

SPORTS

Patriots beat Pumpkin Center for fifth in row

Kings Mountain Middle School's Patriots survived Pumpkin Center's polecat offense and numerous mis-direction plays to post their fifth straight victory, 22-8 Wednesday before a large crowd at John Gamble Stadium.

The victory moved the Patriots into a showdown with Burns yesterday for the Tri-County Eastern Division championship and a berth next week against the Shelby-Crest Western Division winner for the overall conference championship. That game will be played at either Shelby or Crest next Wednesday at 5 p.m.

After recovering an onside kick to open the game and driving consistently downfield in its polecat, Pumpkin Center experienced some penalties and gave up possession on Zach Hopper's pass interception at the 20.

Hopper ran it back to midfield, and Shelton Watson went 48 yards on KM's first play from scrimmage for a touchdown. He also ran the two-point conversion for an 8-0 lead.

"Had it not been for those penalties they probably would have scored, but they ended up with a first and 20 and we held them on Hopper's interception," Coach Monty Deaton said.

For the rest of the game, Pumpkin Center used a tough running game to control the clock. On their second drive, they again marched right down-

field but Schiron Burris forced a fumble and Watson recovered it inside the 20.

With 1:30 left in the half, Pumpkin Center was forced to punt and KM went to its passing game. The Patriots threw three incomplete passes, but went for it on fourth and 10 and Hopper ran 70 yards for a touchdown. Watson again ran the two-point conversion for a 16-0 halftime advantage.

"That was a risky call, but it paid off for us," Deaton said. "That's one of those cases where you're either the hero or a zero, I guess."

Pumpkin Center's consistent offense took up the entire third quarter. They scored early in the fourth quarter to make the score 16-8.

PC recovered an onside kick and was driving again, but another fumble cost them possession.

The Patriots tacked on a late fourth quarter touchdown to put the win on ice. With 1:50 left, the Pats faked a pitch and threw deep to Tim Hines, who caught it on the 40 yard line and outran the PC defense to the end zone.

Kings Mountain ended up running only 17 offensive plays and Pumpkin Center had possession of the ball for 24 of the 32 minutes.

"We were very fortunate to score quick and get ahead," Deaton said. "With them control-

ling the clock like they did and us not being able to stop them, it ended up being mistakes that made the difference. We were able to force some mistakes and score when we could.

"The defense has to do a better job of making stops. The offense took care of business. When we get the ball, we have to go downfield and score. They sort of did to us what we did to Shelby; we just didn't make the mistakes that they did. If they hadn't made the mistakes it could have been different.

"They ran a lot of misdirection and trick plays. We went over it and the kids were familiar with it and did a good job considering it was the first time they've seen it in a game."

Watson finished with 137 yards rushing in 13 carries and scored a TD and a pair of two-point conversions to lead the KM offense. Quarterback Cameron Harris hit 2-of-4 passes for 100 yards and two touchdowns.

Burris played an outstanding game on defense. He moved into a starting role when several players left the team because of injuries and disciplinary reasons.

"He wasn't getting much playing time, but he has stepped up and led our team in tackles and forced the fumble," Deaton said.

The coach also cited Jesse Davis, Tim Hines and Zach Hopper for their outstanding play on defense.



Kings Mountain quarterback Cameron Harris is brought down by a Pumpkin Center defender in Wednesday's game at Gamble Stadium.

KM soccer team qualifies for state playoffs

Kings Mountain High's men's soccer team wrapped up its first playoff berth in over five years Wednesday at John Gamble Stadium with a 4-2 victory over Burns.

Erik Price's Mountaineers were scheduled to host Fred T. Foard at 7 o'clock Wednesday night in the opening round of the state 3A playoffs.

"It was nice to be able to watch these guys win their senior night game," said Coach Price. "I have watched them struggle the last few years, but they wanted to win and that was the difference."

Kings Mountain scored early in the first half on a goal that was not called. While the Mountaineers were celebrating, Burns played the ball out and came down field and went up 1-0.

In the 20th minute, Daniel Bearden drew a foul inside the box which gave him a penalty kick. Bearden, who had been held scoreless up until this point,

put the ball hard into the net to tie the game at 1-all.

