



GARY STEWART

'Break' Launched Jim's Career In Broadcasting

Breaks often decide the outcome of sports events, and a "break," according to Kings Mountain native Jim Heavner, launched his broadcasting career.

Heavner, now president of Village Broadcasting Co. and color commentator for the University of North Carolina basketball network, says a broken arm actually began his radio career.

As a sophomore at Kings Mountain High in the mid-fifties, Heavner says he was a substitute on the jayvee basketball team when he got his "break."

"After I broke my arm," Heavner recalls, "Shu Carlton used me as a scorekeeper and put me on the P. A. system and I loved it."

After that, Heavner, said he went to work for WKMT as a sports announcer. After graduation from Carolina in '61, he went into the radio business fulltime.

"I still do the basketball color work," he says, "but that is more or less something I do for pleasure. I'm certainly not in it for the money, because I found out long ago there's no money in sports."

Heavner worked his way from sales manager to general manager of WCHL in Chapel Hill in five years, and now is president and owner of the company. He and his partner own five companies, plus a publishing company, and a retail store. They're getting ready to open two more stores in January.

Heavner will be returning home December 14 to speak at the Kings Mountain Lions Club football banquet, which each year honors the local high school gridders.

"I'm truly looking forward to coming back," says Heavner, who graduated from KMHS in '57. "Charles Blanton invited me down a couple of years ago to speak to his civic club, and I'm happy to be invited back. No matter how much work you're doing, you always look forward to coming home."

Heavner's duties keep him on the go and most of his speaking duties deals with management seminars. He was a highly sought-after banquet speaker several years ago but says he doesn't invite that kind of business anymore.

"The press of business keeps me from spending as much time with it as you need to," says Heavner. "But it's always a pleasure to come back home. I'm really looking forward to meeting the young men who were the stars of the team."

Rubbing elbows with stars is nothing new for Heavner, whose affiliation with Carolina sports teams has enabled him to meet some of the top players and coaches in the United States. But he says he counts some of the KMHS stars of the past as some of his best remembered athletes.

"When I was in school," he recalled, "John McGinnis was the star player. He was the quickest guy I've ever seen." For some of the younger athletes who don't remember the fifties, McGinnis was an all-star quarterback in the Shu Carlton-John Gamble era and was probably the best running quarterback KMHS has ever had.

Other players in Heavner's day that stood out on the gridiron included Ken Baily, a Shrine Bowl halfback that went on to star for South Carolina, George Harris, a Shrine Bowl quarterback who played at Duke with a guy named Sonny Jurgenson, and Mearl Valentine, a bruising fullback who still lives here and who Heavner called a "fabulous ballplayer."

An added highlight to the Lions Club fete coming up is that trophy winners on the KMHS championship team of '64 will be on hand to present awards to this year's outstanding players. One of those players will be Pat Murphy, who quarterbacked the '64 KMHS eleven to the Southwestern Conference title.

"A funny thing about that," says Heavner. "The last time I remember seeing Pat Murphy was when we lived on Cansler Street and my sister and Pat were born about the same time. My mother and his mother used to sit out on the porch at night and feed them. He was the fattest baby I'd ever seen, and the next thing I remember about him was reading in the Kings Mountain Herald that he was the star football player. It'll be good seeing him after all these years and I hope to see a lot of the other athletes, and, of course, meet some of the current players."

Johnson Leads Bulldogs

Kings Mountain High's lone contribution to college football, Chris Johnson, had a super year this fall as a freshman at Gardner-Webb.

Johnson, who broke into the starting lineup the third week of the season, was one of the main reasons the rebuilding Bulldogs had a successful 5-5 record.

The two-time KMHS most valuable player led the team in pass interceptions with five, made 31 unassisted tackles and assisted in 20 others from his cornerback position.

The Bulldogs broke 53 school records and tied five others in just their second year under head coach Oval Jaynes.

