

# Football Was King Of Mountain In 1985

Football returned as king of sports in Kings Mountain in 1985. The Kings Mountain High team and many of its players and coaches were the top sports story-makers, along with former Mountaineer standout Kevin Mack of the Cleveland Browns who made his mark on the pro scene.

The Mountaineers had their winningest season ever (11-2) and made it to the third round of the State 3-A playoffs. They set school records for victories (11), most points scored in a single season (297) and tied the mark for the most points scored in a single game when they blanked Chase 59-0 in their homecoming game.

The Mountaineers won their first three games, all non-conference affairs, before falling to Shelby 10-0 in the first Southwestern 3-A Conference game. They then reeled off eight straight victories (including a forfeit win over South Point) before falling to Brevard 3-0 in the rain in the third round of the state playoffs. Playoff wins were over Canton Pisgah (14-13) and Shelby (7-0).

Many Mountaineer players and coaches were recognized for their efforts, including:

\*Head Coach Denny Hicks, who was named North Carolina Coach of the Year by the Associated Press.

\*Tackle Calvin Stephens, who was All-Conference on both offense and defense, All-Piedmont on offense, honorable mention All-State by the Associated Press, and Kings Mountain's first Shrine Bowler since 1957. Stephens started at defensive tackle for the N.C. Shrine Bowl squad in a 49-14 loss to South Carolina.

\*Guard-linebacker Donald Mauney, who was All-Conference on both offense and defense and honorable mention All-Piedmont.

\*Quarterback Roderick Boyce, All-Conference.

\*Linebacker Aubrey Hollifield, All-Conference.

\*Defensive back Edwin Sherer, All-Piedmont and honorable mention All-State by the AP.

\*Halfback Jerry Jordan, All-Conference.

The Mountaineers had two individual record-setters. Sherer set a school record for the most pass interceptions (9) in a single season, and placekicker Rusty Bumgardner set records for the most points scored kicking in a single game (11 against Chase) and most points kicking in a single season (37).



KM's Winningest Team Ever

Success on the gridiron also was enjoyed by the jayvee team at KMHS and the KM Junior High team. For the first time ever, Kings Mountain combined its ninth and 10th grade teams and posted a 7-1-1 record, which was the best jayvee record since 1965's undefeated team. The jayvees lost only to unbeaten Gastonia Huss and tied Shelby.

The junior high team finished with a 4-2 record.

Kings Mountain's Kevin Mack had a year most young people only dream about.

The former Clemson University standout, who played a partial season with the L.A. Express of the United States Football League, signed on with the Cleveland Browns and began an NFL career which so far has been sensational.

Upon joining the Browns, Mack said his first-year goals were to gain 1,000 yards and win the NFL Rookie of the Year Award. The Rookie of the Year has not yet been announced, but Mack achieved his first goal by rushing for 1,104 yards to lead the Browns to the AFC Central Division title. He was fourth in rushing in the AFC and had the highest per-carry rushing average (5.1) in the league.

Mack's rookie rushing figures broke the Browns rookie rushing marks of Hall of Fame great Jim Brown, and Mack teamed

with former East Carolina standout Earnest Byner to become only the third duo in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards each out of the same backfield in the same season.

Mack was named the Browns Player of the Year by the Cleveland Touchdown Club; he was named by the Sporting News as the former USFL player who contributed the most to the NFL; and he was the only AFC rookie selected to play in the annual Pro Bowl game February 2 in Honolulu. He was honorable mention All-Pro.

Many other teams and individuals from Kings Mountain made the sports headlines in 1985.

KMHS won three Southwestern 3-A Conference championships, in wrestling, girls volleyball and girls softball. The wrestling team won or shared its fourth conference championship under Coach Steve Moffitt and the softball and volleyball crowns were the first ever for KMHS. Diana Bridges coached the volleyball team and Bruce Clark headed the softball program.

KM's Susie Moore was voted volleyball player of the year and earned a scholarship to Gardner-Webb College. Joanna Boheler earned a softball scholarship to Wingate.

Kings Mountain's boys basketball team finished second to perennial SWC champ R-S Central and two of its players, Lavar Curry

and Daryl Crocker, earned college scholarships. The girls basketball team finished sixth in the conference but Doreen Pettus was one of the league's best inside players and earned a scholarship to Belmont Abbey.

