

## Cheering her girls on to victory



Photos By Gary Stewart

Kings Mountain High's girls basketballers completed their best season in nine years Monday with a 69-64 victory over Crest. The win gave the Mountaintettes a 12-8 Southwestern Conference record heading into the annual league tournament last night at North Gaston High School in Dallas. The Mountaintettes were to meet

South Point in the opening game of the single-elimination event. One of the Mountaintettes' best cheerleaders this winter was their coach, Kathy Brooks, a first-year coach in the KM school system. Mrs. Brooks is shown here on the bench Monday

coaching the Mountaintettes to their victory over the Lady Chargers. The Mountaintettes' 12-8 record is the best since 1968, when they finished 18-3 under Coach Blaine Froneberger, who is now assistant principal at KMHS.

### Mitchem Scores 35

## Girls Win, Boys Lose

Kings Mountain High's all-time scoring queen, Susan Mitchem, saved her best effort for her final home game Monday night when she scored her career-high 35 points in a 69-64 regular season-ending victory over Crest.

The victory gave the Mountaintettes a final 12-8 record and fifth place in the final Southwestern Conference standings.

Kings Mountain's boys continued to show improvement in the nightcap but lost a tough 68-58 decision to the undefeated Crest boys, who are the state's number two ranked basketball team.

The Mountaintettes, who compiled their best record since 1968, when they finished 18-3 under Blaine Froneberger, were scheduled to begin play in the Southwestern Conference tournament Wednesday at North Gaston.

Coach Kathy Brooks' ladies were to meet fourth

place South Point (13-7) in the tournament opener at 5 p. m. Details were not available at the Mirror-Herald's press deadline.

The winner of the KM-South Point game will meet the winner of tonight's North Gaston game Friday at 5 p. m.

#### GIRLS GAME

KM (69) — Mitchem 35, Roberts 8, Henderson 4, Rickenbacker 6, Bristol 2, Mack 6, Hickman 5, Bridges 3.

Crest (64) — Blanton 13, Lee 2, Montgomery 18, Watson 17, C. Crosby 11, Harris 2, Hoyle 2, Price 1.

#### BOYS GAME

KM (58) — Ingram 6, Bell 18, Lockhart 11, Odums 1, Burris 14, Prescott 2, Boggan 6, Cloninger, Ellis.

Crest (68) — Huskey 21, Ford 14, Wilson 4, Young 12, Ware 3, Mitchell 6, Cannon 4, Lovelace 2, B. Huskey 2.

Chase and East Rutherford were to play Tuesday night in a special playoff for eighth place and the right to play North Gaston.

Kings Mountain's girls trailed much of the game against Crest Monday but Mitchem got hot in the second half and scored 24 of her game-high 35 points.

Crest led 44-43 heading into the fourth quarter, but KM's pressing defense turned the game around in the final eight minutes.

KMHS led by only a point with one minute to play, but some key free throws by Angie Hickman and Priscilla Rickenbacker, a big three-point play by Phyllis Mack and a key steal by Mitchem insured the victory for KMHS.

Mitchem was the only KM player to score double figures. Wanda Montgomery scored 18 points and grabbed a bushel of rebounds for the Lady Chargers, who had upset KMHS in a first round

game at Crest.

Kings Mountain's boys trailed the entire ballgame against the highly-rated Chargers but Coach Ed Peele's club could never pull away from the determined Mountaineers.

Crest out-quickened KMHS to a 32-18 halftime lead, but the Mountaineers bounced right back in the third quarter to outscore the Chargers 14-7 and cut the difference to 39-32 going into the fourth quarter.

Jimmy Huskey led the winners with 21 points while sophomore Vernon Bell topped the KM effort with 18. Everette Burris added 14 and William Lockhart, a former Crest player, scored 11.

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Photo By Gary Stewart

**MAKING SAVE** Kings Mountain's Bobby Odums (10) outstudies a Crest player to a runaway basketball in first half of Monday's Southwestern Conference finale at the KMHS gym. The Mounties dropped a tough 68-58 decision, ending their season with a 5-15 SWC mark and 5-17 overall.