

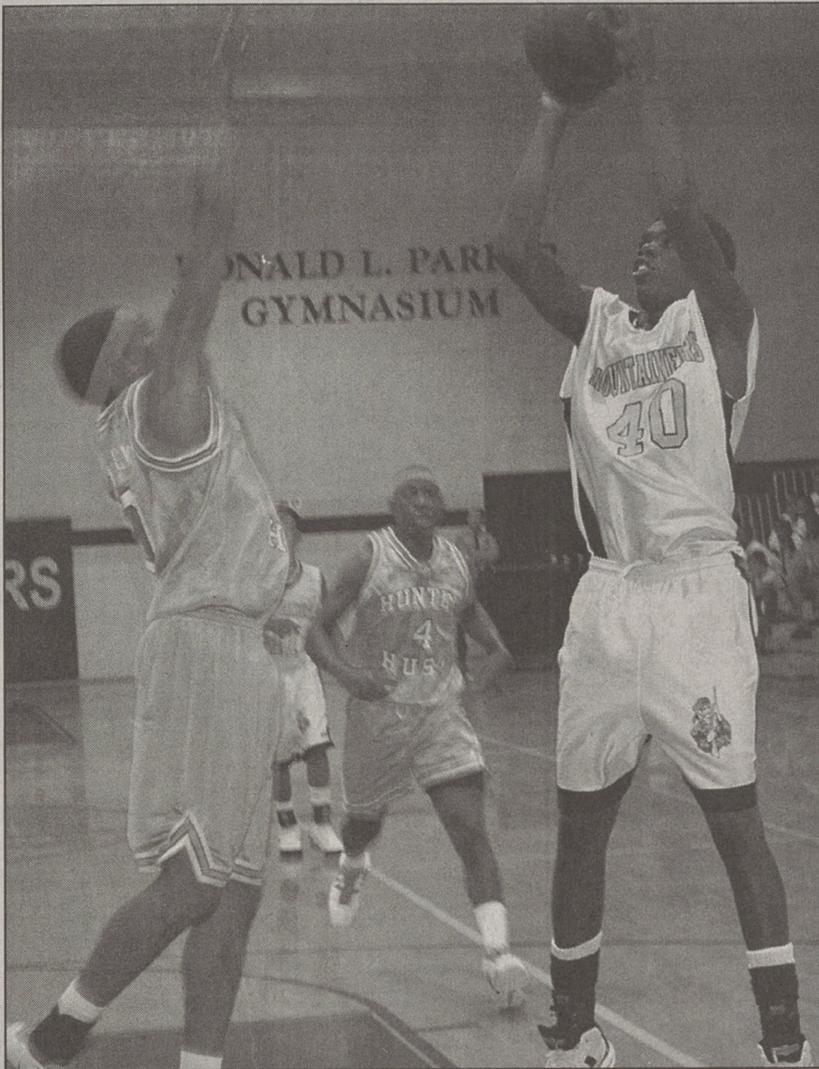
## KM swim teams open with wins

Kings Mountain High's swim teams swept a five-team meet last week at Shelby.

The KMHS boys won with 61 points, followed by Shelby 60, Chase 21, North Lincoln 18 and East Rutherford 10. The KMHS girls won with 71 points, followed by Shelby 62, North Lincoln 16, Chase 15 and East Rutherford 7.

Several Mountaineers compiled outstanding times, including Thomas Miller in the 50 free (29.03), Michael Sabetti in the 100 fly (1:08.63), Travis McDaniel in the 500 free (6:32.59), Joseph Maner in the 500 free (8:08.20), the 200 free relay (2:00.30), Thomas Miller in the 100 back (1:22.44), John Witherspoon in the 100 back (1:41.21), Michael Sabetti in the 100 breast (1:17.93), Kyle Murphy in the 100 breast (1:32.02), and the 400 free relay (5:08.16).

Top times for the KM girls included Lorrin Plyler in the 200 IM (2:50.70), Michelle Jones in the 50 free (32.87), Kelly Peeler in the 50 free (33.77), Kelly Flynn in the 50 free (34.17), Michelle Jones in the 100 fly (1:31.29), Kelly Flynn in the 100 fly (1:47.47), Ashlee Ramey in the 100 fly  
See Swim, 8A



Kings Mountain's Antonio Feaster goes up for a short jump shot in Monday's game with Hunter Huss at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium. Hunter Huss won 49-47.

