

SPORTS

KM's Rusty Bumgardner MVP in Men's Major World Series

Kings Mountain slugger Rusty Bumgardner recently was named Most Valuable Player in the Men's Major World Series Softball Tournament in Orlando, FL.

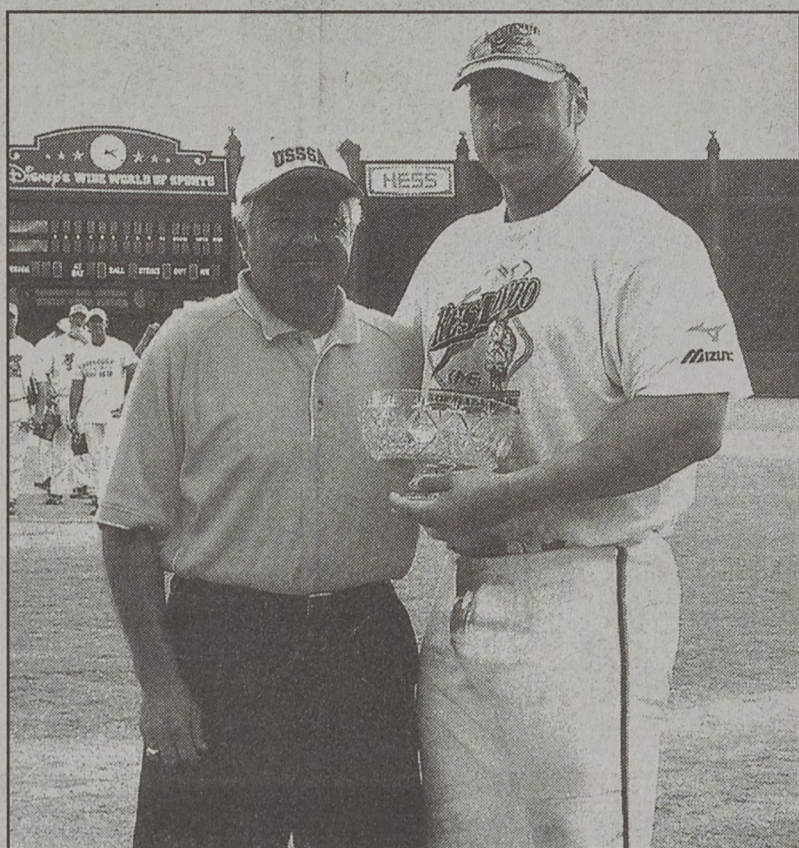
The tournament, which was played at the Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World, is the most prestigious tournament in softball and is known as the "Showcase of Softball."

For the five tournament games, Bumgardner had a batting average of .818, with 18 hits in 22 at-bats. He scored 17 runs, smashed seven home runs, and drove in 23 runs.

Bumgardner also had a spectacular defensive performance, playing error-free ball at third base throughout the tournament.

This was the seventh time Bumgardner has played for a team that won the national title. He has been playing professional softball for 14 years.

He also competed in the Home Run Derby where he made it to the final round. He sent several balls not just out of the playing field, but out of the stadium.



Rusty Bumgardner, right, accepts most valuable player prize from Warren Bellium, Director of the USSSA after leading his team to the World Series championship in Florida.

Patriots beat West Lincoln for fourth straight win, 26-6

Kings Mountain Middle School posted its fourth straight victory Monday at West Lincoln, 26-6, and will host Burns next Wednesday at 5 p.m. in a game that will decide the Eastern Division champion in the Tri-County Conference.

The KM-Burns winner will face the Crest-Shelby winner on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at either Crest or Shelby for the overall Tri-County Conference championship.

Kings Mountain and Burns are both unbeaten in the division. Both lost a non-division game to Crest.

Kings Mountain dominated the first half and West Lincoln dominated the second half of Monday's game, which was postponed from last Wednesday because of rain.

The Patriots built a 20-0 halftime lead, then saw West Lincoln control the clock in the second half.

"We played a very good first half," said Coach Monty Deaton. "We came out in the second half, and it being cold they just didn't want to play anymore and it showed. We really didn't stop West Lincoln, they stopped themselves. They moved it three and four yards at a time but penalties hurt them."

