

SPORTS

GRIDGRAPH

	KM	B
First Downs	6	5
Yds. Rushing	156	96
Passes	0-3-0	4-6-0
Yds. Passing	0	73
Punts	4-41	4-19.5
Fumbles Lost	3	4
Yds. Penalized	100	68

By Quarters:	B	KM
1st	0	7
2nd	7	8
3rd	8	3
4th	3	7-25
Total	12	0

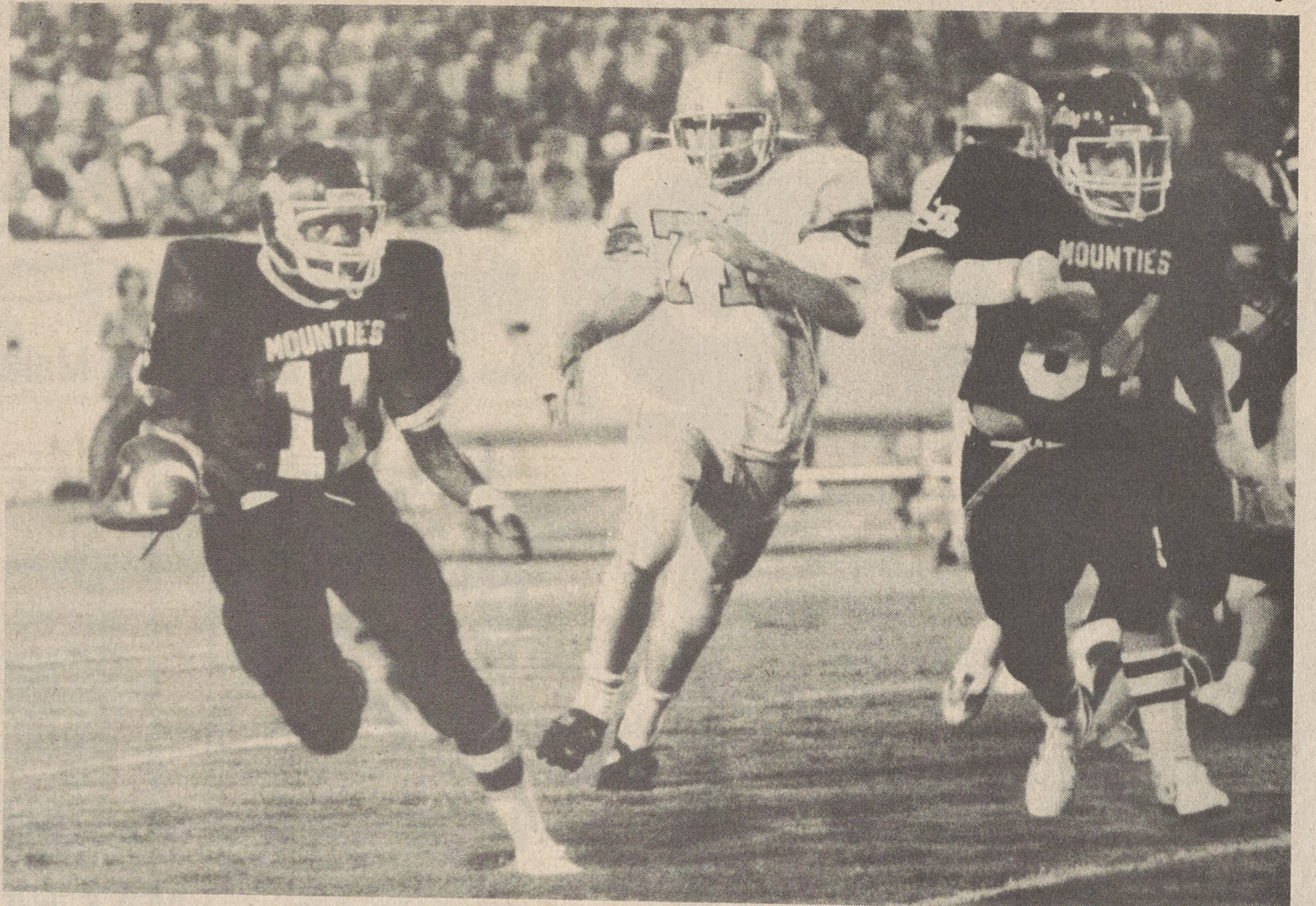
KM - Pressley 3 run (kick failed)
 KM - Pressley 65 punt return (kick failed)
 B - Brown 18 pass from Akers (Brown kick)
 KM - Pressley 4 run (run failed)
 B - Akers 1 run (Brown run)
 B - Brown 24 field goal.
 B - Brown 6 run (Brown kick).

