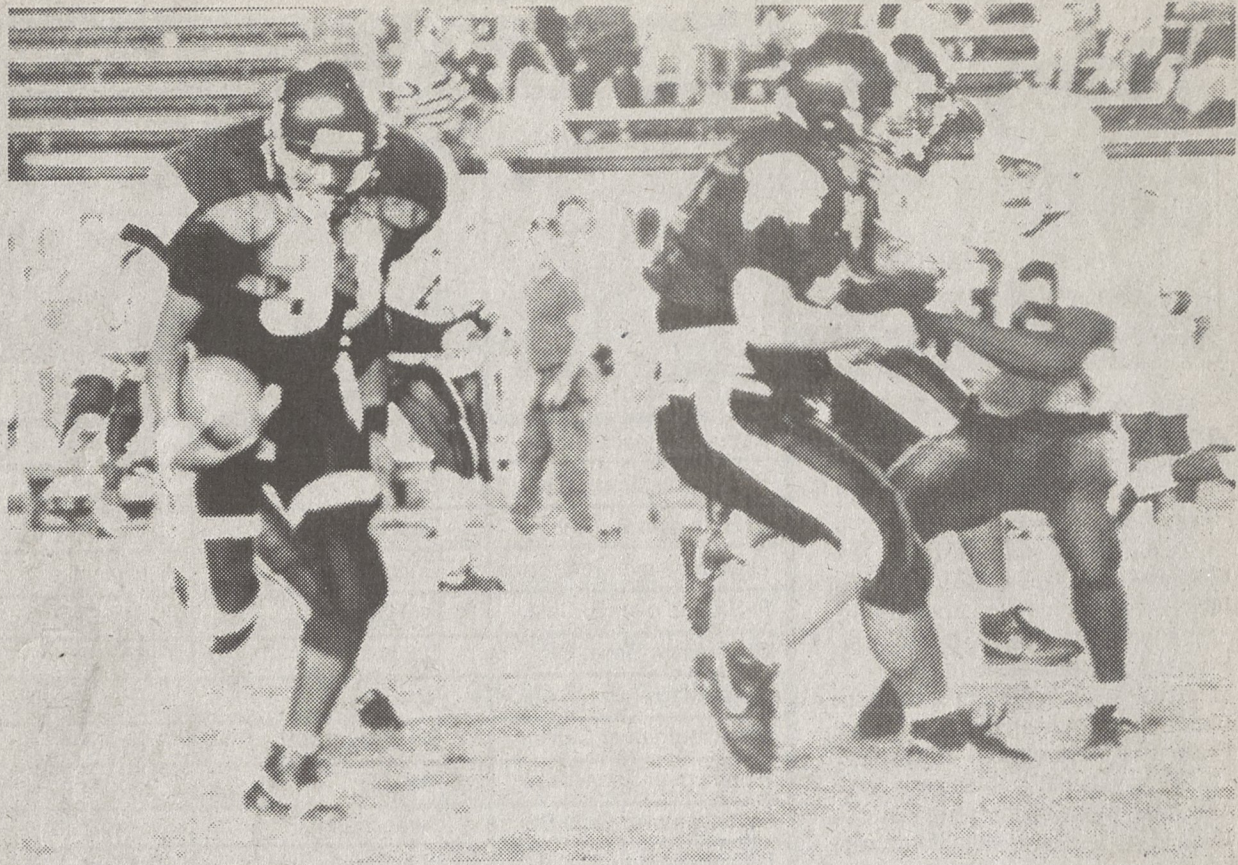


The Kings Mountain High School band and cheerleaders form a tunnel to usher the Mountaineers onto the field for Friday night's home football opener at John Gamble Stadium. The excitement created by the band and cheerleaders before the game carried over for four quarters as the Mountaineers ran over East Lincoln's Mustangs 23-2.



Kings Mountain fullback Kasey Holland (31) breaks right up the middle of the field for a 53-yard touchdown run on the Mountaineers' first play from scrimmage in the second half of Friday's game with East Lincoln at John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers, who won 23-2, remain at home this Friday to host Crest of the Tri-County 4-A Conference.

Crest here Friday night

Mountaineers run over Mustangs 23-2



Robbie Ruff (5) picks up some big yardage up the middle for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers in Friday's 23-2 victory over East Lincoln.

Denny Hicks unveiled his new and improved Kings Mountain Mountaineer football team Friday night at Gamble Stadium.

The Mountaineers, with two weeks of preparation following an opening-season 34-6 whipping by 4-A North Mecklenburg, looked like an entirely different team in a 23-2 victory over East Lincoln's Mustangs.

The Mountaineers remain at home this week to host 4-A Crest. The Chargers are 0-2, coming off losses to Burns (21-0) and Shelby (35-14).

This will be the 18th meeting between the two schools and the series is deadlocked at 8-8-1. Crest has won seven of the last eight games, including a 26-20 decision last year when the Chargers scored the winning touchdown on the last play of the game.

Kings Mountain, which turned the ball over five times against North Meck, did not have a

turnover against the previously unbeaten Mustangs. The Mountaineers rushed for 263 yards and had 336 yards total offense.

