

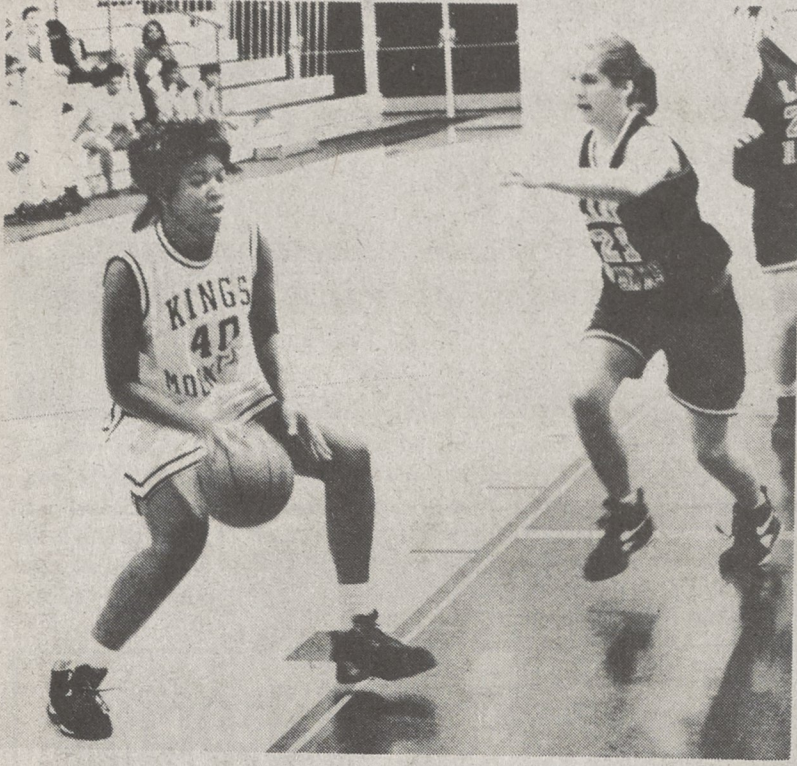
## Gold Diggers lead by six

The Gold Diggers continued to widen their lead in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

A 3-1 win over the Night Crawlers gave the Diggers (26-14) a six-game lead over the second place Tar Heels (20-20), who lost three games to the Four Packers. The Packers and Night Crawlers share third place with 17-23 marks. Kenny Maney bowled a 147 line

and 360 set to lead the Gold Diggers to victory. Robert Titus led the Night Crawlers with a 121 line and 303 set.

Bill Myers rolled a 127 line and 336 set and Jack Barrett added a 112-333 to lead the Four Packers over the Heels. Tommy Barrett had a 126 line and 358 set and Bobby Rathbone added a 105-303 for the Heels.



Keisha Wilson, left photo, and Tameeka Anderson, right photo, make a break for the basket in Tuesday night's state 3-A playoff game



with North Buncombe at the KMHS gym. The Lady Mountaineers lost 48-29, ending their season with a 17-10 record.

## Girls bow out of 3-A play-offs

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team ended its most successful season in over a decade Tuesday night in the first round of the state 3-A playoffs at the KMHS gym.

Tony Leigh's charges fell to a strong North Buncombe team, 48-29, to finish with a 17-10 overall record. The Lady Mountaineers finished second in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and were the Lincoln Bank Christmas Tournament champions.

"I don't want this loss to overshadow our fine season," said Coach Leigh after the game. "Our girls played extremely hard, espe-

cially the seniors. They really finished the season strong. They did a great job. Amanda Halmess was all over the floor, Keisha Wilson had one of her better games, Anita Whitaker was real aggressive inside and on the wing, and Michelle Pense played a hard ballgame."

Cold shooting killed the Mountaineers' chance for victory. The only time the game was tied was at 2-all following a basket by Karen Queen on KM's first possession.

