



**Gary Stewart**  
Editor

## Tar Heel basketball will probably be same

Last year I was thumbing through some old papers from 1961 looking for information on people who were being inducted into the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame.

I came across a column by the sports editor at that time, and he was chastising the University of North Carolina and its president, Dr. William Friday, for "deemphasizing" basketball at the school.

Carolina had just lost its beloved head coach, Frank McGuire. McGuire had coached the Tar Heels to their greatest moments on the hardwood, including an undefeated season and the national championship in 1957.

But the administration at UNC was not happy with the calibre of athletes being recruited and their academic success. So they were entrusting the basketball program to a young assistant named Dean Smith who was being told to cut the basketball schedule to just 16 regular season games and recruit people who would be students first, and basketball players second.

The writer proclaimed that "Tar Heel basketball will never be the same."

Although he didn't mean it positively, the writer turned out to be quite a prophet. Despite an 8-9 record his first year when he was hanged in effigy on the UNC campus, Smith brought success to the UNC basketball program that has been unmatched anywhere in the U.S. He not only became the winningest coach in college basketball history but in his 36 years as head coach over 97 percent of his players graduated.

Indeed, Tar Heel basketball was never the same.

Smith announced his retirement last Thursday in a hurried press conference. No doubt, the ride under new coach Bill Guthridge might not always be smooth but the man who has been Smith's right-hand man for 30 years and has been one of the most loyal employees of the University of North Carolina deserves a shot at carrying on Smith's winning tradition - both on the court and in the classroom.

Guthridge is probably not the #1 choice of UNC fans. Guthridge won't spend 36 years in the head coach's spot, he won't post 879 career victories and he may never win an ACC or national championship. He has indicated that he will probably retire himself in "five or six" years. And at that time the school can put the program into the hands of a fan favorite like Phil Ford or Roy Williams.

As for basketball at UNC never being the same: I think it will be the same for many, many years to come because Bill Guthridge not only learned from the best, but made a tremendous contribution to the Tar Heels being the best over the past 30 years.

## Yellow Jackets end losing streak

Short cuts from the world of sports:

Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets were tied for the longest losing streak in North Carolina football last week, but got quarterback James Bane back after a week's absence and posted their first win in 19 games, 19-6 over West Lincoln. Bane rushed for 106 yards in 16 carries and also hit 5 of 10 passes for 110 yards...

