

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Notes from the world of sports:
Folks around Kings Mountain are optimistic that Golden Gloves boxing will be an annual event. Last week's tournament at the community center was a smashing success and several folks are already talking of forming a local team for next year.

Ken Mitchem, former Kings Mountain High basketball standout, is sitting out this year at Pan American University in Texas and is planning on transferring next fall to Belmont Abbey, where he'll rejoin his former Coach Bobby Hussey. It's also being rumored that another former KMHS star, Florida State's Otis Cole, might transfer to the Abbey.

Clemson's Tigers probably will withdraw from the North-South Basketball Tournament, an annual event held in Charlotte, Coach Tate Locke says the Tigers are getting tired of playing Carolina and N. C. State in Littlejohn Coliseum only once every two years. Clemson's two games in the ACC standings while UNC and N. C. State play only one ACC game there.

Duke University cage coach Bucky Waters has been under constant fire since the beginning of the season. It seems Duke students are getting tired of seeing Blue Devils transfer and make the starting team at other schools. The latest player to leave the Duke team was Richie O'Connor last week.

Randy Bynum, a standout football and basketball player at Lincolnton High, has signed a football grant-in-aid to attend Gardner-Webb College.

N. C. State's freshman basketball, David Thompson of Crest, is the hottest thing since fire. The 6-4 flash is currently averaging 36.3 points, and 14.1 rebounds per game. He's hitting 55 percent of his field goal attempts. His best game was against Isothermal Community College when he scored 54 points and hauled in 20 rebounds.

At least three members of last year's Kings Mountain High football squad have been contacted by colleges. Running backs Marshall Logan and John Grier have been contacted by Lees McRae Junior College and center-linebacker Mark George has received letters from Lenoir Rhyne College. George is just a junior.

Davidson football coach Dave Fagg has announced his first signing of the year. He recently inked Hal Peacock, an offensive and defensive back from Charlotte's Myers Park High School. Myers Park, incidentally, is searching for a new grid coach since its veteran Gus Purcell resigned a couple of months ago. Some rumors have it that the Mustangs would like to lure former KMHS Coach Shu Carlton away from Gastonia Ashbrook.

Saturday's regionally televised basketball game of the week will feature two of the nation's finest squads, South Carolina and Houston. South Carolina's win last Saturday over Davidson enabled Coach Frank McGuire to pick up his 400th coaching victory.

Western Carolina is having an off year in basketball (14-11 at this stage) but the Cats can still nail down a berth in the District Six playoffs if they beat Voorhees tonight and Baptist College Saturday. The Catamounts, led by David Smith's 21 points and 15 rebounds per game, meet Gardner-Webb February 23 in the Charlotte Coliseum, bringing together two of the nation's finest small college players, WCU's Smith and G-W's George Adams.

Last night's Davidson freshman game in Charlotte against Duke pitted the Wildkittens against their former coach, Neill McGeachy. The former Lenoir Rhyne star is enjoying the same success at Duke as he did at Davidson.

Clemson's Tigers will be trying to snap a four-game losing streak Saturday when they take on Wake Forest in a key ACC game. Both clubs are 1-6 in league play and tied for the cellar.

April 8's NASCAR Grand American race at Bowman Gray Stadium in Winston Salem will be nationally televised by the ABC Wide World of Sports. Bad news for us, however. The event will be blacked out locally. Sale of TV rights will probably make the race Bowman Gray's richest in history.

KM High's junior varsity basketball team, which closes out its season here Monday against Chase, is currently on a five-game winning streak. Coach John Blalock would like nothing more than to win his last two for a 14-6 season's mark.

Juniors Mike Thoms and Debra Crockett are the only KM High basketball players averaging double figures. Through games of last week, Thoms was averaging 15.9 points per game and Crockett 12.3. They had scored 286 and 196 points, respectively. Those figures look good enough for all-conference recognition.

Bowl Teams Alabama, Stanford, UNC And Tech On Duke Schedule

DURHAM — One of the most demanding and challenging non-conference schedules in Duke history and an attractive five-game home slate highlight the 1972 Blue Devil football schedule. Acting Director of Athletics Carl James announced today.

