



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Could Florida State's Predictions Of National Title Be Coming True?

Two years ago when Florida State assistant basketball coaches Bill Bolton and Morris McHone came to Kings Mountain to sign Otis Cole, they said the Seminoles would win the NCAA basketball title before Cole graduated.

The Seminoles, who have taken great strides in basketball the past few years under former Louisville assistant Hugh Durham, will have their first chance at the national championship beginning tonight in Los Angeles.

Florida State, ranked 10th nationally and fresh from a 73-54 victory over always-tough Kentucky, will take on North Carolina's second-ranked Tar Heels tonight in the NCAA's opening round. UCLA and Louisville play in tonight's other first round game.

Not many people give the Seminoles much of a chance of winning the tournament. Most folks figure the title game will pit UCLA against Carolina and that UCLA will be the winner for the sixth straight year and for the eighth time in the past nine seasons. But, still, even the trip to the national finals will help Durham in recruiting players that might possibly bring FSU a national title in the future.

Although Seminole fans aren't marking this year off yet, they can't help but be optimistic about the future. Only one starter, Rowland Garrett, graduates off this year's team and the Seminoles also return most of their bench, which includes Cole.

Cole, although he's only 6-2 and should be playing guard, is the likely choice to move into Garrett's forward position. Cole has served as a backup forward this year and has performed well while seeing action in every one of FSU's contests.

In addition to Cole, the Seminoles will return point man Otto Petty, All-American forward Ron King and their two big inside men, 6-11 Reggie Royals and 6-10 Lawrence McCray.

Cole and Royals, a former Whiteville standout, will be only two of seven North Carolinians in the national finals. North Carolina has four from the Tar Heel state (Robert McAdoo, Bobby Jones, Kim Hubbard and Ray Hite) and UCLA has guard Henry Bibby of Franklinton, N. C. Louisville is the only team that will not be represented by a Tar Heel product.

Two KM Boys In National Events

Kings Mountain could be the only small town in the United States to have a representative in both the NCAA and NAIA national tournaments.

George Adams of Gardner-Webb led his teammates to a fourth place finish in the NAIA event last week in Kansas City. Adams made the All-Tournament team after averaging 36.8 points for five games.

Had Adams not been hampered by injuries, he might well have led G-W to even a higher finish. He played despite a shoulder injury suffered in the District 26 tournament and an eye injury suffered in the first round of the national tournament.

Adams raised the eyebrows of many pro scouts while KC and many of the pros said the former KMHS All-American will probably go in the first round of the upcoming NBA draft.

Adams' 184 points in five national tournament games were second only to Kentucky State's Travis Grant. Grant, who scored a record 60 points in Kentucky State's first round game, finished with 203 points and won the tournament's most valuable player award after leading his team to its third straight title.

Adams won an engraved wrist watch for being selected to the all-tournament team but gave the prize to his coach, Eddie Holbrook. Adams told Holbrook he wanted him to have it because "if you hadn't given me a chance, I wouldn't have got to go to college."

Thompson Still Setting Records

David Thompson, former basketball great at Crest High and now a freshman sensation at N. C. State, is taking up in track where he left off in basketball.

In his very first outing as a member of the Wolfpack track team, Thompson set a school triple-jump record with a hop-step-and-jump of 47 1/4'.

"It was amazing to watch," says graduate assistant track coach Charlie Galloway, who specialized in that event at Florida State. "David did every thing wrong as far as form was concerned and still got that kind of distance. He even started a foot-and-a-half behind the takeoff line! With practice he could win the ACC title and figure nationally. His weak point is in his step. He has tremendous jumping and leaping ability, which everyone saw on the basketball court. David is a tremendously untapped talent in track. If he works at it regularly, there is no limit to his performance."

Bowlers Eye National Tournament

The 42nd annual National Duckpin Bowling Congress Tournament opened last Saturday in Richmond, Va., with teams from several northern states and Virginia competing.

