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Valdosta High School

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BofE Names Brandon To Succeed Goolsby

July 22

Heads Schools In July '77

By WINK DeVANE

The Valdosta Board of Education has named Assistant Supt. Ralph Brandon to succeed Supt. Foster Goolsby upon his retirement next year.

In an executive session Monday night, the board named Brandon superintendent-elect effective July 1. He is to assume Goolsby's job as head of the city school system July 1, 1977, the date Goolsby's resignation becomes effective.

Brandon, a 45-year-old Aliceville, Ala., native said Goolsby formally informed the board of his plans at Thursday's information session and recommended it give Brandon the superintendent-elect title.

Recommending Brandon for a job is nothing new for Goolsby. Brandon said Goolsby recommended him as his successor as principal at Cross Keys High School at Atlanta when Goolsby accepted the job of principal of Thomasville High School.

He then recommended Brandon for the job of principal of Cairo High School when that job came open and hired him as assistant superintendent here in 1972.

A graduate of Carrollton, Ala., High School, Brandon received his BS, master's and advanced master's degrees from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Prior to becoming Cross Keys principal, Brandon taught and coached in Wilcox County, Ala., and was assistant principal at Robertsdale, Ala., High School and Briarcliff High School at Atlanta.



RALPH BRANDON Superintendent-Elect

Married to the former Marie Lindley, he is the father of two sons and a daughter.

Brandon is a member of the board of directors of the Valdosta Kiwanis Club and teaches a young adults Sunday School class at First United Methodist Church here.

"I don't plan any basic changes in the school system," Brandon said. "Under the leadership of Mr. Goolsby, we have made some progressive moves. The main thing is to keep our programs going and progressing."

"We have recently placed strong emphasis on doing a better job in the primary grades (1-3) with the institution of in-service programs and putting additional instructional material into use."

"I want to continue our efforts toward doing a better job of teaching the basic skills."

He praised Goolsby for the job he did in the nine years he has held the superintendent's job. "Mr. Goolsby has done an outstanding job under what were sometimes trying conditions," said Brandon.

"He has gone through a building program, integration and construction of the (\$4.5 million) new high school. We were fortunate to have had him leading us during these times."

2 Valdosta High Students Are Joining Youth Tour

July 23

By Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta High School students are to tour Georgia next week with the annual Georgia Electrification Council Youth Tour.

Steve Shapiro, a VHS senior who is vice president of region I for the Future Business Leaders of America, and Bryan Strickland, also a VHS senior and state president of Diversified Cooperative Training, are to join about 40 other youth leaders for the annual tour.

The tour is sponsored annually by Georgia Power Co., Georgia EMC and Coca-Cola.

Representatives from 12 high school youth organizations tour the state to learn about business operations and career opportunities.

Some places to be visited include Moody Air Force Base near here, the State Capitol, the Agrirama in Tifton, Westinghouse in Athens, and several other places throughout Georgia.

VHS, LHS Name Coaching Staffs

Aug. July 23

By Times Staff Writer

The time is drawing near for area football camps, and Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson are as ready as anyone for the hitting to begin.

Some changes are noticeable in the two school's staffs this season, and the most glaring one is at Valdosta where Wilson is no longer offensive coordinator of the Wildcats' versatile point-scoring corps.

Instead, the Valdosta High graduate and longtime coach at the school will be trying to put some zip into the heretofore punchless LHS Vikings who have always boasted a respectable defense but lacked the ability to make the scoreboard flicker.

Hyder returns as Valdosta head coach for his third year, hoping to at least equal last season's 9-2 Region 1-AAA championship team. Hyder's first group of Wildcats in 1974 compiled a 3-7 mark.

Jack Rudolph is again slated to head up the Wildcat defense from his defensive coordinator position. Charles Tarpley is again coaching the linebackers and ends, and Ed Jones is in charge of tackles and middle guards.

Replacing Wilson is former offensive line coach Butch Brooks who, along with Hyder, is to coordinate the offense. In a switch from last season, Hyder is to call the plays.

Coaching the offensive backfield this year is Jerry Don Baker who is to be moved up from the junior high program. Freddy Waters is to return as assistant defensive coach, and newcomer Jack Hart is to assist with the offense as well as scout.

Hart is a Homerville native who has been associated with the Valdosta program in the past on the junior high level.

Former Valdosta High standout Bob Bolton has been named head coach of the freshmen this season. Head basketball coach Norman Sainz is to be his assistant.

Two new coaches, Curtis Williams and David Johnson, have been named assistants to head coach Mack Wilder at Valdosta Junior High. Williams is from Columbus and has had coaching experience at Albany State College.

Johnson has five years coaching experience in various state high schools. He is a Ringgold native.

Wilson's staff at Lowndes looks basically the same as last season when West Thomas had the controls except for the appearance of Brad Almon as defensive coordinator. Almon aided Wilson in spring drills.

Along with Wilson, Noel George is to head up the offense. Ronnie Pitcock is the offensive backfield coach, and Ron Mayer is to coach the offensive line.

Hiram Johnson has charge of the defensive linebackers, and Newnan Sanchez coaches the defensive backs. O. C. Williams is to coach the defensive linemen.

At Lowndes Junior High, Lindy Evans returns as head coach with assistants Buddy Childs and B. J. Wilson. Chuck Berkley is again head coach at Hahira Junior High with former Lowndes High player Roger Powers joining Terry Wilkes as his assistants.

Valdosta begins working out in shorts Aug. 2 and is to continue in that fashion until Aug. 13. The 'Cats are to retire to their annual preseason camp at Twin Lakes Aug. 16-20 and Aug. 23-27.

Valdosta opens its season at home Sept. 10 against Crisp County (Cordele).