Although Washington did not play in a bowl game, the Huskies posted a 6-4 record and ended the season rated 19th in the nation. The Huskies return Sonny Sixkiller, one of the top collegiate quarterbacks in the nation.

"Duke again plays the most demanding non-conference schedule in the ACC," remarked Blue Devil football coach Mike McGee. "But, we like the challenges of the schedule and will continue to play against the top football programs in the country."

Mounties Away Friday, Host Chase Tuesday

Gibson Has Team Working Outside



TOP PROSPECT — Senior David Bolin, shown above, is among pitching and catching prospects working out for the upcoming KMHS baseball season. Bolin has hit over 300 the past two seasons and should be among the top performers in the Southwestern Conference this spring.

Pitchers And Catchers Drill At High School

Pitching and catching candidates for the Kings Mountain High baseball team began workouts Monday and other prospects will begin drills next Wednesday.

Coach Barry Gibson is now working with six varsity pitchers and catchers and some freshman players.

The main returnees are pitchers Rick Hord and Keith Parker and catcher David Bolin. Other varsity prospects include pitcher Kenny Farias and catchers Kenny Bolin and Darrell Van Dyke.

Freshmen currently practicing with the varsity are pitchers Scott Moss, Chuck Austin and Dale Hartsoe and catcher Kenny McCoy.

Hord, a righthander, was the mainstay of last year's staff. The Mountainers last season finished a 12-7-1 and second in the Southwestern Conference. Hord had a 62 record and was among the top chunckers in the SWC.

Parker was a starter in the outfield but was also one of the top relief pitchers and saw occasional starting duty. A third member of last year's pitching staff, Danny Hartsoe, did not come out for the squad this year.

David Bolin, of course, was among the top hitters in the SWC last year and won the team's most valuable player award. A starter on the Mountainers' state championship team three years ago, Bolin has hit over 300 the past two campaigns.

The other two catchers, Kenny Bolin and Van Dyke, were converted to the position. Bolin was an outfielder and Van Dyke an infielder on the jayvet team last spring.

Gibson worked his pitchers and catchers outside Monday and Tuesday and hopes for good weather so he can continue that type of practice.

"We'll just loosen up and try to get in shape until the rest of the team joins us," Gibson said.

Among those expected to join the team next week are Graham Withers, Robbie Moore, Tim Echols, Wayne Bridges and Bill Baird from last year's team; plus new comers Randy Wingo, Mike Thomas, Frankie Stokes, Tim Hunter, Paul Manning, and others scheduled to play Bessemer City.

The Mounties are tentatively in non-conference games on March 7 and 10. They open SWC play here on March 17 against Crest.

NCSU — Through the first 18 games of both, Tommy Burleson trailed Virginia's Barry Parkhill in scoring by 12 points, 390-402, for the Atlantic Coast Conference lead. But Burleson, who is the ACC's top-rebounder, had taken 70 less shots than Parkhill.

Wrestling Card On February 26

Wrestling fans attending the mat program at the community center on Saturday, February 26, will have a shot at winning a portable television, compliments of McGinnis Furniture Co.

Roy Pearson, director of the community center, said a TV will be given away as a door prize.

The wrestling program will feature a big tag team match and a girls' match. In the tag team event, Dale Starr and Hoss Strickland will take on the Bolos and in girls vnt, Jean Kay will battle Joyce Brown. In the other singles match, Buck Forrest will meet Doug Hawkins. Action begins at 7:30 p. m.



HAVE BANNER YEAR — The Kings Mountain High girls basketball team, pictured above, has been near the top of the Southwestern Conference all season. Coach Elaine Fronberger sends his club against Chase here Tuesday night in the regular season finale. Shown above, front row, left to right, are Karen Ledford, Jane Lovelace, Diane Cornwell, Cathy Ledford and Debbie Francis. Back row, same order, Jane Tete, Susan Cash, Carolyn Mitchem, Jane Henderson, Debra Crockett, Debbie Leo, Ann Hambright, Diane Spearman and Coach Fronberger. (Photo by I. G. Alexander)

Shelby Defeats Mounties Twice

Both Kings Mountain High basketball teams dropped a notch in the Southwestern Conference standings Tuesday night when they were defeated by Shelby.

