



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Tale Of Five Dead-Arm Southpaws

Longterm junior baseball fans can well remember such names famous in the trade as Billy Joe Davidson and Gerald Blackburn, Buzzie Peeler, Footsie Gardner and Tommy Eaton

In case some of the names escape your memory, all were Legion junior baseball pitchers, and good ones, too. And, as a matter of interest, all five were southpaws.

They pitched for good junior teams, too, all except Billy Joe Davidson of Marion hurling for state championship clubs. Peeler's Cherryville team and Eaton's Salisbury club went to the junior Little World Series, thanks mainly to the sharp and clever pitching by the pint-sized lefthanders.

There is also another similarity between the five hurlers.

All five turned up with bum arms and are no longer pitching in baseball, although all five age-wise should be at the peak of their careers.

Some folks would have you believe that the five boys ruined their arms in over-worked Legion junior baseball. This piece is not being set-down here to argue the pros or cons of that belief. The fact remains that all five bowed out with bad flippers soon after their days as star kid pitchers.

Davidson and Blackburn of Kannapolis were among the State's first big bonus babies, but both failed in their pro chance.

The other three won college scholarships, and Peeler won some games for Lenoir-Rhyne, then faded out. Gardner of Gastonia went to State and Eaton to Pfeiffer, but both fell victims of dead arms.

Will Hawkins Join Their Fraternity?

This junior baseball history lesson is being reviewed in face of an Area Four case last week which could lead to the same bum-arm trouble which plagued the five aforementioned lads.

The principal in the current case is Johnny Hawkins, a left-handed pitcher for the Forest City juniors, and a good young chunker in the kid ranks. Pro baseball teams think a lot of Hawkins, witnessed by the fact that five major league scouts sat in the stands in Gastonia one night last week to watch Hawkins pitch. And he still has another season at Cool Springs High in Forest City, where he probably will continue to pitch against Kings Mt. Mountaineers a couple of times in the spring. He generally gets the pitching assignment every time the Mountaineers show up.

The case at the moment, however, has to do with Hawkins' oft-repeated trips to the mound for the Forest City juniors.

That caused a much-publicized hassle of the Area Four season for new commissioner John Yandle of Charlotte. Gastonia filed the protest last week that Forest City violated the famed "48-hour" rule in the use of Hawkins.

The situation developed like this: Hawkins pitched two innings of a game on Friday night, June 24, before rain washed out the game. The next night, in the final game of the opening round, Hawkins pitched a ten-inning game. Then on Monday night of last week, in the first game of the elimination series, Hawkins pitched another 10-inning game against Gastonia.

Buddy Lewis, Gastonia athletic officer, protested that Hawkins had pitched his limit of 12 innings within the 48-hour period of Friday and Saturday night . . . and, thus, was not eligible to return to the mound until he had another 48-hour rest.

Yandle ruled, however, that the two innings Hawkins pitched in the rained-out game were not in the records and, so, could not be included in total innings.

48-Hour Rule Does Not Protect Boy

The commissioner was forced to abide by the "letter of the rule", instead of the "intent of the rule," which reads:

"No player may pitch more than 12 innings or make more than three appearances in any 48-hour period. At the completion of the pitcher's last appearance or total innings pitched he cannot reappear as a pitcher in any game for at least 48 hours.

"The 48-hour period for each pitcher will begin when he throws the first ball in the game. The 48-hour rest period will begin when the pitcher is officially removed as a pitcher or the game is officially completed.

"This rule does not apply to pitchers pitching less than the stated amount above."

The last sentence is the "joker" in the rule. The rule does not apply to pitchers pitching less than the stated amount (12-innings in 48 hours), thus a pitcher is not required to take his 48-hour rest if he had not pitched the 12-inning limit in the previous 48-hours.

Yandle admitted that the rule is worded wrong for the protection of the boy, and that it is.

A 16-year old boy does not have any business pitching 10 innings on Saturday night and then repeating the performance with another ten on Monday night.

The fact that the two innings Hawkins pitched on Friday night does not show in the rained-out records, does not alter the fact that the youngster pitched his arm two innings worth.

All told, counting the two frames of washed-out activity, Hawkins made three mound appearances and pitched 22 innings in the space of some 75 hours spread over four calendar days. That's a heap of hurling for a youngster with a future in baseball.

