

South Point 56, Ashbrook 7

Running Wild

QB, Red Raiders show diversity in big victory over Ashbrook

By Richard Walker

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BELMONT — Every team that prepares for South Point High's football team this year knows it has to stop Red Raiders' fullback Troy Leeper.

That included Ashbrook entering Friday's homecoming game at South Point.

Leeper had another good night, but it was his quarterback, Patrick Horne, who left the opposing coach most impressed after the Red Raiders rolled up 416 yards in a 56-7 victory.

"We felt we had to control 44 (Leeper) and 7 (Horne)," Ashbrook coach Greg Hill said. "That 7 just killed us tonight. He really makes that thing go for them and he did a great job tonight."

South Point improved to 7-0 overall and 3-0 in the Big South 3A Conference after a week in which Horne and Red Raiders coach Mickey Lineberger said they prepared for Ashbrook (3-3, 1-2) to try and take away Leeper.



Horne

"We worked all week long about taking what they gave us," Horne said. "We know Troy is a great back for us, but we also know we have to find other way. The way our line blocked

tonight, we had all sorts of ways to be effective on offense."

Leeper, the quickest 1,000-yard rusher in county history, had a productive 47 yards and two touchdowns on 13 carries.

But Horne and wingbacks Devan Robbins and Tyler Bray ripped the Green Wave defense time and again as South Point scored on the opening kickoff and seven different offensive plays.

Robbins got the homecoming win off to a fast start by running back the opening kickoff 95 yards for the game's first score.

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John Clark/The Gazette

South Point's Devan Robbins runs away from Ashbrook defenders on his way to the end zone with a 95-yard kickoff return on the game's opening play Friday night.

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He later added TD runs of 15 and 24 yards to finish with 151 all-purpose yards—56 of it rushing on just four carries.

Bray had 107 yards and one touchdown in 11 carries. And Horne finished with a career-high 159 yards and two touchdowns in 16 carries.

“Going into the football game, we wanted to show we had more than one or two weapons,” Lineberger said. “Our wingbacks hadn’t been touching it very much and we’ve got some guys who can make plays if they get their hands on the ball. We kinda felt like we’d have to use Troy as a decoy coming into tonight.”

Hill said his team was prepared to stop Leeper’s effective dive plays but struggled slowing Horne’s keepers or pitches.

“Leeper wasn’t the issue for us tonight,” Hill said. “We never defended the bubble all night. Our kids were confused by that all night long. That’s why I felt like I let our kids down. I’ve got to do a better job preparing them.”

Ashbrook did manage to have some effectiveness on offense as the Green Wave rolled up 287 yards total offense and 20 first downs. But Ashbrook tallied only once



John Clark/The Gazette

Ashbrook’s Angelo Crawford tries to break away from South Point’s Josh Allman on Friday night.

—late in the first quarter on a 5-yard scoring pass from Tre Brice to E.J. Vanderpuye.

“We’ve got to learn how to finish drives better,” Hill said.

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Ashbrook 7 0 0 0 - 7
South Point 14 21 14 7 - 56

First quarter

SP—Devan Robbins 95 kickoff return (Dayton Rogers kick), 11:38

SP—Robbins 15 run (Rogers kick), 5:35

A—E.J. Vanderpuye 5 pass from Tre Brice (Ross Taylor kick), 1:44

Second quarter

SP—Troy Leeper 16 run (Rogers kick), 10:52

SP—Leeper 1 run (Rogers kick), 4:58

SP—Patrick Horne 12 run (Rogers kick), 0:39.8

Third quarter

SP—Horne 39 run (Rogers kick), 8:15

SP—Robbins 24 run (Rogers kick), 1:37

Fourth quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 12 run (Rogers kick), 8:49

Inside the game

Offensive statistics: Ashbrook – 287 total yards (103 rushing, 184 passing), South Point – 416 total yards (386 rushing, 30 passing)

Defensive leaders: Ashbrook – Derrick Weber (8 tackles), Nortavious Otis (7 tackles), Daishon Davis (7 tackles), Anthony Hambricht (5 tackles). South Point – Jordan Forney (8 tackles, 1 pass deflection), Aaron Biggerstaff (8 tackles, 2 pass deflections), Tristin Fogarty (6 tackles), Jalen Porter (6 tackles, 79-yard blocked FG return), Josh Allman (5 tackles, blocked FG).