



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Coach Correctly Calls 9-7 Record

Before a ball was pitched in the Southwest Conference diamond race in March, Mountaineer coaches Fred Withers and Bill Bates sat down and tried to place the teams in the league in their proper perspective.

They reasoned that Shelby, Cherryville and Belmont should be the strong boys of the circuit. Those three teams boasted the most holdover stars from last year, along with many of the stars from the Legion junior baseball race of last summer. They were the teams with the "horses", as the saying goes, and figured to be the top three in the circuit.

Now, two months later, the final standings in the SWC bear-out the predictions. Shelby, Cherryville, and Belmont finished in one-two-three order.

The Mountaineer mentors gazed further into their crystal ball in March, saw their club finishing with a 9-7 and finishing about fourth place in the league. Again, Withers and Bates proved good prophets. The Mountaineers posted a 9-7 record in the Southwest season and tied Lincolnton for fourth place.

"Of course we didn't correctly call the outcome of all our games in figuring our 9-7 season", admitted Fred in recalling the pre-season prognosticating. "We lost a couple of games that we had figured we would win, and I'm happy to say that the boys won a couple of games that we hadn't figured on."

The pair of surprise victories came over two of the clubs which the Mountaineer coaches had spotted for top berths in the league, Cherryville and Belmont. Kings Mountain defeated both those clubs which finished higher in the race in games here.

"We, of course, hoped that we could whip one or both of these clubs during the season," related the mentor. "But we hadn't figured it into our predictions. . . and those two wins offset a couple of losses that I hadn't counted on. I had figured we would beat Tri-High and Lincolnton in both game, but we lost one each to them."

Four Sophs On Starting Nine

Caroleen and Lincolnton were two of the four teams which the mentors figured the Mountaineers could whip twice this spring. The other two were Forest City and Cliffside, and the local lads ran true to form in sweeping the contests with those Rutherford County neighbors. Champion Shelby was the only club which the Mountaineers failed to defeat this season.

In predicting the 9-7 season, Withers remarked: "We figured that nine wins would be an indication that the boys were developing as well this year as we had hoped, and they came through for us, and we can look for a better team next year and the next."

The development of the Mountaineers points to the fact that this was a young baseball club with only two seniors on the entire squad, Don Tignor and Tommy Thomas, and four sophomores among the regulars. The Mountaineers probably were the youngest team in the Southwest Conference, experience-wise.

At the close of the season, the Mountaineers listed sophomores at four positions, Chip Thorburn on first, James Robbs on short, and Punch Parker and Ronnie Pearson in the outfield. Several other sophs saw considerable action during the year, and the Mountaineers will take the field next spring with a much more experienced outfit.

Despite the losses in the final two games of the year, to Belmont and Shelby, the Mountaineers were a much stronger team during the second half of the campaign than during the first turn around the circuit. The local lads split their eight games in their first meetings with the other clubs in the league. The next time around, the Mountaineers won five and lost three, with one four-game winning streak near the close of the campaign. Kings Mountain also averaged three first-round defeats, whipping three clubs which had tripped the Mountaineers in the first meetings.

Fisher's Pitching Highlights Year

The fine pitching performances of Don Fisher were among the bright spots for the Mountaineer diamond season.

The rangy junior right-hander won six straight games before losing his final start, at Belmont last week. He pitched three complete games, the only Mountaineer moundman, incidentally, to go the route, and won two other contests with brilliant relief jobs.

Fisher's fine hurling was a major factor in the Mountaineers' good second-half record, as he won four of the five games in the home stretch.

"We had counted on Fisher being one of our best pitchers and winning several games for us this year," commented Coach Withers, "But we certainly hadn't figured on him pitching as he did, and winning six in a row before losing one."

Jerry Wright won the other three games for the Mountaineers, while losing four.

"Jerry didn't have as good control this season as he did last year," observed the Mountaineer coach, "And that control problem led to some of his losses, but he came through with a couple of well-pitched games."

Although he failed to figure in a decision, a former team-manager turned out to be one of the club's best relief pitchers.

Ken Wilson was a manager of the 1958 Mountaineer club, but this spring asked for a chance to pitch, and his curve ball helped him get the locals out of several big inning jams.

"If Ken had played last year instead of managing, he would have been a big help to us this spring," observed Coach Withers.

