

Mountaineers Get Ironmen Here In Conference Tilt



on the bench

with Bob Hoffman

WEST WALLOPED — The Mountaineers looked like a football team Friday night as they downed the West Mecklenburg Indians by a 20-13 margin.

Friday's play represented a vast improvement over the sluggish team that performed in Bessemer City the previous week, and local fans met the new hustling type of football with enthusiasm.

It was the first home game of the 1956 season for the local squad, and a near capacity crowd turned out to get a look at the successor to the 1955 conference championship team.

PASSING PARADE — John McGinnis gave the Kings Mountain folks a little concern in the second period, when he suddenly fell to the ground and started acting like Elvis Presley. It seems John's quarterback duties had just resulted in an over-dose of nerves for the game little senior.

Ken Baity's running never ceases to thrill the spectators, and make opposing coaches turn gray in a hurry. The fleet-footed halfback seems to have a jet assisted take off like many of our fighter planes of today. Baity seems to tip-toe through the line, but when he reaches the secondary he can really set sail.

Ken turned in one of the best performances Friday that local fans can remember from a halfback. No doubt, this junior will be tying knots in the tails of Southwestern conference teams for not only this season but next.

Curt George was another back that proved his ability for the home-town folks against West. Curt, who was second-string fullback behind Ken Baity and Mearl Valentine last season, had a big pair of shoes to fill, but he seems to be ready to step into the fullback slot.

Curt barreled through the line for several fine gains against West, and had looked very well in the opener against Bessemer City. I say the fullback duties are in very capable hands again this season.

Doug Rathbone is the newcomer in the starting Mountaineer backfield, but he is learning fast.

Rathbone was called on to take over the quarterbacking duties while John McGinnis was out of the West contest, and he came through with flying colors.

I was particularly impressed by several fast thinking feats pulled off by the halfback-quarterback combination. On one of those plays, a punt, Doug got a bad snap and could not kick, he took off around end and just lacked a foot or so picking up the eight yards needed for a Mountaineer first down. This la-Eddie LeBaron play looked good from the pressbox. On another occasion, a fumbled pitchout from McGinnis to Rathbone spelled doom for a Kings Mountain drive, but Rathbone dribbled a couple of times, picked up the pigskin and still dashed down field for a 12-yard gain. This type of play is hard to beat.

Don Fisher is one of the few freshman candidates on the 1956 team, and seems destined to be a big gun in Kings Mountain football in the three years to come. Fisher has been playing almost all of the Mountaineer defensive game, and looks very well on the field. Don who has been shifted from quarterback to the fullback slot, will give someone a lot of trouble during his stay at Central High School.

Keith Layton, Charles Bridges, Tony Goins, Dave Marlowe and other Mountaineers turned in first notch defensive games Friday. The tackles were hard and vicious—the kind that spell success for a team.

Tony Goins is another local boy that is making his presence known on the gridiron. Tony, a reserve end last season, started the first day of scrimmage by knocking several of the varsity players for a loop, and he has never stopped. His defensive play has been excellent and Coach Shu Carlton is expecting great things of Tony next season—as well as the remainder of this year.

Hoyle Burton has also been receiving kind words from the King Mountain coaches for the way he has improved his play at center. Only sad part is that Burton is a senior.

PEOPLE AND PLACES — George Harris seems to have made a big impression on the freshman coaches at Duke — one of which has called him "one of the best young quarterback prospects to hit Duke in a long time." Duke's freshman team will play on Friday afternoons, but the schedule has not been released at this time.

Fred Barkley, who for past years has been basketball commissioner in the Southwestern AA Conference, is resigning that post.

George Wilson, Kings Mountain's representative in the major league, is still with the New York Yankees, and will no doubt get a cut of World Series' money. Sonny Dixon, veteran Charlotte pitcher, has also joined the Yankee ranks. The Yanks bought Dixon from Richmond, after he had run up a very impressive relief record for Eddie Lopat's boys.

Guy Fisher, Kings Mountain lad, is being counted on heavily by Lenior-Rhyne grid coaches this season. Fisher had a very impressive service football record, and is said to be a tough boy in that line.

Ted Abernathy is back with Washington after posting a 11-15 record with Louisville in the American Association. He was recalled in a mass call for Nat's minor league talent. However, since he has not pitched since his recall, one feels that he is still in Drensen's dog-house. (Ted pitched and won last Friday).

