

SPORTS

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Mountaineers travel to Huss for second Big South contest

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain High's football team is in the same boat as it was last year at this time.

Heading into the stretch run of the regular season, the Mountaineers take an 0-1 Big South and 2-4 overall record into Friday night's game at Hunter Huss in Gastonia.

After last year's 2-4 start, the Mountaineers turned their season around and went two rounds in the state 3AA playoffs. Coach Greg Lloyd hopes Friday will be the start of another big turnaround.

Hunter Huss comes into the game with a 1-1 BSC and 4-2 overall record and already has enough wins to qualify for the state playoffs. Kings Mountain needs at least two more wins to qualify, but running the table would put them in a great position to host a first-round game.

But before playoffs enter into the equation, Lloyd and the Mountaineers just hope to put the past two weeks behind them and get back to their winning ways.

Beating Huss will be a tough task. The Huskies are always very athletic, and this year it seems more-so than last.

"They've improved a lot," says the KM coach. "They're quick and aggressive on defense."

Like most area teams, the



Kings Mountain quarterback Jonathan Clark

Huskies have gone to a spread offense that features several quick backs and receivers and forces their opponent to defend the whole playing field.

"Kerrion Moore is still there, and they have another back (Keion Byrd) that gives them two good running backs," Lloyd noted. "Their quarterback (Andrew Jordan) is a sophomore that is really good and they have a big receiver (6-3 Chad Mackins) who is a good looking player."

"I compare them to

Shelby; they're very similar," he said. "They have good team speed and a really good kicker (Cody Jones) who puts the ball in the end zone every time and has kicked 50-yard field goals."

Lloyd, who has a 4-1 record against the Huskies as head coach of the Mountaineers, sees four major goals his team must achieve this week:

(1) - "First, we're hoping we will be healthy," he said. Three-year starter Phillip Quinn sat out last week's game with Shelby with a

high ankle sprain suffered in the previous week's game with South Point. He was scheduled to see the doctor Monday. If he is released to the KMHS trainer, there's a slight possibility he could play.

"We need him desperately," Lloyd said. "He is a good blocker and a good leader. If we could get him back it would be a big deal."

The Mountaineers' leading rusher, DaShon Guest, should play again this week even though he has a broken finger that hurt him more last week than Lloyd thought it would.

(2) - "We need to work hard with our red zone execution and try to finish off drives," he said. Last week the Mountaineers left a lot of points on the field after failing to capitalize on four scoring opportunities deep in Shelby territory.

(3) - "Defensively, we hope to build on what we did last week," he said. "We need to try to force the issue with our defense."

Despite having six defensive starters out for various reasons, the Mountaineers' defense played its best game of the year. Dillon Frederick, who was called up from the JV team; Elijah Whitaker and Kalael Hopper, who had played only sparingly in past games, and Markel Hemphill and Chaz Gamble, who were moved to different positions, all played well along with

several other starters that played on both offense and defense.

This week, the Mountaineers will welcome back their two senior safeties, Jose Sappia and Curtis McNamara, who were out of action last week and should be ready to resume their usual

good play in the secondary.

(4) - "If we eliminate mistakes we should have a good shot at winning," Coach Lloyd added. "We have lost three games (Burns, Weddington and Shelby) by a touchdown. We're looking forward to playing this week."

Lady Mountaineers sweep Chargers, Jags

Kings Mountain High's volleyball teams swept Crest in a JV/varsity doubleheader Tuesday at Donald L. Parker Gymnasium.

The JV team won 8-25, 25-22, 27-25 to run its record to 2-3 in the Big South and 5-8 overall.

The varsity won 25-21, 25-18, 25-17.

Natalie Fedyschyn, Logan Smith and Gracie Hunter led the Mountaineers. Fedyschyn recorded eight kills and six aces. Smith had seven kills, 13 assists, 10 digs and one ace, and Hunter had 11 digs and six aces.

On Thursday, the Lady Mountaineer varsity defeated Forestview 25-18, 25-15, 25-8 but the JV team lost 25-13, 25-15.



Logan Smith

Logan Smith had another big game for the KM ladies with seven kills, four aces, five digs and 14 assists. Olivia Blalock had nine kills.

The varsity improved to 5-1 in the Big South and 10-4 overall.

Sports This Week

Wednesday, Sept. 26

4:30 - Middle school football, North Lincoln at Kings Mountain.

6 p.m. - High school soccer, Crest at Kings Mountain.

Thursday, Sept. 27

4 p.m. - High school tennis, Kings Mountain at North Gaston.

4 p.m. - Middle school boys soccer and girls softball, West Lincoln at Kings Mountain.

