

Wednesday, October 21, 1987



TOUGH RUNNING - Kings Mountain tailback Monty Deaton picks up some tough yardage against R-S Central's Hilltoppers Friday night in Spindale. Despite a 21-7 loss, Deaton was the game's top rusher with 95 yards in 20 carries. The senior standout is the top rusher in the Southwestern 3-A Conference.



GAINS GROUND FOR R-S - R-S Central running back Wade Shehan picks up some big yardage for the Hilltoppers in Friday's 21-7 victory over Kings Mountain at R-S. The Mountaineers host South Point Friday at 8 p.m. in their annual homecoming game.

Mountaineers Lose 21-7 Friday At R-S Central, Host South Point In Annual Homecoming Game

With their hopes of a third straight state 3-A playoff berth all but wiped out after last week's disappointing 21-7 loss at R-S Central, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will try to play the role of spoiler when they host South Point's Red Raiders Friday in their annual homecoming game.

South Point, back on track after two sub-par seasons under veteran coach Jim Biggerstaff, is currently 3-1 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and right on the heels of unbeaten Shelby and Burns in the race for the regular season championship.

The top three teams in the SWC will qualify for the state playoffs. Barring a miracle, pre-season contenders East Rutherford and Kings Mountain, both playoff representatives for the past two years, will not return and it appears only upstart R-S Central has a chance of overtaking any of the three current leaders.

The Mountaineers had one of their most error-free games last week as far as penalties and turnovers are concerned, but played with little intensity and continually missed tackles and assignments in a loss to a Hilltopper team which a week earlier had been embarrassed 56-8 at Shelby.

Coach Denny Hicks tried to warn his Mountaineers all week that R-S Central wasn't that bad of a ballclub, and Coach Jack Huss Sr.'s youngsters showed it in front

of their homecoming crowd.

Huss's own son, Jack Jr., ran a 19-yard touchdown in the second quarter to give the Hilltoppers a 7-0 halftime lead. Wade Shehan turned a short screen pass into a 55-yard touchdown play in the third quarter as R-S built a 14-0 advantage, and the Hilltoppers intercepted a desperation pass in the final seconds and returned it 30 yards for a touchdown to ice the victory.

Kings Mountain's only score came with four minutes remaining when fullback David Leadbetter scored from one yard out. Except for their opening drive when the Mountaineers drove to the R-S 14 before losing the ball on downs, the KM eleven showed little offense.

"From a physical standpoint, they just outplayed us," said Coach Hicks. "They just kept coming after us. Most of their big plays came from our missed tackles and on the screen pass that went for a 55-yard touchdown, we had six missed tackles.

"The really big difference was in the intensity levels of the two teams," he added. "R-S played very physical and very intense and stayed after us all night long. As the game progressed, we went downhill and they got stronger."

Monty Deaton, the SWC's leading rusher, finished with 95 yards in 20 carries, pushing him to 693 yards in seven ballgames. The Moun-

tainers matched the Hilltoppers yard for yard in the running department, but R-S held a big advantage in passing.

Huss, a 6-3, 220-pound senior who broke several tackles on his 19-yard touchdown run in the second quarter, hit on nine of 13 passes for 114 yards. KM managed only five completions in 16 attempts for 57 yards and the Hilltoppers held sophomore Ryan Hollifield to 4-for-14 and 51 yards.

"You'd have to classify it as an embarrassing loss because we didn't play with the kind of intensity we're noted for," said Coach Hicks. "But we are extremely pleased with a lot of our young kids. Our defensive secondary was real young when the season started. You look at R-S Central's passing figures and they look impressive but most of those passing yards were underneath. Our secondary men, Joe McClain, Anthony Hillman and James Roberts are as good as there are in the league and two of them (Roberts and McClain) are first-year varsity players.

"We're extremely well pleased with our sophomore quarterback (Hollifield)," he added. "He's gotten better every game. When he has the time to throw, he does an excellent job. All of our wide receivers are first-year players and have come a long way. We have a freshman (Darius Ross) at wide receiver and he's one of the best in the conference. From a coaching standpoint, one of the things you always look for is for kids to grow and get better, and that's been one of our bright spots. One of the disappointing things is that some areas aren't doing as well as we expected."

Hicks said he was pleased with his team's overall kicking game last week. "I'd say the kicking game had it's best game and was probably the one area of the game that we won," he said. "Our kicking team did an excellent job on coverage and our return team did well for the first time in several weeks. It produced good field position for us and we were pleased with that."

Kings Mountain's big line suffered one major setback when two-way tackle Wayne Brazzell left the game with a pinched nerve in his shoulder. "He's questionable for this week's game, but if it's not bruised too bad and with proper treatment, we hope he'll be ready to go," Hicks said.

The Mountaineers will need all the help they can get to stop South Point's running attack which is probably the best in the SWC. The Red

Raiders have a three-tailback attack. Biggerstaff keeps a fresh tailback in the game at all times and.

The most impressive runner thus far has been sophomore Willie Strain and the Red Raiders have also gotten good play out of sophomore quarterback Mike Young. Senior ends Pat Keough and Mike Pannell lead a veteran line.

