



Photo by Gary Stewart

RIBBON WINNER - Stuart Spires of Kings Mountain displays the red ribbon he won for finishing 20th in the one-mile fun run during last Saturday's Charlotte Observer Marathon.

Spires Finishes 20th In Observer Fun Run

Twelve-year-old Stuart Spires of Kings Mountain finished 20th in the one-mile fun run in the Charlotte Observer Marathon Saturday.

Stuart is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Millage Spires of Colonial Apartments.

The Central School sixth grader ran the course in six minutes and 35 seconds.

He was presented a red ribbon for his efforts.

The run was the third for Spires, who has been running for two years. He finished first in his age division in the last two West School Can Do Runs. He plans to participate in a fun run in Wilmington in March.

There were 369 runners in the event. Also participating from Kings Mountain were Daniel Long and Stephen Mauney.

Stuart hopes to move up to the six-mile run in a couple of years.

Several Kings Mountain runners competed in the marathon, which was won by Rich Bogaty of Pittsburgh, Pa., with a time of 2:20.27.

"That was the fastest I've run the mile so far," he noted. "There were all age groups entered, up to 70 years old."

Doug Lawing had the best finish of the KM entrants, finishing 165th among 735 runners. His time was 3:13.24. John Bryson finished 243rd with a time of 3:24.42, Ronald Franks was 423rd with a time of 3:45.05, Jerry Ledford was 470th with a time of 3:51.21, John Gamble was 546th with a time of 4:04.06 and Jerrie Cates was 668th with a time of 4:41.42.

Parks Neisler of Kings Mountain competed in the six-mile run.

Boys Club Cagers Open With Victory

The Kings Mountain Boys Club's midget basketball team (ages 7-10) won its first game of the year Saturday morning, defeating arch rival Shelby 28-16.

Timmy McClain led the scoring for Coach Bobby Bell's Little Tar Heels with nine points. Spencer Brown added eight and Tony Currence six.

David Is Still Unbeaten

David Baptist kept its unbeaten record intact Tuesday by defeating Resurrection Lutheran 43-35 in Church League basketball action at the Community Center.

Bob Bolin led the winners with 12 points. Reggie Blalock had 11 for the losers.

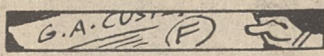
In other games, Long Creek ran its record to 4-1 with a 78-58 win over First Wesleyan and Central Methodist edged First Baptist 38-36.

Billy Robinson scored 30 points to lead the Long Creek win. Bart George had 19 for First Wesleyan.

David Brinkley scored 14 to lead Central over First Baptist. Doug Stover had 12 for the losers.

In games on Tues., Jan. 18, Resurrection will face First Wesleyan, Long Creek battles First Baptist and David takes on Central Methodist. Action begins at 6:30 p.m.

STANDINGS: David 5-0, Long Creek 4-1, First Baptist 2-3, Resurrection 2-3, Central 2-3, First Wesleyan 0-5.



General George A. Custer ranked last in his West Point graduating class of 1861.

KM Grapplers Knock

Off Warriors 31-25

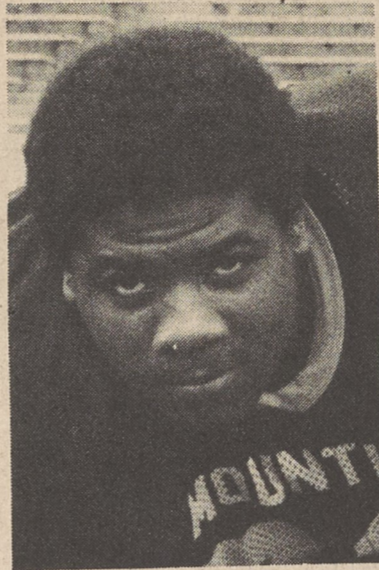
Kings Mountain High's wrestlers pulled off one of their biggest victories ever Thursday night at East Gaston, knocking off the Warriors 31-25 to break their 26-match winning streak.

The Warriors, who have won the past two Southwestern 3-A Conference championships, had not lost a home match in five years under Coach Doug Smith.

