

Football sign-ups
set at City Stadium

All boys and girls ages 7-12 interesting in playing Kings Mountain Optimist Club football and cheerleading are urged to register Friday, July 24 or Friday, July 31 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at City Stadium.

Youngsters from Kings Mountain, Bessemer City and Grover are eligible.

Also, anyone interested in coaching football or cheerleading is asked to attend on either of the above dates.

KM team wins VFW
tournament at Pine Grove

Brad Bowen, Rodney Short, Jeff Bone and Todd Cloninger won the recent V.F.W. Post 9811 Golf Tournament at Pine Grove.

Sponsors were Timms Furniture, Bear Den, Barrett's Floor Covering and Paint, McGinnis Furniture, Hometown Hardware Garden Center, Linwood Produce, Times Turn Around, York Amusement, Propst & Son Lumber and Logs, Amvets Post 995, American Legion Post 155, Jessie Heath, Eaton, Carrolls Community Grocery, BDF Construction and Carolina Insulation.

Sharks edge YSSF
in swim competition

Sharks Aquatics Club of Cleveland County defeated the YMCA Seahorse Swim Team of Hickory 217-157 last week.

The SAC girls lost by one point, 91-90, but the boys won 127-66.

Girls 200 IM - 10-under Chelsey Ledford third, 13-14, Amanda Bauman 1st; 8-under, A. Miller and A. Pearson 1st; 200 free relay - C. Nickles, K. Hendrick, M. Price, J. Hamrick, G. Stachowicz, C. Burkhead, 2nd.

200 free relay - 10-under, C. Cater, C. Ledford, E. Tench, J. Nickles, 1st; 11-12, A. Cummings, C. Tatum, A. Winstead, J. Clayton 2nd.

50 free - 8-under, Adrienne Pearson 1st, Alex Miller 2nd, Katherine Hendrick 3rd; 10-under, Jessica Nickles 1st, Claire Carter 2nd; 11-12, Anna Winstead 2nd; 13-14, Amanda Bauman 1st; 15-18, Emily Griffin 1st.

50 breast - 8-under, Adrienne Pearson 1st; Hegan Price 2nd, Alexa Miller 3rd; 10-under, Chelsey Ledford 2nd.

100 breast - 15-18, Emily Griffin 1st.

50 back - 8-under, Katherine Hendrick 1st, Alexa Miller 2nd, Adrienne Pearson 3rd; 10-under, Jessica Nickles 1st, Claire Carter 2nd, Erin Tench 3rd; 11-12, Anna Winstead 2nd; 13-14, Amanda Bauman 1st, Rachel Bauman 3rd; 15-18, Emily Griffin 1st.

50 butterfly - 10-under, Jessica Nickles 1st.

200 IM - 13-14, Yuuki Nishiyama 2nd; 15-18, Ben Sox 1st, Chris Costner 2nd.

200 free relay - 8-under, Taylor Zeller, Turner Almond, Justin Winn, William Rucker 1st; R. Hunter, S. Stachowicz, B. McGinnis, A. Riggs 2nd; 11-12 - A. Leung, J. Beaver, T. Champion, M. Allen 1st; 15-18 - C. Griffin, B. Sox, N. Nishiyama, B. Sox 1st.

50 free - 8-under, William Parker 1st, Turner Almond 3rd; 10-under, Michael Allen 1st, Andy Leung 3rd; 11-12, Taylor Champion 2nd, Josh Beaver 3rd.

100 free - 13-14, Clay Griffin 1st, Yuuki Nishiyama 2nd, Andrew Tatum 3rd; 15-18, Naoki Nishiyama 1st, Ben Sox 2nd, Chris Costner 3rd.

50 breast - 8-under, William Parker 1st; 100 breast - 13-14, Clay Griffin 1st, Andrew Tatum 2nd; 15-18, Ben Sox 1st, Chris Costner 2nd.

50 back - 8-under, William Parker 1st, Justin Winn 2nd, Taylor Zeller 3rd; 11-12, Taylor Champion 3rd; 10-under, Michael Allen 1st, Andy Leung 3rd.

100 back - 10-under Michael Allen 1st.

50 fly - 13-14, Yuuki Nishiyama 2nd; 15-18, Naoki Nishiyama 1st.

200 medley relay - 11-12, J. Beaver, H. Allen, A. Leung, T. Champion 1st; 15-18, C. Griffin, N. Nishiyama, B. Sox, C. Costner 1st.

SPORTS

Herald/Times

July 1, 1999 Section A, Page 7

KM wrestler Shon Byers wins World Trials,
ranked #1 heavyweight in the United StatesBy GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

With inspiration from his grandfather and many friends from his high school days in Kings Mountain, Shon "Bamm Bamm" Byers took another big step toward the pinnacle of the wrestling world Sunday in Tampa, FL when he defeated Olympic Silver Medalist Matt Chaffari to win the 1999 Greco-Roman Wrestling World Team Trials and solidify his position as the #1-ranked heavyweight in the United States.

