

Mounties Defeat R-S, End Season At Shelby

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored their fourth straight victory Friday night at John Gamble Stadium and at the same time assured themselves of a winning season with a 28-8 Southwestern 3-A Conference victory over R-S Central's Hilltoppers.

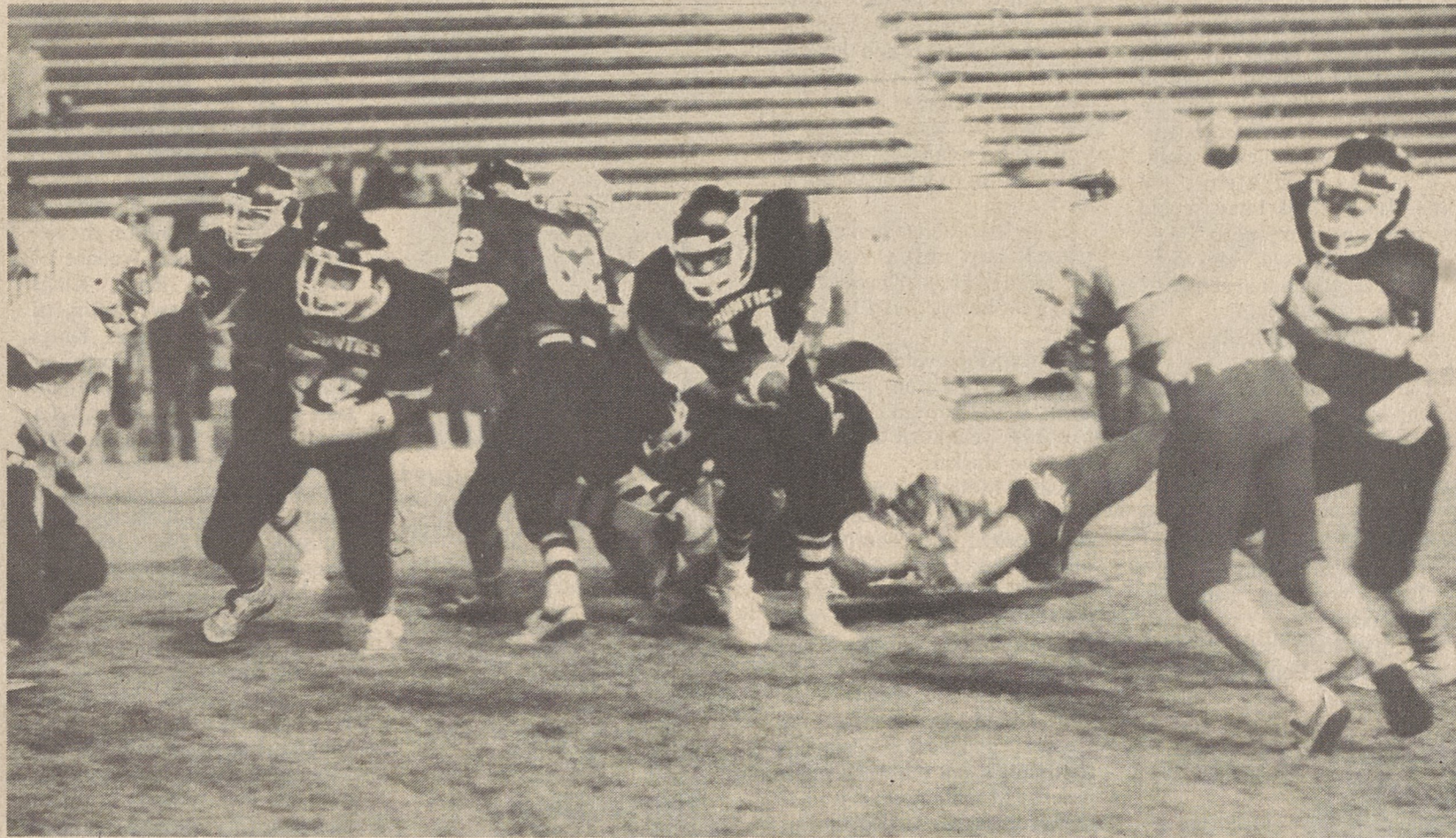
The victory gives the Mountaineers a 5-3 SWC record and 5-4 overall mark heading into Friday's season finale at Shelby. A KM victory Friday would put the Mountaineers and Golden Lions tied for third in the final SWC standings. Crest and East Rutherford already have the two state playoff positions wrapped up.

