

South Point edges North Gaston

By Michael Nixon

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Friday's scores

Ashbrook	34
W. Mecklenburg	12
Hunter Huss	45
East Gaston	0
South Point	27
North Gaston	20
Kings Mountain	19
Mooresville	14
Cherryville	33
East Lincoln	12
West Lincoln	24
Hibriten	8
Chase	61
Bessemer City	0
Clover	9
Buford	0
Shelby	34
Burns	0

■ More Preps, Pages 4-5D

DALLAS — A couple of weeks ago, Friday night's South Point-North Gaston matchup looked to be a tale of two teams going in opposite directions.

North Gaston opened the season with three straight wins for the first time in school history, while South Point dropped three in a row.

But that was two weeks ago. And after Friday night's 27-20 Red Raiders win, South Point has served notice they're back in the hunt for another Southwestern 3A title.

"Our kids have played tough all along, even through those three losses," South Point coach John Devine said. "But they hung in there, and tonight they played like

champions."

South Point did it with a strong defensive effort, holding standout Wildcats running back Toren Gordon to 108 yards — 31 in the second half.

"We bent, but we didn't break," Devine said. "North Gaston's got a heck of a team."

After a scoreless first quarter, the Red Raiders got on the board just before halftime. Koren Robinson's one-yard run capped a seven-play, 62-yard drive to make the score 7-0 with 1:11 left in the half.

Then, instead of trying to run out the clock and start the second half down by just seven, North Gaston gambled after the ensuing kickoff. On first down at midfield, the Wildcats attempted a screen pass. But Mi-

Please see **SOUTH POINT/4D**

South Point 27
N. Gaston 20

SOUTH POINT

FROM 1D

Michael Fields' toss was tipped into the hands of South Point's Travis Peeler, who raced 46 yards for the score just seconds before intermission.

"Looking back on it now, I shouldn't have called a pass play," North Gaston coach Mike Briggs said. "But it was just one of many things that didn't go right for us tonight."

South Point's Devine called it a turning point in

the game.

"There's no question it was a big play," Devine said. "I thought Travis was going to run out of gas before he could score."

Now down by two scores, North Gaston's run-oriented offense battled back in the second half.

Wallace Montgomery's seven-yard run highlighted a 10-play, 81-yard Wildcat scoring drive that ate up nearly six minutes of the third quarter clock and cut South Point's lead to 14-6.

But fourth quarter scores

by quarterback Mica Tribble (109 yards total offense) and reserve tailback Thurston Johnson were enough to keep the Wildcats at bay.

"To us, these are all play-off games," Devine said of his team's first conference win. "That's the way we approach it, and we want to win all of them."

South Point	0	14	0	13	-	27
North Gaston	0	0	6	14	-	20
SP	- Koren Robinson 1 run (Bryan Ashe kick)					
SP	- Travis Peeler 46 INT return (kick good)					
NG	- Wallace Montgomery 7 run (run fail)					
SP	- Mica Tribble 9 run (kick good)					
NG	- Toren Gordon 6 run (run fail)					
SP	- Thurston Johnson 18 run (kick fail)					
NG	- Jeremiah Banks 75 KO return (Michael Fields run good)					