

# South Point has 'five-peat' to its credit

By **RICHARD WALKER**  
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DALLAS — Three years ago, Adam Hodge, Randy Robinson and Joe Brown were wide-eyed South Point High freshmen when the Red Raiders won their second straight conference championship in the old Southwestern 3A.

Friday night, that trio helped put the finishing touches on a record fifth consecutive conference title in South Point's methodical and thorough 52-7 victory over North Gaston at Trudnak Stadium.

"It feels great. Really great," said Hodge, an offensive lineman. "To me, it's special to win the conference title again because we've had a great tradition that our group has been able to keep going."

South Point and Ashbrook are now the only schools with five straight conference titles in Gaston County history, though

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the Red Raiders' current run is more impressive than what the Green Wave did in its first five years as a school from 1970 to '74.

While those Green Wave teams went 26-2-1 in conference play, South Point enters Friday's regular-season finale at home against East Lincoln having won 30 of its past 31 league games.

Ashbrook capped its five-year run with a state championship in 1974.

That's where Brown echoes the sentiments of most Red Raiders fans when he talks about the historic fifth straight league title.

"It's all fine and good to win another conference title," said Brown, who rushed for 189

yards and two touchdowns in 15 carries in Friday's win. "But we've got bigger goals."

North Gaston coach Bruce Clark said South Point could realize its goal of a state title.

"Especially with their defense," Clark said. "I've been around here a long time and I don't know that I've ever seen a better defense."

"Their offense is so methodical and so efficient that everybody talks about their offense. But, for them to win a state championship — and I firmly believe they can win it — it's going to be their defense that makes it happen."

Clark's offense certainly suffered because of South Point's defense Friday.

North Gaston runner Rafael Littlejohn and quarterback Jeff Johnson entered the game

ranked fourth in their respective statistical categories in the area.

But the Red Raiders limited both to subpar performances, as Littlejohn was held to 58 yards rushing and Johnson was limited to 18 yards passing. Littlejohn had averaged 107.4 yards rushing and Johnson 133.6 yards passing before Friday's game.

"North Gaston has moved the ball on everybody this year," South Point coach John Devine said. "We'd seen a lot of tape of them and they scared us to death. But our defense really came up big for us."

In the end, the Red Raiders finished with 428 yards total offense while allowing 75.

In addition to Brown's 189 yards rushing, Javar Williams tallied 119 yards rushing and

two touchdowns and threw for 35 more and a score. Tyler Gorton caught the scoring pass and also had a 27-yard touchdown punt return.

Defensively, Brian Bradshaw had a team-high seven first-hit or solo stops, including two for losses. Chris Richards added five stops and Tyler Lemons and Cameron McGlenn three apiece.

SP 14 19 7 12 — 52

NG 0 0 7 0 — 7

SP — Joe Brown 1 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)

SP — Brown 16 run (Rinehart kick)

SP — Javar Williams 11 run (Kick failed)

SP — Tyler Gorton 26 pass from Williams (Kick failed)

SP — Williams 55 run (Rinehart kick)

NG — Rafael Littlejohn 15 run (Darryl Posey kick)

SP — Gorton 27 punt return (Kick failed)

SP — Jordan Gilmore 20 run (Run failed)