

Rank	Record	Last Wk
1 - South Point	9-0	1
2 - Crest	7-1	2
3 - Shelby	6-2-1	3
4 - Forestview	8-2	4
5 - Kings Mtn.	5-3-1	6
6 - Chase	5-3	7
7 - East Ruth.	5-4	5
8 - N. Gaston	6-3	10
9 - Ashbrook	3-6	11
10 - E. Gaston	4-5	8
11 - Burns	3-6	9
12 - C'ville	3-7	12
13 - RS Central	2-6	13
14 - Huss	1-8	14
14 - B. City	1-8	15

Last Week's Results

Kings Mtn. 54, East Ruth. 20
Ashbrook 20, East Gaston 14
Forestview 13, Huss 12
S. Point 47, Burns 21
N. Gaston 38, RS Central 23
B. City 32, Cherryville 19
Shelby 38, Lincolnton 0
Crest 53, Watauga 6

This Week's Games

Kings Mtn. at South Point
East Ruth. at North Gaston
R-S Central at Burns
Huss at Vance
Olympic at East Gaston
West Meck at Ashbrook
East Burke at Crest
B. City at Maiden
Shelby at Chase

PREP STANDINGS

Southwestern 3A

Teams	Conf. W-L	All W-L
South Point	4-0	9-0
Kings Mtn.	3-1	5-3-1
East Ruth.	2-2	5-4
Forestview	4-2	8-2
Burns	1-3	3-6
N. Gaston	1-3	6-3
R-S Central	0-4	1-7

Last Week's Games

Kings Mtn. 54, East Ruth. 20
S. Point 47, Burns 21
N. Gaston 38, R-S Central 23
Forestview 13, Huss 12

This Week's Games

Kings Mtn. at South Point
East Ruth. at North Gaston
R-S Central at Burns

ME-GA 7 4A

Teams	Conf. W-L	All W-L
Olympic	4-0	6-3
East Gaston	3-1	4-5
North Meck	3-2	7-3
Ashbrook	2-2	3-6
Vance	2-3	5-4
Huss	1-3	1-8
West Meck	0-4	1-7

Last Week's Results

Ashbrook 20, E. Gaston 14
Forestview 13, Huss 12
Olympic 26, North Meck 6
Vance 48, West Meck 0

This Week's Games

Huss at Vance
Olympic at East Gaston
West Meck at Ashbrook

S. Piedmont 1A/2A

Teams	Conf. W-L	All W-L
Shelby	5-0	6-2-1
Chase	3-1	5-3
Maiden	3-1	6-2
Cherryville	2-3	3-7
W. Lincoln	1-3	2-7
Lincolnton	0-4	2-7
B. City	1-4	1-8

Last Week's Results

Bess. City 32, Cherryville 19
Shelby 38, Lincolnton 0
Maiden 35, W. Lincoln 7

This Week's Games

Shelby at Chase
B. City at Maiden
W. Lincoln at Lincolnton

Northwestern 4A

Teams	Con. W-L	All W-L
Freedom	3-0	9-0
Crest	2-1	7-1
Alex. Central	2-1	5-4
East Burke	2-1	5-4
McDowell	1-3	2-7
Watauga	0-3	3-6

Last Week's Results

Crest 53, Watauga 6
Freedom 23, Alex. Central 14
E. Burke 13, McDowell 8 (ot)

This Week's Games

East Burke at Crest
Freedom at McDowell
Alex. Central at Watauga

SPORTS

SWC Game of the Year



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Kings Mountain's Justin Early (67) has East Rutherford quarterback Seneca Stroud (3) trapped behind the line of scrimmage in Friday's Southwestern 3A Conference football game at East Rutherford. The Mountaineer offense clicked on all cylinders, and the defense played a great second half as KM won 54-20. The Mountaineers travel to South Point Friday night to take on the explosive Red Raiders in a game that could determine the top SWC seed for the upcoming state playoffs.

KM-South Point game could determine SWC

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Friday's Kings Mountain at South Point football game is being billed as the Game of the Year in the Southwestern 3A Conference.

