

SWC Tourney Next Week At G-W

R-S Central Sweeps
KMHS Clubs Tuesday

Kings Mountain High's basketballers lost a doubleheader to first place R-S Central Tuesday night at the KMHS gym but but local clubs appear to have wrapped up berths for the sectional tournament set for two weeks from now at Gardner-Webb College.

All eight Southwestern 3-A Conference schools will compete in the conference tournament beginning Tuesday at Gardner-Webb and the top six SWC schools will advance to the sectionals. However, if a team which finishes lower than sixth in the regular season advances to the conference tournament finals, it would replace the sixth place team (possibly Kings Mountain girls) in the sectional field.

The KM teams complete their regular season Friday at Shelby. The KM boys are alone in fifth place, three games behind fourth place Shelby and two games ahead of sixth place South Point. So, the Mountaineers will make the sectional field.

The KM girls are tied for fifth-sixth place with Chase. They could finish either fifth or sixth, but no lower than sixth as they have a two game lead on seventh place South Point. If South Point or eighth place North Gaston should advance to the conference tourney finals, Kings Mountain, if it finishes in the sixth position, could be knocked out of a sectional berth.

The conference tournament pairings next week are as follows:

(Girls Division)?

Tuesday, 5 p.m., fourth place vs. fifth place; Tuesday, 6:30, first vs. eighth; Wednesday, 5 p.m. three ver-

sus six; and Wednesday at 6:30, two vs. seven.

Thursday, 5 p.m. winners of four vs. five and one vs. eight; Friday, 5 p.m. winners of three vs. six and two vs. seven.

Saturday, 6:30, Thursday's winner vs. Friday's winner for the championship.

(Boys Division)

Tuesday, 8 p.m., first vs. eighth.

Wednesday, 8 p.m., two vs. seven.

Thursday, 6:30, four vs. five; 8 p.m., three vs. six.

Friday, 6:30, winners of two vs. seven and three vs.

six; 8 p.m., winners of one vs. eight and four vs. five.

Saturday, 8 p.m., Friday's winners play for championship.

If the current standings do not change as a result of Friday's final regular season action, Kings Mountain's boys would meet arch rival Shelby in the 6:30 game on Thursday night. KM's first round opponent could also be North Gaston as Shelby has a chance to overtake the Wildcats for third place in the final standings.

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Girls Whip North Gaston,
Wildcat Comeback Beats Boys

Kings Mountain High's basketballers split a Southwestern 3-A Conference twinbill with North Gaston Friday at the KMHS gym, the girls winning 52-26 and the boys losing 61-46.

The girls had little trouble in handing the North Gaston ladies their 45th consecutive defeat. After a 10-5 lead after one period, the Mountaineers raced to a 27-14 halftime lead and 39-22 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Regina Brown led the KM attack with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Laura Crocker added 14 points and Licia McClain had eight points, 12 rebounds and four assists.

North Gaston's boys staged a strong fourth quarter comeback to win the nightcap and take over third place in the SWC standings behind R-S Central and Burns. Kings Mountain led 30-19 at halftime but turned cold in the second half. The Mountaineers scored only four

points in the third period but still led 34-31 going into the final eight minutes. North Gaston outscored the Mountaineers 30-12 in the fourth quarter to win going away.

Tracy Armstrong led the Wildcats with 23 points and Eric Newton added 12. Jerry Jordan and Denorris Wilson scored eight points each for KM.

BOYS GAME

KM (46) - Jordan 8, Rayford 6, Sherer 4, Crocker 4, Hollifield 6, Wilson 8, Woods 2, McCullough 4, Smith 2, Pettis 2.

NG (61) - Armstrong 23, Newton 12, Jackson 7, Morrison 6, Mintz 8, Chapman 1, Carter 2, Watson 2.

GIRLS GAME

KM (52) - Moore 6, Helms 4, McClain 8, Crocker 14, Brown 18, Chaffee 2.

NG (26) - Sailors 6, Wilson 8, Friday 3, Barnette 2, Mitchell 7.



