Kings Mountain's 18-15 year old girls softball all-stars, heretofore a slowpitch team, took a quick lesson in how to play fastpitch softball last week and won the Dixie Youth State Tournament at Tabor

The local team, which finished fifth in the State ASA Tournament a week earlier in Durham, went to Tabor City thinking it would be playing in another slowpitch event.

"Our girls nad never before played fast-pitch," noted Coach Candy Albergine. "We had to make adjustments in our hitting and had to learn how to steal bases, and we could only play three outfielders instead of four."

Albergine also had to come up with another pitcher, as Dixie Youth rules only allow a pitcher to pitch 14 innings in a tournament.

Lisa Hampton had served as the team's pitcher all season in slowpitch action, and she hurled the team's opening round victory over Pender County on Thursday night, 18-12.

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Hampton hurled again in Saturday's second round, against Pender County again, and she lost that game 7-6. In the championship

game, still against Pender County, Albergine converted Susan Howze into a pitcher and she responded with an eighthitter to nail down the

"Our defense was the key to our victories," noted Albergine. "We'll be working very hard this week so we can properly represent Kings Mountain and North Carolina in the representing the city World Series beginning and state in the ASA Monday in Whiteville."

The state champions from Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia will join Kings Mountain in the World Series.

opening round win and 3549).

Diane Williams hit the fastpitch for base hits each of her four trips to the plate to lead the offense. Howze and Bridget Glass were 8for-4 each.

After Friday's round was rained out, Pender County came back on Saturday to halt KM 7-6 and force a second title game.

Ann Padgett picked up the win for PC. Howze was 4-for-4 and Hampton and Mary Ann White each 8 - for-4 to lead KM at the plate.

KM actually tied the game in the bottom of the seventh at 7-all on pinch-hitter Judy Whisnant's single which scored Hampton. But Whisnant was ruled out because she did not report to the official scorer before taking her turn at bat.

KM came back in the second title game and completely outclassed the Pender County crew behind the pitching of Howze and the hitting of Howze, Penny Blanton and Renee Cook, who had two hits apiece.

Batting averages for the tournament included Howze .750, Cook .667, Hampton .667, Diane Williams .588, Penny Blanton .545, Glass .545, Ginger Martin, .400, White .885, Donna Myers .281, Trudy Whisnant .200 and Kim Gladden .000.

The victories at Tabor City gave Kings Mountain its second state championship in as many weeks. The 18-15 year old boys all-stars won the State ASA Tournament in Hendersonville, sweeping the double elimination tournament without a defeat.

The boys team will be World Series August 12-14 in York. Pa. Coach Darrell Van Dyke said the team is in need of financial assistance and any businesses or individuals interested in Hampton outdueled donating may contact Pender County's Sara Van Dyke at the com-Jones for Thursday's munity center (789-

STATE CHAMPIONS - The 18-15 year old Kings Mountain girls softball all-star team copped the Dixie Youth State Tournament title over the weekend at Tabor City. Team members include, standing, left to right, Mary Ann White, Mickey James, Renee Cook, Leslie Hamrick, Ginger Martin, Toni Ross, and Lisa Hampton. Kneeling, Bridget Glass, Trudy Whisnant, Kim Gladden, Judy Whisnant, Dana Horn, Susan Howze and Donna Myers. Not pictured, Diane Williams, Penny Blanton and Leslie Sherer.





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Young Gridders Begin Practice

The Kings Mountain pee wee, junior midget and midget football teams have begun practice and will be working out each night from 7-9 p. m. at City Stadium.

Cheerleader

held from 9 a. m. until noon and from 1 p. m. until 2 p. m.

The girls chosen will cheer for the three youth teams this fall which will be playing in the Gaston League under the sponsorship of the Optimist Club and the recreation depart-

Tammy Blanton and Donna Sutherland will serve as cheerleader

Any youngsters ages 10 through 18 may come out for any of the teams by reporting for prac-tice and seeing either Charles Burns or Jimmy Littlejohn.

Kings Mountain will definitely sponsor three teams in the Gaston

sions. The junior midgets won their division championship last fall and the midgets finished second. Most of last year's junior midgets will move up to the midget ranks this year, making that team even stronger.

The KM teams are jointly sponsored by the Optimist Club and the city recreation depart-



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