

KM Blanks Chase In Tourney Opener

Brannon Ties Homer Mark In Friday Win Over Burns

Paul Brannon and the Kings Mountain Mountaineers closed out their regular season in a big way Friday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers bombed Burns 18-9 to wrap up second place in the final SWC standings and Brannon clubbed a pair of long homeruns to tie the school record for most homers in a single season.

The junior first baseman finished the night with 11 homers, the same number that another first baseman, David Lancaster, hit in 1974. The two homers by Brannon also gave him the team lead over Chad Plonk, who has 10 roundtrippers.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a final 11-3 record in the SWC. They finished one game behind South Point, which dropped its final two games to finish 12-2. South Point won its first 18 ball-games before losing to Kings Mountain 5-4 Wednesday night. The Raiders fell to Chase 3-2 Friday.

Senior Todd McDaniel picked up the pitching win Friday, working 4 2/3 innings and fanning 10. Keith Allen came on in the bottom of the fifth and fanned seven Bulldogs over the last 2 1/2 innings.

The game wasn't pretty for either side. Nineteen batters reached first on bases on balls, and Kings Mountain committed three errors and Burns two. The Bulldogs finished in last place with a 2-12 conference record.

Burns grabbed early leads of 1-0 and 5-4, but the Mountaineers continued to slam away at three

See Burns, 6-A

KMHS Stops South Point Win Streak

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers ended South Point's 18-game winning streak in Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball action Wednesday night in Belmont.

The Mountaineers edge the Raiders 5-4 to wrap up second place in the final SWC standings and an automatic berth in the upcoming state 3-A playoffs.

The Red Raiders fell to 12-1 in the SWC while the Mountaineers improved their record to 10-3 in the SWC.

Stuart Spires picked up the pitching win, his seventh straight against SWC opposition. He needed last inning relief help from Todd McDaniel, who came in with one out and runners on second and third. McDaniel retired Charlie Foster when rightfielder Chip Cash made a shoestring catch of a sinking line drive, and then got South Point's top hitter, Shane Lay, to bounce out to second to end the game.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 4-0 lead in the top of the first and carried a 5-2 lead into the seventh. Paul Brannon clubbed his ninth homer of the season, a two-run shot, which sparked the four-run first. KM also scored a pair on a couple of South Point errors.

Toby Deaton got an infield single and later scored on another Raider error to make it 5-0 in the

See Raiders, 6-A



TIES HOMER RECORD - Kings Mountain's Paul Brannon is congratulated by Coach Bruce Clark as he rounds third base on one of his two home runs in last week's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with Burns at Lancaster Field. Brannon hit three homers in the Mounties' last two regular season games to tie the school record of 11, which was set in 1974 by David Lancaster.

Mounties To Host First Round State Game, Too

Ken Crook's three-run home sparked a six-run fourth inning rally which lifted Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 11-0 victory over Chase in the opening round of the Southwestern 3-A Conference baseball tournament Monday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

The Mountaineers will host East Rutherford Wednesday at 7:30 in the semi-finals. East Rutherford advanced with a 9-3 victory over Shelby's Golden Lions. The winner of the East-KM game will advance to the championship game Friday against the winner of the South Point-North Gaston game. South Point advanced with a 3-0 win over Burns and North Gaston defeated R-S Central.

Friday's championship game will be played on the home field of the top-seeded team. South Point is seeded first, KM second, East third and North Gaston fourth.

Three SWC teams will advance to the state 3-A playoffs which begin next week. South Point and Kings Mountain are assured of a state berth. The third berth will go to East Rutherford unless North Gaston wins the conference tournament. If the Wildcats win the tournament, they will advance to the state and East Rutherford will stay at home.

Chase, which had stunned South Point 3-2 in its final regular season game Friday, played tough against the more talented KM team for three innings. Chad Allen of the Trojans was hooking up with KM ace Stuart Spires in a pitcher's duel until he developed control problems in the bottom of the fourth.

