

Teeners Gain National Recognition During 1966

Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

Carolina ACC's And South's Hope

The University of North Carolina basketball team looks as if it will be the Atlantic Coast Conference's and the South's hope this year in the NCAA basketball playoffs.

Coach Dean Smith's Tar Heels own a perfect 6-0 slate right now and UNC fans are already comparing the team to the 1957 squad which won 32 games.

Carolina, a young team with two sophomores and two juniors in the starting lineup, seems to be the one team in the country that could stand a chance of beating the talented UCLA Bruins.

UCLA, the nation's number one team in both the AP and UPI polls, has already humiliated one ACC power, Duke. The Blue Devils, with Coach Vic Bubas sporting one of the best (if not THE best) records in the nation, have had their ups and downs this year. Duke lost to Virginia Tech in the season's opener, then beat Michigan, but lost two straight when it went to the West Coast to meet UCLA.

Carolina is currently rated number two in the UPI poll and third in the AP ratings. The UPI is considered by most as the real rating because of the fact that its members are coaches, and they're supposed to be the best qualified when it comes to spotting real talent.

Carolina was said to have had the best scoring combination in the country, last season with Bob Lewis and Larry Miller. Miller, a junior, is currently stripping the nets for the highest average on the UNC squad while Lewis has dropped to the team's second spot.

But this year the Tar Heels have height, also. Sophomore center Rusty Clark (6'11") is controlling the boards for UNC and with scorers like Lewis and Miller and guard Dick Grubar, who needs more?

Carolina undoubtedly has the best team in the ACC and this part of the South, so there's a good chance that the Tar Heels might get to go against UCLA.

There's another team that's loaded with height and young ball players. The big man, sophomore Lew Alcindor, is leading the nation in scoring (average-wise) and is being regarded as one of the best prospects since the likes of Wilt Chamberlain and Oscar Robertson.

Duke has held the big man to less points than any other team the Bruins have played. The Blue Devils held Alcindor to only 19 points in their first meeting. However, Duke had three men guarding the big boy and that left other members of the UCLA squad open.

Don't Count The Devils' Out, Though

Duke has had its problems during the early-going, but remember... Vic Bubas is one of the smartest coaches in the business and you can bet that he'll have his boys in the thick of things all the way.

The Blue Devils have the rebounding strength (most of the time) with men like Bob Riedy, Mike Lewis and Warren Chapman, and have one of the best scorers and backcourt men in the nation in senior guard Bob Verga.

Verga cashed in on some second and third team All-America honors last year and he'll be one of the top prospects for a first team berth when voting-time comes around this year.

Of course, a lot of things can happen before time for the ACC tournament, but you can tap UNC and Duke as the top contenders for the championship right now, with Maryland and possibly Wake Forest and South Carolina having an outside chance.

DAVIDSON, TOO, FINDS GOING ROUGH... A little closer home, Davidson's Wildcats, usually the power of the Southern Conference have also found the going rough in the early stages.

The Cats even lost to George Washington so it looks like West Virginia might be the winner in the SC this time. Coach Lefty Driesell lost ace Dick Snyder off last year's championship team and the Wildcats were hurt even worse when talented Bobby Lane chose not to play this season.

Big men Rodney Knowles and Tom Youngdale have looked good in spots but bad in others and it has been sophomore Scott Sinnock who has led the way most of the season.

The Cats are off to their worse start in a long time, and it looks like a rebuilding year for Driesell.

A Little Closer Home Comes Good News

Even a little closer home than Davidson, but yet a junior college, is Gardner-Webb, but the Bulldogs have really been pouring on the steam so far.

Coach Eddie Holbrook's charges finished pre-Christmas play with a perfect 10-0 record and the championship in the first annual Gardner-Webb Holiday Tournament.

Led by the likes of Sonny Johnson and Drew Bridges, the Bulldogs have had little trouble in disposing of their first ten foes. Coach Holbrook looked for no better than a 500 season at the end of 1966 play, but his young boys have come through.

You can look for something from these boys for the remainder of this year and next season, anyway.

