

Duckpin Bowling Is Not Dead In KM



MEN'S BOWLING STANDOUTS — Shown in the two pictures here are six of the outstanding duckpin bowlers in the KM men's league. In photo above, left to right, are Furman Wilson, Buck Vincent and Mull Ramsey and in the photo below are Dwight Reeves, left, Clarence Plonk, right, and Ranny Blanton, standing.

Picture John Dilling, a lanky southpaw... Bob Herndon and Richard Culbertson, hard-throwing righthanders... Steve Rathbone, curveballer... and Clarence Plonk, slow with good control. They're not baseball pitchers. They're bowlers and duckpin bowlers at that.

Some people might tell you that duckpin bowling is dead... but you'll never convince the 70-odd bowlers who participate in duckpin league bowling three nights a week at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center here.

Mountain Lanes is the only duckpin bowling alley in the immediate area and some of the best bowlers anywhere participate on C. H. (Cat) Houser's six lanes.

Twenty bowlers from Kings Mountain and 10 from Gastonia comprise the six-team men's league on Monday night and this year's race is the tightest in the 25-year history of the league.

Only five games separate all six teams as the first half heads into the final two weeks.

Tuesday night is set aside for ladies' league action and Thursday night both men and women comprise the Firestone Mixed League.

Kings Mountain bowlers annually rank high in the state and KM mixed teams have won the national tournament on three different occasions since 1962.

A KM mixed team won the top prize in 1962 in Greensboro, in '63 at Bethesda, Md., and in 1968 in Hagerstown, Md.

Albert Brackett, John Dilling, Furman Wilson, Lib Gault and Jenny Oates were members of the '62 and '63 championship teams. Brackett, Dillings, Gault, Betty Hullender and Ronnie Culbertson made up the championship '68 team.

As best we could determine, Wilson and Brackett have been with the men's league longer than any of the others. Wilson, who serves the league as secretary, bowled on the first team ever at Mountain Lanes and Brackett joined a few years later at the age of 17.

Through the years Brackett has been one of KM's most consistent bowlers, but the past few years Ranny Blanton has had the hot test hand.

Blanton's 121 average is tops but several other bowlers average 112 or better. Blanton's 180 game is the highest bowled this season and is only one pin short of Dilling's all-time record of 181 in men's league play.

Blanton, however, once rolled a 193 here but it didn't come in league or tournament action.

The highest game for league play belongs to Becky Barnette, who tallied a 182 last season. Buck Vincent, a Gastonian, owns the highest series for league play, a 442 which was also bowled last year.

As far as the current season goes, Dilling owns top set with a 408. Lib Gault's 384 is tops among women bowlers.

Blanton's 121 average would be the equivalent of a 200 or better in ten-pin bowling.

Most KM bowlers say their averages increased five years ago when Mountain Lanes installed automatic pin-setters.

"We used to have both ten-pins and duckpins," recalls Houser. "But we did away with tenpins about five years ago." Blanton says his average increased from 107 to 121 during the five-year period.

The KM league bowled in Shelby for about five years during the early fifties when Houser turned his bowling alley into a skating rink. He brought bowling back during the mid-fifties and it's been strong ever since.

When duckpin bowling began to decline in Gastonia in the mid-sixties, Gastonia bowlers began entering the KM leagues.

The first Gastonians to make the switch to KM were Clyde, Richard and Ronnie Culbertson. That was about eight years ago. They were soon to be followed by Mull Ramsey, Dwight Reeves, Buck Vincent, and others.

KM bowlers won seven tournaments last year but most of them came within the state. They placed high in national events but the top spot eluded them.

Blanton, who bowled a 709 five-game set in Lynchburg only two weeks ago, and Jenny Oates had a 463 to come in eighth in the nationals last year. Jenny and Lib Gault scored a 804 to place second in the nationals in '66.

"In '69, we had two of the highest games ever bowled in the nationals," recalls Dilling, "but both teams lost out." The tourney that year was held in Bethesda.

Most bowlers here will tell you they'd take duckpins over ten pins anytime. "I carried a 191 average when I bowled in ten-pin leagues," said Brackett, "but, to me, ten-pin bowling wasn't any fun. I think it takes more skill to bowl duckpin."

