



Brian C. Mayhew/Special to The Gazette

South Point fullback Ryland Etherton breaks a Forestview tackle and finds the end zone during the Red Raiders' 34-7 win Friday at Forestview.

Raiders still perfect in Big South after rout of Jaguars

By Jack Flagler

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GASTONIA — The sack Mike Hayes made in the third quarter may not have been the biggest play of the game, but it was perhaps the most emblematic of the way things went for South Point Friday night.

On a Forestview 4th-and-goal from the 8-yard line, Hayes busted through the line and wrapped up Jaguar quarterback Colton Guthrie. The Forestview senior had taken a quick drop from the shotgun, but he had little time to find a receiver in the end zone. In an instant, Hayes had wrapped up Guthrie's ankles and drove him into the Forestview stadium turf for a sack.

South Point was already up 28-0 at that point as the third quarter wound down, thanks in large part to Hayes and the rest of the Red Raiders front seven.

"I was hyped," Hayes, a 5-10, 210-pound defensive end admitted after the game of his reaction to the play. "It was exciting."

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South Point held Forestview to 58 rushing yards while forcing four turnovers Friday night in Gastonia, earning a convincing 34-7 victory over the Jaguars and avenging last year's loss in the same matchup.

"We've been waiting on this game for about 365 days," said South Point coach Mickey Lineberger. "We didn't play our best and our kids knew that. That helped us get going in the playoffs later, and this year our kids wanted to come out and play like they could."

The game got off to a wild start on both sides. On their first drive, the Red Raiders fumbled the ball and turned it over to Forestview, but two plays later the Jaguars gave it back on another fumble. South Point marched 25 yards into the end zone as Diontrea King scored from four yards out less than four minutes in, and South Point never looked back.

King finished with 122 yards on 23 carries with two touchdowns, while senior fullback Ryland Etherton had 75 yards on 13 carries for two scores. Forestview sold out to stop Etherton, stacking defenders up the middle near the line of scrimmage, which opened up the edge for South Point throughout the game.

"That's part of the triple option. If they take me out, it opens up (Diontrea) and our wing backs, and then if they shut down (Diontrea), it opens me up," Etherton said.

King added a 33-yard touchdown pass in the game, hitting a wide open Davis Ray in the middle of the third quarter to

put the Red Raiders up 28-0.

"You can take one phase away and sometimes you can take two, but you can't take all three of them," Lineberger said. "And then you throw a little bit of passing game in there, that's good, too."

Forestview running back Moe Neal finished the game with 13 yards on 14 carries. The Jaguars did their best to get the Syracuse commit involved in the passing game — he made five receptions for 67 yards and a touchdown — but South Point, for the most part, shut down the Jaguars' offense by getting pressure to the quarterback with a pass rush of just three or four linemen. Etherton said the defense's performance made the offense work better Friday night.

"It makes it a whole lot easier. It takes the stress off, and our defense was working hard all week. They shut down a good running back and a really good offense. By them doing that, it gave us momentum on offense, too," he said.

Forestview (4-4, 3-1) trailed by two touchdowns at the half before going three and out as Hayes picked up one of his two sacks in the game on the first possession of the third quarter. South Point (6-2, 4-0) then went on a seven-play, 55-yard drive to follow to take control of the game.

"I thought the first drive after halftime was going to be important for us, and we came out and went backwards. That was kind of a momentum shift," said Forestview coach Chris Medlin. "They went and scored. We went down 21-0, it's hard to climb out of that hole."

Forestview will take on Ashbrook next week, while South Point takes on Lake Norman Charter.

FORESTVIEW VS. SOUTH POINT

South Point 7 7 14 6 — 34
Forestview 0 0 0 7 — 7

First quarter

SP — Diontreia King 4 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 8:12

Second quarter

SP — Ryland Etherton 28 run (Lempereur kick), 2:56

Third quarter

SP — King 3 run (Lempereur kick), 7:09

SP — Davis Ray 33 reception from King (Lempereur kick),
6:50

Fourth quarter

F — Moe Neal 10 reception from Colton Guthrie (Dylan
Disarro kick), 7:29

SP — Etherton 1 run (kick blocked), 2:28

	SP	Fv
First downs	15	12
Rushes-yards	51-319	30-58
Passing yards	36	184
Total yards	355	242
Comp-Att-Int	2-3-0	15-33-2
Fumbles-lost	3-2	3-2
Penalties-yards	3-20	6-47
Punts-avg.	3-29	5-38.6

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — **SP:** King 24-122, Etherton 13-75, Nolan
Wilson 9-43, Ometrick Leeper 2-56, Ty Tinker 3-23. **Fv:**
Neal 13-13, Trell McCaskill 4-19, Guthrie 12-26.

PASSING — **SP:** King 2-3-0, 36. **Fv:** Guthrie 15-32-2,
184. McCaskill 0-1-0 0.

RECEIVING — **SP:** Wilson 1-3, Davis Ray 1-33. **Fv:** Neal
5-67, Saveon Falls 3-27, McCaskill 4-50, Jared Carter 2-27,
Josh Green 1-13.