



DENNY HICKS

# KM coach resigns AD responsibilities

Kings Mountain High School athletic director Dennis Hicks has resigned his duties effective the end of the 1993-94 school year. Hicks, who has been AD since 1983, said he will continue to serve as head football and golf coach. Principal Jackie Lavender said she will not name a replacement immediately but will talk to other coaches who are currently on staff as well as others who are being interviewed as prospective teach-

r/coaches. Hicks said he wanted to devote more time to rebuilding the Mountaineer football program. "Basically, I have been involved in athletics for the past 44 years and the past 27 years in coaching," he said. "During most of those 27 years I have coached two or three sports while serving as athletic director. It's very time consuming, and it was just the point in time that I thought being athletic direc-

tor was taking too much time." Hicks said he hopes to get his football program back to the level that it was in 1983 through '87, when the Mountaineers were consistently ranked among the top teams in the Southwestern Conference and a frequent competitor in the state 3-A playoffs. "I felt like we got the most out of what we had in those years," he said. "The last several years we have fallen a little short. It hasn't

been a catastrophe, but there we had some 6-4 teams that we thought should have been 8-2. Our number one objective is to get back on track and get the program to where everybody in the community wants it. That's going to be our main area of concentration for awhile." Hicks said he appreciated the support the total athletic program received from the Booster's Club, administration and community.

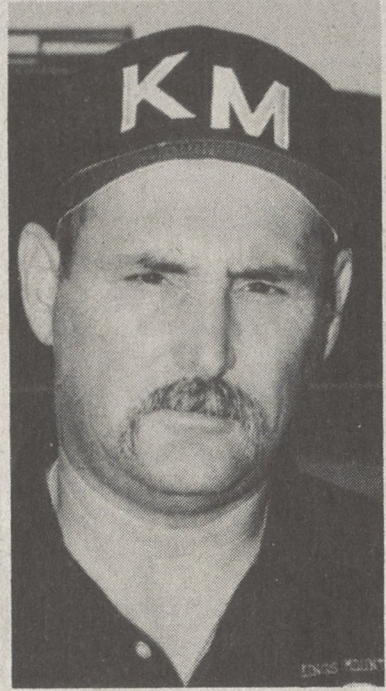
"I really do appreciate the wonderful support we've gotten from the Booster's Club over the past 11 years," he said. "It's really amazing that a very small group of people have hung in there with us. A lot of times they didn't get the support they should have, but they just kept working and doing things that needed to be done. They allowed us to do some things for our athletes that we couldn't have done otherwise."

## Jones Intercable slates coverage of French Open

Jones Intercable will present exclusive, early-round coverage of the 1994 French Open, direct from the historic Roland Garros Stadium in Paris, France, on USA Network, seen locally on Channel 15 in the Gastonia and Clover areas and on Channel 30 in Kings Mountain and Cherryville. This marks the return of the French Open to USA after a nine-year absence. USA telecast its top coverage of the French Open from 1983-85. This year, USA will serve up all the early-round French Open action viewers won't find anywhere else, with marquee matches and outstanding performances featuring today's top players. A total of 24 hours of coverage will be offered over 11 days. Same-day taped coverage will begin

Monday, May 23, and will culminate with a men's semifinal match on Friday, June 3.

The French Open represents the second Grand Slam tennis event on USA's action-packed sports schedule, adding to the network's more than 90 hours of coverage of the US Open, a staple of the USA Network lineup since 1984. French Open viewers can expect a high-energy presentation similar to the US Open broadcast, which Tennis Magazine described in 1993 as the "best tournament coverage on television." USA Network is one of a variety of cable services available on Jones Intercable, serving over 20,000 customers in Gaston, Cleveland and York counties.



