



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Stacked Teams Pace Area Jr. Race

Short takes from the whirl of sports . . . and the summer baseball season is moving right along when you note the fact that Area Four American Legion junior teams complete their first-round league schedules this week . . . Elimination series will begin separating the "men from the boys" next week.

Then we will learn if Charlotte's Post 9 and Lincoln-Cherryville are as powerful as they have appeared at times during the league race . . . It is no secret that both teams are stacked outfits, thanks to the careful manipulations and recruiting by officials at the sponsoring Legion posts.

The Linc-Cherries have rounded up the top talent from Southwest Conference prep champion Cherryville and a contending Lincoln High team, and folks around Cherryville are talking the same language they did in the national tournament season of 1953 . . . Ronnie Hovis of Cherryville and Donnie Carrigan of Lincoln give the L-C boys two top pitchers . . . Other such names as Steve Watts, Lester and Johnny Jenkins and Jerry Lail from Lincoln round-out the well-balanced outfit . . . Pitching has been particularly potent for the Linc-Cherries with a couple of one-hitters, a stretch of 24 consecutive scoreless innings and an average of about 15 strikeouts per game by the mound staff.

Charlotte Post 9, likewise, is loaded with a host of players who already claim one national title to their credit . . . Many of the Charlotte lads played on the national champion Babe Ruth League team two years ago and by one manner or another have been reassembled for the Legion club . . . Leo Black who coached that Babe Ruth team also is at the helm of the juniors, and one of his stars is his son, Gary . . . The ace pitcher of the BRL team, Jerry Maye, also is a Legion star now on the club recruited from three Charlotte schools, Garinger, Harding and Catholic . . . Some Post 9 Legionnaires have been attempting to assemble this junior team for two years, but were blocked by school enrollments . . . Now they have managed to get the Babe Ruth stars back together again and they pose a threat to Area Four baseball.

Pupil Powell Beats Prof Pop

Kings Mountain's juniors started slowly, but suddenly caught fire and have been the hottest item in the area recently, notably in the five straight wins last week . . . The victories boosted the local lads into second place in the chase . . . The team has been getting the same type of sharp pitching shown last year by Bobby Biddix and Jerry Wright . . . Now its three more hard-throwing right-handers, Ken Wilson, Ernest McCarter and Punch Parker . . . And the club also resembles last summer's club with the occasional big inning . . . Business has really picked up for Legion baseball here.

The current K. M. club also has that battling nature of never-say-die, as witnessed in the consecutive night victories over Mt. Holly and Shelby last week . . . The local lads won both those identical 8-7 games with rallies which started after the first two batters were retired, and the very next night, KM started the winning rally against Belmont with one out in the ninth.

It might be noted, too, that the win over Shelby was a memorable one for Bill Powell . . . It was a case of the "pupil" (Powell) beating his "teacher" (Pop Simmons) in their first Legion junior baseball meeting . . . Powell, you know, played for Simmons early in the year of the 1945 national title season at Shelby . . . And teacher and pupil have met many times in the Cleveland County baseball circuit . . . But last Tuesday night's game was the first time the two had met, officially, in the Legion ranks . . . The clubs did play a pair of exhibitions before the season, but the results did not count in season's records.

Did you realize, too, that the win over Shelby here last week marked the fifth straight time in the past year that Kings Mt. prep baseball teams have whipped arch rival Shelby? . . . The local juniors beat Shelby two straight last summer, and the high school Mountaineers duplicated the feat this spring . . . And now the string stretches out to five in a row.

Bethware, Grover Would Suffer

Just a thought in passing, if the Kings Mountain school consolidation does materialize next year, the athletic programs in the Cleveland County Conference will be slightly jumbled-up.

For instance, if the present injunction blocks the consolidation of Grover and Bethware with Kings Mt. High, the two county schools will be on their own, athletically, next year and be at a disadvantage against rival county schools . . . Other county schools in the old Cleveland circuit will be consolidated into three units next year, thus will field strong athletic teams drawn from three schools each . . . Bethware and Grover, meanwhile, would be competing against those teams while drawing students from their own school, only.