Lowndes is to initiate workouts in shorts Aug. 9 at the high school. The pre-season camp at Hahira begins Aug. 16 and ends Aug. 25.

Lowndes opens its Region 1-AAA schedule a week earlier than most schools in the area with a game against Tift County (Tifton) home Sept. 3.

Valdosta Man Succumbs After Lumber Accident

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdostan died Wednesday night of internal injuries after being crushed by a bundle of lumber at the Langdale Co. near noon, according to the sheriff's department.

Reports identified the man as Joseph Carter, 20, of 837 Clifton Drive.

Detective Eddie Crow said Carter was operating a forklift in the lumber yard when he dismounted and cut a binding strap from a bundle of 2-by-12-by-16 foot boards.

Crow said 32 pieces of

lumber fell on the man pinning him between two other bundles of lumber.

The accident occurred near 12:30 p.m. and the man was taken to South Georgia Medical Center at 1:02 p.m. where he died at 7 p.m. of internal injuries, according to reports.

A.F. Hardee, director of industrial relations for the company, issued a statement today expressing sympathy and concern for the man's family and pledging efforts of the company to meet their needs.

July 22

BofE May Borrow Funds

July 23

By BECKY VAIL

The Valdosta Board of Education is facing having to borrow a half-million dollars over the next few months until the tax digest is approved by the state and tax bills begin to be paid.

The digest has not been run on the computer here and can't be sent to the state revenue commissioner until it is run.

Monday, the board is expected to authorize the school administration to borrow funds on a week-to-week basis over the next months to meet operating expenses until tax collections are underway.

Costs of the loans may run over \$5,000 in interest payments, the board was told in a work session Thursday night.

City BofE Okays Loans

JUN 27

Local Youth Gains Forest Experience

By Times Staff Writer
 A Valdosta youth has found out that the Youth Conservation Corps' slogan of "Help the Environment and Help Yourself" means a lot more than meditating in a quiet forest glen.

Burke Garrett's first week in the Forest Service-sponsored camp located at the Frank D. Merrill Army Ranger Training facility north of Dahlonoga found him digging ditches and experimenting with a swing blade.

In addition, he's receiving at least 10 hours of environmental education instruction each week for which he'll receive high school credit.

The instruction includes on-the-job experiences such as constructing drainage ditches through a silt-ridden mountain lake and clearing areas on an overgrown wildlife opening.

Recreational entertainment at the camp includes ping-pong, weightlifting, swimming and weekend trips to the all-girl YCC camp at Young Harris College.

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Board of Education has authorized school administrators to borrow up to \$250,000 in coming weeks to meet expenses until tax collections begin.

School officials expect to spend about \$5,000 in interest charges but apparently feel it's less costly to the board in the long run than cashing certificates of deposit which are still maturing.

In the meantime, City Manager Tom Muehlenbeck told the board at Monday night's meeting the tax digest for Lowndes County is still being checked for final errors

and it may be some days before the documents are sent to the state revenue commissioner.

The state may take two to three weeks to review the digest and then make any recommendations for refactoring.

Muehlenbeck explained that some taxpayers will pay their bills prior to the 30-day limit for the first half bill, once the bills are sent, which will help the cash flow.

But the larger companies with the larger payments wait until the last to have longer use of the money for their own operations.

In other activity at Monday night's meeting, the school board:

—Approved a \$7,837 contract with the Scruggs Company to pave the junior high school parking lot prior to school opening.

Another company made a lower bid, but was unable to start and finish the project prior to the opening of the fall quarter, Finance Director Jack Kent told the board.

Officials expect to have the lot, by the gymnasium complex, finished by Aug. 23.

—Approved the second reading of a policy statement eliminating contracts for non-professional employees.

—Accepted the Governor's Emergency Fund allocation to air condition a portion of Sallas-Mahone School, following a strong fund-raising campaign by the school Parent Teacher Organization.

The board agreed to advertise for bids to wire the project this month.

Board member Dr. Robert Quattlebaum and others applauded the Sallas Mahone PTO for its success and said the fund allocation is "one of the best bargains we've had in a long time."

—Agreed to go with low bids for bread and milk for the school lunch program this year.

Claussen's made the low bid for bread products and Flavo-Rich was given the contract for milk products.

—Heard a report from board member Hulyn Smith that only 334 more football season ticket seats are available.

The board recently constructed 750 seats at Cleveland Field, bringing the total seats available to season ticket holders to 3,136. Smith said so far 2,802 tickets have been sold.

—Discussed using Cleveland Field as practice site for the football team and the band.

Board member Stan Bishop said the reason the practice field at the new high school is constructed was to keep the band from "tearing up" Cleveland Field for the ball team.

Only 315 Left

VHS Tickets Going Fast

July 29

By Times Staff Writer

Success breeds success, or so the saying goes. And you can prove it by the Valdosta Wildcats.

After a dismal 3-7 record in 1974 the Wildcats had one of their roughest years ever trying to sell season reserve seat tickets to their football games last season.

Indeed, by the time the 1975 season had ended, the 'Cats, once the most feared team in the state, had only sold 2,400 of the \$15.50 seats.

Things have changed, however. The 'Cats did it themselves by finishing the season with a 9-1 record, and a three-way tie for the Region 1-AAA championship, winning a playoff with Thomasville for the title and going on to the state playoffs. And it reflects in the sales.

With the opening of pre-season football camp still a few weeks away, the Wildcats have already sold more than 2,800 of the reserve seat tickets and have only 315 left, according to city school system finance director Jack Kent.

Ticket sales are Kent's baby and he proudly points out those 315 are the last of the reserve seat tickets the 'Cats will be able to sell.

