



Photo By Gary Stewart

**HAVE BANNER YEARS** — Kings Mountain's Mary Adams and Rick Hinnant show off some of the hardware they collected during banner seasons on the basketball court this winter. Both seniors at Gaston

Day, Miss Adams helped lead the Lady Spartans to their second straight state championship and Hinnant was the highest single season point producer in the history of Gaston County basketball.

## Mary Adams, Rick Hinnant Have Big Years At Gaston Day

A pair of Kings Mountain residents recently wrapped up outstanding prep basketball careers with nearby Gaston Day School.

Mary Adams, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Adams, helped lead the Lady Spartans to their second straight state independent schools title, and Rick Hinnant, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. (Josh) Hinnant, finished his senior year as the leading season scorer in the history of Gaston County high school basketball.

Adams, who played varsity ball four years, had the honor of being one of a small number of athletes who never experienced a defeat in conference action. The Lady Spartans racked up 88 consecutive victories over the past four years in Charlotte Independent Schools Conference play.

The Lady Spartans finished 27-2 overall this past season, losing only to Bessemer City in a non-conference game and to South Point in the championship game of the Gaston County Christmas Tournament.

Adams averaged 13 points per game, made first team All-Conference and All-Tournament, was Most Valuable Player in the District Tournament in Asheville, and was named first team All-State and All-Area. She capped off her career last Monday by scoring seven points and helping lead the West to an 82-87 victory in the East-West All-Star game in Raleigh.

She plans to attend Peace College in Raleigh and participate in both volleyball and basketball. Peace is nationally-ranked in basketball.

### Top Gaston Day Scorer

Hinnant, although his team went only 12-12, had one of the biggest scoring seasons any area player has experienced.



He finished the year with 552 points, a Gaston County record, and the 6-3 point guard poured in an average of 23 points per contest.

He was first team All-Conference and All-Tournament, led the area in scoring, was first team All-Area and scored 11 points in a losing cause in last week's East-West All-Star game.

His West team dropped an 85-79 double overtime decision, but he kept the West stars in the game until fouling out early in the double overtime. His two free throws sent the game into the second extra period.

Hinnant began his basketball career here in Kings Mountain, where he played junior high ball at Central School before transferring to Gaston Day his freshman year. He played junior varsity ball at Gaston Day his freshman and sophomore years.

The Spartans finished 9-5 and in third place in conference play, and lost out in the semi-finals of the conference tournament.

Hinnant also plays number one for the Spartan golf team, which is ranked as one of the top teams in Gaston County. They finished second last year in the annual Gaston County tournament.

Only 16 years old, Hinnant has been contacted by several college basketball coaches but says he plans to attend prep school for one year before entering the college ranks.

## Mounties Beaten By Chase 8-7

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers battled back from an 8-1 deficit to pull within a run, then left the bases loaded in each of the last two innings and dropped an 8-7 decision to Chase in a Southwestern 3-A Conference game Thursday afternoon at Chase.

The loss was the first for the Mountaineers, who carry a 2-1 SWC record and 4-1 overall mark into their Wednesday game at 2 p. m. at North Gaston.

Chase scored two runs in each of the first three innings for a 6-0 lead off Ronnie Wilson, who saw his record dip to 1-1. KM picked up a single run in the fourth and Chase added another pair in the fifth before the Mounties staged their comeback attempt in the final two innings.

Kings Mountain's third inning run came on a triple by designated hitter Scott Ellis and a single by catcher Tim Whitaker.

The Mountaineers sent 11 men to the plate in the sixth and scored five runs to cut the deficit to 8-6. KM had four of its 10 hits during that inning and also took advantage of four bases on balls.

Ellis and Tim Leach, who relieved Wilson in the fourth, drew back-to-back walks to start the rally with one away in the sixth. Whitaker plated one run

### Attend Booster's Meeting

A meeting for all Kings Mountain High School athletic supporters interested in organizing a Booster's Club will be held on Mon., April 3 at 7 p. m. at the high school.

The meeting is not an organizational meeting, but one to see how many persons are interested and to talk about the possibilities of a club. It's important that all persons interested attend.

with a single but was caught in a rundown between first and second for the second out.

Bruce Valentine plated Leach with a single and after Andy Loftin walked Valentine scored on a single by pinch-hitter Lyn Hayes. Both Loftin and Hayes moved up a base on a wild pitch and Jim Hall walked on a 3-2 pitch to load the sacks.

Bryan White punched a two-run single to right-center to plate the fourth and fifth runs of the inning and David Ray Robinson walked on four straight pitches to re-load the bases. But Danny Bolin, pinch-hitting for Ellis, took a called third strike to end the inning.

