



# HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

## The Evil Beetle

The first time Kings Mountain's Sammy Leigh pulled his Volkswagen "Evil Beetle" to the starting line at a drag strip, the fans laughed and wondered what in the world a bug was doing trying to compete with the big boys.

But, now, when Leigh's little wonder makes its appearance, most fans figure it's going to be across the finish line faster than anything else on the strip.

Leigh's VW, which has turned up to 110 miles per hour in a quarter, is one of the hottest dragsters going. It's a consistent winner at tracks in the two Carolinas and Tennessee.

Leigh, who works and drives for Volkswagen of Gastonia, recently won his class in the Summer Nationals in Bristol, Tenn., and last weekend he won four straight races in a tour of strips in the Raleigh-Durham area.

Leigh began drag racing at the age of 18 while living in Maryland. He started in a big way last summer after spending four months building his "Evil Beetle."

"I started on the car in March of '70 while I was still living in Maryland," he recalled, "and I started racing it in July of '70."

He raced in Maryland all of last season and early this year, then moved back to Kings Mountain in March.

"The car was running real well at the first of the season," he commented, "but from May to July, it ran into a breakage period. I lost five transmissions in a span of eight weeks."

Leigh races three days a week (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at strips in Shelby, Charlotte, Spartanburg, S. C., Blaney, S. C., and Sanford, N. C. He has raced in five states.

He said he built the VW because it was different. "I used to race a Chevelle," he recalled, "but I just couldn't get the car to go. The VW seemed like a good idea, since it's different."

Leigh built and maintained the car himself but recently sold it to Volkswagen of Gastonia. Ron Benson and Arnold Whisnant, who also work at VW of Gastonia, help Leigh maintain it now.

In comparing drag racing in the North and South, Leigh says it's harder to win in the North.

"Most of the time," he said, "the big-name cars don't come around here unless it's for a national meet."

He says his VW has become a permanent fixture at strips here and people now know what to expect. "But," he said, "when we go to a new track the fans laugh and wonder what in the world a Volkswagen is doing at a drag strip."

Leigh, who is married to the former Linda Webster of Kings Mountain, expects bigger and better things out of the "Evil Beetle" next season.

"We'll have a new body next year," he reports, "and we hope to go even faster."

## G-W On The Go

College football has hit the sports scene once again and one of the biggest victories pulled off among last week's season openers was Gardner-Webb over Lenoir Rhyne.



Coach George Litton's Bulldogs, in only their second season of senior college play, shocked the Bears in Hickory Saturday night 24-6.

To say Litton was happy with the victory would be an understatement. The former Lees-McRae mentor was overjoyed and says he is eagerly looking forward to the remainder of the season.

Gardner-Webb, which won only two games last year in Litton's first season, picked off three Lenoir Rhyne passes and recovered five fumbles en route to the victory.

Junior quarterback Ray Hannon, who had been injured until two days prior to the opening contest, directed

the Bulldogs' triple-option offense with near perfect passing and ballhandling. The Bulldogs ran up a 17-0 halftime advantage on a pair of Hannon touchdown passes, including one to former Belmont High School split end Meredith Scruggs.

The Bulldogs open their home schedule this Saturday night against Newberry and it will be Band Night. Some of the top high school bands in the Carolinas will perform.

Other Bulldog home games this season are against Samford, Carson-Newman (Homecoming, Oct. 23), Presbyterian and Georgetown.

## No Blocking

Bobby Jones, Kings Mountain High's new head football coach, was viewing films of last Friday's 16-13 defeat at the hands of Chase's Trojans.

The former Gastonia Ashbrook assistant couldn't believe that the same offensive line that led the Mountaineers to a 7-3 record last fall was doing such an inconsistent job of blocking.

But, it was.

"I can see guys missing blocks every now and then, or letting up every now and then," he said. "But we didn't do the job at any time."

Neither was Jones pleased with the pursuit of his defensive linemen. He said tackle Steve Ingle was the only Mountaineer that consistently played a good game.

Jones was so disappointed in his team's showing that he figures to make several changes for this week's game here against winless East Rutherford.

