

Mountaineers Face Ironmen Here Friday In Big Test

Point-A-Minute Eleven To Fire Big Guns Against First South Group Foe



Officials Expect Record Turnout For 7:30 Kickoff

Kings Mountain high school's point-a-minute gridgers are scheduled to test their big guns on Cherryville high's Ironmen here at City Stadium Friday night in the first South Group, Western AA Conference clash of the season for the Mountaineers. Kickoff time is 7:30 p. m. and one of the largest crowds in stadium history is expected.

The Mountaineers have two non-conference wins under the belt and in the two games — 96 minutes of playing time — have scored a total of 96 points. The Split-T club downed Bessemer City in the opener 42-0 and last week took Mount Holly by 54-18. All players on the varsity club, except Harold Jackson who is out with an injured foot and Eddie Goforth who missed the opener, have seen action in both tilts, with the second team playing almost as much as the starters.

Cherryville opened the season by fighting to a 13-all standoff with Belmont high's powerful Red Raiders, loop defending champions, but last week dropped a close, hard-fought contest to Coach Frank King's Lincolnton high club 6-0.

The Ironmen are under new coaching direction this season, Bill Link, former Wake Forest guard, taking over the reins from Frank Snyder. Sherrill Cranford, veteran at Cherryville, has taken over Hines Quinn's duties as athletic director and Emmett Feinstad has also been added to the staff.

Coach Link has the Ironmen running both T and single wing plays this season. In the opener, Ronald Turner scored Cherryville's first touchdown on a double reverse play for 33 yards and also ran punts back well. T-Quarterback Joe Hallman passed to End Roy Dagherhard, a freshman, for the other score. Bob Dellinger, Jerry Dagherhard, Bob Reynolds and Brother Blackwelder also turned in good performances. Other lettermen on the Ironmen roster are Wade Boyles and Charles Black.

The Mountaineers appear in fine physical shape for the big test Friday night but probably will be without the services of End Dewitt Blanton, who suffered a shoulder injury in drills Monday. Eddie Goforth will be on hand to take up the slack, however, and the loss of Blanton is not expected to slow the hungry Mountaineers.

Cherryville came out on top of the Mountaineers at Cherryville last season after being thoroughly outplayed and the veterans on the club who played last year haven't forgotten. The score last year was 14-13, with Cherryville scoring the winning points on a fourth down gamble in the fourth period after a disputed fumble recovery.

Cherryville continued his steady ground gaining but failed to get into the scoring column. He rushed 15 times for a total of 97 yards, averaging 6.5 yards per rush. In the two games he has accounted for 219 yards on 28 attempts, an average of 7.8 yards per try.

He is a junior and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. (Shorty) Valentine, of Linwood road.



BIG FULLBACK — Mearl Valentine, 180 pound fullback, was named "Back-of-the-Week" by the Gastonia Gazette last week.

Valentine Named "Back-of-the-Week"

Mearl Valentine, Kings Mountain high school fullback, was named "Back-of-the-Week" in the Gaston County — Kings Mountain-Lincolnton area by the Gastonia Gazette last week.

The big, hard driving fullback won the honor in the first game he appeared in as a back. In 1952, Valentine was a promising freshman flanker and by the third game of the season had earned a starting berth. That was in the Cherryville game, which Kings Mountain lost 14-6, and was the last game of the season for Valentine. He was clipped from behind at the knees and suffered a broken ankle.

Last season, he did not play football but starred on the basketball and baseball clubs. Moved into the bull-dozing job at fullback August 16, Valentine took to his chores like a veteran. He shows great promise and by next season should be one of the better backs in the state.

Valentine scored three touchdowns in the Bessemer City opener on runs of 1, 15 and 13 yards and rushed 13 times for a total of 122 yards, an average of 9.4 per rush. He played a little over half of the contest.

Last Friday against Mt. Holly, Valentine continued his steady ground gaining but failed to get into the scoring column. He rushed 15 times for a total of 97 yards, averaging 6.5 yards per rush. In the two games he has accounted for 219 yards on 28 attempts, an average of 7.8 yards per try.