East Lincoln ran the ball well, also, as its talented senior tailback Wes Schenck pounded the Mountaineer defense for 165 yards in 26 carries. East Lincoln drove deep into KM territory several times but each time the Mountaineer defense rose to the occasion and kept them out of the end zone.

The Mountaineers built a 10-0 halftime lead, then broke the game open with touchdowns the first two times they touched the ball in the second half.

Six different backs took part in the rushing for the Mountaineers, combining for an 8.5 per yard rushing average. Pat Ross led the way with 99 yards and two touchdowns, Kasey Holland added 83 yards and one TD, and Robbie Ruff had 41 yards.

The Mountaineers got good field

position on almost all of their possessions thanks to the poor punting performance by the Mustangs. East Lincoln managed only a 13-yard per kick average on five punts, and had punts of five and six yards.

It was following a five-yard punt on the Mustangs' first possession when Kings Mountain began a march which resulted in a 28-yard field goal by Sarimaha Rithiphong. The Mountaineers took possession on the East Lincoln 47 yard line.

After a 10-yard penalty against the Mountaineers, quarterback Jerry Black broke around the left side on an option play and rambled 27 yards to the Mustang 29. Three plays later Black hit Sherman Witcher on a big first down pass at the 12. After three running plays netted only two yards, Rithiphong booted his first field goal of the year for a 3-0 lead with 4:13 left in the first quarter.

The Mountaineers got a 52-yard scoring run from Ross following a six-yard East Lincoln punt with

8:42 left in the half. Rithiphong's PAT from placement made it 10-0 at intermission.

Kings Mountain drove deep inside East territory on two more occasions in the first half, but couldn't score. Black's intended pass to Calvin Mathis was incomplete in the end zone to stop one drive; and time ran out with the Mountaineers on the Mustang 37 following a 19-yard pass from Black to Holland.

The Mountaineers quickly put the victory on ice on their first two possessions of the second half.

Holland broke a 53-yard scoring run right up the middle to make the score 16-0 on the first play from scrimmage following the kickoff.

After East Lincoln ran two plays, Marcus Bell recovered a fumble at the Mustang 31. On the first play, Ross took an option pitch from Black and circled left end for his second score of the night. Rithiphong booted the PAT to make it 23-0.

See Football, 6-A

Mountie booters roll on

West Meck falls 4-1 Monday

Kings Mountain High's soccer team continued to roll Monday night at West Mecklenburg, defeating a solid Indian team 4-1.

Coach Dan Potter's Mountaineers took a 5-1 overall record into their Southwestern 3-A Conference opener last night against R-S Central. KM's only loss was to a powerful Freedom team in the Gardner-Webb Tournament.

"I challenged these kids early by scheduling four non-conference games which we really didn't expect to win," Potter said. "The kids did a lot better than I thought they'd do. They are really excited and already talking about going places this year. They have their sights set high."

Sarimaha Rithiphong and Ott Phonepet scored first half goals to give the Mountaineers a 2-1 halftime lead. They broke the game open in the second half on goals by Rithiphong and Bryan Leftwich.

Damon and Brad Putnam split

See Soccer, 6-A



Ott Phonepet helped lead Kings Mountain High's soccer team to two impressive victories over 4-A opponents Ashbrook and West Mecklenburg during the past week.

Ashbrook beaten 1-0 Wednesday

Clay Corry's goal 14 minutes into the first half gave Kings Mountain High's soccer team a 1-0 victory over a strong Ashbrook team Wednesday night at John Gamble Stadium.

"This was probably one of our biggest victories ever," said Coach Dan Potter. "We scheduled strong Statesville and Ashbrook teams to develop a strong program, and we're happy that we were able to win both games."

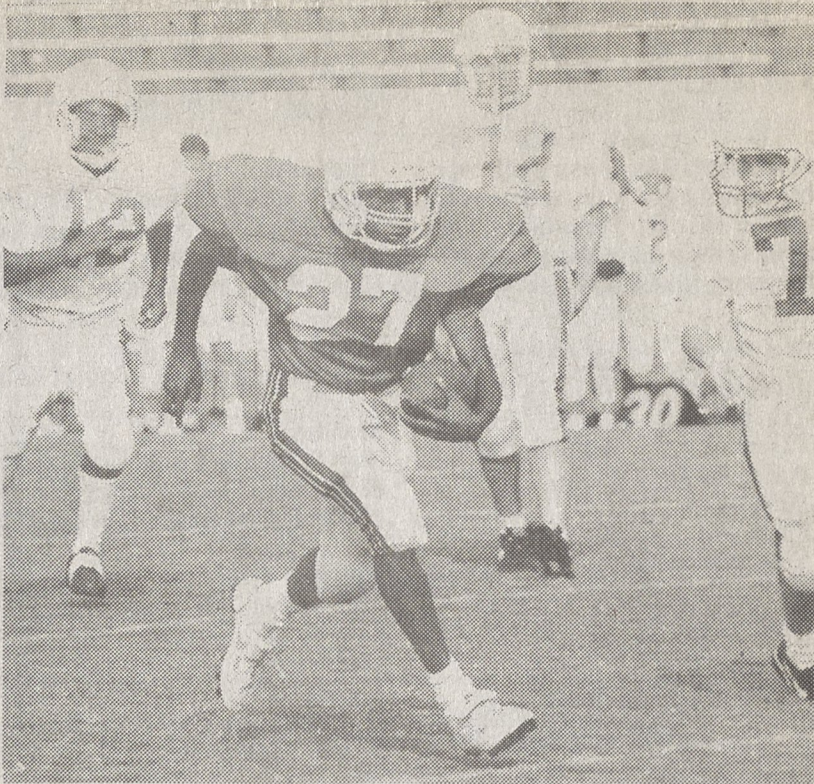
Sarimaha Rithiphong assisted Corry's goal.