Wilson is another sophomore who gained valuable experience in his first varsity season and figures largely in the Mountaineer plans for future years.

Once Ticketed For Tar Heels, Stowe Torments UNC In Playoffs

Four years ago, Coach Walt Rabb of North Carolina figured he would land Harold Stowe, the successful young pitcher from Belmont High and the Gastonia Legion junior teams.

Harold's older brother was in graduate school at Carolina, and the crafty stepfather expressed a desire to enroll at Chapel Hill. The UNC scholarship offer, however, didn't quite match the one Stowe received from Clemson, and the mound ace picked the Tigers.

Tar Heel mentor Rabb has lived to regret the fact.

Twice in the last two springs, Stowe and Clemson have beaten Carolina in the Atlantic Coast Conference baseball playoff game at Gastonia. Last year Stowe

stopped the Tar Heels, 4-1, and Monday night, Stowe came on with a great relief performance to gain credit for a 9-7 win and the second straight ACC title for the Tigers.

Stowe entered the game at Gastonia Monday night during a fifth-inning uprising and before he could get the side out, the Tar Heels had assumed a 7-5 lead. Stowe gave up three hits in the big frame and stood to lose the game if his team could not regain the lead.

But his team did regain the lead with three runs in the eighth, while Stowe held the Tar Heels hitless in the last four frames. He retired the last nine batters in order.

The victory sends Clemson into



MOUNTAINEER MOUNDMEN — These three pitchers figured in all the diamond decisions for the Mountaineer baseball club this spring. Don Fisher (left) was the team's big winner, with a season's mark of six wins and a single loss. Jerry Wright (right) won the other three games the Mountaineers posted on the Southwest Conference ledger, as against four losses. Perry Champion (center) lost two games, without a victory to complete the mound marks for Kings Mountain. Wright and Champion change uniforms and join the local juniors for the summer season. (Herald Photo by Pennington Studio)

SPRING STATISTICAL WRAPUP

Tignor Leads Mountaineer Hitting; Gladden Sets Pace In Track Scoring

Don Gladden was the point pace-setter in two sports for the Kings Mountain High Mountaineers this school year.

The swift senior copped his second school point title, amassing 74 1/2 points to lead the local track team this spring. Last fall, the all-Conference halfback tallied 66 points to lead the Kings Mountain grid club.

Gladden won at least one event in every one of the Mountaineers' six regular-season meets to mark up the majority of his big point total. He won the 220-yard dash in all six meets, won the 100 yard dash four time.

The dashman and broad jumper won a total of 11 first-places during the six meets, copping three firsts in one meet, and two firsts in three other meets. He also had several seconds and third place finishes and ran anchor man on the Kings Mountain relay team which won several meets.

His biggest day of the spring was the season's finale here when he won three events (the 100, 220 and broad jump) in the Mountaineers lone home loss of the year, against R. S. Central.

Jerry Phillips, another speedster and jumper, was second among the Mountaineer track scorers for the year, with 49 1/2 points. Phillips was the Mountaineers' lone qualifier in the Northwest-Southeast track meet at Hickory, finishing third in the low hurdles. He also participated in the WNCCHSAA finals at Davidson.

Phillips won four first-places during the year, three in the hurdles, one in the pole vault.

Derek Smith also copped four first places (three in shot put and one in discus) and was third in team scoring, with 35 points.

Arthur Allen ranked fourth in Mountaineer track scoring, with 33 1/2 points, and three first-place finishes, two in the quarter mile and one in the hurdles.

Another three-event winner, Jimmy Blanton was fifth in team scoring, with 27 1/2 points. He won the high jump in two meets, the discus once.

A pair of two-time winners, Mac Lennon and Steve Harmon, were next in scoring totals with 17 points each. Lennon won the half mile in two meets and Harmon was the shot put winner twice.

Tommy Houser was the other Mountaineer first-place winner for the year, in the broad jump, and eighth in team scoring with 12 1/2 points.

No Season Tickets To Swimming Pool

Season tickets and family-plan tickets will not be available at Deal Street swimming pool this summer.

The already announced policy for the season was restated by the Recreation Commission appearing before the City Board on Tuesday night. Three members of the commission met with the Board and said that the season ticket plan was abandoned on the recommendation of the auditors.

Members of the commission meeting with the board were Bob Mauer, Fleet McCurdy, and Gene Timms. Other members of the commission are Mrs. Yates Harbison and Charles E. Dixon.

