

East Gaston Can Wrap Up Title Here Tonight

It'll be do-or-die for Kings Mountain High's baseballers tonight at 7:30 when they host East Gaston in the second game of the two teams' best-of-three Southwestern 3-A Conference championship series.

East Gaston won Tuesday's opener on the Warrior diamond, 2-1, and can wrap up its first SWC title ever with a victory

tonight. If Kings Mountain wins tonight, the third and deciding game will be played next Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Sims Legion Park in Gastonia.

The Warriors scored an unearned run in their last time at bat Tuesday to end a pitcher's duel between their Freddie Petty and KM's Tim Leach. Petty, who won an earlier game over Leach and the

Mounties 1-0, now sports a 7-3 record while Leach fell to 9-2.

And, it was Petty, the fireballing senior righthander, who scored the winning run in the sixth inning. He singled to right field with one away and went all the way to third when rightfielder Bryon White booted the ball. He then scored on a single to center by Phil Jonas.

Leach, who started slow and cranked up, had retired 10 men in a row before Petty's single. Leach had his lowest strikeout total of the season, six, but didn't walk but one batter and all five hits off him were singles.

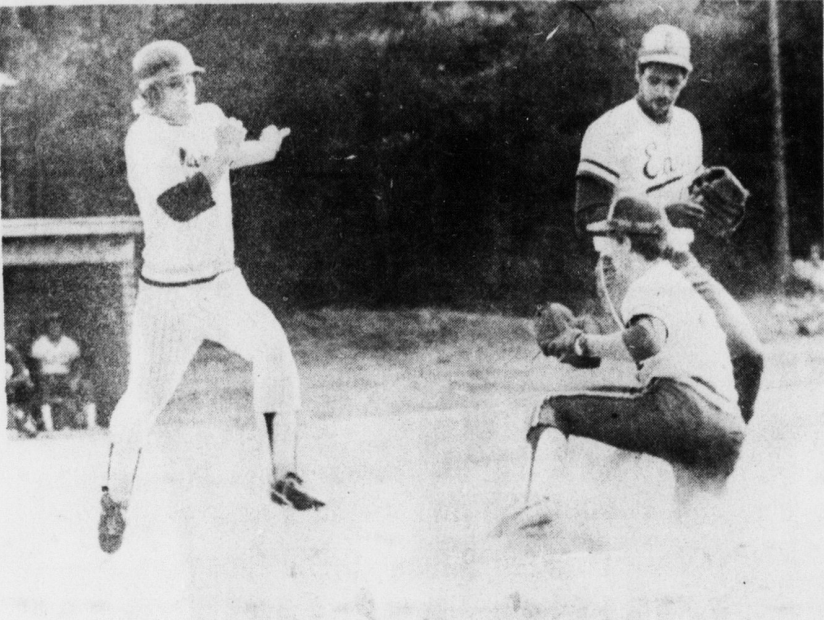
East Gaston grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first when Donnie Killian singled, stole second and scored on a two-out single by Jonas. East added another hit and drew its only base on balls in the second but didn't get another man on base until the winning sixth.

Petty, who walked six and struck out 11, was extremely tough in the key situations. In every scoring situation the

Mountaineers had, there were less than two outs, but the Warrior ace always reached back for something extra and got himself out of the jam, usually with a big strikeout. Petty struck out at least one batter in every inning except the second, when Leach tripled with one away and the Warriors finally got out of the inning on ground outs by White and Jimmy Chapman.

Robinson singled with one away in the seventh and went to second on a wild pitch but Hayes fouled out to the first baseman and Petty fanned Bolin to end the game.

The game was the third straight one-run game played by the two Eastern Division rivals, and East Gaston's second victory. The Warrior win broke a seven-game Kings Mountain winning streak. The Mountaineers hadn't lost since the 1-0 defeat at East Gaston on April 10.



Jim Chapman out on close play...

Kings Mountain, which left 10 men on base, including seven in scoring position, tied it the fifth on walk to Ricky Chapman, Mark Schuman's single and a sacrifice fly by David Ray Robinson.

The Mountaineers blew several scoring chances. They had runners on base in every inning except the fourth, when Petty struck out the side on 13 pitches. The Mounties also left men in scoring position in every inning but the fourth.

Three of Kings Mountain's five hits off Petty went for extra bases, including triples by Leach and Schuman and a double by White, but neither man was advanced.

