



# HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

## Fight For Second Place In Swc Could Be Highlight Of Season

With the opening of the 1973 season Friday night, it's time for our annual pre-season predictions for the Southwestern Conference campaign.

It appears that South Point's Red Raiders, who have taken great strides in athletics since Jim Biggerstaff took over as athletic director and head grid mentor a few years back, are the class of the league.

The Raiders lost only a few players and should field one of the top 3-A clubs in the state.

Heading the Raider attack is junior quarterback Doug Davis and the Raiders will own one of the league's top runners in Wayne Fowell. Dennis Grier heads up the defense from his guard position and is one of the top performers in the state.

The most interesting part of the '73 season could be the fight for second place. The conference's top two clubs will earn a berth in the WNCSSAA playoffs.

The teams we see fighting for second are Shelby, East Gaston, Crest and East Rutherford, and possibly Burns. That's right. Burns. The Bulldogs found out last year what victory is and with their highly capable coaching staff and their entire offensive line returning, they could surprise a lot of people.

Shelby lost most of its players off last year's WNCSSAA championship team but the Lions are always tough. That's a much-overused statement but it's true.

East Gaston's one of three new schools in the league. It's a new consolidated high school which combined the teams from Mt. Holly and Stanley so they have to be good.

## Some Clubs Unpredictable

Another interesting sidelight about East Gaston is that the team runs from several formations. SWC schools who have not been accustomed to playing a Dick Thompson-coached team will have a lot of trouble adjusting their defense.

Crest is coming into its own under Max Beam and could be in the running and East Rutherford came a long way last year under Grady Roper. The Cavaliers lost only to South Point, Shelby and Kings Mountain.

The remaining seven positions are unpredictable. Since teams are not playing every team in the league, most small schools have much easier schedules than the bigger schools.

Kings Mountain, Lincolnton, R-S Central and North Gaston appear to be unpredictable. All show promise of fielding good clubs but could have poor seasons if injuries interfere. Kings Mountain's facing a serious injury problem right now and if some of its players don't get back into the lineup soon, Bobby Jones could suffer through his first losing season.

Lincolnton, like Kings Mountain, is young. Von Ray Harris says this is the smallest team he's had in quite a while and Lincolnton clubs of the past have been known for their size.

North Gaston, another SWC newcomer, has been strong in 2-A circles in the past. Coach Joe Eller says he's defeated SWC teams before so he's not scared of anyone. But the team North Gaston has been defeating has been Cherryville and Cherryville's not a true indication of the SWC's strength.

Cherryville, Bessemer City and Chase should bring up the rear. Cherryville's said to be much-improved and the Ironmen own one of the league's top runners—if not the top one—in Tommy Summers. With a healthy Summers, the Cherrys could have a decent year.

## Picking The Winners

Bessemer City's not yet ready for the SWC and Chase has been faltering since Bob Bush stepped down as coach a couple of years ago.

Don't hold me to them, but here's the prediction of finish for the '73 SWC clubs:

- 1, South Point; 2, Shelby; 3, East Gaston; 4, Crest; 5, East Rutherford; 6, Burns; 7, Kings Mountain; 8, Lincolnton; 9, R-S Central; 10, North Gaston; 11, Cherryville; 12, Bessemer City; 13, Chase.

And, now, let's take a look at the Friday night openers:

**KINGS MOUNTAIN AT BESSEMER CITY:** With Johnny Byers and Dale Hartsoe out with injuries, this game could go either way. If Goldie Byers is ready to play for the Yellow Jackets, the five-mile ride back to Kings Mountain could be a long one for the Mountaineers. But, assuming Byers is not ready, we'll go with the Mountaineers, 12-6.

**EAST GASTON AT CREST:** This will be the best game of the night and could go either way. Crest fans feel they have the conference's top quarterback in Dennis Sinkler but they'll be highly impressed with young Mack Green of East Gaston. We'll pick the Warriors in a close one, 14-13.

**R-S CENTRAL AT McDOWELL:** McDowell, or Marion if you prefer, is always strong in the Northwestern Conference and R-S Central isn't the power it once was in the SWC. We'll pick McDowell, 21-0.

