

Newberry Gridders Showing Their 'Wares'

There was a time, not too many years ago, that Newberry High School was the laughing stock of South Carolina prep football.

But, since a pair of Kings Mountain natives came on the scene 10 years ago as coaches, the school's athletic program has gradually built into one of the best in the Palmetto State.

Those two KMers were brothers-in-law Jimmy Kimmell and Mike Ware. Kimmell, who served as Newberry's head football coach for four years, is now at 4-A Chester while Ware remains at Newberry as head mentor.

In six years, Ware has built an enviable 41-23-3 record, but more important, his teams have been unbeaten in Midlands 3-A Conference play the past three years and his current teams is just three victories away from the state championship.

"It'll be tough," says Ware of the possible state title, "but we think we have a good chance of winning it."

Newberry blanked Southside of Greenville, 21-0, last Friday in the opening round of the state playoffs, and this week Ware's charges face Clinton, a 14-7 victor over Wahalla last week.

Friday's game will give the Newberry club a chance to avenge one of its two losses this year. Clinton, a non-conference opponent, whipped Newberry 14-0 in an early-season game.

"We played four non-conference games," recalled Ware, "and had a 1-2-1 record against those opponents. But three of those non-conference teams won their conference title."

Ware's charges defeated Union, a 4-A school, 19-6, and that team went on to win its conference title. Union's in the same league as Chester, which, as previously stated, is now coached by Ware's brother-in-law, Kimmell.

In other non-league action, Newberry lost to Columbia, another 4-A conference champion, 7-6, and tied Laurens 3-3.

According to Ware, the big thing Newberry has going for it is "some hard-working coaches and a bunch of good, dedicated athletes." The school has an enrollment of 1,050, and fields a varsity team of 34 players, a 10th grade team of 26 players and a ninth grade team of 29 players.

"An example of the dedication of our players," Ware said, "was that on election day, we were out of school and gave our football team the day off. But they decided they'd rather practice."

Ware, a lineman who helped lead KMHS to the Southwestern Conference title in 1959 believes in strong defense and two-platoon football.



"This year," he pointed out, "our defense has given up two touchdowns in only one game, the loss to Clinton. The rest of the time we've held people to from zero to seven points. We haven't shut out a lot of people but we've given up only 52 points in 11 ballgames."

Ware runs a veer offense, occasionally switching to the wishbone. Newberry's biggest point-night resulted in 31 points.

Offensively, Ware said, he'll return most of his players next year - including the entire starting backfield - but he and his staff will have to do a lot of rebuilding on defense.

He's confident, however, that Newberry's newly-built tradition of playing championship football will continue.

"We have five dedicated football coaches," he says, "that do a real good job. A lot of Kings Mountain fans probably remember two of them, Jim Fields and Tommy Crooke, who played for Clover back when Kings Mountain used to play them. Fields was a running back on the same team with Robert Munday, and I know all the fans up there remember Munday."

Ware's year-by-year coaching record at Newberry reads 5-5-1, 4-6-1, 7-4, 9-3, 8-3 and so far this year, 8-2-1. Needless to say, this year, could be Ware's best yet. His goal is three more victories, which would mean a 11-2-1 mark, the state championship and the South Carolina Coach of the Year Award which usually goes to the coach of the championship team.

Junior High Varsity Girls Drop Two...

Kings Mountain Junior High's girls basketball team dropped a pair of tough games last week to bring their Foothills Conference record to 2-2.

The Lady Patriots fell to county rival Shelby, 50-34, Tuesday, and lost 56-53 to a tall and talented Crest team on Thursday.

Coach Candy Alber-

gine's charges jumped out front of Shelby 8-2 in Tuesday's game but the visitors outscored the Lady Pats 20-3 in the second quarter to break the game open.

Debbie Appling again led KM in scoring with 18 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Mary Moore played a super fourth quarter, making several steals.

"Even though we played poorly at times and found ourselves behind by

17 points at halftime, I was pleased to see the effort our girls displayed in the

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...But Jayvees Remain Unbeaten

Kings Mountain Junior High's girls jayvee basketballers defeated Shelby 24-19 and Crest 37-23 last week to remain undefeated after four games.

The Lady Patriots, coached by Becky Summitt, are seeking their second straight Foothills Conference title.

KM and Shelby battled on almost even terms in the first half of Tuesday's game but the Lady Patriots opened up a

seven-point lead midway of the third quarter and held it for the remainder of the contest.