"We can't get any worse than we were last week," he said. "If the guys we've had in there so far don't want to play football, we're going to get someone who does."



**DEFENSIVE STANDOUT** — Senior tackle Steve Ingle, shown here punning on a fumble, played a consistently good defensive game last Friday in Kings Mountain's 16-13 loss to Chase. Ingle's fumble recovery set up KM's final touchdown, which at the time meant a 13-0 lead. But the Trojans came storming back in the third quarter to win their sixth victory over KM in the past seven years.

## Trojans Survive 'Giveaway' 16-13

Chase High's Trojans captured their sixth victory in seven years over Kings Mountain Friday night at Chase, 16-13.

The Mountaineers of Coach Bob Jones struck for touchdowns the first two times they had possession of the ball and held a 13-0 lead only to see the hosts come storming from behind in the third period.

The Trojans recorded a safety in the second quarter to make the score 13-2 at halftime. Junior quarterback Tony Fowler tossed a pair of third period touchdown passes to win the game for Bob Bush's club.

Coach Jones, in his first year as the Mountaineers' head coach, was bitterly disappointed after the game, and with a good right to be. His team didn't pursue on defense and the offensive line failed to block.

Jones said the only Mountaineer that consistently did a good job was defensive tackle Steve Ingle. Ingle forced a Chase fumble at the Trojan 23 yard line to set up KM's final touchdown.

Fullback John Grier raced 88 yards on KM's first play from scrimmage and John Bridges booted the extra point to give the Mounties a quick 7-0 advantage.

Shortly afterward, Ingle scooped up a Fowler fumble and went over for the one to make it 13-0. After that, Kings Mountain's Power-I offense, due mostly to the lack of blocking, begged down. The Mountaineers finished with 111 yards rushing, most of them coming on Grier's touchdown run.

Quarterback David Bolin, who was swarmed under by the Chase defensive rush, was able to complete only one of 12 passes for seven yards. Fowler, who had ample time to throw the ball, hit on six of 23 pass attempts for 113 yards.

Jones called the contest a "game of giveaway" and added that "Chase had no business beating our team. But, if we don't do

## Radiator Team Leads By Game In Women's Loop

Cleveland Radiator Service leads Scoggins Gulf Service by one game after two weeks of action in the women's duckpin bowling league.

The leaders won four games from American Legion Tuesday night for a 7-1 record. Scoggins, which was the leader after the first week of action, split a four-game set with Drews Tax Service and dropped to a 6-2 mark.

Team captain Becky Barnett led the Cleveland team's victory with a 122 single game and a 325 set. Ethel Tignor had a 108 line and 277 series for the losers.

Betty Wells scored a 113 line and 327 set to lead Scoggins Gulf to its split with Drews. Winnie Fulton had a 108 line and 304 set for Drews.

In other Tuesday action, Plonk Brothers won four games from Oates Shell Service. The Oates team is winless after eight tries.

Karen Moss scored a 108 line and Charly Tignor added a 300 set for Plonk's while Jenny Oates topped the losing team with a 109 line and 309 set.

Teams	W	L	Pct.
Cleveland Radiator	7	1	.875
Scoggins Gulf	6	2	.750
Plonk Brothers	5	3	.625
American Legion	3	5	.375
Drews Tax	3	5	.375
Oates Shell	0	8	.000

better than we did Friday night, everybody in the conference will beat us."

Chase's spirits were lifted late in the first half when Charlie Lipscomb caught Grier in the end zone for a safety. The Trojans weren't able to put any more points on the board before half time but they were still fired up at the beginning of the third period.

On both of Chase's touchdowns, the KM defense had the Trojans stopped. The hosts were backed up on their own goal line with a third and 13 when fullback Kenny Houser went over Grier and galloped 70 yards to give the Trojans a first down on the KM 30.

A pass from Fowler to Steve Arrowood covering 27 yards gave Chase its first touchdown and Terry Hines added the point after to make it 13-0.

