



Herald Sports

By DICK WOODWARD

Legion Program... Much To Be Desired

The 1964 American Legion season is entering the home stretch in most states as the elimination playoffs reach the quarter and semi-final rounds.

And, in a few short weeks the 1964 championship team will be crowned.

But, actually, what does this distinction represent? Yes, the team which wins the national title will be considered by most fans as the champions of the United States, but this could be challenged, and upon close observation, can be proved incorrect.

First off, remember that not all of the fifty states, or rather, the forty-eight participating ones, are represented.

It is known for sure, for instance, that Pennsylvania does not participate in the American Legion national program. The Quaker state terminates its activity with a state champion and goes no further. This one fact tends to weaken the prestige of any given team's being crowned "National Champion."

And, it is sure that other states do not participate in the Legion program beyond the state level.

Then, to further knock some of the glaze off the shining winners, the problem of player eligibility comes into play.

Most every state is different in determining rules under which the teams must comply.

For instance, let's pose the question, Who is eligible to play American Legion baseball?

Well, in this category, most states tend to follow closely a set maximum age, usually eighteen years. In Kings Mountain, any player born after September 1, 1945 was eligible to participate this year. Although it is not concretely known whether the remaining teams and states throughout the country adhere to this cut-off date, it is supposed that the age levels are closely paralleled.

So, it is safe to surmise that most boys participating in the program this year are no older than eighteen years. This alleviates one major problem, but as we all know, there are always a few who slip by and play although ineligible.

This brings us to the determination of a particular player's eligibility with a given team.

Recruiting Areas Are Vastly Different

Looking at the situation from the local level we can accurately say that Kings Mountain was among the fewer teams throughout the state which had a small recruiting area. Bessemer City is the only team in Area IV which had as small an area from which to choose as did Kings Mountain.

The Shelby team had its choice of not only the highly talented high school players, (which won the conference championship), but also the greater part of Cleveland County. County areas such as Fallston, Waco, Bolling Springs, and a host of others provided the Shelby juniors with talent from which to pick.

The Lincolnton-Cherryville entry speaks for itself. Both towns produced some outstanding high school players, and, when combined, became a good baseball team. Remember, Lincolnton finished second in the Southwest Conference race and Cherryville completed the season in a four-way tie for the third spot. Kings Mountain was among those finishing in a knot for third.

But, to make the situation more complex, the acquisition of players after the eliminating rounds of play are complete, is another thing.

Although North Carolina does not, as a rule, "pick up players" as the eliminations are complete, this procedure is followed by many of the states.

That is, take for an example, the state of Tennessee.

A few years ago (1958-'59) the Memphis, Tennessee team won the state title and advanced to the regional playoffs in Shelby with teams from Virginia and Kentucky rounding out the four-team playoffs.

And included on the Memphis team were no less than four pitchers who had compiled season records of 10 wins or better.

From a personal observation it was this writer's curiosity which led to finding out the reason for this team's having so many ten-game winners assembled on one ball club.

The rules which sanction play in Tennessee allow a team to choose players from the team which they defeated in elimination play. This means that after Memphis had eliminated, say an area foe, in the elimination round, the Memphis team was allowed a certain number of players from the defeated team, and so on throughout the rounds of elimination, and by the time the state finals were complete, the so-called Memphis team was composed of not just players from the city of Memphis, which itself has a population of over 400,000, but several players from eliminated teams.

What To Do? Uniformity Is The Answer

It is not the intention of this article to degrade Tennessee's rules for participation, but solely to enlighten baseball fans to the realism that the different states differ widely with regard to eligibility of players.

It is true that a few years ago that KM's Keith Layton, after being eliminated from play with KM, joined and pitched for the Gastonia team, but this is the only incident that is known to have taken place in this area. Plus the fact that the progression of securing players did not advance throughout the state playoffs.

It is a personal contention that there should be set rules established by the national American Legion commander which would sanction the playing of the game throughout the United States.

