



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Three K. M. Teams Post Winning Marks

School bells have been silenced for the summer months and this seems to be the time and place to ring-up the report on the athletic deeds for the Mountaineers and their Southwest Conference and Association neighbors.

The past school session has been a busy one, if not an all-winning one, for Mountaineer athletes who participated in the broadest sports program in the history of the school. Seven athletic teams took part in the interscholastic program during the year, with two new sports, tennis and golf, joining the list this spring.

Combined won-and-lost marks of all the teams do not tell the true story of success, but just for the records, Mountaineer athletic teams won 32 games, lost 47, and tied two during the year. Three of the sports teams showed winning figures, football, baseball, and track. Although falling under the .500 level, the girls basketball team enjoyed its most successful season in several years. Of the other three "losing" sports, boys basketball was strictly a rebuilding campaign, and tennis and golf were making their bow.

The Southwest Conference seasons had that "Shelby-look" for the second straight year. Our Cleveland County neighbors won or shared all three of the league athletic titles, copping the flags in football and baseball and sharing the regular-season boys basketball diadem with Belmont. The Lions also repeated as WNCSSAA diamond titilists, but relinquished the Association track crown to Statesville.

Other WNCSSAA championships for the school year went to Asheboro in football and boys basketball, and Taylorsville in girls basketball. In the minor sports, Asheboro won wrestling, Lexington won golf and Thomasville and Lexington shared the tennis titles.

The future may be a little tougher in the SWC, however. The stars of Shelby's two-year sweep of Conference crowns also have won their diplomas, much to the joy of rival coaches. Such multiple-sport aces as John Kouri, Ronnie O'Shields and Ronnie Vaughn have departed.

Mountaineer Grids Just-Miss, Again

Now let's skip back over the sports season for our Mountaineers and the Southwest Conference.

Mountaineer gridriders posted an overall mark of six wins, two losses, and two ties, and a league record of 3-1-2 to tie for second in the SWC standings for the second straight autumn. And for the second straight campaign, a loss to Shelby (3-0, last fall) bounced Kings Mountain out of a chance to win the championship. In the past two grid seasons, the Mountaineers have lost two SWC football crowns by the margin of four points, having lost 13-12 in '57.

Don Gladden and David Plonk were the top stars for K. M. Fleet halfback Don gained all-Conference recognition, scored 66 points and gained 1,051 yards rushing. Tri-captain David won the Plonk blocking trophy and was named the top AA lineman in the Gastonia area by The Gazette.

Coach John Gamble's Mountaineers were the toughest defensive team in the SWC, allowing only 55 points and permitting only two of eight touchdowns to be scored on the ground. Kings Mt. was a team anxious to score, too. The Mountaineers scored the first time they had possession of the pigskin in six of the ten games, twice tallying on the first play of the game.

Shelby's 6-1 mark was the best in the Conference, but the Lions tumbled out of the playoffs, losing to NWC champion Hickory, 14-7. Asheboro swept by Albemarle (28-6) for the Piedmont crown, and beat Hickory (33-14) for the WNCSSAA title.

Inexperience was the word for Coach Don Parker's boys cage club, with only one letterman, Don Fisher, on hand at the start of the year. The lads posted a 3-13 record in the conference and 4-16 overall, with highlights of the year being two wins over Cherryville.

Bill Bates coached his first K. M. girls team to six wins and ten losses in the Conference, and total mark of 7-13, both the best records for local lassies in several seasons.

Judy Medlin grabbed most of the headline for the girls, leading the SWC in scoring with 501 points for a 25-point average, and winning all-Conference honors, Chip Thorburn, one of the flock of sophs on the team, won scoring honors for the boys, with 217 points.

Mountaineer boys suffered a couple of dubious distinctions during the cage season, losing to Cliffside for the first time in 31 games, and losing to Tri-High here for the first time in the 16 years of Coach Parker's reign.

Spring Teams Show Improvement

Belmont blocked Shelby's complete domination of league titles, as the two tied for the boys basketball crown, with identical 14-2 records. Caroleen Tri-High girls swept to 16 straight wins for the lassies title.

The Raiders and the Lions carried their deadlock feud right on to the finals of the Western Conference tournament, Belmont defeating Shelby, 46-38, in an all-SWC final for the title. Taylorsville beat Newton for the crown in the all-NWC girls final.

Belmont's bubble burst in the Association championship game as the Raiders lost to Asheboro, 60-46. Taylorsville beat Thomasville for the girls title.