A pass covering 72 yards from Fowler to Eddie McKinney gave Chase a first and goal on the three, but KM's defense stopped the Trojans on their first three cracks. But, on fourth down, Fowler hit Arrowood in the end zone and Hines again converted to round out the scoring.

A pass covering 72 yards from Fowler to Eddie McKinney gave Chase a first and goal on the three, but KM's defense stopped the Trojans on their first three cracks. But, on fourth down, Fowler hit Arrowood in the end zone and Hines again converted to round out the scoring.

THE STATISTICS		Chase	KM
First downs		8	6
Yds. rushing		89	111
Yds. passing		148	7
Passes		6-23	1-12
Passes Int.		0	0
Punts		6-34	9-31
Yds. Penalized		40	55

## Little Mounties Open Here Next Thursday

Kings Mountain High's freshman football team, regarded as one of the teams to beat in the Tri-County Junior High Conference, is one week away from its opening season game.

The Little Mountaineers will get their campaign under way next Thursday at John Gamble Stadium against Crest, another club which is expected to be among the front-runners.

Though most Tri-County coaches are the Little Mounties as the team to beat, KM coaches John Blalock and Steve Baker say the lack of an experienced quarterback will hurt. The ninth graders have mostly the same players who led Central Junior High to an undefeated season last year. But the quarterback of that team, Steve Southwell, is still at Central.

The ninth graders, who have good depth with over 30 players on their roster, were strengthened last week with the addition of Johnny Byers and Tony Falls.

## Houser, Bridges Score 356 Sets

Rod Houser and Richard Bridges shared scoring honors in men's bowling league play Monday night, both scoring 356 sets.

Houser had a 147 line to go with his high series and Bridges had a 140 single game. Bridges' team won the match, three games to one.

Bob Herndon scored a 134 line and 347 set as his team won three games from Cub's Paint Co. Bob Wells had a 119 line and 332 set for the losers.

Elli Mullinax scored a 125 line and Ranny Blanton added a 333 set as Childer's Roofing won four games off Dilling Heating. Gerald Hipp's 122 line and 346 set topped the losers.



**LONG TD RUN**—Fullback John Grier, above, rambled 88 yards for the first of two Kings Mountain touchdowns Friday night at Chase. It wasn't enough, though, as the Trojans stunned the Mountaineers 16-13 in a Southwestern Conference contest.

# KM Lineup Will Be Changed When East Invades Friday

Kings Mountain High's football lineup should be changed somewhat Friday night when the Mountaineers host winless East Rutherford at John Gamble Stadium.

Coach Bob Jones, bitterly disappointed following last Friday's 16-13 loss at Chase, said that all positions are wide open and that the players that show the biggest desire to play will start.

"We haven't looked good all year, except at times," says Jones. "So let's face it. If the guys we've got in there don't want to play football, we're going to put somebody in there that does."

Jones said the Mountaineer offense did not pursue and that the offensive line failed to block in last week's 16-13 upset at Chase. "It was a game of give-

away," he said. "Chase had no business beating us."

Just what changes Jones will make in his lineup remains to be seen but if last week's game is any indication, only defensive tackle Steve Ingle is assured of a spot. "He's the only player that gave us a consistent performance," said Jones.

Fullback John Grier was KM's only offensive threat and he picked up most of his yardage on his first play from scrimmage when he rambled 88 yards to give the Mountaineers a 7-0 lead.

East Rutherford will come here with an 0-2 record, having lost to Dallas and Lincolnton. Jones says the Cavaliers are big and strong and will give KM a stern test.

"Right now," said Jones, "we're

one of the worst teams in the conference. There's no way for us to go but up. We have to get better because we can't do any worse than we did at Chase."

The Mountaineers will carry a 0-1 Southwestern Conference record and a 1-1 overall mark into the contest. They whipped Bessemer City 24-6 in the season opener two weeks ago.

The past six years the Cavaliers have enjoyed success against the Mountaineers. The Rutherford County club has won four of the past six contests. KM has won only once and the two clubs battled to a 14-14 tie once.