Kings Mountain's pair of football boys in South Carolina schools are back in summer school after short vacations here following the spring term . . . Ken Baily is attending the summer session at South Carolina, and Keith Layton is at the Citadel for summer work . . . Layton had only a brief stay at home after playing in the NCAA baseball event at Gastonia.

Coach Fred Withers reports that officials were so well pleased with the East-West all-star baseball game at Greenville a couple of weeks ago that they are now planning a three-game series for the future . . . "They feel that the boys will have a better chance to play and display their talent for the major league scouts and college coaches," revealed Withers.

Incidentally, both of the pitchers from the immediate Kings Mountain area carried impressive high school and Legion records to the all-star contest . . . Bobby Biddix of Bethware and K. M. juniors compiled a prep record of 30 wins and 12 losses, a 27-2 mark in Bethware High and a 12-10 record in two years with the KM juniors . . . Jerry Wright claimed identical records of nine wins and five losses in Kings Mt. High and local Legion seasons. He pitched three years in high school, two in legion.

For the records, too, Jerry Morris clubbed the ball at a .536 pace for Bethware High this spring, with Bobby Biddix hitting at even .500 . . . A couple of local junior outfielders also compiled big marks for the Bucs, Tommy Barrett .400 and Lawrence Bolin .347.

Rain Throws Curve-Ball At Juniors Card

Kings Mt. Second In League Race Plays At Shelby Saturday Night

Jerry Morris, Tommy Barrett Lead Jr. Bats

Jerry Morris and Tommy Barrett, a pair of baseball products from Bethware High School, are setting the batting pace for the Kings Mountain juniors in the final week of the first-round of action.

The pair of former Buccaneers have identical stick records of .345 average, compiled with ten hits in 29 trips to the plate.

The leadership is "old hat" to Morris who led the local kids with the bat last season with a .390 figure. He fell below that 1959 figure during a recent slump, but he snapped out of the doldrums with a pair of knocks here Saturday night against Charlotte Post No. 262.

Morris and Barrett's batting figures edge a couple of other three-hundred hitter through the first eight games of the season. The averages are computed through last Saturday night's contest the lads game the juniors have played.

Ernest McCarter, double-duty performer on the mound and at firstbase, is hitting .333 and James Robbs knocking at .324.

They are the only players over the .300 bat figure.

Robbs has another distinction on the season, being the only local batter to hit safely in each of the first eight games. His teammate, from Kings Mt. High, Ronnie Pearson, has been consistent in the run-making department. He has scored a run in every game . . . no more, no less, but one run per contest.

McCarter leads the team in runs batted in, with eight. Morris and Robbs are the extra blow leaders, Jerry with three doubles and James with two doubles and a triple. McCarter has banged the season's lone home.

Kenny Wilson and Punch Parker have won two straight games each to lead in the pitching department. Both of Wilson's victories have been route-going performances, with Parker pitching the distance in his only start.

McCarter and Lefty Barry Gibson have claimed one win each, and each has lost one.

Batter	Ab	R	H	Pct.
Jerry Morris	29	4	10	.345
Tommy Barrett	29	6	10	.345
Ernest McCarter	18	5	6	.333
James Robbs	34	6	11	.324
Donnie McDermid	25	4	5	.200
Bud Sanders	31	3	6	.194
Ron Pearson	28	8	5	.179

Slugging Leaders

Runs Batted In — McCarter 9, Robbs 4, McDermid 4, R. Pearson 4, Barrett 3, Morris 3, Sanders 3. Doubles — Morris 3, Robbs 2, R. Pearson 2. Triples — Robbs and McDermid, 1 each. Homer — McCarter 1.

Moose, Rebels Scrap To Tie In Pony Opener

Defending champion Moose and Rebels battled to a 9-all tie in the opening game of the Kings Mountain Pony League Monday afternoon.

Rain halted the game in the top of the seventh inning after Rebels had scored six runs, but the score reverted to the end of a full six innings, thus washing-out the big rally by Rebels.

Recreation director Charles Helms said that the game will be made up at a later date.

Rain and wet grounds washed out the other opening round game, Tuesday, between Mauney and Margrace. Wednesday's game pitted Moose against Margrace, and on Thursday Rebels play Mauney. One game is scheduled each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the baseball field at the Deal Street Recreation Center.

