



# HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

## Jones Praises Offensive Backs And Blocking Of Jake Bridges

Coach Bobby Jones watched his Kings Mountain Mountaineers demolish Bessemer City 36-12 here last Friday night and couldn't help but be pleased.

For one thing, the Mountaineer offense moved the ball more consistently than it had since Jones became head coach at the beginning of last season.

"We made a lot of mistakes," noted Jones, "but we looked pretty good, especially on offense."

Jones said he was pleased with the performance of his entire backfield, plus the blocking of senior tackle Jake Bridges.

"Our backs all ran well," said Jones, "and both of our quarterbacks did a good job."

If there was one spot that wasn't impressive, it was KM's secondary, which allowed Bessemer City well over 100 yards passing.

I thought the defense was good except on Bessemer City's long scoring play," Jones said, referring to Goldie Byers' 75-yard pass reception. "And," added Jones, "our boys weren't all that bad on that play. He (Byers) just got between two of our men. He didn't beat them, he just made a good catch. Those things are going to happen."

Jones said his players came out with no major injuries.

## -Chase Stronger Than Mounties

Although Jones is pleased with his team's performance thus far, he feels his club will have to play much better this Friday night in order to defeat Southwestern Conference rival Chase. The Trojans have lost two games already, 41-0 to East Rutherford and 21-0 to Crest, but Jones warns his players that the Trojans are always up for Kings Mountain.

"Chase has real good personnel," said Jones. "They just haven't been able to put it together. They improved 100 percent from their first game to their second game."

"Chase is physically stronger than we are," Jones continued. "We'll have to play a good game to beat them."

Jones couldn't help but remember last year when the Mounties run up a quick 13-0 lead at Chase, only to lose 16-13 when the Trojans came back behind the passing of quarterback Tony Fowler.

"Fowler is an exceptionally good passer," said Jones. "Chase has been primarily a running team in their first two games, but we expect them to throw more against us."

Jones expects the Mountaineers to be strengthened by the return of Myron George, who was injured recently in an automobile accident.

"Myron probably won't play a lot," said Jones, "because he just started working heavy again Tuesday. But he'll give us some depth at halfback and linebacker."

## -Picking The Winners

Football is really in the air now, the colleges beginning play this weekend and high school action already underway.

So, I guess it's time for the fearless one to begin predicting scores of the upcoming prep and college contests. This year, we'll deal only with the games in the Herald's football contest. The fans' entries have already been received but I promise I'm not stealing any choices.

So, here goes, first with the area high school contests:

**KINGS MOUNTAIN-CHASE:** The Mountaineers are entering their 50th year of football and are hoping to be a strong contender in the SWC. If their pass defense improves, they could very well be. Chase has one of the area's top passers in Tony Fowler but the Mounties will improve enough to stop him. KM 21, Chase 12.

**SOUTH POINT-CREST:** South Point has the SWC's top defense, but it won't be enough to stop the high-stepping Crest offense. Crest is going to make a strong bid for the SWC title. Crest 14, South Point 0.

**SHELBY-BURNS:** Burns is happy, having won its first game in 16 tries two weeks ago. Shelby looks like it might be on its way to another title. Lions too much, 40-13.

**LINCOLN-TON-EAST:** The best game of the week. Both teams have strong offenses. Lincoln has home field advantage and will win, 21-7, setting up showdown with Shelby next week.

**ASHBROOK-ASHBROOK:** Ashbrook's trying to snap back from last week's 19-14 loss to Hickory. This will be a toughie but the Green Wave will come back, stopping Lee Edwards by a 21-6 count.

**CHERRYVILLE-NORTH GASTON:** Another good one featuring a strong 2-A school and an improving 3-A outfit. Cherryville will claim its first win by a 14-13 score.

**R-S CENTRAL-OAK HILL:** No contest. Hilltoppers in a waltz 36-14.

**CLEMSON-THE CITADEL:** Some ACC guess-perts say this is the year of the 'Cat. Hootie's Tigers will prove too much for the Southern Conference Bulldogs, 38-12.

**DUKE-ALABAMA:** I'm pulling for the Blue Devils but I can't see them in the same stadium with the Crimson Tide. Bama 47, Duke 14.

