

# East Gaston rolls over South Point

## Raiders drop third straight game

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

MOUNT HOLLY — East Gaston's Warriors got a big 52-yard touchdown scamper from halfback Junior Ellis and two touchdown passes from quarterback Kenneth Hilton here Friday night en route to a 35-21 victory over South Point in a game dominated by offense on the part of both teams.

The victory was East Gaston's second in three games, while South Point dropped to 0-3, the first time in the school's history the Red Raiders have lost three games to open a season.

Led by senior tailback Tonja Watson, who gained 142 yards rushing on the evening, South Point drew first blood, Watson scoring on a 20-yard run on a 61-yard drive and Mike Dudko booting the first of his three extra points with 47 seconds remaining in the first period.

The next time it had the ball, South Point moved from its 34 to the East Gaston 3, where it had fourth and one. Watson gained to the 4 but fumbled when hit. The ball bounced out of the end zone after being touched by players from both teams and was ruled a touchback.

"I thought that was the big turning point in the game," said Warrior coach Duane Alderman. "Our kids showed a lot of character by coming back after that."

"Our game plan was to keep the ball as long as we could on drives, and we accomplished that for the most part. On our touchdown drive in the third quarter which put us up 21-7, we kept the ball for the first eight minutes of the quarter."

"I was a little disappointed in our defense. We gave up a lot of

passing yardage when we were keyed to stop their running game. We knew Watson was going to get his yardage. Two wins really helps us going into league play next week. These are good kids who've worked hard and deserve success."

Coach Jim Biggerstaff of the Red Raiders said, "Our defense just couldn't stop East Gaston. There really wasn't much defense in the game, and the final score indicates that. Our fumble out of the end zone when we were driving for an apparent score while leading 7-0 turned the game around."

After the touchback, East Gaston moved 80 yards in just six plays, Ellis going the final 52 yards. Jon Michael kicked the first of his five extra points at the 2:26 mark for a 7-7 tie.

Ellis wound up with 114 yards in 21 carries on the night.

Hilton hit Robbie Muse for a 15-yard touchdown with 47 seconds left in the half after a Raider fumble, giving the Warriors a 14-7 lead.

The Warriors opened the second half by going 71 yards in 14 plays, with Albert Whitesides going over from the 1 at the 4:01 mark. South Point came right back to cut the lead to 21-14 on a 74-yard drive in nine plays, with Watson scoring on a 1-yard run at the 11:35 mark of the fourth period.

East Gaston came right back and marched 58 yards in six plays, with Jackie Lewis going 20 yards with 8:23 remaining and a 28-14 Warrior lead.

The Warriors made it 35-14 when Hilton hit Cedric Sanders on a 39-yard scoring strike at the 4:21 mark. South Point made it 35-21 on a 70-yard bomb from quarterback Chris Cornelius to Keith Robbins with 3:41 remaining.



Gazette photo by Robert Lahser

Pat Keough of South Point after pass reception

... Red Raiders fall to East Gaston, 35-21

# South Point 21

## East Gaston 35

South Point 7 0 0 14 — 18

East Gaston 0 14 7 14 — 35

SP — Tonja Watson 20 run (Mike Dudko kick)

EG — Junior Ellis 52 run (Jon Michael kick)

EG — Robbie Muse 15 pass from Kenneth Hilton  
(Michael kick)

EG — Albert Whitesides 2 run (Michael kick)

SP — Watson 1 run (Dudko kick)

EG — Jackie Lewis 20 run (Michael kick)

EG — Cedric Sanders 39 pass from Hilton  
(Michael kick)

SP — Keith Robbins 70 pass from Chris Cornelius  
(Dudko kick)