



PAUL BRANNON

KM's Paul Brannon Drafted By Seattle Mariners

Kings Mountain slugger Paul Brannon is negotiating a contract with the Seattle Mariners after being chosen early in the fourth round of Monday's Major League baseball draft.

The all-time North Carolina home run king was the 79th player chosen and was the top pick among North Carolina high school players.

Mickey Henson, a pitcher from Belmont South Point who formerly lived in Kings Mountain, was chosen in the fourth round by the Texas Rangers and signed a contract late Tuesday afternoon.

Brannon, who was contacted during the recent high school season by 23 of the 26 major league teams, said if he signs he will be assigned to a Seattle farm team in Tempe, Ariz., or Bellingham, Wash.

Brannon earlier in the season signed a full scholarship with Wake Forest, which he said he will honor unless he receives a sizeable bonus from the Mariners.

Brannon is the first Kings Mountain baseball player to be drafted out of high school. Richard Gold, who played here in the sixties, was drafted by the Chicago

Cubs his senior year at Florida State, where he was an All-American second baseman.

Brannon said he was happy to be drafted in the fourth round and felt like he'd be taken by either Seattle or Pittsburgh. Minnesota, Baltimore and the Chicago Cubs were the only teams that did not scout Brannon.

Brannon clubbed a state record 41 home runs and 119 runs batted in during his three-year prep career. He hit a state record 20 homers last spring and added 16 this year to go with five he hit as a sophomore. He hit .488 his junior year and .536 this

year. He was walked 19 times, most of them intentionally. His 41 homers placed him seventh on the all-time national home run list.

He was All-Southwestern 3-A Conference last year and SWC Player of the Year this season. He was an All-State selection last season and is expected to be named to that team again this year and is among the leading contenders for State Player of the Year.

Brannon said he's been told that he'll play first, third or leftfield in college or the pros. He played first

base at Kings Mountain and was a junior year catcher this year.

"Making it was a big thing," he said. "I thought it was good."

Brannon's 4.7 seconds flat. He bases and home runs this year.

Brannon and Mary Brannon.

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086

KM WEATHER

(May 30-June 5)

Rain	1990	1989
Max. 1 day	trace	.97
Yr. to date	24.25	20.77
Min. temp.	56 (4)	65 (30)
Max. temp.	84 (4)	98 (1)
Avg. temp.	69.8	79.9



35°

VOL. 102 NO. 23

Thursday, May 31, 1990

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

Gilbert Runoff Winner

Less than 25% of Kings Mountain registered voters--1,012 at four precincts--went to the polls Tuesday and joined their Cleveland County neighbors in supporting Ralph Gilbert of Lawndale for the Democratic nomination for county commissioner and former mayor Harvey Gantt of Charlotte for the Democratic nomination to the U. S. Senate.

The voter turnout was light all over Cleveland County, as 26.2% of registered voters went to the polls. Election officials said that 7,265 people voted and 27,232 people are eligible.

At the four Kings Mountain precincts, 298 voters turned out at East precinct at the Community Center where 1,968 are registered; 423 voted at West precinct at the Army where 1,899 are registered. 128 voted at Grover where



VOTER TURNOUT LIGHT--Jenny and Junior Causby cast their ballots in the Grover precinct Tuesday in the Democratic runoff election.

762 are registered; and 163 voted at Bethware precinct where 1,141 are registered.

Gantt, who won 57% of the vote statewide to Mike Easley's 43%, became the first black nominated for a major, nonjudicial office in North Carolina after capturing the U. S. Senate nomination Tuesday with a decisive victory over Mike Easley. Gantt will face Republican

incumbent Jesse Helms in the primary, received 3,718 votes to challenger Dick Kelly's 2,977 votes. Gilbert and Joyce Cashion, of Kings Mountain, the only clear winner in the nine-candidate commissioner race in the primary, face GOP challengers Dennis Bingham and John Claytor Jr. in November.

