

Raider record

■ South Point wins third straight conference title

By RICHARD WALKER
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — Never before in its proud football history had South Point High won three consecutive conference titles.

That is until Friday night's 57-14 victory over East Lincoln ensured the Red Raiders a share of the inaugural Big South 3A Conference championship — and the school's third straight league title.

South Point had won the last two Southwestern 3A

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Forestview beats East Gaston to share title.

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off last week's emotional 41-34 loss at North Gaston.

"And having fun is tackling. Having fun is scoring. Having fun is winning again."

Which is what the Red Raiders (6-5 overall, 5-1 Big South 3A) took care of quickly on Friday.

After one quarter, it was 28-0.

By halftime, it was 38-7.

And in the second half, the Red Raiders added three more scores while Devine substituted liberally on both offense and defense.

"We finally played four quarters and took care of the football," Devine said.

The overwhelming opening stretch featured hard-hitting defense and explosive offense.

Rasharde Reid, who picked up 116 yards in just 14 carries, scored three touchdowns by the 7:06 mark of the second quarter.

And Joe Brown and Jeremiah Riddle came up with fumble recoveries during the stretch that set up scoring drives of 28 and 22 yards, respectively.

Devine gave much of the credit for the 448-yard offensive effort to his youthful offensive line.

William Henkel and Jared Fraley split time at one tackle spot. Jonathan Spargo and Jonathan Mims start at the guards. Adam Hodge starts at center. Jesse Whitley starts at the other tackle. And Nick Karvonius is another key offensive lineman.

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Dexter Pepperman, The Gazette

South Point running back Rasharde Reid ran for 116 in just 14 carries and scored three touchdowns Friday.

Huss nabs 'Bell'

■ Huss rallies from 21 down to beat rival Ashbrook

By DEREK SMITH
Gazette Correspondent

GASTONIA — A meaningful game?

Tell that to Hunter Huss.

The Huskies (6-4, 3-3 Big South 3A) snapped a four-game losing streak against their city foe with a 46-31 shootout win over Ashbrook Friday.

Granted, there was not a whole lot on the line when the two teams renewed their long-time Gastonia rivalry. Both schools had already been eliminated from playoff contention, and it wasn't even a city championship game be-

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cause both lost to Forestview earlier in the season.

But, you wouldn't have known that if you walked up to the gate at kickoff.

In front of packed bleachers with a postseason-type atmosphere, Huss won the annual Battle of the Bell in dramatic fashion, rallying from a three-touchdown deficit.

"To come back from 21 down, that's something," said Huskies' head coach Steve Gardner. "They've got heart. I told them all along that I believed in them, and no matter what happens out there, you've got to keep fighting."

Fight, the Huskies did.

After the Green Wave (4-6, 2-4 BS3A) scored on their first three possessions, Huss came alive in the second quarter, and clawed back into the game, trailing 28-18 at halftime after two touchdown runs by Johnntae Woods and another by Frank Patterson.

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Photos by Dexter Pepperman/The Gazette

The South Point defense limited East Lincoln to just 14 points Friday night. Tyrone Rendleman (above) was held to six yards on five carries.

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"Those young kids in the line played like seasoned veterans," Devine said. "We think they've matured an awful lot."

For East Lincoln, which advances to the playoffs as the conference's No. 3 seed, the defeat culminated a dizzying end of the regular season.

The Mustangs, who postponed a game earlier this season after a player died in an automobile accident after a practice session, played their last four games in 15 days.

"The kids played hard, but the wheels fell off very early and we never could recover," said East Lincoln coach Jim Ruark, whose team finished 5-6 overall and 4-2 in the conference. "Give South Point credit. They did a great job."

The victory gives South Point its 10th conference title overall. Previous championships, all in the old Southwestern 3A Conference, came in 1971, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1991, 1993, 1999 and 2000.

East Lincoln	0 7 7 0 - 14
South Point	28 10 13 7 - 57

SP - Phillip Stowe 9 run (B.J. Richmond kick)
 SP - Rasharde Reid 18 run (Richmond kick)
 SP - Reid 14 run (Kick failed)
 SP - Javar Williams 1 run (Reid run)
 SP - Reid 1 run (Richmond kick)
 EL - Jadarious Roseboro 15 pass from Dennis Hickman (Zach Parris kick)
 SP - FG Richmond 34
 SP - Joe Brown 1 run (Kick failed)
 SP - Stowe 35 run (Richmond kick)
 EL - Tyrone Rendleman 3 run (Parris kick)
 SP - Kevin Parker 6 run (Kick failed)



Junior Jonathan Tucker scrambles for yardage against South Point Friday night.

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The Huskies got a little bit closer, 28-24, when Mitchell Lowrance scampered 14 yards for a score early in the third quarter. However, Julian Rauch's field goal attempt from 43 yards split the uprights to extend Ashbrook's lead to 31-24.

But the fourth quarter would belong to Huss.

Woods, whose first-half touchdowns covered 1 and 68 yards, added two more in the second half on runs of 29 and 32 to put the Huskies on top 39-31. Woods finished with 173 yards on the ground.

Patterson broke away on a jaunt of 43 yards late in the fourth to give Huss the final advantage, rubbing salt in Ashbrook's wounds. He finished his senior season with 16 touchdowns and 1,442 yards rushing after gaining 116 against the Green Wave on Friday night.

As the Ashbrook defense keyed on Patterson and tried to contain him, Lowrance stepped up at fullback and had several long runs on only six carries. Lowrance rushed