

District Cage Tourney Begins Here Next Week

Kings Mountain High School will host the District 7 3-A boys and girls basketball tournaments February 24-27 and March 2.

The top five teams from the Southwestern Conference and the top three teams from the Western Piedmont Conference will compete for the first place trophy and the right to go to Hickory March 11-13 for the Western Regionals. The winners at Hickory will advance to the State finals.

Games will be played on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 5 p.m., 6:30 and 8 p.m. The championship games on Tues., Mar. 2 will be at 6:30 and 8 p.m.

Kings Mountain's boys and girls are assured of berths in the district events due to their regular season finishes in the SWC. The boys won the conference and the girls finished in fourth place.

The top five regular season finishers will advance to the district unless a team which finished lower than fifth wins the conference tourney. If that happens, the tournament winners will advance and the fifth place regular season finishers will not advance.

If that doesn't happen, Kings Mountain's boys will play their first district game on Wed., Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. against the number five team from the Southwestern Conference. The KM girls will play their first district game on Thurs., Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. against the number one team from the Western Piedmont Conference.

The opening night pairings on Wednesday include:

- 5 p.m. - No. 2 WPC vs. No. 3 SWC (girls).
- 6:30 - No. 1 SWC vs. No. 5 SWC (girls).
- 8 p.m. - No. 1 SWC vs. No. 5 SWC (boys).

Thursday's schedule:

- 5 p.m. - No. 1 WPC vs. No. 4 SWC (girls).
- 6:30 - No. 2 WPC vs. No. 3 SWC (boys).
- 8 p.m. - No. 1 WPC vs. No. 4 SWC (boys).

Jayvees Win SWC

Kings Mountain High's jayvee basketball team wrapped up its third straight Southwestern 3-A Conference title Friday at home, defeating Chse 96-56.

The victory gave Coach Danny McDowell's Little Mounties a final 13-5 record.

Arnold Jordan led the scoring with 23 points and shared top rebounding honors with Larry Crocker with 10. He also stole the ball six times and dished out six assists. Mark Champion also had six assists and Crocker blocked five shots.

The Mounties got off to a good start, using their man to man defense to force Chase into a number of turnovers. The Mounties built up a 27-7 lead. Coach McDowell played all 11 of his players in the first period.

Kings Mountain's transition game and its shooting against Chase's zone defense enabled the team to build the lead to 49-21 at the close of the second period, and the Little Mounties ran the difference to 64-37 going into the fourth quarter.

For the night, KM hit 72 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the foul line and committed only four turnovers.

"We played with a lot of intensity," McDowell said. "This was a nice way to end our season. This group really wanted that title, and I am so proud of them for their effort this year."

Jordan led the team in scoring with a 20 point per game average. Grier scored 10 per game, David Pettis 8.3 and Mark Champion 8.1.

Crocker topped the rebounding department with 11 per game, and he also averaged five blocked shots per game.

Other players on the team were Chris Champion, Ronnie Byers, Dwayne Williams, Bo Thompson, Skip Birkovich, Brian Byrd, Dorick Spann, Walt Cooper and Curt Pressley.

"I'd like to thank the parents, fans, cheerleaders, managers and everyone for their support of the

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SWC (boys).

- Friday night: 5 p.m. - No. 2 SWC vs. No. 3 WPC (girls).
- 6:30 - Semi-finals girls game.
- 8 p.m. - No. 2 SWC vs. No. 3 WPC (boys).

The second semi-finals girls game and both semi-finals boys games will be played on Saturday night, with the winners advancing to Tuesday's finals.

The girls regional tourney will be played on March 11 and 13 at Hickory and the state finals will be held on March 19 at Elon College.

The boys regional tourney will be played on March 12 and 13 at Hickory and the state finals will be March 20 at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Admission to all five nights of action at the KMHS gym is two dollars. Regular season passes from the Southwestern Con-

ference and other passes honored for persons such as teachers and bus drivers will not be honored. Passes from the State Association will be honored.

