

PREP RANKINGS

A ranking by the staff of Republic Newspapers of the teams in their coverage area - Big South 3A, Southwestern Foothills 3A, and Southern Foothills 1A).

| Team | Record | Last Week |
|------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 - Crest | 9-0 | 1 |
| 2 - Maiden | 9-1 | 2 |
| 3 - Hickory | 7-3 | 3 |
| 4 - St. Stephens | 7-3 | 4 |
| 5 - N. Gaston | 1-9 | 5 |
| 6 - Forestview | 6-4 | 7 |
| 7 - K. Mtn. | 6-4 | 6 |
| 8 - S. Point | 5-5 | 8 |
| 9 - H'ville | 5-4 | 10 |
| 10 - E. Lincoln | 4-6 | 12 |
| 11 - Burns | 5-5 | 9 |
| 12 - Ashbrook | 3-5 | 11 |
| 13 - E. Gaston | 2-7 | 13 |
| 14 - Huss | 4-5 | 14 |
| 15 - B. City | 3-7 | 15 |
| 16 - F.T. Foard | 2-8 | 16 |
| 17 - RS Central | 0-9 | 17 |
| 18 - Polk Co. | 1-8 | 18 |
| 19 - C'ville | 0-10 | 19 |

PREP STANDINGS

Southwestern Foothills 3A

| Teams | Conf. | All |
|--------------|-------|------|
| Crest | 5-0 | 9-0 |
| Hickory | 4-1 | 7-3 |
| St. Stephens | 3-2 | 7-3 |
| K. Mtn. | 3-3 | 6-4 |
| Burns | 2-3 | 6-4* |
| F.T. Foard | 1-4 | 2-8 |
| RS Central | 0-5 | 0-9 |

Last Week's Results

Hickory 9, Kings Mountain 7
Crest 48, Burns 28
F.T. Foard 24, R-S Central 14

This Week's Games

Crest at R-S Central
St. Stephens at Burns
Hickory at Fred T. Foard

Big South 3A

| | | |
|--------------|------|-------|
| Forestview | 4-1* | 7-4* |
| South Point | 4-1 | 5-5 |
| East Lincoln | 4-1* | 5-5* |
| Hunter Huss | 2-3* | 5-4* |
| Ashbrook | 2-3* | 4-5* |
| East Gaston | 1-4 | 2-7 |
| North Gaston | 1-5 | 1-9** |

Last Week's Results

North Gaston 41, South Point 34
Forestview 20, Hunter Huss 14
East Lincoln 13, East Gaston 0

This Week's Games

Ashbrook at Hunter Huss
Forestview at East Gaston
East Lincoln at South Point

Southern Foothills 1A

| | | |
|----------------|-----|------|
| Maiden | 4-0 | 9-1 |
| Hendersonville | 2-1 | 5-4 |
| Bessemer City | 1-2 | 3-7 |
| Polk County | 1-2 | 1-8 |
| Cherryville | 0-3 | 1-9* |

Last Week's Results

Maiden 72, Polk County 6
Hendersonville 68, Bessemer City 20

This Week's Games

Hendersonville at Polk County
Cherryville at Bessemer City

Midwest 2A

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| Shelby | 6-0 | 7-3 |
| Lincolnton | 5-1 | 7-3 |
| East Ruth. | 5-1 | 7-3 |
| Newton | 3-3 | 6-4 |
| Bandys | 3-3 | 5-5 |
| Chase | 1-5 | 3-6 |
| Bunker Hill | 2-8 | 1-5 |
| West Linc. | 0-6 | 4-6 |

*Reflects wins by forfeit.
**Reflects losses by forfeit.

(Note: Prior to last Friday's game with South Point, North Gaston had to forfeit all of its previous victories because of an ineligible player. Standings reflect forfeits. Ranking is based on strength of team).

STATE CHAMPS!



BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
Kings Mountain High coach Suzanne Grayson high-fives some of her players after the Lady Mountaineers defeated East Chapel Hill for the State 3A volleyball championship at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh.

Lady Mountaineers sweep East Chapel Hill for second State 3A title in past four years

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain took control early and never relented as it won the state 3-A volleyball championship over East Chapel Hill 15-3, 15-13, 15-4 Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum on NC State University in Raleigh.

Saturday's match was the first for both teams since meeting in 1998 when Kings Mountain won its last title.

Although the Mountaineers (26-3) dominated two of the three games, Coach Suzanne Grayson said her team gave them a chance to get back in the match.

"Even on the second game, we gave them too many opportunities to get back in it," Grayson said.

After the Mountaineers took an 8-2 lead in the second game, East Chapel Hill's Laurel Dreher served successfully and led a Wildcats' rally which gave East its only lead of the match.

Dreher led East Chapel Hill (27-7) with seven kills and two blocks.

