



Photo by Charlie Hall

WORKING FOR WIN - There's more to winning races than driving the car and Freddie Smith, local racing favorite, is shown during work time in his father's garage in Kings

Mountain. Smith, who has won two of four races he's entered this year, is eyeing victory circle in the first race at World Wide Speedway in Gastonia Friday night.

# At Gastonia Friday Smith Eyes Another Win

By CHARLIE HALL  
(Special to the Mirror)

Kings Mountain's Freddie Smith has joined the field of drivers for Friday night's season opener at the renovated World Wide Speedway in Gastonia and the local Sportsman driver hopes to be the man to crack the current winning binge by Hildebrand's Carl Smart.

Smart, who heads up the O.L. Nixon racing team Camaro has been hard to beat this year, although Smith did come close earlier this year in Concord, before engine problems forced him to the sidelines.

"We've won two of four races, with engine problems both times we didn't win," says Freddie. "So we feel we should have won four this year because every time we've been forced out we were leading."

Smith, the young 26 year old charger guides a 1968 350 Camaro owned by Porter Wholesale Fabrics and prepared by his father, Grassy Smith.

Now in his sixth year of racing the short tracks, Smith looks upon each race as a new challenge. "You go out and run as hard as you can," says the soft spoken Smith, "Hope that you get some breaks and try to come in first."

Earlier this year, Smith notched perhaps his biggest feat yet in the sport, when he piloted his car to a 12th place finish in the Permatex race at Daytona.

After working continuously for more than two weeks to prepare the car for the big asphalt oval at Daytona, Smith and his crew spent another 10 long days at the track, beginning each day before the sun was up and oftentimes not retiring until it had gone down.

But the work was worth it

according to Smith and his crew, who express great pride in his 12th place finish in a field which included many NASCAR regulars.

"We went down after preparing the car here in Kings Mountain and didn't have to make any adjustments, even though we'd never even seen the track," his brother Buddy said proudly.

The Smith crew is one of the best around preparing a car and Smith has long since proved that he is one of the more capable drivers.

Aside from Smart, he'll also have to contend with the likes of Ervin Carpenter of Rock Hill, not to mention veteran Billy Scott and other drivers such as Mike Duval and Haywood Plyler in the run for the top prize of \$800 this Friday night.

World Wide Speedway this year is under the new management of Eddie Dow, a Gastonia businessman and World Wide Productions, a group which has vowed to bring racing enthusiasm back to the Gastonia area.

Formerly the Carolina

Speedway, Dow and his crew have done much during the off season to improve the condition and safety of the track as well as improve the fan facilities.

"We feel we lined up a top field this week," says Dow, "It should be quite a race in the Super Sports, with most of the top names from around the two Carolinas confirmed to race with us Friday night."

And among them will be Smith who commands an army of enthusiastic followers and the respect of the veterans on and off the track.

## Tennis Team Splits Pair

Kings Mountain High's a pair of non-conference varsity boys tennis team split matches last week, winning 8-

1 over Burns and losing 7-2 to 4-A Hunter Huss of Gastonia. The Mountaineers were scheduled to host Cherryville in a Southwestern Conference match Tuesday. They travel to R-S Central next Tuesday.

Kings Mountain swept five of six singles matches and all three doubles events at Burns but managed only two singles victories in the home match with Huss.

Results of the Burns match:

**SINGLES**  
Eddie Mauney (KM) def. Carpenter (B) 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.  
Joey Wells (KM) def. Beam (B) 6-0, 6-2.  
Terry Franks (KM) def. Cole (B) 6-2, 9-11, 6-1.  
Claude Suber (KM) def. Holland (B) 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.  
Ricky Henderson (KM) def. Costner (B) 7-5, 0-6, 9-6.  
Miller (B) def. Billy Cashion (KM) 6-1, 7-5.

