

Mountaineers Play Hickory Friday For Bi-Conference Title

Herald Sports

Hitters Not Always Winners

Performances over the past couple of weeks have pointed out two pertinent points in the Mountaineer diamond picture this season:

1. You don't necessarily have to hit to win, and
2. It's a good thing you don't.

In one four-game stretch during this period, the locals had delivered a total of 18 hits, yet had won three of the contests. That is making a 4.5 hits per game average stretch into a .750 won-lost average.

Which, come to think of it, is a whale of a stretching job in today's time of non-elastic rubber.

These games were R-S Central (5), Shelby (2), Lincolnton (0) and Cherryville (11). All wins, save the blanking in the County Seat.

You can't knock success, and these boys have been successful as possibly no other Mountaineer baseball team has been.

But projecting this a little further, let's dig into the heart of this winning picture. Let's take a look at what could be the strength of this year's team.

What was the number one force?

Objectively, What Do You Find?

Objectively looking into each department, what do you find? (Sentiment must be put aside to take an objective look.)

Hitting: Here it has already been demonstrated that there is a weakness. Pick any player on the team and point to him and say, "There is a slugger." Can you do it? Looking over the team, it is only possible to say that so and so can hit, meaning possibly a single every three to four trips to the plate.

Overall offense: Nothing spectacular. There is not a really good bunter on the team. During one stretch, Coach Fred Withers could count only one sacrifice out of 15-20 attempts. They miss a lot of singles on the basepaths. There is no Luis Aparicio or Maury Wills to "steal away home."

Defense: Adequate at most. Undoubtedly the strongest point here is at first base. Jim Leigh is the smallest gateway guardian in the circuit, but the little senior is also the standout glove man at his spot. Several errors have been turned into putouts by his mitt maneuverings. Elsewhere around the "horn" it is not so certain. Richard Gold and Pat Murphy will get better, no doubt, and play standout ball in later years. Both are sophomores and have been improving. Henry Hilliard is not having his best year, either at bat or in the field.

At the other four defensive positions the team is adequate to good. Richard Little and Charles Goodson can get them in the pastures. The other garden is a fill-in job. At backstop Luis Cook has given the team the strongest catching it has had in years.

Pitching: Here again you have a strongpoint, but neither of the boys is a "prospect." Barry Gibson has been pitching the best ball of his life, making one wonder just how good he would have been, if he had thrown hard all the time. Never has he fired the ball as he has done on occasion this year. Bo Goforth has another year to go and is improving along the way, but his tendency to "try too hard" gets him in trouble often. Jackie Hughes, bothered by illness most of the season, has failed to come up to his '62 performance although he has done well in several key instances.

So what else have you?

Could It Be The Coach

Could it be the coach carrying the boys with his knowledge?

Is it possible that Withers is the factor most responsible for the great season enjoyed by the boys?

Think back a couple of weeks and consider some of the key decisions of the Mountaineer mentor.

Recall the game Kings Mountain won by a slim margin when he relieved his starter in the top of the seventh to have his reliever throw to only two men before giving way to another who ended the game on about two pitches?

Or maybe you were there last week when the boys downed the Wolves without benefit of a hit. Remember how the run was scored? An error, walk, attempted bunt to set up a double-steal putting the runners on second and third and enabling a score on a wild pitch.

These maneuvers are the reasons a team can score and win, even though they do come up short in the hits column.

It is because of such manipulations that Withers, here, is considered the primary factor in the team's high standing.

Ledford Would Like Carryover

Whatever the answer to the success of this year's team, it is certain that Buster Ledford would like to see it carry over into the summer Legion junior program.

We was assistant coach at Charlotte Garinger this season, and they didn't do exactly smashingly well, and a good junior nine would serve as a balm for him.

It would appear that Post 155 has made a good choice of tutors. They have gathered a trio of baseball stars to guide this year's edition.

