

KM falls in Area IV championship

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors bowed out of the state playoffs Tuesday night with a 5-0 loss to Taylorsville in the fifth game of the two teams' Area IV championship series.

Taylorsville, 28-6, advances to the state semi-finals against the winner of the Kernersville-Rowan County series. Kings Mountain, 21-12, ends its season as the top winning Legion team in the town's history.

Kings Mountain was competing for the Area IV title for only the second time in history. The 1959 team, which compiled an 18-10 record, lost to Mount Holly-Paw Creek in seven games.

Taylorsville's excellent pitching, along with good hitting and defense keyed the 4-1 series win. Kings Mountain also received good pitching and hit the ball well but Post 155 experienced some unusual defensive problems in the first two games, which Taylorsville won by 4-3 scores.

Taylorsville pounded Post 155 6-0 Sunday night at Taylorsville to take a 3-0 lead and Kings Mountain bounced back Monday at home for its only win, 7-2.

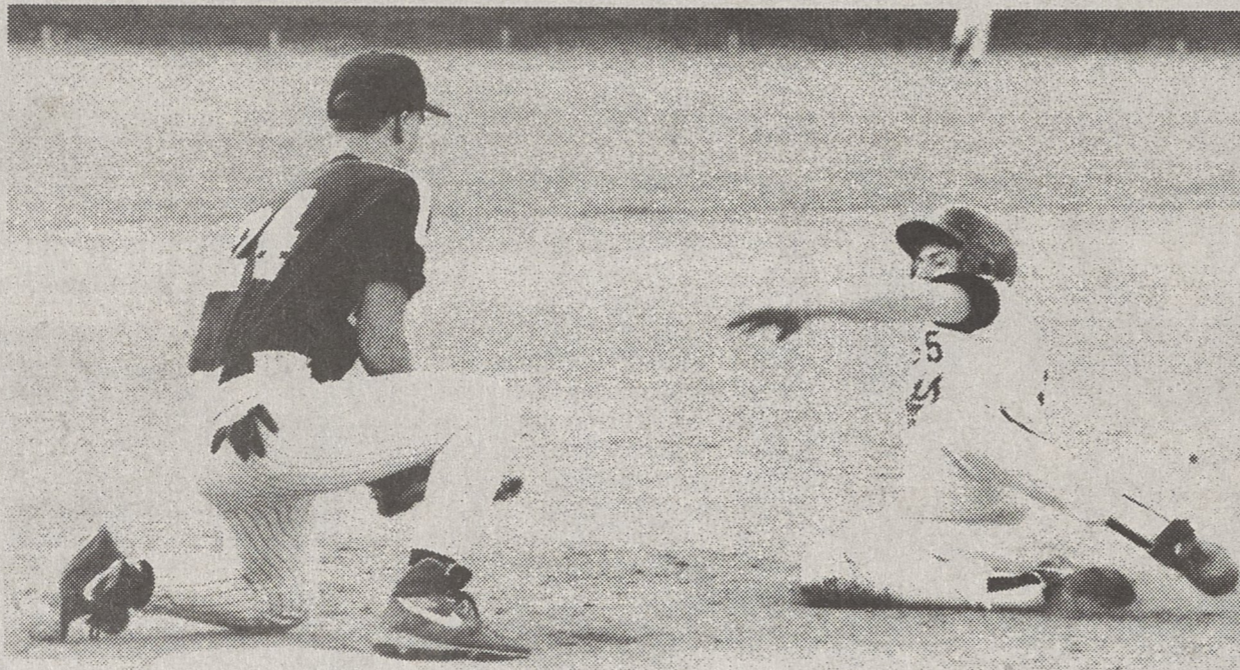
Game 1 - Taylorsville scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to edge Post 155 4-3 in the series opener last Friday night in Taylorsville.

Nathan Foster's single to left-center got away from the Kings Mountain outfielders, allowing pinch-runner Brad Abernathy to score the tying run. Rex Marley went in to run for Foster and scored the winning run on a single by pinch-hitter Daniel Church.

The hit gave the victory to Taylorsville's ace southpaw, A.Y. Yoder, who scattered six hits and struck out eight. Stephen Fisher went the route for KM and lost only his second game of the year.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Mike Smith singled, stole second and scored on a single by Caja Ormand. Taylorsville grabbed the lead in the fourth on back-to-back home runs by Steve Caudill and Mark St. Clair.

Post 155 scored twice in the sixth to take a 3-2 lead. Smith led off with a single. After Todd Ware



Kings Mountain's Donald Bell slides safely into third base in Area IV championship playoff series game with Taylorsville Monday night at KM's Lancaster Field. Kings Mountain won this game, 7-2, but was eliminated by a 5-0 loss Tuesday in Taylorsville. Taylorsville is awaiting the winner of the Area III championship series between Kernersville and Rowan County for a best-of-seven state semi-finals series.

was hit by a pitch, Smith scored the tying run on a double by Tommy Payne. Ware later scored the go-ahead run on a bases-loaded suicide squeeze bunt by Rick Marr. Smith and Ormand led the KM hitting with two hits each and Payne and Fisher added one hit apiece.

KM 100 002 000 3-6-3
T 000 200 002 4-7-0

Stephen Fisher and Chris Rider; A.Y. Yoder and Brian White. WP - Yoder. LP - Fisher. HR - T: Steve Caudill, Mark St. Clair.

Game 2 - All four Taylorsville runs were unearned in a 4-3 victory Saturday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

Post 170 struck for three unearned tallies against KM starter David R. Jenkins in the fourth inning, and added its final run in the sixth for a 4-1 lead. Kings Mountain chipped away at the lead but some good defensive plays by Taylorsville saved the game for them.

