

Mountaineers defeat Huss, Canton Pisgah

Kings Mountain High's baseball team won a pair of non-conference games during the past week to run its record to 3-3 overall.

Tony Leigh's Mountaineers edged Hunter Huss 6-5 Wednesday afternoon at Lancaster Field, and defeated Canton Pisgah 11-1 on Saturday afternoon.

The Mountaineers host South Point in a key Southwestern 3A Conference game Friday at 7 p.m., and travel to Burns for another big conference game next Tuesday at 4:30.

The Mountaineers managed only two hits - singles by Trent Hopper and Brad Goforth - but took advantage of a host of walks and errors by the Huss defense to edge the Huskies on Wednesday.

Hunter Huss built a 4-0 lead after 2 1/2 innings. Kings Mountain scored two runs on three walks and an error to trim the margin to 4-2 after three innings, and then tied it in the fourth by scoring two runs on singles by Hopper and Goforth, a passed ball, and a double suicide squeeze by Derek Dixon. With Hopper on third and Goforth on second, Dixon laid a perfect squeeze bunt down the first base line to score Hopper. As Huss was throwing Dixon out at first base, Goforth scored all the way from second base.

Huss regained the lead 6-5 in the top of the sixth, but KM came back with two runs in the bottom of the sixth on four walks and an error.

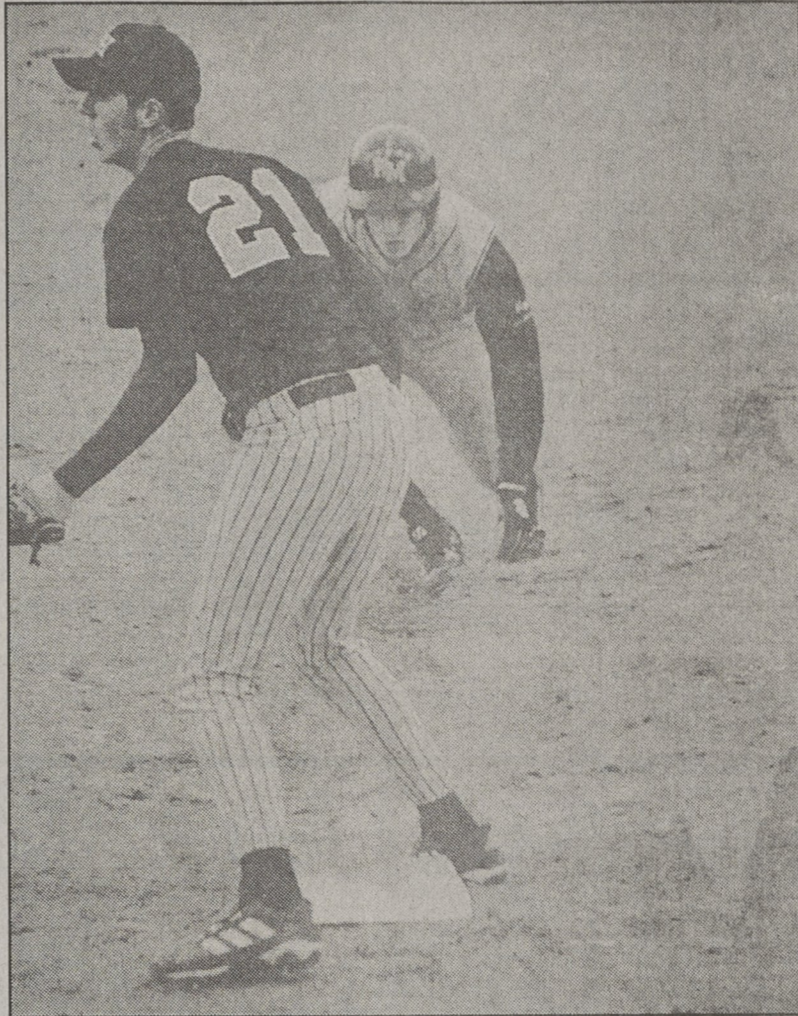
Hunter Gaffney started for the Mountaineers, and was re-

lieved by Hopper in the fourth. Hopper went on to record the win, but needed seventh inning relief help from Goforth who came on to strike out the final batter and earn a save.

