

SPORTS

Hussey was one you knew would move to greener pastures

Sometimes people come around and you almost immediately think they won't be in this town long.

Bobby Hussey, who died recently, was one of those people.



Gary Stewart
Editor

Hussey began his coaching career here in 1962, just two years before I began writing sports for The Herald.

He was an assistant football coach and

girls basketball coach his first few years.

When he became a head coach in baseball and basketball, I began getting the feeling that Kings Mountain would never be able to hold onto him.

He was an excellent coach in both sports. Even though he achieved more fame in basketball - he had many successful teams on the high school and college level - it was in baseball that he coached his only state championship team. The 1969 team won the Western North Carolina High Schools Activities Association crown.

I feel like Coach Hussey and I sort of grew up together in sports. Neither of us achieved any success as players, but both of us loved sports so much we did the next best thing we could to stay around sports - coaching and writing.

Hussey was the type of coach who is very much needed this day and time. As far as first impressions go, he probably didn't come off as a friend to players. He was a good man but he was tough. He was a very strict disciplinarian, and although he knew deep down that perfection isn't possible he demanded that his players strive for perfection on every play, whether the ball was in their hand or not. I dare say - probably to a man - that everybody that ever played for Bob Hussey have looked back on many occasions and know that they were better athletes and stronger people because they had him as a coach.

After becoming a head coach, Hussey remained at KMHS for just four years. In baseball, his teams won two conference and one association crown in four years. In three years as basketball coach, his teams won two conference crowns and played for the association championship.

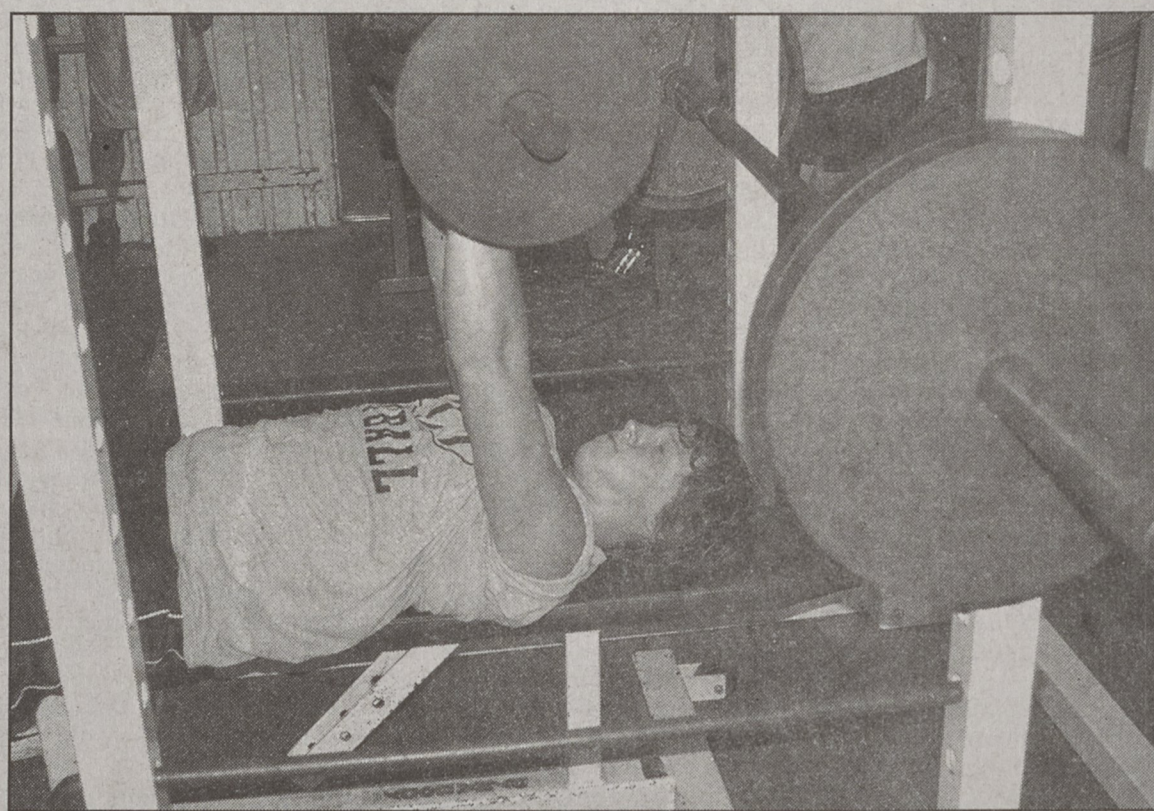
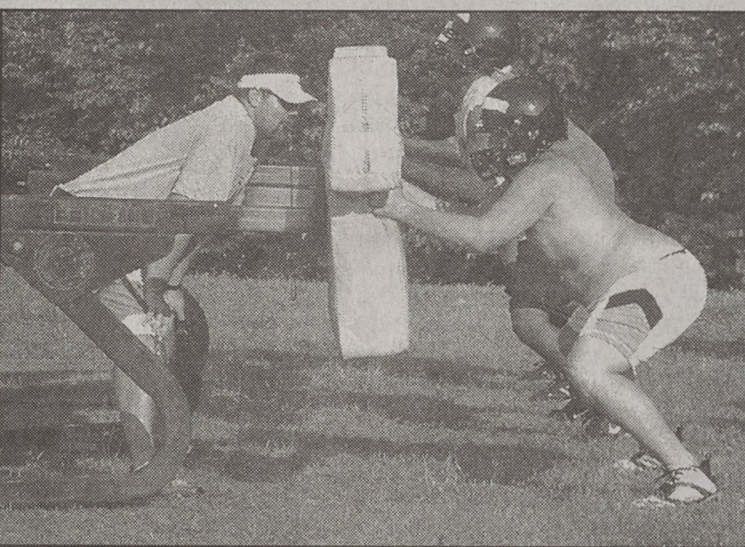
After leaving for the college ranks - he was head coach at Belmont Abbey, Davidson, and Virginia Tech as well as an assistant at Clemson - Hussey still visited Kings Mountain on numerous occasions. Whenever I'd talk to him in person or by phone, he always inquired about many of his former players and how they were doing. He was proud of them all.

