Indians pound South Point in second half

CHARLOTTE — Fans who turned out at West Mecklenburg expecting a blowout Friday night were instead treated to a fine first half of football.

But in the second half, their expectations came to life.

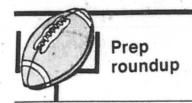
The host Indians capitalized in a big way on South Point mistakes, and their explosive offense took care of the rest as the Red Raiders fell 35-10.

West Meck improved to 3-0, while South Point dropped to 0-3.

The Indians quickly turned a close 14-10 halftime lead into a 28-10 runaway early in the third period.

Although West Meck showed its prowess in the second half, the tide of the contest acutally turned in the second period.

With the score tied 7-7, the Red Raiders came knocking on the door with a first-and-goal at the Indian six-yard line.



Two running plays netted South Point two yards and quarterback Mike Young faced a crucial third-and-goal.

Young took the snap, rolled to his left and looked toward Willie Strain in the end

But West Meck safety Chad Puckett stepped in front of Young's pass and ran the interception back the length of the field.

South Point had one more spectacular play left and that came after the ensuing kickoff.

Young threw a perfect spiral to wide-open split end Lyle Wilson, who made a diving catch for a 47-yard completion that put the

Raiders at the Indian 15.

Strain, who finished the night with 93 yards on 23 carries, took his team to the seven but could move it no further.

Strain settled for a 22-yard field goal, which accounted for the 14-10 halftime score.

The Indians took the second half kickoff and moved 80 yards in seven plays.

James Mickle scored the first of his two second-half TD's when he swept into the end zone from 33 yards.

The Red Raiders, still fighting, moved into Indian territory. But once they were there, they fumbled.

Then West Mecklenburg quarterback Maceo Rankin threw an interception to Ricky Hunt.

Then the Red Raiders fumbled again, but this time the Indians didn't return the favor.

Ray Washington scored from two yards with 5:29 left in the third quarter, which gave the Indians a commanding 28-10 lead.

Mickle added one other Indian score in the fourth period. The Indians threatened to add another seven points, but instead ran out the clock at the South Point goal.

The teams fought a crowdpleasing defensive battle in the first quarter. Neither team scored as the punters saw most of the action.

Bolin, who missed on his first four pass attempts, finally found Perry Ferguson open for a 23-yard touchdown pass.

Matt Pennell, who kicked all of west Meck's extra points, gave his team a 7-0 advantage.

Strain excited the crowd with a defensive play, when he picked up a West Meck fumble and fled 53 yards to tie the score.

- Mike Cearley

East Rutherford 27 Hunter Huss 13

FOREST CITY — East Rutherford jumped out to a 13-0 first-quarter lead, then played the Huskies on even terms to take the non-conference battle between a pair of unbeaten teams.

The Cavaliers grabbed the early edge, capping a 73-yard drive with Morgan McKinney's 10-yard touchdown pass to Anton Littlejohn.

Robert Gray added a 1-yard TD run later in the frame following an interception by Littlejohn, making it 13-0.

Things stayed that way until the third period when Huss drove 62 yards in eight plays, cutting the gap to 13-7 when Barry Turner hauled in a 17-yard touchdown toss from Kirklen

Please see PREPS/3C

South Point 10 West Mecklenburg 35

South Point West Mecklenburg 0 14 14 7 - 35 WM - Perry Ferguson 13 pass from Maceo Bolin (Matt Pennell kick) SP - Willie Strain 53 fumble recovery (Strain kick) WM - Chad Pucket 100 yard interception return (Pennell kick) SP - Strain 22 field goal

WM — James Mickle 33 run (Pennell kick)
WM — Ray Washington 2 run (Pennell kick)
WM — Mickle 8 run (Pennell kick)