

Ejections, Hitless Hurling Mark First Round Finishes

Leonard Allows One Hit; Loses In Ten Innings

Beattie Leonard pitched nine innings of no-hit, no-run ball before losing on a single, stolen base, wild pitch and sacrifice fly in the tenth as Kings Mountain was shutout 1 to 0 in the final game of first round play Friday night in Forest City.

The big lefthander struckout thirteen in his bid for glory, but lack of scoring punch on the part of his mates denied him the win.

In trouble only once over the first nine frames Leonard retired the side in order seven times.

Kings Mountain threatened in the first, second and fourth innings but could not push across the needed tally.

In the first Barry Gibson tripled but was left stranded as an infield roller retired the side.

Lawrence Bolin walked, stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball in the second stanza before a strikeout got the Forest City hurler Lytle out of trouble.

Back-to-back singles by Leonard and Richard Gold in the fourth gave the locals another scoring opportunity but two infield outs and a fly to right erased the threat.

The winning Forest City marker came in the home half of the tenth. James Hardin opened the inning with a single (his team's only hit), stole second and advanced to third on Leonard's wild pitch.

Jimmy Bradley then drove a Leonard pitch to deep left field to score his mate with the winning run.

Ronnie Lytle went the distance on the hill for Forest City and picked up the win allowing Kings Mountain three hits. He struck out five and walked four.

Scoreboard for Kings Mountain vs Forest City. Kings Mountain: Leigh 1b, Murphy 2b, Gibson rf, Leonard p. Forest City: Baldwin lf, Matheny 2b, Whitner 1b, Jones cf, Hardin 3b, Bradley c, Lytle p, Butler ss, Jolley rf.

Statistical summary for Kings Mountain Little League Standings, listing Team, W, L, Pct. Kings Mtn. 0-0-0, Forest City 0-0-1.

BurMil Remains Undefeated In LL; Win Seventh Straight Game Monday

BurMil remained undefeated as the Kings Mountain Little League entered its fourth week of play this week. Running its consecutive win streak to seven the BurMil boys downed Kiwanis 4 to 0 and Park Grace 11 to 1.

In the shutout win over the Kiwanis June 20, Tommy Goforth was the big show for the winners. The young righthander hurled the win and hit his third home run of the season to lead the BurMil attack.

Tommy Gerberding was charged with the loss.

In the second game Wednesday Park Grace picked up its fourth win of the campaign by downing the Police Club 10 to 6 behind the combined pitching of Steve Bell and Green.

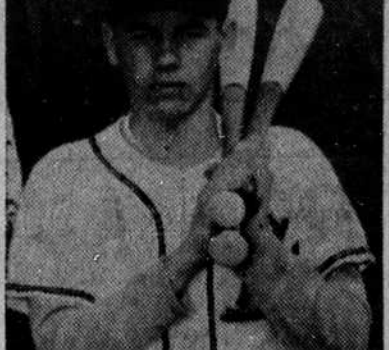
Wayne Mullinax hit his third and fourth home runs of the season to lead the Park Grace hitters. David Davenport had a double to lead the Police hitters.

In the game played the previous night the Police Club was downed 12 to 6 by the Jaycees as Paul Gaffney clubbed two home runs and a single to drive in nine runs for the winners.

Richard Carroll led the hitting for the Police Club.

Thursday Chucky Gladden provided the margin as the Lions defeated the Jaycees 2 to 1 in a squeaker. His home run in the top of the sixth was the big blow of the game, and gave the Lions their third win of the season.

Powell, Bolin Chased By Umps In 6 To 4 Loss



JIM LEIGH continued his hitting pace in Thursday's loss to Lincoln-Cherryville by singling in one of the locals' four runs. The slick fielding first baseman also collected one of the two Kings Mountain hits in the loss to Gastonia.

Softball League Has Difficulties

The Kings Mountain Slow-Pitch Softball League continued to experience difficulties in league play Friday and Saturday as rain and a forfeit cut the schedule to two complete games and one four-inning contest.

Friday night Foote took the measure of the Painters by scoring an 11 to 8 victory on a sustained fifteen-hit attack. The Painters belted out fourteen safeties but could not take advantage of them.

Hitting in every frame Foote put together innings of two, four and five runs to capture the win. Holland (Smith) and Biddix each had three hits for four trips to the plate to lead the winners. Carrigan and Lefeviers hit home runs for Foote.

For the losers Bennett had a perfect four for four and Horn three for four to pace the hitting. Fressley was the winning pitcher while Rushing took the loss.

Carolina Throwing eked out another win in the night's rain shortened second game by downing Beacon 4 to 3 in four innings.

Styers hit a homerun to aid his own cause in picking up the win, while Lockridge had a single, double and homerun in three plate appearances.

Beacon's three hits were shared equally by Moss, Quinn and Ferguson.

Saturday's night the action was cut to one game as the Beacon team failed to muster the needed ten players, but the Carolina Throwing team picked up its fifth consecutive win with an 11 to 0 shutout over the Painters.

