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Valdosta High School

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School Happenings

ROTC Invited

By Melanie Seals

The Valdosta High Naval Junior ROTC unit has been invited to attend the annual Pensucola Navy League Field Day Competition, because of its proven excellence during the 1984-85 school year.

The unit was contacted by Commander Robert Burns, Area Six Manager, to be a representative of Area Six at this national event.

The drill team will participate in the military drill competition. Many of the drill team member will also be member of the athletic team which will participate in the obstacle course, relay race, and distance run. The academic team will take a test which consists of 75 questions based on information from the Naval Science text.

Arts Club Officers

The following people were elected as officers of the Industrial Arts Club for the school year, 1985-86:

Antoinette Johnson — President; Tracy Roberts — Vice President; Regina Sirmans — Secretary; Adrienne Williams — Treasurer; Keith Beal — Parliamentarian; Eugene Strickland — Sergeant-At-Arms

The club meetings are held on the

second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Club Adviser is Mr. Isaiah Isom, Industrial Arts Instructor.

Debaters Officers

By Jennifer Guest

VHS debaters have elected officers for the 1985-86 season.

Junior Paul Conrad was elected president; senior Charles Cutforth, vice-president; sophomore Jennifer Guest, secretary; and freshman David Hazelhurst, treasurer.

The debate club is planning practice rounds with area schools later this month and will participate in a statewide tournament in Leesburg, Ga. in November.

FBLA Meets

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America had its monthly meeting on Monday, October 7, presided over by Kimberly Rowe.

The club voted to donate to the World Food Drive on October 16. Plans were made to participate in the Homecoming Parade.

The guest speaker was Frankie Keeling, the Georgia State Region 2 Vice President of FBLA. Cosponsors for the local chapter are Maxine Martin and Barbara Edmondson.

Math Team Begins Season

By Kathy Harris
And Louis Gonisk

The 1985-86 Math Team at VHS has begun a new season with some returning members and many recruits.

Under the sponsorship of Jimmy Bostock and Mike Rogers, the 23 team members meet every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to work on challenging mathematical problems.

The members are: freshmen — Julie Anderson, Scott Earle, Lawrence Moore, and Joey Tomberlin; sophomores — Anne Clark, Johnnie Graham, Jan Hartzog, and Greg Leong; juniors — Angela Alexander, Jill Bryan, Clarissa Coley, Mike Farley, Timothy Lee, Terri Longeliere, Rusty McCall, Tracy

McRae, Michael Schmier, Michael Smith, and Lucy Tomberlin; and seniors — Tim Brady, Louis Gonis, Kathy Harris, and Jim McIntyre.

The co-captains elected on Oct. 1 were Louis Goni and Kathy Harris, both of whom attended the Governor's Honors Program in mathematics this past summer.

The first tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 9, at Mercer University in Macon; and the VHS Math Team plans to send eight participants.

The team will also participate in many other tournaments throughout the year. In addition, the team will take the Georgia Math League tests again this year.

D-8 The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Thursday, September 26, 1985

PREP NOTES

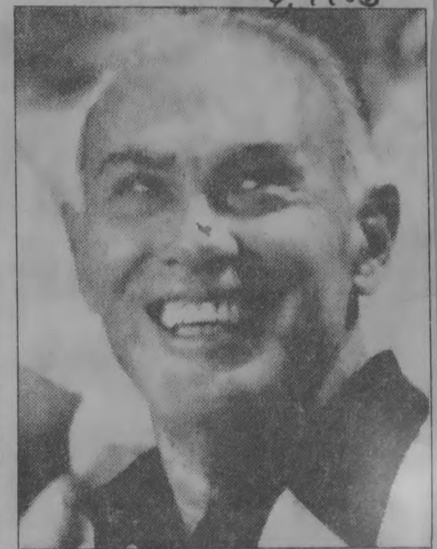
600th Valdosta win will put it in record book

By Rick Danis
Sports writer

Georgia's Valdosta High could become the second team in high school football history to hit the 600-win mark when it plays host to Bainbridge tomorrow night.

The Wildcats, who've been playing football since 1913, have compiled a 599-126-33 record during their history. Wright Bazemore, the eighth-winningest coach in the nation, accounted for almost half of Valdosta's wins, compiling a 290-43-0 record from 1941-71.

Only Massillon, Ohio, has won more games than Valdosta. Massillon, which has been playing since 1894, won its 600th game two weeks ago.



Wright Bazemore
Half of Valdosta's wins



Wildcat Victory Celebration

Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder and the rest of the Wildcats celebrate their state championship victory over Clarke Central Of Athens, Ga. The 'Cats came back from a 14-7 t

to win 21-14. The Wildcats took their fourth national crown and 18th state title. — Times Staff Photo by Laura Harris.

Bearcats Down Valdosta

By ROGER B. BBROWN
Times Sports Writer

Bainbridge hasn't been playing well all season, but Tuesday the Bearcats put it all together Tuesday in an 8-3 Region 1-A South victory over the Valdosta Wildcats at Bazemore Field.

Jason Hutchins handcuffed the Wildcats on four hits as Bainbridge jumped out to an early advantage and held the lead throughout the game.

Bainbridge scored two runs in the first inning, and added two more in the second before Valdosta finally got on the board with a single run in the third inning.

"Hutchins pitched an outstanding game for us today and that's exactly what we needed," Bearcat Coach Stan Killough said. "He threw strikes and was consistently around the plate all game long and that was another key factor."

"He didn't allow very many walks (three) and made them earn their way on, which is a sign of good pitching. We also had good defense behind him (no errors) and that's always good to see."

Bainbridge opened the scoring when Bernie Weathersby reached on an error. He moved to third on a wild pitch off attempt and scored on a fly to center by Hutchins.

Shawn Strickland then singled to center, advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a double by Tom Kelley after Kent Hatton had walked. Brian Calhoun the lined out to center to

end the inning leaving two runners stranded.

The Bearcats added two more runs in the second on four hits, including three consecutive singles. Bobby Duke led off the inning with a single to center. After Curt Wingham popped out to third, Ken Loeffler singled to left to move Duke around to third.

Weathersby came up next and lined a run-scoring single to center. Hutchins followed a run-scoring single to right to make the score 4-0, leaving runners at second and third and one out, but Valdosta's pitcher, Ralph Guriano got out of the inning by striking out Strickland and getting Hatton to fly out to right to end the inning.

Trailing 4-0 in the third, Valdosta got one of the runs back when Trevort Shaw, who had two of the four hits for Valdosta, doubled to right. He advanced to third on a passed ball and with two outs stole home when Brent Moore was trapped in a run-down between first and second on an apparent planned play.

Bainbridge came back with two more runs in the fourth on one hit and three Valdosta errors.

Whigham walked to lead off the inning and advanced to third on an error. After weathersby flied out, Whigham scored on a groundout by Hutchins. Strickland reached on an error and Hatton followed with a run-scoring single to give the Bearcats a 6-1 advantage.

Valdosta scored a single run in the fifth to close within 6-2 on a pair of hits. With two outs, Jon Reaves reached on a single and scored on a double by Shaw. Brian Parker stepped up next and he struck out to end the inning.

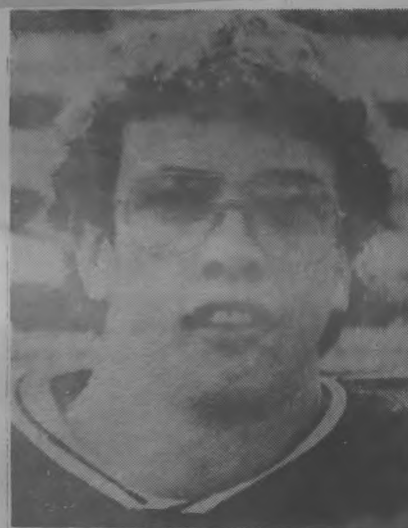
Bainbridge put the game away by adding two insurance runs in the seventh inning on two hits. Kelley reached on a walk, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Calhoun then hit a ground-rule single, which hit the base umpire. He was thrown out at first, but the umpires ruled that it was hit because the ball hit the base umpire after it had got past the pitchers mound.

After Duke flied out, Whigham singled to center to score both runners and complete the Bearcats scoring for the game.

Valdosta came back to score a run in the bottom of the inning to make up the final 8-3 count.

Steve Milani led off the inning with a single to center. Gill walked and Reaves hit into a force play. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch and Gill scored on a groundout by Shaw. Joey Crosby then grounded out to second to end the game.

"It's a big win for us," Killough said. "It's the first time all year that we've hit the ball like this. For our kids this should be a real shot in the arm. We took on the challenge and came through. Valdosta is a well-coached team and everybody knows about their



Jon Reaves
Doubled, Scored

program, which is well-stocked in winning tradition."

Meanwhile, Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley was disappointed with his team, which dropped to 4-6 overall and 0-1 in subregion play.

"We didn't execute very well, especially in the clutch. We gave them five unearned runs and just killed ourselves with mental mistakes. I thought Guriano pitched good enough to win this ball game. We just didn't give him much help in the field or at the plate. The seniors are going to have to come through for us."

"We're playing people who are just not producing, and they have until Friday (at Lowndes) to show that they can do the job," Tarpley said.

Down Bainbridge, 21-0

'Cats Gain 600th Victory Of School's History

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After Valdosta's 21-0 crushing of the Bainbridge Bearcats, Nick Hyder was greeted by his usual number of admirers and well-wishers, but this time the handshakes were a little more firm and the smiles a little broader.

The win was special.

Yes it was a Region 1-AAAA South victory, the Wildcats' first subregion victory of the season, but it was also Valdosta's 600th victory in its history. Only one other school in the nation has won 600 games, Massillon, Ohio.

"This is a time to reflect on all the people who have helped the Wildcat football team through the years," Hyder said. "Some of these young men had fathers and grandfathers who played on the Wildcat team."

Hyder was also appreciative of Wright Bazemore, who set up an excellent football tradition in Valdosta. "I am thankful to those who let me come in here and who entrusted me with the team."

One big reason for Valdosta's success over the years, has been the ability to take advantage of the opponents' mistakes, something all well-coached teams have the ability to do.

Up 14-0 late in the second period, The Wildcats took advantage of a Bearcat turnover for their final score of the evening.

Running back Martin Redding swept around the right end for a 5-yard gain, but fumbled after being hit. Valdosta had the ball first-and-10 from the Bainbridge 23 and the Wildcat offense went immediately into action.

On the first play from scrimmage, Tony Mangrum scooted up the middle for a 10-yard gain. Quarterback Greg Talley ran right for a 4-yard gain, and on third-and-one, William Dixon ran the ball off the left tackle for a 7-yard gain, making it first-and-goal from the seven.

A short run by Mangrum moved the ball down to the three, and one play later, Dixon carried the ball in for the

Valdosta..... 7 14 0 0-21
Bainbridge..... 0 0 0 0-0

Val — William Dixon 3 run (Otis Conaway kick)

Val — Talley 8 run (Conaway kick)

Val — Dixon 3 run (Conaway kick)

First Downs..... 11 9

Yards Rushing..... 100 136

Yards Passing..... 71 25

Passes..... 12-52 7-20

Fumbles Lost..... 3 1

Punting..... 434.4 632.4

Penalties..... 235 6-69

Receiving — Bainbridge: Redding 29-99; Valdosta: Mangrum 12-61, Dixon 18-51.

Passing — Bainbridge: Hatton 12-52 71; Valdosta: Talley 7-20 25

Receiving — Bainbridge: King 3-68; Valdosta: Steward 1-18; Belue 1-7

Missed Field Goals — None

final touchdown. Otis Conaway kicked the extra point and the Wildcats won their 600th game easily.

One reason for the ever-improving offensive showing was, of course, the Wildcat front line, and Hyder was quick to give credit where credit is due.

"The blocking was really good tonight," Hyder said. "Russ Rudolph, Marty Howell, Joey Tippit, Jodie Sprengle, Jeff Davis, Matt Stanaland, Troy Wells, and Todd Hatcher all did a tremendous job executing."

Indeed the offense did a good job of springing Valdosta's speedy little running backs. Dixon gained 51 yards on 18 carries, and scored two of Valdosta's touchdowns. Mangrum ran the ball 12 times for a 61-yard total.

Bainbridge opened the game on the ground, putting most of the yardage on the shoulders of workhorse Martin Redding. Redding pounded out 99 grueling yards against the Wildcats. He ran the ball 29 times, and was stopped for no gain only four times. Unfortunately for Bainbridge, the Wildcats denied Redding the joy of carrying the ball into the end zone. Bainbridge had several chances to score, but the Wildcat defense eventually shut all the doors.

Late in the third period, the Bearcats put together a 12-play drive, marching all the way down to the 'Cat 21-yard line. The drive was kept alive by a pass interference call against Valdosta, and one of Bainbridge's more exciting offensive plays of the evening, a



Times Staff Photo by Susan Griffith

Valdosta's Greg Talley (1) Scrambles Around End En Route To A 13-Yard Gain Friday

sit down and and crank out 60 words a minute. It took practice.

"We started out with just one starter back, and a bunch of young kids. It takes practice to get things going together."

Valdosta's second score came after the Wildcat defense forced the Bearcats to punt from deep in their own territory. Valdosta took over possession of the ball at midfield.

Dixon and Mangrum slowly plodded the ball downfield, helped along by an

18-yard pass play from Talley to Steward. Talley finally carried the ball in from the 8-yard line, and Valdosta took a 14-0 lead with 9:20 left in the second quarter. That's how it remained until the Wildcats took advantage of Redding's fumble.

With the school's 600th win, Hyder couldn't help but think of those down through the years who have made the Wildcat football program what it is today.

Of course Bazemore was in his zenith in the '50's and the '60's. Charlie Greene had a 17-3 record and was also part of the Wildcat tradition."

Move over Massillon. Here come the 'Cats.

"It's hard not to think of those years

1985

Westover's Only Hope Is An Upset

Winless Patriots Hobble Into Meeting With 'Cats

By EARL PERKINS
Times Staff Writer

Albany Westover head coach Paul Lounsberry doesn't like to give excuses, but his football team has enough injuries to start another squad, and Friday night at 8 they play the Valdosta Wildcats on the road.

"We've got a bunch of them (injuries)," Lounsberry said. "There are (almost) too many to mention."

"Our starting center (Bo Plowden) went down with torn ligaments before the season started, and the next day our starting quarterback (Todd Northrup) broke his wrist. Our (third-year) starting tackle (Scott Holton) is out, and we lost our starting right guard (Raymond Hasty). He (Hasty) will probably play some, but he hurt his shoulder real bad."

"We lost our offensive tackle (Haze Sadler) against Bainbridge with a damaged knee, but we hope he'll be able to play. I lost my starting noseguard, my free safety — I can go on and on."

In other Region 1-AAAA games Friday night, Lowndes hosts Clarke Central, Bainbridge hosts Lincoln (Fla.), Tift County plays Thomasville Central on the road, Colquitt County goes to Thomasville, Albany Monroe plays at Tallahassee (Fla.) Godby and Albany Dougherty travels to Americus.

But it looks as if Westover could be rated as the biggest underdog this weekend. Valdosta was ranked No. 1 in Georgia by the Associated Press' weekly poll, and No. 4 in the nation by *USA Today*. And this year's Wildcat team is quite representative of the Winnersville tradition, according to Lounsberry.

"I'm very impressed by the Valdosta team," he said. "I've been here (at Westover) six years, and I think they're better than when they won the state championship (1982)."

"I think Berke Holtzclaw is the best quarterback they've had since John Lastinger, and Hosea Heard is probably the best wide receiver they've had in some time."

Lounsberry said his young, inexperienced team played poorly in its first game, improving in its second game and going back to playing poorly in its third encounter.

Westover's start this season has been quite shaky, with losses to Worth County (21-0), Bainbridge (29-6) and Thomasville Central (44-0). The Patriots were 3-7 last season, and have yet to win a game this year, while the Wildcats' only loss in two years was to Tift in the region playoffs last season.



PAUL LOUNSBERRY
Westover Coach Needs Help

The 'Cats' victories this season came against Thomasville, Waycross and Albany Monroe. And Lounsberry knows this won't be one of Westover's easier games this year.

"They (the Wildcats) have a tremendous team," he said. "I know the (Valdosta) coaches have to be real pleased with that kind of ability."

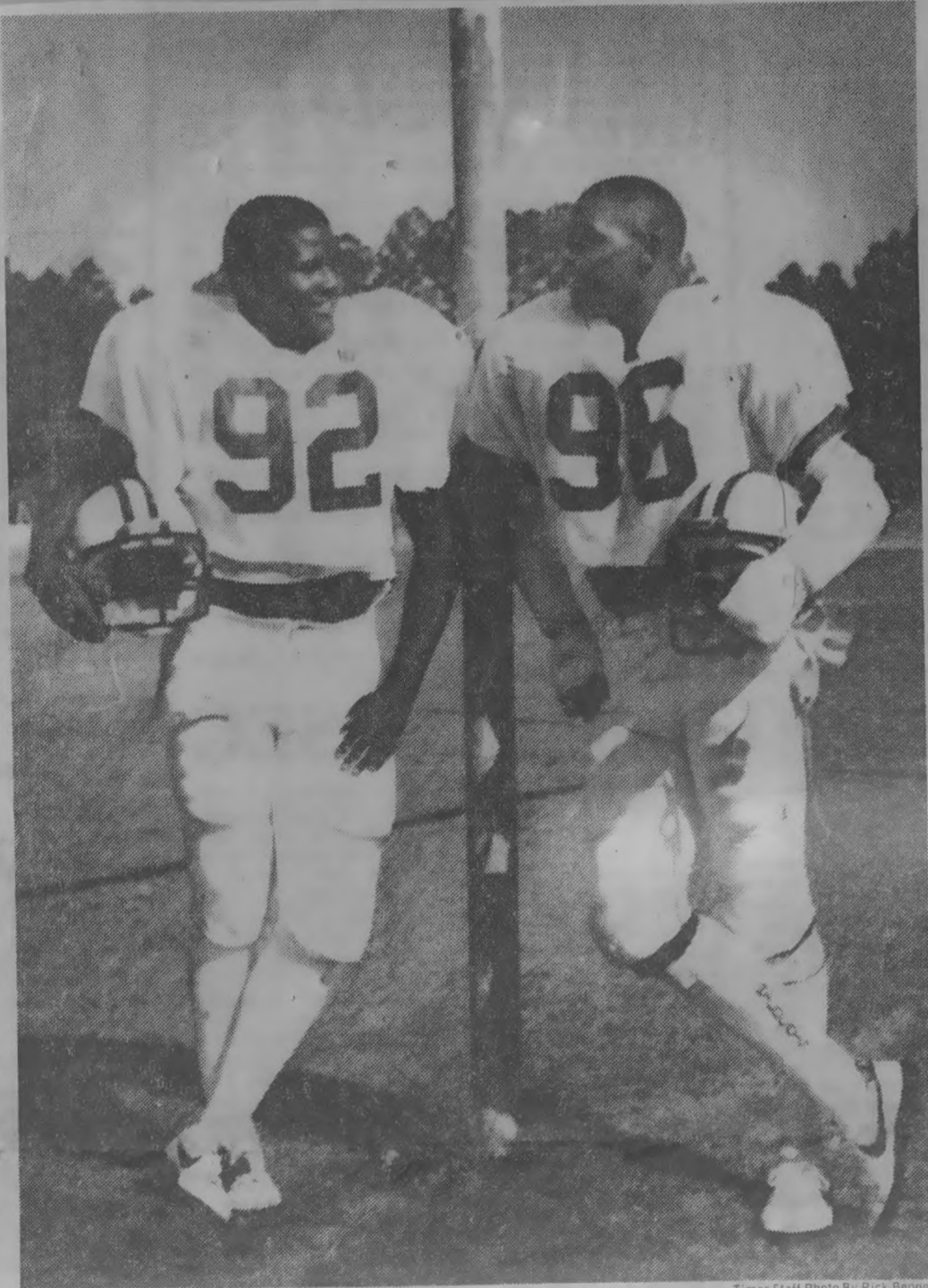
"If they play their best, they're going to be awfully hard to beat. But we're going to come down there with the hope of upsetting them."

But that could be a problem as Westover looks to a youth movement this season. Lounsberry has said the Patriots' major strengths and weaknesses stem from having a very young team. Before the season, he said "Our weakness is that we're young — it's a plus and a minus."

"We have average size, we have average speed, but we're very inexperienced."

But he said these things before the major injuries struck his squad. The Patriots have been looking at sophomores Steve Baker and Kenneth Taylor in the signal-calling position, with freshman Stan Whatley as backup.

Westover's running attack will include Eric Whitaker, Jimmy Harrell, Tony Brown, Matt Fox, Ernest Hall and Eddie James.



Jimmy Lewis (L), James Wakefield — Valdosta Defensive Tackles

Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

The Final Test

High School Seniors Must Pass New State Test Before Graduating This Year

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

Seniors graduating from city and county schools this school year say they are glad they had to take a test that is now required by state law for graduation.

"I think anybody who has graduated from high school should be able to pass it. It's stuff any high school graduate should know. It was not difficult," said Blake Ellis Jr., a senior at Lowndes High School.

As a graduating senior in 1985, Ellis is one of thousands of students throughout Georgia who has had to pass the Basic Skills Test in order to receive his diploma this June.

The test is part of the restructuring of graduation requirements by the state Department of Education, according to Mrs. Virginia Wisenbaker, Valdosta High School guidance counselor.

The tests were given in city and county high schools here this week.

Rowland Hall, a Lowndes sophomore who took the test for the first time this week, said, "I think it's a good thing. It sorts out people because it's basic skills. It's what you need to know to survive in the world."

The Basic Skills Test is the last phase of a three-phase Competency Based Education program, a program designed to upgrade education in public schools.

During the first phase courses were added to the curriculum. The second phase included the addition to the curriculum of life-skill abilities, such as balancing a checkbook or registering to vote.

"The State Department began phasing

in the program in 1978-79, beginning with the curriculum and every year something was added. This is the first year seniors have been required to pass the test before graduating although it has been given for several years," she said.

The test is first given to students when they are sophomores. If they pass it then, they are not required to take it again. If they fail it as a sophomore, they may take it twice a year through their senior year and even beyond the time the student has finished course work.

Most guidance counselors and students alike think the Basic Skills Test is a needed requirement, including those students who haven't yet passed the test. Most agree it is a fair test and measures skills that are necessary in getting along in the world.

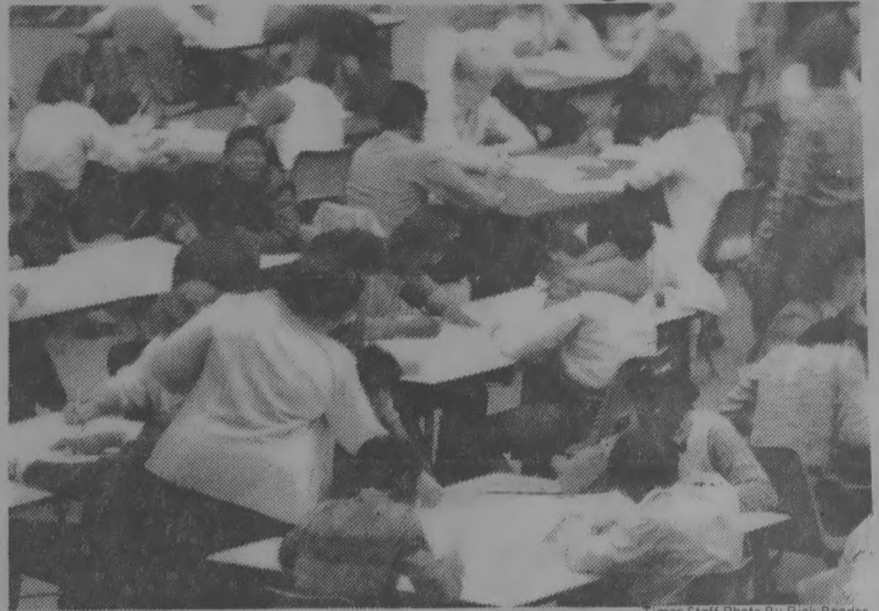
Sheila Kearce, a senior who passed a similar test in Fla., took the test this week and said the Georgia test was much easier than the one she passed as a sophomore in Fla.

VHS sophomore, Georgia Graves, took the test this week for the first time and said, "It was hard. It was interesting though, because I could see all the things I'd accumulated through the years could be put to use to take a test like this. That's why I had to learn all that stuff."

Like Ellis, Kristin Coleman is also graduating this year, but from VHS.

"I like the test. I'm not a good tester, but I feel like it prepared me for the PSAT and the SAT," she said.

"I think by the time you're in the tenth grade, you ought to know the basic skills."



Times Staff Photo By Rick Bender

VHS Students Taking Basic Skills Test Last Week

The Basic Skills Test gives employers some measure of a high school graduate's abilities, according to Mrs. Judy Quinif, Lowndes High guidance counselor.

"Several years ago employers were saying a high school diploma did not give any guarantee that this child could read or write, but now in the state of Georgia, at least employers know that a diploma

means something.

"It means the student can read and write and comprehend and think out problems.

"We're seeing our students take pride in their diplomas. It's not just a piece of paper they march down the aisle and get after 12 years. It means something, and they know it," she said.

VHS Falls To Trojans

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Valdosta High continued on its roller-coaster ride this season, falling to Albany-Dougherty 51-50 Saturday night.

Dougherty came back from a 25-22 halftime deficit to pull out the win. However, Valdosta had several chances to pull out the win, but failed to capitalize on the opportunities.

The Cats trailed the Trojans 48-46, but were in possession of the ball with just over a minute left to play. However, Valdosta was hit with a charging foul, and Dougherty made both free throws for a 50-46 lead with only 32 seconds left.

Valdosta came back to score on its next possession and cut the lead to two points, 50-48, but Dougherty iced the game by hitting one of two free throws for a 51-48 advantage with only seven seconds left. Valdosta added a basket as time was running out for the final 51-50 verdict.

"We had our chances, but didn't take advantage of them, which was the difference in the game," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "We got a tremendous effort from all of the kids, but we just came up short this time."

Dougherty led 10-7 at the end of the first period, but Valdosta outscored the Trojans 18-12 in the second quarter to take a three-point lead into the dressing room.

Valdosta pushed its lead to 39-34 by the end of the third quarter, but couldn't maintain the advantage. The Trojans outscored Valdosta 17-11 in the final period to pull out the win.

"We played all out and

that's all that I can ask of the guys," O'Brien said. "Dougherty hit some key free throws in the end and we made some crucial turnovers that turned the game around. It gave them the momentum, but we kept after them all the way until the buzzer sounded."

Wallace Campbell was the only 'Cat to hit double figures with 12 points, while Glenn Edwards topped Dougherty with 19 and Tim Merritt added 10.

In the girls' game, Dougherty made it a sweep, racing by the Lady Wildcats 78-63.

Wendy Irvin and Felecia Henderson combined for 38 points for the Lady 'Cats, but it wasn't enough as their record dipped to 3-18.

"I thought we did a pretty good job of shooting the ball," Valdosta Coach James Studstill said. "We made more than 50 percent of our shots, but got in early foul trouble and they

just killed us at the free throw line.

"They hit something like 24 free throws and that's just too much to overcome. We are improving and have a young team, and everybody got a chance to play."

Valdosta will play host to Lowndes, Tuesday.

Boys' Game	
Valdosta	7 18 14 11—50
Dougherty	10 12 12 17—51
Valdosta (50) — Campbell 12, Kitchens 7, Edwards 4, Walker 6, Poism 6, Wright 4, Brown 7, Lowe 4. Totals 22 6-11 50.	
Dougherty (51) — Johnson 6, Edwards 19, Merritt 10, Marshall 9, Smith 6, Kittle 1. Totals 23 5-8 51.	
Record: Valdosta 10-10.	
Girls' Game	
Valdosta	10 17 18 18—63
Dougherty	21 19 24 14—78
Valdosta (63) — Henderson 18, Irvin 20, L. Irvin 7, Ceasare 4, Bass 3, Longiellere 0, Weatherspoon 6, Lowe 0, Shown 2, Gardner 1, Barnett 2. Totals 26 11-22 (24 fouls) 63.	
Dougherty (78) — Whitlock 10, Balsden 2, Fisroe 2, Davis 25, Edwards 0, Davis 2, Brown 13, Smith 4, Hall 18, Rouse 2. Totals 27 24-35 (18 fouls) 78.	
Record: Valdosta 3-18	
Next game: Tuesday vs Lowndes.	



Latest Fashion At VHS?

Not exactly. These students were among the many Valdosta High Schoolers who participated on "50s Day" at the school Wednesday. As part of homecoming festivities, VHS's week features a different

way to dress for every day. Homecoming will culminate in the Valdosta Wildcat-Dougherty County Trojan football game Friday at Cleveland Field. — Times Staff Photo by Rick Bender.

It's Not Boot Camp, But It Just As Easily Could Be

V. Times 8/18/85

The long wait is over. High school football is back. Ever since the state championship last December, people in the area have been anticipating the 1985 season. Many questions keep popping up as to how each team will fair in the upcoming campaign.

- Just how good will Lowndes will be this year after posting a 6-5 record last year and losing just four seniors?
- Will Valdosta be able to stay on top after winning the Class AAAA state and national title with a perfect 15-0 record?
- How much pressure will there be on Valwood Coach Allen Fort after playing for the state title in the Valiants' first season of football?

- Will Lowndes Christian be able to field a winning team in its first season? Though there are many other questions people are constantly asking, those are the ones most people want to talk about.

With the football season less than two weeks away, we'll soon know.

But for now, players and coaches are busy getting ready for the upcoming year. Camps opened across the state Monday as teams were able to put on pads for the first time and have contact.

Lowndes and Valwood are holding their camps at their respective schools while Valdosta has moved its operation to the 4-H Camp in southern Lowndes County. All three teams

have had their share of bumps and bruises, but that's to be expected when players put on pads for the first time since spring practice.

It's not just the bumps and bruises players are having to contend. The weather has been very hot and late afternoon thunderstorms make it very humid. There is also a problem with gnats and mosquitos.

The Valdosta Wildcats are practicing two times a day, but they are very long practices. Coach Nick Hyder is keeping his troops on the field for three or four hours each time out.

And according to Hyder, it is time well spent. The players and coaches go over plays until they get it right. In fact, Monday's initial workout was about an hour longer than scheduled.

As for Lowndes, Coach Joe Wilson looks at camp as a relaxing time. The Vikings are practicing three times a day, but one of the practices is in shorts for conditioning drills. Lowndes also practices at night.

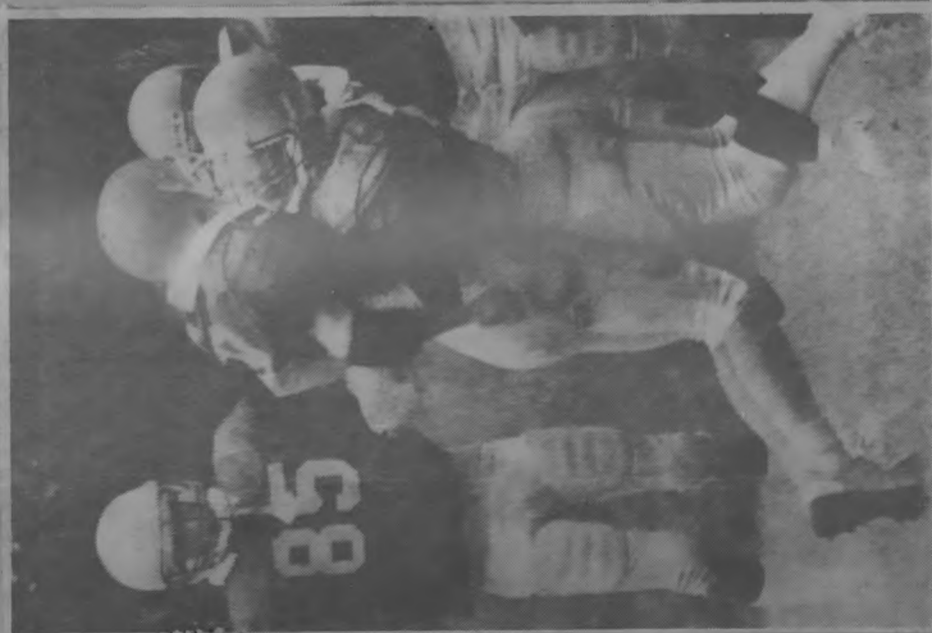
"That's when we play the games so we want the players to get used to it," Wilson said.

The Vikings are also scrimmaging each night.

After getting a breather from camps this weekend, teams will return for a second week starting Monday. After that, school starts and practices will be limited to one a day.

And while the players are anxiously waiting for that first kickoff to go sailing down the field, the fans are just as anxious.

Sunday, August 18, 1985



Valdosta Players Sharpen Their Skills



A Valdosta Player Enjoys A Cool Drink Of Water



VHS' Nick Hyder Is Deep In His Thoughts



Tommy Hughes, R. Wallace Thompson, Middle, Frank Evans Ready To Serve Chicken

Cook Of The Week

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Features Editor

A Valdosta man cooks for 103 people three meals a day and when company comes add another 250 to the total.

For 23 years Tommy Hughes of Valdosta has spent two weeks each summer cooking for the Valdosta High School Wildcats football team at the 4-H Camp at Twin Lakes. Helping him with the culinary chores at this year's football camp, which concluded Friday, were Wallace Thompson, Valdosta State College cook, and Frank Evans of Valdosta, a retired veteran.

Hughes worked for Colonial Stores here 36 years, retiring 10 years ago as market manager. "That's how I got hooked into this job down here," he said in an interview at the camp jokingly referred to as *The Nick Hyder Rest Resort*.

Since Hughes was in the meat business, he was asked by the president of Valdosta Touchdown Club, which sponsors the camp, to purchase the food and make sure it was cooked and served on time for the players.

That was in 1962. Each year he would take two weeks of his five-week vacation and volunteer his services for the camp. The other three weeks were reserved for his family. "Having good, understanding wife and children, they approved of it," he said. He is married to the former Marguerite Howell of Ocilla and they have three children, Dale Hughes, 33, and Lisa Patrick, 23, of Valdosta, and Chris Hughes, 16, VHS student. They also have two grandchildren, Ashley Hughes and Allison Patrick.

This was the second year Hughes and his helpers used football camp menus formulated by college dietitians. "We went to the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, Florida State University and Valdosta State College and we got their dietitians who feed the football players regularly to come up with a menu," Hughes said. "We picked out what we wanted out of the four menus."

"We feed them heavy in the morning and at night and



Thompson, Hughes, Evans Prepare Light Lunch At VHS Football Camp At Twin Lakes

He Enjoys Cooking At 'Nick Hyder Rest Resort'

8-27-85

(serve) a light lunch. Dietitians tell us a boy doesn't need a lot of food in his body to get out and exert himself like he does in the afternoon." Lunch was served around 1:30 p.m. each day with football practice from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and supper at 8:45 p.m.

"The boys can have all they want to eat," he said. "They can come back for seconds and thirds." There's no junk food on the menu.

"Coach Hyder stresses every day for the boys to eat proper food when they return home. That way, any injuries will heal faster for a boy in condition than one who's not."

Hughes said spaghetti and meat balls has been the favorite meal of the players. To feed the 103 players and coaches, Hughes said 80 pounds of hamburger meat was used to make the sauce.

The coaches' wives and VHS cheerleaders joined the players for supper Wednesday of the first week and the city board of education and touchdown club board of directors feasted with them last Wednesday. Thursday night, touchdown club members and the gridiron group chow down on a supper of barbecue chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, ice cream and fruit.

The players and coaches have been appreciative of Hughes' cooking efforts throughout the years. "Coach Hyder and (former) Coach Wright Bazemore said they didn't know what they would do if I didn't come to camp," said Hughes. He enjoyed teasing Hyder that this year would be his last year.

Hughes "picked up" cooking on his own and has helped his wife cook ever since they married in 1949. He also shares his culinary talents with the Deep South Umpire Association and his church, First Presbyterian here.

He enjoys fishing and watching ball games.

A Valdosta native, he was graduated from Valdosta High School in 1947.

Hughes shared a fried sandwich recipe his family likes for him to make.



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Schochet

Valdosta High School Wildcat Players, Coaches Chow Down On Food Cooked By Hughes

Monte Cristo Sandwich

3 slices bread

Canned ham and cheese on one side

Turkey and cheese on the other side

Trim it, cut it in half, then dip it in milk and eggs. Roll it in bread crumbs, then deep-fry it from one to three minutes.

Lowndes, Wildcats Face Tough Openers

V. TIMES 8-28-85

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

In their season openers this week, the Lowndes High Vikings and the Valdosta High Wildcats both face Class AAA football teams who, though they are confident in their own ability, seemed resigned to their grim tasks of taking on Class AAAA powers in their own back yards.

Second year Thomasville Head Coach Mike Hodges has 51 players on his roster and will have to go with inexperienced ballplayers at some key positions due to some recent injuries.

"Last year was a rebuilding year for us. We had a good spring, and things looked good this summer until we had some injuries."

"But you can always count on Valdosta to be tough. They never rebuild. They just reload. With their junior high and junior varsity football programs, they are always several good football players deep at every position."

"Last year nobody outside of Valdosta had heard of (Berk) Holtzclaw and (Willie) Lewis, but those kids took them to the national championship." Both went on to earn scholarships to East Carolina University.

And even though he has only one starting player who weighs more than 200 pounds, Hodges is not discouraged.

"We run a wishbone and we have confidence in it. Our quarterback, Michael Clark played the position last

year and does a good job. On defense we just line up and play. We just try to coach the fundamentals and get after 'em."

This year's game has got to go better than last year's. Hodges' staff was brand new at Thomasville, and he barely knew the players' names.

And even though his Bulldogs were given the ball on the Wildcat 18-yard line the first time and 25-yard line the second time by a slippery-fingered Valdosta offense, they could gain but one yard against the Wildcat defense and walked away with only a field goal.

Thomasville made only four first downs throughout the entire game, eventually losing 21-3.

The Bulldogs rebounded to finish out

the year with a 5-4-1 record and may yet prove to be a formidable opponent. Valdosta has now won 36 straight regular season games. The last team to beat them in that respect was Thomasville by a 14-3 score back in 1981.

Coffee Coach Bonwell Royal likewise sounded positive but cautious in assessing his Trojans' chances against the Lowndes Vikings this week.

We just finished the best camp we've had in awhile. We have 82 players on the roster this year, and they're a hard-working bunch. We'll be ready."

"Lowndes beat us 13-0 last year. They had something like 32 juniors on that team, and I don't believe they were hurt too badly by graduation either. They look solid at every position

with no apparent weaknesses. And they'll outweigh us by about 20 pounds per man."

"We'll run a multiple offense out of four different formations. This year we'll be able to run the ball where last year we were unable to and ended up throwing 25 times a game."

"Our quarterback, John Royal can run, and he has a pretty good arm. He's a tough kid who started the last two years at defensive end. Our fullback will be either sophomore Greg Fussell who weighs 190 pounds or senior Kenneth Shiver who plays at about 212 pounds."

"The halfback will probably be sophomore Leroy Thomas. We prefer to run the ball, but we have confidence

in our passing attack if they force us into it."

On defense, Royal seemed a bit more concerned, especially about the diversity of the Lowndes attack.

"We can't sit still with Lowndes. With their size and muscle, they'll knock us right off the ball. They also have two talented quarterbacks who can both roll out and throw the ball on the corner to some good receivers like Eric Blades."

"But if you string the defense out to stop their passing, those two big fullbacks will kill you inside. They will create some mismatches. I'll admit, this game has caused me a lot of sleepless nights."

Wildcats, Chieftains

Favorites

V. TIMES 8-28-85

The Associated Press

West Rome's campaign to become the first team to win four straight Georgia high school football titles gets a vote of confidence in the first 1985 Associated Press state prep football poll.

The AP's board of sportswriters and sportscasters made West Rome the team to be in Class AA. The Chieftains received 10 of the 11 first-place votes.

The defending champions in the other three classifications also begin 1985 in the No. 1 position. Valdosta again heads the Class AAAAA field, Thomson is first in Class AAA and Greenville gets the nod in Class A.

The poll is divided over which Class AA teams have the best chance to knock off West Rome. Dooly County is ranked second, but Waycross is close behind. Central of Carrollton, which received the other first-place vote, is tied for the No. 4 ranking with Lamar County.

The rest of the Class AA field is just as closely bunched: Washington-Wilkes and Lakeshore are tied for sixth; Manchester and 1984 finalist Mary Persons share the eighth spot; and Mitchell-Baker and Duluth are ranked together at 10th.

Valdosta, the only team other than West Rome ever to win three titles in a row, won the top Class AAAAA ranking over Clarke Central, the team the Wildcats defeated in the state final last year.

Griffin received the only first-place vote which did not go to Valdosta and is ranked third, followed by Warner Robins and Southwest Dekalb. Tift County and Colquitt County are tied for sixth, followed by Lowndes, Statesboro and Northside-Warner Robins.

Thomson got seven first-place votes in Class AA, with two going to No. 3 Marist and one each to No. 4 Thomasville and No. 7 Murray County.

Gainesville is ranked second, Woodward Academy is fifth and Habersham County sixth.

Dublin, Dalton and Cedartown round out the Class AA field.

Lincoln County, which lost to Greenville in the Class A finals last year, picked up one first-place vote and is again ranked second to start this season. No. 3 Palmetto also got a first-place vote, with the rest going to Greenville.

Miller County is No. 4 followed by Wilcox County, Louisville and Commerce. Reidsville and Clinch County are tied for eighth, with Wrens ranked 10th.



V. TIMES 8/29/85

Husking Dana

Valdosta High has turned out numerous college players over the years. But Dana Brinson decided to take his ability west instead of staying close to home. In his freshman year at the University of Nebraska, Brinson played in the first two junior varsity games before being sidelined.

In those games, he rushed four times for 62 yards and a touchdown, caught two passes for 28 yards and returned two kickoffs for 64 yards.

Brinson, who will be a redshirt freshman this year, is one of the fastest players on the Nebraska team, with a 4.12 in the 40. He also has a vertical jump of 38.5 inches and lifted 655 pounds.

As a senior for Valdosta, Brinson gained 954 yards rushing and had more than 500 yards receiving. In three years, he led the Wildcats to a 37-3 record, a state championship and three subregion crowns.

He is majoring in Business Administration.

'Cats Face Tough Test In Debut With Bulldogs

V. Times 8/29/85

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

One might think that the defending state AAAA champions might not be worried about playing a AAA team, but the Valdosta Wildcats are taking nothing for granted in their season opener against Thomasville.

The Bulldogs will be ready to go a couple of rounds against the Wildcat as the teams are scheduled to clash Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field.

A monument will be dedicated to former Coach Wright Bazemore at 7:15 by several of his former players for his dedicated service to the Wildcat football team.

The heart of the Thomasville team is an offense that has been able to work the wishbone to perfection, an offense that is as diverse as it is powerful.

"They don't just run a wishbone, they run a multiple wishbone," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder. "They don't set up and run the same plays at you over and over. They have a lot of speed and quickness. This game is by far the toughest opener we've ever had."

Hyder isn't building up a team that doesn't deserve praise. Thomasville is a bona fide contender, with some great talent.

But the 'Cats too are a talented bunch.

At the quarterback position for Valdosta, Charles Steward and Greg Talley will both see action. While one is quarterbacking, the other is likely to stay in at the split end position, where both can be dangerous.

Steward, a sophomore, weighs 190 pounds and his size makes him valuable at both spots, but Talley is no midget. Talley, a junior, weighs 170 pounds. Both are tall, which enables them to view the whole field without obstructions.

Hyder knows how important the quarterback is to the rest of the offense.

"The quarterback is your ignition system," Hyder said. "I don't know of any car, boat or plane that can run without ignition."

"A quarterback has to communicate to everybody else on the field what has to be done. He's the heart of the team."

Starting in the backfield for the Wildcats will be William Dixon and Tony Mangham. Thomasville will have to stop this pair of sneaky runners in order to shut down the Wildcat offense.

Dixon and Mangham won't overpower anybody, but they will find a hole and squeeze through it quicker than light.

Dixon is the "heavy" one, weighing in at 155, while Mangham holds his own at 139.

Starting at split end will be Randy Bell and Mack McGuyrt. This is another strong position for Valdosta, especially with Bell's speed.

Guy Belue and Lyn Johnson will alternate at flanker. Belue showed that he has good hands at camp, and Johnson was the recipient of two touchdown passes by Steward in the scrimmage held after the first week of practice.

The other tight end spot will have Russ Rudolph and Jeff Holmes alternating. The massive Marty Howell will start at right tackle, weighing 260 pounds.

Jeff Davis will open at right guard, and Matt Stanaland will start at center.

On the left side, Todd Hatcher will start at guard. Jodie Sprengle will alternate at left tackle along with Joey Tippit.

The 'Cat defense will be anchored by team captain, Dwayne Hart, and right safety Walt Gill.

Seabron Williams will start at defensive end, and Kelvin Miller will get the nod at tackle. Andy Griffin and Coronzoa Greene will alternate at nose guard.

Andy Anderson and Otis Conaway will play at right tackle and Conaway will also kick off.

The other end will be anchored by Joey Matchett and Willie Sauls. Troy Toth and Dale Kirby should both see action at left linebacker, while Tony Johnson will start at right linebacker.

The left cornerback slot will be filled by Reginald Dandy or Don Ryan, while Eric Shaw and Innis Davis will play at left safety. Jerome Callaway, a newcomer to the Valdosta squad should see some action at right safety along with Gill. Dan Tillman will kick the extra points and Steward will punt.

The 'Cat defense will have to be on its toes to stop a powerful Thomaville offense.

"First they attack with the dive man," Hyder said. "Then they'll go with the quarterback keep and the pitchout."

Hyder is keeping his eye on Thomasville's swift backs. Alvin Leeks and Alfonso Ellis will lead the Thomasville attack.

"These two are strong and big, and can run inside as well as outside," Hyders said.

The offensive line for Thomasville was not damaged too much by last year's graduation. Returning for the Bulldogs will be the center and two guards, positions that Hyder called "the heart of the line."

Les Fletcher will return at center as a three-year starter. The two returning guards are Travis Bentley and Clay Griffin.

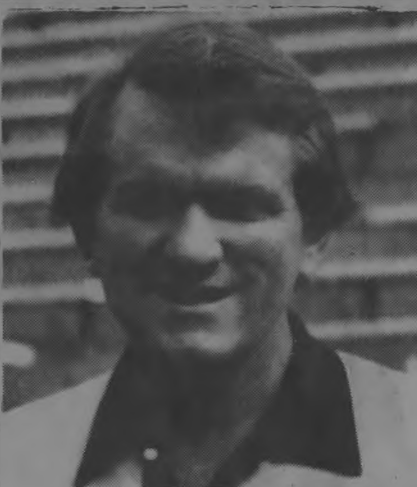
The Thomasville defense should not be overlooked either. Seven starters will be returning, anchored by Loyd Dickey at linebaker who was described as a good hard-nosed player by Hyder.

The secondary too is in good shape.

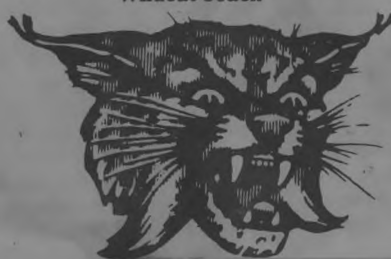
"They have a lot of experience there," Hyder said. "They've played a lot and they have good size."

"For us to win, it will take a coordinated effort by the coaches, the offensive line, the wide receivers, and the running backs," Hyder said.

A victory will not come easy for either side. Thomasville may be playing out of their classification, but they won't play without heart. The Wildcats open with a formidable foe, and last year's records and awards will be put to the test in the trenches of Cleveland Field.



Nick Hyder
Wildcat Coach



Valdosta coach Nick Hyder and the Wildcats will try to improve on their 9-3 record in 1985.

Wildcats Picked To Finish On Top Of Region 1-AAAA

V. Times 8/29/85

From Staff Reports

The sports writers who cover Region 1-AAAA are divided on who'll be the best football team in the region this fall, but they agree the champion will come from the city the calls itself Winnersville, U.S.A.

Writers were asked to rank the nine teams in the region in a pre-season poll, giving the No. 1 team nine points, the region runnerup eight and so on with the cellar-dweller earning one point.

Valdosta, which went undefeated in region play last year, was 10-0 in the regular season and finished 15-0 by whopping Clarke Central 21-14 in the Class AAAA state championship game, edged its cross-town rival Lowndes 49-48 in total points.

But the Vikings, 6-4 last year, garnered four first-place votes to the Wildcats' two.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, starting his 13th season with the Wildcats, sees an omen in the fact that it was five years ago (1980) that the Vikings beat the Wildcats 6-0 in the region championship game en route to the school's only state title.

"(Lowndes is) missing two significant people from last year — quarterback Randy Gay and defensive back Calvin Orr," Hyder said. "Nobody has better wide receivers than they do."

Hyder thinks if he had three players he had to drop from the squad for disciplinary reasons — running back Tony Anderson, wide receiver Hosea Heard, and guard-tackle Johnny Crook

— the Wildcats would not be "too far from last year."

"We have good kids, but the experience goes to Tift County's offensive line, to Lowndes overall," Hyder said. "Bainbridge will be improved and Coach (Jim) Hughes has Colquitt County's program well-intact. We are in good shape in the offensive line and defensive front, but we open with Thomasville and they beat Lowndes in the spring. That woke Lowndes up."

Valdosta earned its edge in the point total with three second places. Lowndes, although earning four first places, had no second-place votes and was voted as low as fifth by one writer.

"Pre-season polls are writers' and coaches' fantasies," Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson said. "We got beat in the spring, Tift and Colquitt are improved and I look for Bainbridge to be the darkhorse in the race."

Colquitt County, which in its second season under Hughes, finished 8-1-1 in the regular season before falling to Valdosta in the region title game, should battle Tift, 7-3 last year, again for the North crown.

Following are the results in a pre-season poll of the writers who cover Region 1-AAAA football. Teams were given nine points for a first-place vote, eight for second, etc. The first number in parenthesis represents the highest place vote the team received and the second number represents how many of those votes it received.

School	'84 Rec.	Pts
1. Valdosta.....	(1-2)	15-0-0 49
2. Lowndes.....	(1-4)	6-5-0 48
3. Tift Co.....	(2-2)	7-4-0 42
4. Colquitt Co.....	(2-1)	9-2-1 40
5. Central.....	(4-1)	6-4-0 26
Bainbridge.....	(5-2)	5-5-0 26
7. Westover.....	(6-2)	2-8-0 20
8. Monroe.....	(7-1)	3-7-0 12
9. Dougherty.....	(8-1)	1-9-0 7

High Tech Moves Into VHS, LHS Vocational Courses

By ERNIE ROGERS
Times Staff Writer

V. Times 8/30/85

High technology is moving into the vocational courses offered at Valdosta and Lowndes high schools.

Although Lowndes High has had an electro-mechanical program in place for 12 years, the emphasis within the program is changing. Instructors are being trained for increased students training in hydraulics, pneumatics and robotics.

"The programs in high schools are the beginning of the an effort to get more industries to take a look at Georgia," said Charles Woods, director of vocational education at Lowndes High. "The state is making the effort to capture high-tech industries."

While no equipment for the new areas of study is in place, Woods said the program is in the "planning and budget process" at Lowndes.

John Field, vocational supervisor at Valdosta High

School, says his program too is going through technological change.

"We started a computer assisted drafting program last year," Field said. "In industrial arts, the metals lab also uses a computer. We found students who were not doing well remembered more when they used the computer than when taught orally and by textbook."

Field said the implementation of high-tech methods "doesn't mean teachers don't teach." He related the new techniques in vocational training to progress in the health care.

"We have new medicines. But, that doesn't mean we don't need doctors," Field said. "We need industry for the people we are training. I know we don't want our good students to go to Atlanta or Miami."

Computer training at Lowndes High is also increasing. Woods said data processing classes are

experiencing an overload of students now. A statewide standard for teaching data processing skills will be established this October.

Writing and math skills are also to receive increased emphasis within the vocational courses. Technical writing will be practiced and math skills, appropriate to the type of training, will be stressed in the courses.

"What we do is allow the student to apply what they have learned in the math or language arts class to a practical problem," Woods said. "We expect the full program to be in effect by December."

The changes in the vocational programs come as a result of the implementation of the Quality Basic Education Act. Middle school vocational training is being looked at as a possibility.

"Students are seeing that technology is what's happening," Field said. "You don't necessarily need a college degree for success."

4

★ Coming Attractions ★

Rave Reviews Are Nothing New For These High School Athletes

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
V-Times 8/29/65

There's nothing like high school football. Week-in and week-out, schools clash for the pride of communities, bragging rights of a city, or a region championship.

Because of the number of athletes who annually compete for high school football teams, names start getting lost in the shuffle. After a few games, it's hard to remember which school has the punter who averaged 43 yards last week, which school has the linebacker who made 18 tackles, and which school has the running back who rushed for more than 250 yards and scored five touchdowns.

But among the mass confusion are several players who won't go unnoticed. They are the ones who have either already caught the attention of college scouts or will once the season gets started. In most cases, opponents and coaches already know.

There are many players in South Georgia and North Florida who will get most of the headlines. They are the coming attractions.

Some have already attained stardom on the high school level and have been tagged as the "can't miss" college prospect.

Opposing coaches know who these players are and spend an entire week getting his team ready to try and stop him. But as the coaches found out last year, that will be a very difficult task.

So sit back, relax, and preview this names that will be up in lights this year.

Eric Blades, wide receiver, Lowndes, 6-foot-1, 170 pounds — A first-team all-area selection last year ... runs a 4.6 in the 40 ... has great

hands, good moves, and blocks well downfield ... is joined at the wide out by another top receiver, Todd Williams ... caught 20 passes for 384 yards and four touchdowns as a junior ... may not be used quite as much this year in Lowndes' run-oriented attack, but will have to be closely guarded because of speed and ability.

James Carter, fullback-defensive tackle, Lowndes, 6-foot-2, 240 pounds — Excellent physical prospect ... played defensive tackle last year ... will see lots of action at fullback ... runs a 4.8 in the 40 ... good quickness for his size ... John Riggins type workhorse who will wear a defense down ... will also play defense where quickness makes him a dangerous pass rusher.

Maurey Copeland, tailback, Valwood, 5-foot-10, 180 pounds — Explosive runner ... gained 1,500 yards on 98 carries in 10 games last year ... scored 19 touchdowns ... won the national championship in the 200-meter dash at The Athletic Congress Junior Olympics ... squats 600 pounds ... runs a 9.8 100 ... good hands and great leaper.

Greg Gibson, tight end, Madison County, 6-foot-4, 205 pounds — Straight A student ... coach says he has a 'world of ability' ... great speed — runs a 4.7 in the 40 ... qualified for state track meet in high hurdles ... bench presses 330 pounds ... started at tackle last year ... good blocker ... good hands.

Marty Howell, offensive tackle, Valdosta, 6-foot-2, 275 pounds — Was one of the few players to start all 15 games for the Wildcats last year ... has a 3.0 grade point average in the classroom ... a first-team all-area selection last year ... named all-state ... named to the

Florida Times Union Super 11 team heading into 1985 ... runs a 5.2 in the 40 ... has great potential as a blocker, but needs some work on pass blocking ... has size and uses it well.

Greg Jefferson, tight end-defensive back, Hamilton County, 6-foot-2, 195 pounds — Best athlete in the school ... 45 pass receptions ranked ninth in the state in all classifications last year ... also had 10 pass interceptions ... named second team all-state as a utility player ... MVP on basketball team with over 20 points a game ... only a junior.

Bill Kirby, linebacker, Valdosta, 5-foot-11, 175 pounds — Quickness a major asset ... named all-state last year ... fierce tackler ... runs a 4.8 in the 40 ... only a junior.

Johnny Mapp, tailback, Berrien County, 6-foot, 175 pounds — Started seven games last year ... gained 700 yards ... runs a 4.6 in the 40 ... scored five touchdowns in last game of the season ... good receiver out of backfield ... best asset may be his blocking.

Mike Mathis, tackle, Berrien County, 6-foot-1, 215 pounds — Solid all-around football player ... excellent drive blocker ... three-year starter ... 3.8 GPA ... very intelligent on football field as well ... runs a 4.9 in the 40 ... consistent pass blocker.

Bill Miller, tackle, Lowndes, 6-foot-1, 230 pounds — Very quick off the ball ... good drive blocker ... only junior listed on The Florida Times-Union's Super 11 Team last year ... strength a major asset.

See Prospects, Page 24



Pictured above (left to right from top) are the stars to watch in area high school football this year: Eric Blades from Lowndes; James Carter from Lowndes; Maurey Copeland from Valwood; Greg Gibson from Madison County; Marty Howell from Valdosta; Greg Jefferson from Hamilton County; Bill Kirby from Valdosta; Mike Mathis from Berrien County; Bill Miller from Lowndes; Ken Morrison from Berrien County; Ernest Washington from Madison County; and Darrin Williams from Madison County.

Valdosta

Wildcats Face Another Year Of Having To Rebuild

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Prior to the 1983 football season, many Valdosta High fans felt the Wildcats would be in a rebuilding year. After winning the Class AAAA state title the year before and losing 26 seniors, including 15 starters, that would be an obvious deduction.

But the Wildcats went 10-0 that season before losing to Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA title game.

Now it's time to start "rebuilding" again. The Wildcats posted a 15-0 mark last season, won the Class AAAA state title, and were named national champions.

Gone is half the team from last year. Out of the 80 players listed on the roster from a year ago, only 22 offensive lettermen and 20 defensive lettermen return for the 1985 season.

Among those missing will be John Porter, an All-American linebacker who signed with Georgia Tech, Berke Holtzclaw and Willie Lewis (both gone to East Carolina), Derrick Folsom (Nebraska), James Wakefield (Southwest Louisiana), and Jon Reeves (Valdosta State).

In addition to losing players to graduation, the Wildcats have also lost several players for various reasons, including All-American running back Tony Anderson.

"We had 108 players in the spring and now have 83," Coach Nick Hyder said. "Ten of those are academic casualties, three are disciplinary casualties, two moved out of town, and the rest either decided to work or I'll take the blame because I didn't motivate them. A 16 or 17-year old is my responsibility."

"Tony Anderson, Hosea Heard, and Johnny Crook gave us three good years of football. They were tough players. I think they got caught up in the celebration of a lot of things that happened last year. It's possible some of the seniors did, as well. They got caught up, as may have happened with a lot of other people, not realizing they had another season to go. As a result, they had to be disciplined and that was it."

But don't get discouraged, Wildcat fans. Losing the quantity and quality of players that was experienced last year is nothing new to Valdosta football.

Hyder has a wealth of talent to choose from this year. Among the leading candidates are Marty Howell, an all-state selection last year at tackle, Matt Stanaland, an all-state center, Bill Kirby, an all-state linebacker, and Kelvin Miller, an all-state defensive tackle.

"Our coaching process, our scouting, our spring training, our off-season program, is a continual process," Hyder said. "This will be 12 seasons for



Nick Hyder

me, and the thing that stands in mind; this is the toughest opener in 12 seasons. We're playing Thomasville and they've already beaten Lowndes (in the spring game), and (Lowndes has) a fine team. Experience is a big factor. When a team like Thomasville jumps up and beats them in the spring game, they've got a tough football team.

"They've got about 12 starters coming back, but judging from the spring, it's our toughest opener."

Hyder is concerned about not only replacing some key personnel, but also about keeping the returning players from getting overconfident.

"Some of the big problems, when you get national honors, it's not the graduating people, but the attitude of the ones you have back," Hyder said. "How hungry are they? We've worked hard and morale has been good. We've had state championship teams before, and we've worked hard to maintain a competitive attitude, and all we ask is they do the best that is within their domain to do. How that stacks up with our opposition is the reason we play the games. It's hard to say. I don't have any way of predicting. We've got a lot of people who don't have the experience, but I think they are good football players. We'll have to wait and see how they'll react to game situations."



Charles Steward



Kelvin Miller

The Wildcats will have a duo of small, but fast, running backs leading the offense. Tailback Tony Mangrum and fullback William Dixon are both only 5-foot-6, but are very quick.

"They're like ponies, but we like them very much in the backfield," Hyder said.

Also in the backfield will be junior Antonio Henderson, sophomores Bernard Hitson and Anthony Johnson, junior Eric Prime, and freshmen Lawrence Sharpe and James Roberts.

"Both of the freshmen have great potential," Hyder said.

At quarterback, the battle is raging between junior Greg Talley, sophomore Charles Steward, and sophomore B.J. Mason.

"We're working with three young men we're very high on," Hyder said. "Talley was our backup to Berke Holtzclaw last year. He reminds me a lot of John Lastinger: good passer, good runner, very tough. He won't punish you, but very few quarterbacks will punish you. He's a fine threat. Steward is right with him. Charles was a starting flanker last year. He's 6-2, 205, probably as fine an athlete as we have. He can play flanker or split end, punt, kickoff, and could be a tight end or running back. He's a very good football player. He could play defense and is only a sophomore. We like that



Matt Stanaland



Tony Johnson

situation. The one that's not in at quarterback, can be at the other position. We have a sophomore, B.J. Mason, who has quick feet, a great competitor and fine athlete."

Leading the receivers will be Steward, Talley and Randy Bell.

"Also, Guy Belue came up in the spring and has looked very good," Hyder said. "He's got good hands and is a good athlete. I think baseball gave him a lot of confidence. He wound up as the starter in the spring. Mack McGuyrt, who played some last year, is a good athlete and has good hands."

We've been impressed with a young man named Jim Motes. He'll be a sophomore and has very raw, natural talent to catch the ball. Lyn Johnson, who played a lot last year, is a very hard worker, very smooth operator. William Jones, probably the fastest of the group, should play a lot of football at split end. He has great range, good hands, a tough youngster."

The quarterbacks will also have two good tight ends to work with — Russ Rudolph and Jeffery Holmes.

"Jeffery has the size (6-1, 215) and Russ is an extremely hard worker," Hyder said. "He makes no mental mistakes and does an extremely good job blocking. Jeffery gives us a little more bulk. We feel both of those can give us help."



Marty Howell

"At tackles, Marty Howell returns and may be the one bona-fide starter we have back from last year. Jody Sprengle is at the other tackle. Joey Tippett has been on the team for three years and he'll play a lot. Todd Hatcher plays quite a bit at guard or tackle. He's a very experienced lineman. At guard, we have Jeff Davis, who also snapped last year, and Matt Stanaland, who started several games last year at center, and Doc McBride, a good guard. These are youngsters that were part of the team last year."

Moving up to the varsity will be Jack Morgan, Troy Wells, Ben Lane, Todd Pitchford, and Jeff Hasty.

"Morgan and Wells will help some," Hyder said. "Wells has had a great camp and might start at tackle or guard."

One big question about the defense might have been at linebacker where Porter played. But playing opposite of Porter last year were Bill Kirby and Tony Johnson.

"They were both starters at the same position," Hyder said. "These youngsters are outstanding linebackers and have done a great job for us. A youngster who came on in the spring and has had a great camp is Troy Toth, and he's ready to start. We think we've got good competition there with those

three young men. Troy doesn't make mental mistakes."

New to the team this year will be Eric Larry, Bobby Brooks, Beau Laskey, and Chris Marable.

"At defensive end, Seabron Williams is back, as is Michael Tolbert, who played a great deal last year, and Joey Matchett, who played at linebacker and end last year," Hyder said. "A newcomer is Willie Sauls, probably the strongest youngster we have. That doesn't mean he's a good football player, but he is hard to block and he could develop into a good player. Darriet Perry and Bruce Thomas stand to play some football, as does Wade Lindsey."

Anchoring the defense will be Kelvin Miller, an all-state selection last year.

"He's very strong, quick, and tough," Hyder said. "We can't block him. Coronzo Greene has been bruised up, but we were impressed with him in the spring. Andy Anderson moved into a starting position in the spring, and Otis Conaway, is a good, tough, street-fighter type youngster. We think he's ready to help us quite a bit."

Also expected to see time will be Joe Ethier, Andy Griffin, and Mike Barton. Dwayne Hart returns from last year to his corner back position.

"He is as good a cornerback as we've had," Hyder said. "He's in the same mold as Chris Major, who will start for South Carolina this year."

Also at corner will be Keith Henry, Reginald Dandy, Steve French, and Don Ryan. At safety, Walt Gill, Derek Shaw, and Innis Davis will share time. Also battling for a safety position will be Earl Carter, Eric Toth, Herriman Smith, Brian Mueller, and Derrick James.

Handling the punting duties will be Steward, while Conaway will do the kickoffs and Dan Tillman, a soccer-style kicker, will kick field goals and extra points.

Valdosta

Subregion: 1-AAAA South
1984 Record: 15-0-0
Players To Watch:
Marty Howell
Matt Stanaland
Bill Kirby
Kelvin Miller

1985 Schedule

A30	Thomasville
S 6	Waycross
S13	Monroe
S21	at Westover
S27	Bainbridge
O 4	Tift County
O11	at Central Thomasville
O18	Colquitt County
O25	at Dougherty
N 8	Lowndes

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

V Times 8/29/85



VALDOSTA HIGH

Aug. 30	Thomasville
Sept. 6	Waycross
Sept. 13	Monroe
Sept. 21	at Westover
Sept. 27	Bainbridge
Oct. 4	Tift
Oct. 11	at Central of T'ville
Oct. 18	Colquitt
Oct. 25	at Dougherty
Nov. 1	OPEN
Nov. 8	at Lowndes



Robert Bradley
Times Sports Editor

High School Picks

V Times 8/30/85
Picking high school football games can be a dangerous profession. And being still fairly new to this section of the state, I still haven't learned who the best and worse teams are.

Oh sure, I know Valdosta and Lowndes always have good football teams and I covered Clinch County last year while working for another newspaper when the Panthers lost to Lincoln County in the state playoffs, but what about the other teams in the area?

After doing a lot of homework over the summer months and listening to other people who are familiar with the area, I think I have a good idea of what to expect going into the 1985 season.

One advantage I have over the fans is I know what teams are expected to do and what fans are hoping they'll do. Sometimes, that's two totally different things.

With all hopes in place and the games ready to be played, provided Hurricane Elena doesn't hit today, it's time to get down to business.

But don't fret too much about the weather, most coaches are expected some kind of storm to hit tonight anyway.

In some places it may be Elena. In others, it's going to be high school football. The pre-season is over and the talking is done.

Here goes for Week No. 1.

Thomasville at Valdosta

Is is probably going to be the best opener in the state. Valdosta is ranked No. 1 in AP's pre-season poll in Class AAAA. The Wildcats are the defending state champions after a 15-0 record last year. Thomasville is ranked No. 4 in the state in Class AAA.

There are two things that make picking this game a little easy — the game is being played at Cleveland Field and Thomasville has lost its starting quarterback to an injury.

If the game was being played in Thomasville and if Michael Clark had not gone down to an injury, this would be a tough one to pick. But Valdosta, based on its past performances, has got to have a big advantage on the Bulldogs.

Daily Times pick: Valdosta, 24-21.

Lowndes, Valdosta Hold Spots In AP Poll

V Times VHS 9-4-85
ATLANTA (AP) — It didn't count in the region standings, but Northside-Warner Robins' victory over Tift County lifted the Eagles' standing in the Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams.

Northside withstood a fourth quarter surge, with the aid of a missed Tift County field goal in the final minute, to win the season-opener 16-14. Now, the Eagles, previously ranked 10th, have replaced Tift at No. 6 in the Class AAAA rankings.

The AP's panel of sportswriters and sportscasters unanimously kept Valdosta atop the Class AAAA field. Class AAA Thomson and Class AA West Rome held their No. 1 spots, while Lincoln Co. toppled Greenville in Class A.

In Class AAAA, the top five teams

held their ground with opening victories. Valdosta beat Thomasville 10-6, No. 2 Clarke Central topped Fulton 28-0, No. 3 Griffin thrashed Carver-Columbus 34-6, No. 4 Warner Robins beat Newnan 14-0 and No. 5 Southwest DeKalb dispatched Shamrock 37-13.

Colquitt County, previously tied with Tift County for the No. 6 slot, was idle and fell to No. 7. Lowndes, a 13-12 winner over Coffee, stayed at No. 8.

No. 9 Dunwoody and Sprayberry, tied for 10th with Tift County, are newcomers to this year's rankings. Dunwoody beat Chamblee 17-6 and Sprayberry defeated Lassiter 35-18.

Statesboro, No. 9 last week, fell out of the rankings after a 6-0 loss to unranked Benedictine.

In Class AAA, the voters did not penalize Thomasville for the loss to

Valdosta. The Bulldogs remained at No. 4.

The only change in Class AAA was a swap of the ninth and 10th spots, where Cedartown passed Dalton. Cedartown beat Ringgold 41-6 and Dalton handled Cass 20-7.

Thomson remained No. 1 after a 41-7 trouncing of Warren County. No. 2 Gainesville beat Milton 12-0 and No. 8 Dublin beat Washington County 18-14.

No. 3 Marist, No. 5 Woodward Academy, No. 6 Habersham Central and No. 7 Murray County did not play.

West Rome, Dooly County and Waycross remained atop the Class AA rankings, although Central-Carrollton, tied for fourth last week, moved into a tie with Waycross at No. 3. All four teams were idle.

Lamar County, which shared the

fourth spot last week, dropped out of the rankings after a 17-14 loss to Peach County.

Manchester beat Central-Talbotton 53-0 to move from a tie for eighth to No. 5.

Mitchell Baker, tied for 10th last week, moved to No. 6 after beating Cairo 14-6. Mary Persons, which did not play, moved up a slot to No. 7. Duluth, also idle, moved from 10th to No. 8.

Lakeshore and Washington-Wilkes, tied for sixth last week, fell to ninth and 10th, respectively. Lakeshore lost to Campbell-Fairburn 7-6 and Washington-Wilkes lost to Lincoln County 14-13.

Lincoln County's narrow victory was good enough to move the Red Devils from No. 2 to No. 1 in Class A when

Greenville fell to Perry, an unranked Class AAA team.

Greenville, the undefeated state champions last year, dropped to fifth in the Class A rankings.

Wilcox County, on the strength of a 20-6 victory over Montgomery County, jumped from fifth to second. Louisville moved from sixth to third after beating Jenkins County 24-0.

Miller County, which did not play, kept the fourth spot. Commerce, also idle, moved from No. 7 to No. 6.

Palmetto, previously No. 3, fell to No. 7 after a 12-12 tie with Russell. Reidsville remained at No. 8 after beating Treutlen 20-13. Clinch County, which had shared the eighth ranking, beat Pierce County 3-0, but fell into a tie for the ninth spot with Wrens, No. 10 last week.

Defense Controls Flow Of Area Football Games

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Defense was once again the name of the game this past weekend in area high school football games. Scores were predominantly low as early season offenses have been slow in getting cranked up.

The Valdosta Wildcats, top-ranked among state Class AAAA schools, utilized a punt return for a touchdown and a field goal following a fumble recovery to score a 10-0 victory over traditional rival Waycross.

However, the key to the win was the play of a tenacious defense led by end Willie Sauls and linebacker Bill Kirby that prevented the Bulldogs from penetrating the Wildcat 40-yard line but once all night until the final 20 seconds of play.

Sauls, playing like a man possessed, was in the Waycross backfield all night long, dropping Bulldog ballcarriers for sizable losses and combining with the opposite defensive end, Seabron Williams, to prevent them from ever running wide with any success. And their attempts to run up the

middle were stifled by Kirby and fellow linebacker Tony Johnson, the Wildcat defensive captain.

"Kirby played an excellent football game," Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder said. "He had eight first hits and assisted in at least eight other tackles. He plugs in middle of our defensive line very well."

On offense the Wildcats never quite got untracked.

"They sent their linebackers and defensive ends into the line of scrimmage almost every play. That cut off our running game, and when we tried to pass, they pressured us real well and gave us no time to throw the ball. For a while there in the second half, Charles Steward was back there running for his life." Indeed one quarterback sack lost 23 yards.

But William Dixon's running and Steward's punting were enough to keep Waycross backed up deep in their own territory most of the night.

The Lowndes High Vikings were ranked eighth in the state among Class AAAA teams last week but faced a stern test when they travelled to

Moultrie to play the fifth-ranked Colquitt County High Packers.

But had it not been for a couple of breaks that went the Packers' way, the Vikings may have breezed to an easy win. They were driving at the Colquitt 30-yard line midway through the second quarter when a tipped pass was intercepted by the Packers' Ashley Jackson and returned 76 yards for a touchdown.

Then at the end of the half, Lowndes had a 14-7 lead and was driving for another score when they ran out of time with the ball at the 2-yard line.

It was still a 14-7 ballgame midway through the fourth quarter when the Vikings drove down to the Colquitt 9-yard line. Facing a fourth and four situation, Coach Joe Wilson elected to go with a 26-yard field goal attempt which would put the game out of reach. But the snap was low, and Joey Parker's kick sailed wide left.

