



POSTGAME

PLAY OF THE GAME

On the third play of the game freshman receiver Jake Merchant hauled in a 43-yard flea flicker from Brandon Bell at the East Gaston 12 to get the Mountaineer offense rolling to a 40-23 victory.

YARDSTICK

	KM	EG
First downs	21	12
Yds. Rushing	318	211
Yds. Passing	126	97
Passes	5-13	4-10
Fumbles lost	0	2
Yds. Pen.	55	30
Punts	2-28	2-43

BY THE NUMBERS

KM	20	6	14	-40
EG	7	0	16	-23

HOW THEY DID IT FIRST PERIOD

KM - 9:26 - Brandon McClain 1 run (Cameron Hord kick). 65-yd drive, 6 plays following opening kickoff. Key plays 43-yd. reception by Merchant, McClain 4-13 rushing, Tico Crocker 9-yd. run.

EG - 7:57 - Austin Woods 9-run (Matthew Marks kick). 55-yd. drive, 4 plays. Woods 3-52 rushing.

KM - 6:49 - McClain 36-run (kick failed). 58-yd. drive, 3 plays, including 15-yd. reception by Chance Frederick and 7-yd. run by Bell.

KM - 0:51.6 - McClain 5 run (Hord kick). 88-yd. drive, 10 plays following fumble recovery by Chaz Gamble. McClain 4-24 rushing, Bell 1-24 rushing, Crocker 3-7 rushing and 17-yd. reception.

THIRD PERIOD

KM - 11:21 - McClain 3 run (kick failed). 21-yd., 2 plays (both runs by McClain) following fumble recovery by Josh Beheler on 2nd half kickoff.

EG - 10:09 - Woods 1 run (Woods run). 75-yd. drive 4 plays following KM kickoff. Key play 56-yd. reception by Bailey Crane.

EG - 0:07.9 - Woods 1 run (Crane pass from Woods). 83-yd. drive, 13 plays.

FOURTH PERIOD

KM - 7:08 - Merchant 16 pass from Bell (Hord kick). 62-yd. drive, 6 plays plus 2 15-yd. penalties against EG.

KM - 1:14 - Crocker 4 run (Hord PAT). 76-yd., 8 play drive after KM def. stopped EG on downs at the KM 24. Key plays 25-yd. runs by McClain and Bell.

STAT LEADERS

KM RUSHING - McClain 24-168, Crocker 13-31, Bell 12-121. **EG** - Woods 24-129, Walker 9-51, Robbins 4-24, Miller 3-13.

KM PASSING - Bell 5-13-0-126. **EG** - Woods 2-7-0-59, Adams 2-3-0-19.

KM RECEIVING - Merchant 2-59, Crocker 2-52, Frederick 1-15. **EG** - Woods 1-9, Jeffries 1-30, Crane 2-66.

THIS WEEK

Forestview at Kings Mountain, 7:30 p.m. Friday, John Gamble Stadium (This is Kings Mountain's last non-conference game. They play their first-ever SMAC conference game next week at home against East Rutherford.)

NOTABLE

Running backs Bishop Ford and Moe Neal of Forestview and offensive lineman Graham Keeter of Kings Mountain are being recruited by D1 teams.

Brandon McClain became the first Kings Mountain freshman to rush for over 100 yards in a single game in last week's victory at East Gaston.



Kings Mountain freshman Brandon McClain (23) picks up some of his 168 yards rushing in Friday's non-conference victory at East Gaston.

Quick start, strong finish key to KM's 40-23 victory over East Gaston eleven

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers scored on their first three possessions of the first half, withstood a third quarter East Gaston rally and then put the Warriors away with touchdowns on their final two possessions for a 40-23 non-conference victory Friday night on the Warriors' turf.

The win was the second straight for the Mountaineers, marking the first time since 2009 that they've won their first two games of the season. That year they began with victories over Kennedy Charter and Burns.

Kings Mountain continued to get good play from its young skill players, good

blocking from its veteran offensive line and big plays from the defense.