Beheler, the winning pitcher, limited the Painters to six singles in registering his first win of the season. The Throwers managed eleven hits off loser Rushing and reliever Conner.

Three hits in four tries by Eng led the winners at the plate. Moss and Lefeviers had circuit outs for the Throwers.

Laughter had two for three to lead the losers.

Games on tap this week have a Footie meeting Carolina Throwing and Beacon going against the Lions 3 to 3, 500 Painters Friday night.

Saturday night it will be the Throwers versus Beacon and the Painters meeting Foote.

Steve Gladden was the winner, Mike Rayfield and Paul Gaffney shared the hill chores for the Jaycees. Joe Cornwell had a triple in the sixth to lead the Jaycee hitters.

Wayne Childers hurled a shutout as the Optimist downed the Rescue Squad 5 to 0 in Thursday's second game.

Nelson Cotner, the Optimist catcher, led both teams in the hitting department with two hits in three plate appearances.

BurMil won its seventh straight game Monday night as Tommy Goforth held Park Grace to one run while his mates were scoring eleven.

Thursday Double-D Night

Thursday night was Double-D Night for yours truly in the area of Kings Mountain sports. The D's representing a Downtight Discouraging night of athletic contests.

Initiating the evening of despair was the local fast-pitch softball team's 2 to 0 loss to Minette. As a member of the losing nine my spirits were not at the highest point.

However, this was the least discouraging of the night's events. Losing is never pleasant, but when the game is well-played and well-officiated it leaves no bad taste, only the thought that you could have done better.

Such was the case in the softball game, but the second game (Lincolnton-Cherryville vs Kings Mountain) was altogether different. The game was neither well-played nor well-officiated.

The players can be excused their minor miscues and misplays; they are young. Some (the majority of the local nine) are in their first year of organized competition.

How do you excuse, though, the mistakes made by men who are supposedly well-trained for their jobs? How do you turn your head when these men of experience make glaring mistakes after glaring mistakes? How can you forgive men who destroy the earnest efforts of youngsters doing the things they enjoy most?

It is not the policy of this source to find fault with the officials assigned here, but in answer to the above three questions, there is but one answer from this corner: I DON'T.

This is not to be judged as a "sour-grape attitude" to cover up a losing game by the home town team. This is an opinion arrived at after much thought and deliberation.

Also it is not just the solitary opinion of one person. It is the consensus of opinions expressed by everyone witnessing Thursday night's game.

Opposing coaches, opposing players and opposing fans agreed that the entire Legion Junior baseball program suffered from the game's officiating.

Officials are necessary in every athletic contest, but not of the caliber we saw Thursday.

Club House Need Felt

4.07 When a manager, player, coach or trainer is ejected from a game, he shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. He shall remain in the CLUB HOUSE or change to street clothes and either leave the park or take a seat in the grandstand well removed from the vicinity of his team's bench or bullpen.

This is an excerpt from the Official Baseball Rules and is used here as another means of emphasizing the necessity of renovating and improving the existing facilities at City Stadium.

How is it possible for a manager, player, coach or trainer to adhere to the rules and regulations if no such facility exists?

This is not just an improvement necessary for baseball. With football it is an even more acute problem. Thursday the need was felt when the Kings Mountain coach had the choice of making the trek to the high school gym to change into street clothes or linger outside the Stadium until the game's conclusion.

In football, which is not as far removed as it seems, there is a need for a club or field house at every game. Why must the players be forced to endure the vagaries and hardships of nature merely because Kings Mountain chooses to remain apathetic toward improving the local arena.

For years improvements have been forthcoming, but like tomorrow they never really come.

Even when civic organizations offer help City Stadium remains the same.

Committees are appointed expressly to study the problem of improvement. Their reports are tabled to await further study.

Now the delay is for the final plans of the new high school to be made. It is hoped that these will include a structure suitable for all the city's athletic endeavors. This is a possibility but not in the near future.

The question seems to be not How can we improve City Stadium? But how can we escape improving City Stadium?

Like Shakespeare's "To be or not to be" question, this may become a classic.

Kid Hecklers Undesirables

Did you ever wonder about some of the followers of a kid baseball program? What type of person is he? Does he experience a vicarious thrill when his team performs an outstanding maneuver or gets the big basehit? Does he attend the games because of a deep feeling for the sport?

OR, and this is a big word, does he go merely to be on hand to criticize the kids when they make a bobble or a mistake?

Herald Sports

BY HAROLD PEARSON

George Plonk, Jr. Has Hole-In-One On KMCC Course

Golfers dream of making a hole-in-one shot from the time they first swing a club until they can no longer cover the course. Some realize their dream, others never make it.

To George Plonk, Jr. dream fulfillment came early when the fourteen-year-old golfer holed his tee shot on the 14th hole of the Kings Mountain Country Club course Tuesday morning.

The youthful golfer was playing in a threesome with Robert Neisler and Sherman Perry when his eight iron shot from the tee dropped in the cup on the course's 125-yard lake hole.

