

KMHS boys track team wins final Southwestern 3A meet

Kings Mountain High's men's track team won the final Southwestern 3A Conference championship meet Thursday afternoon at R-S Central.

The Mountaineers compiled 127 points to 119 for North Gaston. Forestview was third with 94, followed by R-S Central 75, South Point 68, East Rutherford 61 and Burns 14.

Rocky Bilotta of R-S Central was voted most valuable in track events, and Gene Neely of North Gaston was most valuable in field events.

Joe Leach led the way for the Mountaineers with first place finishes in the 110 high hurdles (15.01) and 300 intermediate hurdles (41.41). He also ran a

leg on the winning 4 x 100 relay team along with Kino Reynolds, Brandon Houze and Courtney Smith. Their time was 44.94 seconds.

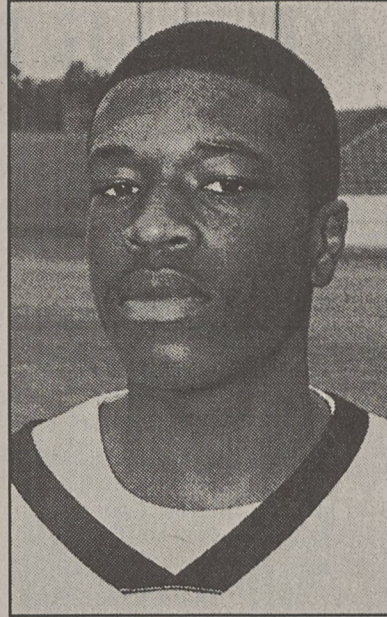
Montrell Banks of the Mountaineers won the triple jump with a leap of 41'11".

Courtney Smith tied for second place in the high jump, Adrian Parker was second in the triple jump, Alan Gibson was second in the 1600 meters, and Brad Goforth was second in the 800 meters.

Goforth, Gibson, Kevin Gonda and Eric Anthony finished second in the 4 x 800 relay. All first and second place finishers were named to the All-Conference team.

Several members of the KM team will compete in the Western Regionals Saturday at Forestview High in Gastonia. The top four finishers in each event will advance to the State Meet Saturday, May 12 at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Regional qualifiers are Joe Leach in both hurdles events, Smith in the high jump and 100 meter dash, Kino Reynolds in the 100 and 200 meter runs, Goforth in the 800 meters, Gibson in the 1600 meters, Montrell Banks and Adrian Parker in the triple jump, and Tyler Adams in the 200 meters and long jump.



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain's Joe Leach won two hurdles events and ran a leg on a winning relay team to lead the Mountaineers to the SWC track championship.

KM girls track team second in SWC meet

Kings Mountain's girls finished second to Forestview in the Southwestern 3A Conference track meet Wednesday at South Point High in Belmont.

The Lady Jaguars compiled 150 points to KM's 115. R-S Central was third with 88, followed by North Gaston 59, Burns 57, South Point 57 and East Rutherford 16.

South Point's Charlotte Sautner and Kings Mountain's Dianne Dooley were named coaches of the year.

Forestview's Leigh Neely, who won the pole vault and placed in several other events, was voted most valuable in field events. Forestview's Whitney Sikes, who won the 800 and 3200 meter runs and

ran a leg on the championship 1600 meter relay team, was most valuable in track events.

First place winners for Kings Mountain were Kim Bowden in the long jump (16'4") and 100 meter dash (12.25), and Meredith Ware in the 300 meter hurdles (51.90).

Second place were Sherrica Cole in the high jump (4'6"), Ware in the 100 meter hurdles (16.80), and Candace Brown in the 200 meter dash (27.45).

Third place were Crystal Miller in the shot put (32'3"), and Haley Flynn in the 1600 meter run (6:07.46) and the 800 meter run (2:40.66).

In relay events, KM was second in the 3200 meters and third in the 1600 meters.



