

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SOUTH POINT 48, WEST MECKLENBURG 14

Red Raiders start slow, finish fast

Strong fourth quarter propels South Point

By LARRY DAWALT
Gazette Correspondent

BELMONT — South Point coach John Devine had to do a lot of tuning to get his big red machine running on all cylinders.

But once the Red Raiders got rolling, the game turned into a rout as South Point walloped West Mecklenburg 48-14 Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

"We told them at the half that they've got to play with a little more passion," Devine said. "You can't play going half speed and not believing in your teammates."

The Red Raiders (2-1) responded in the second half, scoring 30 points, including 21 unanswered points in the final quarter.

"We could have done a lot of things better, but overall I'm pleased," Devine said. "It's always good to put that many points on the board."

South Point was vicious against the run, holding the Hawks to only 15 yards rushing in 34 attempts. But West Meck quarterback Reggie White lit up the Red Raider secondary for 240 passing yards, completing 11 of 19 attempts.

"We'll learn from it," Devine said of White's performance. "We can do a better job containing the quarterback. We made a couple of mistakes and they made us pay."

The game was a defensive struggle for the first 12 minutes as the two teams traded

punts twice before South Point finally scored on the last play of the opening quarter on a 27-yard pass from Tyler Lemons to Brandon Spencer. West Meck answered on the next series as White tossed a 97-yard pass to Quinton Gaddy to give the Hawks a 7-6 lead.

South Point failed to move the ball on its next series, but played excellent defense on the ensuing possession and forced a fumble in the end zone that Daniel Holmes recovered for a touchdown. After a three and out by West Meck, Spencer dashed 56 yards around right end after the West Meck punt to give the Raiders an 18-7 halftime lead.

The Hawks (0-4) had a chance to score late in the first half after driving 69 yards to the South Point 2. But the Red Raider defense held on fourth

and goal, from the 2 to thwart the assault.

Stan Wilson got the first South Point touchdown in the second half on a 1-yard run and Matthew Mitchell booted a 42-yard field goal to push the lead to 27-7. West Meck put together an 11-play drive that covered 80 yards late in the third quarter as Richard Brannon scored from the 2 to cut the lead to 27-14.

But South Point exploded in the fourth quarter as reserve quarterback Jason Baker led three scoring drives and the Red Raiders started to look like they were in mid-season form.

"We've got to be ready to play from the opening bell next week (against Burns)," Devine said. "Then we've got the conference opener here against East Gaston. We're young up

front and some of these guys aren't used to playing in front of a big crowd. We've got to get these guys some more reps, but it's coming together."

	1	2	3	4	Total
WM	0	7	7	0	14
SP	6	12	9	21	48

SP — Brandon Spencer 27 pass from Tyler Lemons (kick failed)

WM — Quinton Gaddy 97 pass from Reggie White (Steven Mullis kick)

SP — Daniel Holmes fumble recovery in end zone (run failed)

SP — Spencer 56 run (kick failed)

SP — Stan Wilson one run (run failed)

SP — Matthew Mitchell 42 FG

WM — Richard Brannon 2 run (Mullis kick)

SP — Jason Baker 2 run (Mitchell kick)

SP — Spencer 5 run (Mitchell kick)

SP — Matt Hudspeth 1 run (Mitchell kick)