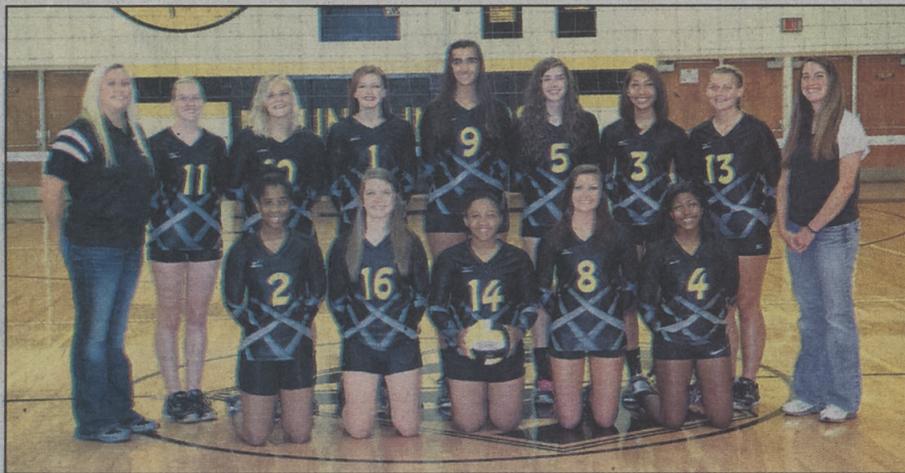


# Spikers open season Monday at home against Hickory



Kings Mountain High's varsity volleyball team opens its season Monday at home against Hickory. Team members are, first row, left to right, Jazmene Stevenson, Gracie Hunter, Tyerah Blake, Lyndsey Murphey and Taquisha Smith. Back row, head coach Ashley Pridgeon, Sarah Blalock, Natalie Fedyschyn, Logan Smith, Mary Asgari, Kayla Bolt, Adrienne Green, Olivia Blalock and assistant coach Tracy Greene.

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team lost most of the players off last year's Big South 3A Conference championship team but is hoping the players' hard work during the off-season and pre-season will pay big dividends this season.

Second-year coach Ashley Pridgeon and her Lady Mountaineers will be taking a defensive approach this year after losing a lot of height and talent from last year's team, including Big South Player of the Year Nicole Ford, Morgan Robinson and others.

This year's tallest player is returning setter, Logan Smith, who is 5-10.

It is also one of the youngest

Mountaineer teams in recent years with only four seniors.

"Most of the players didn't get a lot of playing time last year," Pridgeon noted. "We're pretty young. Most of them are juniors. Obviously, last year we had Nicole Ford and Morgan Robinson and they pretty much led the team."

Pridgeon and her new assistant coach, Tracy Greene, have been stressing defense in the pre-season and the coaches were happy with the way the D showed in last Saturday's multi-team scrimmage at Parker Gym. They were scheduled to scrimmage Charlotte Latin away yesterday.

"Starting out we're going to

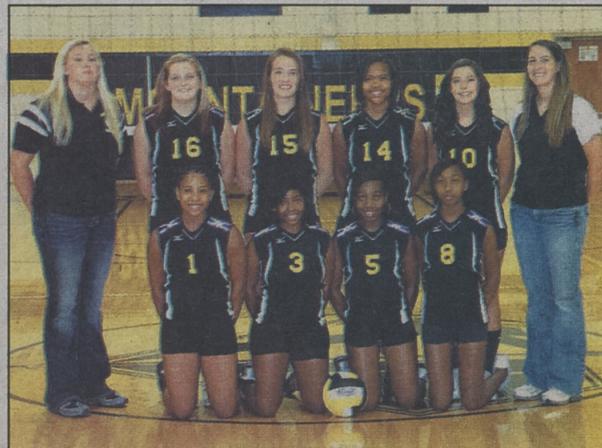
have to be a strong defensive team," Pridgeon says. "We did very well on defense Saturday. If we see strong offensive teams we hope we can frustrate them with strong defense."

Smith is the only returning starter but several other returning players got some playing time last season.

Pridgeon sees Forestview and Crest, and possibly North Gaston, as the teams to beat in the Big South. She hopes to see the Lady Mountaineers in the mix as well.

