

KM Hosts Shelby Friday

Mountie Line

One Big Reason

For Mack's Yards

By GARY STEWART
Co-Editor

There's an old saying in football that a good offensive line can make a good back out of an average back and a great back out of a good back. Kings Mountain High's Kevin Mack, who has set three rushing records for the Mountaineers this year, including a season's rushing mark that stood for 22 years, gives much of the credit for his success to his linemen.

And, rightly so. The interior line, which includes six seniors and a junior, has developed into probably the best blocking line in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and has been a big key in the Mountaineers' 7-2 record heading into Friday's season's finale against arch rival Shelby.

The line has paved the way for Mack to gain 1,350 yards thus far, including 549 in the past two weeks. The Mountaineer offense has gone over 300 yards

per game in each of the last three contests and Mack last week set a school record of 287 yards in a 23-6 win over R-S Central.

"They've done a real good job this year," Coach Steve Foster said of his pit crew. "They're intelligent, they listen well in practice and they work hard. They're the best line I've ever seen as far as picking up stunts by the defense."

"Of course, having good backs like Avery Smith and Kevin Mack back there helps. They have a lot of confidence in their running. If you have somebody that's really going to run hard, it makes it easy to block," Foster said.

Foster's starting linemen right now are Tim Leach and Jeff Lineberger at ends, Lynn Thompson

and Henry Hager at tackles, Mike Chambers and Mark E. Smith at guards and Danny Williams at center. Wally Davis and Mark Schuman also play a lot at end.

The line's success has been a long story. Most of the linemen began preparing for this season as soon as last season ended.

"They started last fall lifting weights, jumping rope and doing coordination drills," Foster said. "They worked after school a lot and during the summer. They've put a lot of time into it. They believe they can run the ball on anybody we play."

The line has performed so well, in fact, that most of the starters have attracted the eyes of college scouts. Leach, Hager and Thompson have already



What's Up Front That Counts...

been contacted by major colleges. The line probably gave its best overall effort in last week's game against R-S and a game three weeks ago in which the Mounties lost 15-12 to Southwestern Conference champion South Point, the second-ranked 3-A team in the state.

"Everybody graded out at least 80 percent last week," said Foster. "A couple were around 90 percent which is excellent no matter what level you're playing on. Several linemen have gone over 90 percent once or twice this year."

The line, as well as the backfield, will face its toughest assignment Friday at 8 p.m. when the Mountaineers host Shelby in the final game for both teams. Both teams sport 7-2 records and a victory by the Mounties would give them their best record since 1976, when they were 8-2, and also their first win

over Shelby since 1974, when they won 14-7 at Shelby.

"Shelby has a good team," says head coach Dan Brooks. "They are quick and they've gotten healthy over the past couple of weeks. They were hurt up earlier in the season when they lost those two ballgames."

The Lions, who have lost to Hunter Huss and South Point, have one of the league's top passers in Chuck Spangler and two of the top running backs in Scott Bonner and Harvey McSwain.

"They're tough," said Brooks. "They're probably as good as anybody we've played...as good as anybody in the conference. But if we play well we'll be alright."

Brooks and the Mountaineers are hopeful co-captain Glenn Carroll, who has missed the last two games with an ankle injury, will be back in action.

"He probably won't be a hundred percent," said Brooks, "but we hope to have him back. He's a good leader and a motivator for us. He's done a great job."

arch rival Shelby in their final game. The starting linemen, left to right, include Tim Leach, Henry Hager, Mike Chambers, Danny Williams, Mark Smith, Lynn Thompson and Jeff Lineberger.

SPORTS

It's His Swan Song

Matchless Fearless Picks Raiders, KM

Tarzan's no match for the Fearless one. Wonder Woman admires me.

Love me, like me, despise me, or just tolerate me, this is my final week of Fearless. I do want our readers to know how much I've enjoyed being with you this season through this column. I hope you've enjoyed the column, and we're already looking forward to next year.

