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# SPORTS

## Mounties Still In Run For Playoff Spot

### Raiders Host KM This Week

Two young teams who have revved up their engines in recent weeks will clash Friday when Kings Mountain's Mountaineers travel to South Point for a Southwestern 3-A Conference football contest.

Both teams are on two-game winning streaks after having lost their first two conference games. The winner of Friday's contest will still have a good shot at making the state playoffs but the loser will likely be eliminated.

Kings Mountain takes a 4-3 overall record into the contest while the Raiders are 2-4-1. In the past two weeks, though, both clubs have shown a lot of improvement.

South Point is coming off back-to-back victories over North Gaston and Chase. The Red Raiders scored over 30 points in each contest. Kings Mountain has won back-to-back games over Chase (49-0) and R-S Central (19-12).

The Red Raiders have the top 1-2 rushing combination in the conference in Willie Strain and Jamie Boyd. Strain, who gained over 1,000 yards as a sophomore last year, already has over 900 yards rushing this year and Boyd isn't far behind.

"They're both good running backs and Strain is probably as good a runner as there is in this league," says KM Coach Denny Hicks. "They'll line up in a three-back set 90 percent of the time and just come straight at you."

Hicks says South Point, which is young but big up front, will be the most physical team the Mountaineers have faced.

"They just play hard-nosed football," said Coach Hicks. "They're big and strong and just keep powering you and powering you. They have enough trick plays that they create a lot of problems for your defense. You have to commit a lot of people to stopping their running game, and when they find you doing that, they'll throw in some trick plays to create problems."

South Point, which was picked by many to be a SWC contender, is a young team overall, but the Raiders have gained a lot of experience over the first seven games and are now playing much better.

"Defensively, they've got some unusually large folks on the front line," Hicks said. "They take six down linemen and cover your six and then put a linebacker over your center. It makes it almost impossible to try to run inside. They're so big and massive. They must have a heck of a weight program."

"We'll have to work real hard and stay after it all night," he added. "Nobody gets anything easy against them. You have to work for everything you get."

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### KM Netters Clinch Tie For First League Crown