Byers, who is stationed in Colorado Springs, Colorado with the U.S. Army, will represent the United States in the Pan American Games July 24-25 in Winnipeg, Canada. The victory also qualified him to represent the U.S. in the World Games later this year.

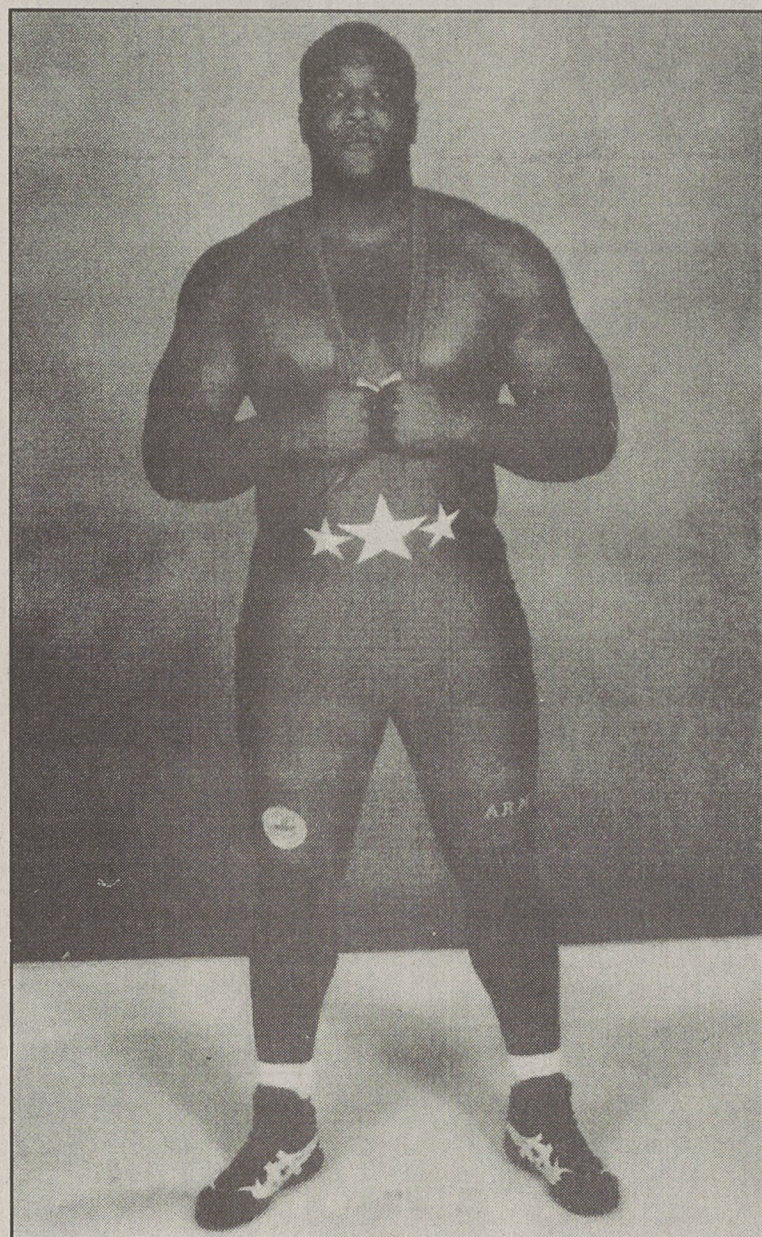
Byers' grandfather, Theodore Byers, who lives on Belvedere Circle in Kings Mountain, was in attendance along with his high school wrestling coach, Steve Moffitt, former KMHS teammates Michael Bell, Cedric Moore, Kenny Bridges, Jody Putnam and Antoine Brown, and former KMHS mat girls Jennifer LePors and Heather Baker.

Because of his #1 ranking, which came about because he won the recent National Tournament, Byers was able to sit back and watch as the other seven wrestlers in the field went through a mini-tournament to see who would battle Byers in a best-of-three series for the championship. Chaffari, who lost to Byers in the semifinals of the National Tournament, survived.

"Right beforehand I called my grandfather and he kind of motivated me," Byers noted. "It was great to see everybody come down to support me.

"I went out there and was so pumped up they called me spastic almost," he said. "I was trying two moves at one time and was getting ahead of myself, and lost the first match. The advice I got was that 'there's six to nine minutes on the clock that you can use, why don't you use it?'"

Byers said he took his time in the second match. Chaffari got a 2-point caution against him and Byers made that stand up for a 2-0 win in regulation. However, in Greco-Roman wrestling the winner must have at least three points or up to



Former Kings Mountain High athlete Shon Byers won the 1999 World Games Trials heavyweight wrestling championship over the weekend in Tampa, FL.

two 3-minute overtimes are necessary. Neither wrestler scored in overtime and Byers won 2-0.

Going into the third and deciding match, Byers said he thought it would be nice to get ahead quickly. "I hit him with an arm spin (worth three points) and right after that I closed the bank," Byers said. "I said, 'okay, I'm shutting down now because that (three points) is all you need to win the match in regulation.' He caught me in a head-lock. He was trying to make a comeback but I wasn't giving up any more points, and I won 3-2."