For those of you out there who have seen me in person, you know my looks are not such as to warrant the breaking up the existing statutes of Apollo.

I have so many nephews and nieces that I've lost count. The children of my own are the children I write about, either in athletics or a young'un who deserves to be recognized. Anyhow, one of my five-year-old nieces was sitting on my lap recently and we were facing a mirror.

After gazing intently at her reflection for about 20 seconds, she said, "Uncle Dwight, did God make you?" "Certainly, sweetheart," I told her.

"And did he make me, too?" taking another look into the mirror.

"Certainly, sweetheart. What makes you ask?"

"It seems to me He's doing better work lately," she said. "I'm a good guy, but I know this fellow who's real mean. One night, which just happened to be the night before Christmas, he went behind the barn, fired a shot, and then told his two children Santa Claus had just committed suicide."

Still on the subject of children, nowadays you'll find almost everything in the average American home...except the children.

A buddy of mine told me his teenage son was at that awkward stage—too old for a spanking and too young for analysis.

He has an older son, and I asked him what Billy was doing in college.

"Just taking up space," he said.

Well, let's take a look at the final night of regular season action in high school football



MIGHTIER THAN TARZAN

and see if we can't predict a few winners for you.

South Point winds up regular season play Friday. And what a year the Big Red has had. Where every other school in Gaston County has failed, South Point, as always, has come through in the grid sport.

The Raiders haven't had a losing season in the 11 years of South Point's existence.

Friday, the Big Red plays at Chase. The Big Red will avenge a 6-2 setback suffered at the hands of the Trojans last year when Chuck McSwain, now at Clemson, blanketed the entire field for Chase.

Final score? I'll call it 20-7, South Point.

East Gaston winds up what has turned out to be a long season (but wait until next year), when the Warriors travel to Burns.

The Warriors will end the season on a winning note with a 20-16 victory.

Kings Mountain and Shelby battle Friday. It's called "The Battle Of Buffalo Creek." It's always a good one.

The prediction is for a 13-7 Mountaineer victory, closing out an outstanding year for the Mountaineers.

Cherryville's Ironmen play West Lincoln in its final conference game. The Ironmen will win, 21-13. Bessemer City closes out at Bunker Hill and the Bears will win, 27-7.

Here's how I see the other games: In the battle for city superiority, I see Hunter Huss defeating Ashbrook in a close one, 20-14; Maiden downing East Lincoln, 20-7; East Rutherford 26, North Gaston 13; Lincoln 18, Newton-Conover 7. See you next year 'n don't git too cold this here comin' winter.

Tennis

Tourney

This Week

The Kings Mountain City Tennis Tournament, sponsored by Kings Mountain's Western Carolina League tennis team, will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Kings Mountain High School courts.

Persons may enter through Friday at 7 p.m. Entry blanks may be obtained at the office at Kings Mountain Junior High and Kings Mountain Senior High.

Entry fee is \$3 per person for each event entered, and a can of USTA-approved tennis balls.

Competition will be held in boys and girls 10-under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under, men's and women's singles and doubles, mixed doubles and men's 35-and-over singles.

"We'd like to encourage all tennis players in the area to compete in this final tournament of the year," said Rick Henderson, who is helping organize the event.

The final round of the tourney is expected to begin around 2 p.m. Sunday. The community is urged to attend.

KIWANIS CLUB

William R. (Bill) Crothers, Investment Advisor with Interstate Securities Corp. of Charlotte, will present the program on "The State of the Economy" at Thursday night's meeting of the KM Kiwanis Club at 6:45 p.m. at the Woman's Club.

WEAR A POPPY

Frank B. Glass Post 9811 VFW Auxiliary will conduct the annual Buddy Poppy sale on downtown streets Friday beginning at 9 a.m. Representatives of the Auxiliary will invite citizens to wear a poppy to honor a veteran.

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