



# Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

## A Conversation, Four Months Later

Picking up the pieces from the sports scene and the shocking disclosures of the basketball betting scandals hitting this area are shattering-enough to provide plenty of pieces for the proud sports lovers of the Ole North State to reassemble.

The stories of Lou Brown and Doug Moe of the Tar Heels being in some way connected with the cage scandal recalls to mind a conversation I had with a University of North Carolina staff member shortly before the opening of the 1960-61 basketball campaign. . . . The story, as told to me a few days before the opening of the collegiate cage season, didn't mean much to me at the time. . . . Now, the full effect hits with tremendous force.

Discussing the basketball prospects at Carolina, the name of Lou Brown came into the conversation. . . . He had been a reserve for a couple of years and the question was posed if he would be a regular during the ensuing season.

Our informant, close enough to the situation to know whereof he spoke, revealed: "Coach McGuire has kicked him off the squad."

Quered as to the reason, the Chapel Hill visitor explained:

"Brown is too close to Doug Moe, and Coach McGuire is afraid that he will influence Doug's play this season and, of course, Doug is the key to our success at Carolina."

At the time, all of that seemed merely to be a yarn of too-close friendship between a couple of players on an athletic team, one a star, the other a bench-sitter. . . . The coach, it appeared, thought the basketball team could do without such close friendships and perhaps cliques.

Now, the question comes up: Did McGuire have some evidence then of Brown's role as a contact man for the gamblers? . . . Perhaps not. . . . But it is strange how a conversation gets through to me four months later.

## More Light On KM Night Athletics

More light will be thrown on the subjects at City Stadium in the near future.

Bob Maner, chairman of the Kings Mountain recreation commission, discloses that more powerful lights will be installed in City Stadium very soon, probably in time for the American Legion junior baseball season.

The commission has spent \$8,500 to purchase the more powerful bulbs to be installed on the same poles and yard-arms. . . . The new and more-powerful bulbs will replace the ones now in use and while no additional pole units will be erected, the candle-power for the stadium will be greatly increased.

The City of Kings Mountain electrical department will furnish the labor for the installations, as soon as they can tackle the task, according to Maner.

"We will have the same number of bulbs and lights we have been using at City Stadium," explains the recreation commission head, "But they will have much more power and will provide much better lighting for night sports."

The lights removed from City Stadium will be installed at the lower level field at Deal Street Recreation area and at Davidson recreation park for Negroes. . . . Maner said that 44 lights will be installed at each park thus providing facilities for night athletics.

He said that he is hopeful that the additional lights removed from City Stadium can be placed at the Deal Street tennis courts.

"The removal of the lights to Deal Street and Davidson Parks will be a big boost to our recreation program," he continued, "We haven't had the lighting facilities for nighttime athletics for our adults and these changes will permit night softball and other activities."

## Mountaineers Claim Top Stars

Conference meets still are on the agenda for Kings Mountain High track and golf performers and the Mountaineers can claim some of the top stars in both sports on basis of regular-season matches.

Turk Falls and Franklin Dean have proven themselves to be the top two prep golfers in the Southwest Conference, the pair winning or sharing the low medal score in each of the six dual meets for the Mountaineers this spring. . . .

Both posted the low medal score in two matches each, and the two shared low-scoring honors in the other two. . . . They have played in the number one and two positions on the high school golf team, and as the Mountaineers' top two some have not lost a match to the opponents' top pair all season.

Turk and Franklin certainly rate with the favorites in the WNCSSAA golf tournament to be held in Morganton on May 15.

Although he was defeated in two of his sprint specialties in the Southwest Conference track meet in Shelby last Friday, Alton Stewart remains the league's fastest human. . . . His times in the three dash events (100, 220, and 440) were the fastest posted by a SWC runner in multi-team meets this spring.

He has been beaten in the 100-yard dash only once in six meets this season (by Lester Jenkins of Cherryville), then avenged that loss by beating the same runner in the 220 of the same meet, and beating Jenkins in both sprints the next time the teams met. . . . Stewart copped all three dash events in three meets this year, and has racked-up 13 first places in the dash events of six meets this spring.

Tagged as one of the better halfback prospects for the Southwest Conference next season, Stewart's dash times compare favorably with Don Gladden, the speedster a couple of years ago. . . . Gladden posted the better 100-yard dash of 10.3 seconds, compared to Stewart's 10.4. . . . Both runners have run the 220 in 24 seconds, Stewart accomplishing the feat twice this season.

