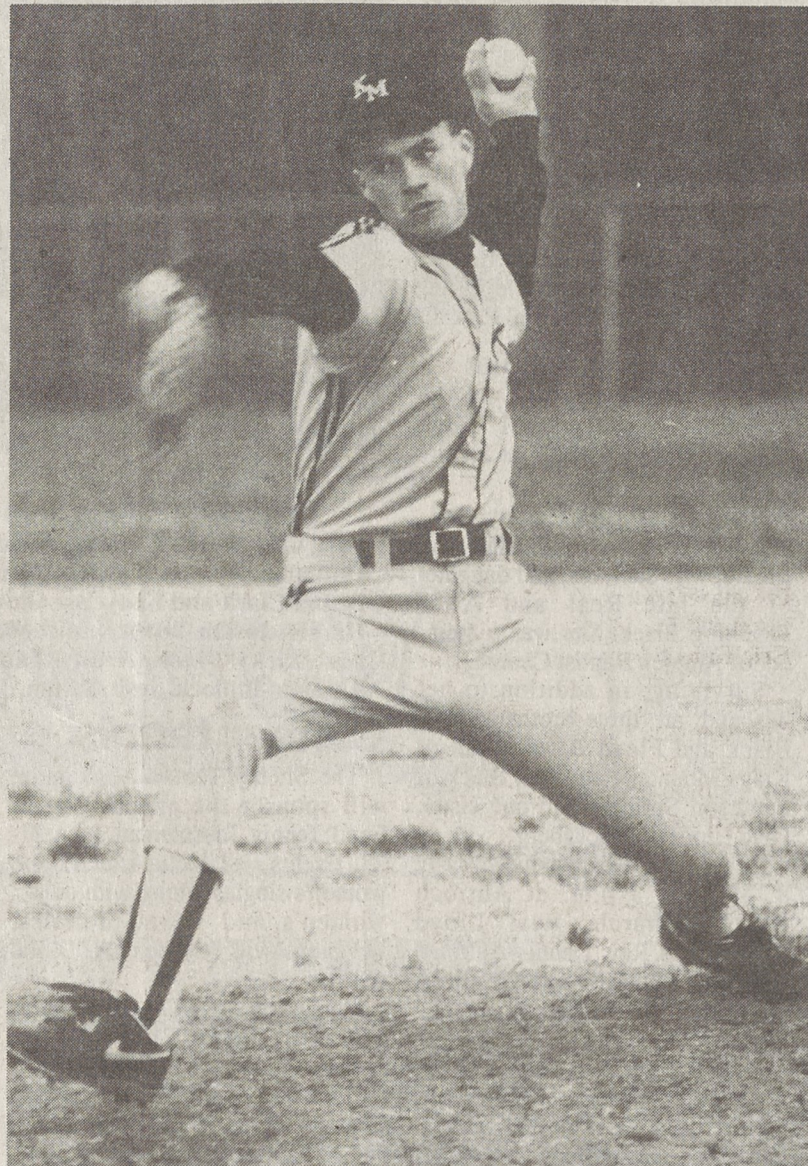


Kings Mountain Sports

Mountaineers blank R-S for second place



STEVEN FISHER (L), DONALD BELL
Mow down batters from South Point and East Lincoln



Chargers play here on Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers wrapped up second place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball race Tuesday afternoon with a 4-0 victory over R-S Central in Spindale.

The win gives the Mountaineers of Bruce Clark an 8-3 SWC and 10-7 overall mark. The Mountaineers were scheduled to play at Shelby last night in a make-up game and will host Crest in their regular season finale Friday at 7:30 at Lancaster Field. Friday's game is designated as "Senior Night" and the four senior members of the KM nine--Brad Melton, Donald Bell, Tommy Payne and James Howard--will be honored.

Next Monday night, the Mountaineers will host a first round game in the SWC tournament. KM will play the #7 seed, either North Gaston or South Point. The final two rounds of the SWC event will be played Wednesday and Friday at North Gaston.

Tuesday's victory at R-S hopefully clinched a third straight state playoff berth for the Mountaineers. The top two teams from the SWC advance; however, the Mountaineers could be forced to sit at home if a team that finishes lower than second in the regular season wins the conference tournament.

"We're not planning on that happening," says Coach Clark. "If we continue to play like we've played the last five games and our pitchers continue to pitch like they are right now we can compete with anybody."

The Mountaineers got their fourth straight route-going performance from a pitcher Tuesday at R-S and David Jenkins' effort could have been the best yet. The hard-throwing sophomore held the Hilltoppers to just two hits and had a no-hitter going until one out in the fourth. He finished with eight strikeouts and walked only one batter.

