

## North Gaston Here Friday

# Crest Wins 9-2 Defensive Battle Over KM

Kings Mountain's defense gave the high-powered Crest offense all it could handle Friday night at John Gamble Stadium, but the Mountaineers couldn't move the ball on the ground and dropped a tough 9-2 Southwestern 3-A Conference decision.

The victory left the Chargers unbeaten on the year and ranked fourth in the State 3-A football poll. Crest is 4-0 in the SWC and 5-0 overall. Kings Mountain, with three SWC losses by a touchdown or less, fell to 1-3 in the SWC and 1-4 overall.

The Mountaineers, still trying to come up with that little extra something that it takes to be a winner, stay at home this week to host North Gaston in their annual homecoming game. Game time is 8 p.m.

Defense set up all the scoring last week as both teams shut off the other's running attack. Crest's highly-touted tailback, Herbert Harbison, who rushed for 320 yards a week earlier against Chase, was held to 95 yards rushing in 23 carries and Kings Mountain's 1-2 punch of Tracy Johnson and Curtis Pressley was held to a combined total of 59 yards in 27 attempts.

For the game, Crest managed just 138 yards in 44 rushing attempts and Kings Mountain had only 83 yards in 37 carries. Neither team completed a pass.

Although it was shutdown more than at any other time this year, the Crest offense did manage to take advantage of some breaks.

The Chargers drove the opening kickoff 58 yards for the only touchdown of the night, taking advantage of three KM penalties for 25 of those yards.

The biggest penalty--a 15-yarder for grabbing a face mask--came on a fourth down

punt which the Chargers booted into the endzone. The penalty, however, gave Crest a first down at the KM 15 and Chris Poston later scored on a two-yard run.

The Mountaineers cut it to 6-2 in the second quarter when Crest, backed up to its own 15 and in punt formation, got a bad snap from center. Crest punter Randy Lovelace fell on the ball in the endzone to prevent a KM touchdown.

The Chargers closed out the scoring early in the fourth quarter after blocking a punt at the KM 15. Harbison carried to the four for a first-and-goal, but the Mountie defense held tight and Crest had to settle for a 24-yard Lovelace field goal.

The Mountaineers still had a chance to win the game with five minutes left after recovering a fumble on the Crest 26. Thomas Putnam raced 18 yards on a flanker reverse, giving the Mounties a first-and-goal at the seven. However, the Crest defense toughened up and held the Mounties to only two yards in four rushing attempts.

Kings Mountain Coach Dan Brooks was well-pleased with his team's defensive effort, but was not pleased with the offense.

"I thought we played awfully well on defense to contain their speed," he said. "They had had more big plays than anyone we've ever charted. They've had a lot of 40 and 50 yard plays but had only five plays that went for more than 10 yards. We did a heckuva job stopping their quickness."

Brooks said he felt like the Mounties could move the ball on Crest, "but they had a lot better defense than I thought they had. They're an outstanding high school football team."

"We wanted to throw the ball against them," he went on, "but

they wouldn't let us get to the corner and wouldn't let our receivers off the line of scrimmage."

The Mounties attempted only four passes, three of them com-

ing during a desperation drive in the final minute of the game.

"Our defense did exactly what we asked them to do," said Brooks. "Our ends, Brad Reynolds and Trent Hullender, did a good job. They took

everything that came their way. Our offense didn't do a good job but that was because of the Crest defense. They have the best defensive team we've played. Ashbrook was probably more versatile on offense and a little

better overall, but Crest was very physical and gave us a hard time inside and outside."

Brooks said the Mounties still need to "dig down deep" and

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Photo by Gary Stewart

**FLANKER REVERSE**--The official seems to be the only person in Thomas Putnam's path to the endzone on this reverse in fourth quarter of Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with Crest at John Gamble Stadium. However, a Crest

defender was able to come across the field at an angle and stop Putnam at the seven yard line. The Mounties were unable to push the ball in for a touchdown and lost a 9-2 decision to the state's fourth-ranked 3-A team.

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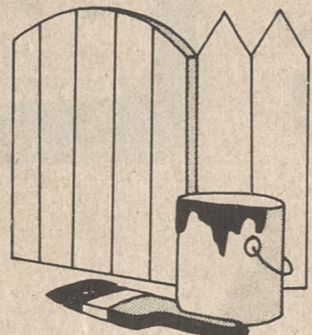
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