

# Cagers Open Here Friday Against Lowell, Kings

## Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

### R-S Central, East SWC Cage Favorites

The 1967 Southwestern Conference basketball race is going to be another tight one but right now I'd have to say that the R-S Central boys and the East Rutherford girls have the teams to beat.

The way I see it, this year's race is going to be so tight that any team will be capable of knocking off the top club on any given night.

Kings Mountain Coach Bob Hussey has said that the "East Rutherford girls will be in a class by themselves," and I'll have to go along with that. The Lady Cavaliers should be a shoo-in for the conference championship and I look for Kings Mountain, R-S Central, Chase and Lincolnton to be battling it out for tournament berths.

Coach Hussey's Mountaineers have the largest number of starters returning but East Rutherford would be my choice because of the return of two girls — roving guard Shannon Shuford and forward Candy Albergine—who both made All-Conference last season and finished high in the conference scoring parade.

I give R-S Central the nod in the boys' race because of the return of All-Conference forward Joe Hill, plus the return of '66 starters Thomas Burnette, David Luckadoo, David Skipper and Johnny Davis.

However, I look for East Rutherford, Kings Mountain and Shelby, and possibly Belmont, to give the Hilltoppers a run for their money. If all of Kings Mountain's boys stay eligible, the Mountaineers might have the team to beat, but if KMHS has some boys to "flunk out", it will hurt their chances of capturing a loop title.

Kings Mountain Coach Don Parker has been through 23 cage seasons and has captured only one conference championship since joining the SWC. That was in 1965 and Parker's hungry for another.

### Cleveland Transfers To Help Shelby

Transfers from Cleveland High School will help Shelby Coach Lloyd Little form another team to offer stiff competition to the other seven SWC schools. Little lost four starters off last year's team which won the conference championship but the addition of transfers from the local Negro school will put Shelby right back into the thick of things again this year.

Forward Mike McDaniel is the only returning starter off last year's Shelby squad, however, lettermen Mike Young and Earl Lutz are being counted on to help out a lot in '67.

Forward Tommy Tate is the only returning starter at Belmont, and Tate, Tony Chaney and guard Frank Elmore are the only returning lettermen but Belmont, as usual, will be a contender for the SWC title. Belmont, too, will be strengthened by the addition of a Negro school, Reid High.

Chase, last year's cellar-dwellers, always throws a surprise against the other teams and might offer a threat this year. In 1965, when the Trojans were picked to finish in second division, Chase almost won the championship, finishing only one-half game behind KMHS with a 12-2 conference record.

Lincolnton lost five starters but will have a big team with juniors Jerry Messer (6'3"), Jim Pope (6'2"), Roy Dellinger (6'2") and Johnny Lineberger (6'1") heading the list of '67 prospects. Lettermen Richard Hovis, Wade Beam and Terry Smith head Cherryville prospects as Coach Bill Hinson guns for a second straight winning season.

The R-S Central girls lost two All-Conference performers but have talent as forwards Diane Daniels and Elaine Scoggins, along with guards Mary Ann Lovelace, Wilma Turner and Sandra Thorne return.

Debbie Keener, Jane Kiser, Rita Proctor and Lynda Costner head the Lincolnton prospects while returning starters Mary Beam, Vicki Bumgardner, Vicki Brown and Ann Hardin hope to put the Cherryville lassies in contention.

Joan Cline, a former cage whiz at Waco High School and former Shelby Coach, has taken over the coaching duties at Cherryville. The Lady Ironmen posted a 10-10 overall record last year and were 5-9 in conference play.

All-Conference roving guard Nancy Tate, a junior, and guards Lola Humphries and Edith Cole will make Chase a contender again and Shelby will be strengthened by some Cleveland transfers, so don't count those two teams out.

Shelby Coach Kathryn Reynolds has two top performers back from last year's team, forward Peggy Williams and guard Gentry Miller. The Shelby lassies finished in the league cellar last year, so they can't do any worse this time.