Parking Plan Works Well, Officials Say

Chief of Police Hugh A. Logan, Jr., and Kings Mountain Merchants' Association officials said Wednesday the new courtesy nickel parking system is working handsomely.

Since the adoption of the courtesy plan September 9 by the city board on recommendation of Chief Logan, Mrs. Elaine Queen, Merchants secretary reported 73 of 139 envelopes given out had been returned by Wednesday. The envelopes contained a combined total of \$7.16, Mrs. Queen said, averaging almost 10 cents per envelope. Mrs. Queen also stated there is a possibility all envelopes have not been turned in by merchants.

Tap Contracts Now Total 775

The city had sold 775 contracts for gas taps through Tuesday afternoon, Salesman J. W. Webster reported. Meantime, Mayor Glee A. Bridges reported that the city has been informed by its bond attorney it should receive the \$400,000 proceeds from the recent bond issue sale by October 6. The Mayor also reported that Leo T. Barber Company expects to begin construction on the gas system about October 1.

Central Gridders Slug Hawks 54-18

Six Backs Share Eight Touchdown Win Over Hawks

Kings Mountain high school's classy Split-T attack, working behind an aggressive line averaging 183-pounds per man, completely disorganized a supposedly tough Mount Holly high Hawk defense here last Friday night and the Mountaineers, with 25 players seeing action, romped over the visitors 54-18.

Six backs shared tallies in the 8-touchdown effort, with reserves accounting for three 6-pointers. Quarterback George Harris and Halfback Earl Marlowe got two touchdowns each and Charles Smith, Curtis George, Mike Houser and Jerry McCarter also reached the promised land. Tackle Ken Cook hit on six of eight placements for points after touchdown, missing on his 12th try of the season to break a mark of 11 straight conversions.

Kings Mountain started the game in business-like fashion, mounting a 64-yard scoring drive after receiving the opening kickoff. In the big opening drive, Fullback Mearl Valentine accounted for 30 yards. Halfback Marlowe added 14 and Halfback Smith got off a 17-yard romp in the first eight plays. Valentine's final 4-yard effort being stopped a foot short of the goal. Quarterback Harris slipped over for the score on a sneak and Cook split the time elapsed in the game.

Mt. Holly punted on third down after failing to gain on its first series of downs, and the point-hungry Mountaineers were off to glory again, marching 50 yards in six plays for the second score. Valentine picked up 28 yards and Marlowe six in the march, with Smith making the final 17 yards on a beautifully executed "belly" play.

Kings Mountain drew a 15-yard penalty on the extra point play and had to kickoff from the 25-yard line. Mt. Holly taking over again on its 49. Quarterback Tony Wilson picked up a yard on the first play and, on the next, tried to pitch back to Halfback Tommy Crawford on a pass try but the play mis-fired and Guard Ken Cloninger pounced on a loose ball on the visitors 42.

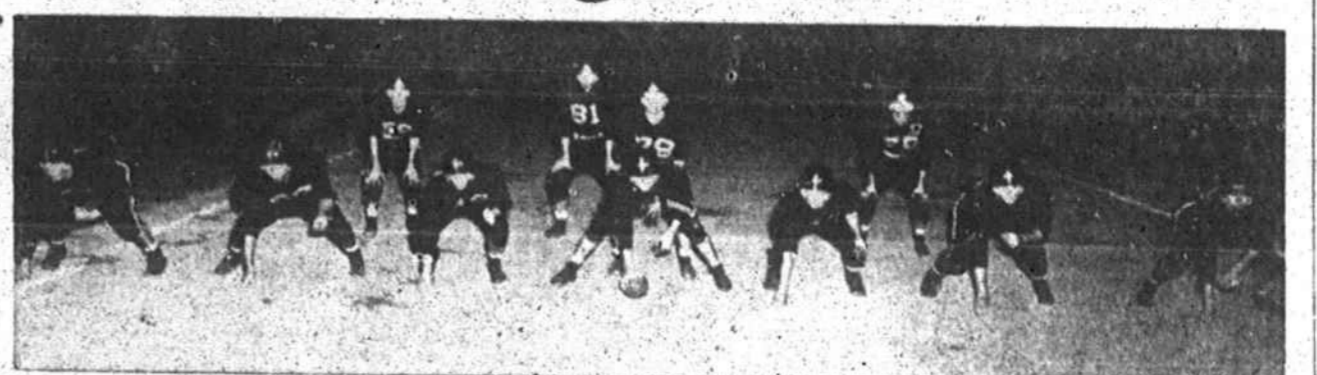
The Mountaineers were off to the races again, scoring the third touchdown early in the second quarter after a 6-play effort. Valentine and Marlowe shared the yardage in the march, with the big fullback accounting for 26 and Marlowe going the final seven yards after hitting for 16 on two previous plays.

