

KM girls lose in World Series

The Kings Mountain Lightning 12-and-under girls fast-pitch softball team finished in the top 24 in the 84-team NSA World Series in Charlotte last week.

Kings Mountain won its first three games before losing two straight.

Catcher Kala Buchanan gunned down the potential tying run at the plate to end the game in a 4-3 win over the Indiana Earthquake in the third round on Wednesday.

Kings Mountain had grabbed a 4-1 lead going into the last inning, but the Earthquake scored two runs with two outs and had the tying run on third. The runner tried to score on a passed

ball, but Buchanan quickly pounced on it and threw to Funderburke covering home for the final put-out.

"Kala Buchanan did a great defensive job," said Coach Ronny Funderburke. "It's hard for the pitcher to throw one by her, and on top of that she throws a lot of runners out stealing. She brings a different dimension to our team because teams can't steal on her. She's a great catcher."

Funderburke finished with a three-hitter, and Brittney Thornburg and Amber Millwood led the hitting with 2-for-3 each. Morgan Childers, Natalyn Blanton, Funderburke,

Tianna Whitaker and Jessica Yarbro had one hit each.

Amber Millwood hit a grand slam home run in the first inning to give KM a 4-0 lead over Pines Thunder Black of Florida on Thursday, but the Florida team came back with six runs in the second inning and went on to a 9-4 victory.

Buchanan led the KM hitting with 3-for-4 and Funderburke and Millwood were 2-for-3 each. Childers, Blanton, Thornburg, Whitaker, and Lauren Gaffney added one hit each.

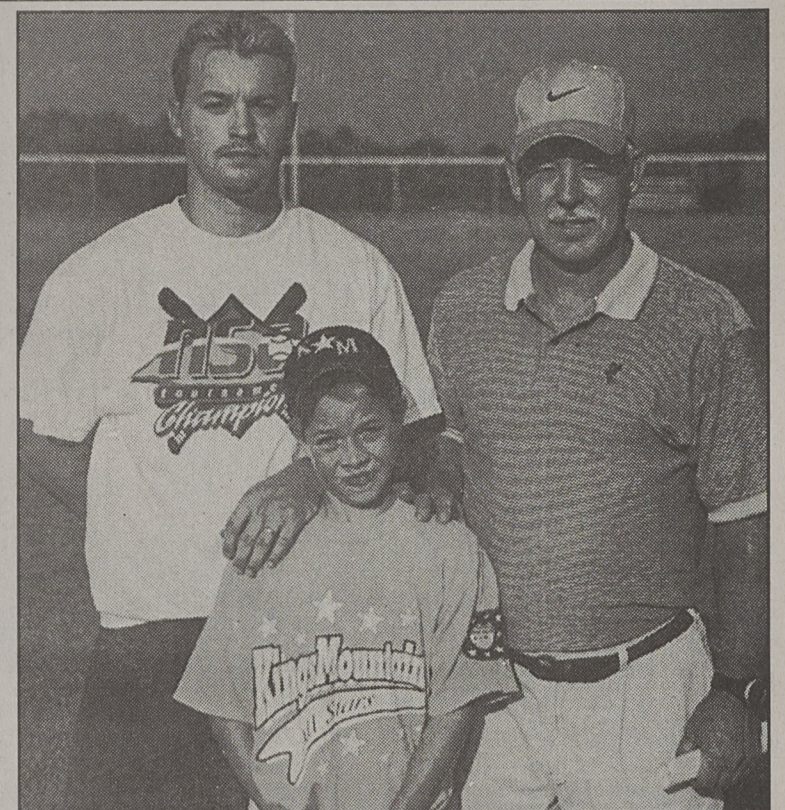
Kings Mountain was eliminated by the North Carolina Lady Cardinals, 5-2. Funderburke pitched a five-hit-

ter, and four of the hits were bunt singles. Only three balls were hit out of the infield against her, and two of those were caught.

Funderburke and Blanton led the KM hitting with 2-for-3 each, and Childers and Thornburg each had a hit.

