

Full Speed Ahead

SP fullback goes for 3 TDs, 285 rushing yards in victory

By Richard Walker
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BELMONT — Kings Mountain High coach Greg Lloyd thought his defensive coordinator Mark Latham came up with a great plan to stop South Point fullback Troy Leeper.

South Point coach Mickey Lineberger agreed. So how did Leeper rush for a career-high 285 yards and three scores in the Red Raiders 45-9 victory in the Big South 3A Conference opener for both teams?

"We're just working together, practicing hard and doing the little things," Leeper said of his offensive unit after it rolled up 549 yards as No. 2-ranked South Point improved to 5-0.

In truth, the Red Raiders' offense is so versatile that even when Kings Mountain clamped down on South Point's usually-effective dive play in the early going, it found other ways to strike.

In Friday's game, quarterback Patrick Home used pitchouts to Leeper and three pass completions for big plays to keep the Kings Mountain defense honest. Then later South Point applied the knockout punch by scoring the game's last 28 points.

"At first, they were pinching down hard," said Leeper who picked up one or two yards on six of his first nine running plays. "When we pitched it, it loosened them up a bit. But I thought we'd loosen them up eventually anyway."

Leeper had four runs of 40 yards or more and tallied on scoring runs of 12, 35 and 56 yards.

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South Point's Troy Leeper breaks into the open field for a big gain during their game against Kings Mountain on Friday night. Leeper had three touchdowns in the win.

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Devan Robbins added a 1-yard TD run, Patrick Horne a 3-yard TD run and Tyler Bray a 65-yard TD run for the Red Raiders.

"Coach Latham and the defense did a good job of getting them out of their offense," said Lloyd, whose team fell to 2-3, 0-1. "But they've got so many weapons and plays and they're tough to stop. They might be the best offense in the state."

Kings Mountain tried to keep up behind quarterback Jonathan Clark's 199 yards passing and John Robbs' 67 hard-earned yards on 24 carries. But that was hardly enough, even as the Mountaineers recovered an onside kickoff to open the second half and scored to cut the lead to 17-9.

South Point simply took charge from there.

"It was a physical football game," Lineberger said of a contest in which the teams combined for 18 penalties accounting for 182 yards. "They've got great defensive linemen and had a great defensive plan. Troy just ran really well. And he picked up tough yards."

There were some moments of unhappiness on both sidelines at game's end after Bray's long run with 1:24 to play.

Lloyd felt South Point could've run the game clock out without scoring.



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Eric Locklear, 81, breaks up a pass intended for Kings Mountain's Edward Blackburn, 44, during their game Friday night.

"Now, don't get me wrong, we should've stopped them, but he told me his second team hadn't practiced taking a knee," Lloyd said.

Said Lineberger: "That's exactly what he's mad about. But our second team hasn't practiced that formation. We just ran a base formation and he took it outside and scored."

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Kings Mountain	0	3	6	0	-	9
South Point	7	10	21	7	-	45

First quarter

SP—Devan Robbins 1 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 3:44

Second quarter

KM—Edward Blackburn 29 FG, 8:18

SP—Rogers 26 FG, 4:25

SP—Troy Leeper 12 run (Rogers kick), 0:56

Third quarter

KM—John Robbs 3 run (Kick failed), 9:43

SP—Patrick Horne 3 run (Rogers kick), 6:59

SP—Leeper 35 run (Rogers kick), 4:17

SP—Leeper 56 run (Rogers kick), 0:18.5

Fourth quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 65 run (Rogers kick), 1:24

Extra points

Offensive statistics: Kings Mountain — 308 total yards (109 rushing, 199 passing), South Point — 549 total yards (465 rushing, 84 passing)

Defensive leaders: Kings Mountain — Jacob Pressley (4 tackles), Collins Pressley (4 tackles), Shelton Price (4 tackles). South Point — Jordan Forney (7 tackles), Josh Allman (7 tackles), Justus Watkins (6 tackles, 1 interception), Aaron Biggerstaff (5 tackles), Deion Jones (5 tackles).

Quoting: "It's hard to compare players. I don't believe in comparing them. Some are middle runners. Some are outside runners. Not many guys that we've had can do both like him." — South Point coach Mickey Lineberger on Leeper.



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