

Mounties Host R-S In 'The Game' Tonight

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will try to snap the longest winning streak in North Carolina prep basketball tonight when they host R-S Central in the biggest game of the year thus far in Southwestern 3-A Conference action.

The Hilltoppers, defending state 3-A champions, have a 43-game winning streak which includes a 32-0 record and the state title last year and an 11-0 mark so far this year.

The Mountaineers, 9-1 overall, are 6-0 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference, same as the Hilltoppers, so tonight's game could go a long way in determining the 1980-81 SWC championship.

R-S, led by Chris Michaels, will hold a big height advantage but the Mountaineers hope to offset that by using their quickness and speed.

R-S is fresh from winning the Freedom High Holiday Tournament in Morganton while the Mountaineers are coming off a third place finish in the annual Cleveland County Tipoff Tournament. The Mounties lost a first round game to Burns Friday night, 63-61, but bounced back in Saturday's consolation game to edge arch rival Shelby 57-55.

The Mountaineers' biggest disadvantage against Burns was a lack of rebounding strength. With their biggest player, 6-4 Gerald Byers, on the bench much of the game with foul trouble, the Mounties couldn't match up on the boards with the taller Burns team.

Byers, whose rebounding keyed a 22-point victory for the Mounties over Burns earlier in the year, managed only two points and two rebounds. Burns

Come Early, Please!

Fans attending tonight's basketball game between Kings Mountain and R-S Central are urged to come early as the game is expected to be a sellout.

"We have no idea if we'll be able to handle everybody," said KMHS Principal Bob McRae. "We're expecting our largest crowd since the George Adams-Otis Cole era."

No tickets will be sold in advance, McRae said. "But," he added, "we're afraid that if some fans wait until just before the boys game to come, we won't be able to get them in."

Tickets for the tripleheader, which begins with a 4:30 jayvee game, are \$1.50 for everyone over six years old.

outrebounded the Mounties 41 to 24. Demetrius Goode led the KM rebounding with eight and Terrence Blalock had six.

The game was close throughout and was tied at 47-all going into the fourth quarter. Kings Mountain went into its four-corners offense early in the fourth quarter and took a brief lead, but Burns got a three-point play from Doug Simmons with five minutes left to take the lead for good, 52-51.

The Bulldogs stretched the lead to 62-53 with 47 seconds left, but the Mounties made a last ditch effort to win and cut the difference to 62-59 with 11 seconds left on a basket by Carl Smith.

Smith topped the KM effort with 21 points and Blalock added 16. Simmons had 18 and Edward Hopper 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Bulldogs.

Blalock hit a jumper with two seconds to play Saturday night to give the Mounties their 57-55

victory over Shelby in the battle for third place.

Kings Mountain led 51-45 going into the fourth quarter but saw the Lions come storming back to tie the game at 55-all and set the stage for Blalock's last-second heroics.

Byers led the Mountaineers in scoring with 22 points, Blalock added 11 and Goode 10. David Tiddy and Kevin Willis led the Lions with 13 apiece.

FRIDAY'S GAME

Burns (63) — Hopper 19, Simmons 18, Kee 6, Brooks 6, Robbs 5, Walton 6, Campbell 2.

KM (61) — Smith 21, Blalock 16, Goode 9, Ingram 7, Byers 2, Wray 2, Brown 2, Hager 2.

SATURDAY'S GAME

KM (57) — Byers 22, Goode 10, Blalock 11, Ingram 7, Smith 3, Roseboro 2, Wray 2.

Shelby (55) — Cannon 11, Tiddy 13, Willis 13, Sullens 6, Porter 2, Ray, Lytle 6, Dillingham 2.

Kings Mountain's girls finished fourth in the Holiday Tournament at West Mecklenburg Friday and Saturday, losing to West 68-48 Friday night and Shelby 40-38 Saturday.

Angie Buford scored 26 points, Beverly Staton 19 and Jara Richardson 15 to lead West to victory Friday. Sheryl Goode led the Mountaineers with 17 and Diane Williams scored 11.

Brenda Cannon scored 11 Saturday to lead Shelby to its second win of the year over the KM five. Williams led all scorers with 13 points and Goode had 11.

FRIDAY GAME

KM (48) — Williams 11, Goode 17, Hamrick 2, Bolton 7, Glass 8, Campbell 2, Freeman 1.

WM (68) — Buford 26, Alexander 5, West 3, Staton 19, Richardson 15.