In the 32nd minute, Bearden scored off a free kick 25 yards out to give the Mountaineers a 2-1 halftime lead.

At halftime, the KM seniors were recognized. They are Ben Galloway, Chris Greene, Paul Mansfield, Chris Miller, Chris Skibo, Andy Siravanta and John Witherspoon.

"It has been my pleasure coaching these young men," said Coach Price. "I have watched them grow and develop both as athletes and young adults and I am going to miss them and wish them the best in all that they do."

In the second half, it took the Mountaineers a few minutes to settle down. In the 48th minute, Burns scored on a play down the left side to tie the game at 2-all.

The game turned physical about that time as both teams wanted to win. The KM seniors on the field had never won a senior night game in their four years

of varsity play.

In the 63rd minute, Tony Chanthaphaeng scored off a free kick from 19 yards out to put KM ahead 3-2 with 17 minutes left. The Mountaineers went into the defensive end trying to make sure that Burns didn't score again.

In the 71st minute, Bearden got a hat trick when he scored from 35 yards out to end the scoring.

"Daniel could not have picked a better night to finally find the net and give us the boost we needed," Price said.

On Monday night, Kings Mountain played one of its best games in years in a 2-1 loss to state power R-S Central.

"This was by far the best we have every played a powerful RS team," said Coach Price. "RS usually has their way with us, but not on this game. We came to play."

Earlier in the month, prior to a match with R-S Central, Kings Mountain's starting goalie went out with a dislocated thumb in practice, and that, along with the loss of starting senior Chris Miller to a lower back injury, knocked the Mounties off track.

Price went to freshman keeper Alex Howell, who stepped right in and gave the team a hundred percent.

"It was a lot to ask of a freshman goalie to step in against a team like R-S Central." R-S won that match.

"During warm-ups of last week's game with R-S, we decided to make a change to our starting lineup and went with senior Chris Skibo in goal," Price said. "It was a gutsy call since Chris had never even practiced as goalie all year. Chris played well in the goal and kept us in the

game with some great saves."

R-S was up 2-0 at the half, but in the second half Ben Galloway scored in the 60th minute to cut the margin to 2-1. John Witherspoon played a ball in from a free kick about 30 yards out to the right side. The ball came in the box and Chris Greene made a play on the ball which went off a RS player and straight back to Ben, who fin-

ished it. Twelve minutes later Paul Philavong scored off a break away that was called back on an offside call. That would have tied the game at 2. Kings Mountain had some more looks but could not find the back of the net.

"Our whole team played a gear game against a real good RS program," Price said.

KM netters defeated in playoffs

Kings Mountain High's two doubles entries in the Western Regional Tennis Tournament lost out in the first round last week.

Hannah McGill and Ariel Martin, the #2 seed from the Southwestern Conference, lost to the #4 overall seed, Trautmann and Sandberg of Charlotte Catholic, 4-6, 6-0, 6-0.

The KM team of Dominique Jager and Kristen Tate, the #3 seed from the SWC, lost to the #3 overall seed, Bell and Cassada of Franklin, 6-0, 6-0.

Kings Mountain finished third in the SWC behind Shelby and R-S Central. The Lady Mountaineers return all but one of their players (Nikita Scotland) next year.

Save up to \$1,100 cool cash on our coolest system.*

SHELBY Heating & Air

If you should ever have an emergency with your heating and cooling system, let our trained technicians put it right - right now. No matter what brand of heating and cooling system you have.

Our Carrier technicians are the most qualified repair technicians in the business, trained and equipped to find the problem quickly and fix it correctly. So, for fast, expert service on your heating and cooling system, call us...we're happy to help.

Shelby Heating & A/C
Shelby, NC
704-487-7877
www.shelbyheating.com expires 11/30/06

Carrier Turn to the Experts

Rep. Debbie Clary...
a Representative you can depend on!

"I appreciate the opportunity to be your Representative in the NC State House. I have taken great pride in and am honored to serve the people of Cherryville and Gaston County. Thank you for your support!"

Please be sure to go vote on **November 7th.**

A vote for Debbie Clary is a vote of support for family and small business.

Debbie Clary
NC HOUSE

www.repclary.com

Paid for by the campaign to elect Debbie Clary, NC House