

Mountaineers split at R-S, go to Burns for season finale

Kings Mountain's girls clinched at least a tie for second place in the Southwestern 3A Conference with a tough 53-42 victory over R-S Central Tuesday night in Rutherfordton.

Kings Mountain's boys, who were given new life last week when they picked up a forfeit win over South Point, slipped back into a tie for fourth place with Forestview after losing to the Hilltoppers 76-46.

The Mountaineers now may be in a situation where they have to defeat third place Burns in the final regular season game Friday night at Burns, or win the upcoming SWC tournament to wrap up fourth place and a possible state playoff berth. Kings Mountain and Forestview go into the last games of the season Friday with 6-5 conference records.

Only the top four teams advance to the state tournament. Girls coach Kevin Moss said his team was "fortunate" to win Tuesday's game. The Lady Mountaineers ran their record to 9-2 in the conference and 15-4 overall.

"We didn't play well at all," Moss said. "We made too many unforced errors and careless fouls. I don't think we were mentally prepared to play and that is something that really concerns me heading into the conference tournament and playoffs. We really need to bounce back on Friday against Burns to close out the regular season."

Despite their sub-par perfor-

mance, the Lady Mountaineers managed to hold the lead most of the game. KM led 12-7 after the first period, 22-12 at halftime, and 33-25 going into the fourth quarter.

Shonda Cole continued her magnificent play inside, leading all scorers with 27 points, including 16 in the second half. She hit 7-of-8 free throws, including six straight when the game was on the line in the fourth quarter.

Anna Ramey contributed 11 points. Gerth led R-S with 13.

R-S Central went on a 19-9 scoring run in the second quarter to turn a close game into a rout and defeat the Mountaineers in the nightcap.

The second place Hilltoppers led 15-14 after the first quarter but increased the margin to 34-23 at halftime and 59-36 going into the fourth quarter.

R-S Central placed four players in double figures, led by Jhoric Ross with 20 points. Adrian Camp scored 15, Brandon Landrum 14 and Byron Singleton 10.

Qwenshon Goode led the Mountaineers with 16 points, and Jamal Byers added 13.

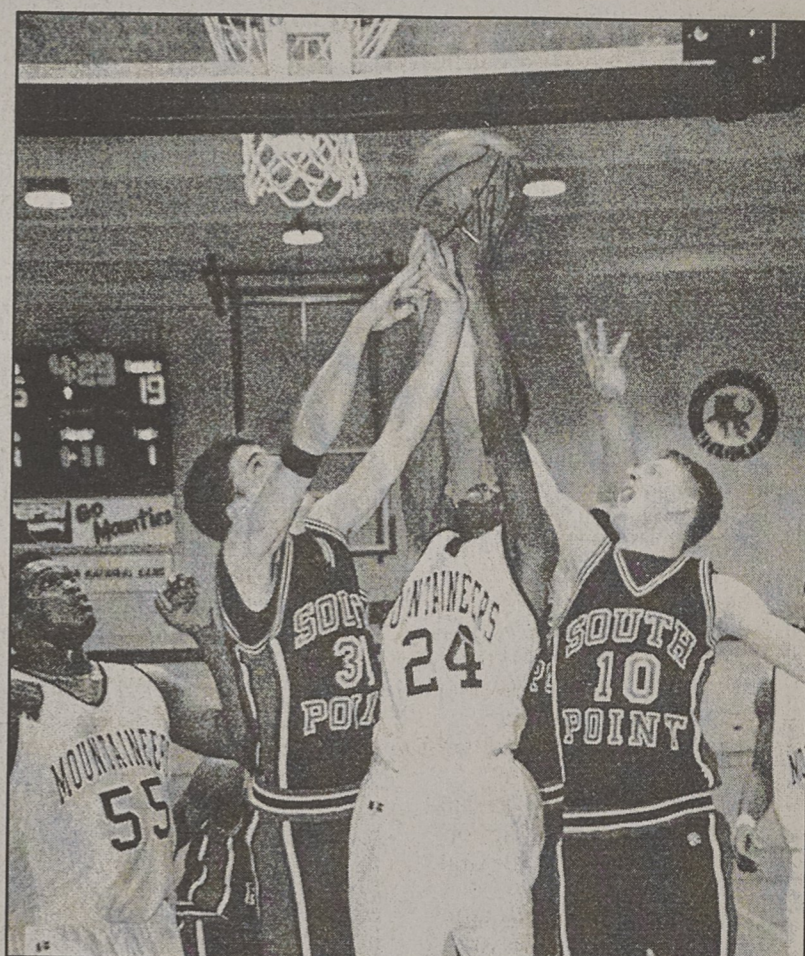
BOYS GAME

KM (46) - Goode 16, Byers 13, Leach 1, Gash 2, Adams 9, Roberts 2, Houze 2.

