

# Opening night



## Robinson drives South Point to win over Bessemer City

By Mike Nixon

Gazette Correspondent

**BESSEMER CITY** — The first-ever meeting between South Point and Bessemer City turned into the Koren Robinson show Friday night.

Robinson ran for two scores and caught a pass for another to lead the Red Raiders to a 35-6 win.

"They (BC) decided to take away our inside game, and that really opened up Koren on the outside," said South Point coach John Devine. "He's an incredible runner when he gets out in the open field."

South Point took control of the game early in the first quarter and never let the

Yellow Jackets up for a r. After being denied on fourth- and

### Prep scores

Ashbrook 16, Providence 8  
Hickory 44, North Gaston 3  
South Point 35, BC 6  
Bunker Hill 29, Cherryville 8  
Bandys 42, East Lincoln 0  
Hibriten 7, West Lincoln 0  
For details, see Page 4C

goal from the BC 1-yard line on their first possession, the Raiders found the end zone the next time they touched the ball, converting a Bessemer City fumble into Robinson's first score, a 13-yard pass reception from quarterback Brian Ashe for a 6-0 lead.

Ashe tossed another touchdown pass to start the second quarter, this time finding Kelly Brown with a 41-yard strike and a 14-0 advantage.

"We didn't pass the ball much tonight," Devine said, "but he (Ashe) threw strikes when we asked him to do it."

Bessemer City threatened to get back into the game midway through the second, but sophomore quarterback Torrell Partlow, subbing for injured starter James Bane, fumbled at the end of a 27-yard run that would have given Bessemer first-and-goal deep in South Point territory.

On the very next play, Robinson struck again, going 92 yards for the score and a 20-0 Raiders halftime lead.

"I've got to give it to my line tonight," said Robinson, who finished with 223 yards rushing. "They opened up some nice holes for me."

Judith Siviglia/The Gazette

Bessemer City's Darrin Sanders gets caught by three South Point defenders, led by Jarlen Jackson (24).

## North Gaston takes notes after 44-3 loss to Hickory

By Richard Walker

Gazette Sports Reporter

**DALLAS** — For a building program, facing a defending state champion with the state's longest winning streak usually isn't part of the recipe.

Not if you ask Mike Briggs, whose North Gaston Wildcats battled Hickory tough for more than a quarter before dropping a deceiving 44-3 contest Friday night at Trudnak Stadium.

"It's important to play good football teams," Briggs said. "They're quite obviously one of the best football teams in this state. But this is a tremendous learning tool for us. This is our measuring

stick. It should show us where we need to be."

For more than a quarter, North Gaston appeared close.

Though the Wildcats have fielded just two winning teams in their 25-year history, they more than held their own against the defending N.C. 3A champion Red Tornadoes.

North Gaston even led Hickory 3-0 after Casey Rhyne's 30-yard field goal with 18 seconds left in the first quarter.

But the Red Tornadoes proceeded to show why they are revered as one of the state's best football teams.

After being limited to 22 yards and no

first downs on nine first quarter snaps, Hickory rolled up 44 points, 307 yards and 13 first downs the rest of the way.

"North Gaston's size gave us some trouble, especially early in the game," said Hickory coach David Elder, who was without 12 seniors from last season's 16-0 team. "I'm sure they're going to be a fine football team before this season is over with."

Hickory showed it is a fine football team now, in spite of its slow start.

The Red Tornadoes extended their winning streak to 17 and nearly matched their state's best 47.9 scoring average of a

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Please see Point/4C

# Point

Bessemer City's lone score came in the third quarter when fullback William Lucas, forced into the quarterback role when Partlow was injured on the previous play, calmly rolled to his left and found tight end Juan Edwards with a 38-yard touchdown pass.

“We started five sophomores tonight, and it showed,” said Jackets coach Eric Nichols. “But I saw some good things out of us tonight.”

Bessemer City travels to North Gaston next week, while South Point goes on the road for a second straight week to face Lincolnton.

