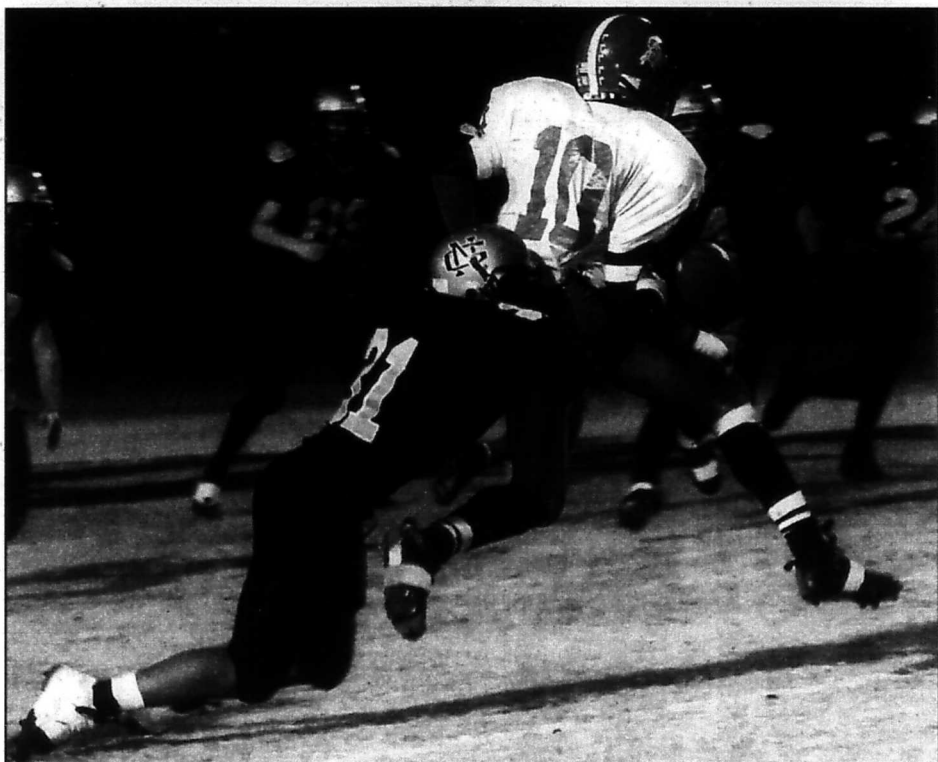


# Pride wins out



Dexter Pepperman/The Gazette

Brandon Reid of South Point fumbles the ball after being hit by North Gaston's Andre Watson Friday night. The Wildcats defeated the South Point 41-34 to win their seventh game of the year on the field, although rules infractions will cause them to forfeit six previous victories.

## Playoff picture becomes clear overnight

From staff reports

A muddled playoff picture became much clearer after a frenzied two days in the Big South 3A.

After Friday night's games and a shuffling of the records to reflect North Gaston's forfeits, Forestview, South Point and East Lincoln secured the three playoff spots in the conference, all with 4-1 conference records.

Although the playoff spots are secured, the conference title is still up for grabs heading into Friday's games when South Point plays host to East Lincoln and Forestview travels to East Gaston. Here's the breakdown:

If South Point defeats East Lincoln and Forestview beats East Gaston, the Raiders and Jaguars split the title. South Point would be the top seed by virtue of a win over Forestview earlier this year.

If East Lincoln beats South Point and Forestview wins, the Jaguars and Mustangs share the conference title but Forestview gets the top seed because of a win over the Mustangs.

If East Lincoln wins and Forestview loses, the Mustangs win the conference title outright and South Point gets the No. 2 seed.

If South Point wins and Forestview loses, the Raiders win the title outright and Forestview gets the No. 2 seed.



North Gaston head coach Bruce Clark, with back to the camera, hugs assistant coach Bobby Bolton after an emotional pregame speech Friday night.

## Clark leads Wildcats past Raiders

By PHILLIP GARDNER  
Gazette Sports Reporter

DALLAS — North Gaston overcame adversity in a big way Friday night.

