasons

Notes and notes on the sports scene . . . Politicians aren't the only folks who make plans in a smoke-filled room . . . The ones who run the athletic programs meet to organize, too, and three meetings which, in one way or another, affect Kings Mountain are carded for the next few days.

Little League coaches will huddle with Commissioner Bob Maner tonight (Thursday) to smoothe-out the final plans for the Little League season here . . . The little fellows will toss out the first pitch on the local season next Monday, and all that means a busy time around many households of the community . . . The young-men of the house will be late for supper several nights a week for the next couple of months.

American Legion moguls visit Kings Mountain Sunday afternoon (April 26) for the kick-off session to plan the junior baseball season for '59 . . . And, praise be, Kings Mountain will be represented at the confab, thanks to the last minute efforts to field a team here this summer . . . It first appeared that our town would sit on the sidelines this summer, but some of the baseball-minded and public-spirited citizens of the town wouldn't accept that fact, and, so, Kings Mountain Legion officials will be in the middle of the discussions here Sunday . . . Meeting time is 2 o'clock at the Otis D. Green Post home.

Meeting number three on the agenda will be the annual spring session of the WNCCHSAA at Albemarle next Monday afternoon, with Supt. B. N. Barnes of Kings Mountain presiding over the affair as president of the far-flung high school conference, of which the Mountaineers are a part, of course . . . Election of officers, planning the baseball playoffs and making a final check on next fall's football schedules will be among the matters for the principals and coaches at the meeting.

Withers' Second Term As Jr. Coach

More about the "last of the ninth" rally, the Legion staged to field a team this year . . . For one thing, it took Charlie Carpenter off the hook, so to speak . . . As commissioner of Area Four, Charlie felt a little like a team without a home field before his hometown came through with plans to sponsor a team, too.

One of the major factors in convincing many persons that Kings Mountain needed a junior team was the new state rule which would limit the local post's selection of players if it returned to the program next year . . . The rule specifies that a team entering or reentering the program can not pick up players who played with another team the previous year . . . That would have been the case with several local boys who would have played with either Shelby or Bessemer City this year, if Kings Mountain had not entered the race.

The naming of Fred Withers as Legion coach marks the return to the post for the Mountaineer diamond mentor . . . He was coach of the local Legion club in 1955 before being employed as the junior coach at Gastonia for a couple of seasons.

Turning from the young to the old . . . Tonight's the night the Oldtimers make their return to the diamond meeting the Mountaineers at City Stadium . . . The high school coaches, supplemented by some other local baseball vets, will crank-up their throwing arms for the game sponsored by the High School Key Club . . . Proceeds, you know, go toward paying for the new baseball uniforms . . . So, let's turn out and help the Mountaineers be a well-suited team.

Holt Sees New County Conference

Coach Preston Holt of Grover sees the possibility of the four "super" high schools in the planned Cleveland County consolidation forming their own athletic conference in future years.

"I don't know what will happen," he admits, "But I am sure there will be some type of athletics in the schools, although it may take a year or two to organize the program after the consolidation . . . The four schools, in fact, might form another county conference, and if four is not enough for a good league, they might get a couple of outside teams to round-out a larger conference."

The Grover mentor also takes note of the fact that the new schools will be about the same size as Kings Mountain and other Southwest Conference members, but wonders if the new schools will attempt to join the SWC . . . He also sees the possibility of a fine junior high athletic program in the new plans.

One of the mysteries of the current SWC baseball campaign is Belmont's faltering pitching staff . . . The Raiders were expected to have one of the strongest mound corps in the league, headed by triple-no-hit ace Bill Sanders . . . But the batters have found Belmont pitching more to their liking this spring, including Kings Mountain's retaliation for the two-no-hitters last year.

