

Red Raiders find steam in victory

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BELMONT — For a half, South Point High coach John Devine felt his team had been outplayed by winless North Gaston. Even though his team led 31-7.

In the second half, the Red Raiders satisfied their coach while wrapping up a share of the school's 15th conference title in a 65-7 victory.

"I just thought we didn't come out with the intensity they had," Devine said of his team's first-half performance. "Even though the score didn't indicate it, they outplayed us in the first half. And that shouldn't happen — not here (at Lineberger Stadium). In the second half, we got rolling."

South Point certainly did that, improving their record to 9-1 overall and 5-0 in the Big South 3A/4A Conference. The Red Raiders, who have already wrapped up at least a share of the league title and the No. 1 Class 3A berth, can win its second straight outright league title and increase its conference winning streak to 12 games in next week's regular-season finale at Crest.

"We're guaranteed something already," Devine said. "And we know (Crest coach) Roy (Kirby) and them boys are good. It ought to be a great Friday night football game."

South Point roared ahead 28-0 before North Gaston tallied its fourth touchdown of the year on Michael

Adams' scrambling 19-yard throw to Steven Vernon just before halftime.

Adams was in the midst of his best career game, he completed eight of 18 throws for 123 yards. Markeseo Williams also had a solid effort — with a season's second-best 90 yards in 15 carries.

"I think we hung well with them in the first half," said North Gaston coach Josh Clendenin, whose team finished its season 0-10 overall and 0-6 in the Big South. "I wouldn't go as far as to say we outplayed them. But we played hard and I'm proud of my guys."

North Gaston 0 7 0 0 — 7
South Point 14 17 27 7 — 65

First quarter

SP — Desmond Lowery 49 run (James Justice kick), 5:53

SP — Aaron Crumbley 2 run (James Justice kick), 0:53.5

Second quarter

SP — Jesse McGaha 49 punt return (James Justice kick), 10:56

SP — Crumbley 2 run (James Justice kick), 9:19

NG — Steven Vernon 19 pass from Michael Adams (Drew Stewart kick), 0:31.3

SP — James Justice 48 FG, 0:03.0

Third quarter

SP — Crumbley 13 run (Kick failed), 11:33

SP — Crumbley 58 run (James Justice kick), 10:16

SP — Josh Hice 1 run (James Justice kick), 6:27

SP — Jelani Bonner 10 run (James Justice kick), 0:00

Fourth quarter

SP — Hice 2 run (James Justice kick), 6:00