

Three-Sport Athletes:

Putnam, Johnson, Yarbro

In this day of the superstar who specializes in one sport, it's unusual, indeed, to find talented athletes participating in three sports.

Kings Mountain High School has three athletes participating in three sports, those being senior Roy Putnam and sophomores Chris Johnson and John Yarbro.

Putnam is currently a member of the Mountaineer track team after participating earlier in football and wrestling. Johnson and Yarbro both participate in the three major sports of football, basketball and baseball.

Putnam and Johnson both start in their three sports while Yarbro is a starter in football and a key reserve in basketball and baseball.

All three were key factors in Kings Mountain's 5-5 football record last fall. Putnam and Johnson were starters at end and Yarbro started at guard.

A 165-pounder, Putnam was voted the team's most improved player. A three-year starter, he was one of the team's top blockers and defensive players.

At split end, Johnson was the team's number two pass receiver behind senior Darrell Van Dyke, hauling in five receptions for 122 yards and two touchdowns. He finished second to junior halfback Tony Falls in scoring with 18 points. He doubled as a halfback on defense and returned one pass interception for a touchdown against East Gaston's Warriors.

Like Putnam, Yarbro did most of his duty in the blocking and tackling departments but the 200-pounder also handled the Mountaineer punting chores. He was one of the leaders in the rugged 13-team Southwestern Conference in that department, getting off 35 boots for a 33.4 average. He had one punt of 56 yards.

During the winter months, Yarbro and Johnson both helped the KMHS basketball squad to a good season while Putnam was helping the wrestling team to a share of second place in the SWC...KM's best finish in its short wrestling history.

Johnson was second to All-State Butch Blalock in scoring for the KMHS cagers, tallying 175 points in 23 games for a 7.6 average. He had a high game of 16 points against Cherryville and developed into one of the team's top offensive weapons late in the season.

Yarbro was one of the team's key reserves and was one of the club's top rebounders, along with Blalock, Larry Hamrick and Edward Goode. Offensively, his best game was a 10-point effort against Bessemer City.

Competing in one of the toughest wrestling classes (165 pounds), Putnam compiled a winning record for the Mountaineers and helped lead the team to a 5-6 overall record. The Mounties were 3-2 in conference action.

In the spring, when most young men turn their



Gary Stewart
Sports Editor

At Cherryville Today

South Point Bombs KM

By GARY STEWART
Mirror Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High's baseballers travel to Cherryville today for a Southwestern Conference game with the Ironmen, then take a much-needed two-week rest before resuming Division One play on April 19 against Lincolnton.

The Mountaineers, 3-3 in the SWC and 4-3 overall, have been inconsistent during the first half of regular season play and Coach Barry Gibson hopes the two-week layoff will help the team iron out some of its early-season wrinkles.

Upon their return to action, the Mountaineers hope to have the services of junior first baseman David Lancaster, who suffered a broken foot in pre-season practice. A .300 hitter last year, Lancaster would be a welcome addition. He's due to have his cast removed Friday and hopes to whip into playing shape during the Easter break.

The Mountaineers, who gave their best overall effort of the year in a 7-4 win over North Gaston Monday, had one of their worst efforts Tuesday at Belmont Abbey College, losing to unbeaten Division One leader South

Point 15-1.

Kings Mountain failed to get a hit until the seventh inning when Jimmy Fitts led off with a single.

The Mountaineers scored their only run in the top of the first when Darrell Van Dyke reached base on an error,

moved to second on an error, was sacrificed to third by Chuck Austin and scored on Fitts' infield out.

John McGill, senior left-hander, worked the first four and two-thirds innings for the Mounties and was charged with the loss, his second in

three decisions. He gave up 13 runs and 16 hits.

Butch Harris worked four hitless innings for the Raiders and was credited with the win. David Ratchford and Butch Rankin had three hits apiece to lead South Point's 18-hit plate attack.



JIMMY FITTS ...Breaks up no-hitter



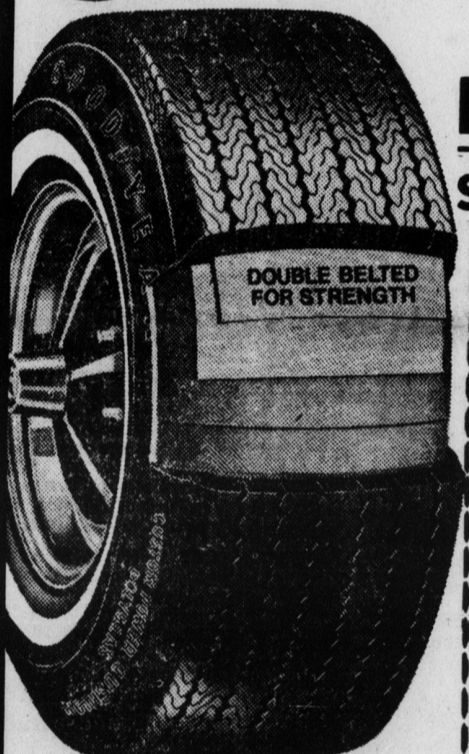
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Mirror SPORTS

