

# Senior Babe Ruth, Legion Teams Open Practice



## BR Draft Friday...

The player draft for the Senior Babe Ruth League for players 16-18 years of age, will be held Friday at 5:30 p. m. at the high school baseball field.

Kings Mountain is again fielding two teams, the BDF Construction Redlegs and the Hayes Construction Orioles.

David Ray Robinson and Max Brooks, who coached the 16 year old all-stars to the state championship last summer, will coach the Redlegs and Don Ellis

and Darrell Whetstone will coach the Orioles.

The two KM teams will play in the Kings Mountain League with Belmont and East Lincoln and all four of those teams will play a 16-game schedule in the Cabarrus County Traveling League. All games will count in the regular season standings.

Belmont is new in the league, having been organized by South Point High Coach Phil Tate as a feeder team for the

Belmont legion team, which Tate coaches. Butch Adams, an assistant coach at South Point, and Harold Stowe, former New York Yankee, will coach the team.

East Lincoln is coached by Bruce Bolick, whose East Lincoln High team is leading the Southern District Seven.

Tryouts and drafts for the 14-15 year old league have not yet been scheduled but the Kings Mountain League will

include five teams from the city and one from Grover.

The 13 year old league will include three teams from KM and one from Grover with games scheduled for both towns.

Kings Mountain will host several tournaments later this summer, including the 13 and 14-15 year old area tournaments and the Senior Babe Ruth Southeastern Regionals.

The Kings Mountain Post 155 American Legion baseball team will hold its first team meeting Saturday at 10:30 a. m. at the community center.

All persons from Kings Mountain, Cherryville, Bessemer City, Dallas and Clover interested in trying out for the team are urged to report.

The first practice session will be held Monday at 4 p. m. at the Kings Mountain

High School field.

Robbie Moore and Richard Gillespie return for their second year as coaches of the team, which will again be playing in the split Area Four. Post 155 is slated to begin its season at home on Memorial Day against Shelby.

Post 155 lost only two starters from last summer, shortstop Marcus Jamerson of Shelby and

catcher Rusty Bell of Kings Mountain. Several players return, including pitcher-first baseman Bobby Lutz of North Gaston and most valuable player Mike Jackson of Clover.

First-year athletic officer Jim Littlejohn said the team is going to schedule two exhibition games, one against Gastonia and one against Bel-

mont. The dates have not been set.

Kings Mountain will be able to draw several good prospects from Cherryville, which dropped out of the league, and several others from Bessemer City. Both BC and Cherryville are battling East Lincoln for a post-season playoff spot from the Southern District Seven.



**HOT AT CHARLOTTE** — Kings Mountain's Freddie Smith has a string of four victories going at Metrolina Speedway near Charlotte. The veteran KM driver, for several years one of the area's top short track competitors, will have his Camaro geared for win number five come Friday night.

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## Smith's Red Hot, Wins Number Four

CHARLOTTE — Freddie Smith of Kings Mountain, N. C. grabbed his fourth late model sportsman win of the season Friday night at Metrolina Speedway, and he may well remember it as his toughest win yet.

David Perry, a hard nosed competitor from Gaffney, S. C., who has tallied one main event win this season, had his sights dead set on winning number two Friday as he took the lead at the onset and held on to the top spot for 32 laps, before Smith wrestled the lead away on lap 33 and held on the remainder of the race, crossing the finish line just a few feet ahead of Perry.

Smith, Perry, five-time winner Haywood Plyler, Stick Elliot, Billy Scott, Haskel Willingham, Larry Wallace, Carl Smart, and a host of other fine late model drivers will be on hand again this weekend when racing continues at the fast, half mile track.

Sixty laps of late model competition are on tap for each night in the form of a 40-lap main event, and two 10-lap heat races.

The Furr Racing Association Friday-

Saturday night format also includes a 30-lap main event and two 10-lap heat races in the semi-modified division, and a 10-lap main event for the xstreet division competitors, with action getting underway each night at 8 p. m.

Kenny Polston, Gerald Ritchie, Billy Causey, Bobby Lindsey, Ralph Eury, and Ned Haney head up the list of semi-modified entries, while Luther Jennings and Don Rhodes are favored in the street division chase.

This will be the last weekend of preparation for the late model drivers who are all looking ahead to May 12 and 13, and the \$16,000 purse that has been posted for the two nights of racing.

The regular weekly format will be used in the street division and semi-modified division, but it will be a special weekend for the late models with 150 lap main events slated for each night. With a winner's purse of \$2,000, \$100 to the second fastest, and lap money at the rate of \$10 per lap one driver could amass a total of \$7,200 for the two nights of racing.

## Randy Whitaker Hurls Neisco To Victory

Randy Whitaker hurred a three-hitter and struck out 11 Tuesday night at Deal Street Park as Neisco Industries opened its Little League season with a 5-4 victory over Rotary.

Walter Cooper and Gordon Price had triples, Whitaker doubled and Tommy Batchler and Jeff Smith each had a single to

lead the Neisco hitting attack.

In games tonight, Rotary faces Champion Landscaping and C&C Metal meets the Lions Club at 6 p. m. and 7:30, respectively. Friday, Jaycees takes on Police at 6 p. m. and Nationwide meets Kentucky Fried Chicken at 7:30.

## Babe Ruth Tryouts Tonight At Macedonia

Tryouts for the 13 year old Babe Ruth League will be held today from 5-7:30 p. m. at the Macedonia Baptist Church field.

All 13 year old players who have signed up to play, and all those who have not signed up but

would still like to play, should report prepared for tryouts.

Another tryout will be held Saturday at 1 p. m. at Macedonia, after which the player draft will be conducted.

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