

Whip Shelby 57-53 In Finals

Mounties Cop Cleveland County Tournament



EYES BIG BATTLE — Bob Hussey, former KMHS basketball coach now at Belmont Abbey College, is eyeing one of the biggest battles of his college career tonight when his Crusaders go to Boiling Springs to test Eddie Holbrook's Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. Tonight's game will mark the first ever for the two area colleges and promises to be the start of one of the top small college rivalries in the state.



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

World War III

Thirty-one years ago today, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and World War II began for the United States.

Another war begins tonight at 7:30. The place of battle will be Bost Gym in Boiling Springs. The foes will be a band of Crusaders from Belmont Abbey College and some hungry Bulldogs from Gardner-Webb College.

Each side will be made up of five fighters. Plenty of shots will be fired. But their ammunition will be a basketball and their target will be a basket.

The generals of the troops will have to sit on the sidelines and watch while two peacemakers in striped shirts run up and down the battlefield to see that the fighting doesn't get too fierce.

The two generals are alike in that neither likes to lose. Off the battlefield, they are close friends. But during this battle, they'll be after each other's throats.

The general of the Gardner-Webb army is Eddie Holbrook. He's a tested veteran in this business, even though his army this year isn't as strong as in years past.

The general of the Belmont Abbey army is Bobby Hussey. He's had his stripes only a year. However, he's gaining rank fast. He's highly respected in his field. He has a young army but his soldiers are eager. Like their fearless leader, they hate to lose.

The some 2,000 persons who will view this war in person will expect the home forces to win it. They're fighting on home soil. They hardly ever lose there.

The Gardner-Webb soldiers have been in big battles before. Last year, they were the fourth best force in the United States in their battle division, which is called the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. However, the soldier who made the most kills for last year's army, a muscular sergeant named George Adams, is now doing his fighting for the San Diego Conquistadors of the American Basketball Association.

Al Graves, who was only one step below Adams in rank last year, is still around though. And, he performs at his best in big battles. He'll be one of the leaders of the Bulldog offensive.

General Holbrook's recruiters have done a good job. They persuaded Jim Blanks of Kansas City, John Drew of Alabama, and others, to enlist in Holbrook's army. And, Holbrook has other fighters left over from last year, including Billy Ellis, a little soldier who carries a big punch, Al Jones, Ken Napier, and others.

General Hussey has all of his warriors back from a year ago. However, they weren't in as many big battles as the Bulldogs and they didn't win as many either. In fact, they won exactly half of their 26 encounters.

But Hussey figures his troops learned a lot in those 13 defeats. And, this year other generals in the District 26 battle zone are saying Hussey's Crusaders might win more fights than anybody else.

The best fighter in General Hussey's army probably is Carl Bell, who, like Hussey, has been going into combat for the Crusaders for just one year. But, Bell is 6-5 and usually out-battles foes much bigger than he.

Other members of Hussey's brigade are Larry Cone, Mike Randall, Jim McDede and David Sliganski. All four joined Bell on Hussey's front-line last year and they stood up well in battle.

Like his counterpart, Hussey recruited some other good fighters. Some of them might even get on the front-line and send some of the veterans to the rear. But, General Hussey doesn't mind. He wants his best five men in the heat of the battle. Just as Holbrook does.

Tonight's encounter will be the first ever for these two armies. The Gardner-Webb general has been wanting to wage this battle for years. However, Louie O'Gorman, the general who was in command at Belmont Abbey before Hussey, would have nothing to do with it. He claims Holbrook had stolen one of his best soldiers, a seven-foot giant named Henry Boyd.

Whether or not that is true doesn't matter to Hussey. He likes to go into battle against the best. And, most experts of this kind of war will quickly tell you that Gardner-Webb is the best.

Hussey's troops need this win badly. It's the kind of victory that would put his army on the basketball map. A loss would leave a bitter taste in his mouth, to say nothing about what it would do to Holbrook.

The battle will be hot and the outcome will boil down to whether or not Hussey's defensive can withstand Holbrook's offensive. Whoever wins will know they've been in the toughest fight of their lives.

