

South Point dropped by N. Buncombe

Red Raiders' season ends with 4-7 record

By Darin Gantt

Gazette Sports Reporter

WEAVERVILLE — The North Buncombe Blackhawks made sure South Point's first playoff game was its last one.

Blackhawk tailback Jeremy Laster rushed for 188 yards and three touchdowns and threw for another as North Buncombe overwhelmed South Point 31-7 in the first round of the state 3A playoffs.

**N. Buncombe 31
South Point 7**

The Blackhawks improved to 12-0, and will play Enka, a 16-14 winner over Kings Mountain, on the road next week.

The Red Raiders finished the season 4-7, winning two of their last three to make the playoffs after finishing in a three-way tie for third in the Southwestern 3A Conference.

South Point coach Phil Tate said the difference was Laster, who now has 2,190 yards and 30 rushing touchdowns this season.

"You don't get over 2,000 yards by being a nag," Tate said. "He just has such good balance and quickness.

"We felt like we could play with these guys when we came in here, but they just had too much."

Laster began his dominance on the first possession, taking the Blackhawks inside the South Point 5-yard line with runs of 17, 19 and 31 yards.

South Point stiffened for three plays, but Laster threw a three-yard touchdown pass to Jeremy Manning to give NB a 7-0 lead.

The Red Raiders tied the game at 7-7 early in the second quarter on a one-yard plunge by Mica Tribble, but Laster put the Blackhawks up for good on the next possession, scoring from 26 yards out.

South Point's best chance came on the opening series of the second half.

Mica Tribble returned the kickoff 43 yards to the NB 42, but the Red Raiders fumbled on their first play.

From that point, the North Buncombe defense became as forgiving as the IRS, keeping South Point from anything resembling a drive the rest of the game.

"They just swarmed us," Tate said. "We played hard, I just don't know how well."

South Point	0	7	0	0	-	7
North Buncombe	7	10	14	0	-	31
NB — Jeremy Manning 3 pass from Jeremy Laster (Chris Hightower kick)						
SP — Mica Tribble 1 run (Brian Ashe kick)						
NB — Laster 26 run (Hightower kick)						
NB — Hightower 44 field goal						
NB — Laster 5 run (Hightower kick)						
NB — Laster 10 run (Hightower kick)						