

Lady Mountaineer swimmers win against conference teams

Kings Mountain High's girls swim team picked up a big win against conference opponents South Point, R-S Central and Forestview Wednesday at Neisler Natatorium.

The Mountaineers compiled 345 points to 231 for R-S, 173 for South Point, and 135 for Forestview.

In boys action, R-S Central won with 276 points, followed by KM with 237, South Point 159, and Forestview 130.

Kings Mountain got first place finishes from Wes Frye, Elise Mayse and Naoki Nishyama. The KM girls also won all three relays.

Coach Sarah Mayse's team is idle until Wednesday, January 6 when they host T.C. Roberson.

Diving begins at 4:30 p.m., swimming warm-ups at 5:30, and swimming action at 6 p.m.

Girls results

200 medley relay - Neisler, Mauney, Mayse, Propst, first; Causby, McGinnis, Burgess, Shannon, sixth.

200 free - Mayse second, Nicole Hagner fifth, Blair Cannon sixth.

200 IM - Wendy Neisler second.

50 free - Laura Propst third, Hagner sixth, Shannon eighth, Hannah Ware, Leah Hall, Brigitte Struchen, Kerri Brutko, Jennifer Fredell.

Diving - Tiffany Ely first, Abby Haynes second.

100 butterfly - Mollie Patterson fifth, A'me Mauney sixth, Christy Burgess seventh.

100 free - Neisler second, Propst third, Jessica Branham fifth.

500 free - Mayse first, Cannon fourth.

200 free relay - Propst, Hagner, Neisler, Mayse first; Haynes, Shannon, Ware, Brutko fifth; Burgess, Hall, Fredell, Tate eighth.

100 back - Ely second, Heather Causby fifth.

100 breast - Mauney second, Haynes third.

400 free relay - Branham, Patterson, Causby, Hagner first; Brutko, Burgess, Struchen, Tate fourth.

Boys results

200 medley relay - Miller, Goforth, Nishyama, Frye third; Kies, Lovelace, Poole, Falls fifth.

200 free - Daniel Miller third, Brad Goforth eighth, Clark Poole ninth.

200 IM - Nishyama first

50 free - Wes Frye first, Trent Goforth fourth, Justin Kies 11th; Ben Sabetti, Clint Falls, Jonathan Tittle, Jesse Frisina, Brandon Gist.

Diving - Brad Goforth first, Kyle Lovelace second.

100 butterfly Naoki Nishyama first.

