



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Six Big Years For Mountaineers

The Mountaineers have put away their football duels on another season, and another successful one, too, as you are well aware.

In fact, the 1960 season climaxed a half-dozen years of gridiron success here, during which time the Mountaineers have been the most successful football team in the Southwest Conference. Just consider these facts in cementing the bold statement that Kings Mountain is the six-year pace-setter in the circuit.

(1)—The Mountaineers have finished either first or second, or tied for one of the top two positions, in each of the last six grid seasons. No other Southwest team can make that statement.

(2)—The Mountaineers, also, have won the most games and have the best winning percentage in the Southwest Conference during the same half-dozen autumn campaigns.

Investigating these upper-echelon records more closely, we take note that the Mountaineers staked a claim on the top berth in three seasons, and finished second three other times.

The local grid lads won two Southwest crowns (1955 and 1956) and tied for the top berth in 1959. They claimed runner-up spot all alone this year and in 1958 and tied for second in the 1957 season.

The string of championship or runner-up seasons started in 1955, and continued in 1956, when the Mountaineers won the Southwest crown in consecutive seasons under Shu Carlton, his final two years here, as a matter of fact.

Titles have passed us by since then, but the Mountaineers have come close so many times that it has left a lingering and loathsome taste.

As you know, Shelby "booted" Kings Mountain out of the title in 1957 and 1958, winning the first season by the margin of the extra point and the next campaign by a field goal.

The Mountaineers mortal enemy for the past two seasons has been Lincolnton which has handed our side their lone lickings of the 1959 and '60 sessions, both by identical 7-0 scores.

Best Won-Lost Mark In Southwest

Now, let's consider this other matter of the Mountaineers' top-drawer gridiron rating.

Kings Mountain's football boys have posted the best six-year record in the SWC, 27 wins, five losses and six ties, an average of .789. These figures are for Conference games, only.

The victory total and the percentage are tops for the eight teams in the circuit, with only Shelby in shouting distance.

The Cleveland County neighbors have a six-year record of 24 wins, ten losses, and four ties, an average of .684.

No other team in the circuit has won as many as 20 Conference games in the half-dozen seasons, Lincolnton moving into third place in the six-year standings as result of its title season this autumn. The Wolves have won 19, lost 14 and tied five in the stretch.

R. S. Central and Belmont rate next in the six-year standings, with 17 wins each, followed by Forest City with 12 victories and Cherryville with nine. Chase has won one game in its two years in the circuit.

The six-year standings for Southwest Conference

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Pct.
Kings Mountain	27	5	6	.789
Shelby	24	10	4	.684
Lincolnton	19	14	5	.566
R. S. Central	17	17	4	.500
Belmont	17	17	4	.500
Forest City	12	24	2	.342
Cherryville	9	24	5	.303
Chase*	1	13	0	.071

(*—Chase entered Conference in 1959).
(Following WNCSSAA policy, ties count as half-a-win and half-a-loss in computing percentages).

Two Undefeated Seasons In Span

The Mountaineers also claim another distinction in the six-year records, being the only team during the span with two undefeated seasons. Kings Mountain did not lose a Conference game in either of the league title years of '55 and '56, although having one tie each season.

Lincolnton this year and Forest City, also in 1955, are the only other Southwest Conference teams to post undefeated marks for a single season. Forest City and KM tied for the top in '55, with the Mountaineers winning the playoff game.

In connection with that playoff business, it might be noted that the record totals above do not include any playoff games, either with other Southwest clubs to settle a title, or against Northwest neighbors in Association playoffs.

The Mountaineers pair of undefeated campaigns came at the beginning of the successful six-year stretch, thus, the five losses have been suffered in the past four years. Kings Mountain lost two league games in 1957, and has lost only one in each of the last three seasons.

The accompanying box shows the Mountaineers' six-year record in compiling the best won-lost mark in the Conference.

