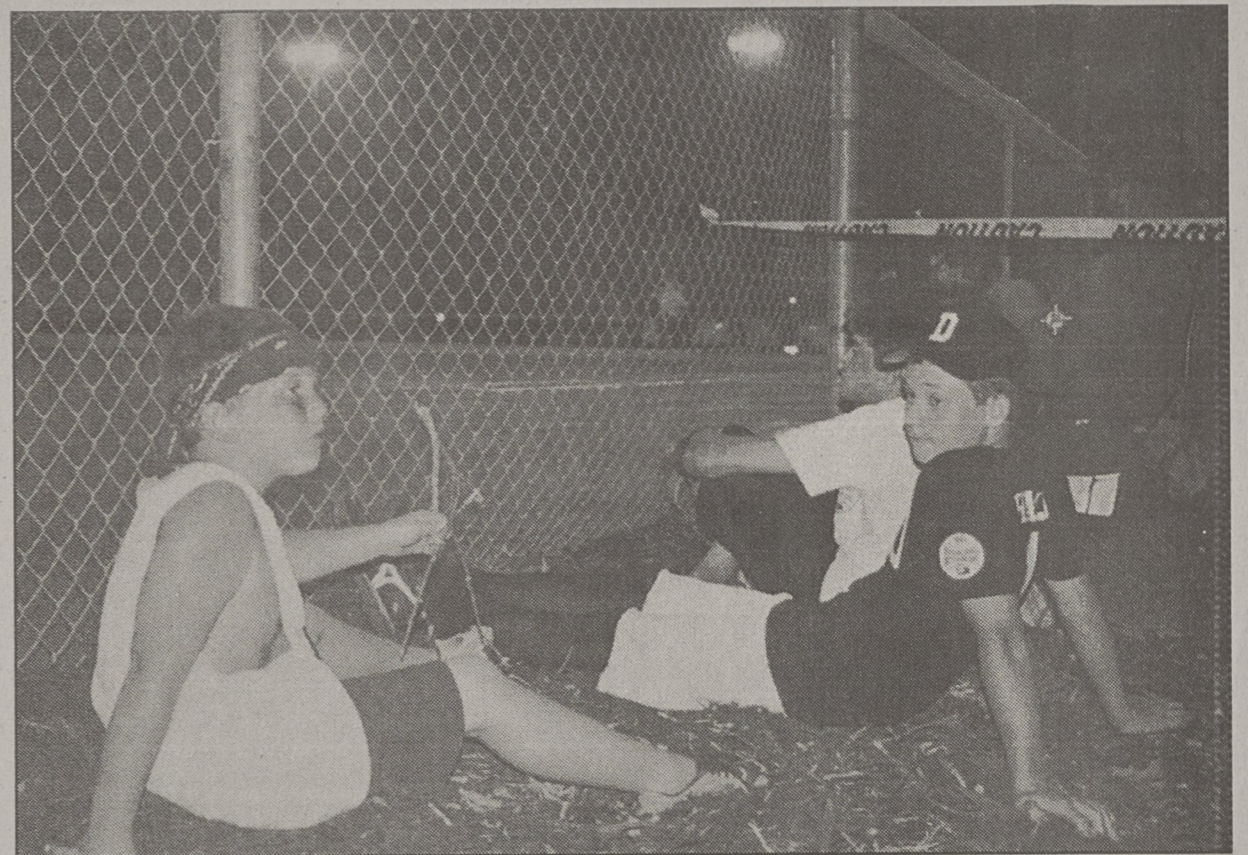


BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD

Rockingham County's Matt Burdette holds the two baseballs that he hit his two homeruns with Sunday afternoon as he stands with his head coach Kenny Booth.



BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD

Harrison Campbell, from left, Mark Hall and Jake Campbell get a close up view of Saturday's Dunn-Kings Mountain game at the YMCA.

# KM ousted in State Tournament

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

It might have been a baseball game, but Dunn scored six runs at a rate suited for a basketball game, as it defeated Kings Mountain 19-4 Saturday night in the first round of the North Carolina Dixie Baseball Tournament at the Kings Mountain YMCA.

In the second game of the double elimination tournament for Kings Mountain, Rockingham County came back from a 9-1 deficit to defeat Kings Mountain 21-10 and putting the host team out of the tournament.

Sunday's game started with Chris Patrick capitalizing on Rockingham errors and stealing second base through home to put Kings Mountain up 1-0 in the first inning.

Patrick and Christopher Carpenter batted in two runs apiece while limiting Rockingham County to three runs.

