

## SPORTS THIS WEEK

### Thursday, March 1

5 or 7 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain in tournament at Statesville High School.

### Friday, March 2

4:30 p.m. - High school baseball, Kings Mountain at South Point.

4:30 p.m. - JV baseball, South Point at KMHS.

5 or 7 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain in tournament at Statesville High School.

### Saturday, March 3

9 a.m.-4 p.m. - High school softball, Kings Mountain in multiple team scrimmage at North Davidson.

### Monday, March 5

4:30 p.m. - High school baseball, Kings Mountain at Crest.

4:30 p.m. - JV baseball, Crest at KMHS.

5 p.m. - High school soccer, KMHS JV team at Fred T. Foard.

5 or 7 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain in Gaston County tournament at Ashbrook.

### Wednesday, March 7

4:30 p.m. - JV baseball, Kings Mountain at Forestview.

5 or 7 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain in Gaston County tournament at Ashbrook.

# KM opens baseball season at South Point

GARY STEWART

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Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, who aren't being considered a serious threat by outside observers after losing their top two returning pitchers and five senior starters off last year's team, hope to surprise a lot of people in Southwestern 2A/3A Conference action this season.

East Rutherford and Shelby are the pre-season choices in the split conference; and, on paper at least, R-S Central and Burns also appear to be very talented.

But KM coach Eric King said early-season practices and scrimmages have gone great and it's evident his players have acquired a great deal of baseball knowledge in their past.

The Mountaineers open their regular season Friday at 4:30 at South Point. They travel to Crest next Monday at 4:30 and host Gastonia Forestview next Wednesday at 5:30 in an endowment game. Their first conference game is March 13 at 7 p.m. at Chase.

The Mountaineers have been practicing since February 12 and

last week participated in scrimmages against East Gaston, West Lincoln and South Point.

"The players have worked really hard," he says. "They're just a real coachable group. They take directions really good and they think while they're out there on the field."

The Mountaineers return five seniors and three underclassmen who started or played a lot last year and have a host of freshmen and sophomores up from the middle school and JV level.

Seniors include Tyler Cannon, Cole Moore, Daniel Humphries, Alan Breakfield and Adam Sellers. Junior pitcher-infielder Luke Proctor also returns, along with sophomore starters Brantley Blalock, an All-Conference catcher, and pitcher-infielder Jeffrey Howell. Blalock may also do some pitching this year.

Up from the JV team are Jon Michael Henson, Blake Glass, Justin Heinbach, Ricky Green, Alex McDaniel, Charlie Christenbury, Tyler Ross, Rai Robinson and Brent Hunt, and freshman Cody Austin joins the team after playing at the middle school last year.

See Baseball, 4A



Kings Mountain's Adam Sellers begins a head-first slide into third base on a passed ball in Friday's scrimmage with West Lincoln at KM's Lancaster Field. The Mounties open their regular season Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Belmont against South Point's Red Raiders.

GARY STEWART/HERALD



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