**SOUTH POINT AT CHASE:** The Raiders show their strength early, 42-0.

**WATAUGA AT AVERY COUNTY:** Should be no trouble for Watauga, 28-7.

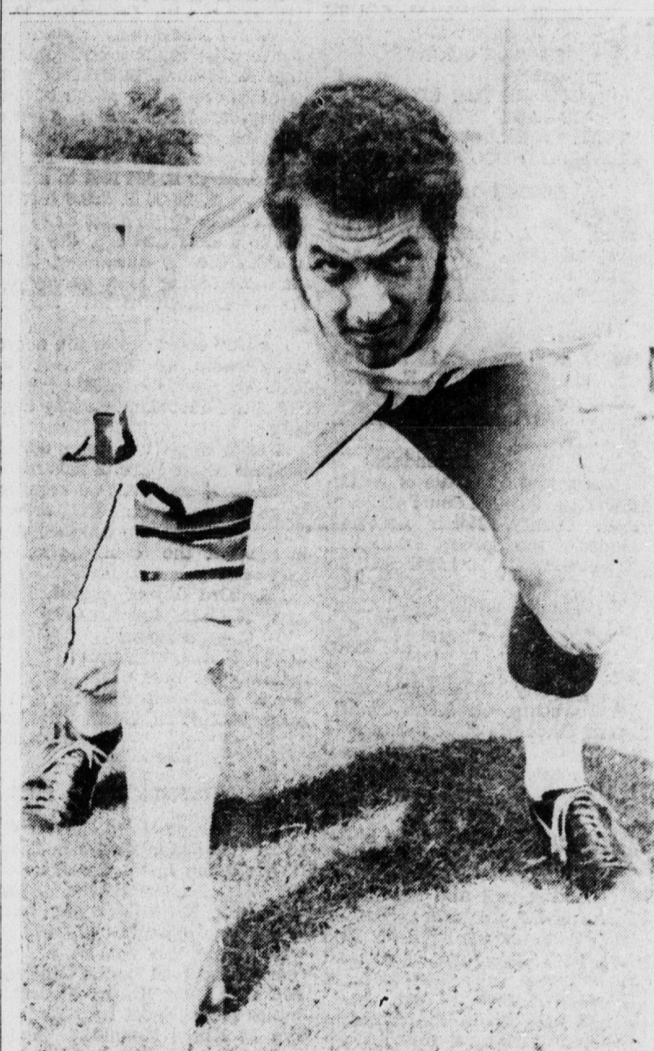
**NORTH GASTON AT CHERRYVILLE:** Could go either way, but we'll take the Wildcats in a close one, 13-7.

**ALEXANDER CENTRAL AT WILKES CENTRAL:** This should be the best game in opening night action in the Northwest Conference. We'll give it to Wilkes on the home field advantage, 7-0.

**GRANITE FALLS AT HUDSON:** No idea. We'll flip a coin and it comes out heads. . . oops, Hudson

**MAIDEN AT NEWTON:** Maiden, a 2-A school, has everything to gain. We'll say 21-20, Maiden.

# Mountaineers Open Friday At Bessemer City



**MOUNTAINEER TACKLES** — Larry Hamrick, left, and Carl Roseboro, a pair of big tackles will be key factors in any success the Kings Mountain High Mountaineers might have on the gridiron this fall. Hamrick starts at tackle on offense and Rose-



boro sees duty at tight end on offense and tackle on defense. The Mountaineers open 1973 play Friday night at Bessemer City against the Yellow Jackets.

## Mounties Rated Slim Favorites; Byers, Hartsoe Out With Injury

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, minus two key players because of injuries, open their 1973 football season Friday night at Bessemer City against an improved Yellow Jacket squad.

Halfback Johnny Byers, last year's leading rusher, and line-backer Dale Hartsoe are both out with injuries and probably will not be ready until the Mountaineers' Sept. 28 game at Burns.

Byers is suffering from torn ligaments in his leg and currently has the leg in a cast. Hartsoe suffered a broken hand in practice last week and has it in a cast.

The Mountaineers rate a slim favorite but Coach Bob Jones says his team will have to improve over its showing against Olympic in last Friday's scrimmage.

