

Raiders rack Lenoir 33-0 for fifth win

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

LENOIR — South Point's Red Raiders, ranked fourth in the state 3-A football ratings, did little to hurt that ranking here last night as they rolled to a 26-0 halftime lead and went on to blank the Lenoir Bearcats by a 33-0 score.

It was the fifth Red Raider victory without defeat and set up their crucial homecoming game at Lineberger Stadium next Friday against the equally unbeaten (5-0) R-S Central Hilltoppers.

Fullback Carl Middleton scored two Big Red touchdowns on runs of three and five yards, as the junior standout continues to improve game-by-game.

But it was again "The Rat Patrol," the South Point defensive unit, which set up most of the scores.

Late in the first quarter, alert Terry Boyles from his defensive halfback post intercepted Dick Bengé's pass at the Bearcat 30 and returned it to the 10. Middleton later scored from the three on third and goal.

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RON GRIER, DEFENSIVE end, recovered a Lenoir fumble at the Bearcat 25 and a few plays later, quarterback Doug Davis fired a touchdown pass from 11 yards out to end Fletcher Williams.

A short Lenoir punt set up South Point's third score in the second quarter. The punt from the end zone only came out to the 29 and the Big Red Machine scored four plays later with halfback Donnie James going in from the one.

Still in the first half, the Raiders drove 40 yards for a score following a Bearcat punt with halfback Jerry Auten scampering in from the two. Chuck Rankin kicked two of his three extra points and the Raiders were well in command at intermission, 26-0.

South Point, using its second and third units most of the second half, got on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter when Middleton went over from five yards out. A Rankin pass interception at the 21 set that one up.

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SOUTH POINT'S AUTEN was the leading rusher with 73 yards in 13 carries while Middleton had 70 in 12 carries and James 52 yards in 11 totes.

Davis passed five times for 69 yards in 13 attempts. South Point had 15 first downs to Lenoir's three.

The Bearcats were simply stymied by the hard-hitting South Point defense, getting only 33 yards rushing and completing only two of 13 passes for minus one yard.

South Point has now blanked three foes and the Raiders have surrendered just 13 points while scoring 170. The Big Red Machine over the past four years plus have won 45, lost just three and tied three for the best mark in the WNCCHSAA.

Defensive standouts last night included Mike Painter, Fletcher Williams and Dean Richards.

STATISTICS

	S. Point	Lenoir
First Downs	15	3
Net Yards Rushing	229	33
Passes	5-13	2-13
Passing Yardage	69	1
Passes Intercepted by	2	0
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Punts	4-32	5-33
Yards Penalized	5-50	3-20

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	T
South Point	13	13	0	7	33
Lenoir	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING SUMMARY

Scoring touchdowns, South Point: Middleton, 3-yard run (Rankin, kick); F. Williams (11-yard pass from Davis); Rankin missed PAT; James (one-yard run), Two-point conversion missed; Auten, 2-yard run, Rankin (kick); Middleton (5-yard run), Rankin, kick.

Allison cops

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Grand National veteran driver Bobby Allison Friday won the pole position for Saturday's \$58,725 World Service Life 300 auto race, the richest and longest event for Late Model Sportsman Cars.

Allison's 1972 Chevrolet was clocked at 154.250 miles per hour over the 1.5-mile, high-banked Charlotte Motor Speedway. The Hueytown, Ala., driver also won the pole last year and went on to win the inaugural race, leading all but eight of the 200 laps in the 300-mile event.