



A RARE PLAY — South Point's Jerry Clubb (83) drives Shelby running back Scott Bankhead to the ground during Friday's battle of the unbeaten for the Southwestern 3-A Conference title. The play was one of the few times all night

when the Raiders outhit the Lions, as Shelby romped to a resounding 42-7 triumph to win the conference crown and to advance to the state 3-A playoffs. (Gazette photo by D.D. Vereen)

Clover blasts McDuffey

CLOVER—The Clover Blue Eagles successfully recorded their seventh consecutive winning season Friday night as they defeated McDuffey High School, 54-6.

Coach Jack Turpin's forces were led by Charles Kendrick with two touchdowns and a fine ground performance gaining 75 yards rushing in 13 carries.

The Blue Eagles move into South

Carolina State 2-A playoffs to play an undermanned team, next Friday.

Chris Cherker scored on a 17-yard run in the first quarter and Jerry Wilson kicked the extra point, and Clover led the Scots 7-0. Minutes later Ronnie Clinton scored from one yard out and Wilson split the uprights once more for a 14-0 Clover lead.

With the Blue Eagles leading 20-0 McDuffey scored their only

touchdown as Ronney Davis dashed one yard for the tally. The run for the conversion failed.

The Blue Eagles scored four times in the final half of play, with Kendrick scoring his second, Donald Allison, Robert Sanders, Ronnie Clinton and Michael Choates all scoring in the second half.

Choates scored his on an 80-yard punt return.

Shelby puts blast on Big Red, 42-7

By RICHARD SOWERS
Gazette Sports Editor

It was supposed to be a battle to prove who was number one, to prove who was the hard-hittingest, superduperest 3-A football team in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and perhaps the Old NorthState.

If the designation as the state's best 3-A team was indeed up for grabs Friday night at Lineberger Stadium in Belmont, the Shelby Golden Lions proved beyond any reasonable doubt that they are indeed deserving of their pumber one ranking in one newspaper poll.

Behind the game-breaking runs of scatback Anthony Webber, who gained 191 yards on just 14 carries and would have had many more had his runs not kept ending in touchdowns, the Lions completely outclassed the homelands South Point Red Raiders, 42-7, as an overflow crowd of more than 6,500 fans watched in disbelief as Shelby advanced to the state playoffs by humiliating the Raiders in the battle of unbeaten.

South Point Coach Jim Biggerstaff's bid for an unbeaten season, conference title and an attempt to end the '77 season with his 77th victory in his nine years at South Point was doomed almost from the first time Shelby touched the ball.

Lester Jamerson returned a Mitch Painter punt 34 yards to the South Point 36 to give the Lions excellent field position, an important advantage that they enjoyed throughout the contest. On Shelby's first play from scrimmage, back-up fullback Scott Bankhead, starting in place of power-running Alan Burrus, exploded through a giant hole in the middle of the Red Raider line and galloped 36 yards untouched to paydirt.

On South Point's next two possessions, the Raiders turned the ball over as Joe Shepherd and Joe Shepherd aerial and Hugh Howell recovered a Fernandez Grier fumble at the Raider eight.

Three plays later, Bankhead crashed over from the one, and David Devine's second of five successful

placements gave the Lions a commanding 14-0 lead with 1:45 remaining in the initial stanza.

If first-year Coach Jim Taylor's unbeaten season was not already assured, when the curtain opened on the Anthony Webber Show in the second period, the Lions, who won the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association title in the organization's last year of existence a year ago, were ready to begin thinking about their bid for the state 3-A title this season.

Webber scored on dashes of 29 and 18 yards in the second quarter as Shelby mounted effective drives from 56 and 54 yards from the goal line to take a 28-0 halftime advantage.

The Shelby offensive and defensive lines, which punished their South Point counterparts throughout the encounter, continued to control the action — with a little help from Webber — in the second half.

A Painter punt that traveled 54 yards to the Shelby seven put the Lions at a disadvantage late in the third period, but Webber found a hole in the middle of the line and dashed 93 yards for his third touchdown with 2:18 remaining in the period.

Shepherd was pounded throughout the night by the Shelby defensive line, as the Lions sacked the Raider quarterback five times for losses totalling 31 yards, but he did have his moments of glory. He completed seven of his 22 passes for 140 yards, and his over-the-middle toss to Mitch Painter for 70 yards gave the Raiders their only touchdown with 1:42 to play in the third period.

The Shelby reserves put the final touchdown on the board by recovering a Shepherd fumble at the Raider 14 and scoring three plays later on Landrum Miller's two-yard dive with 57 seconds to play. South Point's heralded running backs, Steve Davis and Grier, were helpless against the Shelby defense. Each carried the ball but five times, with Davis getting but 12 yards and Grier, 11.

While Shelby was piling up 328 yards on the ground, with Bankhead's

69 yards on 13 carries lending support to Webber's 191, the Raiders could manage but 32 yards on the ground in 26 tries.

Perhaps the halftime show was most indicative of the outcome.

The Red Raider band played the theme from *Rocky*, and both bands played the theme from *Star Wars*.

Like Rocky Balboa, the Raiders got in but one punch — their long touchdown — in the mismatch, and although South Point's light show during the theme from *Star Wars* was indeed magnificent, only the Golden Lions had the force with them on Friday night.

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STATISTICS

	South Point	Shelby
First Downs	8	9
Net Yards Rushing	12	128
Passes	7-23	3-6
Passing Yardage	140	22
Passes Intercepted By	0	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Yards Penalized	70	60

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Teams	1	2	3	4	T
Shelby	14	14	7	7	42
South Point	0	0	7	0	7

SCORING SUMMARY

- S — Barkhead, 26 run (Devine kick)
 S — Barkhead, 1 run (Devine kick)
 S — Webber, 29 run (Devine kick)
 S — Webber, 18 run (Devine kick)
 S — Webber, 69 run (Devine kick)
 SP — Painter, 70 pass from Shepherd (Bain kick)
 S — Miller, 1 run (Adams kick)