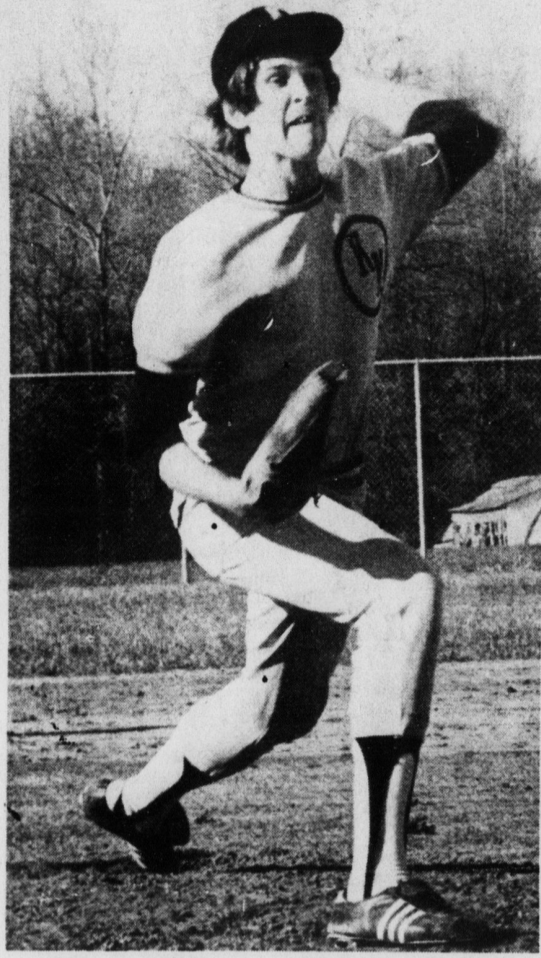
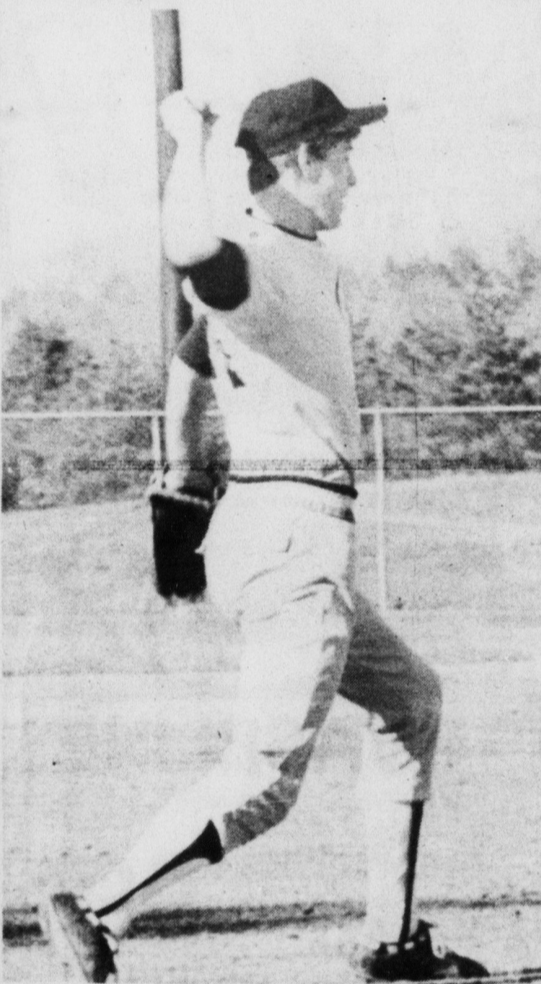


Leach's Three-Hitter, Valentine's HR Nip Lions



SHUTS OUT LIONS — Kings Mountain High's sophomore lefthander Tim Leach is shown here working on his three-hit shutout of Shelby in a key Southwestern 3-A Conference game Thursday at Lancaster Field.



COMES UP THROWING — Kings Mountain third baseman Mark Schuman comes up throwing after fielding a tough grounder in game with Shelby Thursday afternoon at Lancaster Field.



Photos By Gary Stewart

BIG HITTER — Kings Mountain's Bruce Valentine is congratulated by Shelby third baseman Larry Lane after Valentine clubbed a three-run homer in the fourth inning of Thursday's game at Lancaster Field.

Bruce Valentine's first home run of the year — a three-run shot over the leftfield fence in the fourth inning — broke up a scoreless pitching duel between Kings Mountain's Tim Leach and Shelby's Danny Holland and gave the Mountaineers a 3-0 victory over the Lions in a key Southwestern 3-A Conference clash Thursday afternoon at Lancaster Field.

The victory broke a two-game losing skid for the injury-plagued Moun-

taineers and knotted the two Cleveland County teams at 3-2 in Eastern Division play and in a tie for third place.

The Mountaineers could move into first place this week by winning both games. The Mounties host East Rutherford in their first night game tonight at 7:30 and they travel to Belmont Friday to take on first place South Point (4-1).

