



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Invitational Notes

Notes and comments on the Kings Mountain Invitational Basketball Tournament, coming up this weekend at Kings Mountain Community Center:

Imagine how powerful a team you'd have if you could choose an all-star team from the four clubs participating in the KM Invitational. From all four teams combined the top offensive performers from last year are Gardner-Webb's George Adams (27.8 scoring average), Elon's Tommy Cole (23.2), St. Augustine's Curtis Pritchett (20.9), Barber-Scotia's John Steele (19.5) and Gardner-Webb's Henry Boyd (18.6).

Elon's 6-9 junior center, Larry Trautwein, appears to be the deadliest shot in the tournament. The All-Carolinas Conference standout led the Carolinas Conference in field goal accuracy last year, hitting 60 percent of his shots. No other player in the tournament can match that mark, but St. Augustine's Pritchett can come close. He hit 59 percent of his field goal efforts.

As far as accuracy goes this year, however, no player can compare with Gardner-Webb's Adams, a Kings Mountain High product. Adams is averaging 36 points per game and is hitting close to 70 percent of his field goals. G-W Coach Eddie Holbrook says the All-American is off to his best start ever.

Fans attending the tournament are likely to recognize several of the participants. No less than six players played their high school basketball in this area. Gardner-Webb has Adams, Don Elliott of Dallas and Al Graves of Cherryville, St. Augustine has Farley McGill of Gastonia and Barber-Scotia has Larry Garvin and Eric Bynum of Gastonia.

One of the familiar faces in the crowd Friday night during the opening round will be former Kings Mountain High coach Bobby Hussey. Hussey, now head coach at Belmont Abbey College, says he'll be on hand to scout Elon, which plays the Abbey twice this season.

Trophies which will be presented following Saturday's championship game are on display in the window of Willie's Jewelry. Trophies will be presented to the championship team, runner-up, most valuable player and five members of the all-tournament team.

Local fans who have never seen Elon's Tommy Cole perform are in for a real treat. The All-American guard is one of the finest outside shots anywhere and his coach, Bill Miller, tags him as a definite pro prospect.

At least four players participating here are already being eyed by the pros. They are Adams, Cole, Pritchett, and Boyd. Gardner-Webb will have the only two seven-footers here, Boyd and freshman Ken Long.

If there are those of you who think Gardner-Webb will be up the creek when Adams graduates, you're in for a surprise. Coach Holbrook has an outstanding group of freshmen recruits and one frosh, 6-9 Kirby Thurston of Florida, could very well be the next Adams.

All-Americans Cole and Adams, along with ABA draft pick Pritchett will probably occupy the spotlight this weekend but let's not fail to recognize four outstanding coaches who have agreed to bring their fine clubs here. G-W's Holbrook, Elon's Miller and St. Augustine's Harvey Heartley have coach of the year awards galore to back them up and Barber-Scotia's Al Coefield is certainly on the way to making a name for himself. He coached the Sabres to a 15-4 record last year and handed Gardner-Webb one of its four defeats.

Although it would be hard to make him admit it, G-W Coach Holbrook might have his best team ever this year. The Bulldogs, ranked fifth in the nation, have ran roughshod over their first three foes. Holbrook says he won't be happy with this season unless the Bulldogs win the District 26 championship and play in the national tournament.

Gardner-Webb's Tony Spagnola, who looks somewhat like Broadway Joe Namath, is undoubtedly one of the most underrated basketball players in the state. Spagnola doesn't get too much publicity and he might not score a lot of points, but he's always making the key plays that win basketball games.

Elon's Miller, a former standout basketball player at the University of North Carolina, is the only one of the four head coaches who played professional basketball. Miller's in his 12th season as head coach of the Fighting Christians and has a 207-131 record. Miller's assistant coach, Tony Radovich, who is in his second year at Elon, played on North Carolina's undefeated national championship team in 1957.

In Friday night's opening games, look for a disciplined offense from Elon and run-and-shoot tactics from Barber-Scotia, Gardner-Webb and St. Augustine. Elon doesn't freeze the ball but the Fighting Christians don't take foolish shots, either.

St. Augustine Coach Heartley is the older brother of former N. C. State guard Al Heartley. Coach Heartley, in his first year at the St. Augustine helm, won no less than 10 championships as a high school coach and he's hoping his success will rub off on the Mighty Falcons.

Tournament directors urge fans entering the community center Friday and Saturday to enter into the gym, rather than the downstairs doors. Fans who have advanced tickets will enter a separate door and will not have to stand in line.

BOWLING

...right down your alley...

Culbertson, Tignor Lead Bowling Loops

Ronnie Culbertson's 381 series was the high mark in men's bowling action Monday night and Charlie Tignor's 344 set led the ladies' league on Tuesday.

