

Sports

Late shot drops Mountaineers in first round of tournament

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Stephen Dixon's lay-in with 10 seconds left gave Ashbrook its first lead of the game and a 39-38 win over Kings Mountain in the opening round of the Cleveland County Classic Monday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The loss moved the Mountaineers into a loser's bracket game against county rival Crest yesterday. The final round is scheduled for today with games at 3, 4:30, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

The game was tied at 2, 4, and 6 early in the first period but Ashbrook never caught up again until the end.

Kings Mountain's 6-8 center Antonio Barnett brought the crowd to life with a thunderous dunk as the Mountaineers scored eight straight points to take a 14-6 lead after the first period.

The Mountaineers had trouble penetrating Ashbrook's tight zone defense all night, especially in the final three quarters, and they managed only a 20-14 lead at halftime.

Dixon's 3-point field goal brought the Green Wave to within 27-26 with 2:31 left in the third period but Jordan Huskey's short jumper left the Mountaineers on top at 29-26 heading into the final eight minutes.

Brian Brown, who led all scorers with 19 points despite having an off night shooting the ball, put KM up 31-26 early in the fourth quarter. Cameron Roseboro drilled a long jumper just inside the 3-point arc and Shawntrell Jordan added a free throw with 2:28 left to put the Mountaineers up 38-32.

However, that would be the Mountaineers' final point of the night. Ashbrook

got field goals from Zeek Bigger and Justin Byrd to cut the margin to 38-36 with 1:58 left, and Bigger added a free throw at the 1:20 mark to make the score 38-37 and set the stage for Dixon's winning bucket.

Following Dixon's basket, the Mountaineers hurried the ball down court but couldn't get a decent look at the basket and called time out with 3.1 seconds remaining. They failed to get the ball inbounds from the side and called time again. This time they managed to get a pass off to Roseboro at the top of the lane, but his jumper at the buzzer bounded off the rim.

The Mountaineers will host Ashbrook again next Tuesday in a Big South 3A Conference game.

The other nail-biter of the opening day came in the 4:30 contest when Shelby kept its unbeaten record intact with a tough 74-73 win over Berry Academy of Charlotte.

Berry apparently had scored the potential winning basket with 1.4 seconds left but Jaquitis Pinder's hook was disallowed as the officials said he had been tied up before the shot. The ball possession arrow was in Berry's favor and they got off a last-second shot which failed.

The win moved Shelby into a semi-final match last night against county rival Burns, which defeated Brisbane Academy 82-78 in the opening 3 p.m. contest.

Burns' backcourt duo of Brandon Littlejohn and Brandon Whitworth were impressive with 26 and 24 points, respectively.

Hunter Huss rolled over Crest 72-39 in the 6 p.m. contest, setting up a semifinal match with its cross town rival, Ashbrook. Crest never led against the tall and talented Huskies, who got 14 points from Jarvis Anderson and 11 from Jontavian Hall.



GARY STEWART/HERALD
Kings Mountain's Antonio Barnett dunks the basketball in Monday's game with Ashbrook in the Cleveland County Holiday Classic at the KMHS gym.

Mountaineers beat Crest 55-39

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers broke a two-game losing streak to defeat Crest 55-39 in a Big South 3A Conference game Tuesday night at Ed Peeler Gym in Boiling Springs.

The win gave the Mountaineers a 2-1 conference and 3-4 overall mark heading into this week's Cleveland County Classic at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium on the KMHS cam-

pus. Kings Mountain led most of the way but had to hit nine straight free throws in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

The Mountaineers led 8-5 after one quarter, 22-13 at halftime and 37-28 going into the fourth quarter.

Crest cut the margin to 37-31 early in the fourth quarter but couldn't get any closer.

Shawntrell Jordan led the Mountaineer offense with 14 points. Brian Brown added 13 points,

five rebounds and three assists. Cedric Thompson scored 10 points and Cameron Roseboro 9.

KM's 6-8 senior center Antonio Barnett had another good game inside, grabbing nine rebounds and blocking seven shots. Nick Byers had six rebounds and four steals.

Kings Mountain's girls dropped their second Big South game in three outings and their fourth overall in seven decisions, 73-56.