Kings Mountain will send at least 11 teams to the national tournament within the next few weeks. One of Kings Mountain's mixed teams won the national title last year.

The current leader in men's play is the Willow Bowl team of Richmond with a score of 1870. The mixed team leader is Dunfee Lanes of Fall River, Mass., with a score of 1800.

Other scores Kings Mountain bowlers will be trying to top include: 776 in men's doubles; 714 in women's doubles; 447 in men's singles and 380 in women's singles; and 1202 in men's all-events.

Local bowlers have placed high in several national events and this year should be no exception.

Pair That Broke Evil Knievel's Record To Perform At Charlotte

CHARLOTTE.—They are called the "Flying Cycles" but are rapidly becoming known as the "Show Stealers."

They answer to either the twin motorcycle daredevils, 18-year-old Rex Blackwell and 20-year-old Gary Davis, fresh from topping a world record at Ontario, Calif., and an exhibition jump at Las Vegas, will be trying to top their own record at Charlotte Motor Speedway on March 25 and 26 during the International Hot Rod Association World Record Drag Race championships.

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Mounties Whip Crest 10-4 In SWC Opener

Bolin's Three-Run Homer Sparks Seven-Run Third Inning Uprising



SLAMS HOMER — David Bolin, above, slammed a three-run home run to key a seven-run third inning rally which sparked KMHS to a 10-4 victory over Crest Monday, Bolin and his mates travel to Cherryville Friday.

David Bolin's three-run home run, a 360-foot blast over the left-centerfield fence, keyed a seven-run third inning rally which led Kings Mountain high to a 10-4 victory over Crest Monday afternoon in the Southwestern Conference opener for both schools.

Bolin's home run, the first of the season for a Mountaineer, erased a 3-1 Crest lead and gave righthander Rick Hord his first victory of the year.

Hord held the Chargers to only two hits, while walking five and striking out nine. The victory gave Coach Barry Gibson's club a 2-1 overall mark heading into Wednesday afternoon's game here against Burns.

Every man in the KMHS lineup secured at least one hit as the Mountaineers racked two Crest hurriers for 14 hits, one of the biggest hit attacks for a KMHS team in three years.

Grafton Withers, All-Conference first baseman, led the hitting attack with 3-for-4, including a triple. Doan, Danny Hartsoe and Tim Echols added two hits apiece.

Crest jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on a three-run homer by Doug Noblitt but Withers' triple and Bolin's single cut the difference to 3-1 in the bottom of the first.

Robbie Moore's single touched off the big seven-run outburst for KM in the third. After his hit, Withers also singled, setting the stage for Bolin's long and towering home run. Three Crest errors, Hartsoe's double and Hord's single accounted for the other four Mountaineer tallies.

Kings Mountain picked up two more runs in the fourth inning to lose out the scoring. Parker's double and singles by Hartsoe, Echols and Wayne Bridges led to the runs.

Hord held the Chargers hitless from the first inning until the seventh, when Crest pushed across its fourth and final tally. Hord put the Chargers aside in order three times, in the third, fifth and sixth frames.

The box score:

Box score for KM-Crest game. Columns: AB, R, H, ER, BB, SO. Rows: CREST (Panther, Brown, Ross, Goode, Noblitt, Jordan, McCraw, Newton, Beaver, Wilson) and KINGS MTN. (Moore, Withers, Parker, Hartsoe, Manning, Echols, Bridges, Hord).

Hartsoe Hurls, Parker Hits KM Past Burns

Danny Hartsoe held Burns to two hits over his six-inning pitching stint and Keith Parker batted in five runs as Kings Mountain's Mountaineers stopped Burns 11-1 for their second straight Southwestern Conference victory here Wednesday afternoon.

Hartsoe, in registering his first win of the season, worked the first six frames, holding the Bulldogs scoreless. Parker relieved Hartsoe in the seventh inning and handed the visitors their lone tally.

