



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Armory Would Boost Basketball Here

Putting a few sports notes after another: The proposed National Guard Armory for Kings Mountain can be put to many uses, one which concerns this corner being the availability for indoor sports and recreation . . . Kings Mountain sorely needs an indoor gym or Armory to provide our youth a winter time athletic program to match the spring, summer and autumn activities.

We have well-organized Little League baseball and midget football for the outdoor seasons . . . But nary a place for recreation basketball leagues . . . Kings Mountain now claims one gym, at Central High, and four teams (varsity and junior varsity, boys and girls) fall over each other trying to practice or play.

An Armory here could answer the crying need for an indoor space for additional basketball, and other gymnasium sports.

The Western Carolina League looks hopefully toward its second season of operation in this neighborhood, and can look proudly back at the fact that the Class D circuit produced two pitchers with the best records in minor league baseball last summer.

Danny Hayling of Hickory was the biggest winner in the minors, with 22 victories, one of only a half-dozen chumpkins with 20 or more wins . . . Lefty Bill Bethea of Lexington posted the lowest earned-run average in the minors, allowing only 1.35 earned runs per nine inning game . . . Hayling and Bethea were both 29-year old veterans making sparkling showings in the infant league.

Incidentally, George Wilson had Hayling lined-up for his Shelby Colonels, but turned him loose, hoping to sign Tom Wright as his other vet . . . Then Wright decided against playing again . . . And George reminded his buddy of the decision at the Burnell fete in Gastonia recently . . . Turning to Tom, George said, "There's the guy who could have helped us finish in the first division. I let a 20-game winner go to sign him, and then he didn't play."

WNCHSAA Termed As Model League

The meeting of the policy committee of superintendents, including B. N. Barnes of Kings Mountain, in Raleigh last week, indicated that the men who administer the school program are thinking in positive terms about athletics, instead of in a negative tone which some misinformed persons believe.

The superintendents stated that the athletic program in high schools should be "encouraged" . . . That certainly does not bear out the belief that the school heads are seeking to tone-down athletics.

Out of the long meeting regarding school athletics came a "pat on the back" for the WNCHSAA, of which Barnes is the president . . . A state education official made the remark in the session that the WNCHSAA, of which the Southwest Conference and Kings Mountain are members, is used as a model for athletic leagues throughout the state.

Duke appears to be luring some of the top athletics in the Southwest Conference . . . Jerry Francis of Chase High has signed for a football scholarship at Duke, and Ronnie Hovis of Cherryville reportedly is headed for the Durham school, if he doesn't accept one of the expected big offers to enter pro baseball.

Strictly opinion here, that the nicknames for the girls teams in the Southwest Conference are stretching the English language . . . We, of course, have derived "Mountaineettes" from "Mountaineers" for the distaff side of Kings Mountain sports . . . And other clubs are known as the "Hilltopettes," "Tornadoettes," "Wolverettes," etc. . . But the strangest one has been dubbed on the Cherryville girls basketball team, the "Lady Ironmen."

Did Commish's Ruling Solve Problem?

The basketball games themselves ran a poor second to the related incidents connected with the sport during the vocal sessions between press and coaches at the North-South cage double-header at Charlotte last week-end . . . Much of the discussion centered around ACC Commissioner Jim Weaver's early-week edict suspending the trio of players, Art Heyman of Duke, Larry Brown and Danny Walsh of Carolina.

From here, it doesn't seem that the Commissioner has solved any problems relating to trying to put a stop to the extra-curricula activities which are marring more and more of the games in the ACC . . . It seems that Weaver has merely made scape-goats out of three players branding them as athletic criminals, while the real culprits, the fans and students who poured onto the court, go scot-free . . . Of course, Weaver has no jurisdiction over those persons who joined the riot, even if they could be singled out . . . But Weaver has, or should have, the authority to demand that the schools take steps to stop similar acts in the future, such as hitting the schools' pocketbooks hard.

