

Raiders strike quickly, rip Wildcats 49-0

By Bruce Martin
Gazette Sports Reporter

DALLAS — Like a powerful army against a surprised opponent, the South Point football team used the quick strike approach to build up a 49-0 victory over North Gaston in a high school football game Friday night.

South Point is 3-0, 2-0 in conference play. North Gaston dropped to 1-3 overall and 0-2 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference.

"Everything happened good for us early in the game," South Point coach Jim Biggerstaff said of his team, which had 27 first-quarter points.

On the fourth play of the game, South Point quarterback Mark Young faked a handoff and ran 67 yards for a touchdown. Mark Dudko's extra point gave the Red Raiders a 7-0 lead with 10:23 left in the first

quarter.

"Young took off on that run," Biggerstaff said. "It was a big play. A big play. A real big play."

"When you break a 67-yard run, it gets the other team down. If you took that play away, and they stop us and we have to punt, then we're in a ballgame."

"It gave our guys a lot of confidence. It made us feel like we could do what we wanted."

That feeling of being able to do whatever South Point wanted prevailed on the Red Raiders' next offensive series.

With a fourth down and four-yards-to-go situation on the North Gaston 31, Young threw a pass that was incomplete, but North Gaston was called for pass interference. Two plays later, Chris Wooten ran in from the 8 for a touchdown with 4:22 left in the quarter. Dudko's extra point gave South Point a 14-0 lead.

North Gaston had the ball for just two plays before South Point scored again when defensive lineman Tim Postell recovered a North Gaston fumble and returned it 15 yards for another touchdown. Dudko's extra point kick gave the Red Raiders a 21-0 lead with 3:28 left in the quarter.

Again, North Gaston had the ball for just two plays on the Wildcat's next offensive series before Anthony Mason fumbled the football on the 22-yard line and South Point recovered. Two plays later, Wooten scored from the 8 with 2:00 left in the quarter. Dudko's kick was blocked and South Point led 27-0.

The second quarter didn't bring much relief for North Gaston as South Point scored two more touchdowns. The first was a 41-yard run by Tonja Watson with 9:00 minutes in the half. Wooten ran for a two-point conversion and South Point led 35-0.

Watson scored again, this time from the 3-yard line, and Dudko's kick gave the Red Raiders a 42-0 lead.

South Point's final score came with 8:54 left in the third quarter when Young pitched the football to Keith Robbins, who ran 25 yards for a touchdown. Dudko's extra point was the final point of the game and South Point held a commanding 49-0 lead.

"When Postell got that fumble and scored, it got (North Gaston) in the hole early," Biggerstaff said.

Young led all runners with 94 yards on six attempts. He was followed by Wooten's 43 and Watson's 39.

"Young, Watson and Wooten have been doing it all year," Biggerstaff said. "We've been getting some balance out of all of them."

"This win gives us a little confidence going into a big ballgame at Shelby, next Friday. It's good that we go into that conference game undefeated."

South Point 49

North Gaston 0

South Point	27	15	7	0	—	49
North Gaston	0	0	0	0	—	0

SP — Young 67 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Wooten 8 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Postell 15 fumble recovery (Dudko kick)

SP — Wooten 8 run (kick blocked)

SP — Watson 41 run (Wooten run)

SP — Watson 3 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Robbins 25 run (Dudko kick)