

## Game Recap

### Raiders Romp! Big Red Crushes Cramer, 48-0

The 2023 high school football season entered its fifth week last Friday night and after three games on the road and a bye, South Point finally played a home opener. Surely nothing could beat the excitement of playing in front of Red Raiders fans at Lineberger Stadium for the first time this year. Recognizing senior players, cheerleaders, and dance team members only added to the enthusiasm. Perhaps the only thing that could have exceeded the excitement was the motivation that comes with facing the cross town - make that cross river - rival. The Stuart Cramer Storm came with hopes of ending their futility in the series. The Big Red owned a 9-0 record against the Storm in the history of matchups heading into Friday's contest. And the Raiders had no intention of damaging that record with the tenth meeting, especially on such a special night. A popular quote, sometimes used in history classes, and not necessarily attributed to a single speaker, suggests that the only thing we learn from history is that we don't learn anything from history. Maybe the South Point – Stuart Cramer football contest is the exception?! At least that's been the case for the past ten years as the Raiders scored early and often enroute to a 48-0 thrashing in this year's edition of the River Rumble!

South Point won the toss, deferred the option, and gave the Storm offense the first possession. K Charlie Birtwistle drilled the kickoff into the endzone for a touchback, his first of seven on the night. Cramer began play at their 20-yardline. Pressure in the backfield by LB Winter Kincaid forced the Storm QB into DB Kam Crawford. Crawford dropped the scrambler to the ground for a 5-yard loss on the opening play from scrimmage. Two failed pass attempts later the Storm was forced to punt. Under pressure, the punt was shanked, and the Red 'O' took the field at the Cramer 40-yardline. In two plays WBs Harrison McKinney and Dawson Tobin moved the Raiders to the seven. On the third play from scrimmage, McKinney punched in at the 9:34 mark to give South Point the lead. Birtwistle's PAT was true, and the Raiders went up 7-0. The Storm managed two first downs on their second drive but would not get to midfield and were once again forced to punt. South Point ran two plays from their 31-yardline to add to their advantage. A 42-yard rumble by FB Chance Ford put six more on the board for the Raiders. The 2-point conversion increased the South Point advantage to 15-0 with 6:18 remaining in the opening quarter. An offside penalty against the Red 'D' accounted for the only yardage Cramer would muster on their third possession. Desperate to turn the tide, the Storm attempted a fake punt from their 25-yardline only to fumble the ball into the hands of South Point. Kincaid chased the play from across the field and pounced on the loose ball to set up the Raiders offense. Despite the short field the possession took more time off the clock than had the previous Raiders scoring drives. Even so, the result was the same, a 3-yard run by Tobin and another 2-point conversion moved South Point up 23-0 with 2:09 to go. The Red 'D' continued to bring the pressure resulting in dropped or overthrown passes as well as tackles for losses. Yet another Storm punt gave the ball to South Point in the visitor's territory and the Big Red

made good on the fortune. An 18-yard burst up the gut by Ford added six to the South Point scoring total. The quarter ended with the Raiders in firm command, 29-0. For the record, South Point scored on each of their first quarter possessions while Cramer had yet to reach midfield.

The second stanza was more of the same for the Storm. But on a drive that extended from the first quarter, Cramer crossed into Raiders' territory before stalling at the South Point 46-yardline. The net gain was only two yards though, as RS Kam Crawford returned the punt to the South Point forty-four. The Big Red moved quickly to the Storm 24-yardline. From there QB Patrick Blee laced a perfect spiral into the hands of WR Jashaun Woods for the touchdown. Woods broke from the line and raced straight downfield, making the catch in stride. South Point extended their advantage to 36-0 with 3:51 remaining before the half. At that point the Cramer offense became their defense as the Storm sought to sustain a drive and not give the Raiders another chance to score. The Cramer possession carried the teams to the intermission with South Point in firm control.

With the ball to begin the third quarter of play, South Point wasted no time adding to their dominance. QB Ashton Green took over under center and benefitted from the Raiders coverage of an onside kick to begin the second half. From the Red forty-eight, Green kept the ball, cut up the field and in a single play added six to the Raiders advantage. His 52-yard run moved South Point up 42-0 and established a live clock situation for the remainder of the contest. Later asked about the long scamper, Green stated, "I really didn't plan on pulling it...but it was wide open, so I just took it." The senior added that it was a special night and that was evident in the way the Raiders played. Shortly after the score, the Red 'D' forced the fifth Cramer punt of the night, and Green engineered another scoring drive. FB Caiden Schievert aided his QB, taking over the brunt of the handoffs. Moving deep into the redzone, the Raiders managed the Storm 2-yardline. From there, Schievert punched in for the touchdown. With the rolling clock, the score would mark the final 48-0 as the teams simply traded possessions throughout the final seconds of the third and the entire fourth quarter. The dominant performance by South Point was evident in all phases. Senior Donovan summed up the attitude of the Raiders going forward. "This team can be amazing, and I feel like this team wants to be amazing", he said.

Early and often came the South Point scoring, and history repeated itself for the tenth time in as many years! The Big Red maintained their stranglehold on the River Rumble by trouncing Stuart Cramer. The Raiders will expect to continue their roll, once again on the road, with a visit to Hunter Huss next Friday night.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

**Notable Facts and Thoughts**

After an opening win at Draughn in Valdese, NC, the Huskies have dropped three straight contests for a 1-3 record. Huss will seek to capture momentum while the Raiders will fight to continue their run.