

## Mountaineers beat R-S 50-42

Kings Mountain pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat R-S Central 50-42 Tuesday in a SMAC 2A/3A game in Rutherfordton.

The Mountaineers led most of the game but the Hilltoppers kept it close. A 16-9 scoring advantage in the fourth quarter was the difference.

Kings Mountain's free throw accuracy also played a big part. The Mountaineers hit 18 of 33 compared to just 7 of 20 by the Hilltoppers.

Nelson McClain led the KM scoring with 15 points, including 3-of-5 from three-point land. Dante Starr added 12 points and 11 rebounds, Omar Petty 11 points and seven rebounds, and Jacob Skidmore 10 blocks.

Josh Searcy and Juwan Burnette led the Hilltop-

pers with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

R-S Central's girls outscored the Lady Mountaineers 12-4 in overtime to win the opening game, 52-44. Te'ja Twitty scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and Kyra Davis contributed 13 points and 14 rebounds to the RS win.

R-S led 11-4 after the first quarter, 18-16 at the half and 31-28 going into the fourth period. KM outscored the Lady Hilltoppers 12-9 in the fourth quarter to force the extra period.

### BOYS GAME

KM (50) - McClain 15, Starr 12, Petty 11, Hill 5, Skidmore 4, Mosley 3.

RS (42) - Sarcy 13, Burnette 11, Whitesides 9, Hunt 4, Atchley 3, Williams 2.



Kings Mountain's Julian Coulter powers his way to a basket in Friday's SMAC game with Chase at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

## Close call: Mountaineers beat Chase in final minute

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers came from six points down in the final 44 seconds to edge Chase 62-61 in their final regular season home game Friday at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The Mountaineers end their regular season Friday at East Burke and will await their seeding and first round opponent for the NCHSAA 3A tournament which begins February 24.

Kings Mountain's girls made it a clean sweep by rolling over the Lady Trojans 63-18 in the opening game.

Mountaineer coach Grayson Pierce used the Senior Night game to give all of his seniors substantial playing time. Chase was able to stay within 12 points the entire game but made a late fourth quarter rally that almost pulled out the win.

The Trojans trailed 41-29 going into the final eight minutes but battled strong and finally tied the score at 49-all on a three-pointer by Bruce Squires with 4:06 left.

Almost perfect free throw shooting by Squires keyed the Trojans' upset bid in the final minutes.

A string of seven free throws with 2:15 left gave Chase the lead. They were a result of two personal fouls, including one on a three-point attempt, and a technical foul against the Mountaineer bench. With



Miranda Ellis (11) leads the fast break on Chase's Maddie Hewitt (22) in Friday's SMAC game at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

Chase behind 51-49 when the whistles began blowing, Squires hit two of his first three to tie the game at 51, but after the third foul he was fouled again as the rebounding battle began. After he hit the first personal free throw, KM was assessed with the technical and Squires hit three more shots for a 55-51 lead.

After two more free throws from Squires with 55 seconds left, the Trojans led 59-53. But KM's Nelson McClain hit two three-pointers to tie the score at 59-all with 33.9 seconds remaining.

Two more Squires free

throws at the 33-second mark put the Trojans back on top 61-59, but KM's Omar Petty answered with a strong inside move to tie the score at 61. Petty was fouled on the play and missed the shot, but KM's 6-7 junior Jacob Skidmore was there for the rebound and was fouled. Skidmore hit the first of two to put KM up 62-61 and the Mountaineer defense secured the win.

All 14 members of the KM team saw action, including senior point guard Shawn Adams who has been out since early December with a serious concussion. Adams started to a standing

ovation from the KM fans, and after the first 20 seconds returned to the bench to another standing ovation.

McClain led the Mountaineers with 11 points and Sneed added 10. Squires led all scorers with 26 points, including 13 of 15 from the foul line, and Zach Anderson contributed 18 and Tyreece McSwain 14 for the Trojans.

Kings Mountain's girls had no trouble with the Lady Trojans. Coach Adam Cooke also played all 12 of his ladies.

Kings Mountain jumped

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## Patriots sweep Burns, Chase

Kings Mountain Middle School swept Burns and Chase in Tri-County home games last Monday and Tuesday.

The girls defeated Burns 38-26. Leading the team in scoring were Hannah Clark with 16, Aleenih Carter-Kee eight, Maggie Lloyd six, Emily Graham four and Essence Houser and Sarah Drennan two each.

Playing well on defense were Mariah Josey, Houser and Lloyd.

Against Chase, the Lady Patriots came out firing, taking a 39-2 lead into half-time.

"Our defense played really well in creating turnovers that turned into easy baskets," said KMMS coach Monty Deaton. "The girls really got after it and the shots were falling as well."

Leading the team in scoring were Hannah Clark with 11, Sarah Drennan nine, Maggie Lloyd eight, Essence Houser five, Aleenih Carter-Kee four

and Niya Kelly and Mary Cameron Lowrance two each.

KM led 13-2 after the first quarter and 36-2 at the half

The boys defeated Burns Monday 61-43. Leading scorers were Caleb Watkins with 23, Kaylon Wade 12 and Lannden Zannnders 11. Eli Paysour added six, Zach Crawford three and Titus Clark, James Parsons and John Harmon Melton two each. Defensive leaders were Clark, Wade and Melton.

On Tuesday, KM outscored Chase 60-39. Watkins led the scoring with 25 points, followed by Zanders 12, Clark eight, Jordan Tillman and James Ussery four each, Paysour, Marquiz Fowell and Belton Pressley two each, and James Parsons one.

Playing well on defense were Clark, Crawford, Ussery and Tillman.

Wade was selected Player of the Week and Clark and Crawford were Sixth Men of the Week.



Kings Mountain offensive tackle Graham Keeter, front row center, signs to play football at Gardner-Webb University on the NCAA's national signing day Wednesday. Looking on, seated, are his parents, Wendy and Leard Keeter. Back row, left to right, are KMHS assistant principal Julie Rikard, athletic director Dustin Morehead, head football coach Greg Lloyd, offensive line coach Kevin Cruise and KMHS guidance counselor Jill Cruise

## Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



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