



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Deacs' Heart Willing, Flesh Weak

The flame finally burned out on the Miracle of Wake Forest.

The heart was willing, but the fire was out and the flesh was weak as the greatest chapter in Deacon basketball history ended in the finals of the Eastern NCAA regionals at Charlotte Coliseum on Saturday night. The 96-86 loss to St. Josephs of Philadelphia ended the Miracle of Wake Forest which flamed first in the ACC tournament two weeks before, and continued through come-back wins over St. Johns and St. Bonaventure.

That all proved too much for the Deacons. And no one knew it better than Coach Bones McKinney.

"I sensed early that things were not well with us," said the tall Deacon master of Saturday night's championship game. "Even in the afternoon, I had a feeling that things would be tougher than others thought... Everyone thought we had it, the players thought so, the press thought so, the airlines thought so."

"We had beaten three other clubs which thought they were on the way to Kansas City," said Bones of the Deacons consecutive wins over Duke, St. Johns and St. Bonaventure. "And everyone thought we were on the way... and this is not to say the club was overconfident... In their minds, the boys thought they could win."

"But we were washed out... we were shot... One time Dave Weideman came out of the game and told me that his legs just wouldn't move... It was the same with Chappell and Packer and all of them... they were shot... they wanted to win and thought they could... but they couldn't react physically."

Down by 20 points at the halftime, some of the optimistic among the Deacon followers still had the bubble of hope that the club could make another of their recently-patented comebacks.

One optimistic follower reminded: "Wake Forest trailed St. John's by ten at halftime, and won by 23... that's a 33-point difference, and they should make-up-a 20-point deficit."

It wasn't to be, however. St. Joe's was a basketball-smart outfit, with marvelous shooting ability and the capacity for avoiding mistakes.

Mistakes Cancelled Ticket to KC

The Deacons were hot shooters, even in the loss, hitting 48.6 percent of their shots (33 for 68) compared to the Hawks' 49.3 percent (36 for 73). And Wake out-rebounded St. Joe's 43-to-33, and that usually is the tipoff on the winner.

This time, however, mistakes cancelled the Deacons plane tickets to Kansas City.

Particularly, during the stretch of the second ten minutes of the first half, the Deacons made errors after errors as they slipped from a 20-18 deficit to the halftime score of 48-28. The Deacs were outscored 28-10 in the last 11 minutes of the half, mainly because Wake Forest lost the ball on bad passes, violations, etc., before getting the chance to shoot. In one stretch, the Deacons lost the ball on errors six consecutive times down the court, and St. Joe converted the six mistakes into six straight field goals. In the first half, Wake hit 50-percent of its shots, St. Joe 47.7, but the Deacons trailed by 20 points.

One side note on statistics reveals that the Deacons made 30 ball-handling errors in the game, and St. Joseph's converted them into 28 points. In contrast, the Hawks made 11 ball-loss errors in the game.

McKinney told that his club, naturally had hope despite the big halftime deficit and he revealed his halftime strategy.

"I told the boys not to go back out there and try to wipe out the 20-point lead in the first couple of minutes of the second half... I told them that if they could cut the St. Joe lead to eight or ten points midway in the second half that we would be back in business... Well, we trimmed it down to 12 points and I felt we were alright."

"But then we got in such a big hurry, we threw the ball away some more, and St. Joseph's got a couple of quick snowbirds on our defensive lapses."

St. Joseph's Enthusiasm Erupts

For St. Joseph, the NCAA triumph was a happy ending to a long hard fight for the Hawks in the Charlotte Coliseum.

Coach Jack Ramsey's outfit had lost six straight games in the Big Dome before defeating Princeton and Wake Forest enroute to Kansas City. This was the fourth tournament in which the Hawks had participated in Charlotte and the first time they have come out on the winning side of the ledger.

St. Joe's first showed-up in one of the old Carrousel tournaments, winning its first start that season, defeating Davidson. Then they lost the next two in that three-day affair. Then came the NCAA tournament in the past two years, the Hawks losing two straight each time. Thus they came into the 1961 showdown with a one-and-six record in the Coliseum.

