

Baseball team has slow start

Kings Mountain High opened its baseball season last week with non-conference losses to East Rutherford and Burns.

The Mountaineers will play their first home game today against Burns before hosting South Point Tuesday at 7 p.m. in their first Big South 3A Conference contest. Today's game with Burns will be a doubleheader with JV action beginning at 4:30 and the varsity at 7 p.m.

Last Wednesday's opener was scheduled for KM's Lancaster Field but was moved to East Rutherford because of field conditions.

The game was close throughout with the Cavaliers winning on a walk off solo home run by J. Strickland in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Senior right hander Wil Sellers pitched for the Mountaineers, allowing only one earned run and six hits. He walked only one and struck out five.

Kings Mountain collected nine hits. Alex Reynolds led the Mountaineers with three hits, including two doubles and two RBIs. Daniel Barrett also had three hits and one RBI. Landon Bolin had an RBI single.

Lefty Alex Grooms started at Burns Thursday and did a good job on the mound. He had a no-hitter going until the bottom of the fifth when the Bulldogs scored all five of their runs.

Grooms gave up a single to start the bottom of the fifth and Landon Bolin came on to pitch. Burns' first run, which proved to be the winner, was charged to Grooms and the Bulldogs went on to score four more off Bolin and Reynolds.

Kings Mountain's only run came in the sixth. Logan Stevens walked and later scored on a single by Reynolds.

Reynolds again led the Mountaineers at the plate with two hits, giving him five hits in the first two games, including three doubles.

Alumni game set April 6

The second annual Kings Mountain High School Alumni baseball game will be played Saturday, April 6 at Lancaster Field.

This year's game will be dedicated to the memory of Coach Tony Leigh. The game will begin at 6 p.m. and batting practice will begin at 4 p.m. There will be a home run derby at 5:15.

All former baseball players wanting to play should call Drew Fulton at 704-860-4068 or visit www.kmbaseball.com for information.

The player's fee is \$40. All proceeds benefit the KMHS baseball program.



Kings Mountain third baseman Emily Hester guns down a South Caldwell runner in last week's season opener at the Mountaineers' field. Below, KM pitcher Reagan Childers mows down a hitter.

KM softball team 1-1 in non-conference play

Kings Mountain High's women's softball team fell 10-0 to a strong 4A South Caldwell team in its opening-season game Wednesday at Lancaster Field #3, but bounced back on Friday to defeat 2A Bessemer City 16-6.

Both games ended on the 10-run mercy rule. The KM-South Caldwell game went five innings and the KM-BC game ended in the sixth.

Senior southpaw Reagan Childers went the distance in both contests. She scattered seven hits and struck out six in the win over BC and struck out four and gave up five hits in the loss to South Caldwell.

Childers also led the hitting against the Lady Yellow Jackets with two hits and two runs batted in. Mikeala Bell, Leah Herndon and Emily Hester contributed two hits and one RBI apiece. Amber Goins, Emily Bell and Miranda Ellis had two RBIs each.

South Caldwell righthander Michelle Carver had a perfect game going until the bottom of the fourth when KM shortstop Molly Short lined a sharp two-out single to left. Short was KM's only base runner as Carver struck out five batters and her teammates backed her with excellent defense.



The visiting Spartans scored all 10 of their runs in the top of the fourth. All of their runs were unearned as a hit batter, walk and four consecutive errors kept the inning alive. The big blow was a grand slam home run by Becca Kale. Sophomore Leah Herndon, who moved to center field for the Mountaineers this year after playing second base as a freshman, was KM's defensive standout of the game, going into right-center to snag one long fly ball and making a highlight-film stretching dive catch of a hard hit liner by Carver to lead off the SC third inning.

Golf begins March 11

Kings Mountain High's golf team opens its season March 11 in a Big South Conference match at Green Meadows in Stanley.

Veteran coach Kevin Moss has a young team but hopes to see his Mountaineers compete for one of the three Western Regional berths from the BSC.

