

Tuesday, December 23, 1969



1969 KMHS ALL-CONFERENCE PLAYERS — The eight Kings Mountain High School athletes pictured above were selected to All-Southwest Conference athletic teams during the calendar

year 1969. From left to right, All-SWC performers are Rocky Goforth, baseball; Mike Smith, baseball; Clarence Ash, baseball; Otis Cole, basketball; Charles Barnes, basketball; Ken Mitchem,

basketball; Linda Childers, basketball, and Philbert Smith, football. Goforth, Smith and Ash led the KMHS baseball team to the state 3-A championship. Goforth, who posted a 13-1 pitching

record, was named All-State in addition to All-Conference and All-Cleveland County.

1969 Brought Kings Mountain Two State Champs

Two state championships in baseball highlighted the 1969 athletic year for Kings Mountain.

The Kings Mountain High School baseball team, coached by Bob Hussey, finished 20-2 and captured the state 3-A title in addition to the Southwest Conference and Southeast-Northwest crowns.

The other state championship club was the Babe Ruth 1-Stars who won the 13-15 year old title in Asheville before bowing out in the regionals in Nashville, Tenn.

Lefthand pitching ace Rocky Goforth was the leader of the Mountaineer championship team, posting a 13-1 record to give him a prep career record of 22 wins and only two defeats.

Goforth made All-County, All-Conference and All-State, posting 102 strikeouts while walking only 14 batters and recording a 0.32 earned run average.

He was named the recipient of the annual John Moss Most Valuable Player trophy at the annual Rotary Club baseball luncheon. He was also named most valuable player

of the state championship game with Statesville, which KM won 2-0 on Rocky's one-hitter.

Goforth's only loss was 1-0 to Cherryville, and that came as a result of a dropped fly ball in the outfield. Goforth was joined on the All-State team by Cherryville's Alan Lindsay, who was the winning pitcher in that game.

Shortstop Mike Smith and catcher Clarence Ash joined Goforth on the All-County and All-Conference clubs. Smith topped the Southwest Conference in hitting with a .419 average and finished second to Goforth in voting for both the team and state MVP awards.

Other standouts on the championship club included third baseman Wayne Mullinax, second sacker Jack Bell, pitcher Bobby Ethridge, and others.

Outside of Goforth's pitching and Smith's hitting, the team's trademark was defense. Smith was recognized as one of the best players in the state, not only because of his hitting but fielding as well.

Most of the members of the championship club played

on the 1966 Teener team which brought KM its first state title in any sport. That team went on to finish third in the national finals in Hershey, Pa.

David Bolin, who played on the high school team, led the Babe Ruth team to the state title, along with Dana Sarvis, Ricky Hord, Gary Kiser, and others.

The second most successful sport in Kings Mountain during 1969 was basketball. Hussey's cagers, who were said to be in the rebuilding stage, finished second in the Southwest Conference with an overall 17-5 record.

Three players made All-Conference for the Mountaineers — Otis Cole, Charles Barnes and Ken Mitchem. Cole topped the team in scoring with an average of 21 points per game.

Other key performers included playmaker Alan Hambricht, Geep Howard, Phillip Francis, and others.

The girls basketball team had an 8-11 season but came within a point (30-29) of upsetting R-S Central in the Conference tournament at Crest.

Linda Childers topped the Mountaineers in scoring and was also named to the All-Conference team.

Pionk Oil Co., paced by former KMHS stars Ken Cash, Tommy Barrett and Lawrence Bolin won the regular season and tournament titles in the City Recreation League and KM Gull finished second.

The Central Junior High Patriots, coached by Porter Griggs, Barry Gibson and John Blalock, had winning records in every major sport.

Junior varsity basketball at KMHS also provided a championship, Bill Bates' girls winning their divisional title.

The football team, also under Bates' guidance, posted its best record in five years, finishing 5-4-1 and fifth in the SWC's Division Two.

Richard Gold, recognized by most people as KM's all-time greatest athlete, was named first team All-American in baseball. He led Florida State to another outstanding season, finishing with a .315 batting average and being drafted by the Chicago Cubs.

Halfback Philbert Smith led the team in rushing and scoring and was named All-Conference and SWC Back of the Year.

Other standouts included tackle Jerry Lovelace, halfback Charles Barnes, end Bobby Ethridge, center Danny Oliver, and others.

The Mountaineers played East Rutherford off its feet before bowing, 7-6, in a rain-soaked contest, and they also battled favored Lincoln to a 0-0 tie in the season finale.

The calendar year 1969 also brought honors to former KMHS athletes.

