
VARSITY REPORT

by Jamey Andrews

“2017 Red Raiders – Excellence Achieved”

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.”

-Vince Lombardi

South Point's 2017 football campaign ended all too soon while searching for the “perfect” game. And the pain that seems will never die down will somehow, someday be eased. Reflection of the outstanding accomplishments, many of them record setting marks, and contemplation of everlasting relationships will at some point provide the reassurance that the life lesson is of greater value. Forty-seven football players were listed on the Red Raiders' playoff roster. Forty-seven MEN walked off the field Friday night. All shed tears. Each openly expressed their emotions. And with every embrace of consolation, it was evident that they became more than a football team. They had become a stronger family. And this season's squad will hold a place in South Point history that no other will ever claim. These young men, who fought to an undefeated regular season record and a Southwestern 2A Conference Championship, will always be recognized as the first team to be led by Coach Adam Hodge. Following the game Friday night at Lineberger Stadium, Coach Hodge expressed his appreciation for his assistant coaches. He praised the effort of every player, and all those who work in support of the program. The most important message emphasized by the coach was his love for this team. Coach Hodge stressed that he would rather lose one game with these 2017 Red Raiders than win any number of championships with a different collection of players. He and this group of forty-seven will be forever connected. Eighteen of those dedicated men accepted a challenge and elevated an already high bar of expectation for South Point football. For that we respectfully and gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Jake Alexander, Wesley Barker, Mario Brandon, Jr., Sean Burns, Charles Cason, Hunter Cornelison, Phillip Davis, Lawrence Haley, and Nathan Hamilton. We further respectfully and gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Victor Hernandez, Ethan Jackson, Tyler Kotula, Scottie Lee, Riley Nichols, David O'Hanlon, Matthew Robinson, Ethan Shell, and Ty Tinker. These men will always be champions and they will always be members of the Red Raiders family. The perfection on the gridiron they sought was elusive, but en route they achieved a level of excellence that future squads will strive to match.

A season that ends before a coveted goal is reached serves to teach a difficult life lesson. Hard work can lead to, but not guarantee, success. The team that works the hardest and is most dedicated to a challenge does not always come away with more points on a scoreboard. But that team displays a character that sets them apart and causes them to rise above all others. During the 2017 football season, that team wore RED! Thank you coaches and players for continuing the unparalleled sportsmanship and proud tradition of South Point Football! And thank you RaiderNation for being the greatest fans in high school football!

Go Big Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

“Football is an honest game. It’s true to life. It’s a game about sharing. Football is a team game. So is life.” - Joe Namath

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