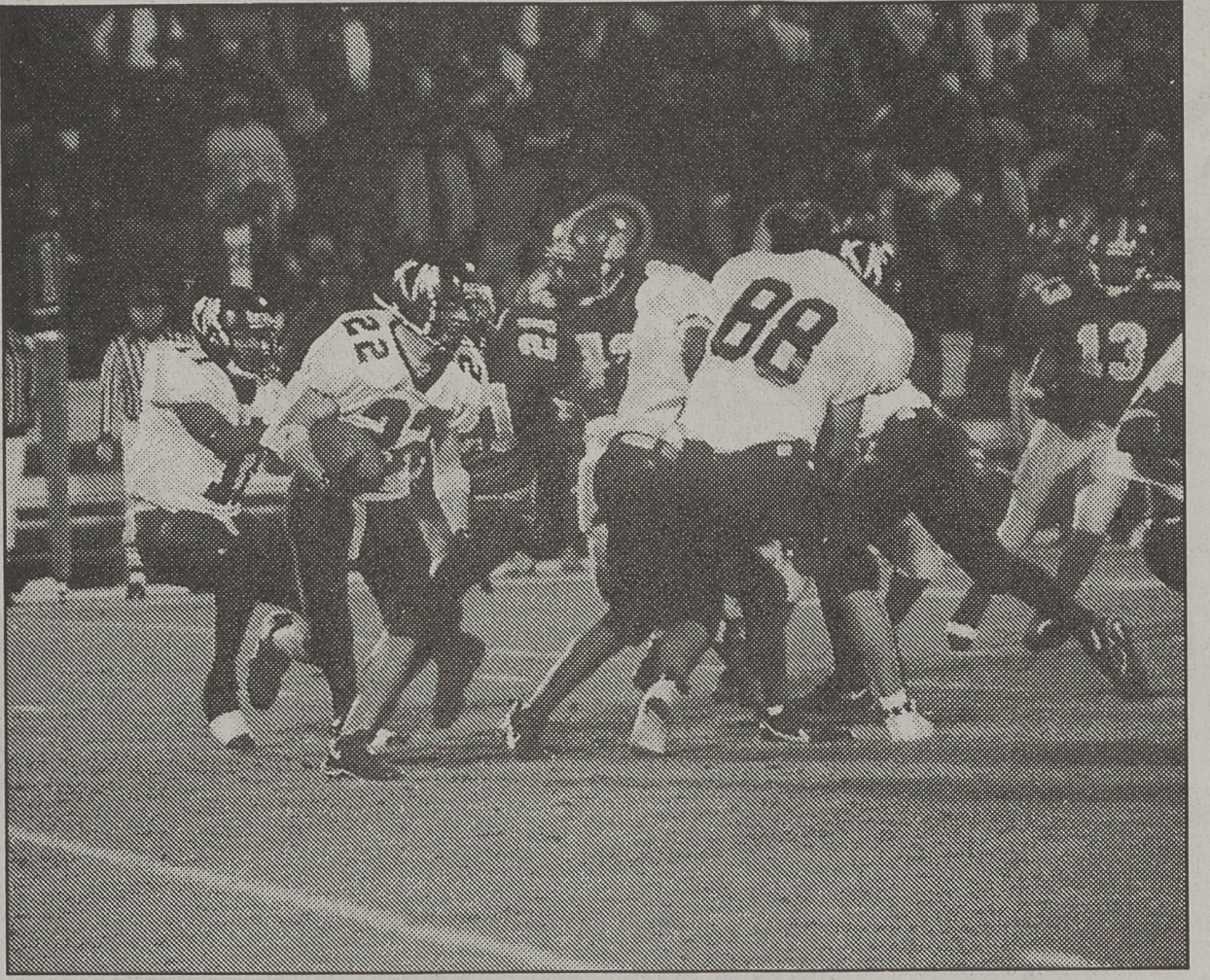
100 free - Marty Goforth first, T. Goforth sixth.

200 free relay - Lovelace, T. Goforth, Frye, M. Goforth second; Sabetti, Falls, Tittle, B. Goforth seventh.

100 back - Miller third, Kies eighth, Poole ninth.

100 breast - M. Goforth fifth, Lovelace sixth.

400 free relay - Nishyama, T. Goforth, Frye, Miller first; Sabetti, Frisina, Poole, B. Goforth fifth.



KICKOFF RETURN - Kings Mountain's Chad Jones (22) returns a kickoff 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.

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Mounties to host tourney

Kings Mountain High's boys basketball team will host the annual First Charter Bank North-South Doubleheader Friday and Saturday at the KMHS gym.

Games are slated for 7 and 9 p.m. each night, with North Carolina schools Kings Mountain and Hunter Huss taking on South Carolina schools Blacksburg and Boiling Springs.

Kings Mountain Coach Larry Sipe will welcome back his players from the championship KMHS football team and will look to them to provide the leadership to turn around a 1-4 start.

The Mountaineers dropped their third game in a row Monday night at Shelby, 88-56. The Lions of Ken Napier rolled to a 22-14 first quarter lead and a 48-31 halftime advantage and continued to turn on the burners in the second half.

Marcus Odoms led the KM scoring with 12 points, and Bryan Houze added 10.

KM (56) - Henderson 8, Adams 1, Moore 1, Odoms 12, Odell 2, Cureton 6, Byers 4, Houze 10, Thompson 4, Young 8. Shelby (88) - Petty 7, Littlejohn 6, Whitesides 18, Peterson 5, Parrish 11, Baxter 4, Borders 7, Olwier 12, Smith 2, Vircher 2, Lawrence 4.

CARVER

From 1B

teams put four touchdowns on the board in each of the first two quarters, with the only difference in scoring being a missed extra point following the Jackets' fourth TD.

The Mountaineers, who took 76 years to get to their first state championship game, took only 10 seconds to score as Bell returned the opening kickoff 79 yards, and Ben Howell added the extra point for a 7-0 Mountaineer lead.

But Carver came right back with a 72-yard scoring drive, capped by a two-yard run by game MVP Weaks, and a PAT by Wesley Gant.

