



Benjamin Plattner/The Gazette

South Point's Desmond Lowery fights for extra yards after losing his helmet during his team's win over Ashbrook. Lowery started the game, but left late in the third quarter.

Red All Over

South Point offense keeps composure in win over Wave

By PHILIP GARDNER

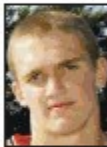
pgardner@gastongazette.com

GASTONIA — It was three yards and a cloud of dust at its finest.

South Point churned out long, time-consuming drives and held Ashbrook's big-play offense to just one big play in a 24-7 win Friday.

Even with a banged-up quarterback, the Red Raiders (7-1, 3-0 Big South 3A/4A Conference) plowed their way for 284 yards on the ground, keeping their offense on the field for much of the night to stay on top of the league standings. Now, South Point prepares to face Forestview next week in a battle of Big South unbeaten.

"Ashbrook made it tough on us,



CRUMBLEY
RUSHED FOR
162 YARDS
AND TWO
TOUCHDOWNS

Junior fullback Aaron Crumbley was the workhorse, carrying 27 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns.

Quarterback Desmond Lowery started after missing last week's game with a sprained left ankle and twisted left knee but showed little effects of the injury Friday. The senior carried 14 times for 71

yards and completed 3 of 6 passes for 23 yards.

but those five guys up front dominated this game," South Point coach John Devine said.

"Those four seniors and Brent Walden did a great job getting off the ball and giving us running lanes."

Junior fullback Aaron Crumbley was the workhorse, carrying 27 times for 162 yards and two touchdowns.

yards and completed 3 of 6 passes for 23 yards.

"I was so pumped up, I didn't even worry about it," Lowery said of the injury.

Lowery did, however, leave the game early after Devine determined that he had stiffened up during halftime. Josh Justice took over late in the third quarter and helped put the game away with one final scoring drive.

Justice connected with a wide-open Chase Cowart for a 14-yard TD pass and 24-7 lead with 7:56 remaining.

"I got a little nervous, but I said a prayer before I went out there and Jesus kind of calmed my nerves," Justice said.

See Raiders/Page 5B ►►



Benjamin Patton/The Gazette

Green Wave wide receiver Jheranie Boyd carries the ball while South Point's Darius Steele attempts to bring him down in South Point's 24-7 victory at Ashbrook on Friday night.

▼ Raiders

continued from Page 18

Although South Point's offense moved little by little most of the night, it was a big play that helped the Red Raiders start to pull away. Midway through the third quarter, Crumbley burst through the middle for a 53-yard TD that made the score 17-7 after James Justice's extra point. Two possessions later, Josh Justice put the game away with his TD pass.

Ashbrook (3-5, 1-2) had 254 yards of offense and also did a good job of sustaining long drives early, but came up empty on its first two possessions. The Green Wave drove the opening possession nine plays to the South Point 37 but James Justice tackled Ocie McElhaney for no gain on fourth and 1.

Then, after Crumbley's 1-yard TD run gave South Point a 7-0 lead, Ashbrook drove to the South Point 1 but couldn't punch it in. Quarterback Dontrae Meeks fumbled on third-and-goal from the 1 but recovered for

a 1-yard loss. South Point then stopped Preston Watts for no gain on fourth down.

"They were moving the ball and I thought it was good to get our defense off the field and put our offense on," James Justice said. "It established the momentum for the rest of the game."

Ashbrook tied the score on Jheranie Boyd's 64-yard TD pass play from Dontrae Meeks with 1:38 on the first-half clock. But South Point quickly regained the lead on an unusual series of events.

James Justice missed a 42-yard field goal attempt with 5.1 seconds before halftime. Meeks then fumbled the snap on what was going to be a kneel-down and South Point recovered with 1.3 seconds left. James Justice then nailed a 41-yard field goal for a 10-7 halftime lead.

"I'm very real pleased with the boys' effort for the most part," Ashbrook coach Mike Briggs said. "John (Devine) and them have a good football team and they just beat us."

Meeks completed 14 of 22 passes for 173 yards in the first full game for an Ash-

brook quarterback this season. Boyd caught six passes for 92 yards. Boyd was also Ashbrook's leading rusher with four carries for 43 yards. The Green Wave managed just 81 yards on the ground.

Shane Merrill had the interception and four tackles for South Point. James Justice and Darius Steele led the team with six tackles apiece.

Darius Edwards led Ashbrook's defense with seven tackles. Willie Kennedy and Christian Insley had six each.

SP 7 3 7 7 - 24

Ash 0 7 0 0 - 7

First quarter

SP—Aaron Crumbley 1 run (James Justice kick), 3:04.

Second quarter

A—Jheranie Boyd 64 pass from Dontrae Meeks (Patrick Cullum kick), 1:38.

SP—FG James Justice 36, 0:00.

Third quarter

SP—Crumbley 53 run (James Justice kick), 6:21.

Fourth quarter

SP—Chase Cowart 14 pass from Josh Justice (James Justice kick), 7:56.

You can reach Phillip Gardner at 704-869-1843.