

All-Century

KM's best football players excelled from high school to the NFL

ALL DECADE OF THE 1920s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Skimp Stowe	1926
RB	Zeb Plonk	1925
RB	Coman Falls	1927
RB	Clyde Scates	1926
E	Rob McDaniel	1926
L	Bill Mason	1925
L	Jake Hord	1925
L	Joe Lee Woodward	1922
L	Tom Fulton	1922
L	Fred Plonk	1922

Player of the Decade: Coman Falls

ALL DECADE OF THE 1930s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Jake Early	1935
RB	Paul Neisler	1938
RB	Hilliard Black	1930
RB	Billy Kezziah	1938
E	Red Layton	1933
E	Ray Barber	1935
E	Tom Harper	1938
L	Caroline Moss	1934
L	Jack Fortune	1935
L	Mickey Mode	1935
L	Pride Kattarree	1938

Player of the Decade: Jake Early

ALL DECADE OF THE 1940s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Jack Ruth	1947
RB	Jim Gibson	1940
RB	Bill Cashion	1946
RB	George Allen	1940
E	Bill Dettmar	1946
E	Bob Jackson	1949
L	Floyd Smith	1942
L	Bob Neill	1946
L	Bud Medlin	1946
L	William Harmon	1946
L	Jim Dickey	1940

Player of the Decade: Bill Cashion

ALL DECADE OF THE 1950s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	George Harris	1955
QB	Don Fisher	1959
RB	Ken Baity	1957
RB	John McGinnis	1956
RB	Don Gladden	1958
E	Ron Layton	1953
E	Keith Layton	1957
L	Joe Ormand	1955
L	Guy Fisher	1951
L	Ken Cloninger	1954
L	David Marlowe	1956
L	Mike Ware	1959
ATH.	Jimmy Kimmell	1952

Player of the Decade: George Harris

ALL DECADE OF THE 1960s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Pat Murphy	1964
RB	Punch Parker	1960
RB	Mike Huffstickler	1963
RB	Steve Baker	1964
E	Richard Gold	1964
E	Jim Cloninger	1964
L	Dale Hollifield	1960
L	Jerry Adams	1960
L	Hubert McGinnis	1964
L	Fred Dixon	1964
L	Bert Smith	1967

Player of the Decade: Pat Murphy

ALL DECADE OF THE 1970s

Pos.	Player	Sr. Year
QB	Mike Bumgarner	1977
RB	Kenny Bell	1977
RB	Kevin Mack	1979
RB	Avery Smith	1979
E	Tim Leach	1979
E	Chris Johnson	1975
L	Mark George	1972
L	Kelly Land	1978
L	Chuck Gordon	1978
L	Bruce Valentine	1978
L	Daryl Strong	1979

Player of the Decade: Kevin Mack

ALL DECADE OF THE 1980s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Ryan Hollifield	1989
RB	Jerry Jordan	1985
RB	Tracy Johnson	1983
RB	Curtis Pressley	1983
E	Edwin Sherer	1985
E	Otis Brooks	1985
L	Shawn Rainey	1983
L	Calvin Stephens	1985
L	Aubrey Hollifield	1986
L	Rusty Bumgardner	1986
L	Brent Bagwell	1987
ATH	Daniel Honeycutt	1989

Player of the Decade: Calvin Stephens

ALL DECADE OF THE 1990s

Pos.	Player	Year
QB	Lance McClain	1996
QB	Anthony Ash	1998
RB	Anthony Hillman	1999
RB	Shane Logan	1995
RB	Joseph Bell	1997
RB	Diron Bell	1991
RB	Corey Jones	1996
Rec.	Marcus Smith	1996
Rec.	Kendrick Bell	1998
L	Kareem Marshall	1998
L	Julius Curry	1998
L	Frank Hopper	1998
L	Rico Feemster	1998
L	Johnny Surratt	1995
L	Joey Patrick	1995
L	KeLee Thompson	1998
L	Shon Byers	1994

