

Sports

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Mountaineers lose to Wave, edge Cats

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers split a pair of rescheduled basketball games last week, losing to Ashbrook 58-45 on Wednesday and edging North Gaston 52-49 on Thursday.

Ashbrook grabbed a 13-5 lead

after the first quarter and was on top 32-19 at halftime. The Green Wave built a 15-point lead in the third quarter before the Mountaineers rallied to trim the margin to 40-37 early in the fourth quarter. The Green Wave went on a 7-0 run and held a comfortable lead the rest of the way.

Darius Vercher led the Green

Wave with 17 points and 14 rebounds. Brian Brown scored 15 and Jordan Huskey 11 for the Mountaineers. Antonio Barnett grabbed eight boards.

KM played most of the game without the services of senior forward Xavier Jefferies, who suffered a hard fall during the first half and had to be taken to the hos-

pital.

The Mountaineers came from behind in the fourth quarter to edge North Gaston Thursday night in the Wildcats' gym.

KM led 16-13 after the first quarter but trailed 27-24 at halftime and 37-36 going into the fourth period.

Cedric Thompson led the KM

attack with 15 points. Brian Brown added 13 and Shawntrell Jordan 12. Brown collected 11 of KM's 22 rebounds. Brown, Thompson and Jordan had four assists each and Jordan had five steals.

KM's JV boys defeated Ashbrook 38-33. Caleb Hines led the Mountaineers with 10 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.

Wrestling

- Wrestlers 2nd in Big South
- 5 named all-conference
- 3 win their weight class

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KM girls beat North Gaston

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain's Lady Mountaineers jumped to an early lead and went on to a 47-37 victory over North Gaston in a Big South 3A Conference game Thursday night in the Wildcats' gym.

The Lady Mountaineers led 13-6 after the first period and 29-13 at halftime. They withstood a 13-1 scoring run by North Gaston in the third quarter which cut the score to 30-26 heading into the fourth quarter.

Kings Mountain placed three players in double figures and two had double-digit rebounds.

Brittnee Roberts led the scoring with 17 points and also had two steals and an assist. Evan Bragg had 13 points, four rebounds, a steal and three assists. Caroline Chambers had a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds, and also contributed two steals. Tiara McClain had 10 rebounds and five steals and Rashaida Dimetros had nine rebounds.

The KM ladies gave second place Ashbrook all the basketball they wanted Wednesday night and almost pulled off a big upset before falling 48-42.

Ashbrook outscored the Lady Mountaineers 6-1 in the final two minutes to nail down the victory.

Brittnee Roberts led the Lady Mountaineers with 19

points, four rebounds, four steals and two assists. Tiara McClain had her fourth double-double of the season with 10 points and 13 rebounds, and went on a personal 6-0 scoring run in the fourth quarter to bring the Lady Mountaineers to within one point.

Justin Taylor led Ashbrook with 22 points.

Kings Mountain's JV girls rolled over Ashbrook 33-4, holding the Green Wave scoreless in the first and third periods.

Eboni Morrison scored 13 points and had three rebounds and two blocks. Kayla Ward had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Tyerah Blake had six assists.

JV GAME

KM (33) - Morrison 13, Ward 12, Blake 2, Betancur 2, Leach 2, Mercer 2.

Ashbrook (4) - Prescott 1, Thompson 3.

VARSITY GAME

KM (42) - Roberts 19, McClain 10, Bragg 6, Chambers 5, Dimetros 2, Adams 2, Davis 4.

Ashbrook (48) - Taylor 22, Collins 16, Brickey 10.

VARSITY GAME

KM (47) - Roberts 17, Bragg 13, Chambers 11, McClain 2, Davis 2, Adams 2.

NG (37) - Clerley 11, Reid 11, Haskin 7, White 7, Polk 1.

KMMS falls to Crest

Kings Mountain Middle School fell to Crest in a non-division doubleheader Thursday.

Crest won the girls game 43-10. T. Smith led the KM scoring.

Crest won the boys game 46-43. Alex Reynolds led the Patriots with 21 points.

