

# Mountaineers Snap Losing Streak 76-59



**DRIVING AROUND** — Kings Mountain Annette Littlejohn (22) drives around the East Gaston defense in Southwestern 3-A Conference game Monday night at the KMHS gym. The

Mountaineers lost a heartstopper and heartbreaker, 55-53. The KM cagers go to Chase Friday and host 4-A AHunter Huss Saturday.

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers finally got back into the win column Tuesday night at home, defeating Burns 76-59 to snap a nine-game Southwestern Conference losing streak.

Kings Mountain's girls weren't as fortunate in the opener, losing their third straight, 88-47.

Coach John Blalock's charges had their best balanced scoring of the season. Five men scored in double figures as the Mountaineers improved their

record to 4-9 in the SWC and 5-10 overall. Burns fell to 2-11.

Everette Burris led the way with 21 points, followed by Eric Dixon, Timmy Adams and William Lockhart with 12 each, and Vernon Bell with 10.

The Mountaineers were in command from the opening tip, moving to a 33-23 halftime lead and a 56-35 margin after three periods.

Burns, by the way, was the team that started the Mountaineers on their losing skid way back on December 13. Since that time, KM's lone

victory was over Shelby in the opening round of the Cleveland County Tipoff Tournament.

KM's girls were handed their most embarrassing loss in many years as Tommy Pruitt's unbeaten (18-0) Lady Bulldogs growled early and never let up in registering their most lop-sided win of the season.

The loss dropped the Mountaineers to 6-7.

Vanessa Simmons led a group of three double digit scorers for Burns with a game-high 24 points. The Burns defense held KM's top two scoring threats, Priscilla Rickenbacker and Judy Henderson, to six and five points, respectively. Annette Littlejohn was top scorer for the Mountaineers with 21 points.

The KMHS cagers travel to Chase Friday for a conference doubleheader and return home Saturday to host 4-A Hunter Huss of Gastonia in non-conference action.

#### GIRLS GAME

KM (47) — Henderson 5, Rickenbacker 6, Bristol 1, Littlejohn 21, Ramey 2, Bridges 2, McGill 3, McClain 2, Gladden 3, Ingram 2.

BURNS (88) — Ross 2, Simmons 24, Gold 8, Sweazy 12, Wright 18, Hull 8, Lackey 4, Hamilton 8, Willis 2, Webber 2.

#### BOYS GAME

KM (76) — Bell 10, Burris 21, Prescott 2, Dixon 12, Adams 12, Lockhart 12, Hamrick 3, McClain 2, Ellis 2, Cloninger.

BURNS (59) — Howard 22, Dunbar 10, Borders 9, Dixon 2, Wilson 4, Gardner 12.

## SPORTS

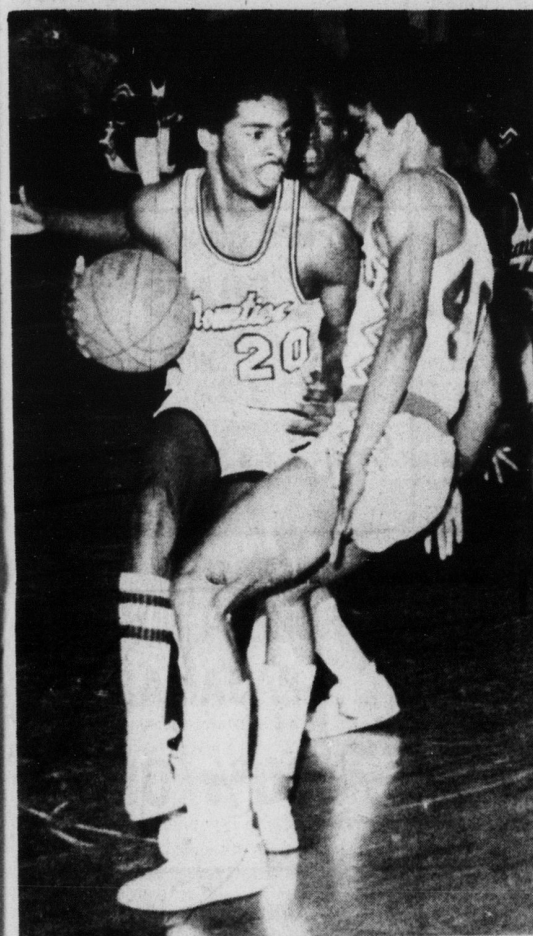


Photos By Gary Stewart

**LOSES CONTROL** — Kings Mountain's Everette Burris (21) loses control of the basketball as he sails through the air in hopes of a bucket in Monday night game with East

Gaston at the KMHS gym. The Mountaineers lost their ninth straight Southwestern Conference game 57-52.

## Cagers Drop Close Decisions



**KM CHARGE** — Kings Mountain's Terry McClain (20) charges into an East Gaston defender in Monday's Southwestern Conference game at the KMHS gym. The Warriors handed the Mountaineers their ninth straight league loss, 57-52.

Kings Mountain High's cagers are making a habit of playing close heartstoppers in front of the home fans.