At the battle's end, the two generals will shake hands and become friends again. But, this friendship won't last long. For on February 10 they'll go through the same thing again, only this time on Belmont Abbey's home soil.

Santa Claus made an early visit to the Allen Dixon household last weekend and presented Coach Dixon with the championship trophy of the second annual Cleveland County Tipoff basketball tournament.

Dixon's Kings Mountain Mountaineers eased past Burns and Shelby Friday and Saturday night at Crest high school to cop the two-day event and replace Shelby as the top basketball team in the county.

The Mountaineers stopped Burns 56-49 in the tournament's opening game Friday night, then defeated previously unbeaten Shelby by 57-53 in the championship game on Saturday.

Host Crest, which dropped a narrow 58-57 decision to Shelby on opening night, soundly trounced Burns 75-50 for consolation honors Saturday night.

Butch Blalock, the lone junior in Kings Mountain's starting lineup, was the big gun for the Mountaineers, scoring 23 points in the opening game victory and stripping the nets for 29 in the championship contest.

Coach Dixon, who was disappointed in his team's failure to play as a unit after a narrow 47-44 victory over 2-A North Gaston two weeks ago, said both of the tournament victories came as a result of a team effort.

"We played real well as a team both nights," he said. "To win, we must play as a team. We did a good job of playing defense and rebounding and Blalock did an outstanding job of setting up the offense and running the ball club."

The Mountaineers placed three players in double figures in both victories. Randy Wingo hit for 13 and Harlee Davis added 19 to aid the win over Burns and Mike Thoms tallied 15 and Wingo added 10 in the victory over Shelby.

A hot-shooting night by the Mountaineers was the difference

in the victory over Burns. The Mountaineers connected on 23 of 41 shots from the floor, or 56 percent, and hit on 10 of 20 from the foul line, or 50 percent.

Thoms, who was the team's leading scorer last year, moved inside to lead the team in rebounds with six and Wendell Dawkins and Blalock picked off five stray shots apiece.

The Bulldogs' outstanding sophomore forward, John Borders, had a big night, tying Blalock for high scoring honors with 23 points. However, the Mountaineers completely shut off Borders' other players as no other Bulldog was able to hit double figures.

The Mountaineers led most of the way in the nip and tuck battle, and held a 34-26 halftime advantage. The Mountaineers maintained a 10-point lead throughout most of the second half.

Kings Mountain trailed the entire first half in the championship game against Shelby and was behind by five, 30-25, at intermission. But behind the shooting of Blalock the Mountaineers pulled ahead in the third stanza and went into slow-down tactics in the final minutes to preserve the victory.

The Mountaineers' shooting performance fell off after their hot Friday night performance but the

KM lads still connected on 43 percent of their field goal attempts, sinking 24 of 56 snouts from the floor. Their foul shooting improved as they hit on nine of 14 for 64 percent.

Floyd Bridges and Darryl Byers were the only players to hit double figures for the Lions, Bridges hitting 16 points and Byers 19.

Shelby, which has all five of its starters back for the third straight year, went into the tournament as the heavy favorite but came out with a 2-1 record and only a second best ranking in the county.

Tipoff Boxscores

FRIDAY GAME Kings Mountain (56) F—Thoms 7 F—Dawkins 1 C—Wingo 13 G—Blalock 23 G—Adams 2 Subs: Davis 10 Burns (49) F—Accor 9 F—Howell 8 C—Borders, 23 G—Queen 2 G—Gantt 4 Subs: Kee 3 Halftime: KM 34, Burns 25 SATURDAY GAME Kings Mountain (57) F—Dawkins 1 F—Thoms 15 C—Wingo 10 G—Blalock 29 G—Adams 2 Subs: Davis 2 Shelby (53) F—Bridges 16 F—Surratt 4 C—Gentry 4 C—McKissick 9 G—Hopper 6 Subs: Cooper 2, Byers 10 Halftime: Shelby 30, KM 25

Cagers Sweep Bessemer; Play South Point Friday

Wingo Has Big Night Against Former Mates

Kings Mountain High's varsity cagers opened the home portion of their basketball season Tuesday night and swept a double-header from 2-A Bessemer City to keep their unbeaten records intact heading into the opening of Southwestern Conference play.

