

SOUTH POINT 24, BURNS 21 (OT)

Raider Rally

South Point scores 24 unanswered points to edge Burns

By RICHARD WALKER
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BELMONT — South Point High has won 24 state playoff games and won or shared three state championships in its rich football history.

But you'd be hard pressed to find a more thrilling win over those past 36 years than Friday's 24-21 overtime victory over Burns at Lineberger Stadium.

South Point didn't surpass 100 yards total offense until the next-

to-last play of the third quarter, trailed 21-0 entering the fourth quarter and was behind 21-7 with nearly four minutes to play.



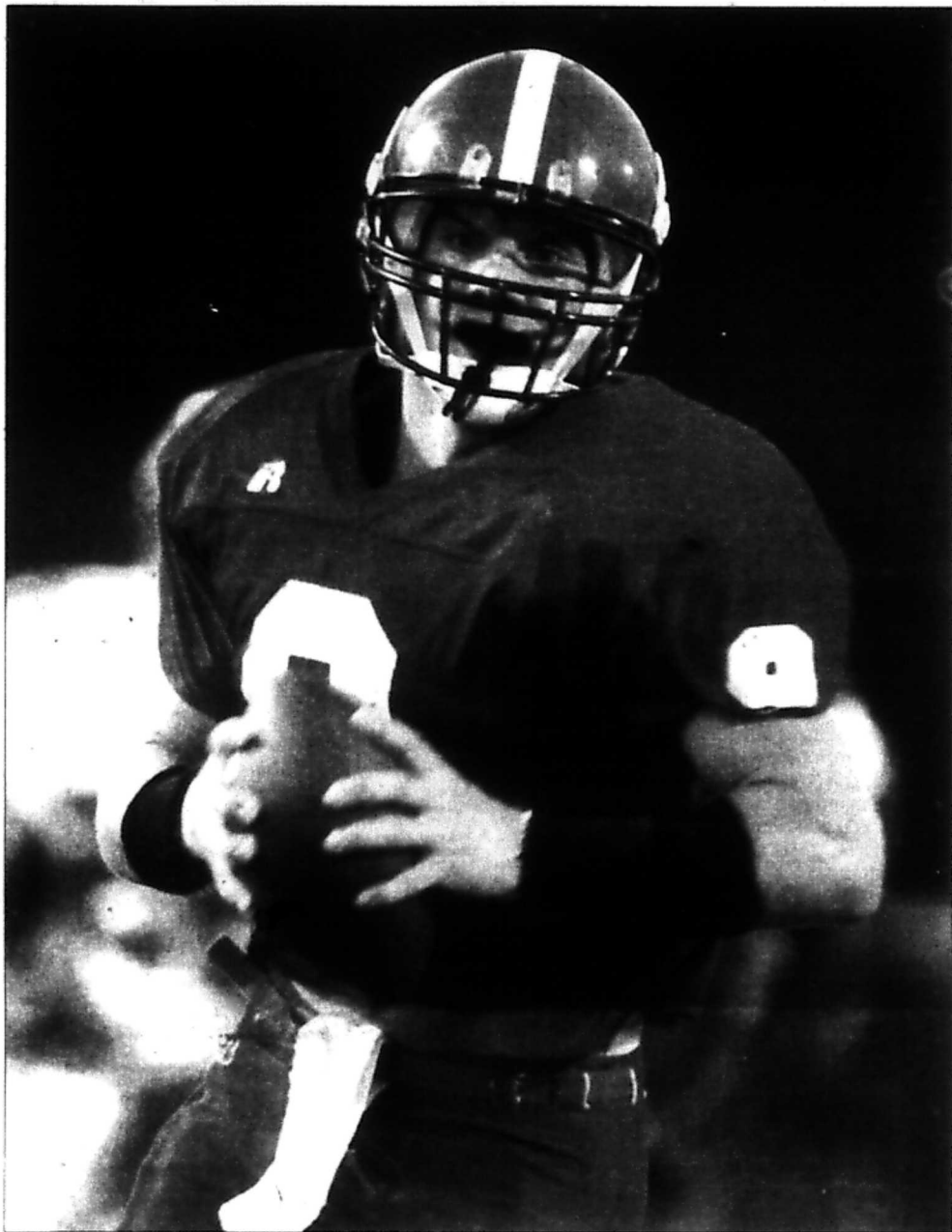
MITCHELL Yet, somehow, somehow, the Red Raiders turned what looked to be certain defeat into a thrilling victory.