SATURDAY GAME

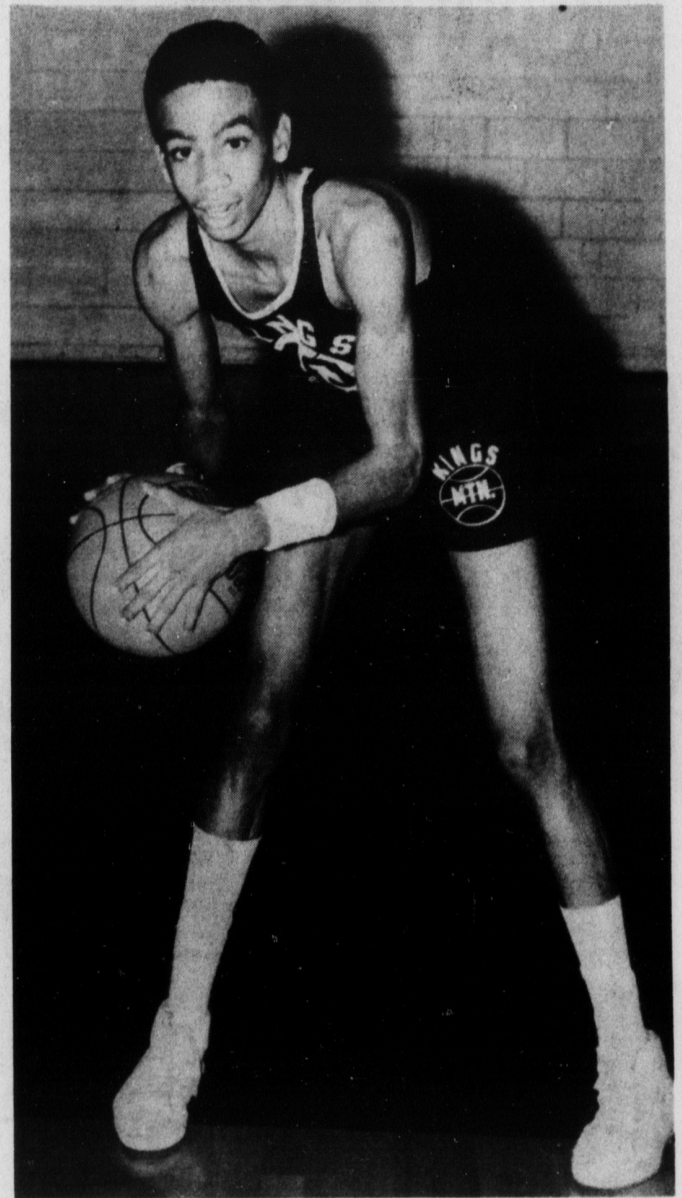
KM (38) — Williams 13, Goode 11, Hamrick 5, Bolton 3, Campbell 6.

Shelby (40) — V. Cannon 9, B. Cannon 11, Whitworth 6, Smith 7, Camp 1, Freeman 6.

Today's action at the KMHS gym will get underway with a 4:30 jayvee game between Kings Mountain and R-S Central, both unbeaten in eight games.

Girls action will begin at 6:30 and the varsity boys headliner at around 8 p.m.

Fans are urged to come early since the game is expected to be a sellout.



KEY MOUNTIE — One of the keys to the Kings Mountain High attack tonight when the Mounties host unbeaten R-S Central will be junior wingman Todd Wray. The winner of tonight's game will take over sole possession of first place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference. R-S brings a 11-0 season's record and 43-0 mark over the last two years to the KMHS gym. The Mountaineers are 6-0 in the conference and 9-1 overall.

Junior High Resumes Play

Kings Mountain Junior High athletic teams return to action this week.

The Patriot wrestlers, unbeaten after three starts, resume Western Junior High Athletic Association action Wednesday at East McDowell. Coach Phil Weathers' men have never lost a conference match.

The Patriot basketball teams resume play Thursday against Burns.

The two jayvee teams travel to Burns for a 4 p.m. twinbill and the varsity team will host Burns here at the same time.

The jayvee boys are unbeaten after five starts, but the jayvee girls, and varsity boys and girls teams are all seeking their first Western Conference win.

Burlington To Sponsor Abbey Game

Burlington Industries, Inc., will sponsor the Saturday, January 10, Belmont Abbey College basketball game against Elon College. Game time is 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Center on the Belmont Abbey College campus.

The game will be a time of recognition and appreciation of the employees of local Burlington plants. All employees and their families will receive mementoes from the College and will be honored at a reception immediately following the game. They will be welcomed by the basketball team and Coach Bobby Hussey, as well as other College officials.

REGISTRATION

All boys ages 13 to 15 interested in participating in a Basketball League sponsored by Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department, are asked to report to Central Gymnasium, Tuesday, January 6 at 6 p.m. for registration. There will be a \$5 fee for insurance upon registration.

For more information please contact George Adams, Athletic Director, at 739-9631.

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