



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Short Cuts

Short cuts from the world of sports: Appalachian baseball coach, Frank Lovrich, feels his Mountaineers can win the District Three double-elimination tournament beginning today in Starville, Miss.

The last time N. C. State participated in the District Three playoffs, the Wolfpack stopped the Richard Golden Florida State Seminoles and went on to the NCAA national tourney in Omaha.

"I'm glad the game has been arranged because the fans want it," says N. C. State cage coach Norm Sloan on his team's Dec. 15 meeting with national champ UCLA in St. Louis.

State's football coach, Lou Holtz, watched the recent USA - Russia basketball series on the big tube with a great deal of interest.

Duke, Wake On ASU Schedule

Games with Duke and Wake Forest of the ACC high-light Appalachian's 1973-74 basketball schedule. The Mounties will be on the road for both contests, at Duke on Dec. 10 and at Wake on Feb. 23.

The two top sportsman drivers in the country, national champion Jack Ingram, and 1973 point leader Sam Ard, have signed to race in the Wade Stephens Memorial Race Saturday night at Hickory Speedway.

Davidson's Wildcats will play a 25-game regular season basketball schedule in '73-'74, beginning Dec. 3 at home against Wofford. The Wildcats will play six games in Charlotte Coliseum in addition to the annual Charlotte Invitational Dec. 28-29.

Mike Hober, a Norristown, Pa., grid star, has inked a grant-in-aid with Gardner-Webb. A wide receiver, Hober was selected to the first team all-league and all-city teams.

KM Tied For 17th In WNCHSAA

McDowell County (Marion) was the only unbeaten baseball team in the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association this spring, posting a 9-0 record en route to the Northwestern Conference title.

Fans watching the Houston - San Francisco game on television Monday night can't honestly say that baseball is a dull sport. Where else can you see so much offensive fireworks, good defensive plays and hear Dizzy Dean sing the Wabash Cannonball?

Chuck Piazza, Mike Humphries and Stick Elliott are all bidding for victory number two Thursday night at Shelby Motor Speedway. The green flag falls at 8 p.m.

Virginia Drivers Seek Winning Money In Saturday Hickory Race

HICKORY — Two hotshot Virginia drivers with strong credentials have filed entries for the third annual Wade Stephens Memorial race at Hickory Speedway Saturday night.

Ard, the National Point Leader, and Jack Ingram, the 1972 champ, will join Dennis and Hendrick in a bid to end Gant's win streak and pick up a \$100 bonus posted by track manager Ned Jarrett for anyone who turns the trick.

Gant will be going into the race with a sizzling victory percentage of better than 60 percent. Through May 19 the contractor from Taylorsville had won 13 of the 19 races he had entered this season.

The last driver to handle Gant at Hickory was Sam Ard on March 4. Gant ran second to Ard in a Sportsman contest immediately after finishing fourth in a 100-mile stint in a Grand National event.

Hendrick has probably won more races than any other driver since NASCAR started 25 years ago. The soft-spoken Grandfather feels his Saturday's racing card includes

Juniors Host Burke Tonight, FC Saturday

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors are at home for their next two Area Four contests, hosting Morganton tonight and Forest City Saturday night.

The local squad will be seeking its first victory following a 10-7 opening-season loss at Bessemer City Tuesday night.

Morganton, or Burke County, if you prefer, is the defending Area Four champion and is expected to be in strong contention again

Wilhelm To Speak At Rotary Lunch



ROTARY SPEAKER — Hoyt Wilhelm, former major league pitching great, will be guest speaker at the 11th annual Rotary Club baseball luncheon today at noon at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Highlight of the event is the presentation of the John H. Moss Most Valuable Player Award.

Wilhelm, now 50 and a field manager of the Atlanta Braves' Class A farm club in Greenwood, S. C., spent 21 years in the major leagues after breaking into pro baseball in Mooresville, N. C.

A 20-game winner in 1946 and '47, Wilhelm won more games, pitched more innings and compiled more strikeouts than any other relief pitcher in history.

Wilhelm got his first start in organized baseball in high school and at the age of 18 signed a contract with Mooresville of the North Carolina State League for \$85 a month.

Finally, at the age of 28, Leo Durocher, then manager of the New York Giants, gave him a chance and Wilhelm responded by posting a 15-3 record and setting numerous major league records for a rookie hurler.

Both men were coached at Wingate by Steve Poston, a graduate of Gardner-Webb. The boys' fathers, Charlie Cromer and Robert Brown, Sr., were both present for the signing.

"We are very pleased to get these two young men for next year," said Coach Bryson. "We need the lefty and pitching of Mike and Bobby is a long ball hitter as well as a fine pitcher.

Gardner-Webb just closed the season by reaching the District NAIA 26 finals before being eliminated. This was the third straight year the Bulldogs had made the district tournament.

Asked if he'll teach Greenwood pitchers to throw the knuckler, Wilhelm responded, "I really believe you have to have a knack to throw the pitch, but if the Braves want to try to teach the pitch to someone, I'll do my best."

