

Wrestlers Go After 9th Title

Kings Mountain Junior High's wrestlers, winners of eight straight Western N.C. Junior High Athletic Association titles, begin their season Monday at 4 p.m. at Central School against West Lincoln.

Coach Phil Weathers, whose team has never lost a conference match, is rebuilding this year after losing all but four of his starters. Most of his starters from a year ago moved up to the senior high ranks and he lost one wrestler, Sterling Feaster, to Shelby Junior High.

"We have a long way to go," says Weathers. "We have a good group of kids, but we're very young. After we get a match or two under our belts, we'll be alright."

Returnees include 167-pound freshman Bradley Henderson, 105-pound eighth grader Tracy Sullens, 119-pound freshman Lyn Godard and 112-pound freshman Johnny Nations.

"I'll be looking to those four to provide a lot of wins and a lot of leadership for us," Weathers said.

The Patriots again play a tough schedule, meeting each county school twice on a home-and-away basis, and facing some of the toughest non-conference teams around, including West Lincoln, Hudson, St. Stephens, Granite Falls and Castle Heights.

"I look to Crest and Shelby to provide the stiffest competition in the conference, and Burns will also be much improved," Weathers said. "Our conference gets stronger every year."

Members of the team, in addition to the above-mentioned grapplers, include James Adams, Aaron Anderson, Scott Belcher, Kevin Bess, Dale Bowen, Frank Bowers, Chad Bridges, Chris Brown, Ron Burton, Jonathon Chapman, Brian Dellinger, Robert Ervin, Brady Goforth, Ray Graham, Chuck Guin, Todd Haskins, Michael Heavner, Chris Henson, Andy Hollifield, Jimbo Thompson, Derek Williams, Tony Wilson, Fred Byrd, Thurman Young, Chad Leigh, Reggie Moss, Todd Parker, Jay Richardson, Cecil Riddle, Chris Robbins, Steve Robbins, Shannon Sanders, Audy Spencer, Clint Spicer, Mark Stacy, Larry Stone, Mike Taylor and D.J. Williams.

THE SCHEDULE

Dec. 2 - West Lincoln; Dec. 4 - at Burns; Dec. 11 - at Crest; Dec. 16 - St. Stephens; Dec. 18 - Shelby; Jan. 8 - Burns; Jan. 9 - at W. Lincoln; Jan. 13 - at Hudson; Jan. 15 - Crest; Jan. 21 - at Shelby; Jan. 22 - Granite Falls; Jan. 27 - Castle Heights.

Mounties Shutout Lions 7-0

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and were backed out of field goal range. Shelby stopped the drive with a pass interception at the five.

The Mountaineer defense kept the Shelby offense backed up most of the second half and only after a close pass interference call against the Mounties did the Lions manage to gain decent field position in the fourth quarter.

"I think one of the biggest keys was late in the third quarter when, in about eight plays, the Shelby field position changed from our 30 to about their two or three," Hicks said. "That put them in a position to try to get back in decent field position the rest of the ballgame."

The victory enabled the Mountaineers to set a new school record for the most victories in a single season. This year's team had shared the record of 10 wins with the 1926, 1955, 1956 and 1964 teams.

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