## Wilson Ineligible For Rest Of Year

Kenny Wilson, right-handed pitcher ace for the Mountaineers for the past two seasons, has been declared ineligible for athletic competition for the remainder of the 1961 baseball season.

Wilson was the mound winner in the Mountaineers lone victory of the season (12-2 over Chase). He had lost two games. Last year, he posted a 4-1 mark in high school and was the undefeated ace of the Legion junior team. He is eligible for the Legion team again this summer.

# Parker's Homer Too Late As Mountaineers Lose, 4-3

## Mountaineers Fail To Hold Early Lead In 7-4 Loss To R. S. Central

The Mountaineers were unable to hold one of their seldom-acquired leads and lost a 7-4 Southwest Conference clash to R. S. Central here last Friday afternoon.

Kings Mountain came from behind twice in the early frames to tie, then to go-ahead, but a three-run explosion in the fifth frame provided the Hilltoppers

R. S. Central	AB	R	H	RBI
Parton, lf	4	2	1	0
Bailey, 1b	3	2	3	2
Culbreth, 3b	4	1	0	0
Dalton, c	4	1	1	1
Hodge ss-p	4	0	3	2
Callahan, 2b	2	1	1	1
B. Laughter, rf	4	0	1	1
Arwood, cf	0	0	0	0
Jenkins, p	1	0	0	0
Bridges, ss	2	0	1	0
L. Laughter, cf	3	0	0	0

TOTALS	AB	R	H	RBI
Kings Mountain	31	7	11	7
Robbs, ss	4	1	0	0
Parker, 3b-p	3	0	0	0
R. Pearson, c	2	2	1	0
Champion, cf	3	1	0	0
Adams, lf	1	0	1	2
Leigh, 1b	2	0	0	0
L. Pearson, rf	3	0	1	2
Gibson, p-lf	3	0	1	0
Hillard, 2b	2	0	1	0
Huffstickler, 3b	0	0	0	0
Huffman, 2b	0	0	0	0
Goodson, 1b	0	0	0	0
Harris, c	1	0	0	0
White, p	0	0	0	0
B-Raines	1	0	0	0

with the necessary runs for the victory. Starting fast with three hits and a pair of runs in the first inning, then following up the quick-start with a hit in each of the next three frames, the Mountaineers appeared fit and ready to match the visitors. But just as suddenly, the attack went stale and the local lads could not obtain a hit in the final three stanzas and went down in order in the last two innings.

Punch Parker, the middle man of three Mountaineer mounds-men, took the loss. He took over for Barry Gibson in the fourth frame, holding a 4-3 lead. But he gave up three hits for as many runs in the fifth and permitted two more hits and the final tally in the sixth.

That late outburst wiped-out the lead the Mountaineers assembled with a pair of early two-run frames.

Kings Mountain scored two runs in the first frame to match a similar total by Central. Jerry Adams drove home both tallies with a bounce single over the third-baseman's head, admitting James Robbs and Ronnie Pearson, both of whom also had singled.

Central went ahead again with one in the third, Hodge's double driving it home. The Mountaineers assumed the lead in the third. This time it was Larry Pearson sending home both runs with a sharp single to right. The blow scored Ronnie Pearson who had been hit by a pitched ball and Perry Champion who gained life on the shortstop's error. Both had advanced on Adams' sacrifice bunt.

And that was all the scoring for the afternoon so far as the Mountaineers were concerned. Gibson obtained the Mountaineers' lone extra base hit of the game, a triple over the right fielders head with one out in the second. But he stayed there as his mates could not produce. Henry Hillard led off the fourth with a single, and Mike Huffstickler and Charlie Goodson drew consecutive two-out walks in the fifth, but again, the Mountaineers failed in the clutch.

## Kings Mt. Juniors Play In Same League, Open Season on June 5

Kings Mountain again will participate in the southern division (League A) of Area Four American Legion junior baseball this summer.

This was determined in a meeting of Legion athletic officers with Area Commissioner John Yandle at Cherryville on Sunday.

The same 14 teams which participated in Area Four last summer have entered the program again this season and the group was divided into the same seven-team leagues which operated last year.

Other teams in League A with Kings Mountain will be: Gastonia, Shelby, Belmont, Mt. Holly-Pawcreek, Charlotte Post 9, and Charlotte 262.

The seven teams in League B from the Northwestern portion of the Area are Rutherfordton, Forest City, Newton, Granite Falls, Hickory, Morganton, and Lincoln-Cherryville.

Commissioner Yandle said that the Area league season would open on Monday night, June 5. Four games will be scheduled for each week, on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday nights. The commissioner will announce the full schedule later. A play off will follow the regular season schedule with the winner advancing into state Legion play.

