

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

September 1 Homecoming Will Be Sentimental Night For Adams

Homecomings are usually held late in the football season but when Kings Mountain's Mountaineers host Bessemer City September 1 at John Gamble Stadium, it will be a homecoming of sorts for Bessemer City's new head coach, Jerry Adams.



JERRY ADAMS

Adams says he's anxiously awaiting the night. "It's anybody's dream, especially a coach's, to come back home to play," he commented. "But I know we'll have our hands full because Coach Jones (KM mentor Bob Jones) is going to have a fine ball club."

It will be the season's opener for the Mountaineers but Adams' club will have already played West Lincoln. Those clubs clash on August 25 at West Lincoln. "It will be a sentimental occasion for me," Adams added, still referring to the Sept. 1 contest. "I'll be playing in a stadium named for a man that I admired so very much."

Adams' biggest problem at this stage appears to be teaching the players the difference in the single wing, which they've been accustomed to playing, and his new multiple T formation. "Most of the kids played on the first string last year," says Adams, "but they're still inexperienced as far as our style of play. There's quite a bit of difference in the single wing and the multiple T. So, really, we're starting from scratch."

Adams says he currently has Skip Franklin and Robbie Holt alternating at quarterback and said either could be his starter come August 25. He has also been pleased with the showing of running backs Goldie Byers, Terry Rector, Clarence Alexander and Cleveland Alexander.

On the line, which is Adams' specialty, he's looking for ends Dickie Hull and Olander Alexander, tackle Doug Kiser, guard Donnett Carpenter and centers Terry Huffstetler and Billy Young to be leaders. "We have a lot of other younger kids who'll be playing a lot of football," reported Adams, "but these are the men that we're counting on to carry the load."

Adams made all-state his junior year as a center. He also made All-Southwest Conference two years, his senior year as an end. He was a starter for three seasons. He remembers the 1960 team as the best he played on. That year, the Mountaineers won six straight games before losing the conference title to Lincolnton, 7-0, in the seventh game of the season. KM finished 9-1.

"We had a bunch of dedicated athletes playing together for one cause...to win," he recalled. "And, we had a great coach in Coach Gamble. He was a real good disciplinarian, was well organized and he knew the game of football."

Adams recalled some of the starters on that club, naming quarterback James Robbs, halfbacks Punch Parker and Perry Champion, fullback Arthur Allen, end Chester Clontz, tackles Dale Hollifield and Don Champion, guard Charles Burns and center Mike Dixon. After high school and with the help of Coach Gamble, it was on to Western and a first string job for four years. Adams later had some tryouts with some pro clubs but decided to go into coaching.

With six years of grooming, Adams feels he's ready to meet the challenge of a head coach. If his coaching career is anything like his playing days, he'll be successful.

HICKORY - The Sportsman double-header at Hickory Speedway Saturday night had it all - a new face in the winner's circle, a car which smacked the wall head on and burst into flames, and a photo finish between three of the track favorites. Ned Setzer shook off his frustrations in the first feature, winning the pole and leading all 40 laps in recording his first Hickory victory since May 22 of last year.

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Henson: Left Arm Must Dominate

(Ed. Note: The following article on Kings Mountain native Larry Henson, written by Bob Kurtz, appeared recently in the Coffee County Progress of Douglas, Ga. Henson, touring pro of Beech Mountain Golf Club, is the grandson of Mrs. Grady Rhea of Kings Mountain.)

The left arm must dominate the golf swing," Larry Henson, touring pro, repeated this left-side golf truism three times to impress upon me its monumental importance in building the elusive "perfect swing."

Linebacker Big Question Mark For Tar Heels

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. - Linebacker, a position that has long been a strong point in the University of North Carolina football camp, will rate as a big question mark next week when the Tar Heels open all practice.

But all of last year's four starters at linebacker have graduated and the Tar Heels must now replace a crop that last season ranked with the best in America.

The Tar Heels are fortunate in that they have players at inside linebacker who have seen game action. Terry Taylor, Mike Mansfield and Steve Early all played a great deal last season. It is at outside linebacker where the real inexperience lies.

The current candidates at that position are Jimmy DeRatt from Saratoga, N. C., Tom Embrey from Vienna, Va.; Gary Cowan from Sylva, N. C.; Mark DiCarlo from Atlanta, Ga.; and Tom Reehanti from Grosse Pointe, Mich.

