



Kings Mountain quarterback Lamont Littlejohn (3) tries to find some running room on an option play in Friday's game with Mooresville. The Blue Devils scored on three straight possessions in the first half to post a 23-8 victory.

FOOTBALL

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ping call. After KM's missed field goal attempt, it took the visitors just four plays to score, with Alexander taking an option pitch and covering 69 yards with 1:45 remaining in the first period to give Mooresville a 7-0 lead.

Early in the second period, Kings Mountain's Corey Jones fumbled a punt and was tackled in the end zone for a safety to push the Mooresville lead to 9-0. After KM's free kick, Mooresville drove 44 yards and scored on a 36-yard touchdown run by fullback Chris Smith to make the score 16-0 with 7:34 left in the first half.

The Blue Devils marched 90 yards for their final TD late in the first half, with quarterback Lavar Lowe hitting two key passes, including a 24-yarder to flanker Michael Parks for the touchdown.

Kings Mountain came back down field with an impressive drive of its own, but Kevin Melton's leaping catch of a 20-yard Littlejohn pass in the end zone with 16 seconds left was nullified because of an illegal receiver.

Safety Eric Tate scooped up a Mooresville fumble early in the third quarter and ran 75 yards down the visitor's sidelines, but it was nullified because of a clip. The Mountaineers regrouped from that setback and drove to the Mooresville 45 but Jones coughed up a fumble.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Mountaineers drove 68 yards for their only score, with Shane Logan covering the final 33 yards. Logan also caught a two-point conversion

THE YARDSTICK

	M	KM
First downs	9	10
Yds. rushing	199	217
Yds. passing	37	20
Passes	3-4-0	1-5-0
Punts	4-27	4-30
Fumbles lost	2	1
Yds. penalized	15	50

Score by quarters:	T
M	7 16 0 0 --23
KM	0 0 0 8 --8

M - Corey Alexander 69 run (Pat Stutts kick).

M - Safety.

M - Chris Smith 36 run (Stutts kick)

M - Michael Parks 24 pass from Lavar Lowe (Stutts kick).

KM - Shane Logan 33 run (Logan pass from Lamont Littlejohn).

RUSHING

Mooresville - Pat McLaughlin 13-82, Corey Alexander 5-60, Lavar Lowe 6-14, Jeff Robinson 1-(-1), Chris Smith 8-31, Monty Knox 7-19, Matt Spielman 2-(-6). Kings Mountain - Shane Logan 14-146, Corey Jones 10-75, Lamont Littlejohn 7- (-20), C.T. Williams 2-4, J.W. Garner 3-6, Jarvis Bell 2-6.

PASSING

Mooresville - Lowe 3-4-0-45. Kings Mountain - Littlejohn 1-5-0-20.

RECEIVING

Mooresville - Nathan Moore 1-11, Michael Parks 2-34. KM - Kevin Melton 1-20.

pass from Littlejohn to cut the margin to 23-8.

Kings Mountain's Jarvis Bell recovered a Mooresville fumble and returned it to the Blue Devils' 29 with 2:44 remaining, but the Mountaineer offense bogged down.

Coach Hicks had mixed feelings about his team's performance against a good 2-A team, but one which he felt the Mountaineers could beat.

"We felt like we had a lot of kids out there giving a good effort, but we also had a lot of mistakes and breakdowns," he said. "Until we get on the plus side of the good things it's going to be a struggle for us."

"We can half-way understand it because we're so young, but most

of these mistakes were because we weren't well focused and concentrating on what we're doing. That's something we can correct. We don't feel like we're in a dire strait. If we can eliminate those things and keep doing the good things we still have a chance to have a good football team."

Hicks said he was pleased with the play of Jon Lovelace and Mike Cobb on the line, Corey Jones and Shane Logan in the offensive backfield, Eric Tate in the secondary, and Cobb and C.T. Williams at nose tackle and linebacker, respectively. Williams had seven unassisted tackles and Cobb had six. Logan led both teams in rushing with 146 yards in 14 carries and Jones added 75 yards in 10 carries.

