

# South Point couldn't get offense rolling



South Point's Rayonta Grier hauls in a pass as Shelby's Aaron Jolly makes the tackle during the Golden Lions' 24-0 win over the Red Raiders on Thursday night in Shelby. HANNAH DUNAWAY PHOTOS/ HALIFAX MEDIA SERVICES

Golden Lions





# win 24-0

By Jack Flagler

jflagler@gastongazette.com

**SHELBY** — Last season, the South Point football team started the season with two losses in its first three games, as the Raiders backed themselves into a corner early. They went on to win twelve straight games, running the table in the Big South 2A/3A Conference, earning the No. 2 seed in the 3A state playoffs and making a run to the 3A state championship game.

This year, the Raiders face a similar uphill climb after the third week of the season.

The South Point offense struggled to find any sort of rhythm Thursday night on the road in Shelby. The turned it over four times and managed just 120 yards of total offense, and fell to the Golden Lions 24-0.

South Point failed to put points on the board for the first time in nearly two decades. Before Friday night, the last time the Red Raiders were shut



**Ometrick Leeper, of South Point, carries the ball during the Red Raiders' 24-0 loss to Shelby on the road Thursday night.**

out was 1998 in a 28-0 home loss to Burns. The shutout in Shelby broke a streak of 264 straight games for South Point between shutouts.

Red Raiders coach Mickey Lineberger said this year's version of Shelby was one of the best he's seen his five decades playing and coaching in this rivalry. Last week against Lincoln, South Point felt it had one slip through their grasp in a 25-24 overtime loss. Friday, they were beaten through and through.

"I thought we had good effort, the execution wasn't

good. We just didn't execute tonight. We didn't get the job done. We looked young, like we are. We didn't look like a polished, veteran team. And we made young mistakes," Lineberger said.

Shelby opened the game with a quick scoring drive and was in control from there, as Golden Lions quarterback Malik Sarratt completed his first four passes for 75 yards to start the game. He hit Jayden Borders with a 29-yard touchdown pass, as it took Shelby just 84 seconds to score and

**SEE LIONS, C3**



# LIONS

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take a 6-0 lead.

The Raiders' best offensive drive came at the beginning of the third quarter. Trailing 9-0, South Point earned three first downs and brought the ball from its own 35 to the Shelby 25. However, Shelby defensive captain Damien Key dropped into coverage on a South Point pass attempt, read the eyes of quarterback Scottie Lee, and jumped in front of the throw for an interception.

South Point turned it over twice more on fumbles in the second half, and the Golden Lions made them pay, scoring two consecutive touchdowns on lost South Point fumbles to open it up to a 22-0 lead and put the game away.

"Our defensive staff came up with a good plan and we did a good job of executing it. To shut out someone the caliber of South Point, that's huge, and something we can build on for the rest of the season," said Shelby coach Lance Ware.

Shelby had 474 yards of total offense. Sarratt completed 24 of his 35 passes for 314 yards and a touchdown. Xavier Brooks ran for



Nathan Hamilton, of South Point, wraps up Jayden Borders, of Shelby, during the Golden Lions' 24-0 win at Shelby High School on Thursday night. HANNAH DUNAWAY/HALIFAX MEDIA SERVICES

110 yards on 16 carries and a score, and Borders caught 10 passes for 170 yards and a touchdown. Many of those Shelby yards came late in the game, when the South Point defense appeared to tire from playing so many snaps.

"Defensively we played I thought pretty good. We played defense all night, we didn't get enough first downs, didn't move the ball enough," Lineberger

said.

Shelby (3-0) has allowed just 14 points on the season. They will host R-S Central next week to open conference play. South Point (1-2) will prepare for Clover next Friday night on the road.

Lineberger told his team after the game that they have plenty of time to turn things around and make a run. He pointed to last year's group as an example

of what can happen when a team refocuses and commits to getting better in practice.

"We made our mind up (last year), and the seniors came in and they decided they had enough of losing. We did something about it in practice. I believe every year there's a turning point, and hopefully this will be the turning point for the 2016 edition of the Red Raiders."





SHELBY 24, SOUTH POINT 0					
(THURSDAY)					
Score By Quarter:					
	1	2	3	4	F
SOUTH POINT	0	0	0	0	0
SHELBY	6	3	13	2	24

**Scoring Summary:**  
**First quarter**  
S--Jayden Borders 29 pass from Malik Sarratt (kick failed). 10:36  
**Second quarter**  
S--Ethan Triplett 34-yard field goal. 2:15  
**Third quarter**  
S--Sarratt 1 run (kick blocked). 4:33  
S--Xavier Brooks 34 run (Triplett kick). 0:49  
**Fourth quarter**  
S--Safety: Michael Carson tackles Scottie Lee in the end zone. 7:51

<b>Team Stats:</b>		
	<b>SP</b>	<b>S</b>
First downs	6	17
Rushes-yards	34-95	28-160
Passing yards	25	314
Total yards	120	474
Comp-Att-Int	3-12-2	24-35-1
Fumbles-Lost	4-3	0-0
Penalties-yards	8-36	14-88

<b>South Point Individual Stats:</b>			
<b>Rushing</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Scottie Lee	10	37	0
Jake Alexander	16	33	0
Mario Brandon	3	21	0
Ometrick Leeper-Floyd	2	4	0
Ty Tinker	3	0	0

<b>Passing</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>
Scottie Lee	3	12	25	0	2

<b>Receiving</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Ray Grier	2	16	0
Mario Brandon	1	9	0

<b>Shelby Individual Stats:</b>			
<b>Rushing</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Xavier Brooks	16	110	1
Juwan Sims	6	36	0
Malik Sarratt	5	14	1
Joc Washington	1	0	0

<b>Passing</b>					
<b>Name</b>	<b>Comp</b>	<b>Att</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>Int</b>
Malik Sarratt	23	34	298	1	1
Juwan Sims	1	1	16	0	0

<b>Receiving</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Rec</b>	<b>Yards</b>	<b>TDs</b>
Jayden Borders	10	170	1
Xavier Brooks	5	65	0
Darius Fuller	4	38	0
Juwan Sims	2	22	0
Isaiah Etchison	3	19	0