



Kings Mountain's 11-12 year old All-Stars recently finished second in the District Tournament and earned a berth in the State Tournament which begins July 26. Front row, left to right, Ricky Greene, AJ Orazio, Andrew Moss, Allen Sisk, Jamie York, Daniel Humphries, Reid Smith. Back row Coach Lawrence Humphries, Josh Marlow, Chaz King, Matt McKillop, Coach Rick Greene, David Clark, Trey McCorkle, Tyler Murray, and Coach Randy Moss.

BEN LEDBETTER / THE HERALD
Children have fun around the swimming pool at the Kings Mountain YMCA day camp last week.

Deaton named head football coach at Kings Mountain Middle School

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Monty Deaton has been named head football coach at Kings Mountain Middle School.

Longtime coach David Heffner has resigned the position after leading the Patriots to the Tri-County Conference Division One title for the past four years. Heffner will stay on as athletic director.

Deaton has been an assistant football coach and head baseball coach at KMMS for the past seven years. Prior to that he served one year as JV baseball coach at Kings Mountain High School. Deaton's middle school baseball team last spring finished unbeaten and won the Tri County Conference.

Deaton, who has been the offensive coordinator the past five years after spending two years as defensive coordinator, welcomes the challenge that lies ahead. "I've been wanting to be a middle school head coach for some time," said the former KMMS baseball and football standout. "Coach Heffner sort of let me run the offense and he did the defense. I've been over one side of the ball ever since I've been here. I'll be adding some administrative work, which I'm not looking forward to, but I'm really looking forward to coaching on the field."

Deaton's team will begin pre-season practice on August 1, a change from past years when the Patriots didn't begin practice until the first day of school. The earlier opening of practice is because the first game comes earlier than in the past, Deaton said. The school is working hard to find some assistant coaches before practice starts. In addition to Heffner, the school lost volunteer assistants Mark Crawford and Sam Hunt.

"We're going to miss their expertise out there," Deaton



Monty Deaton, who has served the past five seasons as offensive coordinator, takes over as head football coach at Kings Mountain Middle School. The Patriots open practice on August 1.

said, "especially on the offensive line." Defensive line coach, Craig Cavender, who has been on the staff for five years, will return along with volunteer assistant Tim Waters, who works with linebackers. Deaton says the offense will show little change, but he intends to instill the KM 40 defense which his head coach at KMHS, Denny Hicks, used when Deaton was a fullback and linebacker in the late 1980s. The Patriots had been running a 50 defense.

Deaton recently sent letters to 117 prospective players that signed up prior to the end of the last school year.

"I look for at least half of them to show up, maybe more," Deaton said. "You never know. With us starting practice before school starts, I hope all of them can get a ride."

Kings Mountain's first game is on August 28 against Pumpkin Center.

For the first time this fall, Deaton said the two divisional champions will play

for the overall conference championship. For the past seven years, either Burns or KM has won the Division One crown and either Crest or Shelby has won Division Two. Last year, KM handed Crest its first conference loss in five years.

Deaton said the Patriots

PHIFER From 6A

and third place. Players must attend the church they are playing for, or attend a church that does not field a team and combines with another. Rosters signed by church pastors must be presented prior to the first game.

Cleveland County churches will be given first priority in filling the 32-team bracket. Surrounding county churches may be used to complete the bracket on an as-needed basis.

face a rebuilding task on offense, where they lost some big, quick backs.

"We've won our division the last four years, and there's going to be some big shoes to fill," he said. "But we have a good chance of winning it again if we can get some running backs out there. Last year we had the biggest backfield we've had since I've been here. J.J. McClain weighed 210 pounds and Marquis Norris weighed 170, and both of them were fast. It's hard to find kids that big that can run like they could."

"But we have some good athletes coming up in the seventh grade class, and the ones we have coming back should contribute. We should have a pretty good nucleus."

"We won our division the last four years, and there's going to be some big shoes to fill."

Monty Deaton
New KMMS football coach

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