"We had several situations where we could have put the ball in the end zone but didn't," Wilson said. "Then they came back and almost tied it up. Colquitt's got a good football team, but

our boys played a great game."

Lowndes has a great deal of offensive potential. Quarterback Bobby Eason got the passing game untracked early and gave several glimpses of what opponents may expect this season from the Viking offense.

Todd Williams and Eric Blades showed that they are indeed an excellent pair of wide receivers, catching nine passes between them for 95 yards. But Jimmy Rodgers is becoming a solid receiver at tight end, and Mark Jones must always be considered a threat with his speed coming out of the backfield.

Add to this an inside running attack featuring James Carter, a 240-pound raging bull in shoulder pads, and you've got a well-rounded offense that doesn't allow the opposition to concentrate on any one phase of their attack.

But perhaps the biggest key to Friday night's game was the stalwart play of the defense against Moultrie star tailback T.J. Edwards.

"That Edwards is a real game-breaker, but we stayed after him. Brad

Almon and Dale Baker both saved touchdowns in the defensive backfield, and Jeff Culpepper at linebacker and Bobby Wiseman at defensive end played great up on the line and helped wear him down."

Perseverance also aided the Cook County Hornets in their comeback against Berrien County Friday night. Head Coach Frankie Cowan was forced to deal with a great emotional drain among his troops early in the game.

"On our first drive, we were going pretty good until a pass went right through our receiver's hands and into the defender's for an interception. Then the next time we had the ball, the same thing happened and they grabbed it for another interception. That was a little tough to take."

"But then we got the ball back and Tarrell Reed broke an 85-yard run for a touchdown. One of our guys made a block on the play. The initial contact was clean. That was clear in the films. But the defensive man turned his back

into the block just as the referee spotted him, and we got hit with the clipping penalty. Those two players weren't even directly involved in the play."

"That took the starch right out of our attack. Then Berrien got tough and we lost our intensity."

Berrien came back immediately thereafter as Jerry Simmons nailed a couple of field goals. The teams then pretty much just traded possessions until late in the game when quarterback Glen Simmons marched the Hornets down the field throwing to Kevin Bennett. Yardley Payne dove over from the one for the score.

"One of their players was hurt on the touchdown play. Our kicker ran out onto the field and then had to stand around and wait as they helped the injured player off the field. The rhythm of the game kind of got broken up. The extra point kick was just barely wide right."

Who says "what comes around goes around" always holds true?

14 The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Sept. 10, 1985

High School Counselors Here Confirm Perceptions Of Student Conservatism

By ERNIE ROGERS
Times Staff Writer

The attitudes and values of the top high school students in the United States have become more conservative over the past ten years, according to a survey done by Who's Who Among American High School Students.

The directors of guidance at Lowndes High School and Valdosta High School, B. C. Williams and Virginia Wisenbaker respectively, said they agree with the survey's conclusions and see some of the same attitude and opinion changes taking place among local students.

The most dramatic changes in teenage values reflected in the results of the survey show that 10 years ago, 41 percent of female teens approved of abortion in cases of unwanted pregnancies. In 1985 only nine percent approved.

Male teens' attitudes on abortion saw a similar change from a 40 percent approval rate to only ten percent in 1985.

"We have to go back to our society to account for the changes," said B.C. Williams, director of guidance at Lowndes High. "In the past if a black girl got pregnant, the family would support her having the baby. Abortion would not be considered. If a white girl got pregnant, her family would take her to Atlanta for an abortion."

"The attitudes have changed now. I saw more white girls pregnant in this school last year than ever before. They're not having the abortions as often as they used to."

The political leanings of teenagers also saw a dramatic move to the right. In 1975, only 24 percent associated their political views with the Republican Party. In 1985, fully 50 percent feel the Republicans most clearly reflect their views.

Williams said he felt this only indicates the students' tendencies to support whoever is president during their high school years. He said this attitude is nothing new and has always been a tendency of that age group.

The survey stresses that the opinions gathered "are not those of the average high school student." All participants were juniors or seniors, most 16 or 17 years old and all had an "A" or "B" grade point average.

The survey showed that 28 percent of that group has considered suicide.

"It is a concern," Mrs. Wisenbaker said. "It's so heartbreaking when it happens. 'A' and 'B' students are under a lot of pressure to perform, to make the best grades, from parents, teachers and friends."

Mrs. Wisenbaker said that she deals with top students who are suffering from depression, fears and

concerns because of the pressure. But she says few are at the point of considering suicide.

Some of the key issues addressed in the survey are sexual issues, drugs and alcohol, teenage suicide, politics and activism.

The group believed overwhelmingly (82 percent) that sex is not an expected part of a steady, romantic relationship and 76 percent said they had never had sexual intercourse. Of those who said they had had sex, 22 percent wished they had not.

Williams said the sexual attitudes among the top students at Lowndes High has always been conservative. He added that the threat of sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and herpes has served to increase that conservatism.

Opinions on drugs and alcohol show that 80 percent of the students have never tried marijuana, while 67 percent said they had tried alcoholic beverages.

"I have seen a change in attitudes about drugs," Mrs. Wisenbaker said. "There used to be a lot more involvement in drugs for this group."

Williams agreed that drug use among teens has dropped. But he added, "There is still widespread use of alcohol, especially among juniors and seniors. But it is not a major problem at school."

Regarding drug offenses on high school campuses, the students favored parents of offenders being required to meet with school officials, mandatory rehabilitation classes and suspension from school for the offender.

"The students at Lowndes High have found out that the administration will not tolerate drug possession or use at high school," Williams said. "We used to handle it within the school — take the drugs away and slap it over to the authorities."

The figures showing the students' attitudes on activism further reflect the turn toward conservatism. While half said they would demonstrate in protest of unfair school policies and 37 percent would demonstrate against cruelty to animals, only nine percent would demonstrate in protest of United States foreign policy.

"The students now are not anti-establishment," Mrs. Wisenbaker said. "They are more interested in their future."

The top three domestic issues in the coming years are seen to be the deficit, education system and unemployment. The foreign issues important to the teens are an arms agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, aid to Third World countries and Middle East peace.

Three Valdosta Students Compete As Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

By ERNIE ROGERS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School has three semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Charles Adams, 17, Joseph D. Gombas, 17, and Louis G. Gonis, 16, are among some 15,000 high school seniors who will compete for the finalists positions.

They will be competing through Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, academic performance, school and community activities, personal interests and goals. They must also be recommended by their principal. Approximately 5,800 Merit Scholarships, worth almost \$21 million are available.

Adams is concentrating his efforts toward a career in computer maintenance.

"I have been working with computers about 3½ years," Adams said. "I write programs and use the computer for entertainment."

He said he uses his computers an average of about three hours a day. Adams taught himself the intricacies of computers and considers himself "fairly well advanced" in their use. He uses a phone hook-up (modem) to communicate with other computer users in Valdosta through "bulletin boards" (information and messages from users).

"There are three bulletin boards

here, used by about 60 or 70 people." Adams said he is not surprised that he is a semifinalist in the competition.

"I kind of expected it. I've always done well on those kinds of tests," Adams said. "I read constantly and absorb a lot of knowledge."

He is the son of Ronnie and Maerita Adams of Valdosta and plans to attend either Georgia Tech or Florida Tech after graduation.

Gombas is studying toward a career in aerospace engineering in the U.S. Air Force.

"I decided on my career plans in the last year when I started thinking about college. I am in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp at school and that takes up a lot of time. I also work

with computers."

Gombas, the son of Joseph and Evelyn Gombas of Valdosta, says he hopes to attend one of four schools. MIT, Georgia Tech, the Air Force Academy and the Naval Academy are his top four choices.

He said he wasn't surprised that he did well, but at how well he did.

"My teachers have taught me all I needed for the test," Gombas said.

Gonis, the son of George and Mary

Ann Gonis of Valdosta, is interested in a career in chemical engineering.

"I have been geared toward math and science for a long time," Gonis said. Engineering seems to be the best combination of the two."

Gonis is an Eagle Scout and a four-year varsity wrestler at Valdosta High. He also works with computers and was in the Governors Honors Program at Valdosta State College this summer. He says he would like to

attend Georgia Tech, Princeton or Duke University.

"The scholarship competition is all based on the test scores — after I got my score, I figured I had a good chance."

All three students are in the college preparatory program at VHS.

Over 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to become finalists with 40 percent of those expected to be awarded scholarships.

V Times 9/11/85

Monroe Will Use Young Team

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Monroe Tornadoes don't face an easy task Friday night.

Monroe, 0-1-1 overall, will travel to Cleveland Field to take on Valdosta. And though the Wildcats' offense has struggled in their first two games, playing against Monroe should help them get on track.

It's not that the Tornadoes are a pushover, it's just they are going through some changes.

After last year's disappointing 3-7 season, Jim Flounroy stepped in as the head coach after a long stint as an assistant in Florida. Also new to the program are players. The Tornadoes lost 37 players from last year and Flounroy is having to rebuild from the ground up.

Monroe has just seven returning starters from a 3-7 team that was the winningest among Dougherty County's three 1-AAAA public high schools. All the Tornadoes' victories came against their city rivalries.

Flounroy does have a solid nucleus of defensive players to work with. Leading the defensive surge is all-region linebacker Steve Zellner. Also back are safeties Darrell Shealy and Michael Fergusons, defensive ends Rod Coleman and Daryl Cheeks, fullback Michael Sessions and guard Rod Whitaker.

"We lost 37 players from last year, so we're young and inexperienced," Flounroy said before the season. "I'm hoping we can overcome the loss of all that

talent and become overachievers, and the players, will accept the changes that are made.

"Our philosophy is that you win football games with well-disciplined, well-organized people. We want our program seen as a caring program, a no-nonsense program."

One of his biggest challenges early in the season is having to get the players prepared, both mentally and physically, to play the defending state and national champions on their home field.

"I've heard a lot of stories about teams going into Death Valley and coming away counting their wounds," Flounroy said Tuesday. "I've heard so many stories, they've left me numb. I heard one about the 1934 Albany team that was supposed to be pretty good going over there and just getting riddled with injuries."

Don't get the idea Flounroy is saying Valdosta is known for taking cheap shots or playing overaggressive. To the contrary.

"Coach (Nick) Hyder and his team are very sportsmanlike. They play hard. We're going to play hard and hope everything goes okay."

"Valdosta has a tremendous tradition of winning," Flounroy said. "It goes way back. We're not focussing on that. It just goes without saying they have a fantastic program. The kids know that and we're trying to build for the future."

Flounroy said the key for Monroe to leave Cleveland Field with a victory will be playing solid

defense and the getting the offense to move the ball.

"We've got to play well on defense to have a chance of competing with them," Flounroy said. "The key will be playing very good defense and get the offense to produce."

Defensively, Flounroy feels the Tornadoes have a chance against Valdosta's offense. But he doesn't feel the Wildcats are struggling on the offensive side.

"I don't think they're sputtering, they're just having a slow start. Our defense is playing well and they have a super challenge ahead of them to play against the defending national champions. We're just hoping our kids will meet the challenge."

It's because of Valdosta's defense, which had yielded only six points in two games, Flounroy feels his defense has to keep the Tornadoes in the game.

"We just don't stack up against their defense," he said. "That's the thing that is so consistent about Valdosta football — they have fantastic defenses."

"In the first two games, it was three downs and punt for us. I don't know what we're going to do. Here it is Tuesday and we haven't come up with an offensive plan yet."

And though some coaches dread playing at Cleveland Field, Flounroy said he hasn't starting worrying yet.

"We're not having nightmares," he said. "They have a fine program. We're trying to rebuild and look at the game realistically."

Former Valdosta prep star fined, placed on probation

By Terri Langford
Staff writer
9/14/85

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Tony Anderson, a former prep football all-American at Valdosta High School who was involved in an April hit-and-run accident, was put on 30 months probation yesterday, fined \$750 and ordered to pay \$2,477 in medical expenses for the man he injured.

Anderson, 19, of Valdosta pleaded guilty earlier this year to charges of leaving the scene of an accident, reckless driving and driving without a license.

According to court records, Anderson struck a bicyclist with his car April 17 and then left the scene.

Police said Anderson had been arguing with the victim, Phillip Goodwin, 21, of Valdosta, prior to the incident.

In addition to the probation and court fines, Anderson must pay Goodwin's medical expenses which total \$2,477.69.

Before Lowndes County Superior Court Judge Arthur McLane passed sentence, Anderson addressed the courtroom in a strong, clear voice.

"I'm sorry. My intentions were never to hurt anyone," Anderson said. He assured the judge that he would "straighten out."

During sentencing McLane described Anderson as "another young man with the potential that thousands of people would like to have."

Anderson said he was pleased with the sentencing, and hopes to play college football.

Although the probation requirements restrict Anderson from traveling outside the state, he said he would apply for a transfer so he can attend an out-of-state college.

"I want to go to school and play where I want to play," Anderson said. "In a situation like that I think I can get a transfer to the state of Florida."

Anderson's troubles began shortly before the April collision. After three years on the VHS football team, Anderson, a tailback, was dropped from the team in March because of an attitude problem, his coach said.

VHS football coach Nick Hyder said that the decision to drop Anderson was not popular among city residents, but one that had to be made.

Anderson, who was selected last year as a Parade Magazine all-American and an all-USA player by USA Today, still may have a chance at a promising career.

"He's one of the most talented athletes I've ever seen," Hyder said.

Hyder says that if Anderson meets his probation requirements, he will have a chance at college football.

"I haven't thrown him away. I want him to get a hold of himself and put the pieces together of a life that he could have," Hyder said.

Dixon Prevails For Wildcats

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The statement was made that last week's player of the week was not much bigger than some of the cheerleaders. Well, folks, they are not getting much larger in size, but the impact is just as great.

This *Daily Times* week's player of the week is the Valdosta High Wildcats' offensive co-captain and workhorse running back William Dixon, all 5-foot-8 and 160 pounds of him.

Dixon was the central figure in the Wildcats' new ball control offense which they used to humble the Monroe Golden Tornadoes 28-0 Friday night. He ran the ball 20 times for a total of 99 yards behind a much improved offensive line.

"Our offense is just starting to come together," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said after the game. "Our line did a good job blocking tonight. They gained a lot of confidence and opened a lot of holes for our running backs. And William Dixon played a heck of a ballgame."

Dixon scored the first touchdown of the game. Midway through the first quarter he took a pitchout from quarterback Greg Talley at the 5-yard line, started left, cut back in behind the tackle, and plunged over the goal line.

The play capped a 10-play 47-yard scoring march during which Dixon carried the ball six times for 30 yards.

Then midway through the third quarter, the Wildcats took possession at the Monroe 44-yard line. They once again marched to a touchdown in 10



plays. This time, Dixon carried for gains of 10, five, seven, and two yards before quarterback Greg Talley scored on a sneak.

It is this kind of offensive consistency for which the Wildcats have been searching, and William Dixon played a large part in providing it.

Honor Roll

Maurey Copeland, Valwood, gained 272 yards on nine carries and scored on runs of 25, 82, 69, 31, and 52 yards in a 56-0 victory over David Emanuel.

Brett Martin, Clinch County, made 12 individual tackles at linebacker on defense and scored the Panthers lone touchdown on a 17-yard run from scrimmage in a 15-6 loss to Miller County.

Greg Talley, Valdosta, carried seven times for 29 yards and one touchdown and completed seven of 16 passes for 93 yards and one touchdown in 28-0 victory over Monroe. Jeffrey Holmes gained 51 yards on six carries and scored one touchdown in his first game as a running back.

Greg Jefferson, Hamilton County, scored all of his team's points in 32-14 loss to Suwannee. Jefferson ran for a 34-yard touchdown off a fake punt. He also caught seven passes as a tight end for 98 yards and one touchdown and a two-point conversion.

Richie Carpenter, Lowndes Christian, made eight individual tackles as a 93-pound ninth-grade cornerback and played the entire game on offense at left guard across from a 190-pound defensive tackle in 34-6 loss at Hawthorne Academy in Atlanta.

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Monroe High Tornadoes had a 3-7 record last year which included a 47-6 defeat at the hands of the Wildcats.

But Wildcat coach Nick Hyder refuses to take the Monroe team too lightly when they clash tomorrow night at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats are coming off a 10-0 shutout of Waycross and will face a team of unknown potential in Monroe.

"They've got a brand new coach over there who has come up from Florida and really worked hard to install a good discipline program. And he has also taken steps to start laying the groundwork for a good grassroots

system over there. He has put together a junior varsity team and a 9th grade team in order to really build the program from the ground up."

"Initially he has taken many of his older, more experienced athletes and put them on defense, though he does have a lot of them going both ways. Michael Sessions is a rare combination fullback-noseguard and is a good tough youngster. And Roderick Whitaker is a linebacker-running back who has averaged ten yards a carry so far this season."

"But Flournoy is a defensive-minded coach, and it shows. Monroe tied Albany 0-0 and lost to Dougherty 13-0, so they have stayed in both of their

games with that defense."

But moving the football has been a problem for the Tornadoes. They have averaged less than a hundred yards in total offense in their first two games. It is quite safe to say that Monroe may have a long night trying to gain any consistency on offense against Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's troops.

"Our scouting reports show them as having a 6-foot-3 freshman quarterback and three sophomores in the line. So we really don't know what to expect from them on offense, but they do have eight players on defense who played extensively against us last year."

Indeed, one of their linebackers, Steve Zellner, made all-region last year. And both safeties return as do both defensive ends.

"One thing you can say about Monroe's offense is that they don't turn the ball over very much," Hyder said. "So to beat them you've got to grind it out and develop some consistency."

The Wildcats have had a few problems moving the ball as they scored ten points in each of their two victories so far. And Hyder has been working extra hard in order to remedy the situation.

"What we're trying to do is develop consistency as well as a balanced offensive attack," Hyder said. "We're

trying to build confidence among players in the blocking, their running the football, and in their ball-handling.

"Our offensive system is very complex, and developing it requires game experience. Our coaches have been working overtime and our kids have worked extra hard this week on it. I can't complain at all about the output of our youngsters."

"One thing our offense has done is to minimize turnovers so that we can keep the pressure on the other team with our kicking game. I don't know how good we'll match up with the rest of our schedule, but so far we have played against a couple of good defensive teams."

Another offensive weapon used last week against Waycross was tight end Jeffrey Holmes who has good speed for a 215-pounder. Holmes twice ran the end around play last week and gained 13 and 14 yards in his two efforts.

Perhaps Valdosta use this big play potential to their advantage.



Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet
Jeffery Holmes May Have Found New Position In Backfield

Despite 1984, Hyder Won't Take Monroe Lightly

Last week the Wildcats used the big play to jump out front of an opponent when Reginald Dandy returned a punt for a touchdown. And they could always do it again with William Dixon and Tony Mangham in the backfield. All that is needed is a crack in the defensive wall and either of them could be gone for the end zone.

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Lowndes-Clarke Central Highlights Weekend Schedule

By DAVID SIMPSON
Associated Press Writer

North Georgia's top Class AAAA opponent from the southern part of the state, Lowndes, but most other ranked teams' biggest problem may be overconfidence in this weekend's high school football games.

Clarke Central, ranked second in the state behind Valdosta, entertains No. 4 Lowndes in Athens Saturday night. But the weekend schedule provides no other meetings of teams ranked in the same classification.

Perry, Class AAA's No. 7 team, will

travel to Mary Persons, seventh in Class AA.

Lowndes handed Clarke Central its only regular-season defeat last year. The Gladiators' only other loss came to Lowndes' neighbor, Valdosta, in the state championship game.

"I know they're upset because we beat them 21-6 last year," said Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson.

Clarke Central Coach Billy Henderson said his team doesn't want revenge, but does want to prove itself against a tough opponent.

"It's a very key game," Henderson said. "It's non-region, but it's impor-

tant just the same."

LaGrange Coach Gary Guthrie's situation is more typical this week. His Grangers jumped from No. 9 to No. 6 in Class AAAA by upsetting Griffin 14-6 last Friday. This week, LaGrange visits winless Fayette County.

"We really have to guard against the letdown," Guthrie said. "We had a poor practice Monday. Emotionally, it's much more difficult to get ready to play an 0-2 Fayette County than it was to play a 1-0 Griffin."

"I think there is a limit to the number of times a team can be sky-high emotionally during the

season. It's just very hard to play with great intensity week after week."

The No. 1 teams are all in action this weekend. Valdosta visits Westover Saturday night. On Friday night, Class AAA Thomson goes to Newton County, Class AA West Rome entertains Newton County and Class A Lincoln County hosts Harlem.

The Class AAAA schedule includes Northeast Macon at No. 3 Warner Robins, No. 5 Northside-Warner Robins at Baldwin, Stone Mountain at No. 7 Dunwoody, Riverdale at No. 8 Griffin and Thomasville at No. 9 Colquitt

Duluth at Brookwood, Feldwood at No. 8 Lamar County, Bieckley County at No. 9 Irwin County and No. 10 East Rome at Cartersville.

In Class A, Wheeler County is at No. 2 Wilcox County, Jefferson at No. 3 Commerce, East Coweta at No. 4 Greenville, Waynesboro at No. 5 Louisville, Lee County at No. 6 Miller County, Woodland at No. 7 Palmetto and Riverside at No. 8 Wrens. The teams tied for the 10th spot have home games with Emanuel County Institute entertaining Metter and Montgomery County welcoming East Laurens. No. 9 Union County is idle.

Valdosta Hopes To Keep Momentum On Offense

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High saw its offensive doldrums end Friday night when the Wildcats beat Monroe 28-0 at Cleveland Field. Valdosta's Nick Hyder is hoping that the offensive improvement will continue, especially when the 'Cats travel to Albany to face Westover Saturday.

The 'Cats, 3-0 overall and ranked No. 1 in the state, are looking better and better as the season goes along.

Although Hyder isn't necessarily content with the blocking job his front line has done, he is happy with the fact that his team seems to be turning into a cohesive unit.

"I'm happy with the progress we have been making on the line," Hyder said. "I thought we looked real good the other night. We got good pass blocking. As a whole, the front line consisting off Marty Howell, Joey Tippit, Jeff Davis, Troy Williams, Todd Hatcher and Jodie Sprengle has done a good job."

Hyder has been especially pleased with the improving play of Howell.

"Marty's really coming together," Hyder said. "I think part of the problem is that he's not a hot-weather player." Just how well did the line block? The stats tell most of the story.

William Dixon and the Wildcats had their best night on the ground so far this season. Dixon gained 90 yards on the ground. Jeffrey Holmes had 51 yards on six carries.

Freshmen James Roberts saw some play and is likely to see some action against Westover. Holmes, a senior, prefers playing tight end, but the Wildcats may need his running ability in the near future.

"Roberts is just a freshman, but he's a gifted athlete. He has good form, he's quick and he's tough," Hyder said. "Holmes likes playing end, but he's a good runner and has good fullback potential."

Another player who Hyder is anxious to use in his lineup is freshman Lawrence Sharpe. Sharpe weighs 210 pounds and could contribute much against the Westover team. But so far, Sharpe had been a little unlucky, according to Hyder.

Sharpe injured his thigh while at camp, and he is still in the mending process.

Another positive thing for the Wildcat offense is the improvement Greg Talley is making at quarterback. Talley, who had slow nights against Waycross and Thomasville, was able to air the ball out a little bit against Monroe.

Talley completed seven passes out of 16 attempts for 90 yards against the Tornados.

"The youngsters came out here and really worked hard last week to improve," Hyder said. "For the offense to really get going all things have to fit together. The quarterback can't throw if the line doesn't block for him."

"Just because you have good tires, doesn't mean you have a good car. All the parts have to work together and we did that fairly well Friday night."

Defensively against Westover, uncertainty is nagging at Hyder. The Patriots have used three different offensive sets in three games. They are likely to do anything and everything against a tough 'Cat defense.

"One problem is that no one knows anything about Buddy Cox, their new coach," Hyder said. "I have files and files of things in my office about almost anybody and everybody, but we know nothing about him."

"He inherited a pretty solid program, and he coached at Crisp County when they had a good program."

The Patriots are returning seven starters on each side of the line, but they don't have much experience. Only five of the offensive players are seniors.

As far as the critics who have criticized Valdosta's lack of offense are concerned, Hyder has tried not to let it bother him. Why should he? His team is 3-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state rankings. They have not played sloppily football.

"Criticism is part of the game," Hyder said. "I worry more when there's no criticism. That mean's no one's watching you. I start worrying when the stands start looking a little empty."

"Most of the criticism is aimed at me, but that's the way it always is. The play caller at Valdosta High bears an awesome responsibility."

No. 10 Sprayberry is idle.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Gainesville is at Hart County, No. 3 Woodward Academy at Troup, Chattooga at No. 5 Dalton, Calhoun at No. 6 Murray County, No. 8 Marist at St. Pius X, No. 9 Habersham Central at Franklin County and Cairo at No. 10 Crisp County.

No. 4 Dublin has the weekend off. The Class AA schedule has Carrollton at No. 2 Central-Carrollton, Peach County at No. 3 Manchester, No. 4 Mitchell-Baker at Worth County, Wayne County at No. 5 Waycross, No. 6

Almon Key Factor In Lowndes' Win

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Mothers and fathers of South Georgia, do not be discouraged if all of your male children grow up being among the smallest students in the class. Do not fear that they will never excel on the football field in the vaunted Region 1-AAAA of Georgia High School athletics.

This week's Player of the Week among area high schools barely outweighs a lot of the cheerleaders, but he's got a heart as big as a Sherman tank and hits as hard as one.

Brad Almon is a 5-foot-10 150-pound junior defensive back for the Lowndes High Vikings. He is a two-year starter who was second in the region last year in interceptions as a sophomore.

Almon was a key figure in the Vikings' 14-13 upset of the fifth ranked Colquitt County Packers in Moultrie Friday night. He had two interceptions to stop Packer drives deep in Viking territory, and he played a major role in corralling Colquitt's star running back, T.J. Edwards.

"Brad Almon played an excellent ballgame for us," Viking Coach Joe Wilson said. "He must have had six unassisted tackles on T.J. Edwards alone and helped out on half a dozen others."

"He intercepted one pass on our 20-yard line and ran it back 27 yards, and he intercepted another pass on our 35 and ran it back 18 yards. He really provided us with a big lift on both of those occasions."

Edwards, a 180-pound tailback, is considered to be one of the top college prospects in the Southeast and still gained 124 yards on the night.

"You're never going to shut down a runner like Edwards," Wilson said. "The best thing you can do is to keep him from breaking any long runs and wear him down. Brad Almon must have made half a dozen tackles on Edwards that saved the game for us when we had that slim lead. He's a

It marked the second week in a row that Almon led a defense which was integral in saving a one point victory against a tough opponent. Last week he led a charge which stopped the Coffee High quarterback just inches short of the goal line on what would have been the winning two-point conversion to secure the 13-12 Viking triumph.

That's not too bad for a fellow who weighs half of what most of his linemen can bench press in the weight room.

Honor Roll

Reginald Dandy, Valdosta, returned a punt 43 yards for the Wildcats only touchdown in 10-0 defeat of Waycross. Willie Sauls, defensive end, made four tackles in the Waycross backfield for 23 yards in losses and was in on a dozen more along line of scrimmage to preserve shutout.

Glen Simmons, Cook County, completed nine of 15 passes for 108 yards in 6-6 tie with Berrien County. Kevin Bennett caught four passes for 45 yards including 18-yarder for first down to maintain winning touchdown drive late in game.

Bobby Eason, Lowndes, completed 12 of 20 passes for 114 yards and a touchdown in 14-13 victory at Moultrie. Todd Williams caught seven passes for 68 yards.

Larry Lambert, Brooks County, sophomore middle linebacker had three quarterback sacks for 14 yards in losses and nine unassisted tackles in 15-6 loss to Mitchell-Baker.

Levis Smallwood, Atkinson County, 5-foot-7 tailback gained 134 yards on 16 carries and had two interceptions in 28-6 victory over Wheeler County. Darrell Batten caught touchdown passes of 12 and 13 yards.

Jason Hamil, Berrien County, big play ninth grader caught two drive-sustaining passes for total of 75 yards in 6-6 tie with Cook County. Jerry Simmons passed for 91 yards and kicked two field goals for Berrien's only points of the game.

'Cats' First Championship Won Amid Adversity

Since Friday night's Valdosta Wildcat victory over Bainbridge marked the Winnersville team's 600th all-time victory and could be considered a milestone of sorts, I decided to do a little historical research.

The Wildcats' first state championship squad was mustering amid the din of Hitler's bombs dropping on London. The University of Georgia opened its football season against Oglethorpe University. (And to think some people complain nowadays about scheduling Memphis State.)

The University of California at Los Angeles moved their right halfback, a very strong, very fast young black man, over to play the left halfback position. His name was Jackie Robinson.

There was no Region 1-AAAA, only an overseeing body known as the South Georgia Football Association. The Wildcat coach was a man named Bobby Hooks, who took his charges to stay at the National Guard "shack" on the banks of the Withlacoochee River to train in summer camp.

One of the two men assigned to help him coach the team was described as having been "connected with the Waycross High School coaching staff". The assistant's name was Wright Bazemore.

Summer camp did not begin that year until September 2nd, two weeks before classes began on the 16th. The first game was scheduled against Camilla on the following Friday night under the lights at Cleveland Field. (You'd think that nothing ever changes; read on.)

The lights were said to enrich the



Blair Dickinson
Times Sports Writer

brilliantly luminescent colors worn by the Wildcats, described thus, "Black and white stripes mark the shoulders and the arms...The rest of the uniforms are a brilliant orange." The year was 1940.

Season tickets were \$2.75 for adults and \$1 for students. And judging from the full-page booster advertisement on the second page of that year's September 19th Valdosta Times, support was perhaps a little stronger among the local citizenry in 1940.

The Wildcats featured a 45-man roster that year, led by a backfield foursome known, quite originally, as the "Four Horsemen". They were star halfback Joe Davis, Team Captain Glenn Ratliff, quarterback Jim Powell, and fullback Buddy McCrary, often referred to as Knuck and whose specialty was droppicking extra points and making about a third of them.

The starting eleven, for this was way before two-platoon football became common, was rounded out by ends Carliso Phillips and James Colson, tackles Louie Blanton and Steve Condurellis, guards Bobby McEachren and Max Stalvey, and center Joe Shannon.

Hooks was in his ninth and last year as Wildcat mentor. His overall record of 66-15-6 included a 4-4-1 record in the previous year, 1939, but that team had still only given up 38 points in the nine games. So the 1940 Valdosta team was rated as a favorite, along with Tifton, to win the association championship.

However the two teams failed to schedule each other in the regular season. The first three games of the season proved to be nothing more than warmups for tougher teams which lay ahead on the schedule.

As Davis sat in the press box with a sprained ankle for the opening game, his replacement, Jack Corbett, scored three touchdowns and the Wildcats scored five times in their first nine plays from scrimmage to humiliate Camilla, 57-0. They rolled up 530 yards in total offense to only 19 for the visitors and yielded no first downs on defense.

Only two problems seemed evident from the game. Extra points were not easy to come by. McCrary made one dropkick and missed three while Ratliff made one from a placement and also missed three attempts. And the Times chided the team for amassing 60 yards in penalties, which incidentally, caused three more touchdown runs to be nullified.

The next week Dixie High School from Cross City, Florida came to Cleveland Field, only to return home after having absorbed a 39-0 loss. Davis had returned to score two touchdowns, and McCrary had added three more. Six penalties totalling 70 yards did not seem to hinder the

generally apprehensive feeling on the team. "These players have such a stigma about playing teams from Tallahassee that I have to spend a lot of time convincing them that we are just as good." Cowboy coach Bud O'Hara said.

And they appear to be as good, having lost to Godby basically by only two touchdowns despite losing five night against a much larger Rickards team as Rickards won 14-10. "We were dominated by their line on offense and came out kind of flat defensively in the first half," O'Hara said. "But we were only down 14-3 at halftime. We came out in the second half and drove 80 yards for a touchdown." "Then at the end of the game still

offense once again as the second team took the field midway through the second quarter.

A 62-0 victory over Nashville followed in the next game as Corbett scored four touchdowns and Davis garnered three. Ratliff also made all but one of his extra point attempts, but 65 yards in penalties helped nullify two more touchdowns.

The vaunted passing attack of Americus quarterback Jimmie Luck awaited in the next game as the Wildcats embarked upon the meat of their schedule. But Luck seemed to be on Valdosta's side as they intercepted four of his passes. He completed none of his 11 attempts.

Meanwhile, the Wildcats held a 431-91 yard rushing advantage and completed six of 10 passes themselves for 120 yards. The Fitzgerald game saw a crippled Valdosta team take the field as four of the 11 first string players missed the entire game due to injury. But the Wildcats rallied from only a 6-0 halftime lead to post a 25-0 shutout as three more scores were added in the second half.

With the same four players missing in Waycross the next week, Louis Blanton led a defensive line charge which limited the Bulldogs to only two first downs all night long. And once again the Wildcats sprung from a touchdown advantage at halftime to win by four as Davis scored two himself in the 26-0 win.

The following week gave Valdosta its sternest test of the season in a heavy rain in Bainbridge. They were stopped twice inside the Bearcat 10-yard line on

down 14-10, we drove all the way down to the 3-yard line. On third down and two with a minute to go in the game, we threw an interception. They just fell on the ball until time ran out."

Valwood continued to have trouble Saturday night with Tiftarea, a team which beat the Valiants by 40 points on two different occasions last year. The result was the same this time but by only an 11-0 score. "Tiftarea played tough," Valwood coach Allen Fort said. "They were ready, and they just wanted it more than we did. We drove the ball up and down the field but just couldn't stick it in the end zone."

Two fumbles and two interceptions which halted scoring drives cost the

downs, Captain Glen Ratliff was lost to injury early in the contest, and Davis had a touchdown run nullified by penalty. But the Wildcats persevered as Davis hit end Red Bullock for a touchdown pass for the only score of the game.

Once again Valdosta was called upon to endure 70 yards in penalties as they outgained Bainbridge 311 yards to just 141 for the home team.

Thomasville, a 6-0 victor the previous year, was defeated in the annual Armistice Day Classic 13-0 as Davis scored touchdowns in both halves following drives of 51 and 80 yards.

Next Albany, which had also defeated the Wildcats the previous year, was confronted and scored quickly as fullback Bob Reynolds returned the opening kickoff 83 yards for a touchdown. But Valdosta then unveiled a lethal passing attack which clicked on 11 of 15 passes for 117 yards. This led to scoring drives of 90, 35, and 57 yards which vanquished the upstart Indians 19-6.

Davis was once again out with an injury against a dangerous Moultrie squad in the last regular season game. But Hooks, who never seemed to have any depth problems, simply called on reserve fullback E.B. Hanley. He scored three touchdowns to humble the Packers 32-12.

The also undefeated, untied Tifton Blue Devils awaited Valdosta the next week for the SGFA championship game, played under the auspices of a Super Bowl type setup in Albany's municipal stadium. The game was a tough, tight match pitting two squads with excellent

Valiants dearly. But two other circumstances certainly did not help their cause. "I feel like playing at night threw our passing game off," Fort said. "We dropped some passes and had trouble picking out receivers."

And the running game was decimated early with the loss of star running back Maurey Copeland in the first quarter. "Losing Maurey wasn't as bad as losing the threat of Maurey's speed coming out of the backfield," Fort said. "The defense played us a little tighter after that."

"We weren't disappointed at all in the defense. They played a fine game."

Lowndes, 'Cats Roll; Area Teams Fair Poorly

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

While Lowndes and Valdosta continued to roll along in this 1985 season, earning their high rankings in the state polls, other area squads ran into powerhouses; They all played good games but came up short.

Cook County took its 1-1-1 record into Cairo Friday night to play the seventh ranked Syrupmakers.

"In our first three possessions, we tried six running plays and gained one yard three times, two yards twice, and three yards once," Hornet coach Frankie Cowan said. "That's when we realized we had better start throwing the ball. Cairo has got a good ballclub, but we hurt ourselves badly with turnovers."

The Hornets suffered four interceptions.

tions, one in the Cairo end zone and one on their 1-yard line to stop crucial drives.

Quarterbacks Glen Simmons and Andy Baker totalled 15 completions in 39 passing attempts for 247 yards and a touchdown, but it was not enough to overcome the strong Syrupmaker team.

"Cairo will do well this year," Cowan said. "The race will probably be between them and Thomasville for the region title this year. They're a well balanced team."

Berrien County took on visiting Irwin County Friday night, a 4-0 squad ranked eighth in the state AA polls. While the Rebels had some trouble holding onto passes and moving the football, the Indians were jumping out to a 24-3 lead.

"Irwin has got a good, senior football team," Rebel coach Bill McCall said. "They'll probably go 9-1 or 10-0 this year. They don't seem to have any weaknesses and are especially tough on defense. At halftime we had three yards rushing and 12 passing."

In the second half, the Rebel offense sprang to life behind quarterback Jerry Simmons. They drove down and scored one touchdown on Simmons' 24-yard run. A two point conversion made it a 24-11 game. Then, while driving for another score, a Simmons pass was intercepted by Irwin's Craig Jordan and returned for a touchdown, breaking up the Rebels' comeback attempt.

Madison County took its 1-1 record to Tallahassee once again to play Rickards Friday night amid a

down 14-10, we drove all the way down to the 3-yard line. On third down and two with a minute to go in the game, we threw an interception. They just fell on the ball until time ran out."

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"We weren't disappointed at all in the defense. They played a fine game."

Louelle Reaves: Area Football's Queen Mother

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

"If it hadn't been for football and our mother, we'd have all probably ended up in jail or in the gutter somewhere," said Jerry, the third of four sons.

And though she may not know a flair pass from a fly pattern, Mrs. Louelle Reaves is now deeply involved in Valdosta — Georgia's football tradition. The 67-year-old great-grandmother was never much into X's and O's, but she clearly realizes how much the sport has done for her family.

"Whenever I here anybody knock football, I get real upset," she said. "It taught my sons discipline and made them stick in school and want to get an education. It kept them off the streets at night. Maybe they wouldn't be what they are today if it hadn't been for football."

Mrs. Reaves' four sons are Joe, Sammy, Jerry, and Stanley. All lettered in football at Valdosta High School during a 12-year period in which the Wildcats won eight state championships.

Joe was a defensive tackle from 1950-52 and was in on the '51 and '52 state champion teams before leaving school to join the Air Force.

Sammy lettered four years as the team manager after a ruptured appendix early in high school sidelined his playing career.

Jerry (1957-60) was all-region at tackle in his junior year at Valdosta. In his senior year, the Wildcats had a supposedly weak team coming off a 5-5 season the year before. Nevertheless they won the region and beat Richmond Academy 2-0 for the South Georgia title. Then it took a 16-play 60-yard drive to beat Avondale 20-14 with 29 seconds left in the state championship game.

But Stanley (1959-1962) had perhaps the most talent. After breaking his back in the ninth grade, he returned to play on three consecutive state cham-

Mrs. Louelle Reaves Is Proud Of Not Only Her Sons, But Grandsons Ben And Jon Reaves Of Valdosta State As Well

"When I was having all these boys, I often wondered why. Then after my husband passed away I realized why. They all still live in Valdosta and come to see me all the time. They're all wonderful boys."

But the legacy has not died out with the passing of the first generation by any means. In 1978, Valdosta tied Griffin for the state championship 7-7. The boy who kicked the extra point for the Wildcats in that game was a defensive lineman named David Reaves, Joe's son.

Playing against him for Lowndes High that year was another of Mrs. Reaves' grandsons, Hal Sprengle, Sylvia's oldest boy, who Viking coach Joe Wilson said was "a fine defensive back."

Jerry's sons began coming along two years later. Ben Reaves was an all-region tight end on Valdosta's 1982 state champion team, and his brother Jon was voted the best offensive lineman on the Wildcats' 1984 national championship team.

Both could have gone elsewhere to



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shochet

play college ball, but chose to join Valdosta State's Blazers and help build that program. Ben, who starts at tight end, is recently married and maintains a 3.4 grade point average, the second highest on the football team. Jon, also a good student, has been moved to linebacker and may be red-shirted this year. He just turned 17-years old this past Saturday.

Their cousins, Matt and Stan Reaves, play on Wilson's team. Matt, a junior, plays cornerback and won the touchdown club's back of the week award in the Coffee game. Matt is a hitter who would like to play college ball, but realizes the disadvantage his size brings.

"Matt Reaves is a 250-pound linebacker trapped inside the body of a 145-pound cornerback," Jerry said. "Other brother Stan, however, is a solid 200 pounds, but may be a little light at his position, offensive tackle. He relies on brains, technique, and determination to handle larger opponents."

"Stan's not the biggest, the strongest, or the quickest lineman on our team," said center Ed Falgout, "but he always seems to get the job done."

Lest ye think that the Reaves tradition has passed completely from Wildcats to Vikings, there is one more grandson of Louelle Reaves who can not be overlooked. He is 6-foot-3, 235-pound Jodie Sprengle, starting left tackle on this year's Valdosta team.

"Jodie's just coming into his own as a football player," offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "He's doing a good job for us now and has a lot of potential. He has quick feet for his size, and we're working hard on his upper body strength."

Sprengle mirrors the Wildcat offense which improves week by week after returning only two or three starters from last year's squad. When asked if he was ever pressured to play football, he responded in a positive manner.

"I was never told that I had to play football. It was always made clear that if I wanted to play football, fine, but that if I didn't want to, that was okay, too. I have felt a little pressure to do

well because of the tradition since my cousin (Jon Reaves) played here last year."

Wilson coached Stan's father at Valdosta 23 years ago. Stan said he received the same attitude from his family.

"I was never pushed. My father always said that playing football was up to me. Sometimes, if either Matt or myself are hurt, he'll kid around with us and tell us how he used to play hurt. But he's never serious. We've never felt any pressure to play."

The Reaves legacy continues to expand into other facets of the game of football. The elder, Stan Reaves, has taken the job of starting the football program at Lowndes Christian Academy. He realizes the low key program won't be sending anybody to the pros in the near future, but he tries to instill in his players the values that he learned while playing football.

"If we can just teach these kids the value of hard work, determination, and being part of a team and put those together with the Christian values we teach, we will have come out ahead no matter what our won-lost record is."

Brother Jerry, while still a Wildcat at heart, is now president of the Honorary Coach's Club at Valdosta State. The group raises funds and support for the Blazer football team. His dream is to see six of Louelle Reaves' grandsons play for VSC. Sister Barbara has a son who is a lineman on the Altoona High School football team in Altoona, Wisconsin. Then maybe he could get his mother out to see the Blazers play.

"I had a heart attack a little while after my husband died, and I have a pacemaker," the family matriarch said. "I'm kind of afraid to get out there and climb the stands like I used to be able to."

But that's not to say she's not cheering for her grandsons in every game.

Defending Champs Sitting High In Football Poll

By DAVID SIMPSON
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — As many Georgia high school football teams reach the halfway point of their regular season schedules, two of 1984's defending champions remain atop their classifications and the other two are within striking distance of No. 1.

Class AAAA Valdosta, Class AAA Thomson, Class AA West Rome and Class A Greenville began the season at No. 1 after state titles last year.

Greenville lost an early game and Thomson was tied two weeks ago, but they are ranked third in their classifications this week.

West Rome, bidding for an unprecedented fourth consecutive state championship, remains the only unanimous No. 1 pick.

Valdosta holds a narrow lead over Clarke Central in Class AAAA; Woodward Academy is Class AAA's top team for the second week; and Lincoln County remains No. 1 in Class A.

Class AA Washington-Wilkes and Class A Bremen re-enter the rankings this week and three teams make their first appearances of the year. They are Class AAAA Effingham County, Class AAA Lithonia and Class AA Coosa.

The top five in Class AAAA are unchanged, with Valdosta followed by Clarke Central, Warner Robins, Northside-Warner Robins and LaGrange.

Lowndes moved up a slot to No. 6, swapping places with Dunwoody. Griffin remains eighth and Sprayberry remains 10th.

Central-Thomasville, formerly No. 9, dropped out of the rankings after a 23-0 loss to Northview of Alabama and was replaced by Effingham County.

Effingham has not been scored on in its four games this season, while scoring 120 points. Gainesville remains behind Woodward Academy in Class AAA, again followed by Thomson, Dalton, Dublin and Marietta.

Southeast Whitfield moved from No. 8 to tie Cairo for its No. 7 ranking. Perry remains ninth.

Lithonia won the 10th spot, dumping Murray County from the rankings despite its 32-18 victory over Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe. In Class AA, West Rome again leads Central-Carrollton, Manchester and Mitchell-Baker.

Duluth, No. 6 last week, pushed by Waycross to No. 5. Following Waycross is Irwin County, up a spot from last week. Vidalia moved from No. 10 to No. 8.

Mary Persons dropped from No. 7 to No. 9 after a 16-14 loss to Lamar County. Washington-Wilkes and Coosa are tied for 10th.

In Class A, Wilcox County dropped from No. 2 to No. 5 after a 20-20 tie with Class AA Hawkinsville. Commerce, Greenville and Louisville each moved up a slot behind Lincoln County.

Miller County remains sixth. Union County, tied with Wrens at No. 7 last week, claimed sole possession of that ranking, dropping Wrens to eighth. Palmetto remains ninth. Bremen is ranked 10th, replacing Emanuel County Institute, which suf-

fered a 22-0 loss to Johnson County.

Here are this week's Associated Press rankings of Georgia's top high school football teams in the four classifications, with their records, vote totals and number of first-place votes received. Voting is by the AP's board of sportswriters and sportscasters.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Class AAAA | Class AA |
| 1. Valdosta (5-0), 96, 8 | 1. Lincoln Co. (4-0), 86, 7 |
| 2. Clarke Central (5-0), 90, 2 | 2. Commerce (4-0), 37, 1 |
| 3. Warner Robins (5-0), 78 | 3. Greenville (4-1), 79, 2 |
| 4. Northside-Warner Robins (5-0), 62 | 4. Louisville (5-0), 68, 2 |
| 5. LaGrange (4-0), 57 | 5. Wilcox Co. (3-0), 72, 4 |
| 6. Lowndes (3-1), 53 | 6. Miller Co. (3-1), 45 |
| 7. Dunwoody (4-0), 44 | 7. Union Co. (3-1), 40, 38 |
| 8. Griffin (3-1), 29 | 8. Wrens (4-1), 25 |
| 9. Effingham Co. (4-0), 14 | 9. Palmetto (3-1), 21 |
| 10. Sprayberry (3-0-1), 10 | 10. Bremen (4-1), 11 |
- Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Cedar Shoals, Central-Thomasville, Colquitt Co., Glynn Academy and Redan.
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Class AAA | Class A |
| 1. Woodward Academy (4-0), 97, 8 | 1. Lincoln Co. (4-0), 86, 7 |
| 2. Hawkinsville (5-0), 86, 1 | 2. Commerce (4-0), 37, 1 |
| 3. Thomson (3-0-1), 80 | 3. Greenville (4-1), 79, 2 |
| 4. Dalton (5-0), 72, 1 | 4. Louisville (5-0), 68, 2 |
| 5. Dublin (4-0), 65 | 5. Wilcox Co. (3-0), 72, 4 |
| 6. Marietta (3-1), 48 | 6. Miller Co. (3-1), 45 |
| 7. Cairo (3-1), 33 | 7. Union Co. (3-1), 40, 38 |
| 8. Southeast Whitfield (4-0), 33 | 8. Wrens (4-1), 25 |
| 9. Perry (4-1), 16 | 9. Palmetto (3-1), 21 |
| | 10. Bremen (4-1), 11 |
- Also receiving votes: Banks Co., Emanuel County Institute, Facell and Social Circle.

After Slow Start, 'Cats Are Jelling

VD Times 9-26-86

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The talk around town concerning the state of the Valdosta High School football team seems to have been a little bit derogatory over the past few weeks.

Some facts should be noted. The Wildcats' record is 4-0. They have not been seriously threatened in the fourth quarter of any ballgame. The defense has allowed only 13 points thus far in the four ballgames. And the offense, after being held to 10 points in each of the first two ballgames, has erupted for 28 and 37 points in the last two games against Region 1-AAAA opponents.

It can be said that the talent of this year's team does not match up to that of last year's. Only six or eight starters returned for this year's campaign amid the pressure of trying to live up to the standards set by last year's national championship squad.

"We obviously don't have the superstars on this year's team, players like John Porter and Derek Folsom," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "But this group has taken the challenge left to them, taken the pressure put on them, and lived up to it. There is an unbelievably cooperative, positive attitude on this team, and we are proud as the dickens of this ballclub so far."

From watching practices and the Wildcats' performances in games, it is hard to disagree with Hyder. Seniors provide leadership and encouragement to others on the practice field. Players upbraid other players for not hustling. And the games show hard evidence that this year's group may be an overachieving bunch.

The biggest lead taken into the fourth quarter of any game has been a mere

10 points. But in the fourth quarter, the 'Cats have dominated because of superior conditioning and an inner desire to excel and rise above the opposition.

Perhaps it is the character built in January's 6 a.m. workouts that surges from within that carries this team to victory late on September and October Friday nights.

It sure isn't size and speed, those easily measured yardsticks of athletic talent easily printable in black and white. Running backs who weigh 139 and 155 pounds and inside linebackers who both weigh 165 pounds certainly don't scare anyone at first glance. Consequently, they must earn every bit of success they achieve week in and week out.

This week's game against a 3-1 Bainbridge team will be another stern test of the 1985 Wildcats' ability. The Bearcats have historically had a good program and won a state championship two years ago at the Class AAA level.

Coach Ralph Jones played football at Cairo and at Florida State and has continued the development of the fine football program which he inherited from Jimmy Hightower a few years ago.

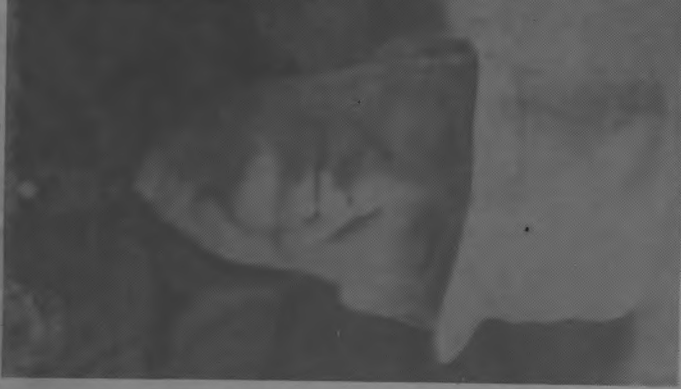
The Bearcats' feature star running back Martin Redding, a 191-pound tailback who averages upwards of seven yards a carry. His speed and quickness will pressure the entire Valdosta defensive team on every play.

And the Bainbridge defense is comprised of a well-conditioned group of strong, highly motivated athletes.

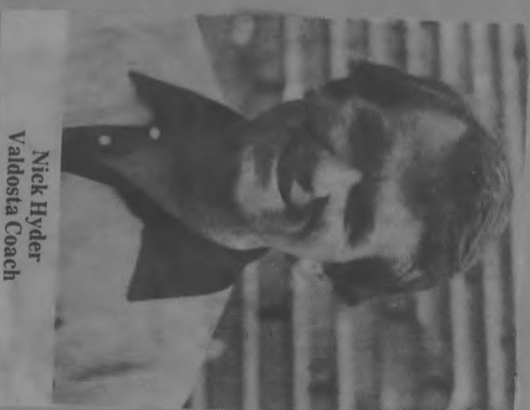
The home field advantage will be in Valdosta's favor with an 8 p.m. kickoff at Cleveland Field.



Nick Hyder



Joe Wilson



Nick Hyder
Valdosta Coach

Tift Passing Attack Bothers 'Cats' Hyder

10/3/85

VD Times

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Friday night, when Tift County comes to town, the Valdosta Wildcats will face something they haven't really had to deal with since their game against Thomasville — the likelihood of a massive aerial attack.

Despite Tift's 1-4 record, head coach Nick Hyder is aware of the damage the Blue Devils can do.

"The pass is the hardest thing to defend against," Hyder said. "Tift can score on you quickly. The threats always there."

Another reason Hyder may be cautious in evaluating the Blue Devils is his knowledge of the Tift mentor, Gene Brodie. Brodie, too, knows a lot about the Valdosta system and is familiar with Hyder's coaching system. Hyder has so much respect for Brodie that earlier this year, he chose Brodie as an assistant for the Georgia All-Stars in the Georgia-Florida all-star game.

"Tift has one of the finest coaching staffs in the state," Hyder said. "They've had it rough so far, but now they've had some time to make some adjustments." Hyder said. "They've got a lot of pride and it's hard to keep a good man down."

Even Tift's losses are deceptive. The Blue Devils dropped their opener by a 16-14 score to Northside-Warner Robbins, a team ranked fourth in the AAAA poll. Tift dropped another game at Clarke Central, a team that played in the state championship last year. Central-Thomasville downed the Blue Devils 19-6. Central was

undefeated until last week. The only embarrassing loss for Tift was a 36-0 blowout by Colquitt County, which won the Region 1-AAAA North title last year.

"Our thinking and planning has been geared with a lot of respect towards Tift County," Hyder said.

Valdosta's defense will be tested by the Tift offense, and one point of concern has been the relative youth of the defensive line.

"I think this is the first time in seven years we haven't had the front that has been dominated by seniors," Hyder said. "This year, the only senior we have up there is Kelvin Miller."

"I guess you would have to say we're a little inexperienced, but I think we've improved with every game."

Tift's offensive threats are numerous. The Blue Devils are led on the field by Ty Cottle, who holds all the 1-AAAA passing stats this year by virtue of throwing the ball on every whim. Cottle's only a junior, and may be the best quarterback the Wildcats have faced this season.

Catching Cottle's passes will be Ray Ewing, who leads the region in pass receptions.

"Cottle's an outstanding quarterback," Hyder said. "If he hits a couple of long passes, anything can happen."

Tift County may be a 1-4 team, but it's a 1-4 team with some offensive fireworks. Tift also has a little bit of history on its side. It was the last team to beat the Wildcats, 17-13, in the 1983 1-AAAA championship.

Clarke Central Gains Ground On Valdosta

Times 10-9-85

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta remained the No. 1 Class AAA team in this week's Associated Press ranking of Georgia high school football teams, but No. 2 Clarke Central edged closer after a convincing victory over Cedar Shoals.

Valdosta, the defending champion, received eight first-place votes. The remaining three votes went to the Gladiators.

Last weekend, both teams improved their records to 6-0. Clarke Central crushed arch-rival Cedar Shoals 37-18 and the Wildcats defeated Tift County 14-0.

The other No. 1 teams — Class AAA

Woodward Academy, Class AA West Rome and Class A Lincoln County — also remained the same in this week's rankings.

In Class AAAA, two teams unranked last week entered the poll. Glynn Academy, which defeated Savannah 19-0, moved in at No. 8, while Colquitt County is 10th after a 22-17 victory over Bainbridge.

Warner Robins is No. 3, while LaGrange, fifth last week, moved up to tie Northside-Warner Robins at No. 4. Lowndes remained sixth, Griffin moved up one position to seventh, and Dunwoody, formerly No. 7, fell to ninth after an upset loss to Tucker, 7-0.

Class AAA Woodward Academy strengthened its hold on the No. 1 spot with a 45-7 victory over Rockdale County last Saturday. The War Eagles received 10 of the 11 first-place votes cast in balloting by a board of Georgia sports writers and sportscasters.

Gainesville, which was defeated by Franklin County 10-7, fell from second to eighth. Franklin County's victory helped the Lion's move into the poll at No. 10.

In Class AA, West Rome continued toward an unprecedented fourth straight state title. The Chieftains remain the only unanimous No. 1 selection.

West Rome is followed by No. 2 Manchester and No. 3 Carrollton, which changed positions in this week's poll.

Duluth moved up to fourth, while Mitchell Baker, No. 4 last week, fell to the fifth position.

The next four positions in the Class AA poll remained the same — No. 6 Waycross, No. 7 Irwin County, No. 8 Vidalia and No. 9 Mary Persons.

Washington-Wilkes, which was tied for 10th with Coosa last week, claimed sole possession of the ranking after a 20-14 victory over Greene-Taliaferro. Coosa fell out of the rankings.

Palmetto, ranked ninth in Class A last week, was unranked this week because of a 48-7 mauling by Campbell-Fairburn.

Lincoln County is followed in Class A by Commerce and Greenville, which split the remaining four first-place votes. Louisville, fourth in last week's poll, fell to sixth after tying Warren County 7-7 last Friday.

Wilcox County jumped from fifth to fourth and Union County, No. 7 last week, vaulted into the No. 5 position. Miller County fell one position to seventh.

Banks County entered the poll this week at No. 8. The Leopards defeated Social Circle 18-6 over the weekend, improving their record to 5-0.

Saturday, October 5, 1985

Wildcat Defense Prevails Over Tift Air Attack

By BLAIR DICKINSON

Times Sports Writer

The defense never rested. And that's the kind of game it was. Wildcat defense-7, Valdosta offense-7, Tift County Blue Devils-0.

"Our defensive secondary probably had their best game of the season tonight," said Wildcat defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "But what made their job so much easier was the constant pressure that our line kept on their quarterback, (Ty) Cottle."

Tift County invaded Cleveland Field Friday night led by Cottle, the top-rated passer in Region I-AAAA.

But so strong was the pressure of the defensive line and the coverage of the defensive backs that the Blue Devil signal caller could manage but 74 yards on eight completions in 22 attempts. He also suffered three interceptions, one of which Dwayne Hart returned 75 yards for the only touchdown of the first half.

"Dwayne Hart may have played his best ballgame ever tonight," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said. "Walt Gill, Reginald Dandy, and Derek Shaw all had good ballgames tonight."

Dandy has finally begun to play up to early season expectations. He intercepted one Cottle throw, broke up two other passes, and knocked another into the air which Jerome Callaway came down with.

"But at the heart of that defensive pressure was our defensive line," Hyder said. "Tackles Otis Conaway and (game captain) Kevin Miller, and ends Willie Sauls and Seabron Williams stayed on Cottle all night long. And the linebackers, Bill Kirby and Tony Johnson played well also."

Tift	Valdosta
Val — Dwayne Hart 75 interception return (Otis Conaway kick)	Val — William Dixon 5 run (Conaway kick)
TC	Val
7	8
74	120
7	16
22-8-3	13-9-0
6-24-5	7-32-2
2-07	3-27
Dixon 13-99, Mangrum 5-13	Rushing — Tift Bennett 13-42, Cottle 4-6; Valdosta, Talley 8-13-0
Passing — Tift, Cottle 8-22-2-14; Valdosta, Talley 8-13-0	11-6
Receiving — Tift, Ewing 6-56, Jackson 2-19; Valdosta, Belue 5-53, Steward 3-43.	Missed Field Goals — Tift, McKellar 2-6; Valdosta, Conaway 2-2.

half kickoff, quarterback Greg Talley connected on his first three passes to move the ball out to midfield. From there, he launched another throw down the left sideline toward his split end Steward.

The 6-foot-3 receiver battled for the ball with Blue Devil defensive back Eric Bennett. They tipped the ball into the air at the 14 before Steward pulled it in while sprawling at the 10-yard line.

But a holding penalty nullified a touchdown run on the next play. After two runs, Guy Belue made a leaping catch of a Talley pass at the five. However Otis Conaway's 22-yard field goal attempt was wide right.

Then on Tift's next possession, Miller made a key sack of Cottle on third down before Williams and Joe Ethier pressured Blue Devil kicker Brian Chestnut into a poor punt which traveled only 20 yards before going out of bounds.

With a first down at the Blue Devil 39-yard line, Talley kept on an option play for 20 yards behind Mack McGuryl's downfield block. Two more completions to Guy Belue took the ball down to the five. From there, fullback William Dixon followed center Matt Stanaland up the middle for the touchdown.

Otis Conaway's extra point made the score 14-0, and the defense made it stand up the rest of the way.

The only other scoring threat was made by the Wildcats with four minutes left in the game.

Dixon broke off a 60-yard run up the middle. Blue Devil cornerback Evans Hughes finally chased him down from across the field at the 9-yard line.

And it was good that the defense played as they did because the offense had its problems in the first half. Valdosta had five possessions in the first half and failed to gain a first down, managing only 30 yards rushing on 14 carries and one incomplete pass. The Wildcats never got past their own 40-yard line.

But the Blue Devils threatened only once, after Ray Ewing returned a Charles Steward punt 31 yards to the Wildcat 15-yard line. However two incomplete passes sandwiched around Williams' tackle of Cottle for no gain on an option play brought on a fourth-and-10 situation.

Stan McKellar was brought in to try a 28-yard field goal, but his attempt sailed wide to the right.

Steward's five first half punts for a 35-yard average represented the Wildcats' most significant ball movement, but it was all they needed before the intermission.

But after the halftime break, Valdosta changed its philosophy on offense and came out smoking.

Following a touchdown on the second



Times Staff Photo by Susan Griffith

Charles Steward (3) stretches for extra yardage after receiving pass from Greg Talley

However, two runs and an incomplete pass brought up a fourth-and-goal at the two, from where Dixon's plunge up the middle left him inches short of the goal line. But with only two minutes left in the game and the Wildcat defense trotting onto the field to protect a 14-0 lead, fourth down.

Wildcats Earned Greene's Respect

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Although Charlie Greene used to coach the Valdosta Wildcats, he still doesn't know enough about the team to get his Central-Thomasville Yellow Jackets ready for Friday night's Region 1-AAAA South battle in Thomasville.

After all, it has been since 1972 that Greene coached at Valdosta and a lot has changed since that time.

But one thing that hasn't changed is the Wildcats' ability to win games.

"I really don't know anything about them, they're the ones that know everything," Greene said. "They have all the horses."

Greene coached at Valdosta for two years before moving to Toccoa to head up the Stephens County Indians. He returned to South Georgia two years ago and quickly found out that nothing has changed in Valdosta.

On his first visit to Cleveland Field last year since leaving Valdosta, his Yellow Jackets suffered a 35-7 loss.

And though Greene will lead one to believe he knows very little about Valdosta, he knows a lot.

"It's just a question of what they do as to whether or not we can stop them," Greene said. "It's also a matter of how well we're prepared for them and what we're prepared for. They may come out throwing and if we get geared up to stop that, they'll run the speed option. And then once we get used to that they'll run the inside belly. They do just about everything offensively they want to do. They're a complete football team and will pose a lot of problems for a defense.

"But we feel like we've got to prepare and get ready for Valdosta." Greene said he wasn't planning on

doing anything different and he doesn't expect Valdosta to start making wholesale changes at this stage of the season.

"They can do anything they want to do," Greene said. "Nobody else has stopped them. You don't start changing things this late in the season. If you do, you end up making a lot of mistakes. You can't just make big changes this time of year."

Although Greene isn't conceding a loss early in the week, he does realize the Wildcats have a very balanced team and are capable of adapting very well during a game.

"Playing them is just like holding your finger in the dike. Once you get one hole plugged another one pops up. And the problem with that is you've only got 10 fingers and before you know you've got holes popping out all over."

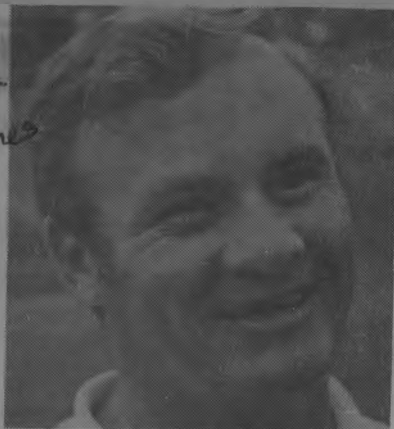
Though Greene used to coach the Wildcats, he says he doesn't have any real emotions about playing Valdosta.

"It's just another game," he said. "It is big as far as the subregion standings."

The Wildcats enter the game with a 6-0 record overall, 1-0 mark in Region 1-AAAA North, and No. 1 ranking in the state among Class AAAA teams. Central, meanwhile, is 4-1 overall and 0-0 in the subregion. The Yellow Jackets' only setback was a 23-0 setback to Northview, Ala., two weeks ago when Central barely managed 100 yards in total offense.

Against Westover last Saturday, the offensive situation wasn't better, and that has caused a great deal of concern for Greene.

"We have not moved the ball very well at all in the last two games," Greene said. "The first two or three games we moved it pretty good. I



Charlie Greene

don't know if we've stagnated or what.

"I do know that nobody has been able to move the ball against Valdosta. They've only given up 13 points, and that came in two games. Some have driven and have been in scoring position against them, but it's awfully hard to score on their defense."

The Yellow Jackets are led on offense by junior quarterback Chris Taylor, who returns after a week's absence with the flu. Taylor hasn't thrown the ball very much, but he is deadly when Central drops into pass formation.

In the first four games, Taylor completed 26 of 40 passes (65 percent) for 344 yards (13.2 yards per completion) and three touchdowns.

Wade Johnson and Lanoris Christopher are the top running backs in the Yellow Jacket backfield. Johnson has rushed for 327 yards while Christopher has 193. Johnson is also averaging 6.1 yards per carry and Christopher 7.4.

Kent Ewing is the top receiver, with 266 yards on 20 receptions and two touchdowns. Ewing leads the region in reception yardage.

Defensively, Central is led by linebackers Gerald Linton and Chester Hightower.

The secondary is anchored by strong safety John Wyche.

Lowndes May Add To Bearcat Woes

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

"I can think of a lot of teams I'd rather be in a subregion with than Valdosta and Lowndes," Bainbridge coach Ralph Jones said. "Sometimes it's hard to concentrate on the teams in the early part of the schedule knowing that those two powerhouses await us later on."

Bainbridge has always had a traditionally strong football team, having won the AAA state championship in 1982 before moving up to a AAAA classification in 1984. They carved out a 5-5 record last year when the already young team lost its starting quarterback early in the season.

The Bearcats started out this season 3-1 before hitting the road for two very tough games.

Two weeks ago, the Bearcats invaded Cleveland Field and lost to the Wildcats. But they held Valdosta scoreless in the second half. Then last week, they travelled to Colquitt County to take on the tough Packer squad in Moultrie.

That game, though they lost in the final score, may have marked a turnaround of sorts in what had become a mediocre season.

The Bearcats fell behind Colquitt 14-0 early and could have gotten routed the way the Packers shoved around Tift (36-0). But they regrouped behind their newfound wunderkind tailback, 9th-grader Larry Crosby, who gained 169 yards against Moultrie.

Crosby, a scatback-type runner, has proved to be so good that Jones moved the region's second leading rusher, 5-foot-11 191-pound senior Martin Redding, to fullback. They combine to present a formidable backfield.

Complementing the running attack

will be the passing of Trent Hatton, a 6-foot-1 180-pound junior, who is the region's third leading passer. His favorite targets are 6-foot-3 190-pound split end Sammy King, the region's second leading receiver, and 6-foot 191-pound tight end Brian Venisee.

The offensive line is quite large with 6-foot-4 245-pound junior Michael Dugger and 6-foot-1, 235-pound senior David Strickland at the tackles. The guards are 6-foot, 240-pound junior Michael Brenton and the appropriately named 6-foot-1, 185-pound senior Bill Victory.

Anchoring the line is the Bearcats' all-region center, 6-foot-10, 212-pound senior Leon Campbell.

The defense likewise shows good size in the front line. A force to be reckoned with is tackle Elijah Austin, a 6-foot-3 240-pound senior, who is the strongest man on the team and shows "excellent quickness for his size" according to Jones. Alongside him at the other tackle is 235-pound senior Leonardo Sweet.

The linebackers are a tough, quick group, while the defensive secondary, though generally lacking height, is comprised of sure tacklers and a foursome which leads the region in interceptions.

The Bainbridge team showed strong determination in coming from behind against the Moultrie team last week. After going ahead 17-14, they were victimized by a questionable pass interference call which led to the Packers' go ahead touchdown and 22-17 victory.

That game evened the Bearcats' record at 3-3, but more importantly, their subregion record stands at 0-1. One more loss and their chances at making the playoffs are gone completely.

Central-Thomasville Hoping To Topple Undefeated 'Cats

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Although the Valdosta High Wildcats faced two ranked teams early in the season and then squared off with a team that was favored to win the Region 1-AAAA North title last week, Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder feels this week's game with Central-Thomasville is the toughest game to date for Valdosta.

"Looking at our scouting report and we've scouted them four times, this is the finest team we've played so far this season, which means it's the finest team we've played since Clarke Central (in the state championship game) a year ago," Hyder said. "I base that on their ability in the overall game of football."

The Wildcats will get their tough test Friday night in Thomasville when the two teams meet in a Region 1-AAAA South battle. Valdosta enters the game with a 6-0 overall record, 1-0 subregion mark, and No. 1 state ranking. Central is 4-1 and 0-0.

"The impressive thing about them is their overall toughness and quickness on defense," Hyder said. "They are well coached on defense. Their offensive line fires off extremely well. They've got good size on the offensive line. The two sophomore tackles are both 250, they've got a guard at 230. And their guards pull well. Of course (Central coach) Charlie (Greene) being from Valdosta, they do things Valdosta likes to do — pulling guards and that type thing."

Central opened the season with three consecutive victories before losing to Northview, Ala. Last Saturday, the Yellow Jackets rallied in the second half to down Monroe 16-13. The offensive threat is there and Hyder says the option of running or passing can give a defense a tough game.

"The running backs — Lanoris Christopher and Wade Johnson — they have may be the best tandem that I know of in this part of the state," Hyder said. "The quarterback, Chris Taylor, is very poised. And they have another youngster, Charlie Ward, who is a great athlete. It seems they do a great job with Taylor. Now Taylor didn't play in the first half against Monroe, and then they put him when they were behind 13-3 and they won 16-13.

"At receiver they have Kent Flournoy who ranks with the best in the region and there are several good ones in the region. Christopher and Johnson is a big concern as is the quarterback. They have the ability to run and pass and block, the line fires off quick."

But the Yellow Jacket threat doesn't stop on offense.

"I've had two colleges, Alabama and Tennessee, ask me about (linebacker) Chester Hightower," Hyder said. "Gerald Linton is the other linebacker. They have a great tandem at linebacker. They're as tough as we've faced. Their kicking game is very sound — they cover very well, protect very well, snap very well, everything is extremely good."

"Coach Greene and his staff is to be commended. They've done a great job over there. He's done it at Stephens County and he's put together a really fine program at Central. We've got our hands full and according to our scouting reports it's the toughest team we've played since the last time we played a Central team which was Clarke Central.

"I don't think we've faced a pair of linebackers as good as we're going to face," Hyder said. "They've got two who are a real fine pair of linebackers. The front three are very, very quick. Of course their secondary are good tacklers. They are very sound fundamentally."

Although turnovers and mistakes play an important role in the outcome of most games, Hyder says there is another factor which will come into play against Central.

"I think it will bore down to the emotional level of the youngsters," Hyder said. "This is a very important ballgame and you should get great efforts from the kids. The key is being ready to play and the proper attitude. Those are the things that create breaks either way. If the game were played with perfection than it probably wouldn't be a game."

"There is another side to the coin. Babe Ruth hit a lot of home runs, but he also holds the strikeout record. I quit grading films about 18 or 20 years ago for one reason — the guys who were playing the most and trying the hardest were getting the worst grades and the guys who were only playing eight or 10 plays were grading high. The guy who plays the longest will make the most mistakes, but he also goes to bat more. That's why times at-bat are some important and the number of chances you get to block and tackle. I don't mean to sound negative, we'll make mistakes. You just need to make sure that mistake doesn't cost you points on the scoreboard."

Greene also has a little added incentive against the Wildcats. After being an assistant for many years under Wright Bazemore, Greene was named the head coach when Bazemore retired. Greene stayed at Valdosta for two years and compiled an overall record of 17-3 before taking over the program at Stephens County.

"Charlie Greene is a hard worker, nobody's going to out-work him," Hyder said. "Of course he's motivated. I don't want to say that's a negative factor, it's just a natural thing. Charlie Greene is playing his own town, the town he grew up in, and played in, and coached in. The things he's learned he's learned right here. So there's a positive factor to that, too. Charlie is a highly respected coach in the state and nobody intimidates Charlie."

And when it all adds up, it's easy to see why Hyder feels this is the toughest game his Wildcats have faced all year.

Valdosta Not Among Upset Victims

V Times 10-13-85

In other games involving ranked Class AAAA teams, No. 3 Warner Robins rolled over Central Macon 33-7, LaGrange defeated Morrow 27-7, and No. 10 Colquitt County downed Morrow 14-3.

In Class AAA, No. 2 Thomson crushed Lancy 58-7, No. 3 Dalton beat Ringgold 31-7, No. 4 Dublin edged Tri-County 14-10, No. 5 Marist defeated North Springs 24-10, No. 6 Southeast

Whitfield blanked Rossville 25-0, No. 7 Cairo shut out Savannah 21-0, No. 8 Gainesville defeated Stephens County 14-7, and No. 10 Franklin County rolled over Hart County 25-6.

