

## **Preview**

### **A New Chapter**

The sights and sounds that follow the final game of a season never change. For one team, celebratory cheers, and for the other, consoling words. Etched in our memory will be images that serve as reminders for how the 2022 season ended for the Red Raiders, a team most deserving of a state title. Overheard in the crowd that night was a statement that we must "close the book" on that season. And there is an element of truth in the thought. But for South Point Football and the potential that the 2023 squad possesses, it might be more appropriate to consider simply that a chapter has ended, rather than a book closed. Given the level of talent returning at the skill positions and the eager attitudes of those getting their "shot", the book of Red Raiders football is still being written! And this one could end with the most coveted trophy in NCHSAA 3A football!

Of course there is much work to be done, and the road will be long. But there is every reason to believe that this group of Raiders has the talent and toughness to once again make a solid playoff run. After an effort that fell short of South Point standards in the Cleveland County Jamboree on Wednesday, it took but a single day to get things back on track. In two quarters of play at Cannon School on Friday night, the Red Raiders scored on their first two possessions and shut down a pass-happy Cougars offense. Before turning the game over to the JV squads, South Point had posted a 21-7 "victory" in a half of football. This proves that this group is both coachable and able to make adjustments, qualities that will serve them well this season.

There's every reason to be excited for the 2023 edition of Red Raiders football! A chapter has been closed, but a new one is to be written. And the "ink hits the page" next Friday night at Lincolnton. South Point faces the Wolves in a contest that is expected to be a formidable challenge. The Raiders will be ready and determined to start the season with a victory!

2023 South Point Football - Chapter 1...

Go Get 'Em, Red!

## **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

The host Wolves will look to take another step toward closing the series gap with South Point. Lincolnton lost last year's contest by 15 after being crushed by 39 the season before.