

Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

Braves Tough, Look Out For SF, Orioles

Major league baseball will swing into the picture next week. Since it's that time again, let's take a look at the pennant contenders in the American and National leagues.

Since the National League always supplies a tighter race, let's look at it first. The Los Angeles Dodgers fans are happy now since pitching stars Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale have hopped down off their high horses and signed contracts (totaling more than \$210,000 to be divided between the two), but Walt Alton's fast boys will have a time repeating as National League champs.

Besides, it has been a long time since the same team won the NL pennant two years in a row. The last time a National League team won the pennant twice-in-a-row was in 1957 and '58 when the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Braves captured it. Both years the team was managed by Fred Haney and both times the Braves finished eight games ahead of the second place team.

The Dodgers undoubtedly will be tough but their lack of hitting ability might lead to their downfall. It's a sure bet that Koufax and Drysdale, along with the team's speed, will earn them a high spot in the standings but some hitting is needed if a team expects to win a pennant.

San Francisco, led by the pitching of batman Juan Marichal and such hitting stars as Willie Mays and Orlando Cepeda, will probably be the team to beat in this year's NL race.

But don't count out Tony Cloninger's Atlanta Braves, a team which is moving South with high hopes and much better spirits.

Good support will make the Braves play harder and better and with Cloninger heading the pitching staff and Hank Aaron and Joe Torre rapping the big hits, the Braves will be right in there 'til the finish. Brave infielder-outfielder Felipe Alou, a 6-1, 195 pounder from Santo Domingo, was the outstanding Brave in spring exhibition games as he led the team in hitting with a .439 batting average, in scoring with seven runs, in doubles with five, in stolen bases with four and was second to Joe Torre in runs batted in from leadoff with five.

Cincinnati, Philadelphia and St. Louis should also field tough teams making the first six pennant contenders. Manager Don Heffner has moved all-star second baseman Pete Rose to third to make room for Charlottean Tommy Helms. Deron Johnson, who was the Reds' third sacker last time, has been moved to first base after a try of left field didn't work out too well.

Cincy's strong pitching staff — headed by Sammy Ellis, Jim Maloney, Jimmy O'Toole, Joe Nuxhall, Milt Pappas and Joey Jay — is the strongest in either league and don't forget slugging outfielder Vada Pinson.

St. Louis Manager Red Schoendienst will have to depend largely on Bob Gibson, his fireballing pitcher. He can also count on Ray Sadecki and Art Mahafey for good showings. At the head of the Phillies will be former Duke star Dick Groat with able assistance coming from Tony Taylor, Rich Allen and Cookie Rojas, all good hitters.

Pittsburgh might offer a threat, however, the Pirates should be in second division along with the Chicago Cubs, Houston Astros and New York Mets.

LET'S TRY — 1. Atlanta, 2. San Francisco, 3. Los Angeles, 4. Cincinnati, 5. Philadelphia, 6. St. Louis, 7. Pittsburgh, 8. Chicago, 9. Houston, 10. New York.

Robinsons Will Make Orioles Contender

Frank Robinson, an outfielder acquired during the winter from the National League's Cincinnati Reds, is expected to team with third baseman Brooks Robinson to bring Baltimore a tough 1-2 punch and a strong bid for the American League pennant.

Curt Blefary and Boog Powell will also figure largely in the Orioles' plans. If Baltimore's pitching staff gets and stays in top form, the Orioles will be a solid bet to dethrone the Minnesota Twins.

The Chicago White Sox should also field a good team with catcher John Romano and the major's top relief pitcher Eddie Fisher heading the long list of talented players.

Don't count the Twins out, however, because their great slugging can handle just about any pitching staff in the American League. Should Jim Kaat, Jim Grant and Camilo Pascual again be in top form the Twins might be up there again.

Detroit, Cleveland and New York should make up the center of the AL standings, that is being around the fourth, fifth and sixth places.

Improved playing on the part of the Tigers' and Indians' younger men should make both those teams a lot better. But it's plain to see that the Yankees are going to have to move out most of their veterans and play a young ball club.

