

## Tate leads Huskies

## Huss romps by South Point

By Richard Walker

Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — Demarkus Tate made his summertime ritual pay big dividends Friday as he led Hunter Huss past South Point 35-21.

Tate, in his first year as a starting quarterback since he was 12 years old, followed a summer of carrying around and throwing a football with Huss' first 100-yard passing game in three years.

More importantly, two of Tate's throws went for touchdowns, including a game-clinching 53-yard pass to Zanduras Wilson late in the third quarter:

"We don't have the dominant running back like we've had in the past," Hunter Huss coach David Bolin said. "But we've got some good receivers and we thought Demarkus could develop into a good quarterback for us."

Tate certainly seems to be making Bolin's hopes come true.

Though he's completed just 11 of 35 throws, five have gone for touchdowns, he's only been picked off once and they've accounted for 219 yards. He threw for 101 yards against the Red Raiders.

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## HUSS

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feel more and more comfortable back there," said Tate, converted from receiver to quarterback late last season." I felt the best I'd felt all year out there tonight."

Bolin says Tate's improvement is necessary if the Huskies are to advance to postseason for a school-record sixth straight year.

"With the players we've got, we know we've got to throw the football more than we've done before," said Bolin, whose school has only one 1,000-yard passing season in its history.

"Demarkus is a leader and the kind of player who makes everybody better."

Plus, he's got a speedy corps of backs and receivers to get the ball to.

That group provided a perfect complement for Tate on this night.

- Dane Hawkins rushed for 110 yards and two touchdowns and picked up another 76 yards
  on returns.
  - Wilson caught a TD pass from Tate and returned the opening kickoff 90 yards for another touchdown.
  - Tim Baxter provided solid lead-blocking at fullback in addition to 65 yards rushing.
  - And Anthoney McClueney caught Tate's other scoring strike — a 13-yarder.

The rest was up to the Huskies' defense, though South Point put forth a spirited comeback effort after trailing 21-0 at intermission.

Marcus Kisner led the Huss defense with seven solo or firsthit tackles, including one that caused a fumble. Armstrong, Recoe Brown, Eddie Meeks, Johnny Barrett, Anton McClee and Mike Moore also came up with big plays.

South Point was led by swiftfooted quarterback/defensive back Mica Tribble. Tribble accounted for 210 all-purpose yards, including two TD passes to Kelly Brown and had seven solo or first-hit stops.

Tribble's first scoring toss nudged South Point within 28-13, before Tate's scoring throw to Wilson iced the game.

Hunter Huss 14 7 14 0 - 35 South Point 0 0 13 8 - 21

HH - Zanduras Wilson 90 kickoff return (Tim Cherry kick)

HH — Anthoney McClueney 13 pass from Demarkus Tate (Cherry kick)

HH - Dane Hawkins 29 run (Cherry kick)

SP - Thurston Johnson 27 run (Brian Ashe kick)

HH - Hawkins 16 run (Cherry kick)

SP - Kelly Brown 56 pass from Mica Tribble (Kick failed)

HH - Wilson 53 pass from Tate (Cherry kick)

SP — Brown 36 pass from Tribble (Tribble run)