

Red Raiders roll to 21-8 win over Shelby

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

SHELBY — South Point's Red Raiders passed their first crucial test of the season here Friday night with flying colors, handing Shelby's previously undefeated Golden Lions a 21-8 setback.

Quarterback Mark Young's heroics on offense and South Point's tenacious defense, which held Shelby to two first downs (both on passes late in the game) and 18 yards rushing in the second half, were the stories of the game.

It was South Point's third consecutive Southwestern 3-A Conference win and fourth overall triumph.

"Our guys played their hearts out tonight," said Raider coach Jim Biggerstaff. "I told our guys all week that the team with the best defense would win.

"Tonight, we had the best defense against a real fine Shelby team. We call our defense 'The Dirty Dozen.' They take pride in playing defense. As for Young, he had another super game. His 51-yard touchdown run when we were trailing 8-6 was a real big play.

"This could well be the best game we've ever played at Shelby. We took advantage of two fumble recoveries for touchdowns.

"This was a big hurdle for us, but we've got to stay away from injuries and keep on playing like this. Every Friday is a frantic

one in our conference."

Shelby picked up three of its eight first downs to open the game, moving from its 20 to South Point's 38 behind the running of Robert Robinson. But two plays later, Craig Patterson recovered a Shelby fumble at the 42.

The momentum swung to South Point after that. The Raiders went 58 yards in nine plays. Two big plays keyed the drive. Young hit Keith Robbins with a 27-yard pass completion to the Shelby 28. On a third-and-15 play from the 33, Young ran to the 24, six yards short of the first down, but Shelby was called for a personal foul, giving South Point a first down at the 12.

Three plays later, tailback Tonja Wat-

son went over from the 4 at the 2:39 mark. Mike Dudko's extra point attempt was blocked, leaving South Point with a 6-0 lead.

Steve Cornwell, who did some outstanding punting in the fourth period, got off a short 7-yard punt into the wind, the ball hitting at the Raider 38 and bouncing back to the 33 to put Shelby in good position in the second period.

Behind the running of Milton Poole, the Lions scored in three plays. Poole ran the final 15 yards for the touchdown at the 4:24 mark. Robinson ran for the two-point conversion to give Shelby an 8-6 lead.

Shelby was to never enter South Point's territory again. Behind Young, who ran

through and past tacklers most of the night, the Raiders struck for the go-ahead score in two plays on the ensuing kickoff. Young hit Robbins on a 16-yard completion to the Raider 49. Then Young on an option broke open and raced 51 yards at the 3:48 mark for the go-ahead touchdown.

Young pitched out to Watson for a successful two-point conversion and South Point held a 14-8 first half lead.

The second half was all South Point's. The Raiders, with the wind at their back at the start of the game and to begin the second half, appeared to be headed for a

Please see Raiders, P. 11-A, Cols. 5-6

Raiders

Continued from P. 10-A

score after the kickoff, moving impressively from their 33 to the Shelby 20 for a first down. Young hit Mike Pearson at the Shelby 2, but he had passed the line of scrimmage and the Raiders were penalized to the 22.

On a fourth and 11 from the 21, Dudko's 38-yard field goal attempt was blocked by Shannon Earley.

Shelby, getting off only five plays in the third period, fumbled on its next possession and Shane Price of the Raiders recovered at the 29. Six plays later, fullback Chris Wooten carried tacklers

with him over the goal line at the 3:28 mark and Dudko's conversion gave South Point a 21-8 lead.

Cornwell's punting, kicking out of bounds on the Shelby 6 and 10 in the fourth period kept Shelby backed up deep in the fourth period. Cornwell and Charles Thrasher picked off two Greg Henshaw passes in the fourth period.

Shelby didn't get beyond its own 30 in the second half.

South Point seeks its fifth consecutive win next Friday at Burns.

South Point 21

Shelby 8

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|
| South Point | 6 | 8 | 7 | 0—21 |
| Shelby | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0—8 |

SP — Watson 6 run (kick failed)

S — Poole 15 run (Robinson run)

SP — Young 51 run (Watson run)

SP — Wooten 11 run (Dudko kick)