

## Mounties Sweep South Point, Chase

### Mounties Pull Away In 4th

Kings Mountain's varsity cagers swept a Southwestern 3-A Conference twinbill from South Point Friday at the KMHS gym, the girls winning 54-33 and the boys 91-71.

The victory evened the KM teams' SWC records at 2-2. The South Point girls fell to 0-4 and the Red Raiders 1-3.

Ronny Funderburke's ladies were never in trouble as they scored their fifth win against eight losses overall. Kings Mountain enjoyed a 12-2 lead after the first quarter and stretched it to 25-11 at halftime and 39-21 going into the fourth quarter.

Sophomore point guard Nicole Barnes led the way for the KM girls with 16 points. Adrienne Woods added 10 points. Angie Wyatt scored 10 for South Point.

Kings Mountain's boys broke open a close game in the fourth quarter to snap a two-game losing streak. Larry Sipe's Mountaineers had lost narrow decisions to North Gaston and Shelby after an opening conference win over defending champ R-S Central.

Darius Ross's three-point field goal from half-court at the first quarter buzzer gave the Mounties a 21-15 lead, but the hot-shooting Red Raiders cut the margin to 41-40 at halftime. Kings Mountain led 62-56 after three quarters and began breaking the game open early in the fourth quarter.

Patrick Odems scored 21 points, Patrick Jones 19 and Era Vaughn 10 to lead the KM offense. Jason Norris had 12, Migjen Bakalli and Robert McNeil 11 each, and Willie Strain and Craig Kinlaw 10 each for Bill Hannon's Red Raiders.

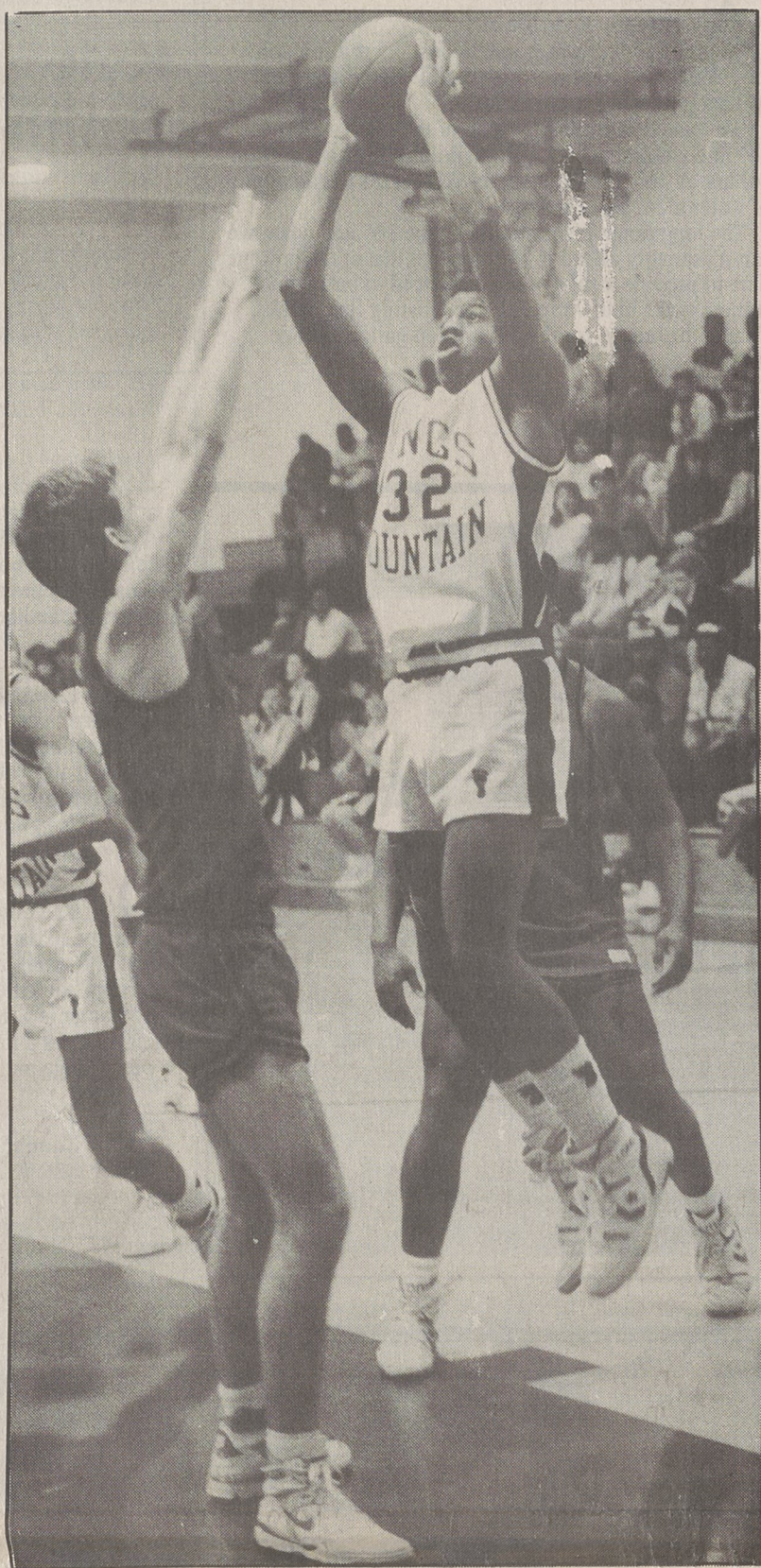
Jones scored seven of his 19 points in the third quarter as KM held onto a slim lead. Ryan Hollifield scored seven of his nine points in the fourth quarter as the Mounties pulled away.

