

SPORTS

# Crest comeback knocks KM out of first

Crest pinch-runner Craig Johnson scored from second base on an infield hit in the top of the seventh inning to give the Chargers a 6-5 victory over Kings Mountain in a battle for first place in the Southwestern Foothills 3A Friday night at KM's Lancaster Field.

The victory improved the Chargers' record to 8-2 in the conference. Kings Mountain, which had been leading the league by one-half game, fell to 7-2.

Kings Mountain twice came from behind to carry a 5-3 lead into the sixth inning. But this time, the Mountaineers couldn't stage a comeback as Trey Glass's two-out single to center was the only thing the Mounties could manage in the bottom of the seventh.

Daniel Folk, who went the distance on the mound for the Chargers, got the winning rally started with a one-out single. Johnson went in to run for him and promptly stole second base.

After a strikeout, KM's Tyler Leach, who also went the route, hit Matt Clary to

put runners on first and second. Matt Gold hit a hard grounder to short which KM's Ryan Leach was able to dive to make the stop. But Johnson didn't hesitate at third and headed full-speed toward the plate. Leach leaped to his feet and made the throw to the plate, but Johnson hurdled KM catcher Matt Echols for the winning run.

A two-base throwing error by KM third baseman Ronnie Wilson to open the sixth inning sparked a two-run rally which saw the Chargers erase a 5-3 deficit and tie the game.

After the error, Gold singled to put runners on second and third, and O.J. McFarland hit a slicing triple to the right field corner to tie the score. Leach settled down to strike out Cory Lynn and Adam Hamrick to get out of the inning.

Kings Mountain had taken a 1-0 lead in the second inning when Glass walked and later scored when Ryan Leach reached base on an error.

Luke Dobbins' RBI single

and Matt Haynes' two-run home run put the Chargers on top 3-1 in the top of the third, but Kings Mountain answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 4-3 lead. Brandon Bridges walked, stole second and scored on a single by C.J. Austin and Austin later scored when Tyler Leach's hard shot down the third base line hit the bag and bounded into foul territory for a single. Echols' sacrifice fly to deep left field plated the go-ahead run.

Tyler Leach's home run over the left field fence with one out in the fifth increased the margin to 5-3. But the Mountaineers managed only three base runners off Polk after that.

Leach finished with a six-hitter and also led the KM hitting with 2-for-4. He walked two batters and struck out nine.

Polk finished with a seven-hitter. He walked three and struck out five. Gold had two hits for the Chargers.

The victory was the first



Kings Mountain's Trey Glass (23) slide safely into third on an infield out in Friday's game with Crest. GARY STEWART / HERALD

for Crest in three tries against the Mountaineers this year. In their first con-

ference meeting at Crest, the Mountaineers won 18-6 in five innings. KM defeated

the Chargers 10-4 in the recent Shelby Easter Tournament.

# KM kickers host R-S Friday in battle for first place

Kings Mountain High's women's soccer team took another important step toward the Southwest Foothills Conference title Monday night with a 5-2 win over a pesky Crest



WILSON

Friday's game has been the victory improved KM's record to 16-1-1 overall and 7-1-1 in the SWFH. The Lady Mountaineers, ranked #5 in the state 3A coaches poll, were scheduled to play Hickory on the road last night and will face R-S Central, the only team to beat them, Friday at 6 p.m. at KM's John Gamble Stadium.

designated as Youth Appreciation Night and all youth soccer players will be admitted free to see the Mountaineers try to "threepeat" as SWFH champions.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 2-0 first half lead against Crest Monday and was never headed. At the 22-minute mark, Blair Hefner scored off an assist from Jenni Wilson, and with six

minutes left Wilson scored off a perfect combination down the right flank from Hefner and Bennett Suber.

"The defense was very solid in the first half, but it took a while for the girls to get into the match with the intensity that we are use to," said KM Coach Dan Potter.

The Chargers' Amanda Peters broke through and split two defenders before

slotting the ball into the net to cut the KM lead to 2-1 early in the second half. But KM answered with a goal from Susie Potter, who drove a ball from outside the box that skipped by the Charger keeper.

With 18 minutes left in the match, Shaina Gold scored for Crest to cut the margin to 3-2. But, again, the Mountaineers answered

quickly as Hefner scored off an excellent pass from Wilson.

Vanessa Sidavong added icing to the cake with the final goal off another pass from Wilson.

"The most impressive element of this match was the impressive way the players immediately responded to goals scored by the Chargers," Potter noted.



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