Ramsey and his happy players couldn't control their enthusiasm as the game faded into the final seconds.

With five seconds to play, the score standing at the final count of 96-86, little James Lynam, a dribbling demon, went to the line for a foul shot. But before he made his attempt, the Hawks on the floor and on the bench went berserk. It looked like New Year's eve on Times Square. Players were leaping in the air, waving their arms and screaming. The stopper was out of the bottle of enthusiasm.

Ramsey removed his sport jacket, holding it by the sleeve waving it above his head — and dipping it very close to mine. He was shouting "yoo-hoo" at the top of his lungs. As usual, restraint was not a part of Ramsey's basketball being. He was rivaling Bones McKinney in putting on a show.

Cheerleaders Joins Kimmel Household

It's a girl for former Mountaineer athletic great Jimmy Kimmel and Mrs. Cornelia Ware Kimmel.

was born Tuesday morning in a Greenwood, S. C. hospital.

Jimmy is a coach at Red Springs High School, near Greenwood. The little girl is the second child for Jimmy and Cornelia, the other being a boy, three and half years of age.

SWC Schools Plan League For Jr. Highs

Mountaineer mentor John Gamble is taking the lead in attempting to organize a Southwest junior high athletic conference for football and basketball.

Seven of the eight schools in the circuit have agreed to field teams in the junior high circuit which would play six football games and 12 basketball contests within the league.

Those seven schools agreeable to the conference for eighth and ninth graders are, in addition to Kings Mountain, Cherryville, Belmont, Lincolnton, Forest City, R. S. Central, and Chase.

Only Shelby does not plan to come into the junior high conference. Shelby is a member of a junior high league, along with Gastonia and Hickory teams, and prefers to remain in that group. Cherryville and Belmont also have played in the same conference, but have agreed to withdraw to set-up the league among Southwest Conference members.

"The Conference will solve the problem of scheduling for junior high teams," pointed out Gamble. "The plans call for the junior high teams to meet the day before the varsity teams of the same schools play."

In football, for instance, the junior high clubs from two schools would meet the Thursday prior to the Friday night tussle between the varsity teams.

In basketball, the junior high games on Monday would be between the schools playing a varsity encounter on Tuesday, and junior high contests on Thursday before the Friday big brother games.

The schedules would call for one game each against the other members of the Conference in football, and a home-and-home agreement in basketball.

Tennis Team Hunts Matches

Coach John Gamble is experiencing difficulty in arranging a tennis schedule for his Mountaineers.

Kings Mountain and Shelby are the only two schools in the eight-team Southwest Conference with tennis teams this spring, and the two matches with the Lions are the only ones on the card to date.

Gamble also has attempted to arrange matches with Gastonia and Charlotte schools, but they have full slates in their own conference.

The golfers normally play their matches on the same dates and against the same opponents being met by the golf team, but three teams in the Southwest Conference have only golf teams, and three of the schools do not field either tennis or links outfits.

Fisher Slightly Hurt In Accident

Don Fisher, a member of the Lenoir-Rhyne College Baseball team, was slightly injured in an automobile accident enroute to a game last week.

The former Mountaineer star and several other Lenoir Rhyne players were involved in the wreck on the way to the diamond game at Belmont Abbey. Fisher received only slight cuts and bruises. The unhurt Bears played the game and defeated the Abbey.

New Coach Wilbur Kiser Counts Vets On Grover's Diamond Club

New coach Wilbur Kiser assumes the reigns as coach of the Grover baseball team this spring with several veterans on hand from the team which finished third in the South zone race of the old Cleveland County League last spring.

This year, Grover moves into the Tri-County Conference with an eight game schedule, four at home and four away, to be followed by a playoff tournament between the top four finishers in the nine-team circuit.

Kiser replaces Preston Holt at the helm of the Grover nine, and only three seniors graduated off last year's club.

