



Kings Mountain's Josh Helton grabs a rebound in last year's SMAC game with the East Rutherford Cavaliers.

BASKETBALL: Mountaineers hopeful hard off-season prep will show results

From page 1B

year's JV team are Demetrius Hill, Omar Petty, Dante Starr, and Xavier Roberts.

Most of them stayed busy over the summer playing on club teams and/or participating in the Phenom Hoops combine in Greensboro.

Petty, who was the leading scorer on the JV team and is the brother of 1,000-point scorer Monique Petty who graduated in June, has shown phenomenal progress during the off-season.

"He has been doing really well," Pierce said. "He had a good off-season and performed really well in the Phenom Hoops combine in Greensboro. He was one of the top players there."

At 6-4, Petty is considered a guard/small forward. "Attacking the basket is his strongest suit," Pierce said.

Skidmore, 6-7, also stood out in the Phantom Hoops event.

"Rebounding and blocks are his strong suit," Pierce

said, "and he has developed an outside jump shot."

Helton (6-7), who came to KMHS last year after attending a private school, has improved tremendously, Pierce said.

"One year of public school ball has really helped him gain a lot of confidence," Pierce said. "He played on the Team United AAU team and did really well."

Pierce said Petty, Skidmore and Helton are all drawing interest from Division I schools.

Nelson McClain (6-2) is returning for his second year as a starter.

"He's going to be our go-to guy," Pierce said. "He can really score from all over the floor. He can attack, dribble and pass. He can do everything."

Funderburke, a 6-2 shooting guard, has really come on strong since last season and Pierce expects a lot of production out of him.

"He is shooting the ball really well," Pierce noted. "He's gaining more confi-

dence every day."

Dante Starr (6-3) should be a good scorer and rebounder, and Dalton Cash has improved greatly since last year. "He can do about anything," Pierce said. "He's been a big surprise."

"Demetrius Hill (a 5-8 guard) has also shown a lot of improvement," Pierce said. "It's going to be hard to keep him off the floor with his defensive ability."

"We have multiple weapons who can do a lot of good things," Pierce added.

Looking to the SMAC race, Pierce said Crest has "excellent athletes" and should be very strong and that East Burke is strong on the fundamentals and has good shooters.

"R-S Central will be much-improved and Shelby and East Rutherford are still very good. As for us, we expect to be right back where we left off last year," Pierce said.

Pierce will be assisted by Randy Drennan, JV coach Nick Ingram, Matt Henson and Darrell Gerald.

2014 KM Mountaineer men's basketball roster

#	Name	Pos.	Grade	Ht.
10	Zac Funderburke	SG	Sr.	6-2
11	Shawn Adams	PG/SG	Sr.	5-11
12	Jacob Sneed	SG	Sr.	5-11
14	Demetrius Hill	PG	Jr.	5-8
15	Omar Petty	SG/SF	Jr.	6-4
20	Dalton Cash	SF	Sr.	6-1
22	Nelson McClain	SG	Sr.	6-2
33	Dante Starr	SF/PF	Jr.	6-3
35	Tico Crocker	SF	Sr.	5-11
35	Zavier Roberts	PF	Jr.	6-2
42	Jacob Skidmore	PF	Jr.	6-7
44	Josh Helton	PF	So.	6-7

KM Mountaineer 2014 basketball schedule

NOVEMBER	JANUARY
13 - Girls at North Gaston scrimmage, 6 p.m.	2 - RS Central
15 - Boys at East Lincoln scrimmage, 1 p.m.	6 - at Chase
15 - Girls at Maiden scrimmage (TBA)	7 - at Hunter Huss
18 - Blacksburg boys at KM scrimmage 6 p.m.	13 - East Burke
20 - South Point	16 - East Rutherford
25 - Forestview (E)	20 - at Burns
	23 - Shelby
	27 - at Draughn
	30 - Crest
DECEMBER	FEBRUARY
5 - at East Rutherford	3 - at RS Central
9 - Burns	6 - Chase
12 - at Shelby	13 - at East Burke
16 - Draughn	*Conference games begin at 4 p.m. if there is a JV girls game. If no JV girls game, JV boys begin at 4:30 with varsity girls and varsity boys to follow.
19 - at Crest	
29-31 - Holiday Classic (boys only) at Shelby	

Lady Mountaineers looking to improve



Tiffani Thompson scores from close range for Kings Mountain's girls in game with East Rutherford last year. The Lady Mountaineers open their season this week with a scrimmage and then start regular season action next week.

Open with scrimmage at North Gaston

First-year head coach Adam Cooke expects his Kings Mountain High women's basketball team to be improved and make a strong run for the state 3A playoffs this year.

The Lady Mountaineers, who were 12-13 a year ago, lost 1,000-point scorer Monique Petty but have several talented players that should take up the slack.

Cooke will get his first look at the Lady Mountaineers against another team Thursday when they travel to North Gaston for a 6 p.m. scrimmage.

The KM ladies scrimmage at Maiden Saturday and open their regular season Thursday, Nov. 20 at home against South Point.

The Lady Mountaineers return six players from last year's team; plus, junior Shaniya Portee, who transferred to Burns last year, is back and looking good.

The top returner is junior post player Tiffani Thompson, who averaged 14 points and was the team's leading

See HOOPS, Page B7

REWARD OFFERED
for info leading to the return of CARR Trailer stolen from WalMart Marketplace in KM over weekend of Nov. 1-2.
Call (704) 739-4568

Celebrating 26th Anniversary In Business!

EVERYDAY IS BLACK FRIDAY

THRU NOVEMBER AT LAUGHLIN'S

Twin Mattress Sets **\$129.99**

Full Mattress Sets **\$159.99**

Queen Mattress Sets **\$199.99**

EURO TOP MATTRESS SETS

Twin Sets **\$199.99**

Full Sets **\$219.99**

Queen Sets **\$249.99**

King Sets **\$399.99**

Simmons Beauty Rest

Queen Sets **\$449.99**

Ashley Sleep Closeout

Queen Mattress Sets **\$349.99**

2 Pc. Sofa & Loveseats \$599.99

Sectional Sofa starting at \$599.99

5 Pc. ASHLEY Signature Design Bedroom Sets \$699.99

Includes Queen Headboard, Dresser, Mirror, Chest, Nightstand

Large Selection DINETTES starting at \$349.99

YOUR BEST VALUE FOR FURNITURE

Laughlin FURNITURE

DELIVERING SAVINGS FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS

704-484-3204

400 N. LAFAYETTE ST. SHELBY, NC

Open Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5:30 pm
Sat. 8:30 - 5:00 pm

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH WITH CREDIT APPROVAL VISA, MASTERCARD, & DISCOVER ACCEPTED

Check Us Out On Facebook

C&C SCRAP IRON & METAL INC

BUYERS OF ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL

*STEEL *CAST IRON *APPLIANCES *AUTOMOBILES *ALUMINUM *BRASS *COPPER *STAINLESS STEEL

"CONTAINER SERVICE AVAILABLE"

1538 BETHLEHEM ROAD, KINGS MOUNTAIN

704-739-8053

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30; Closed Saturday & Sunday