Crest dominated from the start, building a 15-9

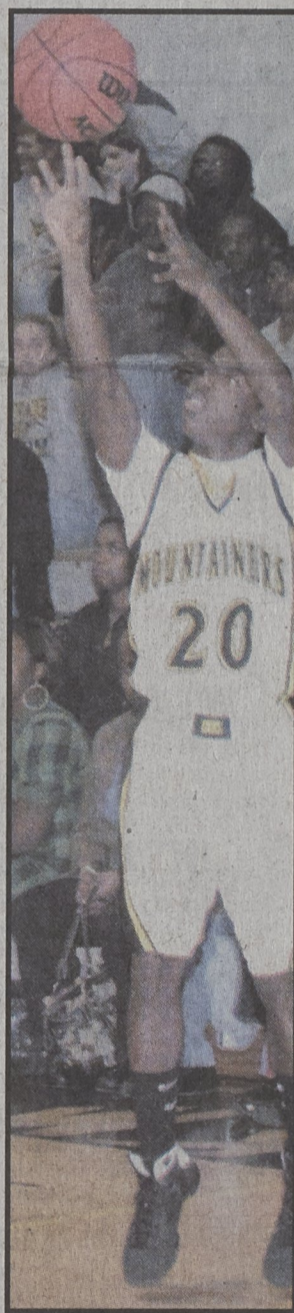
first quarter lead, 29-17 halftime advantage and 53-28 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain's Britnee Roberts had another outstanding night, scoring a game-high 24 points to go with seven rebounds and six steals. Myesha Black scored 10 points, and Caroline Chambers and Evan Bragg added eight apiece.

GIRLS GAME
KM (56) - Roberts 24, Black 10, Chambers 8, Bragg 8, McClain 2, Davis

2, Adams 2.
Crest (73) - McWhirter 17, Degree 15, Ross 14, Little 11, Tate 6, Early 4, Etheridge 2, Pruitt 2, Turner 2.

BOYS GAME
KM (55) - Brown 13, Jordan 14, Huskey 4, Barnett 3, Byers 2, Thompson 10, Roseboro 9.
Crest (39) - Byers 1, Wilkins 1, Ledbetter 3, Crosby 13, Clark 5, R. Brooks 8, C. Brooks 2, Bullard 6.



GARY STEWART/HERALD
Shawntrell Jordan scored 14 points to lead Kings Mountain to a 55-39 win over Crest in a Big South 3A game Tuesday night.

Mountaineers split in tri-match

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers lost to Crest 39-30 but bounced back to defeat Shelby 57-19 in a tri-match Tuesday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The Mountaineers closed out their pre-Christmas schedule with an 8-2 overall record and 0-1 mark in the Big South 3A. They return to action on January 5 at Forestview.

Crest, which won its first BSC match and seventh in 10 matches overall, defeated Shelby 59-21 to sweep the night's matches.

Crest picked up a forfeit in the 117-pound division for a quick 6-0 lead over the Mountaineers. KM's Matt Hord won by pin to tie the score, but Crest then won five matches in a row for a 30-6 lead.

Kings Mountain made a big comeback attempt as Josh Haraszkiwicz and Dustin Stone won decisions and John Robbs, Ariam Lopez and Jarris Williams won pins to tie the score. Lopez got the crowd fired up when he got two points on a reverse to tie the score at the end of regulation, then recorded a quick pin in overtime. Williams followed with a first period pin. But Crest rallied to win the final two matches.

The Kings Mountain-Shelby match was a "family feud" of sorts. Shelby is coached by Kings Mountain native Matt Bridges, and Kings Mountain is coached by his cousin Kenny Bridges (head coach) and brother Justin Bridges (assistant).

There were no Bridges on the mat, though. Kings Mountain got victories by Paul Farris, Matt Hord, Gary Bennett, Michael Douglas, Dashun Truesdale, Markel Hemphill, Josh Haraszkiwicz, Dustin Stone, John Robbs and Jarris Williams.



GARY STEWART/HERALD
Kings Mountain's Matt Hord records a pin in Tuesday match with Crest at the KMHS gym.

Lady Mountaineers fall in first two rounds of Hilltopper Tournament ...Page B3



CADILLAC • BUICK • GMC

Year End Closeout!

0% ALL remaining '09 models qualify for 0% for 72 months through GMAC!

Offer expires January 4th, 2010. Hurry while they last! 30 units remaining

Red Tag Pricing on all inventory will save THOUSANDS!

Exit 22 Off I-85

Wilkinson Blvd., Gastonia

704.825.3306

www.mckenneychevrolet.com