TONY LEIGH

# Leigh Coach of Year

Kings Mountain High was well-represented on Winter Sports All-Southwestern 3-A Conference teams which were announced Monday night at a conference meeting. In Wachovia Cup competition, the Mountaineers are running second behind Shelby as the athletic year heads into the spring sports. Shelby has compiled 80.5 points in fall and winter competition compared to 77.5 for the Mountaineers. R-S Central is third with 71.5 points, followed by North Gaston 63.5, South Point 62.5, East Rutherford 60.5 and Burns 54. Kings Mountain's Tony Leigh was voted SWC Girls Basketball Coach of the Year for leading his Lady Mountaineers to a 17-9 record and second place finish in

the regular season. The KM ladies advanced to the state playoffs for the first time in four years. Mountaineers on All-Conference teams included: Wrestling - 125-pound Gary Hughes, 130-pound Kenny Bridges, 140-pound Michael Bell, and 189-pound Cedric Moore. Player of the Year: Stewart Fulcher, North Gaston. Coach of Year - Mike Mabry, R-S Central. Girls basketball - Tameeka Anderson and Karen Queen. Coach of Year - Tony Leigh, Kings Mountain. Player of Year - Latoyia Whiteside, R-S. Boys basketball - Brian Leftwich. Coach of Year - Richard Feemster, Burns. Player of Year - Marques Lynch, North Gaston.

Girls swimming - Michelle Fugita, diving; Angela Bunzel, 200 IM and 100 fly; Holly Parker, 100 free and 100 breast; 200 meter and 200 freestyle relay teams (Bethany Jimison, Michelle Fugita, Holly Parker and Angela Bunzel). Coach of Year - Tim Queen, Shelby. Swimmer of Year - Denise Stamey, Shelby. Boys swimming - Bergen Hall, diving; Chuck Kaylor, 200 free; Nathan Mayse, 200 IM and 100 breast; Dan Messenger, 500 free; Israel Angels, 100 free and 100 breast; 200 meter and 400 free relay (Rick Clary, Nathan Mayse, Israel Angels, Dan Messenger). Coach of Year - Mike Kernodle, R-S; Swimmer of Year - Sean Stockton, R-S.

# KM girls softball team defeats Crest 7-4

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team dropped three of its first four games of the season but Coach Tony Leigh sees improvement each time his young ladies take the field. With five freshmen in the starting lineup, the Lady Mountaineers fell to Pisgah 5-0 and Enka 15-2 in the first two rounds of last weekend's Anton Invitational at Canton, but they bounced back to win a third round game against a good Crest team, 7-4. The Mountaineers opened Southwestern 3-A Conference play Tuesday at home with a 10-5 loss to R-S Central. Coach Leigh takes his girls to

Shelby Thursday for a conference game. They host Hunter Huss Friday and Bessemer City Monday, and then travel to Hunter Huss next Wednesday in non-conference action. Canton Pisgah scored all five of its runs in the same inning to defeat the Mountaineers in the opening round of the Anton tournament. Keisha Wilson, Anita Whitaker, Amanda Burns, Melanie Ellison, Michelle Pense and Crissy Johnsonbaugh had one hit each for KM. Against Enka, Kings Mountain managed just four hits against one of the top teams in Western North Carolina. Amanda Burns, Rhea

Herndon, Catie Brannon and Kellie Stepp each had a single. Against Crest, Burns and Keisha Wells each collected two hits and Herndon went 1-for-3 with a pair of runs batted in. Against R-S Central Tuesday, Burns, Whitaker and Nancy Ely each went 2-for-3. "We've had a couple of setbacks," Leigh reported. "We lost

one of our top hitters when Misty Smith broke her ankle sliding into second base, and another top hitter, All-Conference Karen Queen, is on crutches with a bad sprain. That took some punch out of our lineup. But the girls are playing hard and every game we play is that much more experience. I'm pleased with the way we're playing. We're going to get better as we go along."

