

# Red Raiders stuff Wildcats, Littlejohn

## South Point's top rusher leaves game with knee injury

BY MATT KLINE  
Gazette Correspondent

BELMONT — In a game that was hyped as a showdown between the two top rushers in the Big South 3A Conference, it was the South Point defense that made the biggest statement.

The Red Raiders held the conference's leading rusher, North Gaston's Rafael Littlejohn, to just 40 yards as they went on to defeat the Wildcats, 20-6, at Lineberger Stadium.

The win was tempered some by the fact that the conference's second-leading rusher, South Point's Bryan Jennings, left the game late in the third quarter with an apparent left knee injury and did not return. Jennings, who gained 72 yards on the night and went over 1,000 yards on the season, will have the knee looked at today to determine the severity of the injury.

South Point (7-2 overall, 5-1 Big South 3A) held North Gaston (3-7, 1-5) to 29 total yards and no first downs for the first 23 minutes. The teams played a scoreless first quarter that saw six punts, but South Point struck early in the second.

After a North Gaston punt, the Red Raiders went 46 yards in seven plays, capped by a 4-yard score by Jennings to give South Point a 7-0 lead with 10 minutes left in the half.

South Point had chances to add to the lead, but North Gaston's defense kept the Wildcats

in the game, forcing two Red Raider fumbles deep in North Gaston territory, and holding the Red Raiders to just one score in the first half. They did that despite the fact that South Point had six possessions in the first half, and their worst starting spot was their own 49.

Late in the third, Jennings took a handoff up the middle and when he cut to the left, he went down without being touched, and was helped off the field with the injury to his left knee.

"When I made the cut, I felt it," the senior fullback said. "I'll have it looked at and see how bad it is. Either way I'm going to do what I can to help this team, even if it means cheering from the sidelines."

For North Gaston, who avoided the shutout when quarterback Jeff Johnson threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Jake Campbell with three minutes left, it was another game where they were competitive, but came up on the short end. The Wildcats need a win next week against winless Berry to have a chance at a playoff berth.

"We've said all year that the next game is the biggest," Wildcats head coach Bruce Clark said. "But next week is it for us. We've been in every game this year, and I couldn't be more proud of the effort the kids have given week in and week out."

NG	0	0	0	6	—	6
SP	0	7	13	0	—	20

SP—Bryan Jennings 4 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)

SP—Cameron McGlenn 23 pass from Rinehart (Rinehart kick)

SP—Jordan Gilmore 15 run (kick failed)

NG—Jake Campbell 6 pass from Jeff Johnson (kick failed)