



Kings Mountain Middle School football coach Monty Deaton, left, watches his offense go through practice drills Monday afternoon.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Philbeck to second base for Wilkes

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Elan Philbeck has signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro.

Philbeck was a three-year starter at second base for the Mountaineers and will play the same position at Wilkes for Coach Cam Huestess. He plans to play at Wilkes for two seasons and then transfer to a four-year college.

Philbeck was one of the most consistent players for the Mountaineers the past four years at KMHS under coaches Tony Leigh and Stephen Fisher. During his freshman season he started at shortstop while Matt Bridges was completing the wrestling season. After Bridges joined the team, Philbeck saw action on the varsity and JV team.

He hit .293 last season and hit .343 for Kings Mountain's American Legion team.

His junior season, Philbeck was a member of the KMHS team that won the Team Scholar Athlete Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for having the best grade point average of any 3A school in the state.

This past season, Philbeck won the NCHSAA Scholar Athlete Award as an individual.

He will be leaving for Wilkes on August 18, and said he looks forward to joining the team. Wilkes will play a 16-game fall schedule. During the regular season next spring they will play against teams such as Louisburg, Rockingham Community College, Spartanburg Methodist and Lenoir-Rhyne.

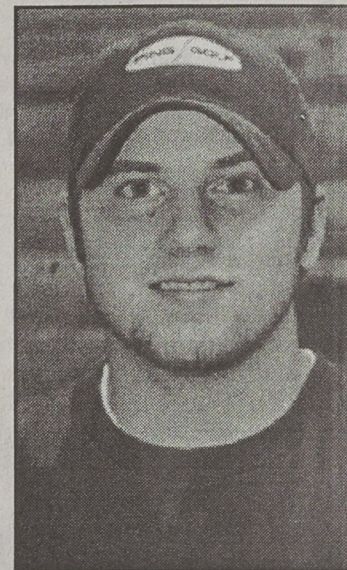
Philbeck said he chose Wilkes because of its academics and baseball.

"Most of the other places I visited were just talking about baseball," he said, "but up there they took me around the school and were really nice. I feel like I can do pretty good up there."

After he signed with Wilkes, Philbeck said he received an offer from Limestone College, a four-year school in Gaffney, SC. He said after two years at Wilkes he may transfer to either Limestone or Appalachian State. His career goal is to be a teacher and coach.

Looking back on his high school career, Philbeck said he was pleased with his personal achievements.

"But I wish we could have won a few more games, especially last year," he said. "We had a lot of seniors and really expected to win a lot more than we did."



ELAN PHILBECK

KM spikers hope to battle for State 3A playoff berth

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

With two-time North Carolina Player of the Year Shonda Cole gone, Kings Mountain High's volleyball team will have to depend on a quicker, more balanced attack as it enters the 2003 season.

Third-year coach Suzanne Grayson's Lady Mountaineers were scheduled to open their season yesterday with a non-conference match with East Gaston. They host East Rutherford next Tuesday.

The Mountaineers have compiled a 47-7 record over the past two seasons, with six of those losses coming at the hands of state power Fred T. Foard, and the seventh against an East Chapel Hill team which has been the Eastern 3A champion the past two seasons.

Posting a third straight 20-win season will be difficult, as will qualifying for the State Tournament because only two teams from the Southwestern Foothills 3A will be going this year. But, if hard work is any indication of success, count on the Mountaineers being there.

"The kids have worked really hard," says Grayson, who coached the team to the State 3-A title in 2001. "They've been working out all summer. They went to camp and went to a pre-season tournament at the University of South Carolina. They're a great



BARIA ADAMS

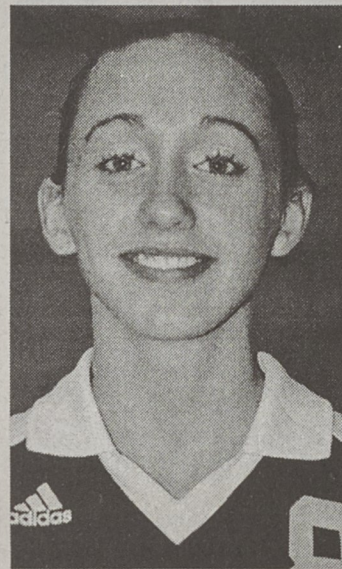
group of girls that work hard, but still have a lot of work to do."

Grayson has a good nucleus back from last year's team, but Mountaineer fans won't likely see the powerful front line attack that they've been accustomed to in the past.