This could be accomplished along the same lines as the college NCAA organization, and would alleviate many of the problems which exist annually in the Legion ranks.

A constitution could be drawn up and every team throughout the country would have to adhere to the set rules if they were to participate in the national playoffs. If certain states did not wish to participate on the national level, well and good, but the ones which did participate would be playing under the same rules.

And, you could bet on the North Carolina entries if this were the case. Because, in the past years, several teams, including Shelby in 1945, have copped the crown without the so-called "pick up" of additional players.

If this procedure were inaugurated, then, after a team wins the national title, it will be on the merits of an individual team effort. One which began the season as one individual unit composed of local talent, and finished in the same manner.

Past Meets Future In 2-Game Legion Series

Optimist 2-Game Streak Shuffles League Standings

Bur Mill Holds League Lead With 10-1 Mark

Rain halted Tuesday's action in the Little League race, but the Bur Mill lads made hay while the sun shined last week with an 11-1 victory over the heretofore second place Lions to extend its season record to 10 wins against only 1 loss.

The Optimist team posted two straight wins to streak by the Lions and move into second place two and a half games behind the league leaders. The Optimist lads won a decisive, 11-3 victory over the Jaycees last Thursday and blanked the Police Club, 2-0 Monday afternoon.

The Kiwanis won their third game of the season on Monday with a 3-1 victory over last place Park Grace.

BUR MILL - LIONS
Bur Mill catcher Gary Oliver rapped out three hits, a single, double, and a triple to lead his team to an 11-1 romp over a highly regarded Lions team in a game which saw two Lions hurlers give up six base hits and issue a determining factor eleven base on balls last Thursday.

The winners wasted little time in getting to Lions starter Tippy Norris as the league-leaders rallied for two runs in the first inning, added four in the second frame, after having put the game out of reach with a three-run rally in the third stanza.

The Lions' lone run was scored by Mike Boheler and Pete Ware led the hitting attack for the winners with two hits each. Ware scored once and Boheler rounded the bases twice during the one-sided victory.

Pitcher Ware limited the losers to only two hits and struck out eight in posting his first win of the season. Howell suffered the loss for Park Grace.

KIWANIS - PARK GRACE
The Kiwanis lads handed Park Grace its second consecutive loss of the week Monday afternoon by a score of 3-1. The losers took the lead, 1-0 in the first inning on Gene Harris' opening game single and pitcher Howell's one base safety. But the Kiwanis knotted the score in the second frame on back to back singles by Jack Bell and Roger Smith. The 1-1 tie was broken in the home half of the third inning as Clyde Du Bose doubled with one out and raced home one out later as Bell collected his second single of the game. Smith followed with a double to drive Bell home with the final run of the contest.

Park Grace threatened in the sixth inning as Stewart Caldwell opened the inning with a base on balls and Howell followed with a double, but Putnam popped to the first baseman and pitcher Grahl ended the game by striking out Fredrick and Sellers.

OPTIMIST - POLICE CLUB
The Optimist continued playing winning ball Monday with a 2-0 win over the Police-sponsored lads. Winning pitcher Bobby Green limited the losers to only two hits and struck out seven for the fast moving Optimist nine.

The winners scored both runs in the third inning on two bases on balls, a stolen base, and a double by Hoyle, who had a 1 for 2 performance at the plate.

The winners rapped three Foote Mineral pitchers for seven hits and were issued five bases on balls en route to the decisive win.

The losers scored single runs in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth innings with Smith pacing the hitting attack with a single, double, and a triple in four times at bat. Smith also was credited with the Foote loss and Daryl Putnam registered the win for Spangler's.

FOOTE MINERAL - SPANGLER'S
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MARGRAVE - VFW
Friday afternoon the Margrave Continued On Page 3

Second baseman Dennis Connor was the big gun at the plate Thursday afternoon in the 9-4 victory over Foote as the little second sacker slammed a three-run homer in the second inning and doubled in the sixth frame to send two more runs across the plate.