Some of G-W's new records included 76 points scored in a victory over SAC-8 rival Lenoir Rhyne, 638 yards total offense in a narrow loss to nationally-ranked Catawba, 362 yards offense by quarterback Dennis Stilley against Georgetown and 10 extra points kicked by Mike Cox against LR.

1977 KMHS Football Schedule

Goodbye, Bessemer And Cherryville, Hello, R-S Central And Green Wave

The 1977 Kings Mountain High School football schedule will show two changes for the Mountaineers.

They'll open their season against R-S Central, a conference opponent the Mountaineers haven't played in five years, and their second opponent will be 4-A Ashbrook High School of Gastonia, a game Coach Bobby Jones hopes will present a big rivalry and a good gate.

Those first two contests, on Sept. 2 and Sept. 9, will both be on the road. The Mountaineers play their first home game on Sept. 16 against Chase.

The '77 schedule will include five home games, all against Southwestern Conference foes. Those home contests include Chase, East Rutherford,

Shelby, South Point and East Gaston. Road games are against R-S Central, Ashbrook, Crest, North Gaston and Burns.

To make room for the two new opponents, the Mounties dropped Cherryville and Bessemer City from their grid card. Those two clubs will no longer compete in the SWC as the conference is moving from the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association into the North Carolina High Schools Athletic Association.

Coach Jones, who came to KMHS in 1971 after serving as an assistant at Ashbrook, is glad the Mountaineers will be competing against the Green Wave. Ashbrook is a perennial contender in the 4-A ranks and three years ago won the 4-A state title.

"We hope it'll turn into a big game for us," noted Jones. "It will help us financially and, of course, will be a good, strong non-conference game for us. We'll have them coming here in the years that

we're going to Shelby and South Point, and that'll be good too."

Jones said he's not sure yet whether or not the new Southwestern 3-A Conference will send one or two representatives to the state playoffs.

The strong home schedule, and the fact that the Mountaineers return most of their players and are looking forward to another outstanding season, should boost home attendance, which sagged in '76 even though the Mountaineers were undefeated at home and at one time ranked among the best 10 3-A football teams in the state.

The disappearance of Bessemer City and Cherryville — two almost certain victories — and the replacement of R-S Central and Ashbrook — two sure contenders — will make the '76 KMHS schedule one of the toughest in the school's history.

Kings Mountain hasn't played a 4-A school since 1960, when the Mountaineers defeated West Mecklenburg 12-7. In six meetings with West, the Mountaineers held a commanding 5-1 series lead, and the Mountaineers won four straight games over 4-A East Mecklenburg in the late 1960's. Those two Charlotte clubs were the only 4-A teams the Mountaineers ever faced since joining the SWC.

