

## Game Recap

### Raiders Take Hilltoppers – Conquer R-S Central, 42-14

The game of football requires that a group of individuals become a team, otherwise success is not guaranteed and more likely becomes elusive. It teaches not so much how to take a hit, but rather how to get up after being knocked down. The lessons continue week after week. Players learn about themselves. They become leaders, they support their teammates, and they defend traditions of great value. It could be said that, on a small scale, they emulate the dedication and fortitude of every hero that dons a uniform and rushes into harm's way to protect, serve, and defend. Those heroes are worthy of recognition. Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, tribute was paid to our Military and First Responders. It was a special night for players, fans, and honorees ahead of a game in which the Red Raiders put on display the characteristics they share with those who have served so honorably.

The Raiders won the toss and elected to go on defense to start the contest. R-S Central would have the first opportunity for points. The Hilltoppers were overmatched, and the Red 'D' set a quick, hard-hitting tone for the game. R-S Central managed to move the ball to midfield, aided by a roughing the kicker call in which it seemed impossible that the ball would not have been tipped based on the burst through the line. But the right call was made, and the drive continued. The Raiders regrouped. And when on fourth and short, defensive linemen Josh Crowder, Mason Harris, Aiden Ramirez, and Hunter Jackson formed an impenetrable wall that halted the Hilltopper momentum, South Point took over on downs. QB Patrick Blee engineered a drive from midfield to the R-S Central one yard line. From there FB Cam Medlock walked in for six points. K Charlie Birtwistle added the extra point for the 7-0 advantage. A quick three-and-out by the Raiders defense gave the Red 'O' another short field and chance for points. With running backs that act as extensions of the offensive line, the ground attack overpowered the Hilltoppers. Positive yardage on successive plays moved South Point to the R-S Central five-yard line as the quarter ended with the Red Raiders driving.

From the Hilltoppers two-yard line to begin the second stanza, WB Harrison McKinney took a pitch on the left side of the line and cruised to the endzone. The Raiders lead grew to 14-0 with 11:13 to go before the half. Three more plays by R-S Central gained zero yardage and the Hilltoppers would again punt after a short possession. Rather than go into cruise control with the flow of the game squarely in their favor, the Big Red kept the foot on the gas! Moving to the R-S Central four-yard line, the Raiders pushed ahead further with a four-yard score by Medlock. South Point had the 21-point advantage, but not for long! After a possession of under 1:30, the Hilltoppers were

forced to punt again. Return Specialist Will Ross pad the Raiders' lead with a 57-yard return to move South Point out to a 28-0 cushion. Commenting on the return Ross admitted that he's not one graced with the moves of a running back, but true to the character of South Point football he knows how to make a hole that isn't there. "I usually just run through people", said Ross, a nod to the abilities of his offensive counterparts. His comment summed up the game through the first half and eventually the entire contest as the Raiders routinely ran roughshod over the Hilltoppers. R-S Central could muster no offense against the Raiders 'D' and were forced into plays that had little chance for success. And when CB Micah Stowe stepped in front of a Hilltoppers desperation pass along the sidelines on the ensuing drive, South Point had the game's first turnover. The short field aided the Raiders again. The Red 'O' worked quickly inside the R-S Central ten-yard line. TE Colby Hamilton hauled in a 6-yard pass from Blee in the corner of the endzone giving South Point the 35-0 lead that would send the teams to the half.

With the ball to begin the third quarter, the Raiders continued to add to their scoring total. On the initial drive, Blee picked up key yards to the R-S Central sixteen. From there a handoff to WB Dawson Tobin was all that was needed to add six more. Tobin took the ball around the right side, hurdled the line, and raced to the goal line. South Point took the 42-0 lead, and the clock went live. Substitutions became the order for the Raiders and the teams traded possessions to finish the quarter.

In the fourth, the Hilltoppers gained a measure of success in a game that had been decided before the intermission. R-S Central scored twice in the stanza to reach the 42-14 final.

On a special night in which our uniformed heroes were honored, South Point put together a display of the hard-nosed, dedicated spirit for which our Military and First Responders are known. The Big Red struck early, hard, and often en route to a 42-14 thumping of the R-S Central Hilltoppers. Coming up, the Raiders face a bye week and will continue to work hard in preparation for the River Rumble! Take no prisoners, Red!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem. – Ronald Reagan