

South Point's devastating 1-2 punch



Andrew Russell/The Gazette

South Point quarterback Javar Williams, right, hands off to fullback Joe Brown during Friday night's Big South 3A game against East Gaston. Brown rushed for 87 yards and two touchdowns, and the Red Raiders routed the Warriors 35-7.

RED STORM

Second-quarter surge sends South Point past East Gaston

By PHILLIP GARDNER
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — Any hopes East Gaston had of upsetting rival South Point evaporated in a matter of about three minutes Friday.

After a scoreless 19 minutes, the Red Raiders broke open the game with three quick touchdowns for a 35-7 win in front of a Lineberger Stadium crowd estimated at 5,000.

East Gaston's defense held its own for a full quarter against a South Point team

averaging 418 yards per game. East Gaston's offense was moving the ball against a defense that limited its last three opponents to a combined 20 first downs.

But South Point's adjustments paid off in a quick second-quarter flurry that essentially ended the game.

Joe Brown capped a 47-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run at the 5:01 mark of the second quarter for the game's first score.

South Point (4-1, 1-0 Big South 3A) then forced East Gaston (4-1, 1-1) to punt from its own 12-yard line and needed only eight seconds to score again. Tyler Gorton took a first-down handoff up the middle 42 yards untouched for a 14-0 advantage with 2:47 remaining.

"The line's great and ... I just followed those big boys," said Gorton, who finished with 90 yards on six carries and added a third-quarter touchdown reception. "That's all I had to do. I think that's

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one of those that put East Gaston's heads down, kind of caught them off guard."

After another East Gaston three-and-out, South Point needed only two plays to find the end zone once more. Ivey Watson beat East Gaston corner Issac Moss on the left sideline for a 45-yard touchdown reception from Javar Williams. Andrew Rinehart's third extra point made the score 21-0 with 1:51 left in the first half, and the rout was on.

"We made big plays," South Point coach John Devine said. "That game was over at half-time."

Jadarian Moore, East Gaston's career passing leader, didn't look rusty after missing last week's game with a sprained right ankle. Though a victim of several dropped balls, he drove the Warriors into South Point territory the first two drives.

After that, however, South Point's pressure forced Moore to scramble, which effectively shut down an offense that had topped the 400-yard mark in three previous games.

"The first maybe quarter and a half I had time, but the second half, they were bringing everybody they had and I was scrambling and running," said Moore, who finished with 121 yards on 12 of 24 passing and two interceptions.

Brian Bradshaw, Andrew Rinehart and Chris Richards logged sacks. Brandon Reid and Josh Robinson recorded the interceptions.

"We changed fronts on them, moved people around and came from different angles," Devine said. "That's what we do. That's what our defense is about. We're not going to sit back in one defense and let you pick us apart."

Brown finished with 87 yards on 19 carries and scored his second touchdown on a 1-yard run at the end of the third quarter. Williams added 56 rushing yards and 73 passing as South Point outgained the Warriors 354-231.

With the game out of hand, Ryan Baker replaced Moore in the final quarter and led



Andrew Russell/The Gazette

East Gaston's Jadarian Moore was 12-of-24 passing on Friday.

the Warriors to their only score. The junior located Desmond Wilson for a 5-yard strike with 54 seconds remaining in the game.

"For a quarter and a half, we played and executed our game plan as well as we could do it without scoring points," East Gaston coach Mark Latham said. "We played hard defensively and they got a score on us, but we were playing hard and they just executed and got a score."

South Point denied East Gaston a chance to match its best start in school history. The Warriors started 5-0 in 1978, the year that East Gaston recorded its only playoff win.

The game ended on a sour note when South Point re-inserted its offensive starters with time winding down after East Gaston called a timeout. Javar Williams threw an incomplete pass to Jamari Jeter at midfield, prompting Latham to storm onto the field and have a discussion with Devine.

EG	0	0	0	7	—	7
SP	0	21	14	0	—	35

SP—Joe Brown 1 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)

SP—Tyler Gorton 42 run (Rinehart kick)

SP—Ivey Watson 45 pass from Javar Williams (Rinehart kick)

SP—Gorton 5 pass from Williams (Rinehart kick)

SP—Brown 1 run (Rinehart kick)

EG—Desmond Wilson 5 pass from Ryan Baker (Adam Davis kick)