The five defeats in the half-dozen years have been inflicted by three teams — Shelby twice (in '57 and '58), Lincolnton twice (in '59 and '60) and R. S. Central once ('57).

Season	W	L	T	Pct.
1955	5	0	1	.917
1956	5	0	1	.917
1957	4	2	0	.667
1958	3	1	2	.667
1959	4	1	2	.714
1960	6	1	0	.857
TOTALS	27	5	6	.789

Punch Parker On Observer's Second All-State

Punch Parker has added "all-state" to his growing list of football laurels.

The Mountaineers' prize half-back was named in the second all-state backfield selected and announced by The Charlotte Observer on Sunday.

The all-state recognition is another in the lengthy list of grid honors for the 165-pound halfback. Earlier he had been named to the All-Southwest Conference team, acclaimed the leading scorer in the league and for all schools in the Gaston-Cleveland-and-Lincoln County area, and on Thanksgiving Day was named the most outstanding back in the annual Lions Bowl game at Forest City.

Parker was the only Southwest Conference player named on the first three all-state teams picked by The Observer.

He also rated another distinction in being selected to the second all-state backfield. He is the only one among the eight backs on the first two teams who was not also picked to the North Carolina Shrine team... indicating the high regard Parker is accorded, although overlooked by the Shrine selection committee.

Parker was named in the second team backfield with King Triplet of Boone, Brandley O. Wren of Brevard and Gene Kennerly of Concord. All three of those backs were named to the Shrine squad.

The entire first team backfield also was selected for Saturday's big prep game in Charlotte, including Gary Black of Charlotte Garinger, Ronnie Tut-till of Rockingham, Gene Isen-hour of Hickory and Jerry Hunc-eycutt of Winston Salem Gray.

Grover Girls Post Victory

Gloria Huffstetler and Linda Eaker tossed in 23 points each to lead the Grover girls to a 51-48 victory at George Hildebran High in Catawba County Tuesday night and gain an even split in the twin bill.

The Grover boys lost a 57-23 decision in the other half of non-conference contests.

The girls game ended in a 48-48 tie at the end of the regulation time, and Grover scored three points in the overtime to cop the victory.

C. B. Green and Richard Little scored ten points each to lead the Grover boys.

Grover plays at Polkville Friday night, and hosts Union next Tuesday night.

Team	Score
Grover (51)	Hildebran (48)
F. G. Huffstetler 23	Fredell 8
L. Eaker 23	Brittain 13
C. Eaker 23	Parker 6
G. C. Allen	Hudson
G. Little 10	Neely
G. Rollins	Huffman
Subs: Grover — Batchelor, Gall, Huffstetler, Wright, Sides, Green, Hildebran, Hildebran 21, Young.	
Half-time score: Grover 25, Hildebran 23.	
Regulation game: Tied 48-48.	

New Coaches Guide Grover Cagers; Girls Seek To Match '60 Finish

Grover High School has a pair of new coaches for its debut in the new Tri-County basketball league this season.

