Lincolnton's Anwar Wyatt (7) breaks loose from South Point defender Daniel Wiggins (72) during the first quarter Friday night.

'If I were Lincolnton, I would go ahead and make reservations for Chapel Hill right now.' South Point Coach Phil Tate

The Pack is Back: Wolves cruise

By Richard Walker
Gazette Sports Reporter

Defending state champions race to 41-0 lead over Red Raiders

LINCOLNTON — The banner Lincolnton High's football team ran through at the start of Friday's

Lincolnton	41
S. Point	13

game with South Point said it all: "Get Ready 2 Rumble. The Pack is Back!"

Lincolnton made that emphatically true with a thorough 41-13 whipping of the perennially-powerful Red Raiders in front of a partisan crowd of 7,000 at Battleground Stadium.

The Wolves, N.C. 2A state champions a year ago, took a path to victory that has become typical for them: They simply outran their opposition.

Junior phenom Anwar Wyatt scored four touchdowns for Lincolnton — three receiving and one rushing. Senior quarterback Josh Atkins threw TD passes — one to Allen Stover. And speedy Kevin McClain returned a fumble for the Wolves' final touchdown.

South Point, Southwestern 3A champions and Western N.C. 3A quarterfinalists a year ago, didn't score until the fourth quarter. And the Red Raiders' 14-point final period helped them even out the yardage differential.

Lincolnton finished with 394 yards and 14 first downs. South Point had 352 yards and 14 first downs.

"If I were Lincolnton, I'd go ahead an make my reservations for Chapel Hill right now," said South Point coach Phil Tate. "They were just tremendous out there tonight."

The Wolves scored touchdowns on five of their first six offensive

WOLVES

possessions in building a 34-0 halftime lead. That swelled to 41-0 before South Point salvaged two fourth-quarter touchdown drives.

Those scoring drives were led by Williams and sophomore Marcus McCollough, respectively.

Williams, who finished with 174 yards rushing, had three first-down runs on the Red Raiders' first score.

And McCollough carried on five straight plays, including a two-yard plunge, on South Point's second score.

"When it was 41-0, I was looking at the scoreboard thinking, 'Isn't this South Point we're playing?' " Atkins said. "I mean, with them, I'd expect a close game."

It wasn't to be on this muggy August night. Unlike the previous five games between the two schools, which had been decided by just 24 points, Lincolnton got going and didn't stop until Wolves coach Richard Smith started inserting his reserves in the third quarter.

"We got good bounces and the kids played hard," Smith said. "But, yeah, I was surprised by the number of points we scored."

Wyatt, who finished with 136 yards receiving and 76 rushing, said the game felt just like Lincolnton's state championship run of a year ago.

And the outing came at a time when the Wolves had been struggling, according to Smith. In the coach's eyes, Lincolnton hadn't been executing in practice during the previous two weeks.

"I don't know what it was," Wyatt said. "I guess it was just the energy of playing on Friday night against somebody who'd beaten you two straight games.

"But whatever it was, I hope it continues the rest of the season."

For Lincolnton fans, that could very well mean a return trip to Chapel Hill and the state championship game.

In addition to Wyatt's production, Atkins had 136 yards passing and McLain 86 yards rushing

John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Courtney Williams is dragged down by a host of Lincolnton defenders in the Wolves 41-13 win.

South Point	0	0	0	13 —	13
Lincolnton	21	13	7	0 —	41

Lin — Anwar Wyatt 5 run (kick failed)

Lin — Wyatt 17 pass from Josh Atkins (Allen Stover pass from Atkins)

Lin — Wyatt 90 pass from Atkins (Quentin Abernathy kick)

Lin — Stover 12 pass from Atkins (kick failed)

Lin — Wyatt 30 pass from Brett Carey (Abernathy kick)

Lin — Kevin McClain 47 fumble return (Abernathy kick)

SP — Courtney Williams 15 run (Pepper Martin kick)

SP — Marcus McCollough 2 run (kick failed)