



Kings Mountain's Robbie Ruff (5) picks up some big yards behind excellent blocking by his offensive line in Friday's football game with South Point at Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers scored their most impressive victory yet, 29-13, keeping pace with Shelby and East Rutherford in the race for the two Southwest Conference state playoff berths.

Mountaineers streak past Raiders for fifth straight victory, 29-18

It was evident very early in Kings Mountain's homecoming football game with South Point Friday night that the first team to score would have a big advantage.

The John Gamble Stadium turf was saturated from almost a week of rain, and running backs from both teams were losing their footing early.

Despite the conditions, the Mountaineers played almost flawless football and took advantage of five Red Raider turnovers to post their fifth straight victory, 29-13.

The win keeps the Mountaineers in the running for a state playoff berth. Denny Hicks' charges have now won seven of their last eight games going back to the final two games of last season.

"It was a big win for us," said Coach Hicks. "We were very pleased with the way our kids played. We were a little bit concerned going in. We didn't play like we should have the week before at R-S Central. But our kids came out Friday night and, offensively and defensively, played as well as they've played all year."

Neither team could put together a sustained drive in the early stages of the game. Possession changed five times on punts in the first period.

It was after KM's third punt late in the first quarter when linebacker Robbie Ruff recovered the first of his two fumble recoveries of the night at the South Point 46. That came on the next to last play of the quarter.

After a four-yard run by Kasey Holland, who would finish with 125 yards rushing, KM quarterback Jerry Black made the first of several electrifying runs, a 16-yard sprint which gave the Mountaineers a first down at the Raider 16. After two running plays by Holland netted seven yards and a Black pass fell incomplete, Sarimaha Rithiphong booted a 32-yard field goal to give the Mountaineers a 3-0 lead.

Coach Hicks said getting on top was a key factor in the victory.

"I think real early in the ballgame South Point knew they were in for a real rough go," he said. "Our kids got on them real quick. We didn't make anything happen early but we got their attention and we kept the pressure on all night long."

Another big defensive play -- a pass interception by Black -- set up the Mountaineers' first touchdown with 10 seconds left in the half.



Kings Mountain's Kasey Holland (31) is loose on a 61-yard touchdown run against South Point's Red Raiders.

giving the home team a 9-0 advantage at intermission.

Black picked off Gerard Hardy's aerial at the 15 yard line and returned it to the 43 with 1:14 remaining. He immediately hit wide out Sherman Witcher on a 28-yard pass down the KM sidelines for a first down at the Raider 28. Witcher made an outstanding over-the-shoulder catch while keeping his feet in bounds. A couple of plays later, on a second and 12, Black kept the ball on an option around the left side and went all the way to the eight. Two plays after an offside penalty against South Point gave the Mountaineers a first and goal at the four, Ruff plowed over for the score.

With momentum and an excited homecoming crowd on their side, the Mountaineers didn't let up until late in the game. They built a 29-0 lead, and the potent Raider offense was only able to score twice late in the game against KM's second unit defense.

"Our offense, all the way across the board, was solid," Coach Hicks said. "They didn't know exactly where we were going with the football. And our defense was so aggressive they were worried about where we were instead of finding their holes."

Kings Mountain's nimble of-

fense turned the game into a rout early in the second half. After Ruff's second fumble recovery stopped a South Point drive at the 22, the Mountaineers covered 78 yards in just two plays to take a 15-0 lead. After Holland's one-yard run, South Point was assessed a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct, giving the Mountaineers a first down at the 39. On a perfectly-executed fullback trap, Holland hit the hole quickly, broke to the outside and out-ran the South Point secondary 61 yards to the end zone.

After South Point lost the ball on downs at the Mountaineer 29, the home team launched a 71-yard scoring march which was highlighted by a 32-yard run by Holland to the South Point 30. After a pair of penalties against the Raiders, reserve running back Calvin Logan sprinted seven yards on a reverse for his first touchdown of the year with 2:13 remaining in the third period. Rithiphong booted the point-after to make it 22-0.

The Mountaineers scored their final touchdown on the third play of the fourth quarter when Black went 65 yards on an option keeper. Rithiphong booted the point-after.

South Point avoided a shutout

THE YARDSTICK

	SP	KM
1st downs	14	10
Yds. rushing	165	318
Yds. passing	106	52
Passes	6-17-2	2-7-0
Punts	4-26	4-24
Fumbles lost	3	1
Yds. penalized	57	45

S. Pt.	0	0	0	13	--13
K. Mtn.	0	9	13	7	--29

KM - Sarimaha Rithiphong, 32-field goal.

KM - Robbie Ruff, 2-run (Kick blocked)

KM - Kasey Holland, 61-run (Pass failed).

KM - Calvin Logan, 7-run (Rithiphong kick)

KM - Jerry Black, 65-run (Rithiphong kick).

SP - Ráchon Stowe, 4-run (Run failed).

SP - Courtney Williams, 2-run (Kirk Crawford kick).

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING - KM: Kasey Holland 12-125, Jerry Black 6-96, Robbie Ruff 6-72, Calvin Logan 4-11, Pat Ross 6-9. SP: Derek Bowns 11-74, Courtney Williams 6-52, Gerard Hardy 10-21, Ráchon Stowe 8-12.

PASSING - KM: Black 2-7-0-52. SP: Hunter Armstrong 4-7-0-56; Gerard Hardy 2-10-2-50.

RECEIVING - KM: Sherman Witcher 1-28, Calvin Mathis 1-14.

Mounties seek sixth straight win at Burns

On paper, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers should win Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game against Burns.

But, veteran coach Denny Hicks hopes his Mountaineers know that games aren't won on paper - they're won on the football field - and that Burns is always a very physical and very dangerous football team.

Over the years, the Bulldogs have handed the Mountaineers some of their most embarrassing losses. Many seasons when the Mountaineers were contending for conference championships and state playoff berths, the Bulldogs

came along and knocked them off.

This year's team, despite some key losses, is just as dangerous as last year's Burns outfit which handed the Mountaineers a 9-7 setback at Gamble Stadium.

Ron Greene's Bulldogs are only 1-2 in the SWC, but those losses came to conference powerhouses Shelby and East Rutherford. They are 4-3 overall with some impressive victories over 4-A opposition like Hickory, Crest and East Burke.

Kings Mountain carries a 2-0 SWC and 5-1 overall mark into the contest.

See Burns, 7-A

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Sincere appreciation is expressed to associates, patients, friends and family for loyalty, support and friendship over 41 years.

Dr. Charles Adams and Dr. F.J. Sincox will continue practice at McGill Clinic, 103 S. Waterson Street. Further information can be obtained at this location.

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