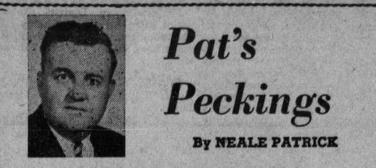
#### THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD, KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C.

Thursday, July 23, 1959



### Pro Baseball In N. C. At Low Ebb

Page 2

Professional baseball, once the pride of sports fans in the Ole North State, has been a slumbering giant-of-thepast for the past few seasons.

There used to be a gag that you could drive across the state on any night during the summer months without ev-en turning on your car-lights. The reference, of course, was to the fact that every town and hamlet in the state was the site of a pro baseball game, and that the lights from the park would illuminate the highways.

It's true that in the early years after World War II when everyone seemed to be hungry for baseball and be-fore the big tube became a household by-word that base-

ball was in abundance in North Carolina. At one time, the Ole North State had some 40-odd Organized Baseball teams in eight leagues, stretched from Maniteo to Murphy. North Carolina led the nation in those departments in several seasons, the league and club fig-ure topping Texas, and giving Tar Heel citizens something

to crow about against the normally crowing Texans. This section of North Carolina was particularly well-stocked with pro teams in three D leagues (Western Car-olina, Tar Heel, and North State) and in the Class B Tri-State. Down East, the Class B Carolina and the Class B The Tobacco State and Coastal Plain circuits were busy, and up in the northwest corner, the Blue Ridge League lapped over in N. C.

### Gastonia And New Loop Brighten Hopes

Now things have changed. If you are out driving at night, you best turn on your car lights. The baseball parks, for the most part, are darkened.

The 40-odd clubs and eight leagues have dwindled to nine teams and two leagues. The Carolina League is an all-Carolina circuit for the first time in its history, all six teams being Tar Heel cities. The Sally League claims the other three N. C. teams, and that number increased, as you know, within the past couple of weeks with the addition of Gastonia to the fold, joining Charlotte and Asheville. Gastonia's return to Organized Baseball with its four-

th team, with its fourth different nickname, in its fourth league in the past 20 years, is one of the items which lends to the thought that perhaps pro baseball is on its way back in the Ole North State.

The other is the efforts of Kings Mountain native John Moss to organize a new Class D league in this section for the 1960 season. Well-schooled in baseball as league presithe Class D diamond roster next summer.

He has six teams set and willing to go in '60, and a couple of other communities in Piedmont North Carolina also are more than mildly interested in the league.

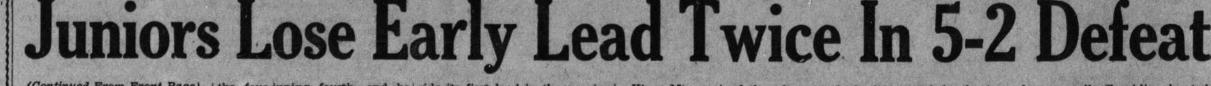
It has been written that parks are not available or satisfactory in several of the towns talking about entering the circuit. True, the parks are not in the same wellgroomed shape they were a few years ago when they were used and repaired regularly.

And that's not good. But the parks can be repaired, and the people have time to accomplish such tasks.

## Buddy Lewis Asks For 'Check List'

Gastonia has experienced a little of that "dirty park" slap in the face recently, with the outspoken president of League tournament to be held the left side of the infield, includ- icipating. the Sally League Sam Smith making some uncalled-for remarks about the cleanliness and class of Sims Legion Park. The Castonia folks who raised \$8,300 and hastily put

ia folks who raised \$8,300 and hasti



ings.

After falling behind in the fourth inning, Kings Mt. could not manage a hit off the ever-improving Stowe over the final five innings. Except for the one big inning, Bobby Biddix matched Stowe. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. He turned back the victors with-is pounded a ground-rule dou-turns. Kings Mt. grabbed two early is pounded a ground-rule dou-turns. Kings Mt. grabbed two early is pounded a ground-rule dou-turns. Except for the one big inning, Bobby Biddix matched Stowe. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our the blows to give our the blows to give our third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our the third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our the field three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our the field three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right-hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-mitted three of the seven hits in the game blows to give our third. The Bethware right hander per-

day night by a 11-6 count.

