



Ben Earp/Hallfax Media Group

South Point's Tyler Bray runs in to get the ball from quarterback Jaquan Brooks during Friday night's game against Crest in Shelby. Bray rushed for 162 yards and two TDs.

DON'T BET AGAINST RED

South Point pulls
away in second half
to win Big South title

By Phil Gardner

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SHELBY — The Big South 3A Conference title is staying in Belmont — again.

In a battle between state-ranked teams, South Point pulled away from Crest in the second half for a 42-24 road win Friday to cap a perfect regular

season, a sixth straight league title and its 12th championship in the last 14 years.

"It feels great to keep up the tradition and all the conference championships," senior linebacker Aaron Biggerstaff said. "I'm glad to be a part of this team."

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Ben Eary/Halifax Media Group

Crest's P.J. Brooks runs the ball with South Point's Aaron Biggestaff in pursuit.

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Tyler Bray rushed for 163 yards and two touchdowns, quarterback Jaquan Brooks accounted for three scores and Tanner Muse returned a punt for a touchdown as South Point beat Crest for the sixth straight time. Biggestaff logged a sack and a late interception to key a defensive effort that held Crest to its lowest point total since a 14-13 win over Burns in the opener.

The result leaves South Point (10-0, 6-0 Big South) as a potential No. 1 seed when the state playoff brackets are announced today. It also snapped a six-game winning streak for Crest (9-2, 5-1). South Point entered the game as the No. 2-ranked 3A team in the state. Crest was seventh.

At a packed Sid Bryson Stadium, Crest led 17-14 at the half before South Point turned the tables in a big way. South Point scored three touchdowns in the first 9 1/2 minutes of the third quarter — two offensively and the other on Muse's 63-yard punt return.

Brooks, who finished with 117 yards and two touchdowns on the ground, set the tone for the second half with a 59-yard run on the first play after the break. Brooks also passed a 20-yard touchdown pass to Devan Robbins during the game-winning third quarter.

"The second half was all about execution," Brooks said. "That's all it took was execution."

Crest, which had made back-to-back state championship trips but was looking for its first conference championship since 2006, seemed to be in great shape just before halftime. The Chargers scored on a 54-yard pass play from P.J. Brooks to Michael Smith with 1:09 before the break to go ahead 17-14. But South Point received the opening kickoff and didn't look back.

South Point generated 186 of its 311 yards after halftime.

"That's the way our offense is. It takes us a while to get the flow of the game and figure the defense out," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "They did some things defensively that took us a while to get used to. Our execution in the end was very good and a lot of

times we wear people down."

Crest produced 363 yards of offense to outgain South Point but lost the turnover battle 2-1 as Brooks was intercepted twice. Richard Dunning snagged the other interception.

"They're a great football team," Crest coach Mark Barnes said. "We had to play perfect and we didn't."

Jalin Moore led the Chargers offensive attack with 138 yards and two touchdowns on 25 carries. Brooks finished with a season-high 171 passing yards, following his previous season high of 134 last week against Kings Mountain.

Crest hurt itself with 12 penalties for 98 yards while South Point was flagged only five times for 32 yards.

The Big South's top two defenses came to play early as the game started with three straight punts. South Point then took advantage of a short field and drew first blood on its second possession with Brooks' 33-yard touchdown run.

Crest's offense then got going on the next possession as a 65-yard reverse pass from Brooks to Hezekiah Johnson put the Chargers on the South Point 8. Crest was then called for holding on first down but drew pass interference on South Point on third down to keep the drive alive. Moore scored on the next play on a 6-yard run to knot the score at 7.

After a fourth-down fumble on South Point's next series, Crest took its first lead on Alex Trejo's 34-yard field goal at the 6:40 mark of the second quarter. The back-and-forth affair continued as the Red Raiders took their next possession 80 yards in 11 plays, the last one a 1-yard TD run by Bray for a 14-10 South Point lead with 1:30 before halftime.

The lead hardly lasted as Crest scored on the next down, a 54-yard pass play from Brooks to Smith, who streaked down the sideline to give the Chargers a 17-14 halftime lead.

Crest outgained South Point 171-125 in the first half, with 119 of those yards coming on the two big pass plays. The first down tally was even at seven. Bray carried 17 times in the first half for 58 yards to lead South Point while Brooks carried six times for 55 yards.

South Point 42,**Crest 24****South Point 7 7 21 7 — 42****Crest 7 10 0 7 — 24****First quarter**

SP—Jaquan Brooks 33 run

(Aaron Camp kick), 3:01.

C—Jalin Moore 6 run (Alex Trejo kick), 0:13.2

Second quarter

C—FG Trejo 34, 6:40.

SP—Tyler Bray 1 run (Camp kick), 1:30.

C—Michael Smith 54 pass from P.J. Brooks (Camp kick), 1:09.

Third quarter

SP—Brooks 4 run (Camp kick), 9:39.

SP—Tanner Muse 63 punt return (Camp kick), 5:33.

SP—Devan Robbins 20 pass from Brooks (Camp kick), 2:27.

Fourth quarter

C—Moore 1 run (Trejo kick), 10:41.

SP—Bray 28 run (Camp kick), 6:14.

	SP	C
First downs	14	16
Rushes-yards	44-280	46-192
Passing yards	31	171
Total yards	311	363
Comp-Att-Int	2-3-0	5-12-2
Fumbles-lost	1-1	2-0
Penalties-yards	5-32	12-98
Punts-avg.	2-36.0	3-34.7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Point, Bray 32-163, Brooks 10-117, Deonte Gaston 1-1, Devan Robbins 1-minus 1. Crest, Moore 25-138, Dominique Roseboro 6-37, Shaquan Ussery 2-12, Smith 1-5, Brooks 12-0.

PASSING—South Point, Brooks 2-2-0 31; Bray 0-1-0 0. Crest, Brooks 5-11-2 171; Moore 0-1-0 0.

RECEIVING—South Point, Devan Robbins 1-20, Jeffrey Pearsall 1-11. Crest, Hezekiah Johnson 2-75, Smith 1-54, Gene Surratt 1-23, Jarrel Long 1-19.