"That's probably the first time I have seen the David Jenkins that could be there every single time he goes to the mound," said Clark. "We put a lot of pressure on him to go out and throw a ballgame. We simply told him to go out and throw as hard as he could for as long as he could and we'd get him some help. It's been a long time since I've seen someone in high school with as dominating a fast ball as he was throwing. The team backed him well. We had some real timely hits and another solid ballgame."

In the last four games,
See Baseball, 7-A

Strong pitching keys Mountaineer wins

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers had their best week of the season last week, capturing three straight victories at Lancaster Field and opening a two-game lead in the race for second place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference.

Coach Bruce Clark got route-going performances in all three victories--16-1 over South Point, 3-1 over East Lincoln and 5-2 over Burns.

"At this time in the season we couldn't be playing any better than we're playing right now," Coach Clark said. "Our last three starts have been extremely good. The pitchers seem to be working ahead of the batters and the team tries to eliminate the leadoff man getting on base. We're just playing good, basic fundamental baseball."

"Our defense is also much better than it has been," Clark added. "The team is seeming to jell. Everything is kind of working like a well-oiled machine."

Steven Fisher hurled his fourth straight win--a four-hitter--in Wednesday night's victory over South Point. He walked only one batter and struck out five.

The Mountaineers grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Robbie Ruff doubled and later scored on a passed ball, and added a pair in the third on a hit batsman,

a South Point error and Ruff's single.

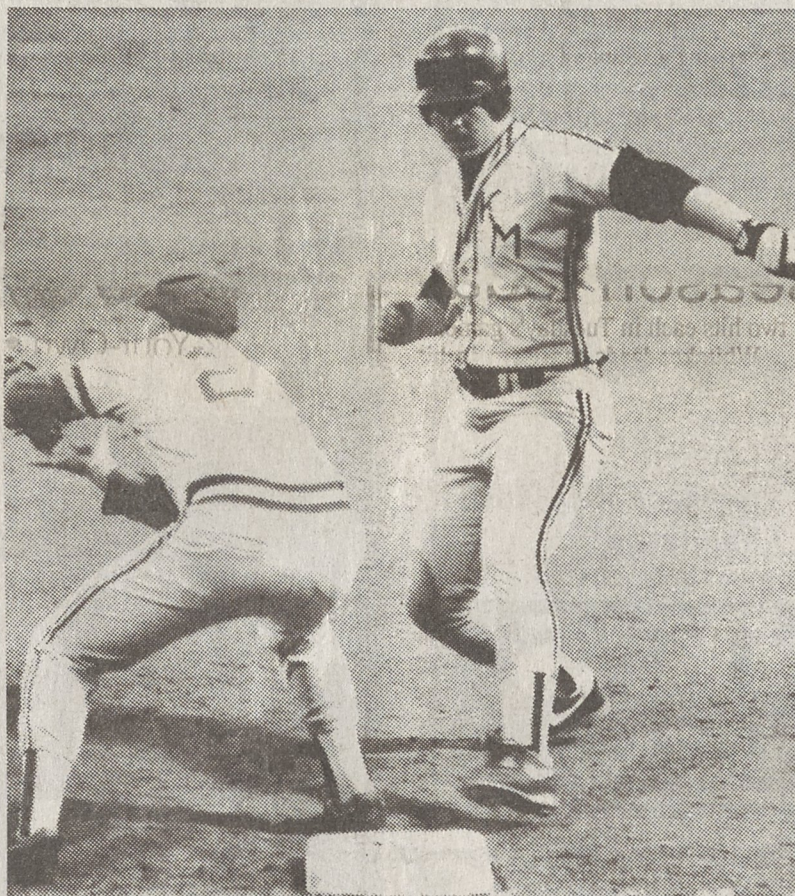
Those runs would have been plenty for Fisher, a righthander whose breaking ball kept the Red Raiders off stride all night. But the Mountaineers scored six more in the fourth, four in the fifth and three in the sixth to turn the game into a rout.

South Point hurler Brent Jones, a sophomore righthander, was his own worst enemy. He hit four batters and uncorked several wild pitches. Jones hit two of the first three batters he faced in the sixth and David Jenkins, Mike Smith and Todd Ware also had key singles to spark a six-run Mountaineer rally which made the score 9-0.

The Raiders finally scored in the top of the fifth to make it 9-1, but three walks and Tommy Payne's second homer of the year--a two-run shot over the leftfield fence--sparked a four-run rally in the bottom of the fifth which made the score 13-1.

Kings Mountain closed out the scoring with three in the sixth on singles by Jenkins, Smith and Ruff, and a double by Rick Marr.

Southpaw Donald Bell tossed a three-hitter Thursday as the Mountaineers turned back East Lincoln in a non-conference game.



David Jenkins hustles back to first base to avoid pickoff attempt in KM's victory over South Point Wednesday at Lancaster Field.