**N. C. STATE-MARYLAND:** Here's a contest featuring a pair of new coaches, Lou Holtz of the Pack and Jerry Claiborne of the Terps. It'll be close and a lot of folks will say I'm crazy, but I'm picking Maryland, 9-7.

**NORTH CAROLINA-RICHMOND:** Pre-season match between two conference contenders, Carolina of the ACC and Richmond of the Southern. Tar Heels will be too much, 28-10.

**SOUTH CAROLINA-VIRGINIA:** This game will be closer than a lot of folks might think but Gamecocks will finally win it, 21-18.

**WAKE FOREST-DAVIDSON:** Davidson gave ACC Deacons a time last year but that won't be the case this time. Wake in a waltz, 33-13.

## N. C. State Guard Yoest Says Penalty Is Waste Of Real Estate

RALEIGH. — N. C. State's Bill Yoest is an economy-minded guard—all the way. The 230-pound Walpack standout, an economics major, is starting to apply his classroom learnings to his work on the field.

"One important thing I've learned is conservation of resources," Bill says. "In high school I used to get called for penalties all the time, but now it's rare that I get called for anything. Fifteen yards for hold-

ing is a terrific waste of hard-earned real estate."

Bill has also learned to control inflation. That may or may not be good. He has added only 10 pounds since he graduated from North Catholics high school in Pittsburgh where he played under former Walpack guard Joe Bushofsky. His almost stagnant weight, though, doesn't seem to bother him.

"When you're six feet tall and

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# Winless Trojans Visit Mountaineers Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers open Southwestern Conference warfare here Friday night, hosting the winless Chase High Trojans in an 8 o'clock contest at John Gamble Stadium.

The Trojans, who edged the Mountaineers 16-13 last year, have yet to score a point but they have 16 lettermen back from last year's team and should

prove to be a stern test for the Mountaineers. Chase will be playing under a new coach, John Keeter, former mentor at St. Stephens and Newton-Conover. He has changed the Trojan offense from the veer to the wish-one and leading it is one of the SWC's top quarterbacks, Tony Fowler.

Fowler, as you'll recall, hurled a pair of touchdown passes last year to bring the Trojans from a 13-0 first quarterback deficit to a 16-13 victory over the Mountaineers.

Chase lost the remainder of last year's backfield, so that could be the reason the Trojans have had a hard time getting started. But Coach Jones is quick to warn his players about Chase's

past success against the Mounties, having won six of the last seven meetings between the two teams.

Tommy Henson, an end last year, has been moved to halfback and he's been the Trojans leading ground gainer thus far. Bruce Watkins is at fullback and will do most of the Trojans' power running.

The other halfback in Tony Harrill, more familiar to SWC fans as baseball player. This is his first year of football but Coach Keeter reports that he's showing much progress.

Coach Jones likely will go with the same starting lineup as last week, but Myron George, who was ticketed for starting duty at losing only 21-0 to Crest last week after being bombed 41-0 by an automobile accident, might see some action. He returned to practice Monday.

Kings Mountain's biggest problem might be stopping Fowler's passing. Bessemer City clicked off well over 100 yards in the air last week, including one 75-yard touchdown play.

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# Mountaineers Outscore Yellow Jackets 36-12

## Quarterbacks Falls And Johnson Score Two Each In Opening Win

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored in every quarter here last Friday night to defeat Bessemer City 36-12 in their 1972 football opener.

The game was much closer than the final score indicated, as KMHS outgained the 2-A Yellow Jackets by only 282 total yards to 235. Three fumbles and an intercepted pass hurt the BC cause.

Quarterbacks Tony Falls and Chris Johnson scored two touchdowns apiece to lead the Mountaineers offensively. Goldie Byers, younger brother of former BC basketball All-American Tony Byers, was the only offensive threat for Bessemer City, gaining 75 of the Jackets' 111 yards rushing and also scoring their only two touchdowns.

Kings Mountain was ahead all the way, leading 7-3 after the first quarter, 22-6 at halftime and 30-3 going into the final chapter.

The Mountaineers' triple-option offense was in high gear most of the night but penalties kept Coach Billy Jones' club from registering even more points. The Mountaineers were taxed 100 yards in penalties, most of them coming in the shadows of the BC goal line.