In Class AA, No. 3 Central-Carrollton handled Cartersville 34-7, No. 4 Duluth crushed Jefferson 55-0, No. 6 Waycross blanked Brantley County 55-0, No. 7 Irwin County defeated Pierce Co. 14-7 and No. 9 Mary Persons defeated Pike Co. 35-12

By The Associated Press
Valdosta, the top-ranked team in Class AAAA, used a fourth-quarter touchdown to defeat an upset-minded Central-Thomasville squad 7-3, but four other teams in the classification were not as lucky. Friday night in Georgia high school football.

Northside-Warner Robins, tied with LaGrange at No. 4, lost to Southwest 21-7, No. 7 Griffin was defeated by Heritage-Conyers 13-10, No. 6 Lowndes was shut out by Bainbridge 10-0 and No. 9 Dunwoody was stunned by Peachtree 12-10.

Valdosta, which has not lost since the 1983 state playoffs, entered the fourth quarter trailing the Yellow Jackets 3-0 after a 27-yard-field goal by Todd Wilson.

But the Wildcats fought back with an eight-play, 70-yard touchdown drive capped by a seven-yard run by Jeffery Holmes. Normally a tight end, Holmes was moved to running back and gained 71 yards.

Tony Mangham led Valdosta in rushing with 81 yards, while Lanoris Christopher topped all Central-Thomasville runners with 51 yards.

In the Class AAAA upsets: Milton Cuyler led Southwest's win over Northside-Warner Robins by scoring two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to break a 7-7 deadlock; Heritage-Conyers overcame a 10-6 deficit when Barry Cooper caught a 19-yard pass from Mark Gladden in the fourth quarter, and Bainbridge used a tough defense and a 69-yard scoring pass from Trent Hatton to Sammy King to defeat Lowndes.

Two other ranked teams also suffered losses this weekend, both in Class AA. Mitchell-Baker, ranked fifth, was crushed by Thomasville 35-13 and No. 8 Vidalia was defeated by West Laurens 7-0.

West Rome, the No. 1 team in Class AA, continued toward a fourth consecutive state title with a 55-0 mauling of crosstown rival East Rome. William Kent scored three touchdowns and Joe McCluskey added two, including a 98-yard run.

The other top-ranked teams also won — Class AAA Woodward Academy shut out McIntosh 14-0, and Lincoln, in the only game between ranked teams in Class A this weekend, crushed No. 10 Wrens 28-0.

Math Team Begins Season

V Times 10-12-85

By Kathy Harris
And Louis Gonsik
McRae, Michael Schmier, Michael Smith, and Lucy Tomberlin; and seniors — Tim Brady, Louis Gonsik, Kathy Harris, and Jim McIntyre.

The co-captains elected on Oct. 1 were Louis Goni and Kathy Harris, both of whom attended the Governor's Honors Program in mathematics this past summer.

The first tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 9, at Mercer University in Macon; and the VHS Math Team plans to send eight participants.

The team will also participate in many other tournaments throughout the year. In addition, the team will take the Georgia Math League tests again this year.

The 1985-86 Math Team at VHS has begun a new season with some returning members and many recruits.

Under the sponsorship of Jimmy Bostock and Mike Rogers, the 23 team members meet every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to work on challenging mathematical problems.

The members are: freshmen — Julie Anderson, Scott Earle, Lawrence Moore, and Joey Tomberlin; sophomores — Anne Clark, Johnnie Graham, Jan Hartzog, and Greg Leong; juniors — Angela Alexander, Jill Bryan, Clarissa Coley, Mike Farley, Timothy Lee, Terri Longeliere, Rusty McCall, Tracy

School Happenings

V Times 10-12-85

ROTC Invited

By Melanie Seals

The Valdosta High Naval Junior ROTC unit has been invited to attend the annual Pensucola Navy League Field Day Competition, because of its proven excellence during the 1984-85 school year.

The unit was contacted by Commander Robert Burns, Area Six Manager, to be a representative of Area Six at this national event.

The drill team will participate in the military drill competition. Many of the drill team members will also be members of the athletic team which will participate in the obstacle course, relay race, and distance run. The academic team will take a test which consists of 75 questions based on information from the Naval Science text.

Arts Club Officers

The following people were elected as officers of the Industrial Arts Club for the school year, 1985-86:

Antoinette Johnson — President;
Tracy Roberts — Vice President;
Regina Sirmans — Secretary;
Adrienne Williams — Treasurer; Keith Beal — Parliamentarian; Eugene Strickland — Sergeant-At-Arms
The club meetings are held on the

second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Club Adviser is Mr. Isaiah Isom, Industrial Arts Instructor.

Debaters Officers

By Jennifer Guest

VHS debaters have elected officers for the 1985-86 season.

Junior Paul Conrad was elected president; senior Charles Cutforth, vice-president; sophomore Jennifer Guest, secretary; and freshman David Hazelhurst, treasurer.

The debate club is planning practice rounds with area schools later this month and will participate in a statewide tournament in Leesburg, Ga. in November.

FBLA Meets

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America had its monthly meeting on Monday, October 7, presided over by Kimberly Rowe.

The club voted to donate to the World Food Drive on October 16. Plans were made to participate in the Homecoming Parade.

The guest speaker was Frankie Keelling, the Georgia State Region 2 Vice President of FBLA. Cosponsors for the local chapter are Maxine Martin and Barbara Edmondson.

Holmes Picked Top Player

V Times 10/14/85

Honor Roll

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor
Although several area running backs had more yards rushing than Valdosta's Jeffery Holmes Friday night, none of them had a bigger carry.

Holmes, who normally lines up at the tight end position, had two big runs that lifted the Wildcats to a come-from-behind 7-3 victory over Central-Thomasville in a crucial Region 1-AAAA South game.

Herbert Mingo, Clinch County, rushed for 224 yards on 19 carries to lead the Panthers to a 29-21 victory over Charlton County. Mingo, a freshman, scored on runs of 21, 80 and two yards. Sam Marshall, Allen Handley, and Phil Manley led the Panther defense with six tackles each.

Johnny Mapp, Berrien County, had 172 yards on 35 carries and scored two touchdowns to lead the Rebels to a 36-13 victory over McIntosh County Academy. Mapp scored on runs of four and 14 yards.

Gerry Holland, Atkinson County, had seven tackles, three assists and recovered a fumble to lead a Rebel defense that yielded just 61 yards on the ground in a 20-13 victory over Bacon County. Reggie Mathews also had four tackles, four assists and recovered a fumble. Atkinson's defense allowed just 143 yards in total offense, but 64 of that came on one touchdown pass. Levis Smallwood picked up 168 yards on 28 carries and scored a touchdown when he recovered a Bacon fumble in the end zone.

Preston Williams, Brooks County, completed six of 13 passes for 114 yards, including two touchdowns, and had 58 yards rushing in the Trojans' 14-10 victory over Hawkinsville.

Greg Jefferson, Hamilton County, caught two touchdown passes from Bruce Ford to lead the Trojans to a 34-6 victory over Chiefland. Jefferson's touchdowns covered 33 and 13 yards. Ford also passed for a 48-yard score to Ronald Rogers and ran for a score from 7-yards out.

Tony Mangham, Valdosta, gained 81 yards on 14 carries in the Wildcats' 7-3 victory over Central-Thomasville.

Terrell Reed and Jerry Simmons, Cook County, both scored in overtime to lift the Hornets to a 29-15 victory over Worth County. Both scores came from 18 yards out in the second overtime.

Rusty Byington, Valwood, completed seven of 15 passes for 227 yards and three touchdowns as the Valiants got back on the winning track with a 28-7 victory over Pineland. Bucky Davis had two of the TD receptions while Jeff Hall had the other. Don Faircloth rushed for 88 yards on 13 carries.

Darren Astles, Lowndes Christian, completed eight of 16 passes for 121 yards and one touchdown in the Eagles' 32-8 loss to Central Fellowship. Spencer Dwakins was on the receiving end of four pass for 89 yards. Johnny Cook led the Eagle defense with 14 tackles. Astles, George Wisenbaker and Shawn Gay had eight tackles each.



Holmes

Following a holding penalty and a sack of quarterback Greg Talley, the Wildcats were faced with a third-and-25 situation.

Faced one of the most critical plays of the game, Holmes got the call and responded with a 36-yard run off right tackle on a counter play for a first down at the Central 39-yard line.

After Tony Mangham went off right tackle to 32 yards to the seven, Holmes got the call again. Again he responded with a 7-yard burst off right tackle for the touchdown.

For the game, Holmes had 71 yards on 12 carries.

For his efforts against the Yellow Jackets, Holmes has been named the Valdosta Daily Times player of the week.

'Cats Hoping To Contain Edwards

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
V Times 10-17-85

deal with an excellent quarterback. "James Lee is a big quarterback (6-foot-3) with good speed who stays calm under pressure," Hyder said. "And he is very skilled at handling the ball. The Packers' bread and butter play is running off tackle behind their two big tackles, but their finesse play is the option which they run to perfection."

The "two big tackles" are senior Horace Robinson, a 6-foot-1 220-pound all-region performer, and 6-foot-3 267-pound junior Marco Thomas. They provide plenty of running room for the Packer backfield.

Colquitt also has a very capable defense composed of nine seniors and two juniors. "Jim Hughes' teams have always been known for fundamental football. They always block and tackle very well," Hyder said. "And on defense they also rush the passer and cover the receivers extremely well. Their overall balance concerns us a lot."

The revenge motive was given to the Packers in the region playoffs last year. A 9-1-1 Packer team, the 1984 Region 1-AAAA North champions, was severely trounced 35-7 by the Wildcat steamroller on its way to the state championship.

And though some members of that championship team are gone, this year's Wildcat edition is undefeated and ranked first in the state. And they are improving every week.

The Wildcat defense will also have to

deal with an excellent quarterback. "James Lee is a big quarterback (6-foot-3) with good speed who stays calm under pressure," Hyder said. "And he is very skilled at handling the ball. The Packers' bread and butter play is running off tackle behind their two big tackles, but their finesse play is the option which they run to perfection."

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Tacky Day At VHS

Students At Valdosta High School dressed up rather tacky Wednesday as they celebrated 'Tacky Day.' Shown here are just a few of the getups some Nadine Shochet.

By MICK HENDERSON
Times Staff Writer

Cleveland Field will be filled with the sounds of blaring brass and booming drums Saturday as the 10th Annual Southern Open high school marching bands competition gets underway.

The competition is now recognized as one of the top showcases for the best marching bands in Georgia and neighboring states, according to band director Dan Gaultney of Valdosta High School, the host school for the event.

"It has a good reputation," he said, adding the competition was started by the VHS band boosters organization as a way "to have some of the better bands in the Southeast shoot it out once a year."

Activities will start with the opening ceremony at 10:45 p.m. Saturday which will be followed by the performances of 14 bands, including: Southland Academy, Americus, Ga.; Metter High School, Metter, Ga.; Cook High School, Adel; Madison County High School, Madison, Fla.; Statesboro High School, Statesboro, Ga.; Clay High School, Green Cove Springs, Fla.; Gulfbreeze High School, Gulfbreeze, Fla.; Interlachen High School, Interlachen, Fla.; Shaw High School, Columbus, Ga.; Americus High School,

VHS's Southern Open Brings Out The Brass

Americus; Pinellas Park High School, Pinellas Park, Fla.; Largo High School, Largo, Fla.; Effingham County High School, Springfield, Ga.; and Escambia High School, Pensacola, Fla.

Gaultney said the Largo High School band will be especially motivated to win the competition to become the first school to accomplish that twice.

An exhibition performance will be given by the VHS "Marchin' Cats" band at 4:30 p.m., just prior to a chicken dinner sponsored by the band boosters that will take place from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Valdosta Junior High School "Marchin' Tomcats" will take the field at 7:30 p.m. for another exhibition performance to be followed by the finals competition at 7:45 p.m.

The finals will consist of two different competitions each involving four bands who will play selections before judges from Georgia, Florida, Alabama and South Carolina, Gaultney said.

The Valdosta State College "Blazin' Brigade" will also perform an exhibition routine following the finals competition at 9:30 p.m.

The master of ceremonies for the event this year will be Herb Melleny.

VHS Debate Club Eyes Support

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer
V Times 10-15-85

The Valdosta High School Debate Club is, in a way, a victim of its own success.

The club has grown each year since debate coach Frank Hjort took over in 1979, and the team began winning awards. More students join the club every year.

However, with the increased numbers come increased expenses, and school administrators say they can't continue to support the club at the same level as in the past.

So, will the quality of debate decline at VHS? Will Hjort take his debaters to fewer competitions this year? No way, he says.

A group of parents has formed the Valdosta Debate Booster Club to help pay for debate trips beyond what the school pays, even though some parents wonder about why such an organization is necessary. They complain that all football trips are completely paid for, and they can't see why debaters can't receive the same treatment.

"The answer lies in a state law, said Hjort. "It was explained to me that no tax money can be used for competitions," Hjort said. "In other words, the football is the only money generating activity, and it in turn pays for everything else."

"The rate we were spending money, per pupil expenditure, debate was receiving a lot of money. They just told us there was a point the well would run dry. I don't have the exact figures, but the funding has increased. The expenditures for debate have increased each year, and at the same time interest in debate has increased."

"When we go to out of town trips we have motel expenses, meal expenses and entry fees. All of these are based on how many students actually participate."

In Hjort's first year at VHS, only five or six students were on the debate team. The only tournament in which debaters participated was the region at Valdosta State College.

"Today, we have about 15 students who are active in debate, and new members are joining all the time,"

Hjort said.

In 1980-81, VHS debaters participated in the region tournament and one other. In 1981-82, they were in two tournaments. In 1982, they won the region debate competition for the first time during Hjort's tenure.

"After that the publicity got better, the interest was higher, and it just kind of snowballed," Hjort said. "And after that, in 1982-83 we participated in four tournaments."

"Interest in debate has grown, and funding from the school has grown, but if we want to continue to participate in the same level or increase the number of tournaments we go to, some kind of fundraising has to take place."

VHS debaters won the region crown in 1982-83 and 1984. In 1985, the team finished second.

"The students that were with debate have now graduated, so now we're kind of starting over with relatively inexperienced students," Hjort said. "We had a large group of freshmen. There are more freshmen on the debate team now than all the upper classmen put together. This is a rebuilding year, in other words."

Hjort and the debate team want to enter more competitions. Tournaments are held throughout Georgia almost every weekend. Another long-range goal is to sponsor a tournament in Valdosta.

"We're at a disadvantage here in South Georgia because there aren't that many tournaments south of Macon. We're hoping that if we build a program here in Valdosta, sponsor our own tournament and enter more competitions that schools around here will follow."

This year, for the first time, a public speaking and debate class will be taught at VHS. The class is open to all students. The class is designed to develop skills in communication and critical thinking.

"Debate instruction covers a lot of the curriculum at the high school because debaters learn research techniques and also, as far as social studies goes, they are developing skills in social science," Hjort said.

"The debaters are required to examine scientific studies and methods and apply that to the real world," Hjort said. "As far as math goes they have to examine scientific data."



VHS Homecoming Queen

Salena McCray was crowned Valdosta High School Homecoming Queen for 1985-86 at Friday night's Wildcats game against Colquitt County. Escorting Ms. McCray is Willie Davis. —Times Staff Photo By Susan Griffith.

Colquitt Co. Ends 'Cat String At 22

V Times 10-19-85

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Colquitt County's junior linebeker Demetrius-Walker stayed at home and led a defensive surge to stop Valdosta tight end Jeffrey Holmes on a fourth-and-nine end around play at the Packer 10-yard line. The effort ended a third straight Wildcat attempt to come from behind and left the score at a 21-14 Colquitt upset which a stiff defense and a late Ronald Bell interception made stand up for the victory.

"I made a couple of bad calls down there when we were trying to tie up the score," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said after the game. "I wish I had that end around play and the one before it (a William Dixon run into the middle for no gain) to call over again."

"But you've got to give Colquitt County credit. Their defense really bowled up at the end."

Valdosta did manage to get the ball back twice more. The first time, two incomplete passes followed a Walker sack of Wildcat quarterback Greg Talley to thwart the drive. Then in the last minute, Packer defensive back Bell intercepted an overthrown pass to end the game and preserve the 21-14 victory.

The loss was Valdosta's first in regular season play since 1981 and ended a string of 43 consecutive regular-season victories. It was the first loss of any kind in 23 games and marked the first time any team had scored as many as 21 points against the Wildcat defense since a 1979 region playoff loss to Tift County, 24-6.

"Colquitt County didn't do anything we didn't expect them to do," Hyder said. "We knew they had a good, strong defense. (T.J.) Edwards was the player of the year in the region last year, and it looks like he's got it going that way again this year."

"And we knew they had a quarterback who could complement their running attack by throwing the ball. That wide receiver, (Stacy) Middlebrooks scored on us last year."

It's Pointless

Listed below are the scores from games in which Valdosta opponents scored 12 or more points against the Wildcats since 1979. Colquitt's 21 points Friday were the most allowed by a Wildcat defense since 1979 when Valdosta lost to Tift County 24-6.

Year	School	Score
1985	Colquitt Co.	14-21
1984	Clarke Central	21-14
	Waycross	47-14
1983	Tift Co.	13-17
	Dougherty	56-14
	Colquitt Co.	42-14
	Monroe	66-13
1982	Coffee	29-13
	Dougherty	17-14
	Waycross	42-14
1981	W. Robins	14-17
	Tift Co.	17-12
	Lowndes	20-13
	Albany	29-14
	Thomasville	3-14
	Monroe	38-20
1980	Clarke Central	27-14
1979	Tift Co.	12-13
	Lowndes	14-15
	Dougherty	35-14
	Lowndes	24-21
	Tift Co.	6-24

It became easy to realize how the Packers are far out in front in the 1-A-AAAA North standings. Edwards, who easily leads the region in rushing, gained 122 yards on 23 carries against a Wildcat defense which had previously given up only 16 total points in seven games this season.

He also scored the game's first touchdown on a 35-yard pass play from quarterback James Lee, who threw only six passes all night. But he completed four of them for a total of 69 yards and two touchdowns. Middlebrooks caught a 15-yarder for the Packers' second touchdown.

The game began as a defensive struggle as neither team had any success moving the football in the first quarter. Each gained only one first down.

Then, early in the second quarter, Colquitt used a 54-yard punt by Sam Funderburk and a short Wildcat kick to establish good field position with a first down at their own 45-yard line.

Edwards got wide on an option play and gained 16 yards before Innis Davis saved a touchdown, tackling the Packer tailback from behind at the Wildcat 39-yard line.

From there the Valdosta defense stiffened, stopping Edwards' short plunges for first down yardage on third and fourth down. Willie Sauls tripped him up the first time and he was met by the whole left side of the Wildcat defensive line on fourth down and a foot.

However, two plays after Valdosta took over possession, Packer safety Cecil Baker made a spectacular one-handed grab to intercept a Talley bomb intended for Charles Steward down the left sideline. It gave the visitors a first down at the Colquitt 37-yard line.

Colquitt quickly gained two first downs on a 10-yard Lee pass to wide receiver Willie Sims and a 12-yard gain on a crossback play by Edwards. Then with a second-and-six at the Wildcat 35, Lee threw to Edwards on a 15-yard out pattern to the left.

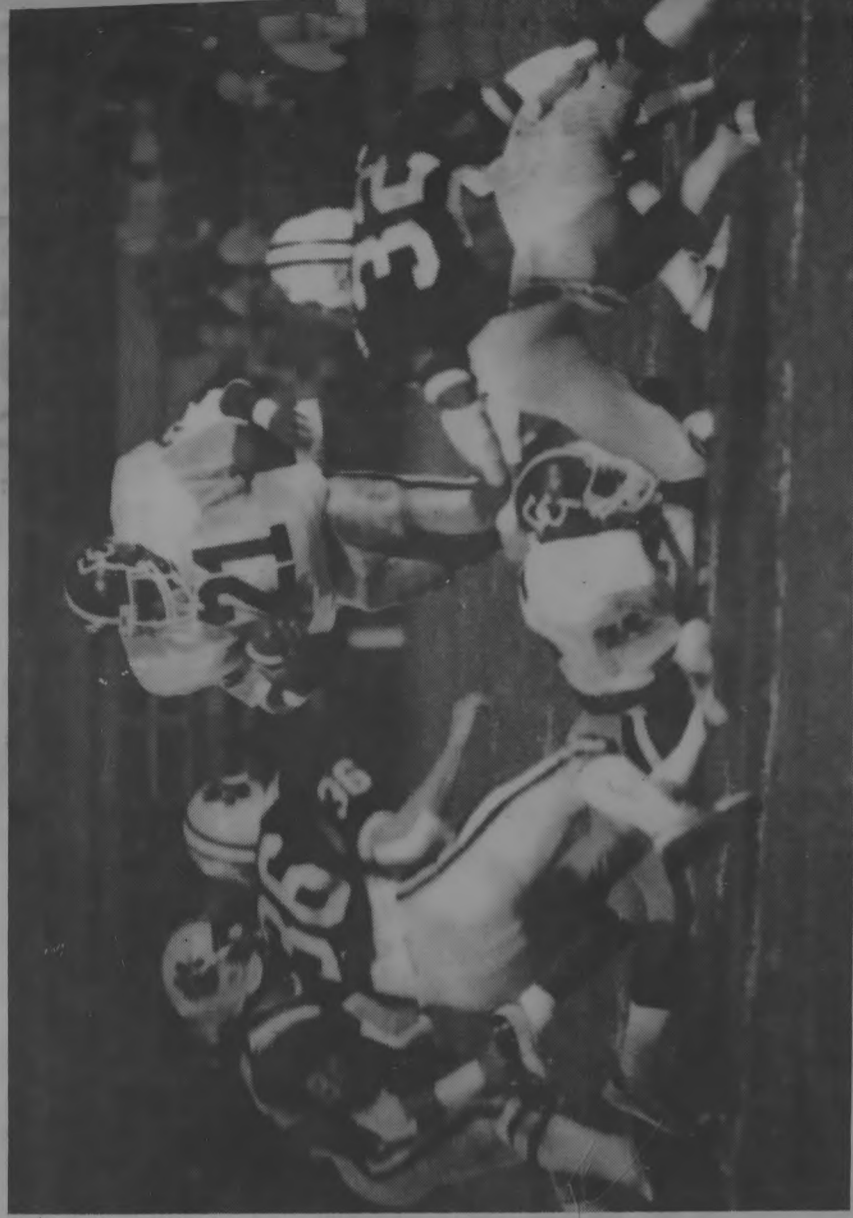
The tailback tipped the ball into the air, eluded a defender, grabbed the ball, and streaked down the sideline into the end zone. Herbert Hall, who was perfect on all three Packer extra points, made it a 7-0 advantage.

But Valdosta stormed right back as they would do all night. Talley led a 72-yard, 12-play drive which was highlighted by 6-, 31-, and 9-yard passes to Randy Bell and six carries by William Dixon who scored the touchdown on a one-yard plunge.

Dan Tillman's extra point then tied the score 7-7, and it remained that way until the half.

Valdosta then came out smoking in the second half until disaster struck. "If there was one play that really set us back, it was that fumble which stopped our drive following the second half kickoff," Hyder said.

A 14-yard pass to Bell and two carries each by Talley, Dixon, and halfback Tony Mangham had taken



Times Staff Photos by Susan Griffith

Colquitt's T.J. Edwards (21) Gained 122 Yards To Lead The Packers To The Upset

the ball down to the Packer 38-yard line. But on a sweep left, Dixon was hit and stopped by a host of Packer defenders. As he struggled to fall forward for an extra yard on second effort, the ball popped loose. Bell picked it up and ran it back to midfield before being shoved out of bounds.

From there Edwards and fullback Robert Lamar, who gained 122 yards last week against Monroe, drove for consistent gains. On a first-and-goal at the 10, Wildcat defensive end Sebron Williams threw Edwards for a five yard loss back to the 15.

However, on the next play Lee fired to Middlebrooks right between the goalposts for a touchdown and a 14-7 lead.

The Wildcats once again showed

their determination and answered with a 66-yard drive in 10 plays highlighted by Dixon's 35-yard run off left tackle behind Jodie Sprengle. He later scored on another 1-yard plunge to tie the score 14-14.

But the Packers were not to be denied. After a clipping penalty pinned them back on their own 13-yard line, they proceeded 87 yards in 12 plays for what would ultimately prove to be the winning touchdown.

A 19-yard gain by Lamar and a 32-yard off tackle play by Edwards in a fourth-and-one situation were the big plays leading to Lamar's eventual score from two yards out.

Valdosta once again refused to give up. After the ensuing kickoff which Reginald Dandy returned 21 yards,

Colquitt.....	0	7	7	7	0	7	7	21
Valdosta.....	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	14
Col — T.J. Edwards 35 pass from James Lee (Herbert Hall kick)								
Val — William Dixon 1 run (Dan Tillman kick)								
Col — Stacy Middlebrooks 15 pass from Lee (Hall kick)								
Val — Dixon 1 run (Tillman kick)								
Col — Robert Lamar 2 run (Hall kick)								

First Downs	CC	Va
Yards Rushing	13	13
Yards Passing	192	103
Passes	49	131
Fumbles-Lost	7	40
Punting	4-97	17-72
Penalties	4-28	1-11
Rushing — Colquitt Edwards 23, 122, Lamar 15-40, Middlebrooks 15-56, Talley 10-17, Mangram 7-11, Holmes 6-9.		
Passing — Colquitt Lee 4-6-40, Valdosta Talley 7-17-131-2.		
Receiving — Colquitt Edwards 1-35, Valdosta Bell 4-40, Mangram 1-30, Steward 1-20.		
Missed Field Goals — Colquitt none, Valdosta none.		

Sat., Oct. 12, 1985

Valdosta Survives Scare From Yellow Jackets

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta Wildcats found a brick wall waiting for them when they arrived in Thomasville for their Region 1-AAAA South game with Central-Thomasville Friday night.

But the Yellow Jacket defensive wall came a tumbin' down in the fourth quarter as Valdosta rallied for a 7-3 victory.

After Valdosta had backed itself up into a third-and-25 situation following a sack and holding penalty, senior tight end Jeffery Holmes went off right tackle on a trap play and rambled 36 yards to the Central 39 for a first down.

On the next play, Tony Manghram took a counter play 32 yards to the Yellow Jacket seven for a first-and-goal. Holmes got the call again and carried the ball off right tackle for the touchdown.

"It was a great defensive ballgame," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "But the offense did what it had to do when we needed it to do it."

Indeed it did. Punter Charles Steward almost wore his leg out, being called on seven times. And when it appeared he would have to punt again, Holmes broke lose for the big first down.

Hyder said Holmes' run was designed to get the first down, not to give Steward a little more room to work with and back Central up a little more.

"We went that far on the play because we were trying to go long," Hyder said. "He did what he had to do for us to keep possession."

The run not only enabled the Wildcats to keep their winning drive on track, but it also kept Central from gaining possession with good field position and most of the fourth quarter left to play.

For the first time this season, the

Valdosta.....	0	0	0	7	7
Central.....	0	0	3	0	3
CT — Todd Wilson 27 FG					
Val — Jeffery Holmes 7 run (Dan Tillman kick)					
First Downs	13	8			
Yards Rushing	168	88			
Yards Passing	28	45			
Passes	7-41	14-51			
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-1			
Punting	7-32.3	6-39.3			
Penalties	7-76	5-39			
Rushing — Valdosta, Manghram 14-81, Holmes 12-71, Dixon 10-19, Talley 7-0; Central, Christopher 9-51, Johnson 13-28, Taylor 5-12.					
Passing — Valdosta, Talley 7-41 28; Central, Taylor 10-5-0-0; Ward 4-0-1-0.					
Receiving — Valdosta, Steward 3-29; Central, West 2-22, Robinson 1-20.					
Missed Field Goals — Central, Wilson 47.					

Wildcats found themselves trailing in a ballgame. And what made it worse for Wildcat fans was their team had been stopped all night, except for one drive that a fumble ended, and time was running out.

Hyder said despite Valdosta being able to rally, it's hard to coach that to kids.

"I like games like this and I've been in this business for 28 years," Hyder said. "You can't set up a situation like this by talking. It's hard for them to listen to us and understand it until they go through it. It's just a like a youngster who fails in the classroom — he doesn't understand what has happened until it's happened. Then he listens."

Trying to move against a stubborn defense in front of a vocal crowd can be trying and difficult. But the Wildcats rose to the occasion when they needed to.

Prior to the touchdown drive, Valdosta had just two offensive drives in the first half.

Neither team could move the ball on their first possession, and Valdosta took over at its own 45 after forcing Central's second punt of the game. Four plays later, the Wildcats had a first down at the Central 30-yard line.

William Dixon went up the middle for three yards, Manghram went up the middle for four and Dixon gained 10 for another first down at the 13.

Following a 3-yard run by Dixon, Manghram went off right tackle for seven, but fumbled and Central recovered.

"When we didn't score there, we just had to step back and regroup," Hyder said. "And I thought the kids fought back extremely hard."

The only other drive, which was aided by two penalties against the Yellow Jackets, ended with two consecutive losses and a Steward punt.

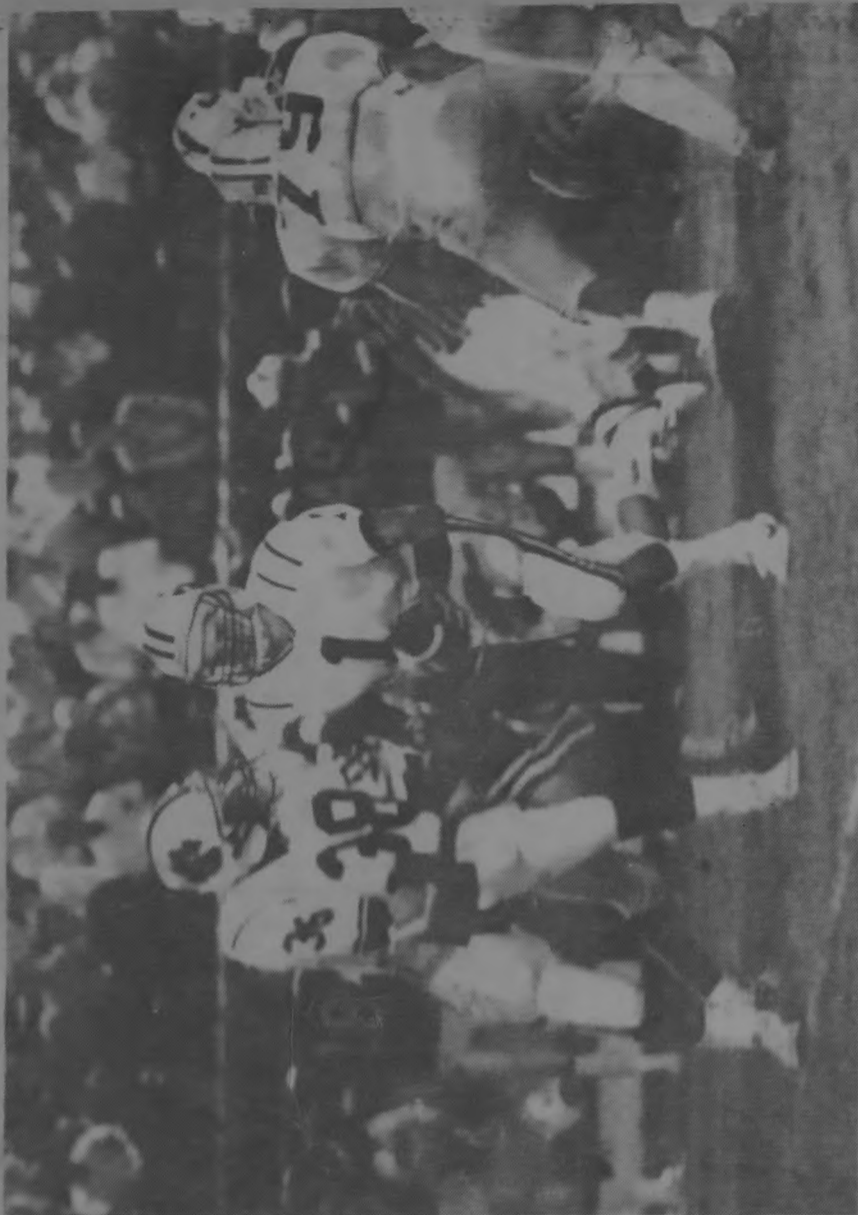
Central, meanwhile, had about the same offensive results. When the Yellow Jackets were on the move, a fumble ended the drive at the Valdosta 36. After holding the Wildcats and forcing a punt, Central took over at its own 22-yard line.

But three plays netted just three yards and the Yellow Jackets had to punt. On second down for the Wildcats, quarterback Greg Talley threw an interception and Central was in business at the Valdosta 37-yard line.

However, three plays were worth just seven yards and Todd Wilson came in to try a 47-yard field goal with only 25 seconds left in the half. But his kick was short and just wide to the right and the game remained scoreless.

The halftime statistics illustrate the type of defense the two teams were playing. Valdosta had 75 yards on 21 carries rushing the ball and had 29 through the air. Central was limited to 35 yards on 14 carries and 43 yards passing.

"It was a good hitting ball game, a lot of great collisions," Hyder said. "I tell you what, there are going to be some bruised up youngsters from both teams in the morning."



Valdosta Quarterback Greg Talley (1) Hands Off To William Dixon During 1st Quarter

Central Coach Charlie Greene is now 0-2 against his former team. The Wildcats won last year's game at Cleveland Field 35-7 in Greene's first return to Valdosta as a coach since leaving Valdosta to go to Stephens County in the early '70's.

"Our kids really played well," Greene said. "I can't ask for them to give any more than they did out there tonight. They just gave a tremendous effort."

Central made some offensive changes at the half and started running the option in the second half. And the change paid off. On their second possession, the Yellow Jackets drove 55 yards in 10 plays to set up a field goal by Wilson. The drive was highlighted by two field goals.

Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shoehet

13-yard runs by Lanoris Christopher, and an 11-yard burst by Wade Johnson.

But the Wildcat defense, which has become a tradition over the years, tightened up and didn't give in. After Central picked up a first down at the Valdosta 16, three plays netted six yards and Greene elected to go for the field goal.

Area Football Teams Battle Toward Playoffs

As football nears the crucial final three weeks of the season, several area teams have found themselves bruised and battered. Other teams are looking forward to the playoff season with expectation. Some already know they won't be there.

Valdosta and Lowndes are in the thick of the 1-AAAA South fight. The Vikings went into Friday night's game with Tifton with a 4-2 record, losing to Clarke Central in Athens and dropping a disappointing 10-0 decision to the Bainbridge Bearcats. Lowndes has been put into a must-win situation against Central-Thomasville and Valdosta if it hopes to see post-season play.

However, the Vikings have a good chance if things go well with quarterback Bobby Eason, who is one of the 1-AAAA passign leaders.

Valdosta, meanwhile, went in to Friday night's contest with Colquitt County undefeated at 7-0. Barring disaster, Valdosta has a lock on post season play. The Wildcat offense, which started out sputtering, has continually gained speed and rhythm.

Valdosta's running game has been led by speedy William Dixon and Tony Mangrum. Jefferey Holmes has seen some play, and made several key runs in the Wildcat's 7-3 victory over Central-Thomasville.

The Valwood Valiants have struggled somewhat this year under second-year head coach Allen Fort. The Valiants started a football program last year and went 10-0 in regular season play.

This year, a tough schedule and an injured Maurey Copleand have hurt the Valiants as are struggling for a playoff spot in region 2-A of the Southeast Association of Independent Schools.

The Valdosta State Blazers have had a rough year and went into Saturday night's game against Livingston with a 2-3 overall record. The Blazers have had a lack of offense but have had some relief from freshmen running

back Tony Allen, was named player of the week in the Gulf South Conference for his play against UT-Martin.

Another freshman, Darrell Funderbunk, has won the starting quarterback job for the Blazers, and has shown a strong arm. Funderbunk's name should sound familiar to area football fans. He quarterbacked the Colquitt County Packers last year.

The Blazers, Valiants, Wildcats, and Vikings are all entering the do-or-die games of their schedules. Only time will tell whether or not the Wingersville tradition will continue.

Sunday, October 20, 1985



Wildcat Fans In Action



Wildcat Quarterback Looks Downfield As Other Backs Defend Him

Defense Carries Wildcats, 10-0

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

ALBANY — A sparse but vocal Valdosta crowd witnessed the Wildcats' 10-0 dismantling of the Dougherty Trojans in a hard-hitting affair on a warm, steamy October Friday night in Albany.

The Wildcats used a ferocious defense and a varied offensive attack to slowly but surely subdue the Trojans, who entered the contest with a 2-1 Region I-AAAA South record and a 4-4 mark overall.

Dougherty ball carriers were dropped seven times for losses in the first half totalling 34 yards.

They were tackled seven times for losses in the third quarter for 35 yards. Walt Gill made four big plays in the Trojan backfield in the big third period. Then Eric Larry added two quarterback sacks in the fourth period for 15 more yards in losses.

On offense, Valdosta used a lightning-quick drive for a touchdown and a snail-paced drive for a field goal to mount their 10 points on the scoreboard.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats began a drive at the Dougherty 44-yard line after a Trojan punt.

On first down, halfback Tony Mangham ran a trap play behind guard Troy Wells and threw the defensive secondary for 28 yards to the 19-yard line.

From there, quarterback Greg Talley took a bootleg around right end, dodged a tackler at the 10, and burst into the end zone. Dan Tillman added the extra point to cap off a 10-0 victory.

Valdosta.....	0	3	0	7	10
Dougherty.....	0	0	0	0	0
Val — Dan Tillman 33 FG					
Val — Greg Talley 19 run (Tillman kick)					

First Downs	15	10
Yards Rushing	140	39
Yards Passing	90	57
Passes	15-9-1	13-6-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Punting	3-40	6-32.7
Penalties	7-4	6-50
Rushing — Valdosta, Mangham 16-86, Talley 8-25, Roberts 4-14, Dougherty, Rowe 7-70, Sisroe 11-9, Dougherty, Davis 12-51.57.		
Passing — Valdosta, Talley 15-9-1 90, Dougherty, Dougherty, Rowe 4-27, Barlow 1-20.		
Receiving — Valdosta, Carter 2-47, Belle 3-18, Missed Field Goals — None.		

"On Talley's touchdown, Jeff Davis and tackle Marty Howell did a great job blocking as they did all night long," said Wildcat coach Nick Hyder.

Valdosta had established a 3-0 lead after the defense held the Trojans on downs midway through the first quarter. The Wildcat offense embarked upon a 15-play, 53-yard drive for their only points in the first half.

A familiar name and an unfamiliar one produced two key plays each in the drive.

Mangham was shouldering most of the rushing load due to the absence of injured fullback William Dixon.

The most yardage in the drive was produced by ninth grade tight end Earl Carter, subbing for the injured Jeffery Holmes. He gained the second first down when he ran for nine yards on an end around play. Then later on a second and 18 play, he hauled in a Talley pass over the middle for a 20-yard gain.

The drive stalled after an illegal procedure penalty and an incomplete pass at the 16-yard line. Tillman then came on to kick a 33-yard field goal.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 26, 1985 3

DECA Students Attend Conference

Four marketing students from Valdosta High School in Valdosta attended the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) Leadership Development Conference in Atlanta last weekend.

Jane McLeod, Robin Weeks, Megan Wallace and Becky Long attended the conference with their advisor, Norman Greene, and more than 600 other DECA students and advisors. Conference meetings were held at the Atlanta Apparel Mart and the Atlanta Merchandise Mart Oct. 18-19.

"This conference was designed to give marketing students and DECA members an orientation to leadership skills and techniques needed to operate a successful DECA chapter. We wanted them to take home skills in cooperation and teamwork. We hope

the result will be a positive value system they will use in their clubs and in service to their communities," said Marvin Brown, state supervisor for marketing education at the Georgia Department of Education.

All of the student participants, who are local club officers and key committee members, attended workshops on team building, the professional image and participating in competitive events.

National DECA High School Division President Zachary Rhodes of Oklahoma greeted the conference participants Friday night with a speech called "Take That Extra Step."

The keynote address was given by Bill Sanders, president of Alternatives in Motivation, a company dedicated to stimulating individuals, companies and



VHS News
Compiled, Written By VHS Students

organizations to peak performance and success. His speech, "Show the World Your Greatness," proved to be an inspiring beginning to the conference.

Wed., Oct. 23, 1985

Wildcats Plummet To Fifth

By DAVID SIMPSON
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Clarke Central has claimed the No. 1 ranking in Georgia Class AAAA high school football, while formerly top-ranked Valdosta is fifth in this week's Associated Press poll.

The three other No. 1 teams — Class AAA Woodward Academy, Class AA West Rome and Class A Lincoln County — held their positions.

Clarke Central claimed seven first-place votes from the AP's panel of sportswriters and sportscasters, with No. 2 Warner Robins getting two and Valdosta one.

Clarke Central and Warner Robins, both 7-0, moved up a spot when Colquitt County knocked off Valdosta 21-14 Friday, the Wildcats' first regular-season loss since 1981.

Colquitt jumped from No. 6 to No. 3 and Glyn Academy moved up a spot to No. 4. Redan climbed one notch to No. 6, while LaGrange fell from No. 4 to No. 7 after a 21-3 loss to Newman.

The Top 10 again is rounded out by Northside-Warner Robins, McEachern and Bradwell Institute.

After a come-from-behind 10-6 victory over Lithonia, Woodward Academy managed to keep six first-place votes in Class AAA. Thomson, still No. 2, got one first-place vote and Dalton, holding at No. 3, received three.

Dublin remains No. 4. Southeast Whitfield moved up a spot to No. 5, dropping Marist to No. 6. No. 7 Cairo again is followed by Franklin County and Gainesville.

Lithonia replaced Perry, a 28-0 loser to Americus, at No. 10.

West Rome again was the unanimous choice to lead Class AA, again followed by Manchester. Duluth pulled up a spot into a tie at No. 3 with Central-Carrollton.

Waycross remains No. 5 and Irwin Co. is still No. 6. Mitchell-Baker moved up a spot to No. 7, dropping Mary Persons to No. 8. Washington-Wilkes remains ninth.

Coosa took the No. 10 spot from Sequoyah, which lost 21-7 to Druid Hills.

In Class A, Lincoln County again is followed by Commerce, Greenville and Wilcox County. Banks County moved up two spots to No. 5 after beating then-No. 5 Union County 29-16. Union County dropped to No. 10.

Miller County and Bremen, previously tied for eighth, now are even at No. 6. Pacelli moved from No. 10 to No. 8 and Louisville, a 17-0 loser to Lincoln County, fell three spots to No. 9.

Wildcats Looking To Bounce Back

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats find themselves on the road against Dougherty this week as they attempt to rebound from last week's first loss of the season against Colquitt County. The game will be at Albany's Hugh Mills Memorial Stadium, which has traditionally been a tough place for the Wildcats.

"We seem to have always had trouble with Dougherty," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "Except for last year when our defense played a great game and shut them out, the Trojans have always played us tough.

"Against our 1982 team, which went on to win the state championship, they had us down 14-0. Then we came back to tie it up. Late in the game we got the ball back, and John Porter kicked a field goal with 17 seconds left to give us a 17-14 victory."

Dougherty is 4-4 coming into the game, but has shown much improvement lately. Since losing to Lowndes 30-12 on the road, the Trojans have beaten Albany 23-8 and Westover 35-28, and lost on the road to Central-Thomasville 17-7.

"They have proven in the last few games that they can score points, and they have always had a tough aggressive defense," Hyder said. "They have already beaten Bainbridge, Monroe, and Westover from our region and stand a chance of winning the North subregion if they can get by Colquitt County. They'll have 15 days to prepare for that game."

Dougherty runs from a Wing-T formation on offense, like Colquitt County, from which they throw sparingly, but effectively. Tight end Reggie Barlow, whom many consider to be the

best in the region, has caught 15 passes for 306 yards and two touchdowns. He is a 6-foot-1 205-pounder with good hands and speed.

The Wildcat defense may have its hands full with the Trojans' running attack, however. Senior Charles Sisroe ranks fourth in the region in rushing with 533 yards on 112 carries for a 4.8 yard average while junior Darren Rowe has picked up 291 yards on 50 carries for a 5.8 yard average. Milton Johnson has averaged 4.6 yards per carry on 40 attempts.

Junior quarterback Craig Davis has completed 31 of 72 passes on the season for 537 yards and three touchdowns.

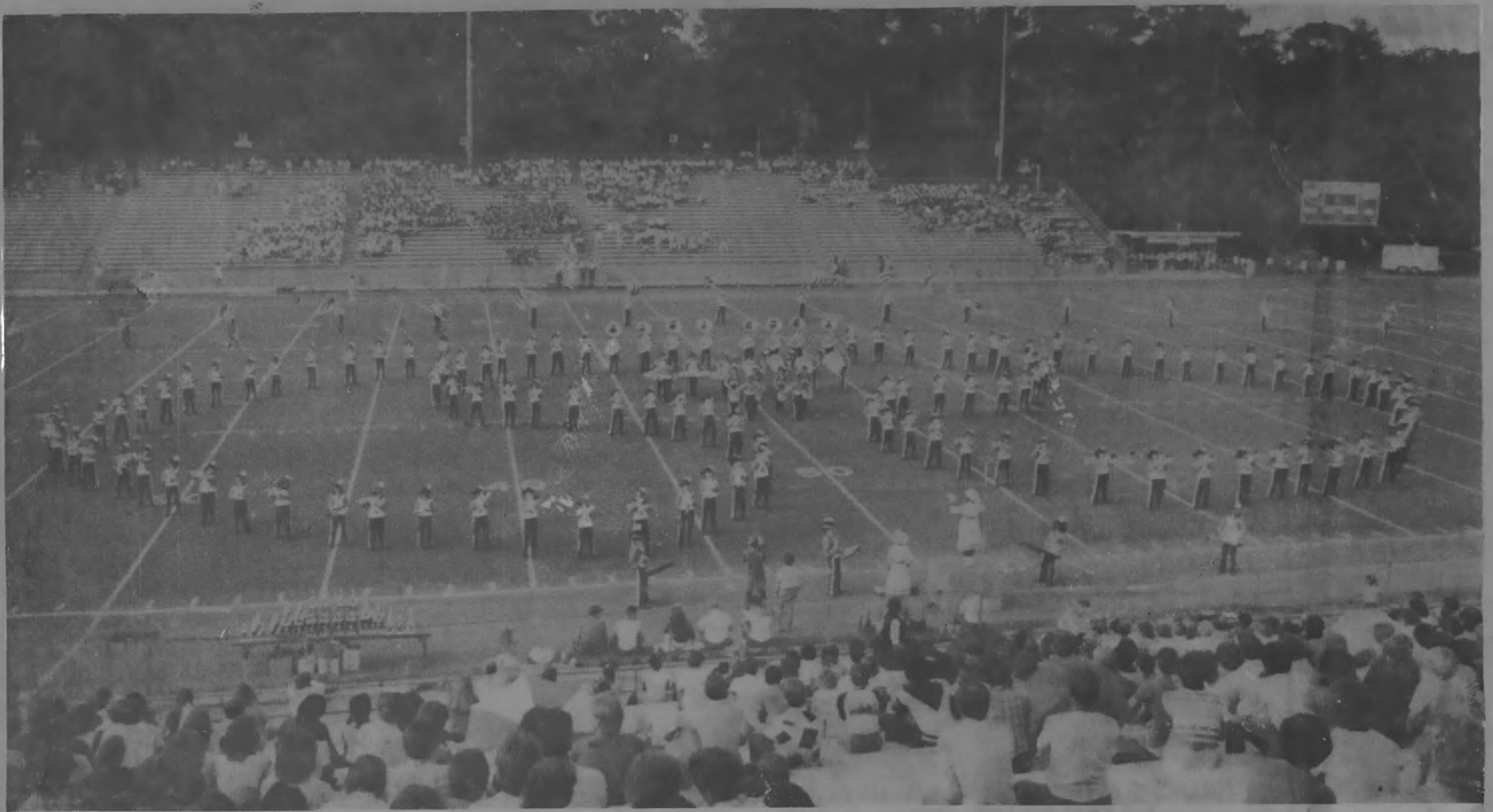
New Trojan coach Mitch Harrington is an ex-defensive coordinator who has instilled an aggressive attitude in his players.

"The Wing-T is especially rough on linebackers and defensive ends," Hyder said. "We must stop them in their bursts off tackle and in their attempts to get wide on us. If we don't, it could be a long night for us."

One circumstance that will be in the Wildcats' favor is the fact that as many as five or six Trojan players will line up on offense and defense. Having that many regulars going both ways has got to hurt them against Valdosta, who has long been known for shuffling 35-40 players in and out of a game all night long.

Despite Dougherty's 4-4 record, Hyder could not stress enough the importance of a strong Wildcat effort.

"This game will be sorely needed in the case of a tie at the end of the season. We can't afford to lose this one, even though it is not a subregion game. We want it badly, and we're not going over there limping."



'The Pride' Band Of Pensacola, Fla., Struts Their Stuff During The All-Day Competition Held Here Last Weekend At Cleveland Field

Sunday, October 27, 1985

Bring On The Band

It was pomp and circumstance galore Oct. 19 at Cleveland Field as the 10th Annual Southern Open Band Competition took place between 14 high school bands from Georgia and other southeastern states.

The parking lot adjacent to the stadium looked like a school bus manufacturing plant as packs of excited band performers scurried around the area with their instruments, a few getting in some last minute practice before their band's appearance.

According to Dan Gaultney, band director of the sponsoring Valdosta High School "Marchin' Cats" band, the event was started by the high school's band boosters organization "as a way to provide a shootout between bands from Georgia and other neighboring states."

When the smoke cleared Saturday night, the fastest draws were the Shaw

High School Marching Band from Columbus, Ga. in the silver or small schools division and the Escambia High School Marching Band from Pensacola, Fla. in the gold or large school division.

In its decade of existence, the Southern Open has been gaining increasing respect as one of the foremost showcases of marching band talent in the Southeast, Gaultney said.

In addition to the diversity of performances by the competitors, the overflow crowd on hand was also treated to exhibition performances by the VHS band, the Valdosta Junior High School "Marchin' Tomcats" group and the "Blazer Brigade" from Valdosta State College.

The VHS Band Boosters made sure everyone was well taken care of in the food department by dispensing various treats from the stadium's snack bar throughout the day and night.



Southern Open Band Competition Shows Included Lots Of Glamour Too

FBLA Members Attend National Conference

Maxin Martin, FBLA Advisor and Business Education teacher at Valdosta High School, and Frankie Keeling, FBLA Region 2 Vice President, attended the October 24-26 national conference. Business students and advisors traveled to Orlando, Fla., from 11 states throughout the southeastern United States to enjoy the 1985 National Fall Leadership Conference for the Southern Region.

This conference was designed for Future Business Leaders of America and Phi Beta Lambda officers, advisors, and members to receive training in many areas of interest. The theme of the conference, Your Business Connection, was stressed throughout the conference.

A new advisors session was held as

well as other workshops for advisors including integrating FBLA into the classroom, planning for competitive events, and increasing membership. Students enjoyed workshops on motivation, getting involved, parliamentary procedure, running for office, publicity/public relations, publishing a newsletter, how to complete a job application, personal financial management, and careers in focus.

At Valdosta High

New Slate Of Officers Elected To Head VICA

The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America represents a common bond between the trade and industrial programs and the diversified cooperative program at Valdosta High.

VICA officers elected for 1985-86 at Valdosta High School are:

President — Ronni Bartholomew. Ronni's employer is Mr. Lane Giddens at Satellite Sales and Services.

Vice President — Chris Gray. Chris works for Mrs. Jane McLeod at Lee Street Baptist Church.

Secretary — Amy Kinneman. Amy's employer is Dr. Bill Moorman.



Language Club Elects Officers

By ROSALYN THOMPSON

The Valdosta High Foreign Language Club has elected its officers for the 1985-1986 school term. The officers are president, Chalana McFarland; French vice-president, Dawn Pompey; Spanish vice-president, Erica Miller; treasurer, Debbie Bailey; and secretary, Erika Duckworth.

The board, a group of students representing each class, was also elected. Senior representatives are Stephen Brown and Aparna Reddy. Junior representatives are Matt Winters and Evett Plather. Sophomore representatives are Rosalyn Thompson and Faylene Joiner. Freshmen representatives are Dionne Joyner and Sheila Payton.

This year a Miss FLC, Aparna Reddy, and a Mr. FLC, Stephen Brown, were nominated. The club has participated in the Homecoming parade and it plans to host a large Christmas dinner for its members as well as join other school organizations in a drive to collect canned goods for the needy.

Junior Varsity Game Only For Purist

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

It was a football afternoon for purists only. The game was played in a steady rain and on a wet field before parents and only the most avid supporters. And Lowndes beat Valdosta 34-0.

What had been expected to be a big event on a minor league scale, turned out to be more like just another ninth-grade football game. But the cheerleaders screamed their hearts out until the end, and both teams fought hard up to the final gun.

"Turnovers were really the difference in the ballgame," Lowndes coach Noel George said. "Valdosta didn't play that bad. The weather got to them more than us, probably because we've already played a game under conditions like these. And we lost that one to Brooks County."

Neither team could be called a powerhouse as each entered the game with identical 2-4 records. But it was a pleasure to see pure football without a lot of hype and macho extremism. Never did an opposing player taunt the ballcarrier after an especially hard tackle.

And it was good to see players give it 100 percent on every play. Students on both teams were seen emerging from a pileup limping, but heading back to the huddle and having to be ordered to come out of the game.

But Valdosta turnovers and a couple of excellent Plowboy running backs turned the game into a rout.

In keeping with the luke-warm interest in the game, the local press didn't

Treasurer — Cathy Danapilis. Cathy's employer is Mr. Bill Watkins at Winn-Dixie Market Place.

Parliamentarian — Wendy Herndon. Wendy works for Mr. Bill Watkins at Winn-Dixie Market Place.

Reporter — Anita Giles. Anita's employer is Mr. Bill Watkins at Winn Dixie Market Place.

Club Advisors — (1) Mark Lees who works for Mr. Andy Pendleton at Hardees; (2) Brent Devand who works for Mr. Bill Mote at Camera America and (3) Shari Gross who works for Mr. John Snyder at This Can't Be Yogurt.

Analysis

arrive until just before halftime. The score was already 20-0.

Valdosta had fumbled at midfield on their first possession. The Plowboys, as they would all day long, utilized a balanced offensive attack to move the ball in for a score.

Quarterback Danny Folsom hit Jason Orr for a big 30-yard gain to get down close. Then bruising fullback Mark Walker, constantly evoking screams of "Herschel" from the stands, ran it in for the first touchdown.

Lowndes scored on their next possession on a 54-yard drive directed by the steady ballhandler Folsom, who scored on a quarterback sneak.

"One of the keys to the ballgame was our consistency on the exchange between center Chris Hubert and Folsom in this kind of weather," George said. "And our running backs did a great job holding onto the football."

The Plowboys' third score came after a wild series of events. Roger Meeks returned a short Valdosta punt 45 yards deep into Wildcat territory. Lowndes once again pounded ahead. But credit must be given to the determined Valdosta team for not giving up on a goal line stand. They held the Plowboys on fourth down at the 1-yard line to gain possession.

But the wet football once again came into play as they fumbled with their backs' to the wall. Lowndes linebacker

Jimmy Hiers recovered the ball in the end zone for a touchdown. Folsom then hit Eric Seymour for a 2-point conversion and the 20-0 halftime advantage.

But as Lowndes' two 130-pound team captains, Rod Shelley and Sean Burge, came off the field after the second half referees' conference, the impartial observer was poised for a Valdosta comeback. It was not to be.

Plowboy cornerback Lee Pollock's interception on the first play after the kickoff gave them good field position once again. Walker then burst through the line, veered left, and outran the secondary on a 45-yard run for a touchdown and a 26-0 lead.

Then Lowndes defensive coach Steve Kebler's charges got the opportunity to flex their defensive muscle. Middle linebacker Freddie Richardson anchored the middle of a defensive line which yielded little, if anything, all day long, and ends Bernard Countee and Freddie Hannah turned in Valdosta's attempts to get wide.

The victory was sealed with 2:16 left in the third quarter when Pollock tackled a Wildcat ballcarrier just short on fourth down at midfield.

From there it was all Edgar Thomas. Behind the left side blocking of guard Keith Dimick, tackle Wesley Langdale, and tight end Benji West, the fireplug Thomas burst seven yards, eight yards, and then 32 yards for a touchdown on three straight plays to nail the Valdosta coffin shut. Seymour's leaping catch of the two-point conversion only iced it.

Teams Ready For Showdown On The Back 40

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Similar to the American League's record against the National League in the baseball All-Star Game over the last twenty years, the Lowndes High Vikings will be trying to lessen what has become an overwhelming dominance by the Valdosta High Wildcats when the two face each other in Martin Stadium Friday night.

Valdosta has won 17 of the 20 meetings between the two schools since they began playing in the middle 1960's. Since the Vikings last victory, by a 6-0 score in 1980, the Wildcats have won the last four meetings, outscoring their opponents 105-25.

But this year the teams appear fairly evenly matched. Valdosta carries an 8-1 record and its No. 4 state ranking into the contest while Lowndes counters with its 7-2 record and No. 9 ranking in the state poll. And Lowndes' starting lineup includes 18 seniors while Valdosta lost around 20 of the approximately 35 "starters" which play regularly for the Wildcats.

Valdosta's lone defeat was at the hands of Colquitt County squad which took a 21-14 decision when a late Wildcat scoring thrust stalled at the Packer 9-yard line late in the game.

Lowndes beat the Packers 13-12 in Colquitt's opening game of the season,

Bill Miller

but lost a controversial game at Clarke Central 29-20 in its next outing and then dropped a 10-0 upset decision against a pesky Bainbridge team on the road.

The outcome of the game also deeply affects the subregion standings along with the Bainbridge at Central-Thomasville game Friday night. If Valdosta wins, they maintain an undefeated posture in 1-AAAA South and enter the playoffs pitted against the second place team in the north, probably Tift County or Dougherty, both of whom they beat soundly in the regular season.

If Lowndes is victorious, they would win the subregion and draw the North's second place team while Valdosta would have to play Colquitt County in the first round. If Lowndes loses they have no chance.

Mark Jones

Perhaps the game's most interesting matchup will be Valdosta's powerful defense against a strong, balanced Lowndes offensive attack. Valdosta has allowed only 37 points all year while Lowndes' 189 points scored ranks second in the region behind Colquitt's 207.

Quarterback Bobby Eason leads a passing attack which can overwhelm an opponent or can itself be overwhelmed. Eason completed 22 of 33 passes for 272 yards against now top-ranked Clarke Central. But against Bainbridge he was sacked 9 times for 59 yards in losses and completed only six of 15 passes for 76 yards as the Vikings were shut out by the Bearcats.

His wide receivers are Todd Williams and Eric Blades, a tandem

Kelvin Miller

which has caught 29 and 19 passes respectively for a combined nine touchdowns. The tight end, Jimmy Rodgers, has also hauled in 10 passes and represents a valid threat, as does halfback Mark Jones who has 16 receptions and three touchdowns coming out of the backfield.

But to complement the potent aerial attack, Lowndes also has the ability to run the ball effectively. Fullbacks James Carter (225 pounds) and Ben Wright (225 pounds) have combined for 689 yards and an average of more than five yards per carry on the season. The scatback Jones has added 369 yards on 69 carries and represents a dangerous outside threat.

The Viking offensive line returns intact from last year and features three-year starter Bill Miller and Stan

Tony Mangham

Reaves at tackles along with Danny Clark and Tommy Hays at guard and junior Ed Falgout at center.

The pressure will be on this group as Valdosta's strongest feature is their defensive line.

The Wildcat defense features a disciplined group which makes few mistakes and gives up few big plays. Defensive ends Seabron Williams and Willie Sauls provide constant pressure on quarterbacks with their persistent quickness and tenacity.

Tackles Kelvin Williams and Otis Conaway anchor a defensive line which is extremely tough to run against and linebackers Tony Johnson and Bill Kirby are quick and aggressive.

Senior cornerback Dwayne Hart is a sure tackler and provides leadership in a young defensive secondary which has

William Dixon

They will be countered by a Lowndes defense which is quick and aggressive. But Viking tackles Joey Parker and Jimmy Gay and linebackers Roger Culppeper and Wally Hubert must have big games against the large Wildcat offensive line. Secondary men David Hargett and Brad Almon represent big play potential in the defensive backfield.

Star defensive end Bobby Wiseman has been missed in recent weeks after undergoing midseason knee surgery, but Kirk Robinson has been a more than able replacement.

The game will be played at Lowndes' Martin Stadium where the Vikings have not lost this year, but it is doubtful whether there will be any homefield advantage in this matchup of cross-town rivals.



intercepted only 12 passes this season, mainly because quarterbacks have had trouble getting their passes off.

The Wildcats' offense features a strong running game behind a large offensive line. Tackles Marty Howell (270 pounds) and Jodie Sprengle (235 pounds) provide effective blocking for small but quick running backs Tony Mangham and William Dixon. Greg Talley is a mobile quarterback whose passing to 6-foot-3 Charles Steward presents a major scoring threat.

History With 'Cats In Series

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Surprisingly, one of the most intense football rivalries in the state is very lopsided.

Most of the time, a rivalry gets more intense, especially on the high school level, when it's very unpredictable as to who will win the game.

But that has not been the case when Valdosta and Lowndes meet. The Wildcats hold a commanding 17-3 advantage in the series that dates back to 1968. One reason the rivalry is so intense is the location of the schools. Because the two schools are just a few miles apart and many of the players live close to each other, the rivalry is just as strong today as it was when it was started.

Of the 20 games that have been played between Valdosta and Lowndes, the Wildcats have outscored the Vikings 478-115 — an average of 23.9-5.8 per game. But most of Valdosta's points came early in the series when the Wildcats were winning by scores of 48-6 and 40-0.

The Vikings opened the series as just another whipping post for Valdosta. The Wildcats won the first nine games by a combined score of 273-26. The first four times the two played, Valdosta entered the game with a 9-0 record and left with a 10-0 mark. The next year, the Wildcats were 8-1 and won 30-7 and followed that with a 24-0 decision in

2-5.

Lowndes, meanwhile, was about break-even when it would play Valdosta. Up until 1975, the best record a Viking team carried into the game was 5-4 in 1973.

In both 1975 and 1976, Valdosta was 5-1. Lowndes also entered the 1976 game with a 5-1 record, but Valdosta was a 14-3 winner.

Lowndes finally got its first victory of the series in 1977 with a 7-2 victory.

But the victory didn't come in the fashion many people had envisioned. Both teams were ranked among the top in Region 1-AAA in scoring offense. The defense made the difference. Lowndes' Bill Schreffler returned an interception 80 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter for what proved to be the deciding factor.

A standing-room only crowd of more than 10,000 had packed into Martin Stadium for the game. The Wildcats, ranked second in the state at the time, were 6-0 entering the game and Lowndes was 5-1.

The rivalry was born. The Wildcats got revenge in 1978 with two victories. The first was a 22-0 decision. In the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, Valdosta walked away with a 21-7 victory.

But the Vikings didn't quit. In 1979, Lowndes won 6-0 and Valdosta was 4-2. Lowndes won 15-14 and Valdosta was on its way to its worst record (8-4) victory over Lowndes, Valdosta was



Scheduled Events

- Monday, Nov. 4
- Winnersville Parade.....5 p.m.
- Hall Of Fame Banquet.....7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 5
- Youth Football Semifinals.....6 p.m.
- VSC Jazz Ensemble.....8:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 6
- Coffee Break.....9:30 a.m.
- FCA Rally.....7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 7
- Golf Tournament.....2 p.m.
- Youth Football Championship.....7 p.m.
- Benefit Skate.....7 p.m.
- Football Pep Rallies.....7:30 p.m.
- U.S.A.F. Jazz Ensemble.....8:15 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 8
- Valdosta vs. Lowndes.....8 p.m.

1973 when they were 7-2.

In Coach Nick Hyder's first season, the Wildcats were 1-5 when they played Lowndes. A 3-0 victory over Crisp County in the first game of the season was the only victory. But after a 20-3 victory over Lowndes, Valdosta was

The Series

Lowndes	Valdosta
Rec	Pts
2-6-0	6
3-5-1	0
4-5-0	0
4-5-0	0
3-5-1	7
5-4-0	0
2-4-0	3
2-4-0	7
5-1-0	3
5-1-0	7
5-1-0	0
7-3-0	7
6-0-0	15
9-1-0	21
6-0-0	8
10-1-0	6
4-1-0	13
5-2-0	0
5-2-0	6
6-3-0	6
	115
	478

Player in the fourth quarter.

That's when Bond took control. Faking a handoff to Welton Frazier, Bond did a tightrope act down the sideline for an 80-yard TD.

The two teams met twice again in 1980, with the Wildcats winning the first game 17-8 and Lowndes taking a 6-0 decision in the region championship game en route to its only state championship on the history of the school.

But since then, it's been all Valdosta. The Wildcats won 20-13 in 1981, 22-0 in 1982-83-84 and 28-6 last year.

Briefly... VDT

Marching Cats Win

STATESBORO — The Valdosta Marching Cats band won Best In Class AAAA at the Statesboro Marching Contest held Saturday, according to Jaquie Kimmel, a spokesman for the band.

The band received a superior rating. The band's drum majors, percussion and drill teams all received Best In Class trophies.

Overall, the Marching Cats won a third place title in the Sweepstakes division.

Pebblebrook High School received the Sweepstakes first place and Ware County High School won the second place title.

35 VDT
**Lowndes Vs. Valdosta:
Confusing The Choice**
V Times 11-4-85

If I didn't like him, I never would have let him beat me in ping pong. Still, Mike Colombo's a little sneaky.

You know who I'm talking about. That sports writer type who sits on the other end of the newsroom and, on occasion, spews forth with a bird call that makes me spill my coffee and even makes Mick "Mr. Mellow" Henderson glance up from his video display terminal screen.

Between bird calls, Mike sometimes writes sports columns, such as the one that ran last Saturday. This particular column included a sort of a casual newsroom poll on the upcoming Lowndes High-Valdosta High football game.

Yeah, I remember Colombo asking me who I thought would win. And I remember giving an answer.

But I don't recall him saying anything like, "By the way, you can read your comments in Saturday's edition of The Times."

This is a case of a guy taking his training too seriously. Writers are supposed to do that sort of thing when gathering the news if necessary, but they ain't supposed to do it to editors. I thought we had made that clear but I guess Mike was working on a new bird call and wasn't paying attention.

It's not that Mike misquoted me. It's just that I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify my comments by confusing the issue a little.

Basically, Mike reported that I thought Valdosta High would win. True, as far as it goes, but hardly complete truth.

Actually, I think Lowndes will win. And because I think that, I think Valdosta will win.

Say what?

OK, here's what I think I mean: In past games, when the teams were fairly evenly matched as I believe them to be this year, the squad I figured to win, *without fail*, wound up the losers.

It goes back to 1974, the year Valdosta posted a dismal 3-7 record. The Wildcats entered the Lowndes game at 1-5, so naturally I figured this was the year the Vikings would do it. Wrong.

It happened again in 1977, when Lowndes took practically everyone by surprise by beating Valdosta for the first time ever.

It happened twice in 1979, when



**Lee
Freeman**
Times City Editor

Lowndes nipped Valdosta 15-14 in regular season play. I thought Valdosta would win then, but Lowndes' performance convinced me to believe in the Vikings come playoff time. So what happens? Valdosta wins 24-21.

It continued in 1980, when underdog and relatively nameless Valdosta rapped superstar-studded Lowndes 17-8 in regular season play.

In the region playoffs that year, The Vikings came back for a 6-0 victory en route to the state championship. I had figured the nameless bunch would encore. Wrong again.

In 1981, I thought Lowndes would win. Wrong.

1982-84 doesn't count. It was relatively easy to pick the winner because Valdosta clearly had the better teams.

But now comes '85, with Valdosta a good team yet not as dynamic on offense as in past years and Lowndes, with exceptions of one slip to Bainbridge and an oh-so-close and controversial loss to powerhouse Clarke Central in Athens, looking tougher than it has since its state championship year.

Lowndes has its best chance in years to beat Valdosta, and I think the Vikings can do it. But I've finally figured out that what I think generally counts for little, so I'm expecting Valdosta to win.

Then again, since I think Lowndes will win and therefore that Valdosta will win, that could very well mean that Lowndes in fact is going to win, since I *ultimately* think Valdosta is going to win. But now that I've had that thought, probably Valdosta will win. But if I commit my brain to that, would it not follow that Lowndes will win? And from there we get into powers and calculations that are beyond my grasp, having struggled to get a "B" in math 100.

This is all Mike Colombo's fault. May his next bird call be answered by a lonely penguin.

11/5/85 VDT
**Hyder Anticipates
Wide Open Attack**

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes will meet yet one more time Friday night, and once again the winner will probably emerge the subregion champion.

The Vikings hold their destiny in their own hands, but if they lose, they may have to wait until next year for a try at another region or state championship.

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats are assured of a playoff spot. Now Hyder must prepare his troops to do battle with the cross-town Vikings in order to secure the 1-AAAA South championship.

One thing in Hyder's favor is his knowledge of the Vikings.

"Offensively, they're pretty much the same team we faced last year, but I haven't had to see them until they played against Monroe the other night," Hyder said. "They were the talk of the coaching staff. That was a good team out there. They have four receivers to throw to and three good running backs in James Carter, Mark Jones, and Ben Wright."

One aspect of the Lowndes' game that has presented a problem is the ability of the front line to blow people off the line of scrimmage. They have played somewhat inconsistently at times.

Against Bainbridge, some key injuries and a bad night overall sent the Vikings down 10-0 in their only sub-region loss. Quarterback Bobby Eason was pressured all night by a surging Bearcat defense, but Hyder saw no sign of a weak front line when he watched the Vikings play Monroe.

"They had no problem protecting Eason or opening up holes against the Tornadoes," Hyder said. "Eason's a mobile quarterback, even more mobile than Randy Gay. Randy's a great quarterback and an excellent athlete. But Bobby can scramble and has a quick release. He has an excellent group of receivers to throw to, and all of them have good speed and good hands."

The four receivers the Wildcats have to watch are Eric Blades, Jimmy Rodgers, Mark Jones, and Todd Williams. All four have contributed to the Viking passing attack. Going into the Monroe game, Williams had 29 receptions, Blades 19, Jones 14, and Rodgers eight.

Eason, now 78-for-133, has tossed 12

TD passes and has hurled only two interceptions.

But the pass isn't all the Vikings have. Like many Viking teams of the past, they rely on the pass, but this year's squad offers a solid running game to compliment the yardage in the air.

"They have a better balanced offense than they've had in the past, which gives them greater versatility," Hyder said. "In 1982, they threw 57 passes, and they haven't thrown that many against anybody this year, so they're a better running team."

"Their front line has always been a good pass blocking team," Hyder said. "Now they're blocking for the run."

Despite the strength of the Lowndes' passing game, Hyder doesn't think that Lowndes will live and die with the bomb.

"I think coach Wilson will blend his offense as much as possible," Hyder said. "That's the soundest thing to do. He'll do whatever we let him do."

Defensively, Hyder has great respect for the Viking crew. This defense is almost identical to the one Hyder had to battle last year when the Wildcats scored 28 points against Lowndes, but Hyder doesn't seem certain that his team will rack up four touchdowns this year.

"They're a surging type defense combining good quickness, size and experience and those are the best superlatives I could give them," Hyder said. "With the exception of Wiseman, they're pretty much the same defensively, except that they've got more experience."

"James Carter is an all-star player at any position and adds a lot to any defense. He's the Mark Gastineau type, quick and aggressive."

Hyder too pointed out the strong secondary play the Vikings have gotten this year from Brad Almon and David Hargett. Hyder said that Almon was like having a coach on the field and was especially impressed with the play of Hargett who Hyder described as a "good, aggressive player."

As far as playing in Martin Stadium, Hyder said it would be nice to be able to play at home, but the fact that it won't be an out of town trip will make the visit a little easier.

"At least the burden of a long trip won't be on us, and there won't be a long trip home, but I think everyone would still rather play at home."



Times Staff Photo by Susan Griffith

T.J. Edwards (21) Hurt Valdosta In Previous Meeting

✓ Times 11-13-85

Lowndes Jumps To No. 4 In Poll

ATLANTA (AP) — Valdosta, the Georgia Class AAAA champion and rated the best high school football team in the country by some last year, has slipped from No. 1 to No. 8 in the state this season.

Valdosta was knocked out of the Class AAAA top spot by Colquitt County earlier in the season, and dropped from No. 4 to No. 8 this week after a second loss, a 10-0 decision at local rival Lowndes.

The Wildcats now must go to Moultrie to face Colquitt County again in this week's region playoffs.

Class AAAA Clarke Central, Class AAA Woodward Academy and Class A Lincoln County kept their No. 1 rankings in this week's voting by the AP's board of sports writers and sportscasters.

Class AAAA Newnan, Class AAA Marist, Class AA Lakeshore and Class A Palmetto and Montgomery County entered the rankings this week.