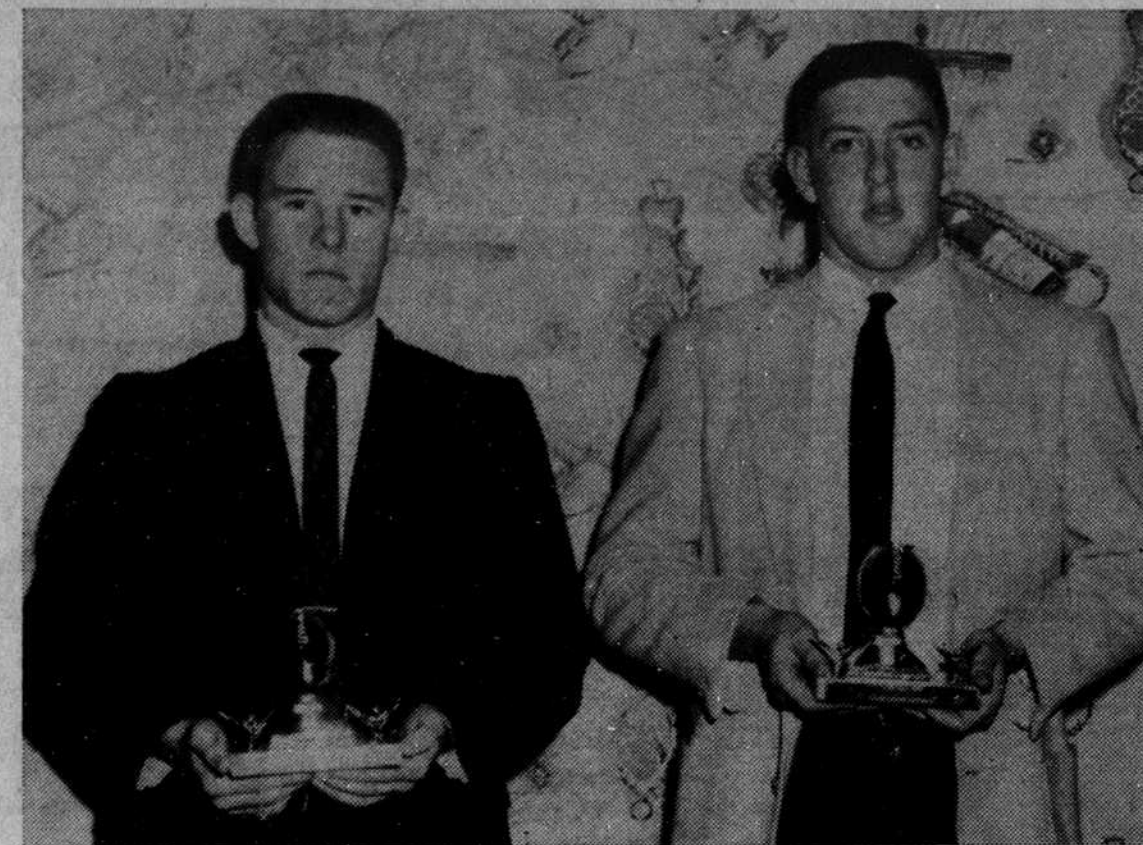
James Scruggs, the school principal, is coaching the girls team, and Wilbur Kiser, a Grover teacher for four years, is tutoring the boys team. They replace Preston Holt who coached both teams for the past five years, but moved this year as principal of Elizabeth Elementary school near Shelby.

Coach Scruggs inherited a veteran girls team, every starter, in fact, returning from the Grover club which marched to the finals of the County tournament last season. The Grover lassies posted a ten-all record for the conference games during the regular season but caught fire in the tournament to win three straight games before bowing in the finals in a double-overtime game with No. Three.

The experienced club has opened in winning style this year, with three wins in four pre-Thanksgiving holiday games, beating Bethware, No. Three and North Brook and losing to Boiling Springs.

Coach Kiser has three starters returning for the Grover boys team, including high scoring Jack Mullinax, the team's top point maker last year, who already is winging as a big scorer this trip.

The Grover boys, however, lost their first four games, but Kiser believes the club will round into shape and provide tough competition for the Tri-County League. Grover is in the Tri-County



TOP STARS IN LIONS BOWL — The Mountaineers Punch Parker, left, is holding the handsome trophy he received after being voted the most outstanding back in the Lions Bowl football game in Forest City on Thanksgiving Day. He scored one touchdown in leading the South team, co-coached by KM's John Gamble, to a 14-13 win. Bob Church, right of Lenoir, was named the most outstanding lineman in the game.

Bethware Boys Have 'New Look', Girls Team Has Host Of Vets

Bethware has "something old and something new" for the prep basketball season.

Coach Bill Powell is rebuilding a "new" boys team while Coach Blaine Fronberger has a veteran girls club — and both Buccaneer outfits are playing in the new Tri-County High School Athletic Conference.

