

KM's Biggest Victory Ever

Wrestlers Knock Off Second-Ranked Ashbrook

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers pulled their biggest victory in history Thursday night at home when they stunned the state's second-ranked team, Ashbrook, 24-23.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a 2-0 Southwestern 3-A Conference record and 4-1 overall mark going into the Christmas break. The Mounties resume action on January 2 at Shelby.

The Mountaineers' heavyweight, Lenny Thompson, decided Ashbrook's unbeaten Chuck Davis 11-4 in the final match to bring the Mounties from a two-point (23-21) deficit. "I just can't say enough about our kids," said Coach Steve Moffitt. "This was a great Christmas present for them and me, too."

"Every match was tough," he continued, "and could have gone either way. Our kids were probably the best prepared team I've ever seen on the mat. I believe they could have beaten anybody."

Moffitt said the Mountaineers began getting fired up early in the week when they read the weekly rankings in Mat News. Ashbrook was ranked number two and the Mounties weren't ranked, even though they were listed among the teams that deserve recognition.

"They really wanted this match," said Moffitt. "Every kid on the team had a part in it. Everybody's spirits were real high. It was a super experience for our kids and I don't believe they'll ever forget it."

Each team won six matches and one ended in a tie. The big difference came when KM's 167-pound Jeff Rowell whipped Ashbrook's Will Gaines in the only pin of the night.

Two Mountaineers knocked off unbeaten wrestlers, including Thompson and 126-pound Terry McClain. McClain reversed Ashbrook's Jay Mauney in the final seconds for an 11-10 decision. Mauney had won both the Gaston Invitational and the Sanderford Tournament in Charlotte.

Another big victory for the Mountaineers was Johnny Ross's decision over Steve Dimer (7-2) in the 145-pound bout. Both of those wrestlers were champions in the Gaston Tourney. Ross, who normally wrestles in the 138-pound class, moved up a notch to meet Dimer.

"Another big factor for us," Moffitt said, "was that we were able to make weight in every class. We didn't have to forfeit any matches."

"I just can't say enough about our kids," he added.

"Everybody wrestled tough, even the ones that lost. Everybody knew that if we lost one pin that would be the match. I'm really proud of me. This is a great group of kids who can go as far as they want to."

THE RESULTS

98 Pd - Andy Keller (A) dec. Joey Wyte.

105 - Cajé Eppers (KM) dec. Dennis Tryder.

112 - Mike Davis (A) dec. Miles Boyce.

119 - Mike Friday (A) dec. Walt Goode.

126 - Terry McClain (KM) dec. Jay Mauney.

132 - Darrell Phillips (A) superior dec. over Bernard Womic.

138 - Fronz Keller (A) dec. Todd Bell.

145 - Johnny Ross (KM) dec. Steve Dimer.

155 - Maurice Jamerson (KM) tied Mark King.

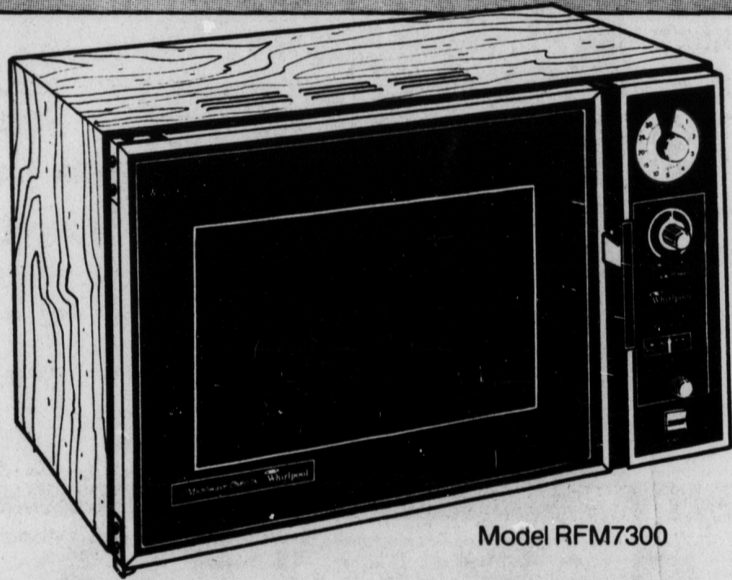
167 - Jeff Rowell (KM) pinned Will Gaines.

185 - Avery Smith (KM) major dec. over Charles Metcalf.

195 - David Colvin (A) major dec. over Darryl Brown.

Unl. - Lenny Thompson (KM) dec. Chuck Davis.

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