

SPORTS

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Kings Mountain Teams In State Tourney Action

KM Pre-Majors Are Undefeated At Bessemer City

Kings Mountain Pre-Majors are in the driver's seat and hoping the trip takes them to Texarkana, Texas.

The KM nine has won three straight games in the State Pre-Majors Baseball Tournament being played at the Bessemer City High School field and is the only unbeaten team remaining in the double-elimination event which concludes Thursday.

Kings Mountain whipped Dallas 11-1 Tuesday night behind the no-hit pitching of Ken Crook and will play Old Providence of Charlotte in an 8 p.m. semi-finals contest tonight. If Kings Mountain wins, it will play the winner of the Dallas-North Mecklenburg game Thursday at 5 p.m. for the championship and the right to represent North Carolina in the Pre-Majors World Series beginning August 5 in Texas.

If Kings Mountain loses tonight, that would leave three teams in the tournament with one loss apiece. In that case, the three teams would flip a coin to see which one draws a bye into the championship game Thursday at 8 p.m. The other two teams would play at 6 p.m.

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Photo by Gary Stewart

THE BIG BLAST — Kings Mountain's Paul Brannon connects for a grand slam homerun to spark Tuesday night's 11-1 victory over Dallas in Pre-Majors Baseball Tournament at Bessemer City. Kings Mountain will be in the championship round Thursday beginning at 5 p.m.

District Champs In Dallas Event Opening Saturday

Kings Mountain scored two unearned runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to edge Grover 4-3 for the District 7 Dixie Boys 13-14 year old tournament title Thursday night at Grover's Brice Harry Memorial Park.

The victory sends the Kings Mountain team to the state tournament in Dallas beginning Saturday. Kings Mountain will face Brunswick County in a 5 p.m. opening round contest. The double-elimination tournament continues into next week.

Grover, which trailed 2-1 in the championship game Wednesday when action was suspended in the sixth inning because of rain, came back with a run in the sixth Thursday to tie the game and force an extra inning. Grover grabbed a 3-2 lead in the top of the eighth but had a potential big inning halted on a double play.

In the bottom of the eighth, Jeff Rogers struck out but reached first base when the third strike got away from the catcher. He stole second and tied the game at 3-3 when Raymond Couch's ground ball which could

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BEGINNING OF RALLY - Kings Mountain's Jeff Rogers hustles to first base after a third strike got past the Grover catcher in Thursday's championship game of district Dixie Boys 13-14 baseball tournament at Grover. KM scored two runs in the eighth to win 4-3.



Sports Talk

GARY STEWART

The following, which was lifted from Lyn Sullivan's column in The Mooresville Tribune, may explain why the metric system was rejected in this country. Consider what it would do to some of our popular sayings:

- Peter Piper picked 8.81 liters of pickled peppers.
- It hit me like 907 kilograms of bricks.
- A miss is as good as 1.609 kilometers.
- Beat him within 2.54 centimeters of his life.
- All wool and 91.4 centimeters wide.
- Give a woman 2.54 centimeters and she'll take 1.609 kilometers.

The comeback of the year award in area legion baseball must go to the Stanley Juniors. Coached by KM native and current East Gaston High coach Darrell Van Dyke, the Stanley nine finished 8-8 and in fifth place in the regular season Area IV Eastern Division race. But they won eight of nine division playoff games to win the division and the right to meet Western champ Burke County for the Area IV title and a berth in the state playoffs. They swept a very strong Pineville team in the East championship series.

Derrike Cope, who drives for Kings Mountain's Jim Testa, won his first major NASCAR race last Sunday, winning the Winston 200 in Portland, Ore. He beat Hershel McGriff of Green Valley, Ariz., by 3.47 seconds for his first win since 1985.

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RUNNER-UP — Junior Wilson makes a shot clip shot to the green on the ninth hole at Kings Mountain Country Club in the final round of the annual Member-Guest Golf Tournament Sunday. Wilson and his partner, Mitch Howze, finished second to Darrell Austin Jr. and Rudy Rudisill.

