

# Raiders reign

## ■ South Point snaps Jags' nine-game unbeaten streak

By DEREK SMITH  
Gazette Correspondent

GASTONIA — Football wisdom says if a team can run the football and win the battle in the trenches, victories will come.

South Point did just that Friday night, disappointing Forestview 27-12 in front of a standing room-only crowd, who braved soggy conditions at Joe Alala Stadium.

The Red Raiders (4-0-1, 1-0 in Southwestern 3A) used their effective ground game and dominated the line of scrimmage to knock the

Jaguars (5-1, 3-1) from the ranks of the unbeaten. It was Forestview's first regular-season loss after a nine-game stretch dating back to last year.

### SCOREBOARD

Here are last night's scores from local games.

South Point	27
Forestview	12
Ashbrook	28
Vance	7
Crest	54
Kings Mountain	7
Fred T. Foard	21
East Lincoln	20
Lincolnton	22
Cherryville	0
Olympic	32
Hunter Huss	20
North Gaston	ppd.
Monroe	

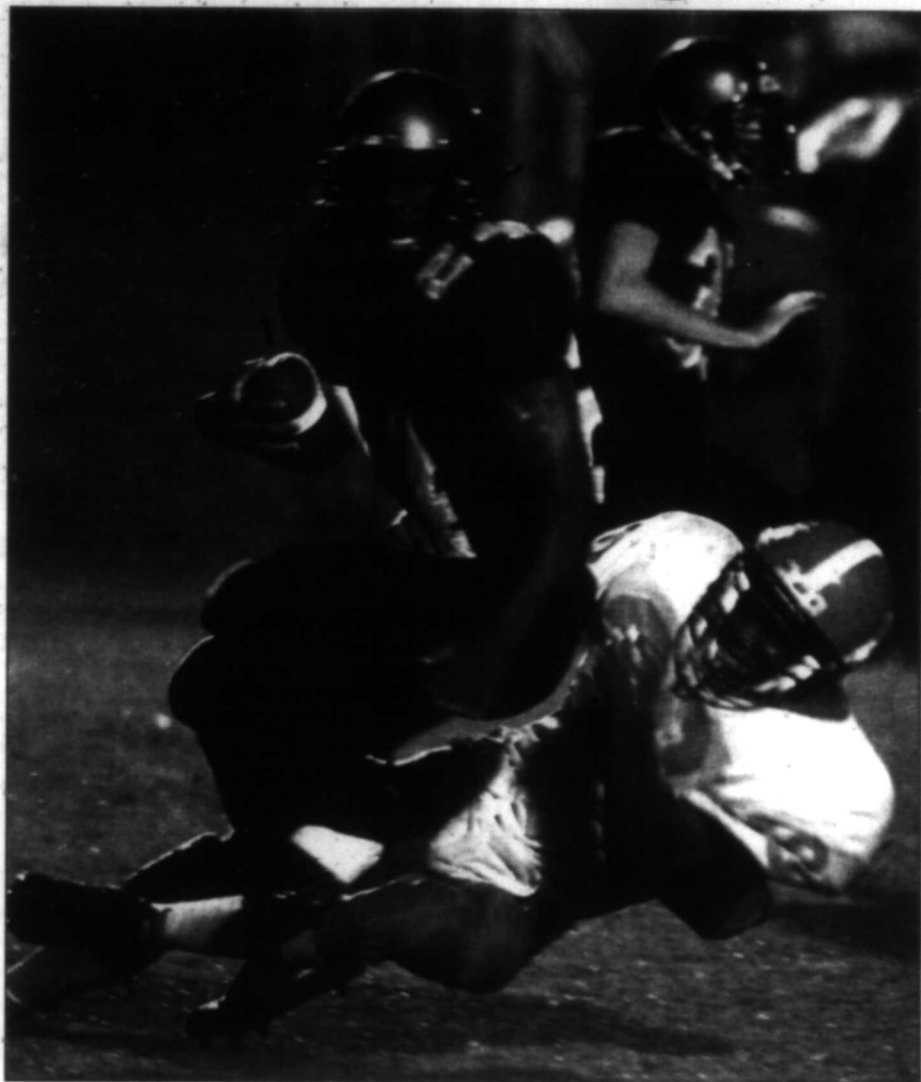
(Mon., 7:30 p.m.)

