

SPORTS THIS WEEK

High School Tennis



Thurs., March 4 - East Gaston at Kings Mountain, 3:30
Monday, March 8 - KMHS at Lincolnton, 3:30
Tuesday, March 9 - R-S Central at Kings Mountain, 3:30

High School Softball

Saturday, March 6 - KMHS at Crest (multiple scrimmage) TBA.
Monday, March 8 - Kings Mountain at Ashbrook 4 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9 - Shelby at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.

High School Baseball

Thursday, March 4 - North Mecklenburg at Kings Mountain (varsity scrimmage) 4:30 p.m.
Monday, March 8 - Kings Mountain varsity at Crest, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9 - Crest at Kings Mountain junior varsity, 4:30
Wednesday, March 10 - East Gaston at Kings Mountain (JV and varsity doubleheader, 4 and 7 p.m.)

High School Girls Soccer

Monday, March 8 - Kings Mountain at Hunter Huss, 4 p.m.

High School Golf

Tuesday, March 9 - Chesnee, SC at Kings Mountain, 3:30

High School Girls Track

Wednesday, March 10 - Kings Mountain, South Point, and East Rutherford at North Gaston, 3:30

NOTABLE

Kings Mountain's Freddy Smith finished fourth and won \$3,800 in Sunday's Carl Black Buick, Pontiac, GMC 100 at Dixie Speedway in Woodstock, GA.

Gardner-Webb University has announced that it will investigate seeking NCAA Division I status for academics and athletics, and will formally announce its intentions this fall. GWU recently added three new sports - men's and women's track and field, and women's swimming.

Kings Mountain High is second in the Southwestern 3A Conference Wachovia Cup race following the fall season. R-S Central leads with 30.5 points to KM's 27. South Point has 24, Forestview 23, East Rutherford 21, North Gaston 20, and Burns 19.5. Shelby leads the South Piedmont 1A/2A with 36 points, followed by West Lincoln 33, Lincolnton 32, Cherryville 26, Maiden 22, Chase 20, and Bessemer City 8. Crest is fourth in the NWC 4A. Watauga leads with 29.5, followed by Freedom 28.5, East Burke 19, Crest 18, Alexander Central 16.5, McDowell 14.5.

A highlight video of the 1999 championship Kings Mountain High football season will go on sale next week for \$20 each. For more information call Coach Ron Massey at 734-KMHS ext. 35.

INSIDE

Baseball season opens for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers Monday at Crest. B2



Kings Mountain High's women's softball team hopes to make a run for the Southwestern 3A Conference title. B2

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Patriots win Division 1 crown

Top Burns 47-40 for 11th win

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain Middle School's Patriots turned up the pressure in the second half and came from behind to defeat Burns 47-40 for the Tri-County Conference Division 2 championship Thursday night at the KMMS gym.

The Patriots swept their division opponents, and finished the season with 11 straight wins after losing to Shelby in a non-division game to open the season.

East Rutherford won Division 1 with a perfect 12-0 record.

Burns set the tempo of the game in the first half with a half-court set which kept the Patriots out of their run-and-gun style.

The visitors led 19-18 at the half, but KM Coach Monty Deaton sent his charges into a 1-3-1 press in the second half and the Patriots came back to lead 32-30 after the third quarter and gradually pulled away in the fourth.

"The boys on the team need to be commended on a good job and for keeping focused after that first game loss to Shelby," Deaton said. "They could have lost heart and gone the other way, but they worked hard and finished out on a good note."

The conference championship was the Patriots' first in four years under Coach Deaton, who has 5 of his 15 players returning next year.

"Three of those five played



Action was fast and furious inside the paint in Thursday's Kings Mountain-Burns Tri-County Conference championship game at the KMMS gym. In photo at left, Kings Mountain's Caleb Williams (44) has his shot blocked by an unidentified

quite a bit and started much of the time," Deaton said. "Derek Smith started at point guard, Orlando Curry played center, an Grayland Elliott played the wing."

Eighth grader Cortney Smith had one of his best all-around games, scoring 20 points and playing an exceptional floor

game.

"He has really played well the last three games as far as offense," Deaton said. "He's always been a great defensive player but the last three games he really came up big against Crest, Shelby and Burns."

Brandon Houze contributed eight points, and Warren Shirey



Burns player, and in photo at right the Patriot wing player Grayling Elliott (32) has the Burns defense towering over him. Kings Mountain won 47-40 to win the Division 1 championship with an 11-1 record.

added six.

"I was pleased with our balanced scoring," Deaton said. "Most of the other guys scored three and four points."

Acquino Reynolds came off the bench in the second half and put pressure on the ball, and Deaton also credited David Brinkley, Shirey, Cortney Smith,

Houze and Derek Smith for creating turnovers.