And right here, we owe any apology to the Mountaineers, and to our readers . . . We have noted in the last couple of weeks that Kings Mountain lost the two hitless games to the Raiders, and that's true . . . But we were wrong on the identity of the pitchers . . . Smokey Joe Wood hurled the no-hitter here, instead of Roger Helton, as we said earlier . . . Beg pardon.

Ivey, Sikes Post Top Rifle Scores

Cpl. Bill Ivey of the National Guard and Frank Sikes of the Universal Gun Club tied for high individual honors as the Gun Club defeated the guardsmen in a 22 cal. rifle 50-foot indoor match last week.

The top scorers posted marks of 99x each. T. W. Bryant of Kings Mountain and the Club was second high for his team with a 98x score. Fain Hambricht shot a 98, S. T. Greene a 97 and C. D. Coats a 96. The Gun Club's team score was 488, an average of 97 3/5.

Cpl. Bill Carrigan was second high for the Guard with a 97x score, followed by Sgt. Bob Carrigan with a 97, Cpl. Jerry Tucker 95x and Cpl. Harold Blanton 85. The guard shot a team score of 473 an average of 94 3/5.

Bobby Biddix Blanks Grover On One Hit

Bethware's Bobby Biddix hurled his third straight victory of the season, blanking Grover, 2-0, on one hit last Friday afternoon in a Cleveland County Conference game.

Wendall White obtained Grover's lone blow against the ace right-hander of the defending county champions.

The Buccaneers reached David Hughes for four hits in the victory, a double by Don Horn being the only extra-base blow.

Grover has lost one of its top players for probably the rest of the season in the person of Dean Green who has a pulled muscle in his hip and has been ordered to rest for several weeks.

At least 15 teams will participate in the Area Four American Legion junior baseball program for the 1959 season.

That number already has filed entry into the race and a 16th team will be added to the fold on Sunday when Kings Mt. carries-through with its plan to field a team. The Otis D. Green Post here earlier announced that it would withdraw from the junior baseball program this summer, but efforts are underway this week to sponsor a team.

All indication point toward Kings Mountain joining the Area Four race when officials of the sponsoring posts meet here Sunday to plan the summer season.

Area Four Commissioner Charlie Carpenter has called the session for 2 o'clock at the Legion post building here, with athletic officers and coaches of the participating teams on hand.

The Area Four lineup is due to be larger than last year, regardless of Kings Mountain's final decision. The 15 teams already in the field is an increase of one over last year.

When Kings Mt. definitely enters, Area Four will list the same 14 teams which participated last summer . . . In addition to another team from Charlotte and a second entry from Rutherford County, based at Forest City.

The returning teams are: Shelby, Gastonia, Belmont, Charlotte, Mt. Holly-Paw Creek, Bessemer City, Lincolnton, Cherryville, Hickory, Newton, Morganton, Rutherford, Granite Falls, and Kings Mountain.

The new Charlotte team is sponsored by Post 262, whereas the old team is sponsored by Post No. 9.

Two of the entries in the Area Four race are being co-sponsored by two or more Legion posts. Mt. Holly and Paw Creek join hands to jointly field a team again, and the other co-sponsorship is between Granite Falls-Hudson-and-Lenoir posts.

The state Legion junior program also shows a larger entry list this year, with 44 teams (45 if Kings Mt. enters) in the Ole when Kings Mt. enters in the Ole North State, compared to 38 last year.

Area Four remains the largest in number of teams, 15 or 16. Area three has 13, Area One has nine, and Area Two has seven.

The lineup for the other areas in the state Legion race this summer:

AREA I (Northwest) — Raleigh, Durham, Morehead City, Rocky Mount, Graham, Siler City, Jacksonville, Ahoskie, and Wendell.

AREA II (Southeast) — Wilmington, St. Pauls, Fayetteville, Red Springs, Lumberton, Castle Hayne, and Laurinburg.

AREA III (Piedmont) — Lexington, Salisbury, Monroe, Thomasville, Asheboro, Hamlet, Concord, Greensboro, Statesville, Albemarle, Kannapolis, Mocksville, and Spencer.