Eddie Robbs paced the Rebels' hitting in the opener, with a triple and single. The other Rebels hits were contributed by Jerry Lockridge, Trip Neisler, Brent McDaniel and Hubert McGinnis.

Five batters shared the hitting honors for Moose — Henry Hilliard, Mike Tignor, Bubbles Pearson, Chip McGinnis and Mike Ballard. Eddie Huffstetler drew four straight walks for Moose, and scored three runs.

Huff pitched the route for Moose, fanning nine. Lockridge and Goforth divided the mound chores for Rebels, striking out seven.

Linescore: 004 221-9-5-3
Moose 330 111-9-5-2
Lockridge, Goforth and Spencer; Huff and McGinnis.

Rain threw a curve ball at the Kings Mountain junior schedule this week.

Heading down the home stretch in the final week of the first round action, the league's second-place local juniors had two games washed out, at Belmont on Monday night and at Gastonia on Tuesday.

Local officials were uncertain whether either of the games will be made up. Thursday is the designated make-up night for games rained out early in the week, but both the Belmont and Gastonia parks are scheduled by other teams on Thursday evening.

The Area Four race is scheduled to end Saturday night, but Commissioner John Yandle of Charlotte told Belmont athletic officer Marion Hunter in a telephone conversation Monday that he might extend the first-round a few days next week in order that teams could complete their schedule.

Originally the eliminations were due to get underway Monday. Yandle is expected to call an Area Four meeting Sunday to formulate plans for extending the first round schedule and set-up the slate for the eliminations.

Coach Bill Powell's red-hot Kings Mt. juniors have one more game on the card this week, at Shelby on Saturday night. The local kids have a bye on Friday night, but can not make up either of the washed out games due to all other clubs in the circuit being scheduled for that night.

The Kings Mt. lads were scheduled to play Charlotte Post 9-380 Wednesday night in the scrap between the top two teams in League A of Area Four.

Charlotte went into the game with nine straight wins, and Kings Mt. had a 6-2 record, including the last five in a row. The Mounties started the winning streak after losing to the Charlotte outfit, 18-5 a couple of weeks ago. Wildness by a trio of Kings Mt. pitchers proved the downfall for the locals in that loss.

LEAGUE A STANDING

Team	W	L	Pct.
Charlotte 9	9	0	1.000
Kings Mountain	6	2	.750
Charlotte 262	4	5	.444
Shelby	3	5	.375
Mt. Holly	3	6	.333
Belmont	2	5	.286
Gastonia	2	6	.250

LEAGUE B STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Cherryville	9	0	1.000
Forest City	5	2	.714
Hickory	5	3	.625
Morganton	4	4	.500
Granite Falls	4	5	.444
Rutherfordton	2	8	.200
Newton	1	8	.167

Macedonia Wins 14-2 In RA Loop

Macedonia romped to its second straight victory in the Kings Mt. Baptist Association R. A. junior baseball league, defeating Flint Hill, 14-2 last Saturday afternoon.

Roy Medlin and Rickey Moore teamed-up to pitch a five hit victory for Macedonia. Medlin fanned seven and Moore five in the six-inning game.

Medlin also led the team in hitting with three blows, all doubles. Moore, Pete Owens and Wayne Greene each clubbed two hits each, one of Moore's blows also going for two bases. Eight of the nine Macedonia batters obtained at least one hit in the 13-blow attack.

Macedonia scored in every inning, opening with four in the first and capping-off the win with five in the fifth.

Macedonia plays at New Hope Saturday.

Linescore:	000	002	2-5-3
Flint Hill	000	002	2-5-3
Macedonia	422	15x-14-13-1	

Lail, Blanton and Earles; Medlin, Moore and Farris.

KM Softball Team Wins First Game For New Pilot Gene Tignor

The Kings Mountain softball team snapped its three game losing streak, defeating Rocky Ford, 7-4 last Thursday night in a Cleveland County Industrial Softball League game at Shelby.

