

# More About Football

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Orange Bowl game and George Harris, who quarterbacked KMHS in the 1950's, played in the Sugar Bowl with Duke in 1958.

The selection of all-star teams is usually one thing that gets under my skin.

Kings Mountain, it seems, is always the team that gets the short end of the stick.

The All-Southwestern 3-A Conference team, announced this week, shows only three Mountaineers and no players from East Gaston, Burns, Chase and R-S Central. But Crest and Shelby placed 10 and seven players, respectively.

One of the players left off the team was Kings Mountain's Curt Pressley, who led the SWC in rushing through the first seven games, and still finished as the league's number two rusher despite a late-season injury.

Tracy Johnson, Shawn Rainey and Steve Falls of the Mountaineers gained much-deserved all-conference honors and KMHS coach Denny Hicks was co-coach of the year after leading the Mounties to a 6-4

finish in his first season as head coach.

At least two other Mountaineers—offensive tackle Dale Moore and defensive end Brad Reynolds—should have been on the team. Another outstanding young football player who was slighted was quarterback Mark Young of South Point, by far the best quarterback in the conference.

But, as long as all-star teams are selected, some good players will be left off.

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Kings Mountain coach Denny Hicks must still be pulling his hair out and wondering what went wrong with the Mountaineers this fall.

After a strong start, the Mountaineers struggled late in the year and let a state playoff berth slip out of their grasp.

The 6-4 record was good by most people's standards, but had they been consistent the Mountaineers could have finished at least 8-2. They should have beaten Ashbrook and R-S Central and had they taken advantage of early breaks, the Mounties could have turned the

Crest and Shelby games around. In both of those losses, the Mounties got the early breaks but couldn't cash in. Then, they turned the ball over to their opponents and Crest and Shelby took advantage.

But, as they say, hindsight is always better than foresight, and if ifs and buts were candy and nuts, what a wonderful Christmas we'd have.

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With the football season history, I'll be waiting anxiously for December 15, the first day colleges can sign football players for next year.

Curt Pressley of the Mountaineers is being highly recruited and could follow Kevin Mack as Kings Mountain's next contribution to major college football.

Dale Moore is also capable of playing major college ball and will likely be inked. Several other Mountaineers would make good small college players.

I'll also be looking closely at next year's NFL draft. Although some say his 197-pound size will hurt him, I look for Kevin Mack to go high in the draft.

## KM's Freddy Smith To Run In Turkey 100 At Concord

**CONCORD, N.C.** One of the first entrants for the Nov. 26-27 Turkey 100 at Concord Speedway is Buck Simmons, the only two-time winner of the annual event.

Simmons, of Baldwin, Ga., will drive a Pontiac Firebird prepared by veteran dirt track car builder Barry Wright of Spartanburg, S.C. in the 6th edition of this post Thanksgiving race,

which will post a total purse of better than \$20,000.

Simmons just missed winning a third Turkey 100 a year ago at the four-tenths-mile dirt track, but was relegated to a runner-up finish behind Jack Pennington, who took the lead with two laps to go when Simmons developed engine problems.

Freddy Smith, winner of the Turkey 100—the second of four Turkey 100 races that were held at Metrolina Speedway—led 70 of the 100 laps that made up last year's race, but surrendered the lead to Simmons because of a cut tire with just nine laps to go.

All three of those drivers are expected to be on hand to try for the \$3,000 winner's purse in the Nov. 27, 100-lap Late Model Sportsman feature, along with Larry Moore, also a former

Turkey 100 winner.

Other top Late Model drivers expected include Hayward Plyler, Ernie Irvan, Doug Osteen, Alan Weises, Randy Morrison and Joe Meadows.

The two-days, season-ending race card is expected to draw stellar fields in all four divisions which are slated for action, Late Model Semi Modified, Bobby and Super Stock.



## INSIDE STUFF

By DICK DEVENZIO

### Georgia Tech, Clemson; Two Undefeated Teams

After watching Georgia Tech and Clemson practice recently, one thought kept recurring to me that will likely seem strange initially. Both teams are currently undefeated—and it shows.

What I am talking about is the joy of pre-season practice. Everyone is getting lots of playing time, everyone has high hopes, and no one has lost to another team yet.

Coaches tend to get nervous and on edge (with a realization that tough, loseable games are just ahead) before players do, but in Atlanta and in Clemson, even the coaches are still very upbeat and positive.

The scene at Georgia Tech was nearly euphoric—with the early signing of Duane Ferrell (of Baltimore) and Bud Adams (of Atlanta) and a team scrimmage showing the obvious coming of age of Georgia Tech basketball.

Mark Price of course was leading fast breaks and hitting that quick-release jumper, looking like the ACC star that he is, and Bruce Dalrymple, the freshman, seems already comfortable as a college basketball player. He is solid ACC material as expected.

