

KM track team to open Thursday

Kings Mountain High's men's track team, one of the largest in history of the school, will open its season Thursday at 4 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium against North Gaston, Shelby and South Point.

Veteran Coach John Bumgardner had over 60 people show up for the first day of practice, and most of them are still with the team.

"We have a lot of young kids," says Bumgardner, "but we have as large a number as we've ever had. The kids seem to be real interested and I think the weather has helped too. We've been fortunate to have some good weather."

The Mountaineers have some outstanding performers returning and should be among the best in the conference in the sprints.

Senior Corey Jones finished fifth in the state last year in the 100-meter dash and he should be ready for another outstand-

ing season. He and Marcus Smith also were members of the 4 x 100 meter relay team which finished fifth in the state.

Bumgardner looks for Shelby and East Rutherford, who finished 1-2 last year, to be strong again.

"East Rutherford was real young last year and will have a lot of people back, and Shelby is always good," he said. "We hope to give them a pretty good run for it. I think we'll be in the top three again if everybody does what they're supposed to do."

Bumgardner welcomes the addition of three men to the coaching staff. Working with the sprinters are Diron Bell and D.J. Williams, who are former Mountaineers now employed at Parker Street School; and working with the long and triple jumpers is Calvin Wingo, another former Mountaineer track standout. Also on the coaching staff are Dave Farquharson and Aubrey Hollifield.

"We've got plenty of help and a lot of kids out, so maybe we can have a good year," Bumgardner said.

Members of the team this year are:

Distance runners - Tui Silaphet, Brian Wells, Noaki Nishiyama, Bill Welsh, Chad Pearson, Ben Howell, Jeremy Regan, Louis Brown, John McDaniel, Josh McDaniel, Seth Moss, Ben Barrett and Jamie Hall.

Sprinters - Stanley Whitesides, Dwayne Littlejohn, Lee Barnes, Corey Jones, Keyotta Huskey, Danny Wright, Charles Perry, Jason Feemster, Lee Rhodes, Ron Feemster, Kevin Young, Joe Williamson, Marcus Smith, Antonio Goodlet, Torrey Cureton, Anthony Hillman, Rocky Ingram, Kenny Moore, Brandon Moss, Ricky Watson, Terris Black, Joseph Bell and David Turner.

Shot and discus - Carl Burch,

Johnny Surratt, Kareem Marshall, Derek Bumgardner, John Bennett, Frank Hopper, Rich Wells, Caleb George, Joe Page, Daniel Davis, Bobby Parks, Rico Feemster, Boyd Mason, Bucky Haskins, Joe Caldwell.

Hurdlers - Daniel Gardner and Anthony Ash.

Pole vault - Jon Anders and Harley Price.

THE SCHEDULE

MARCH
13 - North Gaston, Shelby, South Point at KM; 20 - East Rutherford, South Point, KM at Shelby; 27 - Burns, KM at South Point.

APRIL
10 - Burns, East Rutherford, Shelby at KM; 17 - Burns, KM, South Point at R-S Central; 22 - Cleveland County meet at Shelby; 24 - Shelby Invitational at Shelby.

MAY
1 - SWC meet at R-S Central; 10 - Western Regionals at South Caldwell; 17 - State championship at Chapel Hill.

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Sports Briefs

Mountaineers lose baseball opener 3-0

Kings Mountain High's baseball team dropped a tough 3-0 loss to 4-A Crest in its opening-season baseball game Tuesday afternoon at Crest.

The Mountaineers managed only three hits off Crest pitcher Darius Pullen, who struck out 13. Crest managed only four hits off KM's David Clark but the Chargers took advantage of five walks to build a 2-0 lead after three innings. The Chargers iced the victory in the fifth with a home run by Ledford.

Kings Mountain had singles by Rusty Putnam, Scotty Martin and Mike Thompson.

"Ledford did a good job of getting ahead of our batters early and keeping them off balance with curve balls and change-ups," said KM Coach Tony Leigh.

"Our biggest problem was we fell behind. We were a little too lenient in watching a good pitch go by and then had to deal with his off-speed and curve ball. He just baffled us."

"We played good defense behind David Clark, but it seemed like every inning we were in trouble. To give up just three runs in the situations we were in, defensively we played adequate baseball. We've just got to hit the ball better."

Clark worked the first five innings for the Mountaineers and struck out two. Seth Denton came on in the sixth to retire the Chargers in order.

The two teams meet again Friday at 4:30 at KM's Lancaster Field. The Mountaineers open their Southwestern 3A Conference schedule Tuesday at 4:30 at home against Shelby.

Mountaineer netters whip Crest in opener

Kings Mountain High's tennis team opened its season last Tuesday with a 6-3 victory over Crest.

Singles winners for the Mountaineers were Ricky Southard, Corey McCrary, Zach George and Basit Gangoo. Southard-McCrary and George-Gangoo won their doubles matches.

(Singles)

Will Borders (C) d. Jordan Angeles 6-2, 6-1; Lee Lattimore (C) d. J.D. Ledford 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Ricky Southard (KM) d. David Brooks 6-0, 6-0; Corey McCrary (KM) d. Chais McCurry 0-6, 6-7, 6-2; Zach George (KM) d. Jason Weathers 6-4, 6-3; Basit Gangoo (KM) d. Joe Lefcoski 6-3, 6-1.

