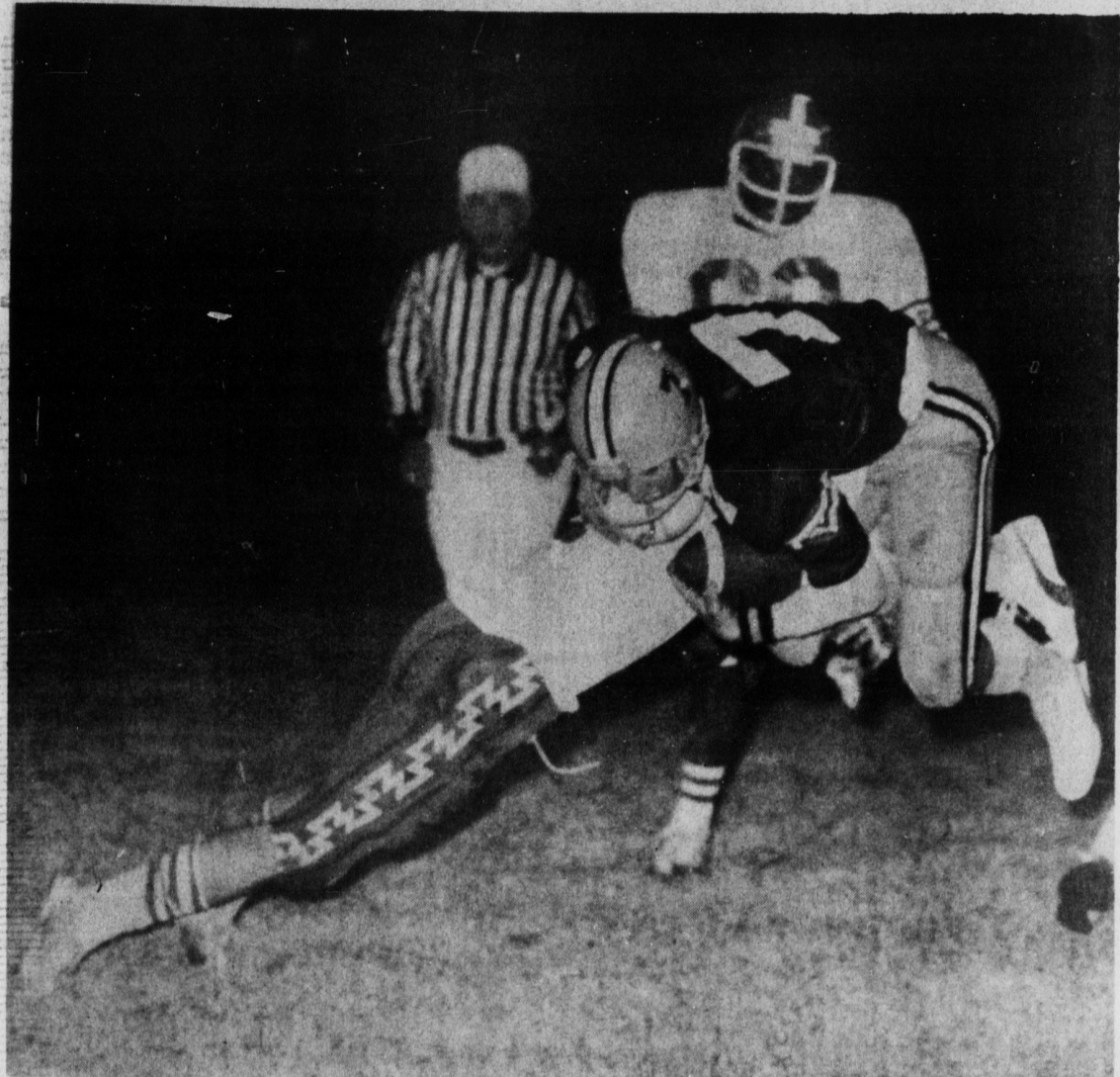


Mike Bumgarner Picks Up Key First Down...

Mounties Win 21-14,

Best Season Since '64

SPORTS



Kings Mountain quarterback Mike Bumgarner (7) is knocked into orbit by an unidentified East Gaston defender after picking up a key first down in KM's game-winning touchdown drive Friday at EG's Arrowhead Stadium. Mounties won, 21-14, closing out a fine 8-2 season in Southwestern Conference play.

Photos By Gary Stewart

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers closed out their most successful football season in 12 years Friday night at East Gaston with a 21-14 victory over the Warriors.

The win gave Coach Bobby Jones' charges a final 7-2 record in Southwestern Conference play and an 8-2 overall mark.

The Mountaineers marched 53 yards in the fourth period to snap a 14-14 tie and complete their season with two straight wins. They won six straight in early season and were ranked as the 10th best 3-A team in North Carolina before losing back to back games to Shelby and South Point.

Friday's victory left them in a tie for third place with South Point in the final SWC standings. The Red Raiders were upset 26-20 by R-S Central in their finale Friday in Belmont and dropped out of a three-way tie for the title. Shelby and Chase finished as co-champs and advance to the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association playoffs.