Hartsoe walked only one man and fanned eight as he turned in the top pitching performance of the early season. His teammates backed him with an 11-hit attack, giving the Mountaineers 25 hits in their last two ballgames.

Parker was a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate, including a double and triple. Grafton Withers, David Bolin and Tim Hunter scored two hits apiece for Coach Barry Gibson's charges.

The Mountaineers gave Hartsoe all the working room he needed in the first two innings as they collected five runs.

The Mountaineers went ahead 1-0 in the first inning on consecutive singles by Withers, Bolin and Parker. Singles by Hunter, Withers and Bolin, plus Parker's triple, accounted for the four second inning runs.

Meanwhile, Hartsoe was having little trouble mowing down the Burns batters. He retired the Bulldogs in order during four of the six innings in which he pitched.

The Mountaineers scored in every inning until the sixth, their last. The Mounties scored three runs in the third without benefit of a hit. Five walks and an error led to the scores.

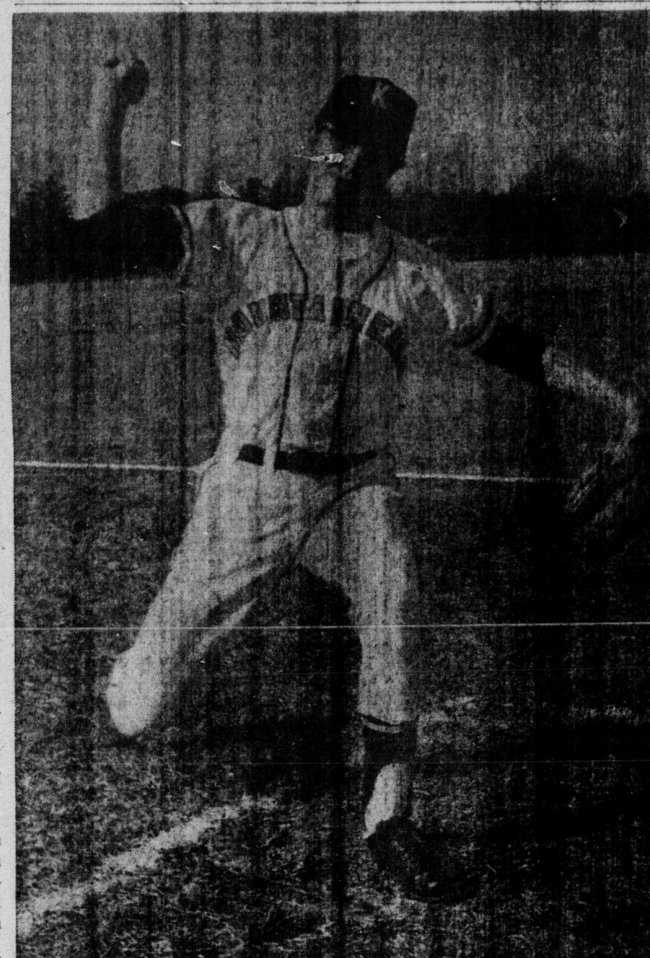
Withers and Bolin continued personal streaks of hitting safely in every game they've participated. Bolin has played in all four of KM's contests while Withers has seen action in three games.

Withers has collected six hits in 10 trips to the plate so far while Bolin has six hits in 11 times at bat.

KM-Burns Boxscore

Box score for KM-Burns game. Columns: AB, R, H, ER, BB, SO. Rows: Burns (E. Holland, Powell, K. Deal, Acre, London, Hastings, Deere, Davie, Ellmore, Poole) and KM (Hartsoe, Parker, Withers, Bolin, Hunter, Manning, Echols, Bridges, Hord).

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HURLS TWO-HITTER — Senior righthander Rick Hord, above, gave up only two hits in hurling Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 10-4 victory over Crest in the Southwestern Conference opener here Monday. Hord walked five and struck out nine in pitching his first victory of the season. Hord is scheduled to pitch again Friday at Cherryville.

