

# SP shelled, loses edge in playoffs

By Mike Cearley  
Gazette Correspondent

BELMONT — The Shelby Golden Lions roared into town and sent South Point packing Friday night.

**Shelby 34**  
**South Point 3**

Shelby's convincing 34-3 victory knocked South Point out of the Southwestern 3A conference's top spot and out of a homefield advantage in the upcoming state playoffs.

The Shelby win gave Burns the league's regular season ti-

tle and moved the Lions into second place.

The Red Raiders (6-4, 4-2) will travel to Asheville as the SWC's third-place team to open the playoffs next week. Shelby (7-3, 5-1) will visit Canton Pisgah.

Shelby Fullback Aric Lipscomb ran up the middle and over the Raiders in the second half, rushing for 129 of his game-high 134 yards as Shelby stretched a 13-3 halftime lead into a runaway.

While Shelby's offense controlled the game in the second

half, it was a big defensive play by Lipscomb in the first half that Lion coach Jim Taylor said sparked his team.

Trailing 6-3 late in the first half, the Raiders were on the move in Shelby territory. But South Point quarterback Courtney Williams was forced to hurry a pass on a third-and-17 play at the Shelby 37.

Lipscomb intercepted the pass at the 30 and returned it 70 yards for a touchdown with 1:24 left before halftime.

Shelby's other score of the half came when Andre Law-

rence broke free down the sidelines for a 63-yard score on a third-and-7 play with 6:54 left in the first half.

"Normally, you don't get big plays like that in a tight ballgame," said Taylor. "Those two long plays we got in the first half were blessings in disguise.

"South Point controlled the ball on us in the first half, then we were able to turn the tables and control the ball on them in the second half."

After a scoreless first quarter, South Point mounted a time-consuming second-quarter

drive that took the Red Raiders to the Shelby 15.

But the Lions stopped the Raiders short on a third-down call and South Point settled for a 32-yard field goal by Williams.

That's all the scoring South Point would do, although the Raiders would mount another drive that would burn most of the first-half clock.

After picking up a first down at the Shelby 25, the Raiders did an about-face. A holding penalty, then an offsides call, aided the Shelby cause as the

Lion defense came to life.

The Raiders amassed 186 yards total offense in the first half, but gained little in the second as the Lions went to work.

The victory was Shelby's sixth straight — that after the Lions had dropped three of their first four games.

Shelby	0	13	14	7	—	34
Bessemer City	0	3	0	0	—	3
SP	— Courtney Williams 32 field goal					
Sh	— Andre Lawrence 63 run (kick failed)					
Sh	— Aric Lipscomb 70 interception return (Randy Burks kick)					
Sh	— Lipscomb 4 run (Burks kick)					
Sh	— Devon Scott 30 run (Burks kick)					
Sh	— Lipscomb 31 run (Burks kick)					