

Mounties First Post-Season Appearance Since 1964

KM At Pisgah For Playoff Opener

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will make their first appearance in post-season play in 21 years Friday when they travel to Canton to take on a Pisgah team which is one of the perennial powers of North Carolina prep football.

Gametime is 7:30.

Pisgah, coached by second year mentor Jim Fox and whose defensive coordinator is Kings Mountain's Tony Leigh, finished 3-3 in the Mountain Athletic Conference and 4-6 overall. However, the 4-6 overall record is very misleading because the MAC is a combined 3-A and 4-A league and three of Pisgah's losses were to highly-ranked 4-A teams.

Pisgah tied for first place among the MAC's 3-A teams but had to settle for the second playoff position because of a regular season loss to Asheville Erwin. Pisgah upset the state's second-ranked 4-A team, Asheville Reynolds, 17-14.

Pisgah, which KMHS coach Denny Hicks refers to as the "Shelby of the Mountain Athletic Conference", plays perhaps the toughest schedule of any team in the state. The Bulldogs lost to Brevard, which finished

FACTS ABOUT PLAYOFF GAME

Kings Mountain at Canton Pisgah
Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Seating capacity: 6,800.

Records: Canton 3-3 in Mountain Athletic 3-A/4-A Conference, 4-6 overall; Kings Mountain, 6-1 in Southwestern 3-A, 9-1 overall.

Admission: \$4 at the gate; \$3 in advance, 500 tickets available at the KMHS Principal's Office.

Broadcast: WAAK, Dallas, N.C., 960 A.M. dial; play-by-play by Ernie Payne.

Directions to game: Take I-40 to East Canton exit. Take Highway 19-23 into Canton and go through four lights. One block past the fourth light, there will be a YMCA on the right. Turn left at YMCA and go straight to high school stadium.

Transportation: Several chartered buses through KMHS and Mountaineer Club. KMHS students may ride a bus for \$7 but must sign up at the Principal's office.

9-1 to win the Western Athletic Conference; West Henderson, which was the Western State 3-A finalist last year; Asheville, a perennial favorite in the Western 4-A ranks; Cock County, Tennessee, which is regarded as the best 4-A team in the Volunteer State; and Waynesville Tuscola, still another 4-A playoff team.

Their victories, besides the one over Reynolds, included a 17-7 win over traditional 2-A power Sylva-Webster, a 6-0 victory over East Henderson, and a 21-19 victory over Enka.

"I think we play like a 7-3 team," said Leigh, who was head coach at Bessemer City before moving to Canton two years ago. "We lost a couple of games we should have won."

Pisgah is very similar to Kings Mountain, both on offense and defense. They average about 11 passes a game and run out of a split back veer while KM runs veer plays out of the I formation. Both teams run use a split four defense.

The Mountaineers will have a big size advantage as Pisgah's linemen average about 175 pounds. However, the Bulldogs are very quick and quarterback Greg Smith is a talented passer as well as a strong option quarterback.

"They're a real consistent offensive team," says Coach Hicks, who is no stranger to Canton football. As an assistant at West Henderson and Asheville several years ago, he went head to head with Canton when they were the power of North Carolina football, winning four state championships in six years.

"Offensively, we don't plan to change," said Hicks. "We'll stay with the inside attack and the outside veer. We'll stay with the short passing game because they go deep real well."

"Defensively, we'll have to stop their dive plays without leaving them open to go outside," Hicks added. "A lot of times, kids have a tendency to help out others and let their responsibilities go. We can't let them fake their dive plays into the line and then pull out and go wide."

"Their biggest asset is their speed and that



TONY LEIGH
...Pisgah Assistant

they play hard," Hicks added. "We saw three films on them, and in every one of them, they played just as hard in the fourth quarter as they did in the first. They're pretty much like Shelby is here. They win year in and year out. They played Tuscola Friday night and had over 7,000 fans there, so we'll need a big crowd to go up there and give us some support."

Leigh, who didn't play football here but helped lead the KMHS baseball team to a SWC championship, says he's very impressed with the Mountaineers.

"They're 9-1, and you can't overlook them," he said. "They're big and very talented, and I'm especially impressed with their quarterback, Roderick Boyce."

"We're very small, but quick and we like to hit hard," he added. "I think the big difference will be the size. We throw the ball well and mix our plays well."

This will be Canton's first appearance in the 3-A playoffs since revamping of the state's conferences, and Leigh said their fans are excited.

