

Burns stuns KM with 24-7 setback

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Two football teams that have faced adversity met Friday night when the Burns Bulldogs came to Kings Mountain's John Gamble Stadium for a key Southwestern 3A Conference showdown.

The Bulldogs, coming in at 0-1 in the conference and 1-4 overall, executed its game plan almost to perfection, using a ball control offense and an exceptional kicking game to keep the Mountaineer offense off the field much of the game; and when they were on the field, making sure they started their drives deep in their own territory.

The Mountaineers, who apparently turned their season around the week before with a dramatic overtime win over Forestview, were coming in 1-0 and 3-3 and apparently sailing toward a SWC showdown with South Point and a state playoff berth.

But, problems from the days leading up to the contest weren't handled properly by the Mountaineers, and they were upset 24-7 in a homecoming contest that turned ugly early and never got any better.

KMHS Principal John Yarbrough and head coach Dave Farquharson had to deal with some disciplinary problems with football players during the week and that, along with mounting injuries resulted in a number of personnel changes

that the team did not adapt well to.

Farquharson said the Mountaineers weren't focused, didn't play with any intensity, and did not carry out their responsibilities.

Some of that may have been due to the inspired play of the underdog Bulldogs, who have continued to improve after seeing many of their key players transfer to Crest in the off-season. But, much if it was also a result of the Mountaineers not playing up to their potential.

Once considered one of the top offensive football teams in the area, the Mountaineers turned the football over on four of their eight possessions (three fumbles and a pass interception). Another drive stalled at the Burns five and resulted in a missed field goal. Still another, during a second half comeback attempt, ended with a fumble at the Burns 14.

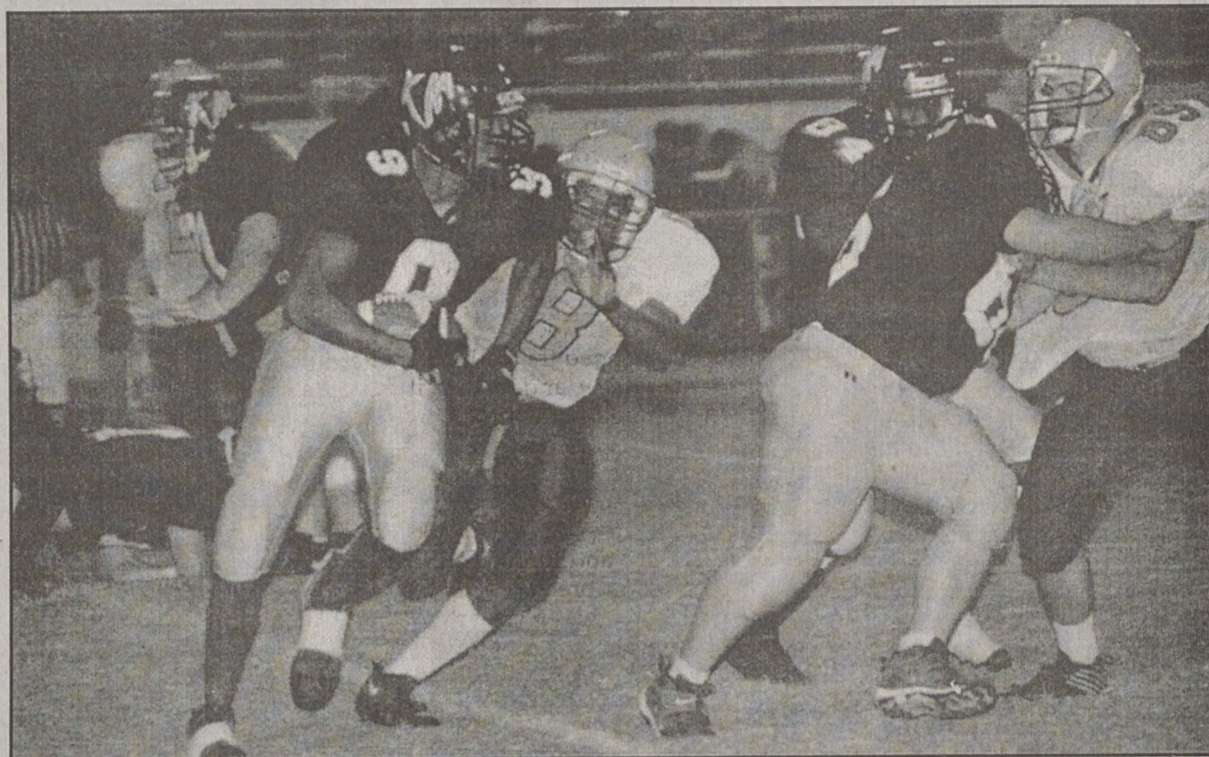
"We didn't play football," said Coach Farquharson. "I was disappointed with our intensity and our focus on the game."