Clarke Central and Warner Robins again lead Class AAAA, but much of the rest of the field has been shuffled. Redan moved up two notches to third and Lowndes jumped five spots to fourth. LaGrange climbed two spots to No. 5.

Northside-Warner Robins, a 21-14 overtime loser to Warner Robins last

week, remains No. 6. Glynn Academy fell four spots to No. 7 after a 28-15 loss to unranked Brunswick. After No. 8 Valdosta, Newnan is in a tie at No. 9 with Colquitt County, ranked 10th last week.

McEachern, No. 8 last week, dropped from the rankings after a 21-7 loss to Paulding County.

Dalton edged past Thomson to claim No. 2 in Class AAA, behind Woodward Academy. Dublin remains fourth. No. 5 Gainesville and No. 6 Roswell each have climbed two spots. Southeast Whitfield, a 17-0 loser to Dalton last week, dropped from No. 5 to No. 7. No. 8 Cairo and No. 9 Lithonia each have moved up one spot. Marist rejoins the rankings at No. 10.

Franklin County, No. 6 last week, fell from the Top Ten after a 27-0 loss to Winder-Barrow.

In Class AA, West Rome again is followed by Manchester, Central-Carrollton, Duluth and Waycross.

Mitchell-Baker moved up a spot to No. 6. Irwin County, sixth last week, lost 31-13 to Waycross and dropped into a tie at No. 7 with Washington-Wilkes, which had been tied with Mary Persons at No. 8. Mary Persons, which lost 7-0 to Manchester, slipped to No. 9.

Coosa, which lost 7-6 to East Rome, lost its 10th spot to Lakeshore.

Packers Hoping To Sweep 'Cats

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Colquitt County football team will undertake a most unenviable task this Friday night when they attempt to prove, for the second time in four weeks, that they are better than the Valdosta Wildcats.

The game proves to be a very interesting matchup between two state AAAA powers who have undergone somewhat humbling experiences since their October 19th showdown.

Two weeks ago the Packers were edged 21-20 by a strong Central-Thomasville team which nevertheless finished third in the 1-AAAA South subregion. Colquitt finished the season with a 7-2-1 record, having also lost to the Lowndes Vikings in their first game of the season. They were tied by Thomasville two weeks later.

And the Valdosta Wildcats lost last weekend to Lowndes, their crosstown rival, running their record to 8-2 after having begun the season with seven consecutive victories.

The Packers enter the game coming off of a 14-6 victory over Dougherty High, the second place team in the 1-AAAA North subregion. They are presently ranked in a ninth place tie in the state polls while Valdosta occupies the eighth spot.

The game presents an excellent rematch. In the previous meeting, the Packers jumped out to 7-0 and 14-7 leads, but the Wildcats came back to tie the score each time with 72- and 66-yard drives.

Then Colquitt put together an 87-yard 12-play drive to jump back out front by a touchdown. They had to hold onto their hats however as Valdosta took the ensuing kickoff and drove all the way down to the Packer 9-yard line late in the game before some spectacular defensive plays held them on downs.

The Wildcats have not allowed more than 10 points in any other game this year, and it can be said that Colquitt was hitting on all 12 cylinders against the Valdosta defense. They lost no fumbles, a plague which befell them in the Central game, and quarterback James Lee suffered no interceptions.

T.J. Edwards, whom many claim to be the hottest college prospect in the region, led the Packers with 122 yards rushing on 23 carries, but fellow running mate Robert Lamar chipped in

with 60 yards on 15 carries and scored the winning touchdown.

As well as the Colquitt ground game performed, the key to the game was perhaps the passing of Lee. The 6-foot-3 junior threw only seven times in the game but completed four of them for 69 yards. Of those four, two went for touchdowns — 35 yards to Edwards and 15 yards to Stacy Middlebrooks.

As far as intangibles are concerned, Valdosta should have quite a revenge motive for the upcoming playoff game. But Colquitt County will have the luxury of playing on their home field in Moultrie Friday night, a shift from the previous game which took place at Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

However, Colquitt coach Jim Hughes sees neither as having a significant impact on the outcome of the game.

"With two good football programs like these, there is usually no problem getting the players motivated for a playoff game. I don't think there will be much of a revenge factor involved because it was a close game and both teams know what they are up against.

"These two teams play each other once or twice a year anyway, so there shouldn't be much of a home field advantage either. There didn't seem to be in the first game. But if the home field is to have an effect on the game, of course, I hope it's to our advantage."

The Packers will field basically the same team they have all year. The backfield will consist of Lee, Edwards, and Lamar. Flanker Sam Funderburke and tight end Muzzy Jackson join Middlebrooks in an all-senior corps of receivers. The offensive line will again be led by all-region tackle Horace Robinson (6-foot-1 220) and junior tackle Marco Thomas (6-foot-3 267).

The defensive line will be anchored by senior tackles Reginald Barber (205 pounds) and Chris Spradley (250 pounds). The linebackers are quick and experienced. Demetrius Walker, who made the big play on fourth down to stop Valdosta's last drive in the first game, joins seniors Ashley Jackson and Sherrod Motley.

Cecil Baker and Ronald Bell are senior cornerbacks whose experience makes the Packers difficult to throw against.

Coach Hughes expects to see the same basic Wildcat team he faced four weeks ago.

Vs. Colquitt County

11/14/85

Valdosta Holds Its Destiny

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The last time Valdosta faced Colquitt County, Packer tailback T.J. Edwards ran for 122 yards as the Packers downed the Wildcats' 21-14.

Friday night, the Wildcats travel to Moultrie where they will try to earn a berth to the Region 1-AAAA championship game against the winner of the Lowndes-Dougherty game. Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph does not think the task will be an easy one. And as far as Rudolph is concerned, stopping Edwards is not the only key to the game.

"Edwards is certainly part of the problem presented to us," Rudolph said, "but there's a little more to it than that. We certainly need to work on slowing him down."

The other offensive threat that Colquitt can use is fullback Robert Lamar, who has shared the rushing duties with Edwards. Although Lamar doesn't have the yardage that Edwards does, he had 60 yards on 15 carries against the 'Cats, and that adds up to one more headache for Rudolph and his defensive team.

Valdosta's front line has played well all year. Colquitt's physical front line opened several holes for Edwards, allowing him to get loose. But other than Edwards, few have had good success against the 'Cat defensive front.

Expected to anchor the defensive line at the ends against the Packers are Willie Sauls and Seabron Williams. Also expected to see playing time at end is Joey Matchett. Sauls, an 180-pound senior, and Williams, an 170-pound junior, have terrorized opposing quarterbacks all year.

At noseguard, the Wildcats have any number of players who can come in and fill the position. Junior Eric Larry may see some playing time at the position. Larry made the stat sheets Friday night in the Winnersville Classic, leading the Wildcat team in individual tackles. Senior Joe Ethier has also played the position and is

likely to line up against the Packers.

Zabri Bell, Otis Conaway, and Kelvin Miller are leading candidates for the starting defensive tackle spots. Conaway also performs kicking duties along with Dan Tillman.

Expected to see action at linebacker are Troy Toth, Bill Kirby, and Tony Johnson. It will be up to these defensive front people to plug the holes and slow down Edwards and Lamar.

But it's not just the running game the Wildcats have to stop. The last time the two teams met, Colquitt quarterback James Lee threw two touchdown passes, so the Packer attack is not limited.

"Their passing game presents another problem for us," Rudolph said. "Anytime you can establish the running game, it opens up the pass, because the defensive alignment tends to get a little tight. They have some good pass receivers with good hands and decent speed."

Of course, with the defense keying on Edwards, the pass can become a dangerous surprise if the secondary starts playing too close to the line.

"Just having Edwards' presence on the field helps their passing game," Rudolph said.

The secondary of Valdosta will be bolstered by a number of familiar names. Those likely to see some time at cornerback for the 'Cats are Reginald Dandy, Don Ryan, and Dwayne Hart. Dandy is an asset because of his good speed and has proved dangerous also returning punts for Valdosta, returning one for a touchdown against Waycross. Hart returned an interception for a touchdown against Tift County.

The Valdosta defense has been the bread and butter for the 'Cats this year, while the offense has been struggling as of late. The Wildcats have scored just three touchdowns in the last 12 quarters, and that lack of offensive punch has come home to haunt head coach Nick Hyder.

"One problem we've had is play calling, and I guess that's my fault," Hyder said. "A lot of people accused me of running the ball up the middle too much, but when I went back and looked at the films, I ran a lot of plays to the outside. The problem is that most of those were thrown for losses."

One play in particular that Hyder may have been thinking about was an end around call late in the fourth quarter against Colquitt. Valdosta had the ball fourth-and-long from the Colquitt 10-yard line, and Hyder called on tight end Jefferey Holmes to run an end around. The play didn't fool the Packers and Colquitt took over possession of the ball.

But some basic things have hurt the Valdosta offense as well.

"We've had some problems blocking," Hyder said. "The fundamentals just haven't been right."

A key to Valdosta's offense Friday night might be how well the Wildcats are able to pass the ball. Quarterback Greg Talley threw 17 times against the Packers in the first meeting, which is a fairly high number for a Valdosta team. Last week, the Valdosta running game was hampered by some bumps and bruises, all of which should be healed for the Colquitt game, but a solid balance between the run and the pass may be an important factor if the 'Cats are to stick the ball into the end zone against the Packers.

The first game between the two was played in Cleveland Field; but Friday the 'Cats will have to play in Moultrie. An hour trip is not an exhausting one, and the homefield advantage will be somewhat lessened due to the relative proximity of the two towns. But the crowd can't get down on the field to run and block. The Wildcats will have to take care of that.

Valdosta could come home ready for a region battle in a week, or they might just come home. The 'Cats hold their own destiny in their hands.

11/20/85 VDT

Holmes May Be Key To Valdosta Offense

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

During the week before the first Lowndes-Valdosta matchup on Nov. 15th, it was widely considered that the key to the game would be the high-powered Viking offense's performance against the unyielding defense of the Wildcats.

And that adversarial contest was quite significant in the game, but the fact that the Lowndes defense pitched its own shutout had a much more direct effect on the game itself, which ended in a 10-0 score to the Vikings' advantage.

Last week's games signalled changes which may make the opposite matchup — the Wildcat offense vs. the Viking defense — the one to watch.

Valdosta gained 190 yards rushing against the Colquitt County Packers, whereas they had been held to only 79 yards rushing the previous week by Lowndes. The difference can be found in the presence of one Jeffrey Holmes, a 6-foot-1, 210-pound converted tight end who lined up at fullback next to halfback Tony Manghram.

Holmes began the season as strictly a tight end, but was used in the backfield in primarily short yardage situations beginning in the third game of the season against Monroe. He continued in that capacity until the Central-Thomasville game in the season's seventh week.

With the Wildcats behind 3-0 in a crucial game, Holmes led a comeback, running 36 yards in a third-and-25 situation, and later scoring from seven yards out for the 7-3 victory. He finished that game with a total of 71 yards on only 12 carries.

But he sustained an injury the next week, gaining only nine yards on six carries against Colquitt and then didn't even dress out against Dougherty. His 10 yards on only three carries against the Vikings in the first game revealed that Holmes was not at full strength.

Then in the crucial first playoff game against the Packers, the big fullback returned to his old form. He gained 104 yards against the stout Colquitt defense on 18 carries and scored the winning touchdown.

Holmes is strong as an ox and runs like a runaway bulldozer stuck in high gear. And he spends little time running laterally.

"The good thing about Jeffrey running the ball is that he is strictly a North-South runner," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "He runs straight up the field and is a very tough ballcarrier

to bring down."

Holmes presents the perfect foil for the Wildcats' scatbacks, the 139-pound Manghram and 155-pound William Dixon. His use as a short yardage runner or as a decoy in the same situation has proved invaluable.

Dixon and Manghram both averaged well over four yards a carry in the Wildcats' ground-oriented attack this season, and Holmes averaged almost six. Dixon is also coming off an injury which held him out of the Dougherty and Colquitt games and limited his time against the Vikings.

They will line up behind an improving Wildcat front line whose top six players average 223 pounds. The unit's main strength may lie in its tackles, 6-3 235-pound Jodie Sprengle and 6-2 260-pound Marty Howell, both excellent drive blockers.

The Wildcat passing attack may have unlimited potential. Early in the season, Wildcat quarterbacks could be seen running for their lives, but since the offensive line came together and gelled around midseason, time to throw has been much less of a problem.

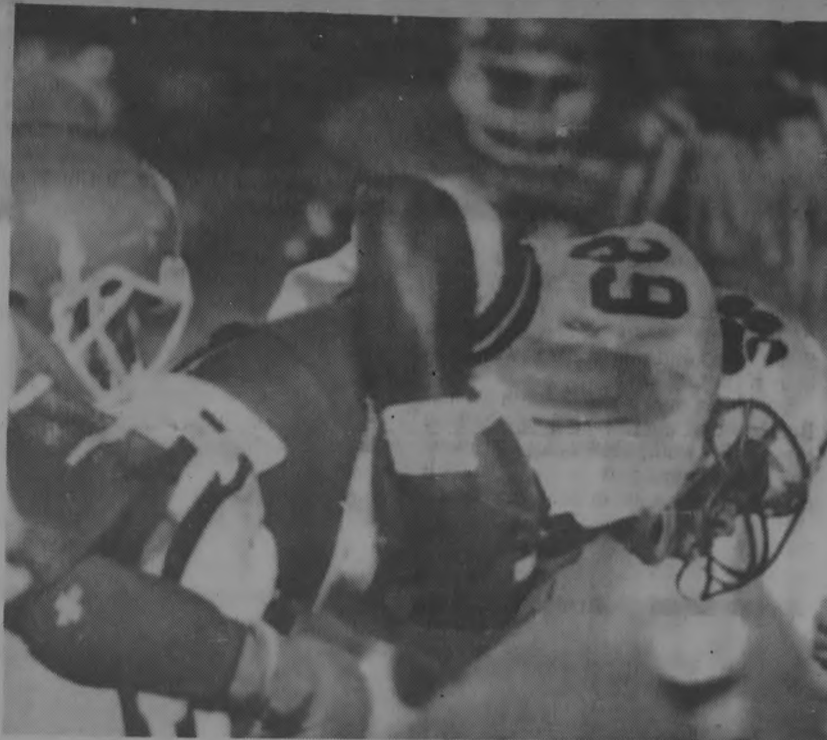
Quarterback Greg Talley has improved tremendously since the beginning of the season. He is very quick and has good speed as well as a strong arm. Split end Charles Steward has size (6-3, 190), good speed, and experience, having started 26 games at the position over the last two years.

Guy Belue, Randy Bell, Lyn Johnson, and B.J. Mason form a platoon of other fleet receivers who have a knack for getting open and excel at catching the ball in traffic. Tight ends Russ Rudolph and Earl Carter present a further threat catching the ball over the middle.

Talley's best games came against two of the better 1-AAAA defensive teams. Against Tift County he was eight for 13 for 116 yards in the 14-0 victory, and against Colquitt in the first game he completed seven of 17 passes for 131 yards.

This Wildcat offense will be attacking a Viking defense which shut them out two weeks ago, limiting them to 79 yards rushing on 34 attempts and 47 yards passing on 12 attempts. But as earlier stated, Holmes should make a significant difference, at least in the rushing statistic.

Lowndes will use the same basic 13-14 players which they have utilized all season in grinding out their 9-2 record. It is a shifty bunch of athletes who employ different formations. They



Times Staff Photo

Jeffrey Homes (89) Sparked Valdosta Against Packers

have size and quickness and are very aggressive.

At the heart of the squad is a stalwart group of yeoman down linemen who perhaps haven't received their due when it comes to recognition this season.

Noseguards Joey Parker and Barry Curtis and tackles Jimmy Gay and Ryan O'Neal toil in the trenches, straightening their helmets and pulling sod from their uniforms between plays. They average 228 pounds and often resemble immovable objects in the face of attempts to run against them.

The defensive ends are Kirk Robinson and Jeff Culpepper, light at 180 and 170 pounds, respectively, but very quick and quite adept at rushing the passer. Spelling them from time to time, especially in short yardage situations, will be 240-pound James Carter who is surprisingly quick for the bulk on his 6-2 frame.

The linebackers will primarily be Roger Culpepper and Wally Hubert, contrasted at 175 and 200 pounds. Culpepper is quick and aggressive and very consistent. Hubert is big and strong and has a knack for making the big play when so moved. His seven tackles in the first game against the Wildcats included two for big losses, and the young man scored two safeties in the first Dougherty game.

The Viking defensive backfield will consist of Dale Baker and Matt Reaves at the corners, and Brad Almon and David Hargett playing the safety positions. Both safeties have been chosen as this newspaper's player of

the week at different times this season.

The secondary is a solid bunch of hitters who are not prone to mistakes, but the ghost of Trent Hatton-to-Sammy King still haunts. Their coverage is generally very good.

This Lowndes defensive team has great potential but may rely too much on emotion. They held Central-Thomasville to three points, Valdosta to none, and Colquitt to 13 early in the season.

But last week they allowed 198 yards rushing to a 4-7 Dougherty team in a must win situation. If they let up even the smallest fraction against a Wildcat team whom they have already beaten and who will be seeking all measures of revenge, it could be a long night.

It has been predicted that the Wildcats will attack the Plowboys at their strength. It is an old Vince Lombardi ploy. He used to send his Packer running backs vaulting headlong directly at Deacon Jones whenever they played the Rams. And the Plowboys have two players who excel by playing with a lot of heart and determination, though they may be small in stature.

Valdosta will probably run Holmes straight at Roger Culpepper in the middle of the defensive front, trying to take advantage of the linebacker's lack of size. And they will throw in the direction of Almon utilizing the 6-3 Steward against the 5-10 155-pound safety.

These two players will have to overcome the onslaught to keep the game even.

Vikings Do Impossible:

Beat Valdosta Twice

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor
The Lowndes Vikings joined an elite group Friday night. It's not very often the Valdosta Wildcats lose. Even more of a rarity is when the Wildcats lose to the same team twice in one season. Behind one of the best defensive efforts of the season for the Vikings, Lowndes became only the third team since World War II to beat the Wildcats in the same season with a 14-7 victory at Martin Stadium Friday night.

And the win was for all the marbles. The victory sent the Vikings into the state playoffs with a Region 1-AAAA championship. It gave them something to brag about for the next year. It gave Lowndes the first season sweep of a Valdosta team in the history of the school.

"It's very tough to beat a good football team twice in the same season," Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson said. "Or for that matter, any team. Dougherty gave us fits last week. We learned some things off the film (in the 10-0 victory over Valdosta two weeks ago) that we could use tonight."

"We played tentatively in the second half. We tried to sit on a lead but it worked to our advantage." The Lowndes offense has been the much-heralded unit of the team this year. But it was the defense that made the difference in this game.

The Vikings kept constant pressure on Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley the whole game. Talley was sacked five times, including three on the Wildcats' last possession. For the game, the Wildcats had 117 yards on the ground and Talley completed just five of 18 passes for 73 yards.

"The defense played as fine as they have all season," Wilson said. And though the Viking defense played better than it did two weeks ago, defensive coordinator Brad Almon said Lowndes did nothing different.

"We didn't make a single change," Almon said. "You dance with who brought you and that's what we did." The Viking defense did, however,

Valdosta.....	0	0	0	7	7
Lowndes.....	6	8	0	0	14
Low — Mark Jones 31 run (kick failed)					
Low — Eric Blades 55 pass from Bobby Eason (Jones pass from Eason)					
Val — William Dixon 12 run (Dan Tillman kick)					
Valdosta					Lowndes
10.....	8				8
11.....	29				29
17.....	102				102
33.....	10				10
73.....	10				10
18-50.....	10-57				10-57
4-312.....	10-57				10-57
5-30.....	Punting 7:37.2				Penalties 9:85
3-21sacks By.....	5-36				14.....
14.....	5-36				14.....
00:00.....	00:00				00:00
Rushing — Valdosta: Dixon 7-61, Mangham 11-24, Holmes 9-13; Lowndes: Jones 7-36, Carter 5-29, Wright 11-27.					
Passing — Valdosta: Talley 17-50 73; Lowndes: Eason 10-52 102.					
Receiving — Valdosta: Mason 1-34, R. Bell 1-25, Mangham 3-13; Lowndes: Blades 4-100, Williams 1-2.					

twice in the first half — and came up empty on both. In the second half, the Wildcats missed on two other fourth downs inside the Lowndes 20-yard line. But the game didn't open as the matchup it ended in. Lowndes took the opening kickoff and had to punt after three plays. Valdosta started at the Lowndes 46 and quickly moved into scoring position. Jeffrey Holmes and Mangram led the attack with four carries each.

After the Wildcats gained a first down at the Lowndes 23, Talley was sacked for a 4-yard loss. He then threw incomplete and Mangram gained eight around right end. On fourth-and-six at the Lowndes 19, Holmes was thrown for a 1-yard loss by Ryan O'Neal and James Carter when he went off left tackle.

Lowndes took over, but could do nothing and had to punt after three plays. On first down, Holmes fumbled and Lowndes' Wally Hubert recovered at the Viking 48-yard line.

And that's when the Lowndes offense started clicking. The Vikings gained nothing on first down before Eason passed to Todd Williams for two yards. But more importantly for the Vikings, Williams was hurt on the play and played sparingly the rest of the game.

"When we lost Todd Williams, that took a lot out of our offense," Wilson said. "But Bobby Eason and Eric Blades played super on offense. The line gave him a lot of protection and did a good job protecting Bobby." After Williams went down, Eason hit Blades for a 16-yard strike to the Valdosta 31. On the next play, Mark Jones went off left tackle, cut to the sidelines, and outran the Valdosta secondary for the score.

Joey Parker added the point after, but the Vikings were called for an illegal use of the hands penalty and Parker had to try again. This time, his kick was wide to the right and the Vikings led 6-0 with 3:43 left in the first period. For the rest of the half, both teams showed some signs of sparkle on

offense. But penalties, turnovers, and incomplete passes ended any threat. The Vikings, however, were not through. After holding Valdosta and forcing a punt, the Vikings took over at their own 15-yard line with 3:35 left in the half. On first down, Ben Wright was stopped for no gain. Carter than rambled 15 yards up the middle and Wright added a 5-yard gain to the 30-yard line. After Andy Mansukhani gained 10, Eason went to the air again. And again it was to Blades.

Blades was racing down the right sideline and had two defenders beat by three steps. He hauled in the pass and raced untouched into the end zone.

The Vikings elected to go for two and Eason hit Jones in the right corner. Suddenly, the Vikings appeared to be in command with a 14-0 lead with 1:14 left in the half.

Because of the deficit, Valdosta was forced to throw more in the second half. But it was to little avail as the Lowndes secondary covered the receivers well while the line was putting much pressure on Eason.

"We were trying to throw, but they put an awful lot of pressure on us," Hyder said. "We got some yardage, but it wasn't enough."

"I wished we had scored when we had the chances. But we didn't take advantage of the situations when we had them."

Valdosta was able to avoid the shutout early in the fourth period. It was the first time the Wildcats had scored on Lowndes in seven quarters this year.

Following a Wright fumble at the Lowndes 19-yard line that was recovered by Troy Toth, the Wildcats wasted little time. Mangram gained six around left end and then picked up one around right end. On third down at the 12, Dixon burst up the middle on a trap play for the score.

But the Vikings kept the ball on the ground to run the clock down and all Valdosta could do was hope for a big break.



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shoehet

Tony Mangram (28) Is Pursued By Viking David Hargett

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Carter Still Determined

By MIKE COLOMBO *Times Staff Writer* 11-23-85



Lowndes' Ben Wright (33) Cuts Ball Upfield Against Surging Wildcat Defense
Times Staff Photo by Nadine Shochet

regular season. Two seniors also accounted for the two Lowndes' touchdowns. Mark Jones scampered 31 yards, and senior receiver Eric Blades caught a 55-yard touchdown pass to account for the scores.

Senior linebacker Kirk Robinson was another standout for the Vikings, claiming eight individual tackles. Defensive coordinator Brad Almon was proud of the way his entire defense played.

"I thought the whole bunch did a good job," Almon said. "We kept giving them the ball in good field position over, over, and over again, but we got tough when they got near the goal line."

The two wins over Valdosta should propel the Vikings into the playoffs with a little extra momentum. The Vikings will play host to Warner Robins next Friday. That's where the road to the state championship really begins.

But it is easy to understand why the Vikings are so expectant about playing Clarke Central again. They lost a 29-20 heartbreaker earlier in the season at Death Valley, and chances are, the road to the AAAA crown will have to go through Athens.

The Vikings better be careful though. They must first beat two quality football teams before they can charter the bus to the Classic City, but Eason has confidence that they will make the trip.

going all the way. That's our goal. That's why I've spent time out here working. Nobody's going to get in our way."

Bold words, perhaps. But Carter has a reason to be optimistic. 1-AAAA teams have traditionally had good success against other regions located in the south. If the Vikings can win two more games, they'll be in the state championship game. The Clarke Central Gladiators defeated Brookwood 28-13 Friday night, and they will host the championship game if they can pull out two more wins.

This will be a rematch Carter has longed for. "I'm looking forward to it," Carter said. "We're going to go up there and teach those bad boys a lesson."

Another senior, Bobby Eason, who was the field marshal for the Lowndes' squad this year, is also looking forward to a rematch with the Gladiators.

"I want 'em," Eason said. Eason however looked more like someone who was enjoying the moment. Holding the game ball in one hand, Eason spent much of the night shaking hands and holding babies. But he did give credit where credit is due.

"The offensive line played great tonight," Eason said. Eason completed 5 out of 10 passes for 102 yards. However, Eason had two interceptions against the 'Cats. He had only thrown two during the entire

For a group of Lowndes seniors, the 14-7 victory over the Wildcats will not be easily forgotten or easily topped.

It is needless to say that it is not easy to defeat Valdosta twice in one season, and until last night the Vikings had never done it.

Lowndes has 24 seniors listed on its roster, and it was indeed a bunch of seniors that were most instrumental in lifting the Vikings to the 1-AAAA crown.

Perhaps one of the more notorious seniors of this crew is James Carter. If Carter played baseball he'd be known as a utility man. He does everything from towel-waving cheerleading antics to pep talks. He plays defense and offense.

Even Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder realized Carter's talents, referring to him as "a Mark Gastineau type of player."

Carter made life difficult for Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley all night long, hauling him down on a sack once, and forcing him out of the pocket on several occasions.

Despite the important win over Valdosta, it was obvious as the final seconds ticked off the clock that Carter and the Vikings were looking ahead. Clarke Central and Death Valley in Athens was stuck in the minds of the Vikings, especially Carter's.

"It was a good win, but we're not stopping here," Carter said. "We're

H.S. Basketball 11/25/85

'Cats Lose To Coffee

From Staff Reports
DOUGLAS — Coffee County outscored Valdosta 26-14 in the second period to take a 45-26 at the half en route to a 63-57 victory in the opening game of the season for both teams.

Valdosta's Anthony Brown and Tim Norwood led all scorers with 17 points each.

Coffee was led by Michael Wilkerson with 13 points and Charles Edmonson with 10.

Although Valdosta outscored Coffee 22-7 in the third period, the deficit was too much to overcome.

The Wildcats will play host to Colquitt County in a Region 1-AAAA matchup Tuesday night.

Area Basketball

Packers To Test

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Colquitt County's matchup with Valdosta High in Valdosta will highlight tonight's slate of high school basketball action which will see 11 area teams take to the courts.

The Berrien County Rebels invade Lowndes in a non-region contest. Broxton visits Lanier County, Atkinson County will host Coffee County, and Cook County takes on Echols County in Adel. Also on tap, Open Bible visits Central Fellowship, Clinch County hosts Nichols, and Lowndes Christian travels to Grace Christian for a boys game only.

The Wildcats will be attempting to overcome the graduation loss of four starters off last year's team. Reginald Butler, Anthony Brown, and Lennice Williams, a 6-3 senior center, will be

Area Basketball 11/26/85

To Test Valdosta

counted on heavily this year and need to get off on the right foot against the tough Moultrie team.

The Wildcat girls' team must also get strong performances from their starting front line. Forward Pam Gardner and Cassandra Ceasar, a 5-10 junior center, must hold their own on the inside and on the boards to hold off a more experienced Packers' team.

The Lowndes Boys are coming off their first win of the season, an 80-70 victory over Westover Saturday night. All three members of their big front line scored in double figures in the game. Eric Davis, a 6-5 senior, scored 28 points against the Patriots while 6-5 junior Chance Black added 17 and pulled down 10 rebounds.

The other forward is 6-4 senior Chuck Cooper. He added 11 in the game while point guard Earl Gray poured in 15

Area Basketball 11/26/85

Wildcat Defense

from the backcourt. The Vikings mudy prevent the opposition from overplaying any one or two members of their team with balanced efforts like the one against Westover.

They should have little trouble with a rebuilding Berrien County team. The Rebels are coming off a 2-20 year and will still be playing a lot of young players. 6-2 guard Scott Purvis and 6-3 center Andre Newsome are both starting sophomores while the other guard is 5-10 junior Dexter Fuller.

The 2-1 Lowndes' Girls team may have their hands full. The Rebelettes have everybody back from last year's 2-AA South subregion champions. They will be led by last year's most valuable player, Tracey Mackey, who scored 29 points against McIntosh. Fannie Greene and Melissa Mackey added 16 and 14 points respectively.

Student BST Scores Steady Here

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

The results of Basic Skills Tests given to 10th grade students in Valdosta and Lowndes County schools are in. Valdosta school representative Vickie Burt said today officials are a little disappointed with the results.

"We know that we have areas that we need to work on - there were student that didn't pass, and we were expecting a higher average than we got," Ms. Burt said.

"We do see that we need to work in reading and math to pull up those averages," she said. "But we have the same average as other schools of the same socio-economic base."

Valdosta students did about as well as tenth graders last year, with an average overall score of 647, as compared with a 648 average in 1984.

As last year, they did better this year with reading than math, with an average score of 328 in reading and an average of 319 in math.

The test score scale ranges from 200 to 400, with a passing score set at 300, minimum.

Next year, however, the passing score will be raised slightly.

In Lowndes County scores were similar to Valdosta School scores, with an average passing score in reading of 332, and an average of 323 in math.

In Lowndes County, 98 percent passed reading, 94 percent passed the math. Statewide, 96 percent passed the reading section statewide, and 90 percent passed the math.

Lowndes' Defense Makes Difference

U Times 11-23-85

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Although the Lowndes High offense has enjoyed tremendous success this season, it wasn't the case Friday night.

Forget the fact that Lowndes was able to win by a 14-7 margin over the defending national champion Valdosta Wildcats.

If the Vikings expect to advance very far in the state playoffs, they have to get their offensive ground game in gear. Against the ever tough Wildcats, Lowndes managed just 82 yards on the ground on 29 attempts.

But it didn't bother Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson that much. His Vikings were able to come up with the big play when they needed it. And though the offense had their moments of glory against the Wildcats, it was the defense that made the difference.

"When you can hold Valdosta to just seven points in eight quarters, you're playing some defense," Wilson said. "Everybody on the defense played well tonight. We stopped them when they were in scoring position several times."

With the victory, Lowndes is the Region 1-A-AAA champion. It is only the second time since the Vikings have been playing football (1968) they have won the region title. That title was also over Valdosta and eventually led to the Vikings only state championship.

And while many people were not sure if the Vikings would be able to beat Valdosta twice in the same season, Wilson was confident they would.

"I don't think that had any affect on the game at all," Wilson said. "It didn't affect our players or our fans. We had to win that first game and we had to win this one."

Lowndes is only the third team since World War II to down the Cats twice in the same season.

But Valdosta has had more than it's

share of two-game sweeps over opponents. The Wildcats had downed Lowndes twice in the same season two times.

Lowndes had waited long enough to return the favor and did so with a convincing defensive effort.

The defense was led by Kirk Robinson with eight tackles. David Hargett was in on five tackles, and Chris Jobs and Brad Almon had four each. A total of 16 different players were in on tackles for the Vikings.

Almon's father is the defensive coordinator and Wilson gave much applause to his preparation for the game.

"Coach Almon had the defense set well to contain (Greg) Talley (Valdosta's quarterback)," Wilson said. "The defensive backs did a good job covering their receivers and that gave the linemen time to get to him (Talley)." Talley was sacked five times by the Vikings, including three on the Wildcats' final drive.

"The things we worked on this week was keeping them in position and that sort of stuff," Almon said. "We played a good offensive football team and able to hold them down."

And the task wasn't easy for the Lowndes defense. Valdosta ran 51 offensive plays to 39 for the Vikings.

"They may have run more plays, but we ran two to their one — we had two across the goal line and they had just one," Wilson said.

"Both teams played with a lot of courage and determination."

When Wilson said both teams, he meant Valdosta and Lowndes.

But he could have also meant Lowndes' offensive team playing with a lot of courage against one of the state's toughest defenses and the defensive team playing with a lot of determination to hold the Wildcats down.



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shochet

William Dixon Finds Running Room Against Lowndes



Times Staff Photos by Nadine Shochet

Linebacker Tony Johnson (46) Greet's Ben Wright

'Cats Fall To Colquitt

12/17/85 VDT

From Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — The Colquitt County Packers jumped out to a 16-point lead behind a balanced scoring effort and then held off a comeback attempt by the Valdosta Wildcats to post a 65-56 victory in high school basketball action Monday.

"We played a very poor first half when we fell behind by a pretty big margin, but we came back in the second half to cut their lead to eight points," Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien said. "We just couldn't get it any closer than eight."

Andre Lowery led the Packers with 13 points while Pat Harper and John Summerindike each added 12, and James Lee chipped in 11. Anthony Brown led Valdosta with 18 points and pulled down eight rebounds.

LCA.....76 46
WRC.....63 22

WARNER ROBINS — The Lowndes Christian Academy Eagles jumped on Warner Robins Christian early and never looked back, bring-

ing home a 76-63 victory.

Chris Smith led the effort with 19 points while Myron Faircloth and George Wisenbaker chipped in 16 and 15 points respectively as the Eagles posted a 36-18 halftime lead and coasted the rest of the way.

Melissa Ulrich and Sjon Still scored 14 and 11 points to lead the Lady Eagles to 46-22 victory over Warner Robins Christian. The LCA girls have yet to lose this season, having run up a spotless 7-0 record.

Boys Game
LCA (76) — Astles 7, Wisenbaker 15, Smith 19, Faircloth 16, Dawkins 11, Carpenter 4, Cook 4.
WRC (56) — Grizzle 8, Lancaster 5, Vasile 13, Habeck 6, Richardson 22, Bullard 5, Roberts 3, Cross 1.
LCA.....14 22 21 19—76
WRC.....8 10 22 23—63
Record — LCA 6-2, 4-0.
Next Game — Grace Christian at Lowndes Christian (Tuesday).
JV Score — LCA 38, WRC 28.

Girls Game
LCA (46) — Garrett 4, Ja. Garrett 6, Ulrich 14, Still 11, Stubbs 4, Sheel 4, Mobley 2, Williams 1, Ison.
WRC (22) — Howe 2, Griffin, Layson 10, Bedder 10, Wadsworth, Ward, Oberg.
LCA.....14 11 12 9—46
WRC.....2 6 8 6—22
Record — Lowndes Christian 7-0, 4-0.
Next Game — LCA Christmas Tournament (Friday).

'Cat Grapplers Roll

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High Wildcat wrestling team swept to its first win of the season in as many matches Tuesday night with a 42-21 victory over Camden County.

Perhaps the highlight of the match was Tony Johnson's 30-second pin of Camden's Carl Jones in the 167-pound class.

Other Wildcat winning by pins were Clarence Ryan, Kenneth Gonis, Chris Gray, and Ashley Moorman.

"We made a lot of mistakes," said Valdosta coach Jim Landrum. "But that's why you wrestle matches, so you can see your mistakes and then try to correct them with practice."

Landrum is hoping they do a lot correcting because next Tuesday, Valdosta will take on Atkinson County, the A state champs.

98 pounds — Ryan (V) pinned Allen; 105 — Gonis (V) pinned Davis; 112 — Fudge (V) dec. Davis; 119 — Gray (V) pinned Gilreath; 126 — Pearson (C) dec. Gonis; 132 — McLeod (V) dec. Stevens; 138 — Camron (C) pinned Marconi; 145 — Wenzel (V) dec. Houghteling; 155 — Moorman (V) pinned Beagle; 167 — Johnson (V) pinned Jones; 185 — Range (C) won by forfeit; UNL — Dawson (C) pinned Crook.

VDT
14 Wed., Dec. 11, 1985

Valdosta Loses

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — The Valdosta boys' basketball team dropped its fifth straight decision Tuesday night in a 52-34 loss to the Westover Patriots.

The Wildcats shot only 8-of-17 from the line and played without the services of Anthony Brown.

Jerome Callaway carried Valdosta with two points, followed by Reginald Butler with nine points. Butler also led the team in rebounding with 15.

Center Lennice Williams was held to just eight points.

Valdosta (43) — Callaway 10, Butler 9, Williams 8, Kitches 7, Norwood 2, Williams 3, C. Butler 2, Lowe 2.
Westover (52) — Randall 16, Richards 11, Issler 4, Hall 2, Harnoehek 7, McFarland 6, Wembley 2, Gibson 2, Jackson 2.
Valdosta.....10 9 12 12—43
Westover.....6 16 16 14—52
Records — Valdosta 0-5.
Next Game — Buchholtz at Valdosta, Friday, Dec. 13

Monroe Pulls Away To Beat Wildcats

12/4/85 VDT

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

With a chance to tie the game late in the fourth quarter, Valdosta's Tim Norwood had an open court, but instead of taking the easy layup, Norwood tried to get the crowd into the game by slamming the ball. The ball bounced off the rim and thus began a series of dismal events for the Wildcats as they dropped a 55-45 decision to Monroe.

Valdosta tied the game at the 7:41 mark in the fourth period on a long jumper by Kyle Lowe to make it 41-41, but that was the last time the score was tied and Valdosta never was able to take the lead.

Immediately after Lowe's basket, Monroe's Adonis Lewis found an opening going down the lane and made an easy layup to put the Tornados out ahead for good.

One thing that kept Valdosta in the game was rebounding, especially that of Reginald Butler, who came down with 11 on the evening. Center Lennice Williams had five, and forward Anthony Brown had four.

Valdosta outrebounded Monroe 30-29. "I thought we did a good job on the boards considering that they're a lot taller than we are," said Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien.

What hurt Valdosta was the loss of Williams and Brown, who fouled out. The pair represent the team's height, and after Brown fouled out with three minutes left in the game, the Wildcats scored only two points.

After Lewis sank his shot at the 7:41 mark, Valdosta's next basket came at the 3:20 mark on a 15-foot jumper by Sylvester Kitchens, but in the meanwhile, Monroe scored three more and led 46-43.

In the final three minutes, the Tornados reeled off eight points. Valdosta scored only once more, on a long jumper by Kacy Williams from the top of the key.

Despite the relative closeness of the game, O'Brien was not all that pleased with his team's overall play.

"We made dumb plays, had poor passing, poor foul shooting, and poor defense," O'Brien said. "Anything you can say that's poor, we were."

As far as foul shooting goes, O'Brien had a right to complain. The Wildcats shot just under 50 percent from the line, going 8-for-17.

The game opened up looking like it might be a blow out.

Monroe opened up to an 8-2 lead with 2:54 left in the first quarter. Lewis contributed four of the Tornados' points, one on a long jumper and another off the boards inside. Ricky Harper hit two free throws and Roderick Coleman added two on a layup.

Until the 2:54 mark, Valdosta's only points came on an inside shot by Brown, but O'Brien called a time out after Monroe scored points seven and eight, and whatever he said seemed to work.

The Wildcats attacked, adding six points to Monroe's two and the quarter ended with Monroe ahead 10-8.

Monroe outscored Valdosta 18-16 in the second period to take a 28-24 lead into the lockerroom at halftime. It could have been more, but the Tornados were unable to take advantage of a technical foul called against Norwood for wearing the wrong jersey.

The Wildcats came back in the third and the game was tied going into the final quarter at 39-39.

Lewis led all scorers with 19. Brown had 12 and teammate Reginald Butler had 11 for Valdosta.

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats were treated roughly by their guests as the Lady Tornados rolled to a 49-25 victory. To say the least, the Lady Wildcats were never able to muster much offense.

Tangelia Lowe led the Lady Wildcats with only seven points. Lynn Christopher had six for Valdosta.

"We just didn't penetrate at all," said Lady 'Cat coach Faye Hollinger. "And we didn't hit our outside shot. That would have drawn them out a little."



Times Staff Photo by Susan Griffith

Wildcat Anthony Brown Goes Up Against Monroe

The low point for the Lady 'Cats came in the third quarter when they managed to eek out only four points, both baskets coming with under 2:00 left in the quarter.

Hollinger feels that much of the team's potential rest in the inside game of Cassandra Ceasar.

"Cassandra just has to get stronger inside," Hollinger said. "She can do it if she'll get determined. One problem is fouls. She's been in foul trouble in about every game and I think she's afraid of fouling out."

Norma King led the Lady Tornados with 15 points and teammate Mary Jones added eight points.

The Lady Wildcats drop to 0-3 on the season. Valdosta will play host to Dougherty this Friday.

Boys' Game
Monroe (55) — McGill 9, Barnum 4, M. Glenn 4, Harper 5, Robinson 7, R. Coleman 3, Lewis 19, O. Coleman 2, Taylor 4.
Valdosta (45) — Brown 12, Butler 11, Lowe 8, Williams 2, Kitchens 4, Norwood 6, Williams 2.
Monroe.....10 18 11 16—55
Valdosta.....8 16 15 6—45
Records — Monroe 3-1; Valdosta 0-3.
Next Game — Dougherty at Valdosta (Friday).

Girls' Game
Monroe (49) — King 15, Cheeks 7, Lewis 7, Holiday 6, Jones 8, Walker 3, McQueen 2, Johnson 1.
Valdosta (25) — Lowe 7, Ceasar 5, Gardner 2, Christopher 6, Hartzog 2, Longliere 2.
Monroe.....10 12 13 14—49
Valdosta.....6 6 4 9—25
Records — Monroe 3-1; Valdosta 0-3.
Next Game — Dougherty at Valdosta (Friday).

Lady Wildcats Claim First '85 Victory, 46-31

By MIKE (XOXO) WIND

Times Sports Writer

When Terrie Longieliere sank the Lady Wildcats' last basket last night at the buzzer, the Valdosta gym broke into an uproar. Longieliere's basket made the score 46-31 and gave the Lady 'Cats their first victory of the season, coming against the Buchholz Lady Bobcats from Gainesville, Fla.

"It's great," said Valdosta coach Faye Hollinger. "It's been a long time coming. I know the kids are real proud of it. It wasn't a pretty win but we'll take 'em anyway we can get 'em."

In the boys' game, Buchholz held off the Wildcats 51-49 to send the Wildcats to their sixth consecutive loss against no victories. One thing the Lady 'Cats had to do

was keep Buchholz's Paula White out of the paint. While the Lady Wildcats didn't entirely succeed at the venture they did slow White down enough so that she didn't sink Valdosta.

White, who towered above the other players, left the game with 17 points, all of them coming inside. Seven of her six more came in the second quarter, and she didn't sink Valdosta.

"She's a good player and a good shooter," Hollinger said. "I put (Swandolyn) Phillips on her in the fourth quarter and I think I should have done that earlier."

White was the only Buchholz player in double figures. The second leading scorers for the Lady Bobcats were

Angela Davidson and Jeraline Marshall with four each.

Valdosta managed to spread the ball out a little bit more than Buchholz, with eight out of the 12 players scoring points.

Only four Lady 'Cats failed to score. Avis Weatherspoon led the Valdosta scoring attack with 11 points.

Longieliere had seven points, hitting several long shots from the baseline. Jan Hartzog, Cassandra Ceasar, and Tangela Lowe added six each for Valdosta.

Much to Hollinger's dismay, Ceasar, who is the main inside threat of Valdosta's, once again got into foul trouble and had to spend some time on the bench. Cassandra went to camp this

summer and played great. She did a good job and I know she can do it if she keeps working hard," Hollinger said.

"We certainly need her help inside because she's really our only threat. She didn't get a whole lot of experience last year, so really she's improved a lot."

There was really no crucial part of the game. Valdosta jumped out early and the game was obviously out of reach early.

The Lady Wildcats jumped out to a 17-9 first-quarter lead behind the shooting of Ceasar and Lowe. The Lady Bobcats didn't even score their first basket until the 2:42 mark of the first period when White hit a 10-foot jumper from the foul line. White added three foul shots and two more short jumpers

to account for all the points scored in the first quarter.

By the end of the half, Valdosta led 30-17, and for all practical purposes, the game was over as the Lady Bobcats showed little offensive punch the whole night.

Despite the win, the inside play of Valdosta was shoddy without Ceasar to grab for the rebounds.

"I tell the wings to stop and see if there's an open person inside and to throw it in. If there's no one there they should take the shot if they're open," Hollinger said. "I think tonight we tried to force it a little too much."

In the boys' contest, Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien saw Buchholz slow the ball down in the first and fourth quarters to hurt the Wildcats' chances.

The teams were tied at the half, 26-26, and were tied at the end of the third, 41-41, but the Bobcats outscored Valdosta 10-8 in the final period to take the victory.

Kasey Williams led the Wildcats with 16 point and Reginald Butler had 10 rebounds.

Buchholz (51) — Brown 15, Muir 4, Hammer 6, White 15, Alexander 2, Frazier 4, Daniels 2, Mulberry 2, Caldwell 8, K. Williams 15, Lowe 2. Valdosta (46) — Brown 6, Williams 4, Butler 10, Kasey Williams 16, Phillips 7, Weatherspoon 11, Barnett 4, Hart 6, Hollinger 4, Davidson 4, Johnson 2, Marshall 7, White 17, Phillips 11, Ceasar 6, Longieliere 7, Christopher 2, Lowe 6, Phillips 2, Weatherspoon 11, Barnett 4, Hart 6, Buchholz 13, Valdosta 15.

'Cats Do Well In Tourney

From Staff Reports

12/19/85

VDT

More than 100 wrestlers from 15 schools participated in the Dr. John's Pre-Season Take-Down Tournament at Valdosta High School Saturday.

The tournament also included a clinic.

Valdosta's Ira Wenz, competing in the 147-pound class, was voted the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

The Wildcats open the regular season Tuesday at 7 p.m. when they play host

to Camden County.

Taking first place for the Wildcats were Neal Fudge, Chris Gray, Louis Gomis, Brian Mueller, and Wenz. John Marconi, Ashley Moorman, and Scott Dowdy claimed second-place finishes in their respective divisions.

From Valdosta Junior High, Nick Gomis, Ryan Moorman, and Justin Bridges were all first.

Valdosta Junior High will host the Tomcat Invitational Saturday at Valdosta High.

That's The AFL

Rudolph Proud Of Heritage Patriots Started In 1960

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

When New England collides with Miami in the Orange Bowl today, Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph will be watching the game with a little more enthusiasm than most viewers.

You see, Rudolph played a part in the history of both teams, and was around for the spawning of the American Football League, the then ugly stepchild to the National Football League.

Rudolph was involved in a lot of firsts and one significant last.

As an outside linebacker, he was an original member of the Boston Patriots before they moved to Foxboro and were dubbed the New England Patriots.

He played in the first AFL game in history when the Patriots squared off against Buffalo on July 14, 1960, an exhibition matchup.

Rudolph also played as a Patriot in the AFL's first playoff game when the Pats and Buffalo ended up tied for the Eastern crown in 1963. The Patriots won the game and were to never win another playoff game until two weeks ago when New England downed the

after Christmas," Rudolph said. "We ended up tied in the division and there were no provisions for a tiebreaker back in those days so we had to play each other."

"I remember flying in over Niagara Falls and the top of the falls were frozen solid. I was always told that running water never froze. I knew it was cold."

Cold it was. The temperature hovered near six below zero and the field was covered with snow.

The refs had to use a plumb bob to determine where the sidelines and the goal lines were.

But the Patriots prevailed with the help of two Babe Parilli touchdowns passes to Larry Garron and four Gino Capaletti field goals to down Buffalo 26-8.

Buffalo's only touchdown came on a pass from Daryle Lamonica to Elbert Dubenion.

On the slippery field, the rushers were held at a standstill. Boston's Garron had 44 yards on 19 carries while Buffalo back Cookie Gilchrist had only seven yards on eight carries.

"We had one player who got knocked into a snowdrift on the sidelines, and if we hadn't seen his feet kicking, he

would have suffocated," Rudolph said.

The Patriots went on to play San Diego in the AFL championship game, the first and last time they would have the honor. Unfortunately for the Patriots, the Chargers overwhelmed them 51-10.

San Diego's Keith Lincoln had 206 yards, a playoff record that was not to be broken until Ram Eric Dickerson rambled for 248 against Dallas two weeks ago.

But Rudolph's interest in the Miami-New England matchup doesn't rest solely on the New England side of the field.

In 1966, Miami picked up Rudolph from New England in an expansion draft set up by the AFL to help new teams fill their rosters. Rudolph became an original member of the Miami Dolphins, and had the distinction of playing for the Dolphins in 1966 when the Patriots last won in the Orange Bowl.

"The Patriots were on a roll," Rudolph said. "They had won a couple of games in a row. Parilli, Jim Nance, and Nick Buoniconti were still with them then. They came down to work in the warm weather for about a week and that helped them a little, but they

still didn't win the division that year."

And though during those years neither Miami nor the Patriots were powerhouses, Rudolph was proud to be on the roster. He has a football from 1960 signed by all the players that came and went from the Patriot camp. He also has one from 1966 when the Dolphins got started. Rudolph also has a program from that first AFL game played back in July of 1960.

Rudolph was proud to be a member of the AFL.

"There's still a lot of kinship between the old AFL players," Rudolph said. "If you see a guy and ask him if he played in the NFL, he'll tell you proudly that he played in the AFL. There's a lot of pride in that we worked hard to save the AFL. There was a lot of camaraderie because we all had the same mission."

So what will be going through Rudolph's mind as he switches on the television to watch his former teams battle?

After all, he spent six years with the Patriots and only one with the Dolphins before retiring. He's got to be cheering for somebody.

"I can't lose," Rudolph said. "I can sit back and enjoy the beauty of the

game. I would feel very good if New England won. I know how much it would mean for Sullivan and the whole organization. But as far as an alumnus goes, I had a good year. Georgia Tech won and both my former pro teams made it to the playoffs."

Rudolph, however, is a cautious man, and needless to say, knowledgeable about the game of football. While a Patriot win would please him, he doesn't think it will happen.

"I think the Dolphins will win," Rudolph said. "It's too difficult to beat Don Shula at home in the playoffs. He's just the best there is. The weather will also play a part. It's hard to get used to warm weather even if you try to climatize yourself to it."

"New England is on a roll but they won an emotional game in Los Angeles last week and that's got to take something out of them. It's also going to be in the back of their minds that they haven't won in Miami in 20 years."

So on Sunday afternoon, you may find Rudolph decked out in a "Squish the Fish" T-shirt, and a Dolphin hat, cheering for everybody on every play. For Rudolph, at least, it's a can't-lose situation.



Jack Rudolph Played On Pats' 1960 Playoff Team

Jets 26-14.

It was a game Rudolph remembers well.

"We had to fly to Buffalo a week

Quality Wrestling Is On The Rise In South Georgia

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

When footballs stop flying through the south Georgia air, basketballs begin to bounce in a frenzy. But another sport begins in dark, warm back rooms out of the light of public scrutiny. But in this part of the state, wrestling may become more and more popular if area teams continue on the road to success.

Last year, several area teams performed well in their respective state tournaments. The Atkinson County Rebels claimed the A title, Cook County finished fifth in AAA, and

Those who graduated were Craig Klements at 126, Jimmy Lewis at unlimited, James Wakefield at 165, and Andrew Kaiser at 132.

These four both went to state as regions champions in their respective weight classes.

The returning experience should boost the Wildcats to another good season.

"You kind of put yourself on a limb when you make predictions before the season starts," said Landrum. "But I think there's a good possibility that we can finish higher in state than we did last year. Of course serious injuries

can always hurt you."

Although Landrum is not 100 percent sure of his varsity lineup at this time, he does have an idea of who his starters might be.

At 98, either Clarence Ryab or Shedd Burroughs may get the call. A key injury has opened up a spot at 105 with Mike Schmier breaking an arm earlier in the fall. Either Kenny Gonis or Gary Luke could start there.

Sophomore Neal Fudge is expected to start 112. Chris Gray, who was the region champ at 119, is likely to start at that same spot this year. Three-time region champ Louis Gonis will start at

126. Gonis has the distinction of being the only four year wrestler on the team.

Untested sophomore Jeff McCloud may get the nod at 132. A wide open spot is 138 where either Brett Tinney or John Marconi could start.

Tinney won the region at the 145 spot, but his weight fluctuation will permit him to wrestle up or down a class.

Ira Wenzel claimed the 138 title in the area last year, but it looks as though he may move up to 145 where he could have to compete with Tinney for a starting spot.

Ashley Moorman, who earned a

starting spot on the 'Cat team as a freshman last year is in competition with Andy Johnson at 155. Tony Johnson should get the nod at 167, and Carl Johnson may start at 187. Johnson had to wrestle under the shadow of James Wakefield last year, but Landrum pointed out that he wrestled well enough to start for many teams, so Johnson won't be a weak link for the Wildcats.

Johnny Crook will get the nod at heavyweight, taking over for Jimmy Lewis who finished second in the state tournament last year.

See Wrestling, Page 10C

Liberty Bell Winner Is A Real Belle

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Bar Association's 1986 Liberty Bell Award winner Janeen Josey is also an award winning teacher, who should be used to receiving honors, but isn't.

"I just can't believe it," she said. "When they called to tell me about it, I said, 'What is the Liberty Bell Award?'"

For those like Mrs. Josey who don't know about the Liberty Bell Award, it's an award given annually by the bar association to the person who's made a significant contribution to the local legal structure and judicial system.

Mrs. Josey was chosen by the bar association to receive this year's award at the annual Law Day banquet because of the contribution she makes to the legal system through the business law courses she teaches at Valdosta High School.

Mrs. Josey's contribution is one that Law Day committee members feel is both significant and long lasting, according to committee chairman Roger Dodd.

"When her students graduate, her contribution will be continuing," Dodd said.

Mrs. Josey's reaction to receiving the award was one of humility.

"This is humbling. Very humbling," she said. "It's an humbling experience to receive this award because there are so many people who are better at what they do than I am. I just do what I love to do which is teach, and I don't feel I deserve any awards for that."

But it's the way she teaches that makes Mrs. Josey deserving of this and the numerous other awards she's won, according to her associates.

"She's very deserving of any honor she gets," said Valdosta Area Technical School Director James Bridges, Mrs. Josey's supervisor at VHS for five years.

"She does a super job of whatever she attempts," Bridges said. "She's a highly motivated person and extremely professional and extremely thorough in her teaching and in her extra-curricular activities. If she does something, it will be absolutely crackerjack — absolutely tops in every detail."

Mrs. Josey teaches two business law courses at VHS. One deals with crimes, torts, court systems, student rights and citizenship. The other, with contracts, employment law, wills and real estate. In each, she draws on experts from the legal community to expose students to



Janeen Josey Honored By Bar Association Here

the law and to bring the community to the classroom. Her efforts to enliven her classes have been rewarding, she said.

"Several of my students have either come into the class interested in law or became interested after taking the business law course and are now in law school," she said. "Another one will begin law school this fall. That pleases me more than anything, knowing that I had a positive effect on a very few people."

If awards are any measure of effectiveness, Mrs. Josey has had a positive effect on more than just a few students. She was Valdosta city school system's Teacher of the Year in

1983-84; business education teacher of the year in 1982-83; 8th district Georgia Business Education Association's secondary teacher of the year in 1982-83; Gordon County's Vocational teacher of the year in 1974-75; and Cedartown High School's teacher of the year for 1970-71.

"She's a real teacher in terms of somebody the students can relate to," James Bridges said.

The secret of Mrs. Josey's success is really no secret at all, she said.

"I just feel I'm an average person that succeeded in doing what I have always wanted to do, and it was not without a lot of hard work and effort."

Mrs. Josey is currently director of

Newsmakers

... A Special Insight

the 8th district Georgia Business Educators Association and is integrally involved in Trinity Presbyterian Church which she said plays a major role in her life.

In 1984-85, Mrs. Josey was office procedures coordinator for the vocational office training program (VOT), but was forced to give that job up and return to the regular classroom due to ill health.

"I found out I couldn't do it all," she said.

The pressures of trying to be Superteacher to her students, Superwife to her husband, Ray, and Supermom to her two children, Emily, 13, and Mark, 8, took their toll, and Mrs. Josey, who was treated for a malignant skin tumor in 1981, was told to give up either her teaching or the VOT job.

"I just got too involved," she said. "Now, I'm back as a regular classroom teacher, and I love it."

Many people today have nothing good to say about today's youth, but Mrs. Josey is not one of them.

"I think the youth of today are fantastic," she said. "There are some who would blacken the name of youth, but the majority of these young people are very much like we were when we were growing up. They probably have higher goals than most of us did because of the age in which they live."

"Many have problems, but I haven't seen too many that did not respond positively to a smile, a hug, a hello. The students of today have a lot more outside pressure on them than we did as far as alcohol and drugs. It's more readily available, and it means they have to make more decisions and quicker decisions than we did."

Mrs. Josey, who said she never takes a day off, is very family oriented and makes time for her husband and children no matter how busy she is.

"I'm a family person," she said. "I love my friends and I enjoy helping others any way I can. I still love and respect my parents very much and my husband's parents. That may sound old fashioned, but I think the home is where you learn the things that you need to live a rewarding life."

'Cat Wrestlers Claim 2 Wins

V Times 1-13-86

From Staff Reports
POWDER SPRINGS — It was a wild day of wrestling at McEachern High School Saturday.
 Sprayberry came into the day undefeated, but lost to Valdosta, 37-20, and Brookwood. Valdosta then lost to host McEachern, 32-19, and Sprayberry downed McEachern and Valdosta nipped Brookwood, 28-26.
 "It was a crazy day of wrestling," Valdosta Coach Jim Landrum said. "We were involved in a lot of good wrestling all day and we got a lot of good experience."
 Against Sprayberry, the Wildcats had eight wrestlers win — Mike Schmier (107 pounds), Neal Fudbe (114), Chris Gray (121), Louis Gonis (128), Ira Wenz (140), Tony Johnson (169), Carl Johnson (187), and Johnny Crook (heavyweight).
 The Wildcats had six winners against both McEachern and Brookwood, but had a 1-1 record in the matches.
 In the McEachern match, Clarence Ryan (100) was first as was Gonis, Wenz, and Johnson. Gray and Crook both tied.
 Against Brookwood, Schmier, Gray, Gonis, Wenz, and Johnson were first. Again, Crook tied.
 The Wildcats, 6-4, will play host to Suwannee Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
 "It should be a super match," Landrum said. "Suwannee is always a contender for the Florida Class AAA wrestling championship, and this year I understand they have one of the best teams that's ever wrestled for them."

after winning the 140 division.
 Other Valdosta wrestlers to place were Paul Hogan (third, 8-under), Zack Cowart (second, 8-under), Andrew Denmark (third, 9-10), Justin Bridges (third, 96), and Jaon Finland (third, 114).
 The Valdosta junior varsity and junior high teams will both be in action Wednesday night at 6 p.m. against Suwannee. The varsity also wrestles Suwannee starting at 7:30.

Valdosta Grapplers Victorious

V Times 1-16-86 - VDT

From Staff Reports
 The Valdosta high wrestling team gained a 38-23 decision over Suwannee High in action Wednesday afternoon.
 Clarence Ryan, Mike Schmie, Louie Gonis, and Johnny Crook earned pins for the Wildcats. Gonis recorded the quickest pin of the match at 128 pounds, pinning Curtis Hayes in only 56 seconds.
 The Valdosta JV defeated Suwannee 40-15. Winning by a pin were Shad Burroughs, Dexter Sharper, and Jason Bridges at 121.

100 pounds — Ryan (V) pinned Ratcliff; 107 — Schmier (V) pinned Morgan; 114 — Neal Fudbe (V) dec. Clayton; 121 — Gray (V) dec. Hill; 128 — Gonis (V) pinned Hayes; 134 — Blair (S) dec. Mueller; 140 — Wenz (V) dec. Gannians; 147 — Wainwright (S) dec. Timney; 157 — J. Wainwright (S) pinned Johnson; 169 — Howard (S) won by forfeit; 187 — Johnson (V) tied Peppers; UNL — Crook (V) pinned Gratchfield.

Cook Wrestlers Win, Valdosta 4th

V Times 1-15-86 - VDT

From Staff Reports
MACON — Cook County High won first place in the Southwest Invitational Wrestling Tournament held here Saturday. Valdosta High was fourth.
 The Hornets placed five players in the finals and finished with 176 points. They were followed by Fitzgerald with 164, West Laurens with 146, Valdosta with 141 and Riverdale with 90.
 "Cook really deserved to win," Valdosta Coach Jim Landrum said. "We just didn't have enough wrestlers in the wrestle-backs to compete." Landrum said.
 Chris Gray at 121 pounds and Carl Johnson at 187 were the only two Valdosta wrestlers to win their class. Clarence Ryan (100), Louie Gonis (128), and Ira Wenz (140) all took second place while Mike Schmier (107) and Tony Johnson (169) finished fourth.
 The Wildcats travel to Fitzgerald Tuesday night.

"They wrestled a super tournament. We had some wrestlers that plain just didn't wrestle to their potential and they got knocked out of the tournament in the first round. That killed our chances to win the tournament."
 Valdosta and Fitzgerald also had five wrestlers reach the finals while West Laurens had three.
 "We just didn't have enough wrestlers in the wrestle-backs to compete." Landrum said.

Lowe, Kitchens Pace 'Cats To Win

V Times 1-15-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer
 Valdosta's Kyle Lowe played the entire game with a cold, getting aid from his parents sitting behind the bench in the form of cough drops. And though Lowe slowed down in the second half, he put in eight points in the first half and went into double figures with 10 points as Valdosta defeated Coffee County 51-39.
 The win was Valdosta's second of the season, but their second in three games as Valdosta took advantage of a slow paced game to down the Trojans.
 In the girls' matchup, Valdosta fell to the Lady Trojans, 60-45.
 Valdosta will play host to Central-Thomasville Friday night in a game that was originally scheduled as an away game for Valdosta.
 Valdosta took a 14-9 first quarter lead in the boys' game and never looked back. The Wildcats slowly increased their margin as the game went on.

Desmond Murphy paced Coffee with 11 points, putting in eight during the second half, and was the only Trojan to close the gap.
 Stacy Williams and Charles Edmondson had eight each for Coffee.
 Valdosta outscored Coffee 10-9 in the second quarter to up its lead to six, 24-18, but it was the opening of the third quarter that broke the camel's back.
 In the first four minutes of the third quarter, Valdosta outscored Coffee 9-2 to edge out to a 32-20 lead. Kitchens had four points of Valdosta's 9-point drive, hitting one bucket from the top of the key and adding another inside.
 Butler had the other five with two baskets under the boards and a free throw.
 The Wildcats finished the third period leading 41-28.
 In the girls' game, Cassandra Ceasar was the only VHS player in double figures as Valdosta saw a 15-12 first-quarter lead disappear after they were outscored 19-6 in the second quarter.

Leigh Simmons paced the Lady Trojans with 18, followed by Wilene Carter and Qwaina Paulk with 12 each, and Donna Braswell with 10 points.
 Coffee County (39) — Wilkerson 6, Williams 8, Edmondson 8, Williams 2, Murphy 11, Bussy 2, Bidwell 2, Royal, Ross, Shivers.
 Valdosta (51) — Brown 4, Williams 3, Butler 8, Calloway 6, Kitchens 14, Norwood 0, Lowe 10, Williams 4, C. Butler, Jones, Lapointe, Owens, Phillips, Elliott, Campbell, Iverson.
 Coffee..... 9 9 10 11 - 39
 Valdosta..... 14 10 17 10 - 51
 Records — Valdosta 2-9.
 Next Game — Central-Thomasville at Valdosta (Friday).

Boys' Game
 Coffee County (40) — Braswell 10, Carter 12, Gray 2, Henderson 0, McParten 0, O'Steen 6, Paulk 12, Simmons 18, Mizzell, Wright.
 Valdosta (45) — Witherspoon 8, Barnett 9, Christopher 3, Hartzog 4, Ceasar 13, Chestnut 3, Longeliere 1, Lowe 2, Plummer 2.
 Coffee..... 12 19 17 12 - 40
 Valdosta..... 15 6 14 10 - 45
 Records — Valdosta 1-10.

Girls' Game
 Coffee County (46) — Plummer 12, Barnett 4, Christopher 3, Lowe, Ceasar 13, Witherspoon 4, Hartzog 4, Longeliere 6.
 Lanier County (48) — McGriff 18, Ryan 7, Gloster 12, Oxford 3, Gloster, Houston 14, Raymond 6.
 Valdosta..... 13 13 12 8 - 46
 Lanier..... 15 21 12 12 - 46
 Records — Valdosta 1-12; Lanier County 3-10.

Wildcats Hold On To Defeat Lanier

V Times 1-22-86

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor
LAKELAND — It was a blowout-turned-comeback.
 The Valdosta Wildcats had a commanding 43-22 lead over Lanier County at the half and extended the margin to 26 in the third period. But Lanier rallied to cut the deficit to 10 with 3:38 to play.
 That's when the rally stopped and Valdosta held on for a 71-56 victory over the Bulldogs.
 "They hustled like crazy and we played stupid," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "I was afraid at halftime that we would have a letdown, and we did."
 While O'Brien was critical of his team's play, Lanier Coach Jamie Felts was critical of the officiating.
 "We played terrible most of the game and the officiating was just as bad," Felts said. "I think they were terrible. We had someone trying to keep us from performing and they (Valdosta) didn't."
 The Bulldogs' troubles started in the first half. While digging a 21-point deficit, Lanier was able to hit just eight of 25 shots from the field. Valdosta, meanwhile, connected on 17 of 25 from the floor in the first half.
 Although Felts was critical of the officials, he didn't feel the officials hurt Lanier in the first half.
 "I don't think they hurt us to start with," he said. "I think it did later in the game. We were flat to start with and digging our own hole."
 While the Bulldogs were digging themselves deeper and deeper into trouble, Valdosta was running its pressure defense to near perfection. Valdosta was able to come up with several steals and score easy baskets while racing to the big lead.
 Jerome Callaway scored for Valdosta on a baseline jumper and Reginald Butler followed with a steal and dunk for a 4-0 lead. The teams traded baskets before Valdosta started to pull away behind the shooting of Anthony Brown. Brown, who led all scorers with 21 points, had 10 in the first quarter.
 Seven different players scored for the Wildcats in the second period as they slowly pulled away.
 "The Wildcats' offense continued to click in the third period, but Lanier got its offensive problems out of the way to keep the game from becoming a complete runaway.
 Then with less than two minutes left in the third period, Lanier started its rally.
 Down 56-30, Arthur McBride scored inside and on a drive, Valdosta countered with an inside jumper by Brown, but the Bulldogs scored the

final eight points of the quarter to trail 42-58 heading into the final period.
 Chris Ryan started the surge when he scored inside, Thomas Reddick scored on a layup following a steal by Randy Spell, Ryan picked up another steal and went for the dunk, and McBride ended the quarter when he sank two free throws.
 The rally continued in the fourth period as Ryan hit two free throws and Spell had a steal and layup to pull the Bulldogs within 12, 58-46, with 7:11 to play.
 Valdosta finally broke its scoring drought when Butler hit a layup. McBride, Dewayne Williams, and Steve Crumpton all scored for Lanier and Valdosta hit just one basket and Lanier trailed 62-52 with 3:38 left.

Valdosta, meanwhile, was not only having trouble holding onto the ball, but was also having a hard time getting free throws to fall. In the first half, the Wildcats hit nine of 10 from the line. But poor shooting late in the game helped the Bulldogs get back in the game.
 After missing six consecutive at the line, Butler scored on a 3-point play.
 "That was a big free throw," O'Brien said. "Our foul shooting deserted us towards the end and it scared me to death."
 Valdosta made just eight of 17 from the line in the fourth period.
 In addition to Brown's 21 points, Valdosta got 12 points from Lennice Williams and 11 from both Butler and Kyle Lowe.
 Ryan and McBride led Lanier with 15 each.
 In the girls' game, Lanier outscored Valdosta 21-13 in the second period to break the game open and claim a 60-46 decision.
 Sheila McGriff was the leader for the Lady Bulldogs with 18 points while Shirley Houston had 14 and Pam Gloster had 12. Sharon Ryan led Lanier on the boards with 14 rebounds.
 Cassandra Ceasar was the leader for the Lady Wildcats with 13 points. Valerie Plummer had 12.

Boys' Game
 Valdosta (71) — Brown 21, Williams 12, R. Butler 11, Callaway 8, Kitchens 2, Norwood, Lowe 11, Williams 4, Jones, Lapointe, Phillips, Campbell, Lanier County (56) — Reynolds 3, Newbern 2, Reddick 2, Gloster 7, Sirmans, Spell 9, Crumpton 2, Williams 2, Henry 4, Ryan 15, McBride 15.
 Valdosta..... 18 25 15 13 - 71
 Lanier..... 9 13 20 14 - 56
 Records — Valdosta 4-9; Lanier 2-13.
 Next Game — Bainbridge at Valdosta (Friday); Nicholls at Lanier County (Friday).

Girls' Game
 Valdosta (46) — Plummer 12, Barnett 4, Christopher 3, Lowe, Ceasar 13, Witherspoon 4, Hartzog 4, Longeliere 6.
 Lanier County (48) — McGriff 18, Ryan 7, Gloster 12, Oxford 3, Gloster, Houston 14, Raymond 6.
 Valdosta..... 13 13 12 8 - 46
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 Records — Valdosta 1-12; Lanier County 3-10.

Boys' Game
 Coffee County (39) — Wilkerson 6, Williams 8, Edmondson 8, Williams 2, Murphy 11, Bussy 2, Bidwell 2, Royal, Ross, Shivers.
 Valdosta (51) — Brown 4, Williams 3, Butler 8, Calloway 6, Kitchens 14, Norwood 0, Lowe 10, Williams 4, C. Butler, Jones, Lapointe, Owens, Phillips, Elliott, Campbell, Iverson.
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 Valdosta..... 13 13 12 8 - 46
 Lanier..... 15 21 12 12 - 46
 Records — Valdosta 1-12; Lanier County 3-10.

Wildcats Fall, 53-42

By BLAIR DICKINSON

Times Sports Writer
 "When you're four to five inches shorter per man across the front line and the other team makes 23 out of 29 free throws against you, it's tough to win the ballgame," said Valdosta High basketball coach Mike O'Brien after Bainbridge had defeated his Wildcats 53-42 to stay undefeated in Region 1-AAAA South.

"We played the best basketball that we're capable of, playing in the first quarter and stayed with them in the second quarter, but the third quarter killed us, and we just couldn't catch up at the end," O'Brien said. "But these kids never gave up; they never do."

"We were down by 26 points over in Bainbridge and cut that lead to eight, and tonight we were down by 14 and cut it to five."

Kacy Williams hit a 17-foot jumpshot from the right baseline to pull Valdosta to within five points of the Bearcats at 42-37 with 3:30 to play, but Ronnie Gaines then drove the lane and put up a shot from eight feet away. The ball hit the front of the rim and bounced into the basket.

Gaines then hit a free throw before Kyle Lowe's 20-footer from the corner made it a 6-point game. But the Bearcats made six of eight free throws from that point on to shut the door as Valdosta was forced to foul playing catchup.

The Wildcats jumped all over Bainbridge in the first quarter. The Bearcats, who stood 6-foot-6, 6-5, and 6-5 across the front line, nevertheless had a variety of troubles breaking Valdosta's full-court press. And when they did succeed, the Wildcats' zone defense forced them into numerous turnovers.

The result was a 12-3 Valdosta lead after the end of the first quarter.

"Lennice Williams played as well as I've ever seen him play in the first quarter tonight," O'Brien said. "And Sylvester Kitchens moved the ball around on offense real well. We played with a lot of patience and hit our shots."

It was 8-0 before Bainbridge even got onto the scoreboard. Kacy Williams scored a layup on the opening tipoff. Lennice Williams followed with a layup inside before Lowe nailed a 20-foot jumper and Reginald Butler penetrated inside for a layup.

Then after Gaines hit the second of two free throws, Lowe sank another long jumper for a 10-1 lead. The Bearcats got untracked after that and outscored the home team 10-2 in the six minutes leading up to halftime to enter the lockerroom with a 17-16 lead.

A series of turnovers by Valdosta proved fatal to open up the second half as Bainbridge outscored them again by a 10-2 margin over the first 5½ minutes of the third period for a commanding

29-18 advantage.

The Wildcats had five more field goals than their opponents in the game. Bainbridge went up 36-22 to open the fourth quarter, but Valdosta proceeded to then storm back.

