

Happy homecoming



Devon King is pursued by the Hilltoppers' Janire Gibbs as he races toward the end zone after picking off a pass. It was one of seven touchdowns the Red Raiders scored in the first half. [BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]

Red Raiders cruise to 49-6 rout of visiting R-S Central

By David Snyder
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Playing in Belmont for the first time since late August, the South Point Red Raiders looked like a team thrilled to be home.

In front of a huge Homecoming crowd, the team clicked on all cylinders early and often, jumping out to a 49-0 halftime lead and cruising to a 49-6 win over the visiting R-S Central Hilltoppers Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

Raider coach Adam Hodge was also pleased with his team's execution and happy to be back in front of friendly crowd. "It's good to be home, but it doesn't matter where you play, you want to play your best and play up to your standards, and tonight, we played pretty dog-gone good."

The opening drive took just three plays as QB Keaton Hale found Ray Grier on a quick slant from 25 yards out. Hale carried it in himself from 29 yards out



South Point's Caleb Gibson looks ahead to the goal line after breaking free from R-S Central's Clinton Deyton. Gibson finished the run with a touchdown. [BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]

on their second possession and then again from 8 yards out on their third. Caleb Gibson scored on a three yard touchdown run shortly thereafter and before the Hilltoppers picked up a first down, it was 27-0 Red Raiders still in the first quarter.

Hale, who still had a bit of a sore ankle, didn't play after the first quarter. Coach Hodge saw no need to take any chances. "He practiced all week and

would have played if needed, but why take any chances when you've got a lead?"

With Jamani Leeper replacing Hale, the offense didn't slow down in the second quarter. Gibson and Naseem Jones had rushing touchdowns and on the final play of the first half, Red Raider DB Devon King picked off a pass and zigzagged his way to the end zone for the seventh touchdown of the first half.

The Raider defense would turn the Hilltoppers over five times in all, recovering two fumbles. Tre Glenn and Omari Hunt also had interceptions, with Hunt returning his inside the 10 yard line.

R-S Central would find some success with CJ Hannon on the ground and backup QB Jaiden Costen would lead them on a fourth quarter scoring drive to prevent the shutout.

With the whole second half played with a running clock, coach Hodge loved his young guys getting some time. "There's going to be a learning curve when you make wholesale changes, but having some film for them to be critiqued by coaches is how we get better"

Notes: Playing five road games and mixing in a bye week, it was South Point's first home game in seven weeks.

What's next: R-S Central (1-8, 0-3) travels to East Gaston, while South Point (7-2, 3-0) will host Chase.

South Point 49, R-S Central

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SCORING SUMMARY

First Quarter

SP—Ray Grier 25 pass from Keaton Hale
(missed PAT) 11:43

SP—Hale 30 run (Naseem Jones run) 8:35

SP—Hale 8 run (Cade Radliff kick) 6:55

SP—Caleb Gibson 3 run (missed PAT) 3:39

Second Quarter

SP—Caleb Gibson 4 run (Devon King run)
11:31

SP—Naseem Jones 1 run (Radliff kick) 8:20

SP—Devon King 42 INT return (Radliff
kick) :00

Fourth Quarter

R-S—Ken Hines 2 run (missed PAT) 6:58

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TEAM STATISTICS

R-S SP

15 First downs 13

42-160 Rushes-yards 29-211

29 Passing yards 87

189 Total yards 298

3-9-3 Comp-att-int 4-6-0

4-2 Fumbles-lost 2-0

3-35 Penalties-yards 7-40

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

R-S Central

Rushing - CJ Hannon 20-58, Zaharie Washburn 1-(-4), Xavier Toms 4-2, Jamire Gibbs 6-23, Noah Hudgins 3-12, Jaiden Costen 7-67, Ken Hines 1-2-1

Passing - Bryson Flynn 3-9-29

Receiving- Marlin Francis 1-6, Xavier Toms 1-2, Trey Greene 1-21

South Point

Rushing - Ray Grier 1-12, Naseem Jones 8-72-1, Keaton Hale 3-43-2, Caleb Gibson 2-7-2, Jamani Leeper 3-23, Trevon Jones 2-11, Hunter Hogue 2-13, Jake Beatty 4-32, Javus Davis 4-(-2)

Passing - Keaton Hale 1-1-0 25 (1 TD), Jamani Leeper 3-5-0 62

Receiving - Grier 2-69-1, Jammari Lewis 1-9, Devon King 1-9