Despite the disciplinary problems going in, Farquharson said he felt like the Mountaineers had a good game plan. He moved his second leading rusher, Matt Ash, from quarterback to running back and inserted back-up QB Renaldo Tate into the lineup. It didn't appear players adjusted well to the new assignments, though, because Ash was flagged a couple of times for moving before the snap, and an errant pitchout

from Tate to Ash inside the 10 yard line resulted in a Mountaineer drive breaking down and a missed field goal.

"Ash has been three-quarters of our offense when he's at the quarterback position, and we felt like it was a good move," Farquharson said. "Through three quarters Friday night, he was again three quarters of our offense until he got hurt."

Ash, who was moved back to quarterback at the start of the game, was injured during the game. **See Burns, 9A**



Kings Mountain quarterback Renaldo Tate (10 in top photo) makes an option pitch, and KM running back Jamal Byers (9 in lower photo) tries to find some room to run in Friday's game with Burns at Gamble Stadium. Burns won 24-7.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

TRI-COUNTY RANKING

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

Last Week's Results

Crest 54, Freedom 21
Ashbrook 29, Olympic 26
Huss 21, East Gaston 7
Burns 24, Kings Mtn. 7
E. Ruth. 39, R-S Central 21
N. Gaston 17, Forestview 14
W. Lincoln 53, B. City 42
Maiden 22, Chase 21
Shelby 62, Cherryville 8

This Week's Games

Crest at McDowell
North Meck at Ashbrook
E. Gaston at Vance
Huss at West Meck
North Gaston at Burns
East Ruth. at South Point
Forestview at B. City
Kings Mtn. at RS Central
Lincolnton at Chase
Cherryville at West Lincoln
Maiden at Shelby

PREP STANDINGS

Southwestern 3A

	Conf.	All
South Point	2-0	5-0-1
North Gaston	1-1	5-1
Forestview	3-3	5-3
Kings Mtn.	1-1	3-4
Burns	1-1	2-5
East Ruth.	1-1	2-5
RS Central	0-2	3-3

S. Piedmont 1A/2A

	Conf.	All
Shelby	3-0	5-2
Maiden	2-0	7-0
Chase	2-1	5-2
Lincolnton	1-1	1-6
W. Lincoln	1-1	1-6
B. City	0-3	0-6
Cherryville	0-3	0-8

MEGA 7 4A

	Conf.	All
North Meck	3-0	7-0
Ashbrook	2-0	6-0-1
Olympic	2-1	5-3
E. Gaston	1-1	1-6
Huss	1-2	1-5
West Meck	0-2	1-5
Vance	0-3	3-4

Patriots drop game to Shelby

Kings Mountain Middle School's football team fell to Shelby 20-6 in a Tri-County Conference non-division game Wednesday at John Gamble Stadium.

Coach David Heffner's Patriots, 4-0 in Division One and 4-2 overall, were scheduled to host Burns yesterday for the division championship.

The Patriots grabbed a 6-0 lead in the first quarter against Shelby before the visitors scored a TD in each of the last three quarters.

KM drove the opening kickoff 65 yards for a TD, with Wesley Dixon scoring on a six-yard run.

Shelby came back and scored on a 48-yard touchdown run to tie the game.

Kings Mountain drove the ball almost the length of the field to inside the Shelby 10-yard line late in the second quarter, but fumbled and the score remained 6-6 at halftime.

Shelby returned the second half kickoff to the KM 24 yard line, where Marquize Norris of the Patriots took the ball away from the Shelby runner. KM drove the ball 68 yards to score but it was called back on a holding penalty. On the next play, KM fumbled and Shelby picked

See Patriots, 9A

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Prayer Request

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Mounties at R-S Friday

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Banged and bruised, both physically and emotionally, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers travel to R-S Central Friday night for a ball game that could be considered a must win if they are to continue in their quest for a state 3A playoff berth.

The Mountaineers were bounced out of a tie for first

place in the Southwestern 3A Conference last week by Burns, 24-7, resulting in a logjam between several teams tied for second with one loss apiece.