Curt Pressley, coming back strong after being injured for the past two ballgames, picked up 180 yards rushing in 31 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead Kings Mountain's lop-sided victory.

"It feels good to be relaxed at the end of a game," said KMHS head coach Dan Brooks, who had seen his team involved in a close game in all previous SWC outings.

"We played real well, probably the best we've played overall," he added. "We played with a lot of intensity at South Point a couple of weeks ago but we made a lot of mistakes over there."

The Mountaineers built up a 22-0 lead before allowing the Hilltoppers to score on a long pass play late in the third period. The home team then came back with a final TD with 28 seconds to play to ring up its highest point total of the season.



TOP RUSHER - Kings Mountain's Curt Pressley (11) gets good blocking from a host of Mountaineers to pick up some of his 180 yards rushing in Friday's 28-8 victory over R-S Central at John

"R-S is a big play team," Brooks said, "and our offense did a good job of keeping the ball away from them. The defense made them give up the football and the offense controlled it. We ran 60 plays to their 25."

"I was pleased with the number of people we got involved in the ballgame," Brooks went

on. "We were able to play at least two people at every offensive position except quarterback, and most of them did a good job."

The Mountaineers marched 80 yards for their first touchdown. Pressley scored it on a 44-yard run on the first play of the second quarter and Tracy

Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers end their season Friday at Shelby.

Johnson ran for a two-point conversion to give the Mounties an 8-0 lead.

A 17-yard run from reserve fullback Eric Odems out of punt formation set up KM's second TD just moments later. Kings Mountain appeared stopped at the 37 on a fourth and two, but Odems run made it first and 10

at the 20. Four plays later, Champion hit end Mike Dixon on a 14-yard touchdown pass to make the score 14-0.

The Mountaineers took the second half kickoff and marched 70 yards for a 22-0 lead. The Mounties ate eight minutes of the clock and took 16 plays to score. Pressley went over from

15 yards out and Johnson added the two-point conversion.

After Bill Craig caught a 55-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Mackie McKeithan to make it 22-8 with 1:46 left in the third period, the Mounties used up most of the fourth quarter on their final TD drive. Odems scored it on a one-yard run with 28 seconds remaining.

The Kings Mountain defense held R-S Central to just 12 plays in the second half.

