

Reid, Raiders in midseason form already

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LINCOLNTON — It sure didn't take long for South Point to work itself back into midseason form.

The Red Raiders, looking like the team that has rolled through the regular season the past two years, defeated Lincolnton 27-14 in front of more than 5,000 fans at Von Ray Harris Field on Friday night. South Point (1-0) jumped to a 14-0 first quarter lead and coasted the rest of the way behind its "Red Bone" triple-option offensive attack.

"In the first half, South Point just dominated us," said Lincolnton coach Scott Cloninger. "It's been years since we've been dominated like that and I don't have an answer. I wish I did — I'd sleep better tonight."

Even South Point coach John Devine, usually one of the most understated coaches around, didn't hesitate to praise his team's effort.

"I felt like we were in control of the

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game the whole way," Devine said. "It got a little sloppy there at the end but I tell you this: (South Point) got after it early and often. They were ready to play football."

It didn't take long for South Point to establish itself in the contest. The Red Raiders marched down the field, eating up 54 yards on only five carries before a fumble stopped the drive.

After a Wolves punt, the Red Raiders pushed the ball back down the field, scoring on Alvin Williams 15-yard reception of a Javar Williams pass. The score came on a 12-play, five and a half minute drive.

The Raiders forced a 12-yard Lincolnton punt and scored on a Rasharde Reid 16-yard scamper with 27 seconds left in the first quarter. South Point added another score on a Reid 1-yard run on its next possession and the Raider offense then went into cruise control.

"They executed very well," Devine said of his team. "Early in the game, we looked like the team of old, like we were in midseason form. We just got after it."

Reid finished with 109 yards on 16 carries along with his

two touchdowns. Although he admitted the Raiders looked great, he said that there is still room for improvement.

"I think we played well but I know we can play even better," Reid said. "We were really excited and had a lot of intensity."

Lincolnton scored two touchdowns in the fourth quarter on a 1-yard run from William Lineberger and a 54-yard sprint from Andre Nixon.

"Man for man, South Point is probably better than us in every position," Cloninger said.

With the loss, the Wolves are 0-2 but the team started 0-5 in 2000 before winning four of six in their league and making it to the playoffs.

SP	14	6	7	0	—	27
L		0	0	0	14	— 14

SP — Alvin Williams 15 pass from Javar Williams (B.J. Richmond kick)

SP — Rasharde Reid 16 run (Richmond kick)

SP — Reid 1 run (run failed)

SP — Brian McWhirter 7 pass from Phillip Stowe (Richmond kick)

L — William Lineberger 1 run (kick failed)

L — Andre Nixon 54 run (Bryan Finger conversion pass from Lineberger)



Renee Sauer/The Gazette

Lincolnton's Eric Wilson, right, tries to make his way around South Point defender Dusty Friday on Friday night in Lincolnton.



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