

Raiders stun Westmoreland, South Iredell in first round

By Mike Cearley

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BARIUM SPRINGS — With South Point fans chanting, "Tyrone, Tyrone," South Iredell's Tyrone Westmoreland tied North Carolina's touchdown record with a 4-yard run, but it was too late for the Vikings.

Led by an emotionally charged defense, South Point shut down Westmoreland and stunned the Vikings 24-6 in the first round of the N.C. 3-A playoffs Friday night.

The Red Raiders, who are now 7-3-1, will play at Kannapolis Brown next week.

"The key was we were able to tackle Tyrone," said South Point coach Phil Tate. "This is just a super win. Tyrone Westmoreland got in the end zone, but just once, and that's all that matters."

South Point was able to move the football from the start, as the Red Raiders took the game's opening kickoff and drove all the way to the South Iredell 6 yard line. However, Rachon Stowe was hit and fumbled on the 1, but it was that early field position that Tate felt made the big difference in the outcome.

"We didn't get the ball in the end

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RAIDERS

FROM 1C

zone, but we had them backed up on the one and held them inside the 10," said Tate. "We were able to keep that good field position most of the first half."

After South Iredell punted, Stowe got one more chance as the Red Raiders once again moved inside the Vikings' 10. Stowe waltzed in untouched from 2 yards out as South Point took a 6-0 lead.

South Iredell went to the big-play attack in the second quarter, picking up key first downs in third-and-long and fourth-and-long situations in a second quar-

ter drive. But two holding penalties hampered the drive and South Point took over after South Iredell missed a 49-yard field goal.

The Red Raiders were able to move the length of the field with quarterback Gerard Hardy scoring on a fourth-and-2 play from the 4.

South Point preserved its 12-0 lead when Red Raider safety Hunter Armstrong intercepted an Anthony Wright pass deep in South Point territory just before the half.

Another South Point interception in the third quarter, this time by Hardy, stopped the Vikings one more time.

Sophomore Courtney Williams put the Red Raiders up 19-0 in the fourth period with a 25-yard run.

Finally, Westmoreland, who is the state's all-time leading rusher and finished with 188 yards rushing, gave the home team something to cheer about when he broke his longest run of the night, a 56-yard burst to the South Point 4.

Three plays later, Westmoreland scored his 92nd career touchdown.

South Point added one more score in the final seconds as William Hannon scored on a 1-yard run.

South Iredell finishes the season at 10-1.

South Point 24

South Iredell 6

South Point 6 6 0 12 — 24

South Iredell 0 0 0 6 — 6

SP — Rachon Stowe 2 run (kick blocked)

SP — Gerard Hardy 4 run (pass failed)

SP — Courtney Williams 25 run (pass failed)

SI — Tyrone Westmoreland 4 run (pass intercepted)

SP — William Hannon 1 run (kick failed)

	SPT	SIRE
First downs	18	11
Rushes-yards	43-282	39-227
Passing yds	42	13
Comp-Att-Int	4-6-0	1-17-2
Punts	2-36	2-32
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-50	5-50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — South Point: Stowe 15-84, Williams 9-96, Hardy 9-59, Derek Bowen 7-19, Hannon 3-24. South Iredell: Westmoreland 29-188, Jerry Moore 7-28, An-

thony Wright 3-11, Pago Harris 1-0, Keith Adams 1-0.

PASSING — South Point: Hardy 4-6-0-42. South Iredell: Wright 1-14-2-13, Westmoreland 0-2-0-0, Harris 0-1-0-0.

RECEIVING — South Point: Randy Brown 3-32, Tail Triplett 1-10. South Iredell: Harris 1-13.

Lincolnton 22