Bill Powell, coach at Bethware High School, will skipper the O-tis D. Green Post kids of Kings Mountain for the second straight season. He again will be assisted by his Buccaneer coaching partner, Blaine Fronberger.

Richard E. Shaney, a local member of the State Highway Patrol, is the athletic officer and business manager for the Kings Mountain Legion junior team this season.

The Kings Mountain team bowed out of the Area race on a technicality last summer, being disqualified because the birth certificates of several of the players did not arrive at state Legion headquarters in Raleigh.

The joint-sponsored Lincoln-Cherryville team is the defending Area Four champion. The Linc-Cherries also defeated Area Three winner Kannapolis before losing in the state finals to Wilmington.

## Mounties-Shelby Play Home Finale

Kings Mountain Mountaineers, caught off base this year in hopes of another high finish in the Southwest Conference baseball race, play their final home game of the season here next Tuesday night against Shelby.

The game with the Cleveland County neighbor which also has found the going rougher than usual is carded for City Stadium at 7:30 p. m. and is the home finale.

Coach Fred Withers' club lost a 6-1 decision to the Lions in Shelby a couple of weeks ago, the loss snapping a two-game winning streak for the Mountaineers over the arch rivals and also ending a six-game victory streak for local kid clubs against Shelby.

Punch Parker's ponderous homer came too late with too little as the Mountaineers lost to Forest City, 4-3, here Tuesday night.

There was nothing "little" about Punch's poke, it being a 380-foot drive to the right of the scoreboard in the deepest reaches of City Stadium, but as fate would have it, the three runs scoring on the play left the Mountaineers one run back in their bid to whip the Southwest lead-sharing club.

The homer, first of the season for a Kings Mountain player, came with two out and two on in the last of the seventh.

Wally Harris, safe on an error by the shortstop, started the rally and he advanced to third on a pair of Jerry Steffy wild pitches while James Robbs was drawing a walk. . . . on five balls, incidentally, as umpire Art Talley failed to tally one ball.

Parker unloaded on Steffy's first pitch. It was a towering drive over the centerfielder's head. The poke landed in the driveway to the right of the scoreboard and skipped into the hedges, and Punch streaked a round-tripper for the inside the park round-tripper.

Ronnie Pearson kept the hopes alive, being hit by a pitched ball, but Hawkins came in to fan Perry Champion on three bad pitches for the final out.

Parker's hit was the third of the game for the Mountaineers, and certainly the most productive. Barry Gibson obtained the first knock off his mound foe, a leadoff single in the third, but a double play erased that threat. Ron Pearson led off the sixth with a single, but the next three batters could not get the ball out of the infield.

Steffy walked six Mountaineers, providing other opportunities, but the left-hander came out of most of the jams with strikeouts, which totaled 13 for the game. The Mountaineers had baserunners in six of the frames, the leadoff man reaching first four times.

Forest City used doubles by Hawkins and Ronnie Lytle and a single by Leroy Boheler for two tallies in the second. Singles by Paye Earley and Steffy, a walk and an error by Ron Pearson on the pitchers blow admitted the pair in the fourth.

Parker's homer was the first stroked by a Mountaineer player since Don Fisher slammed one at Belmont late in the 1959 season. Local batters failed to connect for a four-master all of last year.

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Forest City	AB	R	H	RBI
Harmon, lf	4	0	0	0
Wright, 3b	4	0	0	0
Hawkins, 1b	4	0	1	0
Hawkins, cf, p	3	1	1	0
D. Harris, ss	3	0	0	0
Earley, c	3	1	1	0
Lytle, 2b	3	1	1	0
Behler, rf	2	1	2	1
Steffy, p, cf	2	0	1	0

TOTALS	AB	R	H	RBI
Kings Mountain	28	4	7	1
Robbs, ss	2	1	0	0
Parker, 3b	4	1	1	3
R. Pearson, lf	1	0	1	0
Champion, cf	3	0	0	0
Goodson, 1b	3	0	0	0
Goforth, 2b	3	0	0	0
L. Pearson, rf	3	0	0	0
W. Harris, c	2	1	0	0
Gibson, p	2	0	1	0
B-Adams	1	0	0	0

TOTALS	AB	R	H	RBI
B-Struck out for Gibson in 7th.	24	3	3	3
Forest City	62	20	0	4
Kings Mtn.	000	000	3-3	

E. R. Pearson, Goforth, Robbs, D. Harris 2; DP — Steffy and Jones; LOB — Forest City-5, Kings Mt.-7; 2B — Hawkins, Lytle; HR — Parker; SB — Jones; HBP — R. Pearson; WP — Steffy 3; Gibson; PB — Earley 2; Harris; U — Talley and Carter; T — 1:55.