Brackett says a 120 or 125 in duckpin is the equivalent of a 200 game in ten-pin. "But I would lo rather bowl a 125 in duckpin than a 200 in ten-pin," he said.

The future of duckpin bowling here appears bright for a few more years, anyway. However, there is no junior league bowling



Leads Change Hands In Men's, Ladies' Loops

Griffin Drug has taken over first place in the ladies' bowling league while the race is still on in the men's league.

Griffin won four games from Oates Shell Tuesday night to move two games ahead of season-long leader Plonk Brothers, which dropped four games to the American Legion.

In men's action Monday night, Vincent's Union 76 dropped four games to Dilling Heating, moving a game behind, with only one week of action remaining. Albert Brackett and Dilling Heating are now tied for the lead.

Pat Herndon, Bobbie McKee and Edna Bowen combined talents to lead Griffin Drug's ladies over Oates Shell. Herndon scored a 120 line and 339 set to lead the way. McKee added a 326 series and Bowen had a 324. Jenny Oates was high for the losers with a 116 line and 331 set.

Barbara Miller's 115 line and Karen Moss's 311 set led the American Legion over Plonk Brothers. Betty Fite scored a 116 line and 321 set for the losers.

Glenda Belk scored a 111 line and Ethel Tignor added a 291 set to lead Dellinger Jewelry to three wins over Drewes Tax. Pat Chapman's 100 line and Pat Panther's 281 set were high marks for the losers.

Steve Rathbone and Ronnie Culbertson scored 144 lines and Culbertson and John Dilling added 379 sets as Dilling Heating dropped Union 76 from the men's lead. Buck Vincent's 116 line and Bob Wells' 313 set were high marks for the losers.

Bob Herndon's 141 line and Albert Brackett's 360 set led Brackett's team to three wins over Ranny Blanton. Blanton paced his club with a 159 line and 376 set.

Quality Sandwich and Plonk Oil split a four-game set. Richard Culbertson was high scorer for the match with a 156 line and 404 series. Dwight Reeves led Plonk Oil with a 125 line and 333 series.

As the first half moves into the final week, all six teams still have a shot at the title.

LADIES STANDINGS		
Teams	Won	Lost
Griffin Drug	38	26
Plonk Brothers	36	28
American Legion	31	33
Dellinger's Jewelry	29	35
Oates Shell	29	35
Drewes Tax	29	35
MEN'S LEAGUE		
Dilling Heating	36	32
Albert Brackett	36	32
Vincent's Union 76	35	33
Quality Sandwich	33	35
Randy Blanton	32	36
Plonk Oil	32	36

FIVE MORE GOOD ONES — In photos here are five more of the outstanding duckpin bowlers. In photo above, left to right, Albert Brackett, John Dilling and onnie Culbertson check over league standings. In photo below, one of KM's outstanding lady bowlers, Jenny Oates, goes over old press clippings with Richard Culbertson.



Jenny Oates Rated One Of Top Lady Duckpin Bowlers

Dizzy Dean, the ex-Cardinal pitching great, once said something like this: "I might not be the best, but I'm amongst 'em."

Well, Jenny Oates might not be the best lady duckpin bowler, but she ranks right near the top. The past two years, Jenny has been the top-ranked lady duckpin bowler in North Carolina. This year, she admits she's off to a bad start (if you call a 110 average bad) and has taken a back seat to another KM bowler, Lib

Gault. But, year in and year out, you can bet that Jenny will rank "amongst" the best.

"I first started bowling here about 14 years ago," she recalls. "I believe that was one year after they started a Ladies' League, right now, we have the best League we've ever had."

League action in both the men's and ladies' divisions is close, to say the least. As the first half enters its final two weeks, several teams are fighting it out for the title.

Jenny has more bowling trophies than she knows what to do with and each year she pockets a bundle of dough from state and national tournaments.

On three different occasions, Jenny has been a member of a national championship mixed team. She and four other KM bowlers won national titles in 1962, '63 and '68.

"We first started going to the national tournament in '62 when it was held in Greensboro," she recalls. "We've been every year since, except for one time when it was held in Connecticut."

