

## Game Recap

### Red Raiders Pounce On Jaguars - Shutout Forestview, 47-0

A popular motivational quote suggests that “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.” After last week’s game at Ashbrook, the Raiders found themselves on the outside of totally controlling their stronghold on the Big South 3A Conference title. The football circumstance had shifted to create a logjam at the top of the standings with the conference elite all claiming a shot at first place. The letdown would have devastated a lesser team. But the Big Red exhibited the nature of a championship program. Realizing they could not go back and change the outcome from last week, the Raiders instead chose to focus intently on the task at hand. The Big Red decided to move forward and position themselves to achieve the end goal. Their response put them on track for a bounce back victory over conference rival Forestview. And they did so in dominating fashion! South Point controlled the flow of the game, maintaining momentum throughout, en route to a 47-0 thrashing of the Jaguars. The victory keeps the Red Raiders in line for a conference championship.

South Point won the toss and deferred the option to the second half. Forestview accepted the ball, and the teams took the field. Prior to the game’s initial snap, Forestview was hit with a delay of game penalty. Never has an “intimidation factor” been so quickly introduced in a ballgame! Obviously, the Jaguars were reluctant to line up against the Big Red! Forestview managed a first down on the opening possession but were then shut down consecutively with a loss and no gain. Forced to go to the air on a third downplay, the Red ‘D’ was ready. DB Gavin Smith picked off the Jaguars pass and set up his offense at the Forestview 30-yard line for South Point’s first drive. Back-to-back encroachment penalties on Forestview collected ten yards and a first down for the Raiders before the ball was snapped. RB Brody Crawford and FB Chayne Ford combined to move the ball inside the Forestview ten. Then Ford carried over from 8 yards out for the contest’s first points. The South Point lead was 6-0 at the 8:51 mark on the first quarter clock. The Jaguars changed their pace in an effort to keep the Red ‘O’ on the sidelines. The strategy had a measure of success as both teams then traded possessions throughout the remainder of the opening quarter.

On a drive that carried over into the second stanza, Forestview faced a fourth and seven at the South Point thirty-three to begin play. Their completed pass gained a single yard as the Red ‘D’ held the Jaguars on downs. Ford and QB Patrick Blee then moved the Raiders quickly into Forestview territory with Blee also completing a pass to TE Peyton McCarn to the Jaguars 40-yard line. From there Blee connected with SE Chris Stowe who shook off his defender, made the catch and raced to the endzone. Ford added the two-point conversion to put South Point up 14-0 with 10:42 remaining. The Raiders defense allowed a few more Forestview offensive plays before forcing a punt. FB Eric Forston took over in the backfield and picked up a chunk of yardage to move South Point across midfield. Blee then hit McCarn again for a thirty-yard completion to the Forestview five. An offsides penalty on the Jaguars moved the ball closer to the goal line. Forston then carried over for six more to move the Raiders in front by a 20-0 tally. The Red ‘D’ permitted three more plays before forcing another Jaguars punt. RS Kham Crawford fielded the kick and set up his offense at the South Point forty-three with 5:27 to go in the half. In six plays, the Raiders were on the Jaguars’ thirteen. From there, Forston burst through and

drug tacklers into the endzone. The South Point advantage was pushed to 26-0 as the intermission approached. Forestview mustered no threat on the ensuing possession, so the teams went to the half with the Raiders in control.

Both teams were sluggish in the third quarter. South Point turned the ball over on downs with the initial possession of the quarter. Forestview managed to find some success in the passing game and were able to mount a scoring threat. But from his LB position, Ford picked off a Forestview pass to end the threat. The Raiders eventually fumbled on the ensuing drive, giving the Jaguars the possession that carried over into the final twelve minutes of regulation.

On the first play of the fourth quarter, DB Gavin Smith picked off his second Jaguars pass of the game. Smith caught the ball on the run near midfield then weaved his way through traffic for the pick-six. His touchdown pushed the Raiders advantage to 33-0 and further deflated the Jaguars faithful. The Big Red was not done! On the following kickoff, South Point recovered a pooch kick to take possession at the Forestview forty-nine. The Red 'O' moved into scoring position aided by an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the frustrated Jaguars defense. WB Kham Crawford carried in from 9 yards out to move South Point up 40-0 with 9:50 remaining. The Red 'D' quickly forced another Forestview punt. QB Cayden Rumph took over under center and FB Josh Crawford-White lined up in the backfield. Crawford-White carried a chunk of the load on the drive and for his effort was awarded the ball from one yard out for the score. He made good on the dive and put six more on the board for South Point. Later asked about his role for the Raiders and how important it is to stay focused when called upon, Crawford-White stated, "I always want to play for my (family)", adding that the team rallies around one another regardless of who is on the field. Addressing the holes opened by his Offensive Line, the fullback called out his teammates David Bray, Preston Caskey who along with Ryan Payseur, Nathan Nguyen, and Strat Triplett helped move the ball downfield for the final score. K Wilson London's PAT was true to give the Raiders their final 47-0 victory.

One week removed from being in a position to control the top spot in the Big South 3A Conference, South Point had to regroup and decide how to respond to a setback. The Big Red decided to press on with a determination that only championship teams possess. Forestview stood in the way of the Raiders getting things back on track and the Big Red made quick work of the Jaguars. The convincing victory is but the first step in climbing back toward an undisputed Big South 3A crown. Next up is the North Gaston Wildcats. Another kitten to cage!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

With Kings Mountain's win over Ashbrook, the Greenwave now have two conference losses which all but seals their fate and hopes for a share of the conference title. The Mountaineers meanwhile must still face Crest meaning one of those will suffer a second conference loss. The Raiders own the tiebreaker over both Crest and Kings Mountain, having handed those two their only conference losses to date. Matchups with North Gaston and Hunter Huss await South Point, and the conference title stands at the end. Go Big Red!

