



East Gaston quarterback Terry Wallace (3) found that it wasn't "Smart" to throw on Kings Mountain's hard-charging defense in Friday's season-opening football game at John Gamble Stadium. Brothers Bron (62) and Jahi Smart (82) led a Mountaineer defensive charge that kept Wallace and the other Warriors on their backs most of the night in a 59-0 KM waltz.



Kings Mountain's Kasey Holland (31) scores on a burst of speed up the middle of the field in Friday's season-opening football game with East Gaston at KM's John Gamble Stadium. Holland scored three touchdowns and gained 75 yards rushing in 13 carries to help lead the Mountaineers to a 59-0 victory which tie the school record for most points in a single game.

Play at Crest Friday night

Mountaineers bomb Warriors 59-0

Kings Mountain High football coach Denny Hicks doesn't expect any other games this year to be as easy as last Friday's season opener with East Gaston at KM's John Gamble Stadium.

Scoring on running plays, passing plays, kick returns, fumble recoveries, and just about every other way one can imagine, the Mountaineers blasted the Warriors 59-0 in one of the most one-sided victories in the Mountaineers' storied football history.

Only two other KMHS teams have matched that score. In 1955, the Mountaineers routed Bessemer City 59-0 in the season's opener and went on to win their first-ever Southwestern Conference championship. In 1985, Hicks' Mountaineers blanked Chase 59-0 and went on to become the first and only team in school history to win 11 games in a season.

Hicks is hoping this year's team faces a similar fate, but if so, it will come from a lot of improvement and hard work because everyone in the stands Friday night saw quickly that East Gaston was not a top-rate opponent.

Hicks didn't think the Mountaineers would have such an easy time with the Warriors, even though their team had been almost entirely wiped out by graduation and some other tough luck in pre-season.

"We knew that they had to drop their JV program to have enough people to play," Hicks said. "We saw them in a short scrimmage against Providence and we knew they had four good football players. We thought they played pretty well at Providence, but they lost three starters between the scrimmage and Friday night, and one of their best players (tackle Tiny Horton) was injured during the game. They had only 14 or 15 upperclassmen coming into the season, and when you lose three or four starters out of that small a nucleus it makes it tough. That probably had a lot to do with the score."

The Mountaineers got started in a big way - scoring on their first two possessions for a 13-0 lead and running up a halftime score of 33-0. The KM eleven could have scored even more points but Hicks had his third unit quarterback touch his knee on the ground two entire series in the fourth quarter to keep from further embarrassing the Warriors after the KM defense recov-



Kings Mountain tailback Marcus Bell (9) tries to turn the corner for some rushing room in Friday's season-opening football game with East Gaston at KM's John Gamble Stadium. The Mountaineers won 59-0. They play at Crest Friday night.

ered fumbles in the shadow of the goal line.

Despite the impressive score, Kings Mountain's offense gained only 177 yards on the ground and 43 in the air. But the Mountaineers returned a punt and a fumble recovery for touchdowns.

Fullback Kasey Holland, who led the rushing with 75 yards in 13 carries,

got the scoring under way 2 1/2 minutes into the game when he broke a nine-yard touchdown run up the middle to cap a seven play, 65-yard drive of the opening kickoff. The offense was aided by 20 yards in penalties against the Warriors.

Brian LeFevers, a junior kicking specialist and reserve quarterback, booted his first PAT in organized football to give the Mountaineers a 7-0 lead. He finished with 5-of-9 for the night.

Sophomore return specialist C.C. Smith, who returned five kicks for 117 yards and had one 90-yard punt return called back because of a clipping penalty, returned a punt 30 yards to the East Gaston 49 to set up the second score. After a penalty against East Gaston, quarterback Lamont Littlejohn hooked up with a wide open Divan Moss for a 43-yard touchdown pass to make it 13-0 with 5:41 left in the first period.

After an exchange of punts, Smith returned another punt 35 yards to the 47 to put the Mountaineer offense in good scoring position again. Four plays later, Littlejohn scored from 26 yards out and LeFevers added the PAT to make it 20-0.

A fumble recovery at the Warrior 32 set up a 16-yard touchdown run by Holland which made it 27-0 with 6:11 left in the half; and Kenny Bridges forced a fumble which was recovered by David Owenby with 39 seconds left in the half to set up a five-yard scoring run by Marcus Bell with just 10 seconds left to make it 33-0.

