

Mountaineers At Shelby Tonight

Valentine's Homer Nips North Gaston 1-0

SPORTS

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers used a fourth inning home run by Bruce Valentine and continued good pitching to nip North Gaston 1-0 Friday night at Lancaster Field and stay in the running for a Southwestern 3-A Conference playoff berth.

It was the second straight 1-0 victory for the Mountaineers, who ran their SWC mark to 8-3 and moved into a three-way tie for second place in the Eastern Division with Shelby and South Point. East Gaston, which lost to KMHS 1-0 last Tuesday night, edged South Point 3-2 Friday to regain the division lead with a 6-2 mark.

The Mountaineers face four more tough regular season opponents and the only sure way the Mountaineers can nail down a playoff position is to win all

four. They play at Shelby tonight, host Western Division leader Crest Friday night and end their regular season next week against South Point and East Gaston.

Senior righthander Ronnie Wilson picked up his second win in four decisions Friday, working five and two-third innings before giving way to sophomore lefty Tim Leach. Wilson gave up three hits, walked two and struck out five.

Leach, having the best sophomore season of any KMHS hurler in several years, worked one and one-third innings and lowered his earned run average to 0.78 and ran his string of scoreless innings pitched to 19 and one-third innings. He hasn't given up a run since Chase scored two off him in an 8-7 Trojan vic-

tory several weeks ago. His scoreless string includes two seven-inning shutouts over Shelby and East Gaston and relief stints against East Rutherford, South Point and North Gaston.

North Gaston righthander Ronnie Sanders, who hurled for the KM American Legion team last summer, had a no-hitter going until the bottom of the fourth when Valentine clubbed his second home run of the season. The Mounties got three more hits after that, infield singles by Alan Putnam and David Ray Robinson and a sharp single to right by pinch-hitter Danny Bolin.

Kings Mountain used some good defensive plays — including two rally-ending double plays — to keep the visiting Wildcats

scoreless.

In the first inning, Wilson gave up a one-out double to David Wrikel, who moved on to third when Tommy Glover reached base on an error. Bobby Lutz then left a fly ball to medium right, and rightfielder Andy Loftin gunned down Wrikel who tried to turn it into a sacrifice fly.

Wilson retired the next six Wildcats in order but Wrikel reached on an error by third baseman Steve Boggan to open the fourth. Wrikel moved all the way to third when Wilson's pickoff attempt at first base got away from Valentine. After Glover

fanned for the first out, Lutz walked and stole second to put two men in scoring position. John Essary then hit a sharp drive to third and Boggan made up for his error at the beginning of the inning by grabbing it and stepping on third for an inning-ending double play.

A walk to Glover and Lutz's single with two away in the sixth put the Wildcats in scoring position again but Leach came on to get Essary to hit into a forceout at third to end the inning. The Wildcats got another runner to third in the seventh on an error, sacrifice and wild pitch but a strikeout and pop up to

Boggan at third ended the game. Kings Mountain also fanned on several scoring chances, putting runners in scoring position in every inning.

Bryan White reached on an error and stole second with one away in the first, but Wilson fanned to left and Sanders fanned Scott Ellis

to get out of trouble. Valentine reached on an error and was wild-pitched to second with one away in the second but was doubled off second after Glover chased down Robinson's long fly ball to the center-field fence.

With two away in the third, Jimmy Hall and White drew back-to-back walks from the tiring Sanders but Wilson bounced hard to second to end that threat.

Putnam reached on an

infield hit with one away in the fifth, stole second and moved to third on a passed ball. After Hall flied out to short rightfield, White fanned but took first when the last strike got away from the North Gaston catcher, putting Mounties at the corners. But Ellis flied to left for the third out.

In the sixth, Robinson got an infield single with two away and stole second but was cut down at the plate for the final out on Bolin's sharp single to rightfield.



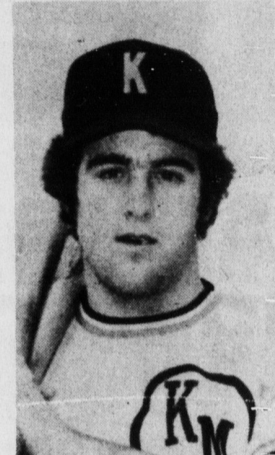
Alan Van Dyke, right, clutches pop fly to put down

Crest Junior High threat in first inning of Thursday game...

