

Burns stuns Raiders with 14-14 tie

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The fired-up Burns Bulldogs, thanks primarily to the passing arm of junior quarterback Steve Gardner, shocked South Point's Red Raiders with a 14-14 tie Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, putting a blot on South Point's previously perfect record.

For what it was worth, South Point scored a touchdown on a penetration playoff while holding Burns scoreless.

Even with the tie (leaving South Point with an 8-0-1 Southwest 3-A Conference record) the Raiders wrapped up the regular season title for the second year in a row.

Even should they lose to Crest on the road next week, the regular season title is theirs. But Burns came to play Friday night and took it to the Big Red, holding them scoreless over the last three quarters.

It was Gardner's passing arm which enabled Burns to overcome a 14-0 deficit. It started out like another Raider romp. Jerry Auten, who had a great night with 145 yards rushing in 17 carries, scampered 80 yards down the right sidelines with 9:27 remaining in the first period and Auten missed the point-after on a kick.

The Raiders later drove 57 yards for their second touchdown. The Big play in the drive was a 23-yard pass from quarterback Doug Davis to fullback Carl Middleton to the Bulldog 14.

Then halfback Terry Boyles carried wide left and into the end zone on a 14-yard run. Boyles passed to halfback Robin Ratchford for the two-point conversion, and South Point held a 14-0 lead with 1:18 left in the first period.

Then the game took a

turnabout. Burns put on a sustained drive against the touted Raider Rat Patrol of 71 yards and Gardner's pin-point passing sparked the drive. His pass of 43 yards to Billy Ellis carried to the South Point 25.

Gardner took it to the five on a 20-yard run as the first quarter ended. On the first play of the second quarter, Larry Hopper ran it over from the five and Forrest Carpenter kicked the extra point and the Raiders held a slim 14-7 lead.

Burns scored with time running out in the first half. Just 15 seconds showed on the clock when Gardner dropped back and fired one down the left sidelines. Ellis had beaten the Raider secondary and caught the ball on the 25 and raced in on a 44-yard scoring play. Carpenter again converted and the stunned Raider crowd sat in silence as the score was 14-14.

The second half started as though Burns would score quickly. Boyles fumbled the second half kickoff and Phil Hendricks of the Bulldogs recovered at the South Point 35.

After picking up a first down at the 20, on second and six at the 16, Mike Painter recovered Gardner's fumble at the Raider 24.

Boyles then got loose on a 34-yard run to the Burns 46 and South Point looked to be on the move. A 15-yard penalty for a personal foul on the play moved the ball to the 31.

However, the brave Bulldogs reared up and held. Two running plays by Auten carried only to the 28. Davis passed to Quinn Hall, but it was overthrown and then the Raider quarterback was chased out of bounds on the 32 after he couldn't find a receiver.

Later in the period, South Point, which had 227 yards

rushing for the game, moved from its own 20 to the Burns 42. However, the Big Red was pushed back to the 49, forcing a punt.

The only other good shot by either team in the fourth period came when Donnie James recovered an Ellis fumble on the Bulldog 46. After picking up one first down to the 30, on second and eight Davis passed to Middleton, but he fumbled and the Trojans recovered on the 24 to thwart the Raiders again.

After the regulation game had ended 14-14, the teams held a penetration playoff. South Point scored when Middleton tallied on a three-yard run on fourth down.

They then gave Burns the ball on the 10 and the Bulldogs couldn't put it in the end zone in four plays and South Point had won "the battle of the penetration."

But it was a disappointing, frustrating night for the Big Red Machine. Burns had entered the game with three straight wins. Gardner finished the game with 13 completions in 32 attempts for a whopping 211 yards. South Point had 327 yards total offense but could score just 14 points, its low on the year.

STATISTICS

	S. Point	Burns
First Downs	18	10
Net Yards Rushing	227	30
Passes	8-21	13-32
Passing Yardage	100	211
Passes Intercepted by	0	1
Fumbles Lost	2	1
Punts	5-32	7-38
Yards Penalized	35	75

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAMS	1	2	3	4	T
South Point	14	0	0	0	14
Burns	0	14	0	0	14

SCORING SUMMARY

Scoring touchdowns, South Point: Auten (80-yard run), Boyles (14-yard run).
PAT: Ratchford 2 (pass from Auten).
Scoring touchdowns, Burns: Hopper (5-yard run), Ellis (44-yard pass from Gardner).
PAT: Carpenter 2 (kicks).