

Raiders pour it on Wildcats

■ BELMONT — South Point set its big red machine in motion Friday night and never let up as the Raiders crushed North Gaston 55-0.

South Point, ranked 10th in this week's 3-A poll, piled up 556 yards of total offense and picked up 25 first downs in moving to 5-0.

North Gaston fell to 2-3 in the SWC 3-A opener for both teams.

"We were hitting on all cylinders tonight and they weren't," said South Point coach Phil Tate. "I was a little bit surprised with our play, especially our defense. Our defense set the tone for the whole game."

The Wildcats were without runningbacks Antonio Wallace and Stewart Fulcher, who were both injured in last week's loss to Lincolnton. That left the load on the shoulders of Mario Brandon, the area's leading rusher.

The Raider defense held Brandon to 78 yards, the first time he has rushed for less than 100 yards this season.

South Point's offensive line opened gaping holes for the dynamic duo of Courtney Williams and Shannon Armstrong.

Williams rushed for 238 yards, while Armstrong ran for 124. Both scored two touchdowns in the onslaught.

Williams scored on runs of 65 and 44 yards, while Armstrong



Craig Bell/The Gazette

Wildcat Randy Thomasson (L) tackles Courtney Williams.

broke loose for 31 and 52 yards. Don Stowe also had a big TD run of 44 yards.

"They come off the ball far better than any team we've played," said North Gaston coach Mike Somers. "Their offensive line is their strength, and their quarterback (Armstrong) runs the option well. They are tough to defend."

"Without (Wallace and Fulcher) we didn't have a decoy. All they had to do was key on Mario. It took away our running threat, but injuries are a part of football. We should have been ready to play better than we did."

North Gaston was able to penetrate Raider territory only

twice during the game.

The Wildcats' first opportunity didn't come until the third quarter after a bad snap on a punt attempt gave North Gaston a first down at South Point's 35.

But two plays later, South Point's William Hannon intercepted a Freddie Kromis pass at the Raider goal line.

Mike Cearley

North Gaston	0	0	0	0	—	0
South Point	14	7	20	14	—	55

SP — Courtney Williams 65 run (Kirk Crawford kick)
 SP — Shannon Armstrong 31 run (Crawford kick)
 SP — Charles Pettis 4 run (Crawford kick)
 SP — Williams 44 run (pass failed)
 SP — Armstrong 52 run (Crawford kick)
 SP — Pettis 1 run (Crawford kick)
 SP — Don Stowe 44 run (Crawford kick)
 SP — Chris Smith 5 run (Crawford kick)