

Mountaineers Prepare For Next Friday's Opener



Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

A Break-Even Year For Mountaineers?

Kings Mountain high school's football team has been at it rough for the last two weeks trying to get in shape for the 1966 season and especially its September 9th home opener against South Piedmont power Thomasville.

While some 50 odd candidates are working hard trying to nail down a starting position, the coaching staff is hard at work trying to build a team which can improve last year's 3-7 record.

Last year's team won only two conference games and finished sixth in the eight-team Southwest conference. Remember, East Rutherford and Lincolnton were SWC co-champs, followed by Shelby, Chase, R-S Central, KMHS, Belmont and Cherryville, in that order.

KMHS Head Coach Bill Bates says that if the quarterbacks come through that the Mounties will be better than last year. If the signal-callers come through, the Mounties can look for a 5-5 season, or possibly better.

The Mountaineers can look for a real tough game on Sept. 9, Thomasville, of course, lost a lot of boys last year but, like Shelby, the Thomasville eleven is good every year.

Kings Mountain's second game is against Cherryville. Don't take anything away from the Ironmen but look for a Mountaineer victory in that one.

Then, we've got a rough time for the next two weeks, playing Chase here on Sept. 23 and East Rutherford away on Sept. 30. East Rutherford is the choice of most SWC coaches to win the conference again this year.

The Cavaliers have lettermen back at almost every position. East's backfield is returning, that is, fullback Gary Dotson, halfbacks Doug Hauk and Lewis Jolley and quarterback Chipper Jones. Plus, a lot of boys are returning to that quick line that East had last season.

The fifth game finds the Mountaineers at Bessemer City and you can look for an almost sure win there. The Yellow Jackets beat the Mounties last year, 7-0, but Bessemer lost a lot of boys off that team which finished the year with a 9-1 record.

Still on the road, the Mounties go to Concord on Oct. 14, and there's another team which is always tough in the South Piedmont Conference. But this year Concord is in a rebuilding stage, however, you can't sell 'em short.

The following week the Mountaineers go to Shelby. Shelby Coach Gerald Allen seems to think he has one of the best starting teams this year as ever. However, the Shelby-KM game is always a good one, no matter which team has the advantage.

The Mountaineers return home on Oct. 28 to host R-S Central in the homecoming game. R-S Central is another team being pointed to as a possible conference champ so that homecoming game is going to be a tough one.

Then, KM hits the road for its final two games. On Nov. 4, the Mounties are at Belmont and on Nov. 11 at Lincolnton. Belmont should be greatly improved this season and Lincolnton, always tough, has probably the biggest backfield in the SWC. Led by all-conference junior Lester Rhinehart, the Lincs will again be a threat for the league title.

Bates Begins Fifth Year As KMHS Coach

Bill Bates is beginning his fifth year as head coach at Kings Mountain and through the first four seasons has compiled a 26-13-2 overall record and two conference titles.

The Mountaineers won the conference in 1963 and '64, finished fourth Bates' first year, 1962, and sixth last season.

Bates is almost sure who he'll start at the line positions but he is really worried about all backfield positions. He has the fullback slot narrowed down to either Paul Gaffney or Chip Crisp but is looking over six boys for the halfback posts and three at quarterback.

Don't be surprised if Bates goes with a sophomore quarterback this year. He has been pleased with the performance of little Joe Cornwell so far and, since seniors Tommy Finger and Tommy Goforth will both be starting on defense, there will be a lot of room left for work on offense.

The most promising boy in the KMHS camp so far has been senior end Charles Carroll. "He's looking better than anyone else on the team so far," says Bates. "The coaching staff is real pleased with him." Bates looks at Carroll as an all-conference prospect.

Carroll will most likely be joined on offense by Negro Richard Shank and on defense by Phillip Putnam, however, don't overlook junior Stan Laughter, who has looked good in practice so far.

Senior Kenny Plonk (255) has nailed down one tackle position and joining him will be either junior Charles Green or sophomore Stanley Brown. All three boys have shown much promise so you can look for plenty of action by them this year.

