



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Mark Doesn't Want Personal Gain, He Wants Mounties To Be A Winner

By GARY STEWART Herald Sports Editor

Ask 10 Kings Mountain High football fans what makes the Mountaineers tick and there's a good chance nine of them will say center-linebacker Mark George.

George, a senior and one of KM's tri-captains, has been a starter for three years and like good wine, the 155-pounder improves with age.

"Last year," recalls George, "we had a lot of boys who thought they were All-American candidates. They weren't concerned with the team. They wanted individual honors. But this year, we have a bunch of boys who want to play together as a team and be a winner. We're working harder than we ever have and we have a whole lot more spirit than we've ever had."

George says he feels this year's KMHS team can go all the way, even though it has already been beaten by South Point, 28-19.



MARK GEORGE... Likes To Be A Winner

Raiders In General, Doug Davis In Particular Played Over Heads

We're not taking anything away from South Point's Red Raiders and their sophomore quarterback, Doug Davis. But you can be sure, the Raiders in general, and Davis, in particular, were playing well over their heads in last Friday's 28-19 victory over the Mountaineers in Belmont.

How many times could a sophomore bench-warmer, who had run only three plays all year, come out and hit 17 out of 23 passes for 228 yards and keep his cool like Davis? The answer is not very often.

And, how many times could an end like Tim Williams garner 14 of those completions? The answer again, not often.

In most ballgames, Williams, or any other player, would have dropped some of those tosses and in most games he wouldn't have been close enough to the ball to catch it because the quarterback wouldn't put the ball on the money like Davis did.

But, that's water over the dam and the Mountaineers are going to have to forget it and bow their necks. After all, if the KM lads bounce back and continue to play like they have so far, they'll still stand a good chance of making the WNCSSAA playoffs.

"The key to our season might be if we get over this," said Coach Bobby Jones of the Mountaineers. "If our kids don't let this get them down, we'll be alright. Our season isn't half over yet. If we can bounce back these next two weeks with wins over Cherryville and R-S Central and then go up and play Shelby a good game, we'll be in good shape."

—Mounties Caught Off Guard

Jones, who felt his team had a good chance to beat South Point, said the Raiders caught him and his players completely off guard.

"When you prepare for a ballgame, you have to work on trying to stop what the other team has been doing," said Jones. "South Point hadn't thrown the ball but six or seven times all year and when they did throw it they didn't throw it well."

"We had practiced all week on stopping their running game and we did just that. They had 99 yards rushing and 88 of those came on a freak play which we should have stopped," he said, referring to Wayne Fewell's TD run in the third quarter that put the game on ice.

"We stopped their running game completely," Jones continued, "but they did an excellent job with their passing game. I thought our pass defense was ragged until I watched the film but it wasn't that bad. Davis just made some real fine passes and the type of pass pattern they were running is almost impossible to stop. They were running the sideline cuts and our defenders had to play behind. If we would have played in front of the receivers, they would have had us beaten deep."

"I'll be frank," Jones went on. "Davis threw the ball better than he knows how. I'm not taking anything away from him. He might be an All-American but I just don't see how he could throw the ball that good and be as poised as he was in his first start. But he called a good game and he played well and you have to give him credit."

"We could have done a better job on pass defense, and we could have done a better job of putting pressure on the passer," continued Jones. "But you just can't put in a defense at halftime. If we had had any idea that kid could throw a football like that, we would have done a lot of work last week on stopping the passing game."

Jones said he honestly believes that everyone in Linberger Stadium, including South Point Coach Jim Biggerstaff, was surprised when the Raiders did so well through the air.

"They did something entirely different from what we expected," Jones said. "And, Biggerstaff was surprised too. If he'd known that kid could throw like that, he would have played more than three plays all year."

"But, they won't slip up on anybody else," Jones continued. "The only way to prepare is to stop what they've been doing, and now everybody knows what they did to do, we would have won that ballgame. Before I went over there I figured three touchdowns would be plenty. But I didn't figure on him throwing the ball like he did."

—Picking The Winners

My two upset picks last week (Gardner-Webb over Samford and Duke over Stanford) didn't come off, leaving me with a 9-3-1 record and a 24-11-4 mark for the year.

