

Young's 75-yard run helps South Point over Wildcats

By Dwight Frady

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It seemed for the world as though North Gaston's Wildcats were to hand South Point's Red Raiders their first defeat in the series between the two teams in nine games Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

Outplayed by the Wildcats all night, only one man apparently could save South Point, and that man, Keith Young, had been held in check by a super North Gaston defense.

With North Gaston leading 12-7 in the fourth period, the Wildcats of coach Roger Dixon, who had romped to impressive wins over Charlotte Latin and Chase, 41-0 and 40-0 respectively, had the ball and were driving. They marched from the Red Raider 49 to the 22 where they had third and five. Buster Benton rambled for what would have been a first down, but the ball was jarred loose and South Point recovered its third fumble of the night at the Red Raider 24.

Two plays later, Young, who had only 19 yards in nine carries in the first half and only 25 in 13 carries for the game, streaked 75 yards with only 5:02 remaining for the winning touchdown as fans from both sides of the field were left stunned.

Jerry Howell's extra point was academic, leaving South Point with a 14-12 victory, its first after two setbacks. The Raiders are now 1-1 in the league and 1-2 overall, while North Gaston is 1-1 in the league and 2-1 overall.

North Gaston's defense gave up its first touchdown on the Young run, in which he was almost stopped by one of his own blockers at midfield, made a couple of nifty moves to elude Wildcat defenders, then hit the sidelines at the 35 and was gone.

South Point's first touchdown in the first period came on an offensive mistake by North Gaston. Carl Sims, a Raider defensive back, picked up a fumble by Gerard Brandon at the North Gaston 17 and raced in for

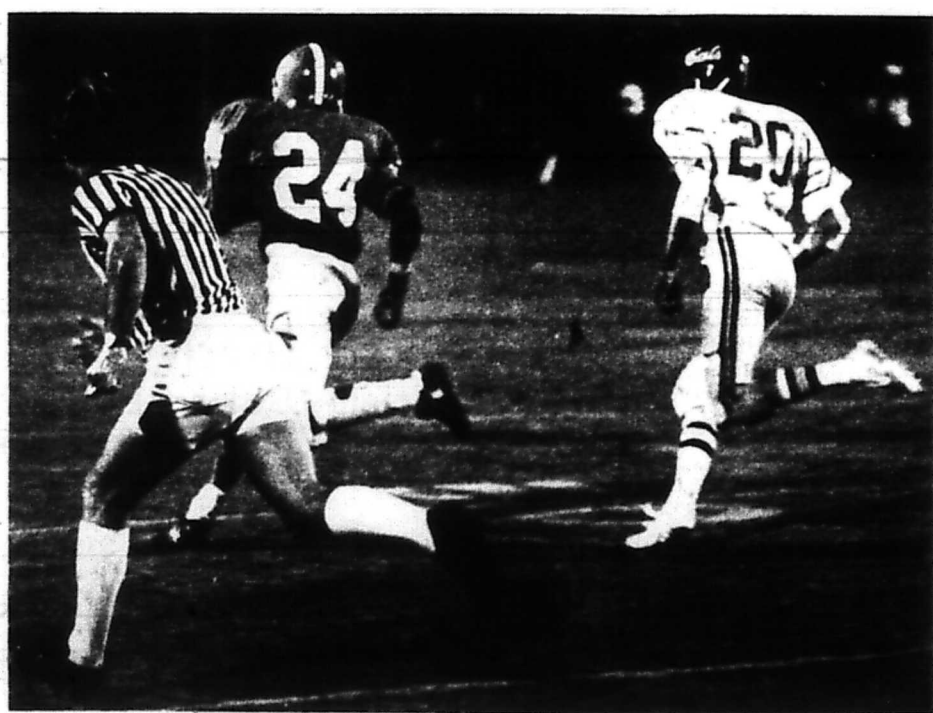
the score, with Howell kicking the extra point at the 8:45 mark.

After that, North Gaston dominated the game. The Wildcats had 15 first downs and South Point only four; 154 yards rushing to South Point's 100 (75 of them coming on the Young run); and 67 yards passing to South Point's 7.

A pass interception by North Gaston's Randall Newton set up North Gaston's first touchdown. He intercepted a Scott Lee pass at the Wildcat 40 and raced all the way to the Raider four. A clipping penalty on the play pushed the ball back to the 25. Two plays later, the fleet Benton raced to the Raider 2 for a first and goal, then three plays later, Mark Friday burst over for the score. Todd White's extra point attempt was wide right.

Midway of the third period, it started raining shortly after a 13-yard Lee punt gave North Gaston the ball at the Red Raider 35. After Benton gained to the 30,

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Gazette photo by Bob Padgett

Keith Young (24) eludes North Gaston's Randall Newton (20)
...for 75-yard score that gave South Point a 14-12 win

South Point

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Wildcat quarterback Alex Saylor, a strong-armed and outstanding leader for his team, tossed a beautiful 30-yard scoring strike to White for the go-ahead touchdown at the 5:08 mark, 12-7. White's extra point attempt was again off the mark.

It was a heart-breaking setback

for the Wildcats, a team for real.

"North Gaston is a very physical and a very fine football team," said Raider coach Jim Biggerstaff, whose team was involved in a "must" league game.

"It wasn't pretty. It was just a win. In our first two games, we

had plenty of statistics and lost. Tonight, we had practically no statistics and won. That's the way it goes sometimes. North Gaston is going to win plenty of games in this league."

North Gaston was led in rushing by Brandon with 51 yards in 14 carries. Benton had 40 yards in 10 carries, White 33 yards in nine

carries and Saylor 29 yards in 15 carries. Young had entered the game with 100-yards plus in seven of his last eight games going back to last season. He had 92 in 16 carries against the Wildcats. North Gaston entertains East Gaston in a big league game next Friday, while South Point hosts Shelby.

North Gaston	0	6	6	0	—	12
South Point	7	0	0	7	—	14

Scoring Summary

SP: Sims, 17 run of fumble recovery (Howell Kick)

NG: Friday, 2 run (kick failed)

NG: White, 30 pass from Soyloors (kick failed)

SP: Young, 75 run (Howell kick)

	South Point	North Gaston
First Downs	4	15
Rushing	100	154
Passing	2-5-1	10-5-0
Yards Passing	7	67
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Punting	7-36	5-25
Yards Penalized	3-25	4-50