

Game Recap

Black Friday, All Red...Raiders Crush Warriors, 54-6

After twelve consecutive Red Raider victories, it would seem natural that the tide would turn and East Gaston would steal a win in the storied Black Friday rivalry. Surely some measure of superstitious bad fortune could befall South Point as they sought their 13th straight in the series. Certainly at some point the scales would tilt in favor of the challenger. That's how things go in sports, right? Then again...there's a better chance that the term "Black Friday" will soon refer to the annual celebration that marks the gridiron thrashing delivered to the Warriors by the Red Raiders! The 2019 edition will, as in years past, become one that East Gaston will want to forget. South Point began celebrating early, winning the coin toss and followed that by winning every quarter en route to a 54-6 drubbing of the Warriors. With the convincing win, the Raiders evened their conference record at 1-1 entering the bye week. The Big Red will try to carry the momentum into a Homecoming matchup with East Rutherford in two weeks (Oct. 18).

With the ball to begin the game, East Gaston chipped away from their 12-yardline to near midfield. The drive gave the Warriors confidence against the Red 'D'. Facing a fourth and 4 from their forty-nine, East Gaston decided to attempt a fake punt. The snap to the up man gained midfield and nothing more, forcing a turnover on downs. South Point then took quick (make that ridiculously quick) advantage. Ray Rose, under center for the Raiders on the initial drive, pitched to an in-motion Devon King. King then remained in motion for 50 yards and the game's first score! Kicker Dylan Nicks drilled the PAT and South Point set the stage for the pounding, leading 7-0 with 5:39 remaining in the opening quarter. With momentum firmly established, the Red 'D' forced a three-and-out on East Gaston's next drive, putting the ball back into the hands of the Red 'O'. A first down handoff to Hunter Hogue netted eight yards taking the ball from the 50-yardline to the Warriors forty-two. On the second down play, Rose shot past the line and raced for the endzone. The Raiders had taken the 14-0 lead and the rout was on! East Gaston carried their third possession of the game into the second quarter.

Trying to reclaim momentum, the Warriors drove into South Point territory and faced a second and nine from the Raiders forty-four. LB Jackson Risk fought through a block, grabbed the scrambling quarterback, and single-handedly forced a third and fifteen for the Warriors. East Gaston could not sustain the drive and would have to punt. Taking possession at their thirty-five, South Point ran two plays to gain the Warriors forty-two. On the third play of the series, Rose kept the ball, shed tacklers at the line, and broke free for a 42 yard touchdown run. For the record, this would be South Point's third touchdown in six plays for the game! The Raiders advanced the lead to 21-0 with 9:35 to go before the half. Three more plays and another East Gaston punt gave South Point a chance for more points. The Raiders managed the ensuing drive to their 49-yardline. From there, Rose faked a pitch on the triple option and cruised untouched 51 yards for the score. The lead grew to 27-0 and East Gaston had no answers. Yet another three-and-out gave the Raiders the ball and 2:47 on the clock. Mixing plays, South Point drove deep into the red zone. A key play in the drive was a twenty-five yard pass completion from

Rose to King. King made a remarkable shoestring catch on the play to give the Raiders a first and goal at the one. Hogue bulled through for the touchdown and the 34-0 halftime advantage.

With the ball to begin the third, South Point drove from their forty-eight to the East Gaston 31-yardline. There, facing a 2nd and 6, Hogue took another handoff and followed the blocking of his offensive line to his second touchdown of the contest and a 41-0 lead for South Point. "They're the main part of this offense", said Hogue of his offensive linemen. He added that the attitude is to never take a day off, but for the team to continue to work hard and go as far as they can go. It would seem that following Hogue's score, things could not get worse for the Warriors. Things did. The ensuing kickoff was mishandled and South Point pounced on the ball at the East Gaston fifteen. Devon King recovered the ball and was rewarded with a turn under center on offense. Taking the first down snap, King kept the ball and cut up the middle to score six more for South Point. With the tally at 47-0 and a full quarter yet to play, the clock went live and substitutions were in order. The game's pace changed marginally. East Gaston carried a third quarter possession into the final stanza.

East Gaston managed a 2-yard touchdown run to get on the scoreboard in the fourth quarter. With backups in the game, the plan was to finish out the game with valuable reps and maintain Black Friday dominance. Will Rhinehart took over at quarterback and proceeded to march the team downfield to the Warriors' twenty. From there, Rhinehart matched the East Gaston score with a 20 yard run to end all scoring. The horn sounded for South Point's 54-0 victory.

The Red Raiders' attempt at a 13th consecutive victory in the Black Friday matchup with rival East Gaston was met with no superstition, ill fortune, or downright bad luck. Instead the contest followed the theme established in the previous twelve contests, South Point dominance and a big Red Raiders win! The victory helps the Raiders keep pace in the conference and sets them up for an opportunity to continue to get stronger through the bye week. Next up is a visit from East Rutherford for Homecoming. Keep the foot on the gas, Red!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

"Success isn't owned, it's leased. And rent is due every day." J.J. Watt, Houston Texans DE