

Mountaineers Use Big Plays To Get Big Win

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By GARY STEWART
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Kings Mountain's Mountaineers broke open an 8-6 ballgame with two touchdowns in a three-minute span of the fourth period Friday night at Crest and defeated the Chargers 22-6 in a Southwestern 3-A Conference game which kept KM's title chances alive.

It was the third league victory in four outings for the Mountaineers and kept them a game behind undefeated Shelby and South Point, both 4-0. Crest fell to 2-2. The Mountaineers host Shelby Friday at Gamble Stadium.

The Mountaineers used big plays to score all three of their touchdowns. Injured quarterback Jimmy Hall scored on a 45-yard run in the first period, defensive end Steve Laughter recovered a Crest fumble in the end zone in the fourth quarter and tailback Kenny Bell iced the victory with a 64-yard tally with three minutes left.

Coach Bobby Jones, whose club dropped two upsets to Ashbrook and East Rutherford, said he was well pleased with the key victory over a tough Charger team and he was especially tickled that the Mountaineers finally scored some touchdowns on big plays.

"That's the first time this year that we've been able to score on big plays," he said. "Big plays, both offensively and defensively, were definitely the turning points in the ballgame."

The Mountaineers never trailed but the outcome still wasn't certain until the closing minutes.

Hall's TD run around left end and Bruce Valentine's two-point conversion pass to Ronnie Willson midway of the first period put the Mounties out front 8-0 but Crest came back early in the third period to cut it to 8-6 when Cecil Clark turned a short screen pass into a 33-yard touchdown play. The Chargers tried to run for a two-point conversion which would have tied the score but the KMHS defense held.

Laughter and punter Steve Boggan combined to set up KM's "breathing room" TD with six minutes to play. Faced with a fourth and long yardage at the Crest 32, KM elected to punt and Laughter downed Boggan's boot at the four. On the second play, Crest called an option play, the pitchout was fumbled and Laughter fell on it in the endzone. Valentine's PAT made it 15-6.

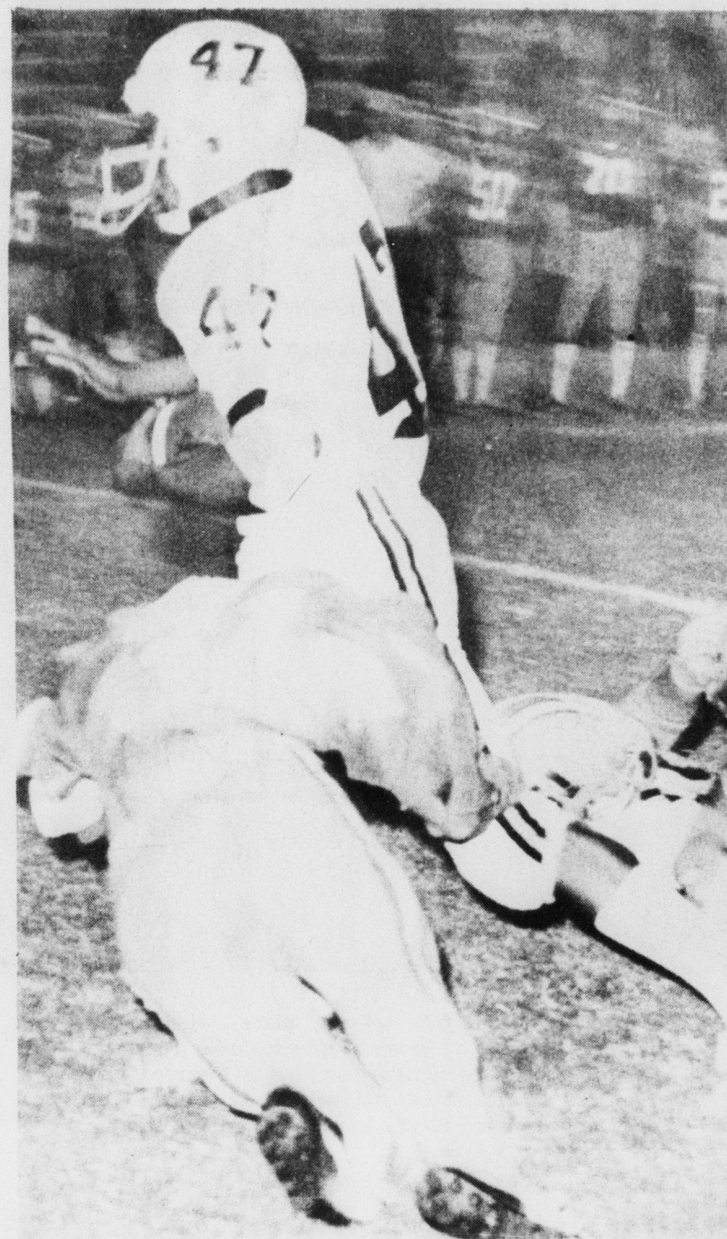
Following the ensuing kickoff, the Chargers couldn't move the ball and punted. On the first play from scrimmage, the KMHS line opened a huge hole for Bell, the fleet-footed senior broke a couple of tackles in the secondary and was off to the races.

Crest tried desperately to come back, working its way to the 10 in the final minute. But the KM defense broke up three passes, and on fourth down Norman Phillips broke through to throw quarterback Chuck Brown for a loss. The KM offense took over and ran the clock out.

KMHS gained an even 200 yards, all on the ground, with 109 of them coming on the two TD runs by Hall and Bell. Bell was the leading rusher in the game with 109 yards in 13 carries and Hall added 47 in only two tries.