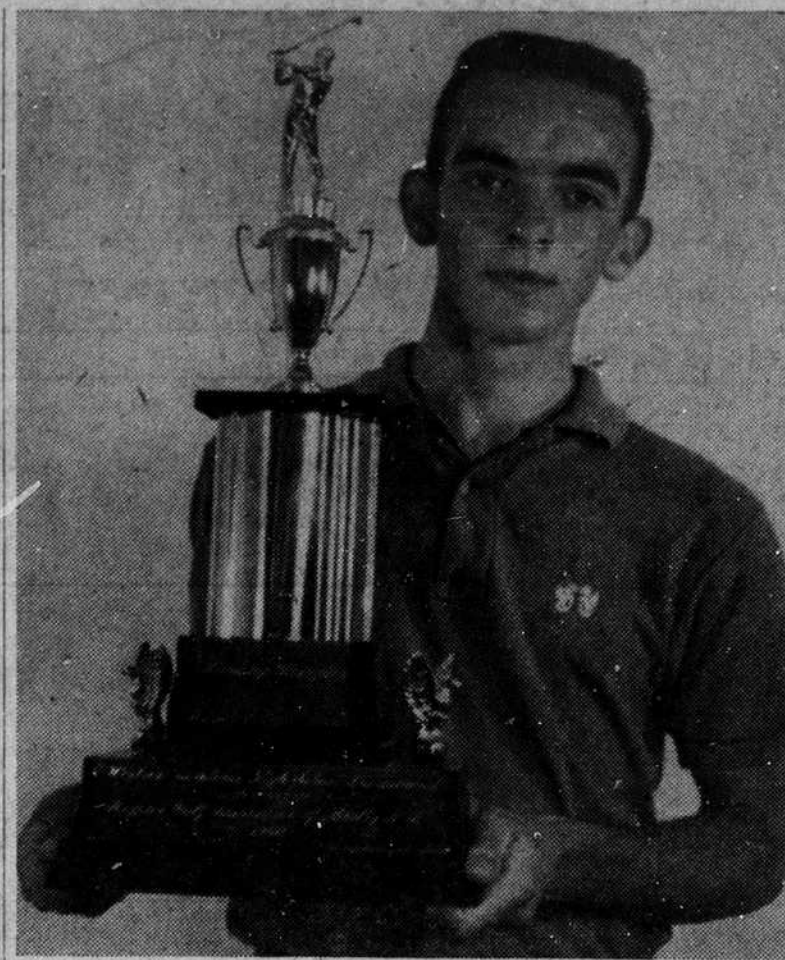
However, only a small delegation of some 15 players are seeking berths on the team and the remaining vets have most of the positions wrapped up.

C. B. Green, a big junior, will be the catcher for the second straight season and he provides much of the hitting power for the Grover nine. Lewis Cook is another catching hopeful.

All three moundsmen off last year's club return for the 1961 season. They are right-handers Gene Cash and Jackie Hughes and left-hander Richard Little. The trio handled most of the pitching last year and Cash is back for his senior season. The other two are sophomores and pitched impressive ball as freshmen last spring.

A quartet of players who saw action last season are in line for the infield which lost only Billy Crocker from its ranks.

Butch Moss is in line for first base, with David Melton and Jack Mullinax forming the key-stone combination. Buddy Robinson is the likely starter at third, with Jackie Rhea also



MOUNTAINEER GOLFERS TEE-OFF — Turk Falls, holding a trophy he won in a high school tournament at Shelby last spring, leads the Mountaineer golfers into their first match of the season at Lincolnton on Friday afternoon. The meet is the first action for the KMHHS sports teams this spring.

Mountaineer Golfers Open Spring Sports Card Friday At Lincolnton

The golfers are the "first robin of spring" for Mountaineer athletic teams.

They open the schedule for the four spring sports teams in Kings Mountain High School, playing at Lincolnton on Friday afternoon. The match between the pair of Southwest Conference rivals is scheduled over the Lincolnton Country Club course.

