

# Sports

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## Josh Etters wins Championship Flight in KMCC Spring Classic Golf tourney

The annual Spring Classic Golf Tournament was recently held at Kings Mountain Country Club. Josh Etters shot 72, 68 for a 140 to win the Championship Flight in the two day event.

Other winners in the Championship flight were Eric Spicer, 2nd gross; Jody Clary, 1st net; and Gary Howze, 2nd net.

First Flight winners were John Gamble, 1st gross; Greg Robinson, 2nd gross; Kenny Walker, 1st net; and Bryant Wells, 2nd net.

Winners in the Second Flight were Pat Phifer, 1st gross; Larry Dunn, 2nd gross; Eric Hicks, 1st net; and Jim McNeilly, 2nd net.

Third Flight winners included Walt Brysiak, 1st gross; Ken Deardorff, 2nd gross; Shamoo Spencer, 1st net; and Jody Sellers, 2nd net.

## Legion baseball Golf tourney set

Kings Mountain American Legion baseball will hold its fifth annual golf tournament May 22 at Woodbridge Golf Links.

Lunch will be provided for all playrs. Cash and prizes will be awarded to first and second palces. There will also be a closest to the pin on all par three holes and long drive contest.

The cost is \$50 per player or \$200 per four-person team.

All proceeds will benefit the 2010 American Legion baseball team.

For a sign-up sheet visit [www.km-post155.com](http://www.km-post155.com)

or contact Jerry Ross at 704-616-3391 for more information.

## Touchdown Club Golf tourney Friday

The annual Kings Mountain Touchdown Club Golf Tournament will be played Friday, April 16 at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and tee off is at 1 p.m.

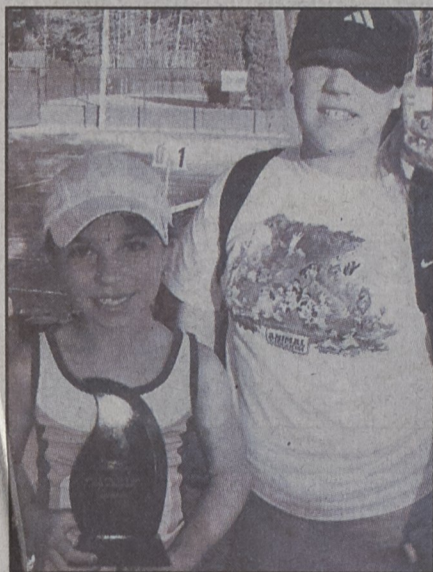
It is a Captain's Choice format. Entry fee is \$50 per golfer. It will be flighted at the end of the tournament with winners of each flight receiving first place prizes.

There will also be prizes for closest to the hole on the par threes and longest drive for men, women and seniors. Mulligans and red tees will be sold.

Sponsors are needed. Gold sponsors are \$100, silver \$50 and bronze \$25. Sponsors' names are permanently displayed on a sponsor board in the KMHS weight room.

All profits from the tournament go to improvements to the weight room, which is used by all athletes and P.E. students at KMHS.

To enter the tournament, or for more information, call Mark Dixon at 704-477-4618 or Larry Hamrick Jr. at 704-739-3611.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
 Natalie Lutz, left, displays her trophy won at the Shelby Junior Open. Standing with her is her sister Madison, who also competed at the Open.

## Lutz takes home top honors in tennis Open

Natalie Lutz, 9, of Kings Mountain won the girls 10-and-under Quick Start Singles Event at the Shelby Tennis Junior Open. The event was held April 9-11 at the Cleveland Country Club, where 90 entants in 18 divisions battled it out.

Natie is the daughter of Robert and Regina Lutz of Kings Mountain, and she is in the third grade at West Elementary School. Her grandparents are Howard and Juanita Lutz of Kings Mountain and Jean Martin of Belmont. Natalie's sister, Madison, is a member of the Kings Mountain Middle School Tennis Team.

# KM wins Easter tourney for second year in a row

By GARY STEWART  
 Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High's baseball team won the Shelby Easter Tournament for the second straight year Friday, defeating South Caldwell 12-4 in the championship game.

It was the Mountaineers' third match-up with South Caldwell in the championship game. KM is the first team to win the event two years in a row.

Kings Mountain players received two of the three awards given for outstanding tournament play. Cody Austin, who pitched the championship win, was named the Best Pitcher, and Brian Brown, who went 10-for-14 with eight RBIs, was named the Best Hitter.

Brown went 4-for-5 with four RBIs and two doubles in the win over South Caldwell. Austin went the distance on the mound, striking out six.

Brandon Gantt went 4-for-4 and Dallas Conner was 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs.

Kings Mountain's bats were lively during the entire tournament. The Mountaineers finished with 45 hits and 43 runs in the three games.

Friday's game was originally scheduled for Thursday night but postponed due to



GARY STEWART/HERALD  
 Kings Mountain's Cody Austin was named Best Pitcher in last week's Shelby Easter Baseball Tournament. He went the distance in the Mountaineers' championship game win over South Caldwell.



GARY STEWART/HERALD  
 Kings Mountain junior Brian Brown was selected Best Hitter in last week's Shelby Easter Tournament. Brown finished the three-game tournament with 10 hits in 14 trips to the plate.

heavy thunderstorms in the area.

The Mountaineers advanced to the championship game Wednesday night with a 6-1 win over Darrell Van Dyke's Clover Blue Eagles.

Brown went the distance on the mound, giving up only three hits and striking out eight. He also led the Mountaineers at the plate with 3-for-3 and two runs scored.

