

What a night for Bray

FB's county record, late grueling drive send Raiders past Big South rival Crest

By Philip Gardner
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BEEMONT — A quick-scoring team in the first half, South Point looked like vintage South Point with the game on the line.

Ahead five early in the fourth quarter, South Point put together a grind-it-out, 15-play, 90-yard scoring drive to essentially put away a 46-33 defeat of Crest in a thrilling second-round 3A state-playoff game Friday at a packed Lineberger Stadium.

"That's Red Raider football," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "That's the way we've done it around here since 1969 and that's what we hang our hat on: four yards and keep the chains moving."

Junior fullback Tyler Bray rushed for a county-record 381 yards on 31 carries and scored five touchdowns to send the undefeated and top-seeded Red Raiders (12-0) into a third-round home game against Statesville. The second-seeded Greyhounds (12-1) advanced with a 49-21 win over Asheville Evans.

South Point, a 42-24 winner over Crest for the Big South 3A Conference championship two weeks ago, led 12-27 and got the ball back after a punt with 11:01 remaining before staging the grueling drive that ate 7:24 off the clock. Bray carried nine times on the possession for 38 yards, including a 1-yard drive into the end zone with 3:37 remaining. The drive also featured a 16-yard pass play from Jaquan Brooks to Devan Robbins on third and 8.

Bray and Robbins looked at each other in the first huddle of that possession and thought the same thing: "This drive right here will win this game," Bray said. "This drive, if we score, this game is over."

Just in case, Indyn Steele intercepted P.J. Brooks five plays into Crest's ensuing possession, and Bray then ripped off a 41-yard TD run for good measure. Crest came right back for



Graphic photo by Ben Galt

ABOVE: South Point's Tanner Muse evades Crest's Quinton Patterson, left, and Dominique Roseboro on Friday. **RIGHT:** South Point quarterback Jaquan Brooks hands off the ball to Bray.

a 14-yard TD on a screen pass from Brooks to Marquon Davis after Michael Smith's long kick-off return, but it hardly mattered at that point as South Point was well on its way to its fourth third-round appearance in six years.

"I told our kids Monday that this was the Western final, and I believe that," Crest coach Mark Barnes said. "I thought the team that won this game would play in the state championship

game."

South Point generated 606 yards of offense, with 523 of that on the ground. Jaquan Brooks rushed for 104 yards on 14 carries and completed both of his passes for 83 yards and a TD. Crest had been surrendering 296.7 yards per game.

"I think the thing that describes them best is they put you in situations where you know what's probably going to happen, but you can't

really do anything about it," Barnes said.

Bray surpassed the previous county record of 338 yards set by Forestview's Dominique Adams last season against Bowser City. Bray had come close to the record earlier this season, gaining 326 yards against Kings Mountain.

Crest (10-3) finished with 408 yards, led by John Moore's 143 yards and three touchdowns on 22 carries. Brooks passed for 199 yards and a TD and rushed for 47 and another score.

The late flurry of scoring activity continued with an otherwise low-scoring second half as the defenses settled in after a first-half shootout.

South Point led 32-20 at the half after scoring on four of its first five possessions, including quick scoring drives that needed only three, five, two, one and three plays. Bray had 381 yards and three touchdowns at the half, scoring on runs of 75, 80 and 9 yards.

Robbins scored South Point's other two first-half touchdowns on a 70-yard run and a 67-yard pass from Jaquan Brooks.

Crest got two first-half touchdowns from Moore on runs of 8 and 4 yards and an 8-yard TD run by P.J. Brooks. The last touchdown was crucial for Crest because South Point had taken a 32-14 lead with 56:2 seconds until halftime and was due to receive the second-half kickoff. But the Chargers quickly closed the gap thanks to a 43-yard run by Michael Smith to the South Point 17 that set up an 8-yard TD run by P.J. Brooks, who scrambled out of near sack.

Crest forced a punt on the first series of the second half and scored on its first drive after the break on a 20-yard run by Moore to cut South Point's lead to 32-27. South Point won its seventh straight in the series for a 20-10 lead. After meeting two times in three weeks, the Red Raiders and Chargers will meet again in next year's opener as non-conference foes.

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South Point 46, Crest 33
Crest 0 20 7 6 — 33
South Point 14 18 0 14 — 46

First quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 70 run (Aaron Camp kick), 8:05.

SP—Devan Robbins 39 run (Camp kick), 3:03.

Second quarter

C—Jalin Moore 8 run (Alex Trejo kick), 10:38.

SP—Robbins 67 pass from Jaquan Brooks (kick failed), 10:00.

C—Moore 4 run (Trejo kick), 8:55.

SP—Bray 80 run (run failed), 8:45.

SP—Bray 9 run (run failed), 0:56.2.

C—P.J. Brooks 8 run (run failed), 0:08.6.

Third quarter

C—Moore 20 run (Trejo kick), 5:37.

Fourth quarter

SP—Bray 1 run (Brooks run), 3:37.

SP—Bray 41 run (kick blocked), 1:10.

C—Marquez Davis 14 pass from Brooks (pass failed), 0:24.4.

	C	SP
First downs	18	21
Rushes-yards	47-299	48-523
Passing yards	109	83
Total yards	408	606
Comp-Att-Int	6-12-1	2-2-0
Fumbles-lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	4-25	4-34
Punts-avg.	4-39.8	2-29.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Crest, Jalin Moore 22-143, Brooks 12-47, Michael Smith 2-47, Roseboro 9-38, Gene Surratt 1-16, Shaquan Ussey 1-8. South Point, Bray 31-381, Brooks 14-104, Robbins 1-39, Team 2-minus 1.

PASSING—Crest, Brooks 6-12-1 109. South Point, Brooks 2-2-0 83.

RECEIVING—Crest, Surratt 2-63, Smith 2-26, Davis 1-14, Hazikiah Johnson 1-6. South Point, Robbins 2-83.