

Red Raiders Weather Storm - Blow Away Warriors 63-6

September 4, 2011

South Point hosted long time rival East Gaston at Lineberger Stadium on a "Black Friday" that became a "Black Saturday." The severe weather that crossed the county on Friday night forced the postponement of several area contests. In the case of the usually spirited matchup between the Red Raiders and the Warriors, the rescheduling merely delayed the inevitable! South Point entered the contest as a heavy favorite and the Red Raiders did not disappoint, dominating East Gaston in every phase of the game en route to a 63-6 drubbing. South Point scored on each of their seven offensive possessions and added a special teams score when Ramon Costner returned a punt for a touchdown early in the second quarter. The Red Raiders also minimized their mistakes and took advantage of Warrior miscues throughout the night.

Deferring the option to the second half and electing to give the game's initial possession to the Red Raiders may not have been East Gaston's biggest mistake of the contest...but it was their first. South Point's Tyler Bray took the opening pooch kick to the Warriors 45 yard line giving Patrick Horne and company a short field and early momentum. Horne on first down took immediate advantage, carrying the ball to the East Gaston seven yard line. Two plays later and with 10:43 on the first quarter clock, Troy Leeper powered in for the South Point lead. Dayton Rogers' extra point put the Red Raiders ahead, 7-0, and South Point never looked back. After the Red defense held the Warriors on downs during their first possession, Leeper would find the endzone again, advancing the Red Raiders' lead to fourteen. The quarter wound down and following an East Gaston punt, South Point would hold the ball into the second stanza.

Leeper helped the Red Raiders sustain that initial drive of the second quarter by picking up a first down on a fourth and one dive up the middle. Horne then connected deep downfield with Devan Robbins, who had led his defenders by more than ten yards and raced in for the touchdown. South Point had built a commanding 21-0 advantage and did not appear to be content. Defensive lineman, Payton Flowers led many charges as the Red Raiders defense racked up the bruising hits. They forced another East Gaston punt that was quickly returned for a score by Costner. The speedy return specialist set up his blocks perfectly, cruising 57 yards for the touchdown and a 28-0 South Point lead. The Red Raiders would shutdown the Warriors twice more before the end of the half, once on downs and once by forcing and recovering a fumble. The end result would be two more Leeper touchdowns and a 42-0 halftime advantage. Following the last Red Raiders' score of the half, the ensuing kickoff was downed at the East Gaston one yard line. "Black Saturday" had indeed become just that for the Warriors!

East Gaston came out 'fired up' in the third quarter, in spite of facing the obviously

insurmountable lead built by the Red Raiders. The teams traded penalties in the opening moments of the half with the Warriors gaining the marginal advantage. With the fortunate (or unfortunate, depending upon point of view) outcome, and a scrambling quarterback, East Gaston would score their only touchdown of the contest. The momentary lapse in domination apparently irritated the Red Raiders as they promptly and emphatically spiked the extra point attempt! South Point wasted little time answering the Warriors' score as Tyler Bray would carry in from 33 yards out to push the lead to 49-6 with 3:55 remaining in the third quarter. The Red Raiders would score once more in the third as Adam Andrew would replace Horne at quarterback. Andrew would pitch to Devan Robbins for a three yard rushing touchdown and a 56-6 lead as the fourth and final quarter approached.

East Gaston, as they had to begin the second half, mustered some momentum on a fourth quarter opening drive that took 4:37 off the game clock. The threat was halted thanks to an admirable effort by the South Point defense, now supported by capable reserves. The defense blocked a Warrior field goal attempt from short range and turned the ball over once again to the South Point offense. Andrew again led the Red offensive charge, marching the Red Raiders down on a drive of 5:30, ending with a touchdown that provided the final, 63-6, margin. With that, East Gaston had experienced two storms during the weekend, neither of which they could control!

During South Point's second drive of the game, split end Dan Johnson hauled in a Horne pass, taking the ball to the East Gaston 17 yard line for a first down. Later in the game, Johnson would take a pitch from backup quarterback, Adam Andrew, in for a score. Johnson admitted that in previous games his number had not often been called, in fact as of two weeks ago, the sophomore had been listed as a defensive back playing on the other side of the ball. In an effort to help the team, Johnson agreed to join the offense. He told his coach, "If you put me anywhere, I'll play." The newest member of the offense said his coach told him to "just go out and do his job." And Johnson admitted that he just wanted to help the team win. Dan Johnson became a valuable asset on the field Saturday night, but perhaps his most valuable contribution to the team, and one that is reflected by his teammates, is a positive attitude. Such character breeds success and should be recognized and applauded. Stepping up when called upon and seeking only to support the team translates into victories and championships. Expectations are lofty and many capable opponents remain, but a positive attitude is a winning attitude and on this front, the Red Raiders have no equal!

"Black Friday" extended into Saturday due to inclement weather. The always highly anticipated matchup between South Point and East Gaston was played a day later than scheduled. But the outcome, as expected, was a thorough trouncing by the Red Raiders. Next week South Point host the powerful Burns Bulldogs in a final tune-up before beginning conference play. Time to "pound" the 'dogs!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

The domination of East Gaston, including the 63 points scored, was similar to South Point's overwhelming victory against Clover to open the season. The intensity, as it was a game against the arch nemesis, was perhaps similar to the intensity of the Lincolnton contest. In each game the Red Raiders have given an outstanding account of themselves and are established as a team to beat as the season wears on. Business as usual.

The only "team" not to take the field on Saturday night was the Red Raiders punting unit. South Point scored on each of their seven possessions and threw in a punt return for a touchdown...for good measure!

JV Report by Calvin Craig

Red Raiders run over Warriors

South Point JV's (3-0) took command early with their running game to win "Black Thursday" over rival East Gaston, 48-31.

The Red Raiders began their ground assault with Tanner Muse first run of the game and South Point's second from scrimmage with a 65 yard touchdown run. Muse scored 3 touchdowns on the night along with running mates Jaquan Brooks who scored twice and Trey Crenshaw and Donnie Hunter who each scored touchdowns.

However, thinking this game was a complete runaway would be wrong.

South Point lead the half 35-7 and scored on their first possession of the half to make the game 41-7, but the Warriors would be able to score 3 touchdowns of their own in the second half, but it wasn't enough to catch the Red Raiders.

Defensively South Point was swarming to the ball in the first half and turned back Warrior offensive drives on each of their possessions. But a rejuvenated Warrior offense returned in the second half to keep the Red Raider defense off balance.

South Point JV's will continue playing games on the road with next week's game at Burns this Thursday at 7pm.