

3AA PREP PLAYOFFS: South Point 35, Forestview 14

# Red revenge

## South Point breaks tie at half, rolls over Jags to advance in playoffs

By Phillip Gardner  
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GASTONIA — Fans wondered if South Point and Forestview could match the drama of their thrilling regular-season game.

They sure did, all right—for a half.

Tied at halftime, South Point turned the second-round 3AA state playoff game into a thumping, rolling to a 35-14 victory Friday and avenging a 21-20 loss on the same field a month ago.

"They got us the first time around, so we had to come out and show that we didn't play to our potential last time," said senior fullback Aaron Crumbley, who rushed for a season-high 184 yards and three touchdowns.

South Point (11-2) will make its third consecutive state quarterfinal appearance next week when it travels to No. 3 seed Kannapolis Brown (11-2), a 45-27 winner over Asheville Erwin.

The Red Raiders made that meeting possible by dominating the second half, outgaining their fellow Big South 3A Conference co-champions 213-28 after the break behind a steady dose of Crumbley and some big plays by quarterback Josh Justice. After a 14-14 tie at intermission, Crumbley carried 16 times for 93 yards in the second half and put the game away with a 33-yard touchdown run

that provided the final margin with 5:07 remaining.

Justice broke a 14-14 tie in the third quarter with a 13-yard TD pass to Shane Merrill at the 6:34 mark, then ripped off a 59-yard TD run on the second play of the fourth quarter to put the Red Raiders in firm control at 28-14.

Justice finished with 97 rushing yards on 13 carries and completed 3 of 7 passes for 26 yards. The senior directed South Point's triple-option offense to 346 yards (320 on the ground)—a stark contrast from the first meeting, when Forestview held the Red Raiders to their lowest rushing total (216 yards) in conference play.

"We put in a couple different plays and a couple different schemes because they had a good game plan the last time we played them on how to stop us on the triple option," Justice said. "We just put in a couple more twists and changed it up and that really hurt them."

Forestview (10-3) looked good early, scoring on a 35-yard run by junior varsity call-up Octavius Wallace for a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. South Point fumbled on its own 27 on the next play, but the Jaguars didn't take advantage, turning the ball over on downs. Crumbley's first TD tied it at 7 with 52.4 seconds left in the first quarter.

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Gazette photos by Benjamin Patton

**ABOVE:** South Point's Aaron Crumbley rushes for a touchdown during his team's game with Forestview on Friday. **AT LEFT:** Forestview quarterback Jonathan White is chased by South Point's Jordan Forney during their game on Friday.



### Inside the game

**Total yards** — South Point 346 (320 rushing, 26 passing); Forestview 220 (180 rushing, 40 passing)

**Turnovers** — South Point 1 (fumble); Forestview 1 (fumble)

**Next week** — South Point travels to No. 3 seed Kannapolis Brown (11-2) as the Red Raiders make their third straight state quarterfinal appearance.

**Catch it on TV** — Gaston County Schools will air the game without commentary next week on Time Warner Cable Channel 21. The game will air Monday and Tuesday at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

South Point's Josh Justice rushes during his team's game with Forestview on Friday. Check out a video of Friday game photos at [gastongazette.com](http://gastongazette.com).

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South Point took its first lead with a 14-play, 85-yard drive capped by Crumbley's second TD at the 5:16 mark of the second quarter. Forestview answered with a nine-play, 77-yard drive and scored on an 8-yard TD pass from Jonathan White to Joseph Reid. That tied the score at 14 with 1:42 before halftime, but Forestview never threatened again until the game was out of hand.

"They got some momentum in the second half. When a good team gets rolling like that, they're hard to handle," Forestview coach Chris Medlin said. "I thought we fought and played hard. I was proud of our effort. Some things just didn't go our way."

Kevin Jeter rushed for 84 yards on 22 carries to lead a Forestview offense that managed 220 yards, including 180 on the ground. Wallace, a sophomore, finished with 79 yards on six carries. After the Jaguars were able to speed to the outside early, South Point eventually shut down the edges and forced Forestview to pass.

White completed 3 of 15 yards for 40 yards.

The game ended Forestview's best season in school history. The Jaguars not only set a school record for wins, but also secured the program's first playoff win last week and beat South Point for the first time.

Crumbley, who scored on runs of 16 and 10 yards in the first half, has 83 touchdowns for his career and needs one more to tie North Gaston's Princeton Brooks for the Gaston County record.

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**SP 77714-35**

**For 7700-14**

### First quarter

F—Octavius Wallace 35 run (Matthew Florence kick), 4:17.

SP—Aaron Crumbley 16 run (Joey Mitchell kick), 0:52.4

### Second quarter

SP—Crumbley 10 run (Mitchell kick), 5:16.

F—Joseph Reid 8 pass from Jonathan White (Florence kick), 1:42.

### Third quarter

SP—Shane Merrill 13 pass from Josh Justice (Mitchell kick), 6:34.

### Fourth quarter

SP—Justice 59 run (Mitchell kick), 11:27.

SP—Crumbley 33 run (Mitchell kick), 5:07.

	SP	For
First downs	17	13
Rushes-yards	53-320	35-180
Passing yards	26	40
Comp-Att-Int	3-7-0	3-15-0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-yards	5-40	3-15

### Individual statistics

**RUSHING**—South Point, Crumbley 29-184, Josh Justice 13-97, Troy Leeper 5-24, Ramon Costner 3-14, Scott McWhirter 2-2, Team 1-minus 1. Forestview, Kevin Jeter 22-84, Wallace 6-79, White 6-18, Team 1-minus 1.

**PASSING**—South Point, Justice 3-7-0 26. Forestview, White 3-15-0 40.

**RECEIVING**—South Point, Merrill 2-20, Costner 1-6. Forestview, Jawan Taylor 1-21, Davis 1-11, Reid 1-8.