

Pats Clinch WC Co-Title

Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots clinched at least a share of the Western Junior High Athletic Association basketball title Monday when they defeated East McDowell 73-35 to run their record to 12-1.

Coach Ken Napier's charges have a one-game lead over College Park of Hickory heading into their final game this afternoon at Shelby. A victory over the Blue Devils would give the Patriots their first Western Association title and their third conference championship in the past four years. The Patriots won back-to-back Foothills Conference titles in 1975-76 and 1976-77 before joining the Western group.

Kings Mountain got off to a sluggish start Monday, falling behind 16-12 after the first period. But the Patriots heated up in the second quarter and by halftime had the game in hand, 33-22.

Sectional

Tournament

In Charlotte

From 3-A

seeds are 105 pound Tracy Schift of South Point, 145 pound Darron Smith of East Gaston and 167 pound Richard Lewis of East Gaston; and number four seeds include 132 pound Jeff Baker of East Gaston.

Action gets underway Friday at 12:30 p. m. and semi-finals action gets underway at 2:30 p. m. Saturday. The top four wrestlers in the 119 and 155 pound classes and the top three in all the other classes will advance to the Western Regionals next Friday and Saturday at Hickory High School. The top eight wrestlers in each division at Hickory will advance to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association tournament February 23-24 in Winston-Salem.

Carl Smith led the KM scoring attack with 15 points, Demetrius Goode added 13 and Thomas Bess 12. Kings Mountain set a school assist record with 44. Tim Bell had nine, Smith and Jimmy Brown seven each, and every other Patriot at least one each.

"We stood around on defense and let them get their offense going on us in the first quarter," noted Napier. "But we started to press in the second quarter and got some big steals which put us into an 11-point lead at halftime.

"After halftime we came out and really used our presses to our advantage," he added. "We intercepted the ball several times and got a good fastbreak going on them." By the end of the third quarter, the Pats had a commandable 55-28 advantage.

"We had real good offensive continuity," he added, pointing to the assist record. "Everybody passed the ball real well. It's real good to see the kids want to pass the ball like that.

"The big key for us, though, was our fastbreak in the second half," he said. "We just outran them. We cut off their inside game and forced them to take the long shot."

The Patriots had their lowest shooting percentage of the year, hitting just 37 percent from the floor and 45 percent from the foul line.

"The reason for the low percentages was that everybody got a chance to play," said Napier. "Our second and third teams played the whole fourth quarter and did a real good job."

The Patriot jayvees also provided some excitement Monday as their Frank Parker scored a school record 39 points in a 52-34 victory over East McDowell.

The victory gives Coach Danny McDowell's charges a 9-4 record heading into today's finale with Shelby. Burns leads the league with a 10-3 mark.

