

SAFE AT THIRD - Kings Mountain's Ray Biddix (18) slides safely into third base ahead of the throw in first game of a nonconference doubleheader with Chase High School Saturday afternoon at KM's Lancaster Field. KM won this game 9-2 but Chase came back to win the second game 10-7.

KM, Chase split twinbill

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers split a nonconference doubleheader with Chase Saturday afternoon at Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers won the first game 9-2 but Chase came back to take the second contest 10-7.

Coach Tony Leigh used the two five-inning games to get everybody some playing time. He used five different pitchers and all of his players saw action in at least one of the games.

Senior righthander Rusty Putnam and sophomore lefty Seth Denton pitched the first game. Putnam worked the first three innings and gave up two hits and two runs, and Denton worked the final two innings, walking two and striking out three.

The Mountaineers scored three runs in the first inning for

a 3-0 lead. Chase came back to cut the margin to 4-1 after two innings and 6-2 after three, but the Mounties broke the game open with three runs in the fourth inning.

Ty Toney and Ray Biddix led the KM plate attack with two hits and two runs batted in each. David Clark, Rusty Putnam, Toby Sims and Seth Denton added a hit apiece, and Robin Perkins had a hit and two stolen bases.

Chase jumped on KM starter Jeremy Cooke for five runs in the first inning, and the Trojans got five more off Hunter Suber in the second and third to take charge of the second game. Kings Mountain battled back with a run in the first, four in the second and two in the fifth, but they weren't enough.

David Clark came on to pitch

the final two innings and struck out six of the seven batters he faced. He fanned four in the fourth inning, but one reached base on a passed ball after the third strike.

Putnam went 2-for-3, and Suber clubbed a two-run homer in the second inning to lead the KM plate attack. Perkins, Sims, Cooke, Toney, Clark and Wesley Bridges added a hit apiece.

"We hit the ball pretty good in both games, played pretty good defense and got a good look at everybody on the team," Coach Tony Leigh said. "We had a shaky pitching performance in the second game. We had too many walks. But everybody got a chance to swing the bat, and that's coming around, and everybody got some playing time and that's what we needed Saturday."

Mounties nip Raiders in tourney

Kings Mountain scored five runs in the top of the seventh inning to defeat South Point's Red Raiders 12-9 in the opening round of the Gaston County Easter Tournament Monday afternoon at East Gaston.

The Mountaineers, 4-3, were scheduled to play East Gaston at 7:30 p.m. last night. The tournament continues through Saturday.

Tony Leigh's Mountaineers came from behind twice after spotting the Raiders a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. KM scored three runs in the fourth inning and four in the fourth to take a 7-6 lead but then had to erase a 9-7 deficit in the last inning.

David Clark came on in relief of Seth Denton in the bottom of the seventh to earn a save. Denton relieved starter Rusty Putnam in the fifth and got the win his second game of the season.