Culbertson's set, which included a 144 game, led Cub's Paint Co. to a 2-2 split with Albert Brackett's team. Buck Vincent led Brackett's outfit with a 126 line and 349 set.

Mull Ramsey's 366 set led his team to three wins over Childer's Bowling. Bill Mullinax had a 123 line and Ranny Blanton added a 330 set for the losers.

Four Unbeaten Teams Play In Invitational

By GARY STEWART
Herald Sports Editor

Four undefeated college basketball teams, including two that averaging over 100 points per game, come to Kings Mountain's 3,000 seat community center this weekend for the Kings Mountain Invitational basketball tournament.

Gardner-Webb, Elon, St. Augustine and Barber-Scotia are entered in the event and all four have proved strong during early-season tests.

Gardner-Webb, 3-0, and Barber-Scotia, 2-0, are scoring over 100 points per game and the Bulldogs led by Kings Mountain All-American George Adams, are averaging 130 points per contest.

Elon, the 10th ranked NAIA team in the nation, is 2-0, hav-

ing won its own Civitan Turkey Classic last weekend. The Fighting Christians, led by All-American Tommy Cole and 6-9 center Larry Trautwein, defeated Lenoir Rhyne 86-74 in the finals.

KM's Adams, who is averaging 36 points per game so far, will be honored between games Friday night. Mayor John Moss has proclaimed Friday and Saturday as George Adams Achievement Days and the mayor will make a special presentation to the 6-5 sensation prior to the 6-5 o'clock game against St. Augustine.

All four participating coaches agree that the tournament is a wide-open affair. The teams are so evenly matched, it appears that the one that gets the breaks will be the winner.

Elon and Barber-Scotia get the

event underway Friday at 7 p.m. The winner will meet the G-W-St. Augustine winner Saturday at 9 p.m. for the tournament championship. The two Friday losers play for third place Saturday at 7 p.m.

Gardner-Webb, the fifth-ranked NAIA team in the nation, hasn't had to work up a good sweat in winning its first three games. The Bulldogs have routed Piedmont 137-41, Voorhees 149-85 and UNC-Asheville 99-88. Adams, of course, has been the leader. The KM senior is hitting close to 70 percent of his field goal attempts.

Bulldog coach Eddie Holbrook, who prides to Elon as the tournament favorite, will start Adams, seven-footer Henry Boyd, Dennis DeSanctis, R. Harold Thomas and Tony Spagnola against St. August-

ine. That's the same lineup that led the Bulldogs to a 20-4 record last season.

Holbrook, however, has a strong bench and he has used it often thus far. Seven-footer Len Long and 6-9 freshman Kirby Thurston have been G-W's top two reserves so far.

St. Augustine is led by 6-5 forward Curtis Pritchett, who averaged over 20 points and 15 rebounds per game last year, was selected in this year's ABA draft.

Barber-Scotia, which finished 15-5 last year and handed Gardner-Webb one of its four defeats, is paced by guards John Steele and Larry Garvin and forward Eric Bynum. Garvin and Bynum, both sophomores, played their high school basketball at Gas-

tonia Ashley.

Elon coached by Bill Miller, is the defending season and tournament champion in the Carolinas Conference and the Fighting Christians are picked as the top team in the CC again this year. Cole was named the most valuable player in the Carolinas loop last year and Miller won coach of the year honors.

Friday's opening round will be highlighted by Adams' matchup with St. Augustine's Pritchett. Both are regarded as being among the top 6-5 cagers in the country and both are expected to go high in next year's pro draft.

The doors to the community center will open both nights at 6 o'clock. Tournament officials urge fans to purchase their tickets in advance in order to avoid

standing in line at the door. Tickets are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery.



EDDIE HOLBROOK

Mountaineers Lose Opener To BC, 75-55

Kings Mountain High School opened its 1971-72 basketball campaign here Tuesday night, splitting a twinbill with Bessemer City of the Little Five Conference.

The KM girls won their contest, 38-27, but the Mountaineers were blown off the court, 75-55.

Kings Mountain's boys never led in losing their third straight game to the Yellow Jackets. BC won both contests over their 3-A foes last year.

Reggie Wideman, a senior sharpshooter, led Coach Ace Parker's club with 30 points and Larry Camp, a junior, added 16. Senior Theo Smith, a lanky 6-4 star, out scored only eight points but controlled both backboards.

Bessemer City rushed to a 17-7 lead after the first period but KM outscored the Yellow Jackets 20-12 in the second quarter and trailed by only 30-27 at intermission.

The Yellow Jackets started fast again in the second half and left little doubt as to which team was the stronger. The Jackets outscored KM 11-2 in the first three minutes, running their lead to 42-29. By the end of the third quarter it was 57-36 and the BC lads cruised to victory in the final chapter.

