



SWIMMERS GOING TO REGIONALS - The Kings Mountain High swimmers pictured above will compete in the Western Regionals Friday and Saturday at Davidson College. Front row, left to right, Christie Hughes, Josephine Chan, Wendy Wright, Bethany Jimison

and Michelle Fugita. Back row, Dan Messenger, Rick Clary, Nathan Mayse, Israel Angeles, Allen Ware, Darrel Myers and Tim Schwantes. Not pictured, Bergen Hall and Holly Parker.

R-S here Friday for SWC finale

Kings Mountain High's regular season-ending doubleheader with R-S Central here Friday night may be the biggest games of the year.

Both varsity teams from KMHS experienced upset losses Friday at North Gaston, throwing the race for the third and fourth playoff spots from the Southwestern 3-A Conference into a dogfight.

With the SWC's special rule which allows a team that finishes lower than fourth to go to the state playoffs if they win the league tournament, Friday's game is crucial for the Mountaineers.

Kings Mountain's boys fell into a tie for third place with South Point and R-S Central following last Friday's unexpected 61-60 loss to North Gaston, and the girls fell into third and just one-half game above fourth with a 43-35 loss to the Wildcats.

Heading into the final game of the season Friday, the Burns and East Rutherford boys and Burns and Shelby girls appear to have the first two seeds locked up. In boys play, Kings Mountain, South Point and R-S Central have good shots at the third and fourth spots, while the

Kings Mountain, East Rutherford, R-S Central and North Gaston girls all have shots at third and fourth.

"The last game of the season might be the biggest game that we're going to play as far as being able to advance to the state playoffs," said Mountaineer Coach Larry Sipe after North Gaston's John Diew sank two free throws with seven seconds left to lift the Wildcats over the Mountaineers Friday.

Kings Mountain's downfall Friday came at the foul line where the Mountaineers hit only eight of 16 for the game and missed the front end of six one-and-ones in the final minute and a half.

The Mountaineers led 60-55 with 1:25 remaining and the Wildcats began fouling in an attempt to get the ball.

After Diew's foul shots put the Wildcats ahead, Kings Mountain pushed the ball the length of the court but couldn't get off a last-second shot.

"We chose to inbound the ball and come with it while their de-

See Wildcats, 11-A

KM swimmers win SWC championship

Kings Mountain High's boys swim team won its fourth straight Southwestern 3-A Conference championship Wednesday at Neisler Natatorium.

The Mountaineers compiled 265 points to Shelby's 236. R-S Central had 233, South Point 158, North Gaston 134 and East Rutherford 42.

East Rutherford won the girls title with 328 points, followed by Shelby 298.5, South Point 197, KM 169, R-S 102.5 and North Gaston 83.

Winning individual championships for Kings Mountain were Rick Clary, Bergen Hall, Nathan Mayse and Dan Messenger.

Twelve individuals and five relay teams from KMHS have qualified for the Western Regionals

on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Davidson College. They include Michelle Fugita, Christie Hughes, Bethany Jimison and Holly Parker, plus relay swimmers Josephine Chan and Wendy Wright from the girls team; and Israel Angeles, Rick Clary, Bergen Hall, Nathan Mayse, Dan Messenger, Darrel Myers, Allen Ware and Tim Schwantes from the boys team.

Two Mountaineers will be defending their regional championships from last year - Bergen Hall in the 1 meter dive, and Nathan Mayse in the 50 freestyle and 100 breaststroke. Kings Mountain's boys were also first in the 200 medley relay last year.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association meet will be held Wednesday, March 5 at Chapel Hill. Kings Mountain's

boys have been the state champions for the past two years.

Boys results:

200 medley relay - Clary, Mayse, Messenger and Israel Angeles, first: 2:00 free - Mayse first 1:54.21; Angeles fourth 2:10.65; 200 IM - Clary first 2:07.98; Justin Chan seventh 3:17.40; 50 free - Mayse first 22.91, Hall seventh 26.06, Darrel Myers 17th 31.14, Tim Schwantes 18th 33.44; 1 meter dive - Hall first 331.60, Allen Ware second 244.20, Myers third 221.60, Messenger third 55.35, Angeles fifth 56.70, Jonah Ingle 13th 1:11.40; 500 free - Clary second 5:27.00; 200 free relay - Hall, Myers, Ingle, Ware fifth 1:59.82; 100 back - Ingle 11th 1:28.03; 100 breast - Messenger first 1:11.45, Ware ninth 1:33.73; 400 free relay - Clary, Angeles, Messenger, Mayse first 3:37.52.

Girls results:

200 medley relay - Michelle Fugita, Holly Parker, Christie Hughes,

Bethany Jimison third 2:11.47; 200 free - Jimison third 2:20.81, Nancy Ely 11th 2:47.21, Andressa Lasalvia 15th 3:10.93; 200 IM - Hughes seventh 2:47.35, Wendy Wright ninth 2:59.06, Josephine Chan 10th 3:04.97; 50 free - Jennifer Kies 18th 35.71, Kristina Sutherland 19th 37.41, Crissie Johnsonbaugh 22nd 41.12, Becky Taylor 23rd 49.02; 1 meter dive - Fugita third 180.60; 100 fly - Hughes fifth 1:22.59, Chan ninth 1:33.54, Amy Dixon 10th 1:34.73; 100 free - Parker third 1:04.38, Lasalvia 17th 1:24.13, Sutherland 18th, 1:27.35; 500 free - Jimison third 6:15.50; 200 free relay - Chan, Kies, Ely Wright sixth 2:18.54; 100 back - Fugita seventh 1:19.44, Dixon 11th 1:27.25, Kies 15th 1:41.66; 100 breast - Wright fifth 1:30.27, Ely 10th 1:35.97, Johnsonbaugh 16th 1:50.58; 400 free relay - Hughes, Fugita, Jimison, Parker third 4:30.70.

A Sterling win at Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, FLA. - Sterling Marlin held off a strong challenge by Dale Earnhardt to win Sunday's Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. The Tennessee driver collected \$300,460 for the Morgan-McClure team.

In only the second win of his NASCAR career, Marlin joined Cale Yarborough and Richard Petty as the only drivers to win stock car racing's greatest prize in consecutive years.



Marlin took the lead from Earnhardt on lap 181. With 13 laps remaining, a wreck by Bobby Labonte brought out the final caution. Earnhardt pitted for fresh tires

and tape on the grille, while the other leaders remained on the track. The defending Winston Cup champion was ninth when the green flag came out and methodically moved up to second to challenge Marlin for the final four laps. For the 17th time Earnhardt would be denied victory in the Daytona 500.

Both Marlin and Earnhardt drove new Chevrolet Monte

See Race, 11-A

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