Chucky Gladden and Larry Patrick are the likely guard picks with junior J. C. Wright slated to see a lot of action. Senior Sandy Mauney is back at center with another senior, Eddie Bridges, being switched from tackle to give depth at that position.

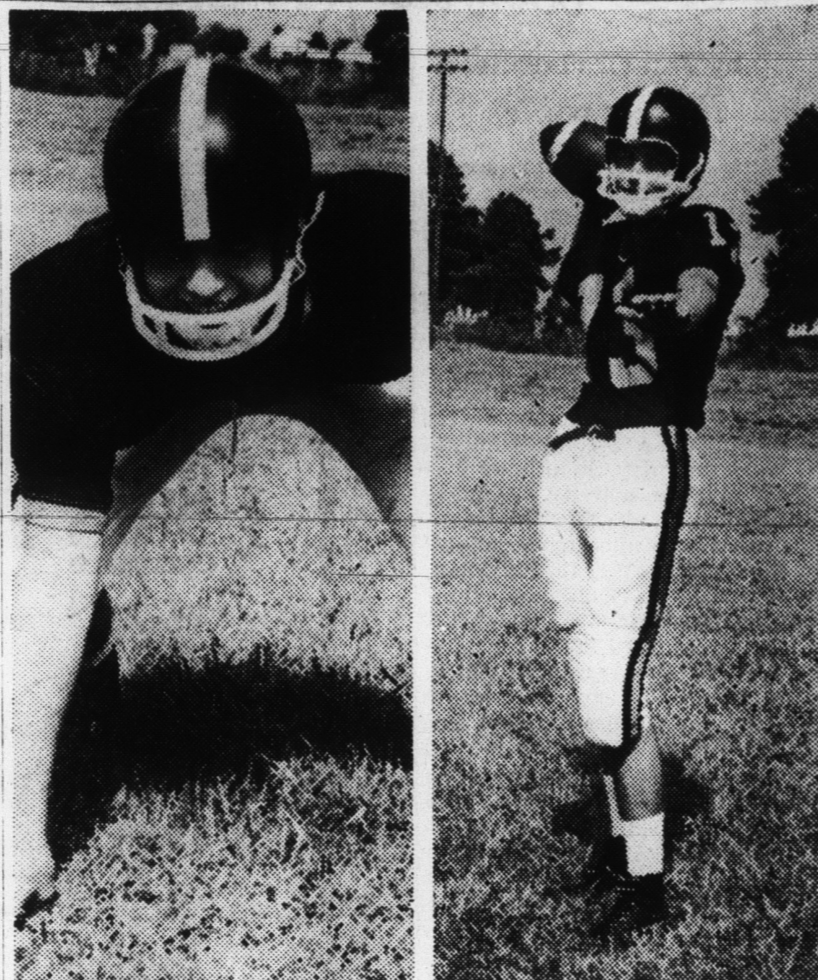
The big question is the two halfback positions. Bates is still trying to decide between Steve Spencer, Wayne Mullinax, Dennis Smith, Jerry Mitchem, Tony Leigh and Rocky Brown. Leigh and Brown, both seniors, are out for football for the first time and have looked good in practice.

Mitchem, a Negro who did some place-kicking for the Mounties last year, has shown the most improvement over the past season. Jerry has ran real well so far and could be starting come Sept. 9.

Smith is the only letterman returning at halfback but he saw most of his action last year on defense. He could be the choice for wingback. Spencer, a Negro, is a transfer from Washington high school and has ran well so far despite being bothered by an injury.

A big line and an inexperienced backfield is again the picture at KMHS. "Overall," says Bates, "we're bigger than last year but we might be a little slow. We could be better than last year and we might be just so-so."

"If our quarterbacks come through we'll be better, if not, about the same."



SENIOR HOPEFULS — Pictured above are two senior lettermen who are being counted on to carry much of the load of the Kings Mountain Mountaineers this season. Chucky Gladden, left, is returning to his guard position and Tommy Finger, right, has been running the first offensive unit and has also been named by Coach Bill Bates as a defensive starter.