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STANDINGS

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Bur Mill	10	1	.909
Optimist	8	4	.667
Lions	7	4	.637
Jaycees	6	5	.546
Rescue Squad	4	6	.400
Police	4	7	.364
Kiwanis	3	8	.273
Park Grace	1	10	.090

Each has taken four feature wins this season on the four-tenths of a mile banked clay track.

They are the leaders in a battle between Ford and Pontiac for track supremacy. Pontiac has six wins and Ford has five in the 14 races staged here this season. Chevrolet has claimed two, and Oldsmobile has one.

Dennis Combs of Hickory will shoot for his fourth straight victory in the hobby (amateur) division. The sensational newcomer has started five races, and has won four of them. He finished fourth in the other.

Comb's rise to stardom has overshadowed, at least temporarily, the previous domination of the hobby division by Charles Triplett of North Wilkesboro. Triplett, who leads the hobby track standings, won eight of the first 10 hobby events this season.

Benny Kerley of Hiddenite has climbed into second place in hobby standings, replacing Johnny Smart of Hildebran—who trails Kerley by two points.

Saturday night's program, starting at 8:30 p.m., will include two 10-lap heats in each division, a 50-lap sportsman main event, and a 20-lap hobby feature.

Hickory Speedway, idled last week by rain, will return to action Saturday night with a six-race "Ladies Night" stock car racing program for NASCAR's late model sportsman and hobby cars.

Speedway manager Grafton Burgess announced that last week's rainout resulted in the decision to reschedule the "Ladies Night" program for this week, thus setting back to Aug. 1 the annual 300-lap "team" race which was originally scheduled this week.

Free admission of women fans and the offer of chances on an automobile to be given away at the "team" race the following week are expected to lure a near-capacity crowd of 6,000 or more to Saturday night's event.

Ken Houston of Conover and Glenn Killian of Hickory will be resuming their sizzling battle for the track championship in the late model sportsman division, which features 1960 and 1961 model cars. Houston has a slender eight-point lead over former champion Killian in the point standings.

Houston drives a 1961 Ford, and Killian pilots a 1961 Pontiac.

Vets Vs. Future Hopetuls Friday And Saturday

The scheduled American Legion baseball clinic has been curtailed due to wet grounds, but Legion Athletic Director Carl Wilson said Wednesday that the two games which have been scheduled against the ex-legion stars and the future players will be held on Friday and Saturday nights as scheduled.

"The clinic was set to begin Tuesday afternoon but had to be cancelled and we are hoping to hold practice sessions today (Wednesday) and Thursday," Wilson reported.

An estimated fifteen new faces showed up for the Tuesday session with most of this year's players who have still another year of eligibility rounding out the aggregation.

More than fifteen ex-legion players have been holding daily workouts for the past several days and Mearle Valentine, the spokesman for the group, reports that interest has been kept regarding the two-game slate and that the contests should provide area fans with two nights of exciting baseball.

Players from as far back as 1949 will be on hand to provide the future hopefuls with stiff competition during the two-night stand. Charlie Ballard, who played in the early 40's will be in uniform for the veterans, along with many other more recent participants.

Pitchers Beattie Leonard, who is a rising junior at the University of North Carolina, and Barry Gibson, a sophomore at Lehigh-Rhine, are both lefthanders who will see action on the mound for the vets, along with Don Fisher, who can pitch or play the outfield.

The catching department for "old timers" will be well heeled as Jerry Adams, Jerry Morris, and Bud Bumgardner are expected to see action behind the plate.

The infield will be manned by players of three or four years back as Mike Ware is scheduled to hold down the "hot corner" but third base position and James Robbs handling the chores at shortstop.

High school coach Bob Hussey has been working at the key-stone corner and is expected to team with Robbs to form the first phase of the double play combination with Mearle Valentine completing the threesome at first base.

Roaming the outfield positions will be Ronnie Pearson in the short-fenced left field slot, with Perry Champion expected to get the starting call in the No. 9 right field position. Other outfielders who have been working with the stars include Bobby Wilson, Larry Pearson, and Richard Shaney, who can pitch as well as play the outfield.

