

# Earnhardt gets first win of NASCAR season



**NORTH WILKESBORO** - Seven-time NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt won handily at North Wilkesboro Speedway Sunday, beating Jeff Gordon by 13.48 seconds to take the First Union 400. He has five career victories at the five-eighths mile speedway but the win Sunday was his first of the 1995 season.

Earnhardt started fifth and was leading by lap 42. After exchanging the lead with Brett Bodine, Gordon, Rusty Wallace, Mark Martin, John Andretti and Kyle Petty, Earnhardt moved to the front unchallenged from lap 317 as he masterfully threaded traffic to the end. Chevrolet drivers Gordon and

Earnhardt were the class of the field as they dominated the race. Martin and Wallace, third and fourth respectively, mounted the major threat by Ford. Steve Grissom had a career best finish in fifth.

Sixth through tenth were Ted Musgrave, Sterling Marlin, Rick Mast, Brett Bodine and Darrell

Waltrip.

With only three caution flags, Earnhardt set a new track record by averaging 102.424 miles per hour. Minor spins caused the cautions with Mike Wallace the only driver knocked out of the race due to mechanical failure.

The lack of cautions led to a shortage of tires. Earnhardt used this to his advantage as his seasoned team had a perfect car set up, allowing him to get excellent tire wear.

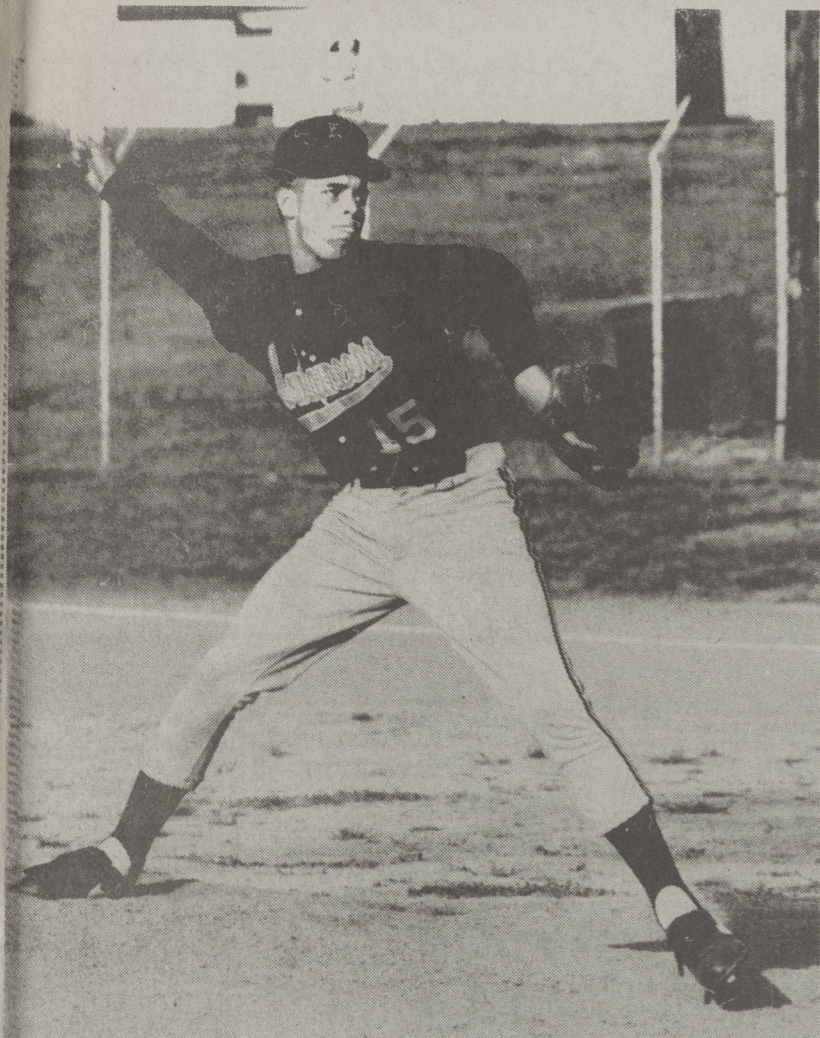
The unusually warm day led to heat exhaustion and early finishes for Greg Sacks and Kyle Petty. Jeff Burton completed the race but was treated at the infield hospital.

