



Herald Sports

By DICK WOODWARD

Speedway Dresses Up For 5th Birthday

The Charlotte Motor Speedway will celebrate its fifth birthday Sunday, and a crowd in excess of 60,000 is expected to join in the celebration as the "World 600" gets underway at 12:30 p.m.

The Charlotte classic features the longest late model stock car race in the world, and forty-six entries have filed to participate.

The track, which has been floundering in a sea of debts since its birth in 1960, has been dressed up considerably for this year's running, and fans will be able to view the entire track for the first time.

Additional seats have been added to accommodate the overflow crowd which is expected.

More than 3,000 seats have been added, upping the track's seating capacity to more than 43,000. They include 632 seats in an all-concrete covered tower over Section B of the Ford Grandstand, a row of chair seats (nearly 1,200) along the top of the Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors stands, and 1,300 bleacher seats in the Paddock Area adjacent to the Garage Area.

Time trials for starting positions will be held Wednesday through Saturday, and a field of 46 entries (as of May 15th) will be vying for the coveted pole position.

31-YEARS IS AVERAGE AGE ... o'stracki,hy ... If precedent has anything to do with it, the winner of this year's race will be 31 years old.

That's the average age of 18 drivers who have won races of 500 miles distance or longer on NASCAR's four super speedways in the Southeast since 1960.

The age spread has ranged from a low of 24 (Bob Burdick, Atlanta 500, 1961) to 41 (Buck Baker, Darlington 500 in 1960), and Nelson Stacy, (World 600 in 1962). The four previous World 600 winners have been an average of 31 1/2 years old, with David Pearson, 1961 winner the youngest at 28 and Stacy the oldest.

As the time trials get underway on Wednesday, the so-called favorites will be jockeying for the pole positions and all will be out to dethrone Fred Lorenzen as top money winner on the NASCAR circuit.

Lorenzen is highly ranked among the front runners, and his 1964 Ford will be challenged by such outstanding drivers as Buck Baker, who will be wheeling a 1964 Dodge, David Pearson, a 1964 Dodge; Bobby Johns, in a 1964 Pontiac; Fireball Roberts, behind the wheel of a '64 Ford; Paul Goldsmith, a 1964 Plymouth; Junior Johnson, in a Ford; and Richard Petty in a '64 Plymouth.

Petty is fresh from a 100-mile victory at South Boston, Va. Saturday night and reports that his Plymouth is in top shape for the upcoming race.

Upon filing his entry, Goldsmith supported a statement made recently by Fireball Roberts of Daytona Beach, Fla., to the effect that the Plymouths and Fords will be more evenly matched in the Charlotte race than in others so far this season.

Of the 46 entries to date the Fords head the list with eleven entries, followed by Dodge with eight, Pontiac with six, Chevrolet with five and Plymouth with five.

A field of 44 cars will be off and running at the drop of the green flag on Sunday, and it will be anybody's race as the 600-mile course will take its toll.

Care to predict a winner? Richard Petty is this writer's pick to win with Fred Lorenzen a close second.

Umps Running Bases Backward In Majors

The major league umpires have been running the bases backward for a long time, and no one seems to pay any attention to the fact.

Actually, they don't run the bases, but I use the phraseology figuratively to present a point which has been overlooked, or else hasn't been studied.

This is how it is. As long as there have been more than two umpires working as a major league game (which has been a number of years), they have been rotating around the infield in reverse order to the way the players run the bases.

But, before it becomes too involved, an explanation of how the umpires work is in order.

There are five teams of four umpires in each of the two major leagues, the American and the National. These four-man teams work together during a designated series of games, with each taking turns umpiring the four bases. One umpire at home plate one game, then moves to third, second, and first, in that order, during the next three games, and back to the starting point.

Mounties Win Finale On Lowery's Four-Hitter

Legion Team To Gastonia Friday; At Home Saturday

Teams To Trade Practice Games Before Openings

Three KM Players Named To All-Conference Team

The Kings Mountain American Legion team will hold its first practice game of the season Friday night as Post 155 travels to Gastonia for a game at 8:00 P.M.

The two teams have a re-match scheduled for City Stadium Saturday night.

Twenty-three candidates reported for opening day drills last Saturday, and the team has been holding daily workouts at City Stadium, with most of the team consisting of members of this year's high school team.

"The boys are in good shape as a result of the high school season, and we are looking forward to a successful season," reports head coach Tom Gold, who is in his first season as head mentor.

Post 155 athletic director, Carl Wilson is still negotiating with American Legion officials in the York-Clover area with regard to candidates being permitted to play for Kings Mountain.

"There is no definite word as to whether or not York-Clover will field a team this year, but we should know something definite by the end of the week," Wilson said.

There is also a good possibility that players in the Bessemer City area will be able to play for Kings Mountain this year. It is reported that a seemingly lack of interest in the Bessemer City area may force them to withdraw from the league.

"If Bessemer City doesn't field a team, Kings Mountain will be eligible to use those players who are interested in playing," Wilson said.

