

South Point's Aaron Crumbley runs upfield on a touchdown run against Lincolnton Friday night.

John Clark/
The Gazette



SOUTH POINT 35, LINCOLNTON 21

Red Raiders back to normal

SP defense much better in second week

BY BERNIE PETIT
bpetit@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — The South Point offense looked in midseason form in the team's 35-21 home win over Lincolnton.

And, after a horrendous start to the season, so did the Red Raider defense.

A week after surrendering 517 yards on the ground in a 48-42 loss

at Clover, they almost completely snuffed out the Wolves' rushing attack, allowing Lincolnton only 65 yards on 27 carries (2.4 yards per carry).

"We were out there hitting people, running to the football and playing old Red Raider football," South Point head coach John Devine said. "We did a better job of lining up and playing with more

aggression, we tackled better and we didn't miss tackles."

The vaunted Red Raider offense, which amassed almost 500 yards last week, continued its stellar play, ratcheting up 343 yards in the first half en route to 502 total yards of offense in the game. Three South Point players rushed for more than 100 yards — Aaron Crumbley (21 carries, 173 yards, three

See Raiders/Page 5B ►►

▼ Raiders

continued from Page 1B

touchdowns), Jesse McGaha (six carries, 136 yards, one touchdown) and Desmond Lowery (16 carries, 107 yards, one touchdown).

The inability to stop the Red Raider rushing attack was the difference in the game, said Lincolnton head coach Scott Cloninger.

"That first quarter they just drove it right down our throats and did anything they wanted," Cloninger said. "We knew they were going to run the football, that's their bread and butter — running the football."

South Point jumped out on the Wolves early, with Crumbley scoring on runs of 6, 4 and 1 yards to give the Red Raiders a 21-0 first quarter lead.

Lincolnton, though, refused to roll over for the Red Raiders and clawed its way back into the game. After forcing South Point to punt for the first time on its sixth drive, Tevin Avery returned the Red Raider punt 70 yards to pull the Wolves within 14 points late in the second quarter.

Another big play — a 62-yard pass from quarterback Brandon Wilson to Avery — made the score 21-14 midway through the third quarter.

"Brandon (six completions, 155 yards) can throw the football and Tevin (four catches, 105 yards) can catch the ball," said Cloninger. "We have some people who can run and make the big plays and hopefully this year we can continue on that."

It was then that Lowery, who had been relatively quiet to that point, made two plays crucial to South Point's cause.

On fourth down and six, he called a fake punt after seeing a gap in the Lincolnton defense and ran for the first down, setting up a 37-yard touchdown run by McGaha that pushed the South Point lead back to 14 points.

And after Avery scored on



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Tydre' Crawford (30) and Tyler Coolidge (34) tackle Lincolnton's Tevin Avery on Friday.

a hook and lateral from teammate Wilbert Mitchem with 3:38 left in the game to close the score 28-21, Lowery broke through the Wolves defense for a game-clinching 42-yard score.

"Lowery sees something he likes and changes the call on that punt to a fake. That's a big play," said Devine. "If we don't get that first down,

Lowery's in trouble. But he made a great play and a great call. He's a senior and that's why guys look up to him."

SP 21 0 7 7 - 35

L 0 7 7 7 - 21

SP — Aaron Crumbley 6 run

(James Justice kick)

SP — Crumbley 4 run (Justice

kick)

SP — Crumbley 1 run (Justice

kick)

L — Tevin Avery 70 punt return

(Kevin Miller kick)

L — Avery 62 pass from Brandon

Wilson (Miller kick)

SP — Jesse McGaha 37 run

(Justice kick)

L — Avery 25 pass from Wilson

(Miller kick)

SP — Lowery 42 run (Justice

kick)