While South Point already has a state 3A playoff berth in the bag, the game is a must-win situation for the three-time defending SWC champion Mountaineers.

Kings Mountain, 3-1 in the SWC and 5-3-1 overall, mathematically would not be eliminated from the playoff picture with a loss. But in all likelihood, a defeat would create a three-way tie for second place between the Mountaineers, East Rutherford and Forestview and would mean those three teams would draw for the second playoff berth.

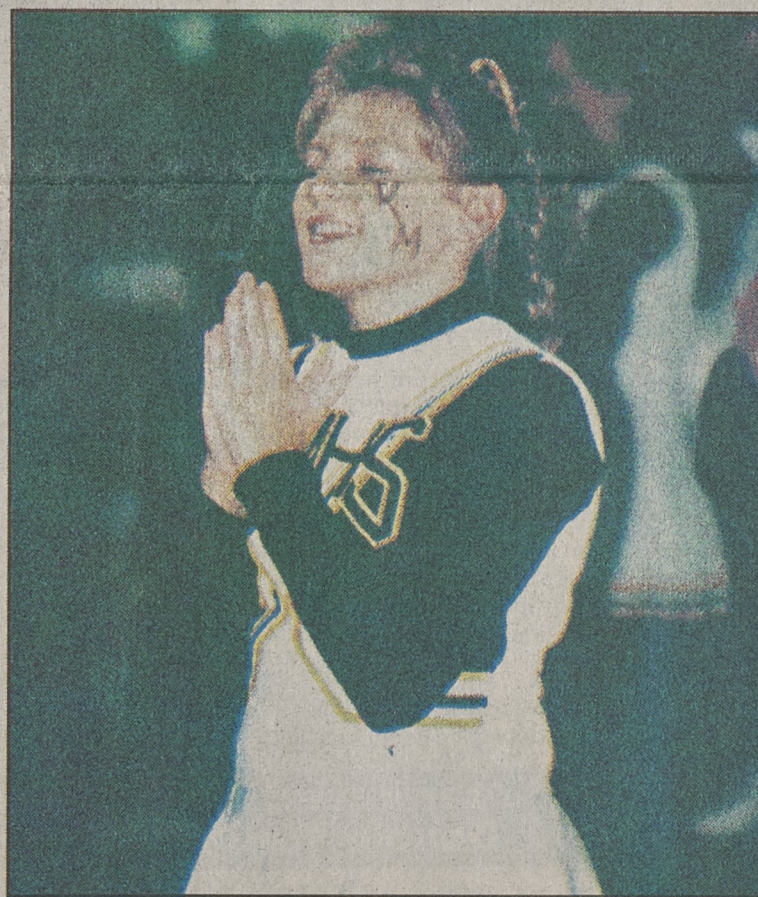
Kings Mountain Coach Ron Massey is preaching to his players that they have to win this week if they want to go out as KM's fourth straight SWC champion and fifth straight playoff participant.

South Point Coach John Devine, whose club is 4-0 in the SWC and 9-0 overall, is preaching to his Red Raiders that their dream of becoming the SWC champion cannot be accomplished unless they beat the Mountaineers.

"They have a terrific program," Devine said of the Mountaineers. "They're the three-time defending champions, and if we hope to win the championship we have to beat the defending champion. That's the only way we'd like to have it. That's the way you have to do it to earn things."

The game promises to be a wide-open offensive affair since both teams have been piling up the

See Big Game, 2B



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Kings Mountain High cheerleader Ashley Hamrick cheers the Mountaineers to victory Friday at East Rutherford. She looks like she may also be praying for a victory over South Point this week.

JVs trim East 7-6 in overtime

Pablo Peralta drilled the extra point following a six-yard touchdown run off tackle by Aquino Reynolds to give Kings Mountain High's JV Mountaineers a 7-6 overtime victory over East Rutherford Thursday night at John Gamble Stadium.

The win was the fourth straight for the Mountaineers, who play their final home game Thursday at 7 p.m. against South Point's Red Raiders. The JVs close out their season next week at North Gaston.

Both teams failed on some scoring opportunities in regulation, and East Rutherford drew first blood in the special 10-yard playoff.

