

Raiders hold off Ashbrook rally, take 13-7 win

By Dwight Frady

Special To The Gazette

BELMONT — Ashbrook's Green Wave came within an eyelash of pulling out a miracle victory here at Lineberger Stadium Friday night against a surprisingly good young South Point Red Raider team before falling, 13-7.

The Green Wave spotted South Point a 13-0 lead with 10:10 remaining in the game. Their ground game had been stymied by the swarming Raiders.

But Ashbrook, kept backed up by Jeff Biggerstaff's punts all night, took advantage of a short punt of 12 yards by the Raider senior, moving 34 yards in

just three plays, with fullback Harold Jackson going over from the one with 4:26 remaining. Jay Cline converted, cutting the Raider lead to 13-7.

Biggerstaff backed up the Green Wave again. With 3:04 remaining, he rolled a 38-yarder dead at the Green Wave one. Ashbrook took to the air behind senior quarterback Darron Littlejohn, moving to the South Point six with first and goal with 47 seconds left following a 44-yard completion to Andy Hayes.

However, two plays later Kent Hyde made his second interception of the night in the end zone with 27 seconds showing on the clock to thwart the Green Wave comeback attempt.

Tailback Chris Wooten had a big night for South Point, picking up 150 yards in 12 carries, including a 69-yard touchdown run off left guard with 6:45 remaining in the first period. The two-point conversion attempt on a running play failed.

Ashbrook's deepest penetration was to the Red Raider 19 on the final play of the first period. Led by Wooten's thrusts, South Point marched 35 yards in seven plays for its second touchdown. Fullback Steve Thompson went over from the two with 10:10 remaining and boot the extra point for a 13-0 lead.

The lead looked safe. But Ashbrook came back to make it a thrilling finish.

The Raiders, led by nose guard Daryl Watson, held Ashbrook's ground game to only 71 yards rushing. With Littlejohn hitting receivers Tony Smith, Haynes and Jackson on the last-ditch Wave effort for a score, the total offense was 225-222, Ashbrook.

"South Point was more physical than we were," said Ashbrook coach John Kinlaw. "Jim Biggerstaff always has good teams over here. We just can't keep getting behind 14-0 (in a 28-21 loss to East Gaston last week) and rely on coming back."

"I just hope we won't get down on ourselves after this loss. We just have to

show our character now. You've got to block for your backs to succeed and we didn't block. At the same time, South Point played a great game on defense. That Watson was all over the field."

Biggerstaff, whose team went through their first losing season in 14 years under his guidance last year said, "Our young kids played their hearts out. I'm glad we won because a loss could have been devastating to us. This should be a real confidence builder for us."

South Point took a 4-3-2 lead in the outstanding series between the two teams with the win.

Red Raiders 13 Green Wave 7

Addicks	0	0	0	7	—	7
South Point	6	0	0	7	—	13
SP — Wooten 69 run (run failed)						
SP — Thompson 2 run (Dudko kick)						
A — Jackson 1 run (Cline run)						

Huskies 14 Golden Lions 34

Hunter Moss	0	0	0	14	—	14
Shady	7	13	14	0	—	34
S — Toms 1 run (Green kick)						
S — Gombis 2 run (Green kick)						
S — Toms 40 run (kick failed)						
S — Brown 60 run (Green kick)						
S — Robinson 4 run (Green kick)						
H — Carter 8 run (Harper kick)						
H — Bernetto 2 run (Harper kick)						