KMMS golfers finish 5th

Kings Mountain Middle School Golfers finished 5th out of 10 teams on Nov. 3 at the Tri-County Middle School Golf Tournament played at Cleveland Country Club in Shelby.

North Lincoln Middle won the tournament.

Will Sellers finished 5th individually in the tourney. Also playing for KMMS were Devin Heath, Steven Smith, Matt Sheppard, Chandler Bell and Andrew Moore.

KMMS finished the regular season with 10 wins, 5 losses. Golf Coach is Mickey Powers.

Pigskin Pickers

Herald sports editor Gary Stewart held off a rally by Publisher Bill Parsons to repeat as the paper's 2008 Pigskin Pickers champion.

Stewart had a yearly figure of 104-42 after going 11-4 the final week. Parsons hit 14 of 15 to tie Belmont Banner/Mount Holly News Spots Editor Jim Heffner with a 102-48 mark.

The guests finished fourth with a 101-49 record and Cherryville Eagle editor Michael Powell was fifth with a 90-60 mark.

Bowling

Continued from Page B3

260 series. Philczyk – Zeke Rybczyk 119 game, 322 series.

No Ideas 6, Buckshot Bowlers 2
No Ideas – Ed Philbeck 125 game, 350 set. Buckshot – Bob Paramore 110 game, 322 set.

Thursday, Nov. 13
Lucky Ducks 8, Alley Cats 0
LD – Greg Evans 159 game, 419 set. Cats – Allen Myers 137 game, 375 set.

Duck Masters 6, Mighty Ducks 2
DM – Tommy Barrett 132 game, 352 set. MD – Bob Paramore 119 game, 354 set.

Brantley Blalock, center, signs to play baseball at Belmont Abbey College as his parents Todd and Ruth, front row, look on. Back row, left to right, KMHS baseball coach Eric King, athletic director Suzanne Grayson and Principal Ronny Funderburke.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Howell, front row, look on as their son, Jeffry, signs a baseball scholarship with Gardner-Webb University. Back, left to right, are KMHS baseball coach Eric King, athletic director Suzanne Grayson, and Principal Ronny Funderburke.

KM baseball players sign letters of intent

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High baseball battery mates – pitcher Jeffry Howell and catcher Brantley Blalock – Friday signed National Letters of Intent to play college baseball. Blalock will play for the Belmont Abbey Crusaders and Howell will play for the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs.

The duo signed early to concentrate on improving their game and helping the Mountaineers compete for the 2009 SWC championship. They helped lead last year's Mountaineer nine to a 14-11 overall record and three rounds in the state 3A playoffs.

Both said they were impressed with the programs they'll be joining.

"Belmont Abbey has great coaching and good team chemistry," said Blalock, a three-year starter for the Mountaineers and a two-time All-Conference performer.

Coach Kermit Smith's Abbey team finished in the top 25 in the NCAA Division 2 rankings last season.

Blalock said signing early will "take a lot of pressure" off of him during the upcoming high school season. "I want to focus on helping the team win the state championship," he said.

Blalock is a career .300-plus hitter in high school and has also played showcase ball in the summer and fall for several years. He hit .299 last season with 14 RBIs and three home runs. One of his homers – a 2-run shot – turned out to be the eventual winning runs in a 5-4 playoff victory over Northwest Cabarrus.

Blalock said some of his goals prior to joining the Abbey will be "getting in shape and getting a little bigger. I need to put some weight on."

Both Blalock and Howell hope they can compete for a starting position their freshman year. Howell, who plays in the infield when he's not pitching, said he will be a pitcher only at GWU but Coach Rusty Stroupe had indicated that he might also use him as a hitter. He hit .278 with three home runs and nine RBIs for the Mountaineers last spring.

"Gardner-Webb has a really good coaching staff, and I really like the school," he said. "I'm excited to get up there and I'm ready to play. It's a good Christian based school."

Howell, who just recently finished playing fall ball with Heat Showcase out of Hickory, said he will continue working hard on his pitching and conditioning as he prepares to take his game to the college level.

"I plan to do a lot of core work and just keep getting better," he said.

Howell is also coming off an All-Conference season in which he led the Mountaineers with a 9-5 record with 130 strikeouts in 84.2 innings pitched. He pitched a one-hitter against county rival Shelby and had a season high 15 strikeouts in a 4-hit victory over Chase.

Howell pitched both of KM's wins in the state playoffs. He hurled a three-hitter and struck out 11 in a 10-0 first round win over Charlotte Catholic, and had a complete game victory in the second round against NW Cabarrus. Kings Mountain's only playoff loss was 3-2 to South Point's Red Raiders, who went on to play for the state championship.

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