

RAGSDALE

From 1B

a 62-yard gain to the Ragsdale three. Bell scored from one yard out on fourth down and Collin Goforth kicked the first of four straight extra points to make the score 14-7 with 6:32 left in the half.

Still, the Mountaineers couldn't come up with a way to stop the quick Ragsdale offense, and the Tigers drove 68 yards in 12 plays to score on a four-yard run by Freeland with 27 seconds left in the half. Freeland

THE YARDSTICK

	JR	KM
First downs	19	21
Yds. rushing	165	278
Passes	11-26-0	6-10-0
Yds. passing	135	113
Fumbles lost	0	0
Yds. penalized	7-49	9-90

Score by quarters:	T
R	14 7 0 0 -21
KM	0 7 14 7 -28

R - Bosaye Jeffires 13 pas from Joey Casazza (Aaron Jones kick)
 R - Darian Freeland 2 run (Jones kick)
 KM - Joseph Bell 1 run (Collin Goforth kick)
 R - Freeland 4 run (Jones kick)
 KM - Joseph Bell 7 run (Goforth kick)
 KM - Anthony Hillman 12 run (Goforth kick)
 KM - J. Bell 10 run (Goforth kick)

RUSHING

KM - Joseph Bell 18-100, Anthony Hillman 15-62, Anthony Ash 12-72, Joe Williamson 4-44. R - Freeland 23-109, Richard Serrano 3-18, Steve Edwards 1-4, Aaron Blackmon 2-8, Joey Casazza 3-26.

PASSING

KM - Anthony Ash 6-10-0-113. R - Casazza 11-26-0-135.

RECEIVING

KM - Chad Jones 3-26, Joe Williamson 1-62, Joseph Bell 1-20, Kendrick Bell 1-5. R - Jeffires 3-67, Freeland 2-38, Ingram 3-23, Clayton 3-7.

had seven carries for 29 yards during the march, the Mountaineers were flagged 15 yards for pass interference, and Casazza also completed a key eight-yard pass to Lamar Ingram for a first down.

The Mountaineers began seizing the momentum after that score and almost worked the ball into field goal range before the half expired. Joseph Bell, who finished the game with an even 100 yards rushing, got off a 20-yard run and caught an 18-yard pass from Ash to put the ball at the Ragsdale 42. Ash got off a 10-yard run around right end but time expired before he could call time.

The Mountaineers made some adjustments at halftime, and with the packed home stands behind them all the way, they completely dominated the second half.

Bell returned the second half kickoff 21 yards to the 31 yard line, and the Mountaineers marched 69 yards in 11 plays to score on a six-yard run by Bell which cut the margin to 21-14. Ash, who had 68 yards rushing on nine carries in the second half, had key first down runs of 7, 6 and 4 yards, then hit Jones with a nine-yard pass for a first down at the Ragsdale 20. Anthony Hillman carried defenders 13 yards up the middle of the field to set up Bell's TD run around left end.

After the defense held Ragsdale to three and out, the offense took over again at the 44 yard line and drove 56 yards in seven plays to tie the score on a 12-yard run by Hillman. Once again, it was Ash making the big plays as he rambled around left end for a 19-yard gain and a first down at the Ragsdale 31, and on a fourth and one call went 10 yards for a first down at the 12.

Big Frank Hopper slammed Freeland for no gain on a third and two rushing attempt at the 29 yard line, and Ragsdale had to punt again with 50 seconds remaining in the half. The Mountaineers drove 57 yards in just three plays to score the winning touchdown on a 10 yard run by Bell.

Ash's five-yard pass to Kendrick Bell got the drive going, and Williamson took a pitch around right end and rambled 42 yards to the Ragsdale 10 yard line to set up Bell's winning run around left end with 11:53 left in the game.

Although the Mountaineer offensive production slacked off somewhat, the defense continued to dominate, holding the Tigers to three and out on their next two possessions. Hopper, KeLee Thompson, T.J. McClain, Keyotta Huskey and Landon Benton kept the pressure on the Tigers' passing game while Boyd Mason, Mark Roper, Toby Sims and others kept Freeland in check.

