

Robinson honored at All-Star Game

Henry Frazier "Slow" Robinson is moving around a little slower these days because of a health problem, but the Kings Mountain resident was happy to make the long trip to Baltimore last week for the Major League All-Star game.

Robinson caught the legendary Satchel Paige in the old Negro Professional Baseball League in the 1940s. He played for several teams, including the 1949 Baltimore Elite Giants who won the league championship and who were honored along with legends of the entire Negro League prior to the all-star game and for several days leading up to the event at Camden Yards.

Robinson and other Negro League players were hailed as the heroes who "helped pave the way" for the major league players of today, and especially for the black players. Prior to 1946 when Jackie Robinson broke into the Brooklyn Dodgers lineup, blacks were not allowed to play in the majors.

Many like Slow Robinson, Josh Gibson, and Cool Papa Bell were getting old by baseball standards by that time, but the Dodgers' breaking of the color barrier

opened the door for other Negro League stars like Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron, Monty Irvin and Larry Doby. Paige, even though he was well into his forties, played several years for various American and National teams.

Robinson enjoyed his trip to Baltimore, even though it was difficult to take in all the activities the Orioles had scheduled for them. Taking in several old-timers games, autograph sessions and banquets as well as attending the festivities on all-star day were strenuous for the 73-year-old Robinson.

"But, my wife Winnie and I really enjoyed it," he said. "All of our expenses were paid and we saw a lot of people we hadn't seen since 1954 when I ended my career with Brandon, Canada in the Canadian League. Winnie had her picture taken with Yogi Berra and his wife. There were a lot of celebrities there and she got to meet them all. She really enjoyed it."

Robinson said only three members of the '49 Elite Giants were in attendance, but 25 members of the

See Robinson, 9-A



Kings Mountain's Slow Robinson was one of 25 former players in the Negro Baseball League who were honored prior to last week's Major League All-Star Game in Baltimore.

Hickory eliminates KM Juniors

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors fell to Hickory three games to two in the Area IV semi-finals baseball series last week.

Hickory, which won the Western Division, advanced to the Area IV best-of-seven championship series with Gaston Post 23. Kings Mountain closed out its season with a 17-12 record.

Post 155 won the first and fourth games behind complete game pitching performances by Stephen Fisher, but Hickory got 7 2/3 innings of no-hit relief from Jason York to win the series Thursday night in Hickory.

Fisher scattered seven hits and struck out seven last Sunday as Post 155 grabbed a 1-0 lead with a See Legion, 9-A

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Kevin Mack retires from pro football

Sunday afternoons in the fall and winter won't be the same for Kings Mountain football fans, who had grown accustomed to seeing their hometown hero, Kevin Mack, run over the opposition for the Cleveland Browns.

Mack retired from pro football Monday after nine seasons, including the last eight with the Browns. His last several seasons had been hampered by ankle in-



MACK

juries, and the 31-year-old said he didn't want his presence in the lineup to put himself or his teammates in danger of serious injury.

Mack, who has played competitive football since he was 15 years old, led the Browns in rushing for six of the last eight seasons. He signed with them in 1985 after four brilliant years at Clemson University and one season with the Los Angeles Express of the defunct United States Football League.

Mack's best year with the Browns was his first season - 1985 - when he broke all of the leg-

KM pre-majors lose in tourney

Kings Mountain's 15-16 Dixie Pre-majors all-star team finished third in the District tournament last week at KM's Davidson Park.

West Lincoln won the double-elimination event and qualified for the state tournament this week in Whiteville. Gastonia, the runner-up, also qualified for the state. The winner at Whiteville advances to the national tournament in Baton Rouge, La.

Kings Mountain defeated East Lincoln, Dallas and Tryon before falling twice to Gastonia.

Duane Patterson and Sidney Bridges pitched complete game victories against East Lincoln and Dallas, respectively, in the first two games. Patterson, Brian LeFevers and Chris Hutchins each had three hits against East Lincoln, and Bridges had four hit and six runs batted in against Dallas. Hutchins and Mike Cobb were 2-for-3 each.

Cameron Falls, Allen Ware and Patterson teamed up to hurl the victory over Dallas. Brian Crisp had three hits and LeFevers, Hutchins and Kenny Bridges added two each.

Kings Mountain couldn't get its bats going against Gastonia in the fourth and fifth games. Hutchins had three hits and Sidney Bridges and Patterson two each in the semi-finals game.

Shrine tournament set at Early Field

The 11th annual White Plains Shriners Softball Tournament for Class D and E teams will be held July 30-August 1 at Jake Early Park in Kings Mountain.

Teams must supply balls (any Core 50 ball).

For more information, call John Grant at 734-0818.

endary Jim Brown's rookie rushing records. He gained 1,104 yards in 222 carries and was named the AFC Rookie of the Year. He teamed with Earnest Byner to become the first backfield duo in NFL history to rush for over 1,000 yards apiece in the same season.

Mack played in two Pro Bowl games and led the Browns to two division championships. He was one of four original inductees into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.

Mack played two years of high school football at Kings Mountain High under Dan Brooks. His junior year, he played sparingly at tailback but was one of the team's best defensive players as a linebacker.

During his senior season, 1979, he was used solely at tailback and he gained a school record 1,585 yards to lead the Mountaineers to an 8-2 record and second place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference. He was All-Conference, All-State and played in the East-West All-Star game.

He signed with Clemson as a defensive back, but was moved to tailback in preseason practice his freshman year. He was scheduled to start against N.C. State midway through the season but suffered an ankle injury on Wednesday prior to

the Saturday game. When the injury healed, he returned kick-offs and punts.

During his sophomore year he alternated at fullback with Jeff McCall and helped lead the Tigers to the national championship with a 12-0 record and an Orange Bowl victory over Nebraska. He also scored the first Clemson touchdown on foreign soil when the Tigers defeated Wake Forest in Tokyo, Japan.

He alternated with McCall at fullback again his junior year, then took over sole ownership of the position his senior year and led the Tigers in rushing with 867 yards, a mark still unequalled by a Clemson fullback.

Throughout his career in the NFL, he was recognized as a hard worker and the best all-around fullback in the league. At 235 pounds, he had the power to run over tacklers, and he was also one of the league's best blockers.

Mack was the first Kings Mountain football player to make it big in the NFL. Pride Ratteree played briefly with a farm team of the Chicago Cardinals in 1946. Tracy Johnson has played sparingly with the Houston Oilers, Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks, and Calvin Stephens is set to begin his third season with the New England Patriots.

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