

## SPORTS THIS WEEK

### High School Wrestling

Tuesday, Jan. 25 - Kings Mountain at North Gaston, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Jan. 27 - Burns at Kings Mountain, 7 p.m.

### High School Basketball

Friday, Jan. 21 - North Gaston at Kings Mountain, JVs at 4:30, followed by varsity girls and boys  
Monday, Jan. 24 - Kings Mountain at Burns  
Wednesday, Jan. 26 - Kings Mountain at East Rutherford

### High School Swimming

Tuesday, Jan. 25 - North Mecklenburg at Kings Mountain, warm up 4 p.m., competition at 5 p.m.

### Middle School Basketball

Thursday, Jan. 20 - Pumpkin Center at Kings Mountain (girls begin at 4 p.m., boys immediately following).  
Monday, Jan. 24 - Kings Mountain at East Lincoln

### YMCA Basketball

#### 9-10 BOYS

Saturday, Jan. 22 - 2 p.m. - Bulls vs. Rockets; 3 p.m. - Heat vs. Tar Heels.  
Monday, Jan. 24 - 5:30 - Heat vs. Pistons; 6:30 - Tar Heels vs. Rockets.

#### 13-15 BOYS

Saturday, Jan. 22 - 10 a.m. - Cavaliers vs. Huskies; 11 a.m. - Hornets vs. Bears

#### 11-12 BOYS

Friday, Jan. 21 - 7:30 - Tar Heels vs. Raptors; 8:30 - Bullets vs. Wizards.  
Monday, Jan. 24 - 7:30 - Bullets vs. Lakers  
Tuesday, Jan. 25 - 8:30 - Wizards vs. Raptors

#### 10-12 GIRLS

Thursday, Jan. 20 - 8:30 - Sting vs. Comets

#### 7-9 GIRLS

Thursday, Jan. 20 - 5:30 - Hornets vs. Comets; 6:30 - Sting vs. Dragons  
Saturday, Jan. 22 - 12 noon - Dragons vs. Hornets; 1 p.m. - Comets vs. Magic.

#### 7-9 BOYS

Thursday, Jan. 20 - 7:30 - Princeton vs. Tar Heels.  
Friday, Jan. 21 - 5:30 - Jazz vs. Sixers; 6:30 - Lakers vs. Celtics  
Tuesday, Jan. 25 - 5:30 - Tar Heels vs. Lakers; 6:30 - Princeton vs. Jazz; 7:30 - Sixers vs. Celtics

Coaches - Call your game results into Sports Department at 739-7496 or fax score sheets to 739-0611.

# Realignment will change SWC 3A

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

The staff of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association February 1 will mail out its first draft of conference assignments under a state high school realignment for years 2001-2004.

The Realignment Committee, chaired by Kings Mountain Supt. Bob McRae, completed its classification of schools Friday and it shows change of classification for many teams in this area, and some of the perennial football powers statewide.

Kings Mountain remains in the 3A classification, but several teams in Gaston, Cleveland and Rutherford counties have decreased in enrollment and will drop down a class. Classification is determined on the highest average daily enrollment in grades 9-12 during the first two months of the school year.

Those figures were delayed

this year because of the heavy floods in eastern North Carolina, and also because the Realignment Committee had to project the enrollment of a number of new schools that are not now in existence but will be by the time realignment takes effect at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year.

Area schools that will change classification include Crest, which drops from 4A to 3A; East Rutherford, which drops from 3A to 2A; and Ashbrook,

Hunter Huss and East Gaston, which drop from 4A to 3A. Bessemer City drops from 2A to 1A.

The Gaston County 3A schools are expected to lobby for their own conference, but McRae said that might not be possible if it causes a hardship for other area 3A teams to form a conference.

"It's too early to speculate as to what a conference will look like," McRae said. "But we can use our own situation as an ex-

ample of what we'll have to work on. If you look from eastern Gaston County through western Rutherford County there are ten 3A schools. The question then becomes are you better off with a 10-team conference or two five-team conferences.

