

SPORTS

KM wins SWFH tourney, hosts Franklin on Friday

Kings Mountain High's women's softball team added the Southwestern Foothills Conference tournament championship to its accomplishments, defeating second place R-S Central 3-0 in the championship game Friday at Crest.

Morgan Childers went the distance on the mound, hurling a one-hitter and striking out 13.

The Lady Mountaineers, 25-1 overall, scored a run in the third inning and put the game away with two more in the fifth.

LaRonda McClain led the KM offense with 3-for-3, including two runs scored and three stolen bases.

Brittney Thornburg went 1-for-3 and drove in all three of the KM runs. Casey Camp was 1-for-3 with a run

and stolen base.

The Mountaineers will open State 3A playoff action Friday at 7 p.m. at home against Franklin, the #3 seed from the Mountain Athletic Conference. Admission is \$4.

The winner will advance to a second round game that must be completed by May 24. The third round must be completed by May 27. The Eastern and Western Regionals and the State Championship series will be played June 3-6 at Walnut Creek Softball Complex in Raleigh.

As #1 seed and with the SWFH having seeding priority this year, the Mountaineers will play at home as long as they win, until the Regional and State series.

■ Kings Mountain shutout Crest 10-0 in a semifinal game Wednesday afternoon at Fred T. Foard.

Kristyn Funderburke hurled a three-hitter and struck out four to get the win.

The Lady Mountaineers scored two runs in the first inning, one in the third, and blew the game open with six in the fourth.

Funderburke, Kala Buchanan, Kristin Cogdill and Brittney Thornburg led the KM hitting with two hits each. Cogdill had three RBI and Thornburg had a triple.

LaRonda McClain and Courtney Tate each had a hit and two RBI. Casey Camp had a hit and scored two runs, and Jessica Yarbrow had a hit.

KMHS SOFTBALL STATISTICS

Batter	AB	R	H	RBI	AVG.
Haley Barrett	32	7	8	3	.250
Kala Buchanan	72	18	23	14	.319
Casey Camp	75	29	30	13	.400
M. Childers	75	17	26	20	.347
Kristen Cogdill	40	9	13	3	.325
K. Funderburke	73	11	27	21	.370
Lauren Gaffney	9	4	2	2	.222
Heather Hale	7	1	1	1	.143
LaR. McClain	77	28	29	19	.560
A. Milwood	12	9	3	2	.250
C. Tate	75	22	27	11	.360
B. Thornburg	82	25	32	24	.585
Laura Weigel	6	1	2	1	.333
Jessica Yarbrow	62	12	19	14	.306

DOUBLES - Barrett 4, Buchanan 10, Camp 6, Childers 6, Cogdill 3, Funderburke 9, Gaffney 1, Thornburg 8, Weigel 1, Yarbrow 4.

TRIPLES - Buchanan 2, Camp 1, Childers 1, Hale 1, McClain 1, Thornburg 1, Yarbrow 1.

HOME RUNS - Camp 1, Childers 2, Thornburg 2.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W-L
Barrett	3.2	4	1	1	1	1	0-0
Camp	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	0-0
Childers	95.2	22	5	4	11	202	15-0
F'burke	54.2	37	13	6	9	57	9-1

KM American Legion '05 baseball schedule

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| MAY | 15 - Gaston Braves |
| 26 - at Pineville | 20 - Charlotte |
| 30 - at Denver | 22 - at Gaston Braves |
| 31 - Denver | 24 - at Charlotte |
| | 25 - Pineville |
| JUNE | |
| 3 - Steele Creek | |
| 4 - at Steele Creek | |
| 5 - at Gastonia | |
| 7 - Gastonia | |
| 9 - Huntersville | |
| 10 - at Cherryville | |
| 13 - at Huntersville | |
| 14 - Cherryville | |
| JULY | |
| 2-6 - First round playoffs. | |
| 8-12 - Second round play-offs. | |
| 14-18 - Third round play-offs. | |
| 20-24 - Area IV Championship | |

KM's Shonda Cole chosen for Team USA in volleyball

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Shonda Cole hopes that being a member of the USA National volleyball team will be just a step toward her ultimate goal of competing in the Olympics and playing professional volleyball.

