

Host South Point Friday Night

Mounties 5-0 In Conference

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers got another strong pitching performance from senior Stuart Spires and played errorless defense for the third straight game to defeat Chase 10-1 in Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball action Tuesday afternoon.

The victory, KM's fifth straight in the conference, sets up a battle of the unbeaten between the Mountaineers and South Point Friday night at Lancaster Field. The Red Raiders, also 5-0 in the conference, are 11-0 overall. Kings Mountain ace Todd McDaniel, 4-0, will probably face either Jason

Sutton or Shane Lay of the Raiders. Friday's game is listed on the schedule to be played in Belmont, however, it has been switched to Kings Mountain and the game listed on the schedule for Tues., May 9 will be played in Belmont. Twelve hundred hot dogs will be given away at the concession stand on a first come, first served basis.

"We hope everyone will come out and pack the place," said Coach Bruce Clark of the Mountaineers. "South Point has a fine ballteam and so do we. This should be a great game and we need all the

support we can get."

Spires scattered four hits over the first six innings Tuesday. Lefthander Keith Allen hurled the final inning.

Kings Mountain scored two runs in the first inning, then broke the game open with eight runs in the third. Ken Crook slammed a three-run homer, Toby Deaton doubled in two runs and Chris Henson drove in one with a single.

"We're getting great pitching and the defense is coming around," noted Coach Bruce Clark. "The most we've allowed in the last four games has been six hits. We have

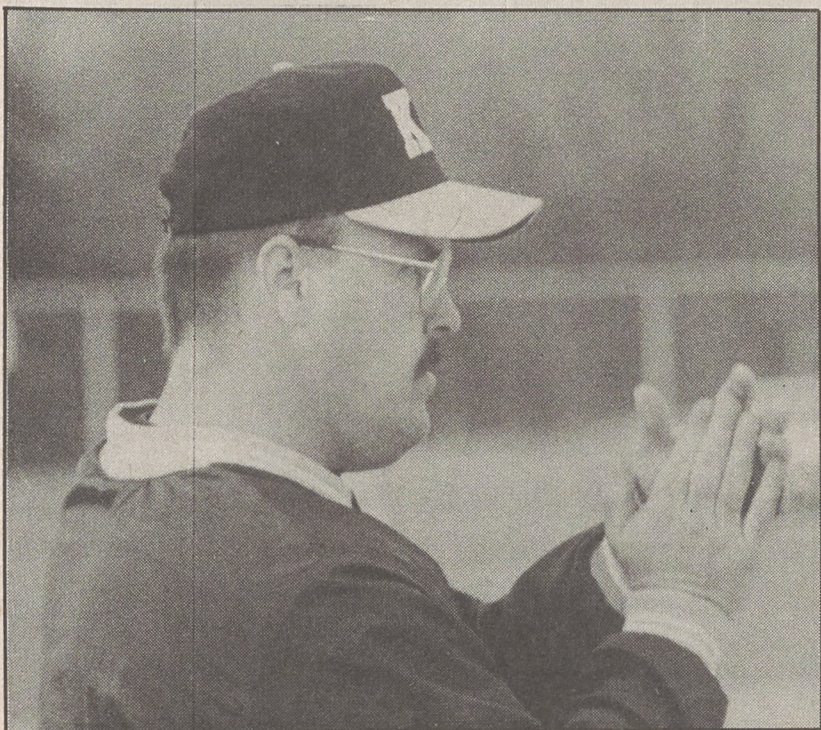
to give credit to the pitching and to the defense for helping the pitching. We're real pleased with the way we've been playing defense lately."

The Mountaineers travel to Burns Tuesday afternoon and return home next Friday against R-S Central.

THE LINESCORE

By innings: R-H-E
KM 208 000 0 10-12-0
CH 000 100 0 1-4-4

Spires, Allen (7) and Crook, Morris (5); Smith, Gaffney (3), Allen (5) and Dover.



BRUCE CLARK
Mounties Host Raiders Friday

Plonk's Homer Sparks
KM Over North Gaston

Chad Plonk's two-run homer in the bottom of the first inning sparked Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 4-1 victory over North Gaston's Wildcats in Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball action Friday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

The two teams and a small crowd braved 35-degree weather on "Hot Dog Night." The Mountaineers improved their record to 4-0 in the SWC while North Gaston dropped to 2-1.