KMHS Athletic Director Dan Brooks said ticket sales at all games will be cut off at 1,200.

The teams who will be playing here are, not definite because both the Southwestern Conference and Western Piedmont Conference tournaments are underway this week. The field will be determined following conference tourney finales Saturday.

Barring an upset winner in the SWC tourney, the SWC representatives will be Kings Mountain, R-S Central, East Rutherford, Shelby and North Gaston in the boys division and Shelby, R-S Central, Crest, Kings Mountain and North Gaston in the girls.

KMHS Girls Upset

Kings Mountain's girls basketball team was the first upset victim in the Southwestern 3-A Conference tournament which got underway Tuesday at East Rutherford High School.

The Mountainettes, fifth place finishers in the regular season, fell to Coach Nancy Scoggins' alma mater, North Gaston, 60-56, in the tournament opener Tuesday afternoon.

The Kings Mountain boys, defending tournament champions, got off to a good start in the nightcap, defeating eighth place finisher Crest 84-62.

North Gaston's girls, a thorn in Kings Mountain's side all year long, came back in the second half after trailing 34-31 at intermission. The Lady Wildcats outscored the KM ladies 16-11 in the third period to take a 47-45 lead, and held on over the final eight minutes.

Dixie Friend led North Gaston with 18 points. Sonya McClain scored 18, Trina Hamrick 16 and Tammy Bolton 12 for the Mountainettes.

The Kings Mountain team now owns a 14-10 overall record

heading into the District 7 tournament next week at the KMHS gym.

Kings Mountain's boys took the lead early and never let up in

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Junior High Grapplers Win In Open Tournament

Two Kings Mountain Junior High wrestlers won championships in the South Carolina Open Tournament Saturday at Sullivan Junior High in Rock Hill.

Derek Jordan, a 115-pounder, won his weight class and was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler. He defeated Jeff Hall of Castle Heights on a pin in the finals.

Kings Mountain's other champion was 101-pound Ferris Turner, who dished out Jeff Hallman of Sullivan in the finals. It was only Hallman's second loss in three years. Turner, who pinned three of his four opponents, won the award for turning in the fastest pin (11 seconds).

Roderick Boyce of Kings

Mountain finished second in the 141 pound class, losing his championship match to Sullivan's Steve Jones.

Kings Mountain picked up two third places. Charles McClain won third with a pin over Paul Donaldson of Rollison Road and heavyweight Jarvis Young won third place with a decision over Paul Howard of Grier.

Over 150 wrestlers from several North and South Carolina schools competed.

"I'm real proud of all of our wrestlers," said KM Coach Phil Weathers. "Since we've been going to the tournament, this was the best turnout we've had. There were some of the finest junior high wrestlers in the Carolinas there."

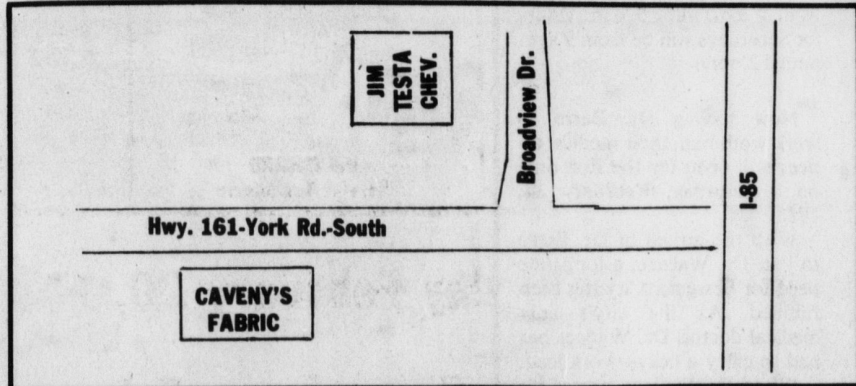
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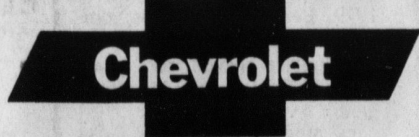
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