The Kings Mountain teams hit the road for their next three games. They play at East Rutherford Friday and Burns Tuesday, and then begin second round play on February 3 at R-S Central.

#### GIRLS GAME

SP (33) - Wyatt 10, Frady 3, Wats 3, Williams 9, Sheila Cope 3, Sherry Cope 2, Smith 3.

KM (54) - Barnes 16, Smith 7, T. Gardner 1, Melton 5, Ad. Woods 10, Feemster 6, Hardin 1, C. Gardner 6, Carrigan 2.



**TWO FOR MOUNTIES** - Kings Mountain's Era Vaughn (32) fires for two points in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball game with South Point at the KMHS gym. The Mountaineers broke open a close game in the fourth quarter to win 91-71.

#### BOYS GAME

KM (91) - J. Ross 7, Jones 19, Hollifield 9, Vaughn 10, Odems 21, M. Byers 4, Smith 7, Honeycutt 5, D. Ross 3, McNeil 2, Griffith 2,

Hager 2.

SP (71) - Strain 10, Bakalli 11, Norris 12, McNeil 11, Kinlaw 10, Alexander 8, Bell 3, McGee 3, Wray 1.

### Bench Sparks Tuesday Win

Kings Mountain High's cagers swept a Southwestern 3-A Conference twinbill against Chase Tuesday night at the KMHS gym. The girls won 57-48 and the boys 81-54.

The victories give both KM teams 3-2 conference records heading into three straight road games. The Mountaineers travel to East Rutherford Friday and Burns Tuesday, and then begin the second round of conference play on Fri., Feb. 3 at R-S Central.

The winless Trojans gave Coach Larry Sipe's Mountaineers as much offense as they could handle in the first half. The score was tied at 28-all at intermission and Chase scored the first bucket of the second half to take a 30-28 lead.

But then Sipe called on his bench and some of the reserves responded with their best efforts of the season. Sophomore guard Darius "Nu Nu" Ross scored all 12 of his points in the second half and Tim Griffith came off the bench to play an outstanding defensive game.

Ross scored eight points—including two straight three-pointers—and Patrick Jones scored eight points and Mark Byers six as the Mountaineers took command in the third quarter. Kings Mountain outscored Chase 24-8 in the third period to take a 52-36 lead into the final eight minutes.

Jones scored 19 points and Ross 12 to lead the KM attack. Albert Ware had 17 and Bobby Jones 12 for the Trojans, who fell to 0-5 in the conference and 3-8 overall.

Coach Sipe said his team wasn't ready to play in the first half. "We stood around on defense and let them score some easy baskets," he said. "I told the players at halftime to come out and play with some intensity or I was going to find five players who wanted to play. Several guys came off the bench and played real well for us."

Sipe said the Mountaineers will have to be well-prepared Friday when they travel to Forest City to take on a tall, experienced East Rutherford five. "They're huge," Sipe said.

Kings Mountain's girls ran to an early 20-2 lead and coasted to their third conference win and sixth win in 13 games overall. Ronny Funderburke's ladies went on to lead by 24-7 at the quarter break, 36-20



Photos by Gary Stewart

**POTENTIAL THREE-POINTER** - Kings Mountain's Nicole Barnes is fouled as she goes in for a layup in Friday's game with South Point at the KMHS gym. The KM ladies won to even their Southwestern 3-A Conference record at 2-2 and they went over the .500 mark for the first time last night with a win over Chase.

at halftime and 45-30 going into the fourth period.

Adrienne Woods scored 18 points, Nicole Barnes 14 and Sharon Melton 10 for the Lady Mountaineers, who hit 11 of their 15 foul shots. Sherry Greene of Chase was the game's top scorer with 19 points and Malargia Watkins had 12 for the Lady Trojans.

#### GIRLS GAME

KM (57) - Smith 4, T. Gardner 6,

Melton 10, Ad. Woods 18, Barnes 14, Feemster 4.

