



TROPHY WINNERS - The Kings Mountain High football players pictured above won trophies at Thursday night's Booster's Club football banquet. Front row, left to right, Shawn Rainey, Brad Reynolds and Jeff Stokes. Back row, left to right, Dale Moore and Gerald Gladden.

Shawn Rainey Wins Most Valuable Award

It was a "Rainey" night in Kings Mountain Thursday as the Mountaineer Booster's Club honored the 1983 Kings Mountain High School football team at the KMHS cafeteria.

Shawn Rainey, senior defensive standout, captured three trophies, including the coveted Dr. George Plonk Most Valuable Player Award.

Other awards won by the versatile 160-pound athlete were the John Gamble Scholastic Award and the BDF Construction Company Tackling Award.

Other award winners included Gerald Gladden, Coaches Award; Eric Odems, American Legion Most Improved Back Award; Jeff Stokes, American Legion Most Improved Lineman Award; Curt Pressley, Hardee's Most Outstanding Offensive Player; Brad Reynolds, Hardee's Most Outstanding Defensive Player; and Dale Moore, Fred Plonk Blocking Trophy.

Coaches Denny Hicks, Bruce Clark, Chuck Gordon and David Heffner, and KMHS Principal Ronnie Wilson presented the trophies.

In addition to the trophy winners, all senior members of the team received plaques. They included Zack Roseboro, Reynolds, Todd Cloninger, Rainey, Quinton Rikard, Stokes, David Parker, Pressley, Gladden, Shane Burton, James Ellison, Thomas Putnam and managers Morris Hamrick, Kevin Spencer and Tim Rogers. Rainey was an All-Southwestern 3-A Conference player on both offense and defense for the Mountaineers, who finished 6-4 in their first year under Coach Hicks. He started for two years.

"He stands out in leadership and courage," said Coach Clark in presenting the award. "He was the hardest hitter we had. He'd get after you and stay after you."

Rainey played guard, center and tackle for the Mountaineers, and was one of the team's best blockers. But, it was on defense where he excelled. He led the team in tackles with 104, caused seven fumbles, recovered seven fumbles and recorded two quarterback sacks.

He also excelled in the classroom, as Principal Ronnie

Wilson pointed out in presenting the coveted John Gamble Scholastic Award, which is given annually to the football player who has the best grades during the football season. Rainey carries a 3.2 grade average and ranks 43rd in a senior class of 272 students.

Gladden was a backup end his junior year and worked into a starting position at defensive end last year. Coach Hicks, in presenting his award, said the coaching staff looked for a player "who exhibits all the positive things football has to offer. He did all the things necessary to play football and made a lot of sacrifices," Hicks said.

Coach Gordon said many players showed improvement over the season, but the two players selected as most improved back and lineman, Odems and Stokes, "distinguished themselves by improving more than all the rest."

Odems played in the shadows of 1,000-yard rushers Curt Pressley and Tracy Johnson on offense, but he was one of the leaders of the defensive unit. He established himself as an outstanding running back late in the year when he filled in for both Pressley and Johnson while they were sidelined with injuries.

Stokes was also a two-way performer, playing guard and center. He was one of the team's leading blockers and tacklers.

Pressley led the team in rushing with 1,185 yards in 165 carries and scored 65 points. He was the only member of the team to play varsity ball for three years. He led the conference in rushing early in the year before sitting out much of the second half with injuries. "He really knew how to tote the mail," said Coach David Heffner.

Reynolds was one of the top defensive ends in the conference for two years in a row. "He did everything we asked of him," said Coach Hicks. "Anything that came his way, he always stopped it."

Reynolds was second to Rainey in tackles with 78, intercepted one pass, recovered two fumbles and caused four fumbles.

Moore, at 240 pounds, was one of the biggest players in the conference, and he was the biggest of the big for the Mountaineers' larger than usual offensive line. He consistently graded out with the best blocking percentage and had an average yearly grade of better than 70 percent.

"He went down the field a little harder every time," Coach Clark said. "I nicknamed our offensive line the hogs, and he was Boss Hog."

Donkey Game Slated

The funniest and wildest show on earth is coming to Kings Mountain Community Center on February 25 at 7:30 when the White Plains Shrine Club sponsors a donkey basketball game.

Shriners will be battling members of the Kings Mountain Fire Department and Kings Mountain Police Department in a game which will delight the fans as donkeys of Professional Animal Frolics of Boiling Springs

try to rid themselves of their riders. The thrills, laughter and surprises never end.

Spectators will see the Shriners, policemen and firemen attempt to ride donkeys that are specially trained to try to throw them. Some of the donkeys have not been ridden very far even after hundreds of attempts.

The entire game will be filled with comedy and there is also a hilarious halftime show.

Advance tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children and students. Tickets at the door are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and students. Tickets may be obtained from any Shriner or at City Auto and Truck Parts, Linwood Restaurant and Carl Champion's office.

All profits from the game will benefit the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Greenville, S.C.

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Kings Mountain Herald
PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

GARLAND ATKINS
Publisher

GARY STEWART
Managing Editor

DARRELL AUSTIN
General Manager

ELIZABETH STEWART
News Editor

MEMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Herald is published by Herald Publishing House, P.O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, 28086. Business and editorial offices are located at Canterbury Road-East King Street. Phone 739-7496. Second class postage paid at Kings Mountain, N.C. Single copy 25 cents. Subscription rates: \$10.40 yearly in-state, \$5.20 six months, \$11.44 yearly out of state, \$5.72 six months. Student rates for nine months, \$7.80. USPS 931-040.