

KM Mountaineers knock off Burns, host first place St. Stephens Friday

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain High's baseball team is living the old cliché "you win some, you lose some and some get rained out."

The rain-outs are coming more frequently than the wins and losses but the wins - and even the losses - have been more exciting.

Kings Mountain lost a 2-1 decision in 10 innings to Hickory last Thursday night in Hickory, but turned right around and whipped defending conference champion Burns 9-7 on Friday.

Two games this week have already been rained out, and the forecast of heavy rain the remainder of the week could result in more.

The Mountaineers, 3-1 and second place in the Southwestern Foothills 3A, was scheduled to play first place St. Stephens (5-0) in a makeup game Monday night. It, of course, was rained out along with Tuesday's scheduled home game with Fred T. Foard.

The Mountaineers were hoping to make up Monday's game at St. Stephens last night, and the two teams will meet again Friday at 7 p.m. at KM's Lancaster Field. The Foard game will be made up next Monday just prior to KM beginning play in the annual Easter Tournament in Shelby.

The Mountaineers played two of their better games of the season last week, according

to Coach Stephen Fisher.

Thursday's game at Hickory was a pitcher's and defensive battle with Hickory scoring the winning run in the bottom of the 10th on KM's only error of the night.

Neither team was successful at the plate. Kings Mountain grabbed an unearned run in the fifth to take a 1-0 lead and the Red Tornadoes got two of their five hits in the sixth to tie the game. Kings Mountain also managed just five hits.

"It was a fantastic high school baseball game," said Fisher. "Their pitcher threw one of the best games I've seen thrown, and Hunter Gaffney and Ross Ellis combined to throw as well as I've seen them throw."

"I just can't say enough about the effort our kids gave. You can't fault them because they gave every ounce they've got. They played hard and they played together and that's what we ask of them. We didn't get the clutch hits when we needed to, but you have to give Hickory the credit for that. They got us out when they needed to, just like we got them out when we had to. We were a hit away from winning it several times and they got the scratch hit they had to have in the 10th inning to win it."

Although he would have loved to win that game, Fisher said it played a big part in Friday's win at Burns.

"It made the Burns win really rewarding," he said. "We had lost a tough game but the

kids went up to Burns and just gutted it out."

That game in Lawndale was nip and tuck during the early innings but the Mounties took charge in the late innings.

Burns took a 1-0 lead off KM starter Tyler Leach in the second inning, but KM came back to take the lead in the third on a 3-run home run by catcher Matt Echols. Elan Philbeck and CJ Austin singled prior to the home run.

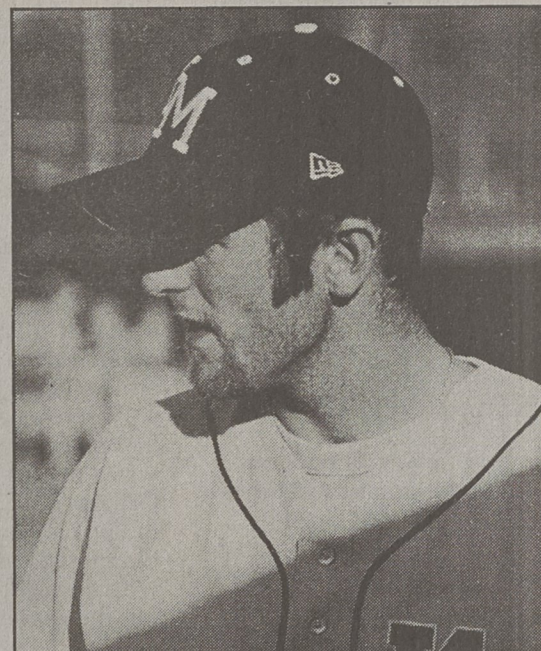
Burns' Josh Drewery singled and starting pitcher Chris Mitchell hit a 2-run home run to tie the game at 3-all in the bottom of the third.

Josh Melton singled and later scored on a wild pitch to give KM a 4-3 lead in the fourth, but Burns came back in the bottom of the inning and scored three runs to go up 6-4.

Ellis came on in relief and halted the rally but Burns added another run in the fifth for a 7-4 lead.

"Going into the sixth our kids kind of really started to get focused and excited," Fisher said. "That's the point in the game when they could have given up against a good Burns club with their ace on the mound."