The match is the opener on the still-incomplete schedule for the Mountaineer linksmen. Three other matches have been arranged with Southwest foes and at least four more meets will be added to the card.

Lincolnton will return the golfing visit, playing here on April 4. The only other matches now on the slate, as arranged by Coach John Gamble, are with Shelby, here on April 11 and there on April 20.

Track Team Opens Five-Meet Schedule At Shelby March 29

A schedule of five tri-angular meets has been arranged for the Kings Mountain High School track team.

Coach John Gamble completed the slate this week with three of the meets scheduled here. The local meets will be held at the track field on the lower level of the athletic plant at the Deal Street Recreation area. All meets home and away, are carded for 3:30 p. m. on Thursday afternoons.

The schedule opens in Shelby on March 29 with the Lions, Lincolnton and Hickory the other participants in addition to the Mountaineers.

The first meet here is carded for the following Thursday, April 6, with Cherryville and Belmont as the visitors.

An April 13th meet in Gastonia is the next tented list at the moment. The Mountaineers and Shelby are scheduled to meet

there on April 20. Gamble also will fill in two meets each with Belmont and R. S. Central, the only other two schools in the Southwest Conference with golf teams.

Mountaineer golfers have been practicing over the Kings Mountain Country club course for the past few weeks under the guidance of club pro Percy Card who is giving free golf instruction to the members this spring.

Six players will be picked from a squad tournament for the opening meet at Lincolnton.

The group of candidates include three lettermen, Turk Falls, Franklin Dean and Robert Plonk.

Others bidding for berths are John Stotereau, Donald Long, Trip Neisler and Donnie Freeman.

Coach Shu Carlton's Ashley High cinder club on that date.

Local trackmen will participate in the Southwest Conference meet to be held at Shelby at the close of the scheduled season. The Conference meet, in turn, qualifies participants to the Western and WNCFHSAA track meets to be held in May.

Ten lettermen head the Mountaineer track delegation. They are:

Arthur Allen, Alton Stewart, Don Champion, Mike Dixon, Steve Brown, Chester Clontz, Buddy Kirous, Robert Whisnant, Wayne Goforth, and Steve Harmon.

Allen, Stewart and Harmon were among the leading point getters last spring, and the first two were among the three Mountaineers qualifying for the Association event at Davidson College.

The schedule of tri-angular meets involving Kings Mountain follows:

March 29—Shelby, Hickory and Lincolnton at Shelby.

April 6—Cherryville and Belmont, here.

April 13—Gastonia and Shelby at Gastonia.

April 20—Cherryville and York here.

April 27—Belmont and Forest City, here.

Foothills Loop Elects Officers

Mrs. Margie McDaniel has been elected president of the Kings Mountain club of the Foothills Golf League.

She and other officers were elected at a meeting of the local members who participate in a local tournament each Tuesday and participate in events with other clubs in the Foothills League in western North Carolina.

Other officers are: Mrs. Ann Withers, treasurer; Mrs. Pat Smathers, tournament chairman; and Mrs. Grace Page and Mrs. Kitty Grimes, publicity chairmen.

Rain cancelled the local tournament this week, and plans were made for next Tuesday's meet. The members will play a round of golf in the morning, then following a luncheon will view a golf film featuring Gary Middlecott and Sam Snead.

The Kings Mountain club will be hostess to the Foothills League at Blowing Rock in September. Mrs. Smathers is planning the tournament.

Newcomers In Mountaineer Diamond Lineup For '61

Several new faces will show-up in the Mountaineer lineup when they open their Southwest Conference baseball schedule here next Thursday afternoon against defending champion Cherryville.

The new hands will be taking their places instead of the host of departees, including two pitchers, the regular catcher, and three-fourths of the infield on the Mountaineer club which finished in second place in the circuit, one game behind the Ironmen.

Finding fill-ins for the vacancies has been the key problem for Coach Fred Withers and aide Bill Bates this spring.

