

Unheard Call Stops KM

Balk On The Catcher?

A disputed call which went in Bessemer City's favor turned out to be the difference in a 3-2 Yellow Jacket baseball victory over Kings Mountain's Mountaineers here Friday afternoon.

The victory, which for BC avenged an earlier 8-0 loss to the Mountaineers, all but eliminated any KM hopes of landing a berth in the Southwestern Conference playoffs.

The disputed play came about this way:

With two out and BC leading 2-0 in the top of the fourth inning, BC catcher Rick Shull was on third base and centerfielder David Self hitting for the Yellow Jackets. On an 0-2 pitch from KMHS pitcher Chuck Austin, Shull attempted to steal home and was tagged out by KM catcher Kenny Falls.

The Mountaineers left the field and the Yellow Jackets started on the field but BC coach Jerry Adams rushed up to plate umpire Bill Horne and argued that Falls had interfered with his batter. At that point, infield umpire Chuck Clements yelled from his position behind first base "balk on the catcher."

After a short discussion, Horne reversed his decision and declared the runner safe, giving BC a 3-0 lead and making the count on Self 1-2. Self later struck out to end the inning.

The Mountaineers came back to score two runs in the sixth inning to cut the lead to 3-2 but couldn't come up with the tying run.

On the disputed call, Falls actually left his catcher's position to catch an outside

pitch by Austin and that prompted Adams' interference argument. However, rule 4.03a of the 1974 official baseball rule book states that "the catcher shall station himself directly back of the plate. He may leave his position at any time to catch a pitch or make a play except that when the batter is being given an intentional base on balls, the catcher must stand with both feet within the lines of the catcher's box until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. PENALTY - Balk."

It should be further pointed out, that Austin was not issuing an intentional base on balls.

On the play, it also appeared from this writer's position in the stands that the BC batter stepped across home plate to block Falls' attempt to put out the BC runner. If that was the case, Self should have been declared out on rule 6.06c which states:

"A batter is out for illegal action when he interferes with the catcher's fielding or throwing by stepping out of the batter's box or making any other movement that hinders the catcher's play at home base..."

The runner could have been safe on Adams' argument of "interference" under rule 7.04d which states that "each runner, other than the batter, may without liability be put out advance one base when while he is attempting to steal a base, the batter is interfered with by the catcher or any other fielder."

At any rate, getting back to the other six innings of play, BC picked up singletons in the first and third for a 2-0 lead, both tallies coming from shortstop Frank Hovis, who helped lead the KM Babe Ruth team to the state title last summer.

Hovis singled in the first to leadoff the game and later scored on an error and he doubled and scored on a single by Jimmy Parker, another former KM Babe Ruth, in the third. Then, the disputed fourth inning tally made it 3-0.

Kings Mountain, which had been handcuffed by BC south paw Perry Eury over the first five frames, got back-to-back singles by Austin and Jimmy Fitts with one away in the sixth. They later scored on errors but Richard Gillespie and Kenny Falls drew bases on balls from relief pitcher Jeff Reynolds to put runners on first and third with two away.

Hal Glass attempted to bunt Gillespie in but bunted a liner to third baseman Robbie Holt and he doubled Gillespie off third to end the threat. Reynolds put the Mounties down in order in the seventh to earn a save.

BOX SCORE

B. City	AB	R	H	RBI
Hovis, ss	4	2	2	0
Parker, lf	3	0	2	1
Reynolds, rf	3	0	0	0
Bridges, 1b	4	0	1	0
Shull, c	3	1	0	0
R. Holt, 3b	4	0	1	0
Eury, p-rf	3	0	0	0
T. Holt, 2b	2	0	1	0
Self, cf	3	0	0	0
Totals	29	3	7	1