CH (48) - Greene 19, Watkins 12, McKinney 12, Sonia Green 5.

#### BOYS GAME

KM (81) - J. Ross 2, D. Ross 12, Hollifield 4, Odems 8, Smith 5, Honeycutt 8, Griffith 6, M. Byers 9, McNeil 2, Hager 4, Jones 19, McClain 2.

CH (54) - Ware 17, Jones 12, Linder 6, Tripoly 5, Camp 5, Dover 2, Perry 2, Burch 2, Deck 3.

## Mounties To Wrestle R-S Hilltoppers For Title

At the beginning of the current high school wrestling season, veteran Kings Mountain Coach Steve Moffitt wasn't sure what kind of year to expect. His team was loaded with inexperienced players, but he realized they had a lot of potential.

The Mountaineers took their licks early, but began to jell in December and now the Mountaineers are con-

tending for their fourth Southwestern 3-A Conference championship in the last five years, and their sixth in this decade.

The Mountaineers won two more matches during the past week to run their conference record to 5-0 and their overall mark to 9-6. They blanked arch rival Shelby 75-0 Thursday night and defeated a good

South Point team 48-12 Monday.

Those victories set up a conference championship match Thursday night at R-S Central. The Hilltoppers, who've built a solid program over the last couple of years, are also 5-0 in the conference and 18-4 overall. The match begins at 7 p.m.

"The kids have really improved a

lot," said Moffitt, who coached the Mountaineers to SWC titles in 1978, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1987. "At the first of the year, I didn't know if we'd be in this situation or not, but it's always nice to come down to the final conference match for the championship."

Moffitt expects a close match Thursday night and feels that all of

his grapplers must be at their best to win the match. "It could come down to the heavyweight match," he said.

Kings Mountain won the first seven matches by forfeits to polish off Shelby's Lions at the KMHS gym last Thursday night. Against South Point Monday, the Mountaineers took an early 12-0 lead only to see the Red Raiders cut the margin to 12-9. But after that the

Mountaineers posted victories in seven of the next eight matches to put the victory on ice.

After Thursday's meeting with R-S Central, the Mountaineers will take some time off before hosting the annual SWC tournament on Sat., Feb. 4 at the KMHS gym. Action will begin at 10 a.m. The consolation round will begin at 5 p.m. and the championship round at 6 p.m.

### Sun Valley Wins 42-26 Wednesday

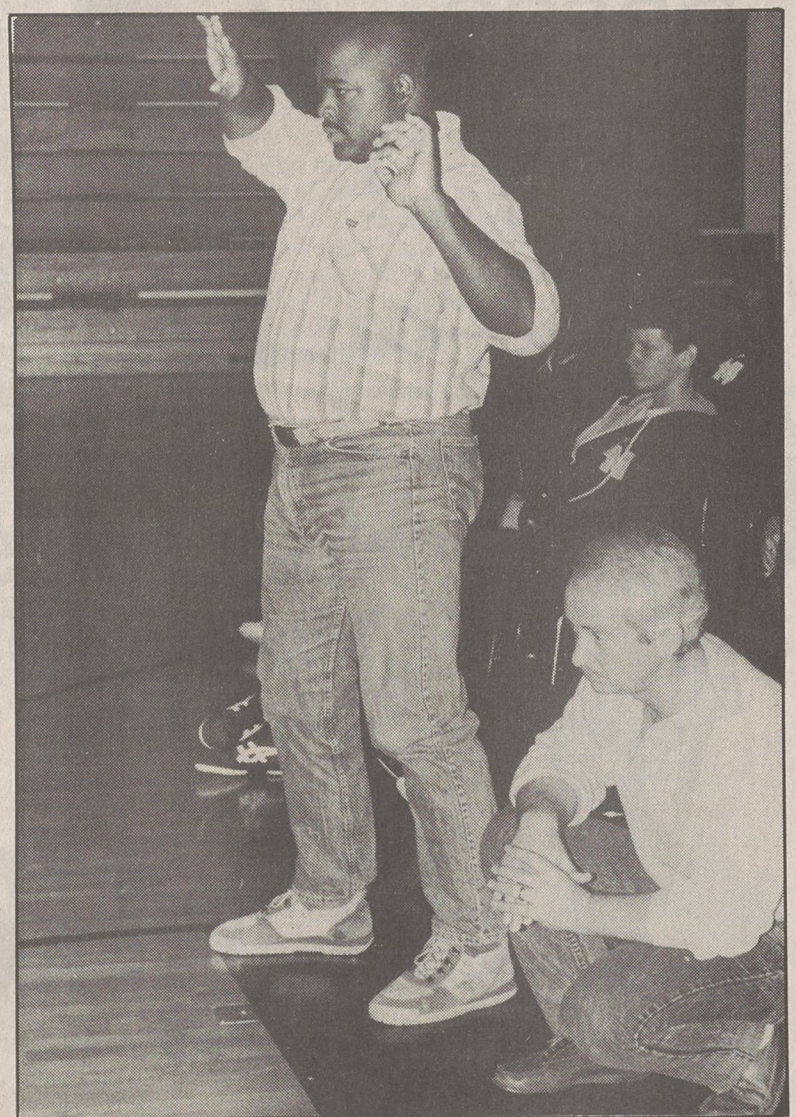
Kings Mountain High's wrestlers fell to state-ranked Sun Valley 42-26 in non-conference action Wednesday night at Sun Valley.

