

# East Rutherford Downs Mounties 10-3

Mounties Whip R-S 16-3 Friday

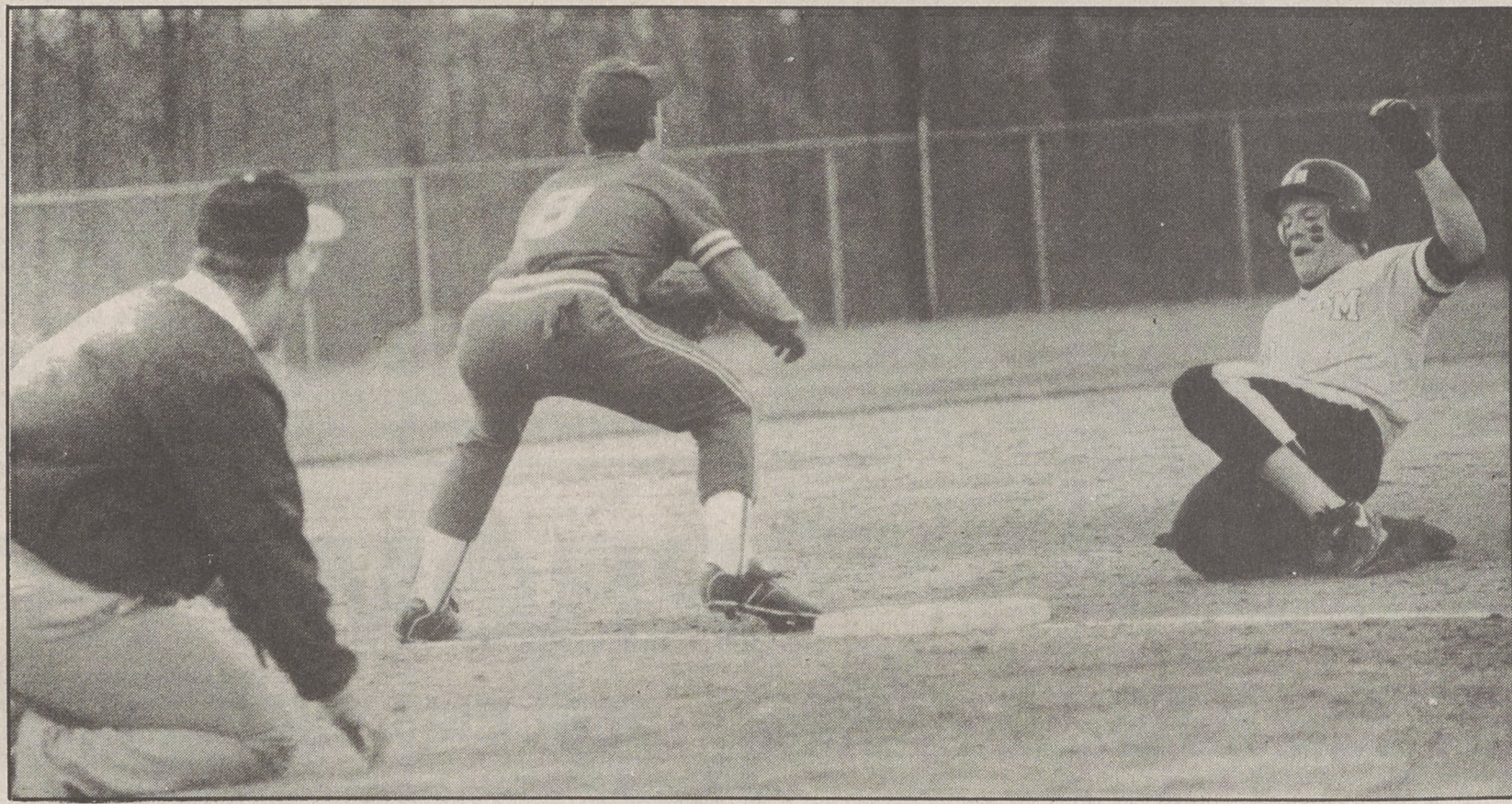
Chris Plonk's three-run homerun highlighted a five-run first inning rally which sparked Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 16-3 victory over R-S Central in Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball action Friday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

The win was the seventh in eight conference games for the Mountaineers, who improved their overall record to 11-4.

Righthander Stuart Spires worked the first five innings to get the win, his fifth in seven decisions overall and his fourth straight against SWC competition.

