

# Piedmont takes away Raiders' title hopes

**BY PHILLIP GARDNER**

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UNIONVILLE — South Point failed in its quest to advance to the state quarter-finals for a second year in a row, but not without a fight.

A late Red Raider turnover at mid-field resulted in Piedmont's game-winning touchdown, as the host Panthers defeated South Point 20-7 in front of a capacity crowd.

"We were fighting our tails off," South Point head coach John Devine said. "The effort was there. In the end, they just executed better than we did."

Piedmont (13-0) will next travel to Crest, a 41-10 winner over High Point

Central.

Though the score doesn't indicate it, Friday's outcome was in doubt until the final horn sounded.

Down 14-7, South Point had driven to the Piedmont 45-yard line with time winding off the clock. Without any timeouts, the Red Raiders tried to quickly line up to spike the ball and stop the clock. However, a false-start penalty whistled right when the clock reached 0:00 gave the Red Raiders one more chance from the Piedmont 49 with two seconds to go.

Quarterback Corey Brown, who played the entire game in the place of injured starter Javar Williams, dropped

► See **South Point**/Page 4C

# ▼ South Point

continued from Page 1C

back to pass but a blitzing Panther knocked the ball out of his hands. Piedmont's Kenneth Christian picked the ball up at the South Point 33 and ran untouched to the end zone as time expired to give the game its final score.

Piedmont head coach Rusty Jester said his team continues to make the plays they need to.

"These kids dig deep when it gets nitty-gritty time. It seems like this team is destined."

But with the game tied at 7 and only 2:57 left in the game, destiny was still uncertain late Friday when Piedmont punted to the Red Raiders.

On South Point's next play, however, Piedmont's Joel Lynch pounced on a loose ball at midfield after a botched handoff from Brown to Phillip Stowe.

Five plays later, the Panthers (13-0) capitalized on the South Point mistake with a 2-yard touchdown run by quarterback Steven Black.

"At the worst we were going to get at least a field goal out of it, we thought," Jester said.

Piedmont receiver Billy Race gave the South Point defense troubles all night. The senior caught eight passes for 125 yards.

The Panthers won despite three fumbles and an interception.

South Point took an early 7-0 lead in the second quarter when Brown threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Alvin Williams.

Brown, a sophomore who had previously started three games at quarterback, passed for 150 yards and ran for 61.

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John Devine  
South Point coach

"We finally get to a big game and he had to fill in in the biggest game and he did a good job," Devine said.

After that, the Red Raiders turned the ball over three times and B.J. Richmond missed two field-goal attempts.

South Point senior fullback Rasharde Reid finished with 52 yards on 14 carries.

"Rasharde Reid played his butt off for us," Devine said. "He gave it everything he had. He plays with sheer guts and effort."

Phillip Stowe caught four passes for 61 yards and Alvin Williams had two receptions for 62 yards.

South Point finished the season at 7-6.

"They played their hearts out and they're winners on and off the field," Devine said.

"Our hearts go out to the seniors because they gave us so much. For this to be their last game, it's tough for them."

SP	0	7	0	0-7
P	0	0	7	13-20

SP - Alvin Williams 35 pass from Corey Brown (B.J. Richmond kick)

P - Steven Black 1 run (Kyle Kraieski kick)

P - Black 2 run (Kraieski kick)

P - Kenneth Christian 33 fumble recovery