



Dexter Pepperman/The Gazette

Forestview running back Tim Holder tries to break through the tackle of South Point's Tyler Gorton, left, during Friday night's game at Joe Alala Stadium in Gastonia. The Red Raiders won on a 27-yard field goal by B.J. Richmond in double overtime to improve to 5-3 overall and 4-0 in the Big South 3A.

Getting a leg up

Richmond's FG gives Red Raiders playoff berth

By PHILLIP GARDNER
Gazette Sports Reporter

GASTONIA — It doesn't get any closer than this.

In a wild, back-and-forth offensive shootout between two of the top teams in the Big South 3A, South Point ultimately prevailed on a B.J. Richmond 27-yard field goal in double overtime to give the Red Raiders a 44-41 victory and keep them tied with North Gaston atop the conference.

"It was an exciting game," South Point head coach John Devine said. "It was one of those that you're glad you won but you know it could have gone either way."

Richmond had a chance to win the game in regulation with a 28-yarder as time expired but Jesse Whitley's snap sailed high.

"I wasn't nervous or anything," Whitley said. "I just kind of messed it up."

The holder, Tyler Gorton, picked up the loose ball and hurled it at Joe Brown, who nearly caught it for a touchdown.

After teams traded touchdowns in the first extra period, Forestview fumbled on its first play in the second overtime on a botched exchange from center to quarterback.

Richmond and Whitley then got their second chance to win the game with a field goal and redeemed themselves.

"I just knew I could do it," Whitley said. "It felt great."

Both teams had difficulty stopping each other's similar option offenses. Not including

Friday's scores

North Gaston	33
East Lincoln	0
Ashbrook	21
East Gaston	9
Kings Mountain	62
R-S Central	0
Bessemer City	24
Polk County	3
Malden	54
Cherryville	7
Lincolnton	35
Newton-Conover	3
Shelby	27
West Lincoln	7
Chester (S.C.)	27
Clover (S.C.)	9

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Richmond comes up big for SP

By DEREK SMITH
Gazette correspondent

Being a kicker can sometimes be the loneliest job on the gridiron — you're either a hero or a goat.

B.J. Richmond turned out to be the hero of South Point's 44-41 double-overtime win over Forestview Friday night at Joe Alala Stadium.

Richmond's 27-yard field goal in the second overtime period capped an incredible game in which the lead changed hands 13 times. The win also insured the Red Raiders (5-3, 4-0 Big South 3A) of one of the new league's three playoff spots.

"The team really won this game tonight," Richmond said. "I only had a portion of the points. They really won the game, giving it all they had."

That might be true, but Richmond sure did his part.

The University of South Carolina baseball signee was 5-for-5 on PAT's, in addition to kicking the game winner.

Richmond almost ended the game in regulation with 2.9 seconds left on the clock. However, a bad snap and a botched hold didn't give Richmond a chance to get off a kick that might have broken a 34-34 tie.

"The snap was a little high and (holder Tyler Gorton) couldn't catch it in time to bring it down," Richmond said. "Sometimes that happens, and the snapper (Jesse Whitley) gets a little nervous."

After both teams scored touchdowns and made their PAT's in the first overtime, the game went to a second tiebreaker.

Forestview fumbled on the first play from scrimmage, which gave the ball back to the Red Raiders, who only needed to score, in any fashion, to win the grudge match.

On first down and goal to go from the 10-yard line, South Point coach John Devine didn't try to run a play or two before sending Richmond back out there for yet another game-winning attempt. Devine went for the win immediately, and didn't think twice about it.

"No doubt," Devine said. "He's an all-state guy, and he can kick it from anywhere."

Richmond, who says he would entertain an opportunity to kick for the Gamecock football team, has successfully kicked four field goals this season and 16 extra points. He has also scored a touchdown and converted on a two-point play.

He kicked field goals in losses to Kings Mountain and A.L. Brown and had a 27-yarder against Ashbrook last week.

"I try to picture them as routine," Richmond said. "It helps."