Optimist - Timms, Cash Grocery Tied For Lead

Optimist Timms won two games during the past week to move into a tie for first place in the City Recreation Basketball League race with Cash Grocery.

O-Timms defeated Cash Grocery in Tuesday night's opener, 74-72. Richard Gold led the winners in scoring with 28 points while Tommy Barrett led Cash Grocery with a game high of 37.

Jimmy Cloninger, Mike Ware and Vernon Carson chipped in 13, 12 and 11 respectively for the winners while Jack Barrett was the only other Cash Grocery player in double figures with 11.

The scoring was nip and tuck all the way with O-Timms holding a 41-37 lead at halftime. In Tuesday's nightcap, Lithium registered its first win of the

Team	W	L	Pct.
Cash Grocery	2	1	.667
O-Timms	2	1	.667
Meat Cutters	1	1	.500
All-Stars	1	1	.500
Fulton's	1	2	.333
Lithium	1	2	.333

By GARY STEWART
The Frank B. Glass Post 9811 V. F. W. Teener Baseball team brought the biggest honor to Kings Mountain during the athletic year 1966.

The local Teeners won the state and Area IV Eastern Regionals Championships and finished third in the Teener World Series in Hershey, Pa. Only National Champion Elgin, Ill., and '65 champ, Lebanon Valley, Pa., finished higher in the National tourney.

Before getting in the North Carolina finals, Kings Mountain defeated Cherryville twice in the district playoffs. The locals then won two straight and got a bye before being beaten by Gastonia in the semi-finals of the state tourney.

The loss to Gastonia threw KM into the finals against Coach Russ Bergman's Gaston County lads, who have dominated the N. C. Teener scene until recently.

A dramatic eighth-inning home run by Wayne Mullinax gave

Kings Mountain a 6-4 victory over Gastonia for the state title. Right-hand pitcher Darrell Whetstone won the state tourney most valuable player award with Mullinax finishing second in the balloting.

The locals then went northward for the National finals. KM lost its first match, a 5-4 setback by Bellefonte, Pa. But the Post 9811 boys came back and won consecutive games against Pittman, N. J., Pierre, S. D., and River Rouge, Mich., before losing out to Lebanon Valley in the semi-finals.

Southpaw pitcher Rocky Goforth was outstanding in the National tourney for Post 9811. Rocky hurled two complete games, giving up only three hits while striking out 15.

Shortstop Gene Putnam was the team's leading hitter throughout the entire tournament play. Other members of the Teener club were Ken Mitchem, Mike Smith, Clarence Ash, Eddie Black, Joe Cornwell, Geep How-

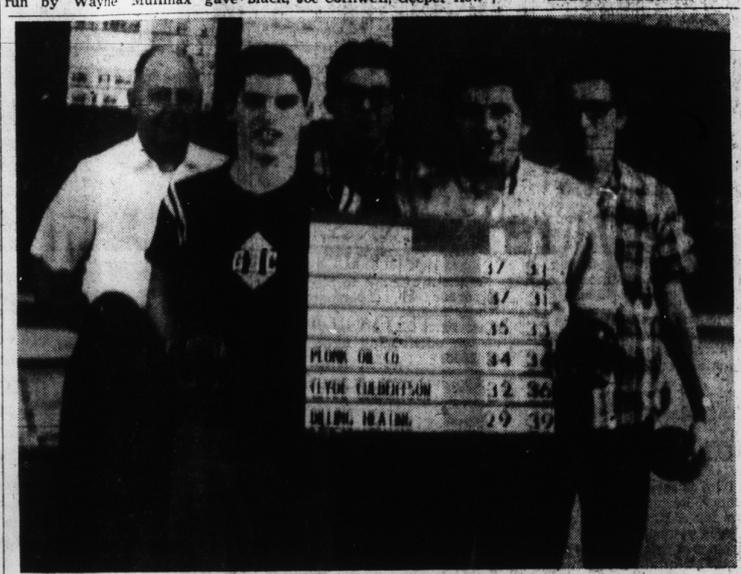
ard, Glenn Perkins, Jack Bell, Corky Fulton, Larry Carroll, and Johnny Reynolds.