Washington, California, Boston and Kansas City will probably bring up the rear again this time.

HERE WE'LL SAY — 1. Baltimore, 2. Chicago, 3. Minnesota, 4. Detroit, 5. Cleveland, 6. New York, 7. Washington, 8. Boston, 9. California, 10. Kansas City.

KMHS Golfers Split Matches With East Rutherford And Shelby

Kings Mountain high school's golf team won one and lost one during the past week, defeating East Rutherford 6-3 here Thursday and losing to Shelby, 10-2, here Monday afternoon.

Senior Jay Powell gained medalist honors Thursday with a four-over par 40 while leading KMHS to its third win of the season. Monday's loss to Shelby brought KM's record to 3-3. Shelby is still undefeated after six matches.

Kings Mountain won four of the six singles matches against East and copped two of the three team events. Against Shelby, KM won one singles event and one team match.

Gary Collins of Shelby copped medalist honors in Monday's match with a two-over par 38.

Collins' opponent, Fred Wright, carded the best round for the Mountaineers, a 39. William McSwain won KM's only singles match and Andy Davis teamed with McSwain for the only team victory. THURSDAY'S RESULTS SINGLES Powell (K) def. Crenshaw (E) 4-3; Harrill (E) def. Wright (K) 1-up; Reid (E) def. Van Dyke (K) 3-2; Cheshire (K) def. Jarvell (E) 1-up; Davis (K) def. Moss (E) 2; McSwain (K) def. Jarvell (E) 2-up. DOUBLES Powell-Wright (K) def. Crenshaw-Harrill (E) 2-1; Davis-McSwain (K) def. Moss-Jarvell (E) 1-up; Reid-Jarvell (E) def. Van Dyke-Cheshire (K) 2-1.

First Annual Kiwanis Club Banquet Tonight

Brackett Homers To Lead Wolves To 8-4 Victory

Steve Brackett smashed an inside-the-park three run homer to erase a 3-2 deficit and lead the Lincolnton Wolves to an 8-4 win over the Mountaineers here Friday afternoon.

The blast came with none out in the fifth with Don Proctor and Bobby Smith on base. Both runners had reached base via walks.

Four of Lincolnton's eight runs were unearned with eight KM fielding errors and several mental mistakes helping the Wolves' cause.

Junior righthander Tommy Goforth went the distance for the Mounties and was tagged with the loss and Virgil Cline, after relieving his brother David with one out in the fourth, picked up the win.

Cline, a sophomore lefthander, worked the final 3 2/3 innings, not allowing a hit.

Kings Mountain jumped to a comfortable 3-1 margin in the bottom of the first inning after Lincolnton had taken a 1-0 lead in the top half with a triple by Brackett and a double by cleanup man Frank Mosteller.

With two out in the home half, Wolfpack starter David Cline issued back-to-back walks to Wayne Mullinax, Paul Gaffney and Mike Smith and Charles Carroll drove in the runners from second and third with a double to deep right-center.

Smith then scored on a single by Chucky Gladden who went to second on the throw-in from left field. Carroll and Gladden were stranded in scoring position when Bill Bridges struck out.

Lincolnton threatened again in the second after getting men on second and third with a double by catcher Dale Martin and a KM error. Martig and David Cline, who got on by the error by Mullinax, pulled off a double steal and second baseman Gene Cathey lined out to center.

Melvin Huffstetter walked to load the bases and Don Proctor hit a sharp grounder through the middle but KM shortstop Nelson Connor scooped up the ball, tagged second and turned in a double play with a quick-throw to first.

Neither team threatened in the third and Lincolnton pulled the game closer at 3-2 in the fourth with shortstop Henry Robinson scoring an unearned run. The Mountaineers committed three errors during that frame with David Cline's single being the Lions' only hit.

The Mountaineers threatened in the bottom of the fourth with Gladden getting a double and Goforth a single but the Wolves got out of the trap with a twin-killing.