The Mountaineers romped over the Yellow Jackets 61-27 for their second straight victory and the Mountaineers romped past the BC lads 73-52 to run their record to 4-0.

The 61 points scored by the girls represent the highest point total ever recorded, by a Blaine Froberger-coached team. However, that total fell far short of the school record.

Kathy Ledford, a newcomer to the starting lineup, tallied 15 points to lead the Mountaineer attack. Deborah Crockett added 13 and Denise Byers 10.

The Mountaineers were in control all the way. They had the game wrapped up at halftime when they enjoyed a 30-14 advantage.

Randy Wingo, playing against his former teammates, played one of the best all-around games of his career in the nightcap, scoring 17 points and hauling down 16 rebounds as the Mountaineers avenged a pair of losses to the Yellow Jackets last year.

Junior Butch Blalock was again the top scorer for the Mountaineers, hitting 24 points. Mike Thoms and Wendell Dawkins helped Wingo out in the rebounding department, getting 12 apiece.

The Mountaineers enjoyed their second 50 percent plus shooting night, hitting 53 percent of the floor attempts. A fast start which saw the Mounties ahead 25-10 at the first quarter break was all Allen Dixon's charges needed to assure their fourth straight win.

GIRLS GAME Kings Mtn. (61)—Kathy Ledford 15, Crockett 13, Karen Ledford 4, McGinnis 7, Falls 4, Byers 10, Proctor 6, Rhodes 2. B. City (27)—McConnell 19, Brooks 2, Bowen 2, Reynolds 4.

BOYS GAME Kings Mtn. (73)—Dawkins 6, Wingo 17, Thoms 6, Blalock 24, Adams 8, Davis 6, Leach 2, McGill 2, Hamrick 2. B. City (52)—Byers 22, C. Alexander 2, O. Alexander 6, Eury 4, Brown 8, Ramseur 2, McNeal 8.



STARTER — Karen Ledford has broken the starting lineup for the KMHS Mountaineers and is one of the main factors in the team's early success. The Mountaineers face their toughest challenge of the year Friday when they travel to South Point.

BOWLING right down your alley.....

Men's League

There was a close battle for high scoring honors in men's duckpin league bowling action Monday night at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center.

Clarence Plonk won out, but just barely over several other performers. Plonk rolled a 128 line and 346 set to lead Dilling Heating to a four-game sweep of Little Moo. Rod Houser's 111 line and 286 set were high marks for the losers.

Ronnie Culbertson scored a 119 line and 342 set to lead Cub's Paint Co. to three wins over Mull Ramsey's outfit. Ranny Elanton topped the losers with a 132 line and 343 set.

Bob Herndon's 125 line and 341 set led Bob Herndon's team to three wins over Quality Sandwich. Albert Brackett had a 118 line and 333 set for the losers.

Ladies League

Louise Dover was high scorer in ladies league action Tuesday night, rolling a 114 line and 319 set to lead Oates Shell to three wins over Pat Herndon's team. Mrs. Herndon had a 117 line and Edna Bowen and Betty Wells had 307 sets for the losers.

Charity Tignor's 107 line and 299 set led American Legion to (Continued On Page Five) (SECTION TWO)

Frosh, Central Host Mt. Holly In Opener

The Kings Mountain High freshman team and the Central Junior High Patriots open their 1972-73 basketball season Monday at Central when they host Mt. Holly. Gametime for the twill is 4 p.m.

Freshman coach Tommy Pruitt will probably start Tommy Manning, Jimmy Thompson, Wendell Jackson, John Yarbro and Cleveland Mackey.

Others expected to see a lot of action for the frosh include Pete Jones, Charles Witherspoon, Gary Smith, Kenny Ballies, Richard Anderson, Curtis Hickman, Alfred Jimison, Ronnie McKinney, Chris Johnson and Simon McClain.

Coach Porter Griggs of the Patriots will start Leonard Roberts, Edgar Ingram, William Thompson, Mark Mercier and Steve Lancaster in hopes of bettering last year's 9-5 record.

Others expected to see action for the Patriots include Rick Hinnant, Wesley Narron, John Edwards, Arthur Morgan, Kenny Bell, Mike Bumgarner, Al Edkins, Tim Oliver and Don Henderson.