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Kings Mountain High women's soccer coach Dan Potter gets his players fired up for the final week of action in the Southwestern 3A Conference. The Lady Mountaineers could win a share of the league title if they knock off Forestview in their regular season finale on May 10.

Soccer team eyes big finish

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team has a lot on the line as it enters the final week of Southwestern 3A Conference action.

The Lady Mountaineers, 6-1 in the SWC and 14-2 overall, face R-S Central at home Thursday and a win would assure Dan Potter's ladies a berth in the upcoming state tournament.

The KM ladies travel to East

Rutherford Friday and return home Monday to face Burns at 6 p.m. in their final home game of the year. Meredith Ware, the only senior on the team, will be honored for her three years with the varsity program.

A successful outing in those two games would put the Mountaineers in a potential conference championship battle with Forestview on May 10 at

Forestview. State playoffs begin on May 15.

In action last week, the Lady Mountaineers defeated North Gaston 6-0. Katie Bennett scored twice and Lesley Potter, Meredith Ware, Shena Owens and Meghan Potter scored one goal each.

Melissa Cook and Ashton Teague combined to give KM its eighth shutout in 16 games.

Kings Mountain travels to Forestview Friday for its regular season finale. A victory is important because the Lady Mountaineers are battling for one of three SWC berths for the upcoming state playoffs.

Softball team blanks North Gaston

Beth Bumgardner pitched a two-hitter and went 3-for-3 with two runs batted in to lead Kings Mountain High's softball team to a 10-0 win over North Gaston in Southwestern 3A Conference play Tuesday.

Kristen Hardin, Ashley Leigh and Christie Brinkley all went 2-for-2 with two runs batted in for the Lady Mountaineers.

Bumgardner struck out four and faced only 17 batters in the five-inning contest.

KM Middle pitchers combine for no-hitter over East Lincoln

Kings Mountain Middle School pitchers Tyler Leach and Stacy Hopper closed out the 2001 season in style Thursday, combining for a no-hitter in a 10-0 victory over East Lincoln.

The KM hurlers came within one out of a perfect game. East Lincoln's only baserunner gained life with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning on a walk by Hopper.

Leach, who a week earlier pitched a no-hitter and struck out 19, worked the first three innings, fanning six. Hopper pitched the final two and struck out four.

The Patriots gave them all the runs they really needed in the first inning, taking a 3-0 lead on a single by Josh Melton, two walks and Hopper's three-run triple.

The Patriots scored seven more runs in the fourth inning, led by hits by Hopper, Trey Robinson, Brad Camp, Isaac

Proctor, Melton and Philip Bunch.

Last Monday, the Patriots defeated Pumpkin Center 12-2 in five innings behind the pitching of Melton and Bunch.

Melton pitched the first three innings, giving up two hits and fanning four. Bunch pitched the last two, giving up one hit and striking out two.

Pumpkin Center scored both of its runs in the top of the first. Kings Mountain came back in the bottom of the first to take a 4-2 lead on Melton's single, back-to-back walks, an error and a single by Hopper.

Kings Mountain tacked on eight runs in the third on hits by Melton, Hopper, Chris Patrick, Robinson, Brad Camp and Drew Martin.

The victories gave the Patriots a final record of 13-2-1 and a second place finish in the Tri-County Conference behind Burns.

"It was a good season," said Coach Monty Deaton. "All of the boys did a good job. They practiced hard and came out and did what was necessary to be successful."

"We have 10 seventh graders on this year's team so we're looking forward to another good season next year. We hope to develop some pitching and catching."

"The high school JV team will be getting a good group of eighth grade kids," he added. "They will definitely help their JV and varsity programs next year."

Melton finished as KM's top hitter this year with a .512 average (22 for 43). Leach hit .439 (18 for 41). Ryan Burton hit .417, Bunch .300, Patrick .303, Will Carswell .372, Hopper .325, Robinson .341, Camp .250, Isaac Proctor .261, Martin .350, Cody Barrett .333, Trey Glass .091, Miles Galloway .125, Junior Ruff .300, and Ryan Bolin .143.

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