The Tri-County league was formed this year to replace the old Cleveland County Conference, following the consolidation of nine of the county schools into three large units this year. Bethware is one of six Cleveland County schools in the new circuit, along with Grover, No. Three, and the consolidated units at Fallston, Polkville and Boiling Springs.

The ten-team conference is completed with two teams from Lincoln County, Northbrook and Union, and two from Rutherford County, Sunshine and Ellenboro. "It's a fast high school basketball league," observes Coach Powell who coached the Kings Mountain American Legion junior baseball team last summer. "The consolidated schools in Cleveland County are strong with their combined enrollments, and the schools from the other counties also have good teams."

BOYS' TEAM
Jerry Morris, just like home-folk to Kings Mountain fans as a Legion catching star for three years, is the lone holdover regular from last year's Bethware team which posted a 11-9 record in the Conference.

He also is the only senior on the current starting club, along with a group of juniors, Tommy Barrett, Lawrence Bolin, and John Cashion are the other returning lettermen for the Bucs and they are starters along with Morris. Two other juniors, Ken Carr and Eddie Herndon, rounded out the top six players in the early games.

"Our scoring has been well-balanced during the early games," reports Powell, "With Morris,

Cashion and Barrett each averaging around 12 points per contest."

The Buccaneers played five games prior to the Thanksgiving holidays, winning three and losing two. The Bucs won a conference game from Grover, lost to Fallston and No. Three, and won two non-conference tilts from Tryon.

The other six players comprising the 12-man squad are: Joe Fite, Mike Ware, Rick Goforth,

Bethware Loses Pair To Brooks

Bethware's first jaunt to Northbrook in the new Tri-County basketball conference proved unsuccessful Tuesday night, the Buccaneer clubs losing two to the Lincoln County teams.

Despite Pat Bolin's 22 points, the Lady Bucs lost 53-46, and the Bethware boys lost a 51-37 decision.

Johnny Cashion tossed in 13 points to lead Bethware, the only Buc to reach the double figures. Linda Herndon lent support to Pat Bolin's lead with 17 points in the girls game.

Bethware clubs are idle Friday night, and will host Bessemer City in a non-Conference game next Tuesday night.

Team	Score
Bethware (46)	Northbrook (53)
F. P. Bolin 22	Eaker 12
F. Herndon 17	Boyer 1
C. Watterston 27	Leonhart 28
G. Morris 7	Peeler 1
G. B. Bolin	Eaker
G. Davis	Buxter
Subs: Bethware — Hoopough 4, Hamrick, Gaanit 1, Northbrook, Young.	
Half-time score: 20-11.	

Team	Score
Bethware (37)	Northbrook (51)
F. Cash 6	Eaker 12
F. L. Bolin 3	Boyer 1
F. Morris 7	Young 4
G. Barrett 6	Arthur 2
G. Cashion 13	Anthony 6
Subs: Bethware — Goforth, Herndon, Boyes, Wease, Northbrook: Beam 4.	
Half-time score: Northbrook 17, Bethware 9.	
Reporter: Carolyn Whetstone.	

Larry Boyes, Billy Wease, and Mitchell Queen.

GIRLS TEAM

Five returning regulars form the nucleus for Coach Fronberger's girls team. The only loss from last year's team which had a record of four wins and 16 losses was all-Conference Jeannette Hamrick.

Linda Herndon and Pat Bolin, the team's top scorers last year, are back on hand and again setting the point pace with better than 20-point averages for the first five games.

Sheila Ganit and Judy Watterston, other forward starters last year, also return, but are receiving plenty of competition from freshman Pat Hoopough.

Rae Falls and Becky Bolin are starting guards for the second straight year and the lone vacancy on the team is being filled by a transfer student from Florida, Eileen Davis.