Coach Frank McGuire of UNC was still seething over the commissioner's lengthy report of the Carolina-Duke fight, a report which the red-haired Irishman said: "Almost leaves the impression that the game was played at Chapel Hill, instead of Durham." . . . McGuire also was unhappy that other officials at Carolina refused to speak up in defense of the Tar Heels and the school during the squabble . . . He said: "Took what the Duke Athletic Director did. He called a press conference and related the Duke side of the story. Did anyone at Carolina do or say anything, before I spoke up? No."

One of the questions most often heard in discussions about the edict suspending the players was: How can Duke's Heyman be half-guilty and half-innocent? . . . The Duke sophomore star was permitted to play non-conference games and can play in the tournament . . . But has been ineligible for league games . . . Is the Blue Devil scoring jet guilty or innocent? . . . You can't tell by the decision.

Bolin Bowlers Boost Lead

Dot Tignor and Lib Bolin bowled the leading scores of the week in the ladies duckpin bowling league as the latter's club continued to runoff and hide from the others in the second half race.

Dot rolled the high line of 120, leading the Jenny Oates outfit to a 3-and-0 win over the Barbara Goins team. Jenny led her club

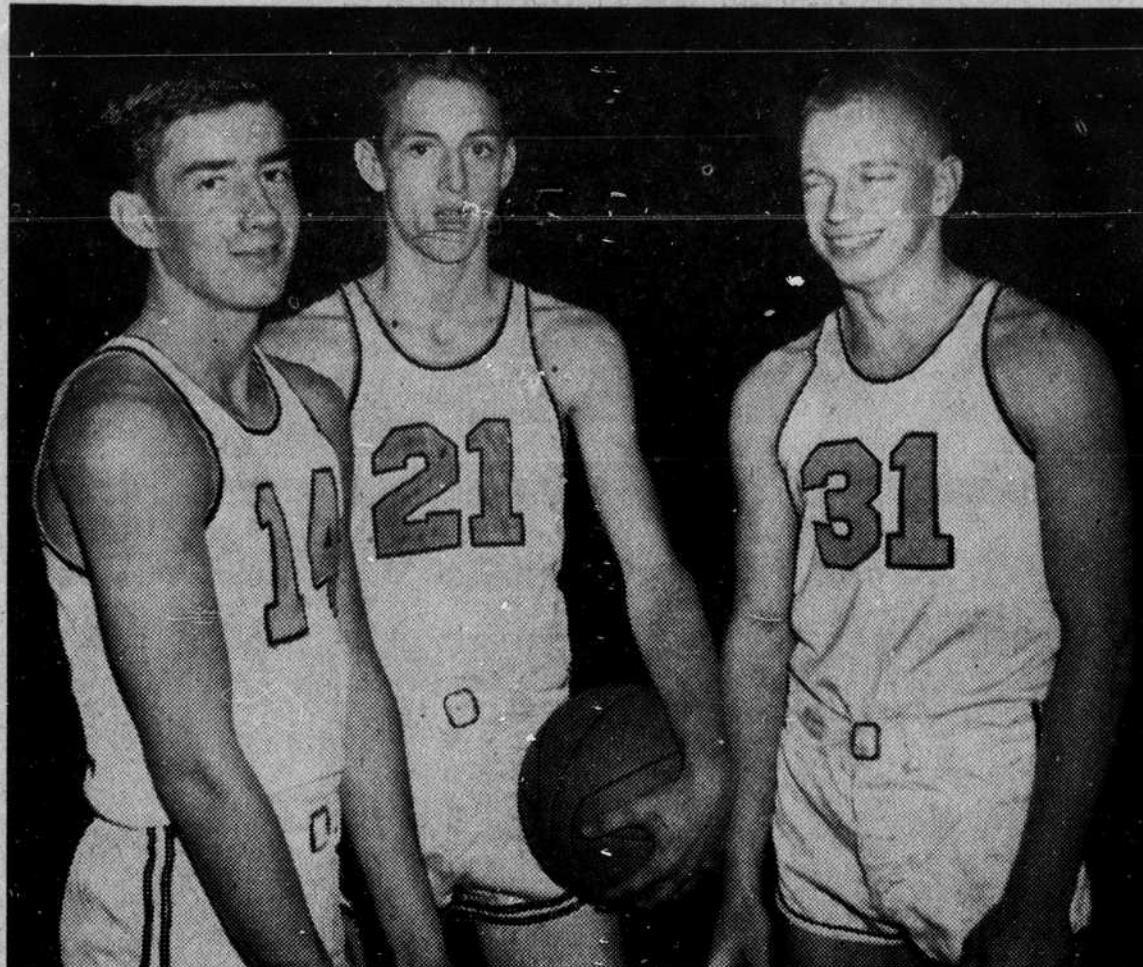
with a 296 set.