"I'm not predicting a thing," he explains, "but if by some chance we do get into the playoffs again this year, all the playoff

games will be held in Valdosta as long as the 'Cats keep winning. And if we do host the playoffs, we have to give the visiting teams half the seats in the stadium.

"That's why we can only sell 315 more tickets. We promise our season reserve seat ticket holders they'll get playoff tickets, and we want to be able to provide all of them that buy tickets with seats."

Kent said anyone still wanting tickets may order them by calling the school superintendent's office. Tickets themselves must be paid for by next Monday and are to be mailed out Aug. 15.

"We also have people who have called in for tickets but have not paid yet," Kent said. "If we don't get their checks by next Monday we'll have to sell them to someone else. We have no other choice. We have people screaming for tickets."

The school system added some 300 seats to the south section of Cleveland Field and raised the end zone seats to the same level as those on the sidelines. With the new seats Kent estimates the stadium will hold around 11,000 fans besides the two bands.

"We have five games here and at least four of them appear to be some mighty big games," Kent said. "We can almost predict that one or two will be sellouts. But we've only got room for 315 more tickets and then that's it."

VHS Deadline Set On Reserve Seats

Aug 11

By Times Staff Writer
 Valdosta High School football fans who have asked for season reserve seat tickets to home games have until this weekend to pay for them or they must go back on

the block.

"We still have about 60 tickets that people have called us to have renewed for this season who have not yet paid for them," explained city school system finance director Jack Kent.

"We have sent out three or four pieces of communication explaining that we must have the money for them. We don't have any choice. If we don't have a check by this weekend, we've got to sell them to someone else."

Kent explained the athletic association can't afford to be left holding that many tickets when the season begins.

"And besides that," he added, "we've got people screaming for those tickets. Some are even around the 50 yard line on the south side. If the people who have ordered them don't want them, we've got others who do."

Kent added checks can be mailed to: Football Tickets, P.O. Box 1085. Anyone still hoping to order season tickets may do so by calling the school superintendent's office, he added.

VHS Girls To Collect Donations

Aug 14

By Times Staff Writer
 The Valdosta High School girls' basketball team is scheduled to collect donations here Saturday to help defray the hospital expenses of one of its former team members.

Former VHS girls' head basketball coach Glen Phelps said the Kittens would be collecting donations from 9-4 p.m. Saturday to aid in the payment of a hospital bill Linda Berrian incurred.

Miss Berrian died several weeks ago from what was apparently a case of hepatitis.

Donations may also be made out to Mrs. John Troy and given to Miss Sunnie O'Neal at 1101 Williams St.

Thomasville Tops 1-AAA Pre-Allin, Trevino

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Aug. 4, 1975

By GARY SHELTON
Sports Editor
Tifton Gazette

Thomasville regain the title to Valdosta a year ago, or are the 'Cats really back?

Valdosta defeated Thomasville 3-0 in the playoff for the 1975 Region 1-AAA but the region sportswriters seem to think that 1976, like 1973 and 1974, will go to the Bulldogs.

In the fourth straight season, Thomasville tops the poll of seven sportswriters. The Bulldogs pulled down 81 of a possible 84 points, including five first place votes.

Defending champion Valdosta and Thomasville, who were 9-1 and tied with Thomasville for regular season honors

last year, split the remaining two first place votes. Moultrie was voted out a year ago, and the Wildcats beat Thomasville in the playoff.

Valdosta finished second in the voting with 76 points, while Dougherty (Albany) had 71, Moultrie 66, Thomasville Central 55, Tift County (Tifton) 42, Albany 39, Lowndes 37, Bainbridge 24, Westover (Albany) 22, Crisp County (Cordele) 18, and Monroe (Albany) 15.

Votes came from Paul McCorvey (Albany Herald), Julian Miller (Valdosta Times), Harvey Simpson (Cordele Dispatch), Joe Crine (Bainbridge Post-Searchlight), Ray Willett (Thomasville Times-Enterprise), Jesse Jenkins (Moultrie

Observer) and Gary Shelton (Tifton Gazette). Points were awarded on a 12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 basis.

A breakdown on each team follows:

Thomasville: The Bulldogs, 9-1 a year ago, had five first place votes, one second and one third. Thomasville led the league in defense last year, giving up just 45 points in the regular season.

Valdosta: The Wildcats were 9-1 last year after going 3-7 the year before, and return 1-AAA Offensive Player of the Year, Buck Belue. Valdosta led the league in scoring with 319 points in 10 games. The Wildcats had one first place vote, four seconds and two thirds.

Dougherty: The Trojans were 7-3 a year ago, losing only to the big three despite playing a large number of

sophomores. Dougherty won four seconds, four thirds and one first.

Moultrie: Moultrie was 7-3 a year ago, but slumped to four wins in 1974. The Packers were voted playoff last year after a year of losing.

Thomasville Central: The Jackets improved their record to 10-1 in Region 1-AA, where they were but not enough to break through. Central was 0-1 in Region 1-AAA, but no team to return to the top six.

Tift County: Under Coach Brodie, who won the state title last year at Macon Central, the

ENDICOTT, N.Y. (AP) — Buddy Allin gets a chance to win a second \$40,000 in an eight-day span, but Lee Trevino is expected to draw the largest gallery in the \$200,000 B.C. Open golf tournament that begins Thursday.

Walker To Be Tested

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Trevino, a 1974 British and Canadian champion, said he "has to go" in his first appearance in the Philadelphia Open June because of an ailment.

Allin last Sunday won the Pleasant Valley Massachusetts tournament victor joining the Professional Golfers' Association tour was worth \$40,000.

The sixth edition of the Open, named for a strip "B.C." created and drawn by Endicott Johnson Hart, also

Valdosta Duo To Start For South All-Star Team

By Times Staff Writer
ATLANTA — Two Valdosta High School standouts have been named as starters for the South in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association all-star high school football classic here tonight.

