



Kings Mountain running back Marcus Smith (5) made perhaps the biggest catch of his football career Friday night when he hauled in this nine-yard pass from quarterback Lance McClain in the game-winning drive in the fourth quarter at South Point. The pass came on a fourth and six situation at the South Point 27 and kept the Mountaineer drive

alive. KM scored several plays later on Shane Logan's 21-yard run with 49 seconds left to win 18-13. The Mountaineers host Burns in another big Southwest Conference battle Friday night at Gamble Stadium.

4th quarter drive prevents upset

# Logan, Mounties trap Raiders 18-13

Kings Mountain High's coaches had a heart-to-heart talk with their seniors at halftime of Friday's Southwestern 3-A Conference football game with South Point's Red Raiders at Belmont's Lineberger Stadium.

With the highly-favored Mountaineers leading by only 12-7 against a fired-up South Point eleven, and Kings Mountain's offense not yet clicking on all cylinders, Coach Ron Massey said the coaches challenged the seniors to provide some leadership and make some big plays.

The entire team - not just the seniors - responded with a fourth period drive which erased a 13-12 deficit and gave the Mountaineers an 18-13 win which improved their record to 2-0 in the SWC and 5-1 overall.

The victory was sweet not just because it came on a field which is tough for a visitor to escape with a win, but also because it kept the Mountaineers on track toward their goal of qualifying for the state 3-A playoffs.

"We challenged the seniors and told them that this was the opportunity they had been working so hard for...that we had to have this game to have a shot at the playoffs," Massey said. "We knew going in it was going to be a tight ball game, and we told them they were going to have to step forward and make some big plays, and I thought they did that."

With leading rusher Shane Logan carrying the ball nine times to gain 65 of his 145 yards on the night, and with the Mountaineers converting two key fourth down

plays, Massey's team marched 78 yards in the final 7:34 to win the game. Logan scored the winning touchdown on a 21-yard run on a trap play in which he broke a tackle and carried two South Point defensive backs into the end zone with him.

Along the way the Mountaineers did not commit a penalty, which was in sharp contrast to their earlier play in which they were flagged 11 times for 119 yards to only one five-yard penalty against the Red Raiders. Logan reeled off gains of nine and 10 yards for a big first down at the 41 and quarterback Lance McClain went 13 yards on a keeper for a first down at the South Point 45. A five-yard run by Logan and an eight-yard jaunt by junior slotback Marcus Smith moved the Mounties to the 31 for another first

down, but three plays later the Mounties faced a fourth and six.

That's when Smith made a big catch of a pass across the middle by McClain to give KM a first down at the 18. Three plays later - with 1:54 remaining - the Mounties faced fourth and two at the nine and Logan bulled through the middle for a first down at the six.

McClain had trouble handling the snap on first down and fumbled the ball back to the 21 yard line, but the KM quarterback was able to beat the South Point defense to the ball. Facing second and goal, the Mountaineers called Logan's number and the big fullback broke right up the middle on a trap play, ran over one South Point defender and bulled into the end zone with two Raiders trying to hang on.

See South Point, 7-A

# Burns here Friday night

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers passed a big hurdle in last week's 18-13 victory over South Point's Red Raiders, but their biggest challenge lies ahead.

The Mountaineers, 2-0 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and 5-1 overall, now must turn their attention to two big county rivals - Burns and Shelby.

The Bulldogs, defending state champions, come to KM's John Gamble Stadium Friday night for an 8 p.m. contest which will probably nail down a state playoff berth for the winner.

Burns' overall 4-3 record isn't as impressive as the Mountaineers' 5-1 mark, but one must consider the level of competition the Bulldogs have faced. With better bounces of the football, the Bulldogs could be 6-1 because they suffered narrow losses to both Crest and Shelby when they fumbled away a potential game winning drive inside the five-yard line.

Even though they lost to Shelby 16-13 in overtime, the Bulldogs have already beaten an East Rutherford team which is also bat-

ling for a state playoff berth. After Kings Mountain, Burns' remaining conference games are against second division teams - R-S Central and South Point.

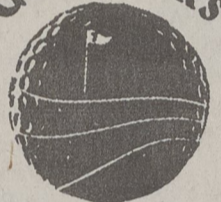
Mountaineer Coach Ron Massey knows his players must be at the top of their game to have a chance to beat the Bulldogs, and he's confident they'll give an outstanding effort.

"I think Burns is the type team that's going to play up to the level of competition," he said. "Coming in here with us being 5-1, they're going to play probably one of their better games. They have a lot of pride, they're the defending state champions, they are physical, have a tremendous running game, and defensively they do a great job of getting after it."

"It's going to be a physical, tough ball game. We're going to have to hope we get some breaks and make some big plays like we did last week and I think we'll be okay."

The Bulldogs have one of the  
See Burns, 9-A

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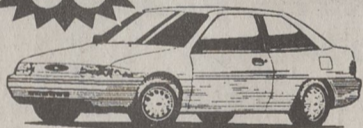
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