

Game Recap

Big Red Wall! Raiders Stop Jaguars, 30-26

It may not go down as one of the most exciting goal line stands in South Point Football history. But it's not likely to be soon forgotten by the Raider faithful this season. Seven seconds, a final play, and two yards separated the Raiders from a win over conference foe, Forestview. The Jaguars managed to put themselves in a position to claim the upset with a drive in the final 1:18 of regulation. The Big Red was equal to the task, building a wall at the goal line to secure the hard fought 30-26 victory! At this point in the season, it's all about effort. Teams know their capabilities, both in strengths and weaknesses. Heading into the final week of the season and into the playoffs, victories hinge on doing what you do best when it's needed most. And the back-and-forth battle with Forestview was a good indication of what the Raiders can expect going forward. In a game in which South Point had to overcome penalties, turnovers, and come from behind in the second half, it was the final possessions for both squads that determined the outcome.

South Point won the coin toss and deferred the option to the second half, electing to go on defense first. The Red 'D' quickly gained an advantage, forcing a Jaguars punt after three plays. The ensuing punt gave the Raiders positive field position at the Forestview 47-yardline. QB Patrick Blee kept the ball on the first downplay, running around the left end to the thirty-five. From there, FB Chayne Ford broke through the line and raced to the endzone for the early lead. Backup QB Ashton Green rushed in the two-point conversion to give South Point the opening advantage, 8-0, with just under 2:30 gone in the first quarter. Forestview stuck to a game plan that included a mix of runs and passes to move the ball to the Raiders 16-yardline. From there the Jaguars managed a pass that put them on the board. South Point's 8-7 lead would be challenged on the Raiders next possession. A fumble was recovered by Forestview near midfield and the Jaguars took advantage. Moving downfield, the Jags 'O' connected on an 18-yard pass for a touchdown to take the 14-8 lead. South Point's ensuing drive carried over into the second stanza.

The Raiders drive to begin the second was marred by consecutive false start penalties. The early miscues had the Raiders on their heels, fighting to get back into a rhythm on offense. From the Forestview forty-nine, Ford broke off right tackle behind a crushing block by OL Andrew Wright and ran untouched for the touchdown. South Point moved in front, 15-14, but the Jaguars didn't lose all their momentum. The Jaguars matched the score to reclaim the lead at 20-15 with 10:39 remaining in the half. The teams then traded punts and the Raiders once again fumbled to give Forestview a final chance for points. The Red 'D' held the Jags to keep the Raiders within a single score as the teams headed for the intermission.

With the ball to begin the third quarter, the Raiders were set to retake the lead and build on the momentum. But South Point was forced to punt, and the contest took a serious turn when the Jaguars managed another touchdown pass for six more. The catch-and-run pass play covered 75 yards giving Forestview the lead at 26-15 with 7:53 to go in the quarter. The Raiders were searching for an answer. It would come two plays into the next possession. After a 2-yard gain to the South Point twenty-two, WB Harrison McKinney took a pitch around the right side and outran the field 78 yards for the score. The

Raiders drew within three, trailing 26-23 with 6:58 to go in the third. The teams traded turnovers to close out the quarter and the stage was set for the fight to the finish.

On a possession that extended from the third quarter, the Jaguars chewed up yardage and time off the clock. The Red 'D' dug in. Facing a fourth down at the South Point 32-yardline, the scrambling Jaguars QB was forced out of bounds for no gain, turning the ball over to the Raiders with 6:25 remaining in regulation. The Red 'O' went to work. An 11-play drive of 5:07 covered 68 yards and ended with a Ford 3-yard run for the lead. South Point went ahead 30-26 but could not take a breath. Forestview came out swinging and connected on big plays to move to the Raiders 10-yardline. With no timeouts, the Jags could only attempt quick throws to try to get the game-winning score. The Red 'D' met the challenge. With 0:07 on the clock the game came down to a final play. The Forestview pass was caught at the Raiders 2-yard line, but DB Zeke Pruitt made the immediate hit to stop the advance. Later asked about the stop, Pruitt admitted his responsibility for the touchdown that gave the Jaguars their two-score advantage. "That was on me", he said, adding "I just wanted to make a play." His solid contact tackle ended the threat and preserved the game for South Point.

It may not find a place in South Point Football history, but it was the greatest goal line stand of last Thursday night. The Raiders withstood a spirited challenge from Forestview and managed to overcome miscues to claim victory. With one game remaining in the regular season, ahead of the playoffs, it all comes down to effort. And given what was left on the field through the last seven seconds of regulation last Thursday, it's for sure these Raiders will fight to the final whistle.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

South Point hosts the North Gaston Wildcats to close out the regular season. The Wildcats have experienced a surge and are playing with a confidence long missing from their program. The Raiders will need to take control early and build momentum that can carry into the postseason.