

## Mounties at Glenn Friday in first round of 3AA playoffs

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will make their first trip to the State 3AA playoffs since 1998 Friday when they travel to Kernersville to take on Glenn High's Bobcats.

The Mountaineers go into the game with a 4-7 overall record and the #4 team from the Southwestern Foothills Conference. Glenn, ranked 9th in the State 3A polls, is 9-2 overall and #2 in the Piedmont Triad. Glenn is seeded #4 and KM #13.

The Mountaineers, whose record isn't indicative of their potential, hope to catch a Glenn team on a slide. The Bobcats won their first nine games before dropping back-to-back conference games to Greensboro Smith and Winston-

Salem Conference to end the regular season.

The 35-7 loss last week to Carver, the top-seed in the Western 3A bracket, was devastating to the Bobcats in more ways than the final score. Coach Dick Cline's charges lost perhaps their best all-around player in wide receiver Chris Lane, who tore his ACL.

"He was a big weapon for us," said Coach Cline. "He was our go-to guy at receiver, as well as our kick-off and return guy."

Kings Mountain will be lining up against a team that is similar to the traditional power teams of this area. The Bobcats run out of the I-formation on offense and run an 8-man front on defense.

"You could compare us to a Virginia Tech," Cline said. "We're not an upfield team; we're not a stunt and gambling team like what you see in today's style."

Glenn's leading rusher is sophomore tailback Shawn Moore, a 5-11, 180-pounder who has over 1,400 yards rushing and 23 touchdowns.

Chris Lane's twin brother, Corey, is an experienced quarterback and the team's most versatile player. He started at quarterback last year and played tailback and wide receiver earlier this year. However, in the middle of the season the Bobcats' starting quarterback was dismissed from the team and Lane was moved back to his old spot.

"We tried to utilize him in a lot of different ways because of his versatility," Cline said.

Cline said he is impressed with Kings Mountain's athletic ability and expects a tough game Friday.

"Kings Mountain is very athletic...very quick," he said. "They have a lot of skill players and a lot of athletic players at all positions. They're a very good football team."

The KM-Glenn winner will advance to the second round against the winner of the #5 Ashbrook vs. #12 Weddington game. Throughout the playoffs the higher-seeded team is the home team.

The last time the Mountaineers qualified for the State playoffs they went all the way to the Championship Game in Chapel Hill before losing 34-28 to Winston-Salem Carver on a touchdown pass in the final three minutes.

### ▶ AT A GLANCE

#### Prep Standings

##### Southwestern Foothills

Teams	Conf.	All
Crest	6-0	10-0
Burns	5-1	10-1
Hickory	4-2	8-3
K. Mtn.	3-3	4-7
S. Step.	2-4	3-8
RS Cent.	1-5	1-10
F.T. Foard	0-6	1-10

##### Last Week's Games

Kings Mountain 28, North Gaston 16  
Burns 61, St. Stephens 27  
Crest 42, R-s Central 0  
Hickory 47, Fred T. Foard 8

##### This Week's Games (First round State playoffs)

Kings Mountain at Kernersville Glenn  
West Rowan at Crest  
North Iredell at Burns  
East Gaston at Hickory

##### Big South 3A

Teams	Conf.	All
S. Point	6-0	9-1
Ashbrook	5-1	6-4
E. Lincoln	4-2	7-4
E. Gaston	3-3	6-5
Forestview	2-4	6-5
H.Huss	1-5	3-7
N. Gaston	0-7	1-10

##### Last Week's Games

South Point 28, East Lincoln 7  
Ashbrook 38, Huss 14  
East Gaston 35, Forestview 34

##### This Week's Games (First round State playoffs)

Anson County at South Point  
East Lincoln at Winston-Salem Parkland  
Weddington at Ashbrook  
East Gaston at Hickory

##### Southern Foothills 1A

Teams	Conf.	All
Maiden	5-0	9-2
Hen'ville	4-1	7-4
B. City	3-2	5-6
Polk Co.	2-3	2-8
C'ville	1-4	1-10
Highland	0-5	1-10

##### Friday's Games

Bessemer City 22, Cherryville 12  
Hendersonville 10, Polk 0  
Maiden 70, Highland 8

##### This Week's Games (First round State playoffs)

Cherryville at Starmount  
West Davidson at Hendersville  
Polk Co. at Thomasville  
South Stokes at Maiden  
Mt. Airy at Bessemer City  
Highland at Lakewood

##### DIRECTIONS TO GLENN

Take I-85 North to Highway 52 near Lexington. Take Highway 52 to Winston-Salem and get on I-40 East. Take the Union Cross exit. School is 200 yards on the right. (Trip is approximately 2 hours).

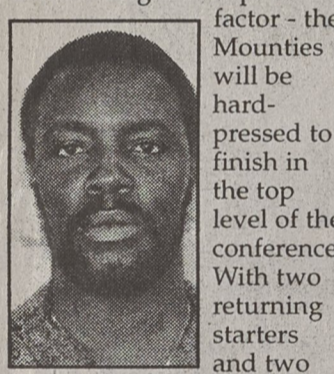
## Mounties open at Garinger Tuesday

By GARY STEWART  
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers shocked the Southwestern Foothills Conference last year by taking a young team and sharing the league title with Hickory.