Player of the Decade: Anthony Hillman

Player of the Century

Kevin Mack	1979
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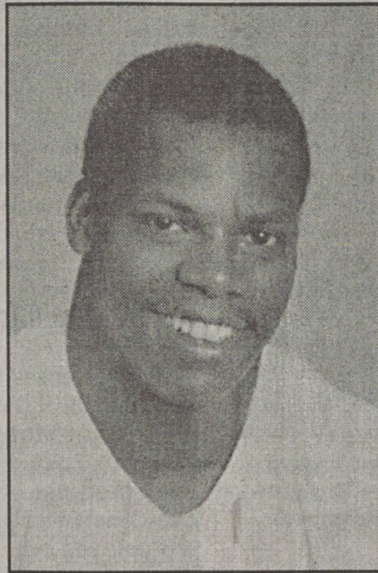
By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

In three different eras of Kings Mountain football Ken Baity, Kevin Mack and Anthony Hillman combined for over 10,000 yards rushing and made every fall Friday night the most exciting times of a lot of people's lives.

While they were just three of a host of exciting running backs in Kings Mountain High's storied 77-year football history, they certainly hold the credentials to be named the starting running backs on The Herald's All-Century football team.

Hillman, a current KMHS senior, just completed the most remarkable prep career of anyone in Cleveland County history. In three seasons he gained 5,618 yards and scored 396 points - both Cleveland County records - while leading the Mountaineers to two Southwestern 3A Conference championships and one Western N.C. crown. Hillman amazed his coaches and fans with his running strength, often bowling over defenders or carrying them along for the ride as he picked up huge chunks of real estate. And, just when it seemed the defense was packing the middle to stop him, he'd swing to the outside for a long touchdown run.

Mack, although he played just two years of high school ball and started on offense only during his senior year, played tailback at 170 pounds and wasn't a power runner like Hillman, but he was probably the most electrifying open field



KEVIN MACK

runner in KMHS history. It wasn't until he got to Clemson University when he bulked up and moved from tailback to fullback.

Hillman was a three-time All-Southwestern 3A Conference choice, a two-time SWC Player of the Year, and was preseason All-State his senior year. While he was passed over for the recent Shrine Bowl game, Kings Mountain fans are hopeful he'll be chosen for July's East-West All-Star game that showcases the best senior talent in North Carolina.

Mack was also passed over by the Shrine Bowl selection committee, but he was the leading rusher for the West in the East-West game. In his senior season of 1979, Mack gained 1,585 yards to lead Dan Brooks' Mountaineers to an 8-2 overall

record. The Mountaineers lost the Southwestern 3A Conference championship game to South Point 15-12. The Raiders went on to win the state championship.

Mack didn't play high school football until his junior year, when he started at linebacker and gained 450 yards rushing as a back-up tailback. He was "recruited" for football after Coach Brooks saw him run track the previous spring.

Mack, who had just turned 17 years old his senior year here, didn't hit his peak until years later. He was a back-up tailback and kick return specialist his freshman year at Clemson, and alternated as the starting fullback on the Tigers' 1981 national championship team.

His senior year with the Tigers he set a school record for most yards rushing as a fullback, was Honorable Mention All-American, and MVP in the annual Blue-Gray all-star game in Montgomery, AL.

He played one season with the L.A. Express in the defunct World Football League, then signed on with the Cleveland Browns where he played eight seasons and was a two-time Pro Bowl selection. His rookie year he broke all of Jim Brown's rookie rushing records, gaining over 1,100 yards.