Playing under a new manager, Gene Tignor, the Kings Mt. team maintained its secondplace spot in the league standings, behind leading Dover. Tignor replaced Elmer Ross as the manager of the team last week. Ross resigned the post in order to coach one of the local Little League baseball teams.

Bud Ross hurled the win for Kings Mt. last Thursday, limiting Rocky Ford to six hits.

A trio of local batters banged two hits each in the victory, Gene Stone, Holland Smith and Bud Ross. The Kings Mountain club put together three hits, by Stone, Smith, and Jim Guyton, along with two walks for the three big



INFIELD TRIO — The three above-pictured youngsters from neighboring schools have been lending support to the Kings Mountain Legion Junior infield. Bud Sanders, left of Bessemer City is playing second base for the local club for the second straight summer. The other two are products of the fine Bethware team last

spring. In the center is Lawrence Bolin, who has seen part-time duty at first base, and on the right is Tommy Barrett, the regular third-baseman for the Otis D. Green Post outfit. Barrett with a .345 average is one of the team's top two hitters. (Photo by Claire Gilstad)

John Dilling Rolls Leading Ten-Pin Scores

John Dilling rolled 'em over as the top scorer in the men's ten pin bowling league at the Mountain Lane Center Monday night.

He posted the high line (232) and the top set (554) in the action with the big pins in the summer league.

Dilling racked-up the big scores despite the fact that his Cherry Pickers team lost to the league-leading Lucky Strikes, two games to one.

C. H. Owens with a 185 line and Albert Brackett with a 501 series topped the Lucky Strikes in scoring. The victories enabled the Strikes to maintain their lead over second-place Trouble Shooters.

The Trouble Shooters, however, trimmed a game off the lead, winning three straight from King Pins. Boyce Wells led the winners with scores of 178 line and 474 set. Rannie Blanton's 172 game and Clyde Culbertson's 451 set led King Pins.

The men's summer ten pin league is the lone league activity for the summer at the Mountain Lane Center which is open from 10 a. m. until midnight each day for private, family and bowling parties.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lucky Strikes	17	7	.708
Trouble Shooters	16	8	.667
King Pins	8	16	.333
Cherry Pickers	7	17	.292

Burml Team Ends Season

The local Burml team completed its season in the Gaston Slow-Pitch softball league this week.

Two games this week wind-up the league schedule, the team representing Phenix Plant of Burlington Industries meeting the McAdenville Nats on Wednesday night, and playing the finale against Klutz Machine at 6:15 Friday night at Lineberger Park in Gastonia.

The Burml team heads into the final pair of contests with a season's record of seven wins and 11 losses.

Burml divided a pair of games last week, defeating Homelite, 5-2, last Wednesday night, and losing 15-3 to Central Yarn on Friday night.

Leroy Styers hurled the win for Burml over Homelite and was aided by Dean Fleming's two hits, the lone local player to obtain more than one knock.

Burml pitching was the victim of an 18 hit attack by Central Yarn last Friday night. Carroll Hutto and Gibbs led Burml with a pair of hits each.

Kings Mountain opened up with a rush at Mt. Holly on Friday night with two runs in the first frame and those tallies proved enough for McCarter in his first route-going performance.

Tommy Barrett opened with a walk and on a hit and run play scored all the way from first on a single by James Robbs, who later scored the other run on an error.

Singles by Pearson and Sanders and another error handed KM another in the third. Singles by McCarter, Barrett and Robbs notched two more in the sixth.

McCarter carried a shutout into the ninth when a couple of singles produced the run.

AVENGE DEFEAT

The local lads avenged their opening loss of the season, whipping Charlotte Post 262 here Saturday night.

Kings Mt. used a six-run explosion in the third inning and tight pitching by Wilson to score the win. Our side managed only two hits in the big frame, but one of the blows was the first homer of the season for a Kings Mt. batter, an inside the park round-tripper by McCarter with two aboard,

Three Sharp Mound Performances Wrap-Up Juniors Impressive Week

Kings Mountain was the hottest team in Area Four American Legion junior baseball last week.

The Otis D. Green Post 155 kids swept to five straight victories during the week, scoring four of the wins here at City Stadium, and counting among their triumphs two over defending champion Mt. Holly-Pawcreek.