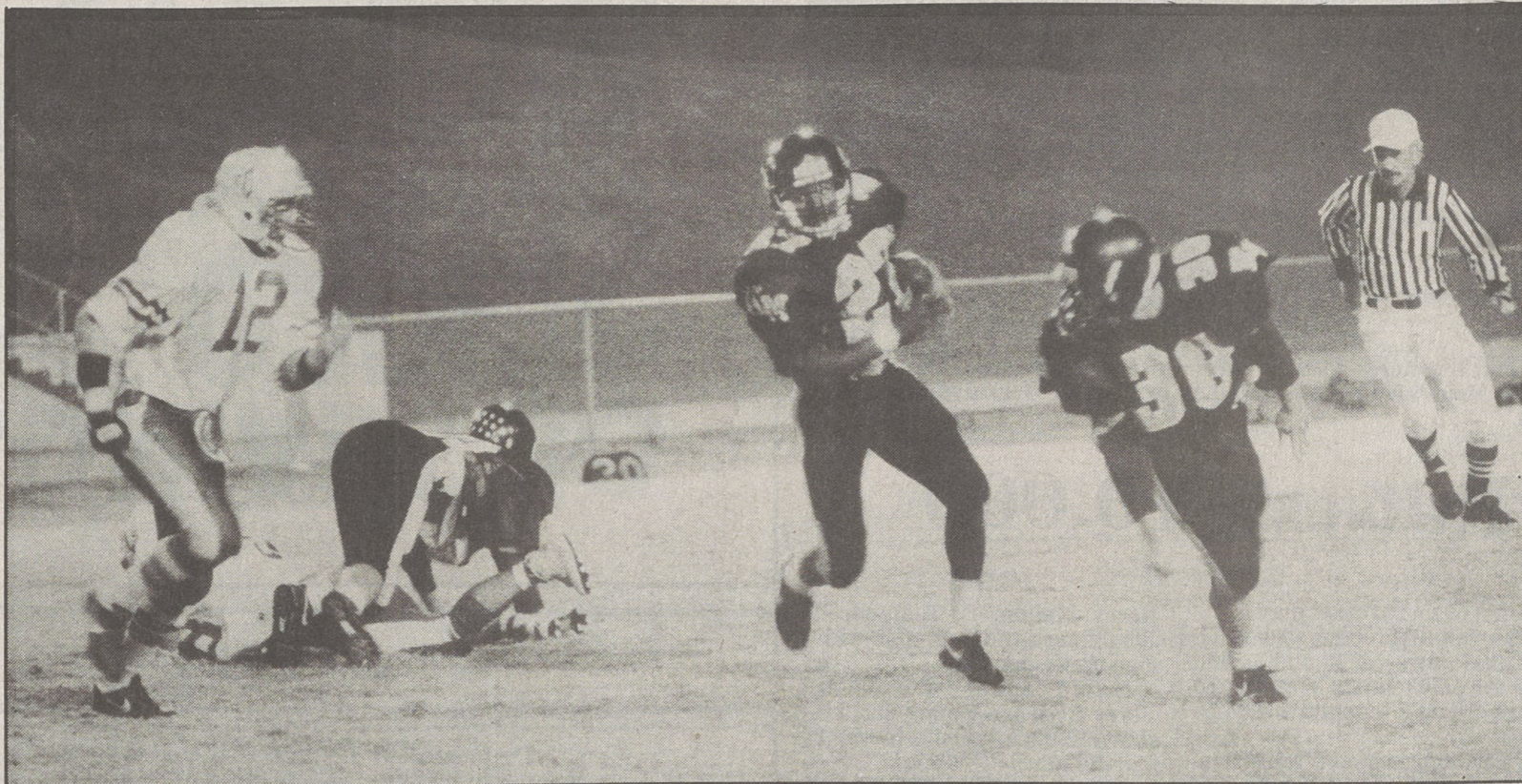
Kings Mountain High's girls tennis team clinched at least a tie for the Southwestern 3-A Conference title Tuesday at Forest City when they defeated a good East Rutherford team 6-3.

The KM ladies were scheduled to host Chase today in their final regular season game. If the Lady Mountaineers win that match, they will unseat Shelby as conference champions. Shelby, which was beaten last week by Kings Mountain 6-3, has won all 16 SWC tennis titles to date and the Lady Lions had won 146 straight conference matches before falling to KM.

### KM Ladies Blank North For Fifth SWC Victory

Kings Mountain High's girls tennis team won its fifth straight Southwestern 3-A Conference match Thursday at home, defeating North Gaston 9-0.

Coach Diane Dooley's ladies hope to wrap up their first ever SWC championship today when they host Chase. Kings Mountain recently defeated Shelby, which had won 16 straight conference championships and 146 straight conference matches. KM will compete in the regionals Oct. 26-27 at T.C. Roberson.



Oops!

Photo By Gary Stewart

Kings Mountain tailback Victor Bell (27) is wide open behind the blocking of fullback Toby Deaton (38) in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with R-S Central at Gamble Stadium. However,

the official at right of picture is reaching for his flag because the unidentified KM player at left is clipping a Hilltopper. Kings Mountain won 19-12.

### Blank R-S Central 22-0

## Jayvees Continue To Roll

Kings Mountain High's jayvees rolled to their third straight victory Thursday night at R-S Central, 22-0.