Senior Matt Shepard is the only returning player who qualified for the Western Regional last spring. Other returning players are senior Devin Heath, juniors Jacob Miller, Zachary Saldo and Steven Smith, and sophomore Miles Robinson.

Newcomers are freshmen Hunter Cooke and Andrew Estridge, sophomore Jeremy Carson and seniors Jamie McGinnis and Wilson Rikard.

"Forestview is the pre-season favorite to win the conference," Moss said. "South Point also has a very strong team. They qualified as

a team last year to participate in the state championship. Hopefully we can compete and earn one of the three available team spots for the Western Regional. We are very young in regards to playing experience with only Devin Heath and Matt Shepard having three or more years of experience."

THE SCHEDULE

March 11 - at South Point (Green Meadows 2 p.m.); 18 - at Hunter Huss (Crowders Mountain) 2 p.m.; 25 - at KMCC 2 p.m.
 April 9 - at Ash brook (TBA) 2 p.m.; 15 - at Crest (Riverbend) 2 p.m.; 17 - Cleveland County Tournament at Shelby (Deerbrook) 3 p.m.; 22 - at North Gaston (TBA) 2 p.m.; 29 - at Forest view (TBA) 2 p.m.
 May 6 - Western Regional at Riverbend (time TBA); 13-14 - State championship at Pinehurst (time TBA).

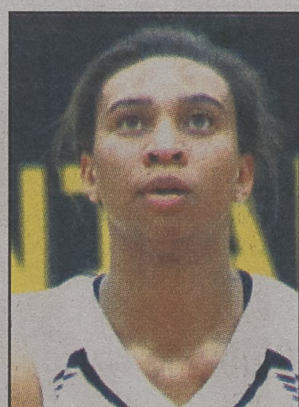
Petty selected all Big-South

Junior Monique Petty was the only Kings Mountain High player named to the women's All-Big South 3A Conference team. The men's team will be announced after Hunter Huss and Ashbrook complete state 3A tournament play.

Petty, who was also All-Conference last season, led the Lady Mountaineers in conference scoring with 18.2 points per game and rebounding with 13.6 per game. She was #3 in the conference in both categories and was 11th in the state in scoring (among 3A schools) and fifth in the state in rebounds. She also led the Lady Mountaineers and was third in the BSC in blocks (1.3 per game) as well as made free throws.

During her three-year varsity career at KMHS, Petty has over 700 points and 600 rebounds.

"She has an excellent opportunity to join the 1,000 point club next year," said Coach Mike Harris. "Although I cannot find com-



MONIQUE PETTY

plete records for rebounding, I would say 600 rebounds for a career is quite an accomplishment in itself."

Bre Armstrong of Forestview was voted conference player of the year.

Other all-conference players were Ashley Mull and Haley Stewart of South Point, A'Diyah Ussery and Calcia Jones of Crest, Logan Carter, Alexis Wallace and Brooke Moore of Ashbrook, Lauren Smith of Forestview, Kendal Cloninger and Janey Polk of North Gaston, and Jaleah Crosby of Hunter Huss.

Petty, Tillman lead in scoring, rebounds

Junior all-conference standouts Monique Petty and James Tillman led the Kings Mountain High varsity basketball teams in scoring and rebounding during the 2012-13 season.

Petty scored 346 points in 19 games, an average of 18.2 points per game. She missed three games in December and January because of a concussion suffered during the first Big South 3A game with South Point.

Petty also led the Lady Mountaineers in rebounding with 259, an average of 13.9 per game.

Freshman Tiffani Thompson also averaged a double-double in points and rebounds but missed most of the conference season with a knee injury. She scored 204 points and grabbed 159 rebounds in 14 games, an average of 14.6 points and 14.7 rebounds per game.

Tillman paced the Mountaineers in both categories. He scored 446 points in 25 games, an average of 17.8 per game; and pulled down 312 rebounds (12.5 per game). He also led the team in blocked shots with 53.

Chad Sanders was the Mountaineers' only other double-digit scorer with an average of 10.1 points per game.

