

Raiders work clock, beat Crest

By Richard Walker
rwalker@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — Before Friday night's game, South Point High football coach John Devine figured the best way to negate Crest's size and speed was to dominate time of possession.

He probably couldn't have imagined just how well his team would control the game.

The Red Raiders ran 75 of the game's 115 plays from scrimmage in a 42-21 victory that wrapped up a Big South 3A Conference co-title.

"It was a good formula for us," said South Point coach John Devine, whose team rolled up 449 yards and 26 first downs. "You have to keep the ball away from that kind of speed and size. But they can't use their speed and size if they don't have the ball."

Aaron Crumbley (154 yards), Josh Justice (144) and Troy Leeper (127) all rushed for more than 100 yards. Crumbley tallied four touchdowns and Leeper one and Justice

threw a 12-yard scoring pass to Shane Merrill.

South Point (9-2, 5-1) now waits until Saturday's pairings announcement to find out who it plays in next week's playoffs. The Red Raiders, by virtue of their regular-season loss to Forestview, will enter the postseason as the Big South's No. 2 playoff team.

Crest (6-4, 3-3) also advances to the playoffs.

The Chargers actually led 7-0 with the help of the first of Kendall Kee's three kickoff returns (for 187 yards) on the opening kickoff. Kee, who later scored on a 91-yard return, returned 74 yards to give Crest possession.

But then South Point took charge with long, time-consuming drives. The Red Raiders drives went 12 plays for 84 yards, 16 plays for 54 yards, nine plays for 53 yards, 15 plays for 67 yards, eight plays for 48 yards and five plays for 68 yards.

"It was three yards, five

yards, three yards, five yards, three yards, five yards," Crest coach Roy Kirby said of South Point's offensive attack. "Justice just executes that offense to perfection. And Crumbley's just Crumbley. I tried five different front to try and stop them."

Crumbley ran 38 times for his 154 yards. And Devine said he was finally Crumbley was finally healthy after struggling with nagging hamstring and ankle injuries.

"He's just getting better and better," Devine said. "He's got that power back."

On offense, Crest also struggled. Kirby used Shrine Bowler Reggie Wilkins and Patrick Bowman at quarterback. But South Point pestered the duo into a combined three of 15 passing.

Crest	7	0	0	14	— 21
South Point	7	14	7	14	— 42
First quarter					
C — Kwame Petty 7 pass from Reggie Wilkins (Trevor Austin kick), 9:38					
SP — Aaron Crumbley 4 run (Joey					



Mike Gibson/Special to The Gazette

South Point's Josh Justice tries to break through a couple of Crest tackles on Friday.

Mitchell kick), 4:35

Second quarter
SP — Shane Merrill 12 pass from Josh Justice (Mitchell kick), 9:48
SP — Crumbley 1 run (Mitchell kick), 5:26

Third quarter
SP — Crumbley 7 run (Mitchell kick), 4:58

Fourth quarter
SP — Crumbley 12 run (Mitchell kick), 11:54
C — Wilkins 1 run (Austin kick), 8:35
SP — Troy Leeper 41 run (Mitchell kick), 3:39
C — Kendall Kee 91 kickoff return (Austin kick), 3:23