

## Game Recap

### Red Raiders Stumble - Greenwave Takeaway Win, 17-14

It doesn't happen often and that may be why it is so difficult to accept. But sometimes, even winning football programs find themselves with the smaller number on a scoreboard. Naturally the old sayings can be applied, "you can't win 'em all", "you win some, you lose some", etc. But these statements foster a defeatist attitude, one that suggests it was bound to happen and there wasn't anything that could be done about it. Well, to coin a Latin phrase, that's just "Equus Puckey!" (Equus = horse) The reality is, South Point has a record of 455 - 200 (through Friday's game) meaning the proud tradition is built on a solid foundation and the expectation is to always put forth an effort that culminates in victories. Ashbrook took a win away from the Red Raiders last Friday night and while the goal of a conference championship is still possible, the Big Red will need to get back to work to make sure the miscues that led to the loss will not be repeated as the season rolls on. The Raiders fought hard, and were competitive to the end, but were not able to overcome the deficit. With three contests remaining in the regular season, the Raiders will now consider their backs to be against the wall. They will come out swinging to give themselves every chance to reclaim sole possession of the conference trophy.

South Point won the toss and deferred the option, giving Ashbrook the first crack on offense. A quick three-and-out by the defense gave the Raiders their first chance with the ball. From the first play from scrimmage, the unlikely happened. A strip of the ball, by the Greenwave defense, was returned for a score and a game that had yet to establish any flow had already seen a tremendous shift in momentum. On the ensuing drive, South Point appeared headed for the equalizer but was held short on downs, giving the Greenwave their first offensive possession at the 3:26 mark of the first quarter. The Ashbrook drive carried over into the second quarter.

Facing a fourth-and-one at their 32-yardline, the Greenwave faked a punt and were shut down for no gain by the Raiders. South Point's offense took over. WB Brody Crawford took a pitch from QB Patrick Blee and picked up a first down after a run for 11 yards. FB Chayne Ford and Blee combined to move the ball inside the red zone. Then the drive was marred by penalties and numerous discussions by the Officiating Crew. When all was settled, the Raiders were awarded the ball at the 3-yardline and faced a fourth-and-two. QB Cayden Rumph took over under center and Blee dropped into the FB position. Blee converted the down, pushing the pile inside the Greenwave 1-yardline. On the first-and-goal play Ashbrook jumped the count and hit Rumph and Ford as the handoff was being made. The ball popped into the air. Ford alertly grabbed the ball and dove over the line for the touchdown. K Wilson London's PAT was true and South Point drew even, 7-7. The teams then traded turnovers. DB Chris Stowe deflected a pass in the endzone that DB Zeke Pruit hauled in to thwart the Greenwave drive. The momentum swing was short-lived as the Raiders immediately fumbled to give Ashbrook a new set of downs

at the South Point six. The Red 'D' held strong and forced a field goal attempt. The kick was good, giving the Greenwave the lead at 10-7. The Raiders could not muster a drive with 0:44 remaining in the quarter so the teams went to the intermission with South Point trailing.

With the ball to begin the third stanza, the Raiders were driving to take the lead. An interception turned the tide and Ashbrook made good on the turnover, a 46-yard pass netted six more for the Greenwave and the extra point advanced their advantage to 17-7 with 4:50 to go in the quarter. The Raiders were forced to punt on their ensuing drive and Ashbrook carried their next possession into the final quarter of play.

South Point forced a turnover on downs early in the stanza. The Red 'O' then drove 58-yards for the score. Ford's 35-yard run brought the Raiders to within three, 17-14, with just over eight minutes remaining. Ashbrook was again forced to punt, but as had been the case throughout the contest, flow was difficult to establish due to the number of play stoppages (yes, that means what you think it means). The clock hit 00:00, the smaller number was on the wrong side of the scoreboard, and a bitter taste was left in the mouths of the Red faithful.

Dropping the game at Ashbrook does not eliminate South Point from any goals set at the beginning of the season. The Raiders must win out and perhaps receive some help from a conference foe. Turnovers and miscues were the doom of last Friday night. But even as that was the case it should be noted that Ashbrook's offense managed 10 points against the Red 'D'. The Red 'O' meanwhile accounted for 14 of their own against the Ashbrook defense. Eliminate the Greenwave ball strip-and-score and the game likely has a different outcome. Hard work in practice will see to that "elimination". The winning tradition of South Point Football demands it! Win number 456 awaits. Time to maul the Jaguars!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

South Point owns tie-breaking victories over Crest and Kings Mountain in the Big South 3A Conference standings. Forestview, North Gaston and Hunter Huss remain in the regular season schedule. Ashbrook travels to Kings Mountain next week and then hosts their rival Hunter Huss to end the regular season. Go Big Red!