



Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

Lookout Gridders, Friday's The 13th!

What does one think about when he hears the date, Friday, the 13th?

Well, it just might be that way this Friday, because Friday, August 13, 1965, means opening day of football drills for 82 Kings Mountain high school boys who have signed up to play this year.

Drills will begin at 9:00 Friday morning and KMHS coaches Bill Bates, Don Parker, Bob Hussey, and Bill Cashion will practice their boys twice-a-day until Tuesday, August 24, when practice sessions will be only in the afternoon.

The coaches will have only one month to choose the boys who will be starters as the 1965 grid season begins Friday, September 10, when Kings Mountain plays host to Salem, N. C., at City Stadium at 7:30.

There will be an entirely new offensive and defensive team this season as all members of the starting teams graduated last year. Twenty-five boys left the squad and six boys who were chosen all-conference will not be back.

Plus, there is the fact that Kings Mountain has posted a 19-1-1 record over the past two seasons and won the conference for the past two years. Actually, Kings Mountain and Shelby were co-champions in 1963 as both teams had 6-0-1 conference records. But Shelby won a "sudden death" playoff from KMHS to earn the right to participate in the WNCSSAA playoffs.

And, too, there is the fact that Kings Mountain had won 21 games undefeated until the semi-finals of the association playoffs against Hickory last season when Hickory won 6-0.

So from the records from the last two seasons, you can tell that the coaches are going to have there work cut out if they come up with a team that can compare with the last two.

Just to show that Kings Mountain has had fine football teams for the past two years, look at the number of boys chosen all-conference. Eleven boys were chosen in the past two seasons, five in '63, and six last year. Two boys were named all-state last year and many boys, from both the '63 and '64 teams, were chosen to play in different all-star games.

Boys chosen all-conference in '63 were quarterback Pat Murphy, halfbacks Mike Huffstickler and Warren Goforth, and guards Fred Dixon and Jimmy Medlin. In 1964 quarterbacks Richard Gold and Pat Murphy were named along with end Jimmy Cloninger, guard George Plonk, tackle Lyn Cheshire, and center Hubert McGinnis.

McGinnis and Cloninger were named all-state and were also named to all-star teams, McGinnis to play with the West in the East-West clash, and Cloninger to play with the South in the North-South Boys' Home Bowl Game.

The East-West all-star game was played last Thursday in Greensboro and the Boys' Home Bowl Game will be held Friday night in Greenville, N. C.

Murphy, Cheshire, and Gold gained all-state honorable mention last year, however, none accepted a bid to play in any all-star games. Murphy and Cheshire, however, have both received football scholarships and Gold has had many offers, but turned them down as he plans to play baseball in college.

Four Lettermen To Head Group Of 82

Four 1964 lettermen will head a group of 82 boys into opening day drills. Three of the boys played in the backfield last season and the other lettered as a sophomore but had to sit out because of a knee injury last season.

Jay Powell, Steve Goforth, and Danny Kiser were the backfield lettermen and should prove to be the top backfield candidates come Friday. Powell gained a total of 110 yards last season for an average of 3.7 yards per carry. He carried the ball 30 times and was the team's fifth highest scorer. Kiser carried 16 times for 50 yards, and Goforth carried seven times for a total of 33 yards.

Powell was the only one of the three to score a touchdown. He scored against Belmont the night KM won 35-13. The week before, a writer for the Belmont Banner had stated in a story that Kings Mountain hadn't played any tough clubs and predicted a Belmont win by one or more touchdowns. Remember?

The fourth letterman, Chip Bridges, lettered his sophomore year but was injured during pre-season practice last year and had to sit out the entire year. Bridges was a tackle his sophomore year and, if his knee heals in time, will probably be at that same post this year.

Rising juniors Tommy Burns, Tommy Goforth, and Philip Wright showed some progress in the backfield last year and will probably see much action this year. Both Burns and Wright got their names in the rushing category last year, as Wright gained 71 yards and Burns gained 29. Wright carried 10 times for a 7.1 average and Burns carried seven times for a 4.1 average. Both boys scored one touchdown.

Goforth saw some action at the quarterback slot but sustained a shoulder injury about mid-season and had to sit out the second half. All three boys were standouts on the tenth grade team.

Other rising juniors, Chucky Gladden, Paul Gaffney, Roy Medlin, and Kenny Plonk, should see much duty on the line and rising seniors John Van Dyke and Fred Wright will be back to take over the end positions.

