

Kings Mountain assistant coach Kenny Bridges goes over a kickoff return strategy with Montrell Banks (left) and Sidney Goode during Friday's game with Burns at John Gamble Stadium.

GARY STEWART / HERALD

CREST

From 1B

change much," he said. "They're going to give us a more conventional type defense (4-3). It doesn't make it any easier to run but it's a little more familiar to us blocking scheme-wise.

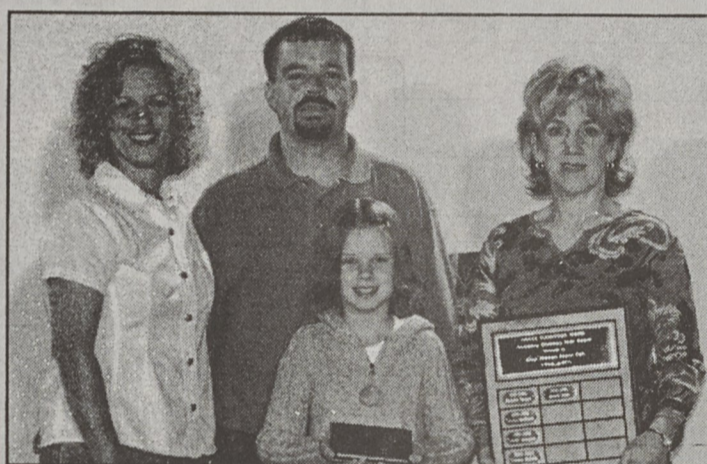
"We're going to come in there and run our I package. We're going to again try to work on being able to throw the ball when we need to. We had the one pass that (Derek) Hillely caught against Burns that we were able to keep a drive alive."

Kings Mountain's offensive line has

improved tremendously over the past several weeks, opening big holes for sophomore running backs Sidney Goode and J.J. McClain. Senior Montrell Banks, in his first year at quarterback, is a running threat on the outside.

"I was real pleased with our kids' effort in the second half against Burns," Farquharson said. "It was quite obvious that they were bigger and that's going to be true with Crest. They have more size than we do. But I was pleased with our effort. Our kids got after it. We have to learn not to make those mistakes at crucial times - whether it's a turnover or penalty - and get some positive things going."

Brooke Jones was recognized as Grover School's Good Citizen during half-time of Friday's football game at KMHS. She is pictured with her parents, Christy and Greg Jones, and principal Janet Anthony, right.



BURNS

From 1B

before Burns scored a clinching touchdown in the final minute of play.

"I thought we had a good chance to win if we could have played all four quarters," said KM Coach Dave Farquharson. "We had some breakdowns in the first half that put us in a hole. We came out in the second half and moved the ball and put some points on the board, but we can't keep digging ourselves out of a hole and be able to beat good football teams."

Burns drove the opening kickoff from its own 35 to the KM 15 before KM's defense tightened and the Bulldogs settled for a 31-yard field goal by Zach Wilkinson.

Kings Mountain had early success pounding sophomore fullback J.J. McClain into the middle of the line. After their initial drive broke down, Sidney Goode downed a punt at the Burns one yard line but the Bulldogs used passes to Josh Briscoe and Orlando Goolsby, and the running of Jackson and Withrow, to get out of the hole.

Freshman Martrice Love intercepted a Goolsby pass inside the 20 and returned it to the 41, but the Mountaineer offense broke down and had to punt again. Dustin Brewton returned a punt 20 yards to the Burns 44, and a 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Mounties gave the Bulldogs a first down at the KM 38. It took only three running plays by Jackson to cover the entire 38 yards, with the touchdown run covering the final seven yards for a 10-0 lead with 7:46 left in the half.

Moments later KM's Montrell Banks intercepted a pass inside the 10 yard line and returned it to the 46, but the Burns defense rose to the occasion and held. Burns then launched a 71-



Kings Mountain's Josh Ethers (on ground) and Wesley Dixon (61) sack Burns quarterback Travis Withrow in Friday's game.

yard scoring drive, capped by an 11-yard touchdown reception by Goolsby on a fade in the corner of the end zone, putting Burns up 17-0 with 16 seconds left in the half. That lead proved too much for the Mounties to overcome.

