



Mike Hensdill

East Gaston's Tyler Spurling, top, tries to avoid a tackle by South Point's Nick Farmer during the Red Raiders' 45-13 win Monday.

TRIPPED UP

Raiders wear down Warriors,

"A lot of times people will
and we sort of wear them down
what we do in our offense
Point coach Mickey Lineberger

score 31 unanswered in win

By Jack Flagler

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BELMONT — Four yards a clip.

That's the standard by which the South Point offense measures itself. Pick up four yards on every carry, and the chains will keep moving, the clock will keep running and, maybe most importantly, the opposing defense will stay on the field.

"That's what we go by here," South Point senior quarterback Diontre King said. "Four yards a clip and you'll never punt."

South Point averaged much more than four yards a carry in its 45-13 win

over East Gaston at home in Belmont Monday night, but the same principle applied. The Red Raiders offense wore down the Warrior line on the ground, pounding the ball with King on the outside and senior fullback Ryland Etherton up the middle to turn what started as a close game into an easy win.

King ran for 227 yards on 17 carries and two touchdowns, while Etherton added 160 yards on 16 carries with three scores. As a team, the Red Raiders gained 425 yards on the ground on 48 tries. That's 8.85 yards per carry — more than double South Point's four yards a clip goal.

Point coach Mickey Etherton. "We just grind on them. We don't let anybody going both ways, we just grind on people that do."

South Point scored first in the first quarter when Etherton punched in a touchdown at the 7:28 mark of the first quarter. But for the first half, the Warriors stayed right with their rivals. Adams hit Nick Ferens on a touchdown late in the first quarter to tie the score. When Etherton ran again on the next drive, the Warriors showed off a bit of trickery to get the ball back — Ferens found a wide receiver, Abernethy on a wide receiver, and Etherton halfway through the second half, South Point trailed 14-13.

Adams eclipsed the 100-yard mark.

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passing in the first half, but in the second, the South Point defense buckled down. Nick Muse picked off Adams at the 1-yard line on East Gaston's opening drive in the third quarter as the Warriors looked to tie, and South Point responded with an eight-play, 98-yard touchdown drive to put the game away in the third.

In the second half, Adams was 8 for 15 with two interceptions and 44 yards. Muse said the defensive focus was much better for South Point later in the game.

"I'm not sure if we were focused or not, but we were kind of lazy on the field, and then we finally made up for it," said the senior linebacker. "We made plays and just switched the game around."

South Point will take on Hunter Huss on the road Friday on a short week. The Huskies defeated North Gaston, 22-12, Monday night. East Gaston will face Lake Norman Charter on the road, as running back Robert Washington potentially could play in his first game of the season.



Mike Hensdill/The Gazette

East Gaston's Tanner Drum, left, chases after South Point quarterback Diontrea King during Monday's game.

EAST GASTON AT SOUTH POINT

East Gaston 7 6 0 0 — 13

South Point 7 14 14 10 — 45

First quarter

SP — Ryland Etherton 4 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 7:28

EG — Nick Ferens 25 pass from Alex Adams (Jordan Helms kick), 2:16

Second quarter

SP — Etherton 4 run (Lempereur kick), 11:56

EG — JC Abernethy 58 pass from Ferens (kick failed), 6:42

SP — Nick Muse 43 pass from Diontre King (Lempereur kick), 4:10

Third quarter

SP — Etherton 19 run (Lempereur kick), 4:38

SP — King 3 run (Lempereur kick), 0:29.6

Fourth quarter

SP — King 51 run (Lempereur kick), 8:40

SP — Lempereur 36 field goal, 6:13

	SP	EG
First downs	16	13
Rushes-yards	48-425	19-39
Passing yards	75	257
Total yards	500	296
Comp-Att-Int	4-7-0	22-34-3
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	11-105	6-50
Punts-avg.	1-16	3-18.33

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — **SP**: Diontre King 17-227, Ryland Etherton 17-160, Ometrick Leeper 10-33, Nolan Wilson 1-7, Scottie Lee 3-minus 2. **EG**: Alex Adams 10-19, Tyler Spurling 6-16, Malik Davis 3-4

PASSING — **SP**: King 4-7-0 75. **EG**: Adams 20-32-3 173, Nick Ferens 2-2-0 84

RECEIVING — **SP**: Nick Muse 2-53, Nathan Silver 2-22. **EG**: JC Abernethy 8-123, Ferens 4-64, Spurling 7-39, Nash Jamison 2-28, Davis 1-3