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## HERALD **SPORTS**

By GARY STEWART

## Southwest Conference On Its Way To Becoming Most Unbalanced Loop

The Southwestern Conference is on its way to becoming the biggest conference in the Western N. C. Activities Association, but is also on its way to become the most

The 10 present SWC schools have voted to let three Gaston County teams — Bessemer City, North Gaston and East Gaston—into the conference next fall, raising the leagues membership o 13 teams.

Although the final decision will be in the hands of the 39 present schools within the association, it is defin-ite that the three new schools will be admitted.

It can see admitting these three new schools but the present plan for alignment of the SWC is ridiculous. Take a look at the situation, and you can decide for yourself whether or not it's a good setup.

In a meeting last Tuesday in Shelby, the 10 SWC schools voted 6 to 4 for this division setup:

Division A would consist of Kings Mountain, Shelby, South Point, North Gaston, East Gaston and Lincolnton.

The six schools that perenially have the best football ams.

Division B would consist of Bessemer City, Crest, Burns, Chase, East, R-S Central and Cherryville . . . or the seven teams that perenially have the worst football

At the end of the season, the two division champions would meet for the right to represent the SWC in the association playoffs, instead of the two teams with the best records playing, as is the present setup.

If this present alignment setup is permitted to remain the SWC will be an instant replay of three years.

main, the SWC will be an instant replay of three years ago, when division champions met in the playoffs. And, as you recall, every year an undefeated team played another team which had struggled to break even all year

For instance: In 1969, Shelby won the SWC Division One title with a perfect 10-0 record. Lincolnton played in the same division and had a 9-1 season. . . its only loss being to Shelby, Chase finished with a 6-3-1 record, but was the top team in Division Two, so the Trojans played Shelby in the playoffs and were ran off the field.

In 1970, Shelby again won Division One with a perfect record and South Point finished second in the same division with a 9-1 mark. . its only loss being to Shelby But who played Shelby in the playoffs? R-S Central, the Division Two champ, which had a losing record of four wins and six defeats. All five teams in Division One (Shelby, South Point, Kings Mountain, East Rutherford and Lincolnton) had better records than the Hilltoppers. and Lincolnton) had better records than the Hilltoppers

Division champions probably should play for the right to advance in the playoffs, but the conference should not be set up so the toughest teams would be in one division and the weakest teams in the other.

In my opinion, the sensible setup would be on a geo applical basis. Put South Point, East Gaston, North Seston, Kings Mountain, Cherryville and Bessemer City in one division and Shelby, Lincolnton, R-S Central, East Rutherford, Chase, Burns and Crest in the other. The sectup would mean not as many miles to travel would be etup would mean not as many miles to travel, would i

better rivalries and would be more-balanced.

If the schools aren't going to arrive at a sensible alignment, they should either leave the conference as is or ask the state to re-classify the schools. That would mean Shelby and possibly South Point would become 4-A and Bessemer City, Cherryville and Chase would be 2-A Coach Bobby Jones of Kings Mountain has attended the meetings and reports that the three new schools have not been allowed to vote. In the 6-4 vote last week, Crest Burns, Chase, R-S Central, East Rutherford and Cherryville voted for the current setup of divisions while KM Shelby, South Point and Lincolnton voted against it. Several other possible alignments were discussed but they were never voted upon. were never voted upon.
"I don't like this setup at all," Jones said frankl

"If we have to beat all those teams (referring to his div sion teams) just to get into the playoffs, it's going to be tough. And, at the end of the year, it's going to be ju-

like three years ago when an undefeated team played a team with a losing record."

Jones says he prefers a geographical setup such as the one I mentioned or else let the two teams with the best records go to the playoffs. That latter idea, however, would be almost impossible since there is no way every

First Contest

would be almost impossible since there is no way every team in the conference can play the other.

The final vote as to whether or not the three team. This year, garbage collectors in are allowed in the SWC will come before the WNCHSAA members pext month. Even if the schools vote not to let the Gaston schools in there's a strong possibility that the the season last Wednesday at the Gaston schools in there's a strong possibility that the the season last Wednesday at Gastonia, losing to understand how they could have won. Sometimes, I just can't ln denstand our boys. If we find out we an win a game, we ease up and give it away."

This year, garbage collectors in 22 cittes will recover an estimate de 2.25 billion steel cans for retained the season when it host Ashley and Southwest Gastonia, losing to understand how they could have won. Sometimes, I just can't ln denstand our boys. If we find out we an win a game, we ease up and give it away."

