

SPORTS

Mounties beat Hunter Huss 32-18 in first season game

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

It took a few minutes, but Kings Mountain's Mountaineers stepped their game up a notch and dominated Hunter Huss 32-18 in the two teams' season-opening football game Friday night in Gastonia.

Hunter Huss grabbed a quick 12-0 lead, with Tevin Lindsay running the opening kickoff back 80 yards for a touchdown, and flashy quarterback Marshall Williams gaining all 58 yards in a three-play drive that put Huss up 12-0 with 7:33 left in the first period.

After that, though, the Mountaineers rolled behind a ball control offense and good defense and special teams play. Eventually, Kings Mountain's numbers wore the Huskies down.

"It was a slow start," noted KM Coach Greg Lloyd. "I'm not quite sure why. I can't put my hands on it. We got down early and had a couple of breakdowns, but after going down 12-0 we pretty much dominated the game. The offensive line improved a little. The secondary played much better. We tackled better, and covered kicks better after the first one."

Lindsay returned Michael Roberts' opening kickoff 80 yards down the middle of the field to put the Huskies on top 6-0 just 10 seconds into the game. Kings Mountain's first drive was hampered by penalties and ended with a pass interception by Quintin Coleman at the Huss 42. Williams ripped off gains of three, 19 and 36 yards, the latter giving Huss a 12-0 lead.

The Mountaineers shook off the early miscues and responded with a good all-around effort. They drove the ensuing Huss kickoff 61 yards to cut the margin to 7-6 on Joe Chambers' nine yard run and Houston Lattimore's PAT.

On the ensuing kickoff, KM's kickoff team came up big as Tyrece Addison jarred the ball loose from Lindsay, and Josh Haraszkiwicz recovered it at the Huss 26. A quick 12-yard pass to Bell moved the ball to the 14, and two plays later Chambers swept left end for an apparent touchdown. KM was penalized for holding, then Huss was penalized for encroachment, and Roberts reeled off a 10-yard run for a first and goal at the one and scored from there for a 13-12 KM lead at the 3:14 mark.

Roberts capped a 47-yard drive with another one-yard TD run with 7:59 left in the half to put KM on top 19-12.

Kings Mountain drove the second half kickoff 65 yards for a 25-12 lead with Chambers going over from 19 yards out at the 5:02 mark. Huss regrouped and drove 67 yards to score on a six-yard run by Williams and cut the margin to 25-19.

The Mountaineers took all of the bite out of the Huskies on the first play of the fourth quarter when Chambers took a pitch to the right from Roberts, pulled up and threw a long pass down the sideline which a wide-open Terrance Young caught in stride and went untouched into the end zone for the final margin.

Coach Lloyd said it was good for the Mounties to finally get a full game under their belts after a long summer of practice sessions, scrimmages and jamborees.

"It was good to play a whole game and see where we need to improve," he said. "One thing that I was pleased with is that we didn't have one cramp. It was evident we're in good shape."

Several Mounties played with minor, nagging injuries or sickness, including Tori Belcher, Greg Setzer, Jiris Toney and Kelly McCrary. But, Lloyd said, they should all be ready to go again Friday night at South Point.

"McCrary had a slight ankle sprain during the game, and Belcher strained his meniscus while kicking during practice last week. He's okay but will probably have to play with it all

year," Lloyd said.

Even though he gained 113 yards rushing, Lloyd said he was pleased with the Mounties' defensive effort against Williams, one of the most elusive quarterbacks in the area.

"We did a good job on him," he said. "He got loose a couple times and he's faster than anybody we've got. But we hemmed it up pretty good overall. The defense played a lot better and made some good plays."

Lloyd said time of possession and converting third and fourth downs were the keys to KM's success. The Mounties converted 10 of 14 third downs and 3 of 3 fourth downs. They were never forced into a punting situation, but did lose two fumbles and had a pass intercepted.

"We ran close to 70 plays and were able to wear them down a little bit," he said.



GARY STEWART/HERALD
KM quarterback Michael Roberts tries to avoid a heavy pass rush from the Hunter Huss defense in Friday's game in Gastonia.

Pigskin Pickers 2008

GARY STEWART Herald Sports Editor 14-1 (14-1)	BILL PARSONS Publisher 10-5 (10-5)	JIM HEFFNER Belmont Sports 13-2 (13-2)	MICHAEL POWELL Cherryville Editor 8-7 (8-7)	VINCE HEFFNER Guest 13-2 (13-2)
Bessemer City over Chase	B City	B City	B City	Chase
Burns over East Gaston	Burns	Burns	East Gaston	East Gaston
Clover over Forestview	Clover	Clover	Clover	Clover
Crest over Freedom	Crest	Crest	Crest	Crest
RS Central over Polk County	RS Central	RS Central	RS Central	Polk County
Shelby over Ashbrook	Shelby	Shelby	Shelby	Shelby
Lincolnton over Maiden	Maiden	Lincolnton	Maiden	Lincolnton
Ga. Tech over Boston College	Boston	Boston	GA Tech	Boston
Clemson over The Citadel	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson
Florida over Miami	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Wake Forest over Ole Miss	Ole Miss	Wake Forest	Ole Miss	Wake Forest
Va. Tech over Furman	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Va. Tech
NC State over William & Mary	NC State	NC State	Wm. & Mary	NC State
Duke over Northwestern	Duke	Northwestern	Duke	Northwestern
Virginia over Richmond	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Virginia

This weeks' guest is avid football fan and pastor of First Baptist Church in Cherryville, Dr. Vince Hefner.

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