

Mounties in Big I tourney next week

Kings Mountain High's varsity basketball teams will compete in the Big I Holiday Tournament Monday and Tuesday at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte.

Both KM teams will play Independence in the opening round on Monday. The girls play at 5 p.m. and the boys at 6:30.

Other first round games have the West Meck and Olympic girls playing at 2 p.m., and the West Meck and Olympic boys playing at 3:30.

Consolation games will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. and 3:30. The championship games will be at 5 p.m. and 6:30.

Admission is \$5.

To get the East Mecklenburg High, take 74 East (Independence Blvd.). After you pass Independence Shopping Center, make a right on Conference Drive. Go to the next light, which is Monroe Road, and turn left. Almost immediately, turn right into the East Mecklenburg athletic parking lot. The gym is in the back.

Six Mounties All-Conference in volleyball

Co-champion Kings Mountain placed six players on the 2003 All-Southwestern Foothills

Conference volleyball team.

Kings Mountain's Suzanne Grayson was selected Conference Coach of the Year and Alex Dawson was named Player of the Year.

Dawson was joined on the first team by Blair Heffner, Lauren Horne, Jackie Jarvis, and Ashton Teague. Ashley McDaniel was named to the second team.

KMHS was also represented on other fall sports all-conference teams.

Kings Mountain's John Foster was named girls cross country coach of the year. KM ladies on the all-conference team were Karen Butler, Hayley Flynn, Susie Potter and Raquel Welsh.

Tyler Deaton was the only See Volleyball, 7A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain's Ta Tae Roebuck (45, top photo) and Karen Butler (23 bottom photo) make a drive toward the basket in Friday's Southwestern Foothills Conference openers with Fred T. Foard at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

Freedom tops Mountaineers in non-conference game 87-76

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers fell to 4A power Morganton Freedom 87-76 in non-conference basketball action Tuesday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

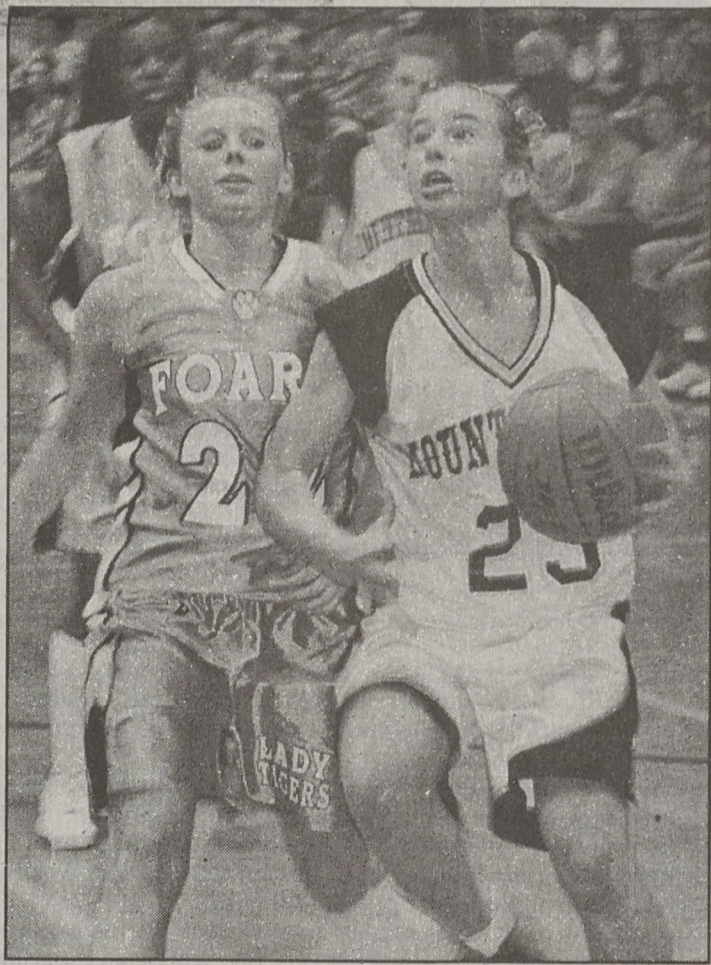
The fourth-ranked Patriots held the lead most of the game, but never could break it open. The Patriots led 16-14 at the first quarter break, 38-34 at halftime and 66-51 going into the fourth quarter.

Chris Moore led the Patriots with 28 points. Aaron Bolds added 19, Jerald Propst 15 and Stoney Polite 10.

