

## PREGAME

## FRIDAY'S GAMES OF THE WEEK

Northside Christian Academy at Hope Christian, 7:30 p.m., City Stadium, Kings Mountain.

**Players to watch** - Hope Christian: Chavis Poole, TB/LB, transfer from Crest, should be one of the top running backs in the area. **Terran Brooks**, FB/LB. **Jamien Holland**, TE/DE, 6-8, 245 pounds. **Josh Gilbert**, QB, third year as a starting high school QB.



BROOKS



GILBERT

**Keys to victory** - Northside, with twice as many players as Hope, will try to pound the ball up the middle and wear down the Thunderbolts. Hope will have to get outstanding blocking so Poole can break away.

The Bolts can't afford fatigue or injury because all of their players will be playing on both offense and defense.

R-S Central at Bessemer City, 7:30 p.m., Dixon Stadium, BCHS campus.

**Players to watch** - R-S Central: Najee Greene, TB, breakaway threat. **Steven Boykins**, FB, tough between the tackles. New QB **Brent Whitesides**, who is replacing four-year starter George Hines. **David Lohrmeyer**, TE, good blocker and receiver. Bessemer City - **Scott Gettys**, TB, sophomore has remarkable potential and could be a major college prospect before he's through. **Tyler Bridges**, LB, leading tackler last year.

**Keys to victory** - Young R-S team must avoid mistakes and feed to ball to Boykins and Greene. BC must get good blocking and avoid mistakes so Gettys can pile up some yards.

Bunker Hill at Cherryville, 7:30 p.m., Rudisill Stadium, Cherryville

**Players to watch** - Cherryville: Cameron Lovelace, QB, good passer threw for over 1,600 yards last year. **Al Benson**, WR, leading receiver last year. **Tyreece Cannon**, RB, transfer from Shelby. **Joaquin Johnson**, RB, leading rusher last year. Bunker Hill: **Chase Patterson**, QB, returning starter.

**Keys to victory:** The same for each team. Both teams have outstanding skill players. The team that does the best job of blocking and tackling and limits mistakes will win.

East Gaston at East Lincoln, 7:30 p.m., East Lincoln campus.

**Players to watch:** East Gaston - **Stephen McQuage**, QB, and **Michael McDowell**, WR. This is one of the best pass-catch combinations in the area. East Lincoln - Entire offensive and defensive lines, which are very experienced. **Matt Warren**, LB, **Travis Hoshell**, DE, combined for almost 200 tackles last year.

**Keys to victory** - East Gaston's offensive line must give their skill players time and room to operate. East Lincoln must put constant pressure on McQuage.

Cleveland County Jamboree at Blanton Memorial Stadium, Shelby High School campus:

6 p.m. - Kings Mountain vs. E.E. Waddell.  
7 p.m. - Crest vs. Hickory.  
8 p.m. - Burns vs. Freedom.  
9 p.m. - Shelby vs. Providence.

## Other Games of Interest:

Chase at Mitchell  
East Henderson at Hunter Huss  
East Rutherford at Porter Ridge  
Forestview at Fort Mill, SC  
Independence at West Charlotte

# Hope in the hole

## Bolts open with Northside Friday at City Stadium

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Hope Christian Academy opens its second season of football Friday at 7:30 p.m. at City Stadium against Northside Christian of Charlotte.

Kings Mountain native Jeff Putnam, a 25-year veteran of the coaching ranks on the Pop Warner, middle school and high school level, takes over as head coach of the Thunderbolts, who finished 6-7 last year and won their division in the Christian Schools National Tournament in Dayton, TN.

Most of the players from that team are gone, but Putnam has a group - all Hope students - that will make for some exciting Friday evenings

in "the hole."

Northside Christian brings an established program to town and will be a tough challenge for a young team with only 17 players.

But, Putnam fully expects his team to give a good account.

"I don't know how long Northside has had a program, but we went over there to play last year and it was like driving onto a small college campus," Putnam said. "They're bigger and stronger, but we ain't throwing in the towel yet."

Northside defeated the Bolts 28-6 in HCA's first-ever game last season. Hope improved as the season went on and ended up winning its last five games.

Improvement is also something Putnam hopes to see this year. He's also hopeful that

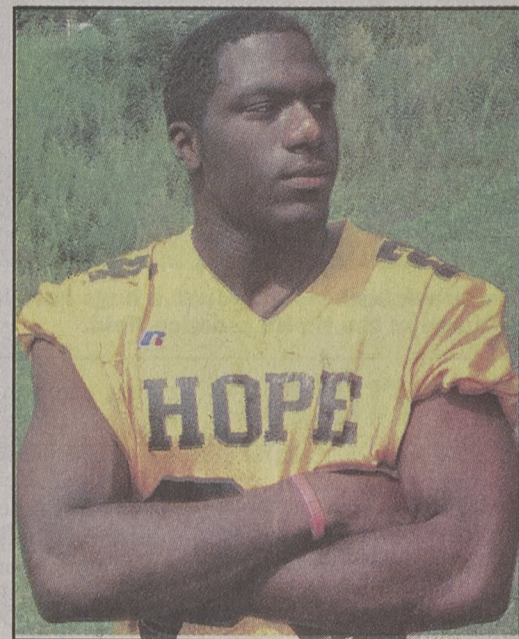
more players will join the team since Hope opened its school year this week.

