



South Point quarterback Jerard Hardy flushed out of the pocket by North Gaston's Manuel Ogle.

John Clark/The Gazette

# Raiders blank Wildcats 34-0 in SWC opener

By Jeff Kaylor

Gazette Correspondent

DALLAS — South Point's defense shut down the North Gaston offense, holding the Wildcats to just five first downs as the Red Raiders rolled to a 34-0 high school football victory Friday night at Trudnak Stadium.

It was the Southwestern 3-A Conference opener for both teams: South Point is now 1-0 and 2-3 overall while North Gaston falls to 0-1, 1-4.

The Wildcats managed only 50 yards on 31 carries, and the Raiders allowed a mere 102 total yards.

"Our defense was definitely the key to this game," commented South Point coach Phil Tate. "They really played well tonight."

The defense set up the Raiders' first score, recovering a North Gaston fumble on the Wildcats' second play from scrimmage. On the next play, Raider running back T.O. Wilson sprinted 24 yards for a touchdown. Ryan Werner added the extra point, giving South Point a 7-0 lead less than two minutes into the game.

The Wildcats were able to mount one drive, moving the ball 76 yards in seven plays

early in the second quarter to give themselves first down and goal at the South Point 2-yard line. But the Raider defense stiffened, stopping the Wildcats on four straight plays to turn away the threat.

That's when South Point's offense and, more specifically, running back Moe Crawford took charge. After the Raiders took over at their own 8 yard line, Crawford broke loose for a 20-yard run to give the offense some breathing room. Four plays later, South Point quarterback Gerard Hardy passed 35 yards to Gerald McClure to set up another score. Crawford raced into the end zone from 13 yards out on the next play to make the score 13-0 with 1:26 left in the first half.

The Wildcats again had a chance to cut into the Raiders' lead midway through the third quarter. North Gaston took over on downs at the South Point 32 yard line, and proceeded to move the ball as deep as the 14 yard line. But, once again, the Raiders turned away the threat.

South Point then blew the game open, driving 85 yards in ten plays to once again find the end zone. Crawford rushed for 84 of those yards, carrying seven times during the drive.

# South Point 34

## North Gaston 0

South Point	7	6	7	14	—	34
-------------	---	---	---	----	---	----

North Gaston	0	0	0	0	—	0
--------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

SP — T.O. Wilson 24 run (Ryan Werner kick)

SP — Moe Crawford 13 run (kick failed)

SP — Crawford 22 run (Werner kick)

SP — Wilson 2 run (Werner kick)

SP — Gerald Hardy 30 run (Werner kick)