



**MOUNTAINEER BACKS** - These three backs will see a lot of action for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers when they open their football season Friday at Canton Pisgah. Quarterback Andy Hollifield (12) hands the football off to fullback Eugene Morgan (33). The tailback is D.J. Williams (42). Friday's game begins at 7:30 p.m.

**KM FOOTBALL**

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slack. The front people will be the same, so everybody will just have to work a little bit harder on returns."

Hicks and his assistants are anxious to see how the Mountaineer line performs under fire. The line is young but has a lot of talent and Hicks said he's pleased with the progress it has made.

"I think the people that saw both of our scrimmages last week will be very pleased with the progress we made from the first scrimmage to the first half of the second one," he said. "We got after it pretty good and the defense got after it good the whole scrimmage. The offense seemed to take a little break in the second half of the second scrimmage, and that concerns me a little bit, but we still made a complete turnaround from what we'd looked like the first of the week. If we can improve that much each week we've got a good chance to develop into a good football team. We still have a long way to go and we still need to play a lot better as a team. We need to get everybody playing hard at the same time.

"We saw a lot of bright spots, which is really encouraging," he added. "We found a couple of kids that can play that we weren't sure about before. If they continue to come around and some others keep coming on we may develop a good offensive line."

The Mountaineers' line includes one returning starter, three others that same action last year and three newcomers. Tight end Brenton Wilson is the returnee. Players who lettered last year and

have moved into a starting position this year are center Chuck Bridges, guard Jon Hicks and tackle Brandon White. White started on defense last year. Newcomers are James Howard at guard, Tony Young at tackle and Scottie Hopper and Mike Byers at receivers. Many others are expected to see a lot of action up front, including Jeff Rogers, Tyrone Mack and Max Washington at tight end, Shaun Grier, Kevin Moss, Demond Glenn and Marty Stevenson at wide receivers, Scott Pearson, Matt Rikard and Craig Hammett at center, Chris Davison, Tim Roseboro, and Jamie Goforth at guard, and John Watts, Shawn Pressley, Rico Strong and Kevin Strudwick at tackle.

Most of the offensive starters will also start on defense.

Hicks said one of the biggest surprises in the scrimmages last week was reserve fullback Eugene Morgan, who ran over tacklers. "We feel like he'll be able to play a lot and give Jeff Lockhart some breathers on offense so we don't have to take him off the defense," Hicks said.

Although Victor Bell is listed as the starting tailback, Hicks said he

and D.J. Williams, last year's starter, will probably play about an equal amount of time, and both will also be playing defense.

Others expected to play a lot in the backfield include quarterbacks Andy Hollifield and Diron Bell and running backs Troy Watson and Jermaine Grier.

The Mountaineers hope to run the option much more than they have in the past to take advantage of their outstanding speed. The key will be McClain at quarterback, who is playing at about 75 percent effectiveness now while trying to get over some back problems. "He's been bothered with muscle spasms ever since he's been with us but they seem to be worse early. Once he gets into the season he's okay."

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**VOLLEYBALL**

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as a hitter and played defense but will be a setter this year.

Others who will see a lot of action are Paula Eckard, a rising sophomore who will be a strong side hitter; ninth grader Christie Robbs, who will see some starting time as a middle blocker; Seng

Silaphet, a junior right side hitter; Courtney Goforth, who will run the back row defense and be a backup setter, and junior Angie Blanton, who will play several positions.

Coach Bridges said she will run a varsity and JV program with most of the younger players seeing action for both teams. Players who will play that role include Kellie Seawright, Kellie Hagans, Stacy Reynolds, Anita Whitaker,

Stephanie Jones, Randi Carroll and Holly Paul.

Thursday's matches at Enka will be for varsity only and will pit the Lady Mountaineers against two of the top teams in western North Carolina.

Next week's matches with R-S Central and Country Day will be for varsity and JV, with the JV matches being played first.

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