

Okay, Santa,
let's get
it right...



GARY STEWART

Dear Santa,

Well, it's that time again and I guess you're snowed under (ho ho ho), but before you load your sleigh for Friday's ride, would you consider the following requests:

Southwestern Conference titles for all sports at KMHS in 1977, a third straight baseball coach of the year award for KM's Barry Gibson, and an association tennis title for Ed Guy and his Mountaineers . . .

College football scholarships for linemen Bruce Valentine, David Gordon, Kelly Land and Scott Ellis and back Kenny Bell, who should team together next fall to bring KMHS its first conference title since 1964 . . .

A warm coat for KM's superstitious assistant football coach Dennis Dukes, who never wears a coat when the Mountaineers have their luck going . . . A Southern Conference wrestling title for Appalachian's Alfred Ash and continued success for grappler Reggie Whitmire at Winston-Salem State . . .

A national collegiate scoring title for Tennessee Tech's Butch Blalock and a return to pro basketball for former KMHS great George Adams . . . Continued coaching success for Mike Ware at Newberry and Jim Kimmell at Chester, and a 9-1 season for Jerry Adams at East Gaston. We're expecting that one loss to be to Kings Mountain . . .

An eye for talent for Jim Pettit, the prep writer for the Greensboro Daily News who picks the All-State football team. We realize everybody can't make All-State, but Pettit left the best linebacker in North Carolina, KM's Bruce Valentine, off the '76 team which was announced Sunday . . .

Ditto for the coaches who'll be picking next year's Shrine Bowl team. If KMHS doesn't have a Shrine Bowler next year, it never will . . .

A SAC-8 title for Oval Jaynes and his Gardner-Webb Bulldogs and All-Conference honors again for G-W defensive back Chris Johnson, and a starting position for the Bulldogs' latest recruit, KM's Richard Ross . . .

A lot of doves for former KMHS footballer Larry Thornburg and his bride-to-be, Diane Tria, but keep 'em away from those baited fields . . . A lot of bites for all local fishermen, including Herman Blalock and his crew that usually give me a good picture to take when they go deep sea fishing . . .

A new quarterback for the Washington Redskins, and if George Allen doesn't start making better use of his talent, a new coach . . . A season ticket to all Duke University athletic contests for my brother-in-law, Ed Spencer, and a season's pass to all Carolina games for Tony Tompkins . . .

A NAIA national championship for Bobby Hussey and his Belmont Abbey Crusaders and many more District 28 titles for G-W's Eddie Holbrook, one of the nicest guys in the coaching profession . . .

A hole-in-one for yours truly. I ask for this every year, Santa, but you still haven't come through . . . A KM country club golf championship for someone other than John Howze. You're a great one, John, but let's share a little bit . . .

A big splash on the high school golf scene for Darrell Austin Jr., who led KM Junior High to two straight conference titles, another conference title this spring for Porter Griggs and his junior high baseballers, and a third straight basketball crown next fall for Becky Summitt and her junior high girls . . . A big track turnout this spring at KMHS for new coach Dan Brooks. The Mounties have had some outstanding individual performers the past several years, Santa, but it's hard to compete with just a dozen or so . . .

A bowling alley for Kings Mountain, a new league for the still devoted duckpin bowlers, and another national championship for that group . . . A strong 16-18 year old baseball team for the city, be it legion or Babe Ruth . . .

Another state championship in football for Blacksburg High, and All-State honors next season for a local player on that team, tackle Keith Huffman, and continued success for a local graduate of that school's program, Leroy Blake . . .

Continued success for the city recreation program and the teams that play in its leagues. More coaches like the ones who give of their time and talent to coach those teams without seeking self-recognition . . .

For all who read this letter, a realization of their goals, whether they be sports or otherwise, and for all persons, good health, much success and a Merry Christmas.



Photo By Gary Stewart

KMHS Cagers Drop Two To North Gaston

SPORTS

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketballers closed out the pre-Christmas portion of their season Tuesday night at home against North Gaston but the favored Wildcats weren't about to play Santa Claus.

The Dallas-based teams stayed out front most of the way in both contests, the girls capturing an 81-57 victory and the boys a 56-49 win.

The Kings Mountain girls, now 4-3, are idle until January 4, when they travel to Shelby, but the Mountaineers will return to action next Wednesday and Thursday in the annual Cleveland County Tipoff Tournament at Burns High School. In Wednesday's opening round, the Mountaineers play Burns at 7 p. m. and Shelby meets Crest at 9. Opening round losers play Thursday at 7 and the winners play at 9 for the championship.

Kings Mountain has won the event only once and has finished fourth four of the other five times.

Kings Mountain's girls gave the unbeaten Lady Wildcats all they wanted in the first half but the defending Southwestern Conference champions pulled away midway of the third period to post their seventh straight victory.

Nancy Scoggins and Donna Elrod combined for 54 points to lead the NG assault, Scoggins scoring 29 and Elrod 25. Susan Mitchem and Gayla Roberts scored 15 apiece for the Mountaineers.

North Gaston led from the beginning of the game but Coach Kathy Brooks' ladies stayed within striking distance until the 4:00 mark of the third period.

points. Vernon Bell led the Mountaineers with 20.

William Thompson of the Mountaineers and Tracy Rudisill of North Gaston fouled out.

GIRLS GAME

KM (57)—Roberts 15, Mitchem 15, Bristol 2, Rickenbacker 6, Henderson 7, Hickman 6, Mack 1, Bridges 5.

NG (81)—Elrod 25, Scoggins 29, Dixon 7, Domplierre 5, Miller 14, Hill 1.

BOYS GAME

KM (49)—Bell 20, Lockhart 6, Odums 7, Thompson 7, Burris 3, Ellis 2, Hamrick 4.

NG (56)—Phillips 21, Rudisill 6, Mentor 4, Bratton 8, Saunders 7, Friday 4, Ratchford 6.

HOOKS — Kings Mountain's Judy Henderson, surrounded by the North Gaston defense, hooks for two points in Tuesday night's 81-57 Southwestern Conference loss to the undefeated Lady Wildcats. Henderson finished with seven points. North Gaston got a 54-point effort from their one-two scoring punch of Nancy Scoggins and Donna Elrod. KMHS closed out its pre-Christmas slate with a 4-3 record.



Christmas
Goy

May the true spirit of Christmas be reborn in your heart, bringing holiday joys and blessings to you and those most dear to you. Let us celebrate as we remember the night of the Savior's Holy Birth.

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a Christmas Carol

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