



Sherwood Park Northstars vs. Edmonton Black Raiders September 19, 2009

The opponents haven't gotten any easier for the Northstars as they took on the Black Raiders at Clarke Park. The Black Raiders, who were surprisingly placed in the Tier III/IV level of play, dominated the Stars right from the get go. After failing to move the ball, the Stars were forced to punt, only to have the Raiders return it all the way for a touchdown. With the convert, the Raiders pulled ahead 7 to 0, never to look back.

The Raiders majored again on their second possession, missing the convert for a 13 to 0 lead. The Stars defence, led by Adam Loov, stopped the Raiders momentarily but the start of the second quarter saw the Raiders on the Stars 1 yard line. It took two attempts but they were able to score and convert the touchdown for a score of 20 to 0.

The Raiders got into some discipline trouble and were penalized accordingly, giving the Stars offence their best field position of the half. However, the Raiders defence came up big again, forcing the Stars to punt. The punt took an unruly bounce right into the arms of a waiting Raider who ran it in for the fourth Raider touchdown. As if things weren't tough enough for the Stars, a high tackle on Shaun O'Neill sidelined the quarterback for the rest of the game. Colton Henderson, who has played most of the season as O'Neill has been recovering from an injury, took over at the helm. A wide field goal attempt by the Raiders resulted in a conceded point making the score 28 to 0 at the half.

The second half was only four plays old, when the Raiders scored yet again. With frustration setting in, the Stars offence took some penalties that gave the Raiders great field position. They scored on a 35 yard pass and run, making the score 41 to 0.

After a Star's third down gamble came up just short, the Raiders ran up the middle for another TD but the convert was missed. Even though the Stars conceded a safety to gain better field position, the Raiders were still able to break through to score another major at the start of the fourth quarter. A 45 yard kick return by Grady Forsberg was called back after penalties by both the Stars and the Raiders. However, on their first down play, Henderson completed a pass to Daniel Marshall who outran his pursuit for a 75 yard touchdown. With the successful convert, the Stars were on the scoreboard before time ran out.

With the final score Raiders 54 and the Northstars 7, Head Coach Rob MacKenzie conceded that the Stars were "out-physicaled." However, MacKenzie said that the Star's offence had accomplished their goal of scoring a touchdown. Now the team will focus on preparing for the next game. Coach MacKenzie is looking forward to "more games at our level."