

THE BELL HAS SOUNDED

Mountaineer back sets two school records, gains 1,000 yards

A disappointing season ended on a happy and exciting note Thursday night for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, who spanked winless Burns 41-7 behind a record-breaking performance by senior tailback Kenny Bell.

Bell, who closed out a fine three-year varsity career, became the first player in 14 years to reach the 1,000 yard mark in rushing and set school records for most yards rushing in a single game (283) and most touchdowns (5) as the Mountaineers closed out their season with a break-even 5-5 mark.

Bell, no doubt, could have gained many more yards but the Mountaineer coaching staff decided to give all of their players a chance to play. Bell was removed from the contest with eight minutes left after his 1,000 yard season was assured.

Bell, who had 759 yards rushing going into the game despite sitting out one game with an injury, racked up 164 yards rushing and all three of the Mountaineers' touchdowns in the first half as the KM team went out front 21-0.

Coach Bobby Jones began substituting freely even before intermission but he left Bell in until a 22-yard run with eight minutes to play assured him of his 1,000 yards. That run put the Mounties on the three yard line and Bell came out to a roaring ovation even though the crowd numbered only a couple of hundred.

For the night, Bell touched the pigskin 17 times and, as already noted, gained 283 yards. That equals out to 16.5 yards per carry.

His rushing total broke the record of 245 yards, set by Tony Falls against East Gaston in 1974.

What Bell and his fans will probably remember most, however, was his 1,000 yard season, which puts him in an elite category with some of the all-time running greats at Kings Mountain High... men like Ken Baity, Don Gladden, Punch Parker and Mike Huffstickler. Huffstickler was the last player to gain 1,000 rushing and he did it way back in 1963 when the Mountaineers went 9-0-1 to share the Southwest 3-A Conference crown with Shelby. Huffstickler had 1,045 that year.

Bell's total left him with a season's mark of 1,042 yards. Baity holds the school record with 1,289 back in 1957.

Bell scored a touchdown the very first time he touched the football, going over from eight yards out following a blocked punt by Danny Bolin. Bruce Valentine's PAT from placement made it 7-0.

The game moved slowly, until late in the quarter when Bell stunned the biteless Bulldogs with a 75-yard touchdown run to run the score to 14-0. After another series and a punt by Burns, the 166-pounder chalked up 63 more yards of real estate and another TD and from that point on the Mountaineers' goal was for Bell to gain 1,000 yards.

He came back in the second half with a 10-yard touchdown run and, fittingly enough, he passed the 1,000 mark on his fifth touchdown of the night, a 40-yard run. That gave him 1,018 yards but just to make sure, he was given the ball twice more for 24 yards, including the final 22-yard run which set up KM's final touchdown, a one-yard run by quarterback Jeff Cloninger.

The Mountaineers, obviously, had their biggest offensive night of the season, rushing for 352 yards. Nine different players took turns running

SPORTS

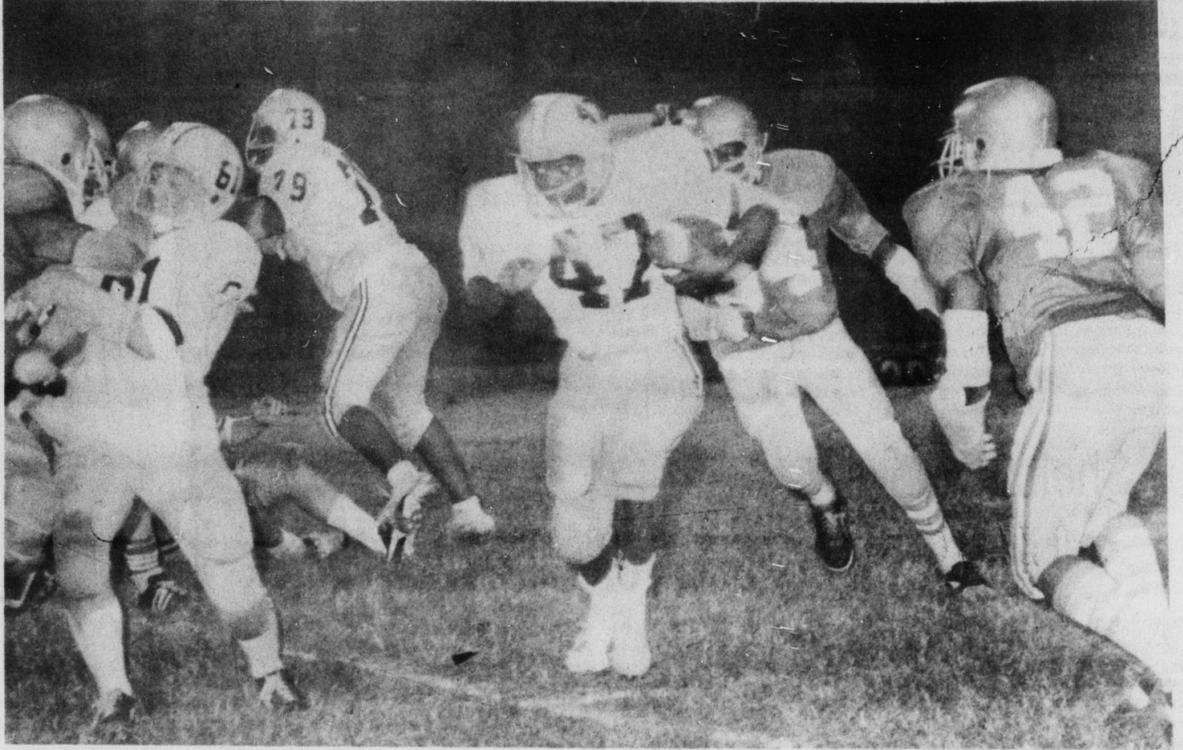
the football and in 39 rushing plays the Mountaineers averaged a whopping nine yards per carry.

