

Red Raiders Maul Jaguars - Defense Keys 49-7 Victory

October 9, 2011

South Point's offense has been the dominant force in the Big South 3A Conference this season, posting just over 49 points per game. The power running game that has, to this point, obliterated opponents, has oftentimes overshadowed the outstanding work of the defense. Friday night's matchup with the Forestview Jaguars at Joe Alala Stadium would offer the Red Raiders' defense a perfect opportunity to "seize the marquee." The Jaguars highly touted running back, Octavious Wallace, was expected to carve up the Red 'D' given that he, like our own Troy Leeper, is one of the county's quickest to 1000 yards rushing. The only thing carved up was the hopes of the Forestview faithful as South Point punished the Jags by a convincing 49-7 margin.

Forestview would begin the game on offense and immediately suffer a delay of game penalty. The miscue was obviously attributable to the South Point defenders, who "shook up" the Jags offense simply by taking the field! The Red Raiders held Forestview to a three and out series to begin the game and gave the offense good field position following the Jaguar punt. South Point advanced to the Forestview 16 yard line and opted to pick up a first down on a fourth and seven. The pass fell incomplete and the Jags took over on downs. The failure to put points on the board was not questioned since less than three minutes had expired on the game clock. The stop would gain a measure of momentum for Forestview as they would engineer a drive that would carry them to the South point thirty-three. At that point the Red Raider defense had bent far enough. A crushing blow jarred the ball loose and South Point quickly recovered to stall the Jaguar drive. The Red Raiders would run a couple of plays, hold the ball for 1:16 before Devan Robbins would sprint 68 yards down the sidelines for the game's first score. Robbins touchdown and Dayton Rogers' extra point (Rogers was again perfect on PATs for the game) gave South Point the 7-0 lead. Throughout the quarter, and in fact throughout the contest, the Jaguars would seem to lose yardage on first downs, pick up positive yards to sustain drives, and then have the door slammed by the Red Raiders defense. Forestview would have just such a drive that would extend into the second quarter of play.

Five seconds into the second stanza, Aaron Biggerstaff picked off a Jaguar pass, again denying a momentum building drive by Forestview. The Red offense moved deeper into Jaguar territory and was content to add to the lead with a Rogers' field goal. The kick was good but a roughing the kicker penalty left the Red Raiders with a decision. South Point elected to take the points off the board, accept the first down, and hand the ball to Tyler Bray. Bray made good on the decision as he broke through for a nine yard touchdown run and a 14-0 advantage. The decision to take points off the scoreboard is indeed a testament to a team's confidence in an offense. But consider too, that it also suggests a strong belief in the abilities of the defense to hold an opponent out of the endzone. South Point again

held the Jaguars and forced a punt. The Red Raiders took over at their own twenty-nine; more appropriately, Troy Leeper took over at his own twenty-nine yard line. On the three play drive, Leeper carried twice to the Forestview thirty-nine and then rumbled 39 yards for the third South Point touchdown. The Red Raiders held the Jaguars for the remainder of the first half and carried a 21-0 lead into the third quarter.

All phases, offense, defense, and special teams, for South Point had made a positive impact on the game in the first half. And in the second half, the defense came "loaded for Jags." After a Red Raider fumble (their only turnover of the game), Josh Allman immediately picked up his offensive teammates. Allman picked off a Forestview pass at the Jaguars nine and raced untouched into the endzone for the touchdown. Allman admitted to "following the quarterbacks eyes" allowing him to jump the pattern and have an open field to the goal line. "I was pretty sure I was going to score," he added, reclaiming momentum for South Point. Maintaining their dominance over the Forestview offense, the Red Raiders didn't let up after building the lead to 28-0. On the Jaguars ensuing possession, Tristin Fogarty snatched a pass out of the air, in the middle of the field, and made an impressive return to the Forestview twenty-one. Bray, Robbins, and Leeper combined and Leeper pounded through for South Point's fifth touchdown and a 35-0 advantage with 5:52 remaining in the third. The Red 'D' was not done! A forced fumble set up the Red Raiders once again at the Jaguar thirty-nine yard line. Devan Robbins wasted no time to show his appreciation for the outstanding work of his defense. Robbins blazed into the endzone for the thirty-nine yard score. Three consecutive turnovers (2 interceptions, 1 fumble) resulted in 21 points scored by South Point! The insurmountable 42-0 lead allowed the Red Raiders to insert capable backups for valuable game experience as the fourth quarter approached.

