

Play Continues Through Wednesday

KM Unbeaten In State Babe Ruth Tourney

Kings Mountain's 13-year-old Babe Ruth all-stars scored impressive victories in their first two outings in the State Tournament being held at Brice Harry Memorial Park in Grover and were scheduled to face Union County in a battle of the two unbeaten Monday afternoon.

The locals scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning early Sunday morning to defeat Sparta 7-6 and came back Sunday afternoon to blank North Buncombe 14-0. Union County won a tough 4-3 decision over South Iredell in the tournament's opening game Saturday afternoon and blasted East Mecklenburg 12-4 Sunday

afternoon.

Those two clubs were scheduled to play at 3 p.m. yesterday and the winner will advance to the championship game at 5 p.m. If a team from the loser's bracket wins that game, a second title game will be played at 8 p.m.

Lavar (Baba) Curry stole home with the winning run in KM's opening contest, which didn't get started until 10:20 p.m. Saturday and ended at 1 a.m. Sunday. Curry, in fact, stole all the way around the bases after drawing a walk with two outs.

Kings Mountain, which trailed 5-0 after two innings, had tied the game at 6-all moments

before when Tommy Batchler singled, stole second, went to third on a throwing error and scored on a balk.

Two outs later, Curry drew a base on balls, and immediately stole second and third. Joanna Boheler walked, and with Richie Gold at the plate, stole second. After Boheler's steal, the Sparta pitcher turned toward first base to speak to his first baseman and Curry streaked for home. By the time the pitcher realized what was happening, it was too late to nail the fleet-footed KM infielder.

Batchler and Eric Ballew each had a triple and single to lead the KM plate attack. Thomas Put-

nam added a double and Curry a single.

Jerry McDaniel hurled five and one-third innings in relief of starter Barry Philbeck to pick up the win.

Batchler hurled a four-hitter Sunday afternoon as the local nine bested South Buncombe in a game which was halted after six innings on the 10-run rule.

Kings Mountain jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first inning and South Buncombe couldn't recover.

Catcher Johnny Yarboro, whose right arm gunned down a number of base stealers in both

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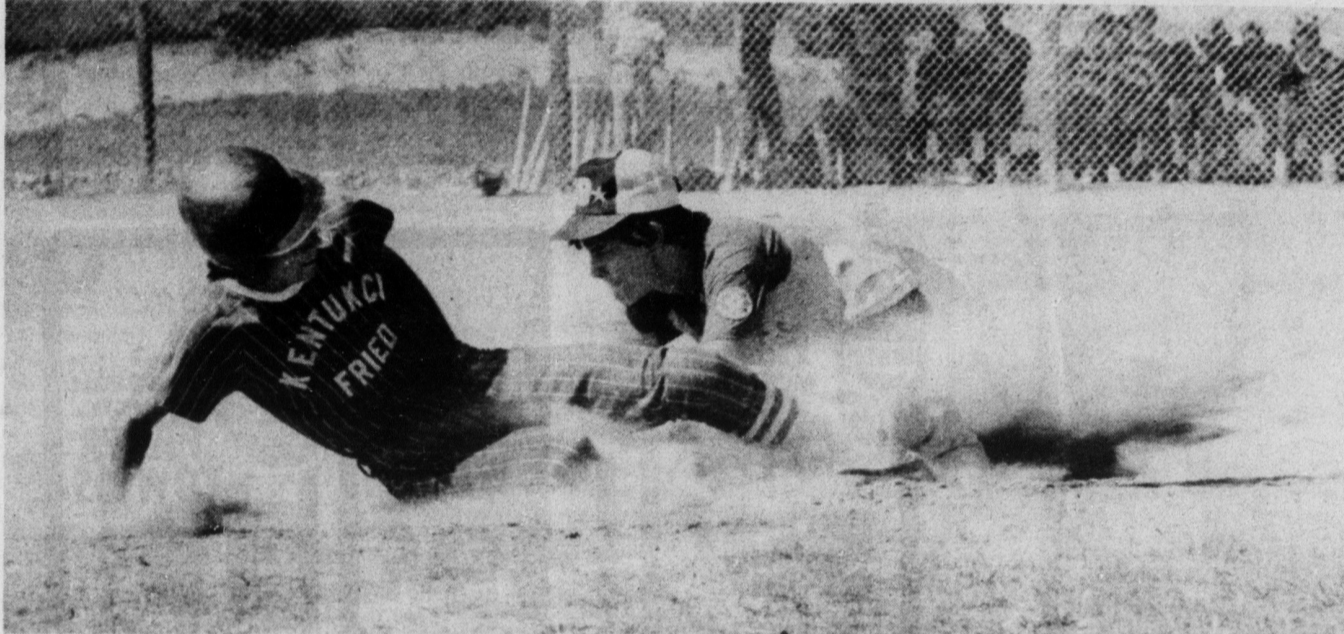


Photo by Gary Stewart

OUT ON STEAL - Kings Mountain's Thomas Putnam is out on a close play trying to steal third base in Sunday's game with North Buncombe in the State 13-year-old Babe Ruth baseball tournament at Grover. The Kings Mountain all-stars won the

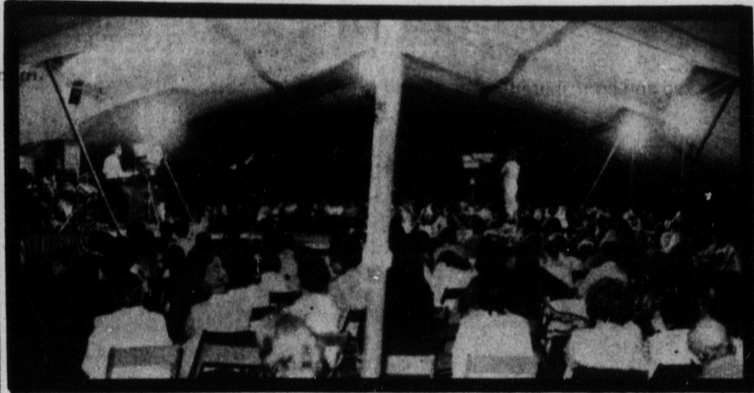
game 14-0 to advance to a winner's bracket game Monday afternoon against Union County. The tournament runs through Wednesday night.

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