

Game Recap

South Point Mistake Prone, Fall to Crest, 42-7

Sometimes it happens to the best. Brett Favre once said, "I may be a successful football player, but I feel like such a failure." Although unlikely, he could have been referencing an NFL record he holds. Favre, the Super Bowl winning quarterback of the Green Bay Packers holds the record for the most fumbles in a career (166). It's never expected, but always a possibility, even for those at the top of the game. And in South Point's case it's highly uncharacteristic. The perennial contender, whose bread and butter are a hard-charging, ground pounding, ball control effort, literally handed a lopsided victory to the host Crest Chargers last Friday night. The team that usually makes mistakes was plagued by their own, coughing up three fumbles that resulted in 21 Chargers points and a fourth that stalled their final drive of the contest. The result was a 42-7 embarrassment that sent the Raiders back to the practice field for some much-needed improvement. Much work will be required, and as the potential exists that the rivals could meet again in the post season, the Big Red will need to be ready.

Crest won the toss and elected to receive. The Chargers put together a strong drive, but the Red 'D' stood firm and forced a turnover on downs inside the redzone. South Point took over at their six yardline and immediately began to challenge the Crest defense. The Raiders moved out from the shadow of their goalline with positive yardage gains in three plays. Then disaster struck on the fourth snap of the series when a fumble was recovered by the Chargers at the South Point forty-yard line. The quick shift in momentum and great field position benefited Crest. They were able to march downfield and score from eight yards out to take the early 7-0 lead. The Raiders attempted to mount the comeback. Once again, the Red 'O' had success pushing the Chargers back. But a mishandled pitch cost South Point on their second consecutive possession. Crest took over at the Raiders' twenty-five and wasted little time putting seven more on the board. The quarter ended with South Point trailing 14-0, after suffering two costly miscues.

The Raiders were forced to punt on the initial drive of the second quarter, and the Raiders defense forced the same from the Chargers. But yet another fumble was recovered by Crest, and the Chargers held the momentum. Crest drove in for their third score to move out to a 21-0 advantage. With 5:31 remaining before the half, the Raiders needed points. A long drive for a touchdown, and a successful drive with the ball to open the third quarter would be just what the doctor ordered. But the call went unanswered. The South Point drive stalled and they turned the ball over on downs with 1:24 to go before the intermission. The Chargers made the Raiders pay. Crest moved quickly downfield and scored their fourth touchdown of the half to send the teams to the locker room with South Point trailing 28-0.

To open the third quarter, the Raiders were staked to good starting field position at their forty yardline. A possession of 6:56 was capped by a one-yard dive by FB Kaveaun Pless to put the Raiders on the board trailing 28-7. The drive was typical of South Point's ball control offense, but the time was now a factor in any comeback hopes. And the chances grew dimmer with Crest's ensuing possession. A forty-eight-yard touchdown pass and run all but dashed the hopes of the Red faithful. The Chargers advanced to a 35-7 advantage. Still the Big Red continued to battle, carrying their next possession into the final twelve minutes of regulation.

South Point moved deep into Crest territory, but early in the fourth quarter were held on downs. At this point, the outcome was decided, but the fight continued. The Chargers tacked on a final score for a 42-7 lead. At this point, the clock went live, and time ran out on the Raiders. A fourth fumble on their final drive summed up the game and the crushing blow was dealt with by the miscues.

Even the best make mistakes. The challenge is not to let games of this nature define who we are. The Big Red is now challenged to get better. With important games remaining on the schedule and playoff positioning to be decided, South Point knows what work will be necessary for the road ahead. Battle through adversity. Improve week to week. Play Red Raiders football!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

South Point travels to North Gaston to face the Wildcats next Friday night. The message to the Red Raiders will be to assume nothing. Rather learn from the mistakes of the past, improve, and battle through. Time to get back on track. Time to tame the Wildcats! Go Big Red!