Smith Says Heels Think Only Of FSU

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. — North Carolina's Tar Heels, champions of the Atlantic Coast Conference and the East for the fourth time in six seasons, clash with Florida State Thursday night at 9:10 (EST) in the NCAA semifinals at Los Angeles.

Unbeaten UCLA, the top favorite, meets Louisville on the same night program. That game will begin at 11:00 (EST). Winners of the games will battle Saturday afternoon for the national championship.

Coach Dean Smith's Tar Heels advanced to the finals by topping South Carolina and third-ranked Pennsylvania in the Eastern Regional at Morgantown, West Va., last week. Carolina broke out of a 40-40 tie with Penn to beat the Quakers, 73-59. It broke a 17-game winning streak for Penn.

The Carolina-Florida State game will be a renewal of a series which has seen the Tar Heels beat the Seminoles seven times in a row. FSU never has won over Carolina.

The last meeting took place last year in Chapel Hill when the Tar Heels had to struggle to post a 76-61 decision. "We've never had much success against North Carolina," says FSU Coach Hugh Durham. "But you must remember we've always played them in North Carolina."

Smith says his Tar Heels are thinking about nothing except the next game on the schedule—with FSU. "That's challenge enough," he said. "We know how good Florida State is, and we'll have to be at our best to have a chance to win."

Donnie Allison To Drive Chevy In Atlanta 500

HAMPTON, Ga.—Pack up the makeup kit. Put the broadcasting blazer in mothballs. Break out the old crash helmet and driver's uniform.

Donnie Allison's going racing a car. The younger brother of Bob Allison has been named to drive a brand new Chevrolet in the March 25 Atlanta 500. Thanks to brother Bobby.

Donnie, left with a ride, when Ford Motor Co. withdrew its stock car racing support this season, took a seat in the broadcast booth of APCTV. He became a color commentator for the television network coverage of NASCAR's grand national series. Swapped the grease and grime of Grand National competition for the glare of television lights.

Donnie, however, will be back where Bobby and stock car fans feels he belongs next week, on the race track at Atlanta International raceway.

Bobby Allison, oldest of the 1700 Alabama brothers at 35, is currently known as driver of one of the hottest cars in racing, the Junior Johnson Chevrolet. Apparently, Bobby feels nothing is too good for his brother.

"We were building a new Chevrolet in our shop at home because there's something we want to try out," said Bobby. "Atlanta will be a good place to try them out."

"Picking a driver for the car came natural. My brother's the best. (Continued On Page Four)

KM Hits Ironmen And Central Away

Hord To Oppose Heavner Friday At Cherryville

Kings Mountain high's baseball team hits the road for its next two Southwestern Conference contests.

Coach Barry Gibson's charges play at Cherryville Friday and journey to R-3 Central next Tuesday before returning home for a game Friday of next week again at East Rutherford.

Rain has hampered the Mountaineers thus far. Their game last Friday with Crest was postponed until Monday and Tuesday's game against Burns was washed out and was scheduled to be played Wednesday.

The Mountaineers, who weren't very impressive in non-conference games against 4-A Hunter Hugs and 2-A Bessemer City, unloaded a 14-hit attack against Crest Monday as they opened SWC play with a 10-4 victory.

Senior righthander Rick Hord, who stopped the Chargers on two hits, is scheduled to open for the Mountaineers Friday at Cherryville. Cherryville will probably counter with righthander Joe Heavner, said by many to be the top hurler in the conference.

Cherryville dropped its opening game to Burns, 1-0, despite a three-hit performance by the hard-throwing Heavner. Five errors led to Cherryville's downfall.

Either Danny Hartsoe or Keith Parker will draw the starting assignment against R-3 Central. Hartsoe started yesterday's game here against Burns but will have plenty of time to rest up for the Hilltoppers.

Parker, catcher David Bolin and first baseman Grafton Withers have been the hitting leaders for the Mountaineers thus far but every member of the team hit safely in Monday's victory over Crest.

