

Kings Mountain's Jeremy Martin clears 12'9" to set a new school pole vault record in Thursday's track meet with East Rutherford and R-S Central at Gamble Stadium.

## **BUD BUMGARDNER**

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coach ever, said Bumgardner was one of the key reasons for his success.

"He helped me out more than anybody when I came to the high school," he said. "He took me under his wing. He was like a big brother to me. He helped me know how to deal with people. He probably influenced me more than anybody that I was around in my 16 years at the high school."

Moffitt said Bumgardner taught him a valuable lesson early in his coaching career - that a coach has to deal with all players equally.

"In disciplineing kids, he taught me that you have to stick with your guns," Moffitt said. "Whether it's your best kid or your worst kid, if they need to be disciplined, you discipline. You don't let it slide. I learned a lot from Bud.'

Moffitt recalled that during his first year at KMHS, he often lost his voice. "I'd whisper to Bud and he'd holler out to the wrestler what to do."

Above all, Moffitt said, Bumgardner had the knack to keep people loose.

"He was a motivator," he said. "If there was a big serious moment and I was up tight, he'd crack a joke at just the right time and get me over it. He'd do the same thing for the kids. In just talking to him he was always

"He was a great guy. He did a lot for Kings

Mountain athletics. Everybody loved him. I never heard anybody say a bad thing about Bud Bumgardner and I'm sure I never will.'

Bumgardner was forced to leave teaching in 1988 when he developed a series of health problems which eventually led to his death. But he returned briefly in 1989 and again in 1992 to help coach the Mountaineer baseball teams to the state championship.

In '89 he was still bothered from major back surgery but would take a chair to the ball field every day to give his advice to the players and first-year head coach Bruce Clark. Catchers, especially, benefitted from Bumgardner's expertise he was an excellent defensive catcher and knew how to handle pitchers.

In a feature story in the Herald in 1990, Bumgardner recalled that returning to baseball helped him as much or more than it did the team.

"It helped me keep my mind off some other stuff,"

Winning the state title in '89, Bumgardner said, was his biggest thrill in sports, but he always kept the game in its proper perspective. Winning was nice, and everybody wants to win, but to Bud the game was meant to

Players, coaches, fans and friends who Bud Bumgardner influenced over the years will long remember his smiling face, his good-natured chiding of umpires, and the jokes he cracked and pranks he pulled at just the right time to break the pressure of the situation, whether on the ball field or at the corner

Bud will be missed.

## Martin sets KMHS pole vault record

track team finished a close second to East Rutherford in a three-team meet Thursday at KM's John Gamble Stadium.

The Cavaliers compiled 86 points to 83 for Kings Mountain and 17 for R-S Central.

The Mountaineers won eight events, with senior Jeremy Martin setting a school record in the pole vault with a leap of 12'9". Martin's previous school record was 12'6".

Kings Mountain won the 800 and 400-metre relays; R.J. Barnes won the triple jump with a leap of

Kings Mountain High's boys 40'9", Rodney Brown won the long vault, Daniel Gardner third in the jump with a leap of 20/3 1/2", Shane Logan won the 110 high hurdles in 16.39 seconds, Corey Jones won the 100-meter dash in 11.15 seconds, and C.C. Smith

> Brian Odems was third and Rodney Brown fourth in the triple jump, Barnes was second in the long jump, Odems was fourth in the high jump, Gary Hughes was second, James Greene third and Chris Carrigan fourth in the discus, Mario Robbs was fourth in the pole

110 high hurdles, Marcus Smith second and Robbs third in the 100 meters, Mark Roper third and Hart Wells fourth in the 1600 meters, Barnes third and Keota Huskey won the 200-meter dash in 24.20 fourth in the 400 meters, Wells fourth in the 800 meters, and Jones third and Marcus Smith fourth in the 200 meters.

Kings Mountain was scheduled to compete in the Cleveland County meet Tuesday at Crest. Team members with qualifying times will compete in the Appalachian State meet in Boone Saturday.





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