

DOREEN PETTUS

Tied For Second

Mounties Sweep Chase Teams Friday

SPORTS

Kings Mountain High's basketballers closed out the pre-Christmas portion of their 1983-84 schedule Friday at home with a sweep of Chase's Trojans.

The girls scored a 48-40 victory and the boys posted a 75-60 win. Both teams are 3-1 in Southwestern 3-A Conference play and tied for second place behind unbeaten R-S Central teams.

The Mountainettes will be idle until January 3, when the KM teams resume conference action against East Gaston. The boys will play Tuesday and Wednes-

day of next week in the Hunter Huss Holiday Doubleheaders. Kings Mountain will meet Ashbrook at 7 p.m. on Tuesday and South Point will battle Huss at 8:30. On Wednesday, South Point will play Ashbrook at 7 p.m. and Kings Mountain will face Huss at 8:30.

Kings Mountain's girls started slowly but caught fire late in the

second period and went on to post their fifth win in seven decisions.

Sonya McClain was KM's leading scorer for the seventh game in a row with 15 points. Doreen Pettus had her best scoring night of the year with 13 points.

Anita Ware had another big game on the boards with 10 re-

bounds. McClain added nine rebounds, two steals and four assists. Joanna Boheler had eight assists and Lisa Ingram had six points, four assists and four steals.

The Mountaineers blazed out to a 21-10 first quarter lead and were never headed as they posted their fourth win in six outings. The Mounties stretched their lead to 45-23 at intermission and 63-40 going into the fourth quarter.

Greg Young led four double-digit scorers for KM with 16 points. Arnold Jordan added 13

and Lavar Curry and Casey Roberts had 12 apiece.

GIRLS GAME

KM (48) - S. McClain 15, Pettus 13, Ingram 6, Woods 6, Parker 2, Ware 2, Roberts 1, Curry 1, S. Moore 1, L. Moore 1.

C (40) - Taylor 16, Metcalf 10, Dewberry 8, Phillips 4, Camp 2.

BOYS GAME

KM (75) - Young 16, Jordan 13, Curry 12, Roberts 12, Grier 9, Lewis 4, D. Crocker 4, L. Crocker 3, Ballew 2.

C (60) - Watkins 12, Randleman 5, Kemp 5, Broome 5, Sikes 4, Wallace 4.

KM Cagers Runner-Up In Tourney

Two Kings Mountain Boys Club basketball teams participated in the Christmas Classic Tournament last weekend in Columbia, S.C. Ten teams from North and South Carolina participated.

Kings Mountain's number one team, coached by Danny McDowell, finished second to Sumter, S.C.

The team won its first game against Gaffney, 56-25, as Sidney Brown scored 14 points, Raynard Roberts nine and Aubrey Hollifield eight.

In the semi-finals, KM defeated Columbia 56-22. Lenny Rayford led the scoring with 10 points and Roberts and Derik Jordan added eight each.

Kings Mountain's number two team lost its opener, 49-38 to Columbia. Philip Ramsey led KM with 10 points and Rick Scruggs scored seven.

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SECOND PLACE - The Kings Mountain Boys Club team pictured above finished second in the Columbia, S.C., Christmas Tournament last weekend. Front row, left to right, are Lenny Rayford, Jerry Jordan, Aubrey Hollifield and Jerral Smith. Second row, Dennis Wofford, Derik Jordan, Sidney Brown, Mike Woods and Tracey Williams.

INSIDE STUFF



By DICK DEVENZIO

The Big Test Wasn't That Big

It was a waste of time going up to Syracuse for the game that, down here, was billed as a big test for the Tar Heels.

No one up there seemed to think Syracuse had a chance, not the NY newspapers and not many of the 32,000 who obviously had come more to see the nation's number one team than their own team. It made me wonder how much the pre-game hype down here had been orchestrated by Coach Smith.

In particular, Coach Smith varied from normal pre-game scripts by calling attention to the Kenny Smith-Pearl Washington match up.

Coaches usually make such a point of down-playing personal matchups, while emphasizing that basketball is a team game.

But in this case, Coach Smith said publicly that he was interested in the personal matchup, and of course, so was Sports Illustrated, who was there to cover Pearl Washington, the flashier of the two New-York-high-school-friends-and-rivals.

Was Coach Smith particularly interested in the matchup because he felt confident of how it was going to turn out? No coach ever knows for sure how something is going to turn out.

But he must have felt that it would turn out as it did—Kenny Smith was poised and confident and ran the Carolina show like no one has since Phil Ford. (Kenny Smith is a much better outside shooter than Jimmy Black was.)

Meanwhile, the great Pearl was showing off his outstanding physical tools early, going by Smith just about whenever he felt like it, but ending up with forced passes and shots that made him look inexperienced more than talented.

Coach Smith was also quick to point out how aggressive Sam Perkins was on the boards, without question in rebuttal to Sports Illustrated's recent contention that Perkins is too often lackadaisical.

All of this points up one of the dimensions of Dean Smith—his attention to people, personalities, and egos. I remember a scrimmage we had with Carolina when I was playing at Duke.

Our regular season schedules were completed and the two teams scrimmaged together to get ready for the NIT in New York.

At one point in the practice, Carolina was pressing us and I threw a long baseball pass that went out of bounds which immediately made by coach yell "Don't throw a long pass against a press."

A comment like that can make a player feel very small—and angry—especially when you're convinced it was a good pass that should have brought criticism to the cutter-who-stopped-running.

Anyway, Coach Smith handed me another ball to put in play, and whispered so that no one in the gym could even know he spoke a word to me, "At Carolina, we'd let you throw that pass." They were just the right words at the right time.