Ledford was a standout at Wake Forest in both baseball and football. Anyone who ever saw him on the gridiron will attest to his determination. He fought like a 200-pounder, and he could tip the scales at that weight only if he filled his pockets with rocks and soaked his clothes in cement.

John Gold, everyone knows from his past performances here and at Grover in baseball and softball, is a man well versed in all phases of the game. He has worked in the past with kid baseball teams and should provide ample assistance to Buster.

Beattie Leonard, just a youngster himself, should be able to assist in the pitching department. He has a history of outstanding performances on the diamond and was one of the few shining lights in an otherwise dark picture in '62.

Hope they have all the success in the world.

Bowlers Take A Bow

Seldom, if ever, does one city have two national champions in any sport. Even rarer is a city that has national champs two years running.

It is for this reason that the Historical City should tip its collective chapeaus to the luckpin team that not only won in 1962 but repeated the feat this year.

It is a feather in any city's cap to win a tournament. The higher the ranking, the larger the feather.

John Dilling, Albert Bracket, Mrs. Lib Bolin Gault, Furman Wilson and Mrs. Jenny Oates take a bow. Mrs. Janet Burns you may include yourself as a recipient of this salute.

18 Returning To Legion Team

First Practice Session Here Is On Saturday

The American Junior Legion team will have 18 returnees from last year's team. Beattie Leonard and Lawrence Bolin are the only members of last year's team that will be missing from action in this year's campaign.

Starters will return at practically all the positions except third base which was vacated by Bolin. Pat Murphy, third baseman for the high school team, is expected to take over that position and has three years of eligibility left.

Richard Gold, last year's shortstop and leading hitter on the high school team, is expected to man the shortstop chores. Jimmy Leigh, last year's most valuable Legion performer, and Henry Hilliard are expected to round out the infield.

The catching department will be up for grabs among four returnees. Mike Huffstickler, Chip McGinnis, Jimmy Medlin, and Louis Cook are all on the list as eligible for catcher.

Louis Cook is currently the starting catcher on the high school team and may have the edge when the season begins.

Richard Little, Charles Goodson, Barry Gibson, and Bo Goforth will probably get the call for duty in the outfield.

Other possible starters on the team are: Eddie Huffstetler, outfielder; Pete Putnam, third base-

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BOX SCORES			
Kings Mountain	AB	R	H
Hilliard, 2b	4	1	1
Murphy, 3b	4	1	0
Gold, ss	2	2	1
Gibson, rf/c	4	1	2
Goodson, cf	2	1	1
A-Hughes, rf	1	0	1
Leigh, lf	4	0	2
Little, 1b	4	0	0
Cook, c	3	0	0
B. Goforth, p	2	1	1
TOTALS	30	7	9

Chase			
AB	R	H	E
Parris, lf	3	0	0
Willis, rf	3	0	1
Baldwin, cf	2	0	1
Childers, 1b	3	0	0
Hawkins, c	2	0	0
B-Head, c	0	0	0
Walker, ss	3	0	0
Robertson, p	1	0	0
C-Peeler, p	1	0	0
Jolley, 2b	1	0	0
Morrow, 3b	3	0	0
TOTALS	22	0	2

A-Replaced Goodson in 4th
B-Replaced Hawkins in 7th
C-Replaced Peeler in 4th

Kings Mountain	104	100	1-7
Chase	000	000	0-0

UNC FRESHMEN		Ab	R	H
McArthur, 2b		4	2	2
Hume, cf		6	2	2
Weir, rf		4	1	2
Bonczek		4	1	0
Kaufman, 1b		3	1	1
Davis, c		1	1	2
Link, 3b		3	1	1
Baylin, ss		4	1	0
Leonard, p		4	1	1
TOTALS		37	11	11

GARDNER WEBB		Ab	R	H
Chriswell, lf		4	1	1
Breused, ss		4	0	0
Byrd, cf		4	0	0
Bradley, rf		4	0	1
Robinson, p		2	2	0
A-Turner, p		1	0	0
Clark, 2b		2	1	0
Haves, 1b		3	0	1
Davis, c		2	0	0
Carver, 3b		2	0	0
B-Jayton, 3b		1	0	0
TOTALS		29	2	3