Crook's homer produced a 3-0 Mountaineer lead, then Bruce

Clark's charges broke the game open by adding three more runs on Chris Henson's RBI single, a bases-loaded balk, and a Chase error.

Kings Mountain added two more runs in the fifth to make it 8-0 as relief pitcher Matt Sperling of the Trojans issued two straight bases loaded walks.

The Mountaineers closed out the scoring in the sixth, getting three more runs on Shane Sessoms; RBI single, Henson's RBI single and Paul Brannon's sacrifice fly.

Except for two touchy innings, Spires had little trouble registering his eighth straight victory after two early season losses. Spires, who fanned five, gave up singles in the first inning to Brian White and Travis Macopsen, then held the Trojans hitless until the sixth, when he gave up singles to White, Scott Hardin and Macopsen but fanned Donnie Henson with the bases loaded to get out of the jam.

Chris Plonk came on to pitch in the seventh for the Mounties, fanning two batters and walking two.

Henson finished with three hits to lead the KM plate attack. The Mounties left 13 men on base.

The Mountaineers will enter state 3-A tournament action next Tuesday night at home against the number two team from the Mountain Athletic Conference.

Coach Bruce Clark said he's pretty sure that team will be Enka, which finished second to last year's state 3-A runner-up, Asheville Erwin in the regular season MAC race. A team that finished lower than second in the regular season

See Chase, 6-A

KMHS Golfers Are Fifth In State 3-A Tournament

Kings Mountain High's golfers finished fifth in the state 3-A tournament Monday and Tuesday at Finley Golf Course in Chapel Hill.

The Mountaineers shot a 644 to finish 20 strokes behind champion T.C. Roberson. The Mountaineers had defeated Roberson for the Western Regional championship last week.

Roberson won by one shot over Northwest Guilford with a 625. West Carteret was third at 629 and Walter Williams fourth at 638.

Following the Mountaineers at 644 were Conley 646, East Rowan 661, Lincolnton 671, Southwest Edgecombe 681, Eastern Alamance 688, Sun Valley 692 and Brevard 740.

Jason Wilder of Northwest Guilford was the individual champion with a 69-72--141.

Seniors Brad Wilson and Rusty Bumgardner led the Mountaineer effort. Wilson, two-time Southwestern 3-A Conference Player of the Year, shot a 76-78--154, which was the fifth best score. Bumgardner finished sixth in the individual standings with a 74-82--156. He turned in one of the best nine-hole scores of the tourney with a 33 Monday.

Other KM scores were Brady

White Plains Shrinettes To Sponsor Golf Tourney

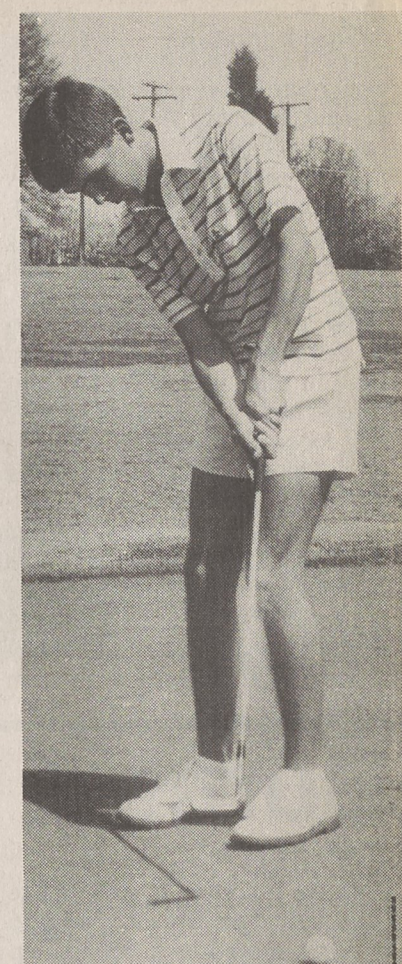
The fourth annual White Plains Shrinettes Golf Tournament will be played June 3-4 at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Entry fee is \$70 for two-person teams. The tourney will be a 36-hole, medal play event with teams flighted after Saturday's round.

