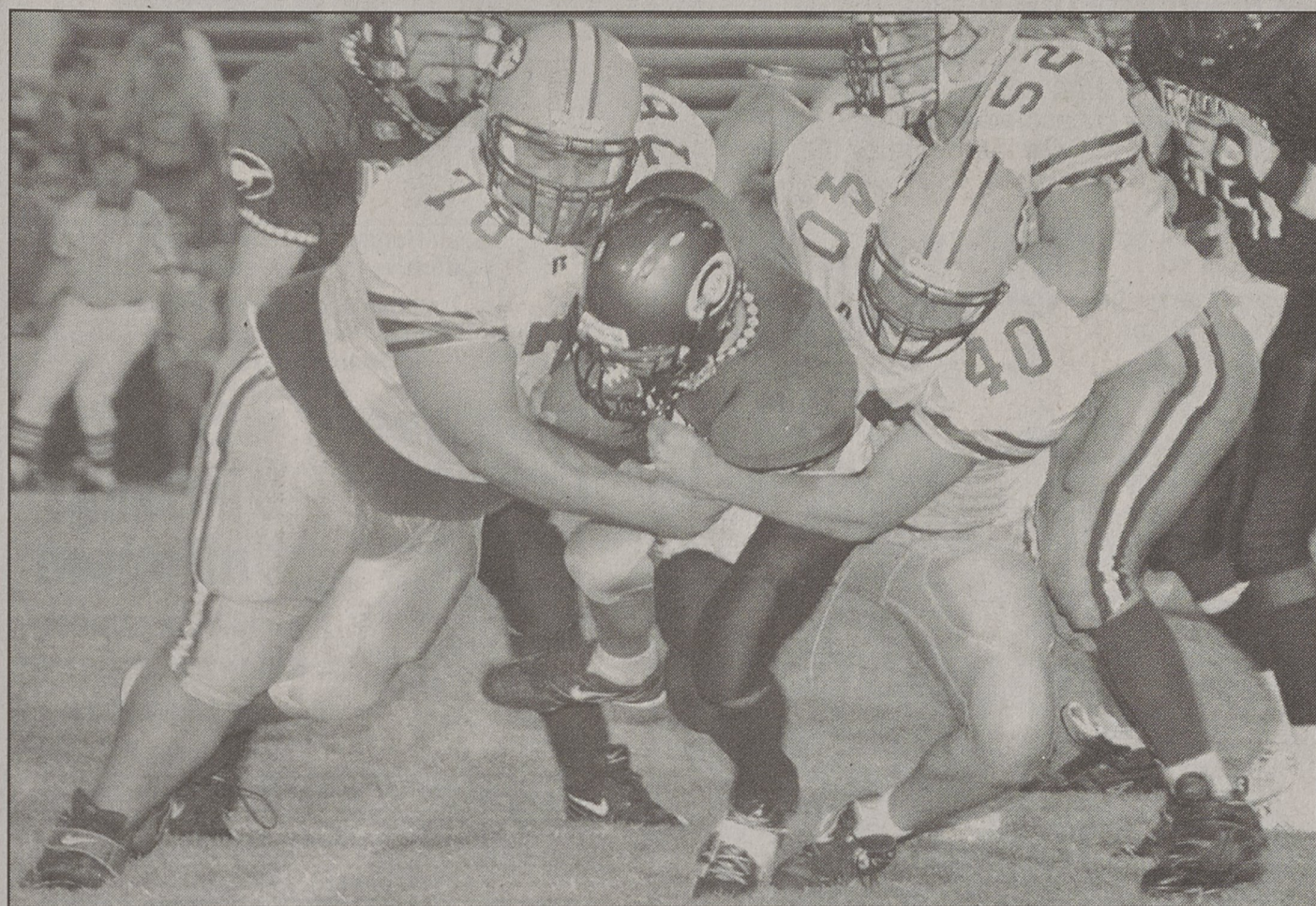


SPORTS

BESSEMER CITY 50, CHERRYVILLE 20



Bessemer City's Mark Moose (78) and Jesse Powell (40) sandwich Cherryville quarterback Drew Laskey in Friday's game in Cherryville. **TODD HAGANS / HERALD**

Whitlock scores four touchdowns in Yellow Jackets' second victory

By **TODD HAGANS**
Special to The Herald

Cherryville jumped to an early 7-0 lead on Friday night, but that quickly changed once Bessemer City's Shane Whitlock found his running groove.

Whitlock scored four touchdowns and propelled the Jackets to a 50-20 victory over the Ironmen in front of a Rudisill Stadium crowd. The win improved Bessemer City to 2-4 on the season and 1-0 in the Southern Foothills Conference while the Ironmen (0-5, 0-1) are still looking for their first win of the season.

The Cherryville - Bessemer City rivalry is always a heated one and that certainly was the case in the early going of Friday's contest. Whitlock carried the ball twice to put the Jackets at midfield and after quarterback Geoffrey Shiver connected with Anthony Day, Whitlock fumbled with Aaron Smith recovering for Cherryville.