Three consecutive complete-pitched games closed out the impressive week, right-handers Punch Parker, Ernest McCarter and Kenny Wilson all going the distance in hurling the wins.

Parker, making his first mound start of the year, started the procession of fine pitching, limiting Belmont to six hits and fanning 14 in a 3-2 win here Wednesday night.

McCarter hurled a four hitter at Mt. Holly on Friday night, and a 5-1 victory. The York lad whiffed eight.

Wilson gave up only five hits here Saturday night in a 7-3 win over Charlotte Post 262. He struck out 12.

The impressive string of pitching, thus, showed the three righties allowing only 15 hits, six runs and fanning 34 in the trio of wins.

The wins further strengthened Kings Mountain's hold on second place in the League A race, and, in fact, all but clinched at least a runner-up post for the opening round.

COMEBACK VICTORY

Another of Kings Mountain's patented comeback rallies notched the victory over Belmont here last Wednesday night to start the string.

Despite Parker's fine mound work, the local lads went into the last of the ninth trailing 2-1, and things remained dark when the leadoff batter fanned.

But Donnie McDermid spruced things up with a single, Parker walked and Billy Dover singled to load the sacks. Pinch hitter Larry Pearson grounded back to the pitcher, Ronnie Robinson, and he heaved the ball away at home, permitting McDermid and Parker to romp home with the tying and winning runs.

Kings Mountain also waited until two were away before scoring the first run in the opening frame. With two out, Ron Pearson was hit by a pitched ball, and Jerry Morris and Bud Sanders walked, and Pearson scored on a passed ball.

Parker overpowered Belmont's batters with 14 whiffs, including at least one every inning and every batter in the lineup except Jimmy Kirkman. Punch whiffed the side in the second.

BEAT HOLLIES AGAIN

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climaxing the inning. Three walks, an error and a single by Morris preceded the clout by McCarter.

The York boy's blow went over the right-fielders head and hopped into the hedge alongside the fence. Before the fielder could retrieve the ball, McCarter circled the sacks.

Wilson had trouble only in the seventh when he allowed three hits and all of the Charlotte runs.

He stifled a threat in the ninth after Al Barnett led off with a triple. But Wilson fanned two batters and caused the other to pop up.

Charlotte (262)	AB	R	H	rbi
Ayers, 2b	4	0	0	0
Robbs, rf-3b	4	0	0	0
Bensch, 3b	1	0	0	0
Brackett, c-1b	3	1	0	0
Barrett, lf-rf	4	1	2	0
Chapman, lf	4	0	1	0
Thompson, ss	4	1	1	1
Slaughter, cf-rf	4	0	0	1
Orr, p	1	0	0	0
Turner, cf	1	0	0	0
Shaw, p	2	0	1	0
Kelly, c	2	0	0	0
Finley, 1b	0	0	0	0

TOTALS

Kings Mt.	AB	R	H	rbi
Barrett, 3b	3	1	1	0
Robbs, ss	3	1	1	0
R. Pearson, lf	5	1	0	0
Morris, c	4	1	2	1
Parker, cf	1	1	0	0
McCarter, rf	2	1	0	0
McCarter, 1b	4	1	1	4
Sanders, 2b	4	0	0	0
Wilson, p	4	0	0	0

TOTALS

Charlotte	000	000	300-3
Kings Mt.	016	000	00x-7

E—Thompson 2, Brackett, Ross, Barrett, Wilson, Sanders; 2B — Robbs, Barnett, 3B—Barnett; HR — McCarter, SB — Parker; SF — Parker; DP — Ross and Ayers; Left—Charlotte 5, K. M. 8.

Pitching	IP	H	ER	BB	SO
Orr	2 2/3	2	2	4	2
Shaw	5 2/3	3	0	1	4
Wilson (w)	9	5	3	1	12

HBP — by Shaw (Robbs, McDermid, Parker); W/P — Orr, Wilson 2; PB — Morris, Brackett; U — Carter & Badger; T—2:25.

Kings Mt.	AB	R	H	rbi
Barrett, 3b	4	1	2	0
Robbs, ss	4	1	2	0
R. Pearson, lf	5	1	2	0