

Red Raiders romp over East Gaston

By DWIGHT FRADY
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South Point's Red Raiders opened their Southwestern 3-A Conference season with a convincing 48-7 victory over East Gaston's Warriors at Arrowhead Stadium.

Coach Jim Biggerstaff's Big Red Machine, piled up 318 yards rushing and 54 yards passing as it completely dominated the game.

The young Red Raiders saw seven different players score touchdowns as South Point picked up its second win in as many games, having downed Ashbrook's Green Wave last week, 21-7.

"We were really up for this ballgame," said Biggerstaff, who is in his 11th season at the South Point helm. "It was one of the finest games we have played in quite a while. You can't single out any individual in a game like this. All of our guys just played a tremendous football game."

"In a game between rivals like we are, teams get up, and we were up tonight."

With the victory, the Raiders marked-up their sixth win in the series against the Warriors as opposed to a single setback and a scoreless tie back in 1972.

South Point took advantage of one of four East Gaston fumbles lost during the night to set up its first score when the Red Raiders recovered a Chuckie McGee fumble at the midfield stripe.

June Jones, a 158-pound junior who gained 120 yards in 14 carries on the night, ripped off a five-yard gain and on the next play romped 45 yards for the score at the 7:39 mark. Tim Parrish kicked the extra point, giving the Red Raiders a 7-0 lead.

South Point drove 72 yards in 11 plays for its second score in the second period. Senior quarterback Jeff Williams, doing a superb job of running South Point's power I offense, scored on a three-yard keeper play at the 7:34 mark to climax that touchdown drive. South Point picked up four first downs in that touchdown drive. Parrish's kick was wide to the left.

The Red Raiders' next touchdown came when fullback Perry Fewell went over from the four-yard line at the 3:28 mark, and Williams ran for the two-point conversion, giving South Point a 21-0 lead.

That touchdown was set up when Boone Davis intercepted a Derek Spears pass on the South Point 30 and returned to the East Gaston 42.

It took South Point only five plays to negotiate the 42 yards to the end zone. A big play was an 11-yard pass from Williams to Tim Rector carrying to the East Gaston 13 for a first and 10. Two plays later, Fewell punched over.

The alert South Point defense, including the secondary, was strong all night. Junior Larry Tribble intercepted a McGee option pass on

the Raider 15 and returned it 85 yards for a touchdown with only 52 seconds remaining in the half. Parrish's kick was good, giving the Raiders a 28-0 lead at intermission.

South Point scored quickly in the third quarter. Bill Crenshaw recovered Jimmy Long's fumble at the East Gaston 34. Three plays later, South Point was on the board. Chip Gibson went over from the six-yard line at the 10:11 mark, and Parrish's kick was again good for a 35-0 Red Raider lead.

On its next possession, South Point drove 65 yards in nine plays with Todd Armstrong went over from the five at the 3:19 mark. Parrish was wide on the extra point attempt, leaving South Point with a 41-0 lead.

East Gaston's only score of the night came on an 81-yard drive on 10 plays early in the fourth period.

The big play was a pass from Spears to Kevin Collier carrying them from the East Gaston 37 to the South Point 27. Four plays later, Spears passed to Collier in the corner of the end zone at the 10:27 mark. An Andra Buchanan extra point kick made the score 41-7.

South Point scored its final touchdown with backup quarterback Randy Richards passing to Rector in the end zone at the 6:47 mark. Parrish again kicked the extra point for the 48-7 final.

The South Point attack was well balanced, with Fewell getting 43 yards in eight carries, Gibson 28 yards in four carries and Tribble notched 26 yards in three carries. South Point had eight players who gained clutch yardage in the offense. The Red Raiders had 362 total yards on the night compared to 125 total yards for the Warriors, now 0-2 on the season.

East Gaston was limited to 66 yards rushing. Spears completed three of nine passes for 59 yards and three interceptions. McGee was East Gaston's leading ball carrier with 52 yards in eight carries.

South Point had only two turnovers on the night, losing one fumble and having one pass intercepted.

South Point had another threat going late in the game, marching from its own 41 with Richards at quarterback to the East Gaston 12 on a 13-yard pass from Richards to Tim Payne. On the last play of the game, Richards' pass was intercepted by McGee who fumbled at the five as the game ended.

Next week, the Red Raiders return home for Parents Night against another county rival, the North Gaston Wildcats. Biggerstaff's record in his 11th season is now 83-21-5.



Gazette photo by Seny Norasingh

East Gaston's Gerald Whitesides tries to turn the corner
...while Red Raiders' Keith Young gives pursuit

ASHBROOK RECEIVING - Surge 1 - 9

South Point	T	21	13	7	-	48
East Gaston		0	0	0	7	- 7

Scoring Summary

SP -- Jones, 45 run (Parrish kick)

SP -- Williams, 3 run (kick failed)

SP -- Fewell, 3 run (Williams run)

The Time Capsule

SP -- Tribble, 85 return of pass interception
(Parrish kick)

SP -- Gibson, 6 run (Parrish kick)

SP -- Armstrong, 3 run (kick failed)

EG -- Collier, 2 pass from Spears (Buchanan
kick)

SP -- Rector, 10 pass from Richards (Parrish
kick)

	South Point	East Gaston
First Downs	18	12
Yards Rushing	318	68
Passing	3-4-1	10-3-3
Yards Passing	54	59
Fumbles Lost	1	4
Punting	2-4:0	3-34:3
Yards Penalized	10-106	7-71