The Chevrolet Monte Carlo continues its dominance of the Winston Cup circuit with seven wins in seven events for the season. The best finish for Ford has been second place.

Earnhardt currently leads Marlin in the points race. Gordon is third followed by Martin, Terry Labonte, Rusty Wallace, Musgrave, Dale Jarrett, Grissom and Derrick Cope.

The next Winston Cup race is the Hanes 500 at Martinsville Sunday, April 23.

The Busch Grand National division will be in action this Saturday in the Sundrop 400 at Hickory Motor Speedway. Qualifying is Friday



Hunter Suber pitched Kings Mountain High's JV team into first place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference last week.

## JV Mounties win three, regain first place in SWC

Kings Mountain High's JV baseball team won three games last week to run its record to 4-2 in the Southwestern Conference and 8-2 overall.

The Mountaineers defeated Shelby 10-4 Monday, beat East Rutherford 15-7 in a suspended game Wednesday, and defeated Burns 13-2 in a five-inning contest Thursday.

Jeremy Cooke hurled the win and also went 3-for-5 to lead the victory over Shelby. Kings Mountain jumped on the Lions with four runs in the top of the first inning, and put the game away with a pair in the third and fourth frames.

Hunter Suber came on in the seventh inning to put down a Shelby rally and get the save. He struck out two batters.

Rusty Putnam contributed two hits to the KM plate attack and David Clark, Scotty Martin and Suber added one apiece.

Ty Toney hurled the win at East Rutherford. Putnam and Martin led the hitting with 3-for-5 and three runs batted in each. David Clark and Josh Turbyfill were 2-for-3 each.

Toney worked four innings and gave up only two hits. He walked two and struck out four. Chris

Brown worked the first two innings and Mark Stimson pitched the seventh.

Kings Mountain scored in five of the seven innings, and scored six runs in the seventh to turn the game into a rout.

Against Burns Thursday, Hunter Suber went the distance on the mound, pitching a three-hitter and striking out four. The Mountaineers backed him with perfect defensive play.

The Mountaineers put the game away early, scoring six runs in the first as 10 men went to the plate. Cooke, Clark, Toney and Martin each had a hit during the rally, and the Mountaineers also took advantage of two bases on balls and a Burns error.

The Mountaineers scored six more in the third inning on hits by Clark and Toby Sims, two walks and two errors.

Clark and Toney finished with two hits each to lead the plate attack. Sims was 1-for-2 with four runs batted in and Broom was 1-for-2 with three runs batted in.

"These young men are playing well together," noted Coach Tony Leigh. "They are playing sound defense and swinging the bat. Our seven pitches have great attitudes and are competitors."

## Sports Briefs

### Old-timers baseball game set May 6 at KMHS

The Kings Mountain High Booster's Club will hold an Old-Timers baseball game Saturday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Former Mountaineer players who are at least 30 years old are needed to participate. Anyone interested should call Coach Tony Leigh at 734-KMHS or Ken Bridges at Bridges Textiles.

All proceeds will go to support KMHS athletics.

Leigh and Bridges said anyone interested in taking batting practice, throwing and fielding may come to Lancaster Field at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 30. Bridges and Leigh will be on hand to meet with the players and organize the game.

Still, they said players should call m so they will have an idea of how many people will participate.

#### Middle School golfers second in KMCC match

Kings Mountain Middle School's golf team improved to a second place finish in its second Bi-County Conference match last week at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Crest won the nine-hole event with a 182 score, followed by KM at 202 and Burns at 203. Will Hendricks led the Patriots with a 43 and Ben Howell shot a 50.

Two weeks ago at Pine Grove, Kings Mountain finished third with a 187 score. R-S Central won with a 170 and Burns was second at 182. Ben Godfrey led the Patriots with a 42 and Hendricks shot 43.

Other members of the KM team are Tyler Ellis, Matt Bullington and Lee Echols.

