



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

County Legion Ball?

Short cuts from the world of sports:

Some say legion baseball is on the way out. There are rumors that Shelby and Henrietta will not field a team next season and several other Area Four clubs are considering the same thing. Belmont Post 144 coach Phil Tate feels that legion baseball should turn to county teams, as it already has in several areas. Most of the North Carolina legion champs in the past several years have been county-wide teams, such as Rowan County, Richmond County, etc.

There's no doubt that Hank Aaron will break Babe Ruth's home run record, maybe not this year but next. But, if you get right down to the nitty gritty, there's no way Hank can do it. After all, the Atlanta slugger has already come to bat over 4,000 more times than Ruth did during his entire career. If you figure homers per times at bat, you'll find that the Babe hit one every 11 times at bat while Aaron's hit one every 17 times to the plate.

Three Kings Mountain men served as lecturers at Bobby Hussey's Belmont Abbey basketball camp this summer. They were John Blalock, Kings Mountain High coach, Otis Cole, former player now at Florida State and Charlie Barnes, another KMHS standout now at Appalachian State. George Adams, former KMHS star now with the San Diego Conquistadors, helped out with the Gardner-Webb camp, along with Kentucky Colonel star Artis Gilmore.

How About Yank-Dodger Series?

As the major league baseball season nears the half way mark, many fans are forecasting a Yankee-Dodger series but it won't be the same minus the Mantles, Berras, Drysdale, Snyder, et al. The South could be losing major league baseball if the Atlanta Braves continue to lose and the fans continue to stay at home.

Howard The Mouth can stick to broadcasting football and boxing. He'll never make it as a baseball announcer, especially if he works alongside Tony Kubek. They'd spend more time fighting than they would telling the TV audience what is going on.

Although it's a long way off, Kings Mountain High baseball coach Barry Gibson should be looking forward to the 1974 baseball season. He loses only three players off last year's team, will have good pitching and some fair hitting. He returns four pitchers, three infielders two catchers and four outfielders.

Football practice will start early for one Kings Mountain gridders this year. KMHS graduate Mark George will soon begin preparations for the East-West All-Star game coming in Greensboro on August 2. George is KMHS' first all-star gridders since 1965, when Hubert McGinnis represented the Mounties. Incidentally, both George and McGinnis were centers and linebackers.

Two-Platoon Baseball Absurd

Area Western Carolinas League baseball fans have a pennant winner for the first time, as Gastonia's Rangers last week nailed down the WCL's first half title. One of the big reasons for Gastonia's success has been home grown pitcher, Wade Frye. Frye played teen league ball in Kings Mountain under Porter Griggs, the Central Junior High coach and athletic director.

Golf fans! Have you ever noticed how much Johnny Miller resembles Larry Hinson? It would be great if Hinson could get his game together like Miller has. Lee Trevino's overdue for a victory but as the weather gets hotter, so will the Merry Mexican.

A team to watch in the Area Four and state legion playoffs is Gaston Post 23. Under J. V. McGinnis, the Gastons always lay low during the regular season but come on strong during the playoffs. They advanced to the state finals last year before losing out to Richmond County.

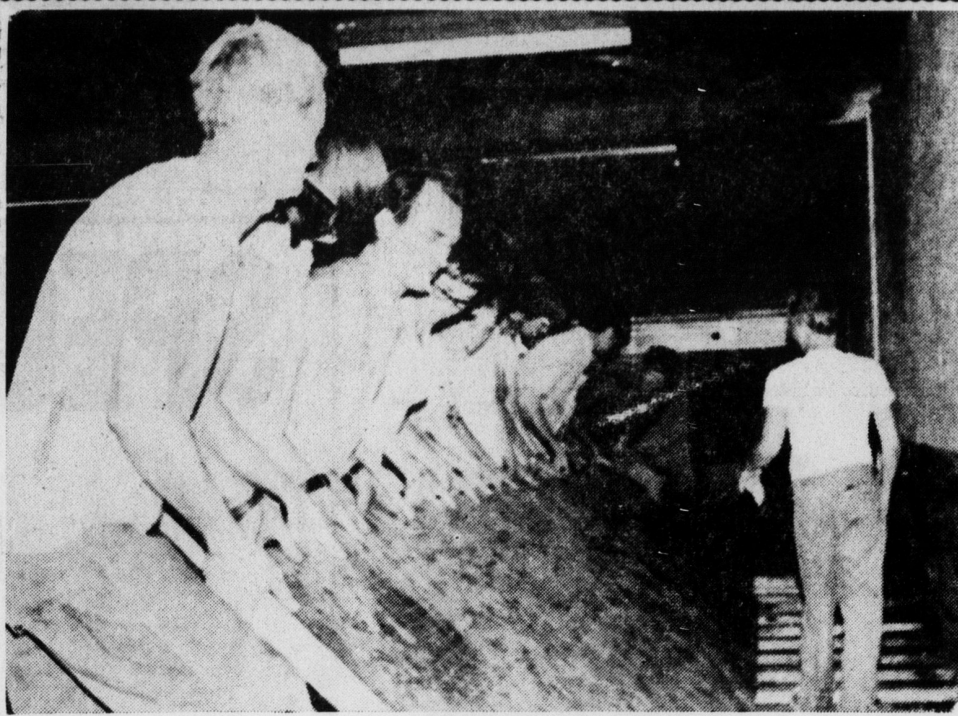
Howard Cosell's idea of two platoon baseball is absurd. Regardless of what anybody says, a baseball player has to have more ability than any other athlete as he has to do several things well. Making specialists out of baseball players would kill the game. Bowie Kuhn should put his designated hitters back in the old folk's home and let the game go on.

