



High School Soccer



Friday, March 26 - Kings Mountain at Crest, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 27 - Kings Mountain vs. Shelby and Ashbrook at Crest, 12 noon and 2 p.m.

High School Tennis

Thursday, March 25 - Kings Mountain at South Point, 3:30  
Tuesday, March 30 - Forestview at Kings Mountain, 3:30

High School Boys Track

Thursday, March 25 - Forestview and Kings Mountain at East Rutherford, 3:30; RS Central, Burns and South Point at North Gaston, 3:30.

High School Softball

Friday, March 26 - South Point at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, March 27 - Cleveland County Invitational at Crest, TBA  
Monday, March 29 - Kings Mountain at Burns, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 30 - East Rutherford at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.

High School Golf

Thursday, March 25 - Kings Mountain, Clover and York at River Hills CC, 3:30 p.m.

High School Girls Track

Wednesday, March 31 - Kings Mountain and R-S Central at Forestview, 3:30

High School Baseball

Friday, March 26 - Burns at Kings Mountain, 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 31 - Kings Mountain at North Gaston, 4:30.

Junior Varsity Baseball

Thursday, March 25 - Kings Mountain at East Rutherford, 4:30  
Tuesday, March 30 - Kings Mountain at Burns, 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Baseball

Thursday, March 25 - Lincolnton at Kings Mountain, 4 p.m.  
Monday, March 29 - Kings Mountain at Shelby, 4 p.m.

Middle School Soccer

Wednesday, March 31 - Kings Mountain at Burns

Middle School Track

Wednesday, March 31 - Lincolnton and Shelby at Kings Mountain, 3:30

Middle School Golf

Tuesday, March 30 - East Lincoln, Kings Mountain and East Rutherford at Burns

Middle School Tennis

Thursday, March 25 - Crest at Kings Mountain.  
Tuesday, March 30 - Kings Mountain at R-S Central

SCOREBOARD

High School Tennis

**KMHS 8, Burns 1 (Singles)**  
Kenny Houston (KM) d. Tripp Beam 6-3, 7-5; Zack George (KM) d. Seth Phillips 6-2, 6-0; J Chapman (KM) d. Cline Ingle 6-0, 6-1; Basit Gangoo (KM) d. Justin Elmore 6-2, 3-6, 7-5; Chris Bennett (KM) d. Jason Elmore 6-4, 6-2; Jeremy Owens (KM) d. Adam Larsen 7-6, 6-3; Paul Shergill (KM) d. Seth Steele 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; BJ Philbeck (B) d. Kyle Lovelace 6-2, 3-6 6-3; Bill Demshki (B) d. Matt Bullington 6-3, 6-0.

**(Doubles)**  
Houston-Bennett (KM) d. Phillips-C. Ingle 8-4; George-Chapman (KM) d. Beam-Justin Elmore 8-3; Jason Elmore-Larsen (B) d. Gangoo-Owens 8-5; Steele-Demshki (B) d. Bullington-Shafen Khan 8-4.

**RS CENTRAL 5, KMHS 4**

**(Singles)**  
Kenny Houston (KM) d. Josh Luckadoo 6-3, 6-2; Zack George (KM) d. John Williams 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; J Chapman (KM) d. Jordan Rowell 7-5, 6-3; Nick Chapman (RS) d. Basit Gangoo 7-6, 5-7, 6-1; Seth Wilson (RS) d. Chris Bennett 6-1, 6-3; David Stephens (RS) d. Josh Rountree 6-2, 6-1; Jeremy Owens (KM) and Chris Bowen (RS) tied 8-8; Chris Morgan (RS) d. Paul Shergill 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

**(Doubles)**  
Luckadoo-Williams (RS) d. Houston-Bennett 6-1, 6-7, 7-6; Chapman-George (KM) d. Rowell-Chapman 6-3, 7-5; Nick Freeman-Jay McKinnon (RS) d. Rountree-Gangoo 6-4, 6-3.

# Mounties pound Pisgah 17-1

## Six home runs, 14 hits highlight Saturday assault

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers brought out the heavy artillery in a 17-1 assault on Canton Pisgah in a non-conference baseball game Saturday afternoon at Lancaster Field.

