



MOUNTIE POSTGAME

PLAYERS OF THE GAME (Wendy's MVP)

LASHUN PEOPLES, DB/RB, Winston-Salem Carver, 6 carries for 83 yards, 1 TD, 1 punt return for 18 yards, 4 kickoff returns for 100 yards, 3 punts for 44.0 average, and four tackles.

(Outstanding off. players)

COURTNEY WEAKS, QB, Winston-Salem Carver, 12 rushes for 26 yards, 9-of-20 passing for 185 yards and two TDs.

ANTHONY HILLMAN, RB, Kings Mountain, 15 carries for 115 yards and two touchdowns.

(Outstanding def. players)

ALLEN PINKNEY, DB, Winston-Salem Carver, four tackles including a bone-crushing hit to KM receiver Kendrick Bell which forced a fumble on a potential game-winning touchdown drive late in the game.

MICHAEL THOMPSON, DT, Kings Mountain, six tackles including one for two-yard loss and one for no gain.

PLAY OF THE GAME

With Kings Mountain trailing 33-28 late in the game and driving for a potential game-winning score, Winston-Salem Carver defensive back Allen Pinkney delivered a well-timed, crunching blow to Kings Mountain receiver Kendrick Bell, forcing a fumble which was recovered by the Yellow Jackets' Sean Wilkes at the Carver 30 yard line, and thus preserving their first-ever state championship victory.

BY THE NUMBERS

KM 14 14 0 0 -28
WSC 14 14 0 6 -33

FIRST PERIOD

11:50 - Kings Mountain - Kendrick Bell 79-yard kickoff return (Ben Howell kick).

7:42 - Carver - Courtney Weaks 2 run (Wesley Gant kick), 12 plays, 72 yards. Key play 26-yard pass reception by Jamile Jackson on a third and 13 situation.

6:48 - Kings Mountain - Anthony Hillman 25-run (Ben Howell kick), 3 plays, 68 yards. Key play 47-yard catch and run by Kendrick Bell for first down at the Carver 25.

4:58 - Carver - Jamile Jackson, 13 pass from Courtney Weaks (Wesley Gant kick), 4 plays, 47 yards. Key plays, pass interference against KM gave Carver first down at 29 yard line, followed by 16-yard run by Lashun Peoples.

SECOND PERIOD

9:43 - Kings Mountain - Jamal Byers 72-yard pass from Anthony Ash (Ben Howell kick), 5 plays, 98 yards. Joe Williamson 15-yard run for first down.

6:50 - Carver - Lashun Peoples 45-yard run on fake punt (Wesley Gant kick), 6 plays, 70 yards. Set up by Peoples' 23-yard reception.

3:48 - Carver - Tyre Kirby, 15-run (kick failed), 3 plays, 44 yards. Key play 29-yard reception by Peoples.

1:02 - Kings Mountain - Anthony Hillman 4 run (Howell kick), 8 plays, 80 yards. Hillman 5 carries for 57 yards, Anthony Ash 14-yard run for first down at 12.

FOURTH PERIOD

3:02 - Carver - Jamile Jackson 21 yard pass from Courtney Weaks (run failed), 10 plays, 91 yards. Key plays, KM face mask penalty gave Carver first down at 35, and Weaks went six yards on an option keeper on fourth and two situation to keep drive alive.