The Lady Buccaneers defeated Fallston and No. Three and lost to Grover in early Conference games, and also lost a pair of games to Tryon in non-loop outings.

THE SCHEDULE

Following is the remainder of the Buccaneer schedule for the season:

Month	Day	Opponent
DECEMBER	6	Bessemer City
	9	Polkville
	16	Cherryville
	20	at Cherryville
	3	Sunshine
	6	at Ellenboro
JANUARY	10	Union
	13	Boiling Springs
	17	at No. Three
	20	North Brook
	24	at Polkville
	27	Fallston
FEBRUARY	3	at Sunshine
	7	at Ellenboro
	10	at Union
14	at Boiling Springs	

Betty Fite Rolls Leading Scores

Betty Fite bowled the top scores of the week in the Ladies Duckpin League Tuesday night, a 122 line and 310 series.

Despite her leading marks, her team, the Barbara Goins club, lost to the Lib Bolin team, two games to one. Betty Cash with a 106 game and Lib Bolin with a series of 283 topped the losers in scoring.

The last-place Jenny Oates team defeated the second place Ora Bennett club, two games to one in the other match Tuesday.

Jenny led her namesakes with a 98 line and 277 series. Ora Mae was best for her club with scores of 104 and 275.

The standings:

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lib Bolin	31	11	.738
Ora Bennett	23	19	.548
Barbara Goins	19	23	.452
Jenny Oates	11	31	.262

Nope, Punch Isn't On Shrine Team

There's many a slip betwixt the word and the deed.

And, Punch Parker is not a member of the North Carolina Shrine Bowl team, as was erroneously reported in a couple of neighborhood papers last week.

The reporter covering the Lions Bowl game in Forest City on Thanksgiving Day reported to the Shelby and Gastonia papers that Parker's next action would be in the Shrine game on December 3.

KM Stars Shine In Lions Bowl Win; Parker Is Top Back

The South rose, again, sub, in the Lions Bowl football game at Forest City on Thanksgiving afternoon.

With the Mountaineers furnishing coaching and player assistance, the south team snared a 14-13 victory over the North in the fourth annual bowl game for players in the area embraced by the Western Conference.

John Gamble of Kings Mountain was one of the co-coaches for the South, along with Gerald Allen of Shelby, and four Mountaineer players figured prominently in the victory.

Halfback Punch Parker scored the first touchdown for the winners on a 60-yard pass play and he later was voted the most outstanding back in the game.

Quarterback James Robbs of KM shared duty at the signal-calling post and played full time as defensive safety man.

A pair of Mountaineer linemen also figured in the victory, end Jerry Adams playing almost the entire game at end, on both offense and defense, and guard Charles Burns playing all the way on defense and part time on offense. Burns intercepted one pass during the first half. Another Mountaineer lineman, Dale Hollifield, was unable to play due to a leg injury.

Parker scored the game's first touchdown with two minutes remaining in the first half.

He caught a flat pass from R. S. Central's Tommy Culbreth at the midfield stripe, ten yards beyond the line of scrimmage, and streaked the remaining 50 yards for the score. Fred Lowe kicked the first of his two extra point boots and the South took a lead which it never relinquished.

Parker almost added another TD on the first scrimmage play of the second half, taking a 30-yard pass deep into North territory. North stopped the threat, but the long gain, in effect, set the stage for the next touchdown.

After losing the ball at the North 20, Culbreth intercepted a pass and raced 45 yards for the score, with Lowe again booting the point which proved the margin.

Parker was the game's biggest ground gainer, picking up 72 yards in 11 carries for a 6.5 yard gain per carry. He caught three passes for 94 yards and ran back two punts for 41 yards.

North scored both TD's in the final quarter after recovering South fumbles. Marion backs Jim Wall and Don Millwood making the touchdowns.

Both teams made 11 first downs, with the South gaining 164 yards rushing, compared to 155 for the losers. South passers completed four of nine tosses for 110 yards, and the North connected on six of 18 for 64 yards.

