



Pat's Peckings

By NEALE PATRICK

Do You Blame McGuire For Leaving?

So, Frank McGuire says goodbye to University of North Carolina basketball.

Do you blame him? I don't.

The genial Irishman from Brooklyn was hired by UNC authorities nine years ago to do a job... specifically to win basketball games and to beat arch rival N.C. State on the cage court.

McGuire's crowd changed that, beating State in the first meeting of the two coaching masters, and the Tar Heels gained a 14-11 edge over the Wolfpack in the nine years, and the McGuire clubs racked-up a record of 164 wins and 58 losses, with one undefeated national championship team.

The coach, obviously, accomplished the task for which he was employed.

And the thanks he gets from the authorities who hired him was a lack of cooperation throughout his nine years at Carolina, and finally, a de-emphasis program which would run-off any self-respecting coach.

The change in basketball policy from "win" to "de-emphasis" hastened McGuire's departure at a time when many alumni and others felt he would not leave the school on-the-heels of the recent scandal revelations.

But, despite what some may think, McGuire didn't desert the Tar Heels. Instead, Carolina officials deserted McGuire and Tar Heel basketball in its time of need.

De-emphasis Was Final Blow

The de-emphasis policy simply was the final blow in the series of many the coach has lived through in nine years. The final season was the crowning one, of course, NCAA probation, suspension of two players in a free-for-all, failure of UNC officials to back-up McGuire in his statements about the fight, naming of Carolina players in the cage scandals, and finally de-emphasis.

He couldn't fight it any longer, and I can't blame him.

The school changed its mind about wanting a winning basketball team, taking away the means by which good teams are built... material and a good schedule. Carolina no longer needed McGuire for the purpose for which he was hired. So he left.

That new program now stares new coach Dean Smith squarely in the eyes and while he is happy with his opportunity and speaks optimistically, he knows that he, or anyone else, cannot recruit successfully and build a basketball winner under the conditions which now exist at Carolina.

The fact strikes home with the revelation that probably the finest freshman team McGuire recruited at Carolina decided to enroll elsewhere when the de-emphasis program was announced, weeks before McGuire left.

Smith is well-trained in his basketball background, playing for a national title team under Coach Phog Allen at Kansas, and assisting McGuire for three years. But he faces a thankless task of trying to continue the winning tradition of the past half-dozen seasons at Chapel Hill.

You still must have horses to win in this game of basketball... and Smith will have a terrible time trying to lure the horses into the Carolina stables with the brand of fodder the school officials are serving these days.

What Happened To UNC Coliseum?

I mentioned several paragraphs up that McGuire did not receive full cooperation of Carolina officials through his nine years at Carolina. The most poignant point of emphasis in that statement is the fact that the school failed to build a gym or a Coliseum worthy of the Tar Heel teams.

The club played its few home games in Woollen Gym, fine for intramural sports, but not suited for basketball, with only half of the student body permitted to attend each game.

Often there was talk about a new Coliseum for Carolina basketball. But talk didn't lay brick.

Authorities want to keep basketball on the campus. Then, one might ask why UNC powers-that-be didn't build the Tar Heels a decent place to play on the campus at Chapel Hill? That might have kept the Tar Heels at home, instead of running-around playing in far-away places and against the intersectional foes the de-emphasis edict has decided constitute bad company.

Little League Sponsors WCL Game Here Between Owls And Colonels

The Kings Mountain Little League will sponsor a Western Carolina League game between the Statesville Owls and the Shelby Colonels here on Thursday night, August 17.

The game will be a regulation contest between the pair of Class D foes and will be played at City Stadium at 7:45.

Tickets are now on sale and Little League players will make a house-to-house canvass ticket sale on Friday night of this week. The local Little League program will receive a share in the gate and the money will be used to help defray the cost of operating the eight-team Little League here this summer.

Little League Commissioner Bob Maner worked out the plans for the sponsorship of the WCL game with the owners of the two clubs, Fleete McCurdy of States-

Mountaineers Open Grid Drills Tuesday

BY NEALE PATRICK Football becomes king again on the Kings Mountain sports scene next week. Coach John Gamble has issued the call for the opening of the autumn grid drills at 8:30 Tuesday morning, August 15, and he expects one of the largest football turnouts in local prep history.

The Mountaineers will be able to use for the first time boys who will attend Kings Mountain High school from Grover and Bethware under the new consolidation and the new players will greatly swell the number of candidates.