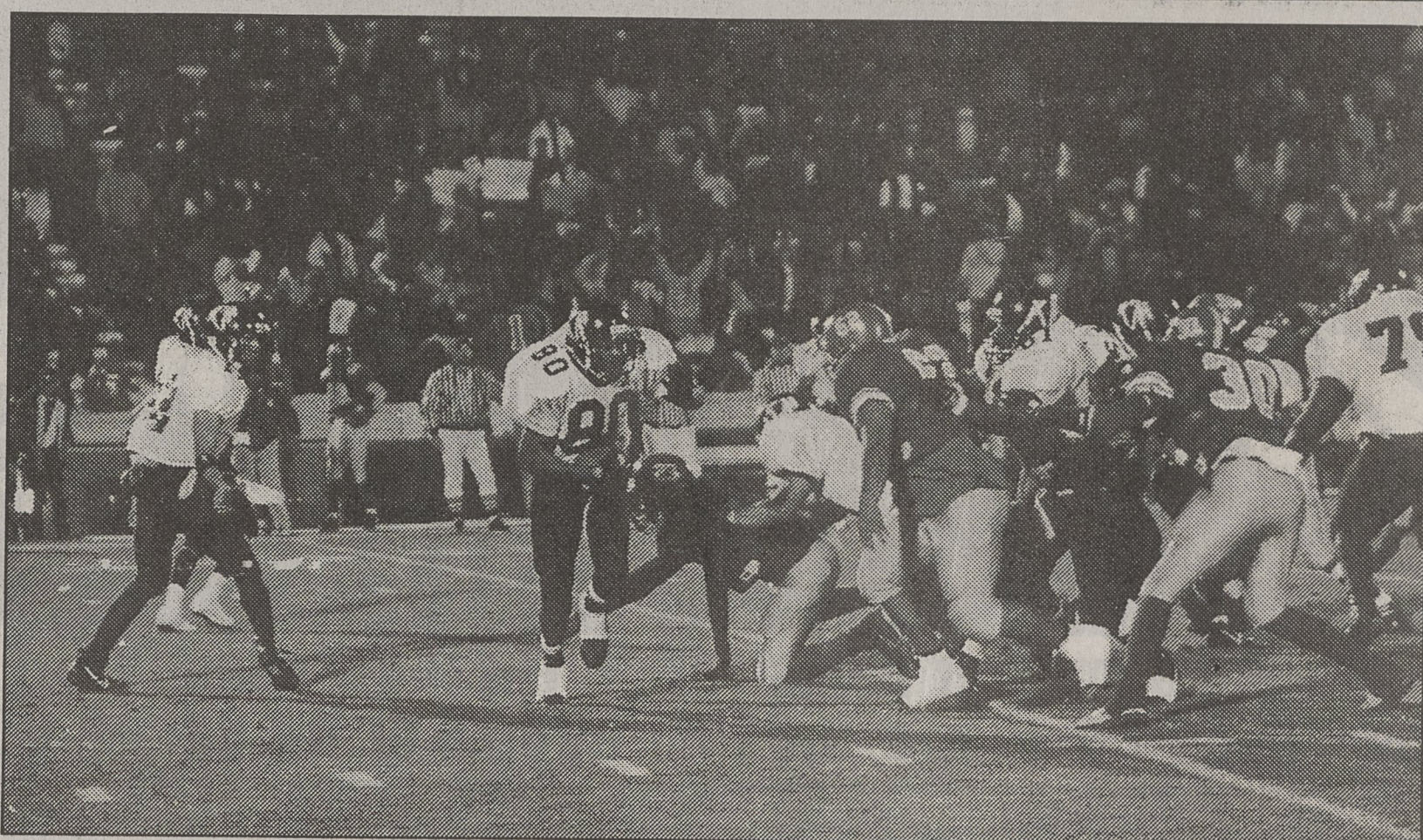
NOTABLE

Winston-Salem Carver's defense held Kings Mountain's offense to three-and-out on its first four possessions of the second half, and overall held the Mountaineers to just 38 yards rushing and 20 passing in the second half.

QUOTABLE

"That was a great hit. Not many receivers would hold onto the ball the way he was hit."

RON MASSEY, Kings Mountain Coach, on Allen Pinkney's blow to KM receiver Kendrick Bell which caused a fumble which sealed the Carver victory.