KMHS finished second to Shelby in the SWC tennis race, but the Mountaineers had the top doubles combination in the conference in brothers Brian and Brad Jones, who won the sectional title and competed in the state tournament. Brian was also one of the top singles players in the state.

Kings Mountain's revived American Legion baseball program continued to make great strides under new coaches Bud Bumgardner and Bob Mantooth. Post 155 played .500 ball for the first time since the 1960's.

The junior high wrestling team, coached by Phil Weathers, won its eighth straight Western N.C. Junior High Athletic Association championship and continued its eight-year string of winning every conference match.

Kings Mountain coaches who serve in other places continued to do well in 1985.

Mike Ware coached his Newberry, S.C. High School team into the state playoffs and Charlie Barnes coached the Richmond County High basketball team to its conference championship.

Tony Leigh was defensive coordinator for Canton Pisgah High, which made it to the state 3-A playoffs and played Kings Mountain a great game before falling 14-13 at Canton.

Darrell Van Dyke coached his East Gaston High baseball team into the SWC playoffs and the Warriors now look to be strong in the Tri-County 4-A Conference.

Kings Mountain's Charles Greene helped coach the South Point football team, which was in second place in the SWC before having to forfeit two games because of an ineligible player. Greene also continued to improve the Red Raider wrestling program.

Kings Mountain duckpin bowlers continued to fare well in national competition and hosted some of the top bowlers from North Carolina in two tournaments at Dilling Heating.

Freddy Smith continued to dominate short track racing, both locally and on the national scene.

## Mountaineer Wrestlers Win Crest Tournament

Three Kings Mountain High wrestlers won their class championships Saturday as the Mountaineers edged 4-A Hunter Huss for the championship of the annual Crest High Open Tournament at Crest.

The Mountaineers finished with 155 points. They were followed by Huss 148½, East Mecklenburg 136½, Crest 124, Freedom 114½, Burns 96, Gaffney 88½ and R-S Central 11.

Kings Mountain led Huss by only one point (139-138) going into the championship finals. Huss had six wrestlers in the finals and KM had four. Only two of the six Huskies won their weight divisions as the Mounties held them off for the victory.

In a head-to-head match which went a long way toward winning the title, KM's John Turner pinned Lee Parker of Huss in the first period to take the 98-pound title. The two wrestlers had split two regular season matches.

Other champions for Kings Mountain were 145-pound Vince Sullens, who won all three of his matches by pins and recorded a 30-second pin over John Lastella of East Meck in the finals, and heavyweight Wayne Brazzell, who won his finals match over David Wesson of Crest.

The Mountaineers battled tough despite the absence of 155-pound Roderick Boyce, who was attending Governor's School, and 195-pound Perry Davis, who was nursing an injury.

Javon Morris of Freedom was voted the tournament's most outstanding wrestler. He won the 126-pound division and is the reigning 119-pound state champion.

The Mountaineers, who are 4-1 in dual matches, resume regular season action Thursday at 7:30 at home against old rival East Gaston. The Mountaineers and Warriors battled for several Southwestern 3-A Conference titles before the Warriors moved up to the 4-A ranks. The Mountaineers host North Gaston Monday night in a conference match.

The top three finishers in the Crest tourney included: 98-pound: John Turner (KM), Lee Parker (Huss), Sam Dorsey (Burns).

105 - Kevin Robinson (Freedom), Rodney Lynch (Huss), Tony Parker (KM).

112 - Chris Needs (Gaffney), Elijah Waters (Burns), Darrell Perkins (Freedom).

119 - Tyrone McCluney (Crest), John Butler (East Meck), Jamie Keeter (Gaffney).

126 - Javon Morris (Freedom), William Toms (Crest), John McDaniel (Gaffney).

132 - Darrell Brown (East), Mark Dorril (Huss), Daron Schenck (KM).

138 - Jeff Redfern (East), Cedric Moore (Huss), David Allen (Freedom).

145 - Vince Sullens (KM), John Lastella (East), Billy Thompson (Huss).

155 - Willie Phillips (Huss), David Miller (Gaffney), Curt Walen (East).

167 - Willie Hillman (Crest), Paul Terry (KM), Robert Love (Huss).

185 - Lee Gragg (Crest), Jimmy Davenport (Freedom), Danny Hamrick (KM).

