

Rebels Edge By Raiders In Thriller

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South Point's Red Raiders won the fight but lost the war last night in rain-swept South Point Stadium against strong South Rowan of the South Piedmont Conference.

A defeat is a defeat is a defeat and there is no way you can color gray matter sky blue. But things were downright interesting. The visiting Rebels jumped off to a 21-0 lead in the first 15 minutes of the game.

They did it with one "cutie" and then brute force.

Trailing 21-0 at the half, the rain pouring down, the fans soaked, one remembered Ernest Thayer's opening of "Casey At The Bat," when he led off with: "The Outlook Wasn't Brilliant For The Mudville Nine That Day."

But the pendulum swung the other way in the second half. The Raiders continued to show they were a mighty fine second half football team. The momentum and adrenalin belonged to South Point, who scored a couple of quick ones in the third quarter, then came within a "Jay Bradshaw" of victory.

Bradshaw saved South Rowan's bacon.

Before we give you the details of how it got to be 21-14, picture the 145-pound senior standing in the rain on his own 35, hands outstretched and waiting for the snap from center. It was fourth and five for the Rebels on their own 45.

The score is 21-14 and the Raiders are looking for a break. The ball is snapped low to Bradshaw, who fumbles it around, picks it up and finds he cannot get the kick off.

He is surrounded by on-charging Raiders, frantically runs wide right, gets some running room and picks up seven yards to the South Point 48 for a first down. That was the most significant play of the game.

IN DISCUSSING the play after the game, Raider mentor Jim Biggerstaff said: "At that particular point, we were hoping and praying for a break."

"We got the break, but let Bradshaw get off the hook. Bradshaw is a very fine athlete."

Lope Linder, veteran South Rowan coach, said he never saw a game turn so completely around. "We had everything going for us in the first half. Then they had everything going for them in the last half. The weather conditions must have had the fans uncomfortable, but I guess they got their money's worth."

A few moments and millions of raindrops after Bradshaw turned impending disaster into a rose garden on his crucial seven-yard gain, he made a crucial pass interception at the South Point 40.

South Rowan scored three touchdowns in the first half in the space of six minutes and 30 seconds, and made a bold bid for a fourth.

The second time they had the football, the Rebels moved 58 yards, scoring on a "cutie" pass play. From the Raider 22, quarterback Dennis Stamey pitched out to Bradshaw, then raced into the clear and took Brad-

shaw's touchdown pass with 4:09 left in the first quarter. Cliff Brown made the first of his three successful extra points from placement.

A fumble recovery, one of three for South Rowan during the evening, set up its next score. They drove 53 yards, full-back Charlie King racing the final 25 yards straight up the middle. That score came with 11:19 showing in the second period.

Three plays later, a fumble in the Raider backfield was picked up by Rebel lineman Curtis Atwell on the South Point 40 and Atwell rambled to the Raider five. After a loss of two, Terry Maxwell scored from the seven with 9:31 left.

LATE IN THE quarter, the Rebs pushed from the South Point 47 after a punt and moved to the South Point 15 before losing the ball on a fumble with a little over a minute left.

In the second half, the Raiders were a different team. Having been outplayed in the first half, and getting pushed around some, they started to do some pushing around of their own.

They began a 52-yard drive for their first score, with the help of a 15-yard penalty to the South Rowan 32. Six plays later, quarterback Rick Cherry hit sophomore halfback Danny Clawson on an 18-yard scoring play with 3:20 left in the third quarter.

Then, a timely pass interception by another of South Point's many promising sophomores, Scott Crawford, at the Rebel 39 gave the Raiders another shot.

Two plays later, Cherry hit Campbell on a pass on the 12 and Campbell raced on in from there. Joe Metz split the uprights for the second time and cutting South's lead to 21-14 with 48 seconds left in the third quarter.

By that time, South Point's defense was hepped up and putting the throttle on the Rebel runners, paced by senior Burt Broadway and sophomore Tony Beale. Broadway was all over the place.

But Bradshaw's heroics helped save the day for the Rowans.

Cherry completed just two passes and both went for touchdowns, giving him four TD heaves on the year.

Don Davis, junior halfback, saw action for the first time and ran well in the second half. Clawson was the leading rusher with 37 yards in nine carries.

South Point gets back into Southwest 3-A action next week, playing an old nemesis, Kings Mountain, on the road.

THE STATISTICS

	S.P.	S.R.
First Downs	9	11
Net Yards Rushing	98	166
Passes	2-11	3-7
Passing Yardage	34	33
Passes Intercepted by	1	2
Fumbles Lost	3	1
Punts	3-31	4-27
Yards Penalized	45	55

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Teams	1	2	3	4-T
South Point	0	0	14	0-14
South Rowan	7	14	0	0-21

Scoring: South Point: Clawson (18-yard pass from Cherry); Campbell (36-yard pass from Cherry).

PAT: Metz 2 (placement).

Scoring: South Rowan: Stamey (22-yard pass from Bradshaw); King (25-yard run); Maxwell (7-yard run).

PAT: Brown 3 (placements).