



South Point's Keith Young under pressure from Benny Smith  
...Smith missed, but set up backfield loss for Red Raiders

Gazette Photo by Paul Kelly

# Hilltoppers spoil SP's homecoming

By DWIGHT FRADY  
Special To The Gazette

R-S Central's Hilltoppers not only spoiled South Point's homecoming game Friday night at Lineberger Stadium—the visitors made it a total nightmare as well.

With southpaw quarterback Troy Harris throwing the ball and with end David Davis catching and running with the pigskin, the Hilltoppers rolled to a surprisingly easy 35-0 victory over the defending state 3-A champion Red Raiders.

Harris scored one touchdown and passed for two to the elusive Smith, and Smith added insult to injury by returning a punt 71 yards for a touchdown.

It was the first South Point shutout at Lineberger Stadium since a 0-0 tie against East Gaston in the third game of 1972.

The only bright spot for South Point, now 2-3 in the Southwestern 3-A Conference and 2-3-1 overall, was tailback Keith Young, who rushed for 105 yards in 20 carries.

R-S Central, now 3-2 in the league and 4-2 overall, completely dominated the game, rebounding from a one-point overtime loss to Burns and a 28-15 setback at the hands of East Gaston.

The Red Raiders have now dropped their last three games, the last time that has happened since the 1975

campaign when Coach Jim Biggers' charges dropped their final three games of the season and finished with a 5-4-1 record.

The Raiders have never had a losing season under Biggers' in 12 years but they now have an uphill struggle going into their final four games of the season including a home game next week against Kings Mountain.

R-S Central started at 3-0 when Harris ran it over from four yards out with 7:31 remaining in the first period. Harris booted the first of his five consecutive extra points. A 42-yard pass from Harris, who rattled South Point's secondary with 10 completions in 16 attempts and 195 yards, to Edward Craig carrying to the South Point 12 helped set up the score.

For all practical purposes, R-S Central put the game out of reach in the second period with three touchdowns and a 28-0 lead.

The Hilltoppers recovered a Young fumble at the South Point 42 and Harris struck like lightning, tossing 42 yards on the first play to Davis for the score at the 9:53 mark.

Mack Young's pass interception at the South Point 34 set up the Hilltoppers' third score. The visitors scored on two plays, with Harris

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reatened twice late in

the game. The Raiders following a  
short punt moved from the Hilltopper  
42 to the 17 for a first down, but four  
plays later the rugged Hilltopper  
defense held at the 10.

A 41-yard run by Young to the R-S  
Central 22 gave the Raiders another  
chance, but four plays gained only  
five yards and the Hilltoppers had a  
shutout victory.

The Hilltoppers totaled 236 yards in  
total offense while holding South Point  
to 159, mostly on Young's second half  
efforts.

South Point senior Angie Parton,  
daughter of Randy and Evelyn  
Parton, was crowned South Point's  
homecoming queen during special  
halftime ceremonies. Her sponsor  
was Arnold White and she won out  
over 15 other contestants.