"At present we plan to go with the men who have shown the greatest amount of interest in the games and have been to all of the practice sessions," Valentine said when asked to release a tentative starting lineup. Valentine further added that the starting pitcher for the veterans will probably be Gibson, with Leonard and others seeing action as the game progresses.

"We will go with a pitcher for three innings, if he lasts that long," Valentine laughingly added.

The future hopefuls will field a team which consists for the most part of the 1964 players. The bulk of the infield is set with third baseman Pat Murphy, shortstop Richard Gold and second baseman Mickey Bell heading the lineup with Roy Medlin scheduled to handle the catching chores and Chip Bridges at first base. Catcher Louis Cook and first baseman Jim Leigh were lost to termination of eligibility.

The pitching staff will be headed by returning hurlers Seerley Lowery, Steve Goforth, Bill Mullinax, and Mickey Adkins, with the possibility of Bessemer City's Mike Franklin seeing action on the hill. Shortstop Buddy Varalli and catcher Jerry Milwood, also from Bessemer City, will be on hand for duty to bolster the future Legion squad.

Ronnie Rhea is the only returning outfield starter and will be in left field with utility player Chip McGinnis scheduled to man either center or right field. "A definite lineup cannot be released at this time, but we plan to field a well balanced team which will give the veterans a 'fit,'" Wilson said.

Game time for the two night's games is set for 8:00 at City Stadium and the admission prices will be \$1.00 donation for adults and 50 cents for children. All fans are urged to attend the game and back the local lads who will be the players of the future in Kings Mountain. All proceeds from the game will go to the American Legion athletic fund.

'64 Mountaineer Football Team To Repeat '63 Slate

'64 Mountaineer Football Sked

SEPTEMBER	Team	Place
11	Stanley	Away
18	Cherryville	Home
25	Chase	Home
2	E. Rutherford	Away
9	Bessemer City	Away
16	Mooreville	Home
23	Shelby	Away
30	Rutherfordton	Home
NOVEMBER		
6	Belmont	Away
13	Lincolnton	Away

*All games 7:30 P.M.

Rain Halts Play In Negro Little League Schedule

Galilee defeated Compact Friday afternoon in a makeup game to move into a tie with Kings Mountain for the Negro Little League lead and the remaining games which were scheduled to be played were either called before completion or cancelled due to wet grounds.

After gaining a tie for the lead, Galilee and Kings Mountain squared off Monday afternoon in a crucial game, but the rains came and the game was halted with the score tied, 1-1.

Compact and Grover started their game Monday afternoon but it too was cancelled with the score knotted, 4-4.

The rain-out games have been re-scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at Grover.

The first four teams will be meeting in the Wednesday make up games with Kings Mountain and Galilee playing for the No. 1 spot and third place Grover taking on fourth place Compact. Kings Mountain and Galilee stand 7-2 in league action with Grover in third place with a 5-2 record, followed by Compact, which sports a season record of 4 wins against three losses.

Ebenezer holds down the number 5 spot with a 3-5 record, and last place Hill Top has won only once in eight games.

The current schedule of games will terminate on July 25 with Ebenezer playing Galilee, Compact taking on Kings Mountain, and Grover going against Hill-top in the season's finale.

KM Tigers To Play Saturday Afternoon

A double-header baseball game will be held Saturday, July 25 at the Davidson School ball park.

Participating in the opener will be the Kings Mountain Tigers playing host to the Grover team and the second contest will pit the winner of the first game against the Shelby Red Sox.

Game time is set for 2:30 p.m.

By DICK WOODWARD

The 1961 Kings Mountain football team will play the same schedule as in 1963, with four home games and six on the road.

As is always the case, the schedule will be covered, that is, the teams which played here last year will host the Mountaineers and the locals will play host to last year's road teams.

The only rearrangement in the schedule over last year is the Stanley and Cherryville games. The Mountaineers opened at Cherryville last year and played host to Stanley in the second contest. This year the opener will be a 7:30 affair with Stanley on September 11, and the first home game of the season will be against the Cherryville Ironmen at City Stadium on September 18.

