

Red Raiders dominate in second half

By Phillip Gardner
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LINCOLNTON — He was joking, but you could almost believe him considering how the game went.

South Point coach Mickey Lineberger kidded that he substituted the entire defensive unit in the second half. Actually, they were the same guys, only playing with more energy, purpose and effectiveness as they shut down Lincolnton in the second half and emerged with a 42-20 win Friday night at Von Ray Harris Field.

"The adjustments plus the intensity level — it was like different people," Lineberger said after his Red Raiders (1-1) picked up their first win of the young season.

As helpless as could be in the first half, South Point's defense held Lincolnton to 40 yards in the second half. This was a Lincolnton team that piled up 62 points against North Lincoln last week and ran all over the Red Raiders in the first half to the tune of 207 yards on a whopping 38 plays for a 20-14 halftime lead.

Lincolnton's second half, though, went like this: three-and-out, interception, punt, punt, end of game.

"It was all about the effort," said South Point linebacker Nick Muse, whose 37-yard interception return to the Lincolnton 5 set up a fourth-quarter touchdown. "We did the exact same thing. It's just we went from not tackling to tackling and not being ready to ready."

<< Raiders

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The Wolves (1-1) managed only three first downs in the second half and didn't advance past their own 37.

Meanwhile, South Point's Red Bone offense kept rolling just as it did in the first half. Fullback Ryland Etherton rushed for 155 yards and three touchdowns on 23 carries. Quarterback Diontreia King added 109 yards and

two touchdowns rushing. Nolan Wilson scored the other touchdown on a 6-yard run.

The Red Raiders finished with 333 yards — all on the ground with three incomplete passes. South Point didn't punt the entire game. The only thing that stopped the Red Bone was the first half clock and a late fourth-quarter fumble.

South Point didn't take its first lead until a 65-yard touchdown drive to start the third quarter.

Wilson's TD run and Thomas Lempereur's extra point put the Red Raiders ahead 21-20 and that was all they would've needed given the defensive performance.

Lincolnton was led by Tarus Dameron's 85 rushing yards and a touchdown. Xavier McClain added 65 rushing yards while quarterback Cordel Littlejohn threw for 66 yards, with five of his completions going to Langdon Givens for 59 yards — all in the first half.

SOUTH POINT AT LINCOLNTON

South Point 7 7 14 14 — 42

Lincolnton 7 13 0 0 — 20

First quarter

L—Tarus Dameron 3 run (Sam Taylor kick), 6:15.

SP—Diontrea King 17 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 1:04.

Second quarter

L—Jordon Easter 3 run (Taylor kick), 6:03.

SP—Ryland Etherton 39 run (Lempereur kick), 4:31.

L—Willie Cobb 1 run (run failed), 0:34.

Third quarter

SP—Nolan Wilson 6 run (Lempereur kick), 7:52.

SP—Etherton 5 run (Lempereur kick), 2:01.

Fourth quarter

SP—Etherton 5 run (Lempereur kick), 11:42.

SP—King 5 run (Lempereur kick), 7:44.

	SP	L
First downs	19	17
Rushes-yards	51-333	46-181
Passing yards	0	66
Total yards	333	247
Comp-Att-Int	0-3-0	6-10-1
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-34	4-40
Punts-avg.	0-0	3-36.7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—SP: Ryland Etherton 23-155, Diontrea King 16-109, Ometrick Leeper 4-40, Ty Tinker 5-15, Scottie Lee 2-8, Wilson 1-6. **L:** Tarus Dameron 17-85, Xavier McClain 14-65, Willie Cobb 4-20, Cordel Littlejohn 6-7, Quentin Hill-Jones 2-3, Jordon Easter 3-1.

PASSING—SP, King 0-3-0 0. **L:** Littlejohn 6-10-1 66.

RECEIVING—SP, none. **L:** Langdon Givens 5-59, Christian Byrd 1-7.