

Kings Mountain stuns South Point



Dexter Pepperman, The Gazette

South Point running back Phillip Stowe fumbles after a hard hit by Kings Mountain defender Daniel Hardin Friday night. The Mountaineers went on to snap the Red Raiders' 23-game regular-season win streak with a 21-17 victory at home.

Mountain magic

■ Jolly sets single-game passing mark as Mountaineers snap Raiders' win streak

By RICHARD WALKER
Gazette Sports Reporter

KINGS MOUNTAIN — A year ago this time, it seemed an inconsequential addition to the football program when Chris Jolly became Kings Mountain High's junior varsity punter and part-time wide receiver.

After Friday night, Jolly left an indelible mark on the school's varsity record book with a record passing performance in an attention-grabbing 21-17 victory over South Point.

The loss was South Point's first in the regular-season since late in 1998 when Kings Mountain beat the Red Raiders en route to the 1998 N.C. 3A finals. South Point had been 22-0-1 in the 23 regular-season games since.

Jolly completed 10 of 16 passes, two going for touchdowns, and a school-record 236 yards. He added 37 yards rushing, including a tackle-breaking 11-yard touchdown run that provided the decisive points.

When informed of his record-setting accomplishment after-



JOLLY

ward, Jolly nonchalantly proclaimed: "Well, I'm still running pretty high on my emotions, right now. But once I sit down and think about it, I'm sure it's going to mean a lot."

It means a lot immediately for the Mountaineers, whose victory will reestablish their football program's dominance in the eyes of many statewide.

After going 4-7 last season, few could've foreseen such an impressive start by Kings Mountain.

But, in two weeks, the Mountaineers have exhibited a solid running game, the emergence of Jolly at quarterback and a much-improved defense.

"I'm so happy for this group of kids," Kings Mountain coach Dave Farquharson said. "They've bought in wholeheartedly to the attitude of, 'When all else fails, if you work

Wave defense delivers Shepherd's first win

By BRIAN RUSHING
Gazette Correspondent

MARSHVILLE — Ashbrook's 17-6 win at Forest Hills Friday night was a three-part harmony of offense, special teams and plenty of defense.

Ashbrook running back Kortland Nixon took care of two of those facets, catching a swing pass for a 5-yard touchdown in the first quarter and then recovering a fumble in the end zone on a Forest Hills punt attempt in the third quarter for another score.

The Green Wave defense took care of the rest, allowing only 145 yards of offense and no touchdowns — the Yellow Jackets' only score came on an interception return in the second quarter.

The victory was especially sweet for Joe Shepherd, a 19-year Green Wave assistant who earned his first win as head coach.

"The defense was absolutely fabulous," he said. "That was really the key to the game, the way they played."

Britton Thomas got the Green Wave (1-1) off to a good start with a 39-yard field goal in the opening quarter. Nixon's touchdown reception later in the quarter pushed the Wave to a 10-0 lead.

Forest Hills' Angelo Long returned an errant Josh Pate pass 20 yards for a score to

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hard, good things will happen."

That Jolly would even start Friday's game wasn't expected.

In truth, Jolly got the start - his first at quarterback since he was in elementary school - after projected starter Renaldo Tate injured his ankle late in last week's 17-0 victory over East Gaston.

"I got a lot of help from Renaldo and the coaches this week," said Jolly, who singled out offensive coordinator Milton Rachels in particular. "We knew coming in that we had a good team and a lot of talent. And we felt that, if we executed and played hard, we could win."

That kind of confidence was bolstered quickly in the first half, as Jolly completed a pair of long touchdown passes to Cortney Smith that set the tone.

On the first play after receiving a South Point punt at its own 27 late in the first quarter, Jolly connected with Smith on a 73-yard scoring strike.

Jolly fired a quick swing pass to Smith deep on the left side of the Mountaineers' backfield. Smith, a championship track sprinter, did the rest by breaking a pair of tackles near the line, then outrunning the Red Raiders' defensive backfield the rest of the way.

After South Point nudged within 7-3 on B.J. Richmond's 40-yard field goal with 5:46 left in the opening half, Jolly and Smith hooked up again.

Facing third-and-17 at their own 16, Smith went in motion left to right and was left open on a fly pattern down the right sideline. Smith caught Jolly's pass near the Kings Mountain 35 and raced untouched down the sideline to complete an 84-yard scoring play.

Jolly later added an 11-yard scoring run by breaking two tackles and beating another defender to the pylon at the end zone with 3:45 left in the third quarter.

"I'm tickled to death for him," Farquharson said. "I asked him before the game if he was nervous and he said, 'No, not really.' And then he asked a million questions. But he certainly played like he was a veteran out there."

South Point made the game interesting down the stretch by marching into Mountaineer territory twice in the fourth quarter when it was trailing 21-11.

The Red Raiders scored on their second scoring threat on Phillip Stowe's tackle-breaking, 27-yard quarterback scramble with 1:52 to play. But South Point failed to recover the ensuing onside kick and Kings Mountain secured the victory with first-down runs by



Dexter Pepperman/The Gazette

Kings Mountain's Tyler Adams caught seven passes for 68 yards Friday night.

Smith and Jolly.

"Too many mistakes," said South Point coach John Devine, whose team lost three of five fumbles and were flagged for six penalties. "We just made too many mistakes."

"Kings Mountain had a great scheme and a great plan. The difference in this game was tackling. Plain and simple. They tackled us. And we didn't make tackles."

**Kings Mountain 21,
South Point 17**

SP	0	11	0	6	— 17
KM	7	7	7	0	— 21

KM - Cortney Smith 73 pass from Chris Jolly (Pablo Peralta kick)

SP - FG B.J. Richmond 40

KM - Smith 84 pass from Jolly (Peralta kick)

SP - Rasharde Reid 1 run (Phillip Stowe run)

KM - Jolly 11 run (Peralta kick)

SP - Stowe 27 run (Run failed)

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