

# Defense, special teams spark Raiders

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BELMONT — For a team with such a heralded offense, South Point's defense and special teams sure came to play in Friday's 24-6 victory over Hunter Huss Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

The Red Raiders returned a punt for touchdown, blocked a field goal attempt and forced three Hunter Huss turnovers to stay unbeaten in the Big South 3A Conference.

South Point (5-1, 2-0 Big South 3A) also held Hunter Huss' potent rushing attack in check for most of the night. The Huskies gained 206 yards on the ground, but much of it came on three

SOUTH POINT  
HUNTER HUSS

big plays of 64, 38 and 60 yards.

"I thought it was the best we've played (defensively) in a while," South Point coach John Devine said. "I thought early in the season we were playing very good defense. Against that kind of quickness and the threats that they present, that was a very good job."

South Point's Brandon Reid returned a Sergio Torres punt 73 yards untouched down the right sideline for the Red Raiders' first touchdown with 2:29 remaining in the first quarter.

Moments later, Reid made another big play when he stripped

24  
6

the ball from Hunter Huss quarterback Johntae Woods at the South Point 2-yard line, allowing South Point to recover in the end zone for a touchback. Woods had broken loose for a 64-yard gain before Reid, a 6-foot, 170-pound junior defensive back, dislodged the ball to prevent the score.

After a South Point punt, Hunter Huss threatened again with a 29-yard field goal attempt by Torres. But Alex Lemons found his way through the Husky offensive line, blocking the kick and chasing down the loose ball to preserve South Point's 10-point lead.

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The Red Raiders got their first offensive touchdown with 5:45 left in the third quarter when quarterback Javar Williams ran a 6-yard keeper.

Hunter Huss (3-3, 1-1 Big South 3A) responded with a 60-yard touchdown run by seldom-used Antonio Hopkins on the next offensive play.

South Point's Tyler Gorton then added the game's final score less than five minutes later on a 6-yard run.

Williams finished with a season-high 22 carries for 97 yards — another season high — and one touchdown.

Junior fullback Joe Brown was held to his lowest total of the season, 55 yards on 13 car-

ries. He was also kept out of the end zone for the first time this season after scoring 17 touchdowns through the first five games.

Jeremiah Riddle and Randy Robinson had the fumble recoveries for South Point, and Josh Robinson recorded the interception.

Devine credited the guys up front — Ian Lutz, Sammy Redden, Joe Costner, Jeremy Beaty, Andrew Rinehardt, Brian Bradshaw and Lemons — for their defensive pressure.

"Those guys really controlled the line of scrimmage," Devine said. "They set the tone. They played their fannies off and I think that was probably the difference in the game. (Hunter Huss) was not able to run the

ball like they wanted to."

An elusive Woods led the Huskies offensively with 134 yards on 15 carries. He was 0 for 11 passing with one interception. Hunter Huss' leading rusher, tailback Jermeycha Conner, was limited to minus 1 yard on 11 rushes.

Woods' crucial first quarter fumble was somewhat controversial. Woods was tackled out of bounds on the play, and the ball might have come loose after he was already down or out of bounds. Hunter Huss coach Steve Gardner walked onto the field to question the ruling and still had doubts about the play after the game.

"Either way, he shouldn't have fumbled it," Gardner said. "Blown chances. Blown

chances. When you get that opportunity against a good football team like South Point, you have to take advantage of it because they're not going to let you have it again. But I'm proud of my kids. They played hard."

**Note:** Three-sport standout Elyse Sadler was named South Point's homecoming queen at halftime. Sadler plays volleyball and basketball and participates on the track team.

HH	0	0	6	0	—	6
SP	10	0	14	0	—	24

SP — FG Andrew Rinehardt 24

SP — Brandon Reid 73 punt return (Rinehardt kick)

SP — Javar Williams 6 run (Rinehardt kick)

HH — Antonio Hopkins 60 run (pass failed)

SP — Tyler Gorton 6 run (Rinehardt kick)