
VARSITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

“Red Raiders Stem The Tide...Outlast Greenwave, 35-13”

South Point returned to the field, following a bye week, seeking to sustain the early season success that has led them to an undefeated (5-0) record. Facing an Ashbrook Greenwave team with familiar faces in the coaching ranks and a new attitude on the field, the Raiders would need to regenerate the momentum and mirror the early effort in their final nonconference matchup. Famed college and NFL head coach Lou Holtz once emphasized, “If what you did yesterday seems big, you haven’t done anything today.” The Red Raiders bought in to that expression by setting the tone early, and battling throughout, against the athletic and well-coached Greenwave squad. The result was a convincing 35-13 victory. With the conference slate at hand, the challenge for South Point is as it has always been...continued improvement and everyone ready when called upon.

South Point won the toss and deferred the option, giving Ashbrook the first offensive possession. The Greenwave learned quickly, in fact three-and-out quickly, that the Red ‘D’ was eager, active, and all over the field! The Ashbrook drive lasted but 1:33 and after a Ray Grier punt return set the Raiders up at the Ashbrook 28 yardline, the Red offense came on to do what they do best. A short field benefits football offenses to the degree that it generally provides instant momentum and a good scoring chance. South Point found a way to also chew up clock on the ground as they would burn nearly three minutes in the 28 yard drive that ended with a Jake Alexander 2 yard touchdown run. Cade Ratliff punched through the PAT and the Red Raiders had the 7-0 advantage. On the ensuing drive, the Greenwave managed to match the intensity and found success through the air. A diving catch moved Ashbrook across midfield and set up the Greenwave for a tying score. The Raiders defense went into “bend but don’t break” mode but the Ashbrook momentum carried the Greenwave to the South Point four yardline and then into the endzone for six. The PAT sailed wide right allowing the Raiders to maintain the slim lead. The impressive drive left just over a minute on the first quarter clock and South Point would carry their next possession into the second stanza.

Forced to punt early in the quarter, South Point found themselves having to dig in on defense or risk trailing on the home field to the former conference foe. The Red ‘D’ answered the call to hold down the Greenwave and the Raiders took over on downs at the South Point 44 yardline. A solid, ground-pounding drive culminated in a Scottie Lee 13 yard run to notch six more for the Red Raiders. The Raiders defense protected the 14-6 lead by following the Ashbrook stop with another take over on downs. The teams headed to the half with South Point holding the eight point advantage.

With the ball to begin the third, the Red Raiders flexed some muscle with the intent to put the game away quickly. A twenty-nine yard run by Lee put the Raiders up 21-6 and was expected to deflate the Greenwave. The new attitude at Ashbrook kept that from happening. The Greenwave fought back and closed to within eight again with a touchdown to bring them closer at 21-13. The contest at that point seemed like a battle between evenly matched heavyweights, trading blows with neither gaining a clear advantage. A missed field goal by

South Point was followed by an Ashbrook punt. Then the Raiders offense regained their rhythm. Driving from their 16 yardline the Raiders hit paydirt with a 37 yard run by Alexander for the 28-13 lead. The drive left mere seconds on the clock and the teams headed to the final 12:00 with South Point in control.

In the fourth, Ashbrook was unable to capitalize on a Raiders miscue, being held on downs after a muffed punt by the Raiders gave the Greenwave a new set of downs. The events did little more than flip the field as South Point fought back and would take over at their own 13 yardline for a drive that would seal the win. The impressive 87 yard drive was textbook South Point as the Red 'O' drove methodically downfield. Alexander burst through for the final twenty-five yards for the game's final points. South Point ended the Greenwave hope by recovering an Ashbrook fumble inside the final three minutes of regulation. The Raiders turned back the Greenwave 35-13 in a hard fought contest.

An undefeated nonconference run is an admirable accomplishment for any team, even a defending state champion. But resting on laurels has no place in the South Point football tradition. Coach Lou Holtz stated it best when pointing out that if yesterday's accomplishments seem outstanding, then nothing has been done in the way of improvement for today. Improvement is an ongoing process. Outworking the opponents is not a "sometime" thing, it's an everyday expectation! Black Friday approaches! The records mean nothing. The effort means everything.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Expect the best from the Warriors in spite of their early season struggles. East Gaston has but a single win on the season. This will be the first conference game for both teams. This will be a contest in which the Raiders are heavily favored. This will be...Black Friday!

Jamey Andrews