They say Jim (Ball Four) Bouton has a new book out. If it's anything like the first, it'll be interesting but it'll rile a lot of people.

Several Kings Mountain Cagers Attend Abbey Basketball Camp

Friday afternoon climaxed two weeks of boys basketball camp at Belmont Abbey college. In its second year of operation, the camp has grown tremendously and has shown much success. Boys from as far as New Jersey have come to learn how to be a better basketball player. Belmont Abbey, and Mike Reidy, assistant coach, have been assisted these two weeks by a very able staff of high school and college coaches. These include Kelly Craven of Chatham Central, Gary Sherrill of South Iredell, Jack Hussey of North Moore, John Blalock of Kings Mountain, Dennis McNellis of Tidewater Academy, Va., Walter Przygocki of Charlotte Catholic, Eddie Raines of Winnsboro, S. C., Russ Bergman of Appalachian State University, Skip Shear of Indiana University, Chuck Schnabel of St. Patrick's, N. J., Artie Knight of Holly Hill, S. C., and John Davidson of Statesville.

The boys at camp have also been privileged to have had special guests such as basketball stars as Otis Cole of Florida State, Tony Byers of Wake Forest, Don Johnston and Mitch Kupchak of UNC-Chapel Hill, Monty Towse of N. C. State and Christ Redding of Duke. On Friday, June 15, and again on Friday, June 22, the weeks activities were brought to a close by the awarding of certificates and trophies. Also all-star players were chosen from each league and these players participated in an all-star game. The boys from Kings Mountain who attended the Abbey camp were Tommy Thombs, Wally Davis, Robbie Bolin, Michael Spears, Eric Dixon, Jim Baity, Tommy Burke, John Plonk, Curtis Perkins, Chuck Adams, Casey Durham, Jeff Campbell, Ronald Smith, Chris Holmes, Jeff Joninger, Mar Kullender, Wesley Narron, John Gamble, George Pittman, Terence Blalock, Carl Plonk, and Butch Blalock.



... Tearing 'Em Up

Bowlers Purchase Equipment, Need New Place To Bowl

For years, duckpin bowlers from Kings Mountain have sought national recognition to the town by winning numerous national championships but they are now facing the possibility of never even bowling again.

Several weeks ago, the city redevelopment commission purchased Mountain Lanes Bowling Center and in just a matter of days will demolish the building.

In an effort to save bowling, the bowlers themselves purchased the bowling equipment from the city and for the past week have been tearing it out and moving it to another building. But, still, locating a building large enough to house a bowling alley isn't easy.

A local businessman, Mike Kenley, is now compiling the cost of a combination duckpin and ten pin bowling house and the cost of constructing a new building. Meanwhile, the city board of commissioners has appointed a committee to study the matter but that committee as yet has not issued a report of its findings.

Otherwise, they'll have to travel to Kannapolis to practice or else give up the sport.

Quitting isn't easy, especially for bowlers who have been in the league since its origin in the early 1950's. And the bowlers feel Kannapolis is too far to travel but it's the closest duckpin facility.

Some of the bowlers feel that the town should construct a new bowling facility which would include six duckpin and six tenpin lanes. They figure it would be a paying proposition, even though Mountain Lanes quit the tenpin business several years ago.

