

# Freddy smokes Gaffney

By GENE AUSTIN

Freddy Smith of Kings Mountain, now driving for the Baton Rouge, La. Gulf Valve Services Racing Team, captured Sunday's Blue Gray 100 in a most impressive way.

Starting from the outside pole position Smith led all 100 laps of the Cherokee Speedway event with his closest challenge coming as numerous restarts allowed the competitors to bunch up behind the number 00 machine. Even then Freddy was able to pull away each time with seemingly little effort and as the tires heated up he piloted the car through lap traffic with ease.

Asked if he maybe had a little something extra left, Smith replied with a grin, "I didn't want to punish the car and our plan was to go the distance on one set of tires so I had to save them." The brakes were going away in the last few laps and except for a scratch on the left rear quarter panel the car was in perfect condition after the race.

Sunday's win, worth \$12,000, and the \$40,000 World Dirt Track Championship award at Pennsboro,



**FREDDY SMITH**  
His trophy room runneth over

W. Va. in late October has the RVS Racing Team excited about next year.

With eight wins, 24 second places, numerous third and fourth place finishes all at big events, Smith is rejuvenated on and off the track. During the last of the season 90 percent of his finishes have been in the top five. Only three times during the year did he not finish. He has compiled statistics

that most teams only dream of.

"The fact that you have a car owner who is willing to put you in the finest equipment money can buy, and a team that knows what to do and does it makes my job a lot easier," said Smith. "There is no crew chief. Everyone is called Ace Mechanics."

Members of Smith's team are Jim Frye, "Mr. Curtis," and Tracy

Gibbons.

C.J. Rayburn Cars, Draime Engines and Hoosier Tires have been a key factor in the team's success this year.

Finishing in the top five Sunday were Troy Green, Mike Duvall, Steve Shaver and Ed Basey.

The Smith fans were overjoyed to see the "Real Freddy Smith" in action Sunday. His father, Grassy, and son, Jeff, were at his side.

# Spades lose but stay on top

The Spades lost three of four games to the Rednecks but still managed to hold onto first place in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

The Spades now have a 29-19 record and a one-game lead over the Duckpins, a 3-1 winner over the Tailenders (28-20). The Rednecks are third at 21-27 and the Tailenders fourth at 18-30.

Jack Barrett's 131 line and 365 set and Tommy Barrett's 129 line and 331 set led the Rednecks over the Spades Thursday. Allen Myers led the losers with a 110 line and 318 set.

John Caveny rolled a 136 line and 371 set and Jerome Grant added a 130-335 to lead the Duckpins over the Tailenders.

Joann Myers led the losers with a 119 line and 324 set.

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# More to life than football

By DAN ZACHARIAS

A Wake Forest University student fills a Christmas gift list each year that would impress Santa Claus.

While many folks are still puzzling over what to buy for their family and friends, Kim Sheek has already spent countless hours this year obtaining presents for hundreds of underprivileged children in Winston-Salem. Sheek, a Wake Forest senior and football player, seeks the gifts as an enthusiastic member in the Santa's Helper program in the city.

Started six years ago by Chip Rives, former Wake Forest football player, the program gives families who cannot afford to buy presents an opportunity to experience Christmas.

Nearly 250 families will open their front door this season to find Santa's Helper volunteers loaded down with Christmas treasures. It is a good chance that one of those on their doorstep will be Sheek, wearing a big red suit and fluffy white beard.

"Kim is the one person that, from the day he got involved, has made it a high priority to get other athletes involved," says Robert Egleston of Winston-Salem, co-founder and vice president of the Santa's Helper program. "If it hadn't been for him, we would probably have minimal involvement from most of the Wake Forest teams."

Although the busiest time for distributing presents is in the middle of final exams, Sheek says that most of his fellow athletes are happy to lend a hand.

"As athletes, we live in a sheltered world, like we're in some kind of glass bottle and everyone's eyes are on us," says Sheek. "This is the kind of thing where the community can see that we do care, and that we don't put ourselves on some kind of pedestal. It shows people that we don't care just about ourselves and that we want to make a difference."

