

Crest outlasts South Point



Crest's Niamal Borders (12) and Caleb Beards (42) wrap up South Point's Jamar Leeper (12) during the Chargers' 28-11 during Friday night's football game in Belmont. (BRIAN MAYHEW / SPECIAL TO THE GASTON GAZETTE)

Chargers take hard-hitting season opener 28-11

By Richard Walker

rwalker@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — Crest quarterback Peyton Kemmerlin passed for two touchdowns and ran for the clinching score Friday night in the Chargers' 28-11 win at South Point in the season opener for both teams.

Kemmerlin rushed for 113 yards on 17 carries and 12 for 12 passing for 119 yards.

"He grinded it out for us," Crest coach Nick Eddins said of Kemmerlin, who limped noticeably during some of the second half. "The big thing

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Kemmerlin, who threw first half touchdown passes to Lamnden Zanders and Michael Greene, capped a five-play, 58-yard drive with a four-yard touchdown run with 1:13 left that made it 20-11.

Crest tacked on another

touchdown on linebacker B.J. Ramseur's 55-yard interception return with 15.9 seconds left.

Turning point: Kemmerlin's touchdown run came on Crest's first drive after a fumble had given South Point possession at the Chargers 45 with 4:43 to play. But the

Chargers' defense recorded two tackles for losses and forced a Red Raiders' punt with 21-2 minutes to play.

Star of the game: Zanders, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound defensive back who has committed to play at Clemson, had one

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run for seven yards, caught four passes for 44 yards and one touchdowns and made six or first-hit tackles.

Notes: Zanders, Keyez Jefferies and Chris Richardson had six solo or first-hit tackles apiece to lead Crest....

South Point senior quarterback Keaton Hale had 89 yards rushing and one touchdown and 37 yards passing before leaving the game with a sprained left knee in the fourth quarter. "We fought back and fought hard," South Point coach Adam Hodge said. "When Keaton went out, it took a little bit out of us."...

Crest outgained South Point 336 to 235 in total offense...

Devon King had six solo or first-hit tackles to lead South Point's defense....

A moment of silence was observed before the game for three men who devoted lots of years to South Point and have died since last football season - longtime Red Raiders public address announcer Kenny Williams, former South Point coach Earl Lingafeldt and former school principal Ed Sadler....

The two schools have combined for 40 conference titles and 11 state titles; South Point has 22 league championships and five state championships and Crest has 18 conference titles and six state titles.

What's next: Crest hosts T.C. Roberson. South Point hosts Lincolnton

Richard Walker: 704-869-1843; twitter.com/jrwalk22

Crest 28, South Point 11

First quarter
SP - Cade Ratliff 26 FG, 5:54
Second quarter
C - Lannden Zanders 15 pass from Peyton Kemmerlin (Evan Davis kick), 11:55
C - Michael Greene 11 pass from Kemmerlin (Davis kick), 0:06.5
Third quarter
SP - Keaton Hale 23 run (Naseem Jones run), 1:35
Fourth quarter
C - Kemmerlin 4 run (Davis kick), 1:13
C - B.J. Ramseur 55 interception return (Davis kick), 0:15.9

Crest; SP
17 First downs 13
33-217 Rushes-yards 42-179
119 Passing yards 56
336 Total yards 225
12-13-0 Comp-Att-Int 6-11-2
2-1 Fumbles-lost 2-0
4-29 Penalties-yards 5-25

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Crest
RUSHING: Kemmerlin 17-113-1, Jalin Graham 11-66, Rae-Kwon Turner-Young 2-17, Jamaud Geter 1-5, Greene 1-9, Zanders 1-7.
PASSING: Kemmerlin 12-12-0 119 (2 TD), Team 0-1-0 0.
RECEIVING: Zanders 4-44, Graham 2-43, Greene 2-20, Nate Blanton 2-10, Odarrus Ross 1-minus 2, Keyez Jefferies 1-4.

South Point
RUSHING: Hale 10-89, Jones 17-55, Ray Grier 2-2, Jamani Leeper 8-minus 4, Caleb Gibson 4-38, Team 1-minus 1.
PASSING: Hale 4-5-0 37, Leeper 2-6-2 19.
RECEIVING: Leeper 2-6, Grier 3-39, Devon King 1-11.