

Green Wave shuts down South Point

By Michael Nixon

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GASTONIA — After watching Ashbrook dismantle a previously unbeaten South Point squad 34-3 Friday night, it's difficult to decide which side of the ball is most responsible for the Green Wave's dominance this season.

Take the offense, for example. Ashbrook now has rolled up 101 points in three games. Seniors Tetrice Cook and Trivice Sadler have taken turns scorching opposing defenses, combining for 10 touchdowns.

Defensively, the three points scored by the Red Raiders — on a last-second field goal from Phillip Wright — were the first allowed by the Green Wave defense.

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Wave

this season.

It tempered the jubilation on the Ashbrook sideline, albeit briefly, despite the lopsided victory.

"We have a lot of seniors on this defense," said Ashbrook's Hugh Grant.

"We play every down out there like the score is tied. It hurts that they got three points."

That's about the only pain South Point inflicted on the Green Wave, as Ashbrook took advantage of some poor tackling by the Red Raiders to strike for the early lead.

On the third play from scrimmage, Sadler took a reverse hand-off from Cook and headed towards the Raider sideline. Seemingly trapped between the line and a wall of South Point defenders, Sadler somehow found an exit and loped into the end zone for a 38-yard run to put Ashbrook up 7-0.

Cook made it 14-0 late in the second quarter on a play that typified the way things went for South Point. On third-and-9 from the Raider 11, Ashbrook quarterback Mike Hatten fumbled the snap.

The ball stayed at his feet, though, and Hatten was able to pick it up and complete an option toss to Cook for the score.

The fumble was one of three on the night for the Green Wave — all of which were recovered by Ashbrook.

"They've got some great athletes over there," South Point's John Devine said of Ashbrook. "They were more alert than we were tonight. They made the plays and we didn't."

An Ashbrook score just before halftime, a 60-yard run by Sadler for his second touchdown of the

game, gave the Green Wave a 21-0 lead at the break.

Two third-quarter scores put the game on ice. Ashbrook tackle (yes, tackle) Joe Hageman tallied his second touchdown of the year on a fumble recovery in the end zone with 3:52 left in the third, and Hatten (4-of-6 for 148 yards) connected with wideout Matt Buswell on a well-thrown 46-yard sideline bomb just over a minute later that made it 34-0.

"(Mike) Hatten throws the ball well," said Ashbrook coach Bill Eccles. "That's one of the strengths of this team."

The Red Raiders, on the other hand, were forced to find solace in being the first team to break through against the Ashbrook defense.

With less than a minute to go, South Point quarterback Devon Lowery and running back Jeremy Jackson helped lead the Raiders from their own 45 to the Ashbrook 16, where Wright drilled a 31-yarder through the uprights as time expired.

"Ashbrook did a tremendous job on defense tonight," Devine said. "They shut down our running game, and we couldn't get anything going on offense. We just didn't execute."

The Raiders will get a chance to bounce back next week against winless Hunter Huss, and Ashbrook takes its show on the road for the first time for a contest at Lincoln.

South Point 0 0 0 3 — 3
Ashbrook 7 14 13 0 — 34

A—Trivice Sadler 38 run (Jason Mauldin kick)

A—Tetrice Cook 11 run (Mauldin kick)

A—Sadler 60 run (Mauldin kick)

A—Joe Hageman 2 fumble recovery (kick failed)

A—Matt Buswell 46 pass from Mike Hatten (Mauldin kick)

SP—Philliph Wright 31 FG