

Sports

Patriots drop conference title game 27-8

By GARY STEWART
SPORTS EDITOR

Shelby used a methodical running game and overpowering defense to defeat Kings Mountain 27-8 in Wednesday's Tri-County Conference championship game at Shelby's Blanton Memorial Stadium.

The Blue Devils finished a perfect 8-0 season after winning the Western Division title with a 5-0 record. Kings Mountain was 5-3 overall with a 5-0 record to win

the Eastern Division.

Shelby built a 27-0 lead before the Patriots scored their only touchdown midway of the fourth quarter.

Ryheim Huskey was the biggest thorn in KM's side. He capped a 54-yard scoring drive with a 15-yard touchdown run to give the Blue Devils a 7-0 first quarter lead.

Early in the second quarter he intercepted a KM pass and returned it to the 19 yard line to set up a 4-yard scoring run by Wesley

Norris and a 14-0 Shelby halftime lead.

Shelby scored again on a five-yard run by Marquise Walton to go up 20-0 on its first possession of the second half. Early in the fourth quarter, Kings Mountain failed to convert on a fourth and 8 play from its own 43.

After a 13-yard loss on fourth down and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty by the Patriots, Shelby got the ball on the Patriots' 15 yard line and scored on a three-yard run by Spencer Clark to go

up 27-0.

Kings Mountain drove the ensuing kickoff 65 yards in four plays, with Chris Ballen taking a pitch around right end for a 39-yard touchdown run with 4:48 remaining. Kanez Byers passed to Ballen for the two-point conversion.

Kings Mountain recovered an onside kick and drove to the Shelby four where it was second and goal, but two passes fell incomplete in the end zone.

Kings Mountain finished with

83 yards rushing, led by Ballen with one carry for 39 yards and Donatris Simmons with seven carries for 29.

The Patriots had 93 yards passing. Simmons caught three passes for 47 yards, Ballen two for 27, Jose Sappia one for 11, and Jerick Dabbs one for eight.

The championship game appearance was the first for Kings Mountain in six years. Shelby won its first conference title in four years. Crest had won the past three conference crowns.

Hicks rarely puts down a club

She's the first KMHS woman golfer in state tournament

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Erica Hicks first picked up a golf club at age two. Now, the Kings Mountain High sophomore rarely puts it down.

Hicks recently became the first woman golfer from KMHS to compete in the NCHSAA State Tournament in Pinehurst after finishing 15th in the Western Regional Tournament at Cedar Rock in Lenoir.

Although she works hard to improve her game, golfing is the natural sport for the Hicks family. Her father, Eric, Uncle Mike, and Grandfather Dennis Hicks, former football and golf coach at KMHS, are all very good at the game.

"I just started playing seriously a couple of years ago," says Erica. "My whole family got me started. Uncle Mike was the golf pro at Kings Mountain and Cleveland Country clubs."

He is now a bank manager in Hendersonville.

Hicks can be seen playing golf just about every day now at KMCC. She played on the KMHS men's team as a freshman and enjoyed it, but thought it would be good if the school had a women's team. She called her high school coach, Kevin Moss, and told him she wanted to have a girls team, and athletic director Suzanne Grayson gave the okay.

"They were both very helpful," Hicks said.

With only three players - Malyn Bailey and Tori Braunns were the other two - the Lady Mountaineers weren't able to be placed in a conference but they scheduled regular season matches against South Point and Hunter Huss. The team went 1-1 with a victory over Huss.

By next year, Hicks is confident other KMHS female students will become interested and the team will have enough players to compete in a conference.

"I think it will happen," she predicted. "The other two girls had a good time and want to play. I think the girls team will continue and we'll be in the conference with Hunter Huss."

Hicks said she was at a disadvantage when she played on the men's team because she had to play from the white tees instead of the ladies' tees.

"It was really tough, but it was good for me," she said. "I got a lot of experience against good competition."

Although the season is over, Hicks is on the course almost every day, either playing a round with members of her family or working on her game.

"I usually take a different club a day and hit a bunch of balls," she said. "I try to make myself more consistent and get better. My dad helps me all the time. I usually go out every day, even if it's cold, and do whatever I can."

She said the experience of playing in a state tournament on the tough Firefox course at Pinehurst really helped her game.

"I came back and I knew what I need to work on to be more competitive next year," she said. "I want to play college golf one day."

She hopes to attend either UNC-Chapel Hill or Wake Forest and some day become a physician's assistant to a surgeon.



KMHS golfer Erica Hicks

Duckpin Bowling

October 30, 2008:
LUCKY DUCKS 6, ALLEY CATS 2
Lucky Ducks - Bonnie Warren 118 game, Greg Evans 357 set; Alley Cats - Allen Myers 140 game, 343 set.

Mighty Ducks 8, Duck Masters 0
Mighty Ducks - Bob Paramore 146 game, 397 set; Duck Masters - Tommy Barrett 158 game, 391 set.