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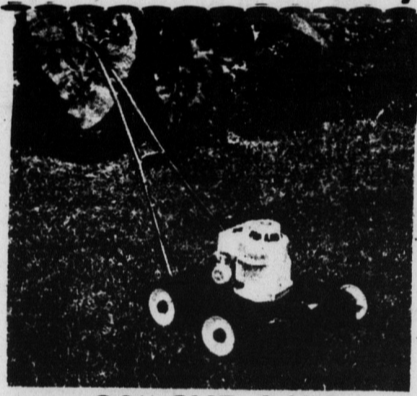
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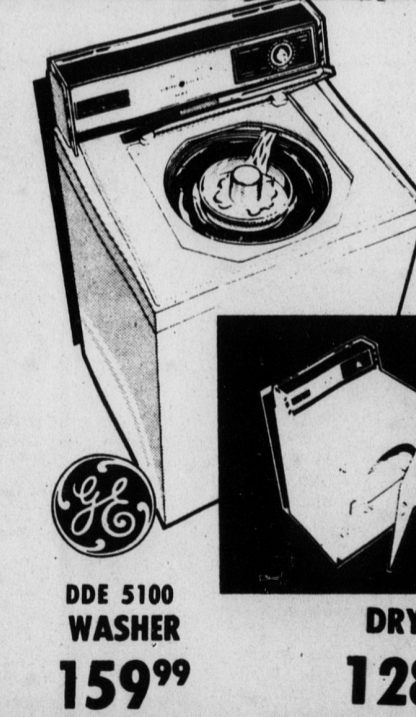
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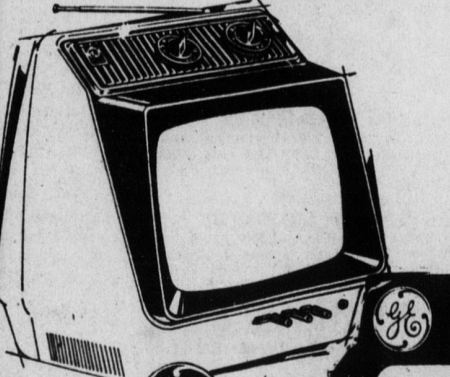
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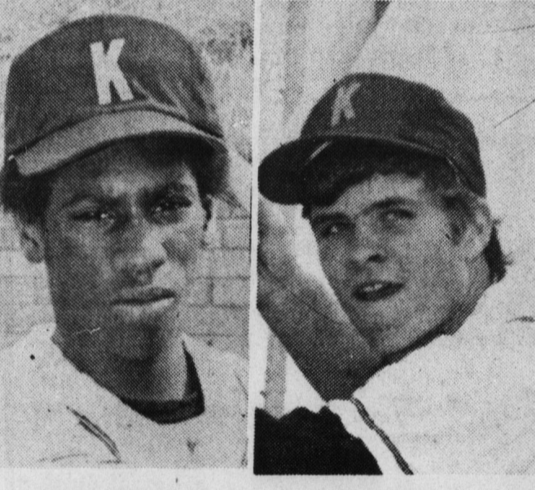


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CHRIS JOHNSON JOHN YARBRO

Legion Team Eyes BC Boys

Bessemer City's decision not to field an American Legion baseball team this summer could be a plus factor for Kings Mountain Post 155, which begins Area Four, League Two play on May 16 at Hickory.

Bessemer City and Henrietta, two long-time participants in legion play, decided not to compete this summer because of financial burdens. Therefore, all Bessemer City players living southwest of the BC railroad tracks will be eligible to play for Post 155.

Gene Tignor, Post 155 athletic officer, said he plans to contact some former BC legion baseball officials soon to see which players will be eligible to play for KM. Tignor said the team also hopes to draw some players from the Blacksburg area.

Most of the Henrietta players will be eligible to play for Forest City, causing many Area Four observers to point to Forest City as the team to beat.

Post 155's new coaches, Barry Gibson and David Bolin, will have most of the players back from last year's team, which finished 4-14 under Bob Jones. Post 155 lost pitcher Rick Hord and infielders Wayne Bridges, Robbie Moore and Eddie

McCraw. Starters returning include outfielder Darrell Van Dyke, catcher Dale Hartsoe, pitchers Kenny Farias and John McGill and infielders Jimmy Fitts, David Lancaster and Chuck Austin. Several youngsters who played on the state championship Babe Ruth all-star team last summer will also join the team.

Post 155 will play a 15-game regular season schedule before entering post-season elimination play in the latter part of June.

League Two participants this summer include KM, Forest City, Shelby, Cherryville, Burke County and Hickory.

THE SCHEDULE

- MAY**
- 16, at Hickory
 - 18, at Burke Co.
 - 21, Cherryville
 - 23, Forest City
 - 25, at Shelby
 - 28, Hickory
 - 30, Burke Co.
- JUNE**
- 1, at Cherryville
 - 4, at Forest City
 - 6, Shelby
 - 8, at Hickory
 - 11, at Burke Co.
 - 13, Cherryville
 - 14, Forest City
 - 15, at Shelby
- All games 7:45