"Burns had trouble getting the ball up court in the second half," he said. "We messed their tempo up. In the second half we set the tempo and they had to press us. That's what we wanted, so we could use our quickness and speed."

Women's track team opens Wednesday at North Gaston

Kings Mountain High's women's track team opens its 1999 season Wednesday, March 10 at North Gaston.

Joining the Lady Mountaineers and Lady Wildcats in the Southwestern 3A Conference event will be

South Point and East Rutherford.

Veteran Coach Diane Dooley has a young team this year, but one that shows promise in many areas.

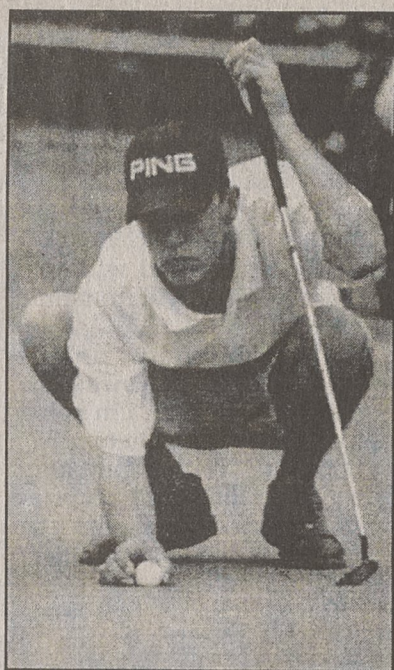
Returning players are Keisha Brooks, Ebony Caldwell, Kristen Feemster, Nikki

Humphries, Charmaine Johnson, Ebony Moore, Meredith Ware, Tina Smith, Jennifer Platt and Krista Morris.

New players are Kim Bowden, Cherlyn Cole, Sherica Cole, Miranda Byers, Georgia Dawson, Katrina Eagle, Ashley Henson, Jenny Kliever, Ashley Limbaugh, Paula Mercier, Sheen Owens, Rashonda Stowe, and Damika Wallace.

"We should have pretty good speed in our sprinters," Dooley noted. "Jennifer Platt has run cross country and will help us in our long distance."

"The shot and disc are stronger, but I have no idea what any of the other teams have."



Kings Mountain High senior Michael Jolly hopes to line up another shot at the state 3-A golf championship.

KMHS golf team eyes one of best seasons in SWC 3A

Kings Mountain High's golf team has the potential to go a long way this year.

With his top four players and five of his top six back from last year, veteran Coach David Ballenger feels his team could make a strong run for the Southwestern 3A Conference and Western Regional crowns, and possibly even a run for the state title.

"But," he cautions, "every team in the conference is going to be good. It will be real competitive. We finished fourth last year and didn't play bad. You have to play well and everything hinges on the conference and regional tournaments. You can be the best team and have a bad day and not get to go to the state. You're not going to get in-

to the state championship without your best effort."

If the Mountaineers make it to the state, though, they will have experience in that event. Senior Michael Jolly won the state individual championship last year and has competed in the state in each of his three seasons at KMHS. Evan Osteen also qualified for the state tournament last year as a sophomore and finished in the top 20.

Other returning players for the Mountaineers are Justin Eppers, Will Hendricks and Ben Godfrey. Ballenger also has a talented group of freshmen which includes Gray Howard, Adam Maddox, Zack Ramey, Chad Bridges and Lane Echols.

See Golf, 6B

KM kicks off first women's soccer season

Monday game at Huss first of three on the road

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain High School will kick-off its first-ever women's soccer season Monday at 4 p.m. at Hunter Huss High in Gastonia.

Coach Dan Potter doesn't have a senior on his team and said in some ways it feels like he's coaching a JV team. But, in the Lady Mountaineers' favor is the fact that all of the other teams in the Southwestern Conference are starting from scratch, too.

"The season is going to be a challenge for us," he says. "We may take our lumps with some of the more experienced teams. But the kids are working hard and I've been pleased with their efforts. Some are having to get used to more stringent training. They haven't really trained that hard in some of the other sports they've played, and many have

not played sports at all on the high school level."

Potter does have some players who have played recreation league soccer, but most of them played on different teams and will have to adjust to playing with each other.

"The biggest thing right now is to get them to work together as a team," Potter said. "We've been working on small skills and trying to piece it together slowly. I've had a lot of help from John Forrest (one of Potter's former players on the KMHS men's team), and that's really been good."

Three players are sharing the goal position, and all are looking good. They are Lindsay Hamrick, a ninth grader; Mindy Belt, a junior; and Nicole Hagner, a sophomore.

"It's very interesting, because some of these girls have never

See Soccer, 2B



Coach Dan Potter gets his KMHS women ready for first-ever soccer game Monday at Hunter Huss

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD