



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Aaron Crumbley breaks into the open for a big gain against Kings Mountain on Friday night.

Message sent

Inside the game

Total yards — Kings Mountain 83 (53 rushing, 30 passing); South Point 237 (227 rushing, 10 passing)

Turnovers — Kings Mountain 3 (all fumbles); South Point 3 (2 fumbles, 1 interception)

Next week — South Point travels to Hunter Huss for another Big South 3A Conference matchup. Kings Mountain steps out of league play and wraps up a four-game road trip with a game at Shelby.

Red Raiders overcome mistakes, top KM

By Phillip Gardner
pgardner@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — Maurice Falls made his presence felt from the beginning.

Falls made a sack on the game's first play and continued to provide defensive highlights the rest of the night, helping South Point to a 21-6 home win over Kings Mountain in the Big South 3A Conference opener for both teams.

"We're sending a message. That's all I have

to say," said Falls, a senior defensive end who wound up with two sacks, a fumble recovery and numerous tackles as South Point held Kings Mountain to 82 yards of total offense.

On a wet night that forced the game into a 58-minute weather delay, both teams struggled to hold onto the ball. Kings Mountain fumbled eight times and lost three of them. South Point lost two of its five fumbles.

>> See SP/Page 4B

Continued from Page 18

But South Point (5-1, 1-0 Big South) was able to overcome its miscues, stretching its win streak to five. The Red Raiders also won their 13th consecutive conference game as they began their quest for a third consecutive Big South title. Kings Mountain (2-3, 0-1 Big South), meanwhile, lost for the third straight week.

Senior fullback Aaron Crumbley rushed for 134 yards and three touchdowns and senior quarterback Josh Justice added 88 yards on 18 carries as South Point rolled up 237 yards of offense despite the wet conditions.

"It didn't matter whether we turned it over or they turned it over. It was tough footing," South Point coach John Devine said. "It was a tough game to play and you have to keep coming."

Aside from the weather, South Point's defense was the big story. Kings Mountain managed only 83 yards — 53 rushing, 30 passing. The Mountaineers averaged 1.5 yards per carry and Cameron Harris completed only 3 of 16 passes for 30 yards.

"Defense did a great job. The weather helped us. But still, we were in position to make plays," Devine said.

The big stop came late in the third when Kings Mountain had to punt from its own end zone. Troy Leeper blocked Trey Funderburke's punt and South Point took over at the 2. One play later, Crumbley plunged through the middle for a 14-6 South Point lead.

Cameron Harris left the game early in the fourth quarter when Falls made a jaw-dropping tackle on the Kings Mountain sideline after a 7-yard carry. Wide receiver/running back Cedric Thompson played quarterback the rest of the way.

"It looked like he took a helmet-to-helmet hit on the sideline but he was able to bounce back," Kings Mountain coach Greg Lloyd said. "He's OK, I believe. Our trainer seemed to think he's all right."

Thompson scored Kings Mountain's only touchdown on a 23-yard run in the second quarter following Xavier Jefferies' interception.

KM 0 6 0 0 — 6

SP 7 0 7 7 — 21

First quarter

SP—Aaron Crumbley 9 run (Josh Justice kick), 7:53.

Second quarter

KM—Cedric Thompson 23 run (run failed), 10:01.

Third quarter

SP—Crumbley 2 run (Justice kick), 1:34.

Fourth quarter

SP—Crumbley 13 run (Justice kick), 9:03.