

Preview

Mission Defined...Ready To Begin

The memories of bitter cold, an early deficit, and an improbable comeback are easily erased in the blistering heat that marks the beginning of a new season of South Point football. The 2019 Red Raiders have a defined mission, one steeped in proud tradition that demands a level of determination required to claim the sports highest prize. Last year's squad carried home no regrets; rather they left every ounce of strength and emotion on the field at seasons' end. Lesser programs would lower their expectations in coming years, to avoid the pain that accompanies unattained goals. But that attitude is foreign to South Point. The expectation to be the best remains the mission of the Red Raiders, and as evidenced by the effort given in the past weeks' scrimmages, South Point is ready to take on the challenge. The season will not be without its trials. The Raiders in the few weeks of practice have rotated players in positions for maximum reps. Team roles are yet to be fully established, but the effort is admirable, and the Senior leadership will be as strong as in past championship seasons.

In practice games, scoring plays are marked - point totals are tabulated. Scrimmages do, after all, benefit officiating crews and scoreboard operators as well as coaches and teams. And while these numbers will certainly carry greater importance throughout the season, they serve little more than proof that a play works or that an effort is rewarded. But perhaps of greater value, as seen in the Red Raiders' scrimmages, is the ability to adjust between quarters and even between plays. Against Hibriten, a familiar foe (see the opening statement), South Point equaled a score by the Panthers on both teams' initial possessions. But the Red Raiders controlled the clock for over eight and a half minutes of the twelve-minute quarter and thus limited the number of offensive plays by their opponent. Following a break, South Point claimed more dominance with two ball control possessions that resulted in touchdowns and calculated clock management. So, while the final score indeed tilted in the Red Raiders favor, it was even more encouraging to see that the Big Red can sustain an attack on offense and send a number of helmets to the ball on defense.

Kickoff for the 2019 season begins on the road at Crest followed by a visit to Lincolnton. South Point hosts the Clover Blue Eagles in the Patriotism Bowl and will close out the non-conference schedule with Forestview, Stuart Cramer and Burns. Home dates with East Gaston and East Rutherford will precede travel dates to R-S Central and Chase. The defending state champion, Shelby Golden Lions, will provide the Raiders' final playoff tune-up. The mission is defined. The 2019 South Point Red Raiders are ready. A proud tradition continues.

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

South Point, coaches, players, support staff, and fans express best wishes, thoughts, and prayers to Coach Zach Howell and his wife, Cori, as they embark upon a new chapter in life. Coach Howell and Cori will be carrying the Red Raider tradition, in their hearts, to the state of Indiana where new opportunities await. We are grateful for the time and love shared by the Howells while on our sideline and in our classroom, and it is our hope that they never forget their South Point home.