Baity had a little of Mack and Hillman in him. He could run over the defense or he could use his great speed to get outside and outrun everyone to the end zone. He established all of the

See Football, 2B

ALL-CENTURY FOOTBALL FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player	Sr. Year
QB	Pat Murphy	1964
FB	Anthony Hillman	1999
HB	Kevin Mack	1979
HB	Ken Baity	1957
E/R	Kendrick Bell	1998
E/R	Edwin Sherer	1985
L	Calvin Stephens	1985
L	Chuck Gordon	1978
L	Aubrey Hollifield	1986
L	Julius Curry	1998
L	Hubert McGinnis	1964

ALL-CENTURY FOOTBALL SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player	Sr. Year
QB	George Harris	1955
FB	Bill Cashion	1946
HB	Tracy Johnson	1983
HB	Joseph Bell	1997
E/R	Jimmy Cloninger	1964
E/R	Keith Layton	1957
L	Kareem Marshall	1998
L	Rico Feemster	1998
L	Guy Fisher	1951
L	Rusty Bumgardner	1986
L	Robert Neill	1946

ALL-CENTURY FOOTBALL THIRD TEAM

Pos.	Player	Sr. Year
QB	Lance McClain	1996
FB	Shane Logan	1995
HB	Don Gladden	1958
HB	Curtis Pressley	1983
E/R	Tom Harper	1938
E/R	Ray Barber	1935
L	Frank Hopper	1998
L	Fred Dixon	1963
L	Jim Dickey	1940
L	Johnny Surratt	1995
L	Jerry Adams	1960

George & Co.

Adams heads list of all-time basketball greats

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

They were the best of times and the worst of times.

Consolidation and integration of the 1960s brought about a lot of changes that many folks were wary of, and students, parents and faculty alike experienced some years of adjustment and growing pains.

But, as far as sports were concerned, consolidation in 1961 and integration in 1965 brought Kings Mountain High School some of its greatest and brightest stars.

Basketball, especially, benefited.

Consolidation brought to KMHS some outstanding players from Grover and Bethware

See George, 2B

ALL-CENTURY MEN'S TEAM

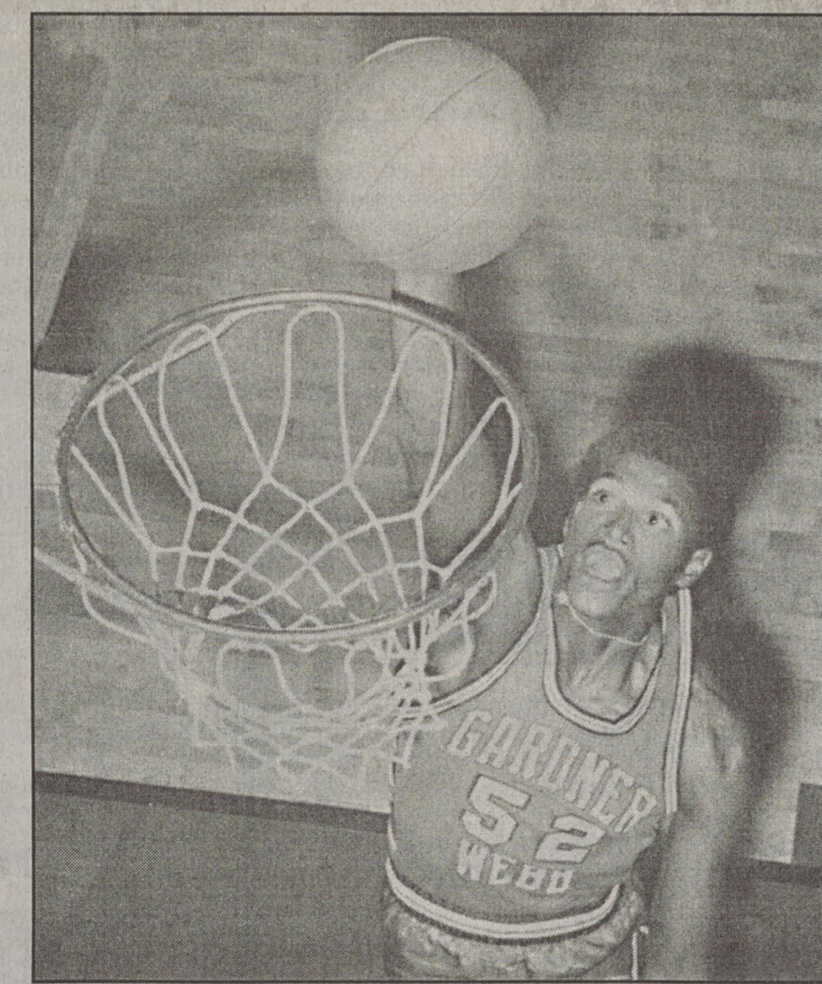
(First Team)	(Second Team)
George Adams	Richard Gold
Otis Cole	Ken Mitchem
Lavar Curry	Keith Layton
Butch Blalock	Daniel Honeycutt
Carl Smith	Charles Barnes

