

Erratic Raiders too much for Huss

By Phillip Gardner

pgardner@gastongazette.com

BELMONT — It took until Week 7, but the reigning state champs are above .500 for the first time this season.

South Point scored 34 points in the first half despite a pair of fumbles and overcame erratic play all night to hold off Hunter Huss 41-26 Friday at Lineberger Stadium.

Six different players scored for the Red Raiders, who improved to 4-3 overall and 2-0 in the Big South 3A Conference.

"We're undefeated in the conference. That's all that matters," South Point coach John Devine said.

Devan Robbins rushed for 96 yards on just three carries (one of them a 63-yard TD run) to lead the Red Raiders statistically. Troy Leeper, the Big South's leading rusher, was held to his lowest total of the season at 58 yards on 19 carries after leaving the game with a stinger.

Leeper carried once in the third quarter before exiting with about 10 minutes left on the third-quarter clock, he said. Freshman Tyler Bray filled in nicely at fullback, gaining 50 yards on 15 carries.

Hunter Huss (3-4, 1-1) outgained South Point 305-304 but had three turnovers of its own and got behind early. Freshman running back Kerrion Moore did his best to keep the Huskies in the game, scoring three of their four touchdowns (two rushing, one on a kickoff return) while rushing for 103 yards.

The Huskies made a couple of costly mistakes in the kicking game. They muffed the catch on a punt and once gave South Point prime field position when a low snap dropped the punter to his knee, prompting the officials to whistle him down.

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Inside the game

Total yards — Hunter Huss 305 (91 rushing, 214 passing); South Point 304 (232 rushing, 72 passing)

Turnovers — Hunter Huss 3 (1 fumble, 2 interceptions); South Point 2 (2 fumbles)

Next week — Hunter Huss plays host to Kings Mountain while South Point visits Ashbrook.

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But after trailing 34-14 at the half, Hunter Huss made it interesting, scoring on its first possession when Dontrae Meeks, replacing starter Jalen Burris at quarterback, connected with Jontavian Hall for a 74-yard touchdown pass. Hunter Huss nearly pulled to within one score on the next drive but Ramon Costner intercepted Meeks at the 5.

"We've played long enough to where you can't put it on the

youth," Hunter Huss coach Steve Gardner said. "We've just got to quit making mistakes."

South Point took full control by halftime, entering the field house with a 34-14 lead.

Patrick Home rushed for a touchdown and passed for two more in the first half. His last scoring pass went to Justin Lane, who made a diving catch in the end zone for a 14-yard completion just before halftime.

Ramon Costner reeled in the other TD reception — a

40-yarder — while Leeper and Devan Robbins added scores on the ground.

Things couldn't have started any better for Hunter Huss. The Huskies drew first blood on Moore's 7-yard TD run after South Point fumbled on the game's opening possession. After South Point went ahead 21-7, Moore again kept the Huskies close when he returned a kickoff 77 yards to the house as the first-quarter clock expired.

Hunter Huss couldn't keep

up in the second quarter. By halftime, South Point had run 38 plays and moved the chains 12 times compared to only 21 plays and three first downs for the Huskies. At that point, South Point outgained Hunter Huss 244-37 and the Huskies were in the red (minus 27 yards) in the rushing category.

In the best example that things just weren't going the Huskies' way, Moore went backwards to elude a pack of

defenders, backtracked near the goal line and then found a seam for a 76-yard gain. But Jalen Porter chased him down at the 1 and South Point held on the next four plays.

You can reach Phillip Gardner at 704-869-1843.

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|----|----|----|---|---|------|
| HH | 14 | 0 | 6 | 6 | — 26 |
| SP | 21 | 13 | 0 | 7 | — 41 |

First quarter

HH—Kerrion Moore 7 run (Cody Jones kick), 10:50.
SP—Patrick Home 12 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 8:22.
SP—Ramon Costner 40 pass from

Home (Rogers kick), 4:05.
SP—Troy Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 0:04.3
HH—Moore 77 kickoff return (Jones kick), 0:00.

Second quarter

SP—Devan Robbins 63 run (pass failed), 9:12.
SP—Justin Lane 14 pass from Home (Rogers kick), 0:05.2

Third quarter

HH—Jontavian Hall 74 pass from Dontrae Meeks (kick blocked), 11:37.

Fourth quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 2 run (Rogers kick), 10:56.
HH—Moore 4 run (run failed), 4:30.