

South Point 45, Burns 42 OT



Gazette photos by Ben Goff

South Point defenders Jordan Fomey, clockwise from bottom left, Mykel Davis and Jalen Porter bring down Burns receiver Elijah Brown during the game at South Point on Friday.

Look who got Burns

Raiders outlast Bulldogs in OT

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BELMONT — When two unbeaten teams ranked among the state's top three teams in Class 3A



Burns defender Darius Ramsey, left, attempts to bring down South Point running back Troy Leeper during the game at South Point on Friday.

state's top three teams in class. A meet this early in the season, fans always hope for a thrilling finish.

Did they ever get that Friday night when No. 2-ranked South Point outlasted No. 3 Burns 45-42 in overtime in front of a capacity crowd at Lineberger Stadium.

"They ran their stuff and ran it well," Burns coach Matt Beam said. "And we ran our stuff and we ran it well. That was one of the best



Check out more photos from the game at [Gaston Gazette.com](http://GastonGazette.com).

games I've ever been a part of."

The only dissatisfaction for Beam, his Burns team and the Bulldogs' fans that filled their side of the Lineberger Stadium stands was in losing after rallying from a three-touchdown deficit in the fourth quarter to force the extra

period. Of course, whatever disappointment Burns (3-1) may have felt was met with an equal amount of excitement from South Point (4-0), its players and fans.

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In fact, many Red Raiders' faithful were quick to celebrate on the field after senior kicker Dayton Rogers' 27-yard field goal on South Point's first play of overtime ended a contest that saw the teams combine for 761 yards total offense and 44 first downs.

That Rogers would end it with a field goal attempt may have surprised some. But not Rogers nor his coach Mickey Lineberger.

As soon as Burns' Daniel Fogleman was short on a 24-yard field goal attempt on fourth down of the Bulldogs' overtime possession, Rogers knew he'd have the opportunity to give his team the victory.

"Yeah, I was nervous," said Rogers, who produced a game-winner in a similar situation at Kings Mountain in overtime last year. "But I knew the line was good and I knew I just had to kick it. And that's how it worked out because the blocking was there and I got a perfect snap and hold."

Rogers' boot ended a perfect night for him, as he drilled six extra points and drove two of his seven kick-offs for touchbacks.

In many ways, while Rogers kicked the game-winner,

the night boiled down to the dueling high-powered but different offenses.

For South Point, senior fullback Troy Leeper powered the Red Raiders' 'Red Bone' offense with 245 yards and five touchdowns on 29 carries.

"Our offense is about taking what they give us," Lineberger said. "They gave us Leeper and we took it. That's a pretty good fella to have toting the mail."

For Burns, senior quarterback Brandon Littlejohn completed 30 of 45 passes for 290 yards and two touchdowns and senior halfback Darius Ramsey rushed for 123 yards and four touchdowns on 27 carries for the Bulldogs' spread attack.

Ramsey and Littlejohn accounted for all three Burns fourth-quarter touchdowns to rally for the tie after South Point had built a 42-21 lead after three quarters. The tying touchdown came after Littlejohn threw a cross field rocket to receiver Melvin Scott for a 24-yard scoring pass on a fourth-and-six play with 3:26 left in regulation.

"We absolutely played hard and did not quit," Beam said. "My hats off to South Point. They just made a few more plays that we did."



Ben Goff/The Gazette

South Point defender Jordan Fomey, right, hits Burns receiver Elijah Brown during the game at South Point on Friday.

The Red Raiders' best defensive stand came in the overtime.

Against a power running attack that had worked for Burns all night, South Point held Ramsey to a 2-yard gain on first down, then pressured Littlejohn into two incompletions that brought out on what became the missed field goal try.

"We hadn't stopped that jumbo package at all," Lineberger said. "But we found a way to get it done when we had to. Then we brought some pressure on their quarterback."

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Burns 77 7210 - 42
South Point 21714 03 - 45
First quarter

SP—Troy Leeper 4 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 8:25
SP—Devan Robbins 8 run (Rogers kick), 6:53
B—Darius Ramsey 1 run (Daniel Fogleman kick), 3:15
SP—Leeper 47 run (Rogers kick), 2:27

Second quarter

B—Ramsey 3 run (Fogleman kick), 11:03
SP—Leeper 17 run (Rogers kick), 0:12.6

Third quarter

SP—Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 6:08
B—Brandon Littlejohn 7 run (Fogleman kick), 4:29
SP—Leeper 2 run (Rogers kick), 0:28.4

Fourth quarter

B—Travond Ross 5 pass from Littlejohn (Fogleman kick), 10:06
B—Ramsey 1 run (Fogleman kick), 6:02
B—Melvin Scott 24 pass from Littlejohn (Fogleman kick), 3:26

Overtime

SP—Rogers 27 FG

Inside the game

Offensive statistics: Burns - 418 total yards (128 rushing, 290 passing), South Point - 343 total yards (334 rushing, 9 passing)

Defensive leaders: Burns - Devonte Ramseur (9 tackles), London Richardson (5 tackles), Jaquan McDaniel (5 tackles), Tiquece Brown (4 tackles, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 forced fumble). South Point - Jeremy Sanders (7 tackles), Ramon Costner (7 tackles), Tristin Fogarty (5 tackles, 1 forced fumble), Jordan Fomey (5 tackles, 1 fumble recovery), Eric