

Game Recap

Raiders Destroy North Gaston, Crush Wildcats 53-0

While it may not be traced to a single source, a popular quote in sports is that "success is earned, not given." It cannot be denied that hard work is necessary for any team to reach a championship goal. And South Point epitomizes the idea that a solid effort translates into on field success. The Big Red took quick control of last Friday night's contest against North Gaston, and they never let the Wildcats up for air! Except for a first quarter fake punt that sustained an early drive, North Gaston could muster no success against the South Point defense. It was the type of effort that would cause a team to be denied a participation trophy! Credit the Red Raiders resolve to work hard and leave the past behind. Rather the Big Red came out swinging and when the dust settled South Point thoroughly dominated North Gaston, 53-0. The effort must now be sustained as the end of the regular season nears and the playoffs loom.

South Point opened on offense with outstanding field position at the North Gaston fifteen yardline. Kick return up man, Walker Spargo fielded a pooch kick and weaved his way deep into Wildcats territory to begin the game. A first down handoff to FB Kaveaun Pless resulted in a 15-yard touchdown run to give South Point the lead at 6-0. One kick, one play and for all intent and purpose, the game was over! A Wildcats punt on their initial possession gave the Raiders their second chance for points. A drive from the South Point forty-three ended with a touchdown pass from QB Patrick Blee to SE Peyton McCarn. The 14-yard connection came on a fourth and twelve play to give the Raiders the 13-0 advantage. The Wildcats tried to capture some momentum, but a DB Zeke Pruitt interception slammed the door and set the Red 'O' up near midfield. The possession carried over into the second stanza.

With the ball at the North Gaston fourteen to begin the second quarter, South Point drove to the one yardline. From there, QB Blee slid off the ride side, following his fullback across the goalline. K Mason Hovis notched the PAT to move the Raiders out to a 20-0 cushion. The Red 'D' continued to pressure the Wildcats and forced another punt. The North Gaston punt was down at the South Point thirty-four. The Big Red was sixty-six yards from the goalline. And yet they were already in the redzone! A handoff to Pless, and a gaping hole opened by the O-line, was all that was needed for South Point to put six more on the board! The score extended the Raiders commanding lead to 27-0. The game clock had become North Gaston's best defense. And it was just no help at all! A DB Tucker McWhirter interception shutdown the Wildcats ensuing drive and set the Big Red up at the South Point thirty-four. The possession was marred by penalties, but the Raiders managed to gain to the Wildcats one yardline with time winding down in the half. A pitch to WB Spargo turned into points to give South Point a 34-0 lead at the intermission.

The Raiders' dominance continued in the third quarter. A Wildcats punt on the initial possession was returned to the North Gaston three yardline by RS Kham Crawford. On first down, QB Blee barreled over the left side for the touchdown and a 41-0 advantage. A North Gaston fumble on the first play of the ensuing possession was recovered by the Raiders at the Wildcats' twenty-seven yardline. QB Ethan Conner took over under center and the first-year signal caller kept the Red 'O' on pace. From the North Gaston twenty-four, the give to FB Seifer Trotter was rewarded with a touchdown run to add another nail in the coffin! South Point moved to a 46-0 lead with a full quarter yet to be played in regulation. North Gaston carried their next possession into the final stanza.

Wholesale substitutions were the order for South Point as the contest wound down. And the Big Red backups never missed a beat. The solid effort continued, and South Point took over on downs at the North Gaston forty-four with a continuously running clock. QB Malakai Felician took a turn under center. FB Tyler Carson became the showcase back, grounding out chunks of yardage to the Wildcats' seven. From there, Carson dove in for South Point's, and the game's final points of the night. The Raiders faced no challenge en route to the 53-0 drubbing.

Success isn't realized without hard work. And South Point went to work, leaving the past behind and taking nothing for granted. The effort resulted in a thorough thrashing of an overmatched North Gaston team in a game that was never really contested. Continuous improvement must be the Big Red's mentality going forward. Just as they put out of mind the game a week prior, they'll need to do the same with this game for next week. The focus now is strictly on finishing strong. And that success will need to be earned!

Go Get 'Em, Red!

Notable Facts and Thoughts

Kings Mountain pays a visit to Lineberger Stadium next week. The Mountaineers were smashed by Ashbrook, so they'll be looking to get back on track against the Red Raiders. The contest will be a key for playoff positioning and so is expected to be a slobber knocker. Raiders need to knock the slobber out of the Mountaineers! Go Big Red!