



Randy Pagan (16) of Ashbrook on the run
... Green Wave opens season with victory

Gazette photo by Robert Lahser

Green Wave rolls over South Point

By Dwight Frady

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BELMONT — A steel curtain defense and outstanding performances from running backs Curtis Gingles and Junior Hall helped Ashbrook's Green Wave roll to a 27-7 victory over South Point's Red Raiders here at Lineberger Stadium Friday night.

The Green Wave held South Point to only 21 yards rushing in 20 attempts and got 97 yards from Gingles and 89 more from Hall as the winners came on strong in the second half.

"I thought we played good defense," said veteran coach John Kinlaw of the Green Wave. "I know South Point missed Tonja Watson. (Watson, a 1,000-yards plus rusher last year, missed the game because of a knee injury).

"It was a good win for us, although we made a lot of mistakes offensively. We also had too many penalties, but this is a good confidence-builder for us.

"(Darius) Wallace was injured in the first period, but Hall went in and did a fine job. I think one of the big things for us was the fact that we're two deep in the backfield and that South Point got tired in the second half.

"I thought both teams were in excellent physical shape. Steve Alexander did a good job in the passing department for us. We've been working on our passing game. He's a good short to medium range passer and that

helps open up our running game."

South Point coach Jim Biggerstaff said, "We were virtually inert on offense. Ashbrook has a super defensive team. Our defense played on the goal line for most of the first half.

"It was just a mismatch, and Gingles and Hall are fine runners. They've got some excellent backs. Watson could have played tonight, but I didn't want to take a chance of him reinjuring his knee since he wasn't 100 percent."

After being held at the Raider 1-yard line on its second possession, the Green Wave scored its first touchdown at the 5:29 mark of the second period on a 13-yard run by Gingles. Jeff Leonard booted the first of his three extra points. The score was set up when Junior Williamson intercepted Chris Cornelius' pass at the Raider 13.

Randy Pagan's 31-yard punt return to the Raider 24 set up Ashbrook's second score with only 26 seconds remaining in the first half. Trey Robinson went over from the one.

Ashbrook made it 20-0 in the fourth period on a 6-yard run by Hall at the 10:24 mark, climaxing a 63-yard drive in seven plays. Chip Wilson's pass interception and runback to the Ashbrook 31 set up South Point's only score. Fullback James Reid later went over from 12 yards out and Mike Dudko kicked the extra point at 5:58. Ashbrook closed out the scoring on a 13-yard run by Gingles late in the game.

Ashbrook 27

South Point 7

Ashbrook	0	14	0	13	—	27
South Point	0	0	0	7	—	7

A — Wallace 13 run (Leonard kick)

A — Robinson 7 run (Leonard kick)

A — Hall 6 run (pass failed)

SP — Reid 12 run (Dudko kick)

A — Gingles 13 run (Leonard kick)