



STATE CHAMPIONS - The Oak Grove Baptist Church softball team won the recent USSSA Women's Class B tournament at Marion. Front row, left to right, Amy Carpenter, Sandra Grant (all-state), Terri Lane (MVP), and Kelli Stepp (all-state). Back, Bill Stepp, assistant coach, Donna Keeter, Stephanie Jackson (all-state), Candi Bridges (all-state), Debbie Eaves, Robin Orders (all-state), Betty White, Sallie Grant and Kevin Jenkins (coach). Not pictured, Krista Thornburg, Alison Champion.

Wallace wins Spark Plug 500

DOVER, Del. - Rusty Wallace took the lead from Mark Martin with six laps remaining and won Sunday's Splitfire Spark Plug 500 at Dover Downs International Speedway.

Wallace brought his Ford Thunderbird to the finish line with the engine sputtering and a rear tire going flat. Dale Earnhardt finished second and was also low on fuel.

The race finished under a caution flag brought out when Martin hit the wall on lap 494 after dominating the final two-fifths of the event. Martin led 158 laps, including the 75 before a blown tire caused the accident. Martin bent the left front fender into the tire of his Ford, a few laps earlier, when he got into the rear of Ricky Rudd.

There were 13 caution flags for a total of 72 laps. Bill Elliott, Greg Sacks, Hut Stricklin, Mike Wallace, Jeff Burton, Joe Nemechek, Ward Burton, Sterlin Marlin, Michael Waltrip, Dale Jarrett and Bobby Hamilton were all crash victims of the wall at the "Monster Mile." Jeff Burton suffered the worst crash of the day.

The victory for Wallace was his seventh of the 1994 season but he was able to gain only five points on Dale Earnhardt in the Winston Cup championship battle. Earnhardt leads the points series with 227 over Wallace, Martin is third, 367 points behind.

There are six races remaining. The next race will be The Goody's 500 at Martinsville, Va. on September 25.

Barrett leader in duckpin bowling

Jack Barrett swept the Alley Cats to open a 10-game lead in Thursday Night Mixed Duckpin Bowling action at Dilling Heating.

Jack Barrett rolled a 129 line and 346 set to lead the winners while Allen Myers had a 128-350 for the Cats.

In another match, John Dilling claimed a 6-2 victory over Tommy Barrett to move into a tie for second with the Cats with 6-10 records. The loss dropped Barrett to fourth with a 4-12 mark.

John Dilling led the winners with a 123 line and 342 set, and Bobby Rathbone added a 103-303. Tommy Barrett led the losers with a 116-345 and Chuck Ruley added a 114-321.

R.W. Hullender claimed a 6-2 win over Mark Midgette to maintain his two-game lead over Jack Barrett in Tuesday Night Duckpin Bowling League action.

Hullender now has a 12-4 record, followed by Barrett 10-6, Mark Midgette 6-10 and John Dilling 4-12.

R.W. Hullender's 122 line and 337 let the front-runners while Midgette led his team with a 134-337.

In another match, Barrett won 6-2 over Dilling. Jack Barrett led his group with a 141 line and 365 set. John Dilling led the losers with a 161-367, and Robbie Hullender added a 130-337.

Jacksons win KMCC golf tourney

Stoney and Peggy Jackson defeated Mitch and Wanda Howze on the first hole of a playoff to win the Mixed Couple Alternate Shots golf tournament Saturday and Sunday at Kings Mountain Country Club.

The Jacksons shot a 79-76--155 while the Howzes shot 78-77--155.

Terry and Nicki Pilgrim won the second flight with an 84-80--164. Ken and Doris Cloninger were second with an 86-85--171.

Johnny Jones wins first football contest

Johnny Jones predicted all 20 winners to claim the \$100 prize in last week's Herald football contest.

The second contest is inside today's paper. Pick the most winners

and return your entry by 4 p.m. Friday by bringing it to the Herald office on East King Street or mailing it to Football Contest, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

PLAYERS

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from London, but traveled throughout the country to conduct the camps.

The players found coaching the youth of Great Britain to be more challenging than teaching at sports camps in the United States.

"The schools in England do not have sports teams," Thompson says. "The villages have club teams but these are mostly for soccer."

Williamson adds that England has no college basketball teams and rarely televises live games.