(Doubles)

Borders-Lanier (C) d. Angeles-Ledford 8-2; Southard-McCrary (KM) d. Lattimore-Brooks 8-6; George-Gangoo (KM) d. Lefcoski-Weathers 8-0.

Girls AAU basketball tryouts at high school

Girls AAU basketball tryouts will be held March 15 and 16 at the Kings Mountain High School gym.

Tryouts for ages 14-under will be March 15 at 10 a.m. and March 16 at 1 p.m. Tryouts for ages 15 and under will be March 15 at 1 p.m. and March 16 at 3 p.m. January 1, 1997 is the date for determining a player's age.

Practice and games will be on weekends only.

To register, call David or Marie Brinkley at 739-4689.

Mountaineers lose in state 3A playoffs

Kings Mountain High's basketball season came to an end Thursday night when the Mountaineers fell to the state's #2-ranked 3A team, Franklin, 73-56 in the second round of the state playoffs in Franklin.

Franklin grabbed a 21-12 first quarter lead and never looked back in running its record to 25-3. Kings Mountain ended its season with a 16-9 overall record and a share of the Southwestern 3A Conference championship.

Lee Scruggs scored a game-high 29 points and Paul Whittaker added 21 to lead the winners. Marcus Smith and Alex Burris scored 20 points each for Kings Mountain.

KM (58) - Smith 20, Burris 20, Odums 8, Bell 5, Turner 2, Hall 1.

Franklin (73) - Scruggs 29, Whittaker 21, Ledford 8, Sutton 6, Sognazong 5, Moffitt 4.

Life Enrichment Center bass tournament slated

A bass tournament April 5 will give area fishermen a chance to win money and prizes to benefit a local non-profit organization.

The Cleveland County Bass Club is sponsoring its seventh annual tournament at Moss Lake to benefit the Life Enrichment Center of Cleveland County. Cash payback is 80 percent to the first five places; the big fish cash payback is 100 percent. Area businesses have donated a number of gifts to be used as prizes.

Registration forms can be picked up at The Life Enrichment Center, 1270 Fallston Road. The fee is \$60 until 5 p.m. April 4 and \$70 on the day of the tournament. Entering the big fish pot will be \$10 per boat.

The Life Enrichment Center has been helping families keep their loved ones home for more than 16 years. LEC provides cost-effective quality day service for adults with physical and mental disabilities, including Alzheimer's, mental retardation and frailties associated

with aging.

For more information on the tournament, call the Life Enrichment Center at 484-0405, Moss Lake at 482-7926, or write to Life Enrichment, P.O. Box 2381, Shelby, NC 28151.

Tommy Barrett bowls 410 in duckpin league

The Storm blew all the pins down in sweeping the first place Outbackers 8-0, and Tommy Barrett turned in one of the best three-game totals of the year in mixed duckpin bowling league action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

Zeke Rybczyk bowled a 139 line and 360 set and John Dilling added a 115-332 to lead the upset. R.W. Hullender had a 112-312, Chuck Ruley a 110-310 and Carol Raymer a 110-300 for the Outbackers.

In another match, the Hurricanes defeated the Alley Cats 6-2 as Tommy Barrett turned in a 151 game and 410 series. Colleen Philbeck added a 136-355 and Mark Abernathy had a 116-313.

Several Alley Cats had big nights, also, led by Allen Myers with a 135 line and 398 set. Irene Ruley added a 128-305 and Bonnie Warren had a 114-301.

Standings - Outbackers 40-24, Storm 36-28, Alley Cats 28-36, Hurricanes 24-40.

Hullender bowls 401 in mixed duckpin loop

The High Rollers got off to a great start in the first week of fourth quarter action in the Tuesday night Mixed Duckpin Bowling League at Dilling Heating with an 8-0 sweep of the Odd Balls.

The highest roller of the all was team captain R.W. Hullender, who had a 143 line and 401 series. Mark Abernathy added a 154 line and 345 set. Robbie Hullender led the Odd Balls with a 136 line and 342 set, and Mark Midgette added a 129 line and 338 set.

In another match, the Cherry Pickers defeated Moose's Marauders 6-2 behind John Dilling's 150 line and 359 set. Betty Hullender added a 121 line and 307 set. Margo Spargo had a 113 line and 305 set and

Chuck Ruley added a 106-303 for the Marauders.

Pro wrestling Friday at KM National Guard

The Professional Wrestling Federation returns to the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory Friday, March 14 at 8 p.m.

The main event will feature The Italian Stallion against Gorgeous George South. If The Italian Stallion wins he gets to cut Madd Maxxine's hair.

Also featured will be WWF stars The Overlords in a tag team match. The Eastern States title will be on the line when The Black Angel challenges The Rule Breaker, Black Dragon.

There will also be a man vs. woman match.

Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at The Armory.

Buckshot Miles wins at Cherokee Speedway

Buckshot Miles won the season opening late model race Sunday afternoon at Cherokee Speedway in Gaffney.

Miles edged heat winners Buddy Smith and Hot Rod Lamance. Jeff Smith of Kings Mountain was fourth.

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Bill Marcellino - Investment Representative
When: Thursday - March 20, 1997
Time: 12:00 noon - Lunch will be served
Where: Town & Country BBQ - Grover Rd

Suggestion: Bring a daughter or niece and join us for an informative luncheon. Seating is limited, so please call early to make your reservation.




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BIG FISH - David Hughes, left, and Billy Hughes caught these three big bass and a two-pound crappie Sunday afternoon at a South Carolina lake. The biggest bass weighed 10 pounds.



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