

Photo by Gary Stewart

**RUNNING THE OPTION** - Kings Mountain quarterback Roderick Boyce (12) finds a small opening on an option run in Saturday's state playoff game at Shelby. Mountaineer blockers include Tracy Williams (72), Sam Smith (33) and Donald Mauney (64). Mountaineers won 7-0.

## KMHS Cagers Open Tuesday

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams open their season Tuesday with a tripleheader at Providence Day School in Charlotte.

Jayvee action begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by the varsity twinbill beginning at 6:30.

The Mountaineers are expected to be one of the favorites in the Southwestern 3-A Conference this year but Coach Larry Sipe has had a tough coaching job early

because some of his top players are members of the Mountaineer football team which is still involved in the state playoffs. The of the players who are already on the basketball team have good talent and are putting forth a good effort, Sipe said, but most of them are playing out of position.

The Mountaineers recently scrimmaged East Gaston and Myers Park, and Sipe said they showed much im-

provement in the Myers Park scrimmage.

"I don't know how long it will take us to get going," said Sipe, "but the kids want to play ball. I guarantee you that they'll give a good effort."

John Pettis is presently playing the point guard, a position which is foreign to him. Travis Crocker and Denorris Wilson are on the wings and Lenny Rayford and Mike Woods inside.

Other members of the team are Stephen Mauney, Jerrell Smith and Scott Byers. Sipe expects Aubrey Hollifield, Jerry Jordan, Edwin Sherer, Monyel McCullough and Otis Brooks to join the team at the end of the football season.

At present, Woods is the team's tallest player at 6-4, Rayford and Wilson are 6-1, and Mauney and Crocker 6-0.

"We're giving up a lot of height," said Sipe, "but rebounding is a matter of positioning and the kids are working hard at that. Against East Gaston, we were outrebounded 24 to 8 on the offensive boards, but we were much improved against Myers Park, matching them with 15 rebounds apiece."

Sipe plans to stick with a man-to-man defense and utilize his team's quickness. "We can't play man-to-man as long as we'd like because of our depth situation," Sipe said, "but a good defense can make your offense. You can get some easy shots off a good man-to-man defense."

The Mountaineers are rated 10th in one state prep poll and are figured to be the strongest threat to perennial power R-S Central in the Southwestern 3-A Conference race. Sipe's team finished second to Shelby in last year's summer league and feels his team has a lot of potential.

"Right now, I'd say R-S Central is in the driver's seat and that you could put Shelby, Burns and Kings Mountain in a bag and draw a team for second, third and fourth," Sipe said. "Right now, we're living from week to week, but we want to do well. We've won 35 games the past two years and we want to have it up to 50 before the year's over."

"R-S has a lot of tradition and have two All-Conference players back in Reggie Smith and Tim Kincaid," he said. "I was very impressed with Shelby this summer and Burns has a lot of talent. We've got a lot of talent, too. Our juniors have been together since the seventh grade. They went 14-1 as ninth graders and were a big reason we went 20-7 last year. With us, it's just a question of smoothing everything out. We have some good athletes and it won't take them long to get going."

The Mountaineers, whose first home game is against East Lincoln on December 6, will compete in the annual SWC tournament beginning February 17, and the top six teams from the SWC will compete in the Sectional Tournament at G-W. The con-

ference will be guaranteed at least one team in the Western Regionals.

"It's really going to be strange not playing Crest and East Gaston," said Sipe. "But we still have eight good teams in our conference. It's going to be a good race."

Kings Mountain's girls, coached by third year mentor Diana Bridges, will be rebuilding after losing three starters off last year's team.

Top returnee for the Mountaineers is junior center Regina Brown, who developed into one of the top players in the SWC last year. Senior Susie Moore returns at guard.

Others who will probably start include juniors Laura Crocker and Lisa McClain at the forward positions. Bridges said the point guard position is still a tossup between sophomores Melissa Helms and Selma Epps.

Other members of the team are Lori McCoy, Diane Chaffee, Shannon Stroupe, Shanna Robinson and Africa Godfrey.

"Right now, we're a big question mark," said Bridges. "We have a good inside game. Brown and

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### REGISTRATION

Registration is underway for the 1985-86 winter basketball program at the Kings Mountain Boys Club. Any boy age seven to 16 may join. There is no fee.

Youngsters may register this Thursday and Saturday, and next Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the Boys Club at Central School. Club hours are 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call Club Director Danny McDowell at 739-7161 during club hours or Tom Bennett at 739-3667. Anyone interested in coaching a team this winter should also call the above numbers.



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## ACC INSIDE STUFF

Dick DeVenio

ACC fans are mostly relieved that football season has just about come to an end. The Big Four teams are dismal this year; and Clemson, usually the league's one star, put on a ridiculous exhibition of sportsmanship in the recent TV game with Maryland.

You't can't truly blame anyone but the coach. He went deliberately onto the field, happy to get a penalty, knowing there was nothing the officials could do. A penalty couldn't hurt, the game was already lost. The ACC slapped his hands with a probation.

The incident is over, but it highlights a general malaise that I have never quite understood. Why do announcers almost universally ignore coaches' shenanigans on the bench or sidelines? Coaches whose sportsmanship is abominable are referred to as great competitors. Some, like Charles Driesell, are called "colorful."

