



Ben Goff/The Gazette

Lincolnton defenders bring down South Point running back Devan Robbins as he returns a kickoff during the game at South Point on Friday.

# Howlin' Wolves

## Lincolnton beats Raiders on two-point conversion in overtime

By Richard Walker

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**BELMONT** — Lincolnton and South Point have long been high school football powers and have long played one another in an early-season non-conference contest.

Few felt more important or were

as exciting as Friday's 43-42 Lincolnton overtime victory in front of near capacity crowd at Lineberger Stadium.

"This is what high school football Friday night is about," Lincolnton coach Scott Cloninger said. "Both sides were full. The crowd was into it. And the play on

the field was exciting."

South Point actually outgained Lincolnton 416-339, led by full-back Troy Leeper's 253 yards rushing and two touchdowns in 32 carries in his first game of the season after missing last week's 22-6 loss at Clover with a sprained ankle.

But Lincolnton's Brandon

Wilson proved the difference, as he rushed for one score, passed for three others and completed the game-winning two-point pass to Johnathan Gidney. Wilson finished with 94 yards rushing and 160 yards passing.

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### INSIDE THE GAME

**Total yards** — Lincolnton 339 (179 rushing, 160 passing); South Point 416 (398 rushing, 18 passing)  
**Turnovers** — Lincolnton 2 (1 fumble, 1 interception), South Point 4 (3 fumbles, 1 interception)

**Defensive leaders** — Lincolnton: Jalen Littlejohn 6 tackle, Jaron Angle 6 tackle (1 FR), Craig Goodson 5 tackles, South Point: Jordan Forney 8 tackles, Rod Williams.

**Next week** — Lincolnton hosts Maiden. South Point visits East Gaston.

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Check out a photo slideshow of the South Point-Lincolnton game at [gastongazette.com](http://gastongazette.com).



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His biggest play came after he had been knocked out of the contest with cramps after running for five yards on Lincoln's first offensive play of overtime.

When Dee Littlejohn scored from the one on third down, South Point was whistled for a facemask penalty on the scoring play. It meant Lincoln would have the opportunity to go one-and-a-half yards for the victory.

It was a chance O'ninger was eager to take, as he called for a Wilson rollout. Though he faced pressure from South Point pass rushers, he found Gidney open in the middle of the end zone for the game-winning play.

It was a contest where the lead changed hands six times before Lincoln tied the Red Raiders in the middle of the fourth quarter.

Then after a South Point drive was stopped by a fourth-and-12 pass interception with 3:11 left in regulation, the Red Raiders had to survive a 32-yard field goal attempt on the last play of regulation to force overtime.

With Wilson and Littlejohn churning for first down runs, Lincoln drove to the South Point 15 before Kevin Miller's line drive attempt from the right hash mark was blocked



Ben Goff/Special to The Gazette

South Point defensive back Justus Watkins, left, intercepts a pass intended for Lincoln receiver Brad Wilson as South Point defensive lineman Devon Mathis falls to the ground during Friday's game.

in the line by Clarence Taylor.

"Both teams made plays," South Point coach John Devine said. "They just made one more play than us."

South Point's vaunted "Red Bone" offense got untracked with the 416-yard effort one week after getting 198 yards in

the Clover loss.

With Leeper back in the lineup, junior quarterback Patrick Home directed the unit to touchdowns in every period while also picking up 117 yards rushing and three touchdowns in 13 attempts.

Still, the defeat lessened

Devine's opinion of his team's effort.

"I still stay we've got a long way to go," Devine said. "Yes, Troy had some great runs. But I'm not satisfied. We're pleased but not satisfied."

As for the defense, Devine offered: "I'm not satisfied at all. You've got seven starters and you give up 43 points. I don't care if you're playing the Green Bay Packers. And that's my fault. I've got to get them better prepared."

Lincoln 13 14 0 8 8 - 43  
South Point 14 7 7 7 7 - 42

#### First quarter

L - Michael Cunningham 45 pass from Brandon Wilson (Kick failed), 10:45

SP - Patrick Home 73 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 10:01

SP - Home 22 run (Rogers kick), 7:29

L - Brandon Wilson 11 run (Kevin Miller kick), 4:03

#### Second quarter

L - Cunningham 13 run (Miller kick), 9:13

SP - Home 3 run (Rogers kick), 0:57.5

L - Cunningham 22 pass from Brandon Wilson (Miller kick), 7:9

#### Third quarter

SP - Tyler Bray 1 run (Rogers kick), 5:13

#### Fourth quarter

SP - Troy Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 9:17

L - Brett Ebert 48 pass from Brandon Wilson (Brandon Wilson run), 8:26

#### Overtime

SP - Leeper 3 run (Rogers kick)

L - Dee Littlejohn 1 run (Johnathan Gidney pass from Brandon Wilson)