

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

A Good Year

Winning seasons in three of the four major sports at Kings Mountain High School and a state championship by a local slowpitch softball team highlighted sports activity here during 1972.

The Mountaineers had successful records in baseball, girls basketball and football, while only the boys basketball team was labeled a loser.

Champion's Landscaping, playing its first year in the Tar Heel League, copped the state open slowpitch softball title under the coaching of Artie Shoemaker. The Landscapers also added several regular season tournaments to their title list.

As for the KMHS athletic teams, the girls basketballers, coached by veteran Blaine Froneberger, made the big noise. The Mountaineers finished third in regular season Southwestern Conference play but were runner-up to South Point in the league tournament and went all the way to the Western N. C. Activities Association semi-finals before losing to McDowell Central.

Deborah Crockett was high scorer for the Mountaineers and finished second in voting for SWC Player of the Year. Crockett was joined on the All-Conference team by Carolyn Mitchem and Diane Cornwall.

The baseball team finished 12-6 and second in the SWC behind South Point. It marked the second straight winning season for young coach Barry Gibson. David Bolin, Tim Echols, Grafton Withers and Danny Hartsoe made the All-Conference team and Keith Parker led the club in hitting with a .445 average.

The football squad, in its second year under Bobby Jones, gave the school its second winning season in three years with a 5-4 conference record and 6-4 overall mark. Mark George, Harlee Davis, Tony Falls and Jake Bridges made the All-Conference team.

Central Baseballers Unbeaten

The junior varsity boys basketball team, coached by John Blalock, finished with a 16-4 record, losing twice to Crest and splitting contests with Shelby and Belmont.

The varsity basketball team suffered through its second straight losing season under Allen Dixon, posting a 4-16 overall record. Mike Thombs led the club in scoring but the Mountaineers failed to place a player on the All-Conference team.

Minor sports at KMHS failed to produce any big winners, due largely to the lack of participation. But the did produce some outstanding individual performers.

In golf, Jim Jolly, a lanky junior, ranked among the best in the conference and Alred Ash emerged as the standout for KMHS's new wrestling team. The muscular 165-pounder won 14 of 15 matches, all victories coming on pins.

Central Junior High School continued to reap athletic success. The Patriot baseball team, coached by Tommy Pruitt, posted a 10-0 record for its second straight undefeated season. The Central basketball team finished 9-1 under Porter Griggs and the Patriot gridgers finished 6-1 under Griggs. Their only loss was a 6-0 decision to undefeated Ashley of Gastonia.

In summer sports activity, the local little league and Babe Ruth all-stars continued to be impressive in post season events and the Post 155 Juniors came on strong under the guidance of two new coaches, Bobby Jones and Gus Hartsoe.

The little league all-stars, coached by Rick Moore, won the district title but lost to Concord in the regional event. The 13-year-old Babe Ruth team, coached by Rick Hamrick, won the district title and participated in the state tournament in Asheville. The 15-year-old Babe Ruth team, coached by Tommy Pruitt and Max Bolin, was eliminated in district play.

In softball, state champion Champion's Landscaping provided many thrills for local softball buffs when it took a twinbill from national champion Pharr Yarns of McAdenville. Champion's finished fourth in the Tar Heel League.

In city league softball, Champion's Number Two team Craftspun and Carolina Throwing tied for the regular season title.

College Cagers Have Big Years

Ken Mitchem, a former KMHS athletic standout, made the All-World team for the Pharr Yarns Reds, who won their second straight world title under the coaching of Doug McDonald.

Kings Mountain's duckpin bowlers led the national tournament until the final day of action and had to settle for a second place finish. The kegglers from Mountain Lanes Bowling Center have copped several national titles in the past and annually place high in the event.

Three former athletes and a former KMHS coach continued to make headlines in college basketball. George Adams won All-American honors for the third straight year at Gardner-Webb, where he led the Bulldogs to a fourth place finish in the NAIA national tournament. He was drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks of the NBA and the Indiana Pacers of the ABA and is now a key reserve for the San Diego Conquistadors of the ABA.

Otis Cole was the sixth man and a part-time starter for Florida State's Seminoles, who finished second to UCLA in the NCAA national tournament, and Charles Barnes was a key reserve for Appalachian's Mountaineers, as they get their feet wet in Southern Conference competition.

