

South Point 24, Kings Mountain 21, OT



Photos by Brittany Randolph/Freedom News Service

South Point quarterback Mitchell Painter tries to get past the Kings Mountain defense during the game at Kings Mountain on Friday.

Red Raiders catch a break

South Point's Devan Robbins runs the ball after intercepting a pass made by Kings Mountain.



Inside the game

Total yards — South Point 238 (all rushing); Kings Mountain 307 (154 rushing, 153 passing)
Turnovers — South Point 4 (3 fumbles, 1 interception); Kings Mountain 3 (1 fumble, 2 interceptions)
Next week — South Point plays host to Hunter Huss. Kings Mountain steps out of conference play with a home game against county rival Shelby.

South Point escapes with field goal after blocking field goal

By Phillip Gardner

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KINGS MOUNTAIN — Usually it's the other team that calls timeout, trying to ice a kicker just before a potential game-winning field goal.

But with the play clock winding down, South Point was forced to halt play momentarily as its own Dayton Rogers lined up for a 26-yarder in overtime.

Not that he minded.

Rogers used the extra minute to calm his nerves and get everything perfect, and then he nailed the chip shot to give South Point a dramatic 24-21 overtime road win over Kings Mountain on Friday.

"Actually that made it better so I didn't have to rush it," Rogers said.

A late roster addition just prior to opening week, Rogers kicked his third field goal of the season, helping South Point (3-3, 1-0) start Big South 3A Conference play on the right foot.

Troy Leeper rushed for 125 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Red Raiders after missing last week's lopsided loss to Burns with a stomach virus and sprained ankle. Quarterback Patrick Home, injured in the Burns game, didn't start Friday's contest but eventually took Mitchell Painter's place and gave South Point a spark, finishing with 93 yards on 11 carries.

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While the overtime field goal capped a stirring rally for South Point, it slapped Kings Mountain with a disappointing finish to a game that started out so well.

The Mountaineers (2-3, 0-1) jumped ahead 14-0 in the first quarter on a pair of touchdown passes by Cameron Harris — one to Trey Funderburke and the other to Tim Hines. South Point fumbled on three of its first possessions but Kings Mountain didn't take full advantage, turning only one of them directly into points.

And then after South Point climbed to within one score on Leeper's 39-yard touchdown run midway through the second quarter, Kings Mountain lost Harris to an injury on its next possession. The Mountaineers had marched down the field trying to sneak in another score before halftime when Harris absorbed a vicious blow in the pocket just after releasing a pass. Devan Robbins intercepted the pass near the goal line, Harris was slow to get up and he never returned.

Kings Mountain coach Greg Lloyd said Harris injured his left (non-throwing) shoulder. Harris finished 8-for-13 for 112 yards and was throwing on the sideline late in the game.

Running back Cedric Thompson shifted to quarterback, finishing with 110 yards on 22 carries while completing 3 of 10 passes, with one interception, for 41 yards. Hines, the Big South's receiving leader, had another big night with four catches for 92 yards, including a 59-yard TD grab.



Brittany Randolph/Freedom News Service

Tight end Trey Funderburke catches the ball giving Kings Mountain a touchdown Friday at the game against South Point.

The game turned in South Point's favor early in the second half with two scores in a matter of two minutes and 35 seconds. The Red Raiders fumbled the second-half kickoff, but the loose ball went into the hands of their own Josh Hice, who ran deep in Kings Mountain territory. A personal foul gave South

Point the ball at the Kings Mountain 25 and South Point scored four plays later. Kings Mountain fumbled on the next play and South Point covered 11 yards in two plays to go up 21-14.

"Other than those two minutes of the game ... you know, what can you say?" Lloyd said. "Give South Point credit. They made the plays when they had the chance to make them. But I thought our kids gave a great effort tonight."

Kings Mountain answered later in the third with a 51-yard TD run by Thompson. Then, in overtime, South Point blocked Edward Blackburn's 36-yard field goal attempt, and the Red Raiders lined up for a field goal on their first play after that.

"Wow," South Point coach John Devine said. "We were fortunate. If you didn't like that game. You don't like football."

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South Point 0 7 14 0 3 — 24

Kings Mountain 14 0 7 0 0 — 21

First quarter

KM—Trey Funderburke 8 pass from Cameron Harris (Edward Blackburn kick), 6:27.

KM—Tim Hines 59 pass from Harris (Blackburn kick), 3:35.

Second quarter

SP—Troy Leeper 39 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 6:14.

Third quarter

SP—Leeper 4 run (Rogers kick), 10:06.

SP—Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 9:25.

KM—Cedric Thompson 51 run (Blackburn kick), 2:57.

Overtime

SP—FG Rogers 26