

'Gutty' Mountaineers Nip Chase 13-12

☆☆☆

☆☆☆

☆☆☆

East Cavs Here Friday

Kings Mountain High's Mountaineers, coming off one of their most impressive victories in years, host a tough East Rutherford team Friday night at 8 p. m. at John Gamble Stadium.

East sports an 0-2 Southwestern Conference figure, but the Cavaliers, 1-2 overall, dropped both of those contests to contenders, South Point and Crest.

"East is real big and strong, and they've got a real good passer in Don Ingle, who burned us on a long touchdown pass up there last year. They're always aggressive, so I'm sure we'll have our hands full," says KMHS Coach Bobby Jones.

East Rutherford's lone victory to date was a season's opening win over 4-A McDowell County. McDowell is one of the favored teams in the Western 4-A Conference, which includes such perennial powers as Ashbrook, Hunter Huss, Hickory, Freedom, Asheville, and others.

The Cavaliers, who lost to KM 14-6 a year ago for one of only three defeats under Steve Curtis, are an inexperienced team. But like Ashbrook, which upset KMHS 21-7 two weeks ago, the Cavaliers are improving every game.

While East as a whole is inexperienced, Ingle gives Curtis one of the league's most experienced quarterbacks and he certainly isn't afraid to put the ball in the air.

That, in itself, is a cause for concern for the Mountaineers, who gave up 177 yards passing to Chase in Monday night's 13-12 victory.

The Mountaineers will be playing at less than 100 percent strength, as several starters are nursing injuries. But, Jones and his assistants are hoping the Mountaineers will continue to play with 100 percent dedication, as they did against Chase.

One person who is likely to be out of the lineup is quarterback Jimmy Hall, who suffered a shoulder separation in Monday's game. Jones said there is a slim chance he can play this week but he probably won't be ready until at least next week when the Mountaineers travel to Crest.

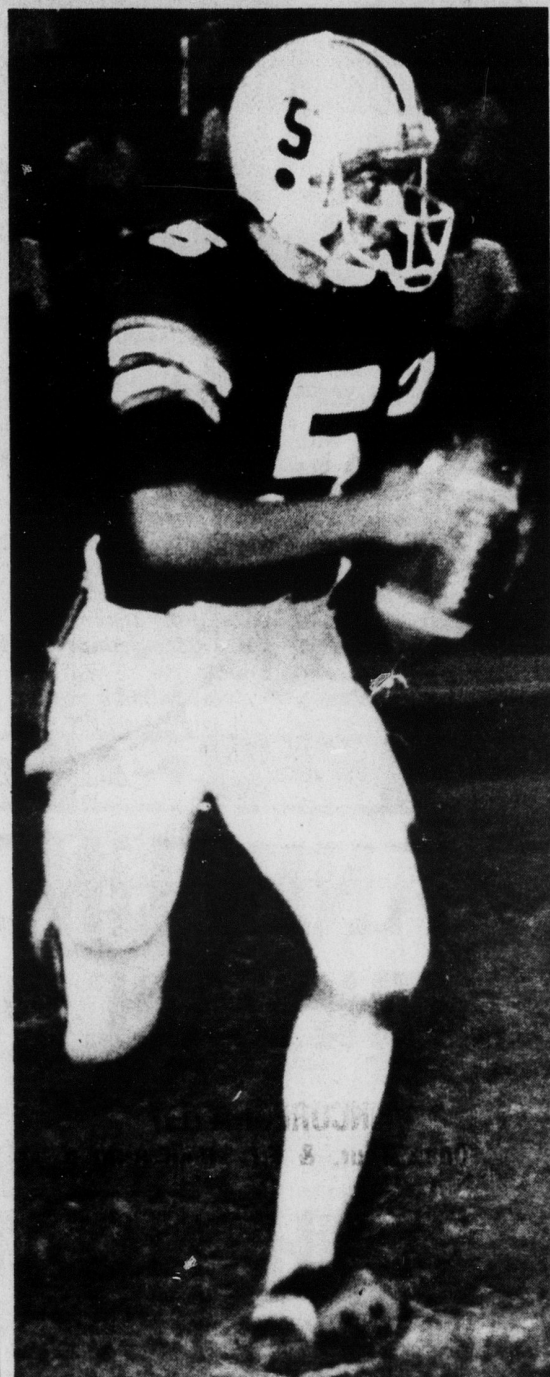
Steve Boggan, who took over for Hall Monday and directed one TD and passed for another, will likely be the starting quarterback, and will also be doubling as a safety on defense. Jones also has Joel Wright who could see some duty at quarterback.

Fullback David Ray Robinson, who is KM's leading rusher after three games with 277 yards, also suffered a slight shoulder separation against Chase but will probably play.

His running mate, tailback Kenny Bell, sat out with a hip injury

against Chase and is still doubtful for Friday. If Bell's not ready, halfback will be in the capable hands of Avery Smith, who was called

up from the jayvees, and Dennis Owens, who picked up some key yardage and scored the winning touchdown against Chase.



GOOD GAIN — Kings Mountain quarterback Jim Hall circles end for big gain in Monday's 13-12 victory over Chase at Gamble Stadium. Hall was injured moments later after a 35-yard gain and will probably miss this Friday's home game with East Rutherford.



