

# **Clover rallies past South Point 30-21**

Onside kick led to a second half surge for Blue Eagles



**South Point's Keaton Hale looks to pass the ball downfield.** [DIEGO ROMERO/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]



**By Joe Hughes**

[jhughes@gastongazette.com](mailto:jhughes@gastongazette.com)

CLOVER, S.C. — A week ago, Clover felt it gave one away in an overtime loss to Hunter Huss.

On Friday — its first opportunity to play in front of its home crowd — the Blue Eagles stole momentum, and then their game with South Point.

An onside kick to start the second half turned the tide in Clover's direction, allowing it to take a 30-21 win over the Red Raiders.

"Sometimes you have to risk some things in big games, and our kids responded," said Clover football coach Brian Lane. "We saw some things video wise, and I had a good heart-felt thing right there and our kicker executed the kick."

**Turning point:** Down seven and set to kick away to South Point after halftime, an onside kick attempted and recovered by Clover changed momentum of the game. A play later, a Houdini-like escape by Blue Eagle quarterback Gabe Carroll allowed him to connect with running back David Hall, who eluded several Red Raider tacklers for a 41-yard scoring play.

On its next possession, Clover took the lead for good when Carroll found wideout Jaylin Lane for the second time on the night, this time from 1-yard out.

**Star of the game:** Carroll was 23-for-35 passing for 271 yards and four touchdowns to lead his team to a win.

**Notes:** South Point quarterback Keaton Hale returned for his first game since injuring his knee in the team's opener against Crest. He showed little rust, rushing for two touchdowns and throwing for another. ... Clover was its own enemy at times in the first half, a pair of holding penalties negating what would have been first down completions. ...

*"Sometimes you have to risk some things in big games, and our kids responded," "We saw some things video wise, and I had a good heartfelt thing right there and our kicker executed the kick."*

Brian Lane, Clover football coach

South Point defensive back Chancellor Mayfield did his best to be a shutdown corner, the large share of passes thrown his way falling to the turf incomplete. ... There was not a punt in the

contest until the midway through the second period. On the play, South Point was called for roughing the kicker, giving the Blue Eagles a first down. ... For the first time this season,

Clover did not turn the ball over. ... South Point wideout Ray Grier left the game in the third quarter with what Red Raider coach Adam Hodge believed to be cramps. He caught a touchdown earlier in the contest.

**What's next:** South Point (2-2) is again on the road, this time heading to Cramerton to take on nearby rival Stuart Cramer. As for Clover (3-1), it completes a 4-game swing against North Carolina foes when it hosts Ashbrook.

## **Clover 30, South Point 21**

### First quarter

CHS - Jaylin Lane 9 pass from Gabe Carroll (Austin Clark kick)

SP - Keaton Hale 23 run (Cade Ratliff kick)

### Second quarter

CHS - Blackmon Huckabee 7 pass from Carroll (Clark kick)

SP - Hale 25 run (Ratliff kick)

SP - Ray Grier 53 pass from Hale (Ratliff kick)

### Third quarter

CHS - David Hall 41 pass from Carroll (Clark kick)

CHS - Lane 1 pass from Carroll (kick failed)

### Fourth quarter

CHS - Clark 27 field goal

### SP CHS

19 First downs 28

44-190 Rushes-yards 22-140

151 Passing yards 271

341 Total yards 411

8-16-1 Comp-Att-Int 23-35-0

3-1 Fumbles-lost 0-0

7-65 Penalties-yards 13-117

### Individual statistics

#### South Point

RUSHING: Hale 15-88, Naseem Jones 20-74, Caleb Gibson 3-5, Jamani Leeper 4-21

PASSING: Hale 7-15-1, 122 yards; Leeper 1-1-0, 39 yards

RECEIVING: Grier 3-98, Leeper 3-20, Gibson 1-4, Devon King 1-39.

#### Clover

RUSHING: Nygle Biggers 1-0, Hall 9-93, Carroll 6-28, Zion Mackins 6-19

PASSING: Carroll 23-35-0, 271 yards

RECEIVING: Zion Robbins 3-37, Heze Massey 4-39, Lane 5-44, Huckabee 5-34, Hall 5-101, Clark 1-16.