



BRUCE CLARK

Clark named head coach at Southern Guilford

Bruce Clark fulfilled a lifetime dream last Wednesday when he was named head football coach at Southern Guilford High School.

"This is one of the greatest feelings I've ever had," Clark said. "I've always wanted to be a head coach. There were opportunities at other schools, but none where I felt the circumstances were right. I'm really excited about the chance to coach at Southern Guilford."

Clark, who spent 12 seasons at King Mountain as an assistant football coach and five as head baseball coach in which he

won two state 3-A championships, replaces Mickey Atkinson, who resigned after 10 years as head coach of the Indians.

Clark went to Southern Guilford in the fall to become offensive coordinator, a position he held at Kings Mountain for the past three seasons. He was offensive line coach at KMHS for one season and then became defensive coordinator. He coached one year at Forest Hills before coming to Kings Mountain.

Southern Guilford compiled a 3-8 record this past season but

its offense improved tremendously under Clark's guidance. The Indians averaged 28 points per game in one of the toughest 2-A conferences in the state.

"When you average that many points, you are supposed to win more than three games," Clark said. "We will have a whole new look on defense."

Clark, a native of Mebane, graduated from Eastern Alamance High School, where he played football and baseball, and graduated from Wingate College. He is a history teacher.

In 1985 and '86, Clark helped coach the Mountaineers to two

of their best seasons since their glory years of the fifties in sixties. The '85 team finished second in the Southwestern 3-A Conference but went three rounds in the state playoffs, and the '86 team shared the SWC championship with Shelby and East Rutherford and also went three rounds in the playoffs. As line coach and defensive coordinator, he helped develop the talents of Kings Mountain's only Shrine Bowlers since 1957, Calvin Stephens in 1985 and Aubrey Hollifield in '86.

Clark compiled a 100-31 record in five years as baseball

coach and led the Mountaineers to state championships his first and last seasons on the job. In five years, his baseball teams won three conference championships and finished second twice, and went at least three rounds of the state playoffs in four of the five years.

Clark left KMHS at the Christmas break last year to become Director of the City of Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department. He left that post in August to go to Southern Guilford High.

Basketball teams host Ashbrook Monday

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams open a tough pre-season slate Monday night at home against Ashbrook's Green Wave.

Girls action will begin at 6 p.m.

With depth they haven't enjoyed since their Regional championship year of 1990, the Mountaineers of Larry Sipe are hoping to be greatly improved this year and make a run for the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship.

With not a whole lot of depth but with a wealth of talent from their first seven players, the Lady Mountaineers of Tony Leigh also hope to be a championship contender. The girls are coming off a second place finish of a year ago and hope to advance several rounds in the state tournament.

Kings Mountain faces another stern test next Tuesday when they travel to Crest. Both Crest and Ashbrook teams are always in the running for their conference championships and both have enjoyed successful treks into the state playoffs in recent seasons.

The Kings Mountain teams also face strong non-conference opposition from the likes of Clover, Blacksburg and Mooresville, and both KM teams will be involved in holiday tournament action in late-December. The Mountaineers will host the Shelby Star Holiday Tournament Dec. 27-29 and will face some of the strongest 3-A and 4-A teams in North and South Carolina.

Coach Leigh, whose team steadily improved in his first four years as coach, has a team that is tall, quick and smart. He's hoping several young players will gain some valuable experience during the non-conference games so the girls will hit their peak during the conference race.

"We've looked pretty good in both of our scrimmages," Leigh said. "The girls are working hard and running the floor real well. We're spending a lot of time with the young girls so they can catch up with the veterans. They're making some mistakes but they are hustling and working hard."

Leigh said quickness will be the team's biggest asset and should make the Lady Mountaineers a strong transition team.

Leigh has returning starters Keisha Hamrick at the point guard, Tameeka Anderson at one wing, and Karen Queen and Alica Cole at the posts. The other starter is wing Tina Welch, who is a transfer student from Maryland and has adapted well to the KM system.

