

**GARY STEWART / HERALD**  
Josh Melton helps hurl Kings Mountain Middle School to victory in Tri-County Conference action last week.

## Pats back winning in Tri-County loop

Kings Mountain Middle School's Patriots got back on the winning track during the past week, winning two games and tying one in the Tri-County Conference.

The Patriots of Monty Deaton defeated Lincolnton 9-0 Thursday as Brad Moffitt and Philip Bunch combined for a five-hitter and 16 strikeouts. Moffitt worked two innings and fanned three, and Bunch pitched five innings and struck out 13.

Chris Patrick, Trey Robinson, Ryan Bolin, Cody Barrett, Tyler Leach, Brad Camp and Stacy Hopper led the KM plate attack with one hit each.

"We got back on the winning track after losing two games the week before," noted Coach Deaton. "Overall it was a pretty good game on our part. The pitchers did a good job."

Friday the Patriots jumped out to a 6-0 lead over Burns but nine walks and six errors helped Burns come from behind to take an 8-6 lead going into the bottom of the sixth. Kings Mountain scored two runs to tie the game and send it into extra innings, and it was suspended in the eighth inning still tied 8-8. If the game has a bearing on the conference championship it will be continued at the conclusion of the season.

Singles by Josh Melton and

Stacy Hopper set up a game-tying single up the middle by Chris Patrick to account for the tying runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Both teams missed golden opportunities to score in the seventh. Burns loaded the bases with one out, but KM pulled a double play to end the top of the seventh. In the bottom of the inning, KM loaded the bases with nobody out but KM players missed signals on a squeeze attempt and an attempted steal of home, and Burns was able to get out of the inning.

Kings Mountain rebounded in a big way Monday, blasting Pumpkin Center 19-5. Josh Melton led off the game with a home run to spark a five-run uprising in the first inning.

Kings Mountain scored eight runs in the third to go up 13-1. Melton and Ryan Burton both homered in that inning.

The Patriots led 13-4 after three innings, and put the game away in the fourth with a six-run explosion led by hits by Burton, Will Carswell and Trey Robinson.

Melton, Moffitt and Bunch combined for a five-hitter and nine strikeouts.

Robinson led the hitting with 3-for-4. Melton, Burton and Tyler Leach had two hits each, and Isaac Proctor, Moffitt and Carswell had one hit each.

## Spicer and Cloninger win KMCC tournament

Eric Spicer and Ken Cloninger shot a 67 Saturday to win the Toughman Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Ernie Teague and Jim Jennings finished second with a 73, and Stoney Jackson and Andy Neisler tied Dave Robinson and Pete Lovell for third with a 77.

Other scores were Tim Leach

and Pat Phifer 79, Mitch Howze and George Hayes 79, Scott Summitt and Dennis Smith 79, Greg Robinson and John Caveny 80, Gary Howze and Mikel Deninger 81, Curt Collins and Jack Acheson 81, Randy Hartsoe and Ken Nantz 84, Ronnie Murphy and Lou Sabetti 84, Joe Greene and Kenny Walker 84, and Pat Frazer and Al Grigg 87.

# KM second in Crest tournament

Kings Mountain High's women's softball team split a pair of Southwestern 3A Conference games and finished second in the Crest Tournament last week.

The Lady Mountaineers blanked Burns 7-0 to win their second conference game in three starts.

Beth Bumgardner went the distance, scattering seven hits and striking out four.

Kings Mountain collected 11 hits, with Anna Ramey going 3-for-4 with two doubles and four runs batted in. Lauren Causby was 2-for-3.

The victory was sweet revenge for a one-run loss at

Burns last year which knocked the Mountaineers out of the state playoffs.

The Mountaineers were flat in their next outing, though, losing to East Rutherford 5-2 Friday afternoon. KM errors led to four East runs in the first inning.

Kristin Hardin took the pitching loss. "She pitched well," said KM Coach Rick Fortner, "but East just hit the ball and we didn't play good defense."

Kings Mountain also left 11 runners stranded.

Bumgardner pitched two complete games, striking out 16

batters and not walking any in Saturday's County Tournament at Crest. KM defeated Burns 1-0 on a passed ball in the seventh inning, and then fell to Crest 2-1 in the championship game.

Bumgardner, who also went 2-for-3 at the plate, made the All-Tournament team along with first baseman Ashley Leigh, who was 2-for-3 with two walks, and third baseman Pam Parker, who was 4-for-6.

The previous Saturday the Mountaineers fell to Western 2A power Canton Pisgah 4-2.

The Mountaineers carry a 2-1 SWC and 5-4 overall mark into a game with North Gaston on

Friday. The Mountaineers host Forestview next Tuesday in what could be their biggest game to date.

"We're not overlooking North Gaston, but Forestview is one of only two teams (Burns being the other) that beat us both times last year and we want them," Fortner said.

"Bumgardner's going to be pitching for us because of her experience. Most of the times she's going to be the one going for us. We're going to use the other pitchers to start some games and get them some experience."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Mountaineers win SWC golf meet at RS

Kings Mountain High edged host R-S Central by one stroke in a three-team Southwestern 3A Conference golf match Thursday at Rutehrfordton.

The Mountaineers shot a 157. R-S shot 158 and East Rutherford 159.

Bret Morrow of East was medalist with a 34. Justin Etters led KM with a 37. Gray Howard shot 38 and Chris Jolly and Josh Etters each shot 41.

"We played very well considering this was only our second match," said KM Coach Kevin Moss. "This was a good win for us. R-S and East have strong teams. We just need to keep improving from match to match. We improved as team five strokes from last week."

