

South Point cruises past Lincolnton

RB Brown runs for four touchdowns

By RICHARD WALKER
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — Joe Brown knew all about South Point's "Red Bone" offense.

Two years in the Red Raiders' program, including a season as two-year starter Rasharde Reid's understudy, gave Brown experience. However, until Friday night, Brown hadn't gone into a game as South Point's premier runner.

But after Brown's 121-yard, four-touchdown performance in the Red Raiders' 55-21 rout of visiting Lincolnton, there's certainly no reason for South Point fans to fret.

"We like to talk about how we put things in the bank for the future, like lifting weights and working out in the off-season," Red Raiders coach John Devine said. "That's why it's no accident that Joe Brown stepped up and did what he did tonight. He's put things in the bank by being in the weight room all last spring and all summer."

Brown was hardly the only spectacular opening-night performer for South Point.

Fellow juniors Javar Williams, Phillip Stowe and Corey Brown and senior Brian McWhirter took turns shining in the Red Raiders' offense.

Williams started and sparkled at quarterback, throwing for 132 yards and a touchdown and running for 18 more yards.

Stowe started on defense, but came on to run for 93 yards and two touchdowns.

Brown relieved Williams in the middle of the third quarter and ran for 39 yards and a touchdown and directed another scoring drive.

McWhirter was on the receiving end of three Williams' throws for 64 yards, including the 30-yard scoring strike.

There's more.

Red Raiders' defenders made nine tackles for losses, including a pair of quarterback sacks by Andrew Rinehardt. Randy Robinson, who also had a sack, was the top tackler with six solo or first-hit stops.

"It was a good opening night," Devine said. "We're well pleased."

Lincolnton coach Scott Cloninger also was impressed.

"I've heard one coach say,

SOUTH POINT 55
LINCOLNTON 21

"South Point ought to get their reservations made for Raleigh," Cloninger said in reference to the site of the N.C. state championship game this season. "And they've got a point. They're a fine football team."

Brown scored three touchdowns in the first 14½ minutes as South Point roared ahead 27-7.

Lincolnton then battled back with a touchdown before the intermission.

In the second half, South Point added four more touchdowns to two for Lincolnton.

The Wolves used big plays from running backs Darren Wilson and Andre Nixon and receiver Eric Wilson to show second-half competitiveness.

Wilson finished with 107 yards rushing on 14 carries. Nixon had a 93-yard touchdown kickoff return. And Wilson caught four passes for 62 yards, including a 13-yard scoring pass from Randall Chambers.

"I saw a few positive things out there," said Cloninger, whose team is 0-2 against perennial powers Maiden and South Point. "We're getting there."

The worst news for Lincolnton was a neck injury to senior end Webster Metts in the third quarter. Metts was attended to for nearly 30 minutes before being taken to a local hospital.

"They're always worried when there's a neck injury," Cloninger said. "But the doctors feel like he'll be OK. He had movement in all of his body parts. It was really more of a precautionary thing, although we'll know more tomorrow."

L 0 7 7 7 — 21
SP 21 6 21 7 — 55

SP — Joe Brown 30 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)

SP — Brown 6 run (Rinehardt kick)

SP — Brian McWhirter 30 pass from Javar Williams (Rinehardt kick)

SP — Brown 2 run (Kick failed)

L — Eric Wilson 13 pass from Randall Chambers (Roy Gomez kick)

SP — Brown 25 run (Rinehardt kick)

L — Andre Nixon 93 kickoff return (Gomez kick)

SP — Phillip Stowe 5 run (Rinehardt kick)

SP — Stowe 30 run (Rinehardt kick)

L — Bradley Armstrong 10 run (Gomez kick)

SP — Corey Brown 10 run (Rinehardt kick)