



Kings Mountain and Cleveland County school officials break ground for a new \$800,000-plus field house at Kings Mountain High School Wednesday. Left to right KMHS Principal Ronny Funderburke, Marie Brinkley and David Brinkley of the KM Touchdown Club, school board members Roger Harris and Jerry Hoyle, Supt. Bruce Boyles, and school board members Shearra Miller, Kathy Falls and Jack Hamrick.

KM Touchdown Club, school officials break ground for new field house at Kings Mountain High School

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

The Kings Mountain Touchdown Club and Cleveland County Board of Education broke ground Wednesday behind John Gamble Stadium for a new \$800,000 football field house which Supt. Bruce Boyles said could "set a trend" for future athletic facility improvements in other communities.

The Touchdown Club, and particularly president David Brinkley, have had this dream for about three years and since April have been raising contributions and pledges to make it a reality.

The field house is the first of a two-phase facility improvement program at KMHS. After the field house is constructed, the group will move on to raising funds for a new press box, restrooms and concession stand.

Dr. Boyles commended Brinkley and the club for their foresight and hard work in making the project possible.

"I know it has been a long journey," he said. "Many have worked hard and there is still a lot of work to do and distance to go. Thanks to all who have supported it and continue to support it."

Noting that school systems

today have to be more frugal in their use of money to assure that good teachers are kept in the classroom, Dr. Boyles said "this type of partnership between the community and the school system will be the way we see these type projects in the future. Kings Mountain has set the pace."

Dr. Boyles recalled as a youth growing up in Kings Mountain that he witnessed the community bond together to build John Gamble Stadium and Bill Bates Field House, Neisler Natatorium and other projects. "Kings Mountain continues to build on that legacy," he said. "We want to continue that for our stu-

dents. I am thankful we have organizations like the Kings Mountain Touchdown Club."

Dr. Boyles noted that the effort by the community to build this facility allows the school system to do more for its student athletes. He noted that once the new field house is occupied, Cleveland County Schools will renovate the existing Bill Bates Field House for use by other sports teams. CCS is presently constructing a press box/concession/restrooms facility at the KMMS/KMHS softball field and in the near future a smaller field house for women's teams will be constructed near the baseball

and softball facilities.

Brinkley noted that Gamble Stadium and the current field house was the late KMHS football coach Bill Bates' vision when KMHS was built in the mid-1960s. Bates spearheaded a public fund drive to build the stadium which was occupied in 1967. Local businesses donated material and man hours to build the field house, which the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame dedicated in Coach Bates' honor in 2006.

"Kings Mountain has always held their local sports programs

See FIELD HOUSE, 2C

KM girls match '11-12 win total with third win

Kings Mountain High's women's basketball team matched its win total from last year Friday night at Cherryville, defeating the Ironwomen 59-47 for their third straight victory.

The Lady Mountaineers went 3-19 last season under Coach Amos Myles, who resigned after the 2011-12 school year to take a football assistant's job in Sumter, SC.

Myles' assistant last season, Mike Harris, has the Lady Mountaineers playing at a fast pace led by two inside players who are averaging double-doubles in points

and rebounds. Freshman Tiffani Thompson and junior Monique Petty both have double-doubles in each of the first three games.

Thompson took center stage Friday with 23 points, 19 rebounds and six steals. Petty, who leads the team in both categories, added 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Sophomore Talajah Hutchens contributed nine points. Taquisha Smith had six points, six steals and five assists.

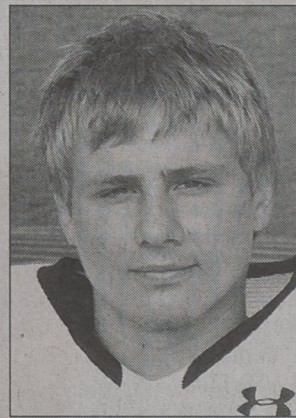
Kings Mountain had the game under control from the opening tip, running up a 22

See KM GIRLS, 2C



Kings Mountain's Monique Petty goes up for a basket in victory over East Gaston last week at the KMHS gym.

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