

# Raiders roll to victory

## South Point tops Pisgah, 31-15

**By Dwight Frady**

Special to The Gazette

CANTON — South Point's Red Raiders scored two early touchdowns here Friday night and went on to capture a 31-15 victory over Canton Pisgah in the opening round of the state 3-A football playoffs.

The Raiders, who have won seven straight games, advance into the second round this Friday against Shelby, a 44-0 first-round winner over T.C. Roberson.

"It wasn't very pretty," said South Point coach Jim Biggerstaff. "We're just glad to come away with a victory against a good offensive football team.

"We jumped on them early and that was one of the major reasons we won the game. We had another well balanced attack with our tailbacks. They all had big nights, and our defense played well when it had to."

South Point's Brian Pate got the Raiders off to a good start when he returned the opening kickoff 81 yards for a touchdown with only 11 seconds having elapsed off the clock. Willie Strain's extra point, his only successful kick of the night, pushed South Point out in front 7-0.

Strain's pass interception in the first quarter set up the Raiders' second score as he picked off a Canton Pisgah pass at the Raider 20 and returned it to the Black Bears' 30.

A 15-yard clipping penalty on the play, though, brought the ball back to the Raider 40. After picking up a first down, quarterback Mike Young connected on his only pass completion of the night, hitting Pat Keough on a 50-yard scoring bomb with 7:06 remaining in the first quarter.

Late in the second period, the Raiders drove 63 yards in four plays for their third touchdown, with Young going over from 5 yards out for the score. It was Young's first touchdown of the season.

Pisgah helped South Point in

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# RAIDERS

FROM 8A

that drive with penalties of 15 and 10 yards as the Raiders moved to a 19-0 lead.

The Bears got on the scoreboard with 2:09 left in the first half when Terry Littrell scored on a 3-yard run. That climaxed a drive of 72 yards in six plays, and Kevin Robinson's extra-point kick created 19-7 score.

On its first possession of the second half, South Point moved from its 36 to the Pisgah 6 for a first-and-goal in six plays. But on third-and-goal, Young was tackled at the 11, and Strain's field-goal attempt on fourth down from 27 yards out sailed wide to the left.

A big turning point in the game came late in the third quarter when Pate recovered a fumble by Pisgah's Derrick Pace at the Raider 8.

Early in the fourth quarter,

Pisgah, on a fourth-and-five play from its 36, failed to pick up first down with an incompleated pass. South Point took over at that point, and two plays later, Strain ramblod 29 yards for a touchdown with 7:30 left in the game. The Raiders failed to convert a two-point running conversion but led, 25-7.

Pisgah marched 68 yards in five plays with Randy Woods scoring

on 1-yard plunge with 5:10 left. Woods then hit Matt Rhey with a two-point conversion pass to create a 25-15 score.

The Raiders scored their final touchdown with 1:58 to play, moving 49 yards in four plays. Strain scored his second touchdown of the night to cap that drive with a 9-yard run.

South Point's tailback trio of Strain, Pate and Scott Floyd ac-

counted for all but 30 of the Raiders' 304 yards rushing. Strain led the group with 120 yards in 15 carries.

"South Point has three outstanding running backs," said Pisgah coach Jim Fox. "We got ourselves in a hole early and couldn't dig ourselves out."

South Point improves to 9-2 while Pisgah finishes its season with a 3-8 record.

# WOLVES

FROM 8A

the clock out and advance to the second-round showdown with South Iredell.

"The first big play was a 17-yard pass to Ramseur," Smith said. "We had him open all night. Then, McLaughlin sprung loose on a quarterback sneak to gain 18 yards. That was our only sustained drive of the night."

Without the big play, Lincolnton could have come up on the short end of a defensive struggle.

"I felt we were going to have to break a big play to win the game," Smith said. "They are too tough on defense. They have a heck of a defensive team.

"We didn't see anything we didn't expect from their defense — we knew it was good. They played us tough. I thought we would be able to throw better. But you can't say enough about our big play, but

that last drive was a big one."

Northwest's ground game dominated the first half, but the Trojans led by only a 3-0 score after Eric White hit a 30-yard field goal with 5:23 left in the first quarter.

Lincolnton took a 7-3 lead after the flea-flicker before White cut it to 7-6 with a 33-yard field goal with 7:40 left in the game.

"Tonight was a very surprising night," Smith said. "We were fortunate to win 7-6."

# **South Point 31**

## **Canton Pisgah 15**

<b>South Point</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>— 31</b>
<b>Canton Pisgah</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>— 15</b>

SP — Brian Pate 81 kickoff return (Willie Strain kick)

SP — Pat Keough 50 pass from Mike Young (kick failed)

SP — Young 5 run (kick failed)

CP — Terry Littrell 3 run (Kevin Robinson kick)

SP — Strain 29 run (run failed)

CP — Randy Woods 1 run (Matt Rhey pass from Woods)

SP — Strain 9 run (kick failed)