With Kings Mountain leading 11-9, East Chapel Hill made a side out, and got the ball back, and eventually took the lead at 13-12.

But when it was tied at 13-13 in the second, that's when Grayson said she was concerned about a possible East Chapel Hill comeback.

"My concern there was they win that we're back 1-1 and it's a whole new match," Grayson said. "It felt a lot easier going into the third game being 2-0 rather than 1-1."

In the third game, with Kings Mountain leading 13-4, a Lindsay Hamrick spike brought the Mountaineer lead to 14-4 and Shonda Cole's spike gave

Kings Mountain the game winning point.

Cole is a 6-1 outside hitter with a 29-inch vertical jump, and used that advantage to stay above the Wildcats and made 14 kills. Senior Kristin Hardin made eight kills.

Senior Ashley Leigh, who had 13 digs, said winning a state title as a senior meant a lot to her.

"It really means a lot more to me now than it did last year," Leigh said.

Senior setter Carrie Brinkley, the MVP for the match had 10 digs. Grayson said Brinkley's MVP honor was the culmination of a season of leadership.

"She's been a real leader for us all year," Grayson said.

"She's going to run everything down. I think anybody that watches her sees her intensity, her focus, and her drive. She's

See Volleyball 3B



Shonda Cole with one of her monstrous kills in Saturday's volleyball championship.

Basketball powers in KM Saturday for Classic

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

To be the best you have to beat the best is a philosophy that Kings Mountain High School basketball coach Danny Ray McDowell follows.

The second-year Mountaineer mentor has developed one of the toughest schedules in the state for his youngsters this year, including a preseason scrimmage-type event Saturday which will bring some of the State's top Division I talent to the KMHS gym.

The inaugural Kings Mountain Invitational Prep All-Star Basketball Classic will feature three powerful private school programs - Christian Faith Center of Durham, Victory Christian of Gastonia, and Providence Day of Charlotte - and area public schools Kings Mountain, Highland Tech and East Rutherford.

Christian Faith's roster includes 10 Division I prospects, including Kelly Whitney and J.R. Morris, who have already signed with Seton Hall and Illinois, respectively.

Victory Christian of Gastonia is the defending national private school champion and features NACA All-American J.J. Wilson, Raphael Garvin, Emanuel Terrell and Jermaine Morris.

Providence Day of Charlotte, which turned out UNC All-American Antawn Jamieson a few years back, is led by William and Mary signee Taylor Morris.

Action begins at 1 p.m. when Kings Mountain native Butch Blalock and his Highland Tech team take on East Rutherford. Six games are on tap every hour and 15 minutes, capped off by the Mountaineers against Christian Faith at 7:15 p.m.

In addition there will be a slam dunk contest featuring some of the "giants" from the visiting schools. Admission for the day is \$5.

McDowell, who coached some national champion AAU teams in Kings Mountain before joining the high school coaching staff, said he scheduled this event so his players and the community can see the type of program that he wants to establish.

"I want our kids to see what a top notch Division I player is," he said. "I decided to bring some big boys into the house and let the area fans see what it's like."

McDowell said he saw many

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Mounties lose to Hickory in finale



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Hickory quarterback Jermaine McCain (12) keeps the ball on an option play in Friday's 9-7 victory over Kings Mountain at John Gamble Stadium.

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

What began as a promising football season for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers ended in disappointment Friday night at Gamble Stadium when they dropped a 9-7 decision to Hickory in the final game of the year.

The defeat ended the Mountaineers' season at 6-4 overall and 3-3 in the new Southwestern Foothills Conference - not good enough for the State 3A playoffs which looked to be a lock after the Mountaineers walloped Burns 49-21 and played top-ranked Crest to a 17-0 score midway of the season.

But turnovers - five each against St. Stephens and Hickory in the final two games - and failure to capitalize on scoring opportunities ended the season on a sour note.

"It certainly didn't go the way we wanted it to," KM Coach Dave Farquharson said in response to Friday's loss, "but I've said all year that you have to eliminate mistakes. You don't have to play perfect but you have to eliminate mistakes

at crucial times to be successful."

The Mountaineers lost one fumble and threw four interceptions Friday night, and although they didn't have a huge number of penalties (60 yards altogether) some did come at critical times.

The Mountaineers had two potential touchdowns erased when fullback Aquino Simmons fumbled the ball into the end zone which Hickory recovered for a touchback; and when Brandon Houze caught a touchdown pass only to have it called back on a holding call.

Hickory, which scored on its opening possession and then was shut down by the KM defense the rest of the night, missed two long-range field goal attempts.

"When we fumbled into the end zone and had the touchdown pass called back on a penalty, it certainly hurt us," Farquharson said. "You have to be able to eliminate mistakes, and we had too many of them once again."

"But as far as the effort, our kids played as hard as they could play. They went out to

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