"We didn't look too good," commented Jones. "We're going to have to do a much better job if we expect to win."

Jones is uncertain as to who will start. His lineup was almost set until Friday night.

"After seeing that scrimmage," Jones said, "we might do some changing. We're going to have to do a better job with our kicking game. We had one blocked punt because of a bad snap and another one because a lineman let an Olympic player through without even touching him."

About the only bright spot in the Mountaineer attack was the running of quarterback Tony Falls, who broke into the open several times. With Byers out, most of the opponents' defense will probably be keying on the All-Conference signal caller.

Darrell Van Dyke and Jimmy Thompson appear to have the running back slots under lock and key until Byers returns, and either sophomore Ronnie McDevitt or senior Robbie Eng will start at fullback.

Up front, Jones will be depending on Wayne Dixon, John Morrison and Jeff Carroll at center, Dennis Hogue, David Bell and John Yarboro at guards, Larry Hamrick and Reggie Whitmore at tackles and Carl Roseboro, Chris Johnson and William Thompson at ends.

Bessemer City Coach Jerry Adams, a former KMHHS athlete, says he saw the Mountaineers' scrimmage and came away impressed.

"Kings Mountain's big, hits hard and is aggressive," Adams noted. "I was especially impressed with Falls. He's real quick and is an excellent runner. The defensive line looked good too, especially the guards and the big defensive tackle, Carl Roseboro."

Adams has settled on a starting offensive lineup. Running the show at quarterback will be veteran Skip Franklin. Calvin Aloright and Scott Shuford will open at halfbacks with Kenny Rhyne at wingback. The Bessemer City backs are big and run hard, according to Jones, who scouted the Yellow Jackets in their scrimmage with West Lincoln.

"We're counting heavily on a lot of younger players," Brakefield offered, citing this year's freshmen as "the finest frosh group we've had since I've been here."

Two senior co-captains are expected to provide leadership up front. Center Al Bowen, a 6-0, 210-pounder from Pinnacle, N. C., will anchor the offensive forward wall, while 6-5, 230-pound Ron Reynolds will again be a major factor in ASU's five-man defensive front. Reynolds, a Greensboro product, returns at defensive tackle as an All-Southern conference lineman in 1972.

Five line-backers, all with playing time under their belts, offer solid depth at that position. Leading the way are senior Ken Causey, 5-11, 190 pounds from Greensboro, and sophomore George Myers, 6-0, 200 pounds from Virginia Beach, Va., who blossomed late last season. Behind these two are junior Billy Wall of Marietta, Ga., and sophomore Mark Church from North

Carolina. Adams says his team is young and still in the building process. "We have 42 players on the team," he said, "but only 10 back from last year. Only five of those 10 played so that shows you how inexperienced we are."

"We're a little better than we were last year," Adams continued. "Our boys are inexperienced but they're real spirited. We're trying to build a program that will be respectable and competitive with the teams in this conference."

## Second Baptist Finishes Fifth In State Event

Second Baptist, winner of the regular season and tournament titles in the local men's softball race, finished fifth in the state tournament over the weekend in Ashboro.

After losing its first game, Second Baptist bounced back to win four straight before being eliminated.

Twenty-seven teams participated in the double-elimination event.

St. Andrew's of Hickory topped Second Baptist 5-2 opening day, then Coach Tommy Barrett's team came back on Thursday night to pick up a forfeit from a team from Canton.

Friday night, Second Baptist rapped out 19 hits in a 13-5 victory over First Church of God of High Point, then won another Friday night game over Flint Groves Baptist of Gastonia, 41-2.

In a Saturday afternoon contest, Second Baptist ousted Oak Grove of Roxboro 10-1 before being eliminated by Bethel Methodist of Burlington Saturday night, 6-3.

Gary Oliver played three games for Second Baptist despite a broken hand suffered in the 13-5 victory over First Church of God. Max Brooks was injured in the opening game and had to sit out the rest of the tournament.

Second Baptist's defense gave up only 19 runs in six games.

## AIR PRESSURE

To save money on car costs, keep the pressure in automobile tires as the manufacturer suggests. Under-inflation of four to 12 pounds cuts tire life 10 to 40 per cent. Over-inflation is damaging, too.

