

# Red Raiders romp past Warriors 42-0

By Eli Pacheco

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The only thing that could stop South Point's offense on Friday, it turns out, was its own special teams.

In particular, it was punt returner Ray Grier who gave the Red Raiders a two-score lead en route to a 42-0 win at East Gaston.

"When you play good defense, and get an opportunity to return a punt, good things happen," South Point coach Adam Hodge said. South Point (5-2) led 14-0 after returns of 60 and 55 yards from Grier, and out-gained the Warriors (0-7) 346-108.

"We're an option team and we run the ball a pretty good bit," Hodge said. "When you can deal with a short field and don't have to drive 80 yards, that's always a good thing, I don't care what kind of offense you run."

The Ray Grier show kept Naseem Jones from doing damage — but only temporarily.

Jones scored three rushing touchdowns in the second quarter the Red Raiders ran away.

"Whenever we can end drives like that, put it in the end zone on the ground after pushing up the field, it feels amazing," Jones said. "It gets the morale up, and makes the game more fun."

Brodie Hilton led East Gaston with 72 yards rushing.

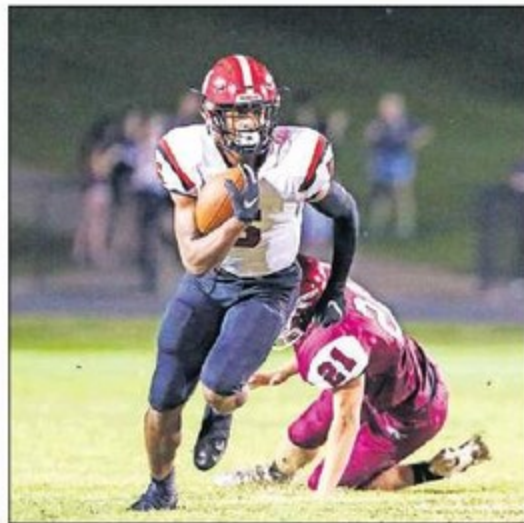


East Gaston's Brodie Hilton is tackled by South Point's Omari Hunt as he attempts to run up the middle.  
[BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]

**Turning point:** Take your pick of Grier's scores. They went for 60 and 55 yards for a 14-0 South Point lead, even before Jones got a chance to take off.

**Player of the game:** Jones. With a two-score lead and a couple of second-half interceptions, South Point played on a short field. The result: Three drives that ended with Jones in the end zone, from 8, 7 and 3 yards. He finished with 165 yards rushing.

**What's next:** East Gaston at Chase on Friday; South Point at East Rutherford on Friday.



South Point's Ray Grier shakes off the tackle of East Gaston's Tyler Gann and runs the distance for the game's first touchdown after an East Gaston punt.  
[BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]

**SOUTH POINT 42, EAST GASTON 0**

First quarter  
SP - Ray Grier 60 punt return (Cade Ratliff kick) 1:57  
SP - Grier 55 punt return (Ratliff kick) 6:23  
Second quarter  
SP - Naseem Jones 8 run (kick failed) 3:19  
SP - Jones 7 run (Caleb Gibson run) 9:29  
SP - Jones 3 run (Ratliff kick) 10:31  
Third quarter  
SP - Hunter Hogue 7 run (Ratliff kick) 10:37

**SP - EG**  
15 First downs 7  
40-315 Rushes-yards 30-90  
31 Passing yards 18  
346 Total yards 108  
3-7-0 Comp-Att-Int 5-11-2  
0-0 Fumbles-lost 0-0  
9-65 Penalties-yards 4-17

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
South Point  
RUSHING: Naseem Jones 19-165, Caleb Gibson 4-51, Hunter Hogue 6-32, Jeremiah Brenipe 4-15, Devon King 4-15, Ray Grier 2-10, Keaton Hale 1-0.  
PASSING: Hale 3-7-0 31.  
RECEIVING: Jammari Lewis 1-11, Grier 1-10, Zane Andrews 1-10.  
East Gaston  
RUSHING: Brodie Hilton 20-72, D.J. Maultsby 6-16, K.J. Dagout 3-5, Jesse Baldwin 1-minus 3.  
PASSING: Maultsby 5-11-2 18.  
RECEIVING: Cole Gillespie 1-11, Dagout 4-7.

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