Gamble issued a list of 74 boys who signed last spring of their intentions to play football this fall. That list includes youths from all three high schools

(Kings Mountain, Bethware and Grover). The bulk of the list are holdovers from the Mountaineer varsity and junior varsity of last season, but a number of boys from the two outlying areas will give football their first whirl this autumn.

"We are happy to have the former Bethware and Grover boys with us this year and look forward to having them participate in the athletic program at Kings Mountain High School," said Coach Gamble in announcing the list of prospects from the two schools.

While state high school athletic regulations do not permit the beginning of practice sessions until August 15, other details in connection with the drills will be handled Saturday and Monday.

Physical examinations will be given at the High School Gymnasium at 1:30 Monday afternoon, and all players must take the exams before they will be permitted to practice. A meeting of all candidates with the coaches will be held following the examinations. Actual drills will start at 8:30 Tuesday morning and afternoon practice will be held at 4 o'clock. The two-per-day sessions will continue until the latter part of the following week when teachers report for pre-school sessions.

School opens on August 28. The Mountaineers will have slightly over three weeks of practice time before the opening game against Forest City here on Friday night, September 8.

Coach Gamble again will be assisted by Bill Bates and Don Parker, with Fred Withers also joining the staff as Jayvee coach when school opens.

Boys in the tenth, 11th and 12th grades will play on the varsity team, with eighth and ninth grade youths participating on a junior high team which will participate in a new Southwest Junior High Conference, playing six grid games against members of the circuit. This is the first year of the new league, organized by Coach Gamble.

The list of 74 youths who signed up as potential football candidates include 39 from Kings Mountain High of last spring, 19 from Grover and 16 from Bethware. The complete list, by schools, KINGS MOUNTAIN Warren Goforth, Gary Collins, Fred Dixon, Sammy Houston, Tommy Hope, Steve Vickers, Tommy Wright, Wally Harris, Dewey Datchelor, Jimmy Owens, Johnny Guiton, Bill Jenkins, Lyn Cheshire, Dennis Floyd, David Carroll, Sammy Mauney, Mike Dixon, Jerry Rikard, Eddie Ross, Tommy Armstrong, Billy Belt, Johnny Baily, Steve Brown, Henry Raines, Bill Ramsey, Curtis Floyd, David Adams, Reggie White, Charles Goodson, Tim Heavner, James Hope, Robert Whisnant, Mike Huffstickler, Brent McDaniel, Eddie Spencer, L. V. Brooks, Alton Stewart, Jimmy Medlin and Steve Marlowe. GROVER Richard Little, Ray Crocker, Louis Cook, Richard Reynolds, Gary Payne, Bobby Herndon, Gary Bolin, Harold Putnam, Vaughn Holcombe, Jack Rhea, Gary Stewart, Ronnie Wren, Johnny Hutchins, Oscar Jones, Gerald McDaniel, Lionel Barnes, Steve Heafner, John Harry, and Richard Gold. BETHWARE Eddie Herndon, Richard Goforth, Lawrence Bolin, Jack Blanton, Rosen Wylie, Donald McNeely, Glenn Lovelace, Carl Davis, Gene Graham, Jerry Marlow, William Hamrick, Larry Vassey, Mike Ware, Bill Moss, Kenneth Ward and Joe Fite.



BABE RUTH LEAGUE CHAMPIONS — The season-long leading Moose club captured the Kings Mountain Babe Ruth League baseball title in the final week of the season, replacing Margrace as kings of the circuit for local 13-15 year old youths. The Moose squad, coached by Willie Grice, is shown above, left to right, SITTING — Bubs Pearson, Danny Kiser, Pete Putnom, John Melton, Ricky Hamrick, Steve Goforth, and George Plonk; STANDING — Pat Murphy, Mike Huffstickler, Eddie Huffstickler, Mike Ballard, Chip Bridges, Glenn Lovelace and Chip McGinnis. (Photo by Claire Gilstad)

Moose Snaps Losing Streak, Clinches Babe Ruth Loop Title

Moose finally snapped out of its late-season doldrums to clinch the Babe Ruth League baseball title, defeating runner-up Margrace by an impressive 8-1 score last Thursday afternoon.

Mike Huffstickler pitched a two hitter and whiffed five in notching the triumph which assured Moose of the pennant in its final game of the campaign. Margrace had several make-up games, but could not overtake Moose regardless of the outcome of the games. The games have been cancelled.

Huffstickler helped his cause with a double and a single, sharing the bat honors for the new ERL champions with Pat Murphy who rapped three straight singles. Bubs Pearson had the other Moose hit.

