

Burns 45, South Point 14

Bulldogs blast South Point

By Clark Leonard
Freedom News Service

LAWNDALE — The South Point High football team ran into a red-hot Burns offense that scored early and often Friday and could never really get it going on the road against the Bulldogs.

Burns scored on all four of its first-quarter possessions to jump to a 24-0 lead and never looked back in a 45-14 victory against defending 3A state champion South Point on Friday at Ron Greene Stadium.

"We just played hard, you know. We went out there and played hard and got after it," Bulldog coach Matt Beam said. "That's what we're going to do, and I told them that's what we're going to do. I'm

proud of them. They gave effort."

Even Burns receiver Jonah Brooks was surprised how well the night started.

"I was real surprised. Watching film, they were pretty good on defense, so I knew it was going to be a tough battle," Brooks said. "But we said we were going to hit them in the mouth, tackle them early. And that's what we did."

The Bulldogs (3-1) scored their third straight victory, this one capped off with 21 fourth-quarter points against a Red Raiders program that beat Burns 52-21 a year earlier.

In each of their three wins this season, the Bulldogs have passed the 40-point mark.

"It wasn't our night. It was a Bulldog night. The Bulldogs had their day," South Point coach John Devine said.

Darius Ramsey had 20 carries for 159 yards and three scores — including touchdown runs of 5 yards and 65 yards in the fourth quarter — while Brooks pulled down seven receptions for 122 yards and two touchdowns against South Point (2-3).

"We had to come without intensity to beat, you know, the hyped-up 3A defending champs," Ramsey said. "We came out good. The O-line blocked great tonight, and the defense stepped up, did what they needed to do."

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Inside the game

Video-game efficiency — The Burns offense was operating on an efficiency usually reserved for video games in the first quarter. In the first eight minutes, the Bulldogs had the ball four times and scored on all four possessions, jumping to a 24-0 lead.

Reversal tour — The Bulldogs were looking to reverse their 2009 result against an opponent for the third time in four weeks. Burns had already handily beaten Kings Mountain and Asheville this year, teams it fell against early last season.

South Point had a 52-21 victory last season against Burns and were the 2009 3A state champions.



Brittany Randolph/Freedom News Service

Burns' Brandon Whitworth tries to avoid going out of bounds near a South Point defender on Friday.

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Quarterback Brandon Littlejohn was 14-for-27 passing for 214 yards and two touchdowns. Brandon Whitworth had six receptions for 67 yards for Burns.

"They executed well. They played with enthusiasm, played hard and were well-coached," Devine said.

A Ramsey scoring run, a Curtis Cabaniss field goal and two Littlejohn-to-Brooks strikes provided the first-quarter offensive assault for the Bulldogs.

"Once we got it going, man, it's hard to stop us," Ramsey said. "Everybody got the momentum. It's all good after that."

Devine said his guys had no answer, even when they seemed to be in position.

"We tried to slow them down. They made some great catches. We were close on a few plays, you know," Devine said. "The coverage was close. And they made the play, and we didn't."

Ramsey added the two fourth-quarter touchdowns, with Elijah Brown's 11-yard run with 3:09 to play serving as Burns' final touchdown, and Cabaniss hit all six of the Bulldogs' extra points.

Burns also took advantage of four

South Point turnovers, three fumbles and an interception.

"When you get turnovers, you win games," Beam said.

Tyler Bray ran for 79 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries to pace the Red Raiders.

Coming off its trio of victories in showdowns with Kings Mountain, Asheville and South Point, Burns could get something of a breather next week when it hosts Q-Foundation. But Brooks isn't looking at it that way.

Burns 45, South Point 14	
South Point	0 7 0 7 - 14
Burns	24 0 0 21 - 45

First quarter

B — Darius Ramsey 3 run (Curtis Cabaniss kick), 7:54

B — Cabaniss 33 FG, 4:25.2.

B — Jonah Brooks 31 pass from Brandon Littlejohn (Cabaniss kick), 3:48.

B — Brooks 15 pass from Littlejohn (Cabaniss kick), 15.3.

Second quarter

SP — Tyler Bray 3 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 9:40.

Fourth quarter

B — Ramsey 5 run (Cabaniss kick), 10:28.

B — Ramsey 65 run (Cabaniss kick), 6:57.

B — Elijah Brown 11 run (Cabaniss kick), 3:09.

SP — Bray 28 run (Rogers kick), 2:47.