



Photo by Brian McPherson/Special to The Gazette

South Point's Ryland Etherton runs past Hunter Huss defenders on his way to the end zone Saturday night. The junior fullback rushed for 226 yards and four touchdowns to help South Point rumble past Huss 35-21.

CAREER HIGH

Etherton carries the load, Red Raiders beat Huskies

By Philip Gardner
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BELMONT — With Hunter Huss focusing its defensive efforts on quarterback Jaquan Brooks and wingback Tanner Muse, another player showed he can do plenty of damage, too.

Junior fullback Ryland Etherton rushed for 226 yards and four touchdowns to help South Point rumble past Hunter Huss 35-21 Saturday at Lineberger Stadium.

"Teams know Jaquan and Tanner can go to the house," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "They have proven themselves. Ryland is proving himself more every week."

Etherton, a first-year varsity player, carried 36 times on his way to a career-high yardage total and scored on runs of 1, 2, 22 and 1 yards. The 6-foot, 172-pounder also converted a pair of two-point conversion runs in a rare Saturday night high school game that was moved from Friday due to weather concerns.

"I had more time to get mentally prepared because with school you're focused on all your class work," Etherton said. "Today, I went home (after a morning walk-through) and got ready by listening to music and taking naps."

Brooks also wound up with big numbers, finishing with 134 yards on 13 carries — almost half of the yardage coming on a 62-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Brooks, weakened in the previous game following a bout with bronchitis, was back to full speed for this game and directed a 477-yard offense, the team's second-highest output this season. Paving the way were center Stephen Carriker, guards Matt Mellette and Jacob Justice, tackles Clay Julian and Nick Muse and tight ends West Russell and Connor Owenby.



South Point punter Nolan Wilson picks up a key first down on a fake punt.

South Point (3-3, 2-0 Big South 2A/3A Conference) evened its record after a tough non-conference slate and remained perfect in the Big South ahead of Friday's high-profile game at Ashbrook.

Hunter Huss (1-5, 1-1 Big South) topped 300 yards for a second straight week, accruing 328 yards (152 rushing, 176 passing). The Huskies, though, hurt themselves with a pair of turnovers, including a fumble on their way into the end zone early in the fourth quarter.

A touchdown on that play would have pulled Huss within one score, but instead South Point cashed in on the mistake by driving 11 plays for a touchdown. Hunter Huss also missed a field goal in the first quarter after recovering a Red Raider fumble on the South Point 33 on the game's second play.

"We've got to score when we get down in the red zone," Huss coach James McKay said. "We've got to capitalize on turnovers, which we didn't do. Also, our defensive line was

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kind of porous and needed some big stops and we were unable to get those big stops.”

South Point also fumbled on its second possession but got the ball back on the next play on an interception by J.T. Starr.

Etherton's first touchdown gave South Point a 6-0 lead at the 4:01 mark of the first quarter. Hunter Huss took the lead 88 seconds later on a 6-yard TD pass from Andrew Jordan to Maurice Smith and a two-point conversion run by Deandre Brown.

South Point scored on its next two drives courtesy of Etherton for a 22-8 lead and Hunter Huss cut it 22-15 just before halftime on a 25-yard TD pass from Jordan to Anwanez

Barnett.

Brooks' 62-yard TD run on South Point's first possession of the third quarter gave the Red Raiders a 28-15 lead. The lead swelled to 35-15 on Etherton's fourth TD at the 5:54 mark of the fourth quarter. Huss' Deon Eaddy scored the game's final touchdown on a 2-yard run with 1:44 remaining.

Jordan completed 14 of 22 passes for 176 yards with two touchdowns and an interception for Huss. Smith hauled in four catches for 69 yards, Eaddy finished with 65 yards on seven second-half carries and Brown gained 60 yards on 11 carries for Hunter Huss, which hosts East Gaston on Friday.

Tyler Hall led South Point's defensive effort with eight solo or first-hit tackles. Starr had six tackles to go along with his interception and

a fumble recovery. Tanner Muse forced a fumble.

For Huss, Marion Whitely forced a fumble and logged 12 solo or first-hit tackles. DelMonte McClure had 10 tackles, Brian Goodson eight and Da'shaun Currence six. Goodson also forced a fumble, Darion Thomasson and Isaiah Brown each recovered a fumble and Hafees Adams blocked an extra point attempt.

Thomas Jefferson 31, Highland Tech 12 — Josh Crawford scored on a pair of touchdown runs to lead Highland Tech (0-6), which opens Southern Piedmont 1A Conference action Friday at Pine Lake Prep. Highland Tech and Thomas Jefferson (4-2) will meet again Nov. 7 at Highland Tech in the conference meeting between the two.

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South Point 35, Hunter Huss 21

Hunter Huss 8 7 0 6 - 21

South Point 6 16 6 7 - 35

First quarter**SP**—Ryland Etherton 1 run (kick blocked), 4:01.**HH**—Maurice Smith 6 pass from Andrew Jordan (Deandre Brown run), 2:33.**Second quarter****SP**—Etherton 2 run (Etherton run), 8:27.**SP**—Etherton 22 run (Etherton run), 2:26.**HH**—Antwanez Barnett 25 pass from Jordan (Seth Jones kick), 1:10.**Third quarter****SP**—Jaquan Brooks 62 run (run failed), 9:37.**Fourth quarter****SP**—Etherton 1 run (Nick Farmer kick), 5:54.**HH**—Deon Eaddy 2 run (pass failed), 1:44.

	HH	SP
First downs	14	25
Rushes-yards	29-152	60-410
Passing yards	176	67
Total yards	328	477
Comp-Att-Int	14-22-1	2-2-0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	3-2
Penalties-yards	9-94	4-56
Punts-avg.	3-33.7	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Hunter Huss, Eaddy 7-65, Deandre Brown 11-60, Jaquavious Butler 7-15, Akeythio Carson 1-13, Jordan 3-minus 1. **South Point**, Etherton 36-226, Brooks 13-134, Ben Washam 6-33, Nolan Wilson 2-14, Tanner Muse 2-4, Team 1-minus 1.

PASSING—Hunter Huss, Jordan 14-22-1 176. **South Point**, Brooks 2-2-0 67.

RECEIVING—Hunter Huss, Smith 4-69, Barnett 3-42, Carson 3-41, Taylor Jordan 2-15, Channel Barrow 1-8, Jaquavious Butler 1-1. **South Point**, Washam 2-67.