

# KMHS Comeback Nips Lions 69-67

Kings Mountain High's basketball fans are reviving the chant "we're number one," which was so familiar during almost every year of the sixties, after a second impressive victory over 4-A power West Charlotte Wednesday night at the KMHS gym.

The Mountaineers, who open Southwestern 3-A Conference play tonight at home against East Gaston, staged a big fourth quarter comeback Wednesday to force an overtime, and then posted a 69-67 victory to go with their season-opening 67-59 win at West Charlotte two nights earlier.

A three-point play by Terrence Blalock with 1:32 left in regulation put the Mounties in business, and they blazed to a quick eight-point lead in overtime before the visiting Lions closed the gap with several buckets in the final minute.

West Charlotte, which got a game-high 33 point effort from Frank Henderson, jumped to a 9-2 lead in the opening minutes and appeared to be on the way to a revenge victory. The Lions led 14-10 at the first quarter break, 28-22 at halftime and 44-39 going into the fourth period.

But the Mounties got hot during the final three minutes of regulation and Blalock's three-point play at the 1:32 mark tied the game at 56-all.

Kings Mountain took its first lead of the night when point guard Carl Smith sank a pair of free throws to make it 58-56 with 39 seconds left.

West Charlotte tied it at 58-all with 25 seconds remaining on a basket by Henderson, and had a chance to win when Kings Mountain was forced into a turnover with six seconds left. But the Lions couldn't get off a last-

second shot and the two clubs went into the three-minute extra period.

The Mountaineers controlled the overtime tap and held the ball for most of the first minute. Demetrius Goode worked inside for the go-ahead basket (60-58) with 2:08 remaining. Another bucket by Paul Ingram at the 1:51 mark and two consecutive buckets by Smith pushed the lead to 66-58 with 1:10 remaining.

West Charlotte closed the gap to 67-65 with five seconds left, and would have had one last chance to force another overtime had one of the Lions not violated the lane on a missed free throw by Blalock. After the violation on the front end of a one and one, Blalock sank two free throws to push the lead to 69-65 and ice the victory.

Gerald Byers, who had a big first half which included a slam dunk, paced the Mountaineer offense with 22 points, including 15 in the first two periods. Blalock added 15 and Goode and Smith 11 each. Smith, playing despite a painful ankle injury, helped spark the fourth quarter comeback with his playmaking and ballhandling.

### BOYS GAME

KM (69) - Byers 22, Blalock 15, Wray 2, Goode 11, Smith 11, Ingram 8.

WC (67) - McClain 14, Henderson 33, Carmichael 4, Medley 8, McInnis 4, Smith 4.

\*\*\*

Kings Mountain's girls built up a 12-point lead during the fourth quarter but had to hold on for a 53-46 victory in the opening game. The win gives the Mountainettes a 1-1 record.

Kings Mountain dominated the game inside with Sheryl Goode and Diane Williams scoring 18 and 16 points, respectively, and also controlling the offensive and defensive boards.

Kings Mountain led by 14-10 after the first quarter, 25-24 at intermission and 38-29 going into the fourth period.