R-S Central picked up an unearned run off Spires in the top of the first for a 1-0 lead, but the Hilltoppers' pitching and defense could do little to stop the hot Mountaineer bats. Kings Mountain

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**HIT THE DIRT** - Kings Mountain High baseball coach, Bruce Clark, left, tries to help first baseman Paul Brannon hit the dirt as he slides into third base in Friday night's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with R-S Central at KM's Lancaster Field. The Mountaineers won 16-3. KM hosts Shelby Friday at 7:30 p.m. Photos by Gary Stewart

Shelby At KM Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers dropped their second Southwestern 3-A Conference game of the year Tuesday night at East Rutherford, 10-3, but still managed to hold on to second place in the conference race.

The Mountaineers, 7-2 in the conference and 12-5 overall, are two games behind unbeaten South Point in the race for the regular season title. The Mountaineers hold second place by a full game over East Rutherford and two games over R-S Central.

Coach Bruce Clark's charges hope to shore up their defense as they head into the home stretch of the regular season. The Mounties host Shelby Friday at 7:30 p.m. and travel to North Gaston next Tuesday.

"If there's ever been a good time See East, Page 6-A

## KM Girls Track Team Second In County Meet

Kings Mountain High's girls finished second to Shelby in the annual Cleveland County Track Meet last Tuesday night at Crest, and the KM ladies were running second to Shelby again in a four-team Southwestern 3-A Conference meet Wednesday at Shelby when it was rained out.

The Wednesday meet was called after the 1600 meters. At the time, Shelby had 61 points, KM 47, Chase 35 and East Rutherford 15.

In the County Meet, the Lady Lions compiled 89 points to 41 for Kings Mountain. Crest and Burns did not participate.

Kings Mountain picked up five first places in the county run, with Tracy Ward-Bell and Jackie Plonk winning two each. Ward-Bell won the 100 meter dash in 12.89 seconds and the 200 meter dash in

27.31 seconds. Plonk won the 3200 meter run and the 1600 meter run in 6:54.0.

Adrienne Woods won the discus with a throw of 93'10".

Adella Robertson finished second in the high jump with a leap of 4'3". Adrienne Woods was third in the shot put and Angela Woods was third in the discus with a throw of 82'8". Kathy Krueger ran second in the 3200 meters and third in the 1600 meters, and Julie Denlinger was third in the 3200 meters.

At Shelby Wednesday, Ward-Bell won the 100-meter dash again in 12.39 seconds, Adrienne Wood won the shot put with a throw of 33'6", and Plonk ran first in the 1600 meter run in 6:36.0. Cheryl

See Track, 6-A



**HELPS LEAD KM WIN** - Sandra Grant rips a basehit in recent girls softball game at Kings Mountain's Lancaster Field.

## KM Girls Softball Team Loses, Still Tied For Lead

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team dropped its second Southwestern 3-A Conference game of the season Monday at East Rutherford, 9-5, but still managed to hold onto a share of first place in the SWC.

Coach Tony Leigh's ladies, now 5-2 in the conference and 11-3 overall, were scheduled to face Lincolnton in a non-conference game this afternoon. They travel to South Point Thursday.

Kings Mountain will get another shot at East Rutherford next Wednesday at home, and will host Burns in a doubleheader the following Saturday.

Kings Mountain outit East 16-9 Monday but made some costly errors. Sharon Lattimore of East hit a grand slam homer with two outs to key a seven-run fourth inning ex-

plosion which gave the Lady Cavaliers the victory.

"We hit the ball real well, but we just made a couple of errors at the wrong time," Coach Leigh said. "Hopefully we can hang on the rest of the year and win the conference, or at least get in the state playoffs. We're in a good position to win it, we just have to buckle down defensively."

Sandra Grant and Paula Morris each went 3-for-4 to lead the KM plate attack Monday. Robin Watterson was 2-for-3 with a homerun and Velma Degree and Nicole Barnes were 2-for-4 each.

The KM ladies swept North Gaston 14-0 and 11-5 in a SWC twinbill last Thursday.

Watterson went 3-for-4 with a

See Softball, 9-A



**RECEIVES ATHLETIC GRANT-IN-AID**-Stuart Spires, seated, signs grant-in-aid with the University of Evansville to play baseball. From left are Coach Bruce Clark, Coach Ronny Funderburke, Stuart's parents, Millage and Libby Spires, and Assistant KMSHS Principal Sherrill Toney.

