

Game Recap

Momentum Shift Costs South Point; CHASE Wins, 41-28

Even the casual sports spectator can recognize the point(s) in a game in which one team seems to have the upper hand. Sometimes the favorite grabs momentum from the outset and never relinquishes the strangle hold. Other times, when teams are more evenly matched whether in talent or determination, there is an ebb and flow to a contest that sees momentum shift from home team to visitor and vice versa. The notable point in those matchups is that there are momentum **shifts**, meaning more than one for each side. Such was not the case on the outskirts of Forest City last Friday night. The CHASE Trojans stumbled in the first half and the Big Red took every advantage to build a sizeable lead. But the story of the night became the tremendous shift in momentum that came in the second half of the contest. The Trojans seized control from the third quarter kickoff and scored on every possession of the second half to down the Red Raiders, 41-28. South Point must now regroup and finish out a season that has had more than a fair share of struggles. Remaining contests will further determine where the 2019 team stands in the proud South Point football tradition. In fact, each play remaining in this season will define the character of a team that to this point has not realized all the success they have worked so hard to achieve.

With the opening kick, South Point drove 63 yards and took an early 6-0 lead on a 5-yd QB Devon King run. The Red 'D' slammed the door on the Trojans, forcing a fumble on a hook and lateral, that CHASE attempted on their first snap from scrimmage. On the Raiders second possession, Will Rhinehart took a turn under center. Moving from the opponent's 22 yardline, Rhinehart connected with King on a 12-yd pass for another score. The two-point conversion put South Point ahead 14-0 with 3:11 to go in the first quarter. The Raiders defense was not done. Another CHASE fumble was recovered by the Raiders at the South Point 11 yardline. A single handoff to FB Naseem Jones would net points as the speedy back raced 89 yards to the endzone. With the close of the quarter, South Point had built a 21-0 lead, but it was still too soon to consider the lead "comfortable".

With a possession to begin the second stanza, CHASE managed a drive to the Raiders twenty-five. Another fumble, the Trojans third in as many possessions, was once again recovered by the Raiders. South Point drove to the CHASE nineteen before the drive stalled. A 36-yd field goal attempt was long enough but slightly wide left to hold the score at 21-0. The Trojans took hold of the glimmer of hope. Finding big play success, CHASE drove 80 yards in just over a minute to notch their first points. Undaunted, the Raiders answered with another long, 65-yd, run by Jones. Countering the Trojans score seemed to re-settle the flow of the game for South Point. But things unraveled a bit more on the next CHASE possession. A sustained drive that all but ended the first half resulted in a touchdown pass and two-point conversion for the Trojans. The teams went to the intermission with South Point in the lead, but not fully in control, 28-15.

The second half began for the Trojans just as the first half began for the Red Raiders. A 3-yd run closed the gap to 28-21 and the momentum shift was becoming fully apparent. Two costly fumbles by South Point fed the CHASE onslaught. In the end, the Trojans would score on each of their four second half possessions, while the Raiders struggled to turn the tide. The effort came up short.

The 41-28 setback ends South Point's conference title hopes, but the loss does not signal the end of the season or a reason to stop fighting on the gridiron. The Red Raiders were victimized by a shift in momentum that came at a high price in seasons' goals. A measure of the team's character is what's left to play for in the regular season. What marks this team and where they ultimately stand in the history of South Point football remains to be seen. But rest assured that given the amount of heart in this group, they will continue to STAND as proud members of the South Point football tradition.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

A document from the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the National Park Service branch of the U.S. Department of the Interior indicates that CHASE is an acronym for the surrounding communities served by the high school. According to the document, Caroleen and Cliffside, Henrietta and Harris, Avondale, Shiloh, and Everybody Else (although local oral tradition may suggest "Ellenboro") are the communities from which C.H.A.S.E. High School, established in 1960, takes its name. So, if the Red Raiders felt like they were involved in an overwhelmingly one-sided turf war last Friday night...well...???

- With apologies for the attempted pun.