Camp participants spent three hours a day for five days learning the history of basketball and basic fundamentals of the game.

"We had to start at square one with the kids," Thompson said. "An 18-year-old over there has the skill level of a 10-year-old over here. We also needed to review the American rules because they play by international rules."

"You could really see their improvement by the end of the week," Williamson said. "More so than with kids who participate in camps in the United States."

By the end of the week the campers and coaches were playing five on five scrimmages. The players became celebrities with the children and the campers frequently asked them to show off by slam dunking the ball.

Team America assigned four coaches to a camp. Both Thompson and Williamson served as the head coaches for their groups. This experience will help them lead a British XX JUCO bas-

ketball team that hopes to be a national power in the 1994-95 season.

"Acting as team leaders of our groups gave us practice with taking control of situations and being in a position of authority," Thompson said.

Williamson agrees their summer leadership opportunity will prove to be a valuable asset.

"We learned how to motivate players so they'll get enthusiastic about the game," he said. "We'll use these motivational tactics at HJC."

Not all of the trip action was on the court. Williamson found driving on the opposite side of the road exciting when he smashed into a curb and sent the hubcap of their rental car into the woods nearby.

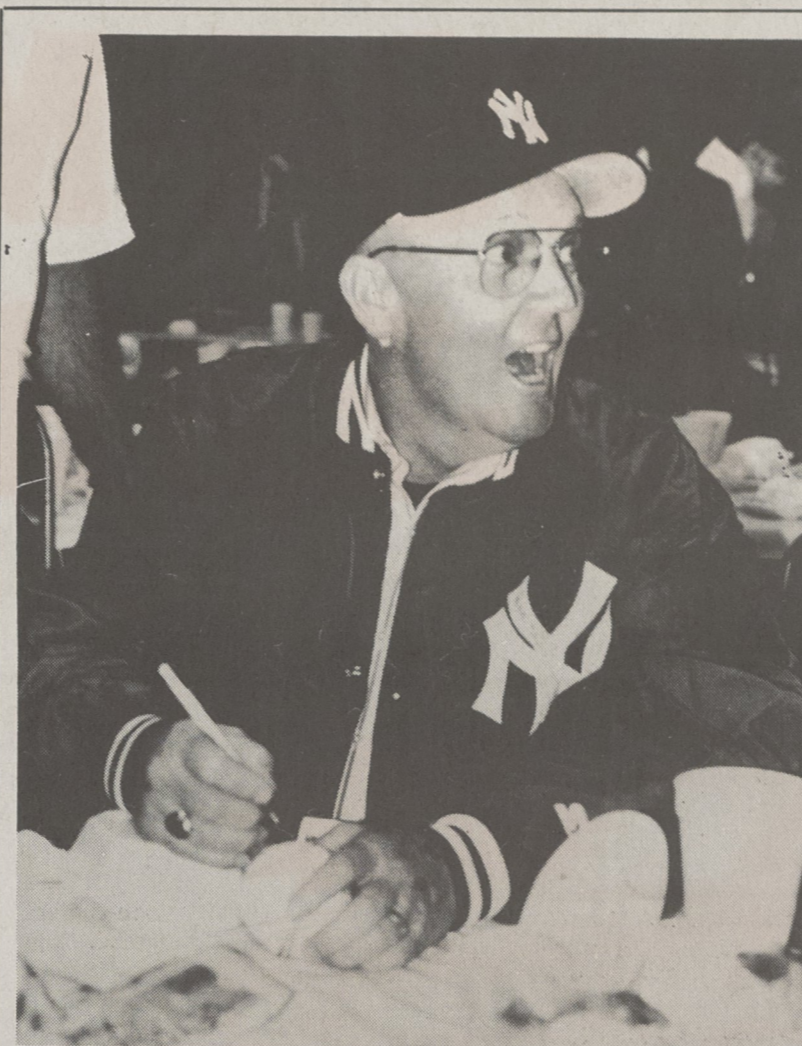
The players experienced other cultural differences that adjusted their lifestyle. Both men agree that the British do not eat enough for their athletic appetites and the two took many side trips for fish and chips to supplement their need for food. Both agree that England needs more TV stations and the village shops close too early.

Thompson and Williamson each lived with three different host families during their stay and developed friendships that both say will last a lifetime.

