

Excitement In The 'Air'

KMHS Battles Mustangs Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will face yet another big, physical team Friday when they travel to East Lincoln for their third straight non-conference game.

The Mustangs of the Big Six 3-A Conference will be similar to Canton Pisgah in their size and style of attack but, like Kings Mountain, they lost a lot of players off last year's team and are rebuilding.

Both teams carry 1-1 records into the 8 p.m. contest. East Lincoln, which was 8-2 last season, defeated West Lincoln in its opener two weeks ago but lost to a South Iredell, one of the state's top-ranked 3-A teams, last week. Kings Mountain opened with a 35-7 loss at Canton Pisgah but rebounded last week to blank 2-A Bessemer City 33-0.

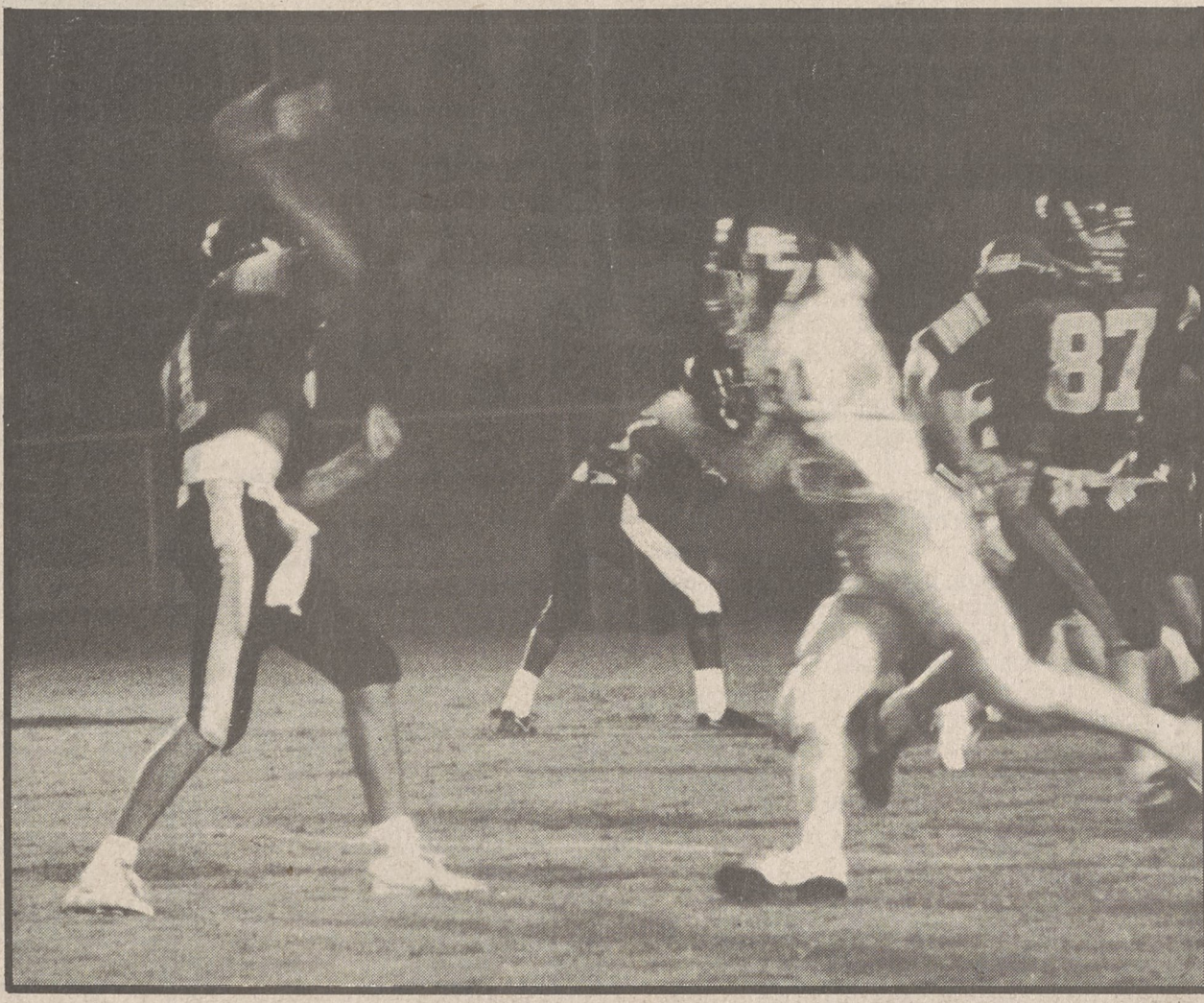
"Offensively, they run exactly the same thing as Canton Pisgah," says KMHS Coach Denny Hicks. "Personnel-wise, they're very similar to Bessemer City except they run a split back veer and hit the line of scrimmage much quicker. I'm sure they're going to test us. They'll run that hard dive and wide veer and keep it with the quarterback once in a while, just like Pisgah did. They've seen our Pisgah film and they'll present us the same challenge. It will show us if we're getting any better."

