

Tri-County Ranking

Rank	Record	LW
1 - K. Mtn.	14-2	1
2 - Shelby	13-2	2
3 - Ashbrook	13-1	3
4 - E. Ruth.	10-2	4
5 - Chase	10-3	5
6 - Crest	6-6	6
7 - Burns	8-5	7
8 - N. Gaston	7-4	8
9 - S. Point	5-6	9
10 - Cherry	5-6	10
11 - E. Gaston	3-8	11
12 - Huss	3-8	12
13 - RS Cent.	3-8	13
14 - B. City	0-11	14
15 - Forestview	0-11	15

Last Week's Results

(NCHSAA Championship)

1A
Starmount 22, N. Edgecomb 20

2A
Shelby 33, Tarboro 14

3A
W-S Carver 33, K. Mtn. 28

4A
Richmond Co. 36, Garner 6

Mountaineer Gridgraph

	KM	WSC
First downs	12	22
Yds. rushing	175	238
Yds. passing	146	185
Passes	5-10	9-20
Fumbles/lost	4-1	2-1
Penalties	6-60	3-19
Punts	6-39.2	3-44.0

Score by quarters:

	T
KM	14 14 0 0 28
WSC	14 13 0 6 33

K - Kendrick Bell 79-yard kickoff return (Ben Howell kick)
C - Courtney Weaks 2 run (Wesley Gant kick)
KM - Anthony Hillman 25 run (Howell kick)
C - Jamile Jackson 13 pass from Weaks (Gant kick)
K - Jamal Byers 72 pass from Anthony Ash (Howell kick)
C - Lashun Peoples 45 yd run (Gant kick)
C -
Tyre Kirby 15 run (kick failed)
KM - Anthony Hillman 4 run (Howell kick)
C - Jackson 21 pass from Weaks (run failed)

RUSHING

KM - Anthony Hillman 15-115, Anthony Ash 8-42, Joe Williamson 5-31, Jamal Byers 3 (-13), Carver - Lashun Peoples 6-83, Tyre Kirby 13-65, Tauric Rice 13-42, Courtney Weaks 12-26, Tavaris Gregg 4-22.

PASSING

KM - Ash 5-10-0-146. C - Weaks 9-20-0-185.

RECEIVING

KM - Kendrick Bell 3-67, Jamal Byers 1-72, Chad Jones 1-7, Carver - Jamile Jackson 4-81, Lashun Peoples 3-48, Ryan Brahm 1-55, Tyre Kirby 1-1

PUNT RETURNS

KM - Kendrick Bell 1-27, Landon Benton 1-2. C - Peoples 1-18, Rice 2-3.

KICK RETURNS

KM - Kendrick Bell 2-82, Chad Jones 1-2, Joe Williamson 2-31, Carver - Peoples 4-100, Rice 1-11.

TACKLES

KM - Kelee Thompson 16, Landon Benton 9, Frank Hopper 8, Kevin Young 7, Antonio McClain 6, Michael Thompson 6, Lee Rhodes 5, Karl Burch 5, Torrey Cureton 4, Jamar Moore 3, Jason Feemster 3, Dwayne Littlejohn 1, Chad Jones 1, Bryan Thornburg 1, Qwenshon Goode 1, Jeremy Harris 1, Brad Bridges 1.

WSC - Marcus Gray 6, Adrian McCloud 5, Dwayne Little 5, Lashun Peoples 4, Allen Pinkney 4, Sean Wilkes 4, Michael Lowe 4, Wesley Talbert 3, Leon Moore 3, James Transou 2, Keith Miller 2, Kevin Vaughn 2, John Sturdivant 2, Ben Hines 2, Bernard Cain 1, Al Porter 1, Ryan Brahm 1, Brandon Johnson 1, Willie Daniels 1, David Edwards 1.

Late stinger preserves Carver win over Mounties in state 3A finals

Yellow Jackets get first title win in 33-28 come from behind effort

Prior to Friday's state 3A championship football game at Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, both head coaches - Keith Wilkes of Winston-Salem Carver and Ron Massey of Kings Mountain - said one of the keys to victory would be keeping the ball away from the other team's talented offense.