Forrest Dwyer, Bessemer City pitcher, and others would be eligible for the KM entry, and Dwyer has expressed interest in playing locally if Bessemer City fails to muster a team.

A well balanced Kings Mountain team will be anchored by four All-Conference players, Pat Murphy, third base, Richard Gold, shortstop, and Mickey Bell, second base, are expected to carry the load in their respective departments, and all were named to the Southwest Conference All-Conference team for 1964.

Jim Leigh, freshman at Appalachian, is expected to play first base this year, and he was named to the All-Conference team a year ago.

Other candidates who will be counted upon heavily by coach Gold include: Louis Cook, catcher, outfielders Warren Goforth, George Pittman, Ronnie Rhea, Chip McGinnis, and several newcomers.

The pitching staff will be anchored by high school standouts Seerley Lowery, Bill Mullinax and Steve Goforth.

Junior Varsity catcher, Rom Medina has been impressive in early workouts and should bolster the catching department.

ALL-CONFERENCE—Pat Murphy, (top), Richard Gold (center), and Mickey Bell were named to the Southwest All-Conference team for 1964. The three Mountaineer infielders are juniors and play third base, shortstop, and second base respectively.

Final SWC Standings

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Kings Mtn., Gastonia, Bessemer City, etc.

Women Bowlers Receive Awards

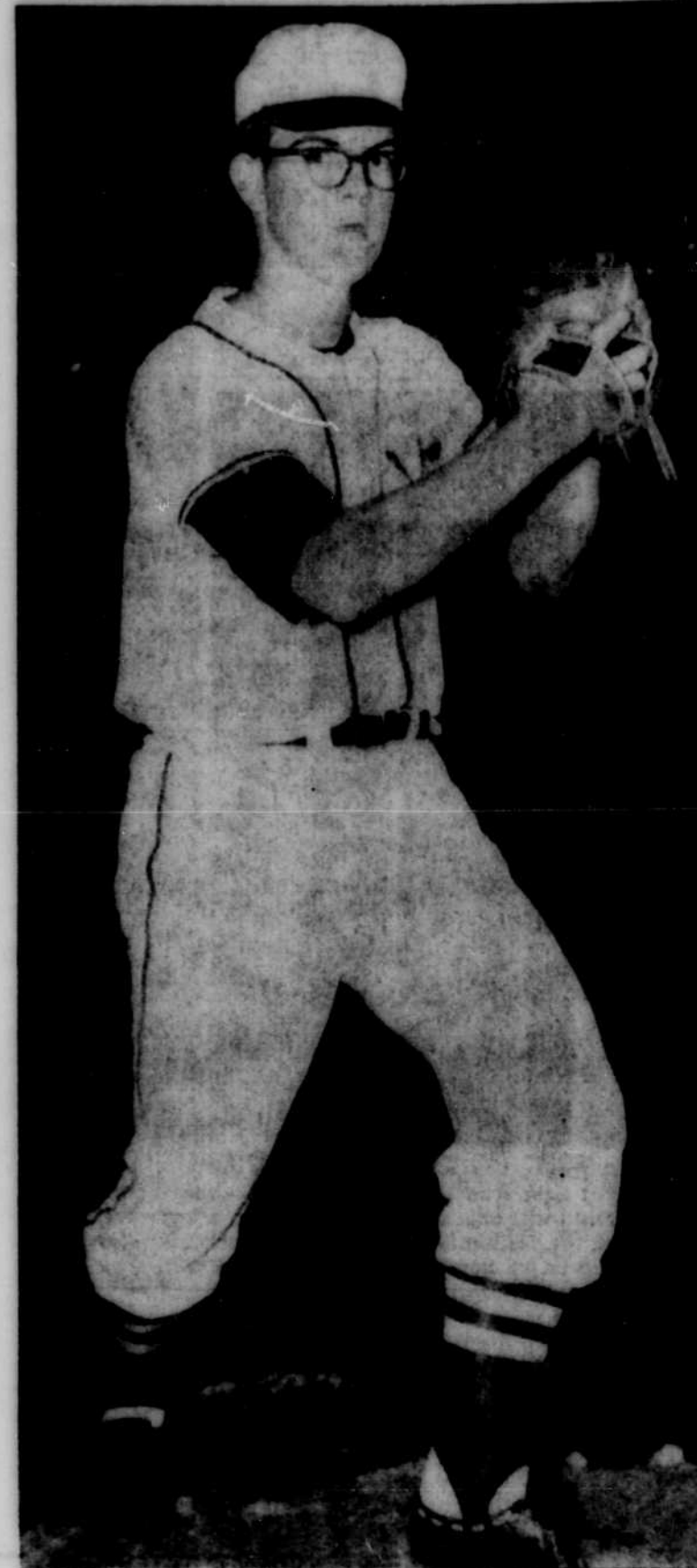
The Oates-Henderson Shell team of the Women's Bowling League, was presented the championship trophy at a banquet which was held at the Hager restaurant in Shelby Tuesday night.

