

KM Sports



ANOTHER BELL RINGER - Reserve running back Diron Bell (9) picks up some good yardage for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game at North

Gaston. Coach Dennis Hicks was able to play all of his players in the big 33-0 victory. Kings Mountain closes out its season Friday at 8 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium against East Rutherford's Cavaliers.

Cavaliers Here Friday Night For Final Game

It will be "role reversal" time Friday when Kings Mountain's Mountaineers host East Rutherford's Cavaliers in the final football game of the 1990 season.

A year ago, the Mountaineers were flying high and preparing to go into the state 3-A playoffs when they were embarrassed 48-14 at East Rutherford in the final regular season game. East, which finished 7-3, had played outstanding football but because of narrow losses to Shelby, Burns and South Point had no chance to make the playoffs.

This year, the Mountaineers have played outstanding football but an unexpected 27-0 loss at R-S Central and a tough 16-13 setback at Burns have eliminated them from post-season play. East Rutherford, though, has the top playoff seed wrapped up.

Coach Dennis Hicks and his Mountaineers would love to repay East Rutherford for last year's loss. Hicks doesn't expect the Mountaineers to beat the Cavaliers 48-14 but he knows if his men play as well as they're capable of playing they can beat the SWC champions.

"Quite obviously, they are the premiere team in the league," Hicks said. "They do a lot of things extremely well on offense and defense. They caused us problems the last two years and they just totally embarrassed us last year."

East Rutherford, 5-0 in the conference and 8-1 overall, is not as big as they've been in past years but Hicks says they're much quicker. "I think speed always outperforms just pure size," he said.

The Cavaliers played well early

in the season but they really began to shine after their first and second string quarterbacks were injured and third stringer Dennis Logan took control of the team.

"He has added a whole new dimension to their offense," Hicks said. "He's an exceptional runner. They'll bring him out on a bootleg and let him try to outrun you, and he'll fake to the fullback and pull the linebackers up and throw the ball. He's a very accurate thrower. He throws well underneath and is strong enough to throw deep. He's a good all-around athlete."

The Cavaliers' leading rusher is big fullback Robert Gray, who ran roughshod over the Mountaineers last year. He's being recruited by most major colleges in the southeastern United States.

"All the coaches I've talked to say they've gone into the East game saying Gray's pretty much going to get his yardage and they just try to stop the rest of the team," Hicks said. "I don't know if we'll take that approach or not. He does a good job of getting big yardage up the middle and off tackle. They'll also fake to him and give the ball to one of their scat backs and they're off to the races."

Hicks said he believes the Cavaliers are better than they were last year. "The have more fire power on offense with Logan at quarterback," he said. "They've always played a real aggressive, disruptive type of defense. They get a lot of people on you."

But Hicks says all of his players are at top physical condition and he

See Football, 8-B

Mounties Skin 'Cats 33-0

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers could have just about named the score they wanted to defeat North Gaston by in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference game at North's Trudnak Stadium.

But, rather than run up a big score Mountaineer Coach Dennis Hicks was happy to settle for a 33-0 victory and take advantage of the situation by allowing all of his players plenty of playing time.

The Mountaineers scored two touchdowns in the first three minutes of the game and had a 26-0

lead by halftime. Coach Hicks sent his first team on the field for the first drive of the second half--which resulted in another touchdown--and then turned the game over to the reserves.

Many players who have seen more time on the sidelines than on the playing field this year got to have some fun and show Mountaineer fans a sampling of things to come next year. Although the reserves didn't score they did mount some impressive drives and played excellent defense.

"We were really pleased with the way we played after coming off a big victory the week before over Shelby," Coach Hicks said. "We went out and played fairly sharp early in the game. We were concerned going in. Even though North Gaston's had some problems this year they have four or five really good football players."

The Mountaineers took the opening kickoff and drove 65 yards for a 7-0 lead. D.J. Williams scored from two yards out and Kevin Moss booted the point-after.

On North Gaston's first possession, the KM defense doused any hopes the Wildcats may have had for an upset. Backed up inside their own 20, the Wildcats had to punt and KM's Scottie Hopper put on a one-man rush and blocked it. Diron Bell picked the ball up at the eight and ran into the end zone for a 13-0 Mountaineer lead.

Kings Mountain went on to roll up 183 of its 308 yards rushing in the first half and added two more TDs in the second quarter on runs of seven yards by Jeff Lockhart and 44 yards by Victor Bell.

After North Gaston failed to produce any yardage after the second half kickoff, the Mountaineers drove their first possession 60 yards for the final score of the night. Lockhart covered the final 45 yards, giving him two touchdowns and 112 yards rushing in just nine carries.

"Coming out in the second half, we felt like it was really important that our first group make something happen offensively and defensively," Coach Hicks said. "We wanted to make sure we kept the game under control. We wanted everybody to play hard and we were concerned that a little letdown would result in injuries."

"Our kids accepted the challenge real well," he added. "They played hard and we were able to play a lot

of kids almost two-thirds of the third quarter and all of the fourth quarter. We even had a chance to look at some prospective tailbacks for next year."

Eleven different players rushed the football for the Mountaineers and reserves gained 77 yards. Diron Bell had the biggest night for the reserves with 41 yards in eight carries.

The reserves twice marched inside the Wildcat 15 in the fourth quarter but North Gaston was able to keep them out of the end zone.

