

Kings Mountain's Bryan Leftwich goes hard to the basket for two of his team-leading 22 points in Friday's 84-75 loss to East Rutherford at the KMHS gym. KM host South Point Friday.



Keisha Hamrick (21) leads the fast break for Kings Mountain's girls in Friday's 58-52 victory over East Rutherford at the KMHS gym.

Girls hold on for 58-52 win

Cavaliers edge KM in overtime

East Rutherford's Cavaliers stayed neck and neck with Burns in the race for the regular season Southwestern Conference championship, but not without being taken to the limit by the hungry Kings Mountain Mountaineers Friday night at the KMHS gym.

The tall and talented Cavaliers finally prevailed, 84-75 in overtime, to run their record to 5-0 in the conference and set up a showdown with Burns, also 5-0, in the first round finale Tuesday night.

Kings Mountain fell to 3-2 and into third place but Larry Sipe's youngsters served notice that they would be a team to contend with in the stretch run of the conference season and in the annual SWC tournament.

The two teams played almost perfect basketball and neither team could mount a big lead until the Cavaliers broke the game open in OT. Jason Pintuff led the Cavaliers in scoring with 21

points, Tyrone Hamilton added 20, Jason Bailey 14 and Kevin Gettys 13.

Bryan Leftwich, whose shooting touch had been off in recent games, returned to his old form with 22 points, including 12 points from three-point range. Steve Surratt added 16 and Albert Perkins 15, an Donnie Minor came off the bench to score 10 points and lead the Mountaineers in rebounds with 12.

East Rutherford held a 21-19 edge at the end of the first period and led 37-35 at halftime, thanks to a half-court 3-point shot by Hamilton. The Cavaliers built a quick 46-37 lead in the third period but Kings Mountain came back and scored on a half-court 3-pointer by Todd Huntsinger to take a 59-57 lead going into the fourth quarter.

The Mountaineers built a 72-68 lead with 2:40 to play but East tied the game with 51 sec-

onds left on a jumper by Darian Logan. Kings Mountain attempted to hold for a final shot but lost possession with 14 seconds left.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 74-72 lead on a bucket by Minor early in overtime, but East Rutherford went on a pair of 6-0 runs to put the victory on ice.

■ Kings Mountain's girls held onto a share of the SWC lead in the opener by taking a hard-fought 58-52 victory over the Lady Cavaliers.

Kings Mountain led 15-10 after the first period and 31-24 at halftime, and Tony Leigh's ladies built what appeared to be an unsurmountable 19-point lead early in the fourth period. But East Rutherford took advantage of Kings Mountain foul trouble and came within four points late in the fourth period.

Tameeka Anderson led the KM scoring with 19 points, Keisha Hamrick added 14, Karen Queen 12 and Tami Welch 9. Heather Fowler and Lacy Bates scored 16 points each for East Rutherford.

The Kings Mountain victory left the Mountaineers, Shelby and Burns deadlocked for first place with 4-1 records.

GIRLS GAME
ER (52) - Fowler 16, Bates 16, Crofts 9, Morgan 6, Philbeck 2, Melton 2, King 1.
KM (58) - Anderson 19, Hamrick 14, Queen 12, Ta. Welch 9, Ti. Welch 2, Ash 2.

BOYS GAME
ER (84) - Pintuff 21, Hamilton 20, Bailey 14, Gettys 13, Logan 8, Williams 6, Withrow 2.
KM (75) - Leftwich 22, Surratt 16, Perkins 15, Minor 10, Champion 4, Tate 3, Huntsinger 3, Sizemore 2.

Mountaineers upset by R-S Central teams

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams suffered a double upset at the hands of R-S Central Tuesday night at the KMHS gym.

The Mountaineers begin the second half of Southwestern 3-A Conference play Friday at home against South Point. They travel to Mooresville Tuesday for a non-conference game.

Kings Mountain's girls, playing without the services of their leading scorer, Tameeka Anderson, saw R-S Central charge from behind in the second half to claim a 44-41 overtime victory. Anderson sprained her ankle in practice Monday but should return to the lineup soon.

