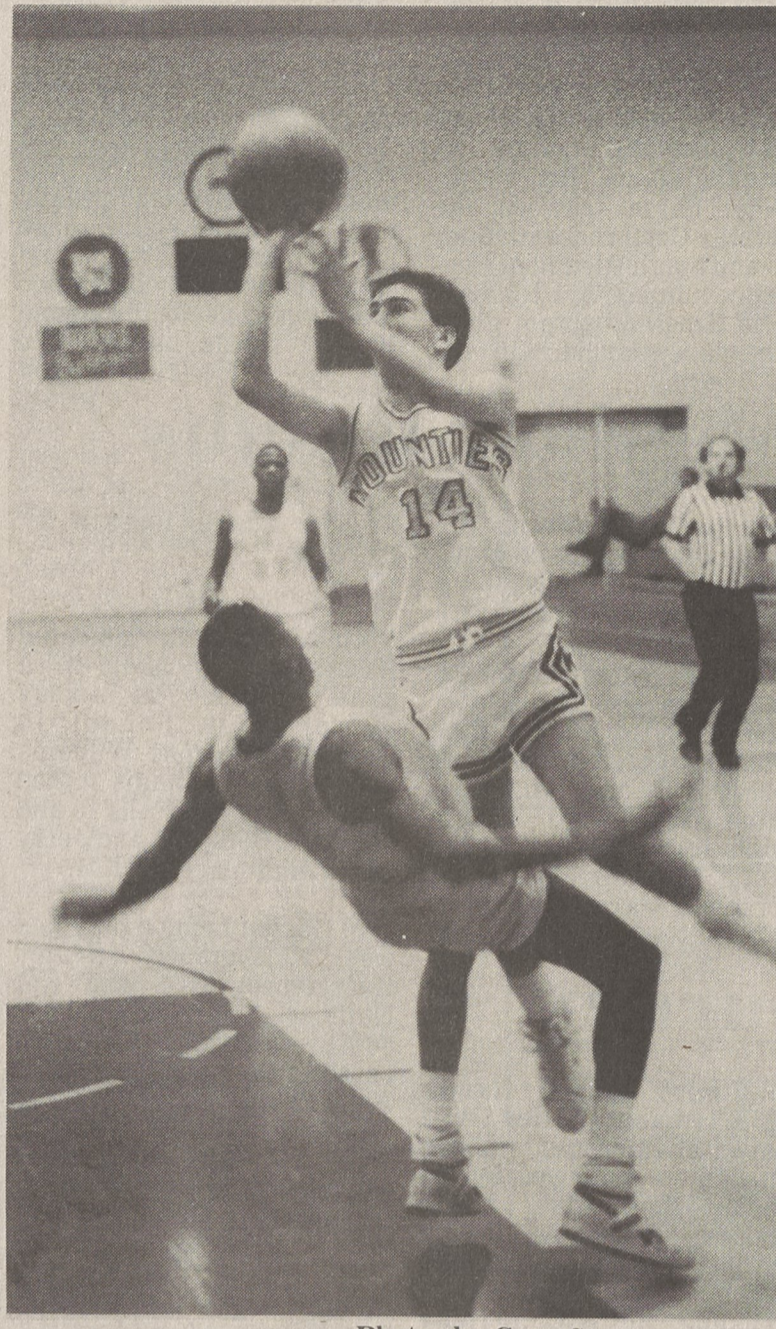


LEAD KM SCORING - James Roberts (left photo) goes in for a layup after making a strong move inside, and Brad Wilson (right photo) shoots a short jumper for the first two points of a three-point play in Friday afternoon's jayvee basketball game with Shelby at the Kings Mountain High gym. Roberts



Photos by Gary Stewart

scored 25 points and Wilson 23 but the Little Mountaineers lost 91-86 to finish second to Shelby in the Southwestern 3-A Conference. The Lions finished the season with a 13-1 conference record and Kings Mountain was 12-2.

Lady Cavs Edge KM In Tourney

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team gave East Rutherford a big scare before falling 60-58 in the first round of the Southwestern 3-A Conference Basketball Tournament Monday at North Gaston High School in Dallas.

Led by senior All-Conference standout Regina Brown, who finished with 27 points and 20 rebounds, Coach Diana Bridges' five led the highly-favored Lady Cavaliers by seven points late in the fourth quarter before seeing the lead evaporate.

East Rutherford, with the 1-2 scoring punch of Julie Bright and Cyndi Justice in top form, outscored the Mountaineers 22-17 in the fourth period to claim the victory. It was East Rutherford's third win of the season over the KM five.

Bright led the East Rutherford scoring with 21 points and Virginia Tech-bound Justice added 18. Melissa Helms scored 12 points and Tracy Ward nine for Kings Mountain.

