

SPORTS

Childers one-hits R-S, Mounties blank North

Kings Mountain's Morgan Childers flirted with another no-hitter Monday in a 5-0 win in a Southwestern Foothills Conference softball game at R-S Central.

The talented sophomore carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning, when she gave up a single to Casey Wright. Childers struck out nine and walked only one.

Early on, the game was a pitcher's duel between Childers and R-S Central's Rachel Stevens. Stevens held the Mountaineers scoreless through the first three innings, and also finished with nine strikes.

But the Mountaineers got their offense going, scoring single runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings and a pair in the top of the seventh.

Brittney Thornburg led the attack with 3-for-4, including a double and two runs batted in.

Casey Camp had a double, one RBI and one run; Courtney Tate was 1-for-3 with a run and two stolen bases; Kala Buchanan had a triple and scored a run; LaRonda McClain had an RBI single, and Childers was 1-for-4.

■ Kings Mountain shutout a strong North Lincoln team 3-0 in a non-conference game Wednesday at North Lincoln.

Kristyn Funderburke pitched the first four innings to get the win. She gave up only one hit and struck out five.

Morgan Childers pitched the final three innings, giving up one hit and fanning eight.

Funderburke led the KM hitting with 2-for-3 and one RBI.

Courtney Tate, Kristin Cogdill, LaRonda McClain and Childers had one hit apiece.



KM third baseman Haley Barrett fields a hot grounder

SPORTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, April 28
4:30 - High school JV baseball, Kings Mountain at Hickory.

7 p.m. - High school baseball, Hickory at Kings Mountain.

4:15 - Tri-County Conference championship baseball game, Kings Mountain at Crest.

Friday, April 29
6 p.m. - High school softball, Hickory at Kings Mountain (varsity only).

Monday, May 2
5 p.m. - High school soccer, Burns at Kings Mountain (JV/varsity DH).

Tuesday, May 3
4:30 - High school softball, Burns at Kings Mountain (JV/varsity DH).

4:30 - High school JV baseball, Kings Mountain at Burns.

7 p.m. - High school baseball, Burns at Kings Mountain.

Wednesday, May 4
5 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Fred T. Foard (JV/varsity DH).

SWFH 3A STANDINGS

Teams	Conf.	All
Crest	7-2	13-6
K. Mtn.	6-2	13-5
Burns	5-3	14-4
Hickory	5-3	13-5
RS Central	3-6	8-10
St. Stephens	3-6	7-9
F.T. Foard	1-8	3-13

Hope Christian to field football team

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain is now a two high school football town.

Hope Christian Academy, which is winding down its first year at the East Gold Street Wesleyan Church facility at the corner of East Gold St. and Oriental Avenue, will field a varsity football team next year.

Head Coach Jason Thomas expects to have around 25 players when the Thunderbolts play their first-ever game on August 19 at Northside in Charlotte. Their first home game is September 2 at 7:30 p.m. against Richard Winn of Columbia, S.C. Home games will be played on the Salvation Army Boys Club field in Gastonia, but Thomas hopes to find a field in Kings Mountain for their second season.

A meeting was held last Thursday to lay the groundwork for the first season. A number of fund-raising activities will be held in the near future to raise money for equipment and operating costs. A fish fry is slated for May 20 at Hope Christian. Plates are \$7.

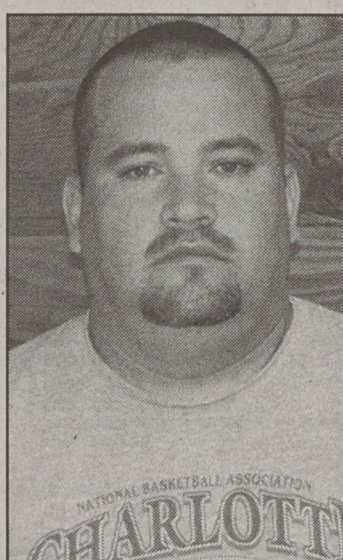
A June 11 7-on-7 passing jamboree at the Salvation Army Boys Club will feature a number of area public high school teams, including Kings Mountain, West Charlotte, Olympic, York, Forestview Hunter Huss, St.

Stephens and Northwest Cabarrus, and private schools Hope Christian and Highland Tech. All-day admission is \$8.

Thomas, who was defensive coordinator at Cherryville High School last year and is a former head coach at Bessemer City, Chavis and York-Chester middle schools, is excited about the initial season. The team will begin spring practice Saturday from 10 a.m.-12 noon at SABC, and will practice most Saturdays from now until the jamboree.

"We have some very strong athletes, very football-minded athletes," he says. "I really think that we've got some that can play college ball when they graduate. I think we're going to have a successful year. We'll have our ups and downs because of being a first-year program, but we're going to surprise some people."

The Thunderbolts' 11-game regular season schedule includes a number of private schools from North and South Carolina. They will also compete in a conference championship play-off on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, and in the NACA National Tournament in Bristol, TN November 8-11. Hope will be playing in a four-team conference with South Lake Christian of Huntersville, Southside



JASON THOMAS

Christian of Greenville, SC and Lockhart High School from Lockhart, SC.

In 2006, Thomas hopes to see the school join the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association.

Thomas has assembled what he thinks is a good coaching staff with public school playing and coaching experience.

Thomas played at Ashbrook High School and assisted Lanny Ford with the initial Highland Tech team.

Line coach Joey Davis, who lives in Kings Mountain, played at Hunter Huss and Gardner-Webb and is also a former assistant at Cherryville.

Bobby Yonker of Belmont will get his feet wet in the school coaching ranks, and Bruce Brown, who coached

with Thomas at Bessemer City but took last year off, is returning to coaching.

"It's a good coaching staff," Thomas says. "I'm proud of what we have. All of them know the game so the kids will be taught well and coached well."

Thomas said the school and community support thus far has been overwhelming.

"The school, the faculty, the parents and the kids are behind this big-time," he says. "This is a great thing for the school and community. We're not going to take over Kings Mountain football, never-ever, but if they're playing out of town we'd appreciate the fans supporting us."

Hope Christian's football team will consist of players in grades nine through 12. At this time there will not be

a JV team. Thirteen football players are already enrolled at Hope and Thomas expects a dozen more to enroll for fall classes. Some of the transfers coming in are key players at public schools.

The Thunderbolts will run out of the Power-I and shotgun patterned after the Crest offense. However, Thomas said, where the Chargers aren't known for running an option out of the shotgun, the Thunderbolts will run the option about 60 percent of the time.

Thomas' starting quarterback will be Tony Asbury, a 6-2, 175 pounder who runs a 4.5 forty. "He's a great athlete with a phenomenal arm," Thomas says. "He is a great kid."

When in the I formation, fullback Aaron Pope, a freshman, will be a key run-
See Hope, 5B

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