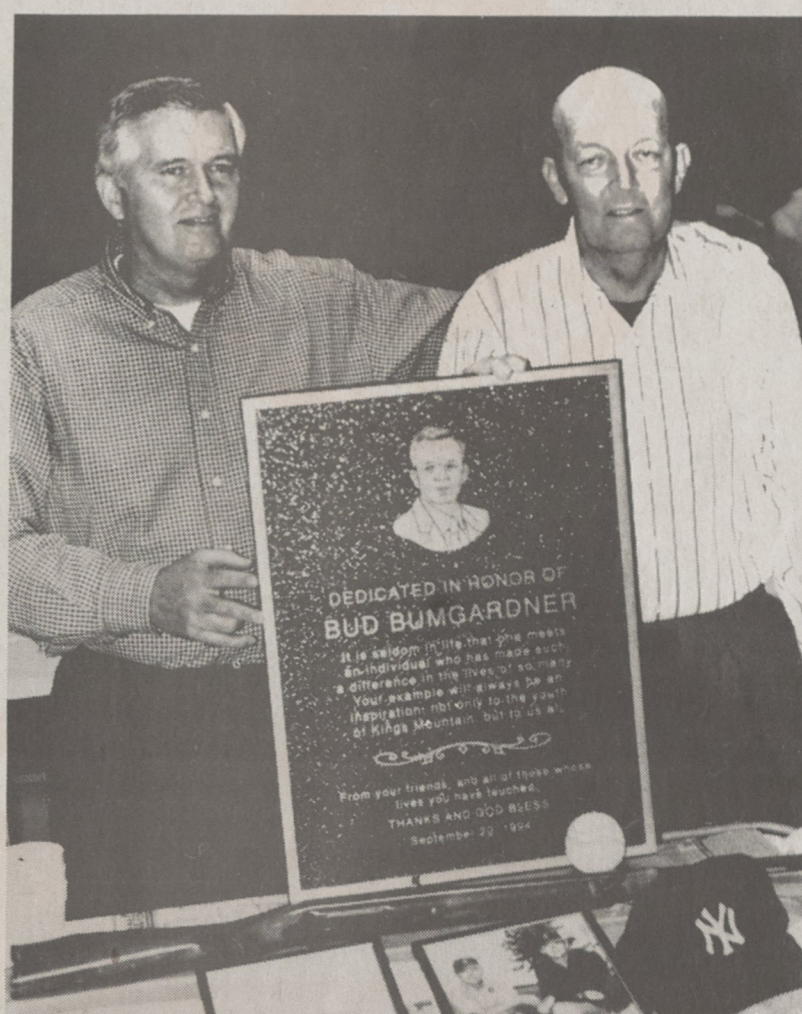
The HJC players would highly recommend the program to other college basketball players.

"This program offered us a chance of a lifetime," Williamson said. "You can't put a price on the adventures we had this summer."

The Team America group plans to reunite St. Patrick's Day in New York City.



Bud Bumgardner jokes and laughs with his friends while autographing baseballs after Tuesday night's roast at American Legion Post 155.



Barry Gibson, left, and Bud Bumgardner display plaque that will be displayed in Bumgardner's honor at the Kings Mountain High School baseball facility.

MOUNTAINEER MEMORIES

Friends roast former Kings Mountain High coach Bud Bumgardner

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

Rev. John Futterer said it was good to see Bud Bumgardner sitting in the front row for a change.

Futterer, Bumgardner's pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church, joked that Bumgardner has always been one of the flock that filled the church from the back.

Bumgardner sat front and center Tuesday night at American Legion Post 155 and was his typical, laughable, loveable self as friends, coaching comrades and players took turns roasting the former volunteer baseball, wrestling and football coach at Kings Mountain High School.

Bumgardner, described as a winner on the playing field and in life, now faces the toughest battle of his life - cancer. But, in the words of his daughter Terri Mahaffey, he has accepted that challenge with the same "values, goals, faith, sense of humor and the keen desire to win" as he faced tough athletic goals in the past.

