

Rebuilding or reloading?

KM volleyball team suffered some big losses, but still plans to make strong run in State 3A

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

With a host of starters gone off last year's State championship team, Kings Mountain High's second-year volleyball coach Suzanne Grayson faces a rebuilding task.

But, she fully expects her team to be one of the best in the Southwestern Foothills Conference and another strong contender in the State 3A playoffs.

Grayson is rebuilding her team around one of the State's top players, 6-1 senior Shonda Cole, last year's NC Volleyball Player of the Year who has already verbally committed to play at the University of South Carolina.

Cole is probably the strongest hitter Kings Mountain has ever had, and to showcase her strength Grayson will have to develop some younger players to make good passes and sets.

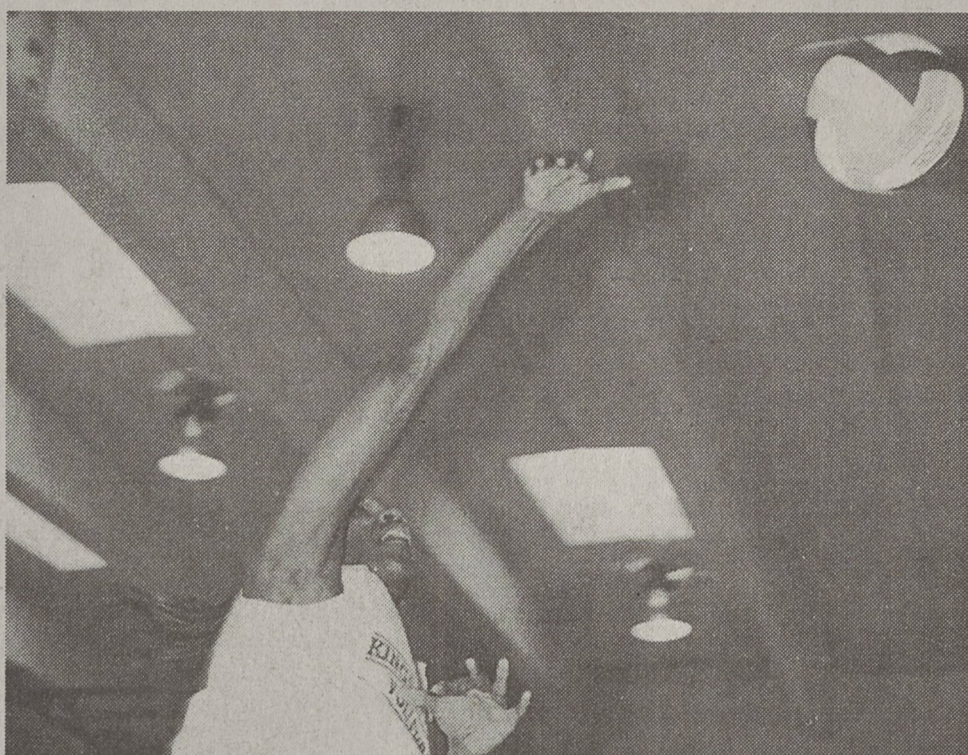
"Shonda's definitely our strongest player, there's no question about that," says Grayson. "I feel confident the girls recognize that. We want to get her the ball as much as we can. But in order for us to run our offense we've got to get good passes to the setters. What we do offensively will depend on what our passers do. If they do a good job the setters will be able to do their job."

Grayson has six other seniors in addition to Cole. They are setter Courtney Osteen, outside hitter Molly Hamrick, middle blocker Danielle Gill, defensive specialist Jordan Crisp, defensive specialist L'Tisha Bell, and middle blocker Pam Parker.

Right now, Grayson is counting on Cole, Parker, Gill, Bessemer City transfer Baria Adams, and sophomore Heather Lappe to provide strength along the nets because Hamrick and Crisp are nursing injuries.

