

**BIG GUNS FOR MOUNTIES** - Alex Burris, left photo, and Marcus Smith, right photo, had big games for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers during the past week. Burris scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in Tuesday night's victory over Burns and Smith scored a game-high 26 points in Friday night's game at



North Gaston. The Mounties host East Rutherford in their final regular season game Friday night at home. The winner will earn a share of the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship and the loser will drop into a tie for third place.

# Cats break KM winning streak

North Gaston's Wildcats came from behind in the fourth quarter to defeat Kings Mountain 81-75 and force a four-way tie for first place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference Friday night in Dallas.

North Gaston, Kings Mountain, Shelby and East Rutherford went into the final week of the regular season tied for first place with three losses each.

The victory by the Wildcats also broke a six-game winning streak for the Mountaineers. Ironically, that streak began on January 21 with a victory over the Wildcats.

Kings Mountain rebounded from a 17-8 first quarter deficit to take an eight-point lead midway through the third period. The Mountaineers still led 53-51 going into the fourth quarter but the Wildcats lit up the scoreboard with 30 points over the final eight minutes.

Charles Pratt led the Wildcat with 21 points, Matt Dowdle had 16, David Summey 12 and Mike Fields 11.

Kings Mountain point guard Marcus Smith led all scorers with 26 points. Bryan Odums added 13, Marlon Byers 12 and Alex Burris 10.

■ In girls action, North

Gaston outscored the Lady Mountaineers 18-0 in the second quarter to break open a close game, and the Lady Wildcats went on to a 47-33 victory.

Miriam McCloud scored 17 points for the Wildcats and Nikki Ingram had eight for Kings Mountain.

North Gaston led only 14-13 after the first quarter, but several Kings Mountain starters got into foul trouble and had to sit down, and North Gaston took charge of the game.

"Their defense collapsed on Jacquie Hall inside and she didn't have her usual game, and our perimeter people had to try to pick up the slack," said KM Coach Tony Leigh. Hall was held to four points.

### GIRLS GAME

KM (33) - Ingram 8, Hamrick 6, Brinkley 4, Byers 4, Hall 4, Goode 3, Putnam 2, Coleman 2.

NG (47) - McCloud 17, Sanders 7, Scoggins 6, Ferguson 5, Cloninger 5, Hamilton 4, Welcome 3.

### BOYS GAME

KM (75) - Smith 26, Byers 12, Bell 4, Burris 10, Crocker 8, Odums 13, McClain 2.

NG (81) - Fields 11, Mulkey 6, Pasour 8, Summey 12, Smith 2, Dowdle 16, Pratt 21.

## Middle School girls win 32-23, finish with eight straight wins

Kings Mountain Middle School's girls basketball team defeated West Lincoln 32-23 in their final game of the season Monday.

Thea Currence and Anna Ramey led the scoring with nine points each. Cherlyn Cole and Renee Hall added four

points each. The Lady Patriots finished the season with a 9-3 record, with two of the losses coming against undefeated Burns. After losing three early games, the Lady Patriots came back to win their last eight games.

