

Shelby

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they've done," he said. "We feel like the kids achieved a lot more than anybody ever thought they would."

"We were picked to finish fifth but finished in second place. In the first round of the playoffs, we played one of the top four teams in North Carolina and played one of the best high school football games I've ever seen. We beat a good Burns team twice. I think that speaks real well of our kids and the effort and hard work they put in."

Hicks said it's easy to get teams up for the state playoffs.

"They play at a higher level of proficiency in the playoffs," he said. "We had a great bunch of young men and the coaches really enjoyed working with them. We had the best parent support we've had in a long time. I think the kids felt real close to each other."

The Mountaineers played at their best during mid-season, when they knocked off R-S Central 11-6, South Point 42-0 and Burns 20-6 on consecutive weeks. During that time they had a turnover ratio of plus 16. In two games against Burns, which was the pre-season choice to win the SWC, the Mountaineer defense forced 12 turnovers.

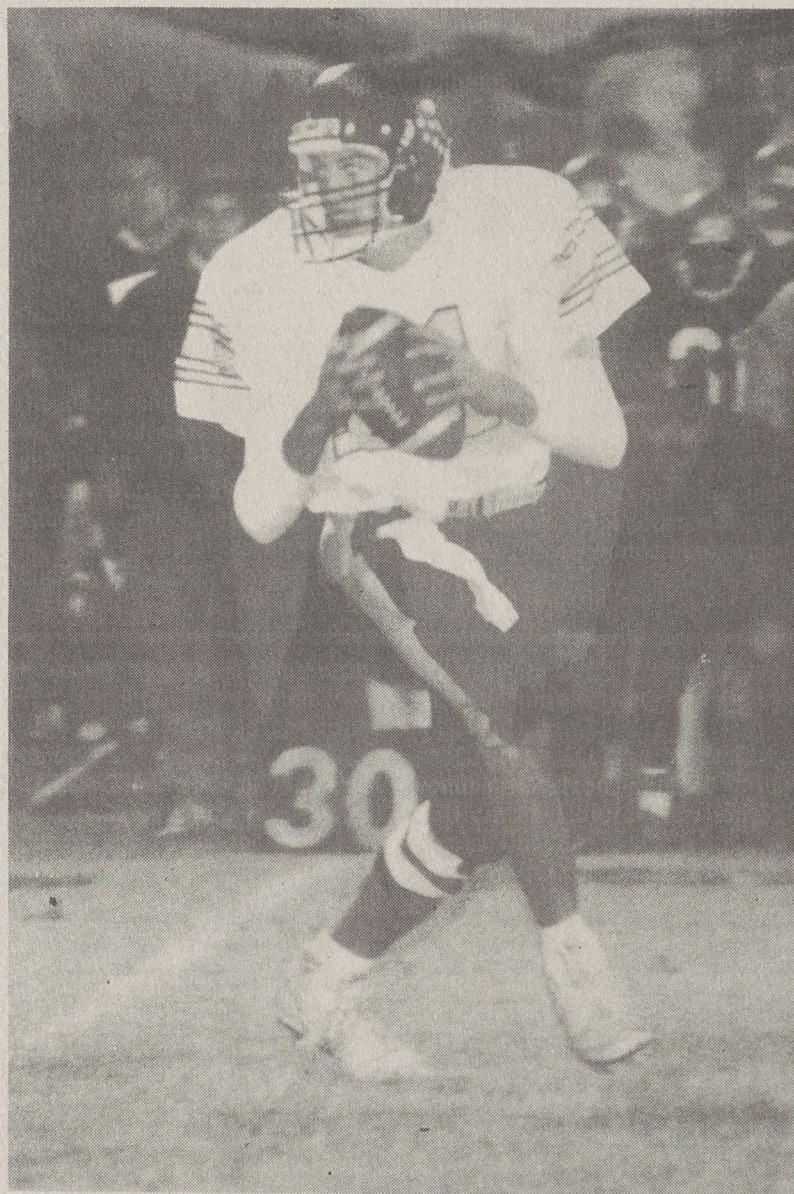
Kings Mountain players set three school records during the season. Petie McNeal caught a 99-yard touchdown pass from Timmy McClain in the victory over South Point and also set a school mark for pass interceptions with 11. D.J. Williams returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown against South Point.

The Mountaineers were small but had perhaps the quickest team they've ever had. They had a well-balanced running attack, led by Williams, Victor Bell, Jeff Lockhart and Darryl Gash, had one of the most exciting punt and kick-off return teams anywhere, led by speedster Darius Ross and Daniel Honeycutt, had a better-than-average high school passing attack featuring Ryan Hollifield and Timmy McClain, and had their usual tough defense.

