

Shelby rolls over S. Point; Red Raiders advance anyway

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SHELBY — It was Senior Night at Blanton Memorial Stadium, but it was a sophomore who led Shelby to a 35-0 win over South Point.

Quarterback Norris Hopper threw for 109 yards and rushed for 79 more to spark the Golden Lion offense.

Shelby	35
S. Point	0

On a 36-

yard, third-quarter TD run, Hopper broke two tackles at the line of scrimmage.

Despite the loss, South Point earned a playoff spot as the Southwestern 3A's third seed.

The Red Raiders tied with East Rutherford and Burns with 3-3 conference records. But South Point won an earlier blind draw and clinched the playoff berth when Kings Mountain dropped East Rutherford 25-14.

Shelby wouldn't allow South Point to win the berth outright. The Golden Lions rolled up 337 yards offense while holding the Red Raiders to 129.

The game's key sequence came in the second quarter. Shelby's 68-yard drive stalled at the Red Raider 10-yard line. A Golden Lion field goal attempt was shanked short and Red Raider Mica Tribble returned the miss 39 yards.

The Red Raiders gained momentum as they moved to the Shelby 28-yard line. But quarterback Kyle Richardson's third-down pass was intercepted by DB Markus Tate, who raced 78 yards for the score.

Hopper engineered two second-half scoring drives before yielding to the second team.

South Point	0	0	0	0	-	0
Shelby	7	7	7	14	-	35

Sh — Marlin Archie 1 run (Tyler Ashe kick)
Sh — Markus Tate 78 interception return (Ashe kick)
Sh — Norris Hopper 36 run (Ashe kick)
Sh — Julius Ross 1 run (Ashe kick)
Sh — Rico Cannon 1 run (Jeff Teague kick)