



Gazette photo by Paul Kelly

North Gaston quarterback Alex Saylor  
...completed eight passes for the Wildcats

# Raiders beat Wildcats, mistakes for win No.2

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Special to The Gazette

The South Point Red Raiders had trouble holding onto the football Friday night at North Gaston High School Stadium. But the Big Red scored a first-quarter touchdown and held on to take a 7-3 win over the Wildcats in a Southwestern 3-A Conference contest.

South Point (now 2-0-1 overall) scored on its second possession of the night when quarterback Randy Richards ran 16 yards into the end zone. The remainder of the night South Point ran a poised offense, consistently gained yardage, and consistently turned the ball over — six times by fumbles and twice by interceptions.

The Raider offense ground out 215 yards on the ground, with Carl Sims leading the way with 95 yards on 16 carries. The Wildcats managed only nine yards on the ground, but quarterback Alex Saylor kept the Wildcats in the game, hitting eight of 17 passes for 155 yards.

South Point lost its first fumble on its first possession of the game. After picking up a first down on the Raider 45, Larry Tribble let the ball slip from his hands and into the hands of North Gaston's Robert Watson.

After holding the Wildcats on a third-and-one, South Point's Todd Crawford blocked a Saylor's punt, setting the Raiders up on their own 46.

Seven plays later, Richards faked a handoff to Sims and raced 16 yards for the game's only touchdown with 6:22 remaining in the first quarter. Tim Parrish kicked the extra point.

South Point fumbled again on its next series, and Wildcat tackle Tim Gibby recovered on the Raider 23. But the hard-hitting South Point defense drove the Wildcats back to the 25, where they ran out of downs.

Late in the second quarter, South Point drove to the

North Gaston 37. Todd White then intercepted a second-down pass by Richards with 22 seconds remaining in the half. White returned the ball to the South Point 40, and a five-yard penalty against the Raiders moved it to the 35. Saylor then hit Watson with a 12-yarder with 13 seconds showing on the clock. Greg Mackey then booted a 28-yard field goal as time ran out in the half, and the game's scoring was over.

South Point drove 79 yards in the third quarter, all the way to the North Gaston goal. But as Sims approached the stripe from nine yards out, the ball slipped from his hands, and Chris Glover recovered for the Wildcats.

A big third down, a Saylor's to Mackey pass, accounted for a Wildcat first down following the turnover, but once again the Raider defense stopped a potential North Gaston threat on its own 43.

A nice punt by Saylor's, and a five-yard penalty drove South Point to its own 16. Richards picked up three yards on a keeper, then threw his second interception of the night into the hands of Watson. Watson ended up on the Raider 39. Again it was a good defense coming to the rescue for the Raiders. Saylor's was sacked for an eight-yard loss, then June Jones intercepted a third down attempt by Saylor's and brought it to the Wildcat 46.

The Raiders started the fourth quarter by moving to the Wildcat seven in an eight-play, four-minute drive, but Richards fumbled on a first-down run, blowing yet another South Point scoring opportunity.

With 4:25 remaining in the game, North Gaston had at least one more chance to make a move. A 30-yard completion from Saylor's to John Fressley gave the Wildcats a first down at the South Point 36. Saylor's was thrown for two big losses as he desperately tried to find receivers open down field, and the Wildcats wound up back at the 47 and out of downs.

South Point	7	0	0	0 — 7
North Gaston	0	3	0	0 — 3

### Scoring Summary

SP — Richards 16 run (Parrish kick)

NG — Mackey 28 field goal

	North Gaston	South Point
First Downs	8	14
Rushing	9	219
Passing	8-17-3	6-13-2
Yards Passing	155	54
Fumbles Lost	1	6
Punting	7-29-3	3-36
Yards Penalized	55	50