The East Gaston matters appeared to have their 27th consecutive victory locked up as they went into the final two matches with a 25-22 lead.

But Kings Mountain's Clinton Graham pulled a major upset over Gaston County Invitational champion Lloyd Mercks in the 195-pound match to tie the score at 25-all, and heavyweight Dale Moore of the Mountaineers pinned Bobby Kirkland in the final bout to swing the match in KM's favor.

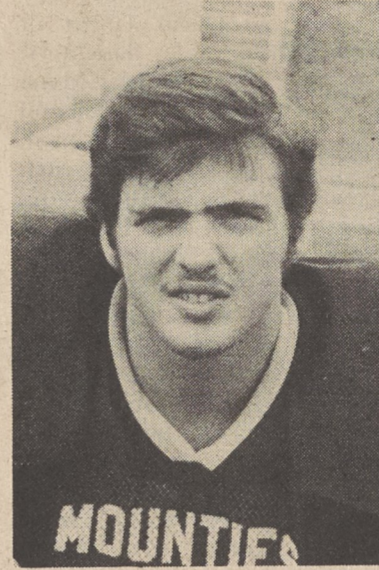
"Clinton Graham really came through for us," said KM Coach Steve Moffitt, who has been runner-up to East Gaston the last two years after winning conference championships in two of



DALE MOORE

his first three years at KMHS. "I know East Gaston thought it was a win for them when they went into the 195-pound match ahead by three points. But Graham went out and wrestled real tough and tied it up for us."

The match see-sawed back and forth all night, with East Gaston taking the lead 25-22 on a superior decision by Chet Spurill over KM's Jeff Stokes in



CLINTON GRAHAM

the 187-pound bout.

"That's one of the biggest win we've ever had," said Moffitt. "If it's not the biggest, it ranks right up there."

"But things won't get any easier for us," he added. "Every conference match is a big one."

The Mountaineers, 1-0 in the SWC and 3-1 overall, face another tough test tonight at

7:30 at the KMHS gym when they face Shelby. The Lions handed the Mounties their only loss of the year earlier in the season in a non-conference match.

"This is going to be a very tough match," said Moffitt. "We're hoping all of our fans will be out tonight, because we'll need all the support we can get."

THE RESULTS

100 - Reggie McDowell (EG) pinned John Fleming; 107 - Tim Hamrick (KM) pinned Jerry Holden; 114 - Farris Turner (KM) dec. Scottie Holden 9-6; 121 - Dale Smart (KM) dec. Jerry Davis 6-2; 128 - Scott Smith (EG) pinned Calvin Goode; 134 - Darren Smith (EG) dec. Jimmy Watkins 4-3; 140 - Todd McDowell (EG) dec. Zack Roseboro 9-8; 147 - David Bradley (KM) dec. Gray Drum 9-3; 157 - David Parker (KM) and Randy Spencer (EG) tied 7-7; 169 - Tommy Welch (KM) pinned Cam Melton; 187 - Chet Spurill (EG) won superior dec. over Jeff Stokes 15-2; 195 - Clinton Graham (KM) dec. Lloyd Mercks 8-5; Unl. - Dale Moore (KM) pinned Bobby Kirkland.

Shelby Defeats Mounties

Kings Mountain High's varsity cagers fell two games off the pace in Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball action Tuesday when they lost a doubleheader at Shelby.

Both Kings Mountain teams are now 5-2 and trailing unbeaten teams. In the Mounties' case, they're two games behind an 11-0 Crest team. The Mountainettes are two games behind unbeaten East Rutherford.

The local fives return home Friday to host East Rutherford and Chase comes to town Tuesday to complete first round action.

Shelby led most of the way in both games Tuesday. The Lady Lions outscored KMHS 15-6 in the second period to build a 25-14 halftime lead and they were out front 46-31 going into the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain continued to get fine inside play from Trina Hamrick and Sonya McClain, who combined for 41 of the team's 56 points. Hamrick scored 21 and McClain 20.

Game scoring honors went to Shelby's Barbara Cannon who scored 27 points. Lisa Smith added 10.

