

South Point manhandles Franklin in playoff rout

By RICHARD WALKER
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT— Franklin coach Fred Goldsmith said earlier in the week he was impressed with South Point's team from watching it on tape.

Up close and in person, he was even more impressed.

"They're really, really good," Goldsmith said after South Point rolled past his Panthers 42-0 Friday night in the second round of the 3A playoffs at Lineberger Stadium.

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"Essentially, they played with the same team as last year. And they're much improved, a little bigger, a little stronger and a little faster. And they're so well-coached."

Even Red Raiders coach John Devine, who chided his team a bit for lackluster play after a 54-

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Nick Daggy/The Gazette

South Point's Jamari Crawford looks for running room Friday night. Behind 387 yards rushing, the Red Raiders routed Franklin 42-0.

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14 first-round victory over East Henderson, was pleased with his team.

"I'll tell you what, that was a good football team we just beat," said Devine, whose team beat Franklin 37-27 last season. "So you know we had to play extremely well to beat them."

"Offensively, that's the best we've done. And defensively, we got a shutout against a veteran running back and a veteran quarterback."

Make no mistake about it, South Point was its efficient best on a night in which the Red Raiders improved to 12-1 overall by scoring on six of their 11 offensive possessions.

South Point advanced to host another playoff game Friday, this time against South Piedmont Conference co-champion Concord. Concord rolled to a 55-6 victory Friday over the Red Raiders' Big South Conference rival, Hunter Huss.

Javar Williams again led the way, this time with dead-eye throwing accuracy more than his fleet feet.

Williams had his second-best passing game of the season, completing six of 10 throws for 171 yards and two touchdowns while also eclipsing 1,000 yards passing for only the third time in South Point's 34-year history.

Williams now has 1,153 yards passing this season — only eight yards behind Doug Davis' school-record 1,161 yards in 1973. And he improved his career total to 2,553 — or nearly 500 shy of Davis



Nick Daggy/The Gazette

South Point defenders Brian Bradshaw, left, and Josh Robinson sandwich a Franklin ball carrier Friday night in Belmont.

school record from 1972-74.

Williams' touchdown strikes opened the game's scoring and went for 27 yards to Ivey Watson and 59 yards to Tyler Gorton as South Point went ahead 14-0 after one quarter.

"I didn't underestimate their quarterback's ability to throw," Goldsmith said. "But I probably underestimated their willingness to throw it. I dared them some to throw and they did."

After loosening up the Panthers' defense with the early throws, Williams then orchestrated a rushing attack that started slow before finishing with 387 yards.

Joe Brown continued his assault on the county record book with 160 more yards rushing

and four more touchdowns. Brown's career total of 3,439 yards rushing is now sixth all-time in the county and his point total of 376 is a scant two points behind all-time co-record-holders Junior Hall of Gaston Day and Ashbrook and Mario Dye of Forestview.

Yet, as impressive as the Williams, Brown and the Red Raiders' offense was, the defense was equally impressive.

It not only limited a powerful Panthers offense to 157 yards total, but it also recorded the third playoff shutout in school history. South Point previously shut out Newton-Conover 41-0 in 1971 and Enka 41-0 in 1993.

Franklin entered the game averaging 24.4 points per game

and having scored 10 or more in each contest.

That unit had been led by runner Chris Durm and quarterback Cecil Pollack. Durm had 1,503 yards rushing and Pollack 805 yards passing and 1,204 yards total offense.

Friday, that duo was stopped cold with the exception of one 26-yard Durm burst and a 23-yard Pollack scramble. Overall, Durm finished with 59 yards rushing in 17 carries and Pollack had 47 yards passing and 37 yards rushing.

Brandon Reid's 10 first-hit or solo tackles and a fumble recovery led the Red Raiders' defense, which also got six stops from Randy Robinson, including three for losses.

F	0	0	0	0	0
SP	14	14	0	14	42
SP — Ivey Watson 27 pass from Javar Williams (Andrew Rinehart kick)					
SP — Tyler Gorton 59 pass from Williams (Rinehart kick)					
SP — Joe Brown 3 run (Rinehart kick)					
SP — Brown 1 run (Rinehart kick)					
SP — Brown 3 run (Rinehart kick)					
SP — Brown 58 run (Rinehart kick)					

	EH	SP
First downs	8	20
Rushes-yards	30-110	44-387
Passing yards	47	171
Passing	7 18-0	6 10-0
Fumbles-lost	1 1	2 1
Penalties-yards	1 5	9 66

Individual statistics

RUSHING — F: Chns Durm 17-59, Cecil Pollack 8-37, Brandon Church 3-11, Alex Crutchoe 2-3. **SP:** Brown 15-160, Williams 17-125, Cameron McGinn 2-11, Gorton 2-5, Jamar Crawford 3-40, Josh Robinson 3-67, Brian Jennings 1-4, Wes Carroll 1-3.

PASSING — F: Pollack 7-18-0 47. **SP:** Williams 6-10-0 171.

RECEIVING — F: Eric Prevette 2-26, Church 3-9, Preston Sanders 1-7, Ben Savaiko 1-5. **SP:** Watson 3-53, Gorton 2-88, Crawford 1-30.