Bill Mullinax and Charles Camp had the two Margrace blows, Camp's being a two-bagger.

Moose wrapped-up the game with five runs on two hits in the third inning. The win snapped a three-game losing streak for Moose which opened the campaign with eight straight wins.

Margrace stayed in contention the day before (Wednesday) defeating Mauney, 2-1. Mullinax one hit while whiffing eight in pitched the win, allowing only the game which went eight innings.

The winners scored the winning run in the eighth frame, with Jay Powell and Mullinax contributing hits in the frame. Six batters shared the hit honors for Margrace, all the blows being singles, others being obtained by Don Bumgardner, Jimmy Medlin, Ronnie Rhea and Stewart.

Rebels scored a 5-4 win over Mauney in Friday's game. Lowery was the winning pitcher, giving up three hits, fanning six.

Harry Jackson and Bell obtained two hits each and Eddie Robbs a triple to pace the Rebel's attack. The trio of Mauney blows were spaced as many players, Grant, Sammy Mauney and Russ Vickers.

The linescores: Margrace 000 100 0 1-2-6-2 Mauney 000 000 10 1-1-3 Mullinax and Medlin; Pittman, White and White, Grant.

Margrace 010 000 0 1-2-1 Moose 005 300 x8-6-0 Huse, Mullinax and Mullinax, Powell; Huffstickler and McGinnis.

Rebels 002 010 0 5-6-4 Mauney 002 200 0 4-3-7 Lowery and McGinnis; Pittman, Tignor, Reynolds and Gant.

On Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, an Old-Timers baseball game is scheduled for Davidson Park.

KM Softball Club Wins, 5-2, In Tournament

Kings Mountain remained one of the two undefeated teams as the Midwest fast-pitch softball tournament moved through the opening round games at Grover this week.

The local club defeated Lynn Mill of Tryon on Tuesday night by a 5-2 score and advances in the winner bracket against the other undefeated team, Shelby.

The rivals will play Thursday night in the feature game at Brice Harry Park in Grover, site of the tournament.

Harold Dean Pearson pitched the opening win for Kings Mountain, allowing four hits, only one in the last four innings. He fanned four and walked three.

The chunker also shared hitting honors for the local club, rapping out two of the six hits. Gene Tignor also obtained two blows for the Kings Mountain team.

A four-run explosion in the fifth frame won the game for the local club. KM put together three hits, by Tignor, Pearson and Dewitt Guyton, along with a walk and error to notch the four runs which won the game. The first five Kings Mountain batters in the inning reached base and four scored.

The tournament will continue at Grover the remainder of this week.

Tuesday night's win was the fourth straight in playoff action for Pearson, including three straight pitching victories in the recent Cleveland Industrial League tournament. He has allowed only 13 hits and five runs in the four consecutive wins.

The linescore: Kings Mt. 010 040 0 5-6-0 Tryon 011 000 0 2-4-1 Pearson and Barnette; Bradshaw and Beam.

Wilson Two-Time All-Star Pilot Kings Mountain's George Wilson is two-time manager in Western Carolina League all-star action this summer.

The Statesville Owl skipper will pilot the eastern team in the East-West all-star game to be played in Salisbury Friday night. His East team is drawn from his own Owls, Salisbury and Lexington.

Joe Abernathy of Newton-Conover will skipper the West team made up of players from the Twins, Shelby and Belmont.

The pilot post Friday night gives Wilson the distinction of managing a team in both of the league all-star contest this summer. He managed the Owls against the league stars in a game at Statesville several weeks ago.

Parkgrace Upsets North, 3-1, In Little League Tournament

The champion has tumbled. North's regular season Little League championship and defending tournament winners fell back into the loser's bracket of the current post-season tourney Tuesday night, losing to Parkgrace, 3-1. The loss now forces the pennant-winners and defending playoff winners to cop five straight games if they hope to add the playoff title to the crowns the team has won in the past two summers.

Tuesday's defeat for North was the second straight night that one of the top two clubs in the season's race fell in the double-elimination tournament. Second-place Burmil lost to Raiders, 4-0, on Monday night.

The tourney will continue nightly until the middle of next week, with two losses eliminating a club.

Jimmy Medlin clubbed a two-run homer in the first inning to give Parkgrace the necessary runs for the win over North Tuesday night. The blow came with Gene Putnam aboard. Parkgrace added an insurance run in the fifth. Steve Bell made the other two hits for Parkgrace.

Charles Green and Jimmy Medlin shared the mound chores for Parkgrace, allowing three hits and whiffing five. Philip Casit pitched a three-hitter for North, and struck out eight.