R-S CENTRAL

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"They have the most talent they've had in a while as far as speed," said Hicks. "Jack Huss even mentioned that it's the best speed he's had since he's been there. If they're on and you don't take away what they do well, they have the speed to break any play for a touchdown and score a lot of points on you."

The Hilltoppers have been a nemesis to Kings Mountain for years, and even in years when the Mountaineers have had good teams and R-S has been down they've managed to play close games. Huss, a former quarterback at R-S Central and Lenoir-Rhyne College, loves to put the ball in the air.

"He'll throw the ball, but he's going to set up his passing game by running the football first," Hicks

said. "Basically they're an option football team that runs a lot of counter traps. He'll get you playing that run and then he'll fling it on you."

Defensively, the Hilltoppers run a multiple front which could present a challenge to the young Mountaineers.

"They're pretty close to being a two platoon football team," Hicks said. "They have one back and one lineman that go both ways. They have good speed on defense, and they give you all those fronts and are always stunting two or three people. East Rutherford is no slouch, and to hold them to 20 points is not bad."

Kings Mountain may be without the services of running back Jarvis Bell and tackle Justin Champion. Bell sprained an ankle in last Friday's game with Mooresville, and Champion aggravated a back

injury. Kings Mountain will be starting five sophomores and several first-year juniors, but Hicks said they have the talent to get the job done.

"We have to challenge our kids to play a little better than they did last week," Hicks said. "They're capable of playing better."

Hicks said the Mountaineers will have to take advantage of their scoring opportunities, play good defense and get their kicking game back to where it was in past years.

"Offensively and defensively, we may just back off a little bit and try to get better on a few things rather than concentrating on too many things. We are dealing with a lack of experience and right now we're just not real good. We will try to simplify things a little bit and see if we can get a little better."

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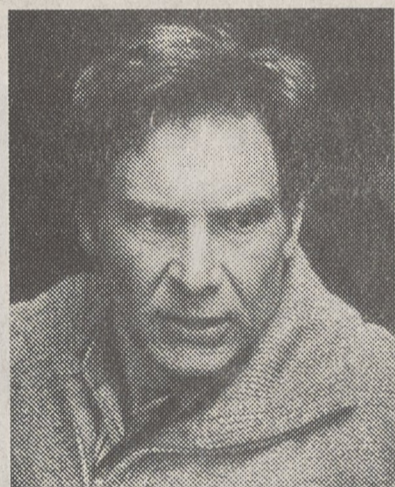


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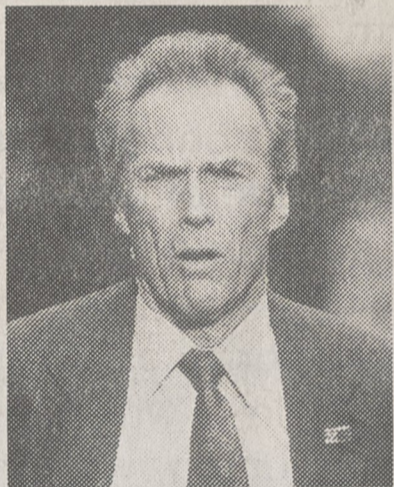
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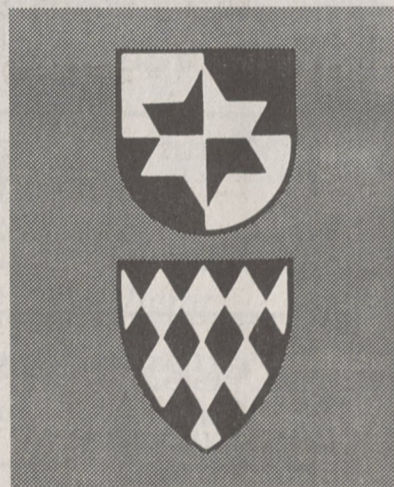


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