## Spires Draws An Ace

Stuart Spires, righthand pitcher for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, signed with the University of Evansville Thursday at the KMHS principal's office.

Spires, son of Millage and Libby Spires, is 4-1 for the Mountaineers this season and has won all of his games against Southwestern 3-A Conference opposition.

Spires has played football, basketball and baseball for the Mountaineers but has concentrated on baseball this season.

Spires has caught the eye of numerous college recruiters the past two summers at some of the top college basketball camps in the south.

"During my official visit at Evansville, I was real impressed with Coach Jim Brownlee," Spires said. "I thought it was a real nice college and a place that could help

me. I especially liked Bosse Field, the 5,500-seat stadium where the team plays. It was once home to the AAA franchise of the Detroit Tigers."

Brownlee has rebuilt the Evansville program to one of the best in the midwest in past years. Last year the Purple Aces set a school record with 44 victories and won the Midwestern Collegiate Conference title. One of their victories was over top-ranked Arizona State in the NCAA tournament.

Brownlee was chosen as Mid-East Region Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches last year, and he has been Midwestern Conference Coach of the Year two of the past four seasons. Brownlee is 247-256-3 in nine years at the Indiana school.

Next year, the Aces will face perennial powers such as Ole Miss,

Mississippi State, Southern Illinois, and others, and will play in tournaments which also feature the likes of Notre Dame, St. Louis and Xavier.

"I'm real excited about our spring trip next year," Spires said. "We will be going to New Orleans and playing Mississippi State, New Orleans and LSU and we may get a chance to play in the Super Dome."

Evansville has a student body of 2,200 full-time students who represent 36 states and 32 foreign countries. It is United Methodist Church-related. During Brownlee's nine years as baseball coach, 95 percent of his players have earned their degrees.

"I would like to express my appreciation to all of my teachers, coaches and friends for their support and motivation throughout my education," Spires said.

## KM Golfers Shoot 298 Thursday

Kings Mountain High's golfers continued their three-year unbeaten string Thursday at Lakewood Golf Course in Cramerton, shooting a 298 to defeat North Gaston, South Point and Burns in a Southwestern 3-A Conference match.

The victory gave Coach Denny Hicks' charges a final 6-0 regular season record. They open their quest for a third straight SWC championship Thursday at 1 p.m. in the first round of the conference tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club. The final round will be played next Thursday at Cleghorne near Rutherfordton.

Last week's 298 was the best score shot over the last three years by a Mountaineer team, and many believe it's the lowest score ever recorded by a KMHS golf team.

Junior Brady Goforth won medalist honors with a one-over-par 73. Ryan Broadwell, Rusty Bumgardner and John Van Dyke each shot 75 for the Mountaineers.

After next week's conference tournament, the Mountaineers will begin preparing for the regionals to be played Mon., May 8 at Cleghorne. The top four individuals and top three teams there will qualify for the state tournament in Chapel Hill.

## KM Bowlers Win Weekend Tourney

Kings Mountain bowlers dominated the Open Handicap Duckpin Bowling Tournament held last weekend at Dilling Heating Lanes.

Jack Barrett won the men's singles, edging KM's John Dilling, and Lib Gault won the women's singles over Becky Sneed.

In mixed doubles, Dilling teamed with Sneed to win first place and with Gault to take second place honors.

The winners shared prize money of \$252.



**SCORES FOR PATS** - Doug Bridges scores for Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots in recent game with Crest at Lancaster Field. The Patriots are unbeaten and closing in on the Bi-County Middle School Conference championship.

## Junior High Baseballers Defeat East Lincoln 9-1

Kings Mountain Junior High's Patriots won their ninth straight game Thursday at East Lincoln, 9-1.

Stephen Fisher went the distance on the mound, scattering three hits and fanning 10.

Todd Ware led the KM plate attack with 3-for-3 and Robbie Ruff, Fisher, and Damon Putnam added two hits each. David Jenkins hit a homerun.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 3-0 lead in the first inning. Jenkins' homer followed Ruff's single to make it 2-0, and the Pats added an-

other run when Ware singled in Putnam, who had singled and moved up on a passed ball.

KM added three more in the third to make it 6-0. Fisher doubled, went to third on Putnam's single and scored on Chris Rider's single. After Rider stole second to put runners on second and third, Ware singled in both runners.

The Patriots added their final three runs in the fifth on Fisher's triple, two East Lincoln errors, a passed ball, and Johnny Stewart's two-run single.