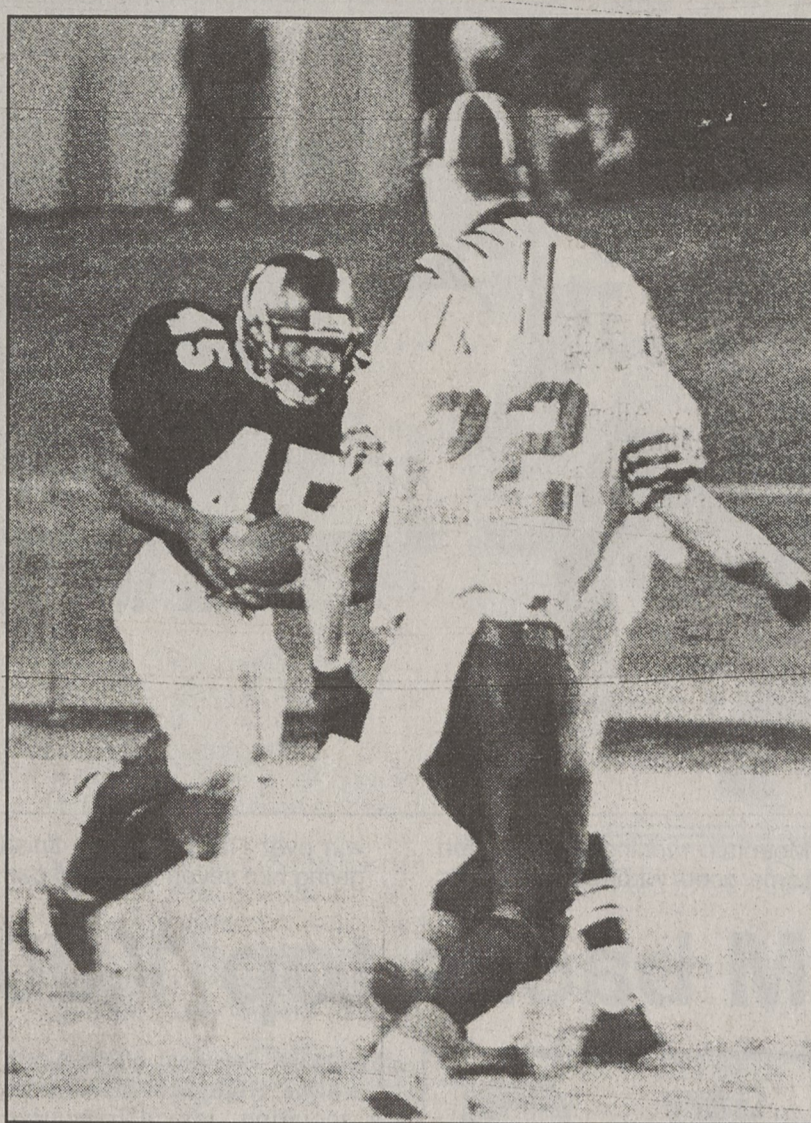
Kings Mountain was able to pick up a pair of first downs to milk the clock from 7:25 to 3:17 before a 51-yard punt by Andy Leigh backed the Tigers up to their own three.

A pass interference call gave the Tigers their first first down of the second half at the 2:40 mark, and Freeland caught a 20-yard pass from Casazza for first down at the 40. Sims, Roper and Jamar Moore broke through to throw Ingram for a five-yard loss on a backward pass attempt but Casazza scrambled for 23 yards and a first down at the 23. He got off another pass to Freeland in the left flat and he turned it into an 18-yard gain and a first down at the 23, but the Mountaineers slammed Casazza to the ground on a running attempt, and then three passes fell incomplete with Keyotta Huskey breaking up the final pass attempt at the 1:27 mark.

Although the defensive adjustments the coaches made at halftime paid off, Massey said the key to the victory was the fact that the Mountaineers just played much better in the second half.

