

# Strain, Raiders blow away Cats in SWC opener

By Eric Schurer

Gazette Sports Editor

BELMONT — It took a little while for Willie Strain to get started Tuesday afternoon.

But once Strain got rolling, there was nothing the North Gaston defense could do to stop the South Point senior as he raced to a career-high 251 yards and four touchdowns to lead the Red Raiders to a 40-0 whitewash of the Wildcats.

South Point clearly dominated the Southwestern 3-A Conference opener for both teams, a rare Tuesday afternoon game pushed back twice because of Hurricane Hugo.

The Red Raiders, 1-0 and 2-3, outgained the Wildcats 452-to-181, including a 383-73 advantage on the ground. South Point scored the first four times it had the ball and five of seven times in the game. The Red Raiders did not punt.

"We're not 40 points better than North Gaston," said South Point coach Jim Biggerstaff. "At least not the North Gaston that played Ashbrook last week (a 20-6 Green Wave win). We just had a good day."

North Gaston's day wasn't as sunny.

"Maybe we got the idea that it was all right to lose if you play hard (against Ashbrook)," said Wildcat coach Bob Patton. "We've got to change that attitude. It takes a lot of work to prepare for a team like South Point."

"There was one team playing football out there and another just standing and watching."

Strain scored the final four touchdowns of the game on runs of 23, 2, 20 and a career-best 94 yards.

"The team was playing well early, but I didn't feel like I was," Strain said. "It took me a while to get into the game."

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**Jim Biggerstaff**

South Point football coach

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Early in the first half, it looked like Strain's younger brother Jeff was going to earn the headlines.

Jeff Strain's running spearheaded South Point's first drive with a pair of nine-yard runs and a 17-yard scoring dash.

The younger Strain finished with 81 yards on nine carries, 74 in the first half.

"We're giving Jeff the ball a little more every game," Biggerstaff said. "Everybody knows that if you stop Willie Strain, you stop South Point."

"But Jeff's giving us another barrel."

The Wildcats, 0-1 and 2-3 overall, found themselves looking right down that barrel too often against the Raiders. If it wasn't one of the "Strain gang," it was quarterback Mike Young.

Young completed just three passes, but one was an 11-yard touchdown toss to Jason Rumfelt and another was good for 45 yards to David Wilson which put the ball at the 2, setting up a Willie Strain touchdown.

North Gaston reached South Point territory twice, getting as close as the Red Raider 7 in the fourth quarter. But a Mike Patton pass was intercepted in the end zone by Rod Williams to end the threat.



Jeff Melton/The Gazette

Jeff Strain looks for extra yardage in South Point's oft-delayed game against North Gaston.

# North Gaston 0

## South Point 40

North Gaston 0 0 0 0 — 0

South Point 14 13 6 7 — 40

SP — Jeff Strain 17 run (Willie Strain kick).

SP — Jason Rumfelt 11 pass from Mike Young (W. Strain kick).

SP — W. Strain 23 run (W. Strain kick).

SP — W. Strain 2 run (kick failed).

SP — W. Strain 20 run (kick failed).

SP — W. Strain 94 run (W. Strain kick).

	NG	SP
First Downs	12	21
Rushing Att-Yds	28-73	40-382
Passes C-A-I	7-19-3	3-7-1
Passing yds.	108	70
Fumbles lost	0	1
Punts - Aver.	3-36.0	0-0.0
Pen.-Yds.	12-124	10-93

### INDIVIDUAL TOTALS

**RUSHING** — North Gaston: Scott Littlejohn 15-48, Larry Traywick 4-15, Mike Patton 9-10. South Point: Willie Strain 20-251, Jeff Strain 9-81, Ricky Hunt 4-32, Mike Young 2-14, Lyle Wilson 1-(-1), Jeremy Strain 1-1, Maurice Crawford 1-4, Rod Williams 1-(-1).

**PASSING** — North Gaston: Mike Patton 7-19-3-108. South Point: Mike Young 3-7-1-70.

**RECEIVING** — North Gaston: Mavis Alexander 2-31, Ivan Brooks 2-32, Danny Thomas 1-21, Scott Littlejohn 2-23. South Point: Jasons Rumfelt 1-11, David Wilson 1-45, Jeremy Strain 1-14.