"The guys up front won this ballgame for us," said South Point coach John Devine. "They controlled the line of scrimmage. That's where games are won and lost."

A heavy dose of fullbacks Rasharde Reid

and Tiger Williams helped South Point control the clock and keep the ball away from Mario Dye and Forestview's powerful offense. The Forestview defense was without senior linebacker and leading tackler Rayshun Crosby, who fractured a thumb a week earlier, for most of Friday night.

Meanwhile, the Raider defense held Dye in check with outstanding play up front, and allowed only one long run to the junior tailback.



Renee Sauer/The Gazette

South Point's Tiger Williams, right, stopped Forestview's Mario Dye on defense and combined with Rasharde Reid to rush for 259 yards and two touchdowns in a 27-12 win. Dye finished the game with 128 yards.

# ▼ Raiders

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Dye rushed for 128 yards and had one touchdown on a 65-yard run, but most of his 23 attempts were of the normal variety, not the 10.4 yards a clip he had been averaging going into the contest.

"I had a pretty good idea if we could stop (Dye), we could stop them," Devine said.

Reid and Williams took some pressure off South Point quarterback Devon Lowery by combining for 259 yards and two touchdowns to grind out field position and keep the first-down chains moving.

"You can't shut down all of us," Reid said. "There are three of us. It's a team thing."

The two runners powered over the Forestview defense; thanks to huge holes opened by their offensive line and Lowery's leadership.

"We came out and took care of the ball," Lowery said. "Basically, we wanted to control the tempo of the game. Two long drives got us off to a great start."

But, on the opening drive of the game, it was the Jags looking as if they would move the ball easily on the Red Raiders.

Forestview ate up about 5 and a half minutes on the first-quarter clock and got three first downs, which had the Jags inside the South Point 20-yard line. Facing a third-and-13 situation, quarterback Clint Russell was intercepted at the 3 by South Point's Drew Devine, stalling the drive.

South Point took over and marched 97 yards for a touchdown with Lowery scoring from 32 yards out. The Red Raiders went on top 7-0 with Jonathon Hovis' PAT kick.

In the second quarter, a second long drive, stretching 80 yards, was capped off with Reid's first touchdown of the game, a 9-yard scoring run. Hovis' kick made the score 14-0.

Amazingly, the Red Raiders

ran so much time off the clock in the first half they had just two possessions while limiting Forestview to only three, two of which resulted in punts.

Another time-consuming drive late in the third quarter had South Point in command 21-0. Williams appeared to be going into the end zone when he fumbled the football away. Luckily, Ross Kinard recovered the loose ball for the touchdown.

On the next series, Dye finally found the end zone to put the Jags on the scoreboard after he had struggled to find running room for most of three quarters.

In the fourth quarter, South Point added another score when Reid rumbled in from 5 yards out, and the Red Raiders led 27-6.

With less than 30 seconds in the game, Russell threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to John

Haygood to make the final score 27-12.

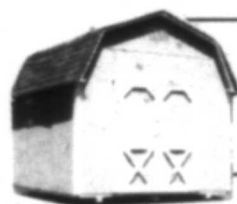
"It was a tough loss for us," said Forestview coach Don Brown. "We knew we were going to play a very good football team. I think we were out-coached tonight. I'll take this loss (myself). I should have had our kids a little bit better prepared."

Reid finished with 146 yards on 20 carries and Williams added 113 on 10 attempts. Lowery had 95 yards on 14 rushes.

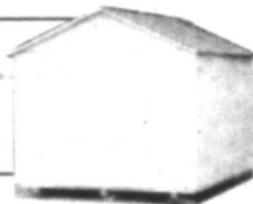
SP 7 7 7 6 - 27  
FV 0 0 6 6 - 12

SP - Lowery 32 run ( B.J. Richmond kick)  
SP - Reid 9 run (Richmond kick)  
SP - Ross Kinard fumble recovery in end zone (Richmond kick)  
FV - Mario Dye 65 run (PAT failed)  
SP - Reid 5 run (PAT failed)  
FV - John Haygood 27 pass from Clint Russell (PAT failed)

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