Todd McDaniel went the distance on the mound to pick up his fourth straight victory. He scattered six hits, same as North Gaston loser E.L. Clark.

The Mountaineers held off a minor rally by the Wildcats in the top of the first. With two outs in the bottom of the inning, Paul Brannon lined a hard single over the second baseman's head. Plonk hit a high fly ball which was dropped in foul territory by North Gaston leftfielder Jody Baker. On the next pitch, he slammed a homer over the rightfield fence to give the Mounties a 2-0 lead.

North Gaston's only run came in the fourth and cut the margin to 2-1. The Wildcats loaded the bases with one away on a single by Jason White, double by Ivan Brooks and a hit batsman. David Duncan hit into a force play, producing a run, and then Chad Brown flied out to center to end the inning.

Kings Mountain added its final two runs in the fifth on a run-scoring single by Toby Deaton and RBI double by Chris Henson.

THE LINESCORE

By innings: R H E
NG 000 100 0 1-6-4
KM 200 020 x 4-6-1

Clark, Brown (6) and Baldwin; McDaniel and Crook.

Spires,
Mounties
Shutout
Shelby

Stuart Spires hurled a two-hitter and Chad Plonk slammed a two-run homer in the third inning as Kings Mountain's Mountaineers blanked Shelby 5-0 in Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball action Wednesday night at Shelby.

Spires' low fastball and curve completely shutdown the Shelby offense. He walked only two batters and struck out seven in turning in his first route-going performance.

"Anytime you beat Shelby it feels real good," said Coach Bruce Clark. "Spires pitched the best game of his career and the team backed him with good hitting and defense. I was real proud of all of them."

Dale Greene finished with 3-for-4 to lead an 11-hit KM plate attack. Plonk and Chris Henson added 2-for-4 each.

THE LINESCORE

By innings: R H E
KM 004 010 0 5-11-0
SH 000 000 0 0-2-2

Spires and Crook; Brown, Blanton (6) and Hamrick.



Photo by Gary Stewart

TALK FOOTBALL - UNC football coach Mack Brown, left, talks football with former KMHS coach Bill Bates at Monday's Sports Hall of Fame banquet at the Community Center. Brown was guest speaker for the second annual event and Bates inducted his 1964 Mountaineers and star quarterback Pat Murphy.

Mack Brown Sees Good
Times Ahead For Carolina

If he couldn't laugh about it, Mack Brown would probably go crazy after the season his UNC Tar Heels had on the gridiron last fall.

He spoke at Monday night's second annual Chamber of Commerce Sports Hall of Fame banquet at the community center, and was a big hit with those in attendance.

He said he's been reminded quite often that last year's 1-10 record was the worst in Carolina football history.

"Needless to say, we've been busy trying to recruit some players," he told the crowd of about 350 who witnessed the induction of Pat Murphy, Marge Crisp, Jim Dickey and the championship 1964 KMHS football team into the Hall.

"Our recruiting has gone pretty well," he noted. "I'd like to thank Bill Grissom for keeping Clemson out of North Carolina this year. We need to keep those boys at home because they look real pretty in blue."

Grissom, as any local sports fan knows, is a big Clemson Tiger fan and isn't shy when it comes to recommending the good area players to Clemson Coach Danny Ford. You can see Grissom's van going down I-85 early each Saturday morning the Tigers are playing at home.

Recruiting all over North Carolina, and especially in this area, is a big goal of the new UNC coaching staff which includes former KMHS football coach Dan Brooks.

"Clint Gwaltney of Shelby is our placekicker and does a real good job for us," said Brown. "We need more good players from this area and we're going to work more to get some from this area."

The Tar Heels will have only 81 scholarship players next fall, and 56 of them will be freshmen and sophomores. Of their recruits, the Tar Heels signed 10 from

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KM Girls
Unbeaten
In League

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team battled from behind in the bottom of the seventh inning to edge South Point and R-S Central in their first two Southwestern 3-A Conference games last week.

Tony Leigh's team scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to edge previously unbeaten South Point 8-7, and scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to nip R-S Central 7-6.