The Mountaineers played last week without the services of them from other waste:

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The Mountaineers and sophomore Johnny Kings Mountain's defense, ed again by linebacker Mark Gilmnore couldn't was not not save week with standard to the chargers to 50 to the work of the man football team will be try with 100 and it's awfully hard to understand how they could have again by linebacker of the winderstand how they could have an win a game of

Picking The Winners

# Mistakes Continue To Plague Mountaineers Need Last Two Contests For Winning Season



AIMING FOR BURNS - Senior Chris Johnson, a two-way per-former at halfback for the Mountaineers, is aiming his throwing arm at Burns for this Fr day night. Johnson played a strong defensive game last week against Crest and has ben one of the team leaders for the Mounties in that depart-

### **WNCHSAA** Standings

NORTH PIED	мо	NT CO	NPEF	RENC
Di	VI	SION I		
		Conf.	A11 (	DAKE CHICAGON IN
	W	TL	W	T
Mooresville	6	0	7	
North Rowan	6	0	7	
No. Davidson	2	4	2	1
West Rowan	2	4	2	
North Stanly	0	6	2	
DI	VIS	ION II		
East Rowan	4	2	4	
South Iredell	4	3	4	
Davie County	3	3	4	
North Iredell	1	6	1	
NORTHWEST	ER	N CON	FER	ENCI
The section of the se	VTC	TON T	W41 95 150 10	- Oren ner

10	DA.		77074			
ur	Alexander					
1e	Central	5		2	6	
rd	Lenoir	5		2	6	
	Avery County	2		5	3	į
•	Morganton	2		5	2 .	K
ne	Valdese	0		8	1	-
ce	DIV	IS	ION	II		
in	Wilkes Central	7		0	8	(
111	Newton-			voer	THE COLUMN	
	Conover	5		2	6	
0-	Watauga	5		3	5	
th	Hudson	3		5	3	1
ty	McDowell	3		5	4	
st	SOUTH PIEDM	01	NTC	:01	VFERENC	E
at	Statesville	5	1	0	7 1	(
oe.	Thomasville	5	1	0	6 1	1
	Salisbury	4		2	6	-
le	Albemarle	4		3	5	4
	Asheboro	4		3	5	
is	Concord	2		4	3	-
d	Lexington	2		4	3	
A	Kannapolis	1		5	3	4

307.73	Lamapous	14.		•	1)		
1.	South Rowan	1		5	2		
d	SOUTHWEST	RI	C	ONF	ERE	NC	Ė
e	DIV	TS:	IOI	I			
t.	Rutherfordton	3	1	3	3	1	
	Burns	3		4	4		
[,	Crest	3		4	3		
	Cherryville	1		6	1	1	
-	Chase	0		7	0		
y	DIV	ISI	ON	II			
1	Shelby	7		0	8		
1	South Point	6		1	6	1	3
1	East						
	Rutherford	5	1	1	6	1	
	Kings Mtn.	3		4	4		Įį.
	Lincolnton	3		4	3		

Ashley by a 60 score.

Ashley took the second half kickoff and drove 41 yards for Appalachian Enjoys Win Over LR,

First Downs 8 Yards Rushing 141 Yards Passing 14 Passes 4-70 Fumbles Lost 1 Punts 3-26 Yards Penalized 3-25	9 101 24 2.7.1 1 0	Tech."  Games between the two interstate rivals have been close, particularly since the series was renewed three years ago. A total of eight points have separated the two teams in the past three	
Tarus Tenanzeu 020		The two teams are passing	į

## **Mounties And Burns Match Identical Marks**

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, losers of three straight games and four of their last five, take the road for their final two South-western Conference contests.

This Friday, the Mountaineers travel to Burns to test the league's most improved outfit and next week they travel o Lincolnon to meet the always-tough Wolfpack.

The Mountaineers and Bulldogs will match identical records Friday night when Burns will try to capture its first victory ever over the Mountaineers. Crest ac-complished that feat here last week and the Mountaineers will be working overtime in hopes of guarding against a similar per-formance by Burns.

However, Burns has extra incentive going also, in that the Bulldogs are trying to win as many games this year (five) as they have in their five previous years of football. The Bulldogs have a 34 SWC mark and 44 overall ghar.

