

# POINT BLANK

## Ashbrook starts year with victory

By Richard Walker  
Gazette Sports Reporter

GASTONIA — Ashbrook High football players like junior tailback Randy Shaw hope Friday's 13-0 victory over South Point proves to local fans that last year was no fluke.

The Green Wave, who advanced to the state playoffs with a late-season push a

**Ashbrook 13**  
**South Point 0**

year ago, got their 1994 season off to a roaring start as Shaw clinched the victory with a late touchdown interception return.

The win was Ashbrook's first over South Point since 1990, when future Division I college standouts like James Bowden (N.C. A&T), Sean Boyd (North Carolina) and Bernard Wright (Western Carolina) led the Green Wave.

"Beating South Point was one of our biggest preseason goals," Shaw said. "None of the guys here had ever beaten them. Plus, some people didn't think we could beat them so we had to prove ourselves to everybody."

The Green Wave's shutout on the rain-soaked field did at least prove that Ashbrook can, at times, be dominating.



Ashbrook's Jovon Bell (33) chases Sam Riddle (5) of South Point out of the pocket Friday night.

John Clark/The Gazette

Please see ASHBROOK/5C



John Clark/The Gazette

Ashbrook's Randy Rodrigues (11) eludes the rush of South Point's Marcus McCollough.

## ASHBROOK

FROM 1C

South Point picked up just 190 yards of offense and 13 first downs. But, more importantly, star tailback Courtney Williams was limited to 42 yards rushing in 18 carries and, when he switched to quarterback in the fourth quarter, he was hurried into 3-of-10 passing for 44 yards.

"They're a good ballclub," South Point coach Phil Tate said of Ashbrook. "They came off the ball and knocked us back."

Mike Lowery, Zack Dickson, Jova Jamieson, Andy Schmidt,

Casey Conroy, Brandon Givens, Jovon Bell, Marcus Kisner and David Funderburk led Ashbrook's defensive charge.

"I thought we had a good first half on offense and a good second half on defense,"

Ashbrook coach Bill Eccles said. "Of course, we must've played a pretty good whole game on defense if we shut them out."

Ashbrook also had a solid of-

fensive night even if it only scored one touchdown.

Randy Rodrigues, the Green Wave's only healthy varsity quarterback remaining, directed a 218-yard attack that tallied a touchdown on its first possession and had two other scoring drives halted by a dropped pass and a succession of penalties.

Shaw, a star on Ashbrook's 1993 junior varsity title team, had a solid varsity debut with 76 yards rushing. Rodrigues also ran for 76 yards in addition to completing two passes for 13 yards.



Shaw

South Point	0	0	0	0	-	0
Ashbrook	7	0	0	6	-	13
A - Cranston Johnson 10 run (Andy Schmidt kick)						
A - Randy Shaw 45 interception return (Kick failed)						