

Mountaineers Play At Burns Tonight

SPORTS

Kings Mountain High's basketballers test a pair of undefeated Burns teams tonight on the Bulldogs' home court in Fallston.

Game time for the girls' contest is 6:30 p. m. KMHS will go into the contests as underdogs as both Burns teams are being regarded as strong contenders for the Southwestern Conference championship.

To date, the Burns clubs have posted double victories over East Gaston and South Point. The KMHS girls have split contests with R-S Central and East Gaston while the Mountaineers have been defeated by both of those

clubs.

Kings Mountain's girls pulled away in the fourth quarter Friday at home and defeated East Gaston 68-50 while the East Gaston boys came behind in the second half to defeat the Mountaineers 70-64.

Susan Mitchem, who sat out much of the first three periods with a twisted ankle, scored nine of her 15 points in the fourth period as the Mountaineers handed first-year coach

Kathy Brooks her first victory.

Kings Mountain built up a 28-17 halftime lead but the Lady Warriors battled from behind to tie the game at 39-all with 6:12 to go. That's when Mitchem and Company went to work.

The KMHS senior had plenty of scoring help from Judy Henderson with 14 points, Priscilla Ricken-

backer with 18 and Gayla Roberts with 12. Arlene Brown's 18 points paced the East Gaston team.

Kings Mountain's boys held a 29-27 halftime edge but Marcus Jeter led a second half comeback that won it for the Warriors. Their record now stands at 1-1.

Jeter hit a game-high 18 points. William Thompson scored 14, Everett Burris 18 and Eddie Ingram 12 for the Mountaineers.

GIRLS GAME

KM (68) — Mitchem 16, Henderson 14, Hickman 5, Bridges 4, Rickenbacker 18, Roberts 12.

EG (50) — Brown 18, Smith 10, Friday 10, Brown 5, Green 4, Jonas 1, Vellers 2, Casper 4.

BOYS GAME

KM (64) — Thompson 14, Ingram 12, Bell 8, Lockhart 9, Odoms 6, Burris 18, Cloninger 2, Prescott 5.

EG (70) — Jeter 18, Boas 5, Kee 5, Floyd 4, Patterson 3, Petty 8, Luckey 2, Dill 18, Killian 3, Hart 4, Cage 4.

KM's Gordon

Wins Tourney

MVP Trophy

Kings Mountain's David Gordon copped the most valuable wrestler award in last weekend's Gaston Invitational Wrestling Tournament at Ashbrook High School.

The KMHS junior pinned all three of his opponents in the first period to cop the heavyweight division. He was the only Mountaineer to win his weight class.

Gordon pinned David Cloninger of North Gaston in 20 seconds in his opening match, pinned David Criswell of East Gaston in the semi-finals and pinned Troy Leeper of South Point in the championship round.

Kings Mountain finished fifth in the seven-team field. Ashbrook won the team title, followed by East Gaston, South Point, Hunter Huss, Kings Mountain, North Gaston, and Crest.

The Mountaineers had several other wrestlers to finish high in their individual weight classes. Tim Spicer was second in the 185-pound class, Lawyer Lewis was third in the 126 pound division, Tim Mitchem was fourth in the 122 weight class, Charles Jenkins fourth at 147 and Norman Phillips fourth at 167.

KMHS returns to Ashbrook tonight to meet the Green Wave in a non-conference bout.



'HIGH SCORER' — Susan Mitchem was Kings Mountain's high scorer in more ways than one in Wednesday's opening season 74-71 loss to R-S Central. Here the senior standout goes high in the air for two of her 25 points. The KMHS cagers travel to Burns tonight for a pair of tough SWC contests.

KMHS Cage Openers

R-S Takes Twinbill

Kings Mountain High's basketballers made impressive showings in their debut under new coaches Kathy Brooks and John

Bialock Wednesday night at the KMHS gym, but the local teams still came out losers against a pair of R-S Central teams which are being tagged as Southwestern Conference contenders.

The Hilltoppers brought two tall and talented outfits here for the SWC openers but had to fight until the final buzzer before pulling out a 74-71 win in the girls game and a 76-68 verdict in the boys contest.

