

# Catching DREAMS

New book chronicles KM man's career in Negro Baseball League

By KAMIE CHAMPION

Frazier "Slow" Robinson had always had a dream to write his memoirs of life in the Negro Baseball Leagues.

His dream has become a reality this year with the publishing of his autobiography "Catching DREAMS: My Life in the Negro Baseball Leagues."

Co-author Paul Bauer and Robinson's wife, Winnie, will introduce the book at a signing in Kings Mountain at the City Hall on June 29 from 5:00 til 6:30 p.m. and in Shelby at Chuga-Chuga-Choo-Choo Hobbies on June 26 at 3:00. The books may be purchased at Chuga-Chuga-Choo-Choo Hobbies in Shelby.

Winnie said, "Robinson was a generous man who loved children and loved talking to people about his days as a catcher in the Negro Leagues." She added that he began working on his story in 1995 and was excited about sharing his love of baseball with anyone who was interested.

Winnie said she found the name of a rare book dealer and called the number to find her husband a copy of "Maybe I'll Pitch Forever: The Story of Satchel Paige."

"Satchel and my husband were the best of friends and he wanted a copy of this book to read about Satchel's career,"

she stated.

This phone call introduced the Robinsons to a man named Paul Bauer who was intrigued with finding out information about the professional baseball player known as Satchel Paige's catcher.

Bauer came to Kings Mountain and spent a week with Robinson and his family interviewing and taping all the details of this great baseball player's career.

Robinson played professional baseball over a period of four decades beginning in the 1920's until his last game in 1954. He was a catcher for two Hall-of-Fame pitchers, Satchel Paige and Leon Day. This book is about his view of baseball from behind a catcher's mask and all the great players he had the opportunity to play with.

Robinson was from Oklahoma and met Winnie, his wife, while in Cleveland, Ohio. Winnie is from this area and they moved to Kings Mountain in 1989 to retire and be close to family. Robinson died October 13, 1997.

Robinson's love for baseball can be summed up with how he wanted people to remember him. As he stated in his book, "I'd just be happy for people to remember me as a baseball player and a nice fellow. That's all I ever tried to be."



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD  
Henry Frazier "Slow" Robinson, now deceased, compiled a .275 lifetime batting average in 12 seasons in the Negro Professional Baseball League and played with many of the greats of the game. He was catcher for the legendary pitcher Satchel Paige with the Kansas City Monarchs and the Satchel Paige All-Stars.



KAMIE CHAMPION / THE HERALD  
Winnie Robinson holds her late husband Frazier's first professional contract and shows off other memorabilia in a special room in her home that contains souvenirs of Robinson's baseball career. Robinson was playing sandlot baseball in Oklahoma when he signed his first pro contract for \$325 a month.

# Juniors lose to Gastonia

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors missed their chance to post a winning regular season record Monday night when Gaston Post 23 scored five runs in the top of the 11th inning to defeat Post 155 8-3 at Lancaster Field.

The final regular season loss dropped the local nine to 10-11 and fourth place in their division.

Matt Biddix was the victim of the 11th inning Gastonia assault. He had relieved starter John McMackin, who gave up eight hits and struck out 11.

McMackin also led the KM plate attack with 3-for-5, including a home run and two runs batted in. Brandon Putnam was 2-for-4, Seth Denton 2-for-6, and Andy Leigh 1-for-1.

Kings Mountain knocked off division champion Cherryville Friday night, 6-4, handing Post 100 its first loss on its home field and just the third overall.

Southpaw Seth Denton went the distance for Post 155, striking out nine.

Putnam led the KM hitting with 2-for-4 and an RBI. Joey Proctor was 2-for-5 with an RBI, and Denton and McMackin had one hit each.

Post 155 defeated the Gaston Braves 13-6 Saturday night in Stanley.

Coach Tony Leigh went with three young pitchers. Matt



SETH DENTON

Biddix worked the first three innings and gave up just two hits. Brad Goforth pitched the next 4 1/3 and gave up four hits. Derek Dixon worked the final 1 2/3 innings, giving up only one hit.

Brandon Putnam had his best night of the season, going 5-for-5 with seven runs batted in. Joey Proctor was 1-for-4 with four RBI, and McMackin was 1-for-3 with an RBI.

Post 155 fell to Hickory on the road Sunday night, 14-2. Eric Boyd started and took the loss.

Proctor led the KM hitting with 2-for-2, and McMackin, Denton and Jason Bridges added one hit each.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### American Legion posts 15-0 record

The American Legion 11-12 year-old Major League baseball team compiled a perfect 15-0 record and finished first in the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation League race for the second year in a row.

The team had six hitters that batted over .300. They included Tyler Leach, .565 with six home runs; Russ Putnam, .512 with two home runs; Cody Barrett, .413; Brad Moffitt, .388; Michael Sabetti, .381 with one home run; and Benji Neal, .349.

The defense was led by a strong pitching staff that totaled 147 strikeouts for the season. The pitching staff included Tyler Leach (6-0), Brad Moffitt (5-0), Cody Barrett (2-0), Russ Putnam (1-0), and Benji Neal (1-0).

### Soccer camp slated at KM City Stadium

Foothills Soccer Camp will be held at Kings Mountain City Stadium June 27-July 2.

Players ages 6 to 16 are welcome and will be instructed on many of the technical parts of playing. Daily small sided games will allow players to develop the skills taught that session.

Camp hours are 9 a.m.-12 noon.

For additional information call Camp Director Dan Potter at 734-0563.

### Hunting course set July 17 near Shelby

The Kings Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will host an untraditional turkey shoot lifelike hunting course July 17 from 7 a.m.-12 noon on Johnson Road behind Copeland on Highway 74, Shelby (look for signs).

There will be limited, unlimited and smooth bore classes. Take shells for unlimited class.

For more information call Mike Beam at 445-8233, Duane Collins at 734-4809, or Brian Summey at 480-0847.

### Diamondbacks camp June 28 in Charlotte

The Arizona Diamondbacks will conduct an evaluation camp on Monday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at West Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte.

Players must be between the ages of 15-22. They are expected to furnish their own shoes, gloves and uniforms with the Diamondbacks providing the other necessary equipment.

### Soccer registration scheduled through July at Community Center

Registration for the Greater Cleveland County Soccer Association (GCCSA) has begun and will continue through July 31.

Any girl or boy ages 4 1/2 to 16 who wishes to play may pick up a registration form at the Kings Mountain Community

Center. Most games will be played at the newly-renovated Davidson Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

A mixed league as well as an all girls league will be formed with two age divisions, beginning with under-6.

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