Austin, Rudisill Winners Of Member-Guest Event

Darrell Austin Jr. and Rudy Rudisill came from two shots down on the final nine holes to win the 17th annual Member-Guest Golf Tournament Sunday at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Austin and Rudisill's 64-66-130 score was two shots better than Mitch Howze and Junior Wilson, who had a 64-68-132. Howze and Wilson led the eventual winners by two when the foursome made the turn Sunday afternoon.

Hayne Neisler and Brady Goforth finished third with a 67-66-133. Mickey Powers and Don Teague and John Gamble and Craig Huggins tied for fourth place, each team shooting a 67-70-137.

Buck McGinnis and Jack Huss won the championship B flight in a playoff over Stoney Jackson and Jay Powell. McGinnis and Huss shot a 69-72-141 and Jackson and Powell fired a 68-73-141. Jackson had been a member of the winning team in the championship flight for three of the past four years. Philip Russ and Richard Gold finished third with a 71-71-142.

Ragan Harper and Mal Brutko shot a 74-67-141 to win the first flight. Gerald Putnam and Russell Putnam were second

with a 72-71-143 and Bill Sellers and Rodney Sellers were third with a 72-73-145.

Mike McDaniel and Jimmy Jolly shot a 76-71-147 to win second flight honors. Jerry Broadwell and John Plonk were second with a 76-73-149 and Ray Barrett and Doyle Smith were third with a 75-76-151.

John Goforth and Joe Montgomery came from behind to win the third flight with a score of 79-72-151. Tom Tate Jr. and Rick Henderson were second with a 77-74-151 and Dennis Hicks and Dennis Martin were third with an 82-70-152. Martin scored a hole-in-one Saturday, using a nine iron to ace the par three, fifth hole.

David Brinkley and Howard Smit won the fourth flight with 80-77-157. Charlie Burns and Ed Burns were second with an

81-80-161 and Bob Suber and Tommy Goforth were third with an 82-81-163.

John Harry and Jerry Simmons won the fifth flight with an 85-79-164. George Bowen and Chuck Austin were second with an 83-82-165 and Laurin Whisnant and Lee Nesome were third with an 86-79-165.

Lew Dellinger and Bryant Wells won the sixth flight with an 89-84-173, followed by Bob Wilson and Frank Van Story with a 95-87-182, and Joe Strzykalski and Terry Smith with a 91-92-183.

Special prizes were donated for closest to the hole winners by Dellinger's Jewel Shop, First Union Bank, First Citizens Bank, Home Federal Savings and Loan, Warlick and Hamrick, Greene Newspapers, Harper's Pharmacy and Budweiser Beer.



Photo by Gary Stewart

GOLF CHAMPION - Rudy Rudisill of Gastonia watches his approach shot to the sixth green in Sunday's final round of the annual Member-Guest Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club. Rudisill and his partner, Darrell Austin Jr. of Kings Mountain, won the event by two shots.