INKS WITH GAMECOCKS - Kings Mountain High football standout Calvin Stephens, South Carolina. Looking on, left to right, are KMHS coaches Denny Hicks, John Goforth and Chuck Gordon. Stephens is seated, inks a grant-in-aid to play football at the University of South Carolina.

Calvin Stephens Signs
With South Carolina

Kings Mountain High football standout Calvin Stephens Wednesday signed a grant-in-aid to play football at the University of South Carolina.

Gamecock assistant coach Jim Washburn of Shelby was in town Wednesday morning to ink the 6-2, 265-pounder.

Stephens had earlier made a verbal commitment to the USC. Wednesday was the first day major colleges could sign players under NCAA guidelines.

Stephens was a two-way starter for the Mountaineers, who had their best season ever last fall with an 11-2 overall record. He was All-Southwestern 3-A Conference as both an offensive and defensive tackle and was voted his team's most valuable player and best offensive lineman.

Stephens was a starter on defense for North Carolina in the annual Shrine Bowl game at Charlotte. He was KM's first Shrine Bowler since 1957 and only the third in the school's history.

In addition to making the Shrine Bowl and All-Conference teams, Stephens was also selected to the All-GazetteLand team, Charlotte Observer All-Piedmont first team, and honorable mention All-State. He has also been chosen to play in the annual East-West All-Star game in July in Greensboro.

Stephens was heavily recruited by several major colleges, including UNC, Clemson and Florida. He first caught the eyes of South Carolina coaches last summer at USC's annual summer football camp.

Jayvees
Win Two,
Now 16-1

Kings Mountain High's jayvee basketballers won two more big games during the past week to run their record to 16-1 heading into Friday afternoon's season finale at Shelby.

Coach Gary Brigman's Mountaineers edged North Gaston 63-55 Friday and then blasted R-S Central 85-57 Tuesday afternoon.

Both Kings Mountain and Shelby have lost only one game this year. Shelby fell to KMHS 60-57 in overtime and KM fell to Burns.

"This last game will be our biggest one of the year," said Coach Brigman. "If there was a conference championship in jayvee ball, this game would be for it. Our kids know the importance of the game and are real excited. They're looking forward to it."

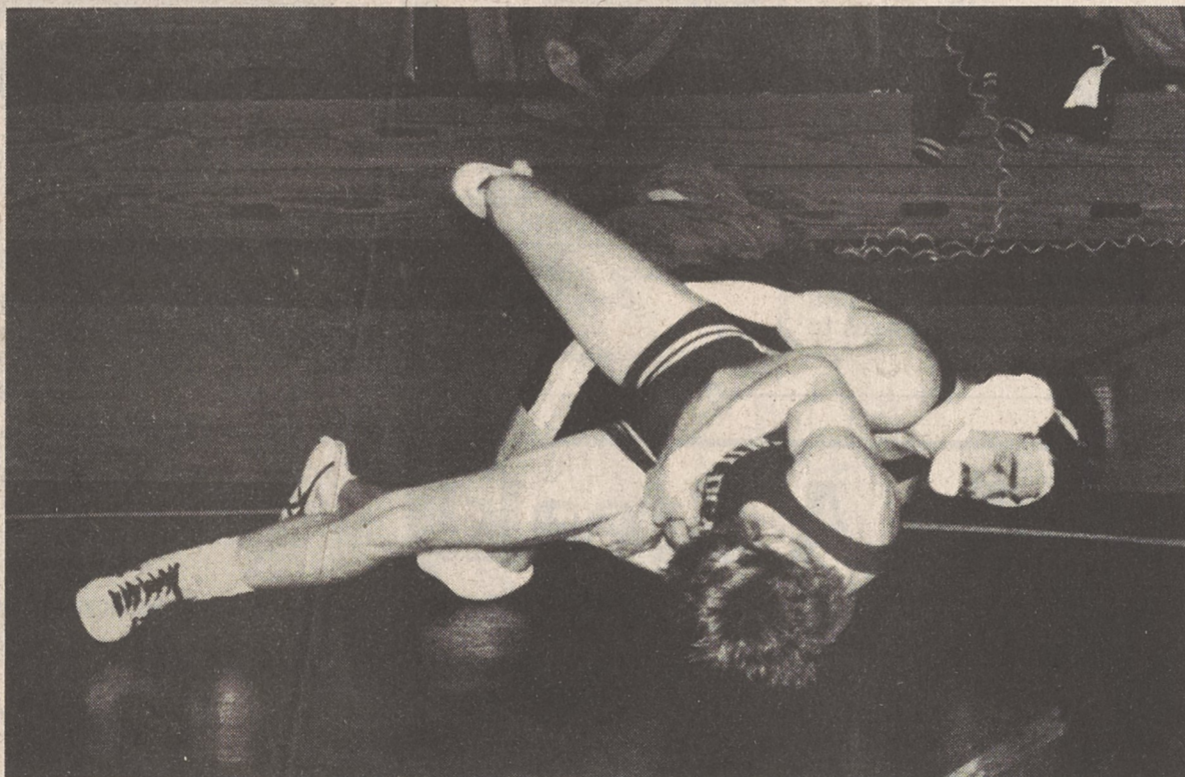
The Mountaineers outscored North Gaston 17-10 in the fourth quarter Friday to break open a close game. KM led by only 30-29 at halftime and 46-45 after three quarters.

