

Mounties trim Shelby 52-50, remain tied for top in SWC

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers continued their roll toward the state playoffs Tuesday night at Shelby, knocking off the Golden Lions 52-50 for their sixth straight victory and eighth win in the last nine games.

The victory kept the Mountaineers tied with East Rutherford for first place in the SWC record. Both teams are 7-2 heading into big games Friday. East hosts Shelby and Kings Mountain travels to North Gaston.

The Mountaineers close out their regular season next week with home games against Burns and East Rutherford.

Kings Mountain trailed 39-36 going into the fourth quarter Tuesday night but a gutsy performance turned the tide in the Mountaineers' favor.

Point guard Marcus Smith, who finished with 12 points, hit three key field goals and sank two pressure free throws with 38 seconds to play to give the Mountaineers a 50-48 lead. Shelby came back down and missed a shot and during a mad scramble for the loose ball, Smith came up with it and fed Alex Burris for a dunk which gave the Mountaineers a 52-48 lead.

Shelby came back downcourt and scored a two-point field goal with five seconds left, but the Lions were without a timeout and couldn't stop the clock.

"It was a struggle," said KM Coach Larry Sipe. "It was a game between the two best defensive teams in the league."

To look at the statistics, Sipe said, one might wonder how Kings Mountain won. But stats don't measure guts and outstanding defensive plays.

Kings Mountain shot only 37 percent from the floor, was held to 17 field goals, and was out-rebounded 35-18 by a much-taller Shelby five. But the quick Mountaineer defense forced 27 turnovers, and the Mountaineers, who usually don't get many free throw opportunities, hit 13 of 18 from the foul line.

Sipe said KM and Shelby's offensive philosophies are completely different, and credited the

victory to his team's man-to-man defense, especially on the perimeter.

"We're mainly a perimeter shooting team, and those Shelby players put so much pressure on you defensively," he said. "Shelby's just the opposite. They're a power team inside. (Ronald) Watkins scored 23 points and didn't shoot a jump shot. All of his points came either from the foul line or taking the ball to the basket."

"But we played good defense out on the perimeter. If we lay back in a zone and don't apply any pressure on the ball we're playing into their hands because they want to put that thing inside. If we don't force turnovers we're not in the game."

Burris finished with 15 points to lead the Mountaineers, and Marlon Byers added 10. Ty Toney came off the bench in the fourth quarter to give the team a defensive lift, and he also had a key free throw down the stretch.

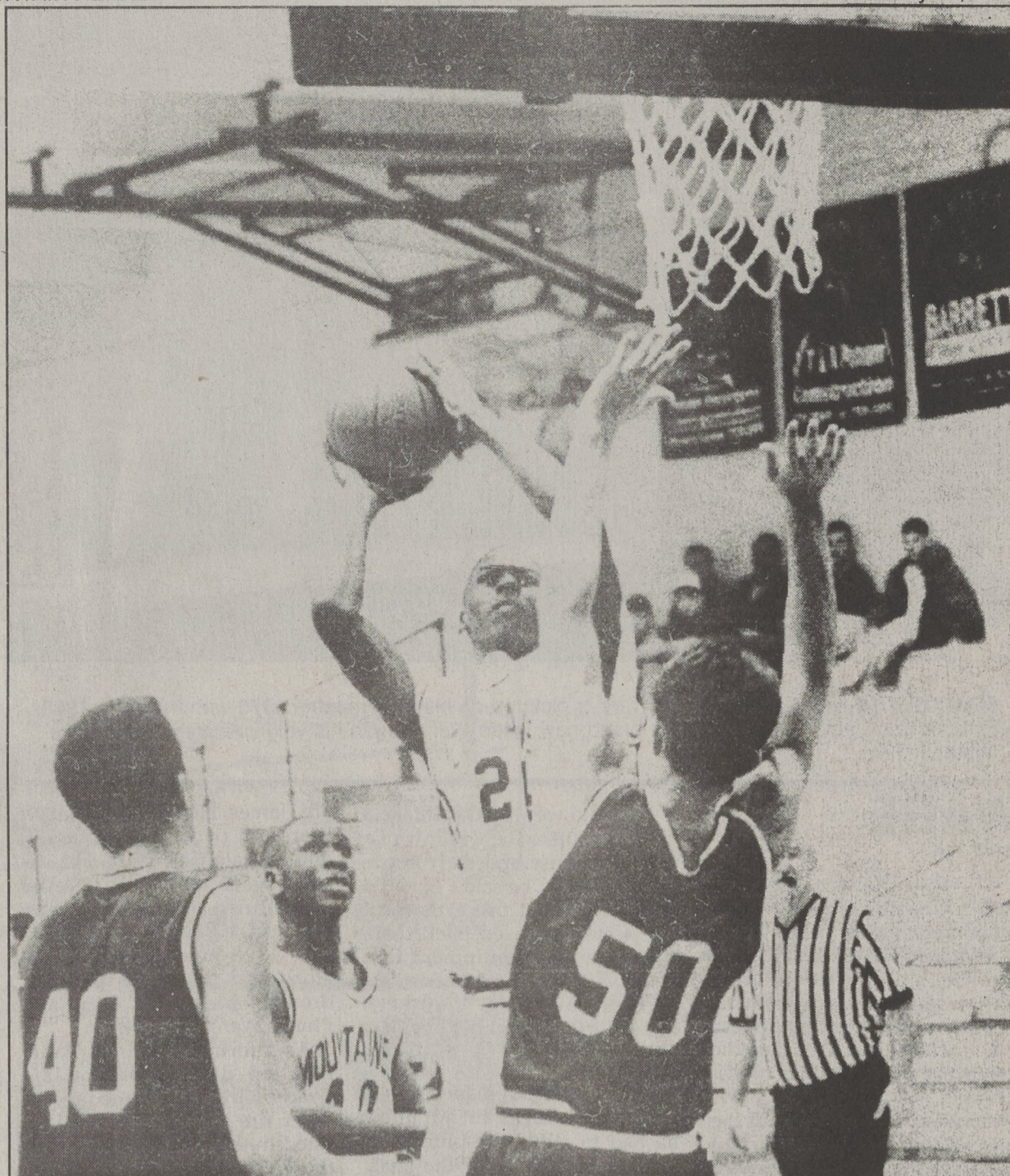
"To get that kind of gutty effort in an environment like the Shelby High gym, with their crowd, was something," Sipe said. "We had an excellent crowd that followed us too. I've had good feelings about this team from day one. We've grown together pretty good."

