



Photo By Darrell Austin

GOLF WINNER — Gene Blanton Powers after Sunday's final round at the (left) of Hendersonville receives the KMCC Invitational championship trophy from tournament chairman Mickey

Gene Blanton Wins KM Invitational Tourney

Gene Blanton of Hendersonville, former Cleveland County resident, fired a 146 Saturday and Sunday to win the third annual Invitational Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Blanton won by five shots over Don Teague of Shelby, Rodney Camp of Gaffney and Geep Howard of Kings Mountain, who tied for second with 151 totals. Teague won a special playoff for second place.

In first flight action, Koot Dawson of Greer, S. C., scored a 148 to whip Mickey Powers (149) of Kings Mountain and Terry Abercrombie (152) of

Shelby.

Goobar Lovelace of Henrietta won the second flight with a 156, Bill Foster of Kings Mountain was second at 158 and David Neisler of KM third at 159. Kings Mountain High golf coach Bobby Jones won the fourth flight with a 187, followed by Frank Zimmerman of Gastonia with a 181 and James Cogdill of Bessemer City with a 185.

Al Grigg of KM won the fifth flight with a 186, followed by Richard Lyle with a 187 and Howard Johnson of Clover with a 178.

Alan Sipe of High Shoals scored a 185 to take the sixth flight title. Aaron

Cadle of Gastonia was second with a 168, Jim Lybrand Jr. of KM third at 169 and Tom Tate Jr. of KM fourth at 170.

Fred Smith of Mooresville won the seventh flight with a 186, followed by Donnie Woods of Spartanburg at 177 and Darrell Austin Sr. of Kings Mountain at 178.

George NeeSmith of Bessemer City shot a 180 to take the eighth flight. He won in a playoff over Ron Osborne of KM who also shot 180. Aud Tignor of KM finished third at 183.

Larry Carr of Gastonia shot a 188 to win the ninth flight, followed by Ray Holmes of KM at 193 and Winfred Bowen of KM at 195.

Several KM Cindermen Qualify For Association

Kings Mountain High qualified five individuals and one team for this Thursday and Friday's Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association track meet at Crest by finishing high in the Southwestern Conference meet last Friday.

The Mountaineers didn't pick up any first places and scored only 25 and one-third team points. But the top six finishers in each event qualified for the association meet.

Crest, as expected, won the event with 101 and one-half points, but North Gaston made it interesting by compiling 99 and one-third points. South Point

was a close third with 95 and Shelby finished fourth with 70.

Other scores included East Gaston 41, Burns 26 and one-third, Chase 26, KMHS 25 and one-third, Cherryville 25 and one-half and R-S Central five. Bessemer City and East Rutherford did not compete.

KMHS senior Richard Ross qualified in three events, the 100 yard dash, the triple jump and the 220 dash. Ross finished second in the triple jump, third in the 220 and fifth in the hundred.

David Gordon qualified for the shot put by finishing fifth Barry Ledford

qualified for the pole vault by finishing fifth. Al Edkins qualified for the 440 dash by finishing third and Terry McClain qualified for the 330 hurdles by finishing third. In addition, the KM mile relay team qualified with a fifth place finish.

The association event will begin Thursday afternoon at 1:30. The final round will begin Friday at 6 p. m.

York Star Inks Grant With Bulldogs

BOILING SPRINGS — James Simpson, an All-State 3A performer at York (S. C.) High School, has signed a football grant-in-aid with Gardner-Webb College.

A 5-11, 175-pound running back-defensive back, Simpson was a three-year starter at York and twice was named to all-conference and all-state teams. As a running back, he gained 1,000 yards for three consecutive seasons. He also participates in basketball and track.

Simpson will play in the North-South High School All-Star game this summer in Columbia.

"James is an extremely talented athlete who is capable of contributing to our program as a freshman," said Gardner-Webb head coach Oval Jaynes. "Whether we use him at running back or safety will depend on what we need this fall, but we're confident he can play either position in college."

KMHS Netters Are Champions

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say Tim's very capable of winning the whole thing."

Coach Guy said he was proud of several other KM players, even though they didn't qualify for the association.

Alan Cloninger contributed a point toward the team title by winning his first round singles match, John David Reed and Kenny Boheler won their first doubles match for another point, and Rick Deaton picked up two points with a pair of singles victories before losing an upset to Steve Perry of Watauga.

Kings Mountain's girls,

although they scored only three points, performed well, Guy said. Sarah Maner and Mercedes Smith picked up two points with a second round doubles victory, and Pat Durham and Roxanne Tate scored a point on another doubles victory.

Kathy Brennan and Bonnie Hinnant, who played singles, lost out in the first round but both Mountaineers took their opponents the full three sets.

"While our girls didn't win, they still put forth a good effort," said Guy. "They have nothing to be ashamed of and we're looking forward to a real good season next fall."

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