South Point coach John Devine got so caught up in the emotions of the win he jumped high into the air on the Red Raiders' sideline moments after Jonathan Graham's sack and Jordan Gilmore's fumble recovery sealed victory in overtime.

"Well, I used to be able to jump," said the 46-year-old Devine, whose team improved to 3-1 with the win. "I can't jump anymore. But if you don't get excited after that, you can't get excited."

South Point had many heroes in its improbable comeback. Quarterback-defensive back Tyler Lemons shined on both offense and defense. So did Gilmore and special teams ace Cameron McGlenn. And backup quarterback Jason Baker came up huge on the tying offensive drive.

In the end, junior kicker Matthew Mitchell's 21-yard field goal at the end of the first



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

South Point quarterback Tyler Lemons finished Friday night's game with 65 yards rushing and 57 passing, but watched the end of the Red Raiders' 24-21 win from the sidelines. The two-way star was suffering from dehydration.



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

Burns running back Harvey Kee evades South Point's Phillip Rinehart in Friday's overtime game.

▼ Raiders

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overtime possession proved the difference. Mitchell, who had drilled a pressure-packed extra point with 1:05 left in regulation, connected from the right hashmark out of the hold of Marcus Duckworth.

On Burns' overtime possession, the Red Raiders' blitzing defenders forced runs of no gain and negative two yards on the first two plays, then benefitted from a 24-yard holding penalty that negated a potential winning touchdown pass.

As Camp scrambled back and forth deep in his own backfield while eluding South Point defenders, a penalty flag was thrown at the Red Raiders 26 well before Camp delivered a scoring pass to Ulysses Tuft in the right corner of the end zone.

After the penalty was assessed, forcing the Bulldogs into a third-and-goal from the South Point 41, Graham sacked elusive Burns quarterback Lance Camp and Gilmore recovered near midfield.

The result touched off a celebration that included Devine's leap and several Red Raiders' fans rushing the Lineberger Stadium turf.

"It's amazing," Devine said. "These kids played with tremendous heart. A lot of people gave up on them but they didn't give up on themselves."

Devine was clearly making reference to the exodus of

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Ron Greene
Burns coach

several South Point fans after a Red Raiders' fumble at the Burns 26 with 5:18 to play. At the time, South Point trailed 21-7 and the Bulldogs appeared close to sealing a win that would've improved their record to 3-1 on the season.

Instead, a defense that shutout the powerful Burns' offense in the second half pushed the Bulldogs back four yards and McGlenn put a charge into the fans that stayed by blocking a punt and then returning it 3 yards for a touchdown with 3:44 left.

After another three-and-out on the ensuing series, South Point took over at its own 44 with 3:08 to play and two timeouts remaining.

Lemons, who went most of the way at quarterback, was unable to return due to dehydration so severe he was later helped from the field.

It left Baker to direct the tying march.

The big play was McGlenn's spectacular over-the-shoulder 31-yard catch of a third-and-10 Baker pass. Later, Baker completed a 9-yard pass to Brandon Spencer before Gilmore

finished off the drive with a 2-yard run. Mitchell's third extra point knotted the score at 21.

Mitchell then came through for the game-winning points after three Gilmore runs moved South Point to the Burns 5.

For Burns, the loss had to be gut-wrenching. Especially after a two-game winning streak and the Bulldogs' hot first-half start on Friday.

Junior quarterback Lance Camp passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another as Burns roared ahead 21-0 at the break. Camp finished with 298 yards total offense on 166 passing and 132 rushing.

"It's a tale of two halves," Burns coach Ron Greene said. "We played a great first half on both sides of the ball. We just didn't generate the offense we needed there in the second half."

South Point finished with 245 yards total offense, led by Lemons' 65 yards rushing and 57 passing. Burns had 355 yards total offense, but was hampered by 18 penalties for 155 yards.

South Point 24, Burns 21, OT

B	14	7	0	0	0	-21
SP	0	0	0	21	3	-24

B - Lance Camp 3 run (Kirk Smith kick)
 B - Keron Phelps 53 pass from Camp (Smith kick)
 B - Phelps 32 pass from Camp (Smith kick)
 SP - Tyler Lemons 9 run (Matthew Mitchell kick)
 SP - Cameron McGlenn 3 blocked punt return (Mitchell kick)
 SP - Jordan Gilmore 2 run (Mitchell kick)
 SP - FG Mitchell 21