Replacements are being sought for the hill where Jerry Wright and Don Fisher posted seven wins against two losses between them last year and the other half of the battery, catcher Don Smith. The infield also was depleted with the loss of the team's two leading hitters, first baseman Chip Thorburn and second sacker Paul Hendricks, along with third baseman Mike Ware. Thorburn and Hendricks paced the club with the stick last year with identical .333 averages.

Withers hopes to fill the catching vacancy with the shift of Ronnie Pearson from the outfield. Pearson has caught on occasions in the past two years. Wally Harris is another receiver. Jerry Adams and Mike Huffstickler also are catching possibilities, although both probably will put their time in the outfield.

First base is a toss-up between Jimmy Leigh, regular for the juniors last summer, and Charlie Goodson. Leigh carries the best glove, Charlie the biggest bat.

Randall Haynes sets the pace to take over second base, with competition from Henry Hilliard. Both were squadmen last year.

The third base vacancy figures to be filled by a pair of diamond newcomers, Henry Raines or Wayne Laughter.

James Robbs at shortstop provides the lone experienced hand in the infield. He has been a regular for three years and was one of the top hitters on the Legion junior club last summer. Warren Goforth ranks behind Robbs at the post.

With the shift of Ron Pearson to mask duties, a vacancy arises in the outfield, and will be a toss-up between a host of players joining returning regulars Punch Parker and Larry Pearson.

Adams and Huffstickler are possibilities, along with Bryant McDaniel, the latter a member of the diamond squad last spring.

Kenny Wilson heads the pitching delegation, following a 4-1 mark in high school and an undefeated season for the juniors. Perry Champion and Barry Gibson, moundsmen for the Mountaineers and the Juniors last year, return, bidding for more pitching duty. Punch Parker also is in line to take a turn on the mound.

Weather hampered the Mountaineers' drills this week with pitchers and catchers working out at Central High Gym.

Bowl Leaders Post Victories

The loop leaders boosted their margins with three straight victories each in the ladies duckpin bowling league at the Mountain Lane Center on Tuesday night.

Pace-setting Lib Bolin team won three straight from the Jenny Oates outfit. Lib led her club with scores of 122 and 311 and Jenny was best for the losers with a 104 line and 290 set.

Second-place Barbara Goins team copped three straight from the Medical Pharmacy club. Betty Flite rolled a 109 game and 289 series to pace the winners. Ora Mae Bennett led the losers with scores of 105 and 278.

THE STANDING

Teams	W	L	Pct.
Lib Bolin	32	7	.821
Barbara Goins	21	18	.583
Jenny Oates	17	22	.436
Medical Pharmacy	8	31	.205

Independents Tie For Loop Lead; Brackett Bowls Leading Scores

Independents moved into a tie for the loop lead and Albert Brackett set the circuit's scoring pace to highlight Monday night's action in the men's duckpin bowling league at the Mountain Lane Center.

Independents copped four straight games from Cunningham TV to deadlock Nehi Bottling for the top berth in the loop. Tom Gamble paced Independents with a 123 line and 340 set. Richard Bridges with a 118 game and Robert Van Dyke with a 304 series were best for the losers.

Brackett rolled the league's high line of 132 and top set of 372 for leading individual honoree of the week. His big score helped his Lemaster Auto and



BID FOR BASEBALL BERTHS — These bat swingers are making their bid for posts on the Mountaineer nine this spring, seeking to move into vacancies created by departure of last year's regulars. Charles Goodson, left, is a first base candidate and Jerry Adams is seeking a starting role in the outfield or as a catcher. The Mountaineer diamonds open their season against Cherryville here on Thursday afternoon of next week.

Bethware Counts On Jerry Morris' Big Bat Again, But Biddix Gone

Bethware's Buccaneers, the league's most successful team in the final three seasons of the old Cleveland County baseball conference will try its hand at success in the new Tri-County circuit this spring.

And as Coach Bill Powell puts it, the Bucs will have to "ride a new horse" on the pitching mound following the graduation of ace pitcher Bobby Biddix. Now a promising freshman pitcher at Wake Forest College, Biddix hurled Bethware to one county tournament title and two south zone crowns in the last three years.

