

Photo by Gary Stewart  
**KM JUMPER** - Rodney Houser of Kings Mountain High tries to clear the bar on the high jump in Tuesday afternoon track meet at John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers ran their behind East Rutherford and Shelby.

## Jones Tough For Heels

CHAPEL HILL — University of North Carolina tennis phenom and Kings Mountain native Bryan Jones is as easy going and fun-loving off the court as he is deadly serious and focused on it. His don't-crack-a-smile and never say die mentality has proved quite successful so far as his impressive singles record of 27-6 shows.

The 5'11" blonde-haired son of Barbara and Bobby Jones started hitting the tennis ball when he was 7 years old but says he didn't take the sport seriously until he was 9 or 10. Both his parents contributed to his desire to become more devoted to tennis, "I used to play with Mom a lot when I was younger and my Dad always played a lot, and taught it in P.E. I just took off from there," Jones says.

Another reason was following in the footsteps in his older brother Brad. Brad, who was recently accepted into UNC's Law School, played tennis and football in high school and is presently a senior at UNC.

For young players learning to integrate tennis into their lives, Jones is definitely someone they can look up to. He keeps tennis very separate from the rest of his day-to-day concerns. "I am totally different on and off the court. I'm serious on the court. I rarely smile and always block out everything else. Off the court I'm always smiling and having a good time. I just like to take it all in. Once the match starts though, I buckle down."

Jones' on-court behavior appears strangely similar to the person he most admires: Bjorn Borg. "Borg is an unbelievable athlete, he's always so composed on the court. He's so clutch; he could always come up with the big shot and never gave up - even when it looked like he was beaten."

Interestingly also is Jones' philosophy similar to that which Borg exemplified during his career. "Never give up, even when things appear tough. Like in tests, if you keep trying for the right answer, you never know what'll happen."

The biology or business major (he hasn't decided which one it will be yet), came out of the junior ranks seeded as the fourth or fifth top player but did not arrive to UNC with the thought that he would be an instant success. Jones credits Head Coach Allen Morris for his guidance so far. "The matches in California (on March 11-17 versus San Diego, Cal-Irvine, Pepperdine, Iowa State, New Mexico and Utah), were a big difference for me. I shouldn't have won a couple of them but I stuck in there and Coach Morris was a

real impact at these. He is very good at telling what you should do mid-match."

Another reason Jones believes he's done as well as he has for UNC this year is that back home in high school, there were not as many good players to practice against, day after day. "Here there are 12 or 13 guys who are very good to hit with; it's not the same person everyday." He also praises his coach at home, Jim Corn. "He could be a very great college coach and helped me a lot."

Personal and team goals are very much a part of Jones' thoughts. Winning the ACC is something the UNC teams have not done for 11 years, so this is a primary goal. The team stands a chance of getting a bid to the NCAA tournament as well, which will be held May 19th through the 28th at the University of Georgia.

Personally, Jones has his sights set on receiving ACC honors and making the NCAA tournament in singles competition. During his time at UNC, he says he would love to have a shot at winning the NCAA singles title. In order to reach these goals, Jones feels he needs work on his serve and volley game.

As many people familiar with Carolina tennis are saying, Jones may be the best the school has recruited since Freddie McNair graced the campus in the early 1970s.

Jones' reasons for choosing Carolina over the other schools he considered such as LSU, Southwest Louisiana, Alabama and the University of Kentucky were mainly academic. There are good reasons for this. He graduated as the valedictorian of Kings Mountain High School and served as student body president. He also was nominated for UNC's prestigious Morehead Scholarship.

He says he thought about his college choice in terms of if he were injured and couldn't play tennis, where he would be happy. He considered as well, the fact that if he chose Carolina, his parents would be able to come see him play. "My family is very supportive of me," he says.

In the near future, Jones is looking forward to playing against Clemson (April 9, in South Carolina), because they have been the main power in the ACC most recently. Winning the ACC Championship is also on his mind. "Now, this is a primary goal," he says. In the more distant future many share in the opinion that there will be a lot more to come from the modest right-hander from Kings Mountain.

## KM Boys Are Third In Track

Kings Mountain High's boys track team finished third in a Southwestern 3-A Conference meet Thursday at East Rutherford.