The girls lost 36-33 to drop into third place, behind South Point and Burns. South Point, incidentally defeated Cherryville 50-37 to clinch the Southwestern Conference title.

The Mountainers were completely outclassed, 90-55, and dropped into eighth place in the 10-team loop. Lincolnton, which won its third straight game over Chase, climbed within two games of the Mountainers, thus, Coach Allen Dixon's charges still aren't assured of a tournament berth.

Balanced scoring was the key to the Shelby victories. The Shelby girls did not place a player in double figures but all seven girls who played scored. Kings Mountain was led by Debra Crockett with 16 points. It was the second loss in three games for the Mountainers, who just two weeks ago were tied with South Point for the league lead.

Shelby's boys placed five men in double figures, led by guard Alvin Gentry with 22 points. Ben Brown was the only KM player to reach double figures. He had 10. The Lions held KM's leading scorer, Mike Thoms, to his season's low of five points.

Both coaches, Allen Dixon of the Mounties and Dick McCleney of Shelby, cleared their benches. Eleven players scored for each team.

Mountainettes Nip Cherries, Mounties Lose

Kings Mountain High's basketball squads split a Southwestern Conference twinbill with Cherryville here Friday, the girls winning 52-41 and the Mountainers falling 56-56.

The Mountainettes, in staying in a tie with Burns for second place in the 10-team league, got a 20-point performance from junior scoring leader Debra Crockett. The 20 points marked the highest effort of the year for a Mountainette.

Coach Blaine Fronberger played his entire team and 10 of 11 players scored. Carolyn Mitchem joined Crockett in double figures with 12.

The 52 points matched the Mountainettes' season high of 52 scored early in the year against Lincolnton. The Mountainettes were in command most of the way, leading by 25-19 at halftime.

The Mountainers played the highly favored Ironmen a tougher-than-expected game but Jim Ramsey's club came through in the end. Cherryville led by only two points, 30-28, at halftime and never could pull away in the second half.

Jimmy Graves, who scored 28 points against KM in an earlier meeting, slacked off this time but still led his team with 19 points. Dennis Tate added 17 and Frank Allen 12. Mike Thoms had 17 and Wendell Dawkins 10 for the Mountainers.

GIRLS GAME — Kings Mountain (52) — Crockett 20, Cornwell 4, Mitchem 12, Cash 3, Lovelace 3, Lee 4, K. Ledford 1, C. Ledford 2, Henderson 2, Hambright 1.

Cherryville (41) — Gaston 15, Giles 11, Dellinger 9, Hope 2, Farris 1, Banks 1, Brown 2.

BOYS GAME — Kings Mountain (56) — Dawkins 10, Crocker 6, Brown 3, Thoms 17, White 6, Wingo 6, Blalock 6, Heiden 2.

Cherryville (59) — Tate 17, Giles 6, J. Graves 19, Allen 12, R. Graves 5.

Mounties Seek To Clinch Spot In SWC Tourney

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball squad complete their regular season this week with RS Central on the road Friday and Chase here Tuesday.

The Kings Mountain girls, 11-5 in the Southwestern Conference and sitting alone third place, hope to better their seeding for the SWC tournament while the Mountainers, 5-11 and in eighth spot, hope to clinch a berth in the annual event which will begin next Thursday at Burns High School.

Both Kings Mountain teams were defeated Tuesday night at Shelby. The Mountainers, who have lost six straight ballgames, are just two games ahead of Lincolnton and need a win or a Lincolnton loss to clinch a tournament berth.

The two KM squads defeated their two upcoming opponents earlier in the year. The Mountainers and Mountainettes edged RS Central in a twinbill played here, but, of course, things are always tougher on the opponents' floor and KM coaches Blaine Fronberger and Allen Dixon think Friday's meeting at RS will be no different. The two KM squads won handily at Chase earlier and should be heavy favorites to complete their regular season on a winning note here Friday night.

The top eight teams in each division will qualify for the SWC tournament. If both local teams held their present position, the girls will most likely face Crest in the tournament's first round and the Mountainers will face undefeated East Rutherford, which long ago wrapped up its first SWC title.

which came in a span of one month. In all three, he made the all-tournament team, and at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., he was voted Most Valuable Player.

