

Game Recap

“South Point Wins Ugly...Pull Away In Forestview Win, 46-20”

South Point's victory over Forestview resulted from an intense effort, and a determination not to lose to a county rival. Yet despite the convincing win, the Red Raiders were reintroduced to a popular football belief, paraphrased from former Coach Lou Holtz, that a team is never as bad as their last loss and never as good as their last win. Simply stated, even in victory South Point has room for improvement as they work to achieve a high level of play. Weather conditions delayed the start of the contest. From the outset both teams searched for a rhythm on offense. Defenses were able to take advantage such that it would take until the third possession of the second quarter before the Red Raiders could seize control and begin to build the insurmountable lead. Once established, South Point's offensive line was able to open holes and pass protect while the Red 'D' continued to force the Jaguars to make mistakes. The Raiders were not immune to their own pitfalls, though, so teachable moments will abound for upcoming practices. Winning ugly is acceptable, but not preferred!

Forestview won the toss and elected to allow South Point the opening possession. The early decision seemed to backfire as the Raiders obliged by chipping away yardage from their twenty-six into Jaguars territory. Penalties for both sides moved the ball back and forth during the drive, finally resting at the Forestview forty-six. Make that the Forestview endzone when SE Ray Grier raced to the post and got behind the defense! QB Jamani Leeper loaded up and set sail a strike that hit Grier in stride. The touchdown pass gave South Point the 6-0 advantage at the 7:44 mark of the first quarter. The Red 'D' shutdown the Jaguars with a quick three-and-out giving indication that the Red Raiders had taken control of the contest. But the Forestview defense regained a measure of respect by stopping the Raiders on the ensuing drive. In fact, the teams traded punts throughout the remainder of the quarter and South Point carried their third possession of the game into the second stanza.

A costly fumble inside the Jaguars ten, just seconds into the quarter, stunned the Red faithful. But the gift was immediately returned with a Forestview fumble that was recovered by the Red Raiders. The exchanges made an ugly game a little uglier, but South Point was able to return to form with a six-yard fade connection, once again from Leeper to Grier. The Raiders' advantage grew to 12-0 with 10:34 remaining before the half. After another Jaguars punt, the Red 'O' went back to work. FB Naseem Jones burst off tackle behind an OL Larry Dowdy “wall” and covered 43 yards for the Raiders' score. Jones then completed the conversion, running behind his line, to move the Red out to a 20-0 lead. “My linemen are amazing”, stated Jones, adding that he's able to make his way through the holes created by the blocking up front. South Point managed another defensive stop and stood to get another shot at the endzone with 5:44 to go in the second. Grier dropped back for the Raiders, hauled in the punt and wasted little time weaving his way to the endzone. The return covered 63 yards and would end all scoring for the first half of play. South Point went to the break leading 26-0.

The teams began the second half in the same way they played most of the first quarter...out of sync. A Jaguars interception was followed by a Red Raiders fumble and it was obvious the teams were struggling once again to find a rhythm. A two-yard run put Forestview on the board and Leeper immediately answered with a four-yard scamper that made the score 33-7 in the Raiders' favor. Neither team had another threat in the quarter.

On a drive that carried over from the third, South Point used the first 17 seconds of the final stanza to go ahead 40-7 on a Leeper 9-yard run. The Jaguars counter-punched with a touchdown run of four yards and a 40-13 score. The unusual contest continued with two more touchdowns by each squad. For South Point, backup QB Javus Davis took a snap, juggled the ball, took off around the left side and juked his way 46 yards for the Raiders' final points. On his run to the outside, Davis displayed remarkable athletic ability by stopping his momentum, dodging a would-be tackler, and coming quickly back up to speed to race to paydirt. South Point had wrapped up the victory despite a late Forestview score to make the final 46-20.

Rhythm was difficult to find and momentum tough to sustain in South Point's win over county rival Forestview. The ugly win sends the Raiders to 2-1 on the young season and gives evidence that the team has room to improve. Effort and determination are in place, but against the Jaguars, crisp execution was elusive. Improvement will be easily recognized when the Red Raiders get in a groove early and play to their ability. Next game!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Next up is a challenge at Clover, SC. The Blue Eagles were taken down in overtime by Hunter Huss so they're likely to have a "chip on the shoulder" when the Raiders come to call. Ground 'em!

Jamey Andrews