

## Mountaineers lose to R-S Central

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers couldn't overcome R-S Central's 33-17 scoring advantage in the second quarter and fell to the Hilltoppers 85-81 in Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball action Friday night at R-S.

The Mountaineers held an 18-14 lead after the first period, but the hot second half enabled the Hilltoppers to build a 47-35 half-time advantage. Kings Mountain came back to cut the margin to 67-63 going into the fourth quarter but couldn't get any closer.

The win kept the defending

champion Hilltoppers within a

game of unbeaten North Gaston in the race for the regular season championship. Kings Mountain fell to 3-6 in the conference and 7-13 overall. The Mountaineers are battling Burns and Shelby for the fourth playoff berth from the SWC.

Dion Carson led the R-S Central attack with 29 points. Aaron Hamilton added 14, Kevin Hines 13 and Jerome Wilkins 11.

Freshman Bryan Leftwich led the Mountaineers with 19. Marquiz Williamson added 14 and Justin Jones and Sharee Hopper scored 13

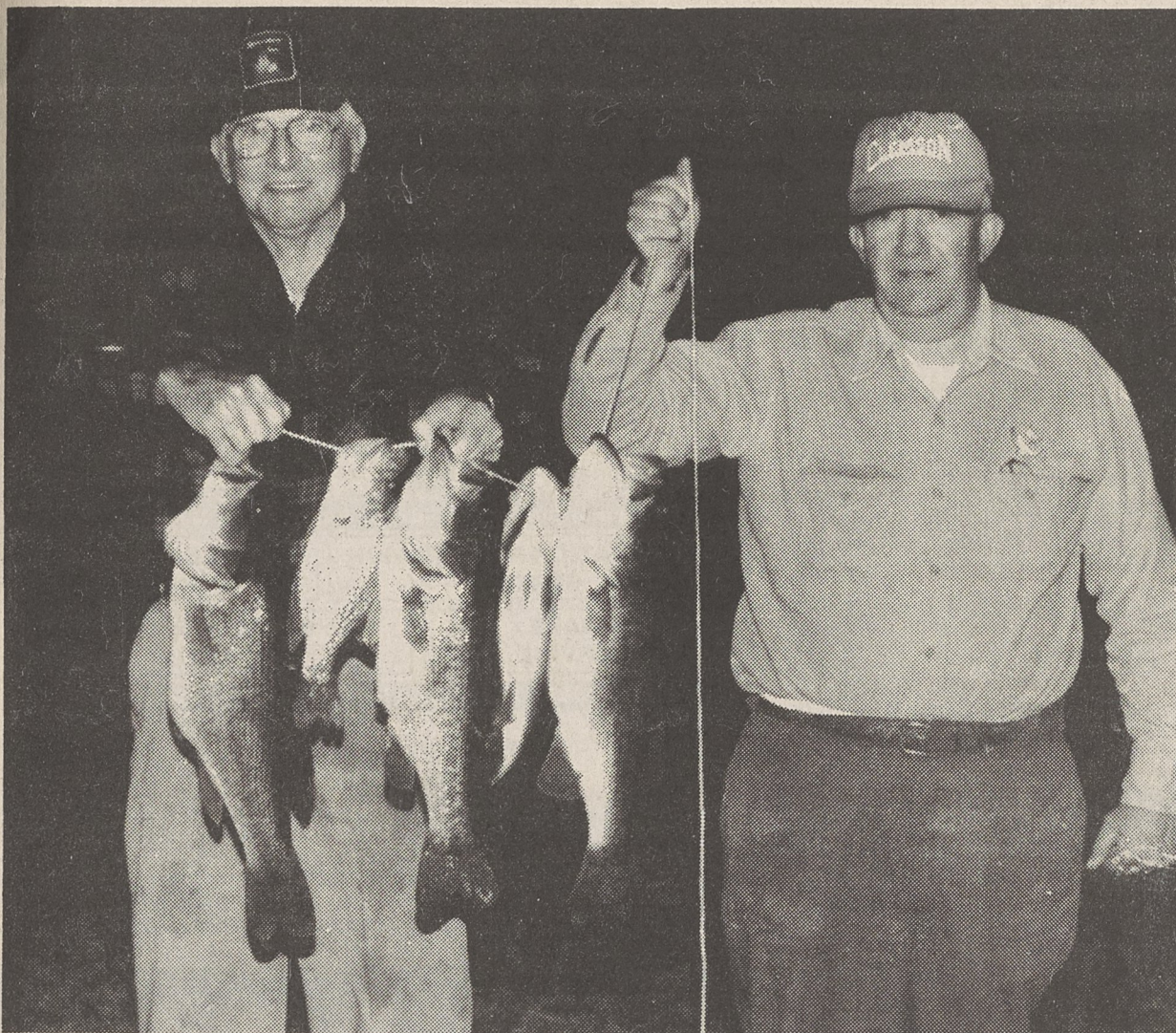
apiece.

