BIG BOYS

From Page 11

the best."

Jim Keene, who takes over the head coaching duties at R-S Central after serving as an assistant under Mike Mabry, echoed Jarman's statements.

"We're going to be playing perennial powerhouses - people with well-established football programs," He said. "We're not up to par yet with Kings Mountain, Crest, Burns, Hickory and Foard. With all of those teams it's like a list of Who's Who in football in this area. It's going to be an extremely tough conference."

Keene says, if pressed to predict a winner, he'd have to go with Crest but added "Kings Mountain will be right there fighting with them."

As for the Hilltoppers' chances, Keene noted "we just don't have a very strong tradition here and that's what we're going to try to build."

How does Crest coach Roy Kirby feel about being put in the hot spot?

Well, he's used to it but he is also quick to point out that the battle for first is going to be a "four-team fight" between the Chargers, Burns, Hickory and Kings Mountain.

"Pre-season picks are what they are - pre-season," he said. "We haven't played anybody yet."

But Kirby agrees with the others that the league will be one of the toughest in the State.

"I'm pretty excited about playing in it," he said. "At first we were disappointed because we wanted to stay in 4A football. But this new league is going to cut our travel in half. And our rivalries will be a little bit closer. We always played Burns and Kings Mountain - and it was a big game - but now it's going to be a really big game. I think the rivalries will intensify because of that, and also because they're only taking two teams to the playoffs."

Predicted Order Of Finish

1 - Crest

2 - Kings Mountain

3 - Hickory

4 - Burns

5 - Fred T. Foard

6 - St. Stephens

7 - R-S Central.

PATIENCE

From Page 12

"We're pretty much senior-laden," said Farquharson.

Returning starters include Adonis Matthews and Brandon Pressley up front, Nick Curry , Daniel Mason, Dejuan Jones and Antonio Crocker at linebacker, and Michael Adams, Brandon Roberts and LaDrecus Gingles in the secondary.

"We look pretty solid, which is a reverse from last year," says Farquharson. "Last year we had most of our offense back and only one on defense, and this year it's just the opposite."

The Mountaineers have spent a lot of work during the off-season, both in the weight room and in summer passing league competition, and Farquharson is optimistic it will pay off with improved play this fall.

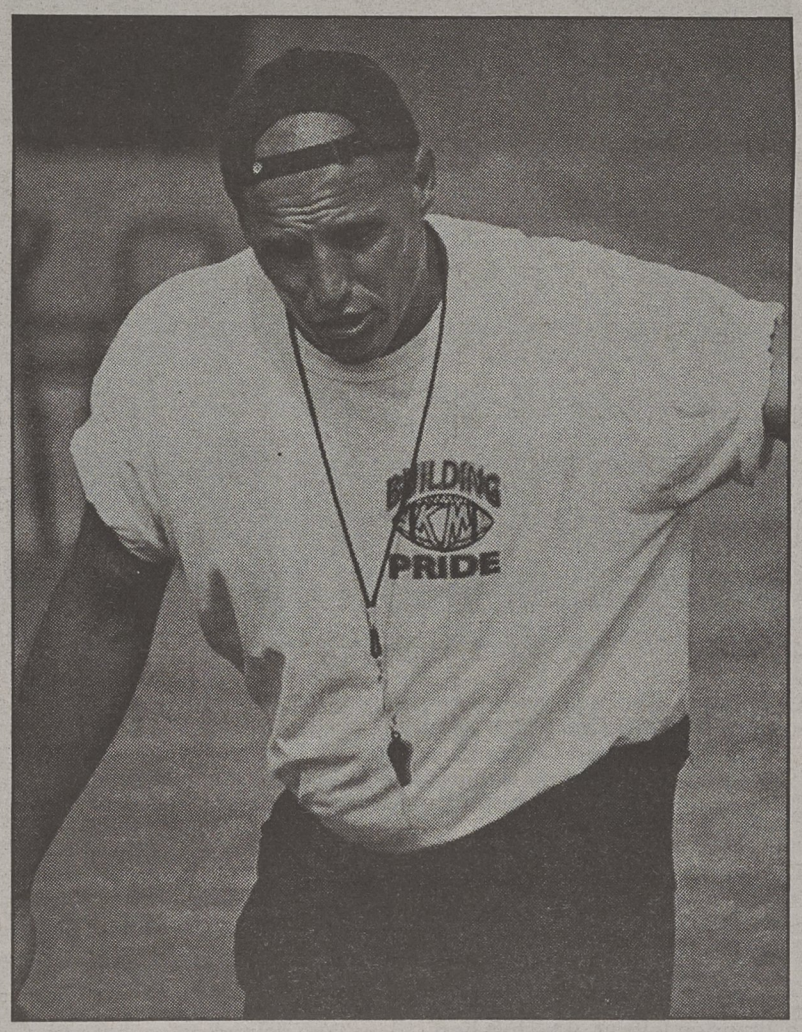
"We're going to try to have a balance between running and passing," he says. "We're going to try to capitalize on the work we did this summer as far as throwing the ball.

