



WEEK 6 SCORES
 Hunter Huss 27, North Gaston 0
 South Point 34, East Gaston 14
 Ashbrook 48, Stuart Cramer 14
 Parkwood 55, Cherryville 13
 Shelby 27, Kings Mountain 7
 East Lincoln 48, Sandy 17
 Forestview 45, Lk Norman Charter 7
 Bessemer City 44, Highland Tech 0
 South Iredell 17, North Lincoln 14

More,
 4-5C

FRIDAY IS RED AGAIN

By Wendy Sparks for The Gazette
 Ben Washam ran for 69 yards in South Point's win over East Gaston on Friday.

RED RAIDERS TAKE BLACK FRIDAY FOR EIGHTH STRAIGHT YEAR

By Philip Gardner
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MOUNT HOLLY — East Gaston's Arrowhead Stadium attracted another capacity crowd for Friday's game against South Point, and both teams showed the intensity fans have come to expect in this rivalry.

For the eighth straight season, it was South Point that had more firepower as the Red Raiders rolled up 436 yards of offense in a 34-14 win in the Big South 2A/3A Conference opener for both teams.

"It's Black Friday. We've been hearing that this is their best team they've had in a while so we knew it was going to be a dog-fight coming in," South Point wingback/safety Tanner Muse said. "We just wanted

to get in the mindset of playing our hardest and our best should be good enough."

Muse, a Clemson commitment at safety, rushed for 154 yards and two touchdowns, scoring on plays of 18 and 57 yards. Fullback Ryland Elbertson gained 173 yards on 22 carries and three touchdowns on runs of two, 68 and two yards. Ben Washam added 69 rushing yards.

South Point quarterback Jaquan Brooks had missed practice Tuesday through Thursday with pneumonia but felt up to the task Friday. Brooks called his own number a season-low six times for 12 yards but directed South Point

(2-3, 1-0 Big South) to its second-highest offensive total of the season.

Meanwhile, South Point limited East Gaston (1-4, 0-1) to 247 yards (128 rushing, 119 passing) and forced three turnovers.

Donovan Stowe and Jeffrey Pearsall each intercepted a pass and Evan Preslopaky recovered a fumble as South Point won the turnover category 3-0. Pearsall nearly had another interception in the end zone, but officials ruled the ball hit the ground before he gained possession.

"It's just an intense game for us and we know we have to come out here and

show our fans and our families that East Gaston wasn't going to shock us on our senior year," Pearsall said. "We had to make sure we were prepared."

South Point held an 8-0 lead through one quarter on Muse's first touchdown run. Elbertson's first TD run made it 14-0 early in the second quarter before East Gaston got on the board and cut it to 14-7 on quarterback Alex Adams' 8-yard TD run at the 8:53 mark of the second quarter.

East Gaston put itself in position to pull into a tie just before halftime but Stowe made a leaping interception of Adams at the South Point 22. Had the ball been thrown just a bit higher, Nick Ferens would have likely scored on the play.

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Photos by Bill Ward/Special to The Gazette

South Point's Tanner Muse dives for a touchdown in Friday's win over East Gaston. The Red Raiders rushed for 429 yards in the win.

<< Raiders

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The interception proved to be crucial as Etherton ripped off a 68-yard TD run two plays later for a 20-7 lead with just 1:36 before the half.

"I felt like the intensity was there," East Gaston coach Sean Joyce said. "South Point is a good football team. Make no mistake about it. ... We are a good football team. We are, but we're shooting ourselves in the foot every week at crucial points."

South Point scored on its first possession of the second half on Muse's 57-yard run to take a 28-7 lead and the teams traded touchdowns after that.

Adams passed for 119 yards and rushed for 70 to lead East Gaston, which generated 17 first downs. Austin Woods caught six passes for 83 yards, including a 25-yard TD play



Alex Adams passed for 119 yards and ran for 70 in East Gaston's loss.

in the third quarter. Tyler Spurling carried seven times for 37 yards for the Warriors.

South Point hurt itself with 15 penalties for 130 yards compared to East Gaston's four penalties for 35 yards. Five of South Point's penalties were of the 15-yard variety.

"I thought (the intensity) was better, but we've got to learn that being physical doesn't mean unsportsmanlike (conduct), dead-ball fouls," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "We're going to eliminate that. That is not South Point High School football, and we're going to eliminate that."

With kicker Aaron Camp out with a pulled quad muscle, South Point attempted a two-point conversion after every touchdown. Camp had already missed the first three games with a hair-line vertebra fracture. Nick Farmer, the kicker earlier in the season, is playing on the junior varsity team.

Both teams are at home next week for conference games, South Point against Hunter Huss and East Gaston against Lake Norman Charter.

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South Point 34,

East Gaston 14

South Point 8 12 14 0 — 34

East Gaston 0 7 7 0 — 14

First quarter

SP—Tanner Muse 18 run (Jeffrey Pearsall run), 8:02.

Second quarter

SP—Ryland Etherton 2 run (run failed), 11:15.

EG—Alex Adams 8 run (Matt Marks kick), 8:53.

SP—Etherton 68 run (run failed), 1:36.

Third quarter

SP—Muse 57 run (Pearsall pass from Jaquan Brooks), 8:07.

EG—Austin Woods 25 pass from Adams (Marks kick), 3:52.

SP—Etherton 2 run (pass failed), 0:26.2.

	SP	EG
First downs	18	17
Rushes-yards	54-429	31-128
Passing yards	7	119
Total yards	436	247
Comp-Att-Int	1-1-0	13-23-2
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	15-130	4-35
Punts-avg.	3-30.3	2-35.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Point, Etherton

22-173, Muse 11-154, Ben

Washam 9-69, Nolan Wilson

2-16, Brooks 6-12, Pearsall 1-8,

Donovan Stowe 1-minus 1, Team

2-minus 2. East Gaston, Adams

17-70, Tyler Spurling 7-37, Woods

4-10, Nick Ferens 1-7, George

Miller 1-3, Dontavis Walker 1-1.

PASSING—South Point, Brooks

1-1-0 7. East Gaston, Adams

13-23-2 119.

RECEIVING—South Point, Wilson

1-7. East Gaston, Woods 6-83,

Nick Ferens 2-22, Spurling 4-9,

Walker 1-5.



Bill Ward/Special to The Gazette

East Gaston's Tyler Spurling runs during Friday's loss to South Point

