



John Clark/The Gazette

Clover's Aukeem Ruff (61) brings down South Point quarterback Desmond Lowery during their 48-42 win over the Red Raiders Friday night.

# Clover play caps hard-fought win over Raiders

PHILIP GARDNER  
pgardner@gastongazette.com

CLOVER, S.C. — Leave it to Clover coach Jet Turner to pull off the game-changing trick play at the perfect time.

Known for his gutsy moves, Turner called for an onside kick that deprived South Point of a possession late in Clover's 48-42 season-opening win Friday.

In a game ruled by offense, the defending South Carolina AAAA Division II champion Blue Eagles had tied the score at 35 with 10:26

remaining when they recovered the crucial onside kick at midfield. Clover soon took a 42-35 lead and scored again with 27.5 seconds remaining to seal it.

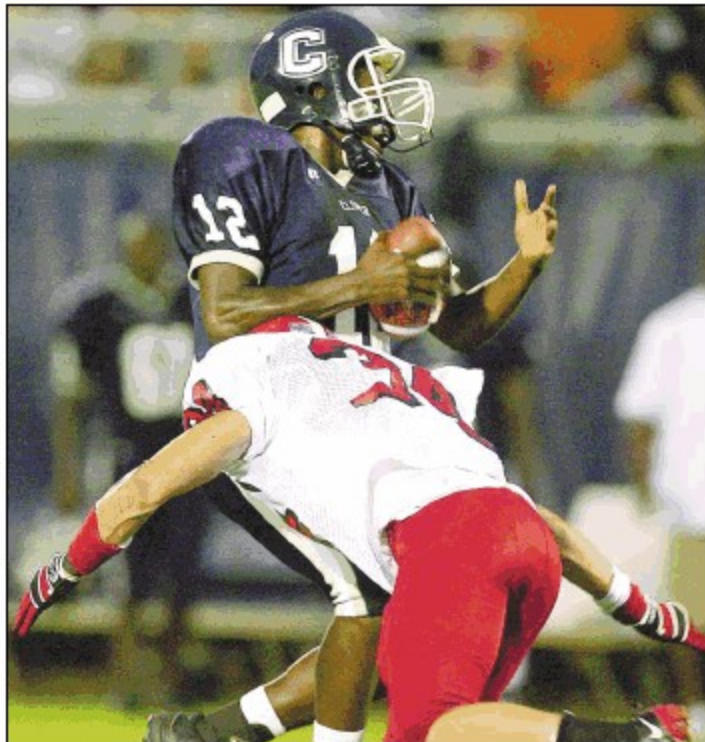
"Nobody stopped anybody," South Point coach John Devine said. "They got an onside kick. They got an extra possession. They win the game. You've got to be solid in the kicking game."

The teams combined for 1,115 yards of offense and it became clear that the team who got the ball last — and with enough time —

would win.

South Point tied it at 42 on Aaron Crumbley's 20-yard run up the middle with 5:07 remaining but Clover easily marched down the field as time rolled off the clock. Tyron Douglas took it in from two yards out with 27.5 seconds remaining. Although the Red Raiders blocked the extra point, there wasn't enough time for even their big-play offense to respond.

See Clover/Page 4B ►►



Gazette photos by John Clark

Clover quarterback Aaron Miller is tackled by South Point's Tyler Coolidge during their 48-42 win over South Point Friday night. Miller fumbled on the play but officials ruled an incomplete pass on the play.

## ▼ Clover

continued from Page 18

After fair catching the kickoff at the 26, South Point picked up one first down but time expired after Jesse McGaha reached the Clover 41 on a 12-yard pass play from Desmond Lowery.

"I thought we could score, yeah," McGaha said. "The plays we scored on were big plays."

Clover rushed for 517 yards and had 619 yards of total offense. Douglas (185), Ricky Moore (158) and Max Elliott (106) all reached the century mark rushing.

South Point produced 496 yards of offense, including 412 on the ground. McGaha rushed for 161 yards on just eight carries and caught two passes for 78 yards. Lowery carried 15 times for 137 yards and Crumbley added 95 yards on eight carries.

South Point trailed 28-14 at halftime but came out smoking in the second half, scoring three quick touchdowns for a 35-28 lead at the 3:28 mark of the third quarter.

But Clover immediately got on the board again on a



South Point head coach John Devine yells instructions to his team during their 48-42 loss to Clover on Friday night.

30-yard run by the elusive Douglas and the Blue Eagles got the ball back on the inside kick.

"Not only had we stopped them recently, but we hadn't slowed them down," Turner said. "So we had decided long before we scored if we scored to tie it up, we were going inside kick to take the lead because I'm not real sure we

could stop them."

South Point had its big plays, too, including a forced fumble by Daron Murphy after Douglas had rumbled to the South Point 3 in the third quarter. Tydre Crawford recovered and South Point drove for a score.

SP 7 7 21 7 - 42  
C 7 21 0 20 - 48

Clover 48, South Point 42

South Point	7	7	21	7	— 42
Clover	7	21	0	20	— 48

First quarter  
C—Ricky Moore 18 run (Joshua Varalli kick), 3:47.  
SP—Desmond Lowery 9 run (James Justice), 0:01.2.

Second quarter  
C—Chris Lindsay 41 pass from Aaron Miller (Varalli kick), 8:44.  
C—Max Elliott 80 run (Varalli kick), 7:33.  
SP—Jesse McGaha 66 pass from Lowery (James Justice kick), 2:32.  
C—Moore 2 run (Varalli kick), 0:31.3.

Third quarter  
SP—Aaron Crumbley 1 run (James Justice kick), 8:39.  
SP—McGaha 90 run (James Justice kick), 6:04.  
SP—Crumbley 68 run (James Justice kick), 3:28.

Fourth quarter  
C—Tyron Douglas 30 run (Varalli kick), 10:26.  
C—Douglas 10 run (Varalli kick), 7:43.  
SP—Crumbley 20 run (James Justice kick), 5:07.  
C—Douglas 2 run (kickblocked), 0:27.5.

	SP	C
First downs	13	24
Rushes-yards	34-412	61-517
Passing yards	84	102
Comp-Att-Int	3-10-0	3-9-0
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	1-15	9-60

Individual statistics  
RUSHING—South Point, McGaha 8-161, Lowery 15-137, Crumbley 8-96, Josh Justice 3-19. Clover, Douglas 22-186, Moore 21-158, Elliott 5-106, Miller 10-33, Lindsay 2-33, Derrick Carothers 1-2.  
PASSING—South Point, Lowery 3-9-0, 84; Josh Justice 0-1-0, 0. Clover, Miller 3-8-0, 102; Lindsay 0-1-0, 0.  
RECEIVING—South Point, McGaha 2-78, Josh Justice 1-6. Clover, Elliott 1-29, Tra Latta 1-32, Lindsay 1-41.