



Kings Mountain running back Pat Ross (40) rambles for a big gain in Friday's 14-7 victory over R-S Central.

Kings Mountain quarterback Jerry Black (3) uncorks a pass for Mountaineers in Friday's game at R-S Central.

Mounties down Hilltoppers 14-7

Nakia Brown and his R-S Central Hilltoppers gave Kings Mountain's Mountaineers a wake up call in the third quarter of Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game at the new Hilltopper Stadium.

The Mountaineers, who had been impressive in three straight games going into the contest, had only gone through the motions of playing football until Brown broke a 54-yard run right down the middle of the field to set up a one-yard touchdown run by Jimmy Simpson which gave R-S a 7-0 lead.

After that, the Mountaineers got serious. And, senior running back Robbie Ruff and his offensive line really got serious!

Ruff, coming back after sitting out the previous week's game with an ankle injury, gained 94 of his game-leading 112 yards rushing and scored on touchdown runs of four and 30 yards in the fourth quarter to lift the Mountaineers to a 14-7 victory in their first SWC game.

The victory gives the Mountaineers a 4-1 overall mark heading into this week's homecoming game against South Point at John Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain failed to score on two long drives in the first half. The R-S Central defense, which has been giving up points by the bushel this fall, held the Mountaineers at the two twice during the first half.

Fullback Kasey Holland led a Mountaineer charge right down the field following the opening kickoff. He reeled off consecutive runs of 10 and 20 yards on the first two plays from scrimmage to put the Mountaineers on the R-S 28. After two more runs by Holland netted seven yards, Pat Ross took an option pitch from quarterback Jerry Black and went around right end for 10 more yards and a first down at the 11.

After losing a yard and over-throwing a pass intended for Calvin Mathis, Black kept the ball on an option and went around the left side 10 yards to the two. But on a fourth and one situation, the Hilltoppers' Seth Matthews nailed Marcus Bell for no gain and R-S took possession.

The Mountaineers began another potential scoring drive midway of the second period. Taking the ball on their own 33 following an R-S punt, the Mountaineers moved steadily down field behind the running of Holland, Ross, Ruff and Black. They picked up three first downs along the way before facing a fourth and 10 situation at the R-S 26. The Mountaineers lined up for a field goal attempt, but faked it and Black rambled 15 yards for a first down at the 11. Black picked up nine yards for a second and one at the two, but three plays later R-S held again at the two as Guy Shearer stopped Bell a yard short of the first down with 42 seconds remaining in the half.

The Mountaineers, who ran 34

plays in the first half and gained 126 yards to just 14 plays and 35 yards for the Hilltoppers, looked like an entirely different team in the third quarter. The young R-S offense pushed the big Mountaineer defense all over the field and drove the kickoff 81 yards to grab the lead.

Junior quarterback Todd Woods scrambled and hit Curwin Simmons on a 12-yard pass for a first down at the 35, and an eight-yard quarterback sneak by Woods and a two-yard run by Brown netted another first down at the 45.

From that point, Brown went right up the middle, then cut to the right flat and appeared to be going all the way but Black pulled him down from behind at the one. Simpson went into the end zone untouched and Jason Abrams kicked the extra point to give the Hilltoppers a 7-0 lead with 8:03 showing on the third quarter clock.

After the Mountaineers ran three plays and punted, R-S launched another drive from its own 49 but this one ended when the Mountaineers partially blocked Abrams' 45-yard field goal attempt and the ball rolled into the end zone for a touchback with 23 seconds left in the third quarter.

Kings Mountain's offense, led by the blocking of Norris McCleary, Phillip Caldwell, Travis Smith, Shon Byers and Cedrick Moore, who time and again opened huge holes for Ruff and the other KM backs, then took charge of the game.

The Mountaineers moved 80 yards for the tying score, with Ruff going over from four yards out and Sarimaha Rithiphong booting the point-after with 9:35 remaining.

Ruff did most of the damage, but it was a 14-yard run by Black around the left side on first down which got the march underway. Another big play was a short pass in the left flat to Sherman Witcher, who reversed his field and zig-zagged all over the R-S Central turf for a net gain of 14 yards and a first down at the R-S 44.

Ruff rambled 20 yards on a counter option, and the Hilltoppers were assessed an 11-yard penalty (half the distance to the goal) for tackling him by the face mask. That gave the Mountaineers a first down at the 12. After a three-yard run by Holland and a five-yard gain by Black, Ruff scored from four yards out.

The Mountaineers began their winning TD drive late in the game after Marcus Bell fumbled a Hilltopper punt, but fell on it at the KM 38. The Mountaineers covered 62 yards in six plays, with Ruff carrying the ball three times for 63 yards, including the final 30 for the TD with 2:51 remaining.

There would still be some anxious moments, though, as the Hilltoppers tried to air out a victory. Woods completed an eight-yard

pass to Simmons for a first down at the 34, and hit Simmons again for a 12-yard gain and a first down at the 44.

Operating with a first and 10 at his own 44, Woods attempted to hit Simmons again but Bell intercepted at the KM 40 with 1:18 remaining. He attempted to run the ball back and was hit, and fumbled, and R-S recovered at its own 43. On the exchange, the Hilltoppers ended up losing one yard but picking up a first down.

After an incomplete pass, Witcher sealed the win for the Mountaineers by picking off another Woods aerial at the KM 41 with 41 seconds left.

THE YARDSTICK

	KM	RS
1st downs	14	10
Yds. rushing	238	138
Passes	2-6-0	5-11-2
Yds. passing	17	44
Fumbles lost	1	0
Yds. penalized	10	16
Punts	2-31	3-29

KM	0	0	0	14	--14
RS	0	0	7	0	--7

RS - Jimmy Simpson 1-run (Jason Abrams kick)
 KM - Robbie Ruff 4-run (Sarimaha Rithiphong kick)
 KM - Ruff 30-run (Rithiphong kick).

INDIVIDUAL TOTALS
RUSHING - KM: Ruff 11-112, Holland 9-62, Black 14-44, Ross 8-28, Bell 3-5, Moore 1 (-13). RS: Simpson 14-37, Dwayne Wilkins 6-22, Brown 4-63, Woods 9-16.
PASSING - KM: Black 2-5-0-17, Bell 0-1, RS: Woods 5-11-2-44.
RECEIVING - KM: Witcher 1-14, Ruff 1-3, RS: Simmons 4-40, Wilkins 1-4.
INTERCEPTIONS - KM: Bell 1, Witcher 1.

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Tennis tourney held

Kings Mountain Tennis Association held a fall doubles tournament at the Kings Mountain High School courts Saturday and Sunday, September 26-27.

Sunday's matches were rained out, so the finals were held throughout the week.

In the women's doubles final played on September 28 Jerrie Cates and Bridget Martin of Kings Mountain defeated Sherry Anderson and Carol Reese of

Gastonia 6-2, 6-3.

In the men's doubles final played on September 29, Jason Cash of Kings Mountain and Gary Moss of Shelby defeated Todd Huntsinger and Bob Phonga of Kings Mountain 6-1, 6-1.

In the mixed doubles final played on Saturday, October 3, Tom and Julie Smith of Shelby defeated Melanie Bumgardner and David Dellinger of Kings Mountain 6-1, 6-0.

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