Leach, a talented sophomore lefthander who walked two and struck out six, held the

SPORTS

Lions hitless until one away in the fourth when he gave up a single to Shelby's cleanup hitter, Xavier Terrill. He allowed just one more single in the fifth and another in the sixth, both with two men away and the bases clear. Shelby's only threat came in the fourth, when a

walk and Terrill's single put men on second and third with one out. But Leach worked out of the jam by getting a pop fly to first and a strikeout.

Except in the fourth inning, the Mountaineer hitters had just as tough a time out of Holland. He allowed runners to second

base in the second and third, but worked out of the jams, then retired the side in order in the final two innings after Valentine's homer decided the issue.

moved both runners up on a grounder to second, Valentine slammed his towering home run on a 1-2 pitch.

Scott Ellis, playing in leftfield even though he's still not fully recovered from knee surgery, singled off the centerfield fence to open the KMHS fourth. A fielder's choice on a sacrifice bunt attempt gave designated hitter Ronnie Wilson life and after David Ray Robinson

Danny Bolin, pinch-hitting for third baseman Mark Schuman, gained life on an error and Andy Loftin walked to put runners back on first and second, but Alan Putnam took a called third strike and Bryan White bounced into a forceout to end the inning.

Unearned Tally Gives North Gaston Win Over KM

Two Kings Mountain errors gave North Gaston an unearned run in the bottom of the eighth inning Wednesday at North Gaston as the Wildcats ripped the Mountaineers 2-1 in a Southwestern 3-A Conference clash.

A throwing error by pitcher David Ray Robinson and a fielding error by shortstop Steve Boggan with two outs allowed the winning run to score.

The run broke a 1-1 tie which had existed since the fourth inning, when the Mounties scored on a double by Scott Ellis and a single by Alan Putnam, and the Wildcats countered

on doubles by Tommy Glover and Jerry Ratchford.

The Mountaineers left 10 runners stranded on the basepaths, leaving two men on in four different innings and men in scoring position five different times.

Robinson went the route on the mound for KMHS and pitched good enough to win. He didn't walk a batter and struck out five.

Six different players had a hit apiece for the Mounties, Ellis, Jim Hall and Danny Bolin clubbing doubles and Bryan White, Putnam and Tim Whitaker getting singles.

Open On May 30 Juniors Looking For Good Team

Kings Mountain's Post 155 legion baseball team will play a 10-game first round schedule beginning May 30 at home against Shelby Post 82.

Five teams are competing in League One of the split Area Four. Cherryville has dropped out of the race.

The elimination of Cherryville can do nothing but aid the Kings Mountain program as Post 155 will be drawing several of the top players from the strong Cherryville High School team which is favored to win the Southern District Seven 2-A championship.

Post 155 will also draw from Kings Mountain, North Gaston, Clover, Bessemer City and Blacksburg high schools.

Robbie Moore and Richard Gillespie will return as coaches of the KM entry. Jim Littlejohn, the assistant athletic director the past two summers under veteran Gene Tignor, assumes the duties of athletic director.

Post 155 returns some of its top players from a year ago, including most valuable player Mike Jackson of Clover, and their best pitcher, right-hander Ronnie Saunders of North Gaston.

Other returnees include Steve Deal of Clover, Tommy Glover and Bobby Lutz of North Gaston and Richard Van Dyke, William Thompson, Tim Patterson and David Bolton of Kings Mountain.

Littlejohn pointed out, "in order for us to have a team that can compete against teams such as Shelby, which draws from Shelby, Crest and Burns, we have to have players from other towns. We hope to have a lot of players from Kings Mountain, but every player that comes out for the team, regardless of where he's from, will get an equal shot."

Legion baseball as a whole has suffered in past years, including here because Post 155 is competing for players against two Senior Babe Ruth teams. But the legion program improved greatly last summer under the coaching of Moore and Gillespie and Littlejohn says "it's in the best shape that it's been in years."

Post 155 will have a team meeting in the near future and pre-season practice will begin at the conclusion of the high school season.

Softball Meeting Tonight

An organizational meeting for the industrial men's and women's softball league will be held Tuesday at 7 p. m. at the community center.

Any interested persons are urged to be present or else send a representative.

Persons wishing information may call Clyde Parrish or Verlee Mask at 789-3649 between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.

Little Leaguers Need To Register

Youngsters ages eight through 12 who plan to play city baseball this summer have only two more days to register.

You may register Tuesday and Wednesday from 5 p. m. until 9 p. m. at the community center.

Charlotte Idlewild Wins State Classic

A last second tip-in by Jon Appling gave Idlewild of Charlotte a 37-35 victory over Kingston in the championship game of the Tar Heel State Classic Saturday at the Community Center.