RS (76) - McDowell 8, Camp 15, Ross 20, Singleton 10, Landrum 14, Buff 6.

GIRLS GAME

KM (53) - Ramey 11, Bennett 5, C. Cole 2, S. Cole 27, Leigh 6, Gill 2, RS (42) - Gerth 13, Ford 3, Wilkerson 6, Henry 11, Tate 4.



The action was hot and heavy under the basket in Kings Mountain's SWC 3A game with South Point Friday night at the KMHS gym. In left photo, KM's Ebony Moore (21) has her lay-up contested by Jess Smith (24) of the Lady Raiders; and in photo at right KM's Josh Gash (24) battles South Point's Blake Powell (31) and David Murrell (10) for a rebound. Kings Mountain won both games to stay in the thick of the battle for state playoff berths.

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

It was a "Double Goode" win for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers Friday night when they defeated South Point's Red Raiders 54-50 in overtime in the final regular season Southwestern 3A Conference game at the KMHS gym.

The victory increased the Mountaineers' SWC record to 6-4, thanks in part to a forfeit win they picked up from South Point the day before.

South Point had beaten the Mountaineers earlier in the season in Belmont, and Red Raider Coach G.C. Harrill found out last week that one of the Raiders that played in that game was ineligible. Thus, KM's conference record improved from 4-5 to 5-5, and Friday's win over the Raiders put Danny McDowell's team in position to grab one of the four SWC playoff berths.

The Mountaineers can hope that the recent forfeit turns out to be as meaningful as a South Point forfeit of a football win over the Mountaineers in 1985.

That forfeit put the Mountaineers into the state football playoffs for the first time in 21 years, and they went three rounds before being eliminated.

Heading into a game Tuesday night at R-S Central, the Mountaineers shared third place in the SWC with Burns. East Rutherford and R-S already have the top two seeds locked up.

But, just a game behind KM and Burns was Forestview with a 5-5 mark, and the Jaguars were scheduled to play South Point on Tuesday.

Despite losing several players recently to injuries, including top two scorers Chris Insley and Devon Lowery, the young but scrappy South Point five stayed right with the taller and more-experienced Mountaineers.

Harrill went to a ball control-type offense, and the Raiders used back door cuts and high percentage shots to hold the lead for most of regulation.

The Raiders led 34-31 at intermission in a game that was filled with mistakes by both teams. Combined, the Raiders

and Mountaineers committed 58 turnovers.

Behind the inside scoring and rebounding strength of 6-5 senior Qwenshon Goode, the Mountaineers battled back to take a five point lead with four minutes to go. But South Point's David Mitchell scored with four seconds left to send the game into overtime.

Goode's jump shot from the paint put KM on top 51-50 with 30 seconds left, but South Point turned the ball over on its next possession and Goode nailed two pressure free throws with 18 seconds left to put the game on ice.

Goode finished with 17 points and Jamal Byers added 14 to lead the KM scoring attack. Matt Camp scored 11 points and Blake Powell 10 for the Red Raiders.

Kings Mountain's girls moved to within one game of wrapping up second place in the opener by dominating the Lady Red Raiders 61-38.

The Lady Mountaineers went on a 20-2 scoring run in the second quarter to turn a close game into a rout. KM led 32-10 at halftime and 50-25 going into the fourth quarter.

Sophomore center Shonda Cole led the way with 20 points,

and Anna Ramey and Ashley Leigh scored 15 points each. Cole had only seven points at halftime, but scored 10 points in the third quarter.

The Mountaineers did a good job defensively on South Point's all-time leading scorer, Whitney Robinson. The Mountaineers limited to junior star to zero field goals in the first half, and 12 points total for the game. Two long-range 3-point field goals accounted for half of her points. Brittany Watson added 10 points for South Point.

"The team really played well," noted Coach Kevin Moss. "This was the first game in a while where we played well from start to finish. We had a good balance of inside and outside play, and we also played well on the defensive end."