Kings Mountain took an early lead when the Mountaineers' Tee Cole won a major decision over Sun Valley's Hyun Sung in the 103-pound match, but the veteran Sun Valley team came storming from behind to claim the victory.

Other winners for Kings Mountain were Mike Byers, Chris Henson, Timmy McClain and Thurman Young.

#### THE RESULTS

103 - Tee Cole (KM) major dec. over Hyun Sung 8-4; 112 - Brian Belton (SV) pinned Bill Foard 1st; 119 - Mike Smith (SV) dec. Andy Hollifield 9-5; 125 - Jay Bell (SV) pinned Brady Goforth 1st; 130 - Mike Byers (KM) pinned Mike Flacmaa 2nd; 135 - Ligama Dominique (SV) pinned D.J. Williams 2nd; 140 - Chris Henson (KM) pinned John Gilliam 2nd; 145 - Timmy McClain (KM) major dec. over Ronnie Rutherford 16-5; 152 - James Marlowe (SV) pinned Scott Belcher 3rd; 160 - Bartley Wooten (SV) dec. Victor Bell 8-5; 171 - Thurman Young (KM) pinned Buddy Edwards 3rd; 189 - Mike Bennett (SV) pinned Rod Depew 1st; Hwt. - Duke Howell (SV) pinned Tony Young 1st.



**COME ON, NOW!** - Kings Mountain High's assistant wrestling coach, Chuck Gordon, tries to help one of the Mountaineers post a victory in recent match at KMHS. Head coach Steve Moffitt is kneeling.

### Sports Briefs

## KM Game Tickets Available

Tickets are still available for the celebrity basketball game planned for Thurs., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. at the KMHS gym.

Former pro basketball stars and other celebrities will play a team of local teachers and school employees in a game to raise money for the Central School PTO.

Tickets are \$3 each and may be purchased at McGinnis Department Store, SageSport, and Western Auto.

Some of the celebrities who'll be participating are former Los Angeles Rams quarterback Roman Gabriel, 74" former N.C. State All-American Tom Burleson, former North Carolina standout Buzz Peterson, ex-Wake Forest star Gil McGregor, Bill Lavelle, Pat McConnell, Joe Pizzo, Chuck Boozer, Karen Barnes, Nathan Ritchie, Scott Walker and Hunter Herring.

The game is being arranged by Jerry Ledford, Central School parent.

The celebrities will be transported from Charlotte to Kings Mountain in limos, and photographs of the celebrities will be for sale and will be autographed by the celebrities.

EZ-104 Radio and the Charlotte Knights baseball team are co-sponsoring the event.

#### PATRIOTS WIN

Kings Mountain Junior High's

basketball teams split a Bi-County Conference twinbill with West Lincoln Monday. The KM girls lost 26-14 and the boys posted their third straight victory, 65-21.

Marquiz Williamson scored 19 points and Jermaine Grier 13 to lead the Patriot attack.

Tonia Barnett led the KM girls with six points.

Kings Mountain hosts Shelby Thursday and Burns next Monday.

#### CHURCH LEAGUE

Church League Basketball got underway January 10 at the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department.

First Wesleyan defeated First Baptist 68-32, Central Methodist defeated Kings Mountain Baptist 74-60, David Baptist won over Midview Baptist 64-54, and First Baptist defeated Patterson Grove Baptist 53-45.

#### SOFTBALL TOURNEY

The Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for softball tournaments to be conducted on city facilities this spring and summer.

The recreation department is interested in providing as many tournament dates as possible to a variety of leagues and organizations wishing to sponsor tournaments this season. To that end, leagues and organi-

zations which quality will be assigned dates on a first come, first serve basis, according to availability.

Applications for tournaments may be picked up and completed at the Kings Mountain Community Center office. For more information, call the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department at 734-0449.

#### BASKETBALL MEETING

Persons interested in organizing a 30-and-over basketball league in Kings Mountain are asked to meet Monday at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center. The league will be an open league, meaning that participants do not have to belong to any club or organization or work at a certain business. Monday's meetings will be to discuss league rules, fees, etc. Anyone interested may attend.

#### COMMITTEE MEETING

The Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Committee will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center. The group will discuss goals and objectives for the next fiscal year and several miscellaneous items. The meeting is open to the public.