

# Mountain Heritage

Boys Varsity  
 NC State Playoffs  
 At Mountain Heritage  
 Wednesday, February 24  
 Vs. Smoky Mountain  
 Paul Badgley - Statistician

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
<b>Smoky Mountain</b>	9	24	13	16	62
<b>Mountain Heritage</b>	13	8	23	15	59

Mountain Heritage's 2009-2010 mens varsity basketball season came to an end with a disappointing 62-59 loss against Smoky Mountain. Both teams started tight and were unable to connect the first few minutes of the game and had problems handling the ball. Both teams finally relaxed and the Cougars took a 13-9 lead into the second quarter. In the second quarter, the Mustangs dominated led by Jackson Simmons who had 10 points and seemed to connect on everything he shot in that frame. As a result the Cougars faced a 12 point deficit at the intermission. In the third quarter, junior Drew Letterman, who has been sidelined with an injury most of the season, started hitting three pointers and that ignited Heritage. Letterman made 14 of the Cougars 23 points capped off by an incredible three quarter court trey that ended the third quarter and cut the Smoky Mountain lead to two and ignited the crowd in anticipation of an exciting final frame. The Mustangs managed to open the lead back up to six points in the final frame but to the Cougars kept fighting back but could never take the lead back. It seemed that every time they came down with an opportunity to take the lead or tie a shot would rim out or a ball would bounce off a leg or take a bad bounce and end up in a Mustangs hands. To their credit, the Cougar team would not quit and forced three turnovers in the last minutes from a very well coached Smoky Mountain team but were unable to capitalize on their defensive efforts. Enough can not be said about the determination of these young men and the adversity they had to play through during this game. As can be noted below, there was a significant disparity in the number of free throws shot during the game which ended up making a huge difference. This disparity occurred in spite of Smoky Mountain playing an aggressive man to man defense most of the game. However, the most incredible story on the free throws was that John Cannon did not *attempt* one free throw during the contest. Further, the Cougars were without the services of Jacob Neill, who has patrolled the lanes all year and provided a physical presence in the middle on defense. Finally, Heritage had to overcome numerous turnovers and generally poor shooting that caused a 12 point halftime deficit and faced a significant challenge in the second half, given the talent the Mustangs have. One adverse issue both teams had to face was the fact that they were paired in the same bracket and met in the second round. A quick check of the brackets and this game demonstrate that these were clearly the best two teams in the bracket, and the team that lost would have been wronged in any case. With the loss, the season ended for a Cougar team that may go down as one of the most talented and balanced to ever play at Heritage. The good news is they have a very strong nucleus coming back and the Cougars should be very competitive again next year.

	FG	FTA	FT	3PT	Total
<b>SMOKY MOUNTAIN</b>					
Carpenter	1	4	1	2	9
Carter	1	2	1		3
Cogdill	4	2	2	1	13
Hodgin					0
Ulrich					0
George	1	2	2		4
Henson					0
DeGraffenreid	2				4
Corbin					0
Cagle	1				2
Davis	2	3	1		5
Mason					0
Mau					0
Simmons	8	7	6		22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>62</b>

	FG	FTA	FT	3PT	Total
<b>MOUNTAIN HERITAGE</b>					
Biggerstaff	1	2	2		4
Kardulis	1				2
Woody					0
Wilson	2	2	2	2	12
Silvers					0
Tomberlin					0
Swann	1			1	5
Cannon	8				16
Badgley					0
Letterman	1			6	20
Burleson					0
Vess					0
Miller					0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>