League play in the areas will get underway about the first of June, and the Area champion must be determined by July 22.

State semi-finals between Area champions start on July 25, and the state championship series on August 5. The state champion must be named by August 14.

Minette Softball Champs Open Season Vs. Champion Y Tonight

Minette Mills, defending state champion softball team will open its 1959 season tonight (Thursday) at 7:30, meeting the strong Champion Y of Canton at the Bricc Harry Memorial Park in Grover.

The game is the opener in a new seven-team South Atlantic Softball league of which Minette is a member. The contest originally was carded for last Saturday night, but was rained out and rescheduled for Thursday night.

Minette also will play at home on Saturday night, meeting the Tri-City Barber College team of Knoxville, Tenn.

A 12-game schedule has been arranged for the first half of the South Atlantic Softball League season which continues through June 20. The second half card will be drafted after that date, and the champions of both halves will meet in a post-season playoff.

Other teams in the league will be Charlotte, Parks Cigarette of Smyrna, Ga., McLean Whitney of Winston Salem, and Brock's Ice Cream Bar of Hendersonville. The teams will meet each other on a home and home basis during the first half.

Zero Hastings will manage the defending state champion Minette team this year and he has most of the stars on last summer's title team returning. Wade Vaughn and Lefty Orbin Taylor, the one-two pitching pun-

By NEALE PATRICK

Kings Mountain American Legion junior baseball staged a "last of the ninth rally" and will participate in the Area Four program this summer.

Through the efforts of local Legionnaires and other interested persons here who have promised their support in conducting the summer diamond program for Kings Mountain youths, the Otis D. Green Post will take part in the 1959 campaign after first being counted out for the season.

Charlie Carpenter, Jr., commissioner of Legion baseball in Area Four, and Commander Ray Cline



JOHN GAMBLE . . . business manager

George Wilson Joins Rochester In International

George Wilson makes another stop in a high minor league in his travels along baseball's highway this season.

The Kings Mountain resident joined the Rochester Red Wings of the International League this week after being sold to that triple-A club by the Denver Bears of the American Association. Wilson could not come to terms with the Denver team for which he played for the past two summers and spent the spring training season at home while the Bear management tried to peddle his contract.

Rochester bought the contract late last week and Wilson left by plane Sunday for Rochester to join the International League team. He turned right-around upon his arrival in Rochester, flying with his new team to Havana, Cuba, for his first series.

This marks Wilson's first season in the International League, one of the top three minor circuits in Organized Baseball.

He has played six seasons in the AAA league, American Association, including the last two with Denver. He also played a couple of years with Minneapolis and Louisville of the Association.

Wilson also has made four stops in the major leagues, with the Red Sox, White Sox, Giants, and Yankees.

Rochester is a farm club of the St. Louis Cardinals and, thus, the fifth major league organization in which Wilson has played.

"He was tickled to get a chance to play in the International League," said his wife here this week. "He has always wanted a chance in the International League and believes he will hit well in that circuit."

Wilson's old friend, Cot Deal, is manager of Rochester.

of the local Post are two of the persons mainly responsible for breathing new life into junior baseball here.

Cline has accepted the position of athletic officer for Post No. 155 and will be general chairman of the group operating junior baseball for the summer.

Three members of the Kings Mountain High School coaching staff have been employed to coach and direct the program on the field.

Mountaineer baseball coach Fred Withers will be the head coach of the juniors, and his high school assistant, Bill Bates,

also will aid him with the Legion club.

Football coach John Gamble will serve as business manager for the team.

The high school coaches were employed in an effort to operate the junior baseball program on the same basis as the Mountaineer athletic department.

Full accounting will be made of all receipts and expenses in the program, with city clerk J. C. McDaniel serving as treasurer of junior baseball.