Bobby Hussey, who posted a 65-7 coaching record in three years at KMHS, took over as coach at nearby Belmont Abbey College and immediately turned the lowly Crusaders into a winner. The Abbey finished with a 13-1 record, its first winning season in several years, and Hussey was second in coach of the year voting in District 26.

Central, Freshmen Cop Second Straight Sweep Over Holbrook

Central Junior High's Patriots and the Kings Mountain High freshmen swept to their second straight victories last Monday, beating Holbrook Junior High of Lowell in their final pre-Christmas games.

Central copped the opening contest by a 49-27 score and the freshmen won the nightcap by a 73-83 count.

William Thompson scored 15 points and Mark Mercer 14 to lead the Patriots of Porter Griggs. Central jumped to a 13-4 lead after the first period and was never headed.

Tommy Manning with 20 points, Jimmy Thompson with 17 and Simon McClain with 14 led Coach Tommy Pruitt's freshmen. They also jumped off to a quick start, leading by 19-8 after the first period and 33-21 at intermission.

CENTRAL GAME Central (49) - Thompson 15, Mercer 14, Lancaster 4, Roberts 4, Ingram 4, Edwards 4, Bumgarner 2.

FRESHMEN GAME K. Min. (75) - Thompson 17, Manning 20, McClain 14, Jackson 4, Yarbro 8, Johnson 6, Mackey 6, Davis 2.

Mountainettes Close Out Year With Victory

Crockett Scores Season High 29 In 54-39 Victory At Lincolnton

Kings Mountain High's varsity girls completed their 1972 season by splitting a Southwestern Conference twin bill with the Lincolnton Wolves.

The Mountaineers led the entire game, holding a 25-17 advantage at the half. Crockett was the only player in double figures but Froneberger got good balance from his other four starters.

The Lincolnton boys, heretofore winless in SWC play, got off to a fast start and the Mountaineers couldn't recover, even though they pulled to within striking distance on several occasions.

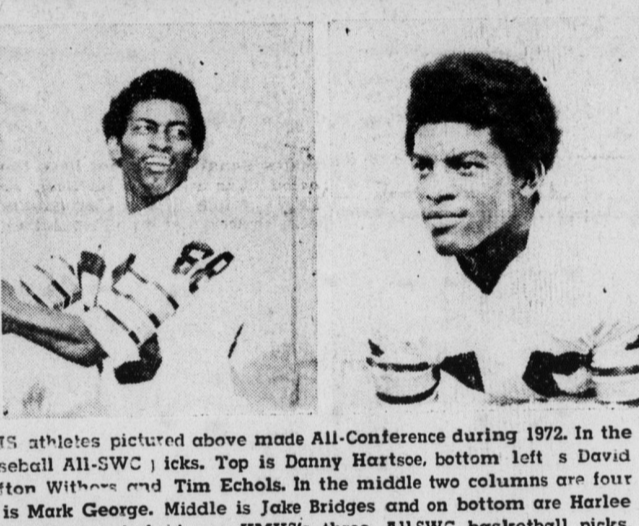
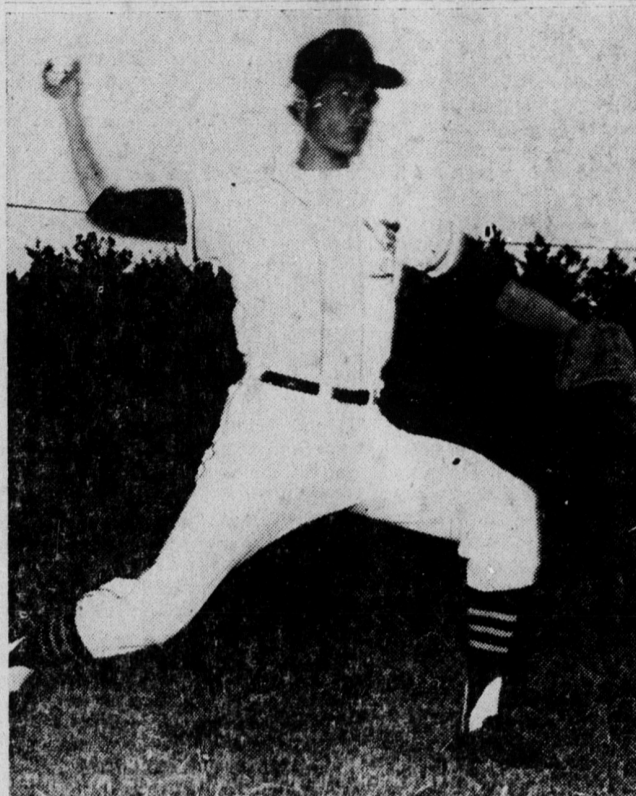
Melvin Littlejohn and Billy Murphy had big nights for the Wolves, scoring 31 of Lincolnton's 78 points. Littlejohn had a game high 20 and Murphy added 24.