"We had our opportunities in the first half," Farquharson said. "We turned the ball over and we weren't hitting the holes from the standpoint of where our tailback should have been running. We had those breakdowns that we shouldn't have. We should have been moving the ball down the field. At this point of the season we shouldn't be making those turnovers."

Farquharson said the team didn't make any adjustments at halftime. The coaches simply told the players that they were "a better football team" than what they had shown, "and to settle down and do the things they're supposed to do. I think offensively and defensively that happened."

Kings Mountain drove the second half kickoff 64 yards to get on the scoreboard. McClain and Sidney Goode took turns running the ball, and Banks hit Derek Hillely on a key 9-yard pass to keep the drive alive. Goode scored from three yards out

and Will Franks added the PAT to make it 17-7 with 3:07 left in the third quarter.

On Burns' next possession, KM's Steven Grant recovered a fumble at the Burns 48. KM covered the 52 yards in nine plays, with Aaron Bolton going up the gut of the Burns defense for the final 13 yards. Franks' PAT made the score 17-14 with 8:28 remaining.

But just like at the close of the first half, Burns took charge after that and ate up most of the clock during a 16-play, 73-yard march for the clinching touchdown, a three-year pass from Withrow to Goolsby with 1:03 left.





"We ate up much of the clock in the third quarter on that touchdown drive, then did it again in the fourth quarter," Farquharson said. "But they came up with the big plays and we couldn't capitalize on the ones that we had."

"But I thought as a whole our kids played well. I think J.J. (McClain) played exceptionally well from the full-back position. He was the key for us going down the field. And Josh Ethers played well for us defensively. Both of those guys had outstanding ball games."

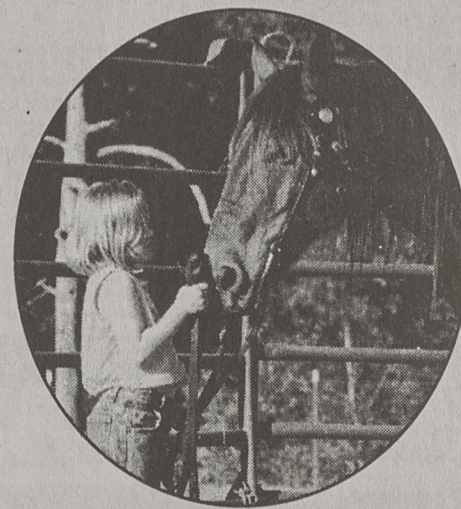
McClain finished with 89 yards rushing in 17 carries.

PIGSKIN PICKERS

The sports reporters of Republic Newspapers, Inc. make their picks for this week's football games.

	 Gary Stewart LAST WEEK 11-4 OVERALL 58-17	 Todd Hagans LAST WEEK 13-2 OVERALL 60-15	 Ronald Kiser LAST WEEK 12-3 OVERALL 58-17	 Dwight Frady LAST WEEK 14-1 OVERALL 61-14
Highland Tech at Bessemer City	Bessemer City	Bessemer City	Bessemer City	Bessemer City
Polk County at Cherryville	Polk County	Polk County	Polk County	Polk County
Kings Mountain at Crest	Kings Mtn.	Crest	Crest	Crest
Hunter Huss at East Gaston	East Gaston	East Gaston	East Gaston	East Gaston
East Rutherford at Shelby	Shelby	Shelby	Shelby	Shelby
Ashbrook at South Point	South Point	South Point	South Point	South Point
Maiden at Hendersonville	Hendersonville	Maiden	Hendersonville	Maiden
St. Stephens at Hickory	Hickory	Hickory	Hickory	Hickory
Forestview at North Gaston	Forestview	Forestview	Forestview	Forestview
Newton-Conover at West Lincoln	Newton-Conover	Newton-Conover	Newton-Conover	Newton-Conover
Bunker Hill at Lincolnton	Lincolnton	Lincolnton	Lincolnton	Lincolnton
Chase at Bandys	Bandys	Bandys	Bandys	Bandys
Lenoir-Rhyne at Newberry	Newberry	Lenoir-Rhyne	Newberry	Newberry
Gardner-Webb at Coastal Carolina	Gardner-Webb	Gardner-Webb	Gardner-Webb	Gardner-Webb
Virginia at North Carolina	Virginia	Virginia	North Carolina	Virginia

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