Leach singled to lead off the seventh inning and an out later Valentine gained life on an error. After Loftin fanned for the second out, pinch-hitter Mark Schuman singled home Leach to cut the score to 8-7. Hall again walked to load the bases but White took a called third strike to end the game.

The Mountaineers had men in scoring position every inning except the fifth, when they were retired in order. They had their biggest hitting day of the year with 10 hits. White, Whitaker and Valentine leading the way with two apiece.

However, the big downfall was defense, which had been strong in the first four games. The Mountaineers committed five costly errors after making only seven in their previous four contests.

Chase also had 10 hits, all 10 coming during innings in which the Trojans scored runs.

BOXSCORE		AB	R	H	RBI
K. MTN.					
Hall, cf		3	0	0	0
White, lf		5	0	2	2
Robinson, ss		3	0	0	0
T. Chapman, 2b		0	0	0	0
Ellis, dh		2	0	1	0
Gdins, pr		0	1	0	0
Moore, pr		0	1	0	0
Bolin, ph		1	0	0	0
Wilson, p		1	0	0	0
Leach, p		2	2	1	0
Whitaker, c		4	0	2	2
Valentine, 1b		3	1	2	1
Loftin, rf		3	1	0	0
Boggan, 3b		1	0	0	0
Putnam, ph		1	0	0	0
Hayes, ph		1	1	1	1
Schuman, 3b		1	0	1	1
Totals		31	7	10	7
CHASE					
Stroud, ss		2	2	1	0
Wilson, c		4	0	1	2
McDowell, cf		3	1	0	0
Hutchins, 1b-p		3	2	1	1
Cannon, 2b		3	1	2	0
Ruppe, p		3	1	2	2
Barkley, 1b		0	0	0	0
McGinnis, rf		3	0	0	0
Greene, 3b		3	1	2	2
Gregory, lf		2	0	0	0
Burison, lf		1	0	0	0
Totals		27	8	10	7
By Innings:					
KM	000 105 1				7
C	222 000 X				8
E	Hall, White, Leach, Whitaker, Boggan, McDaniel, Gregory, LOB—KM 9, Chase 6. 2B—White, Stroud, Greene. 3B—Ellis.				
Pitcher:	IP H R ER BB SO				
Wilson (L, 1-1)	3 1 3 7 6 4 3 3				
Leach	2 2 3 3 2 1 0 5				
Ruppe (W)	5 1 3 4 3 3 2 3				
Greene	1 2 3 6 4 3 4 4				
Save	—Greene.				



**TROPHY WINNERS** — These seven players won trophies at a hot dog supper honoring players in the city midget basketball league Thursday at the community center. Players include, seated, left to right, Bill Hunt, all-tournament; Phillip Scism, sportsmanship; Anthony Petty, all-tournament, back row, Dan Ayscue, sportsmanship; Wes Champion, all-tournament; Lavar Curry, all-tournament; and Arnold Jordan, all-tournament.

## State Classic Opens Wednesday

The first annual Tar Heel State Classic basketball tournament for boys ages 10-12 is slated to begin Wednesday afternoon at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Action gets underway at 4 p. m. with Idlewild of Charlotte facing East Lincoln.

Games will be played Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, beginning at 4 p. m., and Saturday, beginning at 12 noon.

Twelve teams are entered in the event.

Other opening round games Wednesday include Belmont against Salvation Army Boys Club of Charlotte, Kings Mountain against Bolling Springs, and Winterfield of Charlotte against Westbury of Greensboro. The winner of the Idlewild-East Lincoln game will advance into a game against Greensboro Wednesday at 8 o'clock and the winner of the Belmont-SABC game will play a 9 o'clock game against the Police Athletic League of Charlotte.

Other teams drawing byes, and who will not play until Thursday, are Alexander County and Kinston. Alexander will meet the winner of the Kings Mountain-Bolling Springs game Thursday at 4 p. m. and Kinston will face the winner of the Winterfield-Westbury game Thursday at 5 p. m.

The Kings Mountain roster includes Wes Champion, Lavar Curry, Anthony Petty, Bill Hunt, Arnold Jordan, Kevin Wheeler, Pete Alexander, Curt Pressley, Boyd Thompson, Dan Ayscue, Sammy Godwin and Todd Reid. Coaches are Kevin Tinsley and Jim Littlejohn. All areas of North

Carolina except the far west are represented in the double-elimination tournament. The West could not send any teams because schools in that area are in progress this week.

The tournament is being sponsored by the Kings Mountain Optimist Club.

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