South coach Bud Willis, who's one of the most admired of the state's coaches at Moultrie, has listed both running back Alton Battles and receiver Billy Berrian to start in the 7:30 p.m. contest at DeKalb Memorial Stadium.

"We've really got some beautiful people to work with up here," Willis said Wednesday, "and those two guys from Valdosta are some fine little gentlemen."

"I tell you the truth... when we played Valdosta during the season, I thought Battles ran like he weighed about 250. But I've got him up here, and he doesn't weigh but 185. He just runs like he's 6-2 and 220."

Battles was the leading rusher for coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats last season, leading them to the Region 1-AAA crown and

a 10-2 overall mark.

"And that Berrian," Willis continued. "He's sitting out there just waiting. I haven't seen anybody that can catch a pass better than him. He'll dive for it, or do whatever he has to do to catch it. He's just a super competitor."

Berrian was a favorite target for Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue last season and often turned the

tables on the opposition by throwing the halfback option pass.

Willis made no bones about his purpose tonight.

"We're up here to beat the North, and I think we've got the people to do it," he said. "Of course, they've got some real athletes too. It's really just an honor for me to be associated with so much talent."

Berrian Signs With Volunteers

By Times Staff Writer
Winning the South's Most Valuable Player award in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association North-South All-Star game was a fitting end to Billy Berrian's high school career.

He had no idea then it was really the start of another one.

Berrian, Valdosta's standout halfback and the leading pass receiver in Region 1-AAA for the 1975 season, has accepted a late football grant-in-aid to play for the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

Overlooked by all the major colleges until the All-Star game earlier this month when Berrian hauled in a last minute pass to lead the South to a 29-28 victory, Berrian had decided to attend a small college in Oklahoma until a week after the game.

Tennessee head coach Bill Battles flew into Valdosta last Friday to talk to Berrian. The contract arrived Monday and was signed Monday night.

A three-year performer for the Wildcats, Berrian was the leading ground gainer pass receiver and scorer for the VHS football team, which captured the Region 1-AAA crown in 1975.

The 5-8, 175 speedster scored 23 touchdowns while leading the Wildcats to a 10-2 record last season. He is the 28th player to be signed by Tennessee this summer.

Billy Berrian

Game Didn't Come Easy For Newest Tenn. Signee

By JULIAN MILLER

When the football bounced clumsily off his fingers, fans groaned with disgust. But when he stretched out like a deer in full gallop to haul in a pass and score one of the 23 touchdowns he tallied for Valdosta's Wildcats, Billy Berrian was a hero.

More often than not, he was a hero. But even when he wasn't, everyone knew that his heart was in the right place.

Football didn't come easy to Berrian. He had to work at it harder than most youngsters. The talent within him is immeasurable, but the opportunity is a sticky one.

Billy came from the other side of the tracks. His clothes were usually those handed down from his coaches. His nights were spent washing dishes in all-night restaurants. Yet when the whistle was blown to begin practice, Berrian was among the first to arrive.

Specialized education prevented him from getting anywhere close to the college prep curriculum. But in the lower level, he managed to maintain a "B" average.

And in three years of high school, Berrian missed only one day of school.

"The Lord put talent in strange places," head coach Nick Hyder said of the small, spunky halfback, who ran over nearly anyone he couldn't run around.

If opportunity and size were lacking, talent more than makes up for it. At 5-8, 175 pounds, Berrian can knock heads with the best of them, catch with the elite and even throw with the top of the line quarterbacks.

He led the region at times in scoring, pass receiving, punt returns, kick returns and even managed to bump heads as a blocking

back his share of the times. And Hyder figured he was major college material. The major colleges did not.

"We couldn't find anyone who was interested in him except for a few small colleges," said Hyder, who watched his own wife, June, do most of the groundwork on finding Berrian a scholarship. "He was all set to attend a small college in Oklahoma, and we couldn't understand it."

Actually, it was the major college coaches who didn't understand. At least they didn't until the Aug. 5 Georgia Coaches Association North-South All-Star Game when they finally got a good look at Berrian.

The small Valdosta powerhouse was named most valuable player for the South, who won the game 29-28 on Berrian's last minute touchdown pass reception. That finally woke up some people and one of them was Bill Battle.

It was the Friday after the game that Battle, head coach of the Tennessee Volunteers called Hyder from the Valdosta airport. He had come in to talk to Berrian about coming to Tennessee.

Five hours later, Berrian was ready to sign. Monday night, his contract arrived, and Berrian was on his way to Knoxville.

"They seem to think he can help them," Hyder said of his former star halfback. "We think he can too."

The first 17 years of his life have been no bed of roses for Berrian. But he never let up. Being offered a scholarship to a major college is no guarantee of a rise from the current status. But it's a start. And if anyone ever deserved one, his coaches testify, Billy Berrian does.

'Cats Continue Conditioning Drills

By MIKE CHASON

The beat goes on for Valdosta High School's Wildcats Monday when they begin their second week of conditioning drills leading up to the annual pre-season football camp at Twin Lakes Aug. 16.

And with only two starters on offense and five on defense back off last year's 10-2 Region 1-AAA championship team, these summer workouts are more important than most observers would imagine.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder knows it only too well.

"What we're doing right now is vital... no, more than that, it's critical," Hyder said. "To at least stand up with the rest of Region

1-AAA this year, we've got to have a good season."

Hyder, now in his third year at the Wildcat post, began naming off how many players each team in the region returns for

the '76 campaign.

His 'Cats were at the bottom of the list in experience.