The Mountaineers face North Gaston today.

### KMHS JV soccer team whips Shelby

Kings Mountain High's JV girls soccer team posted a pair of impressive victories over Shelby during the past two weeks.

The Lady Mountaineers edged the Lady Lions 1-0 on a goal by Katie Dowda, and last week they beat Shelby again 3-2 on two goals by Jackie Hagner and one by Raquel Welsh.

Kings Mountain's goalies, Kelly Mattox and Lauren Thompson, played good defense in both games and Coach Amanda Johnsonbaugh also got a good all-around performance from sweeper Elizabeth Logan.

### Cleveland athlete in Special Olympics

The 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games recently concluded in Anchorage, Alaska ending a week of competition among more than 2,000



**BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD**  
Kings Mountain's Adrian Parker runs strong in the tri-jump in Tuesday's Cleveland County Track Meet at Gardner-Webb University. Kings Mountain's girls won the meet and the boys finished second to Crest.

athletes from 80 nations around the world.

Among the competitors was Leon Burgess of Cleveland County. Burgess took second place in Advanced Downhill Alpine Skiing, first place in Advanced Giant Slalom, and third place in Advanced Slalom.

### KM Middle School soccer team winner

The Kings Mountain Middle School soccer team improved its record to 3-0 Monday with an 8-2 win over Burns.

Blair Heffner led the Lady Patriots with four goals. Selena Owens scored two and Hannah Johnson and Susie Potter had one each.

Stacey Spicer, Brittney Thornburg, Emily Edwards, Hannah McDaniel, Candace Campion and Clarisa Hagner played well.

### Mark's Martyrs win in duckpin bowling

Mark's Martyrs held onto their 14-game lead in mixed duckpin bowling league action Tuesday night at Dilling Heating.

The Martyrs (34-6) defeated Ducks R Us (8-32) 6-2. Zeke Rybczyk bowled a 123 line and 357 set, and David Jaroszeski had a 122-355 for the Martyrs. Colleen Philbeck bowled a 115 line and 302 set for Ducks R Us.

John Dilling bowled a 129 line and 324 set to lead Dilling's Demons (20-20) to a 6-2 win over Chris Crusaders. Chris Hullender led the Crusaders (18-22) with a 134 line and 336 set.

### Tommy's holds lead in duckpin bowling

Tommy's Them defeated Dead Weight 6-2 Thursday

night at Dilling Heating to maintain its two-game lead over the Half Timers in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League play.

Them (22-10) got a 141 line from Tommy Barrett, a 125-324 from Zeka Rybczyk and a 110-321 from Ed Philbeck. Chris Hullender had a 113-322 and Bonnie Warren a 109-315 for Dead Weight (10-22).

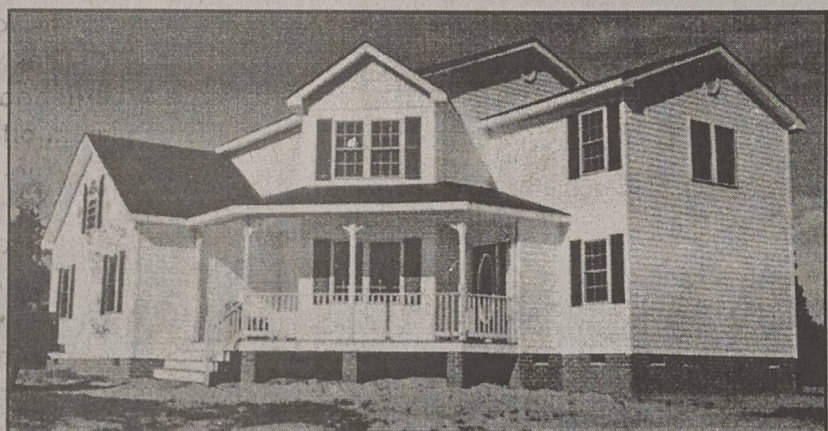
John Dilling bowled a 108 line and 302 set to lead the Half Timers (20-12) to a 6-2 win over Double Deuces (12-20). Bill Myers had a 102 line and 292 set for the Deuces.

### Lincolnton Lions plan golf tourney

The Lincolnton Lions Club will hold its annual charity amateur golf tournament April 27 at Lincoln Country Club.

For more information or to receive an entry form call Milton Crowell at 704-735-5367.

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## LOTTERY

From 1A

Carolina and Tennessee are both nearly ready to launch their own lottery programs.

Any lottery proposal will have a hard fight on its hands. Already, the idea of a lottery has come to the General Assembly in years past and failed. Arguments against the lottery range from claims that it will encourage those with a gambling problem to indulge all the more, to those of a religious nature. One big gun in the anti-lottery movement is

Rev. Billy Graham.

On the regional scene, Rep. Andy Dedmon says he is personally against the lottery, but would support a statewide referendum to decide the issue.

"I truly believe that a referendum is called for in the case of the lottery," Dedmon said.

Cleveland County commissioner Tom Bridges is clear cut in his opposition to the lottery. "I don't favor a lottery at all," said Bridges. "It's not a good idea and would hurt those most who can afford it the least."

In Kings Mountain, Ronnie Hawkins was very adamant about his opposition to the lot-

tery. Besides his current position on the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, Hawkins was also on the Kings Mountain District Schools board for over a decade.

"How do I feel about a lottery?" said Hawkins. "Hello, no."

One of the major reasons Hawkins gave for his stance was that he thought it a bad idea to teach children the gambling habit. He also questioned the link between the schools and the lottery question.

"It's not right to sell the lottery on the backs of the schools," Hawkins emphasized.

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