

Mountaineers Host Ashbrook Friday Night

From 4A

scouted the Greenies in both of their earlier contests. "They're not the same ballclub they were last year when they went 0-10. They get after it real good. They're playing with more confidence and they play together real well."

This year's Ashbrook team is a typical one. Coach John Kinlaw tries to establish a running game, but goes to the air if he has to.

Fearless Picks KM

To Lose 20-7

From 4A

Joe: "All this talk about backseat driving is hogwash. I've driven for 15 years and I've never heard a word back there."

Mo: "What kind of car do you drive?"

Joe: "A Hearse."

A lady driving along hit a guy. She yelled, "Watch out!"

He said, bleeding badly: "Why? Are you coming back?"

An insurance claim agent was teaching his wife to drive when the brakes suddenly failed on a steep, downhill grade.

"I can't stop," she smiled.

"What should I do?"

"Brace yourself," advised her husband, "and try to hit something cheap."

I have a friend who is a real inventor. He took the fender from a Chevy, a motor from a Ford and the transmission from a Sting Ray. What did he finally get? Three years!

A motorist had a flat tire in front of the insane asylum. He took the wheel off, and the bolts that held the wheel on rolled down into the sewer. The motorist was beside himself.

An inmate, looking through the fence, suggested that the man take one bolt from the remaining three wheels to hold the fourth wheel in place until he could get to a service station.

The motorist thanked him profusely and said, "I don't know why you're in that place."

"I'm in here for being crazy, not for being stupid."

Those little cars have all kinds of advantages. Just this morning a motorcycle cop was chasing this guy's Volkswagen. He knew he couldn't outrun him so he did the next best thing—drove up on the sidewalk and got lost in the crowd!

I was talking with a former Marine recently.

"Back when I was in boot training," he said, "they were real tough on us. They told us explicitly to get our minds off girls while we were in training. In fact, when the lights went out in our barracks and we dropped off to sleep, the sergeant would come through with a flashlight to see if we had smiles on our faces."

Enough nonsense. Let's get serious and try to pick the winners of Friday night's prep football games.

South Point plays its first home game at Lineberger Stadium against East Gaston. It's the conference opener for both teams after South Point tied Ashbrook 7-7 and East Gaston fell to East Lincoln 7-0 last Friday.

The Warriors won at Lineberger Stadium two years ago. Last year, the Raiders won at Arrowhead Stadium. Prediction is for a 14-6 Red Raider win.

Kings Mountain entertains an Ashbrook team Friday night which bounced Chase and tied South Point. The Mountaineers will get their act going, but not against the Green Wave. Prediction is for a 20-7 Green Wave win.

Cherryville has a tough one at Burns. The Ironmen, now 1-1, will fall in the non-conference game to the Bulldogs, 21-6.

Here's how I see the other games: Lincolnton 14, Hunter Huss 7; Chase 14, North Gaston 13; Durham Academy 20, Gaston Day 18; Clover 20, Blacksburg 14. Bessemer City has an open date

Hope your favorite team wins Friday.

"They have some outstanding backs," noted Brooks. "The most dangerous is their fullback, Orstell Barnette. He's 195 pounds and a real strong runner."

If the Mounties are successful in stopping Barnette, which Brooks says they'll have to be, the Green Wave will likely go to a pair of talented tailbacks, Joey Caskey and Paul Parker. Caskey was moved to the running back position from quarterback.

Two juniors, Kevin Fischer and Doug Bowen, are alternating at quarterback for the Greenies and Kings Mountain native Carvin Petty starts at flanker.

"We've got to stop the fullback and quit making mental

mistakes if we're going to win," said Brooks. "Our guys know what to do, it's just a matter of them doing it."

"We've also got to go out there and set the tempo of the game instead of letting the other team do it," he said.

Brooks feels that was a big key to the Burns win last week. When the Mounties failed to take advantage of their early breaks, Burns set the tempo.

"Burns has a real good team, and I don't want to take anything away from them," he said. "But if we had taken advantage of the breaks, it would have been a different ballgame."

"I believe we're a better ballteam than what we showed last week," he added. "Our guys

have worked too hard to play like that. I hope we can regroup and see that this week."

Brooks has moved a lot of people around during practice this week, trying to come up with a winning combination.

"We're thin as far as having people ready to play," he said, "so we're looking at people at different positions."

Brooks plans to move Carlos Owens, who starts at nose guard, to quick tackle and move Wally Davis back to tight end. Mark Russell will share duties with Owens and Davis will alternate with Markus Hager.

"Both Davis and Hager played both ways for the entire ballgame last week," said Brooks. Davis plays end on

defense and Hager safety.

Chris Wright, the Mounties top rusher last Friday, will move to defensive end this week to help beef up the right side which let Burns' Timmy Kee loose for two long touchdown runs.

"We're also looking at some different people on the kick coverage and kickoff return teams," said Brooks. "We didn't do a good job there."

Offensively, the Mounties will look about the same.

"The biggest thing on offense is better pass protection," said Brooks. "Mike Woodberry did a good job passing every time we gave him some time."

Another thing Brooks is hoping for is fewer injuries. Last week, several players had to

leave the field because of leg cramps.

"This is a frustrating thing," he said. "It's really hard to understand. The doctors say it's some kind of chemical imbalance. The players took potassium tablets and drank Quick Kick, and they still caught them. I've never seen the like."

The situation was a reminder of a year ago, when many of the Mountaineer starters were on the sidelines with cramps when Burns upset the Mounties 16-6.

But, after last year's disappointing performance, the Mountaineers rebounded and posted an impressive 23-0 victory over Ashbrook. Brooks would like to see an instant replay Friday night.

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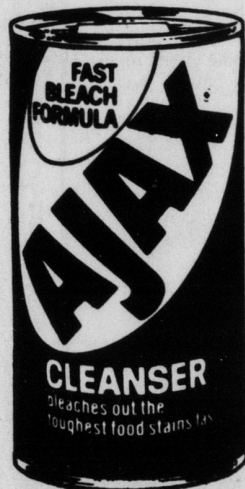
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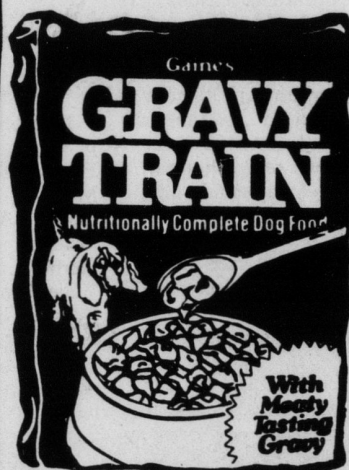
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