A rising sophomore at Kings Mountain High School, young Plonk was a member of the school's winning golf team this spring.

When asked, the happy golfer could not say just how long he had been playing the game, but "guessed" that about six years would be close.

Young George is the son of Dr. and Mrs. George W. Plonk.

Spangler Loses In Ten Innings

The Spangler & Son teen team was rained out in one game and lost another in ten innings as play in the Cleveland County Teener League entered its third week of action.

After four complete innings of play Friday the rains came to wash out the Spangler-Shelby VFW contest before it could be made official.

Monday the Mixers played host to the No. 1 Township (Boiling Springs) team and went ten innings before falling to a 10 to 8 defeat.

Trailing by three the local team came alive for three runs on four hits in the bottom of the sixth to throw the game into extra innings.

In the top of the tenth the visitors followed five shutout innings, with a three-run burst to claim the victory.

Spangler fought back for one run in the home half of the inning on a hit batsman and a triple by Fletcher but could not keep the rally alive.

The local team, with Jones and Mullinax leading the way, gathered thirteen hits from the combined offerings of the two Number One pitchers, Huskey and Honeycutt. Jones had 4 for 6 and Mullinax 3 for 5.

Jim Leigh's single in the fifth and Lawrence Bolin's one-baser in the ninth were Kings Mountain's only safe blows.

Herman Eaker added two singles to his home run to emerge as the night's hitting leader.

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Juniors Lose To Gastonia As Playoff Series Begins

Three Pitchers Yield Nine Hits In 11-0 Shutout

Kings Mountain employed three pitchers to no avail Monday night as Gastonia took an 11 to 0 decision from the locals in game one of the best three of five second round playoff series.

Game number two will be played in City Stadium Wednesday night with Barry Gibson on the mound for Kings Mountain to face Gastonia's Steve Forrester. Should the game be rained out it will be played here Thursday night.

Play will revert to the Gastonia diamond for game number three.

The trio of hurlers allowed the Gaston Post 23 team seven earned runs and nine base hits.

Kings Mountain managed two safeties and no runs off the services of the route-going Gastonia pitcher, Tommy Millwood.

Beattie Leonard started on the hill for the locals and was responsible for six of the enemy scores (three earned) as he was touched for three hits in the three innings he worked. In suffering the loss the big lefthander struck out five, walked three and hit one batter.

In forty innings of play this season Leonard has given up just fifteen hits and now has a record of 2 wins and 3 defeats.

In the fourth Bo Goforth came on to relieve Leonard and scattered three hits over the next three frames. He allowed one earned run while fanning four and walking none.

Jackie Hughes was the last Kings Mountain pitcher of the evening. Gastonia reached him for three runs on three hits in the last two stanzas.

The host team scored markers in every inning except the first and fifth to take a one-game lead in the series.

In the second an error, hit batsman, walk, passed ball and a sacrifice fly accounted for two. A walk, stolen base, error and single scored one in the third. Three hits, a walk and a wild pitch were good for four in the fourth.

In the sixth a single followed by a two-base error and a wild pitch added one to the total. Herman Eaker's blast over the left-field fence in the seventh made it nine.

The final two Gastonia scores were registered in the eighth on two hits, a walk and a fielder's choice.

Kings Mountain threatened in the second, third and fifth but could not muster the needed punch to push across the runner.

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Minette Defeats Moose Again 2 - 0

Thurman Peterson and Minette continued their domination of the Kings Mountain Moose team as they downed the locals 2 to 0 in Thursday night's fast-pitch softball game.

The locals have now dropped two games in league play. Both losses have been to Peterson and Minette by identical scores.

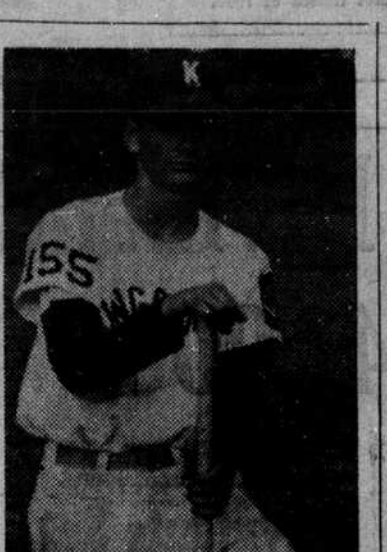
In Thursday's contest the Grover nine took advantage of three hits and four Moose errors to shutout the Kings Mountain team.

Grover scored first in the fourth on two hits, a fielder's choice and a dropped fly ball behind second.

The second run crossed the plate when the Kings Mountain pitcher Harold Pearson dropped the ball after making the tag at home plate in the fifth.

Kings Mountain had four hits but left six runners stranded.

The locals now have a record of seven wins and two losses and hold a one-game edge over One-Hour-Martining in the league standings.



LAWRENCE BOLIN, Kings Mountain third baseman, singled in the ninth inning Monday to register one of the two local hits in the 11-0 loss to Gastonia.

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