Freshman running back Brandon McClain scored four touchdowns and accumulated 168 yards rushing on 24 attempts. Junior quarterback Brandon Bell added 120 yards rushing and hit 5 of 13 passes for 126 yards, including a spectacular flea-flicker pass to freshman wide receiver Jake Merchant that covered 43 yards on the third play of the game.

Most of KM's touchdown drives were not time consuming. It took only six plays to drive the opening kickoff 65 yards for a 7-0 lead. McClain scored from

one yard out after gaining 12 yards on three previous carries.

Led by quick junior quarterback Austin Woods, the Warriors didn't waste any time getting on the board, either. Woods had two runs of 17 yards, and following a 15-yard penalty against the Mountaineers for hitting him out of bounds he rambled in from nine yards out to tie the game.

McClain broke a 40-yard touchdown run to put KM up 13-7; and after Chaz Gamble recovered an East Gaston fumble the Mountaineers drove 88 yards in 10 plays to go up 20-7 on McClain's five-yard run.

East Gaston's return man couldn't hold on to the second half kickoff and KM's Josh Beheler recovered it at the Warrior 18 to set up McClain's fourth straight TD of the night, this one from three yards out. That resulted in a 27-6 lead which at the time seemed comfortable.

But East Gaston responded by driving the kickoff 75 yards, highlighted by a 58-yard reception by Bailey Crane, and Woods scored from two yards out at the 10:09 mark of the third quarter. Woods added a two-point conversion run to bring the score to 26-15.

East Gaston successfully executed an onside kick, but

eventually lost the ball on downs. But, after forcing a Mountaineer punt the Warriors got on the board again on another one-yard run by Woods and Woods found Crane alone in the back of the end zone for a two-point conversion pass which brought the Warriors to within a field goal, 26-23, with 7.9 seconds left in the third period.

After forcing the Warriors to punt with 9:10 remaining in the game, the Mountaineers took over at their own 38. Aided by two 15-yard penalties against the Warriors for personal fouls, KM got solid running efforts

See Quick Start, 3B

KM kickers blank Draughn, Ironmen

Kings Mountain High's soccer team defeated Draughn and Cherryville by 1-0 scores last week to run its record to 1-1 in the SMAC and 3-1 overall.

The Mountaineers were scheduled to host Crest in a conference game last night.

Robbie Lysek scored the winning goal 10 minutes into the second half Wednesday at Draughn.

After a sloppy first half, Coach Dan Potter said his Mountaineers came out with a new purpose in the second half. Isaiah Cole sent through ball after through ball up the gut of the Draughn defense, and Lysek capitalized.

Lysek, Weston Harmon and Max Sappia each had good looks at the Draughn defense.

Jordan Sweezy also played well with Cameron Hord helping solidify the

Mountaineer midfield. Jonmark Smith, Jack Zyble, Lee Bridges, Adam Kiser and Dylan Beaver contributed to the solid defensive effort in front of Jarrett Ledford, who recorded the first shutout of his soccer career.

"Without any doubt, our fitness really played into the much improved effort of the team," Coach Potter said. "As our warm-up shirts say on the back, it was 'TED TIME,' meaning all the physical strength and conditioning that the players endured over the summer really is paying dividends for them now."

At Cherryville Thursday, Max Sappia scored on a through ball from Jack Zyble 10 minutes into the second half to give the Mountaineers their second shutout in two days.

The Mountaineers out **See Kickers, 3B**



Courtesy of Angie Lysek

Kings Mountain defenders Brian Lysek, JonMark Smith, Lee Bridges and Adam Kiser, left to right, swarm a Cherryville player in soccer game last week at Cherryville. KM won 1-0.



Play of the Game

Kings Mountain freshman Jake Merchant hauls in a 34-yard flea-flicker on the third play of the game in Mountaineers' 40-23 win over East Gaston Friday.

Kings Mountain Mountaineers Athlete of the Week



Jarrett Ledford
Soccer



105 York Rd., Kings Mountain
704.734.4782

Now Serving Breakfast!!
All Day... All The Time...