**DOUBLES**  
Mauney-Wells (KM) def.

Carpenter-Beam (B) 6-2, 7-5.  
Franks-Suber (KM) def. Cole-Holland (B) 6-3, 6-1.  
Henderson-Cashion (KM) def. Miller-Hastings (B) 8-3.  
Results of the Huss match:

**SINGLES**  
Charles Person (H) def. Eddie Mauney (KM) 6-3, 6-1.  
Joey Wells (KM) def. Doug Beam (H) 6-4, 6-3.  
Terry Franks (KM) def. Mark Ashton (H) 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.  
Terry Lyles (H) def. Claude Suber (KM) 6-3, 6-1.  
Mark Stewart (H) def. Ricky Henderson (KM) 6-0, 6-2.  
Robin Miller (H) def. Billy Cashion (KM) 6-2, 7-5.

**DOUBLES**  
Person-Beam (H) def. Mauney-Wells (KM) 9-7.  
Ashton-Lyles (H) def. Franks-Suber (KM) 7-5.  
Stewart-Huffstetler (H) def. Mark Eaker-Henderson (KM) 6-0, 7-5.

## E. Gaston Dumps KM

East Gaston's Warriors struck for 11 runs in the fourth inning to break open a close game and defeat Kings Mountain 15-3 in a Southwestern Conference baseball game here last Wednesday.

The visitors held only a 4-2 edge before erupting for the 11 runs off KM starter John McGill and relief pitcher

The Mountaineers managed only four hits—one each by Darrell Van Dyke, Chuck Austin, Jimmy Fitts and Dale Hartsoe—and committed five costly errors in losing their second game to the Warriors.

East Gaston claimed a 5-3 come-from-behind victory over the Mounties in an earlier game played in Stanley.

Kings Mountain never led but tied the game at 2-all in the first inning. Austin's single, a double by Fitts and an East Gaston error accounted for the tallies.

The Mountaineers picked up their final run in the sixth when Fitts reached on an error and scored on a double by Hartsoe.

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Kings Mountain Junior High picked up its first baseball victory of the season last Thursday at Kings Mountain High defeating Mt. Holly 6-0 in a non-conference game.

Southpaw Steve Lancaster went the distance on the mound for KM, allowing just five hits and striking out five. His teammates backed him with a seven-hit plate attack against a pair of Mt. Holly pitchers.

Scott Hovis slammed a pair of hits, including a double, and Darrell Queen had two hits and three runs batted in for the locals. KM scored one run in the first inning, three in the third and two in the sixth.

Lancaster was in trouble only once, in the fourth inning when the Hawks loaded the bases on a pair of walks and an infield hit. But he got out of the jam with a strikeout and double play.

Coach Porter Griggs' charges, now 1-1, are scheduled to play Holbrook of Lowell in a pair of makeup games this week, but the dates have not been officially set.

After those two games, KMJH takes a break before opening Tri-County Conference play on April 19 at Shelby.

Score by innings: R H E  
MH 000 000 0  
KM 103 002 x

Dillard, Sherrin (7) and McQueen.  
Lancaster and Ellis.

Score by innings: T  
EG 202 (11)00 0  
KM 200 001 0

Richard Gillespie.  
Kevin Ford, an untested sophomore, finally put out the fire for the Mountaineers and held the Warriors to just one hit over the final three and one-third innings.

The Mountaineers managed only four hits—one each by Darrell Van Dyke, Chuck Austin, Jimmy Fitts and Dale Hartsoe—and committed five costly errors in losing their second game to the Warriors.



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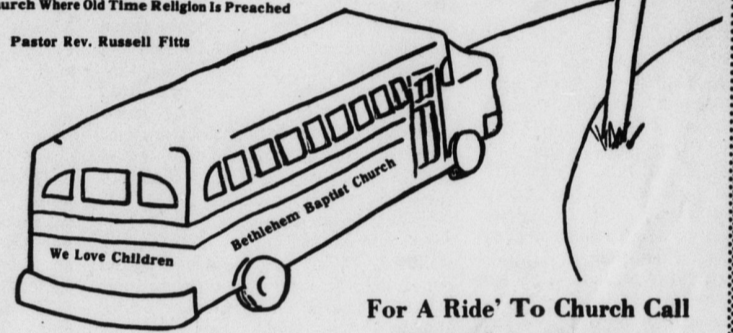
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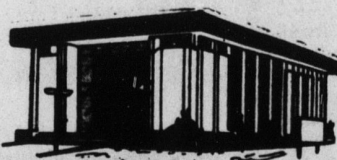
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