

# Mounties Host York In Baseball Opener Tuesday



## Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

### Cherries, Lincs, Raiders To Head SWC

It's just about time for high school baseball to really get into the swing of things, so judging from returning lettermen from last year, it looks like Cherryville, Lincolnton and Belmont will be the teams to beat in the Southwest Conference this year.

Cherryville has a returning letterman at just about every position, except for shortstop, which was handled for the past four seasons by Jerry Randall, an all-conference representative last year.

Coach Ovie Heavner of the Ironmen sports one of the best records of any SWC coach, winning three of the last seven conference championships and one association crown. The Cherries were 7-7 last year and ended the season in fifth place.

Cherryville has one all-conference player returning, centerfielder Wade Beam. Larry Davidson and Gary Homesley are Heavner's top mound prospects while first-baseman Randy Randall and second-baseman Kenny Cadwallader head infield prospects. Bill Eaker and Johnny Lingerfelt are expected to join Beam in the outfield.

Lincolnton Coach Perry Brown has two all-conference players returning, outfielders Bobby Smith and Frank Mosteller. Harry Graham looms as the top mound prospect up Lincolnton way.

The Lincs finished the '65 season in fourth place with an 8-6 conference mark.

Belmont, always a top contender, will begin the '66 season with probably the strongest pitching staff but will undoubtedly be a weak hitting club.

Senior Eddie Barnhill and junior Danny Adkins will be Belmont's two mainstays with able relief pitching coming from big senior Barry Farmer and junior Warren Garrett.

All-conference catcher Steve Barkley will probably be the team's most powerful slugger with outfielder Tommy Abernathy beginning his third year as a starter.

### Shelby, Mounties Should Be Even

This year's two games between Kings Mountain and Shelby should be evenly-matched because both teams lost almost its entire crop last year.

Shelby, last year's conference champion with an 11-3 SWC mark, lost such stars as Billy Champion, Ronnie Wilson, Tommy Pruett and Joel McKinney and KM lost such big names as Richard Gold, Pat Murphy, Seerley Lowery and Mickey Bell.

Each team has two starters back. Lions Coach Gene Kirkpatrick will have to depend largely upon big righthanded pitcher Mitchell Self and junior catcher Phil Peeler, both starters from last year's team. Mountaineer Coach Bill Bates' two returning starters are second-baseman Nelson Connor and pitcher Steve Goforth.

There's no doubt about it — if Bates expects to win many ballgames, he's going to have to come up with something that I haven't noticed yet.

I've seen every outside practice session thus far, but I've not yet spotted any outstanding players.

Bates will have to depend largely upon Steve and Tommy Goforth along with sophomore Darrell Whetstone to carry the pitching load and catcher Paul Gaffney, outfielders Tony Leigh and Charles Carroll and third-baseman Chucky Gladden to use the stick.

Connor will undoubtedly be one of the top infielders in the league. The little junior went the entire season last year without committing an error.

The Mountaineers will be weak at the positions where skill is needed the most, first base and shortstop. At first base will probably be either freshman Ken Mitchem or sophomore Stanley Laughter, and at shortstop, well, who knows?

Bates begins his third year as head coach, taking over the job in 1964 after Fred Withers led the '63 team to the conference championship.

In '64 Bates' squad finished in a tie for third place with a 7-7 mark and last year tied for second place with a 9-5 record. His third year is dim. His impressive winning mark will probably fall because of lack of skill and experience on the part of the players.

Chase, R-S Central and East Rutherford expect to improve their '65 showings.

Chase ended the '65 season in sixth place with a 5-9 conference mark and R-S Central and East Rutherford brought up the rear with 4-10 and 3-11 marks respectively. The three have a lot of room to improve, facts are, they can't do much worse!

For some of the SWC schools, the '66 baseball season is already underway, but for KMHS, weather permitting, it begins Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 at City Stadium. The Mountaineers' opponent will be York, S. C.

Kings Mountain returns the visit on Friday and then gets to conference competition on March 29 at Chase. The Mountaineers' first home game will be on Friday, April 1, against Lincolnton.

Kings Mountain will play eight afternoon games and eight night games, the afternoon games beginning at 4:00 and the night contests getting underway at 7:30.

The Mountaineers end regular season play here on May 13 against Cherryville.

### Plonk Team Dumps Ladies' Loop Leader

Plonk Brothers won four games off league leader Elsie's Beauty Shop Tuesday night to move within one game of first place in the ladies' duckpin bowling standings.

