

SPORTS

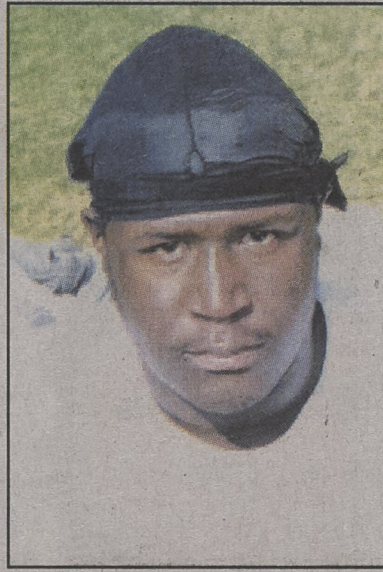
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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



The 2011 KMHS volleyball team that won the state 3A championship will be inducted into the KM Sports Hall of Fame on May 11. Front row, left to right, Jackie Jarvis, Ashton Teague, Molly Hamrick, Lauren Horne, Courtney Osteen, L'Tisha Bell, Jordan Crisp. Second row, manager Michelle Odums, Pam Parker, Ashley McDaniel, Carrie Brinkley, Danielle Gill, manager Keyyona Shipp. Back row, Coach Suzanne Grayson, Ashley Leigh, Lindsay Hamrick, Shonda Cole, Kristin Hardin, Baria Adams, assistant coach Tina Welch.



These three KM sports legends will join the 2011 state champion volleyball team as the inductees into the KM Sports Hall of Fame in May. Left to right, wrestling champion and coach, Alfred Ash; sports writing legend Harold Dean Pearson, and former KMHS state champion shot and disc thrower and football star Kareem Marshall.

Pearson, Marshall, Ash, KM spikers to be inducted into KM Hall of Fame

Three state champions and a Kings Mountain man who reached the pinnacle of the sports writing profession will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 26th annual induction ceremony Saturday, May 11 at 6 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church.

This year's inductees, all of whom were elected on the first ballot, include:

-Kings Mountain High's first state wrestling champion and current Kings Mountain Middle School coach Alfred Ash;

-A state champion in both the shot and discus and starting offensive tackle for the Southeastern Conference champion Georgia Bulldogs, Kareem Marshall;

-Kings Mountain High's 2011 women's volleyball team which finished 26-3 and won the state 3A championship in straight sets;

-And, the late national award-winning sports writer for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Harold Dean Pearson.

Tickets for the induction ceremony are \$15 each and are available from members of the Hall of Fame selection committee. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

In addition to the inductees, the Hall of Fame will present its annual Distinguished Service Awards to Dot Dixon, Wayne Bridges, Jerry Ross and Mark McDaniel for their longtime service to youth sports in Kings Mountain.

Also, numerous graduating senior athletes from KMHS will receive scholarships.

About the honorees:

The 2011 KMHS women's volleyball team, coached by Suzanne Grayson, featured five ladies who went on to star in college sports.

Shonda Cole, who is already in the HOF as an individual volleyball star, was a standout at the University of South Carolina where she was a multi-time National Player of the Week and an Honorable Mention All-American. She now plays professional volleyball.

Cole was the 2001 and 2002 North Carolina Gatorade Volleyball Player of the Year. She was also a standout basketball player at KMHS where she was the school's all-time leading scorer in women's basketball.

Carrie Brinkley was the setter for Cole and several other strong hitters on the 2001 team. She holds numerous setting records at KMHS and Gardner-Webb University.

Danielle Gill went on to play volleyball at Presbyterian College, and Ashley Leigh at Mars Hill. L'Tisha Bell went on to set numerous school records in softball at Winston-Salem State University.

Other members of the 2001 team were Kristin Hardin, Lauren Horne, Courtney Osteen, Molly Hamrick, Ashton Teague, Jordan Crisp, Baria Adams, Jackie Jarvis, Ashley McDaniel, Lindsay Hamrick, and Pam Parker.

