

SAFE AT THIRD - Kings Mountain's Robin Perkins slides safely into third base in a recent non-conference baseball game with Chase at Lancaster Field. The Mountaineers host East Rutherford at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in a key Southwestern 3-A Conference contest.

KM Mountaineers finish third in Gaston Easter Tournament

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers finished third in last week's Gaston County Baseball Tournament at East Gaston High School.

After defeating South Point 12-9 in the opening round on Monday, the Mountaineers fell to East Gaston 4-2 Wednesday and to Cherryville 8-2 Friday.

The Mountaineers outthit the Warriors 6-3 but a two-run homer by the Warriors' Kyle Robinson in the first inning and an unearned tally in the second staked Darrell Van Dyke's charges to a quick 3-0 lead off Mountaineer sophomore Seth Denton.

"We played a good game," said KM Coach Tony Leigh. "It was a tight ball game and pretty well played by both sides. It was a good defensive game and the pitching was pretty good. It's just that the two-run homer in the first inning and the unearned run in the second were pretty decisive."

Kings Mountain scored a run in the fourth on an RBI double by Mike Thompson, and the Mountaineers added their final run in the fifth on a solo home run by Jeremy Cooke.

Robin Perkins led off the fourth with a walk and a sacrifice fly attempt was popped up and the Warriors pulled off a double play. Cooke's home run followed.

"Without that double play, that could have tied the game," Leigh said.

Perkins, Ty Toney, Jason Putnam and Wesley Bridges each had a single to go with Thompson's double and Cooke's home run.

Against Cherryville Friday afternoon, the Ironmen jumped out to a 4-0 first inning lead and never let up. Two walks, two hit batsmen and a home run by Ralph Roberts got the Ironmen going against KM righthander David Clark.

Kings Mountain collected only five hits, with Rusty Putnam going 2-for-3. Jason Putnam, Kendrick Bell and Seth Denton added a hit apiece, with Bell hitting a solo home run.

"We weren't quite as sharp against Cherryville," Leigh said. "David Clark had looked great all year but he just didn't have it in the first inning. We weren't as sharp with the bats or defensively."

Cooke was the only Mountaineer named to the All-Tournament team.

Because of recent rain-outs and scheduling conflicts, the Mountaineers have had to reshuffle their schedule over the next several weeks.

The Hunter Huss game, which was rained out recently, has been rescheduled for Monday, April 14 at 4 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Next Tuesday's game with South Point has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 15 at South Point because of a conflict with the KMHS Academic Awards Banquet.

The recent North Gaston game, which was rained out, has been scheduled for April 21 at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

The East Gaston game, originally scheduled for April 21, has been moved to April 28 at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Mountaineers lose to R-S 3-2

R-S Central's D.J. Reid singled home the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning Tuesday to give the Hilltoppers a 3-2 Southwestern 3A Conference victory over Kings Mountain's Mountaineers.

The Mountaineers, 1-2 in the SWC and 4-6 overall, return home tonight to host East Rutherford in a 7:30 game. Kings Mountain's JV team hosts Burns at 4:30.

The Mountaineers played one of their better games of the season but couldn't get some key hits with men in scoring position.

Rusty Putnam went the distance on the mound. He gave up only five hits, including two in the seventh inning, walked one and struck out two.

"Rusty pitched one of his finest performances of the year," said KM Coach Tony Leigh. "We got a fine performance from everyone on the team as far as their defensive efforts and contributions to the game, and motivation and morale on the bench."

Robin Perkins led the KM offense with 2-for-4, including a double and two stolen bases. Ty Toney, David Clark, and Scotty Martin added one hit apiece.

The Mountaineers led by scores of 1-0 and 2-1 before the senior-laden R-S nine came back for the victory.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 1-0 lead in the top of the second as Toney led off with a single, was sacrificed by second by Clark, moved to third on Scotty Martin's single, and scored on Wesley Bridges' infield out.

The Hilltoppers tied the game in the third, but KM scored again in the fourth for a 2-1 lead. Toney doubled and scored on a single by Clark.

Gilbert tied the game again for R-S in the bottom of the fourth on a towering home run over the centerfield fence.

The Mountaineers had scoring opportunities in the sixth and seventh, but couldn't push any runs across, and the KM nine used good defensive plays to put down potential R-S scoring threats in the fifth and sixth.

In the fifth inning, R-S put runners on first and third with nobody out but couldn't score, and in the sixth the Hilltoppers had runners on second and third with nobody out. One runner was cut down at the plate trying to score on an infield out, and another was cut down on an excellent throw by rightfielder Kendrick Bell on a potential sacrifice fly.

"We had some good defensive performances," said Coach Leigh. "We just did not come through with a couple of key hits with people in scoring position."

See Baseball, 8-A

KMHS SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Men's Track - Burns, East Rutherford, Shelby at KM, 4 p.m.
Softball - Kings Mountain at East Rutherford, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis - Kings Mountain at Shelby, 3:30 p.m.
Golf - Southwest Conference match at KMCC, 2 p.m.
Baseball - East Rutherford at Kings Mountain, 7:30 p.m.
JV Baseball - Burns at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

JV Baseball - Kings Mountain at West Lincoln, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Golf - Kings Mountain at Boiling Springs, SC, 3:30 p.m.
Baseball - Hunter Huss at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.
JV Baseball - Kings Mountain at South Point, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Softball - North Gaston at Kings Mountain, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis - South Point at Kings Mountain, 3:30 p.m.
Golf - Kings Mountain at Clover, SC, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Women's Track - RS, KM, Burns, Shelby at East Rutherford, 4 p.m.
Baseball - Kings Mountain at South Point, 7 p.m.

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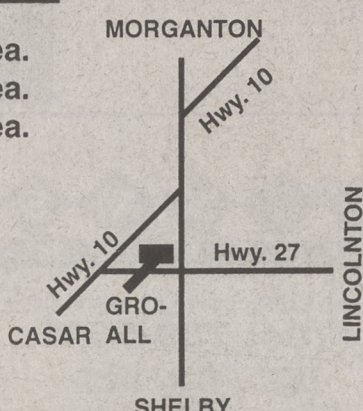
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