Welch's twin sister, Tammy, is the top reserve at the wing and returning letter-winner April Putnam is the top reserve at the post positions.

Registration today at Boys/Girls Club

Deadline for registering for the winter basketball program at Kings Mountain Boys' and Girls' Club is Thursday, Dec. 1.

Teams will be selected Saturday at 12 noon at the Central School gym. Registration is free for boys and girls ages 7-16.

The club is open Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, call Danny McDowell at 739-7026, Tom Bennett at 739-3667, R.A. Bell at 739-0102, Gerome Parker at 739-1867, Judy Bowen at 739-7000, Dena Allen at 739-6461, or Jewel Watson at 739-9374.

Sophomore Niki Ash was recently called up from the JV team and will also see action at the post positions.

"The other girls are working hard to adapt to our system," said Leigh, "and as they come around they will receive more playing time."

Kings Mountain's top offensive threat is Anderson, who is a three-time All-Conference choice and was SWC Player of the Year her sophomore season. She has 914 points, will hit the 1,000 mark early in the season and will challenge the school scoring record.

Queen is also a returning All-Conference player and has made tremendous progress during the past two seasons. She should rank as one of the top inside players in the conference.

"The biggest thing the girls are having to adjust to is the transition from JV to varsity," said Leigh. "That's a big jump as far as the quality of play, especially if you're having to play right now. I think they realized that in our scrimmages."

"We have a very tough non-conference schedule," he added. "We could come out of our non-conference games with not many wins, but that won't show the kind of ball club we've got. We have the makings of a good ball club. We just have to polish ourselves as a team."

The boys face one of their toughest tests of the season right off the bat Monday. Ashbrook, featuring 6-8 Old Dominion recruit Skipper Youngblood and 6-5 point

guard David Walker, expects to make a strong run for the state 4-A championship.

Coach Larry Sipe was very impressed with his Mountaineers in scrimmages with East Gaston and Independence, and he plans to give at least 11 players an opportunity to see extensive action.

"In the scrimmages we were able to score easily by increasing the tempo," Sipe said. "We felt like that was one of the areas we really need to improve on. We saw last year that we're just not able to go toe to toe with people in a physical game."

Sipe is putting a lot of emphasis on a fast-paced offense and believes it will be exciting for the fans.

"We stress the importance of kids being able to come off the bench and play really hard for 2 1/2 minutes," Sipe said. "I can't see any one player playing an entire 32-minute game simply because of the way we want to play."

Sipe said every player on the bench may see action in the first quarter.

One possible drawback to the new offense may be the number of fouls the team commits, Sipe said.

"Against Independence, in four quarters we outscored them 79-76 but they shot 36 free throws - 12 more than us," he said. "I think we're in a position where foul trouble won't affect us, but the fact that the other team gets the free throws will

hurt us. In our two scrimmages we fouled entirely too much."

Kings Mountain's starting five could change almost daily, but Sipe said in the team's scheme of things this year it won't matter which five start the game.

"If I had to pick a starting five right now, it would be Todd Huntsinger at point guard, Bryan Leftwich and Steve Surratt at wings, and Eric Tate

See Games, 9-A

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Kings Mountain will conduct a public hearing on December 13, 1994, to receive comments from the public concerning an amendment to the Cities 1991 Community Development Grant #91-C-8139, the Second Street Revitalization Project. The amendment would consist of the following:

The City has achieved the original goals of the project and has a surplus of approximately \$39,465 of federal and local funds. The City proposes to undertake the following projects with this surplus: resurface the following streets:

- Fulton Street (dead end to Cansler) 2,429 LF
- Rhodes Street (Linwood to Grove) 3,063 LF
- Woodside Street (Church to dead end) 3,125 LF

Citizens may attend the hearing and comment on the proposed use of the funds. The hearing begins at 7:30 pm and will be held in the City Council Chambers of the Kings Mountain City Hall located at 101 W. Gold Street.