With a possession that carried over from the third quarter, quarterback Adam Andrew moved his team to the Jaguar forty-five. From that point Dan Johnson took the ball from Andrew and, in one of the most impressive runs of the season, would make several cuts across the field, set up, and then follow his blocks to the endzone! Johnson said that the play was designed to go to the outside but he hit his own player. "That kind of stung me a little bit," he admitted. The running back then looked back inside and found his way. He gave credit to his teammates for great blocking that opened holes downfield. The lead now stood at 49-0 and all that remained was to run out the clock. Before the game's final horn sounded, a Red Raider defender made a play that would, in a sense, define the character of the team. Junior defensive back Austin Barlow was inserted into the game and given the task to cover any pass play that worked the sideline. Barlow would find himself matched up against a bigger, and perhaps more experienced Jaguar receiver. The third and eight pass was completed in front of Barlow and the defensive back made the hit. He held on with gritty determination until teammates arrived to help him finish the play. The result was a four yard gain, more importantly a defensive stop forcing a Forestview punt. By refusing to be intimidated, admirable determination was displayed. Such is a quality that marks championship teams.

The Jaguars would manage a touchdown with less than a minute to go in regulation. But the damage had been done! And done emphatically by the Red Raider defense! The Big South 3A Conference's top offense hails from the same that boasts a powerful and stingy

defense. The Forestview Jaguars are the latest to attest to the fact!

Next week, the Red Raiders will not take the field as Friday marks their open date. An extra week for North Gaston to worry about who's coming to visit! Another 'Cat' to declaw!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

With 398 points scored this year, South Point is 173 points better than their closest rival. And the Red 'D' has yet to give up 100 points (95) on the season. Any question who owns the Big South 3A...to this point?

The Forestview game once again served notice that teams with a single "standout" player will be no match for South Point.

JV Report by Calvin Craig

Track Meet in Belmont ends with the Jaguars upending Red Raiders, 63-55

For the second straight week the South Point JV team(6-2, 3-1) topped 50 points in scoring, but unfortunately the Forestview JV team added 63 points of their own to take the conference win from the Red Raiders, 63-55.

South Point began the game aggressively as Tanner Muse recovered a short kick at the Forestview 35 yard line. Two plays later quarterback Jaquan Brooks found the end zone for a 6 yard touchdown run. Following a kick by Aaron Camp, the Red Raiders were on the board first 7-0.

Forestview and South Point traded touchdowns throughout the 1st half, but Forestview was able to capitalize on a drive following a South Point fumble and lead the Red Raiders at the half, 28-21.

Both teams came out in the second half scoring plenty more points.

The first score from South Point came 56 seconds into the half by the way of Tanner Muse. Muse took the carry on the first play of the half 46 yards and capped the 50 yard drive with a 4 yard touchdown run.

The Red Raiders tacked on another touchdown of 1 yard by Tanner Muse and South Point lead 35-28.

The Jaguars would not go away by scoring on their next drive, but South Point answered with a spectacular 80 yard kickoff return for touchdown by South Point's Trey Crenshaw.

The Jaguars scored again with a Wes Heavner 54 yard touchdown run to bring the score to 42-41.

Forestview's Wes Heavner took over the game by scoring twice in the 4th quarter from 57 and 65 yards out and it was too much for the Red Raiders to overcome.

The JV Red Raiders will host their last home game of the season by hosting North Gaston in two weeks.