

RED RAIDERS RUN IT UP

South Point rushes for 432 yards in 46-14 rout of Ashbrook

By Mike Powell

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South Point practiced well during its bye week, according to head coach Adam Hodge, and the extra work showed in all aspects of the football game Friday night against Ashbrook.

The Red Raiders (4-2) rushed for 432 yards, turned two Ashbrook fumbles into touchdowns, and held the Green Wave scoreless until the fourth quarter in a 46-14 victory.

"We had to beat the bye so to speak, and we got better last week, and that helped us this week," Hodge said after South Point extended its win streak in the series to 14 games. "It was not so much about who we played, but about us getting better as a team and learning to practice hard."

Junior fullback Kaseem Jones carried for 220 yards on 26 carries and scored twice, including a 40-yard burst that broke the game open in the first half.

On defense, the Red Raiders limited Ashbrook (4-2) to three first half first downs and did a good job of bottling up running back Tyresse Nicholas, holding the senior to 58 yards on 12 carries, the bulk of those coming in the anticlimactic fourth quarter.

Turning point: Ashbrook lost two of four fumbles in the first half, one of them coming on a kickoff return attempt. The Red Raiders recovered the fumble on the Green Wave 33-yard line, and after seven-yard loss on a sack, Jones ran 40 yards through the middle for a touchdown to make the score 19-0 early in the second quarter.

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RAIDERS

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Late in the second quarter, Ashbrook fumbled again on its own 25, and the Red Raiders converted that miscue into a score as well. A 3-yard run by Jones extended the lead to 25-0 with a minute to play before halftime.

Stars of the game: The fullback dive play worked all night behind the offensive line surge, allowing Jones to average more than eight yards per carry. Quarterback Keaton Hale scored three times, one of

them on a 24-yard keeper, and picked up 86 yards on 12 rushing attempts.

Notes: Even South Point's backup quarterback, Jamani Leeper, got in on the scoring blitz, dashing 58 yards for a touchdown near the six-minute mark of the fourth quarter...

Quarterback Jakai Grier was Ashbrook's top offensive player, rushing for 95 yards on 22 carries and a touchdown...

South Point's offense played nearly error-free football with no turnovers and only one penalty for five yards in the first half. In terms of efficiency, the

Red Raiders scored on seven of their nine possessions for the game...

In a game completely dominated by the run, South Point was 0-for-2 passing and Ashbrook completed one of three attempts for eight yards.

Both teams sported camo-theme jerseys in honor of military appreciation night at Ashbrook.

What's next: Ashbrook travels to Crest next Friday for a Big South 3A Conference game. South Point opens Southwestern 2A Conference play with a rivalry game at East Gaston known as "Black Friday."



South Point's Naseem Jones finds a hole in the Ashbrook defense and runs for a long touchdown during their Friday game. The Red Raiders rolled past the Green Wave 46-14. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GAZETTE)



The Red Raider defense forced turnovers and held Ashbrook scoreless until the fourth quarter. [BILL BOSTICK/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE]

SOUTH POINT 46, ASHBROOK 14

First quarter
SP—Keaton Hale 24 run (kick blocked) 6:32.
Second quarter
SP—Hale 31 run (pass failed) 11:51.
SP—Naseem Jones 40 run (Gustavo Tadokoro kick) 10:47.
SP—Jones 3 run (kick failed) 1:03.
Third quarter
SP—Caleb Gibson 7 run (Tadokoro kick) 8:42.
Fourth quarter
SP—Hale 1 run (Tadokoro kick) 11:55.
A—Jakai Grier 3 run (J Korbin Proctor kick) 8:01.
SP—Jamani Leeper 58 run (Tadokoro kick) 6:33.
A—Tyresse Nicholas 5 run (Proctor kick) 0:03

SP - ASH
First downs 12 11
Rushes-yards 49-432 40-184
Passing yards 0 8
Total yards 432 192
Comp-Att-Int 0-2-0 1-3-0
Fumbles-lost 0-0 5-2
Penalties-yards 5-35 5-35

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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

South Point

RUSHING: Jones 26-220, Hale 12-86, Gibson 8-67, Leeper 2-58, Hunter Hogue 1-1.

PASSING: Hale 0-2-0, 0.

Ashbrook

RUSHING: Grier 22-95, Nicholas 12-58, Greg Brockington 6-31.

PASSING: Grier 1-3-0, 8.

RECEIVING: Brockington 1-8.