Cole was recently selected as one of 33 players to compete on the Junior Olympics team which will begin play May 28-June 4 in the USA Open Volleyball Championships in Denver, and continue through July 10 playing in several foreign countries including the Dominican Republic, China, Switzerland, Asia and Thailand.

Over 150 women tried out for the USA team in early March. Cole was the only player selected from the Carolinas.

Since May 8 the team has been training at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Competition at the tryouts



SHONDA COLE

was very intense, said Cole, a rising junior at the University of South Carolina where she led the team in kills with 379 and was named to the All-Southeastern Conference team.

"It was a very competitive two days," she said by phone from Colorado Springs. "After the second

day we pretty much knew who was going to make it but we weren't notified until the middle of March."

During tryouts, Cole said she met a "lot of girls," including some that she had played against in college and other outstanding players from all over the United States, including some who played on last year's U.S. Olympic team.

"This is just one step below the Olympics," she noted. She intends to try out for the 2008 U.S. Olympic team, and after graduation from USC hopes to play volleyball professionally overseas.

"Overseas volleyball is like basketball here in the United States," she said. "It's one of the big sports. They definitely put volleyball first. China has a really good team. They're very competitive."

Cole will be playing outside hitter for Team USA, the same position she plays at South Carolina. She hopes this summer's experience will strengthen her college

game. "As a team we didn't do as well last year as we thought we would," she said. "We went through a coaching change. We hope to fare much better this year."

Cole, a two-time State Player of the Year at Kings Mountain High School, said her individual game has greatly improved in her first two years at South Carolina.

"In high school, a lot of it is just hitting the ball hard," she said. "In high school I was a lot bigger than most of the girls I played against. In college they're just as big or bigger than I am. I'm improving at moving the ball around, working on my jump serve and defense."

Her goal for next year, she said, is to make first team All-SEC "and try to get my hitting percentage higher so I have a chance to be All-American."

Contact Gary Stewart at 704 739-7496 or email gstewart@kingsmountain-herald.com

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KMHS basketball coach resigns

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain High is searching for another head basketball coach after girls head coach Kevin Moss tendered his resignation.

Moss, who held the position for six years, said he wants to spend the summer with his newborn daughter, Mary-Quay Elizabeth Moss, and did not want to "cheat the returning players" by not being "totally committed" to the summer program.

"The summer is when a lot of the off-season workouts take place," he said. "That's the main reason. I want to take a break and spend time with my newborn baby."

The Lady Mountaineers are coming off back-to-back seasons in which they finished last place in the Southwestern Foothills Conference. All members of



KEVIN MOSS

last year's team will be eligible to return next season.

Moss's best year at KMHS was his second, when his team led by Shonda Cole, Danielle Gill, Anna Ramey and others finished 19-7 overall, second in the Southwestern Conference,

and made it to the second round of the State 3A playoffs.

"I enjoyed my time," he said. "Being a head coach at your high school alma mater is a dream. I played basketball, football and ran track there. I enjoyed being able to coach with coaches who coached me. Coach (David) Farquharson was one of my football coaches. Coach (Larry) Sipe was my basketball coach and I worked with him a little bit before he retired. I really enjoyed my time with them. Mr. (John) Yarbrow (KMHS principal) was always there for me, and Mr. (Henry) Gilmore (assistant principal) was always very helpful."

Moss will continue to coach the KMHS men's golf team, and doesn't rule out a return to coaching in other sports.

"I'm just taking a break now until about the first of the year," he said. "I want to

coach again. But for now I want to spend some time and enjoy the time with my little girl in these first few months. I don't want to take anything away from summer workouts. They need to get a coach in there that can spend time in the summer and get some skill development. I just won't have the commitment this summer to do that."

Moss is a 1991 graduate of KMHS and a 1996 graduate of Appalachian State University. He is completing his eighth year in teaching. He spent his first two years at KMHS and the last six at Davidson School.

KMHS athletic director Dave Farquharson said the school has already launched a search for Moss's replacement. The position is being advertised over the Cleveland County Schools and North Carolina High School Athletic Association websites.

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