A couple of spring sports teams shared the distinction with the girls basketball team as being the "most improved" K. M. teams this year. Coach Fred Withers baseballers posted the best record since he joined the Mountaineer staff, a 9-7 mark. Coach John Gamble's trackmen won four of six meets in the second year of the sport here.

Don Fisher was the bright light on the diamond club which listed only two seniors and had four sophomore starters. Don won six straight mound wins before losing and gained all-Southwest Conference honors. Don Tigor led the team hitting (.313).

Conference-wise, it was all Shelby again, completing its second straight school year of title-taking. The Lions had a 15-1 SWC mark, and beat NWC champ Hickory, 5-3, behind John Kouri for Western honors. Kouri came on in relief to save the 3-1 win over Kannapolis in the Association title game.

Don Gladden's 74 3/4 points and Jerry Phillips as the only K. M. qualifier in the WNCSSAA meet led the track team which won four of five home meets. Hickory won the Western Conference cinder title, and Statesville the Association diadem.

Graeme Reeves, exchange student from New Zealand, led the K. M. tennis team which won one of five meets. Turk Falls and David Plonk were golf leaders in a season of one win and three losses.



LOCAL TEAM LEADS LEAGUE — The softball team representing the Kings Mountain Phenix plant of Burlington Industries is setting a fast pace in leading the American slow-pitch softball league in Gastonia. The local team has a record of 12 wins and a single loss to date. The squad, left to right, **FRONT ROW**—Paul Smith, bat boy, Carroll Hutto, Walt Griffin, Vernon Smith, Manager Lloyd McFalls, and Bill Morgan; **SECOND ROW** — Charles Seagle and Giles Grant, bat boys, Bill Peterson, Delis Burton, Dwight Alexander, Dean Fleming, and Paul Bennett; **BACK ROW** — Gerald Hipps, Leroy Styers, Darwin (Lefty) Moss, and Bill Ware.

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Burmil Boosts Softball Lead With Two Wins

The Burmil team of Kings Mountain added two more wins and suffered their second loss of the season in the American Slow-pitch Softball League in Gastonia within the past week.

The results boosted Burmil's lead in the league to 13 wins and two losses.

Burmil split a double-header last Thursday night, defeating Klutz Machine, 3-0, behind the two-hit pitching of Delis Burton, and losing to Hardin, 7-4. Both of Burmil's losses this year have been at the hands of Hardin Manufacturing.

The local club needed 11 innings to gain a 7-6 decision over Parkdale last Friday night. Burmil pounded out 22 hits in the affair.

Lefty Moss slammed a homer and Burton obtained two hits in the Kings Mt. Club's win over Klutz. Every player in the lineup obtained at least one hit in the loss to Hardin. Burton, Dean Fleming and Leroy Styers rapped two each in the defeat.

Vernon Smith was the big gun in the extra inning win over Parkdale, slugging five hits in six trips. Burton, Bill Morgan and Bill Peterson rapped three hits each, with Moss, Styers and Gerald Hipps garnering two each.

Burmil pushed over three runs in the last of the 11th to win the game after Parkdale had scored two in the top half of the frame.

The linescores:
Kings Mt. 201 000 0-3-8
Klutz 000 000 0-0-2
Burton and Bennett.
Sutton and Lutz.

Kings Mt. 022 000 0-4-13
Hardin 001 132 x-7-12
Burton and Styers.
Hughes and Ratchford.

Parkdale 003 000 010 02-6-14
K. M. 200 001 010 03-7-22
J. Phillips and Revels.
Burton and Styers.

Swimming Classes Start On June 15

Swimming instructional classes for children will start at the Deal Street Pool on Monday, June 15th.

The lifeguards, Donna Cheatham, Noel Webster, and Roger Blackwell, will serve as instructors.

Lessons will be held from 10 until 11 each morning, and the cost will be ten cents per lesson, plus the 15 cents admission to the pool.

Local Man Takes Lead In Planning Pro Baseball Loop For '60 Season

A Kings Mountain man with several years of experience in baseball organization work is taking the lead in the plans to bring professional baseball back to this section of the Carolinas.

John Henry Moss, a native of Kings Mountain, who has been associated with Organized Baseball and pro football for over a decade, has lined up 13 cities and towns in the area who have shown an interest in forming a league for the 1960 season.