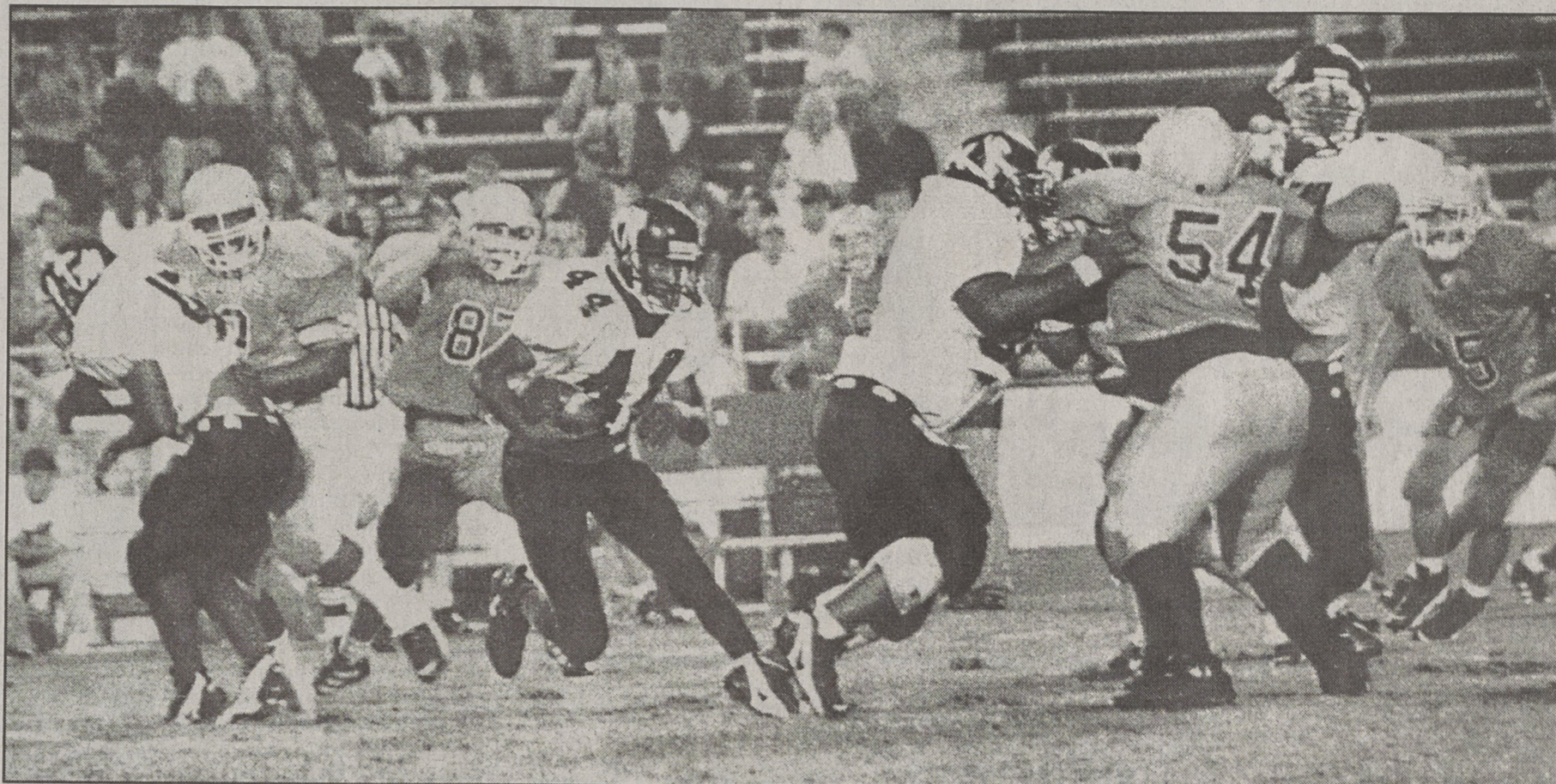
Defensive back Damien Daniels of Wake Forest, an East Rutherford product, was injured in last week's loss to North Carolina...

One of the super three recruits from Crest High School has made a decision on where he will play college ball. Bryant Malloy, a 305-pound offensive lineman, has given a verbal commitment to North Carolina's Tar Heels. The rumor mill had Malloy, Shamar Finney and Chelsey Borders attending the Penn State-Ohio State game in Happy Valley last Saturday...

Former Burns standout Scottie Montgomery of Duke was named the ACC Special Teams Player of the Week after an outstanding effort Saturday against Florida State. He returned five kickoffs for 146 yards and also caught six passes, including a 61-yard touchdown...

**PREP PICKS** - This week's high school winners will be Kings Mountain over R-S Central, Burns over North Gaston, South Point over East Rutherford, Ashbrook over North Meck, East Gaston over Vance, West Meck over Hunter Huss, Crest over McDowell, Statesville over Alexander Central, Freedom over Watauga, Cherryville over West Lincoln, Chase over Lincoln, and Shelby over Maiden. (Last week 9-2, season 51-15).

**ACC PICKS** - This week's ACC winners will be Virginia over Duke, Florida State over Georgia Tech, Wake Forest over Maryland, and North Carolina over N.C. State. (Last week 4-1, season 36-11).



**BURNING THE BULLDOGS** - Kings Mountain running back Joe Williamson (44) finds a hole in the Burns defense and rips off a big gain in Friday's Southwestern 3A Conference football game at Burns. The Mountaineers opened their conference schedule with an impressive 28-0 victory.

# R-S Central here Friday

A young but very talented R-S Central team will roll into John Gamble Stadium Friday night to challenge the defending Southwestern Conference champion Mountaineers in what the Hilltoppers probably are considering a "must win" situation for them.

The Hilltoppers, 4-2 overall, lost to their county rival East Rutherford 28-6 in their opening SWC game last week. With only two playoff spots available to the SWC this year, Coach Mike Mabry and the Hilltoppers will probably pull out all the stops in an effort to beat the Mountaineers.