DeRatt and DiCarlo were tailbacks on last season's unbeaten freshman team. Embrey was a fullback, Reehanti played wingback and only Cowan played linebacker.

At the end of spring practice DeRatt and Embrey were rated as the two starters. However, DiCarlo says the positions are still open.

Cast your vote for the all-time Kings Mountain football, basketball and baseball teams. Ballots must be returned to the Kings Mountain Herald, P. O. Box 752, on or before August 28. The teams will be announced in the August 31 edition of the Herald.

Table with 3 columns: Team Name, Position, and Count. Includes ALL-TIME FOOTBALL TEAM, ALL-TIME BASKETBALL TEAM, and ALL-TIME BASEBALL TEAM.

Larry credits his mother for his growth in Jesus Christ. "Her faith became my faith. The spiritual side of life is most important to me. It even helps my golf. When I think good, I produce good."

While he was still in high school Larry won his first championship. His golf team won the Georgia state title. Before he entered South Georgia Junior College in Douglas he won several amateur tournaments in the "Peach State."

Club pro T. C. Laughter was Henson's first teacher. T. C. helped build the high hand position at the top of the swing that characterizes Henson, yet T. C. rejects all the credit that Larry has given him for the desire to excel in golf.



RETURNING STARTER - Center Mark George, above, is beginning his third year as a starter for the Kings Mountain High football team. The Mountaineers are working out twice a day in preparation for their 1972 opener here on Sept. 1 against Bessemer City.

Jones: Mounties Have More Enthusiasm Than Last Year

Bobby Jones, Kings Mountain High's second-year grid mentor, expects his club to better last year's 4-4-2 record even though this year's personnel isn't as good as it was last year.

"The players this year seem to have more enthusiasm than they did last year," said Jones Monday after watching his team go through heavy practice for the third day. "It looks like we're going to have a more determined group."

Jones, though, quickly admits that the players and coaching staff have a lot of work to do before the September 1 opener here against 2-A Bessemer City. "It looks like we're going to have to learn who to block," said Jones.

Harlee Davis, and Jerry Valentine, a pair of veterans, are working at the offensive end positions and Alfred Ashe and Jake Bridges appear to have the advantage at tackles. Ray Putnam, a newcomer, and returnee Dennis Hogue are at the guards. Mark George will be starting for the third straight year at center.

Defensively, the lineup will be about the same. Jones currently has Davis and Floyd at ends, Ashe and Jake Bridges at tackles, Lanny Thornburg and Tommy Sairley at guards, George and Hogue at linebackers, Falls and Smith at halfbacks and Johnson at safety.

Jones said the Mountaineers would hold their first team meeting at 8 p. m. at the school and the team is scheduled to host 4-A Bessemer City on August 21 at 8 p. m.

Johnny Byers, a sophomore, and Myron George, a senior, are operating at the halfback positions and Javon Smith is at fullback. Smith started at times on defense last year and George led as a member of the special team.

The PGA golf tour includes a number of Christian athletes. Their busy tour schedule prevents them from participating in many activities of religious organizations, but they find ways to serve their Lord.

For his part, Henson has been very active with the Bill Glass Evangelistic Association. He was a featured speaker during the Central South Dakota Crusade in Huron. "Bill has the best mental outlook of anyone I have ever met," Henson said. "In 1964, the mental and emotional side has been called 90 percent of the game. I disagree. It's more like 99 percent. My faith in Christ and his goodness keeps everything in perspective."

"He even helps me love my fellow golfers when they step into my putting line," Larry laughed. Larry, at 6-2, 155 lbs., is built like the long iron he swings. He is married and father of two daughters.

Litton Says Bulldogs Better Than Year Ago

BOILING SPRINGS. - Football is in the air at Garner College as the Bulldogs prepare for the August date and the mercury is hitting the 90 degree mark.

It is only one week until school starts at the college and this will bring the first day of football practice on Monday, August 21, according to George Litton, head football coach.

"We will have only 20 practice days until our opener with Newberry college in Newberry," said Coach Litton. "We have got to get things in high gear if we are going to be ready for the opener."

Litton says that he feels that this team will be stronger than last year's which won only three of ten, but he quickly adds, "our schedule is also much tougher."

The Bulldogs have added Catawba and Wofford to the 1972 slate and dropped Maryville, Tenn. This will give the Bulldogs an 11 game slate including such powers as Elon, Presbyterian, Carson-Newman, Samford and Mars Hill.

