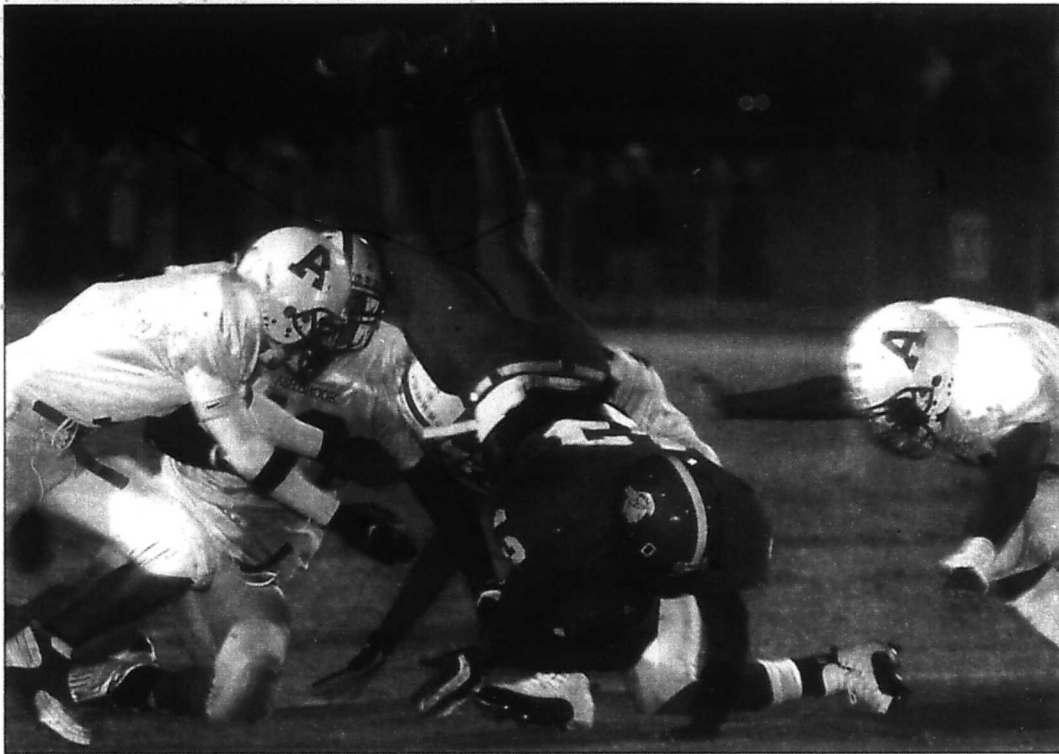


Belmont blowout

From start to finish, South Point manhandles rival Ashbrook



Nick Daggy/The Gazette

South Point quarterback Javar Williams dives over Ashbrook defenders for a short gain deep in Green Wave territory during Friday night's Big South 3A game in Belmont. Williams' 111 yards rushing and three touchdowns led the Red Raiders to a 42-0 rout.

Red Raiders' Williams runs over and around Green Wave defense

By PHILLIP GARDNER
Gazette Sports Reporter

BELMONT — The early exit by the Ashbrook faithful told the story.

The late-game heroics those fans became so accustomed to during the Green Wave's stirring run to last year's state championship weren't going to happen this time.

In what was hyped as the area's biggest regular-season game of the season, South Point dominated from start to finish in a 42-0 rout Friday at a packed Lineberger Stadium, ending Ashbrook's 14-game winning streak.

"We knew we could do it," South Point quarterback Javar Williams said. "We wanted them because they got a championship last year. Everybody's been talking about it all year."

South Point (6-1, 3-0 Big South 3A) now has the inside track to its fifth consecutive conference title, while Ashbrook (6-1, 2-1) finds itself in a heated battle for second place.

The Red Raiders' defense, overshadowed much of the time

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Ashbrook absorbs serious beating in lopsided defeat

By DEREK SMITH
Gazette Correspondent

BELMONT — The game of the year turned out to be not much of a game at all.

Ashbrook (6-1, 2-1 BS3A), the defending 3AA state champions, were totally dominated by South Point 42-0 Friday night at Lineberger Stadium.

The Red Raiders, the 2002 Big South 3A regular season titleholders, manhandled the Green Wave before a standing-room crowd in Belmont.

From the opening kickoff until

late in the contest, South Point (6-1, 3-0 BS3A) did pretty much what it wanted to on offense and defense against its cross-county rival.