The KM ladies' three losses were to fellow Southwestern Foothills Conference member Fred T. Foard. Kings Mountain, which shared the regular season title with Foard, defeated the Lady Tigers in the second round of the state playoffs and went on to defeat East Chapel Hill in the championship game at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. The state champion 1998 Mountaineer volleyball team also defeated East Chapel Hill in the finals.

Kareem Marshall was a member of Kings Mountain's 1998 Western NC champion football team and went on to make All-American for two years running at Gulf Coast Community College in Louisiana. He was heavily recruited by numerous SEC teams and chose Georgia and its new head coach, Mark Richt.

Marshall won the shot and discus in the 1999 state track and field meet after winning the Western Regional in both events. He finished second in both events at state as a junior.

Marshall set a KMHS school record in the discus at 155'8".

Alfred Ash was a football and wrestling standout at KMHS in the late 1960s and early 1970s and has been coaching the sport on various levels almost ever since.

He was the North Carolina state champion at 185 pounds in 1973 when he was named the State Tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. He went on to wrestle four years at Appalachian State and was All-Conference there for two years.

He has served as head wrestling coach at Shelby High School, KMHS and KMMS, and he also was an assistant football coach with the Mountaineers for many seasons.

As a wrestling coach with Dave Farquharson at KMHS, he had the distinct honor of helping coach his sons, Anthony and Matt, to state championships. He also helped coach former Mountaineers Julius Curry and Anthony Hillman to state championships. In most recent years, Ash and Farquharson have coached KMMS to conference championships.

Harold Dean Pearson was a standout pitcher at KMHS and Gardner-Webb Junior College in the early 1950s. He made All-State at Gardner-Webb.

After graduating GW he entered the Army where he played basketball and fast pitch softball. He pitched his unit to several championships.

He graduated from Appalachian State Teacher's College in 1957 and taught school for two years before deciding teaching was not for him. He began his career in journalism in 1959 as sports editor of the Kings Mountain Herald. He later wrote for the Gastonia Gazette and then joined the staff of the

See Hall, 2B

KMTD golf tourney set Friday, May 3 Field House project still needs pledges

The Kings Mountain Touchdown Club's 6th annual golf tournament will be played Friday, May 3 at Kings Mountain Country Club.

There are spots for 32 teams on a first-come, first-served basis. Entry fee is \$60 per player. For more information call Larry Hamrick Jr. at 704-739-3611.

A meal will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. There will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. There will be door prizes as well as a raffle for many other prizes.

Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 (gold), \$50 (silver) and \$25 (bronze).

Last year's tournament raised over \$17,000 for Kings Mountain High athletics. The first five tournaments have raised approximately \$65,000 for KMHS athletics.

This year's profits will be donated to the KMHS field house project. The club is attempting to raise approximately \$1 million to build a new field house behind John Gamble Stadium.

KMTD President David Brinkley reports that the club fund drive total stands at \$827,780 which includes cash on deposit and three-year pledges totaling \$673,960 and in-kind contributions of \$153,820. In-kind

gifts are coming from sub-contractors and other businesses who are donating building material or doing work at their cost.

"We're real close," Brinkley said. "This is a very exciting time."

Brinkley said the club and school system are in the process of approving all bids received from sub-contractors. Eleven of the 20 sub-contractors are from Kings Mountain.

The club and school board broke ground for the project in November. Brinkley said it has taken longer than first thought to begin construction because of regulations the club was not aware of when the fund drive was kicked off last April.

"We are in the process of working with Cleveland County Schools to do a background check on all employees of sub-contractors to abide by State school regulations that require no sex offenders on school grounds," Brinkley said.

"But we hope to be breaking ground in the next three to four weeks. Doing the background checks is taking longer than we anticipated."

Other factors, such as an improved economy, have also driven the projected cost up by approximately

See Golf, 2B



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on Saturday, Mar. 9, 2013

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