

KMHS Cagers Face Non-Conference Foes

Kings Mountain High's basketballers take a "breather" from Southwestern 3-A Conference warfare this week by playing against some tough 4-A competition.

The Mountaineers, 5-0 in the SWC and tied with R-S Central's Hilltoppers for first place, travel to South Point Thursday to face Ashbrook's Green Wave. In

another game Thursday at South Point, the Red Raiders play Hunter Huss.

On Friday, the two 3-A clubs swap opponents, with Kings Mountain battling Huss and South Point taking on Ashbrook.

Although the pair of Gastonia teams are strong and capable competition for any foe, the

games will give the Mountaineers a chance to catch their breath before the stretch run of the rugged SWC slate. The Mountaineers of Coach Larry Sipe return to conference action on Fri., Jan. 4 at East Rutherford.

Lavar Curry, one of only two seniors on Sipe's squad, leads the Mountaineers in scoring with 20-plus points per game, and he's one of the top performers in the SWC. But Sipe, who geared his charges for the tough SWC race

last summer by entering them in the Summer Basketball League at Cherryville, also has some talented younger players in Aubrey Hollifield, Jerry Jordan, Darryl Crocker, Edwin Sherer and others.

The Mountaineers, 6-1 overall, have been ranked in some North Carolina prep polls and are hoping to give perennial champion R-S Central a challenge for the league crown.

Kings Mountain's girls, who are rebuilding under second-year

coach Diana Bridges, return to action Saturday in a 7 p.m. contest at Hunter Huss.

The Mountainettes are 1-4 in the SWC and 2-6 overall. They won their season's opener against Garinger in the West Mecklenburg Tipoff Tournament and then lost six games in a row before breaking the ice against East Gaston, 45-42, last Tuesday night.

Doreen Pettus, one of only two returning starters, has been the scoring and rebounding

leader for the Mountainettes thus far but Bridges will be looking for improved play from other team members as the KM ladies enter the second half of conference action.

The KMHS wrestlers, 1-1 in the SWC and 3-2 overall, also resume action this week in Saturday's Cleveland County Invitational Tournament at Crest. The Mountaineers resume conference action on Jan. 3 at home against Crest.



PAUL CAMERON
WBTV Sports Director

Outlaw Boxing? It's a Goofy Idea

So the American Medical Association wants to ban boxing. This may be the goofiest idea since doctors used to bleed dying patients years ago. If the AMA wants to do something useful, let 'em find a way to cut skyrocketing medical costs... **Point guard Jeff Lebo**, who has signed with UNC, must be a beaut. Al McGuire says, "If Lebo makes a mistake on the fast break, it'll be his first one"... **When asked** why he used to run O.J. Simpson so much at Southern Cal, Coach John McKay replied: "Why not? The ball's not heavy".

The coaches box, which some dummy at the NCAA ordered this year, should be scrapped. Can you picture Lefty Driesell or Jim Valvano or Bobby Knight "fenced in" along the sideline? Valvano's right. It's the dumbest rule in college basketball... **The Tar Heels** may wind up with 3 of the top 5 prep players in the nation. They've signed Jeff Lebo and Kevin Madden, and have a good shot at forward Danny Ferry. "Ferry", says Howard Garfinkel of the famed Five-Star Camps, "is the best all-round high school player in America today".

In Art Baker, East Carolina has a winner. But until some explanation is given for the abrupt firing of Ed Emory, the university's credibility will continue to be questioned. You just don't treat people that way... **If the NFL** let Doug Flutie escape to the Canadian League, that'll really tell us something about the plastic mannequins who control pro football... **Just thinking:** If House Speaker Tip O'Neill had been a coach, he'd have been fired 20 years ago... **If you don't tell** Howard Cosell how good he is, then he'll tell you", said the late Red Smith.

I can't get over those young-boy faces of Shrine Bowl players affixed to bodies as big and as well-developed as the pro's. Some of these kids can bench-press 400 pounds or more. How much bigger and better can these young'uns get?... **Remember the name** Tim Worley. The big back was contained in the Shrine Game, but he's gonna be super in college. So is Mark Young of Belmont. Some predict he'll be another Freddie Solomon... **Early thought:** Clemson may be a lot better than expected in basketball this year. The Tigers aren't great, but they aren't patsies, either.

When John Lucas of Durham, the Houston Rockets' point guard, showed traces of cocaine in his system and was canned, I thought: "What an athlete; what a waste"... **If you want** some marvelous sports reading to start the year, pick up Roger Kahn's "The Boys of Summer"—about the fabled Brooklyn Dodgers of the early '50s. It has been around for years and may be the best sports book ever written. Another "oldie" is George Plimpton's "Paper Lion"; you'll laugh 'til you cry reading this one.

(Wanna talk sports? Write me at WBTV, Charlotte 28208. (Ed. note: Paul Cameron can be seen on the 6 and 11 pm news on Channel 3.)

