

KMHS Fielded First Football Team In 1922

Teams in the early years of Kings Mountain High football did not have the honor of having their games published in the Kings Mountain Herald.

So, in today's Mountaineer Moments, we feature some of the first grid elevens at KMHS.

KM High's first football team was fielded in 1922. The players coached themselves until late in the season when Fred Ormand took over as the first KMHS football coach.

Members of the team were Joe Lee Woodward, Hoyt Matthews, Tom Fulton, Jake Hord, Howard Pursley, Lloyd Ormand, J.M. McGinnis, Plato Goforth, Fred Plonk, Lawrence Lovell, Odell McGinnis, Royce Green, J.Y. Irvin, Herman Hayes, Forrest Houser, Tom Saunders, Hoyle McDaniel, Charlie Saunders and Clemonsee Boone.

The team practiced and played on the old Margrace ballfield, now the site of Margrace Mill.

No one seems to know the exact won-loss records, but the scores of several games were in a 1949 Herald which carried a story on the team's first reunion held prior to the 1949 KMHS-Lincolnton homecoming game.

The team tied Gastonia 0-0 and its first victory came on Friday the 13th when KMHS defeated Mt. Holly 19-0. Later in the year, the Mountaineers recorded a 1-0 victory over Cowpens. That was the forfeit score in those days. Cowpens, behind 7-0 late in the game, walked off the field after becoming enraged at an official for calling a 15-yard personal foul penalty.

The team lost to Lincolnton 12-0.

One interesting story about the team was told. Players in those days had to attend games in their own cars or cars loaned to them. Some of the players were traveling to an away game and their car became stuck in the mud. Players got out to push. Hoyt Matthews and Lloyd Ormand were reportedly pulling at the radiator and pulled too hard. The radiator fell off.

Clem Boone, who now lives in Radford, Va., recalled in a story in the Herald several years ago that he was playing football without the knowledge of his mother, who did not allow him to play contact sports.

"She didn't find it out until I went home one day with a broken leg," he said.

Lloyd Patterson, who still lives in Kings Mountain, played on the 1924 and 1925 teams. Starters on the '24 team were Plato Goforth at left end, Rob McDaniel at right end, Timmons Goforth at left tackle, Jake Hord at right tackle, Herman Hayes at left guard, Ab White at right guard, Bill Mason at center, Skimp Stowe at quarterback, Slim Morris at fullback, Zeb Plonk at right half, and Patterson at left half.

The team's first game was against Clover, a powerhouse in those days. "All members of our backfield were playing football for the first time and Clover was



beating the lard out of us," Patterson recalled. "I told myself if I ever got out of that game I'd never put another suit on." He later made a long run and "that set me on fire."

The team beat Piedmont 7-0. The losers challenged the Mountaineers to a second meeting and they scheduled a Thanksgiving Day game in Shelby. They tied 0-0.

Kings Mountain had a golden opportunity to win late in the game, Patterson recalled.

"Back then, during time outs the players would go over and lie down next to the substitutes. When it came time to go back on the field, one player would stay there while the others came back and called the signals. Plato Goforth stayed there and was wide open on a pass play, but the quarterback threw the ball so hard it hit him in the chest and bounced off his hands."

The team defeated Gastonia and forfeited a game to Mt. Holly after getting mad at an official. Blacksburg fell 35-0 to the Mountaineers.

Joe Lee Woodward had dropped out of KMHS after the 1923 basketball season and after working for a couple of years, reentered high school at Boiling Springs. He organized, coached and played on the first high school team there.

"He coached, kicked, was team captain, and every other thing you can think of," Patterson recalled. "We beat them 7-0 down here and went back up there and they beat us 12-0." The Mountaineers also scored a victory over Lattimore.

The team ran a play called the "Sinsing Waltz". The team would get on the left hand side of the field and the center would switch places with the end. The four backs would line up directly behind the line and waltz to the ball. The center would call halt and pitch the ball to a back, and all run down the field. "We scored on Lattimore with it because they were a new team, but you couldn't pull it on a good team," Patterson said. "They'd shift with you."

The team lost to Forest City on a field in Forest City which had a hill on one side of it. "They'd run a play or two and get up on the side of that hill and give the ball to the fastest man they had," Patterson said. "He'd run down hill and we couldn't catch him."

The '24 team played without a coach, but in '25 a Coach Banks from Chester, S.C., took charge of the team.

Chester was a football power back then.

"Banks was a character," said Patterson. "He'd go home on the weekends and brag about his football team so they told him they'd give us \$50 and put us up in a hotel, and send us to the fair if we'd come down there and play them."

"We kicked off and they fumbled and we recovered it on the six yard line," he recalled. "On the first play I carried it in for a touchdown and we beat them 7-0."

The team played a powerful Lincolnton team which had the Mountaineers down. "Coach Banks couldn't stand to lose, so he told us to go in and start a fight and we'd walk off the field. So I guess you could say we forfeited that game."

Arthur Hord took over as the fullback in '25 and Lamar Rhyne and Royce Green moved to positions on the line to replace Jake Hord and Herman Hayes, who had graduated.

"We got an offer to go to Gafney, which had the best team in the two states back then," Patterson recalled. "Zeb Plonk had two broken ribs and I had a twisted knee but taped it up and played anyway. They ran out on the field with three teams. They said they'd beat us with their second team."

