



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Pro Baseball In N. C. At Low Ebb

Professional baseball, once the pride of sports fans in the Ole North State, has been a slumbering giant-of-the-past 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 even 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 before the big tube became a household by-word that baseball 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 Manito to Murphy, North Carolina led the nation in those departments in several seasons, the league and club figure 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 Carolina, Tar Heel, and North State) and in the Class B Tri-State, Down East, the Class B Carolina and the Class D 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 fourth 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 president, club general manager, and farm club operator, Moss is taking planned steps toward getting the state back on the 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 well-groomed shape they were a few years ago when they were used and repaired regularly.

There's a tendency to allow unused parks to stand. 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 the Sally League Sam Smith making some uncalculated remarks about the cleanliness and class of Sims Legion Park.

The Gastonia folks who raised \$8,300 and hastily put 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 all baseball to see.

"Many of the things that Smith said are true," admitted 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 ask they give us 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 Frazier in the singles and Fred Plonk and John Warlick in the 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 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 College tennis star, and now employed by the Phenix plant of Burmill here, has won the local tennis title for the past two years. He defeated John Warlick, 6-1, 6-1, in the final last year.

Warlick and Fred Plonk crowned last season's defending champion and his Burmill associate Roger

Juniors Lose Early Lead Twice In 5-2 Defeat

(Continued From Front Page)

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 Bathware right-hander permitted three of the seven hits in

the four-inning fourth, and he allowed only 1 knock after that a harmless single in the fifth. He turned back the victors with a blow for the last four turns.

Kings Mt. grabbed two early leads in the game, but couldn't hold them in the game played on a very wet and slippery field. Jerry Morris unloaded one of his typical long blows to give our

side its first lead in the opening inning. After Sid Franklin singled with one away, and was forced at second by Biddix, Morris pounded a ground-rule double into the left-center field bleachers, scoring his battery mate.

Mt. Holly matched that on a double by Bobby Herms and single by Mack Lingerfelt in the third.

Kings Mt. regained the advantage in the fourth, with Morris starting the frame with a single. Ronnie Pearson walked and James Robbs laid-down a bunt which Stowe heaved into right field permitting Morris to score.

Pearson went to third and Robbs wound-up at second and K. M. appeared ready to pull one of their big frames. Here the first of two base-running "errors"

took the life out of the threat. As Punch Parker fanned for the first out, Pearson broke for home on a missed signal and was easily tagged out by the waiting catcher Wayne Bolick to complete a double-play.

Another bad base-running episode, killed-off a threat in the top of the fifth after K. M. fell behind, 5-2. With one away, Don Horn

drew a walk. Franklin bunted, and pitcher Stowe's throw to second was high, forcing second baseman Herms to leave the bag to catch the heave. Horn slid into second, safe, but he didn't know it.

Don hopped up out of the mud and started trotting off the field to the bench, supposing that he had been forced out at second base. Too late, the warning cries of his mates caused him to realize 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 batsman and an error for the four runs which clinched the victory in the fourth.

The Hollies right-hander Stowe began firing harder after that to protect his lead. During the late stages of the game he began resembling the hurler who pitched West Mecklenburg High to the state Class AA baseball finals last spring.

Kings Mt. threatened with a baserunner or two in four of the last five frames, but couldn't muster the punch to stage a comeback rally.

Biddix worked-over Mt. Holly's top hitters, Broome, fanning him 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.

KINGS MT.	AB	R	H	rbi
Horn, 1b	5	1	0	0
Franklin, cf	7	2	3	2
Biddix, rf	6	1	0	1
Morris, c	2	1	0	0
Biddix, p	4	1	2	2
Pearson, lf	4	1	1	2
Robbs, ss	3	1	0	1
Parker, 3b	2	1	0	1
Sanders, 2b	2	2	0	1
TOTALS	35	11	6	10

MT. HOLLY	AB	R	H	rbi
Herms, 2b	3	1	0	0
Lingerfelt, lf	4	1	1	0
J. Pittman, cf	4	1	1	0
Broome, 3b	2	2	1	0
B. Pittman, ss-p	4	1	0	0
Stowe, rf	4	0	0	1
Rushing, 1b	5	0	2	1
Bolick, c	5	0	1	2
Kirksey, p	2	0	1	0
Webb, 2b	1	0	0	0
Linsberger, ss	0	0	0	0
Jessen, p	0	0	0	0
Rick, p	1	0	0	0
A-Cline	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	6	7	4

A-Grouped out for Webb in 9th.