Pitching	IP	H	R	Er	Bb	So
Steffy	6	3	0	6	13	
Hawkins	1/2	0	0	0	1	
Gibson	7	4	2	5		

## Scouts On Hand For Game Here

The Mountaineers and the Forest City Tornados were well-scouted by major league representatives here Tuesday night.

Scouts from at least three clubs set-up-shop behind home plate.

They included George Pratt and Russ Bergmann of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mace Brown of the Boston Red Sox, and George Farrell of the Detroit Tigers.

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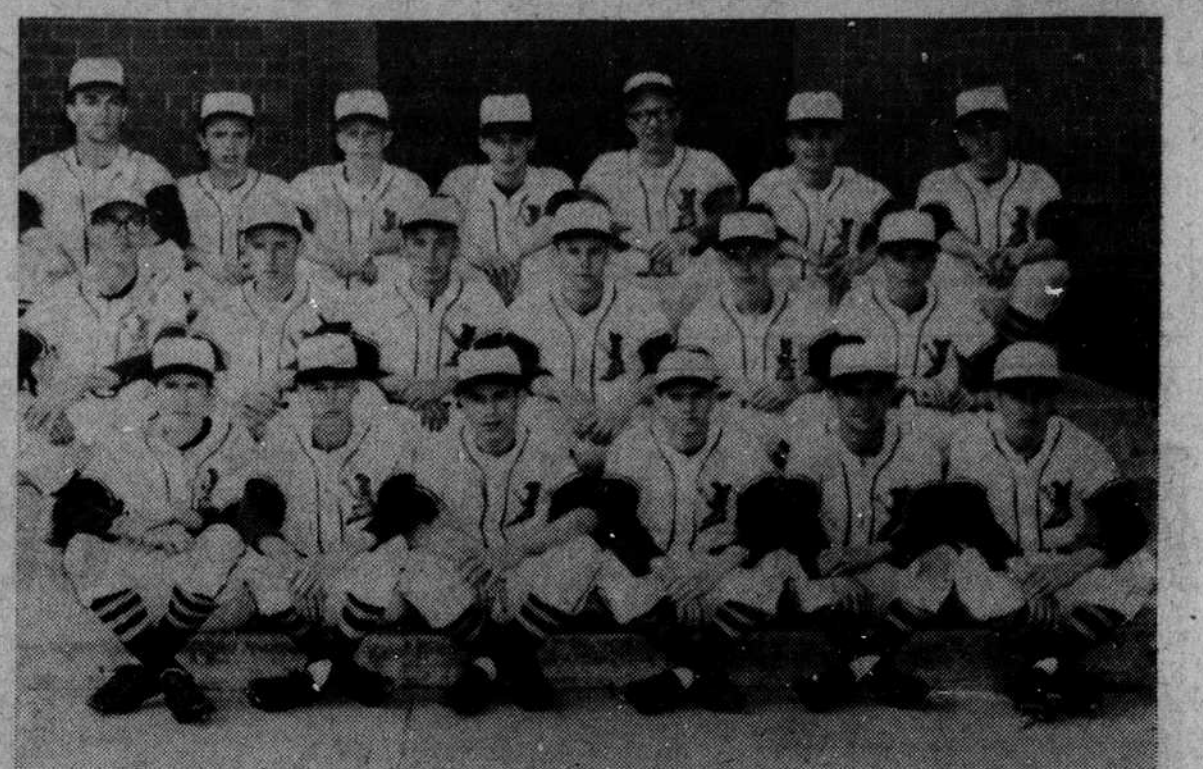
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PLAY FINAL HOME GAME TUESDAY Kings Mountain High Mountaineer baseballers play their final home game of the season here next Tuesday night, facing arch rival Shelby at 7:30 in City Stadium. Other games before the close of the season on May 16 are road contests. The squad, left to right, FRONT ROW — Eddie Spencer, Henry Hillard, Brent McDaniel, Ronnie Pearson, Larry Pearson, and Jimmy Leigh;

SECOND ROW — Charles Camp, Steve Carpenter, James Robbs, Punch Parker, Warren Goforth, and Barry Gibson; BACK ROW — Jerry Adams, Mike Huffstickler, Tim Heavner, Charles Goodson, Perry Champion, Henry Raines and Randall Haynes. Ken Wilson, Wally Harris and Reggie White were absent when picture was taken. (Photo by Claire Gilstad)

## Stewart Lone Winner In K. M.'s Third-Place Finish In SWC Track

Kings Mountain failed to pick up its expected points in the dash events and finished third in the Southwest Conference track meet at Shelby Friday afternoon.

