

# Unbeaten Huskies get first win over Raiders since '96

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BELMONT — Times are good at Hunter Huss right now.

The Huskies, who beat South Point 27-14 Friday at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont, ended nearly a decade of futility against the Red Raiders and improved to 6-0 overall and 2-0 in the Big South 3A/4A conference.

It was 1996 when a Huss team last defeated South Point. The series was so lopsided that Huss was shut out in three consecutive games against the Red Raiders from 1997 to 1999.

With Friday's win, the Huskies made a statement about the pecking order among the 3A teams in the Big South. By defeating then-undefeated North Gaston last

HUNTER HUSS 27  
SOUTH POINT 14

week and now South Point, Huss has beaten the other two teams who seemed poised to challenge the Huskies for the top 3A spot in the Western N.C. playoffs.

Now, Huss can eye the prize it missed out on last year — a regular-season championship. The Huskies earned the No. 1 seed for the 3A's in 2005, but lost the overall league title by one game.

"At Hunter Huss the last two or three years, we've been trying to move forward," said Huss head coach Steve Gardner. "It's been nine years since we beat this ballclub, and it wasn't easy tonight."

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Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

Hunter Huss running back Darius Antrum scrambles for yardage past the South Point defense Friday night.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Photos by Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

Hunter Huss' Donterious Hughes streaks downfield after a catch during the Huskies' win over South Point.

## ▼ Huss

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At least the first half wasn't. Tied 14-14 at intermission, Huss shut out the Red Raiders (3-3 overall, 0-2 BS3A/4A) over the final two quarters for the victory.

A pair of 1-yard runs by Brandon Jefferies and Austin Hunnicutt in the third and fourth quarters sealed the deal for the Huskies.

But, it was Brandon Miller who actually put Huss in a position to win the ballgame. The senior quarterback completed 17 of 26 passes for 216 yards and two touchdowns, looking as sharp under center as he had since he took over the job after the third game of 2005.

Miller tossed first-half touchdowns to Jefferies for 7 yards and Dontarius Hughes for 18 yards as Huss moved smoothly down the field on their first two possessions.

Miller went 6 of 8 with six first downs on the Huskies' first drive, which was capped off by a fourth down scoring play to Jefferies.

On the next possession, a Hughes 47-yard reception set up his touchdown grab in the second quarter.

Hughes caught all five of his passes in the first half for 91 yards.

Miller was 12 of 17 for 182



Hunter-Huss' Brandon Jefferies is tackled by South Point's Stan Wilson (33) and Thomas Davie (14) on Friday night.

yards in the first two quarters.

"I thought if we tackled just a little better, we were just that close to being a good football team," said South Point head

coach John Devine. "When you play good football teams, you can't make mistakes.

While Huss dominated through the air, South Point

ground its way to a pair of first-half touchdowns thanks to Matt Hudspeth, who scored on runs of 2 and 1 yards.

"We came out and had a good plan," Devine said. "I thought the whole first half, we moved the ball well."

Hudspeth finished with 68 yards on 19 carries.

"In the first half we didn't play well defensively," Gardner said.

Trailing by two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, South Point was forced to throw the football without much success.

Sophomore quarterback Desmond Lowery completed just four of 13 passes with an interception and 62 yards. He rushed 13 times for 26 yards.

"In the second half, we took away the run and made them throw," Gardner said.

Huss will look to stay unbeaten and perfect in conference play when they host East Gaston (5-1, 2-0) next week. South Point, meanwhile, takes on longtime county rival Ashbrook.

HH 7 7 7 6-27  
SP 6 8 0 0-14

SP — Matt Hudspeth 2 run (kick failed)  
HH — Brandon Jefferies 7 pass from Brandon Miller (Miles Lynn kick)  
HH — Dontarius Hughes 18 pass from Miller (Lynn kick)  
SP — Hudspeth 1 run (Hudspeth run)  
HH — Jefferies 1 run (Lynn kick)  
HH — Austin Hunnicutt 1 run (kick failed)