"We return fewer starters than anybody in the region," Hyder said. "David Cooper (right guard) and Buck Belue (quarterback) are our only starters back on offense, and we've got five more boys back who started on defense."

Besides his loss of players, Hyder is also without last year's offensive coordinator, Joe Wilson, who's now head coach across town at Lowndes High.

After a year coaching the VHS ninth graders in 1974, Wilson returned to his post as offensive coordinator last year and was given much of the credit for the awesome point-scoring corps which became the Valdosta offense.

However, Wilson had an almost entire veteran offense to work with. The '74

Wildcats were young and inexperienced, but got valuable playing time.

But now it's 1976, Wilson is gone, and so is the offense he helped develop a year ago.

However, Hyder does have some talented potential including Wilson's son Jody who proved to be a sticky fingered receiver last season.

Wide receiver Leon Johnson came off the basketball team to have a great spring game, and Steve Jennings has shown sparks of brilliance at running back.

But right now, Hyder's concern is to get his club into shape to begin filling those empty uniforms.

"You've got to get your body conditioned," Hyder said. "It's a grueling time for everybody out there in the hot sun and all, and it's not an easy thing to do. But you've got to get your body past that pain threshold."

Hyder explained that his team was in fairly decent shape because of an extensive off-season program which began as soon as the football season ended and continued until school recessed in May.

June and July were free months, and now it's time to bring back those agonizing hours of wind sprints and grass drills.

Some 100 varsity candidates are out for the team in addition to 50 ninth graders. Hyder said only 90 of the 150 would be able to attend the two week camp at the 4-H club facility at Twin Lakes.

The camp runs in two five-day sessions with workouts under the lights at Cleveland Field here on Aug. 20 and Aug. 27.

Valdosta begins its regular season Sept. 10 at home against Crisp County's Cougars from Cordele.

Wildcats Ready To Knock Heads

By JULIAN MILLER

Last football season, Valdosta's Wildcats set out to prove they had the best football team in Region 1-AAA. And they succeeded.

Now they're ready to begin preparations for the 1976 season and head coach Nick Hyder has another region first to announce. His Wildcats are the greenest.

"With only seven starters coming back from last season we've got the most inexperienced team in the Region," the VHS grid boss, in his third year at the helm announced.

"We've lost a fine set of youngsters and we've got a lot of inexperienced ones coming back. But we've got a fairly good nucleus of those inexperienced players to work with."

Hyder takes the practical approach into the Wildcats' two weeks of pre-season football camp to get underway at the 4-H Camp at Twin Lakes Monday.

The camp this year, sponsored as usual by the Valdosta Touchdown Club, is to be smaller. School administrators have ordered the number of candidates cut down to 90.

"That's a mandate," Hyder said. "But we really didn't have room for as many as we were taking. They were sleeping on the floor, the tables... everywhere."

"The only way to get experience is to get out and get it," he said. That may sound like a tongue twister, but it's blatantly factual. And Hyder plans to waste no time.

The 'Cats have already gone through two weeks of pre-camp conditioning, preceded by summer weightlifting and agility drills. When they hit camp Monday, they'll be ready to don the pads and begin knocking heads.

"We've got a lot of plusses and minuses about the shape we're in before camp," Hyder admitted. "Inexperience is a minus, but the only way to solve that is to go out and get it. But the realignment of the coaching

staff is a plus that seems to have worked out real well for us."

The realignment was brought on mainly by the resignation of offensive co-ordinator Joe Wilson, who has been named head coach and athletic director at cross city Lowndes High School.

With Wilson gone, Hyder has promoted former offensive line coach Butch Brooks to the position which created a shuffle through the coaching staff.

The 'Cats graduated six of the 11 defensive starters and all but two on offense from the 1976 season. But among those returnees is junior quarterback Buck Belue, last year's offensive playuer of the year for Region 1-AAA and the first player to start at quarterback for the Wildcats in his freshman Year.

The Wildcats recovered from a disasterous 3-7 record in 1974 to finish the 1975 season with a 9-1 record and three way tie for the Region 1-AAA championship. A 3-0 victory over Thomasville gave the 'Cats the right to campaign in the state playoffs but a 15-14 upset loss to Wayne County stopped them in the first round.

Even so, the 'Cats brought in a total of \$75,791 in gate receipts during the regular season, which with \$16,418 in receipts from the two playoffs games, gave the team it's most successful year financially ever. And 1976 could be better.

"We've already sold over 3,300 season tickets," Hyder beams. "And we've added 760 seats to the (Cleveland Field) stadium. That's an awful lot of anticipation."

Hyder makes no bones about it. It's going to take hard work to make up for the lack of experience. But with a little extra effort in the right places, he feels he can reward that anticipation with positive results.

"But it's going to take a lot of hard work," he warns.



Stacking The Deck

Valdosta High sophomore Hugh Brown went to lots of trouble to provide himself with a lofty perch during an afternoon rehearsal of the "Marchin' Cats" on the campus of South Georgia College in Douglas. The band has been encamped at Douglas since last

Sunday for their annual band camp in preparation for the 1976 football season. Director Frank Butenschon and his charges are scheduled to return to Valdosta today. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.

VHS Tickets Still On Sale

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta Athletic Association makes its last effort to sell between 200 and 300 reserve seat season tickets to Valdosta High School football games this weekend when it holds "open house" at the Valdosta Board of Education office.

Finance director Jack Kent said those wishing to buy the remaining ducats may visit the BOE office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday where their location can be seen on scale drawings.

About 200 of the remaining tickets had been requested by early ticket buyers but were

placed back on the block when those people failed to pay for them by deadline.

"We've got some really good seats on the north side and some good ones on the

south side," Kent said.

Tickets are going for \$15.25 per seat, he added. The Athletic Association has already sold nearly 2,800 tickets.

