

South Point takes Ashbrook 28-21

Raiders remain unbeaten; Wave drops to 0-3

By Richard Walker
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BELMONT — After watching their team roll to two easy victories,

South Point
► **South Point 28** football fans had
Ashbrook 21 to be a little
apprehensive
entering Friday's game with county
rival Ashbrook.

After all, the Red Raiders hadn't beaten the Green Wave nor started a season 3-0 in six years.

So what did South Point do when it received the expected challenge from Ashbrook?

"What championship teams have to do," said confident junior quarterback Devin Lowery. "We came back, faced adversity and came through."

With Lowery leading the offense, the Red Raiders rallied for a 28-21 victory with 16 fourth-quarter points.

The rally came after Ashbrook had taken a 21-12 lead on the first play of the fourth quarter.

South Point coach John Devine said that belief in winning despite the

nine-point deficit is what makes this year's Red Raiders team special to him.

On the flip side, the loss was a devastating blow for Ashbrook, which slipped to 0-3 despite leading virtually the entire game.

"We're getting there, but this was a tough loss," said Green Wave coach Bill Eccles, whose team is still recovering from the loss of 19 starters off last season's 13-1 team. "But how are you going to handle it? Are you going to get tough or give in? I think our kids are going to buckle down and bounce back."

Please see **South/7C**

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They could take a lesson from the Red Raiders, who turned to Lowery after the three-year starter had missed virtually the entire season after spraining his shoulder early in the first game two weeks ago.

Not that backup Drew Devine hadn't been getting the job done in his absence. As a matter of fact, Devine entered the contest as the leader of the area's top yard-gaining (489 a game) and scoring (54.0) offense.

He looked very much the part again after culminating a three-play, 39-yard drive with an 11-yard run to put South Point on top 6-0 in the game's first four minutes.

But Devine had been battling the flu all week and was later pulled by his father, coach Devine,

early in the second quarter. And while Lowery looked a little rusty early on, he caught fire when South Point needed him most — the fourth quarter.

After relying on Chris Stowe, who notched a game-high 114 yards rushing on 23 carries, Lowery and Jeremy Jackson carried the Red Raiders in the final period.

Lowery accounted for 56 of 73 yards on a drive that cut the margin to 21-20, including a 6-yard option keeper for a touchdown.

Lowery was at it again twice more.

On the first drive, he led South Point to the Ashbrook 14 before the Green Wave defense held and regained possession on downs. But the next time, Lowery — and Jackson — wouldn't be denied.

A 12-yard swing pass from Lowery to Jackson, boosted by a late hit penalty on Ashbrook for 15 more yards, got the 60-yard drive rolling.

Lowery later found Jackson's twin brother, Jarien, for an 18-yard first down pass before Jeremy Jackson finished off the march with an electrifying 8-yard scoring run for the lead. Jackson took Lowery's pitch on the option right, faked out one defender, then beat another to the corner for the score.

"This was a terrific team effort," said Lowery, who finished with 70 yards rushing and 37 passing. "In the second half, the line-man blocked better, the backs ran better and everybody executed."

Ashbrook 7 7 0 7 — 21

South Point 6 0 6 16 — 28

SP — Drew Devine 11 run (Kick failed)

A — Robbie Mason 43 pass from Andre Bynum (Matt D'Aurelio kick)

A — Oron Mayfield 8 run (D'Aurelio kick)

SP — Chris Stowe 5 run (Run failed)

A — Bynum 20 run (D'Aurelio kick)

SP — Devon Lowery 6 run (Lowery run)

SP — Jeremy Jackson 8 run (Michael Windham pass from Tiger Williams)