



Kings Mountain's Marquis Morris (7) returns the second half kickoff for a touchdown in Thursday's 14-13 JV victory over South Point at John Gamble Stadium.

JV Mountaineers survive late South Point rally for 14-13 win

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Parents and fans with nervous stomachs were probably sitting on the edge of their seats and biting their fingernails in the final nine seconds of Kings Mountain's 14-13 victory over South Point in junior varsity football action Thursday night at John Gamble Stadium.

The Red Raiders, who had recovered a KM fumble just three minutes earlier on their own 9 yard line, almost marched the length of the field for a victory.

But when they got into the shadow of the goal line, Kings Mountain's defense rose to the occasion. With the Raiders at the KM 11 with a first and 10, Marquis Norris slammed South Point quarterback Brandon Young for a two-yard loss, and then stopped the Raiders' fullback Jordan Gilmore dead in his tracks on two straight running plays.

With nine seconds left, the Raiders attempted a 30-yard field goal which hit the crossbar and bounced over, apparently for a South Point win.

But wait!
The Raiders were penalized five yards for illegal procedure and attempted another field goal from 35 yards out. It hit the crossbar and bounced back, apparently for a KM win.

But wait!
The Mountaineers were penalized half the distance to the goal line for roughing the kicker, giving the Raiders another chance, this time from 23 yards out with just one second remaining.

This time the kick went wide left. There were no yellow flags on the field and the Mountaineers escaped with their first win of the season.

For most of the game, both teams moved the ball well but were plagued by penalties. South Point lost four fumbles, including three in the first half, and the Mountaineers lost three. Most of them either led to points or stopped potential scoring drives.

KM defensive lineman Demarius Grier recovered a fumble at the South Point 46 to set up the Mountaineers' first touchdown in the second quarter.

J.J. McClain had a big run up the gut for 23 yards and a first down at the South Point 15, and he later scored the TD from one yard out with 5:53 left in the half. A bad snap from center on the extra point attempt resulted in holder Moutrice Love running around left end for a two-point conversion and an 8-0 lead.

Moments later, KM linebacker Ches Robbins recovered a fumble at the South Point 35 and John Quinn rambled up the middle for a first down at the 23, but penalties pushed the Mounties back to the 29 with a fourth and 26. Quarterback Ryan Burton found Tyson Byers open down the left sideline and hit him with a 22-yard pass at the 17, but it wasn't enough for a first down.

Morris returned the second half kickoff 65



Kings Mountain quarterback Ryan Burton scrambles for yardage in Thursday's victory over South Point.

yards for a touchdown to put the Mountaineers on top 14-0. Moments later, KM's Clark Wilder recovered South Point's fourth fumble of the night at the Raiders' 31, but four running plays resulted in a loss of two yards and South Point took possession.

Shortly thereafter, KM caught the "fumbleitis" bug and South Point pounced on a fumbled punt at the KM 35. Six plays later Gilmore scored from 23 yards and Donny McCaskill added the PAT from placement to cut the KM lead to 14-7.

Another fumble by the Mountaineers at their own 43 yard line set up South Point's second TD. Tyler Lemons circled right end for the score, but the extra point attempt was low and KM held to a 14-13 edge.

Kings Mountain started a potential game-clinching touchdown drive early in the fourth quarter from its own 37 yard line. With McClain picking up three and four yards a clip, the Mountaineers moved to the South Point 9 for a first down before South Point recovered a McClain fumble with 3:28 remaining.

John Hill ripped off a 57-yard gain to the KM 44 and the Raiders worked their way to the 11 before bogging down and setting the stage for the last-second excitement.

The victory was sweet and the result of a hard week of work following a season-opening 34-7 loss to East Gaston. Kings Mountain, running mostly from the I-formation, got good running from McClain and Quinn. The Mountaineer defense was led by Chris Patrick, Dustin Hudson, Wesley Dixon, Ryan Skybo and Michael Sabetti.

The Mounties play the first of three straight away games tonight at Forestview.

Big start keys West over KM Middle 44-24

West Lincoln rolled to a 30-0 lead and went on to defeat Kings Mountain 44-24 in a Tri-County Middle School Conference game Wednesday at West Lincoln.

The Patriots, 1-1, were scheduled to host East Lincoln yesterday. They travel to Crest next week.

