KM Tough, But Others Are Too

Kings Mountain High's varsity football coaching staff is working with 58 prospects as they prepare for one of the most rugged schedules in KMHS history.

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The Mountaineers have 20 lettermen back from last year's fine 8-2 team and should be one of the strongest 8-A football teams in North Carolina.

The only problem, however, is that at least three other teams in the highly competitive Southwestern Conference also will field teams that should rank among the best in the

state. SWC and Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association champion, is the top-ranked 3-A team in the state in preseason polls and Chase and South Point, also, should give the Lions and Mountaineers plenty of trouble.

And, to make things even tougher, the SWC will have only one representative in the state playoffs as the league has moved into the much-larger North Carolina High Schools Athletic Association.

Kings Mountain has title. beefed up its schedule, having added R-S Central as a conference game replacing Cherryville, and Ashbrook as a non-conference game replacing Bessemer City. Both Cherryville and Bessemer City dropped out of the SWC to join the Southern District Seven 2-A Conference.

The Mountaineers tice. open on September 2 at

Ashbrook the following terback, Mike week before opening Bumgarner, but several their home schedule on September 16 against Chase.

that the tougher teams will have to come to John Gamble Stadium. The Mounties have Chase, South Point and

turf. The Mountaineers twice-a-day heavy drills last Tuesday after six days of conditioning. The practices have curtailed to once a day since school has already opened for teachers.

The coaches report they are well pleased season. with the progress shown thus far, and they feel good about their chances of winning the tine, conference. The linebac coaches feel sure KMHS will field its best team

Offensively, the major colleges. Mountaineers return their top rusher of a year ago, halfback Dennis Putnam, Steve Kenny Bell who ram- Laughter, Terry Mcbled for over 900 yards. David Ray Robinson and Dennis Owens, who gained over 500 alternating at the fullback slot, also return and all

SPORTS

backfield. The Mountaineers Shelby on their home return the nucleus of their offensive and defensive lines, but Shelby, the defending have been working out they'll have to come up for two weeks, going to with replacements for guard Tim Spicer and tackle Mark Moore, who graduated, and starting

guard Tim Whitaker, who was injured recently in an automobile wreck and will miss the entire

Some of the returnees include Bruce Valena centerlinebacker, guard Kelly Land, tackle David Gordon, and linebacker since '64, when KMHS Scott Ellis, all of whom won its last conference are being heavily ittle. recruited by several

Others include ends Laughter, Terry Mc-Clain, Jeff Prescott, Stan Scruggs, Danny Bolin and David Seay, guards Walter Floyd and Tracy Cook, and halfbacks Mike Adams three have ran ex- and Charlie Jenkins.

tremely well in prac-The Mountaineers lost The Mountaineers lost their entire secondary,

players are looking good there, including Jimmy Hall, Jeff Cloninger, One thing working in Joel Wright, and Steve the Mounties' favor, it Boggan. Halfback appears at this point, is Richard Ross, now at Wofford, was the only other starter lost in the

Working on

the offense!

who started at cor- and could help out both nerback and backed up on the offensive line and Valentine at offensive in the defensive center.

Richard Van Dyke, a letterman as a sophomore but injured all of last year, returns include John Estes,

preparing for the 1977 campaign, when they hope to bring the school its first Southwestern 3-A Conference title in 18 years. The Mountaineers are going through a play in this photo. Quarterback

Kings Mountain High's footballers are busy

secondary. Those up from the

Bumgardner, Glen Carjayvees and junior high, plus other newcomers,

David Alexander, Keith Blanton, David Bolton, Robert Bradley, Terry Brown, Chris roll, Mike Chambers, Phillips, Allen Putnam, White, Danay Ricky Chapman, Tony Putnam, Monte Ronnie Wilso Dwayne Clark, Jody Rhea, John Ross, David Mike Womack.

hopeful Jimmy Hall (with ball) has already taked to a halfback and gets set to hand off to another runner as the hole begins to open on the right side of the line. The Mountaineers open their season on September 2 at R-S Central.

Deaton, Kale Goins, Wade Harrington, Mark Howell, Maurice Jamerson, Tim Leach, Andy Lottin, Norman Phillips, Allen Putnam, Tony Putnam, Monte Bhase John Ross David

KMer Defeats Shelbian

Austin Cops Junior Tourney

Darrell Austin Jr. of Kings Mountain won the first annual Cleveland County Junior Golf Tournament last week at Riverbend Golf Club in Shelby.

Austin shot a 75-80-155 Tuesday and Wednesday to defeat Shelby's David Cash by three shots. Herbie Beam of Grover, and Austin's teammate on the Kings Mountain High golf team, finished third with a 159.

As county champion, Austin will get an automatic berth in the upcoming Cleveland County Tournament, which annually attracts the top golfers in the county. One round of

that 54-hole tournament will be played at Kings Mountain Country Club. It was the second

junior title for Austin

this summer. Earlier,

he won the Shelby Jay-

cees Junior Tournament

at Woodbridge to qualify for the state tournament in Wilming-

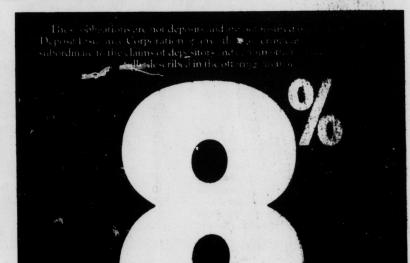
ton, but he passed up

that event to play in the

Future Masters

Tournament in Dothan,

A rising junior at for the Mountaineers place finish in both the C. High Schools Ac-KMHS, Austin played last spring and helped Southwestern Con-tivities Association the number two position lead them to a third ference and Western N. tournaments.







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DO IT THIS WAY - Kings Mountain assistant line coach Bud Bumgardner works with a couple of prospects during a heavy hitting

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session at KMHS football practice. Head line coach Dan Brooks, on right, looks on.

SHP REPORT

The State Highway Patrol reports 30 accidents in Cleveland County during the week of July 18-24 resulting in 11 injuries and no fatalitles.

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Tailoring Courses Are Set

The Continuing Education Department of Cleveland Tech has announced tailoring to begin Tuesday, August 2, from 9 a. m. to 12 noon. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday through October 6, at Tech's Uptown Annex, room 18. Stella Prine will instruct.

Persons needing further information are requested to call, 482-8351, between the hours of 8 a. m. and 4 p. m., Monday through Friday. Adults, 18 years of age

and older, interested in this class may register at the first class meeting paying the \$5 registration fee.



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