

# KM Sports

## How Sweet It Is! KM 17, Shelby 7

### KMHS To Play At NG

Kings Mountain High football coach Denny Hicks hopes his players won't take North Gaston lightly in this Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game at Dallas.

The Wildcats have only one victory to date, a 24-12 come-from-behind win over winless East Gaston, and they were blown out by East Rutherford 48-0 last week.

The Mountaineers, 2-2 in the SWC and 5-3 overall, can clinch a winning season in the conference and pretty much nail down third place with a victory.

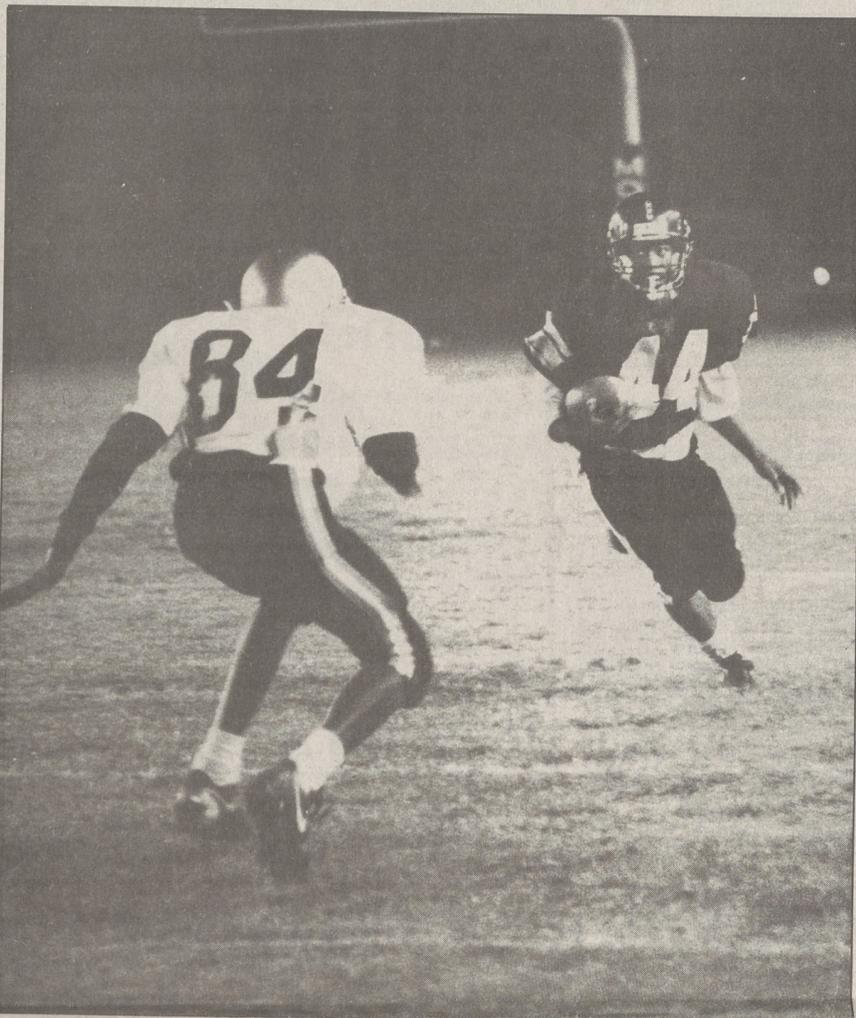
Despite their record, Hicks says the Wildcats have a lot of talent and are capable of playing good football if they put all phases of their game together.

"They're probably playing right now as well as we've seen them play in a while," said the KM mentor. "Our biggest concern is their speed. They have a couple of guys who are as fast as anybody in the Southwest Conference and if they ever just put everything together they could be dangerous."

Duane Ross, the state champion 110 high hurdler last year, is the Wildcats' big breakaway threat but they also have some other talented runners in tailbacks Robert Turner and Scott Littlejohn, and fullback Larry Traywick. Quarterback Neil Mintz is also a good runner.

