

Late TD Pass Beats Chase 9-6

Quarterback Chris Champion and end Trent Hullender hooked up on a 47-yard touchdown pass with less than two minutes remaining in the game Friday night at Chase to give the Mountaineers a 9-6 victory over the Trojans in Southwestern 3-A Conference football action.

The victory was the third straight for the Mountaineers and gives them a 4-3 SWC record and 4-4 overall mark. They host R-S Central Friday in their final game at John Gamble Stadium. They close out the season next week at Shelby. Chase, which fell to 1-6 in the

SWC and 1-7 overall, played its best game of the year before a large homecoming crowd, and almost pulled out the win in the final seconds but ran out of time.

Kings Mountain, which experienced some bad breaks on all of its earlier drives, got a good

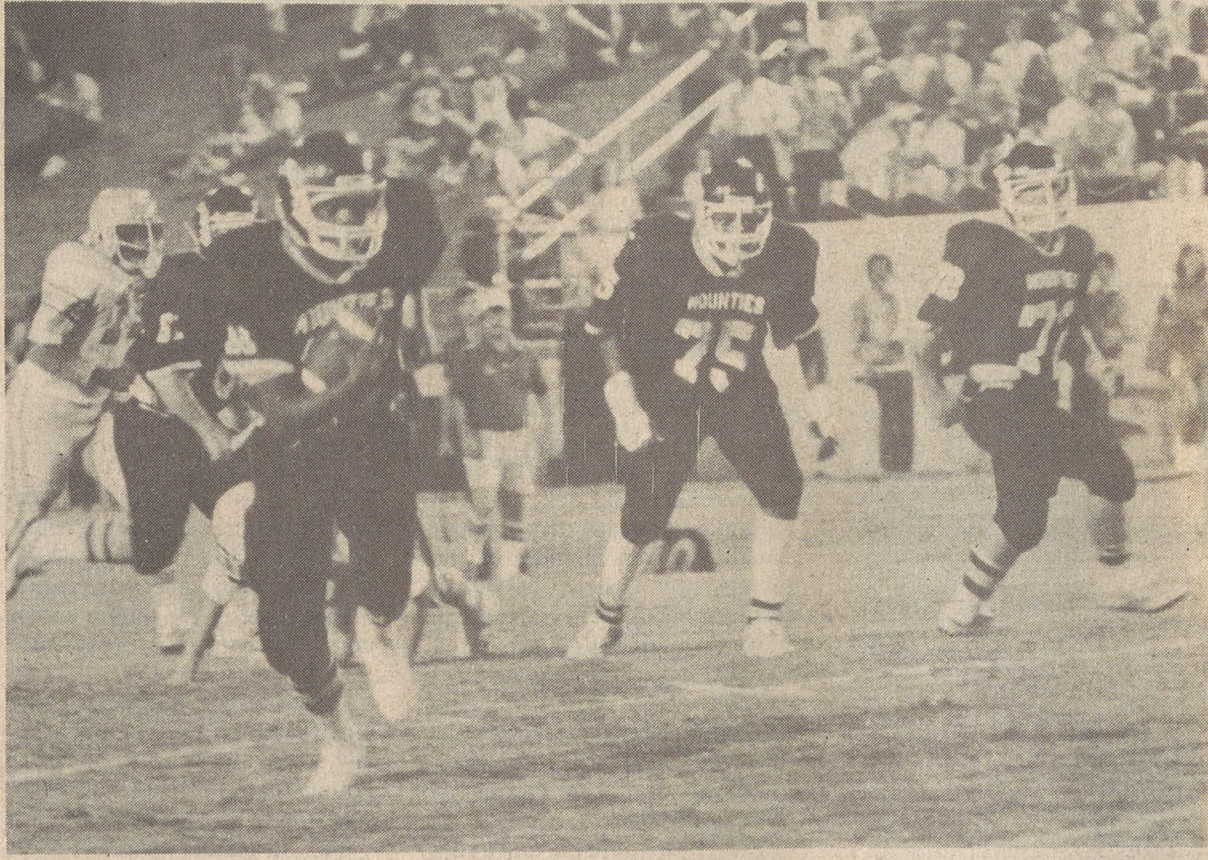
break to set up the winning touchdown. Trailing 6-3 with 2:10 left in the game, Mountie tackle Vernon Stowe recovered a Chase fumble at the 47.

On the first play, Champion dropped back and found Hullender down the sidelines for the winning points.

Still, the Mounties had to come up with a defensive stand to nail down the win. Chase drove right back down the field behind the running of quarterback Derrick Dover and halfback Darren Keitt and drove to the KM seven with 30 seconds to play. The Trojans,

operating with no timeouts, were penalized five yards and on the final play of the game, KM defenders Curt Pressley and Brad Reynolds tackled Keitt on a run up the middle at the eight yard line.