"When I first came to Kings Mountain we were in a 10-team conference and it has sort of dwindled down, but we've nev-

See Change, 4B

## Lady Mounties beat East 57-54, go 3-1 in SWC

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team, which opened the season with only eight young players, suddenly finds itself in the thick of the battle for a state 3A playoff berth.

First-year coach Kevin Moss's Lady Mountaineers won their third Southwestern 3A Conference game in four outings Friday night, holding on at the end for an exciting 57-54 victory over East Rutherford.

The Mountaineers, who previously defeated R-S Central and South Point and barely lost to a good Burns team, saw a 14-point lead disappear in the second half as the visiting Lady Cavaliers used a full-court press to force a number of turnovers.

East actually grabbed a one-point lead late in the game, but Anna Ramey hit a pair of free

throws and Shonda Cole added a basket from the paint and a free throw to seal the victory.

The Mountaineers got off to a quick start, building a 16-4 first quarter lead and 29-16 halftime advantage. A wild and woolly third quarter, in which the Mountaineers had trouble getting the ball across half-court resulting in numerous easy baskets for East, ended with KM on top 48-40. East went ahead 54-53 with a minute to play before the Mountaineers took the lead for good on Cole's basket.

Cole and Danielle Gill scored 15 points to lead the Mountaineers. Teyawana Hardy of East led all scorers with 23.

■ Kings Mountain's boys got off to another slow start, but al-

See East, 4B



Kings Mountain Coach Kevin Moss gets the last minute strategy right with his team in Friday's Southwestern 3A Conference basketball game at the KMHS gym. KM won 57-54.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

## Raiders take advantage of KM turnovers, 54-53

Turnovers and poor free throw shooting continued to plague Kings Mountain's Mountaineers as they lost their fourth straight game Wednesday night at Belmont South Point, 54-53.

The Red Raiders, who led by as many as 14 points in the second half, held on for the win despite not scoring a point in the final two minutes.

The Raiders' Daniel Alexander, who finished with 16 points, hit a field goal with 2:00 to play to put the Raiders up 54-49. Kings Mountain got a field goal and two free throws to trim the margin to 54-53 with one minute to play, but in the final minute the Mountaineers missed four free throws and turned the ball over twice.

South Point outscored the Mountaineers 22-11 in the second quarter to build a 32-24 halftime lead. The Raiders hit eight of nine free throws during that eight-minute span.

"At halftime we emphasized that we had to play defense without fouling," Kings Mountain Coach Larry Sipe said. "We did that. They only shot two free throws in the

fourth quarter and only five in the second half. We had our chances, we just didn't execute."

Led by Alexander and Jeremy Jackson, who finished with a game-high 20 points, South Point built a 14-point lead (44-30) with 4:56 to go in the third period but Kings Mountain went on a 10-0 run to close the margin to 44-40 heading into the fourth quarter.

But the Mountaineers couldn't completely recover from a 9-for-21 free throw performance (43 percent) and 25 turnovers.

"I guess we were really lucky to be in the game with that many turnovers," Sipe said.

"But our kids played hard, even when we were down by 14 points. We pressed, we got some steals and got some buckets. It would have been easy to throw in the towel."

"We continue to play hard and practice hard, and you get the feeling that somewhere along the line something good's going to start happening."

Kings Mountain's girls ran their Southwestern 3A Conference record to 2-1 with a 49-42 win in the opening game.

Like the South Point men, the Lady Mountaineers built an early lead and then had to hold on at the end.

Kevin Moss's ladies led 11-8 at the first quarter break, and 30-18 at halftime. South Point cut the margin to 37-28 going into the fourth quarter.

Shonda Cole scored 19 points and Cheryn Cole 10 for the Mountaineers. Ashley Van Pelt led the Raiders with 15.

See Raiders, 4B

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