East Rutherford has won the last two contests, 12-9 last year and 7-6 in the rain two years ago. Kings Mountain's last win over the Cavaliers (14-7) came in 1968.

## KM Pee Wees Blank Belmont 18-0 In Opener

The Kings Mountain Optimist pee wee football team won its season opener Tuesday night at Belmont, 18-0.

Peter Brown scored the first two touchdowns for the KM team. He tallied in the first quarter on a 23-yard sweep. The Mounties drove 60 yards in eight plays following Belmont's opening kickoff.

After holding Belmont without a first down following the ensuing kickoff, KM drove 50 yards in six plays to go ahead 12-0. Brown scored again, this time from 25 yards out.

The score remained 12-0 at halftime.

Kings Mountain scored its final touchdown in the third quarter after John Gamble intercepted a Belmont pass on the KM 40. It took KM 10 plays to score, Kevin Tinsley getting the six points on a one-yard plunge.

Coaches Jim Littlejohn and Charles Burns cleared their bench in the final quarter.

Kings Mountain led Belmont in first downs, eight to two, and the Mountaineers gained over 200 yards rushing.

The coaches cited Kevin Tinsley, John Gamble, Kelly Land, John Ross and Bobby Bridges for their defensive play. Offensive players earning recognition were Billy Garner, John Ross, Peter Brown and Ronnie Wilson.

The Kings Mountain team is host to Evening Optimist of Gastonia next Tuesday night at 7 p.m. The site of the game has not been decided.

The KM pee wees are competing in the Gaston League.

## Steve Ingle Player Of Week

Senior tackle Steve Ingle has been named player of the week for his defensive performance in last Friday night's 16-13 loss at Chase.

Coach Bob Jones said the 180-pound tackle was the only Mountaineer that consistently played good football in the disappointing loss.

Ingle, a two-way performer at tackle, is a two-year starter and letterman for the Mountaineers but was hindered his sophomore and junior years because of injuries.

As a result of being selected as player of the week, Ingle will receive a free gift from the men's department of Fulton's Dept. Store, which sponsors the weekly honor.

Halfback Marshall Logan was player of the week for the season's opener, a 24-6 KM victory over Bessemer City.

# Kings Mountain Invitational Set Dec. 3-4

Basketball season is just around the corner and Kings Mountain will help tip off the new season by hosting a four-team college cage tournament Dec. 3-4.

The Kings Mountain Invitational, which will be an annual event, will be played at the 3,000-seat community center. Participating in the tournament will be Gardner-Webb, Elon, St. Augustine and Barber-Scotia.

Two of the teams — Gardner-Webb and Elon — finished the season last year ranked in the top ten in the N.A.A. circles. And both teams featured All-American performers in George Adams of the Bulldogs and Tommy Cole of Elon.

Although Barber-Scotia and St. Augustine weren't nationally ranked, they were ranked high in their districts. Barber-Scotia, along with G-W and Elon, played

in the District 26 tournament and St. Augustine participated in the District 25 event.

Barber-Scotia, a Concord school, upset Gardner-Webb 88-83 in the regular season finale last year. It was one of only a few games which the Bowling Springs Baptist school lost.

The tournament will be a homecoming for G-W's Adams, who was an All-American and All-State performer at Kings Mountain High School in 1968. Adams led the Mountaineers to a two-year record of 45-2 and two Southwestern Conference titles in 1967 and 1968.

Cole, a 6-2 guard, played with Adams on the 1968 West All-Star team which whipped the East in the annual event in Greensboro. Cole was selected as the most valuable player in that contest.

Gardner-Webb will feature two seven-footers to go along with Adams and a host of returning lettermen from last year's fine outfit.

Gardner-Webb Coach Eddie Holbrook has said that seven-foot Henry Boyd of Winstboro, S. C., has the potential of being the best basketball player to ever wear a Gardner-Webb uniform, and that includes Adams and 7-3 Artis Gilmore, now playing with the Kentucky Colonels of the ABA.

G-W's other seven-footer is Ken Long, a Tennessee prep product. The Bulldogs have other seasoned performers in Dennis DeSanctis, Tony Spagnola, Doug Jolley, Len Dugger and newcomers.