Coaches for the championship team were Roy Pearson, Bob Moore and Warren Goforth and baboys were Bobby Moore and Durham White.

The 15 all-stars were chosen from the four teams which were entered in regular-season play. Those teams included Margrace, V.F.W., Spangler's Concrete and Craftsman. Margrace won the regular season championship with a perfect 9-0 record with Craftsman finishing second.

Whetstone, Mullinax, Ash, Mitchem, Putnam and Bell were all members of the Margrace club. Moore was head coach of Margrace, which captured its second straight league title.

Only two other major sports teams in Kings Mountain posted winning seasons during 1966, the American Legion baseball team and the Kings Mountain high school varsity football team.



FIRST HALF BOWLING CHAMPS — Pictured above is the Richard Culbertson team which won two-of-three games off Ranny Blanton last Monday night to capture the first half championship in the local men's duckpin bowling league. Pictured, left to right, are K. E. (Red) Morrison, Steve Culbertson, Ranny Blanton, Richard Culbertson, and Ronnie Culbertson. (Photo by Gary Stewart).

Triple-Header Tuesday Night

A triple header is on tap Tuesday as Kings Mountain high school basketball teams swing back into action.

It all starts at 5:00 when Coach Bob Hussey's girls take on Our Lady of Mercy, a private girls' school in Charlotte.

Following the girls' game, action will continue at 7:00 when Coach Bill Bates' junior varsity boys entertain York, S. C. The varsity boys will meet York immediately following the jayvee contest.

Coach Don Parker's Mountaineers will take an undefeated 5-0 record into Tuesday's game. The Mounties defeated York 51-31 last Tuesday night in York.

Leading the Mountaineers into action will be junior center George Adams, who to date sports a 15.4 average with 82 points in five games. Forming the second part of the Mountaineers' 1-2 scoring punch is sophomore Ken Mitchem with a 13.2 percentage.

Joining Adams and Mitchem in the starting lineup will be senior forward Larry Burton (6.8), and guards Nason Connor (5.8) and Steve Spencer (5.8).

The Mountaineers are one of three Southwest Conference clubs which finished 1966 play undefeated. The other two are R-S Central and Shelby.

Coach Bates will send his junior varsity boys after their third in-a-row in the 7:00 match. The Little Mountaineers have defeated Holbrook and York in pre-season matches. The jayvees will open play here Thursday against Cherryville.

The Mountaineers will be seeking to bring their pre-season record at an even 500 mark. The girls are currently 2-3 on the season.

Sharon Gold leads the Mountaineers after five contests with 109 points and a 21.8 average. Second on the Mountaineers scoring list is Linda Childers with a 6.4 average and third is Hilda Lowery with a 6.0 percentage.

The girls will be out to avenge a 52-43 loss to Our Lady of Mercy last Tuesday in Charlotte. Our Lady of Mercy will be paced by Laura DuPont, a sharp-shooting forward who scored 36 points against the Mountaineers last week.

Tuesday's games will end pre-season play for all three KMHS teams. After Thursday's opener with Cherryville, the jayvees host East Rutherford next Tuesday at the KMHS gym at 6:30.

The varsity teams open conference play on Jan. 13 at Lincolnton. The first home game will be on Jan. 17 with Chase,

Mullinax Stretches Lead To Two Games

High scores dominated the scene Thursday night as the Bill Mullinax team stretched its mixed bowling league lead to two games after taking a 4-0 decision over Lib Gault.

Mullinax led his own win with a 132 line and a 367 set. Jenny Oates added a 359 set for the winners but high scorer for the match was Lib Gault with a 142 line and a 374 set.

Second-place Bob Herndon won a 3-1 decision over Ranny Blanton. Herndon was high scorer in the contest with a 135 line and a 373 set while Aud Tignor rolled a 111 line and Blanton chipped in a 315 set for the losers.