It is a crucial game for the Mountaineers, also, since after this week they face two rugged teams (East Rutherford and South Point) on the road. R-S Central has scored some impressive non-conference wins over some perennial Western powers such as McDowell, East Burke and West Henderson. Even though they are young, their junior class comprised the R-S Middle School team which won the Tri-County championship with an

unbeaten record two years ago.

"They have some good looking skill kids, just like they always do," says KM Coach Ron Massey. "They are coming off a tough loss to one of their big rivals, East Rutherford, so this is a situation where they've got to come in and win. I anticipate them putting everything on the table. We may see some quick plays and may see some changes."

The Hilltoppers have quick-strike potential in the air and on the ground, and a big offensive and defensive line.

"They seemed to be playing pretty good up until last Friday," Massey said. "I don't know exactly what happened. It was just 2-0 at the half but East kind of got away with it in the second half."

"They're in the same boat as we are," he continued. "They lost most of their backfield last year offensively, and a couple of outstanding defensive players. So they are young like we are, and I think it's going to be another situation where we have to go in play a no turnover ball game."

"When you get into conference play, if you can eliminate some of the turnovers, I think that's a big part of winning. I think when our defense went out and stopped Burns after they blocked that punt, and stopped them after the pass interception, it was real big for us. That's the first time this year we've come out and done that in key situations."

Although R-S has gone more to a running game in its two years under Coach Mabry, Massey said they still have the ability to "mix it up."

"I think they would like to come in and establish the run," he said. "They've got a bunch of backs that they rotate in and try to keep them fresh because a lot of them play defense too. They are quick, and a lot of their touchdowns come off of big plays where they break a tackle and get outside. They've got some speed at the skill positions."

## Mountaineers open SWC with 28-0 win over Burns

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers carried out their game plan almost to perfection in Friday's 28-0 Southwestern 3-A Conference victory over Burns at the Burns Stadium.

Coach Ron Massey said the KM coaching staff felt that since Burns had been a quick starter, it would be to the Mountaineers' advantage if they could shut the Bulldogs down early in the game.

As the two teams jockeyed for field position on a wet, foggy evening, the Mountaineers did just that, holding the Bulldogs to just three net yards in the first quarter and only 67 yards rushing and one seven-yard pass completion in the first half.

"We anticipated going in that it would be a close game," said Coach Massey. "Burns had been a fast starter in most of their ball games with the exception of the Crest game. We felt like if we could keep them down early it would work to our advantage."

because we knew they had kids going both ways and that would help us in the third and fourth quarters."

The Mountaineers, who had lost to three tough teams heading into the opening SWC contest, played one of their best games with 313 yards total offense including 7-of-11 for 136 yards in the passing game.

After a scoreless first quarter, the Mountaineers put two touchdowns on the board in the second period for a 14-0 half-time lead, then broke the game open when Joseph Bell returned to second half kickoff 86 yards to the Burns four yard line, setting up a third TD which ran the score to 21-0.

"I thought, overall, this was one of our best games in all aspects of the game - with the exception of the blocked punt," Massey said. "As far as putting all the pieces together, it was probably our best game of the year."

