



THIRD IN NATION - Kings Mountain Boys Club's 13-year-old basketball team finished third in the AAU Junior Olympics in Syracuse, N.Y. Team members include, front row, left to right, Darrin Williams, Antoine Hubert, Sam LaVerne and Mike Roberts. Second row, Brian Rankin, Larry Lewis and Darrell Patterson. Third row, Jeremy Walker, Quame Jackson and Marquis Williamson.

## Boys Club 13-Year-Olds Third In National Event

The Kings Mountain Boys Club 13 year old AAU basketball team won the bronze medal by finishing third in the 16th Annual Junior Olympic games held on the Syracuse University campus in Syracuse, N.Y.

The Olympic flame was carried from Bolder, Colorado to Syracuse for the games by olympic tract star

Willie Davenport as 4,500 Junior Olympic athletes competed in fifteen sports ranging from track and field to baseball and basketball.

All 52 Olympic basketball squads earned the right to compete for the national title by either winning or finishing second in the AAU state tournament. Kings Mountain and Charlotte were North

Carolina representatives having defeated sixteen state teams in April in Greensboro. The 52 team national field was divided into two 26 team brackets and gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to the top three finishers in each bracket.

The Kings Mountain squad, coached by Tom Bennett and Bobby Bell, compiled a 4-1 record in bracket play with victories over Oregon, Utah Wisconsin and Virginia. The lone setback came in a narrow 3 point loss to eventual gold medal champion Michigan.

Marquis Williamson and Brian Curry of Kings Mountain were selected for all tournament honors as each averaged over 20 points per game in tournament play.

"We were very pleased with the way our kids represented Kings Mountain and North Carolina, noted coach Tom Bennett, "We were matched against the very best 13 year old players in the United States. Our team was the underdog in every game, but we managed to find a way to win through sheer determination and hustle. Our guys made many new friends with players from across the United States and I am sure it was an experience they will always remember."

The Kings Mountain squad included Marquis Williamson, Brian Curry, Quame Jackson, Mike Roberts, Jerry Black, Daryl Patterson, John Holmes, Sam LaVerne, Antoine Hubert, Darrin Williams, Brian Rankin, Larry Lewis and Jeremy Walker.

## More From Gary

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Tony Leigh is back home (or pretty close to home). After serving several years as an assistant football coach and head girls softball coach at Pisgah High School in Canton, Leigh has returned to Bessemer City as assistant football coach and head girls basketball and golf coach. Leigh's softball team finished second in the state last spring to Southern Durham. He felt a need to return to this area to be near his family, especially his mother, who lives in Dallas, and his sister, Mrs. Larry Smith, who was critically injured in an automobile accident last year.

North Carolina quarterback Mark Maye of Charlotte heads into the 1987 season as the fourth-rated quarterback among returning passers from last year. He finished 12th in the nation last year in passing efficiency with 141.3 rating points, and led the Atlantic Coast Conference in passing. The only returnees who ranked higher were Tom Hodson of LSU, Jeff Francis of Tennessee and Todd Ellis of South Carolina...Bryan Hough of Mount Holly, a sophomore safety, hopes to see a lot of playing time with the Tar Heels this fall.

Tracy Johnson, who played his sophomore and junior years at Kings Mountain, was the offensive star in last Saturday's scrimmage at Clemson. Johnson gained 36 yards rushing in seven carries at scored two touchdowns. Believe it or not, Coach Danny Ford excused Michael Dean Perry from the game because the younger brother of "The Fridge" was banging up too many players. The Clemson offense didn't have anyone who could block him.

## Volleyball Team Looks Good Again

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Other returning starters include a pair of talented sophomores, Tessie Ruff and Carmen Smith. Both were instrumental in helping KMHS win the conference last year.

"They're our two setters from last year and will be running the offense," said Bridges. "With a year's experience, they should do a very good job."

Three juniors--Robin Waterson, Adrienne Woods and Angela Woods--gained experience last year as reserves and are much improved. "Robin's one of our starting hitters and is much improved," said Bridges. "Adrienne and Angela are both strong net players on offense and defense."

Others on the team are sophomores Jonalyn Leadbetter, Velma Degree, Julie McRae, Brenda Shaff and Latoya Gordon, and ninth grader Suzette Feemster.

"We should have a stronger conference than we've had in the past, with R-S Central and Burns being the top con-

tenders," said Bridges. "All schools have improved their volleyball programs every year."

