

# Kevin Mack Classic Friday and Saturday

The second annual Kevin Mack Classic will be played Friday and Saturday at Kings Mountain High School. Games will be played in John Gamble Stadium and on KMHS practice fields.

The annual event features all of the Kings Mountain Elite Trailblazers teams against top competition from North and South Carolina. In all, 20 teams will be competing.

The tournament will be played in four divisions: 6-under, 8-under, 10-under and 12-under. First round games will begin at 9 a.m.

Friday. The tournament resumes Saturday at 9:30 a.m. for the semifinals in each division. The championship round is Saturday with the 6U at 12 noon, 8U at 1:15, 10U at 2:30 and 12U at 3:45.

The tournament is held each year in honor of former Kings Mountain High football star Kevin Mack. The running back went on to play on Clemson University's 1981 NCAA championship team and was the AFC Rookie of the Year and two-time All-Pro with the Cleveland Browns.

Mack is still employed in

the Browns' front office and is a member of the Kings Mountain Elite Board of Directors. He will be in attendance at this week's games.

Kings Mountain's 8-under and 10-under teams tuned up for the event by participating in the Battle of Rocky Top National Tournament last weekend in Knoxville, TN. Over 400 teams participated.

Both KM teams advanced to the semifinals rounds.

The 8U team won a second round game over the

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KM Elite Trailblazers 7 & 8 year olds.



Kings Mountain's Chaya Hunter attacks the basket in last week's season opener with South Point at the KMHS gym.

## Mountaineers sweep South Point in season opening basketball action

Kings Mountain High's basketball teams swept South Point's Red Raiders in their season openers Thursday night at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The girls went on a 24-0 run in the final 1:40 of the first half and the first five minutes of the third period to defeat the Lady Raiders 63-22.

The Mountaineers started their season off with a thunderous dunk by 6-4 junior Omar Petty and never trailed in defeating the Red Raiders 67-49.

Kings Mountain was scheduled to host Forest-

view in non-conference action last night and they will remain at home next Monday for a non-conference encounter with Clover, SC.

Coaches Adam Cooke (girls) and Grayson Pierce (boys) used their season-openers to get a good look at all of their players, and all of them performed well. The coaches used numerous combinations as they evaluate talent to decide on starting lineups for the SMAC season which begins Friday, Dec. 5 at East Rutherford.

A welcome addition to the Lady Mountaineers is

freshman Leasia Rhodes, who led all scorers with 18 points. Last year's number two scorer and top rebounder, junior Tiffani Thompson, played just one quarter because of a knee injury but was a big reason the KM ladies erased a 10-3 first quarter deficit by rallying late in the second period and completely dominating the rest of the game.

Rhodes scored the last seven points of the second period as KM rallied from a 10-3 first quarter deficit to carry an 18-12 lead into the half. Her free throw at the 1:40 mark tied the game,

then she hit two follow shots and a lay-in to turn the game around.

Thompson, who along with new players Ka'Myah Pressley and Tamara Adams scored eight points apiece, drew a lot of attention away from other players with her presence inside which not only included scoring but numerous rebounds, blocked shots and assists. KM carried a 46-16 lead into the fourth quarter.

Petty's dunk sparked a 16-8 first quarter advantage for the Mountaineers. South

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## Bell, Johnson and Crocker offensive leaders in 2014

Seniors Brandon Bell, Xavier Johnson and Tico Crocker were the offensive leaders for the Kings Mountain Mountaineers during the 2014 football season.

Despite missing three games with a shoulder injury, Bell had his second straight 1,000-yard passing season and also led the team in scoring with 12 touchdowns and 72 points.

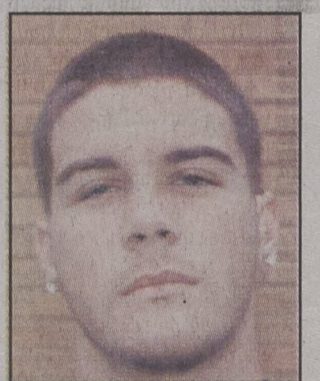
Johnson, who missed all but two games last season with an injury, came back strong this year to lead the Mountaineers with 35 catches for 505 yards and became the school's all-time leader with 107 catches and 1,655 yards. Both of his records surpassed the marks of 78 catches and 1,558 yards set by Terrance Young of the championship 2008 Mountaineers.

Crocker, who played quarterback, slot receiver and defense, was Kings Mountain's most versatile player and joined Bell as the only two players to top the 1,000-yard total offense figure.

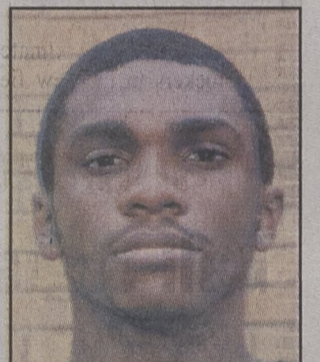
Bell finished with 1,712 yards total offense (554 rushing and 1,158 passing), giving him 4,052 yards (1,326 rushing and 2,726 passing) for his two-year career. One of the amazing things about those totals was that he did not play football until his sophomore year.

Crocker finished with 1,046 yards total offense (286 rushing, 392 passing and 368 receiving).

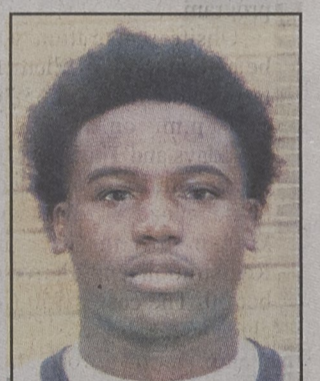
Johnson's best year receiving was his sophomore season when he caught 55 passes for 871 yards. His junior year he was injured in the Cleveland County Jam-



Brandon Bell



Xavier Johnson



Tico Crocker



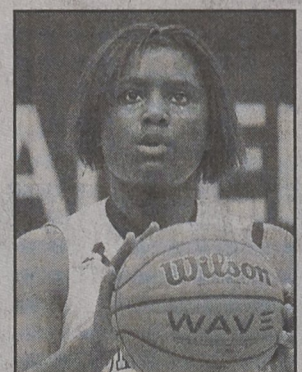
Darian McClain

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Kings Mountain's Emily Hester signs to play softball at Tusculum College as her parents look on. Standing, left to right, are KMHS assistant principal Julie Rikard, softball coach Craig Short, assistant coach Carmen Scism and athletic director Dustin Morehead.

## Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



Leasia Rhodes Basketball



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