Kitchens began by hitting a long jumpshot, followed by a 15-footer from the baseline by Butler. Anthony Brown scored inside before Butler converted an offensive rebound. Then Kacy Williams drove for a basket before throwing a perfect pass underneath to Butler who scored a 3-point play.

In the girls' game, Bainbridge jumped out to a 24-17 halftime and then used a strong zone defense to hold off the surging Lady Wildcats for a 38-31 victory.

Cassandra Ceasar led all scorers in the game with 16 points while Gloria Balkman and Michelle Williford had 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Lady Bearcats.

Boys' Game
 Bainbridge (53) — Willingham 2, Green 10, T. Gaines 6, Ron. Gaines 28, Burke 4, Rob. Gaines.
 Valdosta (42) — Brown 7, L. Williams 4, Butler 11, Callaway, Kitchens 6, K. Williams 6, Lowe 8.
 Bainbridge..... 3 17 16 20 — 53
 Valdosta..... 12 4 6 20 — 42
 Records — Valdosta 4-10, 2-2; Bainbridge 13-6, 3-0.
 Next Game — Valdosta at Buchholz (Friday).

Girls' Game
 Bainbridge (38) — Thomas 4, Balkman 11, Brock 2, Williford 10, Guy 2, Herndon, Merikson 6, Hamilton 3.
 Valdosta (31) — Plummer 0, Barnett 2, Hartzog 6, Lowe 2, Ceasar 16, Weatherspoon 2, Christopher 3, Longelliere.
 Bainbridge..... 11 13 8 6 — 38
 Valdosta..... 8 9 10 4 — 31
 Records — Valdosta 1-13, 0-4.

Willie Burke (Front) Has The Advantage To Get The Ball



'Cats Surprise Lowndes, 55-51

By BLAIR DICKINSON
 Times Sports Writer

"The thing I'm so proud of is that none of these players ever quit," Valdosta basketball coach Mike O'Brien said after his team's 55-51 upset victory over Lowndes High Tuesday night.

"We were 0-8 coming into this game, and we had been having a lot of trouble scoring. So over the holidays, they came in at 8:00 in the morning and really worked on our shooting, pressing defense, and pushing the ball up the floor. We're not big enough inside or good enough from the outside to really hurt anybody, and nobody has really taken charge and asserted themselves."

"But a big, big key for us tonight was the play of Sylvester Kitchens," O'Brien said. "We got a super game out of Kitchens, and Jerome Callaway played very well for us after a slow start."

Kitchens is the Wildcats' sole returning starter off last year's team, but he deserves his role as captain of the team. When the offense bogged down against the Vikings, he took matters into his own hands, despite his stature as the smallest man on the court.

He nailed jump shots from long range, ran the Wildcats' fast break, and several times recklessly drove the lane with good results. Kitchens finished the game as the high scorer with 16 points and had numerous assists and steals in addition.

Callaway followed with 15 points after failing to score in the first 12 minutes of the contest. He scored on two fast breaks just before halftime to give Valdosta its 1-point, 21-20, lead at intermission and then hit two long jumpshots early in the third quarter when the Wildcats extended their lead to 10 points.

"Lowndes has had some troubles with injuries, and they had a couple more tonight," O'Brien said. "But it is a credit to their program that they came back against us in the fourth quarter and pulled to within one point of tying the game near the end. When they become healthy again, they'll still be one of the front runners in our subregion."

The Wildcats performed better than they had previously, but they still played the last three minutes with their front line sitting on the bench after having fouled out. In the final minutes, Valdosta did have a man more than

5-10 on the floor and was even using a ninth-grader at that.

But it was that ninth-grader, Carlo Thomas, who iced the victory for the Wildcats, coming off the bench late in the game and calmly sinking two free throws with less than 30 seconds remaining to give them a 52-49 lead.

Just prior to Thomas' heroics and perhaps more notably, Kyle Lowe had come off the bench to hit three out of four foul shots to keep Valdosta out front. The Wildcats had previously hit only three of 12 shots form the charity stripe all night long.

In totality, it was a wild game featuring mad-downcourt rushes, rebounded steals, numerous sprawling bodies, and travelling calls amid massive pileups. Valdosta's entire front line of Anthony Brown, Lennice Williams, and Reginald Butler all fouled out early as did the Vikings' star center, Eric Davis, who missed most of the second quarter with foul problems.

But the player whose absence had the greatest impact was Viking point guard Earl Gray. The 5-7 senior point guard was hit with his fourth personal foul with 4:55 left in the second quarter. Gray is the heart and soul of the Viking offense's ball movement, and

when he went out (with a 3-point Lowndes lead), the Wildcat full-court press met with greater success.

The Viking backcourt was already depleted with the loss of Chris Schroyer to a broken hand and James Moore to a finger in the eye in Monday's practice. Then during the game, reserve guards Barry Muse and Purdie Burkes had to be carried from the court with leg injuries.

When one considers that three of coach Terry Wilkes' original top five forwards are no longer with the team and the fourth just returned to the lineup after missing a month with a stress fracture in his foot, it is indeed remarkable that Lowndes could remain competitive at all.

Todd Williams tallied 14 points for the Vikings, and Anthony Foster added 10. Davis managed to finish the game with 15 points, but Brown and Williams did much to negate the big Viking center's performance. They finished with nine and six points respectively but pulled down numerous rebounds and added a few blocked shots. And their work at the back of the Wildcats' full court press was invaluable.

"We still turned the ball over too much when we shouldn't have, but

'Cat's Anthony Brown (L) Works Against Barry Muse



Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Lowndes (51) — Gray 4, Foster 10, Davis 15, Williams 14, Black 4, Burkes 4, Muse.
 Valdosta (55) — Brown 9, L. Williams 6, R. Butler, Callaway 15, K. Williams 2, Lowe 3, Kitchens 16, C. Butler 4.
 Lowndes..... 10 10 14 17 — 51
 Valdosta..... 7 14 20 14 — 55
 Records — Lowndes 8.5, 0-1; Valdosta 18, 1-0.
 Next Game — Tift County at Lowndes (Friday); Valdosta at Bainbridge (Friday).

Valdosta Wrestlers Sweep Region Foes

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcats won a double dual wrestling match Saturday, handily defeating the Westover Patriots and the Lowndes Vikings in Region 1-AAAA action. The Vikings were led by Ashley Moorman, who pinned both of his opponents in the 158-pound class, and by Neal Fudge in the 115-pound class, who won a narrow 9-8 decision over Jasen Larkin of Lowndes and won on the quickest pin of the match against the Patriots in a 1-minute 10-second frenzy.

In the 188-pound weight class, Carl Johnson decisioned both of his opponents by a combined score of 32-7. Chris Gray (120) won by pinning his Lowndes opposite and defeated Westover's representative by a 16-0 decision.

Valdosta claimed a 66-3 victory over Lowndes and beat Westover 47-12. In the other match, Westover downed Lowndes 48-20.

The teams will participate in the area wrestling meet this weekend at Valdosta High School.

Valdosta 66, Lowndes 3

100 — Clarence Ryan (V) won by forfeit; 107 — Gary Luke (V) won by forfeit; 114 — Neal Fudge (V) pinned Jimmy Mallory; 121 — Chris Gray (V) pinned Michael Woodruff; 128 — Louie Gonis (V) dec. Joel Weldon, 17-13; 134 — Brian Mueller (V) pinned Mike Miley; 140 — Ira Wenzel (V) pinned Bobby Bramlett; 147 — Bret Tinney (V) pinned Billy Swords; 157 — Ashley Moorman (V) pinned Darren Broome; 169 — James Marshall (L) dec. Ryan Johnson, 14-12; 187 — Carl Johnson (V) dec. Ryan Broome, 18-3; Hwt. — Johnny Crook (V) won by forfeit.

Valdosta 47, Westover 12

100 — Thanh Ly (W) dec. Clarence Ryan, 9-6; 107 — Stanley Robinson (W) dec. Gary Luke, 4-0; 114 — Neal Fudge (V) dec. Jasen Larkin, 9-8; 121 — Chris Gray (V) dec. Jeff Burns, 16-0; 128 — Louie Gonis (V) pinned Ken Goree; 135 — Johnny Green (W) pinned Brian Mueller; 140 — Ira Wenzel (V) dec. Tommy Lacy, 17-6; 147 — Bret Tinney (V) won by forfeit; 158 — Ashley Moorman (V) pinned Jimmy Harrell; 170 — Tony Johnson (V) won by forfeit; 188 — Carl Johnson (V) dec. Todd Northrup, 14-4; Hwt. — Johnny Crook won by forfeit.

Westover 48, Lowndes 20

100 — Thanh Ly (W) won by forfeit; 107 — Stanley Roberts (W) won by forfeit; 114 — Jimmy Mallory (L) dec. Ryan Ly, 16-6; 121 — Jeff Burns (W) pinned Michael Woodruff; 128 — Ken Goree (W) won by forfeit; 134 — Johnny Green (W) pinned Mike Miley; 140 — Tommy Lacy (W) pinned Bobby Bramlett; 147 — Billy Swords (L) dec. Rodney Roberts, 14-5; 157 — Jimmy Harrell (W) pinned Darren Broome; 169 — James Marshall (L) won by forfeit; 187 — Todd Northrup (W) pinned Ryan Broome; Hwt. — Steve Blanton (L) won by forfeit.

'Cats Win

From Staff Reports

Valdosta's Ashley Moorman pinned Fitzgerald's Danny Czaja in 22 seconds in high school wrestling action Thursday night as the Wildcats downed Fitzgerald 42-27.

Other Wildcats winning by pins were Mike Schmier, Brett Tinney, Tony Johnson, Carl Johnson and Johnny Crook.

VHS coach Jim Landrum saw his team fall behind but the Wildcats weren't down for long.

"We were down 27-12 at one time with the momentum going Fitzgerald's way," Landrum said. "Brett Tinney's 147-pound win turned everything around."

Valdosta had lost five out of the first seven matchups, but Tinney's victory was the first in a string of five individual victories for the 'Cats.

The victory boosts Valdosta to 8-4. The Wildcats will host Jonesboro and Lowndes in a tri-team match Saturday. VHS will wrestle Jonesboro at 1 p.m. and Lowndes will take on Jonesboro at 2:30.

100 pounds — Tomberly (F) pinned Ryan; 107 — Schmier (V) pinned Clark; 114 — Bishop (F) pinned Fudge; 121 — Gray (V) won by forfeit; 128 — Calhoun (F) dec. Gonis; 134 — Sherrell (F) pinned Mueller; 140 — Bray (F) pinned Dufek; 147 — Tinney (V) pinned Lavender; 147 — Moorman (V) pinned Czaja; 169 — T. Johnson (V) pinned Rogers; 187 — C. Johnson (V) pinned Herring; UNL. — Crook (V) pinned Byrd.

Wed., Jan. 15, 1986

Lowndes Defeats Stubborn Wildcats

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

STATENVILLE — Lowndes' boys' basketball team is known for its man-to-man defense. The Vikings stick to it throughout the season, except when they play Valdosta.

But Tuesday night, the Vikings switched to a zone and they weren't even playing Valdosta. The opponent was Echols County.

At the time of the switch, Lowndes was leading by just three points. The end result was a 73-52 victory.

And though Lowndes had a huge height advantage over the Wildcats, Echols kept taking the ball inside in the first half. Of the 11 field goals Echols made in the first half, 10 of them were in close, including five layups.

"What surprised me was we have been playing man-to-man defense now for two years almost non-stop," Lowndes Coach Terry Wilkes said. "Last year, we played a zone twice, and that was against Valdosta both times, and we've played a zone once this year until tonight. At times, it looked like we didn't have a clue how to play man-to-man defense — they spread out the court, took the ball to one wing, set a pick on the other side and all of a sudden the man was nose-to-nose, he's picked, and they score a layup."

"At halftime, we went to a zone. I don't like to play it a lot, but we decided to check out their outside shooting. We knew (Michael) Mitchell could shoot outside. We played Mitchell man for about three quarters of the second half and tried to stay tight inside and get the rebounds. It finally worked for us. They were a little bit cold against the zone and we opened up the lead."

Echols had trailed 29-26 at the half, but three minutes into the third period the score was 41-28.

Eric Davis, who finished with 26 points for the Vikings, opened the second half with two quick jumpers inside. Ken Herring followed with two free throws. Chance Black, who had 15 points, scored on a layup and again inside, and Davis scored on a tip-in for a 13-point margin with 4:58 left in the third period.

"When they went to a zone, we started pushing shots," Echols Coach David Bice said. "We weren't hitting the offensive boards. We had hardly any offensive boards. We weren't even trying to hit the offensive boards. It didn't bother me them being so much bigger than we are, but if I've got one man going to the board against their

four or five, there's no way we're going to win. And that's exactly what happened. We're so thin and when Michael got in foul trouble, he had to play it pretty easy from then on and that really hurt us. It hurt him to get four fouls, and he got out of the game."

Although Mitchell did not foul out, he had three fouls at the half and picked up his fourth foul midway through the third quarter.

Mitchell finished with 18 points while Bennie Robinson had 15 for the Wildcats.

Bice said one reason the Wildcats were able to get the ball inside as much as they did in the first half was the offense was spreading out the Lowndes defense.

"We ran some plays that were designed to free our guards a little more and get them into the offense," Bice said. "We spread them out a couple of times. We ran a lot of motion in our offense. There were two or three times we could have had even more points if we had looked at the options."

"But that's high school basketball and people are going to make mistakes. You've got to realize you're dealing with young players. I thought the effort was definitely there. The last time we played them, we also had as good an effort."

It was the third meeting between the two teams this season and Lowndes has won all three.

"We played them a lot better than we had the first two times," Bice said. "We had worked and worked. We made some personnel changes to help us better handle their defense and it worked out pretty well."

"We really cut down on our turnovers. Even though we played fairly well the first time, we still had 10 turnovers in the first half."

Echols cut down its turnovers this time, and helped the Wildcats stay close in the first half.

Echols' Robinson scored to start the game, but Lowndes countered with two jumpers. Mitchell then scored inside to tie the game, but Davis scored six unanswered points to give Lowndes a 10-4 lead.

Lowndes led 14-10 at the end of the first period, but Echols scored seven of the first nine points in the second quarter to take a 17-16 lead. The Vikings came right back, however, and scored the next two baskets to take the lead for good.

In the girls' game, Lowndes jumped out to a 10-0 lead and never looked back as the Vikettes coasted to a 62-44 decision.



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Viking Eric Davis Goes Over Bennie Robinson

Of the 12 players who played for Lowndes, 11 of them scored. Sherice Willis and Angela Woods were the only two in double figures. They had 14 each.

"I was pleased with the team effort," Lowndes Coach Elinor Goode said. "All of the kids played well."

"I thought we shot free throws well. We hit 14 of 20 for 70 percent."

The Vikettes also shot well from the floor. In the first half, Lowndes had just 14 rebounds and Echols 10.

"The rebounding was low on both sides, but both team's shooting percentage was good. We only had nine turnovers, which was good because we had been averaging around 17. With that many people playing, that's good to have that few turnovers."

After Lowndes early lead, Echols

stayed close until Lowndes scored the final four points for a 24-8 lead at the end of the first period. The lead climbed as high as 21 and was as low as 14 in the second period. The Vikettes led 39-21 at the half.

Boys' Game

Lowndes (73)	Gray 10, Herring 4, Williams 8, Black 15, Davis 26, Foster 1, Muse 2, Burkes, Brown 2, Lucas 5, Hicks
Echols County (52)	Roberts 6, Mitchell 18, Carter 6, Robinson 15, Adams 7, Fortner
Lowndes	14 15 28 16-73
Echols	10 16 12 14-52
Records	Lowndes 9-6; Echols County 3-11
Next Game	Lowndes at Bainbridge (Friday); Echols County at Atkinson County (Friday).

Girls' Game

Lowndes (62)	Williams 4, Willis 14, Woods 14, Trenor 6, Straughter 8, Bradley 5, Campbell 3, Carter, Evans 2, Maine 2, Sauls 2, Brown 2
Echols County (44)	Banks 10, P. Carter 4, S. Carter 2, Snow 1, Ritter 17, Roberts 10
Lowndes	24 15 13 10-62
Echols	8 13 7 16-44
Records	Lowndes 12-3; Echols County 6-7.

'Cats Take On Bainbridge

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High enters its contest with Bainbridge tonight with two basketball teams that seem to be steadily improving.

Coach Mike O'Brien's Wildcats began the season by losing their first eight games with an inexperienced team, but they have shown signs recently of turning it around.

"These kids kept a good attitude all along," O'Brien said. "Nobody gave up or quit when we failed to win a ballgame before Christmas. They all came in over the holidays and worked hard. And we just told them to keep hustling and try to cut down on their mental mistakes."

Things began falling into place. The team has now won four of its last five games. They first defeated Lowndes and then Coffee, a squad that had beaten the Wildcats before the holidays. After a loss on the road to a much taller Bainbridge team, Valdosta beat Central-Thomaspville to run their all-important subregion record to 2-1. On Tuesday they beat Lanier County.

Also on tap for tonight, Berrien will play at Brantley, Brooks at Dooly, Cook at Albany, Echols at Broxton, Mt. Vernon at Open Bible, Suwannee at Hamilton, and Nichols at Lanier.

Lowndes Christian will host the first round of their region tournament.

"The players started making their free throws when they had to, and some of the shots that weren't falling before Christmas started to go in," O'Brien said. "Plus, we've been getting good leadership from our seniors."

"Sylvester Kitchens is playing with a lot more confidence now. He's doing the things he's always been capable of, like taking people to the goal. Anthony Brown played the best game he's ever played for us against Central. And Lennice Williams is doing a tremendous job."

"The whole team is playing much more consistently now and making fewer mistakes."

Another key to the team's turnaround has been O'Brien's success in keeping his "big" men out of foul trouble. The word "big" may be a bit misleading. The tallest front line the Wildcats have is the 6-foot-3 Williams, and Brown and Reginald Butler, both of whom stand 6-1, but both of whom have worked sufficiently hard that they can now easily dunk a basketball.

They still must be counted on to go up against the likes of Bainbridge's front line which stands 6-6, 6-6, and 6-7, or against the frontcourt of Lowndes

which contains two players 6-5.

"We've been working a lot with alternating those three into two of the frontcourt positions and bringing (guard) Jerome Callaway down low with him playing as consistently as he is," O'Brien said. "And with Kacy Williams coming off the bench to play either guard position and Kyle Lowe subbing at guard or at short forward, we have more options and can keep everybody out of foul trouble more easily."

The Lady Wildcats are still somewhat in the doldrums, having won but one of their games. They, too, suffer from a great deal of inexperience and youth, but they remain determined to improve and hope to break out of their slump.

"The losing's been hard to accept for everyone, including the coaches," center Cassandra Ceasar said. "But the team keeps working hard and pushing themselves to bring out the best in each other. We've been getting good leadership from our seniors, Tangela Lowe, Avis Weatherspoon, and Rita Barnett, and we feel like we're continuing to improve game by game."

Despite her lack of success in the win column, coach Faye Hollinger continues to push her young players to develop the necessary skills while also working to maintain their enthusiasm. And in that she has succeeded.

"Coach Hollinger is still teaching us a great deal about the game," said freshman forward Swandolyn Phillips. "She sets goals for us and holds us together when things don't go so well. And she never gives up on us no matter what our problems are."

One of the fiercest rivalries in south Georgia resumes Friday night in the form of a girls' basketball game when the Clinch County Pantherettes travel to Pearson to take on the Atkinson County Lady Rebels.

Through the years, the victor of the Clinch-Atkinson matchups has gone on to claim the 2-A crown, while the loser has gone home.

The year before last, Atkinson took the honors, but last year, Clinch finished as the 2-A champion and is heading down the same road again this year.

The two teams have already met once this year, with Clinch pulling out a six-point victory over Atkinson in Homerville.

But a location can add or take away six points.

"Naturally, I'd much rather play at home," said Panthreette coach Keith

Cox. "Atkinson is a well balanced team, and they have one of the best outside shooters in South Georgia in Priscilla Bailey, and Beverly Lock is a good inside player."

But the Pantherettes are favored on paper, bringing in a 15-0 record and having already downed the Lady Rebels once.

Clinch is led by Marla Lupo and Kathy Willis. Lupo is the leader on the court. She sets up the offense and Cox depends on her ballhandling skills to get the ball down the court, and Willis waits inside for an opening underneath.

Both players have been scouted by various colleges who could put their talent to good use.

The Lowndes Christian Eagles are hosting the Georgia Christian Athletic Association's South Regionals tonight and Saturday night, and Eagle coach Stan Reaves is hoping that his players are healthy enough to defend the region crown that they won last year.

"We've had a lot of sickness," Reaves said. "We haven't had a real practice since our last game and we've only had five to nine kids show up for practice."

The Eagles head into the tournament as the No. 1 seed with a 9-1 region record, but the pursuers are not far behind.

Calvary Christian is 8-2 and Newnam Christian is 7-3.

Calvary beat LCA earlier in the year but the Eagles got the higher seed because of their record.

"There are no easy teams in the boys' bracket," Reaves said. "Calvary Christian beat us earlier in the year and we only beat Newnam by about nine points."

In the girls' side of the region, the Lady Eagles are also defending the region crown and are the top seeds with a 10-0 record in region play.

"If the girls can play the way they're capable of playing, they ought to be on the way to a state championship," Reeves said.

The tournament kicks off this afternoon with the Calvary squaring off with Warner Robins Christian in a girls' matchup, followed by Calvary and Newnam in a boys' game.

The Lady Eagles will play Newnam at 6:30 and the Eagles square off against Grace Christian at 8.

On Saturday, the girls' consolation game will start at 1 p.m. followed by the boys' consolation game at 2:30.

The girls' final will tip off at 5:30 immediately followed by the boys' championship game at 7:30.

Russell To Enliven Valdosta's Banquet

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High School Wildcat football team will welcome Georgia Southern head football coach Erk Russell as the guest speaker at their football banquet Monday night at 7:30.

Russell is coming off a national championship year after starting a football program from scratch four years ago in Statesboro. Their 13-2 season included playoff wins over Jackson State, Middle Tennessee, and Northern Iowa, and an exciting last minute come-from-behind 44-42 victory over Furman in the Diamond Bowl for the NCAA Division I-AA national championship.

The Birmingham, Ala. native earned 10 varsity letters as a student at Auburn University where he gained both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He coached at Auburn and Vanderbilt before joining Vince Dooley's staff at the University of Georgia in 1963 where he became the defensive coordinator.

The Bulldogs became known for

formidable defense under the tutelage of Russell beginning in 1967 when they led the Southeastern Conference in total defense for the first of two consecutive seasons. The squad led the nation in shutouts in 1971 and placed second in the country in scoring defense behind national champion Alabama in 1978.

And of course, his senior dominated defense led Georgia to its only national championship ever in 1980, holding Notre Dame to only 10 points in the Sugar Bowl.

At Georgia Southern, Russell's teams have been characterized by strong offensive teams. The Eagles averaged 31 points per game in each of the last two years.

Georgia Southern's record since the reinstitution of its football program in 1982 has been 34-13-1. This season's highly successful appearance in post-season play marked the Eagles' first ever.

Georgia Southern's opening game in 1986 will be against the University of Florida.

Williams, Davis Well Rewarded

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta High Touchdown Club held its annual football banquet last night, honoring their 1985 season. Georgia Southern head football coach Erk Russell was the guest speaker.

Russell was Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's high school football coach "36 years ago" at Grady High School, and some old, funny stories were recounted.

Russell explained his leaving Athens to start the Georgia Southern program thusly, "Coaching is like a dog sled team — if you're not the lead dog, the scenery doesn't change that much."

A variety of awards and presentations were given out at the affair which was coordinated by outgoing touchdown club president Hank Lee.

Nick Hyder received a silver bowl from Sports Illustrated magazine in recognition for his mention in a November issue commemorating the 600th victory for Valdosta High School. Junior defensive end Seabron Williams was named the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player and received a plaque from the Valdosta Daily Times for being named the area's defensive lineman of the year.

Russ Rudolph was presented the Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic Award for academic achievement. B.J. Mason won the Super Skinner Award for effort and determination on the gridiron. Offensive lineman Joey Tippett received the Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

Tony Johnson, a two-year starter at

linebacker, was presented the Julian Leflites Memorial Spirit of the Wildcats Award. Troy Toth received the Dynomite Goodloe Memorial Award for the most improved player on the team.

Matt Stanaland and Marty Howell tied for best offensive lineman, and Kelvin Miller was named the team's best defensive lineman. Dwayne Hart received designation as the best defensive back while ballcarriers Tony Mangham and William Dixon tied for best offensive back.

The most valuable offensive player award went to guard and long snapper Jeff Davis. The coaching staffs and cheerleaders were also cited for their contributions.

Lowndes-Valdosta

Rematch Tonight

combined to make five out of six free throws in the last minute of play to seal the victory for the home team. But tonight's game will be held at the Lowndes gymnasium, and a strong home crowd can be expected to prominently further the efforts of the Vikings.

Other action around the area finds Brooks County at Lanier County, Clinch County at Berrien County, Cook County at Cairo, Georgia Christian at Westwood, Hamilton County at Echols County, Nichols at Atkinson County, Tiftarea at Valwood, and Whigham at Madison County.

Much has occurred since the first Valdosta-Lowndes game. The Wildcats followed that victory up with a big win over Central in Thomasville as well as victories over Coffee County and Lanier County and a narrow loss to subregion leader Bainbridge at home.

On the other hand, the Vikings saw an 11-6 record dwindle to 1-16 on a string of forfeitures following the discovery of some player ineligibilities two weeks ago. But Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes' squad has rebounded remarkably, winning its last four games.

Not only are bragging rights in the local community involved but the two teams each have 2-2 subregion records and are competing for the only remaining bye in the subregion tournament. The winner will likely finish second for the regular season behind Bainbridge and will sit and watch the third and fourth place teams slug it out in the opening round trying to gain the right to advance.

Valdosta coach Mike O'Brien admitted that victory will not come easy. "There is no way we can match up with Lowndes where size is concerned.

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The rematch between those most intense rivals, Valdosta High and Lowndes High, highlights a full slate of local area high school roundball action Tuesday night.

Four weeks ago the Wildcats hosted the Vikings on their home floor in the first game for both teams following the Christmas break. At the time, Valdosta was winless at 0-8 and Lowndes was coming off victory in its Christmas tournament with a 10-5 record.

Valdosta upset Lowndes in that game 55-51 as 5-foot-6 senior point guard and team co-captain Sylvester Kitchens led the way with 16 points fearlessly driving the lane and repeatedly confronting adversaries an entire foot taller.

Kyle Lowe and freshman Marco Thomas came off the bench and

Vikings Win Wild One

VHS' Anthony Brown (middle) Works Amid Defenders

the sides of the lane. Therefore, the officials apparently called the technical with no time left on the basis that Lowe had to take the second shot, whether any time was left or not.

The crux of Valdosta's argument is that the second shot was not mandatory.

Valdosta must now file a written appeal along with a \$100 dollar fee with the Georgia High School Association along with comments from the officials.

Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes felt that the officials were in error and that there should have been some time left when Lowe shot.

"The timekeeper said he did not hear the buzzer go off," Wilkes said. "The officials just assumed that the game was over."

According to Bill Schofill, Associate Executive Director of the GHSA, if Valdosta wins the appeal, Lowndes may not file a counter-appeal.

"I have never heard of a anyone appealing the decision of a prior appeal," Schofill said. "We have no provision for that."

Lowndes, however, could call for a special board meeting of the GHSA under due process. The fee for such an action would also be \$100.

Protest and squabbles aside, the game was exciting, with Lowndes holding only a 4- to 5- point margin the entire game until Lowe hit a long jumper from the left baseline to tie it, 61-61, with only 48 seconds remaining.

Lowndes had the chance to move ahead by four with 1:03 left and leading 61-59. But Davis was called on a charging foul and the ball went over to Valdosta.

"Davis played an excellent game," Wilkes said. "But he fell asleep there for a couple of minutes. He's supposed to open up passing lanes for us in the

middle, and he just wasn't moving."

From the 4:02 mark until his game-winning free throw, Davis was held scoreless. But Davis still managed to lead all scorers, chipping in 32 points.

Lowndes successfully froze the ball and got the last shot at the end of the first three quarters. That, coupled with Davis' ferocious inside play, forced Valdosta to come out of the zone when Lowndes tried to stall it again near the end of overtime.

"We did not want to just sit back and let them punch it in," said Valdosta assistant coach John Miller. "Davis was playing great and we had problems containing him inside."

The Wildcats' strategy came close to working as Earl Gray tried to force the ball inside and missed the shot, but Valdosta's Kacy Williams was called for a foul under the basket and Davis hit the foul shot for the win.

Anthony Brown paced Valdosta with 18 points, followed by Reginald Butler with 13, Lowe with 11, and Sylvester Kitchens 10.

In the girls' game, the Vikettes continued to play well, claiming their 17th consecutive victory. Lowndes overwhelmed the Lady 'Cats to win easily, 76-27.

"We only had 10 turnovers, and that's one thing I had stressed heading into the tournaments," said Vikette coach Elinor Goode. "I was pleased with the play of everyone. We did almost everything right and we showed a lot of balance."

The stingy Vikette defense, held Valdosta to just four field goals in the first three periods, and kept the Lady Wildcats from putting anyone in double figures.

Meanwhile, every Vikette on the roster but one scored a point, and five Vikettes reached double figures.

Eric Davis free throw.

At the end of regulation, Valdosta's Mike O'Brien filed a formal protest with the officials, stating that since there was no time showing on the clock, Valdosta should have won the game 62-61. According to O'Brien, Lowe did not have to take the second shot, therefore the technical was actually called after time had expired.

Lowndes threw a wrench into the works when clock keeper Hiram Johnson said he did not remember hearing the buzzer sound at the end of regulation. If the buzzer does not sound, it could be interpreted that there is still time remaining on the clock. The referees apparently, therefore, could justify the technical called on Valdosta.

"I did not hear the buzzer sound," Johnson said. "To the best of my knowledge the buzzer did not go off."

But as far as the officials were concerned, time had expired, for when Lowe went to the foul line, the Viking players were not allowed to set up

Angela Woods paced Lowndes with 13. Beverly Williams added 12 points, followed by Sherice Willis, Sadie Straughter, and Stacy Trenor with 10 each.

Boys' Game
Valdosta (62) — Brown 18, L. Williams 10, Butler 13, Kitchens 7, K. Williams 3, Lowe 11.
Lowndes (63) — Davis 32, Gray 2, Moore 8, Lucas 6, Shroyer 7, Williams 8.
Valdosta.....10 15 18 19 0-62

Girls' Game
Valdosta (27) — Ceasar 9, Witherspoon 5, Hartzog 4, Longiellere 3, Christopher 3, Barnett 2.
Lowndes (76) — Woods 13, Williams 12, Willis 10, Straughter 10, Trenor 10, Bradley 7, Evan 4, Maine 4, Sauls 3, Harrrell 2, Carter 1.
Valdosta.....4 8 5 10-27
Lowndes.....22 13 24 17-76
Records — Valdosta 15-0-5; Lowndes 19-3-0



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Gains TKO Victory Over Jackets, 75-63

By Times Staff

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

THOMASVILLE — It was Friday night at the fights revisited.

It was supposed to be a Region 1-AAAA South basketball game between Valdosta and Central-Thomasville. But after two fights and three ejections, the game resembled The Thriller. In Manila more than a high school basketball game.

Valdosta, 4-8, will be seeded third, assuming that Valdosta does not win an appeal of the Viking-Wildcat game. And that means Valdosta must get ready to play Central in the opening round of the tournament.

In the second period, the Wildcats had taken a 27-18 lead when the first fight of the night started. Valdosta's Lenice Williams and Central's Chester Hightower came down with a rebound together. When the whistle blew, Hightower took a swing at Williams. After the referees stepped in, Williams was not ejected because he did not retaliate.

Central came out and tied the game quickly to start the third period. With Valdosta holding a 38-34 lead, Central's Daniel Crocker scored a layup. Valdosta was called for a flagrant foul on the play and Crocker hit both free throws to tie the game with 5:42 left.

But the Wildcats didn't fold. The teams traded baskets before Valdosta went on a scoring spurt to take a 49-42 lead with 2:52 left. Central responded by scoring 10 of the last 12 points of the period to take a 52-51 lead into the fourth period.

Valdosta scored on a break-away jumper by Brown to open the fourth period and gave the Wildcats the lead for good. From there, Valdosta scored 14 points to Central's four to take a 67-56 lead.

The Wildcats' victory, coupled with Lowndes' 62-39 loss to Bainbridge, forges a tie in the subregion standings. Valdosta and Lowndes are both Central is 0-6 and Bainbridge is 6-0.

The tie between Valdosta and Lowndes will be broken by using the region record. Lowndes will be seeded second in the tournament next week because of its 5-8 region record.

But we regained our poise and started pulling away from them. Although Valdosta was slowly pulling away in the fourth period, O'Brien knew no lead was safe. Twice earlier in the game the Wildcats got a comfortable lead and Central came bouncing back.

That's when the next fight started. Valdosta's Jerome Callaway and Central's Craig West were both ejected following the scuffle.

"I didn't really see what happened," O'Brien said. "I looked up and the kid from Central was showing Jerome in the back. But I don't know if Jerome started it or if the other guy did."

In the girls' game, Valdosta lost for the 16th time this season as Central posted a 54-22 victory. The Jackets were ahead 13-5 at the end of the first period and 29-9 at the half.

News, Feb. 11, 1986

Lady Wildcats Win

Valdosta Nips Lanier Co., 47-43

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Writer

The high school basketball season ended in a whimper for the Valdosta boys and a victory for the girls.

The Bulldogs come back and cut it 12 with 7:11 to play in the game.

The Wildcats countered with an inside basket from Butler. Two free throws by Valdosta and three from Lanier tied the game with 2:14 to play, 43-43.

Lanier had four turnovers in the final minute to stop any rally.

The boys played just well enough to win en route to a 47-43 victory over Lanier County.

Although the lead was not as big this time, the same thing happened again. The teams matched basket-for-basket in the first quarter and Lanier led 14-12.

Valdosta put together a 10-point run to go ahead 22-14 with 4:37 left in the half. The lead climbed to nine, 27-18, at the half and went to 11 when Reginald Butler scored inside to start the second half.

Lanier tried the press a few times, but Sylvester Kithens and Kacy Williams were able to break it with no trouble.

"We didn't play well at all," Valdosta Coach Mike O'Brien said. "A lot of that was because of Lanier. Lanier played outstanding and we did not play well. Hopefully we'll get it out of our system."

Even when we had the 11-point lead we had no consistency," O'Brien said. "No one person could get in the flow of the game."

Anthony Brown led the Wildcats with 12 points and eight rebounds (including six on the defensive boards in the first half. Callaway added 11 before leaving the game with 57 seconds left when he fell on his shoulder.

Valdosta opens the subregion tournament Thursday against Bainbridge while Lanier will take on Clinch County.

The Wildcats open the Region 1-AAAA South tournament against Central-Thomasville Thursday night in Thomasville. Lanier, meanwhile, must get ready for Echols County in the Region 2-A West tourney.

And that hurt the Wildcats. With Valdosta ahead 35-24 with three minutes left in the third period, the Bulldogs made a run. Chris Ryan hit the first of two free throws. He missed the second, but Darren Henry got the tip-in. Henry then scored on a 12-footer and Arthur McBride hit a 12-footer to pull Lanier within four, 35-31, at the end of the third quarter.

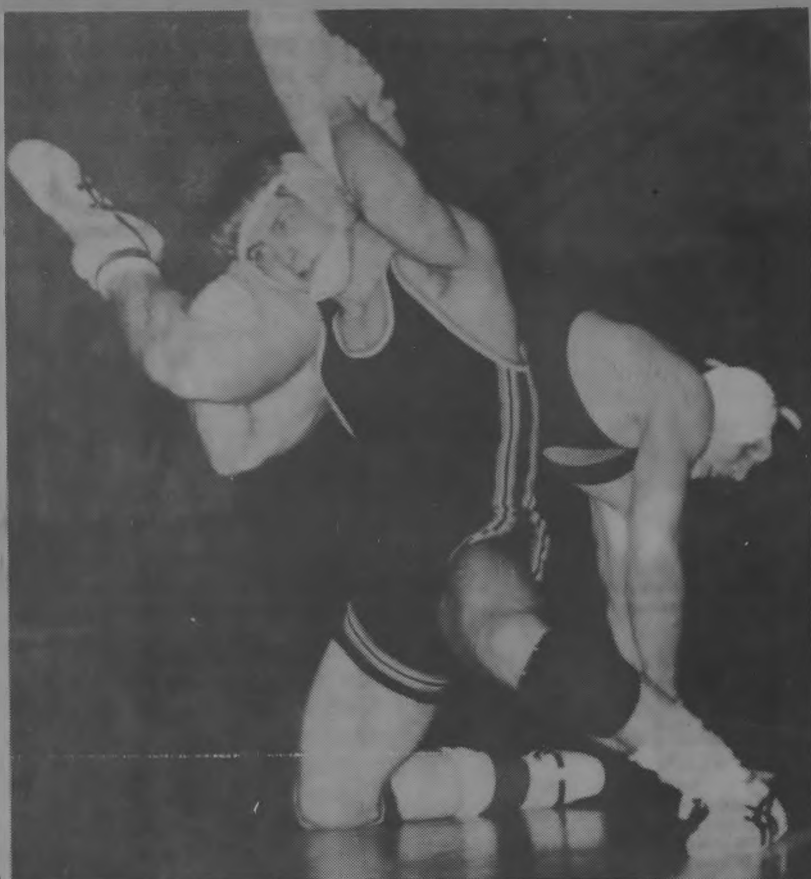
McBride scored four points to open the fourth period, as did Dewayne Williams. Valdosta had managed just four points and its lead was cut to one, 39-38. Lanier's Ryan then scored on a turnaround from the top of the lane to give the Bulldogs their first lead of the second half.

Valdosta's best quarter was the fourth when it scored 10 points. Angela Lovejoy paced Central with 14 points while Gwen Thomas had 13 and Tracy Lington 10.



Valdosta's Kacy Williams (20) Can't Control Ball
Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

38



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's Chris Gray (kneeling) Works Against Foe

Valdosta's Leading; Vikes Tied For 3rd

VTimes 2-8-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After the opening round of the Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Championships, the defending champion, Valdosta High, has a slim four-point lead over Westover.

The Wildcats have 24 points, while the Patriots are right behind with 20. Lowndes and Monroe are tied for third with 12 each, while Colquitt and Tift County follow with 10 each. Effingham is in the cellar with only eight points.

Out of 12 possible wrestlers, the Wildcats will have 11 wrestling in the semifinal round beginning this morning at 11:30.

Five Valdosta wrestlers drew byes into the second round, Clarence Ryan at 101, Mike Schmier at 107, Louis Gonis at 129, Tony Johnson 170, and Carl Johnson at 188.

The only Wildcat to lose was Brian Mueller at 135 pounds. Last week, Mueller pinned Lowndes' Mike Miley, but last night, Miley got the best of Mueller winning an 8-5 decision.

"Miley lost to him just last week," said Viking coach Newnan Sanchez. "Miley did a good job tonight. It just goes to show you that anything can happen."

"Miley's a good wrestler," said VHS coach Jim Landrum. "He put Mueller on his back once, and it's hard to win once you've been on your back."

Of the six Wildcats who wrestled and won, all won by pins.

Neal Fudge began it for Valdosta by pinning Lowndes' Jimmy Mallory at 115. Chris Gray (122), Ira Wenze (141), Brett Tinney (148), Ashley

Moorman (158), and Johnny Crook (UNL) all won with pins.

Coming through for Lowndes were Miley, Ryan Broome (188), Jody Platt (148), and James Marshall (170). Other than Miley, they all won with pins. William Swords drew a bye at 158 for the Vikings.

The most disappointing loss for Lowndes' came in the 122-pound division where Michael Woodruff was pinned by Westover's Jeff Burns. Woodruff had control of the match but made one mistake and paid for it.

"This is the second time Mike has lost to Burns," Sanchez said. "Both times he had a good lead and lost by making some bad moves."

Also losing for the Vikings were Joel Weldon (129), Bobby Bramlett (141), and Steve Blanton (UNL).

"We got five wrestlers into the semifinals, and I'm pleased with that," said Sanchez. "I am a little disappointed about our 122 (Woodruff), but that kind of thing happens."

Following the semifinals, the wrestlebacks will begin at 1:20, followed by the consolation round at 6, and the finals at 7:30.

Admission is \$3 per round, \$2 for children under 12. Admission to the final round will be \$4.

Semifinal Pairings
101-Pounds — Thanh (W) vs. Nolen (TC); Kendrick (D) vs. Ryan (V); 108 — Williams (M) vs. Mahar (D); Schmier (V) vs. Roberts (W); 115 — Fudge (V) vs. Larkin (W); Rogers (CC) vs. Martin (D); 122 — Gray (V) vs. Daniels (CC); Dykes (D) vs. Burns (W); 129 — Gonis (V) vs. Stanfield (E); Sears (TC) vs. Smith (D); 135 — Green (W) vs. Miley (L); Lewis (M) vs. Sanders (D); 141 — Wenze (V) vs. Rogers (TC); Gromasky (M) vs. Lacy (W); 148 — Tinney (V) vs. Platt (L); Roberts (M) vs. Rogers (TC); 158 — Newell (D) vs. Harrell (W); Swords (L) vs. Moorman (V); 170 — Gilyard (D) vs. Caldwell (E); Johnson (V) vs. Marshall (L); 188 — Lyons (D) vs. Griffith (E); Broome (L) vs. Johnson (V); UNL — Crook (V) vs. Benson (D); Caldwell (CC) vs. Bishop (W).

VHS Debate Team Competes Friday

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Debate team will compete in Georgia AAAA debates on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14.

The VHS team recently won the regional debate title, giving them four region victories in the last five years.

In the regional contest on January 27, freshman Jay Connell and senior Charles Cuthford took the affirmative side of the debate and went undefeated in the three round tournament.

This is the first year VHS has won a

regional title with freshmen on the team, according to english teacher and debate team coach Frank Hjort.

A second freshman, Kelly Shelton, and junior Paul Conrad, taking the negative side of the debate, finished with a 2-1 record for the three rounds.

Connell was chosen second place speaker in the tournament, and Conrad place third.

"We're proud of these students, especially the two freshmen who accepted the challenge of region competition," Hjort said.

"The entire debate club of 14 members an share in this victory because all of them research the topic and participate in statewide invitational tournaments throughout the season," he said.

The debate topic this year in both the regional and state contest is: "Resolved: That the federal government should establish a comprehensive national policy to protect the quality of water in the United States."

Other area schools placed in the regional contest as well.

High School Basketball

2/12/86

Subregion Tournaments Begin

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For area high school basketball teams, the regular season is just a warmup for the post-season tournaments. Records mean very little, except for seeding purposes. Now it's subregion tournament time. This is what all the sweat and work has been about. Sure it's great to have a decent record, but the tournament champions will end up with final bragging rights.

There are some regular-season games this weekend: Madison County will play at Wakulla in a boys' only game on Thursday. Friday's schedule has Georgia Christian at Brookwood, Jefferson County at Hamilton County, and Ravenwood at Valwood. Florida A&M will play at Hamilton on Saturday, and Georgia Christian will travel to Randolph Southern.

The Region 1-AAAA South tournament gets under way Thursday at Central-Thomasville.

The tournament gets started at 7 p.m. when Valdosta's Lady Wildcats go up against Bainbridge. The winner will face the Central Jackettes on Friday at 7 p.m.

Valdosta boys will follow the girls' game with a battle against Central-Thomasville. The winner of the VHS-Central matchup will face Lowndes Friday at 8:30.

Valdosta has beaten the Jackets twice this year, beating Central for the second time last Friday in Thomasville.

Anyone thinking Valdosta may be going in a little overconfident can forget it. The Wildcats played a close game against Lanier County Monday night, sneaking by the Bulldogs 47-43.

Meanwhile, Terry Wilkes and the Lowndes Vikings must sit and wait to see who wins.

"I don't really have any preference," Wilkes said. "If Central does beat Valdosta, we'll have to play the home team. If Valdosta wins we'll have to play our rival. It's going to be rough no matter what happens."

The Vikings beat Central twice during the regular season, and split with Valdosta.

The Vikings win over Valdosta was appealed by Wildcat coach Mike O'Brien, but the Georgia High School Association disallowed the appeal, securing Lowndes' victory.

Lowndes is coming off a loss to Bainbridge last weekend. The Bearcats overwhelmed Lowndes 62-39 as the Vikings shot only 12-of-55 from the field. Missing from the Lowndes' lineup was Chance Black, who has a severely sprained hand. It is also likely that he will miss the subregion tournament, but Wilkes is still hoping.

While Black may be out, at least Chris Shroyer has been progressing well. Shroyer has only been playing for three weeks, recuperating from a broken arm.

"Shroyer's doing well," Wilkes said. "He's really gotten my confidence with the way he's played. I wasn't sure if he could come back this quickly."

Admission to the tournament will be \$3.

The Clinch County Panthrettes will enter the Region 2-A West tournament in Homerville Friday night with a 22-0 record, seeded first.

Everything looks like it's slanted in Clinch's favor. At 7 p.m. they will have to beat the Lanier County Lady Bulldogs in order to advance to the subregion finals, but all the Panthrettes need is a win against Lanier to gain a berth into the region tournament.

Lanier is only 4-16 on the year, and Clinch has already defeated the Lady Bulldogs twice this season.

"We beat them by 16 or 17 points," said Clinch coach Keith Cox, "but I don't think that the games were that one sided. Anything can happen in the tournament."

Despite their unmarred record, Cox

Player Of Week

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Feb. 13, 1986 21

Brown's 25 Lifted Valdosta; Williams Paced Trojanettes

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta's Anthony Brown pumped in 25 points Friday night to pace the Valdosta Wildcats to a 75-63 1-AAAA South victory over Central-Thomasville. It marked the second time the Wildcats had beaten the Jackets during the season, this time in Thomasville.

The victory should give the Wildcats some confidence for tonight, when they once again have to face the Jackets at home, this time in the 1-AAAA South tournament.

Brooks County's Tamara Williams scored 27 points in a losing effort as the Brooks Trojanettes fell to Hamilton County 55-39.

For their efforts, Brown and Williams have been named the players of the week by *The Valdosta Daily Times*.

rebounds in the Panthers' effort against Nichols.

Jerome Calloway, Valdosta, added 16 points for the Wildcats in their victory against Central-Thomasville.

Girls' Honor Roll

Lisa Pittman, Clinch County, scored 25 points and pulled down nine rebounds as the Clinch Pantherettes finished the season undefeated by crushing Nichols 76-36 Tuesday night. Kathy Willis added 21 points for the Pantherettes and accounted for 16 rebounds.

Wendy Lanier, Open Bible, chipped in 19 points to lead the Lady Warriors

past Mount Vernon Saturday night, 36-28.

Sherice Willis, Lowndes, dominated the boards for the Vikettes, hauling down 11 rebounds and scoring 18 points as Lowndes beat Bainbridge 58-47. Angela Woods had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Vikettes.

Teresa Williams, Hamilton County, had 19 points and 19 rebounds to lead the Trojanettes to a 55-39 victory over Brooks County.

Priscilla Bailey, Atkinson County, used her skills from the perimeter to lift the Lady Rebels to a 59-55 victory over Lanier County, hitting for 16 points.

'Cats Win Area, Lowndes 4th

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High put nine out of a possible 12 wrestlers into the finals of the Area 1-AAAA wrestling championships. And out of those nine, seven came out as area champions, leading Valdosta to the team crown with 213½ points.

For the second consecutive year, Valdosta will send 11 players to the state tournament which starts next weekend at Stone Mountain. The top four finishers in the area tournament from each weight class qualify for state.

In the final round, Valdosta's aggressiveness paid off as five of the victors won by pins.

At 122 pounds, Chris Gray pinned Westover's Jeff Burns in the first period. Three-time area champion Louis Gonis scored a technical pin over Dougherty's Cory Smith, when he pulled out to a 15-0 lead in the 129-pound class.

Ira Wenzel downed Westover's Tommy Lacy 19-5 at 141, also claiming the outstanding wrestler trophy. Brett Tinney pinned Tift County's Dave Rogers at 148.

Perhaps no Wildcat savored any victory more than Ashley Moorman. The 158-pound sophomore pinned Dougherty's Richard Newell, the No. 1 seed.

Valdosta's Tony Johnson won one of the closest matches of the finals at 170 pounds.

Johnson held on in the final seconds to secure a 9-8 decision over Dougherty's Michael Gilyard. Johnny Crook pinned Westover's Daniel Bishop in the heavyweight final.

Wildcat Clarence Ryan ran into a buzz saw at 101 pounds. Ryan went up against Patriot Thanh Ly, returning area champion. Ly pinned Ryan in the second period.

Carl Johnson was the only other Wildcat to lose in the finals, dropping a 3-2 decision to Dougherty's Pat Lyons, after Lyons gained a reversal in the final seconds.

Other Wildcats gaining berths to the state tournament were Michael Schmier, and Neal Fudge, both who pinned their opponents in the consolation round to secure third-place finishes.

"I feel real good about sending 11 kids to state again this year," said Wildcat coach Jim Landrum. "We got some good leadership from Louis Gonis, Ira Wenzel, and Carl Johnson.

"I was also real happy for Moorman. It's good to see a sophomore come in and knock off the top seed, not to mention that he wrestled with a fractured thumb. Johnny Crook did a fine job, too. It's only his first year as a wrestler but he finished 16-1-1, and the one he tied he should of won."

Dougherty finished second in the team standings with 144 points, Westover third with 142. The Lowndes Vikings finished

fourth with 55 points, Monroe fifth with 48. Tift County was sixth with 46. Colquitt County and Effingham filled the bottom slots with 33 and 32, respectively.

Lowndes was unable to send any participants into the final round, but sent four into the state tournament, capturing three third-place finishes and one fourth. Only three Vikings went to state last year.

In the consolation round, Mike Miley pinned Monroe's Antonio Lewis at 135, Jody Platt pinned Monroe's Eddie Roberts, Ryan Broome pinned Effingham's Robert Griffith at 188, and James Marshall finished fourth after being pinned by Effingham's Steven Caldwell.

"I was pleased to send four to state," said Viking coach Newnan Sanchez. "That's more than we sent last year, and I thought we did about as good as we could have. We didn't even bring anyone at 101 or 108."

First Place Finishers

101 pounds — Ly (W); 108 — Roberts (W); 115 — Martin (D); 122 — Gray (V); 129 — Gonis (V); 135 — Green (W); 141 — Wenzel (V); 148 — Tinney (V); 158 — Moorman (V); 170 — Johnson (V); 188 — Lyons (D); HW — Crook (V).

Second Place

101 — Ryan (V); 108 — Williams (M); 115 — Larkin (W); 122 — Burns (W); 129 — Smith (D); 135 — Sanders (D); 141 — Lacey (W); 148 — Rodgers (TC); 158 — Newell (D); 170 — Gilyard (D); 188 — Johnson (V); HW — Bishop (V).

Third Place

101 — Kendrick (D); 108 — Schmier (V); 115 — Fudge (V); 122 — Dykes (D); 129 — Stanfield (E); 135 — Miley (L); 141 — Albritton (M); 148 — Platt (L); 158 — Harrrell (W); 170 — Caldwell (E); 188 — R. Broome (L); HW — Caldwell (CC).

Valdosta Finishes At No. 8

STONE MOUNTAIN — Valdosta High wrestling coach Jim Landrum has complained all year about the schizophrenic nature of his team — up one day, down the next. This weekend in the AAAA tournament held at Stone Mountain High, Dr. Jekyll showed up for the Wildcats.

"We set a goal to finish fifth in state this year, but it just didn't happen for us," Landrum said. "We had some kids who just didn't wrestle up to our

potential. We dropped three matches by one point in the second round that could have made a big difference."

Valdosta finished in eighth place out of 72 teams, with three place finishers. Eleven Wildcats went to the tournament.

Ira Wenzel came in third in the 141-pound class, winning his consolation match 9-2. At 121, Chris Gray came in fourth, losing 2-1 in the final seconds. Carl Johnson placed 4th at 188, losing 6-3 in consolation.

Ashely Moorman, Tony Johnson, and Johnny Crook managed to win matches in the opening round, but didn't place. At 148, Brett Tinney won two matches.

The Lowndes Vikings sent four wrestlers to the tournament, Ryan Broome, James Marshall, Michael Miley, and Jody Platt. The Vikings were unable to put anyone in the win column.

Before the final round, LaGrange led the tournament with 119.5, followed by Redan with 103 and Wheeler 91.

Schools Participate In FBLA Competition

Special To The Times

Region 2 Future Business Leaders of America met at Valdosta State College Saturday, Feb. 15, for a day of fun and competition. Twelve schools attended this event which climaxed National FBLA Week. Over a hundred students competed in 16 different events. Valdosta High School coordinated and hosted the conference.

The high schools attending were: Brantley County High, Charlton County High, Coffee High, Fitzgerald High, Jeff Davis High, Lanier County High, Lowndes High, Pierce County High, Telfair County Comprehensive High, Ware County Senior High, Waycross High, and Valdosta High Schools.

Judges for the competitive events were selected from our local area due to their outstanding accomplishments in their particular fields. The Toastmasters provided judges for Impromptu and Public Speaking. They were Jan Telle, Bob Jabon, Vickie Elliott, Jo Ann Hartman, Craig Pennington, and Monica Brown.

Judges for Job Interview were Mary Nix of Mr. Employer, Beth Sullivan of South Georgia Medical Center, and George Thomas of Blaton/Griffin Insurance.

Clerk Typist I judges were Robert Scheuring of Ben Hill Irwin Tech, Anna Johnson and Randy McElvy of Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School. Clerk Typist II judges were Carolyn Cox of Valdosta State College, Benita Faircloth and Betty Mealor of

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Stenographer I judges were Lougenia Gabard of Valdosta State College and Sally Dorminey of Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School. Stenographer II judges were Dr. Donnie McGahee of Valdosta State College and Nancy Elsberry of Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School.

Winners include in Job Interview — 1st place, Sherri Dixon of Pierce County High; 2nd place, Charles Coney of Fitzgerald High; 3rd place, Michelle Alligood of Valdosta High; 4th place, Staci Jordan of Brantley County High, and 5th place, Gail Creamer of Jeff Davis High.

Impromptu Speaking — 1st place, Lorys Anne Moody of Charlton County High; 2nd place, Mandy Green of Valdosta High; 3rd place, Shelia Walker of Lowndes High; 4th place, Doy Thomas of Telfair County High; and 5th place, Rachele Williams of Waycross High.

Public Speaking — 1st place, Jennifer Johnson of Lanier County High; 2nd place, Gregory Randy Bell of Valdosta High; 3rd place, Mary Jo Jeffries of Telfair County High, 4th place, Stephanie Voltz of Lowndes High, and 5th place Donna Wilson of Pierce County High.

Business English — 1st place, Joey Lynn Strickland of Brantley County High; 2nd place, Sherrie Gaskins of Lanier County High; 3rd place, Neva Hodges of Charlton County High; 4th

place, Kathy Ladson of Telfair County High; and 5th place Joan Conger of Waycross High.

Accounting I — 1st place, Melinda Hattaway of Jeff Davis High; 2nd place, Paul Barnes of Ware County High; 3rd place, Lisa Luke of Lanier County High; 4th place, Michelle Ray of Pierce County High; and 5th place, Wayne Putnal of Lowndes High.

Business Computer Applications — 1st place, David DeCoursey of Waycross High; 2nd place, Troy Griffin of Fitzgerald High; 3rd place, Byron Williams of Valdosta; 4th place, Shawn Barker of Lowndes High; and 5th place, Lisa Howell of Brantley High.

Clerk Typist I — 1st place, Leanne Clark of Telfair County High; 2nd place, Sherry Strickland of Waycross High; 3rd place, Rebecca Rowell of Brantley County High; 4th place, Angie Burke of Coffee High; and 5th place Will Denton of Ware County High.

Clerk Typist II — 1st place, Kim Bryan of Ware County High; 2nd place, Lisa Dockery of Coffee High; 3rd place, Ferrell Warren of Lanier County High; 4th place, Julie Hensley of Lowndes High; and 5th place, Tamara Cravey of Jeff Davis High.

Stenographer I — 1st place, Melanie Fletcher of Lowndes High; 2nd place, Latricia Coachman of Waycross High; 3rd place, Pam Spires, Telfair County High; 4th place, Charlotte Colson of Jeff Davis High; and 5th place, Jeannie Godwin of Pierce County High.

'86 VHS Girls Track Team Starts Season

VTimes 2-22-86
Special To The Times

The VHS girls track team has begun practice for the 1986 season. Returnees for the 1986 season include: Rita Barnett (440 and mile relay), Cassandra Ceasar and June Gartman (shot put and discus), Pam Gardner (long jump, 440 relay, 220 and 100 yard dash), Jan Hartzog (110 hurdles), and Avis Weatherspoon (long jump, 880, and mile relay). Avis was also the 1985 Cross Country Region Champion.

Newcomers to look for are Monica Riley and Susie Jones (long distance) Tracy Chandler, Pam Gray (middle distance and hurdles), Sharlita Herring, Eddie Crumpton, Sharon Blair name a few of the other newcomers who should contribute points for this year's track team.

The first home meet is scheduled for March 31, 1986. It will be a tri-meet as Valdosta will host the boys and girls teams from Albany H.S. and Lowndes H.S. Coaches for this year's team are Dick Sturtevant and Faye Hollinger.

Wildcats Looking To Beef Up Offensive Line, Replace Backs

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Writer

Most area high school football teams began preparations for the 1986 season soon after the 1985 season ended by working in the weightroom. Now the workouts have moved to the practice field.

Valdosta began practicing in pads last week and head coach Nick Hyder has been pleased with the progress made so far.

"The coaches have been well organized, they've planned and done a good job," Hyder said. "We seem to be getting good leadership from our seniors right now."

The Wildcats are in exams this week and practiced Monday. They will return to the field Friday.

"We've practiced six days so far and the weather has been great," Hyder said. "We've got 95 on the varsity roster right now. We started with about 104, so we've had nine who decided football wasn't for them."

Valdosta, which finished 9-3 last season, was hit hard by graduation in the offensive line.

"The offensive line has always been the key because that challenges your defense," Hyder said. "We've got John Wheelless back this year after he missed last year. All three of our touchdowns against Clarke Central (in the 1984 state championship game) were scored behind him."

Wheelless, at 6-foot, 280-pounds, will

be one of the few returning veterans in the Wildcats' line. Gone from last year are Marty Howell (tackle), Russ Rudolph (tight end), Jeff Davis (guard), Matt Stanaland (center), Todd Hatcher (tackle), and Joey Tippett (guard).

"You can see we lost a lot in the offensive line so we're working to fill that in," Hyder said.

In all, the Wildcats lost 23 seniors from last year, including nine starters.

Other offensive starters lost from last year are running backs William Dixon and Tony Mangham, tight end Jeffrey Holmes, and wide receivers Lynn Johnson and Randy Bell. Defensively, Valdosta lost tackle Kelvin Miller, back Dwayne Hart, linebacker Tony Johnson, and end Willie Sauls. Also missing next year will be backup Don Ryan in the secondary.

"We're looking to improve in the line and depth every where," Hyder said. We've moved Charles Steward to tight end and are also working him at quarterback with Greg Talley.

Another player who has switched positions is Jerome Callaway, who was moved to running back.

"We had some good backs last year, but they were less than 150 pounds," Hyder said. "This year they'll be about 190. That will make one heck of a difference. Moving Callaway will make a big difference. But we want to let him go both ways

because he can help us a lot in the secondary."

The Wildcats will practice on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week and then play the annual has-been, will-be game at Cleveland Field on March 7. Valdosta will also practice Monday-Wednesday the following week and play host to Southwest Macon on March 14 in the spring game. The B-team game will start at 6 p.m. with the varsity starting at 8 p.m.

As for the 1986 schedule, Hyder said he was still looking for one game. The Wildcats open the season Sept. 5 at home against LaGrange. The next week is open right now, but Hyder said he was negotiating with several teams in the Atlanta area.

"I've been all over the place looking for a game," he said. "I've called Jacksonville, Montgomery, Brunswick, and Savannah and am still trying to find one."

The Wildcats then have three games on the road — at Waycross on Sept. 19; at Leon in Tallahassee, Fla., on Sept. 26; and at Tift County on Oct. 3. Valdosta returns home Oct. 10 against Dougherty and Oct. 24 with Colquitt County. Oct. 31 is an open date with Saturday, Nov. 8 having the Wildcats travelling to Monroe. Valdosta will close out the regular season at home against Lowndes Nov. 14.

The Leon game will played at Doak-Campbell Stadium.

VICA Club Celebrates With Local Breakfast

V Times 2-22-86
Special To The Times

The Valdosta High VICA Club celebrated NATIMAC VICA Week Feb. 9-15. Several projects that the club sponsored included, a breakfast at Shoneys for VHS and Vo-Tech Administrators. The VICA opening and closing team also performed at the breakfast. Also VICA was represented with a vocational booth exhibited in the school library and the club gave out gifts of candy to all VHS teachers and administrator.

VICA is gearing up for area competition Feb. 22 in Adel. The following VICA students will compete in various events.

- Opening and Closing — Wendy Herndon, Brent DeVane, Britta Butler, Mark Lees, Julie Redden, Chris Gray, and Leila Johnson.
- Job Interview — Amy Kinneman.
- Prepared Speech — Ronnie Bartholomew.
- Nurse Assistant and Orderly — Cathy Danapolis.
- Practical Nurse — Michele Alligood.
- Dental Assisting — FIFI Burgess
- Air Condition & Refrigeration — Anthony Freeman.
- Small Engine Repair — Derrick Zeigler.
- Appliance Repair — David Foster.



VHS News
Compiled, Written By VHS Students

- Architectural Drafting — Walter Altman.
- Auto Mechanics — Tim Harris
- Bricklaying — Charles Holiday.
- Cabinet Making and Mill Work — Darren Holsendolph.
- Carpentry — Robert Moore.
- Electrical Trades — Ron Cowart.
- Graphic Communications — Anthony Hall.
- Machine Drafting — Chyon Simmons.
- Machine Shop — Jeff Hasty.
- Sheet Metal — Louis Rumph.
- Welding — Rad Johnson.

Language Club To Sponsor 4-H Scholarships

By Chalana McFarland
The Foreign Language Club at Valdosta High School recently announced its sponsorship of two scholarships to the total immersion language camp to be held at the Rock Eagle 4-H Camp. At the camp no English is spoken. Students speak either French or

Spanish for the entire weekend. Recipient for the 1985-86 year are Steven Brown for French and Theresa Moore for Spanish. The students were chosen by their foreign language teachers on the basis of their outstanding accomplishments in their foreign language classes. These scholarships are

a part of the FLC's drive to promote foreign language in the school and community. Other activities of the club's 1985-86 year included: participation in the VHS homecoming parade, sending Christmas aid packages to the earthquake victims in Mexico and victims of

the Columbian volcano. The club also plans to hold its annual International Dinner in March. The officers for the 1985-86 year are president, Chalana McFarland; vice president (French), Dawn Pompey; vice president (Spanish), Erika Miller; secretary, Erika Duckworth;

Members Celebrate FBLA Week

By Frankie Keeling
The Valdosta High Chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America celebrated FBLA week, Feb. 10-15. To kick off the week, Mayor Nijem signed a proclamation declaring FBLA Week. The following activities took place: on Monday teacher fruit baskets were delivered; on Tuesday there was a dessert party at Dairy Queen; on Wednesday fruit baskets were sent to the nursing home; on Thursday a pizza party was held at Pizza Hut; and on Friday Valentines were sent to the hospital. The week ended with the Region II FBLA competition held at Valdosta State College on Saturday.



Mayor Ernest Nijem Declares FBLA Week For Officers

Command Change

By C/LT James Trent
On Feb. 19 the Valdosta High NJROTC held a ceremonial change of command. C/LCDR Joseph Gombas, former commanding officer, completed his period of command and C/LCDR Melanie Seals, former executive officer, took the helm. C/LT James Trent is now the executive officer by promotion. Along with the change of command, there were officer promotions. They are as follows: C/LT Melanie Seals to C/LCDR, C/LT(JG) James Trent to C/LT, C/ENS Gregory Bell to C/LT(JG), C/ENS Derrick Cain to C/LT(JG), C/ENS Jerald R. Smart to C/LT(JG), C/CPO Anthony Browning to C/ENS, C/CPO Thomas Gonzalez to C/ENS, C/CPO Adolphus Kimmons to C/ENS, and C/CPO Marcus Nelson to C/ENS.

Valdosta Got Skinned Alive By Refs' Oversight

V. Times 3-7-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

I could never be a basketball referee. A better fate would be to have my fingernails pulled out without anesthesia, especially if that was an option to officiating a Valdosta-Lowndes game.

If the game is close, a no-win situation occurs. Everybody screams and the ref gets pounded with ice and paper cups.

No thank you.

Tuesday night, the ferocity of the Viking-Wildcat rivalry got the best of the refs. Calls were made in haste in a gym that was about to undergo spontaneous combustion, and as a result, the Valdosta Wildcats were shortchanged.

Neither I nor anybody else could say that Valdosta would have won, but change one call and in all likelihood they would have.

With no time on the clock and the score tied, Valdosta's Kyle Lowe hit the front end of a one-and-one. Valdosta thought they won the game 62-61. So did everyone else in the Lowndes gym.

Players and fans from both sides ran out on the court, including Lowndes coach Terry Wilkes, but the Valdosta players were singled out. The Wildcats were slapped with a technical foul for illegally entering the floor on the grounds that the game was not over because Lowe had to take his second free throw. Lowe missed his second shot from the line.

Lowndes hit only one of the technical shots, sending the game into overtime and the Vikings eventually won 63-62 on an Eric Davis free throw.

But it was the technical called against Valdosta that brought

Lowndes back to life.

And there's the injustice. A technical should have been levied against both teams. Valdosta's Mike O'Brien admitted that his players did enter the court, but Wilkes came off the bench after Lowe's first free throw, and there were Lowndes players and Viking fans on the court as well.

An Analysis

Valdosta filed an appeal with the Georgia High School Association on the grounds that Lowe did not have to take his second free throw. It is doubtful that the Wildcats will win the appeal.

According to the GHSA rules, an appeal may only be filed if the officials have misapplied the rules.

According to Valdosta, the officials were in error in calling a technical because Lowe's second shot was not mandatory.

But unfortunately for the Wildcats, they cannot appeal the officials' failure to call a technical on Wilkes and the Vikings since that was a judgement call and a judgement call is not open to scrutiny.

The officials actually used a lack of discretion in calling the first technical to begin with. In that situation, it would have been a little fairer just to clear the court, let Lowe shoot again and end the game there.

And why the big hassle? The game was important. Not just because it was a Valdosta-Lowndes game, but because it was a Region 1-AAAA South game, and it could affect the teams' seedings in the

upcoming subregion tournament which begins next Thursday.

Bainbridge is undefeated in the subregion at 5-0. Assuming Lowndes can keep the win, they are 3-2. Valdosta is 2-3, and Central is 0-5.

Tonight, Valdosta plays at Central and Lowndes hosts Bainbridge. If both Lowndes and Valdosta win, they will finish second and third respectively.

By virtue of being third and fourth, Valdosta and Central would have to play Thursday, while Lowndes would get a night off and play the winner of that matchup on Friday.

If Valdosta wins the appeal and wins tonight, they will get to rest on Thursday and play the winner of the Central-Lowndes game.

So a lot more than a game was at stake.

Lowndes, Valdosta Face Crucial Games

V. Times 3-7-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For the majority of area high schools, this weekend signals an end to the regular season as team begin preparing for the various subregion tournaments that get under way late next week.

But that does not diminish the importance of these final games, especially for the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings, who are jockeying for seedings in the Region 1-AAAA South tournament.

Tonight, Lowndes will play host to subregion foe Bainbridge, while Valdosta will travel to Central-Thomasville to take on the Jackets.

In other area games Friday, Atkinson County travels to Lanier County, Clinch County will play host to Broxton, Echols County will play at Nicholls, Madison County plays at Jefferson County, Hamilton County will play host to Taylor County, Cook

County plays host to Thomasville, and Waycross travels to Berrien County, the second undefeated team this week for the Rebels.

Saturday's games will have Atkinson County at Waycross, Berrien County will visit Lanier County; Brooks County travels to Hamilton County, Citizens Christian Academy is at Valwood and Georgia Christian visits Pineland.

One game is scheduled for Monday: Lanier County at Valdosta.

Girls' games are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. with the boys' game to start at 8:30.

Although the victory had to be later forfeited, Lowndes beat the Bearcats once this season — and that was in Bainbridge. The Bearcats stand even less of a chance playing at Lowndes.

"I hope that we'll take this game like we have our last eight games," said Viking coach Terry Wilkes. "We have played well in our last games and all

the kids have played hard.

"This will be the last regular-season game the seniors play. The seniors' parents will be at the game, so hopefully that will add a little extra incentive."

In the first game between the two opponents, Lowndes resorted to a man-to-man full-court press to stymie the Bearcats' offense. The Vikings forced several Bainbridge turnovers and took advantage of the mistakes.

Wilkes will probably employ the same strategy tonight.

"We're going to try to do what we did before," Wilkes said. "This is not the time to change what you've been doing all year."

One player who saw no action against Bainbridge is senior Chris Shroyer, who has only recently rejoined the team after an early injury. Shroyer is an added threat for Lowndes, simply because he can shoot so well from the outside.

On the negative side for Lowndes, Chance Black is out with a severely sprained wrist. Not only will he miss the Bainbridge game, but it is likely that he will not even be able to play in the subregion tournament.

Once again, Wilkes' squad will have to overcome a key injury.

For the Wildcats, the final subregion game will be a tough one. Valdosta beat Central earlier in the year on the carpet at Valdosta, but VHS Coach Mike O'Brien must now take his squad to Thomasville.

"We may have beat them here, but anyone that knows anything about Central knows how they play at home," O'Brien said. "Everybody plays a little better at home, but they're awesome when they play in Thomasville."

The Wildcats started the year in dismal fashion, but have steadily improved. On Tuesday, they lost a controversial game to the Vikings, which is already under appeal. But

O'Brien said that it was the best game his team has played in the five years he has been associated with Valdosta basketball.

O'Brien has not only had to overcome the opponent but the flu as well. For nearly the past two weeks, Valdosta has not had all its starters at practice two days in a row, but they have still played well.

One player who is likely to play a key role in the Wildcat endeavor is Reginald Bulter. The 6-foot-1 forward has done a good job substituting inside for Lenice Williams and Anthony Brown, and put in 13 points while playing only half the game against Lowndes.

"Butler's done a good job for us," O'Brien said. "We've been asking him to come in and match up with guys who are 6-5 and he's been able to do it."

As the subregion stands right now, Bainbridge is on top at 5-0, Lowndes is second, 3-2, Valdosta third, 2-3, and Central is in the cellar at 0-5.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., March 8, 1986 3

VHS Earns Top Awards At VICA Meet

By Jim Landrum

Recent Area Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition was held at Cook High School and nine schools participated in various leadership skills and trade and industrial skills.

Valdosta High finished at the top of the competition with place winners in 15 of the 16 events entered. Valdosta placed first in nine events and had three seconds and three third place winners. Valdosta was followed by Lowndes, Brooks, and Tifton. Lowndes had four first place winners and two second place winners.

The individual place winners for Valdosta are:

Leadership Competition — (DCT) Diversified Cooperative Training Opening and Closing Ceremony — first place

Opening and Closing Team — Wendy Herndon, Britta Butler, Brent Devane, Mark Lees, Julie Redden, Chris Gray, and Leila Johnson

Job Interview — Amy Kinneman, first place

Prepared Speech — Ronnie Bartholomew, first place

DCT Section Sponsor — Jim Landrum, teacher VHS

Individual Place Winners for Valdosta Trade and Industrial Competition

Dental Assisting — Fi Fi Burgess, first place

Nurse Assistant & Orderly — Cathy Danapolis, first place

Practical Nurse — Michelle Alligood, third place

Section Sponsor — Beverly Smith, teacher VHS

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration — Anthony Freeman, first place

Major Appliance Repair — David Foster, second place

Section sponsor — Edward Cannington, teacher VHS

Bricklaying — Charles Holiday, first place

Carpentry — Robert Moore, third place

Cabinetmaking and Millwork — Darren Holsendolph, third place

Section Sponsor — Joe Williams, teacher VHS

Auto Mechanics — Tim Harris, first place

Section Sponsor — Henry Cannington, teacher VHS

Graphic Communications — Anthony Hall, first place

Section Sponsor — John Russell, teacher VHS

Architectural Drafting — Walter Altman, second place

Machine Drafting — Chyon Simmons, second place

Section Sponsor — Clarence Griffiths, teacher VHS

Individual Place Winners for Lowndes: Leadership Competition — (DCT)

Job Interview — Sherri Roberts, second place

DCT Section Sponsor — Jeremiah Lawton, teacher LHS

Individual Place Winners for Lowndes Trade and Industrial Competition

Electronic Products Servicing — Randy Ferris, first place

Industrial Electronic — Norman Whitten, first place

Major Appliance Repair — Mike Bass, first place

Plumbing and Pipefitting — Butch Cole, first place

First and second place winners will advance to district competition to be held March 12 in Columbus.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

NJROTC Attends Competition In Atlanta Recently

By C/LT James Trent

On March 1 the Valdosta High NJROTC attended a field meet competition at Georgia Tech College in Atlanta, Georgia, for the NJROTC Georgia State Championships. When the NJROTC unit returned, they carried three trophies to add to their collection. Fifteen schools attended the field meet by invitation only. The Academic Team, commanded by C/LCDR Melanie Seals, the male athletic team, commanded by C/LT(JC) Gregory Bell, the female athletic team, commanded by C/ENS Anne Clark, the drill team, commanded by C/LT Ralph Turner, and the rifle team, commanded by C/LT James Trent all participated in the field meet. The male athletic team placed second and the drill team placed third in exhibition drill. Overall the Valdosta High NJROTC place third in State.

