



SIGNS WITH A&T - Kings Mountain High football player Johnny Surratt signs a national letter of intent with North Carolina A&T University on the first day of signing Wednesday. Looking on, left to right, are KMHS offensive line coach Dave Farquharson, Surratt's parents, Johnny and Rita Surratt, and KMHS head football coach Ron Massey.



ACE GOLFERS - Keith Bradley, owner of Golfer's Choice in Kings Mountain, presented hole-in-one awards to members of Kings Mountain Country Club who recorded aces in 1996. Front row, left to right, are Tony Cooke, who aced the 117-yard fifth hole, and Phil Russ, who aced the 176-yard 12th hole and the 153-yard 17th hole. Back, left to right, are John Van Dyke Jr., who aced the fifth hole, Bradley, and Stoney Jackson, who aced the fifth hole. Not pictured, Joe Greene, who had a hole-in-one on the fifth hole.

GWU to host SAC tournament

BOILING SPRINGS - The Gardner-Webb University committee that is planning the 1997 Food Lion Men's and Women's South Atlantic Conference Basketball Tournament has revealed a number of activities that are sure to please fans who attend the event February 26-March 1 on the GWU campus.

Included in the special guests who will attend are the Carolinas Panthers' cheerleaders, the "Top Cats," and the Panthers' mascot, "Sir Purr," who will both give halftime performances and sign autographs for the young and old alike. Appearances by a number of Panthers players are pending as well.

Also, "A Night of Champions" is being planned during which several area high school football teams who won state championships will be honored by a member of the NFL World Champion Green Bay Packers who was featured in the post-Super Bowl issue of Sports Illustrated. That player is

also making arrangements to sign autographs and mingle with fans throughout his visit.

Committee members also advise fans to come prepared to be caught on camera, as jumbo-sized screens around the arena will catch all the on-the-court action as well as the activity in the stands. Roving cameras at all corners of the court will ensure that no matter where you sit, you won't miss a moment of the tournament's festivities.

Each day and night of the tournament will feature special opportunities for groups to enjoy the action. Church youth groups and YMCA members are being personally invited for their involvement, and rallies for Fellowship of Christian Athletes members and those involved with Girl Scouts are also being planned to coincide with the tournament, making for large crowds and plenty of noise. Food Lion, who lends its name and sponsorship to the four-day event, has also notified GWU about getting its employ-

ees far and wide to the game for special recognition, according to the office of Tom Smith, CEO of Food Lion.

Prizes and luxury items are being prepared for giveaways and student groups from the individual campuses are being contacted about how they can benefit from attending. A special ticket price for college students is also in place. With their college I.D., students will be admitted for \$1 daily. For other adults wishing to attend, tickets are \$6 daily or \$16 for the entire four-day event. Children will be admitted for \$3, whether they attend daily or for the entire event.

Matt Webber, director of Gardner-Webb public relations and a planning committee member, said, "It's coming together as a spectacular four-day event. We want fans of the South Atlantic Conference schools to come away with a sense of pride and excitement about this tournament."

New Gardner-Webb coach signs 12 prospects to team

Gardner-Webb University football Coach Steve Patton has announced the signing of 12 prospects to the 1997 recruiting class, including eight freshmen, three transfers and one returning player, linebacker Ty Byars, a former all-state performer at Gaffney High.

Three talented transfers include defensive end Casey Allen of North Mecklenburg High, who transferred from South Carolina; Brian Brooks, defensive end from Burns and NC State; and James Tippins from Middle Georgia College.

The eight high school players signed combined to play on seven state championship team. Quarterback Jamie Smith led Crest to the North Carolina 4-A

state championship, and quarterback Bill McCall and linebacker Styron Miller led Berkeley, SC High to the South Carolina 4-A titles in 1995 and '96.

Abbeville High lineman Corey Burton has a state title under his belt, and lineman Jeff Smith led Bandys High to the North Carolina 2-A championship game.

Other signees include lineman Corey Burton, who led Abbeville, SC High to the 1996 state 2-A title, linebacker Kareem Mitchell of Summerville, SC, defensive back Marco Patterson of Lancaster, SC, and running back Justin Richardson of Garner, NC.

John Hill's hit lifts G-W over Armstrong

SAVANNAH, GA. - Senior John Hill's two-out, two-run single in the 10th inning sparked Gardner-Webb to a season-opening 6-4 win over Armstrong State Atlantic Saturday.

The Bulldogs rallied to tie the score at 4-4 in the eighth on an RBI double by junior Brad Cuttino. Gardner-Webb squelched two bases-loaded situations in the sixth and eighth with inning-ending double plays.

The Bulldogs were led offensively by freshman Jason Walker with a pair of doubles, catcher Wes Gentry with 2-for-4 and an RBI double, Cuttino's 2-for-5 effort with a run-scoring double, and Hill's 3-for-5, three RBI performance.

Look for the coloring contest in the Herald; Feb. 20

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