Tony Leigh's charges smashed six home runs and collected 14 hits in their biggest offensive attack of the year.

Kendrick Bell went 3-for-5 with two home runs, Tyler Falls was 3-for-4 with two home runs, Joey Proctor was 2-for-4 with a home run, and Brian Thornburg hit a solo home run to lead the KM assault.

Bell's solo shot sparked the Mountaineers to a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Joey Proctor and Tyler Falls had RBI doubles and Seth Denton singled in a run.

Bell's smashed his second home run in the second inning, Andy Leigh had an RBI single, and Falls hit a two-run homer as the lead grew to 9-1.

Thornburg hit a solo home run to put the Mountaineers up 10-1 in the third, and the lead grew to 13-1 on Falls' three-run home run in the fourth.

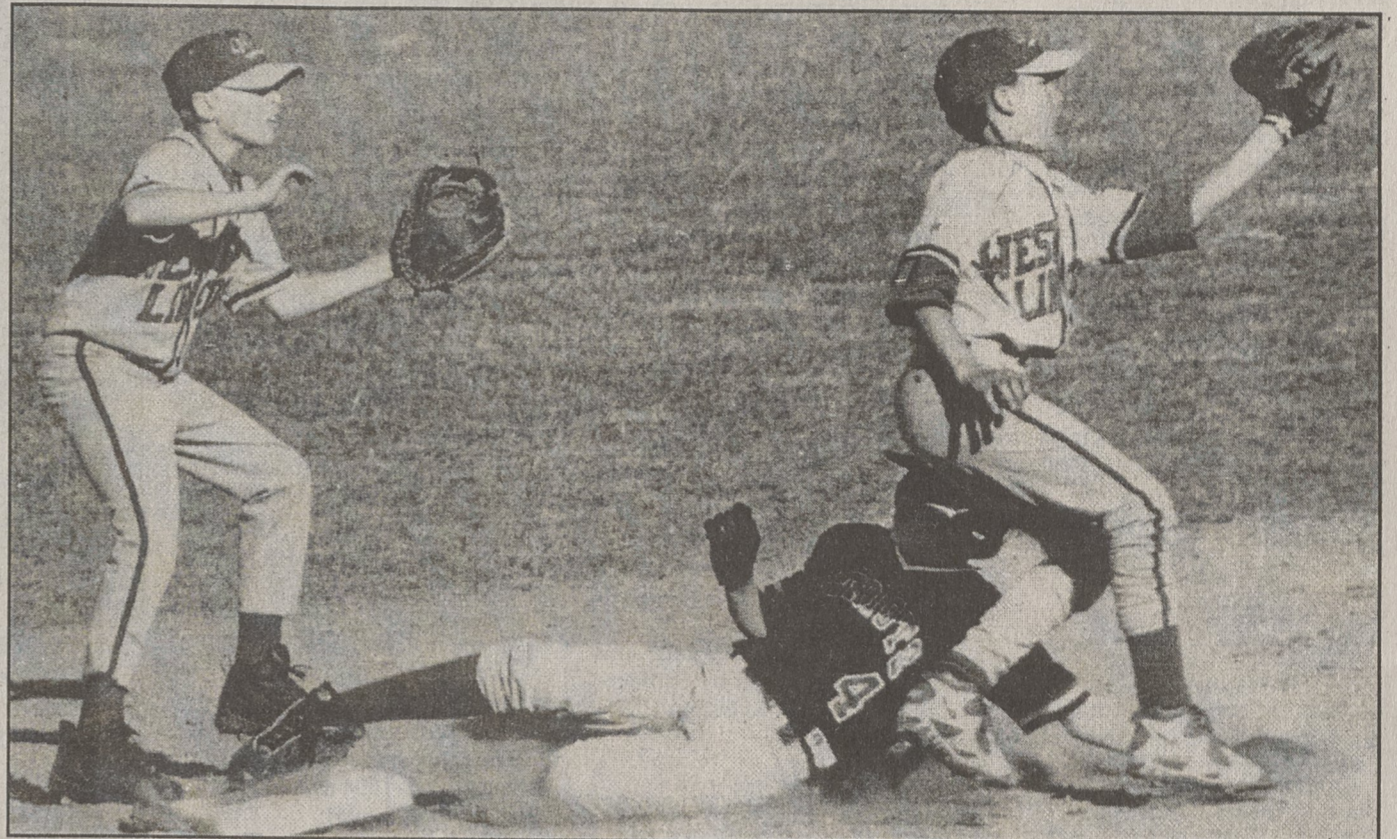
Chad Jones singled to spark a four-run rally in the sixth that closed out the scoring. After a walk to Matt Bridges, Jason Bridges had a two-run single and Proctor launched a two-run home run.

