

CHANGE

From 3B

er been any lower than a six-team league. If there are two five-team leagues it appears a Gaston County School would have to come out to join one of those leagues."

The advantage of a 10-team conference over a five or six-team league is that it would be allotted more playoff positions.

A total of 339 schools were classified, including parochial schools, federal schools, and public charter schools that have the right to be members of the Association. A new Gaston County high school, Highland, will join the Association during the realignment period and was classified as 1A based on a projected enrollment of 525 students. The school will not compete in football.

A total of 48 schools changed classifications, including perennial football powers Anson County, which dropped from 4A to 3A, and High Point Central, the reigning 2A state champion, which moves up to 3A. High Point's other city school, Andrews, which Kings Mountain defeated in the 1997 state playoffs, dropped from 3A to 2A.

The Realignment Committee used a formula of placing the largest 25 percent of schools in 4A, the second 25 percent in 3A, the third 25 percent in 2A, and the smallest 25 percent in 1A. The 4A numbers ranged from 1,315 to 2,523 students, with Charlotte Myers Park being the largest and Havelock the smallest; 3A ranged from 967 to 1,308 students with Triton being the largest and Smoky Mountain the smallest; 2A ranged from 679 to 957 with Hibriten being the largest and Mountain Heritage the smallest; and 1A ranged from 24 to 677 with West Columbus being the largest and Ocracoke the smallest.

Overall, Kings Mountain is the 128th largest system with 1,099 students and falls in the middle of the 3A schools.

The NCHSAA will be busy between now and the fall, when the realignment is officially approved.

After the NCHSAA staff drafts conferences, schools will have two months to give input and make suggestions on how they might be improved, McRae said.

Regional meetings are scheduled for March 14 (West Regionals at a place to be determined) and March 16 (East Regional) that will include mandatory meetings for all schools to attend. After a general meeting, McRae said schools will break down into classification groups and discuss the draft and how it can be improved.

McRae said that schools requesting to play out of classification must make those requests by March 31. Schools normally are not allowed to play out of classification unless there is an extreme geographic hardship.

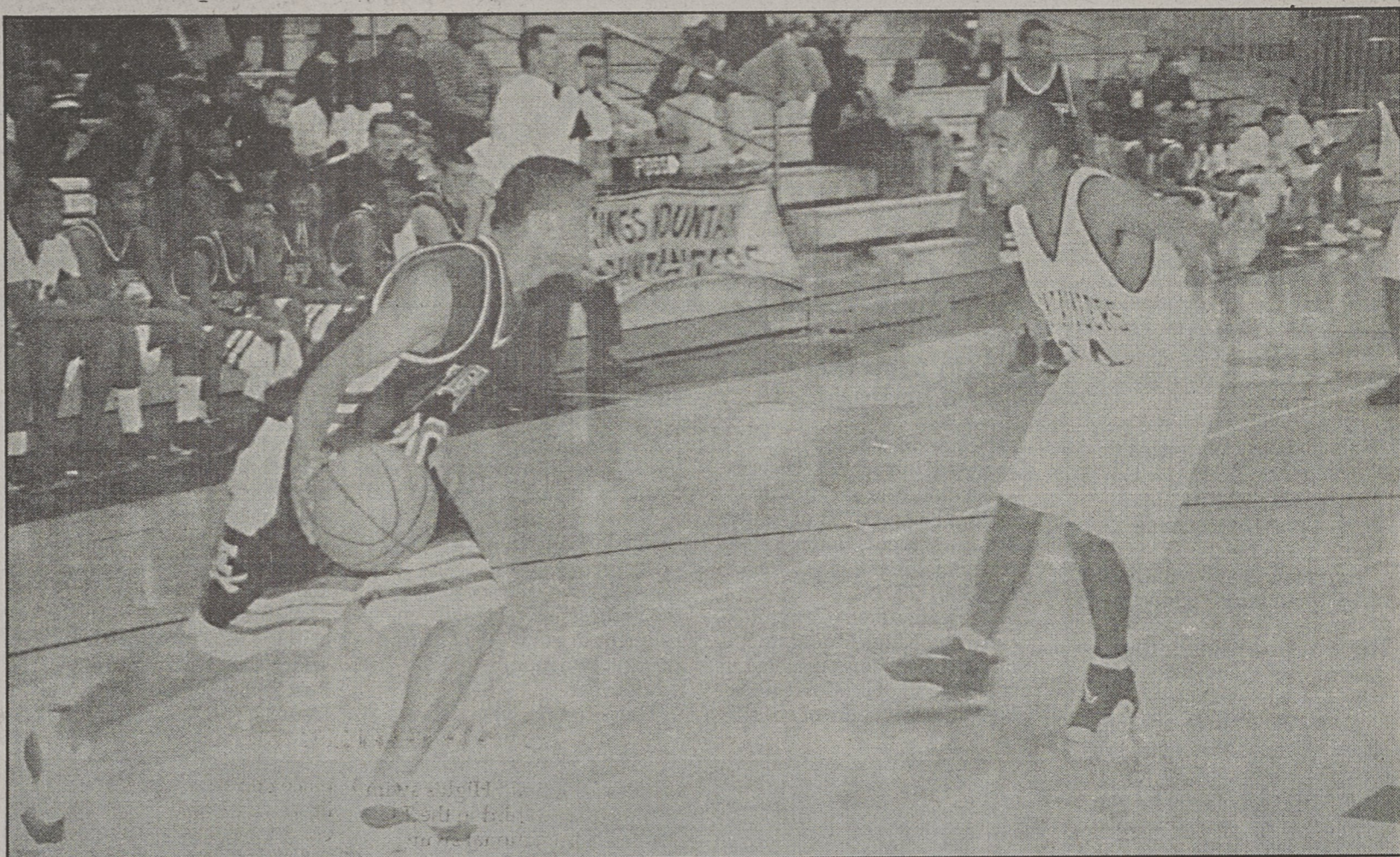
The Realignment Committee will meet on April 6 to discuss all of the information it has received from schools and meetings, and compile a second draft of conference assignments. That will be mailed out to membership and they will be given a second opportunity to give input.