But one of the most pleasing areas to Hicks and his staff was the offensive line, which had to be completely rebuilt after last year. It progressed steadily each game and by the season's end was as strong as any line Kings Mountain's had in years.

"Jon Reid, Quan Smith, Steve Robbins, Reggie Moss and Greg Beckwith formed our interior line," Hicks said. "When we started out the season that was our weakest area. But by the end of the season it was probably one of our strongest areas. All of them worked hard and Coaches Bruce Clark and Chuck Gordon did a super job with them. It was a real solid offensive line by the end of the season. "The production of our fullbacks and tailbacks in the state playoffs speaks well of the offensive line," he added. "Our line did a great job of pass protection Friday night and Shelby's probably one of the toughest teams to pass protect against. The line gave us the opportunity to get things done, we just missed a couple passes and dropped a couple."

Except for tight end Brent Wilson, who also came on strong



KM QUARTERBACK RYAN HOLLIFIELD
Looks for someone to throw to in Friday's loss

as the season progressed, the Mountaineer coaches will have to rebuild the line again next year.

"We graduate 14 seniors and the biggest area we'll be hurt is the line," Hicks said. "We also lose some good players in the skill areas, including Petie McNeal, Daniel Honeycutt and Ryan Hollifield."

"Daniel was a great all-around player," he said. "He contributed in so many areas. Petie was probably our number four defensive back last year but came in and turned out to be our most productive defensive back, and also did a great job on offense. In the playoffs, Petie and Daniel both played exceptional."

"Ryan never got the opportunity to reap the benefits of all of his hard work," Hicks added, "but he was very important to our football team. He was very instrumental in two wins in our first three games, and having him back for the playoffs was definitely a plus for us. He's one of the biggest reasons we were successful in the first two rounds of the playoffs."

"Darryl Gash was an excellent inside linebacker and fullback, and he'll be missed too," Hicks added. "We haven't had a real hard running and blocking fullback here in quite a while and Darryl was kind of coming into his own and doing the things a well-rounded fullback should do, and that's to get the tough yards and block real well and every once in a while get a big play."

As far as talent, Hicks said this year's team was as good as the 1985 and '86 teams that qualified for the state playoffs.

"The people at the skilled positions put this team in a position to

rank right up there with the top teams we've had," he said. "Our biggest problem this year was depth. Our depth situation was the worst we've ever had. We couldn't stand to lose one or two starters."

"But this was the best feed we've had since we've been here. That's the biggest area that would make this team potentially as strong as any we've had."

"The 1985 and '86 teams were good, solid, hard-nosed football players," he said. "They executed well and never played in a panic. The thing they did was play with consistency. If we'd had the speed then that we had this year it would have been hard to say how far those two teams would have gone. Both of those teams had good depth and when one person would get banged up another one would come in and hold down that spot."

"We had real good team speed this year," he went on. "If we had executed well all of the time we could have hurt some folks."

Hicks said he's somewhat depressed this week after spending 18 to 20 weeks with the players.

"This is probably the most difficult time of the year for players and coaches," he said. "We've gone through four weeks of practice and two weeks of mini camp and a 13-week football season and it's been a lot of hard work and long hours. We'll probably take a week off and after the Christmas break start getting back at it again and see if we can't develop another pretty good team for next year. The basic potential is there. We'll have to find some offensive linemen again but most of our skill people are back and should be better. If they come back motivated and want to do better we should have another pretty good football team."

Wally's Back In First

Wally's swept Johnny's 4-0 to regain the lead in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Tuesday night at Dilling Heating.

Wally's now has a 25-23 record, followed by Johnny's and Lib's at 24-24 and John's at 23-25.

Betty Hullender's 120 line and Janet Parker's 304 set led Wally's. Johnny Dye had a 134 line and 353 set and R.W. Hullender a 130 line and 355 set for the losers.

In another match, John's and Lib's split 2-2. Jim Hardy grabbed scoring honors for the night with a 148 line and 403 set for John's. John Dilling added a 131-362. Jack Barrett had a 163 line and 394 set and Lib Gault a 134-389 for Lib's.

R.W. Hullender turned in his highest career set last Tuesday night as Johnny's swept John's 4-0 to knock John's out of first place.

Hullender had single games of 149, 117 and 155 for a 421 series. Judy Hardy added a 128 line and 359 set for the winners. John Dilling had a 142 line and 402 set and Jim Hardy added a 117-341 for John's.

In other action last week, Lib's won three of four from Wally's. Lib Gault had a 118 line and 339 set and Jack Barrett added a 112-320 for the winners. Wally Mocanu had a 118 line and 324 set and Betty Hullender a 111-305 for the losers.