The second time the Mountaineers got their hands on the football, they drove to the BC 14 before being charged with a pair of 15-yard penalties, one a clipping call and the other for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The Yellow Jackets finally held on downs at the 25 and on their first play, quarterback Skip Franklin and Byers combined for a 75-yard touchdown pass. The Jackets tried to run for the two-point conversion but it failed and KM retained the lead.

Javon Smith returned the BC kickoff to the Jackets' 45, from which point KM put its second TD drive in motion. Johnson scored on a first and ten play from the 19 and Smith ran for the two-point conversion to make it 15-6.

The Mountaineers had to drive only 35 yards for their third score as Franklin got off only a 15-yard punt on a fourth and 20 at the 20 yard line. Six plays later the Mountaineers had a fourth and two at the four and Falls sneaked over for the score. Bridges added his second PAT from placement to make it 22-6 with 7:45 left in the half.

Tackle Alfred Ash got in on the scoring act in the third quarter, recovering a blocked punt in the BC end zone for a six-pointer. Smith added his second PAT run with 9:27 showing to make it 30-6.

The Mountaineers closed out their scoring with 6:08 left in the game when Falls went over from 15 yards out. Darrell Van Dyke was forced to run for the conversion after a bad snap from center and was tackled short of the goal line.

Bessemer City gets its final TD with 25 second left when Byers went over from the 7. The yellow Jackets drove 74 yards for the score.

Kings Mountain got good defensive line play from linebackers Mark George and Dennis Hogue, tackles Ash and Jake Bridges and guards Lanny Thornburg and Tommy Shirley. Byers and Clarence Alexander, both halfbacks, sparred the BC defensive charge.

Hogue, John Bridges and Harlee Davis got fumble recoveries for the Mounties and George got the game's only pass interception. Hogue was also credited with blocking the punt which led to Ash's third period touchdown.

Other newcomers in the Gamecock backfield will be sophomore Jay Lynn Hodgein at tailback and Bill Cresser at fullback. Veterans Jackie Brown and Mike Hagyard will be the wide receivers. Hagyard missed most of 1971 with an injury. Backing up Cresser and Hodgein will be other newcomers, sophomore Tom Amrein and junior college graduate Ron Parson.

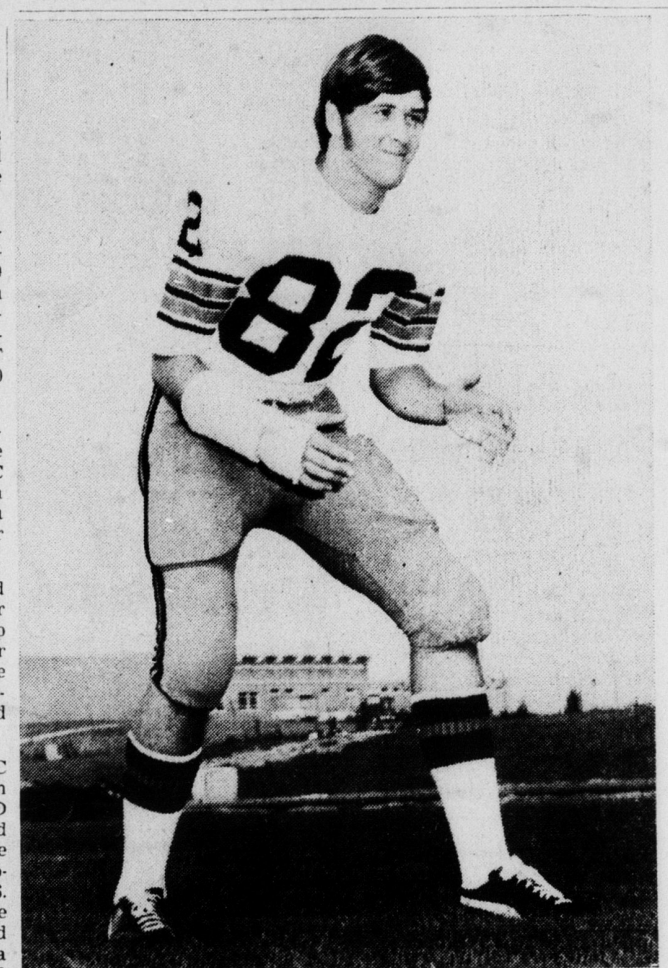
Virini's quarterback in junior Harrison Davis, a 6-4, 212-pound hurler who passed for 895 yards and ran for 139 last year. Tailback Kent Merritt also a junior, and a star sprinter in track, rushed for 939 as a sophomore. The Cavaliers will start 19 lettermen, nine on offense and 10 on defense.

The Gamecock defense, dubbed the "Carolina Bandits" last season when defense was South Carolina's strength, is expected to again be strong, led by All-America candidate John Lettuff at right tackle and Rick Brown at strong linebacker. Both are seniors.

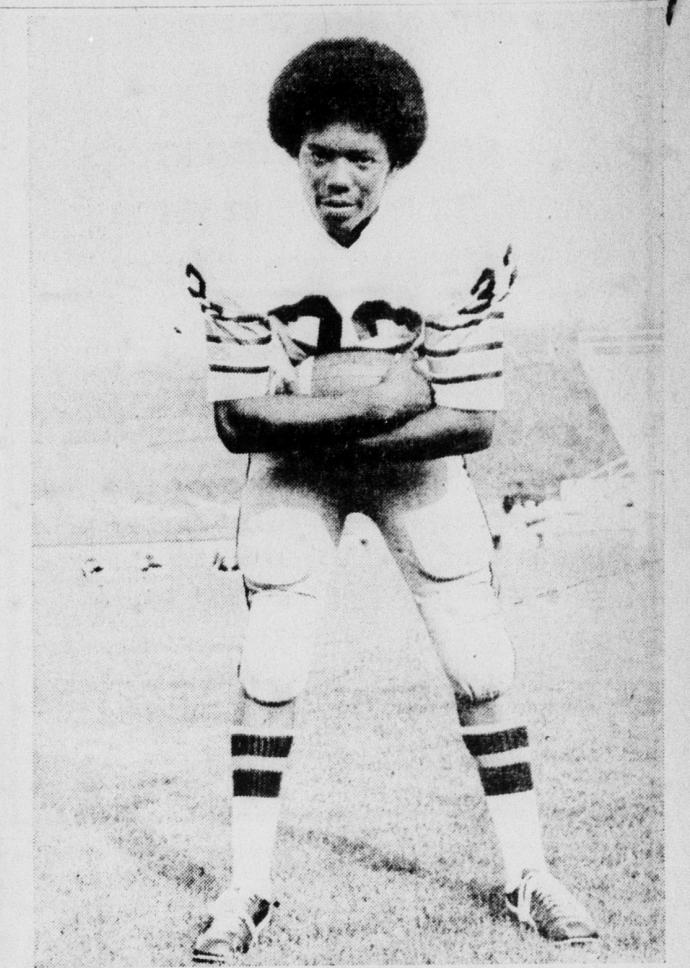
South Carolina will break in an entirely new secondary with four three-year starters having graduated. Only senior Neville Files—a two-year's letterman in a backup role—has experience. He will start at rover along with sophomores Tom Zipperly and C. A. Wilson at the halfbacks and junior college graduate Mel Baxley at safety.

Managers: John Gamble, Rich Hinnant, Mark Mercier, Kevin Allison, Lloyd Sanders.

Coaches: Porter Griggs, Barry Gibson, Jim Owens.



LOOKING TO TROJAN BATTLE — This pair of seniors is looking to Friday's Southwestern Conference battle with Chase, hoping the Mountaineers will be able to reverse last year's decision, which saw the Trojans come from behind for a 16-13 victory. On



the left is end Jerry Valentine and at right is fullback Javon Smith. Valentine played a strong defensive game last week against Bessemer City and Smith was one of the Mountaineers' leading ground gainers.

## Central Opens Grid Season Here Sept. 13

Football coaches at Central Junior High School are currently working 31 boys in preparation for the 1972 season opener here Sept. 13, against Battleground of Lincoln.

Porter Griggs will again serve as head coach of the Patriots and will be assisted by Barry Gibson and Jim Owens.

Central lost all but two players off last year's team which finished 5-2. However, Griggs reports that pre-season drills have gone smoothly and the picture is again bright.

Griggs said he is almost settled on a starting lineup. He'll have Mike Bumgardner working at quarterback, Steve Lancaster at fullback and will choose his two halfback from Peter Brown, Al Eddins and Kelly Land.