So, let's go again, hoping for improvement:

South Point at Lincolnton—I can't believe that Lincolnton is having a losing season. The Wolves aren't a 1-3 ballclub and they'll prove it by knocking off the Raiders, 14-13.

Burns at Chase—Burns is improving under Steve Curtis and will top the Trojans, 26-14.

Cherryville at Kings Mountain—Cherryville will be a lot tougher than the Mountaineers might think. But, I have confidence that our boys will bow their necks and snap back with a 21-7 victory.

East Rutherford at Crest—This should be a good one. We'll give it to the Chargers on the home field advantage, 14-0.

Shelby at R-S Central—This one could be closer than most people think. Shelby will win it, but barely, 14-0.

Guilford at Gardner-Webb—If Gardner-Webb doesn't beat Guilford, they can't beat anybody. Call it 33-13.

Clemson at Oklahoma—Clemson's playing out of its league. Oklahoma 43, Tigers 7.

Virginia at Duke—The Blue Devils let me down last week. I hope Virginia sweeps them something like 35-14.

Maryland at Syracuse—Could go either way but we'll give it to the Big Orange, 33-27.

UNC at Ohio State—Tar Heels to lose first, 28-21. N. C. State at Georgia—Could be exciting, Bulldogs 35, State 27.

Memphis State at South Carolina—Gamecocks have lost three games to good teams. Good news for Mrs. Toby Williams. South Carolina 31, Memphis State 21.

Ashbrook at Garinger—A close game between two strong 4-A clubs. Ashbrook will take it, 21-14.

Mountaineers Try To Snap Back Here Friday

Winless Ironmen Hope For Upset Over KM Outfit

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, coming off their lone loss of the season, try to snap back here when the winless but dangerous Cherryville Ironmen come to John Gamble stadium.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. Coach Bobby Jones says he plans to make several lineup changes, especially on defense.

One of the biggest changes will involve Harlee Davis, a senior end who has proved to be the Mountaineers' top performer the last two contests.

Jones said he'll move Davis to a defensive halfback position and will also insert him on the punt return team. Quarterback Chris Johnson has been used as the punt return man.

Jones and Jerry Valentine, who starts along with Davis at end on offense, will be inserted into Davis' defensive end position. Other defensive changes will include John Bridges at defensive tackle and Larry Lamick at defensive guard.

Tony Falls will probably replace Johnson at quarterback, depending upon how Falls' injured knee comes around. He suffered the injury in last week's loss at South Point.

"We also plan to make several changes on our specialty teams," said Jones, "but those are our major changes. We also plan to get more players in the game as we suspect some of our boys might be getting a little tired."

Jones said he hopes his players won't let down after last week's unexpected loss to South Point. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Little Mounties Top Crest, Host Powerful Shelby Today

Seventh Victory In Eight Games For Freshmen Kings Mountain High's freshman football team got off on the winning track last Thursday at Crest, defeating the Little Chargers by a 20-0 count.

It was the seventh win in eight games for the Little Mountaineers since John Blalock and Steve Baker took over the coaching duties last fall.

The task gets plenty tough today, however, as the Little Mountaineers play host to powerful Shelby Junior High in a 4:20 game at John Gamble stadium.

"Shelby beat Southwest Gastonia 50-0 last week," reports Coach Blalock, "and Don Park says this is the best team he's ever had. So, it will be tough for us to just stay on the field with them."

The Little Mountaineers completely outclassed Crest in every department. The KM lads led in first downs, seven to two, yards rushing, 179 to 59, and punter Johnny Yarrough averaged 30 yards a kick.

The Little Mountaineers built up a 12-0 halftime lead. Steve Southwell scoring on a two-yard quarterback sneak and halfback Donnie McDevitt going in from 35 yards out. Kings Mountain added eight points in the second half. Jimmy Thompson scoring on a 34 yard run and Jacky Wray tackling a Crest halfback in the end zone for a safety.

Thompson led the KM ground attack with 80 yards, followed by McDevitt with 60. Wendell Jackson with 39 and Southwell with nine. Southwell connected on his only pass attempt, a 20-yard toss to end Tommy Manning.