But the big difference was defense. KM's defenders time and again came up with the big play, stopping two Crest marches deep into KM territory in addition to recovering the fumble in the endzone.

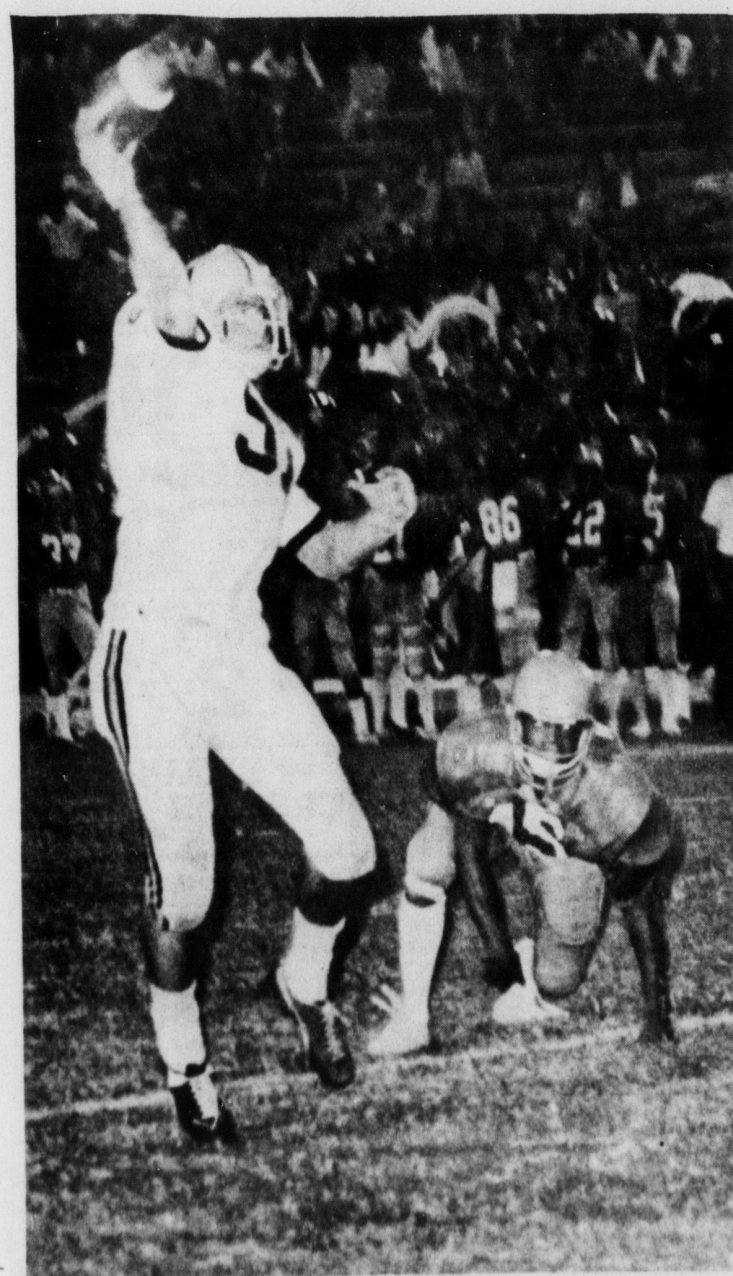
Phillips came up with a fumble recovery at the 27 early in the first period and just before the



Kenny Bell rambles through Crest defense for 109 yards....



Terry McClain (85) and Scott Ellis fly high and block Crest punt....



Bruce Valentine turns busted play into two-point conversion....

Mountaineer Gridgraph

	KM	C
First Downs	9	11
Yds. Rushing	200	85
Passes	0-2	6-16
Yds. Passing	0	80
Passes Int. By	0	1
Fumbles Lost	3	3
Punts	3-27	5-37
Yds. Penalized	45	75

Score by quarters:	T
KM 8 0 0 14-22	
C 0 0 6 0-6	

Scoring:
KM — Hall, 45 run (Wilson pass from Valentine)

KM — Laughter, fumble recovery in end zone (Valentine kick)

KM — Bell, 64 run (Valentine kick)

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING		
Player	Carries	Yds
Kenny Bell	13	109
Jimmy Hall	2	47
Ray Robinson	9	16
Dennis Owens	3	14
Avery Smith	2	2
Jody Deaton	2	10
Jeff Cloninger	5	-2

PASSING				
Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Cloninger	2	0	1	0

half Dennis Putnam recovered a fumble pitchout at the 17 to halt another drive.

"The defense played a lot better," noted Jones. "We had a lot of gang tackling and team pursuit."

Jones said the coaching staff didn't do anything special to prepare the team for the contest. "We weren't real high emotionally," he said. "We just did a good job."

Several players were playing despite injuries, including Bell, Hall, David Ray Robinson, and Dennis Owens. Both Robinson and Owens were taken by ambulance to the hospital after the game, Robinson with a hurt shoulder and Owens with a bruised knee.

"We've been having to play people that haven't practiced because of injuries," Jones

noted, citing Bell, Robinson and Hall. "The doctor has told us not to practice them and we've been obeying his orders."

Hall's shoulder, which was separated in KM's recent 13-12 victory over Chase, bothered him a lot during the game and he alternated with sophomore Jeff Cloninger, who last week was called up from the jayvees. Both did a good job.

Robinson injured his shoulder first in the Chase game, and when he was examined for that injury it was also found that he had cracked a toe in the previous week's game at Ashbrook.

Bell is suffering from a hip injury which caused him to sit out the big victory over Chase. But he came back to lead the rushing against both East Rutherford and Crest.

Photos by Gary Stewart



David Ray Robinson (38) swarmed by Charger defense....