

# BIG TIME



Jeff Minton/Freedom News Service

South Point quarterback Patrick Home tries to get around the Crest defense with a block from Jordan Kagen in Friday's win.

## South Point holds off Crest for conference title

By Clark Leonard  
Freedom News Service

In a matter of seconds, the South Point High football team went from the verge of being tied late in its 29-27 Big South 3A championship-clinching victory at Crest to being able to breathe a big sigh of relief.

Moments after Kendall Kee returned a kickoff 88 yards for a touchdown to bring the Chargers within two points in the final four minutes, Crest was flagged for an unsportsmanlike penalty that pushed its two-point conversion attempt to the 18-yard line.

Harvey McSwain II made a 13-yard catch-and-run, but it wasn't enough to overcome the penalty and get the

all-important conversion as Crest's deficit remained 29-27.

"We got a break with the 15-yard penalty, and we needed every yard of it," South Point coach John Devine said.

And while the effort was there on this night for Crest, Charger coach Mark Barnes said his players had too many breakdowns.

"I'm proud of our players. We played hard," Barnes said. "We just made some critical mistakes at critical times. And I'm not always talking about physical mistakes. We made a lot of mental mistakes tonight."

More than anything, the game was a battle to the finish.

"It was a great football game," Devine said. "Anybody that came, they got their money's worth. There's no doubt about it."

The Charger defense held the Red Raiders to a three-and-out to give the Crest offense one last shot.

But after one big fourth-down play on a 28-yard catch-and-run for the Chargers' Neil Chambers, South Point's Patrick Truesdale came up with his second interception of the night, picking off Crest senior Patrick Bowman on a fourth-and-20 play to allow one kneel-down to ice the win for the visitors.

>> See SOUTH POINT/Page 4C



# << SOUTH POINT

Continued from Page 1C

After some tight losses early in the season for South Point, Barnes said the Red Raiders showed their mettle by coming up big at the end.

"They've been in games like this, and that helps," Barnes said. "And I told our guys after the game sometimes you've got to play in these games to be able to win these games. You've got to experience this type of atmosphere and the importance of every play. We let a few plays slip away from us. But I'm proud of our players. We played hard. We didn't give up."

And while many of the high-stakes plays that sealed the outcome came in the fourth quarter, it was a 20-point third quarter that turned the contest in the Red Raiders' favor after they trailed 14-6 at the half.

Quarterback Patrick Horne, Tyler Bray and Ramon Costner each had scoring runs in the third, Costner's coming on a fourth-and-goal from the Crest 2.

Chambers had a 15-yard scoring run early in the fourth to cut it to 26-21, and Kee's big kickoff return came after a Dayton Rogers 22-yard field goal had extended it back out to 29-21. Bray had 35 carries for 147 yards and two scores.

Chambers carried the ball 14 times for 94 yards and one touchdown.



Jeff Melton/Freedom News Service

Crest's Harvey McSwain gets brought down by a South Point defender in Friday's Red Raider victory.

**SP 0 6 20 3 — 29**

**Crest 0 14 0 7 — 27**

#### Second quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 1 run (Dayton Rogers kick failed), 9:47.

C—Kendall Kee 10 pass from Patrick Bowman (Trevor Austin kick), 7:03.

C—Rhaheim Ledbetter 4 run (Austin kick), 2:09.

#### Third quarter

SP—Patrick Horne 25 run (Rogers

kick), 8:29.

SP—Bray 6 run (Horne run failed), 7:05.

SP—Costner 2 run (Rogers kick), 34.1.

#### Fourth quarter

C—Neil Chambers 15 run (Austin kick), 9:52.

SP—Rogers 22 FG, 4:04.

C—Kendall Kee 88 kickoff return (McSwain pass from Bowman failed), 3:49.