

Mounties At Cherryville Friday

Errors Costly In 7-5 Loss To North Gaston Tuesday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers missed a golden opportunity to get a little breathing room in their quest for a Southwestern Conference playoff spot Tuesday night at Lancaster Field when they dropped a 7-5 Division One contest to North Gaston.

But the loss left the Mountaineers with a 5-2 division record, while South Point remained unbeaten with an 8-0 victory over Bessemer City. The

Red Raiders are now 7-0 in the division and need only one more win to lock up at least a tie for first place. North Gaston kept its playoff hopes alive as the Wildcats ran their division mark to 4-3. Coach Barron Lee's charges have lost only to Kings Mountain, South Point and East Gaston.

The Mountaineers, who have three regular season games remaining, need a combination of three victories or three North Gaston losses to sew up second place. The Mountaineers travel to Cherryville Friday night and complete their regular season next week against East Gaston at home and South Point away. The Wildcats have games remaining against Bessemer City Friday and South Point and Cherryville next week.

The Wildcats earned only three of their seven runs Tuesday night at Lancaster Field, and they took advantage of two unearned runs in the seventh to break a 5-5 tie and hand the Mountaineers their second straight loss in front of the home fans.

A two-out error by first baseman Bruce Valentine allowed the winning run to score, and the 'Cats added an insurance tally on a single by Ronnie Bates.

David Ray Robinson, the third KMHS pitcher, was tagged with the loss, his fourth in seven decisions. However, it was his first conference defeat.

Lefty Steve Lancaster, who beat the Wildcats 3-2 earlier in the year, worked the first four innings and was tagged for four runs. Andy Loftin relieved in the fifth and Robinson came on with two away in the sixth after North Gaston struck for a run to tie the score.

The Mountaineers' outthit the visitors, 10 to 8, but six errors led to their downfall. Lancaster was Kings Mountain's only hitting threat, going 3-for-4 with three runs batted in.

North Gaston grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the first on Bates' single and a sacrifice fly by Mike Saunders.

But the Mountaineers came right back in the home half of the first to tie it on Robinson's single and stolen base, and Lancaster's single to right-center.

The Mounties moved ahead 2-1 in the second as Kevin Tinsley singled and later stole home as part of a delayed double steal involving Tinsley at third and Valentine at first.

North Gaston came right back with a pair in the third to go ahead 3-2. Kevin Rowe walked to lead things off and later scored on a double by Saunders. Saunders got the go-ahead run on a single by Tommy Glover.

The Mountaineers moved back out front 4-3 in the home half of the third as Robinson singled, stole

second and scored on a single by Lancaster. Lancaster later scored on a single by designated hitter Ronnie Wilson.

North Gaston tied it again in the top of the fourth, picking up an unearned run on two KM

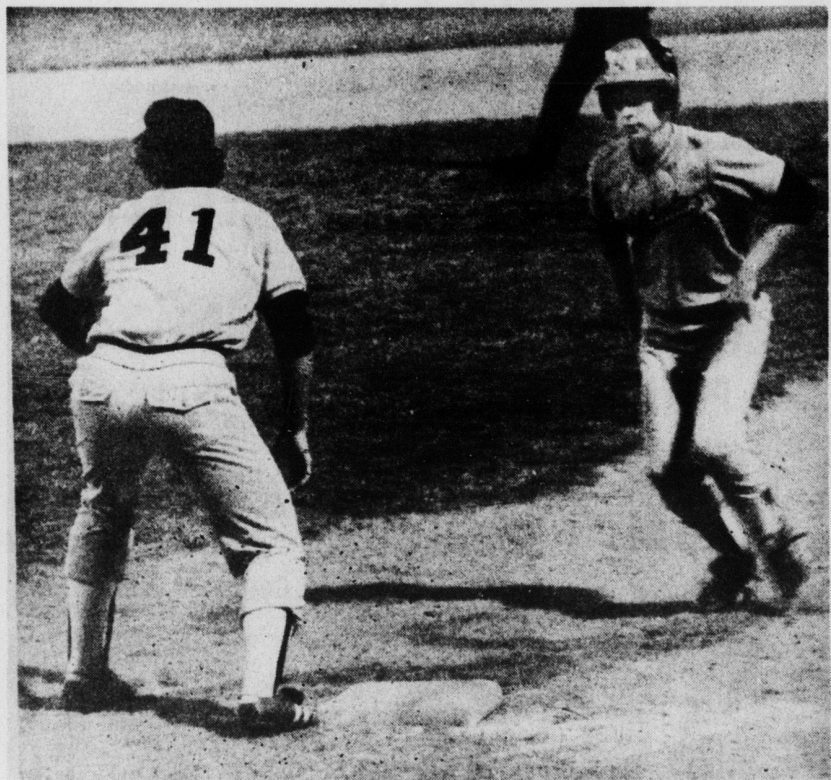
errors and a single by Bates, but KMHS made it 5-4 in the bottom of the fourth on a Wildcat error, Robinson's third stole base and a double by Lancaster.