The KM ladies were scheduled to travel to Tryon Park to face Bessemer City this afternoon. They host Chase Thursday at 4 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Pinch-hitter Angie Whitaker slammed a two-run triple to tie the score against South Point. South Point issued two intentional walks to load the bases and set up a force situation, but Ashley Champion ripped a single to drive in the winning run.

Champion, Sandra Grant and Lisa Buckner had two hits each to lead the KM plate attack.

Carmen Smith's two-out single tied the game with R-S Central, and then Robin Watterson singled in the winning run as the KM ladies ran their overall record to 7-1. Watterson, Alice Owens and Tandra Leftwich had two hits each to lead the KM attack.

In a doubleheader last Saturday, the KM ladies defeated Lincolnton 24-2 and East Lincoln 9-7. Paula Morris went 4-for-4 with five runs batted in, Velma Degree was 4-for-5 with four RBI and Angela Whitaker was 3-for-3 with six runs batted in against Lincolnton. Morris, Champion, Alice Owens and Buckner had two hits each against East Lincoln.



Photo by Gary Stewart

SIGNS WITH CAMPBELL - Kings Mountain High senior Brad Wilson, seated, signs a scholarship to play golf and study at Campbell College in Buies Creek. Looking on as Brad signed on the first official signing date this morning are, left to right, KMHS Principal Jackie Lavender, Brad's mother, Mary Wilson, his father, Ronnie Wilson, and his high school coach, Denny Hicks.

KM's Brad Wilson Signs
Golf Grant With Campbell

Kings Mountain High senior Brad Wilson this morning signed a scholarship to attend Campbell College and participate on its golf team.

Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Wilson, has been the Southwestern 3-A Conference's Player of the Year the last two seasons and expects to be in the running for the award again this year. The honor goes each year to the individual who wins the conference golf tournament.

Wilson is the first KMHS athlete to earn a college golf scholarship. He has played a key role in the Mountaineers winning the past two SWC titles, and Coach Denny Hicks' team is hoping to become the first KMHS golf team to go undefeated for three years in a row.

"Brad had two assets that made him extremely attractive to several schools," said Coach Hicks. "Number one was his academics. He excels in all of his classes and many academically oriented colleges were aware of his high school grades.

"The second thing that most everybody seemed to be impressed with was his work attitude on the golf course," Hicks added. "That type of attitude also carries over into the classroom."

Wilson has carried the best

stroke average for the Mountaineers for the past two years, quite an accomplishment considering the calibre of players Coach Hicks has had in his program. Most of the players over the past three years have scored in the low to mid 70's.

"The good thing about Brad is that, if you ask him to go out and work on a certain phase of his game, you don't have to worry about him cutting short," Hicks said. "If you ask him to hit 50 sand shots, he may hit 51 but you don't have to worry about him hitting 49. He just has a great work ethic. We're tickled to death for him. Very few high school athletes get to sign a golf scholarship. They're so rare. But we feel like Brad's going to represent himself and Kings Mountain very well."

Campbell has a strong program and consistently places high in some of the top collegiate tournaments in the nation. "They have their own golf course and travel all over the country playing in some of the most prestigious tournaments in the country," said Hicks. "Their program is on a little higher level of expectation than some of the others, and I think that was a leading factor in Brad's decision to go there."

Wilson said he chose Campbell

because he wanted to go to a smaller school which has a good golf program.

"It's a Division One school so I'll still be competing against major colleges," he said. "I was really impressed with their course and Coach Wendell Carr, who is also the school's athletic director."

Wilson is a self-taught golfer who has been playing for six years. "I didn't play golf before we moved here," he noted. "But when we located at Kings Mountain Country Club, my brother, Robbie, and I just started playing."

The Wilson brothers play every day, weather permitting. Brad said he's only taken one private lesson and has picked up most of his golf tips from his coaches, father and other golfers at the country club.

"I appreciate the help and support they've all given me," he said.

Wilson, who plans to study business at Campbell, is active in a number of activities at the high school and at First Baptist Church. At KMHS, he's a member of the French Club, Beta Club, National Honor Society and Lettermen's Club, and ranks in the top 10 percent of his senior class.