One of G-W's newcomers this year will be freshman Donald Elliott, who led nearby Dallas High School to the state playoffs

the past two years. Holbrook is expecting big things from the 6-8 forward.

Barber-Scotia will feature two Gastonia Ashley products, center Eric Eynum and guard Larry Garvin. Both played at Ashley under veteran Larry Rhodes, regarded as one of the top basketball coaches in North Carolina.

In addition to bringing Tommy Cole to KM, Elon will bring last year's District 26 Coach of the Year, Bill Miller. The former North Carolina cager has built Elon into a small college power since taking over as head coach 11 years ago.

Elon returns every player of last year's team which won the Carolinas Conference regular season and tournament titles and should be the team to beat here. But all four participating coaches agree that anybody is capable of taking home the marbles.



**EYEING GASTON DAY** — These six Central Junior High Patriots are eyeing Saturday night's opener against Gaston Day School at John Gamble Stadium. Front row, left to right, are linemen Max Cochran, Jeff Carroll and Jeff Jones and back row, same order, are backs Steve Southwell, Jimmy Thompson and Donnie McDevitt.

## Patriots Open Season Here On Saturday Night

Central Junior High's Patriots open their 1971 football season Saturday night at John Gamble Stadium against Gaston Day School.

Coach Porter Griggs' charges finished 5-0 last season but will be in a rebuilding stage this year.

Only one player, quarterback Steve Southwell, started on last year's undefeated outfit and most other players did not see a great deal of action.

Southwell will start at quarterback again this trip and he'll have halfbacks Donny McDevitt and Jimmy Thompson and fullback Wendell Jackson in his backfield.

On the line the Patriots will have Jackie Wray and Jeff Jones at ends, Nathaniel Smith and John Yarbro at tackles, Simon McClain and Max Cochran at tackles and Randy Oliver at center.

Central's 1971 roster follows: BACKS: Mike Bumgardner, Bill Easley, Steve Southwell, Curtis Hickman, Randy Putnam, Jimmy Thompson, Harold Glass, Kenny Bumgardner, Scott Ledford, Wendell Jackson, Donny McDevitt.

## Jayvee Team Folds, Pruitt Joins Varsity

Kings Mountain High School will not have a junior varsity football team this year.

Coach Tommy Pruitt said the team has been disbanded due to the lack of players.

Pruitt had been drilling the team since the opening of school in preparation for Thursday's scheduled opener against East Rutherford.

ENDS: Jackie Wray, Jeff Jones, Mike Murphree, Robert Miller, Mike Williams, Chris Johnson, James Larry, William Thompson and Tommy Manning.

TACKLES: Joey Allen, Glen Roberts, Max Cochran, Simon McClain, Willie Roberts, Kevin Ford, Steve Lancaster, Tommy Martin, Eugene Lovelace.

GUARDS: Nathaniel Smith, Earl Casler, John Yarbro, Ronnie McKinney, Alfred Jamerson.

CENTERS: Jaque Jackson, Randy Oliver, Joe Ormand.

## Three Teams Tied For Lead In Mixed Loop

Bob Herndon, Bob Ramsey and Plonk Oil share the lead after one week's action in the mixed bowling league. All have 3-1 records.

Herndon's team topped Ranny Blanton as Randy Culbertson rolled a 128 line and 342 set. Blanton was high for the losers with a 112-323.

Ramsey's team whipped John Dilling, Ramsey led the way with a 121 line and 327 set and Charly Tignor's 115 line and Dilling's 366 set led the losers.

Ethel Tignor's 122 line and Mull Ramsey's 350 set weren't enough as Ramsey's team dropped three games to Plonk Oil. Clarence Plonk's 131 line and Jenny Oates' 332 set led the winners.

STANDINGS			
Teams	W	L	Pct.
Bob Herndon	3	1	.750
Bob Ramsey	3	1	.750
Plonk Oil	3	1	.750
Mull Ramsey	1	3	.250
John Dilling	1	3	.250
Ranny Blanton	1	3	.250