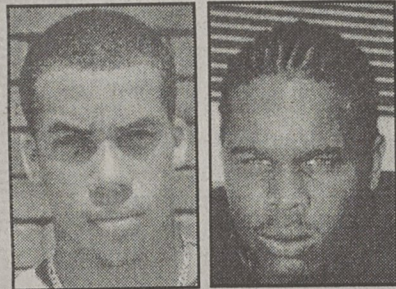


**POSTGAME**  
PLAYERS OF THE GAME



ASH HILLMAN

KM - Anthony Hillman, RB, 29-170 rushing, 2 TDs. Matt Ash, QB, 13-106 rushing, 2 TDs; 4-7-46 passing, 1 TD.

NG - Josh Butler, RB, 14-132 rushing, 2 TDs. Adrian Grier, QB, 9-21-137 passing.

**PLAY OF THE GAME**

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Kings Mountain quarterback Matt Ash hit slot back Kelly Littlejohn with an 18-yard touchdown pass to give the Mountaineers the lead for good, 39-33.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

NG	6	14	13	0	-33
KM	7	10	14	15	-46

**FIRST QUARTER**

5:48 - NG - Adrian Grier 4 yard run. 81 yard drive, 15 plays.  
5:29 - KM - Stanley Whitesides, 88 yard kickoff return (Evan Osteen kick).

**SECOND QUARTER**

7:52 - NG - Josh Butler 29 yard run. 53-yard drive, five plays following KM fumble.  
6:47 - KM - Matt Ash 6 yard run. (Osteen kick). 64-yard drive, four plays.  
6:32 - NG - Randy Thompson, 87 yard kickoff return (Duane Buchanan pass from Grier).  
0:55 - KM - Osteen 27 yard field goal. 82-yard drive, 13 plays. Key plays 18 yard run by Hillman, 14 yard run and 11-yard reception by McClain, and 9-yard reception by Leach.

**THIRD QUARTER**

9:18 - KM - Ash, 5-yard run (Osteen kick). 53 yard drive, six plays. Key plays 18-yard run by Kenny Moore on third and fourth, and 28-yard run by Ash to the six.  
7:15 - NG - Butler 25 yard run (Robbie Hunter kick). 67 yard drive, six plays, aided by pass interference. Key play 20-yard reception by Thompson.  
2:54 - KM - Anthony Hillman, 3 yard run (Osteen kick). 68 yard drive, 10 plays. Key plays 20-yard run by Ash and runs of 11, 9 and 17 yards by Hillman.  
2:24 - NG - Duran Hill, 55 yard pass from Butler. 78 yard drive, 3 plays.

**FOURTH QUARTER**

11:53 - KM - Kelly Littlejohn, 18-yard pass from Matt Ash (Osteen kick). 71 yard drive, 7 plays. Key plays 18 yard runs by Hillman and McClain.  
4:55 - KM - Hillman, 10-yard run (Osteen kick). 60-yard drive, 9 plays following NG fumble.