### Both KM Teams To Finish In Top Four

Both KMHS teams should finish in the top four and get a tournament berth unless some players do happen to be ruled ineligible. The Mountaineers have a year of experience, plus three girls who did outstanding jobs on last year's jayvee team who will give added depth. The girls have super-star Sharon Gold back, and if Kathy Plonk, Hilda Lowery and Linda Childers can live up to Coach Hussey's expectations of them, the Mountaineettes could give East a run for its money.

Coach Parker's Mountaineers have really been strengthened by the addition of George Adams, a 6-5 forward from Compact. If Adams stays on the team, then he, along with Ken Mitchem, Nelson Connor, Larry Burton and Steve Spencer, plus the Mounties' reserve strength, will put KM in contention for the SWC title.

**FINAL TALLY** — Here's my prediction for the outcome of the 1967 SWC boys' race: 1. R-S Central 2. East Rutherford 3. Kings Mountain 4. Shelby 5. Belmont 6. Chase 7. Lincolnton 8. Cherryville.

And here's my prediction for the outcome of the 1967 girls' race: 1. East Rutherford 2. Kings Mountain 3. R-S Central 4. Chase 5. Lincolnton 6. Shelby 7. Cherryville 8. Belmont.

## KM At Bessemer Tuesday Night

### Bessemer Team Picked Tough In Little Seven



**COACHES** — Pictured above are Kings Mountain high school basketball coaches Bob Hussey (top) and Don Parker (bottom) who send their cagers into the 1966-67 season here Friday night against Lowell and Kings College. Hussey, girls' coach, begins his fourth year as Mountaineer mentor while Parker begins his 24th year as Mountaineer coach.

### 25 Seek Starting Roles On JV Team

Twenty-five Kings Mountain high school freshmen and sophomores are seeking starting roles on the 1966-67 junior varsity basketball squad which begins season play on December 9 at Lowell.

Coach Bill Bates said the jayvees have practice games scheduled so far with Lowell and York (Dec. 20). The jayvees begin conference play on Jan. 5.

Coach Bates started practice Monday and has been running the jayvees through drills each evening at 6:00 at the KMHS gym.

Bates has not decided on a starting lineup as of yet but taps sophomores Alan Hambricht (guard), Mike Smith (guard) and Richard Etheridge (forward), along with freshmen Steve Gladden (forward), Otis Cole (center), Phillip Francis (guard) and Arthur Hood (forward) as top prospects.

The jayvees girls haven't started practice yet.

### Plonk's Lose Three To Minute Grill

Fourth-place Minute Grill became the first team to come close to shutting-out Plonk Brothers in ladies' bowling competition Tuesday night by taking a 3-1 decision over the league leaders.

The loss to Minute Grill dropped Plonk's lead to 10 games over second place Oates-Henderson Shell, which won a 3-1 decision over bottom place Griffin Drug. In the other match Tuesday, third place Victory Chevrolet won three games off fifth place Kings Mountain Drug.

Pat Barrett, Barbara Miller and Betty Fite each had 101 lines and Barrett and Miller added 288 sets to lead the Minute Grill win. Margaret Wilson had a 124 line and Lib Gault added a 305 set for the losers.

Jenny Oates claimed high scoring honors for the night with a 119 line and a 344 set which led Oates-Henderson to a 3-1 win over Griffin Drug. Ethel Tignor added a 302 set for the winners and Charly Tignor had a 115 line and a 305 set for the losers.

Victory Chevrolet's three-game win over KM Drug was led by Betty Huldener who rolled a 109 line and a 311 set. High scorer for the losers was Peggy Ross who had a 108 line and a 287 set.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Plonk Brothers	43	9	.827
O-H Shell	33	19	.635
Victory Chevrolet	29	23	.558
Minute Grill	23	29	.442
Kings Mtn. Drug	15	37	.277
Griffin Drug	13	39	.250

Kings Mountain high school cagers hit the road for the first time Tuesday night when they travel to Bessemer City to play a double-header with their Little Seven rivals.