GIRLS SCORING - Ashley Chapman 61, Taquisha Smith 128, Talajah Hutchens 70, Monique Petty 346, Alesia Wade 53, Dontasia Crocker 14, Sabriyya Roberts 5, Shadaiya Roberts 90, Tiffany Harris 16, Martina Edwards 23, Fayette Brown 10, Tiffani Thompson 204.

REBOUNDS - Chapman 59, Smith 57, Hutchens 46, Petty 259, Wade 112, Crocker 3, Sa. Roberts 5, Sh. Roberts 11, Harris 21, Edwards 50, Brown 16, Thompson 108.

BLOCKS - Chapman 9, Smith 3, Hutchens 2, Petty 25, Wade 10, Sh. Roberts 3, Edwards 3, Brown 1, Thompson 9.

STEALS - Chapman 12, Smith 80, Hutchens 32, Petty 41, Wade 33, Crocker 3, Sa. Roberts 2, Sh. Roberts 9, Harris 9, Edwards 1, Brown 2, Thompson 30.

ASSISTS - Chapman 5, Smith 69, Hutchens 33, Petty 29, Wade 36, Crocker 4, Sh. Roberts 19, Harris 7, Edwards 4, Brown 1, Thompson 17.

BOYS SCORING - Cameron Bullock 37, Shawn Adams 107, Josh Sherer 154, Isaiah Cole 8, Nelson McClain 58, Phillip Quinn 39, Wil Sellers 154, Chad Sanders 252, James Tillman 446, Solomon Hawkins 217.

REBOUNDING - Bullock 16, Adams 57, Sherer 49, Cole 7, McClain 43, Quinn 19, Sellers 66, Sanders 80, Tillman 312, Hawkins 123.

ASSISTS - Bullock 19, Adams 33, Sherer 103, Cole 4, McClain 7, Quinn 3, Sellers 46, Sanders 42, Tillman 45, Hawkins 29.

BLOCKS - Sherer 1, McClain 4, Quinn 1, Sellers 4, Sanders 4, Tillman 53, Hawkins 2.

STEALS - Bullock 5, Adams 42, Sherer 41, Cole 2, McClain 8, Quinn 2, Sellers 27, Sanders 26, Tillman 34, Hawkins 17.

Kings Mountain Mountaineers

Athlete of the Week



Alex Reynolds
Baseball



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GOLF: To raise funds for KMHS field house project

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\$190,000. Brinkley said the club's goal is to complete the project in six months, hopefully before or shortly after the 2013 football season begins.

"I personally feel that the fund drive has been extremely successful," Brinkley said. "We didn't begin raising money until April. We appreciate how the community has responded. We've made every effort to get it built before the season started. It's going to be a building that the community will be proud of. Our entire campus is changing from what it was 40-50 years ago, especially in regard to athletics."

In addition to the field house, the school system is in the process of making a number of improvements, including the new rest room/concession/storage facility at the softball field, which is completed, and a planned women's field house between the baseball and softball fields this summer.

"We want to again thank First National Bank for providing the funding for the field house," Brinkley said. "And we want to continue to invite people in the commu-

nity to get involved. We still need to raise close to \$200,000 and we need everybody to participate, no matter what size of gift.

"To do what we've done in less than a year is pretty amazing," he said. "We appreciate anything anyone can do to put us over the top. When it's built it will be a building valued at over a million dollars. We'll have a lot to be proud of."

HALL OF FAME: To induct volleyball team, three individuals May 11 at Central Methodist

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Richmond Times-Dispatch in 1965. While there he covered everything from college sports to NASCAR to the PGA. He served as President of the Southern Conference Sports Reporters Association for two years and President of the National Motorsports Press Association for five years. He won numerous writing awards on

every level, including nine from the National Motorsports Press Association, including the prestigious Joe Littlejohn Award.

He covered the greats of golf in the greatest tournaments in golf, including the Masters, and was highly-respected by the greats of the game.

Mr. Pearson died January 24, 2012 at the age of 78.

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