Cole, a sophomore, joined the varsity after a strong year with the Seminole freshmen. He's a reserve this season, but as Florida State games go, he usually ends up playing as much as anybody else.

According to Durham, it's hard to keep a player of Cole's caliber on the bench. The coach really used Cole at the wing position when King hit a cold spell in mid-season.

Royals And Cole Key Reasons For FSU Success

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State's Head Coach Hugh Durham apparently thinks North Carolina is good hunting ground for basketball talent.

Durham, whose Seminoles are currently among the nation's top 15 teams, recruited 6-10 high school All-American Reggie Royals from Whiteville, and then in 1970, he went to Kings Mountain and signed another prep All-American, 6-2 Otis Cole.

The performances of both Royals and Cole have been among the main reasons that Florida State is 18-4 and ranked 11th and 14th in the latest UPI and AP polls.

Since the season started and just like his sophomore year, Royals, a junior, has been the leading rebounder for Florida State. He's hauling down an average of 11 a game, and in scoring, his 17 point average is just below that of Ron King's, the team leader who's hitting 19.0 a game.

Only once this season has the Whiteville native failed to score in double figures. That was against a tough Oregon State opponent in the Far West Classic at Portland, Oregon, one of three tournaments Florida State has won this season.

Royals set quite a mark for himself in those three tournaments

SWC Cage Standings

(Girls Division)			
Teams	W	L	Pct.
South Point	15	1	.938
Burns	12	4	.750
KINGS MOUNTAIN	11	5	.688
Shelby	10	6	.625
East Rutherford	9	7	.563
Crest	8	8	.500
Cherryville	7	9	.438
RS Central	5	11	.313
Chase	3	13	.188
Lincolnton	0	16	.000

(Boys Division)			
Teams	W	L	Pct.
East Rutherford	16	0	1.000
Shelby	12	4	.750
South Point	12	4	.750
Crest	10	6	.625
Cherryville	9	7	.563
RS Central	6	10	.375
Burns	6	10	.375
KINGS MOUNTAIN	5	11	.313
Lincolnton	3	13	.188
Chase	1	15	.063

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Men's League

John Dilling claimed individual scoring honors in men's bowling league action Monday night at Mountain Lanes but his Dilling Heating team still dropped three of four matches to Cub's Paint Co.

Dilling combined lines of 113, 130 and 141 for a 389 series, one of his highest ets of the season. However, he was the only member of his team to compile a 300 series and Cub's Paint put four bowlers over that mark.

Team captain Ronnie Culbertson was high man for the winning team, scoring a 145 line and 388 set.

Ranny Blanton soccer a 141 line and Bill Mullinax added a 365 set as Chider's Roofing swept four games from Albert Brackett. Brackett's 121 line and Rod Houser's 330 set led the losers.

Bob Herndon's 123 line and 342 set enabled Quality Sandwich to split a four-game set with Mull Ramsey's team. Joe Beam's 115 line and Ramsey's 323 set led Ramsey's team.

Ladies League — Jenny Oates scored a 112 line and 334 set to gain scoring honors in ladies league action Tuesday night, but her Oates' Shell team dropped three games to

Draws Tax Service. Betty Fite led the winners with a 114 line and 289 set.

Becky Barnette's 127 line and 327 set led Cleveland Radiator to three wins over Plonk Brothers. Bobbie McKee's 125 line and Charity Tignor's 288 set topped the losers.

American Legion and West End American split a four-game set. Edna Bowen led American Legion with a 115 line and 327 set. Margaret Harmon's 114 line and Pat Herndon's 300 set were high marks for the losers.

Mixed League

Three bowlers scored 354 sets to share scoring honors in mixed league action Thursday night.

Pat Herndon, bowling for her husband Bob's team, scored a 146 line and 354 series to lead her team to three wins over Plonk Oil. Clarence Plonk led the losers with a 122 line and 338 set.

Ranny Blanton tallied a 130 line and 354 set to lead his team in its three-game loss to John Dilling. Charity Tignor's 119 line and Dilling's 312 set led the winners.

Wimp Bowen scored a 129 line and 354 set at Bob Ramsey's team swept four games from Mull Ramsey's crew. Ronnie Culbertson's 121 line and Ramsey's 121 set led the losers.