"We rode Bobby for four years," remarks Coach Powell. "And we haven't been able to come up with a pitcher like him as replacement. We are very inexperienced on the mound, and pitching is our problem now."

"We should have good hitting and good speed, a fair defense and inexperienced pitching."

The Buccaneers are playing in the new Tri-County Conference this year and will play an eight game league schedule, starting on April 10. The nine teams in the circuit are playing the other eight members one game each.

Games have been carded for this season on Monday and Thursday afternoons. The top four teams in the circuit will participate in a playoffs at the end of the season.

Thirty-four candidates turned out for the Buccaneer team, with a host of newcomers seeking to replace the four big graduation losses of Biddix, Don Horn, Charles Bolin and Jerry Patterson. The squad includes nine lettermen.

The bright note for the Bucs will be catching, with big Jerry Morris returning for his fourth season. He has paced the club in hitting every year and also was the big gun for Kings Mountain Legion juniors for three campaigns.

Arnie Horn, Don's brother, is a promising junior catching prospect. He is another husky, six feet tall and 180 pounds. Powell intends to use Arnie to aid with the receiving, or in the outfield. A freshman, Norman Blanton, is another mask prospect. Morris and Horn are lettermen.

First base is wide open following the graduation of three-year vet Don Horn. Sophomore Rick

Goforth and junior Eddie Hernandez set the pace, and both lettered last year in the outfield. The one who does not land the first base post will return to the outfield. Freshman Gene Graham also has been looking good at first.

Tommy Barrett, letterman and regular last year, and also a KM junior star, returns to second base. Jerry Stacey is a sophomore with promise who will play second when Barrett, a junior, is pitching. Junior Bruce Seism is another keystone hopeful. Larry Boyes, a letterman, also is giving second base a whirl, and also will be available for the outfield.

Letterman Ken Cash, a junior, returns to shortstop, with his brother, Paul, giving him competition.

Another letterman and junior player Lawrence Bolin will be at third base again. Assistance comes from junior Dean Bowen and frosh Roger Wylie.

A host of newcomers are seeking the extra infielders. The new fly chasers are Jack Blanton, Bill Moss, Glenn Lovelace, Richard Queen, Steve Lovelace, Paul Seism, Butch Yarbrough, and Keith Anthony.

Mitchell Cobb, a junior right hander, is the only letterman pitcher returning and he saw little action last spring.

Barrett, in fact, is the only player with much experience on the hill and he will move in from second base to take a turn this year.

Bolin, Cash and even Morris are trying their hand at pitching this spring and Powell may call on any or all of them.

Powell plans a pair of exhibition games before the conference card starts, seeking one for April 3 and has one lined up with Crest for April 6.

The Conference schedule:

APRIL

- 10—Fallston
- 13—at Crest
- 17—at Polkville
- 20—Union
- 24—at No. Three
- 27—North Brook

MAY

- 1—Bye
- 4—at Grover
- 8—Ellenboro.

Putt-Putt Course Has Grand Opening

The new Putt-Putt golf course on Highway 74 west will hold its grand opening on Saturday and Sunday.

Managed by Preston Holt, former coach at Grover High School and now principal at Elizabeth elementary school in Shelby, the Putt-Putt course is located across the highway from Red Bridges Barbecue.

Free prizes and free games will be awarded lucky golfers in the grand opening this weekend.

The putt-putt course is an 18-hole affair, with a par 36. It has hazards on nearly every hole, including a water hole, a loop-the-loop, and spinning wheel. The course is laid on concrete and carpet and is one of 250 of similar design in the Country. Charles Bridges of Winston-Salem is the owner.

THE STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Nehi Bottling	28	20	.583
Independents	28	20	.583
Pages Mens Store	25	23	.521
Lemaster Supply	23	25	.479
Dilling Heating	21	27	.436
Cunningham TV	19	29	.396