

Mounties Fight Off Late Rally To Down Central



1966 MOUNTAINEERS — Pictured above are members of the 1966 Kings Mountain high school boys' basketball team. Standing behind managers Charles Ramsey and Dennis Bridges are (1 to r) Neal Cooper, Danny McDowell, Richard Shank, Steve Goforth, John Van Dyke, Mike Goforth, Scott Cloninger, Larry Burton, Chip Bridges, Kenneth Mitchem, Stanley Laughter, Roger Ross, Tommy Finger, Tommy Goforth and Nelson Connor.

Burton, Mitchem, Cloninger Shine In Opening Win

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers said goodbye to the old "matchbox" in a winning way Friday night with a 48-46 win over Rutherfordton in the 1966 Southwest Conference opener. The "matchbox" is the Central gym. The Mountaineers' next home game, January 21 against Cherryville, will be played at the KMHS gym. The locals failed to make it a clean sweep as the R-S Central girls swept to a 64-22 win in the opener. Coach Don Parker's Mountaineers had to fight off a fourth quarter rally to account for their first conference win. The Mountaineers led by nine points, 35-26, heading into the final stanza but the Hilltoppers caught fire and tied the game twice. The score was knotted for the first time at 40-all with 3:00 left. Kings Mountain regained the lead but Thomas Burnett hit a field goal to lead at 45-all with 1:00 left. Larry Burton hit a field goal to give the locals a 47-45 edge with 0:29 left. Central's Joe Hill brought his team closer at 47-46 right after that with a foul shot. Kings Mountain froze the ball and, with two seconds left, Scott Cloninger hit one of two foul shots to account for the final Mountie point. Kings Mountain's three big men — Scott Cloninger, Ken Mitchem, and Larry Burton — were outstanding in the Mounties' first win. Cloninger was the team's leading scorer with 12 points, and both Mitchem and Burton controlled the boards, not allowing Central's big boys too many rebounds. Jim Sprouse, R-S Central's 6'9" center, failed to score and didn't make up for it with rebounds. Burton, who was described by Coach Parker as "playing his best game of the year," kept big Sprouse in check throughout the contest. "The boys have worked hard, they try, and want to win," said Coach Parker. "If they stay together, we'll have a pretty good ball club." Teamwork contributed most to the success of the Mountaineers. Against the tall Rutherfordton boys, the Mounties passed the ball well, controlled the boards, and made their shots count. Mitchem, a 14-year-old freshman, played probably his best defensive game of the year, grabbing over 15 rebounds. On offense, he scored 11 points before fouling out at the beginning of the fourth period. Mitchem's outstanding play resulted in a standing ovation from the home town fans as he left the game. Cloninger and Mitchem kept the Mountaineers going in the first period with six points each. The second quarter's eight points were divided among Mitchem, Burton, Neal Cooper and Tommy Finger. Nelson Connor, after sitting out most of the first quarter and all of the second period, kept the locals alive in the second half with nine out of 14 foul shots. R-S Central's Joe Hill was the game's leading scorer with 16 points. He was followed by Negro Thomas Burnett with 14. Kings Mountain controlled the game until Mitchem fouled out. At that point, Hill started a scoring spree that almost spelled defeat for the locals. It was Central's second straight conference loss. The Hilltoppers' overall record stands at 1-3. Four girls hit in double figures for the R-S Central lassies as they overpowered the experience Kings Mountain girls, 64-22. Roving-guard Lynn Crowe led the game's scoring with 20 points. Other Central girls in double figures were Elaine Scoggins with 14, and Pat Shehan and Sandra Tomblin with 10 each. Sophomore forward Sharon Gold led the Mountaintettes' scoring with 13 points. The win was R-S Central's second straight in conference play. They stand 6-1 overall.

All-Stars Defeat First Place Team

Two big upsets were pulled in Recreation Basketball League action Monday night. In the first game, fifth place Mountaineers defeated third place Jaycees by a 89-86, count in two overtime periods and in the nightcap, the All-Stars dumped heretofore undefeated Lithium by a 76-61 count. No games were played Tuesday night because of a National Guard alert. Marion Baxley scored the season's high single game mark Monday night in the Mountaineers' win over the Jaycees. Baxley netted 40 points with 17 field goals and six foul shots. Robert Sims and Carl Burris added 15 points each and Bob Taden and Mike Ware had 27 and 24, respectively for the losers. Robert Owens scored 26 points and Jimmy Davis and "Bubbles" Brown added 19 and 14 respectively as the All-Stars defeated first place Lithium, 78-64, in Monday's nightcap. James Robbs and Perry Champion had 20 and 16 respectively for the losers. Thursday night's action saw Lithium defeat the Jaycees 86-50 and Belk's trip ARP, 89-37. James Robbs and Jerry Ross had 23 and 20, respectively to lead Lithium and Mike Ware and Doug Mercier had 16 and 13 for the losers. Richard Little's 26 points led Belk's over ARP. Tom Richie had 12 for the losers.

STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Lithium	6	1	.857
Belk's	5	2	.714
Jaycees	4	3	.571
All-Stars	4	4	.500
Mountaineers	2	6	.250
ARP	1	6	.143



INJURED — Mountaintette junior forward Hilda Lowery will miss the remainder of the 1966 basketball season as a result of a broken leg.

Cagers Play Two Away This Week

Kings Mountain high school cagers play two away games before moving into their new gymnasium next Friday night against Cherryville. The Mountaineers and Mountaintettes travel to Chase Friday and then go to East Rutherfordton on Tuesday night. The Kings Mountain team will be rated as the underdogs in both games. "The local girls go into Friday's game with an 0-1 conference record, 3-2 overall. Sophomore Sharon Gold is the team's leading scorer with 17 points in five games, an average of 14.2 points per contest. Coach Bob Hussey will have four sophomores, a senior and a freshman in the starting lineup. The freshman, Linda Childers, has been very impressive in the last two ballgames and could be one of the team's top players before the season's end. The only senior member of the team, Susan Lowery, is the second leading scorer with 12 points. The four sophomores are Gold, Joy Roberts, Kathy Plonk and Libby Tedder. Coach Don Parker's Mountaineers had their second conference game tied for first place in the Southwest Conference standings. They are 4-3 overall. Freshman Negro Ken Mitchem, a 14-year-old sharpshooter, is the team's leading scorer with 72 points in six games and a 12.0 average. Second in scoring is junior guard Nelson Connor with 70 points in seven games and close behind is 6'5" junior center Larry Burton with 61 points. The only two senior members of the team, guard Neal Cooper and forward Scott Cloninger, round out the top five with 53 and 48 points respectively. Junior guard-forward Tommy Finger and senior center Chip Bridges are listed as Parker's key substitutes. Finger has netted five points in six games and Bridges has four in four contests. Other games on tap Friday are Belmont at Shelby and Lincolnton at Cherryville. Tuesday's action will pit Lincolnton against Belmont, Kings Mountain against East, and Rutherfordton against Chase.

Hilda Lowery To Miss Rest Of Cage Season

Mountaintette junior forward Hilda Lowery will be out of action for the rest of the 1966 basketball season as a result of an injury sustained in pre-game warmups last Tuesday night when Kings Mountain played York. At first, the injury seemed to be just a routine ankle sprain but was later found out to be a broken leg. Hilda lettered last year and through three pre-season games this year had been a defensive standout for Coach Bob Hussey's girls. She had scored only five points in the three games, but was rated as the second best girl on the team as a result of her playmaking and defensive work.

Duke-Carolina Tilt Of Feb. 26 Sellout

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke Business Manager of Athletics H. M. "Red" Lewis has announced the Duke-North Carolina ACC basketball game of Saturday, February 26, is a sellout. The return engagement between the Blue Devils and Tar Heels will be the final regular season contest for both teams prior to the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament and will be the final ACC TV Game of the Week. So, fans who do not have tickets for the game will be able to watch it on television. This is about the earliest date that a Duke-Carolina game has been sold out in recent memory. Duke will be seeking its second victory of the season in the rematch with the Tar Heels. The Blue Devils won 88-77 in Chapel Hill last Saturday.