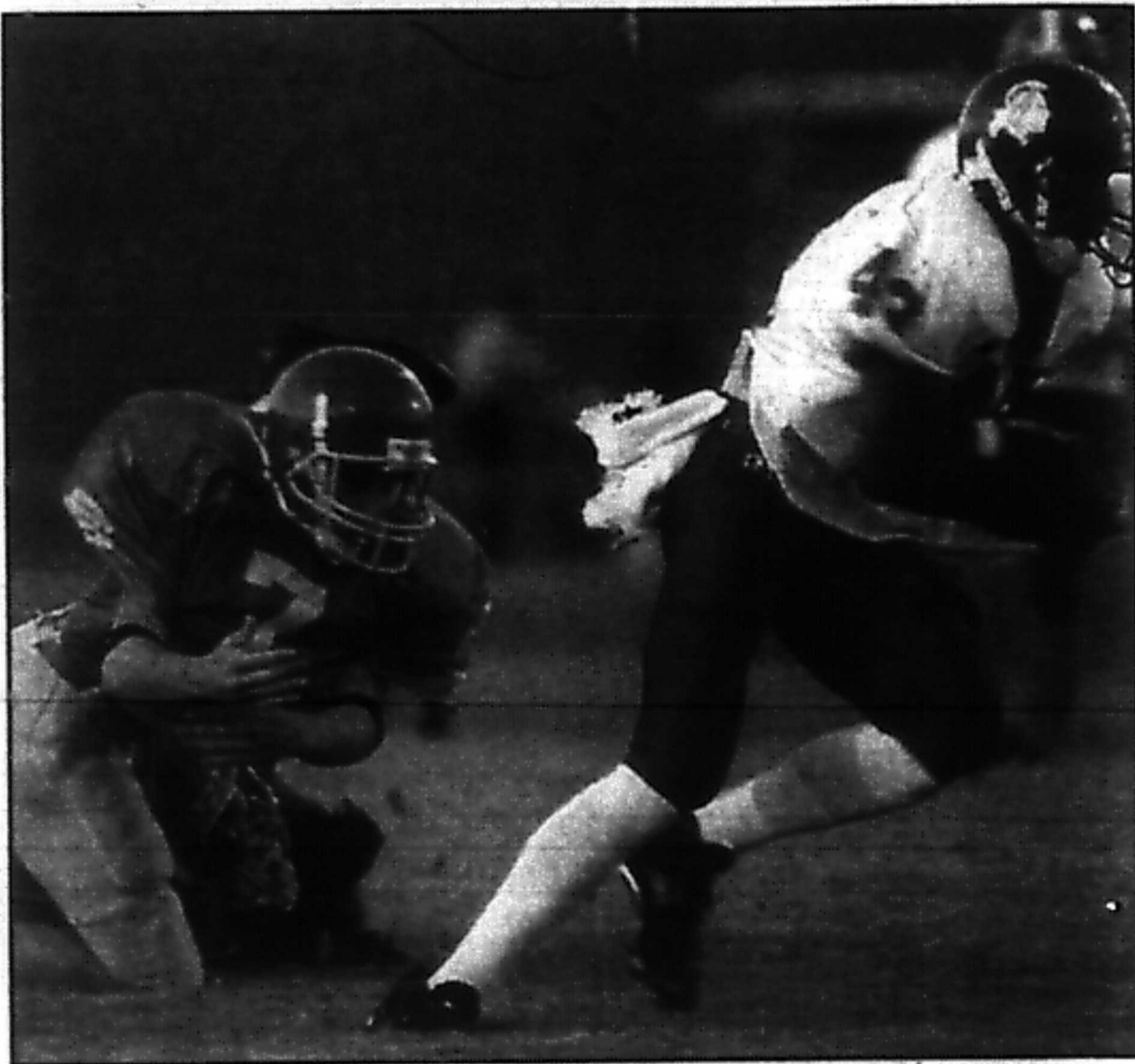
South Point 6 14 8 7 — 35

Bessemer City 0 0 6 0 — 6

SP- Koren Robinson 13 pass from Brian Ashe (run failed)

SP- Kelly Brown 41 pass from Ashe (Robinson run)

SP- Robinson 91 run (kick failed)



Judith Siviglia/The Gazette

**South Point's Koren Robinson escapes two BC defenders.**

BC- Juan Edwards 38 pass from William Lucas (run failed)

SP- Robinson 56 run (Robinson run)

SP- Ashe 1 run (Ashe kick)