"It seems like they're fumbling two or three times and throwing an interception or two a game," Hicks said. "They kind of been self-destructing. We're concerned that if we take them too lightly and they come in and put a good football game together that they will really be tough to contend with."

The Mountaineers put all phases of their game together for the first



**SCOTTIE SCOOTs ALONG** - Kings Mountain wide receiver Scottie Hopper (44) cuts up field for a good gain after catching a pass from Timmy McClain in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game with Shelby at John Gamble Stadium. Hopper had three receptions for 49 yards and one touchdown to help lead the Mountaineers to a 17-7 victory.

time last week, showing a well-balanced running and passing attack in a 17-7 victory over Shelby's Golden Lions. Hicks hopes to see that continue over the final two weeks of the season.

Kings Mountain's running attack

is paced by tailbacks Victor Bell and D.J. Williams and fullback Jeff Lockhart. Each one has over 400 yards rushing. Quarterback Timmy McClain also had some big runs against Shelby and had his best passing effort of the year, hitting five of eight attempts.

After this week, the Mountaineers will close out the season at home against East Rutherford's Cavaliers who have already clinched the top seed from the SWC. East, 5-0 in the conference and 8-1 overall, has an open date this week.

#### SWC STANDINGS

	Conf.	All
E. Rutherford	5-0	8-1
Burns	4-1	7-2
Kings Mtn.	2-2	5-3
R-S Central	2-2	5-3
Shelby	1-3	3-5
South Point	1-3	2-6
North Gaston	0-4	1-7

**THIS WEEK'S GAMES**  
Kings Mtn. at North Gaston  
R-S Central at Shelby  
South Point at Burns

### Ball Control, Defense Keys

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored on their first two possessions of the second half—consuming most of the third period in the process—to defeat arch rival Shelby 17-7 Friday night at John Gamble Stadium.

The victory assured the Mountaineers of a winning season while putting Shelby's back to the wall in its bid for a winning campaign. KM improved to 2-2 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and 5-3 overall while Shelby fell to 1-3 in the conference and 3-5 overall.

With both teams eliminated from the post-season playoffs, the only thing riding on the outcome was bragging rights. After losing two conference games they felt they could have won the Mountaineers wanted to show their fans they were capable of playing good football, Coach Denny Hicks said.

"It was homecoming and there were a lot of distractions during the week that could have been more harmful than good for our players," he said. "But we were at a point in the season that the kids knew we were supposed to be a real solid football team. We had stumped our toe real bad at R-S Central (a 27-0 KM loss) and had lost a heart-breaker at Burns (16-13). It was just a matter that the kids got focused on the ballgame and were more concerned with proving to themselves and the fans that they could play some good football. Everybody focused in on the job to be done and the result was a great football game."

The Mountaineer offense, which hasn't been consistent this year, showed early that it was going to be a good night and led the Mountaineers to their 13th straight win at home. KM hasn't lost a home game since falling to Hunter Huss in the first home game of the 1988 season.

Victor Bell ran the opening kickoff back to midfield and the Mountaineers marched to the Lion 13 before losing the ball on downs. Shelby came back to gain 45 of its 126 rushing yards on its first three carries of the night, but KM's defense adjusted and Shelby turned the ball over on downs.

The Mountaineers drove to the Shelby nine yard line before being faced with a fourth and four. Scottie Hopper booted a 26-yard field goal from the left hash mark for a 3-0 lead. Victor Bell's 48-yard run around left end put the Mountaineers in scoring position.

Shelby came back and grabbed 7-3 lead with 38 seconds remaining in the half on a five-yard run by Leroy Spikes. The Mountaineers had stopped the Lions three plays earlier on a fourth down run but a 15-yard face mask penalty gave Shelby new life.

