

SPORTS

Childers, McClain lead at Upstate and Wingate

Four former Kings Mountain High softball standouts are getting plenty of playing time for their college teams, and two of them - freshman pitcher Morgan Childers at USC Upstate and sophomore outfielder LaRonda McClain at Wingate - are leading their teams in statistical categories.

Childers, who pitched a no-hitter and struck out a school record 18 batters in her first college start, is currently 7-1 with six complete games.

In her last outing on February 27, Childers went the distance and struck out 10 in a 5-3 victory over Charleston Southern.

Childers has pitched in eight games, with seven starts. She has a 7-1 record with one shutout. She has worked 58 2/3 innings, giving up 28 hits. She has walked only 14 batters and has struck out 60.

At Wingate, McClain, a sophomore outfielder, is leading the Bulldogs in hitting with a .391 average.

McClain has started all 20 games for the Bulldogs. She is 25-for-64 at the plate with 16 runs scored, one double and five runs batted in.

At Catawba College, two former KMHS standouts are getting a lot of playing time.

Kristyn Funderburke has appeared in eight games and has a team-leading .444 batting average with four hits in nine trips to the plate. She has two runs batted in and has scored once.

Brittany Thornburg has appeared in 16 games and is hitting .108 with four hits in 37 times at bat. She has scored three runs.



Kings Mountain High shortstop Cody Austin tags out Justin Ottenger of East Gaston, who was attempting to steal second base in a recent scrimmage game at KM's Lancaster Field.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Patriots lose to Crest

Kings Mountain Middle School fell to Crest 7-4 in a non-division game Monday afternoon.

Coach Monty Deaton used the game to get a lot of players in on the action because the Patriots open division play Thursday at home against Burns.

Mitchell Cloninger pitched the first three innings and gave up just one hit while striking out five. The score was tied 1-1 when Coach Deaton took him out.

Crest struck for three runs in the fourth inning to take a 4-1 lead and added two more in the fifth.

"We played a much better game than we had in our opener against Shelby," Deaton said. "We only had one error. We just didn't hit the ball solid until the last two innings. KM scored one run in the sixth and two in the seventh.

"The kids did a good job battling back," Deaton said. "In the

last inning we had two runners on base and the tying run at the plate. He hit a line shot to third base and the Crest third baseman made a good play on the ball, stepped on third and threw to first for a double-play to end the game."

Taylor Cash led the KM hitting with two hits. Wil Sellers, Addison Stinnett, Trey Sellers, Kanaan Green, Logan McGill and Cameron Pittman had one each.

After Thursday's game with Burns, the Patriots will host Shelby next Wednesday and Crest Thursday in a couple more non-division games that will give Deaton a chance to further evaluate talent.

"We're still looking at some guys but have an idea at some positions," he said. "It's hard to solidify any starting spot. We're always looking for someone to step up.

"Ever since we've had the division setup our team has made it to the conference cham-

JV Mountaineers lose first two games

Kings Mountain High's JV baseball team fell to South Point 9-2 Friday and Crest 7-1 Monday.

Brian Brown, Brandon Gantt and Trey Funderburke each went 2-for-4 in the South Point game. Austin Phillips pitched the first two innings and took the loss. Casey Hutchins held the Red Raiders scoreless over the final five innings.

Against Crest Monday, Brown went 3-for-3 with two doubles and Michael Grooms also had a hit.

Brown worked the first four innings and Dustin Stone pitched the final three.

Kings Mountain plays at East Gaston Thursday and travels to West Lincoln Friday.

Limestone College Run for after-school program

Limestone College, Gaffney, SC, will sponsor a 5K and 1-mile run/walk Sat., April 12 to raise money for Cherokee County First Steps after-school program.

The run will begin at the Emmie Evans Rector Tennis Center on campus at 8:15 a.m. Entry fees are \$10 for children (12 and under), and \$15 for adults registering by March 14. Same-day registration is \$17. Participants will receive a T-shirt.

Register by sending a check payable to Cherokee County First Steps to Alumni Office, Limestone College, 1115 College Dr., Gaffney, SC 29340. For more information call K.C. Barnhill at 864-488-4606 or email alumnioffice@limestone.edu.

KM DUCKPIN BOWLING

Tuesday, March 4

J&J 8, Tame Tigers 0
J&J - Joe Luchese 121 game, 335 set; Tame Tigers - Bob Paramore 111 game, 309 set.
Wilma's Ducks 4, Half Wits 4
Wilma's Ducks - Ed Philbeck

145 game, 335 set; Half Wits - Colleen Philbeck 129 game, 329 set.

Thursday, February 28

Checkers 6, Pushovers 2
Checkers - Tommy Barrett 151 game, 380 set; Pushovers - Ed

Philbeck 136 game, 355 set.
Dead Ducks 6, Dead Weights 2

Dead Ducks - Greg Evans 155 game, 397 set; Dead Weights - Allen Myers 136 game, 372 set.

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