Four home games will feature Cherryville, Mooreville, Rutherfordton and Chase, with the crucial conference contests being played on the road.

If past season's progression holds true in '64, the first big test for the Mountaineers will be the Mooreville game here on October 16. Last year the locals were riding a five game winning streak as they traveled to Mooreville to meet a highly regarded foe. The Mountaineers won a decisive 14-0 decision and gained state-wide recognition as a result.

The schedule is definitely a "second half" schedule for KM as far as conference competition is concerned, with four of the last five games being against rugged conference competition.

Following the Mooreville game at City Stadium on October 16, the Mountaineers hit the road for a showdown with arch-rival Shelby on the 23rd and thirty senior performers will be making their final home appearance at City Stadium as Rutherfordton invades for a predicted "tough battle" a week later.

Improved Belmont will host our lads on November 3, and the season's finale will be staged at Lincolnton on the 13th.

Shelby and Lincolnton, as is usually the case, will be the leading contenders for the Mountaineers, who will be sporting a veteran ball club, although seven starting players from last year's squad have departed.

The '64 Mountaineers will be sparked by the "Little General", Pat Murphy, who will be in his third full season at the throttle of the Mountaineer offensive machine. The 5'10", 165 pound quarterback is being counted upon heavily to lead KM to a successful season.

Other returning performers who will bolster the striking force will be ends Jimmy Cloninger and Jimmy Wright, who both lettered last season. Louis Cook, the '63 starting offensive end, has been lost to graduation.

Highly regarded tackle, Lyn Cheshire will be back at his left tackle position, but a replacement for Jimmy Owens, 220-pound right tackle, is being sought.

Both guards, Fred Dixon and Jimmy Medlin, have terminated their high school play, and center Terry Leonard's graduation leaves three vital interior line positions to be filled.

Ground-gaining halfback Mike Huffstickler, who picked up over

1,000 yards in 10 games last season, has graduated, and "Mr. Dependable" Warren Goforth will be sorely missed at the wing-back position.

A host of returning lettermen will be vying for the seven vacated starting positions with linemen Hubert McGinnis, Chip Bridges, George Ploaz, Steve Grigg, and Gerald Carrigan heading the list of likely candidates.

The backfield will be bolstered by returning lettermen Murphy, fullbacks Pete Putnam and Pat Ford, halfbacks Steve Baker and Ronnie Rhea, and defensive specialist Richard Gold.

The outlook for the '64 season is an optimistic one, but the locals will have their work cut out if last season's 99-1 record is to be matched.

Adult Swim Class To Begin Monday

Adult swimming classes will be held at the Kings Mountain City swimming pool beginning July 27 and terminating July 31.

The minimum age limit for the five day class is 20 years and all local citizens are invited to attend, regardless of proficiency in the water.

The classes will be conducted by Don Crawford, local post office employee and Bob Hussey, recreation assistant director.

"We urge especially the non-swimmers to participate in the classes," Hussey said, "And any other persons interested in participating will be welcomed," he added.

The classes are sponsored by the local chapter of the Red Cross and by the Jaycees and there will be no charges for the instruction. The only charges involved will be the cost of admission to the pool, thirty-five cents.

Registrations are being held at the Deal Street pool and at the Maple Springs pool.

Engines Battle Set At York-Clover Oval

Everyone enjoyed the race so much last Friday night at York-Clover Speedway with the modifieds and late model V8 over-headers together that a return challenge has been set for this Friday night. Richard Riley led for 38 laps driving a '46 Ford but Larry Wallace finally edged by Riley on the 39th lap finishing the 50-lap feature about four feet ahead of Riley. Lefty Bolton of Gastonia driving a '56 Ford was third and was against the bumper of Riley.

These same drivers and many more will undertake another 50-lap feature paying \$250 to win again this Friday night along with the usual heats and full amateur program set for 8:15 at York-Clover Speedway.

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