# ΚM

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then we held them just three or four inches away from the goal line. Those two plays certainly set everything going in another direction."

The 14-0 halftime lead was enough to get the Mountaineers pumped up, but what was to come early in the second half completely drove the final nail in South Point's coffin.

D.J. Williams took the second half kickoff at the goal line and raced down the South Point sidelines 100 yards. Scottie Hopper's PAT from placement made it 21-0. Moments later, South Point had to punt from inside its own five and KM's Daniel Honeycutt returned the punt for a touchdown. Hopper added the PAT again and with just over a minute gone in the second half the score had doubled to 28-0.

"It was so enjoyable to see us produce so many points out of our kicking game," Hicks said. "Three or four weeks ago we mentioned that we thought our kicking game was ready to explode. We knew we had the skill and we work on the kicking game every day and it finally paid off for us. That's really what broke the game wide open.

'To finally see our kicking game produce was very gratifying," he added. "Sometimes you get a little depressed when you spend so much extra time on something and it doesn't produce like you want it to, but it's a great feeling when you see all that hard work come together."

The Mountaineers added their final two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, scoring on a two-yard run by fullback Jeff Lockhart and a 28-yard run around end by Williams. Hopper added the points-after from placement.

The Mountaineer offense had its best showing since an early-season victory over East Lincoln. In fact, in the last two games and in three of their first five games, the Mounties had been held to less than 100 yards rushing. But Saturday they had 194 yards in 42 carries and added 111 more in the air on two completions in five attempts.

Meanwhile, the defense completely shut down South Point's lethal weapon, Willie Strain. He had rushed for over 800 yards in the first six Raider games but KM held him to 45 yards in 15 carries. He had only nine yards rushing and minus six yards of total offense in the second half. He caught one pass for minus

For the game, South Point was held to 69 yards rushing in 30 attempts and added 121 yards with a 11for-20 passing performance. But the Mountaineers picked off three Raider passes and recovered two fumbles.

"That was probably one of the most complete football games we've ever played," said Coach Hicks. "We had exceptional production from all phases of the game.'

The veteran KM mentor said he's known all along that the Mountaineers had the talent to play that kind of football, but he was surprised that the team was able to beat a solid South Point team by such a huge mar-

"We felt good about our defense going in, but had no thoughts of holding Strain to the yardage he got," said Hicks. "We really didn't think we could shut them out. We felt like we'd have to score two or three times to beat them because they're a very strong football team with good running backs and a good offensive line. We felt like we wouldn't have a lot of cracks at scoring and felt like they'd punch one or two touchdowns in. But we felt like we could win the ballgame. We just didn't feel like it would be that lop-sided.'

The 42-0 score was the most lop-sided ever in the KM-South Point series. It was the first time either team has scored over 40 points in the series, although both teams had scored in the high 30's several times.

It was the first time South Point had been held scoreless in three years. The Raiders had scored in each of their last 29 games.



PETIE MCNEAL Scores on 99-yard pass reception

Burns

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cheap in the kicking game, will win. And if we play like we played last Saturday at South Point, we can beat them."

Hicks said the key to KM's impressive back-to-back victories over R-S Central and South Point was a positive attitude on the part of the players.

"When we came out of the East Lincoln game, it was a big victory but we had a lot of people injured," he recalled. "We lost our quarterback and there was a lot of talk about it and we went over to Crest and played a real fine team, but didn't play well at all and lost big. We had people blaming each other and we told our kids we were tired of hearing it, that they could either let it get them down and take the low road or take the hard road and

four more turnovers than you have you're running 12 extra plays a game even if you don't pick up a

Maintaining possession of the ball this week will be a must for first down," Hicks said. "Twelve extra plays add up to about an extra quarter of football. We've got enough skill that, if we can maintain the ball when we're supposed to, that we can control the football game. Turnovers cost us two ballgames. There's no doubt about that. That's probably the bottom line as to why we were so successful last week.'

the Mountaineers because Burns has one of the most dangerous runners in the SWC in tailback Donnie Malachi. He's leading the conference in scoring and is second to South Point's Willie Strain in rushing.