And it can lead only down the same road traveled by those other left-handers, Davidson and Blackburn, Peeler Gardner and Eaton.

His Forest City coach is partially responsible for the oft-repeated appearances of Hawkins. The state Legion pitching rule is also responsible.

The 48-hour rule was put in for the protection of kid pitchers, in an attempt to forestall any more cases like the five southpaws we have named. But the rule, as it stands, does not protect a boy. Legally, a youngster can pitch a nine-inning game (or a ten-inning game) every other night and remain in the clear.

Is that protecting a 16-year old youth's arm?

Kings Mountain Junior Team Disqualified

Kings Mountain Wins Game Protest ... But Loses A Season On Tuesday

Kings Mountain juniors won a protest but lost a season Tuesday.

Area Four Commissioner John Yandle of Charlotte ruled in favor of Kings Mountain regarding its protest of an umpires decision in the game at Newton Monday night . . . but immediately cancelled the effects of the ruling by declaring the Otis D. Green Post team disqualified from further play in Legion baseball this summer.

As detailed in another story on this page, the KM kids were disqualified for "insufficient records" at state Legion headquarters in Raleigh.

The disqualification, thus, overrode the decisions on the pair of protests on the wild game at Newton Monday night.

In that one, Kings Mountain lodged a protest that the umpires (Cresswell and Canupp) ruled incorrectly in not allowing a KM run to score following a fly ball to the outfield.

Newton countered with a protest that Kings Mountain had 17 players dressed for the game, one more, said Newton, than allowed

Billy Stone Hurls No-Hit Victory For Kiwanis LL

Billy Stone of Kiwanis hurled the second-no-hitter of the season in the Kings Mountain Little League, defeating Jaycees, 5-1, Monday night.

The little left-hander who pitched for the Kings Mountain Little League all-stars in district competition last summer, fanned 11 batters and allowed the lone run on a series of three errors on one runner in the sixth inning. Phillip Cash was the Jaycee batter who reached first on an error, then came around to score on two more errors.

Stone also aided in the hitting cause for his team, with a double and single, and Van Dyke clubbed a homer with two on in the first frame.

The victory was the sixth straight on the season for the league-leading Kiwanis club.

Linescore: **Kiwanis 301 001-5-5-3**
Jaycees 000 001-1-0-3
Stone and Hambrick; Ramsey, Cash and Hullender.

Wade Vaughn Halts KM Club

The veteran Wade Vaughn can still fire that softball.

Kings Mountain's softball team can vouch for that in their Cleveland County Industrial action of last Friday, losing to the former Minette star and Shelby City Electric, 11-3. Vaughn allowed four hits and fanned nine in handling Kings Mt. its fifth loss against 11 wins in the league.

Gerald Hipps made two of the KM hits, a homer and single. DeWitt Guyton and Jerry Ross obtained the other local knocks. Bud Ross and Harold Dean Pearson handled the hurling for Kings Mt., allowing nine hits.

The local club is idle for the July 4th week holiday this week, and will return to league action on Friday night of next week (July 15) against Dover.

Linescore: **Kings Mt. 200 000 1-3-9-1**
City Electric 014 303 x-11-9-1
B. Ross, Pearson and J. Guyton, G. Tignor; Vaughan and Davis.

Newton's Version Of Opening Game

When the Kings Mountain Juniors entered the visitors dressing room at Newton on Monday night they found "reading material" tacked on the bulletin board.