Sheryl Goode and Diane Williams continued to lead KM in scoring with 10 points each, and also shared rebounding honors with six each. Pam Baity, Karen Roberts and Bridgett Glass did a good job defensively, especially on the full court press.

Goode tallied 15 points, Williams 12 and Glass eight Thursday as the

Lady Patriots topped Crest. Williams led the rebounding with 11 and Goode added eight.

Coach Summitt cited Roberts and Baity for their efforts both on offense and defense. They had several assists and steals and kept the pressure on the Lady Chargers with their full court press.

"I am really proud of these girls and the way they are hustling and improving," noted Summitt. "They played an almost perfect first half

against Crest, scoring 22 points and holding them to only six points.

"They were moving the ball well on offense," she continued, "and were sticking with Crest so tight on defense that they couldn't get off a decent shot."

"Our girls have the desire and ability to go all the way," she continued, "and if they keep playing as well as they have the last couple of games, I think they will remain number one."

second half," noted Coach Albergrine. "This was a very physical game and some of our kids were roughed up but they managed to keep their heads and play some good basketball in the second half."

The Lady Patriots got behind early again Thursday at Crest, trailing 15-8 after the first period, but the locals came storming back to give the Lady Chargers their toughest test of the year.

Kings Mountain had a tough time rebounding against a Crest team that featured two players over six feet tall, and a third who stood at 5-10. Penny Blanton came off the bench and did a good rebounding job in the second quarter and gave the KM ladies the desire they needed to make a game of it.

The Lady Pats pulled to within 27-20 at halftime, and good outside shooting from Kim Gladden and Andrena Goode kept KM close in the final two periods. Donna Myers came off the bench to score 10 points and played a good all-round game.

Myers, Goode and Mary Moore had 10 points each and Kim Gladden had 18 before fouling out in the fourth quarter. Blanton, Gladden, Moore and Appling all did a super rebounding job.

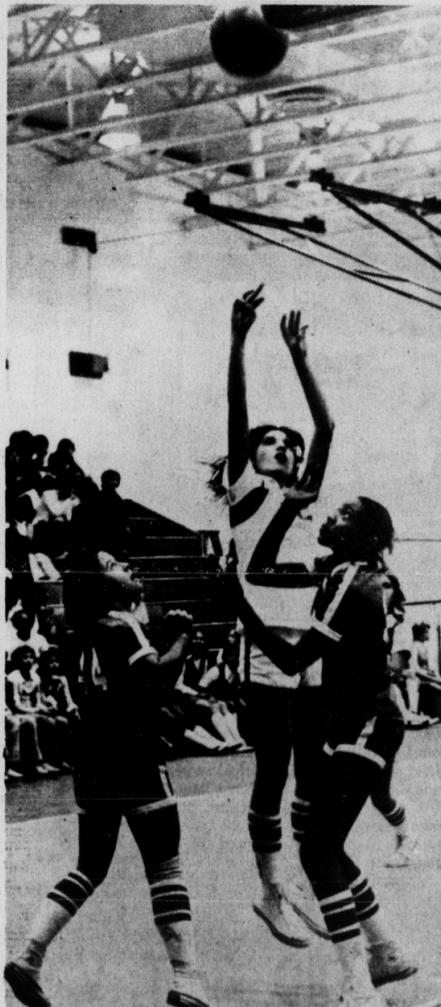
Crest led 45-35 heading into the fourth period but KM cut it to five points with two minutes left. The Lady Pats, however, were forced to foul to get the ball and Crest had a strong effort from the foul line.

"I have never seen a team play any harder or keep coming back like our girls did against Crest," said Albergrine. "Debbie Appling, who has been our leading scorer and rebounder, got three quick fouls and had to sit out over half of the game. Susan Howze also was in foul trouble early and Donna Myers replaced her and did a fine job at the point guard. Penny Blanton and Kim Gladden both had good games before they fouled out. We could have given up when we were 12 points down in the first quarter, but our girls just refused to quit.

"We only hit 11 of 25 foul shot attempts," she added, "and that was the difference in the game. It was a very tough game to lose but I think our players learned something from this game and that was just how well they can play when they make up their minds that is what they want to do.

"This is the way they will have to play if we are to have a chance at the conference championship," she continued. "Our record is 2-2 but we are by no means out of the

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GUNNING FOR TWO - Kings Mountain's Diane Williams fires a jumper for two of her 10 points in Tuesday's Foothills Conference jayvee game with Shelby at the KM Junior High gym. The Lady Patriots copped their third straight win, 24-19.



