

ROCKY MOUNT

Gryphons

Location: Rocky Mount

Conference: Big East

Colors: Vegas gold and blue

Principal: Leondus Farrow

Athletic Director: Michael Gainey

Head Coach: Jason Battle

Assistant Coaches: William Cherry (defensive backs), J.J. Jones (defensive coordinator), Carter Varnell (linebackers), Koron Nickelson (defensive line), Michael Peebles (outside linebackers), Harry Harris (offensive line), Jason Bracey (running backs), Brandon Arrington (wide receivers), Demond Lyles (quarterbacks)

Players to Watch: QB Forrest Bell, RB Nick Bynum, RB B.J. Sanders, LB Sherrod Greene, LB Alex Henderson, DT Artavious Richardson, DT Thomas Battle

This Year's Record: 13-2

NOTES: Rocky Mount is in an NCHSAA football championship game for the first time since 1977, when it lost to South Meck in 4-A title game 28-9...won back-to-back state crowns in 1962 and '63, lost in finals in 1937 and 1940...knocked off unbeaten Eastern Alamance in Eastern Regional final... Gryphons are number-three seed in 3-A Eastern bracket but were not ranked in final 3-A Associated Press regular season poll...34th overall in state MaxPreps rating...21st postseason appearance for Gryphons since '72 with playoff mark of 27-20 during that span... QB Forrest Bell has thrown for over 1,000 yards while completing almost 60% of his passes...he is also competing to be class valedictorian, ranking third in class of 258...Rocky Mount has two 1,000-yard running backs, with Nick Bynum over 1,400 and BJ Sanders over 1,100...Sanders averaging better than eight yards per carry...excellent senior-led offensive line...Kevjorick Edwards is leading receiver...Gryphons defense is led by junior linebacker Sherrod Greene, who has numerous college offers...

leads the team in tackles with 123 while senior LB Alex Henderson is second...sophomore Detrell Revis leads secondary in interceptions...Artavious Richardson and Thomas Battle anchor the defensive line with 5 sacks and 8.5 tackles for a loss respectively...his is the deepest run in the playoffs by the Gryphons since 2008 under coach B.W. Holt.

ROCKY MOUNT SEASON AT A GLANCE

South Granville	W	45-0
Middle Creek	L	21-24
Hertford County	W	75-27
Edenton Holmes	W	42-0
Greenville Rose	L	21-61
Hoke County	W	35-14
Nash Central	W	42-7
Wilson Hunt	W	35-28
Wilson Fike	W	35-20
Southern Nash	W	35-14
Northern Nash	W	20-13
NCHSAA PLAYOFFS		
Burlington Williams	W	28-13
South Johnston	W	34-20
Eden Morehead	W	35-31
Eastern Alamance	W	42-21

SOUTH POINT

Red Raiders

Location: Belmont

Conference: Big South

Colors: red and black

Principal: Gary Ford

Athletic Director: Kent Hyde

Head Coach: Mickey Lineberger (offensive coordinator, offensive line)

Assistant Coaches: Scott Lee (QB's and FB's, Kickoff Return, Extra Point, Punt Team), James Justice (WB), Michael Hicks (SE), Adam Hodge (Co-Defensive Coordinator, LB's, Punt Return), Brian Andrews (Co-Defensive Coordinator, Safeties, Kickoff Team), Phil Tate (Defensive Line), Joe Shepherd (Cornerbacks), Mitch Painter (Head JV), Jim Hale (JV Offensive Line), Chip Wilson (JV Offensive Coordinator, Offensive Backs), Shante Southern (JV DB's & SE)

Players to Watch: RB Ryland Etherton, QB Diontreea King, LB Nick Muse, LB Nathan Hamilton

This Year's Record: 13-2

NOTES: South Point is in an NCHSAA football championship game for the fourth time and Red Raiders are perfect at 3-0 in previous trips...last appearance was in 2009 when South Point beat South Johnston 42-28 for 3-AA title and won 3-A crown in 2003 and 1979...Red Raiders are number-two seed in 3-A Western bracket but were not ranked in final 3-A Associated Press poll... since 1972 Red Raiders have compiled 40-19 record in playoff games in 23 appearances during that stint...South Point has won 14 conference championships the last 17 seasons...lost to powerful Crest last year in Western Regional finals...Raiders have had 10 or more victories in each of the last five seasons...South Point has potent rushing attack with great one-two punch of QB Diontreea King and RB Ryland Etherton, as team averages better than 315 yards per game on the ground...Nick Muse and Nathan Hamilton are the team's top



tacklers...Muse also has team leading seven interceptions and South Point had picked off 20 in first 14 games...Mike Hayes has 13 of the team's 33 sacks during that same period...murderous early schedule against two teams playing for state title and one regional finalist.

SOUTH POINT SEASON AT A GLANCE

Crest	L	13-31
Lincolnton	W	42-20
Shelby	L	28-35
West Charlotte	W	35-34
East Gaston	W	45-13
Gastonia Hunter Huss	W	20-0
Gastonia Ashbrook	W	24-14
Gastonia Forestview	W	34-7
Lake Norman	W	48-0
North Gaston	W	42-8
Stuart Cramer	W	56-0

NCHSAA PLAYOFFS

Southwestern Randolph	W	47-7
Statesville	W	42-21
West Rowan	W	28-27
Kings Mountain	W	29-7