Brown's 29 points ran her career total to 1,063 and she'll be able to add to that total in Sectional Tournament action beginning next week. As it stands now, the Mountaineers are scheduled to travel to the home court of the number two team in the Western Athletic Conference.



REGINA BROWN
...Scores 29 Points

THE SCORING
KM (58) - Brown 29, Helms 12, Ward 9, Melton 6, Woods 2.
ER (60) - Bright 21, Justice 18, Davis 9, Mapp 4, Lee 4, Matheny 2, Peeler 2.

Mounties Sweep Shelby Clubs Friday

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams closed out their regular season on a winning note Friday at the KMHS gym, sweeping Shelby. The KM girls won 61-46 and the boys fought off a late Shelby rally for a 62-61 victory.

The two KM teams are involved in the Southwestern 3-A Conference tournament this week at North Gaston High School in Dallas. The girls opened tourney action Monday against East Rutherford and the boys will play North Gaston at 6:30 tonight.

The tournament continues through Saturday. The top seven teams from the SWC (both boys and girls) will advance to Regional Tournaments. Western Regional Tournaments this year are scheduled at Gardner-Webb College, and Asheville, Hickory and Statesville high schools. Regional champions advance to the State Tournament.

Kings Mountain's boys got 20 points from senior Lenny Rayford and some key free throws down the stretch to score their second win of the year over Shelby Friday. The victory gave the Mountaineers a final 8-6 league record and fourth place. Shelby finished 9-5 and in third place behind R-S Central (12-2) and Burns (11-3).

Three free throws by Jerry Jordan and another by



LENNY RAYFORD
...Scores 20 Friday

Aubrey Hollifield gave the Mountaineers a 62-56 lead with a minute to go but Shelby rallied to cut the margin to 62-61 after a field goal and free throw by Tony

Mauney. Kings Mountain missed a free throw with eight seconds left and Shelby rebounded, but Michael Christopher's shot at the buzzer missed.

The Mountaineers had grabbed a 35-28 halftime lead after the two teams fought to a 14-all tie after the first quarter. Shelby battled back to cut it to 49-47 going into the fourth period.

Jordan finished with 12 points to give the Mountaineers two double-digit scorers, and Hollifield led the Mountaineer rebounding effort with 14. Chad Holbrook paced the Shelby scoring with 14 points and Christopher added 10.

Kings Mountain's girls helped Shelby complete a winless conference season in the opener as Regina Brown scored 27 points to run her career total to 1,034. Trina Phillips led Shelby with 31.

The KM ladies grabbed a 20-12 lead after the first period and then held Shelby to four points in the second quarter to take a 29-16 halftime lead. Shelby battled back to cut the score to 46-36 going into the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain's jayvees missed a chance to share the SWC championship, losing

the afternoon game 91-86. Shelby finished 13-1 in the SWC while the Mountaineer jayvees finished 12-2 in the SWC and 15-4 overall.

Kenny Hamrick led the Shelby scoring with 33 points. James Roberts scored 25, Brad Wilson 23, and Robbie Edgerton and John Hill 10 apiece for the Mountaineers.

The game was close and high-scoring throughout as each team used the fast break to its advantage. Wilson hit his first seven shots from the floor to keep the Mountaineers close in the first half.

Shelby led 28-26 after the first quarter and 55-52 at halftime. The Mountaineers battled back to take a 72-71 lead going into the final eight minutes.

BOYS GAME

KM (62) - Rayford 20, Jordn 12, Meeks 8, Hollifield 6, Crocker 4, Goode 4, Bagwell 4, Mauney 2, Woods 2.

S (61) - Holbrook 14, Christopher 10, Mauney 8, Logan 8, Chambers 7, C. Moore 6, Triplett 4, Davenport 3, B. Moore 1.

GIRLS GAME

KM (61) - Brown 27, Melton 9, Helms 8, Ward 6, Woods 2, Goode 2, Gardner 2, Epps 1.

S (46) - T. Phillips 31, Thompson 7, S. Phillips 4, Dawkins 4.

The game was close throughout, with KM's seven-point lead with three minutes left being the biggest advantage for either team. The two teams were knotted at 11-all after the first period. East Rutherford gained a 27-26 lead at halftime before the Mountaineers broke on top 41-38 going into the fourth quarter.

In other opening round action Monday, R-S Central's first place teams both won, thus eliminating any chance of an eighth place team winning the tournament and forcing one of the top seven seeds out of the sectionals. The Hilltoppers rolled over Chase 72-62 and the Lady Hilltoppers ousted Shelby 78-32.

Dwayne Ledbetter scored 15 points to lead Stacy Lail's defending SWC and state 3-A champions. Mark Hawkins of Chase was the game's top scorer with 22 points.

Hattie Young scored 22 points and Tammy Hunt 19 to lead the R-S girls. Trina Phillips led Shelby with 14.

Kings Mountain's boys, fourth place finishers in the regular season, enter tournament action tonight at 6:30 against fifth place North Gaston.