Ironmen quarterback Drew Laskey, taking over the signal-calling duties for the injured Steven Hoyle, connected with Raymond Garren for a 14-yard gain at midfield that set up a 34-yard touchdown run by Ecquetin Johnson. Luis Fernandez kicked the extra point to give Cherryville a 7-0 advantage with less than two minutes off the clock.

The quick pace shifted in Bessemer City's direction on the next possession when Day carried the kickoff to the Cherryville 38 before being stopped by Ironmen Sidney Charles. A Whitlock run combined with a facemask call against Cherryville put the Jackets deep in Ironmen territory. Whitlock pushed in from four yards out on the next play and Brandon Lambert got the kick for a 7-7 tie at the 9:54 mark.

Bessemer City took advantage of a Cherryville error on the next possession when Laskey bobbled a lateral pass to Johnson and Whitlock scooped up the fumble to get a 25-yard touchdown. Joaquim Johnson blocked Lambert's kick and the Jackets took a 13-7 lead and control for good.

Smith returned the ball to the Cherryville 28 and the Ironmen lost yards on a Laskey reverse to Garren. Laskey found Al Benson for a seven-yard gain, but Laskey threw an interception to Michael Carlisle on third and 12 and Carlisle hauled in for the 28-yard touchdown. Whitlock attempted the conversion and Bessemer City led 21-7.

Trey Buff fielded the Bessemer City kick at the Ironmen 43 and Laskey connected with Garren and Johnson carried big to push Cherryville to the Jacket 29. Johnson moved the Ironmen deeper into BC territory and after two incomplete Laskey to Garren attempts, Johnson went three yards on a carry on third and 10 at the BC 15. The field goal attempt failed at the 5:02 mark and Bessemer City took over at the 20.

Whitlock, Shiver and E.J. Roberts moved BC to the 50 and three Whitlock carries and a facemask call against Cherryville put the visitors at the 14. Whitlock got the first down

Whitlock moves in on school record

Bessemer City High's running star Shane Whitlock is moving in on the school record for career rushing yards.

Whitlock added 225 yards to his total in last Friday's contest against Cherryville, bringing his 2004 season tally to 836. His career total is 2,867 and he is just 197 yards away from breaking the school record of 3,064 set by Harry Floyd in 1994.

Whitlock, who is averaging 139.3 yards rushing per game, has already passed Phillip Crosby's total of 2,232 career yards rushing and Jermaine Gamble's career total of 2,581. Crosby graduated from Bessemer City in 1995 and played college and professional football. Gamble graduated from BCHS in 2003.

Whitlock's scoring performance Friday against the Ironmen gave him the school's career points record.

Whitlock totaled 28 points to boost his total to 238, passing former teammate Deontae Davis' mark of 233 career points set in 2003. Davis graduated from BCHS in May 2004.

Whitlock reached 200-plus rushing yards per game in contests this season against R-S Central, Chase, Hunter Huss and Cherryville. He is the first BCHS player to post four 200-yard rushing games in a single season.

Whitlock has played varsity football all four years of high school except for the first game of the 2001 season. As a jayvee player, Whitlock used his running antics to propel the Little Jackets to a 24-22 comeback win over favored Chase. The next week, Whitlock moved up to the varsity ranks and has been a leader for the Jackets ever since.

on fourth and two and raced to the Cherryville four. Chad Laskey managed a stop of Whitlock on first down, but the BC runner raced in on the next play for the three-yard score. Lambert's kick put BC in command with a 28-7 lead at the 9:05 mark in the second quarter.

A Smith return and facemask miscue against Bessemer City put the Ironmen at their 41. Laskey and Johnson advanced the Ironmen to the BC 48 and Laskey connected with Smith for a 31-yard pass. Laskey scrambled on first and 10 at the 17 and then spotted Smith in the zone for the touchdown connection. The two-point conversion attempt on the fake kick play by Garren failed as Cherryville cut the BC lead to 28-13.

Both teams punted on their next possessions with the Jackets stalling on fourth and 17 at the BC 40 after Shiver's incomplete pass to Day. Cherryville later faced a fourth and 18 situation when the BC defense pressured Laskey late in the second quarter. The Jackets punted with 38 seconds to go before halftime on a Shiver incomplete pass that was nearly handled by Brock Alexander and Cherryville wasted the final sec-

onds. The Ironmen opened the third quarter with a punt and Day returned the kick to the BC 40, setting up carries by Whitlock and Roberts that resulted in a 27-yard Whitlock score up the middle. Whitlock added two points and the Jackets extended their lead to 36-13 at the 7:45 mark.

Laskey connected with Smith twice and Johnson carried five times as the Ironmen reached the BC 48. A Laskey throw to Smith on third and 11 fell incomplete and Cherryville punted with 1:58 remaining in the third quarter.

Carries by Whitlock and Roberts and a personal foul call against Cherryville moved the Jackets to the Ironmen 30. Whitlock fumbled and Cherryville took over at the 15. Benson carried and a personal foul call against the Jackets pushed the Ironmen to their 44. Laskey hit Garren with a pass and then connected with Smith for a big pass, putting the Ironmen in striking distance at the BC nine-yard line. Unfortunately for the Ironmen, Laskey tossed an interception and the Jackets moved from the 21 to the 50 on carries by Whitlock and Roberts. Shiver then connected with Day for a 50-yard touchdown catch and carry and Lambert's kick made it a 43-13 contest with 6:02 to go.