Due to a limited number of golf carts, only the first 100 players will be accepted. Starting times will be from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

One free practice round will be given to all players who enter before the tournament week (May 29-June 2). Call 739-5871 for starting times for practice rounds.

The entry fee includes green fees. Carts are \$7 per rider. Awards



BRAD WILSON

Goforth 85-82--167, Ryan Broadwell 80-87--167, and John Van Dyke 87-91--178.



KMHS SOFTBALL STANDOUT NICOLE BARNES
Goes 4-For-5 At Bat (Left), Plays Well In Field (Right)



KM Whips North In Tourney Opener

KM Ends Up Co-Champions

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team was involved in two shutouts to end regular season Southwestern 3-A Conference play last week.

Thursday, Coach Tony Leigh's ladies blanked Shelby 15-0 to clinch at least a tie for the SWC title. Friday, in a makeup game at R-S Central, the Mountainettes fell 3-

0 and ended the season as co-champions with East Rutherford.

Both KM and East finished the regular season with 10-4 conference marks. East Rutherford was awarded the top seed for the upcoming state 3-A playoffs because

See Softball, 6-A

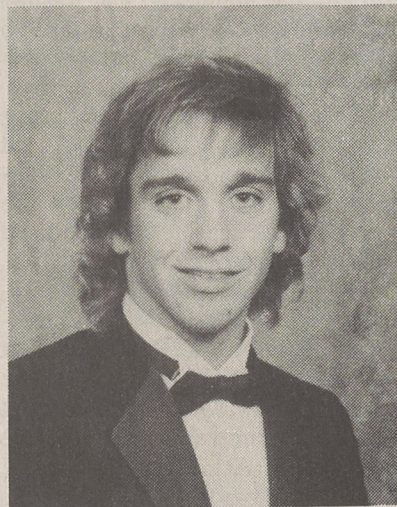
Kings Mountain High's girls softball team opened its quest for the Southwestern 3-A Conference tournament championship Monday with a 21-2 victory over North Gaston at Lancaster Field.

Coach Tony Leigh's gals, now 17-5 overall after sharing the SWC title with East Rutherford, were scheduled to host South Point today at 4 p.m. The winner will advance to Friday's SWC tournament championship game against the

winner of the R-S Central-East Rutherford game.

If Kings Mountain wins today, it would play on the road Friday if East Rutherford wins. If R-S Central and Kings Mountain win, the game would be played here.

Tandra Leftwich hurled Monday's victory. Nicole Barnes led the offense with 4-for-5 and six runs batted in, and she also played a strong defensive game at shortstop. Lisa Buckner was 2-for-3 and Christi Dixon 1-for-2.



KENNEY POTTER

Sharks Club Needs Swimmers, Potter To Help Coach In Summer

Sharks Aquatics Club is currently taking applications for its new Sandsharks swim group. This group provides an introduction to competitive swimming with emphasis on technique and stroke development. Classes meet 2 days a week. Minimal fee charges. All sessions will be held in the Neisler Natatorium on the campus of Kings Mountain Senior High School.

Interested swimmers must be at least 6 years of age. For more information, call the indoor pool (739-0707) 3-6 p.m. or 739-1288.

The Aquatics Club has also announced that Kenny Potter, a Kings Mountain native who swam competitively for Sharks Aquatics and Gaston Y will be assisting Coach Brian Allen with swimming groups

this summer. Potter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Potter and he is currently a student at Florida State University majoring in Music.

The Sharks will begin their summer conference season on Tuesday, June 13th. The meet will be in Lenoir against Caldwell County Swim Team and Rutherford County Swim Team.