

Crest field goal edges South Point in overtime

By Dwight Frady

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A barb once said, "If 'ifs and buts' were candy and nuts, what a wonderful Christmas we'd have."

"If" South Point's Red Raiders, fired to a fever pitch in the second half against Southwestern 3-A Conference leading Crest Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, hadn't been called for a 15-yard holding penalty late in the game, in all probability they would have scored the season's biggest upset.

Instead, the Chargers took advantage of that Raider mistake, scored a touchdown and extra point to tie the game at 14-14, then won in overtime, 17-14, in one of the most exciting games played at Lineberger Stadium.

It left Crest with a 6-1 league mark and a

7-1 overall record going into the final two games of the season at home against R-S Central and North Gaston.

After trailing at the half, 7-0, South Point came out and scored 14 points in the third period, putting it all together on offense and defense, and seemed well in command.

The Chargers recovered a Scott Lee fumble at the Red Raider 30, but Tim Twitty was thrown for a seven-yard loss and a Rayfield Smith pass fell incomplete. Twitty gained only five yards to the 35 for what would have been fourth and 12. "But," the Raiders were detected for holding on the play, giving the Chargers a first down at the 20. They pushed it in from there in seven plays, Smith sneaking over from the one with 4:27 remaining in the game. Randy Lovelace's extra point tied the game at 14-14.

That sent it into overtime. South Point

had first possession. On a second and seven, Lee was intercepted at the goal line by Herbert Harbison, who returned it all the way to the Raider 20. But a clipping penalty was detected, with the Chargers taking over at the 25 on the other end of the field. Twitty gained 13 yards to the 12, Harbison lost to the 13, and Jeff Bell gained to the five. On fourth down, Lovelace kicked a 23-yard field goal to give the defending champions the 17-14 victory.

Crest dominated the first half. They marched 67 yards in 10 plays to score with Twitty going over from the two at the 7:01 mark of the second period to take a 7-0 lead following Lovelace's kick.

The second half was South Point's. They drove 62 yards in eight plays to open the third period, with Lee going 12 yards on a keeper and Danny McKinney's extra point tied the game at 7-7 at the 8:17 mark. Scott

Glover's fumble recovery at the Crest 42 set up the South Point go-ahead touchdown, with the six-pointer coming on a 29-yard scoring strike from Lee to Duke Howard and McKinney again converted at the 4:02 mark of the third period for a 14-7 Raider lead.

Then came the fumble recovery, the 15-yard holding penalty, the Crest touchdown, then overtime, then the Lovelace field goal.

"We played as good as we can play," said Coach Jim Biggerstaff of South Point, whose team fell to 3-4 in the league and 3-5 overall going into final road games at East Rutherford and Chase. "I'm not proud of the loss, but I'm proud of the way our kids played their hearts out tonight. The key play in the game was by far the holding penalty against us that set up their tying touchdown."

Yards Penalized

3-15

6-55

Crest

0 7 0 7 3 — 17

South Point

0 0 14 0 0 — 14

Scoring Summary

Crest Twenty-two-yard run (Lovelace kick good):

SP Lee ten-yard run (McKinney kick):

SP Howard 29-yard pass (McKinney kick):

Crest Smith one-yard run (Lovelace kick):

Crest Lovelace (23-yard field goal):

	South Point	Crest
First Downs	12	17
Rushing	155	198
Passing	105	47
Yards Passing	13-4-4	8-3-1
Fumbles Lost	1	2
Punting	3-31	1-32
Yards Penalized	8-66	4-40