

SPORTS

Kicking Mounties open defense of Gaston Cup

Kings Mountain opened defense of its Gaston County Cup championship Monday with an 11-0 victory over North Gaston at Martha Rivers Park in Gastonia.

Kings Mountain, attempting to win its sixth straight Cup, took only four minutes to score as Ramey Kerns found the net from 14 yards out.

Three minutes later, Ashley Witherspoon scored off a pass from Kerns. Alex Edwards scored two minutes later, again off a pass from Kerns.

At the 16-minute mark, Kerns scored again off a quick pass from Megan Loftin, and Loftin later set up a goal by Edwards.

The final first half goal was scored off a crossing pass from Brittany Rodden that was finished off by Loftin for a 6-0 lead.

"The girls were very unselfish in allowing many players to score their first goals of the season," said Coach Dan Potter.

The second half saw four other Mounties score their first goals. Kelli Bolt, Destiny Pittman, Sarah Mauney and Courtneigh Bumgardner found the goal. Bumgardner notched a second goal off a pass from Mallory Mansfield.

Heather Stevens recorded her first shutout at goal. The Wildcats did not get a shot off against the outstanding KM defense.

KM will play the winner of the South Point-East Gaston game Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Martha Rivers Park. The winner will advance to play the winner of the Ashbrook-Forestview match for the championship Saturday at 5 p.m. at Ashbrook.

■ In season-opening non-conference games last week, the Mounties tied Statesville 6-6 at Gamble Stadium and defeated Crest 8-1 at Crest.

Against Statesville, Edwards and Rodden scored for an early 2-0 lead. At the 15-minute mark Kerns scored to make it 3-0.

"We came out on fire," said Coach Potter, but "I made some substitutions that put us under immediate pressure."

Statesville scored the next three goals to tie the game, but KM came back to take a 5-3 halftime lead on a pair of goals by Kerns.

Kerns added another goal early in the second half to make the score 6-4. Statesville found the goal again with four minutes left and then tied the game with less than two minutes to play.

Potter substituted liberally, playing all 17 of his players so they could gain experience.

"That is the reason for playing difficult non-conference opponents," he said. "I really want to see the kids play under pressure and see what we need to work on. Games like this are really invaluable when we get deeper into our conference schedule."

At Crest Saturday, the Mounties again scored early and often. Edwards scored just two minutes into the match off a direct kick from Bolt, and Edwards assisted the next two goals by Rodden and Ashley Witherspoon for a 3-0 lead just 11 minutes into the match.

"Alex had an outstanding match as she would be involved with seven of the eight goals that we scored," said Potter.

Kerns set up Edwards for the final goal of the first half. The score remained 4-0 until Crest came out in the second half and cut the margin to 4-1.

From that point on, the Mounties dominated as Kerns scored three of the next four goals and Edward getting the other.

"I was very pleased with the defensive play," said Potter. "Mallory Mansfield, Kelli Bolt, Brooke Hayes and Connor Blalock really took my challenge to heart with their defensive effort."

KM-Forestview game rescheduled for April 2

Kings Mountain High's endowment game with Forestview last Wednesday was rescheduled because of cold weather.

The game will be played on Wednesday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, March 6

4 p.m. - Middle school baseball, Burns at KM.

4 p.m. - High school tennis, Ashbrook at KM.

7 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain vs. South Point at Martha Rivers Park.

Friday, March 7

4 p.m. - High school baseball,

KM at West Lincoln (JV/varsity doubleheader).

Saturday, March 8

TBA - High school softball, KM at Crest.

TBA - High school soccer, Kings Mountain in Gaston Cup tournament.

Tuesday, March 11

4 p.m. High school tennis, Lincolnton at KM.

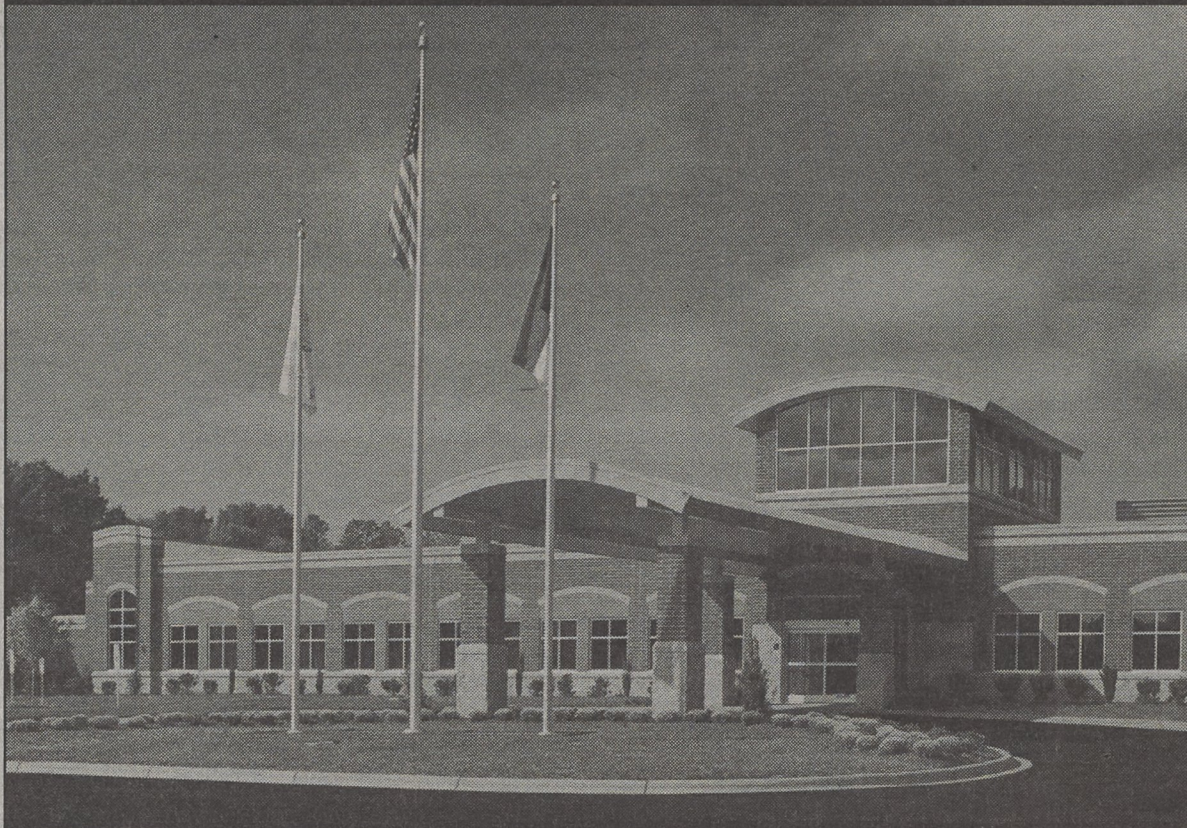
4:30 p.m. - High school JV baseball, Chase at KM.

7 p.m. - High school baseball, Chase at KM.

Wednesday, March 12

4 p.m. - Middle school track, Kings Mountain and East Rutherford at Burns.

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