



Kings Mountain goalkeeper Aaron Ford battles a South Point player for control of the ball in Southwestern 3-A Conference soccer match Wednesday at Gamble Stadium. South Point won 6-0.

FOOTBALL

From Page 2-B

through the KM line untouched to block a Brian LeFevers punt, giving Shelby possession at the three. Omar Roberts scored on a two-yard plunge to give Shelby a 21-14 lead with 11:09 left in the half.

Littlejohn fumbled again at the KM 15, and Roberts scored from that point to make it 28-14.

Shelby's only drive of the first half - and the first of only two for the night - resulted in a 64-yard march and a 30-yard touchdown run by John McGill which made the score 35-14.

Kings Mountain's Kasey Holland fielded the ensuing kickoff in the middle of the field and cut down the KM sidelines for a 94-yard kickoff return, and LeFevers added the PAT from placement to make the score 35-21 at intermission.

Shelby, using a ball control offense, tacked on scoring runs of four yards by Roberts and one by McGill in the second half to round out the scoring.

Kings Mountain's offense never could get untracked against a hard-hitting Shelby defense. The Mountaineers gained 148 yards in 38 carries, but 108 of them came on two plays - a 68-yard run by Holland in the first half and a 40-yard run by Bell in the fourth quarter. The rest of the night the Mountaineer backs must have thought the Shelby defenders were in the KM huddle, because they were hit just about as soon as they touched the football.

Holland finished with 93 yards in 10 carries and Bell had 70 in 13 totes to lead the Mountaineers. Gaston gained 84, McGill 74, Roberts 73 and Eugene Leach 65 for the Lions.

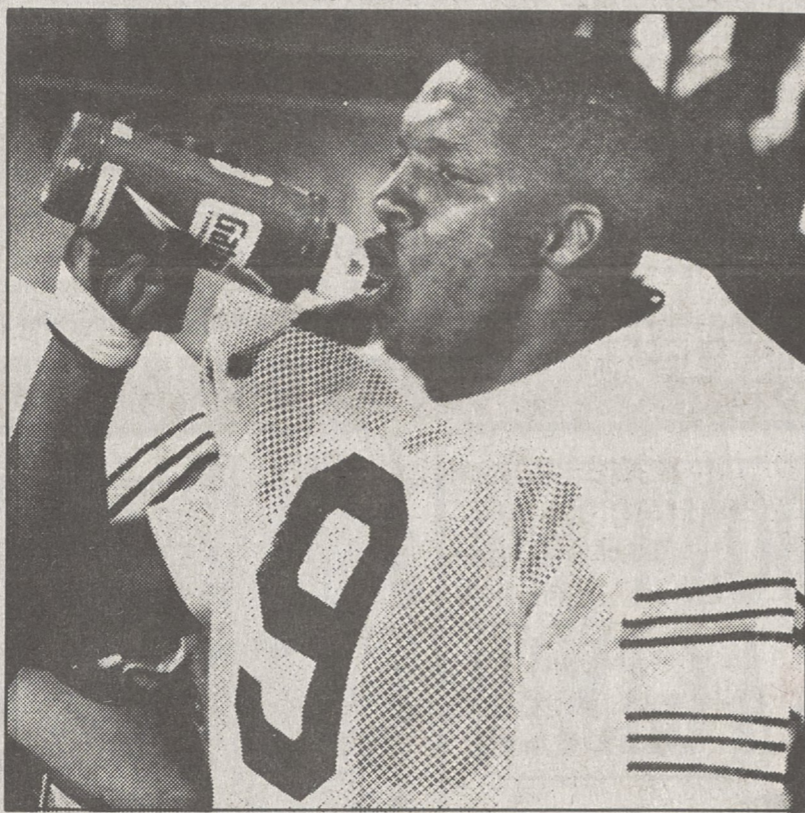
The loss was disappointing for Coach Hicks, who felt like he had his team well-prepared for the annual rivalry.

"We had a great week of preparation and had a good game plan going in," he said. "We jumped up on them 14-0 with a kickoff return and a march down the field - and they weren't flukes, they were well-executed plays. Shelby's first two touchdowns were gifts, and after that it wasn't really a ballgame. It was ugly from the coaches' standpoint and I'm sure it was ugly from a fan's standpoint.

