

# Red Raiders rumble to first

Tuscola awaits  
South Point on  
Thanksgiving weekend

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BELMONT — No player rushed or passed for over 100 yards, but South Point scored in bunches Friday night at Lineberger Stadium to wallop West Henderson 59-0 in a big start to the 3-A playoffs.

After a scoreless and sluggish first quarter, the Red Raiders put 31 second-quarter points on the board and added four more

scores in the second half to keep the momentum they had after dominating their last four opponents in the regular season.

"We had momentum going after that Stuart Cramer game (a 63-0 win), and (when) you take a week off, it took us a little while to get going in the first quarter," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said, referring to last week's one-week delay in the postseason due to makeup games caused by Hurricane Matthew.

"We weren't hitting on all cylinders. After we got our groove back, we started playing like we're capable of."

SEE RAIDERS, C5



South Point's Phillip Davis runs the ball in the first quarter of Friday's first-round game against West Henderson in Belmont. BILL HARRIS



**South Point's Phillip Davis picks a fumble and runs it in for a score in the second quarter of Friday's first-round Class 3A West state playoff game against West Henderson in Belmont. BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE**



# RAIDERS

Continued from C1

Thomas Lempereur's 22-yard field goal started the avalanche just before junior Mario Brandon scored on a 56-yard romp, and Lempereur added the first of his eight point-after attempts.

Fullback Jake Alexander had three touchdown runs, including a 70-yard burst on his last carry in the third quarter, and 14-year-old freshman Naseem Jones scored from 40 yards in relief duty.

Nathan Silver started the second-half scores with a 92-yard kickoff return, and the defense scored twice — on Phillip Davis's 11-yard fumble return and Ray Griener's 40-yard interception run.

"We had a lot of good things happen tonight," Lineberger said. "We had a scoop and score, we had a pick six and score, so the defense is helping us, and special teams are helping



South Point's Nick Muse stretches to make a one-handed catch over West Henderson's Elijah Nickell during Friday's first-round Class 3A West state playoff game at Belmont. **BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE**

our offense put points on the board. It's really the first time all year we've had long-distance scores."

Junior quarterback Scottie Lee was 3-of-7 in passing for 57 yards, all in the first half.

"We had more drops tonight than in any game this year," Lineberger said, "so we've got to get better at catching the ball."

The Red Raiders (8-4) host Waynesville Tuscola next Friday and will likely need a balanced attack against the 11-1 Mountaineers. Tuscola is coached by Tommy Pursley, who coached against

South Point in the state finals in 2003 when the Red Raiders captured their last 3-A title (they won the 3-AA's in 2009).

"They're going to be tough," said Lineberger of Tuscola. "Their coach was at NE Guilford. He moved to the mountains, and we're familiar with what he does, and he's familiar with what we do. They're the pride of the mountains is what I hear, so we've got our work cut out for us."

"I think this is five years in a row we've been playing on Thanksgiving (weekend), and that's always good."

SOUTH POINT 59, WEST HENDERSON 0

Score By Quarter

	1	2	3	4	F
W. HENDERSON	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH POINT	0	31	21	7	59

Scoring Summary:

First quarter  
No scoring  
Second quarter  
"SP--Thomas Lempereur 22 FG 9:31."  
SP--Mario Brandon 56 run (Lempereur kick) 6:38.  
SP--Phillip Davis 11 fumble return (Lempereur kick) 6:21.  
SP--Jake Alexander 2 run (Lempereur kick) 5:40.  
SP--Alexander 3 run (Lempereur kick) 1:39.  
Third quarter  
SP--Nathan Silver 92 kickoff return (Lempereur kick) 11:46.  
SP--Alexander 70 run (Lempereur kick) 5:43.  
SP--Naseem Jones 40 run (Lempereur kick) :0.0.  
Fourth quarter  
SP--Ray Grier 40 INT return (Lempereur kick) :57.4.

Team Stats

	WH	SP
First downs	5	8
Rushes-yards	38-64	32-240
Passing yards	18	57
Total yards	82	297
Comp-Att-Int	4-9-1	3-7-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	1-1
Penalties	2-15	2-20

West Henderson individual statistics

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Landon Owen	14	40	0
Jason Wallace	9	20	0
Brandon Whitaker	10	4	0
Max Chamberlain	1	4	0
Eljah Nickell	4	-4	0

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Brandon Whitaker	4	7	18	0	0
Jason Wallace	0	1	0	0	0

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Jason Wallace	3	8	0
Dalton Cole	1	10	0

South Point individual statistics

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Jake Alexander	8	88	3
Naseem Jones	6	59	1
Mario Brandon	2	54	1
Caleb Gibson	4	34	0
Nick Farmer	5	19	0
C.J. Jennings	1	1	0
Ty Tinker	1	-1	0
Scottie Lee	5	-14	0

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Scottie Lee	3	7	57	0	0

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Nick Muse	2	43	0
Nick Silver	1	14	0