Blanton's 392 Set Leads Bowling Win

Ranny Blanton rolled lines of 115, 126 and 151 for a 392 set to lead his team into first place after two weeks of action in the men's duckpin bowling league. Blanton's team won a 3-1 decision over the Richard Culbertson team Blanton's 151 line as well as 392 set are high marks for the new season.

In other action, Plonk Oil Co. moved into a tie for third place by beating Dilling Heating three games to one and the Clyde Culbertson team split a four-game set with Albert Brackett.

Clarence Plonk had a 136 line and a 360 set to lead his team's win. Richard Bridges chipped in a 340 set and John Dilling had a 126-356 for the losers, who led the league after the first week of bowling.

Tom Gamble had a 136-339 for the Brackett team while Clyde Culbertson rolled a 118 line and a 330 set for his team.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Ranny Blanton	6	2	.750
Dilling Heating	5	3	.625
Plonk Oil Co.	4	4	.500
Richard Culbertson	4	4	.500
Clyde Culbertson	3	5	.375
Albert Brackett	2	6	.250

SWC Football Gets Underway Friday Night

Southwest Conference football action gets underway Friday when Cherryville puts out the welcome mat to arch-rival Lincolnton in an 8 o'clock game.

All other SWC clubs, with the exception of Kings Mountain and Belmont, play non-conference games. Chase plays host to Salem, Shelby entertains 4-A Hunter Huss, East Rutherford goes to Morganton and R-S Central is at home against Marion.

KMHS and Belmont swing into action next Friday with the Mountaineers hosting Thomasville and Belmont entertaining Davie County.

Lincolnton Coach Von Ray Harris is building a new team this year but has two all-conference players returning. Halfback Lester Rhinehart, a 180-pound junior, will be the nucleus around which Harris will form his team.

Cherryville, which won only one game last year, beating Dallas, 12-0, will have another inexperienced team this year but the Ironmen are not to be taken lightly.

Most SWC coaches point to East Rutherford or R-S Central to win the conference crown. East Rutherford, which defeated Polk Central 49-0 last week, also has two returning all-conference players in the person of end Kelly Henson and fullback Gary Dotson, a 190-pounder and a hard-nosed defensive back, who scored three touchdowns in last week's game.

R-S Central, which came on

VFW Teener Fete Next Tuesday

Frank B. Glass Post 9811 VFW will be host to the VFW-sponsored Kings Mountain Teener All-Stars and their coaches at a steak supper on Tuesday, September 7th.

Supper will be served at 7 o'clock at the American Legion Building.

David Smith Wins King Award

David Smith of the Bur-Mill Little League baseball team became the second recipient of the Ellis King Sportsmanship Award Saturday night during an awards banquet at the American Legion.

The King Award is given annually to the Little League showing the best sportsmanship during the past season's play. Last year the award went to Dana Sarvis of the Optimist Club.

Other trophies given Saturday were: Little League champion, Optimist; Men's Softball champion, Grover; Men's Softball sportsmanship award, Grover; Women's Softball champion, Ranglers; Slow Pitch Tournament champ, the Bees; Teener Baseball champions, Margrace; and Tee League baseball champs, East.

Mike and Tony Ware were awarded a trophy for winning the City Doubles Tennis Tournament and Richard Etheridge won a trophy for winning the Singles tourney. Recreation Director Elmer Ross presented the tennis trophies and Teener League Commissioner Roy Pearson presented the other awards.

Chip Bridges Joins Catawba

SALISBURY, N. C. — Chip Bridges, of Kings Mountain, will be joining the Catawba College football team as pre-season practice is slated to get underway today. The first game for the Indians is September 17 with Mars Hill College. The Tribe opens his home season on September 24 with Carolina's Conference opponent, Newberry College.

Bridges, a tackle, is a 1966 graduate of Kings Mountain High School where he was coached by Bill Bates.