The Bulldogs, under first-year mentor Steve Curtis, have defeat-ed Fred T. Foard, Lincolnton, Chase and Cherryville. They play-ed East Rutherford and R-S Central down-to-the-wire finishes. Their only smashing defeats were at the hands of Shelby (41-7) and Crest (26-2).

Sophomore quarterback Ricky Sims is the ringleader of the Burns crew, having already pass-ed for 11 touchdowns. He's also a strong runner and is similar to KM's Tony Falls as he often uses

two games for a winning season. be won.
The Mountaineers have had only one winning season since 1964, game.
finishing 7-3 in 1970. The Moun-

The Mountaineers have had only one came all any each of the Southwestern Conference. They should have the formation but the same mistakes and have whele.

Coach Bobby Jones trial ever with a booker of the same mistakes that have plagued the Mountaineers four with the cam's downfall.

Coach Boby Jones trial ever the week of the the mountaineers are all year continued to be the cam's downfall.

The Mountaineers of the week's game with a broken wrist. Survey the services of junior linebacker Dennis Hogue, who sat out last week's game with a broken wrist. Survey keep and played well.

Coach Bobby Jones trial ever with the well and the cam's downfall.

In the Mountaineers four with the finding a winning combination but the same mistakes week in the there are all year continued to be the cam's downfall.

In the Mountaineers four with the finding a winning combination but the same mistakes well as the cam's downfall.

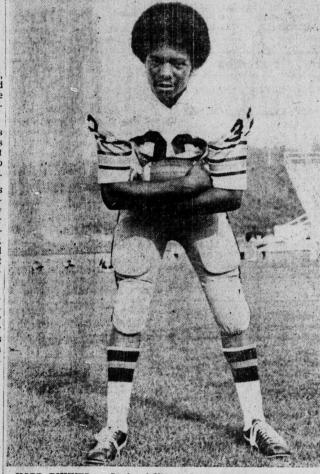
In the Mountaineers four with the finding a winning combination but the same mistakes well as a winning to make a played well.

Coach Bobby Jones trial every the same mistakes well as a short pass to end Larry with the formation for the conversion but the fearly and the well and the cam's downfall.

In the Mountaineers four with the first stable and the well and the well and the well and the stable played well.

Coach Bobby Jones trial every the same mistakes will have their hands a large well as a short pass to end Larry with the cam's downfall.

In the Mountaineers four with the first stable and the well and the well



HARD RUNNER - Senior fullback Javon Smith, above, helped spark Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to 191 yards rushing last week against Crest, but the Mounties still came up on the short end of a 22-14 score. Smith and teammates try to break a threegame losing streak Friday night at Burns.

# The Bulldogs will also be trying to regain their first place position in Division One of the split SWC. Last week's loss to R.S. split SWC. Last week's loss to R-S Central dropped the Bulldogs one-half game behind the pace-setting Hilltoppers.

Kings Mountain needs the final two games for a winning season. The Mountaineers have had only one winning season since 1964, the mountaineers have had only one winning season since 1964.

Kings Mountain High School linebacker Dennis Hogue, who is out with a broken wrist, and they played the second half without tackle Jake Bridges, who became ill at halftime and didn't game.

The Chargers forged into the possibilities of passes from Falls on third and his signing a contract with them. Adams had hoped to join the out tackle Jake Bridges, who became ill at halftime and didn't game.

Coach John Blalock's Little

Coach John Blalock's Little
Mountaineers are 2.3 in Tri.
County Conference play heading
into their 4 p. m. game today at
City Stadium against Ashley's
Cougars. They host the confer-

## Two Fumbles. **Penalty Give** Crest 22-14 Win

Mistakes continued to kill the Mountaineers here Friday night as they dropped their first football game ever to Crest high school, 22-14.

mistakes. The loss was the third straight and fourth in five games for the Mountaineers. The victory snapped a three-game los-ing streak for the Chargers.