Ronnie Culbertson rolled a 140 line and a 378 set to lead his team to a 4-0 win over Clyde Culbertson. The win jumped Ronnie from sixth to third place in the six-team standings.

John Dilling added a 366 set for the winners while Clyde Culbertson tallied a 130 line and a 337 set for the losers.

STANDING

Team	W	L	Pct.
Bill Mullinax	28	16	.636
Bob Herndon	26	18	.591
Ronnie Culbertson	21	23	.477
Lib Gault	20	24	.454
Ranny Blanton	19	25	.432
Clyde Culbertson	18	26	.409

Plonk's Clinches First Half Title

Plonk Brothers lost three games to second-place Oates-Henderson Shell Tuesday night but it doesn't matter as Plonk's already clinched the first half championship in the ladies' duckpin bowling league.

First half action ends next week. Plonk's lead now reads 14 games.

Team captain Jenny Oates led the O-H Shell charge with a 111 line and a 305 set while Lib Gault was high for the losers with a 116 line and a 309 set.

Bottom-place Griffin Drug won a 3-1 decision over third-place Victory Chevrolet to move within two games of fifth place heading into the final week. Pat Herndon rolled a 114 line and Carol Brazzell added a 292 set for the winners while Evelyn Early rolled a 125 line and a 291 set for the losers.

Kings Mountain Drug and Minute Grill split their four-game set, with KM Drug taking the first game and total pins. High scorers for the KM Drug ladies were Pat Panther and Becky Barnett, Pat with a 113 line and Becky with a 293 set. Betty Fite rolled a 116 line and a 325 set for Minute Grill.

STANDING

Team	W	L	Pct.
Plonk Brothers	52	12	.813

Mountaineers Lose, 52-43

Our Lady of Mercy, a private Catholic high school in Charlotte, rode the strong shooting of talented forward Laura DuPont to pin a 53-42 loss on Kings Mountain's Mountaineers' Tuesday, Dec. 20 in Charlotte.

DuPont tallied 13 field goals and 10 free throws for 36 points to lead the game scoring. Our Lady of Mercy led the entire ballgame, leading 16-9 after one period, 28-18 at halftime and 40-29 heading into the final period.

"We just made too many mistakes," said Mountaineer Coach Bob Hussey. "We turned the ball over several times by violations. Our guards didn't play well, either," he added.

"We came within seven points once during the third period but turned the ball over to them four straight times with us not even getting a shot at the basket," he continued.

"Linda Childers fouled out early in the third quarter. She was playing a real good game and that hurt us. Gold (Sharon) was getting good shots but they just wouldn't fall," Hussey summed up.

Gold still tallied 18 points to claim high scoring honors for the KM lassies. Childers, who was the leading scorer when she fouled out, scored 13, her highest single game output of the season.

The loss left the Mountaineers' pre-season record at 2-3. The Our Lady of Mercy girls will return the visit on Jan. 3. The tilt will precede the doubleheader between the junior varsity and varsity boys and York, S. C.

BOX SCORE

Kings Mountain	(42)
F-Gold	18
F-Childers	13
F-Lowery	5
G-K. Plonk	2
G-Tedder	2
G-Roberts	0
Subs Scoring: Reynolds 3, D. Plonk 1	
Our Lady of Mercy	(53)
F-DuPont	36
F-Haubensler	2
F-Feate	14
F-Deschenes	1
G-Speckmen	0
Half-time Score: Our Lady of Mercy 28, Kings Mountain 18.	

O-H Shell	38	26	.594
Victory Chevrolet	34	30	.531
Minute Grill	32	32	.500
Kings Mtn. Drug	19	45	.297
Griffin Drug	17	47	.266

Other members of the team included Doug Mercer, Clark Mauney, and John Parker.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Kings Mountain high school's varsity football team started slow and ended fast to post a 5-5 overall record and finish in a three-way tie for fourth place in the final Southwest Conference standings.

Junior tailback Steve Spencer was the team's leading scorer and ground gainer while middle guard Eddie Bridges and linebackers Bert Smith and Sandy Mauney headed the defensive unit.

