

# Shelby pulls away from South Point, claims conference title



Shelby's Donye Fuller carries the ball as South Point's Nick Gange dives to tackle during their game at Shelby High School on Friday.  
[DAVID GROSE/SPECIAL TO THE STAR]

By Dustin George  
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Shelby won its seventh straight game to become the Southwestern 2A Conference champions, defeating a visiting South Point 41-25 on Friday.

"This team has grown so much since the beginning of the season. This wasn't one individual, it was a total team win; I couldn't be prouder of them or our coaching staff for what they've done," said Shelby head coach Lance Ware.

Things looked rough for Shelby early. The Red Raiders went up 12-0 off the back of scoring runs by Jamani Leeper and Ray Grier, but failed to kick an extra point or earn a

two-point conversion.

Shelby finally got on the board in the second quarter when Isaiah Bess connected with Dioivanni Dayley for a 45-yard touchdown pass.

After the Shelby defense forced a punt on the subsequent South Point drive, Bess would find the end zone on a 14-yard scramble. Caden Sheeley's point after try was blocked, making things 13-12 Shelby going into halftime.

"We were down 12-nothing but it felt like it was 50-nothing. We were not fitting where we were supposed to; Coach (Justin) Hawn, our defensive coordinator, came out and made some adjustments and found ways to slow them

down. Then we hit some big plays in the passing game and had the lead at the half — I told them to just come out and win the second half," said Shelby head coach Lance Ware. "(South Point) were a really good football team, really good at what they do. We were able to get them up and off the field, get them behind the chains and make them uncomfortable."

**Turning point:** Bess's 14-yard scramble into the end zone established a Shelby lead that the team would not relinquish for the rest of the game.

**Stars of the game:** Bess and Dayley led their offense through much of the night.

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# SHELBY

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Bess connected with no less than five different receivers for 303 passing yards and

four touchdowns on 17 completions. He also ran for one score. Four of those passes — 126 yards — were caught by Dayley.

**Notes:** Shelby's Fabian Pettis scored on a 95-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter to seal the game for his team.

**What's next:** Both teams are off next week as they await playoff pairings.

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SHELBY 41, SOUTH POINT 25

First quarter  
SP - Jamani Leeper 5 run (kick failed)  
Second quarter  
SP - Ray Grier 8 run (conversion failed)  
SHS - Diavonni Daley 45 pass from Isaiah Bess  
(Caden Sheeley kick)  
SHS - Bess 14 run (kick failed)  
Third quarter  
SHS - Zandre Cherry 39 pass from Bess (Sheeley  
kick)  
SP - Keaton Hale 58 run (conversion failed)  
SHS - Donye Fuller 14 pass from Bess (Sheeley kick)  
Fourth quarter  
SP - Naseem Jones 1 run (Cade Ratliff kick)  
SHS - Fabian Pettis 95 kickoff return (Sheeley kick)  
SHS - Jahari Mitchell 10 pass from Bess (Sheeley  
kick)

SP SHS  
16 First downs 20  
53-285 Rushes-yards 17-91  
50 Passing yards 313  
335 Total yards 404  
2-7-0 Comp-Att-Int 17-30-0  
2-0 Fumbles-lost 0-0  
8-70 Penalties-yards 8-70



**Shelby 41, South Point 25**

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**SP SHS**

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53-285	Rushes-yards	17-91
50	Passing yards	313
335	Total yards	404
2-7-0	Comp-Att-Int	17-30-0
2-0	Fumbles-lost	0-0
8-70	Penalties-yards	8-70

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

**South Point**

RUSHING: Naseem Jones 19-52, Ray Grier 7-43, Keaton Hale 15-120, Caleb Gibson 5-52, Devin King 1-6, Jamani Leeper 6-12.

PASSING: Hale 2-7-0, 50 yards.

RECEIVING: Grier 2-50.

**Shelby**

RUSHING: Donye Fuller 14-93, Isaiah Bess 3-(-2).

PASSING: Bess 17-30-0, 313 yards.

RECEIVING: Diavonni Daley 4-131, Zandre Cherry 1-39, Santana Eaves 4-46, Kamarde Huskey 2-16, Jahari Mitchell 4-44, Fuller 2-37