The Cavaliers rebounded from a five-yard illegal procedure penalty to score on a fourth and five counter play. The Mountaineer defense swarmed the East running back on a two-point conversion attempt, leaving the door open for the comeback.

On Kings Mountain's first play from the ten, the Cavalier

defense was offside, giving the Mountaineers first and five. Reynolds burst up the middle to the one yard line, but then the Mountaineers drew a five-yard illegal motion penalty to make it second and six. Reynolds took a hand-off from quarterback Renaldo Tate, went off left tackle, broke a tackle at the line of scrimmage, lowered his head and plowed through the Cavalier defense for the score.

The win kept the Mountaineers unbeaten in the SWC (4-0) and left them with a 5-2-1 overall record.

Kings Mountain had a 26-yard touchdown run by Cortney Smith called back in the first quarter.

East had a chance to win in the final minute of regulation after stopping a KM fake punt attempt at the Mountaineers' 37. But the Mountaineers' Travis Clark intercepted a pass at the one yard line and returned it to the 42 with two seconds remaining.



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD
Aquino Reynolds scores the winning touchdown in overtime for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers in Thursday's JV football game with East Rutherford at Gamble Stadium. Pablo Peralta's extra point provided the margin of victory, 7-6.

Mounties roll over East 54-20

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers took another big step on their comeback trail Friday night when they rolled over East Rutherford's Cavaliers 54-20 in a game played at Forest City's Bryan Harrill Stadium.

The victory was the third straight since an unexpected loss at Forestview which put the Mountaineers' backs to the wall in their quest for a fifth straight state 3A playoff berth.

The win moves the Mountaineers into sole possession of second place in the Southwestern 3A Conference, but a loss in either of their final two SWC games against South Point and North Gaston could eliminate them from the playoff picture.

The Mountaineers again had their offense in high gear Friday, scoring on all of their possessions to record their third 50-point game of the year. They earlier defeated Bessemer City 68-0 and Burns 63-7.

All-State running back Anthony Hillman continued his assault on the KMHS and Cleveland County record book, gaining 256 yards rushing to give him 1,304 yards this year and 5,201 for his three-year career. Hillman also scored three more touchdowns, giving him 20 for the season and 13 in the past three games.

Kick return specialist Jamar Moore set the tone for another 400-yard offensive performance when he returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 Mountaineer lead.

East Rutherford's highly-touted offense stayed right in the game with the Mountaineers for a half, but in the second half the KM defense turned its game up a notch and the Mountaineers pulled away.

Hillman's first TD of the game, a 16-yard burst up the middle which was reminiscent of last year's game-winning play against Kannapolis Brown, gave the Mountaineers a 14-0 lead with 3:22 left in the first quarter.

The two teams then matched touchdowns the rest of the half, with East scoring on a 24-yard run by Seneca Stroud to make it 14-6, and quarterback Matt Ash scoring on a two-yard run to put KM on top 21-6.

East marched right back down the field to score on a five-yard by Stroud and a two-point conversion by Michael Sheppard to cut the margin to 21-14 with 1:46 left in the half.

But on a drive that was probably the turning point of the game, Kings Mountain's Antonio McClain returned the ensuing kickoff to the 42 yard line to set up a 58-yard, six-play drive which gave the Mountaineers a 28-14 halftime lead. Hillman had two carries for 19 yards before a pass interference call against the Cavaliers gave KM a first down at the 24. A two-yard burst up the middle by Hillman and an eight-yard pass from Ash to Torez Leach to the sidelines resulted in another first down and set up Ash's 14-yard bootleg around the left side with 19.3 seconds left.

"That series was very big," said KM Coach Ron Massey. "We got good field position on the kickoff return when Antonio broke a couple of tackles, and that good field position enabled us to take a chance at scoring. We were able to do that and going in 28-14 at the half was very big for us."

The Cavaliers appeared to be getting right back in the game when they drove the second half kickoff from their own seven to the KM 45. But a holding penalty set them back, and then Moore came up with his second big play of the game - a pass interception - to stop the drive at the KM 14.

See East, 2B