Wilhelm is another in a long list of outstanding baseballers to speak at the KM fete. Past speakers included former major league players Smokey Burgess and Bill White, Pittsburgh Pirate coach Frank Oczak, former major league umpire Al Summers, Clemson University baseball coach Bill Wilhelm, and others.

Past MVP winners included Barry Gibson, 1963; Mickey Bell, 1964; Seeley Lowery, 1965; Steve Goforth, 1966; Nelson Connor, 1967; Paul Gaffney, 1968; Rocky Goforth, 1969; Chuck Carpenter, 1970; David Bolin, 1971; and Danny Hartsoe, 1972.

improve on an 11-13 record. Post 155 started slow last year but came on strong toward the end of the season and upset Shelby in the Area Four playoffs, three games to two, before bowing to Morganton in the semi-finals.

Coaches Jones and Hartsoe are looking to members of the 1973 Kings Mountain High School team to carry the bulk of the hitting load this summer.

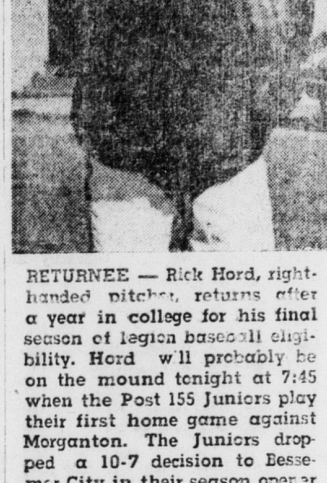
Robbie Moore and Keith Parker both hit well in high school play and will have to continue into senior

players from Shelby and Crest highs and rumors have it that two pitchers from Gardner-Webb College have moved into the Shelby district.

Kings Mountain will play 14 regular season games, meeting all seven other League Two teams twice. Area Four playoffs are scheduled to begin June 25.

THE SCHEDULE MAY 22, at Bessemer City 24, Morganton 26, Forest City 29, at Henrietta 31, Shelby JUNE 2, Hickory 5, at Cherryville 7, Bessemer City 9, at Morganton 12, at Forest City 14, Henrietta 16, at Shelby 19, Hickory 21, Cherryville

Moore Left Off, Raiders' Harris Player Of Year



RETURNEE — Rick Hord, right-handed pitcher, returns after a year in college for his final season of legion baseball eligibility. Hord will probably be on the mound tonight at 7:45 when the Post 155 Juniors play their first home game against Morganton. The Juniors dropped a 10-7 decision to Bessemer City in their season opener Tuesday night.

Juniors Drop Opening Game To BC, 10-7

Bessemer City struck for four runs in the fourth inning to erase a 3-1 Kings Mountain lead and went on to defeat Post 155 by a score of 10-7 in the Area Four baseball opener for both clubs Tuesday night in Bessemer City.

The hosts jumped KM right-hander Keith Parker for four straight hits and a pair of bases on balls also aided the cause.

Bessemer City's bats were booming against Parker and relief pitcher Richard Gillespie. The hosts secured 15 hits, including five straight by Larry Ramsey, while Post 155 was able to garner only five hits.

Perry Eury, who hurried for Bessemer City High School this spring, worked the first seven and two-thirds innings and was credited with the victory. He struck out nine Post 155 hitters and retired the KM lads in order from the second through the seventh innings.

Singles by Parker and Robbie Moore, a pair of walks, a hit batsman and an error gave Post 155 a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning and things looked good. However, Bessemer City threatened from the word go as Tommy McNeal led off the bottom of the first with a single and later scored on a double by Dean Huffstetler to cut the lead to 3-1.

Bessemer City left five runners on base in the second and third innings, then took command with its four-spot off Parker in the fourth.

The hosts stretched their lead to 9-3 heading into the eighth, when Post 155 scored a singleton on singles by Wayne Bridges and David Lancaster and a pair of bases on balls. That cut the margin to 9-4.

Bessemer City got that run back, however, in the bottom of the eighth to make it 10-4. Post 155 rallied in the ninth, scoring three runs on Rick Hord's bases-loaded triple, but the locals couldn't come up with any more runs.

Table with columns: Kings Mtn., Ab, R, H, Rbi. Lists player statistics for Kings Mountain and Bessemer City.

Parker Only Mountaineer On All-Conference Squad



Robbie Moore, Kings Mountain's senior shortstop who finished the season with a .463 batting average, was outpooled at shortstop on the All-SWC team by Kyle Fletcher of champion South Point and Jim Jordan of Crest.

Kings Mountain, which finished 9-9 and tied for fourth in the 10-team loop with Crest and Cherryville, had only one All-SWC selection, outfielder Keith Parker. Ironically, Parker was the SWC's leading hitter last year but was not voted to the team.

Parker was among the loop's top hitters again this year, finishing with a .339 average. He led the Mountaineers in runs batted in with 18, triples with three, homers with four, total bases with 42 and stolen bases with nine. On the mound, he had a 2-2 pitching mark and a team-leading 1.17 earned run average.

