

**OUT ON CLOSE PLAY** - Kings Mountain's Chris Henson is tagged out by Brevard third baseman Tommy Stewart as Henson tries to steal third in Friday night's state 3-A playoff game at KM's Lancaster Field. Kings Mountain won 10-7 to advance to a third round game last night at home against North Gaston. The North Gaston-KM winner will play the winner of the West Caldwell-Central Davidson game Friday at 7:30 for the Western championship and the right to play the Eastern champion for the state championship next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the east. Teams still in the running in the east are Washington, South Johnston, West Alamance and Trinity.

## Two First Inning Home Runs Power Mounties Over Brevard

Two-run home runs by Paul Brannon and Chad Plonk powered Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to a 5-0 first inning lead but they had to fight off Brevard rallies late in the game to win 10-7 in the second round of the state 3-A baseball playoffs Friday night at Lancaster Field.

The victory advanced the Mountaineers into a third round game against North Gaston's Wildcats, the third seed from the Southwestern 3-A Conference. That game was originally scheduled for Monday night but was postponed because of rain and was to be made up last night. The winner will advance to the Western championship game Friday at home against the winner of the West Caldwell-Central Davidson game. The winner of that game will play in the best-of-three state championship series June 6-8 on the home field of the Eastern champion.

The Mountaineers, 21-3, built a 9-2 lead after three innings but made some costly errors which allowed the visiting Blue Devils to get back into the game. Brevard cut the margin to 9-7 with two outs in the top of the sixth and had two runners on and the potential winning run at the plate before Eric Peppard flagged down Jeff Shelton's long fly ball to right-center to end the threat. "We weren't ready to play," said Coach Bruce Clark. "It was the worst we've ever played and still won the game."

David Jenkins, a freshman, came on in the top of the fifth inning with KM leading 9-5 and saved the game for starter Keith Allen (11-0). Jenkins gave up a two-run double to Randy Shelton in the fifth, which scored two runners left on by Allen, and then gave up two unearned runs in the sixth on an error and Tommy Stewart's RBI single.

Starting out, the game looked like a blowout as Eric Peppard walked, moved to second on Chris Henson's single and scored on two consecutive balks by Brevard starter Brian Oliver. Brannon smashed his 16th homer of the season, and 41st of his three-year career, and after Chip Cash doubled Chad Plonk hit a long homer over the centerfield fence to make it 5-0.

Brannon's home run moved him up to seventh place on the National High School Athletic Federation career home run list. The national record of 53 homers is held by Dan Ruff of Fairfield Union, Ohio.

The Blue Devils' two unearned runs in the top of the second seemed harmless as the Mounties scored two each in the second and third to stretch the lead to 9-2. Chip Cash slammed a two-run homer in the second and Eric Peppard singled home Chris Bullock and later scored on a wild pitch in the third.

Allen, who had been struggling but still hadn't given up an earned run, walked one batter and hit another to start off the top of the fifth. Tommy Stewart doubled to right-center to drive in one run and Coach Clark called on Jenkins. After striking out a batter, Jenkins gave up a two-run double to Shelton to make the score 9-5.

Brevard added two more runs in the sixth to make it 9-7, scoring one

on a throwing error and the other on a single by Stewart.

After the third inning, Brevard called on its pitching ace, southpaw Randy Shelton, who had pitched nine innings and struck out 16 batters two nights before at St. Stephens and had only three pitching innings remaining in his 72-hour period. He held the Mounties hitless until the bottom of the sixth when Chad Plonk hit his second homer of the night to make it 10-7. Jenkins retired the Blue Devils in order in the top of the seventh.

Score by innings: R-H-E  
 BR 020 032 0 7-8-3  
 KM 522 001 x 10-10-4  
 Oliver, R. Shelton (4) and Jeff Shelton; Allen, Jenkins (5) and Brannon.  
 WP - Allen (11-0). LP - Oliver (6-1).  
 HR - Brannon (16); Chad Plonk 2 (4); Cash (4).

## KMHS Wins Wachovia Trophy Again

Kings Mountain High learned at this week's Southwestern 3-A Conference meeting that its 1989-90 athletic success was the best ever in the conference.

The Mountaineers won eight of the 15 conference championships and won the Wachovia Trophy by

the largest margin of any school in history.

KM compiled 130 points to 112 1/2 for second place Shelby. East Rutherford was third with 109 1/2, R-S Central fourth with 105 1/2, South Point fifth with 96 1/2, North

Gaston sixth with 86 and Burns seventh with 61.

The Mountaineers won conference championships in girls tennis, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, boys basketball, golf, softball, and baseball.

## 12 Mounties On All-SWC Track Team

Kings Mountain High placed 12 men on the All-Conference track team announced yesterday.

Heading the list was senior standout Ryan Hollifield, who made All-Conference in the 800 and 1600 meter runs and the 1600 meter relay, and was named SWC Player of the Year.

Hollifield was undefeated in the 800 and 1600 meter runs and finished second in the Western 3-A sectionals. He was conference champion in both events.

Victor Bell made All-SWC in the 16700 meter relay, 400 meter run and long jump. He was SWC and sectional champion in the 400 and

long jump and finished fifth in the state in the 400 with a time of 50.99 seconds.

Others making All-SWC were Greg Beckwith, discus; John Forrest, 1600 relay; Mike Byers, 200 meters, 1600 relay and 800 re-

See Track, 3-A

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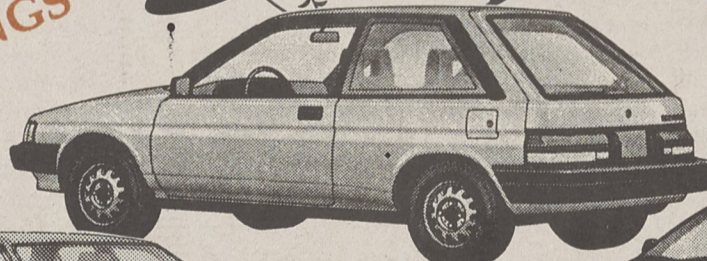
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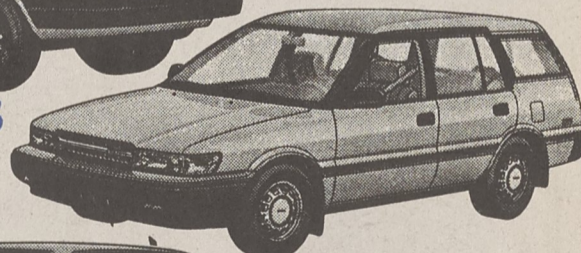
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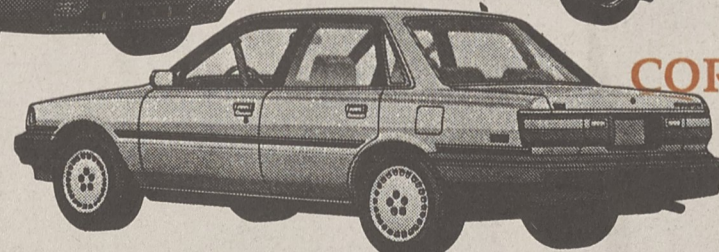
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