

South Point stays hot

Red Raiders extend win streak to six games

By Jamie Mayberry
Special to The Gazette

BELMONT — Coming into Friday's game, South Point was looking to extend its five game winning streak — they were successful.

The Red Raiders shut out visiting Lake Norman Charter by a score of 48-0.

Lake Norman Charter began the game with a 52-yard kickoff return, which resulted with the opening drive of the game starting at South Point's 40 yardline. The Knights marched the ball to the 15 yardline before South Point's Nick Muse spoiled the drive and picked off quarterback Teddy Spooner and took it back for an 85-yard touchdown.

The interception is Muse's sixth interception this season and his second pick-six. He leads the team in both categories.

"I had to be a leader this year," Muse said. "Even though I'm only a junior, coach asked me to step up and be a top man on this team."

"He had a great game and a great year," head coach Mickey Lineberger said of Muse. "He's the center of our defense. He's intelligent."

A sack by South Point's Toby Stapel on Lake Norman Charter's next drive forced a punt for the Knights.

The next Red Raider drive ended the same way: a punt.

South Point's "Red Bone" offense started clicking on all cylinders in the second quarter. A 38-yard run by senior fullback Ryland Etherton put the Red Raiders on the Knights 2 yardline. The next play, Etherton pounded the ball in for a touchdown, his first of four on the game. This increased the lead to 14-0.

South Point's defense held Lake Norman Charter

<< Streak

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to a three-and-out on the next drive. After a punt, the Red Raiders began their drive at the 50 yard line.

Seven plays later, Ryland Etherton found the end zone again. This time, from 1 yard out and extended the lead to 21-0.

Lake Norman Charter fumbled the ball on the kickoff and South Point recovered at the 25-yard line. The next play was a 25-yard touchdown run by, you guessed it — Etherton. This score extended their lead to 28-0 with 6 minutes left to play in the half.

Just before halftime, South Point senior Nolan Wilson found the end zone from 10 yards out. Earlier in

the drive, quarterback Diontre King connected with Davis Ray across the middle for a 49-yard completion.

At the half, the score was 34-0.

Three drives into the second half, Etherton ran it 2 yards straight up the middle for his fourth touchdown on the night.

Etherton finished the game with 194 yards on 21 carries. Halfway through the second quarter he eclipsed 1,000 yards for the season.

"I couldn't do it without the offensive linemen and the wide-outs blocking," Etherton said. "Without them, I couldn't get anywhere."

Lake Norman Charter just couldn't seem to get the offense moving. In the third quarter, junior cornerback Nathan Silver picked off the Knights quarterback. He took the ball 55

yards for a touchdown.

This score extended South Point's lead to 48-0 and would be the last score of the game.

"I was disappointed in our intensity and personal fouls tonight," said Lineberger.

The Red Raiders had four personal fouls.

"The goal is to get better every week," Lineberger said. "We've got to go back to getting better and making the next game out best game."

South Point 7-2 (5-0) will visit North Gaston next week.

Even though the Red Raiders are now on a six-game winning streak, Lineberger said the team hasn't yet peaked.

Lake Norman Charter 3-6 (1-5) hosts Ashbrook next week.

LAKE NORMAN CHARTER AT SOUTH POINT

Lake Norman Charter 0 0 0 0 — 0

South Point 7 27 14 0 — 48

First quarter

SP — Nick Muse 85 yard interception (Thomas Lempereur kick), 7:30

Second quarter

SP — Ryland Etherton 2 yard run (Lempereur kick), 9:12

SP — Etherton 1 yard run (Lempereur kick), 6:05

SP — Etherton 25 yard run (Lempereur kick), 5:53

SP — Nolan Wilson 10 yard run (kick failed), 0:47

Third quarter

SP — Etherton 2 yard run (Lempereur kick), 8:24

SP — Nathan Silver 55 yard interception (Lempereur kick), 7:40

	SP	LNC
First Downs	13	6
Rushes-Yards	41-335	11-18
Passing Yards	49	90
Total Yards	384	108
Comp-Att-Int	1-6-0	11-22-4
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-0
Penalties-Yards	7-72	5-50
Punts-Avg.	3-28	4-36.2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — **SP**: Etherton 21-194, Wilson 4-52, Jake

Alexander 7-49, Diontre King 6-33, Ometrick Leeper 1-5,

Scottie Lee 1-1, Ben Washam 1-1 **LNC**: Sean Dugan 4-10,

Kurt Wronsky 6-7, Davis Wilder 1-1

PASSING — **SP**: King 1-4-0 49, Wilson 0-1-0, Lee 0-1-0

LNC: Teddy Spooner 11-20-3, Elijah Johnson 0-2-1

RECEIVING — **SP**: Davis Ray 1-49 **LNC**: Connor Noble

3-43, Matt Scott 2-12, David Gonzalez 1-11, Wilder 2-10,

Wronsky 1-8, Joshua Jones 1-5, Dugan 1-1