

Mickey Mantle card, Mountaineer tag special finds

Two Kings Mountain sports fans made some big "finds" over the weekend. One was worth about \$1,500 and the other, though worth just a dollar, is invaluable to its new owner. Johnny Cogdell, who just recently started collecting baseball cards, found a \$1,500 Mickey Mantle signature card in a 60-cent pack at a local sports shop, King's Collectibles.

David Clippard, a long-time KMHS football fan, purchased a unique 1940 Mountaineer football schedule for one dollar at the I-85 Flea Market near Gastonia. What is so unique about the schedule is that it was printed on a black and gold automobile tag.

First, Cogdell's find: Cogdell, 28, said he never got into the sports card craze as a kid but if he had it to do over again, he would have. He was introduced to the hobby by a fishing buddy.

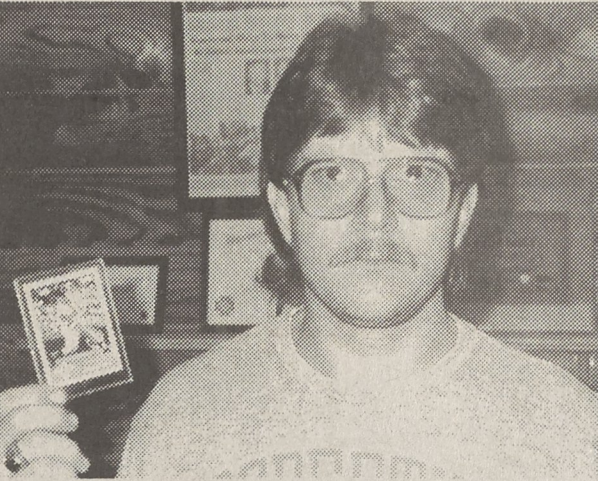
"We were in a store one day and he bought some baseball cards," Cogdell noted. "He asked me if I was going to buy some so I bought a pack and have been buying them ever since."

The Mantle card, produced by Score, was the 2,480th of 2,500 signed by the New York Yankee Hall of Famer. It notes his "Triple Crown" accomplishments of 1956 when he hit 52 home runs, batted .353 and had 130 RBI to lead the American League in all three categories. He slammed 20 more homers than runner-up Vic Wertz, out-hit Boston Red Sox star Ted Williams .353 to .345 for the batting title, and edged Detroit star Al Kaline by two runs batted in for the RBI crown. In addition to winning the Triple Crown, Mantle also led the league with 132 runs, 376 total bases and a .705 slugging percentage. He was the game's last Triple Crown winner.

Cogdell said he didn't realize at first how big a jewel he had found.



GARY STEWART
Editor



Johnny Cogdell found this \$1,500 Mickey Mantle signature card in a 60-cent pack of baseball cards at a Kings Mountain collector shop.

"I bought six packs of Wax cards," he recalled. "They have about 15 cards in them for 60 cents. When I first saw the card I said to myself, 'somebody wrote on one of my cards.' Then I realized it was Mickey Mantle's signature."

Cogdell put the card in his pocket along with the others, and left the store. A couple hours later he began to wonder if the card might be valuable and went back to the card shop.

"The man said he didn't know for sure what the card was worth but offered me \$300 for it," Cogdell said. "Of course, I turned him down. I started to drive to my father-in-law's house and passed by James Van Dyke's card shop on East Gold Street and he was in there. I've known him for years and thought he might know what the card was worth. He looked it up in a book and showed me that it was worth \$1,500."

Cogdell, who says he spends \$10 to \$15 a week on baseball cards, said many of his friends have aggravated him about making a trade for the card. One man even offered him a 1965 Ford truck and a boat for it.

"But, I turned that down, too," he said. "I have no idea what it might be worth someday but I plan to hold onto it."

Now, for David Clippard's find:

Clippard has always been an avid follower of Kings Mountain sports, especially Mountaineer football. As a high schooler he was manager of the football team and he's been a big booster ever since.

He was browsing through some items at the I-85 Flea Market and the black and gold car tag caught his eye. Upon closer inspection he found it displayed a nine-game KMHS football schedule which showed the Mountaineers playing Gastonia, Marion, Bessemer City, Cherryville, North Carolina School for the Deaf, Forest City, Shelby, Newton and Lincolnton.

He wasn't sure if the number 40 on the player's jersey represented a halfback or the 1940 football season.

He came to the Herald and found that the 1940 schedule in the paper matched the schedule on the car tag.



David Clippard's 1940 KMHS football schedule/car tag, purchased for one dollar at a flea market.

"The man asked two dollars for it," Clippard noted, "and I said I'd give him two dollars if I knew how the games came out. I offered him a dollar and he took it."

The 1940 team, which was coached by Cline Farthing, posted a 4-5 record. The Mountaineers defeated Gastonia 12-6, Marion 12-6, Bessemer City 19-0 and NCSD 25-6; and lost to Cherryville 14-6, Forest City 7-0, Shelby 18-12, Newton 14-13 and Lincolnton 25-0.

