



Photo by Todd Hagans  
Hope Christian's Ken Gabriel reaches above Carolina Pride's Sky Lesh (10) to catch a 30-yard touchdown pass from Josh Gilbert.

## Holland, Hope lay the smack down on Carolina Pride

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Special to The Herald

What do professional wrestling and Hope Christian's Jamion Holland have in common? An exciting smackdown.

With less than a minute remaining and Hope's fate resting in the defense's hands, the towering 6'8" Holland 'smacked down' two passes to help the Thunderbolts preserve a 21-20 win Friday night over Carolina Pride.

At the Hope five and threatening to score, Carolina Pride quarterback Josh Zummo watched Holland break up his end zone destined pass on third down and then again on fourth down. Thanks to Holland's heroic efforts, the Thunderbolts (3-6) snapped a three-game losing skid in front of a City Stadium crowd.

"I knew what I had to do," said Holland. "I had to go for the ball because we didn't have a lot of time left."

The dramatic finish capped a hard-fought battle. The Thunderbolts overcame a 14-7 halftime deficit and took the lead midway through the fourth quarter when Josh Gilbert intercepted a pass at the Pride 30. A personal foul against the visitors aided the Hope drive and after short runs by Evan Bostic, Arthie Phillips managed the four-yard score. Josh Burgess' kick put Hope ahead 21-20.

The Pride responded with a seven-play drive to the Hope five-yard line before they ran into Holland and turned over possession on fourth down. Hope killed the final 46 seconds to spark a celebration that included head coach Jeff Putnam being doused with water.

Putnam was pleased to see his team get the victory, especially after a week of "adversity" that saw him lose five players because of poor grades.

"We had a great effort from all of our players," said Putnam. See Hope, 2B

## NCHSAA 3A VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS Lady Mounties beat South Point, Franklin to advance to third round against Foard

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Kings Mountain High's volleyball team will host Fred T. Foard at 6 p.m. Thursday in the third round of the state 3A playoffs.

The Lady Mountaineers advanced with 3-0 wins over South Point Saturday and Franklin Tuesday.

KM defeated Franklin, the #2 seed from the MAC, 26-24, 25-13, 25-22 Tuesday night after whipping South Point, the #3 seed from the Big South, 25-12, 25-17, 25-3 on Saturday.

Marshia Meeks paced the KM attack in both contests. She had six blocks and four aces against Franklin, and Chasiti Falls set up her teammates with 10 assists.

Hope Phongsá had six kills and Jordan Doty five. Brooke Avery had eight assists and Jessica Yarbrow added eight digs.

The Lady Mountaineers experienced some playoff jitters in the opening round and fell behind the Lady Raiders 5-0 in the first game. After Coach Brian Grant called time out, they settled into their game.

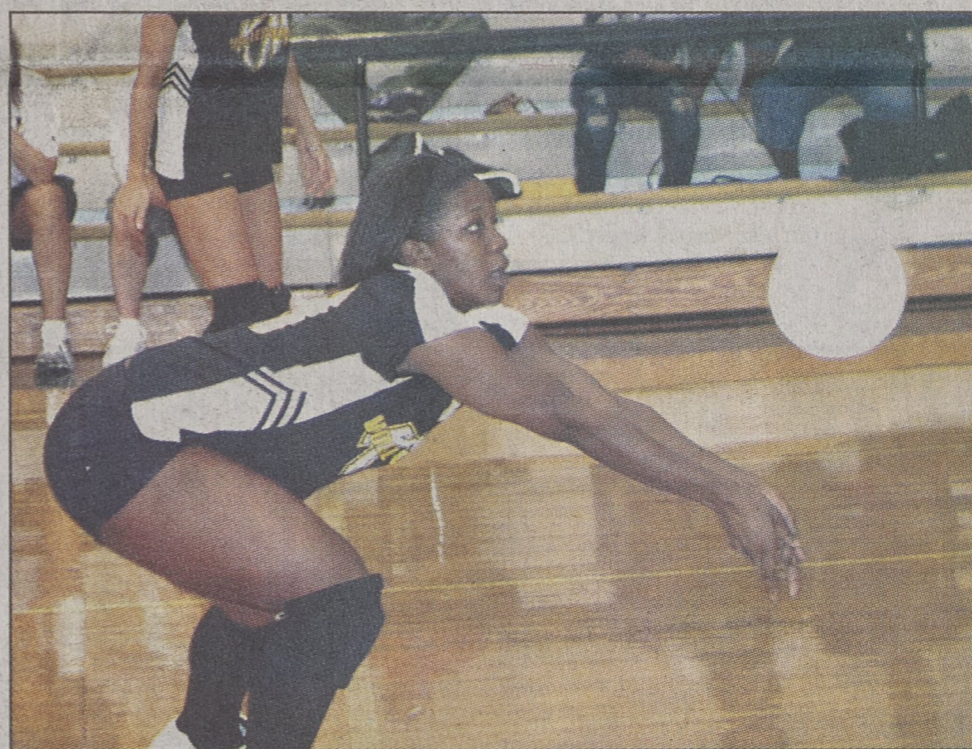
"I just told them to relax," Grant said. "Settle down, it's still our floor. It's still just a game."

