

Play Tryon In Exhibition Game

Post 155 Juniors Open Here Friday Night

Kings Mountain's Post 155 American Legion Juniors will open their 1977 season Friday night at Lancaster Field in a practice game against the Tryon Dixie Youth team. Coach Robbie Moore will send his youngsters into Area Four, League One play a week from tonight against Forest City.

Moore, a KMHS and Gardner-Webb product, is in his first year as legion coach here and is optimistic the team will be able to improve over last year's record. Moore's assistant is another G-W player, Richard Gillespie.

"I think we can have a good team," says Moore, "even though we'll still be a young team."

Moore has several top prospects, including several players who gained some valuable experience last summer under veteran baseball man, Gus Hartsoe, who held the Post 155 team together under some trying circumstances.

One of the top newcomers is righthand pitcher Mike Jackson of Clover, a good all-round athlete who won a college scholarship to Livingstone, Ala. Jackson, who quarterbacked the Clover High football team, is capable of beating anyone in the league, Moore says.

John Clanton, also from Clover, will be seeing a lot of mound duty, as well as last year's most valuable player, righthander Ron Munday. Munday will be in the outfield when he's not on the mound.

Rusty Bell, who played Babe Ruth ball last year, will get the call behind the plate and he could prove to be one of the top catchers in Area Four.

Moore has picked up one of the top area high school athletes in Marcus

Jamerson of Shelby, who'll be manning the shortstop position. Jamerson helped lead the Shelby High football team to the association championship and also played on some strong baseball teams there.

Keith Rabb, last year's leading hitter from Shelby,

returns to the outfield, and the Juniors have two returnees in the infield, Gary Blake at second and Leroy Blake at third. The Kings Mountain residents both have excellent power. Leroy helped lead the Blacksburg High football team to the state championship last fall.

Richard Van Dyke, who is coming around after a year-long battle with an

eye injury, should earn one of the starting spots in the outfield and Moore is

looking for Kenny Cobb and Steve Deal of Clover to push for a starting berth.

Friday's opponent will be a strong test for the Juniors as most of the Tryon players have many years of experience in Babe Ruth and high school baseball.

The Tryon team has

three of the area's top pitchers in righthanders Harlan, Vincent and Chester Haynes. All three are also good hitters and will be playing other positions when they're not on the mound.

Some of the other leaders on the team include catcher Pat Byers,

and infielders Greg Sellers and Kenny McNeal.

The Tryon team has one of the biggest drawing areas of any team in the area, getting players from Bessemer City and Cherryville high schools.

Friday's game will be the only practice test for the local Juniors.

SPORTS

Robinson Sets Hit Record

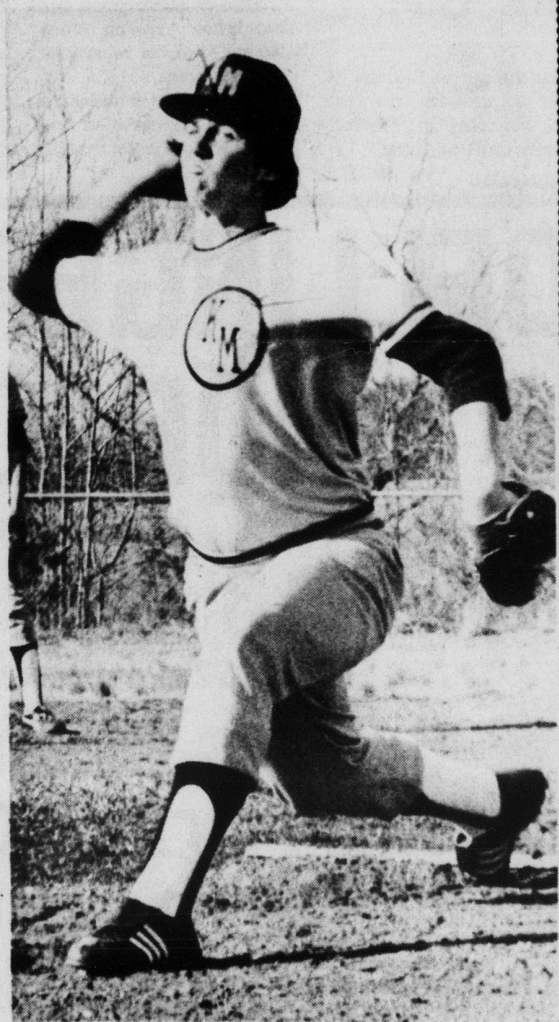
Kings Mountain High sophomore David Ray Robinson set a new school record for base hits during the recently-completed high school baseball season.

Robinson's 32 base hits broke the old mark of 31 set by David Lancaster in 1975.

Robinson had 32 hits in 85 times at bat for a .376 batting average in leading the Mountaineers to a second place finish in the Southwestern Conference.

In '75, Lancaster had 31 hits in 83 times at bat for a .585 average as he led KMHS to a 14-4 record and the SWC title.

Lancaster still holds six school records, including most home runs (11), most runs batted in (34), best batting average (.588), most runs scored (31), most total bases (78) and highest slugging percentage (1.377).



DAVID ROBINSON

Umpires 'Walk' Off Field

Kings Mountain's 14-15 year old Babe Ruth season got off to a sluggish start Tuesday night when one game was suspended and another postponed when the umpires walked off the field.

The umps packed up their gear and headed for home after three innings of a game at Macedonia Baptist Church field between the VFW and Mountaineers.

According to Babe Ruth officials, the plate umpire, who was later suspended by booking agent Sherrill Harris, was granting VFW Coach Alex McCallum time outs during the

middle of plays.

Mountaineer Coach Darrell Van Dyke advised the umpire he would play the game under protest if he continued to grant the time outs, and after granting the third time out, Van Dyke protested and the umpire picked up his gear and left.

The time outs were being called after batters drew bases on balls and before the runners reached first base, which, according to the baseball rules, cannot be done.

According to Hugh Lancaster, president of the league and who asked that the umpire never again be assigned to call here, the umpire has years of experience. The base umpire, who is new, also walked off the field but was not suspended because Harris felt he was probably going along with the plate umpire because it was the first time he'd ever seen such a situation.

"In one instance," said Lancaster, "the Mountaineers had a runner on third base and Van Dyke was planning on the walking batter to round first and head for second to set up a double steal situation. That's just good baseball. I've seen it happen from little league to major league. But the umpire was calling time out before the runner reached first and it was taking away that possibility. That's about like calling time out on a double to rightfield and holding the runner to a single."

"The first duty of an umpire," Lancaster went on, "is to control the game but he certainly didn't do that. He just picked up his gear and left. It was a poor situation, and regrettable, but it certainly wasn't the fault of our coaches and it's left us in a problem in scheduling."

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