

Raiders outgun Warriors

By Dwight Frady

Special to The Gazette

MOUNT HOLLY — South Point's Red Raiders scored on three straight possessions in the second half after East Gaston had taken a 14-13 lead and rolled to a 35-14 non-conference win over their arch-rivals.

South Point overcame two deficits to win handily. The Raiders led 13-7 at the half, but Patrick Brown of the Warriors stunned the Raiders on a 56-yard scoring jaunt to give his team a 14-13 lead with 4:43 remaining in the third period.

On the ensuing kickoff, Pat Keough took a reverse handoff from Brian Pate and raced 65 yards to the Warrior 20 before being tackled. That set up Pate's 5-yard run five plays later, and he ran for the two-point conversion for a 21-14 South Point lead.

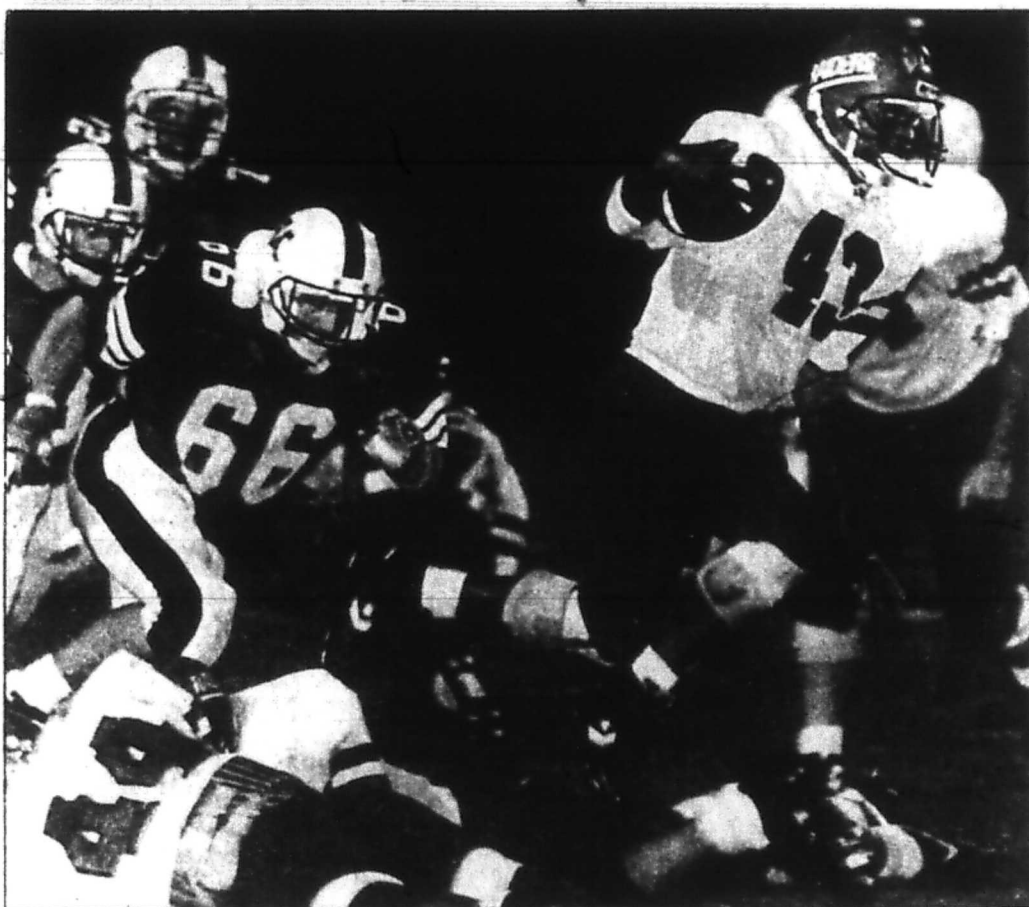
Both coaches agreed the kickoff return by Keough was a key play.

"We pushed it in after that, then scored the next two times we had the ball," Coach Jim Biggerstaff said. "We didn't play a pretty game. We made a lot of mistakes."

"What impressed me about this team is that we came back after being down. If that had happened last year, it would have been another story. But we showed good execution and poise after being down 14-13."

"We've got to play a lot better than this, though, against Shelby at home next Friday. But it's been a long time since we've been 2-1 and a long time since we've scored 35 points in a game."

"We just couldn't stop them," East Gaston coach Duane Alderman said. "They just came right



Robert Lahser/The Gazette

South Point's Willie Strain (43) picks his way through a crowd as he looks for yardage.

at us. The 65-yard run on the reverse by Keough turned it around.

"We knew they were going to pull that play. We told our squad on the sidelines to watch for the reverse. But they did such a good job with it we couldn't stop it."

"We had six turnovers and you can't win playing like that. This is the best South Point team I've seen in my three years here. Pate's a real fine football player. We're struggling right now and we've just got to go out there and try to get better."

Pate wound up with more than 100 yards rushing for the second

straight week. He gained 106 yards in 16 carries.

A Red Raider fumble of a punt was recovered by Tim Bradshaw at the South Point 4 to set up quarterback Scott Wise's 1-yard run at the 7:58 mark, and Chuck Smith booted the first of his two extra points.

South Point came back to take a 13-7 halftime lead on a 1-yard run by Willie Strain on the first play of the second period, and a 3-yard run by Strain at the 8:30 mark. Strain's first score came on a 46-yard drive in 10 plays, the big one a 19-yard pass from Mike Young

to Scott Osborn to the Warrior 1. The second came after Keough recovered Ronnie Hunter's fumble at the Warrior 25.

South Point's final two scores came on a 9-yard run by Scott Floyd after the Raiders recovered a Warrior fumble at the East Gaston 34; and on a 10-yard run by Robbie McNeil following a 64-yard drive in six plays, the big run being a 29-yard scamper by Pate to the Warrior 12.

East Gaston is 0-3 going into its Tri-County 4-A Conference opener at North Mecklenburg next Friday.

South Point 35

East Gaston 14

South Point	0	13	8	14	— 35
East Gaston	7	0	7	0	— 14

EG — Scott Wise 7 run (Chuck Smith kick)

SP — Willie Strain 4 run (Strain kick)

SP — Strain 3 run (run failed)

EG — Patrick Brown 56 run (Smith kick)

SP — Brian Pate 5 run (Pate run)

SP — Scott Floyd 9 run (run failed)

SP — Robbie McNeil 10 run (Floyd run)