After a wild first half shootout which saw the Mountaineers grab a 28-27 lead at intermission, the Yellow Jackets' defense dominated the second half and their offense was able to put a late fourth quarter touchdown on the board for a 33-28 win and their first-ever state title.

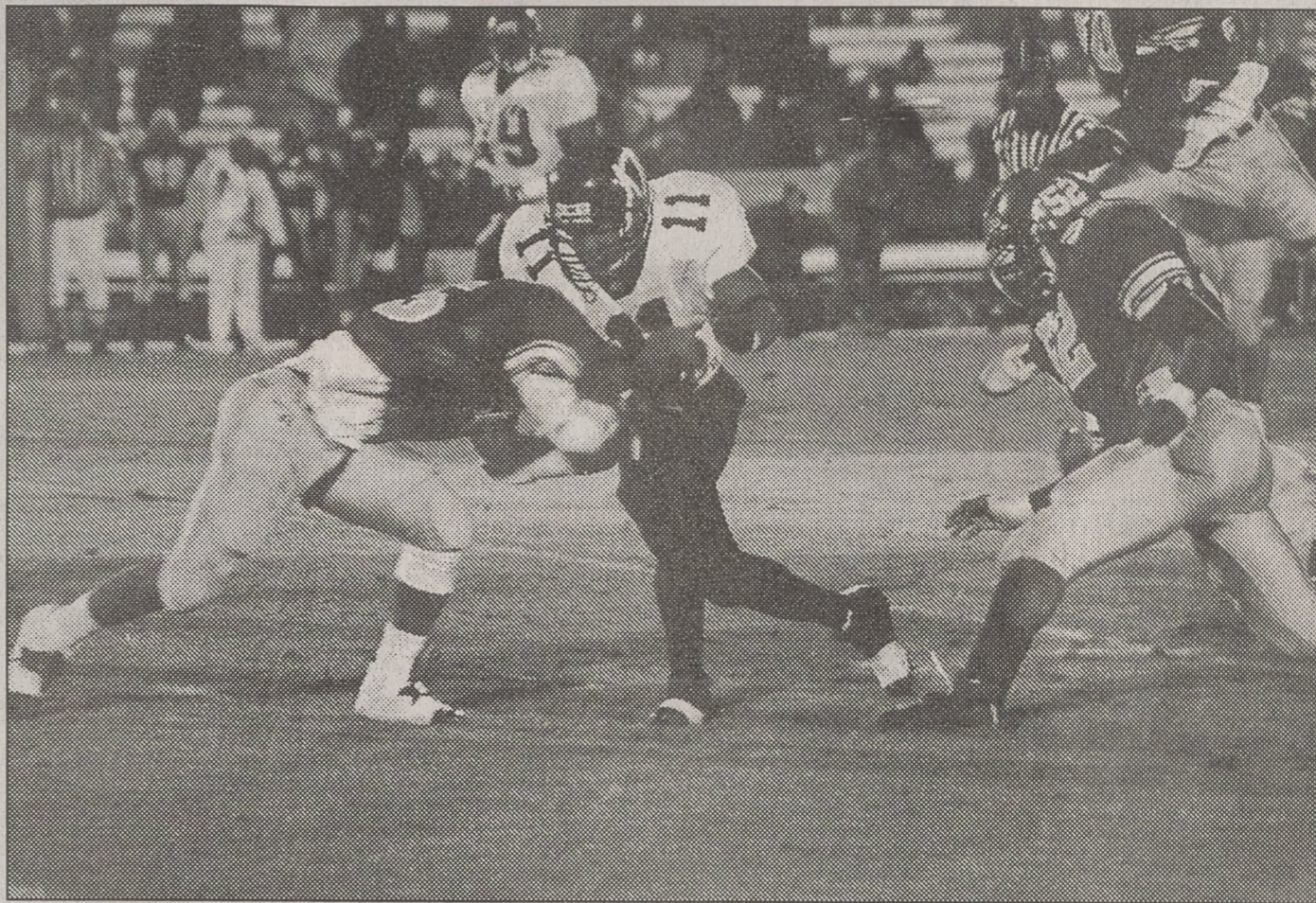
The victory gave the Yellow Jackets an undefeated season (16-0) and a two-year record of 28-2. The Mountaineers completed their best season in history with a 14-2 record.