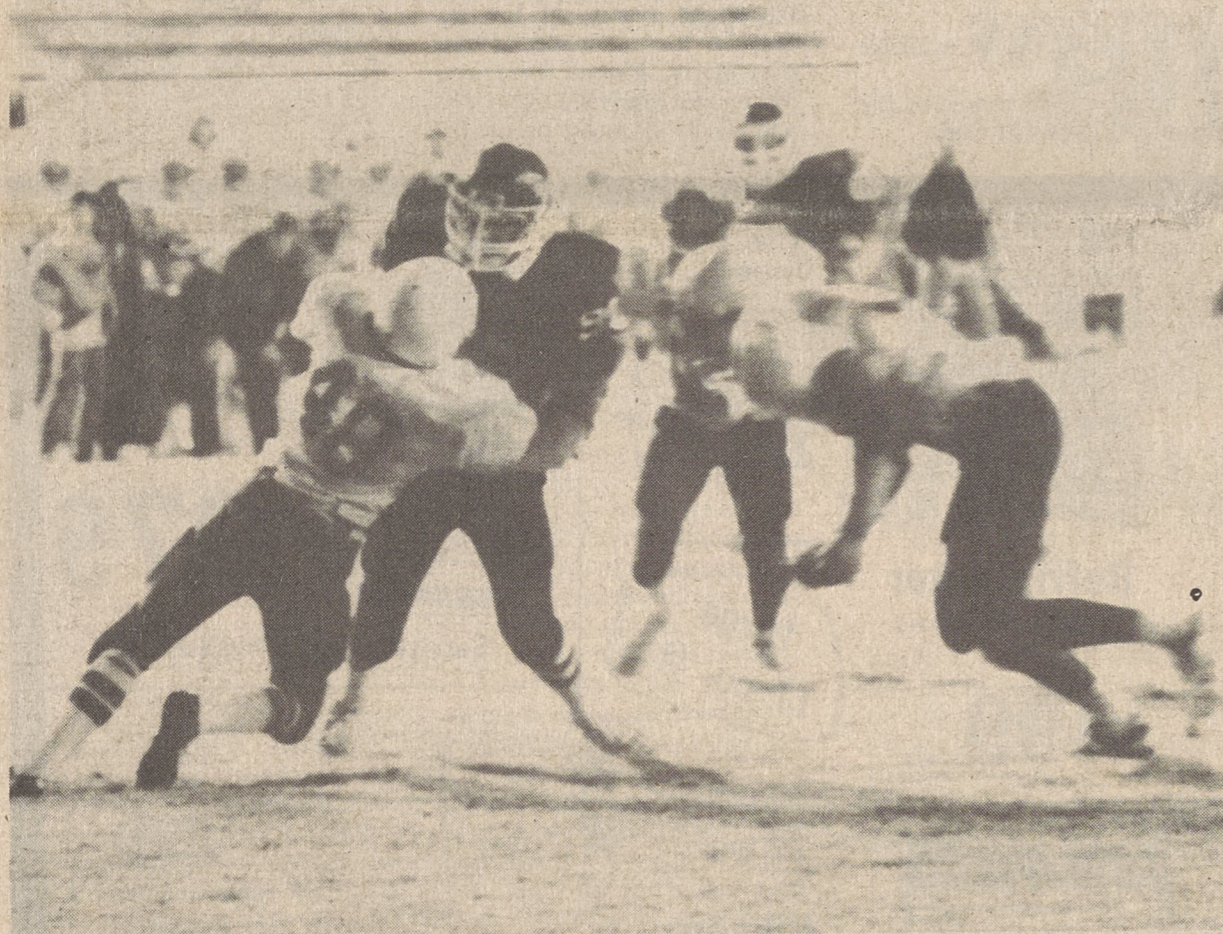
Pressley's 180-yard rushing performance hiked his season's total to an even 600 yards. Johnson, who gained 54 yards in 10 carries, has 806 yards on the year, giving the tailback duo 1,406 yards combined.

"It would be a good ending to the season if we can beat Shelby this week," said Brooks. "It'll be a dogfight, probably something like last year" when Shelby came from behind with two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to win 13-7.

"Shelby's doing a good job with their wingback and belly series," says Brooks. "They've played real well since they got beat by East Rutherford 19-18. East Rutherford took the ball away from them and didn't let them play."

"They're a typical Shelby team," he added. "They're doing a better job of throwing the ball than they've been doing in past years. If we stop their run, I'm sure they'll go to that. The deep threat is there."

"We needed a good win over R-S Central to have some momentum for this week," he went on. "We hope to have another real good week of practice and go up there and get after them. We've got a good shot at them if we play well."



TOUCHDOWN RECEPTION - Kings Mountain end Mike Dixon (99) catches a short pass from Chris Champion in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with R-S

Central at Gamble Stadium. Dixon broke away from his defenders and turned the reception into a 14-yard touchdown play to help lead the Mounties to a 28-8 victory.



QB SACK - Kings Mountain quarterback Chris Champion is caught from behind by an unidentified R-S Central defender while trying to pass in Friday's game at Gamble Stadium. Champion hit four of six passes for 36 yards and one touchdown to help lead the Mounties to a 28-8 win.

Photos by Gary Stewart

Southwest Standings

Teams	Conf. W-L	All W-L
*Crest	8-0	9-0
**E. Ruth.	7-1	8-1
Shelby	6-2	7-2
K. Mtn.	5-3	5-4
N. Gaston	3-5	4-5
E. Gaston	3-5	3-6
S. Point	3-5	3-6
Chase	2-6	2-7
Burns	2-6	3-6
R-S Cent.	1-7	1-8

*Clinched Div. I playoff
 **Clinched Div. II playoff
Last Week's Results
 K. Mt. 28, R-S Central 8
 Shelby 27, E. Gaston 8
 Crest 28, N. Gaston 0
 E. Ruth 35, S. Point 13
 Chase 28, Burns 27
Friday's Games
 K. Mtn. at Shelby
 Crest at R-S Central
 Chase at S. Point
 Burns at E. Gaston
 E. Ruth. at N. Gaston

Four KMHS Netters Qualify

Four Kings Mountain High girls tennis players finished in the top four in the Sectional Tournament last week at Shelby and qualified for the Western Regionals this week at Hickory. Karen Ledford and Robyn

Warlick, seeded two and three in singles competition, qualified along with the doubles team of Pat Davis and Leigh Anne Odell.