In those days, the Mountaineers competed in the Western 2-A Conference. Jim Dickey, a guard who later starred at Catawba College and is a member of the KM Sports Hall of Fame, made the All-Conference team along with quarterback Jim Gibson who scored 45 of the team's 100 points, ran or threw for 12 touchdowns and was named Honorable Mention All-State. Gibson, who is deceased, went on to play for N.C. State.

See Stewart, 5-A

Sports Briefs

Peach festival tractor, truck pull this week

Engines will roar and dirt will fly Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, when the 14th Annual South Carolina Peach Festival Tractor and Truck Pull takes place on the shores of Lake Whelchel in Gaffney, S.C.

The N.C. Tractor and Truck Pullers' Association sanctioned event, co-sponsored by The Grassy Pond Volunteer Fire Department,

will start each day at 7 p.m. and expects to draw over 16,000 fans. To get to Lake Whelchel, take Exit 95 off I-85 and turn left over the bridge. The lake is approximately a half mile behind Overnite Trucking.

In action both nights will be modified tractors, 2 wheel drive trucks, super stock tractors, 4 wheel drive trucks and mini-rod tractors.

Also on tap at the Peach Festival's most attended event will be a special appearance both nights by the "Car Killer," a World War II M-4 military tank with a 1990 Ford Ranger body, a 557 cubic inch engine and a 9 speed transmission which can take it up to 60 mph.

Concessions will be available on site and will be provided by the Grassy Pond Volunteer Fire Department. No coolers and no al-

cohol will be allowed.

Tickets are now on sale at the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce. Adult admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 the day of the event. Tickets for children 6-12 are \$4 in advance and \$5 the day of the Pull. Children 6 and under get in free with a paid escort.

See Briefs, 4-A



OUT ON CLOSE PLAY - Kings Mountain's Chris Hutchins is tagged out at the plate as he tries to stretch a triple into an inside-the-park home run in Sunday's game with Bessemer City in the District Dixie Boys 13-14 Tournament at KM Middle School. KM won 20-5.

KM to battle Gastonia for Dixie's 13-14 crown

Kings Mountain's 13-14 year old Dixie Boys will battle Gastonia for the District III championship Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Macedonia Baptist Church field.

The winner will earn a trip to Whiteville next week for the state championship.

Gastonia forced another meeting for the title by taking a 6-4 win Tuesday night. Kings Mountain had beaten Bessemer City 20-5 Sunday and Gastonia 4-2 Monday in the double-elimination event.

Kings Mountain, which drew an opening round bye, broke a 5-5 tie with five runs in the fourth inning Sunday against BC at the Kings Mountain Middle School field. KM then put the game away with 10 runs in the fifth.

Duane Patterson relieved starter Brian Lefevers in the second inning and pitched the rest of the game to get the win. Kings Mountain batters collected 19 hits in the five-inning contest with Chris Hutchins leading the way with 3-for-4, including a triple.

Wachovia Cup winners named

T.W. Andrews High School of High Point has won the Wachovia Cup for the fifth time in six years, while Ledford, East Mecklenburg and Polk County high schools also took home top awards in their classifications.

Andrews won the Cup in the 3-A classification for the second straight year and fifth time since 1986. Ledford won the 2-A title for the first time and Polk County and East Meck won the 1-A and 4-A, respectively, for the first time.

The Wachovia Cup recognizes schools that have the best overall interscholastic sports program in North Carolina. It is sponsored by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and Wachovia Bank of North Carolina.

The top 10 in the 4-A were East

Kevin Melton, Patterson and Bryan Leftwich added two hits each and Travis Queen, Jeremy Oliver, Sidney Bridges, Sharee Hopper, Shannon Marr, Michael Bell, Kenny Bridges, Dean Clark and Nate Champion added one hit each.

Kings Mountain built a 4-0 lead after three innings and then fought off a Gastonia rally in the sixth to defeat Gastonia Monday night at Macedonia. Sharee Hopper pitched 6 2/3 innings of five-hit ball to get the win. He struck out seven.

Kings Mountain collected only five hits, with Patterson going 2-for-2 and Hopper, Hutchins and Leftwich adding one hit apiece.

Kings Mountain took advantage of seven bases on balls and some Gastonia errors, but also got timely hits. Hutchins' double followed a pair of walks to give KM a 2-0 lead in the first. After a walk, Patterson tripled to make it 3-0 in the second; and after an error and a walk Leftwich singled home a run to make it 4-0 in the third.

Meck, Jordan, Chapel Hill, Page, Sanderson, Freedom, Millbrook, Richmond, Grimsley and Apex.

The top 10 in 3-A were Andrews, T.C. Roberson, D.H. Conley, Statesville, High Point Central, Sun Valley, West Henderson, Western Guilford, North Rowan, Southeast Guilford and Northwest Guilford.

The top 10 in 2-A were Ledford, Charlotte Catholic, NCSSM, Clayton, Clinton, Mount Airy, East Davidson, Southwestern Randolph, West Stansly, Starmount and Surry Central.

The top 10 in 1-A were Polk, Hendersonville, Swain County, St. Pauls, Manteo, Currituck, Lejeune, Swansboro, Southwest Onslow and East Montgomery.

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