

Humiliate Grandview 68-40

# Patriots Edge Closer To Western Crown

By GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots leaped their biggest hurdle en route to the Western Junior High Athletic Association championship Thursday when they humiliated Grandview of Hickory 68-40 in a game played in the KMJH gym.

The victory gave Coach Ken Napier's charges an 11-1 conference mark heading into a game yesterday against East McDowell. Grandview, the only team to defeat the Patriots, fell to 10-2 and into a second place tie with College Park, also of Hickory.

Kings Mountain trailed only once in the contest, that at 2-0 after an opening bucket by Grandview's talented 6-5 center, Ronald Carlson. But after ties of 2-2 and 4-4, the Patriots completely shut off the Grandview offense and breezed to victory.

"I feel like all of our guys did an excellent job," noted Napier, who is closing in on his third conference championship in four years. "Everybody played and played well. We feel like this victory is a culmination of a lot of hard work over the past two months."

The Patriots ran off 12 straight points after a 4-4 tie to lead by 16-4 after the first period of play. They led 29-18 at halftime and 41-21 going into the fourth quarter.

"We went back to the basic fundamentals and really executed well," said Napier. "This is our first victory ever over Grandview so this was a real fine win in more ways than one."

Carl Smith played his usual good game for the Pats, leading all scorers with 22 points. Demetrius Goode added 14, Todd Wray 10 and Marvin Petty and Thomas Bess eight each. The hot-shooting Patriots hit 47 percent of their field goal attempts against a much-taller

Grandview five.

"Terrence Blalock did an excellent job of passing the ball," said Napier. "He had six assists. Jimmy Brown did an excellent job of running the team in the first half. He kept us organized on offense and charged up the defense real well for us.

"The important part of the game for us was the first quarter," he went on. "We cut Carlson off inside and that enabled us to get our defensive strategy going. We had it planned

that after the first shot Todd Wray would block Carlson off the boards. He did a real good job on Carlson and that enabled Goode to control the boards for us." Goode finished with a game-high 10 rebounds and Blalock

added eight.

"Our ability to change defenses really paid off for us too," he added. "We went from a 1-2-2 zone to a halfcourt trap, 2-3 zone and a man to man. That confused them so much they couldn't get their offense organized.

"We looked a little ragged at the beginning of the second half," he added, "but we put 27 points on the board in the fourth quarter. That's our second biggest output of the year for one quarter. We really had our fastbreak going."

The Patriots were aided in the fourth quarter by three technical fouls called on the Grandview coach for delaying the game after one of his players fouled out.

"This is probably the most explosive ballclub I have ever coached," said Napier. "They have the ability to play in spurts. They can score 12-16 points