Goforth issued back-to-back walks to Proctor and Smith in the top of the fifth and Brackett uncorked a fast ball to center field but Carroll let the ball roll by him and the speedster rounded the bases for a home run to put the visitors ahead, 5-3.

With the help of three Mountaineer errors, a single by Smith and a double by Martin, the Lincolnton nine scored three more runs in the top of the seventh to make the score 8-3 and insure the victory.

Tommy Goforth scored KM's fourth run in the bottom of the seventh after being hit by a pitch, going to second when Tony Leigh got on by error, reaching third on a passed ball and coming home on a sacrifice fly by Mullinax.

Goforth gave up eight hits, walked three and struck out five in his first loss of the year.

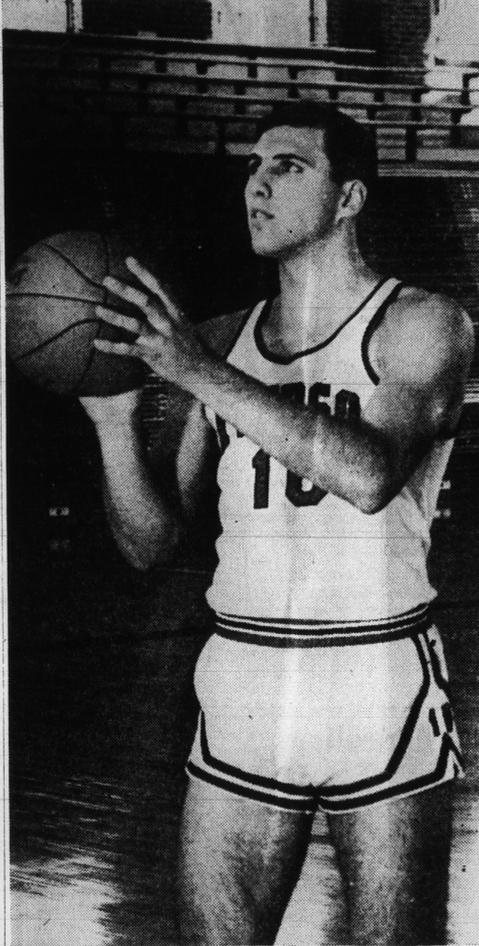
The two Cline boys gave up five hits, walked three batters and sent 10 back to the bench via the strikeout route.

Gladden was KM's leading hitter with two hits in three trips to the plate and Smith, Brackett and Martin had two hits each for the winners.

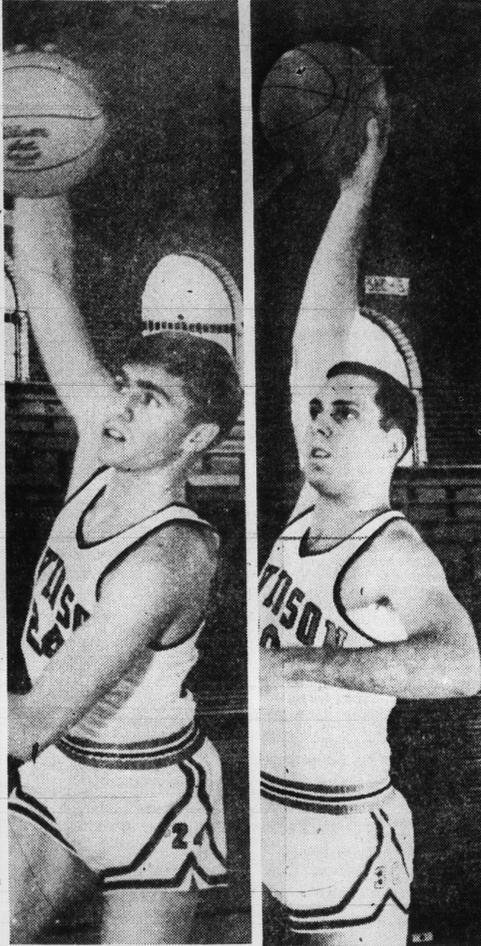
BOXSCORE table with columns AB, R, H, BI and rows for Kings Mtn., Leigh, Connor, Mullinax, Gaffney, Smith, Gladden, Bridges, Putnam, Goforth.