The fast Yellow Jackets broke open a second half defensive battle with a game-winning 91-yard drive late in the fourth quarter, capped by a 21-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Courtney Weaks to wide receiver Jamile Jackson with 3:02 remaining.

The Mountaineers, who had been held to three and out on their first four possessions of the second half, mounted a potential game-winning drive but it ended on the Carver 29-yard line after Kendrick Bell caught a seven-yard pass but fumbled after a jarring hit by Carver defensive back Allen Pinkney.

The game was anything but a defensive struggle in the first half as the two teams combined for 55 points and over 500 yards total offense. The

See Carver, 2B



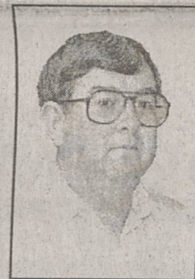
THE BIG STING - Winston-Salem Carver defensive back Allen Pinkney (25) lowers his head and shoulder into the midsection of Kings Mountain wide receiver Kendrick Bell (11) following Bell's seven-yard reception at the 30 yard line in potential game winning drive by Mountaineers in Friday's state championship game at UNC's Kenan Stadium. The jarring hit knocked the ball loose, and the Yellow Jackets recovered to preserve their 33-28 victory.

Mountaineers can feel proud of their '98 accomplishments

Who can ask more of a man than giving all within his span Giving all it seems to me is not so far from victory

-George Moriarty

Gary Stewart
Editor



season and not care for each other."

That night, and several times since, Massey has expressed how proud he is of his team's accomplishments and the way they handled Friday's loss with class.

"I'm very proud of the effort our kids gave," he said. "We've had a great run. Our seniors have set numerous records. We'll be back someday. Our kids will bounce back once they've realized what they've done."

Massey said that game, and sports in general, came into clear perspective for him Saturday morning when he attended a meeting of the State Football Coaches Association in Chapel Hill and learned that the son of one of his coaching friends from Cumberland County is facing a kidney transplant.

"That made me understand that winning a state championship is a great thing, but there are a lot of things we need

See Gary, 3B

There weren't many happy people on the Kings Mountain sidelines after Friday night's 33-28 loss to Winston-Salem Carver in the state 3A championship at Chapel Hill's Kenan Stadium.

Tears were flowing down the cheeks of the Mountaineer players, coaches and fans, and the hurt inside ran deep.

The school's first state football championship was well within reach late in the fourth quarter, but Carver drove for the winning touchdown pass, then stopped a potential game-winning drive by the Mountaineers in the final two minutes.

No doubt, players and coaches have replayed the game over and over, trying to figure out what they did wrong. But, they didn't do anything wrong, and