Shelby's boys jumped out to a 21-12 first period lead and held the upper hand the rest of the way. The Lions were out front 42-30 at halftime and 55-47 going into the fourth quarter.

Balanced scoring was the key for the Lions, who placed three players in double figures. Rodney Littlejohn led the way with 19, followed by Tyrone Dillingham with 18 and Terrence Petty with 14.

Kings Mountain placed four men in double figures, with Frank Parker leading the way with 15 points. David Hager added 13, Lavar Curry 11 and Tyrone Grier 10.

GIRLS GAME

KM (56) - Hamrick 21, McClain 20, Roberts 8, Stowe 4, Ingram 3.

SHELBY (62) - B. Cannon 27, Smith 10, Mitchell 4, Oglesby 4, Chamberlain 7, A. Cannon 7, Camp 3.

BOYS GAME

KM (66) - Parker 15, Curry 11, Hager 13, T. Grier 10, A. Grier 6, Peeler 3, Jordan 8, Crocker 2.

SHELBY (77) - Henshaw 2, Cannon 2, Littlejohn 19, Young 7, Poole 2, Borders 9, Heaton 2, Hamrick 2, Petty 14, Dillingham 18.



Paprika is one of the most concentrated sources of Vitamin C.

Girls Lose First Mounties Win Pair, Still In Second Place

Kings Mountain's boys basketballers won two more games last week to maintain their second place standing in the Southwestern 3-A Conference, but the girls fell out of a tie for first place after losing to East Gaston.

The Mountaineers defeated East Gaston 63-51 Tuesday night and Burns 56-44 Friday. The girls were upset by East Gaston 47-39 Tuesday and defeated Burns 53-42 in overtime Friday.

East Gaston's girls, who scored their first win of the year, spent their entire Christmas vacation working on a game plan to stop the high-powered Mountainette attack. They couldn't stop Kings Mountain's talented senior center, Trina Hamrick, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds, but they did succeed in holding down everyone else. Hamrick was the only player in double figures.

East Gaston held a 19-15 first half lead and a 27-26 edge going into the final eight minutes.

The KM girls had to play Friday's game without the services of Hamrick, who was nursing a knee injury, but got a super effort from junior Sonya McClain, who scored a career-high 29 points.

Kings Mountain jumped out to a 12-4 first quarter lead but Burns came back to lead by 19-18 at halftime. The Mountainettes held a 28-27 lead going into the fourth period but had to have a last-second basket from McClain to send the game into overtime. The KM five outscored Burns 11-0 in the extra period.