Coach Blalock cited Jackson, M Devitt, Thompson, Chris Johnson, Robert Miller, Cleveland Mackie, Max Cochran, Simon McCain and Wray for their defensive efforts.

"We looked good in spots," commented Blalock. "We were good at the corners, guards and linebackers but our tackle and end play wasn't too good. Our offense moved the ball real good. We got off some long runs, mostly because of good blocking."

Coach Blalock said today's game with Shelby will be the only one for them at John Gamble stadium. He said the remainder of the Little Mountaineers home games will be played at City Stadium.

"We need to beat Shelby," he says. "We've been working pretty hard. Shelby has some real good ends and a good passing attack. We'll have to stop that."

LITTLEPIGGS Adults aged 21 to 35 litter three times as much as those over 50 and nearly twice as much as those persons between 35 and 49. Men litter nearly twice as much as women, according to North Carolina State University community development specialists.

DEFENSIVE STANDOUT — Linebacker Dennis Hogue, above, stood out defensively in Kings Mountain's 28-19 loss at South Point Friday night. Several times, the junior broke through to drop South Point quarterback Doug Davis for big losses. Hogue and his teammates will be trying hard to snap back here Friday against Cherryville.

Raiders Outscore KM 28-19, Stay Unbeaten

What was supposed to be a low-scoring defensive battle turned out to be a high-scoring passing show Friday night at Belmont's Linberger Stadium.

In the end, South Point's Red Raiders, behind the passing of unseasoned sophomore Doug Davis, defeated the Mountaineers 28-19 and moved in the Southwestern Conference's favorite role with Shelby.

The victory kept alive a three-year unbeaten record for the Raiders, who have but seven seniors on this year's team and are apparently building another powerhouse like last year's, which captured the school's first SWC and WNCSSAA titles.

Davis, starting his first game as a high school griddier, was on a short of sensational, completing 17 of 23 passes for 228 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The former junior high conference record-setter picked the KM pass defense apart, hitting accurate short passes, most of them to end Tim Williams, who hauled in 14 of the 17 completions for 202 yards.

Probably more important than his pinpoint control was his coolness under fire. Several times, linebackers Mark George and Dennis Hogue smashed through the South Point line to throw the youngster for losses but he kept his cool and bounced right back to complete more passes.

From the opening play from scrimmage, it was obvious that South Point had the Mountaineers well-scouted and knew where the

Patriots Nip Louder For Second Straight

Central Junior High's Patriots spotted host Louder of Lincolnton a quick 12-0 lead on Wednesday but came roaring back for a 26-12 victory, their second straight of this season and 12th win in their last 14 games.

Louder took its 12-0 lead on a pair of long touchdown passes but the Patriots staged a comeback behind the running of Steve Lancaster and Al Eldins and the passing of Mike Bumgarner.

Bumgarner hit William Thompson with a 10-yard scoring pitch early in the second quarter, and Eldins passed to Tim Spicer for a two-point conversion to cut the Louder lead to 12-8.

Just before the half, Eldins fielded a Louder punt on his own 15 and returned it 85 yards for a touchdown to put the Patriots ahead 14-12 at intermission.

Lancaster, who led the Central rushing attack with 76 yards in seven carries, scored on a 32 yard run in the third period to bring the lead to 20-12.

Bumgarner closed out the scoring in the fourth quarter, keeping the pigskin and rolling six yards to make the final count 26-12.

Coach Porter Griggs cited Leonard Roberts, Bruce Valentine, Eddie Ingram and Brad Austin for their defensive efforts. Eldins, in addition to scoring on his long punt return, gained 13 yards in eight carries to help Lancaster in the rushing department.

Ash did a good job blocking and played well defensively.

A 190-pound senior, Ash was moved to tackle this year after starting for two years at guard for the Mountaineers and, he has proved to be one of the team's most consistent performers.

As a result of being named player of the week, Ash will receive a gift from the men's department of Fulton.

Previous players of the week were Jake Bridges, Tony Falls, Mark George and Harlee Davis.

Alfred Ash Player Of Week

Senior tackle Alfred Ash is Fulton's player of the week following a good all-round performance in last week's 28-19 loss to South Point.

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