

# KM hosts East Burke in scrimmage Friday

Kings Mountain High's football team got its first real test in the heat and humidity this week as heavy contact drills got under way.

After going through three days of mini-camp and six days of conditioning practice, the Mountaineers started hitting Saturday morning.

The weather wasn't all that bad Saturday, but by Monday afternoon's practice the heat had risen to the high 90s and the humidity was almost unbearable.

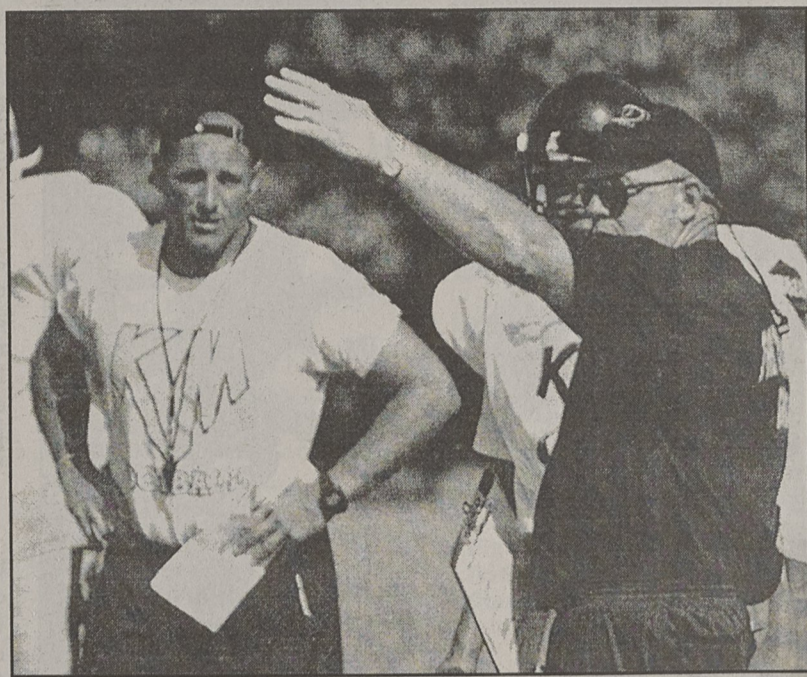
But, first-year head coach Dave Farquharson was pleased with his players' effort.

"Saturday and Monday were our first real days of any sunshine and heat," he said, "and the kids didn't do a bad job at all."

With over 80 JV and varsity prospects on hand, things look good for the Mountaineers in 2000. They're rebuilding their defense, and it's coming along well, and their offense looks good, too, despite the loss of the school's all-time leading rusher, Anthony Hillman.

"Defensively, I think we're coming along real well," Farquharson said. "I'm pleased with their aggressiveness. They're working hard at learning the new system and we have gotten a tremendous amount of effort."

"Offensively, we're looking to polish some things up, reassure



**GARY STEWART / THE HERALD**  
Kings Mountain High's quarterback coach Milton Rachels, right, makes a point to one of his players as head coach Dave Farquharson, left, looks on at Saturday morning practice.

