

Junior Varsity Gridders Look For Winning Season

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity football team, which began heavy practice Tuesday after six days of conditioning drills, should be strong in the Southwestern 3-A Conference this fall

under first year coach David Bolton.

The jayvee Mountaineers, coming off a 7-1 season of a year ago, have a 50-man roster. They're gearing for a

September 4 opener at East Lincoln.

"We're pretty quick, and have good size," says Bolton, a former KMHS footballer who coached at Western Carolina, Gastonia Ashley Junior High, and Gaffney, S.C., before returning home.

"Our running game looks good," he went on. "We'll run basically from the I-formation but with a veer option. We plan to open up and throw the ball more."

Brian Ramsey, a returnee, and Ryan Hollifield, up from the junior high team, are working at the quarterback position. Some of their top receivers will be Kevin Smith, Todd Hullender and Bernard Thompson.

Heading the list of running backs are Tim Tyndles, Quan Smith, Toby Deaton and Audia Spencer.

Todd McDaniel, Chris Morris, Brandon Moore and Jon Reid have looked good on the line so far, and McDaniel is doing a good job with the kicking chores.

"The defense looks good," says Bolton. "We pursue the ball well. All in all, it looks like a good team."

Bolton is being assisted by Johnny Bumgardner, Ronnie Funderburke and Tim Leach.

Members of the team are Spencer Brown, James Adams, Rodrick Alston, Hank Anderson, Scott Belcher, Chris Brown, Fred Byrd, Chad Carpenter, Brian Childers, Toby Deaton, Bryan Dellinger, Reggie Gamble, Ray Graham, Jamie Grigg, Mark Henson, John Hill, Ryan Hollifield, Todd Hullender, Todd Jaycox, Larry Honeycutt, Jerry Kiefert, Scott Layton, Todd McDaniel, I. Well Mills, Allen Moore, David Morgan, Chris Morris, Reggie Moss, Shane Pearson, Brian Ramsey, Jon Reid, Joe Reynolds, Todd Reynolds, Steve Robbins, Marcus Brooks, Chris Putnam, Bryant Adams, Eric Ross, Quan Smith, Kevin Smith, Audia Spencer, Bernard Thompson, James Thompson, Tim Tyndles, Robert Wade, Nathan White, Tracy White, Gene Smith, Desmond Jones and Mark Byars.

THE SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
4 - at East Lincoln
11 - at Hunter Huss
18 - at East Ruth.
25 - Shelby

OCTOBER
2 - North Gaston
9 - at Burns
16 - at R-S Central
23 - Open
30 - East Ruth.

NOVEMBER
6 - at North Gaston



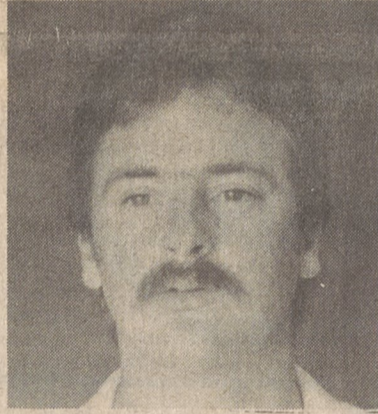
Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

Organizational Meeting Set For Fall Softball

An organizational meeting for a fall slowpitch softball league in Kings Mountain will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Kings Mountain Community Center. Any teams interested in entering the league are asked to have a representative at the meeting.

Gardner-Webb's football team will have a local flavor this fall. The Bulldog roster lists Kings Mountain's Curt Pressley, a 199-pound junior, as a linebacker. He was a running back last year. Bessemer City is represented on the Bulldog squad by quarterback Jesse James, a 192-pound junior, and freshman Jody Franklin, a 206-pound tight end. Gardner-Webb's coach is former Bessemer City mentor Woody Fish.



TIM OLIVER

Tim Oliver not only won the honorary member division of Saturday's American Legion Golf Tournament at Kings Mountain Country Club, but he also fired a hole-in-one. He aced the 207-yard eighth hole on the way to an 81 score. He used a five iron. Stoney Jackson won the regular member division with a two-under-par 70.

