

**SPORTS**

# Mountaineers edge R-S Central 17-16, host Burns Friday for top SWC 3A seed

**GARY STEWART**

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Kings Mountain's Mountaineers dodged two bullets in the final seconds to hold off R-S Central 17-16 on a soggy John Gamble Stadium turf Friday night.

The win all but assures the Mountaineers of their first state 3AA playoff berth since 2004, but the Mountaineers can nail down a first round home game if they beat a very strong Burns team in their regular season finale Friday at Gamble Stadium.

Kings Mountain had several chances to put their win on ice earlier, but had to come up with a spectacular defensive stand and force two missed field goals by the Hilltoppers' Will Thompson in the final 20 seconds.

"It was an exciting game, obviously," said KM Coach Greg Lloyd. "But I was disappointed that we couldn't finish off a couple of drives, due to fumbles, that could have put the game out of reach. We let R-S hang around and they took advantage of some things. We were fortunate

to win."

In a game that saw Kings Mountain lose three fumbles and have one pass intercepted, and R-S lose two fumble and have four passes intercepted, the Mountaineers had to depend on a couple of big defensive stands in the final minutes to ensure the win.

The Mountaineers were leading 17-14 with 8:57 left in the game when the KM long snapper snapped the ball far over punter Alex Randall's head on a fourth and two punt situation at the KM 34 yard line. Randall very wisely decided to give R-S two points instead of a possible touchdown by kicking the ball out the back of the end zone for a safety.

On the free kick from the 20, Randall got off a booming kick-off to the R-S 15. The Hilltoppers' Brandon Williams broke into the clear but was tripped up at the KM 41 by Marlon Whitesides. On a fourth and seven with 7:24 remaining, R-S quarterback Deshawn Littlejohn threw a flanker screen to Drew McLaughlin but he couldn't hold on to the ball.

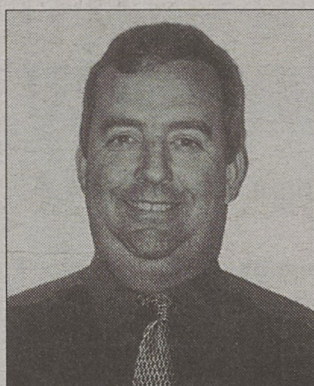
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KM quarterback Michael Roberts (18) gets block from Marlon Whitesides (23) in Friday's game with R-S Central.



GARY STEWART / HERALD  
Joe Chambers (22) gets block from Chris Irvin (53) for big gain in Friday's win over R-S Central at Gamble Stadium.



## Elect Ric Francis Kings Mountain City Council at Large

- ✓ Married to Deana Lovelace; 1 daughter, Elaina, a 6th grade student at KMIS
- ✓ Member of: KM Masonic Lodge 339, White Plains Shrine Club, KM Rotary Club, Elder at the 1st Presbyterian Church, Owner of Francis Insurance Group of Allstate
- ✓ I will be a **Voice** of the people of Kings Mountain, this is my reason to run At Large
- ✓ I will strive to bring to the forefront the attention needed for fixing the problems of the water and sewer infrastructure
- ✓ I will strive to bring local businesses to downtown with the help of incentives if they can keep our historical beauty and integrity
- ✓ Please get out and **VOTE** - Tuesday, November 6, 2007 so your voice can be counted

Paid for by the committee to Elect Ric Francis