
VARSAITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

“Red Raiders Get On Track...Turn Back Greenwave, 45-12”

When two teams take the field, there's a tendency to “size up” the competition. One team seems bigger, another faster, and sometimes in pre-game warm-ups there may be perceived differences in the level of skill between the opponents. No doubt, the physical nature of football dictates that bigger, faster, and more-skilled teams are rarely underdogs. In fact they are expected to be victorious. But what visual differences fail to discern are the emotions of a team that has had their lofty goals stalled by a disappointing loss. South Point's favored run to the conference championship was expected because of their dominance year after year. But following last week's stumble against Hunter Huss, the Red Raiders found themselves in desperate need to get back on track and take care of the business at hand. Taking care of that “business” depends on a one game at a time mentality. South Point's first opportunity to climb back to the top began at Ashbrook last Thursday night in Gastonia. The potential for inclement weather caused the matchup to be moved to a day earlier than scheduled. Add this routine upset to the disappointing loss, and the challenge to win was compounded. The Red Raiders put aside the disappointment, maintained their focus, and put forth a dominating effort against the Greenwave to claim a 45-12 victory. The win is the first step back for South Point as they seek to remain a favorite for a conference title.

The Red Offense got off to a good start with two scores in the first quarter to set the tone for the contest. A Jake Alexander six yard run and Thomas Lempereur PAT put the Raiders up 7-0 just over halfway through the first. Some strong defensive play gave the Red another chance before the early clock would expire. Scottie Lee connected with Nathan Silver on an 8 yard pass to advance the South Point advantage to 14-0 and the Raiders were bent on sending a message that they were still a force in the conference. The Greenwave drew close at the 7:42 mark of the second quarter, mustering a score to draw within eight at 14-6. But the Raiders would not be denied. A Ty Tinker 49 yard run at 1:57 and a Lee to Nick Muse pass of 10 yards for a touchdown with 18 seconds remaining staked South Point to a 28-6 halftime lead. The start was just what the Raiders needed, but the team was far from satisfied with another half of football to go.

Ashbrook took advantage of a big play to begin the third quarter with a long touchdown run that made the score 28-12. But that would be the end of the Greenwave's scoring as the teams would battle back and forth the rest of the way. South Point, however, was not done. In an effort to build on their dominance, the Raiders added another Tinker run in the third to push out to a 35-12 lead. And in the final stanza, South Point would score twice more. A 28 yard Lempereur field goal put the Raiders ahead by 26. Another run by Tinker, this one of 12 yards, ended all scoring. South Point had silenced the Greenwave by a 45-12 count. But more importantly the Red Raiders took a giant step in a positive direction.

Along with the physical makeup of a team, the mental aspect of sports can also dictate success or failure. South Point sufficiently handled, or better stated, “manhandled” desperation after a tough loss with a convincing follow-up victory. The confidence is back with an effort that

never wavered. The Big South Conference title is still in their sights. And the Red Raiders have what it takes to be champions.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Coaches often emphasize that the most important game is the next game. Forestview comes to call next Friday night and the Raiders will see this as another opportunity to send a message to conference foes. It is the most important game as a win keeps South Point on the track that they re-established against Ashbrook

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