## Forty-one Seek Berth On Central Grid Club

Central Junior High football coach Porter Griggs reports most positions up for grabs as his team prepares for its 1973 opener against Ball's Creek of Catawba County.

The Patriots are working out daily after school and thus far have avoided the injury bug.

Griggs said he started drills last week with 57 players but the squad is now down to 41.

The Central schedule has been completed since last week, with the Patriots adding two more teams to give them a full slate

## Macedonia And Second Baptist Win Openers

Two local Baptist church teams, Macedonia and Second Baptist, are off to a fast start in the Gastonia church tournament being held at Gastonia's Temple Baptist church.

Macedonia edged Harmony Baptist 7-3 Monday night as Mike Smith crashed a three-run homer. Smith and Chuck Boheler each had 2-for-3 for Macedonia.

Tuesday night, Macedonia won a 7-5 contest over Second Baptist. Macedonia's offense went 4-for-4. Oliver is playing despite a broken hand suffered in the State Church tournament last week-end.

Tommy Barrett and Sonny Jackson aided Oliver in the hitting department with 3-for-4 and Max Brooks added 2-for-3.

Macedonia plays Ebenezer Thursday night at 8:30 and Second Baptist meets Zion Baptist at Gastonia Friday night at 8:30. The tournament runs through next week.

## Mounties Face Toughest Slate In History

BCONE — Facing the toughest schedule in Appalachian State University foot ball history, head coach Jim Brakefield enters his third year at the helm of the Mountaineers with cautious optimism.

ASU's success in the 1973 gridiron campaign may depend largely on how well the experienced Mountaineers can lead the inexperienced ones and on the progress younger players make in early games.

With only 14 seniors on a squad of some 75 players, Brakefield says, "We have only two seniors on our tentative offensive unit and four on defense, and depth beyond our starters at several positions is a big key to this season."

The Mountaineer coach stated that fullback and line-backer are the deepest positions on the Appalachian State roster. "Our offensive and defensive lines lack depth," said Brakefield, adding, "We have a good front group, but we're green beyond that. He said that the defensive backfield is also short on depth."

"We're counting heavily on a lot of younger players," Brakefield offered, citing this year's freshmen as "the finest frosh group we've had since I've been here."

## THE SCHEDULE

- 15—Ball's Creek, 7:30
- 2—At Shelby
- 26—College Park, 4:30

## OCTOBER

- 4—Ashley 7:30
- 16—at Newton
- 17—at Grandview
- 24—at West McDowell

## CKOPS

Only four U. S. states produce sugar cane, 6' produce rice, 10 produce peanuts, 18 produce tobacco, 19 produce cotton, 41 produce corn and 42 produce wheat.

# State Keeping Football In Family

RALEIGH — When N. C. State's football team leaves the practice field, it usually heads for a cafeteria meal. For a number of reasons, it would be nice if the food was served family style.

Family style is certainly the fashion in the Wolfpack camp this fall with no less than nine individuals having a relative all grid involved with the State grid program. No matter how they eat, this year's Wolfpack features the heaviest and lightest sets of brothers ever to don the red and white—and the only twins ever to play football at State.

All-Atlantic Coast Conference tackle Rick Druschel (6-2, 255) and his little brother Bill (6-3, 240) are the biggest brother tandem ever to play for the Wolfpack. The former is a senior and the "little fella" is a freshman.

Who will ever forget "Buckey to Buckey"? Both sophomores, quarterback Dave (6-0, 165) last year's Peach Bowl offensive MVP, and wide receiver Don (6-0, 167)

provided State fans with many thrills last fall and are headed for three more seasons together. Their girl friends don't like to hear the twins called "skinny," but they do rank as the lightest siblings ever to play at State.

Another pitch and catch combination playing together but will have a vital part in the program this year, Darrell Moody, Wolfpack signal-caller from 1968 through 1970, will aid coach Lou Holtz as a graduate assistant, while younger brother David (6-0, 170) will be a target for the present Pack quarterbacks Bruce Shaw, John Gargano and Buckley. A pair of Fayetteville freshmen, running back Horace and safety Craig Whitaker cousins not brothers, will also line up with the Wolfpack this fall.