The Lions went into the dressing room at intermission confident they could come back out in the second half and maintain the lead and continue their recent domination of the Mountaineers. But, in the second half the KM defense would limit the Lions to just 13 yards of offense on 18 plays and one first down, which was the result of a KM penalty. For the game, Shelby, which had been averaging 295 yards rushing per game, was held to 126 total yards and 0-for-10 in the passing department while Kings Mountain ran up 226 yards on the ground and hit on 5-of-8 passes for 67 yards.

Shelby ran only six plays in the third quarter. The Lions received the second half kickoff, ran three plays and punted, and the Mountaineers took over and marched 66 yards for what turned out to be the winning touchdown.

Normally a running team, the Mountaineers went to the air right off the bat. On first down, quarterback Timmy McClain hit a wide open Scottie Hopper for a 31-yard gain and a 15-yard penalty against Shelby for a late hit gave the Mounties a first down at the Lions' 18. D.J. Williams went around end

#### YARDSTICK

	SH	KM
First downs	6	14
Yds. rushing	127	226
Passes	0-10-1	5-8-0
Yds. Passing	0	67
Punts	5-35	3-31
Fumbles lost	1	1
Yds. penalized	35	73

By quarters: T  
SH 0 7 0 0 --7  
KM 3 0 14 0 --17

KM - Hopper 26 field goal.  
S - Spikes, 5 run (Pasco kick)  
KM - Lockhart, 6 run (Moss kick)  
KM - Hopper, 5 pass from McClain (Moss kick)

#### RUSHING

KM - Bell 12-88, Lockhart 17-56.  
S - Brooks 12-51, Wilson 9-46, Spikes 6-22.

#### PASSING

KM - McClain 5-8-0-67.

#### RECEIVING

KM - Hopper 3-49, Wilson 2-18.

for a 12-yard gain to set up a six-yard touchdown burst up the middle by fullback Jeff Lockhart. Kevin Moss added the PAT for a 10-7 Mountaineer lead.

After the kickoff, Shelby ran three plays and punted again and the Mountaineers marched 69 yards in 16 plays for the final touchdown. Bell, McClain, Lockhart and Williams took turns running the ball, and McClain hit Hopper on a five-yard pass for the touchdown with 1:53 remaining in the quarter.

Kings Mountain threatened two more times in the fourth period but lost a fumble at the Shelby 22 and lost the ball on downs at the two with less than a minute to play.

Coach Hicks called the showing by the KM offense "one of the best all-around efforts we've had all year. We're extremely pleased that it happened on homecoming against our #1 rival."

"We were the type of team Friday night that we had hoped to be three or four weeks ago," he said. "Everybody was trying to do the best they could and because of that things went real well for us."

Hicks said the offensive showing was even better than in 1985 and '86 when the Mountaineers beat Shelby by 7-0 and 14-7 scores.

"We probably moved the ball as consistently as we ever have against them," he said. "It speaks well of the offensive line and running backs. They were all working so hard that even during times that we made mistakes we got by with it. Everybody was trying hard to make things happen."

Hicks praised the defense for defending against Shelby's option "as well as we ever have. In our first game with them last year, they beat us in the second half with the option but our kids did a great job of stringing it out this time and keeping it from going for big yardage."

"We also did a much better job on their fullback (Johnny Brooks)," he added. "He beat us almost single handed in the state playoffs last year but we did a great job against him."

Hicks said another big key to the win was field position.

"We started almost every possession in great field position," he said. "It's so much easier to operate your offense when you've got field position. It gave us an opportunity to run our whole offense."

Hicks also praised the Kings Mountain fans, who packed the home side of the stadium and were in the game from the outset.

"I know the kids are tickled to death," he said. "The fans stuck

See Football, 3-B

### East, Burns Clinch Playoff Berths

Now, it's official!

Regardless of what happens over the final two weeks of the Southwestern 3-A Conference football season, East Rutherford and Burns will represent the conference in the upcoming state 3-A playoffs.

