



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

South Point's Desmond Lowery rushes for a touchdown Friday against Ashbrook. Lowery ran for 104 yards and two touchdowns.

# INTs for the W-I-N

## South Point DB Michael Lewis returns two interceptions for touchdowns

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**BELMONT** — Michael Lewis probably spent as much time in the film room as he did on the practice field this week.

As a defensive back, he knew he would be among those charged with the task of stopping Ashbrook's passing game, specifically athletic receiver Jheranie Boyd.

Lewis obviously studied carefully because he returned two interceptions for touchdowns, including one with 2:52 remaining, helping seal South Point's 35-21 win over Ashbrook on Friday.

"We watched film a lot, so we knew the formations ... and the way

they change offenses up," Lewis said. "You could just read the quarterback."

Lewis' exploits on defense and an explosive offense led by quarterback Desmond Lowery kept the Red Raiders (7-0, 3-0 Big South 3A/4A Conference) unbeaten at the halfway point of the conference season.

Aaron Crumbley rushed for 116 yards and a score and Lowery picked up 104 yards and two TDs for South Point.

But the Red Raiders didn't put the game away until late.

The game was tied at 21 with under four minutes remaining before South Point went ahead for good on an 11-play, 70-yard drive capped by

Lowery's nifty 9-yard TD keeper with 3:20 remaining.

Forced to play catch up with little time remaining, Ashbrook (3-5, 1-2) went to the air three straight times but went backwards because of an offensive pass interference penalty on first down. Then on third-and-25 from the Ashbrook 16, Lewis stepped in front of a Gabe Beverly pass at the 36-yard line and raced down the left sideline for the game-clinching score.

"We just played hard," said Lewis, a 5-foot-10 junior who now has four interceptions this season. "We didn't give up. You can't give up out there."

While Lewis' second interception sealed the outcome, his first might have been the biggest play of the game.



LEWIS

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Benjamin Pattery/The Gazette

Ashbrook's Jheranie Boyd reacts to a dropped pass Friday against South Point. Boyd finished with five catches for 100 yards.

## ▼ Lewis

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Ashbrook was in great shape after taking the second half's opening kickoff and easily marching to the South Point 25. But Lewis, defending Boyd, snagged a Beverly pass at the 19 and scampered all the way to the end zone. Boyd caught Lewis inside the 5 but the time he tackled him, he had crossed the goal line, giving South Point a 21-14 lead.

The score proved to be crucial because Ashbrook drove 69 yards in 11 plays to tie the score on the next drive.

The Green Wave actually outgained the Red Raiders 391-259 but hurt itself with three turnovers. Ryan Gordon ran 13 times for 129 yards and a TD and Boyd finished with five catches for 100 yards and a score.

Ashbrook's best defense was a time-consuming offense. South Point ran only three plays in the third quarter, and a tired defense had to be a concern in the fourth quarter.

"A bunch of guys played their hearts out, showed a lot of character, didn't give up on each other, struggled together and found a way to win," South Point coach John Devine said.

South Point is 7-0 for the first time since 1999 heading into next week's game at Forestview and the players are confidently hoping for a conference championship.

"We wanted to show everybody that we were really a good team and we were 7-0 for a reason," Crumbley said.

Ashbrook lost its second straight heartbreaker after falling 44-38 to North Gaston

in triple overtime last week.

"I thought we played hard, similar to the other ball games," Ashbrook coach Mike Briggs said. "We just didn't finish it. We didn't get it done. A lot of it had to do with South Point, but I think some of it had to do with us, too."

One play before Lewis' game-sealing interception, Beverly hit Boyd in the chest on a slant pattern at midfield, but Boyd dropped the ball on what appeared to be a sure touchdown.

The Green Wave will play host to East Gaston next week.

A 7 7 7 0-21  
SP 6 8 7 14-35

### First quarter

SP — Aaron Crumbley 24 run (kick failed), 9:44.

A — Ryan Gordon 83 run (Patrick Culum kick), 3:42.

### Second quarter

A — Jordan Toomer 6 run (Culum kick), 1:36.

SP — Desmond Lowery 1 run (Lowery run), 1:05.

### Third quarter

SP — Michael Lewis 81 interception return (James Justice), 8:22.

A — Jheranie Boyd 33 pass from Gabe Beverly (Culum kick), 2:57.

### Fourth quarter

SP — Lowery 9 run (James Justice kick), 3:20.

SP — Lewis 36 interception return (James Justice kick), 2:52.

## JV football

Ashbrook 35, South Point 0 (Thursday) — Preston Watts had two touchdowns, Zach Watts had a touchdown on a 22-yard reception, Dontre Meeks had an 18-yard run for touchdown and Lamoris Watson had a touchdown. Montrese Williams had a two-point conversion catch and Andrew Robinson kicked four extra points. Ashbrook (4-3) plays East Gaston on Thursday.





Benjamin Plattner/The Gazette

Ashbrook quarterback Gabe Beverly throws under pressure from South Point's Matt Dodge on Friday night.