



Second Place On The Line

South Point Here Friday For Big SWC Battle

With two road victories under their belts, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers return to John Gamble Stadium Friday night for the first of two home games which they hope will result in victories and a berth in the state 3-A playoffs.

South Point's Red Raiders, defending Southwestern 3-A Conference champions and tied for second place with the Mountaineers, provide the opposition this week and East Rutherford's Cavaliers, sporting one of their finest teams in years, comes to town next week.

Kings Mountain, 3-1 in the conference and 6-1 overall, is seeking a spot in the state playoffs for the first time in 21 years. The Mountaineers haven't appeared in a football playoff game since 1964 when they won the SWC with a 10-0 record before falling to Hickory 6-0 in the first round of what was then the Western North Carolina playoffs.

South Point, 3-4, doesn't have as impressive an overall record as the Moun-

taineers, but the Red Raiders are a much-improved team since the early season when they dropped non-conference games to three 4-A schools. While losing those games, the Raiders were without the services of their leading rusher, All-Southwestern Conference performer Tonya Watson.

"In a lot of ways, South Point is identical to R-S Central except South Point has Watson," says KMHS Coach Denny Hicks. "Watson is the premiere runner in the Southwestern Conference and he's a threat every time he touches the football. He's a big, strong, hard-nosed football player and we'll have to do a good job on him. South Point just runs him straight at you and dares you to try to stop him."

Watson ran 65 yards on the first play of the ballgame last year at South Point's Lineberger Stadium to lead the Raiders to a 34-28 victory over the Mountaineers. Despite their 1-9 record, the Mounties gave South Point its toughest game en route to a perfect

regular season and the SWC title.

Watson has been averaging well over 100 yards per game and he's the only runner this year to gain over 100 yards rushing against Shelby's tough defense. The Red Raiders lost to Shelby 20-0 two weeks ago in a game which Hicks says was much closer than the score indicated. "They played Shelby a real tough game," said Hicks. "A couple of pass interceptions hurt them real bad."

A victory over the Mountaineers Friday would almost clinch a playoff berth for the Red Raiders, who have already beaten East Rutherford 13-10. Their final two games will be against R-S Central and Burns, both at home.

In addition to Watson, the Raiders have a talented running-passing quarterback in Chris Cornelius and a hard running fullback in James Reid. Their 5-3 defense, led by linebacker Mike Pearson, is one of the best in the SWC.