Kings Mountain had its most balanced scoring of the season, placing five men in double figures. Gabe Blair and Antonio Feaster scored 14 points each and Derrick Smith, Ta Tae Roebuck and Dashawn Young added 10 each.

BOYS GAME

KM (76) - Blair 14, Feaster 14, Smith 10, Roebuck 10, Young 10, McClish 9, Byrd 7,



Lipscomb 2.

Freedom (87) - Moore 28,

Bolds 19, Propst 15, Polite 10, D. Johnson 9, Camp 4, S. Johnson 2.

Mounties edge Fred T. Foard in two overtimes

Kings Mountain High basketball coach Danny McDowell said the tough losses to some powerful 4A teams in non-conference play paid off for his Mountaineers in Friday's Southwestern Foothills Conference opener at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The Mountaineers, who went 3-7 in pre-season games, edged a strong Fred T. Foard 73-66 in double overtime.

"If we hadn't played those tough teams like Freedom and Myers Park and West Charlotte, we would have lost that game," McDowell said. "Our kids never lost their composure. They never got upset."

Fred T. Foard held the upper hand early, leading 17-16 after the first quarter and 30-24 at intermission. Kings Mountain came back to lead 43-41 going into the fourth quarter but a three-point goal by Foard's Chris Braums with two seconds left sent the game into overtime.

The first overtime was a case of missed opportunities by both teams, especially at the foul line.

But Kings Mountain stormed ahead early in the second overtime and outscored the Tigers 13-6 to win going away.

"We had a chance to win in the first overtime when we held for the last shot," McDowell noted. "We just missed it. But we knew going into that second overtime that we were going to win. You could see it in the kids' eyes."

McDowell credited Foard for having the Mountaineers well scouted. Their coach watched the Mountaineers, two-time defending SWFH champions, play two of their non-conference games.

"We knew they were going to be tough," McDowell said. "They were undefeated going in (6-0) and scouted us twice and knew exactly what we were going to do."

"They packed backed in that 2-3 zone and played it well. We had the shots, we just didn't knock them down."

Kings Mountain got outstanding games from guards Derrick Smith, Terry Lipscomb and Dashawn Young, who scored 20, 11 and 10 points, respectively, and inside players Gabe Blair and D.J. Byrd, who scored 15 and 11 points, respectively.

Blair had 12 rebounds, Byrd 10 and Lipscomb nine. "Lipscomb played his best all-around game," McDowell said. "He did

some things he's never done before. He almost got a double-double from the point guard position.

"He stayed up the entire game and several times said 'coach, they're not going to beat us.' That's the kind of effort we need. He really stepped his game up."

"The big guys (Byrd and Blair) have been consistent all year. They normally have a double-double every night."

Adam Peague led the Tigers with 21 points, and Braums added 20.

"We really should have won the game in regulation," McDowell said. "We just missed too many free throws. We shot 75 percent for the game but didn't hit them when we needed to."

Kings Mountain hit 39 percent from two-point range, but only 16 percent from three-point range.

"You're not going to beat good teams like that," McDowell said, "but our big guys played very well inside."

Although a double-overtime win is exciting for the fans, McDowell said the team took it in stride.

"The kids weren't that excited about it," McDowell said. "They didn't play as well as they could have. They know from top to bottom this conference is going to be tough. You can't take a night off because every night somebody's coming to get you. We tell them that you have to take care of the home court advantage and win one out of two on the road."

■ Kings Mountain's girls lost the opening game 67-24. The pressing Lady Tigers built a 14-0 lead before Kings Mountain could manage to get a shot at the basket. They increased the margin to 18-0 before the Lady Mountaineers finally scored. Foard went on to lead 22-2 at the first quarter break, 36-8 at halftime and 52-14 going into the fourth quarter.

Jamie Safrif led the Lady Tigers with 13 points and Candace Springs scored 16 for Kings Mountain.

GIRLS GAME

Foard (67) - Safrif 13, Durham 10, Powell 10, Mauser 9, Packer 9, Davenport 7, Harrison 5. KM (22) - Springs 16, Butler 6, Vinson 2.

BOYS GAME

Foard (66) - Peague 21, Dodd 5, Lutz 8, Braums 20, Gullett 5, Whitener 2, Williams 3, Stewart 2. KM (73) - Lipscomb 11, Young 10, Smith 20, Blair 15, McClish 1, Roebuck 5, Byrd 11.



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