"Clyde Scates had come up here to play baseball and we played him at fullback. They kicked off. We ran three plays and Scates got loose for a touchdown. We kicked off and they fumbled and we got the ball on the one-foot line. They brought the first team in and we haven't gained an inch yet. We kicked a field goal and went ahead 10-0. They left the first team in and came back and beat us 12-10."

Clover brought another powerhouse to Kings Mountain and the Mountaineers upset them. Patterson didn't recall the exact score but thinks it was either 3-0 or 7-6.

"We had the lead and the ball on our 20 with about two minutes to go," he recalled. "We knew if they got the ball back they'd score and beat us. My play was usually right into the middle of the line and I never fumbled. Stowe was at quarterback and he told me I was going to carry the ball every play. I guess they figured surely we'd call another play eventually, but I carried the ball seven straight times and was picking up four and five yards a carry. We moved to their 20 and ran the clock out."



GANG TACKLING - Underneath this pile of R-S Central tacklers is Kings Mountain fullback Tracy Johnson, who was limited to 92 yards rushing in 20 carries in Friday's 7-0 loss to the Hilltoppers. Watching the action are Quinton Rikard (64) and Dale Moore (76) of the Mountaineers.

KMHS Netters Qualify

Kings Mountain High qualified two doubles team for the regional tennis tournament in last week's sectional matches at Shelby High School.

The teams of Robin Warlick-Leigh Anne Odell and Becky Bolt-Pat Davis are competing today at Hickory for the right to advance to the state tournament next week at Chapel Hill. They will have to win their first two matches to qualify.

Both teams made the semi-finals of last week's tournament, leading the Mountaineers to a third place finish overall. Shelby won the event for the eighth straight year and East Lincoln finished second.

Bolt and Davis won three matches before losing their semis match to top-seeded Hoyle and Little of East Lincoln, 6-1 and 6-1. The KM team defeated Malone and Howard of East Lincoln 6-1, 6-0; Collins and Francis of Crest 6-1, 6-2; and Crum and Carpenter of Shelby 6-2, 6-3.

Odell and Warlick lost their semis match to Lucy Spragins and Elizabeth Lutz of Shelby, 6-2, 6-2; Earlier, they defeated Wiley and Bynum of East Lincoln 7-5, 6-4; Carpenter and Rollins of Crest 6-1, 6-1; and Ungvarsky and Wright of East Rutherford 6-2, 6-1.

In singles action, Chris Hufstetler of the Mountaineers upset Stephanie Humphries, the number two player from Crest, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 before being eliminated by Missy Ramsey, the top-seeded player from Hunter Huss, 6-3, 6-2. Caroline Harper of KMHS fell in the first round to Lori Digh of Hunter Huss 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

"Overall, we did real well," said Coach Ed Guy. "I was hoping Odell and Warlick could win their semi-finals match against the Shelby girls, but it just didn't work out that way."

"I thought both doubles teams did a real fine job by qualifying for the regionals. If they get

through the first two rounds they get to go on to the state. There's a lot of luck involved, depending on who you draw.

"These girls gave us a 14-1 record this year and a 12-1 record last year," he added.

"You can't ask them to do more than that. Our strong point was not that we had one or two spectacular players, but that we had good balance achieved through good, hard work and steady play."

KM Boys Club Has Good Summer Season

The Kings Mountain Boys Club had a very interesting and successful summer season for 1983, reported Club Director Danny McDowell.

The members went on several field trips. They visited the Asheboro Zoo, Carowinds and Discovery Place. The trip to the Clemson football game was enjoyed by the club members. Some of the boys also went to an Atlanta Braves baseball game. Also, during the summer the club enjoyed a cookout.

McDowell, states that the basketball program is designed to teach boys basic fundamental skills. There is also emphasis on sportsmanship as well as teamwork.

The club sponsored a summer basketball league which was fun for the members. The boys, as well as their parents, were responsive and co-operative.

The Kings Mountain Boys

Club Winter League Basketball registration will begin soon.

Registration will be held at the club on Tuesday, November 8; Thursday, November 10; Saturday, November 12; and again on Tuesday, November 15; Thursday, November 17; and Saturday, November 19. Hours on Tuesday and Thursday are from 4:00-8:00 and Saturday from 9:00-3:00.

Team selections will be held on Saturday, December 3 at 11:00 at Central School Gym.


Kings Mountain will play teams from Concord, Shelby, Gastonia, Charlotte, Statesville, Gaffney, Columbia, Tennessee and Virginia.

Any boy ages 7 to 16 may join.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the director, Danny McDowell, at 739-7161 during club hours.



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Howell Contest Winner

Vernice Howell of Route 2, Cherryville, predicted 17 of 20 winners to take the \$100 prize in last week's Herald football contest.

Mrs. Howell missed R-S Central's victory over Kings Mountain, Auburn's win over Florida and UCLA's victory over Washington. She hit Shelby over East Gaston, Chase over Burns, Crest over North Gaston, South Point over East Rutherford, Hunter Huss over South Caldwell, Ashbrook over East Burke, Fred T. Foard over Cherryville, Bessemer City over Bandy, Duke over Georgia Tech, Florida State over Arizona State, Maryland over North Carolina, Miami over West Virginia, Illinois over Michigan, South Carolina over N.C. State, Boston College over Penn State and Southern Cal over California.

The final football contest is inside today's Herald. Pick the most winners and get us your entry by 5 p.m. Friday and you'll take the final \$100 check. Mail your entry to P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, or bring it by our office on Canterbury Road.