The Mountaineers took just 46 seconds to score again, this time on a 25-yard burst up the middle from fullback Anthony Hillman. Bell set it up by catching a short wide receiver screen and turning up field for a 47-yard gain.

But Carver came right back with a four-play, 47-yard scoring drive. Weaks hit Jackson with a 13-yard touchdown pass.

After a change of possession in which the Mountaineers had to punt and Landon Benton recovered a Carver fumble, the Mountaineers got another quick score when quarterback Anthony Ash hit slot back Jamal Byers on a quick pass across the middle. Byers split the Carver defense, and rambled 72 yards for a 21-14 lead.

But the Yellow Jackets had another answer in the form of all-anything Lashun Peoples, who faked a punt and rambled 45 yards to tie the score again at 21.

Carver took its only lead of the first half late in the second quarter, driving 44 yards in just three plays to score on a 15-yard run by Tyre Kirby. But Gant's extra point attempt failed, leaving the score at 26-21.

The Mountaineers bounced right back and covered 80 yards in eight plays to score on a four-yard run by Hillman with 1:06 remaining. Howell's extra point kick broke the tie and gave KM a 28-27 halftime edge.

In the second half, the Yellow Jackets stacked the middle to take away Kings Mountain's power running game, and even though the Mountaineers were able to get on the perimeter Carver's defensive speed quickly closed off the running lanes.

"Their speed showed up in the second half," noted KM Coach Ron Massey. "They started closing the middle on us and we thought we could get the perimeter, but their team speed just didn't allow us to."

Carver Coach Keith Wilkes said he got his defense together at the half and told them "they've scored enough," and challenged them to shut down the big KM offense in the second half.

The Jackets did a great job on Hillman, limiting him to four carries for 22 yards in the second half after he had gained 93 yards in 11 carries in the first half. And, the Yellow Jackets won the ball control battle, running 69 plays to just 41 for the

Mountaineers and keeping the ball for 29:30 compared to 18:30 for the Mountaineers.

"I was glad we didn't see Hillman much in the second half," Wilkes said. "He's a great back."

The big difference in Carver's win, other than its excellent speed, Wilkes said, was the passing game. The Yellow Jackets were able to use the height of their receivers to get over top of the KM defenders on several occasions, including the winning touchdown pass on which Carver's 6-3 Jackson out-jumped KM's 5-5 defensive back Antonio McClain on a fade pattern in the front corner of the end zone.

Wilkes credited his quarterback, Weaks, for making that play successful.

"He's the best quarterback I've ever had," Wilkes said. "He's a leader. He's a coach on the field, and he calls his own plays a lot of the time."

Weaks returned the compliment, crediting Wilkes and assistant coach Greg Scales for teaching him the fade pass.

"We've been practicing that for 17 weeks," he said. "Coach Scales and Coach Wilkes taught me how to throw it. You have to throw it over the left shoulder, and with their small defensive backs we could really just throw it up as a jump ball."

Despite that go-ahead touchdown, the Mountaineers felt they had plenty of time to drive for the winning score, as they did in the third round of the playoffs, when they drove 80 yards in the final three minutes to stun defending state champion Kannapolis 26-21.

"I thought we were in good shape," Massey said.

The Mountaineers immediately went to their ace, Hillman, and he responded with a 15-yard run and a first down at the 50. Joe Williamson's big four-yard run on fourth down kept the drive alive at the 37, and on a first and ten call Ash hit Bell on a receiver screen. But as he cut up field Carver's Allen Pinkney lowered his shoulder into Bell's mid-section, and his helmet into the football, the ball popped loose and Carver's Sean Wilkes recovered at the 29 to seal the victory.

Pinkney said he was looking for that pass play, and was prepared to make a big hit.

"We had seen them run it twice before," he said. "When he caught it I just gave it all I had."

Massey also gave Pinkney the credit.

"He just made a great hit," Massey said. "There's not a receiver in the state of North Carolina that could have held on to that football. It was just a tremendous shot."

Despite the loss, Massey was proud of his players who gave him and the school its best football season ever.

"I thought our kids played real hard," he said. "The effort they gave was all we could ask for. I am proud of them. I hope nobody feels like there's someone to blame. If they do I hope they'll blame me and not any of the kids. The effort they gave was more than we could ask for."

"Carver deserves the credit for winning it. I thought their kids played extremely well. My hat's off to Carver and Coach Wilkes."

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