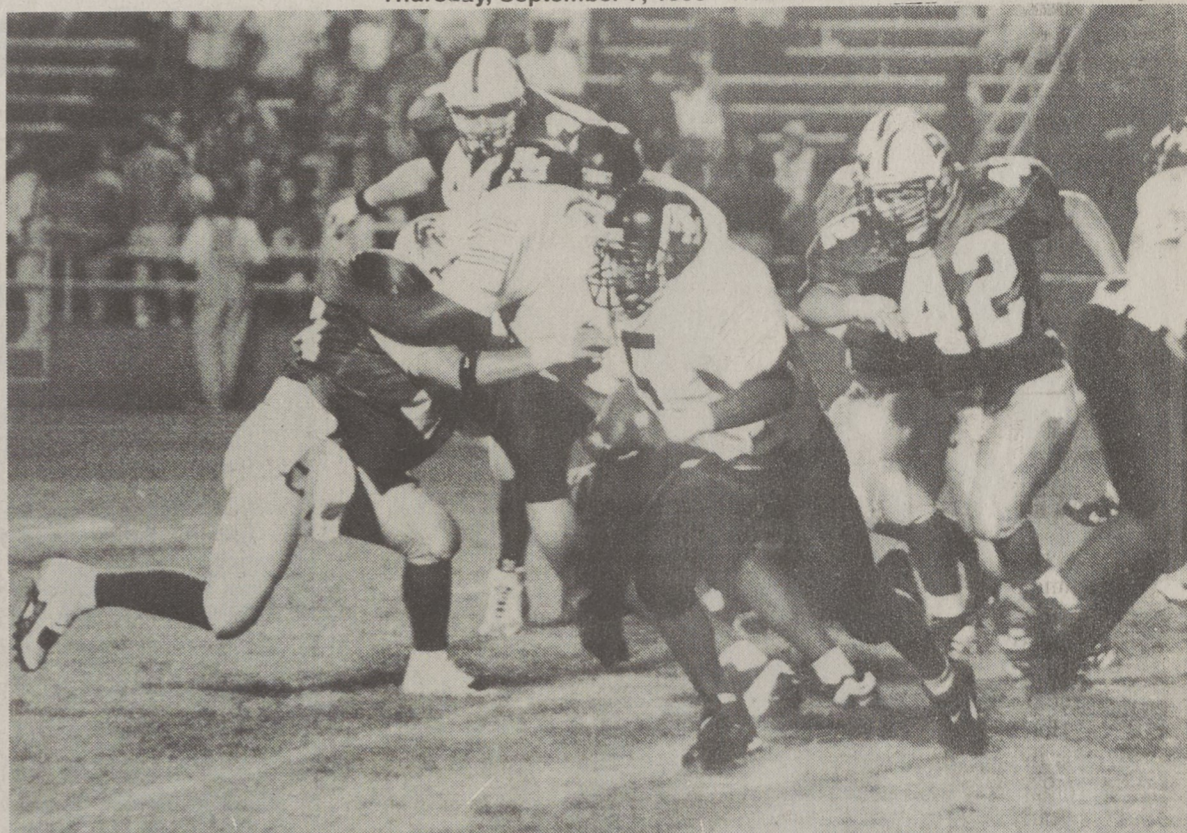




Kings Mountain quarterback Lance McClain (10) looks for a receiver in Friday night's non-conference football game at Crest. The Chargers, defending state 4-A champions, rolled to their 17th straight victory, 28-0. Crest goes after #18 in a row Friday at home against Shelby while Kings Mountain tries to rebound with a win over Bessemer City at KM's John Gamble Stadium. Game time is 8 p.m.



Marcus Smith (5) picks up some big yardage for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers in Friday's football game with Crest in the Chargers' stadium. Smith is an all-purpose back for the Mountaineers, usually having a good rushing and pass receiving game. The Mountaineers, 1-1, welcome Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets to Gamble Stadium Friday at 8 p.m.

Crest blanks KMHS for 17th straight victory

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers found out Friday night that their new wide-open offense has a long way to go - but neither Coach Ron Massey nor the fans that packed the Kings Mountain bleachers could find fault with the Mountaineers in their 28-0 pasting by defending state 4-A champion Crest.