GIRLS GAME

KM (61) - Ramey 15, Thomas 2, C. Cole 1, E. Moore 5, S. Cole 20, Leigh 15, Gill 1, Miller 2.

SP (38) - Watson 10, W. Robinson 12, S. Robinson 8, Atkins 2, Sadler 6.

BOYS GAME

KM (57) - McClain 4, Goode 17, Byers 14, Leach 9, Gash 6, T. Adams 2, Roberts 4, Hardin 1.

SP (50) - Camp 11, Teague 9, Powell 10, Murrell 9, Stowe 4, Reeves 7.

SWIM

From 1B

Boys 200-IM - Yuuki Nishiyama 1st 2:14.80, Ben Sabetti 4th 2:27.83, Arthur Welsh 7th 2:39.60, Charlie Jones 9th 2:55.87.

Girls 50 freestyle - Laura Propst 2nd 28.33, Sarah Propst 3rd 28.36, Pamela Randall 4th 30.03.

Boys 50 free - Daniel Jones 6th 27.86, Colby Wollak 7th 29.02, Kevin Gonda 8th 29.03, Joel Santora 9th 29.28.

Girls 1-meter diving - Ashton Teague 1st, 90.30

Boys 1-meter diving - Sedrick Young 1st 107.00, Isaac Hill 2nd 93.05.

Girls 100 butterfly - Haley Flynn 4th 1:16.07, Summer Trakas 10th

1:40.79, Colleen Broaden 12th 1:51.40.

Boys 100 butterfly - Yuuki Nishiyama 2nd 1:02.23, Joel Santora 4th 1:11.73, Adam Blanton 8th 1:38.26.

Girls 100 freestyle - Sarah Propst 2nd 1:01.95.

Boys 100 freestyle - Alex Canipe 4th 1:01.51, Daniel Jones 6th 1:05.79.

Girls 500 freestyle - Laura Propst 3rd 6:46.39, Jordan Wollak 5th 6:57.44, Kelly Mattox 6th 7:36.16.

Boys 500 freestyle - Daniel Miller 1st 6:14.12, Arthur Welsh 3rd 6:26.35, Charlie Jones 5th 7:02.39, Earl Bowman 6th 7:05.58.

Girls 200 freestyle relay - RS 1:51.82, KM (Pam Randall, Jen Shannon, Ashton Teague, Elizabeth Whisnant) 2:03.70, FV 2:09.34, ER 2:10.61, SP 2:11.61, NG 2:27.36.

Boys 200 free relay - FV 1:41.43, SP 1:42.42, KM (Ben Sabetti, Arthur

Welsh, Daniel Miller, Yuuki Nishiyama) 1:44.72, RS 1:46.12, NG 2:06.07.

Girls 100 yd. backstroke - Lindsay Varner 10th 1:29.91, Amy Robinson 11th 1:30.19.

Boys 100 backstroke - Ben Sabetti 3rd 1:07.96, Colby Wollak 6th 1:13.04, Kevin Gonda 7th 1:21.93, Adam Blanton 10th 1:51.80.

Girls 100 breaststroke - Pamela Randall 3rd 1:22.69, Jackie Hagner 11th 1:37.75.

Boys 100 breaststroke - Isaac Hill 7th 1:24.51, Brandon Gist 10th 1:29.20, Alex Bennett 11th 1:29.34.

Girls 400 free relay - RS 4:14.83, KM (Hayley Flynn, Jordan Wollak, Sarah Propst, Laura Propst) 4:25.59, FV 4:30.89, SP 5:20.15, ER 5:59.79.

Boys 400 free relay - KM (Daniel Miller, Ben Sabetti, Arthur Welsh, Yuuki Nishiyama) 3:53.02, FV 4:28.76, RS 4:52.81.

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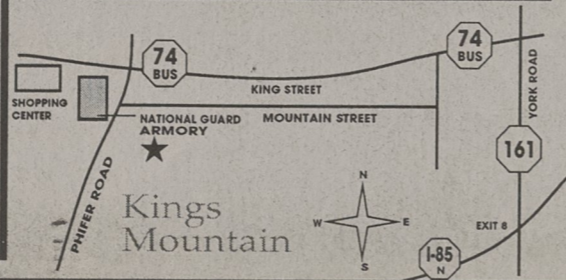
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