Kings Mountain overcame an early 70 deficit to lead by 14-7 at halftime. But the Chargers came back with a touchdown in each of

the last two glarters to win it.
Kings Mountain held the upper
hand in total yardage and first
downs, but the Mountaineers lost
two fumilies, had one pass intercepted and were penalized 60

down in the opening stanza and Kings Mountain's two lost fum-

the Mountaineers were taxed 15 yards for tackling by the face mask. The penalty gave Crest a first and 10 at the KM 45, from which point halfback Ronnie Ross took a pitch out from quarterback Dennis Sinkler, then tossed a 45 yards touchdown pass to end Elvin Weaver. Gary Morrow kicked the extra point for a 7-0 cushion

All three Charger touchdowns came as a result of Mountaineer

A 15-yard face mask penalty set up the Chargers' first touch-

The Mountainers had the Chargers back up in their own territory in the first period when

The Mountaineers shook off that scare, then marched for a pair of second quarter touch-downs and a 14-7 halftime lead. Tony Falls scored from one yard out to tie the score, then the sophomore quarterback tossed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Harlee Davis to put the Mounties out front. John Bridges converted

HB STARTERS - These two Mountaineers will be starters at halfback Friday when the locals travel to Burns in hopes c breaking a three-game losing streak. In top photo is Myron George, a senior starter on defense, and in the bottom photo is sophomore Johnny Byers, strats on offense. Byers was named player of the week fol-lowing his outstanding running performance in last week's loss to Crest.

# **Adams Talking** In San Diego

front. John Bridges converted following both scores.

Kings Mountain threatened to break the game open early in the second half, driving to the Crest 25. But ends Davis and Jerry Valentine both dropped perfect ry Valentine both dropped perfect has see from Falls on third, and his circuits about the possibilities of the control with them.

out tackle Jake Bridges, who be came ill at halftime and didn't game.

The Mountaineers had the after selling a player to Chicago.

The Mountaineers had the Saturday.

KM they bought from Philadelphia, 11 have told Adams that if he will 191 play in the semi-pro Eastern 82 League, he will be the first play-13 er they recall in case one of their Continued On Page Six

# Last week's grid picking wasn't easy. Four misses gave me a season's chart of 64-22-5 and a .733 percentage. So, here we go a sgain, trying to increase that average as the season heads down the home stretch: South Point at East: East needs a win to stay in the running for a playoff berth. South Point might be down after last week's loss to Shelby, but Raiders should prevail, 21-7. Kings Mountain at Burns: Mounties continue to make season in history. I hate to say this, but I think Burns week of excuser, one history of the first five games and due not an interest that were one case, one history of the first five games and the PAT attempt failed. The Patriots, who had won their first five games, threatened four times but couldn't score. Certail was scheduled to end their season yested on a star time this week for Appatiachian prevail, 21-7. Kings Mountain at Burns: Mounties continue to make season in history. I hate to say this, but I think Burns will take it, 19-14. We have no excuser, combinating the particular of the proposal particular the

powerful Carson-Newman Eagles the second quarter the Eagles at Jefferson City, Tenn., the Bull-had more than they could handogs of Gardner-Webb are aiming for a homecoming victory Eagles 10-7. Saturday afternoon when they entertain the Mars Hill Lions at 3.0 Gardner-Webb via a 33 yard

improving, so we'll call for a 14-8 Lincolnton win.

South Carolina at N. C. State: Gamecocks could surprise, but Wolfpack is playing before the home folks and should win, 31-24.

Carson-Newman at Lenoir-Rhyne: Bears are capable of pulling at upset. But Carson-Newman is highly ranked and should win, 28-21.

Bucknell at Davidson: A sorry game between two sorry teams. We'll call for a 35-33 Davidson nod.

Mars Hill at Gardner-Webb: Homecoming for the Surface and the length of the sorry teams. We'll call for a 35-33 Davidson nod.

The Mountaineers host the Bucknell as special praise one of his best definite the two Baptists chools contained the Eagles and ont allow them to make a first down. The second quarter was all Carson-Newman all season, but a close game (24-23) to Ohio Valages, 27-19.

Clemson at Wake Forest: This could be first ACC win years and should win years and should surface the following and ustanding game time season, but game the saturdary sgame will mark the ball good by Mike Stephens of Greer, S. C. Gardner-Webb's defense took his day on defensive tackle Ron Reynolds. "Ron played one of his best defensive tackle Ron Reynolds. "Ron played one of his best warms for us." Brakefield as a game first down in the first down in the first down in the first down in the first down. The ball good by Mike Stephens of Greer, S. C. Gardner-Webb's one of his best warms for us." Brakefield said. "Ron played one of his best warms for us." Brakefi

BOILING SPRINGS—After dropping a 34 to 17 decision to the sible. But, with the exception of

"The offensive team scored the first two times it had the ball," Brakefield continued. "Steve Loflin (quarterback) threw the ball player of the week, Byers will receive a gift from the men's debetter and our receivers did a better and our receivers