

Game Recap

Raiders Outrun Wolves – Down Lincolnton, 28-13

Among the most highly anticipated events this time of year is the return of high school. A clean slate, unblemished by a loss, greets every team that takes the field. And leading up to that most important kickoff of the season (at least until next week's game), conversations generally focus on team expectations. Whether the goals are lofty, the prospects realistic, or the same amount of hope brought to battle; the fact is, every team can boast an admirable accomplishment simply by putting in the work that leads up to stepping on the field. At Lincolnton's Memorial Stadium and Von Ray Harris Field last Friday night, the coin toss signaled a new opportunity to engage familiar traditions. And the Big Red delivered an effort that kept with a proud South Point tradition – a hard-hitting, ground-pounding attack that resulted in victory! The Raiders chewed up the clock and the Wolves en route to a 28-13 beat down.

With the ball to begin the season, Lincolnton tried the air and the ground to break through the Red 'D'. But the Raiders had other intentions. A three and out series with zero yards for the stat sheet was how South Point would set the tone for the game. On their ensuing possession though, the Raiders fell victim to a sluggish start after a holding call was followed by an interception that renewed a Lincolnton threat. The Wolves took advantage of a short yardage situation from the Raiders' 17 yardline and in six plays were into the endzone for the touchdown. The PAT was good and Lincolnton had the early 7-0 advantage. The Red 'O' came back with a vengeance and proved that the Wolves' good fortune had simply awakened a sleeping giant! South Point engineered a nine play drive on the ground that ended with a FB Cam Medlock 17 yard run that put points on the board. K Charlie Birtwistle notched the PAT and knotted the score at 7-7. Lincolnton carried their next possession into the second stanza.

The Wolves offense managed some success moving downfield to the South point thirty-six. From there the scrambling Wolves quarterback lofted a throw downfield that was tracked by FS Jaquis Rumph. Rumph made the catch and returned the ball to the Raiders' 12 yardline to end the Lincolnton charge. His offensive teammates then put on a display that is the mark Red Raiders football. A nineteen play drive that ate 9:15 off the clock and a one yard burst from Medlock put the Raiders on top 14-7. The Wolves had little time and no answer, sending the teams to the half with South Point having made the most impressive statement.

With the ball to begin the third, the Raiders summoned help for Medlock, engaging FB Patrick Blee, WB Dawson Tobin, WB Harrison McKinney, and SE Aaron Chaney to pick up the chunks of yardage that moved them downfield. A twenty-one yard pass completion from QB Elijah Phifer to TE Jackson Blee gained the Wolves' two. From there, Medlock barreled over his offensive line to give South Point the 21-7 lead. Lincolnton could sense the game getting away and tried to counter punch. But Rumph's second interception of the game, a leaping grab in the endzone slammed the door. "We were just doing what we practice", said the Senior FS,

indicating that they had been placed in a position to help the corners on deep throws. With the turnover, South Point carried the advantage and the ball into the final quarter of play.

Patrick Blee took over under center for the final 12:00 and the Red 'O' responded. Like his teammate, Phifer, Blee made the good decisions that quickly and efficiently moved the Raiders in position for more points. A drive totaling 4:04 ended with a pitch to McKinney and a 24 yard burst around the right side for six points. Birtwistle remained perfect on the night with his fourth PAT and the Raiders advanced to a 28-7 tally. Lincolnton took advantage of a stingy, bend-don't break South Point defensive effort, picking up a late score to pull within 28-13. The outcome was, as they say, academic at that point as the Raiders clock controlling offense took the field for the final 4:29 of regulation. Blee kneeled out the clock and put the stamp on the season opening victory for the Red Raiders. The workhorse for the evening was Medlock and when asked to comment on his effort the Senior FB immediately credited all his offensive teammates. "It takes all eleven of us", said Medlock, further implying the same for his counterparts on defense.

Entering Friday's contests, teams across the state enjoyed unblemished records in the loss column. After 48 minutes of football in Lincolnton only one could still make that claim. And it wasn't the Wolves. The first game was not without its miscues for both teams. But South Point outworked their opponent to claim victory. The proud tradition continues! And next up? Black Friday. Any questions???

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

East Gaston comes to Lineberger Stadium on the heels of a 28-8 thumping of North Gaston. 28-8 thumping of North Gaston. Thumping of North Gaston. North Gaston. North Gaston?!