



KMHS coach Suzanne Grayson gets team fired up for volleyball game.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

Patriots edge Shelby 20-14

Kings Mountain's Cedric Roberts scooped up a fumble and returned it 60 yards for the winning touchdown, then sacked the Shelby quarterback on the final play of the game to preserve a 20-14 win for the Patriots over the Blue Devils in a Tri-County Middle School Conference game Wednesday at Shelby.

Roberts had a game he'll likely never forget, scoring all three KM touchdowns and accounting for 145 all-purpose yards.

Roberts caught eight passes for 97 yards, carried the ball three times for 13 yards, and had three kick returns for 35 yards.

His two-yard touchdown reception on the last play of the first half cut Shelby's lead to 14-6 and gave the Patriots momentum for the final two quarters.

He scored on a 12-yard reverse in the third quarter, and Shariff Burris caught a two-point conversion pass to tie the game at 14-all.

Kings Mountain Coach Monty Deaton admitted the Blue Devils "just wore us out" in the first half, but the second half was a totally different story. The Patriots spread their offense in an effort to get the ball into the hands of their "athletes," and that also helped open up the running game for some big gains by Burris and Tyvegas Goode. Also, the KM defense made some major adjustments and shutout the Shelby offense the rest of the way.

Kings Mountain's first half touchdown was impressive for a middle school team. After gaining possession of the ball at the 50 yard line with a minute to play, the Patriots went to what Deaton calls their "fast break" offense, a no huddle with the plays being called at the line of scrimmage. They worked the ball to the two with seven seconds left and threw an incomplete pass to stop the clock. Quarterback Michael Roberts hit Cedric Roberts on a hitch route for the touchdown.

"That was big, because it gave our kids some confidence coming into the half," Deaton said. "Until that point Shelby had been wearing us out. When we'd get a drive going we'd have a penalty. They were a lot bigger than us and were just pounding the ball on us."

Kings Mountain held the Blue Devils on their first possession of the second half and drove down field behind some big runs by Burris for a first down at the 20 yard line. Cedric Roberts made an athletic play on a reverse, using his quick feet to get around one Shelby defender and breaking two tackles just before crossing the goal line.

See Patriots, 7B



Cedric Roberts scored all three KM touchdowns in 20-14 middle school win over Shelby Wednesday

Spikers split at Watauga

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team split a pair of games Saturday at Watauga High School in Boone.

The Lady Mountaineers defeated Watauga 25-8, 16-25, 25-22, 25-22 before losing to Chapel Hill 11-25, 21-25, 19-25.

The games left the Mountaineers with a 13-2 overall record heading into a Southwestern Foothills showdown with Fred T. Foard Tuesday night.

Against Watauga, Blair Heffner handed out 37 assists and was 17-of-18 on serves. She registered three kills, one block and eight digs.

Alex Dawson had her usual outstanding game on the nets, registering 18 kills and five blocks. She also had 14 digs and was 10-for-10 serving.

Jackie Jarvis was 11-for-11 on serves and had 12 digs.

Ashley McDaniel was 23-for-24 serving with one ace, and had seven digs.

Lauren Horne was 11-for-12 serving with four aces and had one block, one assist and 20 digs.

Ashton Teague was perfect on 13 serves and had seven kills, six blocks and nine digs.

Kala Buchanan had three kills, one block and five digs

Baria Adams had three blocks and LaRonda McClain had seven blocks, one kill and a dig.

Against Chapel Hill, Heffner had 10 assists and nine digs and was 6-for-8 serving.

Dawson had six kills and 10 digs and Buchanan had two kills and eight digs.

Teague was 6-for-7 serving and had a kill, one block and three digs. Horne was 11-for-13 serving with two aces, and had an assist and eight digs.

McDaniel was 10-for-11 serving and had five digs, and Jarvis was 5-for-5 serving and had five digs. McClain had a kill and a block.

Mounties sweep Chargers

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team defeated Crest 25-13, 25-13, 25-6 in a Southwestern Foothills Conference match Thursday at Crest. Blair Heffner was 8-for-8 serving and registered two kills, a block, 18 assists and eight digs.

Jackie Jarvis was 8-for-9 serving and had three digs.

Ashley McDaniel was 15-for-16 serving and had eight digs.

Lauren Horne was a perfect 10-for-10 serving and had five digs.

Ashton Teague was 13-for-14 serving

and had two kills and four digs.

Kala Buchanan had five kills and two digs.

Alex Dawson was perfect on 14 serves and had seven kills, two blocks and eight digs.

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