Byers credited the Kings Mountain contingent for giving him the incentive to win.

"That was like having a piece of Kings Mountain come down there," he said. "It really touched me. That was great."

Byers said he saw to it that Moffitt, his high school coach that helped him compile a 31-1 record and the state 3A championship his senior year of 1993, was honored with a plaque by the US Greco-Roman Wrestling Committee which was signed by his present coach and Olympic Gold Medal winner Steve Fraser.

Moffitt, who won 10 conference championships and produced numerous state individual champions in 13 years as KMHS wrestling coach, said he was overwhelmed at the talent in the tournament and seeing Byers win was one of his proudest moments.

"We were sitting beside the best athletes in the whole country, and to see him perform at the top of that level was unbelievable," Moffitt said. "He is undoubtedly the best athlete

I've ever coached. He's right up there with Kevin Mack (former Mountaineer football player who was AFC Rookie of the Year with the Cleveland Browns)."

Moffitt feels Byers' best days are still ahead of him.

"Bamm's only 24 years old," Moffitt noted, "and he didn't wrestle in college. All of these other guys wrestled in college and are older and more experienced. He's maturing and still learning. He has so much physical ability it's unreal."

"Kings Mountain should be very proud of Shon Byers," he continued. "Winning a state high school wrestling championship is great, but this is so far beyond that it just blows my mind. It's just amazing."

Byers, too, is looking forward to the future. He said winning the recent National Tournament to achieve the #1 ranking was exciting, but he had to win the World Games Trials to prove himself all over again.

"It's like a checks and balances system," he said. "They figure you could have lucked up to win the Nationals. I had to prove again that I'm the man right now."

Although he was on the KMHS wrestling team for three years, Byers really didn't compete that much until his senior year because the other heavyweight on the Mountaineer squad was state champion Tony Young. But Byers worked hard and waited his turn and became one of the school's all-time best.

He signed a college football scholarship with North Carolina A&T University, but dropped out after one year and joined the Army in 1994. In 1996 he was encouraged to get into world class wrestling and his career has steadily progressed since.

In international competition, he has a second place finish in the 1999 Dave Schultz Memorial International, second in the 1998 Winter Classic, second in the 1998 Devataev Tournament in Russia, second in the 1998 Sunkist Kids International Open, fourth in the 1998 Concord Cup, fifth in the 1997 Concord Cup, third in the 1997 Colorado Open, and sixth in the 1996 Sunkist International Open.

In the United States, he was the 1999 U.S. Nationals champion, and 1997 and 1999 Armed Forces champion. He was fourth in the 1998 World Team Trials, fourth in the 1998 U.S. Nationals, third in the 1998 University Nationals, fifth in the 1997 World Team Trials, fifth in the 1997 U.S. Nationals, and second in the 1996-97

University Nationals.

He is now working hard to prepare for the Pan American Games, and then will begin working for either the World Games in Greece or the World Military Games in Croatia.

"It's not decided whether I'll go to the World Games," Byers said, even though he won that right in Tampa. "I'm going to have to see what's more important. The World Military Games are before the World Championships, and it would take 2 1/2 weeks and I would miss out on some very important time that I need to have in order to make a good showing in the World Championships."

Early next year, Byers will begin working for the U.S. Olympic Trials, which will be held in Dallas, TX. His #1 rating won't mean anything then.

"It will be the same process all over again," he said.

"Whoever wins the Nationals will be ranked number one."

While Byers loves the Army and wrestling, he says he's beginning to feel like he lost out on a lot by not finishing college and he's not ruling out ending his military career and going back to school. And, he'd also love to give professional football a shot.

"A lot of people have been talking to me about college," he said. "A lot of wrestling coaches are saying, 'hey, you come to my school and we could get you a scholarship playing football and wrestling.'"

At age 24, and with his physical prowess, there's no doubt in Moffitt's mind that Byers could make it big in pro football.

If he does, you can bet he won't forget his hometown and the many coaches, family and friends who influenced his career.

"I'm trying to work it out to come to Kings Mountain the first or second week of August," Byers said. "I'm a little homesick right now. After seeing everybody last week I realize how important it is to come home."

**Born on the
4th of July Many
Moons Ago...
Happy
Birthday
Phillip!**

Pro wrestling Friday at KM Armory

The Professional Wrestling Federation will be at the Kings Mountain Armory Friday for an 8 p.m. card.

Featured match will be a 10-man bunnhouse stampede. Tickets are \$8 at The Armory

or \$10 at the door. For more information call the PWF office at 904-1794.

Hunting course set
July 17 near Shelby

The Kings Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will host an untraditional turkey shoot lifelike hunting course July 17 from 7 a.m.-12 noon on Johnson Road behind Copeland on Highway 74, Shelby (look for signs).

There will be limited, unlimited and smooth bore classes. Take shells for unlimited class.

For more information call Mike Beam at 445-8233, Duane Collins at 734-4809, or Brian Summey at 480-0847.

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