

Goforth Hurls Mounties To Association Title

Behind the one-hit pitching of ace lefthander Rocky Goforth, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers blanked Statesville 2-0 Friday afternoon for the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association baseball championship.

It was the first association championship in the history of Kings Mountain High School. Goforth, who finished the season with a 13-1 record, walked only one batter and struck out eight in hurling the Mountaineers to their 19th victory in 21 games.

For his performance in the championship game, Goforth was named the association's most valuable player.

Goforth's mates backed him with a 10-hit attack against Statesville lefthander Marvin Speaks. Every player in the KM lineup, except lefthander Phillip Francis, collected at least one hit.

Senior shortstop Mike Smith and junior second baseman Jack

Bell led the Mountaineer attack with 2-for-4 each.

Kings Mountain picked up singletons in the third and fourth innings, and that proved enough for the veteran Goforth, who finished his prep career with a brilliant 22-2 pitching record.

The Mountaineers scored what amounted to the winning run in the third as Smith cracked a long triple to the left-centerfield fence, scoring Wayne Mullinax who had reached on a fielder's

choice following Bell's single.

In the fourth, with one out, Goforth was hit by a pitch, moved to second on Chuck Carpenter's single and scored an out later on a single by freshman David Bolin.

The Mountaineers had threatened in the second inning, putting runners on second and third with no outs, but Speaks struck out Goforth, got Carpenter on an infield fly and fanned Francis to get out of the jam. Clarence

Smith, ss	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ashe, c	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard, cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goforth, p	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carpenter, 1b	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Francis, lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolin, rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	30	2	10	2	0	0	0	0	0

Kings Mountain	Ab	r	h	rbi
Bell, 2b	4	0	2	0
Mullinax, 3b	4	1	1	0

Statesville	IP	H	R	ER
Adams, 3b	3	0	0	0
Donaldson, 2b	3	0	0	0
Howell, ss	3	0	0	0
Cauthen, cf	2	0	0	0
Speaks, p	3	0	0	0

Babe Ruth League Goforth MVP, Joins Smith And Ashe On All-Conference Opens '69 Slate

Summer recreation is in full swing at City Park as Recreation Director Elmer Ross and his assistant, Porter Briggs, have big things planned throughout the summer months.

The swimming pool opens Saturday at 2 p.m. Ross has set these hours for swimming: Monday through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. until 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m. until 9 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The little leagues and tee leagues are already underway and the Babe Ruth League program opens today.

All Babe Ruth games will be doubleheaders and most of the contests will be played at City Stadium.

Six teams are entered in the league: VFW, Gastonia, fauney Textiles, Southwell Ford, Bessemer City and Tryon. Coaching the teams will be Don Smith, VFW; Marcus Robbins, Gastonia; Rocky Ford, Mauney; Bill Grissom, Southwell; Gene Isenhour, Bessemer City; Ken Ford, Tryon.

A pair of doubleheaders are on tap for today. At 5 p.m., Dallas plays at Tryon and at 6:30, Gastonia and VFW play at City Stadium. On Friday, at 6:30, Bessemer City plays Mauney at City Stadium.

All games played at City Stadium will be at 6:30 p.m. All games at other parks will be at 5 p.m.

There will be no games played this year at the Teener League Park as it is being used only for softball. Games are carded for the stadium, Tryon and Bessemer City.

All little league games will be played at the LL Park and all tee league games will be held at a new field directly behind the LL field and to the left of the Teener League park.

Ladies softball games will be played at the little league field on Tuesdays and at the Teener Field on Thursdays.

Several special festivities will be held during the summer, also.

Ross and other Recreation Department officials plan an annual tennis tournament and also Fourth of July festivities, which would include activities for all ages.

The outdoor tennis and basketball courts are open to everyone on a first come, first serve basis.

Rocky Named Seventh Winner At Rotary Fete

Ace pitcher Rocky Goforth, who finished with a 13-1 record, was named the seventh recipient of the John Moss Most Valuable Player Award Thursday at the annual Rotary Club luncheon at The Armory.