The Moanbacks swept the B.A.M.S. to move within four games of the first place Bloomers in Mixed Duckpin Bowling League action Thursday night at Dilling Heating.

The Bloomers have a 28-20 record, followed by the Moanbacks and Mofos at 24-24 and the B.A.M.S. at 20-28.

Balanced scoring was the key for the Moanbacks as all four team members topped the 300-set mark. John Caveny led the way with a 131 line and 362 series. Dan Dilling added a 350, Joann Myers 314 and Johnny Jones 306. Alan

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Mounties

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Feemster added 12.

"Their rebounding was a big help for us," said Funderburke. "Going in, we didn't know if we had someone who could stay on the boards with the girls we were playing. They have a Division One college prospect in Tammy Wilson and I thought she was going to give

us a really tough time. But Suzette Feemster stood her ground well against her and held her to 11 points."

Kings Mountain's boys jumped out to a 16-9 first quarter lead and held the upper hand the rest of the way. The Mountaineers led by 33-28 at intermission and 43-34 going into the final eight minutes.

Daniel Honeycutt led the KM scoring with 15 points. Mark Byers added 12 and Era Vaughn 10. Laloyd Boyd scored 12 for Clover.

GIRLS GAME

KM (53) - Suzette Feemster 16,

Nicole Barnes 14, Tessie Ruff 9, Carmen Smith 6, Kathy Jo Brady 6, Dawn Hardin 3.

CL (46) - Keisha Myles 14, Tammy Wilson 11, Nicole Williams 6, Sherer Gordon 7, Tamika Tims 2.

BOYS GAME

KM (58) - Daniel Honeycutt 15, Mark Byers 12, Era Vaughn 10, Darian Hager 8, Tony Currence 5, Petie McNeal 4, Roderick McClain 3, Darius Ross 1.

CL (49) - Laloyd Boyd 12, Rodney Adams 9, Craig Wright 9, Bailey Jackson 8, Lamont Hall 6, Carlos Philson 3, Pete Tate 2.

Year

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Kings Mountain missed another scoring opportunity after the Lion

How They Did It

	KM	S
1st downs	6	18
Yds. rushing	77	266
Passes	6-17	5-7
Yds. passing	118	58
Punts	2-28	1-34
Fumbles lost	0	2
Yds. penalized	25	25

By quarters:	T
KM	0 0 14 0 --14
SH	7 7 0 6 --20

S - Brooks 1-run (Pauley kick)
S - Jeter 5-run (Pauley kick)
KM - Ross 96 kickoff return (Honeycutt kick)

KM - Lockhart 5 run (Honeycutt kick)

S - Thompson 6 run (Kick failed)

RUSHING
KM - Bell 16-58. S - Brooks 23-158.

PASSING
KM - Hollifield 6-16-118; S - Jeffords 5-7-58.

RECEIVING
KM - McNeal 3-77; S - Thompson 4-47.

KM Jayvees Whip Clover

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity football team defeated Clover 44-28 in its season opener Tuesday afternoon at Clover.

Marquiz Williamson scored 18 points and Tahvan Williams 12 for the Mountaineers. Diron Bell scored eight points and Sean Grier, Jerry Black and Freddy Adams two each.

score. McNeal made a diving catch of a 36-yard pass by Hollifield to put KM at the Shelby 24. Bell gained seven yards to the 17 but the Shelby defense stiffened and KM turned the ball over on downs with 7:50 to play.

Shelby's offense went to work again and ran all but two minutes off the clock before the Mountaineers were able to stop them at the KM 20. KM managed to work the ball to the 31 before the clock ran out.

The Mountaineers were at less than full strength as fullback-linebacker Darryl Gash was held out of the game because of a glandular problem, and Jeff Lockhart was playing despite a week-long bout with the flu. But Coach Hicks didn't use that as an excuse.

"It was as good a high school

football game as you could see," Hicks said. "And that's what you shoot for. Our kids tried to win and gave us the kind of effort it takes to win. You wish you could win them all but the bottom line is that you try to instill in your players to give it their best shot so they can feel good about it. Our kids don't have any reason to hang their heads. They're really disappointed but they can feel really good about the way they played."

The Mountaineers had finished second to Shelby in the regular season with a 6-4 overall record. The Mountaineers stunned the state's fourth-ranked 3-A team, Smoky Mountain, 37-36 in five overtimes in the opening round of the playoffs, then blanked Burns 13-0 in the second round to earn a second shot at Shelby. Shelby had beaten East Henderson and Canton Piggah in its first two playoff games.

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