



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

South Point cornerback Daron Murphy picks off a pass intended for T.W. Andrews receiver Mark Johnson during their game Friday.

# On Point

## South Point strolls to win over Andrews to advance

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BELMONT — As Desmond Lowery scanned the defense, it seemed to him like High Point Andrews was stacking 20 players in the box.

But with the middle clogged, South Point's senior quarterback knew something else was open.

Lowery, a veteran in the triple-option offense, directed South Point to 418 yards of offense, leading his team to a 42-14 rout in the second round of the 3A state playoffs.

On a night when High Point Andrews (8-4) keyed on fullback Aaron Crumbley, Lowery ran for 132 yards, threw a key 46-yard TD pass to wingback Jesse McGaha and got the

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Gazette photos by Benjamin Patton

South Point's Jesse McGaha carries the ball during his team's game with T.W. Andrews on Friday.

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ball to the right backs as South Point (12-1) dominated to its 12th straight win.

"The quarterback just didn't make any mistakes," Andrews coach Rodney McKay said. "We stopped the dive pretty well, but (Lowery) pitched the ball really well."

South Point scored on four of its first six possessions and rolled from there, setting up a third-round matchup at home against Asheville (9-3), a 31-10 winner over Tuscola. South Point beat Asheville in the 2003 state semifinals, a week before winning its most recent state championship.

South Point stands three wins from another state title after another impressive play-off performance. South Point has scored 84 points in its first two postseason games.

Although Crumbley didn't find much running room early, Lowery's superb play eventually opened him up. Crumbley finished with 98

yards and three touchdowns, breaking the year-old Gaston County single-season touchdown record. Crumbley now has 38 TDs for the year, one better than North Gaston's Princeton Brooks scored last year.

"The linemen opened it up," Crumbley said. "We took what they gave us."

McGaha carried eight times for 66 yards and a touchdown and also caught a second-quarter 46-yard TD pass from Lowery that seemed to open up the offense. It also gave South Point a 21-8 lead.

"After he made that catch, things loosened up on the run and everything just snowballed from there," South Point coach John Devine said.

The other wingback, Josh Justice, added 50 yards on eight carries.

Meanwhile, the South Point defense stood tall, limiting Andrews to 36 rushing yards while yielding 257 through the air. Freshman Marquez Swinton completed 18 of 41 passes as An-

drews was forced to air it out after falling behind 28-8 in the first half.

South Point forced Andrews into one turnover, as Daron Murphy intercepted Swinton on Andrews' first possession.

Andrews' biggest playmaker, Shrine Bowl pick Tony Washington, limped off the field in the first quarter with a sprained ankle, an injury his coach said has been nagging him all season. Washington returned but was clearly hobbled the rest of the night. He finished with three catches for 11 yards.

South Point held Andrews to one touchdown for much of the game. Andrews added its final score with 5:39 remaining and South Point in full control.

"I think the defensive effort was great tonight," senior linebacker Tyler Coolidge said. "We just had to stay back and play our positions and let everybody their job, and we all did it."

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First quarter

SP—Jesse McGaha 3 run (James Justice kick), 6:59.

SP—Aaron Crumbley 4 run (James Justice kick), 4:23.

Second quarter

HRA—Cameron Neal 27 pass from Marquez Swinton (Devon McClain pass from Swinton), 8:53.

SP—McGaha 46 pass from Desmond Lowery (James Justice kick), 4:09.

SP—Lowery 4 run (James Justice kick), 1:09.

Third quarter

SP—Crumbley 21 run (James Justice kick), 4:59.

Fourth quarter

SP—Crumbley 5 run (James Justice kick), 10:21.

HRA—Devon McClain 4 run (pass failed), 5:39.



South Point's Aaron Crumbley runs while T.W. Andrews defender Malcome Childress attempts the tackle.