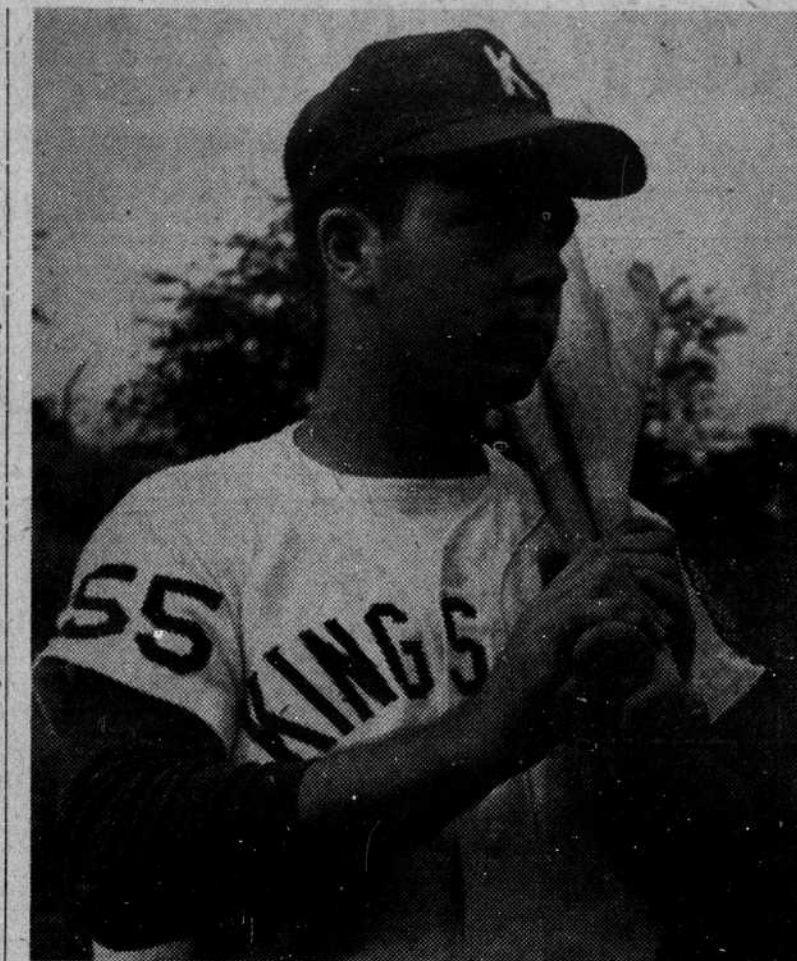
It was a typewritten page newspaper story of Newton's loss to Kings Mountain on Saturday night.

The yarn read in part: "Using football shoulder-blocks, bean-ball pitches and a steady stream of encouraging nasty remarks from the home fans, Kings Mt. defeated the Newton Post 16 American Legion Juniors in Kings Mt. last Saturday night by a 6-2 score . . . in a crackerbox cow pasture that is more suited for sled rides in the winter than a baseball game in July."

"One Newton boy, second baseman Phil Harbison, wound up in the hospital. He was first hit on the wrist by a blazing fast ball while batting in the third inning. Then a half-inning later a Kings Mt. boy named McCarter ran completely outside the base paths, deliberately threw a shoulder block into little Phil, filling him on the injured wrist. Another Newton boy, outfielder Jack Barnes, barely escaped injury on several occasions playing on a rain-soaked 50-foot bank in left field. And the fans seemed to love it."

Wilson had an easy time winning last Wednesday night's game 10-2 squaring the series at one-all. His mates packed the ten runs into four scoring innings with the middle portion of the Kings Mt. batting order contributing the major share of the hitting and run-making.

The first five batters scored all the runs with Jerry Morris plating four times. Ronnie Pearson paced the hitting with three sin-



END OF THE LINE — Jerry Morris, above, and the rest of the Kings Mountain juniors put away their bats on the 1960 season this week. But the local lads were never beaten on the field. They were disqualified at the conference tables, reportedly for "insufficient records." (Photo by Claire Gilstad)

KM Kids Bang Six Doubles, Pull Three Double-plays In Opener

Kings Mountain's juniors went for "double or nothing" in their 6-2 victory over Newton in the opening game of the Area Four second round eliminations here Saturday night.

At bat and afieid, the local lads went for "two". The first six hits Kings Mountain's sluggers pounded in the game were two-baggers and the final count showed that six of the game's seven blows were doubles.

Kings Mountain handed Newton the same double-trouble in the field, pulling off three double plays to wipe-out potential threats.

The double-up at bat and a field permitted Kenny Wilson to post his fifth straight victory of the Legion season. He allowed eight hits, one more than his mates obtained, and half of the knocks were for extra bases, too.

Ten of the 15 hits in the game, in fact were for extra bases, and the first six safeties in the game, three by each club, were classified in the "slugging" department.

Kings Mountain made its long-range attack count for more runs. The locals put together three doubles and a walk for their first three runs in the third. Punch Parker and James Robbs pounded back-to-back doubles, the latter admitting two runs, and after a walk, Jerry Morris continued the double-fun with another two-bagger.