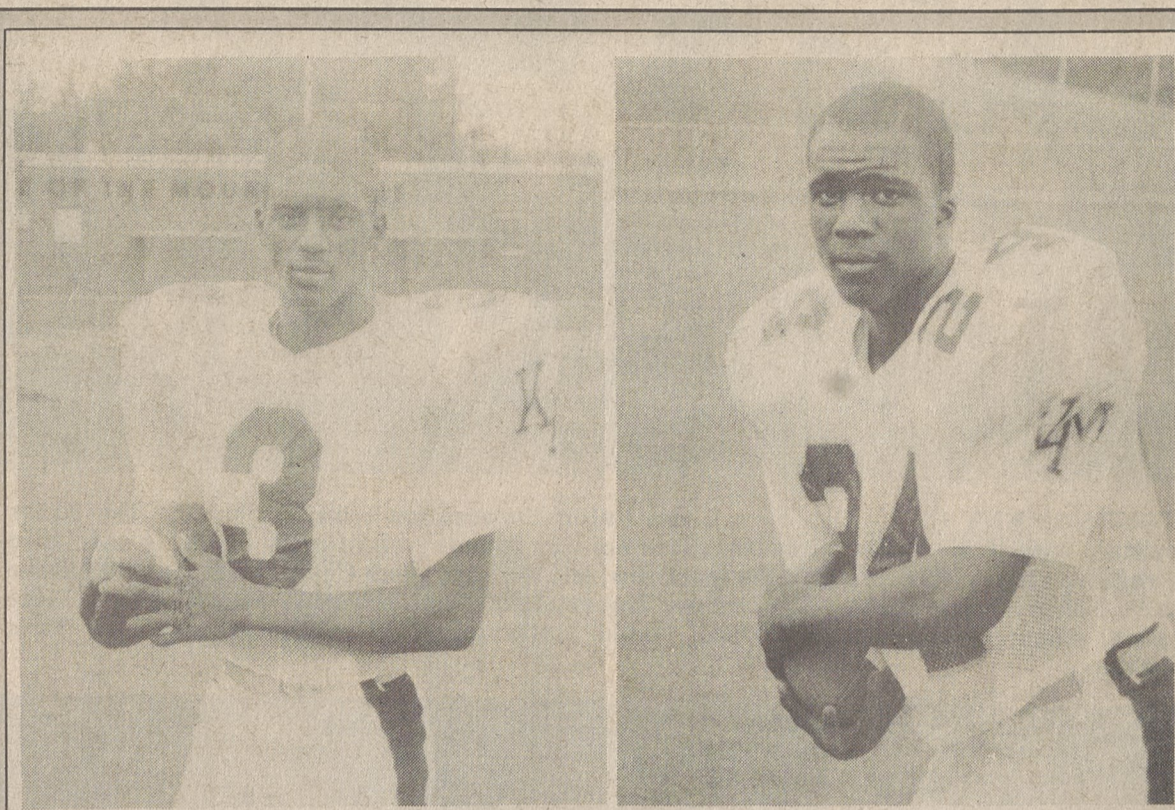
The Shrine Bowl will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. The game will be played on December 13 at 1 p.m. at Charlotte Memorial Stadium. The Shrine Bowl will sponsor a reunion of all past players, officials and coaches. Any persons wanting to be a part of the reunion may call the Shrine Bowl office at (704) 332-3593 or write Shrine Bowl Reunion, 321 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

The Herald's annual Pick The Winners football contest will begin the first week of September. Area fans will have an opportunity to win \$100 a week during a 10-week period. The contest annually draws more response than any other promotion of the paper. Area businesses wishing to advertise their product on the football contest should call the Herald's advertising department at 739-7496 as soon as possible. The spaces will fill up fast.



Photo by Jeff Grigg

MOUNTAINEER COACHES — Kings Mountain High's varsity coaching staff is working its players hard for the 1986 opener August 29 at Bessemer City. Thirty-one Mountaineer hopefuls recently completed twice-a-day drills. Coaches, left to right, are head coach Denny Hicks, Bruce Clark, Paul Bolt and John Goforth.



MOUNTAINEER BACKS - Two keys to the Kings Mountain High offense this fall will be quarterback Jerry Jordan, left, and running back Raynard Roberts. Jordan was the leading rusher on last year's 11-2 team which advanced to the third round of the state 3-A playoffs and has been moved to quarterback from the tailback position. Roberts was a kickoff and punt return specialist on last year's team and should be one of the fastest runners in the SWC this year.

KM Lacks Depth, But Looks Strong For Conference Race

Kings Mountain High's football team, coming off its winningest season in history a year ago, is in much the same boat as it was last year in pre-season.

Coach Denny Hicks and his assistants feel they have the athletes to make another strong run toward the State 3-A playoffs, but in order to do it, their players will have to stay healthy.

