

# Moffitt Is Aiming For State Mat Crown

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

In three short years as wrestling coach at Kings Mountain High School, Coach Steve Moffitt has reached almost every goal imaginable.

He's won one Southwestern 3-A Conference title, tied another, won one SWC tournament championship and one Southwestern Sectional event.

He's been recognized by his peers as Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year, and coached one of his grapplers (Chuck Gordon) to the State Championship.

The only major title to escape him has been the North Carolina Team Championship, and he has begun steps to make that a reality.

Moffitt this summer organized the Kings Mountain Summer Wrestling Club and took 25 to 30 youngsters all over the state to match their wrestling skills with others. Twenty of his youngsters competed in the State tournament at Hickory (seven of them won first place) and 10 of his men competed in the Southeastern Regional Tournament in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Six of those 10 placed in the top four.

Moffitt will have to wait four or five years to see the results of the summer program, as his participants were sixth and seventh graders. But as these 30 progress and others join the program in the future, he expects to see Kings Mountain High put together some of the best high school wrestling teams in the state.

"We'll get behind if we don't start doing things like this," says Moffitt. "They're doing it in other parts of the state, even though we are the only one in our conference."

The summer program allows the youngsters to compete in about 30 matches, and that's experience that can't even be gained in school wrestling. Junior high teams compete in only 10 regular season matches per year.

"By the time these kids get to be sophomores, they will have competed in over 90 matches, and that's not counting what they'll do in junior high," he said.

"If we can get this program started, it will really help our program. Nobody else in our conference is starting them out that young. And, next year, we hope to go down as low as the

third grade. By the time those kids get in junior high, they'll have six years experience."

"Moffitt, who has a 25-7 record in three years at KMHS, is trying to land next year's Southeastern Regionals. Frank Rader, president of the Wrestling Federation, visited Kings Mountain last Wednesday and will decide between KM and Hickory.

"Kings Mountain's only drawback is facilities," said Moffitt. "He told me we had the best location but Hickory had the best facilities. If we can get the tournament, it'll create more interest and help get kids in our program too."

Moffitt expects to see results of his summer program as early as next year, when most of his grapplers will join the junior high team. He expects his good friend and former assistant coach, Phil Weathers, to win the Western Junior High Conference.

"We had light weights in our program," he said, "and I really expect to see them come through for him. They'll have 30 matches under their belts before they get in the seventh grade and the kids from the other schools won't have any matches before the seventh grade."

His coaching philosophy, he said, is much different in the summer than with his high school team.

"The main thing," he said, "is to get them interested. I don't make it as hard in practice. It's more of a fun thing. There's some pressure on them, but it's a different kind of pressure."

"The competition is better than it is in junior high wrestling," he went on. "The regional was unreal. It was the best competition I've ever seen for kids. It was some of the best competition in the United States."

"I hope they extend the tournaments," he went on. "We're already through and the wrestlers tend to forget a little. Some of them are still wanting to practice even though they don't have any more matches."

Moffitt is so sold on the summer program in the U.S., he honestly feels future Olympic champions will come out of it.

"I was talking to a referee down at Florida who has a son 12 years old," he said. "He's been wrestling in an exchange program since he was seven. He's wrestled in Mexico and other foreign countries. I've never seen that good a quality of wrestling with such young kids. Some of

them look like high school state champions."

For Kings Mountain next summer, Moffitt plans to concentrate on getting other age groups, including the lower grades and high school, interested.