Moss has talked with interested persons in the 13 towns and has called the first organizational meeting to discuss the plans at the Gastonia Elks Club at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

The towns which are expected to send representatives are Gastonia, Shelby, Hickory, Newton, Forest City, Statesville, Mooresville, Lenoir, Lincolnton, Morganton, Marion, and two South Carolina towns, Spartanburg and Rock Hill.

All of these towns formerly had teams in pro baseball circuits when North Carolina led the nation in the number of minor leagues and minor league teams.

"I have received favorable response from persons in each of these towns in my visits within

Babe Ruth League Open Monday; New Players Replace Old Stars

Babe Ruth League baseball teams toss out the first ball on the 1959 season next week with a host of new players making up the rosters of the four teams.

Many of the stars of last summer's Babe Ruth League now have passed the 15-year old limit and several are members of the American Legion junior baseball team this season. In their places will be some youngsters up from the Little League ranks of '58.

The Babe Ruth League program is designed for youths between the ages of 13 and 15, with only boys born after September 1, 1943 being eligible to play. The League is directed by Recreation Director Jake Early.

Games will be played each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at 4 o'clock with the opening games next week pitting Moose vs Rebels on Monday, and Margrace against Mauney on Tuesday. The schedule continues through July 23, with a week break for the Fourth of July. The stadium will be the site of the games at the present time.

Margrace is the defending Babe Ruth League champion, but Coach Solon Norris has lost many of his stars and must rebuild. Performers like Dean Green and Bill Sellers have passed the age limit.

Coach Norris listed some of his top prospects this year as Pete Cash (p-2b), Tommy Barrett (3b-p), Dick Smith (1b-0f), Jimmy Medlin (c), Brent McDaniel (of), Ricky Goforth (2b), Don Bum-

gardner (of), and Gary Stewart (of).

The Moose team, coached by Willie Grice, also will show new faces with five players moving up to the juniors this year. They are Paul Hendricks, Perry Champion, Don Smith, Randall Haynes, and Larry Pearson.

Leading prospects for the Moose team this year are listed by Coach Grice as follows:

Steve Carpenter (p-of), Mike Huffstickler (c-of), Sammy Mauney (of), Eddie Huffstickler (p), David Adams (p-2b), and Wally Harris (c).

Other candidates for the Moose team are: Pete Childers (2b), Mike Walker (of), Eric Yates (ss), Mike Jenkins (of), Wayne Laughter (of-1b), Henry Holland (3b), Charles Benton (of), and Leo Rickard (1b).

Bill Huffstickler takes over the reins as coach of the Rebels team and must replace such stars of last season as Chip Thorburn, James Robbs and Jimmy Littlejohn.

Four players from last year's club return to the Rebels, Barry Gibson (1b-p), Trip Nebels (1b), Merrill Randall (2b), and Lawrence Bowen (3b-p).

Other players with the Rebels are Jimmy Leigh (1b-p), Timmy Heavener (2b), Reggie White (of), Gene Connors (ss), Jerry Laughridge (3b), Steve Moore (of), Jimmy Grant (of), Eddie Spencer (c), and Robert Whistart (3b).

Bill Styers is the new coach of the Mauney team which also has lost several of its stars, including Punch Parker.

Relative Of Kings Mt. Resident Pitches For Tech In NCAA Event

The Clemson-Georgia Tech opening round game of the NCAA baseball tournament in Gastonia Thursday night will be just like old home week for players on both teams.

The fact has been well-told before that Clemson has three stars who cut their baseball teeth, so to speak, on the Gastonia prep and Legion junior sandlots — Harold Stowe, Doug Hoffman, and Diclde Suggs.

Georgia Tech's Yellow Jackets from the Southeastern Conference also have a player who claims a Gastonia background, and with relatives in Kings Mountain.

Eddie Chambliss who is in line to pitch the second game of the tournament for Georgia Tech is the son of a former Gastonian. His mother is the former Miss

Beatrice Laughridge, native of Gastonia and now Mrs. Cecil Chambliss of Vero Beach, Fla.

The Georgia Tech pitcher is a nephew of Mrs. Charles T. Carpenter, Jr., of Kings Mountain, the former Miss Marion Laughridge of Gastonia.

His grandfather, A. L. (Gus) Laughridge lives in Gastonia on Robinwood road, and is a great baseball fan.

Chambliss has been one of the top pitchers for Tech this season, and Coach Joe Pittard plans to start him in the Jackets' second game of the tournament, win or lose in the opener against Clemson. The Tech coach was quoted in last Sunday's Atlanta Journal regarding Chambliss:

"Eddie seems to have gotten over the spell of nervousness he had late in the season. He can pitch good baseball. I know because I've seen him do it too many times. Remember he was the fellow who beat Clemson, 8-1, last year, and I think Clemson was stronger a year ago.