KMHS RUSHING

Player	TC	YDS.
Curt Pressley	15	76
William Short	5	27
Eric Odems	6	22
Tracy Johnson	2	17
Roy Mathis	6	7
Chris Champion	2	4
Trent Hullender	1	3
Todd Cloninger	1	0
Thomas Putnam	1	0

KMHS PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.
Cloninger	2	0
Pressley	1	0



Photos by Gary Stewart

KM'S TOP RUSHER - Curt Pressley (11) goes around right end for good yardage in first quarter of Kings Mountain's season opening football game with Burns Friday night at Gamble Stadium.

Leading the way for Pressley is guard Quinton Rikard (64). KM scored two quick touchdowns for a 12-0 first quarter lead but Burns came back to win 25-18 in overtime.

Ashbrook Here Friday

Burns Comeback Whips KM 25-18

For a quarter Friday night during their season-opening football game with Burns at Gamble Stadium, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers must have felt like a championship ballteam.

They broke out to a quick 12-0 lead and everything was going their way.

But for the rest of the night, the Mounties were caught in a Murphy's Law situation and saw the Bulldogs come from behind and take a 25-18 overtime victory.

Everything that could go wrong went wrong for the Mounties over the final three periods. No less than six running backs and several linemen left the game due to injuries—most of them leg cramps—and untimely penalties killed the Mounties at other times.

A pass interference call against the Mounties aided Burns first touchdown drive, and a personal foul which in a round-about way resulted in an 80-yard penalty against the Mounties set up the second Bulldog score.

Darin Brown, one of the Southwestern 3-A Conference's finest runners who gained 102 yards for the night (as a team, the Bulldogs had only 96 yards), was almost a one-man show for the Bulldogs, who have beaten the Mounties in the season opener four years in a row.

On the other hand, Kings Mountain was successful in moving the ball only when junior tailback Curt Pressley was in the game, and Pressley played very little after the first period because of leg cramps.

Pressley gave the Mounties a 6-0 lead early in the game when he circled right end on a five yard run, and moments later he returned a Burns punt 65 yards for a TD and a 12-0 Mountaineer lead.

But Burns drove 74 yards late in the half and Brown scored on an 18-yard run and also kicked the extra point to make it 12-7 at the half. That drive was aided by a 15-yard pass interference against the Mounties which gave Burns a first down on the KM 29.

The Mounties took advantage of a Burns mistake early in the third period to go up by 18-7. Defensive end Brad Reynolds tackled the Burns punter at the six yard line following a bad snap from center and it took just two runs by Pressley to get the touchdown.

The missed extra point attempts on all three KM touchdowns began to look big late in the third period when Burns used two straight breaks to get back in the ballgame.

With Kings Mountain on its 35 yard line and in a punting situation, punter Roy Mathis got off his best punt of the night which rolled dead inside the Burns 10. But a 15-yard personal

foul call on the Mounties brought the ball back and on the next punt attempt, the center's snap sailed over Mathis's head and he was tackled at the KMHS 10.

It took the Bulldogs just two plays to score, with Brown gaining nine yards and quarterback Sam Akers sneaking over from the one. Brown then ran for a two-point conversion to bring Burns to within a field goal at 18-15.

Following a Mountaineer punt, the Bulldogs took over near midfield and Brown crashed through the left side of the line and appeared headed for the winning touchdown. But KM defensive back William Short came out of nowhere and tackled Brown at the 10 to momentarily save the game. Burns was pushed back by a penalty but with five minutes to go, Brown kicked a 35-yard field goal which barely made it over the crossbar to tie the game at 18-18.