"The boys have played hard all year," he said. "We've been in every ballgame."

The Records

Pisgah (4-6)

7	Brevard	21
7	West Henderson	21
17	Sylva Webster	7
7	Asheville	13
17	Reynolds	14
6	East Henderson	0
21	Enka	19
7	Cook Co., Tn.	19
0	Erwin	6
6	Tuscola	20

Kings Mountain (9-1)

21	40	Bessemer City	28
21	20	East Lincoln	14
7	13	Hunter Huss	7
13	0	Shelby	10
14	59	Chase	0
0	20	Burns	0
19	31	R-S Central	14
19	19	South Point	21 *
6	29	East Rutherford	20
20	45	North Gaston	9

*(South Point later forfeited)

Mountaineers Defeat North 45-9 To Finish Second

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers closed out their best regular season since 1964 Friday at North Gaston when they defeated the Wildcats 45-9 in a Southwestern 3-A Conference game.

The victory gave the Mountaineers a final 6-1 SWC and 9-1 overall mark and second place in the conference behind Shelby (7-0 and 9-1). The Mountaineers enter the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A playoffs Friday at Canton Pisgah.

The Mountaineers rolled to a 24-0 halftime lead and played the entire team in the second half in an effort to hold the score down on the winless Wildcats. Reserve running backs accounted for the last two Mountaineer touchdowns.

Kings Mountain rolled up 284 yards rushing in only 28 plays. Most of the touchdowns were either scored or set up by long runs. Kings Mountain scored on seven of its nine possessions, with one being stopped on a pass interception in the first half and the other being stopped by North Gaston's defense against the second string KM offense in the fourth quarter.

The Mountaineers drove 43 yards following a North Gaston punt to go ahead 6-0 on their first possession. Quarterback Roderick Boyce rolled six yards on an option play for the score.

On their next possession, Boyce clicked with flanker Otis Brooks for two pass plays covering 42 yards before an interception stopped the drive.

Early in the second period, tailback Jerry Jordan returned a North Gaston punt 35 yards to the seven yard line, from which point he skirted

right end on first down to make it 12-0.

On KM's next possession, reserve running back Raynard Roberts ran 45 yards to the North 11 to set up a seven-yard TD run by Boyce which made it 18-0. Jordan scored from four yards out late in the half to

make it 24-0 at intermission.

Kings Mountain drove the second half kickoff 67 yards for a TD with fullback Sam Smith going over from two yards out. Rusty Bumgardner's PAT from placement made it 31-0.

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How They Did It

	KM	NG
First Downs	10	14
Yards Rushing	284	155
Passes	2-6-1	11-21
Yards Passing	42	110
Fumbles Lost	0	1
Punts	1-35	5-30
Yards Penalized	20	55

Score by quarters:
KM 6 18 14 7 -45
NG 0 0 0 9 -9

Scoring:
KM - Boyce 6-run (Kick failed)
KM - Jordan 7-run (Run failed)
KM - Boyce 11-run (Run failed)
KM - Jordan 4-run (Run failed)
KM - Smith 2-run (Bumgardner kick)
KM - Hillman 34-run (Bumgardner kick)
NG - Sanders 32 field goal.
KM - Sullens 43-run (Bumgardner kick)
NG - Wallace 8-run (Kick failed)