Barbara topped her club with a pair of 108 lines and a 299 series.

Lib led her namesake with a 115 game and 304 set as the loop leaders won three straight from Medical Pharmacy. Ora Mae Bennett led the losers with scores of 92 and 265.

THE STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lib Bolin	23	4	.852
Jenny Oates	12	15	.444
Barbara Goins	11	16	.407
Medical Pharmacy	8	19	.296



END OF LINE — The string is running out on the Mountaineer basketball season, the final two games of the regular season coming up at Lincolnton Friday night and the finale against Belmont here next Tuesday evening. But the trio of young Mountaineers above can look ahead to another year or two of cage action.

First Quarter Deficits Wreck Mountaineers Teams Vs. Shelby

The first quarters were the ruin of Kings Mountain basketball teams against Shelby here Friday night. Both local clubs were victims of hot-handed first period shooting by the visiting neighbors and the deficits accumulated in the opening stanzas proved to be just about the difference in the pair of losses.

Shelby's girls streaked out to a 22-10 lead in the first quarter

GIRLS

Team	FG	FT	TP
Kings Mountain (64)	12	4	28
Gladden	12	8	32
Weir	12	8	32
Lewis	1	0	2
M. Plonk	0	0	0
Roberts	1	0	2

TOTALS 26 12 64

Guards — Yates, Lennon, J. Plonk, Hendricks.

Shelby (78)

Team	FG	FT	TP
Forwards	7	6	20
Craver	19	4	42
Roberts	6	2	14
Waldrop	1	0	2
Cline	0	0	0

TOTALS 32 12 78

Guards — Woods, Putnam, Wright, Wallace.

Score by quarters:

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Kings Mt.	10	18	13	23	64
Shelby	22	17	21	18	78

Shelby's boys were the victors in the first quarter, leading 15-11 at the end of the first 15 minutes. The Mountaineers displayed their best one-two scoring punch of the year, as Marlene Weir hooped 32 points and Pat Glad- den 28. But they fell slightly short of Shelby's pair of scoring stars. Jump-shooting Diane Singler scored 42 and Sis Craver added 20.

The rivals scored only two field goals and four points each in a slow third period, then the Mountaineers broke loose for 21 markers in the fourth stanza, compared to 16 for the SWC leaders.

Punch Parker contributed a big 18 points to the Mountaineer count and was high scorer in the game. He connected on four field goals and sank ten of 13 attempts from the foul line.

The 18 points represent the top figure posted by Parker this season, and matches the most points scored in a single game by a Mountaineer. Arthur Allen also scored 18 in one of the early season games against Grover.

All five Shelby starters hit in the double-digits and also scored all of the Lions' 58 points. Steve Kennedy's 14 markers led the winners, marking all his points on seven field goals.

The Mountaineers showed a marked improvement in foul shooting in the game, hitting 15 out of 19 from the line.

BOYS

Team	FG	FT	TP
Kings Mountain (45)	2	4	12
Champion	4	10	13
Adams	2	0	4
Clontz	4	0	8
Robbs	3	0	2
Houston	0	0	0
Ross	0	1	1

TOTALS 15 15-19 12 45

Score by quarters:

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Kings Mt.	10	18	13	23	64
Shelby	22	17	21	18	78

George Wilson Named Manager At Statesville

Kings Mountain's George Wilson will make a return engagement as a manager in the Western Carolina League this summer.