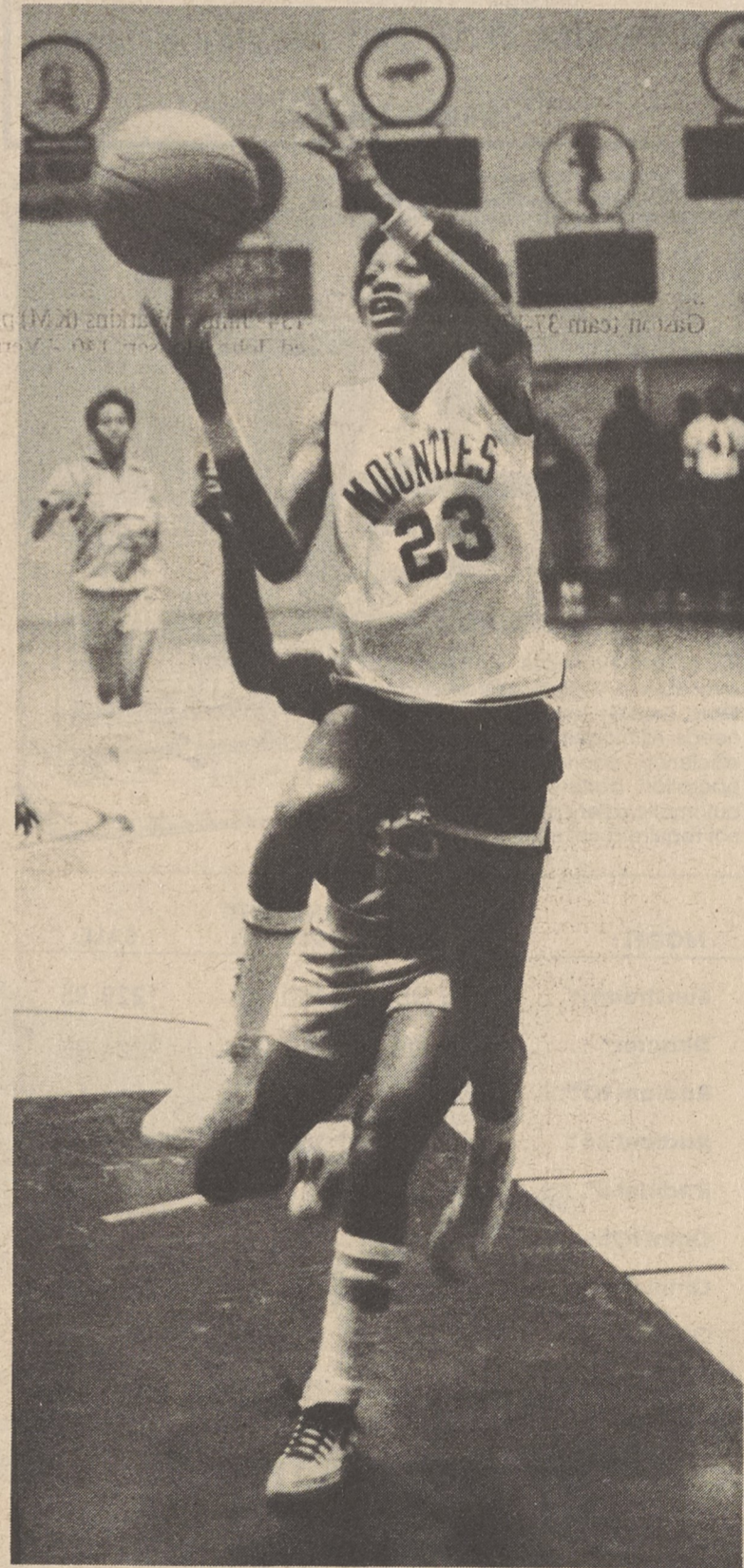
Frank Parker scored 17 points and Lavar Curry 14 to lead the Mounties over East Gaston Tuesday.

The Mounties held only a 16-12 first quarter lead and a 30-28 halftime edge, but gradually pulled away in the second half.

Curry and Tyrone Grier scored 12 points each and Parker added 10 to lead the Mounties over Burns Friday. Burns failed to place a player in double figures.

Kings Mountain trailed 14-12 after the first quarter but came back to lead by 24-23 at the half and 37-29 going into the fourth quarter.

The two KM teams face a tough conference test Friday at home against East Rutherford. The East Rutherford girls are undefeated and the Mountainettes need a win to regain a share of the league lead. The two KM teams host Chase next Tuesday.



SONYA McCLAIN

...Scores 29 At Burns

TUESDAY GAMES

(Girls)

KM (39) - Hamrick 19, Curry 4, Roberts 4, Stowe 4, McClain 8.

EG (47) - Brooks 18, Kennedy 7, Hogan 7, Moore 12, Burrell 3.

(Boys)

KM (63) - Parker 17, Hager 8, Curry 14, T. Grier 4, A. Grier 6, Crocker 6, Farley 2, Pressley 6.

EG (51) - Shipp 19, Cavin 8, Skidmore 8, Nichols 2, Wallace 10, Randleman 2, Wright 2.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

(Girls)

KM (53) - McClain 29, Curry 12, Stowe 8, Roberts 2, Ware 2.

BURNS (42) - Shuford 11, Haynes 8, Clyde 10, Brown 4, Williams 9.

(Boys)

KM (56) - Curry 12, Parker 10, T. Grier 12, A. Grier 9, Pressley 5, Jordan 2, Peeler 2, Hager 4.

BURNS (44) - Poston 6, Peeler 8, Curry 3, Brown 5, Whitworth 2, P. King 5, Richards 8, Mauney 2, G. King 2, Banks 3.