Bill "Doc" Queen of Gastonia finished the season with Wichita of the same American Association. Queen, who belongs to Milwaukee, says it takes breaks to get to the big time. The Braves would not sell Queen, or release him on waivers, but still have kept him in the minors for the past four or five seasons. Another case of talent going to waste. Pete Whisnant had the same troubles until he got with the Chicago Cubs—now he plays regular.

Rumors indicate that the New York Giants may be in a wholesale trading mood when this season ends. After Willie Mays and Johnny Antonelli, who have they got worth trading??

Free Golf Clinics Set For Beginners

Jay Harrington, new Kings Mountain Country Club manager, announced Tuesday that he

will conduct free golf clinics starting next week for any women golfers, who have just begun playing.

Mr. Harrington added that golf lessons will be given anytime for persons other than beginners.

Strong Defense Is Cheryville Hope For Victory

Cherryville's Ironmen will invade City Stadium Friday night in an effort to stop the Kings Mountain Mountaineers' winning streak of two games.

The Ironmen have dropped their first two contests of the year, and should have blood in their eye for Friday's contest.

Kings Mountain will be going after its first conference win of the season, having dropped Bessemer City and West Mecklenburg in two non-conference scraps. Last season, the local boys tripped Cherryville 28-0 on the Ironmen's home grounds.

Cherryville's offense has had trouble getting started this season, but their defensive squad is one of the better in the conference, according to reports. Belmont and Lincolnton both downed the Ironmen, each by a one-touchdown margin. During these two contests, Cherryville failed to score.

The Mountaineer line will probably find itself outweighed by the visiting front wall by some 10 or 15 pounds per man. Cherryville is well endowed with 200 pound tackles, guards, and a center.

Experience is evident among the Ironmen starters, as the squad lists 11 seniors. Carrol Carpenter, Harold Tallent, Larry Kilby, Bob Buff, Tommy Wilson, Jack Robbs, Sta Crisson, Roy Dagerhart, and Bobby Austell are among the returnees from the 1955 team.

Add newcomers Vello Kruskras, Bill Davis, Bob Carpenter, Roddy Buff, and Frank Henley and you have a well balanced squad.

Coach Shu Carlton will probably go along with his starters used last week. None of the players suffered injuries in the West Mecklenburg contest, with the exception of Doug Rathbone who had a pulled shoulder ligament. This injury was not considered serious.

With John McGinnis, Rathbone, Ken Baity, and Curt George in the backfield, many local fans feel that the Mountaineer offensive attack is as potent as the one fielded last season.

Kick-off time is 7:30 p. m., and a capacity crowd is expected to be on hand for the first Southwestern Conference tilt of the season for the Mountaineers.

Bowling League Starting Action

Bowling leagues in Kings Mountain are starting activity for the 1956-57 season, according to a report by "Cat" Houser, owner and operator of Mountain Lane Bowling Center.

Mr. Houser says that five bowling leagues have been formed, and are ready to begin league competition. These include one ladies league, composed of six teams; a men's six team league, and three four team men's leagues.

League bowling will occupy the alleys at Mountain Lane Bowling Center Monday through Thursday, but the six alleys will be open to the public for open bowling on Friday and Saturday nights, Mr. Houser added.

The Sportsman League, a hold-over group from last season, had already started play, and all six teams are tied with three wins and three losses.

Last week's action saw Bridges Texaco down Community Grocery in two of three games, while Foote defeated the Hillbillies in a pair of contests. Other tilts in the six-team loop saw McCurdy's take a pair from the Cherry Pickers.

Guyton's 302 paced the Bridges wins, while Community had a high of 304 by Hipps. Black's 351 set the pace for Foote and a 241 by Plonk headed the Hillbillies. McCurdy's 326 high went to Burton as Barber's 302 was high for the Cherry Pickers.

WE OFFER 6 ALLEYS

For Open Bowling Friday and Saturday Nights During First Four Days of the Week

Mountain Lane Bowling Center

Baity Tallies Twice, George Once As Mountaineers Drop Indians

The Mountaineers are off again!!

Kings Mountain's hard scrapping grid team took a 20-13 win from West Mecklenburg in its 1956 home football opener in City Stadium Friday night.

It was the second win of the year for the Mountaineers, having downed Bessemer City 6-0 in the first of a 10-game schedule on September 7.

Local fans were very impressed with what they saw Friday on the City Stadium turf. The Mountaineers looked much better than they did against Bessemer, and played a terrific ballgame.

John McGinnis and Ken Baity were the big guns for the locals. Baity tallied a pair of touchdowns, and made two long runs to bring the crowd to its feet during the course of the contest.