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING

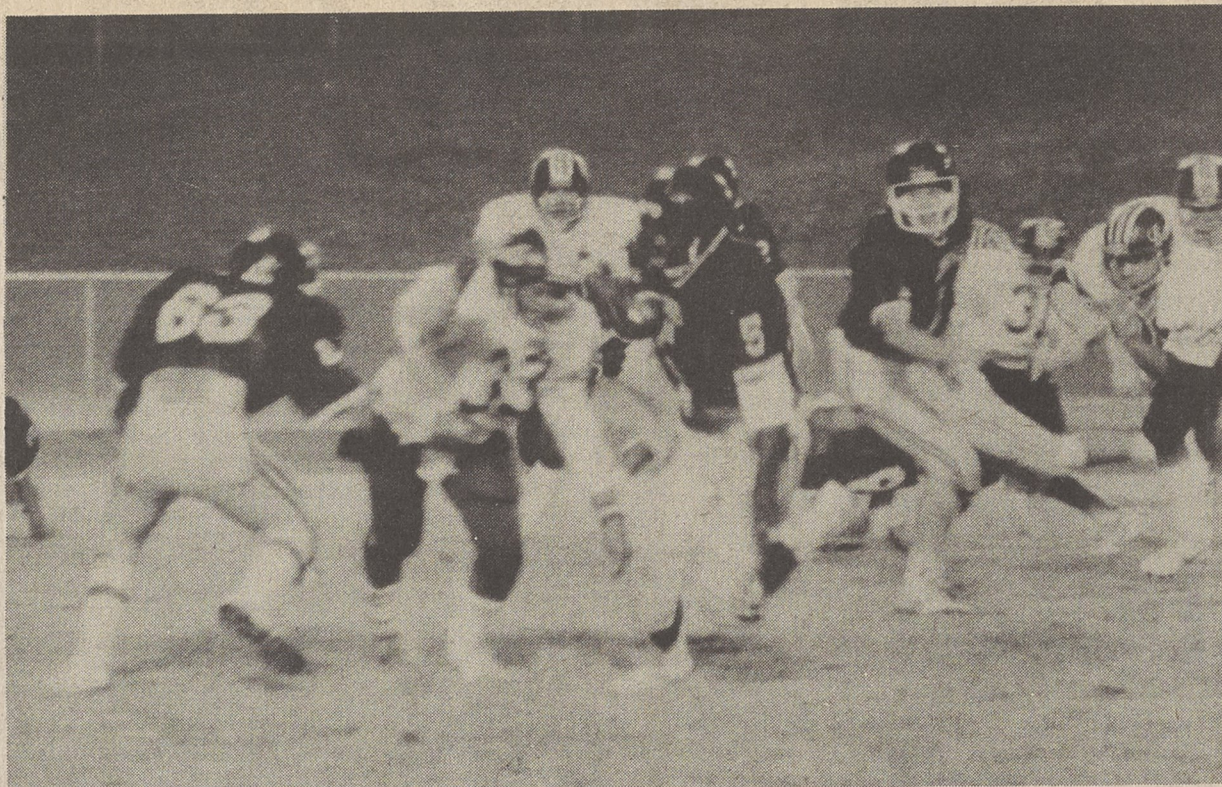
Player	Carries	Yards
Jordan	8	69
Boyce	5	64
Sullens	2	45
Roberts	1	46
Hillman	2	36
Smith	7	18
Wilson	1	6
Brown	1	0
McCullough	1	0

MOUNTAINEER PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Boyce	6	2	1	42

MOUNTAINEER RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yards
Brooks	2	42



GAINS 190 YARDS - Daron Hillman (5) goes around end for one of three touchdowns in Thursday's KMHS jayvee victory over North Gaston. Hillman gained 190 yards rushing to lead the Mounties to a 20-8 win. The jayvees finished their season with a 7-1-1 record.

Jayvees Defeat North 20-8 To Complete 7-1-1 Season

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity football team closed out its best season in the decades of the seventies and eighties Thursday at Gamble Stadium when they defeated North Gaston 20-8 to bring their final record to 7-1-1.

The Mountaineers were unbeaten against Southwestern 3-A Conference opposition. They tied Shelby 6-6 and defeated all other SWC foes. Their only loss was to 4-A Hunter Huss of Gastonia, which finished its season undefeated.

The jayvee record was the best since 1961, when the Mountaineers were 6-0-1 with a scoreless tie with Belmont. Members of that team went on to lead the 1964 varsity eleven to the SWC championship.

Anthony Hillman scored all three touchdowns for the Mounties, going in from 21, 15 and 30 yards out. Brent Bagwell kicked two of three extra points. Hillman finished with 190 yards rushing in 18 carries.

"We also had a good performance out of Brian Ramsey, our freshman quarterback," noted Coach Gary Brigman. "Of our 33 players, we will send 11 to the varsity next year and will have 22 freshmen coming back which should give us a good nucleus for Kings Mountain High football. We hope to get about 22 more good players from this year's junior high team."

Brigman cited Daniel Long for his blocking in the backfield and several other players for their line blocking, including Shawn Smith,

Chris Herndon, Chris Morris, Mark Crawford, Lee Guin, Bagwell and Alan Chisholm.

"We knew North Gaston had a real strong, hard-hitting ballclub because they played such a good game earlier in the season at their place," Brigman said. "But they made a couple of mistakes and we capitalized on them. All of our players got to play and that's going to leave a good taste in their mouths for next year."

"Basically, things look real good for us next year," he added. "Combining the ninth and 10th grade teams is going to prove very beneficial to Kings Mountain football. We had only 11 sophomores and the ninth graders filled in and really did a great job."