



The Kings Mountain High School marching band provided halftime entertainment throughout the season at home games.



The senior members of the Kings Mountain High volleyball team were honored at their last regular season game last week. Left to right are Olivia Blalock, Lyndsey Murphey, Tyerah Blake and Jazmene Stevenson.

Morton repeats as BSC Runner of Year

Kings Mountain High sophomore Cassie Morton repeated as Big South 3A Cross Country Runner of the Year by finishing first in the conference run last week at KMHS.

Morton ran the course in 22:07 to edge Rachael Lee of Ashbrook at 22:30.

Ashbrook won the team title with 28 points, followed by Forestview 70, KM 73, South Point 86, Crest 95 and North Gaston (no score).

Mackenzie Smith of Kings Mountain finished fourth in 22:42 to make the all-conference team.

Kings Mountain's Logan McGill finished 13th in the boys race to earn all-BSC honors. Vincent Comes of Forestview won the individual title in 17:54.

Ashbrook took the team title with 27 points, followed by Forestview 42, South Point 95, KM 100, Crest 108 and North Gaston 187.

Others finishing for the



Cassie Morton

KM girls were Mariah Roberts 17th, Annamarie Fulbright 26th, Radhika Patel 32nd, McKay Williamson 39th, Katie Ellis 41st, Molly Short 69th and Spencer Burton 70th.

Others finishing for the KM boys were Devin Ayscue 18th, Will Boyles 23rd, Josh Brucker 24th, Collin Foster 25th, Jacob Edmonson 50th, Noah Coleman 63rd, Bailey Goodson 88th and Alex Greene 94th.

Lady Mountaineers lose to Tuscola in VB playoffs

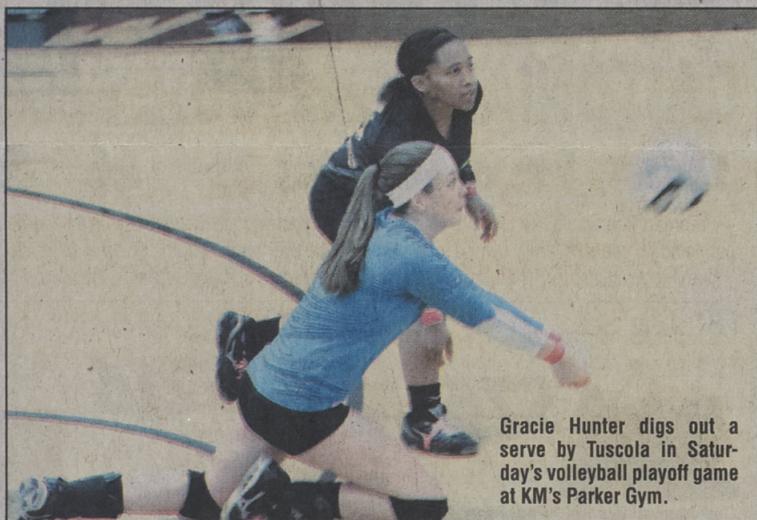
One thing was certain in Saturday's state 3A volleyball playoff game at Kings Mountain's Donald L. Parker Gymnasium: The Mountaineers would win.

In this case, though, it was the Waynesville Tuscola Mountaineers and not the KMHS Mountaineers, who lost in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year.

Tuscola came into the match with a 9-10 overall record and the #3 seed from the Western Athletic Conference. The win earned them the right to face top-ranked Enka, the #1 seed from the Mountain Athletic Conference in a game that was scheduled for last night.

Tuscola rebounded from early deficits to take control with 25-22 and 25-17 wins in the first two games. Kings Mountain came from behind to take an exciting 27-25 win in game three before Tuscola finished off the locals with a 25-10 win in game four.

After KM's quick 3-0



Gracie Hunter digs out a serve by Tuscola in Saturday's volleyball playoff game at KM's Parker Gym.

lead in game one, the visiting T-Mountaineers' came back to go up 7-5. The game was tied six times before KMHS scored four straight points to go up 19-16. But Tuscola caught up at 21-all and scored four of the final five points to win.

After an early 3-1 KM

lead in game two, Tuscola went on a 13-point run to take a 14-3 lead. The visitors were on the way to breaking the game open at 17-5 when KM put on a furious rally to get within 23-16. After a timeout, Tuscola scored the final two points.

Kings Mountain took a 7-2 lead early in game three and survived several Tuscola rallies to eventually win the set. Tuscola got its first lead at 15-14, but KM rallied briefly to get the lead at 16-15. Tuscola grabbed the lead again and held on until a return attempt hit off the gym ceiling and KM got even at 19-all. Tuscola came from behind again to tie at 25-all but KM closed out the set with points by Kayla Bolt and Gracie Hunter.

With a lot of KM's energy spent, Tuscola scored seven straight points to take an early 8-2 lead in game four, and poured it on from there.

Kings Mountain, which ended its season with a 16-6 overall record and a runner-up finish in the Big South 3A, got sound efforts from several players that will be back next year to try to get

the team over its recent playoff slump. Logan Smith recorded eight kills, 11 digs and seven assists. Taquisha Smith contributed 11 assists and a kill, and Gracie Hunter had 13 digs and two kills.

Seniors Olivia Blalock, Lyndsey Murphey, Tyeshia Blake and Jazmene Stevenson - ended their KMHS volleyball careers.

Lutz, Penner compete in 3A tennis regionals

Lutz also in state golf

Kings Mountain's Maddie Lutz and Kayla Penner competed in the Western Regional Tennis Tournament Friday in Hendersonville.

The KM duo lost out in the first round to the #1 team from Hickory, 6-1 6-1.

"Having a representative from KMHS women's tennis is an accomplishment I'm very proud of," said KM coach Rick Henderson. "I am very excited for these two girls getting that opportunity to play against the best players in five conferences in the 3A West Regional bracket."

Lutz also finished in the

top 26 in Monday's Western Regional Golf Tournament in Hendersonville to qualify for the state tournament October 29-30 at Longleaf Country Club in Southern Pines. Lutz shot 100 over the 18-hole Etowah Valley Country Club. The state tournament will be a 36-hole event.

"Only a handful of KMHS athletes have the ability to get the opportunity to play in two different sports in the same season, and that speaks volumes of how good of an athlete Maddie is," Henderson said. "Her dedication and commitment

See LUTZ, 5B



Kings Mountain's Kayla Bolt plays good defense in Saturday's playoff game at Parker Gym.

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