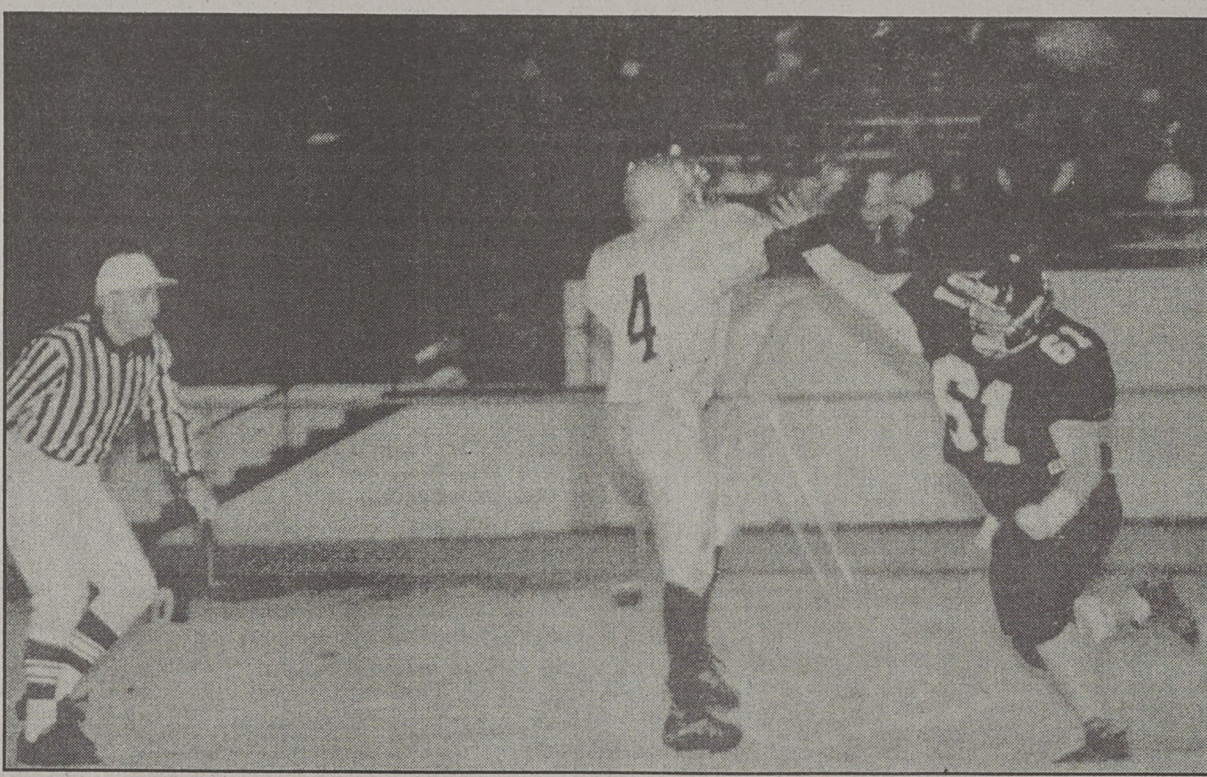
**NOTABLE**

Kings Mountain running back Anthony Hillman had his #45 jersey retired during a special half-time ceremony. Hillman finished his prep career with 5,618 yards rushing and 396 points.

**QUOTABLE**

"He's such a great competitor, and I think that's what separates him from being a very good back and being a great back. He's just a competitor."

**RON MASSEY**  
Kings Mountain Coach  
on Anthony Hillman



**GARY STEWART / THE HERALD**  
Kings Mountain defensive tackle Gerald Smith (61) applies the pressure to North Gaston quarterback Adrian Grier (4) in Friday's Southwestern 3A Conference game at Gamble Stadium. KM won 46-33.

**JV Mounties finish 7-2-1**

Kings Mountain High's JV football team capped off one of its best seasons in years Thursday night with 23-0 victory at North Gaston. The Mountaineers finished 7-2-1 overall and were undefeated in the Southwestern 3A

Conference. Over the course of the season, the Mountaineers tied Gaffney, lost to Shelby by two points, lost to Crest by two touchdowns, edged East Rutherford 7-6 in overtime, and defeated

East Gaston, Forestview, Burns, R-S Central, South Point and North Gaston by huge margins. Aquino Reynolds scored on runs of five and 65 yards, Cortney Smith scored on a 45 yard run, and Pablo Peralta kicked a 26-yard field goal.

**GAME**

From 1B over the past three seasons. "It was nice for us to be able to send our seniors out winners," Massey said. "The win will give us something to build on."

The contest was a wide-open affair from the get-go, but it took the Mountaineers a while to get their offense in gear because North Gaston controlled the ball for the entire first quarter.

