



Photos by John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Chris Lane is dragged down by a pair of East Gaston defenders after making a first down Friday night. Lane finished the game with 163 yards on just eight carries and a touchdown.

One Cold Dish

Red Raiders get revenge for last year's bitter defeat

By WILLIAM HUPP
Special to The Gazette

BELMONT — Everywhere you looked on Friday night, South Point students sported black T-shirts with the phrase "Revenge '07" in bold, red letters. The back of the shirt read the definition of the word.

From the players to the fans, it was clear that payback for last year's 35-14 loss to bitter rival East Gaston was fresh in their minds.

The dish was served chilled on a warm September night in Belmont.

The Red Raiders (5-0 overall and 1-0 in the Big South 3A/4A) delighted an overflow crowd estimated at around 8,000 with a 31-0 win over the Warriors (0-5, 0-1) at Lineberger Stadium.

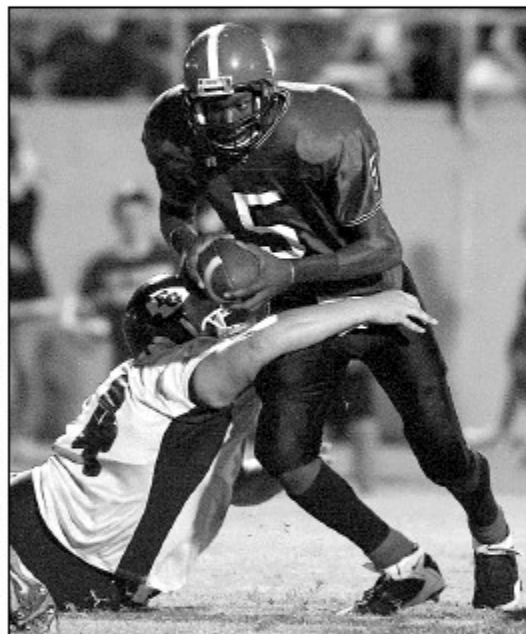
East Gaston hung tough early, loading up to stop the vaunted Red Raider rushing attack. But all that changed with a 56-yard halfback option pass from Josh Justice to Brandon Spencer to get South Point on the board.

"We're tired of corners who make plays on our option," South Point Coach John Devine said. "We've got to make them play honest."

With the East Gaston defense loosened up, the "Red Bone" offense went to work. A 93-yard drive that chewed up 5:48 on the clock in the second quarter resulted in a touchdown run by Aaron Crumbley and gave the Red Raiders a 14-0 halftime lead.

Chris Lane rushed for 163 yards and a touchdown on just eight carries, and quarterback Desmond Lowery pitched in 141 yards — including a 56-yard touchdown run — of his own.

Despite piling up 552 yards



Red Raiders quarterback Desmond Lowery had 141 yards on the ground with one touchdown.

of offense — including 394 yards on the ground — two missed field goals and a fumble on the East Gaston 2-yard line left Devine feeling a little less than thrilled.

"I was disappointed in our kicking, how we tackled and how we blocked," Devine said. "I mean, any time you win 31-0 you have to be pleased, but we didn't do the things that you need to do to be a real good football team."

Meanwhile, East Gaston showed encouraging progress in some areas.

The "good" was Charles Johnson rushing for 80 yards, the offense gaining eight first downs, and the consistent effort overall. The "bad" was eight penalties for 67 yards and only 12 yards of passing

until very late in the game. The "ugly" was, in general, a plethora of the kinds of mental errors that young teams make in heated rivalry games.

"We need to minimize and eliminate mistakes," East Gaston coach Eric Tippet said. "But I'm proud of our kids (because) we've been through a lot this year."

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First Quarter

SP — Brandon Spencer 56 pass from Josh Justice, (Joe Justice kick), 2:48

Second Quarter

SP — Aaron Crumbley 1 run (Joe Justice kick), 6:12

Third Quarter

SP — Desmond Lowery 57 run (Joe Justice kick), 10:26

Fourth Quarter

SP — FG Joe Justice 30 yards, 8:48

SP — Chris Lane 15 run (Justice kick), 3:59