

South Point rolls past Wolves, NoGa

South Point 42, Lincolnton 7

It took the Red Raiders a little while to get going in Friday night's home game against the Lincolnton Wolves, but once they put the ball in the endzone, it seemed to get easier.

South Point scored three rushing touchdowns and one through the air in the opening half alone, while shutting down the Lincolnton offense and cruising to the win at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont.

"We wanted to get it going early," said South Point head coach Adam Hodge who celebrated his 32nd birthday on Friday with the win. "And it wasn't about who we were playing. It was about us last week."

Hodge pointed out that his team scored just 11 points a week ago against Crest, something that the Red Raider offense is not accustomed to.

"We played good," Hodge said, "but we've got to get better. I'm really proud of the boys and the coaches."

Fullback Naseem Jones was the workhorse in the Red Raiders first win of the season. The junior carried 19 times for 89 tough yards and three touchdowns. Senior Caleb Gibson ran for 79 yards on five carries and two scores.

"We used the wings and tried to spread it around," said Hodge. "Whatever the team gives you."

South Point (1-1) was playing its first full game without the services of starting quarterback Keaton Hale who suffered a knee injury in week one, but Hodge was very satisfied with the play of Jamani Leeper. "I'm proud of Jamani, Hodge said. "Last week, he was thrown into the fire. I'm real proud of his effort on the field tonight and his week of practice. He and coach Justice worked hard all week."

Lincolnton got on the board late in the game on a 2-yard Caden Wyatt touchdown run. The Wolves went 75 yards for their only score of the night.

Turning point: Trailing 6-0 in the second quarter, Lincolnton (0-2) looked like it might get a stop and get the offense back on the field. But a 15-yard pass interference penalty on the Wolves gave South Point a first down, and six plays later the Red Raiders extended their lead to 14-0.

South Point also added a touchdown right before the end of the half on a 31-yard pass from Leeper to Tre Glen. The Wolves defender got turned around and lost track of the football.

What's next: South Point will play host to Forest-view next Friday, their third straight home game to open the season. Lincolnton, still searching for their first win of 2018, will host North Gaston.

— *David Kever*

Lincolnton 0 0 0 7 - 7
South Point 6 22 14 0 - 42

First quarter

SP - Caleb Gibson 24 run (kick blocked), 3:34

Second quarter

SP - Naseem Jones 6 run (Jones pass from Jamani Leeper), 6:53

SP - Caleb Gibson 8 run (Cade Ratliff kick), 2:14

SP - Tre Glen 31 pass from Leeper (Cade Ratliff kick), 0:29

Third quarter

SP - Naseem Jones 10 run (Cade Ratliff kick), 7:53

SP - Naseem Jones 15 run (Cade Ratliff kick), 4:51

Fourth quarter

L - Caden Wyatt 2 run (Diego Ramiro kick), 2:09

Lincolnton		SP
11	First downs	10
41-112	Rushes-yards	35-214
42	Passing yards	72
154	Total yards	286
4-9-1	Comp-Att-Int	3-5-0
1-1	Fumbles-lost	0-0
5-40	Penalties-yards	4-30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Lincolnton

RUSHING: Jamal Littlejohn 15-53, Caden Wyatt 9-32-1, James Woods 3-18, Tiaje Ross 5-9, Matthew Byrd 1-3, Zach Lucas 2-2, Zachary Smith 4-1, E.J Manjerras 2-(-6).

PASSING: Manjerras 4-9-1 42.

RECEIVING: Zaevian Davis 1-12, Littlejohn 1-12, Malcolm Derr 1-9, Smith 1-9.

South Point

RUSHING: Naseem Jones 19-89-3, Caleb Gibson 5-79-2, Ray Grier 3-19, Jamani Leeper 6-16, Nick gange 2-11.

PASSING: Leeper 3-5-0 72.

RECEIVING: Tre Glen 1-31, Gange 1-22, Grier 1-19.