The Mountaineers, coming off a tough loss to unbeaten East Rutherford Friday night, also were victims of a second half R-S comeback as the Hilltoppers erased a 38-32 half-time deficit to win 75-67.

Kings Mountain had the ball and a two-point lead in the closing seconds, but turned it over, and R-S Central scored with 10 seconds remaining to tie the score at 37-all and force overtime.

Tony Leigh's KM ladies took a 41-40 lead with 20 seconds to go in overtime, but again R-S

Central came through with a crucial basket to win the game.

"Our girls played hard up and down the court," Leigh said. "We just had too many turnovers in the crucial parts of the game."

Karen Queen led the KM scoring with 14 points and Tami Welch added nine.

■ Kings Mountain's boys grabbed an 18-14 lead in the first quarter and held a 38-32 advantage at halftime, but managed only 10 points in the third quarter as R-S came from behind to win.

The Hilltoppers placed three men in double figures, led by Emory Smith with a game high 20 points. Donnell Simmons added 19 and Dwayne Wilkins 18.

Bryan Leftwich and Eric Tate led the Mountaineers with 17 points each. Kings Mountain hit only 2 of 5 free throws while the Hilltoppers hit 11 of 18.

GIRLS GAME

RS (44) - Ford 15, Hutchins 12, Ledbetter 5, Tutt 6, N. Hutchins 4, Page 2.
KM (41) - Queen 14, Ta. Welch 9, Ash 5, Littlejohn 5, Putnam 4, Hamrick 3, Ti. Welch 1.

BOYS GAME

RS (75) - Patterson 4, Smith 20, Hines 4, Simmons 19, Wilkins 18, McDowell 8, Walker 2.
KM (67) - Sizemore 5, Leftwich 17, Tate 17, Perkins 8, Bell 6, Williams 2, Surratt 2, Minor 2, Champion 4.

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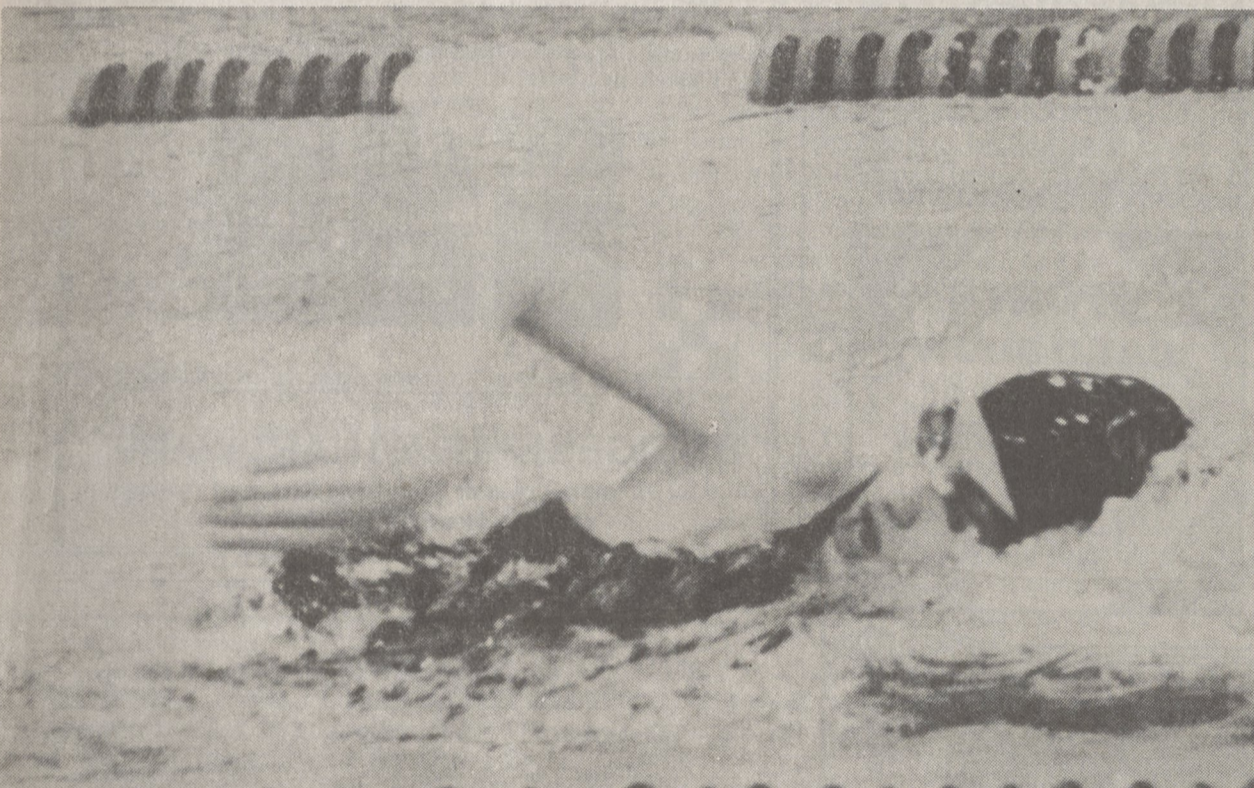
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Christie Hughes helps lead Kings Mountain High's swimmers to victory in recent meet at Neisler Natatorium. The Mountaineers will host the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship February 14 at 5 p.m.