The Wildcats ran 25 plays in the first period to only three (all one-yard runs by Hillman) for the Mountaineers. Still, KM held the lead at the end of the first quarter, 7-6, thanks to an 88-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Stanley Whitesides, and Evan Osteen's extra point.

North Gaston, which finished 7-4 overall and fifth in the SWC, drove the opening kickoff 89 yards to score on a four-yard option keeper by quarterback Adrian Grier. But the 'Cats missed their extra point attempt.

After Whitesides' kickoff return, the Wildcats drove to the KM 10 before losing the ball on downs.

After that - except for a couple of turnovers by both teams - the lead changed hands on almost every possession. The Wildcats chalked up 471 yards total offense, and the Mountaineers finished with 439. Quarterback Matt Ash joined Hillman in the 100-yard club with 106 yards rushing on

**MOUNTAINEER GRIDGRAPH**

	NG	KM
First downs	21	22
Yds. rushing	269	393
Passes	14-24-1	4-7-0
Yds. passing	202	46
Fumbles lost	2	1
Yds. penalized	65	25

**RUSHING**

KM - Hillman 29-170, Ash 13-106, Littlejohn 5-28, McClain 4-55, Moore 2-34. NG - Butler 14-132, Grier 10-76, Thompson 11-61.

**PASSING**

KM - ASH 4-7-0-46. NG - Grier 9-21-137. Butler 2-2-0-65.

**RECEIVING**

KM - Littlejohn 1-18, Leach 1-9, McClain 2-19. NG - Butler 3-31, Smith 1-15, Thompson 3-69, Grier 1-10, Neely 2-24, Hill 1-55.

**GARY**

From 1B

record was a 28-28 tie with Kings Mountain, and in Shelby's state championship season of '98 the only blemish on the Lions' slate was a 7-6 loss to Kings Mountain. Of the 17 opponents who have either beaten or tied KM over the past five years, only one team did not make the state playoffs, and that was East Rutherford which tied KM and

Burns for the '97 Southwestern 3A Conference title with a 9-1 overall record but lost a drawing for a playoff berth. Although the players, coaches and fans are disappointed that the Mountaineers did not qualify for the state playoffs this year, we should not lose sight of the big picture: that Kings Mountain coaches and players have established a tradition of championship football that ranks among the elite in North Carolina, and they've done it will a lot of class. Be proud!

**HILLMAN**

From 1B

an exceptional running back. "Somewhere, somebody's going to see past all these physical things they look at and see what he does on the football field and know that he's a winner and a competitor, and they're going to get one of the finest running backs around," Massey says. "I feel like he's got a great future in front of him. If he does what he needs to do to be successful, then he will be." Hillman, who is not a man of many words, has never been one to seek attention but has instead given the credit for his success to his offensive line. "He's appreciated our offensive line every year that he's rushed," Massey said. "The line always enjoyed blocking for him because he is always appreciative of the job they did. They get excited watching him run over people."

choice. Hillman has said he would like to stay close to home, but he'll be looking at the best opportunity athletically and academically. "I think we'll just sit down and look at what's the best situation for him to be in, and we'll go from there," Massey said. "I don't think there's any preference. A lot of people would hope he would stay around, but we have to see what's best for him and what's going to open up the most doors for him academically and athletically. "We've got some other kids that a lot of schools are looking at, too," he added. "Nobody's made any legitimate offers yet. We've still got some kids that are taking the SAT. For the colleges, recruiting is a year-long process but they're going to start narrowing down their list and start making strong bids probably in late November and early December."

Massey said a lot of colleges have already shown interest in Hillman, and with the college season winding down he expects the recruiting process to really heat up soon. Hillman is likely to look to Massey and his other coaches for advice in his

For Hillman, it will be an exciting time and the fans who have marvelled at the accomplishments of KM's all-time greatest back over the past three years hope that the best for him is still ahead.

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**I would like to thank each person who cast a vote for me on November 2, 1999.**

I am humbled by the support that I received. I will do my best to serve the children, the teachers, the staff and our community.

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