

Another Challenge For Jimmy Kimmell

In his 20 years of coaching high school football, Kings Mountain native Jimmy Kimmell has tackled some tough assignments.

After serving 10 years as an assistant at Saluda, S. C., High following his graduation from KMHS and Lenoir Rhyne College, Kimmell spent four years turning around the program at 3-A Newberry High School and the past six years he did a remarkable job at Chester, the smallest 4-A school in the Palmetto State.

Now, he's moving to Latta, a perennial winner in the 2-A ranks, and Kimmell thinks this might be his last move.

"I guess every coach's ambition early in his career is to get into college coaching," says Kimmell, who is still regarded by many as the best all-around athlete to ever come through KMHS. "But I'm getting to the age now to where I want to find a place where I can settle down and call it home. That's one of the reasons I'm going to Latta."

Another reason for Kimmell's move is that the ex-principal at Chester is now the superintendent at Latta, but probably the biggest reason is that Latta has a tremendous tradition in football.

"They have a tremendous program and a real good school system," says Kimmell. "I'm going to an established winner and hope to continue what they have going for them there."

Kimmell's first two stops in his head coaching career were completely different.

Newberry High had won only three games in the three years before Kimmell took over. He coached the school to records of 6-5, 7-4, 8-3 and 8-3,



GARY STEWART

but the coveted conference championships didn't come until after Kimmell went to Chester and his brother-in-law, Mike Ware, another KMHS product, took over. Ware has coached the school to four straight Midlands 3-A Conference crowns.

"Mike's taking real good care of the program down there," noted Kimmell.

Chester, likewise, was a struggling program. Kimmell's turnaround there wasn't quite as impressive as it was at Newberry, but his teams managed to play .500 ball in the toughest 4-A conference in South Carolina.

The coaching job at Chester is as tough as one could find. The school there has an enrollment of 1,300 (just 100 over the 3-A cutoff) and plays against schools like Gaffney, Dorman and Spartanburg with enrollments up to 3,600.

"It's hard to compete against people like that," Kimmell said. "Numbers kill you."

Still, Kimmell's teams were competitive and he earned a reputation as one of the top coaches in the state. He produced one of South Carolina's best all-time running backs in Ken Callicutt, who recently ended a brilliant collegiate career by leading Clemson's Tigers to an 9-2-1 season and a trip to the Gator Bowl.

Kimmell's best team at Chester, though, came two years ago when his own son, Kim, quarterbacked the team to a 7-4 record. Kim's now a sophomore at Wofford but is not playing football.

Coaching his own son proved to be still another test for Kimmell.

"It puts a lot of pressure on both of you," he said. "But after he graduated I realized he was a better quarterback than I ever gave him credit for. After I sat down and looked at films I saw he did a heckuva job for us."

Kimmell and his wife, the former Corneia Ware of Kings Mountain, have three other children. Marty Ann is a senior at Chester High, Ware is a seventh grader and Cody is in the fifth. He looks forward to coaching them someday.

Kimmell says two of his coaches at KMHS — football coach Shu Carlton and basketball coach Don Parker — influenced his life.

"They were the two most influential people besides my parents," says Jim. "I don't know if kids nowadays have heroes or not, but those two were my heroes and I always wanted to be like them."

Kimmell graduated from KMHS in 1953 after earning 12 letters in football, basketball and baseball. No athlete since has achieved those honors and with the current junior high housing the ninth grade, no one ever will again.

He went on to Lenoir Rhyne, playing tailback in the Bears' single wing attack.

At Latta, Kimmell takes over a team that was 5-5 last season, but he feels they'll be much improved next fall. His immediate goal is to win the regional championship.

"Whatever comes after that will be icing on the cake," he says. While Latta is a 2-A school, they play one of the toughest non-conference schedules in the state. Two of their biggest neighboring rivals are 3-A Marion and 4-A Dillon.

"They're big rivals, and even though Latta lost to both of them last year, they've had real good success against them in the past," he said.

Asked about his goals following his football coaching days, Kimmell says he has hopes of being a school principal, and he has already completed several courses for certification.

"But," he added quickly, "I've still got a lot of enthusiasm for coaching."



Faye Ramey fires for two of her 15 points against Chase....

Cagers Sweep Chase In Conference Doubleheader

Kings Mountain High's cagers swept a Southwestern Conference twinbill from Chase Friday, the girls winning 69-59 and the boys 50-44.

It was the second straight win for the Mountaineers, who hiked their SWC mark to 5-10 and it was the first win after back to back losses for the "Is, who are now 8-7-1.

The girls jumped out to a 22-14 first quarter lead and maintained it for the rest of the game. KM was on top 38-22 at

the half. Coach Kathy Brooks got another balanced scoring attack as four players scored in double figures. Annette Littlejohn led the way with 18, Judy Henderson 16, Faye Ramey 15 and Priscilla Rickenbacker 10.

Rickenbacker got into early foul trouble and fouled out in the fourth quarter. Angie Hickman, who had been sitting out with an ankle injury, came in and dished out five assists in the fourth quarter as

the Mountaineers held off the tallying Lady Trojans. Carolyn Dewberry, the SWC's leading scorer, led the Chase girls with a game-high 27 points.

The Chase defense held the KM ladies to just one field goal in the third quarter, but the Mountaineers connected on seven of 12 shots from the foul line.

