

Game Moved Up A Day

# Mounties At Burns Tonight

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will close out one of their most disappointing seasons Thursday night when they travel to Burns High to face the winless but hungry Bulldogs.

The Mountaineers carry a 4-4 Southwestern Conference record and 4-5 overall mark into the contest. Burns is 0-8 and 0-9.

Burns is a young ballclub and has come close to

posting a win only twice. The Bulldogs lost to former SWC member Cherryville 18-14 in their season's opener and they lost to North Gaston 19-14 last week after leading most of the ballgame.

The Bulldogs, under new head coach Mike Mabry, have installed a new veer offense and Mabry feels it will lead the school to a conference championship within a few years. But the

veer takes a while to learn but with young players Mabry can't see anything but improvement.

Sophomore Eugene Early is operating the attack from quarterback and his top two runners are

sophomore Kenny Brown and senior Greg Thomas. Brown is one of the best-looking sophomore runners in the SWC.

Early's favorite passing targets are flanker Chris Ager, split end Kent

Watterson and tight end Ray Davis.

The Mountaineers had one of their most productive nights moving the football last week despite the 38-14 loss to East Gaston. KMHS had 300 yards total offense with Kenny Bell and David Ray Robinson combining for 228 yards rushing.

Bell, a senior who is closing out a fine three-year career at tailback,

now has 750 yards rushing despite sitting out one game with an injury. It's likely he won't be able to equal last year's performance, when he gained 950 yards, but he's been quite effective since overcoming his hip injury. He's been over the 100 mark in rushing in three of the last five ballgames.

Robinson, who started off like gangbusters before being hit by injuries, had his best game in several weeks against East Gaston, picking up 104 yards in only 10 carries. He now has 552 yards rushing, the top figure for a fullback in many years.

As usual, the Mountaineers tonight will have several injured players watching from the sidelines. They include Scott Ellis, Tracy Cook, Dennis Owens and Bryon White. Tim Whitaker, a starting guard, has been watching all year after being injured in a car wreck.

Seniors playing their final game tonight include Bell, Mike Adams, Bruce Valentine, Norman Phillips, Kelly Land, David Seay, David Gordon, Ronnie Wilson, Dennis Putnam, and Steve Laughter. Ellis and Cook are also seniors.



GARY STEWART

## UNC, Tigers Not Noted For Low-Scoring Games

Short cuts from the sports world: Add Maryland quarterback Larry Dick to the growing list of football people who are singing the praises of North Carolina defensive tackle Dee Hardison. "The two guys we were worried about most were their tackles, Hardison and Broadway. We've heard they will probably be first round pro draft picks, and after what I saw Saturday, I wouldn't doubt it a bit," he said...

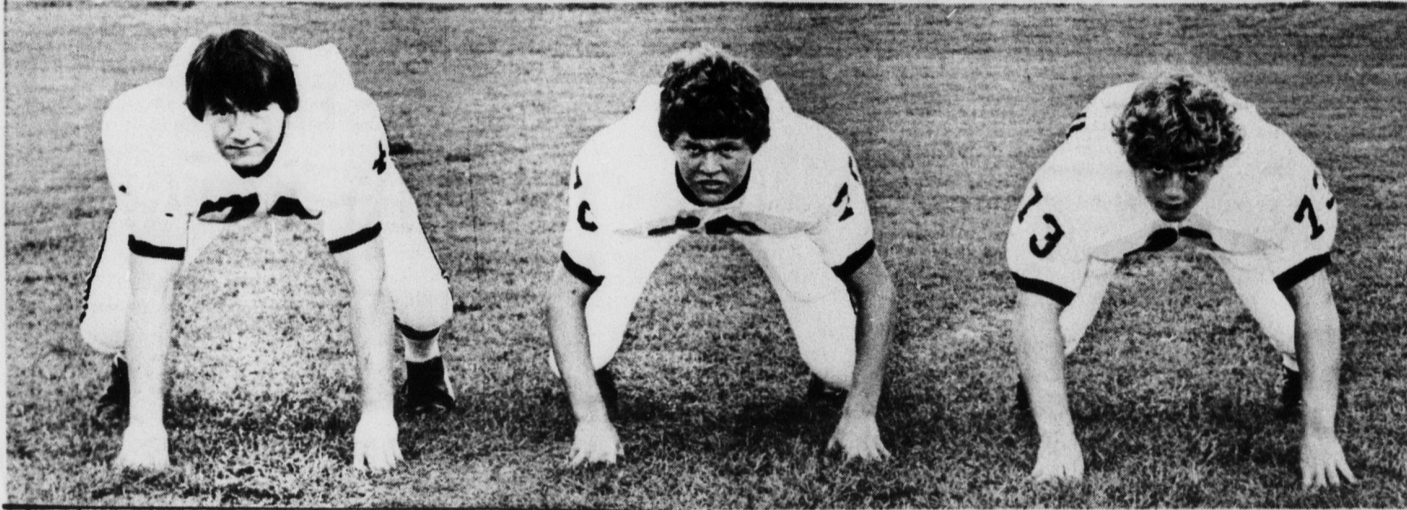
Hardison drew this comment from N. C. State Coach Bo Rein, after his Pack lost to the Tar Heels: "If we had some busted plays, it was Dee Hardison busting them." ... And South Carolina Coach Jim Carlen: "He's the best defensive lineman we've faced this year." ...

Both Carolina and Clemson have been praised for their outstanding defenses this year, but if they play a defensive game Saturday at Chapel Hill it will be the first time in many moons. In their last eight meetings, the Tar Heels have averaged 31.1 points and Clemson 24.6. The last four years, the scores were 37-29, 54-32, 38-35 and 27-23 with Clemson winning the first three and UNC the fourth ...

Gardner-Webb's Robbie Barnes, the Wilkes Central product who was heading for Carolina before he found out he couldn't meet the entrance requirements, has some impressive return statistics. So far he has returned 11 kickoffs for 225 yards and a 20.5 average. The freshman likely will step into the starting halfback slot next year, replacing Johnny Walker, the senior who is G-W's top rusher with 916 yards ...

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# SPORTS



KMHS TACKLES — These three tackles will be seeing a lot of action tonight when Kings Mountain travels to Burns for its 1977 finale. Left to right are

senior David Seay, junior Scott Thornburg and junior Chris Bumgardner. The Mounties, 4-5, need a win tonight to salvage a winning season.

Photo By Gary Stewart

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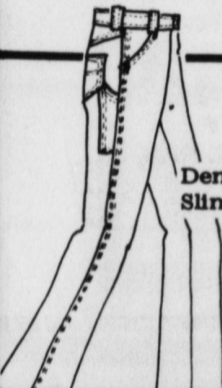
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