Valdosta Receivers Lead The Region Most Seasons

By ELLWOOD MOYER
Region 1-AAA Statistician

Valdosta High School pass receivers have made a name for themselves in the Region 1-AAA football ranks. A Wildcat has won the region's pass catching crown five of the past six years.

Billy Berrian captured the coveted title a year ago with 53 catches for a total of 618 yards and four touchdowns.

Berrian topped the previous year's winner, Wes Westbrook of Albany, who hauled in 37 completions for 557 yards and five touchdowns.

From 1971 through '73, Valdosta's Stanford Rome dominated the region's receivers, winning the title an unprecedented three consecutive years.

As a sophomore in '71, Rome caught 50 passes for 1,184 yards and 15 touchdowns to set the all-time yardage mark. He followed up that performance with 35 catches for 826 yards and nine touchdowns the following

year.

As a senior, Rome logged 64 passes for a total of 1,102 yards and nine more touchdowns. Rome is now at Clemson University where he has opted to concentrate on basketball fulltime — this season after playing both football and basketball last year.

Dan Johnson started the Valdosta streak in 1970 when he caught 36 passes for 66 yards and seven touchdowns.

In the past 25 years Valdosta has had several other winners including Rhet Dawson in 1965 with 32 catches for 473 yards and five touchdowns, and Giles Smith in 1961 and '62.

Smith grabbed 24 passes for 574 yards and eight touchdowns enroute to his first title, and had 29 catches for 431 yards and four touchdowns in '62.

The only other Valdostan to take top honors was Victor Findley in 1958. Findley totaled 19 receptions for 462 yards and six touchdowns.

Cheerleaders Cop Honors

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School varsity cheerleaders are counting the honors they received in the southeastern cheerleading camp held in Jacksonville, Fla., earlier

this month.

The team won three superior ratings, one excellent and a spirit stick at the camp.

Advisor to the group is Barbara Vaughn.

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Hyder Discovers A Silver Lining

Aug. 29

By JULIAN MILLER
Ask any football coach how he feels about injuries and he'll cringe and shudder. And Nick Hyder is no different.

When someone mentions to Hyder that 18 of his 90 Valdosta High School Wildcats have been injured in preseason camp, a noticeable frown forms on his rugged face.

But then, behind every cloud, there should be a silver lining.

"First of all, that number is greatly exaggerated," Hyder said. "We actually have two players out with broken bones and both are considered very minor fractures. A third had a mild concussion and a fourth has mononucleosis."

All but three of those four players are expected to be back with us Monday afternoon."

Seventy nine of those 90 candidates dressed out for Friday night's end of camp swimpage under the lights at Cleveland Field. But among the 11 still not dressed were starters Lawrence Lowe, Ben Blanton, Steve Jennings and Tom Copeland.

That's bad, and then it's good. Hyder has found, however. Because of injuries, Hyder's staff was forced to look harder for replacements. When they did they got some pleasant surprises.

"We moved Robert Baldwin to fullback and discovered Brad Cohen (190, sr.) and a couple of others are doing quite well at Baldwin's linebacker position," Hyder explained. "Then Doug Conway (182, jr.) moved into Cohen's end and linebacker position and looked well there."

There are other examples. When starting tackle O'Keefe Hunter (230, sr.) hurt his ankle, Hyder discovered

Curtis Wright (180, jr.) and when Lowe (198, sr.) went out at safety, and Jimmy Hartman (164, jr.), another safety came down with mononucleosis, Carl Roe (150, soph.) rallied to the cause.

Two sophomores, Lynn Roberts and Troy Thomas, have emerged to give the 'Cats what Hyder feels are the best two cornerbacks the team has had since he has been there.

On offense, William Gaskins (155, soph.), the shortest player on the team, has emerged as a leader in the offensive backfield as well as Ricky Holcomb (165, jr.), Bobby Johnson (175, soph.), Sam Fletcher (170, soph.) and Earnest King (175, soph.)

Wildcats Choose Their Captains

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's Wildcats, concurring with most college recruiters who have visited their preseason football camp and tabbed linebacker Keith Middleton as the number one prospect on their team, have elected the four-year veteran their captain for the 1976 season.

Head coach Nick Hyder said the selection was made by the players themselves in an election among team members at the camp Friday.

Four more players have been selected as captains as well.

Besides choosing Middleton, a 220-pound 6-foot-2 senior as their overall captain, the 'Cats selected Lawrence Lowe (198, sr.) as their defensive captain and guard David Cooper (195, sr.) as their offensive captain.

O'Keefe Hunter (230, sr.) was selected as the defensive

fr.) At quarterback Hyder is still happy with the improvement of John Lashinger (180, soph.) and of course, Buck Belue, his third year starter (195, jr.), who had his best scrimmage of the camp Friday.

"On the offensive line, David Cooper (195, sr.) and Alvin Thomas (180, jr.) have blocked well," Hyder said. "And Tony Biasetti (185, fr.) is filling in for Ben Blanton (215, sr.) while he's hurt and has been a most pleasant surprise. Bryan Johnson (185, sr.) and Andy Chapman (177, soph.) have looked well at offensive guard. They're vastly improved over a week ago."

One of Hyder's most pleasant surprises is of-

ensive tackle Scott Griffin (185, soph.) who leads other hopefuls Gary Guthrie (225, jr.), Doug Arnold (270, jr.) and Bubba Hardin (160, soph.) in an attempt to rebuild the depleted offensive line.

Darrell Sirmans (160, jr.) has also started to shine at center, along with Jody Wilson (150, jr.) and Craig Council (175, jr.) and Craig Adams (163, sr.) at tight end.

Jody has worked extremely hard and is showing great leadership in our offensive backfield as well," Hyder added.

