SPORTS

Mountaineers split opener with Shelby

Mountaineers have 'Goode' night, but fall 68-65 in McDowell's debut

Even though they lost 68-65, first-year Kings Mountain High basketball coach Danny McDowell said he couldn't be more pleased with his team's effort in Monday's season opener at Shelby.

The Mountaineers played without the services of two starters who were disciplined for missing a recent practice session, and two others who are still bothered by football injuries.

But, all of the players who were available put forth an outstanding effort against a veteran Shelby team which features four seniors in its starting lineup.

"I was pleased with the effort," McDowell said. "Anytime you go into a place like that and have only two seniors and they have four, and do that well you have to be pleased."

Kings Mountain's 6-6, 315-pound senior center Qwenshon Goode had one of the best all-around games of his career with 23 points and 20 rebounds.

"The Big Boy (McDowell's nickname for Goode) showed up," McDowell said. "I talk to the players a lot in practice about showing up to play, and they did."

Shelby held the advantage in the first half, leading 19-12 after the first quarter and 37-31 at the half. Kings Mountain battled back to take a 50-49 lead going into the fourth quarter, but Goode picked up his fourth foul a minute into the fourth quarter and had to sit down for a couple minutes.

After Goode returned to action, the Mountaineers battled back to tie the game at 65-all and had the ball. But they missed a three-point attempt and Shelby got the rebound and forced the Mounties into a fouling situation.

McDowell said coming from behind against a veteran team like Shelby, and on its home court to boot, is tough.

"But I was real pleased with our effort, especially my freshmen and sophomores who I call my Young Bucks," he said. "They showed up too."

McDowell said his young players made some mistakes, but that's to be expected in his team's high intensity and pressure philosophy

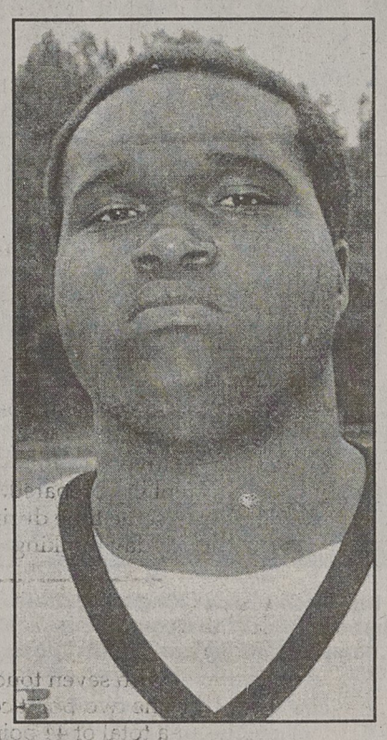
"We pressed a lot, and with young kids you're going to miss a lay-up and drop a pass and have a turnover here and there," he said. "Without those things we beat Shelby at their place.

"But you can expect those first game jitters on the road. We're young and are having some growing pains, but you can't fault their effort."

McDowell said he was appreciative of the KM fan support. The Mountaineers actually had a bigger cheering section than the Lions.

"It was like it used to be years ago," McDowell said. "It's a tribute to the Kings Mountain fans' love for basketball."

See Mounties, 7A



QWENSHON GOODE
23 Points, 20 Rebounds

Balanced scoring keys girls to 60-47 victory

The Coles were hot - and so were the rest of the Lady Mountaineers - as Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team opened its season Monday at Shelby with an impressive 60-47 win over the Lady Lions.

Sophomore Shonda Cole scored nine of her 14 points and senior Anna Ramey scored seven of her 13 points in the first quarter as the Lady Mountaineers grabbed the early lead and held it the rest of the night.

Kevin Moss' ladies, who led 20-13 after the first quarter and 30-26 at halftime, broke the game open with a 17-6 run in the third quarter. That run was sparked by Cole's sister, Cherlyn, who scored five of her game-high 16 points during that span, and Ebony Moore, who hit six of her 10 points.

With a well-balanced offensive attack and an intense defense, Moss was highly pleased with his team's opening night effort.

"We played hard and played with intensity which we didn't do at times last year, especially on away games," he said.

"We still have a lot of things we need to improve on, but for this being our first game we played very well."

The Lady Mountaineers will likely spend a lot of time working on their defense and free throw shooting between now and their next game on December 5 against Charlotte Latin at the KMHS gym.

