

Mountaineers Host R-S In Final Home Game Friday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, suffering through one of their worst seasons in years, hope to get a much-needed boost to their program Friday when they entertain R-S Central's Hilltoppers in their final home game.

Game time is 8 p.m. at John

Gamble Stadium. "It would be a big thrust for us to regroup and come back home and beat a contender," says KMHS Coach Dan Brooks, who has seen his charges drop embarrassing back-to-back decisions to South point 36-6 and Chase 26-0.

The Mountaineers carry a 2-5 Southwestern 3-A Conference record and 3-5 overall mark into the game. R-S Central's record is just the opposite, 5-2 in the SWC and 6-2 overall.

The Hilltoppers have probably the most experienced team in the SWC. Fifteen of their starters have been playing together for three years. Their only losses were narrow decisions to Burns (in overtime) and East Gaston.

"They're real strong," says Brooks. "They're quick and have good skilled people. They're going to be tough."

Leading the R-S offense is quarterback Troy Harris, one of the best all-round athletes in the conference. He's started every game since his sophomore season and is a strong veer quarterback.

Running back Ricky Camp, a 160-pound senior, is one of the quickest runners in the SWC and junior David Davis plays many positions well for the Hilltoppers.

Coach Brooks calls Mack Logan, a 170-pound senior defensive back, a top college prospect.

"They have a lot of good people," says the third-year KM coach. "Their offensive and defensive lines are both exceptional. They're one of the bigger teams we'll play."

The Mountaineers, the youngest team in the SWC, have been inconsistent all year on offense and the defense, which was strong during the early-going, has fallen apart in the last month. In the past four ballgames, the KM offense has managed only one touchdown and it was against South Point's second unit defense and in the final minute of that 36-6 loss.

The Mounties have dropped three of their last four games, surrendering 93 points while scoring only 13. The Mounties have recorded only eight touchdowns in eight ballgames and have been shutout three times.

"We're going to have to get it together," says Coach Brooks. "We're going to have to get excited and emotional for this game."

Brooks said the losses of the past two weeks "embarrassed" him and hopes it did the same thing to the players. "I hope it embarrassed them to the point that they'll want to go out and prove they can play better," he said.

The Mountie coach has made a number of personnel changes during the past weeks, hoping to come up with a winning combination, but they haven't paid off yet.

"We'll probably make some more changes for this week," he said. "So far we haven't been tough enough to play at this level. We're just going to have to regroup and see what we can come up with."

The Mountaineers, Brooks feels, are talented enough to spring the upset Friday, if they get their act together.

"We have better people than what we've shown so far," he said. "I think the whole thing is that we've let our self discipline slip away. We've gotten to the point that we don't think we can win. Somehow, the coaches are

going to have to get the team motivated."

The Mountaineers played one of their best games of last season against R-S Central, when Kevin

Mack, now a freshman running back at Clemson, broke a school record by gaining 287 yards rushing. In the past, the Mounties have enjoyed some of their

best success against the Hilltoppers.

Brooks would like nothing more than to see that success continue Friday night.

SPORTS



KMHS MAJORETTE — Kings Mountain High majorette Terri Plonk is pictured above during a recent halftime performance by the Mountaineer Band. The band and football team will be performing before the home folks for the last time this season Friday night when the Mounties host R-S Central. Game time is 8 p.m.

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