

**SPORTS THIS WEEK**

**Football**

**Thursday, August 24**  
7 p.m. - East Gaston at Kings Mountain (JV)  
**Friday, August 25**  
7:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain at East Gaston (Varsity)

**Soccer**

**Monday, August 28**  
6 p.m. - Crest at Kings Mountain  
**Tuesday, August 29**  
6 p.m. - Ashbrook at Kings Mountain

**Volleyball**

**Saturday, August 26**  
10:30 a.m. - Fred T. Foard and Providence at Kings Mountain (varsity only)  
**Tuesday, August 29**  
4:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain at South Point (JV and varsity)

**Tennis**

**Thursday, August 24**  
3 p.m. - Kings Mountain at R-S Central.  
**Monday, August 28**  
3 p.m. - Crest at Kings Mountain  
**Tuesday, August 29**  
3 p.m. - North Gaston at Kings Mountain

**TRI-COUNTY PRE-SEASON RANKING**

Rank	'99 Record	'99 Rank
1 - Crest	10-2	2
2 - Shelby	8-3-1	3
3 - Forestview	8-3	4
4 - K. Mtn.	6-4-1	5
5 - S. Point	12-1	1
6 - Ashbrook	5-6	7
7 - Chase	6-4	8
8 - E. Ruth.	6-5	9
9 - N. Gaston	7-4	6
10 - E. Gaston	5-6	10
11 - Burns	3-8	12
12 - Huss	1-10	T14
13 - RS Cent.	3-7	11
14 - B. City	1-10	T14
15 - C'ville	3-8	13

# Mountaineers open season at East Gaston

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

With almost a month of practice and scrimmages behind them, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers get down to serious business Friday when they travel to East Gaston for their season-opening nonconference game.

First-year head coach Dave Farquharson's offense should be able to put a lot of points on the board, but the big question is whether a young and inexperienced defense can hold off the pass-happy Warriors.

Despite their youth and young mistakes, Farquharson said he is pleased with the progress his defense has made and the hard work they've put forth.

Kings Mountain fell to 4A power Freedom in the Cleveland County Jamboree Saturday night at Crest. Led by experienced senior quarterback Matt Ash, the Mountaineers moved the ball well but the defense had trouble stopping the quick Patriots.

"I felt like we did well," Farquharson said. "We would like to not have had the turnovers and the penalties, but that's what scrimmages are for to iron out those mistakes."

Kings Mountain moved the ball almost at will against the Patriots, but lost 21-6 in what amounted to one half of a game. The Mountaineers took the ball

**DIRECTIONS TO GAME**

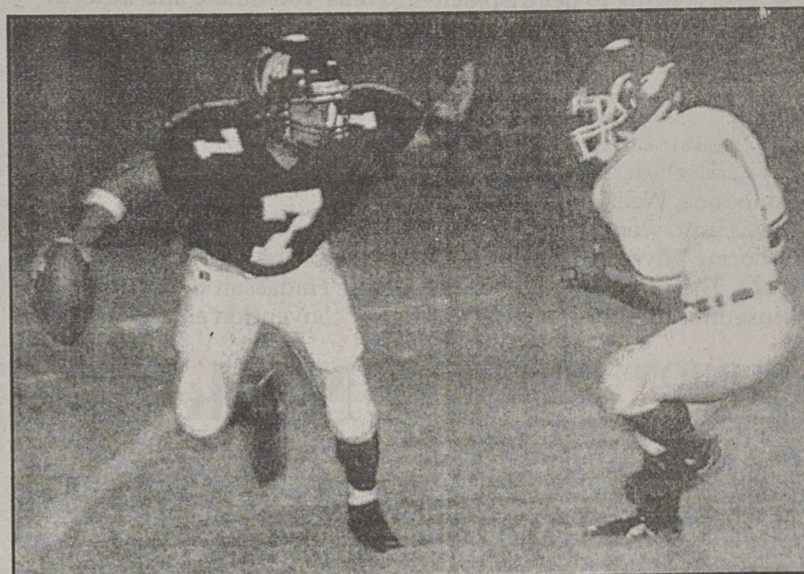
I-85 North to exit 23 (Lowell-McAdenville exit). Turn right on N.C. 7 and go through downtown McAdenville. At the end of town, bear left on Hickory Grove Road. Go about seven miles and turn right on Lane Road. School and stadium are on the left.

almost the length of the field on their first drive and had a third and goal at the Freedom three, but fumbled. They later scored when Ash rambled 35 yards on a quarterback keeper.

