



Jeff Melton/The Gazette

Ashbrook's Clay Thompson is snowed under by South Point defenders in the Wave's overtime win over the Raiders.

Ashbrook wins opener in OT thriller

By Dean Lowman
Gazette Prep Editor

GASTONIA — When the overtime came, Clay Thompson was ready.

The bullish 220-pound full-back blasted in from the 10, powering Ashbrook to a hard-earned 19-13 overtime win

against visiting South Point Friday night.

"I was wanting that one. I could feel that one," said Thompson, who hurdled a would-be tackler at the 4, then barreled into the end zone on the Green Wave's first play in the overtime period.

It was fitting that Thompson

be the one to put the Green Wave over the top. With just a minute left in regulation, Thompson was stopped inches shy of a first down at the Red Raider 5 on fourth down, allowing South Point to run out the clock.

Until Ashbrook's final possession, though, the Red Raid-

ers had the Green Wave on the ropes.

Trailing 7-6 at the half, South Point grabbed the lead quickly by knocking the ball out of Carl Ruff's hands on the second-half kickoff, allowing Spencer Woods to scoop up the ball at

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the 20 and breeze in for the score.

"We told our kids in practice this week that the worst thing that could ever happen to you would be to fumble the kickoff," Ashbrook coach Bill Eccles said. "Then, not only did we fumble the kickoff, they scored on it."

It was the second touchdown the Green Wave handed the Red Raiders. In the opening quarter, quarterback James Bowden fumbled as he was trying to pass, with Jeff Patterson grabbing the loose ball and racing 32 yards to make it 6-0.

Bowden redeemed himself for that mistake by throwing a 21-yard screen pass to Sean Boyd for a touchdown later in the period. Mark Hux added the extra point, giving Ashbrook a 7-6 lead.

After the Raiders' second touchdown, Bowden again brought the Green Wave back, dashing around left end on a 12-yard run to tie the game with 8:15 left in the third period.

"We had our chances. We had a field goal late in the fourth quarter, but we couldn't cash in," said South Point coach Phil Tate.

South Point 13

Ashbrook 19

South Point : 6 0 7 0 0 — 13

Ashbrook : 7 0 6 0 6 — 19

SP — Jeff Patterson 32 fumble return (kick failed).

A — Sean Boyd 21 pass from James Bowden (Mark Hux kick).

SP — Spencer Woods 20 fumble return (Ryan Werner kick).

A — Bowden 12 run (pass failed).

A — Clay Thompson 10 run (no PAT attempted).