Crest's air assault kicks Red Raiders out of postseason

Robinson throws for 422 yards, five TDs in blowout

By RICHARD WALKER
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BOILING SPRINGS — After a week in which Crest's running game sparked a come-from-behind win at East Gaston Monday night and was featured this week in practice, Chargers quarterback Jordan Robinson had no reason to expect a record-setting passing performance Friday against South Point.

Then the game began.

Robinson and his corps of speedy receivers set school and county records as Crest wrapped up its share of the 2006 Big South 3A/4A Conference title with a flourish in its 54-20 victory over the Red Raiders.

"I really wasn't expecting us to pass that much, to be honest," said Robinson, whose 422 yards passing (with five touchdowns) surpassed the previous Cleveland County record by 70 yards.

"But we found ways to use our speed and things just kind of clicked for us."

Robinson completed 17 of 22 throws in an effort that ended with his final touchdown throw with 3:07 left in the third quarter. Mario Washington was the top pass-catcher, setting a school-record with 210 yards on eight receptions and became only the second 200-yard receiving effort in county history—current Tennessee receiver Josh Briscoe set the record with 232 yards at Burns.

"We thought we could throw the ball," said Crest coach Roy Kirby, whose team finished the season 9-2 overall and 5-1 in the Big South. "We thought we could run it, too. But we saw where their linebackers were up trying to stop the run, so we took what they gave us."

The victory gives Crest its 15th conference title in its 40-year school history, with all of those coming in the past 27 years.

Meanwhile, South Point finished a

turbulent season at 3-8, 2-4 and will miss the state playoffs for the first time since 1998. The Red Raiders actually went 7-4 in games on the field, but twice found they had ineligible players and had to forfeit four victories.

"It's been a disappointment for us the last couple of weeks," said South Point coach John Devine, whose team lost 42-7 to North Gaston at home last week. "We as a football team lost ... maybe our focus. It just shows you the effects the ineligibilities had on us. It just wears on you."

South Point did show some offensive spark in the loss, racking up 399 yards total offense. But the Red Raiders never could stop the Chargers, forcing Crest to punt only twice — each time in the final 7½ minutes and after the Chargers began clearing their bench.

"I knew they had great speed," Devine said. "But I had no idea they'd just leave us behind all night. They turned five-yard plays into 40-yard plays."

The only concern Crest had after the victory was in the health of junior line-backer Dwayne Maddox. Maddox, who had a team-high six solo or first-hit tackles, suffered a knee bruise early in the fourth quarter and didn't return.

"He got a helmet hit on his knee," Kirby said. "But he's going to be OK."

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First quarter

C - Bruce Smith 62 pass from Jordan Robinson (Nathan Harrill kick)

C - Mario Washington 30 pass from Robinson (Harrill lick)

C - Washington 11 pass from Robinson (Kick blocked)

SP Chris Lane 30 pass from Desmond Lowery
Matthew Mitchell kick)

Second guarter

- C Robinson 1 run (Harrill kick)
- C Ryan Black 50 run (Harrill kick)
- C Levon Brooks 11 run (Harrill kick)

Third quarter

- C Smith 63 pass from Robinson (Kick failed)
- SP Marcus Duckworth 21 pass from Lowery (Mitchell kick)
- C Washington 40 pass from Robinson (Harrill kick)

SP - Lowery 24 run (Bad snap prevents kick)