



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Mount Tabor's Thomas Brabham (2) proved himself as a dual-threat quarterback last week with timely scrambles and three touchdown passes.

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the bizarre three-play sequence that forced OT. Here's what happened. With less than five seconds left to play, the Spartans Noe Jimenez lined up for a 28-yard field goal, which was blocked by Parkland's Savion Hayes. The Mustangs were penalized for being offside, which gave Jimenez another shot, this time from 23 yards. Hayes smothered the kick again, but his team was flagged again for another offside infraction. On the third try, this one from 19 yards out, Hayes came through with his third block and teammate Devon Rucker picked up the loose ball and ran 55

yards before caught from behind by Payne of Mount Tabor. Rucker was tackled around the Spartans 20-yard line as time ran out to end the fourth quarter. "This game was all about finishing and that's something that we'll continue to work on," said Coach Lamont Atwater of Parkland. "This was the best that we've played all season. This team is proving that it can come together. With this loss, I look at our defense. If we don't shut them out, then we don't win." In the first overtime, the Mustangs seized the momentum right away when Blake Schutt stopped Mount Tabor's Rodniue Godwin for no gain and forced a fumble, which was recovered by Parkland. Lee

JV Football Today

- High Point Central @ Glenn, 7 p.m.
- North Forsyth @ Southwestern Randolph, 7 p.m.
- North Davidson @ Parkland, 6 p.m.
- Davie County @ Mount Tabor, 6 p.m.
- West Stokes @ Carver, 7 p.m.
- Reynolds @ West Forsyth, 6 p.m.
- Walkertown @ Mount Airy, 7 p.m.

Kpogba scored what would've been the game-winning TD on an 8-yard run, but the play was called back because of a holding penalty. The drive ended when Mount Tabor's Qumar Price intercepted a third-down pass. The second OT proved is another case of missed opportunities for both teams. Parkland lost a fumble on second-and-goal from the 5-yard line. Mount Tabor returned the

favor on its next offensive possession when Brabham fumbled and the Mustangs recovered, which set the stage for the third overtime. Parkland (3-5) sent a strong message in the half that this was not going to be an easy game for Mount Tabor to win. Kpogba scored a touchdown on a 50-yard punt return in the first quarter to put the Mustangs on top. Jacque Roseboro zipped past Mount Tabor defenders on

a nine-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Those two scores, along with successful PAT runs, put the Mustangs in command at 16-0 by the end of the half. Mount Tabor managed to regroup in the second half. Late in the third quarter, Godwin scored on a two-yard touchdown run and Brabham threw a pass to Moore for the PAT to cut Parkland's lead to 16-8. Six minutes later, Brabham fired a 9-yard scoring pass to Zyquez McMillian and then connected with Dashawn Jones on a PAT conversion pass to tie the game at 16-16 with 11:01 to go in the fourth quarter. "Parkland showed us a lot of different formations and it took a while for us to figure things out," said

Brown. "In that first half, it was old school football. Their desire to run hard was greater than our willingness to tackle. I take my hat off to No. 23 [Devon Rucker] for Parkland. He ran hard all night long. "For us, Janan Moore came to play and we got a big game from John McClurkin, who was just awesome. Cameron Payne stepped in at linebacker and played great." This recent victory could prove to be costly for the Spartans in the closing weeks of the season. Both of their starters at running back were unable to finish the game. De'vante Legrande left with a leg injury in the first half and Godwin was sidelined in the first overtime with a high-ankle sprain.



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(11)GL Garlington

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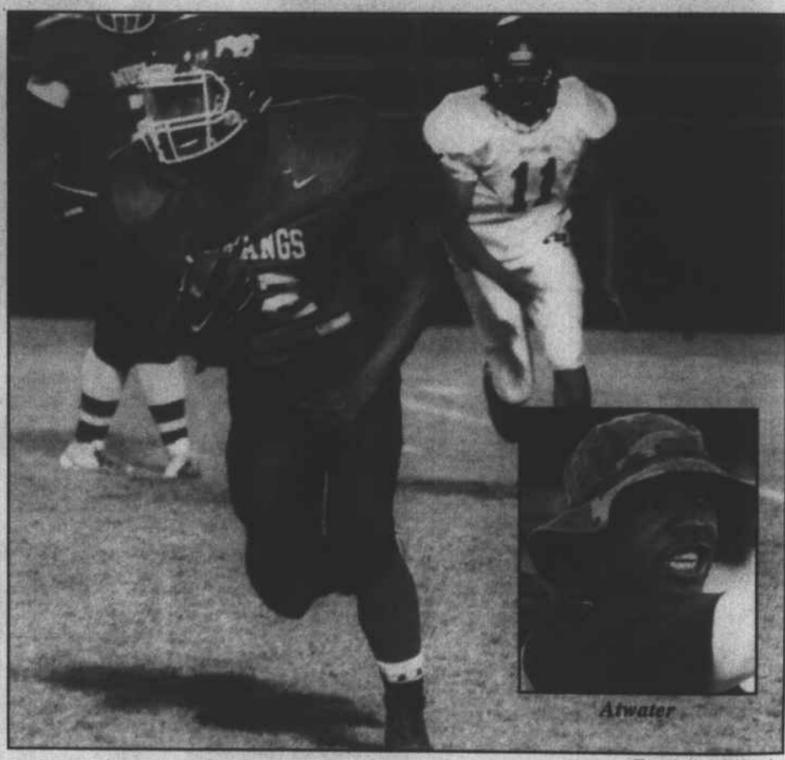
55 seconds left to play. "Once we scored and were down by just three, we needed a stop to give ourselves a chance to win," said Herring. "We didn't get the stop and they kept the ball for almost five minutes. By the time our offense gets back on the field, it just wasn't enough time for us to overcome a 10-point lead." A rash of injuries to key personnel hasn't helped Glenn any. Over the course of the season, the Bobcats have had several starters who have been sidelined for varying lengths of time. In the meantime, Herring has been forced to move several players to different positions. In the process, the offense has gone through a transformation. Earlier in the year, the passing game was an integral part of the attack. Because of the shortage of healthy bodies, Sutton (kick return specialist) and Tahliek Garnes (cornerback) have stepped up as the Bobcats primary ball carriers. Over the past two