Despite the Mountaineers' cold touch, North Buncombe managed only an 8-4 lead after the first period. But three 3-pointers by Chrisy

Wray, who finished with a game-high 21 points, helped North Buncombe build a 24-13 halftime cushion.

"They ran a very tough match-up zone against us," said Leigh, "and we couldn't get the baskets to fall." Kings Mountain came out fired up in the third quarter and outscored the visitors from the Western Athletic Conference 14-7 to cut the margin to 31-27 going into the fourth quarter.

"We did exactly what we had to do in the third quarter," Leigh said. "We played very good defense and cut it down to three points. But, again, we had a very cold fourth

quarter, scoring only two points, and they had a big fourth quarter."

Tameeka Anderson and Alica Cole led the KM scoring with seven points each and Heather Harrison added five.

The loss marked the end of Kings Mountain's best season since 1981 when they won their only SWC championship.

### GIRLS GAME

NB (48) - Wray 21, Pressley 7, Fisher 6, Lasher 4, Metcalf 4, Griffin 2, Zaval 2, Webb 2.

KM (29) - Anderson 7, Cole 7, Harrison 5, Whitaker 4, Queen 4, Wilson 2.

### BOYS GAME

KM (44) - Jarrett 3, Leftwich 5, Tate 2, Jeffries 2, J. Bell 4, Surratt 2, M. Bell 13, Minor 8, Hopper 3, Moss 2.

SP (56) - Hannon 6, Falls 10, McLean 8, Porter 6, Stowe 14, Bolden 6, Crawford 4, Lunsford 2.

## Mountaineers lose in SWC tourney

Shelby held Kings Mountain to just four points in the third quarter and went on to defeat the Lady Mountaineers 55-39 in the semi-finals of the Southwestern 3-A Conference basketball tournament Friday at Gardner-Webb University.

The loss left Tony Leigh's ladies with a 16-9 overall record heading into the first round of the state 3-A playoffs last night.

Shelby grabbed an 18-11 lead after the first quarter and led 33-25 at intermission.

Three players scored in double figures for the Lions, with Tammy Ponder scoring 15 points and

Toscha Hopper and Angie Sweezy 10 each. Karen Queen led KM with 15 and Tameeka Anderson added 10.

Shelby went on to lose to regular season champion East Rutherford in the tournament finals Saturday night.

Kings Mountain's boys closed their season Wednesday night at East Rutherford with a 56-44 loss to South Point in the first round of the SWC tournament.

The loss left Larry Sipe's charges with a final record of 8-17.

South Point led 14-10 after the first period, 24-22 at intermission

and 40-32 going into the fourth quarter.

Don Stowe led the Red Raiders with 14 points and Ronnie Falls added 10. Marcus Bell led the Mountaineers with 13.

South Point fell to regular season champion Burns in the semi-finals Friday, and Burns edged second place East Rutherford for the tournament championship on Saturday night.

### GIRLS GAME

Shelby (55) - Ponder 16, Hopper 10, Sweezy 10, Humphries 8,

## Middle School girls beat Shelby

The Kings Mountain Middle School's girls basketball team ended its season last week with victories over R-S Central (23-19) and Shelby (27-26).

Kim Parker scored six points, Shania Hillman five, Amy Pearson and Brandy Brown four each, and Christine King and Shana

### Spring sports action to begin

Several spring sports teams will get their seasons in gear during the coming week.

The baseball team, defending state champions, will scrimmage Ashbrook Friday afternoon and will officially open their season next Wednesday at 4:30 at home against South Caldwell.

New interim coach Nelson Connor saw his Mountaineers in action for the first time in a scrimmage Tuesday afternoon at North Mecklenburg.

The Mountaineers have only three of 20 players returning from last year's team, but Connor is confident his good, young talent can compete in the Southwestern Conference.

The girls softball team opens its season Saturday with an eight-team scrimmage at Lancaster Field. Eight of the top teams in the area will compete in the all-day event.

Kings Mountain will play at 10, 12, 2 and 4 o'clock.