"I've gotten a lot of help from the coaches and athletes on campus

and I can't say enough about what they've done to make this program work," he adds.

Sheek originally got involved in the spring of 1988, when he joined the football team as a walk-on. That year, he got to know Rives, a team member who told him about the program.

From that time, Sheek has remained one of the program's most devoted volunteers. After Rives graduated and moved to Massachusetts, Sheek was named to the organization's board and began contributing more of his free time.

"It's not a matter of finding time, it's more a case of making the time because this is something I really enjoy doing," he says. "In October and November, when things start to get really hectic with classes and practice, you wonder how you're going to be able to get everything done. Somehow, it all comes together and works itself out."

"Besides, what really makes it gratifying is when you see that you're putting smiles on the faces

of those kids," he adds. "After that, you feel like you can do anything."

"I remember one thing that happened a couple of years ago an it's stayed with me ever since," Sheek recalls. "We went into this one house and passed out all the presents and there was one boy that we didn't have anything for. I promised him that I would bring something back the next day."

Sheek's determination to return was inspired by the child's home, which was furnished by little more than a small Christmas tree.

"It looked a lot like the one Charlie Brown picks out every year, and there was nothing under it," he explains.

"Anyway, the next day when we came around the corner, there he was sitting on the his front porch waiting for us. You should have seen his face when he realized who it was," says Sheek. "He went running into the house to get his mom, he was so excited. It's experiences like that which make all of the long hours worthwhile."

# Boys Club signing players

Registration is underway for the 1991-92 winter basketball season at Kings Mountain Boys Club. Any boy age 7-16 may join. There is no fee. Registration will be held each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through December 5.

Team selection will be held Sat., Dec. 7 at the Central School gym at 12 noon. Club Director, Danny McDowell, states that the basketball program is designed to teach boys the basic fundamental skills. There is also emphasis on sports-

manship and teamwork.

In past years, KM has had teams finish second, third, fourth, seventh and tenth in the National AAU Junior Olympics. KM has also produced seven All-Americans, two honorable mention All-Americans, plus the top academic team in the national tournament.

This year, KM will play teams from Concord, Shelby, Charlotte, Clinton, Asheville, Burlington, Monroe, Wilmington, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Statesville, Gaffney, Columbia, Tennessee, Florida, and New York. The team will also play in the NC Junior Olympics and Tarheel State Games Tournament.

Club hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information contact McDowell at 739-7161 during club hours, Tom Bennett at 739-3667, Bobby Bell at 739-1031, or Jewel Watson at 739-9374.

Upcoming events include a ping pong tournament, one-on-one games, pool tournament, free throw contest, hot shot contest, skating and attending several college basketball games, plus hosting the AAU 13, 14, 15 and under State Tournament at Kings Mountain High School and Kings Mountain Middle School.

# D fought law and won

By LES SEE

Big D knows football. Or, his source does!

The Herald Pub picked the upset of the year in prep football to edge Bullet Bob Hayes by one game (124-54-2 to 123-55-2) in the Pigskin Pickers contest.

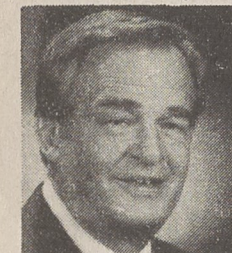
D had a feeling that Gaffney would upset top-ranked

the same year," Austin said of the Indians, who had lost to Northwestern by a touchdown three weeks ago.

So, thanks to our neighbors from south of the border, Austin becomes the only prognosticator besides Sage Stewart to win the annual pickin' and grinnin' contest.

The two differed on only two other games. Austin correctly picked East Forsyth over Myers Park but Hayes balanced that by picking Swain County over Hendersonville.

Bullet Bob of the KMPD gets the sportsmanship award for finishing second for the fourth year in a row. He's already polishing his crystal ball and looking forward to next year.



BIG D

Northwestern in the South Carolina 4-A playoffs last week. "It's hard for anyone to beat Gaffney twice in

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