"We need to do a better job on defensive rebounding and free throw shooting," he said. "We were 13 of 25 on the line and several of those opportunities were one and ones."

KM (60) - Ramey 13, Thomas 1, C. Cole 16, Moore 10, S. Cole 14, Hardin 4, Leigh 2.

Shelby (47) - Hamilton 7, Russell 8, Bratton 12, Jeffries 2, Cannon 15, McIntyre 2, Smith 1.

Ash top rusher, passer for Mounties in 2000

The injuries and personnel problems Kings Mountain High's football team experienced this year showed up in the final statistics.

Coming off a five-year period in which the Mountaineers had seven 1,000-yard rushers and three 1,000-yard passers, this year's team showed only one player to top the 500-yard mark in each category.

Senior quarterback Matt Ash led the rushing with 553 yards in 111 carries, and also topped the passing department with 37-for-74 and 559 yards.

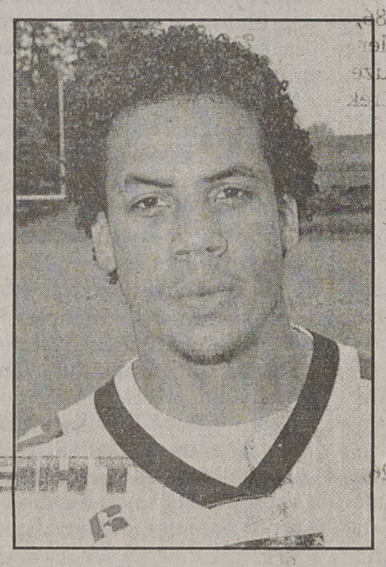
As a team, the Mountaineers compiled 2,397 yards rushing and 714 yards passing in 11 games, an average total offense of 283 yards per game.

Ash had 100-yard rushing games against Forestview, Burns and South Point; and had 100-yard passing efforts against East Gaston and South Point.

Senior Joe Leach led in the receiving department with 13 catches for 381 yards. He had 100-yard games against East Gaston and South Point.

Ash also led in the scoring

See Ash, 7A

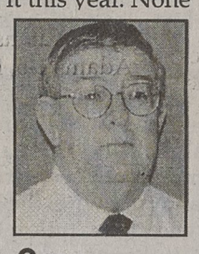


MATT ASH

Look back at football

Looking back on the recently-completed high school, and for the most part college, football season.

■ Except for South Point, which had a very good football team, the Southwestern 3A Conference was the weakest I've ever seen it this year. None of the other teams could have finished first in a competitive 1A conference.



Gary Stewart
Editor

The South Point coaching staff has done a tremendous job mending the talent of younger and older players. Even though they've lost some exceptional athletes the past two seasons (Jeremy and Jarien Jackson, Devon Lowery, and others), look for them to maintain their level of excellence (and maybe even take it to a higher level) in the next several years.

The other six SWC teams have their work cut out. North Gaston and Forestview will join the Raiders, Ashbrook, Huss, East Gaston and East Lincoln in the new Big South 3A next season. With the young talent they have coming on (undefeated JV and middle school teams) and with Ashbrook losing a host of talented seniors, you'd have to say South Point will be the class of that league, too.

Kings Mountain, Burns and R-S Central will join Crest, Hickory, St. Stephens and Fred T. Foard in the new Southwestern Foothills 3A. If you think the SWC was tough, wait 'til next year. Battling Crest and Hickory for a SWC playoff berth each year will be a monumental task; and don't be surprised if Shelby's not in the mix in two years. Whether the merger of Cleveland County, KM and Shelby schools goes into effect or not, there's a good chance the Shelby and Cleveland County attendance zones are going to change, and that means Shelby will be getting a lot of the football players who otherwise would be going to Crest.

■ Could Carolina's search for a top ten football coach follow the same pattern as their recent search for the man to take over their basketball fortunes?

The Tar Heels apparently had Roy Williams all locked up, and then got a "no" from several other members of the "Carolina family" before settling on Matt Doherty, who had just one year of head coaching experience.

UNC seemed to have Virginia Tech's Frank Beamer all locked up Sunday, but by the time he returned to Blacksburg, VA Monday morning to meet with his assistants something happened to remind him that his

See Gary, 7A

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