

South Point offense storms through South Rowan defense

By RICHARD WALKER
rwalker@gastongazette.com

BELMONT —Even since South Point lost in the third round of the 2007 high school football playoffs, Red Raiders players, coaches and fans have been pointing to Friday night. Without question, South Point did not disappoint as it opened the 2008 N.C. Class 3A playoffs with an impressive 42-6 victory over South Rowan on a misty, rainy, foggy night at Lineberger Stadium.

"Like coach (John) Devine always says, 'The big games start in November,'" said Red Raiders fullback Aaron Crumb-

ley, who picked up 171 yards and five touchdowns to lead the rout. "This is the first step. We've got four steps to go."

Those steps, Crumbley, his teammates and the entire South Point community hope, will end up with the Dec. 13 state championship game in Winston-Salem.

South Point (11-1), the No. 2 seed in the Western bracket, will play again at home next Friday against Friday's High Point Andrews-Western Alamance winner. Western Alamance is the defending 3A champion and beat North Gaston in last year's title game at

the University of North Carolina's Kenan Stadium.

The Red Raiders were impressive in scoring two touchdowns in each of the first three quarters before reserves allowed a late South Rowan (5-7) touchdown.

South Rowan, also nicknamed Raiders, tried to gamble defensively against South Point's "Red Bone" offense. South Rowan coach Jason Rollins is a 1992 South Point High graduate very familiar with his alma mater's coaching staff and offensive system.

See South Point/Page 3B ►►

▼South Point

continued from Page 18

But, in the end, South Point's offense was simply too good, too efficient and too unstoppable.

"We tried some things to scheme with them, but they picked up on it," Rollins said.

Said Devine: "We got off to a great start. The kids came off the ball and did a great job up front. We're extremely proud of the effort and execution."

An offensive line comprised of tackles Brett Walden and Josh Grier, guards Daniel Biggerstaff, Will Gullede and Dallas Wright and center Greg Lancaster were so dominant that South Point averaged 8.8 yards on its 42 plays while picking up 371 yards total (all rushing).

On defense, a gang-tackling group limited South Rowan to 168 yards total offense. That effort was led by Tyler Coolidge, Maurice Falls and Dillon Gantt. Coolidge had nine solo or first-hit tackles, including three for losses. Falls had seven stops, including two for sacks, and had a fumble recovery and a forced fumble. And Gantt had seven tackles, including two for losses.

Crumbley's effort clearly highlighted the offense. The junior had scoring runs of 1, 28, 61, 1 and 16 yards. None was more impressive than his 61-yard score in the second quarter in which he leaped over a defender at the South Rowan 45 en route to his score.

"Everybody's got more experience this year," said Crumbley, whose five touchdowns give him 35 on the season to tie school record-holder Joe Brown (2003) and leave him only two shy of county record-holder Princeton Brooks (North Gaston 2007). "I give

“

I give all the credit to that offensive line. They make it happen for me...

Aaron Crumbley

South Point running back who rushed for 5 TDs

”

all the credit to that offensive line. They make it happen for me and our team. They did the job all night tonight."

South Rowan 0 0 0 0 - 6

South Point 14 14 14 0 - 42

First quarter

SP - Aaron Crumbley 1 run (James Justice Kick), 8:23

SP - Crumbley 28 run (James Justice Kick), 3:51

Second quarter

SP - Crumbley 61 run (James Justice Kick), 9:55

SP - Josh Justice 18 run (James Justice Kick), 6:06

Third quarter

SP - Crumbley 1 run (James Justice Kick), 9:18


SP - Crumbley 16 run (James Justice Kick), 4:28

Fourth quarter

SR - D'Andre Harris 5 run (Kick failed), 2:30

See The Panthers in Atlanta

\$229pp/DBL

Carolina Panthers  **Atlanta Falcons**
Nov. 22-23, 2008

Price includes:

Round trip Transportation, Upper level game ticket, Hotel Sat. Night, all transfers, taxes and breakfast

Sports Tours of Winston-Salem

1-888-827-8538

sportstoursandtickets.com