

Mounties Edge Lions

SPORTS

Kings Mountain and Shelby basketballers opened '82 play Tuesday night at the KMHS gym in typical fashion, playing a pair of close contests before a packed house.

Kings Mountain's boys, coming off a big 91-70 victory over Ashbrook, had to come from behind in the fourth period to edge a sophomore-dominated Shelby five, 63-60, for their 10th victory in 11 starts.

Kings Mountain's girls led early, but Shelby's taller and more experienced ladies came storming from behind in the second half to capture a 53-48 decision.

Kings Mountain hits the road for their next two Southwestern Conference contests, facing East Rutherford Friday and Chase next Monday. The local fives return home on Fri., Jan. 15 to face R-S Central in what should prove to be the biggest games of the year.

Kings Mountain's boys, who shot 51 percent from the floor and held a 21-16 edge in rebounding, never could get into their transition game against a stubborn Shelby defense.

The young Shelby lads, with four sophs in their starting five, got two of KM's big men—Terrence Blalock and Demetrius Goode—in foul trouble and while those two were on the bench in the third period, the Lions built a 52-49 lead.

Todd Wray, who led all scorers with 19 points, took up the slack inside and the Mounties got their usual good outside effort from guards Carl Smith and Frank Parker, who scored 15 and 13 points, respectively. Blalock, who finished with 10,

and Goode returned in the fourth period to help bring the Mounties from behind to score their sixth SWC win in seven tries.

Wray had a spectacular night, hitting eight of nine field goal attempts and three of four shots from the foul line. He also led the KM rebounding effort with six. Blalock had five rebounds and Goode four.

Four of the five KM starters hit over 50 percent of their field goal attempts. Only Smith, who hit 46 percent, was below the 50 percent figure.

"Shelby was well-prepared, ran their offense and played a sticky man to man defense all night," KM Coach John Blalock said. "We were glad to get out with a three-point win. We just didn't play as well as we've been playing. We might have been riding on the big win over Ashbrook or looking ahead to R-S Central."

Blalock hopes the looking ahead will go only past Friday night, when the Mounties host a greatly improved East Rutherford team, which dropped a narrow 58-56 decision to unbeaten R-S Central Tuesday. The Cavaliers feature one of the top college prospects in the area in Benji Camp, who is scoring over 30 points per game.

Kings Mountain's girls held the upper hand on Shelby in the first half and were up by 12 points late in the second period. But Shelby began to rally, cutting the halftime margin to 24-22, and then took command in the third quarter.

Kings Mountain got a good inside game from Trina Hamrick and Sonya McClain, who scored 20 and 12 points, respectively, but Arjuana Curry, who scored nine points, and Tammy Bolton, who had seven, were the only other Mountainettes to score.

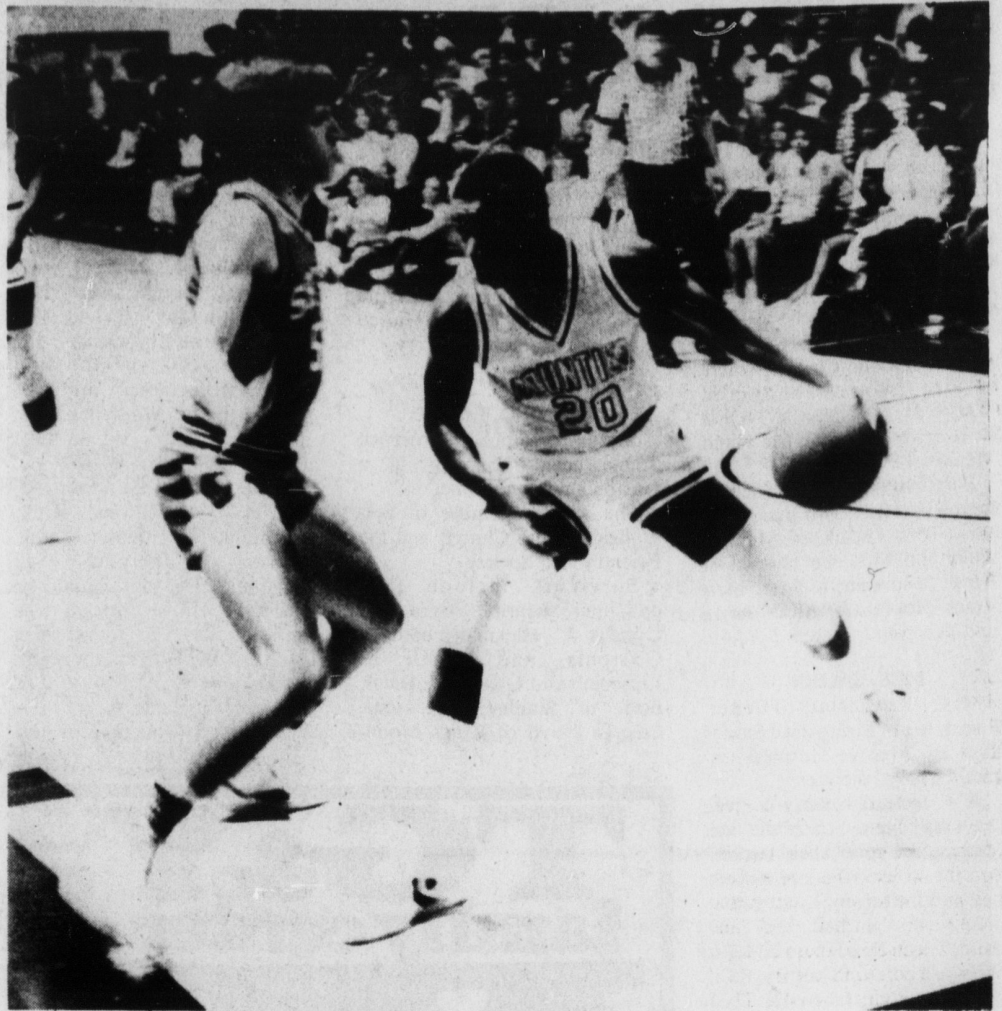
Shelby's free throw shooting was the big difference late in the game, as time and again the Lady Lions went to the line and sank one-and-one situations. Kings Mountain cut the score to two points on several occasions in the fourth period but never could earn a tie.

GIRLS GAME

K. Mtn. (48) - Hamrick 20, McClain 12, Curry 9, Bolton 7. Shelby (53) - Smith 13, Whitworth 13, Freeman 12, B. Cannon 9, A. Cannon 5, Sanders 1.

BOYS GAME

K. Mtn. (63) - Smith 15, Parker 13, Blalock 10, Wray 19, Goode 4, Hager 2. Shelby (60) - Lytle 8, Dillingham 8, Petty 16, Henshaw 6, Smith 6, Littlejohn 8, Manning 4, Young 4.



KMHS's Terrence Blalock drives on Shelby defense in 63-60 win Tuesday....

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