Forestview called a timeout before Richmond's game-winner to try and ice the senior.

It didn't work.

"I just try and get some practice kicks in, stay focused and keep my leg loose," he said.



Dexter Pepperman/The Gazette

Phillip Stowe of South Point is taken down by Forestview's Kelvin Robinson Friday night.

▼ Leg

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South Point's drive that ended with the halftime buzzer, the teams reeled off seven consecutive touchdowns.

"I'll take any game that's close as long as we're in the ball game," Forestview coach Scott Lee said. "South Point — they've got a great offense and we played a great game on offense. We knew we had the talent, we knew we had the ability to do things but we had to find where our heart was and tonight we found our heart. If we build on this, we can go places."

The ballclubs combined for 746 yards of total offense. South Point (5-3, 4-0 BS3A), which clinched a playoff berth with the win, covered 317 yards on the ground and 104 by air. Forestview (4-4, 1-2 BS3A) got 300 of its 325 yards by running the ball.

Much of the yardage came on big plays. Together, the teams recorded seven plays of 30 or more yards.

Forestview's Mario Dye rushed 16 times for 130 yards and four touchdowns while quarterback Demario Crosby carried 13 times for 116 yards.

South Point's Rashard Reid, hobbling with a sore ankle, amassed 93 yards and two touchdowns on 15 touches. Alvin Williams reached the end zone three times, covering 144 total rushing and receiving yards and returning a Forestview punt 70 yards for a touchdown.

"We've got some weapons," Devine said. "If we get everybody healthy, we can score some points and so can Forestview."

And while both offenses

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John Devine
South Point coach

shined, both teams came out of the game with concerns about their defenses.

"We've got to start tackling people and coming forward," Devine said. "You've got to run your feet on defense. That's the bottom line."

Forestview travels to Ashbrook next week for a game with playoff implications. South Point has a bye next week to prepare for big matchup with North Gaston Nov. 2.

SP 7 14 13 0 7 3 — 44
FV 7 17 7 3 7 0 — 41

FV — Mario Dye 36 run (Jonathan Hovis kick)
SP — Alvin Williams 70 punt return (B.J. Richmond kick)
FV — Hovis 37 FG
SP — Phillip Stowe 58 pass from Javar Williams (Richmond kick)
FV — Dye 53 run (Hovis kick)
SP — A. Williams 46 pass from Williams (Richmond kick)
FV — Cody Moore 11 run (Hovis kick)
SP — A. Williams 47 run (run failed)
FV — Dye 3 run (Hovis kick)
SP — Rashard Reid 3 run (Richmond kick)
FV — Hovis 21 FG
SP — Reid 12 run (Richmond kick)
FV — Dye 3 run (Hovis kick)
SP — Richmond 27 FG

Lions take care of Rebels

From staff reports

SHELBY — It didn't take Shelby long to take control in its 27-7 Midwest 2A football win over West Lincoln Friday night.

The Rebels (4-4, 0-4 MW2A) took over at their own 31 after the opening kickoff and Cory Carpenter picked up 1 yard on first-and-10. That's when the Shelby defense turned the screws on the Rebels.

On second-and-nine, the snap sailed over West Lincoln quarterback Justin Pearson's head and he was downed 18 yards behind the

SHELBY 27, WEST LINCOLN 7

line of scrimmage. On third-and-27, Pearson was sacked by a flood of Golden Lion defenders and lost another 8 yards.

With fourth-and-35 facing them at their own 6-yard line, the Rebels kicked a 13-yard punt.

What the Shelby defense displayed on that drive was a microcosm of what West Lincoln experienced throughout the night. The Lions held the Rebels to minus 17 yards at the end of the first quarter, six yards at the half and only 24 through three quarters. Only in the fourth quarter — when Shelby coach Chris Norman mercifully removed his defensive starters — did West Lincoln finally move the football.

The result of the stingy Shelby defense was the 20-point win. Tavarus Hill and O'Bryan Wilson provided two touchdowns each for the Golden Lions in the rout.