



Kings Mountain running back George Mayes (24) is tackled high by a St. Stephens player in Thursday's JV game at Gamble Stadium.

JVs beat St. Stephens, at Hickory for final game

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain bounced back from an early deficit to defeat St. Stephens 28-12 in junior varsity football action Thursday night at John Gamble Stadium.

The victory improved the Mountaineers' record to 8-1 overall and 5-0 against Southwestern Foothills Conference opponents. The Mountaineers will travel to Hickory tonight for their final game of the season against a Red Tornadoes team that is also unbeaten against conference competition. This will mark the second time in the past three years that the Mountaineers and Red Tornadoes have played for the mythical SWFH JV championship in the last game of the season at Hickory.

The loss was only the second of the year for St. Stephens, which earlier fell to Hickory.

The Indians drove the opening kickoff 55 yards to take a 6-0 lead on a one-yard quarterback sneak by Patrick Johnson.

The lead was short-lived, however, as the Mountaineers drove the ensuing kickoff 71 yards to take the lead. Quarterback Ryan Burton scored on a 24-yard run and Brian Kies kicked the extra point for a 7-6 lead.

Kings Mountain running back Antwan Ross circled left end for an apparent 58-yard

touchdown run early in the second period, but the score was nullified by holding. Johnson then intercepted a Ryan Burton pass and returned it to the Kings Mountain 35 yard line. After a sack by Demarius Grier and Tyrone Cannedy the Indians converted a fourth and 11 situation and later scored on a six-yard Johnson touchdown pass to Corey Bowman.

Again, the lead was short-lived as the Mountaineers drove the ensuing kickoff in for a 14-12 halftime lead. Nate Marble caught a key pass to keep the drive alive, and Ross circled left end for a 10-yard score with 47 seconds left.

Ross returned the second half kickoff to the St. Stephens 34 yard line, and Johnny Phillips went the distance on a reverse on the first play from scrimmage to give the Mountaineers a 21-12 lead.

The Indians had only one serious scoring opportunity in the second half as KM's defense, led by Ryan Skibo, Jarod Rainy, Cannedy, Avery Jordan, Corry Branham Marquiz Norris, C.J. Cooke, Michael Cline and Grier kept them in check. The Indians recovered a fumble at the KM 36 with 7:34 remaining, and a pass from Johnson to Darren Sherrill gave them a first down at the KM nine yard line. But Rainy intercepted a pass in the end zone and returned to the 29 yard line.



KM's Jarod Rainey (15) returns pass interception in Thursday's JV game with St. Stephens at John Gamble Stadium.

KMHS spikers share SWFH championship

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team, unbeaten in the Southwestern Foothills 3A Conference heading into its regular season finale Thursday at Fred T. Foard, found itself as the #2 seed for the State playoffs for a weekend, but then got to go as #1.

The Lady Mountaineers fell to Foard in five sets Thursday, leaving both teams with 11-1 conference records, then lost again to the Tigers on Saturday, 25-17, 25-16, 25-20, in a special match at Burns to determine the top seed. But on Monday Foard had to forfeit the Saturday match because of an ineligible player, and KM advanced to #1 and a first round playoff date with South Point Tuesday night.

Despite the loss on the court, several Kings Mountain players gave outstanding performances on Saturday.

Alex Dawson had seven kills and a block. She also had a team-high 14 digs and was 6-for-7 serving with one ace serve.

Ashton Teague also had seven kills and a team-high three blocks. She had six digs and was 5-for-5 serving.

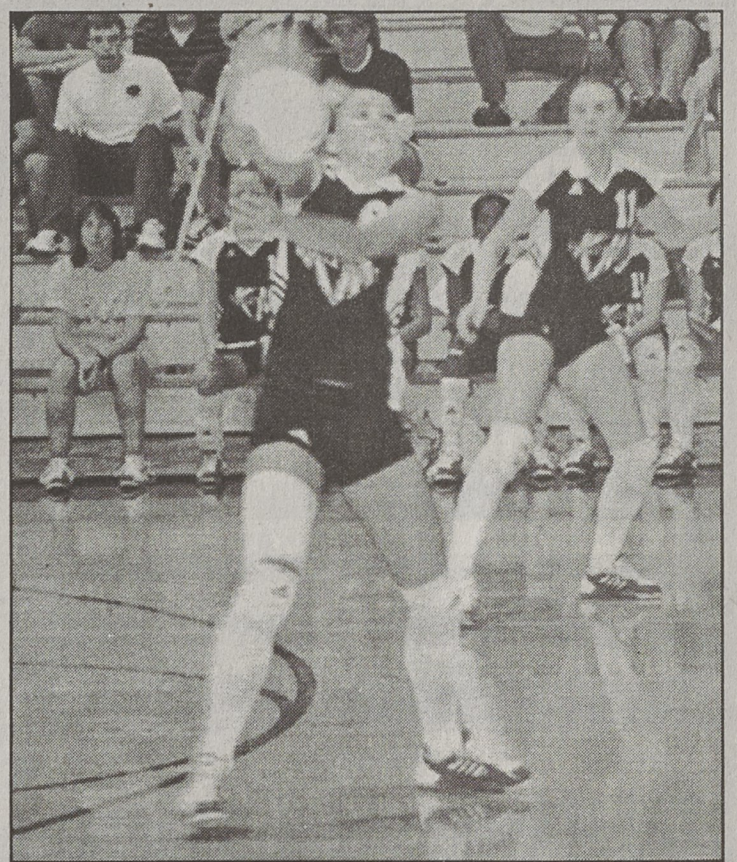
Junior setter Blair Heffner dished out 25 assists and also had two kills and a block. She was 9-for-10 serving with one ace, and had six digs.

LaRonda McClain had three kills and a block.

Jackie Jarvis was 6-for-7 serving and had six digs, and Ashley McDaniel was perfect on 12 serves, with two ace serves. She also had two digs.

Lauren Horne was 6-for-8 serving with one ace, and two digs.

The two teams ended the regular season Thursday night at Foard with the host Lady Tigers taking a 25-19, 15-25, 25-23, 15-25, 15-25 vic-



Ashton Teague battles hard to score for Kings Mountain in last week's game.

tory. Heffner had 38 assists and Dawson had 26 kills to lead the Kings Mountain attack. Teague had six kills, McClain five and Heffner two.

McClain had four blocks, Kala Buchanan three and Dawson, Teague, Horne, Adams and Heffner one apiece.

Dawson had 19 digs. Horne had 13 and Heffner

and Teague 12 each. Jarvis had nine, McDaniel four, Buchanan two and McClain one.

Four Lady Mountaineers were perfect from the serve line. Teague was true on 17, including one ace; Heffner 16 with two aces, McDaniel 17 and Jarvis nine. Horne was 14-for-15 with three ace serves and Dawson 15-of-19 with one ace.

Gill helps #7 ranked Blue Hose

Danielle Gill, graduate of Kings Mountain High School, is a member of the 2003 Presbyterian College women's volleyball team.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Ed Allen, the Blue Hose are currently 20-3 overall and in first place in the South Atlantic Conference with a 9-0 record.

In addition, the Blue Hose are ranked #7 in the latest NCAA Division II South Region poll.

Gill, a 5-10 freshman middle blocker/outside hitter, has played in eight matches.

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