But the Mountaineers rallied for five runs to put the game in the bag. Melton and Brandon Bridges each had a single to set up a 3-run home run by Ellis and Philbeck later



ROSS ELLIS

walked and scored on a wild pitch.

Ellis retired the side in order in the sixth and seventh innings to preserve the win.

"The kids really played hard the whole game," Fisher said. "I'm really proud of how they didn't give up and pulled for each other."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Patriot netters lose three matches

Kings Mountain Middle Schools' tennis team lost 8-1 in two matches to Crest and one to East Rutherford last week.

Against Crest, doubles winners for Kings Mountain were Ryan Davis, Kyle Richards, Nikita Scotland and Paul Philavong.

Matt Bumgardner and Martha Griffin won challenge matches.

Against East, Ryan Davis won his singles match 8-6.

Hickory beats KM 4-1 in softball

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team fell to Hickory 4-1 last Tuesday night.

Lauren Gaffney had two hits and drove in KM's only run. Rachel Hughes and Kristyn Funderburke added one hit each.

Pam Parker started for the Mounties and gave up four unearned runs and four hits. Funderburke came on in the third and gave up two hits and struck out four.

Patriots third in golf match

Kings Mountain Middle School finished third in a four-team golf match Wednesday at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Crest won the event with a 176 score, followed by Shelby 186, KM 196 and Burns 214.

Ben Wright of Crest was medalist with a 40.

Jake Bell led Kings Mountain with a 48, fol-

lowed by Chris Miller and Reid Smith with 49s, Dustin Forbes 50 and Julian Williams and Josh Williams with 52s.

In a match at Pine Grove, KM shot a 183 to finish third behind West Lincoln (173) and East Lincoln (180).

Burns was fourth with a 198. Smith led the Patriots with a 44.

Boys/Girls Club golf tourney set

The Boys & Girls' Club annual Golf Classic will be held Wednesday, May 14 at River Bend Golf Club.

The format is Captain's Choice with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Lunch and sign-in is at 12 noon.

Men and women are welcome. There will be closest to the pin, longest drive, and hole-in-one contests.

For more information or to register call 471-2582.

Basketball camp slated at KM High

The "Play Like a Champion Today" basketball camp will be held June 2-7 from 8 a.m.-12 noon at Kings Mountain High School.

Girls and boys in grades 1-8 are eligible. The cost is \$50 and includes a trophy, basketball, T-shirt, handbook and certificate. Trophies will also be awarded to outstanding campers and obstacle course winners.

Applications can be obtained from local physical education teachers or by calling Coach Danny McDowell at 734-5647 ext. 26 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. After 3

p.m. use extension 77.

Application deadline is May 16.

Mounties second in three-team meet

Kings Mountain High finished second to Hickory in a three-team Southwestern Foothills Conference track meet Wednesday at John Gamble Stadium. St. Stephens finished third.

Courtney Smith was the only double winner for the Mountaineers. He won the high jump and the 200 meter dash.

Marcus Jimson was first in the 110 high hurdles and Grayling Elliott, Martrice Love, Adrian Parker and Kelsey Adams won the 800 meter relay.

Mountaineers 4th at East Henderson

Kings Mountain's track team finished fourth in the

15-team Times-News track meet Friday at East Henderson High School.

Kings Mountain's only winner was Montrell Banks, who won the triple jump.

Adrian Parker finished third in the triple jump and Marcus Jimson was third in the 110 high hurdles.

Courtney Smith ran fourth in the 100 meter dash and fifth in the 200 meter dash.

The 400 meter relay team finished fourth. Members were Adrian Parker, Courtney Smith, Martrice

Love and Grayling Elliott.

The Mountaineers were scheduled to run at Fred T. Foard yesterday. They take the next week off for spring break and return to action on April 28 at Hickory.

Bombers sweep league leaders

Barrett's Bombers knocked off first place Old Timers 8-0 in mixed duckpin bowling action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

Tommy Barrett rolled a 127 line and 362 set to lead the Bombers (22-10). Joey Whitaker added a 112-320 and Bonnie Warren had a 118-315. Allen Myers led the Old Timers (24-8) with a 125 line and 341 set.

Ed Philbeck took high scoring honors for the night, rolling a 132 line and 374 set to lead Ducks R Us (16-16) to a 6-2 win over the Pinseekers (2-30). Robert Titus rolled a 115 line and Zeke Rybczyk had a 314 set for the Pinseekers.

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