

SPORTS

The Kings Mountain Herald

September 14, 2000 Section B, Page 1



Dave Ballenger encourages his KM defense.

SPORTS THIS WEEK

High School Football

Thursday, Sept. 14

7 p.m. - Kings Mountain JV's at Shelby.

Friday, Sept. 15

7:30 p.m. - Shelby at Kings Mountain

Middle School Football

Wednesday, Sept. 20

5 p.m. - Kings Mountain at Crest

Women's Volleyball

Thursday, Sept. 14

4:30 p.m. - Forestview at Kings Mountain

Tuesday, Sept. 19

4:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain at North Gaston

Women's Tennis

Thursday, Sept. 14

3:30 p.m. - Kings Mountain at Forestview

Monday, Sept. 18

3:30 p.m. - West Lincoln at Kings Mountain

Tuesday, Sept. 19

3:30 p.m. - R-S Central at Kings Mountain

Men's Soccer

Monday, Sept. 18

6 p.m. - Forestview at Kings Mountain

Tuesday, Sept. 19

6 p.m. - Hibriten at Kings Mountain

Cross Country

Thursday, Sept. 14

3:30 - Kings Mountain and Forestview at South Point

TRI-COUNTY RANKING

Team Record Last Week

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

Last Week's Results

Kings Mtn. 49, B. City 6
S. Point 44, Huss 7
E. Lincoln 41, E. Gaston 15
E. Ruth. 41, Tuscola 40
N. Gaston 48, Cherryville 13
RS Central 18, McDowell 7
Chase 27, E. Henderson 14
Ashbrook 15, Lincolnton 0
Crest 45, Shelby 13

This Week's Games

Catholic at Bessemer City
Mtn. Heritage at Chase
Shelby at Kings Mountain
Cherryville at West Wilkes
E. Gaston at South Point
Crest at Hunter Huss
Freedom at Burns
E. Rutherford at Forestview
Lincolnton at North Gaston

Mountaineers host Shelby Friday in first home game

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Don't let Shelby's won-lost record fool you.

The team coming into John Gamble Stadium Friday night at 7:30 for Kings Mountain's first home game is the same quick, hard-hitting Golden Lions team that has been one of the state's powerhouses since the beginning of organized prep football in Cleveland County in the 1920s.

The Mountaineers and Lions have met 76 times beginning with a 0-0 tie in 1926, and their series is one of the longest-running rivalries in the state. Most of their games have been close and physical, and coaches expect the same this year.

Kings Mountain comes into the game with a 2-1 record, and Shelby is 1-2.

Shelby's losses were to two of the state's better 4A teams - Freedom and Crest - while Kings Mountain's victories were against two weak Gaston County opponents - East Gaston and Bessemer City - who have a combined record of 0-6.

The old cliché, "you can throw the records out the window when these two teams meet," has never been more true.

The Lions bring a veteran, talented outfit the Gamble Stadium, led by a couple of seasoned backs who are among the best in the area.

Quarterback Michael Strickland, a 5-9, 145-pound senior, may not be cut out of the same mold as some of Shelby's previous quarterbacks like Chad Holbrook or Norris Hopper, but he runs the Lions'

offense to perfection.

The Lions' top running back again is 5-4, 148-pound senior Antwan Hamilton, who gets around the end in a hurry and has the speed to out-run almost anyone to the end zone. He was the Lions' leading rusher last year when they finished 8-3-1 overall and went two rounds in the state playoffs.

Running back Keith Patterson, a 5-10, 175-pound junior also returns from last year, and a young running back who is coming on strong for the Lions is 5-9, 190-pound sophomore fullback Tavarus Hill.

Despite being pounded 45-13 by Crest last week, the Shelby defense is among the best in the area. The Lions aren't that big, but they are extremely quick.

Eric White, a 190-pound senior All-Southern Piedmont Conference choice, leads the

Lions' attack. He has been their leading tackler the past two seasons.

The Lions also have experienced special teams, led by field goal and extra point kicker Trey Bridges and punter Russell Forrest.

On paper, Kings Mountain matches up well with the Lions on offense and defense and the Mountaineers showed some improvement in their kicking game Friday at Bessemer City.

But first-year head coach Dave Farquharson would like to see more consistency from his offense. Even though the Mountaineers defeated Bessemer City 49-6 last week, Farquharson knows the Yellow Jackets were not a top-quality opponent.