"I expect Forestview to be strong offensively and defensively," she said. "We will have to play great against them."

"Crest has two big hitters that



Kings Mountain High's JV volleyball team opens its regular season August 13 at home against Hickory. Game time is 4:30. Left to right, front row, Shania Portee, Nastajah Hutchens, Shadeah Reid and Tatiyana Hopper. Back row, varsity coach Ashley Pridgeon, Taylor Wade, Angel Peterson, Gwen Hopper, Peyton Lemons and JV coach Tracy Greene.

can cause us problems if we're not strong on defense.

"We have no height on offense. Our setter is probably our tallest starter. Sophomore Kayla Bolt will probably play in the middle and she's about 5-10. That's nothing compared to the height we had last season."

Pridgeon will also be looking to Mary Asgari, Tyerah Blake, Olivia Blalock, Sarah Blalock, Natalie Fedyschyn, Adrienne Green, Gracie Hunter, Lyndsey Murphy, Taquisha Smith and Jazmene Stevenson to provide quality playing time.

She says her main goal in August non-conference games will be finding a lineup that clicks in

time for the conference opener against South Point on August 30 at Parker Gym.

"We have a lot of girls that played volleyball last year so we will see which ones work the best together," she said. "I do like our depth. We have five outside hitters, four middle hitters and two setters. That's something we didn't have last year."

The Lady Mountaineers have won five conference championships in a row, but they've taken early exits from the state tournament most of those years.

"Obviously, we are trying to win the conference again," she said. "We would not like to give that up."

## Deadline Monday for 2000-11 Mountaineers to notify school

Monday is the deadline for players, coaches and volunteers who were a part of the 2000-2011 teams to notify the school if they will be taking part in the 90th anniversary activities at the August 17 game against East Rutherford.

KMHS will be honoring all former Mountaineers at designated football games this fall. Five home games have been designated to honor players by decades.

All former players, coaches and volunteers will be admitted

free, be fed and recognized before their designated game beginning at 6 p.m. in the South end zone. They will be honored by decades.

The schedule is as follows:  
Aug. 17 vs. East Rutherford - Players, coaches and volunteers from 2000-2011.

Sept. 7 vs. Alexander Central - Players, coaches and volunteers from 1990-99.

Sept. 14 vs. South Point - Players, coaches and volunteers from 1980-1989.

Sept. 21 vs. Shelby - Play-

ers, coaches and volunteers from 1970-79.

Oct. 19 vs. Crest - Players, coaches and volunteers from 1922-1969.

The following information needs to be taken to the main office at KMHS no later than the Monday preceding the game when you will be honored:

Name, Year graduated, and Best memory of KM football.

For more information contact athletic director Dustin Morehead at 704-476-8000 ext. 3054.

## Sports This Week

### Wednesday, Aug. 8

6 p.m. - High school football, Kings Mountain JV and Varsity in scrimmage at Freedom High, Morganton.

TBA - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Burns Jamboree.

### Friday, Aug. 10

8 p.m. - High school football, Kings Mountain vs. Rock Hill Northwestern in Cleveland County Jamboree at Crest.

### Monday, Aug. 13

4:30 - High school volleyball, Hickory at Kings

Mountain (JV/varsity DH).

6 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Burns.

### Tuesday, Aug. 14

4:30 - High school volleyball, Polk County at Kings Mountain (JV/varsity DH).

### Wednesday, Aug. 15

4 p.m. - High school tennis, Kings Mountain at Shelby.

6 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Shelby.

# Needed: Eighty people to pledge \$500 for new field house at KMHS

GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

Needed: 80 people to pledge \$500 a year over the next three years to the Kings Mountain High School field house project.

Kings Mountain Touchdown Club President David Brinkley, who is spearheading the drive to raise over \$800,000 for a new field house for KMHS athletics, reports that the total amount of monetary and in-kind pledges reached \$575,000 as of July 31 and the drive is now within \$40,000 of being able to break ground.

"We're very close to making this a reality," Brinkley noted.

The club needs approximately \$220,000 in monetary contributions and pledges over the next three years to fully fund the facility. However, when the club has one-third of the cost in actual money and pledges the project can go forward. In-kind gifts cannot be counted as cash on hand needed to secure a loan.

