



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Infielder Elan Philbeck is one of only a handful of returning players on this year's Legion team. Post 155 opens its season Saturday night at Steel Creek and plays its first home game Monday at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Legion baseball opens Saturday

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors will open their Area IV season Saturday at Steel Creek and will host the Gaston Braves in their first home game Monday at 7 p.m. at Lancaster Field.

Second-year head coach Drew Pearson of Shelby has a young squad that draws primarily from Kings Mountain High School.

"We have a few players back from last year, but from looking at legion age they're still pretty young," Pearson said. "If you'd take three players off our team we could be playing junior league baseball."

Kings Mountain does return its leading hitter from a year ago, catcher-third baseman Matt Echols. Echols also led the KMHS team in hitting this spring.

Brad Moffitt, who played JV ball at KMHS this spring, will handle the catching duties when Echols is at third base.

The team's most experienced player is infielder Elan Philbeck. He will be graduating high school Friday night but still has two years of legion eligibility remaining.

Philbeck played second

LEGION SCHEDULE

MAY
24 - at Steel Creek
26 - Gaston Braves
30 - Huntersville
31 - Pineville

JUNE
1 - Charlotte
3 - at Monroe
7 - Steel Creek
8 - at Gaston Braves
11 - at Gastonia
13 - Denver
15 - at Huntersville
16 - at Charlotte
17 - at Pineville
18 - Monroe
20 - at Denver
22 - Gastonia

*All games 7 p.m.

base for the Mountaineers this spring but will see some duty at shortstop on the legion team, along with Ronnie Wilson who was a part-time starter for the Mountaineers.

Brandon Bridges is another returning player from last year, and he'll probably see time in both left and center field. "He has the speed to cover that area," said Pearson. "We hope he will start making contact. You won't find a better kid that

comes out there with a good attitude and hustles all the time."

Tyler Leach, a sophomore member of this year's KMHS pitching staff, will probably be the ace of the mound crew.

Allen White of Shelby, who played for Post 155 last year, will see a lot of action on the mound and in the infield. He is also a good hitter.

One of the more promising newcomers is Derrick Smith, KMHS football and basketball star who played baseball in the youth leagues in Kings Mountain.

"Derrick hasn't played baseball the last couple of years, but everything I know about Derrick he's a hustler and has a lot of speed," Pearson said.

Josh Melton, who didn't play legion ball last year but hit over .300 for the Mountaineers this spring, is another newcomer with a lot of promise. He'll likely be in right field.

Kings Mountain has already lost one of its main returning players to injury. Caleb Williams played the outfield for Post 155 last year but recently injured his right shoulder and will be

out for the season.

Many of the graduating seniors on the KMHS baseball team are not playing legion ball. Some are playing AAU ball.

"You lose some good kids like that," Pearson said, "and that hurts a program as small as we are. We don't draw from anybody hardly at all, and we need all the help we can get."

"To be successful you have to have very good baseball players," he added. "I don't care how good you coach; if you don't have good talent you're not going to be successful."

"But we're happy with the kids that came out. If they come out and work like they did last year, at the end of the season we'll be well pleased with them."

Bobby Mode, who has 30 years experience in coaching, will be Pearson's assistant.

"We're looking forward to getting started," Pearson said. "We're mainly providing a baseball team for the kids. I think they should be proud and very grateful that Post 155 is giving them an opportunity to play baseball. A lot of kids don't get that opportunity."

KM women lose in tournament

Kings Mountain High's women's softball team ended its season Wednesday with a 2-0 loss to first place St. Stephens in the semifinal of the Southwestern Foothills 3A tournament at Fred T. Foard.

Kristyn Funderburke went the distance for the Lady

Mountaineers, scattering seven hits and walking two.

Kings Mountain collected only three hits - one each by Funderburke, Brittney Thornburg and Amber Milwood.

Kings Mountain finished with a 6-6 conference and 13-12 overall record.

Tuscola trips KM in soccer playoffs

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team saw one of its most successful seasons come to an abrupt end Saturday night at John Gamble Stadium.

The Lady Mountaineers, winners of the Southwestern Foothills 3A Conference for the second year in a row, fell to a strong Waynesville Tuscola team 2-1 in the second round of the State 3A playoffs.

Tuscola, which finished second in the Mountain Athletic Conference, improved its record to 21-3 and advanced to a third round match against Asheville.

Kings Mountain, which had drawn a first round bye, completed its season with a 21-3 record.

