

**Warriors give Mustangs their Best
by Stephen Black**

KENNESAW - North Cobb used 221 rushing yards from running back C.J. Best to defeat Kennesaw Mountain 28-10 and win the annual Civil War Classic at Cobb Energy/Mustang Stadium.

The Warriors (2-2, 2-1) won the Region 5AAAAA game by out-scoring the host Mustangs 28-3 after falling behind 7-0 in the first quarter.

"I felt like we played a complete game," declared North Cobb head coach Shane Queen. "I'm proud of our kids. They kept fighting. They came back to practice this week. It is hard to come back after two (consecutive) losses."

The deluge of Warrior points began with 9:10 remaining in the first quarter when quarterback Travis Hawkins connected with wideout Nigel Simon for an 83-yard score to tie the game.

After that, Best took over.

The senior tailback had runs of 43 and 42 in addition to a 56-yard touchdown run.

"He's special," said Queen of his star running back. "Every time he touches the ball, he's got a chance to (score)."

Sophomore running back Justin Dallas also got into the act for North Cobb, rushing for two scores and finishing the night with 48 yards on six carries. His 24-yard score in the second put North Cobb up for good.

It was another frustrating night for the Mustangs (0-4, 0-3), who moved the ball well at times but struggled to score points after their opening drive.

"We're driving the football right now, we're just not finishing drives," explained Mustangs' coach Scott Jones. "Great things happened out there (on offense) and then somehow we'd stall. We've just got to get better."

Kennesaw Mountain rushed for a respectable 163 yards and was led by Devon Jones, who ran for 72 on 16 carries. But the North Cobb defense stiffened after the Mustangs' opening drive.

"Our defense played excellent," gushed Queen. "Every time they got

down inside our 30 or 40, our defense tightened up. Coach Bryan Minish and his staff did a great job."

The Mustangs' touchdown drive was set up by a 56-yard Rashaud Moore run. Quarterback Will Campbell scored from the one on the next play. From that point on, the only score for Kennesaw Mountain was a third quarter 27-yard field goal by Devon Stookey.

After Stookey's field goal, North Cobb countered on a 56-yard touchdown run by Best with 3:36 left in the third quarter. The extra point was blocked, but the Warriors held a commanding 20-10 lead.

North Cobb then put the Mustangs away early in the fourth on a 15-yard run by Dallas with 10:44 remaining.