Four.

six other frames.

The ace right-hander survived

a rocky start and held on until his mates came up with one of

**Bobby Biddix Wins Tenth Of Year** 

As K. M. Cops Area Finals Opener

the Kings Mt. juniors copped the opening game of the Area Four title series at Mt. Holly on Fri-Biddix, and Ronnie Pearson.

Bobby Biddix became a ten- ped home on Sid Franklin's dou-ame winner on the season as ble.

(Continued From Front Page) ngs. After falling behind in the ourth inning. Kings Mt. regained the advan-the four-inning fourth, and he allowed only 1 knock after that a harmless single in the fifth. He turned back the victors with-inning. After Sid Franklin sin-gled with one away, and was courth inning. Kings Mt. regained the advan-gled with one away, and was forced at second by Biddix, Mor-

had been forced out at second base. Too late, the warning cries of his mates caused him to rea-lize that he had been called safe. He broke for third, but Herms tossed to Ben Broome for the putout, and the big threat was stifled.

Mt. Holly put together three hits, with two walks, a hit bats-man and an error for the four runs which clinched the victory K. M. added another in the

K. M. added another in the fourth on singles by Franklin, Biddix, and Ronnie Pearson. Mt. Holly regained the lead with there is the fifth and our first began firing harder after that to protect his lead. During the late stages of the game he began re-sembling the hurler who pitched West Mecklenburg High to the state Class AA baseball finals with three in the fifth, and our side squared matters again in the sixth on Biddix's single follast spring

their patented big innings to get the jump in the best-of-five set the jump in the best-of-five set for the championship of Area one of the three times in the ga-Kings Mt. threattened with a baserunner or two in four of the last five frames, but couldn't muster the punch to stage a KINGS MT. AB Mit. Holly out hit the Mounties, but 13 bases on balls, four hit Horn, 1b Franklin, cf comeback rally. Biddix worked-over Mt. Holly's batsmen, and five errors aided the Kings Mt. cause considera-bly. Our side had numerous Metzger, rf Morris, c top hitters, Broome, fanning him twice and throwing him out at Biddix, p 2 twice and throwing him out at first another time. Broome, in fact, has been stilled by K. M. pitchers, with only one infield hit for the first three games. The low-average batters have been the ones taking up the slack for the Hollies. chances, leaving a grand total of 18 runners stranded on the sacks. K. M. left the bases loaded in two innings and left two on in Pearson, lf Robbs, ss Parker, 3b Sanders, 2b TOTALS 35 11 The victory was the first of the season over the Mit. Holly-Paw Creek entry which won both the league tussles with Kings Mt. MT. HOLLY Herms, 2b KINGS MT. Lingerfelt, lf J. Pittman, cf Horn, 1b 0 Franklin, cf The two teams which tied for Broome, 3b Biddix, p B. Pilttman, ss-p he top spot in League A during Morris, c the first round swapped the lead through the first six frames, with Stowe, rf Pearson, lf Robbs, ss 0 0 Rushing, 1b 0 first one then the other holding the advantage. They headed into seventh deadlocked at 5-all. Bolick, c Parker, 3b 0 Kirksey, p Webb, 2b Sanders, 2b 0 0 Wright, rf TOTALS 0 Linberger, ss 0 29 2 Jessen, p Rick, p MT. HOLLY AB B rbi H A-Clir Herms, 2b TOTALS Lingerfelt, lf 0 J. Pittman. cf 0 A-Grounded out for Webb in 9th. Broome, 3b 030 101 600-11 Kings Mt. B. Pittman. ss 200 030 001- 6 Rushing, 1b Stowe, p 5 wild stanza, drew two walks in the course of the inning, and Bud Sanders also reached first twice, on an error and a walk. Five of the runs were forced in by walks or hit batsmen as the K. M. batters were driving in runs without removing their 100 100 dix; WP-Biddix; U-Cannup Gosey, Holt, Cornwell; T-2:05; Biddix (w) 976 657 6 A-1,067. Kirksey (L) % 0 2 IP H R ER BB S