Player of the Century: George Adams

ALL-CENTURY WOMEN'S TEAM

(First Team)	(Second Team)
Judy Medlin	Susan Mitchem
Linda Eaker	Tameka Anderson
Marlene Weir	Regina Brown
Sharon Gold	Priscilla Rickenbacker
Trina Hamrick	Cheryl Goode

Player of the Century: Judy Medlin



GEORGE ADAMS

All-Century women's basketball and more

The most difficult team to pick in a list of All-Century sports teams is a women's basketball team.

In its long history of sports, KMHS has only had one women's basketball team to win a conference championship and we haven't had that many women to go on to play college sports.

There are several reasons for that - probably the greatest reason being that for many years basketball was the only sport offered women and through the years the sport has seen a vast number of rule changes that, until recent years, prevented some female athletes from really showing their stuff.

For instance, prior to the mid-1960s women's basketball consisted of six players - three guards who stayed on one end of the court and

three forwards who stayed on the other end. Only forwards were allowed to shoot, and you could bounce the ball only twice.

In the 1960s the rules were relaxed a little bit to allow for a "rover." One player could play both ends of the court and you could dribble the ball as often as you liked.

That lasted only a year or two, and then the women's basketball rules became the same as men's with five players all going up and down the court.

Three of the five women on the first All-Century team are from the "double dribble" era, one is from the "rover" era, and the fifth is from the current era. But, regardless of the rules of their time, all five were spectacular high school basketball players.

Heading the list is one of the tallest players in school history, and also one of the top scorers and rebounders of all-time. Judy Medlin was a scoring machine in 1957-59, topping off her three-year varsity

career in 1958-59 with 501 points and a school single game high of 55 points.

Over her three-year career she averaged 18.4 points per game in 56 games.

One of Medlin's teammates in 1958-59 was Marlene Weir who went on to average 18 points per game during her three-year career which ended in 1961.

Perhaps the lady who could have been Kings Mountain's best women's basketball player ever was Linda Eaker, who averaged 20.8 points per game in her senior season of 1962. That was Eaker's only year at KMHS as she was brought to the school through consolidation. She played her first three years of high school basketball at Grover.

Sharon Gold, who played at KMHS from 1965-68, got a taste of two different eras of girls rules. When she first came on the scene girls were still playing the old rules of forwards on one end and guards on the other; but midway through her career the "rover" system came

into being and she was KM's rover. She made All-Conference four straight years and was the SWC leading scorer her sophomore through senior seasons.

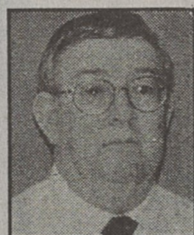
Gold was, without a doubt, Kings Mountain's best female athlete, but at that time basketball was the only sport for women.

Rounding out the top five is Trina Hamrick, the leading scorer and rebounder on Kings Mountain's only SWC championship team in 1983.

The second All-Century team consists of five more scoring machines and all from the current era - the school's all-time leading scorer Tameka Anderson, Regina Brown, Cheryl Goode, Priscilla Rickenbacker and Susan Mitchem.

At some point in Mountaineer history Medlin, Gold, Mitchem, Hamrick and Anderson all held the KMHS scoring record.

See Women, 2B



Gary Stewart
Editor