

# KMHS Golfers Eyeing One Of Better Seasons

Kings Mountain High's golfers, eyeing their best season in years, open Southwestern Conference play next Thursday at Cherryville where the Ironmen will host the Mountaineers, East Rutherford and Chase.

Coach Bobby Jones has two veterans — Johnny Gamble and Mark Saunders — back from last year's team, plus an outstanding crop of sophomores who led KM Junior High to two straight Foothills Conference championships.

"It's hard to tell anything this early in the season," noted Coach Jones, "but if the boys progress like I think they will, we should have the best team we've had in several years."

The Mountaineers have

been getting in nine holes of practice each afternoon at the Kings Mountain Country Club, and most players have been flirting with par.

Gamble, the most valuable player last spring, played in several tournaments last summer and Jones said it helped his game.

"He's hitting the ball longer," noted Jones, "and his attitude is real good. He's always been a hard worker. He works as hard at his particular sport as anybody we've ever had. He's really dedicated, and you'll see him on the golf course just about anytime you go over there."

"He's a real competitor," Jones went on. "His biggest obstacle on the course is beating himself. He wants to do good so badly that

sometimes he lets bad shots affect him."

Jones said at this point he'd have to consider Gamble his top player. He played number one most of last season and has three years of varsity experience.

"But," said Jones, "some of these younger players are really pushing him pretty good."

Darrell Austin, Herbie Beam and Darrell Forbes, a threesome that led KM Junior High to its back-to-back titles, are turning in some fine scores and are capable of playing the top position.

Others looking good so far include Mike Howze, a junior who sat out last season, Brad Tate and Chip Harmon. Scott Yarbro is currently nur-

sing a broken finger but hopes to join the team soon.

Jones points to Shelby as the team to beat in the SWC, and points to North Gaston's Larry Penley as the individual to beat. Penley recently signed a golf grant-in-aid with Clemson.

"But," says Jones, "I really believe we can be a contender if our people play up to their potential."

The Mountaineers will play an eight-match regular season schedule. The conference tourney is set for Shelby on May 9 and the association tournament at Shelby on May 16-17.

KM's two home matches, on April 7 and April 28, will be played at Kings Mountain Country Club.



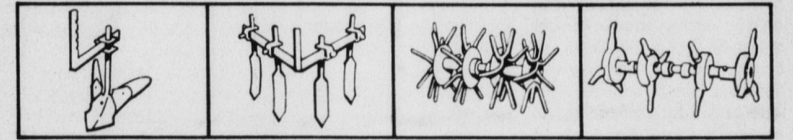
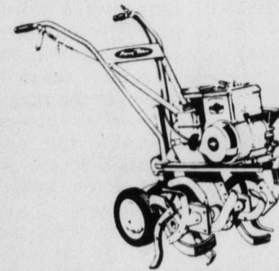
**KM LEADER** John Gamble, above, returns for his fourth season on the KMHS golf team this spring.

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## Susan Mitchem Selected For WNCHSAA Classic

Kings Mountain High's Susan Mitchem has been selected to play in the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association Classic on March 11 at Catawba College.

The all-star game pits the top seniors from the North and Southwestern Conferences against the 10 best seniors from the North and South Piedmont loops.

Joining Mitchem on the Western squad will be Wanda Montgomery of Crest, Nancy Scoggins and Donna Elrod of North Gaston, Susan Bolt of Burns and five girls from the Northwestern Conference. Tommy Pruett of Burns, a former KMHS

coach, will be head coach of the team.

Mitchem will follow in the footsteps of several KMHS standouts who have been selected to represent their school in the annual all-star event. In fact, her older brother, Ken, who went on to play basketball at Pan American University in Texas, once played in the game.

George Adams, who went on to make All-American at Gardner-Webb and spent three seasons in the ABA, and Otis Cole, who played at Florida State and went up against UCLA for the national championship, are previous most valuable players in the classic.

## Kings Mountain A's Begin

### Pre-Season Drills On March 12

The Kings Mountain A's semi-pro baseball team will begin spring training on Sat., March 12 at 2 p. m. at City Stadium.

Coach Bubbles Brown said anyone interested in trying out for the team is welcome to attend the first meeting.

The A's, who open Triple County League play on April 9, are coming off a 28-6 season and a second place finish in the league. But Brown's hoping to add some punch to his lineup so the A's can return to the top of the league standings, where they were two years ago.

Among the returning players this season are Danny McDowell, Clarence Ash, Darrell Whetstone, Wayne Bridges and Richard Gillespie.

Brown has added several new players, including two strong pitchers, right-hander Mike Mahaffey of Gastonia and southpaw Alan Lindsay of Cherryville.

Brown's talking to several other players, including former Florida State first team All-American Dick Gold, and former KMHS standouts David Lancaster and Kenny Falls.

## ACC Basketball Tournament

### Begins Today In Greensboro

(From Page 6A)

means much in the Tournament.

"It makes absolutely no difference whether you've been winning or losing when you go into the Tournament," he says. "It's what you do when you get there."

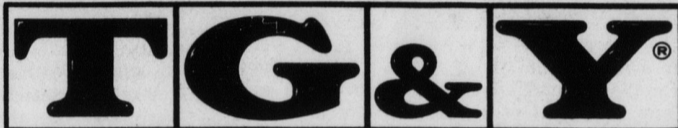
"For example, in 1965 we went into the tournament on a seven-game winning streak, but were beaten in the first round."

"I also don't think you can discount Wake Forest simply because they lost a couple of games at the end of the season. They've had

a tremendous season."

Star center Tommy LaGarde remains doubtful for the Tournament. The 6-10 Olympian has missed Carolina's last six games with a knee injury. It won't be known until late in the week whether or not he will be able to play.

"Tommy has had a great season for us," says Smith. "I'm happy that Phil Ford and Walter Davis made the All-ACC first team. However, if he had not been injured, I think Tommy should have been on the first team, too, since we won the regular-season championship."



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