THE BOXSCORE

K. MTN.	AB	R	H	RBI
R. Cpmn, 2b	3	1	0	0
Schuman, lf	3	0	2	0
Robinson, 1b	3	0	1	1
Hayes, dh	3	0	0	0
Bolin, 3b	4	0	0	0
Leach, p	2	0	1	0
White, rf	3	0	1	0
Whitaker, c	2	0	0	0
J. Cpmn, ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	26	1	5	1

E. GASTON	AB	R	H	RBI
McGee, dh	3	0	0	0
Killian, ss	3	1	1	0
Petty, p	3	1	1	0
Jonas, c	3	0	2	2
Devinney, 3b	3	0	0	0
Criswell, rf	3	0	0	0
Black, cf	2	0	1	0
Spears, 2b	2	0	0	0
Kitchen, lf	1	0	0	0
Totals	28	2	5	2

By Innings:	T
KM 000 010 0	1
EG 100 001 x	2

E - White, R. Chapman.
LOB - KM 10, EG 8. 2B - White. 3B - Leach, Schuman.

Pitcher:	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Leach	6	5	2	1	1	6
Petty	7	5	1	1	6	11

Austin Fourth In SWC

Kings Mountain High's golfers finished third in the annual Southwestern 3-A Conference golf tournament held Thursday at Gallagher Trails and Monday at Riverbend.

The Mountaineers had a team score of 681. R-S Central won the event with 617 and East Gaston was second at 628. After KM were Shelby 643, Chase 644, North Gaston 648, East Rutherford 660, Crest 672, South Point 679 and Burns 684.

Jeff Barnard of R-S, player of the year in the SWC, won medalist honors with a 148. Kings Mountain's Darrell Austin finished fourth at 154. The top eight players were named to the All-Conference team.

Kings Mountain had the best score on Monday, shooting a 313 to 315 for R-S. But R-S, with a 302, outdistanced the field in the opening round at Gallagher Trails and had a big enough lead to fight off all challengers.

KM scores for the tourney included Austin 78-76-154, Darrell Forbes 78-80-158, Sammy Wolfe 81-80-161, Delk Haigler 81-84-165, Herbie Beam 85-77-162 and Dexter Tate 88-88-181. Forbes missed making the All-Conference team by two shots.

Austin, Forbes, Haigler and Wolfe will represent KMHS in the Sectional Tournament Monday at Gastonia Municipal. The KM players will tee off at 10:30 a.m. Golfers qualify for the sectional by establishing a handicap of seven or better during regular season practice and matches.

"I was real pleased with our score on Monday," noted KM Coach Bobby Jones. "Everybody played well. We've had a good year and we appreciate Kings Mountain Country Club giving us the use of their facilities. Rudy Hayes (KMCC pro) has helped us every chance he's had."

Three Girls In Regional

Three Kings Mountain High girls tracksters will compete in the Western Regional Meet Friday at East Burke High School. They qualified by placing in the top four in their events in the sectional meet Tuesday at Asheville.

Diane Williams finished third in the long jump with a leap of 15'9 1/4". Barbara McClain was third in the 100 yard dash and Angie Eckman fourth in the 110 hurdles.

This is the first time KMHS has ever qualified anyone for the girls regionals.

The top three finishers in each event at East Burke will qualify for the State meet, which will be held next week in Raeford.



Photo by Gary Stewart

ALL-SWC—Darrell Austin Jr., Kings Mountain High senior golfer, made the All-Southwestern 3-A Conference golf team by finishing fourth in the annual conference tourney Monday at Riverbend Golf Club near Shelby. Austin fired a 78-76-154 to lead the Mountaineers to a third place finish in the team standings.

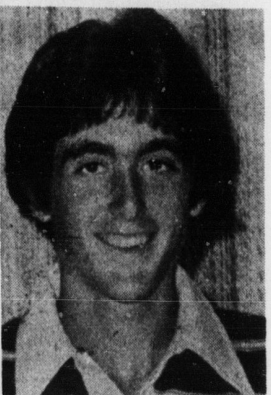
Tim Riddle Wins District

Tim Riddle, Kings Mountain freshman at Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., closed out a good freshman season by winning the number three singles crown in the NAIA District Six tournament.

Riddle, who had a 19-10 regular season record, breezed through the tournament without losing a set. His toughest match came in the finals against Mauricia Belar of Coastal Carolina. Riddle won 6-2, 7-6 and came from behind after trailing 5-2 in the second set.

"I had a goal of 20 victories," said Riddle, "but didn't quite make it." Riddle won several matches against major college players and some of the best small college teams in the nation. He won against such schools as Penn State, William & Mary, Central Florida, Rollins, The Citadel, and NAIA powers Merayhurst and Coastal Carolina.

"Tim came very close to having a 20-win season, which is outstanding for a freshman," said his coach, Richard McKee. "In the matches he lost, he lost control of some sizeable leads, but he also came from behind on several occasions."



TIM RIDDLE

Riddle plans to spend through July 10 teaching tennis at the Kings Mountain High courts. Anyone interested in taking beginner, intermediate or advanced lessons may call Riddle at the residence of his father, Harold Riddle, or at Riddle Fabrics.

Throughout the summer, Riddle will be competing in a number of tennis tournaments throughout the South sharpening his game for his sophomore season at PC.

"Riddle gives a 100 percent effort all the time," said McKee. "He has a bright future ahead of him at PC."

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