Kingston won four straight games coming out of the loser's bracket to reach the championship game. Anthony Milledge of

THE SCHEDULE

MAY

JUNE

- 30 — Shelby
- 1 — Morganton
- 6 — at F. City
- 10 — at Hickory
- 13 — at Shelby
- 17 — Forest City
- 22 — Shelby
- 24 — Morganton
- 27 — at Hickory
- 29 — at F. City



LEGION RETURNES — Mike Jackson, top, of Clover, S. C., and Richard Van Dyke of Kings Mountain, are two of the players who will be returning for another year of Legion baseball eligibility this summer. Post 155, which will be competing in Area Four, opens its season at home on May 30th against Shelby. Coaches Robbie Moore and Richard Gillespie are expecting one of their better years with players from Kings Mountain, Clover, Cherryville, North Gaston and Blacksburg.

.....KMHS STATISTICS.....

BATTING		AB	H	AVG.
Hayes		6	3	.500
Schuman		4	2	.500
Ellis		18	5	.278
Boggan		12	4	.333
Goins		3	1	.333
Valentine		17	5	.294
Putnam		11	3	.273
Leach		4	1	.250
Bolin		8	2	.250
Whitaker		21	5	.238
Hall		10	2	.200
Wilson		10	2	.200
Cloninger		5	1	.200
White		21	4	.190
Robinson		21	4	.190
Loftin		9	1	.111
T. Chapman		4	0	.000
Spears		3	0	.000
Sparks		3	0	.000
Dixon		3	0	.000
Burton		1	0	.000
Clark		1	0	.000
R. Chapman		1	0	.000
Moore		1	0	.000

PITCHING		W-L	IP	HR	ER	BB	SO
Leach	2-0	16 2/3	12	4	3	4	17
Robinson	2-1	17 2/3	12	3	2	2	12
Wilson	1-1	10 1/3	10	8	6	5	15
Loftin	0-0	3	1	1	0	1	0
Cloninger	0-0	1	2	1	2	2	2

.....KMHS BOXSCORES.....

WEDNESDAY GAME		SHELBY		THURSDAY GAME	
K. MTN.	AB R H RBI	Bankhead, cf	2 0 0 0	AB R H RBI	
Hall, cf	3 0 1 0	McBride, ss	2 0 0 0	White, 3b	3 0 0 0
Cloninger, cf	0 0 0 0	Kirkpatrick, 2b	3 0 0 0	Whitaker, c	3 0 0 0
White, 2b	3 0 1 0	Terrill, c	3 0 1 0	Ellis, lf	3 1 1 0
Robinson, p	4 0 0 0	Lane, 3b	3 0 1 0	Leach, p	0 0 0 0
Loftin, rf	0 0 0 0	Holland, p	0 0 0 0	Wilson, dh	3 1 0 0
Ellis, dh	2 0 1 0	Hall, dh	3 0 0 0	Robinson, ss	3 0 1 0
Moore, pr	0 1 0 0	Trices, lf	2 0 0 0	Valentine, 1b	3 1 1 3
Dixon, rf	0 0 0 0	Strickland, rf	1 0 0 0	Schuman, 3b	1 0 0 0
Whitaker, c	3 0 1 0	Dobbins, rf	2 0 0 0	Bolin, ph	1 0 0 0
Valentine, 1b	3 0 0 0	Hicks, ph	1 0 0 0	Hall, ph	1 0 0 0
Hayes, ph	1 0 0 0	Thompson, 1b	2 0 1 0	Loftin, cf	1 0 0 0
Putnam, lf	3 0 1 1	Skiibo, ph	1 0 0 0	Totals	26 33 3
Bolin, 3b	4 0 1 0	Totals	25 03 0		
Schuman, 3b	0 0 0 0				
Boggan, ss	2 0 0 0	K. MTN.			
Wilson, ph	1 0 0 0	Putnam, lf	3 0 0 0		
Totals	29 14 1	White, 3b	3 0 0 0		
		Whitaker, c	3 0 0 0		
N. GASTON		Ellis, lf	3 1 1 0		
Sanders, dh	4 0 0 0	Leach, p	0 0 0 0		
Weikel, 3b	3 0 0 0	Wilson, dh	3 1 0 0		
J. Lutz, ph	1 0 0 0	Robinson, ss	3 0 1 0		
Clover, cf	4 1 2 0	Valentine, 1b	3 1 1 3		
B. Lutz, 1b	3 0 0 0	Schuman, 3b	1 0 0 0		
Ratchford, ss	3 0 1 1	Bolin, ph	1 0 0 0		
Essary, rf	3 0 1 0	Hall, ph	1 0 0 0		
Ramey, p	3 0 0 0	Loftin, cf	1 0 0 0		
Blake, c	3 0 1 0	Totals	26 33 3		
Steele, lf	2 0 0 0				
Horvak, ph	1 1 0 0				
Totals	29 25 1				
By Innings:	T	By Innings:	T		
KM	000 100 00	S	000 000 0		
VG	000 100 01	KM	000 300 x		
		VG			

E — Blake, Robinson, Boggan, Bolin, LOB — KM 10, NG 4 2 B — Ellis, Hall, Bolin, Glover, Ratchford.
Pitcher: IP HR ER BB SO
Rb'son (L, 2-1) 7 2 3 5 2 1 0 5
Ramey (W) 8 6 1 1 5 6