

Foote Wins Tourney

Foote Mineral, which lost in a one-game playoff to Tultex for the regular season title, came back to sweep the Industrial League tournament title last weekend.

Foote, which won the regular season crown a year ago, defeated Kings Mountain Knit 10-1, Eaton 17-7 and Eaton again 15-11 to claim the double-elimination event.

Foote finished the tournament with a bang, pulling a rare triple play to end the championship game.

Foote Mineral led 15-11 going into the bottom of the seventh. Eaton put runners on first and second with nobody out. A ground ball was hit to shortstop Mike Smith, who tagged second for the first out and threw to first for a double play. When the runner on second tried to score on the play, he was gunned down at the plate.

All of the Foote players were presented championship trophies by recreation director George Adams. They were Jerry Jackson, Johnny Reynolds, Gary Oliver, Butch Pearson, Mike Smith, Sonny Jackson, Charles Rhodes, Danny McDowell, Mike Whitaker, Don Sessoms, Ben Brown, Robert Marable, Gary Blake and Lawrence Eiters.

Foote held its annual banquet Thursday night at Kelly's Steak House in Blackburg. All team members were presented warm-up jackets from their sponsor.

Foote finished with a 22-6 regular season record and 25-7 overall mark. Final standings included Foote 22-6, Tultex 22-6, KM Knit 18-10, Eaton 17-11, Park Yarn 16-12, Norick 10-18,

Carmet 6-22, and Kinmont 2-26.

McDowell led the Foote hitting in the tournament with a perfect 6-for-6. Whitaker hit .800, SMith .727, Rhodes .504 and Keeter .600.

For the year, Whitaker led the hitting with a .621 mark, Oliver

.585, Smith .569, Jerry Jackson .500 and Rhodes .481. Rhodes led the team in runs batted in with 37 and Jackson led in hits with 46.

In second round action Tues-

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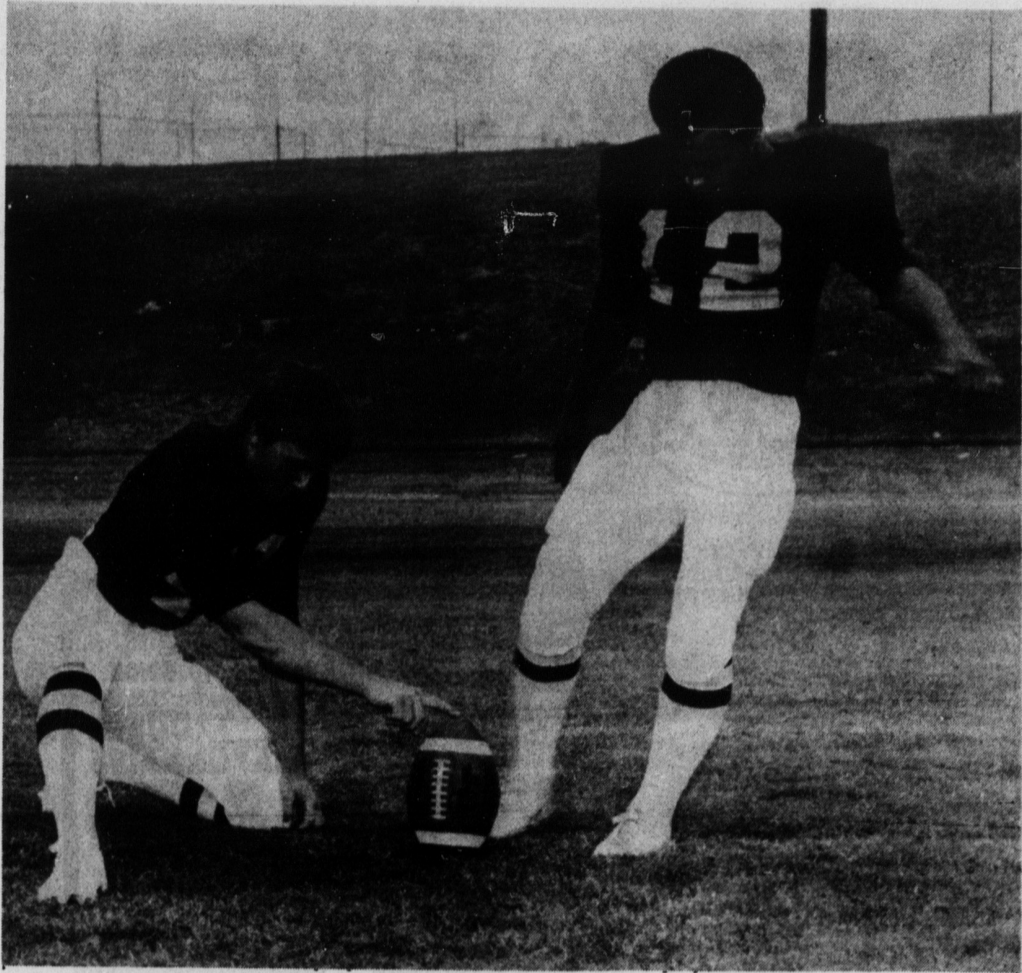