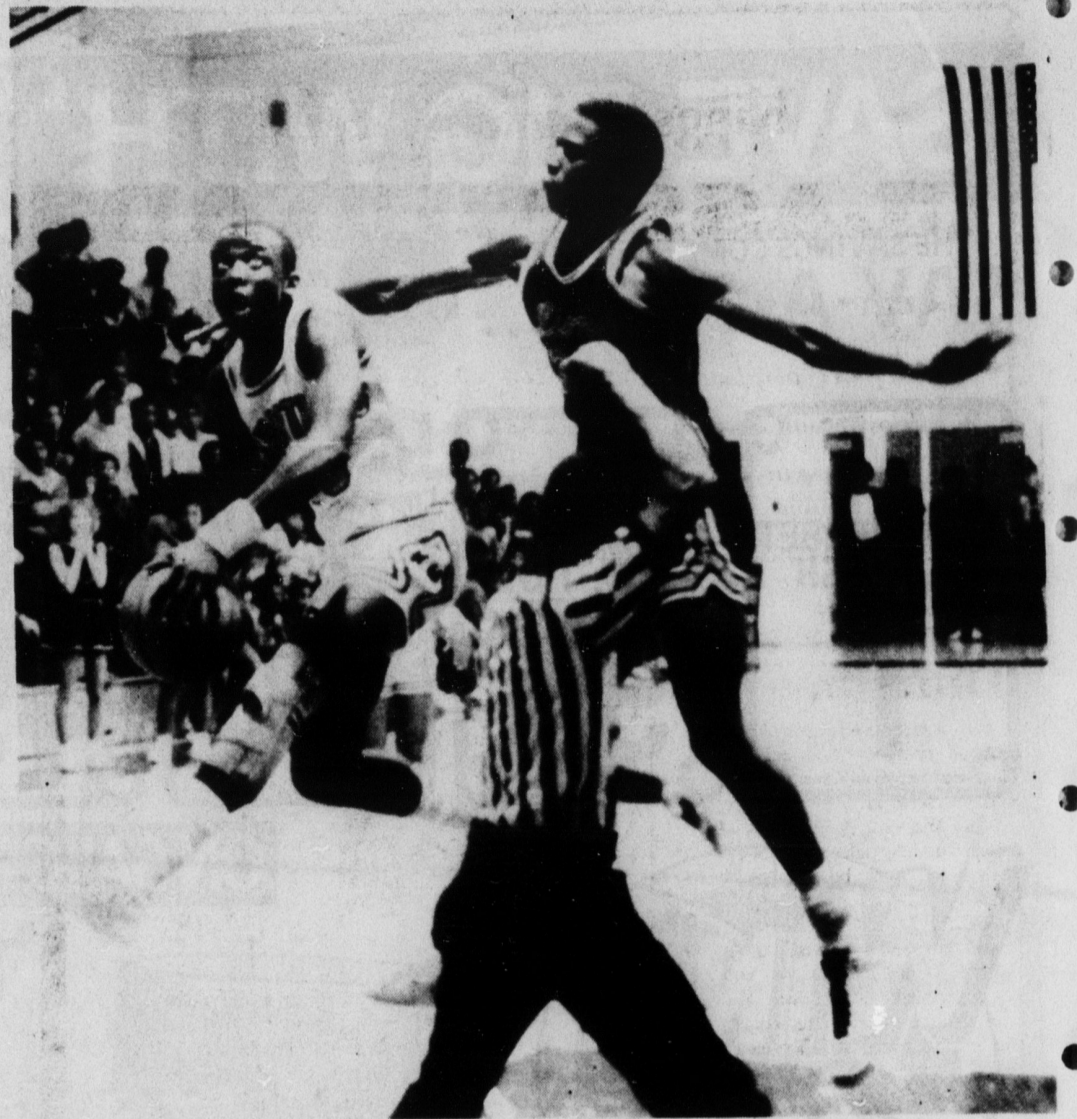
"We just lacked the killer instinct," said Coach David Brinkley. "We couldn't put the game out of reach. We need to work on more aggressive play. When we get up there to a big lead we need to stretch it out."

"Williams and Goode both did an excellent job of rebounding," he went on. "I was real pleased with our inside play. We just need to get more consistent overall."

### GIRLS GAME

KM (53) - Williams 16, Goode 18, Bolton 2, Glass 8, Bell 6, Hamrick 3.

WC (46) - Blocker 2, Grier 6, Robinson 18, Easter 8, Standifer 4, Mahatha 2, Reeves 1.



KM's Carl Smith draws foul while going in for layup ...



KM's Sheryl Goode guns for two of her 18 points in 53-46 victory ...

## Jayvees Win Pair

Kings Mountain High's jayvee basketballers opened 1980-81 play on a successful note last week, defeating 2-A Bessemer City in a pair of non-conference games.

The Little Mountaineers, coached by Danny McDowell, won by 75-52 on their home court Monday night and took a 53-35 decision Tuesday in Bessemer City.

Frank Parker, who broke all the school scoring records at Kings Mountain Junior High last winter, led the scoring in the two games with 24 and 20 points.

The Mountaineers got off to a slow start in their season opener, leading by only 16-15 after one quarter and 36-29 at halftime. But they began to break the game open in the second half and held a 54-35 advantage going into the fourth quarter.

"We were a little tight at the beginning," said Coach McDowell. "Our transition game was very good. The point guards pushed the ball up court, and our zone press and full court man to man pressure started taking its toll right before halftime."

Bessemer City managed to score only six points in the third period, and that was the big difference in the game. The Mounties maintained a 20 to 25 point lead in the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain hit 64 per-

cent of its shots from the floor. Avery Grier played a good all-around game, hitting nine of 11 shots from the floor. He scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. David Hager pulled down nine rebounds and Parker and David Peeler dished out six assists each.

"I was pleased with the team's effort for a first game," said McDowell. "It's always good to start your season on a winning note."

