

South Point makes it official with 41-6 romp

By Dwight Frady

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BELMONT — South Point made it official here Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, rolling to a 41-6 victory over East Rutherford for its eighth consecutive Southwestern 3-A Conference victory and ninth in a row in all games.

Playoff spot

The win assured Coach Jim Biggerstaff's Red Raiders of a spot in the North Carolina Division I playoffs. The Raiders will open post-season play Nov. 16 against Statesville, a 36-14 Western 3-A Piedmont conference winner Friday night over Lincolnton. That game will be played in Statesville.

It also allows South Point to clinch at least a share of its first league champion-

ship since the state title year of 1979. Shelby, winners over East Gaston Friday, could still tie the Raiders. But since South Point defeated the Lions, the Raiders would get the Division I playoff berth.

Terrific trio

Paced by its terrific trio of backs who have sparked them all season, the Raiders scored the first five times they had the ball on offense. After that, the running star of the night, junior tailback Tony Watson, broke loose on a 50-yard punt return for the sixth touchdown of the night with 3:38 remaining in the third period.

Neither team scored in a penalty-marred fourth quarter.

Watson scored three touchdowns on the night, giving him 13 on the season, and rushed for 169 yards in 15 carries. The

balanced Raider backfield got two touchdowns from senior quarterback standout Mark Young on runs of 74 and 26 yards and a 1-yard touchdown from fullback Chris Wooten.

"We're glad it's official," said Biggerstaff after the game. "I was surprised East Rutherford didn't throw the ball more against us. They threw only one pass in the first half and five for the game. They had been averaging around 90 yards a game passing."

Good on offense

"Offensively, I thought we had a real good game. We didn't play with the emotion we showed last week when we beat Crest (33-0), but it's hard to play that kind of game every week."

The Red Raiders seek to make it a perfect 10-0 year next Friday when they

host the Chase Trojans.

Young, who has broken a long run in his last eight games, got South Point on the scoreboard with a 74-yard scamper two plays after the opening kickoff at the 11:07 mark. Mike Dudko kicked the first of his five extra points.

Penalty helps

The next time it had the ball, the Raiders marched 80 yards in 10 plays, climaxed by Watson's 2-yard run. A personal foul penalty against the Cavaliers on a third and seven play aided the Raiders in that push, moving the ball to the East 28.

East Rutherford got on the scoreboard when they drove 40 yards, climaxed by Otis Carson's 14-yard run at the 8:39 mark of the second period.

South Point moved 60 yards the third

time it had the ball, Watson going the final 11 yards at the 6:08 mark for a 20-6 Raider lead.

Dudko recovered Rodney Watkins' fumble on the ensuing kickoff at the Cavalier 31, and two plays later Young raced wide left from 26 yards out at the 5:07 mark and the Raiders held a 27-6 halftime lead.

The Raiders closed out the scoring in the third period, going 58 yards in eight plays, with Wooten banging over from the one at the 3:44 mark. The big play in that drive was a screen pass from Young to end Lee Blalock good for 36 yards to the Cavalier 12.

Then came Watson's 50-yard punt return after the Raider defense held the Cavaliers again. He broke several tackles at the midfield stripe and then raced into the end zone.

East Rutherford 6 South Point 41

East Rutherford	0	6	0	0	—	6
South Point	14	13	14	0	—	41

SP — Young 74 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Watson 3 run (Dudko kick)

ER — Carson 14 run (kick failed)

SP — Watson 11 run (run failed)

SP — Young 26 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Wooten 1 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Watson 50 punt return (Dudko kick)