Schools To Hire Firm To Do Re-Districting

Kings Mountain Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night to redraw elementary school attendance lines, ending a nearly-two year struggle on the issue to achieve racial balance and turning down request by some parents at the meeting to call another public hearing and give parents a say in the redistricting plans.

"I'd love to be able to offer that," said board member Billy King, "but right now I don't see a fair and unbiased way of doing that."

The board proposed hiring a out-of-town consultant to redraw lines but say the changes won't occur until probably the 1992-93 school year.

King said he believed his motion, seconded by Priscilla Mauney and approved unanimously, was a compromise. Parents at the meeting disagreed.

"If it means people's kids will be bused across town, it will upset a lot of parents," said Ben Poole, president of West PTO. A large group of West and East School parents and teachers were in the crowd that overflowed the board room at the school administrative offices.

By agreeing to keep open all K-5 schools, the board disagreed unanimously with a school committee report released two weeks ago that urged the board to close East and West Schools and expand North, Bethware and Grover school to take care of the elementary enrollment. The special committee was appointed by the board four months ago.

May 28, board members said they preferred the choice they formally made Monday night. Four parents and three school board members spoke briefly before Chairman Doyle Campbell called for a vote.

"I'm glad it's over. I'm pleased the board has made a decision," said Supt. Bob McRae.

"We're ready to move on," said member Billy Houze.

Poole said West parents would support the board's action if West parents had input into drawing up new boundaries.

Allan Propst, a member of the 17-member committee recommending the consolidation of five schools at three expanded campus-



"Too many biases will be involved if the board allows parental input in redistricting."

--Billy King

es, asked for another public hearing for community input. "We feel we're entitled to openness and public input and we feel the board doesn't understand fully the impact of their decision on the schools system today and in future years," he said. "When the public hearing was held at East School 18 months ago, the question was not raised about redistricting. That hearing was on the question of whether to close East School, not on a total district reorganization. Another public hearing will clear the air and give the public an appraisal of the facts, including the costs. Let the matter be aired properly. The crowd here tonight represents a tip of the iceberg of what could occur in six months time when the matter crops up again about redistricting."

Clyde Kerns, of Route 6, told the board he wasn't sold on either recommendation. "Taxpayers are entitled to having questions answered about the projected costs of either project," he declared.

"Parents were aghast when they learned their kids may be bused across town to other schools," said Poole.

Lynn Mauney, of 301 N. Roxford Road, said she was proud to be a graduate mother of the school system. She reminded the board that 10 years ago she was a member of the Blue Ribbon Study committee which favored the three-school concept. "Before that the State Department of Public Instruction recommended the same thing," she said. "You're passing the buck to the next set of parents 10-15 years down the road who will be facing this same decision again. Is this the best use of the tax dollars?" she asked. "We voted for you because we felt you had the vision for the school system and could meet challenges head-on. People will support you if you al-

low them a voice in the process," she said.

King gave the opinion that five schools were as cost effective as three and that East and West properties would not bring as much money, if sold. "I'm comfortable with how this board has approached this subject. We have the best interest of the kids at heart. We have solicited community input at two public hearings, one held at Kings Mountain High School some time ago and the other held just last August at East School."

"Too many biases will be involved if the board allows parental input in redistricting," he said. "We've heard the public and we think the majority of the public approves of keeping all K-5 schools open."

King then made the motion to redistrict to correct the racial imbalance and keep the K-5 organization as is at five schools.

"We're not looking at either a good or bad choice tonight. Both have merit," said Campbell.

"I'm ready to see the issue ended," said Houze. He said overwhelming public opinion decided the issue.

"This is not the will of the people. The public is not getting a chance to see what this means," said Propst.

Some East parents and East teacher Mike Smith, a member of the study commission, applauded the board's action.

In other action of the special session, the board voted to rebid plumbing contracts for the Grover School classroom project on recommendation of board attorney Scott Cloninger. One of the local bidders disqualified by the board had protested that minority participation qualified him as a bidder. Cloninger and the State Attorney General's office agreed.

City's 1990-91 Budget Down But Sanitation Fees Expected

Although higher utility rates are not projected in this year's \$16.88 million city budget--down from \$17.2 million from last year because of fewer capital projects--they are coming in the form of sanitation fees, probably by Jan. 1, 1990, and then this time next year in an additional 10% hike to water and sewer customers for sewage treatment when the new Crowders Creek Wastewater treatment plant becomes operational.

City Council took a look at the budget, which does not include the \$9.2 million bond monies approved by citizens, at Tuesday night's public hearing at which no one spoke in opposition. A work session has been set by Council for June 19 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

"This is just an indication that the cost of environmental protection are being borne more and more at the local level, with the state and federal governments mandating ever more stringent requirements, which in turn raises our cost to meet them," said City Manager George Wood in his budget message.

Cleveland County will be passing along landfill dumping fees to



"We will have to pass the tipping cost on to city customers or consider a 2.5 cent tax increase..."

--George Wood

the city by Jan. 1, 1990 which Council will probably implement at that time to city residents on utility bills. The 10% water and sewer hike reflected in the 1991-92 budget will include payments to Gastonia for treating McGill plant sewage. And, another reason for the utility increase a year from now is that the city will begin making principal payments on the water and sewer bonds that are financing needed improvements.

"While we can forego any increases to utility customers in this year's budget, the city will have to have an increase a year from now to take care of these obligations and after that, we should be able to look at annual or biannual inflationary increases as Gastonia ad-

justs its rates from year to year," said Wood.

At year-end, the city reports \$1,454,450 in fund balances, which represents, he said, an increase of \$80,000.

The budget retains the same 37-cent tax rate, which was reduced by one cent last year to help offset last year's revaluation by Gaston County. About 5 percent of the city's tax base is in Gaston County.

"We will have to pass the tipping cost on to city customers or consider a 2.5 cent tax increase to generate close to the \$57,500 we estimate for one-half year's cost at the county landfill," Wood said. "This cost is merely to cover then garbage disposal of \$9 per ton, See Budget, 12-A

Sub-Station Discussion Is Expected

A recommendation on the proposed site for a new high voltage sub-station is expected at Tuesday's meeting of the Kings Mountain Utilities Committee.

City Engineer Tom Howard said the meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

City officials, acting on recommendation of consulting engineers and Duke Power Company, had suggested the Davidson Park area as the site for the new sub-station. The project hit a snag, however, when property owners objected strongly to the site and said they would force litigation with the city if the city moved ahead with plans.

Duke Power officials came to Kings Mountain two weeks ago for



BUILDING GOING UP--An addition to Grover's Town Hall is going up in Grover. Workmen have set the foundation, poured the flooring and were laying brick and blocks on Tuesday at the site. Cecil Willis and sub-contractors are pictured. The project will be phased out over a two-year period.

Grover Tax Rate To Stay At Current 29-Cent Level

GROVER-Residents can look forward to the same tax rate--29 cents per \$100 valuation--in the 1990-91 budget which the Town Board adopted Monday night.

The budget calls for an increase in revenues and expenditures from \$326,488.62 to \$359,152, result of an increased property evaluation.

Biggest item in the budget is revenue from water and sewer in projected amount of \$100,000 and \$68,803.00 in franchise taxes.

Capital outlay included in the budget calls for improvements to an addition to Town Hall, which will be phased out over a period of time, and \$11,000 in improvements to the new park.

City employees received a cost-

of-living adjustment.

In other business Monday, the board adopted resolution approving the reduced speed limit on Highway 29 (now named M. H. Camp Highway) to honor the late councilman Camp) from 55 miles per hour to 44 miles per hour, in compliance with state request.

+Set public hearing for July 2 at 7 p.m. on annexation requests of 33 residents living in the area of Hardin Circle and Highway 226 in the area of Grover's treatment plant and cemetery. The annexation will also take in the city's treatment plant and pump stations as well as the cemetery, all outside-city properties.