



Photo by Gary Stewart

CO-CAPTAINS - Kings Mountain High School football coach Dan Brooks is pictured above with his two senior co-captains who'll lead the Mounties into action Friday night.

September 3, against Burns High. Left is tight end Mike Dixon and right is tackle Vernon Stowe.

Mounties To Scrimmage Independence Thursday

Kings Mountain High's football team will get some idea how it will stack up against Southwestern 3-A Conference opposition Thursday night when it travels to Charlotte to take on 4-A Independence High School.

The Patriots are said to be one of the powers of North Carolina prep football this fall and feature an outstanding passing attack.

Coach Dan Brooks, who has not yet decided on his starting lineup for the September 3 SWC opener against Burns, says the performance of players in Thursday's scrimmage will probably determine the lineup.

Brooks is looking at a lot of possibilities. For the first time since 1979, when the Mounties went 8-2, the team is deep in the running back positions and has some veteran performers on the line.

"We're ahead of last year on offense," said Brooks. "On defense, we're playing a lot of different people but I feel like we'll come around."

As the Mounties go into the scrimmage, it appears only a few positions are set. Senior Mike Dixon, a co-captain, appears to have the tight end position locked up and Thomas Putnam is slated to start at the flanker position.

At most other positions, at least two people are still in the running.

"We're going to try to start as many different people as we can," says Brooks. "We'll have a lot of cases where we'll have two people fighting for a position and one will start on offense and the other on defense."

Brooks has been well-pleased with his backfield situation. He has talented performers at every position and is deep enough to where he can have fresh people in the game at all times.

Chris Champion, who was a backup quarterback last fall, appears to have a slight edge at the signal-calling position.

"He's matured a lot," says Brooks. "He can run and he's been throwing the ball well. He's been a good surprise for us. We feel like he can do the job."

Trent Hullender, who started at quarterback last year before being sidelined with an injury, is another possibility, but he's currently on the injured list with a dislocated shoulder. Brooks said he'll definitely miss Thursday's scrimmage but hopes he'll be ready to play by the season's opener.

Todd Cloninger, a southpaw, is also competing for the position along with Brad Reynolds. "Cloninger, fundamentally, is the best quarterback we've got," Brooks said. "But he's not as quick as Champion. Reynolds has had a real good pre-season and will help us a lot."

Brooks has one running back returning, and the addition of one youngster who moved into the school district and two others who sat out last year after playing their sophomore year has given the team much-needed depth in the backfield.

Curt Pressley, who was one of the team's leading rushers as a sophomore last year before suffering an injury that sidelined him for the second half of the

season, is the returnee. Tracy Johnson is a transfer from North Iredell and shows a lot of promise. Roy Mathis and William Short, who played as sophomores but sat out last year, have both had good pre-seasons.

"We have quite a group of good running backs," Brooks said. "I have no idea which two will start, but all of them will see a lot of time running the football. All of them will probably start on defense."

Bringing even more smiles to the faces of the coaching staff are running backs David Parker and Calvin Goode, who are up from the jayvee team, and sophomore Eric Odems, who shows a lot of promise at fullback and as a linebacker on defense.

Brooks has experience on the strong side of his offensive line, with Dixon at tight end and Clint Graham and Vernon Stowe at tackles. Stowe is serving as co-captain along with Dixon.

Stowe's getting a lot of competition at quick tackle from Ricky White and Graham is being pushed at strong tackle by David Puntam. Jay Schronce will probably start at split end but Hullender could also see a lot of action there after he recovers from his injury.

Brooks said he'll choose his center and strong guard from three prospects, Jeff Stokes, Tom Potter and Quinton Rikard. Shawn Rainey and Alan Chapman are battling for the quick guard spot.

(Cont. On Page 4A)

Bryan Jones Fourth In State Tourney

Bryan Jones of Kings Mountain finished fourth in singles competition and teamed with Victor Meir of Raleigh to take second place in doubles in the boys 12 division of the North Carolina State Closed Tennis Championships in High Point August 9-14.

Jones won four matches in singles competition before losing to his doubles partner, Meir, in the semi-finals, 7-6 and 6-4. Meir went on to win the singles competition over John Yancey of Morganton, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Jones opened the tourney with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Gary Hill of Chapel Hill. He then defeated John Ferguson of Greensboro, 6-1 and 6-1, and Jimmy Simons of Greensboro, 6-2 and 6-2. In the quarter-finals, he whipped Thad Langford of Lexington, 7-6, 6-1.

Jones was down 6-2 in the tie-breaker in the first set, but came back to win 10-8. Langford was seeded seventh in singles and Jones was seeded fourth.