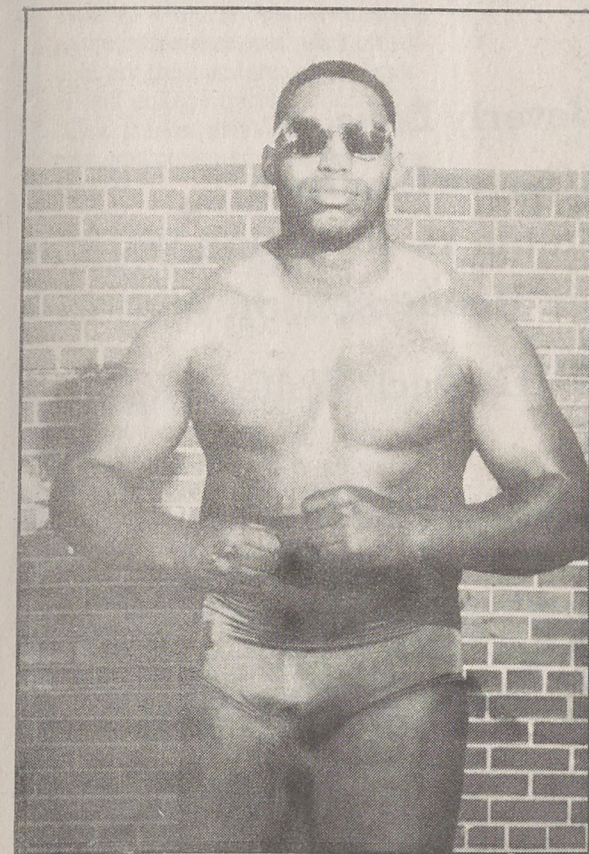


THE BELL TOLLS - Kings Mountain's Victor Bell (40) is loose on a 44-yard touchdown in run in Friday's football game at North Gaston. The Mountaineers won 33-0 and will close out their season at home this Friday night against first place East Rutherford.



Photos By Gary Stewart

UH, OH! - North Gaston quarterback Neil Mintz (12) has nowhere to go as Kings Mountain defenders Jon Hicks (77) and Scott Pearson (52) close in for the sack in Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game at North Gaston's Trudnak Stadium. The Mountaineers jumped on top early and rolled to a 33-0 victory. Kings Mountain closes out its season Friday at 8 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium against first place East Rutherford.



TERENCE LADD

Making Jump To 'Squared Circle'

Kings Mountain sports fans will remember him as Terence Blalock, a sharp shooting forward who helped lead Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to back-to-back Southwestern Conference basketball titles in 1981 and '82.

But today he's Terence Ladd, a professional wrestler who hopes to capture the heavyweight championship from the Russian Assassin in a big PWF (Professional Wrestling Federation) card November 8 at the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory.

Unless you look him directly in the face, you're not likely to recognize him. He weighs 270 pounds, compared to 175 when he was a basketball star at KMHS, and is so muscular his muscles have muscles.

Blalock took an interest in boxing and wrestling when he was in the U.S. Air Force and was encouraged by the Mexican professional wrestling champ, Elgrande Marco, to pursue a wrestling career.

After he got out of the Air Force, Marco put him in contact with Gene Anderson, one of the members of the famous Minnesota Wrecking Crew of the National Wrestling Alliance, and Anderson began training him in 1988.

"Anderson doesn't actually run a training school, but

he hand picks certain people that he thinks can make it big in professional wrestling," Blalock said. "After a lengthy training period, I got into the NWA and starting appearing in independent shows around here."

Blalock took the professional name Ladd and is billed as the nephew of "Big Cat" Ernie Ladd, who turned professional wrestler after retiring from professional football. He's now retired from wrestling.

Blalock has wrestled against some of the NWA's top stars, including Stan Hansen, Ivan Koloff, the Fantastics, Doom, and others. He started his career trying to be a "Bad Guy" but couldn't get the crowd to boo him.

"Maybe it was the smiling face," he joked. The pay's good and Blalock hopes to make it big in the NWA soon.

"I expect to be in the NWA on a regular basis in two or three more years when I get more experience," he said. "I hope to strive for some championships there."

The match in Kings Mountain November 8 will be his biggest so far.

"The Russian Assassin will be a tough opponent," he says. "If I win the title that'll be a feather in my cap and give me more recognition."

Blalock says most of his close friends in Kings

Mountain know he's now a professional wrestler but this may be news to many sports fans here.

"It's a big transition, jumping from the hoops to the squared circle," he said. "It takes a lot of weight training."

Blalock played basketball for his father, John Blalock, at KMHS. He teamed with Demetris Goode, Carl Smith, and others to lead the Mountaineers to a 25-2 record in 1981 and a 28-2 mark in 1982. Both years the Mountaineers were knocked out of the state playoffs in the district finals against teams (Burns and Shelby) which they had beaten several times during the regular season. In the '82 finals played at the KMHS gym, the Mountaineers were upset by Shelby in four overtimes. After graduation, he played three years at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla.

Tickets for the November 8 card here are on sale at Allen's Flower Shop and 1-Hour Cleaners. Action begins at 7:30 p.m. Fans can save one dollar off the admission price by buying their tickets in advance.

In addition to the heavyweight title match between Ladd and the Assassin, the Italian Stallion will battle SST Samoan in a grudge match and several other top stars will also be in action.

For more information about the matches, call 739-4741.