Photos By Gary Stewart

BIG INTERCEPTION — Kings Mountain's Bryon White intercepts an Alan Stroud pass to halt a Chase drive at the 25 yard line in Monday's

Southwestern Conference game at John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers stunned a favored Chase High team 13-12 Monday night in one of the biggest games of this Southwestern 3-A Conference campaign.

The two clubs went into the contest as two of the five pre-season contenders for the SWC title, and when the final whistle blew not many of the 5,000 fans attended would deny that it was a title-calibre football game.

The two rivals banged bodies for a full 48 minutes, each club pulling out all stops to win despite playing without the services of their top ballplayers.

Chase's Keith Crenshaw, last year's SWC player of the year, and KM's Kenny Bell, the number two rusher in the SWC behind Crenshaw in '76, both stood on the sidelines and tried to fire up their teams. Both were nursing hip injuries.

To make matters even tougher for the Mountaineers, they lost their hard-charging fullback, David Ray Robinson, and their starting quarterback, Jimmy Hall, late in the first half with injuries.

But the Mountaineers, who figured they had a lot to prove after losing 21-7 to Ashbrook a week earlier, got a super job from their remaining starters and reserves and claimed their second straight one-point victory over the Trojans.

Ironically, Chase lost the football game by trying for two-point conversions after both of their touchdowns. Kings Mountain defeated the Trojans a year ago, 8-7, when Robinson ran for a two-point conversion which erased a 7-6 Chase lead. "We felt like a lot of people were down on us and might have counted

us out after losing last week to Ashbrook," noted Coach Bobby Jones. "But our men put it up and did a real outstanding job."

Kings Mountain never trailed after taking a 7-0 lead with 59 seconds left in the first half, but the Mountaineers played hold-on ball the rest of the night as Chase's highly-touted passing quarterback, Alan Stroud, filled the air with passes.

Stroud passed for 177 yards — including a 79-yard scoring strike to Randy Phillips which pulled the Trojans within striking distance at 13-12 with 5:56 to play — but the Mountaineer defense made the big plays when they counted.

Stroud's biggest problems in throwing the football were four KM defensive linemen — Scott Ellis, Steve Laughter, Chris Bumgardner and Kelly Land — who continuously broke through the Chase offensive line to keep the pressure on Stroud and dump him for several big losses.

In one four-down series in the fourth period, Ellis broke through to dump Stroud on a passing attempt on first down, Laughter dumped him on second down, and then dumped halfback Chuck McSwain on a third down running play.

For the night, Stroud hit on 7-of-18 aerials and had two picked off. One interception, by Bryon White, halted a Chase drive at the 25 yard line. Andy Loftin intercepted the other at midfield.

While the KM line was putting pressure on Stroud and making the

THE YARDSTICK

	C	KM
First Downs	11	13
Yds. Rush.	94	150
Passes	7-18	2-4
Yds. Passing	177	46
Int. By	2	2
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Punts	3-33	6-31
Yds. Penalized	70	92

big plays when they counted in the middle of the field, the biggest plays of the night came on the goal line.

Late in the first half, the Trojans marched to the KM two with a first-and-goal but Robinson pounced on a fumble to halt that scoring drive.

Following Chase's first TD early in the second half, Valentine broke through for a super one-on-one tackle to halt a two-point conversion attempt, and following the second Chase TD in the fourth quarter, pressure from the defensive line forced Stroud to throw a two-point pass in the ground.

Kings Mountain opened the game on a

sluggish note, but after Steve Boggan ran for a first down after mishandling the snap from center on a punt, the Mountaineers began to march almost at will.

Robinson, who finished with 141 yards rushing despite playing less than half the game because of the injury, was hitting the Chase line for huge gains but after three straight KM first downs, a 15-yard penalty for holding halted the march.

The Mountaineers were on the move again in the final two minutes when Robinson was carried off the field after a jarring gang-tackle following an eight-yard gain. He suf-

fered a slight shoulder separation but returned to the game late in the fourth quarter for some more big gains which ate some time off the clock.

On the next play, Hall rolled around right end for a 35-yard gain to the Chase 26, but he was also injured and was rushed to the hospital along with Robinson.

The spirit of the Mountaineers and their fans were slightly dampened at that point, but somebody forgot to tell reserve quarterback Steve Boggan and he came on to direct the Mounties the final 26 yards for a 7-0 lead.

(Turn To Page 6A)

TEAM BARGAINS

All Mens Short Sleeve

SHIRT SALE

DRESS & SPORT SHIRTS

Group No. 1 "Manhattan" DRESS SHIRTS Values To \$13.00 \$4⁸⁸	Group No. 2 "Norris" DRESS SHIRTS Values To \$10.00 \$3⁸⁸	Group No. 3 Plain and Fancy SPORT SHIRTS Values To \$9.00 \$3⁴⁴
---	--	--

Thurs. - Fri. - Sat. ONLY
All Ladies New Fall

★ SPORTSWEAR ★ DRESSES ★ COATS

10% OFF

REGULAR PRICE

Lay-Aways Invited At This Special Discount

All Mens SUMMER DRESS PANTS Values To \$25.00 \$9⁸⁸ Most All Sizes	One Group Mens Year Round DRESS PANTS Values To \$16.00 Broken Sizes \$6⁸⁸
All Boys Short Sleeve SPORT SHIRTS Values To \$7.00 NOW \$1⁴⁴ \$2⁰⁰	Mens Summer SUITS And SPORT COATS 1/2 Price

PLONK

Bros. Co.

Downtown Kings Mountain