

# Poor free throw shooting beats Lady Mounties in tourney opener

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team probably would rather not play on North Gaston's court again anytime soon.

For the second straight game, the Lady Mountaineers dropped a decision on the Wildcats' floor because they were stone cold from the foul line.

In Friday's final regular season game, the Mountaineers hit only 13 of 33 foul shots in a 39-36 loss to the Lady Wildcats.

In the first round of the Southwestern 3A Conference Tournament Tuesday night, the Mountaineers hit only 21 of 41 shots from the foul line in an upset loss to South Point, 56-53.

Still, Kevin Moss's ladies will compete in the state 3A tournament next week, providing a team that finished lower than third place during the regular season doesn't win the SWC tournament.

Despite their poor shooting, the KM ladies were in the game with South Point until the very end. South Point's spectacular sophomore, Whitney Robinson, who is already closing in on 1,000 points in just two years of varsity play, scored a field goal and two free throws in the final seconds to give the Raiders the victory. Robinson finished with a game-high 24 points. Anna Ramey scored 19 and Jeana Thomas 13 for

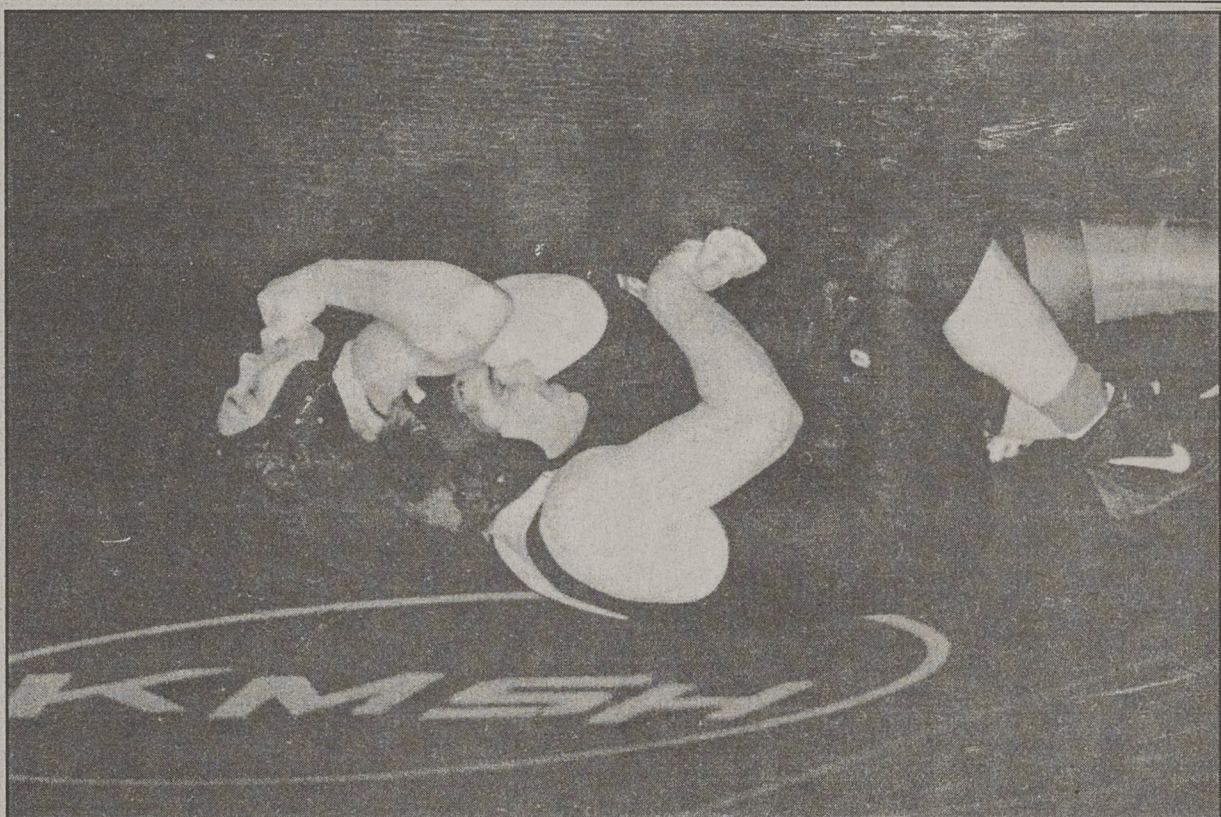
Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain held the lead at the end of each of the first three quarters, but because of their free throw shooting performance couldn't break the game open. KM led 21-13 after one quarter and 28-23 at the half. The Mountaineers had a good opportunity to blow the game open in the third period when they went to the foul line 15 times, but they hit only five of those shots and South Point cut the margin to 44-43 going into the fourth quarter.