Southwest Conference Standings

FINAL STANDINGS REGULAR SEASON BOYS

	Conf.	All
R-S Central	12-2	17-4
Burns	11-3	16-6
Shelby	9-5	13-9
Kings Mountain	8-6	12-10
North Gaston	7-7	9-13
East Rutherford	5-9	10-12
South Point	3-11	6-15
Chase	1-13	4-16

GIRLS

	Conf.	All
R-S Central	13-1	17-4
Chase	11-3	19-4
Burns	10-4	17-5
East Rutherford	10-4	16-6
Kings Mountain	6-8	9-13
South Point	4-10	7-13
North Gaston	2-12	3-19
Shelby	0-14	2-20

R-S Central Clubs Sweep Mounties Wednesday Night

R-S Central's Hilltoppers broke open a close game late in the fourth period to defeat Kings Mountain 77-67 in Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball action Wednesday night in Spindale. R-S Central's girls made it a clean sweep by winning the opener 60-33.

The victories kept both R-S Central squads in first place in the SWC. The R-S girls are alone at the top while the Hilltoppers maintained a share of the lead with Burns heading into final regular season action Friday night against the Bulldogs.

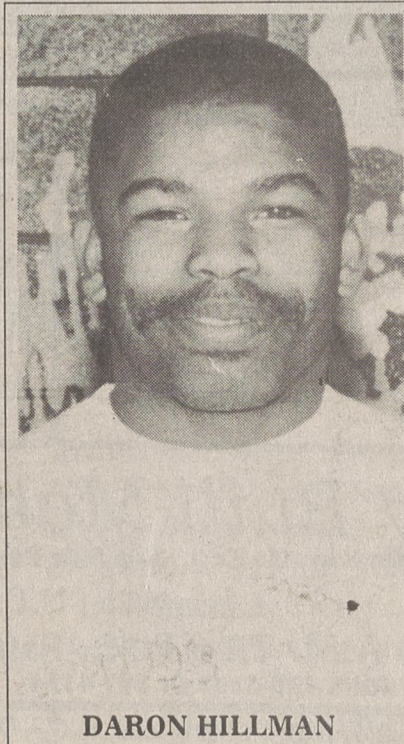
The Hilltoppers held the lead most of the way Wednes-

day but it wasn't until the final minutes that they were able to ice the victory. R-S was out front by 13-12 after the first quarter and 33-22 at intermission but the Mountaineers came back to cut the margin to 50-46 going into the final eight minutes.

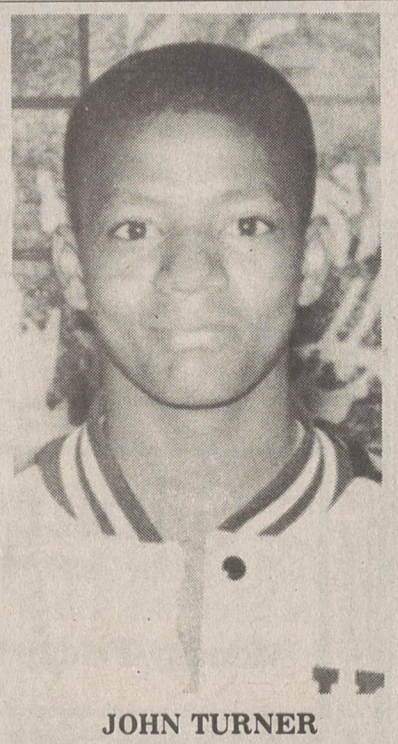
Kevin Logan led the R-S attack with 23 points. Dwayne Ledbetter added 11 and Von Twitty and Andrew Harding 10 apiece. Jerry Jordan scored 18 and Mike Woods 14 for the Mountaineers and Aubrey Hollifield added eight points and 10 rebounds.

R-S Central's girls broke out front early and never let

Turn To Page 2-B



DARON HILLMAN



JOHN TURNER

KM's Hillman Most Outstanding Wrestler In Sectional Event

Kings Mountain's Daron Hillman won his weight division and also earned the most outstanding wrestler award in the Western Sectional Wrestling Tournament Saturday at Asheville High School.

Hillman outclassed three opponents to easily win the 145-pound division and earn his first trip to the State Tournament.

John Turner, KM's 105-pounder, finished fourth to also qualify for the State Tournament. The State 3-A event will be held Friday and Saturday at Chapel Hill.

Hillman won his first match on a pin and then won

easy decisions in the semi-finals and finals.

"Winning the most outstanding wrestler award was a real honor," said KMHS Coach Steve Moffitt. "The talent was really tough up there and Daron did an excellent job."

Also winning his weight division was Daron Schenck of Burns, who wrestled at Kings Mountain last year and finished fourth in the state in the 126-pound class.

Hillman will carry a 24-2 overall record and Turner a 20-4 mark to the State Tournament.