Herring

weeks, Tavis Garlington has established himself as the starter at quarterback after being the back up for most of the season. Even though the Bobcats have become a run-first offense, Garlington has a talented group of receivers to work with in Jaquan Sanders, Jordan Ivester, Joshua Cranford and Christen Wilson. "Tavis has had the hot hand lately," said Herring. "Not only is he playing within the system, but he's getting the ball out quickly and he's getting better at reading the defense. But most importantly, he has avoided throwing interceptions and that's been a huge help." The defense, which has carried Glenn all season, has endured some trying

times. Due to the team's problems with turnovers and the inability to sustain scoring drives, the Bobcats tend to wear down, especially in the fourth quarter. Even so, this unit has gotten stellar play from Alpasal Reaves, James McIntyre and Kalill Rogers, who split time between playing on the line and outside linebacker. With two games left on the schedule (at home against High Point Central tonight and next week at Ragsdale), Herring is confident that Glenn can rediscover its collective groove. "It's been a while since we've been able to put it all together from start to finish," Herring said. "We'll play two or three good quarters, but that's just not good enough for us to get over the hump. "We're looking to end this skid and finish up on a positive note. We have some good times and some frustrating times. This team doesn't always execute the way it should. Whether we win or lose, there's one thing I can promise you about this group. Every one of our guys goes out and gives it all they have for 48 minutes."



Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Lee Kpogba of the Mustangs is a bruising runner who has breakaway speed.

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their own in a fiercely contested game that could have ended in victory instead of defeat. On a scale of 1-to-10 with 10 being the highest mark, Atwater gives his team a rating of 8 at this juncture. "We're coming along, he said. "On the other hand, we're no where near where I thought we'd be at this time." Against Mount Tabor, the Mustangs got solid production from their rushing attack with plenty of help coming from linemen Isiah Greene, Taylor Hickman and Blake Schutt. The backfield showcased a nice blend of power and speed with running backs Lee Kpogba, Devon Rucker and Jacque Roseboro. Of the three, Roseboro is the most elusive when he's able to operate in space. Kpogba and Rucker are punishing runners who do not shy away from contact. Rucker has better than average speed and Kpogba has that rare combination of brute strength and breakaway speed to go the distance from anywhere on the field.

One feature of Parkland's offense that's sure to be refined is its version of the Wildcat formation. In this set, the quarterback comes out of the game and Rucker takes direct snaps from center. It's pure power football. At quarterback, starter Tyrone Barber gives Parkland a viable passer who can successfully attack opposing secondaries. But Barber has to stay healthy in order to keep the Mustangs from becoming too dependent on rushing the football. With the threat of a passing game, defenses can't totally gear their efforts to shutting down the run. The defense, which has continued to improve, is the prime strength of Atwater's team. As a group, they played very well against the Spartans in defeat. With Kpogba, Brian Hollman, Andrew Grant and Savion Hayes roaming the secondary, the Mustangs will be difficult to throw on, especially as Sisa Dreher and Archer Smith continue to blossom as fierce pass rushers. Joseph McMillian shows much promise at line-backer.

"At Parkland, we have the players who have the talent and skills and they're knowledgeable about the game," said Atwater. "In the past, the difference between us and other schools has been what we have in terms of our weight room. We've improved a lot in that area and now, the results are beginning to show." Since Parkland's junior varsity represents its varsity future, there's every reason to believe and expect that it won't be too long before the Mustangs return to the prominence they reached in years past. Will that happen overnight? Maybe so, maybe not. In assessing the results so far, it's most likely that the Mustangs rise to the upper echelons of the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference will happen sooner rather than later. "I won't say that Parkland is all the way back just yet," said Coach Tiesuan Brown of Mount Tabor. "But they're definitely taking the right steps. If teams still feel like they can go to sleep against Parkland, they're going to find themselves in a lot of trouble."