



Photo By Gary Stewart

**GOOD NET PLAY** - Kings Mountain's Adrienne Woods (18) gave an outstanding effort around the nets but the Lady Mounties fell to Fred T. Foard in five sets in the opening round of the state 3-A volleyball playoffs Tuesday night at the KMHS gym. The KM girls, champions of the Southwestern 3-A Conference for the third time in four years, finished with a 20-2 overall record.

## KM Volleyball Champs Ousted In First Round Of 3-A Playoffs

Kings Mountain High's girls volleyball team fell to Fred T. Foard 15-11, 15-11, 12-15, 8-15, 15-9 in the opening round of the State 3-A playoffs Tuesday night at the KMHS gym.

The loss ended the season for Coach Diana Bridges' Southwestern 3-A Conference champions. Fred T. Foard, the number three team from the Big Six Conference, goes on to play the winner of the R-S Central-Asheville Erwin game.

Kings Mountain, which was undefeated in regular season play, finished with a 20-2 overall record. The KM ladies won the

SWC title for the third time in four years and participated in the state playoffs for the fifth year in a row.

"We were just our worst opponent," said Coach Bridges. "We served poorly and struggled throughout the whole match. We couldn't get a serve in and when you can't serve, you can't score. I would hate to see our serve percentages."

Kings Mountain battled back to win the third and fourth sets after falling behind two games to zero. Kings Mountain held a 9-3 lead in the fifth and deciding game but Fred T. Foard scored

the last 12 points to win the match.

"Adrienne Woods had a tremendous game, especially around the nets," said Coach Bridges, "and Robin Watterson played a good all-around game. She started hitting some balls good, made some good passes and showed the kind of leadership you need from your team captain. They sparked our comeback."

Kings Mountain had beaten 4-A power Crest 15-12, 15-7 in regular season-ending action Monday afternoon.

## Junior High Gridders Lose

Kings Mountain Junior High's footballers gave unbeaten Shelby its biggest scare of the year before the visiting Blue Devils came from behind to win 20-8 in Bi-County Middle School Conference action Wednesday at Gamble Stadium.

The Patriots, 1-5, led 8-6 going into the fourth period but Shelby's size and depth eventually wore down the scrappy Patriots and produced two fourth quarter touchdowns.

Shelby grabbed an early 6-0 lead but Kings Mountain took the lead in the second period when Robbie Ruff intercepted a pass and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown and Pat Ross tacked on a two-point conversion run.

"Our defense kept us in the game," said KM Coach David Heffner. "Everybody played better than they've played in any game this year. Shelby just wore us down late in the fourth quarter."

Kings Mountain's tough defense forced Shelby into numerous mistakes. David Jenkins forced a fumble which

was recovered by Benji Ingle and Ruff forced a fumble which

"Our kicking game also helped us out," said Heffner. "When we had to punt, Ruff did an outstanding job and it prevented Shelby

from getting good field position. We had trouble moving the ball on offense, but overall, it was our best effort of the year."

The Patriots were scheduled to close out their regular season today at 5 p.m. against Burns.

### ★ Tennis

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Warlick and Paula Morris will compete in singles play and Hendricks and Dixon and Masters and Champion will compete in doubles.

Warlick, a strong candidate for SWC Player of the Year, is trying to qualify for the state tournament for the third straight year.

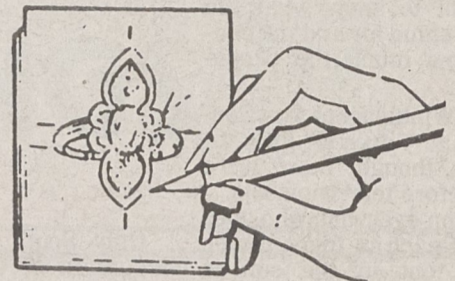
#### THE RESULTS

(Singles)

J.J. Warlick (KM) def. Tammy Matheny 6-4, 6-4; Sharon Sears (ER) def. Paula Morris 7-6, 6-4; Tina Campbell (ER) def. Ashley Champion 6-2, 6-4; Lee Ann Masters (KM) def. Sherry Duncan 6-1, 6-0; Susan Hendricks (KM) def. Katherine McKinney 6-0, 6-0; Christi Dixon (KM) def. Christine Arrowood 6-0, 6-1; Practice Matches: Betsy McIntyre, Kim Ware and Karen Bush of KM won.

(Doubles)

Matheny-Sears (ER) def. Warlick-Morris 8-3; Champion-Masters (KM) def. Campbell-Duncan 8-3; Hendricks-Dixon (KM) def. McKinney-Arrowood 6-1, 6-2.



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### ★ South Point

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Hicks said the Mountaineers will stay with their basic running game, running fullback Toby Deaton and tailback Victor Bell about 15 times apiece.

"With the size of our running game, we're not oriented to run inside anyway," he said. "We're pretty much an off tackle and outside football team. We'll just stay with that and hope we can execute well enough to get in the endzone a couple of times."

