



PLAYER OF THE GAME

Hickory - Richard "Big Cat" Parker, OT/DT, 6-5, 345, played both sides of the ball and made numerous tackles to help hold the Mountaineer offense to just 141 yards rushing.

Kings Mountain - Brandon Roberts, DB, 37-yard punt return and pass interception. Tyler Adams, WR, seven receptions for 58 yards.

PLAY OF THE GAME

With 1:42 left in the game, Hickory's Big Cat Parker tackled KM quarterback Renaldo Tate in the end zone for a safety which gave the Red Tornadoes a 9-7 victory and a berth in the State 3A playoffs.

THE YARDSTICK

Table with 2 columns: H, KM. Rows: First downs, Yds. rushing, Yds. passing, Passes, Yds. penalized, Fumbles lost.

RUSHING

Hickory - Brian Parson 13-58, Craig Barnette 10-52, Desmond Burch 2-13, Cole Kenworthy 9(-9), Jermaine McCain 3(-4), KM - Aquino Simmons 24-108, Courtney Smith 7-31, Brandon Houze 2-3, Chris Jolly 5-1, Renaldo Tate 1(-2).

PASSING

Hickory - Kenworthy 2-7-15, KM - Jolly 3-9-1-34, Tate 7-16-3-54.

RECEIVING

Hickory - Barnette 1-10, Brent Johnson 1-5, KM - Tyler Adams 7-58, Montrell Banks 1-27, Josh Gash 1-9, Ron Goode 1-4.

BY THE NUMBERS

Table with 2 columns: Hickory, KM. Rows: 7 0 0 2-9, 0 0 0 7-7.

FIRST QUARTER

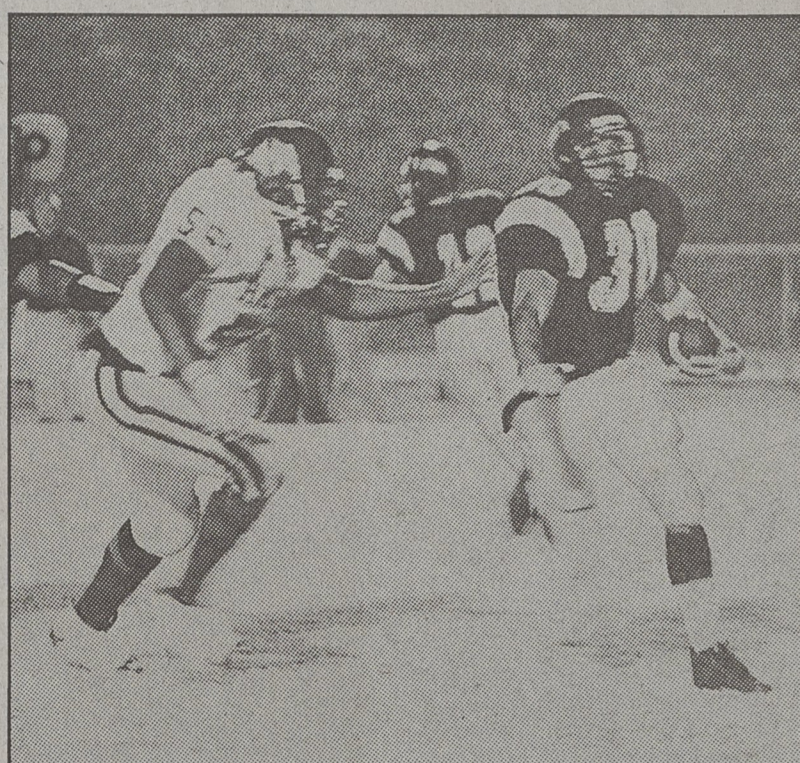
7:16 - Hickory - Barnette, 15-yard pass from Kenworthy (Ryan Succop kick). 37-yard drive in 8 plays.

FOURTH QUARTER

9:54 - KM - Simmons 5-run (Pablo Peralta kick). 95-yard drive in 14 plays. Simmons 9 carries for 52 yards; Montrell Banks 27-yard pass reception. 1:42 - Hickory - Safety. Williams tackled KM QB Tate in end zone.



KM's Brandon Roberts (2 left photo) and Courtney Smith (30 right photo) return kicks in Friday's game with Hickory at John Gamble Stadium. Hickory won 9-7.



CLASSIC

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of the private school players back when he coached AAU ball, and even though he hasn't seen them during their high school careers he can imagine how skilled they're going to be.

"These guys are loaded," he says. "These are the kids you're going to be seeing on TV playing in college and the NBA. I think this is going to be a treat for Kings Mountain to see legitimate Division I players."

McDowell will have a young team this year (he lost four starting seniors and two All-Conference players off last year's team) but he said young players need top-notch competition to make them better down the road.

"I want our kids to play against some good competition so they can see what the next level will be and to know that you have to be totally committed to what you're doing."