7 p.m. - JV football, Hunter Huss at Kings Mountain.

Friday, Sept. 28

7:30 - High school football, Kings Mountain at Hunter Huss.

Saturday, Sept. 29

TBA - High school cross country, Cleveland County meet at Crest.

Monday, Oct. 1

TBA - Middle school cross country, Tri-County Conference meet at Kings Mountain.

2 p.m. - High school golf, all Big South teams at Crest.

6 p.m. - High school soccer, Kings Mountain at Forestview.

Tuesday, Oct. 2

4 p.m. - Middle school boys soccer and girls softball, Kings Mountain at East Lincoln.

4 p.m. - Middle school golf, Kings Mountain, Crest, West Lincoln and North Lincoln at River Bend.

4 p.m. - High school tennis, Crest at Kings Mountain.

4:30 - High school cross country, Kings Mountain, North Gaston and East Gaston at Forestview.

4:30 - High school volleyball, Hunter Huss at Kings Mountain.

Wednesday, Oct. 3

5 p.m. - Middle school football, Kings Mountain at Lincoln.

Missed opportunities costly in 14-7 KM loss to Shelby

GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

Kings Mountain scored less than a minute into the game to take a 7-0 lead but saw Shelby come back with touchdowns on their last possession of the first half and first possession of the second half and fell to the Lions 14-7 in a non-conference game Friday night at Gamble Stadium.

The loss drops the Mountaineers to 0-1 in the Big South and 2-4 overall heading into a conference game Friday at Hunter Huss. Shelby, 0-1, 2-4, travels to Patton Friday.

Kings Mountain's Kalael Hopper recovered a fumble on the third play of the game to set up a two-play, 18-yard scoring drive which included a 17-yard catch and run by Trevin Torres to inside the one, and a sneak for the TD by quarterback Jonathan Clark. Jeremiah Early kicked the point-after.

Missed opportunities by the Mountaineers kept them off the scoreboard and the



photos by Gary Stewart/Herald

Kings Mountain defenders Elijah Whitaker (33), Alex Reynolds (5), Kalael Hopper (42), Dillon Frederick (2) and Jacob Miller (33) try to keep Shelby runner Raekwon Washington from going around end in Friday's game at Gamble Stadium.

Lions in the game. Kings Mountain had two other drives inside the red zone in the first half, and two more in the second half, but came away with no points. The

Mountaineers drove to the Shelby seven late in the first quarter but missed a 25-yard field goal attempt, and they drove to the Lions 22 in the second period but lost the

ball on downs.

"We got in the red zone several times and didn't score, and that doomed us,"

See MISSED OPPORTUNITIES, 5B

MOUNTAINEER POSTGAME

PLAYERS OF THE GAME

Offense - Xavier Johnson, WR, 5-113 receiving; Trevin Torres, WR, 8-67 receiving.

Defense - Kalael Hopper, Alex Reynolds, DJ Moody, Jacob Miller, Chaz Gamble, Markel Hemphill.

BY THE NUMBERS

S	0	7	7	0	14
KM	7	0	0	0	7

First Period

KM - 11:06 - Jonathan Clark, 1 run (Jeremiah Early kick). Two-play, 18-yard drive after Kalael Hopper fumble re-

covery.

Second Period

S - 0:36 - Spencer Clark, 2 run (Manning Burton kick). 60-yard, 4 play drive. Big plays 15-yard personal foul penalty against KM and 32-yard reception by Jolly.

Third period

S - 9:37 - Wesley Hillman 43 pass from S. Clark (Burton kick). 5 play, 53-yard drive following KM punt and another 15-yard KM personal foul penalty.

YARDSTICK

	S	KM
First downs	13	11

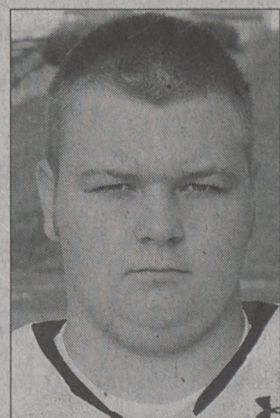
Yds. Rushing	123	25
Yds. Passing	94	193
Passes	7-13-0	15-33-1
Fumbles lost	3	0
Yds. Penalized	30	55

KM RUSHING - DaShon Guest 15-32, Clark 6-(-11), Torres 2-4, Alex Reynolds 1-0.

KM PASSING - Clark 15-33-1-193.

KM RECEIVING - Johnson 5-113, Torres 8-67, Jacob Miller 1-11, Guest 1-2.

Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



Wilson Rikard
Varsity Football

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