A-Replaced Robinson in 7th.
B-Replaced Carver in 8th.
The summary:

Carolina	000	000	389-11
Gardner Webb	100	000	010-2

E - Baylin; Haves, Carver, Clark, Breused; PO-A - UNC 27-5; G-W-27-4; LOB - UNC 12; G-W 2; 2B-Davis, Hume, Weir; 3B - Davis; HR-McArthur; SB - Hume 5, Kaufman, Chriswell 2; S-Leonard.

Pitching		IP	H	R	Er	Bb	So
Leonard (w)		9	3	2	2	14	
Robinson (l)		6	7	3	2	5	
Turner		3	4	8	2	5	

HBP - Baylin.



PITCHER - Barry Gibson, Mountaineer hurler in Tuesday night's game with Belmont, is winner of the Belk's weekly award as most valuable Mountaineer.

Gibson Wins Belk's Award

Barry Gibson won the Belk's Award for the second consecutive week for the third time this season.

He was selected for this honor by the committee for his brilliant pitching performance in the Belmont game. He struck out 13 Belmont batters, walked only one, and allowed only two hits.

Barry has a record of four wins and no defeats to lead the Mountaineers in the won-lost department. His wins have been over Belmont twice, Rutherfordton, and Chase. His performance in the Chase game was also a two-hitter.

Other winners of the Belk's Award during the regular season have been Louis Cook, Jackie Hughes, Charles Goodson, and "Bo" Goforth.

The Most Valuable Player for the year receives a blazer from the department store as a symbol of his contribution to the team during the year. The winner will not be decided until Kings Mountain is through with the playoffs.

UNC Frosh Shellac G-W

The UNC freshmen, behind the fine pitching performance of Leonard, shellacked the Gardner-Webb junior college team 11 to 2 at City Stadium Saturday night.

The win evened the freshmen's record, which is 7 wins, 7 defeats.

Gardner-Webb opened the scoring with a run in the first inning. Clayton Chriswell hit a grounder near the mound that Carolina shortstop, John Baylin, fielded, but his throw to first pulled Bob Kaufman off the bag.

Chriswell stole second and went to third on a grounder by Terry Byrd, who was thrown out at first. Chriswell scored on a passed ball that Carolina catcher Billy Davis couldn't handle.

Carolina was held scoreless until the seventh inning, when after Leonard reached first on an error of the first baseman, Allan McArthur homered inside the park as his ball landed near the scoreboard and rolled to the fence. Back-to-back doubles by Bob Hume and Tom Weir produced the other run of the three-run seventh.

Carolina barged Gardner-Webb pitching and scored eight runs in the eighth inning. McArthur, Hume, Davis, and Gene Link collected hits and Weir, Bonczek, Kaufman, and Link drew walks to account for the runs. Two errors and Leonard's sacrifice also helped the cause.

Gardner-Webb scored its second run of the game when Leonard issued his only two walks of the game and allowed the Bulldogs their third hit.

Leonard struck out 14 batters and walked only two in his nine inning performance. Ronnie Robinson, starting pitcher for the Bulldogs, was tagged with the loss.

Mounties Fail To Gain Point At Track Meet

During the day of breaking records at the Western North Carolina High School Athletic Association track meet the Mountaineers failed to gain a point.

Shelby won the track meet with a total of 28 points. Their closest followers were Hickory with 19 and Statesville with 18 points. Albert Viehman and Joe Broughton of Shelby led their team by taking first place finishes and setting new marks in the 880-yd. run and the discus throw.

In all 8 records were shattered at the WNCCHSAA track meet at Davidson.

The 880-yd. relay team from Kings Mountain was leading the race until they were disqualified on a baton exchange. The relay team consists of Butch Blackburn, Pete Putnam, Steve Baker, and Von Holcomb.