The Mountaineers, who had one 60-yard touchdown pass from Champion to Thomas Putnam called back on a penalty, drew first blood with 5:44 remaining in the third period with an 18-yard field goal by Pressley. A 17-yard pass from Champion to Putnam set it up.



Photos by Gary Stewart

TRIPLE THREAT - Whether he's running, kicking or playing in the defensive secondary, opposing teams don't like to see Curt Pressley (11) coming their way. Pressley's

18-yard field goal Friday night at Chase was the margin of difference in a 9-6 Mountaineer victory.

Season Winding Down

Fearless (56-15) Picks Raiders And Warriors

By FEARLESS

Here we are coming down to the final two weeks in picking the prep pigskin winners and in general as we head into the home stretch, we've had another good year. Not extraordinary - just good. Well, maybe okay. Or average. Better than some?

After an 8-1 week last week, the only misfire being East Gaston over East Rutherford, the Fearless One is 56-15 on the year.

The Fearless jokes have had to be better - because we got no nasty telephone calls or letters with a tiny bomb attached inside.

Bo Derek was on the screen doing a love scene. The usher came down and told me to stop smoking. I told him there was no cigarette in my mouth.

I've had plenty of notions. A notion is a nervous breakdown on paper.

They laughed when I said I could tell a good joke. But they stopped laughing when I did tell a joke.

I mentioned to Wylie Goble of the Belmont Community Theatre recently that I had theater in my blood.

Wylie said, "If you go on there'll be blood in the theater." So I decided to stick to my profession. And I still haven't found out what my profession is yet.

I just wrote a new song called, "I'd rather be a Coward for Five Minutes than a Corpse for the Rest of My Life."

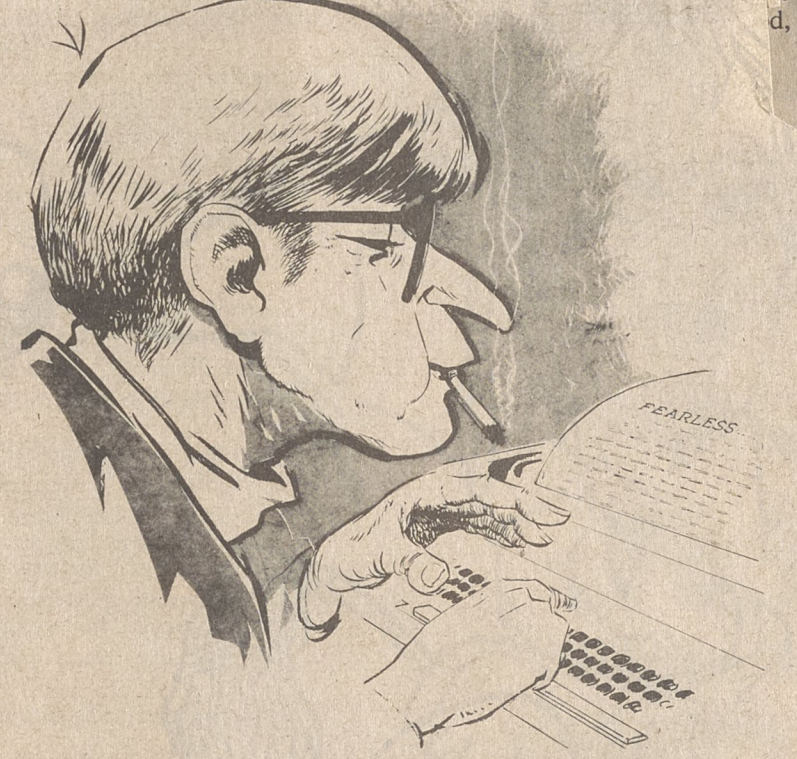
I did write a most unusual play recently. Nothing happens for the first 15 minutes. It's for people who come to the play late.

"I'm a sword swallower. One time I really swallowed a sword," he told the agent.

The agent was startled. "Really?" he gasped. "Give you any trouble?"

"Only when I sit down," he said. "I have a little trouble getting up."

I saw the movie Tobacco



Road so many times I got nicotine in my eyes.

A TV commercial is the "pause that depresses."

Well, let's see what we can see concerning Friday night's prep games.

Both South Point and East Gaston must win their final two games to finish at .500 on the season. Both have tough games this week. South Point entertains East Rutherford, while East Gaston takes on Shelby at Arrowhead Stadium.

South Point has to win its final two games to avert their first losing season in the school's history. Since Jim Biggerstaff took over in 1969, they've never had a losing record.

That record is in jeopardy. However, I look for the Red Raiders to gird themselves and do like they did last year - win their final two and finish at 5-5.

The prediction is for a 20-16 upset win over the Cavaliers, the second place team in the league with a 6-1 loop mark and a 7-1 overall record.

East Gaston has played well for the past two weeks only to lost to the league's top two teams, Crest and East Rutherford.