Skeet Shooting Family Affair For Boyds

By TODD GOSSETT
Staff Reporter

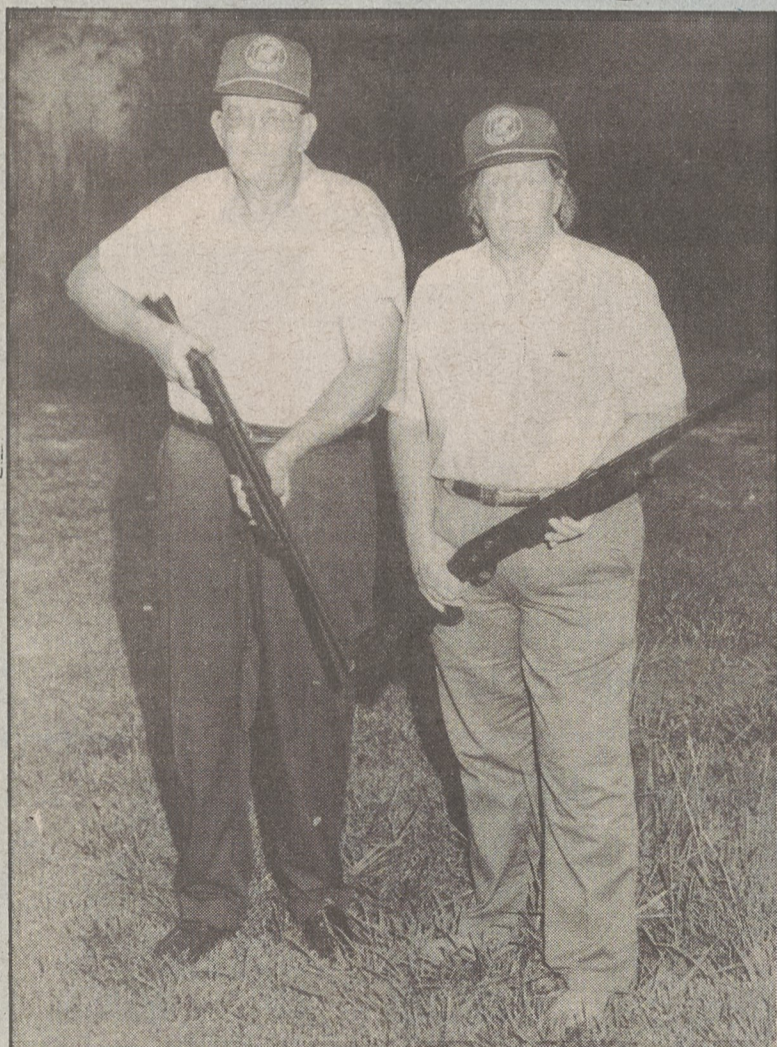


Photo by Todd Gossett

SKEET SHOOTERS — Bob Boyd, left, and his wife, Pat, got hooked on skeet shooting years ago and now operate the skeet shooting range at Rankin Lake in Gastonia. Bob competes in state and area tournaments each year and both Boyds pass on their expertise to other shooters.

Bob and Pat Boyd of Kings Mountain are avid skeet shooters. They both have been shooting since the early 1960s and now operate the Gastonia Police Skeet and Trap range near Rankin Lake.

Bob first got into the sport about 1960. "I just liked it. I was raised on a farm and always did piddle with guns," he said.

Pat soon became interested in the sport after watching her husband shoot. Around 1962, she began to shoot at the Mecklenburg Wildlife Club in Charlotte under the instruction of a Remington Arms Representative.

"I was scared to death of guns -- that's what I was taught," she said. "We should teach children to respect guns."

The Boyds have shot at various clubs in the area over the years and have operated the Gastonia Club for the past six years. The cost to shoot a round of 25 targets is \$2.50 and the Boyds provide instruction at no cost.

"We teach a person how to hold a gun, and how to be safe with a gun," Pat said. They also teach such things as how to load the gun, the proper aiming point for each target, the proper stance, and skeet shooting fundamentals. And they are very happy to have people who have never shot before come learn at their range.

"We love the sport and we try to get other people shooting," Pat said. "We like to get kids who want to shoot over here where we can help them."

Pat said she would never let a child have a BB gun. "I'd get him a shotgun and teach him how to use it right," she said.

A skeet shooting range consists of two "houses" that the clay targets or "pigeons" are slung out of at speeds of 55 - 60 mph. The shooters progress from left to right, standing at seven different stations to shoot. The shooter says, "pull", and a target comes out of one of the houses and he tries to shoot it. At certain stations, two targets come out of the houses simultaneously.

In competition, the participants shoot four rounds and get a score based on how many of the hundred targets they hit. Classifications at competitions are based on a "handicap" and the size shotgun used.

Bob competes at about three tournaments each year, he said. He will compete at the North Carolina State Tournament in September. Pat has competed once, but now shoots just for fun.

The Boyds agree that the fellowship of the sport is what keeps them coming back. "You can see it's a lot of fun -- all the people we meet out here. It's very nice," Pat said.

They have no thoughts of ever quitting the sport. They did quit for about five years one time, but came back -- they couldn't stay away any longer, Bob said.

Pat issued a warning to potential skeet shooters: "I'm warning you -- it's addictive, once you start you can't quit."