Kings Mt.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Biddix (w)	9	7	6	7	6	6
Kirksey (L)	6	5	7	6	6	6
B. Pittman	%	0	2	3	1	0
Jessen	0	2	3	1	0	0
Rick	2 1/2	1	0	2	0	0

Pitchers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Biddix (L)	8	7	5	4	4	8
Stowe (W)	9	4	2	1	4	6



KINGS MT. LITTLE LEAGUE STARS — The Kings Mountain Little League all-stars make their bid for state honors in the area tournament 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-star squad, lists left to right, FRONT ROW —

Tommy Black and Billy Stone; SECOND ROW — Richard White, Bubbles Pearson, Chip McGinnis, Mike Ballard, George Plonk, and Ronnie Rhea; BACK ROW — Coach Bob Wilson, Pat Murphy, Pat Ford, Richard Pack, Eddie Robbs, Jimmy Cloninger, and Richard Bolin. Bill Mullinax was missing when the picture was taken. (Herald Photo by David Baity)

K. M. Little League Stars Play Shelby In Area Tourney Today

Kings Mountain's Little League all-stars begin their quest for state honors in the area tournament 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 Cherryville and the Shelby National League team.

This afternoon's winners will clash Friday at 4:30 p. m. for the area championship and the right to advance into the district Little League tournament to be held next week, also in Shelby.

Coach Bob Wilson of the Kings Mt. Little League champion Kiwanis team and Gene Medford of the runner-up Burmill club will guide the local stars who were picked from the six teams which participated in the program here.

Billy Stone, one of the undefeated hurlers for the title-winning Kiwanis club, is expected to be the starting hurler for Kings Mountain Thursday afternoon. 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 fireballers at their call.

Tommy Black and Mike Ballard are two other pitchers from the Kiwanis club. Burmill furnishes two strong moundsmen in Pat

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 of the season, is due to be the catcher for the Kings Mt. club in the area tournament.

Pat Ford of Burmill also is a catcher, but probably will play the outfield at Shelby.

Eddie Robbs of the Burmill club is the first-baseman and Jimmy Cloninger of Parkgrace the second sacker.

Several boys are available for the left side of the infield, including a couple of pitchers who double as infielders. Murphy and Pack. Other infielders are George Plonk from the Kiwanis team, and Richard White of Burmill.

The outfield probably will have Ronnie Rhea of Kiwanis, Bill Mullinax of Parkgrace and Pat Ford of Burmill, with several of the pitchers also being available for duty in the fly-chasing department.

Richard Bolin from the Parkgrace club is carried as the 15th or extra member of the team and can be used if one of the other boys is unable to play.

Next week's district tournament at Shelby on July 31-August 1 will pit the winners in Shelby's area tournaments in Shelby, Gastonia, Forest City and Canton.

The state tournament is scheduled for the following weekend in Forest City with four district winners from all over the state participating.

Forest City is the defending state champion. Hal Deaton, director of the Shelby Boys Club, is director for the tournaments in Shelby.

Kings Mountain's Little Leagueurs won their opener in the tournament last summer, defeating Shelby National League, then lost to Forest City in the second game.

Chip's .684 Tops Kiwanis Champs

Chip McGinnis hit a fabulous .684 to lead the Kiwanis champions of the Kings Mt. Little League in batting this season.

The young catcher rapped 26 hits in 38 trips to the plate, according to averages compiled by Kiwanis Coach Bob Wilson. Mike 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 tournament at Shelby.

Tommy Black won four straight on the mound for Kiwanis, with Billy Stone notching two wins, and Mike Ballard posting a 3-1 mound mark. Billy allowed only nine hits and struck out 53 in 23 innings pitched for the city champs.

The Kiwanis averages:

Player	AB	H	Pct.
Chip McGinnis	38	26	.684
Mike Ballard	35	20	.571
Neal McCarter	22	11	.500
Pete Hambricht	23	8	.345
Hubert McGinnis	29	9	.310
Nelson Conner	27	9	.333
George Plonk	30	10	.333
Tommy Gerberding	3	1	.333
Billy Stone	28	8	.286
Ronnie Rhea	28	7	.274
Tommy Black	12	3	.250
Neal Cooper	7	0	.000
Tommy Dean	5	0	.000
Robert Phifer	0	0	.000
Dennis Bridges	0	0	.000

Player	W	L	So	Bb
Tommy Black	4	0	19	7
Billy Stone	2	0	53	10
Mike Ballard	3	1	22	14

K. M. Boys Billy Ware, Jimmy Falls Finish Second In Soap Box Derby

Kings Mountain's two-year monopoly of the Charlotte district Soap Box Derby was finally broken Saturday.

After winning the district Derby for the past two summers and sending a local lad to the national Soap Box Derby finals in Akron, Ohio, Kings Mountain had to be content with a couple of second-place division winners in the races held in the Queen City last Saturday.