KINGS MT. LITTLE LEAGUE STARS - The Kings Mountain Little League all-stars make their bid for state honors in the area tourna-ment starting in Shelby this afternoon. The local lads will meet the Shelby American League in their opener at 5 o'clock at the Shelby City Park Little League field. The K. M. all-

Tommy Black and Billy Stone; SECOND ROW —Richard White, Bubbles Pearson, Chip Mc-Ginnis, Mike Ballard, George Plonk, and Ronnie Rhea; BACK ROW-Couch Bob Wilson, Pat Murphy, Pat Hord, Richard Pack, Eddle Robbs, Jimmy Cloninger, and Richard Bolin. Bill Mullinax was missing when the picture was taken.

# K. M. Little League Stars Play the 1960 season. Well-schooled in baseball as league presi-dent, club general manager, and farm club operator, Moss is taking planned steps toward getting the state back on Shelby In Area Tourney Today

Kings Mountain's Little League Murphy and Richard Pack. The ment

Kings Mountain's Little League all stars begin their quest for state honors in the area tourna-ment opening in Shelby's City Park Thursday afternoon. The local small-fry baseballers meet the Shelby American League stars in their opening game this afternoon at 5 o'clock, following a game at 3:30 between Cherry-ville and the Shelby National League team. Murphy and Richard Pack. The other pitcher is Bubbles Pearson of the Piedmont Raiders team. Chip McGinnis, the local Little League's most outstanding player catcher for the Kings Mt. club in the area tournament. Pat Hord of Burmil also is a catcher, but probably will play the outfield at Shelby. Eddie Bobbs of the Burmil club by, Gastonia, Forest City and Eddie Robbs of the Burmil club Canton. League team.

This afternioon's winners will is the first-baseman and Jimmy clash Friday at 4:30 p. m. for the only area championship and the right ond sacker. The state tournament is sched- used for the following weekend in Forest City with four district win- shoulders.

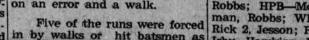
area championship and the right ond sacker. Forest City with four district win-to advnce into the district Little Several boys are available for ners from all over the state par-

Kings Mt. broke it wide open n the "lucky seventh". Coach Fred Withers club sent an even dozen batters to the plate, and before it was over six runs crossed the plate without the aid and benefit of a base hit.

Kings Mt. drew six walks, had a Mt. Holly hit batsman and gained life on

Biddix just coasted into the B. Pittman

875448 942146 Biddix (L) 0 Stowe (W)



Rick

hit batsman and gained life on two errors to account for the half-dozen tallies. Pu.ch Parker, who started the wild stanza, drew two walks in the course of the inning and Bud L Butters DP-Robbs (unassisted); LOB-Kings Mt. 18, Mt. Holly 10; 2B-Kings Mt. Holly 10; 2B-K

0.2 21/3 1 0 2

ened rallies.

th.

nings

Pitchers

star squad, lists left to right, FRONT ROW -(Herald Photo hy David Baity)

the Sims Park in playing shape on four days notice feel that Smith should have aired his thoughts about the park with them in private, instead of hanging the dirty wash out for participated in the program here. Mullinax of Parkgrace and Pat tournament last summer, defeatall baseball to see.

ted Buddy Lewis, the ram-rod in landing the club for Gastonia in mid-season, told me the other day, "We dispute little that he said. We just think that he shouldn't have said all that for public print. We were given only four days to get ready for the team's arrival and that certainly isn't time to remodel dressing rooms and repaint the entire stands.'