Coach Hicks, who is 13-14 in 2½ years at the

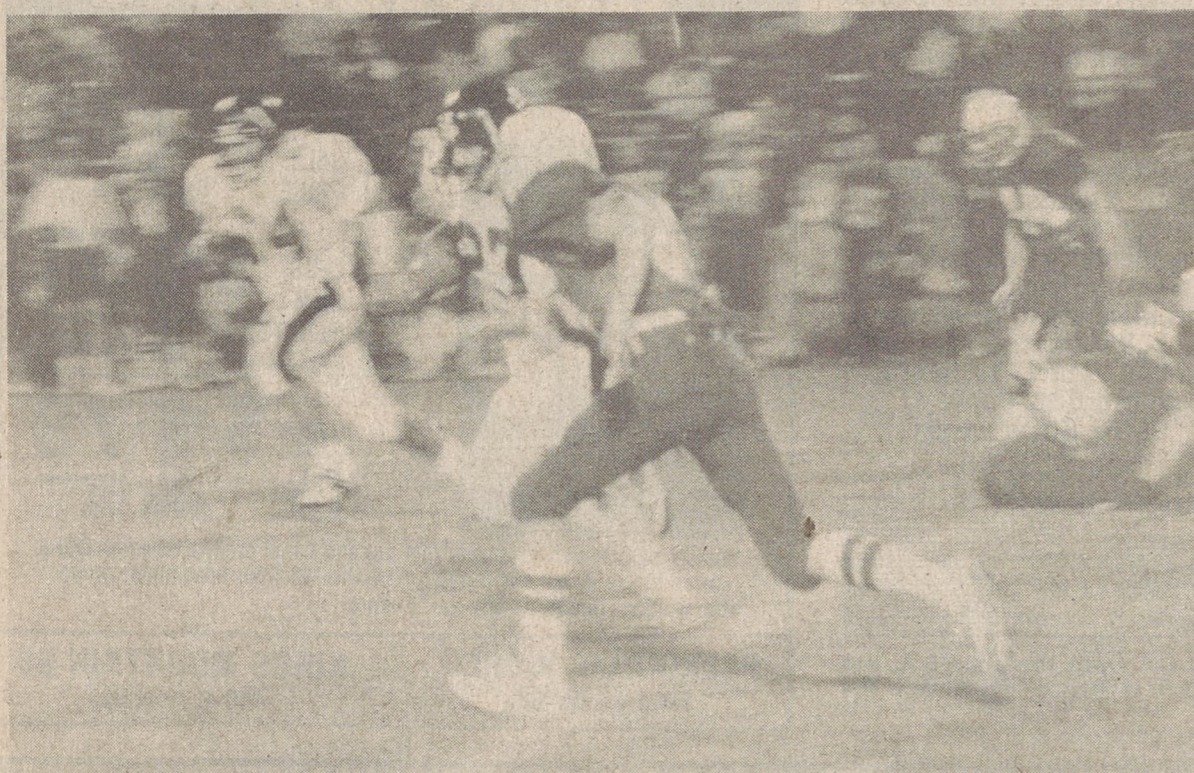
KM helm, says he plans nothing special for the Red Raiders.

"Defensively, we'll have to keep doing what we've been doing," he says. "We need to get the ball in good field position. Our defense has been averaging four turnovers a game and, even if you don't pick up a first down, that's 12 extra plays a ballgame."

"Offensively," he said, "we'll have to be smart up front. South Point stunts a lot on defense. If we sit back and try to see what they're doing, we'll be in trouble."

Hicks calls the game "a must game for both of us", but it's more so for the Mountaineers who still must face East Rutherford. In case of ties in either of the top three positions, the team that defeated the other during the regular season gets the playoff berth.

"We need a good crowd to cheer us on," said Hicks. "I can't believe the excellent crowds we've had on the road this year. I'm so good to be on the road and feel like you're playing at home. Even the players have noticed it and said something about it."



Photos by Gary Stewart

KICKOFF RETURN - Kings Mountain's Vince Sullens (27) starts up the sidelines on his way to a 90-yard kickoff return in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game at R-S Central.

Mounties Survive Early Mistakes To Defeat R-S

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers shook off three early fumbles which led to 14 R-S Central points and defeated the Hilltoppers 30-14 Friday in Rutherfordton.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a 3-1 Southwestern 3-A Conference mark and kept them in a tie for second place with South Point. The Mountaineers, 6-1 overall, and South Point, 3-4 overall, will battle for sole possession of second place Friday at KM's John Gamble Stadium.

The Hilltoppers had to drive only 18 yards for their 14 points Friday after Kings Mountain fumbled twice on R-S punts and another time on a play from scrimmage. Still, the Mountaineers never trailed. From a 14-14 tie mid-

way of the second period, the Mounties went on to lead 24-14 at intermission and kept the Hilltoppers backed up in their own territory most of the second half.

"I was as pleased as I could be to spot them 14 points and hang in there and come right back to win," said KMHS Coach Denny Hicks. "There were a couple areas we just weren't mentally ready. Three mistakes gave up 14 points and it was the type mistakes that can be avoided. One time on a punt, it was a case of not being aware of where the ball was and the next time we fooled around with it. The rule of thumb on a punt is to either catch it and run with it, fair catch it, or get out of the way."