Where is Guber Garfunkel? FORD GALAXIE 500 LTD 2-DR HARDTOP GONE '66 FORD

Herald Sports BY GARY STEWART

Belmont, Shelby To Be SWC Co-Champs

The Southwest Conference 3-A basketball season is now upon us, so, it must be time to pull out the prediction sheet. Coach Bobby McKeithan's R-S Central girls team will go the season undefeated and offer stiff competition in the bi-conference tournament. Four of last year's starters are back, roving guard Lynn Crowe, Sandra Tomblin, Pat Shehan and Elaine Scoggins. The four girls combined to score 54 points last Friday night in leading the Rutherfordton lassies to a 64-22 opening conference win over the locals. Tomblin is a returning all-conference player. Second place in the final standings will belong to Chase and Lincolnton. The two teams will divide their two games with each other and lose twice to R-S Central, finishing the conference season with 11-3 marks. Belmont will make it to the bi-conference tournaments, losing conference matches only to the three teams listed above. The Raiderettes' final SWC mark will be 8-6. Bringing up the rear will be Cherryville, Shelby, Kings Mountain and East Rutherfordton in that order. Actually, East and Kings Mountain will tie for seventh place as the two teams will hold identical 1-13 records. Cherryville's final record will be 6-8 and Shelby will end up with a 4-10 mark. The boys' race will be one of the tightest in the 12-year history of the Southwest Conference. The final tally will see Shelby and Belmont as co-champs. The two teams will have identical 13-1 conference records. East Rutherfordton will finish the season in third place with a 10-4 mark and Cherryville will go to the bi-conference tournaments with a 7-7 season. Coach Don Parker's Kings Mountain Mountaineers will barely miss with a 6-8 SWC mark. They will be followed by Chase (5-9), R-S Central (2-12) and Lincolnton (0-14).

Wilson, Morgan Would Help KM

KM Coach Don Parker is hoping that Negro juniors Luico Wilson and Ray Morgan will become eligible for basketball play at the beginning of the second semester. The two boys were ruled ineligible because of poor grades following the second grading period. Wilson, a sharpshooter, was regarded as the Mountaineers' best prospect during fall practice. The addition of Wilson and Morgan would give Coach Parker some bench strength. Junior guard-forward Tommy Finger and senior center Chip Bridges have been the only Mountie substitutes to play in more than one game this year. The addition of Morgan and Wilson would give Coach Parker four boys to fall back on, in case some of his first unit boys should run into foul trouble.

FINAL PREDICTION — The Mountaineers are going to be off in every sport this year, but two cagers will land berths on the 1966 all-conference team.

Sophomore forward Sharon Gold will be on the girls' dream team and junior center Larry Burton will be a member of the boys' team. Gold's all-around play will make her an almost unanimous choice and Burton's defensive play and fair scoring average will help him along.

They're Finally Here, The New Bleachers

While on the topic of basketball... The bleachers for the new Kings Mountain high school gymnasium have finally arrived. The seats came in Monday afternoon and will be installed in time for the next home game, January 20 against Cherryville. Coach Don Parker reports that the bleachers should be installed within three days, so they will probably be in by today (Thursday) or Friday.

Lincolnton Boys Upset Shelby To Account For First Win Of Season

Lincolnton's Wolves won their first basketball game of the season Tuesday night, upsetting Shelby, 60-52, in a Southwest Conference contest. Their overall record now stands at 1-6. Lincolnton's girls made it a clean sweep in the opener by downing the Shelby lassies, 38-26. The Wolves were led by Don Proctor's 19 points. Senior guard Mal Brown was high for Shelby with 15 points. Keener and Bradshaw had 15 and 12 respectively for the Lincolnton girls and Williams had 10 for the losing Shelby six.

Griffin Drug Downs Front Runner, 3-1

Griffin Drug Co. defeated first place Dilling Heating three games to one Monday night to move into fourth place in the men's duckpin bowling league standings. The Clyde Culbertson team moved within three games of first place with a 3-1 win over Morrison Loan Co. and City Paint Store moved into third place with a 4-0 win over Plonk Oil Co. In the Griffin Drug-Dilling Heating match, all members of the winning team posted 300-plus sets with Aud Tignor leading the way with a 350. Team captain Bob Herndon added a 341, Stone Rathbone had a 340, Furman Wilson added a 335, and Roddy Houser chipped in a 318 to complete the 1705 team total. Tignor had high line, 131. Richard Culbertson copped scoring honors for the losers with a 137 line and a 354 set. Ronnie Culbertson added a 353 set. Clyde Culbertson rolled a 137 line and a 374 set to lead his team to a 3-1 win over Morrison Loan Co. Harold Barber, Lee Norville, Boyce Wells and Mickey Robinson chipped in on the win with 300-plus sets. Boyer Murray's 136 line and Albert Brackett's 344 set topped the losers' scoring. Randy Blanton had a 137 line and a 358 set to lead City Paint Store to a 4-0 win over first half winner Plonk Oil Co. The win moved City Paint within one game of second place and the loss dropped Plonk Oil into a tie for fifth place with Morrison Loan. Clarence Plonk topped the losers' scoring with a 118 line and a 335 set.

