

Raiders, Williams ease past Green Wave, 35-16

By Mike Cearley

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BELMONT — In a friendly backyard battle, South Point made a strong statement late in the first half and early in the second as the Red Raiders downed Ashbrook 35-16 Friday night.

Courtney Williams scored three touchdowns and added a 29-yard field goal to help the Raiders move to 2-0 on the young season.

It was Ashbrook's season-opener.

"It was the first game for us and the second for them, and I think that showed a lot," said Green Wave coach Bill Eccles. "We made some mistakes, but

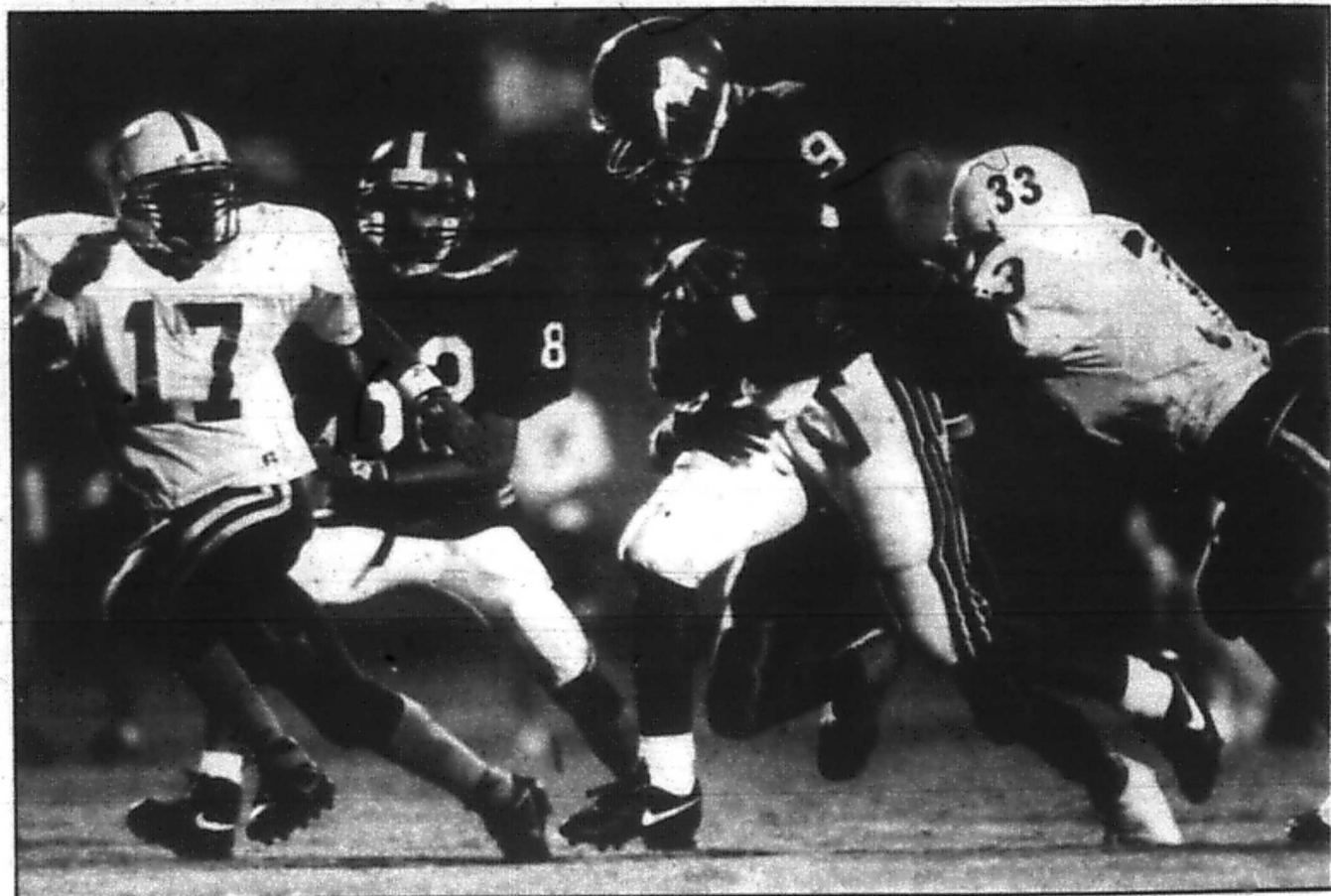
South Point really is a good offensive team."

The game started out like another knockdown, dragout between the cross-county rivals with Ashbrook scoring on the third offensive play of the game when quarterback Randy Rodrigues broke a 65-yard run.

With South Point leading 16-7, Ashbrook moved all the way to the Raider 4 in the final minute of the first half. But the Raider defense stiffened, and pushed the Wave back to the 11, where Andy Schmidt kicked a 28-yard field goal.

"A 16-10 halftime lead was a lot better than a 16-14 lead," said South Point coach Phil Tate.

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John Clark/The Gazette

Raiders' Courtney Williams eludes Wave's Cranston Johnson (17) and Javon Bell (33).

RAIDERS

FROM 1C

"Holding them to three points was a big difference, then we got the ball to start the second half."

South Point consumed over five minutes of the third quarter as the Raiders marched 68 yards in 19 plays.

Shannon Armstrong, playing against his old teammates, operated the South Point option to near perfection. He rushed for 72 yards and passed for 65.

"I told Shannon before the

game 'you know all their players and they all know you. This is just a friendly backyard game, so go out and have some fun,'" said Tate.

After the Raiders marched downfield in the third quarter, they held Ashbrook to just four plays its only possession of the period.

After a punt, South Point came back with another Williams touchdown as he scored from 13 yards with one second left in the period.

The Raiders nailed the coffin when Don Stowe intercepted a

Rodrigues pass and returned 42 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. It was the second time in as many games this season that Stowe has run an interception back for a score.

Ashbrook	7	3	0	6	- 16
South Point	9	7	13	6	- 35
Ash — Randy Rodrigues 65 run (Andy Schmidt kick)					
SP — Courtney Williams 18 run (kick failed)					
SP — Williams 29 field goal					
SP — Jason Dowdell 11 pass from Shannon Armstrong (Williams kick)					
SP — Williams 2 run (pass failed)					
SP — Williams 13 run (Williams kick)					
SP — Don Stowe 42 interception return (kick failed)					
Ash — Travis Cook 1 run (pass failed)					