

South Point continues

Will play undefeated
Hibriten in
3A regional final

By Mike Powell
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BELMONT— Mickey Lineberger has been around South Point football for many years, but the Red Raider head coach senses something special about his 2016 team.

Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, the Red Raiders continued a surge that began at midseason and has now carried South Point to a regional playoff championship game for the third straight season.

South Point (10-4) used a fast start and big plays on offense and

defense to defeat Pisgah 42-0 and earn the right to play undefeated Hibriten next week in the 3A regional final.

"We played like a team going to the fourth round tonight," Lineberger said. "This is the most improved team I have ever been around. We lost 24 seniors and had nine (seniors) coming back. But here we are."

There was plenty of praise for Lineberger to dish out on both sides of the ball.

Running back Jake Alexander rushed for 183 yards on a mere nine carries and scored three touchdowns. The 6-2, 188-pound junior set the tone for the game when he streaked 66 yards on



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SEE SOUTH POINT, C6

es midseason surge



South Point fullback Jake Alexander runs for a long touchdown in the 3rd quarter Friday night in Belmont. The Red Raiders won 42-0, advancing to the 3A Western Regional Final next weekend. BRIAN MAYHEW / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

SOUTH POINT

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South Point's first play from scrimmage.

Meanwhile, the South Point defense dominated an opponent that came in with a glossy 12-1 record, holding the Bears out of the end zone and limiting their offense to a missed 32-yard field goal attempt in the first half.

Of the Bears' 11 possessions, they punted seven times, suffered three interceptions, and missed a field goal.

The defense got in on the scoring act with two interception returns for touchdowns. Nick Silver had a 20-yard pick six of Pisgah quarterback Tanner Wike in the second period when he correctly read a pass into the flat and went in untouched.

Linebacker Nick Muse turned in a spectacular

60-yard interception return of a Wike pass in the third period. Not only that, a diving interception by Muse on the sideline in the first quarter gave South Point the ball at the Pisgah 22.

That takeaway led to a nine-yard run on an option pitch by Nick Farmer to put South Point ahead 14-0 just past the midway point of the first quarter.

"We followed what the coaches said and watched a lot of film during the week," Muse said. "We practiced hard all week and came out and did our business."

On his pick six, Muse intercepted a pass in the middle of the field on a crossing route, ran toward the right sideline and started picking up blocks.

"I guess he (Wike) was trying to throw the ball over me, but I was lucky enough to be there. I had a lot of people blocking for me, and I just managed to find the

end zone," Muse said.

Alexander's touchdowns came on the same basic play, a quick handoff inside that broke wide open. His scoring runs covered 11, 44 and 46 yards, and the Pisgah secondary was completely empty on the two longest runs to the end zone.

The Red Raiders led 21-0 at the half and broke it open with a 21-point third period. The South Point reserves flooded in for the final 12 minutes as the clock ran continuously.

The victory gave South Point its sixth straight 10-win season.

Looking ahead to Hibriten, Lineberger said, "They are a great team and we have our hands full. But I can't say enough about the accomplishments of these young men."

The Red Raiders have rebounded from a 2-4 record at midseason to reel off eight wins in a row.



South Point defender Matthew Robinson (19) brings down Pisgah fullback Michael Parrott in the first quarter Friday night in Belmont. The Red Raiders won 42-0, advancing to the 3A Western Regional Final next weekend. BRIAN MAYHEW / SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE



South Point fullback Jake Alexander runs for a long touchdown in the third quarter Friday night in Belmont. The Red Raiders won, 42-0, advancing to the 3A Western Regional Final next weekend. BRIAN MAYHEW/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

SOUTH POINT 42, PISGAH 0

Score By Quarter:

	1	2	3	4	F
PISGAH	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH POINT	14	7	21	0	42

Scoring Summary:

First quarter

SP—Nick Farmer 9 run (Thomas Lempereur kick) 6:51.

SP—Jake Alexander 11 run (Lempereur kick) 4:34.

Second quarter

SP—Nathan Sliver 20 interception return (Lempereur kick) 3:48.

Third quarter

SP—Alexander 44 run (Lempereur kick) 10:14

SP—Alexander 46 run (Lempereur kick) 9:31.

SP—Nick Muse 60 interception return (Lempereur kick) 4:00.

Team Stats:

	P	SP
First downs	10	7
Rushes-yards	36-65	32-303
Passing yards	85	5
Total yards	150	308
Comp-Att-Int	8-17-3	1-5
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-0
Penalties	1-5	1-15

Pisgah Individual Stats:

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Michael Parrott	20	57	0
Tanner Wike	7	-6	0
Isalah Fisher	6	12	0
Justin Davis	3	2	0

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Tanner Wike	7	16	73	0	3
Houston Rogers	1	1	12	0	0

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Trey Morgan	4	21	0
Houston Rogers	2	35	0
Kam Walker	1	17	0
Tanner Wike	1	12	0

South Point Individual Stats:

Rushing

Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Jake Alexander	9	183	3
Scottie Lee	9	39	0
Nick Farmer	1	9	1
Keaton Hale	7	17	0
Caleb Gibson	1	5	0
Ty Tinker	5	50	0

Passing

Name	Comp	Att	Yards	TD	Int
Scottie Lee	1	5	5	0	0

Receiving

Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Mario Brandon	1	5	0