Burns And Parker To Attend Banquet

Coach John Gamble and two of his Mountaineer football players will be among the guests at the annual Gastonia Gazette football banquet at the Eagles Club in Gastonia next Monday night.

Halfback Punch Parker and guard Charles Burns will be the two Kings Mountain players honored at the gathering. Parker was named twice as "back of the week" in the area, and Burns was nominated once as "lineman of the week" in prep play.

Parker also is assured of at least one trophy at the banquet, as the highest scorer in the three-county area, with 122 points on the season.

Mountaineers Opening Cage Game Moved-up To Monday, December 12

The Mountaineers opening basketball game of the season has been moved-up one night so as not to conflict with the Lions' Club annual football banquet which was set for the same evening.

As result of the change, the Kings Mountain cage clubs will tip-off the season on Monday night, December 12, instead of on the originally-planned December 13th opening date.

The Lions Club set the annual gathering to honor the Mountaineer football team on its Tuesday meeting night and invited-up Coach Bill Dole of Davidson as the main speaker for the December 13th date.

Coach Don Parker then arranged the switch in dates with Coach James Scruggs of the Grover team.

The games will be the first of the 16-game schedules for the Mountaineer boys and girls teams. Kings Mountain will return to visit Grover on Friday night, December 16, for the only other games prior to the Christ-

KM Favorites Lose In State Playoff Games

The football seasons ended abruptly for a trio of state title-seeking teams with Kings Mountain connections last weekend.

Coach Shu Carlton's Gastonia Ashley team came to the end of the line in the quest for the state 4-A grid title, losing to Greensboro, 19-6, in a state playoffs semi-finals game played in the Gate City.

Ex-Mountaineer mentor Carlton's club started fast, as if to make short-order of the Whirlies, marching 70 yards following the opening kickoff for a touchdown and a 6-0 lead.

But Greensboro stormed right back with a touchdown in each of the first three periods to nab the game, and the berth in the state big schools finals, against Winston Salem Reynolds.

Kings Mountain's representatives in a pair of South Carolina state championship games also faltered.

The Easley team, of which Kings Mountain native Jerry McCarter is assistant coach, lost on Thanksgiving Day to Orangeburg, 18-0, in the finals of the Class AA playoffs. The victory was the 13th straight on the season for Orangeburg which had been tabbed as the top prep team in the Palmetto State. Easley gained the state finals the week before with a 20-12 triumph over Clinton for the Upper State crown.

York's Green Dragons, with a pair of Kings Mountain Legion junior stars of last summer in the lineup, lost to Berkeley, 21-7, for the South Carolina Class A championship.

Earnest McCarter, one of the local junior top hurlers last summer, was quarterback for York, and Billy Dover, baseball outfielder, was a guard for the state finalists.

Hickory, Cannons Are Co-champs

The WNCSSAA football race will have co-champions for the 1960 season.

Western Conference champ Hickory and Piedmont winner Kannapolis battled to a scoreless tie in Hickory on Friday night in the finals of the Association playoffs, and officials declared them co-champions for the year.

Defending champion Hickory concluded its campaign with a record of nine wins, one loss and the title game tie. The loss was to Shu Carlton's Gastonia Ashley team in the opening game of the season. Kannapolis wound up the year with nine wins and two ties.

Friday night's title game turned out to be a battle between big Gene Isenhour, Hickory fullback, who carried the ball 17 times for 116 yards, and little Ronnie Barlow, Kannapolis halfback, with 88 yards gained in 20 rushes.

Both teams pushed inside the foe's ten-yard line, but failed to muster the offense to score. Hickory led in first downs, 12-9, and also had the yardage edge, 169 yards to 163 rushing, and 66 passing against none for the Cannons.

Hickory gained the WNCSSAA finals for the second straight season with a 38-7 win over Southwest champion Lincolnton the previous Friday night.

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