

## Game Recap

### South Point Notches First Win...Blank Lincolnton, 14-0

South Point bulled their way into the win column with a shutout on the road. The Red Raiders battled injuries and dug deep for the 14-0 victory over the Lincolnton Wolves. Both teams were coming off opening losses, and even though the conference runs are yet weeks away, neither wanted to still be searching for a win three weeks into the season. The flow of the game seemed to indicate that this thought was foremost on the minds of the players. “Winning ugly” is the term that comes to mind, and certainly every game has an ebb and flow of great plays and costly mistakes that figure into an outcome. The reality is, one team eventually digs deeper than the other and manages to reclaim their will to succeed. Tom Brady, Super Bowl winning quarterback (multiple times), once expressed, “To me, football is so much about mental toughness, it’s digging deep, it’s doing whatever you need to do to help a team win and that comes in a lot of shapes and forms.” The Red Raiders dug deep and players stepped up when called upon. The result was a hard fought victory and a lesson that should serve them well as the season wears on.

The Wolves won the toss and elected to receive to open the contest. Lincolnton managed some positive yardage before the Red ‘D’ forced a punt. South Point took over from their own 2-yardline and set out on a ground-pounding attack for which they are so well known. The drive ate nearly seven minutes off the clock but would ultimately stall short of midfield. The Raiders punted with less than a minute to go in the opening quarter. Early indication was that the two heavyweights had settled in to do battle.

On a possession that carried over into the second stanza, the Wolves were again forced to punt. South Point began a drive from their 23-yardline. The resolve of the Red Offense was apparent. Linemen began to take control of the line of scrimmage, opening holes for QB Javus Davis, FB Naseem Jones, and RB Devon King. With the ball resting at the Wolves thirty, Jones took the handoff, hit the hole off right tackle so quickly that he raced nearly untouched into the endzone. K Carson Smith’s PAT was true and with 5:56 remaining before the half, South Point had taken the 7-0 lead. Lincolnton did not back down. The Wolves fought back on a drive that crossed midfield and pushed the Raiders back to the thirty-five. But the Red Defense did not break. Following a pair of pass defenses by the Raiders, the Lincolnton drive stalled. South Point got the ball back with 00:43 on the clock. But the possession would not last long. A mishandled snap was recovered by the Wolves at the South Point twenty. Lincolnton attempted a couple of pass plays that were well defended by the Raiders, forcing the Wolves to attempt a field goal. On the play, and from his defensive position, King blasted into the backfield, launched his body toward the ball and smothered the kick. The speedy defender preserved South Point’s 7-0 lead at the half.

With the ball to begin the third quarter, the Red Raiders looked to flex some muscle and continue to pressure the Wolves. Fourteen plays carried the Red ‘O’ from their 42-yardline to the Lincolnton five. One play later, Davis dove across for the score. South Point claimed the

14-0 advantage with 4:47 to go in the quarter. A pair of punts by each team would mark the remaining of the stanza, sending the teams into the final 12 minutes.

The fourth quarter played much like the first with both squads taking their shots but nether mounting significant scoring threats until what would turn out to be the Wolves final possession. After a Lincolnton punt early in the fourth and consecutive turnovers on downs, the Wolves positioned themselves to erase the shutout. With the ball at the Raiders forty-six, the Lincolnton QB dropped back and launched a ball downfield. South Point FS Alex Campbell measured the throw, positioned himself perfectly, and leaped to pull down the interception. Campbell, along with his defensive secondary teammates had made some crushing hits throughout the game. The interception was certainly reward for the effort. Campbell spoke about what it took to pull out the victory. “They came out with some intensity and we had to match that in the second half”, he said. The Safety admitted that this game would serve as the wake-up call needed to ensure preparations for opponents going forward. “We understand we have to give one hundred percent no matter who we face”, he added.

Winning ugly is still winning. Against the Lincolnton Wolves, the Red Raiders dug deep and managed to put together glimpses of just how potent the attack can be. South Point has battled through adversity even through two games on the young season. Players have stepped up and done what’s necessary to help the team succeed. The attitude is right and desire to improve has not left the determined squad. A sturdy test comes next week against a high-powered Clover Blue Eagles team in the Patriotism Bowl.

Go Get ‘Em, Red!

### Notable Facts and Thoughts

Never look past an opponent. -----  Lesson Learned