

# SPORTS

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## 90 YEARS OF MOUNTAINEER FOOTBALL

*Some of all-time Mountaineer greats attend***GARY STEWART***Sports Editor*

Some of the best players in Kings Mountain High football history attended the 90th year reunion at Friday's football game with Crest at John Gamble Stadium.

Athletic Director Dustin Morehead presented the last three Players of the Decade Awards to George Harris, star quarterback of the Mountaineers' first championship team in 1955; Pat Murphy, quarterback of the 1963 and 1964 teams that compiled a 19-1-1 overall record and won back-to-back conference titles; and Kevin Mack, the 1979 rushing star who went on to become Rookie of the Year in the NFL.

Other Players of the Decades were honored at previous games, including the late Calvin Stevens, 1985 Shrine Bowl star who went on to make All-

American at the University of South Carolina and also played in the NFL; Kareem Marshall, an offensive lineman on KMHS championship teams in 1996, 1997 and 1998 who went on to become a two-time junior college All-American and starting tackle at the University of Georgia; and Michael Roberts, star quarterback of the 2008 championship team and now an assistant coach with the Mountaineers.

Older Kings Mountain fans in the stands - and on the field - no doubt went back in time and recalled some of the school's most exciting moments when the players were introduced at halftime.

Seeing George Harris and Ken Baity on the field at the same time no doubt made fans recall that night in 1955 when Harris faked out everybody, including the referees, in a

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Above: Louise Carlton, center, and her granddaughter, Becky, talk with Mearl Valentine, who played for the late Shu Carlton in 1954 and 1955.

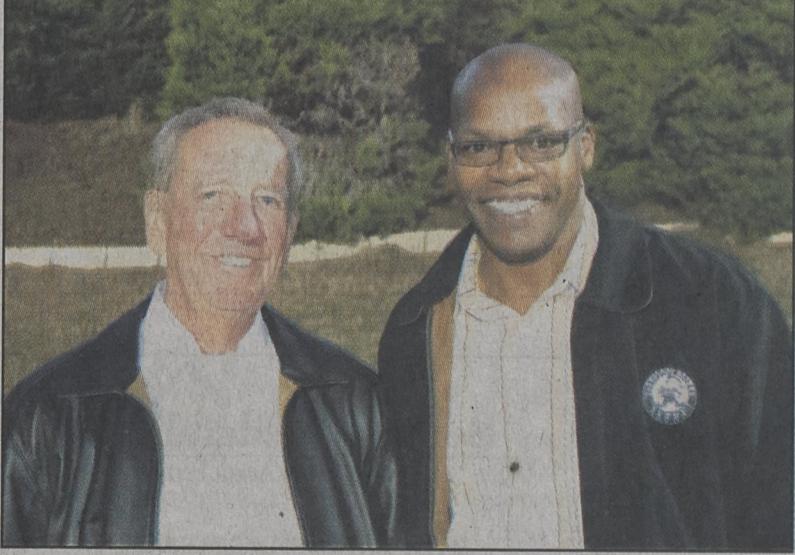


Above: The "Johnson Twins" - Chris and Chris - share some happy moments. Both played in the 1970s, giving the Mountaineers a Chris Johnson for six years in a row.

At right: Major Loftin, 82, is introduced to the crowd.

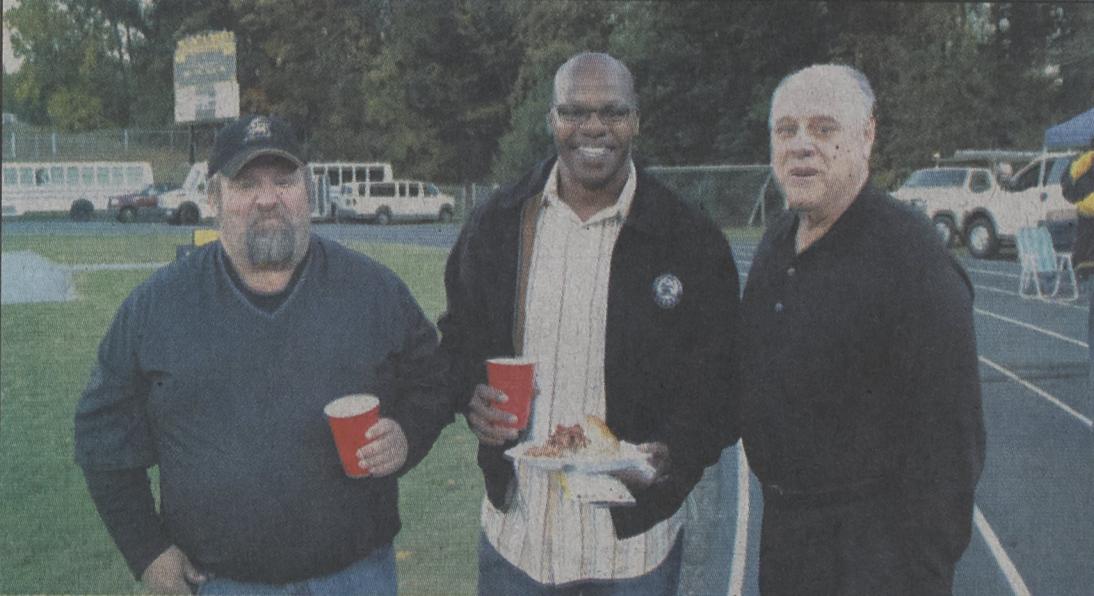


Above: Four Mountaineers from the 1950s share some memories at 90th reunion of KMHS football. Left to right, Ken Cloninger, George Harris, Gene Patterson and Mearl Valentine.



At left: Two of KM's greatest running backs met at Friday's 90th reunion of Mountaineer football. Left is Ken Baity, who established the school record for most yards rushing in a season in 1957. Right is Kevin Mack, who broke the record in 1979.

Below: Three players from Kings Mountain's 1964 championship team meet again at Friday's 90th reunion. Left to right are Richard Gold, Pat Murphy and Steve Grigg. Grigg is still slim and trim enough to wear his letter jacket.



1979 teammates Jeff Cloninger, left, and Kevin Mack, center, pose with 1964 running star Steve Baker.