The veteran outfielder was named this week as the manager of the Statesville entry in the Class D circuit. The announcement was made by Owl club owner, Fleete McCurdy, of Kings Mountain.

McCurdy said that Wilson was hired as manager for the Statesville team by the new Los Angeles Angels of the expanded American League. Statesville has obtained a working agreement with the California team, and Wilson also will serve as a scout, in addition to his managerial duties, for the LA club.

Wilson managed the Shelby team in the Western Carolina League's initial season.

He has been working in Shelby during the off-season, and for the past few weeks has been in contact with the Los Angeles team regarding a baseball post. Only a week ago, Wilson still was considering an offer to join the club in spring training, seeking an outfield berth. He had talked with Manager Bill Rigney regarding such a position on the new American League club.

The 1961 season will mark the second straight campaign that Kings Mountain residents head the Statesville team. McCurdy is the club president and owner for the second straight year, and Jake Earnly opened last season at the helm of the Owls.

One of the top sluggers in the minor leagues, Wilson plans to play in the outfield, in addition to his managerial chores. Wilson's batting average of .382 was tops in the WCL last year, although he did not make enough plate appearances to be crowned the official bat champ.

Mountaineer Teams Lose Close Games At RS Central

Bethware Clubs Play Top-Seeded Teams In Tournament Semi-Finals

Bethware claimed two teams in the semi-finals as the Tri-County tournament moved along toward crowning champions in the boys and girls divisions.

The Bucaneer teams were the first clubs to gain the semi-finals round, both posting victories last Friday night, the second evening of the event for the ten schools in the three county circuit. Both Bethware teams, however, faced the dubious possibility of playing the undefeated and top-seeded clubs in the semis.

Bethware's girls, fourth place finishers in the regular season, scored a 44-35 win over North Brook to gain the semi-finals bracket against top-seeded Burns of Polkville team. The semi-finals game is scheduled for Thursday night at 7:15 in the Shelby Community Center.

Linda Herndon scored 22 points and Pat Bolin 20 to lead the Lady Bucaneers, the pair scoring all but two of the team's points.

Coach Bill Powell's Bucaneer boys staged a great comeback to defeat fourth-ranked Union, 48-46. Bethware, fifth in the regular campaign, trailed by as much as 13 points in the first half and was down by 29-23 margin at intermission.

But led by Jerry Morris' 17 and John Cashion's 15 the Bucs methodically trimmed the deficit and took the lead at 44-43 with three minutes to go. Bethware held on after that to score the impressive comeback victory.

The win advanced the Bucs into the semis against either top seeded North Brook or No. Three at 8:15 Saturday night. The Grover boys who tied No. Three for eighth-ninth in the Conference lost to No. Three, 40-36, on the opening night of the tournament last Thursday.

Jack Mullinax hooped 19 points and Butch Moss added 12, while Toby Thrift tallied 25 for No. Three.

The loss eliminated Grover from the single-elimination event.

Grover's girls, second-place finishers and second seeded in the tournament, made a 15-3 record on the season, made their first appearance in the tournament Wednesday night, meeting the No. Three girls. The No. Three lassies won their opener last week, defeating Sunshine, 46-32.

The Grover girls won four games from No. Three during the regular season, only two, however, counting in the Conference standings.

Semi-finals games in the tournament are carded for Thursday and Saturday nights, with a boys and girls game each evening.

The championship clashes in both divisions are scheduled for next Monday night, Feb. 27.

Card Tutors Prep Golfers For Free

Percy Card will give free instruction to the Kings Mountain High School golf team this spring.

The announcement here last week that the Kings Mountain Country Club golf pro had been employed for the task was incorporated in the high school linksmen without charge to either the school or the Women's Golf Association of the KMCC which asked Card to undertake the task.