After assumedly losing their star quarterback to injury a week ago and then a few days later learning that their previous six losses might have to be forfeited because of an ineligible player, the Wildcats broke out with a 41-34 win over visiting South Point.

North Gaston quarterback Justin Clark, who separated his left (non-throwing) shoulder in a loss to East Gaston last Friday, took all but one offensive snap in the win and threw five touchdown passes to propel the Wildcats to the victory.

"Last Sunday I knew I was going to play," Clark said. "I went through acupuncture treatments and a lot of electronic stimulation to it, so it helped me out a whole lot."

### On 1A

North Gaston forced to forfeit 6 wins.

### SCOREBOARD

North Gaston.....41	Lincolnton.....43
South Point.....34	Bandys.....14
Forestview.....29	Hendersonville.....68
Hunter Huss.....14	Bessemer City.....20
East Lincoln.....13	East Rutherford.....33
East Gaston.....0	West Lincoln.....0
Hickory.....9	
Kings Mountain.....7	

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# ▼ Wildcats

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Clark said the shoulder was sore and caused him some minor problems during the game. But he was still able to make some big plays on a night that could turn out to be the Wildcats' season finale if they are forced to forfeit their wins and thus fail to qualify for the playoffs.

Clinging to a 28-20 lead with less than 10 minutes remaining in the game, Clark was pressured by South Point's Dustin Lyerly into throwing an incomplete pass. Clark took a big hit on the play and North Gaston coach Bruce Clark drew an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty for shouting to the officials after the play.

That set up a fourth and 37 from the South Point 48-yard line and Justin Clark then spotted a wide-open Dayco Glenn for a 48-yard scoring strike, giving the Wildcats what

proved to be an insurmountable two-touchdown lead.

"(Justin Clark) has been through a lot and on top of that we get all this dad gum great news," Bruce Clark, his coach and father said. "But I'm going to tell you what, he didn't quit. That's the nature of this team. He's a great football player, but more importantly, he's a great man. And we've got a bunch of them here."

Running back Dayco Glenn took the pressure off Clark, carrying 26 times for 168 yards to become North Gaston's all-time career rushing leader.

The win might have been meaningless in terms of playoff seeding for the Wildcats if they are forced to forfeit all their wins, but they're calling themselves Big South Conference champions no matter the final ruling.

"They're is nothing right about what's happened to us this

week. Nothing right," Bruce Clark said. "And whoever wants to come and take it, come and take it. We know we're conference champions. If that's the only way they can get it, tell them to come take it because our kids know they're the best."

Without any forfeits, North Gaston would have improved to 7-3 and 5-1 in the Big South.

South Point (5-5, 4-1 Big South 3A) was plagued by turnovers the entire game. The Red Raiders fumbled five times and lost three of them.

Rasharde Reid, however, rushed 24 times for 180 yards and three touchdowns.

Javar Williams completed six of 13 passes for 98 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for 58 yards and a score.

Alvin Williams caught a 22-yard pass from Javar Williams with 2.5 seconds remaining in the game to pull the Red

Raiders to within seven points. B.J. Richmond's onsides kick, however, went out of bounds and Justin Clark kneeled to run out the clock.

## North Gaston 41, South Point 34

SP	7	0	13	14	—	34
NG	21	7	0	13	—	41

- NG — Terrell Roberts 14 pass from Justin Clark (Darrell Posey kick)  
NG — Britt Bates 23 pass from Clark (Posey kick)  
NG — Dayco Glenn 2 run (Posey kick)  
SP — Rasharde Reid 16 run (B.J. Richmond kick)  
NG — Glenn 19 pass from Clark (Posey kick)  
SP — Reid 3 run (Richmond kick)  
SP — Javar Williams 5 run (kick failed)  
NG — Glenn 48 pass from Clark (kick failed)  
SP — Reid 8 run (Richmond kick)  
NG — Bates 28 pass from Clark (Posey kick)  
SP — Alvin Williams 22 pass from J. Williams (Richmond kick)