"Most of our kids don't pick up a basketball until November and it's tough. Whether you play football, basketball or baseball you have to do it year round."

McDowell's team was scheduled to scrimmage East Rutherford on the road last night. Saturday's event will act as their final scrimmage prior to an early November 20 opening against North Gaston.

Most of the Mountaineers' returning players have been involved in football and didn't join the team until this week.

The Mountaineers lost All-Conference players Qwenshon Goode and Jamal Byers, and Jose Leach.

Football players Josh Gash and Derrick Smith started last year but Smith missed a lot of time late in the season with an injury.

"Josh was my number 3 last year, but he may have to play inside this year because of our lack of size," McDowell said. "Derrick started at point guard

but broke his leg and then Brandon Roberts came in but he was all gimped up and never played up to his potential."

A third possibility at point guard is senior Chris Burris, who is out for basketball for the first time.

Football players Courtney Smith and Brandon Houze, who saw some spot starting duty last year, will probably be playing the number 3 position.

The number 2 guard will likely be sophomore Dashawn Young, an Ashbrook transfer who is a hustler and a good shooter.

Brothers Gabe and Sam Blair, who transferred from Gaston Day and Hunter Huss, respectively, will play inside along with sophomores Quincy Johnson and Ta Tae Roebuck.

Chris Jacobs is probably the Mountaineers' most versatile player, and could play any guard position. Football player Tyler Adams will also see a lot of action.

McDowell said his best outside shooter, Matt Hardin, broke his hand recently and will probably be out for six weeks.

"We have a lot of young guys," McDowell said. "We don't have any proven veterans like seniors that can take us

Basketball registration under way at YMCA

Kings Mountain Family YMCA is accepting registration for winter youth and industrial basketball.

Youth basketball is open to ages 3-6 coed, 7-15 girls, and 7-18 boys. Registration ends November 16.

Industrial basketball is open to adults employed at local businesses. The league will be limited to the first eight teams that register. Registration ends November 9.

For more information, call the YMCA at 739-9631.

Stoney Jackson has hole-in-one at KMCC

Stonewall Jackson fired a hole-in-one October 23 at Kings Mountain Country Club.

Jackson used a 7-iron to ace the 178-yard 17th hole. It was his ninth career hole-in-one.

Jackson was playing with his grandson, Justin Eters, who made a two on the hole.

Phil Russ aces 12th hole at Country Club

Phil Russ fired a hole-in-one Monday at Kings Mountain Country Club. He used a 5-iron to ace the 176-yard 12th hole.

His partners were John McGinnis, Bob Jones and Dennis Hicks.

HICKORY

from page 1B win the game and they played hard until the last minute."

Hickory used a 20-yard punt return by Brian Parson to the KM 37 as a springboard for its only touchdown. Quarterback Cole Kenworthy hooked up with running back Craig Barnette on an 11-yard pass for the touchdown and a 7-0 lead.

Kings Mountain's lone touchdown came on a 95-yard drive, with Simmons scoring from five yards out with 9:54 left in the game.

Two missed field goals by Hickory that resulted in touchbacks, and two punts that were downed inside the 10 yard line kept the Mountaineers backed up much of the second half.

The final punt, which rolled dead on the one yard line with 1:50 left in the game, set up Hickory's winning points. On the Mountaineers' first play, Tate kept the ball on a belly play and Parker sacked him in the end zone for a 9-7 lead. On the free kick, KM successfully executed an inside kick but four straight sideline passes fell to the ground, along with KM's playoff hopes.

The victory assures Hickory (7-3) the #2 playoff seed from the SWFH regardless of the outcome of the Tornadoes' regular season ending game Friday against Fred T. Foard.

Kings Mountain, which drew an open date on the final playing date, is packing up its gear until next year.

"We would have liked to have gone to the playoffs," Farquharson said. "We would have liked to have played better against St. Stephens (20-13 loss a week earlier) and we would have liked to have had a win over Hickory. But from the standpoint of our team and the group of seniors we had and the way the kids came together and worked hard and played better than that."

Farquharson said the Mountaineers will be busy the next several weeks putting away gear and making the transition to other sports, and after Christmas will get back to concentrating on football.

"This is never a fun time," he said. "We're going to switch gears a little bit and then we're going to sit down and take a look at what we have to do next year."

"We'd like to thank all of the fans that have shown their support and stood behind the kids and cheered for them and congratulated them when they've done well, and helped hold them up when things didn't go their way. I think this group brought a lot of excitement back to the school and to Friday night football and we're going to use that to build on."

PIGSKIN PICKERS

The sports reporters of Republic Newspapers, Inc. make their picks for this week's football games.

Table with 5 columns: Picker Name, Last Week, Overall, and Game Prediction. Pickers include Gary Stewart, Todd Hagans, Ronald Kiser, and Dwight Frady.

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