The kicking game is Hyder's baby and he's proud of it. Belue and Rodney Gordon (157, soph.) handle the punting duties. Baldwin (195, jr.) returns as

placekicker after leading the region last season with Mike Cross (151, jr.) backing him up.

"You never hear much about that all important center snap for the kicking game but Brian Johnson and David Cooper are doing a great job there," Hyder said. "And you never hear anything about the quarterback who holds for placekickers but Belue and Lashinger have both been excellent there."

Once Hyder starts praising people, he finds it hard to stop. And he rarely completes an interview without a word about his coaching staff.

Butch Brooks (offensive coordinator) has worked hard trying to rebuild that offensive line," Hyder

praised. "Jerry Don Baker and Jack Hart are working with him."

"And Jack Rudolph (defensive co-ordinator) is doing a great job on defense with Charles Tarpley, Ed Jones and Freddie Waters. One of the hardest working people on the field is Jim Burroughs, he's our trainer."

The 'Cats have ended their "vacation" at the Twin Lakes 4-H camps where they annually hold preseason camp. They begin one-a-day practices for the next two weeks now, preparing for their Sept. 10 opener with Crisp County of Cordele.

"We've come a long way," Hyder admitted. "But to be able to do as well as we did last year, we've still got a long way to go!"



KEITH MIDDLETON
Overall Captain



DAVID COOPER
Offensive Boss



O'KEEFE HUNTER
Big Tackle



BEN BLANTON
Hugh Center

co-captain with Ben Blanton (215, sr.) as offensive co-captain.

Middleton, Lowe and Cooper each represent four years experience on the VHS varsity. Middleton, as well as

the other two captains, has been touted by visiting college recruiters.

Lowe, who is currently sidelined with a minor fracture to his foot, seems to



Injured Lowe Watches From Side

—Times Staff Photo.

Four Years After

Aug. 29

The 'Bazemore Era' Bolder Than Ever

By Times Staff Writer

Back in the winter of 1971, when Wright Bazemore announced to the world his intentions of retiring as head coach of the Valdosta Wildcats, most of the other schools in Class AAA breathed a heavy sigh of relief.

Whereas the hero of Valdosta football had been the best thing that ever happened to the game in these parts, he had been a thorn in the side of every other high school coach in the region for years.

But those heavy sighs, most people have come to realize, were a bit premature. The Bazemore era is still among us, and gaining strength with every season.

First of all, those who thought the silver-haired fox, who had spent his last 31 years coaching football, would simply hang up his coaching shoes soon find their thoughts somewhat amiss.

And most opposing coaches who hadn't decided the Bazemore method might be the best in their own circumstances, soon came around to the idea.

Now, five years after the winningest high school football coach in the nation had assumed his new job as athletic director for the entire city school system here, Bazemore football may be at its most popular stage ever.

The old man has a direct relationship to most of the reasons. It would take all his fingers and toes to count the number of his own former players who are now coaching in the south Georgia area alone.

But there are others. Football coaches are a plagerizing lot and what works well for one team soon finds itself being run by others. And Bazemore's playbook still works.

It has ever since 1939, when Bazemore, then a fair-haired youngster, came to Valdosta from Waycross as an assistant football coach to then top man Bobby Hooks.

When Hooks left for Mercer University two years later, there was

only one conceivable choice to replace him and the Bazemore era was on.

By the time Bazemore called it quits after the 1971 season, his Wildcats had accumulated 15 state championships, two mythical national championships, more national recognition than any other team and the biggest financial goldmine ever in the public school system.

It took two gigantic trophy rooms to accommodate all the symbols of success the Wildcats had accumulated when they moved to the new VHS facility two years ago. And despite the fact that nearly 100 of the trophies had been stolen from the unlocked cases lining the old school's halls, it took six months to get them arranged to perfection.

And the Baze eyes them all with smiles. But the football trophies have to be closest to his heart.

Football and Bazemore seem to go together. Whereas some people might object to having their predecessors around, Bazemore inspires the opposite.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder openly invites him to his practice sessions without hesitation and admits he still looks to the "old man" for advice. Bazemore responds by taking an active role in practice sessions, addressing most of his comments to the coaches but every now and then unleashing a torrent of advice directly to the player.

"How could I not want him around?" Hyder, philosophized recently while talking to a major college recruiter. "He's got one of the greatest minds in football. And he developed the system we're using. Who would be better to teach it?"

Hyder came to Valdosta a student of the wishbone. It took one spring practice session to convert him to a believer in Bazemore's multiple offense.

"I've got miles and miles of films in my apartment," Hyder offers. "I've spent so much time looking at them again and again that I'm about to put

the fourth motor on my old projector."

Hyder's not the only Region 1-AAA head coach who lives and breathes Bazemore football. Across town, Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson, who played under Bazemore in the 1950's and coached with him for nearly 10 years is installing the same offense.

"I played it under Bazemore for four years and coached it under him for ten more," he explains. "I'm too old to learn a new one now."

In nearby Nashville, Ga., former Wildcat Foy Norwood has the helm of the Berrien High Rebels.

"You're going to see us run an awful lot of the old Valdosta plays I ran under Bazemore," the University of Tennessee at Martin standout said.

The list of other former Bazemore students who are coaching their own teams now seems almost endless.