Kings Mountain committed three costly errors in the fourth. That, along with a hit batsman, a double by Shane Matheson and a

sacrifice fly by Jason Douglas gave Post 170 a 3-0 lead that Post 155 couldn't overcome.

Kings Mountain cut the margin to 3-1 in the fifth on Donald Bell's home run over the centerfield fence, but Taylorsville got that run back in the top of the sixth. Will Davis singled and came all away around to score when KM catcher Chris Rider threw wildly on an attempted steal of second base.

Tommy Payne's solo home run cut the margin to 4-2 in the sixth, and Kings Mountain added its final tally in the eighth on Caja Ormand's single and Donald Bell's double which barely missed going over the centerfield fence.

Just an inning earlier, Kings Mountain missed a golden scoring opportunity when Taylorsville centerfielder Will Davis made a spectacular running catch of Todd Ware's sinking line drive with the bases loaded.

Post 155 appeared to be in business again in the bottom of the ninth when Fisher singled and stole second with no outs. But Kevin Melton's bunt was lined back to the pitcher, Mike Smith fanned and Taylorsville shortstop Shane

Matheson went into the hole to throw out Ware on a close play to end the game.

Righthander Heath Bost pitched the first seven innings to get the win for Taylorsville. David R. Jenkins, the first of seven KM pitchers, took the loss.

Bell led the KM plate attack with three hits and Rider, Payne, Ormand and Fisher added one apiece.

T 000 301 000 4-7-1
KM 000 011 010 3-8-7

Heath Bost, Mark Elliott (8) and Brian White; David R. Jenkins, Robert Wingo (5), Shane Webb (6), David C. Jenkins (8), Rick Marr (8), Donald Bell (9), Rick Marr (9) and Chris Rider, Kevin Melton (7). W - Bost. L - D.R. Jenkins. HR: KM - Bell, Payne.

Game 3 - Taylorsville pulled out the heavy artillery early and cruised to a 6-1 victory Sunday night at Taylorsville.

Steve Caudill's double and Mark St. Clair's two-run homer gave Post 170 a 3-0 lead in the first off Rick Marr. Post 170 added two more runs in the second on Jason

Douglas's home run and a fielder's choice; then moved ahead 6-0 in the third on winning pitcher Derek Cockrell's run-scoring double.

Kings Mountain could manage only a run in the fifth inning off Cockrell, who gave up only three hits and fanned seven over the first six innings. That run came on a hit batsman, Chris Rider's single and an error.

Marr gave way to Robert Wingo after Douglas homered to lead off the second, and Post 170 chased Wingo with Cockrell's double in

the third. Donald Bell and Shane Webb held off the Taylorsville attack the rest of the way but the damage had been done.

Kings Mountain was retired in order three times. In the only two innings in which KM had two baserunners, Taylorsville pulled double plays to get out of the jams.

Post 155 finished with only five hits, with Fisher, Ware, Rider, Ormand and Jenkins getting one apiece.

See Baseball, 8-A

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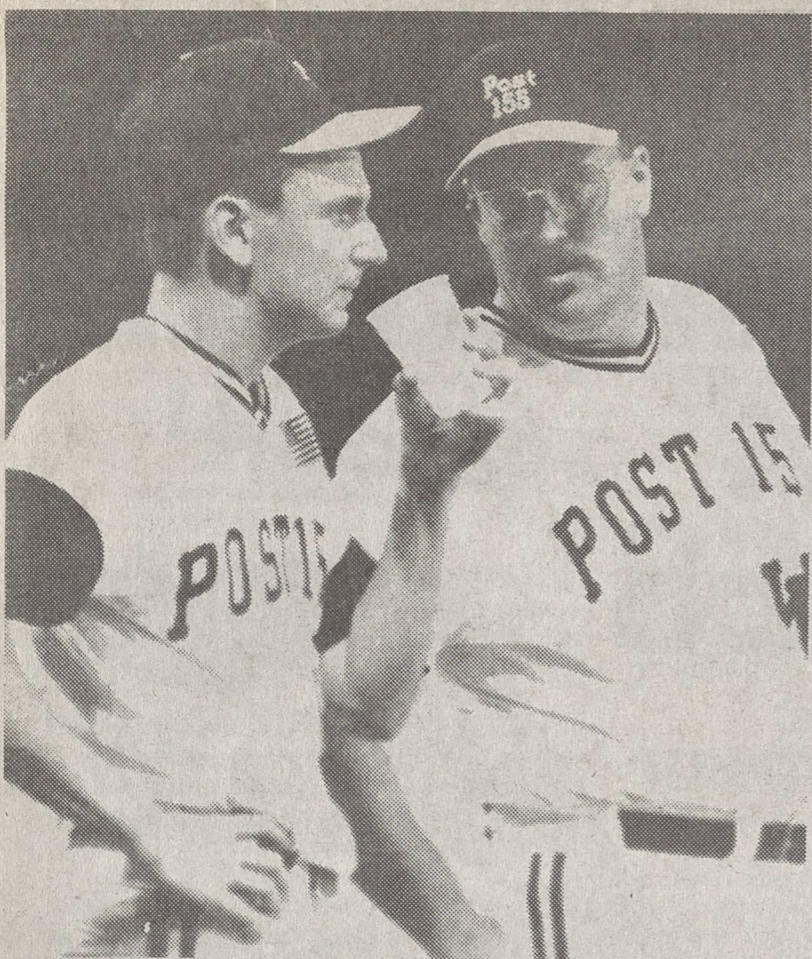
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Stephen Fisher and Coach Bruce Clark talk about how to pitch to Taylorsville batters during a break in the action. Fisher hurled a complete game victory for KM's only win in the best-of-seven series for the Area IV championship.



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