

## Patriots Bomb El In Finale

David Jenkins and his teammates on the Kings Mountain Junior High baseball team saved their best performance for last Thursday.

Jenkins, a seventh-grade righthander, hurled a three-hitter and drove in seven runs to lead the Patriots to a 16-2 waltz past East Lincoln. The victory was Jenkins' fourth against no losses and the team's seventh in their last eight games.

The Patriots, with 12 seventh graders and three eighth graders on the team, lost their first five ballgames but rebounded to finish with a 7-6 record.

Coach Tommy Wease, whose club had won the last two Western N.C. Junior High Athletic Association titles, went with a younger lineup this year because KMJH is changing to a seventh-eighth grade program next year.

"We lost three ballgames to Crest by a total of four runs," recalled Wease. "we could have easily been 11-2. But this was a rebuilding year and we have 12 players coming back. After we quit making mental mistakes and started coming together as a team, we played real good ball this year. We're pretty confident we'll have a good team next year."

Jenkins retired the first seven men he faced Thursday and clubbed a three-run homer in the bottom of the first to spark the Patriots to an early 5-0 lead. Mike Smith and Kevin Parker had singles and Tee Gee Goforth added a double in the first.

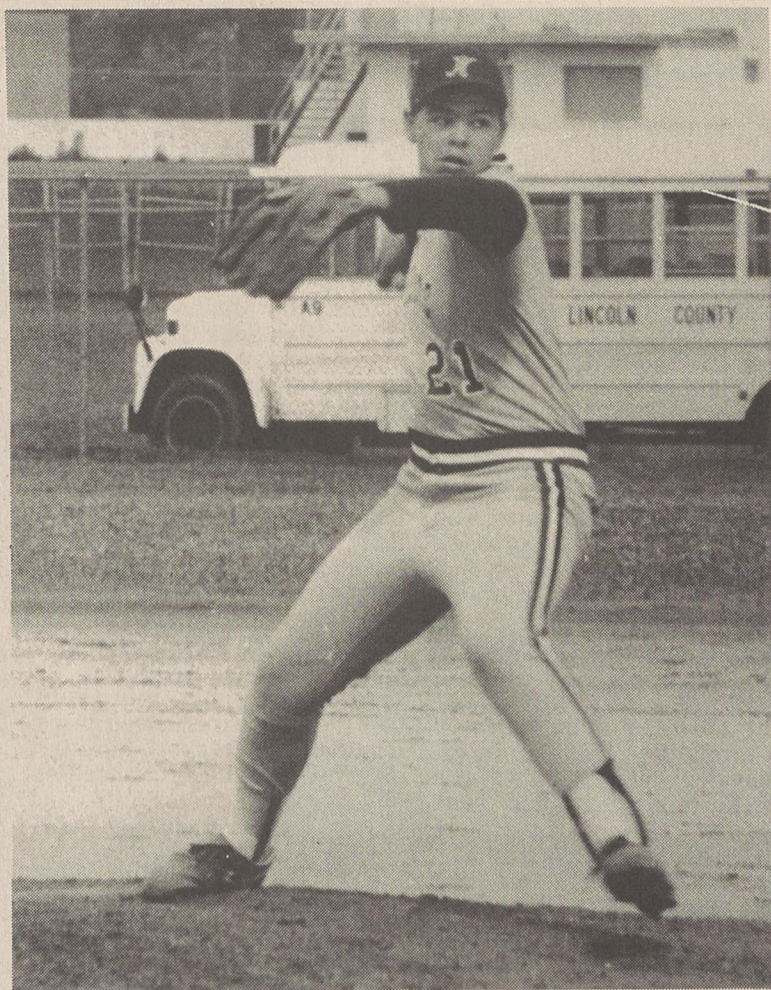
The Pats made it 6-0 with a run in the second. Smith singled and, after Raymond Couch walked, moved to third on a passed ball. He scored on Jenkins' single.

KM broke the game open in the third, scoring 11 runs to make it 16-0. Doug Bridges had a double and single during the inning and Jenkins, Smith and Couch each had a single.

KM finished with 14 hits with Smith, Jenkins and Bridges getting three hits each.

Jenkins, who had seven hits and 11 runs batted in during the last three ballgames, finished with four strikeouts and didn't walk a batter.

East Lincoln scored both of its runs in the fifth on a home run by Lynch and single by McCaskin.



**HURLS FOURTH WIN** — David Jenkins, shown here working on a three-hitter, was the winning pitcher and also had three hits to lead KM Junior High to a 16-2 win over East Lincoln Thursday at Lancaster Field.



**SAFE AT THIRD** — Kings Mountain Junior High Coach Tommy Wease does a dance step as Michael Smith pulls into third base just ahead of the throw in Thursday's game with East Lincoln at Lancaster Field. KM won 16-2.

