

# South Point clinging to playoff hopes

By Darin Gantt

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RUTHERFORDTON — The roster says Koren Robinson is a sophomore.

South Point coach Phil Tate knows better.

"Koren grew up tonight."

Tate said after the Red Raiders held on for a 7-6 win over R-S Central Monday night. "He ran hard and the right side of the line blocked hard."

"We were finally able to do what we wanted to do."

Robinson ran for 90 yards on

19 carries, with 72 of the yards coming in the second half.

In fact, 47 of them came on the Red Raiders' final possession, following a R-S Central score which closed the gap to one point.

But the talented soph's tough running allowed South Point to stay in the title picture.

"We knew we had to win if we wanted to make the playoffs," Robinson said. "So this was our playoff game."

Robinson wasn't the only youngster to have an impact for the Red Raiders (3-5 overall, 2-2 Southwestern 3A).

Randy Wilkinson, also a sophomore, made his first start

at quarterback, and put South Point on top with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Richardson in the second quarter.

South Point was able to hold on to that lead thanks to its penurious defense, which didn't allow the Hilltoppers (2-5, 0-3) past the Red Raider 43 until late in the fourth quarter.

R-S never mounted what could be called a drive, but a South Point fumble gave the Hilltoppers the ball on the 14 with 7:30 remaining in the game.

Four plays later, Warren Barnes plunged in from the four to bring the score to 7-6.

The Hilltoppers went for the

two-point conversion, but Barnes was tripped behind the line of scrimmage by junior Dusty Prince, allowing the Red Raiders to secure the win and stay in the playoff hunt.

After a bye week, South Point will play Burns at home, with the winner likely to take the SW3A's final playoff spot.

But after a 2-5 start, can the Red Raiders be considered a serious contender?

"That was our goal all along," Tate said. "Anything can happen from here on out."

South Point	0	7	0	0	-	7
R-S Central	0	0	0	6	-	6
SP — Kyle Richardson 40 pass from Randy Wilkinson (Brian Ashe kick)						
RS — Warren Barnes 4 run (run failed)						