Coach Tony Leigh's ladies open conference play on March 22 at home against R-S Central.

The JV baseball team opens its season Monday at home against South Caldwell in a 4:30 game.

The girls track team opens its season next Wednesday at North Gaston, the boys track team opens next Thursday at South Point.

### Basketball tourney Saturday at KMHS

There will be a basketball tournament Saturday, March 12 at 11 a.m. at the Kings Mountain High School gym.

Five-man teams need to register by 10:30. The fee is \$20.

Admission is \$2 per person and concessions will be sold.

The tournament is being sponsored by the Carpentry/VICA club and proceeds will go to club activities.

Sizemore two each in the win over R-S.

Kings Mountain gained revenge for an earlier 47-9 pasting by Shelby in their season's finale. KM jumped to an 11-2 first quarter lead and played solid basketball the entire game. Shelby came back to take a 23-21 lead after three quarters, but KM maintained its poise and intensity and held on for a one-point win.

Amy Pearson had an outstanding all-around game with 13 points and good play on defense. Kim Parker added seven points and rebounded well.

"This was a team victory all the way," said Coach Candy Albergine. "These girls have been doing a good job in practice all year but just haven't been able to carry that determination over into a game situation until the last week of the

season. After the game, the Shelby coach commented on how much our players had improved. We were totally outplayed and outthusted in the first game against Shelby, so we felt like we owed them something.

"I'm really proud of our overall effort during the last week weeks of the season. We finally developed a little confidence in our ability and now we know what it takes to win."

Members of the team this year were Shania Hillman, Amy Pearson, Brandy Brown, Tina Guest, Kim Parker, Christine King, Kristie Brinkley, Shana Sizemore, Lee Putnam, Nikki Ingram, Andrea Lail, Candice Webber, Christy Hamrick, Kim Belt, Kirstin Gingles, Liza Falls, Katy Rountree, Laddy Phanthalack, Jacquie Hall, Roxanne Brown, Ashley Wilson and Lamika Odums.

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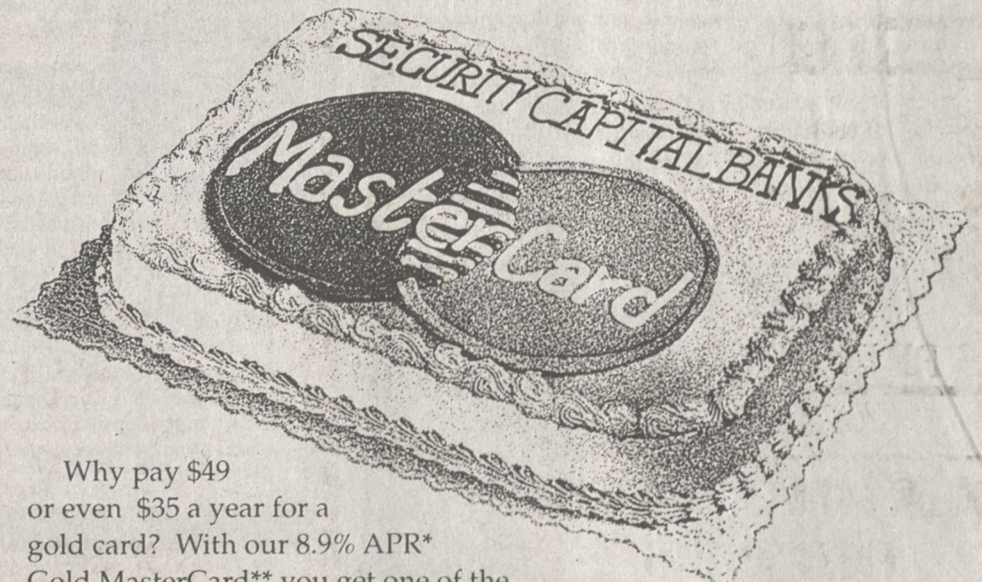
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