Louise Dover was high scorer for the match with a 115 line and a 316 set while Charity Goforth was tops for the losers with a 117 line and a 309 set.

Jenny Oates combined lines of 107, 144 and 103 for a 354 set to lead fourth place Oates-Henderson Shell to a 3-1 win over McGinnis Furniture. Betty Fite's 123 line and Barbara Miller's 315 set

were high marks for the losers. Third place Kings Mountain Drug won three games off the Outcasts with Peggy Ross leading the way with a 103 line and a 289 set. Ethel Tignor topped the losers in scoring with a 104 line and a 293 set.

**STANDINGS**  
Team W L Pct.  
Elsie's Beauty Shop 26 14 .650  
Plonk Brothers 25 15 .625  
Kings Mtn. Drug 22 18 .550  
Oates-Henderson 18 22 .450  
McGinnis Furniture 15 25 .375  
Outcasts 14 26 .350

## Lithium To Play Belk's Thursday

### Fouling Jaycees Bow Out Tuesday With 109-69 Loss

The Jaycees bowed out of the Recreation League Basketball Tournament with losses Monday and Tuesday night after letting fouls get the best of them in both contests.

Belk's sharpshooting forward Richard Little connected on three key foul shots in Monday's game which saw Belk's come from behind to whip the Jaycees, 64-62.

Two Jaycees fouled out early in the second period Tuesday night leaving only four team players in the game. Lithium took advantage of the opportunity and trounced the hosts, 109-69.

Belk's and Lithium meet Thursday night at 7:00 for the tournament championship. Should Lithium win, however, the two teams will have to play again Friday night for the championship.

The Jaycees led the entire first half against Belk's Monday, holding a comfortable 37-28 halftime margin. But the eventual winners began to catch up in the third period and trailed by only one, 45-44, heading into the final 10 minutes.

Little led the game scoring with 26 points but it was three foul shots—all three coming on technical fouls, two against Jaycee center Jimmy Cloninger and one against coach Bill Grissom—that told the tale.

Little connected on all three shots which turned out to be the winning baskets.

Each team placed three men in double figures with Little's 26 heading the list. Louis Cook and J. D. Biddix added 14 and 10 respectively for the winners and Vernon Carson, Skellie Hunt and Jim Cloninger had 21, 16 and 13 respectively for the losers.

The Jaycees weren't even in the same gym with Lithium Tuesday night as the regular-season second place team won, 109-69.

Big center Glenn Newton was the game high scorer with 31 points. Following Newton were Jerry Ross with 26, Dick Burgess with 24 and James Robbs with 11.

High-scorer for the Jaycees was Bob Haden with 24 points. Bill Grissom and Gene Patterson added 19 and 10 respectively for the losers.

In third round action Thursday night, Lithium defeated the Mountaineers 83-67 and ARP won on a forfeit over the All-Stars.

Lithium used balanced scoring from four players with James Robbs' 21 leading the way. Perry Champion added 20 and Jerry Ross and Sid Franklin had 18 each. Roger Heavner and Robert Sims had 26 and 19 respectively for the losers.

In a fourth round match Monday, Lithium defeated ARP, 84-52, with Champion pouring in a tournament high 32 points to lead the way. Ross added 28 for the winners and Robert Phifer and Tom Richie had 21 and 19 respectively for the losers.

**Golfers Host Cherries In Opener Today**

Kings Mountain high school opens a 14-match golf card here today (Thursday) against Cherryville. Tee-off time is 4 p.m.

Coach Don Parker of the Mountaineers reports three returning lettermen off last year's team which posted a 10-3 regular-season record. Last year's team finished eighth in the association meet at Statesville.

The three returning lettermen—who will start one, two and three respectively—are Jay Powell, Fred Wright, and John Van Dyke. Rounding out the first eight are Pat Cheshire, Stanley Yarbo, William McSwain, Danny Flinger and Leslie Joy, in that order. Parker said the bottom four positions are subject to change at any time.

McSwain, a junior, is the only Negro member of the golf team.

The locals host Lincolnton Monday afternoon and then travel to Chase next Thursday for their first away match.

### TALENT SHOW

Kings Mountain Kiwanis club is making plans for the annual Schools Talent Show to be held April 14th, a spokesman for the civic club said.



**LEADS WIN** — Richard Little (above) scored 26 points to lead Belk's to a 64-62 come-from-behind win over the Jaycees in Recreation League Tournament action Monday night. Little cashed in on three technical foul shots to help ice the game during the closing minutes of play.

