

West Mecklenburg dumps Raiders, 49-13

By David Poole

Gazette Sports Editor

BELMONT — Things started out badly and got much, much worse for the South Point Red Raiders in Monday night's 49-13 high school football loss to West Mecklenburg.

The visitors scored on a 47-yard pass play on their first play from scrimmage, and right then Raider coach Jim Biggerstaff sensed that his team was in trouble.

"I could tell right from the first play that our players just were not ready to play tonight," said Biggerstaff. "When you play against good football teams, that's when you have to have that extra effort."

We just didn't have any kind of effort tonight."

The 36-point margin of defeat tied a South Point school record for its worst loss — matching two 42-6 beatings at the hands of Ashbrook to open the 1986 and 1987 seasons. Never before had any team scored more than 42 points in a game against a South Point team.

The early touchdown got West Meck rolling, and the 2-0 Indians didn't slow down until they had built a 49-0 lead with 5:26 to play in the third period.

"They are a very fine football team," Biggerstaff said. "I told the kids after the game that's the

best team we're likely to play all year. We also helped make them look good, though.

"They play great defense and they just have so much quickness. I don't know if I've ever seen a team with so many quick people."

That quickness was on display throughout the first half, which saw the Indians score five touchdowns despite running only 19 offense plays. West Meck scored on drives that lasted one, three, seven, two and two plays in building a 35-0 edge.

The first score was indicative. After the Raiders lost seven yards on their first three offensive plays, Fred Snow returned Mike Young's

punt to the South Point 47. On the first play, sophomore quarterback Maceo Bolin threw deep over the middle for Pressley Herron, who sprinted away from two Raider defenders to run under the wobbling pass and darted into the end zone.

West Meck's next possession ended on a first-play fumble, but after South Point punted again it took the Indians three plays to cover 88 yards. Roosevelt Brooks ran for 38 yards to midfield, and after a 7-yard gain by James Melton, Brooks broke for a 43-yard scoring run.

In the second period, Melton's 1-yard dive over the top capped a 41-

yard drive set up by a 20-yard punt return and a 15-yard penalty against the Raiders.

The next two West Meck scores came after South Point turnovers. One play after a fumble by Strain, Brooks went 35 yards for his team's fourth TD. Then, in the final minute of the half, Snow picked off a Mike Young pass and Bolin hit Perry Brewer with a 29-yard scoring strike two seconds before halftime.

The Raiders' woes continued when, on the second half kickoff, Antoine Love took the ball at the 14 and disappeared into a pack of blockers and would-be tacklers.

Please see RAIDERS/11A

RAIDERS

FROM 9A

Love popped out of the pack and broke to the left sideline en route to an 84-yard return.

"We had people on that play who didn't even know where the ball was," Biggerstaff said.

The Indians' last score came on their only sustained drive of the night. West Meck marched 59 yards in 10 plays with Melton get-

ting the final yard for his second touchdown of the night.

South Point finally got on the board with 2:37 to go in the final period. The Raiders went 67 yards for the score, with Jamie Boyd getting the final 33 on a look-in pass from Young. Boyd tacked on the point after to make it 49-7.

In the game's final two minutes, Nathan Cloninger returned a James Mickel fumble from the Indians' 45 to the South Point 18. After an incomplete pass, a pass interference penalty moved the

ball to the 9. From there, Chris Medlin hit Juan Miller in the front left corner of the end zone for the Raiders' final points.

West Meck finished with 413 yards of total offense, 297 of it on the ground. Brooks rushed for 137 of those yards on just seven carries. Bolin was five for six through the air for 115 yards and two touchdowns.

South Point had 251 yards, with 193 coming on the ground. Strain was his team's workhorse, carrying 24 times for 148 yards.

West Mecklenburg 49 South Point 13

West Mecklenburg 14 21 14 0 — 49

South Point 0 0 7 6 — 13

WM — Pressley Herron 47 pass from Maceo Bolin (pass failed)

WM — Roosevelt Brooks 43 run (Perry Brewer pass from Bolin)

WM — James Melton 1 run (Doug Miller kick)

WM — Brooks 35 run (Miller kick)

WM — Brewer 29 pass from Bolin (Miller kick)

WM — Antoine Love 84 kickoff return (Miller kick)

WM — Melton 1 run (Miller kick)

SP — Jamie Boyd 33 pass from Mike Young (Boyd kick)

SP — Juan Miller 9 pass from Chris Medlin (pass failed)

	WM	SP
First downs	15	12
Rush Att/Yds	41/297	35/193
Passing Yds	115	58
Passes C/A/I	5/6/0	3/13/1
Fumbles lost	2	1
Pen/Yds	8/79	7/55

INDIVIDUAL TOTALS

RUSHING — West Mecklenburg: Roosevelt Brooks 7-137; James Melton 5-9; Perry Brewer 6-43; James Mickle 10-46; Antoine Love 3-21; Maceo Bolin 1-2; Ray Washington 3-35; Chad Ballard 5-7. South Point: Willie Strain 24-148; Mike Young 4-(-4); Jamie Boyd 6-41; Nathan Cloninger 1-8.

PASSING — West Mecklenburg: Bolin 5-6-0-115. South Point: Young 2-11-1-49; Chris Medlin 1-2-0-9.

RECEIVING — West Mecklenburg: Pressley Herron 3-72; Brewer 2-43. South Point: Strain 1-16; Boyd 1-33; Juan Miller 1-9.