HURT INJURED

South Point's Shirle Hart, last year's SWC player of the year, was injured in a practice session Tuesday and might miss Friday's game against Kings Mountain. Hart has been bothered with a knee problem since the beginning of pre-season practice.

Mountaineers Third In All-Time SWC Standing

By GARY STEWART Herald Sports Editor

Their first undefeated, untied season under Coach Gerald Allen has enabled Shelby's Golden Lions to surpass the century mark in all-time Southwestern Conference football victories.

Since the SWC was formed in 1954, the Lions have won 107 games, lost 23 and tied eight for a winning percentage of .804. Those figures put them far ahead of the SWC's other nine outfits.

Figures supplied by W. C. Clary, executive secretary of the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association, show six of the 10 SWC schools with conference winning percentages of .500 or better.

The top six, in order, are Shelby (.804), Lincolnton (.652), Kings Mountain (.609), Rutherfordton (.528), Belmont South Point (.504), and East Rutherford (.500). The remaining schools are Crest (.377), Chase (.289), Cherryville (.238), and Burns (.111).

Seven of the schools have been members of the conference since its beginning. Chase joined the

loop in 1959 and Crest and Burns became conference members in 1968.

Shelby won the first SWC crown in 1954 and has since won or shared 10 more conference titles. The Lions have also won the association title three times, including this year when they finished the season as the top-ranked 3-A team in the state.

Kings Mountain tied Forest City, now East Rutherford, in 1955 and took over the lead in the all-time SWC standings. The Mountaineers held that lead until 1961 when Shelby took over.

The Lions took over as the SWC's football power in '61 and have been atop the loop standings ever since. Shelby began to dominate the conference in 1968 when the Lions won their first of three straight conference titles.

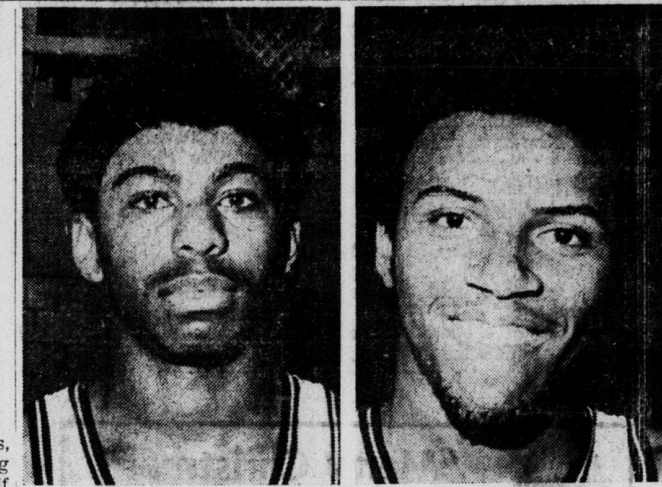
The Lions have now won four of the last five conference championships. Shelby now has 21 more victories than its closest foe, Lincolnton, which has an all-time record of 86-44-8. Kings Mountain isn't far behind with a 76-47-13

figure. In titles won or shared, Kings Mountain is second with five. Then comes Lincolnton with four, East Rutherford with three and R-S Central and South Point with one apiece.

On four occasions in its 19 years of existence, the SWC has had co-champions. Co-titles included Kings Mountain and Forest City in 1955, Lincolnton and Shelby in 1962, Kings Mountain and Shelby in 1963 and East Rutherford and Lincolnton in 1965. The SWC had tri-champions in 1959 when Kings Mountain, Rutherfordton and Shelby shared the title with 4-1-2 records.

Eight times, the SWC champion has gone undefeated and untied, including the last four seasons. Unbeaten, untied champions include Shelby in 1961, '69, '70 and '72, Kings Mountain in 1964, East in 1966, Lincolnton in 1967 and South Point in 1971. On eight other occasions, only ties prevented the champions or co-champions from having undefeated campaigns.