Running will probably be the focus of both teams Friday. Northside runs a double-wing and tries to push the ball down the opponent's throat.

With the addition of former Crest standout Chavis Poole at tailback and big Terran Brooks at fullback, Putnam, too, plans to be a run-first team.

"They're not extravagant on offense," Putnam says of Northside. "They're physical and just try to push the ball right at you. If you don't stop them they're going to gain some yardage. Last year they beat us 28-6 and kept the ball most of the time. We're going to try to shore up the middle and not let them shove the ball

See Hope, 2B



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Former Crest standout Chavis Poole is ready to run wild on offense and deliver some big hits from the linebacker position for Hope Christian.

## Mounties to play in jamboree

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers will see their final action against another team prior to opening their regular season Friday when they take on 4A Waddell High School of Charlotte in the opening game of the Cleveland County Jamboree at Shelby.

Action begins at 6 p.m. Other games feature Burns against Freedom at 7, Crest against Hickory at 8, and Shelby against at Providence at 9.

After Waddell, the Mountaineers will turn their attention to their regular season opener at Hunter Huss on Friday, Aug. 25.

The Mountaineers had a combined practice/scrimmage with 4A Gastonia Ashbrook last Thursday night on the Mountaineers' practice field. A large crowd attended the event and most of the things the teams wanted to work on was completed before they were chased off the field by lightning. Many of the other scrimmages scheduled just north and east of here were completely washed out.

Mountaineer coach Dave Farquharson, who has a young team, was interested in having more of a practice session than scrimmage so coaches could do more work with players.

"We set it up as a controlled practice so it gave us an opportunity to work in a lot of individual areas that you don't get to do in a controlled scrimmage," he noted. "Our line was able to work against Ashbrook's line; backs and receivers worked against linebackers and defensive backs. We had the opportunity to be on the field with someone other than ourselves and do some coaching as well. When you have a controlled scrimmage it's sort of hurried up."

Still, the coaches left about the final hour of the event for scrimmage, and even though



GARY STEWART / HERALD

Kings Mountain's Logan Hardin (left) battles an Ashbrook player in blocking practice during joint practice/scrimmage Thursday at KMHS.

Ashbrook, which has 36 lettermen returning off a team that won the Big South 3A/4A last year and dominated the action, Farquharson was pleased with his team's showing.

"You've always got things you need to work on," he said, "but I thought our offensive line did a good job on pass protecting and picking up some stunts and things we hadn't worked on. I was pleased with what little bit of offense we wanted to take a look at. We didn't game plan a whole lot. We moved the ball well, caught the ball well, did some things fundamentally well. We've got to do a better job with reads and recognizing coverages and running routes and finding those open spaces for us to throw

Anytime you take a young group

and go against a pretty seasoned offense there are areas you have to work on. We have to work a little bit better on tackling, but the kids got after it and ran to the football well. We made some big plays, caused some fumbles, and made some interceptions. Of course, we had our share of missed tackles and so did Ashbrook. All of those areas you have to work on."

Farquharson was pleased that the Mountaineer defense stepped its game up at the end of the scrimmage, when the teams went to a "four to score" situation from the 20-yard-line. The Mounties stopped Ashbrook for no gain on the first three plays, then lightning brought everything to a halt.

Farquharson said the Mounties will take more of a football game

approach to Friday's meeting with Waddell.

"We're going to do our best to get in touch with Waddell and find out what they run and be prepared for it," he said. "It will be game type situations. You don't want to say there's more pressure but it is going to be important as opposed to a regular scrimmage. It doesn't mean anything as far as records, but there's a little bit more game atmosphere to it. We're going to come in and stress the things we need to do to be successful."

Farquharson saw some bright spots from some younger players last week that he feels will help the team in the long run. Returning line starter Larry Benton was out because he has

See Mounties, 2B

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Bennett has hole-in-one at Kings Mountain CC

Les Bennett of Lincolnton made his first hole-in-one at Kings Mountain Country Club on Tuesday, August 8. Les used a 3-Wood on the 149-yard 17th hole. His playing partners were Mac Brawley, Reeves Black and Troy Sronce.

### Cross country to begin at KMMS

Any rising 7th or 8th grader at Kings Mountain Middle School

who is interested in running cross country should meet at the field house at John Gamble Stadium at 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 21 to sign up and begin practice.

those who cannot attend should call Barry Brogdon at 704-739-2227. All participants must have a current physical before official practice.

### KMHS players selling gold cards

Kings Mountain High football players will be out in the community over the next several days selling "Gold Cards," which pro-

vide holders great discounts at numerous businesses in the area.

All proceeds go to the KMHS athletic program.

### Registration slated for sports at YMCA

Kings Mountain YMCA is holding registration for fall T-Ball, baseball and girls softball. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis and ends August 18.

T-Ball ages are 4-6 coed. Fees are \$19 for members, \$26 for inside city residents and \$40 for outside city residents.

Boys baseball is for ages 7-14.

Fees are \$19, \$31 and \$47.

Girls softball is for ages 10-15. Fees are \$19, \$31 and \$47.

All teams will practice one or two nights a week with games beginning in September.

### Registration slated for YMCA soccer

Kings Mountain YMCA is holding registration for coed soccer until August 18.

The fee for ages 4-6 is \$19 for members, \$26 for city residents and \$40 for outside city residents. The fee for ages 5-13 is \$19, \$31 and \$45.