

Raiders roll past Concord

South Point gets its
revenge with upset
of unbeaten Spiders

By Richard Walker

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CONCORD — South Point High coach Mickey Lineberger has been around the Red Raiders' storied football program since the school opened in 1969.

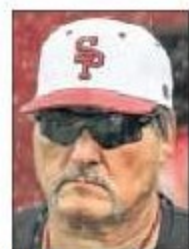
So when Lineberger calls any victory "one of the biggest in history," you can bet he has some historical perspective on such things.

And that's exactly what he told his team Friday night after a 37-21 N.C. Class 3A playoff win at Concord.

"Our kids just really executed well," said Line-

berger, whose team avenged a 21-13 third-round loss to Concord at the same Smith Field at Bailey Stadium location a year ago. "They got our best tonight, but our best is still yet to come."

South Point (9-4) hosts No. 15-seeded East Rowan in next Friday's Western N.C. 3A semifinals. East Rowan pulled its second straight road upset win Friday night with a 37-21 victory.



Lineberger

Friday night with a 27-21 victory at No. 7 West Henderson.

In the South Point victory, the Red Raiders took charge from the outset with a ball-control offense, but senior quarterback Jaquan Brooks applied the knockout punch with two plays in the second half.

Holding a 21-7 halftime lead, Brooks scored on runs of 83 and 58 yards, respectively, on South Point's first two plays of the second half to increase its lead to 35-7 with 7:01 left in the third quarter.

"We were in our tight end sets," said Brooks, who finished with 256 yards and three touchdowns on 13 carries. "And I faked to the fullback and tackle Clay Julen and wingback Ben Washam pulled and left giant holes. We got great blocking from our offensive line all night."

For Brooks, the revenge was doubly sweet as he was held to negative 7 yards rushing in last year's season-ending defeat.

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"Coach Lineberger told us all week long to think, 'Revenge! Revenge! Revenge!'" said Brooks, who had another 58-yard TD run in the first half.

The rest was up to a gang-tackling defense that yielded 415 yards of total offense — including 151 rushing to University of Tennessee recruit Rocky Reid — but kept the Spiders out of the end zone much of the night.

"That group played really well and really chased the football all night long," Lineberger said of his defense. "We beat a really good football team."

For previously unbeaten Concord (12-1), quarterback Keenan Black's 173 yards passing and Reid's rushing led the way.

South Point's defense was led by Mike Hayes' 10 solo or first-hit tackles, Tanner Muse's eight, Tyler Hall's six and five each from Jeffrey Pearsall and Yale Loucks. Also, freshman lineman Phillip Davis tackled Reid in the end zone for a fourth-quarter safety that accounted for South Point's final points.

Muse, a Clemson football recruit, also had 40 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Fullback Ryland Etherton was the perfect complement to Brooks' running game with 112 yards and one touchdown in 29 carries.

The Red Raiders finished with 448 yards of total offense in 57 plays.

"We played a lot of keep-away there in the first half," said Brooks, whose team ran 35 snaps in the opening half. "That's just like coach Lineberger says he likes it — eight-minute drives."

South Point 37,

Concord 21

South Point 7 14 14 2 — 37

Concord 0 7 7 7 — 21

First quarter

SP—Tanner Muse 18 run (Max Neisler kick), 2:05.

Second quarter

SP—Ryland Etherton 2 run (Neisler kick), 6:59.

C—Rocky Reid 13 run (Marisa James kick), 5:19.

SP—Jaquan Brooks 58 run (Neisler kick), 5:04.

Third quarter

SP—Brooks 83 run (Neisler kick), 8:56.

SP—Brooks 58 run (Neisler kick), 7:01.

C—Haywood Forte 7 run (James kick), 1:17.

Fourth quarter

SP—Safety, Phillip Davis tackles Reid in end zone, 11:41.

C—Reid 6 run (James kick), 3:21.

	SP	C
First downs	17	21
Rushes-yards	53-428	41-242
Passing yards	20	173
Total yards	448	415
Comp-Att-Int	2-4-0	13-24-1
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-yards	5-55	7-66
Punts-avg.	3-41.7	3-40.7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Point, Brooks 13-256, Etherton 29-112, Muse 7-40, Ben Washam 2-20, Nolan Wilson 1-1, Team 1-minus 1. Concord, Reid 24-151, Forte 7-43, Keenan Black 7-38, Carter Mozingo 3-10.

PASSING—South Point, Brooks 2-4-0 20. Concord, Black 13-24-1 173.

RECEIVING—South Point, Washam 1-10, Wilson 1-10. Concord, Jadon Dodson 4-70, Hamsah Nasirildeen 4-44, Tristan McIntyre 2-29, Mozingo 2-19, Drew Yoos 1-11.