Dixon hurled a complete game two-hitter Saturday in the Mountaineers' win over Pisgah. He struck out six batters and walked three.

He had a no-hitter going until the sixth inning. Pisgah's only run came in the top of the seventh on a hit and a fielder's choice.

Josh Patterson led the KM plate attack with 3-for-4, and Goforth went 2-for-3 with three runs batted in. Tyler Falls had a two-run double, and Matt Bridges, Ross Ellis, Hopper, and Tyler McDaniel each had a single.



Patriots lose to Burns, West

Kings Mountain Middle School's baseball team hit a big roadblock last week in Tri-County Conference play.

Monty Deaton's Patriots, who had won their first five games, lost to defending champion Burns 7-5 and West Lincoln 13-8.

In both cases, errors and walks led to the Patriots' downfall.

Burns used two walks and two errors to build a 4-0 first-inning lead. Kings Mountain battled back to take a 5-4 lead after three innings but Burns came back with two runs in the fourth and another in the sixth while shutting out the Patriots the rest of the way.

"It was a good game, but we hurt ourselves with three errors and six walks," Deaton said. "That's just like giving up base hits."

Tyler Leach pitched the first three innings for KM, and Josh Melton pitched the final three. Leach and Melton also led the hitting with two hits each, and Stacy Hopper, Phillip Bunch, Brad Camp and Will Carswell had one hit each.

West Lincoln exploded for eight runs in the last two innings to defeat the Patriots on Friday afternoon. Kings Mountain committed four errors and gave up nine walks.

"Everything was basically even except for the walks," Deaton said. Both teams had eight hits.

Leach and Melton led the KM plate attack with two hits each and Drew Martin, Bunch, Trey Robinson and Isaac Proctor added one apiece.

Bunch pitched the first three innings, Leach pitched 2 1/3, and Melton pitched the final 1 2/3 innings.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 3-0 lead in the first inning and led 7-4 after four. KM led 8-5 going into the sixth but West scored three runs to tie the game. The visitors put the win on ice with five runs in the top of the seventh.

The Patriots host Lincolnton Thursday at 4 p.m., play Burns in a makeup game on Friday, and travel to Pumpkin Center Monday.

"Hopefully we can get back to winning this week," Deaton said.

KM tennis team wins first two SWC matches

Kings Mountain High's men's tennis team got off to a great start last week, winning three of four matches.

Mercedes Humphries' Mountaineers are 2-0 in the Southwestern 3A Conference going into a match today at home against South Point.

The Mountaineers have gotten good play from five returning singles players from last year, and one freshman newcomer.

Senior J. Chapman leads the team from the #1 position, and is the team captain. He is a three-year starter and made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament last year.

Pablo Peralta returns at number two and will be a strong contender in the SWC and Regionals.

Jeremy Owens, a junior, returns at #3 and has a 3-1 record to date.

Paul Shergill, another junior, is unbeaten with a 4-0 record and Miles Hovis, a sophomore, returns at #5.

Freshman Kevin Tsui has

been a welcomed addition. Other members of the team are senior Kyle Lovelace, sophomores Matt Frazier and Matt Simpson, and freshman Chris Moore.

In action last week, the Mountaineers defeated Crest 8-0 and lost to Shelby 7-2 in non-conference play, and defeated Forestview 7-2 and North Gaston 8-1 in SWC matches.

KM 8, CREST 0 (Singles)

