

Crumbley scores 3 TDs in Raider win

From staff reports

GASTONIA — Aaron Crumbley had a game-high 153 rushing yards and three touchdowns to lead South Point to a big conference win at Forestview.

The win gives keeps South Point in a tie with conference foe North Gaston for the Big South 3A/4A lead. The two schools face off in two weeks when the Wildcats travel to Belmont.

Red Raider quarterback Desmond Lowery had 101 rushing yards and one touchdown and 68 yards passing and another touchdown.

■ More, 4C

David Luoto/Special to The Gazette

South Point running back Aaron Crumbley runs away from Forestview's Bruce Graham Friday night. Crumbley ran for three touchdowns for the Red Raiders, who are now 8-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big South.



Raiders cruise despite thrilling opening TD by Jags

BY RICHARD WALKER
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GASTONIA — Forestview High's football team couldn't have opened its Friday homecoming game against unbeaten rival South Point any more perfectly.

The Jaguars' Jarkeevus Alexander took the opening kickoff and needed only 13 seconds to go 88 yards for a touchdown.

Did Forestview's lightning strike cause concern or even panic on the Red Raiders' sideline?

"Nah, we just had to get back in and execute like we were supposed to," said South Point senior defensive leader Stan Wilson.

The Red Raiders did just that in a 35-16 victory over the

Jaguars that leaves them tied atop the Big South 3A/4A Conference with North Gaston.

Their defense was so dominant after the game's first play that the Red Raiders (8-0, 4-0) didn't allow another touchdown until 10 seconds remained in the game.

"We were much-maligned earlier this year defensively," South Point coach John Devine said. "But we're getting better."

Good enough that the Red Raiders now must brace for highly-touted quarterback Braden Hanson and Charlotte Latin next week in South Point's homecoming game. Hanson, who has committed to signing a scholarship at UNC, guided Latin to the N.C. private school state title last season.

On Friday, Hanson wasn't on the Red Raiders' minds yet.

Forestview's youthful and talented offense was. And while the Jaguars rolled up 264 yards total offense — including 141 rushing by Alexander — South Point held them out of the end zone until the game's verdict had been determined.

Wilson led the way with eight solo or first-hit tackles, including one for a loss. Wilson also had a 24-yard interception return and a forced fumble. Brandon Spencer, Tyler Coolidge and Daniel Holmes added five hits apiece, with Holmes recovering a fumble.

Forestview coach Chris Medlin felt the opportunistic plays of Wilson and Holmes

were momentum-changers. Both stopped promising Jaguar drives in the second quarter.

"I don't think anybody can beat a good team turning the ball over," said Medlin, whose team fell to 3-5, 0-3. "And it's 14-9 (South Point), we're moving it and we turn it over. That just takes the air out."

It also seemed to motivate South Point quarterback Desmond Lowery and the Red Bone offense, which churned for 413 yards total offense and 19 first downs.

Lowery had 101 yards rushing and one touchdown and 68 yards passing and another touchdown. And Aaron Crumbley had a game-high 153 yards rushing and three touchdowns on 25 carries.

Lowery's most impressive

scoring drive came late in the first half when he directed a five-play, 90-yard scoring march after taking possession with 2:08 left in the opening half.

SP 14 14 7 0 — 35
F 9 0 0 7 — 16

First quarter

F: Jarkeevus Alexander 88 kickoff return (kick failed), 11:47

SP: Desmond Lowery 9 run (James Justice kick), 8:12

F: Preston Lyon 27 FG

SP: Aaron Crumbley 15 run (James Justice kick), 8:21

Second quarter

SP: Crumbley 2 run (James Justice kick), 5:13

SP: Brandon Spencer 19 pass from Lowery (James Justice kick), 0:45

Third quarter

SP: Crumbley 4 run (James Justice kick), 0:16

Fourth quarter

F: Kevin Jeter 6 run (Brant Aldous kick), 0:10