



Ben Goff/The Gazette

South Point defender Jalen Porter, left, hits Ashbrook quarterback Justin Shempert as he runs the ball during the game at Ashbrook on Friday.

Raider uprising

South Point controls battle of Big South rivals

By Derek Smith

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GASTONIA—Ashbrook fumbled the first snap from scrimmage and things didn't get much better in a 58-22 loss to South Point Friday at William N. Eades Field.

The Red Raiders (5-3, 3-0 Big South) took advantage of the miscue and scored on three of their first four possessions to put the Green Wave in an early hole from which they couldn't climb out.

"I was really surprised and disappointed," said Ashbrook coach Greg Hill. "I really thought we would play them tooth and nail. We took a butt-kicking tonight."

Troy Leeper had touchdowns runs of 1 and 26 yards while Dayton Rogers kicked a 28-yard field goal with 2:59 in the first quarter to give South Point a 17-0 advantage.

"We really expected a backyard brawl," said South Point coach John Devine. "Our kids had their jaws set and we knew (Ashbrook) would play hard. Things didn't go their way early and it just mushroomed on them. We feel very fortunate we came out on top."

In Ashbrook's first five possessions of the game, the Green Wave punted three times, suffered a pair of turnovers and managed just 16 yards of total offense.

The only bright spot of the first half for Ashbrook (2-6, 2-1 BS) was the play of Angelo Crawford, who didn't carry the ball a single time a week ago against North Gaston yet rushed for 98 yards on six attempts including a 68-yard touchdown. He finished with 114 yards.

Crawford's run pulled the Green Wave to within ten points of South Point, momentarily.

The Red Raiders countered with another touchdown late in the first half when Devan Robbins jaunted 28 yards to make the score 23-7.

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South Point dominated the second half with 28 unanswered points before Bryan Jackson returned a kickoff 84 yards for Ashbrook.

"We were focused this week and did a good job of preparing the kids," Devine said. "They did a good job of executing and I thought they played hard for four quarters."

Ontarius Warren added a late touchdown for the Green Wave on a one-yard run.

Leeper had a second half touchdown for the Red Raiders, Tyler Bray scored a pair and Patrick Trusedale and Mitchell Painter one each.

Bray led South Point with 114 yards rushing, Leeper had 91 and Robbins 98.

Ashbrook 0 7 0 15 — 22
South Point 17 6 14 21 — 58

First quarter

SP — Troy Leeper 1 run (Dayton Rogers kick), 10:16
SP — Leeper 26 run (Rogers kick), 6:43
SP — Rogers 28 FG

Second quarter

A — Angelo Crawford 68 run (Ross Taylor kick), 10:25
SP — Devan Robbins 28 run (kick failed), 2:14



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Ashbrook running back Angelo Crawford, right, jumps as South Point defender Roy Turner (#79) falls into his path during the game at Ashbrook on Friday.

Third quarter

SP — Patrick Truesdale 17 run (Rogers kick), 10:01
SP — Leeper 4 run (Rogers kick), 2:02

Fourth quarter

SP — Tyler Bray 1 run (Rogers kick), 11:36

SP — Mitchell Painter 6 run (Rogers kick), 6:53
A — Bryan Jackson 84 kickoff return (Taylor kick), 6:35
SP — Bray 16 run (Rogers kick), 5:06
A — Ontarius Warren 1 run (Justin Shempert run), 3:30