



## Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

### Football Practice Begins, Radford Leaving Wildcats

Short cuts from the world of sports:

It may not be football weather, but area prep football teams will begin pre-season practice Saturday morning.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, under veteran coach Deny Hicks, took this week off after going through a two-week mini-camp at John Gamble Stadium. Summer practice, without the use of equipment, is now permitted under NCHSAA rules.

Hicks expects a turnout in the thirties as the Mountaineers try to qualify for the State 3-A playoffs for the third straight year. KM was 11-2 and 9-3 the past two seasons. The Mountaineers open their season August 28 at home against Bessemer City.

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Mike Stewart, who coached last year at Kinston, will take over as head coach at Crest High this year. He replaces John Taylor, who resigned recently after several successful seasons with the Chargers. Taylor coached Crest to Southwestern 3-A Conference titles four years in a row before the Chargers were moved to the 4-A ranks two years ago.

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Cherryville's Clay Alexander was recently named head baseball coach at North Gaston High in Dallas. The Wildcats won the State 3-A championship last spring under Coach Terry Radford, who will become the head coach at Hunter Huss in Gastonia. Alexander will have six of the members of the 1987 North Gaston championship team back next spring.

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No matter who wins this week's Area Four legion baseball championship series between Bessemer City and Stanley, Kings Mountain can lay claim to a share of the title. The Stanley team, which is the hottest thing going right now except for the near 100-degree heat, is coached by KM native Darrell Van Dyke. The Bessemer City team, even though it carries the name of BC Post 243, is sponsored by Plonk Tire of Kings Mountain. Kings Mountain players on the team include Rusty Bumgardner, Dale Greene, Todd Fleming, Del Postell and Larry Yarborough. The team's business manager is Bud Bumgardner of Kings Mountain.

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## BC Juniors Nip Monroe

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BC plate attack with two hits each.

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Monroe evened the series again Thursday night in Monroe with an 11-8 victory scored on Todd Godfrey's three-run homer with two out in the bottom of the ninth.

Monroe held an 8-2 lead going into seventh inning. BC scored three in the seventh and added three more in the top of the ninth to tie it.

BC had grabbed a 2-0 lead on the first two pitches of the game. Yarborough doubled to lead off the game and then Holland smashed a home run.

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Long-ball hitting and hot tempers highlighted Friday's action in BC when in almost 100-degree weather Bessemer scored a 10-7 victory to regain the lead at three games to two.

Monroe grabbed a 2-0 lead in the top of the first but BC scored three in the bottom of the inning for a 3-2 lead. Yarborough led off with a triple off the centerfield fence. Holland walked and both scored on a triple to left-center by Cox. Cox scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch.

Cox added his second triple as BC scored three more runs in the second, and Mantooh clubbed a three-run homer in the third to give Bessemer a 9-3 lead.

Monroe cut the margin to 9-6 in the fourth as Mark Gaddy tripled and Thomas Hamilton singled in two.

Bessemer City added its final run in the seventh when Postell scored on a wild pitch. Pitcher Gaddy, covering home on the throw from cat-



LEADOFF TRIPLE - Kings Mountain's Larry Yarborough rounds first base on a triple to lead off the bottom of the first inning in Friday's Bessemer City-Monroe American Legion game in BC. Bessemer City won this game 10-6 and won the semi-finals Area Four series, four games to three.

cher Norman Black, felt like he had tagged Postell out and protested the call. He was ejected by home plate umpire Jerry Adams. When Monroe Coach John Hinkle argued against Gaddy's ejection, he was also tossed out of the game by Adams, and the pair watched the remainder of the contest from outside the fence.

Bo Starnes led off the Monroe ninth with a homer to cut the difference to 10-7. BC

Coach Mike Mahaffey met with Thornburg on the mound and decided to leave the North Gaston ace in. He gave up a single to Patrick Williams and then fanned Godfrey. Jeff Presson singled to right-center but was thrown out by Postell when he tried to take second base. Thornburg then fanned McNeely to end the game.

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Monroe evened the series

again at 3-all Saturday with a 12-5 victory in Monroe.

Holland's two-run homer in the first gave BC a 2-0 lead but Monroe battled back to take a 6-2 lead after five innings.

Cox's leadoff homer in the eighth cut the difference to 6-3. After three consecutive walks loaded the bases, KM's Dale Greene reached on an error to cut the score to 6-4, and Adams scored on a passed ball to make it 6-5. However, Monroe scored six runs in the top of the eighth to put the victory on ice.

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Bumgardner's grand-slam homer in the sixth inning was the big blow as BC closed out the series Sunday night. The home team was leading by only 8-6 at the time. BC blew the game open with eight more in the seventh.

Bumgardner also had a solo homer in the second inning.

Monroe led 4-2 in the bottom of the third but BC tied it on back-to-back walks with the bases loaded. Cox then delivered a bases-clearing triple which gave BC the lead for good.

Bruce Capps, the second of three BC pitchers, picked up the win. Eric Sanders hurled the final four innings, giving up only two hits and fanning nine.

### League To Form

Bill Parker is organizing a fall softball league for the Kings Mountain area.

There will be competition in two divisions (industrial and open) and games will be played at Deal Street Park.

For more information, call Parker at 739-7330 or 739-1554.

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