BOXSCORE table with columns AB, R, H, BI and rows for Lincolnton, Proctor, Smith, Brackett, Mosteller, Robinson, Martin, Cline, Putnam, Huffstetter.

STANDINGS table with columns Team, W, L, Pct. and rows for Elsie's Beauty Shop, Plonk Brothers, Kings Mtn. Drug, Oates-Henderson, Outcasts, McGinnis-Furniture.



GUEST SPEAKERS — Davidson All-American Dick Snyder (left) and senior teammates Phil Squier (center) and Ronnie Stone will be guest speakers at the first annual Kiwanis Club Basketball Banquet tonight at the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. The banquet is being given honoring the Kings Mountain high school basketball teams. Most Valuable Player trophies will be presented to the outstanding boy and girl cager.



Davidson Stars Guest Speakers For Cage Event

Davidson College seniors Dick Snyder, Phil Squier and Ronnie Stone will be guest speakers at the first annual Kiwanis Club Basketball Banquet Thursday (today) at 6 p.m. at the Woman's Club.

Highlighting the event will be the presentation of the Dr. W. P. Gerberding and Captain Meek Ormand Most Valuable Player Awards to be given to the outstanding boy and girl members of the 1965-66 Kings Mountain high school cage squads.

Charles Neisler is in charge of the regular monthly program of the Kiwanians. This is the first year in history of Kings Mountain high school that a basket ball team and its coaches have been honored by a civic organization.

A spokesman of the Kiwanis Club said Tuesday plans are that, within the next few years, the Kiwanians will give more than two trophies. The Kiwanis Club is the third local civic club to honor KMHS athletic teams via banquets.

The Lions Club sponsors the annual football banquet and the Rotary Club gives a baseball fete. The Lions Club Banquet began back in the late 30's and the Rotary Club Banquet began in 1963.

All three Davidson boys will speak at the affair along with a couple Kiwanis Club members.

Snyder, Squier and Stone were all instrumental in Davidson's outstanding basketball season this year. Snyder, an All-American, was twice named All-Southern Conference and was a unanimous choice for "Player of the Year" in the SC and most valuable player in the Southern Conference Tournament in Charlotte. He was also a unanimous selection for the All-Southern Conference Tournament team.

The 6-5 forward from North Canton, Ohio, set an all-time season scoring record at Davidson this past year and moved to the number two slot in career scoring. Fred Hetzel, now with the San Francisco Warriors, owns the career scoring mark.

Squier, a 5-11 playmaker from Newton, N. J., followed up '65 star Barry Teague as Davidson's front-court man. Squier is a two-year letterman.

Stone, from Kernersville, N. C., and also a two-year letterman, did not see starting action for the Wildcats this year, but was Coach Lefty Driesell's top reserve.

Snyder, Squier and Stone were the only seniors on the '66 Davidson roster.

KM At Shelby; Plays East Here Tuesday 4:00

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers traveled to Shelby today (Wednesday) for an afternoon game with Coach Gene Kirkpatrick's Lions but no details were available at press time.

Junior righthander Phil Peeler was scheduled to pitch for Shelby with either senior Steve Goforth or junior Tommy Goforth hurling for Coach Bill Bates' Mountaineers.

Peeler, a standout on last year's Shelby Legion nine, is 1-0 for the season while both Goforth boys are 1-1.

Other pre-Easter games on tap this week are Belmont at Lincolnton on Thursday and Chase at East Rutherford and Cherryville at R-S Central on Friday.

Tuesday, Kings Mountain will play host to East Rutherford in an afternoon game and Lincolnton will be at Cherryville while Shelby is at R-S Central. Both those games will be played under the lights.

Kings Mountain's first night game will be at Belmont next Friday.

Tommy Goforth, if he sees action, will go into the Shelby game as the Mountaineers' leading hitter. Tommy has collected two hits in five official times at bat for a .400 batting average.