195 - Cam Carpenter (Huss), Mike Pruitt (Crest), Paul Lockett (Burns).

Hwt. - Wayne Brazzell (KM), David Wesson (Crest), Steve Herring (Burns).



LAURA CROCKER

## KM Girls Third, Boys Fourth In Shelby Star Tournament

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams resume Southwestern 3-A Conference play Friday at Chase and stay on the road Tuesday to face Burns.

The Mountaineers are coming off a poor showing in the Shelby Daily Star Holiday Classic and the Mountaineers are trying to regain their early-season form after splitting two games in the Shelby event.

The girls lost their first game of the season Friday to Burns, 52-49, but bounced back Saturday afternoon to defeat Crest 51-43 and claim third place in the tournament. The boys fell to Shelby 65-58 and Crest 81-57 in tournament action.

The Mountaineers will carry a 6-1 overall record into post-Christmas play. They are 1-0 in the SWC. The boys are 1-0 in the SWC and 3-4 overall.

Kings Mountain's girls got off to a great start Friday against Burns but their leading scorer, Regina Brown, got in early foul trouble and had to sit out much of the game. After trailing 10-4 early, Burns put 19 points on the board in the second period to take a 23-19 halftime lead.

Burns' Fredia Lawrence hit some key baskets and free throws down the stretch as the Lady Bulldogs held off the Mountaineers and gave Coach Tommy Pruett the victory over one of his former players, Diana Bridges. It was Pruett's 21st career win at Burns.

Lawrence led all scorers with 24 points. Laura Crocker and Licia McClain scored 12 each for KM and Brown was held to seven.

Crocker and Brown were in top form Saturday afternoon



REGINA BROWN

as the KM ladies completely shut off the Crest offense in the second half. Crest, coached by KM native Ginger Hamrick, led 10-6 after the first period and 28-19 at intermission but the Lady Chargers managed only six points in the third quarter and nine in the fourth as the Mountaineer stormed from behind with a 32-point second half.

Brown scored 16 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to pace the KM attack. Crocker had 18 points and six rebounds and McClain added six rebounds.

Shelby's boys grabbed the advantage in the second quarter and maintained it the rest of the way in running their record to 6-2 Friday night with a 65-58 win over the Mountaineers. After a 13-13 tie after the first period, Shelby went on to lead 29-23 at the half and 45-39 going into the fourth quarter.

Bernard Hines led the Lions with 26 points and Curtis Degree added 18. Jerry Jordan scored 15, Lenny

Rayford 11 and Denorris Wilson 10 for the Mountaineers.

Crest won its first game of the year in Saturday afternoon's consolation game with the Mounties. KM turned cold in the third quarter, scoring only four points, and Crest surged to a 51-33 lead.

Four players scored in double figures for Ed Peeler's Chargers. Tee Burton led the way with 25, followed by Joe Spikes with 14 and Bobby Bell and James Brooks with 11 each. Wilson was KM's only double-digit scorer with 16 points.

Both Shelby teams went on to win the tournament championships.

### FRIDAY'S GAMES

KM GIRLS (49) - Helms 8, Moore 8, McClain 12, Crocker 12, Brown 7, Epps 2.

BURNS (52) - Spangler 8, Smith 7, Lawrence 24, Drake 4, Saine 7, Peeler 2.

KM BOYS (58) - Jordan 15, Rayford 11, Hollifield 4, Crocker 6, Sherer 2, Pettis 4, Wilson 10, Woods 2, Brooks 2, Smith 2.

SHELBY (65) - Robertson 4, Degree 18, Merritt 9, Hines 26, Logan 2, Cruz 2, Oglesby 4.

### SATURDAY'S GAMES

KM GIRLS (51) - Crocker 18, Brown 16, Moore 9, Helms 8, McClain.

CREST (43) - Poston 12, Patterson 14, Brooks 3, Coleman 12, Beason 2.

KM BOYS (57) - Jordan 6, Rayford 3, Hollifield 2, Sherer 4, Pettis 2, Wilson 16, Woods 9, Brooks 4, McCullough 4, Mauney 2, Byers 2, Smith 3.

CREST (81) - Brooks 11, Michaels 6, Burton 25, Spikes 14, Bell 11, Thurmond 4, Crowe 2, Hamrick 8.