



IN GAFFNEY RACE — Kings Mountain's Freddy Smith is preparing his car for another racing season. The KM veteran hopes to open his season with a victory Saturday at Gaffney, S. C.

Junior High Baseball Team In Rebuilding Year

Kings Mountain Junior High baseball coach Porter Griggs faces a rebuilding task as he prepares his Patriots for their first Western Junior High

Mounties

Entertain

Huskies

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conference games in order that his injured knee may heal more before the conference season begins. Ellis, who underwent surgery for torn cartilage, may be used either in the outfield or as a designated hitter.

"Right now," said Gibson, "the doctor has only given him the okay to swing the bat and jog. He's hitting the ball good but we don't want to run the risk of his being injured again running the bases."

Looking to the conference season, Gibson points to South Point, East Gaston and Shelby to offer the Mountaineers to toughest competition in the Eastern Division. South Point won the SWC last year and KMHS finished second.

Athletic Association season.

The Patriots won the Foothills Conference title the past two years, going 14-0 two years ago and 12-2 last spring.

Coach Griggs has only one returning starter, Ricky Proctor. Proctor roamed the outfield last year but will probably spend most of his time on the pitcher's mound this season.

Coach Griggs has 24 players. Most of them have little league and Babe Ruth experience but will be playing school ball for the first time.

The Pats open their season on March 20 against

East McDowell and most of the positions are still up for grabs.

Craig Champion and Steve Crawford are battling for the first base job. Todd Blalock appears to have second base sewed up, Tony Boyce has the nod at shortstop and Alan Van Dyke and Randy Moss are about evenly matched at third base.

In the outfield, Griggs is looking for good play from Proctor, Jimmy West, Joe Self, Mark Smith, Brent Bell and Terry Chapman.

West will also see some duty on the mound, and David Wells, Kevin Jones and Brent Bell will be counted on to pitch some also.

Laird Keeter, an eighth grader, and Chapman are battling for the catcher's position.

The Patriots have a 14-game schedule, all conference games.

MARCH

20, at E. McDowell
24, at Burns

APRIL

6, at Grandview
10, at College Park
13, Crest
17, at W. McDowell
20, at Shelby
24, E. McDowell
26, Burns

MAY

1, Grandview
4, College Park
8, at Crest
11, W. McDowell
15, Shelby

Smith In Gaffney Race

GAFFNEY — Felled by the weather for the two past weekends, the Cherokee Speedway plans to get its 1978 stock car racing season underway here Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

"Maybe the weatherman will smile on us this weekend. I regret we didn't get started as planned but maybe the delay has been a blessing in disguise. A lot of the late model cars have been able to get all of the kinks ironed out of their cars. We should have one of the fastest fields ever Saturday," Promoter Edgar Gault said.

Several new drivers and cars are expected from Georgia and Tennessee, according to Gault.

Heading the field of late model sportsman favorites will be Gaffney's Mike Duvall and Bennett Clontz; Morganton, N. C. veteran, both of whom battled to the final wire to decide last year's championship. Kings Mountain's Freddie Smith, Gaffney's Charlie Blanton Tommy Robbs; Houston Wilkie, and David Perry will be raring to go along with Shelby's Floyd Weaver, Spartanburg's Billy Bishop and Harold Painter, Woodruff's Fred Hawkins and Doug Osteen.

Others expected are Dennis Williams, Bolling Springs; John Pait, Bolling Springs, N. C.; Herman Mooney, Morganton, N. C.; Carl Smart, Hildebran, N. C.; and the Georgia favorites, C. L. Pritchett, Ray Allison, Aaron Galley and Herman Wise.

Gault also expects a host of new and exciting

Allison's

Car Good

In Rebel 500

DARLINGTON, S. C. — If the Carolina 500 Sunday at Rockingham is any indication of things to come for the General Motors and Chrysler Corporation cars, then we're in deep water when we get to Darlington for the Rebel 500, April 9."

Doing the talking was Donnie Allison, who drives the Hawaiian Tropic Chevrolet and second place finisher at both Darlington races in 1977.

Allison had a bushel of facts to back up his thinking. "I couldn't believe the way Bud Moore's Thunderbird was sticking in the corners. When I got in the car for Bobby, I thought Bud had installed power steering. The car was really handling that good."

There was no doubt that Pearson, Allison and Dick Brooks had the best handling cars at Rockingham as all were lap leaders in the race. Although a blown engine forced Brooks out of the chase, it was his best run of the 1978 season.

drivers in the semimodified field. "They'll be running times almost equal to the late models with their modifications," Gault added.

Gates open at 12 noon. A main event and two heats will be run in each division. Gault plans to stage races here each Saturday afternoon off I-85 at Exit 95, until the temperatures warm up a little more.

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P205/75R14	FR78-14	\$58.50	\$2.56
P215/75R14	GR78-14	\$60.50	\$2.61
P225/75R14	HR78-14	\$65.50	\$2.67
P205/75R15	FR78-15	\$60.50	\$2.68
P215/75R15	GR78-15	\$62.50	\$2.74
P225/75R15	HR78-15	\$67.50	\$2.90
P235/75R15	LR78-15	\$72.75	\$3.00

\$39

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