

Red Raiders hold off Wolves

By Mike Cearley

Gazette Correspondent

BELMONT — South Point got its licks in early against Lincolnton on Friday as the Red Raiders downed the Wolves 23-15.

The Raiders (2-0) shut the Wolves down in the first half, allowing 36 yards of offense and no first downs.

But the momentum slowly shifted as Lincolnton mounted a second-half rally. The Wolves nearly caught the Raiders, who seemed to be running low on fuel on a hot, muggy night at Lincolnton Stadium.

"I think we were a little too satisfied with our lead," said South Point coach John Devine. "We played well defensively in the first half, then we just relaxed."

South Point marched 62 yards on its first offensive possession with Jeremiah Jackson capping the drive with a 5-yard run.

Jackson, South Point's latest backfield sensation, finished with 162 yards on 20 carries as the Raiders piled up 356 yards of total offense.

But the tide turned when Lincolnton's Derek Blake exploded for an 80-yard touchdown run that was called back, but sparked the offense.

Five plays later, quarterback T.J. Devine hit Matthew Cline with a 42-yard touchdown pass. The throw bounced off the hands of South Point defender Drew Devine and into the clutches of Cline, who raced untouched into the end zone as time expired in the third quarter.

T.J. Devine threw another touchdown pass to Wesley Black with a minute left in the game. Devine passed to Ross Fletcher for the two-point conversion.

Lincolnton	0	0	7	8	— 15
------------	---	---	---	---	------

South Point	10	0	10	3	— 23
-------------	----	---	----	---	------

SP — Jeremiah Jackson 5 run (Phillip Wright kick)

SP — Wright 37 FG

SP — Chris Stowe 1 run (Wright kick)

SP — Wright 38 FG

Lin — Matthew Cline 42 pass from T.J. Devine (Charlie Cagle kick)

SP — Wright 32 FG

Lin — Wesley Black 19 pass from Devine (Ross Fletcher pass from Devine)