Both KM teams are 2-2 in the Tri-County East and 2-4 overall.

Spring sports cranking up

Conditioning and tryouts for several sports have been scheduled at Kings Mountain Middle School.

Conditioning for girls soccer began Monday and tryouts will be February 24-26 from 3-5 p.m.

Conditioning for baseball pitchers and catchers will begin February 16 from 3-4:30 p.m. Tryouts are February 26 from 3-5 p.m.

Tryouts for boys and girls track will begin Monday, March 1 from 3-5 p.m.

Tryouts for 8th grade tennis will be February 22 and 24. Tryouts for 7th grade tennis will be February 23 and 25 from 3-5 p.m.



GARY STEWART/HERALD

Ramey Kerns, front row center, signs a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at East Tennessee State University as her parents Clyde and Faye Kerns look on. Back row, left to right, are KMHS athletic director Suzanne Grayson, Ramey's sister Alyson Kerns, and KMHS Principal Ronny Funderburke. Not pictured, Ramey's twin brother, Clay Kerns.

Kerns to play at East TN State

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High senior Ramey Kerns Wednesday signed to continue her education and soccer career at East Tennessee State University.

Kerns has played championship soccer since the age of four, beginning in local YMCA leagues and continuing through club play for 10 years and high school for the past three.

She is one of Kings Mountain's all-time greats in the sport that has been one of the most successful at the high school level. Kerns has been All-Conference and All-Region since her freshman year, was Southwestern 3A Confer-

ence Player of the Year her sophomore and junior seasons, and is one of the top scorers in school history.

Going into her senior season, which begins later this month, Kerns has 100 goals and 67 assists. Fifty of her goals - a single season record - came during her sophomore season.

Kings Mountain has won the conference championship all three of Kerns' seasons and last year won its first-ever Western North Carolina championship and played for the State 3A championship.

At ETSU, Kerns will be playing for a coach who also has Kings Mountain ties. Heather Henson, who is entering her 16th season as a coach and 12th with the

Lady Buccaneers, is married to Chris Henson, a former KMHS athlete who helped lead the Mountaineer baseball team to the 1989 state championship.

Kerns has been attracted to the ETSU program for many years. She said she chose the school because "my major is there, Coach Henson is very nice and the school is good."

ETSU plays in the Atlantic Sun Conference and plays non-conference games against a number of Southeastern Conference powers.

Henson has a career coaching record of 103-149-23. Last year, the Lady Buccaneers finished 7-13 but have reached the A-Sun tournament four of the past

five seasons. Their best record after their transition to Division I was 12-6 in 2003 and they were 11-6-3 in 2007.

Kerns said she plans to major in Physical Therapy.

She hopes to help lead KMHS to another conference championship this year under new coach Dara Goldstein. Veteran coach Dan Potter, the only coach in KMHS women's soccer history, retired after 11 seasons with 208 victories and seven conference championships. The Lady Mountaineers have a host of starters returning and look for another good year.

"Playing for the state championship last year was pretty exciting," Kerns said.

Reynolds, Loftin sign with GWU

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High seniors Meagan Reynolds and Megan Loftin last week signed National Letters of Intent to further their education and play soccer at Gardner-Webb University.

Both will be beginning their final year with the Lady Mountaineers later this

month. Over the past three years they have helped KMHS win three conference and one Western North Carolina titles.

Loftin is a 5-2 midfielder and a two-time All-Region player.

Reynolds is a 5-6 forward/midfielder. Despite missing her entire sophomore season with an ACL injury,

she has made two All-State teams, All-Area and All-Region.

Reynolds scored 23 goals and had a team-high 27 assists on last year's KM team that played for the state 3A championship.

Both Loftin and Reynolds play club soccer in Charlotte.

At GWU, they will be playing for Kevin Mounce,

who signed six other players last week who will join the two KM standouts on the GWU team in the fall. The Lady Bulldogs finished 12-9 last season. With nine starters returning to go with a strong recruiting class, Mounce and the Lady Bulldogs look to make a run for its first Big South Conference championship this fall.

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