The girls' game is scheduled to get underway with the boys' match immediately following.

The two Bessemer City teams will be strong opposition for the KMHS squads since Yellow Jacket Coach Jack Parker has most of his players back and girls' Coach Judy Joy lost but one of last year's performers.

Each Kings Mountain club won twice over its Bessemer opponent a year ago, however, the wins were by narrow margins. In fact, in the second non-conference meeting between the two clubs, both the girls' and boys' contests went into overtime with the KMHS clubs winning by a mere point.

Bessemer Coach Parker lost three starters off last year's team, forwards Sonny Jones and Frank Dameron and high-scoring center Mike Albright. But he has guards Richard Kincaid and Jody Long returning, plus several other boys who have shown promise in pre-season drills.

Coach Joy has five starters returning from last year's team which finished 5-5 in Little Seven Conference play. Only forward Vernell Causby does not return.

Returning are high scoring forwards Gwyn Yarborough, Debbie Hager and Kathy Elmore, plus guards Linda Picklesimer and Mary Player. Other returnees are Kathy Schronce, Linda Linder, Debbie Milwood, Vicki Deck, Donna Isenhour, Ann Wiggins and Janet Albright.

The two Bessemer clubs will return the visit here on December 16. After hitting Bessemer Tuesday night, KMHS has pre-Christmas games with Holbrook (boys), Kings College (girls), Bessemer and York. The KM boys will then play York on January 3 before opening conference play on Jan. 13 at Lincolnton.

### Duke Adds Wake, SC To '67 Card

DURHAM — Atlantic Coast Conference rivals Wake Forest and South Carolina return to Duke University's 1967 football schedule, and Michigan, Army, Georgia Tech and Navy will also be met according to the schedule announced this week by Duke Athletic Director E. M. Cameron.

With Wake Forest and South Carolina returning after a one year absence Duke will meet six ACC opponents, thereby being eligible for the championship.

The 1967 opener will be staged at Duke Stadium against the Demon Deacons.

Wake Forest, South Carolina, Michigan and Army replace Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, West Virginia and Maryland. The Terrapins are the only school which will not be met by Duke in conference warfare.

The Blue Devils will be meeting Michigan for only the third time in history. The Big Ten eleven holds a 2-0 record over Duke, winning 31-6 in 1960 and 28-14 in 1961.

When Duke travels to West Point, N. Y. to face the Cadets, it will be seeking its second straight victory over the service school. Duke took a 6-3 thriller in 1964 on the strength of Mark Caldwell's pair of field goals. The win snapped a 10-year Army unbeaten streak at Michie Stadium.

The battle with the Midshipmen of Navy will be staged at the Oyster Bowl in Norfolk, Va. Duke defeated the Middles 9-7 in 1966 and will be seeking its seventh victory of the series which also included five ties.

Duke and Georgia Tech will be meeting for the 34th time in history in one of the South's oldest and most fiercely contested rivalries. The Techmen have captured the last six meetings and Duke will be seeking to end that skid.

Home opponents in 1967 will include Wake Forest, South Carolina, Clemson and arch-rival North Carolina. The Blue Devils hold a series edge over each of these teams in addition to the two other conference foes, they will meet on their road.



THESE EIGHT LETTERMEN LEAD KMHS INTO 1966-67 SEASON HERE FRIDAY

### Duke Opens '67 Cage Season Friday Vs. VPI

DURHAM — There has been a lot of noise about Duke's two-game series at UCLA, but the Blue Devils are concerned right now about two games before that!

Starting with the opener Friday night in Charlotte against Virginia Tech, Duke must compete against two strong contenders before their trip West the second weekend of the season.

"I think one of the biggest mistakes we could make would be to think ahead to UCLA because we have two tough games with VPI and Michigan first," Coach Vic Bubas notes.

After opening against Virginia Tech, Duke returns home for a clash with Michigan, a team the Devils edged in overtime last season at Detroit, 100-93.