Kings Mountain's top scorer was junior guard Mike Thomas, who dropped in 21 points. Ben Brown was the only other Mountaineer in double figures with 10. Kings Mountain's girls, playing for the first time under boys rules, got off to a slow start but finished strong. Bessemer City led by 4-2 at the quarter, and 12-11 at halftime.

Behind the scoring of Deborah Crockett, Carolyn Mitchem and Jane Lovelace, the Mountaineettes came back to lead by 21-18 after three periods and Coach Blaine Froeberger's lassies put the game on ice with a 17-point fourth quarter.

Crockett, a junior, led the KM lassies with 15 points and Mitchem, a senior All-Conference performer, added 10. Lovelace scored only six points but her two buckets off a fast break broke the game open early in the final chapter. Melba Jackson was Bessemer City's top scorer with 11 points.

K. Mtn.	GIRLS GAME			
	FG	FT	PF	TP
Lovelace	2	0	4	6
Mitchem	4	2	4	10
Crockett	6	3	5	15
Cornwell	1	1	3	3

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COMING HOME FRIDAY — Gardner-Webb basketball All-American George Adams, above, will be coming home Friday to lead his team into action in the Kings Mountain Invitational basketball tournament. Adams is averaging 36 points per game and is hitting nearly 70 percent of his field goal attempts.

Best Small College Teams In State Here

If national basketball polls are a true indication of a team's strength, the two best small college teams in North Carolina will be competing here Friday and Saturday in the Kings Mountain Invitational basketball tournament.

Gardner-Webb's Bulldogs, 3-0 and fresh from a championship in the Asheville Tipoff tournament, are ranked fifth in the nation and Elon, 2-0 and winner of its own Civitan Turkey Classic last weekend, is ranked 10th. They're the only North Carolina teams rated in the top ten and they'll be joined here by St. Augustine and Barber-Scotia.

The Kings Mountain event, which will be played in the 3,000-seat community center on Cleveland Avenue, will begin Friday at 7 p. m. when Elon takes on Barber-Scotia. Elon is the defending champion in the Carolinas Conference and Barber-Scotia, which was 15-5 last year, is 0-1 to a 2-0 start.

Gardner-Webb, 20-1 a year ago, battles St. Augustine at 9 p. m. The two losers play for consolation honors Saturday at 7 and the winners play for the championship at 9.

Though a championship match between Gardner-Webb and Elon would be ideal, neither coach Eddie Holbrook of the Bulldogs nor Lill Miller of the Fighting Christians is looking past his opening night foe.

"This is a big tournament," says Holbrook. "Any team is capable of winning it and it's going to show all of us exactly how we stand in District 26."

Holbrook has previously stated that his team's goal is to win the District 26 title and play in the national tournament. Gardner-Webb, Elon and Barber-Scotia played in the district tourney last season and are eyeing a return trip.

The highlight of this weekend's tournament will be the appearance of two All-Americans, Gardner-Webb's George Adams and Elon's Tommy Cole. Adams is a native of Kings Mountain and will be honored with a special presentation prior to Friday's game with St. Augustine.

Many other players participating here won all-star honors last year and several are being eyed by the pros. Gardner-Webb's seven-footer Henry Boyd, Mike Adams and Cole, is considered a good pro prospect.

St. Augustine's Curtis Pritchett and William Fleming were both all-conference performers last year and Pritchett was selected in the ABA draft. Elon's 6-9 center Larry Trautwein joined teammate Cole on the All-Carolinas Conference team and Trautwein led the conference in field goal accuracy.

Barber-Scotia is led by the likes of John Steele, Marvin Hart, Eric Bynum and Larry Garvin. Bynum and Garvin are both from Gastonia.

Tickets for the tournament are

Adams - Pritchett Battle Will Be Opening Night Highlight

During his high school and collegiate basketball career, Gardner-Webb All-American George Adams has faced and conquered many tough challenges.

This Friday at 9 p.m., when Gardner-Webb battles St. Augustine in the opening round of the Kings Mountain Invitational, Adams will face still another tough challenge. That's when he goes into head-to-head battle with St. Augustine's fine 6-5 guard, Curtis Pritchett.

Pritchett, a senior from Blackstone, Va., averaged over 20 points and 15 rebounds per game last year and he has the honor of being the only player in the KM Invitational that has been selected by a professional basketball team. He was drafted in this year's ABA hardship draft.

Adams a Kings Mountain prep product, and his Gardner-Webb teammates are well aware of Pritchett's ability on a basketball court. Pritchett did his thing once against the Bulldogs last year but Eddie Holbrook's men played one of their better games and won by 13 points.

"But that was one of our best nights of the season," states Coach Holbrook. "Pritchett's the best shooter we went up against last year and I'm sure he's even tougher now."