Not only that, Danny McDowell's scrappy Mountaineers advanced all the way to the Sectional finals before bowing out.

With an even younger team on the floor this year - and no longer a surprise



factor - the Mounties will be hard-pressed to finish in the top level of the conference. With two returning starters and two other key players still competing on the football field, McDowell will put a lineup on the floor that includes three sophomores and two juniors when his team opens the 2002-03 season Tuesday night at Charlotte Garinger.

Only two of those players, guard Dashawn Young and forward Gabe Blair, have any varsity playing experience.

Others who will be starting include guard Caleb Crosby, wing Heath Walker, and forward D.J. Byrd.

The only four players available for back-up duty are Quincy Johnson, Terry Lipscomb, Michael Burris and Brandon McClain.

Once the football season is over, point guard Derrick Smith and inside players Brandon Houze, Cortney Smith and Tae Roebeck will join the squad.

"I'm curious to see how this young group of kids is going to accept the challenge," said McDowell.

"Last year by this time I had my gunners, but now you're talking about it taking them at least three more weeks to get in basketball shape. By the time they get here we could have already played four or five games."

Although his players are young, they certainly don't lack in enthusiasm, McDowell said.

"The effort is there, every day in practice," he said. "But I'm asking these young guys to lead our team before they follow. It's a

See Mounties, 7A

## KM 28, NORTH GASTON 16



Kings Mountain quarterback Chris Jolly (7) on a keeper Jolly passed for 192 yards and three touchdowns in Friday's win over North Gaston.

# Mounties whip Cats in endowment game

By GARY STEWART  
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Kings Mountain's Mountaineers closed out their regular season Friday night at North Gaston with a 28-16 win over the Wildcats in a NCHSAA endowment game.

The win gave the Mounties a 4-7 overall record heading into the State 3AA playoffs this Friday at Kernersville Glenn. North Gaston finished 1-10.

Coach Dave Farquharson of the Mounties used the game to rest some of his players that have been experiencing injuries, including leading rusher Aquino Simmons and linebackers Josh Ethers and Orlando Curry.

Both teams tried to establish a run-

ning game, but neither was highly successful. Kings Mountain managed only 103 yards rushing in 47 carries and North Gaston had 117 in 22 attempts.

The difference was the passing game, where KM's Chris Jolly hit 13 of 21 passes for 192 yards and three touchdowns. North Gaston sophomore Jeff Johnson connected on 12 of 17 for 113 yards.

The game was in doubt until late in the third quarter, when the Mountaineers scored the first of two unanswered touchdowns that broke a 16-all tie.

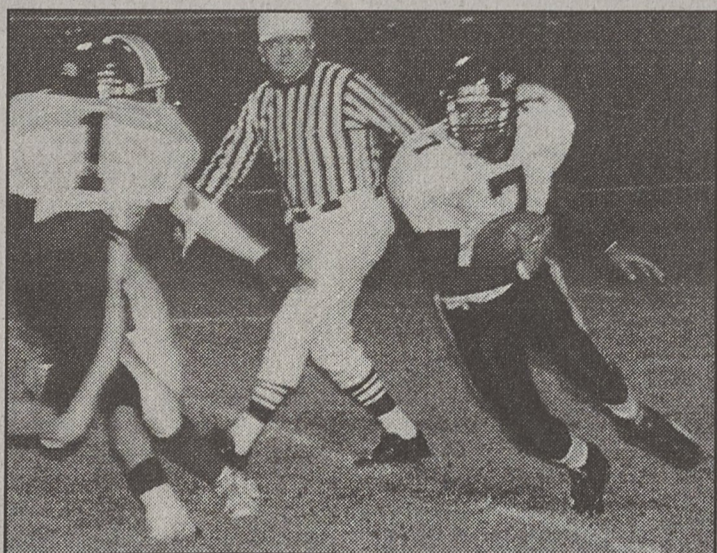
Junior wide receiver Derrick Smith caught four passes for 69 yards, including touchdowns of 30 yards (first quarter) and 14 yards (second quarter).

North Gaston answered Smith's first

TD reception with a 26-yard field goal by Joshua Putnam, and a 21-yard pass from Johnson to Britt Bates for a 9-7 lead. Smith's second TD reception put the Mounties up by 13-9, and Pablo Peralta, who saw only limited action because of an injury, tacked on a 27-yard field goal to put KM up 16-9.

North Gaston's sophomore tailback Rafael Littlejohn broke up the middle for a 53-yard touchdown run to tie the score at 16-16 early in the third quarter.

Montrell Banks, who gained 100 yards in 31 carries, scored from one-yard out to give KM the lead at 22-16 late in the third quarter, and tight end Adrian Parker caught a 15-yard touchdown pass for an insurance tally in the fourth quarter.



Derrick Smith (7) caught four passes for 69 yards and two touchdowns for Kings Mountain in Friday's win at North Gaston.

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