

Record Setters

Robbs, Crawford Blackburn set records during 2011 season

Several Kings Mountain High football players reached personal bests and also joined the class of the elite in Mountaineer history with record-setting performances during the 2011 season.

Running back John Robbs, safety Tyrece Crawford and kicker Edward Blackburn all put their names in the KMHS record book.

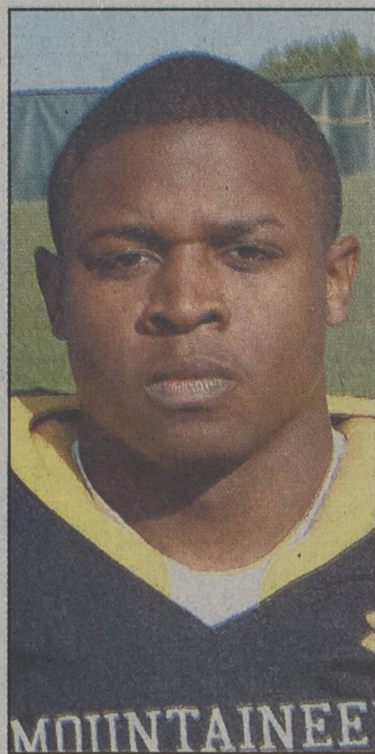
Actually, Blackburn padded his total after beginning the season as the all-time kicking points leader.

Blackburn added 32 kicking points this year (17 extra points and three field goals) to run his career total to 158. He also caught two touchdown passes for 44 points overall on the season and 170 for his career.

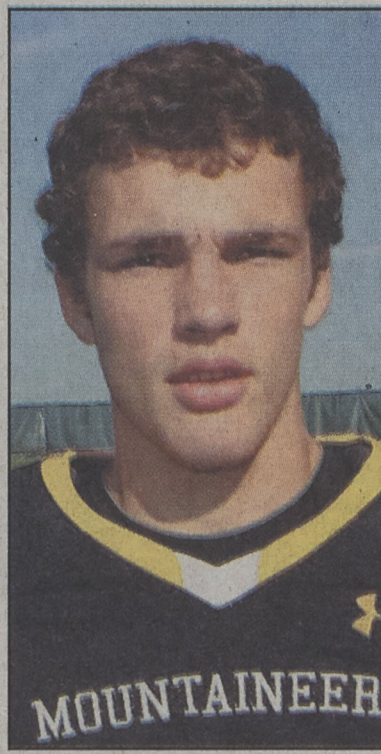
Robbs, who was one of the team's best linebackers but was moved strictly to offense starting with the fourth game of the season, carried the football 311 times for 1,428 yards to become KM's first 1,000-yard rusher since 2008 when quarterback Michael Roberts and running back Joe Chambers both topped the goal.

In addition, Robbs set a school record for the most carries in a single game when he touched the ball 44 times for 228 yards in a victory over Hunter Huss. Robbs also led the Mountaineers in scoring with 14 touchdowns and 84 points.

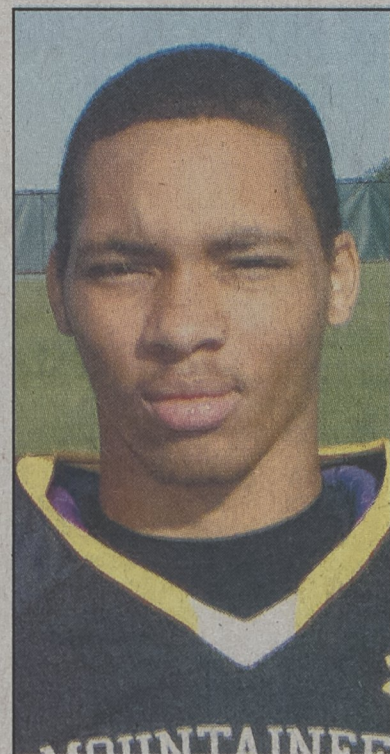
Crawford, who doubled as a safety and wide receiver, entered the record book by intercepting three passes in an early-season loss to Burns. He also broke Cedric Thompson's single game record for most receiving yards when he caught



JOHN ROBBS



EDWARD BLACKBURN



TYRECE CRAWFORD

eight passes for 205 yards in a regular season loss to Crest.

Robbs and Blackburn both saw action as freshman in Kings Mountain's playoff run of 2008 when the Mountaineers came within one game of playing for the state championship. Blackburn kicked numerous key field goals during that run to help the Mountaineers win playoff games over Hickory, Mooresville and Anson County.

Although he didn't enter the record book, junior quarterback Jonathan Clark also had a big year with 136 pass completions for 1,936 yards. He has 1,995 yards passing over the past two seasons and could threaten Cameron Harris' single season mark of 2,495 yards and Roberts' career record of 3,921 yards next year.

RUSHING

John Robbs 311-1,428; Dontarius Simmons 39-125;

Jonathan Clark 63-42, Trevin Torres 77-353, Phillip Quinn 2-2, DaShon Guest 14-46, Michael Douglas 7-18, Dillon Fredrick 4-15.

PASSING

Simmons 0-1-0; Clark 136-291-1,936; Torres 2-3-39, Blackburn 1-2-19.

RECEIVING

Robbs 8-71, Simmons 5-91, Jacob Lineberger 24-308, Torres 34-407, Quinn 25-340, Xavier Johnson 1-2, Jordan Elliott 1-12, Collins Pressley 1-10, Blackburn 20-323, Crawford 19-444, Guest 1-(-3).

SCORING

Robbs 84, Simmons 12, Clark 26, Lineberger 14, Torres 26, Quinn 12, Blackburn 44, Crawford 36, Douglas 6, Quincy Toms 8, Jeremiah Early 5, team 2.