Cherries bowling was discontinued here when C. H. "Cats" Houser, manager of Mountain Lanes, installed automatic pin setters six years ago. However, duckpin bowling has been popular here since the early 50's. League play first began with a six-team men's loop but for the past several years there has been competition in three leagues... men's women's and mixed.

Kings Mountain bowlers have won three major national tournaments and several other bowler tournaments. Most of the bowlers feel the recognition they've brought the town merits the continuation of bowling.

Cherries Whip Post 155 10-7 On Saturday

Kings Mountain's Juniors dropped their final regular season game here Saturday night, bowing to last-place Cherryville by a 10-7 count.

Wayne Bridges, making only his second appearance on the mound this year, worked the first eight innings and was tagged with the loss. He was touched for 11 hits and all 10 of the Cherryville runs.

Cherryville had its best game of the year, banging out 13 hits, including out-of-the-park home runs by Eddie Lawing and Kenny Peek. The Cherries battled back from a 6-3 deficit with four runs in the sixth inning to go ahead for good.

Martin Reynolds worked the first eight innings for Cherryville and got the win, even though he needed ninth inning relief help from Carl Bridges, who fanned the side.

Post 155 collected 12 hits, including three apiece by Bridges and Rick Hord and two by Robbie Moore.

Kings Mountain started off quickly enough, scoring four runs in the first for a 4-2 lead. Hits by Moore, Bridges, Hord and Darrell Van Dyke keyed the rally.

After that, however, Post 155 couldn't get more than one run in any one inning.

Steve Reel paced Cherryville at the plate with three hits while Peek, Lawing and Clifton Parker added two apiece.

Table with columns: Ab, R, H, RBI for KM-CHERRYVILLE. Includes players like Reel, Peek, Lawing, Ledford, Bumgarner, Parker, Lyles, C. Bridges, H. Mosier, Reynolds, Foy, and Totals.

Table with columns: Ab, R, H, RBI for Kings Mtn. Includes players like Moore, Lancaster, W. Bridges, Hord, McGraw, Gillespie, Austin, Fitts, Van Dyke, Hartsoe, and Totals.

Table with columns: IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO for Pitchers. Includes Reynolds, C. Bridges, W. Bridges, Gillespie, and Totals.



CRACKS HOMER — Chuck Austin, above, cracked a home run for Post 155's only tally in Tuesday night's 6-1 loss to Burke County in Area Four playoff action. It was the first homer of the year for a KM player.

Second Baptist Grabs Lead In Church League

Second Baptist has taken over the lead in the local church league softball race as the season heads into its final three days.

The regular season was scheduled to end Tuesday night but recent rains have forced numerous postponements. Make up games are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday and the tournament has been moved up to July 12-14.

Bethlehem, the season-long leader, dropped a pair of games during the past week, losing to Temple 8-7 and El Bethel 16-8. Second Baptist won a pair of games, 8-3 over First Wesleyan and 15-8 over First Wesleyan, to move into the top spot.

Four clubs still have a shot at the title. Second Baptist is only a half-game ahead of El Bethel, which is 13-4. Macedonia's only a game back at 13-5 and Bethlehem's just a game and one-half back at 12-5.

All action last Friday night was postponed due to rain. The only other results Tuesday besides the games already mentioned was Macedonia's 7-0 forfeit victory over Allen Memorial.

Table with columns: Teams, W, L, Pct., GB. Lists teams like Second Baptist, El Bethel, Macedonia, Bethlehem, Buffalo, Temple, and First Wesleyan.

Allen Memorial 4 15 211 10 1/2 * Record does not include Tuesday makeup games.

Texas Rangers Tryout Camp Set Saturday

The Texas Rangers will conduct a tryout camp for boys 16 to 22 years of age Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Sims Legion Park in Gastonia.

The Rangers' area scout, Joe Branzell, will conduct the camp, while Rich Donnelly, manager of the Gastonia Rangers, and Eg Nottle, Gastonia pitching coach, will be on hand to help evaluate talent.

All boys between 16 and 22 who were not drafted in the recent professional baseball draft are invited to participate. They are asked to bring gloves and spikes and wear a uniform if possible. All American Legion players must have a written approval from their past commander or coach.

Any persons wishing to try out are asked to contact Jon Richardson at the Gastonia Rangers business office in advance for pre-registration.

Morganton Cops First Two Playoff Games Over Locals

Post 155 Falls 10-0 Monday, 6-1 On Tuesday

Kings Mountain's Juniors dropped their first two Area Four playoff games to Burke County this week, falling 10-0 Monday in Morganton and 6-1 Tuesday night at City Stadium.