Freshman second baseman Mike Smith leads all regulars in hitting with a .250 mark with Chucky Gladden and Wayne Mullinax trailing with .231 and .222 marks respectively.

Junior leftfielder Tony Leigh has made the most hits, four, but has also been to bat more than any other player.

Tommy Goforth has the most strikeouts (17) to his credit, however, Steve and Darrell Whetstone have the best earned-run averages. Steve has given up three runs this year, only one earned, and Darrell has given up four scores. None of the runs off Whetstone have been earned.

Steve, in two games, has sent 12 batters back to the bench via the strikeout route and Whetstone has fanned six in the 11 innings that he has hurled. Steve has also seen action in 11 frames.

Brackett Rolls 412 Set; Plonk Oil Dumps Culbertson Team, 4-0

High scores dominated the scene at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center Monday night as the men's bowling league boiled the season down to one week.

Albert Brackett, captain of sixth place Morrison Loan Co., rolled a night high 412 set to lead his team to a 3-1 win over Dilling Heating but in the big match of the night, Plonk Oil Co. moved within two games of first place with a 4-0 win over league-leader Clyde Culbertson.

In the other match, City Paint Store moved into a tie for fourth place with a 3-1 win over Griffin Drug Co.

Twenty-three of the 28 bowlers present Monday night posted 300-plus sets with all members of the Griffin Drug team accomplishing the feat.

Brackett combined lines of 150, 142 and 120 for his 412 total and John Dilling was high man for Dilling Heating and runner-up for night scoring honors with a 160 line and a 395 set. Tom Gamble placed second in scoring for Morrison Loan with a 354 set and

Plonk's Move Into Ladies' Loop Tie

Plonk Brothers Department Store defeated Oates-Henderson Shell four games to one Tuesday night to move into a tie for first place in the ladies' bowling league standings.

Heretofore first place Elsie's Beauty Shop lost three games to Kings Mountain Drug and the Outcasts and McGinnis Furniture split a four game match.

Leading the Plonk's charge was Evelyn Early with a 113 line and a 316 set with team captain Louise Dover chipping in a 298 set. High scorer for the losers was Jenny Oates' with a 104 line and a 290 set.

Jo Ann Rushing's 121 line and Peggy Ross's 309 set led Kings Mountain Drug to a 3-1 win over Elsie's. Team captain Lib Gault was high for the losers with a 118 line and a 328 set.

High scorer in the Outcasts - McGinnis Furniture match was Outcasts team captain Ethel Tignor with a 294 set, Wilhemina Sproule led the McGinnis Furniture ladies with a 118 line and a 291 set.

STANDINGS table with columns Team, W, L, Pct. and rows for Elsie's Beauty Shop, Plonk Brothers, Kings Mtn. Drug, Oates-Henderson, Outcasts, McGinnis-Furniture.

R-S Central, Errors, Beat Mountaineers, 3-0

R-S Central took advantage of four Kings Mountain errors and several mental mistakes to turn in a 3-0 baseball victory over the Mountaineers here Tuesday afternoon.

Sophomore righthander Darrell Whetstone went the distance for Coach Bill Bates' Mounties and was tagged with the loss. Whetstone scattered six hits, only one of them for extra bases. He struck out three batters and walked three.

Brinson Hill picked up the win with a two-hitter but showed wildness with five bases on balls and hitting two batters. Hill fanned nine Mountaineers.

Hill hurled four and two-thirds innings of no-hit ball until, with two out in the fifth, Mountaineer left fielder Tony Leigh smashed a double to the bank in left-center.

The Mountaineers' other hit was a single by Wayne Mullinax in the sixth. Mullinax was officially 1-for-1.

The visitors scored their winning run in the second inning when, with two outs, second baseman John Byers stole home. The Hilltoppers were attempting a double steal, and KM catcher Paul Gaffney threw to second, but shortstop Nelson Connor, unaware that there were two outs, cut the throw and returned it to home, too late to get the runner.

R-S Central pushed across two more unearned runs in the seventh with Connor, Chucky Gladden and Mike Smith making fielding errors during that frame.