Hicks said Friday's game is another "must win situation"

and urged Mountaineer fans to follow the team to Belmont.

"The crowd has really meant a lot to us and we can use all the support we can get at South Point," Hicks said. "If we can win these last three games, unless Burns or Shelby ended up tied with us, we'd have the third playoff spot nailed down. We definitely feel like we have the opportunity to win all three of them."

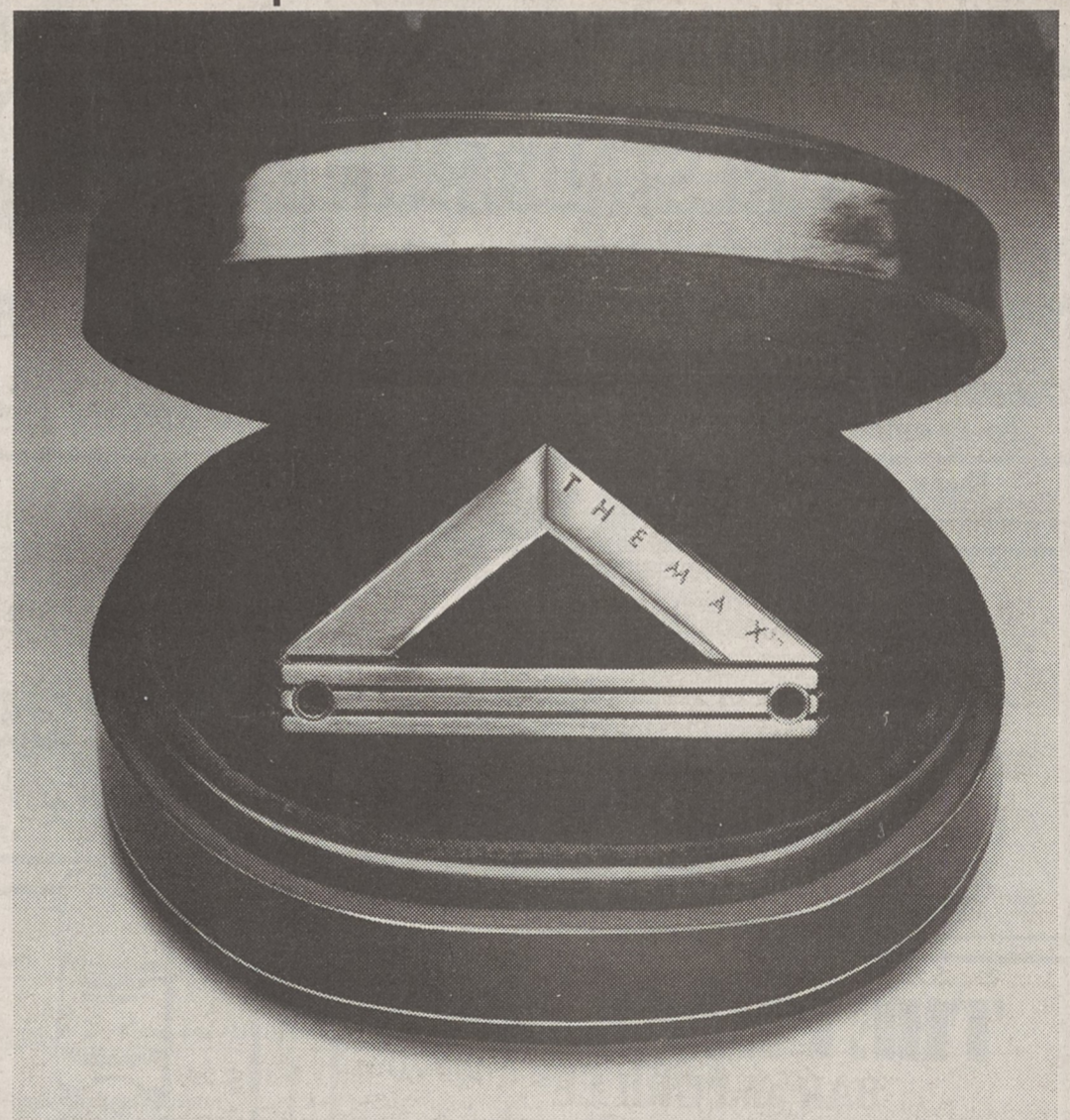
After Friday, the Mountaineers stay on the road to face East Rutherford and then return home to meet North Gaston.

"We got a great team effort in that match," Bridges said. "That's what so surprising about our play Tuesday. Against Crest, we served exceptionally well and had good composure. I guess we just wore it out one day early."

"But I still have to be proud of this group," she continued. "They worked real hard this year and had a really good season. I'm proud of the accomplishments they made. We're still a young team and are looking forward to another good year next year."

"We really appreciate the fans' support Tuesday night," she added. "It was really good."

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