



Ben Goff/The Gazette

South Point running back Devan Robbins carries the ball as teammate Tyler Bray blocks Ashbrook linebacker Derick Webber during the game at Ashbrook on Friday.

BACKBREAKER

Late TD pass helps Raiders stay undefeated

By Phillip Gardner

pgardner@gastongazette.com

GASTONIA — It was sometime in the second quarter when Devan Robbins told his coaches he'd be open on a pass play if they chose to call it.

The coaches waited for the right time, and when

that time came, Robbins proved he was right.

The senior wingback caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Jaquan Brooks that served as the backbreaker with 8:07 remaining in South Point's 30-13 win at Ashbrook on Friday.

"I told them the safeties were a little too

close," Robbins said.

And that's why after Brooks first sold the run and then hit Robbins in stride that Robbins was free to sprint to the end zone untouched.

>> See RAIDERS/Page 4C



Ben Goff/The Gazette

Ashbrook running back Tylik Roberts breaks the tackle of South Point linebacker Mykel Davis during the game at Ashbrook on Friday.

<< RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1C

"Jaquan had great poise and rode (fullback) Tyler (Bray), and (Robbins) was out there like he was going to block," South Point coach Mickey Lineberger said. "It was a great completion and that was a big, big turning point in the game. They've got a great football team."

The touchdown made it 23-13 and gave South Point some breathing room for the first time on a tense night at Eccles Field between Big South 3A Conference heavyweights. Four minutes later, after an Ashbrook three-and-out, Brooks scored on a 2-yard run to make the final score look more lopsided than the game really was.

South Point (7-0, 3-0 Big South) took a while to get its conference-leading offense

at times on its way to 304 yards. Tre Brice passed for 204 yards and a touchdown on 16-of-23 accuracy but left the game with 3:49 remaining with an apparent knee injury. Ashbrook coach Greg Hill didn't know the severity of the injury immediately after the game.

Two Ashbrook receivers topped 100 yards as Grant Stafford hauled in eight passes for 107 yards and E.J. Vanderpuye had 103 yards on four catches.

South Point, though, won the turnover battle 2-0, forcing an interception and a fumble. The fumble came at the South Point 2 in the second quarter after South Point had taken its first lead.

"Shoulda, coulda, woulda," Hill said. "I mean, we had opportunities and we didn't capitalize on them."

Ashbrook's defense rose to the occasion early, hold-

ing series, making a goal line stand on fourth and 1. The Green Wave stopped Bray to a gain of inches on the play, but the victory was short-lived as South Point tackled Tylik Roberts in the end zone on the next play, putting the Red Raiders on the board at the 9:38 mark of the second quarter to make it 6-2.

After the ensuing kick, South Point then drove 61 yards on five plays and scored on Jaquan Brooks' 34-yard run to go ahead 9-6 with 7:32 left in the half.

South Point's Aaron Biggerstaff intercepted Brice on the second play of the second half and the Red Raiders needed only one play to score on a 4-yard run by Bray. That put South Point ahead 16-6 but Ashbrook scored on the next series on a 1-yard run by Aveontay Armstrong, and the score

in gear as Ashbrook (3-3, 1-2) stayed disciplined on the defensive side. But the Red Raiders eventually wore down the Green Wave defenders, finishing with 398 yards of offense.

Bray rushed for 162 yards and Brooks added 144 yards on the ground as South Point's two workhorses.

Ashbrook's offense, No. 2 in the league, looked sharp

to the occasion early, holding the Red Raiders to a single first down over their first two possessions. That allowed the Green Wave to take the lead on a seven-play, 68-yard drive that ended with Brice's 1-yard touchdown pass to Brian Jackson.

Ashbrook, looking for its first win in the series since 2005, held South Point off the scoreboard for a third

Armstrong, and the score remained 16-13 until Robbins' TD catch.

Ashbrook receiver Demetrius Oliver was tossed from the game, and Hill said the initial ruling was an ejection, which would require the Green Wave's leading receiver to miss the next two games.

Phillip Gardner: 704-869-1843; twitter.com/gazettephil

South Point 30, Ashbrook 13

South Point 0 9 7 14 — 30

Ashbrook 6 0 7 0 — 13

First quarter

A—Brian Jackson 1 pass from Tre Brice (kick failed), 3:31.

Second quarter

SP—Safety, 9:38.

SP—Jaquan Brooks 34 run (Matt Camp kick), 7:32.

Third quarter

SP—Tyler Bray 4 run (Camp kick), 11:22.

A—Aveontay Armstrong 1 run (Ross Taylor kick), 8:24.

Fourth quarter

SP—Devan Robbins 30 pass from Brooks (Camp kick), 8:07.

SP—Brooks 2 run (Camp kick), 4:08.

	SP	Ash
First downs	21	12
Rushes-yards	63-341	23-53
Passing yards	57	251
Total yards	398	304
Comp-Att-Int	3-6-0	17-27-1
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	4-22	7-59
Punts-avg.	4-29.8	5-33.6

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—South Point, Bray 30-162, Brooks 25-144, Robbins 3-22, Deonte Gaston 2-16, Team 3-minus 3. Ashbrook, Tylik Roberts 5-31, Marcus James 6-17, Brice 6-15, Armstrong 2-5, E.J. Vanderpuye 1-1, Jeremy Crawford 2-minus 1, Austin Mitchell 1-minus 14.

PASSING—South Point, Brooks 3-6-0 57. Ashbrook, Brice 16-23-1 204; Mitchell 1-4-0 47.

RECEIVING—South Point, Robbins 1-30, Bray 1-15, Tanner Muse 1-8, Gaston 0-4. Ashbrook, Grant Stafford 8-107, Vanderpuye 4-103, Jackson 2-28, Demetrius Oliver 1-6, James 1-5, Armstrong 1-2.