In 50 innings pitched for the Yellow Jackets this spring, Chambliss has allowed 46 hits, struck out 45, walked 23 and has an earned run average going into the district tournament of 2.99 per nine inning game.

He also carries a big bat at the plate, with eight hits and seven runs batted in for 20 trips to the plate and a .400 batting mark on the season.

He is a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity at Georgia Tech and is president of the Interscholastic Council.

The Clemson-Tech game is the second of the double-header on the opening evening of the district three NCAA event. George Washington and Florida State tangle in the opener at Sims Park in Gastonia at 6:30 p. m.

Clemson's defending champions hope to make it two straight Dixie diamond crowns in the double elimination affair which continues through Saturday night. A couple of products of the Gastonia kid program carry the big hopes for the Tigers.

Doug Hoffman is the team's leading hitter and extra-base clouter, and pitcher Harold Stowe has won 23 games in his college career, breaking the former school mark set by Billy O'Dell, now of the Baltimore Orioles.

Rain Postpones Gastonia Tilt; Belmont Plays Here Saturday

Area 4 Legion Jr. Baseball

STANDINGS South League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Shelby	2	1	1.000
Charlotte (9)	1	0	1.000
Charlotte (262)	2	1	.667
Belmont	1	1	.500
Mt. Holly	1	1	.500
Kings Mt.	0	2	.000
Gastonia	0	2	.000

North League			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Newton	2	0	1.000
Forest City	1	0	1.000
Morganton	2	1	.667
Hickory	1	1	.500
Granite Falls	1	1	.500
Cherryville	1	2	.333
Rutherfordton	0	1	.333
Lincolnton	0	2	.000

K. M. SCHEDULE
Friday — at Charlotte Post 9
Saturday — Belmont here.
Monday — Gastonia here
Tuesday — Shelby here.

K. M. RESULTS
Mt. Holly 6, Kings Mt. 3.
Charlotte (262) 7, Kings Mt. 2.
RESULTS THIS WEEK
Shelby 12, Charlotte (262) 3.
Morganton 9, Cherryville 2.

Little League Tournament Set

Little League teams were scheduled to complete their regular-season make-up games this week to set up pairings for the league tournament next week.

The plan for the tournament, as announced by Commissioner Bob Maner, calls for all six teams in the league to participate in the event. The top place team will face the fourth place finisher, the number two team will play number five, and the third place club will tangle with number six in the opening round.

First round games will be single elimination basis, with three clubs being eliminated.

Two of the victorious survivors will play another single game for the right to advance into the finals which will be on a best two-of-three basis. The finals of the tournament is slated for the week of June 15-20.

The local all-star team will be picked after that date and begin practicing to participate in the district Little League tournaments.

Wet grounds have hampered action in the wind-up of the regular season this week.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Kiwanis	8	1	.889
Burmil	7	2	.778
Raiders	5	5	.500
Jaycees	3	6	.333
Parkgrace	3	7	.300
North	2	8	.200

Juniors Victim Of Big Innings In First Two Losses Of Season

Kings Mountain American Legion juniors were victims of the big inning in their first two starts in Area Four league play last week.

Mt. Holly-Pawcreek and Charlotte Post 262 both used four-run frames to defeat Coach Fred Withers' club in the openers.

Playing before a good opening night crowd here Friday night, the Otis D. Green Post team saw Mt. Holly score all six of its runs in the middle frames to win by 6-3. Mt. Holly tallied four in the fourth and two in the fifth, while Kings Mt. rallied for its three in the last of the ninth.

At Charlotte on Saturday night, the Kings Mt. club again was a victim of a four-run inning, the eighth in this case, as the Post 262 outfit won by 7-2.

In both games, the local Legion lads made their pitch to win too late.

Kings Mountain threw a scare into Mt. Holly here Friday with the three runs on four hits in the last inning, and the next night at Charlotte pulled up to a 3-2 deficit in the top half of the eighth, only to see the winners add the four insurance runs in the last of the same frame.

The Otis D. Green Post club cracked out four extra base blows in the loss to Mt. Holly here.

Pitcher Bobby Biddix slammed a triple, with Jerry Morris, Ronnie Pearson and Don Horn contributing doubles. The long hits by Biddix and Morris came in the final inning uprising.