At the time of the presentation, Goforth was actually 12-1, but he went out Friday and picked up another victory as the Mountaineers captured the association championship.

Guest speaker for the event was Frank Oreck, Manager of the Gastonia Pirates of the Western Carolinas League. Several other baseball personalities were on hand, including catcher Milt May and General Manager Harry Reeder of the Pirates and professional umpire Steve Fields.

Goforth is the sixth lefthander to win the Moss Award. Other lefties honored were pitcher Barry Gibson in '63, outfielder Mickey Bell in '64, pitcher Seerley Lowery in '65, shortstop Nelson Connor in '66 and catcher Paul Gaffney last year.

The only righthander to ever win the Moss Award was pitcher Steve Goforth in '67.

Rocky, a senior, has the most impressive records of any Moss Award winner in history. For his varsity career at KMHS, he posted a 22-2 won-lost record, the best mark of any pitcher to ever play here.

This past season, Goforth hurled five shutouts, including two in the association playoffs, 6-0 over Newton and 2-0 over Statesville. He worked 92 innings, gave up only 40 hits, eight runs, five earned runs, walked only 15 batters (two intentionally) and struck out 110.

He was the winningest pitcher in the conference as the only other person close to him was Alan Lindsay of Cherryville who posted a 9-2 record.

Goforth was All-Conference, along with two other Mountaineers, shortstop Mike Smith and catcher Clarence Ashe.

Goforth came up through the Teener ranks, having played on the 1966 all-star team which finished third in the national tournament in Hershey, Pa.

Besides being the ace pitcher, Rocky was also one of the leading hitters for the Mountaineers.

Babe Ruth League Goforth MVP, Joins Smith And Ashe On All-Conference



ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONS—Pictured above is the Kings Mountain High baseball team which Friday won the Western North Carolina High Schools Activities Association championship, defeating Statesville 2-0 for a final 19-2 record. Front row, left to right, are Bill Loftin, Eugene Williams, Kenny Bridges, David Bolin and David Putnam. Second row, same order, Chuck Carpenter, Mike Smith, Rocky Goforth, Phillip Francis and Wayne Mullinax. Third row, Clarence Ashe, Bobby Ethridge, Jimmy Ware, Geeper Howard and Jack Bell.

Three Mountie Veterans Among League's Best

Kings Mountain High School placed three players on the All-Southwest Conference baseball team announced last week by W. C. Clary, secretary of the WNC-HSAA.

The Mountaineers placed a trio of seniors, ace pitcher Rocky Goforth, shortstop Mike Smith and catcher Clarence Ashe.

Shelby led in all-star selections with six, Belmont, R-S Central and Burns joined KMHS with three each, Cherryville and Crest had two each and Lincolnton one.

East Rutherford, though it was one of the best hitting teams in the conference, and Chase, another hitting outfit, were not represented on the All-league team.

All three Mountaineers named to the All-SWC team were key factors in KM's drive to the association championship. Goforth posted a 13-1 pitching record, the best in the conference, and Smith led the league in hitting with a .419 average.

All three are veteran performers. Goforth was the ace of the pitching staff for the past two years and posted a 22-2 record for his varsity career.

Smith was a four-year starter and hit .300 or better every year except his freshman season, when he batted .250.

Ashe played in the shadows of Paul Gaffney for three years before taking over as the number one receiver this year. He batted cleanup for the Mounties and trailed only Smith in runs batted in.

DATE	GAME	PLACE
May 29	Gastonia vs. VFW	Stadium
May 29	Dallas vs. Tryon	Tryon
May 30	Bessemer City vs. Mauney	Stadium
June 2	VFW vs. Mauney	Stadium
June 3	Bessemer City vs. Dallas	Stadium
June 4	Southwell vs. Tryon	Stadium
June 9	VFW vs. Dallas	Stadium
June 10	Southwell vs. Bessemer City	Stadium
June 12	Gastonia vs. Mauney	Stadium
June 16	Gastonia vs. Tryon	Tryon
June 17	VFW vs. Southwell	Stadium
June 23	Tryon vs. Bessemer City	Bessemer City
June 23	Gastonia vs. Dallas	Stadium
June 24	Mauney vs. Southwell	Stadium
July 7	Gastonia vs. Bessemer City	Bessemer City
July 7	Dallas vs. Southwell	Stadium
July 8	Tryon vs. VFW	Tryon
July 14	Tryon vs. Mauney	Stadium
July 15	Bessemer City vs. VFW	Bessemer City
July 15	Gastonia vs. Southwell	Stadium

Smith Posts .419 Average

The four senior members of the Kings Mountain High baseball team led all offensive departments during the past season.

