

Explosive Weddington comes to KM on Friday

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Sports Editor

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers face another of North Carolina's outstanding quarterbacks Friday when Weddington's Warriors invade John Gamble Stadium for the first time. Kick off is at 7:30.

Drew Podrebarac, a 6-3 senior who is a strong runner and passer and is being highly recruited, is picking up right where he left off last year when he passed for over 2,200 yards and 22 touchdowns and ran for over 300 yards and eight more touchdowns.

So far this year he has led the Warriors to lopsided non-conference victories over Cuthbertson and Forest Hills, including a 48-27 win over perennial 2A power Forest Hills last week when he accounted for four touchdowns.

The Mountaineer defense could

face a similar situation as last week when it faced off against Burns' Brandon Littlejohn.

"Weddington has a very good team that puts points on the board," says KM Coach Greg Lloyd. "They're about a 50-50 run-pass team. They throw it a lot."

Weddington competes in the rugged Southern Carolina 3A/4A Conference. The Warriors finished 2-3 in the league and 9-4 overall last year, going two rounds in the state 3A playoffs.

Last year's head coach Justin Hardin, who was the quarterback for A.L. Brown in its classic battles with Kings Mountain in 1997 and 1998 and son of former A.L. Brown Coach Bruce Hardin, left during the off-season to take the offensive coordinator's job at Rock Hill South Pointe. But Tim Carson, former offensive coordinator at Sun Valley High, has taken the

reins and the team hasn't lost a beat.

"They're very good," Lloyd says. "They are a top 10 to 15 3A team. It's not getting any easier for us. They run a 3-4 on defense and it looks like their offense may be a little ahead of the defense."

Kings Mountain has proven to be just the opposite so far as its defense has played remarkably well considering the amount of time it has spent on the field, while the offense has crippled itself with fumbles and pass interceptions. KM has turned the ball over 10 times in its first two games, a 17-14 win over East Rutherford and a 28-0 loss to Burns.

To win, Lloyd said the Mountaineers have to put points on the board and continue to play hard on defense.

"We need to find the end zone and build some confidence," he

said. "We don't need negative thoughts creeping in. We need to keep playing defense like we have and make some plays on special teams. We need to put four quarters together on offense."

Lloyd feels confident his offense is going to get a boost this week from sophomore tailback DaShon Guest, who ran the ball hard against a Burns defense that is probably as good as any in the state.

"He hasn't practiced very much (because of an injury) but he ran the ball very hard," Lloyd said. "We look forward to getting him going."

Dontarius Simmons, who started at tailback the first two games, will move back to the slot position Lloyd said it is his "natural" position. Simmons is not only a good runner, but a good receiver. "It helps us to have somebody

who can run the ball from another position," Lloyd said.

Lloyd said he was highly pleased with the special teams play last week and looks forward to it becoming even better.

"I thought Edward Blackburn did an exceptional job with his kicking," Lloyd said. "We won the field position battle just like we wanted to do. We just couldn't score."

If the Mountaineers can get a big game on offense this week and next week at Alexander Central, it could be the boost they need to get ready for Big South Conference play.

"I hope we can get some momentum going," Lloyd said. "We are not a bad team. We just need to keep playing hard and hold on to the ball. If we cut down on turnovers we will be fine."

Spikers beat Shelby, lose to Providence

Kings Mountain High's volleyball team defeated Shelby 3-0 last Tuesday before falling to defending state 4A champion Providence 3-0 on Wednesday.

The Lady Mountaineers jumped out to a quick lead at Shelby but had to hold off the Lady Lions 25-23 in the first game. The KM ladies rolled 25-9 and 25-15 in the final two games.

Morgan Robinson had 11 kills and six aces for the Mountaineers. Nicole Ford added 19 digs and six kills, and Logan Smith had four aces and 12 assists.

Kings Mountain broke on top 1-0 in each of the games against Providence Wednesday at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium, but the Charlotte power stormed from behind to win 26-24, 25-20, 25-19.

Kings Mountain battled from six points down to tie the first game at 24-all before Providence scored the last two points.

Kings Mountain built a 5-1 lead in game two and had



New KMHS volleyball coach Ashley Pridgeon talks to her team as Providence warms up for Wednesday's non-conference match at Parker Gym.

the lead on four other occasions before Providence took advance of two straight outs to take a 21-19 lead and go on to win by five.

After KM's early point in game three, Providence scored two straight points and never trailed again. Kings Mountain won the

JV game 25-16, 25-21. Kings Mountain opens Big South 3A Conference play today at South Point.



Hannah Christenbury won her singles match for Kings Mountain's Lady Mountaineers in last week's Big South loss to South Point.

KM netters fall to SP

Kings Mountain fell to South Point 6-3 in the opening Big South tennis match Tuesday.

The only winners for the Mountaineers were Elizabeth Baker and Hannah Christenbury in singles; and Awanda Rithiphong and Elizabeth Baker in doubles.

Singles
Madeline Killen (S) d. Madison Lutz 6-0, 6-0; Kellie Patz (S) d. Awanda Rithiphong 6-2, 6-1; Eliza-

beth Baker (KM) d. Morgan Jones 6-2, 4-6, 7-3; Kristin Rivera (S) d. Emily Peeler 6-1, 6-1; Ashley Mull (SP) d. Katie Holland 6-4, 6-2; Hannah Christenbury (KM) d. Brooks Churn 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles
Killen/Jones (SP) d. Lutz/Peeler 8-0; Rithiphong/Baker (KM) d. Patz/Rivera 8-5; Mull/Jamie Mendoza (SP) d. Hannah Mosley/Cheyenne Stirewalt 8-0.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, September 17 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The staff and physicians of our Kings Mountain practice invite you to

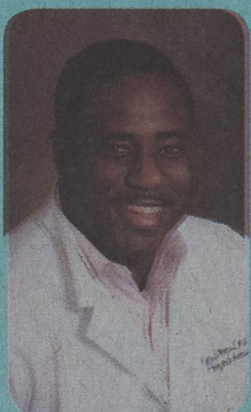
Spend a Saturday With Us!



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Free Blood Pressure Checks

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