

A GAME TO REMEMBER!



Tiffani Thompson of Kings Mountain drives on a Crest player during Tuesday's Tri-County Middle School Conference playoff game at the KMMS gym.



Photos by GARY STEWART/HERALD

Kings Mountain Middle School coach Monty Deaton talks to his team during a timeout in last week's playoff game with Crest.

KMMS girls stage 4th qtr. comeback to edge R-S Central for Tri-County championship

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain Middle School basketball coach Monty Deaton says he can't remember the last time the Lady Patriots won the conference championship in basketball.

He knows they haven't won one in this century, because the last basketball championship won at KMMS was in 1999 when Deaton's boys team won the Tri-County Conference crown.

Deaton and the players on this year's team will cer-

tainly remember Thursday's 30-28 victory over R-S Central that gave the Lady Patriots the Tri-County Conference title.

Kings Mountain trailed 26-14 in the third quarter but rallied behind a pressing defense and some timely free

See LADY PATRIOTS, 4C

Baseball

Mountaineers look to contend in Big South

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High baseball coach Eric King has one of his most experienced teams as ten seniors and seven lettermen return for what should be KM's best season since their championship year of 2009.

The Mountaineers open Wednesday with a non-conference game at Shelby, and host Burns Friday at 5 p.m. at Lancaster Field. They host Fred T. Foard in a JV/varsity doubleheader Saturday at 12 noon and 2 p.m.

The Mountaineers have looked good in pre-season practice and in scrimmage games.

"Things have been going good," says King. "We have 16 players on varsity and all of them have been working really hard. We've got a fifth period baseball class and that's helped a lot. There's some weight lifting involved, but we've been able to get outside some for almost a month now."

Kings Mountain has five returning players that started full-time last spring, plus several others that started part-time.

On paper, the Mountaineers are solid in all areas of the game.

"Pitching and defense are looking great so far," King

See BASEBALL, 3C

Sports This Week

Wednesday, Feb. 29
5 p.m. - High school baseball, KM at Shelby.
5 p.m. - JV baseball, Shelby at KM.

Thursday, March 1
4 p.m. - High school track, KM, Huss, North Gaston at South Point.

Friday, March 2
5 p.m. - High school baseball, Burns at KM.
5 p.m. - JV baseball, KM at Burns.

Saturday, March 3
12 p.m. - High school baseball, Fred T. Foard at KM (JV/varsity doubleheader).

Tuesday, March 6
4 p.m. - High school softball, KM at Chase.
5 p.m. - High school baseball, KM at Hickory.
5 p.m. - JV baseball, Hickory at KM.

Wednesday March 7
4 p.m. - JV baseball, West Lincoln at KM.
7 p.m. - High school baseball, West Lincoln at KM.

Ford invited to play in Down Under Tournament in Australia

Kings Mountain High volleyball star Nicole Ford has been invited to participate in this summer's Down Under International Volleyball Tournament in Australia.

Down Under Sports, founded in 1989, sponsors bowl games, tournaments and individual competition in numerous sports including football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, cross country, wrestling and track and field.

Ford, who has signed to play volleyball at Western Carolina University beginning in August, said she received her invitation two weeks ago and is excited for the opportunity to visit down under and compete against top-level volleyball stars from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries.

She is presently raising the \$5,500 to \$6,000 necessary to spend seven days in Australia, for a combination of competition and sightseeing.

"It is a once in a lifetime opportunity," she said.

Ford received her invitation two weeks ago. Players are recommended by coaches who have seen them play in many levels to competition.

For the past three years Ford has excelled, not only at KMHS but in club volleyball in Spartanburg, SC. Her club team has played in several states.

She doesn't yet know the team she will be playing for.

"I may be the only player from North Carolina or there may be others," she said. "I'm



Nicole Ford

sure I'll be playing against other players from around the country and also from Australia."

There will be indoor and outdoor (beach volleyball) games, she said.

"I've always played in gyms," she noted, "unless it was on the sand at Myrtle Beach. So this will be my first time playing competitive beach volleyball."

See FORD, 3C

Scholar Athletes

146 Mountaineers, 10 teams achieve scholar-athlete status

One hundred and forty-six athletes and ten teams from Kings Mountain High School achieved scholar-athlete status for the fall and/or winter sports seasons.

To earn the award individual athletes must maintain a 3.5 weighted GPA or higher and teams must achieve a 3.1 unweighted GPA or higher. Many of the individuals achieved scholar-athlete status in more than one sport.

Teams receiving the award were women's cross country, men's cross country, women's swimming, basketball cheerleading, women's tennis, men's swimming, women's basketball, men's basketball, football cheerleading, and wrestling.

Individuals include Akua Adams, Caroline Baker, Elizabeth Baker, Wyneisha Bell, Wendi Belt, Katherine Baker, Olivia Blalock, Amma Boakye, Carsyn Bolin, Kristen Boone, Sara Borov, Abbey Bragg, Faythe Brown, Spencer Burton, Aneisy Cardo, Erica Carpenter, Tiffani Champion, Ashley Chapman, Hannah Christenbury, Natorin Cole, Kristin

Dawkins, Mary Dellinger, Katie Ellis, Kimberley Farris, Natalie Fedyschyn,

See SCHOLAR ATHLETES, 3C

Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



Wil Sellers
Baseball

SUBWAY
105 York Rd., Kings Mountain
704.734.4782

6" Breakfast Sandwich w/Ham or Bacon & Drink \$3.00

Relax & Enjoy

Chef's Specials of the Week



Thursday Night:
Chicken Cordon Bleu

Friday Night: Grilled Mahi Mahi with mango salsa, wild rice, and mixed vegetables.



Saturday Night: Stuffed Pork Loin with a baked sweet potato and steamed broccoli.

Sunday: Fried Chicken or Country Fried Cube Steak with fried okra, pinto beans, fatback and a biscuit.

Simply Mouthwatering!

Open at 11am Daily

238 CHEROKEE STREET

www.cherokeestreettaavern.com



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