Gold, who made All-Conference in all three sports his senior year at KMHS, broke nine all-time records at Florida State and was recognized by Seminole fans as one of that school's all-time great infielders, ranking alongside Dick Howser, Woody Woodward, and others.

George Adams, who broke every scoring record in the books while playing basketball at KMHS, completed his freshman year at Gardner-Webb by making All-Conference, averaging 17 points per game and leading the Bulldogs in field goal percentage.

Adams finished third in scoring for G-W behind 7-2 Artis Gilmore and Ernie Fleming. Adams is currently leading the 1969-70 Bulldogs in scoring with a 32-point per game average.

Nelson Connor completed his sophomore season in baseball at N. C. State, playing second unit second base behind Clem Huffman of Hickory. Connor is considered a top candidate for a starting position next spring.

The 1969 KM American Legion baseball team, representing Otis D. Green Post 155, finished third in regular season play and advanced to the Area Four semi-finals before bowing to eventual champ, Gastonia.

Rocky Goforth, coming off his great high school season, led the KM lads in pitching statistics with a 12-3 record and an earned run average of less than one run per game.

At one stretch during the season, Goforth worked 47 consecutive scoreless innings.

Mike Smith continued his heavy hitting, leading the Juniors with a .350 average. Coach Warren Goforth also got fine play from Tommy Hawkins, Jack Bell, Clarence Ash, Bobby Ethridge, Gene Putnam, and others.

Little league baseball, slow-pitch softball and pee wee football teams also enjoyed banner seasons. The KM pee wee grid team, coached by Steve Henderson, upset Thomaston, Ga., in a post-season bowl contest.

Area duckpin bowlers also had banner seasons as several records were set at Mountain Lanes. Kings Mountain bowlers brought home several honors from state and national tournaments.

A fourth league was formed during 1969 — the Firestone Mixed League. Other leagues operating at Mountain Lanes are the KM mens, ladies and mixed loops.

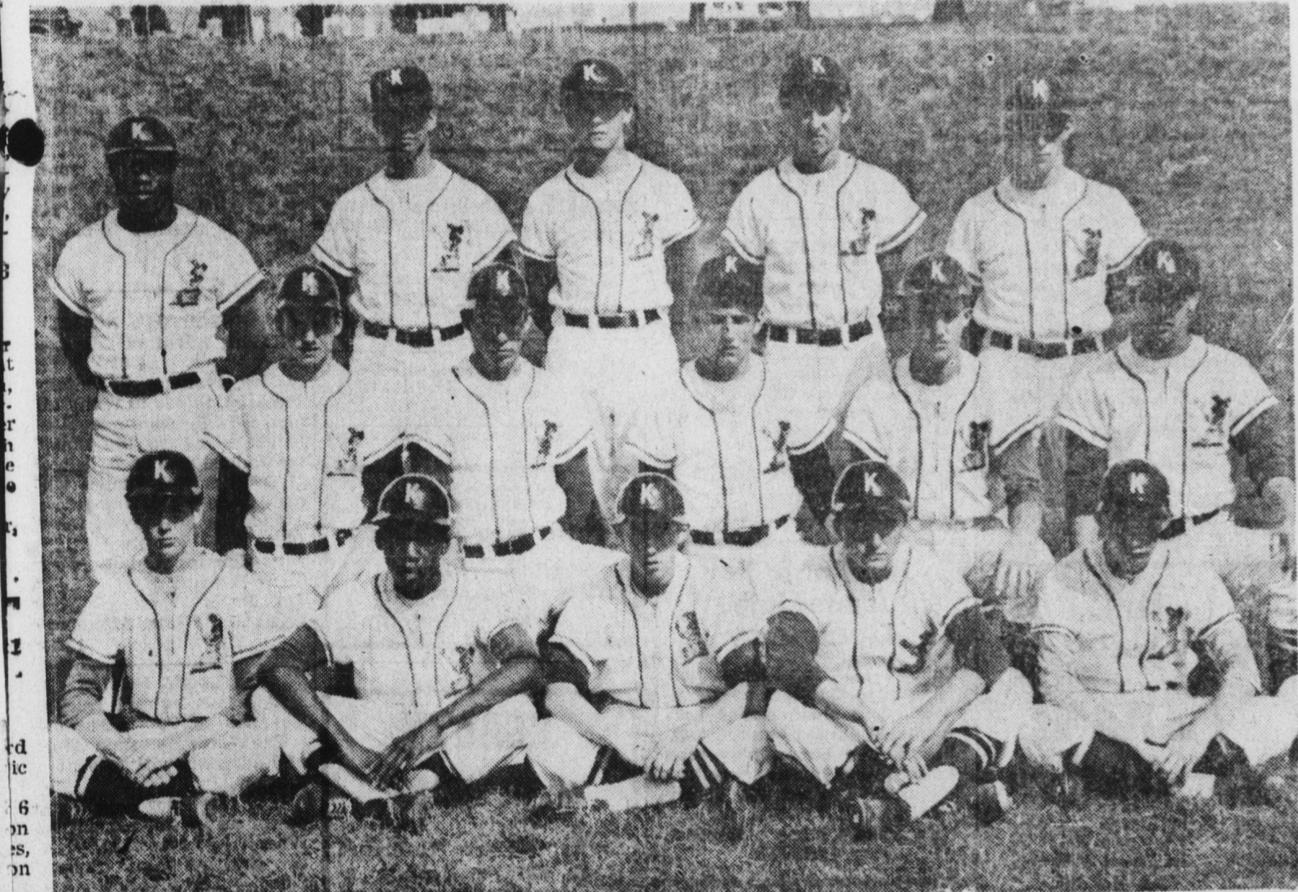
Bert Smith and Clarence Ash played for Gardner-Webb in its first year in the senior college football ranks and Charles Greene was a sophomore member of the Appalachian grid squad, although seeing only limited action because of an early-season injury.