North Gaston tied it in the sixth on-pitcher Tony Hoyle's single, a passed

ball, and another KM error, setting the stage for the game-winning rally in the seventh.

Kings Mountain missed several golden scoring opportunities, twice leaving the bases loaded and another time leaving run-

ners on second and third. Hoyle, who had given up only one earned run all year heading into the contest, went the distance for the Wildcats. He walked five, fanned seven and was tagged for four earned runs.



AVOIDING PICKOFF — North Kings Mountain's Mountaineers at Gaston's Kevin Rowe scampers back to first base to avoid being picked off in third inning of Tuesday night game with Lancaster Field. KM first baseman is Bruce Valentine. Wildcats won 7-5.

THE BOXSCORE

	AB	R	H	RB	BI
N. Gaston	41	3	1		
Bates, cf	1	1	0	0	
Rowe, ss	3	0	1	0	
Harris, ss	1	1	1	2	
Saunders, c	3	0	0	0	
B. Lutz, 1b	4	0	1	1	
Glover, lf	3	1	1	0	
Weikel, 2b	1	0	0	0	
Atkins, ph	4	1	1	0	
Hoyle, p	2	1	0	0	
J. Lutz, rf	1	0	0	0	
Lyles, ph	4	1	0	0	
Houser, 3b	3	1	0	0	
Totals	31	7	8	5	
K. Mtn.					
Hall, cf	5	0	0	0	
Robinson, ss-p	4	3	2	0	
Ellis, c	3	0	1	0	
Lancaster, p	4	1	3	3	
Loftin, p	0	0	0	0	
Putnam, lf	0	0	0	0	
Bolin, 3b	3	0	1	0	
Wilson, dh	3	0	1	1	
Chapman, 2b	0	0	0	0	
White, lf-ss	3	0	1	0	
Tinsley, rf	3	1	1	0	
Valentine, 1b	3	0	0	0	
Whitaker, ph	1	0	0	0	
Totals	32	5	10	4	
By innings:					
NG 102 101 2					7
KM 112 100 0					5
E—Hall, Ellis, Bolin, Chapman, White, Valentine, Rowe, Saunders. LOB—NG 11, KM 11. 2B—Saunders, Tinsley, Lancaster. SB—Robinson 3, Tinsley 2, Valentine, Bates, Weikel. SF—Saunders.					
Pitcher:					
IP H R ER BB SO					
Lancaster (W)	7	10	7	4	5
Hoyle	4	4	4	3	1
Loftin	12	3	2	1	0
Robinson (L)	1	1	3	2	0
WP—Lancaster. PB—Ellis, Saunders. U—Baucum and Turner. T—2:45.					

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Junior High Golfers Lose To Lincolnton
Kings Mountain Junior High's golfers dropped their first match of the season Thursday at Lincolnton 172 to 187.
Sammy Wolfe and Don Sellers tied for low for the Patriots with 48s. Delk Haigler had a 46.
The Patriots' next match is at Burns on May 3.

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