



Guy Wathen/The Gazette

South Point's Chris Stowe is bowled over by East Rutherford's Chris Cook, left.

# Cavs have their way

## No. 9 E. Rutherford crushes South Point

By Richard Walker  
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BELMONT — East Rutherford coach Jerry Cash said he entered Friday's game at South Point with a world of anxiety.

How would his team respond to routing rival R-S Central 48-0?

Would they look past the Red Raiders, with a game at No. 5-ranked Kings Mountain looming next Friday?

His team was coming off in his terms, a "poor" week of practice.

He shouldn't have worried at all.

Cash's Cavaliers, ranked No. 9, among N.C. 3A teams, used an overwhelming second quarter to roll past South Point 53-7.

The point total was the most racked up against the Red Raiders' in their 30-year school history — and ruined South Point's homecoming festivities.

### Prep scoreboard

Ashbrook 37, N. Meck. 0  
W. Meck. 35, Hunter Huss 6  
E. Rutherford 53, South Point 7  
Vance 14, E. Gaston 0,  
Cherryville 38, W. Lincoln 13  
E. Lincoln 30, S. Iredell 7  
Burns 21, N. Gaston 12  
KM 38, R-S Central 7  
Chase 49, Lincolnton 6

■ For standings and a complete wrapup of Friday's prep football action, see **Pages 4-5C**

The previous high was 51, accomplished by East Rutherford in 1995 and Kings Mountain last season.

A 34-point outburst in a 5-minute,

18-second span of the second quarter turned what had been a competitive game into a rout.

"I thought we could win the ballgame," Cash said. "But I had no idea we could do this."

South Point coach John Devine was certainly impressed.

"They're probably the best team we've played," said Devine, who has also played two highly regarded 4A teams — No. 7-ranked Ashbrook and unranked Freedom. "They've got so many weapons on offense and a tremendous defense."

East Rutherford (7-0, 2-0 in Southwestern 3A) showed off virtually all of its talents in the second quarter scoring surge.

Leading just 6-0 with 7½ minutes

Please see **Cavs/5C**

# Cavs

left in the first half because of a short drive after a blocked punt, the Cavaliers scored touchdowns on a weaving touchdown run, a long scoring burst, a long pass, an interception return and a fumble return.

It made the score 40-0 with 13 left in the opening half.

South Point scored on Jeremy Jackson's 35-yard fumble return early in the second half, but that was as close as it would get.

Devine was pleased with how his team continued to fight in spite of the large deficit.

"We fought hard for 48 minutes," he said. "It's just that for the first 24 minutes, everything that could go bad for us went bad."

The statistics weren't nearly as lopsided as the score.

East Rutherford had 14 first downs to eight for the Red Raiders and maintained a 347-129 yardage advantage. The Cavaliers defense was led by 6-foot-5, 290-pound

lineman Chavis Smith, who has committed to Tennessee.

The back-breaking statistic was in defensive return yardage.

Not only did the Cavaliers force five South Point turnovers, but they returned three fumbles for 32 yards and one score and the two pass interceptions for 45 yards and one score.

A bright spot for the Red Raiders was Jackson. In addition to the fumble return for their lone score, he accounted for 149 all-purpose yards on rushes, receptions and kickoff returns.

East Rutherford	6	34	6	7	—	53
South Point	0	0	7	0	—	7

ER — Chavis Smith 8 run (Kick failed)

ER — Robbie Gary 15 run (Run failed)

ER — Michael Ledbetter 54 run (Seneca Stroud run)

ER — Jeremy Russell 51 pass from Stroud (Pass failed)

ER — Russell 38 interception return (Dan Bjornstad kick)

ER — James Hines 32 fumble return (Bjornstad kick)

SP — Jeremy Jackson 35 fumble return (Phillip Wright kick)

ER — Ledbetter 26 run (Kick failed)

ER — Michael Sheppard 1 run (Bjornstad kick)