
VARSAITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

Showtime!

“Welcome back my friends to the show that never ends...” A trophy in the case, familiar names in new positions, and new conference foes have set the stage for another exciting season of South Point Red Raiders football! The tone of last season’s preview was a challenge not to dwell on the past, but to focus on the future. And following the rocky start that saw the Red Raiders at 2-4 after the first six games, the focus became the uphill climb that stood between South Point and a playoff run. That focus turned into heart and effort and, as has been the mark of Red Raiders football, the result was the NCHSAA 3A State Championship! Overcoming the seemingly insurmountable odds made last season’s team special, and especially fun to watch. And Raiders fans can expect more of the same this year.

This season the challenges come ahead of records and, in fact, even before the first regular season snap. A new head coach steps in to carry forward the proud tradition. Adam Hodge, a member of the 2003 State Champion Red Raiders, takes the reins and will work to ensure a group of disciplined, hard-hitting, and unselfish Raiders take to the gridiron each week. Coach Hodge understands what it means to be a part of the Red Raider family and his dedication to the program is evident. He has worked the sidelines and taken charge of defenses that have had few equals. Bringing in a new head coach would, for most programs, spell a rebuilding year. At South Point, a program that runs deep with family, pride, and tradition, it simply adds to the established legacy. Coach Hodge and his veteran staff will lead the Red Raiders into battle in a new conference following a classification change that relegates South Point to the ranks of NCHSAA 2A.

Familiar foes kick off the 2017 campaign for South Point as the Red Raiders will travel to face Crest, Lincoln, and Forestview before coming home to host Clover, Stuart Cramer and Ashbrook in the non-conference schedule. These contests will prepare South Point for what will be a highly competitive Southwestern 2A Conference run. The Raiders will meet rival East Gaston to begin conference action. East Rutherford, R-S Central, Chase, and Shelby follow. The Golden Lions enter the season seeking a fifth straight state title and the expectation in the west is that they may not be challenged. The Red Raiders have a different expectation!

Last season’s trophy is in the case. A new head coach has taken over. South Point enters a new conference. Some things change. One thing remains the same...Red Raiders football.

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Go Get ‘Em, Red!