

SPORTS

Early Turnovers Put Mounties In Hole

Bears Claw KMHS 35-7

One of the many phases of the game which pleased Kings Mountain football coaches during pre-season practice was the ability of the offense to produce points.

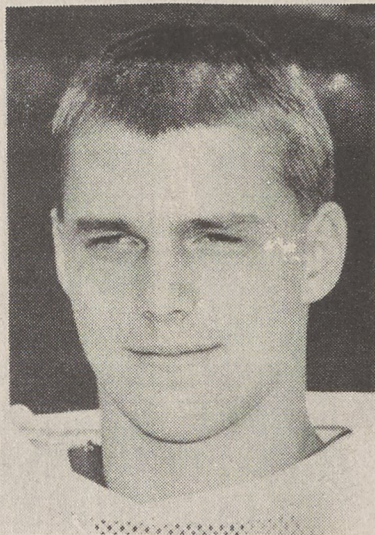
Throughout summer practice and in two pre-season scrimmages, the Mountaineer offense had been very successful in the running and passing departments.

But in Friday night's season opener at Canton Pisgah, the Mountaineer offense couldn't do a thing right and the Black Bears from the Western Athletic Conference completely dominated the KMHS eleven, 35-7.

Kings Mountain's quick backs were limited to 50 yards rushing by a big, strong Canton defense and the experienced Mountaineer passing game clicked on only four of 18 passes for 55 yards.

Meanwhile, Pisgah, which is favored to win its conference and is regarded as one of the top 3-A teams in the state, bulled its way to 233 yards rushing.

"Quite obviously, this was totally unexpected," said KMHS Coach Dennis Hicks, whose team had been regarded as one of the pre-season favorites in the always-tough Southwestern 3-A



DANIEL HONEYCUTT

Conference. "And the thing about it was, it wasn't one particular area that we failed in. We just didn't do anything well anywhere."

Kings Mountain turned the ball over five times, including three fumbles and two pass interceptions, and managed only five first downs. One of the fumbles was returned for a touchdown by the Bears, and another Pisgah TD was set up when the KM center snapped the ball over the punter's head.

"The turnovers early in the game put us in a hole," Hicks said. "A turnover is the worst possible play in football but we kept turning it over and putting ourselves deeper and deeper into a hole."

The Mountaineers fumbled the ball at their own 30 on their first possession of the night, but the KM defense held Canton, which missed a 23-yard field goal attempt.

On their next possession, the Mountaineers were moving behind the running of junior tailback D.J. Williams but were stopped on a pass interception at the Pisgah 18. The Bears started with a first and 15 following an offside penalty and then moved 83 yards to take the lead.

Big fullback Rod Brandt, who would finish the game with 138 yards in 15 carries, scored from 20 yards out with eight minutes remaining in the second period, and quarterback Skipper Cannon bootied the PAT to give the Bears a 7-0 lead.

On KM's next possession, a snap sailed over the punter's head on fourth down and Canton gained possession at the five. On the very next play Derrick Pace ran into the endzone and Cannon added his

second PAT to make it 14-0.

Although still within striking distance, the Mountaineers couldn't get their offense going in the second half and Canton Coach Carroll Wright, knowing he had a good thing in Brandt, continued to run the big fullback time after time.

A pair of touchdowns in a 20-second span early in the third quar-

See Bears, 7-A

THE YARDSTICK KM CP

1st downs 5 11
Rush Yds. 50 233
Pass Yds. 55 17
Passes 4-18-2 2-4-1
Fumbles 3 1
Punts 2-28.5 1-35
Penalties 25 38

Score by quarters:
KM 0 0 0 7--7
CP 0 14 14 7 --35

Scoring:

P - Rod Brandt, 20-yd run (Cannon kick)
P - Derrick Pace, 5-yd. run (Cannon kick)
P - Brandt, 29-yd. run (Cannon kick)
P - Jeff King, 25-fumble return (Cannon kick)
P - Cannon, 1-run (Cannon kick)
K - Daniel Honeycutt, 9-yd. pass from Ryan Hollifield (Honeycutt kick)

RUSHING - D.J. Williams 11-47; Ryan Hollifield 4-19; Daryl Gash 3-6; Jeff Lockhart 1-4; Scottie Hopper 1(-1).
PASSING - Hollifield 4-16-1-55; Timmy McClain 0-2-1-0.
RECEIVING - Honeycutt 2-21; Brent Wilson 1-25; Williams 1-9.

Yellow Jackets Here Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers hope to get on the winning track Friday night when they host Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets at 8 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium.