Philip Cash, Chucky Gladden and Carl Cash obtained the North hits.

Kiwanis defeated Optimist, 15-9, in an opening round game, with Danny Walker leading the win with a pair of doubles. Freddy Wright also cracked a two-bagger for Kiwanis, which scored seven times each in the second and fourth innings.

Nelson Connor with two hits and Billy Early and Larry Gant, each with a double, paced the

winning runs in the last of the fourth and final frame to defeat Police Club, 9-8, in the middle game of Monday's triple-header. They scored the tying and clinching run before a batter was retired.

Harold Dean Farris who had two of the Parkgrace three hits singled home the big runs. Roy Medlin secured the other Parkgrace hit.

Jimmy Wood had a pair of singles for Police, with Rock Bennett and Mike Sanders obtaining one each.

Raiders pulled the first upset of the tournament in the 4-0 win over Burmil which finished second in the regular-season chase. Raiders held for seventh-eighth in the standings.

David Alexander turned in a one-hitter, a single by Glenn Perkins, in the first inning, to pitch the victory. David also obtained one of the Raider's two hits off Jerry Ramsey, with Mike Rayfield getting the other.

Ramsey struck out nine Raider batters while Alexander whiffed seven Burmil stickers.

WEDNESDAY GAMES Kiwanis 004 7 11-7-1 Police Club 220 2 6-4-2 Whetstone, Plonk and Wright; Gladden, Davenport, Carroll and Sanders.

Burmil 040 03 7-1-0 Parkgrace 103 00 4-4-3 Ramsey, Goforth and Laney; Medlin and Moore.

THURSDAY GAMES Raiders 320 000 5-1-4 North 201 201 6-4-3 Alexander and Lynn; P. Cash and Gladden, Green.

Jaycees 010 01 2-3-2 Optimist 300 6x 9-5-0 Gaffney, Connor and Ware, Leftwich; Connor and McNeely.

FRIDAY GAMES Kiwanis 000 000 0-2-1 Parkgrace 000 30x 3-3-0 Phifer and Wright; Medlin and Moore.

Kiwanis 000 020 2-2-1 Burmil 109 21x 13-5-1 Plonk, Whetstone and Dover; Wright; Goforth and Laney.

Optimist attack. Kenny Plonk and Robert Phifer pitched for the winners with a trio, Mickey Sisk, Nelson Connor and Larry McNeely working for the losers.

Jaycees became the first team to be eliminated in the tournament, losing their second straight Tuesday night, this time to Burmil, 5-2.

Tommy Goforth pitched the win, allowing four hits, spaced among as many batters, Joe Cornwell, Larry Hardin, Dennis Connor and Doug Mercer. Tommy fanned 11.

Darryl Putnam hit a homer and Ricky Laney a double to pace Burmil. Other hits for the winners were secured by Jerry Ramsey, Glenn Perkins, Tommy Goforth, and Larry Carroll.

MONDAY'S GAMES After a slow start, North exploded for all of 24 runs in the last three frames while Danny Greene coasted home with his one-hit shutout.

North slammed 17 hits, including four straight singles by Larry Gant, only the second player this year to obtain four hits in a Little League game. He shared the batting honors, however, with a host of other North batters.

Chucky Gladden slammed a homer and two doubles, while Ray Cash, Philip Cash, Richard Blanton and Greene rapped a pair of knocks each.

Paul Gaffney obtained the lone hit for Jaycees off Greene, a double in the fourth frame. Danny fanned eight.

Held scoreless for the first two frames, North scored six each in the third and fourth, then poured over an even dozen runs in the fifth stanza.

Parkgrace pushed over the winning runs in the last of the fourth and final frame to defeat Police Club, 9-8, in the middle game of Monday's triple-header. They scored the tying and clinching run before a batter was retired.

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Ratterree's Wagon Stolen And Found Pride Ratterree, Kings Mountain native, and football assistant at The Citadel, had an unusual experience while attending the North Carolina coaching clinic at Greensboro last week.

His station wagon, belonging to The Citadel, was stolen and recovered by police before Ratterree knew the automobile was gone.

He parked the wagon in the parking lot near the dormitory in which he was residing during the clinic and hours later was notified by police that the car apparently had been stolen by a couple of young men. A highway patrolman stopped the boys for speeding between Greensboro and High Point, and it turned out that they had taken the car from the parking lot.

Thus the station wagon was stolen and recovered before the KM native realized anything was amiss.

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