"But, to be successful doing that we're also going to have to be able to run the ball. Simmons will be like our fullbacks of the past and we're going to rely on him to do much of the work. We'll use our slots and wide receivers for speed."

Pablo Peralta, who was injured last year after having a good season in JV ball the year before, should add strength to the Mountaineers special teams as a place-kicker.

The Mountaineers will get a good look at how they'll shape up in the new league on Friday night when they host the third annual First Charter Bank Jamboree at John Gamble Stadium. KM plays Freedom in the final game at 9 p.m., but before that the coaches can get a peek at the other top contenders in the Southwestern Foothills when Crest takes on East Rutherford, Burns meets A.L. Brown, and Hickory battles Shelby.

Regular season action begins at home on Friday, August 31 against East Gaston's Warriors.



Dave Farquharson begins his second season as head coach of the Kings Mountain Mountaineers.

KINGS MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL
2001 VARSITY FOOTBALL ROSTER

NO.	NAME	GRADE	POS.	HT.	WT.
1	Michael Adams	12	DB	5-7	140
2	Brandon Roberts	12	DB	5-9	155
3	Ron Goode	12	WR	6-2	175
5	Adrian Parker	11	DB	5-10	170
7	Cedric Hunter	11	DB	5-8	150
8	Tyler Adams	12	WR	6-0	155
9	Montrell Banks	10	RB	6-0	175
10	Renaldo Tate	12	QB	6-0	170
11	LaDrecus Gingles	12	DB	6-0	185
12	Chris Jolly	12	QB	6-2	170
15	Brandon Houze	11	RB	6-0	180
21	Jamie Camp	11	WR	5-10	165
22	Jamarl Barrino	12	RB	5-9	160
23	Travis Clark	12	DB	5-11	180
24	Josh Gash	12	WR	6-0	175
26	Antonio Crocker	12	LB	6-0	200
30	Cortney Smith	11	RB	5-11	160
31	Tanner Putnam	12	LB	5-9	185
33	Dejuan Jones	12	LB	6-0	215
40	Aquino Simmons	11	RB	6-1	195
44	Adonis Mathews	12	DL	5-11	190
51	Daniel Hardin	12	DL	5-10	200
52	Nicholas Curry	12	LB	5-11	180
53	Mason Dixon	11	LB	5-10	160
54	Orlando Curry	10	LB	5-11	230
55	Justin Early	12	DL	5-11	235
60	Daniel Mason	12	LB	6-3	225
61	Jonathon Dixon	12	OL	6-0	190
63	Pablo Peralta	11	K	6-1	175
64	Steven Blanton	12	DL	5-9	185
66	Matt Wilson	12	OL	6-1	190
67	Jacobi Oates	12	OL	5-9	260
68	Tyler McDaniel	12	DL	5-10	180
71	Thomas Martin	11	OL	6-1	260
72	Brandon Pressley	12	DL	5-10	230
73	Matt Varner	12	OL	6-2	275
74	Damon Armstrong	11	OL	6-2	250
75	Casey Hord	11	DL	6-0	170
77	Donta Adams	11	OL	5-8	190
78	Johnny Gillard	11	OL	6-0	190
79	Chris Yon	11	OL	6-1	323
81	Justin Branham	11	WR	6-1	175
85	Matt Williams	12	OL	6-3	225
88	Mike Mackins	12	DL	6-2	225
99	Chris Williamson	10	LB	6-2	225

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