Several other Legion members and interested fans have agreed to aid the program and the group

further solicits the support of all baseball fans in keeping alive the diamond setup for 15-17 year old boys in the community. Post officials and the athletic committee insist that the success of the season, and of future seasons, depends on the support of the fans this summer.

The group, in fact, indicated that the reason behind the last-minute sponsorship of the program is the belief that the people of Kings Mountain want and deserve junior baseball.

Additional support for the program is sought and urged from local fans. Persons interested in

the baseball team and willing to help can indicate such desire by filling in a blank found elsewhere in today's Herald.

The Kings Mountain Legion team will draw its players from Central High here and from Bethware and Grover High Schools.

Majority of the Mountaineers are eligible for the juniors, including pitchers Jerry Wright and Perry Champion, also Mike Ware, Punch Parker, James Robbs, Ronnie Pearson, Jerry Adams, and others. Three players from Bethware on last summer's Legion team also return, Jerry Morris, Bobby Biddix and Don Horn.

Varsity-Faculty Teams Cross Bats Tonight At 7:30

The Mountaineer varsity and faculty will throw curve balls at each other tonight.

Occasion will be the student-faculty baseball game in City Stadium at 7:30 with proceeds from the exhibition going toward the purchase of a set of new uniforms for the Mountaineer diamond team.

The high school Key Club, a student affiliate of the Kiwanis Club, is sponsoring the game and members of the club are selling tickets and will handle the ticket-selling and taking at the game tonight. The Key Club has undertaken the project of raising \$240 to pay for the new uniforms which the Mountaineers already have begun wearing.

Members of the club urge that fans buy a ticket to the game regardless of whether they can attend, and aid the project.

The student-faculty game originally was scheduled a few weeks ago, but was postponed because it conflicted with several pre-Easter programs in local churches.

Friday night is an open date on the Mountaineers' Southwest Conference card and the benefit game was slated for Thursday night of this week.

The regular Mountaineer lineup will start the game, with all of the hurlers due to see some action in the contest.

Principal Lawson Brown and basketball coach Don Parker, both former professional pitchers, will share pitching duties for the faculty.

One of the few non-faculty recruits for the game, Jake Early, will be behind the plate for the Oldtimers.

The faculty infield probably will show John Gamble at first base, Fred Withers at second, Bill Bates at third, and Blaine Fronberger at shortstop.

The outfield will be picked from Ray Cleere, John Lutz, John Kennedy, Bill George, Charles Balance, Ben Goforth, Buddy Miller, and other members of the faculty.

K. M. Tigers Field Team For 10th Year

The Kings Mountain Tigers, like the Legion juniors, have made a "comeback".

The Tigers will field a baseball team here this summer, after first announcing that lack of funds would force the team to sit-out the campaign. But friends of the club have stepped forward to lend the Tigers aid, and will sponsor a team for the tenth straight season.

William Orr again will serve as manager and has been holding workouts at the Davidson Park here. Several new faces are among the candidates, including Detroit Jones, and catcher Miles Brown.

The Tigers will play a 32-game schedule, opening with the Spartanburg Red Sox and go to Belmont to play the Blues in the second game within the next few weeks.

A practice game is carded for the Davidson Park Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Rain Halts Tilt With Lincolnton In Third Frame

Rain washed out the Mountaineers lone Southwest Conference game scheduled for this week on Tuesday afternoon and the contest has been tentatively re-scheduled for next Thursday (April 30) afternoon here.

The rains came in the bottom half of the third inning of the contest here Tuesday afternoon, with the visiting Wolves holding a 1-0 edge. Umpires waited 15 minutes and declared the game off. It was the Mountaineers' first rained-out game of the season.

Coach Fred Withers of Kings Mt. and A. M. Troiano of Lincolnton set the game to be made up Thursday of next week.

Lincolnton picked up the lone tally in the washed out affair in the second inning, as result of a pair of infield errors and a wild pitch by pitcher Jerry Wright of the Mountaineers. The Wolves managed only one hit, a single by Worth Roberts in the first inning, off the Kings Mountain right-hander.