Both Cherryville and R-3 Central are figured to be among the contenders for the SWC title. Both teams have primarily set same players that carried them to winning records last year.

Burris Takes First Place

Charles Burris, local karate instructor, recently took first place in the N. C. State karate tournaments.

Burris won second place in the free fighting division, losing out to one of his own association members, Lee Farmer of Boone. Keith Franklin, one of Burris' students, captured the junior division crown.

Burris will compete in the North Carolina A & T tournament April 15 in Greensboro. Lawrence McSwain of Kings Mountain will be one of the directors of the event.

'Wait Until Next Year' Axiom Fits N. C. State Basketball Team

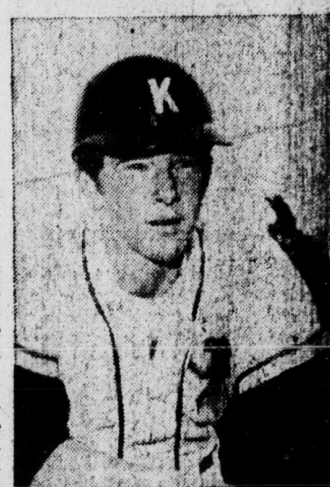
RALEIGH.—That old axiom of "Wait until next year" has been worn shiny over the years. But boosters of North Carolina State's basketball team have already dredged it up—and with good reason.

Although State's current season ended ingloriously with a 73-60 loss to Duke in first-round play of the recent Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, the Pack appeared throughout the campaign to be just a step away from being a solid, solid club, finishing with an overall 16-10 record. Four of the losses were by a total of five points.

With seven of the eight top players due back next year, it thus becomes obvious why optimism is rampant among State fans. Part that is only a part of it. Joe Caferky, a fine ball handler and a 14.3 scorer, hailing Rick Holdt, Steve Nuce, Steve Graham, Steve Smoral and Bob Heuts, all members of the present club.

Up from the frosh will be diminutive Monte Towe, the Wolflets' No. 2 scorer with an 18.4 average, 6-7 Tim Stoddard (15.3), 6-6 Leo Campbell (11.2) and 6-5 Craig Kuzmaul (10.5).

But what about coach Sloan's view of next season? "It's interesting," he murmurs, much like a man with a pat poker hand. "We'll just have to wait and see."



THREE HITS — All-Conference first baseman Grafton Withers collected three hits Monday to help spark Kings Mountain's 10-4 victory over Crest. Withers will be in the lineup Friday when the Mountaineers travel to Cherryville.

Two Fishing Tournaments Set At Lake Norman

CHARLOTTE.—Once again, as a token of appreciation to the outdoorsmen who have supported it down through the years, the Sportsmen's Boat, Camping and Vacation Show of the Carolinas will sponsor lucrative fishing competition for Carolina anglers.

Only this spring, there will be two tournaments rather than one. On the agenda are competitions for both bass-fishing buffs and crappie enthusiasts.

The bass tournament is set April 22-23, while the crappie contest is a one-day event slated April 22. Headquarters for both will be Wher-Rena Marina on Lake Norman.

Amateur anglers from both Carolinas are eligible to enter. The large-mouth bass entrants will be casting for a purse of \$2,100 plus merchandise and trophies. In retail value the top merchandise award is a 1972 Mercury outboard fishing motor donated by Kierkhafer-Mercury. Crappie fishermen can reel in \$500 in cash awards along with fishing tackle and trophies.

This is the second year of Sportsmen's Show sponsorship of the tournament, which during its inauguration in 1970 was restricted to Tar Heel fishermen only.

The 1971 tournament, held in late May, was won by W. A. (Bill) Williams of Raleigh. Doug Shivar of Charlotte captured the 70 event.

Fair weather and unfavorable water conditions hampered the catch both years, so at the request of participants, the bass meet was moved up a month for the '72 to May.

"The fishermen felt that April would be much more conducive to good catches of big bass, so (Continued On Page Four)