In sudden death, Burns got the first chance to score from the 10 and in just two plays around right end, Brown took it in and kicked the point-after for the winning margin.

The Mounties tried four runs into the middle of the line and managed to gain only three yards.

Despite the loss, KM Coach Dan Brooks praised his players for playing hard and blamed the loss on inexperience.

"We knew we were young going in, and our inexperience cost us some," he said. "But, no one person lost the game. It was a team thing."

"Some mental and physical mistakes took the game away from us," he went on. "We played as well or better than they did but just let the mistakes beat us."

Brooks said the Mounties played as well as they could at times.

"Todd Cloninger did a good solid job for us at quarterback," he said, "and Curt Pressley ran the ball well. But I might add that he ran well because the offensive line did a good job of blocking for him. I thought our two defensive tackles and linebackers played well. We got a real good effort from a lot of people."

Of all the players who were injured, Brooks said he expects all to be ready Friday except running back Tracy Johnson, who has some stitches in his face and is doubtful for Friday's game with Ashbrook. Tackle Dale Moore, who was injured in the recent scrimmage with Independence, is also doubtful for Friday.

Looking to this week's game at Gamble Stadium against 4-A power Gastonia Ashbrook, Brooks says the Mounties face a difficult task but have the talent to win the ballgame.

"Ashbrook has a good football team and they do a lot of things well," he said. "They have one of the best quarterbacks in the area in Jesse James. He runs the option real well and throws the ball well."

"Jimmy McCurry is a real good running back and their defense is real strong. They haven't given up a point yet in wins over East Gaston and South Point."

"They're experienced at every position," he went on. "Their seniors were members of an undefeated jayvee team and they have a lot of kids back. But if our kids play as hard as they did last week, we'll be in the game and will have a chance to win if we cut out our mistakes."