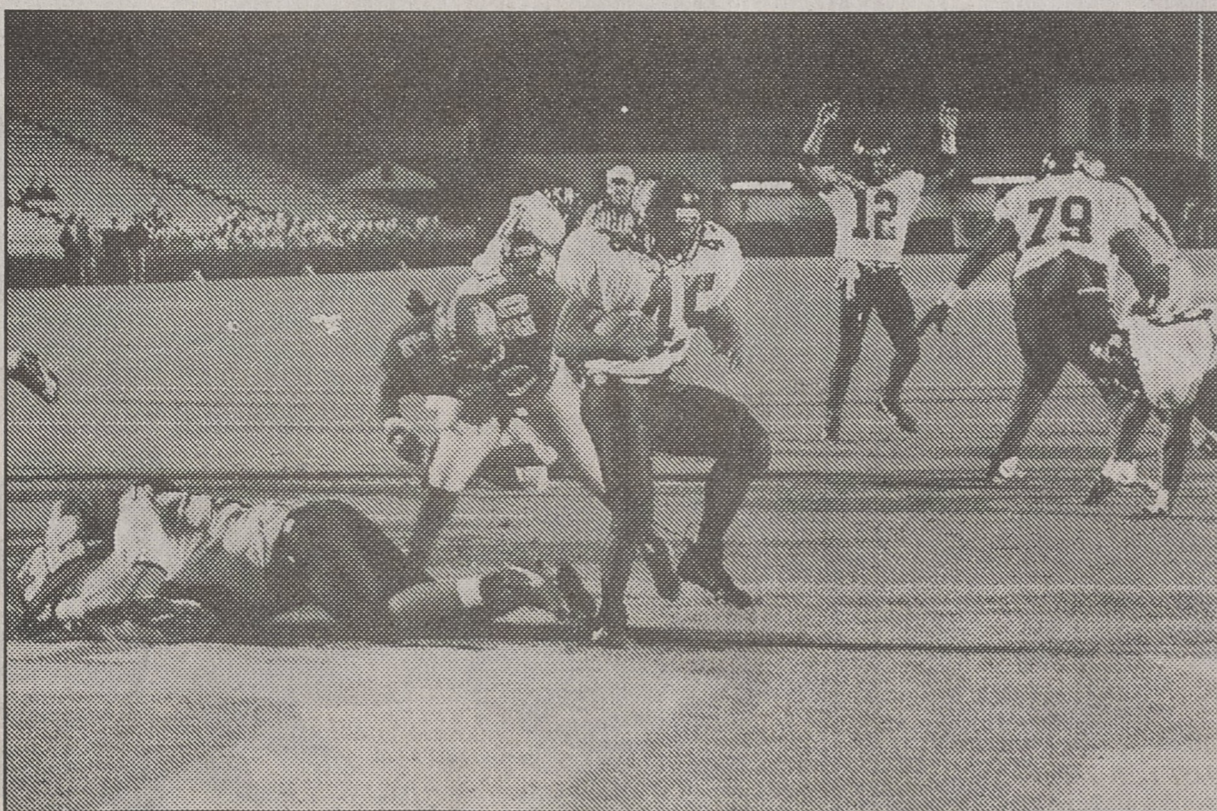
hopefully soon they will be able to look back and feel good about their accomplishments during what was by far the most remarkable season the school has ever had.

During the post-game huddle with his players, which has become a ritual at KMHS, Coach Ron Massey held back his tears as he congratulated his players on a great season, but it was hard for him to hold back at the post-game press conference.

"The tears are not for me, but for our seniors and all the kids that have given so much to our program," he said. "When they hurt, we hurt. You don't spend 16 weeks together in the off-

12 Mountaineers All-Conference

Hillman player of the year, Massey selected top coach



GIVES KM THE LEAD - SWC Player of the Year Anthony Hillman scores from four yards out, and Ben Howell followed with an extra point, to give the Mountaineers a 28-27 halftime lead in Friday's state championship game with Winston-Salem Carver at UNC's Kenan Stadium. Carver came from behind in the fourth quarter to win 33-28.

Kings Mountain High's record-setting running back, Anthony Hillman, and other members of the team are now racking up the rewards of the team's most successful football season in history.

Hillman Monday was named the Southwestern 3A Conference Offensive Player of the Year and joined 11 of his teammates on the All-Conference team.

In addition, Mountaineer Coach Ron Massey was voted SWC Coach of the Year for the second time in three seasons.

Kings Mountain placed nine players on the first team, and three on the second team.

Joining Hillman on the first team offense were quarterback Anthony Ash, wide receiver Kendrick Bell, and linemen Julius Curry, Mariko Feemster and Karcem Marshall.

Mountaineers on the first team defense were linemen

Frank Hopper, linebacker Kelee Thompson, and defensive back Landon Benton.

Kings Mountain wide receiver Joe Williamson made the second team offense; and lineman Michael Thompson and linebacker Lee Rhodes made the second team defense.

Hillman, Bell, Hopper, Curry, Feemster, Benton and Marshall were on the All-SWC team for the second year in a row.

East Rutherford defensive end Chavis Smith was voted SWC Defensive Player of the Year.

Others on the first team offense were linemen Barry Lee, Jason Randolph and Chavis Smith of East Rutherford, wide receiver Randy Thompson of North Gaston, and running back Jeremy Jackson of South Point.

See All-SWC, 3B