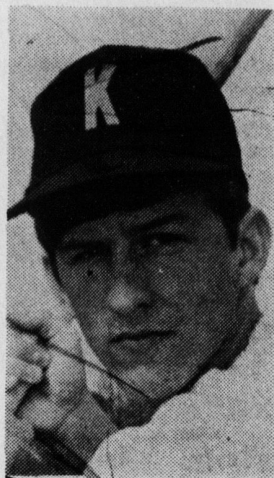
K. Mtn.	AB	R	H	RBI
Van Dyke, cf	4	0	0	0
Southwell, 2b	4	0	1	0
Austin, p	2	1	1	0
Fitts, 1b	3	1	1	0
Gillespie, 3b	1	0	0	0
Payne, lf	3	0	0	0
K. Falls, c	2	0	0	0
Glass, ss	3	0	0	0
Baird, rf	1	0	0	0
M. Falls, rf	2	0	1	0
Totals	25	2	4	0

By Innings:	BC	KM
BC	101	100
KM	000	002

E-R. Holt 2, Austin, Gillespie 2, Glass. LOB-BC 10, KM 7. 2B-Hovis. SAC-Austin. SB-Bridges.

Pitcher:	IP	H	R	ER	BBS
Eury (W)	5	1	3	4	2
Reynolds	1	2	3	0	0
Austin (L)	7	7	3	1	6

Save-Reynolds. WP-Austin, Eury, Balk-K. Falls. U-Horne and Clements. T-2:15.



KENNY FALLS
...Victim of balk

Wolves Winner Over KM

Lincolnton's Wolves held off a seventh inning rally by Kings Mountain's Mountaineers here Thursday afternoon to salvage a 8-7 victory in Southwestern Conference baseball action.

The Wolves, who avenged an early-season 4-2 defeat to the Mountaineers, carried a 8-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh. Kings Mountain tallied four runs to cut the lead to 8-7 and had the bases loaded with only one away but two Mountaineers fanned to end the game.

Tony Payne was the only KM player to secure two hits as he went 2-for-3 and drove home a pair of runs. Richard Gillespie and Jimmy Fitts had a single apiece to account for KM's other two hits.

Mounties Win 5-2, Host South Point

Kings Mountain High's baseballers, who have never had a losing season under Coach Barry Gibson, close out 1974 play next week and must win two of their final three contests in order to play over .500 for the year.

The Mountaineers broke a three-game losing streak Tuesday at North Gaston, scoring all of their runs in the seventh inning for a 5-2 victory. The win gives them a 4-5 Southwestern Conference record and 5-5 overall mark heading into a game this afternoon against South Point.

The Mountaineers host Cherryville in a makeup game next Monday, then travel to Cherryville next Thursday for their season's finale.

Although the Mountaineers are out of the running for the Division One title, Coach Gibson would like nothing better than to see his charges in the role of spoilers for South Point, which has topped the last two SWC championships. A KMHS victory over the Pointers today would go a long way toward handing the Division One title to East Gaston, which at last report was leading the Red Raiders by one-half game.

John McGill got the win for the Mounties Tuesday, hurling a three-hitter for his second win in four decisions. Only one of the runs off him was earned.

Kings Mountain's bats were silenced until the last inning, when the Mountaineers collected four hits, including three in a row, to erase a 2-0

victory and claim their second win over the Warriors.

A three-run single by McGill, a run-scoring double by Tony Payne and a run-scoring single by Steve Southwell were the big blows for the Mountaineers. KM's fourth hit in the inning was a pinch-hit single by Richard Gillespie. Kings Mountain had threatened seriously in each of the first three innings but the Mounties never managed to come up with hits in the clutch. The only hits by KM prior to the seventh were singles by Chuck Austin and Dale Hartsoe.

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El Bethel Leads Loop

El Bethel edged Macedonia 14-13 Tuesday night to take over sole possession of first place in the local men's church league softball standings.

El Bethel's now 2-0 with Bethlehem and Second Baptist tied for second with 2-1 marks.

Barry Rikard hurled the win for El Bethel and Dean Smith was charged with the loss for Macedonia.

In other games Tuesday, Temple bombed Grover First Baptist 23-3 and Second Baptist blanked Bethlehem 11-0.

