

Sports

Hubert McGinnis to be inducted into Kings Mountain Hall of Fame

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

(Second in series of stories on the 2011 inductees into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame. The ceremony is Saturday, May 7 at 6 p.m., at Central United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$10 and are available from any member of the Hall of Fame committee.)

Hubert McGinnis, a valuable contributor to high school and college football teams that won six consecutive conference championships in the 1960s, will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 24th ceremony Saturday, May 7 at 6 p.m., at Central United Methodist Church. McGinnis was a starting line-backer and center when Kings Mountain's Mountaineers com-

plied a combined 19-1-1 record (including 19-0-1 in regular season play) in 1963 and 1964, and started 3 1/2 of his four years at Lenoir-Rhyne College when the Bears won four straight championships.

Although he wouldn't be considered a big lineman by today's standards, McGinnis, who weighed about 200, was one of the biggest and strongest for Bill Bates' Mountaineers.

Alongside many other outstanding linemen McGinnis helped block for one of the greatest passing quarterbacks in school history, Pat Murphy.

"It was all fun there," McGinnis said. "But my first two years of college weren't fun at all."

In fact, his first year at LR (1965) was a rude awakening.

The Bears, who won the national championship in 1960 under Clarence Stasavich and played for it in '61 under Hanley Painter, had

slacked off in the victory column and the year before McGinnis arrived they had won only three ball games.

McGinnis felt like he had left heaven (Kings Mountain) for hell.

"It was tough," he said. "Learning the single wing was difficult. If you remember the movie 'The Junction Boys' you have an idea of what we went through."

McGinnis said with LR accustomed to championship teams, Painter was probably under a lot of pressure to get the Bears back to winning championships and the coaching staff pushed the players to their limit. Players who were on scholarship were under a lot of pressure to perform or face losing their scholarship.

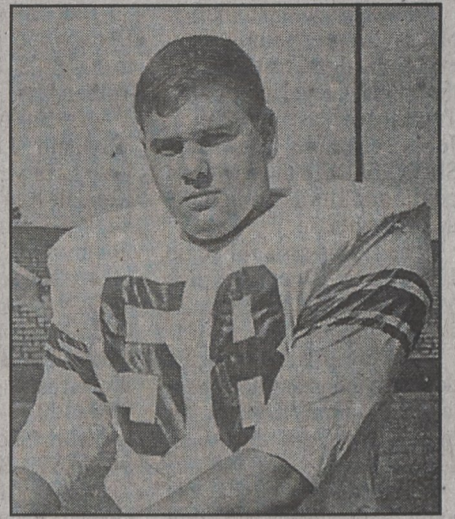
"We were in a tough league," McGinnis said. "There were only two seniors when I got there. The next year we had about eight, the next year five and my senior year

about seven or eight. They'd bring in about 25 a year but only about a fourth of them would stay. If you didn't pan out they'd do whatever they had to make you quit so they could get the scholarship back.

"I hated it my first year," he said. "I almost quit. Painter was a heck of a coach. He was half Cherokee Indian and mean as a snake and he was on the warpath. I laugh about it now. I really loved him."

McGinnis said he didn't get to play any his freshman year. When he came home for the summer he lost about 15 pounds. Early in his sophomore year the team suffered some injuries and one day at practice Coach Painter told him to get in at center.

McGinnis had played on a wing-T offense at KMHS and learning to play center in LR's sin-



Hubert McGinnis during his playing days at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

gle-wing attack was an adjustment. "You've got your head between your legs on every play. You're at a disadvantage on every play," he said.

But McGinnis also had an advantage that other centers may not have had. "I snapped for punts in high school so that helped me," he said. "A lot of guys just couldn't do it. One of the reasons I got to play was because I could snap an indirect snap."

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5-run seventh lifts Jaguars over KM

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Forestview scored five runs - four of them unearned - in the top of the seventh to defeat Kings Mountain 8-5 Tuesday in a Big South 3A Conference game at Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers and their ace junior right-hander Dallas Conner carried a 5-3 lead into the final inning. The Jaguars cut the margin to 5-4 one a one-out RBI single by Riley Hovis.

KM coach Eric King brought in closer Jonathon Borchert who quickly got a strikeout for the second out. But an infield error allowed Hovis to score the tying run. A walk and an error in the outfield led to the winning runs.

Conner scattered five hits and struck out nine in 6 1/3 innings. Borchert didn't give up a hit but the two walks and two errors hurt him.

Hovis, a UNC recruit, pitched the first 4 1/3 innings for the Jaguars. He gave up seven hits, walked three and struck out 10.

Trey Stallings worked the final 2 2/3 innings to get the win. He walked one, struck

out four and gave up two hits.

Brian Brown led the KM plate attack with 4-for-4, including three doubles. Wil Sellers and Mitchell Cloninger each had a double and single, and Chad Davis had a single.

Kings Mountain took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Brown led off with a double. Two outs later Conner walked and Cloninger doubled to center field to drive both runners home.

Forestview bounced back in the top of the second to tie the game. Jared Silver singled and scored on an error, and the tying run came on a sacrifice fly.

Kings Mountain regained the lead at 3-2 in the bottom of the second. After Hovis struck out the first two batters, Davis laced a sharp single to left and scored on Brown's double to deep left-center.

Two singles and a fielder's choice evened the score for the Jaguars in the third.

Kings Mountain went up 5-3 with two runs in the fifth. Brown laced his third straight double and scored on Sellers' double down the right field line. Sellers scored on Cloninger's single to right.



Courtesy runner Colton Wade scores for the Mountaineers in game with Forestview at Lancaster Field.

Childers, KM shut out Forestview 10-0

Sophomore southpaw Reagan Childers pitched her second straight complete game shutout in Kings Mountain's 10-0 Big South victory over Forestview last Tuesday night at Lancaster Field #3.

Childers struck out 10 batters. She also had a big night at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two runs and one RBI.

Kings Mountain scored three runs in each of the first two innings to grab

control early. The Mountaineers closed out the game on the 10-run mercy rule by scoring two runs each in the fourth and fifth innings.

The Mountaineers collected 16 hits. Molly Short, Emily Gates, Ashlee Harris and Caroline Chambers had two hits each.

Kayla Ward went 1-for-3 with four RBIs. Tori Glass, Cailyn Hughes, Taylor Farris and Shea Cogdell also had a hit apiece.



Reagan Childers pitched a two-hitter and collected three hits to lead Kings Mountain High's softball team over Forestview 10-0 last week.

Patriots beat West Lincoln

Kings Mountain Middle School's baseball team defeated West Lincoln 15-4 in a five-inning game last Wednesday.

Brandon Bell went the route on the mound, giving up three hits and striking out 10. He gave up only one earned run.

KM broke the game open in the second with nine runs on five hits, three walks and one error. KM added one more in the third and another in the fourth to go up 11-4. The Patriots scored their final four in the fifth to end the game.

Bell, Will Wilson and Shawn Adams led the offense with two hits each. Tanner Orders, Matt Absher, Jacob Lainhart and Colby Crisp had one hit each.



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