The Mountaineers placed three players in double figures, led by Mike Thombs with 27 points. Butch Blalock added 16 and Randy Wilson 14.

GIRLS' GAME K. Min. (54) - Crockett 29, Karen Ledford 4, Kathy Ledford 6, Proctor 6, McGinnis 4, Byers 3, Line 13, C. Alexander 6, L. Alexander 4, McLeod 12, Charles 6, Combs 7, Hill 3, Bridges 4.

BOYS' GAME K. Min. (72) - Dawkins 5, Wing 14, Thombs 27, Blalock 16, Adams 7, J each 3.

Line (70) - Murphy 21, Bynum 8, Littlejohn 30, Friday 10, Alexander 6.



ALL-CONFERENCE - The KMHS athletes pictured above made All-Conference during 1972. In the two columns at left are four baseball All-SWC picks. Top is Danny Hartsoe, bottom left is David Bolin and bottom right are Grafton Withers and Tim Echols. In the middle two columns are four football All-League choices. Top is Mark George. Middle is Jake Bridges and on bottom are Harlee Dav's left and Tony Falls. In the column at right are KMHS's three All-SWC basketball picks. Top is Carolyn Mitchem, Middle is Deborah Crockett and bottom is Diane Cornwall.

Belmont Abbey, Gardner-Webb Host Tournaments

Abbey, UNC-W, Elon, Pfeiffer Play At Abbey

Belmont Abbey's Crusaders host their first annual Abbey Classic this weekend at Wheeler Center.

Opening night action Friday will see Elon's Fighting Christians going against Pfeiffer in the 7 o'clock game and the host Crusaders meeting UNC-Wilmington in the nightcap. Opening round losers play for third place Saturday at 7 and the winners clash for the title at 9.

Belmont Abbey, with a 5-1 record, will be heavily favored in its game with UNC-Wilmington as the knockout contest should be a hotly contested event. Pfeiffer handed the Crusaders their only loss, 77-71, and Elon's having another good year under the leadership of veteran coach Bill Miller.

The Crusaders passed two big tests before taking their holiday break. Coach Hussey's club posted a 104-100 victory over always strong Gardner-Webb and whipped defending Carolinas Conference champion Lenoir-Rhyne 86-78.

Four area high school teams will play after preliminaries both Friday and Saturday. On Friday, South Point of the Southwestern conference will play 4-A Hunter Huss and East Rutherford of the SWC will play Belmont Abbey of the Country Day. On Saturday, East Rutherford will meet Hunter Huss and South Point will play Country Day.

After the tournament, the Crusaders will play a tough 12-game January schedule, which includes games against such toughies as Western Carolina, Vorcehes, Pfeiffer, Elon, Livingstone and Johnson.

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Carson-Newman And Fort Hays Favored At G-W

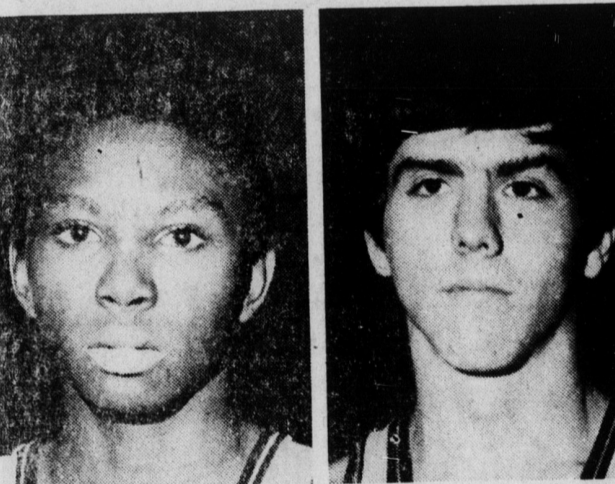
ROLLING SPRINGS - Four fine college basketball teams will bring a combined record of 23-6 with them when they take part in the Seventh Annual Gardner-Webb Holiday tournament which will be held Friday and Saturday.

