

# No. 1 Crest hammers South Point

By **RICHARD WALKER**  
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — It was billed as a matchup between the most dominant high school football programs in Cleveland and Gaston counties in recent years.

Both teams proved such a buildup wasn't unfounded, but Crest also showed South Point why the Chargers are the top-ranked team in the state.

With size, speed and strength that allowed for a quick-strike offense and suffocating defense, Crest overwhelmed the scrappy Red Raiders 42-12 Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

Perhaps South Point head coach John Devine summarized the contest best.

"We knew it was a challenge going in with their size and strength and quickness," Devine said of the Chargers. "But we played hard. We had a lot of chances to be in this football game. But, in the end, size, speed and strength wins."

True enough. While the game Red Raiders took advantage of some Crest mistakes — and created some opportunities of their own — the Chargers were simply too much on this humid September night.

On offense, Crest got 100-yard rushing nights from Phillip Shaw (187 yards) and Travis Padgett (109) to go with Brandon Boone's 134 yards passing, of which three throws worth 116 yards went to Maurice Petty.

Defensively, the Chargers held South Point without a first down until 3:30 remained in the opening half and allowed the Red Raiders only one offensive touchdown.

Nonetheless, Crest (3-0) found itself holding onto a somewhat uncomfortable 28-12 lead with 2:38 left in the third quarter while being forced into its only punt of the night from its own 1-yard line. But after a 12-yard Alvin Williams' return gave South Point possession at the Crest 30, whatever momentum the Red Raiders had mustered disappeared in an instant with Brandon McIntyre's pass interception.

"Well, turnovers can kill you in a game like this," said Devine, whose team is 1-3 following a challenging non-conference schedule. "Anytime you have an opportunity against a team like Crest, you've got to take advantage of it. Obviously, we didn't."

For Crest, McIntyre's interception changed the game's momentum for good, as the Chargers immediately went on a nine-play, 81-yard scoring drive that ended what suspense there might have been over the verdict. It also revealed a side of Crest's team coach Roy Kirby was pleased to see.

South Point, which had won the past two Southwestern 3A conference titles, scored first on the second play from scrimmage. Sophomore cornerback Tyler Gorton perfectly timed his defense of a Boone-to-Petty aerial, cut in front of Petty and returned a pass interception 23 yards for a 6-0 South Point lead.

Crest responded quickly to South Point's challenge by scoring on its next four possessions. Shaw's 34-yard tun on a toss sweep left provided the Chargers' first points. McIntyre plunged in from one yard out for the second score. Boone hit Petty on long flag pattern for a 63-yard touchdown pass. And Boone followed his right guard into the end zone on a two-yard keeper for the fourth TD.

The Red Raiders cut it to 28-12 after Boone's plunge, first by picking up their initial first down, then with deft faking and passing by sophomore quarterback Corey Brown.

Brown, South Point's fourth starting quarterback in four games, executed the Red Raiders' "Red Bone" offensive attack and completed his first pass — a 29-yarder to Brian McWhirter — in leading an eight-play, 64-yard scoring drive he culminated himself with a 5-yard TD keeper.

Both teams open their respective conference schedules next week, with South Point hosting East Gaston in the Big South and Crest hosting Hickory in the Southwestern Foothills.

Crest	21	7	0	14	—	42
South Point	6	6	0	0	—	12
SP — Tyler Gorton	23	interception return	(Kick blocked)			
C — Phillip Shaw	34	run	(Matt Roberts kick)			
C — Brandon McIntyre	1	run	(Roberts kick)			
C — Maurice Petty	63	pass from Brandon Boone	(Roberts kick)			
C — Boone	2	run	(Roberts kick)			
SP — Corey Brown	3	run	(Run failed)			
C — Shaw	2	run	(Roberts kick)			
C — Petty	47	pass from Boone	(Roberts kick)			