Mountaineers who placed were: Von Holcomb, finished seventh in the 10-yd. dash with time of 10.6 seconds.

Jimmy Wright finished sixth in the 120-yd. high hurdles with a time of 16.3 seconds.

Pete Putnam, finished seventh in the 880-yd. run with a time of 2 minutes 8 seconds.

Calvin Lockridge, finished seventh in the high jump with a jump of 5 feet 8 inches.

Wayne Laughter, tied for eighth in the high jump with a jump of 5 feet 7 inches.

The win for Shelby makes it the fourth time they have won the associational championship.

Golfers Tromped At Mimosa Hills

The Mimosa Hills Country Club was flooded by golfers Monday as the WNCCHSAA held its annual championship on the beautiful, but rugged, course.

The Championship was won by Morganton's golf team, which posted the lowest score, 323. They were followed closely by Lenoir who had a total of 324. This made it the second win in a row for Morganton as they won it last year on the same course.

Medalist for the day was David Riggs from Morganton who posted a 74 and won medalist honors in a sudden death playoff.

Kings Mountain's representatives found it to be a rugged day as they scrambled for 11th position. Their total was 362 as several of their golfers slipped to scores above their average. Robert Plonk was low for the delegates as he carded an 85. George Plonk carded 89, Chuck Neisler, 93, and Mike Ballard, 95.

The match was the final one for the Mountaineer team. They finished the regular season with a 7 wins, 2 losses record. They defeated East Rutherford twice, Lincolnton twice, Shelby twice, and Cherryville. A tough Gaffney team, and a let-down by the Mountaineers at Cherryville account for their only losses.

Robert Plonk, in the only senior on the team and will be the only player missing from action next year. He was the medalist for the team for the entire season.

Qualifying Heat Won By Wallace

YORK, S. C. - Bill Montieith of Clover who led 46 laps of the feature event last Friday night slid high on No. 4 turn and left the track wide open for Larry Wallace of Charlotte. Montieith, Larry Wallace with others kept the crowd standing on their feet almost during the entire race. Expected this coming Friday night is Bob Seymour, on the bumper of Montieith until a tire blew.

This Friday night will be another first for York-Clover with a ball game being played with actual race cars known as "Car Polo." This is the first time ever anything of this kind in this area has been done. 120 laps of racing are in store for racing fans along with the car polo which Promoter Joe B. Williams says this will really be something to see as six cars will be bouncing the ball shooting for their goals.

Larry Wallace, Bill Montieith, Doug Cooper, Harry Marlowe and Jim Vandiver qualified in last Friday's race for the Big "YORK-CLOVER 400" coming up May 31. Five more positions will be filled for the big 100 mile (400-lap) race on May 31.

KMHS Wins Conference Title

First-Time Champion Here In Two Decades

An unearned run in the top of the sixth inning at Belmont Tuesday night provided the Mountaineers of Kings Mountain high school with their first baseball championship in better than two decades.

The 1-0 win over the Raiders of Howard Hayes, coupled with Shelby's 5-2 decision over East Rutherford's Cavaliers, gave the Mountaineers the crown in the Southwest 3-A Conference.

They finished with a record of 11-3.

Tigers Win First Game

The Kings Mountain Tigers won their first game in the Tri-County League and also of the regular season as they defeated the New Home Braves of South Carolina 7 to 5.

William Wells started for the Tigers on the mound and was relieved by Jesse Howell who received credit for the win.

Harold Williams opened the first with a bang as he clouted a home run. Bill Owens also homered in the seventh.

The Tigers defeated the Eagles in Charlotte 6 to 0 behind one hit pitching of ace Harold Williams. The Tigers committed no errors in the field and were led at bat by Davis and Williams with doubles and Bill Owens with a triple.

The Tigers will face the number one team in the Tri-County League Saturday, the State Line Sluggers. The game will be played in Davidson Park and William Wells will get the call from manager William Orr for mound duty against the sluggers.

ing but Hilliard was thrown out trying to score from second the error.

