

Defense keys KM to win over South Point

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Special To The Gazette

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Fans expecting to see an offensive show here by either Kings Mountain or South Point Friday night didn't see one.

The 14-8 Kings Mountain victory was a defensive struggle between the highly-regarded Mountaineers and the lightly-regarded Red Raiders.

South Point held Kings Mountain to its lowest total in yards rushing all year, 136 yards in 37 carries, while the Kings Mountain defense set up both touchdowns as the Mountaineers captured the Southwestern 3A Conference victory.

KM went to 5-1 in the league and 5-2 overall, while South Point dropped to 2-4 in the league and 3-4 overall.

"Our defense has done it for us over the

past few weeks," said Coach Denny Hicks of the Mountaineers. "I think our defense has set up six touchdowns in our last three games.

"We hit on a couple of big passes tonight which also helped us. I thought South Point was by far the hardest-hitting team we've played all year — and we outweigh them across the board.

"I also think Mark Young, their quarterback, may well be the best athlete we've faced all season."

Young led all rushers with 83 yards in 10 carries and didn't play the fourth period after suffering a bruised rib on a punt return.

Kings Mountain's tandem of Curt Pressley and Tracy Johnson was held pretty much in check by the young Red Raiders.

Pressley entered the game as the leading area rusher with 934 yards. He added 58 in 13 carries against the Raiders, and now has 992 on the season. Pressley, however, saw limited action because of an ankle injury suffered in the North Gaston game the week before.

Johnson scored both of his team's touchdowns following Red Raider fumbles on runs of 1 and 2 yards and had 48 yards in 16 carries to run his season's total to 756 yards.

Chris Wooten's fumble was recovered by Shawn Rainey at the Red Raider 35 in the second period, and seven plays later Johnson went over from the 1 at the 0:49 mark. Jarvis Young hit on the first of his two extra points. The big play in that drive was a 23-yard pass from quarterback Todd Cloninger to Tim Elder to the Raider 3 on a

fourth and 11.

Another Raider fumble by Wooten at the Kings Mountain 5 set up what proved to be the game-winner for the Mounties in the fourth period. Two plays later, Johnson went over from the 2 for a 14-0 KM lead with 3:21 remaining in the game.

South Point moved 50 yards for its touchdown, and was aided by two 15-yard penalties against the Mountaineers, one on a face mask penalty and another called on the bench. The touchdown came when David Welch's pass was deflected by Pressley into the hands of a diving Greg Briley in the end zone at the 1:32 mark. Wooten ran for the two-point conversion.

"Fumbles cost us dearly," said South Point Coach Jim Biggerstaff. "We came up here thinking we could win. You can't fumble at your 5 and expect to win."

South Point 8
Kings Mountain 14

South Point	0	0	0	8	—	8
Kings Mountain	0	7	0	7	—	14

KM — Johnson 1 run (Young kick)

KM — Johnson 2 run (Young kick)

SP — Briley 12 pass from Welch (Dudko kick)