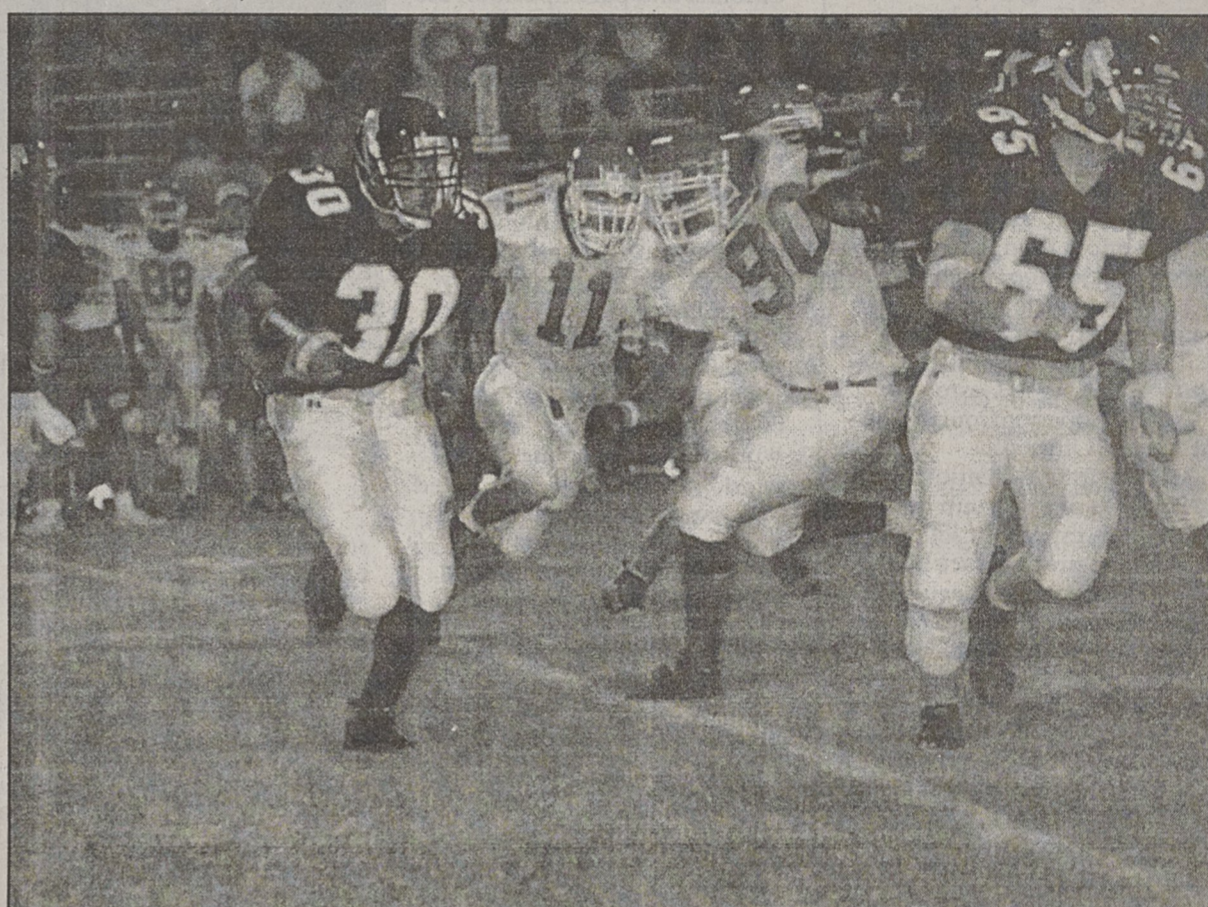
"I thought we moved the ball well, Farquharson said. "Our offense is one of those situations where you can look like a million bucks or you can look like a million bucks and hurt yourself. We put the pitch on the ground inside the five-yard line, which is something you shouldn't do when you're as experienced as we are. You can't do that and give up an opportunity to score."