All of the KMHS girls made it to the semi-finals before losing.

Kings Mountain led Shelby 19-18 after the first day of action but Shelby won both the singles and doubles titles and took the team championship with 40 points.

Ledford lost in the semis to

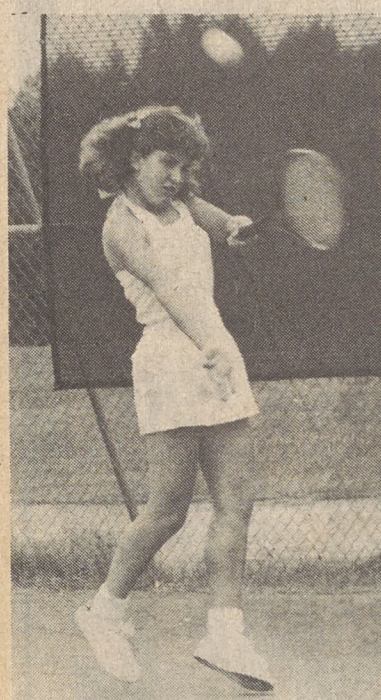
Shelby's Lucy Spragins, 6-1 and 7-6. Spragins went on to win the title over teammate Elizabeth Lutz, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6.

In earlier action, Ledford defeated Kim Burrell of Tryon 6-2, 6-0, Beth Thornburg of North Gaston 6-2, 6-2, and Myra Gettys of Burns 6-4, 6-3.

Warlick lost her semi-finals match to Lutz, the top seed, 6-3, 6-3. Before that, she defeated Jennifer Whisnant of Burns 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, Sissy Adams of Lincoln 6-2, 6-2, and Susan Bradley of Tryon 6-2, 6-2.

Odell and Davis, seeded third, won their first three matches before losing to Crum and Branton of Shelby in the semi-finals, 6-4, 6-3. Crum and Branton then defeated Randall and Swindall of Cherryville in the finals. Odell and Davis won victories over Dial and Beck of Ashbrook 6-0, 6-1, Carter and Long of Crest 6-0, 6-2, and Nixon and Little of East Lincoln, 6-4, 6-3.

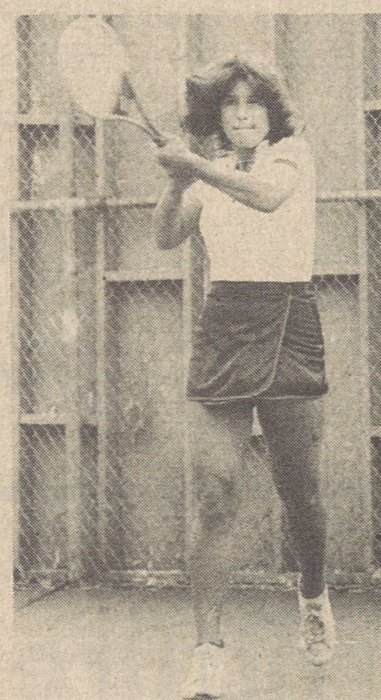
Kings Mountain's other doubles entry, Becky Bolt and Mary Starnes, defeated Albertson and Lingerfelt of West Lin-



ROBYN WARLICK



LEIGH ANNE ODELL



PAT DAVIS

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Mountaineer Gridgraph

	KM	RS
First Downs	275	40
Yds. Rusing	275	40
Passes	4-6	6-11
Yds. Passing	36	103
Passes Int.	0	0
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Punts	2-37	4-32
Yds. Penalized	90	60

By quarters: T
 RS 0 0 8 0-8
 KM 0 14 8 8-28

KM—Pressley, 44-run (Johnson run)
 KM—Dixon, 14-pass from Champion (Run failed)
 KM—Pressley, 15-run (Johnson run)
 RS—Craig, 55-pass from McKeithan (Craig run)
 KM—Odems, 1-run (Run failed)

Player	Carries	Yards
Curt Pressley	31	180
Tracy Johnson	10	54
Eric Odems	5	54
David Parker	7	18
Chris Champion	2	0

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD
Champion	6	4	0	36	0

Player	Catches	Yds.	TD
Dixon	4	36	1