

Mounties win three straight to get back in SWFH race

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers posted three big victories during the past week to grab second place in the Southwestern Foothills Conference.

The Mountaineers are scheduled to end their regular season during the next seven days. They travel to St. Stephens Friday, host Hickory Tuesday, and play at Fred T. Foard in a makeup game next Wednesday. The three games are must-win situations for the Mountaineers as they chase Burns for first place. The Bulldogs are currently 8-1 in the SWFH and KM is 7-2.

Kings Mountain started its rise toward the top last Wednesday night in Hickory with a 53-50 overtime win over the Red Tornadoes. DaShawn Young's 3-pointer at the buzzer was the winning bucket.

On Friday, the Mountaineers defeated Crest 78-66, and on Tuesday night they edged R-S Central 68-60.

The Mountaineers' game went in and out of focus during the stretch, according to Coach Danny McDowell. The Mounties played one of their better games against

Hickory a night after stunning first place Burns, but they played their worst game of the year against last place R-S Central.

"The Hickory and Burns games were games we had to win," he said. "We had great practices and the kids responded real well. They knew they had to win those. If we lose either one of those our season's over."

Derrick Smith, who led the Mounties with 17 points, scored with 13 seconds left in regulation to force the overtime at Hickory. Young's 3-pointer just 10 seconds earlier cut the Hickory lead to two. Kings Mountain fouled Cole Kenworthy on the inbounds pass, and he missed the free throw to put KM in position to tie the game.

Balanced scoring and inside power led the Mountaineers to victory Friday against Crest. Smith led the way with 18 points, followed by Tae Tae Roebuck with 16, Dominique Odems 14 and Young 12.

Kings Mountain led by only 36-34 at halftime, but took command by outscoring the Chargers 24-12 in the

third period.

A determined R-S Central team gave the Mounties all they could handle Tuesday night in Rutherfordton. KM grabbed an early 15-9 lead but R-S battled back to cut the margin to 36-33 at the half and 49-48 going into the fourth quarter.

D.J. Byrd came off the bench and scored 15 of his 17 points in the second half as the Mountaineers fought off the Hilltoppers' upset bid. Derrick Smith also scored 17 for the Mounties.

"We were fortunate to win," said McDowell. "They were at home and were embarrassed by us the last time we played and they weren't about to let that happen again. The coaches knew going in it was going to be a dogfight, but kids sometimes don't believe it until they get there. It's nothing they did. We just shot poorly from the field."

The team will have to regain its focus during the final three games, McDowell said, or they could find themselves out of the state playoffs.

"These three games will determine whether we play again or stay at home,"

McDowell said. "We're playing all the teams we have to beat for a playoff spot. We have five teams battling for four spots, and all of us are playing each other. That's the way it should be. You shouldn't have to depend on someone else to get you there. If you can't beat them you shouldn't be in the playoffs. Nobody should give you anything."

KM 68, RS 60

KM - D. Smith 17, Byrd 17, Roebuck 8, Young 8, Odems 6, Lipscomb 4, C. Smith 1, Houze 2, Walker 2.

RS - Quarles 28, Eppley 8, Harrill 8, Lytle 7, Shook 5, Foster 2, Littlejohn 2.

KM 78, CREST 66

KM - D. Smith 18, Roebuck 16, Odems 14, Young 12, Walker 5, Byrd 5, Houze 4, Lipscomb 2, C. Smith 2.

Crest - Lee 29, Toms 15, Proctor 13, Strong 5, Smith 2, Roberts 2.

KM 53, HICKORY 50

KM - D. Smith 15, Young 11, Byrd 8, C. Smith 7, Roebuck 4, Houze 4, Odems 2, Lipscomb 2.

Hickory - Baker 22, Kenworthy 10, Johnson 6, Beck 5, Geter 4, Martin 3.

Cole breaks basketball scoring mark

Kings Mountain High's Shonda Cole reached another milestone in Friday's 46-31 win over Crest at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium. Cole scored 12 points to break Tameeka Anderson's career scoring record of 1,235.

