

Tar Heel tough

South Point dominates visiting Clover, ends Blue Eagles' romp through North Carolina

By Richard Walker
rwalker@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — South Point's home opener on Friday served as a rare chance for a North Carolina high school team to flex its muscles against a team from South Carolina.

And the defending N.C. 3A state champion Red Raiders rolled to a 28-0 win over Clover, S.C., to end the Blue Eagles' seven-game winning streak against teams from North Carolina.

It came just six days after Clover had beaten Hunter Huss 42-41 in an overtime thriller last Saturday that was witnessed by South Point's coaching staff.

"When we saw them play Huss, we knew they were a good football team because we know Huss is a good football team," first-year Red Raiders coach Adam Hodge said. "It was a great challenge for us and I'm proud of how we played."

Clover hadn't lost to a team from North Carolina since losing 42-22 at Forestview in 2014, a streak that included a 17-14 home win over South Point a year ago.

See TOUGH, B5



South Point's Scottie Lee drags Austin Gunnels into the end zone on a touchdown run during their game against Clover Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont.

"When we saw them play Huss, we knew they were a good football team because we know Huss is a good football team. It was a great challenge for us and I'm proud of how we played."

First-year Red Raiders coach Adam Hodge



South Point's Jake Alexander breaks away from Jonathan Ellis on his way to the end zone for a touchdown during their game against Clover Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont. [JOHN CLARK/THE GASTON GAZETTE]

TOUGH

Continued from B1

The Red Raiders had won only one of the five previous meetings with Clover, that coming by a 63-0 score in 2011.

On Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, South Point pitched another shutout as the Red Raiders' spread option churned for 322 yards total offense and its defense limited a Blue Eagles offense that had been averaging 422.7 yards and

Burns had five tackles apiece.

Hodge was most proud of a secondary that included senior Brandon and sophomores Nick Gange, Devon King and Tre Glenn because Clover had passed for 290.3 yards per game in its first three wins over Ashbrook, Forestview and Hunter Huss.

On Friday, Garrett Miller completed 19 of 26 throws for 184 yards and one interception.

"Our secondary did a great job," Hodge said.

On offense, senior quarterback Scottie Lee and senior fullback Jake Alexander led the

South Point scored on its first three possessions of the game and on its first possession of the second half.

Clover lost captain Garrett Lutz, a 6-foot-2, 290-pound senior center, to injury on the game's first play from scrimmage.

"That clearly affected our running game," said first-year Clover coach Brian Lane, whose team finished with a net of five yards rushing on 22 attempts. "You've got to play through adversity and we didn't play through adversity tonight."

"Give South Point credit

been averaging 439.7 yards and 46.3 points in a 3-0 start to 189 yards and no points.

Linebacker Matthew Robinson's 10 solo or first-hit tackles led a balanced Red Raiders' defensive effort. Tackle Phillip Davis, defensive back Mario Brandon and linebackers Tanner Canterbury and Sean

fullback Jake Alexander led the way for South Point.

Lee passed for 26 yards and a 3-yard TD pass to Ray Grier in addition to rushing for 107 yards and another touchdown. Alexander had 159 yards rushing and one touchdown. And Caleb Gibson had the other touchdown.

"Give South Point credit. They showed why they're a championship team."

Hayden Johnson had nine solo or first-hit tackles and Shon Brown six to lead the Blue Eagles' defense.

Richard Walker: 704-869-1841; twitter.com/jrwalk22



South Point's Tyler Kotula drags Semaj Lakinn down by his jersey in the backfield for a loss during their game against Clover Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont. [JOHN CLARK PHOTOS/THE GASTON GAZETTE]



South Point's Ray Grier tries to break away from Hayden Johnson and Jonathan Ellis after making a catch during their game against Clover Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont.

Clover	0	0	0	0	-	0
South Point	7	14	7	0	-	28

First Quarter

SP—Scottie Lee 9 run (Cade Ratliff kick), 4:49

Second Quarter

SP—Jake Alexander 24 run (Ratliff kick), 11:18

SP—Ray Grier 3 pass from Lee (Ratliff kick), 6:26

Third Quarter

SP—Caleb Gibson 9 run (Ratliff kick), 7:44

Teams	C	SP
First Downs	11	20
Rushes-yards	22-5	49-296
Passing-yards	184	26
Total yards	189	322
Comp-Att-Int	19-26-1	3-4-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	3-2
Penalties-yards	7-60	5-47

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING - C: Semaj Lakin 10-16, Garrett Miller 4-7, David Hall 5-9, Team 3-(-27).
 SP: Jake Alexander 28-159, Scottie Lee 13-107, Caleb Gibson 3-17, Ty Tinker 3-17, Team 2-(-4).

PASSING - C: Garrett Miller: 19-26-1 184. SP: Scottie Lee 3-4-0 26.

RECEIVING - C: Chandler Huskey 2-23, Semaj Lakin 2-12, Blake Keffer 3-27, Jaylin Lane 4-33, Heze Massey 7-79, David Hall 1-10. SP: Ray Grier 3-26.