

Mitchell's record boot highlights win

Big guys up front
clear way as Raiders
rush for 352 yards

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BELMONT — While South Point got off on the right foot in Friday night's win over Kings Mountain, it was the right foot of senior Matthew Mitchell who connected on a county record 53-yard field goal for the Red Raiders.

Offensive linemen Daniel Gillelan, Josh Grier, Nathan Webb, Daniel Biggerstaff and Trevor Reeves made the holes and the inside-outside tandem of fullback Matt Hudspeth and Desmond Lowery dashed through them to propel South Point to the 31-16 non-conference win over Kings Mountain at Lineberger Stadium.

"They hammered them,"

South Point coach John Devine said of his powerful offensive line that cleared the way for 352 rushing yards on 56 attempts. "We controlled the clock and the line of scrimmage."

South Point's line play made Lowery's job executing the redbone offense easier.

"As long as we've got those guys in front of him, he's going to have time to learn," Devine said of his talented sophomore quarterback who finished with 24 carries for 130 yards and completed one pass for 68 yards and a touchdown to Marcus Duckworth. "We've got some strength up there from the work they've done in the off-season and that made the difference tonight."

Devine was also pleased with Hudspeth's work up the middle.

"Matt Hudspeth is another guy who worked hard in the off-season," Devine said. "When we get in the 125-150 yard rushing range from him, we're fine."

Kings Mountain (0-2) struggled in the first half, but came alive in the second after a rousing pep talk by head coach Dave Farquharson.

"We challenged them to play and quit worrying about what was happening," Farquharson said. "Physically, we were able to go out and play with them. We can build on tonight's game. You can take that into a Monday practice and be excited."

Farquharson was especially pleased with the play of freshman quarterback Michael Roberts, who ran 13 times for 43 yards and completed 11 of 18 passes for 181 yards running Kings Mountain's new no-huddle offense.

"He's learning as he goes," Farquharson said. "We tried to put him in a position where he could be successful, and he was."

Devine was still pleased with his defense, despite the two Mountaineer touchdowns in the second half.

"We knew the no-huddle was coming so we didn't huddle all week in practice," Devine said. "I thought we did a good job with it."

The Red Raiders (1-1) scored in the first quarter on their second drive from scrimmage, then exploded for 24 points in the second quarter, with the last three coming on a Gaston County record 53-yard field goal by Mitchell. Mitchell, who also made all four of his extra-point attempts, kept the Mountaineers in poor field position all night as each of his kickoff attempts found the end zone.

"He had four field goals over 40 yards last year, but he's even better this year," Devine said of his talented senior kicker who is a major Division I prospect. "He got in the weight room during the off-season and worked hard. He's a 500-pound squatter so he's got a strong leg."

Kings Mountain went to the air in the second half for its two

scores, the first coming on an 11-yard pass from Roberts to Derrick Marble. Then, with 16 seconds left in the game, Roberts found Marble again on a 50-yard bomb that was bobbled by the South Point defender before Marble caught the juggle and dashed into the end zone.

South Point will travel to West Mecklenburg next week while the Mountaineers will play their home opener against Forestview.

South Point 31, Kings Mtn 16

KM	0	3	0	13	-16
SP	7	24	0	0	-31

First quarter

SP — Matt Hudspeth 7 run (Matthew Mitchell kick)

Second quarter

SP — Hudspeth 2 run (Mitchell kick)

KM — Hudspeth 3 run (Mitchell kick)

SP — Brian Kies 30 FG

SP — Marcus Duckworth 68 pass from

Desmond Lowery (Mitchell kick)

SP — Mitchell 53 FG

Fourth quarter

KM — Derrick Marble 11 pass from Michael

Roberts (kick failed)

KM — Marble 50 pass from Roberts (Kies kick)