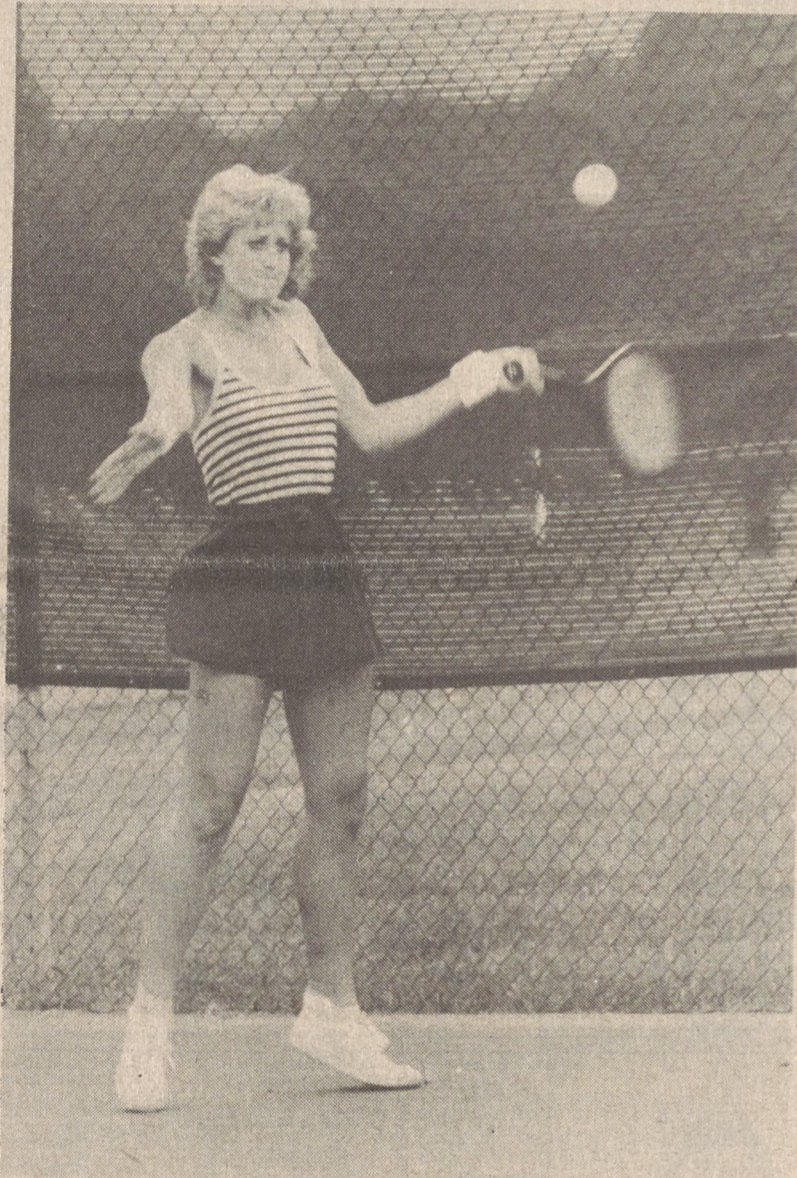


Photo by Gary Stewart

HELPS LEAD WIN - Karen Ledford, playing the number one singles position, defeated Carla Hayes 7-5, 2-6, 6-0 Thursday afternoon to help lead Kings Mountain High's girls tennis team to a 5-4 win over East Lincoln in the season's opener. The Mountainettes travel to West Mecklenburg Thursday.

Mountainettes Edge East 5-4 In Opener

Kings Mountain High's girls tennis team won a hard-fought 5-4 victory over East Lincoln in their season-opening match Thursday afternoon at the KMHS courts.

The Mountainettes won the first four singles matches but East Lincoln came back strong. The KM victory avenged a season-opening loss to East Lincoln last year.

"It was a tough match," said an exhausted coach Ed Guy. "Both teams played real well."

Karen Ledford, Robin Warlick, Pat Davis and Leigh Anne Odell won singles matches for the Mountainettes. Warlick teamed with Becky Bolt for a three-set win over Janet Nixon and Jennifer Hicks of East Lincoln in a doubles match which gave KM the victory.

"I thought Karen Ledford did a real good job against Carla Hoyle in the number one singles match," Guy said. "Ledford lost to Hoyle last year and fell behind 4-0 in the first set, but came back to win 7-5, 2-6, 6-0."

"Warlick, Davis and Odell all played real well, also," he went on. "We had to win one doubles match to win it and Warlick and

Bolt really came through for us." They won 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

The Mountainettes are scheduled to go to West Mecklenburg Thursday. They return home next Tuesday to play North Mecklenburg.

"Hopefully, we'll keep on doing good," said Guy. "This was a good win for us over a tough team. I hope our tough non-conference schedule will help us when we get into our conference schedule."

THE RESULTS

(Singles)

Karen Ledford (KM) def. Carla Hoyle 7-5, 2-6, 6-0.

Robin Warlick (KM) def. Jamie Barkley 6-3, 6-1.

Pat Davis def. Janet Nixon 6-3, 6-3.

Leigh Anne Odell (KM) def. Jennifer Hicks 7-5, 7-5.

Randi Little (EL) def. Becky Bolt 6-4, 6-2.

Cindy Shulse (EL) def. Mary Starnes 7-5, 6-4.

(Doubles)

Hoyle-Barkley (EL) def. Ledford-Davis 6-4, 7-6.

Warlick-Bolt (KM) def. Nixon-Hicks 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Little-Shulse (EL) def. Odell-Starnes 6-4, 7-6.

Jayvees Lose 16-12 At Burns

Penalties and the inability to convert their points after touchdowns cost Kings Mountain High's jayvee footballers in a 16-12 loss to Burns Thursday night.

The Little Mountaineers were stopped on both of their extra point attempts, while the Bulldogs made good on both of theirs.

Perry King scored both touchdowns for Burns, one on a 65-yard punt return and the other on a 30-yard run. Quarterback Steve Edwards ran for both Burns conversions.