## Mountaineer netters young, inexperienced

Kings Mountain High's boys tennis team will take on a different look this year. The four-time defending Southwestern 3-A Conference champions are young and inexperienced, according to fourth year coach Chris Cole. "Our hustle, desire and team quickness are our strong points," he said. "This team has a tremendous work ethic and plays as hard as any team I've coached." Defending the SWC championship will be tough because of the lack of experience and overall power, but Cole says this is a good team to build on. "All of these young men are interested in improving their tennis skills and doing well as a team," he said. The Mountaineers are led by sophomore Jason Cash and junior Todd Huntsinger. Two seniors, Eddie Henson and Chuck Kaylor, also show promise. Four freshmen with potential are Jordan Angeles, Bobby Ormand, J.D. Ledford and Sivan Gofolth. Rounding out the team are Clark Stowe and Carey McCrary.

ence against more powerful teams. Hunter Huss defeated the Mountaineers 4-2 and East Gaston won by a 7-2 margin. "The physical size of these teams is really apparent to our freshmen when they step off the van," said Cole. "Our conference championship team led by Andres Alvarez last year probably appeared just as awesome to the other teams." The Mountaineers begin conference play at R-S Central on April 12. Cole looks for South Point and Shelby to be the top contenders but says his team has the desire to upset any team on any given day. Home matches will begin around 3:45 p.m.

## TRACK

From Page 7-A  
Eric Tate was second in the 100 high hurdles in 17.45 seconds, Bell was second in the 100 meter dash, Hart Wells was second in the 1600 meter run, Tate was second in the 300 intermediate hurdles, and Littlejohn was second in the 200 meter run. Third places included Jones in the long jump, Tedder in the triple jump, Brian Odums in the high jump, James Greene in the discus, Daniel Gardner in the 100 high

hurdles, Jones in the 100 meters, Putnam in the 400 meters, Gardner in the 300 intermediate hurdles, and Jason Rhodes in the 3200 meters. Fourth places included Jonathan Shipp in the pole vault, Odums in the triple jump, Tate in the high jump, David McDaniel in the 110 high hurdles, Shane Logan in the 300 intermediate hurdles, Tedder in the 800 meters, and Gary Hughes in the 200 meters. The Mountaineers face a tough test Thursday afternoon when they travel to East Rutherford to take on the host Cavaliers, Burns and R-S Central.

## R-S CENTRAL

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3 and Hoper, Robert Wingo and Kenny Bridges added a hit apiece. The Mountaineers got only two runners in scoring position after the first inning. Wingo singled and stole second with two away in the third inning and Timmy Harrelson walked and was sacrificed to second by Michael Bell in the fourth. Beam struck out eight Mountaineers, and fanned the side in the seventh inning. The Hilltoppers had men in scoring position in four of the seven in-

nings, but were only able to produce a run in the sixth when Bill Burgess doubled and later scored on an error. Centerfielder Robert Wingo cut down a runner at the plate to end the fifth inning, and the defense time and again came up with potential rally-killing plays. "Overall, I was pleased with our defense, especially in being in position for cut-offs and relays," said Connor. "Kevin Melton caught an outstanding game. I still think Kevin is probably trying too hard at the plate. His hitting will come, but he's an outstanding defensive player. I'm certainly glad he's on my team."

## S. CALDWELL

From Page 6-A  
ning run in the first inning on a pair of walks and Jim Nichols' sacrifice fly to left field. They added two unearned runs in the third and another unearned tally in the top of the sixth to take a 4-0 lead. Kings Mountain scored its only run in the bottom of the sixth when Wingo hit a sharp double to right-center and later scored on a single to left by Kenny Bridges. "We faced a pretty good ball-club," said Connor, "but we're certainly a lot better than we showed, especially in the hitting department. Kenny Bridges made a play in left field in the first inning that was a high quality major league play when he fielded a base hit and threw the runner out at third base. We're capable of playing excellent defense, and I am not at all concerned about our pitching, but hitting does concern me." Score by innings: R-H-E SC 102 001 0 4-6-3 KM 000 001 0 1-3-3 Banks and Anderson; Wingo, Hopper (4) and Melton. W - Banks (1-0). L - Wingo (0-1).

Score by innings: R-H-E KM 300 000 0 3-5-2 RS 000 001 0 1-7-1 Duane Patterson and Kevin Melton; Beam and Burgess. W - Patterson (1-0). L - Beam.

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