A Freedom player recovered the fumbled pitch and rambled 97 yards for a touchdown. It was called back on a clipping

See Football, 7A



GARY STEWART / THE HERALD  
Kings Mountain backs Matt Ash (7), right, and Cortney Smith (30), below, try to turn the corner against Freedom's defense in Saturday's First Charter Jamboree at Crest.



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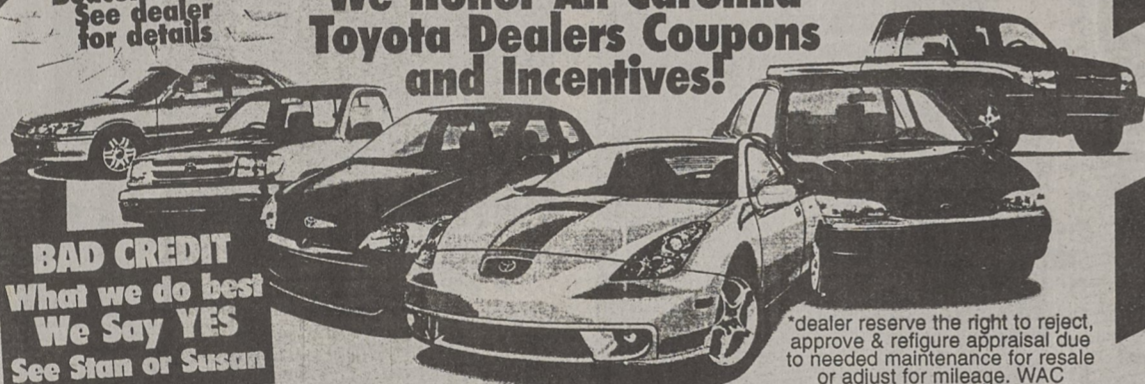
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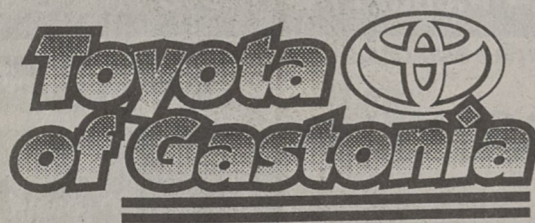


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## Thanks for the memories of SWC and things to come

Although Kings Mountain's conference opener is still a few weeks away, Friday marks the beginning of the 47th and final season of Southwestern 3A Conference football.

In the only conference matchup of the night, one of the original members of the group, R-S Central, will battle the newest member, Forestview, on the Jaguars' home field in Gastonia.

R-S Central, KM, South Point and East Rutherford are the only remaining original members of the SWC, which organized in

1954. Burns has been in the league since it began playing football in 1968.

After this season, KM, Burns and R-S will join Crest, Hickory, St. Stephens and Fred T. Foard in the new Southwestern Foothills Conference, and Forestview, South Point and North Gaston will join Ashbrook, Hunter Huss, East Gaston and East Lincoln in a new conference to be named later.

Gaston County schools have been wanting their own conference for a number of years. That was one of the goals of the consolidation of Gaston County schools back in the late 1960s, and they were able to finally realize that dream in the state's most recent realignment, when the Gaston 4A schools saw their

enrollment drop to the 3A level.

The SWC has long been recognized as one of the toughest conferences in the state. With Crest and Hickory coming in, the new league will be just as tough. If Shelby gets its numbers back up to the 3A level and joins the group in a couple of years, it will be the most competitive league in the state, including 4A.

In a way, it's sad to see the SWC go. There have been many good rivalries such as KM-Shelby and KM-South Point, and East Rutherford-R-S Central. All of those rivalries should continue in the new set-up; they will just be nonconference games.

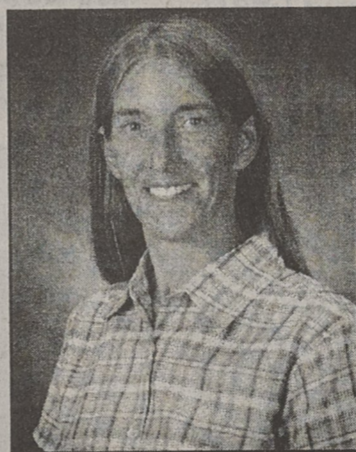
I've been covering the league

See Gary, 7A



Gary Stewart

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