KM LAYUP - Sheryl Goode (51) goes in for a layup in Tuesday's junior high jayvee game between Kings Mountain and Shelby at the KM gym. Goode scored 10 points to help lead the Lady Patriots to their third straight win, 24-19.

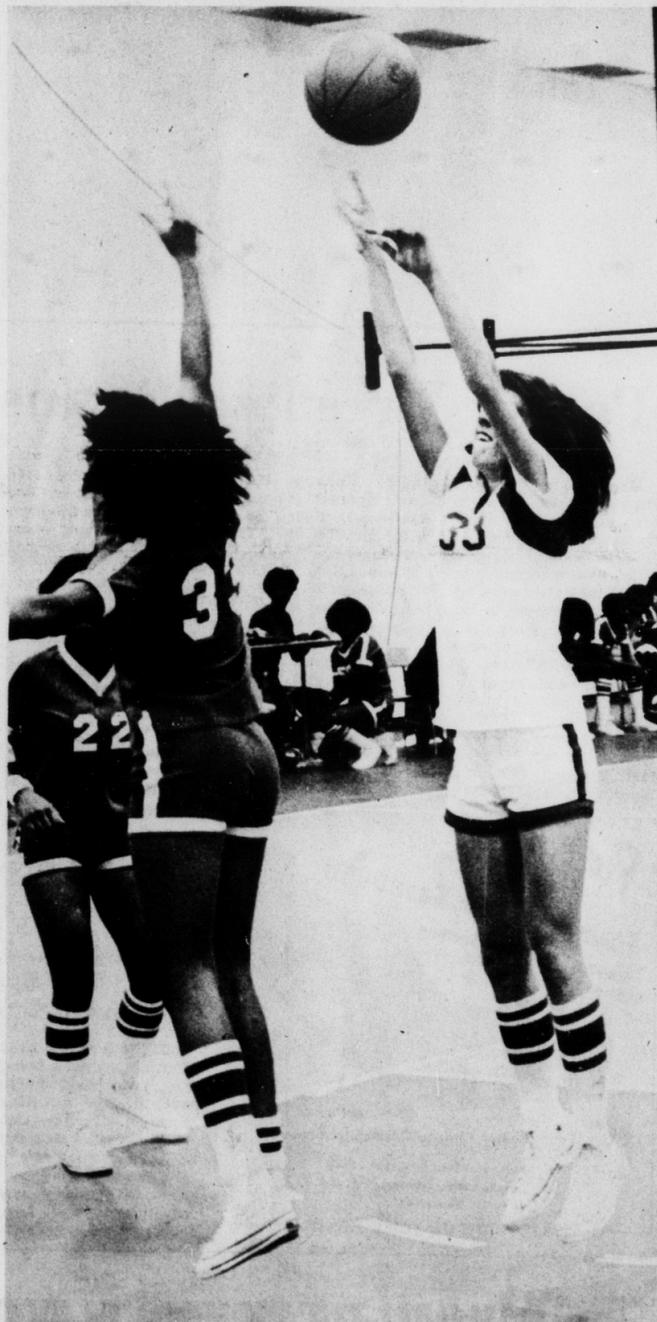


Photo By Gary Stewart

LEADING SCORER - Debbie Appling (33) guns for two of her game-high 16 points for Kings Mountain Junior High's girls basketballers in Tuesday's Foothills Conference loss to Shelby. The Lady Patriots host East Lincoln Friday night in a twinbill beginning at 6 p. m.

Heavner To Speak Here

Jim Heavner, a Kings Mountain High School graduate and now president of Radio Station WCHL, Chapel Hill, will be guest speaker at the annual Lions Club football banquet December 14 at the Kings Mountain Inn.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Plato Heavner of Kings Mountain, Heavner for the past several years has been color commentator for the University of North

Carolina football and basketball games.

Highlight of the Lions fete will be presentation of trophies to outstanding players on the 1976 KMHS eleven, which recently finished its most successful season in 12 years with an 8-2 record.

Trophies to be presented include the Mirror-Herald Player of the Year Award, the Dr.

George Plonk Most Valuable Player Award, the Fred Plonk Blocking Trophy, the John Gamble Scholastic Award, the Most Improved Player Award and the Mountaineer Award. In addition, the senior members of the team will receive plaques.

Lions Clubber Charles Blanton is in charge of the program.