Matt Biddix worked the first three innings on the mound, allowing only two hits and fanning five. Eric Boyd worked the fourth inning, retiring the Bears three-up, three-down. Derek Dixon retired the side in order in the fifth, and Seth Denton struck out three batters over the final two innings.

In a non-conference game last Wednesday in Gastonia, the Mountaineers trimmed 4A Hunter Huss 5-2.

Bell and Boyd led the KM plate attack with two hits each, and Dixon, Falls, Proctor and Leigh had a hit apiece.

See Pisgah, 3B



Who's on second? It doesn't matter to Kings Mountain's Chris Jolley, who slides in safely between West Lincoln second baseman Anthony, and shortstop Mathis after his infield hit got away from the first baseman in Thursday's Middle School baseball game at Lancaster Field. KM won 19-3

## Big start keys Patriots' 19-3 win

Kings Mountain Middle School baseball coach Monty Deaton said his players wanted to "come out and jump on" West Lincoln in their opening Tri-County Conference game Thursday at KMMS.

The Patriots did just that, scoring 10 runs in the first inning and 14 in the first two frames en route to a 19-3, five-inning win over the Rebels.

"That's always encouraging when you can get up on a team like that," Deaton said. "We had some good hits and good base-running. Elan Philbeck started on the mound and

did an excellent job. He got them three-up, three-down in the first inning and that's the way we wanted to start."

Ross Ellis, Matt Echols and Caleb Williams led the KM plate attack with 3-for-4 each. Tyler Allen was 2-for-4, and Buddy Black, Warren Shirey, David Brinkley, Chris Jolly and Philbeck added one hit each.

"When you get a big lead early like that you have to try to keep the team focused throughout the game," Deaton said. "I knew we had six more innings to play and

they can always come back like they did last year when we were up 7-2 and they came back in the seventh inning and beat us 8-7.

"Anything can happen, but it was a well played game on our part. We're going to have a good season. We have a good group of kids. They've been working hard in practice, and it showed in the game."

Philbeck left the mound after the second inning with a 14-0 lead. Travis Robinson pitched two innings of relief, and Hunter Gaffney finished up.

See Patriots, 3B

## Kicking Lady Mounties on a roll, eye big challenge in Crest tourney

Kings Mountain High's first-year women's soccer team has exceeded all of the early-season expectations of Coach Dan Potter.

Although the Lady Mountaineers lost their first game of the season last Wednesday to an experienced West Iredell team, the club bounced back for three victories to run its overall record to 4-1 heading into the Crest Tournament Friday and Saturday.

The Lady Mountaineers fell to West Iredell 3-1 after leading 1-0 at the half, but rebounded with victories over Hunter Huss Thursday 2-0, East Gaston Friday 3-0, and East Gaston again Monday, 8-0.

Thus far, West Iredell is the only team to score on the KM defense.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 1-0 lead at West on a header by Meredith Ware, but the more experienced West Iredell team came back with three goals in the second half to win.

"That was an interesting way to score," Coach Potter said of Ware's head ball off a throw-in. "That doesn't happen that often, especially in girls soccer."

"But then as soon as the second half began they came out like gangbusters and sort of surprised us with two goals in the first five minutes."

Despite the loss, Potter was pleased with his team's effort.

"They have had a team for six years," he noted, "but we actually outplayed them. We played really, really well. We had better scoring chances, out-shot them, but unfortunately we made a couple of mistakes and had a little bad luck. The field was wet and one time our keeper slipped and they scored. If it hadn't been for the wet condition she would have had it. But I was really pleased. The girls exceeded my expectations."

Potter said the girls had trouble getting going in their first-ever home game Thursday afternoon at John Gamble Stadium against Hunter Huss.

