



Photo by Dieter Melhorn

CONFERENCE RUNNERS-UP - These Kings Mountain High wrestlers finished second in their weight class and helped the Mountaineers win the team championship in Saturday's Southwestern 3-A Conference tournament at North Gaston. Left to right, Robbie Ruff, Bo Phongsas, Andy Hollifield, Scott Belcher, Bill Foard and Timmy McClain. The second place finishers earned All-Conference recognition. The Mountaineers travel to Enka Friday and Saturday for the Western Regionals and will also compete in the upcoming state team tournament. The top four finishers in each weight class at Enka qualify for the state individual tournament.

Rockets, Syracuse Lead In Boys Club Basketball

The Rockets regained the lead in the 12-under division and Syracuse remained unbeaten in the 15-under division in Kings Mountain Boys Club basketball action during the past week.

The Rockets now have a 4-2 mark, followed by the Lakers at 4-3, Bulls 3-3, Pistons 3-4, Cavs 2-3 and Hawks and Jazz 2-4 each.

In 15-under play, Syracuse has a 5-0 mark, followed by Duke at 4-2, Carolina 3-3, Georgetown and Kansas 2-3, Oklahoma 1-4 and Gaston Tigers 1-5.

Syracuse outscored Oklahoma 99-93 Tuesday as Sheldon Thompson scored 34 points, Freddie Adams 24, Derrick Byrd 21 and Brian Dawkins 15. Mike Roberts led Oklahoma with 26, Jarvis Bell added 22, Daryl Patterson 17 and Maurice Young 12.

In another game Tuesday, Duke edged the Gaston Tigers 78-71. William Jenkins led the winners with 21 points, followed by Robbie Hullender with 17 and Sherman Witcher with 12. Travis Gillespie led the Tigers with 20, Willie Johnson added 15 and Shon Davis 12.

Last Thursday, the Pistons edged the Bulls 55-54 and the Lakers clipped the Hawks 56-52.

Maurice Tate scored 18, Corey McCrorey 14 and Emory Bess 10 for the Pistons. Eric Tate had 18, Corey Leach 12 and Adam Smith 10 for the Bulls.

Travis Watson scored 14 and Patrick Leeper and Daniel Curry 13 each to lead the Lakers over the Hawks. Ralphel Williams scored 40 and Alex Burris 10 for the Hawks.

In 12-under action Saturday, the Rockets edged the Jazz 52-50 and the Lakers nipped the Pistons 68-67.

Rodney Brown scored 20, Charlie Burris 14 and Larry Smith 10 to lead the Rockets. Maurice Jarrett scored 12 and Rodney Smarr, Lance McClain and Jawan McCree 10 each for the Jazz.

Patrick Leeper's 15 points led the Lakers over the Pistons. David Jennings added 14 and Cameron Falls 12. BaBa Bell led the Pistons with 18 and Maurice Tate had 16 and David Champion 8.

In 15-under play Saturday, Carolina edged Duke 60-58 and

Kansas nipped the Gaston Tigers 62-61.

Charles Briggs scored 18, Mike Roberts 16 and Travis McDowell 14 to lead Carolina over Duke. Sherman Witcher scored 30 and William Jenkins 16 for Duke.

Maurice Young scored 15 points and Tim Adams 12 to lead Kansas over the Tigers. Shon Davis scored 25 and Travis Smith 12 for the Tigers.

Players of the week last week were BaBa Bell, Charles Briggs, William Jenkins, Travis Watson, Sherman Witcher and Maurice Young.

Academic players of the week were Adam Smith and Kyle Tsui.

Thursday's games will have the Hawks battling the Bulls and Oklahoma taking on the Gaston Tigers. Saturday, the Pistons will meet the Rockets, Georgetown battles Carolina and Syracuse faces Duke.

AAU Tryouts Set Saturday

Tryouts for the Kings Mountain 11, 12, 13 and 14 year old AAU Junior Olympic basketball team will be held Saturday from 3-5 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Boys Club, located at Central School.

Players born after August 31 are eligible.

The 11 and 12 year old AAU Regional Tournament will be held March 30-April 1 in Marion. The 13 year old AAU Regional Tournament will be held March 30-April 1 in North Wilkesboro. The 11, 12, 13 and 14 year old AAU

State Tournament will be held April 5-7 in Concord.

Kings Mountain AAU teams have finished second, third, fifth, seventh and 10th in the nation. Seventeen All-Americans have come from the Kings Mountain Association.

For more information, call Danny McDowell at 739-7026 after 3:30 p.m., Tom Bennett at 739-3667 from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., or Bobby Bell at 734-0046 after 3 p.m.

Burns

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you have to."

The KM ladies fell behind early Tuesday, trailing Burns by 16-10 after the first quarter and 28-25 at intermission. But KM came back to lead by 35-31 heading into the fourth quarter and held off a Burns rally at the end to win.

Tina Sweezy led Burns with 14 points and Amy Meade added nine.

Kings Mountain's boys probably eliminated Burns from post-season possibilities but the Bulldogs continued their tradition of outstanding play against the Mountaineers.

Burns built a 12-point lead in the second quarter before the Mountaineers came back to trim the margin to 25-24 at halftime. Burns led 38-35 going into the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain twice had the ball and a two-point lead in the final minute of play but the Bulldogs battled back to tie the game and force overtime for the second time against the Mounties. Earlier in the year, KM won a 65-63 overtime game over the Bulldogs at KMHS.

Daniel Honeycutt rebounded a missed shot and scored with three seconds left to give the Mountaineers the win.

Honeycutt finished with 16 points to lead the KM offense. Era Vaughn added 14. Vaughn grabbed 11 rebounds and Honeycutt five.

Shion Kirkland led the Bulldogs with 19 points. KM held Burns' leading scorer, Mark R. Hush, to nine.

Kings Mountain won the game at the foul line, hitting 13 of 19 shots to only five of nine for Burns.

"We're just glad to get out of here with a win," said KM Coach

Larry Sipe. "Burns played a great game."

The Bulldogs lost their sixth conference game and all of them have been by three points or less.

"This may have put the nail in the coffin for their chances of being one of the four teams from the Southwest Conference to qualify for the state playoffs," Sipe said. "But they have an outstanding team. I don't want to play them anymore."

The KM teams travel to North Gaston Friday. The North Gaston girls lead the conference and the Wildcats are in fourth place with three losses.

"At the beginning of the season I thought North Gaston would be the top team in the league," Sipe said. "They have outstanding talent and I'm sure they'll play well against us."

Funderburke hopes his girls can continue their outstanding play and knock off the first-place North girls.

"This is a really big game for us," Funderburke said. "Our girls feel good about themselves right now and I think we'll play well against North Gaston. If we can beat them it would really help our chances of going to the state playoffs."

GIRLS GAME

KM (44) - Smith 10, Barnes 10, Feemster 9, Ruff 7, Roseboro 6, Hardin 2.

BR (42) - Sweezy 14, Meade 9, Scott 8, Morrison 5, Richards 3, Hunt 2.

BOYS GAME

KM (55) - Honeycutt 16, Byers 3, Vaughn 14, Ross 6, Smith 2, Currence 5, McNeal 9.

BR (53) - Mark R. Hush 9, Merritt 7, Kirkland 19, Mark E. Hush 2, Byrd 6, Lee 4, Sain 3, Putnam 3.

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