For the tournament, Thornburg led the KM plate attack with a .500 average, followed by Funderburke .462, Blanton .375, Millwood .357, Yarbro and Weigel .333, and Buchanan .313. As a team, KM hit .328.

Kings Mountain will play in the Marion Tournament on August 11.



Three generations of the Smith family have been members of Kings Mountain baseball teams that played in the World Series. In front is Jamie York, who is a member of the KM 9-10 year-olds that won the State Saturday and is headed for the World Series in Virginia. Back left is Jamie's uncle, Michael Smith, who played on the 15-16 year old Dixie Youth team that competed in the World Series in 1990 at Shreveport, LA. Back right is Jamie's grandfather, Mike Smith, who played on the Teener All-Star team in 1966 that finished third in the World Series in Hershey, PA.

FOOTBALL

From 4

of the ones we were counting on are out here."

The Mountaineers will continue conditioning drills the rest of the week and will begin contact drills Saturday morning at 9 a.m.

"After Saturday you get to do all your tackling drills and your body-to-body contact, and we'll have a better idea as far as what our individuals can do," Farquharson said. "You can always look like a million bucks

against a dummy or a hand shield but when you get out there and actually have to make contact and do blocking and running type skills against wide-open bodies, it makes a difference."

The Mountaineers' first action against an opponent will come on August 11 when they travel to East Burke for a 6 p.m. scrimmage. They host Mooresville in a scrimmage at 6:30 on August 16, and host the third annual First Charter Cleveland County Jamboree on Friday, August 24 beginning at 6 p.m. Eight of the top 2A, 3A

and 4A teams in Western North Carolina will be here for that one.

Meanwhile, Farquharson said if any freshmen or newcomers to town want to come out for football they can do so the remainder of this week and the first day of school. The only requirement is that you must have a physical before beginning practice.

"Sometimes you miss them," he said, "so we want to extend an invitation to any freshman who's interested in playing football to come on out. They may not have played middle school or played and didn't finish the season, and they're a year old and a year wiser and want to play again. There's still an opportunity for them to come out and play."

TOURNEY

From 2B

89 teams last season to 109 teams this season, Page said.

"A lot of folks are interested in coming in next year," Page said about the league's growth. Page said North Carolina is expected to be one of the 11 states in Dixie Baseball to experience a high amount of growth with the current increase of teams.

Two of those teams, Burns and Rockingham County, par-

ticipated in the tournament this weekend.

The state has raised approximately \$2,000 for the National Dixie Baseball Scholarship Fund. "That's something North Carolina has never done," Page said about the amount of money. "We've spearheaded a campaign for a scholarship fund and it worked real well." Page said he would like to eventually see a North Carolina scholarship.

SKATING

From 2B

Speed skating is an expensive sport. A skater has to pay for skates, wheels and bearings. Bolden has three different

sets of wheels. One set is for meets indoors, one for outdoors and one for practice.

While there are different sets of wheels for the two places, indoors and outdoors can be raced at two different speeds.

Miller said a skater can reach 35-45 miles per hour indoors while one can reach 55-65 miles per hour outdoors.

Bolden's entry fee for the national meet is \$165 and Miller said they raise the money for most of the year to pay the fee.

"It can cost a skater a couple thousand dollars just to go down and just stay for a week," Miller said on the cost of going to meets.

Miller said Bolden gets a new set of wheels for every meet, and without a discount, a set of wheels will cost a skater approximately \$90. Frames run \$300, Miller said, and Bolden's boot would cost \$1,000.

To offset the cost, a man in Roanoke, Va. builds her boots for free.

Bolden got into the sport at seven years old and said she was just looking for an activity to occupy her time.

"It was something to do beside being bored," Bolden said about her initial interest in the sport.

Bolden has a 20-year-old sister who has skated before also.

Currently, Bolden practices five days a week with a team in Rock Hill, and after she comes back from Pensacola, she will be training in Gastonia.

