

TOTAL RED WIN

Jones, Raiders' D smother Huss to stay undefeated

By Phillip Gardner
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GASTONIA — On a night when the offense wasn't flawless for once, the South Point defense delivered another gem.

And it started from the first snap.

Hunter Huss fumbled on the game's opening play, and the Red Raiders scored three plays later in a 42-3 road win Friday.

Deion Jones gladly took the role of the biggest defensive playmaker, recovering the opening fumble in a sign of things to come. The sophomore defensive end blocked a punt, recorded two sacks and eventually recovered a second fumble as South Point held Hunter Huss to 91 yards — its lowest total of the season.

"In practice, coaches teach us get after it, attack, sic 'em, and that's basically our defense, really," said Jones, who played at East Gaston a year ago. "My team needed me tonight and I did what I had to do and so did my teammates."

South Point (6-0, 2-0 Big South 3A Conference) bottled up star running back Kemion Moore, holding the sophomore speedster to 26 yards on 11 carries. Jeremy Sanders and Justus Watkins each intercepted Jeremiah Hunter once, accounting for the other two of the Huskies' four turnovers.

South Point's "Red Bone" triple-option offense turned it over twice — an unusually high number considering the Red Raiders entered with only three through five games.

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South Point's Deryk Dionne, 55, celebrates after teammate Deion Jones, 51, recovers a fumble by Hunter Huss quarterback Jeremiah Hunter, 10, on the first play from scrimmage during their game against Hunter Huss Friday night.

Undefeated no more

One of these teams was going to get its first loss because Friday marked the first time South Point and Hunter Huss both entered the matchup undefeated. Hunter Huss had twice before headed into the South Point game undefeated and won both times. The Red Raiders had, on five other occasions, entered the contest without a loss and went 4-0-1 in those games.

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The miscues didn't stop South Point from topping 40 points for the fifth time and rolling up 384 yards — all on the ground.

Most of the production came from the guy who's done it all season long, Troy Leeper. The senior fullback, who last week became Gaston County's fastest player to reach 1,000 yards (five games), put on another show, bursting through the line, juking defenders, spinning around them and powering forward on his way to a whopping 225 yards and five touchdowns.

That's 52 fantasy points for all you fantasy nuts.

Quarterback Patrick Horne added 63 yards on 15 carries, Tyler Bray rushed eight times for 53 yards and a TD, and Devan Robbins had his number called six times for 38 yards. A week after the Kings Mountain coaching staff accused South Point of running up the score, the Red Raiders took two knees at the Hunter Huss 5 with under two minutes remaining.

Hunter Huss (5-1, 1-1 Big South) weathered the early storm to trail 21-3 at the



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point fullback Troy Leeper scored five touchdowns in Friday's 42-3 win over Hunter Huss.

break but turned it over on all three of its second-half possessions as the game got out of hand. The Huskies were looking to match their 6-0 start in 2006.

"They keep pressure on you all the time — both sides of the ball," Hunter Huss coach Steve Gardner said. "That's probably the most impressive thing."

Hunter Huss gets its

chance to bounce back next week at Kings Mountain while South Point will play host to Ashbrook.

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South Point 42, Hunter Huss 3
South Point 21 0 7
14 — 42
Hunter Huss 0 3 0
0 — 3
First quarter
 SP—Troy Leeper 5 run (Dayton

Rogers kick), 11:45.

SP—Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 3:25.

SP—Leeper 2 run (Rogers kick), 0:06.6

Second quarter

HH—FG Cody Jones 48, 11:00.

Third quarter

SP—Leeper 15 run (Rogers kick), 9:48.

Fourth quarter

SP—Leeper 13 run (Rogers kick), 11:31.

SP—Tyler Bray 13 run (Rogers kick), 6:29.