Series Of Meetings To Deal With Wildlife

If you question some of North Carolina's hunting, trapping or fishing regulations, would like to see changes in them, or would like to discuss wildlife and fisheries management programs with biologists and enforcement officers with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, your chance to be heard is coming up. North Carolina's sportsmen are being urged to attend one of a series of public meetings, dealing with hunting, trapping and fishing regulations, that are being held across the state.

The meetings for Wildlife District Eight (Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland and Rutherford counties) will be held on Thursday, January 3rd at the Courthouse in Gastonia; on Tuesday, January 8th at Isotherm Community College in Spindale; on Thursday, January 10th at the Courthouse in Lenoir; on

Tuesday, January 15th at the Courthouse in Marion; and on Thursday, January 17th at the Courthouse in Burnsville. Each of the meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

According to Dr. John Hamrick of Shelby, Wildlife Commissioner for the District, the purpose of the meetings is to allow sportsmen an opportunity to offer suggestions on regulations while the hunting and trapping seasons are still fresh in their minds. Dr. Hamrick says that in the past the Wildlife Resources Commission has received some excellent suggestions from sportsmen at official public hearings which are held in March, but often in the past hasn't had enough time to review and develop those suggestions into regulation changes for the following fall's hunting and trapping seasons. He says the January meetings may allow the Commission to do that in some cases.

NCAA Titles Aren't Ours

Billy Packer, the Wake Forest graduate who is generally considered the top basketball analyst in the nation, recently said that he believes foreign athletes should not be allowed to participate in college sports.

Said Billy, in an article which appeared in USA TODAY, "We are compounding recruiting problems by bringing in foreign players...they take away scholarships from American kids, and I think there are (recruiting) horror stories still to come...this is our national championship, not the international championship."

My feelings on this are similar to those expressed by LSU Coach Dale Brown who said "Billy, a good friend of mine, is in the Stone Age. Talk like that is ludicrous...."

I have a lot of respect for Billy Packer, but I cannot at all understand his thinking on this. Is this much different from those who were saying—not that long ago—that Blacks shouldn't be allowed to compete?

It is dangerous when people start thinking about OUR this and OUR that, and then go on to exclude others from OUR things. Although Packer is known for his careful, thoughtful commentary, I can't believe he was seeing the whole picture when he made these statements.

Should Duke's Dan Meagher be banned from playing? He's from Canada. Is Canada different? Or is Canada AS FOREIGN as Nigeria (where Houston's Olajuwon came from) or West Germany (where Indiana's Uwe Blab comes from)?

I don't think Billy Packer stopped to think that the NCAA championships are not OURS; they are UNIVERSITY championships. Our universities have always had foreign students, foreign professors, and foreign lecturers and artists-in-residence. Most of our major universities have exchange programs with foreign universities. Thousands of our students are enrolled in "Junior Year Abroad" programs.

Nearly any educator—if not common sense—will tell you that students, universities and countries have benefitted from the open door policies which universities throughout the world have maintained. And to try to interfere with this policy because of some concern that there may be a recruiting abuse somewhere is indeed what Coach Brown called it, "ludicrous."

Nevertheless, Billy claims "Everyone I talk to agrees with me on this, except about four coaches who are recruiting foreign players."

Who has Billy been talking to?



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ACC INSIDE STUFF

Dick DeVenio

I have had personal experience in helping bring two foreign players to this country—Randy Wiel, who got a basketball scholarship to the University of North Carolina in '76 (and graduated in four years) and Tico Cooper, a 6'8" talent who is presently in Junior College in Pittsburgh. It was wonderful to be in a foreign land, to meet a couple of special and talented individuals like these, and to be able to offer them a chance they did not have—through basketball—to get an education and to make the most of their athletic and human potential. Both of them have enriched my life and the lives of many other Americans by their coming here, by their appreciation of our country, and by their example of hard work and diligence.

It is difficult for me to understand how someone usually as thoughtful and intelligent as Billy Packer could have so narrow a view. But since he said everyone he has talked to agreed with him, I feel obliged to give another view.

College basketball is not OUR basketball, it is UNIVERSITY basketball. And our universities, thankfully, are not so narrow as to restrict who can attend or what extra-curricular activities they are free to participate in.

I am especially looking forward to the great rematch (from the NCAA playoffs last year) of Washington and Duke on January 12. The fact that a Canadian and two West Germans (Detlef Schrempf and Christian Welp) will be in the line-ups won't bother me at all. Will they bother you?

THE CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN NORTH CAROLINA

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JOHN HENRY MOSS
MAYOR

Dear Citizens of Kings Mountain:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Time awakens our remembrances of friends and the good things that the year has brought - the kindness of strangers, the good deeds someone did for us, the times we helped someone for no special reason. This is the true meaning of Christmas - love - the kind Jesus meant when he told us, "Love your neighbor as you do yourself."

At Christmas we see many demonstrations of that true spirit, when we present gifts to loved ones and others. The world would be a great place if we could keep that same attitude throughout the year.

Let us, therefore, resolved anew with great sincerity to look beyond the festivities and strive to keep alive the spirit of generosity and kindness that marks the Christmas season, and to each of you, I wish

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

AND

THE VERY BEST OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR.

Very truly yours,

John Henry Moss
Mayor

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