

## Mountaineer Rushing Star Recruited For Defense

# KM's Kevin Mack Signs With Clemson Tigers

by GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

Kevin Mack, the 6-1, 185-pounder who re-wrote the Kings Mountain High football record books this fall, became the first Mountaineer in 22 years to sign a major college football grant-in-aid Wednesday when he inked a full scholarship with Clemson's Tigers.

Tiger assistant coach Mike Bugar was in town to sign the All-Southwestern 3-A Conference tailback, who set school records for most yards rushing in a single season (1,585), most yards rushing in a single game (287) and the longest scoring run from scrimmage, 100 yards.

Mack is the first KMHS player to sign with a major university since Ken Balty inked with South Carolina after the 1967 season, when he set the previous rushing record of 1,289 yards in a single season. Balty still owns the career rushing mark at KMHS.

Mack chose Clemson from a long list of area schools that have been recruiting him all year. He said the only other school he was really ever interested in was N.C. State.

"I like Clemson, mainly because it is not too big and not too small," said Mack. "It seems everybody down there knows each other and there's a lot of support for the football team both from the students and the people in this area."

Mack said the main reason he signed so early was because



Kevin Mack in record-breaking senior season. . .

"everybody was recruiting me so much, I just got tired of it. It was beginning to bother my mother."

Mack, surprisingly, was recruited by the Tigers as a defensive back, even though he runs the hundred in 9.72 seconds and was one of the top running backs in the state.

"It really doesn't matter to me where I play," he said.

"They said they'd try me at offensive back but I'd just as soon play defense."

KMHS coach Dan Brooks said the scholarship from Clemson is the culmination of a lot of hard

work for Mack and an open door for a lot of opportunities in the future.

"His future is ahead of him," said Brooks. "He just turned 17 years old in August and has just

found out what he can do. He can play on either side of the ball but I have a feeling they'll have him running the ball. They recruited him for defense because they want him to play next year."

Mack has been recruited before...by Brooks and the other coaches at KMHS. He didn't play football until his junior year when he gained just over 500 yards rushing.

"Somewhere along the line he got out of the program (football) that he should have been in all along," said Brooks. "What he accomplished this year was due to a lot of hard work. That's what it's all about and because he worked hard, he's got an education already paid for."

Brooks compared Kevin to himself when he was a high school lineman at Sparta and went on to play at Western Carolina University.

"Kevin probably had not gone to college had it not been for this," said Brooks. "He has a God-given ability and he's worked hard to use it. It's opened a door for him so that when he's received his education he can be a big success in life."

Brooks said Mack's performance, at KMHS this past fall will continue to reap dividends for the football program in the future.

"He's finished as far as what he'll do in a ballgame for us," said Brooks. "But his receiving a full scholarship and playing big-time college football will be

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