



John Clardy/The Gazette

Clover's Ta Long fumbles as he is hit by South Point's Jordan Fomey during their game Friday. The Clover offense was held to 42 yards in the game.

Black 'N Blue Bone Night

SP lights up ex-coach Devine, Clover

By Phillip Gardner

pgardner@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — They beat their former head coach. They beat a South Carolina team for the first time. And, by the looks of things, it won't be the last time they crush an opponent this season.

South Point dominated every phase of the game in a 63-0 whipping of Clover on Friday, ruining John Devine's debut as Blue Eagles head coach in the stadium he had called home since 1990.

"We played football about as well as we could play tonight," said Mickey Lineberger,

promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach after Devine's departure in March.

And that goes for offense, defense and special teams.

Troy Leeper rushed for 140 yards and three TDs and Tyler Bray piled up 169 and two scores on the ground as South Point's "Red Bone" triple-option offense appeared to be in mid-season form. South Point rolled up 451 yards of offense (415 on the ground) while holding Clover to a measly 42.

>> See RAIDERS/Page 4C

Inside the game

■ The Red Raiders end Clover's 15-game winning streak vs. Gaston County.

■ **Final yardage totals:** South Point 451, Clover 42

■ **Did you see that?** Fans had fun with South Point's matchup against its former coach. One car displayed a sign that read "The Raiders' W will be so Devine."

■ **Cha-ching:** The half-and-half winner pocketed \$4.47.

<< RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1C

South Point scored on six of its seven first-half possessions and rolled up 325 yards of offense compared to Clover's 39 for a 42-0 halftime advantage. Two possessions after the break, second teamers were already beginning to see action.

The Red Raiders (1-0) exerted their dominance from the beginning. They caught Clover by surprise on the opening kickoff and recovered an onside kick. In fact, South Point recovered two onside kicks, forced a turnover on a pooch kick and recovered yet another fumble on a punt. Clover also fumbled twice on offense for a total of six lost possessions.

"It's my fault," said Devine, who led South Point to two state titles in his 15 years as head coach. "I didn't have them ready to play."

Josh Allman recovered two of the fumbles while Jeremy Sanders and Jordan Kagen recovered one each.

"We were determined," said Allman, one of 27 seniors on the roster. "We just had a good mindset."

The players wouldn't budge much when asked about playing against their former coach, who led the Red Raiders to 10 conference championships.

"It was just the first game of the year and we were more focused on actually winning," left tackle Jeffrey Lawing said. "It didn't have anything to do with Coach Devine."

Nothing?

"Nah, eh, a little bit."



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Troy Leeper heads to the endzone on one of his three first-half touchdown runs on Friday.

Quarterback Patrick Home carried 13 times for 80 yards and two TDs and completed both of his passes for 36 yards and another score.

South Point broke through in the series for the first time in four tries. The teams have met in the season opener since 2008. The game also ended Clover's 15-game winning streak against Gaston County opponents. The Blue Eagles' hadn't lost against Gaston County since 2004, when Ashbrook and Forestview pulled off victories in back-to-back weeks.

Phillip Gardner: 704-869-1843; twitter.com/gazettephil

South Point 63, Clover 0
Clover 0 0 0 0—0

South Point 14 28 14 7—63

First quarter

SP—Troy Leeper 29 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 10:40.
SP—Patrick Home 15 run (Rogers kick), 1:21.

Second quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 75 run (Rogers kick), 11:32.
SP—Leeper 42 run (Rogers kick), 11:20.
SP—Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 4:32.
SP—Ramon Costner 27 pass from Home (Rogers kick), 0:23.3.

Third quarter

SP—Home 8 run (Rogers kick), 10:48.
SP—Bray 32 run (Rogers kick), 1:21.

Fourth quarter

SP—Devan Robbins 16 run (Rogers kick), 5:27.