Hicks said he's impressed with East Lincoln's quarterback, 155-pound senior James Vincent, and the size of their offensive and defensive lines.

"Vincent reminds me a lot of Jerry Jordan, who played with us in 1985 and '86," said Hicks. "He's their quarterback, plays in the secondary and is just a fine all-around good player."

Tackle James Lunsford, a 6-6, 308-pounder, is the biggest Mustang in the East Lincoln stable and Hicks

See East, Page 5-B



GOING TO THE AIR - Kings Mountain High quarterback Ryan Hollifield (11) goes to the airways for one of his five completions for 195 yards in Friday's non-conference football game with Bessemer City at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium. Number 87 for Kings Mountain is Daniel Honeycutt, who caught two of Hollifield's passes for 87 yards and one touchdown. The Mountaineers won 33-0.

Passes Too Much For BCHS, 33-0

After a ho-hum first half in which Kings Mountain's Mountaineers held only a 6-0 lead over 2-A Bessemer City, Coach Denny Hicks and staff decided to put some excitement in the air.

Senior quarterback Ryan Hollifield threw touchdown passes of 55 and 33 yards on KM's first two plays of the third period and the Mountaineers went on to win 33-0 and even their season's record at 1-1. Bessemer City fell to 0-2.

Hollifield, a senior who is recognized as one of the area's top passing quarterbacks, finished the night with 6-of-10 passes for 195 yards. He hit all four of his passing attempts in the second half and threw three touchdowns.

The Mountaineers, coming off an embarrassing 35-7 season's opening loss at Canton Pisgah, couldn't move the ball on the ground against the big Bessemer City defensive line, but some members of the coaching staff noticed in the first half that BC's secondary was playing deep and they felt like that was opening the middle up for Hollifield's passes.

After D.J. Williams returned the second half kickoff to the 45, the Mountaineers immediately went to the air. Hollifield hit tight end Brent Wilson on a short pass across the middle and he out-raced the BC defense to the endzone to make the score 12-0. The extra point kick was blocked.

On their next possession, Hollifield hit end Daniel Honeycutt on a short pass across the middle and the senior standout cut to the sideline and raced 33 yards for another TD. In just two plays in the second half, the Mountaineers had covered 98 yards while increasing its lead from 6-0 to 20-0 and taking the Yellow

See Passes, 2-B

Booters Tie Ashbrook 2-2

Kings Mountain High's soccer team tied Ashbrook's junior varsity in a non-conference match last Thursday at Ashbrook.

The Mountaineers, 1-0-1, were scheduled to host Crest in their first ever home match last night at John Gamble Stadium. The Mounties host Hibriten in their first Western Piedmont Conference game next Monday at 7 p.m. and host R-S Central Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Kings Mountain built a 2-0 lead against Ashbrook. Keo Chanthaphaeng and John Forrest scored the KM goals and Chanthaphaeng and Chris Henson each had an assist.

"They out-played us in the first half but we led 2-0 and then we out-played them in the second half but they came back to tie the game on a penalty kick and corner kick," said KMHS Coach Dan Potter. "We missed a penalty kick and several other scoring opportunities. Their goal keeper made some great saves."

"I was pleased that we've improved so much," said Potter. "We scrimmaged Ashbrook earlier and they whipped us pretty good. They weren't expecting us to be this good."



SWATTING A YELLOW JACKET - Kings Mountain's Jon Reid brings Bessemer City running back Travis Jones (40) down in Friday's non-conference football game at Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium. Other Mountaineers making pursuit are Daryl

Gash (33), Scott Hopper (44) and Reggie Moss (67). The Mountaineers went to a passing attack in the second half to break open a close game and post a 33-0 victory. The Mountaineers, 1-1, travel to East Lincoln this week.

Jayvees Open Up Thursday

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity football team will open its season Thursday at home against East Lincoln's Mustangs. Game time is 7 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium.