South Point took the lead 46-45 two minutes into the final quarter but Kings Mountain battled back to take the lead on two occasions. Kings Mountain's final lead of 53-52 disappeared when Robinson took an inbounds pass and drove the length of the court for the winning basket.

The SWC tournament continues Thursday and Friday at R-S Central High School. State Tournament action gets under way Monday. If the KM girls hold their #3 seed, they will host the #4 team from the Tri-County Conference.

KM (53) - Ramey 19, Thomas 13, Gill 9, Leigh 4, C. Cole 3, Elliott 3, Bennett 2.  
SP (53) - Robinson 24, Van Pelt 6, Sadler 6, Bacon 5, Armstrong 4, Fotinos 3, Knight 2.



**GARY STEWART / THE HERALD**  
Tyler McDaniel (top) won for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers in Thursday's Dual Team Sectional Tournament match with Central Cabarrus at the KMHS gym. The Mountaineers lost 35-33, but enter individual Western 3A Regional competition Friday at Enka High School.

# Mounties lose in dual Sectional, compete in 3A Regional this week

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers bowed out of the dual state tournament Thursday night at home with a 35-33 loss to Central Cabarrus, but the Mountaineers will get another shot at individual state crowns this weekend when they travel to Enka High School for the Western 3A Regional Tournament.

Central Cabarrus won the final two matches of the night to defeat the Mountaineers in the first round of the Sectional Tournament Thursday.

Waynesville Tuscola then defeated Central Cabarrus 35-33 for the Western title, but lost on Saturday night to Fuquay-Varina in the State Championship match.

Kings Mountain, which won the Southwestern 3A Conference and District titles, got victories by Cedric Hunter, Michael Bell, Matt Bridges, Tyler McDaniel, Adonis Matthews and Anthony Hillman.

Several Kings Mountain wrestlers will take enviable records to the Western

Regionals Friday and Saturday. Matt Ash is 30-1, Anthony Hillman 27-1, Shane Short 29-4, Michael Bell 30-5, and Matt Bridges 27-7. As a team, Kings Mountain finished second to

Tuscola in last year's Regional. The top four finishers in each weight division will advance to the State Finals next weekend at Independence Arena in Charlotte.

# Evans bowls 443 in duckpins

Thursday's Heroes extended their mixed duckpin bowling league lead to 12 games Thursday night at Dilling Heating, but the biggest hero on the lanes was Greg Evans of Deuces Wild.

Despite his team's 6-2 loss to

the Heroes, Evans bowled a 158 line and 443 set. His effort, though, was not enough to offset the balanced scoring of the Heroes who had three bowlers over the 300-set mark. Allen Myers led with a 132-371, Ed Philbeck had a 135-348, and

Mark Abernathy added a 123-325.

The Heroes now have a 32-8 record, compared to 20-20 marks by the Deuces Wild and Barrett's Bombers, the latter an 8-0 winner over Zeke's Zingers (8-32).

Tommy Barrett led a balanced attack for the Bombers with a 123 line and 351 set. Robert Titus had a 116-323, and Colleen Philbeck 122-316. Bonnie Warren had a 117-309 and Zeke Rybczyk a 112-309 for the Zingers.

In Tuesday Night League action, the Duck Heads (28-20) moved into a tie for first with an 8-0 sweep of the Old Timers (24-24). Previous leader Ducks Unlimited (28-20) split with Tyrene's Ducks (16-32) 4-4.

Mark Midgette led the way for the Duck Heads with a 156 line and 392 set. Zeke Rybczyk added a 150-354. Chris Hullender had a 128-324 and John Dilling a 117-310 for the Old Timers.

Robbie Hullender's 142 line and 354 set led Ducks Unlimited. Mike Murphy added a 108-308.



