

Sports

JAGGED BIG WIN

FORESTVIEW TAKES OVER FIRST
WITH OT THRILLER IN BELMONT

By Philip Canino
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BELMONT — Forestview's nemesis had just taken a one-touchdown lead, and there stood the Jaguars, 2½ minutes from falling victim to South Point yet again — for what would have been the 17th time in 18 all-time meetings.

Somehow, though, Forestview found a way to come from behind and slay the Big South giant.

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Forestview's Moe Neal catches a pass that set up a touchdown as South Point's J.T. Starr defends on the play during their game Friday night. Neal scored four touchdowns as the Jaguars ended South Point's county-record conference win streak of 29 games.

John Clark/The Herald



Gardner photos by John Clark

Forestview quarterback John Crawford throws a pass during their game against South Point Friday night.

<< Jaguars

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The Jaguars pieced together an 84-yard scoring drive to send the game into overtime, and then held South Point to a field goal on the first overtime possession before Moe Neal scored on a 4-yard run to give Forestview a dramatic 34-31 victory Friday at Lineberger Stadium.

"We fought hard. We didn't give up," Neal said. "That team hasn't been beaten in the conference since 2009, so we were hyped up for the game. We came out hard and played. I'm real proud of my guys."

Forestview (6-2, 4-0 Big South 2A/3A Conference) took sole possession of first place in the Big South with games against Ashbrook, Hunter Huss and East Gaston remaining. South Point (4-3, 3-1) saw its county-record conference winning streak end at 29 games.

South Point outgained Forestview 423-324 but committed three turnovers compared to none for the Jaguars.

Still, the Red Raiders had nearly overcome their misadventures when Jeffrey Purnell's 37-yard run with 2:39 remaining in regulation gave them a 26-21 lead.

But there was still fight left in a Forestview team that entered with the league's top-ranked offense. The game-tying drive included seven pass plays and four rushing. Neal's 4-yard TD catch from John Crawford capped off the series and pulled Forestview within a point with 18.3 seconds remaining.

The Jaguars initially lined up for a go-ahead two-point conversion but were flagged for illegal procedure and instead tied the game on Trey Heavener's extra-point kick.

In overtime, with both teams getting a possession from the 10, South Point reached the 3 on a pair of



South Point quarterback Jaquan Brooks breaks away from Forestview's Josh Freeman on a long touchdown run during their game against Friday night.

rushes by fullback Ryland Etherton and one rush by quarterback Jaquan Brooks. The Red Raiders settled for a 25-yard Max Neisler field goal, leaving the door open for Forestview.

Two Neal carries later, the highly recruited junior running back was in the end zone, setting off a wild Forestview celebration.

"I just got in there behind my linemen," Neal said. "My linemen had a great push and I just found a hole and stuck it up in there."

Neal finished with 103 yards and a pair of rushing touchdowns on 23 carries. Neal also caught four passes for 72 yards and two more touchdowns.

Crawford completed 13 of 21 passes for 178 yards and three touchdowns, with Neal, Caleb Mills (three catches, 50 yards), Montavis Rogers (three catches, 26 yards) and Isaiah Sanders (three catches, 22 yards, one TD) his targets. Sanders left in the first half with an apparent knee injury. Crawford also rushed for 22 yards, 21 of them on a third-and-20 play that set up a touchdown midway through the fourth quarter.

"Obviously the kids are excited and they should be," said Forestview coach Chris Medlin, a 1989 South Point graduate. "They played a heck of a game

against a good team. It was a tough-fought game and back-and-forth. ... They played their hearts out."

Brooks rushed for 106 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown run, and completed all five of his passes for 107 yards for South Point. Clemson commitment Tanner Muse caught a 61-yard touchdown pass from Brooks and carried 10 times for 69 yards. Etherton carried 28 times for 67 yards and a touchdown for the Red Raiders, whose last conference loss came in 2009 at Forestview.

"It really killed our boys to lose. I mean, it tore them up," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "We're used to winning. Our habit is winning and we're just going to have to go back to work come Monday and start putting some things together and try to get it done again."

South Point's remaining conference games are against Lake Norman Charter, North Gaston and Stuart Granger. The Red Raiders will need to win out and Forestview to lose a game to have a chance at sharing the league title and extend their seven-year conference championship streak.

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Forestview 34,

South Point 31

Forestview 6 8 0 14 6 — 34

South Point 7 7 7 7 3 — 31

First quarter

F—Isaiah Sanders 16 pass from John Crawford (kick failed), 6:32.

SP—Jaquan Brooks 54 run (Max Neisler kick), 4:52.

Second quarter

SP—Tanner Muse 61 pass from Brooks (Neisler kick), 9:49.

F—Moe Neal 34 pass from Crawford (Crawford run), 5:12.

Third quarter

SP—Ryland Etherton 1 run (Neisler kick), 4:54.

Fourth quarter

F—Moe Neal 3 run (Heavener kick), 5:26.

SP—Jeffrey Pearsall 37 run (Neisler kick), 2:39.

F—Neal 4 pass from Crawford (Heavener kick), 0:18.3.

Overtime

SP—FG Neisler 25

F—Neal 4 run (no attempt)

	F	SP
First downs	16	19
Rushes-yards	32-154	63-316
Passing yards	170	107
Total yards	324	423
Comp-Att-Int	13-21-0	5-5-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	3-3
Penalties-yards	6-48	6-75
Punts-avg.	2-38.0	0-0.0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Forestview, Neal 23-103, Montavis Rogers 5-26, Crawford 2-22, Sanders 1-4, Team 1-minus 1. South Point, Brooks 14-106, Muse 10-69, Etherton 28-67, Pearsall 3-50, Ben Washam 6-25, Nolan Wilson 1-0, Team 1-minus 1.

PASSING—Forestview, Crawford 13-21-0 170. South Point, Brooks 5-5-0 107.

RECEIVING—Forestview, Neal 4-72, Caleb Mills 3-50, Rogers 3-26, Sanders 3-22. South Point, Muse 1-61, Pearsall 2-23, Etherton 1-18, Wilson 1-5.