Streak snapped

South Point fullback Jake Alexander busts through the line of scrimmage for a first down in the third quarter of Friday night's game. PHOTOS BY BRIAN MAYHEW/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

South Point rolls past Crest, ends nation's seventh-longest win streak

By Richard Walker
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BELMONT — Entering Friday's season-opener, Crest was considered an overwhelming favorite to extend its school- and county-record 32-game winning streak at South Point, which had lost 24 seniors off a N.C. 3A runner-up team of a year ago.

But the South Point team that was consid-

South Point took charge from the outset, getting points on four of its five first-half possessions to take a 20-0 halftime lead.

Crest appeared to gain some momentum with a scoring drive to open the second half before a self-inflicted mistake cost the Chargers whatever chance they may have had for making a comeback.

Trailing 20-6 midway through the third quarter, it appeared Crest would have a first-and-goal at the South Point 3 after a 46-yard pass from Cameron Peeler to Tyshun Odom. But Odom was flagged for "illegal touching" after running out of bounds on the sideline and returning into play to make the catch.

ered too slow, too small and too inexperienced rolled to a 27-12 victory over Crest at Lineberger Stadium.

Not only did the loss end Crest's winning streak that was tied for the seventh-longest in the country entering this season, but it showed that reports of South Point's demise had been greatly exaggerated.

"I think it was a total team effort," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "We played as hard as we can play. We knew coming into this game that in 50 years, people would talk us breaking that streak.

"We had a lot of guys really step up and play their hearts out."

South Point's ball-control "Red Bone" triple-option offense couldn't have been more efficient as the Red Raiders churned for 254 yards and 15 first downs on 70 plays.

Fullback Jake Alexander and quarterback Scottie Lee, both making their first starts in South Point's intricate offense, looked like veterans. Alexander picked up 131 yards and one touchdown on 40 carries and Lee rushed for 26 yards and one touchdown on eight carries and passed for 62 more yards and a touchdown to Nick Muse.

"Coach Lineberger has them play a tough brand of football," said Crest coach Will Clark, who went 16-0 last year in his first season as head coach. "And it was tough for us to defend, especially our sophomores and juniors who hadn't seen it before. You just can't simulate it in practice and we had a hard time.

"Give South Point and coach Lineberger and his staff credit. They did a great job preparing their team tonight. And I didn't do a good job having my team prepared."

returning into play to make the catch.

The penalty turned first-and-goal at the South Point 3 into first-and-25 from Crest's own 36.

And when Crest was forced to punt, the Red Raiders responded with a 14-play, 65-yard drive that lasted into the fourth quarter to make it 27-6 — and end whatever doubt remained about the game's outcome.

"Our kids have worked hard all summer long," said Lineberger, whose team was the preseason favorite to win the BigSouth 2A/3A Conference but considered an underdog in Friday's game. "This is the kind of game that shows you tradition never graduates."

In addition to the offensive standouts, South Point's defense got five solo or first-hit tackles from Matthew Robinson and Phillip Davis and four from Mario Brandon, Muse and Nolan Cochran. Three of Davis' tackles were sacks and Brandon had a pass interception and Cochran a fumble recovery and a quarterback sack.

For Crest, which had won 46 of 47 games entering the contest, Peeler had 77 yards passing and a 5-yard touchdown run and directed a 145-yard offensive attack. The Chargers' defense was led by Jeremiah Boykins (nine tackles), Justin Foster (nine), Tavian Brintley (seven) and Rae-Kwon Turner (six).

"I'm glad the kids have the pressure of 32-0 off their backs," Clark said. "You can talk to them about being 0-0 all you want but you still have to play the games. We're still going to be a good football team. But they're going to need to put their nose to the grindstone so we can do that."

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SOUTH POINT 27, CREST 12

Score By Quarter	1	2	3	4	F
SOUTH POINT	14	6	0	7	27
CREST	0	0	6	6	12

Scoring Summary:

First quarter
SP—Scottie Lee 4 run (Thomas Lempereur kick)
3:32
SP—Nick Muse 20 pass from Lee (Lempereur kick)
0:24.1

Second quarter
SP—Lempereur 30 FG
4:44
SP—Lempereur 24 FG
0:00

Third quarter
C—Davion Pryor 2 run (Kick blocked)
9:58

Fourth quarter
SP—Jake Alexander 1 run (Lempereur kick)
8:00
C—Cameron Peeler 5 run (Pass failed)
3:56

Team Stats:

	South Point	Crest
First downs	10	15
Rushes-yards	24-68	60-192
Passing yards	77	62
Total yards	145	254
Comp-Att-Int	8-19-2	5-10-1
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	4-32	4-45

South Point Individual Stats

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Jake Alexander	40	131	1
Scottie Lee	8	26	1
Ty Tinker	8	37	0
Caleb Gibson	1	3	0
Team	3	-5	0

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Scottie Lee	5	10	62	1	1

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Nick Muse	2	38	1
Nathan Silver	2	17	0
Ty Tinker	1	7	0

Crest Individual Stats

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Ty McLaurin	7	29	0
Cameron Peeler	12	10	1
Tavian Brintley	3	4	0
Davion Pryor	2	25	1

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Cameron Peeler	8	19	77	0	2

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Wesley Bullard	3	10	0
Tyshun Odom	3	25	0
Jarius Strong	2	42	0