



GARY STEWART / HERALD

KM linebacker Brandon Davis (55) puts pressure on Victory Christian quarterback Joshua Byrum.

MOUNTAINEER POSTGAME

PLAYERS OF THE GAME Yds. penalized 42 60

RUSHING

KM - Entire offense and defense. The defense limited Victory Christian to minus 8 yards rushing and only 6-of-28 passing for 58 yards. KM intercepted four passes, including two by Neil Scott and one each by Leon Staton and Michael Roberts, and the line and linebackers, led by Thomas James, Tony Barnett, Lamar Womic, Austin Miller, Sage Luley and Ray Baxter, provided a tremendous pass rush. The offensive line, including Steven Montgomery, Fletcher Webster, Kelly McCray, Luke Proctor, Desmond Thompson and Andrew Quinn, did a tremendous job blocking and paving the way for the Mountaineers to dominate time of possession (35 minutes and 17 seconds to just 12 minutes and 43 seconds for Victory) and to run up 294 yards total offense to only 50 for the Kings.

PLAY OF THE GAME

With the score tied 0-0 in the first quarter, KM quarterback Michael Roberts went deep to wide receiver Neil Scott who hauled in a 50-yard touchdown pass to get the Mountaineers rolling to victory.

THE YARDSTICK

| | KM | VCC |
|--------------|--------|--------|
| First downs | 17 | 4 |
| Yds. rushing | 204 | -8 |
| Yds. passing | 90 | 58 |
| Passes | 9-19-0 | 6-28-4 |
| Fumbles lost | 2 | 1 |

KM - Michael Roberts 18-69, Joe Chambers 17-66, C.J. Belcher 9-37, Leon Staton 9-27, Marlon Whitesides 1-5, Sharif Burris 1-0. VCC - Justin Cohen 2-5, Edward Cherry 2-5, Phillip Dennis 1-1, Justin Duhaney 3-0, Joshua Byrum 6-(-19).

PASSING

KM - Roberts 9-19-0-90. VCC - Byrum 6-28-4-58.

RECEIVING

KM - Belcher 3-10, Scott 2-72, Chambers 1-5, Whitesides 1-1, Burris 1-1, Staton 1-1. VCC - Astin Smith 3-36, Charles Montgomery 1-15, Phillip Dennis 1-7, Patrick Gilmore II 1-0.

BY THE NUMBERS

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| KM | 7 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 21 |
| V | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

FIRST QUARTER

3:45 - KM - Neil Scott 50 pass from Michael Roberts (Alex Randall kick). 7-play, 87-yard drive following pass interception by Scott.

THIRD QUARTER

6:58 - KM - Roberts 4 run (Randall kick). 9 play, 57 yard drive following VCC punt.

FOURTH QUARTER

4:37 - KM - Roberts 1 run (Randall kick). 4 play, 19-yard drive following pass interception and 30-yard return by Leon Staton.

Mounties shutout Victory

(Editor's Note: Because of problems in the production department, parts of this story were omitted from last week's Herald. It is being re-published in its entirety. In addition, the picture and postgame report at left were omitted as well as the story below on the KMHS volleyball game).

GARY STEWART

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If Friday's performance at Charlotte Victory Christian is any indication, Kings Mountain's Mountaineers are catching on to new head coach Greg Lloyd's offensive and defensive schemes.

The Mountaineers completely dominated both sides of the line to shutout the Kings 21-0 and break a three-game losing streak heading into a two-week home stand against East Gaston this week and Chase on Friday, October 6.

Going into the game, Coach Lloyd said the Mountaineers would have to keep the talented Victory offense off the field and keep them from converting third down situations. That game plan was carried out to perfection.

The Mountaineers kept the football for over 35 minutes of the 48-minute contest, and the Kings were zero-for-11 on third down conversions. In fact, they managed only four first downs as the KM defense held them to minus 8 yards rushing and only 50 yards total offense in 42 plays.

"Early on they tried to run it on us," noted Coach Lloyd, "and they had zero success. We forced them to throw and we had pressure on the quarterback all night. That was the difference in the game."

