
VARSITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

“South Point Continues Dominance Over Stuart Cramer... Turn Back Storm, 41-14”

Former NFL wide receiver Troy Brown, owner of three Super Bowl rings as a member of the New England Patriots, was known for his knack to state the obvious. “It’s football season, anything can happen”, said the astute, if not prophetic, Brown. Such a musing could cause fans to ponder the likelihood of “an upset for the ages” at Lineberger Stadium! An impressive start to the season for the Stuart Cramer Storm fueled the anticipation of a breakthrough in the series with South Point. The Storm entered the contest with an undefeated record and, as was the case last season, speculation held that this would be the year that the Storm would upset their cross-town rival. But of course, speculation amounts to very little, and what’s been accomplished in the past amounts to even less. What matters is what takes place on the field as this is where the “talk” becomes physical. The Red Raiders scored early, fended off a charge by the Storm, and pushed the pedal to the metal to pull away late, en route to a convincing 41-14 victory over Cramer.

South Point won the toss and chose to put their stout defense on the field to begin the game. The Storm immediately tested the passing game, but was off the mark early. The quick three-and-out gave the Raiders their first chance on offense and the Red ‘O’ was primed. Fullback Jake Alexander picked up positive yardage against a beefy Storm defensive line. Moving from their 47 yardline, the Raiders picked up a couple of first downs to the Cramer thirty-five. From there, quarterback Scottie Lee hit running back Ty Tinker across the middle and in stride for the touchdown catch and run. Kicker Cade Ratliff’s PAT was true and the Raiders were on the board. The first two possessions worked the game clock to 7:16 and from that point the contest took on a different look. Punts by each squad ended the quarter and the defenses dug in for more. South Point clung to the 7-0 lead after one.

The teams continued to battle throughout the second stanza with neither gaining a decided advantage. A Storm punt was followed by a South Point interception. The turnover was immediately followed by a Storm fumble. The Raiders, in spite of the good field position, turned the ball over on downs. Those four possessions were then followed by three punts, leaving a scant 1:43 to go before the half. The flow of the game differed vastly from the contests of the past and Troy Brown’s message was looming large! But with the ball at the Raiders 30, Lee and teammate Mario Brandon moved the Red ‘O’ into Cramer territory on consecutive runs. From the Storm 43, Alexander burst through the middle and raced untouched for the South Point touchdown. The Red Raiders carried the 14-0 advantage into the half.

South Point took the second half kickoff and picked up where they left off. Bringing some familiarity back to the series, the Raiders opened up the lead to 21-0 on an Alexander 4 yard touchdown run. But unlike Storm teams of the past, this year’s version fought back. From the “anything can happen” category, a desperate heave turned into a 79 yard touchdown pass and Cramer had their first points in the series. Although the Raiders’ lead was not yet in jeopardy, the 21-7 advantage suddenly seemed uncomfortable. And the sideline became even more anxious after the ensuing kickoff was fumbled and recovered by the Storm at the South Point 15

yardline. The Red 'D' flexed some muscle to turn the tide! A three yard loss on first down forced the Storm to try the air. They would come up empty and were forced to attempt a 35 yard field goal. Slicing through the line at breakneck speed, Matthew Robinson extended his frame and blocked the kick! The Raiders defense met the challenge and turned the ball over, with momentum, to the capable Red offense. A ten play drive from near midfield ended with another Raiders touchdown. Alexander's six yard run put South Point back in control, 27-7 with 2:26 to go in the third. Cramer carried the final possession of the quarter into the fourth.

Scoring their first ever points against South Point was a small victory for the Storm. But the team was obviously not satisfied with the accomplishment. They continued to fight...and throw...and hope! Another pass, of 30 yards, found its mark and Cramer added to their all-time scoring total against South Point. The Raiders lead was cut to 27-14 with 9:50 remaining in regulation. At this point the Red had had enough. An Alexander run of 50 yards for a touchdown was followed by a Brandon interception that set up a game statement, 97 yard drive. The clock-killing drive of 5:26 ended with a Tinker 1 yard plunge for the final 41-14 tally.

There is no denying that in football, and especially high school football, anything can happen. The unusual, yet not impossible, happened at Lineberger Stadium as the Stuart Cramer Storm scored their first points in the series against the Red Raiders. The victory keeps South Point undefeated heading into the bye week. Coach emphasized that the win was positive but that there are things the Raiders need to work on to continue to get better. He pointed out that the players themselves are their own greatest opponent. No doubt controlling that "opponent" goes a long way in controlling the "anything" that can happen in football.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

The Raiders return to the gridiron on September 29th when they host the Ashbrook Greenwave. The game will mark the return of former South Point assistant coach Brian Andrews who now heads the Greenwave program.

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