

### Gridgraph

	KM	RS
First downs	11	7
Yds. Rushing	216	54
Passes	2-8	4-14
Yds. Passing	-6	42
Passes Int. By	2	0
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Punts	4-32	4-29
Yds. Penalized	45	30

**Score by quarters:**

	T			
KM	0	0	0	0
RS	0	7	0	0

**Scoring:**  
RS, Burns, 83-run with fumble (Shehan kick)

#### MOUNTAINEER RUSHING

Player	Carries	Yards
Tracy Johnson	20	92
Eric Odem	13	73
Tim Elder	2	32
Curt Pressley	7	22
David Parker	2	2
Todd Cloninger	3	-5

#### MOUNTAINEER PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Todd Cloninger	8	2	0	-6

#### MOUNTAINEER RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yards
Doug Ramsey	1	4
Eric Odem	1	-10



Photos by Gary Stewart

**TIMELY HIT** - Defensive back Thomas Putnam (43) of Kings Mountain hits an unidentified R-S Central receiver just at the right time to break up a pass in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game at R-S Central. The KM defense held its opponent to under 100 yards for the second week in a row, but the offense sputtered in a 7-0 upset loss to the Hilltoppers.

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### Mounties Lose To R-S Central 7-0

## KM-Shelby Battle Will Decide Playoff Spot

Despite last week's 7-0 upset loss to R-S Central's Hilltoppers, the Kings Mountain High football team will still be fighting for a berth in the State Division II playoffs Friday when they host Shelby at John Gamble Stadium.

The winner of the contest will advance to the first round of Division II play next week against the second place team from the Western Piedmont Conference. The game will be played on the home field of the WPC team. Currently, three teams—Lincolnton, Statesville and North Iredell—are in the fighting for the two playoff spots from the WPC.

Shelby brings a 7-1 Southwestern Conference record and 8-1 overall mark into the contest. The Mountaineers are 6-2 in the SWC and 6-3 overall. Shelby is coming off a very impressive 49-6 victory over East Gaston.

The two clubs take a different offensive approach to the game of football, but they are very similar on defense. Shelby, traditionally a running team, has an outstanding quarterback in Billy Gamble and he's expected to give the Mountaineer secondary its toughest assignment of the year. Although the Shelby running backs aren't as big and don't have the impressive statistics the KM backs have, they are extremely quick and have broken a lot of long plays.

Kings Mountain Coach Denny Hicks feels the statistics can be thrown out the window this week. He figures the team that wins will be the one that is better prepared mentally.

"I feel like the last couple of weeks we lost our intensity," Hicks said. "That's our biggest problem. Somehow, we've got to get our players fired up, but they have to do a lot of it themselves."

"We've noticed ourselves getting complacent," he continued. "We've tried to instill in our kids that as our record improved people would try harder to beat us and we'd have to improve ourselves. We're in the best shape we've been all year physically. The mental approach will be the big thing for us."

Kings Mountain's offense has struggled the last several weeks and all but one of the KMHS touchdowns since the defeat at Crest has been set up by the defense. The KMHS offense, which was top-rated in the conference before the Crest game, has slipped to number three in the SWC while the Shelby offense has improved to number one.

"Shelby resembles Crest a lot," Hicks says. "They run the same type of offense but Shelby's a little more fullback and halfback belly-oriented. Their defense is about the same. Shelby runs a 50-defense with a rover and they try to cover you up."

If the winner of the KM-Shelby game wins its first-round playoff game, it will play the remainder of its playoff games at home.

Kings Mountain's defense held R-S Central to under 100 yards total offense last week, but offensively the Mountaineers

Kings Mountain missed a couple of golden scoring opportunities right before that big play, but lost the ball on downs and failed to cash in on a good pass interception by Brad Reynolds inside the 15.

Kings Mountain drove to the R-S five yard line but failed to convert a fourth and two with 5:57 left in the half. Two plays later, Reynolds intercepted an R-S pass at the 20 and ran it back to the 14. On third and 10, a pitchout from quarterback Todd Cloninger to halfback Tim Elder was fumbled. Burns, coming up from the secondary to help out on the tackle, never lost his stride as he scooped up the ball and headed down the sidelines.

Kings Mountain's 1-2 rushing duo of Tracy Johnson and Curt Pressley were bothered with injuries and spent the majority of the game on the sidelines. The Mountaineers went with Eric Odem at tailback and David Parker at fullback in the fourth period and Odem responded with some good running during what seemed like it might be a tying or winning touchdown drive in the final three minutes. But the R-S defense tightened after the Mountaineers got into R-S territory and stopped the Mountaineers on downs at the 30.

"I know the kids are real disappointed," said Coach Hicks. "We hate to do anything to embarrass the school, town or our football fans. It was just that we

had a bad night.

"We weren't mentally ready to play. It was hard on the kids and the coaches, but we have to learn from it and put it behind us. We hope the people will stay with us. Our kids are capable of playing good football. We hope we can have a good game Friday night and still get into the playoffs."

### SWC Standings

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

#### LAST WEEK'S GAMES

R-S Central 7, K. Mtn. 0  
Shelby 49, E. Gaston 6  
Crest 23, N. Gaston 6  
Chase 27, Burns 8  
S. Point 24, East Ruth. 6

#### This Week's Games

Shelby at K. Mtn.  
R-S Central at Crest  
E. Gaston at Burns  
S. Point at Chase  
N. Gaston at East Ruth.



**SHOWING HEELS** - R-S Central's Tim Burns shows nothing but his heels as he goes 83 yards for a touchdown after scooping up a Kings Mountain fumble in Friday night's Southwestern 3-A Conference game at R-S. The loss knocked the Mountaineers out of a tie for second place in the SWC, but they can still make the state playoffs if they defeat arch rival Shelby here Friday night.

### THE WINNERS CORNER



Only 11 players graded out with winning efforts in Kings Mountain High's 7-0 loss to R-S Central Friday night. Most players giving a winning effort were on the defensive side of the football. Front row, left to right, are Steve Falls, Eric Odems, Jeff Stokes, Dale Moore and Brad Jones. Back row, Shawn Rainey, Rocky Lutz, Danny Moore, Brad Reynolds, Thomas Putnam and Roderick Boyce.