

Photos by Gary Stewart

DRIVES BASELINE - Kings Mountain's Cliff Meeks drives the baseline against South Point's Craig Queen in Friday's Southwest Conference basketball action at the KMHS gym. Meeks scored nine points to help lead the Mountaineers to an 82-54 victory.

Mounties Beaten At Buzzer

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers dropped their third game at the buzzer in Friday's Southwest Conference action with R-S Central Thursday night at the KMHS gym.

Travis Ross's jumper with two seconds remaining gave the Hilltoppers a 64-62 victory over the Mountaineers and kept R-S a game behind unbeaten Burns in the race for the SWC regular season championship.

Kings Mountain, which fell to 4-3 in the SWC and 8-7 overall, had lost earlier SWC

games at the buzzer to Burns and East Rutherford. KM's three conference losses all came by two points.

The Mountaineers led much of the second half after overcoming a 23-17 first quarter deficit. Kings Mountain came back to trail by only 34-33 at intermission and took the lead at 53-46 going into the fourth period.

The Hilltoppers, led by 6-8 Andrew Harding, Stephan Mayse and Matt Bright, forged ahead early in the fourth period and held the lead until the Mountaineers tied the

score at 60-all on a jumper by Jerry Jordan with 2:50 remaining. After a steal by Lenny Rayford, Jordan scored again with 2:45 to go to give the Mountaineers a 62-60 lead. Aubrey Hollifield intercepted a pass intended for Harding on the Hilltoppers' next trip downcourt, but the Mountaineers turned the ball over and R-S tied the score at 62-all on a jumper by Bright. Kings Mountain turned the ball over again with 58 seconds left and R-S held for the final shot, which Ross hit.

Harding finished with 16 points, Mayse 14 and Bright 10 for the Hilltoppers, who improved their SWC mark to 5-1. Jordan and Mike Woods scored 15 each and Cliff Meeks 10 for KM. R-S Central held Rayford, KM's All-SWC forward, to a career low one point.

The Mountaineers out-rebounded the taller Hilltoppers 29-22 with Hollifield grabbing eight. Adrian Rucker had nine for R-S.

R-S Central's girls ran their conference-leading record to 6-0 in the opener with a 60-39 victory over the KM ladies. R-S improved its overall mark to 10-3 while Kings Mountain fell to 3-4 in the conference and 6-9 overall.

Tracie Williams scored 20 points and Hattie Young 11 for the Lady Hilltoppers, who held a one-game SWC lead

Turn To Page 8-A

Mounties Sweep South Point In SWC Action Here Friday

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball teams swept a doubleheader from South Point Friday in Southwestern 3-A Conference action at the KMHS gym. The girls won 52-38 and the boys 82-54.

The Mountaineer squads travel to Burns Friday for an important SWC twinbill and return home on Tuesday to host East Rutherford's Cavaliers.

Neither Mountaineer team had trouble Friday as the host teams jumped out front early and held the lead throughout the games.

The girls, led by Melissa Helms, Sharon Melton and Regina Brown, grabbed a 14-7 first period lead and increased it to 25-13 at halftime and 39-24 going into the fourth quarter. The KM ladies scored the first 11 points of the fourth period to put the game on ice.

Helms, hitting consistently from the wing, led the scoring with 15 points. Melton added 14 points and 13 rebounds and Brown scored 13 points.

The victory improved KM's record to 4-4 in the SWC and 7-9 overall. South Point fell to 2-6 and 3-12.

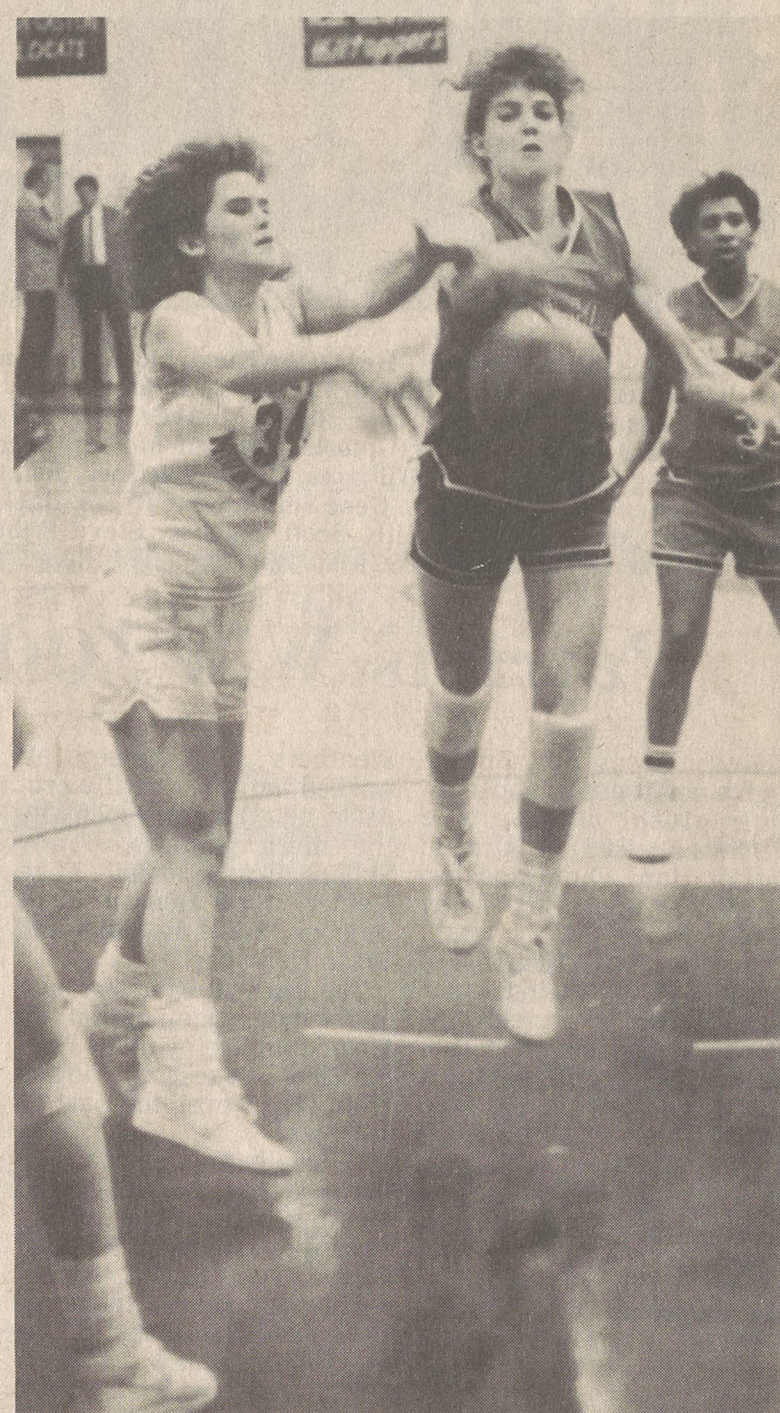
The visiting Red Raiders stayed within striking distance of the Mountaineers in the first half but KM began to break the game open in the third quarter. After leading by 36-29 at intermission, the Mountaineers ran to a 55-40 lead going into the fourth period and then outscored the Raiders 27-14 over the final eight minutes.