Although Tuesday's win ranks as one of the most important of the season, Sipe said the Mountaineers can't afford a letdown. North Gaston, Burns and East Rutherford are among the most dangerous teams in the league.

"They don't get any easier," Sipe said. "Until Tuesday night I thought North Gaston had had the biggest victory thus far because they beat Shelby at Shelby. They have a dangerous ball team. We can't get caught up in looking past anyone."

Sipe's philosophy about the balanced SWC has been that a team has to win all of its home games and "steal" some on the road. Thus far in conference play, the Mountaineers have a 4-1 record on the road and a 3-1 mark at home.

See Shelby 8-A



HELPS KEY MOUNTIE ROLL - One of the big keys in Kings Mountain's recent winning streak on the basketball court is Jawan McCree, who has been a scoring and rebounding force inside. The Mountaineers travel to North Gaston Friday and close out the regular season with home games next week against Burns and East Rutherford.



FIRES FROM LONG RANGE - Kristie Brinkley fires a long-range jumper to help Kings Mountain's girls defeat South Point 50-38 in Southwestern 3-A Conference actin Friday at the KMHS gym.

Mounties sweep Raiders

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers posted their fifth straight victory and seventh win in their last eight games Friday night, defeating South Point's Red Raiders 64-49 in a Southwestern 3A Conference victory that kept Larry Sipe's charges in a three-way tie for first place.

Kings Mountain's girls evened their SWC record at 4-4 with a 50-36 win in the opening game.

The Mountaineers grabbed a 16-11 first quarter lead and stayed out front the rest of the way despite a good effort by a South Point team which included only seven players. Kings Mountain, which used 13 players, including 10 who scored, eventually wore the Raiders down.

Kings Mountain was led by Marlon Byers and Jawan McCree with 10 points each, and Alex Burris with nine. Brandon Beck scored 18, Tracy Dye 12 and Jason Cabe 10 for the Red Raiders.

Kings Mountain's girls broke open a close game in the fourth quarter to run their overall record to 5-13 and hand South Point its 18th straight loss.

The Lady Mountaineers led 13-5 at the first quarter break but South Point came back to

See S. Point, 8-A

**When Romance Is In The Air...
Make Sure Your "Love Handles"
Won't Be There!**

KISS YOUR WEIGHT GOODBYE FOREVER

With the Dynamatrix physician approved, medically supervised weight loss plan...

**A SWEET DEAL...
SAVE NOW \$1 per lb.**

Labs and supplements not included

Dynamatrix
MEDICAL WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC

1920 E. Marion St., Shelby, N.C. Next to Cleveland Mall
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY CALL TODAY Office Hrs: Mon.-Fri 8-6 481-0295

NO MONEY DOWN!
This Is Your BEST Opportunity To Re-establish Your Credit! AND Drive Away In a New or Used Car or Truck TODAY!

ALL CREDIT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED
Bankruptcy • Repossessions • Slow Pay
Medical Bills • Collections • Judgements

Call 1-800-671-9532

BRING:
• Driver's License
• Social Security Card
• Current Pay Stub
• Current Phone Bill

Vester Mazda
Hwy. 74 • Shelby • 704-482-6771

Stipulations Apply • Pending Approval

Valentine's Day

Large Selection of Pink Ice

\$39.95 Double Heart Ring With Diamond

\$39.95 Gold Charm Bracelets

\$59.95 Diamond Earrings

\$99.95 Hugs & Kisses Bold Gold Bracelet

VALENTINE SPECIALS FOR THE ONE YOU LOVE!

1 Carat Diamond Baguettes 14K gold Reg. \$1095 Sale \$799

14K Gold Round Diamond 10 ct. \$999 3/4 ct. \$769 1/4 ct. \$249 1 ct. \$899 1/2 ct. \$599 1/2 ct. \$499 1/4 ct. \$299

Instant Credit We have a payment plan for you \$0 Down and Low monthly

ARNOLD'S JEWELRY "The Diamond Leader"
226 S. Washington Street 487-4521
Shelby, NC 28150

Gold Vermeil 1-carat Cz Sale \$39.95