TOKYO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

100 North Cherry Street
Cherryville, NC 28021
Phone: 704-445-4449 • Fax: 704-445-4441

Open 7 Days
Lunch 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Dinner 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Grand Opening Special

\$3.00 OFF Any Purchase of \$20.00 or more with
(Featuring) Teppanyaki Steak & Seafood, Habaichi
Chicken, Teriyaki Shrimp.

Please Come and Enjoy The Taste of Japan
Expires 8/31/01

Dance Magic

Fall Registration

Registration Times

Thursday August 2
6 - 8 pm each night
Saturday, August 4
Saturday, August 11
10am - 12 noon



"We, the instructors, of Dance Magic, are committed to providing excellent and enthusiastic instruction within a safe and caring environment, while keeping our fees affordable for everyone; and to provide an atmosphere that will encourage confidence and self-esteem in our students."

Study is Offered In the Following Areas:

- ~Ballet ~Tap ~Lyrical
- ~Clogging ~Pom Pom ~Jazz
- ~Cheer Dance ~Gymnastics



Dance Magic

Located On Railroad Avenue • Downtown Kings Mountain • Above the Old Plonk's Store

704-734-0953

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fall soccer meeting set in Gaston County

An organizational meeting for the 2001 Gaston County Fall Recreation Youth Soccer League will be held Thursday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. in meeting room A of the Citizen's Resource Center, formerly known as the Ag Building, 1303 Dallas-Cherryville Highway, Dallas.

The building is located at the entrance to Dallas Park.

All organizations and/or teams interested in participating must send a representative to the meeting.

For more information call Rebecca Braddy at 922-2164.

Fall sports sign-up at Community Center

Registration for fall sports is under way through August 17 at the Kings Mountain YMCA.

T-Ball for ages 4-6 is \$20 for members and residents of Kings Mountain, and \$30 for non-members and non-residents.

Coach pitch for 7-8 years of age, minor league for ages 9-10, and youth league for ages 11-12 are \$25 for members and residents, and \$35 for non-members and non-residents.

For soccer leagues for ages 3-4 and 5-7, the cost is \$20 for members and residents and \$30 for non-members and non-residents.

KMHS cross country registration August 3

All ninth through 12th grade students interested in running cross country this fall at Kings Mountain High School should report for registration and team pictures on Friday, August 3 at 10 a.m. at the KMHS field house.

The first day of practice is Monday, August 6 at 5:30.

All players must have completed physicals before they can practice.

For more information call Coach John Foster at 739-0747.

Baseball, soccer registration slated

Fall baseball and soccer registration will be held through August 10 at the Kings Mountain Family YMCA.

Boys and girls ages 4-12 are eligible for the baseball program, and boys and girls ages 3-9 are eligible for the soccer program.

For more information call 734-0449.

Two softball leagues begin play August 20

Kings Mountain Area Church Softball League and Macedonia Baptist Church are planning two softball leagues to begin play on Monday, August 20.

The fall men's church league will play on Monday and Thursday. Teams wishing to participate should meet at the Macedonia softball field on Thursday, August 9 at 6:30.

A co-ed church league will play on Tuesday and Friday. Interested teams should meet at the Macedonia field on Thursday, August 9 at 7:30.

Entry fee for both leagues is \$300 and is due on August 9. Both leagues will consist of no more than 10 teams.

Macedonia Baptist Church is located at 1101 South Battleground Avenue, Kings Mountain. The field is behind the church on Park Grace Road.

For more information, call Phil Wright at 734-0914.

KM Middle School football begins Monday

Kings Mountain Middle School will begin football practice Monday immediately after school. Practice ends at 5:30.

All players must have physicals before they can practice.

Other fall sports, including boys soccer and girls softball, will also begin practice next week. Coaches of those sports will inform students of practice dates and times when school starts.

Goodwill's

Back to School Sale

Wednesday, August 1st
&
Thursday, August 2nd

30% off

Discount applies to donated items only!
Sale valid at all Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont
Retail store locations except Freedom Drive.
www.goodwillsp.org