

Wildcats Here Friday For Homecoming Game

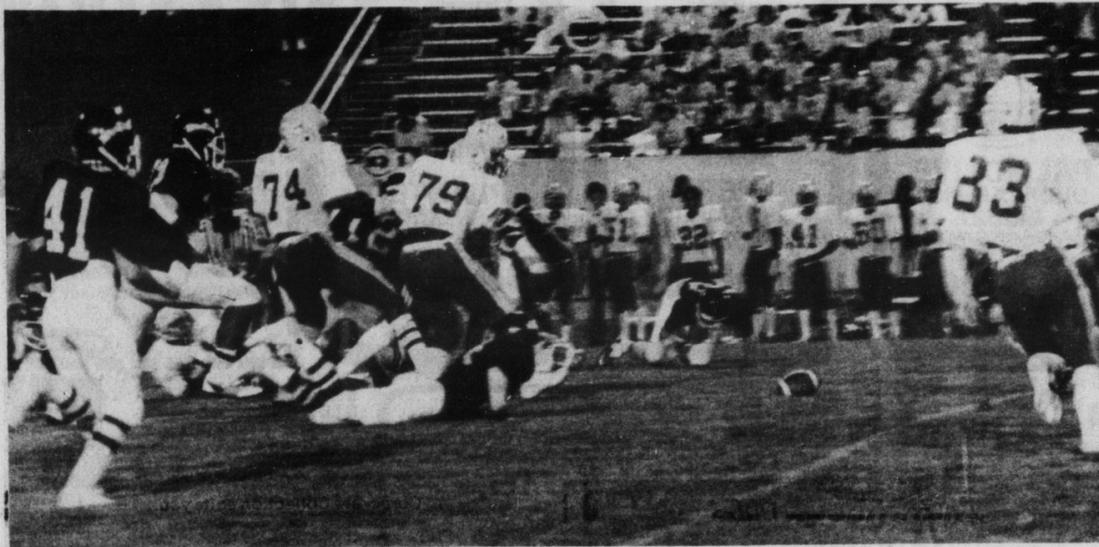
SPORTS

Kings Mountain High football fans may see a new look Friday night when the Mountaineers host winless North Gaston in their annual Homecoming game

at John Gamble Stadium. Head Coach Dan Brooks, disappointed in the Mounties' lack of a running attack in the second half of last week's 25-0



KM's Markus Hager almost blocks Crest Punt...



Mounties and Chargers go after loose ball...



Tony Boyce (12)...KM's leading rusher

loss to Crest, says the Mountaineers are going to throw the football more in an attempt to loosen up the opponents' defense.

Kings Mountain was held to minus three yards rushing in the second half last week against a powerful Crest team which recorded its fifth win without a loss.

The Chargers, still unscored on on defense, held only a 10-0 edge at halftime and saw its defense tested severely in the first two quarters. But Coach John Taylor regrouped his horses at intermission and they showed the Mountaineers why they're unscored on in the second half.

The Mountaineers actually outgained the Chargers in the first half, rushing for 125 yards. But for the night, the Mounties managed to complete only two of 12 passes for 12 yards while Crest put forth a well-balanced running and passing effort.

The Chargers took a 3-0 lead on their first possession on a 27-yard field goal by their talented senior kicker, Andre Bloom, and they stretched their lead to 10-0 in the second period when Len Litton threw a 39 yard touchdown pass to Mike Blanton.

But the Mountaineers drove to the Crest five late in the half but used up all their time outs and saw the time expire before they could get in the endzone.

That missed scoring opportunity seemed to take some life out of the Mountaineers and the big defensive stand by the Chargers proved to be a morale booster for the SWC co-leaders, who came out in the second half and completely shutoff the KMHS attack.

Crest added second half touchdowns on a two yard run by Tim Twitty and a 35 yard run by Kibby Daves, and the Charger defense also threw KM quarterback Mike Woodberry for a safety.

Coach Brooks pointed to the missed touchdown opportunity and the poor KM kicking game was the turning points in the ballgame.

"It's hard to believe we got

beat that bad," said the third year Mountaineer boss. "We played the hardest we've played in a losing effort. We moved the ball well in the first half but we didn't do a good job in the second half."

Brooks said he felt the defense did a good job considering Crest was given the ball in good field position all night.

"We gave the ball to them in good field position every time," he said. "We had a fourth and a foot one time and punted the ball six yards. It's hard to play defense when you do that."

Brooks has called sophomore punter Roy Mathis up from the jayvees for this week's game, hoping he can get the KM kicking game straightened out.

"We're also going to run him at fullback some," said Brooks. "We just don't have a good running game. We're going to try to throw the ball more and loosen things up. We don't have a back that can break the long one."

Brooks calls North Gaston a good football team despite the 0-5 record.

"They're more disciplined than they've been in the past," he said. "They were ahead of South Point and Shelby. They're the best they've been in a long time."

"They're not a great football team or they wouldn't be 0-5," he went on, "but our kids are going to have to get after them. We can't go out there and think they're going to give it to us."

Brooks hinted he may call up some more jayvees in the coming weeks.

"Some of our players are not doing as good as they can," he said. "If you're going to get beat, you might as well do it with younger players."

Brooks said he has been pleased with the progress of the jayvees and sophomore Trent Hullender, who up until this point was the only 10th grader on the varsity team.

"He played a real good game for us at defensive end last week," said Brooks, "and we're going to start working him some at quarterback. He needs some experience."

KM RUSHING

Tony Boyce 19-80; Chris Wright 8-46; Jeff Lineberger 4-20; Doug Wright 2-2; Mike Woodberry 4- (minus 26).

KM PASSING

Woodberry 2-12-13.

RECEIVING

M.F. Smith 2-13.

Story and Photos
by Gary Stewart

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