



BASEBALL OFFICIALS MEET IN KM - National Dixie Youth Baseball League officials were in Kings Mountain Saturday to discuss the possibilities of KM hosting the 1990 or 1991 Dixie Youth World Series. Left to right are Roy Pearson of the KM Recreation Committee, National DY President Matt Goyak, KM Recreation Committee chairwoman Norma Bridges, and state DYL officials Cary Wrenn, Charles Lennon and David Jackson.

KM Considering Hosting Series

Kings Mountain city officials, recreation leaders and other interested persons met Saturday afternoon with state and national Dixie Youth baseball officials to discuss the possibilities of hosting the national Dixie Youth World Series here in 1990 or 1991.

Matt Goyak, national president, was at the Holiday Inn along with state officials David Johnson, Carey Wrenn and Charles Lennon. They were invited here by Roy Pearson, former city recreation director,



Sports Talk

GARY STEWART

on behalf of the Kings Mountain Recreation Committee which is chaired by councilwoman Norma Bridges.

Pearson, who was active in youth baseball here for many years as recreation director and for years before that on a volunteer basis, said he felt hosting a national tournament would be "a good thing for the city" and he was more than happy to arrange the meeting with DYL officials after being asked by other members of the committee.

Goyak outlined some playing field, lodging and other requirements that would be necessary and urged those present to name a committee of "three or four" persons to attend this year's World Series in Montgomery, Ala., and get a first-hand look at what hosting the event would involve.

The endeavor would be costly, he explained, but if 25 to 50 people would make a commitment to work for about 18 months it would bring great profits to Kings Mountain in terms of business for merchants, the making of new friends for ballplayers and parents, and greatly improved Dixie Youth playing facilities for the local leagues.

"It's a pretty sizeable project to undertake," Goyak said, "and it takes a lot of time to get ready. But it can have a good economic impact and the quality of play is unmatched anywhere."

Goyak has been national president of the DYL organization since its inception 33 years ago. He said during that time only one town has lost money on a World Series. "And that was because one man and woman tried to run the whole show," he said.

Hosting the World Series usually costs a town around \$25,000 to \$33,000, he said, but some tournaments have brought in over \$50,000.

The tournament usually runs for nine days and includes an opening ceremony on Sunday night with play beginning on Monday. Teams from 12 states—as well as the host team—compete in the double-elimination event.

Dixie Youth, Goyak noted, is second only to Little League in the number of participants, and it's growing every year. It uses its profits from league franchise fees, etc., to sponsor annual scholarships for deserving high school seniors. One of Dixie Youth's most noted former participants, Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls, played in the 1975 Dixie Youth State Tournament in Kings Mountain.

Hosting the World Series would require Kings Mountain to do extensive work on its fields, but Goyak said those improvements are always recouped through gate receipts, concessions sales and sales of souvenirs and programs. All of that money goes to the local community, he said.

Improvements Kings Mountain must make to fields if officials decide to try to land the World Series include:

*Seeding infields. Dixie Youth requires a pressbox large enough to accommodate the public address announcer, officer scorer scorers, and visiting media.

*Installing an electric scoreboard and improving lighting.

*Adequate restroom facilities, parking, and at least 2,500 seats at each field.

"Of course, all of that benefits your local program, not only at the time of the World Series but in the future," he said. "The only thing we (Dixie Youth) want out of it is advertising. We like the media coverage. All the money you make goes to you."

If Kings Mountain decides it wants to pursue the possibility of hosting the World Series, Goyak said it would be necessary to make their intentions known to the National Board early next year to be considered for the 1990 tournament. He said at that time someone from Dixie Youth would come here and inspect the

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PAUL CAMERON WBTV Sports Director

Charlotte Hornets new coach Dick Harter is quite a salesman—and quite the Dapper Dan. To get a lock on the job, he called-in some favors and twisted his buddies' arms—Bob Staak at Wake Forest and former UNC player Donnie Walsh gave him solid recommendations.

Next he met George Shinn face-to-face. Shinn was immediately impressed with the way Harter was dressed. "Neat and trim. First appearances are important," says Shinn. Harter must have known that Shinn has a dress code for all his office workers—no slacks on women, no shorts on men, no smoking anywhere.

One more compliment to Harter's appearance is his 31-year old wife. A former college cheerleader, Mari is extremely attractive. To which Shinn quipped, "If 57-year old Dick Harter can get her to marry him...he can get Michael Jordan for free."

Harter will continue his "sales-job" on potential ticket buyers as his contract calls for a busy schedule on the luncheon-speaking tour.

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