

South Point 49, North Gaston 0

# Red Raiders rout N. Gaston

By Richard Waller  
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BELMONT — Most high school football coaches hate having their off week late in the season.

Not only does it ruin their practice routine, some think the 14 days off makes their teams rusty. Not South Point.

Not by a wide margin after the Red Raiders rolled to a 49-0 win over visiting North Gaston on Friday night.

"The open date was good to us," said South Point coach Mickey Lineberger, whose team improved to 9-0, 5-0 entering

next Friday's Big South 3A Conference championship showdown at Crest. "That first half was the best half of football we've played all year."

The Red Raiders, who will be seeking their 19th league title and sixth in a row next week, scored on their first six possessions to take a 42-0 half-time lead.

After kneeling out the end of the first half, the Red Raiders scored again on the first possession of the second half before substituting liberally the rest of the way.

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John Clark/The Gazette

Red Raider running back Devan Robbins breaks past North Gaston linebacker Xavier Spriggs during the game at South Point on Friday.

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The only suspense left was whether or not a North Gaston offense that had been effective in other games this season moving the football would be able to break the Red Raiders' shutout.

The Wildcats (1-9, 0-6), who dropped their 31st straight Big South contest, reached South Point territory once in each half, but were turned away without points each time.

"We didn't play our best game of the year obviously," North Gaston coach Mike Patton said. "But give South Point credit. They're a really good team and they played like we expected them to."

The shutout was South Point's first since a 63-0 win over Clover, S.C., to open the 2011 season and it was the Red Raiders' first league shutout since winning 63-0 at North Gaston in 2009.

"I was really, really proud of our defense," Lineberger said. "They'd been keeping the ball away from people all year, but we did a good job stopping them."



Ben Goff/The Gazette

South Point defenders tackle North Gaston quarterback Nick Haskin in the second half on Friday.

South Point's efficient offense rolled up 374 yards total offense, with Tyler Bray leading the way with 119 yards rushing and four touchdowns in 14 carries. Devan Robbins added 77 yards and a touchdown in six tries and Jaquan Brooks completed two touchdown passes on both of his pass

attempts to Jeffrey Pearsall.

The defense limited North Gaston to Wildcats' season-lows of 125 yards total offense and 99 yards rushing.

Daishon Davis had eight solo or first-hit tackles, including two for losses, and Donnie Hunter and Deion Jones had six apiece. Nimar Smith recovered two

fumbles, Jones and Tanner Muse one each and Donovan Stowe and Richard Dunning each had pass interceptions.

"All you can say, really, is that our kids executed their game plan well — on both sides of the ball," Lineberger said.

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**South Point 28 14 7 0 — 49**

**First quarter**

SP—Tyler Bray 4 run (Aaron Camp kick), 8:03.

SP—Jeffrey Pearsall 33 pass from Jaquan Brooks (Camp kick), 4:44.

SP—Bray 2 run (Camp kick), 3:44.

SP—Pearsall 51 pass from Brooks (Camp kick), 1:53.

**Second quarter**

SP—Bray 1 run (Camp kick), 6:58.

SP—Devan Robbins 45 run (Camp kick), 4:30.

**Third quarter**

SP—Bray 13 run (Camp kick), 4:19.

	<b>NG</b>	<b>SP</b>
First downs	8	17
Rushes-yards	43-99	47-290
Passing yards	26	84
Total yards	125	374
Comp-Att-Int	2-7-2	2-3-0
Fumbles-lost	5-4	2-1
Penalties-yards	5-24	5-40
Punts-avg.	4-29.5	1-39

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**RUSHING**—North Gaston, Corey Staley 24-91, Xzavier Spriggs 8-2, Nick Haskin 10-8, Devin McCorkle 1-minus 2. South Point, Bray 14-119, Brooks 9-11, Deonte Gaston 7-38, Robbins 6-77, Trey Crenshaw 6-39, Diontrea King 3-10, Team 2-minus 4.

**PASSING**—North Gaston, Haskin 2-7-2 26. South Point, Brooks 2-2-0 84; King 0-1-0 0.

**RECEIVING**—North Gaston, McCorkle 1-19, Alex Patton 1-7. South Point, Pearsall 2-84.