Rockingham County used a seven-run fourth inning to take a lead it would never relinquish.

Drake Booth made it home on a wild pitch, as Kings Mountain fielders mishandled the ball.

Matt Burdette bought in multiple runs for Rockingham by hitting two home runs, with his last one being a two-run shot in the bottom of the sixth.

The game ended after six innings because of the 10 run rule.

The field at the YMCA goes 280 feet deep.

"Matt's a big hitter," Rockingham head coach Kenny Booth said. "He had a good level swing and got all the ball. We're proud of him."

Burdette said he was thinking



Don Phifer smiles during Saturday night play at the North Carolina Dixie Baseball tournament. Kings Mountain played its opening game Saturday against Dunn.

about getting everybody in to score.

"I was just working on trying to get the runners in so we could win," Burdette said.

Concentration and over confidence were two issues Kings Mountain Coach Pete Ruff said were weaknesses he spotted in his team.

"I guess the guys got over confident, just thought they had it and quit playing ball," Ruff said. "The latter innings we left a lot of potential runs on the base. We got up there and we just didn't hit the ball when we needed to. And the game got out of our reach."

Saturday, Dunn built on a six-run first inning and held Kings Mountain scoreless through three innings to win.

Dunn continued its scoring drive after Nathan Glover and Sterling Hilburn capped the first inning's scoring to put the visitors up 6-0.

Kings Mountain started to break out of its slump when it

loaded the bases in the bottom of the fourth when John Swink came to bat.

While Swink was still in the batters' box, J.R. Ruff made it home from a Christopher Faircloth wild pitch for the first Kings Mountain run.

Tanner Hagans and Patrick later scored in the fourth for Kings Mountain from two Dunn errors.

Ruff scored again in the fifth followed by Tanner Hagans who reached home from a Patrick triple.

The game was stopped after the fifth inning because of the 10 run rule.

**Burns 13, Dallas 3:** In Saturday's first round game of the North Carolina Dixie Baseball Tournament, Burns took a 7-1 lead after the second inning to defeat Dallas. Dallas scored two more runs in the fourth inning before the game ended because of the 10-run rule.

**Columbus County 3, Stanly**

**Co. 2: Columbus** scored two runs in the fourth to overcome a 1-0 deficit to defeat Stanly County in its opening round game. With the score tied at two, Columbus County scored in the seventh for the winning margin.

**Midway 4, Rosman 2:** Evan and Eric Gainey the two runs needed in the sixth inning for Midway to win against Rodman in opening round play of the North Carolina Dixie Baseball Tournament.

**Brunswick Co. 12, Rockingham Co. 1:** Josh Howard, Scott Long and Austin Cox combined for seven runs to lead Brunswick County over Rockingham in Saturday's first round of the North Carolina Dixie Baseball Tournament. Bra Turner was the sole scorer for Rockingham County.

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Brunswick Co. 4, Midway 0  
Stanly Co. 8, Dallas 3

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## West sites needed for state tournament

By BEN LEDBETTER  
Staff Writer

This year's North Carolina Dixie Baseball tournament is the first one to be played in the west of Raleigh since Albermarle and West Lincoln hosted the 13 and 14 year old tournaments in 1997.

North Carolina Dixie Baseball Director George Page said the tournaments have not been west because no one has bid on it.

"If nobody bids on them, we'll take them because it brings a lot of folks in," Page said.

Last year Brunswick County, near Wilmington, hosted the tournament.

Page said he's trying to give the tournament a bigger presence out west.

"As long as they've got the facilities and the support from the community, we'll give it to them," Page said.

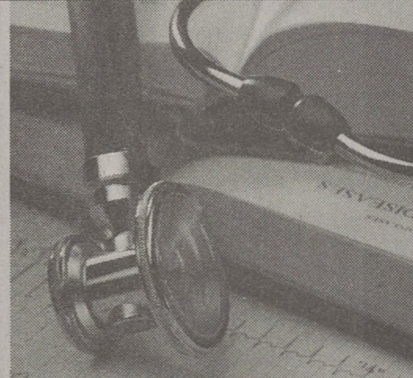
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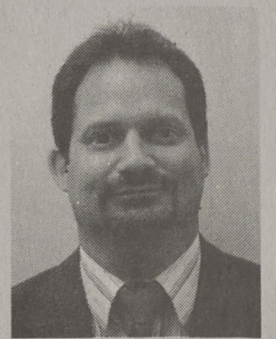
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