Two Named To All-State Band

Special To The Times

Steve Pruitt, a junior trombone player, and Laura Bailey, sophomore flutist, were recently named to the Georgia Senior High All-State Band.

Literally thousands of Georgia high school students attended district auditions in January.

About 30 percent went on the state final auditions in February. From there, the all-state band was chosen to represent the very best players in the

state. Mr. Pruitt and Miss Baily will attend the all-state band event in Savannah in May. Band Director Mr. Dan Gaultney expressed pleasure in the accomplishments of the two young musicians.

He also cites the VHS students named all-state semi-finalists as Regie Payne, trumpet, Marty Graves, trumpet, and Lucy Tomberlin, clarinet.

Student Council Plans Dance

By Margaret Anne Sineath
Sec. Student Council

The Student Council met recently to discuss the upcoming dance. The dance will be called the First Annual Spring Fling. Pictures will be made by Garner Walker from 6-9 p.m. and the dance

will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight at Valdosta High gym on Saturday, March 15. The price is \$3 per couple with student I.D. Music will be furnished by the FM96 Music Man. It was decided the dance will be informal. Refreshments will be served.

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Boys' Second Team

Anthony Brown; Valdosta; 6-2; Senior; Coach: Mike O'Brien — Averaged 16 points and nine rebounds per game. Came on strong in the second half of the season, scoring around 25 points a game. Coach O'Brien said, "He is really strong and very quick inside."
* * *

Area AAAA Wrestlers Take To Mat Tonight

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

V Times
3-7-86

Tonight and Saturday, there will be a lot of chicken wings and maybe one or two souffles in the Valdosta gym. If the spectators are lucky, a banana split will be on the menu.

But if you're hoping to eat these delicacies, you'll be disappointed, for these are wrestling moves not culinary delights.

Valdosta will have the honor of hosting the area wrestling tournament this weekend, which will cater to south Georgia's AAAA wrestling powers that be.

Competing will be Valdosta, Lowndes, Colquitt County, Dougherty, Monroe, Westover, Tift County, and Effingham.

The first round will begin tonight at 7:30. On Saturday, the semifinals will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by wrestlebacks at 1:30 p.m., consolation round at 6, and the championship round will begin at 7:30.

The admission price is \$3 per round per adult, only \$2 for children under 12, with the exception of the championship round which will cost \$4.

Anyone wishing to see all the action can purchase a weekend pass for \$10.

So Valdosta's going to clean up on this thing, right? Wrong.

"We don't keep a cent of the admission money," said Wildcat coach Jim Landrum. "I wish we could, but all goes back to the state."

The state, however, will help out a little bit. It will send back some of the money to the school to help it cover the cost of running the tournament.

While they might not find much of a monetary award in hosting the tournament, the Wildcat team in all likelihood will be rewarded with the area trophy.

Last year, the Wildcats placed 11 out of 12 wrestlers in the tournament, sending the same number to the state meet. It could be the same story this year.

"I think we're stronger than we were last year because of added experience," Landrum said. "We have some bonafide wrestlers who could place in the state meet. We beat some good teams this year that we couldn't have wrestled with last year. But you never really know how you're going to do."

One thing that could affect Valdosta's success is unfamiliarity. VHS has wrestled Lowndes and Westover. The quality of the other teams is unknown to Valdosta.

Valdosta finished the regular season at 12-4, wrestling for much of the year without the services of 107-pounder Mike Schmier, who had a broken hand. At 148, Brett Tinney missed some time because Ira Wenzel moved up a weight class and Tinney was unable to move down. But Wenzel dropped down to 141 and Tinney, the defending area champion at 148, joined the lineup.

"With Schmier returning and Tinney back, we've only been firm about three weeks," Landrum said. "If they had been with us all year, we might be 16-0 right now."

Valdosta has four returning area champions in Tinney at 148, Chris Gray at 121, Louie Gonis 134, and Wenzel at 141.

For the Lowndes Vikings and coach Newnan Sanchez it's been a year of frustration. The Vikings head into the tournament with a 5-11 regular-season record. Many of the Vikings are still recuperating from the flu, but that has its advantages too.

"We won't have any problem making weight," Sanchez said. "We're having problems staying in the heavier weight classes. When we step on the scales they drop with a bang."

Last year, Lowndes qualified three wrestlers for state by way of the area tournament. With a little hard work, the Vikings may be able to send more this year.

Ryan Broome finished fourth in the Cook County tournament at 185 pounds, and is one of the Vikings' leaders who has a chance to do well. Unfortunately for Broome, he may be in the toughest weight class in the area.

At 121, Michael Woodruff placed third in the Cook tournament and Sanchez feels good about his chances.

"Mike has the potential to do well," Sanchez said. "We also feel like our 145 pounder, Jody Platt, will do something if he can go full speed."

Platt is still working through a nagging shoulder injury.

"We've been pretty disappointed," Sanchez said. "We've had a lot of people hurt and a lot of people sick. We're hanging in there and we'll give it our best shot."

Spring Football

Hyder Pleased With Effort

V Times 3-8-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After two hours of watching his Wildcats bang heads under the lights of Cleveland Field, Valdosta coach Nick Hyder was pleased with the performance of several of his players.

Some changes and welcomed additions to the Wildcat roster should have some 'Cat fans smiling.

The various Valdosta offensive squads managed to score 30 points against the defensive teams last night as the Wildcats move into their final week of preparation for their spring game against Southwest Macon on March 14.

Junior Eddie Jones scored twice and racked up more than 80 yards rushing for Valdosta.

"He ran tough tonight and did a good job for us," Hyder said. "He didn't do that good against the big boys but he got some yardage against the younger kids."

Jones also tossed a 30-yard flea-flicker to freshmen Daryl Rafors.

Sophomore runningback James Roberts took the brunt of punishment against the No. 1 defensive squad. Roberts earned 21 tough yards on 10 carries but ripped off a 22-yarder early in the first half and bulled his way into the endzone for a two-yard touchdown run. Roberts was stopped three times behind the line.

Also scoring a touchdown was running back John Tillman.

Kicker Dan Tillman connected on all but one extra point and added a 22-yard field goal to account for the offense's 30 points.

Eighth-grader Tommy Rainge will be a welcomed addition to the Wildcats come next year. Rainge caught a 19-yard pass in traffic and had another one bounce off his shoulder pads. Rainge is 6-foot-3, 210 pounds and Hyder is hoping that Rainge and Charles Steward will prove a strong pair of receivers.

"They're kind of like our twin towers," Hyder said. "They'll add a lot of height to the team."

Hyder plans to use Steward, a 6-2

sophomore, as a tight end next year instead of split end.

"Steward's a big kid and he can really block well," Hyder said. "We can also throw to him."

Anchoring the front line for Valdosta's first-team offense, were some big bodies. Ben Lane, a 6-2, 235-pound sophomore, held down the center. The two guards were 6-1, 225 pound Troy Wells and Andy Rykard, 5-0, 190.

Jodie Sprenkle, 6-3, 253, was paired with tackle Andy Andersen, 5-10, 240.

"This is a big front line," Hyder said. "They've also got some quickness and Sprenkle is a definite college prospect."

Hyder was also pleased with defensive play of junior linebacker Bill Kirby, and linemen Zabria Bell and Coronzoa Greene.

"Zabria adds some size to our line," Hyder said. "Greene had a good night and of course Seabron Williams played well."

Williams was named *The Valdosta Daily Times* defensive lineman of the year after the 1985 season.



Valdosta's Eddie Jones (32) Tries To Beat The Defense To The Corner In Scrimmage

Times Staff Photo By Paul Leav

Wildcats Confident Despite Academic Woes

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats have made good use of their spring football drills during the past few weeks, but Coach Nick Hyder has also lost several players for various reasons.

The Georgia High School Association recently passed a rule that athletes must pass five classes to be eligible. And though the rule does not go in effect until next year, Hyder has already implemented it into the Wildcat program.

"Some of the players are having a hard time adjusting to the academic rule," Hyder said. "We've got 10 I've cut off from practice this week so they won't be playing Friday night in an effort to get them on the ball and get them academically eligible. Our biggest problem so far in the spring has been off the field."

"We feel like we have gotten some good effort from a lot of youngsters," Hyder said. "We've got some disappointing situations as far as bumps and bruises."

Hyder will find out just how many bumps and bruises the Wildcats have when they play host to Southwest Macon in the spring game at Cleveland Field Friday night.

"They are big and fast and have good athletes," Hyder said. "They return seven starters on offense and five on defense. They have a real good quarterback in Craig Davis, Edgar Hatcher, the head coach, said they've got one of the best he's ever had in Rico Whipple. Whipple was also a starter on the basketball team. We're looking for hands to be full in trying to stop him. We can just see ourselves chasing him all over the field."

"This team (Southwest) was 7-4 last

year and scored a lot of points. They are awfully big; their tackles are about 270. They had eight kids sign with major colleges last year."

The B-team game will kickoff at 6 p.m. with the varsity to follow at 8. Admission is \$1 for students and \$3 for adults.

Aside from academic and physical injuries, the Wildcats have made great strides in several areas.

"The offensive line has made good progress," Hyder said. "We moved Andy Anderson (5-foot-10, 240 pounds) from defensive tackle to offensive tackle. Jodie Sprenkle (6-3, 253) and Troy Wells (6-1, 230) both return from last year. Then we've also got Ben Lane (6-2, 240), Jack Morgan (6-0, 190) and Andy Rykard (5-10, 190) on the line and we moved Charles Steward to tight end. We'll be a lot quicker there than we were last year. In general, we'll be

quicker and stronger in the line than a year ago."

Hyder is hoping the moving of Steward will pay off.

"He's looked good at tight end," Hyder said. "If he has to, he can always go back to wide receiver. If that happens, we don't have anywhere near his talent to put at tight end. Charles is only going to be a junior, but he is already a major college prospect."

While the offensive line has progressed further than Hyder expected, the Wildcats are hurting for depth.

"We've got a lot of good people, but we're a little behind in depth. That's mainly because of the injuries and academic problems. Losing 10 takes a pretty good hunk out of you."

According to Hyder, several players on the team have progressed further in spring practice than the coaching staff

had projected.

"Jodie Sprenkle, Andy Anderson, Andy Rykard, Beau Laskey at linebacker, Michael Tolbert at defensive end, newcomer Tommy Rainige at split end, and James Roberts, a 195-pound running back, have played well so far," Hyder said. "We've also been impressed with Greg Talley at quarterback and B.J. Mason and Guy Belue at wide receiver."

Defensively, the Wildcats return four of five in the secondary as well as linebacker Bill Kirby and end Seabron Williams, who was named the defensive lineman of the year by *The Valdosta Daily Times* last year.

"Bill and Seabron are the only four-year performers to survive," Hyder said. "They are really giving us good leadership as is Eric Larry, Zabria Bell and Otis Conaway."

In the secondary, the Wildcats return

Derek Shaw, Keith Henry, Reggie Dandy, and Walt Gill.

"We've also been pleased with Eric Toth, and Steve French has looked good at cornerback," Hyder said.

"The kicking game has been a pleasant surprise with Greg Talley's punting. He and Steward are doing a good job there. One of the most improved people is place-kicker Dan Tillman. He and Conaway are getting better every day."

And though spring practice is winding down, Hyder feels the main objective of this year's workouts can be reached.

"We're trying to a team together and are looking for depth," he said. "We're working on the kicking game and the two-minute drill. We want to do a better job blocking and play execution."

Valdosta Whips Patriots, 41-0

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats took advantage of Southwest Macon Friday night.

The Wildcats are not normally known for its passing attack. Instead, Valdosta does a lot of trapping by hurrying the defense across the line.

But the Patriots were holding their ground at the line and the defensive strategy let the Wildcats go to the air.

Quarterback Greg Talley completed nine-of-15 passes for 138 yards and three touchdowns to power the Wildcats to a 41-0 thumping of the Patriots in the spring game at Cleveland Field Friday night.

"We were taking what they were giving us," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "They weren't penetrating at the line and that enabled us to throw the ball more. Tommy Rainige, B.J. Mason, Guy Belue, and Charles Steward did a good job catching the ball. They've got a lot of speed."

Rainige, who will be a freshman, caught three passes for 84 yards while Belue had four catches for 56 yards. Mason caught one pass for nine yards and completed two for 32 yards.

One reason the Wildcats were able to pass the ball effectively was the play of the offensive line.

"Jodie Sprenkle and Troy Wells played excellent," line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "They really showed a lot of improvement. Andy Anderson has made the transition from defensive tackle to offensive tackle. Andy

Southwest Macon..... 0 0 0 0-0
Valdosta..... 14 7 20 0-41

Val - Guy Belue 9 pass from Greg Talley (Dan Tillman kick)

Val - Tommy Rainige 32 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)

Val - Talley 2 run (Tillman kick)

Val - Belue 24 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)

Val - James Roberts 1 run (Conaway kick)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

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Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Val - Rainige 29 pass from B.J. Mason (kick failed)

Val - Mason 1 run (kick failed)

Belue ran a slant pattern across the middle and the 9-yard score.

Dan Tillman added the first of his four extra points.

The defense again held the Patriots and Valdosta started at its own 47-yard line. Antonio Henderson went around left end for nine yards and Talley found Charles Steward open for a 12-yard gain. Talley went to the air again and hit Rainige for a 32-yard score down the left sideline as Valdosta went up 14-0 with 39 seconds left in the first period.

Southwest took the kickoff and generated a little offense, but Valdosta held on downs. The 'Cats had to punt the ball back after three plays. The defense, which held Southwest in check for most of the game, came up with the first of four turnovers when Otis Conaway recovered a fumble at the Patriot nine.

Three plays later, Talley kept the ball and went around right end for the score. Tillman's PAT gave Valdosta a 21-0 with 4:53 left in the half.

Both teams made late scoring threats, but Southwest turned the ball over on a fumble and Valdosta ran out of downs before the half ended.

Southwest's Rico Whipple, who has practiced just one week because of basketball, picked up 88 yards in the first half. But as a team, the Patriots had just 50 on the ground and 55 in the air. Of that 55 yards, 48 was on the last play of the half. Valdosta, meanwhile, had 71 rushing and 102 passing.

The 'Cats opened the second like they did the first — taking the kickoff and

driving for a score. Talley hit Belue for 17 yards and James Roberts went off left tackle for 13 to move Valdosta to the Patriot 19.

The 'Cats went to the air again, but this time it was Steward on a flea-flicker. Steward connected with Belue for a touchdown, but the play was nullified because of a penalty. But Valdosta came back on the next play and Talley found Belue open for a 24-yard TD with 8:49 left in the third period. The score pushed Valdosta's lead to 28-0.

Valdosta forced a punt, but then Mason, who had moved to quarterback, threw and interception. On the next play, Valdosta's Andy Griffin recovered a fumble at the Southwest one. The first play say Roberts go up the middle for the touchdown with 4:29 left in the third.

One of the most exciting plays of the game came on a Southwest punt. Valdosta fielded the ball at the 20-yard line and used a triple reverse. Keith Henry ended up with the ball and raced 43 yards down the sideline. Two plays later, Mason passed to Rainige for a 29-yard TD.

"I was nervous going into the game because they have so many well-built young men," Hyder said. "They've got several fine athletes in the quarterback (Davis), that running back (Whipple) and at center."

"I don't think anybody shut them out last year. They even scored 14 points against Warner Robins in the playoffs."



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Greg Talley (1) Hands Off To Antonio Henderson

The Wildcats finished the game with 166 yards on the ground and 170 passing. Henderson was the leading rusher for the Wildcats with 51 yards on 10 carries while Roberts added 37 yards on 10 carries.

Whipple had just 23 yards on 10 carries in the second half. He was thrown for losses on four carries for 19 yards.

"I said before the game that Whipple was a fine running back and he is," Hyder said. "Him playing basketball up until last week helped keep him in excellent condition."

Handwritten initials "H" and "T" in the bottom right corner.

Defense Is Top Of The Line At Valdosta

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

In a way, Valdosta High remains a mystery. Sporadic Wildcat fans (is there really such a thing?) are whimpering about the low scores. Everybody expects Valdosta to win by 35 points every game.

Well, they haven't. But you can rest assured that nobody's going to score 35 points against them, either.

George Patton couldn't have driven a tank through Valdosta's front defensive line. If he had, Coach Freddy Waters probably would have made his team run laps.

If a head coach is a defense fanatic, then he'll be watching his front line. It may be the most valuable part of his football team, and so far, Valdosta's excellent defensive play has kept the 'Cats out of many a scrape.

In their wild and rainy opener, Valdosta beat Thomasville 10-6, completely shutting down the Bulldogs' running game.

Thomasville's speedy wishbone was able to amass just 93 yards on the ground.

In the 'Cats second battle with Waycross, the defense allowed just 57 yards on the ground, again against a wishbone attack.



Waters

Last Fridat night in their 28-0 whipping of Monroe, the Wildcats gave up just 42 yards on the ground.

They're improving. Who are these hard-hitting players who work in the trenches under the irate gaze of Waters?

At defensive end there is Seabron Williams. Williams, who may not have the bulk of most linemen at 170 pounds, is a fierce hitter. He is also a junior and has had some valuable experience.

At the other end, there has been some shifting. Willie Sauls, a senior has seen some action and has played well thus far in the season. Sauls however may be moved to the noseguard spot against Westover, this week's opponent. This may mean 169-pound Joey Matchett will see some



Conaway

action along with Michael Talbert at end.

At right tackle, Kelvin Miller, a 190-pound senior, and Zabri Bell, a gigantic 250-pound freshman have both seen action this year.

Otis Conaway plays at left tackle, along with Andy Anderson. Anderson is a sophomore; Conaway is a 225-pound junior who also kicks field goals.

At nose guard, Coronzoa Greene has seen a lot of action and Tommy McMillan has played sparingly. An injury to Greene has forced the VHS coaching staff to move Sauls over to the nose guard position.

Valdosta has traditionally had good lines on both sides of the football, and



Miller



Williams



Matchett



Sauls

There's something else that makes this line good — the killer instinct. "A defensive lineman has to want to hurt someone to be good," Waters said. "You have to get the person opposite you on that line and do it to him before he does it to you."

Waters was complimentary of the job done at nose guard, a position that takes some measure of intelligence to play well.

"The middle guard has to be able to read the play and penetrate," Waters said. "He has to neutralize the center on screen and draw plays, but his specific task is to read the play and react accordingly."

"Greene and Sauls can both be good," Waters said. "They are both quick and can read the play well."

At end, the name of the game is to contain and to rush the passer, something Valdosta has done very well this year.

"Matchett, Williams, and Tolbert have all done a good job," Waters said. "Of course, the competition makes you a little better."

And looking at the competition the Wildcats faced in their first two games (Thomasville was ranked No. 4 in the state in Class AAA and Waycross No. 3 in Class AA), Valdosta's defense is only going to get better.

Waters attributes this to getting the players while they have had little time to develop bad habits.

"The hardest thing to teach the kids is how to really come off the ball," Waters said. "Freshmen don't usually have all their techniques down. That's the advantage to getting the kids while they're only freshmen. The younger they are, the more time you have to work with them."

Despite the relative youth on the line, Sauls and Matchett being the only seniors, Waters is pleased with the talent that he has on this year's line.

"As far as their ages go, this is one of the biggest lines I've had," Waters said.

Golf

Valdosta 158, Thomasville 180, Central 191 — The Valdosta Wildcat golf team started its season on a successful note as the 'Cats won their first match of the season in Thomasville.

Low scorers for Valdosta were Walter Altman 38, Todd Hatcher 39, Coleman Rudolph 40, and David Cason 41.

The 'Cats will play next in the Tifton Invitational on April 7.

Golf

Valdosta 157, Thomasville 177 — The Valdosta High Golf team remained unbeaten at 3-0 with the victory over Thomasville High yesterday in a nine-hole match.

Low scorers for VHS were Todd Hatcher with 37, Coleman Rudolph 40, Earl Sellars 40, and Walter Altman 40.

The Wildcats will play host to Colquitt County today at the Valdosta Country Club.

VDT-4-11-86

Valdosta Packs Colquitt, 10-6

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After beating Region 1-AAAA foe Colquitt County 10-6, Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley commented that earlier in the season he wouldn't have believed that his Wildcat squad would be 8-4 at this point in the season.

But after the 'Cats disposed of Colquitt, who came into the game at 8-2, Tarpley may be wondering just how good his team really is.

Valdosta did almost everything right yesterday afternoon, racking up 10 hits, including a homer and a double.

"We just hit the ball hard today," Tarpley said. "I think the pitchers did a good all-around job. We didn't make too many mistakes in the field either."

Jason Crosby got the victory for the 'Cats raising his record to 3-1. Crosby went five innings, giving up seven hits and five runs — only two earned.

Sam Funderburk took the loss for Colquitt in his first start this season.

"Funderburk has had mononucleosis and he's still weak," said Packer coach Jerry Croft. "You can tell by the way he's throwing. He just doesn't have much velocity on the ball. I just hope he can recover soon."

Ralph Guarino pitched the last two innings for Valdosta and came in to get Crosby out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam in the sixth with Valdosta ahead 7-5.

Crosby gave up a single and two walks to get in the fix, but Guarino got Colquitt's Todd Hood on an easy pop-up, struck out Jason Cooper, and forced Thomas Yost to pop out to first to end the scoring threat.

Valdosta padded its lead by scoring

its final three runs in the sixth.

Joey Crosby walked with one out and moved to second on an Art Bass single, and a walk to Trevor Nance loaded the bases.

Walt Gill rapped a ground ball to short and Nance was forced at second while Dirk Harden, who ran for Crosby, scored and Bass moved to third.

Gill later tried to steal second and Packer catcher Chris McAlpin threw the ball into the outfield, scoring Bass and moving Gill to third, who eventually scored on a Jason Crosby single to lift Valdosta ahead 10-5.

Colquitt touched Guarino for one run in the seventh on a solo homer by Stacy Middlebrooks to cap the scoring.

Colquitt got on the scoreboard first in the second inning. Muzzy Jackson singled, and reached second when Bass mishandled a potential double play ball at short. A McAlpin single moved Jackson to third and he scored on a sacrifice fly by third baseman Doug Strange.

But the 'Cats rallied for four runs of their own in the bottom of the same inning. Derek Shaw walked, reached second on a passed ball and moved to third on a Jason Crosby single. Another single by designated hitter Mike Tolbert brought home Shaw and sent Crosby to second and he went to third on a wild pitch that moved Tolbert to second.

Joey Tippett singled home Crosby and Tolbert moved to third. Both Tippett and Tolbert scored on two errors by Packer second baseman Bill Davis. Tippett tried to steal second but Davis let the throw get by him and



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leary

Valdosta Third Baseman Matt Perry Has A Hard Time Getting To The Ball, And Ends Up On The Ground

Tolbert raced home. Davis scrambled for the ball and then overthrew third base also allowing Tippett to score and VHS led 4-1.

In the fourth, Colquitt scored two more on an error and a wild pitch to cut the deficit to 4-3, but in the bottom of the inning Nance sacrificed in Tippett and Gill singled home Matt

Perry to push Valdosta back out to a 6-3 lead.

In the Packer fifth, a two-run homer by Packer Muzzy Jackson again cut the 'Cat lead, this time to one at 6-5, but Derek Shaw hit a solo homer in the bottom half of the inning to make it 7-5 VHS. Then the 'Cats got their three-run sixth to seal the win.

Shaw led Valdosta at the plate going 2-for-3 with a homer and two RBIs. The most spectacular play in the field was made by center fielder Greg Talley, who made a diving catch in the outfield in the fifth on a hard hit ball by Middlebrooks.

Valdosta will play host to Lowndes Friday at 4:15 in what is turning out to

be a battle of the heavyweights as the Vikings will carry a 9-3 record into the game.

at Valdosta
Colquitt.....0 10 220 1- 4 8 4
Valdosta.....0 40 213 x- 10 10 3
Funderburk (L, 9-3), Arledge (5) and Kipps (6) and
McAlpin, Crosby (W, 3-1), Guarino (6) and Kipps, HR —
Jackson (CC), Middlebrooks (CC), Shaw (V), 2B —
Cooper (CC).

Madison Downs Berrien

Offense, Belue Power

Wildcats Over Taylor

By MIKE COLOMBO

Times Sports Writer
If Wednesday night's game against Taylor County was any indication of how well the Valdosta Wildcat baseball team can hit, the other Region 1-AAAA teams better stiffen up their defense.

The Wildcats put 12 hits on the board in six innings en route to a 13-6 pounding of the Bulldogs in the opening round of the Rebel Classic at VSC's Blazer Field.

In the second contest of the evening, the Berrien County Rebels were undone by homers and the lack of clutch hitting as the Madison County Cowboys scratched out a 9-4 victory.

The tournament will take today off before returning with two games on Friday and two on Saturday. Friday's games will have Madison playing Valdosta at 5:30 and Taylor taking on Berrien at 7:30.

In Wednesday's game, the Wildcats

were ahead 4-3 in the bottom of the third when they erupted for six runs to put the game away.

VHS first baseman Joey Crsoby opened the inning by reaching on an error. With one out Crosby moved to second and Nathan Mitchell reached on another Bulldog error.

A double by designated hitter Mike Tolbert scored Crosby and Art Bass singled to knock in Tolbert and Mitchell.

A walk to Trevor Nance put runners on first and second and both runners advanced on a wild pitch. Center fielder Derrick Shaw reached on an error that allowed Bass to score. Shaw and Nance moved up on a balk called against Bulldog pitcher Mark Wentworth.

A sacrifice fly by Jason Crosby scored Nance, and a single by left fielder Joey Tippit scored Shaw, the sixth run of the inning.

Talley scored Valdosta's final run in the sixth with the help of a single and three Bulldog errors.

But hitting was not the only weapon in the Wildcats' arsenal. Guy Belue pitched four complete innings before being relieved by Walt Gill. Belue allowed only one hit in his four-inning stint.

"Belue did a good job for us," Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley said. "I didn't want to work him too hard because we have a triple-header coming up and he's been playing spring football."

"The only hit he gave up was a little blooper, and they really shouldn't have scored any runs."

In the night's second game, Madison pitcher Keith Frazier knocked a two-run homer over the left field fence after first baseman David Stephens singled to give the Cowboys a 2-1 lead in the second inning.

Two batters later, center fielder Mike James blasted a homer that cleared the VSC parking lot to make it 3-1 Madison.

Berrien had a chance to score in the second after DH William Forehand singled and stole second, but two fly outs and a strikeout left Forehand stranded.

"We made too many mental mistakes," said Rebel coach Bart Shuman. "We were undisciplined on the base paths and we hit without any discipline. Madison's got a good ballclub. This was our first game. We'll get better."

Despite Shuman's criticism, the Rebels made a good showing defensively. The record book showed just one Berrien error, that made late in the game.

The two teams battled back and forth with Madison heading into the top of the seventh with a 6-4 lead, but that's

when the bottom fell out for Berrien as the Cowboys scored three runs to pull away.

Rebel starter Ray Garner opened the inning with a strikeout, but Stephens singled and scored on a Frazier double. Tommy Garner lined out to first for the second out, but Rebel first baseman Stacey Griffin tried to double Frazier off second. The throw went wide of the bag and Frazier raced to third.

Three consecutive walks given up by Garner scored Frazier. Garner was pulled in favor of Scott Griner, who walked in the Cowboys' third run of the inning.

Valdosta-Taylor Co.
Taylor Co. 102 0 6 4 6
Valdosta 04 20 1 12 4
Wentworth (L) and Proudman; Belue (W, 1-0), Gill (5) and Nance, Harden (6).

Berrien Co.-Madison Co.
Madison Co. 030 102 3 9 9 2
Berrien Co. 01 01 0 4 6 1
Frazier (W), Richardson (6) and Rutherford; Garner (L, 0-1), Griner (7) and Pope, HR - Frazier (MC), James (MC), 3B - Griner (BC), 2B - Frazier (MC).

Friday's Games

Madison vs. Valdosta Taylor vs. Berrien

Saturday's Games

Madison vs. Taylor Valdosta vs. Berrien

The Wildcats scored two more in the fourth after Greg Talley reached on a single, B.J. Mason drew a walk, and Nance doubled both runners home.

Nance Is The Glue That Holds

than the diminutive (5-foot-6, 135-pound) second baseman-catcher, Trevor Nance.

If one is looking for comparisons, Nance plays the same kind of game and displays the same type of attitude as a Joe Morgan. Batting second in the Wildcat lineup, Nance has 12 hits in 30 at-bats, nine walks, 10 RBI, and 12 runs scored in 10 games.

Nance also excels at performing the small chores, like executing the sacrifice bunt or hitting ground balls to the right side to move a runner over to third. He has stolen nine bases without getting caught. And he has not made an error yet this season at second base.

But also significant is his willingness to do anything to help the team. Catching is often a thankless task, squatting in the heat and dust for hours on end, as opposed to the glamour of playing short and second, which are

the two positions that Nance played last year while also hitting .400 for the Wildcats.

"Trevor plays catcher about half the time," Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley said. "He's in there a lot when Walt Gill is pitching. That kind of versatility allows me to mix my lineup and get against different kinds of pitchers. Trevor's just about my best contact hitter and on-base man."

Nance also holds the respect of his teammates.

"Trevor was elected captain as a unanimous choice by his teammates," Tarpley said. "And that's a real credit to his ability as a leader, because he just moved here February a year ago and started to school just before the baseball season last year."

"But he works hard and plays hard, and he's always encouraging his teammates and trying to help them

out, and they appreciate that."

Nance has good speed on the basepaths and very good quickness at second base. His arm has been termed "strong for a second baseman", and he knows the strike zone and protects the plate very well.

Nance also has surprising power. In last Saturday's game against Berrien County in Valdosta, he slammed two balls off the left-center field fence in the air, a la (5-7) Joe Morgan. He had 13 doubles and two triples among his hits last year.

The little guy got even smaller last fall. He lost 15 pounds while suffering from some sort of muscle enzyme deficiency. His condition has since returned to normal, which is good, because how well could a 120-pound catcher block the plate? Not that Nance wouldn't try to.

Nance Holds Valdosta Baseball Together

"I kind of like playing catcher because you can really take charge of the game out there," Nance said. "I like giving the pitchers which pitch to throw and what location to place it in. And so far, they have usually listened to me when I go out to the mound to talk to them."

Nance's father is in the Air Force, stationed at Moody Air Force Base, hence the move into Valdosta from Las Vegas last year. His mother is a librarian at West Gordon, and an uncle is an assistant coach at Bethune-Cookman on former all-pro guard Larry Little's staff.

Nance is active in the Protestant Youth at the Moody Base Chapel and is a "B" student at Valdosta High, where he met his steady girlfriend, Dawn Pompey. Nance expressed an interest in playing baseball in college next year.

"I'd really like to go to VSC and play

for Coach Thomas there. They've always got a good team and a good program. I've also talked with the coach from Florida Memorial down in Miami Beach about playing down there, and a cousin of mine is working on getting me a tryout with Bethune-Cookman."

Nance wants to become a pilot for the Air Force after college, but failing that, would like to study architectural engineering. But for now, he would like to help the Wildcats progress as far as possible in the region and state playoffs.

"We have a really good team. We're 6-4 right now and we really haven't put it all together yet. But when we do, I feel like we're as good as anybody in South Georgia." Never underestimate the value of positive thinking.

Berrien Rolls

Miscues Lift VHS By Madison, 7-4

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats were able to take advantage of mistakes by Madison County while the Cowboys couldn't capitalize on wildcat miscues. The end result was a 7-4 victory for Valdosta in the second day of the Rebel Classic being held at Blazer Field.

In Friday's other game, Berrien County defeated Taylor 11-2. Saturday's schedule in the round-robin tournament will have Taylor playing Madison at 5:30 while Valdosta takes on Berrien at 7:30.

In the first game, Valdosta used two walks, an error, walk and balk to score three runs in the fourth inning. "Our strength is supposed to be our hitting, but we didn't do a good job hitting the ball today," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said.

Valdosta starting pitcher Jason Crosby got his first start since this same tournament last year when he was shelled in the first game. "Crosby is our regular third baseman and pitched in just one game last year and got pulled," Tarpley said. "That was the only game he started last year, but he went out there today and did a good job. The only problem is that (Nathan Mitchell) did a good job at third today."

The Wildcats jumped on top 1-0 in the second inning before Madison rallied to take a 2-1 lead in the third. Valdosta then scored three runs in the fourth, two in the sixth and one in the seventh to seal the victory. In the fourth, Walt Gill and Mike Tolbert both drew walks with one out. Greg Talley then singled to score two runs. He went to second on a balk, advanced to third on a ground out by Joey Tippett and scored when Madison first baseman David Stephens threw wild to third trying to get Tippett.

In the sixth, Tolbert reached on an error, went to third on a single by Talley. Both runners then scored on a single by Tippett. After Tippett stole second, Mitchell reached on an error. Tippett tried to score on an infield grounder, but was thrown out at the plate.

The Wildcats added their final run in the seventh when Derek Shaw opened the inning with a homer that barely cleared the right-field fence. Valdosta had fallen behind 2-1 when the Cowboys scored twice in the third inning. Todd Richardson and Darrell Scott opened with back-to-back singles. John Arnold then sacrificed the run-

ners up and Jim Flournoy hit a sacrifice fly to score Scott, who had moved to third on a passed ball that scored Richardson.

The Cowboys scored single runs in the fifth and sixth. In the fifth, Arnold singled, went to second on a wild pitch, and scored on a Valdosta error. In the sixth, Mike James singled, went to second and third on consecutive wild pitches, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Richardson.

The Wildcats had taken a 1-0 lead in the second when, with one out, Gill was hit by a pitch, Tolbert walked and Mitchell hit a two-out single to score Gill.

Crosby relied mainly on the defense behind him to get the job done as he struck out just one and walked two. He did, however, have some control problems as he threw six wild pitches. Madison's Tommy Garner, 1-1, scattered six Valdosta hits and struck out six in absorbing the loss.

The Berrien Rebels put together 12 hits to down Taylor in a game shortened to six innings. "We just did a better job tonight of not swinging at bad pitches," Berrien Coach Bart Shumann said. "That's one thing that hurt us the other night (in an 11-4 loss to Madison County) in the first game of the tournament when the Rebels had just six hits. We had better discipline of not swinging at bad pitches."

Berrien, 1-1, was led by several players at the plate: Greg Hunkapillar was 3-for-4, including a double, and scored three runs, David Pope was 3-for-4 and Jason Hamill was 2-for-4.

Scott Purvis, who came on in relief of starter Scott Griner in the fifth inning, hit a bases-loaded triple in the fifth inning. He had four RBI for the game. Griner, 1-0, had seven strikeouts and combined with Purvis to limit Taylor, 2-9, to just three hits. David Upshaw took the loss for Taylor before being relieved by Darren Simmons in the sixth inning.

"We've got to keep hitting the ball like we did tonight to beat Valdosta," Shumann said.

Valdosta vs. Madison County
Valdosta.....010 302 1-7 6 2
Madison.....002 011 0-4 9 4
Crosby (W, 1-0) and Garner (L, 1-1) and
Richardson, HR—Shaw (V)

Berrien County vs. Taylor County
Berrien.....230 000 — 11 12 2
Taylor.....000 002 — 2 3 4
Griner (W, 1-0), Purvis (S) and Richardson, Upshaw (L),
Simmons (S) and Proudfman, 3B — Purvis (BC), 2B —
Hunkapillar (BC)



Caught In The Act

Valdosta's Joey Tippett (22) tries to scramble back into second base after the runner ahead of him held up at third base. Tippett was caught off guard and gets tagged out by Madison's Keith Frazier. — Times Staff Photos By Paul Leavy.

'Cats Can't

Get No. 10

U-7 mes 3-27-86
The Georgia High School Association and an awesome reputation are giving Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder a few gray hairs.

And it's a long way before opening night for fall football in south Georgia. Hyder and the Wildcats are having trouble putting together a 10-game schedule for the upcoming season. The 'Cats are one game short, with only nine drawn in tablets of stone.

Part of the problem for VHS is that several 1-AAAA teams received permission from the GHSA to migrate to another region; this gives Valdosta fewer must-schedule opponents. Bainbridge and Central-Thomaspville were both in Valdosta's subregion last year, but both have dropped to 1-AAA for the upcoming year.

Eye long-time foe, Thomaspville High, has refused to play Valdosta next year. Valdosta was hoping the Bulldogs would fill the open September 12 slot.

"I'd really like to keep the Thomaspville game," Hyder said. "But that's out. They already have their schedule put together. They put a good crowd in the stands and they're right there in with the toughness of south Georgia. After you play them, you come away knowing you've played a football game."

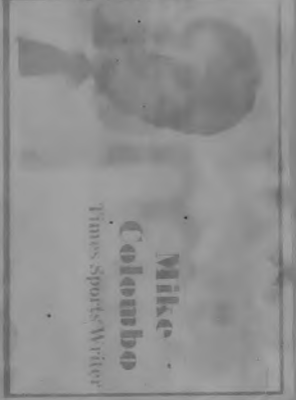
And problem No. 2 is simple enough to deduce: Who in their right mind would want to play Valdosta?

The Wildcats posted a 9-3 record last year and look like they are headed to capturing the 1-AAAA crown that they lost to Lowndes last year. Valdosta's a hot rock that no one wants to pick up.

"Well that's not the main reason," said Hyder of Valdosta's reputation as a tough team. "But it is the reason why most people won't consider us when I first call them. They usually look elsewhere and if they find something, that leaves us with an open date."

"According to a study done by Sports Illustrated, Massion of Ohio and Valdosta have won more games than any other high school in the country," Hyder said. "The study also said we had the best winning percentage and that's over a 70-year period."

Hyder has contacted every available



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Writer

opponent from the Florida panhandle to Montgomery, Alabama and still hasn't come up with anyone willing to take on the 'Cats.

Hyder also called West Rome High, the reigning Class AA champion, but the Chieftans refused. West Rome, too, is open on September 12, but according to Hyder the West Rome officials would play Valdosta only as "a last resort."

"I called West Rome three times," Hyder said, "and I'm tired of calling them. They're telling everyone up there that nobody will play them and I told them to stop all that, that we'll play them."

"I talked to the principal and the coach and the coach again. I can't beg them or make them play us."

One prospective opponent for VHS is Fulton High in Atlanta, but that depends if some school consolidation takes place. A merging of two schools could leave Fulton open on September 12, and Hyder said a verbal agreement has been reached with Fulton should the consolidation come about.

"They won't know until the school board makes a decision," Hyder said. "And the school board is not thinking about football."

Valdosta will be playing two rare opponents next season — LaGrange and Leon out of Tallahassee. Hyder welcomed these additions, but said that even scheduling these two was a lot of work.

"We worked to get the game with Leon for four years," Hyder said. "And we had to dig pretty hard with the people in LaGrange too. LaGrange could come out ranked No. 1 in the preseason poll."

Hyder does not want to schedule games that would force his team to spend the night on the road, but unless a Georgia team comes through, the Wildcats could be riding on chartered buses to parts unknown.

Valdosta High Places In Region AAAA Meet

By Don Allison

On Saturday, March 15, Valdosta High School competed in Region 1-AAAA Literary. This year the event was held in Albany at Westover High School.

The results are:

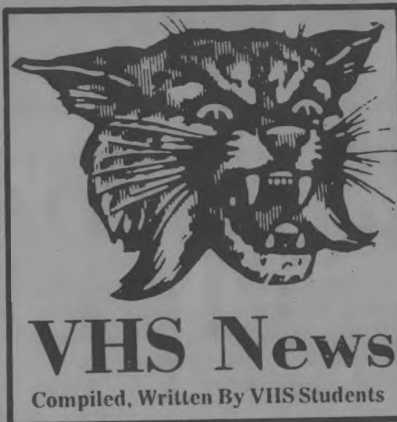
Girls Extemporaneous — Anne Tomberlin, fourth place.
Girls Spelling — Holly Davis, third place.
Boys Spelling — James Connell, third place.
Girls Solo — Deanne Young, fourth

place.

Quartet — Jimmy Holmes, Bernie Gaines, Eric Sharper, and Derrick Jackson; second place.
Girls Essay — Debbie Bailey, third place.

Boys Essay — Louis Gonis, first place.
Boys Oral Interpretation — Phillip Meeks, second place.

Girls Piano — Marty Graves, third place.
Boys Piano — Jason Yost, second place.



Two Attend Starbusters Night At VJH

Special To The Times

Frankie Keeling, FBLA Region II Vice President, and Mrs. Janeen Josey, advisor and business education teacher, attended Starbusters night at Valdosta Junior High March 11, 1986.

This event was sponsored by the VJHS P.T.A. to acquaint junior high students with extracurricular activities that will be available to him/her as a high school student at Valdosta High.

District VICA Meet Held

Special To The Times

The District VICA competition was held March 13 at Columbus Vo-Tech School. Forty-two schools were involved in various leadership and trade and industrial competition.

The place winners for Valdosta were:

Walter Altman: 1st place — Architectural Drafting.
Chyon Simmons: 2nd place — Machine

Drafting.

Amy Kinneman: 3rd place — Job Interview.

Anthony Freeman: 3rd place — Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

Tim Harris: 3rd place — Auto Mechanics.

Charles Holiday — 3rd place — Brick Laying.

The first and second place winners will advance to state competition to be held April 25-26 in Atlanta.

VHS Pair Go To FBLA State Meet

Special To The Times

FBLA Region II Vice President Frankie Keeling and her advisor Maxine Martin of Valdosta High School met in Macon Saturday, March 15, 1986, with the FBLA State Executive Council.

Plans were finalized for the FBLA State Conference to be held April 17-20 in Atlanta, Georgia. Members and advisors from all over the state of Georgia will gather for state competitive events and election of state officers for next year.

Valdosta High School will be represented by Frankie Keeling and 16 other business education students. First and second place Region II winners, David Peeples and Randy Bell, will compete again in the areas of Mr. FBLA and Public Speaking.

'Spring Fling' Held

Saturday, March 15, Valdosta High Student Council sponsored the first annual "Spring Fling." Music was furnished by the FM 96 Music Man. There was a wonderful turnout and it has been decided to make the event a permanent happening. The dance will be sponsored following the Spring football game.

The Student Council has also placed a suggestion box in the cafeteria. This is for teachers and students.



Beta Banquet

The VHS Beta Club held its annual banquet Monday, April 14, at the VSC dining hall. 1985-86 President, Angie Hotcaveg, presided over the meeting. Vice President, Jason Yost, gave the blessing before the meal. During the banquet the club elected and installed new officers for the 1986-87 school year. Michael Schmier was elected president, Ronald Creque was elected vice president, and Liza Wallace was elected secretary-treasurer. All the new members of the club were also recognized.

The new members of the Beta Club are Walter Altman IV, Rusty Baddley, Laura Bailey, Sheri Boyd, Christine Buel, Kathleen Buzzeo, Michael Brown, Anne Clark, Demetria Clark, Paul Conrad, Holly Davis, Leigh Dominey, Erika Duckworth, Kevin Elliot, Frances Fargason, Katherine Farley, Kenneth Gomis, Teresa Grace, Georgia Graves, Billie Joe Guess, Brian Harris, Theresa Hartzog, Vanessa Hubbard, Gregory Leong, William Mason, Sharon Mathis, Brian Mueller, Cecilia Mead, Timothy Moore, Khatonia Otey, Melissa Oliver, Yves Ownes, Karen Ray, John Ricks, Marie Roy, Karen Sanchez, David Shadrick, Cindy Voorhees, Stefanie Webb, Barthaniel Werts III, Luz Maria Zea, Kelisa Brown, Susan Burns, Barry Golivesky, Brad Hotard, Laura

Wildcats Rock Viking Ship 13-11 To Win Title

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

It must have been the wind. Or maybe the pressure of a long-standing rivalry. When two of the best high school baseball teams in South Georgia, sporting records of 15-4 and 12-4, get together for a subregion showdown, one would not ordinarily expect a game filled with 21 walks, six errors, two passed balls, and two wild pitches.

Quite ironically, the game came down to an incredible defensive play with two out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the seventh. Valdosta Wildcat first baseman Derek Shaw needed every inch of his lanky 6-foot-4 frame as he dived to his right and flagged down a hot smash into the hole by Viking second baseman Allen George.

Shaw leaped to his feet and outraced George to the bag, sealing a wild 13-11 victory and giving the Region 1-A AAAA South title to Valdosta High. The Wildcats are 5-0 in the subregion having given Lowndes its only two subregion losses. Each team has only one subregion game remaining.

The game began just as crazily as it ended. In the top of the first inning, Wildcat leadoff batter B.J. Mason cracked a drive to deep left-center field. After a long run, Viking left fielder Vincent Brunson had the ball bounce off his glove just before smashing into the fence.

Mason ended up on third. He scored when Trevor Nance reached on an error. Walt Gill and Shaw then walked to load the bases with none out, and it began to look like a long day for the home team Vikings. But pitcher Dirk Harrell got the next batter to pop up to the catcher.

The next hitter sent a quick bouncer

back to the mound. Harrell quickly gloved it and threw to catcher Roger Culpepper who relayed to first for an inning-ending double play.

Lowndes came back with three runs in the bottom of the first. Bobby Eason singled with two out. Chuck Cooper and Brunson then walked before first baseman Jimmy Gay lined a fastball to the base of the fence in straightaway center to score three runs.

Valdosta came back with four runs in the top of the second. Designated hitter Joey Crosby singled and moved to third on an error. A hit by Mason brought him home. Second baseman Nance then lined a double down the left field line, scoring Mason.

Gill then stepped to the plate and blasted a 390-foot home run over the center field fence for a 5-3 Wildcat lead.

But Lowndes came back for a run in their half of the inning. Walks to Joey Parker, Allen George, and Shawn Hiers loaded the bases. A sacrifice fly to center by Eason scored George easily, but the umpire ruled that the runner on second had left the bag too soon on the tag, ending the inning and the threat.

Valdosta added two runs in the third inning for a 7-4 lead. Jason Crosby singled, Art Bass sacrificed him to second, and Joey Crosby bounced a run-scoring single up the middle to score Jason. Joey took second on the throw home and then scored on Greg Talley's bouncer into center field.

The Vikings added a run in the fourth on a hit by George, two walks, and a fielder's choice, and reliever Brian Hagan did a masterful job holding the Wildcats scoreless in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings.

Lowndes tied the game in the bottom of the sixth just when it looked as



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Valdosta's B.J. Mason Steals 2nd Base As Lowndes' Allen George Awaits Throw

though Valdosta would squash a rally. Singles by Hiers, Cooper, and Brunson loaded the bases with one out.

But Wildcat starter Guy Belue enticed Gay to pop up to the infield. He then got a quick 1-2 count on sophomore pinch-hitter Wayne Williams. But the reserve third baseman hung in and lined a single into right field to score two runs and tie the game.

The seventh inning was a game unto itself, and things really got a little ludicrous, with Valdosta scoring six runs on only one hit. Shaw began the inning with a walk. Jason Crosby got a base hit. Two passed balls scored Shaw as Joey Crosby walked, and Bill Kirby's sacrifice fly plated Jason

Crosby.

Talley walked before Mason's fly ball to right got lost in the sun, bouncing off the right fielder's glove for a two-base error. Talley scored on the play, and Mason reached third on the throw home. The next batter, Nance, was hit by a pitch and then stole second.

Mason scored on a wild pitch, and when Culpepper's flip to the plate eluded Parker covering, Nance kept chugging around third and also scored to make the score 13-7 entering the bottom of the seventh.

Holding a six-run lead may sound easy, but a strong wind continued to blow and the approaching darkness

made it very cold. And Lowndes was not to die easily this day.

With one out in their last gasp, the Vikings quickly loaded the bases when Culpepper and Hiers both walked, and Eason bounced a single through the left side. Cooper then walked to score Culpepper, and Brunson singled to bring in Hiers.

A short rhabarb followed concerning the lights at the field being turned on. The umpires threatened to call the game, which would have made the outcome a tie after reverting to the end of the sixth inning, or have the lights turned on. They were turned on.

When play resumed, Gay singled to score Eason, and after Wildcat reliever

Ralph Guarino enticed Williams to pop up for the second out. Parker walked to score Cooper, making it 13-11 in favor of Valdosta with the bases loaded and two out.

George had already gotten one hit, walked twice, and scored twice, and his hot grounder headed toward the hole between first and second had HIT written all over it. But the 6-4 Shaw took a step and dived for the ball, just knocking it down as it was about to skip past him into right field. It would have surely scored two runs with two out and the baserunners moving with the crack of the bat.

"The game came down to a great play by Derek Shaw," Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley said. "We hit the ball well, but we gave up way too many walks (15), and it really hurt us."

Viking coach Noel George still gave the Wildcat pitchers credit, especially for stranding a total of 14 runners on the bases.

"Belue did a good job on the mound. We had several opportunities to score and just couldn't take advantage of them. We gave them seven runs there in the last inning and were coming back when their first baseman made a great play. But earlier, we had the bases loaded a few times with less than two out and couldn't score."

The Wildcats have now beaten the Vikings twice this season, but the two teams, in all likelihood, will still have to face each other in the playoffs to see who will advance to the state playoffs. And when they do, Katy bar the door.

at Lowndes
Valdosta.....142 000 6-13 9 0
Lowndes.....110 102 4-11 11 6
Belue (W), Guarino (7/5) and Kirby; Harrell, Hagan (4/1), Parker (7) and Culpepper. HR - Gill (V), 2B - Gay (L), Nance (V), Cooper (L).

Berrien Co. Overcomes Valdosta

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
NASHVILLE — Berrien County High baseball coach Bart Shuman employs a very aggressive strategy for his already talent-laden squad.

"We really try to take it to our opponents and always make them play it. Whether it be stealing bases, laying down a bunt, taking the extra base on a hit to the outfield, or forcing a pitcher to throw you three good strikes, if you keep the pressure on your opponent, hopefully they'll begin making a few mistakes that you can take advantage of.

When the 3-1 Rebels played host to 4-1 Valdosta High on a windswept field Wednesday afternoon, it took six innings for the mistakes to come, but the Rebels persisted and ultimately endured for four runs in the bottom of the sixth for a come-from-behind 7-4 win behind the five-hit pitching of ace Ray Garner.

The word 'ultimately' is used because the Rebels had their problems early on. Valdosta first baseman Joey Crosby doubled down the right field line in the first with two out but came around to score on a pair of wild pitches.

Then in the second inning, Rebel second baseman Scott Purvis tried to go from first to third on a single to center by teammate Doug Nix, testing the arm of the Valdosta centerfielder Greg Talley, who doubles as the Wildcat quarterback in the fall, launched a perfect cannon shot to nail Purvis at third.

The play proved costly to the Rebels. Because immediately thereafter they put together a walk to Stacey Griffin, consecutive singles by Jason Hamil and Scott Griner, and a walk to Greg Hunkapillar for two runs and a 3-1 lead.

Hunkapillar, the senior shortstop who is establishing himself as one of



Rebel Teammates Congratulate Shortstop Greg Hunkapillar After 1st Inning Home Run

the top baseball players in the region along with Garner, had smashed a solo home run to left into a stiff breeze to put Berrien on the scoreboard in the first.

Valdosta starter Guy Belue left the game after the second inning with a sore arm, and third baseman Jason Crosby came on to pitch. Crosby held the home team scoreless through the next three innings, pitching out of bases-loaded jam in the fourth.

Crosby also ignited a three-run Wildcat rally in the top of the fourth with a long double to left centerfield. Designated hitter Mike Tolbert followed with another blast off the side of the fieldhouse beyond the fence in right-centerfield.

Valdosta left fielder B.J. Mason next reached first on an error, stole second, went to third on the catcher's overthrow, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Talley. Crosby doubled again in the

fifth and took third on a wild pitch.

Then the Wildcats applied a little pressure themselves with a double steal. Tolbert, who had walked, took off from first to draw the throw from catcher David Pope as Crosby dashed toward home from third. However, Hunkapillar swooped in, cut off Pope's throw, and fired back to Pope, barely catching Crosby out at the plate.

Valdosta still led 4-3 going into the next-to-last inning when things fell apart. After one out, Rebel designated hitter William Forehand singled, stole second, and took third when the throw went into centerfield. Hunkapillar followed with a walk and stole second when the Wildcat catcher faked a throw to second in an attempt to entice Fo. Hand down the line from third.

Garner then hit a low line drive to right which barely eluded diving sec-

ond baseman Trevor Nance. The hit scored Forehand and Hunkapillar with the tying and go-ahead runs. Pope then forced Garner at second, but Purvis reached base on an infield hit. Doug Nix then knocked in Pope and Purvis with a lined single to left to make the score 7-4.

Garner then set the Wildcats down in order in the seventh for his second victory of the season. Last Friday he shut the same Wildcats 7-0 in the Rebels own tournament at Valdosta State's Blazer Field.

"We just couldn't make the big plays during the whole game," Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley. "Walks and errors really hurt us, and we had trouble throwing people out at in the infield."

Valdosta
Berrien Co.
Belue, Crosby (3) and Gill; Garner (W) and Pope. HR. — Hunkapillar (6C), Tolbert (V); 2B. — Joey Crosby (V), Jason Crosby (V).

George's Home Run Erases Early Errors

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Alien George's long fly ball to left center in the bottom of the eighth inning appeared to be nothing more than a long out. But the second baseman's towering shot managed to clear the fence, giving the Lowndes Vikings a 9-7 extra-inning victory over the Suwannee Bulldogs Wednesday night.

What made the victory even sweeter for the Vikings was that they chipped away at a 7-4 Bulldog lead to capture the win.

"I was glad to see the boys come back," said Viking coach Noel George. "It shows that the kids have some character and though they were down, they didn't give up."

Lowndes pitcher Vincent Brunson went the distance, and chalked up the win to even his record at 1-1. Of the seven runs credited to Brunson only four were earned, and he struck out seven while only walking two.

Brunson helped his own cause in the bottom of the seventh. Down 7-5, Viking catcher Roger Culppepper drew a walk, stole second, and scored when Brunson rapped a double to center. Brunson scored the tying run on a Bulldog error to send the game into extra innings.

Suwannee could muster no offense in the eighth and George's homer sealed the victory for Lowndes.

While the Vikings ended the game as heroes, they began the game playing sloppy defense, giving the Bulldogs three unearned runs.

Bulldog second baseman Alan Bond opened the game with a walk. After a pop out, third baseman David Wood hit a pop-up down the third base line that Viking third baseman Wayne Williams dropped, putting runners on first and second.

A double by pitcher Mike Roberts sent both runners home.

Keith Bonds then hit a ground ball to

Brunson. Roberts tried to reach third and Brunson made a good throw to the bag but Lowndes' Williams dropped the ball.

Bulldog left fielder Mickey Peppers then hit a drive to Viking shortstop Bobby Eason, who threw it into the dirt in front of first as Roberts scored. Peppers reached first and Bonds, who had stolen second, went to third. Another ground ball scored Bonds and Suwannee led 4-0 after one.

"We didn't play too well in that first inning," George said. "They should have only scored one run. Williams made a couple of rookie mistakes, but he's done a pretty good job considering he's a new starter."

Brunson put Lowndes on the scoreboard in the bottom of the first after walking, stealing second, reaching third on a fielder's choice, and scoring on a double by Chuck Cooper.

Shawn Hiers then hit a long single. Cooper tried to come home but a tremendous throw by Bulldog center fielder Mike Summerfield had Cooper pegged at the plate to end the Viking scoring threat.

Suwannee scored another run in the top of the second to post a 5-1 lead but in the bottom of the second, Culppepper rapped a homer over the 375 mark with Jimmy Gay and George on base to bring the Vikings within one, 5-4.

However, the Bulldogs widened the margin once again by scoring two runs in the third on three consecutive singles wrapped around a walk, and Suwannee led 7-4.

Eason scored the fifth Viking run in the third. He reached on a single, advanced to third on two Bulldog errors, and scored on a groundout to short by Gay.

The Vikings will host Tift County tonight at 7 p.m.

Suwannee.....412 000 00 — 7 — 4
Lowndes.....131 000 21 — 6 — 8
Roberts, Bonds (7) and Medina; Brunson (W, 1), and Culppepper, HR. — Culppepper (L), George (L), 2B. — Roberts (S), Wood (S), Cooper (L), Brunson (L).

Berrien Rolls By Wildcats

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The 9-1 Berrien County High Rebels travelled to Valdosta High to play the 6-3 Wildcats in a baseball game at Wright Bazemore field Saturday afternoon, and wouldn't you know it—a football score broke out on the scoreboard in left field.

The Wildcats were seeking revenge for 7-0 and 7-4 losses to the Rebels earlier this season. What transpired under a hot April sun had to be seen to be believed.

In a nutshell, Valdosta jumped out to a 5-0 lead, fell behind 10-5, pulled to within 10-7, fell behind 16-7, and then tied it up 16-16 in the bottom of the seventh inning on pinch-hitter Joey Tippett's two-out, two-run chop over the Rebel first baseman's glove. But Berrien then utilized a perfect hit-and-run to break open a six-run eighth to close out the home team 22-16.

Valdosta capitalized on catcher Trevor Nance's double of the left-center field fence, a walk, and four wild pitches to score two runs in the first inning. In the second they put together singles by Joey Crosby and Art Bass with three Rebel errors to produce three more runs for the 5-0 lead.

Another run had apparently scored when Walt Gill's two-out base hit drove in shortstop B.J. Mason from second base. But the umpires ruled that Mason had failed to touch the base in his haste to round third and score. That run would come back to haunt them later. Much later.

After being held hitless over the first two innings by Wildcat starter Gill, Berrian County erupted like Krakatoa in the third. William Forehand, who caught the entire three-and-a-half hour



Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Berrien's William Forehand Seals Second As Valdosta's Art Bass Snags A High Throw

game for the Rebels, began the uprising with a single. He stole second as the next batter struck out. Ray Garner then lifted a major league popup in the infield which the wind caught on the way down, blowing it away from the Wildcat camped under it.

There followed four singles, a double, and four errors to push across eight runs. Garner then stepped to the plate. Gill fed him a fastball on the outside corner of the plate, but the 6-foot-2, 260-pound third baseman reached out and stroked it over the right field fence to make the score 10-5.

Valdosta came back with two in the bottom of the third without the benefit of a hit. Three walks, a hit batsman, and an error brought the score to 10-7.

Berrien came back with two in the top of the fourth on an error and Rebel starter Scott Griner's blast over the

left field fence. Then in the fifth they put together a walk, an error, Scott Purvis' single, and back-to-back doubles by Stacey Griffin and Jason Hamill for four more runs to make it 16-7 in favor of the visitors.

But with Bazemore himself at the park watching the game, the Wildcats made an inspiring comeback. First baseman Mike Tolbert led off the fifth with a home run off the green wall in straightaway center field. Five singles, two walks, and a wild pitch bunched around a double play scored five more runs for a 16-13 game.

Then with Ralph Guarino holding the Rebels scoreless in the sixth and seventh innings, the Cats tied it up. Gill's sacrifice fly scored Mason in the sixth, and then with their backs to the wall against Garner, Berrien's ace who had entered the game in the fifth, Valdosta scratched their way back into

it.

With two down, Tolbert reached on an error, and Bass hit a high chop over third. Tippett then came in off the bench to pinch-hit for Guarino, and, with a 3-2 count and the game hanging in the balance, the Wildcat senior bounced the ball over the head of the Rebel first baseman. It then took a bad bounce and caromed off the rightfielder's hip, allowing Bass to score all the way from first to tie the game.

Hamill's hit-and-run punch through the shortstop hole which he delivered after squaring around to bunt allowed Stacey Griffin to go from first to third after leading off the eighth with a walk. Griffin scored on Griner's subsequent hit.

Berrien Co. (10) 240 04-22 17 7
Valdosta (5) 332 061 20-16 14 8
Griner, Garner (5) and Forehand; Gill, Crosby (3), Guarino (6), Bellu (8) and Nance; Gill, 28 - Forehand, Griffin, Hamill, Nance; HR - Garner, Griner, Tolbert.

Staff Reports

Receives Scholarship

Valdosta High School senior Melanie Seals has received a \$50,000 Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) scholarship to Auburn University.

Miss Seals, 18, will enter the Navy after college graduation and plans a service career, she said.

The daughter of Monica Seals and Air Force Maj. Daniel Seals, Miss Seals said her fathers' military career inspired her to pursue a service career as well.

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor Larry Cupp of Valdosta High School recommended her for the four-year scholarship.

She has received leadership medals from the Retired Officers Association and the Daughters of the American Revolution and an academic achievement medal from JROTC.

An honors cadet, Miss Seals stepped quickly up the ranks during her four-year involvement in JROTC and as Cadet Lieutenant Commander she has command of about 100 students who make up her JROTC unit. Her rank is equivalent to a major in the Navy.

Miss Seals expects to graduate with honors this year. She is a National Merit Scholar and was cited for meritorious service for her involvement in JROTC.



MELANIE SEALS
Plans Navy Career

UDT 4-5-86



MISS V.H.S. BEAUTY PAGEANT

April 19 1986 8:00p.m.

Mathis City Auditorium

Tickets \$2.00 Advance \$3.00 At The Door
Sponsored by the Valdosta High School Junior Class



Students Win At FBLA Conference

By Frankie Keeling
 Eighteen FBLA members and advisors from Valdosta High School attended the Georgia FBLA State Leadership Conference at the Atlanta Hilton April 17-20.
 Frankie Keeling, Region II Vice President and Valdosta High Chapter Reporter, presided over the Region II elections and participated in programs for general sessions and the Awards

Banquet.
 Winners from VHS included: Kimberly Rowe, Office Procedures, 4th place; Frankie Keeling, Who's Who in FBLA; Maxine Martin, Advisor of the Year; Valdosta High School, Business Advocacy, 5th place; Valdosta High School, Region II Annual Business Report, 2nd place.
 Other members attending and their events included: Randy Bell, Public

Speaking; Tina Johns, Data Processing Concepts and Voting Delegate; Faylene Joyner, Entrepreneurship I; Desha Mobley, Member at Large; Debra Moody, Voting Delegate; Tracy McCray, Economics; David Peepls, Mr. FBLA; Misti Rowe, Voting Delegate; Debra Waters, Business Mathematics. Advisors attending were Maxine Martin and Barbara Edmondson.

But the Wildcats weren't finished. Shortstop Art Bass kept the rally alive by drawing a walk. Center fielder Mike Tolbert then grounded a single to right with Bass hustling around to just slide in under the throw at third.
 Still with none out, catcher Bill Kirby stepped to the plate and smashed another opposite field home run, to right field, to drive in three runs and make it a 10-7 Wildcat lead.

The Blue Devils tied it up in their last chance in the top of the seventh. With one out, designated hitter Wade Manning hit a home run to right center. Russ Underwood and Rob Rowe followed with singles, and an error moved them up to second and third. Guy Belue was brought in to replace Wildcat starter Ralph Guarino on the mound.

A wild pitch scored another run, and Russell Hullett's long, deep fly ball to center, which Tolbert made a nice running one-handed catch on, scored the tying run.

Valdosta went down in order in the bottom of the seventh, and Tift failed to get a runner past first in the top of the eighth.

Joey Crosby, who had two hits and two walks in the game, opened the Wildcat eighth with a walk. Shaw then reached base on a fielder's choice.

Jason Crosby followed with a line single to left which eluded the charging left fielder and rolled all the way to the fence. The swift Shaw kept churning around the bases from first and scored standing up for the winning run.

Tift first baseman Lawton Bassett and Rowe had both smashed two-run homers in the first four innings for the visitors, and Hullett doubled twice and scored twice.

Valdosta, 19-4, will play Colquitt County for the region championship next week in a best-of-three series. The first game will be played in Moultrie Tuesday at 4:30. The series returns to Valdosta for a 2 p.m. game Thursday. A third game, if needed, will also be played Thursday.

Tift Co.	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
McLain, c	5	1	2	1	Mason, lf	5	1	2	1
Abbott, cf	5	0	0	0	Nance, 2b	5	0	1	0
Bilson, 2b	5	1	2	2	Joey Crosby, dh	3	1	2	1
Bassett, lb	4	1	3	2	Shaw, 1b	5	2	1	1
Neffles, ss	4	0	0	0	Jas. Crosby, 3b	5	1	4	1
Merritt, ph	1	0	0	0	Bass, ss	2	2	0	0
Manning, dh	3	1	2	1	Tolbert, cf	4	2	2	0
Chesnut, ph	1	0	1	0	Kirby, c	3	1	2	3
Underwood, p	3	2	2	0	Hardin, rf	3	1	1	1
Rowe, 3b	4	2	2	2	Talley, rf	1	0	0	0
Hullett, rf	2	2	2	1	Totals	37	16	9	8
Totals	37	16	9	8	Tift Co.	130	300	30	10
					Valdosta	130	640	610	11

'Cats Win Slugfest

UDT Times 5-2-86
By BLAIR DICKINSON
 Times Sports Writer

Perhaps Valdosta baseball coach Charles Tarpley summed up his team's ability best after his Wildcats' 11-10 victory over Tift County Thursday.
 "We've been hitting the ball real well all season, but our pitchers have really been struggling. In over 20 ballgames, we probably haven't had more than three or four real good pitching performances. But our hitting has carried us through."

In Thursday's Region 1-AAAA semifinal game against Tift County High, the visiting Blue Devils showed up in their hitting shoes and proceeded to jump out to a 7-4 lead after four innings.

But Valdosta opened the fifth inning with three consecutive home runs, a walk, a single, and another home run.

They still needed a one-out single and a Blue Devil error in the bottom of the eighth to defeat Tift after the Blue Devils had come back to tie the game in the top of the seventh.

Designated hitter Joey Crosby opened the fifth with an opposite field drive over the left-center field fence. First baseman Derek Shaw, who had three sterling defensive plays during the game, then slammed a 2-2 pitch off the big green wall in center field for a home run.

The crowd was still buzzing when the next batter, third baseman Jason Crosby, hit a high fly ball to the opposite field which looked fairly deep. The ball just kept rising, caught in a slight breeze, and cleared the right field fence for three consecutive home runs.

Students Attend Oratorical Competition

By Pam Gulley
 Twenty-nine foreign language students left Valdosta Saturday morning to compete in the Georgia Southern Foreign Language Oratorical Competition. They were accompanied by French teachers Sharron Gandy and Gerl Keith and Spanish teachers Elsie Nicholas and Patty Smitherman. Their dedication was rewarded when 20 students placed in the competition.

All students exhibited enthusiasm as can be testified to by the bus driver Carolyn Sirmans.

Participants included Stephen Brown (1), Greg Leong (1), Fran Fargason (1), Debbie Bailey (1), Pam Gulley (2), Deanne Young (2), Angela Alexander (2), Brooke Price (2), Suzanne Grant (3), Rosalyn Thompson, Mike Rominger, and Truett Wakefield in French. Participants in Spanish in-

cluded Stephen Brown (1), Andy Anderson (1), Khatonia Otey (1), Evelyn Murillo (1), Christine Buel (1), Kevin Eliot (2), Kevin Breeden (3), Jennifer Guest (3), Laura McMillian (3), Kelly Shelton (3), Jason Yost (3), Teresa Moore, Michele Bolton, Paul-Lauer, Chad Hodge, and Meredith Hall. Luz Maria Zea and Diana Acero, native Columbians attending VHS this year, also joined the trip to aid the Spanish students.

Louis Gonis Recipient Of Merit Scholarship

From Staff Reports
 Louis Gonis of Valdosta High School has been named among the 1,800 students across the nation to receive \$2,000 National Merit Scholarships.
 Gonis is valedictorian this year at

VHS and was named the school's star student as well.
 He is a member of the school beta club, key club, math team, wrestling team, and was named most outstanding math student, most outstanding

science student and most outstanding english student for three years in each subject.

His scholarship is sponsored by the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc.

Gonis was selected by a committee of college admissions officers and secondary school counselors from a group of about 13,500 finalists.

School records, leadership qualities, personal attributes, test scores, and contributions to the community were all considered in the evaluation process that brought Gonis distinction as a National Merit Scholar.

Future Homemakers Of America Attend The April Atlanta Meeting

LeAnn Hendrix, Melanie Meeks, and Deshonda Merrell and their adviser, Mrs. Karen Zahniser represented Valdosta High Chapter of Future Homemakers of America at the state FHA meeting in Atlanta on April 25-27. Over 1,200 delegates from the state of Georgia were in attendance.

The keynote speaker of the opening session was Mr. Michael Broome, President of "Tomorrow's America Enterprises", who presented a mixture of humor and information as motivation for goal setting, taking pride in accomplishments, and developing self-confidence.

Sergeant Major Visits With Valdosta High Students

By C/CPO Robby Higdon
 On April 16, Sgt. Maj. Ashley Sewell visited the Valdosta High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. The Sergeant Major discussed his long 23-year career in the United States Marine Corps.
 Sgt. Maj. Sewell is currently serving as senior enlisted Marine of the

barracks at the Naval Weapons Station in Concord, California. He has also served as a PIDI (Parris Island Drill Instructor), a physical fitness for the Drill Instructor's School, also at Parris Island.
 Sgt. Maj. Sewell spent two tours in Vietnam, where he was shot down on two of the more than 520 combat

missions he flew as a helicopter machine gunner. The SGT MAJ has received numerous awards for his service, which include the Distinguished Flying Cross. Sgt. Maj. Sewell is the only enlisted Marine to have this award.
 The Seargeant Major is a native Valdostan, where he enlisted in 1962.

Jay Connell Accepted For Baylor Debate Workshop

By Jennifer Guests
 Jay Connell, a rising sophomore on the Valdosta High debate team, has been accepted at the Baylor University summer debate workshop. During the

two-week session he will study in depth the national high school debate topic on agriculture policy in the U.S. Under the supervision of college debate coaches and college debaters he will be in-

Teresa Moore Attends Total Immersion Spanish Camp

By Jennifer Guests
 The VHS Foreign Language Club sponsored senior Teresa Moore to the Total Immersion Spanish Camp, April 25-27, which is sponsored by the Spanish teachers of Georgia, members

of AATSP. 30 students from Georgia attended the session at Camp John Hope in Perry, Ga. The students and leaders were required to speak only Spanish for the entire weekend. Activities included Hispanic dances, cooking, art, drama, conversation, and writing. Teresa won first place in the writing competition. Miss Moore has also been selected as one of five finalists for a Georgia Teachers' Scholarship.

Valdosta Ties Thomasville

From Staff Reports
 The Valdosta Soccer Club tied the Thomasville Soccer Club 3-3 yesterday in a game at Valdosta High School. John Iverson scored two goals, and Todd Peterson added one for the home team.
 The Valdosta club's next game is next Saturday at 12:00 here at the high school against Deerfield-Windsor. Their season's record now stands at 5-1-2.

Belue Cools Off Vikings With Three-Hit Shutout

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

What promised to be a dramatic confrontation between two Region 1-AAAA South powers proved to be everything but dramatic Friday afternoon as Valdosta shut out the Lowndes Vikings 7-0.

Before a crowd of approximately 437 onlookers, Valdosta's Guy Belue confused the Viking batters with a barrage of off-speed pitches, going the distance to improve to 4-2 on the year.

Belue nibbled at the corners of the plate, striking out eight batters, walking only three and giving up just three hits. He held the top third of the Viking lineup hitless.

"He pitched a great game," said Viking coach Noel George. "It looks like his strategy was not to throw fastballs and keep near the strike zone. He let us make the mistakes. He just had our number."

And Belue had plenty of help in the field. Valdosta made no errors and just one fielding mistake and that came in the form of a dropped third strike by catcher Walt Gill that allowed Lowndes' lead-off batter Roger

Culpepper to reach to open the game. Gill erased his error by throwing Culpepper out in an attempted steal later that inning.

Another crucial defensive play for Valdosta came in the fourth with the 'Cats leading 4-0. With no outs, Viking center fielder Chuck Cooper and starting pitcher Vincent Brunson had back-to-back singles to put runners on first and second. But first baseman Jimmy Gay grounded to VHS second baseman Trevor Nance, who flipped the ball to shortstop Art Bass for the force at second and then threw to first as Derek Shaw made a leaping catch and put the tag on Gay to complete the double play.