All of Kings Mountain's points came in the fourth quarter at West Lincoln. Tyvegas Goode took a quick pitch around left end and scored from 60 yards out, and Antwain Ross ran a two-point conversion to cut the West Lincoln lead to 30-8.

Trailing 38-8, Goode took a swing pass and went 65 yards for a touchdown, and Ross again scored the two-point conversion to make it 38-16.

With West Lincoln leading 44-16, Adam Sellers scored from 26 yards out and Alan Jeffries added a two-point conversion for the final margin.

Coach Monty Deaton, whose team had outscored Pumpkin Center 34-26 in its season opener a week earlier, said the late-game scoring and big plays were the result of both teams moving a lot of players in and out.

"There was a lot of scoring, but they actually beat us when we got off the bus," Deaton said. "The kids just didn't have any enthusiasm. There was no intensity out there."

Deaton credited the



Kings Mountain Middle School quarterback Darrick Marable gets a good gain on a bootleg, but the Patriots fell to West Lincoln 44-24 in a Tri-County Conference game last week. The Patriots travel to Crest next Wednesday for a 5 p.m. game.

Patriots for playing a good third quarter. No points were scored by either team during that stretch.

Fumbles cost the Patriots some scoring opportunities in the first half, and poor tackling allowed the big West Lincoln backs to ground out huge chunks of yardage.

"They didn't do anything spectacular," Deaton said. "They just did what they

had to do. They had some big running backs and our kids just didn't come up and make the plays. They basically ran two or three plays and we couldn't stop what they were doing.

"We've got to get better," he added. "We've got to come up and get more aggressive and have more intensity or it could be a long year for us."

KM girls win 16th straight game

Kings Mountain Middle School's girls softball team defeated West Lincoln 12-6 and East Lincoln 12-3 in Tri-County Conference games Wednesday and Thursday.

Channon Vogle's ladies now have own

four straight games this season and 16 in a row over the past two years.

Megan Childers was the winning pitcher in Thursday's game. Laura Bagwell had a triple and five runs batted in.

Tri-Tech Building Systems Brings Innovative Housing To Carolina Land Owners

You own property. You want to take advantage of today's low interest rates. Building material costs have remained steady. Common sense tells you now is the time to build a new home. Now what? Experts state there are 5 phases to home building that create the most confusion and frustration:

- 1) Financing
- 2) Home Selection
- 3) Time
- 4) Affordability
- 5) Finding A Qualified Builder

What if you could find one builder that could turn these negatives into positives? Tri-Tech Building Systems, located on Franklin Boulevard in Gastonia, has been involved in doing just that since 1972. Tri-Tech's philosophy is simple: provide quality housing to good people.

When examining each phase individually, it is easy to see why Tri-Tech has been so successful.

Financing - How do you know your getting the best interest rate? Banks know people buy a home an average of once every eight years so they need to make their money from you now. Because of the volume Tri-Tech generates, their preferred lenders work hard to insure homebuyers get the best service and interest rates possible.

Home Selection - Most people have special needs and desires when they build a home. Trying to visualize their home from a blueprint is very difficult. For this reason Tri-Tech has 7 fully furnished and decorated models to tour so people can actually see their house before it is ever built. If you have your own plan, Tri-Tech's Home Designers can lead you through the customizing process so your house is just the way you want it.

Time - Once you decide to build, the last thing you want is to wait 9 or 12 months to move in. Once the building process starts, Tri-Tech's goal is to complete the home in 2 to 3 months. Because of innovative systems in their controlled environment production facility, Tri-Tech's customers are not subjected to typical traditional home building delays.

Affordability - On the average, Tri-Tech's customers pay 20% less for their home than if they used traditional building methods. Because of volume purchasing, controlled environmental production methods, and the elimination of "the middle man", customers are able to buy more house for less money.

Finding A Qualified Builder - How many people build a home and say "It was the worst experience I have ever gone through"? Lisa Hughes of Oakboro, NC just finished her walk-thru in her new home from Tri-Tech and expressed her delight by stating, "It was easier and quicker than what I expected." Tri-Tech's general manager performs a Pre-Construction Conference with every customer before the project starts and then a walk through after the project to insure customer satisfaction.

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