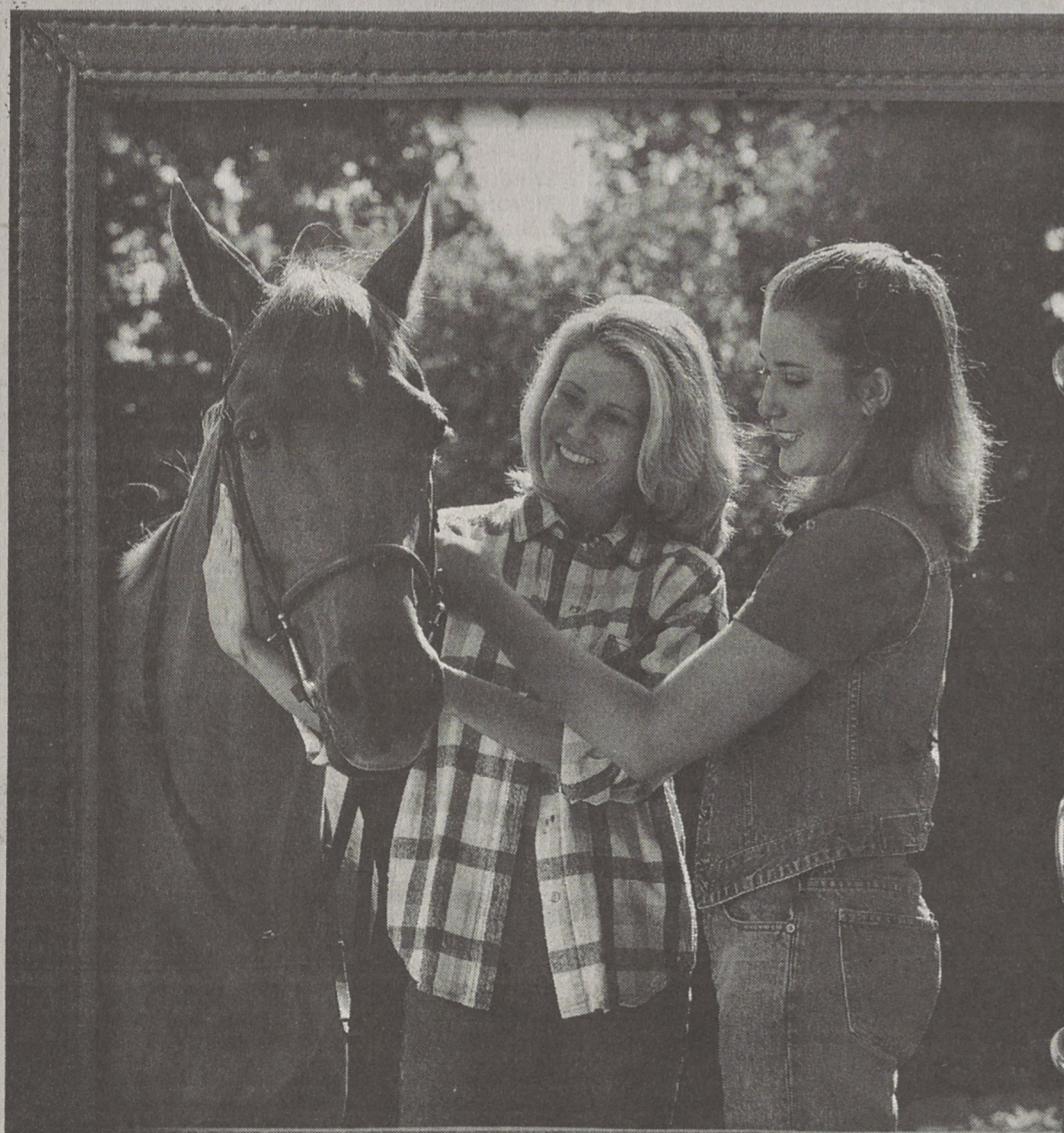
South Point, which leads the league with a perfect 2-0 record, and R-S Central, which brings up the rear with an 0-2 mark, are the only teams not in that mix.

R-S Central, which has only 19 players on its roster but has shown signs of brilliance this

season, hopes an upset of the Mountaineers this Friday will put them in a contending position.

The Hilltoppers, 3-3 overall, have some of the top skill players in the conference, led by senior quarterback Jeff Ogle. Ogle is starting for the fourth year in a row and has the potential to cause the KM defense problems with his passing skills.

See RSC, 9A



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Mt. Holly • Dallas • Lowell • McAdenville • Belmont
Cramerton • Bessemer City • Cherryville • Clover
Kings Mountain • York • Lincolnton • Shelby • Randle

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