Victory quarterback Joshua Byrum passed for over 2,000 yards last year to lead the Kings to an 8-3 overall record, but on Friday night he had trouble spotting receivers because KM defensive lineman Thomas James and linebacker Tony Barnett were in his face all night. He managed only six completions in 28 attempts for 58 yards, and the Mounties picked off four passes and returned those for 50 yards.

The Kings' only scoring opportunity came in the second quarter when Astin Smith returned a punt 55 yards to the KM 25. Following a sack by Jiris Toney to force a fourth and goal from the 14, Roberts intercepted

a pass in the end zone to end the first half.

Roberts, KM's talented junior quarterback who was celebrating his 17th birthday, had a hand in all three Mountaineer touchdowns. He passed 50 yards to Neil Scott for a 7-0 lead in the first quarter, and scored himself on four- and two-yard runs in the second half. Alex Randall kicked all three extra points.

In all, the Mountaineers ran up 294 yards of total offense in 74 plays. Roberts had 159 yards total offense, gaining 69 yards in 18 carries and hitting 9-of-19 passes for 90 yards.

"I thought we were able to control the clock," said Coach Lloyd. "Their defense was a good test for our offense because they were so fast. But we made some plays offensively, and we won the turnover battle. We played a lot of the game in their territory. I felt like we were in control of the game on both sides of the ball, and I credit that to both the front lines for doing their job."

The excitement of playing a game in Charlotte was evident all week during practice, and the Mountaineers certainly did nothing to disappoint their following.

"I liked the way our kids approached the game," Lloyd said. "They did a good job preparing for it and they took the right mental approach, and it paid off. We hope to continue to do the same thing the rest of the season. The kids are starting to understand the importance of focusing during practice and understanding what teams are trying to do against us. I thought that really paid off for us. We're looking forward to getting into conference play and see how we do."

Before conference, though, the Mountaineers face a test against Lloyd's former team, East Gaston, which comes to Gamble Stadium Friday night with a 0-5 record after losing to arch rival South Point 34-0 last week.

"South Point is our only common opponent and they played them much tougher than we played them," Lloyd said, referring to South Point's 53-3 win over the Mountaineers a month ago. "East Gaston plays hard. They're playing some guys both ways but I feel like they're getting a lot better. They'll be motivated to play us. We'll have to be very wary of them. They're improving with their new staff and we can't take them lightly."

The Warriors are very similar to the Mountaineers in that they run a one-back offense and 4-3 defense.

"They do run a no huddle offense, and we hope that won't present a problem," Lloyd said. "Last week we used our wrist bands on defense and I think that will help us. They'll call plays from the side after they see us line up. Hopefully, we'll be able to line up after they make their call. It shouldn't change the way we're going to play."

The key to victory, according to Lloyd, will be to stop East Gaston's offense which is led by a talented running back Charles Johnson, who also plays some at quarterback.

"We have to slow him down," Lloyd said. "He is a very good player. We can't let them have any big plays."

Except for linebacker Bobby St. Martin, who was re-injured in the Crest game and may be out for several more weeks, Lloyd expects the Mounties to be in good shape. Fullback/defensive back C.J. Belcher injured his ankle at Victory Christian but is expected to be in the lineup.

"Offensively, we have to continue to get better and keep mixing up our run and pass and stay away from turnovers and penalties," Lloyd said. "If we do that I believe we'll do well Friday. Hopefully we can win this one and play Chase next week and win that one and start building some confidence. It's important to have a good home stand."

"There's no question we're getting better," he added. "I don't know what our final record's going to end up being, but there's no doubt they're learning the system and figuring things out. You can see that in the way we're beginning to play defense. We're definitely becoming more confident in what we're doing."

Mountaineer spikers sweep East Rutherford

Kings Mountain High's women's volleyball team swept East Rutherford 25-16, 25-12, 25-11 in a Southwestern Conference match Thursday afternoon.

Marshia Meeks led the Lady Mountaineers with 13 kills and six aces. Chasiti Falls had 16 assists and Jordan Page added five digs.