The Mountaineers and Chargers, whose offenses and defenses are very similar, excited the crowd with a lot of long runs and passes. Very early on, though, it was evident that the Chargers' experience and depth would win out.

Crest and Kings Mountain put up almost identical numbers on the statistical charts, with Crest compiling 193 yards total offense to 191 for the Mountaineers. The big difference on the scoreboard, though, was because Crest took advantage of some big defensive plays to score touchdowns and also stopped a couple of potential KM scoring drives early in the game.

After an early exchange of punts, Crest drove 52 yards for the go-ahead score with Anthony Davis going over from 20 yards out with 7:16 left in the first quarter. Adam Stewart's PAT made the score 7-0. A 20-yard pass to Wiley

Petty set up the score.

The Mountaineers drove into Crest territory twice during the remainder of the first period and early stages of the second quarter, but each time the marches were stopped by pass interceptions. The second interception went through the KM receiver's hands into the hands of the Chargers' Rocky Kimble, who raced down the visitor's sidelines 72 yards for a touchdown. Stewart's PAT with 10:28 remaining gave the Chargers a 14-0 lead.

Crest drove 47 yards following a KM punt to take a 21-0 lead with 6:39 remaining in the half. Davis, who finished with 78 yards rushing in 12 carries, had a big 18-yard run for a first down at the KM 18, a nine-yard burst for a first down at the three, and then a three-yard run up the middle for the touchdown.

Kings Mountain's Eric Tate intercepted a pass to stop another potential Crest touchdown drive in the final seconds of the first half, but on the second half kickoff KM's Corey Jones mishandled the ball at the 12, and Crest recovered. Three running plays by Davis resulted in a three-yard touchdown run to close out the scoring.

Neither team really threatened in

the second half as the Charger punter kept the Mountaineers backed up on their side of the field, and Crest Coach Mike Stewart used the big lead to get a lot of players into the game. After his three runs on the 12-yard touchdown drive, Davis didn't touch the ball again but sophomore running back Rusty Spikes came on to gain 41 yards in 12 carries.

Kings Mountain Coach Ron Massey was disappointed with his team's turnovers - one fumble and two interceptions - but he was pleased with the effort his players gave.

"We felt like our kids gave a good effort throughout the game,"

See Crest, 8-A

Bessemer City at KM Friday night

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers return home Friday for an 8 p.m. contest with Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets.

Both teams carry 1-1 records into the contest. Bessemer City defeated North Gaston 28-0 in its season opener before bowing to a strong Newton-Conover team 40-8 last week. Kings Mountain defeated East Gaston 34-14 in its opener before losing to the powerful Crest Chargers 28-0 last week.

The Yellow Jackets of Mike Crawford are coming off their best season ever, a 10-3-1 mark which

carried them to the third round of the state playoffs last year. The tie was with Kings Mountain and two of the three losses were to state 2-A finalist Lincolnton by narrow margins.

Many of the same players that led the Yellow Jackets to that banner season are back this year, and new Kings Mountain Coach Ron Massey said they make Bessemer City a "scary" football team.

"Bessemer City can put six football players out there who are as good as anybody we'll play," he says. "I think Johnntay Mintz,

Sanchez Merritt, Maurice Goodson and Brian Sanders are as good athletes as we'll see. Their problem is depth, and I hope with us being able to two platoon will help us a little bit."

The Yellow Jackets are throwing the ball a little more this year than last, when they had the state's first-ever 3,000 yard rushing tandem in Philip Crosby and Harry Floyd, but they still depend mostly on their running game to reach the end zone. Merritt, who was the quarter-

See Bessemer, 8-A

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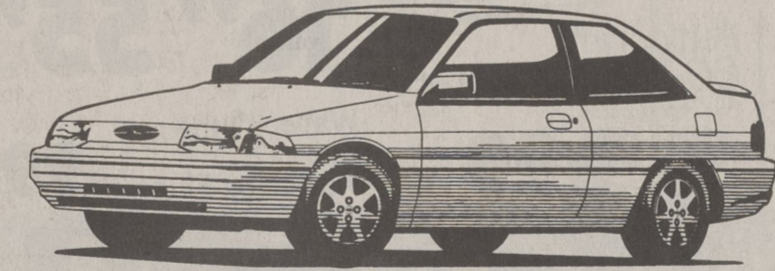
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