

KC Hall of Fame 2018

BIO – 1980 Football Team

The 1980 football season was one for the history books at Kilgore College with the Rangers wrapping up the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record.

Although the Rangers lost in the national championship, 21-14, to undefeated Northeast Oklahoma in the Garland Chamber of Commerce Bowl, the 1980 Ranger football team had one memorable season.

The 1980 Rangers, led by head coach Jim Miller and assistant coaches Marion Turner and Jim Prewit, opened up the season with a 23-7 win over the Wharton Junior College Pioneers with Gary Gibbs rushing for 142 yards on 21 carries.

Next, KC blanked Navarro 25-0 in front of a capacity crowd at R.E. St. John Memorial Stadium. KC's first score came on a 13-yard pass from Steve Hanks to split end Don Forward to cap a 60-yard drive. KC's second score was a 39-yard field goal by Mark Smires after a blocked punt by Raymond Woodard.

The KC defense, led by Raymond Woodard, Eddie Radford and Floyd Brown, held Navarro to 87 total yards.

After starting the season 2-0 with both home games, KC traveled to play Henderson County Junior College in Athens and to play at Blinn College.

KC defeated HCJC 16-3 behind a strong game by sophomore quarterback Victor McGee. In the second half, McGee tossed a 54-yard pass to Don Forward to end a 65-yard drive. Gary Gibbs added the insurance points by scampering up the middle for a 29-yard touchdown. Defensive standouts for KC were Eddie Stone, Darin Boone and Eddie Radford.

After going 3-0, the Rangers were ranked No. 2 in the country heading into the Blinn game in Brenham. Gibbs once again had a 100+ rushing game with 128 yards in a 14-10 Kilgore victory to make the Rangers' record 4-0.

Next was a home game against archrival Tyler Junior College where KC prevailed 34-20. KC fell behind early, 13-0, but went ahead of the Apaches with a 12-yard touchdown pass from Steve Hanks to tight end Bruce Lininger. Victor McGee replaced an injured Steve Hanks in the third quarter and promptly hit Don Forward for a 61-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 20. Forward caught another touchdown pass, this time for 41 yards for the go-ahead score. James Tubbs scored the last touchdown for KC on a one-yard scramble. In the game, Gary Gibbs rushed for more than 200 yards, moving KC's record to 5-0.

Up next, KC defeated Navarro Junior College in Corsicana, 20-6. Stepping in for the injured Gary Gibbs was tailback Gary Marshall, who rushed for an impressive 209 yards on 33 carries and scored a pair of touchdowns.

Next was a 13-0 shutout of Henderson County Junior College for homecoming. KC's first touchdown was the result of a Mark Crites 3-yard run and its second touchdown was set up by Tommy Boles as he recovered a HCJC fumble. Quarterback Steve Hanks connected with Joe Roberson for a 27-yard touchdown pass for the final score of the game. After the win, KC sat at 7-0 and was ranked No. 1 in the national poll.

The Rangers claimed the outright conference championship by coming back from a 14-0 deficit to defeat the Wharton County Junior College Pioneers, 44-20, on the road. KC took the lead with a 12-yard pass from Steve Hanks to Raymond Woodard. After a 72-yard kickoff return by Jackie Wilson, Mark Crites scored a 6-yard touchdown and Gary Marshall scored on the next series after an interception by Jackie Wilson. KC's last two scores came on a 24-yard pass from Victor McGee to Don Forward and a 24-yard touchdown run by Gary Marshall.

At 8-0, KC came from behind once again to defeat the Blinn Buccaneers, 14-10. Victor McGee helped lead the Rangers at quarterback with a 61-yard drive that was capped off by a spectacular throw and catch to Mike Bustamante. Standouts on defense were Tony Boles and David Patterson.

KC finished off the perfect 10-0 season with a narrow 10-6 victory over the TJC Apaches. KC scored first with a 37-yard field goal by Mark Smires. With TJC ahead 6-3 and 10 seconds left in the game, Victor McGee threw a 37-yard game-winning touchdown pass to Jackie Wilson.

With the win, the Rangers finished the season 10-0 as TJCFB Champions for the seventh time in school history – and were ranked No. 1 in the nation heading into the Garland Bowl.

Mark Crites was named All-Conference. All-Americans on the 1980 team were Tony Boles, Jason Doyle, Jackie Wilson and Raymond Woodard.

Mark Crites was inducted into the KC Hall of Fame in 2015 and Raymond Woodard was a 2009 Hall of Fame inductee. Marion Turner was inducted into the KC Hall of Fame in 2014 and head coach Jim Miller was inducted into the KC Hall of Fame in 2002.

Today we are pleased to induct the 1980 KC football team into the KC Athletics Hall of Fame.