Two plays later Kings Mountain had the ball on the Hawk 12. Co-Captain Cloninger recovering another Mt. Holly fumble. Harris gained three yards recovering his fumble, Valentine made two and Marlowe went to the 3-yard stripe. On fourth down, Harris kept on a "belly" play and went over standing up for the fourth touchdown.

With 8 minutes left in the half, Coach Shu Carlton sent in his other wrecking crew to man the defenses and the reserves played the greater part of the remaining time in the game.

Mt. Holly showed signs of life after chalking up a first down on a 15-yard penalty against the Mountaineers but failed to march. End Ted Huffstetter booted beautifully to the Kings Mountain 14.

YARDSTICK		KM	MH
FINAL SCORE		54	18
Touchdowns rushing		8	3
PAT placement		6	0
1st Downs rushing		15	4
1st Downs passing		0	7
1st Downs penalty		2	1
Total First Downs		17	12
Yds. gained rushing		381	99
Yds. lost rushing		10	23
Net Rushing Gain		371	76
No. Rushes attempted		51	25
Average per rush		7.3	3.0
Passes attempted		5	19
Passes completed		0	7
Yds. Gained Passing		0	107
Net Rushing-Passing		371	183
Number of plays (not counting kicks and penalties where play is nullified)		51	45
Avg. Gain Per Play		7.3	4.1
Number of punts		0	3
Yards punts went		0	92
Yds. punts returned		0	11
Yds. Punts Returned		5	0
Number of kickoffs		9	4
Yds. kickoffs went		343	155
Yds. kickoffs averaged		38	38
Yds. KO Returned		79	84
Ball lost on fumbles		1	2
Yds. Fumbles Returned		0	8
Number of penalties		2	18
Times enforced		2	8
Yds. Penalized		20	70
TOTAL YARDS GAINED IN GAME (add yards gained run-back punts, fumbles, intercepted passes, & recovered fumbles to net rushing and passing yardage plus penalty gains)		539	295



MOUNTAINEER STARTERS — Pictured above are eleven Kings Mountain high school football players, lined up in the new Split-T offensive formation. The group started the first two games of the season and will probably go into the Cherryville game here Friday night with only one new face in the lineup. Pictured, left to right on the line, RE Dewitt Blanton who is on the injured list and not

expected to play, RT Ken Cook, RG Charles Yelton, Center Palmer Huffstetter, LG Ken Cloninger, LT Bud Mayes and LE Charles Bridges. Veteran Letterman Eddie Goforth, not pictured, is expected to start at right end. The backs are, left to right, RH Charles Smith, FB Mearl Valentine, QB George Harris and LH Earl Marlowe. (Photo by Carlisle Studio.)

HOW THEY DID IT		Kings Mountain	MOUNT HOLLY
RUSHING:			
PLAYER	Yds.	Net	Avg.
C. Smith	3	0	32
McGinnis	1	14	14.0
Houser	3	38	12.7
George	4	30	7.5
E. Marlowe	8	58	7.3
Valentine	15	97	6.5
McCarter	7	42	6.0
Harris	8	28	3.5
TOTALS	51	381	7.5
Passing:			
PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Yds.
Wilson	1	0	0
Crawford	2	0	0
Kirby	2	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0
TOTALS	7	0	0
RECEIVING:			
PLAYER	Cought	Yds.	
Sherrill	2	11, 16, 11, 21	
Huffstetter	5	6, 11, 6, 26	

where Quarterback John McGinnis bobbled the ball and recovered on the 9 to put the winners in a hole. Valentine, Marlowe and Harris marched the ball out 21 yards and McGinnis' crew took over the attack.