Goal keeper Damon Putnam played an excellent game, blocking several Ashbrook scoring attempts in the second half to preserve the Mountaineers' first shutout.

"We had several good scoring opportunities in the first half, but their goal keeper made some great saves; and they had several good scoring chances in the second half and Damon did the job. Two of their shots hit the crossbar."

In JV action, the Mountaineers

See Ashbrook, 6-A



Corey Jones scores a long touchdown for Kings Mountain Middle School in last week's victory over East Lincoln.

Patriots open with the big win

Kings Mountain Middle School's Patriots opened their 1992 football season Wednesday at John Gamble Stadium with an impressive 36-12 victory over East Lincoln.

Corey Jones scored on two long touchdown runs to spark the

Patriots to a 22-0 halftime advantage.

Lance McClain got the scoring started for the Patriots on their first possession, scoring from one-yard out to cap a four play, 30-yard

See Patriots, 6-A

Volleyball team to host R-S Central

Kings Mountain High's girls volleyball team will play a big Southwestern 3-A Conference match at home Monday at 4:30 against defending champion R-S Central.

The Kings Mountain ladies were scheduled to open SWC action yesterday at South Point against the Raiders and Shelby.

"R-S Central is pretty tough, but we anticipate a real close, exciting match," said KM Coach Diana Bridges. "We hope all our fans will

come out and support us."

Kings Mountain won two of five tough non-conference matches during the past week. They edged 4-A Crest 15-11, 16-14 and 16-14 and lost to Providence 15-11, 15-11 on Thursday; then fell to Charlotte Latin 15-3, 15-3 and Charlotte Country Day 15-5, 13-15 and 15-4 last Friday at Charlotte.

Monday afternoon, the KM ladies defeated North Gaston 15-5, 15-6, 13-15 and 15-3 in a non-conference match.

Foursquare holds golf tournament

Scott Rhyne, Charles Williams, Joe Williams and Frank Hoyle shot a 9-under-par to win the 10th annual Foursquare Gospel Church Golf Tournament last weekend at Briarcreek Golf Course in High Shoals.

Jerry Hudson coordinated the tournament for the 10th straight year. All proceeds go to the church

fund for a new P.A. system. The Captain's Choice tourney drew 129 golfers.

Rev. Oscar Stalcup, Ron Stalcup, Robert Eng and Wiley Bell won second place in a scorecard playoff over Scott Spears, Phil Gentry, Billy Hoyle and Holland Gantt. Both teams were 8-under.

See Golf, 6-A



Kings Mountain High JV Coach John Bumgardner tries to get his point across to quarterback Lamont Littlejohn. The Mountaineers are still seeking their first win tonight when they travel to Crest.

JV team loses to EL 14-12

Kings Mountain High's JV football team dropped a narrow 14-12 decision to East Lincoln last week and is still looking for its first victory Thursday at Crest.

John Bumgardner's Mountaineers couldn't come up with a consistent offense last week, but the defense kept them in the game against a good East Lincoln eleven.

"We played pretty good on defense," Bumgardner said. "We just made a couple of big mistakes that allowed them to score their two touchdowns. Other than that, we made some pretty good stands."

East Lincoln grabbed an early 8-0 lead but the Mountaineers came back in the third quarter to cut the margin to 8-6 on a 33-yard touchdown run by quarterback Lamont Littlejohn.

East Lincoln scored again early in the fourth quarter for a 14-6 advantage. Late in the game, Kings

Mountain scored on a 52-yard punt return by Jarvis Bell but a two-point conversion attempt failed.

"Our defense made a big improvement over our opening game (a 12-12 tie with North Mecklenburg). We're now making our tackles where we should, up front, rather than back deep," Bumgardner noted.

"Offensively, we didn't do a whole lot. We seemed very flat. East Lincoln played a very good game. They were a tough opponent. I don't know if our kids were just not mentally prepared, or what, but we made a lot of mistakes that we're going to have to eliminate if we're going to win games. We can stay with the other teams with good defense, but it's going to take more than that to win."

Bumgardner cited fullback Cedric Smith for his play on offense, and linebackers Dion Jeffries and Desmond Holland for their defensive efforts.