

Sports

Mountaineers played great game, but couldn't corral fast Chargers

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers played one of their best games of the season Friday night at Crest but came out on the short end of a 39-27 score.

Crest's speed was the big difference in the game, although the Mountaineers were still within a shot of winning late in the game.

Trailing by the final score with over four minutes remaining, a tipped pass in the end zone that Tyrece Crawford kept in the air for what seemed like several seconds was almost caught, but fell incomplete. A different outcome there, and assuming the Mountaineers would recover their third onside kick of the game, could have put them in position to win at the end.

The Mountaineers played the contest without the services of two starters. One was dismissed from the team late in the week and the other, wide receiver Phillip Quinn, missed the game because of the death of his grandfather. Then, with two minutes left in the first half the Mountaineers lost the services of their big receiver and kicking specialist, Edward Blackburn, who suffered a concussion on what was obviously a helmet to helmet hit when he went up to catch a pass deep in Crest territory.

He was taken by ambulance to the hospital and checked out okay, but he will not be able to play in this week's final regular season game against Forestview and probably will also miss the Mountaineers' first state playoff game.

But the players that were available gave an outstanding effort. Crawford set a school single game pass receiving record with 205 yards on eight receptions, including two touchdowns and a remarkable reception down the sidelines to set up another TD.

"I was really pleased with the effort that all of our guys gave," commented head coach Greg Lloyd. "We played very well. We played very hard. We did a lot of good things. Looking back, we had two untimely fumbles on a kick return and after we got an onside kick."

Kings Mountain actually had more total offense than the Chargers, but Crest's speed was the difference. On the game's opening kickoff, Crest's Harvey McSwain Jr. fumbled the ball at the 15 but picked it up and reversed his field and took it to the KM 34 yard line. A 33-yard reception by Devonte Wilson set up Rhaheim Ledbetter for a one-yard run and a 7-0 Crest lead.

The Mountaineers were able to bounce back against a very huge and athletic Crest defensive line to finish with 370 yards total offense, including 297 in the air.

See CREST on Page 2C



GARY TEWART/HERALD
Kings Mountain receiver Tyrece Crawford tries to haul in a tipped pass in Friday's game at Crest.



GARY STEWART/HERALD
Kings Mountain quarterback Jon Clark (6) rolls away from Crest's Rhaheim Ledbetter in Friday's game at Crest.

Postgame

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Tyrece Crawford, WR, 8 catches for 205 yards and two touchdowns, including a 96-yard touchdown catch and run.

THE YARDSTICK

	KM	C
First downs	16	11
Yds. rushing	73	247
Yds. passing	297	93
Passes	15-41-1	6-10-0
Fumbles/lost	2	1
Penalties	6-50	13-132
Punts	3-27	4-31

KM RUSHING - John Robbs 20-66, Trevin Torres 3-9, Jonathan Clark 6-(-2).

KM PASSING - Clark 15-40-1-297, Torres 0-1.

KM RECEIVING - Torres 4-45, Crawford 8-205, Jacob Lineberger 1-22, Robbs 1-18, Ed Blackburn 1-7.

BY THE NUMBERS

Kings Mountain	3	12	6	6	27
Crest	14	7	15	3	39

FIRST PERIOD

C - 10:44 - Ledbetter 1-run (Alex Trejo kick). Third play after Harvey McSwain Jr. returned opening kickoff from Crest 15 to KM 34.

KM - 5:43 - Edward Blackburn 22 FG. 83 yard drive, 13 plays. Crawford 18 and 27-yard receptions, Robbs 6-26 rushing.

C - 4:08 - Jerry Currence 63-run (Trejo kick).

SECOND PERIOD

C - 4:46 - Currence 63 run (Trejo kick).

KM - 2:14 - Crawford 18 pass from Jon Clark (kick failed). 19 yard, 2 play drive following recovery of Crest fumbled punt.

KM - 1:06 - Jacob Lineberger 22 pass from Clark (pass failed). 34 yard, 3 play drive after Ed Blackburn executed and recovered an onside kick.

THIRD PERIOD

C - 8:09 - Ledbetter 2 run (Bullard pass from Gullatte). 35 yard, 4 play drive following KM punt and 15-yard penalty against KM for personal foul.

C - 7:56 - Demonte Wilson 24 pass from Gullatte (Trejo kick). 1 play drive after KM fumbled kickoff.

KM - 6:26 - Crawford 96 pass from Clark (run failed). Third play after Crest kickoff.

FOURTH PERIOD

C - 11:55 - Trejo 39 FG.

KM - 6:31 - Robbs 2 run (pass failed). 81 yard drive, 14 plays. Key plays 32 and 15 yard receptions by Crawford and 18-yard reception by Robbs.

THIS WEEK

Forestview at Kings Mountain, Friday, 7:30. Final regular season game and KM Senior Night.

NOTABLE

Tyrece Crawford's 205 yards receiving broke the school single game record of 180 set by Cedric Thompson last season against Shelby. Crawford is now in the KMHS record book on offense and defense. Earlier in the season he intercepted three passes against Burns.

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