

KM 14, BURNS 0



Kings Mountain's Kavin Mosely tests a tough Burns defense in Friday's SMAC game at Ron Greene Stadium in Lawndale. (Photos by KM Herald)

KM's second half defense, blocking pound Bulldogs

Kings Mountain's defense was its best of-ense in Friday's 14-0 South Mountain Athletic Conference victory over Burns in Lawndale.

The Mountaineers' running game, missing three-year starting fullback Darian McClain, was held to under 100 yards rushing for the first time this season by an inspired and tough Burns defense.

But, Kings Mountain's depth and size up front wore the Bulldogs down in the second half.

Neither team could muster much offense early; but Kings Mountain's offensive and defensive lines began dominating the game in the second half to secure the Mountaineers' fifth straight win this year, and their second in a row in the Burns series.

"It was a hard fought county game against a very good Burns team," noted Mountaineer coach Greg Lloyd. "That's what it ought to be. You need to always fight and play hard, and both teams did that."

"I was proud of our players. The defense got its first shutout, and the second half we got the offense going."

The bulk of the rushing attack fell on the shoulders - and legs - of senior J'Air McCluney. He was a workhorse, carrying the ball 24 times for 92 yards. With McCluney's second half effort - he gained all but 25 of his yards in the final two quarters - and the superior effort of the offensive and defensive lines and linebackers, the Mountaineers were able to keep the ball out of the Bulldogs' paws. The hosts had the ball for only 16 plays over the final two quarters, and 12 of them were for zero or minus yardage.

Neither team could budge the other for most

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Kings Mountain's Chance Frederick made the play of the game when he caught a short pass and rambled 22 yards to set up the Mountaineers' clinching TD.

THE RIVALRY

Shelby at KM Friday, 'nuff said!

The oldest high school football rivalry in the state of North Carolina will be renewed Friday night when Kings Mountain's Mountaineers host Shelby at 7:30 at John Gamble Stadium.

The series began in 1926 and has been played every year since, except in 1943 when the Kings Mountain School Board cancelled the football season because of World War II gas rationing. Because of that, the Concord-Kannapolis series is the longest continuous series in North Carolina.

It's homecoming for the Mountaineers and a huge crowd is expected.

For the second straight year, the two teams come in undefeated with 2-0 SMAC and 5-0 overall records. The Mountaineers hope this year's outcome will be different than last year's, when Shelby won and went on to win the state 2A championship.

Kings Mountain head coach Greg Lloyd knows his Mountaineers will have to be at the top of their game to give the Lions a battle. He is confident they will.

He noted that at times this season, the Mountaineers have played extremely well in all three phases of the game (offense, defense and special teams), but it hasn't been on the same night. He said they have to do it Friday.

"Shelby is a super good ball team," he says. "They have one of the best teams in the state, regardless of classification. They have good size, a lot of speed and can score touchdowns."

The Lions have one of the top quarterbacks in the state in Darquez Lee, who has thrown 12 touchdown passes in the last two games. He has already broken the all-time single game passing record at Shelby three times



GREG LLOYD
'This is going to be a fun week.'

this season.

"Their passing game is second to none," says Coach Lloyd. "Their offensive line is big. They present a big challenge."

"We will have to play very well and take care of the football," he added. "We have to hold them down defensively. Offensively, we have to score. If we can do that this ought to be a good ball game."

Beating a good Burns team last week was good for the Mountaineers, Lloyd said.

"I think people are looking at our film and they're taking away stuff we like to do," he said. "Burns is really good on defense."

"They were playing a lot of people both ways, and I think about middle of the third quarter they got tired and we made a commitment to run the ball. When they got tired that definitely put us in good shape."

Lloyd knows Shelby's defense will be just as good, or better. The Mountaineers look forward to the challenge.

"With it being homecoming and Shelby, this is going to be a fun week," Lloyd said. "Our kids will enjoy it. They'll dig a little deeper."

Dremiel Byers in Wrestling Hall

The National Wrestling Hall of Fame recently inducted Kings Mountain's Dremiel "Bam" Byers into the Alan and Gloria Rice Greco-Roman Hall of Champions.

Byers, who recently retired from the U.S. Army, is considered the most decorated American Greco-Roman wrestler ever.

A super heavyweight, Byers is the only wrestler to win three medals at the Greco-Roman World Championships (gold in 2002, 2009 and silver in 2007).

Byers is a two-time participant in the Olympics (2008 and 2012) and participated on eight World teams (1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011).

In 2002, he was the World Greco-Roman champion

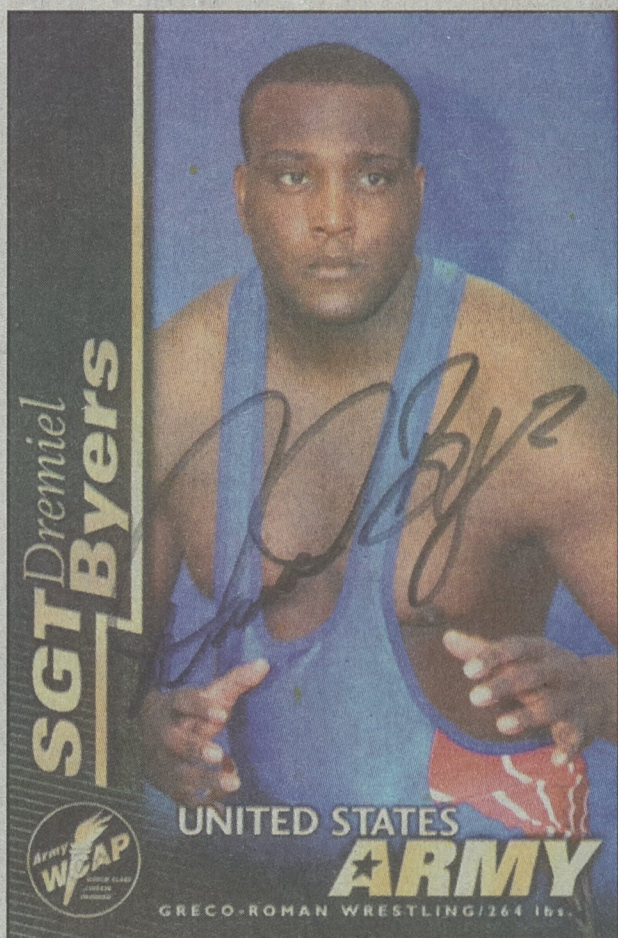
gold medalist, the US World Team Trials gold medalist, the US National Championship gold medalist, and the Dave Schultz Tournament gold medalist.

He was the US Olympic Trials bronze medalist in 2000 and the Greco-Roman World Cup gold medalist in 2000.

Byers was the North Carolina High School heavyweight champion during his senior year of 1993 at Kings Mountain High School. He was also an all-star football player for the Mountaineers.

He played one season of football at NC A&T University before joining the US Army in 1994.

He is a member of the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame.



DREMIEL BYERS

KINGS MOUNTAIN MOUNTAINEERS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



NOLAN RABY
SOCCER



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