

Jeff Melton/Freedom News Service

South Point quarterback Desmond Lowery scrambles for yardage against Burns on Friday night. Lowery carried the ball 16 times, totalled 61 yards and scored a touchdown as the Red Raiders slipped past Burns, 31-23, in Lawndale on Friday night.

Ground Assault

Raiders' ground game gets the best of Bulldogs' passing attack

By Larry Dawalt Gazette Correspondent

LAWNDALE — One went by ground and the other by air.

In the end, South Point's powerful running game kept the ball away from Burns and propelled the Red Raiders to a 31-23 non-conference win over the Bulldogs Friday night at Burns Stadium.

"The story tonight is those guys up front," South Point coach John Devine said of his offensive line. "They gave us a great effort. They moved people off the ball."

South Point (3-1) got 115 yards rushing from fullback Matt Hudspeth in the first half, but had to rely on James Justice in the second half as Hudspeth was

asthma.

"He probably could have played, but we used caution and stayed on the safe side," Devine said of the talented senior who scored South Point's first touchdown. "But he's tough as nails. He was running hard."

When the Red Raiders turned to Justice, the 5-11, 180-pound sophomore answered with some hard inside running, while quarterback Desmond Lowery supplied the outside punch.

"They played good ball-control offense," Burns coach Ron Greene said. "They're a tough football team. Our offense kept us close, but we're frustrated right now. We're better than 1-3. We've

rested due complications related to his just got to keep working."

The Bulldogs were exciting through the air, led by quarterback Lance Camp who finished with 274 yards passing, completing 11 of 25. But two of those were picked off, including a late interception by junior defensive back Stan Wilson.

"Coach (Devine) said to pay attention to the short pass because they were going for the first down," Wilson said of his interception with 1:06 left to play that thwarted the final Burns drive. "I saw (Camp) scrambling and I knew he was going to throw it my way. I just stepped in front and made the play."

See Ralders / Page 5C ▶▶

South Point's running attack outlasts Burns

Portions of this story were inadvertently left out of Saturday's edition

> By Larry Dawalt Gazette Correspondent

LAWNDALE — One went by ground and the other by air.

In the end, South Point's powerful running game kept the ball away from Burns and propelled the Red Raiders to a 31-23 non-conference win over the Bulldogs Friday night at Burns Stadium.

"The story tonight is those guys up front," South Point coach John Devine said of his offensive line. "They gave us a great effort. They moved people off the ball."

South Point (3-1) got 115 yards rushing from fullback Matt Hudspeth in the first half, but had to rely on James Justice in the second half as Hudspeth was rested due to asthma complications.

"He probably could have played, but we used caution and stayed on the safe side," Devine said of the talented senior who scored South Point's first touchdown. "But he's tough as nails. He was running hard."

When the Red Raiders turned to Justice, the 5-11, 180-pound sophomore answered with some hard inside running, while quarterback Desmond Lowery supplied the outside punch.

"They played good ball-control offense," Burns coach Ron Greene said. "They're a tough football team. Our offense kept us close, but we're frustrated right now. We're better than 1-3. We've just got to keep working."

The Bulldogs were exciting through the air, led by quarter-back Lance Camp who finished with 274 yards passing, completing 11 of 25. But two of those were picked off, including a late interception by junior defensive back Stan Wilson.

"Coach (Devine) said to pay attention to the short pass because they were going for the first down," Wilson said of his interception with 1:06 left to play that thwarted the final Burns drive. "I saw (Camp) scrambling and I knew he was going to throw it my way. I just stepped in front and made the play."

Camp's scrambling kept the Red Raider defense off balance, especially in the second half.

"We finally stayed back and picked one off," Devine said. "(Camp) kept moving around back there and made some big plays. He's a fine player."

Burns took an early 3-0 lead on a 24-yard field goal by Ethan Martin, but the Red Raiders roared back on their opening possession, driving 63 yards in six plays with Hudspeth going over from the 1 for the touchdown. After stopping Burns on fourth down late in the first quarter, the Red Raiders put together their longest drive of the night, driving 80 yards in 16 plays as Lowery scored from 5 yards out to cap a drive that consumed over seven minutes off the clock.

Matt Mitchell kicked a 38yard field goal on the first South Point drive of the second half to push the lead to 17-3, but Burns came back with an 80-yard drive of its own as Brian Scott scored on a 10-yard run to cut the lead to 17-9. The Red Raiders played ball control again on the next series, keeping the ball for almost five minutes as Justice capped a 65-yard drive with a 1-yard run that ran the score to 24-9.

Burns came back on its next drive with Camp going over from the 3 to cut the lead to 24-16. But Brandon Spencer returned the ensuing kickoff 49 yards to give South Point excellent field position at the Burns 29 and Justice put the final Red Raider touchdown of the night on the board with 4:38 left.

"We finally played 48 minutes of football," Devine said. "They kept battling back, but our guys hung in there."

South Point is at East Gaston next week while the Bulldogs (1-3) travel to Forestview.

South Point 31, Burns 23

Red Raiders 7 7 3 14 – 31

Bulldogs 3 0 6 14 – 23

B-EG Ethan Martin 24

SP-Matt Hudspeth 1 run (Matt Mitchell kick)

SP-Desmond Lowery 5 run (Mitchell kick)

SP-FG Mitchell 38

B-Brian Scott 10 run (kick failed)

SP-James Justice 1 run (Mitchell kick)

B-Lance Camp 3 run (Martin kick)

SP-Justice 2 run (Mitchell kick)

B-Scott 4 run (Mitchell kick)

| | SP | В |
|-----------------|--------|---------|
| First downs | 14 | 14 |
| Rushes-yards | 57-311 | 22-95 |
| Passing yards | 0 | 274 |
| Comp-Att-Int | 0-2-0 | 11-25-2 |
| Fumbles-lost | . 2-0 | 0.0 |
| Penalties yants | 10-69 | 3-15 |

Individual statistics

RUSHING-South Point, Hudspeth 16-115, Marcus Duckworth 3-10, Lowery 16-61, Stan Wilson 1-4, Justice 17-59, Jesse Magaha 4-62, Burns, Harvey Kee 6-22, Camp 14-59, Scott 2-14.

PASSING-South Point, Lowery 0-2-0. Burns, Camp.

11-25-2, 274.

RECEIVING—South Point, none. Builtis, Tyler Gill 2-45, Keron Phelps 3-56, O'Bryant Degree 2-36, Donta Hopper 3-111, Donovan Williams, 1-24