Kings Mountain's girls battled for 12 points down in the second half to pull within three in the final three minutes. But the Mountaineers missed several free throw opportunities and two almost-sure layups and never could come any closer.

The game matched two of last year's leading scorers, Ronda Littlejohn of the Lady Hilltoppers and Susan Mitchem of the Mountaineers. Littlejohn won that battle, outscoring the talented KMHS senior, 27 to 25 points.

Three other players hit in double figures for the winners, Dorothy Miller getting 15, Tricia Martin 14 and Sheila Hamilton 13. Judy Henderson scored 12 and Gayla Roberts 11 to give the Mountaineers three double digit scorers.

R-S jumped to a 12-point halftime lead, 38-24, but the Mountaineers cut three points off that margin and were behind by only 54-45 after three periods. They then stole the ball several times in the final period, Mitchem getting several layups and Henderson adding two baskets on some good inside moves to cut the difference to three.

KMHS went to the foul line several times with a chance to slice even more points off the R-S lead, but couldn't connect.

Mrs. Brooks, who coached at Alleghany High in Sparta last year before coming here, said she was pleased with her team's performance against a Lady Hilltopper team that had all five starters closer.

GIRLS GAME
R-S (74) — Miller 15, Littlejohn 27, She. Hamilton 13, Martin 14, Shi. Hamilton 5.
KM (71) — Bridges 6, Henderson 12, Hickman 9, Ingram 2, Mitchem 25, Rickenbacker 6, Roberts 11.

BOYS GAME
R-S (76) — Price 12, Duffy 22, Harris 16, Mooney 22, Morris 4.
KM (68) — Ingram 8, Bell 23, Lockhart 2, Odoms 2, Thompson 20, Burris 13.

returning from last year's team, which finished second in the SWC.

"If we'd played better defense in the first half, we could have beaten them," she said. "Our defensive rebounding was very weak."

"But," she continued, "we came out in the second half and sort of pulled things together. We looked good both defensively and offensively in the second half."

The Mountaineers lost two players with fouls, Priscilla Rickenbacker and Angie Hickman.

The Mountaineers, playing their first game under former Compact coach John Bialock, fell behind 9-1 in the first two minutes in the nightcap, but pulled their act together and took a one-point lead, 35-34, with nine seconds left in the half.

R-S Central, however, tied the game with a foul shot after time had expired, then grabbed the lead for good in the opening seconds of the third period.

The Hilltoppers, featuring three 6-6 players, managed to stay just in front of the Mounties in the third period and the first three minutes of the fourth quarter. They opened up a

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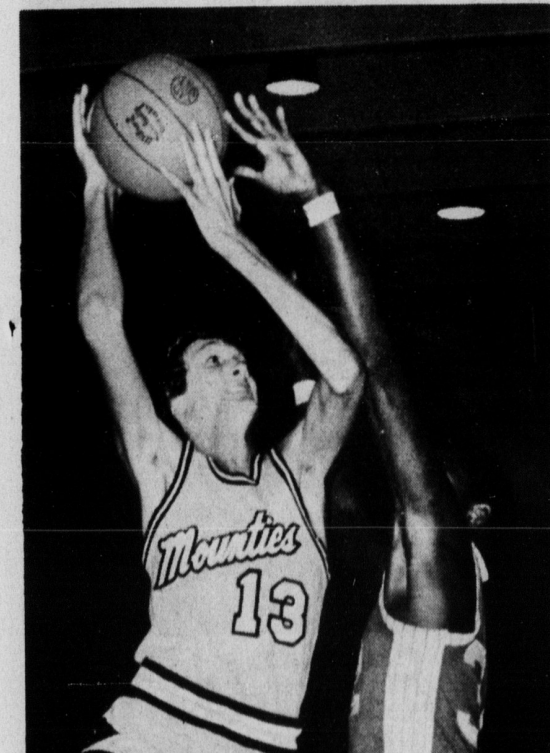
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GRABS REBOUND — Kings Mountain sophomore Jeff Prescott outjumps an unidentified R-S Central player for a rebound in Wednesday's Southwestern Conference basketball opener at the KMHS gym. R-S Central won a 76-68 decision.