Duckpin bowling has taken Jenny and other KM bowlers to such places as Bethesda, Md., Hagerstown, Md., Baltimore, Connecticut, and Norfolk.

Jenny says duckpin bowling in North Carolina is below par compared to the Baltimore area. "But it's for the simple reason that they have better lanes and a lot more of them," she added. Jennys says a 100 average is considered very good for a lady bowler.

"I'd say that we have six or more in our league with a 100 average or better," she said, calling such names as Pat Herndon, Pat Panther, Betty Fite, Charity Tignor and Barbara Miller.

Jenny also bowls ten pins in Gastonia on Thursday morning but said she prefers duckpin bowling. "I think it takes a lot more skill to bowl duckpin," said Mrs. Oates, who carries a 151 average in ten pins.

Jenny said when she first began bowling duckpins, she carried a 93 average. Her average, like everyone else's boomed when automatic pin setters were installed at Mountain Lanes five years ago.

Especially being a member of three national championship mixed teams, Jenny has also placed high in individual and doubles events.

In 1966, she teamed with Lib Gault for a second place spot in doubles in the national tourney in Norfolk. Their total held top spot until the final stages of the tournament when they were edged out by seven pins.

Two years ago, Jenny had her best single game ever in national competition, scoring a 179, but again she had to settle for second best.

She has topped the 400 set mark several times and that's almost unheard of for women. She once rolled a 420 in the national tour. (Continued on Page Four)

Three Share Lead In Men's Basketball Race

Three teams are tied for first place in men's basketball league play at the Community Center. Leading the way with 2-1 records are Plonk Oil, Duplex and Craftsman.

Defending champion Plonk Oil suffered its first loss of the season Monday night, falling to Home Savings and Loan, 59-52. It was the first win for the Savings and Loan team.

Tommy Carpenter topped the winners in scoring with 16 points and Ken Cash tallied 15 for Plonk Oil.

In another Monday game, Duplex defeated Imperial 66-52

STANDINGS	
Teams	Won Lost
Plonk Oil	2 1
Duplex	2 1
Craftsman	2 1
Savings and Loan	1 1
Imperial	1 2
Merchants	0 2

KMHS Cagers Open '71 Play Against Burns

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball teams open the 1971 part of their season Tuesday night when they travel to Falls-ton to meet Burns High School.

The Mountaineers of Coach Blaine Fronberger will be trying for their fourth straight Southwestern Conference victory while Allen Dion's Mountaineers will be seeking their first victory.

The KM girls carry a 3-0 conference record and a 4-1 overall mark into the contest while the Mountaineers are 0-3 in the SWC and 0-5 overall.

Burns, which is annually one of the conference's toughest teams in both the girls and boys division is having an off year, both teams showing only 1-3 records in conference play.

The Burns girls defeated South Point by one point while the Mountaineers whipped the Raiders by five. However, Burns will be playing on its home court Tuesday night and will probably give the Mountaineers all they can handle.

The Burns boys, coached by former Bethware mentor Bill Powell, have had a tough time getting started. Their only victory thus far was a 60-59 nod over Lincoln. A last second shot by Julian Roberts gave the Bulldogs the victory.

Roberts will be the Mountaineers' main worry Tuesday. Most coaches rate him among the conference's better players.

Kings Mountain's girls have won three straight games since dropping a 33-31 decision to non-conference foe Bessemer City in their home opener. The Mountaineers have registered victories over Bessemer City, Shelby, Lincoln and South Point.

Sophomore Deborah Crockett has been the big scorer for the Mountaineers but the defensive play of such girls as Diane Cornwell, Debbie Lee and Jane Lovelace has also been a key factor in the four victories.

The KM boys played possibly their best game in their final pre-Christmas outing when they lost to South Point by 49-43. The Mountaineers led much of the way.

Coach Dixon is hoping for the return of Vernon Crocker, the team's best rebounder, who hasn't seen any action due to an operation. Dixon will probably start Mike Thoms and Paul Manning at guards, Jeff Heiden at center and Geep Howard and Ben Brown at the forwards.

Kings Mountain's next home game will be Friday, Jan. 8, against Chase.

