

Red Raiders roll past Crest, 35-0

By SCOTT JENKINS
Special to The Gazette

The South Point Red Raiders kept up their winning ways as they demolished the Crest Chargers, 35-0, in Lineberger Stadium in Belmont Friday night.

The win sets up a showdown for the Southwestern 3-A Conference championship, which will occur next Friday night in Belmont as the Raiders host the Shelby Golden Lions.

South Point took the opening kickoff 70 yards to the Crest two-yard line where the Chargers took over on a missed fourth down attempt when Fernandez Grier was stopped short of the goal line.

Then the Chargers took control of the game's tempo as they drove the ball 93 yards to the South Point five, where they failed to get the score on a passing attempt. South Point then took the ball to their 10-yard line where quarterback Joe Shepherd passed 10 yards to Grier for the first of five Raider touchdowns. Tommy Bain's kick was good, giving the Red Raiders a 7-0 lead.

The Chargers took the kick and were moving down field with hopes of scoring themselves as the clock sounded and the teams ran for the locker room.

Charles Norris took the second half kickoff and looked as if he would run the distance before a desperation

tackle stopped him at the Crest 37 with daylight ahead.

Crest was able to do little with it though, and was forced to punt to the Red Raiders.

South Point, however, had the same difficulties as did the Chargers and was forced to punt after three plays failed to yield a first down.

South Point got the ball again as the Chargers failed to convert a fourth-down run at the South Point 34.

Shepherd then took a little of the load on his own back as he reeled off consecutive runs of 16 and 15 yards, giving the Raiders excellent field position at their own 38.

Five plays later Steve Davis took the ball into the end zone from two yards out to put the Raiders in charge as Bain's kick was blocked, giving the homestanding Raiders a 13-0 lead with 1:38 left in the third quarter.

From that point on the South Point defense got tough as the Chargers failed to get another first down.

The Red Raiders took the Crest punt and drove 46 yards in 10 plays. In that drive the game's only penalty flag was thrown as a Crest defender was caught on the back of a South Point receiver, moving the ball to the Crest 31. With Davis doing most of the damage, the South Point forces drove the ball to the Charger two where Davis, the Gazette's leading scorer, ran it in for his second tally of

the game. Tommy Bain laced the uprights for the extra point.

On Crest's second play from scrimmage the Red Raiders picked up a loose ball and took possession at the Crest 12 after Jeff Ward's 20 yard return.

Shepherd then found Jerry Clubb in the end zone for another South Point score. Bain again converted, giving the Raiders a 28-0 lead.

At this point Crest made a quarterback change, bringing in Tim Wellman. On his second play, Wellman threw an errant pass that was picked off by Jeff Williams at midfield. After a three-yard return, the Raiders set up their final scoring drive, this time with 10 plays and covering 47 yards.

William Reid carried the ball in from the three for the score and the extra point kick by Bain was also good. At this point the Raiders led 35-0.

With but 29 seconds left on the game clock the Raiders picked off another of Wellman's passes at the South Point 40.

South Point failed to get another play off as the final seconds ticked off the clock and the Raiders had their ninth win in a row under their belts.

South Point was aided by a 224-yard ground attack with Davis going 80 yards in 16 carries.

Shepherd had a good throwing night also as he completed nine of ten passes for 100 yards.

The win was the second for South Point in two years over the Chargers as they defeated them 23-7 a year ago on their way to an 8-2 season.

Charles Norris was the leading ground gainer for the Chargers with 60 yards in 19 carries.



GRIER ON THE PROWL—South Point fullback Fernandez Grier (32) gains yardage against the Crest Chargers Friday night at South Point's Lineberger. Grier scored the game's first touchdown on an 11-yard run as South Point remained unbeaten with a 35-0 win over the Chargers. It sets up a Southwestern 3-A Conference championship clash with Shelby next Friday at South Point. (Gazette photo by Jeff Ashe)



Front page

There's good reading on the news front of today's paper. The lead story concerns a skeleton found in Pennsylvania. It is definitely not Jimmy Hoffa's. When you finish the sports wrap-around, turn to 1A for lots of good reading.

(C) 4-37; Poarch 1-34; Totals 5-61.

STATISTICS

	Crest	South Point
First Downs	7	17
Net Yards Rushing	93	234
Passes	1-4	9-10
Passing Yardage	27	100
Passes Intercepted By	0	2
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punts	2-45	1-25
Yards Penalized	0	15

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Teams	1	2	3	4	T
South Point	0	7	6	21	35
Crest	0	0	0	0	0

SCORING SUMMARY

SP—Grier 10-run (Bain kick)
SP—Davis 2-run (kick blocked)
SP—Davis 2-run (Shepherd run)
SP—Clubb 13-pass from Shepherd (Bain Kick)
SP—Reid 3-run (Bain kick)