The Dragons won the 7-9 year-old girls basketball league at the YMCA with a perfect 12-0 record. Front row, left to right, Chelsea Champion, Kristen Tate, Meagan Reynolds, Christine Reid. Back row, Coach Joey Barrett, Amber Goforth, Haley Barrett, Patience Smith, Deanna Humphries, Brooke Hayes and Coach Lynn Hayes.

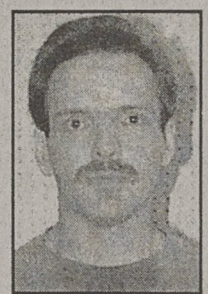
# Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Feb. 9-15	Year Ago
Total precip.	1.94	.25
Max. 1 day	.82 (13th)	.25 (9th)
Year to date	7.03	4.35
Min. temp.	34 (12th)	20 (13th)
Max. temp.	73 (11th)	74 (11th)
Avg. temp.	50.9	51.3

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# KMHS

From 1B

Mountaineers with 12 points, including six in the fourth period. Shonda Cole scored 11.

Kings Mountain dressed out only seven players, and finished the game with five after Danielle Gill was injured and Ashley Leigh fouled out.

The Mountaineers scored only three points in the first quarter, got back into the game after three periods and then finished with only eight points in the fourth quarter.

"I didn't think things could get any worse than they were at Forestview when we scored only six points in the fourth quarter," said Coach Sipe. "But we scored only three points in the first quarter and that got us in a hole right off the bat."

North Gaston led 15-3 after the first period, 26-20 at half-time and 45-37 going into the fourth quarter.

"We had a pretty good third quarter and were down only eight going into the fourth quarter," Sipe said, "but put only eight points on the board."

"This game was for fourth place, and shooting only 25 percent sort of sealed our fate," he

# JV

From 1B

of the JV program in his first season as coach.

"The girls really played hard," he said. "To finish second in the conference really showed a lot. They improved from the first game until the last game. They're going to do a lot for the girls program here."

"The varsity girls program won a berth to the state playoffs, so it's really going to be good for our program."

"This being my first year as coach, we got off to a slow start. But as we came along I really grew close to the girls. We really became like family and they played like a family. I think we learned a lot. I know I learned a lot."

added. "North Gaston played a 2-3 zone throughout the game. They wanted to make us beat them and keep us out of the lane, and they were successful in doing that."

Kings Mountain's girls were scheduled to open tournament play Tuesday night against South Point at North Gaston. The boys were scheduled to face North Gaston again on Wednesday night at East Rutherford.

The semi-finals and finals of the tournament will be held Thursday and Friday at R-S Central. State playoff action begins next week.

If Kings Mountain's girls qualify for the state tournament, they will host the #4 team from the Tri-County Conference next Monday.

# GIRLS GAME

KM (36) - Ramey 12, Gill 7, C. Cole 6, S. Cole 11.  
NG (39) - Bloom 5, Boggs 16, Cloninger 3, Esiet 4, Millsaps 7, Norwood 4.

# BOYS GAME

KM (45) - Bess 3, Henderson 9, Williamson 3, Odoms 2, McClain 3, Cureton 4, Byers 4, Houze 4, Young 7, Goode 6.  
NG (68) - Wilkinson 23, Howell 2, Toney 4, Grier 8, Houser 9, Beard 7, McClain 6, Hall 5, Ashley 4.

"Being a prior athlete at KMHS (Littlejohn was quarterback of the 1994 football team), I found out it's a whole lot different when you're on the coaching side."

Five of Littlejohn's players - Tisha Bell, Sylvia Elliott, Sherrica Cole, Crystal Miller and Stephanie Moore - will move up to the varsity for the SWC and state tournaments.

Other members of the team were Latoya McClain, Sonya Jackson, Lequita Curry and Elena Thompson. Miller led the team in scoring with an average of 20 points per game. Elliott was the top rebounder with nine per game, and Bell was led in assists with six per game.

# Coming in March VISION 2000 A Focus on Tomorrow

With the new millennium here, the Gaston-Cleveland region now more than ever feels the effects of its location adjacent to the growing and developing Charlotte area. This progress section focuses upon where the communities of Kings Mountain, Shelby, Cherryville, Bessemer City, Belmont and Mt. Holly are now, and where they will need to be as the 21st century evolves.

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