He will be joining nearly 60 other athletes seeking to nail down a berth on the 1966 Catawba ball club. Several key positions have to be filled this season, as graduation last June took experienced gridders from both the line and the backfield.

The Catawba ball club had a 7-3 record last season, its best in 18 years. It was co-champion of the conference in 1963 with a 6-1 league record. Last season, the team broke all conference marks in total offense and in passing and quarterback John Scott of Blackwood, N. J. set new league records in individual total offense and passing.

The Catawba head coach is Harvey Stratton; he is assisted by Don Maphis, line coach; Ray Oxendine, backfield coach; and William Faircloth, assistant line coach and scout.

strong last year to win its last five games after losing its first five, was hit lightly by graduation and has a letterman returning at every position.

The Hilltoppers, coached by Max Beam, will play their first conference game next Friday at Chase while the other SWC clubs play non-conference opponents.

DATE	TEAM	PLACE, TIME
Sept. 7	Noon Optimist	Home, 7:00
14	Stanley	Home, 7:00
21	S. A. B. C.	Home, 7:15
Oct. 4	Belmont	Away, 7:00
11	(Civitan (Ferguson Field)	Away, 4:45
19	Y. B. M. C. (Powell Park)	Away, 7:00
26	Cramerton	Away, 7:00
Nov. 2	Eagles Club	Home, 7:00

Finger Running At Quarterback; Backfield Is ?

With only one week remaining before the opening of the 1966 football season, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers are still hard at work preparing for their home opener against Thomasville.

The Mountaineers will swing into action next Friday night at City Stadium in an 8 o'clock game against the South Piedmont power. The Mounties stay at home the following two weeks for games against conference opponents Cherryville and Chase before hitting the road for the following month.

Coach Bill Bates now has senior letterman Tommy Finger running the first offensive team; however, Finger and senior Tommy Goforth will probably share the signal-calling as they did a year ago. Sophomore Joe Cornwell is still not to be counted out of the picture, though, as he has shown promise in practice sessions so far.

Bates has two sophomores, one junior and eight seniors in his starting lineup. Eight are returning lettermen and one of the others lettered at another school last year.

The backfield, which presents the biggest question mark for the Mountaineer coaching staff, is made up of Finger at quarterback, Steve Spencer at tailback, Wayne Mullinax at wingback and Paul Gaffney at fullback. Gaffney lettered here last season as a guard and Spencer lettered at Washington High.

Charles Carroll, 6'1", 166 pounds, will be joined at offensive end by either Phillip Putnam, a senior letterman, or Richard Shank, a senior who just barely missed out lettering last year. Carroll will also start on defense with either Putnam or junior Stanley Laughter.

At offensive tackles will be senior Kenny Plonk (255) and sophomore Stanley Brown (230). Brown will also start on defense where he will be joined by junior Charles Green, who is also slated to see much action on offense.

Senior lettermen Chucky Gladden and Larry Patrick are the probable starters at guards, however, scheduled to see a lot of action there are J. C. Wright, a junior letterman, and Bert Smith who lettered last season at Compact. Smith is just now getting back to practice after sitting out over a week with a knee injury.

Senior Sandy Mauney returns to his starting center position where he will get some assistance this year by senior Eddie Bridges, a letterman who had from tackle. Both boys are slated to see a lot of action on defense.

Bates is counting on Dennis Smith, Tony Leigh, Jerry Mitchem, Rocky Brown and Chip Crisp to supply the needed depth to his backfield positions. Crisp is playing fullback behind Gaffney and the other four boys are halfbacks Brown, a senior out for football for the first time, will probably be a starter in the defensive secondary.

Crisp and Mitchem will do most of the Mountaineer place-kicking and either Crisp or Gaffney will do the punting.

With the exception of the final two games of the season at Belmont and Lincolnton, all Mountaineer contests will be played at 8 o'clock. Kings Mountain's homecoming game is scheduled for October 28 against R-S Central.