Kings Mountain threatened in five of the seven frames but couldn't manage to push a run across. The Mountaineers reached second base several times but never got a runner on third.

Centerfielder Johnny Davis was Central's leading hitter with three singles in four trips to the plate. One of his hits was a bunt single, coming in the fifth inning. Central lead-off batter Lenay Walker had a 2-for-4 performance, his first inning double being the visitors' only extra base blow.

The win moved Central into a tie for third place in the South-west Conference standings with Shelby and the loss dropped the Mountaineers into a tie for fifth with Belmont.

The Mountaineers' other hit was a single by Wayne Mullinax in the sixth. Mullinax was officially 1-for-1.

The visitors scored their winning run in the second inning when, with two outs, second baseman John Byers stole home. The Hilltoppers were attempting a double steal, and KM catcher Paul Gaffney threw to second, but shortstop Nelson Connor, unaware that there were two outs, cut the throw and returned it to home, too late to get the runner.

R-S Central pushed across two more unearned runs in the seventh with Connor, Chucky Gladden and Mike Smith making fielding errors during that frame.

Kings Mountain threatened in five of the seven frames but couldn't manage to push a run across. The Mountaineers reached second base several times but never got a runner on third.

East, Lincolnton Share SWC Lead

Share Rutherford and Lincolnton surged to the top of the Southwest Conference baseball standings Tuesday afternoon, East defeating Shelby 5-2 at Forest City and Lincolnton whipping Chase 4-2 at Harris, N. C.

Both teams now hold identical 3-0 conference marks and are tied for first place.

It was Shelby's first loss of the year, the Lions now resting in a tie for third with R-S Central, which won a 3-0 victory over Kings Mountain.

Belmont defeated Cherryville 5-1 for its first win of the season and is now tied with KM for fifth place. Chase and Cherryville have yet to register a win. Both teams are 0-3 in conference play.

First place Clyde Culbertson won by forfeit over Alexander's Auto Parts. Ranny Blanton had a 136 line and a 377 set to lead the Culbertson six and Rod Housler had a 119 line and a 319 set for the losers.

John Dilling was top scorer for the Alley Cats with lines of 108, 117 and 115 for a 340 set. Only two weeks of action remain in the second half of the splitseason.

Clarence Plonk rolled a 136 line and a 376 set to lead his team to a 4-0 win over the Alley Cats in mixed bowling league action Thursday night.

First place Clyde Culbertson won by forfeit over Alexander's Auto Parts. Ranny Blanton had a 136 line and a 377 set to lead the Culbertson six and Rod Housler had a 119 line and a 319 set for the losers.

John Dilling was top scorer for the Alley Cats with lines of 108, 117 and 115 for a 340 set. Only two weeks of action remain in the second half of the splitseason.

Clarence Plonk rolled a 136 line and a 376 set to lead his team to a 4-0 win over the Alley Cats in mixed bowling league action Thursday night.

First place Clyde Culbertson won by forfeit over Alexander's Auto Parts. Ranny Blanton had a 136 line and a 377 set to lead the Culbertson six and Rod Housler had a 119 line and a 319 set for the losers.

John Dilling was top scorer for the Alley Cats with lines of 108, 117 and 115 for a 340 set. Only two weeks of action remain in the second half of the splitseason.

Clarence Plonk rolled a 136 line and a 376 set to lead his team to a 4-0 win over the Alley Cats in mixed bowling league action Thursday night.

BASEBALL STANDINGS (Through Tuesday) table with columns Team, W, L, Pct. and rows for East Rutherford, Lincolnton, Shelby, R-S Central, Kings Mountain, Belmont, Chase, Cherryville.

Layvees Lose First To Shelby, 11-6

Kings Mountain high school's junior varsity baseball team was defeated 11-6 in its first game of the season at Shelby Thursday afternoon.

Righthander Ken Mitchem was tagged with the loss. Bruce Jones was the team's leading hitter with two singles and Mitchem and catcher Ronnie Burton added one hit each.