

FAMILY TRADITION

SP rally mirrors old days

By Richard Walker
Gazette Sports Reporter

KINGS MOUNTAIN — The legend of the Williams family grows larger by the week at South Point High.

Courtney Williams added to his family's lore Friday night by sparking the Red Raiders to a come-from-behind 17-14 victory

S. Point 17
Kings Mtn. 14 that spoiled Kings Mountain's homecoming festivities.

It was the third time this season Williams has sparked a fourth-quarter Red Raiders' rally. And the last two have had eerie similarities to comebacks authored by Courtney's uncle Jeff Williams during South Point's 1979 state championship season.

To wit:

In 1979's victory over East Rutherford, Jeff Williams' long touchdown run gave the Red Raiders a 7-3 victory on a rain-soaked field. Last week, Courtney Williams completed the winning TD pass in a 24-20 victory over East Rutherford on the game's final play.

In 1979's victory over Kings Mountain, Jeff Williams scored one of the TDs in a 15-12 victory over the Kevin



Craig Bell/The Gazette

Kings Mountain's Shane Logan (33) dives over Jason Lineberger of South Point.

Mack-led Mountaineers. He then clinched the victory with a late pass interception in the end zone. In Friday night's win, Courtney Williams accounted for all of South Point's points and made a pass interception on the game's final play.

Does that mean the comebacks are family legacy?

"No, not at all," Courtney Williams said. "It's the legacy of South Point living on."

Whatever it was, it gives the Red Raiders a strong head of steam toward a second straight Southwestern 3A title while it frustrated the devil out of Kings Mountain and its capacity crowd of 5,000.

"I guess fate was with us tonight," said Williams, whose game-winning points came on an 18-yard field goal with one minute, 15 seconds left.

It sure didn't start that way. Kings Mountain dominated the first half with solid play on the lines. But while the Mountaineers outgained South Point 115 to 29, they led just 7-0.

"We felt pretty good being down by only one touchdown," South Point coach Phil Tate said. "But we came out stronger in the second half, especially at the line of scrimmage."

And after Williams' 4-yard scoring run and subsequent

conversion kick, South Point had tied the Mountaineers at 7.

But Kings Mountain's Lamont Littlejohn quickly rallied his team back ahead, scoring his second TD of the night on a 26-yard option keeper on the second play of the final period.

Unfazed, Williams led a tying scoring drive culminated by his 39-yard TD pass to Reggie McLean.

South Point	0	0	7	10	— 17
Kings Mountain	7	0	0	7	— 14
KM — Lamont Littlejohn 13 run (Brian Lefevers kick)					
SP — Courtney Williams 4 run (Williams kick)					
KM — Littlejohn 26 run (Lefevers kick)					
SP — Reggie McLean 39 pass from Williams (Williams kick)					
SP — FG Williams 18					