

Grayson named KMHS volleyball coach

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain High School has landed one of the top coaches in the area to lead its women's volleyball program.

Suzanne Grayson, who for the past 18 years has been women's volleyball and softball coach at Crest High School, will take over program next fall.

Grayson will finish this school year at Crest, where she will lead the Lady Chargers' softball team in Northwestern 4A Conference competition. She will join the Mountaineer staff at the beginning of the new school year. She will teach physical education.

In 16 years of coaching Crest volleyball on the 4A level, Grayson has a 132-44 conference record and 294-149 overall mark. Her teams have won eight conference championships.

KMHS officials are excited about having Grayson on board. KMHS volleyball had dominated the Southwestern

3A Conference for 16 seasons before finishing second to R-S Central last year, and the Lady Mountaineers have one state title to their credit.

"Mrs. Grayson is a tremendous lady," said KMHS principal John Yarbrow, who coached with her at Crest and later served as an assistant principal at Crest. "Mrs. Grayson has done a tremendous job with that program. You can see that by the wins and losses, but as far as the total program it is outstanding. She's a good person and a tremendous coach. Her program is second to none. She's certainly the kind of person you want on your staff."

Athletic Director Dave Farquharson echoed those statements:

"We feel real good to get her," he said. "I think she'll come in and do an excellent job. She's very knowledgeable of volleyball, she's a real competitor and a real hard worker."

Grayson said she has already "gone through the emotions" of leaving Crest and is "excited

about a new challenge, a new school and a new opportunity."

Grayson taught and coached for six years in Cabarrus County and two years at Crest Middle School before taking over the volleyball and softball duties at Crest High.

"Our first year in 4A (the old Tri-County Conference) we went 0-12 in volleyball," she recalled. "The next year we went 9-3 and second place, and that was pretty exciting."

Altogether, Crest competed eight years in the Tri-County and eight years in the NWC 4A.

In the NWC, Crest, Watauga and Freedom have been the volleyball powers, but some of the Chargers' best competition came from its nearby county non-conference rival, Kings Mountain.

"They have always been a big rival," she said of the Mountaineers. "And the reason they're a rival is because it's a quality program. They've always had a great tradition and I hope I can continue it."

Grayson, whose softball team began practice Monday, said she hopes to get to Kings

Mountain sometime this spring to meet with her players and develop a summer workout and camp schedule. Although she doesn't know the players individually, she knows they have plenty of talent and said she looks forward to working with them.

"I've heard a lot of great things about them and what great girls they are," she said. "I know they have a lot of talent. The people I've talked to have bragged on them a lot."

Grayson believes the competition in the newly-formed Southwestern Foothills Conference, which KM will join next season, will be second to none in volleyball.

"I'm not saying there's anything wrong with the Southwestern Conference, but anyone who knows volleyball knows that this new conference is going to be a very tough volleyball conference," she said. "Kings Mountain has been first in the conference every year except last year, and their big rival is R-S Central. Crest has been successful in 4A. Fred T. Foard had three straight state champi-

onships. I don't know about St. Stephens and the rest, but even without them that's four strong teams fighting for three playoff positions. A very good team won't make the state playoffs."

Grayson said her coaching philosophy is not to concentrate on a particular offense or defense, but to match the personnel with a system that works.

"I want to look at what we've got and adapt the personnel," she said. "I believe in working hard, hustling and playing hard."

Grayson, a native of Shelby and wife of Shelby's American Legion baseball coach Mike Grayson, said she is "flattered" to be chosen to teach P.E. and coach volleyball at KMHS.

"There's a lot of good young people out there," she said. "I appreciate their confidence in me."

She leaves a lot of good memories and support at Crest, but is confident she'll see more of the same here.

"I feel like I've had the best of everything," she said. "I can't say enough good things about Crest. On the one hand, it's very



SUZANNE GRAYSON

hard to leave. All of this came up all of a sudden, but I'm the type that when I've gone through the struggles and made a decision I'm good to go.

"I'm excited. I will bring some experiences with me and it will be hard to play against Crest. But when it happens we'll be all Mounties."

Lady Mountaineers to host playoff game

Kings Mountain High's women's basketball team will host a first-round state 3A playoff game Monday night at 7 p.m.

Kings Mountain will be the second seed from the Southwestern 3A Conference, and will host the fifth seed from the South Piedmont Conference.

The winner will advance to a second round road game against the #2 team from the Tri-County Conference.



Coach Kevin Moss is getting his KMHS women's basketball team ready for the state playoffs, which begin next Monday.

KM ladies bounce East from SWC 3A tourney

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team put on one of its most impressive performances of the season Monday night at home in the opening round of the Southwestern 3A Conference tournament.

Bouncing back from a disap-

pointing loss to Burns in the SWC regular season finale Friday night, Kevin Moss's ladies dominated East Rutherford to the tune of 72-40.

The loss moved the Lady Mountaineers into a semifinals game last night at Forestview

against Burns, a 66-64 winner over South Point. In the other semifinals game, North Gaston, a 59-54 winner over R-S Central, was slated to play regular season champion Forestview. The winners will meet for the championship Friday at 7:30 at R-S Central.

Kings Mountain came out hot, and never let up in posting their third win of the season over the Lady Cavaliers. KM held a 20-13 lead after the first period, then outscored their visitors 21-6 in the second quarter to take a 41-19 halftime lead.

"I'm glad that we came out and played the way we did," Coach Moss said. "We needed a performance like this, because the last two games we played sluggish."

Senior guard Anna Ramey and sophomore center Shonda Cole continued their torrid inside-outside play. Ramey led the KM ladies with 21 points, including 19 over the middle two periods. She didn't score in the fourth quarter, mainly because the Mountaineers had the game in hand and Coach Moss was working all of his players into the contest.

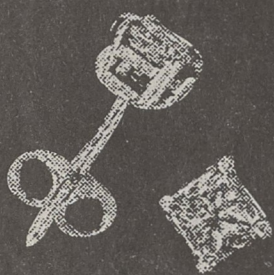
Cole scored 18 points, including 10 in the first quarter and 16 in the first half. Like Ramey, she spent the fourth quarter on the bench.

Ashley Leigh chipped in 10 points to give the Mountaineers three players in double figures. East Rutherford got the bulk of its scoring from Teyawna Hardy, who led all scorers with 22 points. Chantily Watkins added 10.

KM (72) - Ramey 21, C. Cole 8, Moore 2, Shonda Cole 18, Leigh 10, Miller 5, Thomas 6, Sherica Cole 2.

ER (40) - Hardy 22, Watkins 10, Miller 2, Johnson 4, Joplin 2.

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