East Lincoln, which was unbeaten last year, brings a 1-1 record into the game. The Mustangs defeated West Lincoln 44-0 in their opener and fell to a powerful South Iredell team 6-0 last week.

"I feel like East Lincoln probably has one of the better junior varsity teams in the area," says new KMHS head coach John Bumgardner. "We're going to have to play good ball and execute well."

The jayvee Mountaineers have already suffered some losses even before taking the field. Bumgardner started the year with 30 players but is down to 22 now. Some players quit during pre-season practice and some others were found to be academically ineligible.

"We don't know how we'll match up with East Lincoln talent-wise," said Bumgardner. "We haven't had a chance to see them play. But we've been improving every day

See Jayvees, 2-B

KM Fans Catching The Excitement Of Soccer

ED. NOTE - Eric Faust, coach of the Kings Mountain Junior High soccer team, contributed this article to help fans better understand the new sport.

A new sport is sparking lots of enthusiasm and interest in Kings Mountain: Soccer! In most other countries this exciting game is played and is called "football." Yes, the same name as our much enshrined American football, but oh so different. Soccer is played 99% of the time with the foot. American football fans are very familiar with the huddle, line of scrimmage, the quarterback's count, the pile up, the forward pass, an occasional kick, and the huddle up again, oh, it's a time out, to catch ones breath. When we see a non-stop soccer game, we are a bit puzzled.

Soccer has no huddles or time-outs. The players pass with their feet, knees, bodies, and receive long punts with their heads. The players slide, race, constantly make new strategy, exhibit fearless abandon, shrewd fakes, and constant teamwork. A soccer game contains all that is exciting, and more. Yes, another name for the game could be, "excitement."

When the game begins, look for the players stationed about the field in their positions. Each position is strategic to the game. The goalkeeper, or goalie, or keeper, stays in front of the goal which he is defending. He is the only player allowed to use his hands on the field. He is dressed differently than the rest of the team, and usually is fearless in the face of careening balls and kicking feet. He keeps the opponents shots out of the goal.

Fullbacks are the defenders who are the last line of resistance before the opponents reach the keeper. They usually won't score much, in fact, they may not get very far onto the opponents side of the field. Their purpose is to stop the opponents and drive the ball up to mid-field, to their offensive players. It is a vital job.

Mid-fielders, or half-backs, race up and down the field acting as both last ditch fullbacks or goal-hungry forwards. Mid-fielders use their heads in more ways than one. Their job is in the middle of the field (now wasn't that obvious?), playing tenaciously both defense and offense. Their job on offense is to prepare the attack, gaining control of the ball in order to pass it to the forwards, for their drive to a score.

Forwards are spread from side-

line to sideline, in the line of offensive players who work down to the goal. Their job is to take the ball past the opponents and kick it in the goal. The players along the sidelines are called "wings," those toward the center of the field are called "inside forwards" or "center forwards." One of these may be designated by the coach as "striker." This player has wisdom, strategy, skill, and stamina to play where needed all over the field.

Imagine now, the game has been zipping back and forth, and all of a sudden your favorite wing breaks behind the fullbacks toward the goal and receives a long kick from a mid-fielder. The referee quickly raises his orange and white flag, blows his whistle, "Offside!" The other team gets the ball and gets to kick it with no challenge (a "free kick") "Offside? What's that?"

"What is offside?" is one of the most frequently asked questions for a new spectator of soccer. This infraction occurs when a player without the ball on the attacking team runs behind the defenders, so that there are less than two defending players between the offensive player and the goal. It doesn't matter how far away from the goal the player, which makes it somewhat confusing for the initiate. If all the fullbacks are playing up at mid-field, then a forward who runs behind them, again without the ball, is called offside. Now, if your player dribbles behind them, or if another player kicks the ball behind the opponents fullbacks, then the forward can race like the wind to get the ball, even if there is only the keeper present, that is not offside, that is a darn good play.

"Hand ball" is another common

infraction, which is not quite as complicated. Any player who touches the ball intentionally with hand or arm will lose the ball and the other team gets a free kick. If this happens within your own penalty box, in front of the goal which your team is defending, then the other team gets a penalty kick. That's usually bad for your team.

"Out-of-bounds," naturally means you kicked it out of bounds and the other team gets the ball at that point. The opponent throws it in (yep! that's right, they pick that round spheroid up and throw it with their hands.) The throw in is not tossed just any way at all, it must be thrown with both hands over the head with both feet on the ground. It's not all that easy. The next time wife is hurling a can-

See Soccer, Page 3B