The weather man has put a damper on the first full week of action for the Kings Mountain American Legion junior baseball team.

Monday night's rain left City Stadium in a soggy condition and the scheduled game with Gastonia here on Tuesday evening was postponed and has been reset for next Monday night, June 8. Actually the postponement came as a welcome relief to Gastonia.

High School graduation exercises were held at Gastonia Tuesday night, and Coach Gaither Cline was the senior class advisor and had to be on hand for the graduation. At least one of the Gaston players, Jennings Smith, was a member of the senior class and would have missed the game. The team planned to play under the direction of a substitute coach for the game.

The rescheduled game with Gastonia here next Monday night thus, gives Kings Mountain three straight home games against rivals within four night around the weekend.

Coach Fred Withers team plays host to Belmont here on Saturday night, then on Monday evening comes the makeup affair with Gastonia, and on Tuesday night Shelby's defending Area Four champions come to town for the first time of the season.

Before playing host to the three foes, the Otis D. Green Post 155 youngsters make their second jaunt to Charlotte in the young season, playing Post No. 9 at Highland Park on Friday night. Kings Mountain lost to Post No. 262 on the same field last Saturday night, by a 7-2 score.

The Kings Mountain club has lost both its starts to date, a 6-3 defeat by Mt. Holly here being the other. But, both games have been much closer than the scores have indicated.

In both games, the winners have used four-run innings to ice the victories, and also in both contests, late rallies by the local lads have fallen short.

Bobby Biddix and Jerry Wright have pitched good ball, except for one inning each, in the two games to date.

Jerry Morris, husky 16-year old catcher from Bethware has been leading the hitting in the two games, with four hits in the pair of contests. Don Horn, Ronnie Pearson and Biddix have been other stick leaders.

Phillips 'Released' To Shelby Juniors

The "player release" clause in American Legion junior baseball is under fire again.

Area Four Commissioner Charlie Carpenter has received a release of pitcher Buddy Phillips from the Rutherfordton Post to the Shelby Legion team.

Phillips, a student and athlete at Caroleen Tri-High in Rutherfordton County, is one of the two players released by the Rutherfordton to Shelby lips and Junior Green then last year. The transfer of Phillips caused quite a bit of unofficial protesting around the Area.

Phillips' high school coach at Caroleen, Bill Metcalfe, is the Shelby assistant coach to Pop Simmons.

Commissioner Carpenter had not approved the release late Wednesday.



TOPS JUNIOR HITTING — Jerry Morris, husky young catcher from Bethware High School, has been setting the hitting pace for the Kings Mt. juniors in early games. He rapped three against Mt. Holly here and added another with an RBI at Charlotte.

Junior Boxes

MT. HOLLY	AB	R	H	rbi
Webb, 2b	5	0	0	0
J. Pittman, cf	5	2	1	0
Lineberger, 1b	5	1	0	0
Brooms, 3b	4	1	1	1
B. Pittman, ss	4	1	2	3
Bolick, c	4	0	1	1
Donaldson, RF	3	0	0	0
Jesson, lf	3	0	0	0
Cline, p	3	0	0	0
Kirksey, p	0	0	0	0
Rick, lf	1	1	2	0
Totals	37	6	7	5

KINGS MT.	AB	R	H	rbi
Robbs, 2b	5	1	1	0
Horn, 1b	5	1	2	0
Pearson, rf	5	0	1	1
Morris, c	4	1	3	1
Biddix, p	5	0	2	1
Bolin, cf	3	0	0	0
Hendricks, ss	3	0	0	0
Parker, lf	4	0	0	0
Ware, 3b	3	0	0	0
B-Harmon	0	0	0	0
L. Pearson, cf	1	0	0	0
Totals	38	3	9	3

B-Waked for Bolin in 8th.
Mt. Holly 000 420 000-6
Kings Mt. 000 000 003-3
Pitchers IP H R ER BB SO
Cline (w) 8 9 3 3 3 8
Kirksey 3 0 0 0 0 1
Biddix (L) 9 6 7 3 1 11

B — Lineberger, B. Pittman, Cline, Morris 2, Ware 2; LOB—Mt. Holly 6, Kings Mt. 13; 2B—Pearson, J. Pittman, Brooms, Horn, Morris; 3B—Biddix; SB—Lineberger; HBP—Hendricks, Donaldson; PB—Bolick 2; U—Lutz & Hamrick; T—2-40.

KINGS MT.	AB	R	H	rbi
Robbs, 2b	3			