

# Raiders win shootout



Renee Sauer/The Gazette

South Point's Jarien Jackson (12) finds daylight in the second quarter just beyond the grasp of Kings Mountain trio of Stanley Whitesides (2), Lee Rhodes (33) and Dwayne Littlejohn (24).

## ■ South Point claims conference title in a barnburner

By **MIKE CEARLEY**  
Gazette Correspondent

**BELMONT** — It was supposed to be a knock-down, drag-out fight for first place in the Southwestern 3A conference. It turned out to be much more.

In one of the highest-scoring games ever played in Gaston County, South Point ended Kings Mountain's three-year reign as conference champions with a spirited 56-52 win.

Neither team could stop the other until South Point's defense finally shut the door on Kings Mountain in the fourth quarter.

"I've never been involved as a coach or player in a game with so much offense," said South Point coach John Devine. "And then it was defense that rose to the occasion when it counted."

The win kept South Point unbeaten at 10-0 and 5-0 in the SWC with one regular season game remaining. Kings Mountain (5-4-1, 3-2) was eliminated from post-season play.

"I've said all week that to be the champions we have to beat the champions," said Devine. "And we barely did."

Kings Mountain senior Anthony Hillman was unstoppable for most of the game, running for 249 yards and five touchdowns. But every time the Mountaineers powered their way downfield, the Raiders responded with their version of high-powered offense.

Jeremy Jackson rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown, quarterback Devon Lowery ran for 135 yards and four touchdowns and threw two touchdown passes to Jarien Jackson.

Jarien Jackson ran for 86 yards and added a 50-yard touchdown run to his two scoring catches.

"I have to give all the credit to Devon Lowery," said Jarien Jackson. "Whatever Devon saw he took. He worked hard all night and he did an amazing job getting the ball to me (on the TD passes). He got the ball to me, and I knew I had to catch it."

Jarien Jackson had been involved in that kind of game many times before.

### Prep football

Ashbrook keeps playoff hopes alive.

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## Warriors one win from playoffs

By **JOSH STEWART**  
Gazette Sports Reporter

**MOUNT HOLLY** — "YOU GUYS ARE REMARKABLE!!!" shouted East Gaston coach Ron Froneberger at his team.

Once wasn't enough, so he shouted the phrase again, the second time so loud that the Warrior fans probably heard him in the 17<sup>th</sup> row of bleachers.

The way East Gaston is playing, the team must believe him.

The Warriors are now one game away from a surprise appearance in the 4A playoffs after

beating Olympic 21-6 Friday night.

Wide receiver Dalmanche Foxx collected touchdown passes of 48 and 38 yards from Miles Hedrick in the second half along the way. But more than Foxx's flashy grabs, Friday's win will be remembered for the Warriors not losing their composure after a scoreless first half in which the Warriors failed to put points on the board in three first-and-goal situations.

"They just kept believing."

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### PLAYOFF FEVER

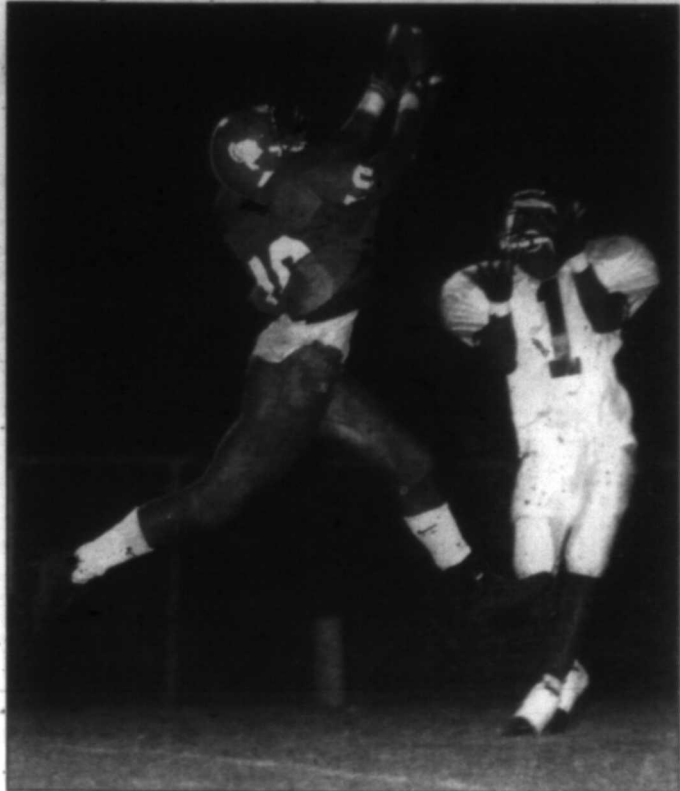
■ **Forestview:** The Jaguars are in the playoffs thanks to losses by Kings Mountain and East Rutherford.