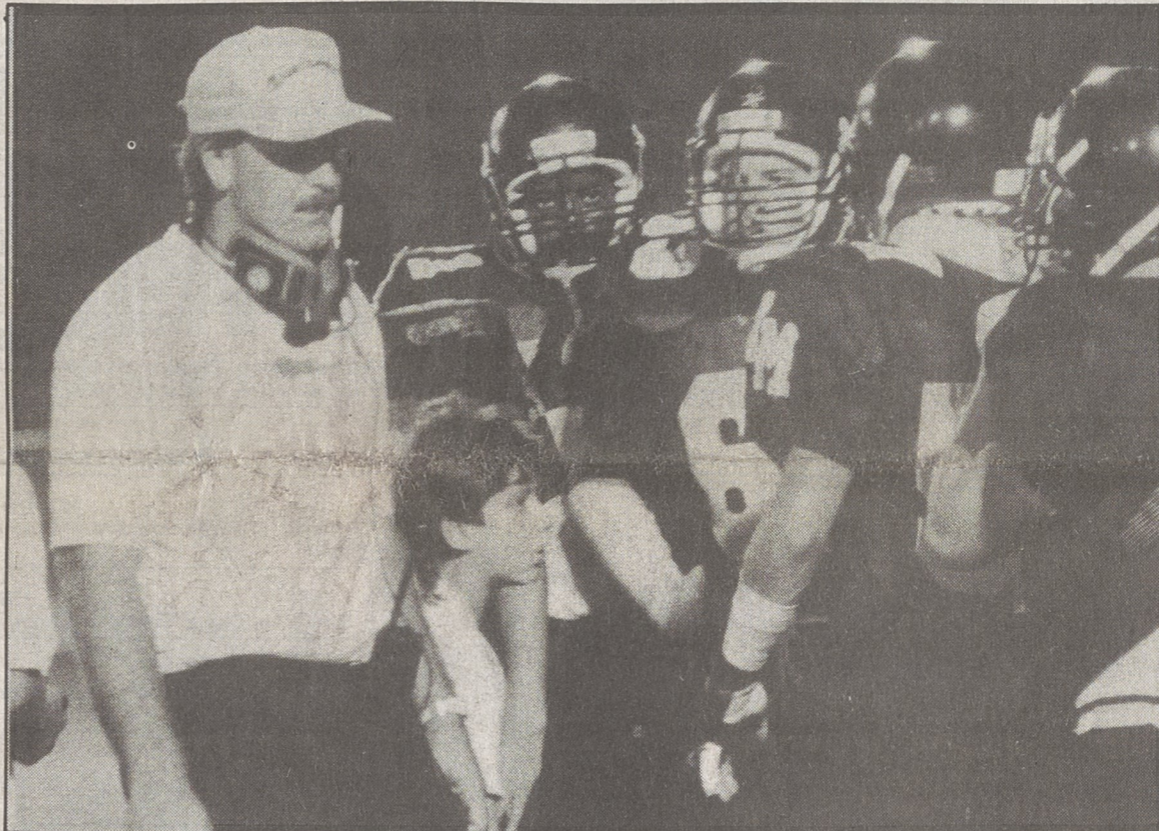
The Mountaineers face their toughest two games of the season over the next two weeks. They travel to East Rutherford Thursday and return home a week from Thursday to play East Rutherford again. East is undefeated and Kings Mountain has lost only one conference game.

Eugene Morgan scored on a 12-yard run to give Kings Mountain an early 6-0 lead last week at Spindale. Eric Byers scored on a 13-yard run and D.J. Williams ran for a two-point conversion to make it 14-0 at halftime.

Kings Mountain closed out the scoring in the fourth quarter when Williams ran a 97 yard touchdown and also added a two-point conversion.

Williams' exciting score was set up by an outstanding goal line stand by the KM defense after R-S Central blocked a KM punt and recovered inside the five. KM stopped R-S cold on three running plays and then the Hilltoppers were awarded a first and goal at the two following a KM penalty. Kings Mountain held on four consecutive running plays and took over inside the one.

Two inside running plays moved the ball only three yards and resulted in a third and seven situation. Williams tried to go off tackle but when the hole closed, he moved to the outside and outraced everyone down the sidelines.



Do It My Way

Kings Mountain High's jayvee football coach Paul Bolt talks to his team during timeout of a recent Southwestern 3-A Conference game. The Little Mountaineers have won three straight games. They travel to East Rutherford Thursday and return home next Thursday to play East again in their final home game.