The only times a champion has suffered a conference loss were in '54, when Shelby was 5-1, '57 when the Lions were 5-1 and '59 when the Lions, KM and Rutherfordton were 4-1-2. In other conferences in the WNCCHSAA, Mooreville leads in titles won in the North Piedmont with five, Albemarle in the South Piedmont with seven and Hickory in the Northwestern with seven even though the Tornadoes left the league to go 4-A in 1967. Lexington has won three North Piedmont and two South Piedmont titles for a total of five and Asheboro has won two North Piedmont and four South Piedmont titles for a total of six. Among active NWC teams, Wilkes Central is the top title winner with four, Lenoir with three and Valdese with two. Watauga, Taylorsville and Newton-Conover have won one apiece. Albemarle's dominance of titles in the SWC is a result of a powerhouse in the early years of the WNCCHSAA. Albemarle won or shared first six South Piedmont championships. That school, however, has been in the limelight since it shared the SWC crown with Asheboro in 1962.



MOUNTIE LEADERS — Butch Blalock, left, and Randy Wingo have been two of the many reasons Kings Mountain's Mountaineers have posted victories in their first four games. Blalock has been the Mounties' top scorer in each contest while Wingo has scored consistently in double figures and has also been one of the team's top rebounders.

Hudson Here Tonight For Wrestling Match

Alfred Ash was the only Kings Mountain wrestler to record a victory as the Mountaineers dropped a 66-6 decision to Charlotte Country Day on the road Tuesday night.

Ash, a 185-pounder who had a 14-1 record last year, pinned Country Day's Robert Abernathy in the first round of their match.

Country Day won the other 12 matches on pins.

The Mountaineers host Hudson tonight at 7 p.m. in their first Northwest-Southwest Conference match and Ash will be gunning for his 16th victory in 17 outings.

Next week, the Mountaineers host East Lincoln on Wednesday and travel to Valdese for their second conference match on Thursday.

Results of the KM-Country Day match include:

95-pd.—Joey Reid (CD) pinned Hal Glass (KM); 105-pd.—David Chanter (CD) pinned Ronnie Terry (KM); 112-pd.—Stowe Rose (CD) pinned Kenny Palmer (KM); 119-pd.—Dewey Dorsett (CD) pinned Billy Cashion (KM); 126-pd.—Chip Rich (CD) pinned Hilary Pouchak (KM); 132-pd.—Arthur Whedon (CD) pinned Scott Moss (KM); 138-pd.—Mike Magam (CD) pinned Tony Beam (KM); 145-pd.—Judd McAdams (CD) pinned Ronnie Morrison (KM);

155-pd.—John Purser (CD) pinned Chris Tindall (KM); 167-pd.—Woody Upchurch (CD) pinned Robbie Eng (KM); 185-pd.—Alfred Ash (KM) pinned Robert Abernathy (CD); Hwt. David Terry (CD) pinned Keith Biddix (KM); 195-pd.—John Miller (CD) pinned Reggie Whitmore (KM).

The Little Mountaineers will be out to improve on a 16-3 record but Blalock says that will take some doing. "We're inexperienced," he says, "but if we come around like I hope we will we could have a winning season."

Jayvees Play Belmont Friday

Kings Mountain's junior varsity boys basketball team will open regular season play Friday at 5 p.m. at Belmont. The game will be the first game of a junior varsity-varsity triple-header.

Coach John Blalock will probably start Thomas Perkins and David Bell at the guards and Greg Burris, Denoris Byers and Lamar Paysour at the forwards.

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The jayvees have a game scheduled for Monday at Crest but it will be rescheduled until later in the year because of the upcoming Kings Mountain Lions club football banquet.

Kings Mountain's jayvee girls team, coached by Canly Alberghine, will not open season's play until Dec. 14, when it goes to East Rutherford. Alberghine played her high school basketball at East, where she made All-Conference and helped the Lady Cavaliers win a Southwestern Conference championship.

Most home jayvee games this year will be played on Monday and Thursday nights with the girls playing the first game at 7 o'clock.

Table with columns: Teams, W, L, T, Pct. and LIST OF CHAMPIONS. Includes data for Shelby, Lincolnton, Kings Mountain, Rutherfordton, Belmont, East Rutherford, Crest, Chase, Cherryville, Burns and lists of champions from 1954 to 1972.