1977 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

2, at R-S Central
9, at Ashbrook (nc)
16, Chase
23, East Rutherford
30, at Crest

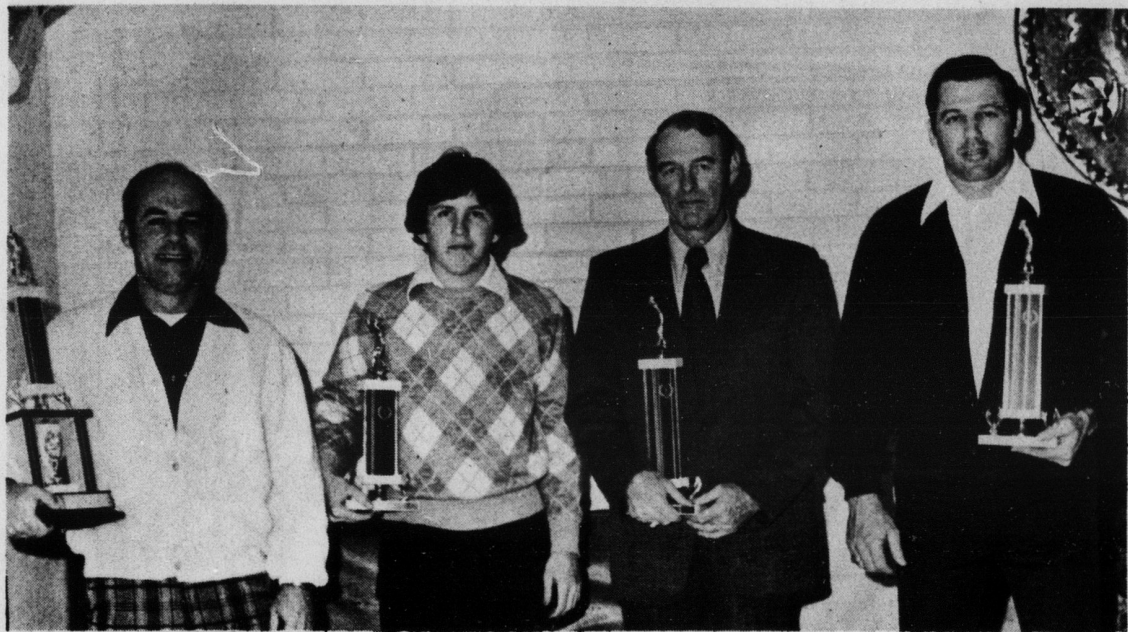
OCTOBER

7, Shelby
14, at North Gaston
21, South Point
28, East Gaston

NOVEMBER

4, at Burns (nc) — Non-Conference

"Probably, just the first place team will go to the playoffs," he said, "but it really depends on how many 3-A teams there are in the state. Sometimes, conferences can send wild cards to the playoffs, like the Western 4-A Conference did this year. Huss and Ashbrook both got a playoff berth, but last year Huss finished second in that league with a 9-1 record and didn't get to go."



FIRST PLACE WINNERS — Here are the four first place winners in the recent Kings Mountain Country Club championship golf tournament. They received their trophies at a tournament banquet Thursday night at KMCC. Left to right, they are John

Howze, who won his sixth straight title, Johnny Gamble, who won his third straight junior crown, Russell Putnam, the second flight champion, and Larry Dunn, the first flight winner.

SPORTS

Howze Is Golf Champion...Again

John Howze copped his sixth straight Kings Mountain Country Club club championship earlier this month and was honored along with other flight winners at the annual tournament banquet Thursday night at the club.

Howze defeated Al Grigg in the championship flight finals.

Johnny Gamble copped his third straight junior championship, whipping Hayne Neisler in the finals.

Dr. George Plonk copped the championship flight consolation.

Larry Dunn won the first flight over Charles Neisler, and consolation honors went to Aud Tignor.

Second flight honors went to Russell Putnam, with Charles Wilson coming in second. Jim Bradley won the consolation.

Mickey Powers was low qualifier and Robert Plonk was runner-up.

The club championship closed out the '76 tournament schedule at KMCC.

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KM Jayvee Cagers

Prepare For Season

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity basketball teams are preparing for a 14-game Southwestern Conference schedule and both coaches, Dennis Dukes of the boys and Joe Rountree of the girls, are optimistic that their teams will be in contention for the league titles.

The local cagers are tentatively scheduled to open their season at home on December 9 against R-S Central, Duke's alma mater. But there's a possibility a game could be scheduled on December 6.

Kings Mountain, R-S Central, Shelby, Chase, Burns, Cherryville, East Gaston and East Rutherford are fielding teams in jayvee play. However, Cherryville will not have a girls team, thus, KM's girls will have an open date on the days the boys are scheduled to meet the Ironmen.

Dukes, in his first year as boys jayvee coach after leading the varsity girls to their first winning season in five years a year ago, says the Little Mountaineers should be much improved over last season.

The former R-S and Gardner-Webb athlete is presently working with 13 prospects, including nine sophomores and four juniors. Many of the players are good varsity material and will be a big help to the Mountaineers in the next few years.