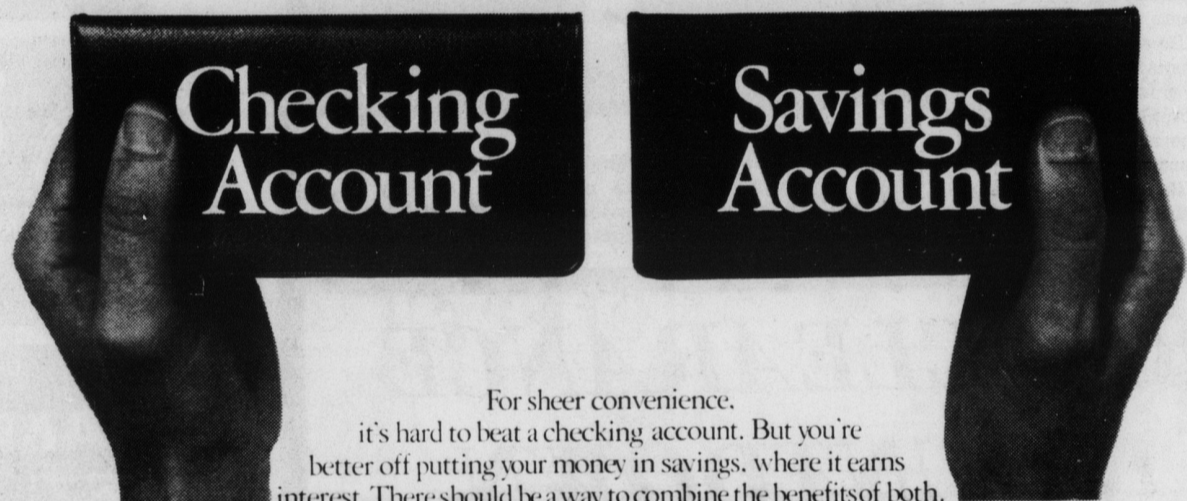
He wants to keep a big step ahead of the other area towns in hopes of keeping his Mountaineers at the top of the Southwestern 3-A Conference.

"In wrestling now, we're like Shelby used to be in football," he said. "A lot of the schools have never beaten us and that's their main goal ... to beat Kings Mountain. We'll be weaker than usual this coming year because we lost so many seniors. But if this summer program does what I think it's going to do, it's really going to help our program."

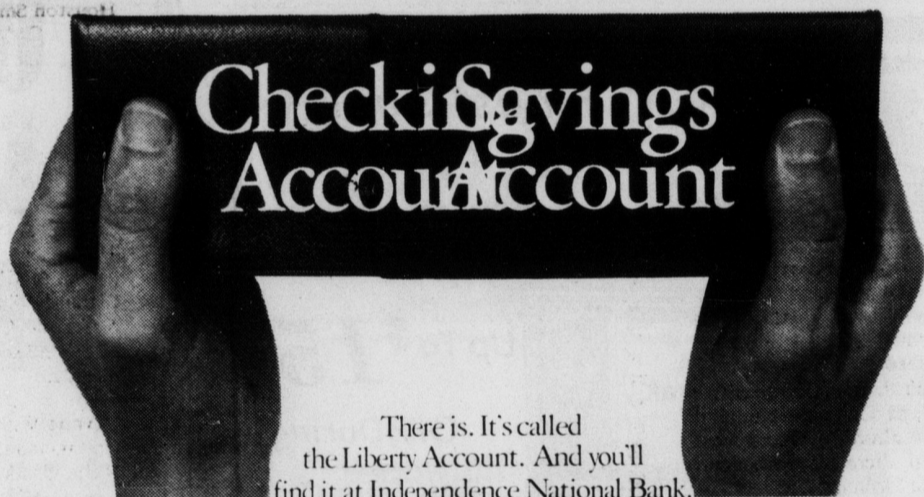


**KM GRAPPLERS**—Pictured above are six of the 10 Kings Mountain wrestlers who competed in the Southeastern Regionals Tournament in Florida recently. Front row, left to right, Sidney Brown, state champ in the 80-pound class; Roderick Boyce, fourth in regional at 105 pounds; and Vince Sullens, state champ and third in regionals in 90 pound class. Back row, Dale Smart, state champ and runner-up in regionals in 85 pound class; Rocky Lutz, third in state in 110 pounds; and Trent Rhea, second in state at 80 pounds. Not pictured, Dwayne Brooks, second in state and fourth in regionals at 85 pounds; Derek Jordan, state champ and third in regionals at 95 pounds; David Parker, third in state at 98 pounds; and Doug Sipe, fourth in regionals and third in state at 167 pounds.