The district NCAA diamond tournament in Gastonia, June 4-6, with the Tigers seeking their second straight title in that Dixie event.

Pitching wildness and errors proved the downfall to the Tar Heels Monday. Five errors contributed to the Clemson cause, and five of the nine Tigers who drew walks eventually scored.

Mountaineer Marks

Baseball

Player	AB	R	H	Pct.
Ken Wilson	4	2	2	.500
James Robbs	16	4	6	.375
Larry Pearson	12	0	4	.333
Jim Rickard	3	0	1	.333
Don Tignor	48	15	31	.313
Don Smith	39	7	10	.256
Jerry Adams	4	1	1	.250
Punch Parker	47	12	11	.234
Ronnie Pearson	44	6	10	.227
Don Fisher	47	6	10	.213
Chip Thorburn	44	7	8	.182
Tommy Thomas	11	2	2	.182
Mike Ware	48	7	8	.167
Paul Hendricks	23	6	3	.130
Jerry Wright	31	6	3	.097
Perry Champion	4	0	0	.000
Randall Haynes	2	0	0	.000
Keith Hilliard	1	0	0	.000
Ronnie Hord	7	0	3	.429
TOTALS	435	85	97	.223

(* did not complete season with team.)

SLUGGING

Runs batted in — R. Pearson 8, Fisher 8, Tignor 7, Smith 7, Robbs 6, Ware 5, L. Pearson 4, Parker 4, Thorburn 3, Hendricks 2, Wright 1, Wilson 1.

Doubles — Tignor 5, Parker 3, R. Pearson 2, Thorburn 2, Fisher, Ware, Wright, Robbs, Wilson and Hendricks, one each.

Triples — Tignor 2, R. Pearson 1, Fisher 1.

Home — Fisher 1.

PITCHING

Pitcher	W	L	So	BB
Fisher	6	1	49	19
Wright	3	4	34	25
Champion	0	2	10	21
Wilson	0	0	6	6
Parker	0	0	1	1

Track

The final tally table on first places and total points for Mountaineer trackmen for 1959:

Name	Firsts	Points
Don Gladden	11	74 1/2
Jerry Phillips	4	49 1/2
Derek Smith	4	35
Arthur Allen	3	33 1/2
Jimmy Blanton	3	27 1/2
Mac Lennon	2	17
Steve Harmon	2	17
Tommy Houser	1	12 1/2
Bobby Goodson	-	8 1/2
Dennis McAbee	-	7
Gary Blanton	-	6
Steve Kiser	-	5
Mike Dixon	-	3
Robert Whisnant	-	3
Danny Bagwell	-	3
Curtis Floyd	-	1 1/2

Coaches Named For Babe Ruth League Teams Here This Summer

Four local Babe Ruth League teams opened practice sessions this week for the season which is due to get underway early in June.

The same four teams which participated in the program for 13-15 year old boys are back on hand this summer, with Margrave the defending champion.

Solon Norris again will be the coach of the Margrave outfit which draws its players from that southside area.

The Rebels, coached this season by Bill Huffsteler, will draw its material from the West side of Kings Mountain.

The other two teams, Mauney Mill and Moose, will pick their candidates from the remainder of the city. Bill Grice again is coaching the Moose team and Bill Skyles will be at the helm of the Mauney entry.

Recreation Director Jake Early said that the season is tentative-

ly scheduled to start Monday, June 8. All games will be played at City Stadium in the afternoon, with usual playing dates being Monday through Thursday.

Early said that the local league will follow national Babe Ruth League rules this season, which specify that only boys born after September 1, 1943 will be eligible to play.

The Babe Ruth League serves as a program between the Little League and junior baseball age groups here.

Several of the stars in the Babe Ruth League here last summer were top players on the Kings Mountain High School team this spring and are among the leading candidates on the junior club. They include James Robbs, Perry Champion, Punch Parker, Chip Thorburn, Paul Hendricks and others on the K. M. High team, and Dean and C. B. Green at Grover.

Mountaineer-Flavored Jr. Hold Workouts At Stadium

BY NEALE PATRICK

The Kings Mountain Juniors went through their first full week of pre-season drills with a distinctive "Mountaineer-look."