"They have a great football team all around," said Ashbrook head coach Joe Shepherd, a 1978 graduate of South Point. "They have a real seasoned football team. You have to give credit to South Point. They played a great game. They just whipped us."

South Point's offense rolled up 360 yards while holding the

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FRIDAY'S SCOREBOARD

Forestview	31	Bessemer City	63
North Gaston (OT)	25	Highland Tech	6
Hunter Huss	28	Polk County	24
East Gaston	21	Cherryville	18
Crest	20	East Lincoln	36
Kings Mountain	0	Berry Academy	13
Lincolnton	50	West Lincoln	27
Bunker Hill	13	Newton-Conover	18

Hunter Huss holds Jadarian Moore out of the end zone and uses its own power running game to take down East Gaston.

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J.R. Armstrong's overtime touchdown was just enough to lift Forestview to a win and squash North Gaston's upset bid.

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Nick Daggy/The Gazette

South Point head coach John Devine celebrates with his players after Friday's victory moved the Red Raiders to 6-1 on the season. South Point's next game is Friday at Forestview.

▼ South Point

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by its heralded triple-option attack, stole the show Friday. South Point held Ashbrook to 27 yards of total offense and two first downs. Ashbrook's leading yardage-gainer was quarterback Cole Russell, who passed for 11 yards on five completions and rushed for one yard on three carries. Ashbrook's biggest play was a 10-yard option run by Antwane Pagan on the game's opening snap.

"Their defense often is underpublicized because of their offense, but I knew how good their defense was," Ashbrook coach Joe Shepherd said. "They've got the whole package."

Jamie Tuttle, Randy Robinson, Sammy Redden and Andrew Rinehart anchored South Point's defensive line, while linebackers Chris Richards, Matt Cornwell, Brian Bradshaw and Tyler Lemons helped hold the Green Wave to 15 yards on the ground. Defensive backs Brandon Reid, Josh Robinson and Ivey Watson gave Russell few open targets, with Watson coming away with an interception in the second quarter.

Ashbrook was coming off a 500-yard game against North Gaston and was averaging 298.5 yards per game.

South Point's dominant defensive effort in front of a standing-room only crowd estimated at 5,500 gave its offense great field position all night. The Red Raiders started six of their 12 possessions in Ashbrook territory.

Williams and company knew what to do from there, rolling up 360 yards of total offense. Williams, last year's *Gazette* offensive player of the year, led the team with 111 yards and three touchdowns on 22 carries. He also threw for 121 yards on 8 of 15 passing with no interceptions. Fullback Joe Brown added 84 yards and two scores on 17 carries.

"They started keying on Joe and left me wide open," Williams said. "They started blitzing on Joe ... and weren't respecting me. I just took what they gave me."

After South Point forced Ashbrook to punt on the opening possession, the Red Raiders drove 25 yards to the Ashbrook 29 but came up short when Andrew Rinehart's 46-yard field goal attempt fell short and wide left.

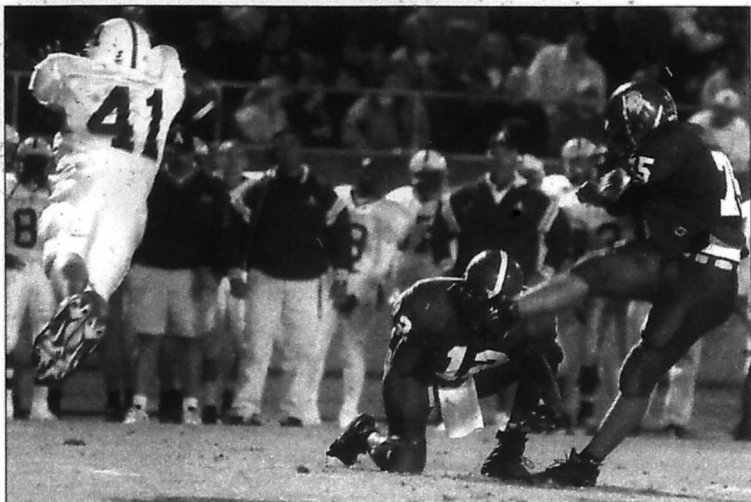
The Red Raiders forced Ashbrook to go three-and-out the next possession and took over at the Ashbrook 41-yard line. Five plays later, Brown bulldozed his way five yards for the game's first touchdown on the first play of the second quarter.

South Point scored on two of his next three drives for a 21-0 halftime lead, and the rout was on.