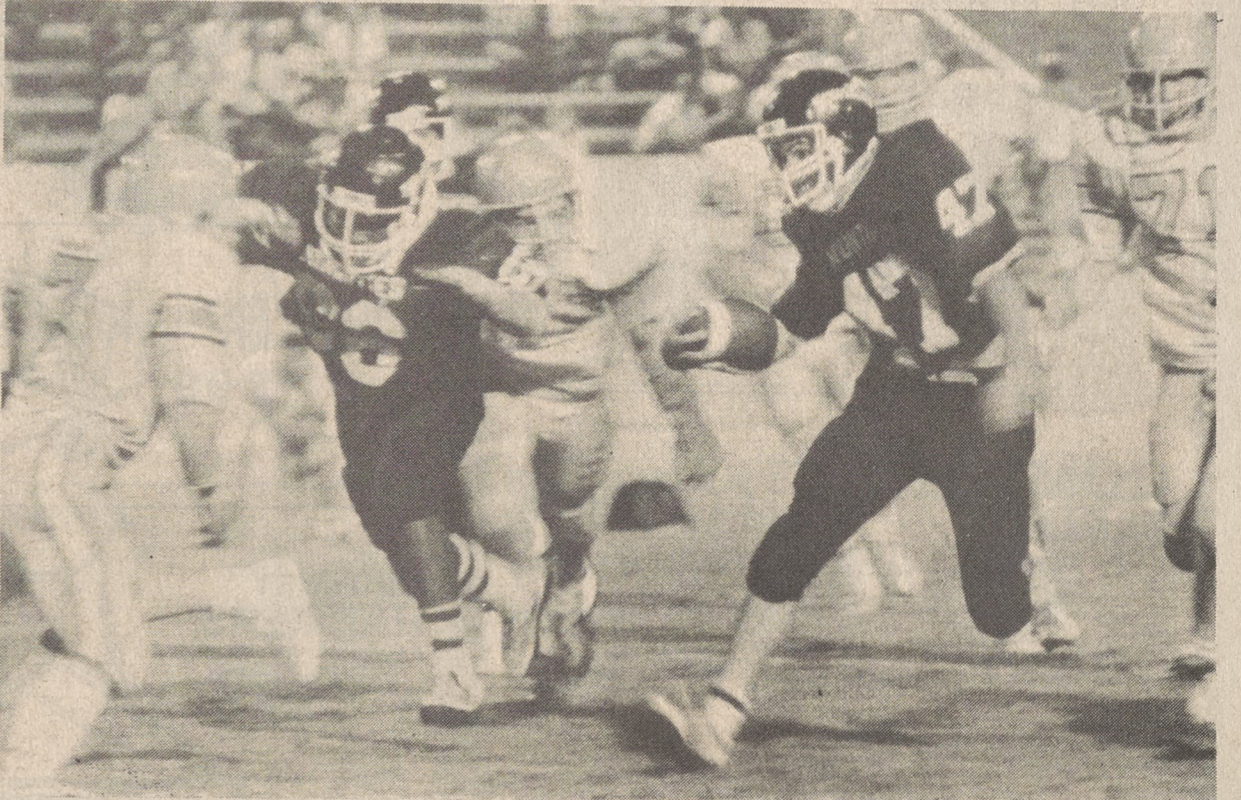
Kings Mountain got its first touchdown with 26 seconds left in the half when Danny Moore scored on a seven yard run. The final KM score came midway of the third period when quarterback Maury Williams scored from two yards out following a 40-yard run by Lavar Curry.

The Little Mounties drove to the Burns 30 late in the game but a final pass with no time remaining fell short in the endzone.

Burns' David Gillespie and Robert Vinson had pass interceptions to drive two other Mountaineer drives in the second half.

"Penalties hurt us on just about every drive," noted KM Coach Tim Echols, who saw his team fall to 1-1 on the year. "But the team did not give up. We fell behind early but stayed in there and almost won it. We showed a lot of character."

The Little Mountaineers will try to get back on the winning track Thursday at 7 p.m. at Ashbrook.



RUNNING STRONG - William Short (47) of Kings Mountain's Mountaineers hits the middle of the line for good yardage against Burns in Friday's season-opening football game at

John Gamble Stadium. Ready to throw a block for Short is Shawn Rainey (66). Burns won 25-18 in overtime.