VPI, Bubas notes, went to the NIT tournament last season and has about everybody back. Among them is 6-11 center Bob King, a starter now for two seasons. He is one of eight lettermen returning.

Duke ran up a 112-79 triumph against VPI in Greensboro last season to inaugurate a campaign that found the Blue Devils finishing third in the NCAA final round of four.

After that, however, Virginia Tech won 19 of their remaining 22 games and Bubas quickly notes the Gobblers beat "some awfully good teams on the road." In addition to having several good returnees, Bubas points out they also have some outstanding freshman players who have become members of the varsity, including 6-4 Chris Ellis, the star of the frosh team last campaign.

Bubas says that a lot of Blue Devils are going to play this season and that enthusiasm in practice has been better than at anytime in his seven seasons here.

"Our people form the most compatible personalities I've had in that time, too," Bubas said. "If we play according to our potential we can be in the NCAA tournament again."

Duke, defending Atlantic Coast Conference and Regional Champ, has been picked to win the ACC title for the fifth time under Bubas.

Guard Bob Verga, a second team All-America a year ago, center Mike Lewis and forward Bob Riedy form the nucleus of the team.

### SINGLETARY'S MOVE

The Milton Singletary family has occupied the I. Ben Goforth, Jr., residence on South Goforth street. Mr. Singletary is installment loan manager of First Citizens Bank & Trust Company and was recently transferred to Kings Mountain from Fayetteville.

### Richard Culbertson's 426 Set Leads Team Into Tie For First

Richard Culbertson combined lines of 147, 123 and 156 for a 426 set Monday night to lead his team to a 4-0 win over Albert Brackett and into a tie with Ranny Blanton for first place in the men's duckpin bowling league standings.

Culbertson's 426 set places his name atop the list of bowlers trying for the first-half high set award.

All five members of the winning team rolled 300-plus sets with Ronnie Culbertson placing second with a 341 total. Ranny Blanton, Red Morrison and Steve Culbertson added 327, 308

and 305 sets respectively for the winners while Brackett was high for the losers with a 123 line and a 339 set.

The Culbertsons had a 1707 team set, which was also high for the week. In the first match, Richard's five had a 628 team set with the lowest line a 111. They added a 525 team set in the second game and a 554 in the third to complete their total.

Clyde Culbertson jumped all the way from fifth to third place after winning a 4-0 decision over Plonk Oil Co. Clyde Culbertson was high scorer in the match with a 142 line and a 364 set, Lee Norville added a 347 set for the winners while Aud Tignor had a 127 line and Clarence Plonk chipped in a 338 set for the losers.

Dilling Heating moved within one game of fifth place by taking a 3-1 win over heretofore first place Ranny Blanton. Bill Mullinax's 149 line and 364 set led the winners in scoring. Team captain Bob Herndon and John Dilling added 344 and 339 sets respectively for the winners while Blanton was high for his team with a 128 — 345.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Ranny Blanton	33	27	.550
Richard Culbertson	33	27	.550
Clyde Culbertson	30	30	.500
Plonk Oil Co.	29	31	.483
Albert Brackett	28	32	.467
Dilling Heating	27	33	.450

### Grid Banquet Tonight 7:00

The pee wee, midget and Kings Mountain high school football teams will be honored at a banquet tonight (Thursday) at 7:00 at the Legion building. The fete is being sponsored by the City Recreation Department.

The midget team will give trophies for the "Outstanding Back" and "Outstanding Linebacker" and also a "Sportsmanship Award."

All three teams being honored tonight posted winning seasons during the past season. The midgets, coached by Bill Grissom, posted an overall 6-3-1 record, while the KMHS Mountaineers were 5-5 and the pee wee team was 3-3. The pee wee team was coached this year by Jim Littlejohn and Perry Champion.

Gardner-Webb College Coach Norman Harris will speak to the boys and KMHS Coach Bill Bates will show two films.