Larry Wood had five straight hits in the Temple victory and Rayford White hurled the win. Larry Bolin was charged with the loss.

Sonny Jackson with 3-for-3 and Gary Oliver and Pete Burgess with 2-for-3 each led Second over Bethlehem. Pete Oliver was the winning pitcher and Joel Whisnant the loser.

In action last Thursday night, Macedonia whipped Temple 10-6, Second Baptist defeated First Wesleyan 11-1 and Bethlehem bombed Kings

Mountain Baptist 19-1.

Mike Smith and Gary Smith had 3-for-4 each to lead Macedonia and Gene Hunter and Chuck Boheler slammed homers. Emmett Green was the winning pitcher and Tony Tompkins the loser.

Tim Echols and Ken Cash each had three hits to lead Bethlehem's win and Jimmy Champion was the winning pitcher. J.C. Bridges was the loser.

Jr. High Splits Pair

Kings Mountain Junior High's baseballers seek their second straight Tri-County Conference victory Friday afternoon at City Stadium when they take on Ashley Junior High of Gastonia.

Coach Porter Griggs' charges split their first two league games, losing to defending champion Shelby 8-0 Friday and defeating Lincolnton 9-4 Monday.

Ronnie Wilson hurled a two-hitter in Monday's victory and recorded nine strikeouts. A seven-run second inning was all Wilson needed.

Kings Mountain secured nine hits with Jerry Jackson getting a pair of singles and driving in three runs. Other hits, all singles, were by Scott Ellis, Kenny Self, Bruce Valentine, Steve Lancaster, Scott Hovis and Tim Whitaker.

Lancaster secured the only hit for KMJH in Friday's loss to Shelby. He singled in the fourth inning. Scott Ellis was the only KM player to reach scoring position, getting to third in the sixth inning after drawing a base on balls.

The locals are now 3-2 in overall play. After Friday's game here, they play Crest on the road Monday afternoon.

Final BR Tryouts Set

Final tryouts for Babe Ruth League baseball players will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the community center.

All boys ages 13-15 who did not play Babe Ruth ball last year and who would like to be on a team must be present. In event of an emergency and a prospective player cannot possibly attend, he must call one of the following persons by Saturday: Max Bolin, Jimmy White, Tony Leigh, Tommy Pruett or Roy Pearson.

The regular season will begin the week of May 20 and continue throughout the month of June. All teams will play a 15-game schedule.

The Babe Ruthers are defending state champions.

FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE 93RD CONGRESS

Congressional Resolution Proclaiming April 30, 1974 A National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer

WHEREAS, it is the duty of nations, as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the ruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is Lord; and

Whereas, we know that we have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God; and

Whereas, we have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own; and

Whereas, intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us; and

Whereas, we have failed to respond, personally and collectively, with sacrifice and uncompromised commitment to the unmet needs of our fellow man, both at home and abroad; as a people, we have become so absorbed with the selfish pursuits of pleasure and profit that we have blinded ourselves to God's standard of justice and righteousness for this society; and

Whereas, it therefore behoves us to humble ourselves before Almighty God, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness: Now, therefore be it

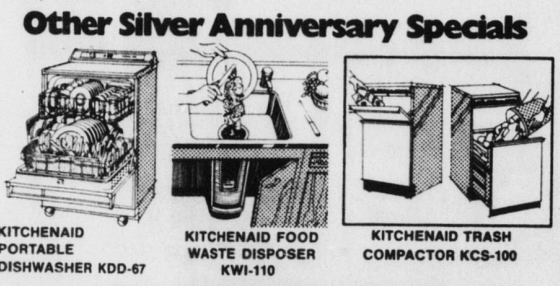
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, THAT THE Congress hereby proclaim that April 30, 1974, be a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; and calls upon the people of our Nation to humble ourselves as we see fit, before our Creator to acknowledge our final dependence upon Him and to repent of our national sins.

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