

# Raiders strategy backfires in loss

From staff reports

BELMONT — East Rutherford took advantage of a South Point onside kick that went awry to open the game, picked up a fumble for a second quick score, then held on to defeat the Red Raiders 18-12 in a Southwestern 3-A Conference game Friday.

The Cavaliers went 44 yards in six plays to open the game when the on-sides kick backfired, Carlos Sanford going over from the one, and on South Point's first possession, Jeremy Harrill picked up a Raider fumble and went 14 yards.

South Point, now 0-2 in the league and 0-4-1 overall, compared to East's 2-0 and 5-0 marks, got the first of two touchdowns from Willie Strain from 27 yards out and that's the way the half ended, thanks to a great South Point goal-line stand seconds before intermission.

The Raiders tied the game at 12-12 following a fumble recovery at the East 33 in the third period, Strain going the final five yards.

Terrence Forney's 58-yard return of an intercepted pass to the Raider 32 set up East's winning score. Andre Alexander went over from the three in the third stanza for the 18-12 lead.

The Raiders had a chance to possibly win the game in the fourth period, driving from their 28 to the Cavalier one, where they had third and goal. But a fumble back to the four and an incomplete pass thwarted that drive with a little under four minutes left.

Strain had 131 yards in 24 carries for the Raiders. Sanford picked up 128 yards in 23 carries for East.

## Prep roundup

Hill said coach Randy Faucette "put more emphasis on handling and correcting care mistakes," in practice last week.

But the Bears, who had dropped two straight coming into Friday night, didn't have to handle the ball all that much against the Yellow Jackets.

Bunker Hill scored on the play on three of its first four offensive possessions and on the fourth play another time as it built a point halftime edge en route to Southern District 7 2-A Conference victory.

Even though Faucette said he didn't put any special emphasis on stopping Bessemer City's Reid, who had rushed for 100 yards over the last two weeks, the defense had a different idea. Reid was held to 12 yards on nine of 11 half carries before finishing strong for 110 on 17 carries.

"We got a little bit better tonight," said Faucette. "We're a better team than we've been showing. It's good to be back on the right track."

After Reid picked up 11 yards on his first two carries, the Hill defense shut Bessemer City out — allowing just 21 yards the remainder of the first half.

Austin Roberts, who finished with 147 yards on 15 carries, started Bunker Hill's scoring with a 34-yard touchdown with 7:30 left in the first period. Presley went 17 yards to score the first time the Bears had the ball, two possessions later Reid scored again from 7 yards out.

An interception by Barr 14

# East Rutherford 18 South Point 12

East Rutherford	12	0	6	0—18
South Point	6	0	6	0—12

ER — Carlos Sanford 1 run (kick failed)

ER — Jeremy Harrill 14 fumble recovery return

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(run failed)

SP — Willie Strain 27 run (kick failed)

SP — Strain 5 run (run failed)

ER — Andre Alexander 3 run (kick failed)

**Newberry 31**