The run in the seventh was delivered from back-to-back singles by Gibson and Hughes after Gold tripled with one out. Leigh and Little struck out to end the inning.

Goforth registered his fourth win against two defeats by downing the Trojans. Robertson, the starting pitcher for Chase, was charged with the defeat.

Goforth issued three more walks in the other six innings which accounted for all of the Chase base runners.

The Mountaineers scored early in the game when Hilliard led off the first inning with a single to right field, which was errored, Hilliard advancing to second.

Hilliard advanced to third when a ball escaped grasp of Trojan catcher Danny Hawkins. After Murphy flied out to the shortstop, Gold hit a sacrifice fly to deep left field and Hilliard tagged up and scored.

The Mountaineers were held scoreless in the second, but tallied four runs in their half of the third.

Goforth walked to lead off the inning. Two consecutive force outs at second base with Hilliard and Murphy batting left Murphy on first with two out.

Mike Robertson, Chase pitcher, walked Richard Gold and a passed ball advanced the runners to second and third. Gibson doubled to right field to drive in Murphy and Gold.

Goodson then singled to drive in Gibson from second. Goodson advanced to second on the throw to home plate. Jimmy Leigh singled to drive in Goodson, accounting for the fourth run.

The Mountaineers added single tallies in the fourth and seventh. Goforth began the fourth with a single, advanced to second on an error by the right fielder, and to third on an error of the first baseman on Henry Hilliard's grounder. Murphy flied to short but Gold hit a grounder which the shortstop booted Goforth score.

Kings Mountain Licks Belmont By 1 To 0

The Kings Mountain high school baseball team defeated Belmont 1 to 0 in a pitcher's duel at Belmont Tuesday. The Mountaineers took over sole possession of first place in the last game of the regular season and earned the right to play Hickory in the WNCCHSAA playoffs.

East Rutherford lost to Shelby 5 to 2 as Don Patrick was the winning pitcher for the Lions, and Simon Jones, ace of the East Rutherford staff, lost his fourth game of the year, to put the title in the hands of the Mountaineers.

The Mountaineers, winners of the Southwestern AAA conference, will travel to Hickory and play Hickory, undefeated champion of the Northwestern conference, Friday night in Hickory's Legion Stadium.

The game Tuesday night ended one of the closest races for first place in the Southwestern AAA Conference in recent years. With two teams already tied for first place, East and Kings Mountain, a four way tie could have developed if they had lost. But, by the Mountaineers winning and the Lions from Shelby doing them a favor by knocking off East, even a tie for first was avoided.

The Mountaineers depended greatly on Belmont misques to defeat them in a game that was almost a replay of the first encounter. It was just as close, but the first game was a power duel as the Mountaineers finally defeated the Red Raiders in the twelfth inning.

Barry Gibson went the entire distance on the mound for Coach Fred Withers and earned his fourth victory against no defeats. Gibson was tapped for the second straight week as the Most Valuable as he struck out thirteen, walked one, and allowed only two hits.

Harry Hardie started the game for Belmont on the mound and allowed only one hit in the 6 1/2 innings he pitched. Wayne Hem-bree relieved in the seventh and shut out the Mountaineers the rest of the way.

The Mountaineers had men on base in every inning except the third. Hilliard collected the only hit for the Mountaineers when, in the fifth inning, he lined a single to the outfield.

Richard Gold scored the only run for the Mountaineers in the sixth. Harry Hardie issued Gold a walk to start the Mountaineers rolling.

When Gibson grounded out to third base, Gold advanced to second. With Gold taking a large lead off the second base bag, the pitcher, Hardie, tried to pick him off and threw wide of the bag as his throw went to center field and Gold advanced to third.

Gold scored when the first baseman errored Goodson's grounder.

Wally Harris and Henry Hilliard walked to lead off the seventh inning. With one out, Belmont summoned Hem-bree to the mound. He struck out Murphy and Gold flied out to left field to end the inning.

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