Tim Spicer and William Thompson will be at the ends, Eugene Lovelance and either Steve Lancaster or Larry Smith at tackles.

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## Blalock Has Sights On Perfect Season

Kings Mountain High's freshman football team can only go "one better" than last year and Coach John Blalock says that's what his charges are out to do just that.

The Little Mountaineers finished 6-1 and second in the Tri-County Conference last season but Blalock has his sights set on an undefeated campaign this fall.

The freshmen will open play September 21 at Crest and will return home on Sept. 28 to host pre-season favorite Shelby. All Little Mountaineer home games will be played at 4:30 p. m. at John Gamble Stadium.

Coach Blalock and his assistant, Steve Baker, are presently working with 32 candidates. Most of the players were members of the Central Junior High team which last year had a 5-2 record, losing both games by a combined total of four points.

"We have a good nucleus," says Blalock. "What we need to do is just work with it."

Blalock says this year's team will be much different from last year. "Last year," he recalled, "we were a running team. We put the ball in the air only five times all season. This year, we have a good throwing quarterback in Steve Southwell and we'll pass quite a bit."

Southwell, a 150-pounder, will have a strong line to protect him as he tries to spot his receivers. The line is led by 220-pound tackle Simon McCreain, and 175-pound tackle Max Cochran, both rated by Blalock as "the best tackles we've ever had."

Others up front include ends Jeff Jones and Tommy Manning, guards Nathaniel Smith and Johnny Yarborough and center Cleveland Mackie.

In the backfield with Southwell are halfbacks Dennis McDevitt and Jim Thompson and fullback Wendell Jackson.

"Right now, passing is our strong point," said Blalock. "But if McDevitt, Thompson and Jackson come around like we think they will our running game will be improved too."

Blalock has Scott Leford as the backup quarterback. Running second unit halfback are Robert Miller and Mike Williams and the number two fullback is Ken Bumgardner.

Up front on the second unit are

## 1972 Team Is Honored

This is the 50th anniversary of high school football in Kings Mountain and the 1972 team has dedicated its football program to the 1922 team, the first in history at KMHS.

Members of that 1922 outfit included Joe Lee Woodward, Herman Hayes, Hoyt Matthews, Tom Fulton, Jake Hard, Forrest Houser, Howard Pursley, Lloyd Ormand, Tom Saunders, Hoyle McDaniel, Charlie Saunders, Clemmense Boone, J. M. McGinnis, Pat Geherth, Odell McGinnis, Fred Plank, Royce Green and Lawrence Lovell.

"This is one of the smartest teams I've ever had," said Blalock. "Most of the boys have good grades and a real good attitude."

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## Cobb, Hayes, Spencer Win Money In Herald's First Grid Contest

John Cobb of Silver Dollar Park, Kings Mountain is the winner of the Herald's first football contest and will be receiving a first place check for \$15.

Cobb predicted 10 of the 13 winners in high school games of September 1.

Cobb missed three games by picking R-S Central over Lincolnton, Morganton over Watauga and Marion over Wilkes Central.

Four others tied for second place so the tie-breaker (total points scored in the Kings Mountain-Bessemer City game) had to be used to determine the winners.

Lt. Bob Hayes of the Kings Mountain police department took second place by coming closest to the total number of points, 48. Hayes predicted that 36 points would be scored in the game.

Hayes missed four, choosing Ashbrook over Hickory, Marion over Wilkes Central, Lenoir over Newton-Conover and West Lincoln over Gamewell. He'll receive the \$10 second place check.

Terry Spencer, 122 Bridges Street, took third place with a tie-breaker guess of 33 points. He missed on Ashbrook over Hickory, Marion over Wilkes Central, Lenoir over Newton-Conover and West Lincoln over Gamewell. He'll receive the \$5 third place check.

Also missing four but coming up shy on the tie breaker were Leonard Wright and Patricia McKee, both of Route 2. Wright missed four by choosing Morganton over Watauga, Valdese over Hudson, Lenoir over Newton-Conover and West Lincoln over Gamewell. He predicted 30 points on the tie-breaker.

McKee missed on North Irredell over Taylorsville, Morganton over Watauga, Marion over Wilkes Central and Valdese over Hudson. She predicted a