While these four pairs are still active in the Wolfpack program, another four sets are semi-active. Senior defensive end Mike Adamczyk (6-3, 190) had an older brother Dave who played for the Wolfpack, as did senior

guard Howard Bradburn (6-2, 220) and his elder brother, Charles.

The youngest part of a triple brother act is freshman fullback and line-backer William Whitley (6-2 215), who follows two brothers and an uncle to N. C. State. Brother Jack played for the Pack from 1968 through 1970, making the all-ACC team as a defensive back each year. Brother Larry was a three-year letterman tackle for the Wolfpack, ending his career with last year's 49-13 Peach Bowl romp over West Virginia.

Defensive backfield coach Chuck Amate lettered three years for the Wolfpack following the two years that his brother Rosario won a monogram.

Many wonder how football players get along with each other, being together so much of the time.

The answer at N. C. State—is simple—like one large family. And that's both literally and figuratively speaking.

## Optimist Grid Club Faces Toughest Slate In History

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DATE	TEAM	PLACE
Sept. 4	Open	
11	Evening Optimist	Lewell
18	Groves Thread	Dallas
25	Open	
Oct. 2	Mt. Holly	Home
9	Belmont	Belmont
16	Evening Optimist	Home
23	Mt. Holly	Mt. Holly
30	Grove Thread	Home
Nov. 6	Belmont	Home
13	All games 5:30	

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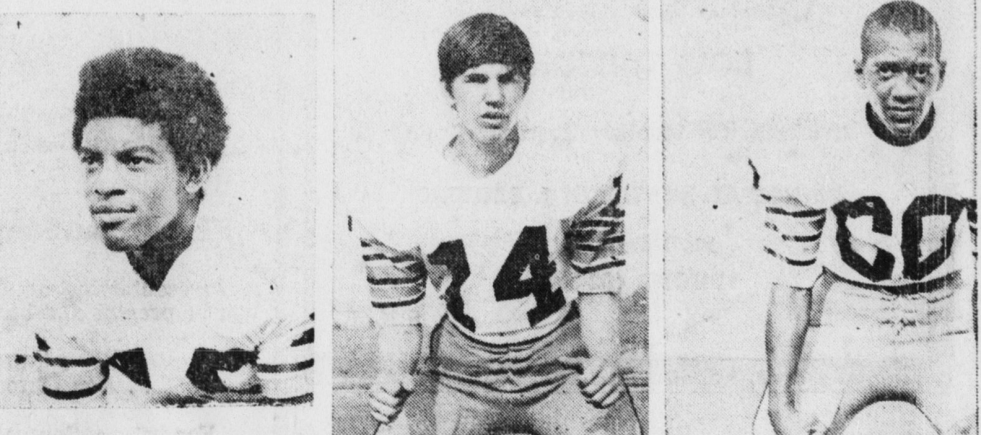
DATE	TEAM	PLACE
Sept. 4	Open	
11	Evening Optimist**	Lewell
18	Lewell**	Lewell
25	Bessemer City*	B. City
Oct. 2	Cherryville**	Home
9	Mt. Holly**	Home
16	Belmont**	Belmont
23	Cramerton**	Home
30	Stanley**	Stanley
Nov. 6	Groves Thread**	Home

\* Games start at 6 p.m.  
\*\* Games start at 6:30 p.m.  
\*\*\* Games start at 7:30 p.m.

## MIDGETS

DATE	TEAM	PLACE
Sept. 3	Derita	Home
10	Shelby**	Shelby
17	Bessemer City*	B. City
24	Shelby**	Home
Oct. 1	Mt. Holly**	Home
8	Belmont**	Belmont
15	Cramerton**	Home
22	Stanley**	Stanley
29	Dallas**	Home
Nov. 5	Chase**	Home

\* Games start at 7 p.m.  
\*\* Games start at 7:30 p.m.



**TRI CAPTAINS** — The three players above were elected by the teammates to serve as tri-captains of the Kings Mountain High football team for the 1973 season. Left to right, they are quarterback Tony Falls, halfback Darrell Van Dyke and guard-linebacker Dennis Hogue. The Mountaineers open season play Friday night at Bessemer City.

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