Williams finished with 174 yards rushing, giving him 100-yards plus for three weeks in a row. Scottie Hopper added 47 yards rushing and Brent Wilson, Morgan, Byers and quarterback Andy Hollifield also did a good job on offense. Coach Paul Bolt

cited Hopper, Wilson, Mike Byers, Diron Bell, Morgan, Williams, Dale McClain, Tim Roseboro, Era Vaughn and Mitchell Morrow for their defensive play.

"You can't ask for a better defensive performance than we

got at R-S Central," Coach Bolt said. "Our guys really showed a lot of character. It was a good win for us. Our biggest challenge lies ahead as we play East Rutherford for two straight weeks. We have to win these two."

### Mounties Edge R-S On Friday

From beginning to end, fans attending Friday's Kings Mountain-R-S Central homecoming football game at Gamble Stadium could sense that it would go down to the wire.

A missed extra point following Kings Mountain's second and third touchdowns of the night kept the Hilltoppers within striking distance and Jack Huss's offense gave the Mountaineers some anxious moments in the final minutes of a 19-12 Mountaineer win.

Taking over on their own 20 following a Kings Mountain touchdown and missed extra point which made it 19-12 with three minutes remaining, the balanced R-S offense moved gradually down the field to the Kings Mountain 20, where a final attempt for a touchdown pass at the buzzer was batted away by the KM defense.

Four times during the march, it appeared the Mountaineers had the talented Hilltoppers stopped. But two accurate fourth down passes from sophomore quarterback Todd Harris and two good plays by the KM defense which backfired on them kept the drive alive.

KM defensive back James Roberts batted away a fourth down pass attempt by Harris early in the drive, but a Hilltopper who was lying on the ground caught the ball for a first down. Three plays later, the Hilltoppers faced third and eight and KM's Tracy Wright intercepted a Harris pass only to fumble it back to R-S for a 12-yard gain.

"It was kind of weird," said KMHS Coach Denny Hicks. "We did some good things that backfired on us and really helped them keep possession."

Hicks couldn't fault his players for those twists of fate, nor for any other part of their performance.