The Mountaineers and Mountaineers, who are both slipping in the Southwestern 3-A Conference standings as the regular season winds to a close and the tournament approaches, took a pair of tough East Gaston teams to the wire Monday night but the visiting Gaston County teams took the decision in both games.

The Mountaineers, who fell to 6-6 in the SWC, blew a lead in the second half and fell 55-53, and the Mountaineers, who suffered their ninth straight conference defeat, saw the Warriors pull away in the final minutes for a 57-52 win.

of the game but came fighting back to lead by 28-25 at intermission. East Gaston pulled back into the lead early in the second half but KMHS assumed a 46-45 edge with two

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#### GIRLS GAME

KM (53) — Henderson 13, Bristol, Rickenbacker 13, McGill, McClain, Littlejohn 13, Ramey 10, Bridges 4.

EG (55) — A. Brown 15, Smith 21, B. Brown 4, Yellers 2, Blackwell 1, Broome 6, Grice 6.

#### BOYS GAME

KM (52) — Bell 12, Burris 8, Lockhart, Hamrick 10, McClain 4, Adams 4, Prescott 6, Dixon 6, Ellis 2, Cloninger.

EG (57) — Jeter 4, Petty 22, Dill 7, Hart 2, Clippard 16, Anthony 4, Cage 2.

Both KMHS teams were plagued with turnovers and fouls. The Mountaineers several times rebounded missed East Gaston shots only to have the outlet passes stolen by the Lady Warriors and put back into play on their end of the court.

Coach Kathy Brooks' ladies fell behind by 11-0 at the start

### Pat Matters

### Clinch Title

Kings Mountain Junior High's wrestlers clinched at least a tie for the Western Junior High Athletic Association championship Tuesday when they whipped Crest 46-21.

The Patriots, now 3-0 in the conference and 4-1 overall, travel to East McDowell Friday for their final conference match.

#### THE RESULTS

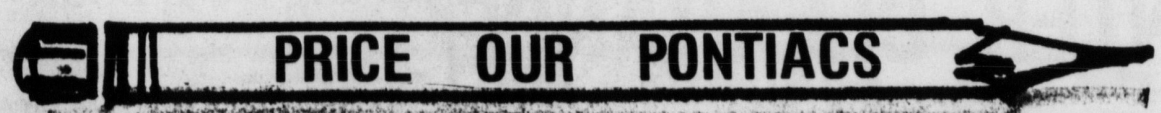
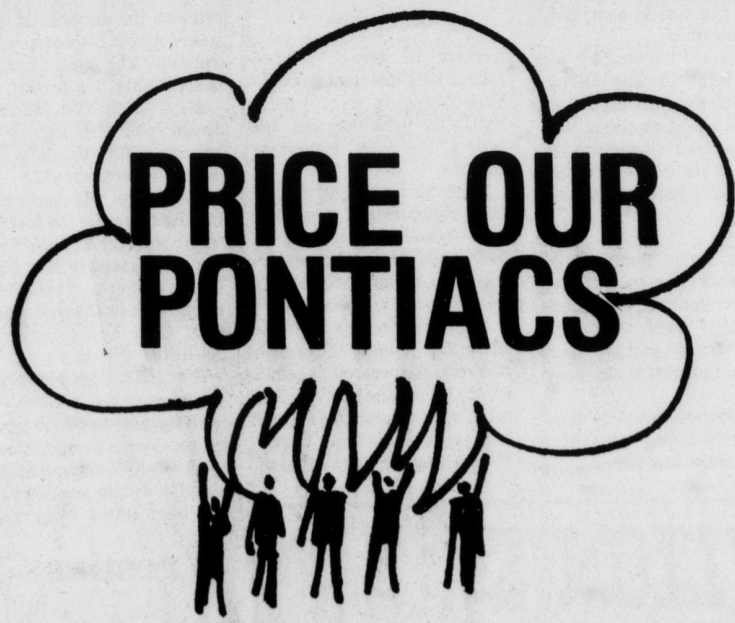
- 90 Pd. — Ron Rowell (KM) pinned John Davis.
- 100 — Terry McClain (KM) pinned Jerry Austin.
- 107 — Tommy Rikard (KM) pinned Bobby Train.
- 114 — Walter Goode (KM) pinned Wayne Salyers.
- 121 — Bernard Womack (KM) pinned Harold Lowe.
- 128 — Lee Litton (C) dec. Tommy Guinn.
- 134 — Scott Nolan (C) pinned Robbie Irwin.
- 140 — Jim Lowery (C) pinned Jimmy Bradley.
- 147 — Todd Bell (KM) pinned James Freeman.
- 157 — Kibby Daves (C) dec. Carlos Owens.
- 169 — Kevin Hood (KM) pinned Johnny Wray.
- Unl. — Avery Grier (KM) pinned Roy Blanton.



Photos By Gary Stewart

**TRYING FOR STEAL** — Kings Mountain's Judy Henderson, left, tries to steal basketball and Faye Ramey (49) goes high in air to try to knock down pass as East Gaston tries to fast

break after rebounding a missed KM shot in Monday basketball game at the KMHS gym. East Gaston won 55-53.



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