Some rising sophomores, who played on last year's junior varsity team, which finished second in the conference standings, are going to push many juniors and seniors for starting berths. Fifteen sophomores are signed up and all of those boys saw starting duty on offense or defense for Bob Hussey's ninth grade team last year.

Many of the boys were impressive as freshmen and cannot be counted out when drills begin. Chip Crisp, Dennis Smith, and Doug Mercier were top standouts in the backfield and Pat Cheshire and Charles Green were stand-out linemen.

So it looks like KMHS will have a young ball club this year, but you have to look at it this way. Those boys are tough and if the breaks go their way, Kings Mountain may again be a conference title contender.

Bur-Mil Leading Softball League

After another week of action in the Kings Mountain Slow-Pitch Softball League the standings show Bur-Mil atop the standings with a 2-1 mark, the KM All-Stars and Bessemer City both have 1-2 records, and the Jaycees are in fifth place with an 0-2 mark.

In games this past week, through Tuesday night, Lithium won two games, over the Jaycees and KM All-Stars, and Bessemer City won one contest over the Jaycees. Games this week will include the Jaycees against Bur-Mil on Friday, Bessemer City against KM on Monday, and Lithium against Bur-Mil on Tuesday.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Bur-Mil	2	0	1.000
Lithium	3	1	.750
Bessemer City	1	2	.333
KM All-Stars	1	2	.333
Jaycees	0	2	.000

Mountaineers Open Football Drills Friday

Baseball Banquet Saturday Night

A baseball banquet honoring the Kings Mountain Tee Leaguers, Little Leaguers, Teener Leaguers, and their coaches, will be held Saturday night at the Otis D. Green Post 155 American Legion building.

Parents are invited to attend but they must leave their names and one dollar with Elmer Ross by Friday at 2:00. Mr. Ross will be at the City Swimming Pool all day Thursday and Friday, except during the 12 noon lunch hour. People who try to wait and pay at the door will not be admitted to the banquet.

Time for the affair will be 6:00 with dinner being served at 6:30. The half hour before dinner will be a get-together period.

Speakers for the banquet will be Russ Bergmann and Ralph Johnson. Bergmann is the Tar Heel baseball commissioner for North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, and Alabama, and Johnson is the District Two North Carolina commissioner. Mayor John Moss will also deliver a speech.

Trophies will be given to the Most Valuable Player on each Little League and Teener League team and a Sportsmanship Trophy, given by Ellis King, will go to the boy who was believed to have best conduct. Trophies will also be awarded the Lions Little League club and the Margraze Teener League team upon winning the league championship in their leagues.

Gene Stone Wins Midwest Tourney "Most Valuable Player" Award

The Kings Mountain Recreation fast pitch softball team reached the finals of the Midwest Regional Tournament before losing out to the Shelby Comets 2-1 in 13 innings Monday night. The tournament was held at Brice Harry Memorial Park in Grover.

Kings Mountain defeated Upper Cleveland 2-1 in Monday's opener to earn the right to play the Comets in the finals. KM was paced at the plate by catcher Bud Bumgardner, who collected a triple and two singles in three trips to the plate. Palmer Smith hurried the win, allowing the opponents only five hits.

Gene Stone, Kings Mountain shortstop, won the tournament Most Valuable Player trophy. Stone led all hitters in tournament play and at one time had six straight hits. His batting average was well over the .500 mark.

Stone scored Kings Mountain's only run in the final game, in the fourth inning. Stone doubled to left-center to start off things for KM, went to third on a passed ball, and scored on a fielder's choice.

Boy's Bowl Game Friday Night

The third annual Boy's Home Bowl Game will be played Friday night, August 13, under the lights of East Carolina College's Ficklen Stadium in Greenville, N. C. The match will be between all-stars representing the high schools across the southern half of North Carolina against the northern stars, and will get underway at 8 p.m.

Jimmy Cloninger, all-conference and all-state end at Kings Mountain high school last year, will see much action at one end post and will probably receive the call for punting duties. Cloninger is the biggest of the four ends on the South team, 6'4". Other ends will be Stan Berkshire of Salisbury, Boyden, Louis Newton of Rockingham, and Donald Thomas of Pikeville Aycock.

Coaches for the South squad are Buddy Luper of Fayetteville, head, and Ed Emory of Wadesboro and Dave McCleeny of Aycock High in Wayne County.

The game is sponsored by the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Racing At Hickory Saturday Night

HICKORY — Allen Rankin of Troutman and Don Tilley of Statesville will resume their battle for the Hickory Speedway championship Saturday night in a NASCAR late model sportsman and hobby stock car racing program that includes two 40-lap features and a "Demolition Derby" wrecking contest.