### Bates To Use Three Pitchers In '66 Opener

With unexperienced and talented players, Kings Mountain high school Coach Bill Bates begins a 16-game baseball schedule here Tuesday afternoon against York, S. C.

Game time is 4 p.m. The 1966 Mountaineers sport a young, inexperienced ballclub, which will be rated as one of the Southwest Conference's underdogs this time around.

Bates has only two lettermen returning for action, second-baseman Nelson Connor and pitcher Steve Goforth. Goforth, a fireballing righthander, posted an 0-1 mound record last year and Connor was .143 at the bat, but had the conference's best fielding average, 1.000.

Gone from the diamond scene are such stars as Richard Gold, Ronnie Rhea, Mickey Bell and Seerley Lowery and up to take their place are young boys, most of them just out of Teener League.

Bates says he will start Goforth, a senior, in Tuesday's game but will work him for only three innings. Sophomore Darrell Whetstone will pitch two or three innings and junior Tommy Goforth, Steve's brother, will finish up.

Pitching is one of the many problems facing this year's team. The Mounties lost all-conference lefty Seerley Lowery along with fireballer Bill Mullinar after last season with only the two Goforths seeing any previous mound duty. Steve worked a total of 10 1/2 innings last time and Tommy saw action in only one game.

Bates, however, looks at Steve with wide eyes. "If Steve can keep his control, he'll be the best pitcher in the conference," says Bates. "He has really looked good this year. I've never seen him start off this way before," he added.

Steve will be the only senior on this year's team. While not on the mound, there's a good bet that he'll be in the outfield.

The remainder of the team will be sophomores and juniors, however, there's a good chance that one freshman, Wayne Mullinar, will be carried on the varsity squad. If so, Wayne will double as a catcher-outfielder.

Second base, catcher, center field and rightfield are the only positions that have been nailed. Connor will be back at second, Tony Leigh will be in center, Charles Carroll in right and Paul Gaffney behind the plate. Gaffney is a sophomore, the other three juniors.

Connor is the only letterman of the four. In fact, the others didn't see action last season. Gaffney was a standout in Teener League last year while Leigh was a starter for Post 155 American Legion Juniors.

Big gaps are left at first base, shortstop, third and leftfield, however, Bates has a good idea who he will use at the positions.

At first will probably be junior Negro Jerry Mitchem, at short will be Gene Putnam, Chucky Gladden will be the hot corner man, and Dennis Connor is being counted on to fill the leftfield post.

Gladden is the only one of the four to see any previous varsity action, but he got in only one game and pinched-hit once last year. Putnam and Connor were both Teener League standouts last time but Mitchem hasn't seen too much previous action.

The Mountaineers will play York next Friday before opening their conference schedule at Chase on March 29. Their first conference home game will be on April 1 against Lincolnton.

