

Raiders rely on 'D' to hold off Wolves

BELMONT — Defense made the difference in an old-fashioned football war Friday night.

South Point's Don Stowe returned an interception 26 yards for a touchdown and Kirk Crawford added the crucial extra point as South Point nipped visiting Lincolnton 21-20 in the season-opening game for both schools.

"It was just an old-fashioned struggle, a knock-down drag-out," said South Point coach Phil Tate. "I'm just glad we ended up coming out on top."

Stowe's touchdown broke a 14-14 deadlock with 8:43 remaining, with Crawford's boot making it 21-14.

But the Red Raiders couldn't savor the sweetness as Lincolnton's Anwar Wyatt took the first play from scrimmage 60 yards down the left sideline for a touchdown on the Wolves' ensuing possession, cutting the lead to a single point.

Lincolnton called time, setting up a two-point conversion try. The Wolves called again on Wyatt, pitching the ball to the sophomore as he cut to his right. This time, though, South Point's Matt Butler was ready, nailing Wyatt before he could get to the line of scrimmage and stopping him short of the goal line.

"We'd decided to go for two a long time before that. Our kicking game is not real good," said Lincolnton coach Richard Smith. "It's the same play we scored on earlier. But there were no second thoughts."

The play Smith referred to was a 2-yard dash by Wyatt in the second period, which

ended with Wyatt leaping over a pile of defenders into the end zone. It was set up by a hook-and-lateral play which, coupled with a penalty, took the ball from Lincolnton's 49 to the Red Raider 9.

But the Wolves again could not convert the extra point as Wyatt's kick sailed right of the goal.

That left South Point with a 7-6 lead, courtesy of an early 3-yard TD run by Courtney Williams, who finished with 137 yards on 22 carries to lead South Point's attack.

Just before their first score, the Wolves lost standout Charles Briggs with severe leg cramps. He would play briefly in the fourth quarter, but was ineffective.

Undaunted, Lincolnton managed to take a 14-7 lead on Brian Littlejohn's 2-yard TD run and a conversion run by Wyatt midway through the third period.

In the fourth quarter, though, the Red Raider offense took over at the Lincolnton 24 after a short punt by Wyatt, scoring two plays later on Shannon Armstrong's 22-yard bootleg to even the score.

Armstrong later sealed the win, picking off a Josh Atkins pass in the closing seconds to end Lincolnton's final threat.

Dean Lowman

Lincolnton	0 6 8 6 - 20
South Point	0 7 0 14 - 21
SP — Courtney Williams 3 run (Kirk Crawford kick)	
Lin — Anwar Wyatt 2 run (kick failed)	
Lin — Brian Littlejohn 2 run (Wyatt run)	
SP — Shannon Armstrong 22 run (Crawford kick)	
SP — Don Stowe 26 interception return (Crawford kick)	
Lin — Wyatt 60 run (run failed)	