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# VARSAITY REPORT

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*by Jamey Andrews*

“Red Raiders Roll On...Trounce Trojans, 69-0”

The record setting season continues for South Point as the Red Raiders notched their 10<sup>th</sup> win of the season by trouncing the Chase Trojans, 69-0. The Raiders added to their all time consecutive win streak, which now stands at 20 dating back to last year’s championship run. South Point overcame a slow start and took advantage of Trojan miscues to come away with the convincing victory. The Raiders were not immune to mistakes, but were able to battle through. At 4-0 in conference play, the stage is now set for a showdown with rival Shelby at Lineberger Stadium next week. Given the Golden Lions are seeking a fifth straight state championship, it would have been easy for South Point to look past Chase, but that’s not how the Big Red rolls! The Red Raiders recaptured focus, energized a high powered offense, a stone wall defense, and a strong kicking game that proved to be the keys to victory.

Chase received the opening kickoff and made little gains against South Point. The Red ‘D’ forced a punt and seemed set to flex the early muscle. But the short, end-over-end kick was mishandled and the Trojans recovered for a new set of downs in South Point territory. Chase could not move the Raiders defense and so faced a fourth and 9 from the Raiders 33 yardline. The scrambling quarterback’s pass was well defended and South Point took over on downs. The Red offense drove downfield to the Trojans fourteen. From there quarterback Scottie Lee called his own number, headed left and cut back right, easily scampering into the endzone for the touchdown. Kicker David O’Hanlon punched through the PAT and South Point had a 7-0 advantage with 5:08 remaining in the first quarter. The ensuing “pooch” kick put the Trojans at their 39 yardline to begin their second possession. Chase could muster no offense against the Red Raiders and would be quickly forced to punt again. The short kick was covered by return specialist Mario Brandon at the South Point thirty-seven. The Raiders suddenly seemed snake-bit as consecutive offensive penalties cost them positive gains. Then facing a 3<sup>rd</sup> down and “forever” the ball was jarred loose from the scrambling quarterback and the Trojans were in business deep in Raiders territory. The defense came on to bail out their teammates. Forcing a 4<sup>th</sup> and 11 conversion attempt, Brandon intercepted a Trojan pass in the endzone to give the ball back to the Raiders at the twenty yardline. Fullback Jake Alexander showed his appreciation by taking a first down handoff and racing off left tackle 80 yards for the touchdown! Later asked about the slow start for South Point, Alexander admitted that it seemed the team was playing as if they felt like they “had it (game)”, but that at the end of the first quarter they started to “put it together”. The senior fullback added that no such letdown is expected next week. “Our mindset will be on the game next week and we’ll just take it one game at a time”, said Alexander. The score sent the teams to the second quarter with South Point up 14-0.

Chase’s ball movement was back and forth, usually driven by penalties and South Point tackles for loss. A linebacker Sean Burns sack ended the Trojans first possession of the second stanza. With the ball near midfield following the Chase punt, the Red Raiders maintained momentum and drove to the Chase 13 yardline. The possession was marred by penalties that cost the Raiders field position but the offense continued to battle. (It suddenly seemed that the

yellow handkerchiefs were making several repeat appearances...and sometimes for no reason! – anonymous Raider fan) From the 13, Alexander burst up the middle and spun into the endzone for his second touchdown, the team's third, and a 21-0 lead. The Red Raiders were not done! The Trojans managed a rushing first down on their next drive but were turned back by a linebacker Nathan Hamilton interception. The Red 'O' took over and added to their point total. A thirty-five yard strike from Lee to receiver Ray Grier netted the 28-0 advantage with 2:06 to go before the half. The nightmare would continue for Chase. Linebacker Tanner Canterbury made a leaping interception on the Trojans next drive to give South Point another shot at a score. From the Red Raiders forty, Alexander burst free for a 60 yard touchdown run for the 35-0 lead at the break. South Point was in control.

With the ball to begin the third, the Raiders were in good shape to pad the advantage following a kick return across midfield. In four plays the Red 'O' had moved to the Trojans ten. It took but one more play for running back Ty Tinker to find the endzone and the 41-0 lead. Another quick possession, and Chase punt, would keep the momentum with the Red. Tinker lit up the scoreboard once again after a one yard run to cap a 56 yard Raider drive. With 5:21 to go in the third, South Point's advantage grew to 48-0 and the clock went live for the remainder of the game. Chase once again would suffer a short possession at the hands of the Red 'D' and would give the ball back to South Point. The Raiders next drive carried over into the final quarter of play.

Backups would carry home the victory for South Point. Keaton Hale and Naseem Jones accounted for the final scoring totals for South Point with Hale rushing for a 50 yard score to put the Raiders up 55-0. Jones had runs of 23 and 21 yards to give South Point the 69-0 victory.

South Point added to their consecutive win streak in dominating fashion with a trouncing of the Chase Trojans. The Raiders overcame a slow start and miscues while taking advantage of Trojan mistakes with stout play on offense defense and special teams. The journey for South Point continues next week with a visit by perennial power Shelby. As has been the case in the past, the road to a championship runs through Belmont!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

To state the obvious: Dropped passes kill drives and swing momentum. To add perspective: In the early days of football, pass incompletions were flagged as 15 yard penalties! To provide a moral: Hold on to the ball!

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