Then there's John Salley, looking extremely capable inside, and much more confident than last year. That's an excellent nucleus—perhaps enough to take them all the way to the third in the conference.

They have almost the team quickness of Wake Forest, and probably more depth.

Craig Neal is a freshman guard who can play with anyone, Anthony Byrd is back and better than last year. In the middle, neither Tim Harvey, the probably starter, nor Yvon Joseph, will make Tech the equivalent of Maryland or Carolina inside, but they'll both do a lot of damage on given nights.

The question is, on how many nights can they do it? You have to keep remembering the pre-season euphoria. Everyone looks good. People feel confident. They're all playing their game. A pass off a leg or out of bounds isn't so bad right now. But it will be different soon, when a bad pass may mean being removed from a game. Then, playing time diminishes, and people get tentative.

Six weeks from now the Harveys, Neals, Petways, Byrds, and Josephs likely won't look so good—not even in practice.

I particularly like Coach Bobby Cremins' way of relating to his players in practice, but now that his program is on solid footing, he has a new batch of problems—not enough playing time to go around.

At Clemson, the atmosphere was similar to that at Tech, and so are the problems. There were no big, early signings, but at Clemson, the battle cry is "Vince is back," referring to Vince Hamilton, the star guard who was injured last year, but who looks terrific now.

I don't remember how many breakout slam dunks he had during the scrimmage I saw, but it was clear that Vince is going to be outstanding. Raymond Jones is back at strong forward; Anthony Jenkins and Chris Michael are locked in an impressive dual for a starting spot at small forward.

Tough, leaping Murray Jarman is needed for rebounding and so is center Glen McCants. So where does Coach Foster put Warren Wallace, probably the team's best defender? And what about Clarke Bynum?

He's excellent against a cone defense because he can pass so well from the high post area. Leadership at guard should come from Marc Campbell, the Senior, or from Mike Epley, the football quarterback.

But David Shaffer, at 6'7" is being used as point guard too—a position where he looks surprisingly comfortable.

Imagine the problems Clemson can give to the teams trying to use the offensive skills of their tiny point guards, some of whom are a foot smaller than Shaffer.

In the present state of euphoric pre-season, Coach Foster appears to have a lot of depth and everything he needs except for a strong inside scorer. But all these winning ingredients are scattered among ten players.

There's no clear starting five and probably never will. You have to wonder if, soon, Foster may not have anything but Vince Hamilton and about ten other tentative players who all think they should be playing more.

The way Foster handles so many players with different skills to contribute should be the most interesting coaching story of the ACC season.

This Column Sponsored  
By Wade Ford

### SWC Players On Shrine Team

Three Southwestern 3-A Conference football players were selected to the North Carolina Shrine Bowl team which was announced Monday.

Honored were running back Eric Starr of East Rutherford, tackle Jeff Hojnacki of Shelby and end Kevin Laye of Crest.

Hojnacki and Laye led their teams into the state 3-A playoffs. Crest lost its Division I battle last week to Lincolnton, 14-12, while Shelby scored a 35-0 victory over North Iredell in Division II play.

Starr played for a losing team (3-6-1) but was among the best players in the league both on offense and defense. He gained over 1,000 yards rushing and was the league's fourth highest rusher behind Buster Benton of North Gaston and Curt Pressley and Tracy Johnson of Kings Mountain.

The North Carolina all-stars, coached by Danny Williams of East Burke, will face the South Carolina all-stars in the annual Shrine Bowl battle at Charlotte Memorial Stadium on December 10.

### Mounties All SWC

From page 1

Gary Robinson of East Gaston and Tim Nance of Crest.

Chapman was the player of the year and Stacy Lail of R-S Central was coach of the year.

Kings Mountain placed two players on the all-conference girls tennis team. They were Leigh Ann Odell and Robin Warlick, who occupied the 1-2 positions in singles and were the Mountainettes' top doubles team. They advanced to the Western Regionals Tournament.

Others selected were Kathy Miller of Burns, Becky Bryson of Crest, Kami Hosteller of East Gaston, Yvonne Ungvarsky of East Rutherford, Beth Thornburg of North Gaston, Jeanne Stroud of R-S and Jill Powell and Kristin Rosenkampff of Shelby. Powell was the player of the year and KM native Kay Bridges of North Gaston was coach of the year.

### Registration Scheduled

Registration for the (1984) Youth Basketball Program, sponsored by the City of Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department is now underway at the Kings Mountain Community Center gymnasium. Any boy or girl ages 8, 9, years old or 11, 12 years old may register between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, November 16. Registration will end the following Wednesday, November 23, at 9:00 p.m. A five dollars registration fee is asked from any child to take advantage of the registration dates. For more information, contact George Adams at 739-9631.

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