**Robbs, Sims Cop Recreation Loop Awards For 1966**

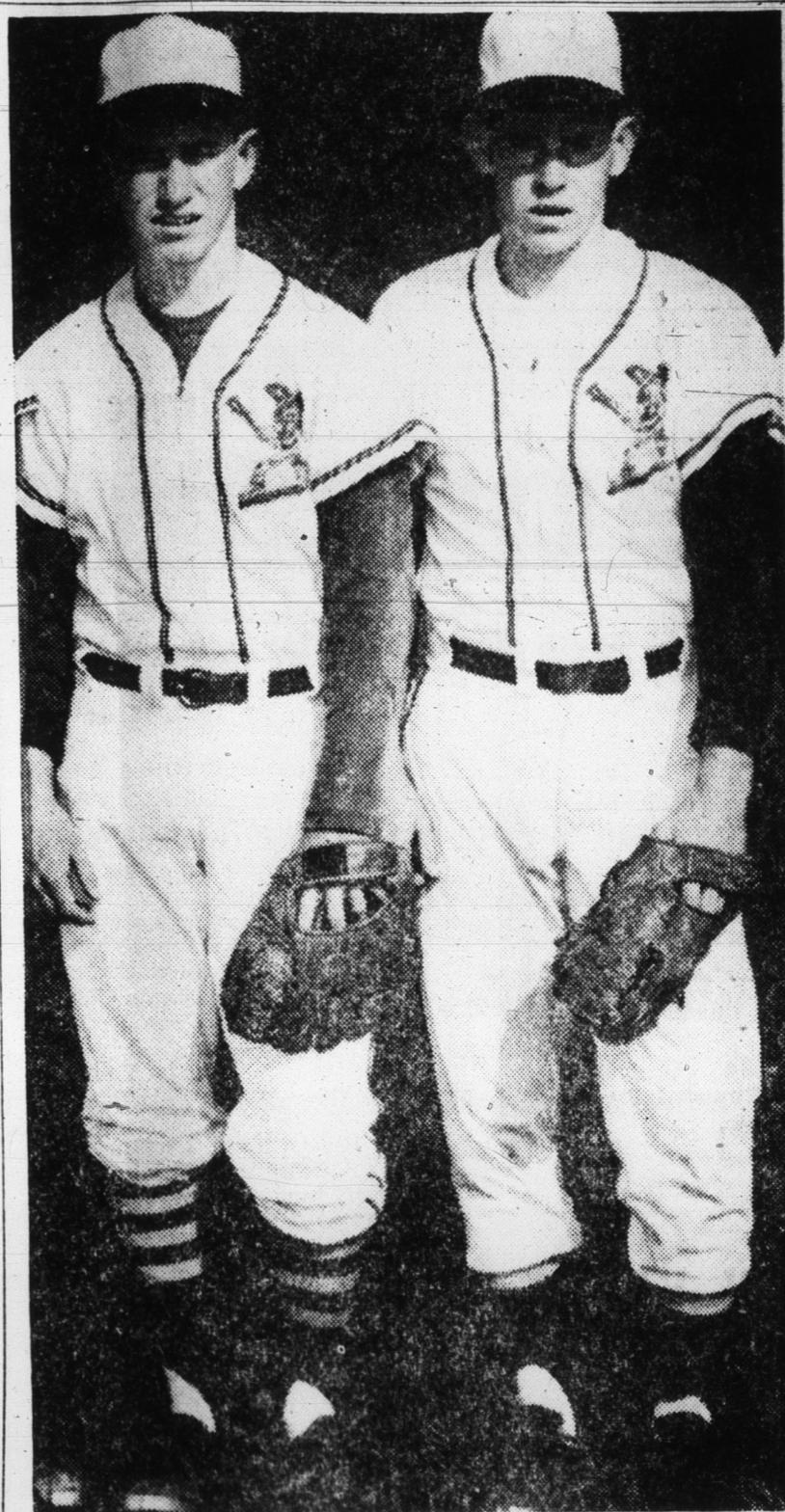
James Robbs of Lithium has been named the winner of the City Recreation League Most Valuable Player Award for 1966. The announcement was made Monday by Recreation Director Elmer Ross.

Winner of the Sportsmanship Award was Robert Sims of the Mountaineers. Both Sims and Robbs are guards.

The Most Valuable Player was voted on by the six team captains. Robbs was named on four of the six ballots.

Robbs, former Kings Mountain high school athletic star, led Lithium to a second place finish in the league standings this year and a first place spot last season.

Runners-up to Robbs were Charles Goodson of Belk's and Skellie Hunt of the Jaycees with two votes each. Ken Cash and Tom Richie of ARP, Richard Little of Belk's, Mike Ware of the Jaycees, Charles Smith and Robert Owens of the All-Stars, and Robert Sims of the Mountaineers collected one vote each.



**MOUND HOPEFULS** — Kings Mountain high school baseball Coach Bill Bates is counting on brothers Tommy (left) and Steve Goforth for much needed pitching duties this season. Both boys will see action Tuesday when the Mountaineers open play here against York.

### "Two To Go", Cry Blue Devils As They Depart

DURHAM—"Two to go!" That was the victory cry as Duke's ACC and Eastern Regional champions left today for College Park, Md. where they hope to annex the school's first national basketball championship Friday and Saturday nights.

The Blue Devils defeated St. Joseph's and Syracuse last weekend to advance to the finals. Kentucky, Duke's opponent Friday night, whipped Dayton and Michigan to gain a berth in the finals.

Duke will have a height and rebounding statistical edge over the Wildcats who may possess a shade more speed than the Durham dandies. Guard Bob Verga (19.2), forward Jack Marin (18.1), center Mike Lewis (13.3) and guard Steve Vaccandak (13.2) are averaging in double digits for the Blue Devils while fifth regular Bob Reidy is just under 10 points per game at 9.7.