McGinnis, who had an over-dose of nerves in the first quarter, was rested for about one-half of the contest, with Doug Rathbone filling in at the quarterback slot.

However, John certainly made his presence known during the time he played. The little scouter ripped off 57 yards on a punt return to set up the first Kings Mountain tally, and raced for 17 additional yards on another punt return later in the game.

Baity got loose for 40 yards to set up the second Mountaineer TD and then carried the ball over. His second tally came on an electrifying 18-yard sprint in the third period.

Doug Rathbone and Curt George also turned in fine performances in the backfield. Rathbone assumed the quarterbacking duties early in the first period, and directed the team very well. George, who is running much better this year, ripped off several gains at critical times to keep Kings Mountain rallies going.

Ralph Ellis, one of a brother combination, was the only potent weapon West could muster. The 175-pound fullback carried on 21 of 29 Indian running plays, and collected 77 of the 96 yards gained on the ground.

The Mountaineer defensive play was much sharper than last week, and Don Fisher, Tony Goins, David Marlowe, and Keith Layton, along with Spook Stewart made a majority of the tackles. Joe Davenport, Ralph Ellis, Fred Jones, and Steele Blanks were defensive stand-outs for the Indians.

West won the toss and elected

HOW THEY DID IT

PLAYER	T	G	L	Net	Avy.
KINGS MOUNTAIN	7	0	1	92	7.7
Baity	12	93	1	92	7.7
Rathbone	6	30	0	30	5.0
George	10	48	1	47	4.7
McGinnis	5	14	1	13	2.6
Hinson	1	1	0	1	1.0

PLAYER	T	G	L	Net	Avy.
WEST	1	10	0	10	10.0
Elliot	21	77	3	74	3.5
R. Ellis	4	6	1	5	1.3
Wright	2	3	1	2	1.0
Stewart	1	0	1	-1	-1.0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	2	0	0	0	0

PLAYER	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Passer	2	0	0	0	0
Elliot	2	0	0	0	0
R. Ellis	8	6	2	37	0

score was 13-0 Kings Mountain.

The kick-off was returned seven yards to the Indian 32, but an offsideline penalty linked with three plays that gained only five yards forced the West team to punt.

Baity raced the punt back 20 yards before being hauled down. Three running plays netted only two yards and Rathbone went back to punt. A bad snap from center didn't allow time to kick so Rathbone ran, he gained seven yards, but was still a yard shy of the first down and West took over on downs.

Three Indian running plays netted seven yards and they dropped back to kick. On the punt, a Kings Mountain clipping penalty was called and the Indians ended up with the ball first and ten on the Kings Mountain 30.

Two ground attempts netted two yards, and Bobby Ellis hit Joe Davenport with a pass good for 18 yards. With a first and goal on the 10-yard-line, Gene Elliott romped all the way for the touchdown. Elliott also attempted to run the extra point, but failed to get across the goal line. Score Kings Mountain 13, West 6.

Ken Baity galloped for 20 yards with the kick-off, and looked as though he might go all the way. However, he was pulled down on the Mountaineer 35. Two running plays netted six yards as the first half ended.

Opening the second half, West kicked-off and Doug Rathbone raced the kick 26 yards back to the Mountaineer 36. Baity got five and George romped for seven and

to receive the opening kick-off. Stewart's kick was carried to the West 28 and Davenport raced back to the 38 before being stopped. Three running plays netted only seven yards against a stout Mountaineer defense, and Don Wright punted for the Indians.

McGinnis gathered the punt in on his own 25 and set sail for West territory. He was stopped 57-yards later on the Indian 18. McGinnis then got eight on a keep play and Rathbone picked up four for a first down on the West 6. Rathbone got four more and Curt George plunged into the end-zone with about three or four minutes gone in the game. A holding penalty nullified Stewart's point-after-touchdown kick and McGinnis tried to pass after the ball was moved to the 17-yard line. The pass was knocked down and the score was 6-0 Kings Mountain.

Ralph Ellis took Stewart's kick-off on his 20 and got back to the 26. Ellis then lost two yards, gained two yards, and a pass fell incomplete. On fourth down, the Indians dropped back to punt, at this point a 15-yard penalty for clipping gave them a first down on their own 40.

Three plays failed to get more than three yards, and the Indians punted. McGinnis took the ball and raced 17-yards to the Kings Mountain 4 before being pulled down. McGinnis got three on a pair of runs, and Curt George picked up eight on a hard plunge for a first down.