Tommy Barrett's two-base blow sent home two more KM runs in the fifth. Parker had another double to go for naught in the scoring department in the sixth, but after Ronnie Pearson led off the seventh with the sixth straight double

McCarter Hurls KM's First Shutout To Clinch Rutherfordton Series

(Box scores on next page) True to its tradition as a comeback club, the Kings Mountain juniors rallied to win three straight games and bounce Rutherfordton in the opening round of Area Four eliminations last week.

After losing the first game of the best-of-five series, Coach Bill Powell's charges' combined good pitching and hard-hitting to sweep the next three games and advance into the Area quarter-finals series.

The local lads posted two of the comeback victories at Rutherfordton, and, in fact, played a sharper brand of ball on the road than in the lone win at home.

Kenny Wilson and Ernest McCarter both came through with sparkling mound performances at Rutherfordton, Wilson win-10-2 while allowing only two hits last Wednesday night in the game which squared the series. McCarter clinched the playoff set with local pitchers first shutout of the season, 6-0, on Friday night.

In between the two shows of pitching strength, the Otis D. Green Post kids copped a 14-10 slugfest here on Thursday night, rallying from a 6-1 deficit with two big innings.

Wilson had an easy time winning last Wednesday night's game 10-2 squaring the series at one-all. His mates packed the ten runs into four scoring innings with the middle portion of the Kings Mt. batting order contributing the major share of the hitting and run-making.

The first five batters scored all the runs with Jerry Morris plating four times. Ronnie Pearson paced the hitting with three sin-

gles, and he started the three-run fourth and the two run sixth with singles, and kept the three-run seventh moving with another bingle.

Wilson permitted only two hits in his eight innings, turning over the chores to Perry Champion in the ninth, the reliever allowing the other hit.

TWO BIG INNINGS
A seven-run fifth and a four-run eighth inning provided the necessary runs for Thursday night's wild run here by 14-10.

After Rutherfordton posted a 6-1 lead, mainly on four runs on four walks and no hits in the first inning, Kings Mt. battled back for the lucky seven in the fifth. Donnie McDermid and Ron Pearson slugged doubles in the upshifting of five hits which bolted KM into the lead.

Punch Parker couldn't hold it, however, mainly due to his own wildness and the local kids capitalized on similar deficiencies by a host of Rutherfordton pitchers for four runs on four walks and a couple of hits in the eighth to clinch it.

Tommy Barrett and James Robbs contributed three hits to this victory.

FIRST SHUTOUT
The husky McCarter hurled the first shutout of the season for a local hurler in the clincher at Rutherfordton on Friday night. He allowed only six hits and fanned a half-dozen in the 6-0 win.

Three "deuces" in the middle innings gave McCarter all the runs he needed.

McDermid's homer over the left field fence highlighted the sixth inning scores, with McCarter also getting in on the long-range hitting in that frame, with a triple.

Area Commissioner Boots Locals Out For 'Insufficient Records'

(Continued From Front Page)

Cline, called state Legion headquarters in Raleigh for clarification.

Nash McKee, state Legion adjutant, told Kings Mt. officials that he had not received birth certificates on all of the Kings Mountain players prior to the June 30th deadline.

McKee said that he had only one birth certificate in the Kings Mountain file, whereas the local post had certified some 20 players before the deadline date.

Blaine Froneberger, who served as local Legion Business Manager and filed the report to state headquarters, told McKee by long distance phone Tuesday afternoon that he sent the birth certificates on all except one player on or about June 16th.

Froneberger said that he made a notation with his June 16th report that the certificate on the missing player would be filed when received from the state board of health. Froneberger did send this final birth certificate several days later and that is the one certificate which the state adjutant has received.

McKee said he has not received the other certificates, mailed by Froneberger on June 16.

Local legion officials checked with postal authorities in Shelby, where the envelope was mailed, and there is no record of such an envelope being returned for insufficient postage or incorrect address, indicating that the envelope was delivered to the proper address in Raleigh.

As result of not receiving all of the Kings Mountain certificates, McKee notified state commissioner Timmons and area boss Yandle who tossed the local club out for "insufficient records."

Area Commissioner Yandle told the Kings Mt. coaches in Charlotte Tuesday morning that he had notified local Legion officials by letter several days earlier that the records were not complete and that a "grace period" of five days would be allowed to complete the records.

