

Leeper, Raiders outlast Rams

South Point drama produces a victory

By Richard Walker
rwalker@postonline.com

BELMONT — Facing fourth-and-goal at the T.C. Roberson 1 with four minutes to play and trailing by three points, South Point coach John Devine sent in the field goal unit and was preparing his kickoff coverage team.

Instead, a timeout called on the field led to a change in plans and South Point junior fullback Troy Leeper's third touchdown — a 1-yard game-winner with 3:57 to play in Friday's 27-23 come-from-behind non-conference victory over the Rams.

"I called for the field goal team to go on the field," Devine said of the late-game situation. "Then I turn around and somebody had called a timeout. Nobody would admit to it. But, in the end, the players said they could get it in. And they did."

In truth, given that there was some time lag before the field goal unit came onto the field, South Point may have been forced to call a timeout to avoid a 5-yard delay of game penalty.

Either way, it allowed Devine and Red Raiders offensive coordinator Mickey Lineberger to make sure their beat-up offensive line could create enough room for the score. After all, Leeper had been stopped for no gain on third-and-goal at the 1.

"Once the 'phantom timeout' was called, Mickey and I both went to the offensive line and said, 'Can you get it in?'" Devine said. "I wasn't sure they could do it. Mickey wasn't sure. But we got it done."

>> See RAIDERS/Page 4C

Inside the game

Total yards — Roberson 284 (229 rushing, 55 passing); South Point 274 (235 rushing, 39 passing)

Turnovers — Roberson 2 (1 fumble, 1 interception); South Point 2 (2 fumbles, 0 interceptions)

Defensive leaders — Roberson: Jeff deLeon (11 tackles), Matt Willison (8 tackles, 1 fumble recovery); South Point: Jordan Forney (6 tackles, 3 for losses), Devan Robbins (5 tackles).

<< RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1C

With two starters out of action, starters J.J. Burns, Jordan Kagen and Chuck Lawing along with former reserves Jon Robert Stewart and Cooper Johnson created just enough space for Leeper after he took the handoff from quarterback Patrick Home.

The score gave the Red Raiders a victory that evened their record at 2-2 on the season entering next Friday's final non-conference game at Burns.

But Devine was far from pleased on a night in which South Point was outgained 284-274 and committed more mistakes that the veteran coach could believe.

"It's one of those ugly wins where you scratch your head and think, 'Why did we make it so hard on ourselves?'" Devine said. "We made so many mistakes in execution — offensively, defensively

and the kicking game. And it was a lot of unforced errors. I think it was step backward for us."

Roberson's offense was sparked by running back Preston Foster, who rushed for 175 yards and one score and caught a 24-yard scoring pass from Noah Suber.

T.C. Roberson 6 7 7 3 - 23
South Point 10 3 7 0 - 27

First quarter

SP — Troy Leeper 58 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 9:49
TCR — Preston Foster 24 pass from Noah Suber (Run failed), 9:33

SP — Rogers 35 FG, 2:09

Second quarter

TCR — Foster 54 run (Alex Biby kick), 0:18
SP — Rogers 27 FG, 0:00

Third quarter

SP — Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 6:17
TCR — Grant Petty 4 pass from Suber (Biby kick), 0:26

Fourth quarter

TCR — Biby 24 FG, 8:13
SP — Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 3:57