



Kings Mountain's Keisha Hamrick (21, left photo) leads the fast break and Karen Queen (33, right photo) makes a power



move inside for a basket in Monday's non-conference basketball game with Ashbrook at the KMHS gym.

JV boys lose to Crest

Kings Mountain High's JV boys fell to Crest 66-49 in non-conference basketball action Tuesday afternoon at Crest.

J.B. Odums led the Mountaineers with 16. Marcus Smith and Alex Burris added 7. Ricky Southards and Raphael Williams 5. Joseph Bell 3, and Shawn Sellers and Ty Toney 2 each.

Mountaineers lose two at Crest

Leftwich passes 1,000 point mark

Kings Mountain High's Bryan Leftwich passed a milestone but the Mountaineers fell to Crest 64-58 in non-conference basketball action Tuesday night at Crest.

Leftwich scored nine points to give him 1,003 for his prep career. He became the sixth player in school history to surpass the 1,000-point mark and could become the all-time leading scorer by season's end. Butch Blalock holds the record with 1,370, followed by Otis Cole 1,292, Lavar Curry 1,287, Marquiz Williamson 1,271 and George Adams 1,089.

Kings Mountain's girls also lost for the second straight time, 52-34, as Crest used a balanced scoring attack and physical board game.

The Mountaineers jumped to a 7-2 lead in the first 1:30, but then went almost eight minutes before scoring again. Crest was able to capitalize on the drought and took an 18-7 lead.

Larry Sipe's charges battled back to cut the margin to 29-26

at intermission, but went cold again in the third quarter and Crest built a 51-37 lead going into the final eight minutes.

Jeff Melton led the Chargers with 18 points, Sonny Bristol added 17 and Wyle Petty had 11. Eric Tate of Kings Mountain was the game's top scorer with 20 points but fouled out for the second straight game. Steve Surratt added 11.

"The first thing that really hurt us was the scoring drought in the first quarter," Sipe said. "We went from 7-2 up to 18-7 down and they weren't exactly blistering the nets. But we fought back and cut it to three at halftime and we thought we might have some momentum coming back out. But we just didn't play good team defense."

Once again, Sipe substituted freely, playing 12 men. He said that might have contributed to the Chargers' outscoring the Mountaineers 22-11 in the third period, but he said the substitution is necessary to build depth

for the upcoming Southwestern 3-A Conference race.

"The only way to build a bench is to play these kids in non-conference games," he said. "We put them in different situations and different combinations. Sometimes we just have a little letdown, but if we're going to continue to play a fast-paced game we have to have some kids come off the bench and pick us up."

Kings Mountain's girls fell behind early and never caught back up, due mainly to Crest's superior board strength. Keisha Moore and Melissa Jones scored 15 points and Kaima Edwards added 13 for the Lady Chargers, and most of their points came off offensive rebounds.

"They just beat us on the boards," said Coach Tony Leigh. "We played much better against them than we have in the past. We were under control and beat their press. But we missed some easy shots and they were a lot more physical than us. They're real good athletes."

Tameeka Anderson led the Mountaineer ladies with a game-high 20 points, but she was the only KM player in double figures. She scored all six of Kings Mountain's points in the fourth quarter.

Crest built a 14-7 lead after the first quarter, led 25-18 at the half and 38-28 going into the fourth quarter.

Two SWC schools lose football coach

Two Southwestern 3-A Conference football coaches resigned their positions this week.

Veteran coach Jack Huss of R-S Central stepped down and the Hilltoppers named defensive coordinator Mike Mabry as the new head coach.

At North Gaston, Mike Somers was relieved of his coaching duties by the high school principal after the Wildcats slipped to a 1-9 record this year after going 5-5 in 1993.

Huss was regarded as one of the top coaches in the conference. The former R-S Central and Lenoir-Rhyne quarterback served the Hilltoppers for eight years and led them to one state playoff appearance. Although his overall record was a losing one, it was considered successful for one of the smallest schools in the state playing in one of the toughest conferences in the state. Huss's 1994 team posted a 6-5 overall record and knocked South Point out of a share of the SWC championship.

Prior to returning to his alma mater, Huss was head coach at Lenoir-Rhyne, Richmond County High School, and Hunter Huss High. He coached the 1980 Richmond County and 1986 Huss teams to the state playoffs.

Somers recently completed his fourth year at North Gaston, which has long been the dormat of the SWC. But the Wildcats appeared to be turning their program around last year when they went 5-5 and missed the state playoffs by just one game.

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