Billy Ware finished second in the A division and Jimmy Falls was runner-up in the B division for the second straight year. Billy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brown Ware and Jimmy the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah Falls.

The B division is for youths 11-13 years of age and the A division is for boys 13-15.

Both local youths were competing in the Charlotte Derby for the second straight year and both came within an eyelash of giving Kings Mountain its third straight winner.

Local boys Tony Hampton won in 1957 and Freddie Foster in '58 and both competed in the gigantic national Derby at Akron.

Freddie, in fact, returned to Charlotte last Saturday in the role of a celebrity and participated in the Oil Can Derby which is held in connection with the Soap Box affair. This Oil Can Derby is a fun race between celebrities in outlandish model cars.

The Kings Mountain youngster won the race competing against a couple of WSOC-TV personalities, Tony Sposa and Jimmy Kilgo. 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 championship race of their divisions.

Billy was edged out in the Class A division finals by Boyce Parks of Charlotte, the eventual Derby champion.

The Kings Mountain boy's best time for the afternoon was 30.1

seconds in the semi-finals heat. Parks posted a time of 29.78 seconds in the finals heat against Billy. Thus, the Kings Mt. youth was less than four-tenths of a second back of the winner.

Jimmy also was a division finalist, in the B group for younger boys, and for the second straight year the K. M. boy was runner-up, this time to Ronnie Reid of Charlotte.

The Derby finals race was between the two Charlotte boys, winners in their respective divisions, with Parks defeating Reid for the title and the right to go to the National event.

A total of 71 boys from over the Charlotte district competed in the Derby Saturday, with 28 entered in the B division and 43 in the A division.

The Soap Box Derby is sponsored by Chevrolet dealers and WSOC-TV in Charlotte.

Other Areas Also In Finals Series

Winner of the Kings Mountain-Mt. Holly Area Four Finals 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 Piedmont crown.

The Area Three vs Area Four series for the Western N. C. 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 series.

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; Club Fetes Title-Winning Team

The Moose team is the champion of the Kings Mt. Babe Ruth baseball league for 1959.

Coach Willie Grice's club was declared champion of the circuit for 13.5 year old youths when the final week of the schedule was cancelled. Moose headed into the final two games of the lead over the second place Margrace team, and the league coaches agreed to call-off the remaining games.

Moose posted an 8-1 record on the season, with Margrace in second place with a 6-4 mark.

Coach Grice plans to organize a local Babe Ruth League all-star team and hopes to land several games with neighboring Babe Ruth and Pony League teams.

The local Moose Lodge No. 1748 was supper host to the members of the Moose BRL team and other guests at the Lodge

Team	W	L	Pct.
Moose	8	1	.889
Margrace	6	4	.600
Rebels	4	4	.500
Mauney	0	9	.000

Bobby Biddix Wins Tenth Of Year As K. M. Cops Area Finals Opener

Bobby Biddix became a ten-time home on Sid Franklin's double.

K. M. added another in the fourth on singles by Franklin, Biddix, and Ronnie Pearson.

Mt. Holly regained the lead with three in the fifth, and our side squared matters again in the sixth on Biddix's single following an error and Morris getting hit by a pitched ball for one of the three times in the game.

KINGS MT.	AB	R	H	rbi
Horn, 1b	5	1	0	0
Franklin, cf	7	2	3	2
Biddix, rf	6	1	0	1
Morris, c	2	1	0	0
Biddix, p	4	1	2	2
Pearson, lf	4	1	1	2
Robbs, ss	3	1	0	1
Parker, 3b	2	1	0	1
Sanders, 2b	2	2	0	1
TOTALS	35	11	6	10

MT. HOLLY	AB	R	H	rbi
Herms, 2b	3	1	0	0
Lingerfelt, lf	4	1	1	0
J. Pittman, cf	4	1	1	0
Broome, 3b	2	2	1	0
B. Pittman, ss-p	4	1	0	0
Stowe, rf	4	0	0	1
Rushing, 1b	5	0	2	1
Bolick, c	5	0	1	2
Kirksey, p	2	0	1	0
Webb, 2b	1	0	0	0
Linsberger, ss	0	0	0	0
Jessen, p	0	0	0	0
Rick, p	1	0	0	0
A-Cline	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	36	6	7	4

Kings Mt. broke it wide open in 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 hit batsman and gained life on two errors to account for the half-dozen tallies.

Punch Parker, who started the 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 Louisville Sluggers from their shoulders.

Biddix just coasted into the victory after that explosion.

Mt. Holly took a 2-0 lead in the first inning, but K. M. wiped that out with three in the second, with James Robbs, Punch Parker and Bud Sanders drawing consecutive walks. Two run-

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 season as he squared the Area Four finals series for his club against 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.