The Mountaineer mentors are presently working with 31 varsity prospects. Four are on the injured list but should be ready to play on August 29 when the Mountaineers open their season at Bessemer City. A fifth player who was being counted on to help carry the quarterback load is probably out for the season with an ankle injury.

"Right now, we're pretty well pleased with our offense," says Hicks, "but defensively we still have a long way to go."

That kind of a report sounds strange coming from a Kings Mountain coach. For years, KMHS has been known for its rugged defensive play.

The Mountaineers lost all but four of their defensive starters a year ago. With two starters back in the secondary, Hicks feels the team will be strong against the pass. But graduation wiped out most of the line and linebackers.

Aubrey Hollifield, an All-Conference performer, returns at inside linebacker. The only returnee on the line is junior tackle Wayne Brazzell. The two secondary returnees are safety Jerry Jordan and cornerback Gus Degree.

"We lost some exceptional athletes on the line, including ends Vince Sullens and Otis Brooks, tackle Calvin Stephens and linebacker Donald Mauney," said Hicks. "Right now, we're concerned about the progress of the defense. But we have the kids to do the job. It's just going to take a little more work and time than what we figured on."

Others working hard for a defensive starting job include Shawn Smith and Mark Crawford at inside linebacker, Rusty Bumgardner, Kevin Champion and Jody Champion at tackle, Danny Hamrick at outside linebacker, and Anthony Hillman and Raynard Roberts at the corners.

"A lot of positions are still wide open, including the defensive ends and outside linebacker," said Hicks. "We were wiped out in those areas."

Offensively, the Mountaineers look strong at this point. Hicks has moved last year's leading rusher, Jordan, to the quarterback spot where he'll be a threat at both running and passing. Roberts, who broke several kickoff and punt returns for touchdowns last year, has had a good pre-season and should be the starting tailback. Anthony Hillman will also see a lot of playing time at tailback.

Fullback is up for grabs, Hicks said. Leading the list of candidates are Daron Hillman, Monty Deaton and Shawn Smith, all up from the jayvee team, and newcomer David Ledbetter.

Mountaineer coaches and fans will often be praying that injury doesn't come to quarterback Jordan.

"We were anticipating that Brent Bagwell would be one of our quarterbacks, but he cracked his ankle playing legion baseball and we're not sure if we'll get to use him this year," said Hicks. Bagwell was a quarterback and a standout defensive end on the jayvee team last fall.

To strengthen the quarterback position, Hicks has called sophomore Stuart Spires up from the jayvee team and says he has been "well pleased with his progress."

On the offensive line, the Mountaineers must make up for the loss of Shrine Bowl tackle Calvin Stephens, All-Conference guard Donald Mauney, and wide receivers Edwin Sherer and Otis Brooks. Barring injuries, that task should be accomplished.

Hollifield, a versatile player who played several positions last year, gives Kings Mountain probably the best tight end in the conference. He is being backed up by sophomore Alan Chisholm, a 6-2, 190-pounder who is looking good on both offense and defense.

Bumgardner, a letterman, and Jody Champion, who is up from the jayvee team, have the inside track at tackles. Returning starter Danny Hamrick, Todd Maples and Mark Crawford look good at guard. Kevin Champion, a letterman, and Kevin Bush, a transfer from Ohio, are battling for the center position.

The kicking game could be one of the best in the conference, with Bumgardner returning for his senior year of kicking extra points and field goals. With Roberts returning, the kickoff return game also looks strong again.

"We've spent quite a bit of time on kicking so far," said Hicks. "We anticipate that our return game and coverage game will be pretty good."

Looking to the conference race, Hicks points to Shelby as the team to beat and says Burns and East Rutherford will be strong. South Point and R-S Central should be much improved over last year, he predicts.

"If we stay healthy and get a few necessary breaks, we'll have a good football team," Hicks said.

Looking to next week's opener at Bessemer City, Hicks said he looks to a much closer game than last year's 40-12 blowout.

"We saw Bessemer City scrimmage South Point last week and were impressed with them," Hicks said. "They still throw the ball very well, but quite obviously, not as well as last year. But they've made up for that with a much better running game. Last year they ran the ball three times against us. We look for them to run it 15 or 20 times this year."

The Mountaineers will get ready for their opener by traveling to West Caldwell Thursday for a 7 p.m. scrimmage game. The Mountaineers will scrimmage only once this year.

After the opener at BC, the Mountaineers will return home for non-conference games against East Lincoln and Hunter Huss on the first two Friday nights in September. They will then take a week off and open conference play on September 26 at Shelby.