"I think we played a lot harder," he said. "Instead of waiting for things to happen we started making them happen. Offensively, we executed well in key situations and took advantage of what they were giving us."

"We felt all along that if we could get to the fourth quarter



MOUNTAINEER MOMENT - Kings Mountain fullback Anthony Hillman (45) uses the official as a shield from Ragsdale defensive back Craig Chapel (22) on his 12-yard touchdown run in Friday's state 3A playoff game at John Gamble Stadium. Hillman's run tied the score at 21-all in the third quarter, and the Mountaineers added a 10-yard touchdown run by Joseph Bell on the first play of the fourth quarter to defeat the Tigers 28-21 and advance to Friday's Western Regional championship game at Kannapolis.

and have it close that we'd have an advantage," he added. "They had four or five kids playing both sides of the ball. We felt like if we could get them tired we'd be okay."

Massey credited the Ragsdale coaches for "spreading out" the Kings Mountain defense which had been awesome in earlier playoff wins over High Point Andrews and East Rowan.

"They took some big splits and we we had not seen that on tape," Massey said. "They spread us out and put us on islands, and we didn't tackle well in the first half. Also, number 8

(Freeland) probably had more speed than what we thought he had. He got on our corner a couple of times and outran us. Not many people have done that.

"We told the kids at halftime that we had to start making some plays and getting some enthusiasm and some excitement generated. If we had been on the road Friday night I don't think we would have come back. But being at home, with the crowd and the job they did staying behind us and getting us fired up, was an asset for us."

KM playoff tickets on sale at high school

Tickets for Friday's state playoff game between Kings Mountain and A.L. Brown are on sale for \$5 at the main office at Kings Mountain High School. Tickets will be sold through lunch time, Friday.

Tickets at the gate will be \$6. Maps to the A.L. Brown football stadium are also available at KMHS.

Mountaineer grapplers lose to Ashbrook 51-24

Kings Mountain High's wrestlers lost to Ashbrook 51-24 in their season opener last Tuesday night.

The Mountaineers will compete in the Gaston County Tournament Saturday and travel to West Mecklenburg next Tuesday.

103 - Jason Bridges (KM) d. Kenneth Bandoly 7-5; 112 - Kenneth Clark (KM) d. Kyle Seigal 14-9; 119 - Jason Moore (KM) p. Matt Deamer; 125 - Allen Wray (KM) won by forfeit; 130 - Justin Kies (KM) won by forfeit; 135 - Matt Pennigar (A) p. Shane Short; 140 - Travis Curry (A) p. Harley Price; 145 - John Watson (A) d. Bill Welsh 7-3; 152 - Iuan Lamphiear (A) p. Josh McDaniel; 160 - Len Yasaki (A) p. Derrick Dixon; 171 - Matt Oliver (A) p. Clint Logan; 189 - David Spence (A) p. Johnathan Merck; 215 - James Peterson (A) p. Javarous Wilson; Hwt - Marquee Littlejohn (A) p. Brock McDonald.

CC tennis tourney proceeds to Hospice

The Cleveland County Open Tennis Tournament was held last weekend at the Kings Mountain High School courts. The event was sponsored by Dicey Fabrics and Carolina State Bank, and all proceeds went to Hospice of Cleveland County.

Tournament director was Ron Humphries.

Championship results:
 Mens Open Doubles - D. Stroud-F. Jones d. R. Humphries-J. Parker 6-4, 6-3;

Mens B Singles - T. Franks d. K. Edwards 7-6, 7-5.

Mens B Doubles - K. Edwards-R. Peterson d. K. Houston-B. Gangoo 6-2, 6-0.

Mens C Singles - R. Chary d. E. Clontz 6-2, 6-3.

Womens B Singles - G. Robinson d. C. Hamrick 6-2, 7-5.

Mixed Doubles - J. Wall-R. Henderson d. K. Edwards-G. Robinson 6-4, 7-5.

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