



John Clark/The Gazette

South Point quarterback Javar Williams runs through the Ashbrook defense Friday night.

# South rises again

Raiders on top of BS3A after victory over Ashbrook

By DEREK SMITH  
Gazette Correspondent

GASTONIA — In a battle for sole possession of first place in the Big South 3A, South Point outlasted Ashbrook 19-9 Friday at Bill Eccles Field.

With the road win, the Red Raiders (6-1 overall) improved to 3-0 in the conference and handed the Green Wave (3-4, 2-1 BS3A) its first league loss.

South Point and Ashbrook played a close, defensive first half highlighted by turnovers that gave each team its only points of the first two quarters.

"It was a great effort on the defensive side because Ashbrook is so strong and they come right at you and test your manhood," said South Point coach

John Devine.

Early on, the Green Wave's Michael Briggs blocked a punt to set up a Julian Rauch 37-yard field goal, and Ashbrook led 3-0.

"That was a big play we got on the punt block, and that was a big play they got on the turnover before the half," said Ashbrook coach Bill Shepherd.

The turnover Shepherd spoke of came late in the second quarter when Ashbrook quarterback Kenyon Wade was sacked from the blindside by Josh Robinson, who forced the fumble recovered by South Point's Alex Lemons.

"Josh Robinson probably made the hit of the night," Devine said.

## FRIDAY'S SCOREBOARD

FORESTVIEW	41
NORTH GASTON	14
EAST GASTON	23
HUNTER HUSS	14
CREST	21
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0
LINCOLNTON	40
BUNKER HILL	28
NEWTON-CONOVER	34
WEST LINCOLN	7
POLK COUNTY	26
CHERRYVILLE	16



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Ashbrook's Oreon Mayfield runs upfield against South Point Friday night.

## ▼ South

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"He jars that ball loose and Alex picks it up and almost gets it in the end zone."

That set up a 5-yard touchdown run by Joe Brown, his 18<sup>th</sup> on the season.

The score remained 6-3 until the fourth quarter.

"We played it close to the vest on offense. We should have been a little more open on offense," Shepherd said. "Our offense at times didn't keep the ball long enough."

Javar Williams scored his fourth touchdown on the year on a 15-yard run early in the

quarter to put the Red Raiders on top 13-3.

Ashbrook rallied moments later on Dyshun Rice's 6-yard run to make the score 13-9, but the Green Wave couldn't get the snap in place on the extra point, meaning they'd need more than a field goal to tie or go ahead of South Point.

It wouldn't matter because the Red Raiders got some insurance with 1:14 left in the game when Brown scored his second touchdown of the game and his 19<sup>th</sup> of 2002.

"At halftime, we asked them to step it up, and that third quarter made a big difference," Devine said. "I don't

know how many yards they got, but it wasn't much."

Brown finished with 171 yards and two touchdowns. Brian McWhirter added 47 yards for South Point.

Ashbrook's Oreon Mayfield was held to 88 yards on 13 attempts. The team mustered only 112 yards of total offense.

South Point hosts Forestview next week. Ashbrook travels to East Gaston.

SP 0 6 0 13 — 19  
A 0 3 0 6 — 9

A — Julian Rauch 37 FG

SP — Joe Brown 5 run (kick failed)

SP — Javar Williams 15 run (Andrew Rinehardt kick)

A — Dyshun Rice 6 run (kick failed)

SP — Brown 11 run (kick failed)