

Mounties Begin Cage Drills



Photos By Gary Stewart



Kings Mountain High's basketball teams opened pre-season practice Tuesday at the KMHS gym with 27 girls and 43 boys reporting. Others are expected out following completion of the fall sports seasons.

Kathy Brooks, beginning her second season as girls coach, greeted several returning starters plus a host of players that led the jayvees to the Southwestern 3-A Conference title a year ago.

The Mountainettes lost their all-time leading scorer, Susan Mitchem, but Coach Brooks has six players who have started at one time or another during their varsity career.

Those six include Priscilla Rickenbaker, a junior who was the number two scorer last year, Judy Henderson, a senior who was the third leading scorer and the leading rebounder the past two years, Angie Hickman, Felicia Bristol, Lisa Bridges

KM ON RUN — Kings Mountain players are shown picking up yardage in pee wee and junior midget action Tuesday at Gamble Stadium. In top photo, Todd Cloninger, (10) of the pee wees is shown in his team's 13-6 win over Groves Thread. Number 19 for KM is Casey Durham. In bottom photo, Brad Reynolds (18) of the junior midgets picks up yardage in his team's 16-8 loss to the Little Orangemen. Number 32 is Curt Pressley.

and Sherry Ingram.

Some of the ones up from the jayvees include Annette Littlejohn, Barbara McClain, Robin McSwain, Sabra Bristol and Lisa Batty.

Coach Brooks also has a good prospect in junior



KATHY BROOKS



JOHN BLALOCK

Faye Ramey, a transfer from Lexington. She helped lead her team to the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association playoffs last year.

The Mountainettes, after losing Mitchem, will probably have to go with a more-balanced attack than in the past, but Coach Brooks is confident her team can improve on last year's 13-9 record, which was the best at KMHS since 1968.

"Most of the players still have the touch," noted Coach Brooks after watching them go through their first practice. "They look like they've done a lot of work over the summer."

"As far as the ball-handling is concerned, all of them look like they've improved," she went on. "They look like they've matured a lot and want to get after it."

"Of course, our big thing will be replacing Mitchem," she said. "But we've got some pretty good ones to choose from."

Coach John Blalock greeted three returning starters, plus several players that helped lead the junior high to the Foot-hills Conference title for two years in a row.

Blalock said sophomore Eric Dixon, up from the junior high, looks good at the point guard, as does Darryl Friday, who played that position for the jayvees a year ago.

Returning starters include leading scorer Ver-

non Bell, Everette Burrus and William Lockhart. Glenn Ellis also saw some starting action and played a lot in reserve.

Phil Wofford, up from the jayvees, also looks good as does 6-7 junior Lawrence Hamrick, the tallest player to come out for the Mountaineers since George Adams, who went on to make All-American for Gardner-Webb and played three seasons in the ABA.

"We're looking for a good season," says Blalock. "We spent most of our time the first day working on our zone defense. We're going to stress defense this year and try to improve our record." The Mounties were 6-14 last year.

The two KMHS teams host Clover in a scrimmage game on November 28. They open Southwestern Conference play on December 2 at East Gaston.

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Pee Wees Clinch Tie

Kings Mountain's pee wee footballers finished an unbeaten regular season Tuesday night at John Gamble Stadium, defeating Groves Thread 13-6.

KM now has a 6-0-2 record and is a game ahead of Mt. Holly, 5-0-2, in the race for the Gaston League title. Mt. Holly ends its season next week against Groves and if the Hawks win it would force a playoff for the title with KM on November 15 on a neutral field.

Coach Jimmy Littlejohn's team jumped off to a 13-0 lead Tuesday and held

Groves until the final two minutes of the ballgame.

Tom Putnam's 15-yard touchdown run gave KM a 6-0 halftime lead. Anthony Petty scored on a six-yard run in the third quarter and Todd Cloninger ran the point-after to close out the KM scoring. Kings Mountain had another TD run by Cloninger nullified on a clip.

Coach Littlejohn cited Cloninger, Casey Durham, Jamie Black and Shane Absher for their defensive play.

The junior midgets gave the defending national champion Mason Athletics

Little Orangemen all they could handle in the nightcap, losing 16-8. The loss gave KM a final 7-2 regular season record.

A controversial call on KM's first drive took the momentum away from the Mountaineers and they had to battle with their backs to the wall the rest of the night.

KM recovered a fumble on the first play of the ballgame and was driving for a TD. An official ruled a KM player stepped out of bounds on a play that would have resulted in a first down at the 10 but instead the ball was handed over to the Orangemen.

KM's lone touchdown

came in the second half on a 57 yard pass from William Short to Arnold Jordan. Curt Pressley kicked the point after.

Coach Charlie Burns praised his entire defensive unit. Mason went into the game averaging 46 points per contest.

Short intercepted three passes to stop Mason drives and Kale Bagwell recovered two fumbles. Quarterback Brad Reynolds also played a good game both ways before being injured late in the first half.

Both KM teams will remain idle until the end of the regular season. The annual John H. Moss Classic, hosted by KM, is set for November 19.

--Pickin' The Winners

(From Page 4A)

EAST RUTHERFORD AT EAST GASTON — East Gaston could suffer a letdown after last week's big victory over Kings Mountain. That one has to rank as the biggest victory in Warrior history. This one should be much closer but we'll still call for a Warrior victory, 21-14.

CHASE AT R-S CENTRAL — This one should be no contest. Chase, 34-6.

CREST AT NORTH GASTON — A tossup. We'll give it to the Chargers, 14-8.

SHELBY AT SOUTH POINT — The biggie. South Point appears to have the offense and Shelby the defense. In the big ones, they say defense is the name of the game. But we can't pick one and pull for the other. Call it South Point, 8-7.

DELAWARE AT DAVIDSON — No contest, Delaware 35-14.

PRESBYTERIAN AT GARDNER-WEBB — The loss of quarterback Dennis Stillely has hurt the Bulldogs. The Blue Hose should hand them their second straight loss, 24-21.

CLEMSON AT NORTH CAROLINA — The defense will probably decide this one. It could boil down to a two-point conversion or field goal. We'll call it 10-7, Tar Heels.

LENOIR RHYNE AT CARSON-NEWMAN — Two up-and-down teams. The Eagles should win this one on their home field, 17-10.

PENN STATE AT N. C. STATE — State could be ready for the big upset. But we'll call for a Penn State victory, 14-3.

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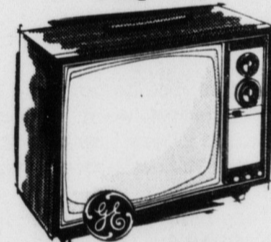


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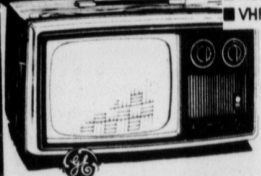
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