

Photos by Gary Stewart

LINE WINNERS—The five linemen pictured Glenn Carroll, Keith Blanton, Tim Leach, Lynn Thompson and Maurice Jamerson. Club football banquet at KMHS. Left to right are

BACKS HONORED—These five backs won awards at Tuesday's KMHS football banquet, Hager, Avery Smith and Jeff Lineberger. sponsored by the Mountaineer Club. Left to right

Mack MVP, 10 Others Win Trophies

Boosters Honor Football Team

Senior tailback Kevin Mack, as expected, walked off with the Dr. George Plonk Most Valuable Player Award at Tuesday night's second annual Mountaineer Club Football Banquet at the KMHS cafeteria.

Ten other Mountaineers won trophies on a night when the athletic boosters honored an 3-2 team, one of the best in the school's history.

Danny Ford, head football coach at Clemson University, was guest speaker for the fete. He donated his time (ACC coaches usually charge \$200 for after-dinner speeches) but hopes his trip will be paid for with the signing of Mack, whom Ford calls the top prospect in Western North Carolina.

"We'd certainly love to have him on our team," Ford told the huge gathering.

Other trophy winners included:

Tim Leach and Avery Smith, co-winners of the coveted Fred Plonk Blocking Trophy, the oldest award given to a KMHS athlete.

Keith Blanton, Mountaineer Best Defensive Player.

Glenn Carroll, BDF Construction Co. Leading Tackler Award.

Jeff Lineberger and Boo Robinson, co-winners of the John Gamble Scholastic Award.

Lynn Thompson, American Legion Most Improved Lineman.

Mark Schuman, American Legion Most Improved Back.

Maurice Jamerson and Markus Hager, co-winners of the Mountaineer Club Clean Plow Award.

In presenting the MVP Award to Mack, head coach Dan Brooks noted, "It was a tough decision choosing the other trophy winners. But there was no doubt about who should get this award."

Mack set three school rushing records during the 10-game season, even though he played injured in three ballgames. He had a school record 287 yards rushing and a 100-yard touchdown run against R-S Central and he had a season's rushing mark of 1,585 yards, breaking the old mark of 1,289 set by Ken Baity in 1957.

"Kevin showed what a most valuable player was in the game at R-S Central when he ran that 100-yard touchdown," Brooks said. "R-S took the opening kickoff and kept the ball for 17 plays and seven minutes. Then we took the ball and in 10 seconds had a 7-0 lead."

Mack, who was the leading rusher in the Southwestern 3-A Conference, had only two games under 100 yards rushing. He gained only 69 yards in the season's opener at Burns when he sat out over half the game with an injury and had 69 in a game against East Gaston in the rain.

He's a leading candidate for All-Conference and SWC Player of the Year honors, and post-season all-star games. He's an alternate on the North Carolina Shrine Bowl team and will still have a chance to get in the game if a regular back is injured or cannot play for some other reason.

Leach, a senior tight end who is also being recruited by major colleges, was a repeater in the trophy-winning. He also won the blocking trophy last year. He graded out as the team's best blocker in each of the past two seasons.

Smith is only the second back in KMHS history to win the blocking trophy and the first since 1963, when the award went to Warren (Bo) Goforth, a KMHS teacher. Line coach Steve Foster noted that Smith's blocking "played a big role in our outside running game."

Carroll, a senior co-captain, led the team in tackles even though he missed two games with an injury. He was praised by the coaches for his leadership abilities.

Blanton, although small for a tackle, was one of the team's most consistent players on

defense and was always around the football, which is the key to being a good defensive player, noted defensive coordinator David Brinkley.

Schuman was the team's only two-way starter and was probably the team's most versatile performer. He played several positions, including cornerback, split end and defensive end. Coach Brooks noted, "he improved in every

phase of the game. We even tried him some at quarterback in pre-season and he did a good job there, too, but we felt like we needed him more at split end because he was also our best receiver"

Thompson, Brooks pointed out, was close in the running for the blocking trophy. "He showed the most improvement of any lineman we had over last year," Brooks said. "If everyone could

see the block he threw on Kevin's 80-yard touchdown run against Shelby, which was called back, they'd know why he was our most improved lineman."

Lineberger and Robinson compiled 4.0 grade averages (straight A's) during the football season to share the Gamble Scholastic Award, which over the years has become one of the

most-cherished prizes. It's named in memory of one of the school's best-loved coach and teacher, the late John Gamble.

"The same description can be given of both of these young men," noted Principal Bob McRae. "They're both outstanding young men in and out of the classroom. We like to stress that our athletes be good in academics as well as athletics," he said.

Jamerson and Hager were cited for their excellence in the Shelby game. Both defenders made a number of solo tackles and assists. Jamerson recovered a fumble to set up one KM touchdown in the 27-0 romp and Hager intercepted a pass to stop a Shelby drive. The Clean Plow Award, Booster's President Kyle Smith noted, is annually given to the player or players who excel in the final game of the year.

KM Cagers Here Friday

Kings Mountain High's basketballers open the home portion of their 1979-80 campaign Friday at 6:30 against 4-A West Charlotte.

The Mountaineers and Mountainettes were scheduled to play West Charlotte on the road last night, but no details were available at the Herald's

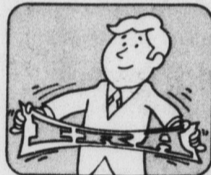
press deadline.

West Charlotte is a perennial power in the Southwestern 4-A Conference. By playing a tough opening opponent, KMHS coaches John Blalock and David Brinkley feel it'll help their

charges get ready for a rugged Southwestern 3-A Conference season which begins on December 4 against East Gaston.

(Turn to Page 5A)

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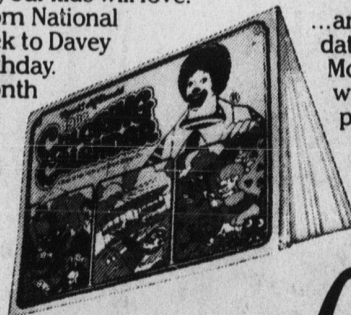
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