Kings Mountain scored five straight points to tie the game and then saw the Raiders go back up 8-6. KM caught back up at 8-all, and with Jordan Hubbard serving they reeled off five straight points with high-light kills by Avery and Meeks (two) to go up 13-8. After another brief rally by South Point cut the margin to 13-9, KM won going away.

South Point kept the match close most of the way in the second game. The Raiders held brief leads three times but after a 6-6 tie the Mounties never trailed again. A kill by Doty put the Mounties up 10-6 but South Point rallied to cut the margin to 13-11. A Meeks kill and an ace serve by Avery put KM back up by four (15-11) but South Point rallied to pull to 16-14 and 19-15. KM scored five straight points to put the game on ice.

The final game was no contest as KM built a 14-0 lead.

Meeks finished with six kills, four aces and a block to pace the KM attack. Chasiti Falls had four kills, five assists and two aces and Hope Phongsá, Kristen Batchler and Doty had three kills. See Volleyball, 7B



Kings Mountain's Jordan Doty (top photo) and Marshia Meeks (left) keep the ball in play for the Lady Mountaineers in the first round of the State 3A volleyball playoffs Saturday at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium. The Lady Mountaineers swept the Lady Red Raiders of South Point to advance to a second round match-up Tuesday at home against Franklin.

Photos by Gary Stewart

## Playoffs possibility for Mountaineers

### KM beats East for first SWC win, two 3A division games upcoming



GARY STEWART / HERALD  
Kings Mountain quarterback Michael Roberts sneaks over from a yard out for a touchdown in Friday's 40-28 win over East Rutherford at John Gamble Stadium.

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As Yogi Berra would say, it's deja vu all over again for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers as they head into the 3A portion of their Southwestern Conference football schedule.

Fresh from a 40-28 homecoming win over East Rutherford Friday night, the Mountaineers need at least one win - and probably two - in their final two games with 3A rivals R-S Central and Burns to qualify for the state 3A playoffs.

First comes R-S Friday night in Spindale. A win would give the Mountaineers the four wins that could qualify them for the playoffs.

Then, a victory in the final regular season game at Burns would not only assure them of a playoff berth, but would give them the #1 3A seed from the split SWC.

Coach Dave Farquharson, who has seen his team succumb to a

lot of adversity this year, saw them play up to their capacities last week and is confident they can continue that trend.

"It was a good way to come out on senior night and homecoming," he said of the Mounties' first conference win. "It's a big one for us as a team and even bigger for the seniors who were playing their last home game. I was happy for them."

Like in many previous games, the Mountaineers fell behind early. But this time, they fought back and made the most of their opportunities. After a close battle for three quarters, the Mounties scored the final 10 points of the game to win going away. "I was pleased with our defense for the good stands they had out there that gave us an opportunity to be in the game," Farquharson said. "At the same time, our offense for the first time was able to come out and answer the bell. We needed to move the ball and do some things with it. We didn't turn the

ball over and had some cohesive play. I was glad to see we had that in us. We've been telling the kids they were capable of doing it."

Things didn't look good early as the Cavaliers drove 83 yards in just four plays to take a 7-0 lead on a 49 yard touchdown run by Michael Milam.

But, KM indeed answered the bell as it took the Mounties only two plays to go 73 yards, including the final 68 on a dazzling run by senior Antwan Ross, who bounced off an East defensive lineman, cut to the left of the field and out-ran everyone down the home sidelines.

Ross finished with a career high 202 yards rushing on just 16 carries, breaking his personal best of 173 yards a week earlier against Shelby.

Kings Mountain drove 77 yards in eight plays in the second quarter to take a 13-7 lead on Michael Roberts' quarterback sneak. The extra point kick was wide, though, and Milam scored. See Mounties, 3B