

Raiders hammer Warriors

■ South Point snaps out of offensive slump

By **RICHARD WALKER**
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — When East Gaston and South Point renewed their high school football rivalry Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, the two schools were licking some recent wounds.

But after South Point doled out a 42-0 victory to the Warriors, only one team remains suffering.

"They grew up a little bit tonight," South Point coach John Devine said of his 2-3 team. "We're still having some growing pains. But it sure was a lot better than it's been."

True enough.

Not only did the Red Raiders taste victory over one of their biggest rivals in the first Big South 3A Conference game for both teams, but they seemed to get a previously slumbering offense out of its funk.

Senior running back Rasharde Reid rolled for a season-best 185 yards and two touchdowns. Alvin Williams had a pair of spectacular scoring plays as part of his 118 all-purpose yardage. And, most importantly, sophomore Corey Brown relieved injured starter B.J. Richmond and had easily his best game of the season.

"Corey came in there and, thank goodness he's had the snaps he's had, and ran the offense as well as he's done it for us," Devine said. "It's been unfortunate that we've had to use four quarterbacks, but now Corey is really gaining some good experience for us. And right now, we've got to get Corey ready to play against Hunter Huss next week."

What it means is that previous starting quarterback Javar Williams (collarbone), Richmond (shoulder) and Phillip Stowe (ankle) remain questionable with injuries and perhaps Brown is emerging as the team's most consistent leader at the position.

Not that having Brown under center is such a bad thing after Friday's effort.

After Richmond re-injured his right (non-throwing)

SOUTH POINT 42, EAST GASTON 0

shoulder on an option keeper late in the first quarter of a scoreless game, Brown's initial play set the tone for the rout that was to ensue.

Facing a third-and-13 play at the East Gaston 29, Brown deftly read the Warriors' defense and pitched to Brian McWhirter on a flanker reverse play.

McWhirter burst through an enormous hole in the middle of the East Gaston defense, going untouched on a 29-yard scoring play.

Brown later engineered a seven-play, 41-yard scoring drive culminated by Reid's 20-yard scoring run that made it 14-0 at the half.

In the second half, Brown and the Red Raiders really heated up, scoring touchdowns on four straight possessions after a missed field goal ended their first drive of the half.

Reid added a second 20-yard scoring run for the first score. Brown hit Williams on a 22-yard pass for the second. Williams took Brown's pitch on an option play and converted a 31-yard run for the third. And Brown's 6-yard option keeper capped the scoring.

"Everything was good for us, except for B.J.'s injury," Devine said.

The statistics backed up his claim, as South Point outgained East Gaston 387-96 and racked up 19 first downs to four for the Warriors.

The beleaguered Warriors (0-4) now close out their non-conference schedule with a home game against Cherryville next week before ending the season with five straight league games.

"We're not going to lose focus," East Gaston coach Ron Froneberger said. "Our goal is to make the playoffs. That did not take a hit tonight. We'll just have to regroup, play Cherryville and then hit the conference again."

EG	0	0	0	0	—	0
SP	7	7	14	14	—	42

SP — Brian McWhirter 29 run (Darren Hope kick)

SP — Rasharde Reid 20 run (Hope kick)

SP — Reid 20 run (B.J. Richmond kick)

SP — Alvin Williams 22 pass from Corey Brown (Richmond kick)

SP — Williams 31 run (Richmond kick)

SP — Brown 6 run (Richmond kick)