In a playoff for third place, Jones lost to Jim Rodgerson 6-2, 6-4.

Jones and Meir, seeded number two, opened doubles action with a bye and then won by default over William Grasky and Brink Sirmions in the second round. In the quarter-finals, they defeated Jeff Davenport and Shane Mobley, 6-0, 6-2, and in the semis, they whipped John Yancey and Murali Basham 6-1, 7-6. In the finals, they lost to the

top-seeded team of Kevin Grotzky and Jim Rodgerson, 6-4, 6-3.

Jones tuned up for the state tourney two weeks earlier by winning both the singles and doubles crowns in the Western

Carolina League Tournament at Hickory.

In singles competition, he won the title over his brother, Brad Jones, 7-6, 6-5. He teamed with Brad to win the doubles crown.

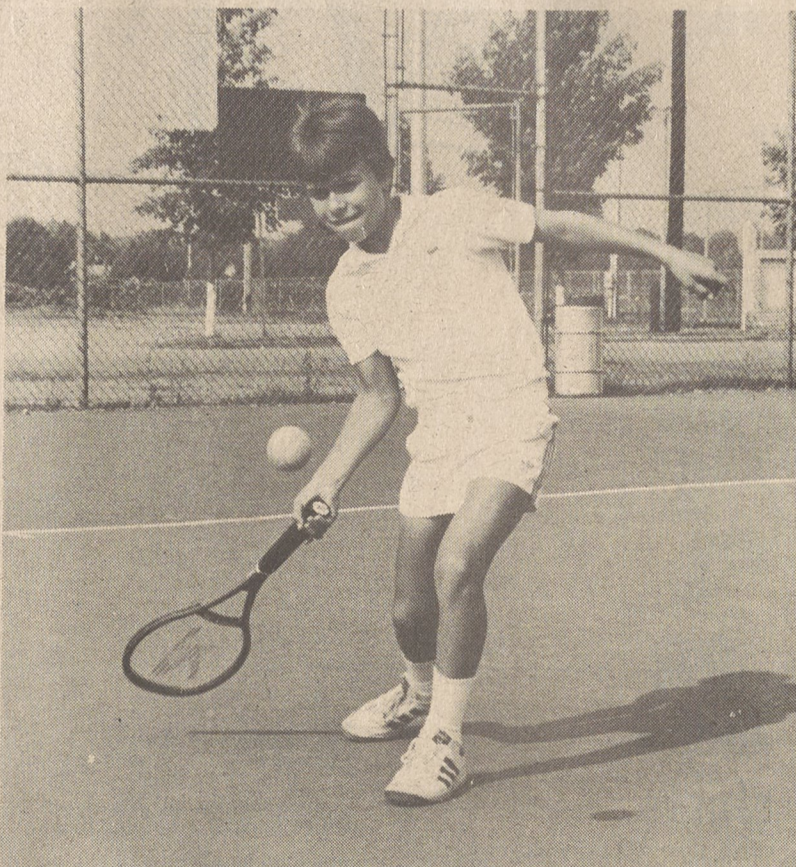


Photo by Gary Stewart

TOUGH IN STATE - Bryan Jones of Kings Mountain had a strong showing recently in the North Carolina State Closed Tennis Championships. Playing in the 12-year-old division, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jones finished fourth in singles competition and teamed with Victor Meir of Raleigh to take second place in doubles.

14 Women Participate In Handicap Tourney

A field of 14 women participated in the Kings Mountain Country Club 1982 Handicap Tournament Saturday and Sunday. Winners of the 36-hole event were as follows:

Championship flight: Peggy Jackson, net 135. Runner-up, Casey Durham, 145.

First flight: Shirley Austin, net 138. Runner-up, Jean Curtis, 146.

Second flight: Scarlett Cook, net 148. Runner-up, Janet Tate, 149.

Other participants included Doris Cloninger, Sue Ann Cloninger, Elaine Grigg, Doris Howze, Connie Ledford, Lynne Mauney, Sylvia Neisler and Anne Pouchak.

Men from the club served sandwiches and drinks. Prizes will be awarded in September at the annual Club Awards Banquet.

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The Ladies Club Championship is set for September 11-12. The fall two-day Foothills event will be held at Rock Barn Golf Course in Conover on September 13-14. Information is available in the pro shop.

BOYS CLUB

The Kings Mountain Boys Club has returned to its fall schedule. The club meets each Tuesday and Thursday from 4-8 p.m. and each Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Central School. Any adults interested in coaching in the Boys Club Basketball League should contact Joey Hopper or Tom Bennett at the Boys Club.

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