"Daddy has seen the game from every perspective - he has been a player, a coach, an umpire, a spectator and the father of a player," Mrs. Mahaffey said. "However, the game is different now. The umpires are different, the coaches are different and the game is different. But even so, the player is the same. He lives his values, he sets his goals, and he keeps his faith, his sense of humor and the keen desire



Bud Bumgardner, center, his wife Sandra, left, and daughter Terri Mahaffey, right, share a laugh at Tuesday night's roast honoring Bud at American Legion Post 155.

"He always had a laugh or smile for you, he made you feel good about yourself, and he knows baseball as well as anybody."

-Barry Gibson

to win. We pray every day that he will come out the winner and we ask that you continue to pray for him also."

Bumgardner's son Rusty, a former football and baseball standout at KMHS and Wake Forest University, played for his father in the 1980s and said athletes during that time were fortunate to play for him. "But our family is the most fortunate because we have him as a father," he said.

The comments of his children were about the only serious notes of the night as many of the approximately 250 people in attendance shared humorous stories of their association with Bumgardner. But through all the punches and jabs the love and appreciation for Bumgardner showed through.

Bumgardner played baseball for the Mountaineers and American Legion Post 155 in the late 1950s. He signed on with KMHS as a welding teacher in the fall of 1973 and began his coaching career as a volunteer assistant to KMHS baseball coach Barry Gibson in 1974.

"He came to me one day and said he wanted to help me coach," Gibson recalled. "I told him we probably couldn't pay him and he said, 'I don't want any money. I've seen you coach and you can use all the help you can get.'"

Life on the baseball field was never dull because of Bumgardner,

who had a marvelous sense of humor, Gibson said. "One year we had a new manager who wasn't too familiar with the game. He came up to me carrying a catcher's cup and asked if I had any tape," Gibson noted. "I asked why he needed tape and he said, 'Coach Bumgardner said all new managers have to wear a nose guard.'"

Bumgardner helped coach the KMHS baseball team to some of its brightest moments. The 1980 team made it to the state 3-A championship series against Greene Central. He helped Bruce Clark coach the 1989 and 1993 baseball teams to state championships, and he also revitalized the Bessemer City American Legion program.

"We had a lot of good times," Gibson said. "To me, Bud was a real friend, a real companion and a great coach. He always had a laugh or a smile for you, he made you feel good about yourself and he knows baseball as well as anybody. He has an in-depth knowledge of the game."

Steve Moffitt, who went on to a brilliant career as wrestling coach at KMHS, said Bumgardner offered to assist him when he became head coach in 1978. "Bud took me under his wing," Moffitt noted. "He taught me a lot. He said there are a lot of good players but not to recruit them. Recruit good people."

Their first year together, Moffitt recalled that the Mountaineers won the conference and sectional titles

and their heavyweight, Chuck Gordon, won the state championship.

Tim Whitaker, now pastor of Lighthouse Pentecostal Holiness Church, told some hilarious stories about Bumgardner including one about how the duo almost blew up the welding classroom at KMHS, but it was evident through it all that the two developed a strong friendship that continues.

"I appreciate what he did for me," Whitaker said. "He was our cheerleader and he always talked about family."



Tim Whitaker, one of Bud Bumgardner's former students and players at Kings Mountain High School, presents the popular coach a new shotgun during Tuesday night's roast at Kings Mountain American Legion Post 155. Whitaker said he and Bumgardner are avid hunters, fishermen, horsemen and "frog giggers."

"I appreciate what he did for me. He was our cheerleader and he always talked about family."

-Tim Whitaker

Dean Westmoreland, a retired KMHS teacher, called Bumgardner an excellent teacher because he "taught students how to live, which is more important than subject matter. The kids loved Bud Bumgardner."

Bumgardner, a die-hard Yankee fan, was surprised with a baseball autographed by the New York Yankees and a Yankee jacket signed by Tony Cloninger, Cleve Boyer and Art Fowler. All were provided by Cloninger, former major league pitcher who is a Kings Mountain resident and good friend of Bumgardner's but who was unable to attend because his wife,

Betty, is also battling cancer.

Whitaker, a hunting companion of Bumgardner's, presented Bud with a new Marlin shotgun which he promised "is not loaded."

But perhaps the most appropriate presentation was that of a plaque which will be permanently displayed at the high school baseball facility where Bumgardner's humor, coaching talents and outlook on life influenced hundreds of KMHS athletes in a very positive way.

Because, in the words of his daughter, Terri, "life with him is a real pleasure."