'They're the most solid team I've seen at every position, but quite obviously Malachi is their biggest threat," Hicks said. "He can score on you anytime he touches the football. He's a different type runner than Strain in that he's a speed runner. He has great eyes and if we give him the running lanes or get caught out of position, he'll hurt us.

he's going to present problems. We have to keep him running right and left and not north and south.'

The Bulldogs' offensive line resembles a college team. All of the down linemen, both on offense and defense, are over 6-3 and 250 pounds each.

"With our small defensive people, they can get tied up underneath those folks and not even see Malachi," Hicks said. "Our slant people up front are going to have to get their hits on people and fill homecoming but hopes the activithe running lanes and be in a posi-

If he gets into the secondary free, tion to move left and right and keep him from turning upfield.

"On defense, they just turn the same people over and put those really big people up front and just stack in there on you and try to control your front people and keep their linebackers free," Hicks said. "Our people responsible for the linebackers are going to have to do the best job they've done all year. If we don't block their linebackers, we can't beat them.'

Hicks said he's been kidded a lot for scheduling the Bulldogs for ties and the Mountaineers' big

## How They Did It

**KM SP** First downs 9 13 Yds. Rushing 194 69 Passes 2-5 11-20-3 Yds. Passing 111 121 Fumbles lost 1 2 Punts 4-36 5-32 Yds. Pen. 55 35

By quarters: KM 014 14 14 --42 SP 0 0 0 0 --0

### Scoring:

KM - McNeal, 99-pass from McClain (Kick failed) KM - McClain, 1-run (Bell run) KM - Williams, 100-kickoff return (Hopper kick) KM - Honeycutt, 30-punt return (Hopper kick) KM - Lockhart, 2-run (Hopper kick) KM - Williams, 28-run (Hopper kick)

#### RUSHING

KM - Williams 8-55, Moore 7-36, Lockhart 8-28, Bell 4-25, McClain 13-21, Ross 1-20, Hopper 2-5, Gash 1-4.

SP - Young 9-(-10), W. Strain 15-45, J. Strain 8-33, Adams 1-1, Woods 1-0.

PASSING KM - McClain 2-5-0-111. SP - Young 11-20-3-121. RECEIVING

KM - McNeal 1-99; Brooks 1-12.