## Brannon, Mounties Slam Chase, Tuesday's Game Rained Out

Paul Brannon slammed his second grand-slam homer of the season and drove in the winning run with a single to lead Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 13-9 Southwestern 3-A Conference victory over Chase Friday at Chase.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a 4-3 SWC and 8-12 overall record heading into the final week of regular season play. David Heffner's charges close out regular season action Friday afternoon at Burns and enter the single-elimination SWC tournament next week.

The tournament will give teams like Kings Mountain—those that finished lower than third place in the regular season—a chance to qualify for the state tournament. If a team that finished fourth or lower wins the SEC tournament it will advance to the state. Otherwise, the top three regular season finishers will advance.

Brannon's grand-slam in the top of the first gave the Mountaineers a 4-0 lead. Chase battled back to tie the score after four innings and then Brannon singled home Dale Greene in the top of the fifth for a 5-4 lead which the Mountaineers never relinquished. Greene had reached base on an error and moved into scoring position on a single by Monty Deaton.

Brannon finished with three hits to lead a 12-hit KM plate attack. Chris Henson had two hits, including a two-run double in the top of the seventh when KM scored five runs to break the game open. Bryan Dellinger had three singles and one RBI and Jon Reid added two singles and an RBI.

Stuart Spires went the route on the mound to pick up his second straight complete game victory. He scattered seven hits. Chris Harris worked the first five innings for Chase and took the loss.

### THE LINESCORE

By innings:	R	H	E
KM 400 103 5	13	12	2
Ch. 003 103 2	9	7	6

Spires and Morris; Harris, Jones [6], Hester [6] and Ramsey.

## Sports Banquet May 23

The annual Kings Mountain High Sports Banquet, sponsored by the Mountaineer Club, will be held May 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the KMHS cafeteria.

All athletes from winter and sports seasons will be honored. There will not be a speaker.

Tickets are \$7 and no tickets will be sold at the door. Steak will be served. The meal will begin at 6:30 and the awards presentations will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the KMHS main office.

## Softball Tournaments Scheduled

Three NSA slowpitch softball tournaments will be held in Kings Mountain next weekend.

The men's open D NSA World bid tournament will be played May 21-22 at Davidson Park.

An NSA women's world bid tournament for classes B and C will be played May 21 at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

A women's church tournament will be played May 20-21 at Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department fields.

For information on all of the tournaments, call Bill Parker at 739-7330 or 739-554, or Randy Sessoms at 739-9654.



Ashley Champion . . . 2-For-3 In KM Win

## KM Girls Whip Chase And Shelby

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team closed out its regular season Monday with an 8-3 win at Shelby.

The victory was the fourth in

the last five games for the KM ladies, who are 8-11 overall heading into the conference playoffs. The Mountaineers, who play at Burns Thursday, must

win the tournament to qualify for the state tournament.

Paula Morris was 2-for-4 with four runs batted in and Robin Watterson 2-for-4 with two runs batted in to lead Monday's win. The KM ladies haven't lost to Shelby in five years.

"I'm extremely proud of this team, especially the seniors who have provided a lot of leadership late in the season," said Coach Bruce Clark. "Our sophomores are now playing like juniors and the juniors like seniors, Coach Ronnie Funderburke and I feel like this team is peaking at the right time. This win was what we needed going into the conference playoffs."

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team edged Chase 11-10 in their final home game Thursday at Macedonia Baptist Church.

Tina Anderson went 3-for-4 with one run batted in, and Robin Watterson, Paula Morris and Ashley Champion were all 2-for-3

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If a team which finished lower than third during the regular season wins the tournament, it will qualify for the state tournament. Otherwise, the top three regular season finishers will advance.

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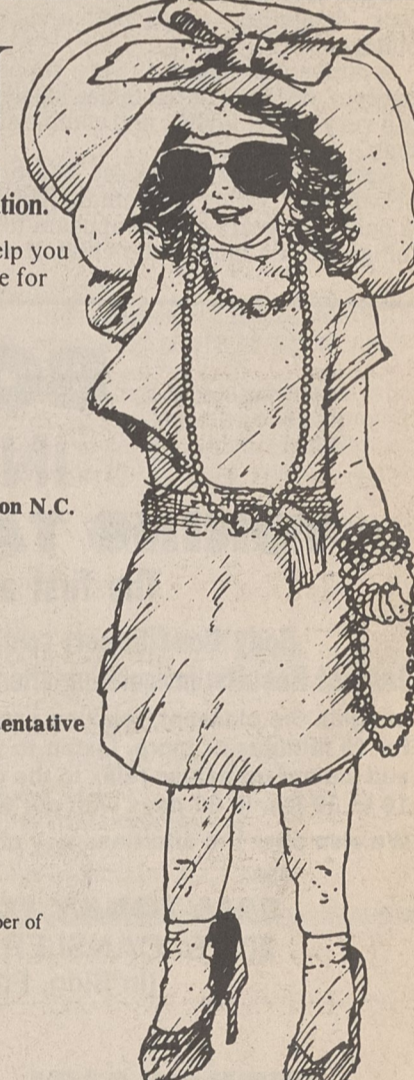
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