Photo by Gary Stewart

MOUNTIE KICKER - Tony Boyce, right, should rank among the top place-kickers in the Southwestern Conference this fall. The KMHS senior booted a conference record 37-yard field goal last fall. Holding for Boyce is Boo Robinson.

Developing Players KM's Biggest Task

Developing people that can play football by September 5 is the biggest task facing the Kings Mountain High football coaching staff as it prepares its squad for the Southwestern 3-A Conference campaign, says head coach Dan Brooks.

The Mountaineers held their first scrimmage Friday night and Brooks said he saw some good signs.

"The kids got after it pretty good," he said, "and that's the main thing. It was a good scrimmage but we've got a long way to go."

The Mountaineers have only five starters back from last year's 8-2 team, which went 8-2 and finished second in the SWC to state champion South Point.

"We just don't have enough people ready to play football," says Brooks, who is beginning his third year as head coach. "The biggest thing we're going to have to do is develop people who can play."

"It's going to be tough," he went on. "We can't afford to lose a couple games developing players. We're going to have to do it before the first game."

"A lot of teams have a lot of players coming back," he said, "so it's going to be a tough conference, as usual. We're small and inexperienced, and we're just going to have to learn to grow up in a hurry."

Brooks is a believer in starting 22 different players, but he admits it will be difficult to do this year, especially early in the season.

"We don't know who's going to start," he said. "We have some people who can play both ways but we're hoping to develop younger players so they won't have to."

No players have positions locked up, he said. At all positions, at least two players are still in the running for a starting job.

At the important quarterback position, the edge appears to be going to senior Mike Woodbury, who got in a lot of playing time last fall behind Jeff Cloninger. Others seeking the spot are junior Eric Spicer and sophomore Trent Hullender.

"All three are working real hard," said Brooks. "Woodbury's throwing the ball real good and Eric and Trent are pretty close behind. We feel like we'll have a better situation at quarterback this year because we'll have two backups instead of one."

Replacing running backs Kevin Mack and Avery Smith will be a major task, and there could be a lot of alternating at those positions. Letterman Jeff Lineberger has been working at fullback, tailback, split end, flanker and defensive back. Chris Wright is working at both fullback and tailback and Calvin Hood is running at fullback.

The edge at tailback at this point, though, goes to senior Tony Boyce, a defensive back last year. Doug Wright, a junior

and Chris's younger brother, will also get a shot.

Up front on offense, Mark Scruggs and David Turner are battling for the center spot. Scruggs played a lot there his sophomore year but was on the sidelines with an injury last fall.

At strong guard, Mark Russell, Trent Thomasson and Rupert Stephens are battling hard and all three are also in the running for a defensive job. Russell is also one of the team's top linebackers.

Daryl Strong returns at strong tackle and Keith Pressley is also looking good there. Brooks said if Pressley comes along as expected, he may get the offensive nod so Strong can play defensive tackle.

At tight end, Brooks is working with Wally Davis and Markus Hager, both lettermen on defense last year. At quick guard, Mark E. Smith returns and James Rikard and Tommy Eubanks are also looking good.

Quick tackle, Brooks said, is wide open. Richard Ellison and Carlos Owens, both up from the jayvees, are working hard. Owens can also play defense.

Lineberger, Mark F. Smith and Dexter Tate appear about equal at split end. Boo Robinson and Tony Rainey are competing at flanker and both also play defense.

Owens, who ran fullback for the jayvees last fall, is performing well at nose guard, along with Stephens. With Strong at defensive tackle are Gary Allen, Pressley, Stephens, Tony Gordon and Dana Camp.

Davis was a starter last year at defensive end. Mark E. Smith can also play there, as well as Hullender and Turner.

One of the team's strong points will be linebacker, Brooks

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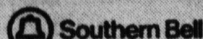


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