

# Gone in 68 seconds

South Point scores three times in 68 seconds to advance in playoffs

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BELMONT — A span of 68 seconds late in the first half was all South Point needed to turn a close playoff game into a rout.

The Red Raiders scored three quick touchdowns inside

the 1:29 mark of the second quarter on their way to a 38-13 victory over visiting Anson County here Friday at Lineberger Stadium.

"That was the game," South Point coach John Devine said of the scoring flurry. "It was over."

The spurt changed a 9-7

game into a 30-7 halftime lead for the Red Raiders (11-1) and sent them to the second round of the 3A playoffs, where they'll face Franklin, a 41-8 winner over Statesville. The game will take place in Belmont.

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Leading 9-7 late in the second half, the Red Raiders drove 57 yards in five plays and scored on 32-yard run by Joe Brown at the 1:29 mark to make it 16-7 after Andrew Rinehart's extra-point kick.

On Anson's next offensive play, South Point's Jonathan Mitchell intercepted a pass by Earl Rorie, giving the Red Raiders great field position at the Anson 14.

On the ensuing play, Brian McWhirter took a pitch and ran 14 yards to the end zone to push South Point's lead to 23-7 with 1:13 to go in the half.

After a Bearcat punt, South Point took over at midfield with 40 seconds left. Quarterback Javar Williams threw two incomplete passes before handing off to Brown, who ran straight up the middle for a 50-yard touchdown.

"The last of the three was the biggest," Devine said.

Anson (2-9) started out on a bad note. The Bearcats were held to three-and-out on the game's opening possession, and the snap on fourth down sailed over the punter's head and out of the end zone for a South Point safety.

South Point's vaunted Red Bone triple-option offense got off to a slow start, going three and out on its first series.

But the offense rolled after that, grinding out 425 rushing yards.

Brown led the way with 158 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries. Williams kept the ball 16 times for 138 yards and a touchdown. Tyler Gorton added 52 yards on five carries and scored South Point's first touchdown on a 48-yard run. McWhirter finished with 43 yards on only three carries.

The Bearcats got their passing game going midway

through the first quarter and gave South Point fits. On the Bearcats' first scoring possession, quarterback Rorie completed five-of-five passes and capped the impressive drive with an 11-yard run to close his team's gap to 9-7.

On Anson's next possession, Rorie found Calvin McManus for a 78-yard strike. South Point's John Alexander caught him from behind at the South Point 13, and an unsportsmanlike penalty on Anson brought the ball back to the 28. Two plays later, Phillip Stowe intercepted a Rorie pass at the 1-yard line and returned it 24 yards to end the threat. Stowe was making his first appearance since Sept. 6.

"At 9-7, I thought we could pull it out, but I knew they had too many weapons," Anson coach Fred Davis said. "We went in trying to stop (Williams) and we did a good job on him, but we didn't get (Gorton) or (McWhirter). They're a very good option team. They're better than most people think they are."

Rorie went down with a pinched nerve in his neck at the 8-minute mark of the third quarter. He finished with 152 yards on 10-of-18 passing and two interceptions. McManus caught 11 passes for 200 yards and a touchdown.

A	7	0	0	6	— 13
SP	9	21	8	0	— 38

SP — Safety. Ball snapped out of end zone

SP — Tyler Gorton 48 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)

A — Earl Rorie 11 run (Justin Underwood kick)

SP — Joe Brown 32 run (Rinehart kick)

SP — Brian McWhirter 14 run (Rinehart kick)

SP — Brown 50 run (Rinehart kick)

SP — Javar Williams 5 run (Brown run)

A — Calvin McManus 8 pass from Cedric Gore (pass failed)