

Dr. George Plonk stands beside his horse Selecta and trainer Shaw Laney after Selecta won its second straight Grand National Championship recently in Perry, GA.

Dr. Plonk's horse wins second National crown

Dr. George Plonk's horse Selecta recently won its second straight title in the Paso Fino National Championship in Perry, GA.

It marked the third time in the past four years that one of Dr. Plonk's horses had won the national crown. Belatika won in 1999.

Selecta, a four-year-old filly that won most of the shows she entered this year, won the national crown over 27 other four-year-olds.

Shortly after the show, Dr. Plonk sold the horse that he acquired about a month before last year's national championship.

"She is a good one," he said. "A month after I bought her she went out and won the national championship in the three-year-old class, and won it again this year. So in just a little over a year's time she won two national championships."

Selecta was shown by trainer Shaw Laney.

"I showed her four times," Dr. Plonk noted, "but I didn't win a first place with her. The trainer (Laney) broke her to ride and he runs her every day, and I knew if we had a chance to win it would be with him."

Next year, Selecta will move into the

five-year-old class which includes all horses ages five and above. Since he received a good offer, he sold her.

"I thought since she had won a couple championships I would take advantage of it," he said.

Selecta won out over a horse shown by trainer Pat Figoroa of Landrum, SC.

"She came up to me after the show and said 'I gave you a run for your money, didn't I?'" Plonk noted. "I said 'you scared me half to death.'"

Plonk has been impressed with the Paso Fino breed since first being introduced to it. He said it is the "smoothest gated horse in the world, and when they breed them they breed them for elegance.

"They have a lot of pep," he said. "They call it Brio. If they don't have it they won't be a good show horse. But she has it."

The Paso Fino, he explained, was developed from some a select group of mares brought to Santo Domingo by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage from Spain. The horses were a mixture of Barb, Andalusian and Spanish Jennet. The Spanish Jennet possessed an extremely comfortable saddle gain, and was able to pass its gate to its offspring.

4th quarter rally lifts Mountaineers over Green Wave

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers came from 16 point down in the second half to defeat Ashbrook 56-51 in their first home game Wednesday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

It was the third straight win for Danny McDowell's charges following an opening season loss to Charlotte Garinger. Kings Mountain was scheduled to host Shelby last night and will entertain North Gaston Friday. The Mountaineers play at Shelby next Monday at at East Gaston next Wednesday.

Ashbrook led 13-10 after the first quarter, 27-24 at halftime and 40-32 going into the fourth quarter.

At one point late in the third period, Ashbrook was up 40-24. Coach McDowell called a time out and switched to a pressing defense, and Ashbrook finally wore down.

"If we had stayed back in a zone, they would have beaten us by 40 points," McDowell said. "They could really shoot the ball."

Before a packed house and without one of their best inside players Gabe Blair, the Mounties used outstanding shooting performances by Derrick Smith and

Dashawn Young and tough inside play by D.J. Byrd to turn the tide. Smith scored 17 points, including 10 of 14 from the foul line, and Young hit four 3-pointers to lead the comeback.

Byrd scored 12 points and, along with Smith pulled down a ton of rebounds.

McDowell said when he called the time out down 40-24, some of the players looked up at the scoreboard and said they were not going to lose.

"It was a tough, uphill battle to get down that much to a really good team, but the kids never quit," McDowell said. "It's a big win anytime you beat a team of that calibre."

Young hit a couple of big 3-pointers to get the rally going, and Byrd and Smith began controlling the boards.

"All of them played good, all-around ball games," he said. "D.J. had a great overall game. He was mostly on the boards by himself because Odems had four fouls at halftime.

"But the guys just wouldn't quit. I was proud of them. We were thrilled that the fans came out and supported us like they did."

KM (56) - D. Smith 17, Young 16, Byrd 12, Houze 6, Odems 4, Crosby 1.
Ashbrook (51) - Falls 17, Liptay 12, Adams 9, Sanders 6, Floyd 5, Smart 2.

KM girls post 1st victory

After three near misses, Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team posted their first win of the season Wednesday night at home against Ashbrook.

Kevin Moss's ladies won 32-22 after losing earlier road games to Garinger, North Gaston and Hunter Huss.

Candace Springs led the Km scoring with 10 points, and Danielle Gill added eight.

Kings Mountain held Ashbrook scoreless in the first quarter. The Lady Mountaineers led by 12-0 at the quarter break and 18-8 at halftime.

"It's nice to get our first win of the season," Moss said. "We are improving as we go along but we still have a long way to go to play like we are capable of playing. We need to cut down on our turnovers and mental lapses. The girls are really working hard in practice and are getting better each day."

KM (32) - Bell 2, Gill 8, Spring 10, Cole 6, Adams 6.
Ashbrook (22) - Cavin 2, Urban 6, Kiwala 4, Pate 2, Davenport 6, Fox 2.

Mountaineers place 11 on All-SWFH grid team

Kings Mountain High School placed 11 players on the All-Southwestern Foothills Conference football team for the 2003 season.

Making the first team offense were quarterback Chris Jolly and offensive linemen Chris Yon and Wilder Clark.

Making the first team

defense were linebackers Orlando Curry, Adrian Parker and Brandon Houze.

Making the second team offense were wide receiver Derek Smith and running back Aquino Simmons.

Making the second team defense were lineman Walt Williams, linebacker Josh Etters and defensive back

Aaron Bolton.

Offensive player of the year was quarterback Troy Goss of Burns. Defensive player of the year was Kyle Travis of Crest.

Place kicker of the year was Ryan Succop of Hickory and punter of the year was Chris Jolly of Kings Mountain.

Coach of the year was Ron Greene of Burns.

Tournament dates to be selected

Gaston County Parks & Recreation has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 3:30 p.m. at the Citizens Resource Center in Dallas to assign fields and dates for softball tournaments at George Poston and Dallas Park for the year 2003.

Persons attending should use the front entrance and go to Meeting Room A. All time slots for tournaments in 2003 will be assigned at the meeting.

Those who do not have a representative at the meeting will not receive a field for a tournament next year.

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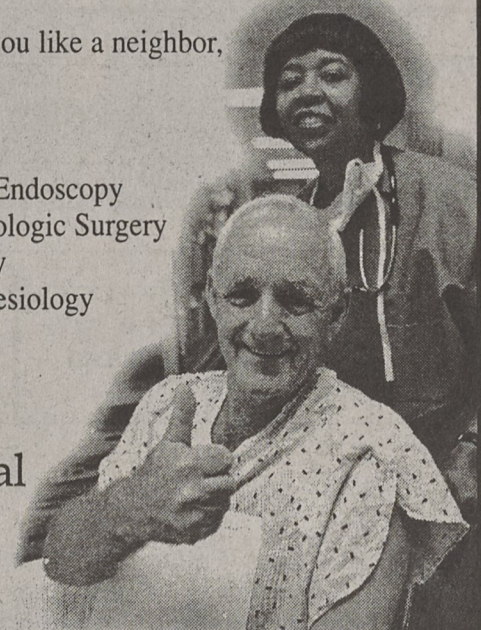
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