

Playoff chances end as Raiders suffer 19-0 loss

By Dwight Frady

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BELMONT — R-S Central's Hilltoppers did a number on South Point's Red Raiders in the rain Saturday night, handing the Raiders a 19-0 setback and eliminating the host team from any chance of getting into the state 3-A playoffs.

The loss capped a long, tough week for coach Jim Biggerstaff's team. Tuesday South Point had to forfeit two victories over Chase and Kings Mountain when Biggerstaff discovered the team had used an ineligible player. The Raiders dropped from 4-1 to 2-3 when Biggerstaff reported the ineligibility of Sylvester Lindsay.

After Saturday's defeat to the Hilltoppers South Point dropped to 2-4 in the league and 2-7 overall, a dramatic turnaround in just five days. R-S Central moved to 3-3 in the league and 3-6 overall.

South Point lost five fumbles and R-S Central lost three on the slippery field.

"We didn't deserve to win," Biggerstaff said after Saturday's setback, the second time this season the Raiders had been blanked. "We showed no effort. Meanwhile R-S Central just lined up in the power-I and rammed it down our throats.

"This eliminates us and it has turned into a long season," he added. The Raiders close out next week at home against Burns.

Ricky Head started his first game at quarterback for R-S Central and tallied his team's first two touchdowns.

"Head did a good job at quarterback for them," Biggerstaff said. "I thought Scott Floyd, our little sophomore tailback, ran well for us. He showed me something with the way he ran with the ball."

Floyd carried the ball seven-times for 34 yards. Tonja Watson, South Point's senior tailback, needed 59 yards to hit the 1,000-yard mark for the season and got exactly that many on 19 carries. It marked the second year in a row he has rushed for 1,000 yards.

The Hilltoppers recovered a fumble in the second period to set up their first score. After gaining possession at the Raider 22, the Hilltoppers scored in five plays. Head went over from the 2 at the 1:24 mark and Stephen Shehan booted the extra point.

South Point's most serious scoring threat came in the third period. The Raiders moved from their 34 to the Hilltopper 13 and had a chance to tie the game.

Three running plays, however, lost two yards, and Floyd's 9-yard run to the Hilltopper 6 on a draw play left the Raiders short of a first down by three yards.

Two more Raider fumbles set up the final touchdowns for Central.

The Hilltoppers recovered a Raider bobble at the 38 and moved in. Head went over from the 1 at the 6:32 mark. Later, the Hilltoppers recovered another fumble at the Raider 39 and moved it in with Michael Hooper racing in from 26 yards out at the 3:24 mark. It was the longest run of the night for either team.

R-S Central 19

South Point 0

R-S Central 0 7 0 12 — 19

South Point 0 0 0 0 — 0

RS — Ricky Head 2 run (Stephen Shehan kick)

RS — Head 1 run (pass failed)

RS — Michael Hooper 26 run (run failed)

	RS	SP
First downs	14	6
Rush Att-Yds	48-216	37-91
Pass Yds	14	8
Pass A-C-I	1-4-1	1-4-0
Fumbles lost	3	5
Points-Avg	1-34	2-35
Pen Yds	35	58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — R-S Central Jack Huss 1-(-4) Ricky Head 13-48 Wade Shehan 8-31 Todd Smith 12-77 Michael Hooper 6-46 Brad Logan 5-16 James Twitty 3-5 South Point Tanja Watson 19-59 Scott Osborne 9-9 Robbie Stewart 2-5 Keith Robbans 1-3 Scott Floyd 7-34

PASSING — R-S Central Head 1-4-1-14 South Point Osborne 1-3-1-6 Scott Mauldin 0-1-0-0

RECEIVING — R-S Central Smith 1-14 South Point Pat Keough 1-8