



Brian Mayhew/Special to The Gazette

South Point's Daishon Davis recovers a fumble in the first quarter of the Red Raiders' win. The team took advantage of five Burns turnovers to advance.

Dogs gone

RED RAIDERS MARCH OVER BURNS INTO THIRD ROUND

By Phillip Gardner
pgardner@gazetteonline.com

BELMONT — A battle of the state's top six 3A teams didn't quite live up to its billing, but South Point is hardly worried about that.

Second-ranked South Point took advantage of five Burns turnovers

and the Red Raider offense was stopped in the second half only by the clock as South Point ran away with a 51-14 home win Friday in the second round of the 3A state playoffs.

"I just think we executed in all phases of the game better than we have all year: the kicking game, defensively and offensively," South

Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "I thought we had a great game."

South Point generated 395 yards of offense and scored on every drive of the second half (except a kneel down at the end) to improve to 13-0 and reach the third round

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for a second straight year.

That sets up an undefeated showdown next Friday at No. 2 seeded Concord (13-0), a 21-14 winner over No. 10 seed Piedmont. South Point, the No. 3 seed in the 3A West bracket, lost a three-way draw with Concord and Hibriten for the top seed but would be back at home at Lineberger Stadium in the fourth round if it advances.

Turnovers were the biggest difference as sixth-ranked Burns committed five turnovers to South Point's one. The Red Raiders converted two first-quarter turnovers into touchdowns, the first coming in the form of a Tanner Muse interception of Chris Montgomery and 32-yard return for a 7-0 lead.

"We've been watching a lot of film on him," Muse said of Montgomery. "He kind of stares down his receivers, so I knew coming in that his eyes would take me to the ball and they did."

That early touchdown gave South Point the only spark it needed as the Red Raiders took a 14-0 lead by the end of the first quarter and were well on their way. Burns cut it to 14-7 early in the third quarter on a 7-yard TD pass from Montgomery to Scooter Colburn, but South Point soon scored again for a 28-7 halftime lead and it was off to the races. The Red Raiders scored on their first five drives of the second half to pull away.

South Point generated 395 yards, led by quarterback Jaquan Brooks' 145 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Burns held South Point full-back Tyler Bray somewhat in check, limiting Gaston County's all-time leading rusher to 71 yards and a

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— SP coach Mickey Lineberger

Diontreia King rushed for 81 yards and a touchdown, Muse scored a second touchdown on the ground on his way to 52 yards rushing, and Trey Crenshaw added 40 rushing yards and a touchdown for the Red Raiders. Aaron Camp kicked six extra points and a 26-yard field goal for South Point.

The most points Burns had previously given up was 34 against Shelby. Meanwhile, South Point held the Bulldogs to their lowest point total.

Burns, though, wasn't far behind South Point in total offense as the Bulldogs finished with 318 yards led by Jalen King's 199 yards on 16 carries. King was filling in for the injured Tylan Ruff, who sat out for a second straight week.

But the biggest story was Burns' inability to protect the football.

"If you turn it over against them, you're going to get beat," Burns coach Matt Beam said. "Our kids played hard. They played their guts out."

Burns ended its season 11-2, with its only other loss a 21-17 setback to South Mountain Athletic 2A/3A Conference champion Crest.

Phillip Gardner: 704-869-

touchdown on 16 carries.

1843; twitter.com/gazettephil



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South Point's Tanner Muse is tackled by Burns' Diamonte Hall during Friday's win in Belmont.

South Point 51,**Burns 14****Burns 0 7 7 0 — 14****South Point 14 7 17 13 — 51****First quarter**

SP—Tanner Muse 32 interception return (Aaron Camp kick), 3:32.

SP—Jaquan Brooks 43 run (Camp kick), 0:01.4.

Second quarter

B—Scooter Colburn 7 pass from Chris Montgomery (Cody Dorsey kick), 10:59.

SP—Brooks 2 run (Camp kick), 4:39.

Third quarter

SP—Muse 44 run (Camp kick), 10:43.

B—Montgomery 3 run (Dorsey kick), 9:38.

SP—Tyler Bray 2 run (Camp kick), 6:13.

SP—FG Camp 26, 2:14.

Fourth quarter

SP—Trey Crenshaw 24 run (kick failed), 7:54.

SP—Diontree King 57 run (Camp kick), 3:48.

	B	SP
First downs	13	14
Rushes-yards	44-295	45-388
Passing yards	23	7
Total yards	318	395
Comp-Att-Int	6-16-2	1-5-1
Fumbles-lost	4-3	1-0
Penalties-yards	3-12	5-57
Punts-avg.	2-36.0	3-3-36.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Burns, Jalen King 16-199, Montgomery 19-57, Jaylin Hill 9-39. South Point, Brooks 15-145, King 4-81, Bray 16-71, Muse 3-52, Crenshaw 6-40, Team 1-minus 1.

PASSING—Burns, Montgomery 6-16-2 23. South Point, Brooks 1-5-1 7.

RECEIVING—Burns, Colburn 2-12, Hill 3-7, Reggie Schenck 1-4. South Point, King 1-7.