The KM ladies competed in pre-season scrimmages last week and were scheduled to face St. Stephens in a non-conference match yesterday. They will compete in the Sun Valley Invitational Saturday and face West Mecklenburg and Hunter Huss September 1 at Huss. They open SWC action on September 8 at Burns.

All conference matches begin at 4:30 p.m. and admission is free.

**THE SCHEDULE**  
**AUGUST**  
 29 - at Sun Valley Inv.  
**SEPTEMBER**  
 1 - KM, West Meck at Huss  
 8 - At Burns  
 9 - KM, S. Point at R-S Central  
 14 - At North Gaston  
 16 - Burns  
 21 - South Point  
 23 - At Chase  
 28 - At East Ruth.  
 30 - Chase, East Ruth. at KM

**OCTOBER**  
 5 - North Gaston  
 7 - R-S Central

## Mountaineer Gridders Play Bessemer City Here Friday

From Page 1-B

Wayne Brazzell, a 270-pounder, is starting for his third year at tackle and will be on a lot of college recruiting lists. Brent Bagwell, a 6-3½, 235-pound tight end, could be one of the best in the state at his position. Others looking good up front include centers Mark Crawford and Kevin Bush, guards Jody Champion and Shawn Smith, both veterans, and tackle Alan Chisholm. Running behind that line will be three experienced backs who should rank among the best in the conference. Hillman gives the team a lot of speed and Monty Deaton and David Leadbetter provide power up the middle.

Even though it's still too early to tell if this year's Mountaineer edition is better than last year's, it's a pretty safe bet to say that Bessemer City will be a much-improved team over the one Kings Mountain defeated 17-7 in last year's season's opener.

The Yellow Jackets, 2-8 last year under Coach Chip Herring, have a much-improved running game and the same strong passing game which has been their trademark over the past several seasons.

Coach Herring is playing most of his players at several different positions.

Bobby Mantooh and Mark Mauldin return at quarterback where both started at times last year. Both throw the ball well and Mauldin is also a talented runner. Eric Sanders will also play some at quarterback, as well as tight end and defensive end. Mantooh will also play at defensive end and Mauldin in the secondary and at wide receiver.

A big help to the Yellow Jackets this year will be two much-improved running backs, Anthony Carson and Dale Reid. They'll also see action in the secondary. Desmond Jones, a transfer from Kings Mountain, will also see



CHIP HERRING

action in the secondary, along with Jason Maye, Darren Stewart and Spencer Brown.

Stewart, a running back last year, will see a lot of action at wide receiver along with Maye and Brown. Sanders will be joined at tight end by Gary Humphries.

Offensive and defensive linemen and linebackers include Craig James, Johnny McElveen, Mark King, Chris Taylor, Darryl Moore, Alan Davis, Scott Davies, Mike Baity and David Garrett.

Herring says the backfield will line up in the I this year but the run-and-shoot offense will still be in effect. "We'll go into each game with a game plan and whatever we can do better that night, that's what we'll do," said Herring. "But we're prepared to run the ball more."

Herring said the team showed a lot of improvement from its first scrimmage to the second, and Coach Hicks agrees.

"They're a much improved ballclub," noted the KM mentor. "They're doing basically the same thing offensively but they've come up with a couple of real good running backs. They still throw the ball about 70 percent of the time but with the running backs they have this year,

they'll put a lot more pressure on our defense."

"Last year, we needed to establish a running game and couldn't," recalled Herring. "It's difficult to win like that. But our kids this year have a great attitude. They're optimistic about having a good year. If we can jump out of the blocks early and get a couple positive things to happen for us, we could be tough. We have to experience some fruits of our labor early and get the kids jacked up."

The young BC mentor says his team is looking forward to Friday night's opener.

"I think this has been a great series for both Kings Mountain and Bessemer City," Herring said. "We live so close together that a lot of the kids know each other real well. The last two years, it's been a great rivalry and I feel like we'll learn a lot Friday night."

The Mountaineers tuned up for the opener last week by scrimmaging West Caldwell, and overall, Hicks said he was pleased with the way they performed.

"Our kids showed the ability to play strong, physical football, and that's one of the things we always look for. I was extremely pleased with the progress of our secondary. We're playing some young men back there who've never played varsity football before, but we were well pleased with the improvement they've shown from the start of practice.

"Defensively, we played our responsibilities real well," he went on. "We created some turnovers when we had to have them. Offensively, I felt like we got after it pretty good although we didn't spend that much time for preparation of the offense for the scrimmage. Our execution was not as exact as we'd like to have it but we feel like that will come with time and as we work against specific defenses as well prepare for regular season games."

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