KMHS swimmers win again

Kings Mountain High's boys swim team continued to roll up the victories Wednesday at Neisler Natatorium with Southwestern 3-A Conference wins over East Rutherford and South Point.

The Mountaineers compiled 126 points to 76 for South Point and 25 for East.

Meanwhile, the Kings Mountain girls split. East Rutherford was the big winner with 145 points, followed by KM 76 and South Point 73.

Kings Mountain was scheduled to face South Point and West Henderson Wednesday afternoon. Coach Amy Gordon's swimmers remain at home next Wednesday at 5 p.m. to face Salisbury and Chase in non-conference action. Kings Mountain will host the SWC Championships Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m.

First place winners for Kings Mountain last week were Nathan Mayse (two events), Holly Parker, Rick Clary, Bergen Hall and Dan Messenger.

100 fly - Josephine Chan, fourth, 1:29.87.
100 free - Holly Parker, second, 1:05.08; Christie Hughes, fourth, 1:08.72; Taylor, 1:48.63.
500 free - Jimison, second, 6:24.06; Chan, fifth, 8:05.09.
200 free relay - Nancy Ely, Jennifer Kies, Lasalvia, Sutherland, third, 2:29.66.
100 back - Fugita third, 1:18.81; Amy Dixon, sixth, 1:29.14.
100 breast - Parker, first, 1:17.46.
400 free relay - Fugita, Jimison, Hughes, Parker, second, 4:39.52; Chan, Ely, Dixon, Sutherland, fifth, 5:38.96.

Boys results:
200 medley relay - Rick Clary, Nathan Mayse, Messenger, Angeles, first, 1:51.85;
200 free - Angeles, second, 2:19.97.
200 IM - Clary, first, 2:10.82;
50 free - Angeles, third, 26.22; J. Sloan, fourth, 27.34.
Diving - Bergen Hall, first, 195.25; Darrel Myers, second, 157.15; Allen Ware, third, 141.5; Tim Schwantes, fourth, 119.4.
100 fly - Justin Chan, third, 1:38.43.
100 free - Mayse, first, 52.59; Messenger, third, 55.27.
500 free - Clary, second, 5:23.62; Sloan, third, 6:34.09.
200 free relay - Messenger, Angeles, Clary, Mayse, first, 1:38.06; Hall, Ware, Jonah Ingle, Sloan, third, 1:56.01.
100 back - Messenger, first, 1:04.10; Ingle, fourth, 1:35.56.
100 breast - Mayse, first, 1:07.42; Chan, fourth, 1:27.75.
400 free relay - Chan, Sloan, Ingle, Schwantes, first,

Girls results:
200 free - Kristina Sutherland, sixth, 3:16.48.
200 IM - Bethany Jimison, second, 2:38.30; Michelle Fugita, fourth, 2:54.35.
50 free - Christie Hughes, third, 30.54; Andressa Lasalvia, sixth, 39.08; Beck Taylor seventh, 43.84.

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