Sophomore Blair Heffner and Osteen will be running KM's 6-2 offense as setters, and sophomore Alex Dawson will see action as an outside hitter. Other members of the team are Ashton Teague, Jackie Jarvis, Monica Adams and Ashley McDaniel.

Kings Mountain opens its season



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Shonda Cole, last year's State Volleyball Player of the Year, returns for what should be a spectacular season with the Kings Mountain Lady Mountaineers.

Tuesday at home at 5:30 p.m. against Watauga. The Lady Mountaineers hosted a 12-team scrimmage last Saturday and performed well, but Grayson said she saw a lot of areas that need improvement.

"We weren't ready to play an opponent, but we were certainly ready to practice against them and it showed us some things we need to work on," she said. "The scrimmage enabled our younger players to get some confidence and gave them an opportunity to play with each other and jell with each other."

The team went through a four-hour clinic Tuesday with coaches from the University of South Carolina and got a lot of tips on fine tuning their offense and defense.

Although the SWFH is one of the toughest leagues in the state (KM and Fred T. Foard have five State champi-

onships between them), Grayson fully expects her team to be in the thick of the battle for the three State playoff berths

"We've got a lot of young girls," she said. "Right now, we're not conference champions but I think with the athletes we have, if they will continue to work then the matches will take care of themselves. We're not where we want to be yet. We have to work hard all season. Our goal is to be better every day, so when we have to win I plan on us being ready."

Grayson encourages the public to attend the KMHS games. With Cole showcasing her talent and with a front line that averages about six feet in height, Grayson feels the Mountaineers will be an exciting team to watch.

"All of the girls have worked hard and put in a lot of hours," she said. "Once people come out and watch volleyball they'll love it."

FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

VOLLEYBALL AUGUST

13 - Watauga, 5:30; 19 - at South Point, 4:30; 21 - Country Day, 5 p.m.; 23-24 - Great Eight Tournament at Guilford College (TBA); 28 - at Shelby 4:30; Aug. 29 - at Freedom 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5 - at Hickory, 5 p.m.; 7 - Providence and West Charlotte at Providence, 10 a.m.; 10 - Burns 5 p.m.; 12 - at R-S Central 5 p.m.; 17 - St. Stephens 5 p.m.; 19 - Crest 5 p.m.; 21 - Myers Park 11 a.m.; 24 - at Fred T. Foard 5 p.m.

OCTOBER

1 - Hickory 5 p.m.; 3 - at Burns 5 p.m.; 7 - at Country Day 5 p.m.; 8 - R-S Central 5 p.m.; 10 - at St. Stephens 5 p.m.; 15 - at Crest 5 p.m.; 17 - Fred. T. Foard 5 p.m. 22 - First round state playoffs; 24 - District playoffs. 28 - Sectional playoffs; 29 - Regional playoffs.

NOVEMBER

2 - State championship.

MEN'S SOCCER AUGUST

13 - East Rutherford; 14 - at South Point 6:30; 19 - at East Rutherford; 28 - South Point 6:30.

SEPTEMBER

3 - Highland; 9 - at Shelby; 11 - Hickory; 12 - at Highland; 16 - Burns; 18 - at RS Central; 19 - Newton Conover; 23 - St. Stephens; 25 - Crest; 30 - at Fred T. Foard.

OCTOBER

2 - at Newton; 7 - Hickory; 9 - at Burns; 14 - RS Central; 16 - at St. Stephens; 21 - at Crest; 23 - Fred T. Foard

*Games at 6 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

GIRLS TENNIS AUGUST

19 - Cherryville; 21 - at Hickory; 26 - Burns; 28 - at

RS Central. SEPTEMBER

4 - Crest; 5 - at East Gaston; 9 - at Foard; 10 - East Gaston; 16 - Hickory; 18 - at Burns; 23 - RS Central; 25 - St. Stephens; 30 - at Crest

OCTOBER

2 - Foard; 7-11 - Conference tournament (TBA); 15 - Dual Team tournament begins; 18-19 - Regionals (TBA); 25-26 - State (TBA).

