
VARSITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

“Storm Damaged...South Point Rips Stuart Cramer, 63-0”

It was a perfect night for football, not a hint of a storm...literally! The Red Raiders continued their three year dominance over Stuart Cramer by thoroughly ripping the Storm by a 63-0 count. Some success during the season had given Cramer a measure of confidence such that they fully expected to compete with the Red Raiders. In fact, the Storm had developed a swagger that caused them to believe they would actually end two years of gridiron futility against South Point. Surely with the Raiders early season struggles, they would be primed for a takedown. The latter may be true...but not on this night and night against this opponent! There is a popular theme in sports that suggests, “Victory requires advance payment.” The obvious implication is that games are won in the days of preparation leading up to the contests. Practice is a key to improvement and no amount of “talk” will prove one team better than another. These facts were never more evident than on the Storm’s homefield last Friday night. The most impressive stat taken from the game may not be expressly related to the lopsided score. South Point, as they have in several matchups, scored early and often en route to an impressive conference win. But with Friday’s end to the regular season conference schedule, the Red Raiders have scored in every quarter of every conference game! In seven games, twenty-eight quarters (including the loss to Hunter Huss), South Point put points on the board and compiled a 6-1 conference record. By doing so, they have positioned themselves to be the top 3A seed from the Big South 2A/3A Conference entering the playoffs.

South Point won the toss and deferred the option, electing to give Cramer the first chance on offense. The first play from scrimmage gained the Storm 15 yards from their 25 to the 40 yardline. Little else would go their way and the Red ‘D’ forced a punt after a possession of 1:29. With the remaining 10:31 of the first quarter, the Red Raiders would burn nearly seven minutes on a 15 play drive that ended with a 1 yard Jake Alexander touchdown dive. South Point had taken the early 6-0 lead and kept the Cramer defense on the field for an extended period. The ensuing Storm drive penetrated into South point territory, but an errant pass on 4th and 4 gave the Raiders their next opportunity. From his own 38, Alexander carried to the South Point 49 and that’s where the Red would begin the second stanza.

A good mix of plays and playmakers moved the ball downfield for South Point. Quarterback Scottie Lee carried, Alexander carried, Nathan Silver hauled in a pass and from the Storm 24, Lee connected with Nick Muse who carried across the goalline. Lee pitched to Nick Farmer for the 2-point conversion and the Raiders lead grew to 14-0 with 10:56 to go before the half. South Point was not done! Defensive end Matthew Robinson picked up a loose ball from a scrum that followed a completed Storm pass to the Red Raiders forty-one. Robinson gained his balance and raced to the Cramer 31 yardline to set up the Red offense. South Point quickly drove to the eight yardline where on first and goal Lee called his own number and ran in for the touchdown. Thomas Lempereur’s PAT was perfect and the Raiders lead advanced to 21-0 and the Red were eager for more. On Cramer’s ensuing possession, the Red ‘D’ continued to bring the pressure. From his safety position on defense, Silver stepped between two receivers, picked

off a pass, and raced to the endzone. Silver's score gave South Point a 28-0 lead with over six minutes remaining. With the game getting out of hand, the Storm were forced to go to the air. But the Raiders defense had proven that was a dangerous place to be and the receivers hands just weren't responding! A quick possession ended with a punt that Silver returned to the Storm 40 yardline. Alexander carried to the 10 on the first down play. Three plays later, the Raiders were facing a fourth and one from the one. Alexander plowed in from behind a tremendous offensive line push to collect six more for South Point. "I can always count on that", said Alexander when asked about the ability of his offensive line to open holes and control the line of scrimmage. His touchdown and the extra point would account for the Raiders' 29 points in the quarter with 3:30 left. The South Point advantage was 35-0 and the game was close to being played with a live clock before the third quarter! Once again Cramer tried to make headway against the stingy Red 'D'. And once again the Red 'D' was equal to the challenge! On fourth and seven in South Point territory, the Storm faced an obvious passing situation. As he had done earlier with the fumble recovery, Robinson figured in to the Red Raiders scoring total. Picking off the pass, Robinson ran 71 yards for the Raiders fifth touchdown of the second quarter! Asked to describe the dominant play of the defense, Robinson cited his coaches saying, "We have to be physical because the defensive line is where it starts and then it goes to the linebackers and then it goes to the safeties." "We just out-executed them", he added, referring to the solid play on both sides of the ball and special teams. The final seconds ticked off the clock with South Point commanding a 42-0 lead going to the half. The pace of the game was assured to pick up in the final two quarters of regulation.

With the ball to begin the third, the Raiders cashed in on a rolling offense and a rolling clock. Alexander picked up his fourth touchdown of the game on a 21 yard run to push South Point in front by a score of 49-0. The only Storm possession of the third would become a turnover on downs early in the fourth. Keaton Hale took over under center for the Raiders who had long since had the luxury of inserting backups for some valuable playing experience. Not to be overshadowed by their starting counterparts, Hale and his squad continued the onslaught. The quarterback kept on an option play, perfectly faked a pitch to the trailer, and raced untouched 57 yards for a score. South Point was up 56-0, and unfortunately for Cramer, there was still time on the clock! After yet another Red defensive stand, the Raiders took over again at their 32 yardline. Ty Tinker carried 15 yards to the 47 on first down and, as this game had gone, that was enough to put South Point in position to score! On the next play, Hale handed to Nick Gange who ran through a gaping hole on the right side. Gange covered the 53 yards for the Raiders' final touchdown and the convincing 63-0 victory.

Conditions were far from "Storm-y" last Friday night in Cramerton, but a well prepared Red Raider team blew in and caused some Storm Damage! As has been there focus all season, South Point has practiced hard and tried to improve with every game. Proof of the effort is points in every quarter throughout conference play and a defense that has given up a paltry nine points in the last four games while accounting for more than that in the final game alone. Victories require advance payment; preparation is a key to success. Nick Muse summed up the attitude and effort of the Red Raiders, "We're going to grind...we're practice players. What we put in practice is what's going to happen in the game." As the playoffs approach, the Red

Raiders continue to work hard in every phase of the game. Such effort and determination should serve the Raiders well for a successful run!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Congratulations to some of our Big South 2A/3A Conference alums! Moe Neal from Forestview was a featured running back in Syracuse's game against Clemson last Saturday. Kerrion Moore from Hunter Huss made ESPN Sports Center's #3 on the Top 10 Plays list for the week with an impressive touchdown run after catch for his Winston Salem State Rams. And our own Tanner Muse made the #1 play on the ESPN Top 10 Plays list with an outstanding interception return for a touchdown in Clemson's win over Syracuse! Great job, men! Keep up the good work and keep making us proud!

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