

## Rivals' battle

# Raiders outlast Warriors, 37-20

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

BELMONT — It was a game that a mathematician could love.

In one of the highest scoring games in the series betw-

two county rivals, South Point's Red Raiders jumped to a 30-7 halftime lead and went on to capture a 37-20 Southwestern 3-A Conference victory over East Gaston Friday night here at Lineberger Stadium.

The Red Raiders stunned the Warriors with a touchdown in the first 15 seconds of the game then built a healthy 23-point halftime cushion before the Warriors come back to make a game of it.

The visitors cut the margin to 30-20 before the Raiders scored the final touchdown with only 22 seconds showing on the clock.

The pendulum swung in South Point's favor early when Daryl Watson, the Raiders' quick linebacker, took a handoff on a reverse on the opening kickoff from teammate Chris Wooten and raced 78 yards down the sidelines for the score. The first of Mike Dudko's five extra points from placement gave the Raiders their quick lead.

Shortly thereafter, Tonja Watson's fumble on a punt was recovered by East Gaston's Cedric Sanders at the Raider 12. On a fourth and six, quarterback Jackie Lewis passed to tailback Ronnie Brooks at the 6:20 mark for the score and Scott Hovis booted the first of his two extra

points to tie the game.

After that, South Point's backs began to run through some big holes. Wooten scored on a 1-yard run at the 2:21 mark of the first period capping a 66-yard, 9-play

Raiders scored a safety late in the period when quarterback Lewis fell on a fumble in the end zone and was downed by Daryl Watson.

The Raiders scored two more second period touchdowns on a 15-yard run by quarterback Mark Young and a 1-yard run by Tonja Watson.

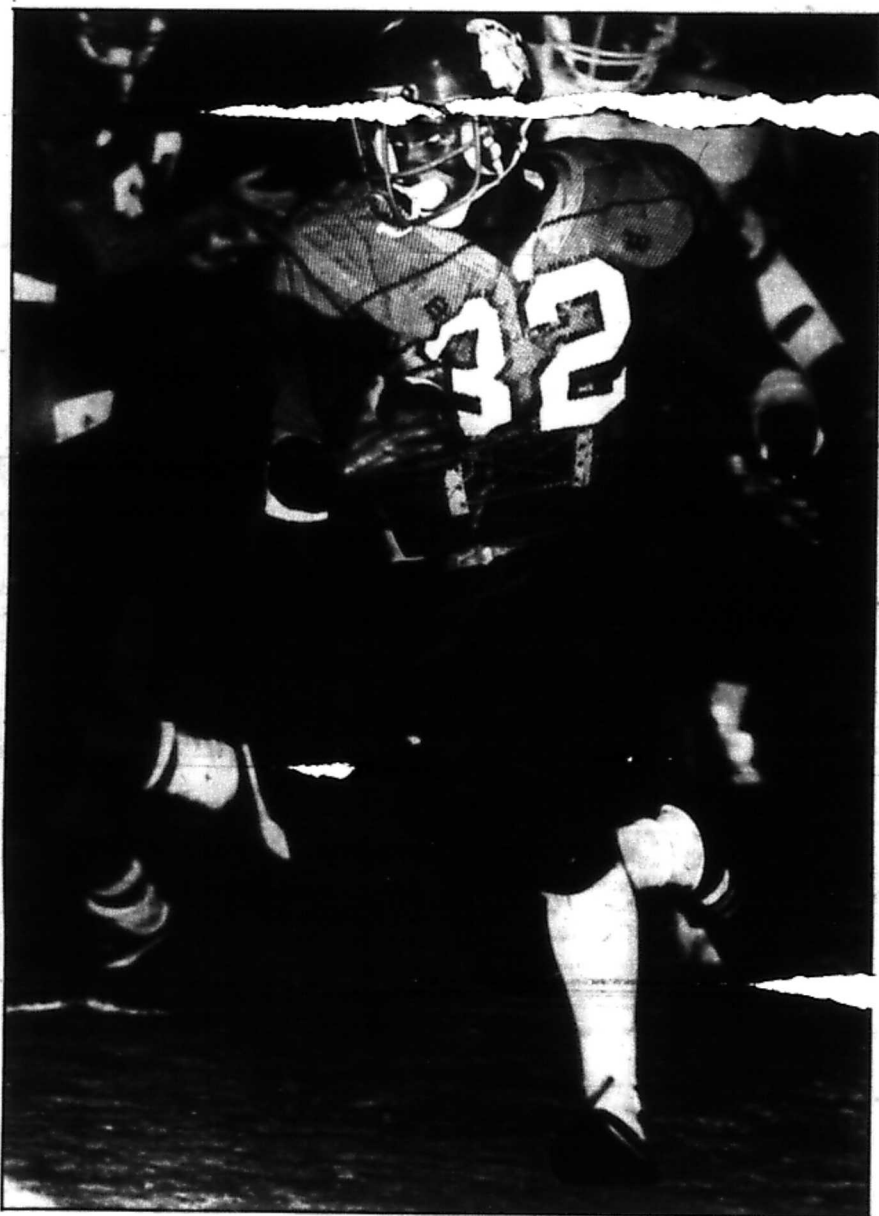
The Young touchdown came after a short 41-yard drive at the 6:19 mark following a Warrior punt, and Watson's score came on another short march of 35 yards following a Warrior fumble.

East Gaston showed its mettle by coming back in the second half, taking the kickoff and moving 71 yard in five plays, led by fullback Robert Connor. Connor had a 42-yard gainer on one run to the Raider 27. He later scored from 14 yards out at the 8:56 mark. Connor had a big night, picking up 104 yards in 11 carries.

Connor scored on a 12-yard run in the fourth period at the 8:56 mark on a 50-yard Warrior drive. The Raiders used up most of the remaining time on the clock, driving 78 yards in 14 plays, climaxed by Wooten's 21-yard run.

"Their lead was too big for us to overcome," said Warrior Coach

Please see Raiders,  
P. 9-A, Cols. 5-6



Gazette photo by Pete Decker

Tonja Watson (32) of South Point carries the ball  
... in Red Raiders 37-20 win over East Gaston

# Raiders

Continued from P. 8-A

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Jerry Adams. "I thought our team showed real character in the second half. We came out hitting.

"That opening kickoff return stunned us. We had good offensive line play all night, and good defensive play in the second half."

"I think our first score shocked them and gave us a lot of momen-

tum," said Raider coach Jim Biggerstaff. "Our line opened up some big holes for our backs in the first half. East Gaston played a fine second half. We're happy to have won our conference opener."

The Raiders are 1-0 in the league and 2-0 overall. The Warriors are 0-1 in the league and 0-2 overall.

# East South Point 37

East Gaston	7	0	6	7	—	20
South Point	16	14	0	7	—	37

SP — D. Watson 78 kickoff return (Dudko kick)

EG — Brooks 7 pass from Lewis (Howis kick)

SP — Wooten 1 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Lewis tackled in end zone for safety

SP — Young 15 run (Dudko kick)

SP — T. Watson 1 run (Dudko kick)

EG — Connor 14 run (run failed)

EG — Connor 12 run (Howis kick)

SP — Wooten 21 run (Dudko kick)