I have never thought of coaches jumping around as particularly colorful. They always look like buffoons to me. Mostly I think they should shut up and coach their teams.

What I am saying is that we tolerate the actions of hot tempered coaches, and even invite them to speak at banquets, and seem to hold them in high esteem.

When was the last time you were at a game where the home fans booed their coach for yelling at referees?

Billy Packer and Al McGuire elevate this to an art, calling it "working the referees."

So, we get what we pay for. If announcers start getting berated for calling a lack of sportsmanship "competitive," and if coaches start getting thousands of letters rebuking them for their rambunctious bench conduct, they'll stop.

Without these reactions from us, coaches will keep playing to the fans, and occasionally some players will pick up on their coaches' attitudes and punch out the other team when things aren't going their way. When Clemson Coach Danny Ford said "To hell with the rules" at the end of the Maryland game, why should we expect that his players would do anything less?

It all makes perfect sense.

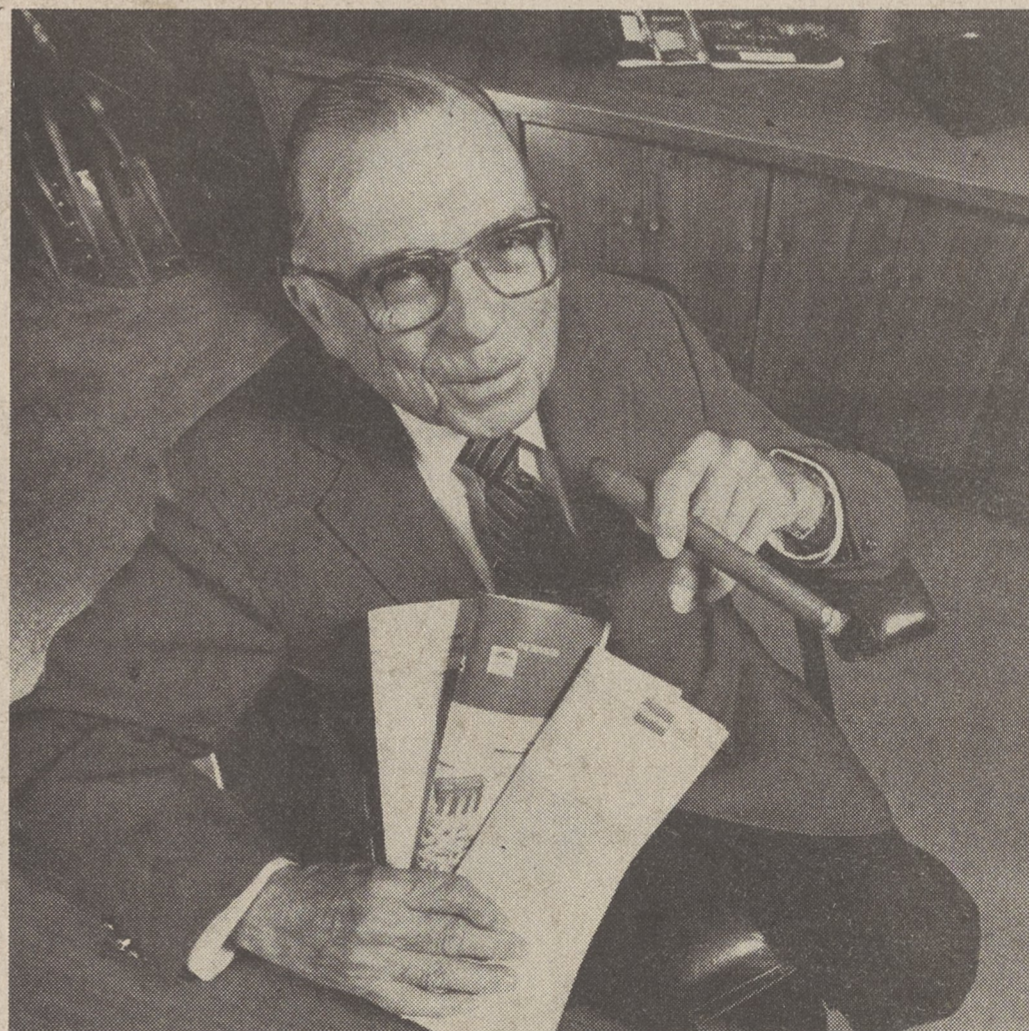
You would be surprised to hear how many ACC basketball coaches will tell their players this season — as if it is some great lesson — "Don't argue with the referees. If there are any technical fouls to be gotten, I will get them."

Why should anyone get one? You know, it would be possible to say, "If anyone gets a technical foul — the coach included — he will miss five games." It seems a harsh penalty at first, with the current level (or lack) of sportsmanship. But if everyone just concentrated on doing his job — players on playing, coaches on coaching — there wouldn't be any need for technical fouls.

If I were boss of collegiate sports I would make a rule: No talking of any kind to referees, even to ask a question. A word equals immediate expulsion. If a player or coach wants anything communicated to the referees, it must be done in writing — and there would be 15 yard penalties and technical fouls assessed for misspelled words and incorrect English usage.

I have always taken this student-athlete thing seriously. Don't you wonder how many coaches could stand up under the strain of having to register a quick protest flawlessly, on paper?

You probably think I'm kidding about the whole thing. But don't bet on it. I've always thought coaches got entirely too much attention and have entirely too much power.



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