

Mounties nip EG in nine

Mike Smith singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Kings Mountain's Mountaineers a 7-6 win over East Gaston in their season opening baseball game Monday at Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers hope to continue their winning ways Saturday at home when they host East Lincoln's Mustangs in a JV-varsity doubleheader. The junior varsity teams will play at 1 p.m. and the varsity game will begin at 3:30.

The Mountaineers open their Southwestern 3-A Conference schedule next Tuesday at Shelby. The game time has not been announced.

Smith's single Monday capped a see-saw type game which saw the lead change hands twice before East Gaston scored three unearned runs in the top of the seventh to force extra innings.

Todd Ware led off the ninth with a sharp single up the middle, and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Raymond Couch. Pitcher David C. Jenkins struck out, but when the third strike got past Warrior catcher Bart Davis the Mountaineers had runners on first and third. Smith, who had fanned his last three trips to the plate, ripped a 1-2 pitch to right to drive in the winning run.

Jenkins, the third KM pitcher, got his first varsity win. He came on in the sixth inning and survived a shaky sixth and seventh frame. After the seventh, he allowed only two base runners -- both on walks.

Stephen Fisher started for the Mountaineers and left in the fifth inning with a 2-1 lead. The



DAVID R. JENKINS
Hits grand slam against East Gaston

Warriors came back to take a 3-2 lead with a pair of runs in the sixth off Shane Webb.

Righthander Michael English and southpaw Scott Stewart of the Warriors held the Mountaineers to six hits and combined for 16 strikeouts.

Smith's sacrifice fly to deep centerfield plated Caja Ormand with an unearned run to give the Mountaineers a 1-0 lead in the first. Ormand had reached base on an error, stole second and moved to third on an infield out.

Ormand's double to deep right-center plated TeeGee Goforth in the fourth for a 2-0 Mountaineer lead.

Two "excuse me" singles which were just over the KM infield -- the

latter an RBI by Micah Michadeo - brought the Warriors to within 2-1 in the top of the fifth. Coach Bruce Clark called Webb in from the bullpen, and he recorded a key strikeout to get the Mountaineers out of the jam.

But a couple of walks by Webb opened the floodgates in the sixth and the Warriors scored twice for a 3-2 lead. Travis Hall's single plated both runs.

The Mountaineers appeared to have the game won in the bottom of the sixth when pinch-hitter David R. Jenkins crashed a grand slam home run over the left field fence to make the score 6-3. But a dropped fly ball with two outs by the Mountaineers in the top of the seventh cut the margin to 6-4, then

Garren Harris ripped a two-run single to center to tie the score.

Stewart, who had entered the game after Jenkins' home run, allowed only a walk to Ormand in the seventh and retired the order in the eighth as the game which started at 4:30 turned into a night contest. He struck out two batters in each inning.

Score by innings: R H E
EG 000 012 300 6-7-3
KM 101 004 001 7-6-1

Michael English, Scott Stewart (6) and Bart Davis; Stephen Fisher, Shane Webb (5), David C. Jenkins (6) and Raymond Couch, Chris Rider (6).

WP - Jenkins (1-0). LP - Stewart (0-1).

Mounties at Shelby Tuesday

East Lincoln here Saturday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers lost 7-3 to a powerful Independence High team in Charlotte Tuesday afternoon, but Coach Bruce Clark looks for his team to rebound in a couple of tough contests during the coming week.

Saturday, the Mountaineers will host unbeaten East Lincoln in a JV-varsity doubleheader at Lancaster Field. Junior varsity action will be-

gin at 1 p.m. and the varsity game will start at 3:30 to 4 p.m.

Next Tuesday, the Mountaineers open Southwestern 3-A Conference play against arch rival Shelby at Shelby's renovated Veterans Stadium. The starting time will depend on the weather.

