

# Sports

## Sochacki new KMHS soccer coach

By GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

New Kings Mountain High women's soccer coach Lauren Sochacki is hitting the ground running.

The former Gardner-Webb University player was recently named successor to the Lady Mountaineers' long-time coach, Dan Potter, who retired after leading his 2009 team to the state 3A championship game.

Sochacki, who recently completed her first year of teaching first grade at East El-

ementary School, isn't wasting any time familiarizing herself with the KM program. She held a "meet and greet" with prospective 2010 players on Friday, July 10 at the school and had an open practice session last night. More practice sessions will be held next week, and after school begins the team will begin strength and conditioning workouts.

Sochacki, new varsity assistant Eli Wortman, and new head JV coach Brian Grant are all working with the team and hoping to take the Lady

Mountaineers back to the state championship game next year. Coaches are allowed to work with up to ten players at a time during the off-season.

"I'm real excited," Sochacki said of her appointment. "The players have a lot of talent and ability and could go very far next year. We hope to see them get back to the state championship game and win it."

Sochacki saw the Lady Mountaineers play a couple of times last season. She had planned to be a volunteer as-

sistant coach under Potter but had to have therapy on her leg, which she injured at GWU.

"Coach Potter has been very helpful," she said. "I don't plan any big changes. We had 21 players show up for the meet and greet and others have indicated that they plan to come out for fall workouts. We will do skill development in groups of ten. The workouts are optional. We understand some of the girls have a lot of things they have to do in the off-season."

Kings Mountain will re-

turn seven of its 11 starters and numerous reserves from last year's team, which won more games than any other team in the school's history. The Lady Mountaineers won their conference championship for the fourth year in a row, won their first-ever Western Regional crown and played in the state title game for the first time.

That experience should pay big dividends next season.

"We're all excited," Coach Sochacki said. "We all look forward to getting back to



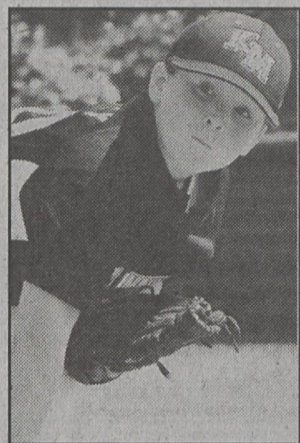
LAUREN SOCHACKI

where we did last year, and winning it this time."

## Bailey pitches perfect game

By Coach Paul Smith  
Special to The Herald

Bryson Bailey is a ten-year-old, fourth grade graduate of West Elementary School. He loves to play baseball and it shows in every game he plays. He has been playing Dixie Youth baseball since he was four years old. He is very versatile on the field playing most any position. He is most often seen playing first base, hind-catcher, or pitcher. But his favorite position is pitcher.



Bryson Bailey

I put Bryson on the pitcher's mound for the first time last spring when he was nine. We figured we would give it a shot because I needed a pitcher, he had a good arm, and he was willing to try anything. It turned out, he was a natural.

Bryson pitches side arm which is very rare and hardly seen in a 9-10 year old league.

Bryson played for me again this spring and our team won first place in the opening season tournament. On June 2nd of this year, Bryson pitched a no-hitter. It was a perfect game. He faced 18 batters, threw exactly 72 pitches and struck

out all 18 batters. Bryson is a very good sport and always talks and cheers on the other players on his team. He has always been a joy to coach because he loves being on the field and has a great attitude.

He always gives 100% and listens well to instruction. He is definitely a team player.

Bryson is the son of Scott and Missy Bailey, of Kings Mountain. He has a brother Colby Bailey, age 14. He is the grandson of Ed and Gail Herndon, of Kings Mountain, and Phil Bailey, of Belmont. He is the great-grandson of Gertrude Bailey, of Belmont.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the recent All-Star Tournament, the 9-10 year old All Stars received the 2009 NC Dixie Youth Baseball District 3 AAA Runner-up trophies. Players on the team are front row, left-right, Luke Rikard, Alec Bell. Second row, l-r, Matthew Huffstetler, Austin Cartee, John Harris, Alex Goff, Jonathan Rikard; third row, l-r, Daniel Bagwell, Bryson Bailey, Ray Sensing, Philip Barrett, Trevor Rhea; and back row, coaches Quinton Rikard and Brian Goff. Not pictured: Coach Trent Rhea.

## KMHS football mini-camp next week

By GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High School football coaches will hold their annual mini-camp July 28-30 at the KMHS practice field.

The camp begins at 6 p.m. each evening and is for varsity and JV players. The public is invited to watch from the bank.

Pre-season football practice be-

gins on Saturday, August 1 with the varsity taking the field at 7 a.m. and the JVs following at 9 a.m. The first six practice sessions will consist of conditioning drills. Heavy hitting will begin on the seventh day of practice.

The Mountaineers' first scrimmage will be at KMHS on August 12 at 7 p.m. against West Mecklenburg.

On August 14, the Mountaineers will compete in the Iron City Jamboree at Blacksburg High School.

Action will begin at 6:30. KM will face Broome, SC in the second game of the three-game event at approximately 7 p.m.

Kings Mountain's second annual Black/White game will be held August 18 at 7 p.m. at City Stadium. The Mountaineers will walk from the old Central School gym to City Stadium and fans are invited to line Gaston Street to welcome them into the stadium, which served as the team's home field until John Gam-

ble Stadium was occupied in 1967.

The Mountaineers will host the Cleveland County Jamboree August 21. Action begins at 6 p.m. with Crest taking on defending state 2A champion Newton-Conover. Burns takes on 3A state finalist East Lincoln at 7, Shelby plays Hickory at 8 and Kings Mountain hosts East Burke at 9.

The Mountaineers' season opener is Friday, August 28 at home against Kennedy Charter of Charlotte.

The Mountaineer coaching staff is in Greensboro this week for the annual North Carolina High School Coaches Clinic and all-star games.

The Mountaineers completed their summer schedule last Thursday in the all-day 7-on-7 passing tournament at Catawba College. Each team played eight games. The Mountaineers went 4-4 with wins over Northwestern, SC, North Forsyth, Providence and Northwest Cabarrus.

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Estate of : SHIRLEY HINSON  
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