

State

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SATURDAY GAME

Kings Mountain scored six runs in the first inning and went on to defeat the host Bessemer City nine 15-8 in an opening round game Saturday night.

Kevin Melton hurled the first three innings, Brian LeFevers pitched two innings and Duane Patterson hurled the final frame for the KM all-stars.

Sidney Bridges and Travis Queen had back-to-back singles to lead off the big first inning and Kevin Melton followed with an RBI double. Patterson and Chris Hutchins later produced runs with singles.

Queen singled and moved all the way to third on a throwing error, and then scored on a passed ball as KM moved ahead 7-0 in the second inning.

Bessemer City scored four runs in the bottom of the third to cut the margin to 7-4 before LeFevers came on to put out the fire with the bases loaded.

Kings Mountain then scored three runs in the fourth for a 10-4 lead. Bridges led off with a walk,

Queen singled and Melton had an RBI double to make it 8-4. Hopper was intentionally walked to load the bases and LeFevers followed with a single to make it 10-4.

Matt Taylor's single, a KM error and Michael Leonhardt's home run sparked a three-run BC rally in the bottom of the fourth, cutting the margin to 10-7, but Chris Hutchins and Michael Cobb slammed back-to-back homers over the left-centerfield fence in the top of the fifth to break the game open for Kings Mountain.

Cobb added another solo homer in the sixth inning. Queen led the 15-hit KM plate attack with three hits. Melton, Cobb, LeFevers and Hutchins had two each and Bridge, Patterson and Todd Martin one each.

SUNDAY GAME

Kings Mountain again struck for six runs in the first inning and went on to defeat Kannapolis 13-1 in Sunday afternoon's second round.

Sharee Hopper pitched the first five innings and got the win. Sidney Bridges hurled the final inning.

Bridges reached on an error to begin the six-run first inning rally.

Queen, Melton and Patterson had run-scoring singles during the inning, and KM also took advantage of a pair of walks and a Kannapolis error.

Hopper homered in the fourth inning.

Bridges and Hopper had two hits each to lead the KM offense. Queen, Melton, Patterson, Hutchins, Timmy Harrelson and Chris Carrigan added one hit each.

MONDAY GAME

Leland scored five runs in the fifth inning to hand the KM all-stars their first loss Monday night, 11-10.

Kings Mountain led 9-6 going into the fifth. The KM team was able to score once in the bottom of the fifth but couldn't come through with the tying run in the last inning.

Casey McBride's single and Seneca Waddell's double were Leland's only hits in the fifth but the youngsters from the east took advantage of two KM errors, a walk and two hit batsmen.

Leland had grabbed a 3-0 lead in the top of the first on two walks, doubles by James Ellis and Waddell and a single by Leon Weston.

Kings Mountain came back with four runs in the bottom of the inning to take the lead. Sidney Bridges led off with a double and Kevin Melton and Sharee Hopper walked to load the bases. Duane Patterson reached on a fielder's choice to score one run, another scored when Michael Cobb was hit by a pitch, and two more came home on Chris Carrigan's single.

Leland regained the lead with a pair in the second which made it 5-4. McBride reached on an error, Adam Griffin singled and both scored later on Waddell's single.

Kings Mountain scored five in the bottom of the second to grab a 9-5 lead which held up until the decisive fifth. Bridges, Travis Queen, Melton, Hopper and Cobb all singled during the rally and KM also took advantage of two bases on balls.

The KM lads weren't able to get another man on base until the fifth, when Queen reached base on an error and scored on Melton's double.

Cobb drew a base on balls with one out in the bottom of the sixth but his teammates couldn't move him around.

Kings Mountain finished with eight hits, with Bridges and Melton getting two each and Queen, Hopper, Cobb and Carrigan adding one apiece.



OUT AT SECOND BASE - Kings Mountain's Michael Cobb helped spark a six-run first inning rally with an RBI double, but the KM catcher was called out as he over-ran second base in this play against Bessemer City in the first round of the State Dixie Youth baseball tournament. Cobb later clubbed a pair of homers as KM hammered the BC nine 15-8.



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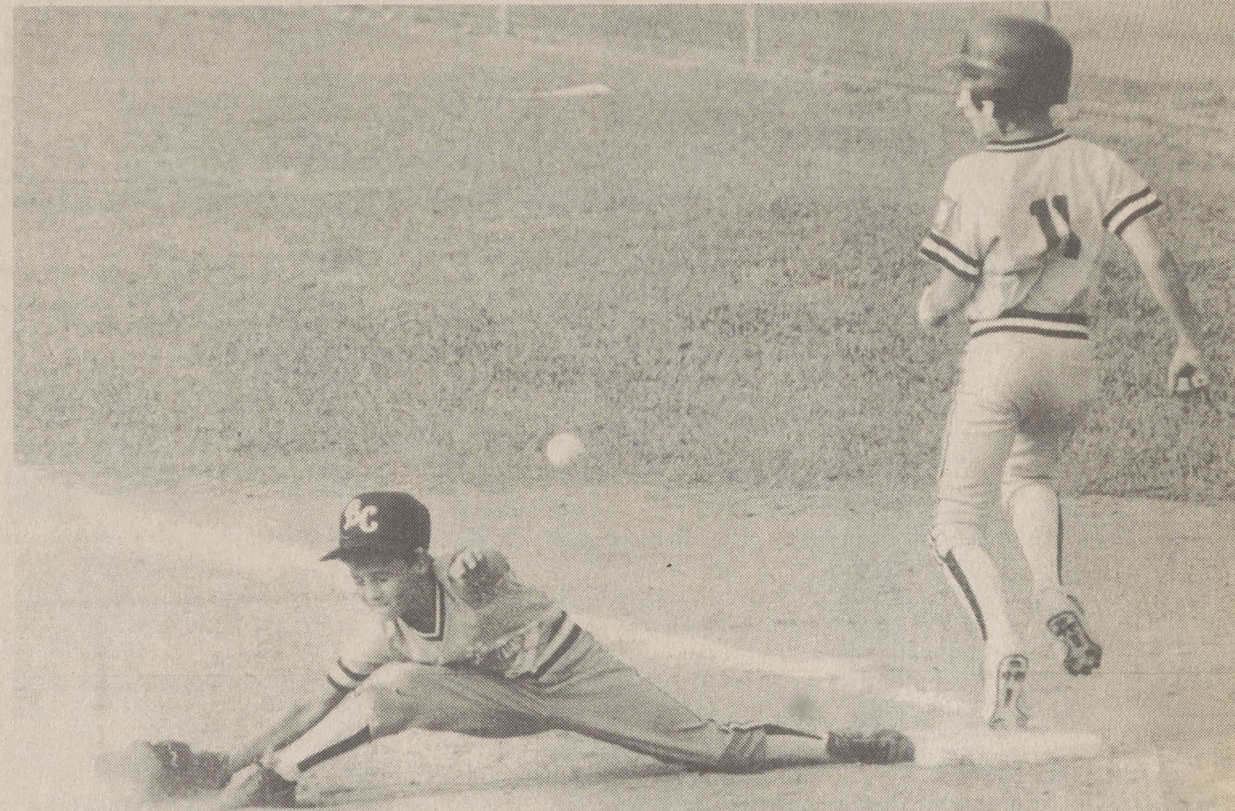
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JONES INTERCABLE



SAFE ON INFIELD HIT - Kings Mountain's Travis Queen is safe at first base on an infield hit in Saturday's game with Bessemer City in the State Dixie Youth baseball tournament at BC. Queen moved on to third on a two-base throwing error and then scored on a wild pitch to help lead KM to a 15-8 victory.

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