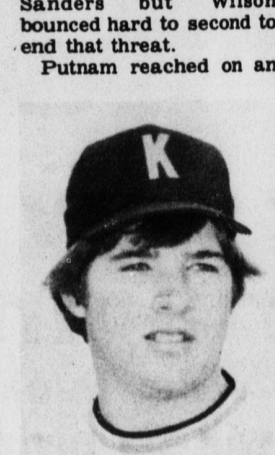
KMHS STATISTICS

BATTING				
Player	AB	H	RBI	AVG.
Schuman	4	2	1	.500
Hayes	7	3	1	.429
Ellis	22	9	3	.409
Goins	3	1	1	.333
Putnam	13	4	1	.308
Boggan	14	4	2	.286
Whitaker	33	9	4	.273
Leach	4	1	0	.250
Bolin	18	4	1	.222
Valentine	29	6	7	.207
White	34	7	6	.206
Cloninger	5	1	1	.200
Hall	21	4	2	.190
Wilson	21	4	4	.190
Robinson	35	6	2	.171
Loftin	15	1	1	.067
T. Chapman	4	0	1	.000
Spears	3	0	0	.000
Dixon	3	0	0	.000
Burton	1	0	0	.000
Clark	1	0	0	.000
R. Chapman	1	0	0	.000
Moore	1	0	0	.000
Totals	292	66	38	.226

PITCHING									
Pitcher	W-L	IP	HR	ER	BB	SO	ERA		
Leach	3-00	27	16	4	3	5	85	0.78	
Robinson	3-1	23	2-3	18	6	5	3	19	1.50
Robinson	3-1	23	2-3	18	6	5	3	19	1.50
Wilson	2-2	21	17	11	7	9	25	2.33	
Loftin	0-0	3	1	1	0	1	0	0.00	
Cloninger	0-0	1	2	1	1	2	2	7.00	
Totals	8-3	75	2-3	52	23	16	20	81	1.82



BRUCE VALENTINE



RONNIE WILSON



C. M. PEELER, JR.
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THE BOXSCORE				
N. GASTON	AB	R	H	RBI
Atkins, ss	3	0	0	0
Wrikel, 2b	3	0	1	0
Glover, cf	2	0	0	0
S. Lutz, 1b	2	0	1	0
Essary, rf	3	0	0	0
Horvart, lf	2	0	0	0
K. Lutz, if	1	0	0	0
Sanders, p	2	0	0	0
Ramey, p	0	0	0	0
McClure, 3b	3	0	1	0
Walker, c	2	0	0	0
Blake, c	1	0	0	0
Totals	24	0	3	0
K. MTN.				
Hall, cf	2	0	0	0
White, 2b	2	0	0	0
Wilson, p	2	0	0	0
Leach, p	0	0	0	0
Loftin, rf	0	0	0	0
Ellis, dh	3	0	0	0
Whitaker, c	3	0	0	0
Valentine, 1b	3	1	1	1
Robinson, ss	3	0	1	0
Boggan, 3b	2	0	0	0
Bolin, ph	1	0	1	0
Putnam, if	2	0	1	0
Totals	23	1	4	1

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Whip Crest 4-0 Thursday

Pats Tied For First

Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots moved into a tie for first place in the Western Junior High Athletic Association Thursday with a 4-0 victory over Crest at Lancaster Field.

The Patriots carried a 4-1 record into their game yesterday at West McDowell. KM, Shelby and Grandview share the league lead.

Todd Blalock picked up his second pitching win Thursday in relief of Ricky Proctor. Proctor worked the first three innings before leaving with a

pulled back muscle.

Proctor gave up two singles and fanned two over the first three games and Blalock gave up two hits and struck out two over the final four innings.

Kings Mountain won the game in the third inning, scoring two runs on Terry Chapman's base on balls, Proctor's double and a

single by Alan Van Dyke.

The Patriots added a singleton in the fourth on a walk to Laird Keeter and Chapman's single, and they closed out the scoring in the sixth on a double by Jimmy West and a Crest error.

Chapman, Proctor and Van Dyke each had two hits to lead the seven-hit

KM attack against Craig Washburn.

The Patriots play a key conference contest Thursday at Shelby.

THE LINESCORE
By innings R E
C 000 000 0 4 1
KM 002 101 x 4 7 2
Washburn and McBride.
Proctor, Blalock (4) and Keeter, Chapman (4).



Craig Champion pulls into third during winning KMJH rally in third inning...

WEEKLY Health Tips



From Wilson Griffin.

If you take sugar-coated vitamins, bite into each pill before you swallow it or you may lose some of its benefits, advises a professor of pharmacy.

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