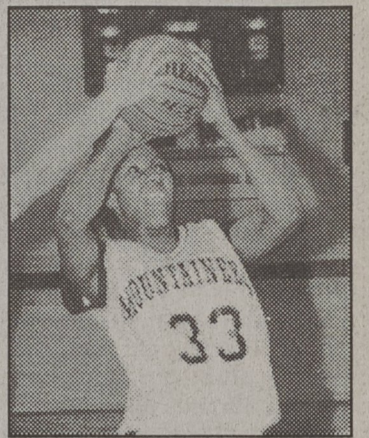
The 6-1 senior sensation also recorded her first triple double of the season with 10 assists and 12 rebounds.

Her 12-point total gave her 1,236 points going into Tuesday night's game at R-S Central, where she scored 14 points to lead the Lady Mounties to a 41-27 win.

The latest two wins improved KM's record to 6-3 in the Southwestern Foothills and 11-8 overall. The Lady Mounties are tied for third place in the conference and are in the running for a state playoff berth.

"I am proud of the way the girls came out with more intensity and enthusiasm than they did on Wednesday night against Hickory," Coach Kevin Moss said after the Crest win. "Defensively we held them to just seven field goals but we sent them to the free throw line 25 times. Candace Springs (16 points) and Danielle Gill (12 points) played well and benefitted from the double teams on Shonda Cole.

"I am very happy for Shonda," Moss said of the school record. "This could not have happened to a more deserving player and person. She would be a good model for younger kids to look up to. Not only is she one of the best female athletes to come through Kings Mountain, but she excels in the classroom as well. She is the model student-athlete



SHONDA COLE

that every coach and principal enjoy having in their school."

Springs scored 15 points to lead the Mounties to victory at R-S Tuesday. KM grabbed a 16-3 first quarter lead and closed out the game by outscoring the Lady Hilltoppers 9-4 in the fourth quarter.

Against Hickory last Wednesday, KM got off to a slow start and never recovered as the unbeaten Hickory ladies stormed to a 45-26 win. Only three players scored from KM, with Cole hitting 13.

HICKORY 45, KM 26
Hickory - Lawrence 6, Huffman 19, Williams 5, Hoyle 7, Ghitea 2, Jarrett 2, Shufford 2, Shuford 2.
KM - Cole 13, Gill 9, Springs 4.

KM 46, CREST 31
KM - Gill 12, Jarvis 2, Springs 16, Cole 12, Dee 4.
Crest - Charles 6, Pettguy 17, Maddox 2, S. Petty 3, Francis 3.

KM 41, RS 27
KM - Petty 1, Gill 6, Springs 15, Cole 14, Lappe 2, Dee 3.
RS - Ross 1, Henry 11, Wilkerson 13, Flack 2.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Deadwood moves into tie for first

Deadwood defeated Lucky Ducks 6-2 Tuesday night at Dilling Heating to move into a tie for first place in the mixed duckpin bowling league race.

Previous leader M.R. Ducks lost 6-2 to the Pushovers, leaving the Ducks and Deadwood with

30-18 records. Lucky Ducks and Pushovers are knotted at 18-30.

Russ Armstrong's 124 line and 345 set led Deadwood over Lucky Ducks. Ed Philbeck led the Ducks with a 116-310.

Mark Midgette's 140 line and 375 set led Pushovers over M.R. Ducks. Greg Evans led M.R. Ducks with a 154 line and 390 set.

Pinseekers make move in duckpins

The Pinseekers inched a little closer to the top in mixed duckpin bowling league action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

The Pinseekers (18-6) swept the Old Timers (8-16) to move within two games of first place Barrett's Bombers (20-4), who defeat-

ed Ducks R Us (10-14) 6-2.

Bud Kelly rolled a 136 line and 348 set for the Pinseekers. Zeke Rybczyk had a 122-327. Allen Myers had a 146-352 and John Dilling a 124-333 for the Old Timers.

Tommy Barrett rolled a 124 line and 339 set to lead his Bombers over Ducks R Us.

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