

## **Game Recap**

### **Red Raiders Continue Dominance...Blank Storm, 35-0**

Coaches will deny that what is often referred to as “trap” games exist. To most, “the next game is the most important”, “the next game is just another one on the schedule”, or “we just have to be who we are”, generally describe a Coach’s thoughts on upcoming contests. But if trap games are real, they are made up of the type of meetings that describe South Point’s matchup with rival Stuart Cramer. The Red Raiders were reeling with a 1-3 record and some arguably lackluster play of late. In five previous contests, South Point has never let Cramer sniff victory. The Storm, with a 2-2 record coming in, had played respectably in their two wins and one of their losses. Cramer was thus eager, and expecting, to end their futility against South Point. The week of practice would mean the difference and until the opening kickoff, no one was certain how the Raiders would respond. Would the Raiders fall to an embarrassing 1-4 at the hands of a team they have so thoroughly dominated? Or would they return to typical form and set the season back on track? By all rights and descriptions this would be...a Trap Game! And after a turnover ended a positive opening drive for the Raiders, the jury was still out. But true to the program’s tradition, and owing to the coaches’ preparation and players’ efforts, the Big Red slammed the Storm for their sixth straight series victory. The 35-0 shutout should provide South Point with the confidence needed to power through the remainder of the season as conference play begins.

The first quarter was a blur as the teams split possessions with South Point taking the opening kick and driving from their nineteen deep into Cramer territory. The Storm stripped the ball free to end the Raiders threat at the 6:51 mark and took over at their 17-yardline. The Red ‘D’ quickly forced a Cramer punt and South Point began another time-consuming drive that extended into the second quarter.

After having driven to the Storm eighteen to end the first, the Red ‘O’ needed just over a minute to open the scoring. A 17 yard run by RB Jammari Lewis netted the first points. K Carson Smith’s PAT was true, and the Raiders had the 7-0 advantage. South Point’s defense looked in top form as the Raider defenders were quick to the ball, hard-hitting and gang tackling. Another Storm punt set up the Raiders offense near the eight minute mark. Moving from the 17-yardline to the South Point thirty-nine, the Raiders appeared set to embark on another clock-eating possession. QB Javus Davis had other ideas! On a key play, the speedy and elusive quarterback dodged defenders and cut to the outside. Sixty-one yards and a scant few seconds later, Davis added to the Red Raiders lead. His scamper put South Point up 14-0 and ignited the sidelines. In fact, with 7:49 remaining before the half, the Raiders were bent on total first half dominance! Another shutdown of the Cramer offense by the Red ‘D’ forced the third consecutive Storm punt. South Point took over at their twenty-nine. Driving methodically downfield, the Raiders carried the ball to the Storm six. From there, WR/RB, Ray Rose carried across for the 21-0 halftime advantage.

To open the third stanza, Cramer punted for the fourth time in the game and the Raiders gained ideal field position at the Storm 40-yardline. The short field suited the Red 'O' as Davis, Rose, and company quickly drove to the Cramer seventeen. Rose again took the ball and covered the needed yardage for South Point's commanding 28-0 lead. RB Devon King added a 1 yard run late in the third for what would be the game's final tally. Both teams split possessions throughout the fourth quarter and South Point came away with the decisive 35-0 victory.

With all due respect to any denying coaches, a struggling, and seemingly dejected, South Point team found a way to get back on track against a rival in a Trap Game. A 1-3 record, recent uninspired play, and a rival bent on avenging an embarrassing record, set the stage for a devastating letdown for South Point. Asked about the attitude of the team going into the game, QB Javus Davis summed up the catalyst for the Red Raiders' success. "We just had to work hard, practice hard, and get the job done", he said. In simple terms, the QB pointed to what the Raiders will need to continue to do for a successful run through the conference schedule.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

#### **Notable Facts and Thoughts**

SP – 6 series wins, 303 PF    SC – 0 series wins, 21 PF