

# Red Raiders roll to another victory

By **MIKE CEARLEY**

Gazette Correspondent

FOREST CITY — For South Point, it was just another game and another Red Raider victory.

East Rutherford was the victim

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► **South Point 36**  
**East Rutherford 19**

this time  
as South  
Point  
rolled to

a 36-19 victory over the Cavaliers. The Raiders moved to 8-0 on the season and 3-0 in the Southwestern 3A conference. East Ruther-

ford fell to 2-1 in the SWC and 5-3 overall.

"We're taking it one game at a time," said Chris Stowe, who rushed for 183 yards. "We have to play every game like it's a championship game."

The win gave South Point a little breathing room at the top of the SWC standings and left the Raiders in the driver's seat for one of the league's two state play-off spots.

While the Raiders seem to downplay the importance of Fri-

day's contest over any other game this season, they had a little extra incentive, thinking back to last season when East Rutherford pounded South Point by 46 points.

"All week we had the score 53-7 on the board in our locker room," said quarterback Devon Lowery, who rushed for 133 yards and two touchdowns while throwing for another Friday night. "That's how bad they beat us last year, and we

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wanted to come up here on their field, on their homecoming night and take one away from them."

The game was a classic battle of explosive offense and hard-hitting defense.

South Point took the opening kickoff and scored in six plays, with Lowery diving over from the one.

East Rutherford answered with a lengthy drive that used most of the first quarter clock and ended early in the second quarter when Michael Sheppard scored on a fourth down play at the South Point two and the Cavaliers led 7-6.

Drew Devine stepped in at quarterback for Lowery in the second quarter following Sheppard's score.

Devine broke loose for a 50-yard touchdown on a fourth-and-three call after a perfect fake to Stowe. Devine rolled to his right and had clear sailing to the end zone as South Point led 12-7.

However, Sheppard, who ran for 195 yards and broke two long runs, 62 and 67 yards, in the third quarter, put the Cavaliers ahead 13-12 with his 62-yard scoring run on the second play of the second half.

Lowery took matters into his own hands after that and carried the ball six times on a seven-play drive that ended with Lowery diving over the goal line from the 3. Michael Wilkinson kicked the PAT to give the Raiders a 19-13 edge.

But Sheppard struck again, this time scoring on a 67-yard romp.

Neil Van Dyke's extra point drifted wide to the right and the score was tied, 19-19.

It took South Point three plays to regain the lead, as Lowery hit Jeremy Jackson for a 42-yard touchdown.

Wilkinson added a 36-yard field goal with 3.3 seconds left in the third quarter to stretch South Point's lead to 29-19 heading into the final quarter.

Stowe put the finishing touches on the victory with a 9-yard run with 7:33 left in the game.

"In the first half, they tried to take me out of it," said Stowe. "That left things open for Devon and Jeremy (Jackson). In the second half, they tried to shut them down and it opened things back up for me."

The Cavaliers took to the air in an effort to cut into the lead, but Lowery intercepted a Seneca Stroud pass at South Point's 38. The Raider defense took control of the game from there, prevent-

ing the Cavaliers from getting another first down.

South Point 6 6 17 7 36  
East Rutherford 0 7 12 0 19  
First quarter  
SP Devon Lowery 1 run (kick failed), 9:58  
Second quarter  
ER Michael Sheppard 2 run (Neil Van Dyke kick), 11:43  
SP Drew Devine 40 run (run failed), 8:07  
Third quarter  
ER Sheppard 62 run (pass failed), 11:04  
SP Lowery 3 run (Michael Wilkinson kick), 7:56  
ER Sheppard 67 run (kick failed), 6:48  
SP Jeremy Jackson 42 pass from Lowery (Wilkinson kick), 5:41  
SP Wilkinson 36 FG, :3.3  
Fourth quarter  
SP Chris Stowe 9 run (Wilkinson kick), 7:33

  
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