Raiders ready to roll again

By DWIGHT FRADY

Success breeds success. And although all-state quarterback Devon Lowery has departed the scene after having tormented opponents for the past two years, sing no sad songs for South Point and coach John Devine.

The Red Raiders over the past two years have come within an eyelash of getting to the state 3A football finals, being edged out both years by Jamestown Ragsdale, recording marks of 12-1 and 11-1-1 in consecutive years.

Several key players from last year's Southwestern 3A Conference championship squad return, to be joined by players up from the junior varsity which won the SWC title in 2000 and lost just one game.

There are several "new looks" on the 2001 edition of the Raiders. There are four new coaches joining the fold, there is a new look to the schedule in a new 3A Conference (Big South), and a new look at quarterback, where sophomore Javar Williams begins what many predict will be an outstanding career before he graduates.

A tough non-conference



IOHN DEVINE

schedule begins Friday, Aug. 31, when the Raiders travel to Lincolnton. After traveling to Kings Mountain Sept. 7, the Raiders play A.L. Brown in Kannapolis on the road Sept. 14, then will play their first home game against perennial power Crest Sept. 21.

Their Big South opener comes against nearby rival East Gaston at home Sept. 28. The other non-conference game is at home Oct. 26 against Benedictine, Va. It's the toughest schedule the Raiders have faced in years.

Williams will direct the Red Bone (triple option) attack which has been a scourge to opponents over the past two years and will be joined in the backfield by pre-season all-state full-back Rasharde Reid, who rushed for 1,231 yards and 19 touchdowns as a junior.

Lowery, who signed a pro baseball contract earlier this year, rushed for 1,267 yards and 20 touchdowns and graduated wingback Tiger Williams, now at Carson-Newman, had 611 yards rushing and eight touchdowns.

A weapon this year will be punter, field goal kicker and kickoff man B.J. Richmond, a senior who backs up Williams at quarterback. Richmond is also a pre-season all-state pick as a kicker. Last year he booted eight field goals and 52 extra points.

At wingback, junior Phillip Stowe will be called on to shoulder the offensive load, along with fellow juniors Brian McWhirter, John Alexander and Jeremiah Riddle. Sophomore Joe Brown is listed at fullback behind Reid, along with junior Kevin Parker.

At flanker, senior Ross

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PRE-SEASON BIG SOUTH 3A CONFERENCE ALL-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL TEAM

	OFFENSE	
POSITION	PLAYER	SCHOOL
TE	Jabber Adams	Ashbrook
WR	Kensanio Adams	South Point
OL	Bryan Kernodle	East Lincoln
OL	Jason Burgess	East Lincoln
OL	Cedric Byrd	Hunter Huss
OL	Andrew Thornburg	East Gaston
QB	DeMario Crosby	Forestview
RB	Mario Dye	Forestview
RB	Rasharde Reid	South Point
RB	Oreon Mayfield	Ashbrook
K	B.J. Richmond	South Point
	DEFENSE	
DL	Dayco Glenn	North Gaston
DL	Dustin Lyerly	South Point
DL	Joe Costner	South Point
DL	Cedric Byrd	Hunter Huss
DL	Jordy Rice	South Point
LB	Michael Briggs	Ashbrook
LB	Cody Moore	Forestview
LB LB	Cody Moore Jimreco Anderson	
	Cody Moore Jimreco Anderson Brian McWhirter	Forestview East Lincoln South Point
LB	Jimreco Anderson	East Lincoln
LB DB	Jimreco Anderson Brian McWhirter Mitch Lowrance	East Lincoln South Point
LB DB DB	Jimreco Anderson Brian McWhirter	East Lincoln South Point Hunter Huss

PRE-SEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR: : Mario Dye, RB,

PRE-SEASON ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - Javar Williams, Sophomore QB, South Point.

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