\*\*\*

The story was much the same Tuesday at Bessemer City as the Little Mounties used their pressure defense to break the game open after a slow first quarter. KMHS was out front by only 14-10 after one period but the defense forced numerous BC mistakes in the second quarter and the Mounties built a 32-13

### Registration Is Scheduled

The Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department will conduct basketball registration for boys ages eight through 12 through Thursday night at the Armory.

Interested players may sign up from 6-8 p.m. each night.

The cutoff date for all ages is October 1.

For more information, call George Adams at 739-9631.

lead by halftime.

The Mounties hiked their lead to 43-24 after three quarters. Bessemer City made a strong bid to get back in the game in the fourth period and cut the difference to 12 points with five minutes left.

"Our shooting was off. We shot only 35 percent from the floor after shooting 64 percent the night before," McDowell said. "But we had a very good defensive game."

The Little Mountaineers open Southwestern 3-A Conference play today at 5 o'clock against East Gaston. The Little Mounties will be playing preliminaries to the varsity games during the remainder of the season since KMHS is not fielding a girls jayvees team.

### MONDAY'S GAME

KM (72) - Parker 24, Grier 20, Barnette 10, Young 5, Hager 4, Wilson 3, Odems 2, Peeler 2, J. Barnette 2.

BC (52) - Ross 12, Farris 11, Haynes 10, Noah 10, Woody 3, Dulin 2, Floyd 2, Fraley 2.

### TUESDAY'S GAME

KM (53) - Parker 20, Grier 11, J. Barnette 7, C. Barnette 5, Hager 4, M. Champion 2, C. Champion 2, Peeler 1, Young 1.

BC (35) - Haynes 8, Floyd 8, Noah 5, Woody 5, Fraley 4, Ross 2, Farris 2, Williams 1.



Phil Weathers eyeing another good season ...

## Junior High Grapplers Eyeing Another Big Year

Kings Mountain Junior High has never known anything but how to win in wrestling, and this season should be no exception as Coach Phil Weathers' grapplers will again be one of the teams to beat in the Western Junior High Athletic Association.

The Patriots open 1980-81 action Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the Central School gym against West McDowell. On Wed., Dec. 10, the Pats host Crest in a match that could decide the league championship.

The Patriots have won the conference championship in every year of its existence. Weathers, a Shelby native, is beginning his fourth year as head coach after serving for several years as an assistant to Steve Moffitt, now at KMHS.

Coach Weathers is working with 40 prospects, including 10 returning starters. He has 12

ninth graders, six eighth graders and the rest seventh graders.

"The conference will probably be as well-balanced as it has ever been," says Weathers. "Burns improved more than anyone last year and they'll be tough. But Crest will be the toughest contender we'll face."

"This is going to be one of the toughest schedules we've had," he went on. "We face some real outstanding non-conference teams. But we're hoping for another good year. Our guys have a good, positive attitude and are working hard."

Weathers has several returnees who were unbeaten last winter, including Mike Smith, who is trying for his third straight undefeated season. Tim Hamrick and Roger McClain were also unbeaten last year.

Others back are Jeff Stokes, Todd Gossett, Calvin Goode,

Dale Moore, co-captains Randy Whitaker and David Parker, Neal Scism, Robert Bradshaw and Rodney Ross.

"I feel like we've got a lot to go over," said Weathers. "This first match has sort of slipped up on us. We've also had some bad luck with injuries. Roger McClain has had a broken leg and I doubt if he'll be ready by Wednesday. Moore has a hip injury and Rocky Lutz has a pulled muscle in his back but I hope they'll be ready to go."

Weathers' seventh and eighth graders show a lot of promise. Some of them have junior high experience and many of them also participated in Coach Moffitt's summer program.

Eighth graders include Lutz, Dale Smart, Jody Sellers, Doug Sipe, Targe Wofford and Jarvis Young.

Seventh graders are Derek

Jordan, Vince Sullens, Kenneth Smith, Roderick Boyce, Trent Rhea, Charles McClain, Andrea Byers, Steve Ingram, Paul Terry, Calvin Stephenson, Wesley Burns, Sidney Brown, Thomas Goddard, Steve Stamper, Scott Bryant, Todd Maples, Dwayne Brooks, Chris Phillips and Kent Boheler.

### THE SCHEDULE

#### DECEMBER

3 - West McDowell  
10 - Crest  
17 - at Burns

#### JANUARY

7 - at E. McDowell  
14 - at Shelby  
15 - Castle Heights  
21 - at Crest  
28 - South French Broad

#### FEBRUARY

4 - Sullivan