

Raiders fall in OT

Leeper scores five TDs, but South Point loses in shootout

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BELMONT — In one of the wildest playoff shootouts in state history, Clyde Erwin ended South Point's dreams of repeating as state champions in a 57-56 overtime victory.

The Warriors (10-3), who eliminated Kings Mountain 63-40 last week, showed off their offensive firepower again, as receiver-defensive back-return special Shaquan Curreton scored six touchdowns and quarterback Garrett Brown passed for 404 yards and five touchdowns.

But South Point (9-4) showed the heart of a champion, rallying from two touchdown deficits four times to force overtime. In the end, Brown and the Warriors took victory by putting the game on the line on their overtime possession.

South Point scored first, with Troy Leeper tallying on a 2-yard plunge — his fifth touchdown of the game — and when Dayton Rogers added the extra point, the Red Raiders ended 56-49.

Inside the game

Defensive leaders — Erwin Shaquan Curreton (12 tackles, 4.8-yard interception return, 1 forced fumble), Austin Doby (7 tackles), South Point Devon Mathis (7 tackles, 1 fumble recovery), Jalen Porter (5 tackles), Aaron Huggins (7 (4 tackles, Patrick Brown (4 tackles).

Next week — Erwin travels to Crest in 3rd round of 3AA playoffs.

But Brown completed two passes, including a 2-yard scoring throw to Trey Clark, before scrambling through traffic on a two-point conversion that capped the victory.

The three-hour contest was an amazing offensive shootout as the teams combined for nearly 1,000 yards of offense.

South Point actually out-gained Erwin, racking up 504 yards total offense and picking up 28 first downs in 79 plays. But three turnovers — all in the first half — proved to be the Red Raiders' undoing.

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Walter Gibson/Reporter to The Gazette

South Point quarterback Patrick Brown breaks from the Erwin defense on Friday night. Brown and the Red Raiders outgained Erwin, racking up 504 yards and picking up 28 first downs in 79 plays, but turnovers kept their opponents in the game.

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Leeper had 246 yards rushing in 41 carries and quarterback Patrick Horne had 156 yards rushing and one score in 23 carries and picked up 46 more yards and a touchdown throwing.

For Erwin, which had 456 yards total offense, Curenton scored on a kickoff return, four pass receptions and a scoring run. Brown completed 24 of his 40 throws for 404 yards.

South Point's comeback was forged by taking advantage of Roberson's only turnover. After nudging within 41-35 with 4:40 to play, Rogers' pooch kickoff bounced inside the Roberson 20 before South Point's Devon Mathis jumped on the football at the Erwin 8.

Two plays later, Leeper's 5-yard run and Rogers' extra point had South Point ahead 42-41 with 4:01 to play.

But the dramatics were far from over.

Roberson responded a seven-play, 70-yard drive to retake the lead at 49-42 with 2:19. But South Point forced overtime by taking advantage of a facemask penalty at the end of Ramon Costner's 31-yard kickoff return. The Red Raiders drove 46 yards in seven



Photos by Mike Gibson/Special to The Gazette

South Point's Jeremy Sanders tries to get past the Erwin defense on Friday in Belmont. Sanders scored the Red Raiders' first touchdown of the game.

plays — all runs — to knot the score at 49 with 48 seconds left in regulation.

Clyde Erwin 21 0 14 14 8 - 57
South Point 7 7 7 21 7 - 56

First quarter

SP — Jeremy Sanders 25 pass from Patrick Horne (Dayton Rogers kick), 9:51
CE — Shaquan Curenton 96 kickoff return (Tyler Wyatt kick), 9:37
CE — Curenton 69 pass from Garrett Brown (Wyatt kick), 4:50
CE — Curenton 9 pass from Brown (Wyatt kick), 0:43.7

Second quarter

SP — Troy Leeper 1 run (Rogers

kick), 1:17

Third quarter

CE — Curenton 75 pass from Brown (Wyatt kick), 11:36
SP — Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 5:41
CE — Trey Clark 19 pass from Brown (Wyatt kick), 4:07

Fourth quarter

SP — Leeper 33 run (Rogers kick), 10:34
CE — Curenton 21 pass from Brown (Kick failed), 7:40
SP — Leeper 2 run (Rogers kick), 4:40
CE — Curenton 3 run (Clark pass from Brown), 2:19
SP — Horne 6 run (Rogers kick), 0:48.4



Troy Leeper scored five touchdowns in the loss. Leeper had 246 yards rushing on 41 carries.

Overtime

SP — Leeper 2 run (Rogers kick)
CE — Clark 2 pass from Brown (Brown run)

	Erwin	SP
First downs	18	28
Rushes-yards	14-52	73-458
Passing yards	404	46
Comp-Att-Int	24-40-0	3-6-1
Punts-avg.	2-35	1-32
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties-yards	9-82	4-35

Individual statistics

RUSHING—Erwin, Brown 9-45, Max Eatmon 2-minus 1, Trey Clark 2-5, Curenton 1-3. SP, Horne 23-156, Leeper 41-246, Sanders 5-28, Josh Hice 3-24, Tristin Fogarty 1-4.

PASSING—Erwin, Brown 24-40-0 404. SP, Horne 3-6-1 46.

RECEIVING—Erwin, Clark 10-105, Curenton 6-187, Eatmon 6-56, Colt Allen 1-15, Jonathan Allen 1-41. SP, Sanders 1-25, Ramon Costner 1-16, Brandon Williamson 1-5.

