

Shelby blanks Raiders

By Dwight Frady

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BELMONT — Shelby's Golden Lions took over first place in the Southwestern 3-A Conference Friday night, spoiling South Point's homecoming with a 20-0 shutout win over the Red Raiders.

It was the first time South Point had been shut out in 34 games, a streak going back to the 1982 season when they were blanked by East Gaston.

Shelby, using a relentless ground attack, marched 70 yards in 14 plays and jumped to a 7-0 lead at the 4:44 mark of the first period on a 1-yard run by John Cook and the first of two Sam Wheeler extra points.

The Golden Lions, now 3-0 in the conference and 5-1 overall, used excellent field position in the third period to score two more touchdowns to send South Point to its first league loss in three games. The Raiders are 2-4 overall.

Coach Jim Taylor of Shelby was pleased with his team's fifth straight win.

"I thought two South Point turnovers in the first half, and then the two kickoffs in the second half which put them back deep, were big turning points for us," Taylor said.

"We're happy to be 3-0, but we've still got a long way to go. Three teams are going to the state 3-A playoffs this year and it should be interesting. South Point is still very much in the playoff picture.

"Our offense is the thing that beat us," said Raider coach Jim Biggerstaff. "I thought our defense played well. Turnovers haunted us. Their quarterback (Michael) Spangler looked real good. He's real quick back there."

South Point's Tonja Watson gained 107 hard-earned yards in 27 carries. It was the fifth straight game in which Watson has gone over the 100-yard mark, and the first player to do it against Shelby this year.

After Shelby scored in the first period, the Raiders came back and were on the move with a first and 10 at the Shelby 33. But quarterback Chris Cornelius had the ball knocked loose on the next play and Shelby's Bryant Chambers recovered at the 19.

On its third and last possession of the first half, the Raiders moved from their 33 to the Shelby 18 with time running out. On a third-and-seven play, Cornelius was intercepted by Rodney Robinson and Shelby ran out the first half clock.

On the second half kickoff, Keith Robbins' knee touched at the 12 after he caught the ball. Two plays later, Aaron Martin intercepted Cornelius' pass at the 17 and returned to the 15. Two plays later, Spangler went over from the 6 at the 9:53 mark for a 14-0 lead.

Shelby 20

South Point 0

Shelby	7	0	13	0	-	20
South Point	0	0	0	0	-	00

Sh - John Cook 1 run / Sam Wheeler kick

Sh - Michael Spangler 6 run / Wheeler kick

Sh - Rodney Robinson 1 run / kick failed