

No Raider rally in clash vs. Crest

South Point shut out in second half

By Alan Ford

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Opening night football action, like a box of chocolates, is always a surprise. As Forrest Gump used to say: 'You never know what you're going to get.'

When Crest and South Point tangled on the Sid Bryson Stadium turf Friday night, it was a pair of heralded programs not wanting to give an inch in one of the better rivalries in the area. Just like in their fierce 3A semifinal tussle a year ago, one or two big plays turned the tide.

This time, the host Chargers made more of those and opened their state title defense with a 31-13 triumph.

It was 21-13 though midway

through the fourth quarter when freshman Evan Davis drilled a 35-yard field goal to put Crest ahead by more than one score.

"He was a cool guy out there," first-year Crest coach Will Clark said of Davis after his initial win at the helm. "That was a big field goal for us and he also hit his extra points. Nothing has really bothered him out there."

Then with less than three minutes remaining, the visiting Red Raiders drove to the 11 only to have Charger senior Tyriek Ramseur step in front of a Diontre King pass and sail 95 yards the other way to put it out of reach.

"That was a 14-point turnaround, that's the only thing that bothers me," Red Raider head coach Mickey Lineberger said.

"Our quarterback was giving it his all, but he tried to make something happen and force it in there."

The first half featured turnovers and big plays as Crest established a 21-13 edge. The second half saw the defenses make their stand. That was especially important for the Chargers, who after allowing a 70-yard scoring drive before the half to the Red Raiders, came out and stopped South Point on the first series in the third period.

"You have to give our defensive staff credit," Clark said. "We challenged (the defense) and we took their best shot."

"The hardest part for us right now we have to realize this is not the 2014 team, it's 2015 and we've got to develop our own m.o. which we hope will be making big plays at big times."

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Hannah Covington/Halifax Media Services

Crest's Tyshun Odom, left, tries to make a catch while South Point's Jake Alexander attempts to defend Friday night at Crest. The Red Raiders fell, 31-13, to the Chargers in the season opener.

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The Chargers had consistency issues on offense. Willie Green II had some big runs from his quarterback position trying to take some of the attention away from Tre Harbison. And a 65-yard touchdown sweep by Wesley Bullard, plus a pair of first-half touchdowns from Harbison, had Crest ahead at the break.

"We moved it good from 30-to-30," Clark said, "but then we'd try some of the things we want to do, and we had some things we'll have to deal with."

South Point got its 'red-bone' option game going at times, with King doing a lot of the damage, especially on the drive before the half ending in a Ryland Ethernorton one-yard touchdown. Earlier the Red Raiders scored after Crest fumbled a punt at its own three.

"It was a typical first game," South Point's Lineberger said. "At times we executed and got into a good rhythm and were able to drive and score. But then we'd get something going and miss one block and you have to take your hat off to Crest, one of their guys would make a play."

Both teams will have tough tasks again next week on the road with Crest visiting Ashbrook and South Point traveling to Lincoln.

South Point at Crest

South Point 7 6 0 0 — 13
Crest 7 14 0 10 — 31

First quarter

SP—Diontree King 3 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 8:36

C—Wesley Bullard 65 run (Evan Davis kick), 0:24.1

Second quarter

C—Tre Harbison 3 run (Davis kick), 7:19

C—Harbison 38 run (Davis kick), 5:10

SP—Ryland Etherton 1 run (Kick failed), 0:41.9

Fourth quarter

C—Evan Davis 35 FG, 7:01

C—Tyriek Ramseur 95 interception return (Davis kick), 2:22

	SP	Crest
First downs	10	13
Rushes-yards	50-175	34-216
Passing yards	16	66
Total yards	191	284
Comp-Att-Int	2-10-1	5-11-0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-yards	1-5	2-20
Punts-avg.	7-31.4	4-33

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—SP: Ryland Etherton 25-85, Diontree King 17-78, Ben Washam 6-23, Nolan Wilson 1-2, Team 1-minus 13. **C:** Tre Harbison 17-76, Wesley Bullard 2-73, Willie Green II 12-61, Cam Peeler 1-3, Keron Lowe 1-3, Devonte Huskey 1-2.

PASSING—SP: King 2-10-1 16. **C:** Green II 5-11-0 66.

RECEIVING—SP: Davis Ray 1-12, Nolan Wilson 1-5. **C:** Tyshun Odom 3-35, Devonte Huskey 1-28, Bullard 1-3.