



WILLIAM THOSEPSON





TIM SPICER





More From Stewart

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just one area of the game to specialize in and they all did a good job with their responsibilities

"Our boys had more pride than the average kid we've been getting," says Jones. "If they will work hard between now and next year we can be a contender again. A lot of them have a future in football beyond the high school level."

Although the nucleus of the ballteam returns next year, Jones says the 8-2 season couldn't have been possible without the outstanding play of the 10 seniors on the team.

Those 10 include: Mike Bumgarner, the team's quarterback who led the Mountaineers to a 19-9-2 record in his three years as a starter. The only other KMHS quarterback to lead the team to three better years was Pat Murphy, who quarter-backed the 1962 - 63-64 Mounties

to a 23-6-2 figure. Mark Moore, a three-year starter at tackle whose blocking helped the Mountaineers establish one of the best running games in the SWC. Moore was probably the team's most

dedicated football player. Tim Spicer, one of the most underrated players in the league. He helped hold together a defensive unit which was ranked as the best in the confer-

ence over the first seven games. William Thompson, a versatile ballplayer, who started at safety but was capable of playing just about any position on the field. His booming kickoffs usually put the enemy deep in its own terri-tory and his ability to return kickoffs and punts always kept the opposing defenses honest.

Richard Ross, a 158-pound halfback who developed into the team's best runner late in the season. His service was invaluable as he doubled as a cornerback and safety on defense.

Larry Smith, a guard who did a bangup job on defense.

Al Eddins, a defensive back who came out this year after not playing football since his freshman year. But, Jones says, "we couldn't have won eight games without him."

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Peter Brown, a splitend that Jones says will be hard to replace.

Scott Wells, a guard who could fill in on either offense or defense, and a young man that made the starters work hard in practice in order to keep their positions.

Kenneth McGinnis, a tackle on the specialty teams, and who did a good job of filling in for the front-line starters.

Jones says another big key to the team's success was the dedication of the managers -Ronnie Tesseneer. Tom Szymborski, Steve Boggan, Jeff Boggan, and Larry Gill — and the help given by the press box and chain gang crews.

"These people don't usually get any recognition for the jobs they do," noted Jones, "but they're always there to help you. We'd be in bad shape if we didn't have them."

The 8-2 season, as already mentioned, was the best of any KMHS team since '64, when the Mounties won the SWC title with a 10-0 regular season mark. They then lost to Hickory 6-0 in the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association.

After that year, the Mounties went five long seasons without winning over five ballgames. They went 7-3 in '70 in their last year under Coach Bill Bates and their best mark since, until this year, was 7-2-1 in '74 when they finished third behind South Point and Shelby. That year, the Mounties appeared to have a playoff berth sewed up but were upset by Burns in the season's finale.

In terms of games won and lost, this year's team was the fifth best for KM since the organization of the SWC in 1954. The only teams to have better records were the '55 (10-1-1), '58 (10-0-1), '60 (9-1), '63 (9-0-1) and '64 (10-1) outfits.

Thus, the '76 Mountaineers have a right to be proud of their record but the players returning next year also have a responsi-bility to better it. An improvement of five victories would be a good goal to set. That would mean a 13-0 record and the state 3-A championship.

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Meeting

Wednesday

The Woodbridge Country Club men's golf associa-tion will hold its November meeting Wed., Nov. 17 at the clubhouse.

The meeting will begin with dinner at 6:30 with the business meeting to follow.

All members are urged to attend since the program will include election of officers for 1977.

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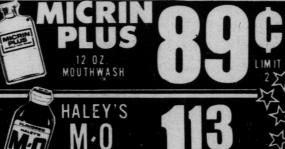
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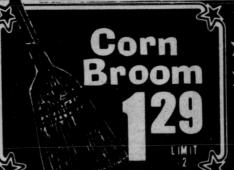














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