

Raiders move within victory of 15th unbeaten league record

By Richard Walker
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DALLAS — South Point High's football program has recently been known for its efficiency out of the triple-option offensive attack.

On Friday night, the Red Raiders put on a clinic in that regard in a 42-0 victory at North Gaston that moved South Point within one victory of a 15th perfect conference record in the school's 47-year history.

The Red Raiders scored on their first three drives of the first half and on three of their first four drives of the second half to

improve to 8-2 overall and 6-0 in the Big South 2A/3A Conference.

South Point, which wrapped up its 21st conference regular season title last week, can claim its first perfect league record since the 2013 season. The Red Raiders previously have gone 9-0 in the 1971, 1973, 1979 and 1984 seasons, 7-0 in the 2003 season and 6-0 in the 1999, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 seasons.

"I thought we played well tonight," said South Point coach Mickey Lineberger, whose team closes its regular season at home next Friday against Stuart

Cramer. "Our intensity level was really good and I thought we executed really well."

Senior quarterback Diontreas King and senior fullback Ryland Ebertson led the way for a 491-yard offensive attack.

King had 192 yards and two touchdowns on nine carries rushing and added 88 yards (on four-of-seven passing) and a touchdown throw of 54 yards to Davis Ray. And Ebertson had 174 yards and two touchdowns in 17 carries. Ometrick Loeper also had a touchdown run for South Point.

Defensively, a gang-tackling Red Raiders' defense limited

North Gaston to 123 yards on 52 plays. Tyler Hall had 11 solo or first-hit tackles and Toby Stapel, Nick Muse and Matthew Robinson five apiece.

"In all three phases of the game, this was probably our best game," Lineberger said.

North Gaston's best chance to push the Red Raiders came on a 16-play, 52-yard drive that began in the first quarter and ended in the second quarter. But Stapel tackled Wildcats quarterback Ethan Wiggins two yards shy of a first down on the South Point 29 on a fourth-and-seven play. And the Red Raiders took the

turnover and marched 71 yards to increase their lead to 21-0.

"We just couldn't finish that drive," said Wildcats coach Mike Patton, whose 3-7, 1-5 team closes its regular season next Friday at home against Lake Norman Charter. "They're a really physical, aggressive team. To be competitive, we've got to match that. And they got the better of us."

Wiggins led North Gaston's offense with 65 yards rushing and 26 yards passing. Jarquane Elder had eight solo or first-hit tackles, with Lathan Blumgarner adding six and Jordan Beaver and Dylan Betts five apiece.

SOUTH POINT 42, NORTH GASTON 0

South Point..... 14 7 7 14 — 42

North Gaston 0 0 0 0 — 0

SCORING SUMMARY**First quarter****SP** — Diontreia King 1 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 9:16.**SP** — Davis Ray 54 pass from King (Lempereur kick), 5:08.**Second quarter****SP** — Ryland Etherton 20 run (Lempereur kick), 6:07.**Third quarter****SP** — King 17 run (Lempereur kick), 6:56.**Fourth quarter****SP** — Etherton 1 run (Lempereur kick), 11:56.**SP** — Ometrick Leeper 10 run (Lempereur kick), 5:28.

	SP	NG
First downs	15	9
Rushes-yards	40-403	40-97
Passing yards	88	26
Total yards	491	123
Comp-Att-Int	4-9-0	4-12-0
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	8-80	6-45
Punts-avg.	0-0	4-36.8

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — **SP**: Nolan Wilson 3-3, Ryland Etherton 17-174, Diontreia King 9-192, Ty Tinker 2-0, Mario Brandon 1-2, Jake Alexander 4-14, Scottie Lee 3-8, Ometrick Leeper 1-10. **NG**: Prince Fox 12-19, Kade Christian 1-minus 2, Ethan Wiggins 20-65, Rakeem Brown 5-13, Quadray Watson 2-2.

PASSING — **SP**: King 4-7-0 88, Wilson 0-2-0 0. **NG**: Wiggins 4-12-0 26.

RECEIVING — **SP**: Davis Ray 1-54, Brandon 1-20, Wilson 1-10, Nathan Silver 1-4. **NG**: Brae Wooten 1-10, Watson 2-15, Brown 1-1.