On June 13, the Realignment Committee will meet again to finalize the last draft. Schools will then have until October 1 to appeal their conference placement, and then can only appeal if they think something has been done that is not in compliance with the rules.

McRae said appeals will be heard on November 29 by the NCHSAA Board of Directors, and on November 29 the board will vote on the final plan.

McRae said schools whose enrollment figures change drastically at the first part of realignment can appeal to the NCHSAA to change their classification for the final two years of the four-year realignment. He said that clause was included in the plan because of so many new schools that are being built all over the state.

"While we think our best source of information about what the enrollment will be is the superintendents of the schools involved, if something changes drastically the association reserves the right to make adjustments later on," McRae said.



Kings Mountain's Torrey Cureton (24) applies some light pressure to East Rutherford point guard Brad Logan in Friday's Southwestern 3A Conference basketball game at the KMHS gym. The Cavaliers, co-leaders in the Southwestern 3A Conference with R-S Central, built a big early lead but had to withstand a late rally by the Mountaineers to win 71-63.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

RAIDERS

From 3B

GIRLS GAME
KM (49) - S. Cole 19, C. Cole 10, Moore 7, Thomas 5, Gill 5, Bennett 3.
SP (42) - Van Pelt 15, Hunter 5, Atkins 5, Smith 5, Sadler 5, Bacon 4, McCuen 2, Fotinos 2.

EAST

From 3B

most caught up before bowing at the end to the unbeaten Cavaliers.

Led by their outstanding guards, Brad and Donte Logan, the Cavaliers breezed to a 20-11 first quarter lead and 35-27 half-time advantage. The Cavaliers led 55-43 going into the fourth period before the Mountaineers' full-court press kicked in and got them back in the game.

Kevin Henderson scored three lay-ups off the fast-break, and Qwenshon Goode muscled in three baskets from inside as

BOYS GAME

KM (53) - Young 13, Henderson 8, Williamson 6, Odoms 8, Cureton 4, Leach 1, Byers 3, Houze 4, Goode 6.

SP (54) - Jeremy Jackson 20, Alexander 16, Ensley 4, Lowery 2, Jarien Jackson 8, Donaldson 2, Fomey 2.

the Mountaineers cut the margin to 60-59 with 3 1/2 minutes left.

But Brad Logan, who led all scorers with 29 points, stole the ball and went in for a lay-up to increase the lead to three, and later added a pair of free throws to put the game on ice for the Cavaliers.

Donte Logan added 16 points and Michael Sheppard 10 for the Cavaliers. Goode led the Mountaineers with 21 and Vince Young and Kevin Henderson added 13 and 12, respectively.

GIRLS GAME

ER (54) - Hardy 23, Ten Brook 13, Miller 5, Williams 5, Byrd 4, Brooks 4.

KM (57) - S. Cole 15, Gill 15, Ramey 8, C. Cole 8, Cash 6, Powell 3, Thomas 2.

BOYS GAME

ER (71) - B. Logan 29, D. Logan 16, Sheppard 10, Littlejohn 6, Barnette 4, Surratt 2, Hines 2.

KM (63) - Goode 21, Young 13, Henderson 12, Bess 8, Williamson 4, Odoms 2, Houze 2, Bell 1.

Lady Mountaineers lose 47-28 to Charlotte Latin

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team lost to Charlotte Latin 47-28 last Monday night at the KMHS gym.

Latin jumped to a 16-8 first quarter lead and never looked back. The Hawks led 28-13 at the half and 34-21 going into the fourth quarter.

"We were simply over matched," said KM Coach Kevin Moss. "They have an outstanding team. They had good guard play and were very big

inside, and were just too much for us to handle."

Former Kings Mountain player Renee Hall led the Hawks with 12 points. Shonda Cole was Kings Mountain's leading scorer with 10 points.

Latin (47) - Murphy 7, R. Hall 12, J. Hall 8, Bainbridge 4, Crawley 6, Schmitt 4, Beatty 4, Owens 2.

KM (28) - Ramey 6, C. Cole 7, S. Cole 10, Bennett 5.

Free Throw Challenge set Saturday at new KM YMCA

Boys and girls ages 10-14 are invited to compete in a basketball free throw shooting contest Saturday, Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m. at the Kings Mountain YMCA. The contest is open to youth in Cleveland County.

The Knights of Columbus and the Kings Mountain YMCA are co-sponsoring the local Knights of Columbus Free Throw Challenge. Three local winners will go on to district competition with those winners going to state competition.

Youth will compete in three age divisions. Boys and girls ages 10 and 11 compete together in Division I. Division II is for boys ages 12-14. Division III is for girls ages 12-14. The participant's age as of January 1,

2000 is the official age. Proof of age, such as a birth certificate, is required to participate.

The youth shooting the most free throws in each division will receive a new basketball, \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, certificate, and the opportunity to compete in the district competition. All participants will receive a certificate of participation.

The Knights of Columbus council is a men's organization from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Shelby and Christ The King Roman Catholic Church in Kings Mountain.

For more information, call Steve Thornburg at 484-4000 or 487-8867, or Charles Thomas at 730-9297.

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Shelby Women's Clinic is pleased to welcome Lois J. Smith, RN, CRNP to its staff. Lois is certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Ms. Smith is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Lois will be available to see new patients for annual physicals, pap smears, and gynecologic exams, starting January 17.

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