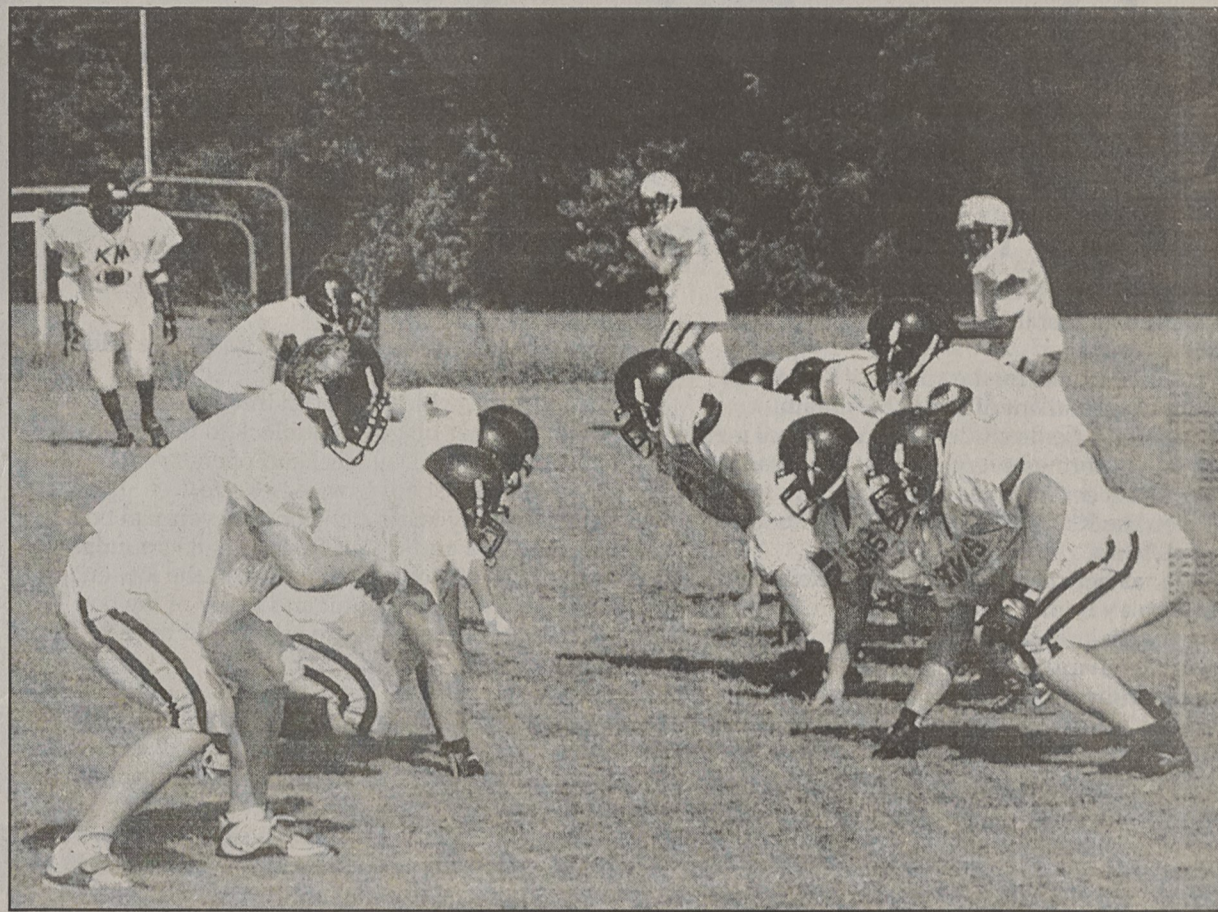
assignments, blocking assignments, and try to get our play packages down a little more consistent."

The Mountaineers are also spending a lot of time on special teams.

The Mountaineers will get to see how they stack up against another opponent when they host East Burke in a scrimmage Friday at 6 p.m. They travel to Mooresville next Wednesday at

5 p.m., and face Freedom in the Cleveland County Jamboree at Crest on Friday, August 18 at 8 p.m.

The Jamboree features eight of the top football teams in Western North Carolina. It gets under way at 5 p.m. and there will be a game an hour. Other games feature Shelby against East Rutherford, Burns against Hickory, and Crest against Kannapolis.



**GARY STEWART / THE HERALD**  
Kings Mountain High's football players line up for an intrasquad scrimmage on the first day of heavy contact practice Saturday morning. The Mountaineers get to hit someone else Friday when they host East Burke in a scrimmage at 6 p.m. at John Gamble Stadium.

## VOLLEYBALL

From 6A

"We're looking for our seniors (Beth Bumgardner, Miranda Dixon and Nikki Adkins) to be strong leaders," she said. "Anytime you have to walk into that senior position it's tough. Learning to be a good leader is one of the hardest jobs you have to do."

Bumgardner will be a left side hitter, Dixon is a defensive specialist, and Adkins is a middle blocker.

The team is strong across the front line. Junior Kristin Hardin has moved to a middle blocker after playing the left side last year, and Ashley Leigh has come on strong as a middle blocker and has improved her speed.

Danyelle Gill, a sophomore who started last year, can play the middle and the right side, and she is an imposing defensive standout along the nets.

Even though she's just a junior, Carrie Brinkley is starting for her the third straight season. She was a member of the state championship team of 1998 and helped lead the team to a 25-6 record and the conference and district championships last year.

"She has the most experience of anybody out there, and we're looking for her to run our offense," Hughes said.

Lindsay Hamrick is a good all-around player along the front row, and is a strong blocker.

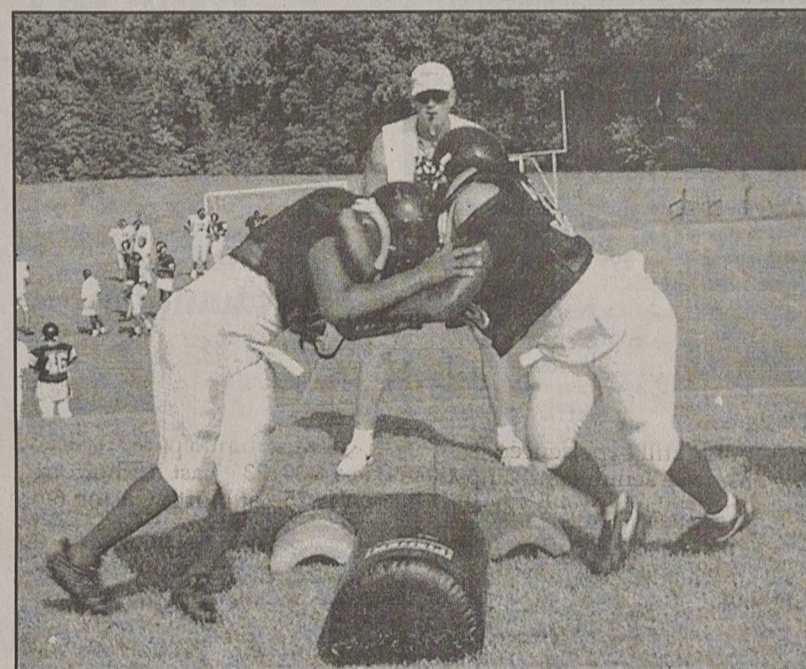
The biggest power up front, though, is sophomore Shonda Cole, whom Hughes calls a "powerhouse." She is strong at blocking shots and delivers some thunderous kills.