The Mountaineers' defense was again outstanding, setting up the first score of the game on a fumble recovery, and keeping pressure on R-S quarterbacks Matt Bright and Jack Huss all night long. A fumble recovery by Otis Brooks at the R-S 33 on the first play from scrimmage set up a 7-0 KM lead with only three minutes gone. Jerry Jordan, who earlier passed 14 yards to Sam Smith for a first down at the 25, scored on a six-yard run on a fourth and one situation. Rusty

Bumgardner kicked the point after.

The KM defense stopped the Hilltoppers again on their second offensive series, but the R-S punt bounced and hit a KM player and R-S recovered at the KM 30. R-S moved to a first down inside the KM five but the KM defense turned the ball over to the offense on the two four plays later. However, on KM's first play, fullback Sam Smith fumbled and R-S fell on it at the one. Bright sneaked over for the touchdown and Steve Shehan kicked the point-after to tie the game at 7-7.

The Mountaineers grabbed the lead right back, however, as senior Vince Sullens took the R-S kickoff at the 10 and raced 90 yards for his first touchdown of the year. It was the fourth TD of the season for the KM kick return team. Bumgardner's point-after made it 14-7.

Another bad-bounce punt which resulted in KM's third fumble of the night set the stage for R-S's game-tying touchdown midway of the second quarter. R-S recovered at the KM 17 and on the first down, Bright hit Jason Buckner to tie the score at

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Southwest Conference Standings

SWC STANDINGS

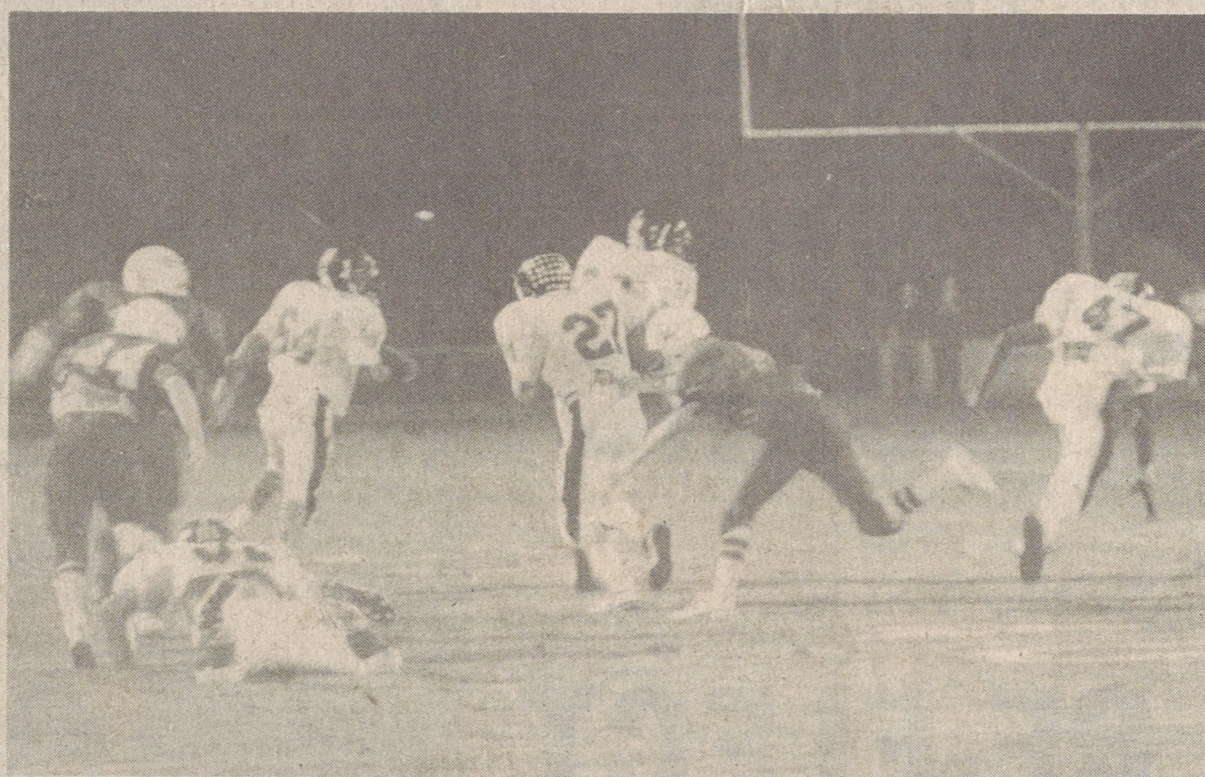
	CONF. W-L	ALL W-L
Shelby	4-0	6-1
K. Mtn.	3-1	6-1
S. Point	3-1	3-4
East Ruth.	2-2	5-2
Burns	2-2	3-4
R-S Central	2-2	3-4
Chase	0-4	0-8
N. Gaston	0-4	0-7