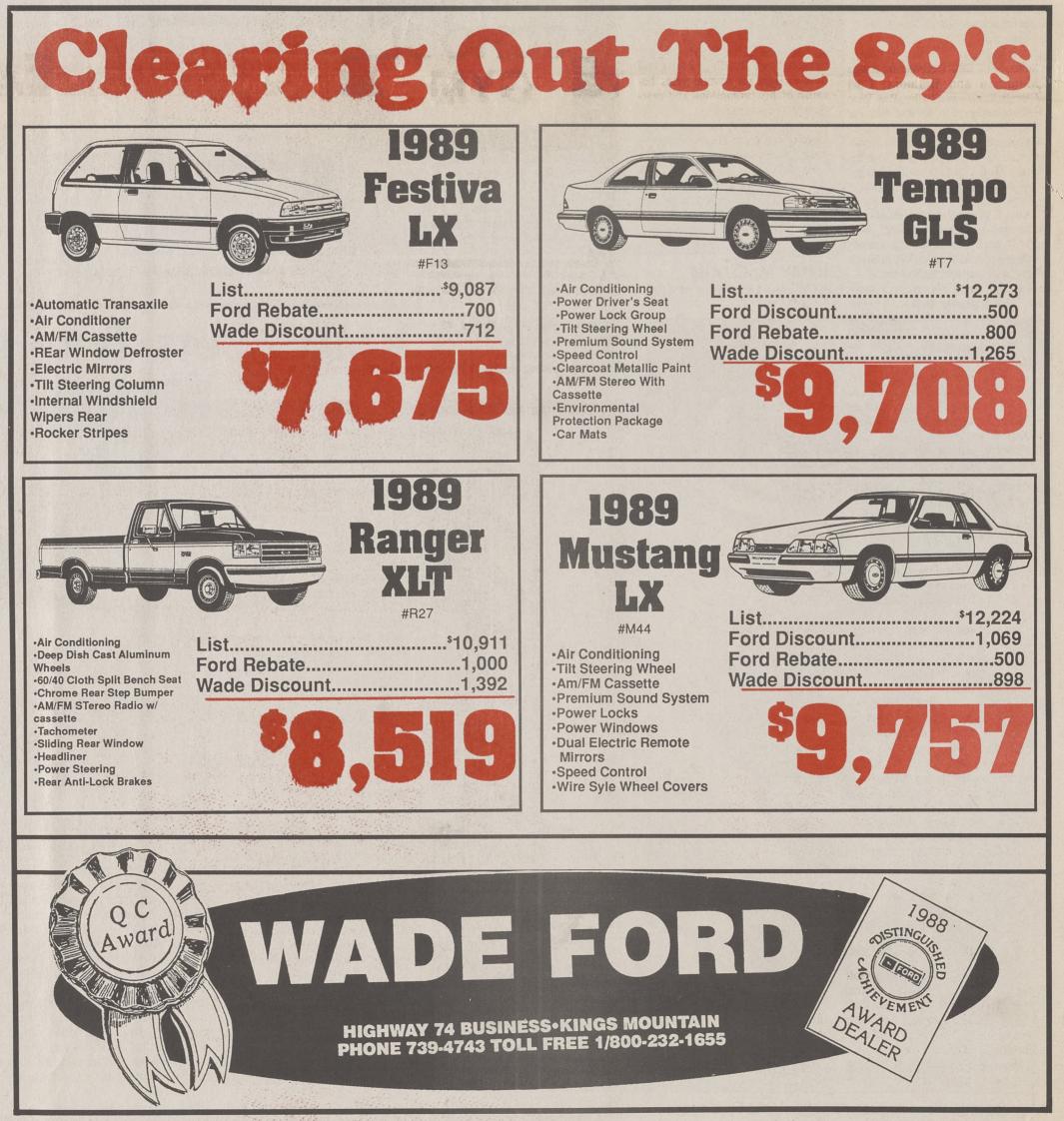
SP - Rumfelt 3-60, D. Wilson 3-54, L. Wilson 2-23, Hunt 2-9, W. Strain 1-(-15).

turnaround over the last two weeks will work together to give KM the

"It's a big time for everybody," he said. "I just hope our players keep it in the proper perspective. Their concentration has to be on the football game. I really feel like if they put their minds to it they can handle it."

Hicks said the Mountaineers will be at full speed physically.

"When you play the way our kids played last Saturday you usually stay away from injuries," he said. "Injuries occur when you're not going at full speed.'



make something good happen.

"I think our kids have taken the hard road," he added. "They played a real good game against R-S Central and played an even better game last Saturday at South Point. Our kids showed a lot of character by trying to make something good come out of all the distractions and injuries we had in that two-week span."

Another big key to the turnaround was the consistency of the offense and lack of turnovers. Kings Mountain lost only one fumble in last week's game while South Point lost two fumbles and had three passes picked off by the KM secondary.

"We were plus four in the turnover department, and anytime you can force your opponent into

## **McAbee** Contest Winner

Kenny McAbee of Kings Mountain picked 15 of 18 winners to take the \$100 prize in last week's Herald football contest.

McAbee was one of seven contestants to get 16 correct but he came closer to the tie-breaking score of 42 points scored in the KM-South Point game. McAbee predicted 47 points.

Others missing just three games but losing out on the tie-breaker were Jeffrey Stokes Gladden of Kings Mountain, William Leach of Kings Mountain, Donna Gingles of Kings Mountain, Tommy Frederick of Vale, Tedd Mauney of Kings Mountain, and Steve Hamrick of Kings Mountain.

McAbee's misses were Kings Mountain over South Point, Garinger over Ashbrook and West Caldwell over Lincolnton.

The seventh of 10 weekly contests is inside today's Herald. Pick the most winners and get us your entry by 4 p.m. Friday and you'll join McAbee in the winner's circle. Mail your entry to Herald Football Contest, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086, or bring it by our office on East King Street at Canterbury Road.