

Watson leads Raiders

Scores 4 TDs in South Point win

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

BELMONT — Parents Night at Lineberger Stadium Friday night turned into Tonja Watson night rather quickly on Friday.

Watson, South Point's stellar tailback, scored all four of his team's touchdowns as the Red Raiders captured a 26-13 Southwestern 3-A Conference victory over North Gaston.

Watson set the tempo for a big night as he returned the opening kickoff 95 yards for South Point's first score. He later marked up touchdown runs of 9, 4 and 48 yards, finishing the night with 224 yards rushing in 21 carries.

South Point ran its league record to 2-0. The Raiders are 2-3 overall. The Wildcats, who scored their first touchdowns of the season, dropped to 0-2 in the league and 0-5 overall.

Both coaches, Jim Biggerstaff of South Point and Bob Patton of North Gaston, both agreed the difference in the game was Watson.

"Watson had a great night," Biggerstaff said. "He's the horse for us and he has to do it for us. I'm just tickled to death to have won. North Gaston impressed me with their offense. They played well."

"I had heard about Watson, and I have known Coach Biggerstaff for a long time. He always does a great job," Patton said. "Watson beat us by himself. He was the difference. We're still learning and we're encouraged. This was our best effort of the season. It was the first game which we didn't make many crucial mistakes."

The Raiders jumped to a 20-0 halftime lead. After Watson scored the game's first touchdown with only 12 seconds having elapsed off the clock, he scored on a 9-yard run with 8:06 remaining to climax an 81-yard drive in 11 plays in the second period.

Just before the half, Chris Cornelius of the Raiders hit halfback Chip Wilson on a 37-yard pass to the Wildcat 1 with only seven seconds remaining in the half. Watson scored on a 4-yard run on the next play to put the Raiders up 20-0 following Mike Dudko's second extra point.

North Gaston struck quickly in the third period on a 58-yard scoring bomb from Tommy Brown to Darren Gidney at the 9:52 mark.

North Gaston 13

South Point 26

North Gaston	0	0	7	6	— 13
South Point	7	13	6	0	— 26

SP — Tonja Watson 95 kickoff return (Mike Dudko kick)

SP — Watson 9 run (run failed)

SP — Watson 4 run (Dudko kick)

NG — Darren Gidney 58 pass from Tommy Brown (Tracy Sanders kick)

SP — Watson 48 run (kick failed)

NG — Eric Wallace 1 run (kick failed)