Brown kept the Clover hitters off-balance all night with a good mix of fast balls, curves and change-ups.

The Mountaineers put the game away early by scoring four runs in the top of the first. Brown led off the game with a first-pitch single to right. After an error and fielder's choice Brown scored on Mitchell Cloninger's single to left.

Chris Allen and Dylan Smith added RBI singles and the fourth run scored on a wild pitch.

Clover's only run was an unearned tally in the third. Garrett Duke reached on an error and scored two outs later on a double by Hayden Hendrey.

Kings Mountain scored its final two runs in the top of the seventh on Austin's RBI single and Cloninger's sacrifice fly.

Kings Mountain had opened tournament play last Monday with a 25-0, five-inning win over Scott, West Virginia.

The Mountaineers, 10-4, 2-3, were scheduled to resume Big South Conference play last night at home against North Gaston. They host Crest Friday night.

## KM Hall of Fame

### Jackson: It chokes me up. It's an honor.

(Ed. Note - First of a four-part series on the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame's 2010 inductees. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is Saturday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church Christian Ministries Center. Tickets are \$10 and are available from any member of the Hall of Fame Committee. Tickets will also be available at the door).

By GARY STEWART

Despite the adage we've heard all of our lives, practice will not make you perfect. But with a little bit of skill and a lot of determination, practice will make you really good.

Stoney Jackson, who will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame May 8 at Central United Methodist Church, has won well over 100 tournaments during his lifetime, and at 69-plus years old still gives the younger golfers fits. He has never had a golf lesson but has spent a lot of time honing his skills.

He has been a constant winner in tournaments at Kings Mountain Country Club and other courses in the area and has even ventured outside the state to win a few. He spent part of five years playing in pro senior golf tournaments in the South.

"Golf is like any other sport, and life," Jackson says. "You get out of something what you put into it."

Jackson got the urge to play golf several years ago in Spartanburg, SC. The owner of the company he worked for was taking lessons at Peach Valley and Stoney

accompanied him.

"I was just listening," he said, "and picked up on some of the things the pro was saying. After I started playing I would go over to Grassy Valley (now Crowders Mountain) and play from about 5:30 till dark. My wife Peggy would go with me sometimes. One day I was having a tough time and she said 'someday you will hit it better.'"

"But, what really gave me the desire to start playing good golf was when I joined Kings Mountain Country Club in 1971. John

Howze was a good friend and was winning all of the tournaments there. We got to fussing one day about a ruling and it went in his favor. I said, 'okay, you got me today but I'm going to get you later.'"

Jackson had about 2 1/2 acres of clear land at his home and began hitting hundreds of golf balls a day. It wasn't long until he was winning his share of tournaments at KMCC.

For several years KMCC awarded cash or crystal for first place finishes. When Peggy started going through his trophy collection she counted over 75 for first place finishes with most of them coming at Cleveland County courses. There were many, many more for second, third and fourth place finishes and others that he won as a member of a team.

Jackson takes most pride in the 11 Ray Barnes trophies he won at KMCC. That trophy is given each year to the golfer who has the best showing in all tournaments, based on a point system.

Jackson has recorded nine holes-in-one

over the years, including seven at KMCC. In a 10-day period in 1987, he had three holes-in-one, including aces on #5 and #17 at KMCC and #16 at River Bend.

"That was exciting," he said. "It's hard to get even one. If all the holes treated me like the ones at Kings Mountain it would be great. If I ever have another one I want it to be on #8 at

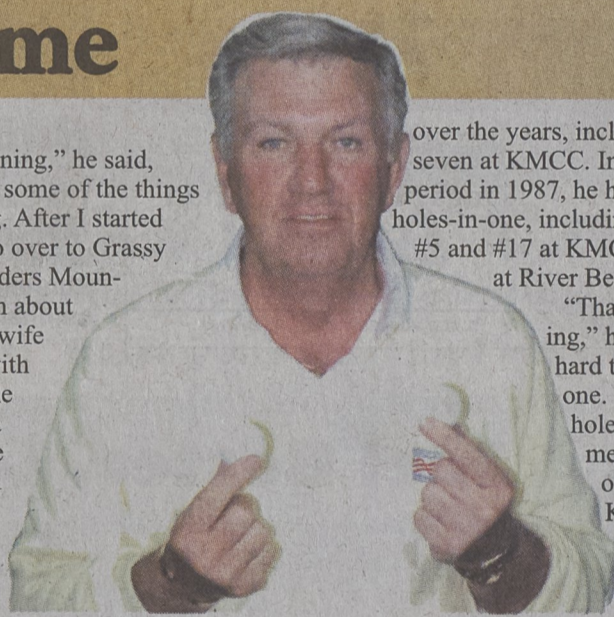
Kings Mountain. It's a wide open shot, 210 yards, with nothing between you and the green. It shouldn't be that hard but it's tough on everybody."

Jackson says he owes a lot of his golf success to the late John Howze. "If he hadn't been the way he was - and I don't mean that in a bad way - I would not have made the commitment to get better in golf. But I was determined to be good like him."

For several summers, Stoney and Peggy drove "all over the country" trying to qualify for senior tournaments. He never won one but had some good showings, including the PGA Senior Classic at Opry Land in Nashville, TN where he was invited to play by country music legend George Jones.

"I did real well there," Jackson recalled. "Eric Spicer had some work to do in that area and came by to see me play one day. When he got there I had only six holes left."

See STONEY on Page B2



Local golfing legend Stoney Jackson will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, May 8 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.