

# South Point matchup with Shelby in second- round

**By Eli Pacheco**

sports@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — It wasn't long into South Point's 48-0 first-round victory Friday against West Iredell that the inevitable rematch with Shelby came into focus.

The Red Raiders earned a second-round showdown with Shelby as they opened defense of their state title with a crushing first-half performance against overmatched West Iredell (5-8), the fourth-place finisher in the Northwestern Foothills 2A.

"If you're doing something that's working, you don't change anything," said quarterback Scottie Lee, whose team scored touchdowns on its first six possessions. "We came to the sidelines and put our heads together. We kept fighting and never relaxed."

**See S. POINT, B5**

# S. POINT

From Page B1

---

Jake Alexander scored on three runs totaling 107 yards in the first half as South Point (13-0) took a 35-0 lead - despite not possessing the ball more than 7 minutes in the half.

Shelby, meanwhile, rolled past Newton-Conover 49-20 on Friday. South Point clinched the Southwestern 2A conference title last Friday with a 35-15 home win against the Golden Lions.

"They're going to be fired up and ready to go after last time, I'm sure," South Point coach Adam Hodge said. "Our guys have to bring that energy that they brought to the last game. We can't lower the notch. We've got to bring it up a step if anything, try to be better and better and better."

Ray Grier caught both of Lee's touchdown passes - on Lee's only two completions.

Alexander's second score put South Point up 21-0 - just before the stadium announcer gave a 21-0 Shelby update. Alexander finished with 156 yards on 11 carries and eclipsed the 100-yard mark early in the second period.

Quarterback Dillan Davis left with an injury on the Warriors' next play. Keenan Bunch, who took the opening kickoff into Red Raiders territory with a dazzling return, filled in. Bunch added a spark, and a handful of spectacular plays, but it wasn't

enough to translate to points.

"I have to thank the line for giving me the holes that they could," said Bunch, who finished with 95 yards passing and 54 on the ground for a West Iredell team that celebrated as if they'd won afterward. "We got what we could get."

West Iredell's most promising drive came with less than 2 minutes left in the first half and covered nearly 80 yards. South Point broke up Bunch's third-and-goal pass in the end zone. The Warriors' fourth-down run fell short as time expired.

South Point's second unit stepped in and didn't miss a beat after halftime. Naseem Jones capped the Red Raiders' sixth straight scoring drive with a 3-yard run. South Point led 41-0. His 2-yard score made it 48-0.

"If they keep feeding you, you're going to keep going downfield and get the score," said Jones, who left briefly with an injury between touchdowns. "They weren't really ready on defense to stop the triple option. You're going to score either way."

It'll be tougher sledding Friday against Shelby, a conference rival with extra motivation.

"In high school football, you just have to be better than them from 7:30 to 9:30," Hodge said. "Hopefully we'll do that like we did last time. I'm sure it'll be a great knock-down, drag-out football game. It'll be packed, it'll be fun, and that's why we do it. That's what it's all about."



## South Point 48, West Iredell 0

West Iredell	0	0	0	0	-	0
South Point	14	21	6	7	-	48

## First quarter

SP-Ray Grier 12 pass from Scottie Lee (Cade Ratliff kick)

SP-Jake Alexander 47 run (Cade Ratliff kick)

## Second quarter

SP-Jake Alexander 29 run (Cade Ratliff kick)

SP-Ray Grier 8 pass from Scottie Lee (Cade Ratliff kick)

SP-Jake Alexander 31 run (Cade Ratliff kick)

## Third quarter

SP-Naseem Jones 3 run (kick failed)

## Fourth quarter

SP-Naseem Jones 2 run (Cade Ratliff kick)

	WI	SP
First downs	11	13
Rushes-yards	31-132	35-400
Passing yards	98	20
Total yards	230	424
Comp-Att-Int	9-15-2	2-3-0
Fumbles-lost	4-1	2-2
Penalties-yards	8-58	3-20

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

## West Iredell

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	TD
Keenan Bunch	10	54	0
Bernard Briley	6	26	0
Dillan Davis	5	22	0
Myles Jackson	1	12	0
John Payne	1	16	0
Jercovien Lynch	5	6	0
Francisco Coronado	1	-4	0

PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Dillan Davis	1	3	35	0	1
Keenan Bunch	8	11	95	0	1
Shyhiem Summers	0	1	0	0	0

RECEIVING	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Bernard Briley	4	52	0
Chandon Smith	2	27	0
Gabriel Kitchens	1	12	0
Myles Jackson	1	4	0
Emmanuel Long	1	3	0

## South Point

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	TD
Jake Alexander	11	145	3
Naseem Jones	10	101	2
Caleb Gibson	3	23	0
Ty Tinker	1	3	0
Keaton Hale	2	14	0

Scottie Lee	3	62	0
Omari Hunt	4	45	0

PASSING	Comp.	Att.	Yds.	TD	Int.
Scottie Lee	2	3	20	2	0

  

RECEIVING	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Ray Grier	2	20	2