

Lions upset South Point

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For the second straight year, South Point's quest for a WNCCHSAA football title has ended in total frustration and disappointment.

A fired-up Shelby Golden Lion team came through in the clutch in the final four minutes and 43 seconds of their playoff game with the Big Red at Lineberger Stadium Friday night and handed the home team a shocking 16-14 setback.

A 17-yard field goal by Dusty Haynes with just 16 seconds showing on the clock did the Red Raiders in as the referee signaled the kick good, and a roar went up from the Golden Lion side of the field.

With the upset victory, Shelby advances into the WNCCHSAA semi-finals next Friday against Freedom of Morganton at Shelby. Freedom upset Alexander Central in the Northwest 3-A playoffs Friday night, 19-13.

The Shelby field goal came after the Raiders, trailing 13-6, came back to go ahead, 14-13. Senior halfback Jerry Auten took a Mark Lackey punt at the Red Raider 45, got past the Golden Lion traffic with some solid running, and raced in the clear all the way to the Golden Lion three for a first and goal.

Terry Boyles broke over the right side of the Shelby line for the touchdown with 4:43 remaining, leaving Shelby with a 13-12 lead. The Raiders elected to go for the two-point conversion. It proved to be a wise choice, as quarterback Doug Davis ran the option play across the goal, giving the Big Red a 14-13 lead, something their fans thought they'd never get as the Shelby defense was no less than terrific all night.

However, Shelby took the kickoff back to its own 35, then went to work. On a fourth and one at the 44, Shelby quarterback Mike Callahan sneaked for a yard and the first down.

Callahan then hit Claude London on a pass play going to the South Point 45 for another first down. After a Callahan incompleteness and a Brian Johnson run to the 36, a penalty set the Lions back to the Raider 41.

But undaunted, Callahan teamed up with Houston Honeycutt for a 16-yard completion to the Raider 25 for another first down.

Callahan continued his passing magic, teaming with Will Mabry for another completion and a first down at the Raider 13.

A break which went Shelby's way then happened. Hicks Beam carried to the five, was hit and the ball popped loose, but Shelby recovered on the three.

After two running plays by Callahan and Beam gained to the one, and with just 16 seconds left, Haynes kicked the biggest field goal in Golden Lion history.

Shelby held the Big Red's vaunted offense in check all night. The Raiders managed only 53 yards rushing and Auten gained only 16 yards in 12 carries. The Raiders, averaging 325 yards total offense per game, managed to gain only 85 yards passing on five receptions in 17 attempts. But the Golden Lions

intercepted two passes by Davis and another by Terry Boyles.

The momentum of the game swung Shelby's way early. After South Point was held the first time it had the ball, Brian Johnson returned a Chuck Rankin punt from the Shelby 27 all the way to the Raider three before Rankin got him on a desperate lunge. It was a 70-yard punt return as Johnson got behind a wall of blockers and was off to the races.

Two plays later, Callahan sneaked over at the 7:48 mark. The extra point attempt by Haynes was wide to the right.

Auten then got South Point in good position by returning the kickoff from his five to the Shelby 42. After picking up a first down to the 25, the Raider drive stalled.

On a third and eight play, a Davis pass to Quinn Hall at the eight was dropped by Hall and on fourth down, a pass by Boyles intended for Fletcher Williams was incomplete.

A Golden Lion fumble set up South Point's only first half touchdown. Greeg Gingles fumbled and David Willis recovered at the Shelby 11. Three plays later, James went over on a first and from the one and Auten's extra point attempt was wide left.

It turned into a punting duel between Rankin, who averaged 42 yards on seven kicks and Lackey, who averaged 38 on nine boots.

A pass interception by Honeycutt set up Shelby's second quarter touchdown. He intercepted a Davis pass at the South Point 28.

On a third and 15 from the 23, Callahan hit Brian Johnson for the touchdown and Haynes booted true for a 13-7 Shelby halftime lead.

That touchdown came at the 2:15 mark. South Point came right back. Auten gained nine and then Williams made a great reception at the Shelby 20 for a 35-yard gain.

However, a 15-yard penalty against the Big Red pushed them back to the 35 and the two running plays lost 13 yards.

Shelby had gained 59 yards rushing to 40 for South Point at the half. Each team had three first downs. But the worst was to come for the Raiders, as the rugged Lion defense held them to one first down passing and just 13 yards rushing in the final two quarters.

Auten took the second half kickoff at his 13 and took it to the Shelby 41. On fourth and two from the 33, South Point elected not to try for the first down.

STATISTICS

| | South Point | Shelby |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|
| First Downs | 4 | 10 |
| Net Yards Rushing | 53 | 102 |
| Passes | 6-17 | 7-17 |
| Passing Yardage | 85 | 108 |
| Passes Intercepted by | 1 | 3 |
| Fumbles Lost | 1 | 1 |
| Punts | 7-38 | 9-38 |
| Yards Penalized | 33 | 62 |

SCORE BY QUARTERS

| TEAMS | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | T |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Point | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shelby | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |

SCORING SUMMARY

Shelby: Callahan, 1 run (kick failed).
South Point: James, 1 run (kick failed).
Shelby: Johnson 23 pass from Callahan (Haynes kick).
South Point: Boyles, 3 run (Davis run).
Shelby: FG Haynes, 17.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: South Point: Boyles (5-12), Auten (13-16), Davis (6-12), James (4-6), Middleton (1-3), Shelby: Johnson (13-46), Youngblood (12-36), Beam (2-8), Gingles (4-6), Callahan (9-3), Haynes (1-4), London (1-for-1).

Passing: South Point: Davis (6-15-3 for 85), Boyles (6-2), Shelby: Callahan (7-17-1 for 107).

Receiving: South Point: Williams (4-77), Boyles (2-8), Honeycutt (2-56), Johnson (1-23), Mabry (1-12), London (1-10), Haynes (1-3), Beam (1-2).



AUTEN SHOE-STRINGED BY JOHNSON — South Point's Jerry Auten is shoe-stringed here on a tackle on a wide run by Shelby's Brian Johnson, an offensive and defensive star for the Golden Lions, Friday night at Lineberger Stadium. Auten and the Big Red were held in check by a stout Shelby defense and the Golden Lions

captured a 16-14 upset in the first round of the WNCSSAA playoffs. Auten gained only 16 yards in 12 carries as South Point's hopes for an association title again went down the drain. (Larry Graham photo)