



The four former Mountaineers pictured will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 28th annual ceremony Saturday, May 9 at Central United Methodist Church. Clockwise from upper left are Dale Hollifield while he was playing football at Western Carolina in the early 1960s; Morgan Childers Caddell pitching for USC Upstate; Tony Leigh when he was coaching baseball at KMHS in the late 1990s and early 2000s; and Priscilla Rickenbacker, former basketball and softball star at KMHS and NC Wesleyan College.

## Childers, Leigh, Rickenbacker, Hollifield going into Hall of Fame

Four athletes who stood out on the high school and collegiate level will be inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame at its 28th annual ceremony Saturday, May 9 at Central United Methodist Church.

They are Morgan Childers Caddell, whose pitching talent in softball spanned the high school,

collegiate and professional levels; the late Tony Leigh, a baseball and fast pitch softball standout and a successful high school coach; Priscilla Rickenbacker a two-sport high school and collegiate athlete; and Dale Hollifield, who has been a part of Kings Mountain High athletics since 1957.

Caddell, now pitching coach at Wingate Univer-

sity, holds all of the pitching records at KMHS and the University of South Carolina-Upstate.

As a Mountaineer, she pitched the softball team to back-to-back state championships in 2005 and 2006. The KM ladies finished third in the state during her senior season of 2007 and made it to the Western Regional championship game

during her freshman year of 2004.

Her season and career records may never be equaled at KMHS. They include a four-year pitching record of 91-8, a career ERA of 0.44 (a 0.04 her senior year in which she gave up only one run), four-time all-conference player, and two-time State MVP. In the 2006 state championship (her ju-

nior year), she pitched all 35 innings of a three-game series, winning all three games by 1-0.

At Upstate, her pitching records include 113 career wins, 1,338 career strikeouts, 106 complete games, and 42 shutouts. She was Atlantic Sun Pitcher of the Year in 2008 and All-Atlantic Sun three years. Her jersey was retired during her

senior year, making her the only athlete in school history to have a jersey retired while she was still playing. She played professional softball with the Akron Racers in 2012 before going into the high school and collegiate coaching ranks.

Tony Leigh was an All-Conference outfielder

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## Fourth quarter comeback lifts KM over North Forsyth

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers broke their silence in the fourth quarter and came from 16 points down to defeat North Forsyth 70-66 in the first round of the state 3A playoffs Saturday in Winston-Salem.

Kings Mountain trailed by 13 points at halftime and 16 after three periods and seemed destined to end their season.

But the Mountaineers went to a full-court press at the be-

ginning of the fourth quarter and turned numerous steals and North Forsyth turnovers into baskets.

"We began picking up the tempo and speeding up the game," noted Mountaineer coach Grayson Pierce. "It was now or never and we didn't want to leave anything out on the court."

Sophomore Kavin Mosley set the tone for the upset.

"We started him at point

guard because we figured he could speed us up a little bit more," noted Pierce. "That enabled Nelson McClain to go to the wing and get his shot."

McClain finished with 18 points and Mosley 16 to lead the Mountaineer attack. Demetrius Hill added 11, Jacob Skidmore 10 and Josh Helton 8.

The Mountaineers took the lead with two minutes remaining and never relinquished it.

"Everybody was pretty silent until the fourth quarter," Pierce noted. "Both of our 6-7 men (Skidmore and Helton) were in foul trouble and ended up fouling out. We hit some big free throws down the stretch to seal it."

Kings Mountain improved to 16-9 heading into a second round game at Waxhaw Cuthbertson Monday night.



Third baseman Miranda Ellis fields a hot grounder during softball game last year. The talented junior will probably move to first base this season

### Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



**Kavin Mosely**  
Basketball

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### Mountaineers (hopefully) to host Huskies, Bulldogs

Weather permitting, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers hope to get their baseball season under way this week.

All of their scheduled scrimmages last week were cancelled due to the weather. They were scheduled to open their season Tuesday night with a South Mountain Athletic Conference game at East Rutherford.

The schedule for the remainder of the week has the Mountaineers playing at home tonight against the Hunter Huss Huskies and Friday against SMAC rival Burns. Next Tuesday, they travel to Shelby.

Barry Gibson, former Mountaineer player and head coach of the 1980 Western NC championship team, will throw out the first

pitch against Hunter Huss; and Stuart Spires, a pitcher on the state championship 1989 team, will throw out the first pitch at Friday's game against Burns.

With bad weather in the forecast for last night, Mountaineer Coach Matt Bridges noted that if the KM-East game is postponed it would probably be made up Wednesday and the Huss game moved to Saturday.

The Mountaineers showed some promise in the few days of practice they've had, and they're ready to see how they do against someone other than themselves.

Bridges basically has a young team and a lot of untested sophomores and juniors could play a big role. The veteran coach has 12

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### Lady Mountaineers host Burns on Friday

Kings Mountain High's girls softball team finally got in some scrimmage time Friday and Saturday and have a full week of regular season games this week.

The Lady Mountaineers were scheduled to go to defending state champ East Rutherford for their first SMAC game Tuesday. They go to Fred T. Foard today for a non-conference game, host Burns Friday at 6 p.m., and travel to South Point for a non-conference game Saturday.

Despite the slow start of

practice because of inclement weather, Mountaineer coach Craig Short said his ladies got in some quality scrimmage time. They faced Bessemer City Friday afternoon and Butler, South Point and North Gaston Saturday, all at Lancaster Field #3.

"I thought we played really well, especially on defense," Short said. "We communicated very well on the field."

"Just like in football, it

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