Kings Mountain's Corey Jones (21) coughs up the football on a second half drive in Friday night's non-conference game with Mooresville at KM's John Gamble Stadium. Mistakes and penalties at crucial S Central.

times were costly to the Mountaineers in the 23-8 defeat. Kings Mountain opens Southwestern 3-A Conference play Friday night at R-

First half scoring blitz propels Mooresville over Mountaineers

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers failed on two early scoring opportunities, Mooresville grabbed the momentum and rolled to a 23-8 non-conference football victory Friday night at KM's John Gamble

The Mountaineers, sparked by a 65-yard run by Shane Logan, had a first and goal from the five on their first possession, but they were stopped a foot short of the goal after four straight carries into the

Mountaineers came up short on a 46-yard field goal attempt by Brian Lefevers, and that opened the door for the 2-A Blue Devils to score on their next three possessions for a 23-0 halftime lead.

The Mountaineers actually held the upper hand in statistics, gaining 217 yards rushing to 199 for the Blue Devils, but the missed scoring opportunities and penalties at the most inopportune moment killed the Mountaineers' chances for vic-

On their next possession, the tory. Kings Mountain had only 50 yards in penalties for the game, but had a 20-yard touchdown pass from Lamont Littlejohn to Kevin Melton and a 75-yard fumble recovery return for a touchdown by Eric Tate nullified.

Mountaineer mentor Denny Hicks said failing to score on the first drive of the night was crucial and it gave the Blue Devils the impetus they needed to get their offense moving.

We got down there and they put

a stack on our tackle," he noted. "We had worked on that during the week but didn't block it correctly. That was going to be our bread and butter play when we got down there. When you take the play you've worked on for that situation and don't execute correctly it takes some wind out of your sail.

Still, Hicks said, a good football team will face such adversity and must rebound from it.

"If you play this game there are going to be challenges and you have to accept them," he said. "It may be because of our mistakes or a great play on the part of the opponent, but you can't let that dictate the rest of the game.'

The Blue Devils got a 90-yard run by Corey Alexander on the first play after the big defensive stand, but it was erased on a clip-

See Football, 7-A

Mounties open SWC Friday at R-S Central

Kings Mountain's "second season" begins Friday night when the Mountaineers open Southwest 3-A Conference action at R-S Central.

Even though Coach Denny Hicks isn't overjoyed with his team's 1-2-1 mark, he still feels they have the potential to contend for one of the three state playoff positions available to SWC teams.

R-S Central opened its conference season last week with a 20-10 loss to arch rival East Rutherford, but the Hilltoppers are 5-1 overall and, as usual, are highly explosive on offense

Veteran Coach Jack Huss predicted before the season that his charges would be able to light up the scoreboard but their defense would be vulnerable, and those predictions have proven true. R-S has beaten Polk County, East Burke, Chase, McDowell County and West Caldwell, and the Hilltoppers scored 51 points against West Caldwell.

The offense failed to click for the first time last week against East - managing only 99 yards total offense - but still scored 10 points against one of the best defensive teams in the area.

"Offensively, they are pretty much a running team," says Coach Hicks. "They like to run the option and they had great success putting points on the board going into the East Rutherford game. Like everybody else, they're in the SWC now and everybody better play good defense if they're going to have a chance to win. They ran into a real good defensive football team in East Rutherford."

As usual, R-S has an exciting offense. Tailback Warren Barnes is one of the quickest backs in the SWC and Huss has an experienced quarterback in 6-2, 210-pound Rich Meador, who can run and

See R-S Central, 7-A

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Kings Mountain's Shane Logan (33) finds the going tough up the middle in Friday's game with Mooresville at Gamble Stadium. Logan led all rushers with 146 yards, but Mooresville won the game 23-8.

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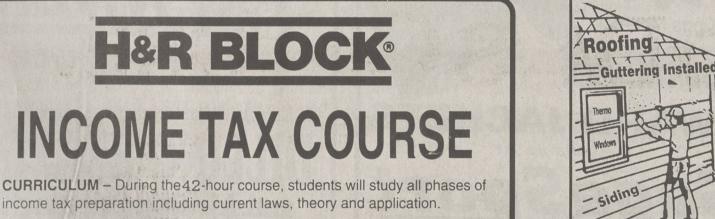
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