I look for them to finish strong. And I look for the Warriors to capture a 21-14 win over Shelby Friday night.

And here's how I see the other games: Kings Mountain 14, R-S Central 7; Crest 28, North Gaston 7; Chase 14, Burns 13; unbeaten Ashbrook 27, East Burke 6; South Caldwell 14, Hunter Huss 13; Bessemer City 21, Bandys 6; Fred T. Foard 12, Cherryville 7; Lincolnton 22, North Iredell 0; and East Lincoln 16, South Iredell 7.

See you next week - the final week of the season. Have a safe and happy Halloween. And don't forget to turn your clocks back when you go to bed Saturday night.

81-82-163 to win the Championship B flight. Darrell Austin Jr. finished second with an 81-83-164 and Mike Stewart was third with an 83-89-172. First flight honors went to

Ken Corn, Ben T. Goforth and Larry Beasley won special drawings for golf balls and Clarence Renfroe won a shag bag. Prizes may be picked up at the KMCC pro shop.

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Mountaineer Gridgraph

	KM	C
First Downs	15	9
Yds. Rushing	185	118
Passes	4-7	3-10
Tds. Passing	84	48
Passes Int.	0	0
Fumbles Lost	1	1
Punts	4-35	6-36
Yds. Penalized	112	111

By Quarters:
KM 0 0 3 6-9
C 0 0 6 0-6

Scoring:
KM-Pressley, 18-field goal.
C-Dover, 1-Run (Kick failed).
KM-Hullender, 47-pass from Champion (Kick failed).

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING

Player	Carries	Yards
Tracy Johnson	21	117
David Parker	11	45
Curt Pressley	6	18
Chris Champion	3	3
Thomas Putnam	1	2

KMHS PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Champion	6	3	0	67
Johnson	1	1	0	17

KMHS RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yds	TD
Hullender	1	47	1
Putnam	2	23	0
Dixon	1	17	0



TOP RUSHER - Tracy Johnson (41), shown here looking for a receiver to throw a halfback pass to, has emerged as Kings Mountain High's top rushing threat in recent weeks.

Johnson had his second straight 100-yard rushing performance last week as the Mountaineers edged Chase 9-6. The Mounties host R-S Central in their last home game Friday.

Chase came right back and marched 79 yards and took a 6-3 lead on a one-yard touchdown run by Dover.

The Mountaineers drove inside the Chase 10 on two other occasions but came away empty-handed.

Coach Dan Brooks of the Mountaineers was pleased to pick up the victory, but was concerned that his team couldn't keep its "mental concentration". "Chase played awfully well," Brooks said, "but our kids just didn't give them as much credit as they should have. They looked at Chase's record and thought they weren't as good a ballteam as they were."

The Mounties controlled the ball on the Trojans, once keeping the pigskin for 19 plays without getting on the scoreboard. On two other occasions, the Mounties controlled the ball for 13 plays and got only a field goal.

"Our concentration was bad," said Brooks. "Mistakes cost us. We threw a touchdown pass and had it called back, had a first and goal at the two and a penalty called it back and had a first and goal again and had a holding penalty."

"But we did get the big break at the end," he added. "We created a turnover and were able to hit the long pass to win the game. We played well at times but we broke down at critical times."

The Mounties held the upper hand in all offensive categories, outgaining the Trojans on the ground, 185 yards to 118, and in the air, 84 to 48. But the Mounties were penalized 10 times for 112 yards and Chase was flagged 12 times for 111.

Tracy Johnson, who saw only limited action in the second half after sustaining an ankle injury, led all rushers with 117 yards in 21 carries. Pressley, who went into the game injured, carried the ball only six times for 18 yards. David Parker had another sound game at fullback with 45 yards in 11 carries.

Champion hit 3 of 6 passes for 67 yards and Johnson completed one pass for 17 yards.

"We've been real happy with our progress the past several weeks," Brooks said. "We felt like we were getting better each week but we almost took a step backward this week. We should have learned a valuable lesson."

"We tried to tell our players that Chase was a good ballteam despite its record, and we'll be in a similar situation this week. R-S Central is probably the best 1-7 team in the state. They've played some good ballteams close games. They played East Rutherford a one-point game, just like we did. They're a good team and we're going to have to play well."

A victory Friday would assure the Mounties their first winning season in three years. They finished 3-7 each of the last two seasons after going 8-2 in 1979.

"This is a big game for us," said Brooks. "It's our seniors last game at home and we really need it."

The game has been designated as "Seniors Night". Senior players and their parents will be recognized.

Brooks is hoping the Mounties will be at near 100 percent strength this week. Hullender, Johnson and Pressley all have minor injuries but should play.

Johnson, with 752 yards rushing, has a shot at becoming the first Mountaineer to have a 1,000-yard rushing season as a sophomore. He's gone over 100 yards on three different occasions and had a high of 245 yards against East Gaston.