Bell walked only one and fanned seven.
The Mountaineers managed only

six hits but they all came in key situations.
Mike Smith belted his second

home run of the year in the second to give the Mountaineers a 1-0 lead. The Mustangs came back to tie the score at 1-1 after five innings but the Mounties scored two in the bottom of the sixth to win. T.G. Goforth led off with a single, Robbie Ruff reached on an error and both scored on a single by David Jenkins.

Tommy Payne hurled a three-hitter and fanned seven in Friday's victory over Burns. That win, coupled with East Rutherford's 11-1 victory over R-S Central, gave the Mountaineers second place by two games over R-S and Shelby heading into the final two games of the season this week.

Payne was in complete control except on two pitches--home run balls served up to losing pitcher Gerard Lee and Dixon Putnam in the second and fourth frames.

The Mountaineers won the game with four runs in the first inning. KM collected four of its nine hits during that frame and also took advantage of a Burns error. Ruff walked to lead off the inning and stole second and third. After two straight strikeouts by Lee, Ruff scored on a wild pitch. Mike Smith, David Jenkins, Brad Melton and Rick Marr ripped consecutive
See Mountaineers, 8-A

Mounties second in track

Kings Mountain High's track team finished second to Shelby in the annual Southwestern 3-A Conference meet Thursday at North Gaston.

Shelby scored 153 points, followed by KM 147, East Rutherford 101, North Gaston 84, South Point 50, R-S Central 19 and Burns 0.

Rodney Houser was the big gun for the Mountaineers with 22 points. He finished first or second in all four events he entered, making All-Conference in all four. (The top two finishers in each event were named All-Conference).

Houser was second in the triple jump with a season's high of 43'2", first in the 200 meters with a season's best time of 22.0, was a member of the winning 800-meter relay team along with Pat Ross, Diron Bell, and Mike Byers; and a member of the second place 400 meter relay team with Ross, Bell and D.J. Williams.

Ross won the 100 meter dash in 11.11 seconds; Andy Hollifield won the 1600 meters in 4:56; Mike Byers won the 400 with a season's best 41.87, and also ran a leg on

See Track, 8-A



Kings Mountain's Victor Bell, who finished third in the long jump in the SWC meet last week despite an injury, will be one of the favorites in this week's Regional event at West Henderson.

Rec seasons in full swing

The Parks and Recreation Department is now into the baseball and softball season with all leagues seeing action this week. So far the wet weather has not greatly affected scheduling as the field improvements during the off season have paid off.

Our participation in softball this year is more diverse than previous years. The economy has affected our industrial league program but the church leagues for both men and women has improved. We have also fielded three girls' softball teams and they are participating in the Gastonia league.

As for our baseball program, we have added two teams in our Tee Wee (5-6 year old) Instructional league bringing the total to six. Tee Ball is full again with six teams and we added a sixth team in the Minor League (9-10 year old) with Major League holding steady with five teams.

The Major League field has undergone two major improvements prior to the start of league play. To improve the light quality in the outfield, the City Electrical Department put ten foot extensions on the outfield light poles. This has provided better, more even lighting for the late games. With the hard work of Roy and Terry Putnam, who volunteered their time, the department has also added a press box to this facility. Additional assistance was provided by the elec-



David Hancock
KM Recreation Director

tric department in setting poles and Home Quarters Warehouse of Gastonia with the donation of \$100. of building materials. We sincerely appreciate the assistance of all those involved in completing these projects.

The department intends to complete playground improvements at Deal Street and Davidson Parks in the very near future. Efforts at preparing both sites have been hampered by the prolonged periods of rain we have been experiencing. Completion of the City Stadium parking lot is also slated for the end of May, with the assistance of the City Public Works Department, weather permitting.

In response to comments and requests from several citizens, in the Deal Street Park area, we will again repair the net posts and replace the nets at the Deal Street tennis courts. This will return the courts to a functional level for recreational players, however improvements to the court surfacing is also needed when funds become

available. The department asks the assistance of all youth baseball/softball parents, coaches and players in adhering to the posted rules regarding permitted uses of the courts. Use of the courts for batting practice, warm-ups and team meeting further damages the surface and increases the potential for destroying the nets when they are sat on, leaned against, or run into.

You may have noticed improved lighting at the Walking Track in the last several weeks. The electric department has placed four new 400 watt high pressure sodium fixtures in strategic locations to brighten some previous dark spots. The upgrade was again in response to citizen input.

On Friday, May 17, the Department will sponsor our first "Talent Night" at 7:00 p.m. at Barnes Auditorium. Entertainers from city departments, school personnel, school students, and individuals from our community have all volunteered to participate. This program is an effort by the Department to provide fun, inexpensive entertainment for the entire family. The talent will range from gospel groups, small bands, dancers, and a variety of other performances. All the participants are excited about the opportunity to perform for their friends and family so come out and join in the fun.

See Recreation, 8-A