Sophomores Pam Parker, Courtney Osteen and Mollie Hamrick join the team after playing on the JV squad last year, and they will be helping out in various positions.

Hughes will find out very early in the season how her team should fare in 2000. In addition to the Watauga Tournament, which draws some of the best teams in Western North Carolina, the Lady Mountaineers have non-conference matches with perennial powers East Henderson, Fred T. Foard, Providence, Freedom, Forbush, Crest and Country Day.

"I'm real positive about this year, and so are the girls," Hughes says. "They're ready to play. They've been working hard all summer."

"I feel like we're better right now than we were at the end of last year, even though we still have a lot of work to do. They gained so much confidence over the summer and by playing junior ball over the winter."



**Kings Mountain High's defensive coordinator Dave Ballenger looks on as two of his players go through the first day of contact drills Saturday morning.**

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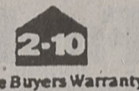


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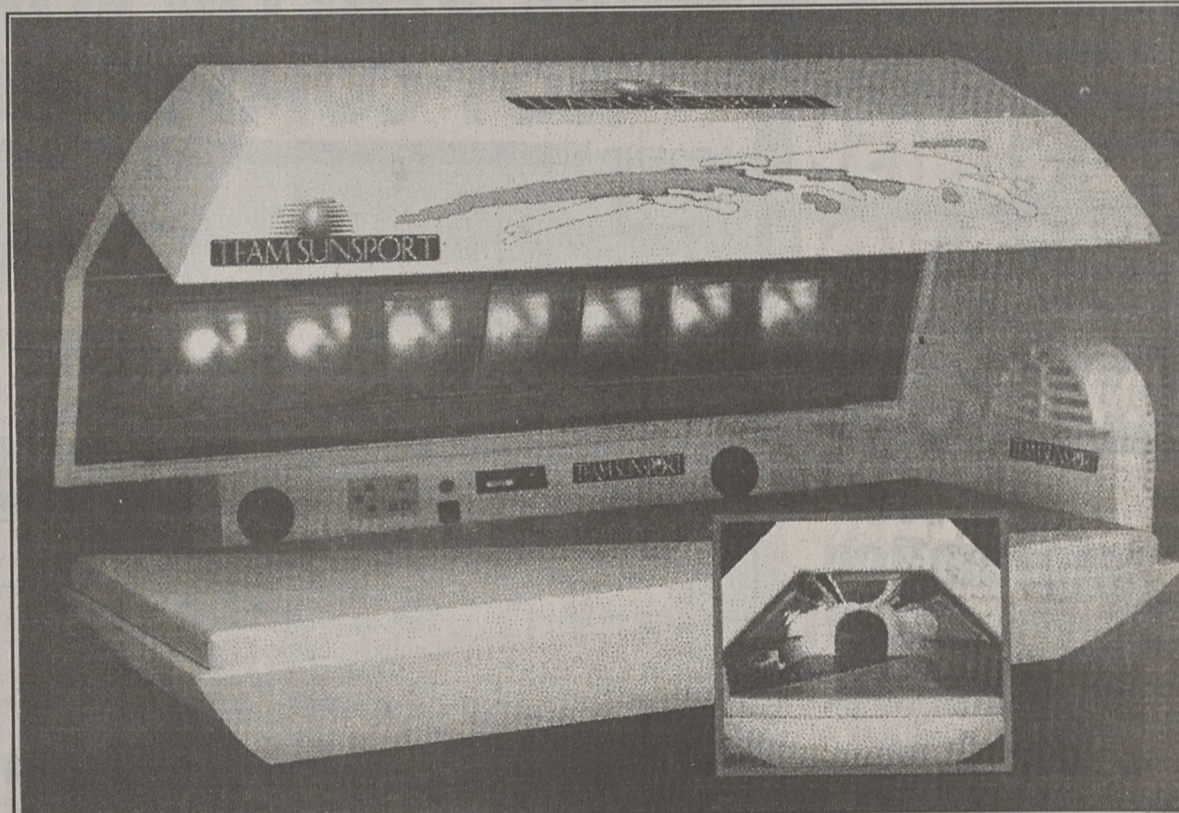
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