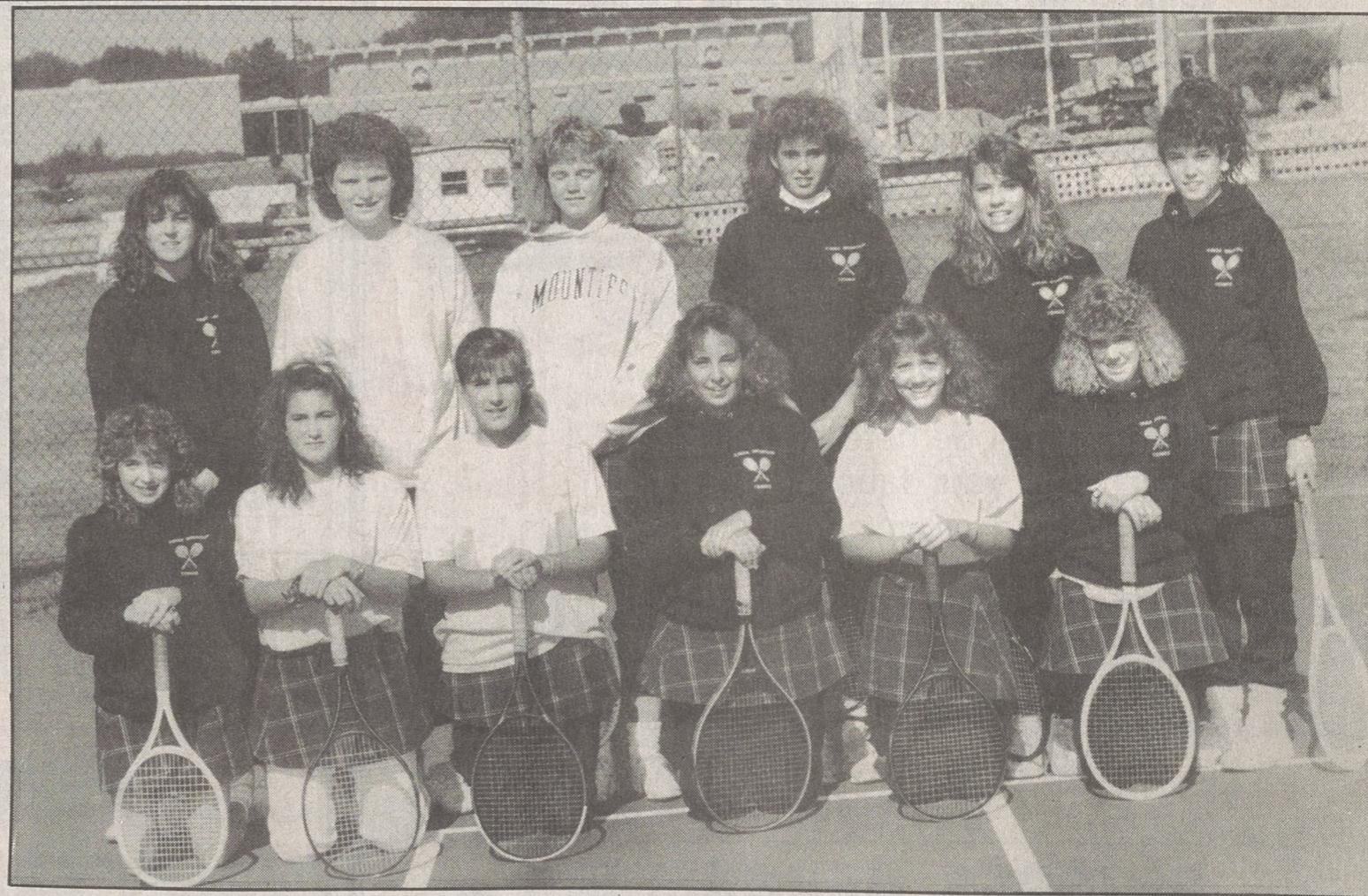
"We felt like our kids showed a lot of composure," he said. "The defense had a lot of pressure on it all night, and especially in that last drive. R-S was sending out four and five receivers and their quarterback showed a lot of poise for a sophomore. He was throwing all over the field and his running also put a lot of pressure on us. We felt real good about our composure in the closing minute of the ballgame."

Kings Mountain's clinching touchdown with three minutes remaining was the result of an R-S mistake and a smart play by the KM defense. The Hilltoppers tried to fake a fourth down punt at its own 34 and the snap to an up back was dropped as KM defenders gave a mighty rush. Senior Jeff Lockhart scooped up the ball and raced 34 yards for the TD.

Kings Mountain never could break the game open against the

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### ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Kings Mountain High's girls tennis team members are saluted as Herald Athletes of the Week for their win over Shelby last week. The KM victory broke a 146-game conference winning streak for Shelby, which has won all 16 Southwestern 3-A Conferentc tennis

titles. Front row, left to right, Karen Bush, Christi Dixon, Susan Hendricks, Ashley Champion, J.J. Warlick and Kim Ware. Back row, Betsy McIntyre, Gail Hardin, Paula Morris, Kerry Rhyne, Angie Subler and Becky Bridges. Not pictured, Lee Ann Masters.

**THE RESULTS**  
 J.J. Warlick (KM) def. Leslie Taylor 6-1, 6-1; Paula Morris (KM) def. Pam Josie 6-0, 6-0; Ashley Champion (KM) def. Laura Taylor 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; Lee Ann Masters (KM) def. Tammy Rushing 7-6, 6-2; Susan Hendricks (KM) def. Kelli Quinn 6-2, 6-2; Christi Dixon (KM) def. Kelli Clemmer 6-2, 6-2.  
**(Doubles)**  
 Warlick-Morris (KM) def. Taylor-Taylor 8-2; Champion-Masters (KM) def. Josie-Quinn 8-3; Hendricks-Dixon (KM) def. Rushing-Clemmer 8-2.