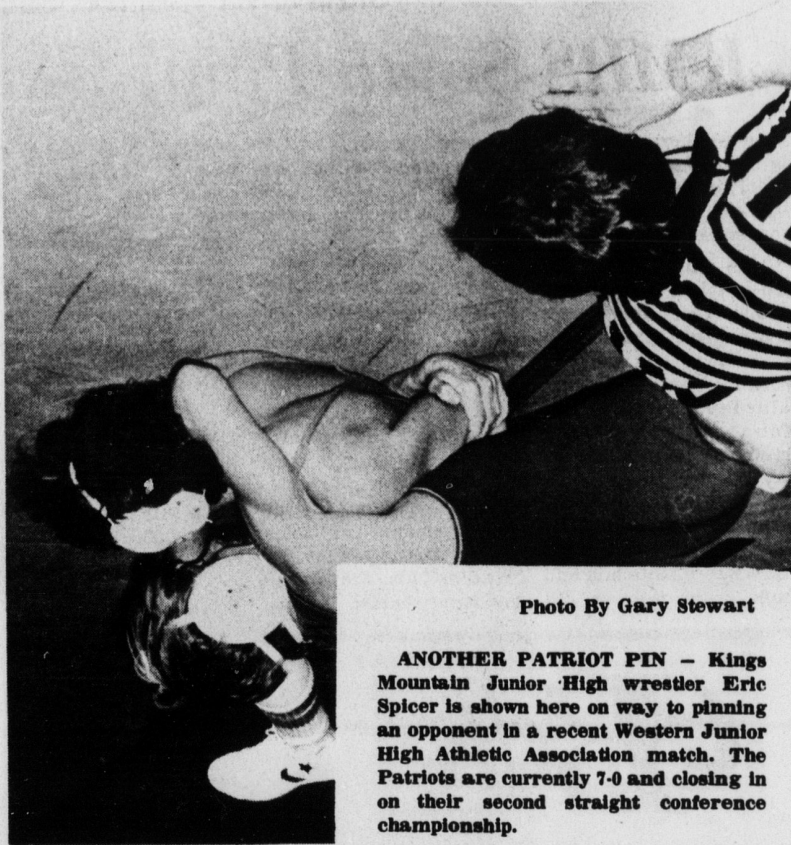


Photo By Gary Stewart

ANOTHER PATRIOT PIN — Kings Mountain Junior High wrestler Eric Spicer is shown here on way to pinning an opponent in a recent Western Junior High Athletic Association match. The Patriots are currently 7-0 and closing in on their second straight conference championship.

SWC Tourney Next Week

KMHS-South Point Games Snowed Out

(Begins on page 3A)

than fifth during the regular season win the tournament. that team would win a berth in the district event and the fifth place team would stay at home.

The KMHS boys are presently in fifth place but

will rank as underdogs in both of their final two contests. If the Mounties lose to both Crest and South Point, they would drop to sixth place and would have to win the SWC tourney to qualify for the district event.

The SWC teams will join

the top three clubs from the Western Piedmont Conference in the district field. The site has not yet been announced but since the district tourney was held at Burns last year, it will probably be played in the Western Piedmont area this year.

Free Spirits

Will Perform

"The Free Spirits" will perform at Saturday night's American Legion dance for members and guests at the American Legion Building. Dancing is from 8:30 until midnight and admission is \$8 per couple.

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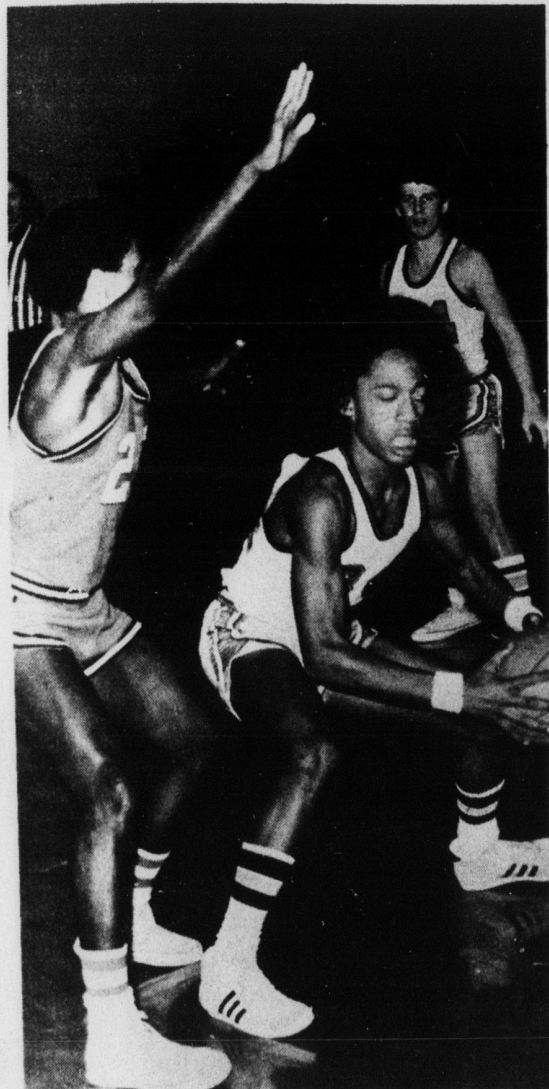
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Paul Ingram trapped by South Point defender in jayvee game at KMHS Tuesday...

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