For the first time a VA program of loans for mobile home purchases are available to veterans — up to \$10,000 for a home alone; up to \$17,500 with purchase of a lot.

Under a new law, there is no longer a terminal date for a GI home loan for any eligible veterans, including World War II and Korean Conflict veterans who never used this benefit.



New KMHS Football Coach Might Be Named At Next Board Meeting

The new head football coach and athletic director for Kings Mountain High School might be announced at the next school board meeting, January 18.

Schools Supt. Donald Jones said Wednesday that he has interviewed several of the candidates and intends to complete interviews this week.

"We are trying to line up the others to come in for an interview," said Jones. "If we're at all interested in them, we'll get them in this week."

Jones is being assisted in the interviewing by former coach Bill Bates, who resigned to accept job promotion of director of school-community relations.

"We feel like after we get through with the interviews we'll be able to make our recommendation to the school board at its next meeting," added Jones.

It is believed that the board will accept Jones' recommendation. "The board has given me the authority to employ teachers and people of this nature," said Jones. "But when you hire a coach, additional supplements and this sort of stuff is involved."

Over 25 coaches have applied for the job and Jones said that several are top-notch coaches.

Honor Roll For UF 1971 Is Announced

The Kings Mountain 1971 United Fund Honor Roll was announced recently.

The following names are included. Advance gifts — Mrs. Francis Sincow, Chairman, Mrs. F. R. Summers, Mrs. Paul M. Neisler, Mrs. Paul Neisler, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Keyms, Mrs. R. M. Hauss, Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Neisler, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Thomson, Mrs. Cornelia M. May, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Hendricks, Mrs. C. E. Warlick, Mrs. C. E. Neisler, Jr., Mrs. James E. Herndon, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Mauney;

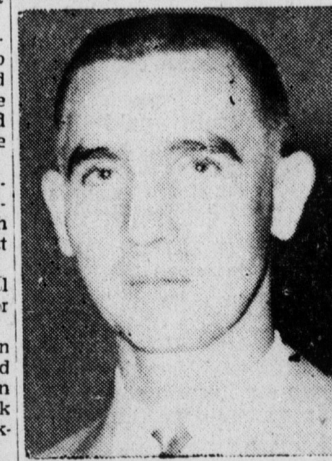
Also Mr. and Mrs. John O. Plonk, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John A. Cheshire, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Mener, I. G. Patterson and Company, W. K. and Mary Mauney Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Mauney, Mrs. Winnie M. Still, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hummelt;

Also, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Carl F. Mauney, Mr. and Mrs. Joe A. Neisler, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Neisler, Mr. W. M. Herndon, Mrs. Jean M.

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Hussey Coach Of Year, Barnes Leads Scoring

Former Kings Mountain High School basketball coach, Bobby Hussey, has been named Southwestern 3-A Conference "Coach of the Year" for the 1969-70 season. The award came several months after Hussey coached his Moun-



TOP COACH — Former KMHS basketball coach Bob Hussey has been named coach of the year in the Southwestern Conference by WADA, Radio of Shelby. Hussey coached the Mountaineers to a 23-1 record last winter. Hussey was voted the honor by fellow coaches in the SWC.

taineers to a 23-1 record and the SWC championship. The award is from Radio Station WADA of Shelby.

"It's quite an honor, especially since it was an award voted upon by the other coaches in the conference," said Hussey from his office in Boone Tuesday.

"It's a little late," continued Hussey, "but it seems I left Kings Mountain at about the same time it was decided. It's a great honor."

Hussey resigned as head basketball coach at KMHS last year after coaching the Mountaineers to a three-year record of 65 wins and only seven defeats. Two of his teams copped conference titles and the other finished second.

Coach Hussey's freshman team at Appalachian State is 3-3 despite the fact that it is small and not very talented.

"We don't have a whole lot of talent," said Hussey, "but we haven't been outclassed by anyone except Virginia Tech. They beat us by 21 points."

The high scorer for the Little Mountaineers is a former KMHS standout, Charles Barnes, who is averaging 20 points per game.

"He had a bad opening night against Wake Forest down there, said Hussey, "but his next time out against VPI he scored 36

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