



Kings Mountain High basketball coach Larry Sipe gets ready for his 11th season with the Mountaineers.

Mounties young but have talent

With only four players back from last year's sectional championship team, Kings Mountain High Basketball Coach Larry Sipe expects to learn a lesson in patience this year.

But, don't take that to mean this will be a bad season because Sipe has a lot of young talent which will represent the school very well as it matures.

Sipe's charges opened practice Monday night at the KMHS gym and will spend the first several days of practice "just developing some running legs and getting our basketball touch and shooting eye back."

Sipe lost three quality players off last year's team - All-Conference stars Justin Jones and Marquiz Williams and point guard Jerry Black. They will be hard to replace but the veteran mentor is hoping his three returning lettermen - Sharee Hopper, Bryan Leftwich and Marcus Bell - will take up the slack.

Sipe's top returning player is junior Bryan Leftwich, last year's leading scorer with a 15-points per game average. Leftwich hit a school record 93 three-point goals last year.

Sharee Hopper, a 6-1 senior, returns inside along with Bell, who won't join the team until next week because of participation in football. Albert Perkins, a 6-1 senior, also returns.

"Sharee Hopper is one of the players that will have to step forward and assume a new role this year," says Sipe. "He's quiet and laid back sometimes but he needs to step his game up a level. We've discussed that, and he's willing. He's a senior and this is his last go-round so he'd like to go out with a bang."

Bell, who pumped new life into the Mountaineers' attack as a reserve last year, will move into a starting role and will also be one of the players Sipe looks to for leadership.

"Last year, one of the keys to our success was the fact that I could al-

ways count on Marcus to give it all he had 100 percent of the time. You could always count on him to give his all whether he was in the game or in practice or sitting on the bench. If we had an emotional leader last year it was Marcus. He's someone else who will have to assume a much larger role this year."

Bell and Black time and again gave the Mountaineers a much needed lift off the bench in the late-season drive to the conference tournament and sectional championships. The Mountaineers finished sixth in the regular season and had to win the conference tournament to qualify for the state playoffs.

With an unusually large number of young players, Sipe said the players and fans will have to be patient this year, but he fully expects the team to improve as the season progresses.

"These players are young, but they're very talented," he says. "There's a big jump to varsity ball so they're going to have to make that adjustment in a hurry because at least two of them will be in the starting lineup."

"Our key this year is that we

See Sipe, 10-B



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LOCAL AREA BUSINESS REVIEW

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Fighting for truth, justice and a better night's sleep

"Fighting for truth, justice and a better night's sleep." That's the motto for Waterbed Gallery, located at 901 S. Chester St (Hwy 321 S.).

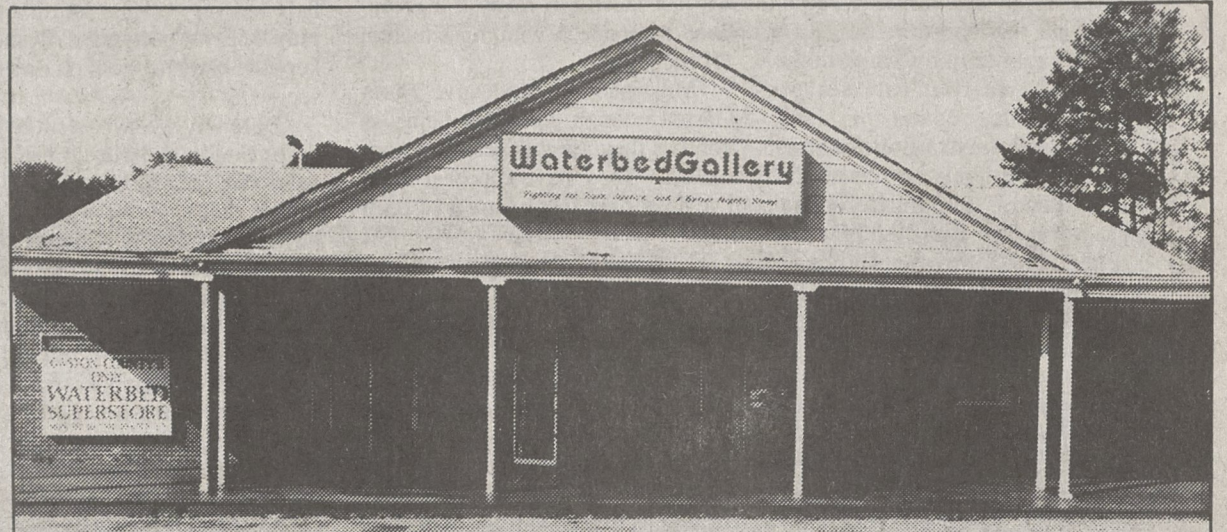
Shane Bradley opened the Waterbed Gallery in April of 1985. He bought the building where he is currently located in October of 1992, after operating his shop for seven years in the Garrison Square Shopping center on W. Garrison Boulevard. He learned the waterbed business in Orlando, Florida, where he moved in 1977 and went to work for a company selling the beds. After a while the company promoted him and transferred him to the Tampa Bay area. After that, Shane decided he knew enough to open his own business. That's when he came back home and opened the Waterbed Gallery.

The Waterbed Gallery deals exclusively in high quality waterbeds and accessories. Some of the brands they sell are Sealy, Land and Sky, Aqua Queen and Webb. They also handle bedding such as sheets and comforters.

"Basically, all we sell is waterbeds and bedding," said Bradley.

According to Bradley, waterbeds have many benefits as opposed to regular mattresses and box springs.

"Most people don't realize it," he said, "but the average person tosses or turns from 75 to 100 times during the night. That's because they lie on their arms and hinder the blood flow, or they get cramped up some way. With waterbeds, the water conforms to the body, and you don't have any of that. Some people are surprised when they wake up and find they haven't moved from their original position all night. In other words it isn't necessary for your brain to send out messages for other parts of the body to move. Besides, the heat from your waterbed is therapeutic."



The Waterbed Gallery, located at 901 South Chester Street in Gastonia, deals exclusively in high quality waterbeds and accessories. Waterbeds, according to many people in the medical profession, are useful in relieving tension and soothing sore muscles, as well as the treatment of arthritis and bed sores.

There is a body of medical literature that maintains waterbeds work extremely well for those who tend to get bedsores, for those afflicted with Arthritis and for those with chronic back problems. Burn wards have used waterbeds for years.

It stands to reason that the controlled warm surface is beneficial in relieving tension and soothing sore muscles.

The use of waterbeds for health related and medical problems is not new. Flotation beds were used for the treatment of bedsores as far back as 1851.

Besides himself, Shane has two full-time employees. They've all been pretty busy of late, because of the current interest in what is referred to as soft side beds. They appear to be regular mattresses and box springs, but they are really waterbeds. The regular bedding that is used on non-water beds can be used on the soft sides. They are attractive and, according to Bradley, "hot" right now.

Bradley says the Waterbed Gallery already has 50 to 80 waterbeds laid away for the Christmas season.

It's going to be a busy time. The Waterbed Gallery hours are Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sun. 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Shane Bradley, owner of the Waterbed Gallery, has been in the business for 16 years. He opened Waterbed Gallery in April of 1985. Bradley says he already has 50 to 80 waterbeds on layaway for the Christmas season.

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