Columbus and Pittsburgh Pirate officials, of course, inspected and approved Gastonia before requesting the right to shift the franchise for the remainder of the season.

Lewis said that Smith did mention the "short-comings" when he visited Gastonia the first week after the switch, and the Gastonia ex-major leaguer said of the discussion:

"We told Smith then that if the league directors, in their annual October meeting, give us assurance that we will have the franchise again in 1960, we will make the changes in our dressing room facilities as needed . . . We only askthey give up a check list of things to do, and we will cross them off as they are completed!

That's fair enough. And that should make Sammy run to retain the town which has averaged 2,000 per game for its first seven home appearances. No other Sally league team matches that for the year.

## **Defending Champions Top-Seeded In Tennis Meet; Pairings Posted**

Defending champions Rudy Stowe, 6-4, 9-7 in the title match. Frazier in the singles and Fred The first-round pairings for Plonk and John Warlick in the the tournament follow:

tlet.

nis

SINGLES TOURNAMENT

**Upper Bracket** 

Rudy Frazier vs Allen Jervey.

Bill Childers vs Charles Brid-

Harold Jackson vs Dwight

Joe Austin vs Jimmy White.

Lower Bracket

John Warlick vs John Macom

R. G. Plonk vs Kenny Huffste-

Steve Kesler vs John McGin

Ed Ledford vs Jerry McCarter.

Upper Bracket John Warlick and Fred Plonk

Rudy Frazier and Roger Stowe

DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

doubles have been top-seeded in the Kings Mountain tennis tournament which was scheduled to get underway this week at the Deal Street recreation courts. Pairings for the men's singles

and doubles tournaments have Ware. been posted at the Deal Street pool and all entries are urged to check the pairings and arrange playing times with their opponent. Results also must be turned in to Recreation Director Jake Early at the pool.

A total of 16 entries were received for the singles event and eight for the doubles tournament, thus affording a perfect pairings, with no byes, for the first round of play.

Frazier, a former High Point vs Charles Bridges and Ken College tennis star, and now em. Huffstetler. ployed by the Phenix plant of R. G. Plonk and Joe Austin vs Burmil here, has won the local Dwight Ware and John McGintennis title for the past two nis. years. He defeated John Warlick, Ri 6-1, 6-1, in the finals last year. Warlick and Fred Plonk team- Wray. ed-up to cop the doubles crown last season, defeating Frazier son vs Ed Ledford and Bill Chil-

and his Burmil associate Roger ders.

runner-up Burmil club will and Richard White of Burmil. guide the local stars who were The outfield probably will have Kings Mountain's Little picked from the six teams which Ronnie Rhea of Kiwanis, Bill guers won their opener in

Bully Stone, one of the undefeat-"Many of the things that Smith said are true," admit-Buddy Lewis, the ram-rod in landing the club for Gas-Kiwanis club, is expected to be

the starting hurler for Kings Mountain Thursday afternoon. K. M. Boys Billy Ware, Jimmy Falls The little tosser won two games this year and was brilliant in relief in many other contests. Coaches Wilson and Medford also have five other young fire-

ed Saturday.

ballers at their call. Tommy Black and Mike Balland are two other pitchers from

the Kiwanis club, Burmil furnishes two strong moundsmen in Pat

Chip's .684 Tops **Kiwanis Champs** Chip McGinnis hit a fabulous

684 to lead the Kiwanis cham- last Saturday. pions of the Kings Mt. Little League in batting this season.

The young catcher rapped 26 cording to averages compiled by

Tommy

the city champs.