"That double play was a big play," said Wildcat coach Charles Farpley. "It was our first all year. I thought we played good in the field. Jason Crosby played a well at third and made a couple good plays."

Lowndes played a shaky game in the field. One Viking error, a passed ball, and two Valdosta hits aided the Wildcats in scoring four unearned runs in the bottom of the first.

Wildcat best in the triple jump was a 44-10 mark performed 14 year ago by Skip Beck, who went on to join the track team at Georgia Tech.

Bell also holds the school record in the 120-high at 14.32 seconds. His 14.8 Tuesday was off that mark, but it was the first meet of the season. In the 330-intermediates, Bell is attempting to fill the void left by the graduation of Derek Folsom, who holds the school record in the event 38.4 seconds. Bell's personal best is not far off that mark at 39.0.

He is a third-year letterman on the track team and also played football for Valdosta, catching four passes in a 10-0 victory over Thomasville last season. And it is hard to overlook his score of 1130 on the national SAT examination. Wildcat coach Freddy Waters will be counting heavily on the leadership of

Bell and his other seniors on the squad, sprinters Hosea Heard and Mark Baker, and weight man Johnny Crook. Those four, along with Adolphus Kimmons, make up the heart of the squad which suffers from a great deal of inexperience in the distance running events and in field events like the pole vault and high jump.

Heard, also a three-year letterman, is another cornerstone of the team. His 9.8 seconds in the 100 won at Tuesday's meet. He also placed second in the long jump. But his best event may be the 220-yard dash. He qualified for the state meet in the event last season, and his best of 22.2 is less than a second off the Valdosta school record of 21.3 seconds.

Heard serves as the anchorman on the 440- and mile-relay teams, and they are two teams which will surely draw

Gill rapped a single to left that scored Mason; Gill and Nance advanced on the same play as Viking left fielder Bill Spell let the ball get by him.

Shaw made the first 'Cat out popping to short. Crosby grounded out to short, knocking in Nance. Joey Crosby walked, stole second and scored along with Gill on a Bass single to account for the fourth run.

Valdosta scored one in the fifth when Mason doubled, reached third on a passed ball, and scored on a Gill single. In the sixth, Valdosta scored its final two runs. Bass singled, right fielder Joey Tippett walked and pinch hitter Mike Tolbert struck out for the first out. Bass and Tippett then pulled off a double steal, and Bass came home on an error by Viking second baseman Allen George and Nance grounded out to short driving home Tippett.

Brunson took the loss, seeing his record fall to 3-2. He gave up only four hits and 4 1/2 innings and was tagged with five of the runs, only one earned. Bryan Hagan finished up for Lowndes, going 1 1/2, allowing two unearned runs on two hits.

Sports



Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Lowndes' Alan White Is Tagged Out At Second By Valdosta's Trevor Nance

In all, Lowndes committed two errors, accounting for the six unearned Valdosta runs.

"I don't know what we were thinking off on our way over here," George said. "We certainly didn't come ready to play. We didn't play well in the field, we didn't hit the ball well. There wasn't anything we did very well."

Both teams are 9-4. Lowndes has the

rest of the weekend off while Valdosta will play host to Tift County today at 1 p.m.

Lowndes	ab r h bi	Valdosta	ab r h bi
Culpepper, c	3 0 0	Mason, lf	4 1 1 0
Hiers, rf	3 0 0	Nance, 2b	3 0 0 0
Eason, ss	3 0 0	Gill, c	3 0 2 2
Cooper, cf	2 0 1 0	Shaw, lb	4 0 0 0
Brunson, p	2 0 1 0	Ja. Crosby, 3b	3 0 1 1
Williams, ph	1 0 0 0	Jo. Crosby, dh	2 1 0 0
Gay, lb	3 0 1 0	Bass, ss	3 0 2 2
White, 3b	1 0 0 0	Tippett, rf	2 0 0 0

Spell, lf	2 0 0 0	Talley, cf	2 0 0 0
George, 2b	2 0 0 0	Tolbert, ph	1 0 0 0
Totals	22 0 3 0	Totals	27 7 6 0
Valdosta	400 012 X-7	Lowndes	400 012 X-7

E - Spell, White, George, DP - Valdosta 1, LOB - Valdosta 4, Valdosta 6, 2B - Mason, SB - Mason, Gill, Tippett, Bass, Crosby.	IP H R ER BB SO
Lowndes 4, Valdosta 6, 2B - Mason, SB - Mason, Gill, Tippett, Bass, Crosby.	4 1/2 4 5 1 2 3
Lowndes 4, Valdosta 6, 2B - Mason, SB - Mason, Gill, Tippett, Bass, Crosby.	1 1/2 2 2 1 2 2
Lowndes 4, Valdosta 6, 2B - Mason, SB - Mason, Gill, Tippett, Bass, Crosby.	3 0 0 3 8

year runners, and they had a tough time in Tifton," Waters said. "But they will improve over the course of the season. And our high jumper, Reginald Butler, is on the track team for the first time also. He can jump real well, but his form needs some work. He'll get better."

Two field events which are in capable hands are the discus and the shotput. Senior Johnny Crook placed third in the discus and fifth in the shotput at the region meet last year, and will be counted on heavily this spring to improve those performances.

"Johnny Crook is a real asset to the track team, especially in two areas where we might otherwise be weak," said assistant track coach Jerry Don Baker. "We'll be counting on him to get us a lot of points in those two events this spring and also to help some of our

younger weight men develop." The Wildcats have been hurt badly by a lack of meets thus far in the season. Dual meets with Waycross and Colquitt were cancelled for various reasons, as was a three-way meet which was to have included Albany and Lowndes.

They need those meets to develop experience for their younger track men like Butler and sprinters James Roberts and Hubert Davidson, both freshmen who nevertheless are pushing the seniors for their lanes in the sprints.

Valdosta has a string of first or second place finishes in 1-AAAA going back to their region championship in 1982. And Waters, who has been the head track coach since 1979, may just have the horses to make it three out of five.

'Cat Track Team Looks To Seniors For Leadership

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats will be defending their 1985 Region 1-AAAA championship this spring with many of the same faces that took them to the dance last year.

Leading the team and returning as the defending AAAAA state champion in the triple jump, senior Randy Bell excels in three different events for the Wildcats. In Tifton on Tuesday, he won the 330-intermediate hurdles and the 120-high hurdles in addition to the triple jump in a meet which included 1-AAAA rivals Westover and Tift County.

Bell's mark of 46-9 Tuesday bettered the mark of 45-6 with which he won the state title and set a new school record. Before Bell came along, the old

some notice before the season is over. The 440-relay team from Valdosta has been to the state meet each of the last two years with Heard on the squad.

The Wildcats won both relays in Tifton, and may be favored to win both in every meet this season. Baker, who also placed in the long jump Tuesday, will serve as the lead-off runner before giving way to Kimmons, Bell, and Heard.

The two relays and the total of five individual firsts by Bell and Heard represented Valdosta's total of seven first places at the Tifton meet, the most by any team. But the Wildcats only placed third behind Tift and Westover because they were shut out in the three distance events — the half-mile, the mile, and the two-mile. "Our distance runners are all first,"

Wildcats Blow By Tift Co.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The mixture of aluminum, wind and Ralph Guarino proved to be the right one for the Valdosta Wildcats Saturday afternoon. Valdosta's Derek Shaw lofted two homers out of windy Bazemore Field, Trevor Nance hit a solo homer, and Guarino pitched a two-hitter to lift the 'Cats to a 4-1 victory over the Tift County Blue Devils.

Guarino went the distance allowing one unearned run, striking out seven and walking only one for his second victory along with one save.

Two weeks ago, Guarino was pounded by Suwanee County, giving up four home runs before he was pulled. Since that time, Guarino has pitched 11 consecutive innings without allowing an earned run.

"I didn't pitch very well against Suwanee and I think my confidence is finally coming back," Guarino said. "I took a little off my pitches today and it worked pretty well. My teammates helped by hitting the ball."

"Guarino did a good job for us," said Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley. "He got shelled at Live Oak, but since then he's pitched 11 straight innings and allowed only one run, and that was unearned."

Against Colquitt County, Guarino pitched two scoreless innings, coming in to get Valdosta out of a no-out, bases-loaded jam. He also hurled two scoreless innings against Berrien County and might have gone more if Tarpley wasn't forced to put in a pinch hitter.

The 'Cats scored their first two runs in the initial inning. With Walt Gill on base, Shaw popped a homer over the right-center field fence to give Valdosta a 2-0 lead. Shaw added a second homer, this one a solo shot, in the third inning. Nance homered in the Valdosta fifth to account for Valdosta's four runs.

With a stiff wind blowing straight out, Bazemore Field was an opportune place to be for any home run hitter. Shaw's first shot would have been out under any conditions. But his second shot and Nance's homer were both hit high into a favorable wind that pushed them out.

"This field is always windy in the spring," Tarpley said. "When it was built we knew it was windy out here

Altman, Hatcher Low Scorers

Wildcat Golf Team Successful

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Listening to Jack Rudolph, the unsuspecting reader might come to the conclusion that there's not much involved in being the golf coach at Valdosta High.

"I think coach is the wrong label to give me," Rudolph said. "A golf coach is more like a manager. My responsibility is to buy the equipment, schedule the matches, drive the kids there and back, and feed them when we're done."

Rudolph, in his 11th year coaching the team, takes little responsibility for his team's success.

"When the kids are out there on the course, they're pretty much on their own."

False modesty? Maybe.

This year's VHS team stands 3-0 in dual matches. And the Wildcats also have a tournament trophy under their belts, claiming the Tifton Invitational Tournament, which involved 18 teams from around south Georgia. Today, the 'Cats will have the chance to improve to 4-0 when they play host to Central at 4 p.m. at the Valdosta Country Club.

Leading the 'Cats from flag to flag will be Walter Altman. Altman has been shooting consistently in the 70's, and it is that consistency that has Rudolph pleased.

"I encourage the kids to play every day," Rudolph said. "Golf's the kind of game where you really have to hone down your skills. You can shoot in the 60's one day and in the 80's the next.

It's being consistent that makes a good high school golfer."

Todd Hatcher is Rudolph's No. 2 man, also shooting in the 70's. Coleman Rudolph, the coach's son, is also usually in the 70's. Earl Sellars is ranked No. 4 by Rudolph.

But Rudolph has a problem when it actually comes to averaging scores. Stricter rules have been instituted that demand a student be present in school whenever possible, and students are not supposed to leave school early unless it's absolutely necessary. This

tightening of attendance has put a burden on all of the spring sports. Baseball teams have to limit their travels during the week, particularly if the site for that afternoon's game has no lights. Baseball can't be played in the dark. And golfers can't putt in the dark.

"We've been playing nine-hole or 14-hole matches, whatever we can get in," Rudolph said. "It's pretty hard to play 18 holes when you don't start until 4 p.m."

So the averages are makeshift, but still fairly accurate.

Other members of the golf team are Ross Smith, Mike McBride, Chris Buescher, David Shadrick, Paul Rainey, and Dean Studdard.

Of these players, only six can compete in a match, and only the four best out of the six are scored. The competition for a starting spot can be pretty fierce.

But this competition makes each

player a better golfer. This team also has the benefit of more experience than a lot of high school teams in the past. Three years ago, a team was started at the junior high. After the regular season is over, Rudolph will take his youngsters out on the links to play in a few matches of their own to give them some experience before reaching high school.

"I think it help the kids a lot," Rudolph said. "They get a taste of what it's going to be like, and they learn to play on other courses. And that's when you really learn to play — when you play on a course you're not familiar with."

This year's team is one of the better ones that Rudolph has seen in a number of years. Part of that may be due to the junior high program, but Rudolph credited much of the success to how much students play at the local clubs.

"The kids are better if they get involved at one of the golf clubs around here," Rudolph said. "In the summer there are a lot of tournaments for them to play in and if they're active, they will get a lot better. It's usually during the summer that a kid really learns to play."

During the summer, Rudolph may also be found at Valdosta Country Club — sitting in the shade sipping iced tea and just relaxing.

"I'm not a golfer," Rudolph said. "I've got one in my family and that's enough."

Lady 'Cats Victorious

THOMASVILLE — Valdosta's Lady Wildcats took four singles matches and two doubles matches from Thomasville's Lady Bulldogs to bring home a 6-3 win. Kristy Stabell, Terri Longieliere, and Margaret Anne Sineath all won their singles matches in straight sets while Wendy Griffin outlasted her opponent in three. Griffin and Sineath then won their doubles match in three sets to clinch the victory.

The Lady Wildcats take on Colquitt County Tuesday.

Singles — Stabell (V) d. Smith 6-1, 6-1; Griffin (V) d. Heivilin 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2; Longieliere (V) d. Deas 6-3, 6-3; Arnold (T) d. Brooks 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Sineath (V) d. Welch 6-4, 6-3; Brown (T) d. Hampton 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2.

Doubles — Smith-Heivilin (T) d. Longieliere-Brooks 6-2, 6-2; Griffin-Sineath (V) d. Deas-Welch 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; Barrett-Moritz (V) won by forfeit.

...Wildcats

Continued From Page 1-C

and we were hoping that if the kids could get the ball up, they could get it out. Now kids are bigger and stronger and they swing aluminum bats."

Even Tift came close to taking advantage of the wind. In the seventh Lawton Bassett hit a high fly that pushed right fielder Fran Martin all the way to the fence before he could get a handle on the ball.

The Blue Devils' only score came in the second. Shortstop Alan Nettles reached on a fielder's choice, stole second, and came home when VHS shortstop Art Bass missed a routine pop fly in short left.

Tift right fielder Scott Shurling was responsible for both hits off Guarino. In the second inning he singled and tried to stretch it to a double but was thrown out on a good relay toss from Bass to Nance.

Shaw was the obvious batting hero for the 10-4 'Cats, going 2-for-3 from the plate with his pair of homers and three runs batted in.

Valdosta will play at 4:15 Tuesday at Central-Thomasville.

Tift Co.	ab	r	h	b	i	Valdosta	ab	r	h	b	i
McLain, c	2	0	0	0	0	Mason, lf	3	0	1	0	0
Rowe, 3b	3	0	0	0	0	Martin, rf	1	0	0	0	0
Abbott, cf	3	0	0	0	0	Nance, 2b	3	1	1	1	1
Bilson, 2b	2	0	0	0	0	Gill, cf, lf	3	1	0	0	0
Bassett, 1b	3	0	0	0	0	Shaw, 1b	3	2	2	3	3
Shurling, rf	3	0	2	0	0	Ja. Crosby, dh	3	0	1	0	0
Henderson, dh	2	0	0	0	0	Tolbert, rf	2	0	1	0	0
Nettles, ss	2	1	0	0	0	Bass, ss	3	0	1	0	0
Davis, lf	2	0	0	0	0	Perry, 3b	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	22	1	2	0	0	Harden, ph	1	0	0	0	0
						Kirby, c	2	0	1	0	0
						Jo. Crosby, ph	1	0	0	0	0
						Totals	27	4	8	4	4

Tift Co.001 000 0-1
Valdosta201 010 x-4
E — Bass, Perry 2, Nettles, DP — Valdosta 1, LOB — Tift Co. 2, Valdosta 6, 2B — Kirby, HR — Shaw 2, Nance, SB — McLain 2, Nettles, Henderson, Gill, S — Bilson.

Tift Co.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Underwood (L)	6	8	4	4	1	4
Guarino (W, 2-0)	7	2	1	0	1	7

T — 1:18. A — 150.

Girls' Tennis

Colquitt County 7, Valdosta 2 — The Wildcats picked up victories at No. 6 singles and No. 3 doubles.

Margaret Anne Sineath was a winner in singles, beating Susan Clark, 6-2, 6-0; while Shannon Harris and Terri Longielier teamed to win at No. 3 doubles.

Valdosta will face Central-Thomasville and Westover in Albany Saturday.

at Valdosta
Singles — Layfield (CC) d. Stabell, 6-1, 6-1; McClendon (CC) d. Griffin, 7-5, 6-0; Brook (CC) d. Harris, 6-0, 6-2; Dean (CC) d. Longieliere, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5; Dengall (CC) d. Brooks, 6-1, 6-4; Sineath (V) d. Clark, 6-2, 6-0.
Doubles — Layfield-Brock (CC) d. Brooks-Bartholomew, 6-0, 6-0; Dean-Dengall (CC) d. Griffin-Sineath, 6-4, 6-1; Harris-Longieliere (V) d. Clark-McKellar, 7-5, 6-1.

Spring Sports Roundup

Nance, Crosby Flex Muscle In Wildcats' 14-5 Victory Over Central

Baseball

Valdosta 14, Central-Thomasville 5
 — The Wildcats broke a 2-2 tie with three runs in the third inning and added four in the fourth and five in the fifth to cruise to the Region 1-AAAA South victory.

Derek Shaw, who was 3-for-3, helped break up the deadlock with a two-run double in the third. Walt Gill was 4-for-4 with a two-run double in the fifth. Jason Crosby and Trevor Nance each had homers for the Wildcats.

Guy Belue was the winner, improving his record to 5-2.

David Wilson, who took the loss for the Yellow Jackets, hit a pair of two-run homers for Central.

at Thomasville	
Valdosta	303 450 0-14 17 1
Central	201 200 0-5 6 3
Belue (W, 52)	Crosby (4), Guarino (6) and Kirby (4)
Wilson (W)	Dav. Wilson (5) and Greene (HR — Crosby (V), Nance (V), Dav. Wilson (2 CT), 2B — Gill (V), Shaw (V).

Clinch County 16, Broxton 6 — The Panthers erupted for 12 runs in the seventh inning to rally for the victory.

Broxton had scored five runs in

the third for a 5-2 lead and increased the lead to 6-4 with a single run in the fifth.

But Clinch, which was held to just two hits in the first six innings, broke the game open in the seventh. After a single, walk, and hit batsman to open the seventh, Broxton changed pitchers. The change, however, didn't help as the reliever walked four consecutive batters to give Clinch an 8-6 lead.

With the bases still loaded, John Muse ripped a three-run double.

Trey Bass came on to pitch in the fifth inning and got the victory, his third in four decisions.

Clinch, 7-3-2, will play host to Coffee County today at 4:30 and then travels to Atkinson County for a Thursday game.

at Broxton	
Clinch	200 020 (12) — 16 6 5
Broxton	010 005 (10) — 0 0 0
Bridges, Cooper (3), Bass (3) and Machin; Threath, Christian (7) and Carmichael (2B — Muse (CC).	

Boys' Track

Valdosta 116, Cook 56, Colquitt

County 33, Berrien County 19 — The Wildcats claimed first place in 12 of the 15 events to cruise to the four-way victory.

Hosea Heard and Kandy Bell each won three events while Johnny Crook was first in two. Heard and Bell were both on the winning 440-yard relay team and the winning mile relay team.

Reginald Butler and Adolphus Kimmons took the other firsts for Valdosta.

Hubert Davidson was second in two events for Valdosta.

Cook had two firsts while Colquitt had the other. Berrien's highest finish was one second place.

at Valdosta	
Shot Put — Crook (V) 41.7, Walker (CC), Smith (C), Walton (C), Johnson (B); Discus — Cook (V) 127.2/2, Walton (C), Thomas (CC), Walker (CC), Jennett (C); High Jump — R. Butler (V) 5.6, Harper (B); Fuller (B); 100 fourth or fifth; Long Jump — Heard (V) 19.9, Baker (V), Parpome (CC), Tippens (C), Brown (CC), Triple Jump — R. Bell (V) 44.6, Tippens (C), Baker (V), Allen (C), Parpome (CC); 440-yard Relay — Valdosta (Baker, Kimmons, R. Bell, Heard) 41.52, Valdosta; Cook, Mile Run — Daniels (CC) 5:10.56, D. Jackson (C), Motes (V), Smith (C), R. Butler (V); 400-yard Dash — Kimmons (V) 53.72, B. Jackson (C), Slaughter (V), Hakeem (CC), Loft (B); 100-yard Dash —	

Heard (V) 10.0, Baker (V), Brown (CC), Roberts (V), Jackson (CC); 110-yard High Hurdles — R. Bell (V) 15.13, Davidson (V), Harper (B); no fourth or fifth; 800-yard Run — Woods (C) 2:15.41, J. Bell (V), Crider (V), Fuller (B), Smith (C); 200-yard Dash — Heard (V) 23.89, Kimmons (V), Brown (CC), Roberts (V), Crawford (C); 300-yard High Hurdles — R. Bell (V), 45.45, Davidson (V), Meele (C), Harper (B); no fifth; Two-mile Run — D. Jackson (C) 11:21.6, Daniels (CC), Jordan (B), Bizell (C), Mack (C); Mile Relay — Valdosta (Kimmons, R. Bell, Heard, Baker), Cook, Valdosta.

Girls' Track

Valdosta 72, Cook 34 — The Lady Wildcats came within one event of sweeping the running events while Cook won three of the four field events.

Valdosta piled up most of its points by winning nine events and placing second in six.

Susie Jones took a pair of firsts for Valdosta, winning the mile and two-mile runs. Rita Barnett won the 220-yard dash and was on the winning 440-yard and mile relay teams while Eddie-Crumpton was on both relay teams, won the 100-yard dash and was third in the 220-yard dash.

The Lady Wildcats are 9-1 overall.

at Valdosta	
Shot Put — Williams (C) distance unavailable, Morris (C), Thomas (V); Discus — Hart (C) 92.4/4, Morris (C),	

Valdosta Completes Schedule With Fulton

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY

Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcats have picked up their 10th football game for the 1986 season, according to Wildcat coach Nick Hyder.

Valdosta, which had been searching for its final game for several months, will play Fulton of Atlanta. But unlike most series, both games will be played in Valdosta. Because the schools will not go home and home in the series, Valdosta will have five home games in 1986 and six home games in 1987.

"I'm tickled to death to get the game," Hyder said. "We were starting to get disparate and I was glad to get anybody. We were considering playing the Valdosta State freshmen if we couldn't get a 10th game, but we're not

set up for that type of thing."

The Wildcats will open the season Sept. 5 at home against LaGrange. On Sept. 13, Valdosta will play host to Fulton. Then comes three consecutive games on the road — Sept. 19 against Waycross, Sept. 26 against Leon, and Oct. 3 against Tift County.

Valdosta then returns to Cleveland Field against Dougherty on Oct. 10 and Westover on Oct. 17. The Wildcats will play at Colquitt County Oct. 24. After an open date on Oct. 31, Valdosta travels to Monroe on Saturday, Nov. 8 and concludes the schedule at home against Lowndes on Nov. 14.

The Leon game will be played at Florida State's Doak-Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla. Fulton, a member of Region 6-AAA,

opened last season by losing to Clarke Central, 28-0. But then came six victories in their next seven outings.

"Fulton is one of the old traditional high schools," Hyder said.

"With LaGrange and Leon and Fulton, we've got three schools brand new to us. For them, we lost Thomasville, Central-Thomasville, and Bainbridge. All the games are tough for us. The three we added are good football schools. Of course, Leon has national recognition and LaGrange will probably be the top-rated school in the state in Class AAAA when the poll comes out. Fulton's coach has one of the top reputations in the state and is certainly one of the top schools in the Atlanta area."

Although the Wildcats lost three

games that are relatively close to home, Hyder feels the additions will give Valdosta good state-wide attention.

"I can't say these games will be tougher than playing Central, Thomasville, and Bainbridge," Hyder said. "But Fulton is coming here and Tallahassee is no further away than Albany. Next year we'll go to LaGrange and that will be a difference there."

"But these games should be good inter-sectional rivalries. They could draw more attention to us on a state-wide level. It doesn't matter if we're going there or they're coming here, it'll still draw more attention than playing teams closer to us."

Thomas (V); High Jump — Quick (C) 4.8, Williams (V), no third; Long Jump — Chandler (V) 15-2/4, Quick (C), Graham (V); 440-yard Relay — Valdosta (Barnett, Crumpton, Hartzog, Graham) 56.50, no second; Mile Run — Jones (V) 6:27.0, Doug (V), Boliame (C); 440-yard Dash — Barnett (V) 1:36.0, Chandler (V), Seige (C); 100-yard Dash — Crumpton (V) 12.36, Gee (V), Morris (C); 110-yard High Hurdles — Quick (C) 18.11, Hartzog (V), no third; 800-yard Run — Quarterman (V) 2:50.0, Doug (V), Jackson (C); 200-yard Dash — Barnett (V) 28.93, Morris (C), Crumpton (V); Two-mile Run — Jones (V) 14:06.0, Roland (C), no third; Mile Relay — Valdosta (Barnett, Crumpton, Hartzog, Chandler) 4:49.0, no second.



Miss VHS Runners-up

The runners-up in the Miss Valdosta High School competition are from left, 1st, Leigh Dominey, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dominey; 2nd, Debra Talley, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Talley;

3rd, Robyn Rainwater, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rainwater; and 4th, Laura Smith, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Smith. Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

VDT-4-21-86



Miss Valdosta High School

Ms. Tracy Osborne, 17, was crowned Miss Valdosta High School in Saturday night's competition. The VHS junior is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin

Osborne. See Miss VHS runners-up photo, Page 2. — Times staff photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT-4-21-86

LHS-VHS Rematch Has Playoff Flavor

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The rivalry continues — and not just on the football field.

The Lowndes Vikings and the Valdosta Wildcats will tangle once again in a test of athletic prowess, this time on the baseball field Tuesday afternoon at Lowndes.

It is the second meeting of the two Region 1-AAAA South teams. They met two weeks ago at Bazemore field where the Wildcats romped to a 7-0 victory over the Vikings.

Valdosta pitcher Guy Belue mastered the Vikings, holding them to just three hits. The top third of the Lowndes lineup went 0-for-9. Six of Valdosta's seven runs were unearned.

Now both teams are sitting high in the standings and are eyeing the playoff picture with keen interest.

The top two teams from each subregion in Region 1-AAAA go to the regional playoffs. Right now, the

Wildcats hold the supregion lead at 4-0. Lowndes is second at 3-1. Bainbridge is third at 1-3 and Central-Thomasville is in the cellar at 0-4.

After the two square off, there will be only one remaining subregion game for each. On Friday, Lowndes travels to Bainbridge to take on the Bearcats, while Valdosta will play host to Central on Thursday.

Valdosta is guaranteed a playoff spot since they have an unblemished record with only two games remaining.

Lowndes is apparently in good shape, but the Vikings could get squeezed out if they lose both of their last two and the Bearcats win both of their games.

If Lowndes beat the Wildcats and Bainbridge and Valdosta falls to Central, then the Vikings will go into the playoffs as the subregion champions.

The two could also end up tied, in which case a tie-breaking system would be used to determine the subregion champion.

The region playoffs in baseball are done exactly as they are in football. The No. 1 team from the North plays the No. 2 team in the South and the No. 1 team in the South plays the No. 2 team in the North.

So winning the subregion gives a team a lot more than bragging rights. The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday April 28 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Much to the delight of Viking fans, the Valdosta-Lowndes game will be at Lowndes. The game, however, will not be played under the lights, as is the norm for the Vikings.

"He (VHS Coach Charles Tarpley) wouldn't play under the lights," said Lowndes coach Noel George. "They don't have lights at Valdosta and he felt it would be a disadvantage. I didn't want to push it."

George plans to start Dirk Harrell on the mound. Harrell has the best record on the Viking staff at 5-0. Tarpley plans to start Belue, with a 5-2 record.

Valdosta Area Runners Excel In Moultrie 10K

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Several runners from the Valdosta area turned in fine performances at Moultrie's Race Of The South 10K yesterday.

Jasper's Danny Daniels was the overall winner in the race with a time of 33:39 over the moderately hilly course through downtown Moultrie. Valdosta's Steve Plymale won the 35-39 age group, and Hahira's Carrie Huncutt took first place in the women's 20-29 division. First places were also won by Valdosta's Mark Tillman (13-18 boys) and Penny Tillman (40-49 Ladies).

Steady Gwen Roebuck from Jennings won the women's 50-and-over division, and Nashville's Dorian Osborne won the Men's 45-49 age group.

Finishing second from Valdosta were Wilson Lamboy in the Men's 25-29 division and Jeanne Royal (Ladies 30-39) who was participating in her first 10-kilometer race ever. The husband and wife team of Tom and Barbara Richards from Jasper, members of the Valdosta Track &

Fitness Club, each placed second in their respective divisions, Men's 45-49 and Ladies 40-49.

And a new member of the Valdosta Track & Fitness Club, Kerry Joe Smart who lives in Climax, Ga., placed second in the 19-24 age group with a time of 41:40.

The race was co-sponsored by the Moultrie YMCA and the Civitan Club. Just over 100 runners entered the 10-kilometer race, but there was a total of 231 children in the 2-kilometer fun run, making the event a raging success.

Colquitt County Junior High student was the top local female finisher in the 10-kilometer event with a time of 42:25, while Janice Hochstein from Tallahassee was the top female finisher overall in a clocking of 38:13. Mike Attebury was the top local men's finisher in a time of 41:18.

The Ninth Annual Rose City Run, a 10,000-meter event sponsored by the City of Thomasville, highlights the racing calendar in South Georgia next Saturday.

Football Notebook

Valdosta Names Supercats

From Staff, Wire Reports

On April 24th, the Valdosta High School football team took physical fitness tests to measure their strength, speed, endurance, and agility. A final mark combines scores on six different tests.

Scores of 175 or better are rewarded with the Supercat designation, and those athletes with scores between 150 and 175 are noted as members of the Champions Club.

The April 24th test yielded six members of the Supercat Club, with two-year starting receiver Charles Steward (190 points) and all-region defensive end Seabron Williams (188) at the top of the list.

Defensive back Reginald Dandy (183), senior defensive tackle Otis Conaway (178), sophomore running back James Roberts (177), and junior running back Bernard Hitson (175) were the other members of the squad to qualify as Supercats.

A final physical fitness test will be given this school year on May 26th.

Those making the Champions Club were: Walt Gill; Issac Ceasar; Jodie Sprengle; Michael Tolbert; Eddie Jones; Antonio Henderson; Steve French; Eric Larry; Herman Smith; Keith Henry; B.J. Mason; Greg Talley; Tommy Rainge; Andy An-

derson; Coronzo Greene; Chris Marable; Bill Kirby; Eric Prime; and John Wheelless.

VDT-4-20-86



Nolan Ryan Watches After Bob Horner Blasted A Homer

...High Schools

Continued From Page 8

off the left-center field fence in an early season game against Berrien County.

at Moultrie
Valdosta..... 103 113 0-9 9 1
Colquitt Co..... 000 310 0-4 5 1
Guerino (W, 40) and Kirby, Wiggins (L), Funderburke (4) and McCalpin, HR Josey, Crosby (V), Funderburke (CC); 3B—Mason (V), 2B—Nance (V).

at Tifton
Singles—Johnson (TC) d. Griffin, 6-1; Peady (TC) d. Harris, 6-0; Willett (TC) d. Longeliere, 6-1; Wright (TC) d. Bartholomew, 6-1; Eastman (TC) d. Brooks, 6-0; Kirpatrick (TC) d. Farley, 6-0; 6-0.
Doubles—Johnson-Willett (TC) d. Harris-Longeliere, 6-0; Peady-Wright (TC) d. Griffin-Farley, 6-2; 6-0; Kirpatrick-Eastman (TC) d. Bartholomew-Brooks, 6-0.

Coffee County 2, Berrien County 1

The Trojans scored two unearned runs in the second inning on a pair of walks and two Berrien errors, and the Rebels could manage only three hits and one run as they lost only their second game of the season.

Stacey Griffin doubled and scored on Scott Purvis' single in the bottom of the second for Berrien's only run.

"Their pitcher had a good changeup and a good curve and just kept us offstride all day," Rebel coach Bart Shuman said.

Berrien County's record now stands at 16-2, which includes nine consecutive wins in the subregion.

at Douglas
Coffee Co..... 070 000 0-2 4 0
Berrien Co..... 010 000 0-1 3 3
Lane (W) and Paulk; Griner (L) and Forehand, 2B—Griffin (BC).

Valdosta Blasts Colquitt Baseball

VDT 4-22-86

Valdosta 9, Colquitt County 4 — Ralph Guarino struck out eight batters and walked only three in pitching a complete game victory for the Wildcats over the Packers.

Joey Crosby led off the fourth inning with a home run, and Trevor Nance walked twice, stroked a two-run double, and scored three runs.

"Ralph only looked bad on one pitch," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "Their shortstop Funderburke hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning, but that pitch was up in his eyes, way out of the strike zone. He just ripped it."

Jason Crosby also had three hits for the winning Wildcats.

The walks were Nance's 25th and 26th of the season, and Tarpley realizes the value to his team of the 5-foot-8-second baseman.

"Trevor's great at getting on base. He's short and that helps get some of the walks, but he's real good about laying off bad pitches."

Nance is hitting around .400, but the diminutive second baseman is not just a singles hitter, having polled a home run last week and cracking two balls

See High Schools, Page 9

Belue Masters Blue Devils; Valdosta Wins 8-0

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — When Valdosta's Guy Belue opened the game by walking the first batter he faced, Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley was getting ready to make a pitching change.

And though Belue got into further trouble in the inning by giving up a one-out single that put runners on the corners, Tarpley stuck with his seasoned veteran.

Belue picked up the second out when Valdosta catcher Bill Kirby caught a Blue Devil trying to steal second and got out of the inning on an infield groundout.

From then on, it was downhill for Tift County as Belue held the Blue Devils in check and led Valdosta to an 8-0 victory in the opening round of the Region 1-AA tournament.

"The Lowndes game was the only other game this year Belue has given up less than five runs," Tarpley said. "After he walked the leadoff batter to start the game, I had Ralph Guarino

warming up. I couldn't afford to wait in this one. I was prepared to yank him quick today if that's what it needed."

Although Valdosta has been winning games with its hitting this season, Tarpley said he would have made the change early because Tift County has been winning with pitching and the Wildcats couldn't afford to fall behind.

Valdosta has also had very little success beating the Blue Devils, especially in Tifton.

But now Tift must sweep a doubleheader in Valdosta Thursday to advance to region final against the winner of the Lowndes-Colquitt County series.

"It's nice to beat them, especially up here," Tarpley said. "In four of the last five years, we've been eliminated in the region playoffs by Tift County. The last three years in a row they've sent us home.

"But we've still got to beat them again. And that won't be easy because we've always struggled against them.

Our series record with Tift County isn't even close. For some reason, we just can't seem to beat them."

But on Tuesday, Belue and the Valdosta offense had Tift's number. And for the first six innings, the Blue Devils countered with the pitching of Rob Rowe and backed him up with solid defense.

Although Valdosta scored one run in the second and two in the third, a pair of double plays kept the Wildcats in check.

Valdosta finally broke the game open with a five-run seventh inning.

B.J. Mason opened the inning with a walk and stole second. After two ground outs, Derek Shaw drew an intentional walk, his second of the game. The first intentional walk put runners on first and third and Jason Crosby, the next batter, grounded out to third.

This time Tift's strategy backfired as Crosby drilled a double into right-center to score Mason and Shaw. Art

Bass followed with a triple down the right-field line to score Crosby. Joey Crosby walked to put runners on the corners.

Crosby stole second and Bass scored on a delayed steal. Bill Kirby then singled up the middle to score Crosby and give Valdosta the huge lead.

"We've got to get all we can get," Tarpley said. "Their pitching staff doesn't walk that many and their defense makes plays that nobody else makes."

Belue put any thoughts of a rally to rest quickly as he put the Blue Devils down in order in the bottom of the inning.

But it wasn't the first time Belue had been masterful on the mound. The Blue Devils left just three base runners stranded for the game, and two of those were in the same inning.

Rowe and Scott Hullett started the sixth with back-to-back infield singles. After Brian McLain popped out to short, Bryce Abbott reached on a fielder's choice that had Rowe out at

third. A Belue wild pitch moved the runners into scoring position, but Belue struck out Kenny Bilson to end the threat.

Other than the first and sixth inning, the only inning Belue allowed a base runner was in the fourth when Abbott led off with a single. But Bilson grounded into a double play.

In addition to holding the Blue Devils to just four hits, Belue struck out seven and walked just one.

Valdosta, 18-4, took a 1-0 lead in the second inning when Jason Crosby reached on an error, went to second on a sacrifice bunt by Bass, and scored on a double by Joey Crosby.

In the third, Mason and Trevor Nance opened with walks. Gill hit into a double play that sent Mason to the short end and Shaw singled home. Shaw scored on a double by Jason Crosby.

Tarpley was glad to see the early runs, but felt better when the Wildcats put some insurance runs on the

scoreboard. "I'm worried about this series because they have some good pitchers," Tarpley said. "We've been winning with hitting this year and they've been winning with pitching. They've been getting some great pitching and they play great defense."

	ab	r	h	bi	Tift Co.	ab	r	h	bi	
Valdosta	22	0	0	0	McLain, c	2	0	0	0	012
Mason, lf	2	0	0	0	Abbott, cf	2	0	0	0	000
Nance, 2b	4	0	0	0	Bilson, 2b	3	0	1	0	310
Gill, cf	4	0	0	0	Bassett, lb	2	0	0	0	310
Shaw, 1b	4	1	2	3	Jones, ph	2	0	0	0	100
JaCrosby, 3b	0	1	0	0	Nettles, ss	1	0	0	0	2000
Mitchell, 3b	0	1	0	0	Henderson, ph	1	0	0	0	1000
Bass, ss	3	1	1	1	Manning, dh	2	0	0	0	2000
JaCrosby, dh	2	1	1	1	Davis, dh	1	0	0	0	1000
Kirby, 1b	4	0	1	1	Underwood, 3b	2	0	0	0	2010
Mason, pr	0	0	0	0	Rowe, p	2	0	0	0	2010
Harlin, rf	1	0	0	0	Hullett, rf	1	0	0	0	1010
Hullett, rf	1	0	0	0	Barratt, rh	1	0	0	0	1000
Totals	27	8	8	7	Totals	23	0	4	0	040

	012	000	5-	8
Tift Co.	000	000	000	0-0
E - Bilson, Bassett, DP - Tift Co. 2, Valdosta 1, LOB				
- Valdosta 7, Tift Co. 3, JB - JOCrosby, JaCrosby 2, JB -				
Bass, SB - Mason 2, Bass, JOCrosby, S - Bass,				
IP	HR	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta				
Belue (W, 8-2)	7	4	0	0
Tift Co.	7	8	8	7
Rowe (L, 5-3)				
WP - Belue, T - 1:32, A - 1:35.				

Valdosta Students Receive 5 Governor's Scholarships

Five Valdostans have been awarded Governor's Scholarships to study at various Georgia colleges.

Those receiving the scholarships included the following:

Anna L. Tomberlin will begin study at Agnes Scott College this fall. Miss Tomberlin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Tomberlin of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Bobby J. Murphine Jr. will begin study at Shorter College this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. Murphine Sr. of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of VHS.

William R. McCall will begin study at Georgia Institute of Technology this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph R. McCall of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of VHS.

Kevin A. Williams will begin study at Emory University this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams and is a 1987 graduate of Lowndes High School.

Timothy B. Starks will begin study at Mercer University this fall. He is the

son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Starks and is a 1987 graduate of LHS.

The scholarship was awarded to 321 outstanding high school seniors from across the state. Because the scholarship can only be used at Georgia colleges and universities, it also offers an incentive for exceptional students to continue their education in Georgia.

Selection for the highly competitive scholarships were based on academic performance, consistent school attendance and achievement test scores. Additional criteria included interscholastic participation, leadership and community involvement.

The Governor's Scholarship covers tuition costs up to \$1,344 per year for full-time study in Georgia. It may be renewed for an additional three years if students maintain acceptable grades.

Additional information about the scholarship may be obtained by contacting the Georgia Student Finance Authority, 2082 Exchange Place, Suite 200, Tucker, Ga. 30084 or by phoning 404/493-5402.

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER

Times Staff Writer

Contractors are busy getting two Valdosta schools ready for the return of students to campus on Sept. 2.

The shells of six new classrooms at W.G. Nunn Elementary school are completed and contractor Cauthan Construction Company, Inc. is now preparing their interiors for carpet, lights, and other fixtures.

Superintendent of Schools Walter Altman said Monday the project is on schedule and about 65 percent complete. Desks and other classroom materials are on order and should arrive well ahead of the students, he said.

Renovation of Lomax-Pinevale

campus is slightly ahead of schedule. Contractor Tom Hutchinson Construction Company, Inc. has until Aug. 15 to finish renovation of the facilities, some of which are about 30 years old, according to Altman.

He said the company is painting classrooms, installing new tile, ceilings and lights in the facilities this week. The project is about 70 percent complete, he said.

— Summer football camp will probably be held at Valdosta High School this year, according to Altman. The 4-H camp in Lake Park normally used is under renovation and will not be finished in time for football camp, he said.

— A single dress code was approved for both junior and senior high schools. This is the first year separate codes were not adopted by the board. Altman

Valdosta Schools Gearing Up For September Starting Date

said having just one code would simplify administration of the rules and would "get them (junior high schoolers) used to the senior high rules."

The code requires hair be neatly groomed; young men be clean shaven, except for sideburns which do not extend below the ear lobe, or a reasonable moustache; tapered shirts must be tucked in; gauchos, dress-like culottes, knickers, pedal pushers, long jumpsuits and jeans may be worn.

In part, the code does not allow for picks or combs worn in hair, non-prescription glasses, hair rolled in curlers, shorts, unbuckled belts, hats or caps inside building and skooter skirts nor see-through garments (underneath) or garments normally made for underclothing worn as outside apparel.

Valdosta Blisters Central

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats had their hitting shoes on Thursday, pounding out 17 hits in a 16-9 victory over subregion foe Central-Thomassville. Right-fielder Mike Tolbert's three-run homer, which capped a seven-run Wildcat uprising in the fourth inning, proved to be the game-winning hit.

Catcher Bill Kirby had led off the inning with a solo home run. Both shots were mammoth blasts which cleared the left-center and right-center field fences with 30-40 feet to spare.

Kirby also had a two-run double in a five-run first inning, and Tolbert added a run-scoring single in the sixth.

Shortstop Art Bass and first baseman Derek Shaw each garnered three hits in three at-bats and scored in two runs in the game. Bass knocked in two runs in the game, and the muscular Shaw added three RBI, hitting the fence with long drives twice in the game.

His blast to deep center field with the bases loaded preceded Tolbert's home run in the fourth, but the power-hitting Shaw got only a single on the play when it looked as though the Central center fielder had a chance to catch the ball. He later doubled to start the sixth inning rally.

Wildcat pitchers Jason Crosby and Walt Gill yielded only four hits to Yellow Jacket batters in the game, but two of them were home runs by clean-up hitter James Van Zant. The Central second baseman followed Doug Wilson's double with a home run to left-center field in the third inning.

And with none out in the fifth and the bases loaded, Van Zant sent a Gill fastball far over the right-center field fence for a grand slam and a total of

defeat Valdosta, putting the 'Cats' record at 6-4. But heading into the meat of their Region 1-AAAA South schedule, Valdosta was not to be dismayed. In a three-week span, Valdosta went 11-0 and the win yesterday over Central-Thomassville boosted VHS to 17-4 as well as an unblemished 6-0 subregion record to claim the subregion crown outright.

And what has Valdosta been doing so right these past three weeks. "We've just been hitting the ball," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "With the exception of one or two games, our pitching has not been great and our fielding has been bad at times, but we've really hit the ball well."

Wildcat Win Streak Now Stands At 11

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats picked the right time to get hot. Three weeks ago, the Berrien County Rebels came back in the sixth inning to

And what has Valdosta been doing so right these past three weeks. "We've just been hitting the ball," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "With the exception of one or two games, our pitching has not been great and our fielding has been bad at times, but we've really hit the ball well."

However Gill, who had hit a batter runs in his four innings. "I had come into the game planning to just pitch Crosby and Gill for four and three innings," Wildcat coach Charles Tarpley said. "(Guy) Belue made 170 pitches Tuesday night against Lowndes, and (Ralph) Guarino pitched seven innings Monday and one Tuesday, so I couldn't use either of

Center Fielder Greg Talley Attempts To Score As Throw Comes In To Todd Greene



Times staff photo by Paul Leavy

pitched well, allowing no other earned runs in his four innings. "We want to keep everybody rested and yet give all our pitchers some work in preparation for the playoffs."

Wilson (L), Smith (4) and Greene; Crosby, Gill (W), (4) and Kirby, 2B - Kirby (V), Mitchell (V), Shaw (V), Wilson (CT), HR - Kirby (V), Tolbert (V), Van Zant 2 (CT).

Now Stands At 11

Tarpley was complimentary of his team as a whole after the 16-9 bombing of Central. He also said that his assistant coaches Bob Bolton and Jimmy Taw. "Coach Taw's work fills an important role for us," Tarpley said. "He takes them hard with the boys during the fall when I have to coach football. He takes them again early in the spring and gets them ready for the season. Sometimes a lot of the players are busy playing football, but some years Jimmy's got his hands full."

Valdosta will face the second place finisher in Region 1-AAAA North, which at this point in time may be Trit County or Dougherty. Tarpley hopes some things change in the playoffs. "You can't give away nine or 10 runs against a good team and hope to win. Our pitching has to come around. Sure, we're hitting the ball, but that's probably going to come to a halt somewhere down the line and we'll need some help from the defense."

Ironically, Tarpley felt before the season started that his pitching may be a strength. Walt Gill, Belue, and Guarino all pitched last year. Tarpley expected to come back even stronger this year.

Colquitt Gets 7 Runs In 6th, Downs Valdosta 12-7 517186

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Being at the Region 1-AAAA baseball championships Tuesday was like sitting on the set of an Indiana Jones movie. You never knew what waited lurking around the next corner.

The game started a little rocky for Colquitt County before Valdosta rebounded and started taking advantage of Packer mistakes.

Then in the bottom of the seventh, the bottom fell out for the Wildcats as Colquitt rallied to score seven runs and claim a 12-7 victory in the first game of the best-of-three series.

The series now moves to Valdosta for a 2 p.m. game Thursday. If Valdosta wins that game, the third game will be played immediately following Game 2.

"We've got to beat them at our place in a doubleheader," Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley said. "If the kids do what they're capable of, we can. It'll be hard because we've got to beat that

kid (David Evans) and he's a good pitcher. When you get seven runs off him you're supposed to beat him. It's hard to win 2-out-of-3 when you give one away."

The Wildcats held a slim 7-5 lead going into the bottom of the sixth and the bottom of the Colquitt batting order coming to bat. Valdosta starter Guy Belue struck out the first batter. But then trouble arrived.

Belue walked the next two batters and a single by the ninth hitter loaded the bases. Belue, who had walked just one of the first 24 batters he faced, walked in a run to pull the Packers within one.

Ralph Guarino then replaced Belue on the mound and he gave up a sacrifice fly that tied the game. Stacy Middlebrooks singled to right and two runs scored when the ball got by Valdosta right fielder Joey Tippett. Back-to-back home runs by Muzzy Jackson and Sam Funderburk gave Evans a good cushion to work with

going into the last inning.

Evans responded by putting the Wildcats down in order.

"We got ahead against a good team with a good pitcher on the mound and the bottom just fell out," Tarpley said. "They went from the bottom of the order, Guarino came in and give up the two runs that tied the score. (Middlebrooks) swings way out and hits it over."

The Wildcats also had trouble fielding the ball, committing five errors, including three by the outfield.

"I've got three outfielders who played the last game who weren't here today," Tarpley said. "Greg Talley, Michael Tolbert, and Dirk Hardin played the last game; Talley's home sick, Tolbert's dad took him off the team and Dirk sprained an ankle. It was a base hit (the single that broke the tie), but if Talley was out there he might have gunned him down."

"But the three walks is what really killed us. We go into the bottom of the

sixth and they've got the bottom of the order and he walks three. I don't know what happened. He (Belue) hadn't gotten into what I would classify as his danger zone. He had only thrown 72 pitches going into that inning and he threw 150 pitches against Lowndes. I thought he could easily go the seventh inning. He always throws a lot of pitches."

Valdosta, which fell behind 4-0 in the first inning, scored one in the second when Jason Crosby doubled and scored on a double by Bill Kirby.

In the top of the fourth, the bottom fell out for Evans, who entered the game with a 1.21 ERA.

Art Bass opened with a double and Kirby walked. Tippett tried to advance the runners with a sacrifice, but Evans threw Bass out at third. B.J. Mason walked to load the bases and Trevor Nance doubled to score two runs. Walt Gill singled to score Mason, but Nance had to hold up at second to see if the ball was going to drop in.

Colquitt tried to pick Nance off at second, but Nance ended up stealing third on the play. A double steal scored Nance and put Gill on second. Derek Shaw singled and Crosby reached on an error that scored Gill. Joey Crosby then hit a sacrifice fly to score Shaw and give the Wildcats a 7-4 lead.

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Colquitt Co.	ab	r	h	bi
Mason, lf	3	1	0	0	Cooper, dh	3	3	2	1
Nance, 2b	4	1	1	2	Yost, lf	3	1	1	1
Gill, cf	4	1	1	1	Middlebrooks, cf	4	2	2	3
Shaw, 1b	4	1	1	0	Jackson, 1b	3	1	1	1
JaCrosby, 3b	4	1	1	1	Funderburk, ss	4	2	1	1
JoCrosby, dh	2	0	0	1	Akridge, rf	2	0	0	0
Bass, ss	4	0	1	0	Askew, rf	2	0	0	0
Kirby, c	2	1	1	1	McAldin, c	2	1	0	0
Tippett, rf	3	1	0	0	Strange, 3b	2	0	0	0
Totals	30	7	6	6	Wilds, 3b	0	1	0	0
					Hood, 2b	3	0	1	0
					Davis, 2b	0	1	0	0
					Totals	28	12	9	8

Valdosta.....010 600 0-7
Colquitt Co.....400 017 x-12
E — Jackson, McAldin, Hood 2, Gill 2, JaCrosby 2, Tippett. DP — Valdosta 1. LOB — Valdosta 6, Colquitt Co. 3. 2B — Nance, JaCrosby, Bass, Kirby, Yost. 3B — Middlebrooks. HR — Jackson, Funderburk. SB — Nance 2, Gill, JaCrosby, Cooper. SF — JoCrosby, Yost.

Valdosta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Belue (L, 8-3)	5 1/3	6	9	5	4	2
Guarino	2 2/3	2	3	3	0	0
Colquitt Co.						
Evans (W, 12-1)	7	6	7	6	3	7
WP — Belue. T — 2:02. A — 350.						

6-B The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., May 4, 1986

Liberty Bell Winner Is A Real Belle

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Bar Association's 1986 Liberty Bell Award winner Janeen Josey is also an award winning teacher, who should be used to receiving honors, but isn't.

"I just can't believe it," she said. "When they called to tell me about it, I said, 'What is the Liberty Bell Award?'"

For those like Mrs. Josey who don't know about the Liberty Bell Award, it's an award given annually by the bar association to the person who's made a significant contribution to the local legal structure and judicial system.

Mrs. Josey was chosen by the bar association to receive this year's award at the annual Law Day banquet because of the contribution she makes to the legal system through the business law courses she teaches at Valdosta High School.

Mrs. Josey's contribution is one that Law Day committee members feel is both significant and long lasting, according to committee chairman Roger Dodd.

"When her students graduate, her contribution will be continuing," Dodd said.

Mrs. Josey's reaction to receiving the award was one of humility.

"This is humbling. Very humbling," she said. "It's an humbling experience to receive this award because there are so many people who are better at what they do than I am. I just do what I love to do which is teach, and I don't feel I deserve any awards for that."

But it's the way she teaches that makes Mrs. Josey deserving of this and the numerous other awards she's won, according to her associates.

"She's very deserving of any honor she gets," said Valdosta Area Technical School Director James Bridges, Mrs. Josey's supervisor at VHS for five years.

"She does a super job of whatever she attempts," Bridges said. "She's a highly motivated person and extremely professional and extremely thorough in her teaching and in her extra-curricular activities. If she does something, it will be absolutely crackerjack — absolutely tops in every detail."

Mrs. Josey teaches two business law courses at VHS. One deals with crimes, torts, court systems, student rights and citizenship. The other, with contracts, employment law, wills and real estate. In each, she draws on experts from the legal community to expose students to



Janeen Josey Honored By Bar Association Here

the law and to bring the community to the classroom. Her efforts to enliven her classes have been rewarding, she said.

"Several of my students have either come into the class interested in law or became interested after taking the business law course and are now in law school," she said. "Another one will begin law school this fall. That pleases me more than anything, knowing that I had a positive effect on a very few people."

If awards are any measure of effectiveness, Mrs. Josey has had a positive effect on more than just a few students. She was Valdosta city school system's Teacher of the Year in

1983-84; business education teacher of the year in 1982-83; 8th district Georgia Business Education Association's secondary teacher of the year in 1982-83; Gordon County's Vocational teacher of the year in 1974-75; and Cedartown High School's teacher of the year for 1970-71.

"She's a real teacher in terms of somebody the students can relate to," James Bridges said.

The secret of Mrs. Josey's success is really no secret at all, she said.

"I just feel I'm an average person that succeeded in doing what I have always wanted to do, and it was not without a lot of hard work and effort."

Mrs. Josey is currently director of

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Valdosta Captures Region

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats put it all together on the baseball diamond yesterday after for a doubleheader victory over Colquitt County to come from a game down and win the Region 1-AAAA baseball championship.

Pitcher Walt Gill held the Packers hitless for five innings and doubled home the first run as the Wildcats exploded for eight runs in the fifth inning to walk away with a 10-0 victory in the first game.

Gill also started the second game after senior right-hander Ralph Guarino hurled the last two innings of the first. Gill still did not allow a run until the fourth inning when the Packers bunched together four hits, good for three runs.

But the Wildcats erupted for five runs against Packer ace David Evans in the bottom of the inning as Derek Shaw and Bill Kirby each delivered two-run singles for an 8-3 lead.

Shaw and Kirby both added two-run homers later for a 12-7 title victory. Guraino again finished the ball game allowing only a pair of unearned runs over the last three innings.

"We got great pitching from Walt, who won both games today, and Ralph, who got saves in both of them," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "We also fielded well and hit the ball real well."

"That second game might have been a little deceiving. We came back against a great pitcher. Two weeks ago he was 11-0. They scored seven runs in the game and we had four double plays."

Valdosta is quickly proving that they may have the best fielding infield in South Georgia. Jason Crosby (3B), Art Bass (SS), Trevor Nance (2B), and Derek Shaw (1B) handled 16 chances, on ground balls or line drives, without making an error before the next to last batter in the last inning of the second game reached base on an infield error.

Even catcher Bill Kirby got into the act when, with the score 2-0 Wildcats in the third inning of the second game, the Packer leadoff batter attempted a sacrifice bunt with none out. Kirby scurried out from behind the plate, scooped up the ball, and fired to second, nailing the lead runner. Later in the inning, Bass made a heads-up throw to Crosby, catching a Colquitt runner trying to advance on a ground ball to the left side.

Gill and Packer starter Sam Funderburke matched hitless innings in the first game until two were out in the



Times staff photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Bill Kirby Scores On Wild Pitch During 9-Run Fifth Inning Of First Game

bottom of the fourth inning. Gill then walked, stole second, and scored when designated hitter Joey Crosby lined a single to center for the game's first hit and first run.

Then in the fifth, B.J. Mason beat out a high infield chop for a hit with one out. Nance next laid down a sacrifice bunt so perfect that he beat it out for a hit. Gill then lined a double to left to score Mason. Nance then beat a throw home on Shaw's ground ball. Jason Crosby and Bass followed with singles, Bass's banging off the center field fence.

Joey Crosby's double then scored a pair of runs before Funderburke was replaced. Two more walks, three wild pitches, and a balk scored four more runs in the inning.

Funderburke did line a single to left to break up the no-hitter in the seventh, but Guarino escaped the inning by striking out the last batter.

In the second game, the Packers pounded out eight hits and drew seven walks from three Wildcat hurlers, but the infield defense came through with

the four double plays. And Valdosta blasted Evans, who had been considered by many to be the best pitcher in the region, for 12 hits.

The region championship marks the

first for Valdosta since 1982. They now face Southwest Macon in the first round of the state playoffs. The opening game will be played at 5:00 Tuesday at Wright Bazemore Field next to the high school.

First Game										Second Game									
Colquitt Co.	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Colquitt Co.	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Cooper, dh	3	0	0	0	Mason, lf	4	1	1	0	Cooper, dh	3	0	0	0	Mason, lf	4	3	4	0
Yost, lf	3	0	0	0	Nance, 2b	3	1	1	0	Yost, lf	3	1	0	0	Nance, 2b	3	1	1	0
Middlebrks, cf	3	0	1	0	Gill, p	3	2	1	1	Middlebrks, cf	2	1	1	0	Gill, p	4	1	0	0
Jackson, 1b	3	0	0	0	Shaw, 1b	4	1	0	1	Jackson, 1b	2	2	1	1	Shaw, 1b	4	3	4	0
Funderburk, p	2	0	1	0	Ja Crosby, 3b	4	1	2	2	Funderburk, p	4	0	1	1	Ja Crosby, 3b	3	1	1	0
Akridge, rf	3	0	0	0	Bass, ss	3	1	1	0	Akridge, rf	3	1	2	1	Bass, ss	3	2	2	1
McAlpin, c	2	0	0	0	Joey Crosby, dh	3	1	1	2	McAlpin, c	3	1	1	0	Joey Crosby, dh	2	0	0	0
Strange, 3b	2	0	0	0	Kirby, c	2	1	0	0	Strange, 3b	4	1	1	0	Kirby, c	3	1	2	4
Hood, ss	2	0	0	0	Talley, cf	2	1	0	0	Hood, ss	3	0	1	1	Talley, cf	4	0	0	0
Totals.....	23	x	2	x	Totals.....	28	10	7	6	Totals.....	24	7	8	4	Totals.....	28	12	12	10
Colquitt Co.					000	000	0	0	0	Colquitt Co.					000	320	2	7	
Valdosta					000	190	x	0	0	Valdosta					201	522	x	12	
E — Davis, Strange. LOB — Colquitt 3, Valdosta 6. 2B — Gill, Joey Crosby. SB — Gill, Kirby, Funderburk.										E — Funderburk 2, Hood, Jason Crosby, Mason, Bass, Gill. DP — Valdosta 4, LOB — Colquitt 7, Valdosta 8. 2B — Shaw, Bass. HR — Shaw, Kirby, Jackson. SB — Mason, Nance, Cooper. S — Nance 2, Joey Crosby. SF — Jason Crosby, Akridge.									
Colquitt										Colquitt Co.									
Funderburk (L)	4 1/3				7	8	8	3	3	Evans (L)	6				12	12	10	6	5
Akridge	0				0	2	2	2	0	Valdosta	4				5	3	3	2	1
Wiggins	2/3				0	0	0	1	0	Belue	0				0	2	2	3	0
Davis	1				0	0	0	0	0	Guarino	3				3	2	0	2	0
Valdosta	5				0	0	0	0	5	WP — Evans, Gill.									
Gill (W)	2				2	0	0	0	2										
Guarino	2				2	0	0	0	2										
WP — Akridge 3, HBP — Funderburk (by Gill). Balk — Akridge.																			



Valdostan In Play

Julie Resenhouse of Valdosta, second from left, and fellow student actors, l to r, Daniel Barr, Lisa Gillis and Edward Rowan rehearse for a spring musical at LaGrange College. 'Once Upon A Mattress' will be presented Wednesday through Saturday in Price

Theater by the college's speech communications and theater department. Miss Resenhouse is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Les Moore of Valdosta and is a graduate of Valdosta High School. — Photo Special To The Times.

VHS Business Ed. Instructor Captures 1986 Liberty Award

By SYLVIA COOPER
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School business education teacher was awarded the 1986 Liberty Bell Award at Law Day ceremonies Thursday.

Janeen Josey was chosen to receive the award given annually by the Valdosta Bar Association to the person who has made a significant contribution to the local legal structure and judicial system.

Mrs. Josey teaches two business law courses at VHS and frequently calls on law enforcement officers and bar members to participate in her classes.

She was chosen to receive the award because the contributions she makes in her classroom will continue long after the students have graduated, according to Roger Dodd, Law Day committee chairman.



JOSEY

GULLEY

The winners of the bar association sponsored contest on the theme "The Meaning of the American Justice and Law System in 1986," were also honored during Law Day ceremonies Thursday.

The winner of the senior division of the competition was VHS senior Pam Gulley. Ms. Gulley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gulley. She is interested in international law and plans to attend Agnes Scott College.

As part of its Law Day ceremonies the Valdosta Bar Association also announced the formation of a Speakers Bureau. All interested groups who wish to have a speaker on specific and selected topics, or on general topics, in the area of law and the judicial system may get one by making a request to the bar association. A speaker from the local bar association will be furnished without cost. Further information is available from Roger J. Dodd at 247-0800.

Wildcats Fail

In Game No. 1

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Judging from the first inning alone, it looked as though the Valdosta Wildcats were in for a cakewalk in their opening game of the state quarterfinal playoff series with 4-AAAA champion Southwest-Macon.

But slowly things deteriorated before turning into a nightmare when the visiting Patriots scored five unearned runs in the sixth inning to turn a 7-6 Wildcat lead into a final 11-7 Southwest victory.

Southwest centerfielder Milton Cuyler, who was a thorn in the 'Cats side all day long, scored in the first when he drew a walk, took second on a sacrifice bunt, and scored on Willie Brown's single.

But the Wildcat double play combination of second baseman Trevor Nance and shortstop Art Bass snuffed out any further threat when they turned a 4-6-3 double play on the cleanup hitter to end the inning.

Valdosta came back with four runs in the bottom of the first. Patriot starter Wesley Johnson had control problems, walking three of the first four batters he faced and uncorking two wild pitches in the inning.

Jason Crosby and Bass both knocked in runs with singles and Joey Crosby added another with a sacrifice fly to center field.

Perhaps a glimpse of things to come occurred in the second when Greg Talley opened the Wildcat second with a single and took second on B.J. Mason's sacrifice bunt. Nance then grounded a single to center. Cuyler charged the ball and came up throw-

ing. The ball reached the plate in the air and right on the money as Talley was out by a step and a half.

Southwest came back in the third to tie the game. Just after Cuyler's fine defensive play, he led off the third with a long home run over the left-center field fence. The Patriots added two more runs on a walk, a passed ball, and a pair of singles.

The Wildcats took the lead once again in the bottom of the inning when they batted around. Jason Crosby chopped a single to left with one out, and Bass reached on an error before Joey Crosby walked. Catcher Bill Kirby's grounder to short forced Joey as Jason Crosby scored when a hustling Kirby narrowly averted the double play at first.

Talley then walked after Kirby stole second. When Mason next hit a ground ball to the second baseman, Bass beat the throw home. Nance followed with a walk to force in another run to make Valdosta's lead 7-4.

But at that point the plague set in as the Wildcats proceeded to leave eight runners stranded in the third, fourth, and fifth innings and had a total of 12 left on base for the game.

"Our biggest problem today was not getting the clutch hitting," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "We got nine hits and eight walks in the game, so we had plenty of runners on base, but we just couldn't get them across."

Also quite uncharacteristically, the home team got no extra base hits in the game.

The Patriots scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings before erupting in the sixth. The first two batters

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

Wimmersville — ain't it great. Add another name to the list.

Randy Bell, State Champion in the Class AAAA triple jump for the second consecutive year.

Bell won the event last year in the rain, which has been known to put a damper on the achievements of some of the greatest track athletes. But the Valdosta High School senior proved that was no fluke last Saturday when he swept to the championship with a winning triple jump of 47-7/8.

Bell also took third place in the

110-meter high hurdles (14.41 sec.) and added a sixth place in the 300-meter intermediates (39.62). He won all three of the events to qualify for state at the Region 1-AAAA track meet two weeks ago in Albany and also holds the school record in all three events.

"Randy's a tremendous athlete and has been a wonderful person to work with over the last three years," Valdosta coach Freddie Waters said. "He's a very hard worker and has been a tremendous asset to the Valdosta High School track team."

Bell played wide receiver on last fall's Wildcat football team, once

catching four passes in a game. He also won Senior Superlative honors as a student leader in the senior class.

He scored 1130 on the SAT exam and until recently had intended to matriculate to Florida State on an ROTC scholarship to continue his studies in computer science, in which he has already finished a year's worth of course work at a local college.

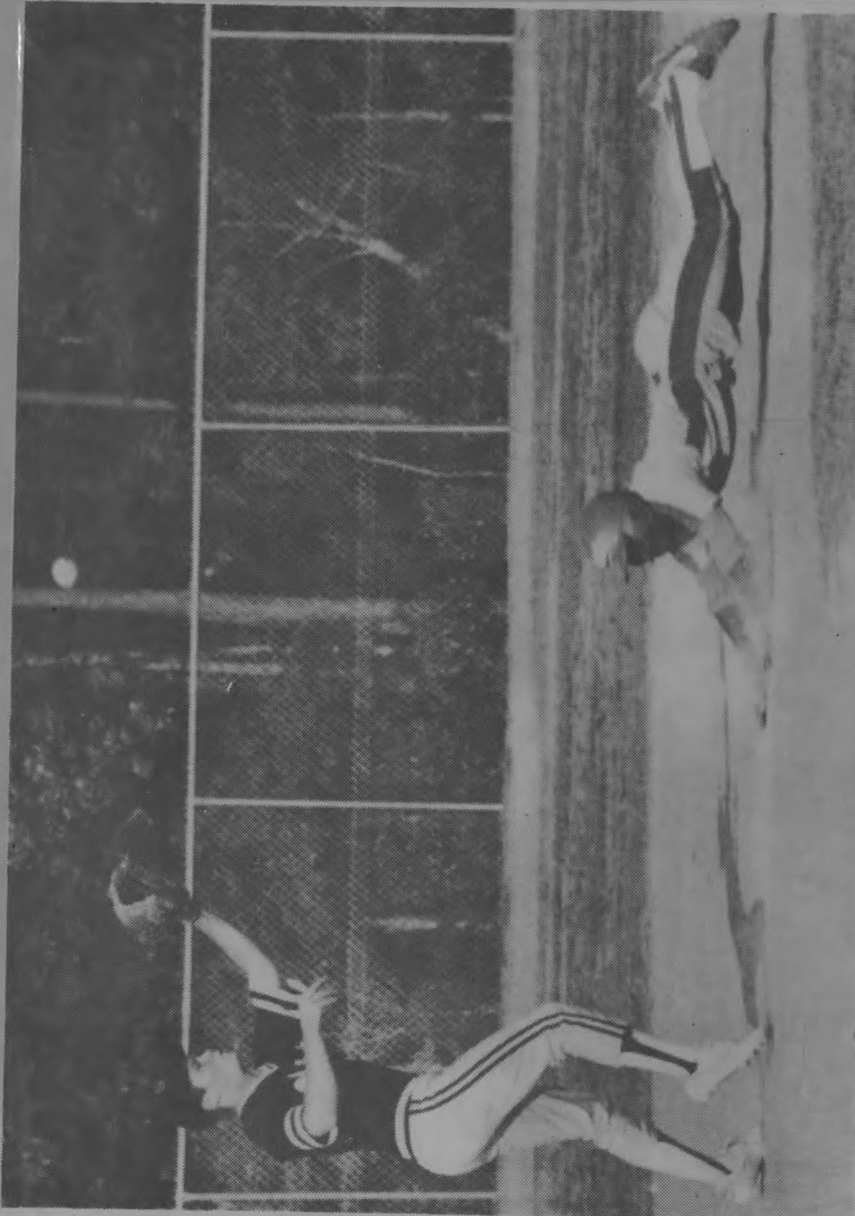
But college track coaches began giving Bell serious consideration as a scholarship athlete around a month ago.

"The University of Georgia and Albany State both had people looking

at Randy during the state track meet," Waters said. "As far as I understand it, they both want him real bad, so it's just a matter of him making up his mind where he wants to go."

Bell would be a credit to any program of which he becomes a part. He's obviously quite serious about his studies. He also has that strong inner determination to succeed.

It manifested itself during the region track meet during the last leg of the mile relay, which was the last event of a 12-hour day of competition. Bell took the baton seven yards behind a very swift Tift County runner who was in



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy
Southwest's Rico Whipple, Who Later Stole Home To Score, Steals Second In 5th Inning

centered before the third lined out to single field. Then Brown laid down a sacrifice bunt, but the throw ended up down in the right field corner as both runners scored.

The next hitter also reached base on a throwing error, and after another out another hit and reserve catcher Pat Wallace's double added two more for an 11-7 Southwest lead which held up over the next two innings for the victory.

"Valdosta has a scrappy team which can really hit the ball well, but today I guess we took advantage of our

Haltaway, 3b	4 0 1 0	Talley, cf, rf	2 0 1 0
Jones, 2b	4 2 2 0		
Totals	33 11 11 8	Totals	28 7 9 6

SW-Macon	103	115	0-11
Valdosta	403	000	0-7
E. McKinney, Jones, Crosby, Guarino, Bass, DP	1	SW-Macon	1
Valdosta 1, LOB - Valdosta 12,		SW-Macon 8, 2B - Wallace, HR - Cuyler, SB - Bass,	
Kirby, Patrick, Whipple 4, S - Gill, Patrick, Mason,		Brown, SF - Joey, Crosby.	

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
2 2/3	4	7	6	6	1
3 1/3	5	0	0	3	0
1	0	0	0	0	0
4 2/3	7	6	5	5	1
2 1/3	4	5	0	1	2

Wildcat Bell Retains State Triple Jump Title

5-21-86

second place. And though he had no chance to overtake the man in first place, he made up most of the deficit in the last 100 yards and just barely edged out the Blue Devil runner for second place.

Coach Waters had nothing but praise for the young man whom it will be impossible for him to replace next year.

"I personally, as a coach, really enjoyed working with Randy Bell over these last three years. And I'd like to say it again that he is truly a credit to this team and to Valdosta High School."

Wildcats Defeat SW-Macon Twice

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

MACON — Few people gave the Valdosta Wildcats much hope of winning their state quarterfinal playoff series with Southwest-Macon after the Patriots came down to Wright Bazemore Field on Tuesday and left with an 11-7 opening game victory.

All they had to do to stay alive was travel 150 miles on a bus and defeat the 22-3 Southwest team in a doubleheader Thursday in spacious Claude Smith Field. And given the Patriots' trio of fleet outfielders, that seemed like trying to climb Mount Everest in a blizzard.

Well, move over Sir Edmund Hillary. Valdosta unleashed a weapon which they have used very little this season — good pitching — to eliminate Southwest 12-3 and 8-6. Sophomore lefthander Guy Belue and senior Ralph Guarino turned in sterling performances on the mound as the Wildcats outthit the Patriots 24-9 during the afternoon.

"Our pitchers did better today than they have all year," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "All three of our guys (Belue, Guarino, Jason Crosby) threw very well today, and we just put it all together. It was just great to win."

The Valdosta team which showed up in Macon looked nothing like the squad which lost on Tuesday. After stranding 12 baserunners in the first game of the series, the Wildcats delivered several clutch two-out base hits in the doubleheader.

They scored six runs, all with two out, in the fourth inning of the first game. Second baseman and team captain Trevor Nance delivered a line drive single to left-center to score the first two. He then set up a double steal by swiping second as teammate B.J. Mason scored from third.

After a walk to designated hitter Joey Crosby, first baseman Derek Shaw delivered a two-run single to left. And Jason Crosby followed with a hit to score Shaw.

Meanwhile Belue was pitching superbly. The diminutive southpaw had excellent control, walking none, striking out six, and yielding only a pair of unearned runs in five innings.

Jason Crosby then came on to pitch the last two innings and held the Patriots hitless over that stretch.

Belue started the second game, but he seemed to have lost the rhythm he had displayed in the first. He had difficulty with control in the first inning as he walked three batters.

But despite a barrage of insults hurled out of the Patriot dugout like "rag arm" and "I can smell your bullpen", the Wildcat starter hung in there and pitched his way out of jams in the first three innings.

The Patriots managed three runs in the first, aided by a Valdosta error,

and scored another in the second when Carlos Patrick's deep fly ball eluded right fielder Greg Talley for a three-base error.

However, Talley redeemed himself in the top of the next inning when he stepped to the plate with two runners on and one out and smashed a line drive into the gap in right-center that went for a double. It was the Wildcat's first extra base hit in three games and scored Art Bass and Bill Kirby.

Then after Mason had reached base on an error, he and Talley engineered another double steal as Talley scored. Joey Crosby then knocked in Mason with a hit to right.

The Wildcats had erupted for four runs in the top of the first to take the early lead in Game 2. With one out, Nance reached on an infield chop that went for a hit.

Shaw then singled, and when Jason Crosby followed with a hit to center, it was left to be seen whether anyone could take an extra base against Southwest's seemingly all-world centerfielder, Milton Cuyler, who had already cut down three Valdosta runners on the basepaths from the outfield in the series.

