

East Here Today

KM Junior High Cagers

Post Four Victories Monday

Kings Mountain Junior High's basketballers opened Western Junior High Athletic Association play Monday with a four-game sweep of Grandview of Hickory.

The varsity girls and boys won 53-31 and 62-47, respectively, in a twinbill played at the KMJH gym and the jayvee girls won 30-16 and the boys 59-32 in a doubleheader played at Grandview.

Frank Parker, the leading scorer on the jayvee team a year ago, took up where he left off last year, pouring in a high game of 30 points. He hit a blazing 11-of-14 from the floor and 8-of-9 from the foul line.

David Hager contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds, Avery Grier nine points and 14 rebounds and Mark Champion eight points, four rebounds and four assists.

Grier and Hager led a defensive effort which completely shut off Grandview's 6-foot-7 center, Chris Washbrun.

The Patriots hit a torrid 71 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the foul line in their most impressive opener in five years under veteran coach Ken Napier.

KM jumped to a 9-0 lead and Grandview never got closer than 10 points after that. KM was on top by 31-18 at halftime and 51-34 going into the fourth quarter.

"It was a real good team effort, especially for the first

game," noted Napier. "We had several turnovers but we can eliminate those in practice. I was proud of every kid we put on the floor."

Napier singled out Bo Thompson and Chris Champion for their reserve play and point guard David Peeler for his ability to run the offense.

"I was surprised," said Napier. "We had good offensive execution and Grier and Hager did a good job taking the ball inside against the big man."

The girls jumped to an 11-5 first quarter lead and maintained a comfortable advantage throughout the remainder of the ballgame.

"We had a bad case of the first game jitters," said Coach Candy Albergine, "especially in the first half. We didn't play well offensively but luckily we were able to score on several fast breaks."

Trina Hamrick led the KM scoring with 24 points even though she sat out more than a quarter with foul trouble. Linda Stowe added 13 points and Arjuana Curry and Jackie Hartgrove six each. Lisa Wilfong had 19 and Robin Dillingham 10 for Grandview.

"Hamrick and Stowe took the ball to the basket well," Albergine said. "Our outside shooting was poor, mainly because Tootie Roberts, who is probably our best shooter, had an off day."

Coach Albergine singled out Angie Adams for her defensive play and Teresa Freeman for her all-round performance in a reserve role.

"Defensively, we must tighten up our zone," Albergine said. "Grandview was able to drive straight through it and score entirely too much."

"At times we made some really good plays and it felt good to win the first game," she said. "But we'll have to work on our weak points if we want to have a good game against East McDowell."

Lavar Curry scored 25 points and Pete Alexander 16 to lead the jayvee boys, who played their first game under new coach David Hart. Alexander also pulled down nine rebounds and Brad Reynolds helped out in the scoring department with eight points.

"We had excellent floor play," said Hart. "The boys played well together. We had a few mistakes that we need to eliminate but otherwise, I was really happy with the way we played."

Tippy Curry scored 16 points and Sonya McClain added 12 to

lead the jayvee girls.

"We played well considering it was our first game of the season," said Coach Becky Summitt. "Everyone hustled and gave a hundred percent the entire game. But we made a lot of mental errors. We have a lot of improvements to make both offensively and defensively, but with a lot of hard work I am sure we can give any team in our conference a tough game."

The varsity teams remain at home today to host East McDowell in a pair beginning at 4 o'clock. The jayvees play East on the road, also at 4.

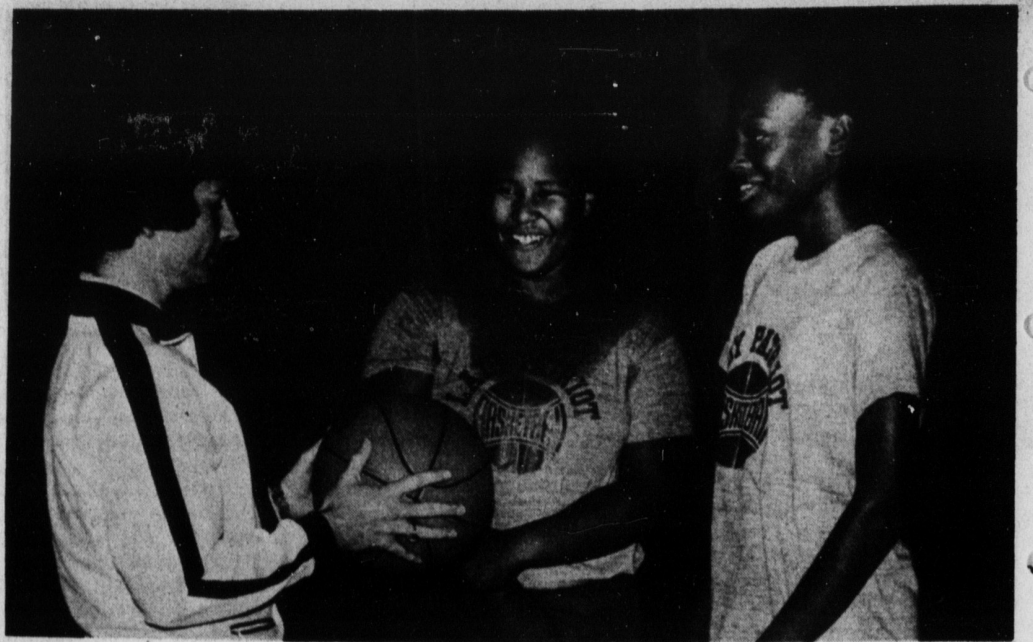


Photo by Gary Stewart

JAYVEE CAPTAINS—Kings Mountain Junior High's jayvee girls basketball coach, Becky Summitt, left, talks to her co-captains Tippi Curry and Sonya McClain. The Lady Pats, 1-0 in Western Conference play, travel to East McDowell today.



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