

On a Roll

Lady Mounties remain unbeaten with mercy rule win over Hickory

Kings Mountain High's women's softball team remained atop the Southwestern Foothills 3A standings Friday with a 13-3, five-inning victory over Hickory at Lancaster Field.

It was the fourth straight conference win and ninth straight overall for the Lady Mountaineers, who are ranked fifth in the State 3A poll.

Sophomore Kristyn Funderburke went the distance for Suzanne Grayson's squad, scattering five hits and striking out two.

The Mountaineers grabbed a 7-0 lead after two innings. After Hickory scored three in the top of the fourth for their only runs, KM put the game away on the mercy rule with four runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth.

Funderburke helped her own cause by going 3-for-3 with two runs batted in.

LaRonda McClain also had a big day on offense. She went 3-for-4, including two doubles, two runs scored, two stolen bases and three runs batted in.

Broke Blackburn was 2-for-3 with four RBI, two runs and two stolen bases. Brittney

Thornburg and Casey Camp also had two hits.

Heather Hale, Laura Clark, Amber Milwood, Alicia Dodge and Jessica Yarbrow had one hit each.

For the year the Mountaineers have a team batting average of .427. Morgan Childers leads with a .600 mark, followed by McClain .528, Blackburn .516, Clark .500, Camp .424, Thornburg .419, Amber Milwood .412, Funderburke .400, Yarbrow .350 and Courtney Tate .333.

Childers heads the mound staff with a 6-0 record, and Funderburke is 3-0. Childers has given up only 13 hits in 37.1 innings of work. She has struck out 66 and has a 0.19 earned run average. Funderburke has given up 15 hits in 17.2 innings. She has 15 strikeouts and a 1.58 ERA.

Kings Mountain's home game with Burns on Tuesday evening was rained out and was to be played on Wednesday. The Mountaineers travel to Fred T. Foard Friday and St. Stephens next Tuesday. They return home on Wednesday for a 4:30 game with Cherryville.



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain first baseman Brittney Thornburg tags out Hickory's Brandi Goolsby, who was picked off first base on a throw from catcher Kala Buchanan.

SPORTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, April 1

4 p.m. - Middle school baseball, Shelby at Kings Mountain.

4 p.m. - High school track, R-S Central at Kings Mountain.

TBA - Middle School girls soccer, Kings Mountain at East Lincoln

West Lincoln.

5 p.m. - High School soccer, Kings Mountain at Fred T. Foard (JV/varsity).

TBA - High school golf, Southwestern Foothills teams at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Tuesday, April 6

TBA - High school golf, Kings Mountain and Hickory at Crest.

4 p.m. - High school track, Cleveland County meet at Shelby

4:30 p.m. - High school softball, Kings Mountain at St. Stephens.

4:30 p.m. - High School JV baseball, St. Stephens at Kings Mountain.

TBA - Middle school girls soccer, R-S Central at Kings Mountain.

7 p.m. - High school varsity baseball, Kings Mountain at St. Stephens.

Wednesday, April 7

1 p.m. - Tri-County Middle School golf tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club.

1 p.m. - Tri-County Middle School track meet at East Rutherford.

TBA - Middle school girls soccer, Kings Mountain at Shelby.

4 p.m. - High school tennis, Kings Mountain at R-S Central.

4:30 p.m. - High school softball, Cherryville at Kings Mountain.

5 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at St. Stephens (JV/varsity).

Friday, April 2

4:30 p.m. - High school softball, Kings Mountain at Fred T. Foard.

4:30 p.m. - High school JV baseball, Fred T. Foard at Kings Mountain.

5 p.m. - High school soccer, Charlotte Catholic at Kings Mountain (JV/varsity DH).

7 p.m. - High school varsity baseball, Kings Mountain at Fred T. Foard.

Monday, April 5

4 p.m. - Middle school baseball, Kings Mountain at



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain's Jennifer Lingg (1) races Hickory's Carrie Williams for control of the ball in Monday's soccer game at John Gamble Stadium.

Hickory, KM tie in overtime

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team won two big games during the past week but saw conference rival Hickory score in the closing minute of overtime to tie the Mountaineers 3-3 Monday night at Gamble Stadium.

The result left the Lady Mountaineers with a 2-1-1 conference record and 10-1-1 overall mark and in third place in the Southwestern Foothills 3A. Hickory leads with a 3-0-1 conference and 10-0-2 overall mark, followed by St. Stephens at 3-1-1.

The Mountaineers, who were scheduled to play Burns last night, will host defending State 2A champion Charlotte Catholic Friday night. JV action begins at 5 p.m. and the varsity game will begin at 7. The Mounties travel to Fred T. Foard Monday and St. Stephens Wednesday in what could be one of the most important games of the season.

Jenny Betzwieser's goal with a minute left in overtime gave Hickory the tie Monday night. Kings Mountain had scored two second half goals to force overtime.

Although Kings Mountain dominated play and scoring chances in the first half, it was Hickory that got on the board after a deflection allowed Carrie See Tie, 8A



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain (light jerseys) and Hickory players battle for control of ball in JV soccer match Monday at John Gamble Stadium. Hickory won 3-0.



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