The boys came from behind in the fourth quarter to upset

the Trojans, one of only two teams in the SWC to defeat perennial champion Crest.

Chase jumped out front early and led by 25-23 at the half and 38-33 going into the fourth period.

But the KMHS defense held the usually hot-shooting Trojans to just six points in the final eight minutes and the offense hit well from the free throw line to claim the victory.

Vernon Bell, the game's top scorer with 18 points, Eric

Dixon, William Lockhart, Glenn Ellis and Jeff Prescott all hit big free throws in the final quarter, and Prescott and Ellis pulled in some key rebounds.

Kings Mountain won the game at the foul line, hitting 18 of 25 shots to only four of 10 for

the Trojans. Chase outscored KM from the floor, 20 field goals to 15.

Lanky McSwain, Chase's leading scorer with 14, scored 12 points in the first half but got into foul trouble and managed only one field goal in the final two periods.

GIRLS GAME
KM (69) — Henderson 16, Rickenbacker 10, Bristol 2, Littlejohn 18, Ramey 15, Mack 8.
CHASE (59) — Harin 4, McDowell 6, McCurry 8, Deck 6, Dewberry 27, Vickers 4, McSwain 4.

BOYS GAME
KM (50) — Prescott 8, Dixon 3, Bell 18, Burris 8, Lockhart 6, Adams 2, Cloninger, McClain 3, Ellis 2.
CHASE (44) — Crenshaw 8, L. McSwain 14, C. McSwain 8, R. McSwain 8, Dewberry 4, Phillips 2.

Junior High Boys Set School Record

Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots, still in the running for the Western Conference title, set a new school scoring record Thursday when they romped over West McDowell 95-38 to run their record to 7-3.

The Patriots, who were scheduled to host College Park of Hickory yesterday, are in second place behind Grandview, which is 7-1. The Patriots host Crest in another key league game Wednesday.

Coach Ken Napier had four players in double figures and four others with eight points

apiece in Thursday's romp. Napier played all 10 of his players.

Craig Champion, playing his best game of the year, led the way with 18 points, including 13 in the first quarter when the KM five jumped out front 25-9. Ricky Proctor added 14, Carl Smith 11, Alan Van Dyke 10 and Paul Ingram, Marcus Hager, Wayne Brown and Gerald Byers with eight each. Byers led the rebounding with 11 and Champion added eight.

The Patriots shot 42 percent from the floor and 58 percent from the foul line, both marks

representing their best figures in some time.

The 95 points broke the previous record of 93 scored in a victory over West Lincoln in 1975.

"It was an overall team victory," noted Coach Napier, whose club won its second straight game after losing three in a row. "Our kids are really fired up now. They know every game is a do or die situation."

Good pressure defense and a good transition from defense to offense were the keys to the KM victory.

"We rebounded well and got the ball up court quickly," noted Napier. "And we kept constant pressure on them the

entire game. We had 22 turnovers but when you play a fast pace game like that you'll have turnovers.

"We needed a big win like this at this point," he went on. "We weren't trying to run up the score."

The girls won their 10th straight, 38-20 to move within two games of clinching the conference championship.

Diane Williams led the scoring with 12 points and also hauled in a game-high 15 rebounds. Sheryl Goode added six points and nine rebounds and Pam Batty also had six points.

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Wrestlers Nip Shelby In Big League Match

Unbeaten heavyweight David Gordon of Kings Mountain pinned Shelby's Jeff Ellis in the final match of the night to give the Mountaineers a 28-27 victory over the Lions in a key Southwestern 3-A Conference wrestling match Thursday night at the KMHS gym.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a 4-1 conference record and 7-3 overall mark heading into their final SWC match last night at South Point. Shelby was to wrestle East Gaston (5-0) last night and a Shelby victory would mean that KM, the Lions and East Gaston would share the conference title.

"It was the most exciting match I've ever seen or been involved in," noted KM's first year coach Steve Moffitt, who thus far has coached the Mountaineers to their best record in history.

"Going into the 197-pound match we were behind and had Darryl Brown gotten pinned, we would have been out of it," he noted. "Brown did lose, on a major decision, but that left us behind by only five points, 27-22, and we knew we had a good chance to win

then." Gordon, last year's wrestler of the year in the SWC, pinned Ellis in the first period and the Mountaineers and their supporters went wild.

It was the second KM victory over Shelby this season, but the first one did not count in the SWC standings.

THE RESULTS

100 Pd. — Davis (S) won by forfeit.
107 — Boyce (KM) and Chadwick (S) drew.
114 — Huntsinger (S) dec. Guyton.
121 — Bell (KM) pinned Daves.
128 — Rhea (KM) and Warren (S) drew.
134 — Browner (S) dec. Ross.
140 — Miller (S) dec. Ingram.
147 — Jamerson (KM) dec. Eppley.
157 — Bankhead (S) dec. M. Womack.
169 — Phillips (KM) dec. Redding.
187 — K. Womack (KM) pinned Mager.
197 — Harrill (S) won major dec. over Brown.
Unl. — Gordon (KM) pinned Ellis.

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Shareholders Meeting of Kings Mountain Savings & Loan Association will be held in the Conference Room of the Association Offices on W. Mountain St., On Tues. Feb. 14, 1978 at 2 p. m.

RUBY H. BAKER, Secretary

1-31-2-7

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