Eighteen of the some 20 candidates who have been drilling this week under the direction of Coaches Fred Withers and Bill Bates are Kings Mountain High and Junior High products. Only two players from the two county high schools from which the Otis D. Green Post will draw its players, Bethware and Grover, reported for practice.

The junior team will continue daily drills at 4:30 each afternoon until the opening of the area Four Legion season on Friday, May 29. The local club's first game is carded on that date against the Mt. Holly-Pawcreek entry at City Stadium.

Ten players who were either regulars or saw quite a bit of action for the Mountaineers this spring are among the junior candidates.

That group includes pitchers Jerry Wright and Perry Champion, catcher Don Smith, infielders Jerry Adams, James Robbs, Mike Ware, and Paul Hendricks, and outfielders, Punch Parker, Ronnie Pearson and Larry Pearson.

First baseman Chip Thorburn, another regular, was on hand for drills this week, although he may be unable to play junior baseball due to summer school.

Several others players were members of the Mountaineer squad during the spring, including Keith Hilliard and Randall Haynes.

The only two players off county high teams turning-out for early drills were Charles Bolin, outfielder from Bethware, and Dean Green, third baseman from Grover. Bolin was a member of last year's junior team.

At least three other players from Bethware who were members of last summer's juniors are expected for drills this week. They are catcher Jerry Morris, pitcher Bobby Biddix and first baseman Don Horn.

The Buccaneers were involved in county baseball playoffs through Monday night, and the school is in the midst of exams this week. The Bethware players live in the Kings Mountain Legion territory.

At least two players from Bessemer City High also live in the territory from which Kings Mt. will draw its junior candidates.

They are first baseman Ray Metzger and second baseman Sidney Franklin. Bessemer City is still playing in Class A state playoffs and those players will not be available until the Yellow Jackets complete that action.

Other players who have been practicing this week, in addition to those already named, are: Aundria Small, Steve Harmon, Steve Brown, Mike Huffsteler, Sonny Jackson, and Eddie Ross.

Belwood Wins County Crown; Bethware 3rd

Bethware has surrendered its county baseball title to Belwood. Bobby Hoover, who next will take his talents to the Shelby juniors, hurled both victories in Belwood's march to the title in the Cleveland County tournament at Shelby.

He pitched Belwood to a 5-4 win over Bethware and Bobby Biddix on Saturday night, limiting the Buccaneers to five hits while fanning 12. Biddix, next due to hurl for the Kings Mountain juniors, struck out 14 Belwood batters. Belwood scored the winning run in the last of the seventh.

Hoover came back two nights later to pitch his club to a 5-3 win over No. Three school in the county finals. He again fanned 12, allowed two hits and obtained his team's only two blows off hurler Bobby Martin and Frank Wray.

Bethware copped the consolation title in the county tournament, defeating Casar, 10-1, Monday night behind the one-hit pitching of Clyde Carroll, who struck out six.

Jerry Morris and Don Horn, a couple of Kings Mountain junior prospects, each slugged a triple for Coach Bill Powell's Bucs against Joe Turner, the Casar ace. It was the second loss of the tournament for Turner, who bowled 1-0 to No. Three in the opener Saturday night.

Bethware was the defending county champion and the leader in the south league during the regular season. The Bucs earlier won a playoff among the same four tournament teams for the right to participate in the state Class A playoffs.

Graeme Reeves Loses In Tennis Tourney

Graeme Reeves of Kings Mountain lost to the defending champion in the first round of the WNCCHSAA tennis meet at Statesville on Monday.

The local exchange student from New Zealand drew the defending champion, Hicks of Thomasville, in the first round, and lost by a 6-1, 6-0 score.

Shelby Wins Baseball Title To Complete SWC Sports Sweep

Shelby completed its sweep in Southwest Conference athletics for the 1958-59 seasons, winning the league baseball crown for the second straight year.

Coach Casey Morris' outfit posted a loop leading mark of 15 wins and a single loss (to Lincolnton) in repeating as the diamond champion of the Southwest Conference.

The baseball title also gave the Lions their third major sports championship in the league during the current school year. Shelby copped the league football diadem last fall and led the circuit in boys basketball during the past winter.

This is the second straight school year in which Shelby has copped all three major sports championships in the Southwest Conference.

Cherryville finished a full three games behind Shelby in the diamond chase this spring, with a 12-4 record. Belmont was third with a 10-6 mark, with Kings Mountain and Lincolnton tying for fourth place with identical 9-7 marks.