The home opener is Saturday night, Oct. 30 with the Guilford Quakers visiting Boiling Springs. Last year the Bulldogs went to Greensboro and whipped the Quakers 42-14, so the visitors will be out for revenge.

Litton says he feels his offensive line will be much stronger than last season, but the "depth" will be our problem as it has been the past two seasons."

Coach Richard May, the defensive coordinator, will have his hands full trying to fill the vacancies caused by the graduation of such men as Lee Thompson, Tommy Kirk and Hardin Davis. These four men were the mainstay of May's defense and replacements, or them must be found.

Offensively the Bulldogs will count on the throwing arm of senior quarterback Ray Hannon, of Greer, S. C. who has passed on three consecutive years for more than 1,000 yards. Offensive Coach Ken Sanford feels that Hannon will again be a real threat every time he gets the ball.

A welcome returnee will be Ken Reid of Charlotte, who was injured last year and did not play at all. As a sophomore Reid caught 37 passes for 732 yards and eight touchdowns. He has been pronounced ready after a leg operation.

The Bulldogs running backs should be paced by sophomore Dennis Dukes of Spindale, who

gained 67 yards on the ground even though he played in only seven ball games. He averaged 5.7 yards per carry his first year as a Bulldog.

Help for Dukes should come from sophomore running back Scott Thompson, Maletton, Ga., and John Mallory of Achesah, Va., a 5-11, 165 pound speedster. If these two men live up to expectations the Bulldog offense should score some touchdowns.

The offensive line will be anchored around Mike Cherry, 230-Continued on page 4

65 Prospects For Pee Wees, Mighty Mites

Sixty-five candidates reported to the opening day of practice Monday for the Optimist Club-sponsored pee wee and mighty mite football teams. Coaches expect the list will grow to 100 before the end of the first week of practice.

Coaches said the first week of practice will consist mostly of conditioning drills and the fundamentals of football. There will be approximately three weeks of contact work before the season opens on Sept. 12.

Jimmy Littlejohn and Charlie Burns are again coaching the pee wee team and Joe Cornwell is coach of the mighty mites. Both teams will be competing in the Gaston League.

The pee wees (100 pounds) have an experienced line but only one returnee in the backfield. Returning players up front include Steve Laughter, Chris Holmes and Jeff Prescott at ends, Richard Van Dyke and Bunky Robinson at tackles, Bobby Bridges, Dale Caveny and Chris Holmes at guards and Eryn White at center. Quarterback Ronnie Wilson is the only returnee in the backfield but coaches Littlejohn and Burns expect several players who played with the mighty mites last year to fill in at the running back positions.

The mighty mites (80 pounds) also have some experienced players and should have a quick team. The quarterback will probably be Barry Lineberger, who started at halfback last season. Cornwell says the other positions are up for grabs.

Schedules for both teams should be completed within the next week.

Recreation Department News

Gastonia Knit, Carolina Throwing, Duplex and Craftspan topped opening round victories in the city league slowpitch softball tournament which got underway Tuesday night at Deal Street Park. The event was originally scheduled to begin last Friday but was delayed due to rain and the completion of regular season play.

Gastonia Knit picked up a 7-0 forfeit victory over Dickey Fabrics, Carolina Throwing stopped Kings Mountain Mica 15-5, Duplex outscored Spectrum 9-5 and Craftspan blanked Oxford 13-0. Champion's Landscaping Number Two, the regular season champion, drew an opening round bye.

Tickets may be obtained from any Booster club member or through the Department of Athletics at Belmont Abbey. Bobby Hussey, former Kings Mountain high coach and now head coach and athletic director at Abbey, organized the Boosters Club last year. The club's aim is to aid in scholarship funds for athletes as Hussey tries to put the school back on the athletic map.

innings. The winners tallied three in the first, four in the third and two in the fourth. Charlie Burns and Larry Gains had three hits each while Danny M. Dowell, Charlie Rhoads and Jewell Watson got a pair each for Duplex. McDowell hit a home run. Ellis had two hits for the losers and Mull hit a home run.

Pete Burgess slammed a pair of home runs to lead Craftspan to its 13-0 five-inning victory over Oxford. Harvey, Carigan, Ptoosen and Erceme also had two hits for the winners. Dickie Burgess hurled a two-hitter to pick up the victory. He gave up only two singles and walked one.

The ladies church league tournament will get underway next week at Deal Street Park. The final men's league standings were: 1, Champion's; 2, Crattspan; 3, Carolina Throwing;



LARRY HENSON