

Raiders nail down berth in playoffs

By Dwight Frady

Special to The Gazette

BELMONT — South Point's Red Raiders took advantage of a 90-yard punt return by Scott Floyd and a pass interception and a fumble recovery to set up touchdowns and went on to capture a 28-24 Southwestern 3-A Conference win here Friday over R-S Central.

It put Coach Jim Biggerstaff's Red Raiders into the state 3-A playoffs following an 0-10 season a year ago. South Point will be shooting for second place in the league behind leading Shelby against Burns at home next Friday.

The Red Raiders are currently 4-1 in the league and 7-2 overall. R-S Central dropped to 3-3 in the league and 3-6 overall.

"It was a great win for us and our kids played hard," Biggerstaff said. "R-S has one fine offensive team."

"I'm proud of our guys for the complete turnaround from last season. We're in the playoffs. That's what we were shooting for. It gets down to controlling your own destiny now, and we can clinch the number two playoff berth next week with a win over Burns."

Floyd put South Point ahead to stay at the 11:05 mark of the second period when he raced 90 yards on the punt return and Willie Strain kicked the first of his four extra points.

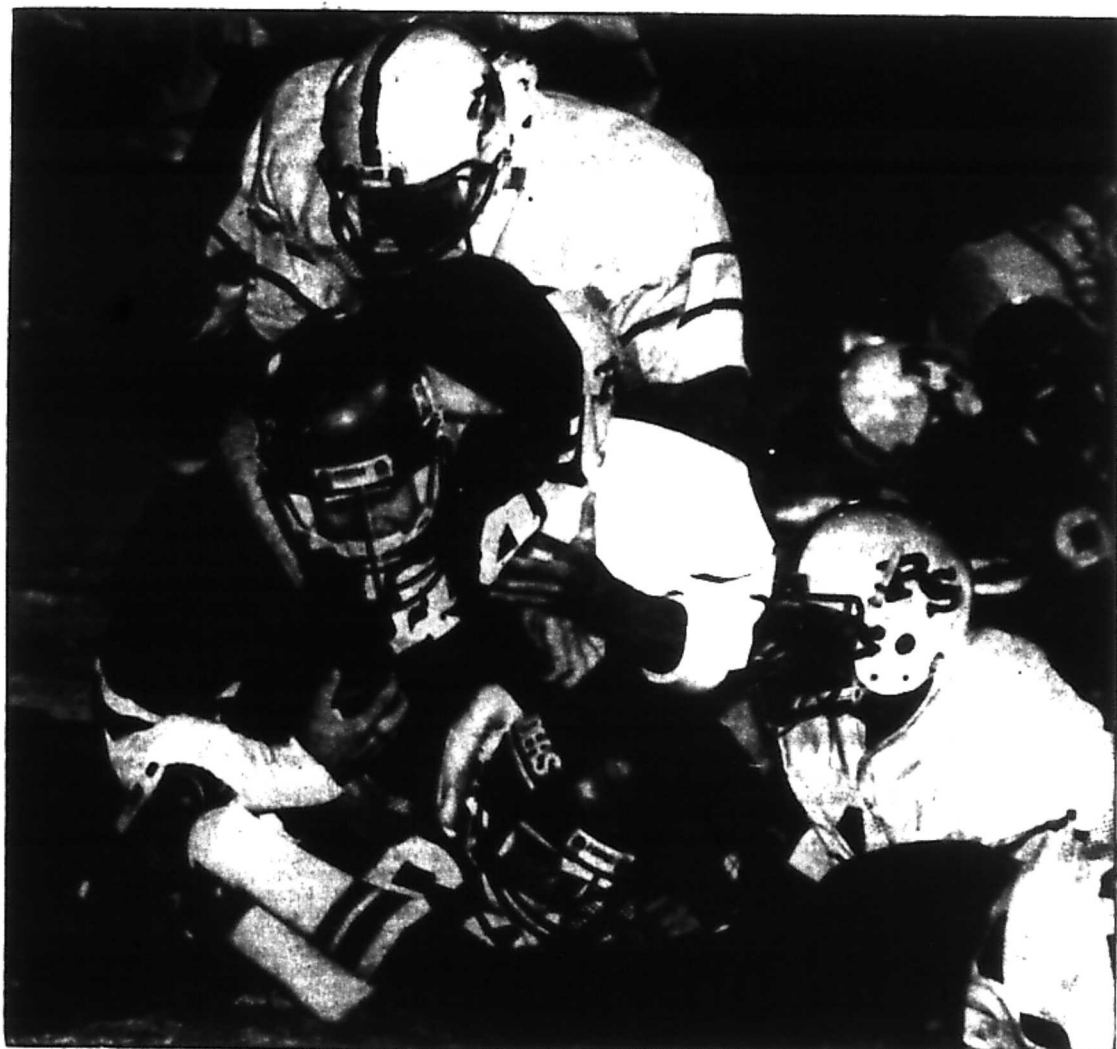
Jack Huss, who passed for 198 yards on the night and led a Hilltopper attack which had 333 yards in total offense, gave R-S a 3-0 lead with a field goal at the 6:15 mark of the first period.

South Point built a 14-3 halftime lead in its homecoming game when Strain scored on a 6-yard run to climax an 84-yard drive in 13 plays with 1:14 left in the second period.

Central cut South Point's lead to 14-10 at the 6:04 mark of the third period on a 6-yard run by Wade Shehan.

Pat Keough's pass interception at the South Point 44 set up the Raiders' third touchdown, climaxed by Floyd's 38-yard run at the 2:11 mark of the third period. The Raiders made it 28-10 following a fumble recovery at the Hilltopper 23 when Strain scored on a 13-yard run with 11:13 left in the game.

The Hilltoppers used the passing arm of Huss to make it close at the end, setting up touchdown runs of 7 and 2 yards by Shehan.



South Point's Brian Pate (44) bulls for tough yardage for Red Raiders.

Dieter Methorn/The Gazette

R-S Central 24

South Point 28

R-S Central	0	0	0	14	=	24
South Point	0	14	0	0	=	28

RS - Jack Huss 27 field goal

SP - Scott Floyd 90 punt return Willie Strain kick

SP - Strain 6 run ; Strain kick

RS - Wade Sheehan 3 run Huss kick

SP - Floyd 38 run ; Strain kick

SP - Strain 13 run ; Strain kick

RS - Sheehan 17 run John Hodges pass from Huss

SP - Sheehan 7 run pass failed