Leading scorer Pat Riley, a forward, guard Luie Dampier and center Thad Jaracz are the Wildcats boasting double digit averages in addition to forward Larry Conley and guard Tom Kron.

Duke has averaged an even 50 rebounds per contest in 28 outings while the opposition has only been able to pluck an average of 36.6. Kentucky has averaged under 48 rebounds per game and the opposition has claimed an average of more than 41 per game.

The Wildcats are noted for their speed, quick execution, solid shooting and ball handling.

The No. 2 ranked Blue Devils probably have an edge in depth with coach Vic Bubas being able to call on forward Jim Liccardo (6-5), center Warren Chapman (6-8), guard Ron Wendelin (6-1), forward Joe Kennedy (6-6) and others. The Wildcats used only two reserves in winning the Mid-East Regionals.

This will be the first meeting between the teams since 1964 when Kentucky eked out an 81-79 victory. The series history stands at 6-2 in favor of the Wildcats. Duke's last victory was registered in 1957, 85-84.

**Culbertson Leading Mixed Bowling Loop**

After nine weeks of action in the local mixed bowling league the standings show the Clyde Culbertson team atop the loop with a 2-6 record.

Six games behind and in second place is the Clarence Plonk team holding an 18-18 mark and tied for third place are the Alley Cats and Alexander's Used Cars with identical 14-22 marks.

**KIWANIS PROGRAM**

Dr. D. F. Hord will present the 1965 Achievement Report at Thursday's Kiwanis club meeting at 6:45 p.m. at the Woman's club.

### Tracksters Tie For Second Place In 3-School Meet At York Monday

Kings Mountain high school tracksters tied for second place in a three-team track meet at York High School Monday afternoon.

York won the event with KMHS and Blacksburg tying for second place. York tallied 84 points while KM and Blacksburg had 82 apiece.

Kings Mountain won only two first places as most of the team's points came on second and third place finishes.

The 880-relay team—Mike Goforth, Bobby Stroupe, Rocky Brown and Gene Carlwell—placed first and sophomore Wayne Wright finished first in the 880 yard run.

Boys taking second place in events included: Joe Champion (high hurdles), Mike Goforth (low hurdles), Carl Wiesener (discus), Robert Phifer (pole vault), and Mike Goforth and Bobby Stroupe (220-yard dash, tie).

Stroupe placed third in the 100-yard dash, Ross Springer placed third in low hurdles and fourth in high hurdles, and Chip Crisp placed third in the high hurdles.

Track Coach Bob Hussey said that he was pleased with the team's showing adding that the boys have only practiced outside twice this season. "It was a good meet, simply because the kids learned a lot," said Hussey.

The cindermen will participate in a conference meet at Rutherfordton today (Thursday) and go to Cherryville next Thursday.

### Culbertson Team Moves Into Tie For First Place

The Clyde Culbertson team won three games off Dilling Heating Monday night to move into a tie for first place in the Men's Duckpin Bowling league standings.

Griffin Drug Co., despite a night-high 414 set by Clarence Plonk, defeated Plonk Oil Co. three games to one to move into fourth place in the loop standings and Morrison Loan Co. pulled into a tie for fifth with a 4-0 win over City Paint Store.

High scores dominated the scene in all three matches. All but three of the 28 bowlers present rolled 300 plus sets.

Harold Barber was the big man in the Culbertson attack with a 151 line and a 383 set. Culbertson added a 372 set and Ronnie Culbertson had a 143 line and a 389 set for the losers.

Albert Brackett's 147 line and 382 set led Morrison Loan Co. to a 4-0 win over City Paint Store. Tom Gamble, J. added a 356 set for the winners and Ranny Blanton had a 147 line and a 387 set for the losers.

Bob Herndon and Furman Wilson had the hot hands for Griffin Drug Co. as it downed Plonk Oil, 3-1. Herndon connected with a 140 line and a 368 set to gain team scoring honors but lose behind was Wilson with a 136 line and a 367 set.

Clarence Plonk gained night scoring honors with lines of 131, 138 and 142 for a 414 set.

Morrison Loan Co. gained team set honors for the night with a 1715 total.

**STANDINGS**  
Team W L Pct.  
Clyde Culbertson 32 24 .571  
Dilling Heating 32 24 .571  
City Paint Store 28 28 .500  
Griffin Drug Co. 26 30 .464  
Plonk Oil Co. 25 31 .446  
Morrison Loan Co. 25 31 .446



### "Warmer tomorrow—it says here"

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**Kings Mountain Herald**