The Mountaineers are idle Friday and play their final home game next Tuesday against Shelby. They close out the regular season on February 28 at South Point.

### BOYS GAME

KM (81) - Leftwich 19, Williamson 14, Bell 4, Jones 13, Grier 6, Washington 6, Hopper 13, Mathis 6.

RS (85) - Carson 29, Davis 2, Simmons 9, Hines 13, Miller 3, Michael 2, B. Hamilton 2, A. Hamilton 14, Wilkins 11.



YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY - Eugene Goforth, left, and David Hughes show off a nice stringer of bass they caught in the rain Monday at a lake near Chester, SC. The biggest bass weighed in at eight pounds and the second largest was seven pounds.

## BASEBALL

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along with David R. Jenkins, Shane Webb and Myers.

David R. Jenkins, or as Clark calls him "Big" David, turned in a solid performance for the Mountaineers as a sophomore last year and also pitched well in American Legion baseball last summer. When he wasn't on the mound he was the Mountaineers' designated hitter and made the All-Conference team for his efforts at the plate.

A welcomed addition to the mound staff is Webb, who didn't play high school baseball last year but turned in a stellar performance for the American Legion Juniors.

Behind the plate, Couch will have plenty of help from Chris Rider, who lettered last year, and Marr, a versatile player who can play any position on the field. In the outfield, Marr and Rider will see a lot of action along with returning starters Robbie Ruff, TeeGee Goforth and Caja Ormand; and Brent Turner, Doran Moore and Johnny Bunch.

"You can say what you want to, but the bottom line is that a high school team is going to be as good as their pitchers and the middle of the defense," says Clark. "We feel real good about those areas right now. I don't think anybody that we'll play will be any more solid than we are in that area. And we've got some good people besides them, too."

The pitchers haven't thrown hard yet, Clark said, mostly because of the weather but also because he wants them to peak at full speed at the start of the season. "They've only thrown seven pitches at a rate that's anywhere close to as hard as they can throw," he said. "We've still got about 20 school days before we play. We'll just gradually pick it up and hope that come March 16 they'll be ready to go."

Clark says an off-season weight program, in which all of the players participated, should pay big dividends this spring.

"It seemed like last year the bats sometimes controlled the player," he said. "This year we've got more control. We seem to be attacking the ball quicker with the bat. The kids feel confident that they're stronger and quicker, and I think we're going to be a much better hitting club."

"We're not going to be the type team that we were in '89 and '90 when you're expecting to hit home runs," he added. "We're going to have to manufacture runs. That means base hits, stealing and bunting, and hitting and running. I think that we've got a real good team as far as that goes."

"But they key for us is confidence," he continued. "We finished second last year and I really didn't feel like our players got the credit they deserved. Most of the time we started nine sophomores. We struggled, but at the same time were runner-up in the conference. After seeing a summer of legion pitching they've got 55 to 60 games under their belt and they're ready to go."