Nance flew around third base and executed a perfect head first slide to just beat Cuyler's accurate throw to the plate.

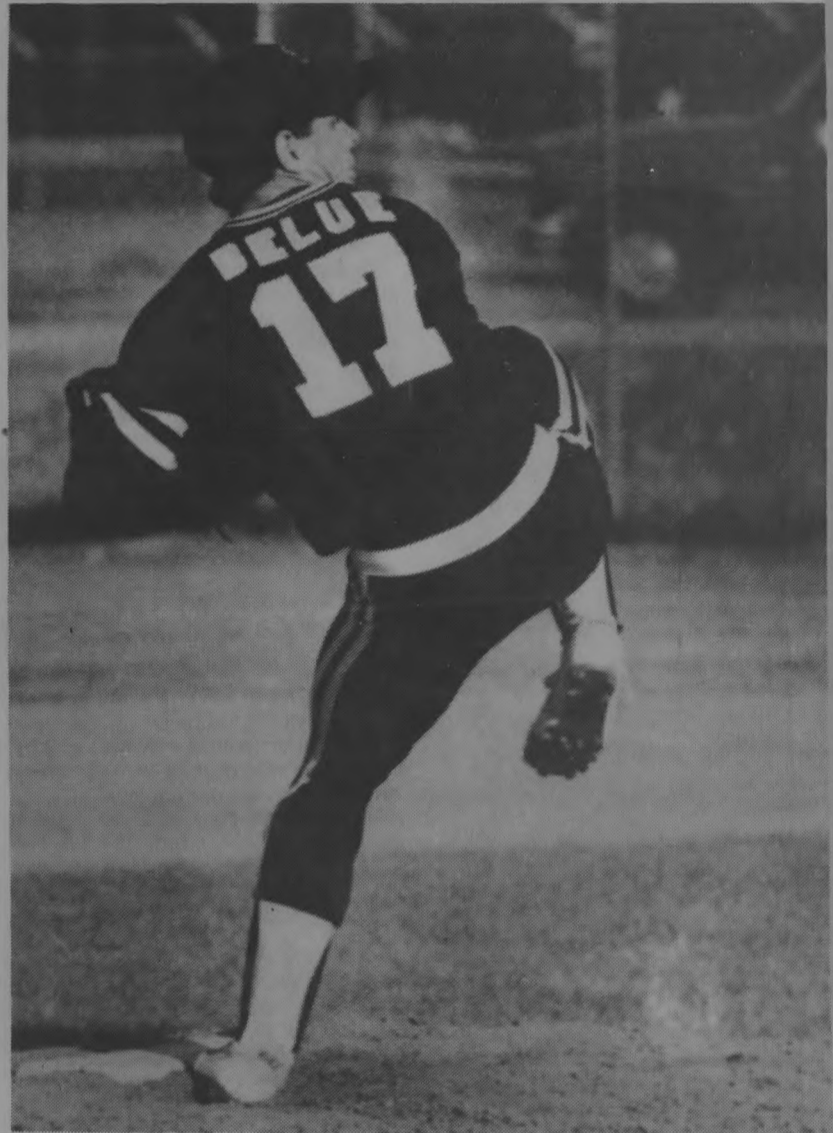
Bass then walked to load the bases. Patriot starter Wesley Johnson uncorked a wild pitch to score one run before Walt Gill delivered a clutch two-out hit to score two more.

Guarino replaced Belue with none out and two runs in in the fourth inning with the score 8-6. And seeing as how the two teams had combined for 47 runs in little more than two games, the scoring seemed far from over.

But it was. Although Gill and Talley each doubled in the last four innings, Valdosta could not scratch out any more runs against Patriot reliever Wendell Atkins. But Guarino was even better. Of the 14 batters he faced in the last four innings, only one got a hit and none walked. He also set the home team down in order in the bottom of the seventh.

"Ralph's a senior, he's been with us for three years, and it was great to see him come in and do such a great job," Tarpley said. "We hit the ball well today, but we didn't know whether our pitching would come through. But Ralph and Guy both did a great job today."

There were also several fine defensive plays in the game, which took on the guise of a real cliffhanger in the final innings. Valdosta catcher Bill Kirby blocked the plate and held onto the ball as Patrick tried to steal home in an aborted suicide squeeze. He later nailed Willie Brown at third as the Patriot DH tried to advance a base



File Photo

Wildcat Starter Guy Belue Won First Game

when Kirby blocked a pitch in the dirt.

Guarino and Bass caught Cuyler in a rundown between second and third during a sixth inning sacrifice attempt. Bass also scooped a low throw from Crosby out of the dirt for a force play at second, averting a potential rally in the Patriot fifth. And with a runner on second and two out in the sixth, Nance went into the hole behind second to stab a two-hopper and just barely throw out Southwest's Greg McKinney at first to end the inning.

Kirby caught all 14 innings of the 4½-hour doubleheader. Valdosta is now 23-6 and travels to either Savannah or Columbus next week, pending the outcome of the other South quarterfinal series.

First Game			
Valdosta	ab r h bi	SW-Macon	ab r h bi
Mason, lf	3 3 2 0	Cuyler, cf	1 1 0 0
Marconi, lf	1 0 0 0	Patrick, rf	4 0 2 2
Nance, 2b	3 2 2 2	Brown, dh	4 0 1 0
Hardin, rf	1 0 0 0	McKinney, ss	4 0 0 0
Joey Crosby, dh	3 1 1 2	Veal, 1b	3 0 1 0
Toibert, dh	1 0 0 0	Whipple, lf	3 0 0 0
Shaw, 1b	5 2 2 2	McPhearson, p	1 0 0 0
Ja Crosby, 3b	4 1 2 1	Harkness, p	2 0 0 0
Perry, 3b	0 0 0 0	Hattaway, 3b	3 0 0 0
Bass, ss	3 1 1 1	Jones, 2b	2 1 0 0
Mitchell, ss	0 0 0 0	Yacobacco, ph	0 1 0 0
Gill, cf	3 1 1 1		
Martin, 2b	0 0 0 0		
Kirby, c	3 0 1 0		
Talley, rf	3 1 1 0		
Tippett, rf	0 0 0 0		
Totals.....	33 12 13 8	Totals.....	27 3 4 2

Valdosta	202	602	0—12
SW-Macon	001	010	1—3

E — Whipple, Hattaway, McKinney, Crosby, Nance, Martin. DP — Valdosta 1, SW-Macon 2. LOB — Valdosta 7, SW-Macon 8. SB — Joey Crosby, Mason, Nance, Shaw, Cuyler. S — Gill, Kirby, Cuyler.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Belue (W, 9-3)	5	4	2	0	0	6
Jason Crosby	2	0	1	1	3	2
SW-Macon						
McPhearson (L)	3½	6	10	7	5	3
Harkness	3½	7	2	2	0	1

WP — Crosby. PB — Sauls. HBP — Cuyler (by Belue). T — 2:15. A — 225.

Second Game			
Valdosta	ab r h bi	SW-Macon	ab r h bi
Mason, lf	4 1 0 0	Cuyler, cf	3 3 1 0
Nance, 2b	2 1 1 0	Patrick, rf	3 1 1 2
Joey Crosby, dh	4 0 2 1	Brown, dh	2 0 0 0
Shaw, 1b	3 1 1 0	McKinney, ss	4 1 1 2
Ja Crosby, 3b	4 1 1 1	Veal, 1b	2 0 0 0
Bass, ss	2 2 0 0	McPhearson, p	4 0 2 0
Gill, cf	3 0 2 2	Sauls, c	0 0 0 1
Kirby, c	4 1 2 0	Wallace, c	3 0 0 0
Talley, rf	3 1 2 2	Hattaway, 3b	3 0 0 0
		Whipple, lf	3 1 0 0
Totals.....	25 8 11 6	Totals.....	27 6 5 5

E — Patrick, Talley, Nance, Bass, Crosby. LOB — Valdosta 9, SW-Macon 7. 2B — Talley 2, Gill, Cuyler. SB — Shaw, Jason Crosby, Mason, Talley, Kirby. S — Gill, Mason, Brown. SF — Sauls.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Belue	3	4	6	3	5	1
Guarino (W, 5-1)	4	1	0	0	0	2
SW-Macon						
Johnson (L)	1½	6	4	4	3	1
Atkins	5½	5	4	3	4	2

WP — Johnson, Atkins. T — 2:20. A — 250.

'Cats Looking To Break Tift Co. Jinx

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

When Valdosta takes the field in Tift County this evening at 5:30, the Wildcats will try to break a playoff jinx that has hurt them three out of the past four years.

In the 1983 and 1984 seasons, the Blue Devils beat Valdosta in the Region 1-AAAA championships. In 1981 and 1985, Tift knocked Valdosta out in the first round of the region playoffs. The last time Valdosta did not lose to Tift in the playoffs was 1982 — simply because Tift had been knocked out by Colquitt County.

The 5:30 start for today's game will prevent Valdosta from playing under the dim lights in Tifton — something Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley hates to do.

"We really have to beat them this time around," Tarpley said. "They've kind of jinxed us."

"They have a good fielding team with good pitching and they keep the games pretty close usually. We beat them twice this season, 5-3 and 4-1."

The win at Tift during the regular season marked the first time in six years Valdosta had beaten the Blue Devils on the road.

After the two tangle if Tifton today, the Wildcats will play host to Tifton on Thursday at 2 p.m. in a doubleheader, if necessary.

Tarpley plans to start Guy Belue (6-3), with Ralph Guarino (4-0) in relief in the first game.

Tarpley stressed that all fans must pay for admission. Only those holding a Georgia High School Association Pass will be admitted free of charge because a percentage of the gate has to be given to the state.

The Lowndes Vikings will play host to Colquitt County tonight at 8 p.m. in the first of a best-of-three series.

Last year, the Vikings defeated the Packers to claim the Region 1-AAAA title.

"We always have a pretty good rivalry," said Viking coach Noel George. "We split with them this year. They beat us 3-0 in the first game of the season."

For the 14-5 Vikings, Bryan Hagan is expected to get the nod on the mound. The Lowndes southpaw is 4-1 and held Colquitt hitless through five innings the last time he faced the Packers.

"We really have to play well tonight," George said. "Once you get into the playoffs you just can't afford to make too many mistakes."

The Clinch County Panthers are 10-4-2 with two game left but have already captured the 2-A West title. The Panthers will take on Long County in the Region 2-A finals.

The Panthers are scheduled to play at Long County on May 5th at 4:30. The two will tangle again at Homerville at 2 p.m. on May 7. Since the series is two-out-of-three, a doubleheader will be played if necessary. The times are subject to change.

"From what we hear, they're going to be pretty tough," said Clinch Coach

Cecil Barber. "They scored nine runs with two outs to come back against Nichols. You can't count a team like that out."

Barber said the Panthers' pitching staff may be stronger than Long's. The Blue Tide relies on the services of one pitcher. Clinch has had good success from Trey Bass as well as Danny Smith. Bass, a fireballer, pitched a no-hitter earlier this season.

Clinch also has an offensive arsenal that can score some runs via the bats of Brett Martin and Cecil Smith.

"Long is going to be hungry," Barber said. "They haven't won a region title in a few years. It's going to be tough over there."

The Berrien County Rebels have won Region 2-AA South, finishing the season with a 19-2 record. Coach Bart Shuman and the Rebels are now watching and waiting to see who they will be matched up against. At this point it looks like Lyons and East Laurens will draw the Rebels in the first round on the region playoffs.

"I don't really care who we play," Shuman said. "All I know for sure is that East Laurens beat Swainsboro, and Swainsboro's No. 1 in the North."

The Rebels are scheduled to play either Lyons or East Laurens on the road tomorrow. On Friday, Berrien will host the opponent in a doubleheader, if necessary, starting at 2 p.m.

The Cook County Hornets are mired in a four-way tie for first place in Region 1-AAA West along with Worth County, Albany, and Cairo.

The four teams will be paired off later today for two games, and today's winners will play tomorrow afternoon.

H.S. Playoffs

Best-Of-Three
Second-Round Games
Doubleheaders If Necessary

Region 1-AAAA
Tuesday

Valdosta at Tift County, 5:30 p.m.
Colquitt County at Lowndes, 8 p.m.

Thursday

Tift County at Valdosta, 2 p.m.
Lowndes at Colquitt County, 2 p.m.

Region 2-AA
Wednesday

Berrien County at East Laurens or Lyons

Swainsboro at Irwin County

Friday

East Laurens or Lyons at Berrien County, 2 p.m.
Irwin County at Swainsboro

Region 2-A
Monday, May 5

Clinch County at Long County, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

Long County at Clinch County, 2 p.m.

Student Council Elected

By Susan Burns
Secretary, Student Council

Elections for new student council members were held on Monday, May 5. Elected to represent the Sophomore Class next year were Jason Bridges, Jay Connell, Eric Conrad, and Shannon Taw. The selected Sophomore Class officers were Wendy Griffin, president; Deanne Dasher, vice president; Marilyn Moss, secretary; and Keri Kirby, treasurer.

The student council representatives from the Junior Class were Susan Burns, Kevin Elliot, Brian Harris, and Laura McMillan. Erica Miller was elected as president of the Junior Class with Stephanie Culverhouse as vice president, Melanie Dennard as secretary, and Rhonda Henderson as treasurer.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

sure:

To represent the Seniors, the following students were chosen: Leigh Dominey, Georgia Graves, Rusty McCall, and Addison Ricks. Senior Class president is Walter Altman, vice president is Paul Rainey, secretary is Vanessa Hubbard, and treasurer is Laura Smith. These new Student Council members met and selected these officers: Georgia Graves, president; Brian Harris, vice president; Susan Burns, secretary-treasurer; and Shannon Taw, parliamentarian.

VHS Briefs

Harris, Dunn Finalists

Tim Harris and Mike Dunn represented Valdosta High School as finalists in the Plymouth-AAA Trouble Shooting Contest held in Atlanta on May 6th and 7th.

The Plymouth-AAA Trouble Shooting Contest is a competition between schools offering a high school level course in Automotive Technology. Qualifying two-person teams compete against other teams in diagnosing and correcting identical malfunctions deliberately installed in Plymouth automobiles.

Carl Stone, General Manager at Dodge of Valdosta, loaned Valdosta High School's Automotive Technology program a new 1986 Dodge K car so that Harris and Dunn would have pre-contest familiarization with the type of cars used in the competition.

Twelve Attend Mercer Debate

By Jennifer Guest
Secretary, Debate Club

Twelve Valdosta High debaters participated in Mercer Debate's one-day preview workshop on next year's high school debate topic on Saturday, May 10, on the Mercer camp in Macon. The workshop featured a topic analysis lecture by Dr. Rich Edwards of Georgia State University, editor of The Forensic Quarterly. In addition, students saw an exhibition debate, followed by a critique of the debate by Professor Eric Walker of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. The workshop concluded with afternoon question-and-answer sessions.

Students who attended were Toby Baskin, David Cole, Jay Connell, Eric Conrad, Paul Conrad, Holly Davis, Barry Golivesky, Susie Grant, Jennifer Guest, Robby Higdon, Jay Hollingsworth, Kelly Shelton, and Matt Winters. Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS, accompanied the students on the trip.

Farley Editor

Mike Farley has been named the 1987 Editor of the Valdosta High School yearbook, the Sandspur. Mike has been a member of the 1986 staff.

Mike will be attending a week long workshop for journalism students being held at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro and a yearbook workshop at Auburn University.

Mike is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vince Farley of Valdosta. He will be a senior next year.

Other members of the 1987 staff are David Holland, Michael Williams,

Teresa Grace, Nanci Nichols, Melissa Quintero, Susan Burns, Stephanie Shields, Christine Buel, Terri Longeliere, Brian Harris, Johnna Elliott, Chris Hendry, Dan Tillman, Stephanie Culverhouse, Erica Miller, Margaret Ann Sineath and Rhonda Davis.

Region 1-AAAA Tennis

VDT 4/29/86

Colquitt Teams Win Title

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — The Colquitt County High tennis program was riding high yesterday as both the Packers and Packerettes won their respective Region 1-AAAA championships on the campus of Abraham-Baldwin College.

Only a hard-won, three-set victory in the boys singles final by Valdosta's Eric Anderson over the Packers' No. 1 player, Kyle Pierce, prevented a championship sweep by the powerhouse from Moultrie.

Winning the girls' singles title was Anna Funderburke, who is ranked No. 1 in the state and showed why she deserves it. The Packerette sophomore swept four opponents without giving up so much as a game in eight sets. She blitzed Westover's Chan Dixon in the final as she did the rest of her opponents, 6-0, 6-0.

Even so, the girls' team championship came down to the last match, with Colquitt and Tift County each tied at 13 points and playing each other in the doubles final.

After splitting the first two sets in a match that lasted nearly three hours, the Packerette pair pulled out a third set victory over the Lady Blue Devils, pushing their team out front to win the overall girls' championship, 14-13.

Westover's girls finished third with eight points, and Bainbridge totalled five points on the day to just edge out Valdosta for fourth place.

The Lady Wildcats' No. 1 player, Kristy Stabell, and their doubles team of Lisa Brooks and Ronnie Bartholomew both won second round matches after first-round byes. A point was awarded for a victory, but a bye was only worth a point if a player went on to win his or her second round match.

Stabell defeated Westover's Margaret Middleton 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in her first match but then ran into the irrepressible Funderburke in the third round.

Brooks and Bartholomew beat Monroe's Karen Robinson and Leslie Hall 7-5, 6-1 to score two points for their team. But they lost their second match to Westover's Mitchell Layfield and Monica Brock.

Both of the Wildcats' doubles teams began the meet with victories. Rob Mason and Kibby Wagner were the No. 3 seeded doubles team in the tournament, and defeated Dougherty's Eddie Blankenship and Tommy Pollock 6-1, 6-1 in their first match.

They were upset, however, in their second match when Tift's Glen Wauchope and Mike Childs knocked them off 6-3, 6-3.

Valdosta's other team of Simon Lee and Glen Knowlton defeated Monroe's Dean Grubbs and Den Botwinick 6-1, 6-0 in the first round. They then knocked off Westover's Rusty Gleaton and Neal Gurr 6-2, 6-2 before dropping their final match with Colquitt's Stephan Gross and Scott Whidby 6-4, 6-0.

Anderson, who had only lost one set all season, blistered his first three opponents, losing only two games in the second set of his semifinal match with Lee Catledge of Bainbridge.

Anderson was on a collision course with Colquitt's Kyle Hiers all day long, and finally met his summer doubles partner in a grueling three set final which did not begin until around 5:00 in the afternoon.

The Valdosta star won the first set 6-4, but lost the second set in a tie-breaker 7-6 after losing a pair of service points.

"Kyle was getting a good number of his first serves in, and when he does that he's awfully hard to beat," Valdosta coach Jimmy Carter said.

Then at the end of a day which had started with the first serve at 8:00 a.m., Anderson broke through for the victory with the sun going down. He held a 2-1 lead when he broke service the first time in the third set, and then held his service for a 4-1 lead.

The match turned in the next game

when Hiers jumped out to a 40-love lead. Anderson fought back to break service in that game and ultimately roll to victory, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1.

Colquitt's top doubles team defeated a pair from Bainbridge in the final to give the Packers the overall team title.

They finished with 14 points for a comfortable lead over second place Tift (10 points). Anderson's heroics lifted the Valdosta boys into a tie with Bainbridge, each finishing with a total of nine points.

Two of Lowndes High's singles representatives split sets before losing their matches. Randy Harmon, who had lost but one match in dual meets all year, won his first set against Colquitt's Tom Carlton before dropping the match 1-6, 6-4, 7-5.

And Lowndes' Ricky Williams, the only senior on the Viking squad, was losing to Westover's Magnus Bergh 4-1 in the first set before finding inspiration to come back and tie the score 5-5 before sweeping to a 7-5 victory.

"This is my last year and I just decided to go all out and give it my best shot because I knew I wouldn't get a chance to play again," Williams said.

"I've been in the top five on the team ever since my freshman year, although I didn't get to play my sophomore year."

Williams, who has fully recovered from an operation which removed a baseball-sized tumor from his right leg in the 10th grade, eventually lost the match to Bergh in a tight match 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Lowndes top two players, Tommy Hobby and Darren Broome, played doubles but lost their first round match to the No. 4 seed, Colquitt's Gross and Whidby.

Vikette Amy Janney lost her first round singles match to Central-Thomasville's Angie Fowler 6-3, 6-2. And the Vikettes' doubles team of Cathy Blanton and Lena Galbraith extended Colquitt's Sonya Deen and Isha Dengra to a 7-5 first set before losing the match 7-5, 6-1.

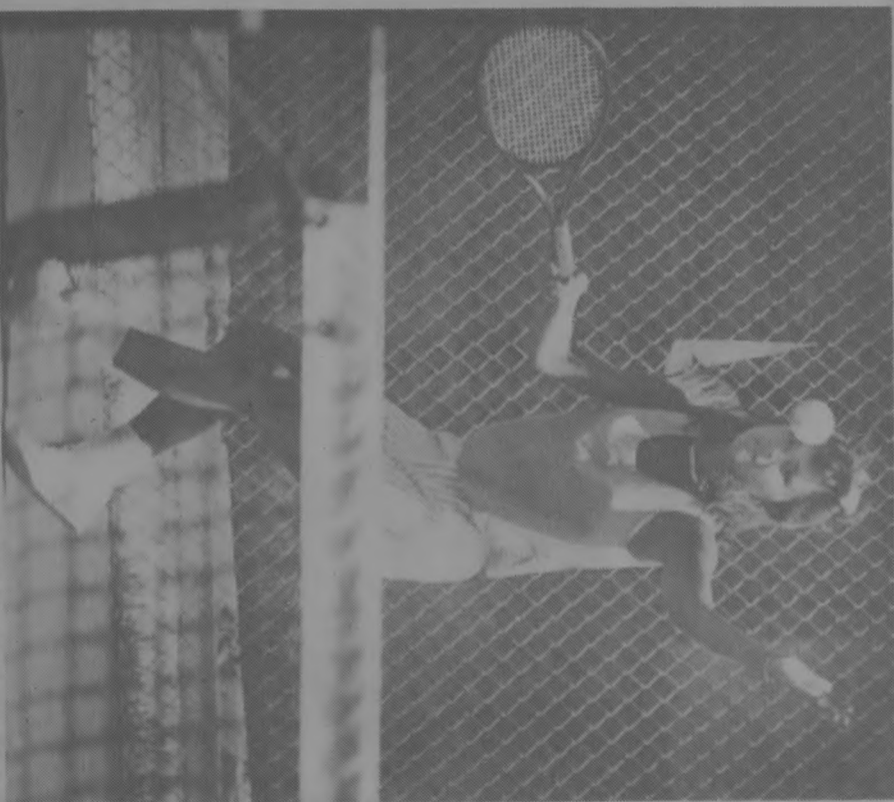


Photo by Herb Pletcher — Tifton Gazette

Valdosta's Kristy Stabell Returns Shot During Tournament

Like his baseball skills, Crosby hopes to keep his cognitive skills sharp. He is hoping to major in broadcast journalism at SGC.

"I want to be another Skip Carey — just not so fat," Crosby said.

Crosby, who played football until he was a sophomore, would like to play pro ball — but is certainly not counting on it.

"It's always in the back of my mind," Crosby said. "If I have the opportunity, I'll take it, but right now I don't think it will happen."

Crosby had the good fortune of being a member of a tough Wildcat squad last season. Valdosta went all the way to the semifinals of the state Class AAAA tournament where it was beaten by Columbus High.

"Playing on that team really helped my confidence at the plate," Crosby said. "I hit the ball well. It was easy because everyone else was hitting well."

Crosby doesn't think his bat will cool off when he joins the collegiate ranks.

"I'm not worried about my hitting," Crosby said. "I've always been able to hit."

"My biggest fear is singlehandedly losing a game or being sent out to pitch with the bases loaded in the ninth."

SGC Signs Crosby

Times 7-29-86

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Joey Crosby, who was named the most loyal player on the Valdosta High baseball team this past spring, has signed a grant-in-aid with South Georgia College.

Crosby batted .386 last year as the Wildcats' first baseman and designated hitter. He led the team in doubles with nine and collected 25 runs batted in over the course of the season.

Crosby made honorable mention on The Valdosta Daily Times' all-area team in the DH slot.

The youngster played briefly with the Valdosta Trojans this summer but was forced to quit because of a summer job. Work has not been something Crosby has avoided.

He graduated with a solid A average from VHS

with plenty of accolades to accompany his high average. He was given the Georgia Certificate of Merit and was also named as a Georgia Outstanding Student.

Like his baseball skills, Crosby hopes to keep his cognitive skills sharp. He is hoping to major in broadcast journalism at SGC.

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VHS' Tarpley Named Region Coach Of Year

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Region I-AAAA champion Valdosta Wildcats placed three players on the all-region baseball team while Colquitt County, Lowndes, and the Monroe High Golden Tornadoes placed two individuals each on the 11-man squad.

The coach of the year in the region is Valdosta's Charles Tarpley who had only three seniors among his top dozen players. The Wildcats began the season by losing four of their first 10 games before winning 13 in a row, a streak broken only when Evans defeated them in the first playoff game against Colquitt County.

The Wildcats were led by second baseman Trevor Nance, their team captain and one of only two seniors on the starting nine. Nance, who finished

second in the Region MVP voting, had an on-base percentage of .524, stole 15 bases, and scored 34 runs in 26 games. He also made no errors at second base through the region playoffs.

His teammates on the first team are first baseman Derek Shaw, who made it as the designated hitter, and outfielder Walt Gill. Shaw hit .392 with nine home runs and a whopping 41 RBI. He also stole 13 bases.

Gill, a part-time pitcher who won both games in the region championship series, batted .375 with two home runs and 32 RBI and also stole 12 bases.

Colquitt County High pitching ace David Evans was named the region's most valuable player. The junior right-hander compiled a 12-2 mark and an ERA of 2.12. Evans struck out an amazing 134 batters in only 89 innings and did not lose a game until the region

playoffs.

Also making the team from Colquitt County was first baseman Muzzy Jackson. The Packer strong man batted .481 with seven home runs and 35 RBI. He also had 11 doubles and 22 runs scored.

Monroe High placed the hard-hitting left side of their infield on the region first team. Third baseman Curtis Smith led the region in hitting with a phenomenal .575 batting average. He also struck eight home runs.

Flanking Smith at shortstop for the Golden Tornadoes is Dexter Boone, a part-time pitcher with a very strong arm. Boone also hit for a .550 average and five home runs.

Lowndes High finished second in the South subregion and placed two of their players on the first team. Chuck

Cooper is a rangy center fielder with a strong arm and a quick bat. He hit .411 with two home runs and 32 RBI and added 11 doubles and six stolen bases.

There were two pitches picked for the first team. Joining Evans is Lowndes' right-hander Vincent Brunson. He compiled a 6-2 record with a 2.33 ERA and averaged about 10 strikeouts per game. In the region playoffs Brunson struck out nine to help his Viking teammates hand Evans his first defeat of the year. Brunson also helped his own cause with a .422 batting average.

The other two members of the first team were Dougherty catcher Ricky Newell and Bainbridge outfielder Brian Venisee. Newell batted .355 with 19 RBI while Venisee hit .407 with five home runs and had two grand slams.

Westover High School placed two

players on the second team. Catcher John Armington threw out 15 runners attempting to steal base against him and batted .298. His teammate, pitcher Monte Hepner, had a 4-3 record with a 2.90 ERA while batting .365.

The Lowndes Vikings also had two players on the second team. First baseman Jimmy Gay hit .417 with one home run, 32 RBI, and 14 doubles. Shortstop Bobby Eason made the team as the designated hitter with an even .400 batting average, 12 doubles and 26 RBI.

The Packers of Colquitt County added two more players on the second team. Center fielder Stacy Middlebrooks was their offensive catalyst, batting third with a .312 average, 25 runs scored, and 12 stolen bases in 13 attempis. Teammate

having a superstar (Curtis Smith) at the same position was Valdosta's Jason Crosby. The Wildcat hot corner man batted .474 to lead his team. He also hit four home runs and knocked in 22 runs.

The second-team shortstop is Bainbridge's Stacey Hutchins who batted .350 with 15 RBI. Hutchins was also the Bearcats' ace pitcher.



Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley

Gymnasts To Compete Nationally

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High School ninth graders will compete this June in a national gymnastics meet in New Jersey.

Mindi Miller and Kellie Sessions, both 14, will travel next month to the United States Association of Independent Gymnastics Clubs meet.

They train three to four times a week with the Fitzgerald Southstars, a gymnastics team in Fitzgerald.

They and three other young gymnasts from the Fitzgerald team will join 33 others from this eight state region in the national competition.

They qualified for their places in the field last weekend in South Carolina and will compete in floor exercises, uneven bars, the balance beam and the vault.

Each has a role model in gymnastics. Miss Sessions is partial to Julianne McNamara, and Miss Miller is fond of Kristie Phillips, an expert on the balance beam.

The two have become "sort of best friends" since they met two years ago in gymnastics class, they said.

They share the two-hour ride to and from Fitzgerald each week and have developed strong ties that grew from love of the sport.

Both hope for a college gymnastics



Mindi Miller

set-back last year which slowed her down just a bit. "I fell in a hole," she confessed, blushing.

A broken leg kept her sidelined just a few weeks. She was back practicing under special conditions during the four month healing period.

The New Jersey meet, a three day competition, will conclude on June 14th.



Kellie Sessions

scholarship and plan to pursue the sport with an eye toward the Olympics, they said.

Miss Miller has been involved in gymnastics five years, Miss Sessions, nine.

They work from about 3:30 until 9:00 most nights, and have been keeping the rigorous schedule about two years.

Miss Sessions, however, did have a

Caroline Parker Wins FBLA Award

Caroline Parker, Lowndes High High School Senior won second place in Intensive Office Procedures Student of the Year competition sponsored last month in Atlanta by the State Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). The contest was held at the FBLA leadership conference.

Spring Concert

The VHS Symphonic Band and Concert Band will present the annual Spring concert on Friday, May 30, 7:30 P.M., at VSC's Whitehead Auditorium.

Both bands have been working hard for several weeks on a varied and entertaining program. Featured will be works by John Philip Sousa, Claude T. Smith and Clare Grundman. Guest Soloist Ed Barr will perform a Rondo by Mozart. Other members include



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

"Hooray for Hollywood", "Dixieland Jam" featuring a five-piece group, the "Dixieland Cats", a salute to James Bond 007 and other selections.

The public is cordially invited to attend what should be an enjoyable musical hour. There is no admission charge.

NJROTC Command Change Ceremony

By C/ENS Edward Hart

On May 13 the Valdosta High NJROTC held a ceremonial change of command. C/CDR Melanie Seals, former commanding officer, completed her period of command and c/LT Derrick A. Cain, former Department Head of Education, took command of the unit. Also c/LT(JG) Adolphus Kimmons took c/LT James Trent place as executive officer.

'Cats One Away From Final Round

V Times 5-22-86

Bats Hot In Game 2

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
Not since the fifth game of the season have the Valdosta Wildcats been held to less than four runs in a game. Berrien County Ray's Garner shut them out 7-0 in the last game of the Rebel Classic. That game was played on a cold March Saturday night, and it came just an hour after the Wildcats had beaten Westover in a doubleheader.

But Columbus High Junior Right-hander, Tommy Daniels, limited Valdosta to just a single run in the first game of Wednesday state quarter finals doubleheader. The 'Cats totalled seven hits, but their only extra-base hit was Bill Kirby's double in the second inning which scored Art Bass.

Then after a short 20 minute break between games, a strange metamorphosis occurred. The great pitching and fielding of the Blue Devil team was transformed into the level of T-bat play. Ground balls began rolling between legs and the pitching mound became a revolving door. Four pitchers ended up toiling in the game for Columbus, and none proved effective.

Meanwhile the Wildcats had found their hitting shoes. Aside from the six errors committed by Columbus, three of which were forced by hard ground balls, 15 hits were totalled by Valdosta.

"We really pounded the ball in the second game, and we also hit the ball especially well with two outs," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "It was not just one or two kids. Six different players had at least two hits in that game."

Valdosta No. 9 hitter, Greg Talley, tripped in a run and singled to start another rally. B. J. Mason singled twice and scored three runs. Derek Shaw singled and smacked a run scoring double to the wall in left. Walt Gill had three hits and a sacrifice. Joey Crosby had a single and a double, and Trevor Nance added three hits and a walk.

There was one constant between the two games. Wildcat pitchers Guy Belue and Ralph Guarino each allowed just three hits in their seven innings work.



Special To The Times

Wildcat Players Celebrate After Key Hit

"We had seven hits and three more balls that were hit good and got caught, and they hit two good balls the whole game. And we lose," a frustrated Tarpley said.

Jason Crosby had hit a Daniels' fastball 380 feet to deep left-center field in the sixth, which was caught against the fence.

And besides Thomas' home run, Columbus managed a double to right-center by Brent Johnson in the fourth. He was sacrificed to third and then scored on Kevin Watford's bloop single to right-center which just eluded a diving Walt Gill.

The second game was worlds apart from the first.

Senior right-hander Ralph Guarino allowed no earned runs over 6 2/3 innings, and gave up only three singles while striking out five and walking only two.

And not only did Valdosta collect 15 hits, but three Wildcat batters came through with clutch two-out hits which scored two runs each.

The Blue Devil defense, which had only one error in the first game, came completely unglued, giving up six errors in the second game.

Bass reached base his first three times up, on three different errors, and scored each time. Leadoff batter B.J.

Mason also scored three runs, reaching base twice on hits and once on an error.

Gill also broke out of a mild slump in the second game, getting three hits in three trips to the plate. Second baseman Trevor Nance also had three hits in the game and scored two runs. But it was his two-run, two-out single which capped off a seven-run fourth inning that was the crowning blow.

Valdosta had scored four runs in the second inning. Talley knocked in one run on a groundout. Mason then singled in Gill, who had beat out a bunt. Designated hitter Joey Crosby then added a two-out, two-run single to make the score 4-0.

Talley knocked in another run in the third inning with a long triple to deep right-center field.

Nance, who reached base the first four times up in the game, started off the fourth inning with a bunt single. One out later, Shaw blasted a double deep to left field. Then after Jason Crosby bounced to the second baseman for the second out, Bass reached on an error which scored Shaw. Gill followed with a hit before Kirby lined a two-run single to center field.

Talley and Mason next reached base on Blue Devil errors before Nance scored them both with a single.

Game 1

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Columbus	ab	r	h	bi
Mason, lf	4	0	1	0	Chambers, 2b	2	1	0	0
Nance, 2b	4	0	1	0	Earl, lf	3	1	1	3
JoCrosby, dh	3	0	2	0	Thomas, 1b	3	1	1	0
Shaw, 1b	3	0	0	0	Brown, dh	2	0	0	0
JaCrosby, 3b	3	0	0	0	Johnson, rf	3	1	1	0
Bass, ss	2	1	2	0	Boatner, 3b	2	0	0	0
Gill, cf	3	0	0	0	KWafford, ss	3	0	1	1
Kirby, c	3	0	1	1	Green, ph	1	0	0	0
Talley, rf	2	0	0	0	Carroll, c	0	0	0	0
Totals	27	1	7	1	Kirk, ph	1	0	0	0
					Davis, cf	2	0	0	0
					Totals	20	4	3	4

Valdosta	0	1	0	0	0	1
Columbus	3	0	1	0	0	4
E — Earl, JaCrosby. LOB — Valdosta 7, Columbus 5. 2B — Johnson, Kirby. HR — Thomas. SB — Earl, KWafford, Davis. S — Carroll, Boatner.						
Valdosta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Belue (L, 10-4)	6	3	4	4	5	3
Columbus						
Daniels (W, 9-2)	7	7	1	1	2	8
PB — Carroll, T — 1:50.						

Game 2

Columbus	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Earl, lf	2	1	0	0	Mason, lf	5	3	2	1
Brown, dh	3	1	0	0	Nance, 2b	4	2	3	2
Thomas, 1b	3	1	1	1	JoCrosby, dh	3	0	2	2
Johnson, rf	3	0	0	0	Perry, 3b	0	0	0	0
Green, ph	0	0	0	0	Tolbert, ph	1	0	0	0
Boatner, 3b	3	0	1	1	Shaw, 1b	4	1	2	1
KWafford, ss	1	0	0	1	Lane, ph	1	0	0	0
Chambers, 2b	3	1	1	1	JaCrosby, 3b	4	0	3	0
Carroll, c	3	1	0	0	Mitchell, 3b	1	0	0	0
Kirk, ph	1	0	0	0	Bass, ss	5	3	0	0
Davis, cf	3	0	0	0	Gill, cf	3	2	3	0
Totals	24	5	3	3	Kirby, c	3	1	1	2
					Talley, rf	4	1	2	2
					Totals	38	13	15	10

Columbus	0	0	1	5		
Valdosta	0	4	1	13		
E — Chambers 3, KWafford 2, Boatner, Mitchell 2. LOB — Columbus 6, Valdosta 11. 2B — Shaw, JoCrosby. 3B — Talley. SB — Mason, Nance, Shaw, Chambers. S — Kirby, Gill. SF — Wafford.						
Columbus	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McClendon (L, 6-3)	1 2/3	5	4	3	1	1
Johnson	2	6	6	2	0	0
Greer	2	4	3	0	2	1
TWafford	1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Valdosta						
Guarino (W, 5-1)	6 2/3	3	2	0	3	5
JaCrosby	1/2	0	3	3	5	1
WP — Johnson, Guarino, JaCrosby 3. PB — Kirby. T — 2:20. A — 300.						

on base in each of the seven innings.

As a matter of fact, Daniels pitched to exactly four Wildcats in every inning, except the second when Valdosta scored its lone run.

Shortstop Art Bass, who had two hits and a walk in three trips to the plate, reached on an infield hit with one out. After a strikeout, catcher Bill Kirby lined a two-out, run-scoring double down the left-field line. Kirby went to third on a passed ball before Greg Talley walked. In an attempted double steal, the big Wildcat catcher was thrown out by just inches at the plate to end the threat.

And that was all Valdosta could muster.

VHS Debate Director Begins Support Drive

VDT May 28, 1986

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

Should the federal government implement a long-term agricultural policy in the United States?

The question has been bandied about by presidents and professors, farmers and financiers, politicians, economists and other experts for years.

And Georgia's high school students will enter the argument next year; the question is the 1986-87 topic of discussion for statewide debate team competition.

Valdosta High School Director of Debate Henry Hjort is heading a Debate Booster Club drive to increase support of VHS debate team students.

He said that while the club needs money to help finance workshops and VHS participation in competitions across the state, he's more interested in 'moral' support at this point.

"We want former debater club members, business people, teachers,

and other people to get involved, not just parents," Hjort said Monday.

"In January, for the first time, we'll be hosting a tournament here and we could use some more support," Hjort said.

The booster club meets today at 7 p.m. in the English department at VHS, he said.

"Those who plan careers in which speech plays a vital role, (like) law, education or business, will find debate experience beneficial," Hjort said. "Many teachers believe debate is the best possible preparation for college. Since topics are current national issues, students become more aware of national aims, problems and policies."

About 15 students are expected to participate next year, he said.

"This summer, we're sending a student to Baylor University in Texas for a workshop to prepare for next season," he said.

VHS Students Named Ga. Scholars

5-29-86

From Staff Reports

Six Valdosta High School seniors have been named Georgia Scholars.

The seniors, Salutatorian Debra Bailey, Tim Brady, valedictorian Louis Gonis, Pam Gulley, Veta Mobley, and Kathryn Harris, are all also honor graduates.

To qualify for the honor, the student must score at least 1200 on the Scholastic Achievement Test, maintain a 3.75 average or rank in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, and is active in school and community activities.

They are eligible to receive a Governor's Scholarship which will cover tuition up to \$1,250 per year.

Miss Bailey, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey, plans to attend the University of Georgia. Her senior awards include Most Outstanding English and French I Student, National

Merit Commended Student, Senior Superlative, and 2nd Honor Graduate.

Brady, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alford Brady, plans to attend Oglethorpe University. His senior awards include the University of Georgia College Preparatory Gold Seal, Valdosta High School College Preparatory Curriculum Stamp, and Oglethorpe University Honors scholarship.

Gonis, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Gonis, plans to attend Georgia Tech. His senior awards include Star Student, First Honor Graduate, senior superlative, Most Outstanding Calculus, English and Social Studies Student, and three college scholarships.

Miss Gulley, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gulley, plans to attend Agnes Scott College. Her senior awards include Academic All American,

Excellence in Literature Award, Most Outstanding Advanced French Student, National Government and History Award, and Agnes Scott College Scholarship.

Miss Mobley, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mobley, plans to attend Florida A & M University or Spelman College. Her senior awards include Most Outstanding Spanish III Student, senior superlative, National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students finalist, and University of Georgia College Preparatory Gold Seal.

Miss Harris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Harris, plans to attend Emory University. Her senior awards include Third Honor Graduate, senior superlative, Best of the Class Program, Valdosta High School College Preparatory Curriculum Stamp, and three college scholarships.

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'Dostan Receives President's Scholarship

ATLANTA — A Valdostan has been selected the winner of a President's Scholarship to Georgia Tech.

Louis G. Gonis, son of George and Mary Ann Gonis, has been awarded a tuition scholarship.

Gonis is one of 91 of the nation's brightest high school seniors who have been selected as 1986 recipients of the President's Scholarships, the most prestigious award a Georgia Tech freshman can receive, a spokesman said.

The awards given this year include

22 full President's Scholarships, each worth \$5,400 a year for in-state students and \$7,700 for out-of-state students, which cover tuition, fee, books, room and board; 30 tuition scholarships, worth \$1,700 a year for in-state students and \$4,000 for out-of-state students, which cover tuition and fees; and 19 recognition scholarships, worth \$1,200 annually.

In addition to the awards made through the President's Scholarship Program, 20 Georgia Tech Merit Awards of \$1,000 were also given. All of

these scholarships will be renewed for academic years.

The 1986 scholars comprise an extremely bright group of high school seniors, said the spokesman. The average SAT score of the group is 1430 and the average high school GPA is 3.9.

Georgia Tech's President's Scholarship Program is funded entirely through the donations of industry, alumni and other friends, including scholarship endowments created by the M&H Ferst Foundation and Southern Railway.

VHS Debaters Elect Officers

V Times 5-31-86



VHS NEWS
Compiled, Written By VHS Students

By Jay Connell
VHS debaters have elected officers for the 1986-87 season.

Junior Paul Conrad was elected president; junior Mark Taormina, vice-president; freshman Jay Connell, secretary; and sophomore Barry Colivesty, treasurer.

The debate club's first competition will be a one-day novice tournament at the Westminster School in Atlanta on September 27, 1986. An invitational debate tournament hosted by the debate club is scheduled for January 16 and 17, 1987. The debate club is planning several fund raising projects for this summer to pay tournament and travel expenses for the upcoming debate season.

The national high school debate topic for 1986-87 is "Resolved: That the federal government should implement a long-term agricultural policy in the United States."

LaShunda Moore Head Of PAMS

By Kathryn Harris

The PAMS Club of Valdosta High School has elected officers for the 1986-87 school year. New officers are: president, LaShunda Moore; vice-president, Joy O'Neal; secretary, Erika Duckworth; assistant secretary, Rhonda Henderson; Treasurer, LaTrece Williams; and Parliamentarian, Tony Henderson.

The club has been very busy this year with the following activities:

- Assisted with Tootsie Roll Drive for the retarded.
 - Gave a Christmas box to a needy family.
 - Planned an Easter Egg Hunt for nursery children.
 - Sponsored a "Get Acquainted Social" for new members and a Sweetheart's Ball.
- The club will end the year with a banquet honoring senior members. Twenty-one PAMS are scheduled to graduate.

Pitching Key For Valdosta

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
V Times 5/20/86

The Valdosta Wildcats, fresh off a spirited come-from-behind victory over Southwest-Macon in the state quarterfinals, travel to Columbus Wednesday to take on the Blue Devils of Columbus High School for the Class AAAA South Georgia championship.

The Blue Devils, winners of Region 2-AAAA, defeated the Benedictine Cadets of Savannah, winners of Region 3-AAAA last week. They took the first game at home in Columbus. They then lost the first game of a doubleheader in Savannah before taking the second game to win the series and advance.

Valdosta went about defeating Southwest-Macon through a little more difficult process. The Wildcats lost their first game at home before taking a doubleheader from the Patriots in Macon two days later.

Perhaps the most positive thing to come out of that doubleheader victory was the Wildcats' pitching performance. They allowed only nine hits to the 22-3 Patriots in the two games after struggling through inconsistent mound performances for most of the season.

"We'll need pitching in Columbus like we got in Macon," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "The book on Columbus High is that they've got a good hitting team and a lot of speed, and their pitching is about average."

"They've got a center fielder named Johnson who's their leading hitter and is extremely fast. They've also got a big power-hitting first baseman named Thomas who we'll have to watch out for. And their No. 1 pitcher is a right-hander named Daniels who throws from everywhere — over the top, sidearm, three-quarter."

Tommy Daniels won both games for Columbus last week against Benedictine. He beat the Cadets in Columbus 4-3. Benedictine won the second game 2-1. Daniels then came back to win the rubber game of the series 10-4. He pitched a complete game in that one, allowing six hits and only three earned runs. He also struck out nine and walked none.

Thomas has hit 10 home runs playing first base for the Blue Devils. He has already signed a scholarship to play football for the Auburn Tigers next year.

But Daniels will be facing a Valdosta team which has hit a collective .335 this season. Only one pitcher has held the Wildcats to five runs this year, that being Berrien County's Ray Garner who did it twice. That was more than 20 games ago against a Wildcat team which was undergoing lineup changes daily.

Against Colquitt County ace David Evans in the region championship game, the Wildcats scored 12 runs, and 10 of them were earned. In short, Valdosta can hit.

And at times, they have displayed phenomenal pitching. In the first round of the playoffs, lefthander Guy Belue shut out defending region champion Tift County 8-0. Walt Gill held Colquitt County hitless through five innings in the second game of that series, a 10-0 shutout.

And in Macon, Belue held Southwest to four hits and one earned run in the first five innings of the first game. Senior right-hander Ralph Guarino then held Southwest scoreless over the last four innings of the second game, preserving a slim two-run lead the entire time.

So the potential for great pitching is there. "Right now it looks like Belue and Gill will be my starters with Guarino in relief, but nothing's concrete," Tarpley said. "And I don't expect the lineup in the field to change."

Something else the Wildcats have going for them comes under the heading of "intangibles" which fail to show up in the stat sheet. They have displayed a remarkable ability to

VHS Baseball Stats

Overall Record: 23-6

Batting

Name, Pos.	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
Jason Crosby	88	24	42	25	6	0	4	2	.477
Art Bass	89	28	35	13	4	2	0	9	.392
Derek Shaw	96	40	36	43	4	0	2	15	.374
Walt Gill	83	24	31	31	6	0	2	12	.374
Mason	79	37	29	15	2	2	0	12	.367
Trevor Nance	81	38	29	21	5	1	2	16	.358
Joey Crosby	69	21	24	19	7	0	4	4	.347
Bill Kirby	54	9	18	19	3	0	0	4	.333
Talbert	51	19	15	15	1	0	0	3	.286
Joey Tippet	35	7	10	9	1	0	0	0	.286
Mitchell	16	11	4	3	0	0	0	4	.250
Greg Talley	55	14	11	8	0	0	0	3	.200
Hardin	15	7	3	5	1	0	0	4	.200

Less Than 15 At-Bats

Lane	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.000
Toth	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.500
Martin	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Rykard	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Ralph Guarino	6	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	.167
Marconi	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	.125
Perry	12	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	.083
Guy Belue	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000

Totals..... 849 285 295 332 46 6 26 92 335

Walks — VHS 185; Nance 35; Jo. Crosby 25; Mason 20; Shaw 19; Gill 15; Talley 12; Kirby 10; Tolbert 10; Bass 9; Ja. Crosby 8; Mitchell 7; Martin 5; Hardin 4; Strikeouts — VHS 157; Talley 22; Shaw 16; Tolbert 15; Gill 12; Bass 11; Kirby 11; Mason 11; Ja. Crosby 10; Tippet 9; Nance 8; Martin 7; Jo. Crosby 6; Mitchell 5; Perry 5; Hardin 4; Guarino 3; Belue 1; Marconi 1.

Errors — VHS 97; Ja. Crosby 17; Bass 15; Mason 11; Gill 10; Mitchell 8; Nance 8; Tolbert 5; Jo. Crosby 4; Martin 4; Belue 3; Guarino 3; Perry 3; Talley 2; Hardin 1; Lane 1; Shaw 1; Tippet 1.

Pitching

Name, Throws	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	W	L	ERA
Jason Crosby	7	5	38	39	38	18	51	59	5	1	3.48
Derek Shaw	1	0	3	5	3	2	2	3	0	0	3.50
Greg Talley	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	3	0	0	3.50
Walt Gill	10	7	0	32	31	18	20	27	3	0	4.10
Guy Belue	15	12	6	66%	68	69	42	53	64	10	4.20
Ralph Guarino	14	5	2	50%	51	42	31	24	35	4	4.40
Joey Crosby	4	1	0	9%	10	11	7	14	1	1	5.60

Totals..... 29 29 11 199 267 195 119 159 265 23 6 4.20

Wild Pitches — VHS 25; Ja. Crosby 7; Belue 5; Gill 5; Guarino 4; Jo. Crosby 2.

Hit Batters — VHS 50.

come from behind. In the last two playoff series, they lost the first game only to sweep the next two.

In one subregion game during the season they were down 14-5 and rallied to win. In another the score against them was 16-7 and they rallied to tie, against their old nemesis, Garner.

"The few kids who aren't football players on the team have really taken hold of the philosophy we teach in football," Tarpley said. "They're winners, and they play hard and they play determined all the time."

Something else Tarpley preaches against is bench jockeying in poor taste. In Macon when very derogatory taunts and jeers were directed at the visiting Wildcats, not one chant of "41-0" (the Valdosta spring football score over Southwest-Macon, it would have been a natural) was to be heard out of the Wildcats' dugout.

Several Mercer people at that game commented to Valdosta officials that the Wildcat team displayed a lot of class and self-control during the game.

"We got involved in that kind of negative verbal warfare in one of our playoff games, and I think it really hurt us in that game, which we lost," Tarpley said. "After that I told our kids that I'd rather lose with dignity than win acting like a bunch of crazy people."

WGAF-AM 91 will broadcast the series live from Columbus with former Wildcat pitcher and outfielder Buck Belue handling play-by-play chores. It will begin at 2:30 Wednesday afternoon.

'Cats Air Out 31-0 Win Over 'Dogs

Times 9-20-86

Times Staff Photo by Bob Luffner

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer
WAYCROSS — Senior quarterback Greg Talley completed six of eight passes for 140 yards and two touchdowns to lead Valdosta High School to a 31-0 victory over the Waycross Bulldogs here Friday night.

The victory ran the top-ranked Wildcats' record to 3-0 while Waycross dropped to 1-2.

Talley hit senior wide receiver Jim Motes on the Wildcat's first play from scrimmage for a 34-yard touchdown play. He later connected with junior tight end Charles Steward for a 40-yard touchdown pass. A third touchdown pass of 31 yards to Steward was ruled a completion by an official 10 feet away, but was ruled incomplete by another official 30 yards away and was disallowed.

Other than being penalized eight times for 90 yards, Valdosta played a near flawless game.

"We're an aggressive football team, and when you play that aggressively, you're going to get hit with some penalties," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "We covered our kickoffs a lot better than we did last week, and our defense really stayed after them the whole game."

It was the defense which set up the first two touchdowns. Senior defensive end Seabron Williams recovered a fumble on the Bulldogs' first possession to give Valdosta the ball on the Waycross 34-yard line. Talley faded back and hit Motes in the left corner of the end zone for the score. Kicker Dan

"The offensive line played the best game they've played so far this season, and the wide receivers looked very sharp. Our offensive coaches Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton and Mike O'Brien, have done a real good job coordinating the offense, and it improved a lot tonight."

—Nick Hyder
—Valdosta Coach

Tillman's extra point made it 7-0 with barely three minutes gone in the game.

The Bulldogs bobbled the ensuing kickoff and ended up with a first down at the 5-yard line. Williams sacked Bulldog quarterback JoJo McQuain at the one on first down. Two running plays then netted six yards. Punter Stuart Saussy, who averaged 42.7 yards on four punts, kicked out of his own end zone to the Valdosta 48, from where Wildcat safety Walt Gill returned the ball four yards.

Sophomore fullback James Roberts, who would pick up 108 yards on eight carries, gained two yards on first down. Talley next hit flanker Guy Belle for four on the sidelines. Talley then made the first down on a 13-yard scamper around right hand.

On the next play, Roberts went 37 yards up the middle on a trap play for the touchdown and a 14-0 lead with 6:28 left in the first period.

Waycross quickly moved into Valdosta territory on its next possession. On second down at the 44-yard line, Williams again slammed into McQuain, just as the Bulldog quarterback threw long down the right sideline. The

ever present Derek Shaw intercepted the Wildcats.

From that point, neither team could mount much of a threat until midway through the second quarter. On a Waycross punt, the Wildcats were hit with a pair of 15-yard personal foul penalties, giving the ball back to the Bulldogs at the Valdosta 33-yard line.

Four plays later Valdosta took over at the 33. On the first play, Roberts went 42 yards on a draw. On the second play, Jerome Callaway scored from 25 yards out on a sweep to the right. A beautiful block on the linebacker by Roberts sprung Callaway around the corner. That touchdown made it 21-0, and it stayed that way until halftime.

"The offensive line played the best game they've played so far this season, and the wide receivers looked very sharp," Hyder said. "Our offensive coaches Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton and Mike O'Brien, have done a real good job coordinating the offense, and it improved a lot tonight."

In the third quarter, the Waycross wishbone mishandled a pitch out and Valdosta's freshman inside linebacker

Anthony Williams recovered at the Waycross 44-yard line.

Talley first hit Steward on a sprint out for 13 yards. On the next play, he threw a screen pass to Steward again on the right sideline, and the junior tight end, using his blocking to perfection, took it 40 yards for the touchdown. Holder B.J. Mason made a good save on the point after attempt as Tillman made it a 28-0 game.

On the next series, Waycross drove from its own 16 to deep inside Valdosta territory, but a Gill interception stopped the drive at the 5-yard line.

A 40-yard pass from Talley to Callaway over the middle set up a 36-yard field goal by Tillman which closed out the scoring in the fourth quarter.

Valdosta..... 14 7 7 3-31
Waycross..... 0 0 0 0-0

Val — Jim Motes 34 pass from Greg Talley (Dan Tillman kick)
Val — James Roberts 37 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Jerome Callaway 25 run (Tillman kick)
Val — Charles Steward 40 pass from Talley (Tillman kick)
Val — Tillman 36 FG

First Downs..... 13 Val 11 Way
Yards Rushing..... 196 39 39
Rushing Attempts..... 30 39 39
Yards Passing..... 140 101
Passes..... 12-6-1 18-7-2
Fumbles-Lost..... 4-3-5 4-2-7
Punting..... 8-90 2-70
Penalties..... 8-90 Callaway 8-48
Rushing — Valdosta: Roberts 8-108, Callaway 8-48, Talley 5-11, Waycross: Boyd 16-32, Price 4-7, Passing — Valdosta: Talley 8-4-0 140, Waycross: Taylor 13-4-1 53, Burts 1-1-0 33, McQuain 3-1-12, Receiving — Valdosta: Steward 2-53, Motes 1-34, Callaway 1-40, Mason 1-10, Belle 1-3, Waycross: McQuain 1-33, Williams 2-49, Burts 1-12.



John Wheelless Clears A Hole For Jerome Callaway's TD

Nance Wins MVP Award At Valdosta's Banquet

By BLAIR DICKINSON
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High School Baseball Boosters held their annual banquet to commemorate the 1986 season, their second most successful of all time. The Wildcats won 24 games and lost eight in a campaign which saw them win the region and advance through the state playoffs to the third game of a three-game semifinal series in Columbus.

Senior second baseman Trevor Nance was presented the Most Valuable Player Award. Nance's on-base percentage was .546 for the season. He batted .358 with two home runs and 23 RBI's and stole 17 bases. He scored 40 runs and made only two errors at second base all year. Nance was

named the 1-AAAA All-Region second baseman.

Slugging first baseman Derek Shaw was named the best offensive player for the Wildcats. He hit nine home runs and drove in 44 to go with his .374 average while batting cleanup for most of the year.

Junior catcher Bill Kirby received the best defensive player trophy for his work behind the plate. After missing the first half-dozen games due to injury, Kirby returned to provide stability to the catching duties and did not make one error over the rest of the season. He also proved quite adept at blocking pitches in the dirt, preventing runners on base from moving up.

Sophomore left-hander Guy Belle

received the winningest pitcher award, having compiled a 10-4 slate which included a three-hit complete game in Columbus in which he was saddled with the loss. He struck out 70 batters in 76 innings.

The winner of the Most Improved trophy was shortstop Art Bass who alternated between second and short over the first third of the season before settling into a regular role at shortstop. Bass batted a whopping .399 with nine stolen bases.

Designated hitter Joey Crosby and pitcher Ralph Guarino tied for Most Loyal honors. Crosby hit .372 with 21 runs-batted-in and drew 26 walks. Guarino was often used as the team's stopper out of the bullpen and compiled

a 5-1 record. He was the winner in the second game of the semifinal series in Columbus.

Reserve third baseman Matt Perry, best known for his dives into the dirt after ground balls headed toward the hole, received the Spirit of the Wildcats award.

Nance, Guarino, and Crosby along with slugging reserve outfielder Joey Trippett each received senior awards as the only four graduating off the team this year. Next year's team will return a very large nucleus.

Head coach Charles Tarpley, recently named Region 1-AAAA Coach of the Year, along with Bob Bolton and that most illustrious and highly respected oratorical genius Jimmy Taw

VHS Marching Cats Band Honors Students

V.D. Times 5-22-86

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Marching Cats Senior Banquet and annual awards ceremony was held Tuesday night, in "tribute to the hard work and dedication given through the year by the VHS band students," according to Band Director Dan Gaultney.

The awards given include: Rookie of the Year, Amelia Goodman; Senior of the Year, Jason Yost; The Tex Mullis Loyalty Award, Eric Robinson; the Lucy Stewart Memorial Award, Buffy Lynch; the Spirit of the Marchin' Cats award, Robby Hastings; Bandsman of the Year, Steve Pruitt; the John Philip Sousa Band Award, Patrick Best; the Louis Armstrong award, Alfonso Johnson. Section of the Year honors went to percussion.

The VHS band staff also presented Distinguished Service Awards to the drum majors and auxiliary captains. Most Improved Bandsman awards went to Chris Kelly, Eddie Moody, Sholanda Wade, and Napoleon Berrien for individual dramatic progress. Directors Awards went to Erica Miller, Michelle Priest and Joey Tomberlin for contributing "sound, quality musicianship to the program with consistency," according to Gaultney.

Merit awards for individual high quality work went to Kim Cook, Erica Miller and Robert McMichen.



PATRICK BEST
Sousa Band Award

The National Band Association Musicianship Award went to Laura Bailey.

The 1986 seniors include Clay Anderson, Cheryl Anderson, Randy Arnold, Katherine Askew, Debbie Bailey, Patrick Best, Michelle Bradley, Kim Cook, Travis Cox, Jen-



BUFFY LYNCH
Lucy Stewart Award

nifer Cummings, Greg Cupp, Billie Joe Guess, Magerline Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Buffy Lynch, Jim McCambridge, Caterina McHellen, Robert McMichen, Eric Robinson, Danita Rosser, Wendy Winder and Jason Yost. The VHS Band Spring Concert will be held on Friday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. at



JASON YOST
Senior Of The Year

the Valdosta State College Whitehead Auditorium.

"The program will include music by Sousa, Mozart, a dixieland medley, movie themes, a James Bond tribute and novelty numbers," according to Gaultney. Guest soloist will be Ed Barr. The concert is open to the public.



V. Times 6-2-86
Valdosta High's Alecia Deloach is buried in the books for a last-minute review before hectic final exams. The courses Miss Deloach are so engrossed in are Drawing I and II. Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek.

Valdosta VICA Banquet Honors Area Employers

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Chapter of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America honored local businesses and high school students at an Employer-Employee banquet Monday at the Sheraton Inn Restaurant.

"We wanted to make sure we thanked our employers for giving students the opportunity to get experience in the working world," VICA Sponsor Jim Landrum said.

Sixty-one businesses and 63 students were recognized at the banquet.

Anthony Freeman was named Rookie of the Year. He is a VHS junior who works at Stern's Trim Shop owned by Walter Stenbridge. Amy Kinneman was named Most Outstanding DCT-VICA student and is employed by Dr. Bill Moorman. Chris Gray was named Most Outstanding DCT student. He works with Jane McLeod at Lee Street Baptist Church.

Three adults were made honorary members of VICA at Monday's banquet. They were James Bridges, Director of Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School; John Field, VHS Vocational Supervisor and Assistant Principal; and Clarence Griffiths, VHS drafting instructor.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Sept. 27, 1986 3-A

VHS Student Council Holds News Elections

By Susan Burns
Secretary

Valdosta High School student council news elections were held recently to elect freshmen to the student council. Freshmen class officers are: Simone Allen, President; Spencer Iverson, Vice President; Jason Griffin, Secretary; and Nikki Norris, Treasurer. Other freshman members are Dan Altman, Katherine Coleman, Myel Robinson, and Carla Johnson.

A theme has been decided for Homecoming at Valdosta High School. This year's theme is "Wildcats Go Way Out West."

The homecoming parade will be Friday Oct. 17 at 4 p.m. Valdosta will play the Westover Patriots that night. Before the game, seniors, band members and football players will be introduced along with their parents. The homecoming representatives will then be introduced and the queen will be announced. The homecoming dance will be Saturday night at Mathis City Auditorium from 8-11:30 p.m.

School Yearbook

Valdosta High's 1986 yearbook will be distributed to students and faculty



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

on Saturday, Sept. 27, in the school cafeteria. Staff members will be giving out books from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. Students are asked to bring their receipts as proof of purchase.

Students may also purchase 1986 yearbook photos when they pick up their books. All-color and black and white candid photos used in the 1986 book will be on sale for fifty cents per photo.

A limited number of extra copies of the 1986 Sandspur will be on sale for twenty-five dollars per copy.

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Valdostan Receives Naval Appointment

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER
Times Staff Writer

Joseph David Gombas has earned an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the first from the Valdosta area in at least six years, according to his Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor, Lt. Cmdr. Commander Larry Cupp.

In July, the Valdosta High School graduate will join 1,300 other freshmen there, a group selected from a field of about 14,000 applicants.

According to Cupp, the appointment was the result of "a lot of hard work on his part, dedication to do the best he could and prove himself in body and mind. My main concern was educating him in military procedures and helping him develop the leadership skills that would make him a good candidate," Cupp said.

Gombas served as cadet commander from late in the 1984-85 school year until he passed his command on in the second quarter of this year. He was in charge of as many as 130 NJROTC cadets a quarter during his command.

The son of retired Air Force Master Sergeant Joseph Gombas, Jr. and Evelyn Gombas of Valdosta, he has lived here 12 years.

Gombas, 18, is also the only student from this area ever to have attended the seven-year-old NJROTC Leadership Academy at Norfolk, Va. U. S. Naval Base.

He described the experience as "tough." But he said it gave him a taste of what to expect his first year at Annapolis, during which he will be known as a "plebe," the traditional tag for freshmen.

During the one-week Academy training, he woke each morning to the sound of reveille and the clank and rattle of trash cans, thrown down barracks corridors.

"You woke up at 5:30 in the morning doing P.T. (physical training) in your

VD Times 6-10-86



JOSEPH DAVID GOMBAS
VHS Graduate

sleep," he said. "After the first day, I wanted to kill my instructor (Cupp) but finally I said 'O.K., you've got a number of days to go, you can make it one week,' he recalled.

He earned a silver shoulder cord for his efforts.

Named a Distinguished Cadet all four years in NJROTC, Gombas said he has known since he entered NJROTC in 9th grade that he wanted a military career.

He plans to concentrate on aerospace engineering at Annapolis.

He credits his appointment in part to a nomination from Rep. Charles Hatcher, Cupp and the Secretary of the Navy; that, his own hard work, and support from Cupp and assistant instructor DeWitt (Sam) Wright.

Gombas is a 1986 senior superlative and honor graduate and was a National Merit Scholarship finalist this year.

He reports to Annapolis July 7.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fri., July 18, 1986



Photo Special To The Times

Valdosta High School Cheerleaders Attend National Cheerleaders Association Workshop

Cheerleaders Receive Spirit Award

The Valdosta High School football cheerleaders recently returned from a National Cheerleaders Association summer workshop where they received top recognition as the NCA Spirit Award Winner at the camp.

The workshop was held at Pensacola, Fla., and attracted more than 200 cheerleaders from surrounding states.

The National Cheerleaders Association is sponsoring the "Spirit Award" at each of the 280 NCA workshops held across the United States. The Valdosta High School football cheerleaders were selected for the award above all other cheerleaders on the basis of a popular vote.

In addition to the Spirit Award, the VHS cheerleaders also received the coveted spirit stick each day of camp and was also in the top four squads competing for the Award of Excellence, an award based on execution of cheerleading technique.

The Valdosta cheerleaders also had one of their own nominated for Cheerleader All-American. Leslie Hagan was nominated for the second year to compete in the All-American category. This is the highest achievement for an individual at camp, said a spokesman.

Janet Whitehead is the group's adviser.

Each squad had a vote to cast for the cheerleaders they felt added the most to the clinic.

The presentation of the NCA "Spirit Award" came at the completion of a full workshop of training on cheerleading technique, cheers, chants, jumps, partner stunts and pyramids, as well as a leadership program for sportsmanship, crowd participation, responsibilities, organization and dedication. The National Cheerleaders Association has conducted summer workshops for more than 38 years, teaching nearly 100,000 students each year on the art of cheerleading.

It's That Time Of Year Wildcats Open Conditioning Practice

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High football team got together for its first organized practice Monday in preparation for the upcoming season.

And while the 'Cats are only working on conditioning at this point, it's easy to see that the team's prospects do indeed look bright.

Valdosta finished 9-3 last year, losing in the Region I-AAAA final to rival Lowndes High. It was the first time since 1979 that the 'Cats had dropped more than two games in any one season.

Valdosta's offense was criticized for its lack of offensive finesse. But this year, it appears the Wildcats won't need finesse. It only takes one glance at the prospective offensive front line

to figure out why.

"This is the biggest front line I've ever coached," said line coach Jerry Don Baker. "It's probably the biggest line we've had here since 1969 and it's probably even bigger than that one."

The 'lightweight' of the offensive front is Troy Wells, a 220-pound left guard. Tight end Charles Steward weighs in at 230.

Then come the big boys: tackle John Wheelless at 306, Jody Sprengle at 278, Ben Lane at 252, and Andy Andersen at 256.

The Wildcats also have some large bodies to run the ball with the likes of James Roberts at 215 and Lawrence Sharpe at 260.

The weight of these youngsters is likely to fluctuate, especially when working under the watchful eyes of

defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

Rudolph took delight in the first day of conditioning.

"Come here, girls," Rudolph beckoned a band of weary stragglers. Baker, too, had his mock words of encouragement. "Isn't there any blood yet?"

The Wildcats defensive squad looked small when compared to the large blockers of the offense, but when asked if his defense was small overall, Rudolph smiled.

"Sure they are," Rudolph said. "Compared to the offense."

Defensive lineman and kicker Otis Conaway made the mistake of asking assistant Mike O'Brien what a particular exercise was for. O'Brien let him find out the hard way. And to think it's only July.



Wildcat Otis Conaway Tries Out An Exercise With The Help Of Coach Mike O'Brien
Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Team Qualifies For USSSA National Tournament

V. Times * * * * * 6-21-86

The Lowndes Merchants softball team battled its way through the loser's bracket of the Lite All-Star Classic in Griffin to win a spot in the national USSSA Class B tournament Labor Day weekend.

Several of the top teams in the state participated in the tournament, but Lowndes Merchants, which consisted of all-stars from the city league, battled its way into the championship game.

Terry Barrs (who plays locally for the Madison Merchants) was named the tournament's most valuable player after going 26-for-30 (.870) at the plate. Barrs hit five home runs and drove in 17 runs and scored 15 runs.

LM opened the tournament with a 14-0 win in five innings over the Brew Crew from Griffin. Then came a 12-10 loss to Bobby Dunns, ranked 14th in the state, that sent LM into the loser's bracket.

But LM never quit. A close game (10-10 after six innings) was decided in the top of the seventh when LM scored nine runs to win 19-10. LM then downed No. 20 Scarlet Knights 29-6 in three innings. Another ranked team was the next opponent, but LM won 21-5 in four innings over No. 10 Stovall Chevrolet. LM then got a rematch with Dunns



Robert Bradley
Times Sports Editor

and came out on top of a 16-4 score. Then came a game against D&D from Macon. The game went into extra innings where LM exploded again, this time scoring 11 runs to win 22-11.

In the championship game, Manchester Veneer claimed a 14-8 victory, but LM was awarded the berth to the nationals since MV had already received a bid to the nationals, which will be played in Wilson, N.C.

The berth in the national tournament marks the first time in seven years a Valdosta team has been represented in a USSSA national tournament.

In addition to Barrs, others playing for the team are: Jerry Hughes, David White, Alan Hasty, Chuck Rich, Mike Godwin, David Pipkin, Danny Emrich, Phil Emrich, Larry Maffit, Ben Reeves, and Sid Williams.

With just a few weeks left in the regular season of the Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department's summer softball program, a few of the leagues are still up for grabs.

The only teams that have already run away with the regular-season titles are Winnersville Realty in the Men's C League and Harrington's Stars in the Women's A League.

Other than that, anything can happen in the coming weeks.

Budweiser appeared to be running away with the Men's Open title, but two losses have enabled Pepsi and Morris Insurance to climb right back in the race.

One of Bud's losses was to Pepsi last week. Pepsi jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first inning, only to have Bud come back and tie the game 10-10. Pepsi forged ahead 12-10, but lost the lead in the next inning when Bud scored nine runs.

Pepsi slowly chipped away at the deficit and tied the game at 19-all with two runs in the fifth. Both teams scored a pair of runs in the sixth and Bud went on top with a single run in the top of the seventh. But Pepsi came in in the bottom of the seventh and produced two runs to gain the victory.

The game winner was scored by Cecil Whitehead on a sacrifice fly on a close play at the plate. Whitehead also helped his team with five hits in as many at-bats, including four home runs.

In the Men's B League, the Moody Jets have a slim two-game margin over Video 2001 in the National League while The Crab Trap has a slimmer one-game cushion over Sports Locker in the American League.

Although Winnersville Realty has the championship clinched in the Men's C League, the most interesting race is among the four teams bunched together in the middle.

The Valdosta Daily Times and Griffin Corporation are tied for second place with 8-7 records while Kun-Young Chiu Associates and Lowe's are each 7-8.

If two teams finish the regular season tied, the tie is broken on head-to-head competition.

In the Men's Church A League, 1st Baptist "B" is atop the standings, but has just a 3½ game lead over the sixth-place team. Three teams are at the top of the Men's Church B League.

Twin Lakes Tavern and the Valdosta Rebels are battling out for first in the Women's B League with 13-2 and 11-4

records respectively.

The Dasher Community Athletic League held its Third Annual All-Star game last week and the West won 10-5.

Danny Ganas (who plays for Little River) was the West's MVP as he hit two home runs and drove in three runs. Lynn Patillo (Hardee's) was the East's MVP with three RBI on a double and two home runs. Bo Southers (Delta) and Ricky McDonald (Jerry's) also hit home runs for the East.

In the upset of the week in the DCAL last week, Gateway Baptist earned just its second victory of the season with a 9-6 decision over Jerry's Clothing. Greg Hardesty was 2-for-4 with a home run while Clint Holland went 2-for-3 to lead Gateway, 2-12.

Team managers and coaches need to keep several upcoming tournaments in mind.

The ASA district tournaments will be held July 11-13 at sites around the state.

The Men's B and Women's B will both be held in Valdosta. The Men's C and the Men's Industrial are scheduled for Albany while Cairo will be the site of the Men's Church A, B, C and Women's C.

Also, the Junior Olympics for all youth boys and girls will be held in Tifton.

The Georgia Recreation and Parks Society's tournaments will be played in August.

The Women's Open tournament will be in Valdosta Aug. 1-3. The Men's Open is scheduled for the 8-10th in Albany while the Men's Industrial is Aug. 9 in Albany. Moultrie will be the site of the Men's Church tourney Aug. 1-2.

The Crab Trap softball team will sponsor an open softball tournament June 27-28 at Sunset Park.

There will a \$75 admission fee plus one ball per game. For more information, call Jerry Newmans (244-0990) or Chris Brady (247-5893).

Robert Bradley's softball column is a weekly Saturday feature of *The Valdosta Daily Times*. To report tournament results or upcoming tournaments, contact Robert at 244-1880.