

1-ranked South Point rolls past East Rutherford

By Richard Walker

rwalker@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — South Point set a school record for consecutive wins Friday night in a 55-7 homecoming win over East Rutherford that looked a lot like many of their previous wins in a streak that began in the middle of last season.

It's because much of the Red Raiders' current 18-game winning streak has followed a similar script: Get ahead early, force the opponent into mistake after mistake and use a balanced offense to take an easy victory.

"We're always looking to improve," first-year South Point coach Adam Hodge said. "And we improved some more tonight but we know we have to keep getting better."

The Red Raiders improved to 8-0 overall and 2-0 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference as the No. 1 ranked N.C. 2A team in the state surpassed the 17-game winning streak of South Point teams in the 2003 and 2004 seasons.

The Red Raiders' longest unbeaten streak is 22 games from 1970 to 1972 but South Point had two ties in that streak, including one that snapped a 14-game winning streak.

South Point's current 18-game winning streak is the longest in county history while old Mount Holly High has the longest unbeaten streak (22 games with two ties from

(23 games with two ties from 1966 to 1968) that started with a 10-game winning streak.

East Rutherford (5-3, 1-1) was regarded as the prime league challenger to defending state champions South Point and Shelby.

But the Red Raiders roared to a 41-0 lead by late in the first half before cruising to the win.

Ray Grier caught three passes — all for touchdowns — for 88 yards to lead a 390-yard offense. Keaton Hale (77 yards rushing with one touchdown, 28 yards passing with one touchdown), Jake Alexander (75 yards rushing), Scottie Lee (60 yards passing with two touchdowns, 23 yards rushing and one touchdown) and Naseem Jones (66 yards rushing, one touchdown) also had big nights for an offense that got a late touchdown from Jacob Alexander.

South Point's defense also was balanced as well as producing a touchdown on Tre

See SOUTH, B5

SOUTH

Continued from B1

Glenn's 20-yard fumble return. Glenn and Nathan Hamilton led the way with nine solo or

first-hit tackles apiece.

Hamilton had three for losses with a caused fumble, a pass interception and a pass break-up. Nick Gange (five tackles) and Mario Brandon, Jr. (four tackles, fumble recovery) were other defensive standouts.

The only worries for the Red Raiders were the repeated hard hits that quarterback Scottie Lee and fullback Jake Alexander keep taking. Lee left the game in South Point's first series with a sore back and he and Alexander were given time off for much

of the second half.

“When you run as hard as they run, you’re going to take some hits,” Hodge said. “We gave them some time off tonight.”

South Point now visits R-S Central and Chase before the much-anticipated

regular season home finale with Shelby on Nov. 3.

“The goal is to get better each week and peak at the right time,” Hodge said. “We’re still working to get there.”

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

East Rutherford	0	0	7	0	-	7
South Point	14	27	0	14	-	55

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First Quarter

SP - Keaton Hale 24 run (Cade Ratliff kick), 9:04

SP - Ray Grier 28 pass from Hale (Ratliff kick), 3:34

Second Quarter

SP - Scottie Lee 22 run (Ratliff kick), 11:53

SP - Grier 15 pass from Lee (Ratliff kick), 10:35

SP - Grier 45 pass from Lee (Ratliff kick), 5:29

SP - Tre Glenn 20 fumble return (Kick blocked), 5:11

Third Quarter

ER - Demetrius Mauney 1 run (Austin Roderick kick), 6:24

Fourth Quarter

SP - Naseem Jones 7 run (David O'Hanlon kick), 7:02

SP - Jamani Leeper 11 run (O'Hanlon kick), 1:09

Teams	ER	SP
First Downs	14	15
Rushes-yards	38-174	48-302
Passing-yards	130	88
Total yards	304	390
Comp-Att-Int	10-19-1	3-4-0
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	0-0
Penalties-yards	9-79	8-65

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING - ER: Demetrius Mauney 22-151, Calvin Jones 3-13, Cade Hamilton 1-1, Cameron Simmons 5-18, Michael Mull 5-(-7), Malcolm Littlejohn 2-(-2). Brodie Hilton 13-79, K.J. Dagout 2-5, Nick Gwinn 1-5, Kobe Creamer 15-(-9). SP: Jake Alexander 11-75, Scottie Lee 2-23, Keaton Hale 10-77, Ty Tinker 12-42, C.J. Jennings 2-10, Naseem Jones 8-66, Jamani Leeper 2-10, Team 1-(-1).

PASSING - ER: Cameron Simmons 10-19-0, 130. Kobe Creamer 16-30-1, 102; Preston Osborne 0-1-0, 0. SP: Keaton Hale 1-2-0, 28, Scottie Lee 2-2-0, 60.

RECEIVING - ER: Jordan harris 5-54, Joseph Detetta 3-33, Calvin Jones 3-43. SP: Ray Grier 3-88.