Kings Mountain legion officials and coaches, however, state that they did not receive a letter or other message calling attention to any discrepancies in the records prior to Tuesday morning when the local coaches visited the area commissioner to protest Monday night's game.

"We have not received any letter or other communication calling attention to incomplete records and have not had a chance to complete any such records," explained Otis D. Green Post Commander J. T. McGinnis.

Yandle told the local coaches Tuesday morning that six teams in the area had incomplete records on June 30, that group also including Newton, Hickory, Rutherfordton and Morganton.

He said that all the clubs were so notified and added that all the teams with the exception of Kings Mountain and Morganton had completed their records within the extended deadline. As result, he disqualified Kings Mountain and Morganton, the latter being involved this week in a playoff series with Forest City.

Otis D. Green Post Athletic Officer Otto (Toby) Williams also took issue with the commissioner's statement that he had notified Kings Mountain, among other clubs, about the incomplete records on June 30.

"I definitely have not received any notice that our records were not in order," said Williams Wednesday morning, "If the commissioner says he notified teams of the discrepancies in the records, he certainly overlooked us, because we were not forewarned of any irregularities."

Williams insisted that he and other Kings Mountain Legion officials should have been given the same chance to correct their records that, the commissioner says, the other teams were allowed.

"Yandle says a five day grace period was allowed to correct the records. But he didn't give us any such grace period, and we certainly could have found the missing birth certificates, or obtained new ones from the state department of health, if we had been given a chance."

Margrace Undefeated In Pony Play, Moose In Second At Holiday Break

Margrace carried the season's only perfect record as the Kings Mountain Pony League teams took a July 4th holiday break this week.

Coach S. E. Norris' team won its third straight last Wednesday afternoon, defeating Mauney, 17-5 and round-out its pre-idele all week and will resume their slate next Monday afternoon.

Defending champion Moose held second place in the chase with an 8-3 triumph over Rebels on Thursday afternoon and also added another win with a 10-9 decision over Rebels in a make-up game from the opening contest of the season. Moose has won three and lost one.

Toby Thrift with a pair of doubles and a single led Margrace in its triumph over Mauney. Jimmy Medlin and Reggie White contributed two hits each, one of Medlin's being a two-bagger. Franklin Sprouse and Gary Stewart also hit a double for the winners who obtained 12 hits.

Medlin pitched the win, allowing Mauney seven hits, and striking out nine.

No Mauney batter was able to garner more than one hit, but five of the knocks were for extra bases, Sisk and Fletcher hitting triples, Caveny, Childers and

Brackett Bowls Best 4th Scores

Albert Brackett exploded the biggest scores in the July Fourth action in the summer ten pin bowling league at the Mountain Lane Center.

He rolled a 201 line and 544 set for top scoring honors in the league as his long-leading Lucky Strikes team defeated Cherry Pickers, two games to one.

John Dilling was tops for the losers with scores of 178 and 473. Trouble Shooters won three games from Kingspins on forfeit, the losers being unable to field enough players on the holiday.

Rolling for their averages, Jack Rhea posted the high line of 149 and Bobo Goforth the high series of 407 for Trouble Shooters.

The standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lucky Strikes	22	8	.733
Trouble Shooters	20	10	.667
Cherry Pickers	10	20	.333
King Pins	8	22	.267

Reynolds bagging doubles.

Henry Hillard and Hike Huffstetler slugged two hits each to help Moose in its 8-3 win over Rebels. One of Hillard's was a double. Huffstetler, Eddie Huffstetler and David Carpenter shared the pitching chores for the winners, fanning a total of ten Rebels, and allowing only two hits.

Trip Neisler and Eddie Spencer obtained the two hits for Rebels, both singles. Jerry Lockridge and Shirley hurled for the losers.

By agreement, the Moose and Rebels resumed their 9-all tie on opening day in the seventh inning, the frame in which rain had interfered.

Moose scored in its last half of the frame, on a walk to Mike Ballard and squeeze bunt by Henry Hillard.

The linescores:

Margrace	206	423	0-17-12-2
Mauney	110	110	1-5-7-5
Medlin and Sprouse; Childers, Hollifield and Reynolds.			

Moose 301 121-5-7-1
Rebels 010 200-3-2-2
Huffstetler, Huffstetler, McCinnis; Lockridge, Shirley and Spencer.