Young puts final touches on record-setting career

By Dwight Frady
Special to The Gazette

BELMONT — Auld Lang Syne for South Point's Akron Young Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont was more than spectacular. The senior tailback for the Red Raiders closed out a senior season leaving records strewn behind him.

Young, after setting a South Point single season rushing record with 1,617 yards in 10 games and 242 yards in 16 carries for four touchdowns on the night, including runs of 83 and 65 yards, sat on a bench in the dressing room. His team had just defeated the Chase Trojans in their season finale, 45-14. He had finished with 16 touchdowns on the year.

Young was asked how it felt to have broken prep All-American Scott Crawford's record of 1,573 yards, set in 13 games in 1971.

"I'd be less than truthful if I didn't say it was just great," he said. "I only wish we could have had a winning season. South Point finished at 4-6 on the year).

"We held a team meeting this week. The seniors in particular wanted to go out and play one heckuva game. We realized we held the stigma of being the first losing team in South Point history. We wanted to leave something positive behind for them to remember us. I knew I had a chance to set the school record for rushing.

Thanks blockers

"I wouldn't have set this record if it hadn't been for our offensive line. Those guys don't get the recognition the backs do — and it's unfortunate. And our fullback, Preston Earle, is one of the best blockers in high school football and a fine runner in his own right. Most of all, I'd just like to thank my teammates for making it all possible."

Young scored on runs of 83, 19, 1 and 65 yards. He had 177 yards at the half, needing only 21 to break Crawford's record. On his first carry from scrimmage in the third period, he raced 65 yards, broke the record, and watched his teammates from

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the sidelines the rest of the night.

"I'm glad our season ended on a positive note," said South Point Coach Jim Biggerstaff. "We had lost three games in a row. I'm happy for Akron and what he has accomplished in what had otherwise been a frustrating year for us. A lot of good things happened for us tonight."

Opens lead

South Point held a 33-0 halftime lead. After Young's 83-yard scamper, he scored on a 19-yard run. Earle, a fine runner in his own right, scored on runs of two and nine yards, and Young scored his third touchdown on a nine-yard carry. Following Jeff Biggerstaff's three extra point conversion kicks, the Raiders had it in the bag at intermission.

Young, on South Point's first possession of the second half, went 65 yards for a 39-0 Raider lead.

Chase then scored two quick touchdowns in the third period. Chester McDowell went over from two yards out and Dwayne Edwards plucked a Raider fumble in midair and raced 45 yards, making it 33-14, but South Point scored finished the scoring in the fourth period on a 23-yard pass from Mark Young to Kenny Nicholson.

South Point totaled 523 yards in offense, 451 on the ground and 72 more through the air, racking up 18 first downs to eight for Chase. Darron Keitt led the Trojans with 115 yards in 19 carries. Chase finished at 2-8 on the season.

And Young finished with a record that may never be equaled.

Chase 14
South Point 45

Chase	0	0	14	0 —	14
South Point	19	14	6	6 —	45

S — A Young 83 run (Biggerstaff kick)

S — A Young 19 run (kick failed)

S — Earle 2 run (pass failed)

S — Earle 9 run (Biggerstaff kick)

S — A Young 1 run (Biggerstaff kick)

S — A Young 65 run (run failed)

C — McDowell 2 run (run failed)

C — Edwards 40 run with recovered fumble (Keitt run)

S — Nicholson 23 pass from M Young (run failed)