MOUNTAINEER MADNESS

KMHS basketball teams open season with fun night Friday

Kings Mountain sports fans don't have a football game to go to Friday night but things will be exciting at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium when the boys and girls varsity teams hold their first Mountaineer Madness at 6 p.m. as a kickoff for the 2011-12 season.

Both teams will have inter squad games. There will be a 3-point shooting contest and possibly a dunk contest.

"I would love to see a big crowd," says first-year Mountaineer head coach Grayson Pierce who will showcase a young but talented squad that he feels can be very competitive in the

Big South Conference.

Pierce takes over after serving for two years as JV head coach and varsity assistant to Ric Franklin.

"It is hard to replace Brian Brown and Cedric Thompson," Pierce notes. "But we have seven seniors that are hungry to win. Our underclassmen are talented and work hard. This team has a lot of chemistry together."

Pierce says the team will take on a different look. "We are going to be longer, taller and bigger," he says. "I believe we will be a team that competes every time we play. We are going to work hard, play hard and play to-

gether each time we step onto the floor."

The Mountaineers return only one full-time starter, senior point guard Caleb Hines. He averaged 8.4 points, 6.1 assists and 4.3 rebounds per game and will be valuable in running the offense and playing tough defense out front.

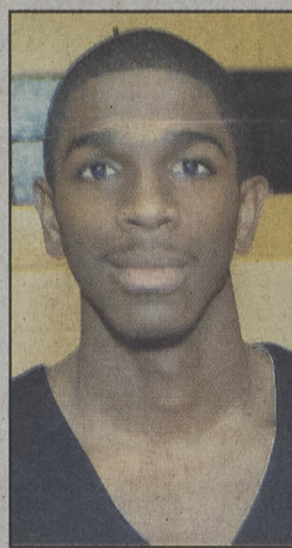
"He is the leader of this team," Pierce said. "Caleb has worked a lot on his outside shooting over the summer. Caleb had almost a three to one assist to turnover ratio last year."

Although he won't be available immediately because of a head injury that he suffered in football a month ago and aggravated it in last week's game, Pierce expects big things from senior 6-6 forward Edward Blackburn.

"He started a lot of games at the end of the season last year and will be a key player," Pierce says. "He averaged a double-double in summer play. We are hoping to have him back before the first game at Shelby."

Many players who were reserves last season, and others who have joined the team, will be counted on to either start or provide key minutes off the bench.

Pierce said Larry Smith, a 6-4 forward, has worked hard over the summer and will battle for a starting spot. He is an inside out post



CALEB HINES

player.

Tre Byers, a 6-5 forward, has shown a lot of improvement from last year, Pierce said. "He is going to get a lot of playing time while Blackburn is out, and will be battling for the other starting post position."

Tyrece Crawford and Collins Pressley joined the team Saturday after playing their final football game on Friday night. Crawford is a 6-1 senior guard and Pressley is a 6-0 senior forward.

"Tyrece is going to be a key player for us," Pierce said. "He has the ability to knock down the outside shot and take it to the basket. He will be one of the starting guards."

"Collins adds a physical toughness to our team. He

works hard on the glass and defense."

Another returning player that will see a lot of action is 5-7 guard Treyvon Adams. "Treyvon has been working a lot on his game to become a more all-around basketball player," Pierce said. "He is the most consistent shooter on the team and will be the other starting guard."

Several new players have been impressive in practice.

James Tillman, a 6-3 forward, "can do a little of everything," according to Pierce. "He can shoot, drive, pass, rebound and block shots. James will see a lot of minutes this year as a sophomore."

Solomon Hawkins, a transfer, is a 6-2 guard/forward and is "very athletic," Pierce says. "He has the ability to hit the outside shot and post up. He will also see a lot of minutes as a sophomore."

Baseball player Wil Sellers, a 6-1 guard, has joined the basketball team for the first time since middle school. "But he has not missed a beat since practice has started," Pierce said. "Wil has a high basketball IQ and makes great decisions with the ball. He will help us out a lot this year."

Pierce said Phillip Quinn, Reyshod Adams, Cameron Bullock and Malik Osborne will play key reserve roles.

Everybody but the foot-

ball players have gone through 11 practices so far and Pierce is happy with their progress.

"We look really good at times, then we look like we have a long way to go," he said. "The players have been working really hard in practice to get better each day."

Pierce says Mountaineer fans will see a different style of playing this season.

"We are going to be a team that runs a lot of different types of defenses," he said. "We will run man to man and zone. We are also going to commit to being a full court pressure team. Offensively we will also look different. We are going to use our size and run more 3 out 2 in with pick and rolls."

The Mountaineers will travel to R-S Central Thursday for a 6 p.m. scrimmage and will open their regular season on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at Shelby.

YMCA youth basketball

The Kings Mountain Family YMCA is now registering for Youth Basketball. Registration for ages 3-18 ends on November 25th. Volunteers and sponsorships are needed in all age groups. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

The YMCA is for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

For more information contact Sports Director John Maynard at 704-669-3687 or e-mail jmaynard@clevecoymca.org

MS beats Lincolnton

Kings Mountain Middle defeated Lincolnton 25-18, 25-17, 25-19 in a Tri-County Conference volleyball match last week.

Outstanding players for KM were Peyton Lemons, Abby Lail, Nastajah Hutchens and Sara Pasour.

\$400 Regular Membership! When paid by Nov. 30th

15% OFF Memberships!

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Collins Pressley
Football

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6" Breakfast Sandwich w/Ham or Bacon & Drink \$3.00

2nd Annual TURKEY SHOOT

Benefiting the NFT Foundation for **Kevin Randall**

Saturday, November 19 10:30 am

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Call 704.622.2750 for more info.