I didn't set out to make this article a homage to Dean Smith, but moreso to explain his sensitivity to players' egos and to the media, as well as perhaps his skill in manipulating the media. But in the process the ideas took on a different direction—which for me is the distinct thrill of writing—and I am not going to apologize to fans of other ACC schools for my open admiration of Dean Smith.

The man is in the Hall of Fame already, long before there is even talk of his retirement, and let's face it, he's an absolute master at what he does. When he does something in a game that I disagree with, I immediately examine carefully my thoughts and reasons.

When (even) Carolina fans groan at times when he goes into the four corners, or uses some other tactic, you have to groan with the accompanying recognition that this man knows more basketball than anyone else, and he does almost nothing impulsively.

Every action is weighed and carefully evaluated in advance. In fact, this robot-like efficiency is perhaps more than anything else an area for criticism—often he just doesn't seem human enough.

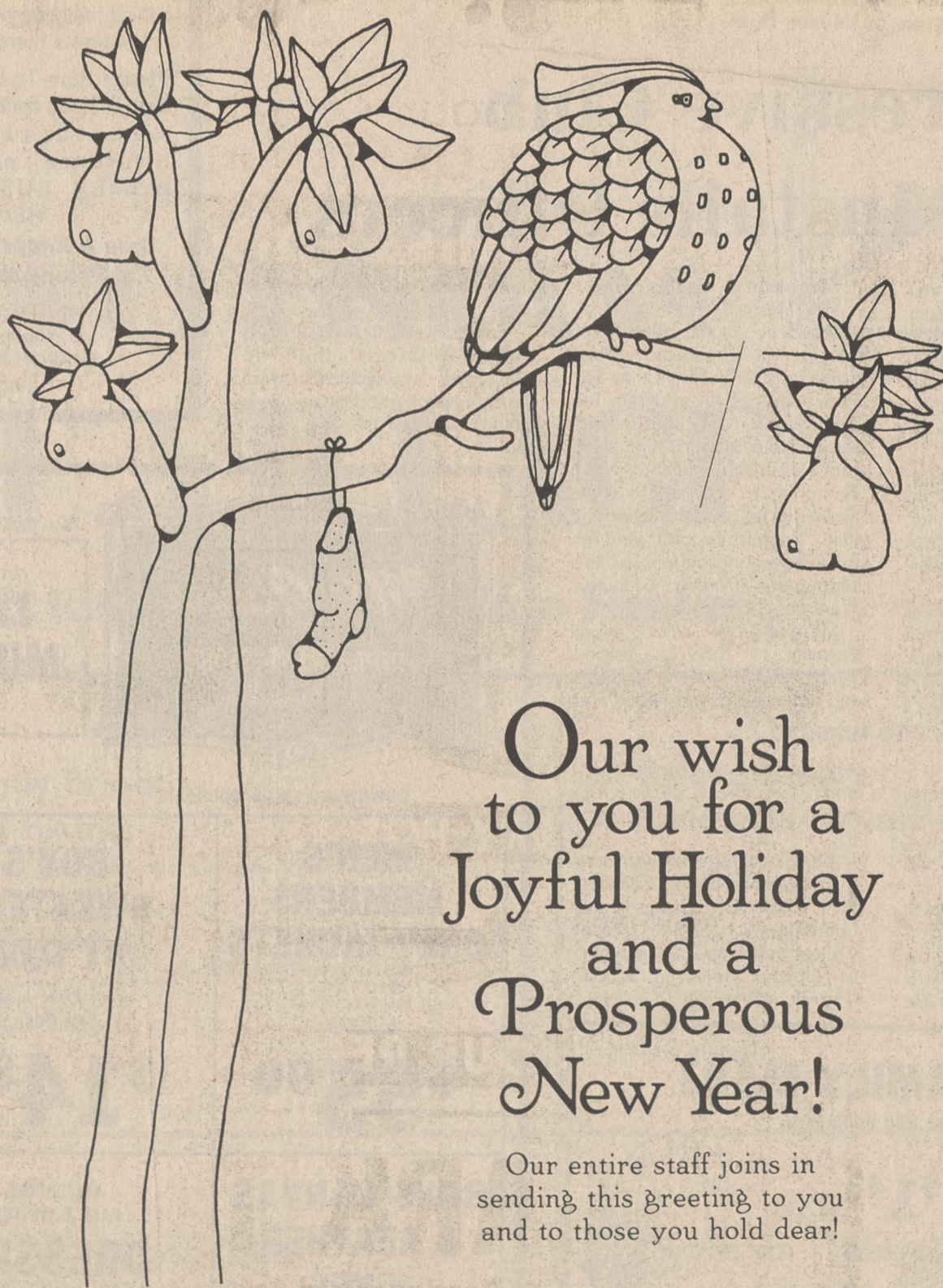
In any case, he wasn't even at the Carrier Dome at Noon Saturday when his team took the court to get accustomed to the rims and playing surface.

But Assistant Coach Bill Guthridge had the team running warm-up laps before the last guy had even gotten through the doorway.

It was cold in there, about 50 degrees, when the Heels warmed up.

But you don't hear a word of complaint. That's the kind of class that comes only from the best upbringing, and when they blew out Syracuse with red hot basketball that night, it was no surprise. It was one simple part of a number one act.

This Column Sponsored
By Wade Ford



Our wish
to you for a
Joyful Holiday
and a
Prosperous
New Year!

Our entire staff joins in
sending this greeting to you
and to those you hold dear!

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