The Mountaineers grabbed a 3-0 first inning lead on Damon Putnam's three-run homer Tuesday at Independence, but crucial errors

in the second and third innings allowed Independence to score four unearned runs to erase a 3-2 deficit.

The hard-hitting Patriots finished with 12 hits off Rick Marr and Benji Ingle, while Independence pitcher Jim Blanchard scattered seven hits. Stephen Fisher led the KM attack with 3-for-4.

"Independence reminded me a lot of our 1989 and '90 teams," Coach Bruce Clark remarked. "They went to the plate to hit the ball and make things happen. They're a very impressive hitting club."

"But that's why we play these games," he went on. "That's why we play good people of the calibre of East Gaston, Independence and East Lincoln. It helps you learn from your mistakes."

Despite the loss, Clark had nothing but praise for his young men. "We're real excited about our team," he said. "Monday, we beat a real good East Gaston team. We had plenty of opportunities to quit, but didn't, and eventually came

through with the win.

"It was great to see David Jenkins step up and come through in the clutch situation, and Mike Smith had struggled all day at the plate but came through the winning hit. Hopefully, our confidence level

See Baseball, 7-A

KM netters beat Crest in opener

Kings Mountain High's tennis team opened its season Tuesday at home with a 7-2 victory over Crest. Andrew Turner, Patrick Frei, Bo Phongsas, Trey McIntyre and Sirimaha Rithiphong won singles matches for the Mountaineers; and Jones and Frei and Phongsas and McIntyre won their doubles matches.

Coach Chris Cole, who led the Mountaineers to the Southwestern 3-A Conference title last spring, is

looking for another big year.

"We want to maintain the intensity of play we finished with last season," he said.

Cole, who underwent back surgery in October and faces major hip surgery in April, has handed this year's coaching duties to Jamie Lakay, who is being assisted by David Dellinger.

"We're real fortunate to have someone like Jamie and David to

See Tennis, 9-A

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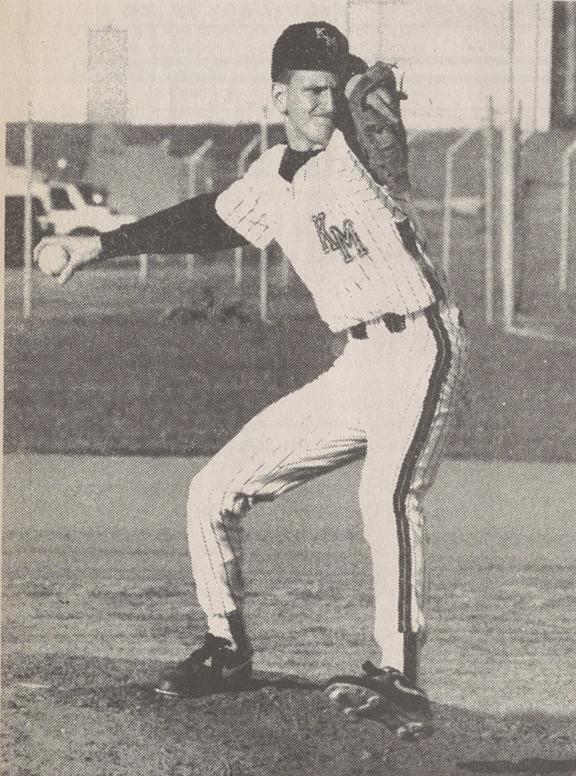
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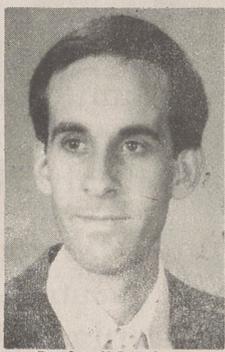


Stephen Fisher worked four solid innings on the mound in Kings Mountain's season-opening 7-6 win over East Gaston Monday at Lancaster Field. The Mountaineers host East Lincoln in a JV-varsity doubleheader Saturday at 1 p.m.

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