

# Houston wins fourth state tennis title

Kings Mountain High's Jackie Houston won her fourth straight state 3-A tennis championship and a spot in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Record Book last weekend at Elon College.

Houston defeated Brooke Skeen of Burlington Williams 7-5, 6-1 to become just the second player in North Carolina prep history to win four straight singles championships.

Laura Cowman of Charlotte Catholic won the singles title in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992; and Lisa Monaco and Margit Monaco of Fayetteville Terry Sanford won the doubles championships in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Houston completed her high school career with a perfect 81-0 record in singles play. In addition, she has won the state 400-meter dash two years in a row and could make it three straight in the spring, giving her a grand total of seven state championships.

Beating Skeen is nothing new for Houston, who has played the talented Burlington star in several tournaments in the past. In fact, she defeated Skeen for last year's state crown.

Skeen actually led the first set 5-3 before Houston took control of the match.

"The first set was pretty tough," said the KM star. "I just started playing better. I've been behind her before but have always beaten her."

With her four state championships behind her, Houston now will begin concentrating on fine tuning her game for college. She was highly recruited by numerous Division I schools including Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina, but has given a verbal commitment to Wake Forest and plans to sign with the Deacons on November 13.

"I've been on a lot of recruiting trips lately, so I really haven't gone to a lot of tournaments," she said. "but I plan to play in the Junior Davis Cup



JACKIE HOUSTON

this year and am getting ready to go to Michigan over Thanksgiving to play a tournament."

Houston said she chose Wake Forest because of the strength of Coach Lew Gerard's program, and also for the academics. She said she hasn't decided on a major yet.

"Wake Forest is usually in the Top Ten in the nation every year," she said. "The academics are good, and it's close to home."

Houston said Gerard indicated she would probably play the four or five position as a freshman. She looks forward to an always-tough ACC schedule as well as non-conference matches against some of the top teams in the country.

"They always go out to California during the year," she said. "In fact, they just got back from California. And they always take five or six girls to the NCAA Tournament."

Houston, who started playing tennis at the age of nine, says she will continue to work on her game often by going to Charlotte to compete with pros Robbie Smith and Tim Wilkinson.

"I still plan to run track in the spring," she said, "but right now I'm trying to maintain my GPA and play in some tournaments this winter and next spring."

# Eng to give demo at Tuff Man Contest

Robert Eng will return to the ring to do his popular martial arts demonstrations November 15 at the Kings Mountain Community Center.

Eng's performance will be a part of the annual Who Is? The Toughest Man Contest which is scheduled for November 15-16 and will feature 50 area fighters.

On Saturday, November 16, Gary "The Explosive Thin Man" Carroll will be fighting Mahamad "The Hit Man" Mustafa from Winston-Salem in a special pro bout.

Eng said it has been seven years since he performed his spectacular martial arts demonstrations. Eng has owned the Eng School of Self Defense since 1977 and has trained a number

of World Kickboxing Champions.

Eng is a former Airborne Ranger and U.S. Army Special Forces soldier who has performed his demonstrations in the military, and throughout the world since returning to his hometown to open Eng School of Self Defense.

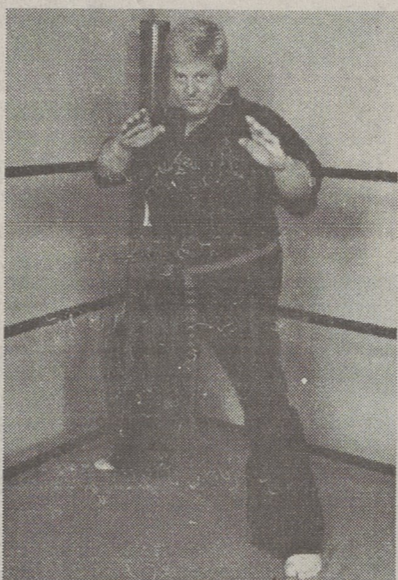
Eng has been featured in several area and national newspapers and magazines, on television programs such as PM Magazine, That's Incredible, and Carolina Camera, and on various European stations.

Eng said he was surprised one day to look on a grocery store shelf and see his picture and an article in the National Enquirer.

"There was an article which stated, 'Robert Eng - the Man Who Loves Pain,' he recalled. 'I don't know how they got the pictures or the article, and I don't like the pain.'

"Many people have asked me if I can still do the things that I once did, when I wasn't 40 years old and a full-time pastor," he noted. "I guess we will find out on the 15th of November at the Kings Mountain Community Center."

The Tuff Man event is sponsored by the Shelby Church of God youth and is a fund raiser for the youth to pay their way to Winter Fest in Gatlinburg, TN, an annual Christian youth event.



ROBERT ENG

## Sports Briefs

### Playoff tickets on sale at KMHS

Tickets for next week's opening round playoff game between Kings Mountain's Mountaineers and Canton Pisgah will go on sale Monday at the KMHS principal's office.

Tickets are \$5 each. The game will be played at 7:30 p.m. at KM's John Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain will go into the playoffs as the top seed from the Southwestern 3-A Conference. Pisgah, which ended its regular season last week, is the #2 seed from the Western Athletic Conference.

Since this is a state playoff game and regulated by the NCHSAA, KM all-sports passes and season tickets will not be honored.

### Basketball registration at KM Boys/Girls Club

Registration is underway for the winter basketball season at the Kings Mountain Boys and Girls Club.

Registration will be held each Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m., and each Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through December 12. The club is located at Central School.

Team selection will be held Saturday, Dec. 13 at 12 noon in the Central gym.

Boys and girls ages 6-18 may join. There is no fee.

Director Danny McDowell said the purpose of the program is to teach boys and girls basic fundamental skills. There is emphasis on sportsmanship and teamwork.

For more information, call 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, Jewel Watson at 739-9374, Jimmy Poole at 937-9814, or Richard Williams at 739-6536.

### Outbackers winners in duckpin bowling

The Outbackers defeated the Alley Cats 6-2 Thursday night to wrap up the first quarter championship in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action at Dilling Heating.

The Outbackers (40-24) won by eight games over the Alley Cats and the Hurricanes, both 32-32, while Storm finished fourth with a 24-40 mark.

Bill Myers' 112 line and Chuck Ruley's 296 set led the Outbackers over the Alley Cats. Allen Myers led the Cats with a 121 line and 334 set.

In other action, the Hurricanes defeated Storm 6-2. Tommy Barrett led the winners with a 122 line and 359 set. Zeke Rybczyk led Storm with a 116 line and 315 set.

### Marauders, Pickers grab bowling lead

The Cherry Marauders and Moose's Marauders grabbed the early lead in the second quarter of mixed duckpin bowling league action Tuesday night at Dilling Heating.

The Pickers defeated the High Rollers 6-2 and the Marauders won over the Odd Balls 6-2.

Zeke Rybczyk bowled a 122 line and 337 set and Colleen Philbeck added a 111 line and 319 set to lead the Cherry Pickers over the High Rollers. R.W. Hullender led the Rollers with a 124 line and 351 set.

Margo Spargo rolled a 111 line and Chris Hullender added a 310 set to lead the Marauders over the Odd Balls. Mark Midgette led the Odd Balls with a 136 line and 362 set and

Robbie Hullender added a 121 line and 325 set.

### Sports card show November 16 in KM

There will be a sports card show Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Ramada Limited in Kings Mountain.

Admission is free. For more information call (864) 268-0816.

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