



Kings Mountain's 9-10 year-old all-stars are competing this week in the District tournament in Boger City with the hopes of qualifying for the upcoming state Dixie Youth Tournament in Stanley.

KM 9-10 all-stars 3-1 in district tournament

The 9-10 year old KM all-star baseball team got off to a great start at the Dixie Youth Baseball District tournament in Boger City, NC. Led by dominant pitching, they won their first three games by a margin of 39-1 while only allowing two hits.

Friday night KM powered past Tryon, winning 18-1 while striking out 12 batters. Isaiah Lowe pitched three innings striking out six and allowing one hit, Caleb Broome threw two innings striking out four and allowed no hits. Peyton Fisher closed the game by striking out two and allowed no hits in the last inning. The hitting was powered by Isaiah Lowe who went 4-5, Trey Crawford went 3-3 with a grand slam and Reese Ayscue went 3-4. Chris Ruffalo added two hits, both doubles, while Caleb Broome, Charlie Melton, Steven Spaes and

Peyton Fisher all had one hit a piece.

The dominant pitching continued in their second game on Saturday when they faced Chapel Grove. KM's Devin Pressley and Charlie Melton combined to throw a no-hitter to win 11-0. Devin struck out eight batters over three innings of work while Charlie struck out one batter in the last inning to close the game due to mercy rule. The offense was led by Cooper Putnam who went 2-2 with a triple and double. Trey Crawford, Isaiah Lowe, Charlie Melton and Bennett Davis all had one hit a piece.

Sunday's matchup with the Bessemer City American team was no different than the first two games. Trey Crawford threw a complete game, one hit shutout en route to a 10-0 win. Trey also struck out eight batters over his four innings of

work. Leading hitters were Cooper Putnam who went 2-2, Reese Ayscue went 2-3 and Isaiah Lowe went 2-3. Also adding to the hitting attack was Caleb Broome, Trey Crawford, Bennett Davis, Devin Pressley and Koby Rikard with one hit a piece.

On Monday afternoon KM received their first loss, 14-1, when they went up against the Bessemer City National team. BC was able to capitalize on four KM errors and the seven walks that KM gave up over five innings of play. In the loss, KM only recorded five hits with Trey Crawford going 2-2, while Cooper Putnam, Devin Pressley and Steven Spaes all added a hit each. The loss puts KM in the losers bracket where they will face the Bessemer City American team on Tuesday night.

Smith inducted into Lincoln County Sports Hall of Fame

Clyde Smith, long-time Lincolnton coach and administrator who got his start in public education and coaching at old Mount Holly High School, was inducted into the Lincoln County Sports Hall of Fame at its 13th induction ceremony Saturday night at the Lincolnton Citizens Center.

Smith was a three-sport athlete at old Stanley High School and was one of the star players on the 1959-60 Blue Devils basketball team that won the Little Seven Conference and finished second in the state.

Smith got his start in coaching as an assistant football coach at Mount Holly under Delmer Wiles. After two years there and one at Taylorsville High School, he joined the staff of Von Ray Harris at Lincolnton High and spent over 30 years in the Lincoln County school system as a coach, teacher and administrator.

While at LHS he was defensive coordinator for the football team and ran the school's track program which posted a 510-175 record.

Always a ninth grade civics teacher, Smith got out of coach shortly after Lincolnton built a new high school in 1978 and went from four to three grades. He taught at the junior high and coached at the high school for a couple of years but gradually moved out of coaching and into administration.

After retiring from public schools with 33 years of service, Smith spent nine more years as the principal of a private Christian school.

Smith became acquainted with Von Ray

Harris his senior year at Stanley when Harris was head coach of the South team in the Lions Bowl All-Star game in Forest City. The game featured only players from the old Southwestern and Northwestern Conferences of the Western NC High School Activities Association, but Harris chose Smith and another player from Stanley, two from Mount Holly and two from Dallas to join his team.

The two immediately hit it off, and through Harris's connection with Coach Don Robinson at Western Carolina University Smith was able to join the Catamounts as a walk-on. He was able to earn a scholarship and play full-time as a defensive back.

"Von Ray would visit and always speak to me," Smith recalled. "Don had already been telling him that 'Smitty' would make you a good coach."



Roxanne Rankin photo
Clyde Smith, right, receives Hall of Fame Award from former Lincolnton running back Steve Brackett.

In Smith's first year at Mount Holly Harris called to offer him a coaching position, but he had already signed a contract. The opportunity to coach at Lincolnton arose again three years later when Don Pack left his men's basketball coaching job at LHS to teach and coach at Shelby High School.

Smith coached basketball and was Harris's defensive coordinator for eight years. Schools were getting heavily involved in off-season weight programs and Smith ran that too.

During his early years of teaching and coaching Smith saw sports, public schools and society go through some dramatic changes, not the least of which was integration in the 1960s. The hard work and commitment of people like Smith and Von Ray Harris made the transition from segregation to integration a smooth and successful one in Lincolnton.

"When I was at Mount Holly a few schools had freedom of choice," Smith recalled. "The Black kids were sort of hand-picked. The year I came to Lincolnton was the year they closed Black schools totally. Athletics had as much to do with the success of integration as anything."

Some schools had adjustment problems, but Smith noted that several schools such as Lincolnton and Gastonia Ashley immediately benefited from integration. In its first year of integration, Ashley won the state 4A basketball championship.

"Lincolnton went through integration so smoothly it was unbelievable," Smith said. "There were a few problems but the kids usually worked them out themselves."



Arcade open

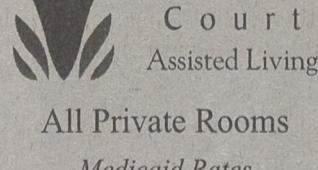
Carolina Place Arcades, 318 W. King St., specializes in many of the "retro" video and pinball games. Pictured is owner, Ken Williams, enjoying the Ms. Pacman game. The arcade offers special rates for parties and other group functions. During the four years the arcade has been open, they have sponsored functions for school groups, church groups, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs, and private birthday parties. This summer,

students can play the games for half price, and if they bring in their report cards, they can receive 2 free games for each "A" and 1 free game for each "B." The arcade has a wi-fi touch screen juke box, and offers the NFL Sunday Ticket during football season. There is a wide selection of cold drinks and snacks for sale. For more information, call Williams at 704-300-7653.

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