The Red Raiders reached the end zone again on a 3-yard run by Williams with 2:01 left in the third quarter for a 28-0 lead. By that point, Ashbrook fans began filing out of the stadium. By midway through the fourth quarter and South Point ahead by the final score, the visitors' stands were nearly three-fourths empty.

After Pagan's 10-yard run on the opening play, Ashbrook didn't gain another first down

One good play mixed with many bad ones



Nick Daggy/The Gazette

Ashbrook defender Sammy Asis comes from the end to block South Point kicker Andrew Rinehart's field-goal attempt during Friday night's game in Belmont. The play was one of the few bright spots for Ashbrook, which never got anything going on offense or defense in a 42-0 loss.

▼ Ashbrook

continued from Page 1C

Green Wave to just 27 yards, 15 on the ground and 12 in the air.

"We knew South's Point defense is under publicized because of their offense," Shepherd said.

The Green Wave offense managed only two first downs, and was constantly being swarmed by multiple Red Raider defenders.

Cole Russell, unbeaten in 14 straight games as a starting quarterback, was pressured on nearly every play, and finished six-for-18 with one interception.

Javar Williams, the savvy, triple-option signal-caller, ran

his offense to near perfection as South Point racked up 239 yards on the ground. He rushed 22 times for 111 yards and three touchdowns, which gave him nine on the season.

"What makes him tough is that he's a good cut-back runner," Shepherd said. "You can have your guys in the right position, and he can still make a play."

Williams' passing was solid, as well. He was eight-for-15 for 121 yards and a touchdown pass to Ivey Watson with no interceptions.

Senior Joe Brown, who along with Williams, has never lost to Ashbrook, rushed for 84 yards and two touchdowns.

He now has 15 touchdowns in 2003.

"I'm sure it's going to take most of the weekend to get over it," Ashbrook

fullback/linebacker Michael Briggs said. "Come Monday, we've got to get ready for East Gaston. It's another good team we've got to play."

Even with the loss, Shepherd was positive about the team's future.

"We just have to get better," he said. "I knew we weren't as good as we needed to be to contend for something like a state title at this time. We just have to keep working and hopefully make another run at it."

South Point, a 3A state semifinalist last season, beat the Green Wave for a third consecutive year, and for the fourth time in five years.

until the 6:45 mark of the third quarter.

Ashbrook had some chances to give the game a different tone. Russell led a wide-open Andrew McKay just a hair too much on what would have been a sure touchdown on the game's fourth play. McKay was forced to dive for the ball at the South Point 40 and it just slipped through his fingertips.

Then, after a 56-yard kickoff return by Antwane Pagan early in the second quarter, Russell overthrew Pagan in the end zone on a play that would have tied the game at 7 with the extra point.

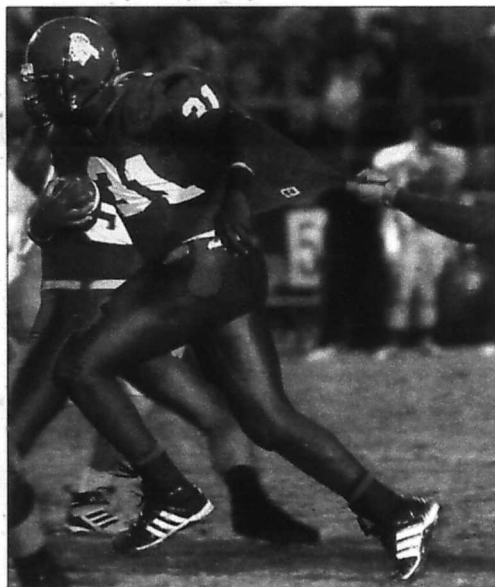
"South Point whipped us," Shepherd said. "It's just that simple."

South Point and Forestview will settle their first-place conference tie next week at Forestview's Joe Alala Stadium. Ashbrook returns home to take on East Gaston next week.

South Point 42, Ashbrook 0

A	0	0	0	0	—	0
SP	0	21	7	14	—	42
SP—Joe Brown 5 run (Andrew Rinehart kick)						
SP—Brown 1 run (Rinehart kick)						
SP—Javar Williams 14 run (Rinehart kick)						
SP—Williams 3 run (Rinehart kick)						
SP—Williams 2 run (Rinehart kick)						
SP—Ivey Watson 23 pass from Williams (Rinehart kick)						

Got 'em by the jersey



Nick Daggy/The Gazette

An Ashbrook defender grabs hold of Joe Brown's jersey with hopes of dragging down the South Point running back Friday. Brown finished with 84 yards on 17 carries and scored two touchdowns.