

## SPORTS

# Lady Mounties beat North Iredell in first round of state 3A playoffs

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Kings Mountain High's women's basketball team won its first state playoff game since 2001 Tuesday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium, defeating North Iredell 47-38.

Kings Mountain's last playoff victory came when Kevin Moss's Lady Mountaineers defeated East Rowan 52-50 in the opening round in 2001. They fell to Asheboro 55-49 in the second round.

The current Kings Mountain team was scheduled to host Franklin last night, with the winner advancing to the Sectional 4 championship game on Friday at a site to be determined by Wednesday night's winners. The Queen City Conference has seeding priority, and the SWC has second priority.

The Lady Mounties trailed only once - and the game was tied four times - in the early going but KM was able to build an 8-point (26-18) halftime lead. Scoring droughts at the beginning of the third and fourth quarters prevented the Mountaineers from putting the game away.

KM opened a 28-18 lead early in the third period but the Raiders narrowed the gap to 28-25 before Jordan Doty drove the lane and converted an old-fashioned 3-point play to put KM up 31-25 with 3:45 remaining.

Marshia Meeks' 3-pointer from the side with 2:30 left and Doty's steal and lay-up with 39 seconds left gave KM a 36-25 lead before North Iredell's Mandessa Singletary hit a free throw to make it 36-26 going into the fourth period.

Doty's basket at the 7:11 mark gave the Mounties their biggest lead of the game at 38-26. Kelisha Goodson scored moments later to make the score 40-30, but KM went on a 5-minute drought and North Iredell was able to cut the score to 40-38 with 1:58 left following a pair of free throws by Santana Morrison.

Kings Mountain threw the inbounds pass out of bounds, giving North Iredell a chance to tie the game or take the lead on



**Kings Mountain point guard Kelisha Goodson is trapped down low by North Iredell players in state 3A playoff game Tuesday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium. Kings Mountain won 47-38 for its first state playoff win since 2001.**

a 3-pointer, but Doty rebounded a missed shot and the Mounties got the ball downcourt to Meeks, who hit a short jumper to give KM a 42-38 lead with 1:37 remaining.

The Lady Mounties missed several free throws down the stretch, but were also able to hit five to seal the victory.

Doty finished with 18 points and eight rebounds, and Meeks

added 15 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Mounties. Goodson had six rebounds and six assists, and Tiara McClain grabbed nine rebounds.

Assistant coach Robbie Waldrop, who handled much of the coaching duties this week as his wife, head coach Kelli Waldrop, was battling the flu, credited the Lady Mounties with playing "an exceptional game.

"We had a game plan and stuck with it," he said. "They liked to drive the basket and we wanted to put pressure on them and make them drive and then have someone step up and take a charge.

"All night our players showed a lot of determination, something they've needed all year," he added. "They wanted to show people that Kings Mountain is for real."

## KM falls to East in SWC tournament

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team fell to SWC co-champion East Rutherford 48-36 in a hard-fought battle in the semifinals of the Southwestern 2A/3A Tournament Tuesday night at Shelby High.

The Lady Mountaineers played the talented Lady Cavaliers on even terms during the first half but saw their shooting touch leave in the third and fourth quarters.

The game was tied on several See SWC tourney, Page 10

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