The winning Oates-Henderson Shell team, which consisted of Helen Chauran, Pat Barrett, Gerry Werner Ethel Tignor, and Jennie Oates, won the championship by six games, with the McCurdy Cleaners team finishing in second place.

Other trophies which were presented included: High Average—Elizabeth Gault (101.4); High Set Score—Janet Burns—370; High Game—Brenda Biddix—136; Most Spares—Betty Eite; Most Strikes—Bonnie Wallace; Most Improved Bowler—Pat Herndon.

Women Golfers In Tournament

Five women golfers from Kings Mountain participated in the Foothills League Golf Tournament which was held at Boone, N. C. Monday and Tuesday of this week.



POSTS FIFTH WIN — Seerley Lowery, Lowery, Kings Mountain southpaw pitcher, twirled his second shutout of the season Friday night as the Mountaineers shined Belmont, 1-0, to move into a four-way tie for third place in the final Southwest Conference standings.

Lowery led the Mountaineer moundsmen during the 1964 season with a record of five wins against two losses.

1964 MOUNTAINEER BATTING AVERAGES

Table with columns: Player, AB, R, H, Avg. Lists players like Mickey Bell, Richard Gold, Louis Cook, etc.

Western Carolinas League Enjoys Advances In Many Areas In '64

The Western Carolinas League is enjoying its best season of its five year history.

All eight clubs are affiliated with a major league team and President John H. Moss reported this week that attendance figures show that a 7 per cent increase is being currently enjoyed in spite of the bad weather conditions which curtailed play in the opening week of the season.

To date, there have been 101 games scheduled, and 29 of these have been postponed due to wet grounds.

President Moss further added that the increased attendance is due primarily to the fact that this year's caliber of player is far superior to the players of the past in the league.

"The Western Carolinas League is a pitcher's league," said Moss, and this has been the deductions of several major league scouts and baseball executives who have visited in the league during the early part of the season.

The high caliber of pitching is badly injured.

Belmont Blanked 1-0 As Locals Tie For Third

The 1964 Mountaineer baseballers moved into an end-of-the-season four-way tie for third place in the Southwest Conference standings Friday night by defeating the Belmont Red Raiders, 1-0 at City Stadium.

Seerley Lowery, junior southpaw, limited the visitors to only four hits and struck out six in posting his fifth win of the season against two defeats.

The Mountaineers loaded the bases in four of the first five innings and tallied the game's only run in the fifth as Warren Goforth singled home Ronnie Rhea after two were out. Mickey Bell popped out to the shortstop to open the fifth and Louis Cook struck out. Rhea reached first base safely as a result of third baseman Crawford's error, and stole second to set up the go-ahead run. Goforth singled Rhea home and the rally continued as Hubert McGinnis and Gerald Carrigan walked to load the bases. Lowery missed a chance to union his one run lead by striking out to end the inning.

Belmont threatened in the fourth inning as Suggs opened with a single and moved to third on Lawing's sacrifice bunt, which KM first baseman, McGinnis errored on the throw from third baseman Murphy. But Lowery bunt barked and struck out Biddix, got Barkley on a grounder to shortstop, and struck out Beam to end the inning.

The 1-0 KM victory marked the second such win in as many years. The locals defeated Belmont by the same score to end the season last year, which gave the Mountaineers, the 1963 conference championship.

Three KM base runners were picked off base during the tightly contested game. Pat Murphy was nabbed in the first inning after opening the game with a double; Carrigan was caught napping in the second inning and was out after rapping a three base hit with one out; and Cook was caught in a run down between first and second with the bases loaded in the third. Cook was not tagged out, but Murphy was caught at the plate trying to score as a result of Cook's run down.

Kings Mountain collected seven hits and stranded twelve runners with Richard Gold collecting two singles to pace the hitting.

BOX SCORE

Box score table for Kings Mtn. (1) vs Belmont (0). Columns: AB, R, H, E.

TOTALS

Summary table for Kings Mtn. and Belmont totals.

SCORE BY INNINGS

Inning-by-inning score breakdown for Kings Mtn. and Belmont.

E — Belmont-Crawford; KM — Murphy 2, Gold, McGinnis; DP — KM 1; LOB: KM—12; Belmont — 7; 2B: KM — Murphy; Belmont — Beam; 3B: KM — Carrigan; SB: KM — Rhea, Murphy; WP Lowery (5-2); LP — Barnhill

Mountaineer Pitching Records

Table with columns: Player, W, L. Lists Lowery, Goforth, Mullinax, Black, S. Goforth.

Golf Tournament Set For Tuesday

The Kings Mountain Ladies Golf Association will sponsor a tournament at the Country Club Tuesday, May 26, with entrants teeing off a 8:30 A.M.

Approximately 14 entrants are expected to participate in the 18-hole tournament, which will be followed by a dinner meeting Tuesday night. The golfers husbands will be in attendance and awards will be presented following the meeting.