

Sports



Post 155 comes from 9 down to beat Lincoln County 11-10

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Dylan Smith punched a single through the right side of a drawn-in infield to drive home Brian Brown from third and give Post 155 an 11-10 victory over the Lincoln County Cardinals in an Area IV game Friday night at Lancaster Field.

The hit capped a remarkable comeback after the local nine fell behind 9-1 after 2 1/2 innings. They chipped away at the Cardinals' lead with timely hits and smart base running, and finally tied the game at 9-all with three runs in the bottom of the eighth.

The rally was dampened a bit when the Cardinals' Drew Belk led off the top of the ninth with a home run over the left field fence. But KM buckled down and got out of the inning when pitcher Chris Allen struck out Nathaniel Hitt and catcher Dylan Smith gunned down Brennan Beal who was trying to steal second on the same pitch.

Kyle Gates led off the bottom of the 10th with a single to left and Brown followed with a bunt single down the first base line. Austin singled home Gates to tie the game. Brown and Austin moved to third and second, respectively, on a wild pitch. Smith worked Lincoln pitcher Logan Hammond for a 3-2 count before getting his game-winning hit.

Lincoln County took advantage of two KM errors, a two-run homer by Jarrett Ross and a solo shot by Jake Carter to grab a 5-0 lead off KM starter Kyle Bell in the top of the second. KM cut it to 5-1 in the bottom of the inning when Brent Stevens scored on a wild pitch.

But Lincoln was right back at it again in the top of the second, scoring four runs for a 9-1 lead. The big blow was a grand slam home run by Nathaniel Hitt.

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GARY STEWART/HERALD
Kings Mountain's Brent Stevens slides into third base on a wild pitch in Legion game with the Lincoln County Cardinals Friday night at Lancaster Field.

Reynolds, Kerns on all-state team

Kings Mountain High seniors Meagan Reynolds and Ramey Kerns were named to the North Carolina High School Soccer Coaches' All-State team for the 2010 season.

They two were joined on the All-Region 9 team by KM teammates Megan Loftin and Chelsea Champion.

The four were key players on four consecutive conference championship teams at KMHS. Last year, they led the Lady Mountaineers to their first-ever Western Regional title and an appearance in the state 3A championship game. This year's team finished 16-7 overall and won the Big South 3A Conference.

Three KM pitchers in collegiate league

Three former Kings Mountain High pitchers are having good years for area collegiate summer league teams.

Southpaw Cole Moore of Erskine has worked five innings in three relief appearances for the Gastonia Grizzlies and has given up only one hit and no runs.

In a recent game with Martinsville, Moore retired all nine batters he faced.

The other two KM pitchers in summer ball - Brantley Blalock of Statesville and Jeffry Howell of Fort Mill - faced each other in a game last week.

They each pitched five innings, and were battling each other during three of those innings. When they exited the game it was tied 4-4. Statesville won with a run in the bottom of the ninth.

Blalock pitches for Lander University in Greenwood, SC and Howell pitches for the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
After the first week of action, former KMHS pitcher Cole Moore has worked five innings in three relief appearances for the Gastonia Grizzlies. He has given up only one hit and no runs. He has walked two batters and struck out five.

Blalock to play for Owls, named to honor roll

Brantley Blalock, KMHS Class of 2009, from Kings Mountain was recently named to the Lander University Freshman Honor Roll for the 2009-2010 school year.

Blalock, a pitcher for the Bearcats, managed 10 relief appearances and 19 innings of work after an early season injury.

Brantley will be playing summer baseball for the Statesville Owls, which is a member of the Southern Collegiate Baseball League.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Natalie Lutz, right, displays her trophy won at the RCC Summer Open. Natalie defeated Meredith McCraw, left, in the finals. Natalie, 9, of Kings Mountain won the girls 10 and under Singles Tennis Event at the RCC Summer Open. The event was held June 4-6 at the Racquet Club of the Carolinas. Natalie defeated Meredith McCraw 6-0, 6-1 in the finals. She and her sister, Madison, reached the Championship Finals for the girls 14 and under doubles at the Statesville Country Club Spring Fling in May 2010. Natalie is currently ranked 33rd in the State of North Carolina for girls 10 and under in singles play.

Rotarians raise \$10K in golf tourney

The Kings Mountain Rotary Club's Annual Golf Tournament at the Kings Mountain Country Club June 3rd was a big success. Sixteen teams, five more than last year, teed off to raise a total of \$10,385 (at last count), an increase of about \$400 raised in the club's 2009 tournament.

Proceeds raised from the 18-hole duel benefit scholarships given annually to deserving high school students.

Teams of four players each teed off on different holes in a shotgun start.

J.D. Ledford, Rusty Putnam, Andy Leigh and Jonathan Rhodes combined for a 21-under-par 55 to win the top team trophy.

Kenny Bridges came in closest to the pin on hole 5. Also closest to the pin was Jason Winn on No. 8 and Toney Wells on No. 18.

Clay Champion won the longest drive in the fairway award for the men. Gene Ramsey won the men's seniors longest drive award and Sylvia Neisler won the ladies longest drive.

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Sylvia Neisler putts the ball as her teammates in the Rotary golf tourney look on, l-r, John Caveny, Jim Champion and Andy Neisler.

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