

Red Raiders fall in OT, 35-34

By Dean Lowman

Gazette Prep Editor

BELMONT — A chip shot, Shelby's Tucker Hamrick called it.

It might as well have been a dagger to the hearts of the South Point Red Raiders.

Hamrick's extra point in overtime lifted Shelby to a 35-34 state 3-A playoff win at South Point, sending the Golden Lions to the state semifinals and leaving the Red Raiders to wonder what might have been.

"We just didn't win," said South Point coach Phil Tate. "Our kids played their guts out and we didn't

win."

Shelby (10-3) hosts High Point Andrews next Friday in the semifinals. South Point ends its season at 11-2.

"I have never been prouder of a team," said Tate. "We just didn't win. We're not going to point fingers at anybody. When we win, we win. When we lose, we lose."

Hamrick got his chance at being the hero after Shelby rallied to tie the game in the final minute of regulation on Omar Roberts' 2-yard run, then tie the game again in overtime on a 1-yard burst by Roberts.

Please see RAIDERS/5C



Rodney Young photo

South Point's Courtney Williams (9) is tripped up after by several Shelby defenders after picking up yardage.

RAIDERS

FROM 1C

South Point called time out twice to try and rattle Hamrick, who was prepared for the strategy, and keeping the overflow crowd of more than 6,000 on the edge of its seat.

"They were trying to ice me. But I knew I could make it. It's just a chip shot, really," said Hamrick. "I had thought about it before they did it and knew they would call time outs if they had them."

When play resumed, holder Antonio Gaston bobbled the snap, but got it down in time for Hamrick's game winner.

"This may have been the most classic South Point-Shelby game I have ever been associated with," said Shelby coach Jim Taylor. "It was one of the finest, most hard-nosed games I've been around."

South Point held the lead both late in the game and in the overtime. A 1-yard TD run by Courtney Williams with 3:53 to play staked the Red Raiders to a 28-21 edge.

But Shelby marched 68 yards on its ensuing possession to

send the game to overtime with 48 seconds to play, the drive keyed by a 24-yard gallop around left end by John McGill to the Red Raider 3.

In the overtime, South Point took the ball first. Hampered by the loss of quarterback Shannon Armstrong to a separated shoulder last in the game, the Red Raiders handed the ball three straight times to Williams. He vaulted in from the 1 on third down, making it 34-28 and giving him 121 yards.

The Red Raiders opted for the extra point kick. But Williams got off a low liner that was blocked by James Smith, opening the door for Hamrick's heroics.

"Speed — we couldn't contain their speed," said Tate. "They had the deep out when they wanted it. They had Omar inside and their quarterback did a great job."

For most of the game, neither team was able to stop the other. South Point got a 6-yard TD dash from Williams and scored on a 33-yard pass from Armstrong to Brett Bigham with 10 seconds left in the first half to take a 14-7 lead.

Shelby, which had capped a

93-yard drive in the first half on Eugene Leach's 1-yard run, marched 77 yards to start the second half, evening the game on Roberts' 4-yard jaunt.

A 38-yard kickoff return by Don Stowe helped set up Stowe's 3-yard TD run, giving the Red Raiders the lead once more. But Shelby came back on its next possession, driving 70 yards in just four plays.

Shelby	0	7	14	7	7	35
South Point	7	7	7	6	34	
SP — Courtney Williams 6 run (Williams kick)						
She — Eugene Leach 1 run (Tucker Hamrick kick)						
SP — Brett Bigham 33 pass from Shannon Armstrong (Williams kick)						
She — Omar Roberts 4 run (Hamrick kick)						
SP — Don Stowe 3 run (Williams kick)						
She — Antonio Gaston 14 run (Hamrick kick)						
SP — Williams 1 run (Williams kick)						
She — Roberts 2 run (Hamrick kick)						
SP — Williams 1 run (kick blocked)						
She — Roberts 1 run (Hamrick kick)						

	She	SP
First downs	15	13
Rushes-yards	47-250	45-266
Passing yds	72	33
Comp-Att-Int	6-8-1	1-2-0
Punts	1-38	1-42
Fumbles-Lost	2-2	5-4
Penalties-Yards	3-15	3-14

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Shelby: Robert Williams 2-66, Roberts 19-60, Leach 13-54, John McGill 6-53, Gaston 7-17
South Point: Williams 26-121, Stowe 9-99, Armstrong 10-46.

PASSING — Shelby: Gaston 6-8-1-72. South Point: Armstrong 1-2-0-33.

RECEIVING — Shelby: Williams 6-72. South Point: Bigham 1-33.

WOLVES

FROM 1C

his way to the end zone.

Mooresville	0	0	0	7	7
Lincolnton	12	6	12	7	37
Lin — Anwar Wyatt 17 run (kick failed)					
Lin — Charles Briggs 18 pass from Josh Atkins (pass failed)					
Lin — Briggs 25 pass from Atkins (pass failed)					
Lin — Atkins 3 run (run failed)					
Lin — Briggs 82 punt return (run failed)					
Mor — Damon McKee 61 run (Pat Stutts kick)					
Lin — Wyatt 66 run (Jeremy Rice kick)					

	Mor	Lin
First downs	5	15
Rushes-yards	34-163	38-217
Passing yds	0	103
Comp-Att-Int	0-2-0	6-9-0
Punts	4-33-8	3-39-7
Fumbles-Lost	5-3	1-0
Penalties-Yards	1-15	5-50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Mooresville: McKee 11-108, Sammy Jackson 12-66, Josh Hopkinson 1-11, Pervis Johnson 4-2, Michael Gandy 6-(-24). Lincolnton: Wyatt 12-162, Kevin McClain 6-29, Cheron Farley 4-17, Brian Littlejohn 3-9, Tryon Adams 3-5, Ricardo Jimenez 2-5, Atkins 4-1, Leon Bostic 1-2, Briggs 1-(-1), Demetrik Wilson 1-(-2), Sharron Ramseur 1-(-8).

PASSING — Mooresville: Gandy 0-2-0-0. Lincolnton: Atkins 7-10-0-103.

RECEIVING — Mooresville: Lincolnton: Briggs 3-48, Wyatt 1-18, Farley 1-24, Bostic 1-13, Allen Stover 1-0.