

# Riddle And Maner Win Top Awards At Net Fete

Tim Riddle, Sarah Maner, Kevin Morehead and Scott Summitt won the top awards at Thursday's Rotary Club ten is banquet at the Kings Mountain Country Club.

Riddle, a junior, and Maner, a senior, won most valuable player trophies and Morehead, a senior, and Summitt, a junior, copped the awards as the outstanding doubles team.

In addition to the trophies, Coach Ed Guy presented plaques to the members of the boys team, which won the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association championship, and also presented letters and-or stars to all the boys and girls players.

Riddle held down the number one singles position all season and capped

a brilliant season by winning the bi-conference and association singles titles and the Southwestern Conference and association player of the year awards.

Riddle's only loss in singles competition came to 18-year-old Pender Murphy of Charlotte Latin, who is the state's third-ranked singles player and who won the state title for independent school players.

Riddle breezed through the conference, taking the number one ranking away from Steve Stroud of R-S Central, who was the league's player of the year last spring. Riddle defeated his close friend and summertime doubles partner, Butch Dunn of Wilkes Central, for the title in both the bi-conference and

association tournaments. Riddle was the first athlete in the history of KMHS to win the association championship. The Mountaineers, also, became the first tennis team to cop the association title and they became the only SWC school besides Shelby to win the title in over a decade.

Like Riddle, Maner was a good example on how hard work pays big dividends.

A year ago, she was playing the number six singles position but worked hard during the off-season

to move up to the number one slot. She held down that position during the entire year.

In addition, the KMHS senior teamed with Mercedes Smith to form the Mountaineers' top doubles team, and they earned a number four seeding for the bi-conference tourney. They scored both of KM's points in the bi-conference event. Summitt and Morehead finished second in the association out of 56 teams that started out in bi-

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Photos By Gary Stewart

TENNIS MVPs — Coach Ed Guy, right, presents most valuable tennis awards to Sarah Maner and Tim Riddle at Thursday's Rotary Club luncheon at the Kings

Mountain Country Club. The Mountaineers completed their best season ever this spring, winning the bi-conference and association championship.



GARY STEWART

## KMHS Mountaineers' Final Year In WNCHSAA Was A Good One

Another high school athletic season has come and gone, in many ways like all others, but in some other ways entirely different.

The season was like others in that officials were still just as blind as ever, most coaches continued to cooperate with the press when they won but made themselves scarce when they lost, and still others, never bothered to call win or lose.

But this sports season was different from many others in that it was the final season ever for the compact Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association, and it was unlike others for some of the Southwestern Conference schools who all of a sudden found themselves in the championship picture. \$\$

For Kings Mountain High, its final year in the WNCHSAA was highly successful. The Mountaineers were winners in just about every sport, and they were in the championship picture in several sports. And, the good thing about it all, is that they did it with young players.

Beginning in the fall, the KMHS football team produced its best season since 1964, winning eight of 10 games and leading the SWC the first six weeks of the campaign. They climbed into the state's top 10 rankings for the first time since '64, even though their stay was a brief week.

The footballers lost only four full-time starters, quarterback Mike Bumgarner, halfback Richard Ross, and linemen Tim Spicer and Mark Moore. So, chances of a championship year in their first season in the North Carolina High Schools Athletic Association are very good.

The winter brought some good news and bad news for basketball. The good news was that KMHS won its first girls jayvee championship, was in the running for the boys title until the final week of the season, and had its best varsity girls record since '68. But the bad news was that the varsity boys had their worst record since the 1950's, winning only five ballgames.

Joe Rountree, one of KM's youngest coaches, coached the girls jayvees to their conference title and Dennis Dukes, another young coach, had the boys leading the league until the final week. Kathy Brooks, another first year coach, took over the girls program and did a good coaching job, winning 14 games. She's likely to spend the summer worrying about how to replace the school's all-time scoring queen, Susan Mitchem.

The winter wrestling season wasn't a success, team-wise, but Coach Bo Goforth produced another SWC Wrestler of the Year in heavyweight David Gordon. Gordon finished second in the WNCHSAA tournament, the best finish for a KMHS grappler since Alfred Ash won the association championship four years ago.

The spring brought some more contenders, a young baseball team which came within a game of winning the conference title, a young tennis team which copped the bi-conference and association crowns, and a golf team which lost the league title by a stroke.

Except for coaches Barry Gibson, Bud Bumgardner and David Bolin, and the 17 determined young ballplayers, nobody gave the Mountaineer baseballers much of a chance of winning the conference title. There were only two seniors on the team and six of the nine full-time starters were sophomores.

But, after a slow non-conference start in which the Mounties won only one of seven games, they began to jell and made the SWC playoffs as the number two team in Division One. They then knocked off Division Two champ Crest and took WNCHSAA favorite South Point three games before falling in the best of three series.

The golf team, also a young club, won five of nine regular season matches and finished third in both the conference and association tournaments. They lost the SWC crown by a single stroke to East Gaston and Shelby and they were in contention for the association crown until the final round.

The big newsmaker, however, was the boys tennis team, which swept the bi-conference and association titles with ease after being upset by Shelby in regular season play.

Coach Ed Guy produced the association's number two doubles team of Scott Summitt and Kevin Morehead, and the bi-conference and association singles champion, Tim Riddle.

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