Adams, who is averaging 36 points per game and is hitting 70 percent of his field goal attempts, has led the nationally-fifth ranked Bulldogs to three impressive victories. Gardner-Webb is averaging 130 points per game and has been held to under 100 only once, that a 99-88 victory over UNC-Asheville in the finals of the Asheville Tipoff Tournament last weekend.

Gardner-Webb and Adams will be favored to win over St. Augustine and the Bulldogs are a slim choice to win the tournament title. But Holbrook knows it will be tough.

"Any of the four teams is capable of winning it," he says. "I think we have as good a shot as anybody. But it's going to be tough and the team that wins it will certainly deserve it."

Adams, who is expected to go high in next year's pro draft will be playing before fans who saw him lead Kings Mountain High School to a 45-2 two-year record a few seasons ago. Adams will be honored with a special presentation between games on Friday night.

"George is off to his best start ever," Holbrook says. He's usually a late starter but he's better at this stage than he's ever been. He's shooting the ball real well from the outside and he handles the ball good for a man his size."

Friday's opening contest, between Elon and Barber-Scotia, will also feature an All-American performer. That would be Elon's 6-3 guard Tommy Cole, the most

valuable player in the Carolinas Conference last year.

A Saturday game between Gardner-Webb and Elon would certainly be a thriller as Adams would most likely go against Elon's fine 6-9 center, Larry Trautwein. Trautwein won the Carolinas Conference field goal title last year, hitting over 60 percent of his shots.

An Elon-Gardner-Webb game would also pit two former all-star teammates together. Cole

and Adams helped lead the West high school all-stars to a victory over the East squad in Greensboro their senior years in high school. Cole, incidentally, was the most valuable player in that game.

Tickets for the tournament are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery; in Gastonia at the Sports Center; and in Bowling Springs at Gardner-Webb College's athletic department.

Adams and Henry Boyd of Bulldogs to the tournament championship. Gardner-Webb whipped Voorhees 149-85 and UNC-Asheville 99-88 to claim their second title in three years.

The two victories gives the Bulldogs a perfect 3-0 record heading into the Kings Mountain Invitational Friday and Saturday at KM's 3,000-seat community center. The Bulldogs are averaging 130 points per game and Adams is hitting 70 percent of his field goal attempts.

Adams hit 11 of 20 shots from the floor and seven of eight got the event under way at 7 in Saturday's championship win p. m. Tickets, which are \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for adults, are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery. Tickets are also on sale at Bowling Springs Dr. 2, Holbrook was elated with his team's tournament championship

and he's been selected to the all-tournament team in every one.

Gardner-Webb will see its first action in the KM Invitational Friday at 9 p. m. against St. Augustine, Elon and Barber-Scotia get the event under way at 7 in Saturday's championship win p. m. Tickets, which are \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for adults, are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery. Tickets are also on sale at Bowling Springs Dr. 2, Holbrook was elated with his team's tournament championship

KINGS MOUNTAIN INVITATIONAL

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

DEC. 3 & 4 7 & 9 P.M.

Community Center

Friday's Games:

7 P.M.—ELON Vs. BARBER SCOTIA

9 P.M.—GARDNER-WEBB Vs.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Saturday's Games:

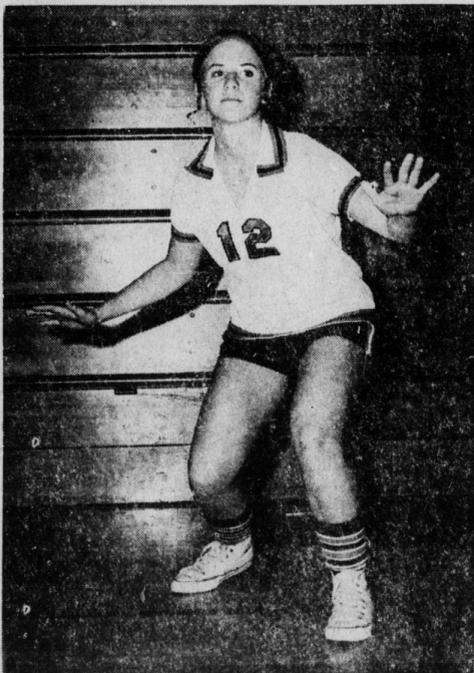
7 P.M.—CONSOLATION GAME

9 P.M.—CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

TICKETS \$2.00 ADULTS \$1.50 STUDENTS

TICKETS ON SALE AT KM DRUG AND

HERMAN BLALOCK GROCERY



GOOD OPENER — Kings Mountain High senior Jane Lovelace stood out in the Mountaineettes' opening 38-27 win over Bessemer City here Tuesday. Lovelace scored only six points but played a good floor game and her two field goals in the fourth quarter iced the win for the locals.

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