Cliffside lost 16 straight games in the diamond season, the sec-

ond straight year that the Cliff-dwellers failed to win a baseball game. This was the final year for Cliffside which merges with Caroleen Tri-High and Harris to form the SWC's new member, Chase High, next year.

Two other schools repeated as Conference baseball champs in the WNCCHSAA. Hickory won the Northwest title with an 8-0 mark and Asheboro won its second straight in the North Piedmont, with a 12-3 mark.

Kannapolis replaced Landis as the winner in the South Piedmont Conference, with a 13-1 record.

The conference champions began Association playoffs Tuesday night.

The final baseball standings in the Southwest Conference for 1959:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Shelby	15	1	.937
Cherryville	12	4	.750
Belmont	10	6	.625
Kings Mt.	9	7	.567
Lincolnton	9	7	.567
R. S. Central	8	8	.500
Caroleen	5	11	.312
Forest City	4	12	.250
Cliffside	0	16	.000

K. M. Sees Last Of O'Shields In 9-4 Loss To Shelby Here

The Mountaineers saw the last of Ronnie O'Shields as an athletic foe here Friday night, and offer thanks for such small favors.

The husky Shelby catcher who has plagued local baseball and football teams for two or three years continued more of the same in leading the SWC champion Lions to a 9-4 victory over the Mountaineers in the final regular game of the season for both clubs.

O'Shields slammed a pair of doubles and a triple and batted home four runs in the lone night game of the season here. His long-range pounding gave Robert Camp the padding he needed for the win over a trio of Mountaineer moundmen.

The Mountaineers managed four hits in their finale, the longest being a double by Jerry Wright who started on the hill for the locals but found his own wildness and O'Shields' big bat too much with which to cope.

O'Shields triple drove home two runs in the third, and his first double chased a couple more over in the four-run fourth. His final double set the stage for the final two runs in the sixth.

After that, Kenny Wilson came on in relief to hurl hitless ball for two frames.

The Mountaineers scored twice in the third on four walks and a single by Mike Ware. James Robbs sent the first run home with a sacrifice fly to the outfield, and Camp forced home another with a walk.

A walk to Punch Parker, Wright's double and an error on Ware's grounder admitted one for Kings Mountain in the fourth and Robbs came through with another long sacrifice fly to tally the final run.

The Mountaineers threatened with hits by Don Fisher and Larry Pearson in the seventh, but couldn't cash in.

A couple of other vets joined O'Shields in the Shelby hit attack. Ronnie Vaughn rapped three straight singles, and John Kouri delivered a pinch single. Our side has seen the last of all three of those stars, along with the majority of the other Lions. Seven seniors were in the Shelby starting lineup.

The loss closed the season for the Mountaineers with a 9-7 record. Coach Fred Withers team defeated every team in the conference at least once, with the exception of Shelby. This season's record reversed the mark in 1958 when the locals won 7 and lost nine.

K. M. Burmil Softball Team Slugs 43 Hits In Two Wins At Gastonia

Kings Mountain's Burmil team slugged out two more victories within the past week to boost their lead in the American Slow-Pitch softball league in Gastonia to a 10-1 mark on the season.

The local club pounded 43 hits in the pair of wins on Gastonia softball diamonds. Burmil slammed 21 hits in defeating Parkdale, 12-7, last Thursday night, and whacked 22 blows in leveling M. A. Rhyne Dairy, 17-5 on Tuesday night.

Every player in the lineup obtained at least one knock in the win over Parkdale. Dwight Alexander and Walt Griffin clubbed four each, with one of Griffin's being a homer. Leroy Styes had three hits, Darwin Moss, Carroll Hutto and Staggs two each. Delis

Burton pitched the win, allowing eight hits.

Alexander rapped five hits in many trips in the win over Rhyne's on Tuesday. Moss chipped in with four, with Griffin slugging two homers and Styes one. Styes made three hits, with Griffin, Hutto, Burton and Vernon Smith two each. Burton allowed six hits.

The linescores:
Burmil 251 121 1-12-21
Parkdale 000 320 2- 7-8
Burton and Styes.
Spencer, Mahaffey and Victors.

Burmil 203 041 7-17-22
Rhyne's 030 200 9- 5-6
Burton and Hutto.
Stowe, Taylor and Sexton.