Kings Mountain's defense

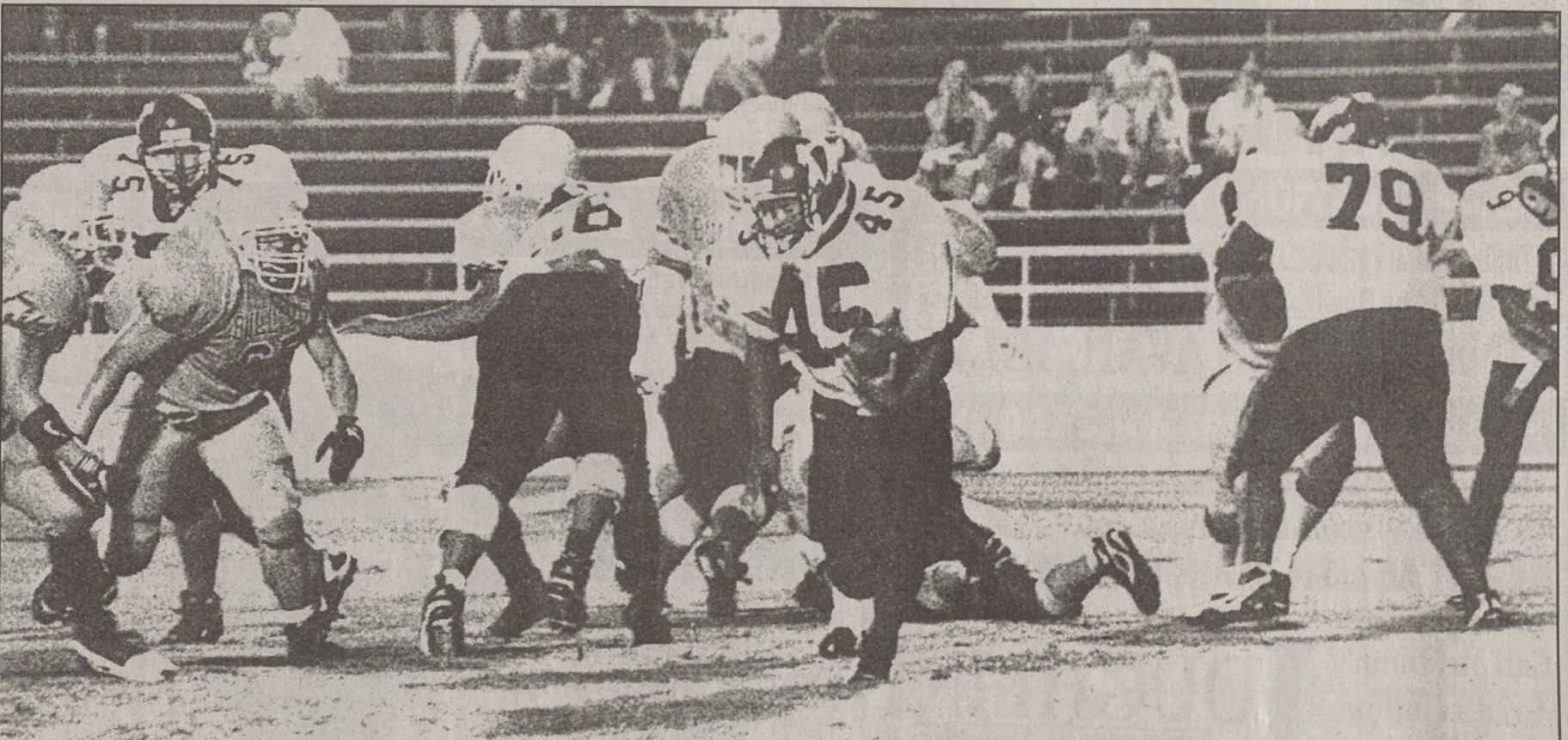
turned the Bulldogs every way but loose in the first period. Defensive back Landon Benton shut down the Bulldogs' opening drive with his fifth pass interception of the year, and they went three and out on their second possession after linebacker Mark Roper sacked Burns quarterback Wesley Greene on a third down passing attempt.

Following a clip on David Turner's punt return, the Mountaineers started their first touchdown drive from their own 36 late in the first quarter. After a seven-yard pass from Anthony Ash to Kendrick Bell, sophomore running back Joe Williamson rambled seven yards for a first down at the 45 on the last play of the quarter. On the first play of the second quarter, Ash hit Kendrick Bell on a flanker screen and he cut back to the middle of the field and rambled 54 yards for a first down at the Burns one foot line,

See Burns, 2B



**AND HE'S OFF** - Kings Mountain's Joseph Bell is loose on an 86-yard kickoff return in Friday's 28-0 win over Burns.



**LEADING RUSHER** - Kings Mountain's Anthony Hillman (45) banged through the Burns defense for 94 yards in 14 carries Friday night to help lead the Mountaineers to a 28-0 victory in their opening Southwestern 3A Conference game. The Mountaineers host R-S Central Friday at 7:30 at John Gamble Stadium.