Jaycee Midgets Open Season Here Wednesday

Midget football will get underway for the Kings Mountain Jaycees Wednesday night at City Stadium when the locals play host to Noon Optimist of Gastonia.

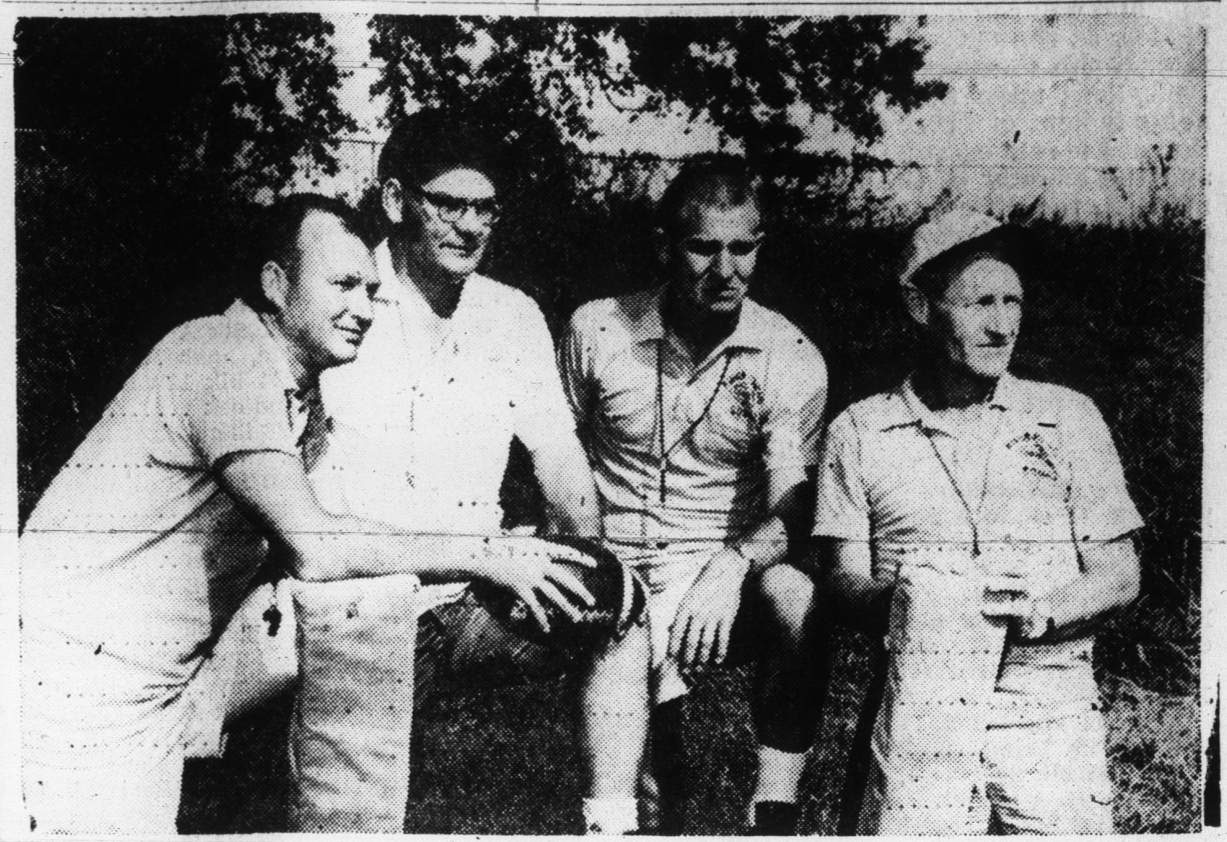
Jaycee Coach Bill Grissom urges all football fans to support the midget program this fall.

Game time for Wednesday's contest is 7 p.m. and admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

The locals will play their first three games of the season here. After Wednesday's game with Noon Optimist, the Jaycees play Stanley on Sept. 14 and S. A. B. C. (Salvation Army Boys Club) on Sept. 21.

The midgets will play an eight-game schedule with their final game being played here on Nov. 2 against Eagles Club.

