# Mountaineers sweep R-S in SWC openers

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers came from 19 points down in the second half to defeat R-S Central 65-62 in their opening Southwestern 3A Conference game Tuesday night at the KMHS

The KM ladies made it a clean sweep in the opener, grabbing the lead early and never looking back in racing to a 75-37 win.

The two KM teams return home tonight to face Crest in non-conference action. They host South Point next Tuesday.

The Mountaineers trailed 34-21 at intermission, and the Hilltoppers built a 49-31 lead with 2:40 left in the third quarter before the Mountaineers' full-court pressing and trapping defense began forcing numerous turnovers.

Joe Williamson, one of several players who have joined the team since the completion of the football season, provided the spark with two steals and two baskets which helped the Mountaineers to an 8-0 run to cut the R-S lead to

"Joe does so many little things for you," said Coach Larry Sipe. "He sets screens and plays defense...just plays hard on both ends of the court. Even during the time outs he is so upbeat and keeps a positive attitude, and that is very important.

Williamson scored 11 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter. KeLee Thompson, who also scored 14, hit a basket with two minutes remaining to tie the score at 55-all, and the Mountaineers kept the pressure on and sealed the win at the foul line.

For the game, KM hit 16 of 27 foul shots while R-S hit only 9 of 15.

That was a big key, Sipe said, but the big difference was that the Mountaineers refused to quit.

"When you get down 19 you either pack it in and go home or you just keep playing the game," he said. "Our kids stayed in the game, and our coaches stayed in the game. Our kids are really excited about playing defense. Coach (Danny) McDowell does a great job of getting these guys to play full court defense, and Coach (Aubrey) Hollifield does a good job with our kids inside. We had six blocked shots, and some of them were on the tail end of the press."

Sipe said another big key to the victory was the quality practice time the team had over the Christmas holidays. That allowed the football players to get into basketball shape.

"You can see things beginning to come together," he said. "We got quality practice time, now we just have to get some game conditions."

Kings Mountain's girls used their size advantage inside to completely dominate R-S in the opener. The Lady Mountaineers raced to a 13-5 first quarter lead and went on to lead by 36-16 at the half and 55-22 going into the fourth quarter.

Jacquie Hall led the way with 34 points, Kristie Brinkley added 14 and Renee Hall 12.

GIRLS GAME RS (37) - Gerth 12, Pate 7, Osborne 6, Tate 4, Jackson 3, Ford 2, Buckner 3.

KM (75) - J. Hall 34, Brinkley 14, R. Hall 12, Leigh 7, Ramey 3, Cole 2, Moore 2, Hardin 1.

**BOYS GAME** 

RS (60) - Jimerson 15, Godfrey 14, Byers 2, Simms 9, Watkins 6, R. Logan 4, L. Logan 6, De Logan 4, Da. Logan 2.

KM (65) - Williamson 14, Thompson 14, Henderson 5, Odums 1, Cureton 5, Byers 6, Houze 5, Young 6, Goode 9.



Kings Mountain's Kristie Brinkley (20) drives the lane for two of her 14 points in Southwestern 3A Conference win over R-S Central Tuesday night at the KMHS gym.

### Brad Sturgill to play baseball at Wofford

Brad Sturgill, second baseman for the South Stokes Sauras, has signed a letter of intent with Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC.

Sturgill, 17, has a lifetime batting average of .350 an a fielding percentage of .940 while playing for the 4-A Sauras of

the Central Piedmont Conference.

Wofford is a member of the NCAA Division 1 Southern Conference along with Appalachian

State, Vestern Carolina, Davidson Georgia Southern and UNC

Greensboro. His hitting and fielding statistics weren't the only thing that attracted the Wofford program. Sturgill is also ranked fourth in his class with a grade point average of 3.999 on a 4.0 scale. With awards and scholarships, approximately 50 percent of Sturgill's tuition and fees have been taken care of.

Sturgill is the son of Karon and Tony Sturgill of Walnut Cove, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bradley of Kings Mountain.

Moose's Marauders win second half in duckpins

Moose's Marauders defeated the Pushovers 6-2 Tuesday night at Dilling Heating to nail down the second quarter championship in the mixed duckpin bowling league.

The Marauders (40-24) lost the first game, but got a 147 line and 396 set from Greg Evans, and a 125 line and 336 set from Chuck Ruley to win going away.

The Pushovers (35-29), who trailed by just one game going into the match, were led by Colleen Philbeck with a 110 line and John Dilling with a 307 set.

In another match, the Raiders (35-29) pulled into a tie for second place with a 6-2 win over the Checkers (18-46). Mark Abernathy led the Raiders with a 125 line and 334 set, Jack Barrett had a 119-318, and Irene Ruley had a 113-301. Ed Philbeck led the Checkers with a 95 line and 278 set.

#### Crest's Dozier named athlete of the month

Christopher Scott Dozier, a Junior at Crest High School in Shelby, is the McDonald's/WOHS Scholar-Athlete of the Month for December. Scott is a member of the Crest cross country team and also played soccer as a freshman and sophomore at Crest.

Scott is the son of Gerry and Holly Dozier. He is a member of Shelby Presbyterian Church.

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