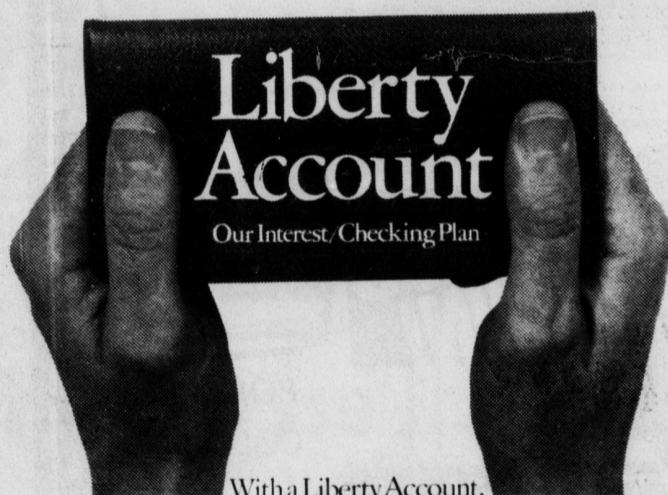
## The Liberty Account. With checking plus interest for all.



For sheer convenience, it's hard to beat a checking account. But you're better off putting your money in savings, where it earns interest. There should be a way to combine the benefits of both.



There is. It's called the Liberty Account. And you'll find it at Independence National Bank.



With a Liberty Account, you still actually maintain two accounts: checking and savings. But now, until you write a check, all your money remains in savings, where it earns 5 1/2% interest.

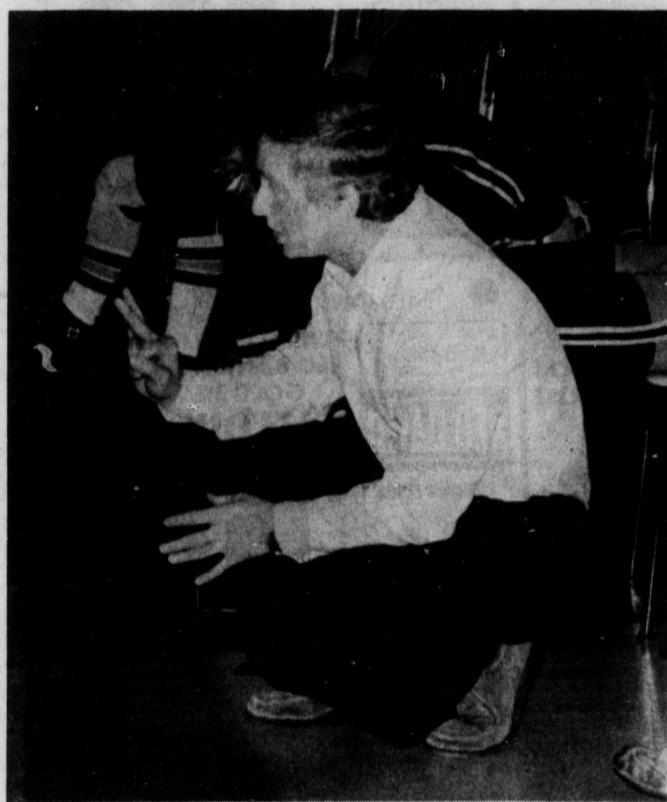
As you write checks, funds are instantly transferred to your checking account to pay them. Between checks, your checking account balance remains at zero. And all your money stays in savings, earning interest.

Now, the Liberty Account is even more attractive — because the savings balance required for no service charge has been reduced to \$1,000 or more. See your professional banker at Independence National Bank.



**INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL BANK**  
PROFESSIONAL BANKERS YOU CAN DEPEND ON

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION



Steve Moffitt

## Season Football Tickets On Sale At KMHS Office

Season tickets for the 1980 Kings Mountain High School football season will go on sale July 21 at the KMHS main office.

Tickets for the five home games will be \$10, Principal Bob McRae said.

McRae said last year's ticket holders may reserve their same seats if they contact the school between July 7 and 18.

The price of the season tickets is the same as five individual tickets, but the season ticket assures the holder of the same seat at every game.

The five home games this year are against Burns on Sept. 5, Ashbrook on Sept. 12, Crest on Oct. 3, North Gaston (homecoming) on Oct. 10 and R-S Central on Oct. 31.