

SOUTH POINT 26, HIBRITEN 0

# Red Raiders achieve playoff shutout



South Point quarterback Scottie Lee runs away from Hibriten's Noah Haney during their playoff game in Lenoir on Friday night. JOHN CLARK/THE GAZETTE PHOTOS

## South Point heading to state championship game



**LENOIR** — South Point's turnaround season is now only one win shy of its goal after the Red Raiders recorded a dominating 26-0 win at Hibriten on a frigid Friday night at Jeff Storie Memorial Stadium.

South Point (11-4), which started the season 1-3 and 2-4, has won nine straight games behind a crunching defense and an efficient offense.

Both were on display in Friday's dominating victory on a night in which temperatures dipped into the 30s.

The Red Raiders rolled up 396 yards and 17 first downs on offense and limited an offense that had averaged 50.3 points per game to no points, 120 total yards and kept the previously unbeaten Panthers (14-1) without a first down until 7:58 remained in the third quarter.

"I can't say enough about how our defense has improved this year," said South Point coach Mickey Lineberger, whose team recorded its fifth shutout of the season and third in the playoffs. "But a lot of that is our offense keeping them off the field by executing as well as they've been



**South Point's Jake Alexander dives for a first down during the playoff game against Hibriten in Lenoir on Friday night.**

executing."

South Point plays in its sixth state title game next Saturday at 11:05 a.m. in the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3A title game at Wake Forest's BB&T Field against Eastern champion Rocky Mount in a rematch of last season's N.C. 3A title game.

Rocky Mount advanced with a 34-33 triple overtime win over Havelock.

Previously, the Red Raiders shared the 1971 Western N.C. Activities Association title before winning NCHSAA

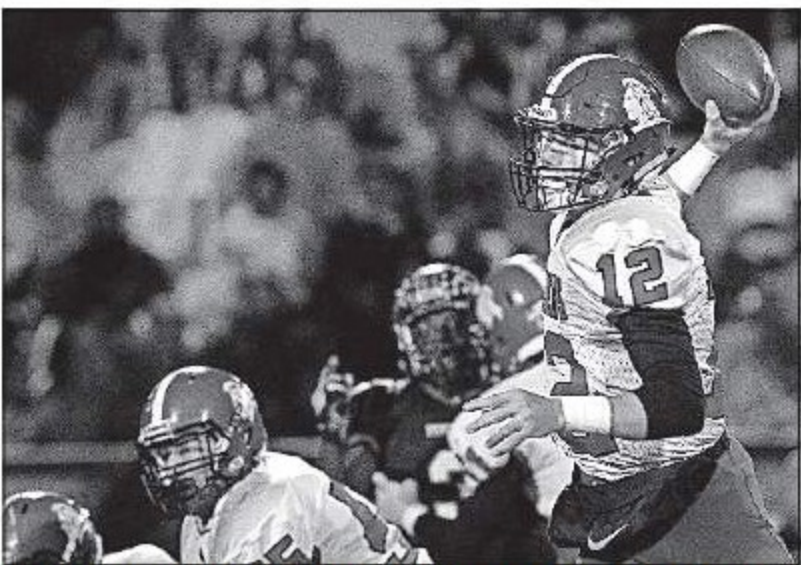
titles in 1979 (3A), 2003 (3A) and 2009 (3AA). Last year is South Point's lone championship game loss, coming in overtime by a 24-21 score to Rocky Mount.

Friday's victory at Hibriten was, in essence, determined in the first six minutes of the game.

South Point took the opening kickoff and drove 70 yards in nine plays, capped by Scottie Lee's 30-yard touchdown pass to Ray Grier.

**SEE RAIDERS, C3**





South Point quarterback Scottie Lee throws a pass during the playoff game against Hibriten in Lenoir on Friday night. JOHN CLARK/  
THE GAZETTE

## RAIDERS

Continued from C1

Then after the teams traded turnovers in the next four plays, South Point linebacker Nate Hamilton and others snowed under Hibriten 1,000-yard rusher McKinley Witherspoon for a safety that gave the Red Raiders a 9-0 lead with 6:32 left in the opening quarter.

But South Point was hardly done.

Lee's 5-yard TD keeper and Thomas Lempereur's 21-yard field goal made it 19-0 at the half. And Jake Alexander capped a 14-play, 88-yard drive with a 3-yard TD run that came after the Red Raiders had stopped Hibriten on downs at the 12.

Lee (153 yards passing and 84 yards rushing) and Alexander (139 yards rushing) led the South Point offense, with Lee throwing 18 passes, which was just four off a season high

for the Red Raiders. Nick Muse caught six of Lee's 10 completions for 92 yards.

