

Gazette photos by Jacob N. Ware
Right: Koren Robinson jumps into the arms of teammate Kelly Brown after Brown scored on a 15-yard pass from Brian Ashe in the second quarter against North Gaston. **Below:** North Gaston's Treco Jackson wraps up South Point's Brown after another Brown catch.



South too hot for North

Robinson scores 3 TDs in victory

By Darin Gantt

Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — Slingshot nothing.

David out-bench pressed Goliath.

"Speed kills, and our little quick guys played their hearts out tonight," South Point coach John Devine said after the Red Raiders' 34-7 win over North Gaston Friday. "We were outmanned up front, but they couldn't block us."

"They were bigger and stronger, but we just kept running and hitting them in the mouth."

And the Red Raiders (5-2, 1-0) didn't use their best punch, either.

Leading rusher Koren Robinson was held to 76 yards, and only had two rushes of more than 10

yards, but South Point's offense was varied enough to withstand not having Robinson's usual Jim Brown kind of night.

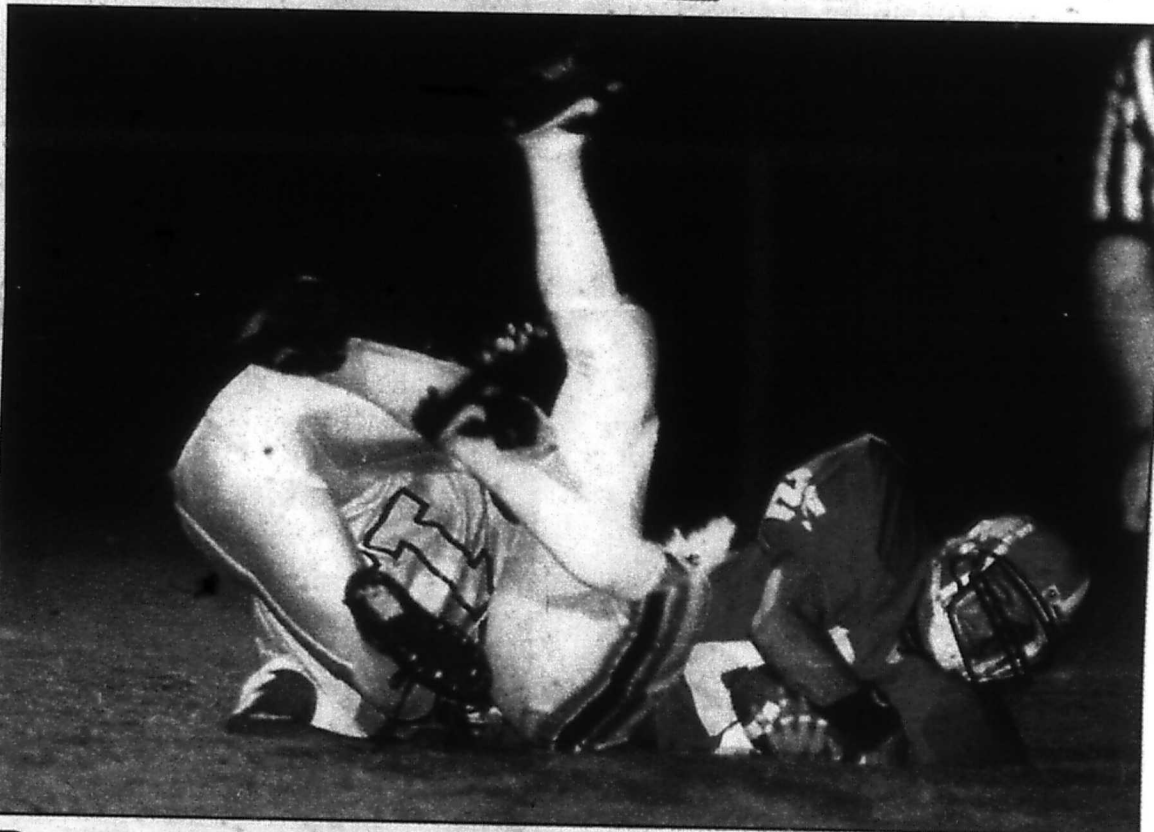
"We've got a senior fullback, a senior quarterback and a senior wideout," Devine said. "You've got to be exceptionally good to stop all phases of our game."

And the rest of the Red Raiders offense was plenty good.

North (5-2, 0-1) shadowed Robinson all night, but South Point turned its other weapons loose.

Fullback Thurston Johnson had 78 yards rushing, and Brian Ashe hit Kelly Brown for 87 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown in the second quarter that gave South Point a 20-0 lead.

Please see Raiders/3C



Bessemer City snaps 18-game losing skid

By Josh Stewart

Gazette Correspondent

VALE — It's not a state championship

night.

Coming into the contest, Bessemer

In order to get over the hump, the Yellow Jackets threw out all the stops in the

Raiders

Then Robinson made it 27-0 just before halftime with his second short score on a drive aided by four North Gaston penalties.

Those flags killed the Wildcats throughout the night, as they racked up 101 yards on 13 penalties.

Their timing wasn't great, either.

After putting the Raiders in a fourth-and-1 in the first quarter, and offsides penalty led to SP's second touchdown. A similar call on a South Point third-and-3 led to Brown's touchdown catch. And a pass interference call gave the Raiders the boost they needed for their fourth score.

But it was the South Point defense that won the game.

"That's the kind of defense that you've got to have to win conference games," Devine said. "You can do what you want to on offense, but if you don't play defense, you don't win games like these."

The Raiders stop-side lived up to the challenge, allowing only



Jacob N. Ware/The Gazette

South Point assistant coach Mickey Lineberger gives the TD signal in the first half of the Red Raiders' win over the Wildcats.

one first down in the first half, and holding the Wildcats to only 26 yards rushing and nothing through the air.

"We wanted to stop these guys to get a good start on the conference," Devine said. "We've got one goal in mind, and that's making it back to the state playoffs."

"We're not used to not going, and we're ready to go back."

North Gaston 0 0 7 0 — 7

South Point 14 13 0 7 — 34

SP — Brian Ashe 5 run (Ashe kick)

SP — Koren Robinson 2 run (Ashe kick)

SP — Kelly Brown 15 pass from Ashe (kick failed)

SP — Robinson 2 run (Ashe kick)

NG — Toren Gordon 6 run (Casey Rhyne kick)

SP — Robinson 3 run (Ashe kick)