# Mountaineers defeat Burns 61-50

## Can get share of SWC title with win Friday

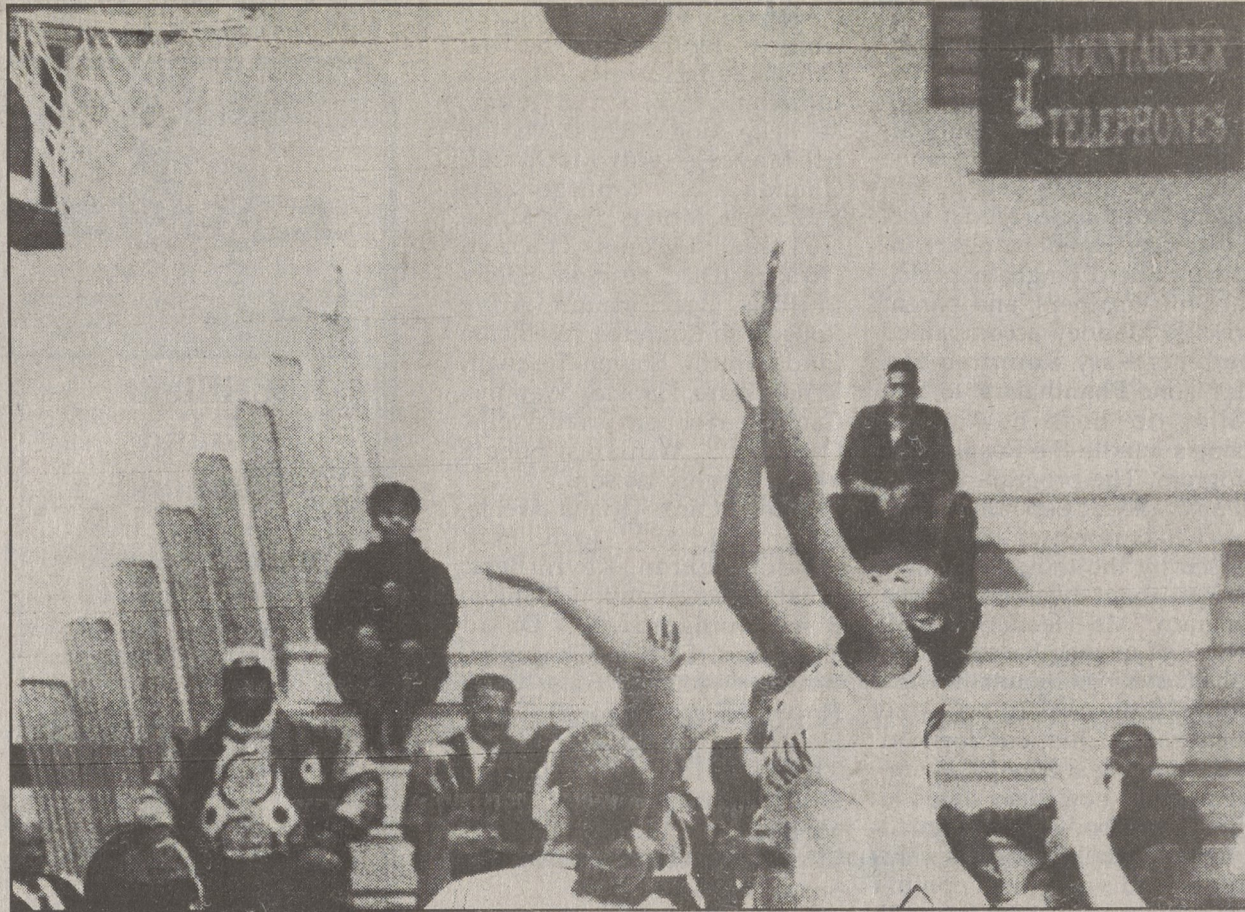
Kings Mountain's Mountaineers go into their final regular season game Friday night at the KMHS gym with a shot at sharing the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship.

Heading into the final night of action, the Mountaineers are tied for first place with North Gaston, Shelby and East Rutherford, all with 8-3 records. Conference coaches will meet Saturday morning and decide the seeds for next week's SWC tournament.

The Mountaineers kept pace with the other three leaders Tuesday night by turning back Burns 61-50 at the KMHS gym. North Gaston defeated R-S Central and East Rutherford beat South Point. Shelby was idle.

The conference tournament will begin Tuesday night at the site of the #2 seed. The final three rounds will be played

See Burns, 10-A



**SCORES 19 IN KM LOSS** - Kings Mountain freshman Jacquie Hall scored 19 points but a second half comeback by the Lady Mountaineers fell short in a 53-48 loss to Burns in Southwestern 3-A Conference action Tuesday night at the KMHS gym.

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