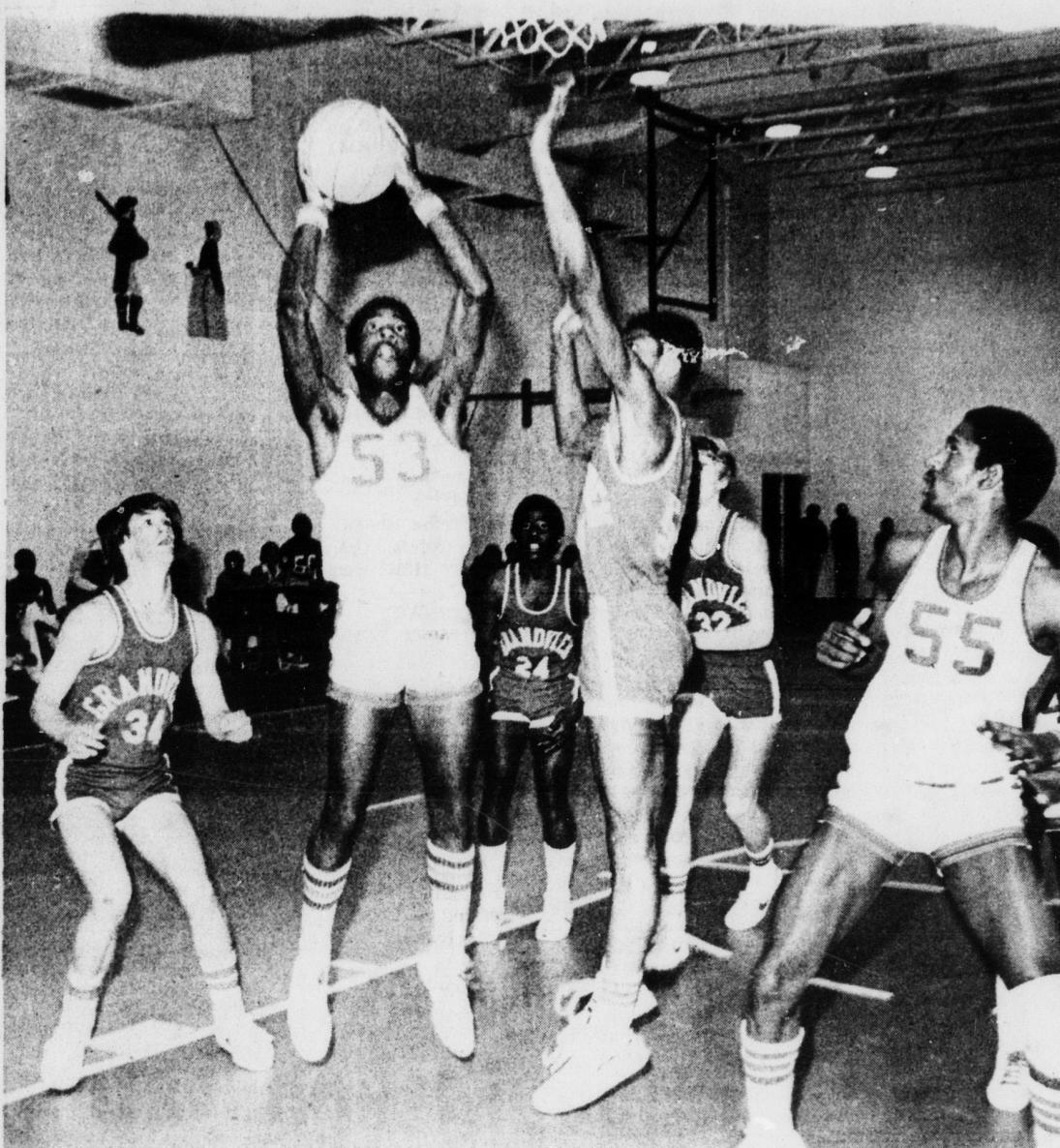


Photo By Gary Stewart

**GOOD(E) SHOT** — Kings Mountain Junior High's Demetrius Goode (53) fires a jump shot over Grandview's Ronald Carlson in Western Junior High Athletic Association game Thursday at the KMJH gym. The

Patriots won 68-40 to take over sole possession of first place. The Pats close out their conference season Thursday at Shelby.

## KMHS Girls Win, Mounties Lose To First Place R-S

Kings Mountain High's cagers divided a Southwestern 3-A Conference doubleheader Friday night at R-S Central, the girls winning 57-50 and the boys losing to the first place Hilltoppers 79-69.

The Mountaineers blew a 25-point lead in the second half but then came back strong late in the fourth quarter to post their 10th SWC victory in 16 outings.

Priscilla Rickenbacker and Diane Williams paced the KMHS attack with 20 and 18 points, respectively. Williams was the game's top rebounder with 10 and Rickenbacker added eight.

Kings Mountain jumped out to a 21-8 lead in the first period and went into the halftime break with a 39-29 advantage. But Sheryl Goode's basket were the only two points the Mountaineers could manage in the third quarter and by the time the fourth period rolled around the Mountaineers were behind 44-41.

But behind some big free throws by Rickenbacker, the Mountaineers outscored the Lady Hilltoppers 16-6 in the final eight minutes to clinch the victory.

The Mountaineers hit 37 percent from the floor (32 of 83).

The Mountaineers return home tonight for their final home games of the season against a pair of talented South Point teams. KMHS completes its SWC schedule Friday night at Crest and then travels to Hunter Huss Saturday for a non-conference game.

The annual SWC tournament is scheduled to get underway next Monday night at Chase High School.

### GIRLS GAME

KM (57) — Hickman 2, Rickenbacker 10, Littlejohn 8, Williams 18, Goode 5, Appling 4.

RS (50) — Forney 2, Rogers 10, Duffy 6, Lynch 16, Young 8, Segal 4, Edwards 4.

### BOYS GAME

KM (69) — Dixon 13, Prescott 8, Adams 17, McClain 8, H. Hager 4, Guinn 16, McGill 8.

RS (79) — Aiken 17, B. Smith 9, Hamilton 26, Michael 21, Harris 5, J. Smith 1.

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