



David Bolin Lets One Go!



Chris Blanton, 43, Secures Ball.

Mountaineers Battle Shelby To 8-8 Tie

Sports Mirror

Kings Mountain High's Mountaineers play their final road game of the season Friday when they travel to Crest for a Southwestern Conference contest.

The Mountaineers played one of their best games of the season last Friday and Monday, battling SWC co-leader Shelby to an 8-8 tie. Even though the Lins won a sudden death playoff, 6-3, the games goes into the record books as a tie.

The tie gives Coach Bob Jones' club a 3-3-1 overall record and 2-3-1 conference mark. Shelby is 5-0-1- in the conference and 5-1-1 overall heading into a Friday game at Belmont.

The KM- Shelby game was played over a three-day period as an electrical storm Friday forced postponement of the second half until Monday night. Monday's half of action ended in a scoreless deadlock as both teams' got their touchdowns in first half action Friday.

Shelby took an 8-0 lead with 2:25 to play in the first period when halfback Tommy London scored from the one. Larry Eberhart ran for a two-point conversion and an 8-0 lead.

The Mountaineers, who outplayed the Lions Friday before running into an offensive stall Monday, scored with 10 seconds left in the half when quarterback David Bolin threw a five-yard touchdown pass to halfback Chris Blanton. Bolin threw to halfback Marshall Logan for the two-point conversion which tied the score.

When the two teams returned to the field for the second half, they found the John Gamble Stadium turf to be a lake and the officials called a 20-minute delay. During the delay, lightning knocked out the stadium lights and the officials and coaches had no other choice but to call the game.

When action resumed Monday night, Shelby reversed the Friday pattern and outplayed the Mountaineers offensively. The Mounties were held without a first down but the KM defense was near perfect, rising to the occasion when it had to.

Shelby drove into KM territory several times, once advancing to the 24. But the

hungry Mountaineers forced the Lions into two fumbles and one loss of downs while the KM offense coughed up the pigskin only by putting.

Kings Mountain's best drive came with just over a minute remaining, when the Mountaineers moved to the Lion 45. But on a fourth and one situation, the Mounties elected to punt and Blanton's boot was downed on the two.

Shelby's Gene McMurray played a major role in his team's success against the Mountaineer rush. He twice booted the ball to within the KM 10, and from that deep in their territory, the Mountaineers couldn't operate effectively.

In sudden death, the Mountaineers drew first blood when John Bridges kicked a 28-yard field goal for a 3-0 lead. But Shelby scored a touchdown as Eberhart went over from five yards out on second down.

Each team was given four downs to score under the Western N.C. High School Activities Association rule. Bolin passed incomplete on KM's first three downs, then Bridges calmly booted the three-pointer.

The sudden death playoff system is used only to determine a conference playoff representative should the same two clubs finish the season tied for first or second place. KM and Shelby were involved in a similar playoff in 1963, when the two teams finished playoff in 1963, when the two teams battled to a 7-7 early-season tie. Shelby won the sudden death, 6-3, and when the two teams finished the season tied for first, the Lions went on to represent the SWC in the post-season playoffs.

THE STATISTICS

	KM	SHELBY
First Downs	7	12
Yds. Rushing	107	184
Yds. Passing	24	64
Passes Att.	5	11
Passes Comp.	2	5
Passes Int. BY	1	1
Fumbles	2	2
Yds. Penalized	20	75
Punts	5-37	4-35



Chris Blanton Going Down.

Mirror
Photos
By
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John Grier, 32, Making It Through The Hard Way.