Mike Ware and Tommy Thomas cracked singles for the Mountaineers in the last of the second, but could not turn the knocks into runs.

Larry Seagle fanned four and Wright three in the brief encounter. Neither pitcher walked a batter.

The Mountaineers' only other game this week is the tussle with the faculty Thursday night.

Coach Fred Withers' club returns to conference action next Tuesday night at R. S. Central. The Hilltoppers defeated the Mountaineers, 6-1, in the meeting of the two clubs here a few weeks ago.

Duckpin Bowl Loops Plan 1960 Season

Initial plans for the men's duckpin bowling leagues in the 1959-60 season will be made tonight (Thursday) in a meeting to be held at the Mountain Lane Center.

Indications point toward the formation of one fast six-team men's duckpin league, instead of the current four-team leagues.

Any teams desiring to enter the bowling leagues for next year are invited to attend tonight's meeting, manager C. H. Houser said. The leagues will start about Sept. 1.

THANKS, TO McCURDY'S

We the members of the McCurdy's Sanitone Cleaners Bowling team appreciate very much McCurdy's sponsorship in this year's bowling league at Mountain Lane Bowling Center.

Steve Rathbone

Bob Rosberg

Gene Layton

Norman Lowery

Jim Guyton

(Box Scores on Page 3)

Fisher Goes Route In F. C. Win; K. M. Rally Falls Short At Shelby

McCurdy's And Jenny Oates Win Bowling Titles

McCurdy's Cleaners in the Sportsman League and the Jenny Oates team in the Ladies League wear the championship bowling crowns for this season.

They won championship roll-offs in matches this week at the Mountain Lane Center.

The second-half champion McCurdy's outfit defeated the first-half winner Champions three games to two in the roll-off for the Sportsman title.

McCurdy's won the first game, 518-476. The Champions copped the next two by scores of 528-522 and 484-479. But McCurdy's rallied to win the final two games, 495-485 and by 492-448 in the final game.

Jim Guyton's 120 line was tops for McCurdy's in the roll-off, with R. Van Dyke hitting a 123 for Champions.

The second half champion Jenny Oates team defeated the first-half winners, Lib Bolin club, on a total pinfall basis, 1334-to-1234 in the roll-off.

Jenny Oates, rolled the high line of 106 and tied with Diana Gamble with 284 sets each to lead the champions. Lib Bolin had high line for her club, 92, and Francis Franklin the high set, 257.

K. M. Golfers, Netters Lose

Kings Mountain High's golf and tennis teams lost a double-header to Shelby in matches played here Monday afternoon.

Graeme Reeves, exchange student from New Zealand, won the lone match for the Mountaineer netters who lost by a 6-1 score in matches played on the Deal Street Recreation Center courts.

The local golfers lost by a 13 1/2 - 1/2 score in the round played over the Kings Mountain Country Club course.

Monday's losses were the third straight of the season for both local clubs, who play host to R. S. Central here next Monday afternoon. In their next matches.

Summaries in tennis: Graeme Reeves (KM) beat Joe Ponder, 6-1, 6-1.

Jack Hamrick (S) beat Jimmy Plonk, 6-2, 6-4.

Jerry Trammell (S) beat Harold Huffstetler, 6-2, 6-0.

Julian Wray (S) beat Bill Ramsey, 6-0, 7-5.

Jimmy Macomson (S) beat Jimmy White, 8-6, 6-2.

Trammell and Ponder (S) beat Reeves and Plonk, 7-5, 6-0.

Hamrick and Stokes (S) beat Huffstetler and Houston, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Franklin Dean turned in the best medal score for the Mountaineer golfers, an 87, and Turk Falls shot a 92. Tony Hammock of Shelby was the links medalist with a 75 score.



BILL BATES . . . assistant coach



FRED WITHERS . . . named Legion junior coach