Baria Adams, a middle blocker, will probably be the biggest obstacle up front for KM opponents. She's one of five returning seniors.

Ashton Teague is a good all-around player, as are Lauren Horne, Jackie Jarvis and Ashley McDaniel.

The key to the KM attack should be junior setter Blair Heffner. Junior Alex Dawson, an outside hitter, also returns along with Heather Lappe. But, at present, Lappe is injured.



BLAIR HEFFER

Three sophomores that moved up to the varsity late last season will be counted on heavily. They are Kala Buchanan, LaRonda McClain and Kristyn Funderburke. The 12th member of the team is freshman Brittany McClain.

"We're a lot younger this year," says Grayson. "We still don't have a starting lineup set so people are working to secure a starting position."

"I think we're quicker this year, and we're more evenly talented. We lost a lot last year. We're having to replace Pam Parker, Danielle Gill, Shonda Cole and Mollie Hamrick on the front row, as well as our setter Courtney Osteen."

The Mountaineers have gone through several scrimmages already, and will get

a big test of their talent level on Saturday, August 23 when they compete in the Best of the Best tournament at Davidson College.

"In our scrimmages we've had some bright spots," says Grayson. "We've had some strong defense and strong hitting, then some times when there were lapses in offense and defense."

Grayson expects tougher than usual competition in the SWFH, simply because the two playoff positions will be determined by the regular season standings. There won't be a conference tournament this year.

Fred T. Foard, the defending State champion, is the preseason favorite. Kings Mountain is likely to be in a tough battle for the second spot with R-S Central and St. Stephens.

"R-S lost only one player and they were very tough last year," Grayson said. "Foard is always a powerhouse. They have such a strong program. The girls that play there are used to hard work and used to having a great program, so I think they'll keep their tradition up."

Grayson will be assisted on the varsity this year by former KMHS standout Tami Welch. Cori Cunningham, who coached in Alaska and taught at Kings Mountain Middle School last year, moves to the high school as English teacher and JV coach.

Etters, Bridges win Member-Guest golf tournament at KM Country Club

Justin Etters and Chad Bridges shot a 68-66-134 Saturday and Sunday to win the annual Member-Guest Golf tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Eric Spicer and Thomas Monroe finished second with a 71-67-138.

John Gamble and Scott

Salzer won the first flight with a 74-68-142. Bruce McMillion and Jeff Cloninger finished second with a 74-72-146.

Daniel Honeycutt and Brent Bishop won the second flight with a 78-75-153. Terry and Brad Leonard were second with a 79-75-

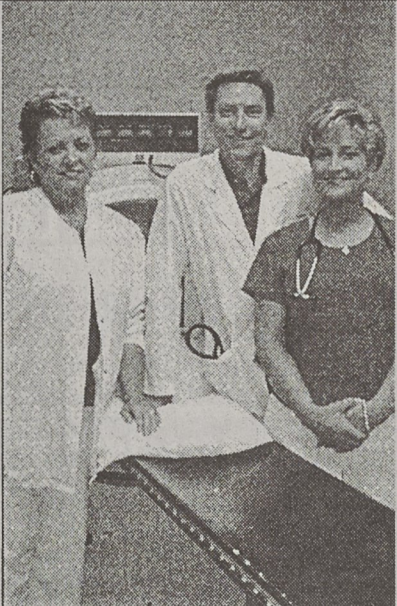
156. John McGinnis and Mike McHale shot a 81-76-157 to win the third flight. Curt Collins and Max Bowden were second with an 82-77-159.

Greg Robinson, Thomas Monroe and Daniel Honeycutt won Friday's

Skins Game.

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PREP SCHEDULE

Schedule for area high school football teams that will open their regular season Friday night:

- Cherryville at Bunker Hill
- Concord at NW Cabarrus
- Mitchell at McDowell
- Salisbury at East Rowan
- W. Caldwell at Watauga
- Forest Hills at Weddington
- Albemarle at West Montgomery
- Alexander Central at Davie County
- Anson County at Monroe
- Bandys at East Lincoln
- Jay Robinson at Central Cabarrus
- Parkwood at East Meck
- Salisbury at East Rowan
- A.L. Brown at S. Rowan
- Lake Norman at S. Iredell

- Highland Tech at Hibriten
- Lincolnton at Maiden
- Newton Conover at St. Stephens
- West Lincoln at Fred T. Foard
- North Gaston at Murphy
- N. Iredell at Mt. Airy
- Charlotte Christian at North Lincoln
- Olympic at Piedmont
- Statesville at W. Iredell
- Mt. Pleasant at S. Stanley
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