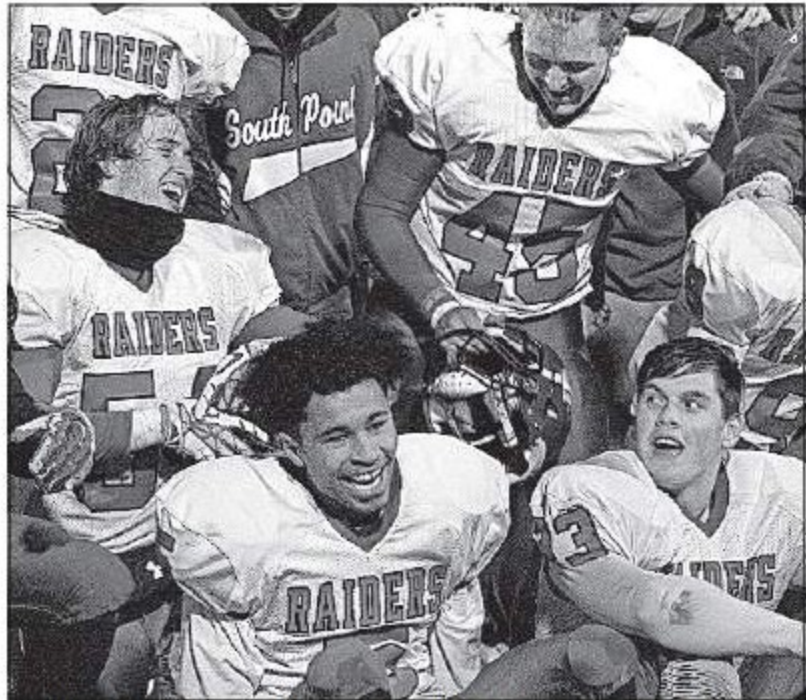
"They were giving us some stuff" in the passing game, Lineberger said. "And we're going to take what they're going to give us."

Perhaps just as importantly, South Point ran 65 offensive plays to 39 for Hibriten, which had two 1,000-yard rushers and a quarterback with more than 800 yards passing this season.

"We lost 24 seniors," Lineberger said. "And our JV team won one football game last year. So this speaks volumes about how hard these kids have worked and how hard these coaches have coached this season."

Matthew Robinson's eight solo or first-hit tackles led the South Point defense, with Muse and Phillip Davis adding four stops each.

— Richard Walker: 704-869-1841; [twitter.com/jrwalk22](https://twitter.com/jrwalk22)



**South Point players celebrate after their 26-0 playoff win Friday night against Hibriten in Lenoir. JOHN CLARK/THE GAZETTE**

<b>SOUTH POINT 26, HIBRITEN 0</b>					
<b>Score By Quarter:</b>					
	1	2	3	4	F
SOUTH POINT	9	10	0	7	26
HIBRITEN	0	0	0	0	0

**Scoring Summary:**  
First quarter  
SP—Ray Grier 30 pass from Scottie Lee (Thomas Lempereur kick). 8:23  
SP—Safety Nate Hamilton tackles McKinley Witherspoon in the end zone. 6:32  
Second quarter  
SP—Lee 5 run (Lempereur kick). 10:34  
SP—Lempereur 21 FG. 4:14  
Third quarter  
No scoring.  
Fourth quarter  
SP—Jake Alexander 3 run (Lempereur kick). 7:04

<b>Team Stats:</b>		
	<b>SP</b>	<b>H</b>
First downs	17	8
Rushes-yards	47-243	29-83
Passing yards	153	37
Total yards	396	120
Comp-Att-Int	10-18-1	4-10-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-1
Penalties	4-29	4-19

<b>South Point Individual Stats:</b>			
<b>Rushing</b>			
Name	Att	Yards	TDs

Jake Alexander	25	139	1
Scottie Lee	12	84	1
Nick Farmer	3	12	0
Caleb Gibson	3	8	0
Mario Brandon	2	3	0
Nathan Silver	1	-1	0
Team statistics	1	-2	0
<b>Passing</b>			
Name	Comp	Att	Yards TD Int
Scottie Lee	10	18	153 1 1
<b>Receiving</b>			
Name	Rec	Yards	TDs
Nick Muse	6	92	0
Ray Grier	2	50	1
Jake Alexander	1	2	0
Nathan Silver	1	5	0
Mario Brandon	0	4	0

<b>Hibriten Individual Stats:</b>			
<b>Rushing</b>			
Name	Att	Yards	TDs
Jamar Ferguson	7	56	0
Chris Scott	10	16	0
Miles Simon	1	5	0
David Patterson	1	4	0
Will Killian	1	3	0
Jarius Cotton	3	2	0
McKinley Witherspoon	6	-3	0
<b>Passing</b>			
Name	Comp	Att	Yards TD Int
Jamar Ferguson	4	10	37 0 0
<b>Receiving</b>			
Name	Rec	Yards	TDs

Chris Scott	2	21	0
Will Killian	1	14	0
McKinley Witherspoon	1	2	0

<b>REIDSVILLE 28, LINCOLNTON 7</b>					
<b>Score By Quarter:</b>					
	1	2	3	4	F
REIDSVILLE	7	7	0	14	28
LINCOLNTON	0	0	7	0	7

**Scoring Summary:**  
First quarter  
R—Jaron Letterlough 13 run (Brad Green kick). 4:28  
Second quarter  
R—Austyn Chestnut 51 pass from Tanner Wilson (Green kick). 0:02.8  
Third quarter  
L—Sage Surratt 6 pass from Cordel Littlejohn (Sam Taylor kick). 7:35  
Fourth quarter  
R—Bryson Durham 24 run (Green kick). 1:42  
R—Bryson Durham 40 fumble return (Green kick). 0:58.1

<b>Team Stats:</b>		
	<b>L</b>	<b>R</b>
First downs	11	11
Rushes-yards	33-111	28-191
Passing yards	75	114
Total yards	186	305
Comp-Att-Int	12-25-1	8-15-1
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	1-1