Kings Mountain drove the opening kickoff inside the West Lincoln 20 but lost a fumble. Moments later, KM's Shelton Watson caused a fumble and KM drove down field and scored on a three-yard run by Watson for a

6-0 lead.

Early in the second quarter, the Patriot defense held West Lincoln and forced a punt. Watson scored from 35 yards out on a counter play, and KM led 12-0.

With 1:30 left in the half, the KM defense stopped West Lincoln at midfield. The Patriots went to their passing game and scored on a 12-yard pass from Cameron Harris to Sharron Burris, and Trey Edgerton ran a two-point conversion for a 20-0 halftime lead. Harris also completed passes to Tim Hines for 40 yards, Watson for 20 yards and Zack Hopper for five yards during the drive.

West Lincoln ate up the entire third quarter and half of the fourth quarter on its only touchdown drive, which made the score 20-6.

With 1:50 left, Watson intercepted a pass and returned it to the West Lincoln 25 yard line. After one play, West Lincoln was penalized three straight times for personal fouls, moving the ball to the three yard line. Hines scored from there to round out the scoring.

Watson finished with 125 yards rushing on 13 carries, two touchdowns and 145 yards total offense to pace the KM attack. Edgerton gained 24 yards in eight carries and Harris was 4-for-7 passing for 77 yards and a TD.

Watson, Hines, Trey Funderburke, Jeff Douglass and Jesse Davis led the Patriot defensive effort.

The Patriots were scheduled to play Pumpkin Center Wednesday.

"Playing two games in three days is tough," said Coach Deaton. "Next week's game with Burns will be a big game for us. They'll be up for it. Hopefully, we can go into it on five-game winning streak and beat them. We can beat them if we play like we're capable of playing."

Smith's senior project helps build stronger community

Kings Mountain High senior Reid Smith recently sponsored a youth home run derby and other events at the YMCA as part of his senior project, "How Strong Communities Benefit Children."

All proceeds will be used to benefit the needy family scholarship fund for youth sports activities. A portion will also go to a local family whose son is battling rare eye cancer.

Young people from Kings Mountain, Gastonia and Rock Hill competed in the events.

Winners of the home run derby were:

14 years old - Michael Grooms; 13 years old, Zack Badger; 12 years old, Trey Sellers; 11 years old, Phillip Frances; 10 years old, Timmy Baucom; 9 years old, Shad Johnson and Brandon Bell; 8 years old, Justin Roberts; and 7 years old, Wesley Faulkenberry.

The second event was called the "Jack Rabbit" and was a timed event of the participants running bases at the baseball field. The person who ran the bases in the fastest time was declared the winner. Winners were:

Boys 11-12 years old, Bryson Shelton; boys 9-10 years, Robbie Lysek; boys 8 years, Omar Petty; boys 7 years, Wesley



Reid Smith lines off YMCA baseball field for home run derby.

Faulkenberry; girls 7-8 years, Meg McGarrity.

The final event tested the "throwing accuracy" of the players from all positions of the infield and outfield. The winners were:

13 years old, Zac Badger; 12 years, Brooks Becton; 10 years, William Faulkenberry; 9 years, Shad Johnson; 8 years, Justin Roberts; 7 years, Wesley Faulkenberry; girls 7-8 years, Meg McGarrity.



Chasiti Falls serves for KM in win over South Point.

VOLLEYBALL

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each. Brooke Avery had eight assists.

"I thought it was a good win, considering that we didn't have a ton of playoff experience going in," Grant said. "We started out nervous but fought the jitters and played very well at the end. It was a complete team effort and everybody contributed at one point or another."

Tonight's game will be a tough

test for the Lady Mounties (20-3). Many times in the past, the KM-Foard winner has gone on to win the state championship.

Fred T. Foard defeated Parkwood and North Buncombe to reach the third round.

The winner will advance to the sectional final on Saturday, and as #1 seeds with seeding priority would host the match. The Western Regional game is October 31 at the home court of the higher seed with the highest conference seeding priority.

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