CROSS COUNTRY AUGUST

27 - Crest

SEPTEMBER

3 - St. Stephens; 10 - at Burns; 17 - at Crest; 24 - at St. Stephens.

OCTOBER

1 - RS and Burns; 8 - Pre-Conf. at RS; 15 - Conf. at RS; 26 - Regionals at KM.

NOVEMBER

2 - State.
*Times 5 p.m. Runners walk course at 4:30.

VARSITY FOOTBALL AUGUST

30 - at East Gaston

SEPTEMBER

6 - at South Point; 13 - Forestview; 20 - Shelby; 27 - F.T. Foard (HC).

OCTOBER

4 - at Burns; 11 - Crest; 18 - at RS Central; 25 - St. Stephens.

NOVEMBER

1 - at Hickory; 8 - at North Gaston.

JV FOOTBALL AUGUST

29 - East Gaston

SEPTEMBER

5 - South Point; 12 - at Forestview; 19 - at Shelby; 26 - at F.T. Foard.

OCTOBER

4 - Burns; 10 - at Crest; 17 - RS Central; 24 - at St. Stephens; 31 - Hickory.



\$0 Down Delivers!

Specializing In Low Mileage, 1 Owner Used Cars!

 1998 Ford Escort 4 Dr. Sport Package, Auto, A/C, Clean Trade! \$94/mo.	 2001 Chevrolet Cavalier Two to Choose From, 4 Door, Automatic, A/C \$156/mo.	 1999 Oldsmobile Alero One Owner, Lease Turn In, 41K, Loaded \$164/mo.	 2000 Chevy Cavalier Z24 One Owner Trade, Auto, Power Roof, Loaded \$181/mo.	 1999 Pontiac Grand Am SE V6, Auto, Loaded, One Owner, Low Miles \$183/mo.
 2000 Mazda 626 LX Excellent Condition, Automatic, AC, Loaded \$190/mo.	 1999 Ford Taurus Wagon V6, One Owner, Low Mileage Trade \$190/mo.	 2000 Chevrolet S10 Ext. Cab LS, One Owner, Automatic, Tilt, Cruise, 36,000 miles \$199/mo.	 1995 Chevy K1500 Silverado 4x4 V8, Auto, Loaded, Nice Truck \$246/mo.	 2000 Nissan Xterra Beautiful One Owner Lease Turn In! \$253/mo.
 2000 Ford Ranger Supercab XLT, 4x4, V6, Auto, Loaded \$253/mo.	 2000 Buick Regal LS Only 19,000 miles, loaded, leather, beautiful \$253/mo.	 2001 Chevrolet Camaro V6, T Tops, Loaded Only 15,000 Miles \$278/mo.	 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe LS 4x4, V8, 2 Tone, Loaded \$288/mo.	 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo Leather, Roof, Beautiful, One Owner Trade \$330/mo.
 1999 1/2 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4x4, Auto, Leather, Power Roof, 40K \$346/mo.	 2001 Oldsmobile Aurora V8, Leather, Power Roof, Chrome Wheels, 36,000 miles \$368/mo.	 2001 Chevy Tahoe LS 4x4 V8, Rear AC, Loaded, 40K \$399/mo. **48 mo. lease w/\$0 down, plus tax, tag & fees, 12K per year.	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Early Bird Special</h2> <h1 style="font-size: 3em; margin: 0;">No Sales Tax</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Any Deal in This Ad if Purchased by Saturday 1pm 8-10-02</p>	

*All prices plus tax, tag, & DOC fee. Payment based w/\$0 down; 95 48 mos @ 9%; 98, 99 & 00, 72 mos. @7.9%; 01, 84 mos. @9.0% OAC.

Diamond

CHEVROLET
KINGS MOUNTAIN

CHEVY



WE'LL BE THERE™

Exit 8, I-85/Hwy 161,
Kings Mountain, NC
704-739-6011
www.diamondchevy.com