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

K. Mtn. 30, R-S Central 14
Shelby 23, E. Ruth. 6
S. Point 25, Chase 0
Burns 14, N. Gaston 7

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

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



PASSES LAST HURDLE - Vince Sullens breaks past the last R-S Central player with a chance to stop him on his 90-yard kickoff return in Friday's 30-14 Mountaineer victory. Sullens very alertly slowed down around midfield to wait for blockers to clear the way for him. Mountaineer blockers contributing to his TD included Donald Mauney (64), Aubrey Hollifield (partially hidden by Sullens) and Otis Brooks (47).

How They Did It

	KM	RS
First Downs	10	8
Yards Rushing	206	120
Yards Passing	88	41
Passes	4-6-0	4-11-0
Punts	2-32	4-34
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	4-1
Penalties-Yards	6-50	3-25

Score by quarters:

KM	7	17	6	0	30
RS	0	14	0	0	14

Scoring:

- KM - Jordan, 6-run (Bumgardner kick)
- RS - Bright 1-run (Shehan kick)
- KM - Sullens, 90-kickoff return (Bumgardner kick)
- RS - Buckner, 17-pass from Bright (Shehan kick)
- KM - Jordan, 6-run (Bumgardner kick)
- KM - Bumgardner, 30-field goal.
- KM - Boyce, 56-run (Pass failed)

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING

Player	Carries	Yards
Jordan	17	78
Boyce	3	52
Roberts	3	35
Hollifield	8	33
Smith	4	8

MOUNTAINEER PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Joran	1	1	0	14
Boyce	5	3	0	74

MOUNTAINEER RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yards
Sherer	3	74
Smith	1	14

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Golf Champions Honored

The annual Ray Barnes banquet, honoring golf champions at Kings Mountain Country Club, was held Sunday night at the club. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barnes were honored for 38 years of dedicated service to KMCC.

Sixty-five members attended the buffet banquet. Trophies, plaques and crystals were presented to the winners of 1985 KMCC golf tournaments.

Stoney Jackson repeated as winner of the Ray Barnes Trophy, which is given each year to the male golfer who had the best overall finish in all club events. John Gamble finished second, David Howe third and John Howze fourth.

A new award added this year was the Net Ray Barnes Championship. The award is based on a point system with



TOP GOLFER - Stoney Jackson, right, accepts the Ray Barnes Trophy from Ray Barnes for have the best overall success in Kings Mountain Country Club golf tournaments during the 1985 season.

golf handicap included. Bill Sellers won the award. Tying for second place were Mickey Powers, Dr. Joe Zucker and Mitch Howze.

KMCC women golfers added two new trophies for 1985 in honor of two members of the club, Lib Mayse and Margaret Williams. The Mayse award will go to the winner of the Ladies Handicap and the Williams award to the winner of the Club Championship, which Mrs. Williams has won six times. The winners will keep the trophies for a year and then rotate them to the next year's winner.

Doris Cloninger won the Ladies Handicap and Scarlett Cook was second. Lib Mayse