While the attention was focused on the offense in general, and Bell in particular, the Mountaineer defenders closed out their season in fine fashion with three interceptions (including two in the end zone) and a bundle of quarterback sacks in addition to the blocked punt.

Jody Deaton and Terry McClain came up with the interceptions in the end zone and the third belonged to Steve Laughter. A fourth interception by Steve Boggan was nullified.

The Bulldogs' sophomore quarterback had a miserable night and his bones will probably ache the rest of the winter after the heavy blows by Valentine, Laughter, Kelly Land, Norman Phillips and company. Those four, and many others, spent about as much time in the Burns backfield as Early and his mates.

(Turn To Page 7)



Ring, Ring Goes The Bell!

Kings Mountain High senior halfback Kenny Bell breaks through a huge hole in the Burns offensive line and streaks toward one of his five touchdowns in Thursday night's 41-7 victory over the Bulldogs on the Burns field. Bell, closing out a fine three-year varsity career, went out in style with a school record 283 yards

rushing to go with his record five touchdown runs. He also was able to become the first player in 14 years to go over the 1,000 yard mark in rushing, finishing with 1,042 despite sitting out one contest with an injury. Throwing a big block to help spring Bell is junior guard Alan Putnam (61).



It's Sack Time!

Burns High's sophomore quarterback Eugene Early (10) spent a miserable night Thursday night as Kings Mountain's defense kept the heat on the youngster all night long. The Mountaineer defenders broke through the Burns blocking several times to sack Early, as they did on this play when senior linebacker Bruce Valentine (51) threw him for a big loss. Other Mountaineers

helping force the action are David Gordon (79), Danny Bolin (90) and Terry McClain (85). The Mountaineer defense stopped the Bulldog offense cold and the offense turned Kenny Bell loose for 283 yards and five touchdowns as the Mountaineers closed their season with a 41-7 victory.

Mountaineer Gridgraph

	KM	B
First Downs	14	9
Yds. Rushing	352	3
Passes	0-3	7-22
Yds. Passing	0	189
Passes Int. By	3	0
Fumbles Lost	2	0
Punts	1-4	5-34
Yds. Penalized	50	75
By quarters:		
KM	14	7
B	0	0

Scoring:
 KM - Bell 8 run (Valentine kick)
 KM - Bell 75 run (Valentine kick)
 KM - Bell 63 run (Valentine kick)
 KM - Bell 10 run (Kick failed)
 KM - Bell 40 run (Valentine kick)
 KM - Cloninger 1 run (Valentine kick)
 B - Ager 5 pass from Early (Sanford kick)

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING			
Player	TC	YDS.	AVG.
Bell	17	283	16.5
Robinson	3	26	8.7
Sherrill	5	15	3.0
Jamerson	3	12	4.0
Smith	1	10	10.0
Jenkins	2	9	4.5
Cloninger	3	7	2.3
M. White	1	2	2.0
Hall	4	-12	-3.0
Totals	39	352	9.0

MOUNTAINEER PASSING				
Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Hall	1	0	0	0
Cloninger	2	0	0	0
Totals	3	0	0	0

VOTE TODAY FOR JIM DICKEY



HE WILL STAY RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS