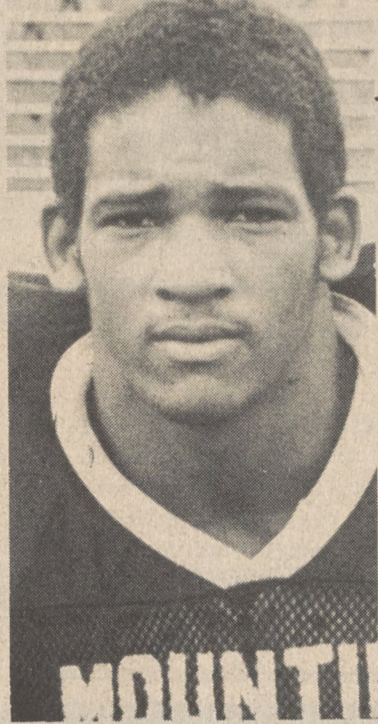




CURT PRESSLEY



TRACY JOHNSON



THOMAS PUTNAM



SHAWN RAINEY



BRAD REYNOLDS

### 8 KMHS Athletes All-SWC

Kings Mountain High School placed nine players on fall sports all-Southwestern 3-A Conference teams announced this week.

In addition, KMHS football coach Denny Hicks was selected as co-coach of the year along with Jim Taylor of Shelby. Hicks coached the Mountaineers to a 6-4 record and had the team in the running for the state playoffs in his first year as head mentor.

Mountaineers selected to the all-conference football team included Shawn Rainey, who was selected as an offensive guard and defensive linebacker; Tracy Johnson, who was named as one of the four running backs; and Steve Falls, who was selected as a defensive tackle.

Johnson, a junior, was honored for the second straight year. He was an all-conference linebacker last season.

Thadus "Buster" Benton of North Gaston was named the player of the year. He led the league in rushing, taking over the number one position late in the year after Kings Mountain's Curt Pressley was sidelined with an ankle injury. Pressley did not make the all-conference team despite the fact that he finished as the number two rusher behind Benton.

Other all-conference players on offense included centers Ryan Millwood of East Rutherford and Tommy Moore of Shelby; guard Ron Appling of Shelby; tackles Jeff Hojnaeki of Shelby and Chris Hardin and John Bray of Crest; ends Kevin Laye of Crest and Brian Huffstetler of Shelby; quarterback Billy Gamble of Shelby; and running backs Chris Poston of Crest and Eric Starr of East Rutherford.

Other all-conference defensive players included nose guard Don Moore of Crest; tackles Jeff Hojnaeki of Shelby and Chris Hardin of Crest; ends Kevin Laye of Crest and Rodney Borders of Shelby; linebackers Warren Spikes of Crest, Tracy Keitt of East Rutherford, Edward Clemmer of North Gaston, Michael Mobley of Shelby and Steve Thompson of South Point; and defensive backs Chris Poston and Leroy Spikes of Crest and Eric Starr of East Rutherford.

East Gaston, Burns, Chase and R-S Central failed to land a player on the all-conference teams.

Three Kings Mountain players made the all-conference cross country team, based on their finish in the annual conference meet which was held in Kings Mountain. They were Jimmy Barrett, who placed third; Monte Huffstetler, who was seventh; and Todd Hughes, who was 13th.

Others selected included Don Chapman, Anthony Boykins, Keenan Carpenter, Darryl Patterson and Ronnie Boone of R-S Central, Jeff Maddox of Burns, Chris Jackson of Shelby, Anton Clark and Sean Anderson of South Point, Todd Payne and

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# Pressley, Johnson Lead Rushing

Senior tailback Curt Pressley and junior fullback Tracy Johnson were about as closely talented as two players can be for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers on the gridiron this fall.

The pair of running backs rushed for over 1,000 yards each, marking the first time in 62 years of football at KMHS that two backs have rushed for over 1,000 yards during the same season.

Final statistics showed Pressley as the top ground-gainer and Johnson as the leading scorer and top rusher on a per-carry basis.

Pressley, who is being recruited by several major colleges, finished with 1,185 yards in 165 carries and a 7.18 rushing average. Johnson finished with 1,142 yards in 158 carries and a 7.23 rushing average.

Johnson led the scoring with 11 touchdowns and a two-point conversion for 68 points. Pressley finished with 10 touchdowns, five extra points and 65 points.

Both players were named Thursday to the Charlotte Observer's All-Piedmont football team. Pressley was selected as the second team tailback and Johnson was a second team linebacker.

Johnson, who should be one of the most highly recruited players in the state next year, is well within reach of several school records.

His 1,142 yard effort this year gives him a career total of 1,982 yards. He will need 1,044 yards next year to break Ken Baity's career rushing record of 3,025 yards, which has stood since 1957.

Johnson gained 840 yards in 149 carries last year for an average of 5.7 yards per carry, the exact same rushing average Baity had during his sophomore season of 1955. Baity had 665 yards in 117 carries his sophomore season, 1,071 yards in 163 carries his junior year (6.6 per carry) and 1,289 yards in 173 carries (7.5 average) his senior year. For his career, he had 3,025 yards in

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING				DEFENSIVE STATISTICS						
Player	Carries	Yards	Avg.	Player	T	FR	INT.	CF	S	BP
Curt Pressley	165	1,185	7.18	Rainey	104	7	0	3	2	0
Tracy Johnson	158	1,142	7.23	Reynolds	78	1	1	4	0	0
Eric Odem	43	219	5.1	Falls	56	2	0	5	1	0
Tim Elder	10	67	6.7	Parker	55	1	0	0	1	0
David Parker	15	43	2.9	Pressley	50	0	5	0	0	0
Zack Roseboro	1	2	2.0	Johnson	43	0	0	0	0	0
Brad Reynolds	1	0	0	Odems	38	2	0	1	0	1
Roderick Boyce	11	-18	-1.6	Lutz	38	0	0	1	0	0
Todd Cloninger	27	-25	-0.9	Stokes	41	0	0	1	1	0
				Elder	32	0	0	1	0	0
MOUNTAINEER SCORING				Putnam	27	0	1	0	0	0
Player	TD	PAT	TOT.	Danny Moore	26	0	2	0	0	0
Tracy Johnson	11	2	68	Boyce	25	2	0	0	0	0
Curt Pressley	10	5	65	Roseboro	11	1	0	0	0	0
Jarvis Young	0	9	9	Gladden	9	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas Putnam	1	0	6	Pettus	6	0	0	0	0	0
Eric Odem	1	0	6	Rikard	6	0	0	0	0	0
MOUNTAINEER PASSING				Dale Moore	6	0	0	0	0	0
Player	At.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.	TD	Appling	3	0	0	0
Cloninger	45	11	3	166	1	Burton	2	0	0	0
Boyce	1	0	1	0	0	Young	2	0	0	0
Pressley	1	0	0	0	0					
MOUNTAINEER RECEIVING										
Player	Catches	Yards	TD							
Putnam	2	95	1							
Elder	2	43	0							
Pressley	3	41	0							
Johnson	2	4	0							
Ramsey	1	4	0							
Odem	1	-10	0							

CODE: T-Tackles; FR-Fumble Recoveries; INT-Interceptions; CF-Caused Fumbles; S-Sacks; BP-Blocked Punts.

#### GRADING AVERAGES FOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Thomas Putnam 80.19, Kale Bagwell 74, Doug Ramsey 73.88, Dale Moore 71.02, Brad Jones 63.66, Therdon Brown 61.84, Quinton Rikard 60.18, Shane Burton 54.44.

435 carries, a 6.7 rushing average.

Johnson is also well within reach of Baity's career scoring record. Baity had 144 points in three seasons and Johnson currently has 104 points. Baity's biggest scoring year was his junior year when he scored 78.

