



Gerald Owensby ,82, Misses A Pass And Cherryville Defender Misses Interception.

## Mountaineers Ready To Invade Hilltopper Country

Kings Mountain High's gridders try to get back to the .500 level Friday night when they travel to Rutherfordton to meet R-S Central's Hilltoppers in a Southwestern Conference contest.

The Mountaineers fell under the break-even mark for the first time Saturday when they lost to Cherryville on the road 15-13. The loss gives the Mountaineers a 1-3 SWC record and 2-3 overall mark.

The Hilltoppers, who bowed to KM 18-13 last fall, sport a 3-2 conference record and 4-2 overall mark. Their only losses have been to Lincoln and Shelby.

Last week's loss at Cherryville was KM's second straight. And, again, the failure to move the football was the Mountaineer's big downfall.

Both of Kings Mountain's touchdowns came on long runs. Marshall Logan returned a kickoff 85 yards for the first KM touchdown and John Grier romped 99 yards for the second. John Bridges kicked the extra point following Grier's fourth quarter touchdown to give KM a 13-12 lead.

But, with 1:25 to play in the game, Cherryville's Tony Owens, who earlier missed an extra point attempt, booted a 17-yard field goal to give the Ironmen their second victory in five outings.

The Ironmen had taken a 12-0 lead behind two Dennis Tate touchdown passes. Tate tossed a 45-yarder to Reggie Beam and a

17-yarder to Max Rainwater.

Owens missed the PAT following the first Cherryville touchdown and Tate's pass for a two-pointer following Rainwater's score fell incomplete.

After Rainwater's score, which came in the final minute of the first half, Logan returned the kickoff 85 yards to get the Mounties on the scoreboard. But Bridges try for the PAT was wide and the halftime score remained 12-6.

A Cherryville punt went out of bounds on the KM one and Grier broke to the outside and raced 99 yards to tie the game with

nine minutes remaining. Bridges' PAT made it 13-12.

A recovery of a KM fumble on the Mountaineer one yard line set up Cherryville's winning field goal. The Ironmen were penalized five yards for illegal procedure and after two passes fell incomplete, Owens booted the decisive three-pointer.

The Mountaineers spent most of the second half in Ironmen territory but couldn't hit paydirt. They drove to the Cherryville three once but a fourth down pass fell incomplete.

Tate's passing proved to be the difference in the game. The junior standout hit on eight of 25 passes for 123 yards. Kings Mountain outgained the Ironmen on the ground, 98 yards to 84.

### STATISTICS

	KM	CHERRY
First Downs	5	9
Yrd. Rushing	98	84
Passes	2-8	8-25
Passing Yds.	13	123
Passes Int.	0	0
Fumbles lost	2	1
Yds. Penalized	80	97
Punts	3-28	6-34



Dale Russell Watches Game From The Bench While Nursing A Sprained Ankle.



Ironmen Take Aim At John Grier.



Owensby On The Move After Catching Pass.