"We need about 80 people to pledge an average of \$500 a year for the three year period," he said. "I know some people may not be able to give that much, but I'm sure there are others than can give more. Any amount is greatly appreciated."

Brinkley noted that at the end of June contributions, in-kind donations and pledges totaled \$296,000. So, to be closing in on \$600,000 a month later makes him very happy and confident that the drive will be a big success. "We had an excellent July, and hope for another good month in August."

"I know in the beginning that some felt like this might be a pipe dream," he said. "But we have seen how much people in the community support their schools and athletic programs. Updating our athletic facilities will be an asset for the community."

Brinkley noted, that when the field house

is completed it will be the nicest one in the county. He is a strong believer that people considering moving into a community looks first at its schools, including athletic facilities, and Kings Mountain's economy will be boosted because of the field house.

"The Touchdown Club has been very pleased with the response we are getting from businesses and individuals," he said. "We hope to see the project put out to bids in the next few weeks, and we hope to have more in-kind gifts in addition to the monetary contributions and pledges."

In-kind gifts can greatly reduce the total cost of the project. Companies that have already pledged in-kind gifts are Hall Builders, Forever Green, Flooring America, Kerns Trucking, Lowe's Home Improvement, Cunningham Brick, Bridges Hardware and Concrete Supply/Martin Marietta.

"We really appreciate the support that First National Bank has given to this project," he said. "They really do a lot of good work in our community."

Brinkley urges all fans, businesses, former KMHS athletes, parents and grandparents of current and future athletes to get involved in the effort. Pledge forms are available on the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club website (kingsmountaintouchdownclub.webs.com) or you can LIKE Kings Mountain Touchdown Club on Facebook.

Persons wishing to make a pledge over a three-year period may do so at First National Bank. An architectural drawing of the field house and floor plans are located in the lobby of First National.

"We need all different levels of contributions," said Brinkley. "We hope that our young parents with children in the lower grade levels will participate. Children in the third, fourth and fifth grades right now are the ones that are really going to benefit from this."

**Stage 2 - \$1.3 million**

**Stage 1 - \$900,000**

**3 Year Pledge and In-Kind Gift Contributors**

Carl Champion • Hall Builders • Flooring America • Forever Green • KM Sports Hall of Fame • Jay & Sandy Rhodes • David & Marie Brinkley • KM Touchdown Club • Dale & Diane Hollifield • Wayne Turner • Shirley Brutko • David & Sherry Clippard • Grady Howard • Dr. GK Howard Jr. • The Cerjan Family • Kristie Brinkley • Kerns Trucking • Donald Smith • Andy Neisler • C&C Heating & Cooling • Kings Mountain Kiwanis • Harold & Debbie Farris • Bryan and Carrie Jones • Baker Dental Care • Coach John Gamble Family • Bob McRae • Vernon McDaniel • Jerry Hoyle • Jackie McRae • Kings Mountain YMCA • Jeff & Karen Lineberger • Gary Stewart • Jeff and Kathy Falls • Ronnie and Libby Hawkins • Steven Baker • C & C Scrap Iron and Metal • Dub & Carolyn Blalock • Jake & Dot Dixon • Brian Osteen • Reatha Blackwell • Jim and Jaqitha Reid • KM Rotary Club • KM Animal Hospital • Jim and Wanda White • Gene Patterson • Richard Anderson • Dustin Morehead • Lowe's Home Improvement • Neisler Foundation • Mr. and Mrs. John O. Harris III • Charlie, Justin, and Zach Smith • Parker's Amoco • Myra McGinnis • Chip and Laura McGill • Cunningham Brick • John Goforth • Bridges Hardware • Ernie and Tara Teague • Andy Hollifield • Rick Hord • Jeff Mauney • Scism & Son • Edward & Brenda Lovelace • Love's Fish Box • Todd & Kelly Lovelace • Luke Rikard • David Brinkley Jr. • KM Tourism Development Authority • Ronnie and Mary Wilson • DeWayne and Jada Clark • Danny and Kathy Bryant • KM Hospital

**\$574,104**

**You can make a difference!**

For More Information visit our website:  
[www.KingsMountainTouchdownClub.webs.com](http://www.KingsMountainTouchdownClub.webs.com)  
or 'like' us on Facebook!