

# South Point puts Strain on Bulldogs

## From staff reports

**BELMONT** — Burns found out the hard way that playing South Point can put a "Strain" on your offense and defense.

The Raiders rallied twice, using a deflected pass that David Wilson turned into a 71-yard touchdown, as South Point upset the Bulldogs, 33-26 in high school football, keeping its playoff hopes alive.

Willie Strain, already over 1,000 yards rushing for the season going into Friday night, powered the Raiders with 134 yards on 25 carries, scoring three times.

The senior tailback also picked off a key pass with 1:51 left in the game, returning the ball 32 yards, then scoring from the nine to boost the Raiders to a 33-26 lead.

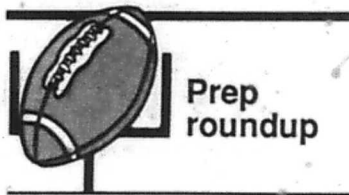
Six minutes earlier, Burns had rallied on a 69-yard Doug Merritt reverse after Strain had given South Point its first rally with a 1-yard dive after Raider quarterback Mike Young had set the table with an "ugly floater" 19-yard completion to Maurice Crawford on third and 13.

Crawford started the drive with a 33-yard interception return.

"This is one of the biggest wins of my coaching career — man this one is sweet," said an elated South Point head coach Jim Biggerstaff. "We beat a true conference championship contender with some key players out."

"When we got the tipped pass to fall in our hands to put us back on top I could see the momentum swing, the fire in our eyes."

One series earlier, Merritt had



picked off a pass from Young, returning it to the South Point 46, but the defense, one that had been burned earlier by Donnie Malachi for 140 yards and three first-half scores, shut down the speedster for just 26 second-half yards.

On the play before the tipped pass, Young had been flagged for intentional grounding. So, on third and 22 Young tried again.

The pass was actually a yard short, but Gerrard Lee tipped it into Wilson's hands. Strain's kick broke the 26-26 tie.

— Neil Simmons

## Crest 35 East Gaston 7

**MOUNT HOLLY** — East Gaston continued its winless season as the Crest Chargers shut the Warriors out until the final minutes to take a Tri-County 4-A Conference win.

East Gaston coach Earl Lingafeldt seemed to take it all in stride.

"It was a typical game for us," Lingafeldt. "We played hard and did some good things, but a few key plays turned it around."

Trailing 35-0, the Warriors put together a quick scoring drive.

With good field position after a squib kick and a penalty, East Gaston moved down the field. A 36-yard pass from Ellis, who had shifted to quarterback, to Do-

minick Davis set up the score. Ellis ran in from six yards on the

The Warriors are now 0-5 in the Tri-County and 0-9 overall. They will finish the season next week at Harding.

— Jeff Kaylor

## Chase 13 Cherryville 0

**SHELBY** — The Ironmen held the Trojans to just over 200 yards in offense, but could generate little of their own in falling to 1-6 in the SD-7 race.

Chase earned the victory with a second-quarter touchdown pass from Gervin Phillips to Rodney Phillips. The Trojans added a touchdown in the fourth quarter on Daniel Deck's 31-yard scamper.

Cherryville could muster just 136 yards in offense on the night.

The win raised Chase's record to 4-3 in conference and 4-5 overall.

Cherryville, 1-8 overall, will close the season next week at home against Mooresville.

— Ron Kiser

## Bunker Hill 49 West Lincoln 13

**LINCOLNTON** — Jermaine Mason rushed for three touchdowns, helping visiting Bunker Hill rally from a 13-7 deficit to maintain its share of first place in the Southern District 7.

The Bears, 8-0 in league play and 8-1 overall, host Newton-Conover next Friday to determine the league champion.

A nine-yard TD run by Bobby Gilmore and Jody Cochrane's PAT evened the game at 7-7, with Brad Hallman hauling in a 16-yard TD toss from Jeff Weaver

early in the second period to make it 13-7.

Bunker Hill roared however, retaking the lead on Jody Rockett's one-yard and the second of Casey S. seven PATs.

Mason then scored straight touchdowns, all on running plays.

Gilmore finished with a season-high 135 yards rushing to lead the attack for West Lincoln, which drops to 0-7 and 0-9.

## Clover 23 A.C. Flora 6

**CLOVER, S.C.** — A pair of interceptions by the Knox Braves put the Clover Blue Eagle in position to make the play on the Broad River 3-A Conference.

Smitty Ballard opened scoring with a 34-yard field goal early in the first quarter.

Chad Knox's first-quarter interception set up Chris M. 40-yard run to give Clover a lead.

In the second quarter, Mike Knox's pickoff that set the Blue Eagle score. Collie De rambled in from 14 yards and after Ballard kicked, it was 17-0 Clover.

**FREE  
TO THE  
CHILDREN**

**Burns 26**

**South Point 33**

Burns 6 12 0 8 — 26

South Point 0 14 0 19 — 33

Bu — Johnny Malachi 37 run (kick failed)

Bu — Malachi 2 run (kick failed)

SP — Willie Strain 3 run (Willie Strain kick)

Bu — Malachi 23 run (pass failed)

SP — Maurice Crawford 7 pass from Mike Young  
(Willie Strain kick)

SP — Willie Strain 1 run (kick failed)

Bu — Doug Merritt 69 run (Willie Beam run)

SP — Dave Wilson 70 pass from Young (Willie  
Strain kick)

SP — Willie Strain 9 run (kick blocked)