



GARY STEWART / HERALD
Kings Mountain High football coach Dave Farquharson looks forward to his second season at the helm. His Mountaineers open pre-season practice Monday afternoon. They open their season at home on August 31 against East Gaston.

Ready to Rumble

Mountaineers to open football practice Monday

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will open pre-season football practice Monday at 4:30 p.m.

Second-year head coach Dave Farquharson expects around 90 JV and varsity players to report for the first of six conditioning sessions. Heavy contact cannot begin until the seventh day of practice.

Farquharson and staff will welcome back approximately 25 lettermen from last year's team which finished 4-7 overall and fifth place in the Southwestern 3A Conference.

Farquharson also welcomes two new coaches to his staff. Mark Latham, who helped turn out some championship 4A clubs at nearby Crest High School, takes over as the

Mountaineers' defensive coordinator, and Jon Fleisher, former head coach in Illinois, joins the staff as an assistant coach.

Team members have gone through summer mini-camps, passing league competition and weight training, and Farquharson said they're excited about finally getting down to serious business.

"They're ready to go," he said. "They're worked real hard in the weight room and they're excited."

Based on the numbers attending summer sessions, the Mountaineers will have a good mix of about 25 players each from the sophomore, junior and senior classes. Farquharson's hoping for a similar number of incoming freshmen.

"With the ninth graders there's always a question mark until school actually starts," he

said. "If we have between 80 and 90 on the first day of practice I'll be excited."

Kings Mountain's 4-7 season a year ago wasn't typical of the Mountaineers, who had won or shared three of the previous four Southwestern 3A Conference championships. The team experienced an astronomical number of injuries, and five of the ten coaches from the previous year left the school system for one reason or another.

The one good thing that came out of that disappointing year, though, was that a huge number of underclassmen got a lot of playing experience and the coaches hope that will help them become better ball players this year.

Farquharson plans to stick with the popular one-back set which made the Mountaineers' offense one of the most explo-

sive around during the Ron Massey coaching era, and with 10 of the 11 starters back the Mountaineers' 4-3 defense should be much stronger.

Farquharson expects the Mountaineers to throw the ball more this year. Senior Renaldo Tate, who backed up Matt Ash last year and who threw 22 touchdowns passes during the recent 7-on-7 camp at Wake Forest, will get a chance to show off his right arm.

"We feel like we've got a quarterback that's a little more pass-oriented than what we've had in the past," Farquharson said. "We've got some good speed in our backfield and we want to be able to widen things out and move the ball and put it in their hands."

"Renaldo has improved tremendously since last sea-

See Football, 6B

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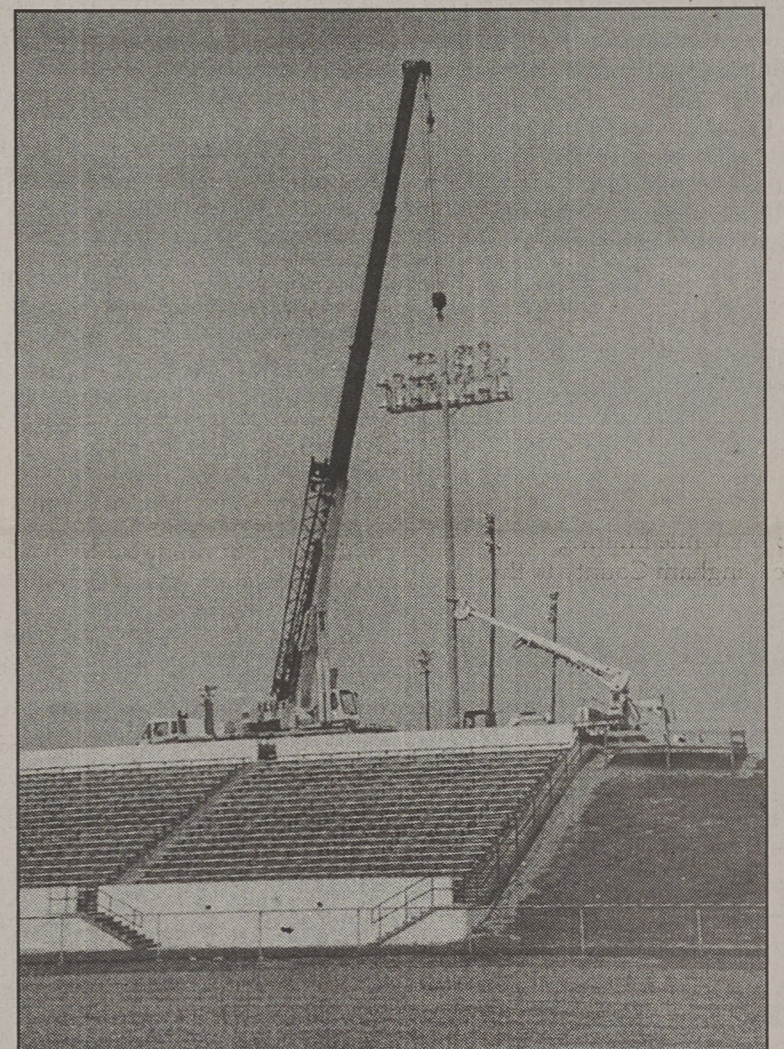
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GARY STEWART / HERALD
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Some people would go around the world to beat cancer. "I was lucky to have Blumenthal Cancer Center just down the road."

LaLisa Carpenter, a young 35-year-old wife, mother of three, RN at Cleveland Regional Medical Center and part-time UNCC student, found a knot on her neck last year. She knew she needed a biopsy immediately.

The diagnosis was Hodgkins lymphoma and LaLisa became a patient at Blumenthal Cancer Center at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of the prestigious Blumenthal Cancer Center at Charlotte's Carolinas Medical Center.

There, Dr. Warden L. Woodard III prescribed chemotherapy and radiation for her early-stage disease.

"I had worked with Dr. Woodard a little," she says, "and was really impressed with him. I was confident that I would get the care I needed."

"The doctors at Blumenthal Cancer Center also practice in Charlotte, so they know what's being done there and at other big hospitals and they do the same thing here. You're just closer to home."

LaLisa also liked the cancer center itself. "It has its own entrance and the staff was very receptive to my kids coming in when I'd get chemotherapy. They were great to them and my husband."

Today, tests show LaLisa is cancer-free. She has resumed exercising and is regaining her strength, and she works one day a week at Cleveland Regional's maternity center.

LaLisa is grateful that Cleveland Regional offers top-quality cancer care. "You couldn't get any better care in Charlotte. And with chemotherapy, there are lots of times you don't feel like making that long trip."

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