

## Game Recap

### South Point Falls...Burns Field Goal The Difference, 30-28

The time for moral victories is long past with the sixth game of the season. But had the contest with the Burns Bulldogs been played earlier in the year, the confidence of the Red Raiders would be off the charts. The reality is, South Point, with heads held high, will regroup and try to build on the outstanding effort left on the field against the Bulldogs. A thirty-yard field goal with 16 seconds remaining dropped the Raiders to 0-1 in the Southwestern 2A Conference kickoff. The battle was hard fought with South Point withstanding the big play capability of Burns for much of the game. The Bulldogs opened the scoring with an 80-yard touchdown pass on the first play from scrimmage. They would later add a 66-yard touchdown run and collect several opportune gains in between. The Raiders were able to counter with hard-charging, ground-pounding drives for which they are known. South Point took their first lead with 2:59 remaining in regulation, but the desperation only fueled Burns for their final drive for points. Coach urged the team to accept the hurt that comes from such a close loss, making the point that if there isn't pain, there isn't a will to get angry and get better. And while the record may point to this being a year in which the Raiders battle game after game without consistently positive results, the real disappointment would be in giving up. So, as the season continues the question becomes, how dedicated is this team to working hard to improve and make a positive mark on the program's proud tradition. This team still has something to prove...not just to the fans or the opponents, but to themselves. And that's an effort that deserves support.

Following the score on the opening play, both teams traded punts throughout the remainder of the first quarter. Burns added to their lead with a 5-yard touchdown run early in the second before the Raiders finally cracked the scoreboard. A Hunter Hogue 5-yard run brought South Point to within seven with 6:26 to go before the half. The Red 'D' forced a Bulldog punt and set out on the equalizing drive. A 21-yard connection from Javus Davis to Ray Rose sent the teams to the break tied at fourteen.

A quick third quarter saw neither team mount a scoring threat. But within seconds of starting the final stanza, the Bulldogs reclaimed the lead with the 66-yard scamper. The Red 'O' countered with a 12-yard touchdown run by Devon King. The score was tied at 21-21 with 6:58 remaining in regulation. Burns soon pulled back ahead by six, 27-21. The missed extra point was the opening South Point needed. The Raiders battled on what would be their final drive, twice converting on fourth-down plays to move to the Burns 43-yardline. From there, Rose outran all defenders to the endzone to knot the score. Carson Smith remained perfect on the night by drilling the extra point to give the Raiders the late 28-27 advantage. The 2:59 remaining would prove enough for Burns to do the unthinkable.

Tough losses are inevitable in football. And sometimes moral victories are all some teams can count on in overmatched contests. But moral victories are unacceptable for proud traditions such as that of the South Point Red Raiders football program. The conference opening loss hurts, but more importantly it should make the team angry and even more motivated to

improve. The effort from this point will determine this team's place in Red Raider history. Time to go to work!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

The season began for Burns with lofty expectations. The Bulldogs were viewed as an up-and-coming powerhouse to challenge for the top spot in the conference and a deep playoff run. Until the final 16 seconds of the game, the Raiders had positioned themselves to be the better team than the stout challenger. If the Big Red matches the effort from Friday night, they're assured far more victories than close losses. Time for the pendulum to swing in favor of the Raiders!