Alton Stewart won the Mountaineers' only first place in the meet, streaking home with the fastest time in the 100-yard dash, but the local sprint star gained only a third place in the 440 and a tie for third in the 220, a pair of events in which he had posted eye best times of the year within the Conference.

Shelby and Lincolnton each copped four first places and went right down to the final event, the mile relay, to settle the Conference title.

The Lions won the relay, edging Lincolnton to the wire, and rolled up a point total of 38. The Wolves finished with 36 1/2 points. Kings Mountain was third with 23 1/2 points, followed in order by R. S. Central 16, Cherryville 11 1/2, Forest City 10 1/2, and Belmont 6 1/2.

Although claiming only one first-place, the Mountaineers scored in the most events, ten of the 13, missing only in the mile, the high jump, and the relay. Lincolnton failed to score in four events and Shelby could not garner points in five events, but the two leaders rolled up the points with the first-place finishes.

Cherryville copped two first places, Belmont and Forest City joining the Mountaineers as one-event winners.

Stewart was the Mountaineers' top scorer with eight points with the win in the 100, third in the 440 and tie for third in the 220. Arthur Allen placed in both timber-topping events, third in the low hurdles and fourth in the high hurdles.

The Mountaineers claimed three second-place finishes, Robert Whisnant in the 880, Chester Clontz in the broad jump, and Steve Brown a two-way tie for second in the pole vault.

Eddie Ross was third in the discus and Don Champion third in the shot put to complete the point-making for the Mountaineers.

## THE SUMMARIES

100-yard dash — 1-Stewart

The newly-organized Baptist R. A. baseball league will open its seven-week, 28-game schedule on Saturday afternoon.

The complete schedule for the eight Baptist R. A. Teams in the Kings Mountain area is announced today, listing four games for each Saturday afternoon through June 17. A double-elimination tournament is tentatively scheduled at the end of the league card with all eight teams participating. This tournament will continue another five weeks, with plans calling for the season to end in late July.

Opening games Saturday list: Oak View at Davids, Oak Grove at Bethlehem, Macedonia at Eastside, and First Baptist at Faith.

All games are scheduled for 2 o'clock Saturday afternoons. Rain-out games will be rescheduled by the coaches of the teams involved.

Each team will play the other seven members of the league one game each.

The names of the coaches and the home playing fields for the eight league members follow:

Eastside Baptist — Coach Dick Moss, playing at a new field being leveled by the city at the end of Mauney Avenue.

Davids — Coach O. K. White, with home games set for Bethware School field.

First Baptist — Coach Warren Goforth, playing at the Armory field.

## Eight KMHS Trackmen Race In Western Meet

Eight Mountaineers will participate in the Western Conference track meet to be held in Morganton on Friday afternoon.

The Kings Mountain trackmen qualified for the affair by finishing in the top six of the various events of the Southwest cinder meet at Shelby last week.

Three of the Mountaineers will take part in two or more events, Alton Stewart in all three of the dashes (100, 220 and 440), Arthur Allen in both the high and low hurdles, and Eddie Ross is the discus and shot putt.

The other five Mountaineers will enter one event each, Robert Whisnant the 880, Steve Brown the pole vault, Chester Clontz the broad jump, Don Champion the shot putt and Mike Dixon the discus.

Stewart was the Mountaineers' lone winner in the SWC meet, copping the 100 yard dash. Whisnant, Clontz and Brown were runners-up in the Conference meet, won by host Shelby.

The Mountaineers and other Southwest qualifiers will match times and distances against the top six finishers from the Northwest Conference meet won by Hickory.

In the other track meets held under the auspices of the WCN, HSAA last Friday, Kannapolis won the South Piedmont crown and North Rowan captured the North Piedmont title.

Qualifiers from the Western meet at Hickory and the Piedmont meet Friday will advance to the Association finals to be held at Davidson College on Saturday, May 13.

## Eight Teams Open R. A. Baseball League Season Saturday Afternoon

The newly-organized Baptist R. A. baseball league will open its seven-week, 28-game schedule on Saturday afternoon.

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Faith — Coach Henry Bennett, with home field at Deal Street Little League Park.

Oak View — Coach J. E. Wells, playing home games at Bethany School.

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