Shortstop Mike Smith topped the club in most departments.

Smith led in batting average with a .419 mark. He led in total hits (26), runs batted in (18), doubles (7), triples (5), home runs (2) and stolen bases (11).

Third baseman Wayne Mullinax led the club in runs scored with 16 and Smith finished second with 14.

Catcher Clarence Ashe trailed Smith in triples with three and runs batted in with 13. Mullinax finished second in stolen bases with six.

Rocky Goforth finished second in batting average with a .283 figure and the star lefthander led in all pitching departments.

Junior Bobby Ethridge turned in a 5-1 record and freshman David Bolin posted a 1-0 mark, being credited with a nonconference victory over Dallas.

The seniors finished as the top four in hitting. Following Smith and Goforth in the batting race was Ashe at .273 and Mullinax was just two points back at .271.

Junior Jack Bell rounded out the top five with a .269 mark.

As a team, the Mountaineers hit at a .252 clip (128 for 507), had 89 runs, 77 runs batted in, 19 doubles, 11 triples, four homers and 25 stolen bases.

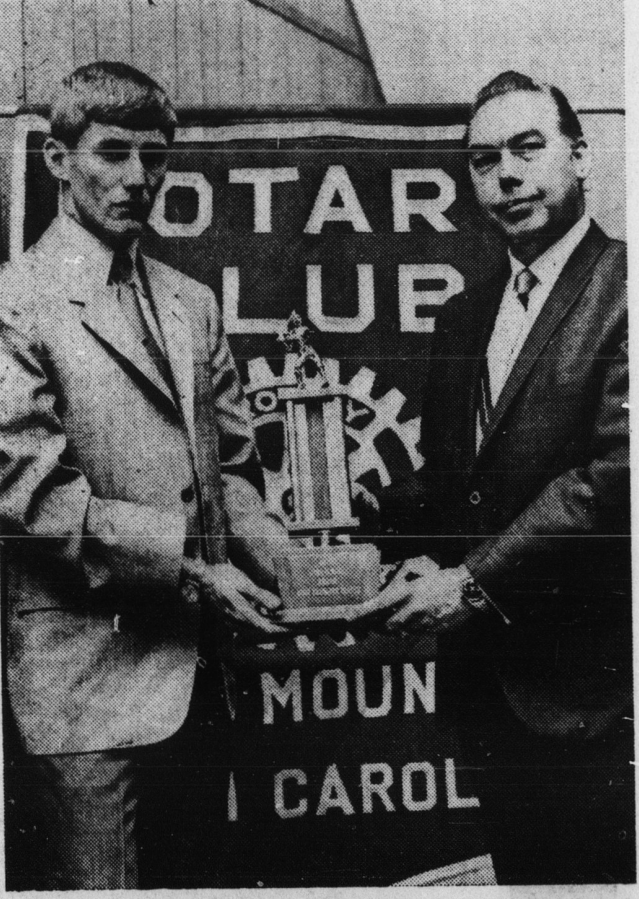
POS	NAME	SCHOOL
P	ROCKY GOFORTH	KMHS
P	Alan Lindsay	Cherry
C	CLARENCE ASHE	KMHS
C	Sam Rumbleft	Belmont
C	John McDonald	R-S Central
1B	Scott Heavner	Cherry
1B	Don Bright	Shelby
2B	Mike Elmore	Burns
2B	Ted Harris	Belmont
SS	MIKE SMITH	KMHS
SS	Gary Dalton	R-S Central
SS	David Heffner	Shelby
OF	Stacey Lail	R-S Central
OF	Doug Fore	Lincolnton
OF	Tim Peeler	Shelby
OF	Barry Wright	Shelby
OF	Scott Hamrick	Burns
OF	Ronnie McCraw	Belmont
OF	Don Champion	Crest
OF	Mike Stancil	Crest
OF	Chip Lane	Shelby

Thank You

Thanks again to my many, many friends on their wonderful support during this run-off election.