The Patriots were scheduled to play at Shelby against Shelby and R-S Central yesterday. The Patriots go to Lincolnton the week after Easter and will compete in the Bi-County Conference meet May 2 at Pine Grove.

#### JV Mountaineers whip South Point

Kings Mountain High's JV baseball team regained first place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference Monday with a 6-3 victory over South Point's Red Raiders.

Coach Tony Leigh's Mountaineers are now 6-2 in the SWC and 10-2 overall. They host East Rutherford Thursday at 4:30.

Hunter Suber went the distance Monday, giving up just two hits and striking out 12 batters.

Josh Turbyfill led the KM plate attack with 2-for-2 and two runs batted in. Rusty Putnam was 2-for-4, Scottie Martin was 1-for-3 with two RBI, and Suber was 1-for-3 with one RBI.

#### Patriots take top spot in Bi-County

Kings Mountain Middle School's baseball team took over sole possession of first place in the Bi-County Conference Tuesday with a 7-6 victory over Crest.

The Patriots scored five runs in the first inning but needed a two-run single by Robbie Walker in the bottom of the fifth to put the game on ice.

The victory improved KM's record to 5-1.

Kendrick Bell pitched the win but Brandon Boone came in to record a save. Robin Perkins led the hitting with three hits, and Andy Leigh and Anthony Ash added two each.

"We went up 5-0 by hitting the ball hard, and then we got complacent and let them score four runs in the top of the sixth," said KM Coach Rick Fortner. "But our kids never quit, and that's the important thing."

"It was a total team effort, and that's what you need. Brandon Boone has come in to get a win

and a save this year without even warming up. Robbie Walker came in and drove in two very important runs, and Brandon Putnam came off the bench in the sixth and came through with a base hit. When the kids get to play they come through for us."

Last week, the Patriots defeated Burns 13-1 as Andy Leigh got three hits and Chad Jones, Bell and Clay Phillips added two each. Robin Perkins was the winning pitcher.

Kings Mountain travels to R-S Central Thursday.

### SOUTH POINT

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trouble all night as the Raiders put their lead-off batter on base in every inning, but the pitchers and defense always came up with a big performance to get out of jams.

"Our team gave a great effort and played with great heart, never giving up," said KM Coach Nelson Connor. "Robert Wingo pitched an excellent baseball game and receive great defensive support."

South Point had runners in scoring position in eight of the nine innings, but left 14 men on base, including the bases loaded in the seventh and eighth frames. The Raiders collected only five hits but KM pitchers issued 12 walks.

Raider first baseman Jason Lineberger walked to lead-off the bottom of the ninth, and Richardson was sent in to run. An error and another walk loaded the bases, and then Leftwich uncorked the wild pitch and Richardson hus-