"We're just looking forward to seeing what can happen," he said. "We need to put some wins together. Last year we'd win a couple and then lose a couple. We need to put some wins together and just get hungry and keep that winning tradition alive that we built in '89 and '90."

The Mountaineers will again field a junior varsity team, with Ronny Funderburke serving as head JV coach while also assisting Clark with the varsity. Richie Gold, a former KM player, will work with the varsity infielders and another former Mountaineer, Wayne Bridges, will work part-time with the JVs and varsity.

"We feel real fortunate to have these coaches with us," Clark said.

"Ronny Funderburke does an excellent job with the JV team and it means so much when we can get our system into kids at the ninth grade level. When they move up they already know what they're doing."

"We feel really good about having Richie Gold join the staff this year. He and his dad were outstanding players here and he brings a lot of experience with him. His dad taught him a lot and hopefully he can give us some help as far as his knowledge of the game. We're real fortunate to have him."

"Wayne Bridges has done an excellent job in the past with the City of Kings Mountain baseball programs. He's real good with kids."

The Mountaineers travel to Lincolnton March 11 for a scrimmage and then open regular season action on March 16 at home against East Gaston. They face 4-A power Independence in Charlotte on March 17 and host East Lincoln in a doubleheader on Sat., March 21. They open SWC action on Tues., Mar. 24 at Shelby.

### THE SCHEDULE

March 16 - East Gaston 4:30; March 17 - at Independence 4:30; March 21 - East Lincoln (2) 1 p.m.; March 24 - at Shelby 7:30; March 27, North Gaston 7:30; March 30 - at East Gaston 7 p.m.; March 31 - at East Rutherford 7:30. April 7 - Burns 7:30; April 10 - at R-S Central 4:30; April 16 - Independence 7 p.m.; April 17 - Shelby 7:30; April 20-24 - Gaston Neighbors Tournament at North Gaston; April 28 - at North Gaston 7:30. May 1 - East Rutherford 7:30; May 2 - at East Lincoln (2) 1 p.m.; May 5 - at South Point 7:30; May 6 - Crest 7:30; May 8 - at Burns 7:30; May 12 - R-S Central 7:30; May 13 - at Crest 7:30. May 18-22 - SWC tournament (TBA); May 26 - First round of state playoffs (TBA).

## Hit-a-thon set at high school

Kings Mountain High's baseball team will have a hit-a-thon Saturday, Feb. 29 at 10 a.m. at Lancaster Field.

Players have been soliciting pledges for the number of hits they can get out of 100 pitches. The proceeds will go to help finance the high school baseball program.

The event is open to the public. Fans are welcome to attend just to watch the hitting, or to get involved in the pledging.

## Programs set at Rec. Dept.

Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation is planning a variety of special interest classes for the coming year. The department is open to ideas or comments for any classes and persons with suggestions are asked to call Denise Falls at 734-0449.

Also, the P&R Department is looking for instructors to teach special interest classes. Anyone interested should call 734-0449.

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# ATTENTION

## ALL BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND PRIVATE HOMEOWNERS

The Cleveland County Solid Waste Ordinance, Section 11-71, (c) states that "vehicles or containers used for the collection and transportation of any solid waste shall be loaded and moved in such a manner that the contents will not fall, leak or spill therefrom, and shall be adequately secured or covered to prevent spillage therefrom." As of February 15, 1992, those vehicles that fail to abide by the ordinance will be issued a warning by the County Landfill staff for the next 45 days. After two (2) warnings, you will be charged an acceptance fee of \$25.00, plus your regular disposal fee, or given the opportunity to leave and return in compliance with your load secured.

We further define "adequately secured or covered" to be totally enclosed by means of an enclosed van or trailer, compactor truck and/or container, or a vehicle with a tailgate covered by means of a solid tarpaulin or equivalent. Netting material does not meet the requirements of the ordinance.

Any further questions concerning the above ordinance contact Sam Lockridge, III, with the Cleveland County Health Department at 484-5130, between the hours of 8:00 to 5:00 Monday thru Friday.

KMH-530, 2:20