Although his coaching tenure here was short (about eight years altogether), Bobby Hussey left a big mark on Kings Mountain sports.

Are you ready for some football?



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Summer football workouts are underway at Kings Mountain High School. New head coach Greg Lloyd and his assistants are busy putting in their offense and defense. Top left, Kelly McCreary, Bryant Petty and C.J. Belcher, left to right, work on explosion. Top right, Josh Hamm pushes a sled 50 yards to increase his hip and thigh strength. Bottom left, offensive line coach Kevin Cruise watches as his players work on blocking technique. Right, Andrew Quinn works in the weight room.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Craig Short named KMHS women's softball coach

Just days after joining the Kings Mountain High School football coaching staff, Craig Short has been named the new head women's softball coach.



SHORT

personally witnessed some positive things in the East Gaston program since he took it over," Grayson said. "I felt like he was instrumental in seeing the change that I saw in the East Gaston program."

In the interview process, Grayson said Short had some of the same visions KMHS had for the program.

"We had some excellent people apply for the job, and we think Craig will do an excellent

job with the program," Grayson said. "Craig will be teaching here and will be in the same building. It will be a big plus for the students and the program to have someone here in the building that sees the students on a daily basis."

Short coached East Gaston's softball team to its best season ever last year, winning the Big South Conference championship and going three rounds in the state 4A playoffs before falling to eventual state champion Butler.

KM junior legion team home tonight in playoffs

Kings Mountain's junior legion team defeated Stanley 10-6 Monday night to qualify for the Area IV playoffs which began last night.

Post 155 will play South Caldwell in an opening round best-of-five series. Game two will be played Thursday at 7 p.m. at KM's Lancaster Field.

Austin Huffstetler led the hitting Monday with 3-for-4 and two RBIs. Brian Brown and Will Raines each went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

Tyler Ross was 1-for-3 with

two RBIs, Andrew Hartness 1-for-3 with one RBI, and Trey Funderburke 1-for-4 with one RBI.

Pop Warner sign-ups every Saturday in July

Pop Warner football and cheerleading sign-ups are every Saturday in July from 9 a.m.-12 noon at City Stadium. Boys and girls ages 5-13 may participate.

Each player must take a \$50 registration fee, sealed birth certificate, and end of the year report card.

The first practice will be Monday, July 30 at 6 p.m.

The annual football camp will be July 26, 27 and 28. Thursday's and Friday's camps will be from 6-8 p.m., and Saturday's camp will be from 9-11 a.m. A fee of \$30 must be paid at the camp.

For more information call 704-739-7102.

KMHS girls basketball workouts to begin July 16

New Kings Mountain High women's basketball coach Kelli Waldrop is gearing up for the

start of summer workouts on Monday, July 16.

All girls planning to play basketball for KMHS this season should call the school at 704-476-8000 ext. 3067 and leave a voice mail to sign up. Leave your first and last name, phone number, and date of your last physical. Only those who have physicals will be allowed to work out.

A meeting with Coach Waldrop will be held Monday, July 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the KMHS auxiliary gym. It will last about 30 minutes. Girls should take a copy of their last physical if they have it.

Open gym workouts will be held Tuesday, July 17 from 7-9 p.m., and Wednesday, July 18 from 6-8 p.m. in the auxiliary

KMHS women's tennis tryouts to begin August 1

Try-outs for the Kings Mountain High School Women's Tennis Team will begin Wednesday, August 1 and will run from 7pm-9pm at the KMHS tennis courts.

Students must have a completed physical in order to try-out.

The Lady Mountaineers' first match will be Monday, August 20 at Ashbrook High School.

For more information, contact Coach Chris Bennett at 704-477-6483 or clbennett@cleveland-countyschools.org.

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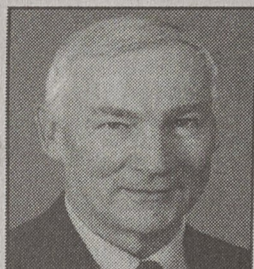
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