

New Bat Gives KMHS New Life, 7-3 Win

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers put a new aluminum bat into use for the first time here Monday afternoon against Cherryville and came up with their best showing of the season in a 7-3 Southwestern Conference victory.

The Mountaineers banged out 13-hits—by far their best effort of the season—in bringing their Division One record to 5-6 and overall mark to 6-6. The Mounties were scheduled to play in Cherryville yesterday in their season's finale.

Southpaw John McGill went the distance on the mound for Barry Gibson's charges, scattering seven hits, walking only one and striking out nine. The victory brought his season's mark to 3-2.

Five different players had

two hits apiece to lead the batting attack against a pair of Cherryville pitchers. Those five included Tony Payne, Steve Southwell, Jimmy Fitts, Dale Hartsoe and Monte Falls.

The Mountaineers never trailed as they grabbed a 2-0 lead in the first inning and put together four runs in the third for a 6-1 margin.

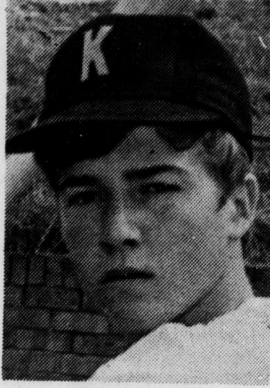
Payne's double, singles by Southwell, Fitts and Falls, Chuck Austin's sacrifice fly and a pair of Cherryville errors accounted for the two first inning tallies.

McGill slammed a three-run double off the centerfield fence to spark the third inning rally and Payne drove in a run with a single. Other hits in the inning were by Fitts, Hartsoe and Southwell.

The Mountaineers added their final tally in the fourth when Hartsoe walked with two away, moved to second on a single by Falls and scored on a single by Darrell Van Dyke.



DALE HARTSOE



MONTE FALLS

Hartsoe Homers South Point Winner

South Point's Red Raiders scored seven runs in the fifth inning to erase a 5-4 Kings Mountain lead and went on to defeat the Mountaineers 13-10 in Southwestern Conference baseball action here last Thursday.

The Mountaineers, who were trying for their first victory over South Point in five years, used a sacrifice fly and run-scoring single by Chuck Austin and a three-run homer by Dale Hartsoe to run up the 5-1 lead for senior righthander Kenny Farias.

Farias, who saw his record dip to 2-3, held the heavy South Point bats in check for three innings but a dropped fly ball by Monte Falls in the fourth led to three Raiders runs to bring Phil Tate's defending champions within one.

The Raiders put the finishing touches on Farias in the fifth when three of the first four South Point hitters singled and then Farias issued a walk to leadoff batter Tim Faulkner. Sophomore Scott Ledford finished up the

Mounties but the damage had already been done.

Kings Mountain had one of its best days at the plate, securing eight hits off three Raider pitchers. But errors continued to plague the Mounties as they committed five costly miscues.

First baseman Jim Fitts collected three hits in four trips to the plate to hike his team leading batting average to .361, and the senior also scored three runs to assume the team leadership in that department with 10.

Hartsoe was the only other Mountaineer to get two hits, going 2-for-3 with his three-run homer and a seventh inning double. Austin, Falls and Tony Payne had the other three KM safeties.

The Raiders banged out 13 hits with Butch Rankin going 3-for-5.

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Bridges, Parker (3) and Summer.
McGill and Hartsoe.

El Bethel Unbeaten In League

El Bethel won two more games during the past week to remain undefeated in men's church league softball play. The victories give El Bethel a 4-0 record and a one-game lead over Second Baptist, which sports a 3-1 mark.

El Bethel edged Temple last Thursday 11-8 and stopped Macedonia 9-8 Tuesday night. Other games Thursday saw Macedonia whip First Wesleyan 13-3 and KM Baptist edge Grover First Baptist 12-11. Other Monday results included Second Baptist over Grover First 27-3, and Temple over First Wesleyan 11-7.

Glenn Perkins slammed out four straight hits, including a pair of home runs, to lead El Bethel's Thursday win. Gary Shields also added a homer. Barry Rikard went the distance to pick up the pitching win and Tony Tompkins was the loser.

In Tuesday's victory, Ronnie Falls slammed three hits in four at bats and Perkins went the distance on the mound to record the win. Emmett Green was the loser.

Junior Sellers had three hits and Gary Smith, Dean Spears and Charles Green two apiece to lead Macedonia's Thursday victory over First Wesleyan. Ken Cloninger was the winning pitcher and Clyde Dixon the loser.

Chris Tindall collected four straight hits to lead KM Baptist over Grover First, marking the first win of the year for the KM club. Bob Hullender was the winning pitcher.

Standings include El Bethel 4-0, Second Baptist 3-1, Bethlehem 2-1, Macedonia 2-2, Temple 2-2, First Wesleyan 1-3, KM Baptist 1-2 and Grover First 0-4.

Legion Players

To Meet

All persons who plan to tryout for the Post 155 American Legion baseball team are asked to be at the Kings Mountain High field Friday at 4 p.m.

Coach Barry Gibson said practice would probably begin Saturday.

Boys living in the Kings Mountain, Blacksburg and Bessemer City school districts are eligible to play. Area Four regular season action begins May 16.


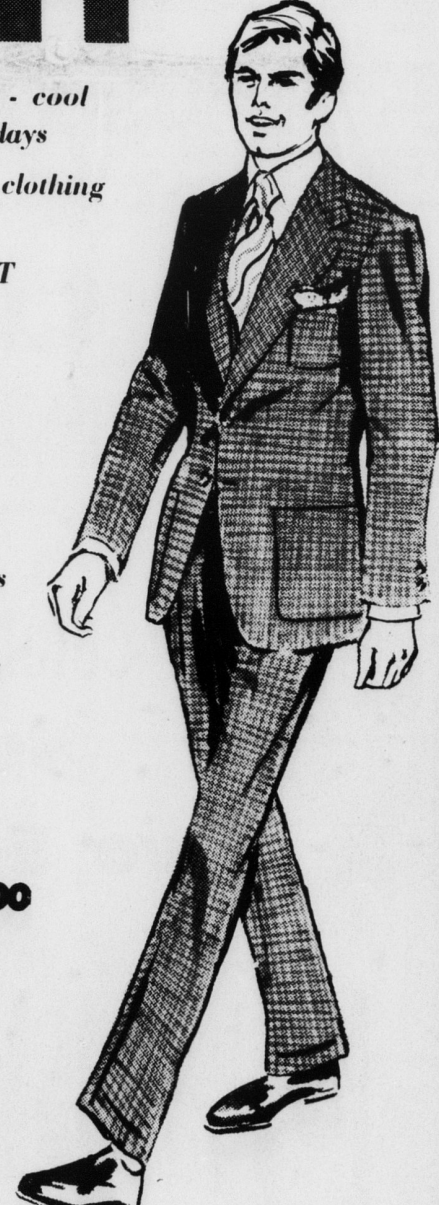
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