

Game Recap

Red Raiders Roll In River Rumble - South Point Weathers Storm, 42-24

The Tug Fork of the Big Sandy, the Red River of the South, and now – the South Fork of the Catawba. An established pattern? Maybe. A forgone conclusion? Perhaps. A reason to go to battle? It seems likely! At least it may be reasonable to theorize that if two opposing parties decide to stake a claim, throw off the gloves, or just claim bragging rights, a river is close by. The Hatfield-McCoy feud, the Texas-Oklahoma border that lends its name to a college football showdown, and now we have, the River Rumble. Thankfully the Rumble will never reach feud-like proportions and the opponents will confine the hard hits to the field of play. But as for the bragging rights – IT'S ON! South Point traveled to Stuart Cramer to take on the Storm Friday night and while they never technically had to cross the South Fork – the river, like the Storm, is close enough to be owned by the Red Raiders!

South Point began the game on offense with decent field position after a short Storm kick. The Red 'O' hit the field and wasted no time getting in gear. A steady dose of RB Hunter Hogue and QB Will Rhinehart set the tone for the Raiders. Seven ground-pounding plays netted seven points and South Point had the early advantage. The lead was short-lived. Cramer bounced back on the legs and arm of an elusive quarterback to notch a tying touchdown. With the ensuing possession the Raiders continued to engage the formula that had proven success. Moving downfield to the Cramer two-yardline and facing a fourth and goal, Hogue took the handoff and powered behind C Wyatt Triplett and OL Jacob Humphrey across the goalline. The bruising linemen buried a Storm linebacker on the play for the score. K Carson Smith drilled the PAT and South Point was back on top 14-7. The Red 'D' seemed to have the Storm offense figured out following the first two plays of Cramer's second drive. But the run stuffs had only served to put the Storm in an obvious passing situation, a facet of the game in which they are formidable. A long throw and catch into Raiders territory sustained the drive and sent the teams to the second quarter.

The Big Red continued to fight in the second stanza and was able to preserve the lead by forcing a 33 yard field goal attempt. The Storm kick was no good and South Point held on to the 14-7 advantage. With their third possession of the game, the Raiders were forced to punt, giving Cramer the opportunity to even the score. Keeping with a passing attack that was backed up by the speedy quarterback, the Storm managed a drive to the Raiders sixteen. But on third down, DL Jackson Risk, lined up in a linebacker position, tipped the pass attempt, and forced another Storm field goal try. This time the kick was true and the Raiders lead was cut to four, 14-10. To begin their next drive, South Point, as expected, went with what has made the program a perennial power. Running the triple option to perfection, the value is added when the running backs deliver the blows! The Storm had no answer for Hogue's nineteen yard scoring run on a pitch from Rhinehart. The South Point lead grew to 21-10 with time running down in the first

half. Cramer went to the air again to try to conserve time and gain chunks of yardage, but to no avail. The Raiders kept everything in check and took the eleven point lead into the locker room.

To begin the third quarter, the Storm came out firing. Finding a measure of success, Cramer drove to just across midfield. Thinking they'd catch the Raiders off guard, a gadget play was inserted. Red Raider LB Ryan Harris gave the Storm every reason to remove the play from the playbook! Harris followed the ball as the play quickly developed. Stepping into the passing lane of an attempt set up by a reverse, the Raiders linebacker picked off the pass and slammed the door on the Cramer drive. With excellent field position at the Stuart Cramer thirty-two, the Red 'O' went to work. In one play, Hogue barreled to the twenty-nine. From there, RB Tyson Riley took a pitch and raced to the endzone for the score. South Point moved out to a 28-10 lead and seemed position to put the contest away. But with the thought of the river flowing just steps away, the rumble was still on! In one play from their twenty yardline, the Storm blew 80 yards to cut the lead back to eleven at 28-17. And when an inspired Cramer defensive forced a three-and-out punt, the tension mounted for the Red faithful. Back deep for the punt, Carson Smith sent a moon shot toward the Cramer thirty. A fair catch was signaled and then promptly muffed! South Point pounced on the free ball and claimed possession at the Storm thirty-one. Staying on the ground, the Raiders chewed up clock and put six more on the board with a Hogue seven yard scamper. The Raiders were up 35-17, but with plenty of time remaining in the fierce battle. Another Storm touchdown pass cut back into the lead before the end of the quarter. The ensuing Raiders possession ended with a punt and South Point carrying a 35-24 lead in the final twelve minutes of regulation.

Beginning at their twenty-five to start the fourth, Cramer managed a drive to their forty-six. The Red 'D' did not allow another yard and forced the punt. Looking to keep a rolling clock in their favor, South Point hit the ground running – again. Eight snaps of the ball resulted in a 13-yard Rhinehart run for six. On the drive the Cramer defense was visibly winded and the Raiders took full advantage. South Point pushed the score to 42-24 and all that remained was to hang on. The Red 'D' swarmed with LBs Omari Hunt, Xavier Johnson and DB Lavonte McCorbin making key tackles for South Point. The Storm continued to toss the ball around the field, but could not generate points before time expired. For the seventh time in as many meetings, South Point claimed supremacy in the River Rumble!

Maybe it's purely speculation. Certainly there is no scientific fact upon which to base a claim. But it seems that if two parties oppose and a river is nearby – there's gonna be a rumble! The Red Raiders carried the battle to Stuart Cramer and weathered the Storm, 42-24, to firmly entrench themselves as the River Rumble champions!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Next week South Point travels to face the East Rutherford Cavaliers. The Cavaliers have yet to win a game this season and are coming off a loss on the road to Burns, 54-7. East has managed but 21 points in the three contests. It may seem easy on paper. But it has the makings of a trap game as well. No overconfidence, Red. Take care of business. Rumble On! Go Big Red!!!