



Renee Sauer/The Gazette

North Gaston Gene Neely was held to 57 yards on 20 carries by a stingy South Point defense Friday night.

Raiders find a way

By BRYAN C. HANKS

Gazette Sports Reporter

DALLAS — The potent South Point offense has carried the team to its undefeated record in 2000. But Friday night, it was the Red Raider defense and special teams who stepped up.

Ironically, Devon Lowery and Tiger Williams lead the feared Red Bone triple-option offense. But on Friday night, Lowery and Williams keyed South Point's unheralded units, each scoring a non-offensive touchdown as the Red Raiders beat North Gaston 28-6.

"You can't ask anything more out of those 11 guys on defense," said Lowery, who returned a third-quarter interception for a score. "They went hard and sometimes we gave up the big play, but they couldn't stop us."

South Point coach John Devine agreed.

"They (the defense) played with a lot of heart tonight. We talked about the heart of a champion when we came over here and that's what it took."

If the first quarter seemed like it took forever to play, there was a reason.

North Gaston (4-1 overall and 0-1 in the Southwestern 3A) opened the game with a 14-play drive that culminated with a 33-yard field goal by Adam Hardy. The game clock showed 5:58 remaining in the first quarter when Hardy's kick split the uprights.

South Point then marched down the field on a workmanlike

"(The defense) played with a lot of heart tonight. We talked about playing with the heart of a champion when we came over here and that's what it took."

John Devine

South Point head coach

10-play, 70-yard drive that ended when Phillip Stowe sprinted in from 21 yards. Despite the extended Red Raider drive, the clock showed 5:38 after Stowe's score, or just 20 seconds since the Warriors score.

What was happening on the Trudnak Stadium scoreboard was this: Every time the clock would count down to 5:00, it reset itself back to 5:59 instead of 4:59. The scoreboard operator, media and none of the coaches noticed the error. It was estimated the teams played up to five minutes longer in the first quarter than was necessary.

After the error was discovered, the field judge kept the time on the field.

North Gaston coach Bruce Clark said after the game that the extra time may have hurt his team.

"That clock skipped three minutes," said Clark. "That took its toll."

After Stowe's touchdown put the Red Raiders ahead 7-3, South Point running back Rasharde Reid scored on a 7-yard run midway through the second quarter to put his team

ahead 13-3. In the final minute of the opening half, Hardy boot-ed another field goal to pull the Wildcats to within 13-6.

South Point essentially put the game away on the opening kickoff of the second half. Williams, by virtue of some punishing blocks from the Red Raider special teams, returned the kickoff 89 yards for a commanding 19-6 lead.

"That was huge," said Clark.

"You can't say enough about a kid like Tiger Williams," said Devine. "That was just super effort and super heart."

SP	7	6	8	7	-	28
NG	3	3	0	0	-	6

NG—Adam Hardy 33 field goal

SP—Phillip Stowe 21 run (B.J. Richmond kick)

SP—Rasharde Reid 7 run (run failed)

NG—Hardy 30 field goal

SP—Tiger Williams 89 kickoff return (kick failed)

SP—Safety. Justin Clark throws ball out of the end zone.

SP—Devon Lowery 41 interception return (Richmond kick)