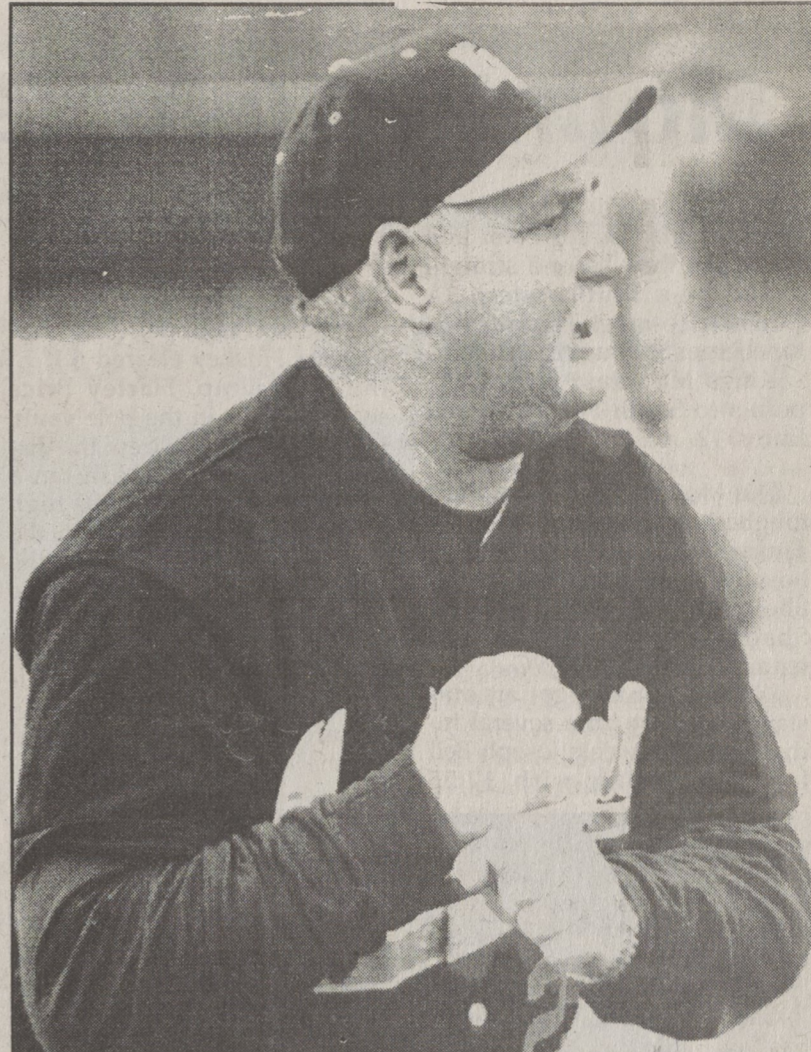
Scotty Martin went 2-for-4 to lead the KM plate attack and Ty Toney, Clark, Putnam, Jeremy Cooke and Ray Biddix added a hit apiece.

Putnam got off to a shaky start, walking five batters and giving up seven hits over the first 4 1/3 innings. He exited with one out in the fifth and South Point leading 8-7.

Denton, a sophomore southpaw, pitched 1 2/3 innings, giving up just two hits and striking out two. Clark struck out two batters in the bottom of the seventh to earn the save.

Trailing 9-7 going into the top of the seventh, the Mountaineers broke loose with run-scoring singles by Toney and Martin to tie the game. Robin Perkins' sacrifice fly gave the Mounties a 10-9 lead, and they added a pair of insurance runs on a two-run single by Biddix.

"Several times I felt like our fellows could have given up, especially being down 5-0," said Coach Leigh. "But we battled back on several occasions, and that shows a lot of character on their part."



HIT IT SOLID - Kings Mountain High baseball coach Tony Leigh flashes signals to his Mountaineers in Saturday's twinbill with Chase at Lancaster Field. The Mountaineers are competing in the Gaston County Tournament at East Gaston this week.

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OUT AT THE PLATE - Lance Wheeler (14) of Chase is going to be out at the plate trying to score on a wild pitch in Saturday's baseball game at Kings Mountain. Waiting to make the tag is Kings Mountain pitcher Rusty Putnam. KM won 9-2 in the first game of a doubleheader.

AREA RACING RESULTS

(Results of Saturday night's racing at Thunder Valley Speedway).

Stock 4 - Barry Self, David Hamrick, Evan Benton, Tank West Jr., Rodney Bumgardner.

Super Stock 4 - Marc White, Jim Blackburn, Greg Barker, Ronnie Self, Marty Smith.

Open Modified 4 - Mike Dellinger, Tom Baxter, Harold Green, Charlie Harmon.

Stock 8 - Randy Keene, Mark Towell, Eddie Roane, Kirby Visage, Marvin Pope.

Super Stock 8 - Dennis Truluck, James Hudson, Mark Towell, John Rhyne, Gary Shelton.

Thunder & Lightning - Mike Messer, Allen Payne, Billy Greenway, Darrell Bolinger, Sammy West.

Limited Late Model - Buddy Smith, Johnny Stovall, Johnny Bridges, Doug Sanders, Buster May.

(Results of Saturday night's racing at Antioch Speedway in Morganton).

Limited Sportsman - Ray Scott, Shine Wiggins, Dab Saulman, Randy Vess.

Modified Four - Lee Thomas, Trent Chatham, Mike Ingle, Tim Bristol.

Stock Four - Buster Duckworth, Trevor Chatham, Rodney Hubbard, Darren Bruce, Danny Smith.

Street Stock V-8 - Tim Bristol, Eddie Roane, Keith Teague, Steve Hooks, James Henneborn.

Pure Stock Four - Ernest Anthony, Billy Roland, Mike Newton, Josh Holden, Tim Dewey.

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