

PREP FOOTBALL: LINCOLNTON 25, SOUTH POINT 24 (OT)

Wolves win wild one



Lincolnton's Xavier McClain breaks away from South Point's Nick Muse to score a touchdown on the first play from scrimmage during their game Friday night at South Point High School in Belmont. PHOTOS BY MIKE HENSILL/THE GAZETTE

Overtime 2-point conversion gives Lincolnton victory in Belmont

By Phillip Gardner
sports@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — There was never any doubt Lincolnton would go for two if the situation presented itself in overtime. The play itself? Now, that might have been the tricky part.

It all worked out as Tyreke Hollis hauled in a pass from Cordel Littlejohn for the winning two-point conversion in overtime as the Wolves left



over time as the Wolves left South Point with a 25-24 win Friday night.

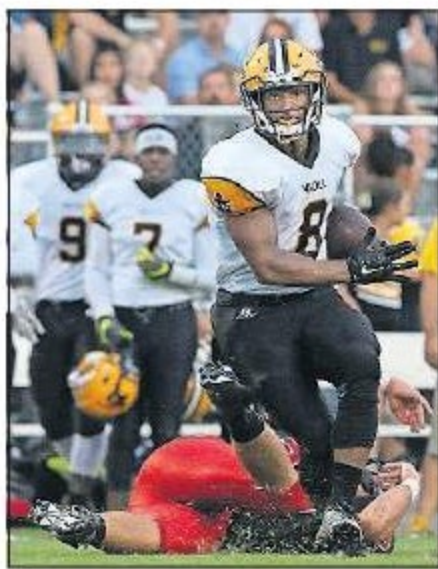
"We just drew it up," Hollis said of the final play, which saw Littlejohn scramble in the backfield just long enough for Hollis to free himself in the middle of the end zone.

After Lincolnton (2-0) drew within a point on Littlejohn's 7-yard touchdown run on second down, an injury delay gave the Wolves some extra time to contemplate their next move. Then, after they lined up for a two-point conversion rather than an extra-point kick, South Point called timeout to talk things over. Offensive coordinator Zack Gibson began to second-guess himself on the play, but the Wolves stuck with the plan.

"We've got three, four athletes out there," Lincolnton head coach Ledford Gibson said during the timeout. "Draw something up and they can move around in the back of the end zone. We can find



South Point quarterback Scottie Lee scores a rushing touchdown in the first half of Friday's game against Lincolnton.



Lincolnton's Xavier McClain breaks a tackle in the first half Friday night at South Point.

one of them."

Littlejohn was supposed to roll out to the right, but that option quickly closed up. The 6-foot-4 athletic junior had to

improvise, and he eventually threw a bullet to a wide-open Hollis, a sure-handed junior who had started the play in the right slot and caught it with no problem.

"I've never had so much trust in a teammate and I just trusted him," Littlejohn said. "I trust all of my teammates. When I saw him, I said, 'This is a touchdown. This is going to be the game.'"

Littlejohn finished 14 for 26 for 143 yards with two interceptions, including one at the goal line as the Wolves threatened to score late in the third. Littlejohn directed a 381-yard offense that got 209 yards on 17 carries by Xavier McClain, who scored on plays of 77 and 81 yards.

SEE WOLVES, C4

WOLVES

Continued from C1

Littlejohn added 29 yards on the ground, including the overtime dash. Sage Surratt caught five passes for 65 yards. Langdon Givens had three grabs for 25 yards.

South Point had scored on an 8-yard pass from Scottie Lee to Nick Muse on the first overtime possession.

Thomas Lempereur's extra point gave the Red Raiders a short-lived 24-17 lead but South Point (1-1) wasn't able to hold on. It would have been a second straight signature win to start the season after surprising some with a victory against Crest last week.

"We were not the same team we were last Friday night," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "Lincolnton has a great team and lots of athletes, but my biggest disappointment was that we didn't come out here and match their intensity."

A week after carrying 40 times, Jake Alexander was again the workhorse for South Point with 38 carries for 163 yards. Lee rushed for 51 yards and completed three of 10 passes for 42 yards with two interceptions.

Muse had two catches



South Point's Nick Farmer picks off intended for Lincolnton's Skylar Evans (6) in the first half of Friday's game in Belmont. PHOTOS BY MIKE HENSILL/THE GAZETTE

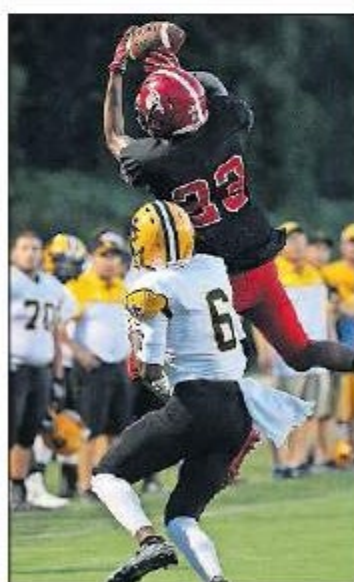


Lincolnton's Xavier McClain is tackled by South Point's Tenner Canterbury and Mario Brandon Jr. (25) in the first half Friday night in Belmont.

(both for touchdowns) for a total of 37 yards for South Point's 273-yard offense.

Lincolnton tries to

continue its unbeaten start next week at home against North Gaston while South Point visits Shelby.



South Point's Ray Grier catches a pass over Lincolnton's Skylar Evans in the first half of their game Friday night.

LINCOLNTON 25,						
SOUTH POINT 24 (OT)						
Score By Quarter:						
	1	2	3	4	OT	F
LINCOLNTON	10	0	7	0	8	25
SOUTH POINT	0	17	0	0	7	24

Scoring Summary:
First quarter
L—Xavier McClain 77 run (Sam Taylor kick), 11:40.
L—FG Taylor 21, 0:41.1.
Second quarter
SP—Scottie Lee 19 run (Thomas Lempereur kick), 10:27.
SP—FG Lempereur 33 8:14.
SP—Nick Muse 29 pass from Lee (Lempereur kick), 1:17.
Third quarter
L—McClain 91 run (Taylor kick), 8:57.
Fourth quarter
No scoring.
Overtime
SP—Muse 8 pass from Lee (Lempereur kick).
L—Littlejohn 7 run (Tyreke Hollis pass from Littlejohn).

Team Stats:		
	L	SP
First downs	14	17
Rushes-yards	26-238	56-231
Passing yards	143	42
Total yards	381	273
Comp-Att-Int	14-27-2	3-10-2
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	7-65	9-67

Lincolnton Individual Stats:			
Rushing			
Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Xavier McClain	17	209	2
Cordel Littlejohn	9	29	1

Passing					
Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Cordel Littlejohn	14	26	143	0	2
Team	0	1	0	0	0

Receiving			
Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Sage Surratt	5	65	0
Langdon Givens	3	25	0
Tyreke Hollis	1	28	0
Xavier Littlejohn	3	16	0
Xavier McClain	2	9	0

South Point Individual Stats:			
Rushing			
Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Jake Alexander	38	163	0
Scottie Lee	8	51	1
Ty Tinker	3	5	0
Caleb Gibson	6	9	0
Ometrick Leeper-Floyd	1	-3	0

Passing					
Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Scottie Lee	3	10	42	2	2

Receiving			
Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Nick Muse	2	37	2
Ray Grier	1	5	0