

Sports

Stateville 27, South Point 21

A sad end

Turnovers doom Raiders in playoff loss to Greyhounds

By Philip Gardner
garden@spokanejournal.com

SPokane — One of South Point's strengths during the first 12 games of the season was protecting the football, but that's one thing that went horribly wrong Friday night.

The Red Raiders committed four turnovers in the first half and couldn't recover in a 27-21 season-ending home loss to Stateville in the 3AA state quarterfinals.

"We don't usually have

turnovers but we had them tonight," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "They have a fine football team and we had our chances but we didn't play very well in the first half."

South Point, ranked No. 2 in the final Associated Press 3A state poll, ended its season at 12-1 after posting its second straight undefeated regular season.

>> See RAIDERS, Page 3C



John Clark/The Spokesman

South Point quarterback Jaquan Brooks is brought down by Stateville's Stewart Sherrill and Jacob Powell during the Red Raiders' 27-21 playoff loss to the Greyhounds on Friday night. South Point piled up 330 yards (327 rush, 12 pass), but the Greyhounds came away with the victory.

<< RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1C

Statesville (13-1), the state's fourth-ranked 3A team, advances to the 3AA state semifinals where it will be at home to face Charlotte Catholic (12-1), a 49-18 winner over Kannapolis Brown.

Despite South Point's miscues, it still had a chance to win at the end. With Statesville's starting long snapper on the sideline after an injury earlier in the game, the Greyhounds botched an extra-point play and led only 27-21 with 7:38 remaining.

South Point looked well on its way to scoring on its next drive but couldn't advance beyond the Statesville 22. An illegal procedure penalty on second and six, then a three-yard loss when Davonte Bailly brought down Brooks in the backfield set up third and 14 with 2:31 remaining.

Breon Borders nearly intercepted Brooks on the next play but was out of bounds. Then on fourth down, Borders batted down Brooks' short pass and Statesville began its celebration. Mumford reeled off a 55-yard run two plays later to effectively seal the outcome.

"Our defense stepped up and played really well tonight," Statesville coach Randall Gusler said. "You've got a team right there that normally scores 45 points a game and we can hold them to 21, that's huge."

East Carolina-bound quarterback Tristan Mumford rushed for 97 yards and two TDs and completed 9 of 11 passes for 169 yards to lead Statesville's 353-yard output.

At a packed Lineberger Stadium, the yardage totals were close as South Point churned out 339 yards of its own, but the Red Raiders picked a bad night to have



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Tyler Bray, left, is congratulated by teammate Camden Van Pelt after he scored a touchdown during the Red Raiders' 27-21 playoff loss to Statesville Friday night.

but sophomore quarterback Jaquan Brooks lost two fumbles and threw an interception. South Point also lost a possession when an eight-yard Statesville punt near midfield glazed off the leg of a South Point player and Statesville recovered.

"I think it's youth and just lack of experience," Lineberger said. "I know we've played 12 ballgames but we haven't played one this big. You know, things happen. I don't know why, but things happen, and they happened tonight for us. I'm not taking anything away from Statesville."

Statesville turned those miscues into a 14-7 halftime lead but South Point was still in the game. The Red Raiders received the second-half kick-off and drove 55 yards in eight plays to tie it on Tyler Bray's 16-yard TD run. The teams then traded touchdowns on

168 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries. Brooks finished with 132 yards on 24 carries.

South Point was looking for its fifth state semifinal appearance in 11 years and first since 2009 when it won the title. The season was remarkable considering the Red Raiders graduated 27 seniors from last year's roster and started only five seniors on offense and three or four on defense Friday.

Statesville, meanwhile, came in with three Division I commitments. In addition to Mumford, Carlis Parker (Virginia Tech) and Borders (Duke) were the others. The Greyhounds move on to their first state semifinal since 1996. Statesville has won 10 straight since its only loss, to North Davidson, which advanced in the 4A playoffs Friday with a 20-14 win over Mount Tabor.

Friday's scoring didn't begin until the second quarter

TD run on the first play of the second quarter.

South Point answered on the next series with a 12-play, 71-yard drive that finished with a 1-yard TD plunge by Bray. Aaron Camp's extra point made it 7-7 at the 5:59 mark of the second quarter.

The Red Raiders forced a three-and-out after that but Brooks was intercepted three plays later. Breon Borders actually returned the interception 55 yards to the end zone, but the touchdown was called back by a penalty. It didn't matter as the Greyhounds scored four plays later on Mumford's 23-yard pass to Brevin Renwick to make it 14-7 with 1:29 left before the break.

Phillip Gardner: 704-869-1843; twitter.com/gazettephil

Statesville 27, South Point 21

Statesville 0 14 7 6 — 27

South Point 0 7 7 7 — 21

Second quarter

St—Tristan Mumford 1 run (Jack Archibald kick), 11:56.

SP—Tyler Bray 1 run (Aaron Camp kick), 5:59.

St—Brevin Renwick 23 pass from Mumford (Archibald kick), 1:29.

Third quarter

SP—Bray 16 run (Camp kick), 8:00.

St—Mumford 1 run (Archibald kick), 6:20.

Fourth quarter

SP—Jaquan Brooks 3 run (Camp kick), 11:24.

St—Justin Daniels 10 pass from Mumford (run failed after bad snap), 7:38.

	St	SP
First downs	15	19
Rushes-yards	28-169	57-327
Passing yards	184	12
Total yards	353	339
Comp-Att-Int	12-20-1	1-4-1
Fumbles-lost	0-0	5-3
Penalties-yards	8-45	4-20
Punts-avg.	3-32.2	1-27.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Statesville, Mumford 10-97, Treon Allison 6-45, Carlis Parker 6-34, Tyree Ward 1-5, Daniels 1-0, Renwick 2-minus 2, Team 2-minus 9. South Point, Bray 29-168, Brooks 24-132, Deonte Gaston 1-19, Devan Robbins 3-8.

PASSING—Statesville, Mumford 9-11-0 169; Parker 3-9-1 15. South Point, Brooks 1-4-1 12.

its highest turnover total of the season. South Point entered with only 14 turnovers through 12 games,

three straight possessions, setting up South Point's last chance.

Bray led South Point with

after Statesville cashed in on South Point's third fumble with a 50-yard scoring drive capped by Mumford's 1-yard

RECEIVING—Statesville, Daniels 3-76, Renwick 4-53, Jaylan Williams 1-38, Amir Campbell 1-6, Ward 2-8, Allison 1-3. South Point, Diontree King 1-12.