Players currently on the roster include Daris Curry, Terry McClain, Darryl Friday, Dominic Burris, Stan Scruggs, Michael Adams, Earnest Hamrick, Marvin Caldwell, Terry Carthen, Earnest Wray, Rafay Johnson, Phillip Wofford and Clarence Wingo.

The girls team includes 10 players and Coach Rountree says he probably will have two teams instead of five starters and five reserves.

"We're going to try to play everyone as much as possible," says the first-year mentor, "and that seems like a good way. It's sort of like Dean Smith's blue team where we'll substitute by teams instead of by personnel."

The roster includes Annette Littlejohn, Elizabeth McGill, Robin McSwain, Sabra Bristol, Laura Boyd, Lisa Baily, Sallee Durham, Barbara McClain, Cheryl Leach and Tricia Blalock. "Most of our players are sophomores," says Rountree, "and that's good because our purpose is to build and have experienced players in their junior and senior years." "I'm real pleased with the way the girls are playing so far. We're working on fundamentals and the girls are working hard and showing a lot of enthusiasm."

THE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER
6, Open
9, R-S Central
13, Shelby
16, Chase
JANUARY
6, at Burns
7, Cherryville
10, at East Gaston
12, Crest
17, at East Ruth.
20, at R-S Central
24, at Shelby
27, at Chase
FEBRUARY
2, Burns
3, at Crest
7, Open
10, East Rutherford



RUNNERS-UP AND MEDALIST — Here are the runners-up and medalist in the recent Kings Mountain Country Club championship golf tournament. Left to right are Aud Tignor, first flight consolation

champion, Mickey Powers, low medalist, Charles Neisler, first flight runner-up, and Al Grigg, championship flight runner-up.

Photos By Gary Stewart

Lady Pats Divide Pair

Kings Mountain Junior High's girls basketballers split a Foothills Conference doubleheader with Lincolnton Tuesday night, the varsity losing a tough 47-40 decision and the jayvees remaining undefeated with a 26-16 win.

The loss left the varsity Lady Patriots at 2-3 heading into a game Friday night against undefeated East Lincolnton. The jayvees were 5-0.

Kim Gladden had her best game of the year Tuesday for Candy Alberghine's girls, scoring 20 points and pulling down 11 rebounds, but her effort wasn't enough to offset a brilliant performance by Lincolnton's Serena Surratt, who scored 25 points and hauled down a bushel of rebounds.

KM's leading scorer, Debbie Appling, was held to her season's low of eight points but she grabbed a game-high 23 rebounds to help keep the Lady Pats in the game.

KM fell behind early, trailing by 24-14 at the half. The Lady Patriots had a miserable shooting night, hitting only 19 percent (17 of 89) from the floor and 38 percent (six of 16) from the foul line.

The Lady Patriots cut the difference to five points several times in the second half but Surratt always pulled the Lincolnton ladies back into a commanding lead.

"We pressed full-court and caused Lincolnton to turn the ball over but we just couldn't take advantage of their

mistakes," noted Alberghine.

"We've got to play better defense if we're going to get back on the right track and win some of these close games," added Alberghine.

Sheryl Goode and Diane Williams again provided the 1-2 scoring and rebounding punch for the jayvees as they recorded their fifth straight victory. They're seeking their second straight league title under Coach Becky Summitt.

Goode had a game-high 14 points and shared rebounding honors with Williams with eight. Williams also contributed

eight points.

"Both Sheryl and Diane played well offensively and defensively," noted Summitt. "Both girls are taking the ball to the basket much better than they did earlier in the season."

The Lady Pats played a super defensive game, especially in the first half when they raced to an 18-7 lead. Coach Summitt cleared her bench in the fourth period, enabling the visitors to cut the final score to 10 points.

"If the girls continue to play well and hustle as they have so far, another Foothills Conference championship might well be a reality," Summitt said.