

Mountaineers use second half to run past Red Raiders

By Michael Howard
Gazette Sports Reporter

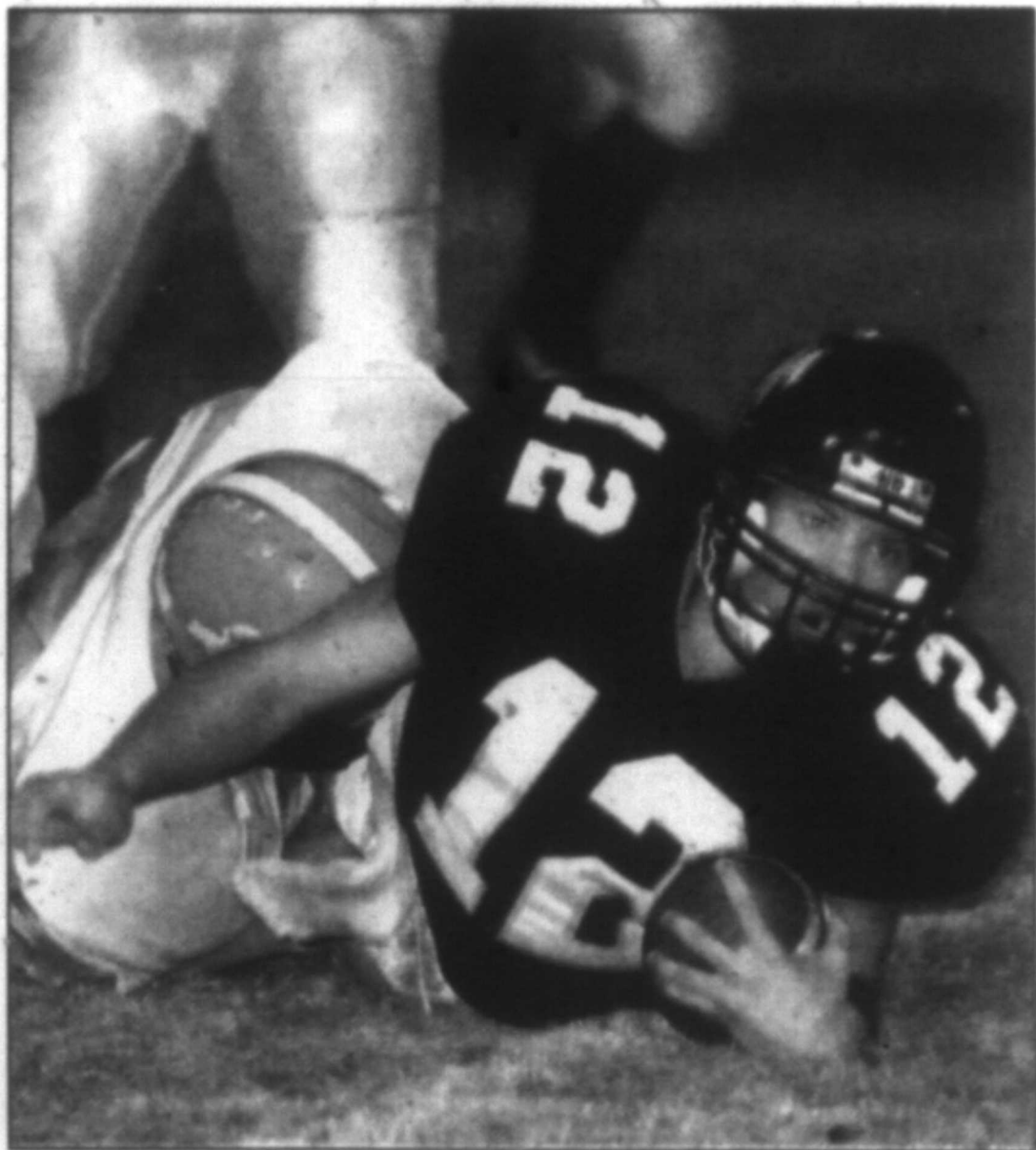
KINGS MOUNTAIN — It may have taken a half for Kings Mountain to get rolling Friday night, but once it did, South Point stood little chance of winning.

Breaking away from a 7-7 halftime deadlock, the Mountaineers hammered the Raiders in the second half and scampered away with a 30-14 win. The win put Kings Mountain one step closer to winning or sharing its third consecutive Southwestern 3A title. With a win next week at North Gaston, the Mountaineers will clinch the crown outright.

Anthony Hillman led the charge for the Mountaineers with touchdown runs of 53, 16 and 50 yards en route to a 25-carry, 261-yard rushing performance. The Mountaineer defense also limited the Raiders to 65 yards-rushing.

"They made some changes on defense, and that slowed us down some in the first half," Kings Mountain coach Ron Massey said of the

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Mike Herndill/The Gazette

Kings Mountain quarterback Anthony Ash looks for the mark after getting tackled against South Point.

KM

Raiders. "We had to make some adjustments at halftime, and in the second half, the kids adjusted like I knew they could.

"South Point is a good team, and they played extremely hard."

After a scoreless first quarter, the Mountaineers took a 7-0 lead with 1:30 left in the half as Chad Jones took a short pass from Anthony Ash and turned it into a 43-yard touchdown.

The lead was short-lived though as South Point, almost as if it had gotten the idea to score from the Mountaineers, came right back two plays later with a 49-yard touchdown pass of its own, from Devon Lowery to Jeremy Jackson.

Hillman, who had 103 yards rushing at the break, was a one-man wrecking crew in the second half. On the Mountaineers' second possession, Hillman followed a 23-yard run with a 53-yard touchdown. Hillman's 16-yarder with 1:21 left in the quarter made it a 21-7 game. Hillman added his 50-yard touchdown with 9:44 to play.

South Point, which got 188 yards passing from Lowery, got its final score with just 1:56 to play as Tiger Hannon caught an 89-yard strike for the final 30-14 margin.

South Point 0 7 0 7 — 14

Kings Mountain 0 7 14 9 — 30

KM — Chad Jones 43 pass from Anthony Ash (Ben Howell kick)

SP — Jeremy Jackson 49 pass from Devon Lowery (Phillip Wright kick)

KM — Anthony Hillman 53 run (Howell kick)

KM — Hillman 16 run (Howell kick)

KM — Hillman 50 run (Howell kick)

KM — Safety

SP — Tiger Hannon 89 pass from Lowery (Wright kick)