Wolves howl in opener

BELMONT — What South Point's Red Raiders had was a failure to communicate. What the Lincolnton Wolves got was a 20-16 opening night high school football victory over South Point at Lineberger Stadium Friday night.

Lincolnton's Jamal Magness returned a punt 46 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter to give the Wolves a come-from-behind win, and their third straight season-opener over the Red Raiders.

Magness swept to his left after fielding the punt and sprinted untouched into the end zone. Only two South Point players covered the punt, and neither came close to Magness.

"I sent a message for our punter to take a safety if the snap was high or went over his head," said South Point coach Phil Tate, whose team exploded for two touchdowns in the third quarter to take a 16-12 advantage.

"What the team heard was that we were taking a safety. We were in a tight punt for-mation, and nobody covered the kick."

"We were set up for a re-turn," said a relieved Lincolnton coach Richard Smith. "It was a good return, but it was more of their (South Point's) lack of coverage."

Magness scored Lincolnton's first TD on another breakaway play when he caught a 59-yard halfback pass from Charles Littlejohn. That score came with 3:40 left in the second quarter and it gave the Wolves a 6-3 lead.

Ryan Werner had put the Raiders ahead 3-0 with a 24-yard field goal on the first play of the period.

Lincolnton moved ahead 12-3 just before halftime when Lynch scored from the 7.

Mike Cearley

	1	2	3	4	Final
Lincolnton	0	12	0	8	20
South Point	0	3	13	0	16

SP — Ryan Werner 24 FG
Li — Jamal Magness 59 pass from Charles Littlejohn (kick failed) Li — Dion Lynch 7 run (run failed)
SP — T.O. Wilson 22 run (kick failed)
SP — Wilson 35 run (Werner kick)
Li — Magness 46 punt return (Marcus Horn pass from Lynch)