Both teams will be looking for their first win. KM fell to Canton Pisgah 35-7 last Friday while Bessemer City lost to county rival North Gaston 7-6.

The Mountaineers are favored to win, but KM coach Denny Hicks says they must play much better than they did last week.

"When you come out of a game that, it's like a complicated puzzle," Hicks said. "So many things run through your mind, you're disappointed and there's a strong urge to make some changes. We'll probably make one or two position changes but the change will be more from a standpoint of what we're asking our people to do. We're just going to have a long talk with our kids and stay pretty much with what we're doing. They can do what we're asking them to do. It's just a matter of them accepting the challenge on Friday night and doing their job to the best of their ability."

Hicks has a lot of respect for Bessemer City, which is coming off a 2-8 season but is rebuilding under new coach Barry Shuford.



HICKS

"Believe it or not, but Bessemer City's going to be bigger than Pisgah," Hicks said. "They'll be one of the biggest teams we'll play this year."

"They have two tackles who are 6-4 and 6-7 and weigh over 260 pounds," Hicks noted. "Most of their offensive and defensive linemen are starting for their third year so they've got plenty of experience."

Bessemer City lost most of its backs last year but has good talent up from a junior high team which won its conference championship.

"Based on the word we get from people who've been around Bessemer City football for a long time, they're probably as good as

they were when Coach (Woody) Fish was there and they were in the state playoffs," Hicks said. "They have a real outstanding team, have the size and experience up front and good skilled people to go with the line. If we play like we did last Friday night, we'll be in for a long night."

Fans will probably see a different type Bessemer City attack than they've been accustomed to over the last several years. The Yellow Jackets are going to more of a running game under Shuford.

"They still threw the ball 14 times against North Gaston last week," Hicks pointed out. "But you've got to understand that their linemen have been pass blocking for several years. It's going to take them some time to work into a run philosophy. I expect them to run a little more than they did last week and then run more and more as the season goes on and their players become accustomed to blocking for the run rather than the pass."

Beat 'The Best' In Pickin' Contest

By GARY STEWART

We're starting a new feature for this football season and we think you'll enjoy it.

Ye olde pigskin prognosticator is going to give area "guessperts" a chance to show their stuff against the self-proclaimed best sports sage of the age.

Each week during the grid campaign, three readers will be asked to go head-to-head with me in picking the winners of some of the top high school and college football games in the area.

This week, I've asked Herald General Manager Darrell Austin, Assistant Police Chief Bob Hayes and Superintendent of Schools Bob McRae to out-pick me. Hayes and McRae have been entering the Herald's

football contest for years and each week they're right up there amongst the leaders in the race for the \$100 prize. I figure they'll give me some stiff competition. I asked Austin to participate so I'll have at least one person I can beat. If Austin beats me, I'll give him a year's free subscription to the Kings Mountain Herald. If McRae beats me, I'll sneak him into the Kings Mountain home games this year. If Hayes beats me, I'll buy him a Highway Patrol steak (that's a hotdog and coke). I will pay up 'cause I don't want him coming after me with that Louisville slugger!

Anyone wanting to match wits with me sometime during this season, give me a call at 739-7496. I take on the best!

PIGSKIN PICKERS

Games Of September 1-2				
Bessemer City at Kings Mountain	Kings Mountain	Bessemer City	Kings Mountain	Kings Mountain
Ashbrook at South Point	Ashbrook	Ashbrook	Ashbrook	Ashbrook
North Gaston at East Gaston	E. Gaston	E. Gaston	E. Gaston	E. Gaston
East Lincoln at South Iredell	E. Lincoln	E. Lincoln	S. Iredell	E. Lincoln
Hunter Huss at Shelby	Shelby	Shelby	Hunter Huss	Shelby
Lincolnton at West Lincoln	Lincolnton	Lincolnton	Lincolnton	Lincolnton
Crest at Burns	Burns	Burns	Burns	Burns
East Rutherford at Freedom	Freedom	East Ruth	East Ruth	East Ruth
RS Central at Chase	R-S Central	R-S Central	R-S Central	R-S Central
Gardner-Webb at Appalachian	ASU	ASU	ASU	ASU
Furman at Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Florida State at Southern Mississippi	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State	Florida State
Maryland at N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State	N.C. State
Duke at South Carolina	South Carolina	Duke University	Duke University	Duke University
E. Tennessee at Virginia Military Ins.	E. Tenn. State	E. Tenn. State	E. Tenn. State	E. Tenn. State

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\$8900

87 NISSAN SENTRA 4 DR.

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\$5300

Ron Gregory

Gerald (Red) Herndon

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