Butch Harris of South Point was named the conference's player of the year and South Point's coach, Phil Tate, won the coach of the year award for the third straight season.

Chase, which tied Shelby for second place, led in All-Conference players with four. South Point, Crest and Cherryville each had three players while East Rutherford and Lincoln had two and Kings Mountain, Shelby, R-S Central and Burns one apiece.

Below is the entire All-SWC roster: PITCHERS: Butch Harris, South Point; Craig Kiser, Lincoln. CATCHERS: Danny Lockman, South Point; Tommy Summer, Cherryville; David Smith, East Rutherford.

FIRST BASE: Tammy Henson, Chase; Carl Bridges, Cherryville. SECOND BASE: Richard McBee, Chase; Rocky Panther, Crest. THIRD BASE: Ronnie Ross, Crest; Dale Jenkins, East Rutherford.

SHORTSTOP: Kyle Fletcher, South Point; Jim Jordan, Crest. OUTFIELD: Barry Hines, R-S Central; Larry Lane, Shelby; Kermit Carpenter, Cherryville; Bobby Traxler, Crest; Jody Waters, Chase; Anthony Harrill, Chase; Joey Baresko, Burns; Keith Parker, Kings Mountain; Kenny Peek, Lincoln.

Beth'ehem Drops One, Lead Cut To Half Game

First Wesleyan's upset 7-4 victory over Bethelhem Tuesday night has thrown the local church ball league race into a dogfight.

Bethelhem still occupies the top spot with an 8-2 record but only one-half game behind is Second Baptist with a 7-2 record. Closing in are El Bethel with a 7-3 mark and Macedonia with a 7-4 record.

Macedonia won two of three games during the past week, defeating Temple 16-5 Friday night and Allen Memorial 20-9 Tuesday.

Fony Ruppe's 4-for-4 plate performance keyed Friday night's victory and Gary Stout slammed a home run. Emmett Green was the winning hurler and Rayford White took the loss.

Jimmy White and Bobby Green slapped homers and Dean Spears

Hunters And Fishermen Are Doing More To Preserve N. C. Wildlife

By JIM DEAN Wildc f Afield Many people honestly believe that North Carolina's wildlife populations are declining so rapidly that there will soon be no squirrels, deer, quail, rabbits or any other form of free-running critter. The notion is surprisingly widespread. Recently, a newspaperman was assigned the job of finding out the truth about the state's wildlife populations. Naturally, the reporter came to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

his own, and the wild turkey is making a comeback. In fact, the black bear is the only major game animal currently in trouble in the state.

"What about deer?" the reporter asked. "They're about gone, aren't they?"

"No, quite frankly, most of the state is lousy with deer," he said, "and the herds are growing and spreading all the time. There is reason to believe that there may be more deer here now than when Sir Walter Raleigh stepped off the boat on Roanoke Island. One thing is certain, in the mid-1800's, until the late 1920's, deer were practically extinct in the Piedmont and western parts of the state, and decidedly rare even in the east. Since the creation of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in the late 1940's, the deer population has been built up until now they are found in every county in the state. In all but a few counties, they are numerous enough to support hunting, and in some areas, they are so abundant that they are considered pests by farmers."

Of course, such information was welcome news to the reporter, and it should be to anyone concerned with the future of wildlife in North Carolina. The overall picture looks quite good, and despite a few local areas where certain species may be undergoing natural low population levels, the state is doing well.

Blue north is an annual visitor to North Carolina's big tobacco country. The fungus disease was first identified in the state in 1931, and it has been found somewhere in the state each spring since that date. It was first identified this year around the last of April.

Bulldogs Sign Wingate College Baseball Stars

BOILING SPRINGS, N. C.—Two members of the powerful Wingate College baseball team which finished the season with an 18-7 record have signed grant-in-aids to attend Gardner-Webb College next fall.

Mike Cromer, a 20 year-old, left handed pitcher and Robert Brown, Jr., an infielder and pitcher, will play for the bulldogs next year according to Coach Jerry Bryson, of Gardner-Webb.

Cromer, a native of Newberry, S. C. played high school baseball at Mid-Carolina High School. He is a 195 pounder and is 6-3 tall. At Wingate this past season he won six and lost only one game and closed out the season with a 0.36 earned run average. The fast balling lefthander helped pitch the Wingate team to the finals of the North Carolina Junior College Tournament. He registered 54 strikeouts in 58 innings pitched.

Brown, a 60, 185 pounder, is a native of Drexel, North Carolina and attended Drexel High School. He won six and lost two on the mound for Wingate, and while not pitching he played first base. He hit .361 for Wingate, leading the team at the plate.

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features for both Limited Sportsman and Hobby performers. Driver registration will begin at 4:30, followed by warmups and qualifying. The first event is scheduled for 8 p.m.

STANDINGS Table with columns: Teams, W, L. Lists standings for Bethelhem, Second Baptist, El Bethel, Macedonia, Buffalo, Allen, Temple, and First Wesleyan.

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