The reserves struck quickly, with George, Houser, and McCarter carrying the load. George broke away for 25 yards, McCarter went for 23 and Houser ran 12 to the 3. George slipped over standing up and Cook added his eleventh straight conversion of the season.

About a minute later, the reserves were calling for the over-worked extra point kicker again. Kings Mountain took over on the visitors' 43 after a punt and the McGinnis men struck like

lightning. Houser took a quick pitch, cut back after he crossed the line and raced over the goal on a neat 43 yard scamper. Cook's try was slightly off to the right and the Mountaineers held a 41-0 advantage when the first half ended three plays later.

Mount Holly took the second half kickoff and marched 70 yards against the reserves for its first score, taking to the air for 33 yards on three completions during the effort. Fullback Tommy Ellison bucked over from 15-inches out for the score and Tackle Dean Sherrin missed the first of two placement tries for points after.

A Kings Mountain fumble stopped a McGinnis-engineered drive and set up the second Hawk score a few minutes later. A 26-yard pass from QB Wilson to End Huffstetter was the big play, setting the tally up on the KM-9. Crawford went over standing up for the score and the third period ended with the Mountaineers falling to score.

Harris' team came back into the game and marched 54 yards in 9 plays for a touchdown. Valentine returned the kickoff 24 yards and a 15-yard penalty against the Hawks aided the effort, Marlowe going over from the seven for the points. Cook's PAT kick was high, barely short of the crossbar.

The McGinnis team took over and swapped scores with the Hawks to run out the game. Mt. Holly marched 81 yards for its final score, passes from QB Wilson for 32 yards to set up the tally on the one, where Wilson sneaked over. Sherrill's pass-try

JV'S To Open Season Here Thursday, 7:30

Coach Fred Withers' Kings Mountain high school Junior Varsity football team is slated to open the 1954 season at City Stadium Thursday at 7:30 p. m. against the Lincolnton high JV club.

Admission for the game has been set at 50 and 25 cents and a large turnout is expected to see the freshmen and sophomores in their initial test.

Coach Withers has been conducting his club through extensive drills and at times the team has completely checked the varsity reserves in scrimmages.

Only 18 players are still out for the team, Coach Withers reports. The roster:

Backs — Douglas Rathbone, Kenneth Baity, Harold Blanton, Hoyle Burton, Tony Goins and Gerald Thomasson.

Ends — Keith Layton, Andrew Nickols and Charles Allen.

Tackles — Bill Davis, Jerry Laughter and Don Wright.

Guards — Darvin Chastain, J. B. Owens, Jerry Wilson, and Brad Rudisill.

Centers — Don Short and Bill Staggs.

Wright is out with an injury at present. The probable starting team consists of Layton and Nickols at ends, Davis and Laughter at tackles, Chastain and Owens at guards and Short at center with Rathbone at quarterback, Baity at right half, Thomasson at left half and Blanton at fullback.

The game opens a six-game Jayvee card. The schedule:

Sept. 23 — Lincolnton — Home.
Sept. 30 — Shelby — Away.
Oct. 7 — Ruth-Spin. — Home.
Oct. 14 — Ruth-Spin. — Away.
Oct. 21 — Lincolnton — Away.
Oct. 28 — Shelby — Home.

1954 Orange Bowl contest in Miami... former Wake Forest standout Nick Ognovich refereed the game... a large number of fans, estimated at 1,200 turned out for the contest.

At anytime of the year children are a hazard to the motorist. Unpredictable, lacking the judgment of maturity, their presence in or near traffic demands ceaseless care and vigilance on the part of all drivers.

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FIRE FACTS

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN!

TO PREVENT YOUR CHILD BEING KILLED, MAIMED OR DISFIGURED BY FIRE, TAKE THESE PRECAUTIONS:

- Keep matches out of reach
- Keep children away from stoves and open fires
- Never leave children locked in a house, unattended