■ **East Gaston:** A win next week against North Meck will win the MEGA 7.

■ **Ashbrook:** The Green Wave must beat Hunter Huss and hope East Gaston loses to the Vikings.

■ **South Point:** Wrapped up the Southwestern title and the top seed in the league.

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Renee Sauer/The Gazette

South Point's Jeremy Jackson seems to have a hold on the ball in front of Kings Mountain's Jamar Moore, but Jackson missed the catch during the last play of the second quarter on Friday night.

## ▼South Point

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"Lots of them," he said. "And I lost every one of them. This is what I've been playing my whole life for."

The Mountaineers, who won the coin toss but deferred taking the kickoff until the second half, broke a 28-28 halftime tie after taking the second half kickoff.

South Point fumbled on the ensuing drive, and the Mounties scored again to take a 40-28 lead.

The Raiders kept the pace, and Lowery's touchdown with 8:24 left in the third quarter brought South Point back within a touchdown.

The breaks seem to even out as well, as Kings Mountain fumbled on its next drive and South Point's Adam Donaldson recovered at midfield. Lowery's 35-yard touchdown toss to Jarien Jackson and B.J. Richmond's conversion kick gave South Point the lead once again, 41-40.

Kings Mountain carried a 46-41 lead into the fourth quarter, but the Raiders scored first when Jeremy Jackson found the end zone from 30 yards.

The Raiders forced Kings Mountain to go three-and-out on the Mountaineers next two possessions.

Lowery scored the final touchdown that put the game away

with 1:47 left to play.

"Anthony Hillman is a great running back, but we knew he could be stopped," said South Point linebacker Ian Gibson. "When we fell behind by two touchdowns, the defense knew we had to stop them."

"We together in the huddle and we decided that we wanted it more than they did. The defense had to put the game away."

<b>Kings Mountain</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>- 52</b>
<b>South Point</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>- 56</b>

First quarter

KM - Antonio McClain 32 run (Evan Osteen kick), 6:30

SP - Jarien Jackson 48 pass from Devon Lowery (B.J. Richmond kick), 5:04

SP - Lowery 6 run (Richmond kick), :34

Second quarter

KM - Anthony Hillman 1 run (Osteen kick), 9:44

SP - Lowery 10 run (kick failed), 6:10

KM - Hillman 64 run (Osteen kick), 5:15

SP - Jarien Jackson 50 run (Lowery run), 3:06

KM - Hillman 11 run (Osteen kick), :44

Third quarter

KM - Danny Wright 19 pass from Matt Ash (run failed), 11:25

KM - Hillman 6 run (kick blocked), 10:29

SP - Lowery 2 run (kick failed), 8:24

SP - Jarien Jackson 35 pass from Lowery (Richmond kick), 5:39

KM - Ash 6 run (pass failed), 3:30

Fourth quarter

SP - Jeremy Jackson 30 run (Stowe run), 11:02

SP - Lowery 5 run (Richmond kick), 1:40

KM - Hillman 2 run, 0:00