The complete schedule follows:



COACHING STAFF — Pictured above is the Kings Mountain high school coaching staff which is currently getting its team in shape for next Friday's opener here with South Piedmont opponent Thomasville. Pictured above, left to right, are Bill Bates, Bill Cashion, Bob Hussey and Don Parker.

Goforth, Putnam Leading Hitters On All-Star Team

City Slow-Pitch Tourney Enters Second Round

The City Recreation double-elimination softball tournament moved into the second stage last night. In games tonight, Matheny Hardware of Forest City plays Gastonia Textiles, Southwell Ford meets Blacksburg and Cleveland Lumber plays Craftspun.

In games Monday night, KM Recreation beat Southwell Ford 13-11, Fiber beat Blacksburg 17-0 and Magnolia defeated Craftspun 15-2. Tuesday night, Danoca beat Cleveland Lumber 9-4.

Matheny Hardware defeated Margrace 6-3 and Gastonia Textiles blasted Gastonia, 14-0.

Mike Smith's 4-for-5 plate performance led KM Recreation's 13-11 win over Southwell Ford. Camp's 3-for-4 showing led Fiber over Blacksburg and Carl Phillips had three home runs in four times at bat to lead Magnolia's 15-2 victory over Craftspun.

Wednesday night's games had Danoca paired against American Threads of Clover, S. C., at 6:00, KM Recreation against Fiber at 7:00 and Magnolia against the Bees at 8:00.

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playoff in Hershey, Pa. Kasules, who beat Lebanon Valley, Pa., 3-2 in the championship game, posted two of his team's four victories during the tourney.

Goforth Has Top Average; Putnam Leads Regulars

Pitcher Rocky Goforth and shortstop Gene Putnam paced the Kings Mountain Teener League all-stars in hitting during tournament play which carried the locals to the National semi-finals in Hershey, Pa.

Goforth, who posted a 4.2 record on the mound, led the Mounties in hitting with a .389 average compiled of seven hits in 18 times at bat. Rocky's two pitching losses were by one-run margins. In the Hershey Tourney, the little southpaw twirled a one-hitter and a two-hitter.

Putnam led all regulars in hitting with a .375 average with 18 hits in 48 times at bat. Putnam also tied for second in runs scored with 10. Outfielder Joe Cornwell led in that department with 16.

Following Putnam in hitting was Wayne Mullinax with a .285 mark and Mike Smith with a .277 average. Cornwell joined the four others as the only players to top the .250 batting mark. Cornwell had a .259 average with 12 hits in 47 trips to the plate.

Goforth and Darrell Whetstone gained all the pitching decisions. Whetstone posted a 5-2 record with both his losses coming in the National tournament. Goforth led in the strikeouts department with 48.

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PITCHER, HITTER — Pictured above is southpaw Rocky Goforth who led the Kings Mountain Teener all-stars in hitting this year as well as leading the pitching department in strikeouts with 48. Rocky posted two victories in the National Teener Tournament in Hershey, Pa., to bring his tournament record to 4-2. Both his losses were by one run.

DECORATING TIPS By GENE TIMMS

DO YOU LIKE IT? When shopping for furniture or accessories you are eventually faced with that moment of decision when you must make a final choice between two different sofas or among several attractive lamps.

In making this choice you may be asking yourself, "Which is the latest style?" or "What will my friends think of it?" But you should ask yourself, "What do I really like best?" That question, and not the other two, should be the criteria in deciding which piece to buy.

Very often a shopper will bring along a friend to help her in making this decision. This can be good or bad. But realize the danger that you may wind up with something that your friend likes but which you are not completely sold on. The final choice should be yours.

This is especially important in shopping for furniture because furniture is one of the most permanent things you buy — it's something you keep for a long time and it's something you live with every day.

That's one reason why we think you'll like shopping in our store. We try to create a friendly and unhurried atmosphere where you can relax, take your time and carefully select the pieces you really like and want for your home. Come in and see for yourself.

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