ALL-SWC From 1B

Others on the first team defense were linemen Jason Ceter of Burns, Chaz McDowell and Chavis Smith of East, linebackers Anthony Briscoe of Burns, Michael Sheppard of East, and Sam Mills of North Gaston, backs Kodi Wilkerson of East and Randy Thompson of North Gaston, punter Jesse Riddle of North Gaston, and placekicker Phillip Wright of South Point.

Joining Williamson on the second team offense were linemen Billy Auvil of Burns, Josh Brown and Brian Rollins of North Gaston, and Adam Donaldson and Michael Gulleddge of South Point, backs Josh Brown of Burns and Laremy Watson of North Gaston, and quarterback Devon Lowery of South Point.

Joining Thompson and Rhodes on the second team defense were backs Adam Elmore of Burns, Ra Miller of R-S Central and Jeremy Jackson of South Point, linemen John Mullis of South Point and Bernard Clemmer of North Gaston, linebackers Pete Cunningham of North Gaston, Alex Harrill of Burns and James Hines of East, and kicker Jason Jeter of Burns.

Hillman is the Mountaineers' third SWC Player of the Year in four years under Coach Ron Massey. In 1995, fullback Shane Logan was named Offensive Player of the Year, and last year linebacker Mark Roper was named Defensive Player of the Year.

Hillman was one of the top running backs in the state this year, carrying the ball 353 times for 2,510 yards and 26 touch-

downs. He was the State Player of the Week after his 250-yard performance against South Point, and he was the Channel 36 Player of the Week after his 298-yard rushing performance in the Mounties' 26-21 playoff victory over Kannapolis.

In two seasons, Hillman has carried the ball 563 times for 3,897 yards to become the leading rusher in Cleveland County history. He holds KMHS records for most yards rushing in a single game, most yards rushing in a season and career, and most points scored in a career.

Ash also had a record-breaking year on offense, hitting 82-of-152 passes for 1,198 yards and nine touchdowns to become the school's all-time leading passer. Ash's season total topped the previous single season record, and his two-year career total of 2,288 yards broke the previous record of 2,185 set by current KMHS assistant coach Ryan Hollifield.

Bell also closed out a big career with the Mountaineers with a school single game reception record of 30 catches for 569 yards, giving him a career reception record of 80 catches for 1,361 yards. He is the only football player in school history to have over 500 yards receiving in a season and 1,000 yards receiving in a career.

Massey closed out his fourth year with the Mountaineers with his best season ever (14-2) and a four-year record of 41-11-1. The Mountaineers won their third straight SWC championship - a feat never before accomplished in school history - and also made it to the state championship game for the first time ever.



RECEIVE AWARDS - Kings Mountain High football players receive awards for outstanding efforts following Friday's state championship game in Chapel Hill's Kenan Stadium. In top photo, Kings Mountain Supt. of Schools and NCHSAA Past President Bob McRae, right, presents runner-up trophy to Coach Ron Massey, left, and players Frank Hopper (78) and Julius Curry (61). In bottom photo, McRae presents the Mountaineers' outstanding player awards to defensive lineman Michael Thompson, left, and running back Anthony Hillman (right).

LOOKING FOR AN OPENING - Kings Mountain running back Jamal Byers (80) can't find a hole to run through against a quick Winston-Salem Carver defense in Friday's state championship game at Chapel Hill. Carver won 33-28.

GARY

From 1B

to be thankful for." In Kings Mountain, fans should be thankful not only for the team's success on the field, but also that the Mountaineers have a lot of dedicated coaches and players who work hard and play hard, and are good representatives of the school and community off the field as well.

"Nobody would have rather brought Kings Mountain a state championship than our coaches and kids," Massey said. "We all feel disappointed that we were unable to do that, but I think the lessons our kids got from this season and the memories they will keep will help them get over it and bounce back."

"When I look back and see the teams we played and how many good teams we beat, and just the direction that the program is headed and what this group of seniors have done, I feel real good about the future of Kings Mountain football. We lose a lot of players, but we've got some outstanding kids coming back. We've lost a lot before and bounced back, so after Christmas we'll go right back to work."

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