The co-favorites are Carson Newman college of Jefferson City, Tennessee with a 9-1 record in 11 powerful Fort Hays State of Hays, Kansas with five wins and no defeats for this season. The hosts Gardner-Webb Bulldogs will place a 6-2 record on the line while Western Carolina will bring a 3-3 mark to Bowling Springs.

The first game on Friday night will match Fort Hays and Western Carolina and the second game will have the host Bulldogs facing Carson Newman. The winners and losers will play Saturday night. Game time is 7 o'clock for the openers.

The host Bulldogs of Coach Eddie Holbrook have not won the tournament since they entered the senior college field three years ago. This year Holbrook's young team will again have a rocky road beginning with the first game. The Bulldogs dropped a 99-90 game to Carson-Newman in the finals of the Asheville Tip-Off tourney earlier in the year. Carson-Newman also scored a 72-71 win over Western Carolina in Cullowee.

Fort Hays will bring a top notch team to the meet. The Tigers have been perennial entrants in the NAIA nationals in Kansas City and are favored to return this year. They have nine lettermen returned and are probably the most experienced team in



POINT MEN - Senior Mike Adams, left, and junior John McGill have played well at the point for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers this year. The Mounties are currently on a Christmas break but return to action on Jan. 5 at Burns.

Otis Cole Averaging 4.2 Points, Three Assists For FSU Seminoles

Kings Mountain's Otis Cole is averaging 4.2 points and three assists per game for Florida State's nationally-ranked Seminoles.

Cole is playing as the backup point man behind 5-7 Otto Pettibone last year's FSU standout in the NCAA national tournament.

In the first five games, in which the Seminoles went 4-1, Cole scored 21 points, handed out 15 assists, and garnered eight rebounds while seeing only limited action. He hit on nine of 20 field goal attempts for 40 per cent and three of five free throws, or 60 per cent.

PLANT TREES

Millions of acres of cut-over land and poor cropland could be put back into productivity by planting them in pine trees. Some of the species suited for planting in North Carolina are loblolly slash and longleaf. The longleaf is best suited for growth on dry Sandhill sites. The loblolly and slash can be planted on "average" upland sites out of the Sandhills.

One Of Best Fields Ever Set For Seventh G-W Holiday Event

ROLLING SPRINGS - The winner of the Seventh Annual Gardner-Webb College Holiday tournament can well be proud of the field which it wins. The field includes four outstanding teams including one unbeat team.

Friday night the opening game will pit undefeated Fort Hays of Hays, Kansas against a 6-3 underdog Western Carolina five. The opening game is at 7 o'clock. The second game on Friday night will pit the host Gardner-Webb Bulldogs against Carson-Newman of Jefferson City, Tennessee. The losers will play in the first game Saturday night and the winners will play for the title in the second game.

Fort Hays will bring a perfect 50 record to Bost Gym. The Kansas men have a well-attuned team with five men hitting in double figures this season. Fort Hays has two wins over Tennessee State in the 1972 NAIA National in Kansas City. Western Carolina will probably be the most experienced team in

Dooley Rates Texas Tech Top Ten Club

CHAPEL HILL - How good is the Texas Tech team which faces the North Carolina Tar Heels in the Sun Bowl Dec. 31? "If it had not been for some injuries to key players, Texas Tech would be ranked in the top ten," says Tar Heel Coach Bill Dooley. "Texas Tech only lost to powerful Texas by 25-20 early in the season and had some opportunities to win that game." Following the exciting game with Texas, the Red Raiders suffered injuries to four key players. Despite the losses, however, Texas Tech went on to post an 8-3 record and rank as one of the top teams in the entire Southwest.

Carolina carries a great record of 10-1 into the Sun Bowl game. The only Tar Heel loss came at the hands of Big Ten champion Ohio State by 20-14. The Tar Heels swept all six Atlantic Coast conference games for the second straight year and claimed another conference championship.

But Dooley insists that the Tar Heels will have the hands full against Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders have a sparkling offensive team led by quarterback Joe Barnes, who rushed for 570 yards and passed for 1,112, hitting 51 per cent of his tosses. The leading ground gainer is tailback George Smith who ran 27 times for 740 yards, an average of 27.4 yards a carry.

The team's top receiver is tight end Ayre Tullman, a 6-5, 255-pound blocker who pulled in 21 catches for 253 total yards. Wide receiver Calvin

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