McGinnis picked up four more, and Baity broke loose on the Indian's 45-yard stripe to gallop to the 5. Rathbone got two as the first period ended, and Baity scored on the first play of the second period. Stewart's kick, which was partially blocked, sailed through the uprights and the

score was 13-0 Kings Mountain.

The kick-off was returned seven yards to the Indian 32, but an offsideline penalty linked with three plays that gained only five yards forced the West team to punt.

Baity raced the punt back 20 yards before being hauled down. Three running plays netted only two yards and Rathbone went back to punt. A bad snap from center didn't allow time to kick so Rathbone ran, he gained seven yards, but was still a yard shy of the first down and West took over on downs.

Three Indian running plays netted seven yards and they dropped back to kick. On the punt, a Kings Mountain clipping penalty was called and the Indians ended up with the ball first and ten on the Kings Mountain 30.

Two ground attempts netted two yards, and Bobby Ellis hit Joe Davenport with a pass good for 18 yards. With a first and goal on the 10-yard-line, Gene Elliott romped all the way for the touchdown. Elliott also attempted to run the extra point, but failed to get across the goal line. Score Kings Mountain 13, West 6.

Ken Baity galloped for 20 yards with the kick-off, and looked as though he might go all the way. However, he was pulled down on the Mountaineer 35. Two running plays netted six yards as the first half ended.

Opening the second half, West kicked-off and Doug Rathbone raced the kick 26 yards back to the Mountaineer 36. Baity got five and George romped for seven and

to receive the opening kick-off. Stewart's kick was carried to the West 28 and Davenport raced back to the 38 before being stopped. Three running plays netted only seven yards against a stout Mountaineer defense, and Don Wright punted for the Indians.

McGinnis gathered the punt in on his own 25 and set sail for West territory. He was stopped 57-yards later on the Indian 18. McGinnis then got eight on a keep play and Rathbone picked up four for a first down on the West 6. Rathbone got four more and Curt George plunged into the end-zone with about three or four minutes gone in the game. A holding penalty nullified Stewart's point-after-touchdown kick and McGinnis tried to pass after the ball was moved to the 17-yard line. The pass was knocked down and the score was 6-0 Kings Mountain.

YARDSTICK

	KM	West
FINAL SCORE	20	13
Touchdown rushing	3	2
" passing	0	0
TOTAL TD'S	3	2
PAT. placements	2	1
TOTAL PAT.	2	1
First Downs rushing	7	3
" passing	0	2
" penalty	0	0
TOTAL 1st DOWNS	7	7
yds. gained rushing	186	96
yds. lost rushing	3	6
NET RUSH GAIN	183	90
No. rushes attempted	34	29
Average per rush	5.4	3.1
Passes attempted	2	10
" completed	0	3
YDS. GAINED PASSING	0	37
Net Rush & Passing	183	127
Number of plays (not counting kicks and penalties where play is nullified)	36	39
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.1	3.3
Passes intercepted by	2	0
YARDS RUNBACK	5	0
Number of punts	0	3
Yards punts went	0	117
Punts had blocked	0	0
yds. punts average	0	39
YDS. RETURNED	94	0
Number of kickoffs	4	3
Yds. kickoffs went	152	132
Yds. kickoffs averaged	38	44
YDS. KO RETURNED	46	43
Ball lost on downs	1	1
Ball lost on fumbles	3	1
YDS. FUMBLES RET.	0	0
Number of penalties	7	4
Times enforced	7	3
YDS. PENALIZED	75	25
TOTAL YARDS GAINED IN GAME (add yards gained run-back punts, kickoffs, intercepted passes, & recovered fumbles to net rushing, passing plus penalty gains)	353	245

and a first down. Rathbone added another three and a West offside penalty added five, on third down with only a yard to go, McGinnis fumbled and West recovered on their own 43.

Ellis sliced through Kings Mountain defenders for 12-yards to carry into Mountaineer territory. Three running plays netted one-yard and a completed pass gained only two and the ball went over to the Mountaineers on downs.

George got three, and Baity romped for seven and a first down on the Indian 48.

Doug Rathbone fumbled a pitch-out, but picked up the ball and gained 12-yards before being stopped. Baity got seven, but Kings Mountain lost five on a delay of the game offense. George got eight and Baity two for the

first and 10 on the West 25.

A pass fell incomplete, and George got seven, Ken Baity took off on third down and raced 18-yards for the third Kings Mountain tally. Stewart added the extra point. Score: Kings Mountain 20, West 6.

Don Wright galloped 19-yards with Stewart's kick-off as the third period ended. Three completed passes collected 13 yards and a first down on the Indian 46.