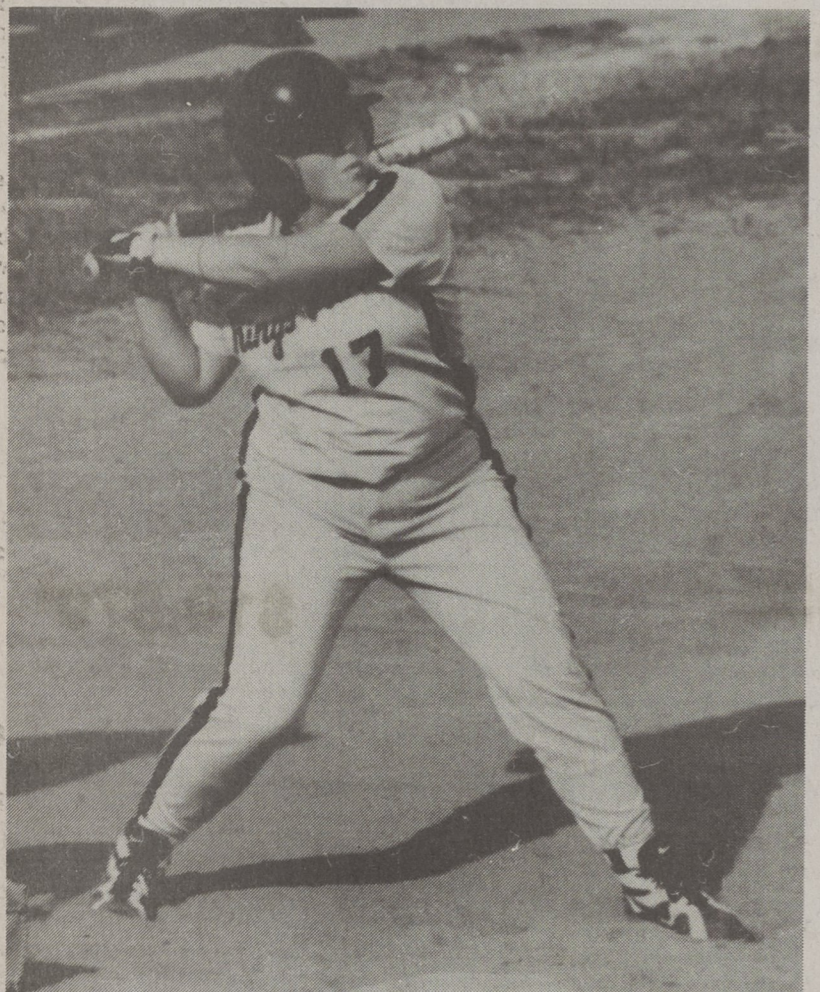
tled home with the winning run.

Kings Mountain's only threat in extra innings came in the top of the ninth when catcher Kevin Melton reached base on an error with two outs. He stole second but Worley came up with a big strikeout of Brian LeFevres to end the inning.

Melton, Timmy Harrelson and Wingo each had a single for the Mountaineers. Worley and Chad Honeycutt each had a double and Lineberger, Carpenter and Kevin Fraley each had a single for the Red Raiders.

"Jamie Worley pitched an intelligent game and kept our hitters off stride all night long," said Connor. "It's a shame either team had to lose, but I believe we're a better team today than we were yesterday."

Score by innings: R-H-E  
KM 000 000 000 0-3-3  
SP 000 000 001 1-5-2  
Robert Wingo, Bryan Leftwich (7) and Kevin Melton; Jamie Worley and Robbie Auten. W - Worley. L - Leftwich.



Amanda Burns had big week at the plate for Kings Mountain High's girls softball team, which won three more games to run its record to 10-1.

## KM girls run record to 10-1

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team continued its winning ways during the past week, claiming three more victories to run its record to 5-0 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and 10-1 overall.

Coach Susie Hughes' ladies outscored Burns 15-7 in a SWC game and beat Bessemer City 20-14 and Hunter Huss 16-6 in non-conference action.

Amanda Burns went 3-for-4 with five runs batted in to lead the victory over Burns. Nancy Ely was 3-for-3 with two RBI, and Patricia Freeman was 2-for-3.

Karen Queen went 4-for-4 with a triple, home run and three runs batted in to lead the win over

Bessemer City. Patricia Freeman was 2-for-3 and Candace Moore, Keisha Wells, Amanda Burns and Tameeka Anderson were all 3-for-5. Anderson had three runs batted in.

Queen went 3-for-3 with two doubles, a home run and two RBI against Huss. Wells, Burns, Freeman and Misty Smith were all 2-for-3 and Freeman had three RBI.

Kings Mountain was scheduled to play North Gaston in its final first round game Wednesday. KM begins second round play Thursday at home against R-S Central. Game time is 4:30.

# NASCAR

## Racing

### VIDEO'S

- #1 - The NASCAR Story Vol. 1 1947-1958
- #2 - The NASCAR Story Vol. 2 1959-1971
- #3 - The NASCAR Story Vol. 3 1972-1979
- #4 - The NASCAR Story Vol. 4 1980-1994
- #5 - Legends Richard & Kyle Petty
- #6 - Legends Michael & Darrell Waltrip
- #7 - Legends Bobby & Davey Allison
- #8 - Legends Terry & Bobby Labonte
- #9 - Legends Rusty & Kenny Wallace
- #10 - 1994 NASCAR Year in Preview
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