

*Raiders beat Chase, 34-8*

# South Point undefeated

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

BELMONT — South Point's Red Raiders closed out a perfect "10" regular season here Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, scoring on three of their first four possessions to capture a 34-8 win over the Chase Trojans.

The victory gave South Point its first Southwestern 3-A Conference championship since 1979, when South Point went 14-0 and won the state 3-A title.

The Red Raiders, who enter the playoffs next Friday against Statesville of the Western Piedmont 3-A conference on the road, closed regular season play with a 9-0 league mark and a 10-0 overall record.

The backfield trio of Mark Young, Tonja Watson and Chris Wooten accounted for 411 of South Point's 413 yards rushing. Young became the first quarterback veteran coach Jim Biggerstaff has coached at South Point to go over the 1,000-yard mark.

Young needed 113 yards entering the game to go over the coveted 1,000-yard rushing mark. He finished the game with 129 yards in 12 carries, giving him 1,016 on the year. He had 106 yards at the half, including another long-distance scamper of 63 yards.

Junior tailback Tonja Watson had another brilliant game, scoring three touchdowns, gaining 202 yards in 18 carries, and moving him to 958 yards rushing on the season.

Fullback Wooten gained 80 yards in 16 carries and

scored the other Red Raider touchdown. He has 639 yards rushing on the year.

"I think the fumble we recovered at our own five to stop them in the third quarter was the turning point in the game," Biggerstaff said. "We were leading 21-6 and they had second and goal on our two. That fumble recovery turned the game back around in our direction.

"I felt like we had a good game and I feel like we have good momentum going into the playoffs against a very fine Statesville team."

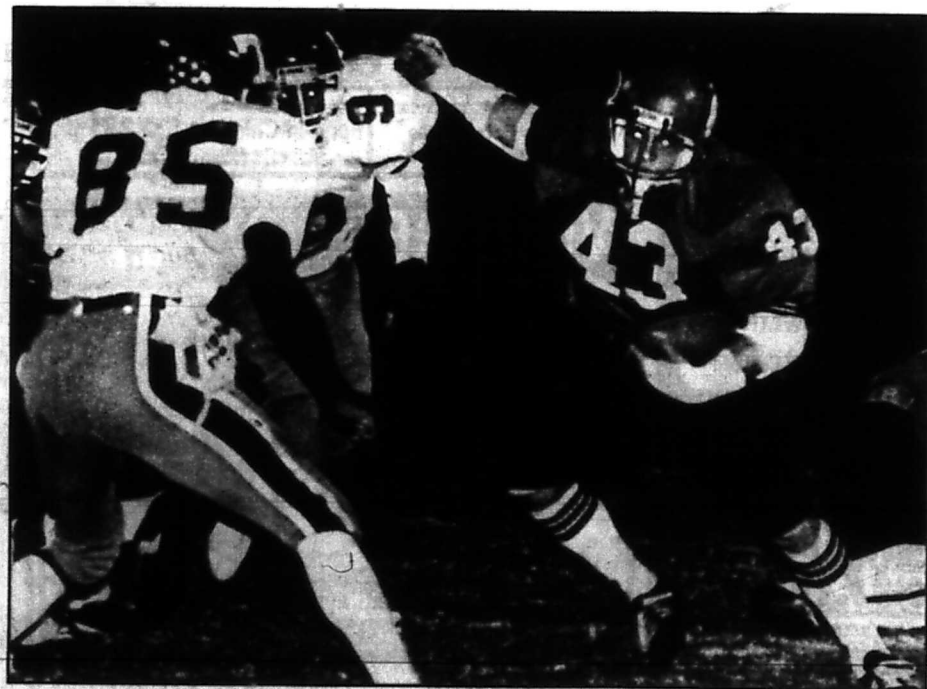
After Tim Postell recovered Chase quarterback Brian Foster's fumble, the Raiders drove 95 yards in 15 plays, with Watson going the final 21 yards at the 10:23 mark for a 28-8 lead.

Watson raced 73 yards at the 8:26 mark of the first period and Mike Dudko kicked the first of his four extra points for an early 7-0 Raider lead. Young then went 63 yards at the 5:22 mark.

South Point went 54 yards in seven plays at the 10:53 mark of the second period with Wooten going over on an 8-yard run and the Raiders held a 21-0 lead.

The Raiders moved from their 35 to the Chase 10, apparently headed for another score. But on a third and goal from the 6, Young was hit from behind while attempting to pass and Chase recovered at the 21.

The Trojans then marched 79 yards in 10 plays, with Jamie Jones scoring from the nine at the 3:04 mark and Foster passed to Howard Parry for the 2-point conversion.



Gazette photo by Joe Swift

South Point's Chris Wooten (43) cuts back upfield  
... as Red Raiders beat Chase for undefeated regular season

# South Point 34

## Chase 8

Chase	0	8	0	0	—	8
South Point	14	7	0	13	—	34

SP — Watson 73 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Young 63 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Wooten 8 run (Dudko kick)

C — Jones 9 run (Perry pass from Foster)

SP — Watson 21 run (Dudko kick)

SP — Watson 3 run (pass failed)