"I wish we had executed bet-

See Shelby, 3B



Joe Leach could be a big key to Kings Mountain's offense in this week's home opener against Shelby.



Kings Mountain running back Jamal Byers (9) follows the blocking of tackle Jarvarous Wilson (79) for a big gain in Friday's nonconference football game at Bessemer City. Kings Mountain won 49-6.

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

Mountaineers too much for Bessemer City 49-6

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

After a sluggish first half, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored on all four of their second half possessions to rout Bessemer City 49-6 in nonconference football action Friday night at Dixon Stadium in Bessemer City.

The victory was the second in three outings for the Mountaineers, while the Yellow Jackets fell to 0-2.

Kings Mountain rolled up 464 yards total offense while the young but improving KM defense held the Yellow Jackets to just 41 yards on the ground and 33 in the air.

Mountaineer coach Dave Farquharson said he was pleased to get the win, but hoped his team would have been more consistent.

"I felt about as good as I could feel knowing that we were coming off Gaffney and having to play Bessemer City," Farquharson said. "I wish we had executed better."

Depth and athleticism were the big differences in the game. The Yellow Jackets played with a lot of sting early, but with just 22 players on their team it



Kings Mountain's Cortney Smith (30) is loose for a big run around end in Friday's 49-6 victory at Bessemer City

GARY STEWART / THE HERALD

didn't take long for the much larger KM team (in both size and numbers) to wear them down.

Bessemer City's brightest spots on offense were running

backs Jermaine Gamble, who gained 42 yards on 18 carries, and Daontae Davis, who broke loose for a 66-yard touchdown run (BC's first of the year) in the third quarter.

Kings Mountain's defense gave BC quarterbacks Antonio Duff and Kelly Hastings fits, sacking them numerous times resulting in a loss of 83 yards.

Senior running backs Jamal Byers and Antonio McClain both topped the 100-yard rushing mark for the Mountaineers. Byers gained 138 yards in six carries and McClain added 108 yards in seven carries and two touchdowns.

Farquharson said the Mounties made some changes on their point-after-touchdown team following last week's 42-0 loss to Gaffney, and they paid off with seven straight PATs by Matt Bridges.

He was also pleased with the defensive effort, but he was concerned about his team's blocking and lack of consistency on offense.

"We did a lot of things on the sheer fact that we had better athletes on the field," he said. "That's all good, but that's not going to get it done in the long run."

The Mountaineers rolled to touchdowns on their first two possessions and drove within the shadow of the BC goal line on their next two possessions

See Mounties, 3B

Tailgate party kicks off Friday

The often imitated but never duplicated WKMT/Herald

Tailgate Show will begin its third season on Radio Station WKMT Friday at 5:45 p.m.

live from the home gate of John Gamble Stadium.

The show will run from 5:45-6:45 before each KMHS home game.

The show, the brainchild of Jay Rhodes and yours truly, started three years ago as the first (that we know of) high school tailgate show in the state.

Since that time I've heard of other radio stations and newspapers that have followed suit.

It's a lot of fun that includes a lot of interviews with coaches, former players and fans, music, cheering by the KMHS varsity cheerleaders, trivia questions, game predictions, and bull-shooting.

Joining the team this year is former KMHS football coach Bob Jones. Joel Rountree, who took part the first two years, has taken over as an assistant principal at Bessemer City and may not be able to help full-time this year. When he's able he will be with us, but with Joel's departure we figured we needed somebody at the table that knows something about football.

As usual, Junior Pryor will be "in the truck" making sure we're on the air and staying within the time frame, and Joe Hord will be assisting in handing out prizes and doing other necessary behind-the-scenes work.

We hope this year's tailgate show will be the biggest and best ever. Jay Rhodes has lined up some interesting guests for interviews, and has rounded up some great prizes for the fans who participate.

While the tailgate show has been fun and popular with the fans who've participated, it has never really taken on the atmosphere of a "tailgate party." Maybe that's because the first year, 1998, we held it inside the KMHS cafeteria at the same time local clubs and organizations were having fund-raising suppers.

We moved outside during the state playoffs of 1998 and it became popular with the fans arriving at the stadium early. But, during playoffs, the gates open much sooner than they do during the regular season.

See Gary, 2B



Gary Stewart Editor