Laskey then threw an interception to Jeremy Howell and Whitlock and Roberts carried before Carlisle scored from six yards out. Jesse Muneton added the extra point for the 50-13 advantage. Cherryville's Kaleem Johnson moved the Ironmen to their 33, Ecquetin Johnson carried 18 yards and Laskey found Benson for a 19-yard gain. Johnson then rambled in for the 32-yard score and Ramirez's kick made the final of 50-20.

New to the quarterback spot, Laskey had his ups and downs, making several fine connections, but throwing three costly interceptions. The Jackets scored four of their seven touchdowns on Cherryville mistakes that helped the BC crew make the game a no-contest affair.

Whitlock carried 29 times for 225 yards rushing and had three touchdowns. Johnson earned 128 yards rushing and had two touchdowns for the Ironmen while Laskey connected on 14 of 22 passes for 190 yards. Aaron Smith was a standout for the Ironmen catching six Laskey throws for 106 yards.

Both Cherryville and Bessemer City celebrate homecoming this week with the Ironmen facing East Gaston and the Jackets hosting North Lincoln.

The other game involving a Southern Foothills team is McDowell at Hendersonville in a non-conference affair. Both Maiden and Polk County have this week off.

Maiden sits atop the SFC standings with a 1-0 conference record and a 6-0 overall mark while Hendersonville and Bessemer City also have conference wins. Polk County and Hendersonville are also undefeated this year.

Netters lose one, win one in SWFH

Kings Mountain High's women's tennis team lost to Hickory 8-1 and defeated Burns 5-4 last week.

The only winners for KM against Hickory were Nikita Scotland and Hannah McGill, who won their doubles match 10-7.

Against Burns, singles winners were Steffie Collis, Nikita Scotland and Chelsea Chapman, and doubles winners were Collis and Megan Wright, and Scotland and Chapman.

HICKORY 8, KM 1

(Singles)

Emily Mouser (H) d. Lindsay Taylor 6-0, 6-0; Stephanie Teague (H) d. Steffie Collis 6-1, 61; Mary Huffon (H) d. Brittany Ramey 6-0, 6-0; Julie Anderson (H) d. Megan Wright 6-1, 6-0; Caitlin Phillips (H) d. Nikita Scotland 6-3, 6-0; Atallie Teague (H) d. Chelsea Chapman 6-0, 6-0.

(Doubles)

Teague-Anderson (H) d. Taylor-Ramey 8-1; Phillips-Teague (H) d. Collis-Wright 8-2; Scotland-McGill (KM) d. Pettit-Saunders 10-7; Anderson-Thomason (H) d. Flynn-Jager 8-3; Faruqe-Burns (H) d. Jackson-Avery 8-2; Walker-Bost (H) d. Gregory-Cavia 8-3.

KM 5, BURNS 4

(Singles)

Beam (B) d. Lindsay Taylor 6-0, 6-0; Steffie Collis (KM) d. Crunkleton 6-1, 6-1; Daves (B) d. Brittany Ramey 6-2, 2-6, 7-5; Clark (B) d. Megan Wright 6-4, 6-1; Nikita Scotland (KM) d. Jennifer Laughlin 6-2, 6-1; Chelsea Chapman (KM) d. Carrie Stinchcomb 6-0, 6-2; Hannah McGill (KM) d. Hayley Wilson 8-0.

(Doubles)

Beam-Clark (B) d. Taylor-Garren 10-2; Collis-Wright (KM) d. Crunkleton-Davis 10-7; Scotland-Chapman (KM) d. Stinchcomb 10-5.

SPORTS THIS WEEK

Thursday, Sept. 30

5 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Highland (JV/varsity DH).
7 p.m. - JV football, Burns at Kings Mountain.

Friday, Oct. 1

7:30 - High school football, Kings Mountain at Burns
7:30 - North Lincoln at Bessemer City.

Saturday, Oct. 2

TBA - Kings Mountain Cross Country team in Great American CC Festival in Cary.
TBA - High school volleyball, Kings Mountain at Providence tri-match.

Monday, Oct. 4

4:30 - High school tennis, Kings Mountain at Crest
5 p.m. - High school soccer, KMHS at Fred T. Foard.
6 p.m. - High school volleyball, Dorman, SC at KMHS (varsity only).

Tuesday, Oct. 5

5 p.m. - Cross country, KMHS, St. Stephens and Crest at Hickory.
4:30 - High school volleyball, Hickory at KMHS (JV/varsity DH).

Wednesday, Oct. 6

4:30 - High school tennis, KMHS at Fred T. Foard.
5 p.m. - Middle school football, KMMS at Crest.
5 p.m. - High school soccer, Highland at KMHS (JV/varsity DH).

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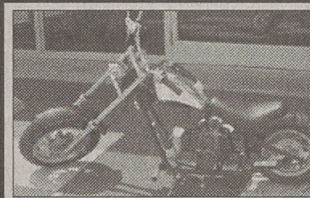
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