Bridges, a 210-pound senior, was the only Mountaineer named to the annual All-Conference team. Bridges, Mauney, guard Chuck Gladden and tackle Kenny Plonk were selected to play in the annual Lions Bowl game in Forest City.

Mauney and quarterback Tommy Finger were named co-winners of the George Plonk Most Valuable Player Award at the annual Lions Club Banquet, at which Tom Harp, head football coach at Duke University, was the guest speaker.

The Fred Plonk Blocking Trophy went to Kenny Plonk, Chuck Gladden won the John Gamble Scholastic Award and Eddie Bridges was awarded the most improved player trophy.

Bob Hussey took over as the Post-155 Legion coach and guided the Juniors to a 15-11 season. He took primarily the same boys who posted a poor 5-11 record in high school play and turned them into a winning team.

The Juniors got into another protest deal with Hickory, and after state officials changed their minds several times, the quarter-finals series was awarded to Hickory.

However, Kings Mountain fans still appreciated the good team turned out by Hussey and the boys, ages 15-18.

Shortstop Nelson Connor was the team's leading hitter with a .404 batting average and was awarded the team most valuable player award at the annual post-season banquet.

Roy Medlin, who played catcher, third base and the outfield for the '66 Juniors, broke a total of eight records during the year, the big one being that of the most home runs in a season. Medlin blasted six round-trippers and collected two grand-slamers in one game.

Mickey Adkins, from York, S. C., was the standout of the pitching crew with a 3-1 record. Steve Goforth posted a 5-5 record with Tommy Goforth adding a 3-3 mark. Other standouts on the team were infielder Phillip Cash, catcher Paul Gaffney and outfielders Tony Leigh and Ronnie Rhea.

Hussey was assisted by Jimmy Leigh, a first-baseman on the 1964 Legion team. Jim now plays with the Appalachian State Teacher's College diamond squad. Richard Gold, another former Post 155 star, also helped Coach Hussey in pre-season drills.

Carl Wilson, who had served as Legion Athletic Director for the past five seasons, resigned his post following the '66 season, mainly because of the way the higher Legion officials did our boys on the protest ruling.

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The 14 senior members of the Mountaineer squad were awarded plaques by head Coach Bill Bates.

Kings Mountain high school discontinued its ninth grade football program and went to the junior varsity system. The jayvee team, made up of boys of all high school ages, posted a 1-9-1 record with its only win coming against Belmont, 13-7. The tie was a 14-14 deadlock with Belmont.

Bob Hussey served as the jayvee coach.

KMHS GOLF, TRACK

Kings Mountain high school's golf team posted a 7-6 season record and had two seniors who brought individual honors from post-season tournaments.

John Van Dyke, who averaged around 40 for the year, won the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association championship after Jay Powell, a week earlier, won the Southwest Conference championship.

The team finished third in the conference tournament.

Other standouts on the links included Fred Wright, Pat Cashire, William McSwain and Andy Davis.

The track team had its troubles. The cindermen, coached by Bob Hussey and Bill Cashion, could only muster a threat in the relay. In most meets, the KM relay team finished first.

A second place tie in a three-way meet at York, S. C., was the tracksters' best finish, team-wise.

KMHS TENNIS

The tennis team posted a 3-4 record for '66 play. Senior Sandy Mauney and freshman Richard Etheridge formed KM's 1-2 punch throughout the year.

Etheridge finished fourth in the Association meet, while the team was defeated in the quarter-finals of the conference tourney.

Other members of the team included Doug Mercer, Clark Mauney, and John Parker.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Kings Mountain's varsity basketball teams both finished in the second division of the Southwest Conference race. Coach Bob Hussey's Mountaineers tied for sixth place while Don Parker's boys finished in seventh place, only one-half game out of the loop cellar.

The girls, led by Sharon Gold, posted a 7-11 overall record and were 4-10 in conference play. Coach Hussey's milestone was a victory over county-rival Shelby. It was the first time in his coaching career that one of his teams defeated the Lady Lions.