Compact Downs Lincoln For Third Cage Victory

Compact's Cobras won their third game of the season Tuesday night, downing the Lincoln Tigers 68-67 at Bessemer City. Lincoln returns the visit Friday night. The teams were all even after the first quarter but the fast-breaking Cobras pulled away by five at halftime. A hectic third period saw the Cobras lead by as many as 12 points. But Lincoln tore at the lead and went ahead with 0:31 left in the game. Bertie Barnes, Coach Blalock's pint-sized guard, sank a jumper with 10 seconds left to clinch the game. George Adams collected 22 points for the winners and George Rhyme paced the favored Tigers with 23. The Baby Cobras lost a 61-23 decision in the opener, their worst performance of the year. Charles Barnes' eight points led the Baby Cobras but Robbins equalled Compact's output with 23. The loss brought the Jaycees' record to 5-4. Compact lost a couple of heartbreakers last week, 61-58 to Central of Newton and 67-64 to Newbold of Lincolnton. Both games went down to the wire, with the opponents scoring the winning tallies on free throws. G. rd Sonny Moore led the scoring for the Cobras with 39 points in the two contests. The junior varsity boys took up the slack, however, downing Central 53-18 and Newbold, 47-20. Bert Smith had 30 points for the two games.

Oates-Henderson Leads Ladies' Bowling League

Oates-Henderson Shell downed Cash Grocery four games to one Tuesday night to take an early lead in the second half of the ladies' duckpin bowling league. First-half winner McGinnis Furniture defeated Elsie's Beauty Shop three games to one to take a second place tie with Kings Mountain Drug, which downed Plonk Brothers, 3-1. O-H Shell dumped Cash Grocery by 89 total pins in a low-scoring match which saw only three 100-plus games posted. Dessie Loftin copped high scoring honors for the winners with a 107 line and a 293 set and Ethel Tignor was high for the losers with a 115 line and a 288 set. Jenny Oates rolled a 104 line to account for the other 100-plus game.

Culbertson Wins First Half Title In Mixed League

Clyde Culbertson defeated Alexander's Auto Parts three games to one Thursday night to capture the first half championship in the local mixed bowling league. Culbertson went into the final night's action with a four-game lead over second place Clarence Plonk. Plonk lost four games to fourth place Alley Cats, throwing second place into a tie between Plonk and Alexander's. The Alley Cats finished in fourth place, three games out of second. Clyde paved the way for the winners by rolling a 133 line and a 337 set. Richard Culbertson was high for the losers with a 109 line and a 313 set. Jenny Oates was high scorer of the night with a 147 line and a 376 set which led the Alley Cats to a 4-0 win over Clarence Plonk. Betty Fite added a 335 set for the winners and Bill Mullinax and Clarence Plonk led the losers with a 133 line and a 357 set respectively.

Support Library

Kings Mountain Rotarians began a project Thursday to supply good books and magazines for an adequate library at the Junior high school. Members also voted to place a book in the Venezuela Library which has been opened by Peace Corps worker Bob Munson of Kings Mountain in Venezuela.

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SWC Standings

GIRLS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Cherryville	2	0	1.000
R-S Central	2	0	1.000
Lincolnton	1	0	1.000
Chase	1	0	1.000
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	.000
Belmont	0	1	.000
East Rutherford	0	2	.000
Shelby	0	2	.000

BOYS

Team	W	L	Pct.
East Rutherford	2	0	1.000
KINGS MOUNTAIN	1	0	1.000
Belmont	1	0	1.000
Lincolnton	1	0	1.000
Shelby	1	1	.500
Chase	0	1	.000
Cherryville	0	2	.000
R-S Central	0	2	.000

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Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Dilling Heating	15	5	.750
Clyde Culbertson	12	8	.600
City Paint Store	11	9	.550
Griffin Drug Co.	7	13	.409
Plonk Oil Co.	7	13	.350
Morrison Loan Co.	7	13	.350

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FINAL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Oates-Henderson	4	0	1.000
McGinnis Furniture	3	1	.750
K.M. Drug	3	1	.750
Elsie's Beauty Shop	1	3	.250
Plonk Brothers	1	3	.250
Cash Grocery	0	4	.000

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Clyde Culbertson	36	24	.600
Alexander's	29	31	.483
Clarence Plonk	29	31	.483
Alley Cats	26	34	.433