Brent Bagwell, who finished with eight points, hit six straight foul shots in the fourth quarter to ice the victory. Cliff Meeks led the KM scoring with 16, Gary White added 14 and Brian Jones had 12.

"The key was that we played a better fourth quarter and hit all but two of our foul shots," Coach Brigman said.

Joe McClain scored 20 points, Bagwell 19, White 17, Tim Goode 11 and David Shaw six in Tuesday's big victory over an R-S Central

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Photos by Gary Stewart

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS - Kings Mountain's Vince Sullens (left photo) and Roderick Boyce (right photo) won their weight championships to lead the Mountaineers to the Sectional Wrestling Tournament championship Friday and Saturday at West Mecklenburg. Sullens, Boyce, Daron Schenck, Daron Hillman and Tony Parker will represent the Mountaineers in the Regional Tournament Saturday at A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis. The top four wrestlers in each weight class there will advance to the State Tournament next week at Winston-Salem Parkland.

Mountaineer Wrestlers Win Sectional Crown

Kings Mountain's Vince Sullens and Roderick Boyce won their weight championships to give the Mountaineers the team championship in last week's Sectional Wrestling Tournament at West Mecklenburg High in Charlotte.

The Mountaineers, Southwestern 3-A Conference regular season and tournament champs, compiled 113½ points to edge West Meck, which had 109½. Hunter Huss finished third.

Kings Mountain qualified five wrestlers for Saturday's Regional Tournament at A.L. Brown High in Kannapolis. The top four wrestlers in each division there will qualify for the State Tournament next week at Winston-Salem Parkland.

Mountaineers qualifying for the Regionals were Boyce at 155 pounds, Sullens at 145, Daron Hillman at 138, Daron Schenck at 126 and Tony Parker at 105.

Saturday's sectional championship was the second for the Mountaineers in their nine years under Coach Steve Moffitt. They have also been conference and/or tournament champions five times under Moffitt.

The victories by Sullens and Boyce in the finals were necessary for the Mountaineers to claim the team trophy. Sullens, who won all of his earlier matches on first period pins, decided Willie Phillips of Huss in the 145 championship match. Boyce decided Reggie Miller of Garinger for the championship in the 155-pound match.

"If Vince had lost, Huss would have won the tournament," noted Moffitt, "and if Roderick had lost, we would have tied West Meck. So both of those

matches were equally important and I felt like both Vince and Roderick did a super job."

Sullens suffered a slight leg injury in his semi-finals match, but Moffitt hopes his undefeated senior will be back in top form in time for Saturday's Regionals.

"We probably have as good a chance as anybody to win the regionals," Moffitt said. "Kings Mountain, Huss and West Meck all qualified five men."

KM's Parker, a sophomore, finished second in the 105-pound division, losing his finals match on a technical fall to Rodney Lynch of Huss. Schenck, another soph, was third in the 126-pound division. He pinned Michael Henderson of Olympic for third. Hillman, a junior, was fourth, losing on a decision to Cedric Moore of Huss in the finals.