Gold led the Southwest Conference in scoring with 304 points and a 16.9 average. She was a unanimous choice for All-Conference honors and was also the recipient of the R. M. Ormand Most Valuable Player Award, which was given for the first time at a banquet sponsored by the local Kiwanis Club.

Sharon's highest single game output was 29 points in a non-conference game against York, S. C., which KMHS won, 41-31.

The Mountaineers didn't land a player to All-Conference recognition. Ken Mitchem, then a freshman, led the team in scoring with 216 points and an 11.4 average, while guard Neal Cooper was awarded the Dr. W. P. Gerberding Most Valuable Player Award.

The boys posted an overall record of 5-15 and were 2-12 in conference play. After winning five of their first eight games, the Mountaineers were winless in 12 starts.

The junior high basketball teams also posted losing records. Coach Bill Bates' boys finished in fifth place in the conference standings while Coach Glenda O'Shields girls finished last.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

The KMHS varsity baseball team finished the season in sixth place in the Southwest Conference with a 4-10 record and 5-11 overall mark.

Leading hitter was shortstop Nelson Connor who finished with a .314 batting average. Connor was also the only Mountaineer named to the All-Conference team.

Pitcher Steve Goforth, who compiled a 4-5 season record, was named the fourth recipient of the John Moss Most Valuable Player Award at the annual Rotary Club banquet's big win of the season, which was a 4-1 victory over Shelby, which finished the season in fourth place. In that game, Goforth fired a two-hitter, striking the first 18 batters he faced.

Other members of the team included infielders Chuck Gladden, Wayne Mullinax, Gene Putnam and Mike Smith, outfielders Charles Carroll and Tony Leigh, catcher Paul Gaffney and pitchers Tommy Goforth and Darrell Whetstone.

Kings Mountain's junior varsity baseball team, coached by Mike Ware, finished the season with a 2-3 record. Outstanding members of that team included Ken Mitchem, Johnny Reynolds, Joe Cornwell, Ronnie Burton, and Rocky Goforth.

CITY RECREATION

The City Recreation Department sponsored several athletic programs during the past year including basketball, the league, little league and teener league baseball men's and ladies' slow-pitch softball, and midges' football.

In the Recreation basketball league, Belk's Dept. Store won the regular season as well as tournament championship. Members of that team included Coach J. D. Biddix, Richard Little, Charles Goodson, Bob Goodson, Louis Cook and Arthur Allen.

Lithium finished second. Other teams entered included the All-Stars, the Mountaineers, Jaycees and ARP Church.

James Robbs of Lithium won the league's most valuable player award, while Robert Sims of the Mountaineer team won the sportsmanship trophy. Belk's received trophies for winning both the regular season and tournament championships, plus all Belk's players won individual trophies.

Optimist won the Little League baseball title for the '66 season. The Optimists, coached by Max Bolin, were undefeated through 14 regular season games. David Bolin, Max's son, was one of the league's big stars, as he doubled as the league's outstanding pitcher and also as one of the loop's top hitters.

David fired five no-hitters and registered a one-hit, 16-strikeouts performance in a post-season all-star game.

Other top performers in the league were Davis Sarvis, Mike and Mark McDaniel, Charlie Baker, Ben Wilson, Robby Moore, Richard Stone, Dennis Welch, etc.

IN SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL, Grover won the regular season championship while the Bees were the tournament champs. Top contenders in the 10-team league included Grover, Bees, Bur-Mill, Margrace, Cash Grocery and the Jayvees.

Grover also won the sportsmanship trophy.

Richard Etheridge won the an-

nual City Recreation Singles Tennis Tournament while Mike and Tony Ware won the doubles championship.

KMCC GOLF

Coman Falls won the 1966 Kings Mountain Country Club Golf Tournament. He defeated (Continued On Page Four)



TEENER STARS — Pictured above are Darrell Whetstone (top) and Rocky Goforth, two pitchers who were instrumental in leading the 1966 Kings Mountain Teener baseball team to a third place finish in the National Tournament in Hershey, Pa. Whetstone, a right-hander, won the most valuable player award at the state tournament in