"Basically, they challenged us and we didn't respond," he added. "They responded to our challenge with a lot of pride. They gave us a challenge back and instead of accepting it we sat back and let them have the game."

Hicks praised defensive tackles Bron Smart and Mike Cobb and offensive tackle Norris McCleary for outstanding efforts, but said as a team the Mountaineers didn't perform well enough to compete against a strong team like Shelby.

"Bron Smart leaves his heart on the game field and practice field every day," Hicks said. "Cobb and



Marcus Bell refreshes with a taste of Gatorade after returning the opening kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown in Kings Mountain's 48-21 loss at Shelby Friday.

McCleary had real good games, and in spurts we had some other people giving us some good efforts. But it wasn't consistent. Against a quality program like Shelby all 11 people have to be in the ballgame."

This week's homecoming game will be another big test for the Mountaineers as North Gaston is coming off an impressive 24-19 victory over defending champion East Rutherford. The Wildcats, like KM, are 1-3 in the conference and 3-5 overall.

"North Gaston is coming off a great win, and they're healthy and have all of their backs back," Hicks said. "Against Shelby and Burns, you take away the turnovers and North Gaston could have won both of those games, and that was without their fullback. He was back healthy last week and made a big difference by taking some pressure off their tailback."

North Gaston's tailback, Mario Brandon, is the leading rusher in the SWC with 1,200 yards in eight games, and Hicks says he's as good a running back as the Mountaineers have faced in years.

"He's the best back in the league," Hicks said. "He has more positive yardage and gets extra yardage on his own as good as anybody we've seen in a while."

Hicks said the Mountaineers will have to move the ball consistently on offense and get a better defensive effort to stay with the Wildcats.

"Defense has always been the strong point of our program, and it hasn't risen to the occasion this year," he said. "If our defense can't meet the challenge Brandon's capable of gaining 300 yards against us."

Hicks said the Wildcats run a 50 defense which has presented a lot of problems for the KM offense this year.

"If we don't come up with some way to control the football it's really going to be a challenge for us," he said. "Playing them won't be any different from playing Burns or Shelby. They have that good personnel. They have a real strong defense and a great ball control offense with a good tailback and fullback running behind a good offensive line."

THE YARDSTICK

	KM	S
1st downs	9	15
Yds. rushing	148	306
Passes	4-13-0	2-4-0
Yds. passing	37	31
Punts	3-22	2-30
Fumbles lost	3	2
Yds. penalized	25	15

Score by quarters:	T
KM 14	7 0 0 --21
Shelby 14	21 7 6 --48

KM - Marcus Bell 85 kickoff return (Kick blocked)
 KM - Kevin Melton 16-pass from Lamont Littlejohn (Littlejohn run)
 S - Antonio Gaston 49 run (Tucker Hamrick kick)
 S - Gaston 12 run (Hamrick kick)
 S - Omar Roberts 2 run (Hamrick kick)
 S - Roberts 15 run (Hamrick kick)
 S - John McGill 30 run (Hamrick kick)
 KM - Kasey Holland 94 kickoff return (Brian LeFevers kick)
 S - Roberts 4 run (Hamrick kick)
 S - McGill 1 run (Kick failed)

RUSHING

KM - Holland 10-93, Bell 13-70, Shane Logan 4-13, LeFevers 1-(9), Littlejohn 10-(19). S - Gaston 7-84, McGill 7-74, Roberts 18-73, Eugene Leach 6-65, Marlin Archis 2-15, Aric Lipscomb 2-8, Mack Brewton 1-0, Robert Williams 2-(13).

PASSING

KM - Littlejohn 1-7-0-16, LeFevers 3-5-0-21, Jonathan Ship 0-1-0-0. S - Gaston 2-4-0-31.

RECEIVING

KM - Kevin Melton 4-37. Shelby - Williams 2-31.

Community Center gym closed for repair

The Kings Mountain Community Center gym is closed temporarily while the city installs a new roof. The city hopes to have the project completed by the second week of November, at which time the gym will once again be available for public use.

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