Mike Woods led the KM scoring with 21 points. Jerrial Smith added 14 and Jerry Jordan 11. Aubrey Hollifield pulled down 11 of KM's 39 rebounds.

Trent Horne led the South Point attack with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Craig Queen scored 10 points.

The Mountaineers improved their record to 5-3 in the SWC and 9-7 overall. South Point fell to 1-7 and 4-11.

Kings Mountain's jayvees continued their torrid scoring pace, bombing the Raider jayvees 96-66 in the afternoon



FIGHT FOR LOOSE BALL - Kings Mountain's Melissa Helms (34) and South Point's Kim Waldrup battle for a loose ball in Friday's Southwest Conference basketball game at the KMHS gym. Helms scored 15 points to lead the KM girls to a 52-38 victory.

contest. After leading by only 16-14 after the first period, the Mountaineers ran to a 42-25 halftime lead and increased it to 65-42 going into the fourth quarter.

Jeff Ross scored 19 points, John Hill 14, Patrick Jones 11 and Bo Thompson 10 for the Mountaineers, who improved their record to 7-1 in the SWC and 13-1 overall.

BOYS GAME

KM (82) - Jordan 11, Meeks 9, Hollifield 4, Woods 21,

Rayford 2, Crocker 4, Goode 2, Smith 14, Byers 4, Bagwell 5, Mauney 2, McClain 4.

SP (54) - Horne 20, Queen 10, Robbins 4, McClure 9, King 2, Crawford 4, Nichols 2, Fretwell 1, Crump 2.

GIRLS GAME

KM (52) - Epps 4, Helms 15, Melton 14, Brown 13, Woods 4, Ward 2.

SP (38) - Williamson 15, Lewandowski 12, Craig 8, Littlejohn 3.

Sports Shorts

Several former Kings Mountain High basketball players are making their presence known on the collegiate level this season.

Lavar Curry, a sophomore point guard at Belmont Abbey College, is leading the NAIA's District 26 in scoring with 23 points per game.

Carl Smith, senior point guard at Massachusetts, is once again the leading assist man in the Atlantic 10. Smith recently had back-to-back 14-point games against St. Joe's and Holy Cross and scored the winning basket on a jump shot with three seconds to play to beat St. Joe's 60-58. That marked the ninth time in his career that he has won or tied a game in the closing seconds.

Darrell Crocker, a sophomore, is leading Mars Hill College with a 15-point per game average and 7.7 rebounds per game. He had a high game of 23 points and made good n 11 field goals against Lenoir Rhyne.

Point guard Jerry Jordan and center Mike Woods are the leading scorers for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers through 14 games. They have both scored 191 points and have a 13.6 scoring average. Lenny Rayford is close behind with 179 points and 12.8 points per game. Woods and Aubrey Hollifield are the top rebounders with an eight-per-game average and Rayford is pulling down six per contest.

Chase Upsets Mounties 54-52

Chase held Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to four points in the fourth period and got a basket from Albert Ware with six seconds remaining to stun the Mountaineers 54-52 in a Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball game Tuesday night at Chase.

It was the first SWC victory for the Trojans. Kings Mountain fell to 5-4.

The Chase girls, in the thick of the running for the regular season championship, made it a clean sweep in the opener by defeating the KM ladies 51-36. Kings Mountain held tough against the

more-experienced Lady Trojans until the fourth period when Chase held a 20-10 scoring advantage.

The Trojans were successful in taking away the Mountaineer running game in the nightcap. Mickey Munn

Turn To Page 8-A

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