**METER RECEIPTS**  
Parking meter receipts for the week ending Wednesday totaled \$227.50, including \$129.40 from on-street meters, \$78 in fines, and \$20.35 from off-street meters. Receipts from the Mountain - Cherokee off-street parking lot for the month totaled \$68.60.

### Mitchem, Adams, Burton, Spencer, Connor To Start

Kings Mountain opens its 1966-67 basketball season Friday night when Holbrook of Lowell and the girls of Kings College pay a visit to the KMHS gymnasium.

Mountaineer Coach Don Parker has good news for the KMHS fans. He completed his eligibility list Tuesday and everyone is eligible, however, he warns that they're eligible only through the first two conference games.

The six week's grading period started this week and continues only through the first couple weeks of January, so the eligibility question will come up again then.

Parker's all set with a starting lineup but will probably experiment a lot. Set to run first string for the Mountaineers Friday against Holbrook are forwards George Adams and Ken Mitchem, center Larry Burton and guards Nelson Connor and Steve Spencer.

Three of the boys — Mitchem, Connor and Burton — were starters last year and finished 1-2-3 in the final scoring. Adams lettered last year at Compact and Spencer played jayvee basketball in Washington, D. C.

Burton and Connor are the only seniors in the starting lineup. Spencer and Adams are juniors and Mitchem is a sophomore.

While Connor (5'5") and Spencer (5'9") will be the backcourt men, Parker's expecting Mitchem (6'1"), Adams (6'3") and Burton (6'5") to grab the rebounds. He's worried about them on defense, though. He reports that in practice Monday, the first unit left several holes in the defense, allowing the offensive team to get off good shots.

Presently running on the second unit are guards Tommy Finger and Gene Putnam, center Bert Smith, and forwards Luico Wilson and Stanley Laughter, and they're all slated to see a lot of action this year. Three of those boys — Finger, Laughter and Wilson — are six feet or over while Putnam and Smith each stand about 5'10".

Holbrook, always tough in the Little Seven Conference, lost three starters off last year's team and lost a key reserve because of poor grades. Tim Phillips and Chuck Green were lost by graduation and high scorer Jimmy Horton, plus, number one reserve Everett Reid were ruled ineligible.

The Holbrook team has a new coach — Don Ratchford — who replaces Porter Griggs, who is now a teacher at Central Elementary School in Kings Mountain.

Johnny McKenzie, a 6'2" forward, and Wilbur Howard, a 6'3" center, are the top prospects on the Lowell squad which will probably cause some trouble in the Little Seven race.

Should the Mountaineers defeat Lowell, it will be the first for a KM varsity boys' squad, victory ever in the KMHS gym. Last year, Kings Mountain, after winning five of its first eight ballgames, lost 12 straight games and finished with a 5-15 overall record and in seventh place in the Southwest Conference. All of the Mounties' home victories were in the Central gymnasium.

While the Mountaineers will be after their first victory on the home court, Coach Bob Hussey's Mountaineettes will be up against a college team, Kings of Charlotte.

The Mountaineettes will have only one senior — Hilda Lowery — in the starting lineup. Slated to start with Lowery are juniors Sharon Gold, Kathy Plonk, Libby Tedder and Joy Roberts, and sophomore Linda Childers.

Gold led the SWC in scoring last year with a 16.9 average while making All-Conference. Hussey expects Plonk, Lowery and Childers to carry part of the scoring load this year with Tedder and Roberts set to handle the guard duties.

Also being counted on by Hussey to help out are sophomores Vicki Turner, Debbie Plonk, Nancy Reynolds and Frances Dilling. Turner and Plonk will see most of their action as rovers or forwards while Reynolds and Dilling will probably be stationary guards.

The girls' game is scheduled to get underway at 7:00 with the boys' contest getting started around 8:15. Tuesday, the two KMHS clubs go to Bessemer City. Next Friday, the boys travel to Holbrook and the girls pay a visit to Kings.

**LEGION MEETING**  
Regular December meeting of Otis D. Green Post 155, American Legion, will be held in the clubroom Thursday night at 7 o'clock. Refreshments will be served following the business session.