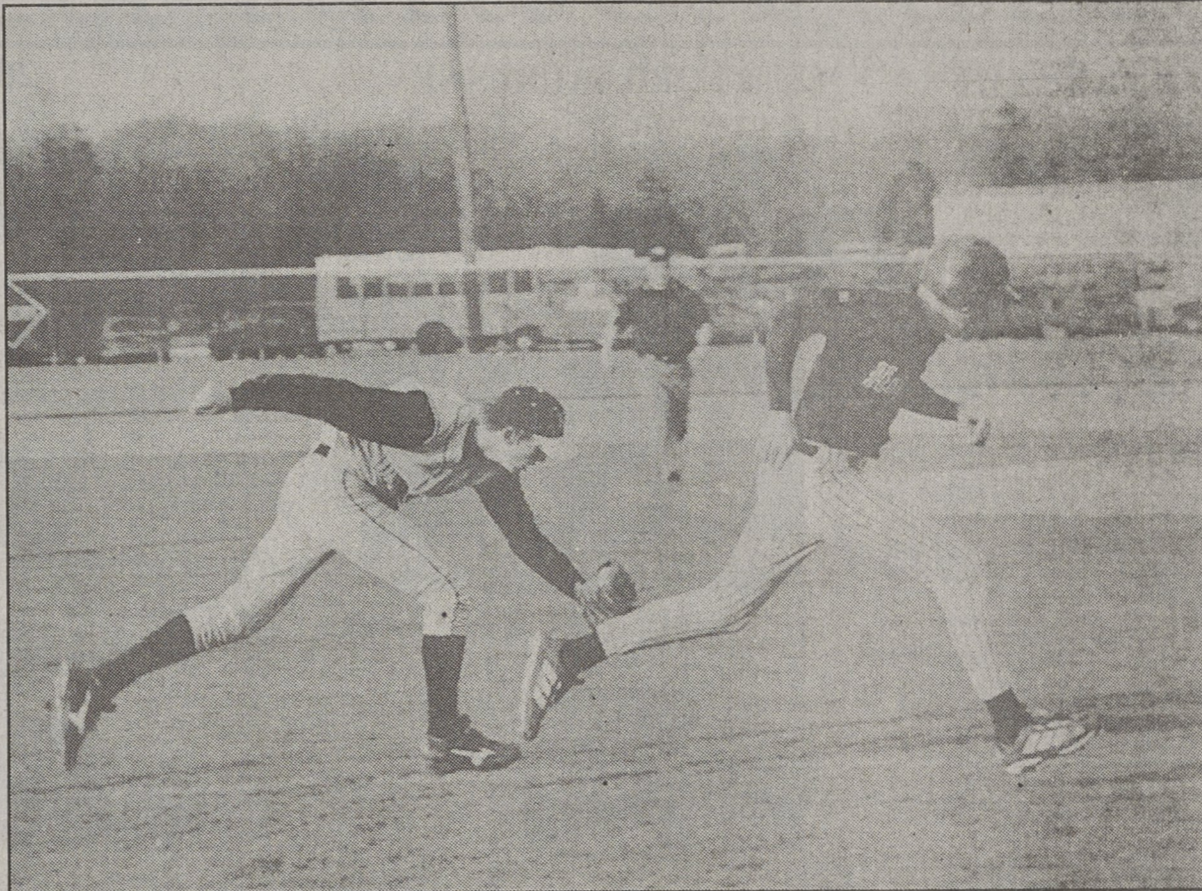
J. Chapman (KM) d. Jackson Martin 10-5; Pablo Peralta (KM) d. Kellan Lowe 10-7; Jeremy Owens (KM) d. Ben Oliver 10-3; Paul Shergill (KM) d. Keith Ledbetter 10-6; Miles Hovis (KM) d. Tommy Peake 10-7; Kevin Tsui (KM) d. Justin Witherspoon 10-5.

(Doubles)

Chapman-Peralta (KM) d. Martin-Ledbetter 8-4; Shergill-Owens (KM) d. Simpson-Peake 8-1.

SHELBY 7, KM 2 (Singles)

William Noblitt (S) d. J. Chapman 6-1, 6-0; Jay Chitty (S) d. Pablo Peralta 6-0, 6-1; Alex Pearson (S) d. Jeremy Owens 6-0, 6-0; Paul See Tennis, 8A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Action was hot and heavy around first and third base in Thursday's baseball game between Kings Mountain and Hunter Huss at Lancaster Field. In top photo KM's Trent Hopper scrambles back to first base to avoid a pickoff attempt, and in bottom photo KM third baseman Brad Goforth applies the tag to Eric Brotzman of Huss who was trying to score on an infield chopper.

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