The host Cavaliers won the event with 121 points, followed by Shelby with 93 1/2, Kings Mountain with 41, and Burns with 7 1/2.

Three Kings Mountain men finished first. Audia Spencer won the 110 high hurdles in 15.51 seconds, and that time qualified him for the state sectionals next month at T.C. Roberson High School. Ryan Hollifield was first in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4:47.5, just 7.5 seconds off the sectional qualifying time. Andy Hollifield ran first in the 3200 meters with a time of 11:28.4.

Larry Stone of Kings Mountain finished second in the pole vault with a leap of 11 feet. It was his personal best over the past two years and was just six inches below the sectional qualifying mark.

Third places for KM included Kevin Moss in the discus (100'3 1/2"), Quan Smith in the 400 meter dash (55.42 seconds), and Matt Stout in the 3200 meter run (11:35.65).

Finishing fourth for the Mountaineers were Victor Bell in the long jump (19'8"), Quan Smith in the shot put (44'), Audia Spencer in the 300 intermediate hurdles (42.75 seconds) and Mike Byers in the 200 meters (24.34 seconds).

Fifth places included Spencer in the 100 meter dash (12.05 seconds), Jonathon Hicks in the 800 meters (2:29.3) and James Roberts in the 200 meters (24.45).

The Mountaineers are scheduled to run at Chase Thursday.

### HORSE SHOW

The Gaston County Horseman's Association horse show will be held Friday and Saturday at Biggerstaff Park in Dallas. Friday's show will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday's shows will be at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$2. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.

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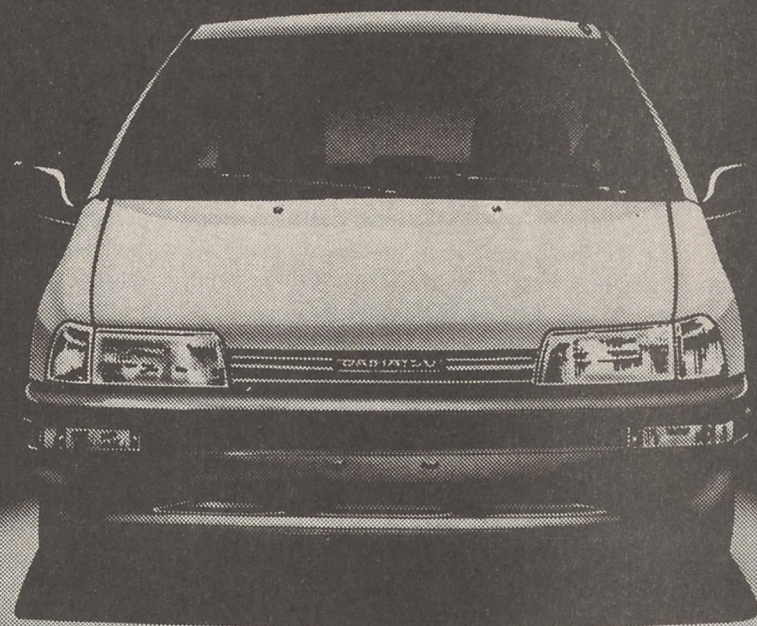
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## Recreation Activities

Schedule of activities, April 13-18, Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department:

Thursday:  
 8:30-9:30 - Aerobics.  
 11:45-1:15 - Lunch time open gym.  
 3-5 p.m. - Kids open gym; hotshot competition, whiffle ball, basketball, gameroom, obstacle course, homerun derby.

Friday:  
 8:30-9:30 - Aerobics.  
 11:45-1:15 - Lunch time open gym.  
 2-4 p.m. - Food bank.

Saturday:  
 8:30-9:30 - Aerobics.  
 11:45-1:15 - Lunch time open gym.  
 1:30-4:30 - Adult open gym.  
 2-4 p.m. - Food bank.

Sunday:  
 8:30-9:30 - Aerobics.  
 11:45-1:15 - Lunch time open gym.  
 1:30-4:30 - Adult open gym.  
 2-4 p.m. - Food bank.  
 2:05-2:50 - Senior Citizens  
 4-5 p.m. - Aerobics.  
 5-9 p.m. - High School.  
 5-9 p.m. Basic education.  
 6:30-7:30 - Aerobics.  
 6:30-8:30 - Table tennis.

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