

# Mountaineers Battle Burns In CC Tipoff Tournament

Kings Mountain High's basketballers return to action Wednesday and Thursday in the sixth annual Cleveland County Tipoff Tournament at Burns High School.

The Mountaineers, 2-5 in Southwestern Conference play, and host Burns open the two-day event Wednesday at 7 p. m. Unbeaten Crest, 7-0, takes on Shelby, 6-1, in the 9 p. m. nightcap.

Opening round losers play Thursday at 7 p. m. for third place and Wednesday's winners meet Thursday at 9 p. m. for the championship.

Burns, 5-2 in SWC action, will be heavily favored over the Mountaineers in the opener and Crest will be a slight favorite over defending champion Shelby. The Chargers nipped the Lions by five points in an earlier game this year.

Burns ran the Mountaineers off the court in an early-season contest.

Kings Mountain is off to one of its worst starts in years under new coach,

John Blalock, but Blalock hopes the stiff competition his charges will receive in the Tipoff event will gear them for a strong finish in the SWC.

KM's lone victories this season were back-to-back decisions over Chase and Bessemer City. They've lost to R-S Central, East Gaston, Burns, East Rutherford and North Gaston.

The Mountaineers are depending on mostly young players this season and Blalock feels the experience they gain this year will be invaluable in the future.

Eddie Ingram, a junior, runs the team from the point guard while the Mountaineers depend on sophomore Vernon Bell, junior William Lockhart and seniors William Thompson and Bobby Odums for their inside spark.

Although the Mountaineers have a losing record, Blalock has gone to his bench quite a lot and is developing some young talent.

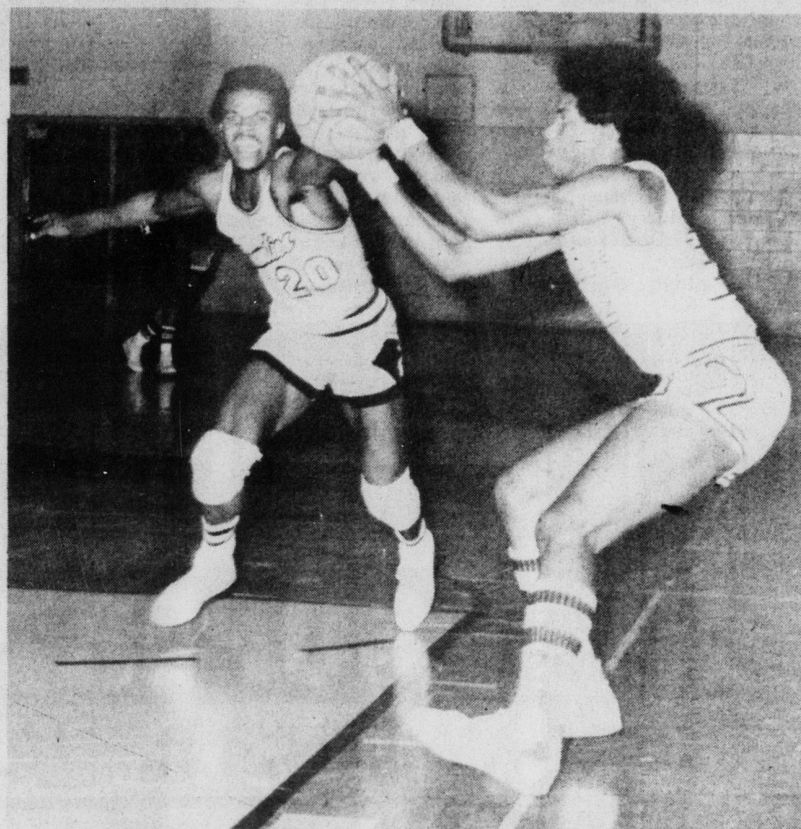
The KMHS girls, 4-3 under new coach Kathy Brooks, are idle and will not return to action until January 4, when they travel to Shelby to begin the '77 portion of their schedule.

The three KMHS losses

have been to the top three clubs in the conference — North Gaston, Burns and R-S Central. Both North Gaston and Burns are 7-0 and will meet on January 4 to decide sole possession of first place.

Senior Susan Mitchem,

one of the SWC's leading scorers, paces the KMHS attack but is getting much scoring help from juniors Gayla Roberts and Judy Henderson and sophomore Priscilla Rickenbacker. Henderson tops the club in rebounding.



NEAR STEAL — Kings Mountain's Vernon Bell (20) shown here trying for a steal in recent game with North Gaston, will lead the Mountaineers into action in the Cleveland County Tipoff Tournament Wednesday and Thursday at Burns High School. The Mountaineers are 2-5 in Southwestern Conference play. They meet Burns in the Tipoff opener Wednesday at 7 p. m. Shelby plays Crest in the 9 p. m. nightcap.

### NOTICE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual shareholders meeting of the Home Savings And Loan Association will be held in the Home office at 106 East Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, N. C. on Tues., the 25th of January 1977 at 5:00 p. m.

12-28; 1-4-11-18

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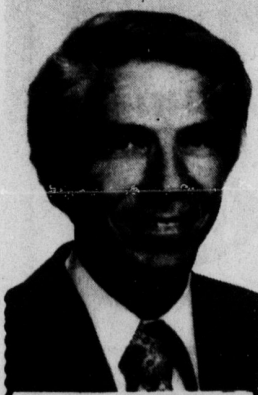
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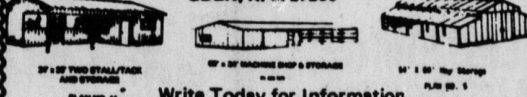
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