Bridges picked off an East Gaston pass and returned it 80 yards for a touchdown to make it 39-0 with 1:40 left in the third quarter; and Holland scored from 15 yards out after a fumble recovery by Sheldon Smith to make it 46-0 as time expired in the third period.

See Football, 3-B

JV team hosts Crest Thursday

Kings Mountain High's JV football team is eagerly awaiting its season opener Thursday at 7 p.m. against Crest at John Gamble Stadium.

The jayvees have been practicing with the Mountaineer varsity since August 1 and were scheduled to open last week against East Gaston. But, East had to cancel its JV schedule because it needed all the younger players to be able to field a varsity team.

KMHS Coach Denny Hicks tried in vain to find another team to fill last week's slot.

All seven Mountaineer coaches will be on the sidelines Thursday night as KM goes to a platoon coaching system, and hopefully a platoon playing system. The coaches are trying to get as many players into starting positions as possible this year.

Eric Tate, who saw some action in the fourth quarter of last week's

varsity game, will quarterback the team, and the Mountaineers are looking for some good running from tailback Desmond Holland and fullback Shane Logan.

Others on the JV roster are R.E. Barnes, Thomas Bell, Josh Bolin, Emory Brown, Chris Burns, Shamar Byers, Robert Campbell, Justin Champion, Tim Collins, Randy Conner, Rick Douville, Daniel Gardner, J.W. Garner, Dave Gentry, Derek Goode, Chris

Henderson, Weldon Hunter, Mike Hyslop, Jonah Ingle, Mark Johnson, Corey Jones, Kevin Ladd, Robert Love, Lance McClain, Thomas McClain, David McDaniel, Johnny Marshall, Joey Mergott, Tommy Morrow, Chris Murgita, Jason Murphy Lance Norris, Alan Oliver, Jeremy Oliver, Joey Patrick, Cathan Randall, Chad Reid, Mario Robbs, Leonard Roseboro, John Sizemore, Chad Smith, Marcus Smith and Jason Wade.

KM kickers off to slow start

Kings Mountain High's soccer team is improving with every game but is still looking for its first win of the season.

The Mountaineers of Dan Potter lost three games in last week's Gaston County Tournament, and then fell to 4-A Crest in their regular season opener Monday night at Crest.

The Mountaineers were scheduled to host East Gaston last night. They are idle Monday and travel to Statesville next Wednesday for a JV-varsity doubleheader beginning at 5:30.

"We've had a little rocky road, but we've improved with each game," said Potter. "It's just a matter of giving the young kids time and eliminating mental mistakes."

Potter said he used the tournament to experiment with several players at different positions.

The Mountaineers fell to 4-A West Mecklenburg in the tournament opener, 3-0. The Indians scored all of their goals early in the first half.

"We came out playing very timid," Potter said. "We were not very aggressive in the first half but we played well in the second half. We had several good scoring opportunities but none of them fell in."

The Mountaineers lost to Hunter Huss 1-0 in the second round. The Huskies broke a streak of 22 consecutive losses.

"That wasn't a great honor for us," Potter said, "but I felt much

better when I saw them beat East Gaston in the next round. They're a much better team than they've been in the past."

In Saturday's seventh place game, the Mountaineers grabbed a 1-0 lead early on a goal by Wesley Bridges, but the Spartans came back to win 2-1 in overtime. Neither team scored in the overtime, but Gaston Day won by scoring three straight penalty kicks in the tie-breaker.

The Mountaineers grabbed an early 1-0 lead over Crest Monday night as Bryan Leftwich assisted Jordan Angeles with a goal, but Crest came storming back for a 7-1 victory.

"We had some very good scoring opportunities in the second half on-

ly to just miss on a couple of indirect kicks and on a couple other opportunities," Potter said. "But, overall, as I told my players, it was the best game we've played despite the score. Crest is loaded with seniors who have played together a long time. I expect them to do some really good things this year."

In a JV game, Crest won 1-0 but the Mountaineers gave a good account of themselves.

"It was our first game of the year and our guys played really well for their age and experience level," Potter said. "We have a bunch of young people and Crest has a team that was very good at the Middle School level the last couple of years."



Kings Mountain High's offensive coordinator Bruce Clark had his machine in high gear in Friday's season-opening football game with East Gaston at Gamble Stadium.