Pat Murphy, who starred for three years in football and baseball at KMHS and later set over 20 passing records at Appalachian, served as an assistant football coach while doing post-graduate work at Appalachian.

Although Kings Mountain High grabbed its first state title in any major sport, the Mountaineer coaching staff didn't relax and vowed to make the overall program even tougher.

Athletic Director Bill Bates, along with the assistant coaches and other school officials, broadened the athletic program to take in wrestling and more junior varsity sports in order to form a feeder system for varsity athletic teams.

The 1969 baseball team was the first over at KMHS to have a 20-victory season and matching that record will be quite a challenge for any future team.



KINGS MOUNTAIN HIGH'S FIRST STATE CHAMP — Here's the 1969 KMHS baseball team which posted a 20-2 record and won the state 3-A championship. After losing only to East Rutherford (3-2) and Cherryville (1-0) in SWC play, the Mountaineers blanked Newton (6-0) and Statesville (2-0) to claim the title.

Mountaineers Romp Past Cherryville, 93 - 52

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers went on their biggest scoring spurge in two years here Friday night, romping past Cherryville 93-52 in their final, basketball game of 1969.

The victory gives the Mountaineers a 5-0 overall record and 3-0 mark in the Southwestern Conference.

The score could have been much worse had Coach Bob Hussey not gone with his second and third units most of the second half.

Behind the hot shooting of Otis Cole, Phillip Francis and Steve Gladden, the Mountaineers built up a 22-9 lead after the first quarter and led by 50-26 at half-time.

Coach Hussey began substituting freely in the third period but the Mountaineers continued to increase their lead. It was 72-37 heading into the final eight minutes.

Kings Mountain's third unit played the entire fourth quarter and outscored the visiting Ironmen 21-17.

The victory gained the Mountaineers revenge for two seven-point losses to Cherryville last

season when the Ironmen won the SWC title and KM finished second.

Kings Mountain hit on 54.7 percent of its field goals, connecting on 40 of 73 shots from the floor. A part-time pressing defense forced the Ironmen into countless turnovers and caused Cherryville Coach Bill Hinson to receive two technical fouls and a threat of dismissal from the game.

Four players scored in double figures for the Mountaineers, Cole leading the way with 25 points and Francis adding 15. Charles Ethridge had 10. Reserve Bobby Ethridge barely missed double figures with eight.

The score was tied only once, at 3-3, and the Ironmen never led. From the 3-3 tie, the Mountaineers forged ahead by 15-4 and there was never any doubt as to what the outcome would be.

The 93 points were the most scored by the Mountaineers since the 1967-68 season when they scored a school record of 100 in a

SWC victory (100-53) over East Rutherford.

Chants of "we want a hundred" echoed throughout the KMHS gymnasium as the Mountaineers edged closer to the century mark but Coach Hussey was content to let his reserves run out the clock.

Kings Mountain put on a brilliant display of ballhandling and passing. Francis and Barnes ripped off several accurate passes and Cole and Gladden showed great moves inside.

Cherryville's top scorer was reserve Jimmy Beam with 13 marks and Dennis Tate, a sophomore, added 12.

Kings Mountain's girls saw an 18-17 halftime lead fade away as Cherryville came on strong to win the opener, 30-26. Ginger Parker had 10 for the Ironmen while Andrea Huffstetler topped the Mountaineettes with seven and Ann Alexander added six.