The hobby (amateur) division will compete in a 40-lap feature, twice as long as usual, with double championship points at stake. A 40-lap main event is on tap for late model sportsman cars, along with two 10-lap heats. The first event is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Saturday.

Qualifying trials for the hobby drivers will be held Friday night, from 7 to 9 p.m., with the public admitted free.

Rankin, with five victories here this season, has a 56-point lead over Tilley in the late model sportsman point standings. Tilley has won three races. Both drive 1962 Fords. Bobby Waddell of North Wilkesboro, with one victory in his 1961 Pontiac, is third in the standings.

Harry Gant of Taylorsville leads the amateur standings, by a 68-point margin over Gary Miller of Claremont.

Ralph Earnhardt of Kannapolis won a 250-lap national race last week.

Physicals 1:00; Squad Meeting, Mile Run Follow

The 1965 Kings Mountain high school football team begins summer practice Friday afternoon. Head Coach Bill Bates reported Tuesday afternoon that the boys will run the mile Friday before practice goes into full swing Monday morning at nine o'clock.

Practice was originally scheduled to begin at nine but physical examinations will not be given until one o'clock Friday. Coach Bates asks that all players be at the high school gymnasium at one o'clock. Following the physicals there will be a squad meeting and the issuing of equipment.

Then the boys will go to City Stadium to run the mile and Coach Bates said ten minutes of extra practice will be the penalty to boys not being able to run the mile in the prescribed time. That penalty will be in effect until all boys are able to run the distance within the time limit.

Coaches Bates, Don Parker, Bill Cashion, and Bobby Hussey will work with the boys twice-a-day until Tuesday, August 24, at which time drills will be held only in the afternoon. Two-a-day sessions will be held at 9:00 in the morning and 4:30 in the afternoon.

Only four lettermen will be on the field, tackle Chip Bridges and backs Steve Goforth, Jay Powell, and Danny Kiser. Powell and Goforth saw some action at the halfback slots last year while Kiser played fullback.

Quarterback is the main position to be filled this year as Pat Murphy, who was at the position for three seasons for KMHS, steps into the college ranks. Murphy will be playing with the Appalachian State Teacher's College Mountaineers instead of the KMHS Mountaineers.

Six boys have signed up to play quarterback. Tommy Goforth and Tommy Finger, both who saw action for the junior varsity team last season, have hopes of directing the team, as do Doug Mercier, Johnny Thombs, Henry Manning, and Philip Wright. Mercier quarterbacked Kings Mountain's ninth grade team last season, Wright saw starting action as a halfback on the tenth grade team, and both Manning and Thombs were starters at Compact.

Many sophomores and juniors will be pushing the seniors for starting roles and there is a possibility that a few freshmen will be carried on the varsity team, but ninth graders will have to be able to make one of the first two units in order to be carried, Coach Bates reports.

Bowling League Opens Monday

The Kings Mountain Men's Duckpin Bowling League will open its 1965-66 schedule Monday night at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center. Six teams are entered in this year's league, which should prove to be well-balanced.

The split-season will consist of 35 weeks and there will be a week's break during the Christmas season. The first half of the season will be made up of 18 weeks, and the second, 17.

Winners of each half will meet in a best-of-five series to determine the league champion. Awards will be given to outstanding bowlers in the following categories: First and Second Half High Line, First and Second Half High Set, First and Second Half High Average, and Most Improved Bowler. Trophies will also be awarded each member of the winning teams and league champions.

Captains for this year's teams are Albert Brackett, Randy Blanton, Clyde Culbertson, Richard Culbertson, Bob Herndon, and Clarence Plonk. The Clyde Culbertson team won the league championship last year.

The season gets underway Friday night.

"Barry Teague" Night Wednesday

Program Honors Star Playmaker From Davidson

First Union National Bank will sponsor "Barry Teague Night" at the Kings Mountain high school gymnasium Wednesday night, August 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Tigers Play Season Finale Saturday

The Kings Mountain Tigers will play host to Caroleen, N. C., Saturday night in the first game of a doubleheader which gets underway at 5 p.m. The second game, which will begin around 8:00, will feature the South Carolina All-Stars against the Cleveland County All-Stars. It will be the final game of the season for the local Tigers.



KMHS COACHES — Pictured above are the Kings Mountain high school football coaches who will open summer drills Friday afternoon at City Stadium. Left to right are Bill Bates, head, Bill Cashion, Bobby Hussey, and Don Parker.

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