To start with, Huss was 1 1/2 hours late and the Mountaineers had to spend a lot of time just waiting around.

"I think our kids got into sun-tanning instead of the game," Potter joked. "By game time we were lulled to sleep. The first ten minutes of the game they (Huss) got more shots at our goal than they had the entire game the first time we played them."

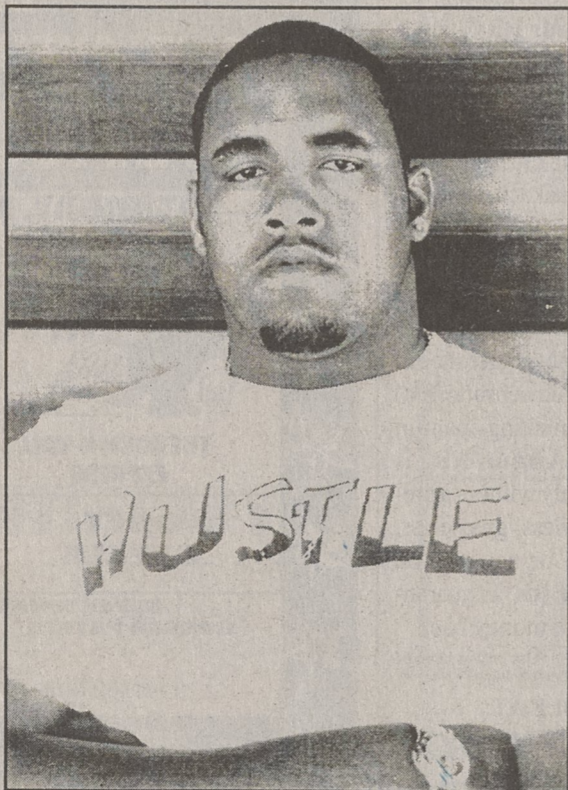
But the Mountaineers finally got untracked. Thirteen minutes into the game, Meredith Ware

See Soccer, 3B



Kings Mountain's Heather Kubu (14) battles for control of ball in Thursday's soccer game with Hunter Huss at Gamble Stadium. KM won 2-0.

# McCleary: It's all about hard work



NORRIS MCCLEARY

## ECU standout granted extra year of football

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of the Herald

East Carolina University football star Norris McCleary spent his spring break last week working with his parents, Norris and Margie McCleary, at their health-care facility in Kings Mountain.

But, hard work is nothing new for the former Kings Mountain and Bessemer City High lineman who is 6-5 1/2, 305 pounds and runs a 5.0 forty yard dash.

Originally a Prop 48 player for the Pirates, McCleary had to sit out his freshman year because he didn't make the required SAT scores to play as a college freshman. But through hard work, he earned his degree in computer information sys-

tems in three years, and is going to be allowed to play football an additional year because of a special NCAA rule that says if a Prop 48 player completes his degree work in 75 percent of his enrollment period he can be granted an extra year of eligibility.

So, come next fall, the big tackle will again be anchoring the Pirates' defensive line and also working toward a second major in communications.

With a host of talented younger players joining McCleary on defense, and a lot of younger starters returning on offense, Coach Steve Logan's club could greatly improve on last year's 6-5 record and perhaps be in the running for the Conference USA title and a bowl bid.

"We had 20 seniors, but only about eight or nine of them were really contributors," McCleary said. "We'll be rebuilding all along the D line except for me, but these boys are real talented."

McCleary has been a full-time

starter the past two seasons after being sidelined with an injury late in his initial season at ECU. Last year he had 60 tackles, including five for loss and six quarterback sacks, and he blocked one field goal. He says he'll be working hard next fall to improve all of his stats and "just become an all-round complete player."

McCleary has already drawn looks from the NFL, and with a good season next year could become Kings Mountain's fifth pro football player. Linemen Pride Ratterree and Calvin Stephens, and backs Kevin Mack and Tracy Johnson are former KMHS Mountaineers to make it in the pros.

"Hopefully, I'll get to the next level," he says. "I've already gotten some looks. Hopefully I can improve on that and get drafted. It's all about working hard."

McCleary was well over 300 pounds, and admittedly carried a lot of "baby fat" when he played at KMHS and BCHS in the mid-nineties. After three years at Kings

See McCleary, 3B