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KM Area Teams Finish High In Tri-County

Basketball teams from two of the county schools due to consolidate with Kings Mountain High next year finished among the top four in the girls division race in the Tri-County Conference.

The Grover lassies, coached by Principal James Scruggs, finished second with a 15-3 mark, behind leader Burns of Fallston with 18 straight triumphs.

Bethware's girls, coached by Blaine Froeberger, finished in fourth position with a 11-7 mark.

As result both teams received seeded positions in the Tri-County tournament at Shelby.

The high finishes this year continue the impressive records by the two schools in recent seasons. The Bethware girls won the Cleveland County regular-season and tournament titles two years ago, and the Grover girls were runners-up in the county event last winter.

North Brook of Lincoln County copied the boys title in the Tri-County loop with Bethware finishing in a tie for fifth and Grover in a tie for eighth.

The seventh-place team in the boys division will meet the second-place club in the tournament, a spot now held by Chase, but with Belmont and Cherryville possibilities for the runner-up post.

In Tuesday's game, the KM girls located the hoop for only one field goal in the first quarter, and saw the deficit increase to 27-14 at halftime.

Pat Gladden began finding the range in the third stanza for nine points and the Mountaineettes trimmed the RSC lead to 39-31 and with Marlene Weir leading the way in the last quarter, they chipped the margin to the final one point.

Pat and Marlene scored 12 points each to lead and sub Diane Roberts chipped in with ten.

The Mountaineers also started slovely and fell behind 17-12 at halftime and still trailed going into the final period. Gradually the KM lads trimmed the deficit to one point with slightly over two minutes to play, but the Hilltoppers made a series of interceptions under their own basket and scored nine straight points before the Mountaineers could score again.

James Robbs was the only Mountaineer able to connect with consistency, hitting five field goals and leading the scoring with 12 points. Chester Clontz was the only other Mountaineer able to hit more than one from the floor.

The losses were the second close ones of the year for the Mountaineer teams to RSC who bowd in three-point defeats here.

Kings Mountain closes its season with a jaunt to Lincolnton on Friday, then meet Belmont here next Tuesday night in the finale.

GIRLS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Kings Mountain (43)	5	2	.714
Gladden	5	2	.714
Weir	4	4	.500
Lewis	2	1	.667
M. Plonk	2	0	1.000
Roberts	3	4	.429

TOTALS 16 11 43

Guards — Lennon, Yates, J. Plonk, Hendricks.

BOYS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Shelby (44)	11	1	.917
Chase	9	3	.750
Belmont	8	4	.667
Cherryville	8	4	.667
Lincolnton	5	7	.417
RS Central	2	10	.167
Kings Mountain	2	10	.167
Forest City	0	12	.000

TOTALS 19 6 44

Guards — Coffey, Wallace, Cash, Devinyne, Lewis, Proctor.

SOUTHWEST STANDINGS

GIRLS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lincolnton	11	1	.917
Shelby	10	1	.909
Chase	9	3	.750
RS Central	7	5	.583
Forest City	6	6	.500
Kings Mountain	3	9	.250
Belmont	1	11	.083
Cherryville	1	11	.083

BOYS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Shelby	11	1	.917
Chase	9	3	.750
Belmont	8	4	.667
Cherryville	8	4	.667
Lincolnton	5	7	.417
RS Central	2	10	.167
Kings Mountain	2	10	.167
Forest City	0	12	.000

FORWARDS

Team	FG	FT	TP
Waters	4	0	8
Beaver	2	0	4
Morrison	7	6	20
Sisk	3	0	6
Morrow	3	0	6
Elliott	0	0	0

WCL To Conduct Baseball School

The Western Carolina League will conduct a baseball school for rookies and free agents at Statesville from March 20 through April 15.

The announcement was made here today by League President John Henry Moss who said that the managers of the Class D loop teams and other outstanding baseball instructors will serve as tutors for the school.

Boys will have a chance to sign with WCL teams at the end of the school, Moss said. Youth interested in attending the school can obtain entry blanks by writing the Western Carolina League office in Kings Mountain.

Tar Heels Clinch Title - Share, State Gets Revenge In Coliseum

BY NEALE PATRICK

The North rose, again, slapping down the South, sub, in all four games of the North-South basketball double-headers at Charlotte Coliseum last week-end.

In contrast to last year when the Palmetto teams whipped the Ole North State rivals three out of four in startling surprises, the North teams, that's Carolina and State, took all four this time.

For the Tar Heels, the pair of wins were just two more steps in the NCAA and self-imposed shortened campaign and assured UNC of a share at least in the one remaining consolation of a crazy, mixed-up season.

Carolina romped on South Carolina, 92-68, and came from behind at halftime to nip a steadily improving Clemson club, 61-55.

The victories assured the Tar Heels of no worse than a tie for the Atlantic Coast Conference regular season crown, and Coach Frank McGuire had some happy words about that. He said: "Someone said to me before these games that we had three games to go, and then nowhere to go. The games in Charlotte and the finale against Duke Saturday mean a lot to us. Winning

all three means everything to us. There are three championships for an ACC team. We have won the first, the Dixie Classic, and now we can win the regular season crown in the conference if we beat Duke. That will give us two out of three for the year, and the only two available to us.

You can be sure that we will give it all we have to whip Duke and gain the only remaining satisfaction of a good season." That rubber game of the year with Duke is set Saturday afternoon, the TV game of the week.

McGuire also took note of the fact that in this "home league" Duke's three Conference losses have been suffered on the road—at State, Wake Forest and Maryland. And Saturday's game is carded for Chapel Hill.

The gold dust twins, York Larose and Doug Moe, were at the peak of their game, scoring 56 points between them in the romp over the Gamecocks. Larose was particularly dazzling with a wide variety of shots among his 11 field goals. He hit with 22 points against Clemson, but it was Jim Hudock who scored 14 points and the "key" three-point play who drew the raves from McGuire the final night.

Coach Everett Case felt his State lads had gained some measure of revenge with its pair of wins, 63-52 over Clemson and 97-84 over South Carolina. That was balm for the pair of lickings in the twin bill at Charlotte last year.

"We have trouble getting 'up' for these South Carolina teams although they did beat us here last year," observed the veteran Wolfpack mentor, "We don't have the natural rivalry with them, and let me tell you something else. Those South Carolina teams are improving. Clemson plays good defense and that Gamecock club, boy, they come at you fast. You have to be ready to stop their quick attack."

A running team, like the State club of old, this Wolfpack outfit is beginning to pose a real threat for the tournament next week. Case admitted as much with his sly grin:

"We'll be after them in the tournament."

Close wasn't enough for the Mountaineer basketball teams who lost a pair at R. S. Central on Tuesday night.

Coach Bill Bates' Mountaineettes came back from a 13-point halftime deficit to trim the final margin to one point, losing a 44-43 heartbreaker.

The Mountaineers of Coach Don Parker also made a late rally which closed the gap to one point with two and a half minutes to play, then fell victim to a series of intercepted passes and lost, 41-35.

Outcome of the pair of games all but clinched the final finishes in the Southwest Conference for the pair of Kings Mountain clubs.

The local girls have about wrapped-up sixth place in the league, with a current record of three wins and nine losses. The Mountaineettes do not have a chance of overtaking the fifth place club, and Belmont and Cherryville, with only one win each, have little chance of overtaking the local lassies.

A sixth place team, the Mountaineettes will meet the third place SWC finisher in the Conference tournament, and the present third-place club is Shelby.

The KM boys have a 2-10 record, and can not climb higher than the present seventh place slot, and eighth-place Forest City is winless in 12 games and has little chance of tying the Mountaineers for seventh.

The seventh-place team in the boys division will meet the second-place club in the tournament, a spot now held by Chase, but with Belmont and Cherryville possibilities for the runner-up post.

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