Litton Replaces Harris As Bulldog Grid Coach

Litton To Coach G-W Football

BOILING SPRINGS — George Litton has been named head football coach at Gardner-Webb College. It was announced Thursday.

He will replace former head coach and athletic director, Norman Harris, who has been promoted to an administrative post.

Litton is married and the father of two children. A native of Pennington, Va., he has been head football coach at Lees-McRae College for seven years.

During that time his teams made two post-season bowl trips, were ranked in the nation's top 20 junior college teams every year since 1964, and in 1967, finished second nationally.

Litton was named coach of the year in Region 10 in 1967 and has produced 12 junior college All-Americans.

Litton graduated from East Tennessee State in 1959 and coach for a year at Pennington Gap (Va.) high school before serving a stint in the Army. He was an assistant coach at ETSU for a year before taking over as head coach and athletic director at Lees-McRae in 1962.

He received his masters degree in education at ETSU this past summer.

Harris has been at Gardner-Webb for 21 years and was head coach and athletic director for 20 of those years. He completed a 107-71-13 record and took his

teams to two bowl games.

A native of Black Mountain, N. C., he played high school football at Lee-Edwards in Asheville with Charlie Justice, played at Duke University for two years before going into the service, and completed his athletic eligibility and education at High Point College.

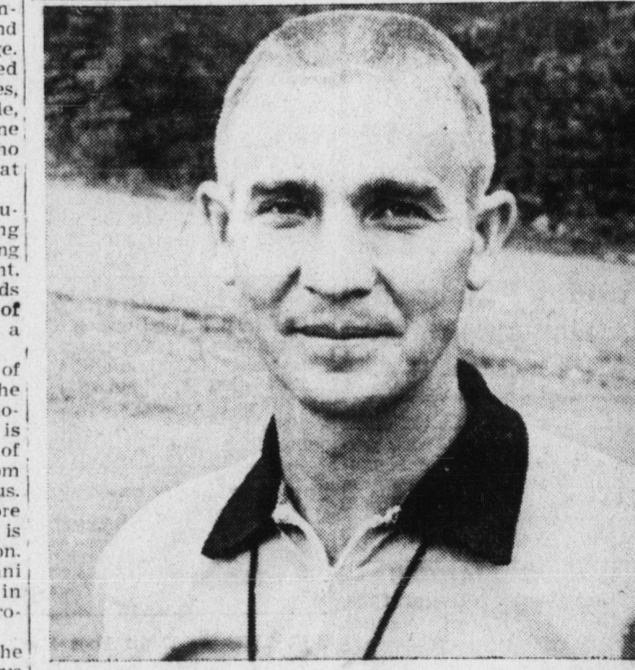
At Gardner-Webb, he turned out over 40 high school coaches, including the late John Gamble, Bill Bates, Bill Cashion, Blaine Froneberger and Bob Bush, who coached at one time or another at Kings Mountain High School.

Harris' new administration duties will keep him still working in athletics. He will be raising funds for the athletic department, seeking scholarships and aids through alumni and friends of the college, and will still have a major recruiting role.

Dr. Eugene Poston, president of Gardner-Webb, said in making the announcement of Harris' promotion: "A position such as this is important right now because of Gardner-Webb's moving from junior to senior college status. Coach Harris, due to his more than 20 year at Gardner-Webb, is well qualified to fill the position. His many contacts among alumni and friends will be important in helping to build our athletic program."

Litton will take over around the first of January. He will also serve as assistant professor in physical education.

A new athletic director has not been named.



COACHED STATE CHAMPION Bob Hussey, above, coached the KMHS baseball team to the state championship in 1969, the Mountaineers posting a 20-2 overall record. The Mounties blanked Newton 6-0 and Statesville 2-0 to take their first state title ever in any sport.

Want... adults... they... do... Accord... extension... North... that... ample... be treat... almost... ren, even... act that... the Mountaineer... championship... team, posting a 13-1 record... to give him a prep career record of 22 wins and only two defeats... Goforth made All-County, All-Conference and All-State, posting 102 strikeouts while walking only 14 batters and recording a 0.32 earned run average... He was named the recipient of the annual John Moss Most Valuable Player trophy at the annual Rotary Club baseball luncheon. He was also named most valuable player... of the state championship game with Statesville, which KM won 2-0 on Rocky's one-hitter... Goforth's only loss was 1-0 to Cherryville, and that came as a result of a dropped fly ball in the outfield... Goforth was joined on the All-State team by Cherryville's Alan Lindsay, who was the winning pitcher in that game... 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