That was officially decided on the field last Friday night when East Rutherford blanked North Gaston 47-0 and Burns defeated R-

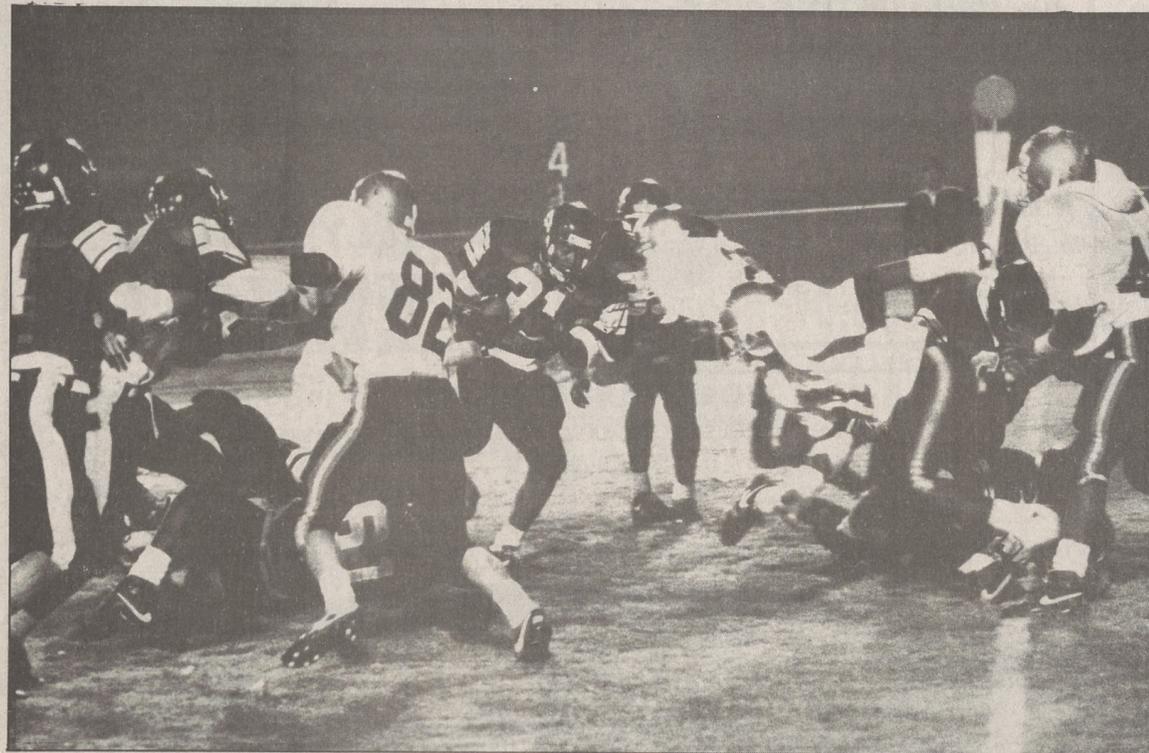
S Central 31-0.

East now has a 5-0 conference and 8-1 overall mark and has clinched the #1 playoff seed. The Cavaliers have an open date this week and close out the regular season on Fri., Nov. 2 at Kings Mountain.

Burns is 4-1 in the conference and 7-2 overall. The Bulldogs host South Point this week and are idle next week.

Even if both teams lose their final game, the two teams will still go to the playoffs because both have defeated the only other teams that can possibly tie for second place--Kings Mountain, R-S Central and Shelby.

East can finish no lower than a tie for first place and Burns can finish no lower than a tie for second place.



**RUNNING OUT THE CLOCK** - Kings Mountain's Troy Watson (31) runs the ball up the middle as the Mountaineers run out the clock inside the 10 yard line in Friday's Southwestern 3-A

Conference football game at KM's John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers scored two touchdowns in the third quarter for a 17-7 victory.