Johnson had a near-record breaking rushing game against Chase in the Mountaineers' 20-0 homecoming victory. His 283 yards rushing that night were only four yards shy of Kevin Mack's single game record of 287 set in 1979 against R-S Central.

Pressley had a pair of 200-plus games, gaining 228 in a season-opening 29-6 victory over Burns and 224 in an early-season 32-14 victory over East Rutherford.

While Johnson and Pressley were rolling up the impressive offensive stats this fall, the Mountaineers also had their share of players who stood out on defense.

Shawn Rainey, a senior, led the team in tackles with 104 and fumble recoveries with seven. Although no officials records have been kept on defense during the years, his 104 tackles pro-

bably rank as one of the top defensive efforts of all-time.

Brad Reynolds trailed Rainey with 78 tackles. Pressley led in interceptions with five and Steve Falls was responsible for causing five fumbles, the highest of any member of the team.

End Thomas Putnam had the top blocking average for the offensive linemen, compiling an average grading percentage of 80.19. Kale Bagwell, who was injured midway of the season, graded out to 74, Doug Ramsey 73.88 and Dale Moore 71.02.

Bagwell graded out with a winning effort in every game un-

til he was injured and Moore graded out with a winning effort in nine of the 10 Mountaineer ballgames.

Todd Cloninger led the passing category with 11 completions in 45 attempts for 166 yards and one touchdown. Putnam caught the only touchdown pass.

Seventeen members of the team will return next year, including Roderick Boyce, Danny Moore, Bagwell, Tim Elder, Keith Pettus, Falls, Neil Morris, Johnson, Jarvis Young, Robert Appling, Eric Odems, Rocky Lutz, Therdon Brown, John Grant, Brad Jones, Shane Crawford and Ramsey.

## Is Blue-Gray Game Next For Mack?

There's an excellent chance that Kings Mountain's Kevin Mack, the starting fullback at Clemson University, will be in at least one major college all-star game this winter.

Mack is being mentioned as a strong possibility for the Blue-Gray Game which is played each December in Montgomery, Ala.

Former Clemson Head Coach Frank Howard is the recruiter for the South team for that game and has reportedly asked Mack if he'd be interested in playing.

Bob Bradley, Sports Information Director at Clemson, says the rosters have not yet been decided and would not be released to the general public until after regular season college play is completed.

But Mack would be a good choice. Clemson is billing him as the "best all-around back in the ACC" and is using his picture on CU sports mailing envelopes.

Mack, who is a leading candidate for All-ACC honors, has a shot at becoming the first fullback to lead the Tigers in rushing in 11 years. Saturday's 188-yard rushing effort in Clemson's "unofficial" ACC championship victory over Maryland gives Mack 695 yards in 130 carries heading into Saturday's season-ending game at South Carolina. Mack's 6.12 rushing average is one of the best in the nation for a fullback.

A fullback leading the rushing at Clemson is almost unheard of since



### Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

the Tigers in recent years have gone to a Power-I offense which features the running of its tailbacks. Coach Danny Ford let Mack carry the football 30 times last Saturday in his final home game as a Tiger and the 197-pound former Mountaineer showed the Clemson fans what Kings Mountain fans knew he could do all along.

Mack scored three touchdowns last week to give him seven on the year. He has the longest run from scrimmage (53 yards) of any Tiger back this year and he's been an excellent pass receiver coming out of the backfield. He's caught eight passes for 116 yards and turned one of Mike Eppley's short passes into a 43 yard gain.

If Mack is selected for the Blue-Gray Game, he would get the much-needed national television exposure he lost because of Clemson's NCAA probation. A good all-star game could land him a good pro contract.

If he makes the game, as far as we know, he would become the first Kings Mountain product to play in a major college all-star game. Former KMHS quarterback Pat Murphy played in the North Carolina East-West Shrine all-star game his senior year at Appalachian. That game is no longer played.

At least two former Mountaineers have played in major college bowl games. Mack was the starting fullback for Clemson in the 1981

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