Chip McGinnis

Neal McCarter

Nelson Conner

George Plonk

**Billy Stone** 

**Ronnie** Rhea

Neal Cooper

Tommy Dean

Robert Phifer

Dennis Bridges

Player Tommy Black Billy Stone

Mike Ballard

Tommy Black

Pete Hambright

Hubert McGinnis

Tommy Gerberding

Mike Ballard

Player

The Kiwanis averages:

BATTING

AB H

26 20

8

9

9

10

3

0

38 35

22 11

23 29

27

30

3

28

28

12

0 0

L

PITCHING

Ballard was second in hitting for the championship team, with a .571 mark. Neal McCarter was next with an even .500 average. Chip and Mike are both members of the K. M. all-stars who open play Thursday in the area

Both local youths were compet-ing in the Charlotte Derby for the second straight year and both came within an eyelash of giving Kings Mountai its third straight tournament at Shelby. Black won four straight on the mound for Ki-|winner.

wanis, with Billy Stone notching two wins, and Mike Ballard posting a 3-1 mound mark. Billy aland both competed in the giganlowed only nine hits and struck tic national Derby at Akron. out 53 in 23 innings pitched for

ion is for boys 13-15.

Freddie, in fact, returned to Charlotte last Saturday in the role of a celebrity and participa-ted in the Oli Can Derby which is held in connection with the Pct. Soap Box affair. The Oil Can Derby is a fun race between celebri-ties in outlandish model cars. 684 by is a tun race between celebri-ties in outlandish model cars. The Kings Mountain youngster won the race competing against a couple of WSOC-TV personali-ties, Tony Sposa and Jimmy Kil-ties, Tony Sposa and Jimmy Kil-go. Freddie won a huge oil can as his "prize" for winning the race. In the Derby itself, Billy Ware and Jimmy Falls swept through early rounds, quarter-finals, and semi-finals to enter the champion .571 .500 .348 345 .333 .333 .333 .286

.274 .250 .000 .000 .000 .000

So

7 Derby champion. 10 The Kings Mountain boy's best 14 time for the afternoon was 30.1 and other guests at the Lodg 19 53

the tournaments in She the ing consecutive walks. Two rom-

> **Other Areas Also** In Finals Series

> > Winner of the Kings Moun-tain-Mt. Holly Area Four fin-als will meet the victor in the Area Three playoffs between Kannapolis and Salisbury.

The latter two clubs were due to start a best-of-three set Tuesday night for the Pied-Cline beat K. M. in the set mont crown.

The Area Three vs Area Four series for the Western N. C. No other pitcher has been able No other pitcher has been able to win more than one game over Kings Mt. in this most-success-ful-ever Legion season. Hurlers who have whipped K. M. in the first meeting have "suffered the consequences" the next time out. title is scheduled to begin no later than Saturday night on a best of seven basis, due to be completed by August 4. The Area Four winner will be the host for the first game of the

### Area finals battles also were in progress in Eastern North Carolina this week.

Rocky Mt. held a two-game lead in a best of five set with Snow Camp in Area One.

Cumberland County had a two-one advantage over Wilmington in a seven game playoffs for the Area Two crown.

# Moose Wins Babe Ruth Loop Crown; Local boys Tony Hampton won in 1957 and Freddie Foster in '58 Club Fetes Title-Winning Team

Coach Willie Grice's club was declared champion of the circuit for 13-15 year old youths when the final week of the schedule was cancelled. Moose headed in-patrick.

semi-finals to enter the champion-ship race of their divisions. Billy was edged out in the Class A division finals by Boyce Parks of Charlotte, the eventual Derby was edged out in the ocal Moose Lodge No. 1 The local Moose Lodge No. 1748 was supper host to the members of the Moose BRL team

## Lea ond, with James Robbs, Punch Parker and Bud Sanders draw. Hollies' Jim Cline First Pitcher To Beat K. M. Twice This Season

Jim Cline, Mt. Holly's hard-throwing young right-hander, chalked up a "first" for the sea-all. on as he squared the Area Four

son as he squared the Area Four finals series for his club against the Kings Mt. juniors here Satur-day with the Kings Mt. juniors here Saturday night. His 3-2 victory here was his second win of the Legion season over the local lads, a distinction that no other pitcher has been able to accomplish this year. Cline beat K M in the season's

uson's missed the game. opener here, back in May, for his other win against the locals.