Tuscola, which was playing without the services of its leading scorer, Lauren Ross, who suffered a torn tendon in her knee during

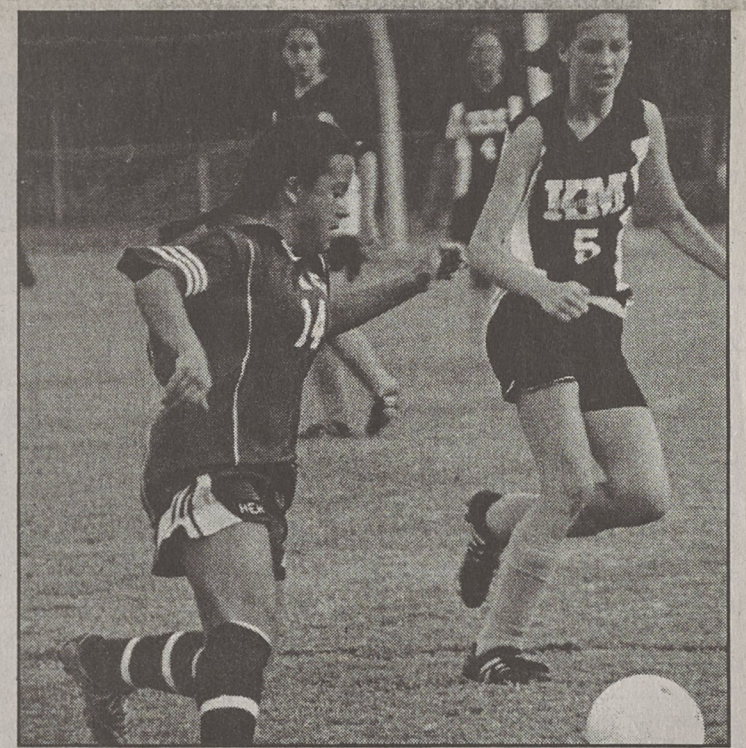
Tuscola's 1-0 first round win over Gastonia Forestview, gave a great defensive effort to hold down the potent KM offense. Kings Mountain outshot the visiting Mountaineers 15-10.

The game was scoreless for most of the first half, which was played in a misty rain which made the field slippery.

But in the final two minutes of the half the action heated up.

With about a minute to go Tuscola goalie Liner blocked a scoring attempt from eight yards out by KM's Blair Heffner, and 20 seconds later Hannah Minick scored on a breakaway from the left side to give Tuscola a 1-0 half-time edge.

Kings Mountain battled back to tie the game at 1-1, but Tuscola's Rebecca Smith scored on a direct free kick with 10 minutes left for the victory.



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Susie Potter (5) defends for Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team. The Lady Mountaineers were upset by Waynesville Tuscola in the second round of the State 3A playoffs Saturday night at Gamble Stadium. Kings Mountain ended its season with a 21-3 record.

Gifts For The Grad, Bride and Dad

Cuff Bracelets
These beautiful 1" cuff bracelets offered in precious pewter will make a stunning addition to any attire. Monogrammed or not the cuff bracelet is the perfect gift for that special person.
Monogrammed and Gift Wrapped FREE
Sale \$12.95

1 Carat 3-Diamond Pendant
\$1195
.06 Carat.....\$99
1/4 Carat.....\$199
1/2 Carat.....\$450
14K Gold Setting & Chain

10K Gold Bracelet
From \$59.95

1 Carat 3-Diamond Ring
\$995
1/4 Carat.....\$199
1/2 Carat.....\$595
14K Gold Setting

10K Gold Signature Ring
\$99.95

Cultured Pearls with Diamonds
Pendant 14K \$69.00
Earrings \$69.00

Diamond Set
14K 1/2 Carat tdw*
Sale \$699

Chrome
... \$21.00
Gold also available.
From \$21.00

Diamond Solitaires
Round Princess
1/10 Carat.....\$139
1/4 Carat.....\$399
1/2 Carat.....\$999
3/4 Carat.....\$1,499
1 Carat.....\$2,999
Available in Yellow or White Gold

For Dad
10k Gold With Diamonds
Reg. \$119
Sale \$89

A GIFT THAT SUITS GRADUATES JUST FINE

ARNOLD'S Jewelry
226 S. Washington St. Shelby
Plenty of Free Parking beside the store
All major credit cards accepted or open an Arnold's Charge
487-4521

Pride Scooters®

Memorial Day Special!

The ideal mobility choice for travel!

- Compact & transportable scooter
- Superb portability
- Maximum speed of up to 4 mph
- Weight capacity of 250 lbs.
- Low, low price

The Go-Go comes in a choice of three colors: Red, Blue or Black.

Cost: \$999.00

THE WHEELCHAIR MAN, Inc.
Putting you on the move.
P.O. Box 742 • Stanley, NC 28163
704-263-4434

Tie in Captain's Choice at KM Country Club

Two teams tied for first place with scores of 8-under-par 28 in the Friday Mixed Captain's Choice Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

They were Ronnie Murphy, Lynn Murphy, Jerry Broadwell and Harriet Broadwell; and Gary Howze, Pam Howze, Kenny Walker and Jean Walker.

The {Guarantee Plus}™
from Midland National

- Get Guaranteed Rates with the Power of Tax Deferral
- Systematic Interest Withdrawals Available After 30 Days*

Guaranteed Rates!!

Check this out!

Guaranteed Period	5 Year	6 Year	7 Year	8 Year	10 Year
Interest Rate	3.50%	3.90%	4.25%	4.50%	4.90%

*The Guarantee Plus Annuity is issued on Form Series AG214 and may not be available in all states. Interest rates based on current rates and are subject to change. *Annuity after 30 days by current company practice. Withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to IRS penalties.

To find out more about the Guarantee Plus,™ contact: Keith Bradley, LUTCF, Bradley Insurance Services, 219 S. Battleground Ave., Suite 5, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, 704-739-4182 - (fax) 704-739-7919