

Jackson closes out Red Raiders' year like he started it — in style

Junior back scores five touchdowns as South Point escapes

By Michael Howard
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BELMONT — South Point coach John Devine had a simple spin on his team's wild 39-35 win over R-S Central Friday night: "It was a game of big plays and we made more than they did."

Saying it was a game of big plays is quite possibly the coaching understatement of the year. Of the 11 touchdowns scored, seven came on plays of at least 25 yards. Perhaps the biggest play-

maker was South Point junior Jeremy Jackson. Jackson ran for three touchdowns, caught a 78-yard touchdown pass and also scored on a 55-yard punt return. Jackson's five-touchdown game to close the season duplicated his five-touchdown effort in the season-opener against Bessemer City.

On a frigid night that saw both teams' defenses evidently on vacation, R-S was not without a star of its own. Junior Marcus Godfrey scored on runs of 48, 29 and 5 yards en route to a 152-yard performance.

"Our kids played extremely hard and R-S did the same thing," Devine said. "The kids worked

hard all year and they never quit. And they never quit on each other. I'm glad to come out with the win."

After South Point (5-6, 1-4) took a 13-7 halftime edge, things started moving at a breakneck pace in the third period. The Raiders opened things with a five-play drive capped by Jackson scoring from 29 yards out. The Hilltoppers retaliated with Greg McDowell's 89-yard kickoff return to make it 20-14. South Point struck quickly with another five-play drive, this one covering 64 yards and ending when quarterback Devon Lowery scored from the 5.

After forcing a Hilltopper punt,

Jackson — aided by a Chris Stowe block that obliterated a would-be Hilltopper tackler — strolled 55 yards to make it 33-14 with 5:12 left in the quarter.

"I thought that set the tone for the rest of the ballgame," Devine said.

With the Raiders holding a 33-21 lead early in the fourth quarter, R-S's Ray Miller picked up a fumble and raced 94 yards for a touchdown, only to see it brought back by a clipping penalty. Two plays later Jerrie Williams came up with an interception for South Point and two plays after that, Jackson scored on a nine-yard run for a 39-21 lead.

The Hilltoppers put two scores

on the board in the final five minutes but an onside kick attempt with just 49 seconds to play went awry as the Raiders held on for the win.

R-S Central 7 0 14 14 - 35

South Point 7 6 20 6 - 39

RS - Marcus Godfrey 48 run (Blaine Kingsmore kick)

SP - Jeremy Jackson 8 run (Phillip Wright kick)

SP - Jackson 78 pass from Devon Lowery (kick failed)

SP - Jackson 29 run (Wright kick)

RS - Greg McDowell 89 kickoff return (Kingsmore kick)

SP - Lowery 5 run (run failed)

SP - Jackson 55 punt return (Wright kick)

RS - Godfrey 29 run (Kingsmore kick)

SP - Jackson 9 run (kick failed)

RS - Godfrey 5 run (Kingsmore kick)

RS - Brandon Gray 27 pass from Jeff

Ogle (Kingsmore kick)