Mt. Holly picked up its three runs Saturday in one-run frames. An error along with a walk and Bob Pittman's hit chalked the first one in the third.

Two hits following an inning. opening walk gave the visitors another in the fifth, Benny Broome's single driving home Cline had to stave off a late Bobby Herms who had strolled. oid by Kings Mt. to save his sec-Cline, you might say, won his ond win Saturday night. After his team had staked him

own game driving in what prov-ed to be the winning run in the sixth. Wayne Bolick doubled to left, went to third on a passed ball and scored Mt. Holly's third run on Cling's single to contern to a 3-0 lead, he had to struggle through a couple of threatrun on Cline's single to center.

Kings Mt. was able to get only one runner as far as third base in the first five innings. But the MT. HOLLY AB R local lads improved that situ-Herms, 2b ation with one away in the six- Lingerfelt, If J. Pittman, cf 0 Sid Franklin singled to right. 00 Sid Franklin singled to right, Broome, 3D and raced to third when Bobby B. Pittman, ss Biddix smashed a ground-rule Stowe, rf double atop the leftfield bank, Rushing, 1b the ball barely missing clearing the fence. Jerry Morris drove Cline, p home Franklin with the first tal-Broome, 3b 2 000 0 12 0 1 3 TOTALS ly on a long sacrifice fly to left-field. KINGS MT. AB R H rbi Kings Mt. added its other run in the seventh, making a big bid 0 lorn. 1b Franklin, cf 1 ddix, rf to have one of the typical in-0 0 lorris, c James Robbs and Punch Par-Pearson, lf ker started it, each getting hit by pitched balls. Bud Sanders laid down a sacrifice bun and arker, 3b 0 0 rs. 2b all hands were safe when Par-ker slid into third under the TOTALS 33 2 Mt. Holly 011 With the bases loaded and none away, the largest crowd (1063) of the season was hop-ping, hoping for the big frame. But the best the locals could do was one run, Robbs scoring on a wild pitch by Cline. The Mt. Holly tosser helped himself out of the iam with a pair of strike-ter with a pai With the bases loaded and of the jam with a pair of strike-outs. Morris; U — Jenkins, Hamrick,

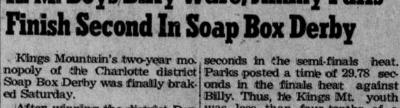
That was all the scoring for the locals, although they tried hard in the eighth and ninth, with a hit in each frame. Morris Cline (w) 97211

th one away in the

The Moose team is the cham-pion of the Kings Mt. Babe Ruth baseball league for 1959. Home on the Bessemer City Road Tuesday. Coach Grice and the majority

latter date. BRL FINAL STANDINGS

Moos



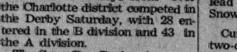
After winning the district Der. was less than four-tenths of a by for the past two summers and second back of the winner. sending a local lad to the nation-

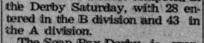
Jimmy also was a division finalist, in the B group for younger ron, Ohio, Kings Mountain had to be content with a couple of year the K. M. boy was runner-up, second-place division winners in this time to Ronnie Reid of Charthe races held in the Queen City lotte.

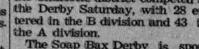
The Derby finals race was be-

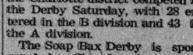
Billy Ware finished second Billy Ware finished second in tween the two Charlotte boys, the A division and Jimmy Falls winners in their respective divis-was runner-up in the B division ions, with Parks defeating Reid hits in 38 trips to the plate, ac-cording to averages compiled by Vincenia Coach Bob Wilson. Mike Brown Ware and Jimmy the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Falls. A total of 71 boys from over

of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Falls. The B division is for youths 11-13 years of age and the A divis.









The Soap Bax Derby is spon-sored by Chevolet dealrs and WSOC-TV in Charlotte,