## Mounties open with narrow loss to Shelby

After a slow start Kings Mountain's Mountaineers gave a veteran Shelby team all the basketball they could stand before falling 72-66 in the season opener Wednesday night at Shelby.

The Lions jumped out to an early 18-8 lead over the nervous young Mountaineers but Danny McDowell's crew, despite numerous turnovers and mistakes, battled back strong and actually had a chance to win at the end.

Kings Mountain played most of the game without the services of their only returning starter, forward D.J. Byrd, who picked up four early fouls and sat out the entire third quarter and most of the fourth.

From the early 18-8 deficit, KM battled back to trim the Shelby lead to 32-30 at halftime and tied the game at 49-all going into the fourth quarter.

The two teams were tied at 66-all with 22 seconds left, and KM had the ball. But the Mountaineers missed a shot, Shelby went downcourt and scored for a 68-66 lead and all of a sudden the Mountaineers were in a fouling situation. Shelby scored its last four points from the foul line.

"We dug ourselves such a big hole to overcome," McDowell said. "We were nervous and making a lot of mistakes, missing lay-ups and that sort of thing. And D.J. got into foul trouble and finished with only three points and four rebounds. But some of the younger kids picked up the slack."

Guard Brandon McClain, who just joined the team Monday after playing football for the Mountaineers, came off the bench to score 11 points. David McClish led the Mountaineers with 12 points, Heath Walker scored 10 and Antonio Feaster nine.

Kings Mountain out-rebounded the Lions, with McClish grabbing 14 and Feaster 10. Junior Brandon Smith and sophomore John Smith came off the bench to contribute six and five, respectively.

Poor free throw shooting also hurt the Mountaineers, and their inside shooters shot a very low percentage.

"Our big guys down inside just didn't do the job," McDowell said. "Those guys have to score in the paint. Our guards did a heck of a job getting them the ball but they just didn't score inside 15 feet. You expect them to knock those shots down. A lot of times

we'd miss, go back up and get the rebound and miss again."

Despite the loss, McDowell is optimistic that his team will step its game up.

"To stay as close as we did against Shelby was good," he said. "Those guys have been together all summer. After such a bad start we could've lost by 60. When I look at my roster we have eight new people that haven't played varsity basketball. It's going to be hard for them to compete night-in and night-out."

"But they didn't quit. We were down 18 and just kept playing. I tell them that basketball comes and goes in spurts. If the game's not over you just keep playing."

McDowell applauded the play of freshman point guard Xavier Whitenburg, who made some nice assists and scored seven points, and senior Darik Gary, who came off the bench and scored eight points and dished out five assists after playing football on Friday night.

"Darik, Feaster and McClain are not in basketball shape, but they came in and played the best they could under the circumstances," McDowell said.

"The kids held their heads up. They knew we had a chance to win that game. We didn't do some of the little things, but those things will come in time."

■ Kings Mountain's girls started the season with a tough 55-15 loss. Shelby grabbed a 16-4 lead after the first quarter and led 33-12 at intermission and 53-14 going into the fourth quarter.

Lauren Montgomery led the Shelby attack with 25 points and Lindsey Montgomery added 11. Angel Smith and Marsha Meeks scored five each for Kings Mountain.

### GIRLS GAME

KM (15) - Smith 5, Meeks 5, Pettis 2, McClain 2, Wilson 1.

Shelby (55) - Lauren Montgomery 25, Lindsey Montgomery 11, Jennings 8, Campbell 8, Hall 3.

### BOYS GAME

KM (66) - McClish 12, McClain 11, Walker 10, Feaster 9, Gary 8, Whitenburg 7, J. Smith 3, Byrd 3, B. Smith 3.

Shelby (72) - Sanders 17, Andrew Vincent 15, Gullatte 14, Moore 13, Price 8, London 4, McDowell 1.

## Mounties lose 49-47 to Huss

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers came up short for the second straight game Monday night in their home opener to Hunter Huss, 49-47.

The Mountaineers led on several occasions, but in the end couldn't get over the hump against a more experienced team.

Darik Gary led the KM scoring with 12 points and Antonio Feaster added 10.

"We just weren't tough enough down the stretch," said KM Coach Danny McDowell. "We don't have a leader out there. Someone has to step up and take control."

Kings Mountain got five rebounds each from David McClish and Antonio Feaster. Gary had five steals and McClish four. The Mounties hit 38 percent from 2-point range, 45 percent from 3-point range and 66 percent from the foul line.

Huss grabbed a quick 10-0 lead before the Mounties put their full-court press into gear and got back into the game.

See Huss, 8A

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