

# ER's Russell overruns Red Raiders

By Richard Walker

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FOREST CITY — In a game of big plays, East Rutherford's Josh Russell turned in the biggest and had the most Friday night.

His heroics allowed the Cavaliers to escape with a 28-14 victory that severely damaged South Point's promising Southwestern 3A title hopes.

Russell scored all four East Rutherford touchdowns and accounted for 371 yards, including a back-breaking 98-yard kickoff return that gave the Cavaliers the lead for good.

"He's a great back," South Point coach John Devine said. "Give him credit. He made some great runs."

East Rutherford (6-1, 2-0) stays in first place of the Southwestern 3A and hosts Kings Mountain (5-3, 2-0) next week in what shapes up as a potential league title game. South Point slipped to 5-3 and 1-1.

Russell's back-breaking kickoff return came after South Point's running sensation Koren Robinson had broken a near 3½-week hex after his sparkling start.

Robinson had opened the season with a 200-yard game, a 300-yard game and three 100-yard games before Freedom and North Gaston bottled him up the past

<b>E. Rutherford</b>	<b>28</b>	two games
<b>South Point</b>	<b>14</b>	— covering three weeks.

For more than a half Friday, the Cavaliers had kept Robinson under wraps, limiting him to 45 yards on his first 13 carries.

But he wriggled free for two consecutive 80-yard touchdown runs to turn a 13-0 deficit into a 14-13 lead in a matter of four minutes.

"We had the momentum," Devine said. "But then...."

He didn't need to say anymore. Russell returned the ensuing kickoff 98 yards to change the

game's momentum again.

"We've got to do a better job in the kicking game," said Devine, whose team was pinned back by East Rutherford punter Casey Sears much of the night. "That kickoff and our poor field position was the reason we lost."

Russell staked East Rutherford its early lead on scoring runs of 3 and 2 yards. He later added a 41-yard TD run in the closing seconds.

Russell finished with 188 yards rushing on 26 carries, 150 yards on two kickoff returns and 33 yards on three punt returns.

Robinson also put forth a solid effort, with his third 200-yard plus outing. He rushed for 207 yards, added 57 yards receiving and eight yards on returns.

South Point	0 0 7 7 — 14
East Rutherford	7 0 6 15 — 28
ER — Josh Russell	3 run (Rico Jones kick)
ER — Josh Russell	2 run (Pass failed)
SP — Koren Robinson	80 run (Brian Ashe kick)
SP — Robinson	80 run (Ashe kick)
ER — Josh Russell	98 kickoff return (Matt McCurry pass from Casey Sears)
ER — Josh Russell	41 run (Jones kick)