The two clubs were scheduled to return to Morganton last night for game three. If Morganton won, the series is over and Post 155's eliminated from any further competition. But, if KM won, the two clubs will return to City Stadium for game four.

Jimmy Carrier's three-hitter was too much for Post 155 Monday night and timely hitting by Burke and a poor KM defense were too much to overcome Tuesday.

Post 155 righthander Rick Hord, who started the season with three straight wins, was tagged for his third straight loss Monday. He lasted only one and two-thirds innings in a starting role.

Kings Mountain's three hits were by Hord, Wayne Bridges and Robbie Moore. Burke County got home runs by Carrier and Joel Fender and scored two runs in each of the first four innings.

Carrier retired the first nine batters he faced before walking Darrell Van Dyke and giving up a single to Bridges to start the fourth. He settled down, however, and never allowed another KM runner past first.

Chuck Austin's home run, the first of the year by a KM player, accounted for Post 155's only run in Tuesday's game. John McGill went the distance, allowing eight hits and only two earned runs.

Austin's homer gave Post 155 a 1-0 lead in the third but Burke tied it with a singleton in the sixth, then broke the game open with five in the eighth. The sixth inning run and three of the five runs in the eighth were unearned.

Sam Denton went the distance for Burke, scattering nine hits. Post 155 had four runners in scoring position several times but couldn't come up with the key hits to get the runners home.

Moore led Post 155 at the plate with 3-for-4 while Van Dyke and Austin added a pair of hits each. Tommy Russ and Jeff Vaughn had two hits apiece for Burke county.

Table with columns: Ab, R, H, RBI for Kings Mtn. Includes players like Van Dyke, Putnam, Bridges, Moore, Hord, Baird, Lancaster, Falls, McGraw, Payne, Austin, Gillespie, Farias, Hartsoe, and Totals.

Post 155 Boxscores

Table with columns: IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO for Pitchers. Includes Hord, Farias, Gillespie, Carrier, and Totals.

Table with columns: IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO for Pitchers. Includes Hord, Farias, Gillespie, Carrier, and Totals.

Table with columns: Ab, R, H, RBI for Kings Mtn. Includes players like Austin, Denton, Vaughn, Ervin, Carrier, Hite, and Totals.

Table with columns: Ab, R, H, RBI for Kings Mountain. Includes players like Austin, Bridges, Moore, Hord, Lancaster, Baird, Payne, Van Dyke, Hartsoe, McGraw, McGill, and Totals.

Table with columns: IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO for Pitchers. Includes Denton, McGill, Hite, and Totals.

Four Clubs Hold Two-Game Leads In Playoff Sets

Kings Mountain and three other Area Four, League Two teams faced elimination in American Legion playoff action Wednesday night.

Post 155 was scheduled to go to Morganton for game three of their five-game series. Burke County won the first two games, 10-0 and 6-1.

Shelby was 2-up on Cherryville Hickory 2-up on Bessemer City and Forest City 2-up on Henrietta in other playoff action.

If Kings Mountain won last night's game over Burke, the two clubs would return to City Stadium tonight for game four and go back to Morganton Friday for game five, if necessary.

The area quarter-final round is scheduled to begin next Monday and it will also be a best-of-five series. Pairings will have the Shelby-Cherryville winner meeting the Forest City-Henrietta winner and the KM-Burke winner facing the Bessemer City-Hickory winner.

The semi-finals round is scheduled to begin on July 10 and will also be a best-of-five. The League Two winner will then meet the League One winner in a best-of-seven set beginning July 19.

As Post 155 entered last night's game, shortstop Robbie Moore continued as the only player batting over 300. He carried a .435 average into the game, having collected 27 hits in 65 games at bat. The only other player close to 300 was Rick Hord, who was hitting .394 with 20 hits in 68 trips to the plate.

Post 155 carried a 4-12 overall record into the contest. Post 155 finished regular season play with a 4-10 mark, giving it seventh place in the final standings.

Rick Hinnant In Cage Camp

DAVIDSON, N. C. — Walter Rickett Hinnant of Kings Mountain is attending the ninth annual Davidson College basketball camp.

He is the son of Mrs. R. F. Summers, Box 506 in Kings Mountain, N. C. The camp is directed by Davidson head coach Terry Holland, who has been Southern Conference coach of the year three of the past four seasons and his teams have won four straight Southern Conference regular season championships.

NIGHT LIGHTS Many of the night lights on our streets, highways, parks and yards seem to have an adverse effect on trees and shrubs. According to U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists, even a small amount of light at night can affect the blooming schedule of some plants.