



Kings Mountain High football coach Ron Massey talks to his players at the start of the Mountaineers' annual mini-camp Monday.

Seventy-five ninth through 12th graders showed up for the light workouts and introduction to KMHS football.

KM gridders hold mini-camp

The start of football season is still months away, but already folks around Kings Mountain are getting excited.

KMHS head coach Ron Massey and his assistants worked with around 75 ninth through 12th graders Monday through Wednesday in the school's annual mini-camp.

Next week, the coaching staff and some varsity players will work with youngsters ages 8-13 in a youth football camp.

Mini-camp has been a tradition at KMHS for years, but the excitement seems greater this year since the Mountaineers are coming off an 8-3 season and looking forward to another good year in the

Southwestern 3-A Conference.

Massey had a good mix of veteran and young players in camp, but was somewhat disappointed in the lack of numbers from the sophomore and junior class.

"I was real happy with the number of freshmen we had," he said. "We had about 20 freshmen, which will help us. Most of our seniors that we were expecting showed up. We have a couple that are sick right now."

Massey said the main goal during mini-camp was to evaluate personnel, get an idea of where people might play on offense and defense, and to introduce players to their base offense and defense.

With mini-camp completed, the

Mountaineers will turn their attention to the weight room and building strength for the beginning of preseason practice on August 1.

"We'll have them in the weight room a couple of days a week, and we'll be doing some skill work when we finish our work in the weight room," he said. "But we don't want to monopolize their summer."

Massey said he expects about 30

or 40 youngsters to participate in next week's youth camp, but is hoping for at least 60.

Registration is due this week, but he said those who have not registered will still be able to do so Monday morning. The camp runs from 9 a.m.-12 noon Monday through Friday.

For more information, all Massey at 734-KMHS extension 35.



Right-hander Hunter Suber pitched Post 155 to victory over Belmont in American Legion baseball action Saturday night in Belmont. KM hosts Stanley tonight, Henrietta Saturday and Marion Sunday.

KM Juniors 3-1 in division, face three tough home games

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors are the surprise team of the Area IV Central Division thus far, but Tony Leigh's young charges face a tough home grind over the next several days.

Some of the top teams in Area IV will play at Lancaster Field this week, beginning with Stanley Thursday night at 7:30. On Saturday, preseason favorite Henrietta comes to town.

Sunday at 7:30, Post 155 will host a strong Marion team in a non-division contest, and Tuesday Post 155 travels to Bessemer City.

Post 155 went 2-2 during the past week, but only one of their losses was in the division. The locals are now 3-1 in the Central Division and 3-4 overall.

Last Wednesday night, KM fell to a strong Marion team 11-1 in Marion. Leigh used the non-division game to take a look at some young pitchers, and the experienced Marion offense battered them.

Jeremy Cooke led the KM plate attack with 3-for-3. Wesley Bridges, Ty Toney, Tony Stokes and Rusty Putnam had a hit apiece.

Saturday night, Post 155 traveled to Belmont and won 7-2 over Auten-Stowe Post 144. Hunter Suber pitched eight strong innings to get the win, and Jeremy Cooke finished up.

"We swung the bat real well, and we were probably as aggressive as we've been in a long time," Leigh said. "We had eight different people get hits. We put the ball in play and good things happened."

David Clark led the KM offense with 3-for-5 and Bridges was 2-for-5. Toney and Cooke hit home runs, and Stokes, Rusty Putnam, Jason Putnam and Scotty Martin had a hit apiece.

Post 155 downed county rival Shelby 7-0 Sunday night in Shelby behind a route-going pitching performance by Rusty Putnam. He struck out eight.

"Again, we put the ball in play - not as good as we did against Belmont, but we ran the bases aggressively and caused a lot of mishaps on Shelby's part," Leigh said.

Rusty Putnam and Cooke led the KM hitting with two hits each and Bridges, Toney and Ray Biddix added one each.

Kings Mountain played its third game in as many nights Monday at Gastonia and fell to a good Post 23 squad 10-3.

"Our pitchers were winding down a little bit after playing three straight road games and we worked four young pitchers and tried to get them some work," Leigh said. "We put the ball in play pretty good but Gastonia just had too many hits."

Wesley Bridges led off the game with a single and later stole home to give Post 155 a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, but Gastonia's experience was the difference in the long run.

Stokes led the KM offense with 2-for-4, Cooke had a run-scoring triple, Andrew Leigh had a double, and Cooke, Bridges, Clark, Bo Walker and Biddix each had a single.

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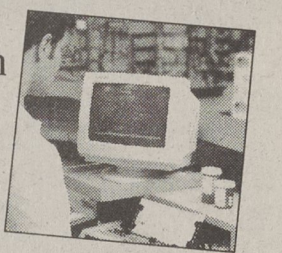
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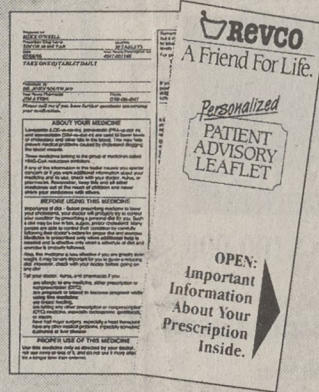
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