Mike Bumgarner, KMHS senior quarterback who led the Mounties to a 19-9-2 mark in his three years as field general, had the honor of scoring the Mountaineers' final touchdown in their last year in the WNCSSAA, which folds after the 1976-77 school year. Bumgarner sneaked across from the one yard line with eight minutes to play and Bruce Valentine booted the third straight extra points to provide the victory margin.

Richard Ross, a 158-pound senior halfback, gained his weight in yards

seriously after halftime, but attempted several passing "bombs" that didn't go off. KM's defense held East quarterback Grant Hoffman to three completions in 15 attempts for 31 yards but in all fairness to the Warrior signal caller, many perfect passes were dropped by his receivers.

Bumgarner, who led the SWC in touchdown passes a year ago, put only one pass in the air as the Mountaineers elected to go with a solid running attack.

KMHS threatened three times without scoring. The Mounties drove inside the Warrior 10 every time, losing the ball once on a fumble, and again on a loss of downs. The third drive inside the 10 was halted by the final buzzer.

THE STATISTICS

	KM	EG
First Downs	17	7
Yards Rushing	369	124
Passes	0-1	3-15
Yds. Passing	0	31
Passes Int. By	0	0
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Punts	3-25	5-33
Yds. Penalized	65	70

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4T
KM	14	0	0	7
EG	7	7	0	0

SCORING

KM—Ross 53 run (Valentine kick)
 EG—Dill 20 run (Patterson kick)
 KM—Ross 39 run (Valentine kick)
 EG—Dill 10 run (Patterson kick)
 KM—Bumgarner 1 run (Valentine kick)

Thursday, November 11, 1976

rushing and scored two long touchdowns to lead a KMHS ground assault which netted 369 yards. It was KM's best night of the season in rushing the football.

Ross, whose 25-yard fourth period TD toppled Cherryville 21-20 a week earlier, scored two first quarter touchdowns on runs of 53 and 39 yards, then the Mountaineers slacked off a bit until the game-winning drive in the fourth period.

The Warriors, coached by former KMHS athlete Jerry Adams, got a 20 yard TD run and a 10 yard scamper from Richard Dill to tie the score at 14-all at halftime.

The Warriors never threatened

8-2 A Good Season,

But Wait Til Next Year

Kings Mountain High's football coach, Bobby Jones, might be wishing his life away but the Mountaineer mentor says he can't wait until the 1977 football season.

Jones, you see, has all but 10 players returning off this year's KMHS team, which closed out its most successful season in 12 years last week with an 8-2 record.

The future is indeed bright. "Our big goal this year was to get in the playoffs," Jones says, "and we just barely missed out. But even though we didn't make the playoffs, you couldn't have asked for a better bunch of guys. I'm already looking forward to next year because we have a lot of people coming back."

Jones said he would have been tickled at the beginning of the year if someone had told him the Mountaineers would finish 8-2. "But," he adds, "I'm not really ever satisfied."

Normally, an 8-2 record would get a Southwestern Conference team into the playoffs. But this year, three clubs — Shelby, Chase and South Point — went into the final game of the season with just one loss apiece. South Point's 26-20 loss to R-S Central prevented a tie-breaking vote of



GARY STEWART

the SWC coaches.

"I thought it would be hard for anyone to go undefeated," noted Jones, whose coaching record at KMHS stands at 34-22-4 for six seasons. "I thought if we had a good year it would be about 8-2."

The Mountaineers, who tied South Point for third place, made the biggest improvement of any team in the league. They finished only 4-5-1 a year ago, thus, they doubled their victory output.

"The biggest key to our success," says Jones, "was the boys' attitudes. That, and the fact that our assistant coaches did a real outstanding job."

Jones made several changes in the coaches' assignments for '76, and they apparently paid off. He assigned the various coaches

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...Then Scores Winning TD In 21-14 KMHS Victory



Kings Mountain quarterback Mike Bumgarner (7) sneaks into the end zone with the winning touchdown in fourth quarter of Friday's Southwestern Conference football finale with East Gaston at the Warriors' Arrowhead Stadium. Bumgarner's TD snapped a 14-14 tie and gave the

Mountaineers a 21-14 victory. The win gave the Mountaineers an 8-2 record and their best finish since

1964, when the Mountaineers captured their last Southwestern Conference title.



ROUNDING CORNER — Kings Mountain reserve quarterback Jimmy Hall (5) tries to circle end on the East Gaston defense but is about to be stopped by the

Warriors' Gary Ottinger. Also coming on fast for East Gaston is John Lewis (24). Action came in Friday's Southwestern Conference grid finale at East Gaston.



TOUCHDOWN RUN — Kings Mountain halfback Richard Ross (43) is shown on one of his two first half touchdowns runs in Friday's 21-14 season-ending victory

at East Gaston. Throwing key blocks for the Mountaineers are Kelly Land (67) and Scott Ehlis (87). The victory gave KMHS a final 8-2 record.