"South Point is a fine football team," said Hicks. "They play the game like it's supposed to be played. They mix it up and keep coming at you. They're basically a power-oriented team and their intensity level stays up for an entire game, as they proved last week at Chase when they drove for the winning touchdown with 14 seconds left. They play a very physical game and Friday's game will be a tremendous challenge for us.

Standings

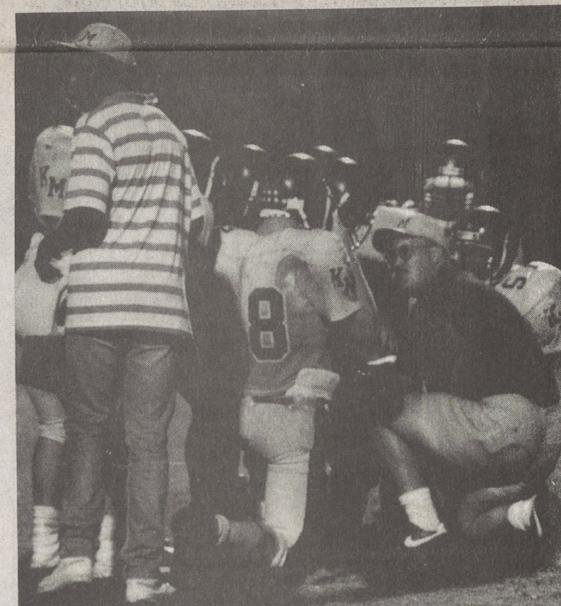
	Conf. W-L	All W-L
Burns	4-0	7-0
Shelby	4-0	6-1
South Point	3-1	5-2
R-S Central	2-2	2-5
Kings Mountain	1-3	3-4
East Ruth.	1-3	2-5
North Gaston	1-3	3-4
Chase	0-4	1-6

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

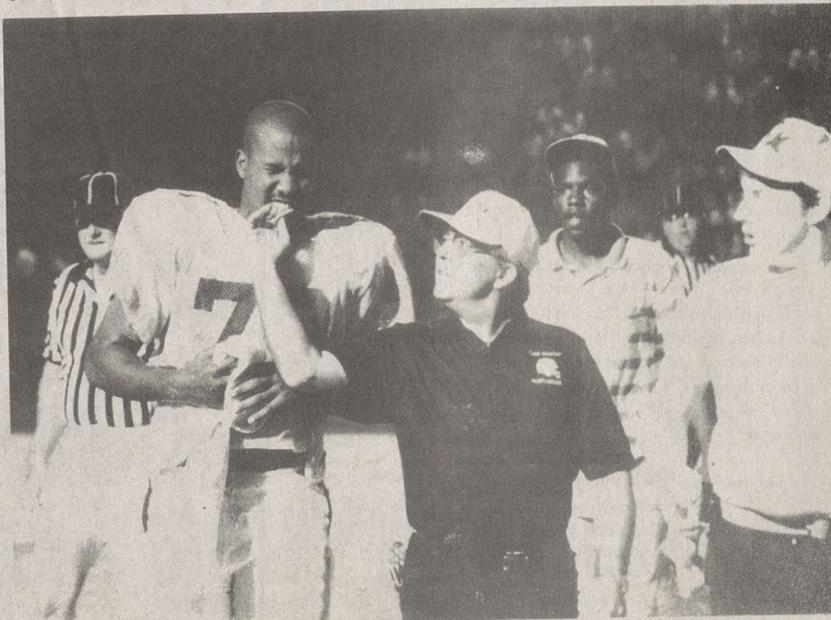
R-S Central 21, Kings Mtn. 7
Shelby 20, East Rutherford 6
South Point 27, Chase 21
Burns 21, North Gaston 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES

South Point at Kings Mtn.
R-S Central at Burns
North Gaston at Shelby
Chase at East Rutherford



TALKS WITH DEFENSE - Kings Mountain assistant coach Bruce Clark tries to fire up his defense in last week's game at R-S Central. Hilltoppers won 21-7. Mounties host South Point this week.



DON'T BITE ME! - Kings Mountain trainer Roy Hammett helps tackle Alan Chisholm remove his mouthpiece on sidelines during last week's football game at R-S Central. Mountaineers host South Point Friday at 8 p.m.

MOUNTAINEER GRIDGRAPH

	KM	RS
First Downs	9	11
Yards Rushing	129	129
Passes	5-16	9-13
Yards Passing	57	114
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Punts	5-35	5-32
Penalties	6-50	5-30

Score by Quarters: T
KM 0 0 0 0 -7
RS 0 7 7 7 -21

Scoring:

RS - Huss, 19-run (Huss kick)
RS - Shehan 55-pass from Huss (Huss kick)
KM - Leadbetter 1-run (McDaniel kick)
RS - Forney 30-interception return (Huss kick)

MOUNTAINEER RUSHING

Player	Carries	Yards
Monty Deaton	20	95
Anthony Hillman	7	27
David Leadbetter	5	13
Ryan Hollifield	1	-6

MOUNTAINEER PASSING

Player	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yds.
Hollifield	14	4	1	51
Ramsey	1	1	0	6
Deaton	1	0	0	0

MOUNTAINEER RECEIVING

Player	Catches	Yards
James Roberts	3	32
Tracy Wright	1	20
Joe McClain	1	5