

Moffitt Is Rebuilding Mountaineer Grapplers

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers face a rebuilding year after winning the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship two of the last three years under Coach Steve Moffitt.

Still, Moffitt, who has a 25-7 overall record here and has coached one state champion, sees his team as a contender by the end of the year.

"Any one of five teams (Shelby, Crest, East Gaston, North Gaston and Kings Mountain) could win the conference," says the Asheville native. "We'll just have to see how well we progress."

The Mountaineers hope to use the always-tough Gaston Invitational Tournament Dec. 5 to gain experience. The Mounties have six first round matches against Ashbrook, which should

prove one of the top teams in the state.

The Mountaineers also face Ashbrook and East Gaston in a tri-meet on December 12 at Ashbrook.

"Our big test will come in the first couple of conference matches," says Moffitt. "Our guys will be getting more experience by then. The tournaments will help them."

Moffitt has only six seniors on his team of 20 and will depending a lot on sophomores to pick up points for the team.

"We had some people I was looking toward that didn't come out," says Moffitt. "We're a very young team, but we'll improve as the season goes on."

The Mounties went undefeated in the SWC last

winter and also won the Southwestern Sectional Tournament, and had two wrestlers, Johnny Ross and Maurice Jamerson, go to the state tourney, where Ross finished second.

He has a few experienced men from that team, including 105-pound Joey Wyte, 138-pound Bernard Womic and 145-pound Todd Bell. Bell and Womic were both SWC champions.

But, the remainder of the team is young.

Wyte, 112-pound Tommy Rikard, a senior out for the first time, and 119-pound Thomas Guinn will fill the first three starting positions for the Mountaineers. KMHS will not be represented in the 98-pound class.

Caje Etters and Walt Goode are battling for the starting spot at 126 pounds and Jimmy Watkins, Joe Smith and Robbie Ervin look good at 132.

Womic is getting some tough competition from David Bradley at 138 pounds. Rupert Stephens

and Tommy Welch are at 155, Ronald Oates and Mark Russell at 167, Jim Barringer at 185, Tom Potter at 195 and Keith Pressley, David Putnam and Clint Graham at heavyweight.

The Mountaineers open SWC action on Dec. 15 against North Gaston. They face their first four opponents in the KMHS gym.

THE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER
5 - Gaston Inv. at E. Gaston
12 - E. Gaston, Ashbrook at Ashbrook
15 - North Gaston
18 - Shelby

JANUARY
5 - S. Point
8 - Burns
12 - at E. Gaston
15 - at Chase
19 - at Crest
22 - at N. Gaston
30-31 - SWC tourn. at Burns

FEBRUARY
2 - E. Gaston
5 - at Shelby
13-14 - Sect. in Charlotte
21 - Reg. in Hickory
27-28 - State in Winston-Salem

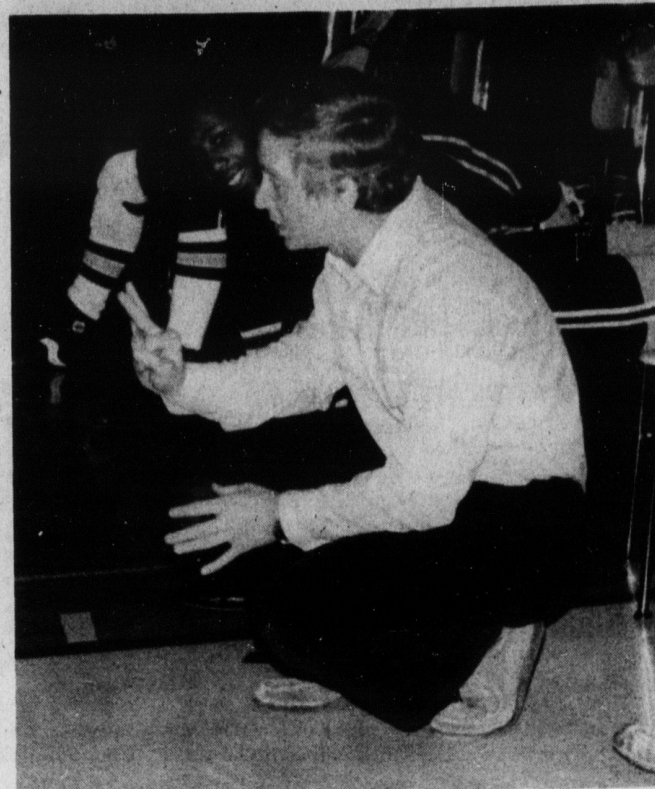
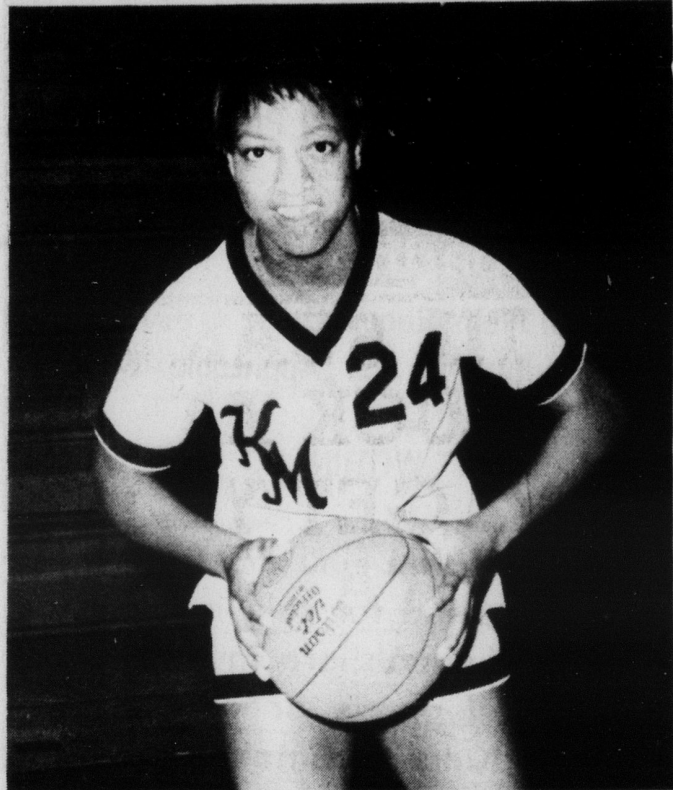


Photo by Gary Stewart

REBUILDS MOUNTIES-Steve Moffitt, veteran wrestling coach at Kings Mountain High, faces a rebuilding year in the Southwest Conference this winter. He lost most of the starters off last year's championship team but sees the Mounties as a contender by the end of the year.



PRISCILLA RICKENBACKER

Rickenbacker At Wesleyan

Priscilla Rickenbacker, a 1979 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, began her second year of collegiate basketball Monday night with the Battling Bishops of North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Rickenbacker, a 5-6 guard, transferred from Methodist College in Fayetteville, where she played on the 1979-80 NCAAIAW tournament championship team that represented North Carolina in the AIAW regional tournament.

Wesleyan Coach Laura Ferrell believes that Rickenbacker's

year of experience in college ball will prove helpful to the team.

"We will be looking to Priscilla for some leadership," said Ferrell. "This is a young squad with only one senior, two juniors and nine freshmen and sophomores."

"Priscilla is a good all around player," she continued. "She can shoot the jumper or take it inside. She will contribute a lot to this team."

Rickenbacker is the granddaughter of Rev. Herbert McClain of Grover.

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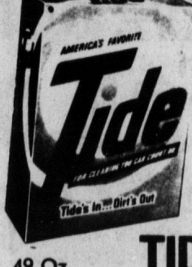
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