For without you, I could not have made it. So its with a very happy but humble heart I say thank you.

Mrs. O. O. Walker



MOST VALUABLE — Rocky Goforth accepts John Moss Award from Mayor Moss during Rotary Club luncheon Thursday. Goforth was named the seventh recipient of the MVP award. Rocky also picked up the association MVP trophy Friday when he hurled the Mounties to a 2-0 victory over Statesville.

Smith, Goforth, Ashe Selected To All-Cleveland County Team

Three members of the Kings Mountain High baseball team were named to the All-Cleveland County team Tuesday night.

Shortstop Mike Smith, pitcher Rocky Goforth and catcher Clarence Ashe all received a first unit berth to the team which is annually selected by Radio Station WADA of Shelby.

The three KM seniors received their trophy at the annual KMHS All-Sports Banquet Tuesday night in the school cafeteria.

A fourth KMHS athlete, Otis Cole, received an All-County award for basketball.

All KMHS athletes, coaches and cheerleaders were honored.

Each member of the KMHS association champion baseball team received a plaque and two three-sports stars, Ashe and Geeper Howard, received plaques for lettering in three sports.

Ashe, a senior, lettered in football, wrestling and baseball while Howard, a sophomore, lettered in football, basketball and baseball. Players who received trophies at earlier banquets were also recognized.

Guest speaker for the event was Everett (Shu) Carlton, former KMHS football coach who is now head football coach and athletic director at Ashley High School in Gastonia.

Batter	AB	R	H	RBI	PCT.
Mike Smith	62	14	26	18	.419
Rocky Goforth	60	12	17	8	.283
Clarence Ashe	55	10	15	13	.273
Wayne Mullinax	59	16	16	7	.271
Jack Bell	63	13	17	3	.269
Geeper Howard	56	7	13	11	.232
Chuck Carpenter	54	10	12	5	.222
Bobby Ethridge	12	3	2	3	.167
David Bolin	35	2	5	4	.143
Phillip Francis	47	1	5	5	.106
Kenny Bridges	4	1	0	0	.000
Totals	507	89	128	77	.252

Pitcher	Won	Lost	Pct.	BB	SO
Rocky Goforth	13	1	.928	16	110
Bobby Ethridge	5	1	.833	12	38
David Bolin	1	0	1.000	4	4
Totals	19	2	.905	32	152

- DOUBLES** — Smith 7, Carpenter 3, Bell 2, Howard 2, Goforth 1, Ashe 1, Mullinax 1, Bolin 1, Francis 1.
- TRIPLES** — Smith 5, Ashe 3, Bell 2, Goforth 1.
- HOMERS** — Smith 2, Mullinax 1, Ashe 1.
- STOLEN BASES** — Smith 11, Mullinax 6, Ashe 5, Carpenter 2, Francis 1.

Post 155 Lads Host Morganton Monday Night

With two games behind them, Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors travel to Cherryville Saturday night and return to City Stadium Monday for a game against Morganton.

Post 155 took a 0-1 record into last night's home game with newcomer Mill Springs. The Mounties dropped their opener Monday night in Granite Falls, 7-2, with righthander Bobby Ethridge being tagged with the loss.

Saturday night, Post 155 will likely see ace lefthander Alan Lindsay of Cherryville. Lindsay is 0-1, having lost a 2-0 decision to Belmont despite pitching a one-hitter and striking out 21.

Post 155, coached by Roy Pearson and Bo Goforth, was scheduled to pitch its ace, lefthander Rocky Goforth, last night against Mill Springs, thus, KM will probably go with Darrell Whetstone or Ethridge Saturday night.

Goforth is the probable pitcher for Monday night against Morganton. The Morganton club scored six runs in the 11th inning Monday night to defeat Shelby 15-9.