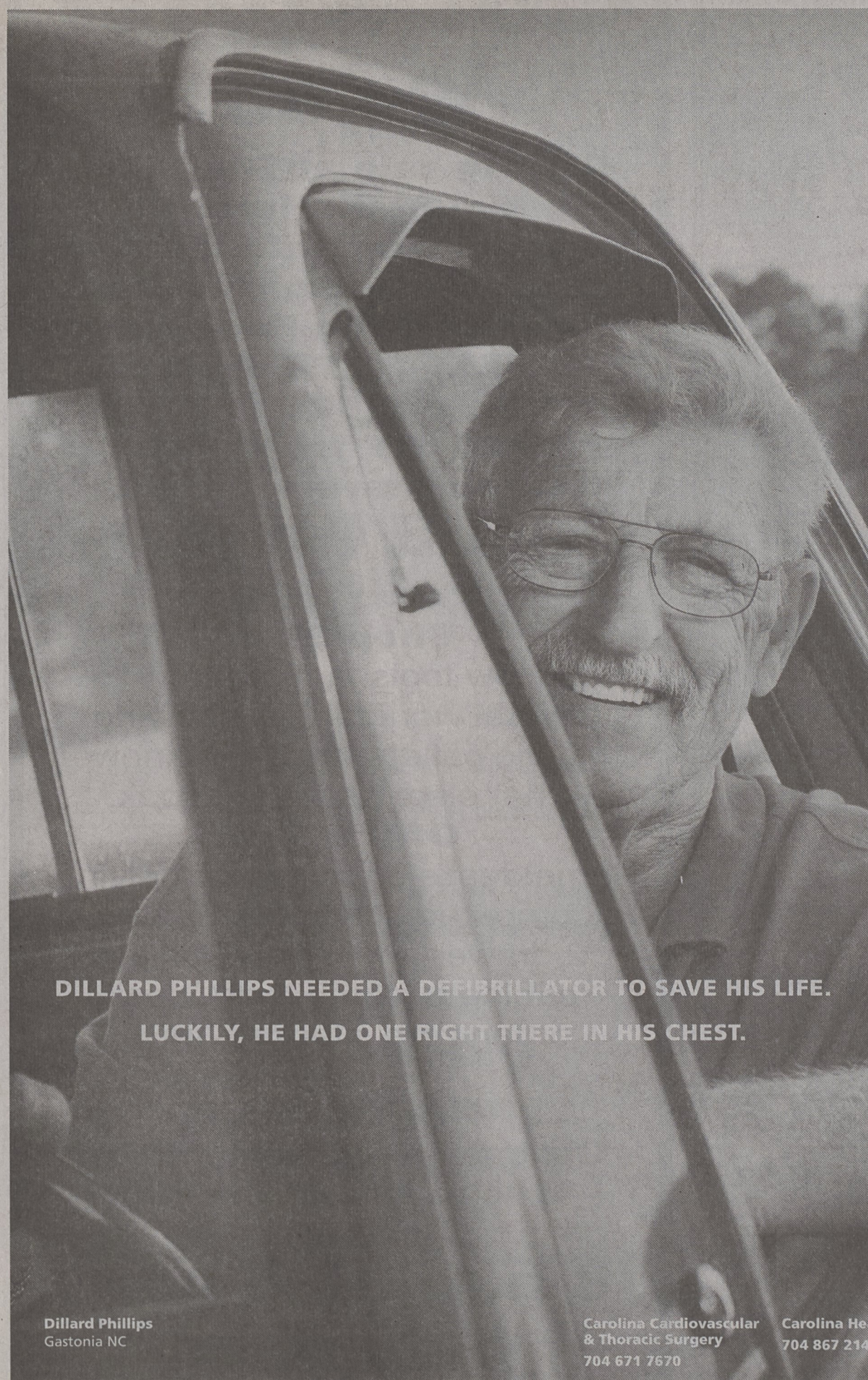
November 4, 2008:
DucksRUs 6, Buckshot Bowlers 2
Ducks-R-Us - Greg Evans 140 game, 389 set; Buckshot - Bob Paramore 119 game, 355 set.

No Ideas 6, Philczyk 2
No Ideas - Ed Philbeck 127 game, 339 set; Philczyk - Zeke Rybczyk 133 game, 327 set.

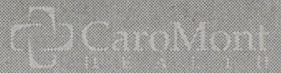
Thursday, Nov. 6
Lucky Ducks 6, Mighty Ducks 2
LD - Greg Evans 149 game, 402 set, MD - Bob Paramore 140 game, 353 series.

Duck Masters 4, Alley Cats 4
DM - Zeke Rybczyk 119 game, Tommy Barrett 327 set, AC - Margo Barrett 128 game, Allen Myers 314 series.

Monday, Nov. 11
Ducks R Us 4, Philczyk 4
Ducks - Wilma Wilfong 124 game,
See BOWLING on Page B6



**DILLARD PHILLIPS NEEDED A DEFIBRILLATOR TO SAVE HIS LIFE.
LUCKILY, HE HAD ONE RIGHT THERE IN HIS CHEST.**



"I was driving up Cramer Mountain one night, all alone in my truck, when I started feeling extremely light-headed and faint. I had never felt like that before in my life. I looked down and the front of my shirt was jumping out. And I knew immediately that my defibrillator had gone off. So I pulled over to the side of the road and called 911."

As Dr. Mark Thompson would later explain, Dillard's defibrillator had indeed gone off. And it saved his life. Because Dillard Phillips was what Dr. Thompson referred to as a high-risk heart patient. Which is why, five years ago, he suggested a new product called a pacemaker defibrillator that they could implant in Dillard's chest.

"And five years later, long after Dillard had forgotten it was there, he was driving up that mountain, when his heart started racing very fast. He had developed something we call ventricular fibrillation, where the heart doesn't pump at all, it just quivers, and in about 15 or 20 seconds, it would have killed him.

Luckily the defibrillator was there. It shocked him back before he even passed out, and it saved his life," Dr. Thompson told us.

"I want to thank all people at Gaston Memorial for saving my life," Dillard added.

"Actually it was the defibrillator," Dr. Thompson concluded. "But it's a good thing we put it there."



CaroMont Heart Center
The Carolinas Heart Institute - Gastonia

www.CaroMont.org

Dillard Phillips
Gastonia NC

Carolina Cardiovascular
& Thoracic Surgery
704 671 7670

Carolina Heart Specialists
704 867 2141

Mid-Carolina Cardiology
704 868 3256