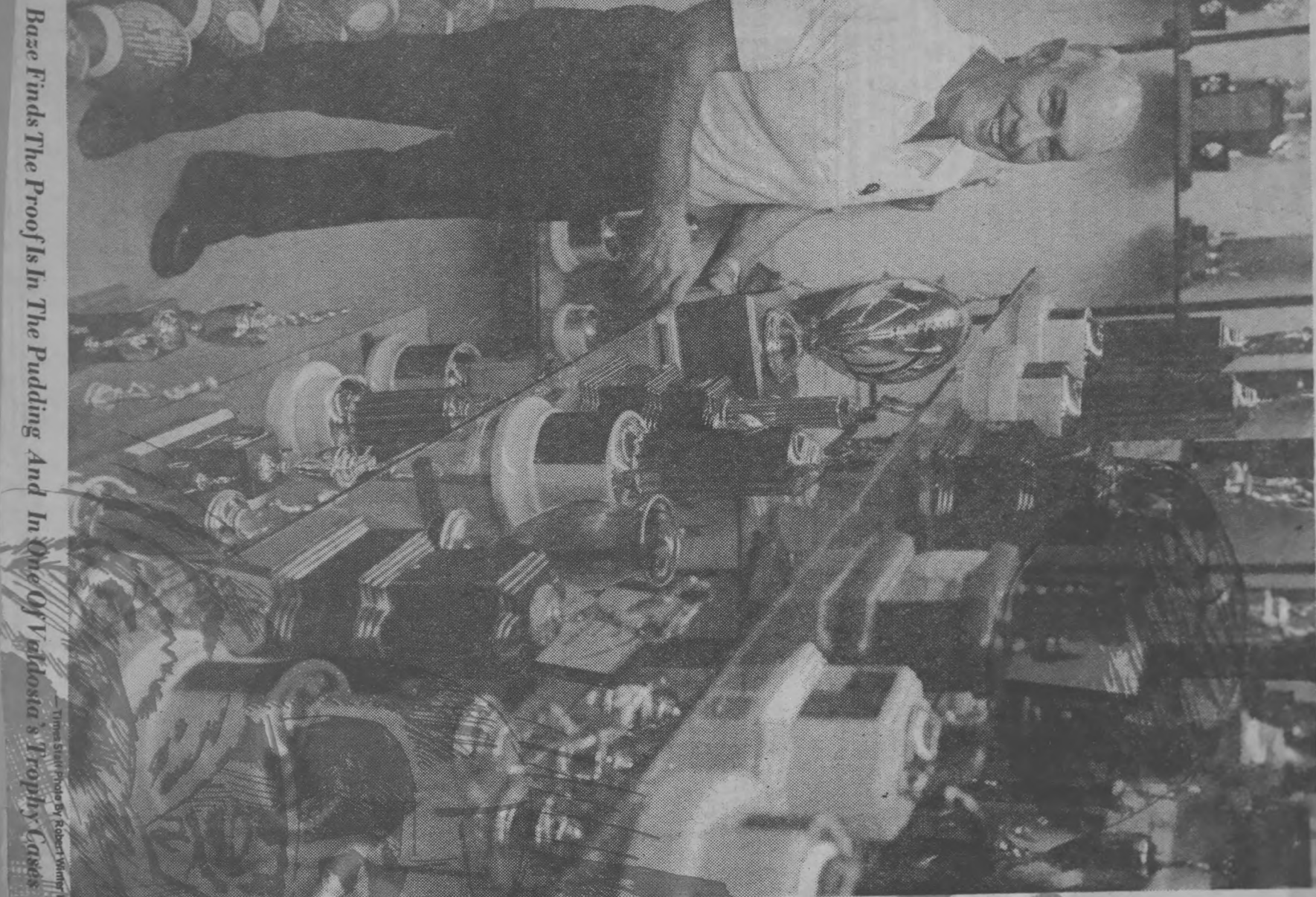
"I guess I could find 100 of them if I sat down and thought about it," Bazemore himself declares.

Those coaches naturally use at least part of the Bazemore system. But other coaches have caught on.

"I noticed many of the plays (Moultrie Coach) Bud Willis called in the (Georgia Athletic Coaches Association) All-Star Game last month were old Bazemore plays," Hyder points out. "I've also seen teams like Thomasville use some."

"I first heard about Bazemore when I was in high school in East Tennessee when Valdosta started one of those long winning streaks in the 1950's," he recalls. "Then I heard (former LaGrange coach Oliver) Hunnicutt, who was supposed to have over a million plays in his playbook remark that Bazemore's playbook made him look like an abridged version."

"Bazemore's an innovator," Hyder continued. "You don't have that many innovators in coaching. They usually stick with the proven tactics. When someone tries something new on you and it works, you tend to remember it." And Bazemore football still works.



Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III
Baze Finds The Proof Is In The Pudding And In One Of Valdosta's Trophy Cases

Hyder, 'Cats Begin Third Grid Season

By JULIAN MILLER

With a year of feast and another of famine behind him, Nick Hyder takes his Valdosta Wildcats into their third season under his direction in two weeks, not really knowing what the future has in store for them.

It could be another season like his first in Valdosta, when Hyder and the 'Cats had to live through a miserable 3-7 record while they tried to rebuild.

Or it could be one more like the 1975 campaign, when the Wildcats survived a season in the roughest region in the state, a vote to eliminate one team in a three-way tie and a playoff with Thomasville, only to lose their state championship hopes in an upset loss to Wayne County.

Frankly, Hyder is worried.

Ironically, however, it's not the knowledge that Valdosta fans, accustomed to winning all the marbles after Wright Bazemore's 31 successful years at the helm, have a reputation of being unmerciful on a coach who can't satisfy their wants.

It's the pressure within himself that keeps him rolling.

"Oh, there's pressure (on us)," Hyder pointed out. "But then I wouldn't want to be where there was no pressure. But if the people outside me pressured me more than the pressure within myself, I wouldn't deserve to be the coach here."

"What we're all asking for is the maximum of our capability."

Hyder is the first to realize, things can get worse than they were in 1974 or better than they were in 1975. In fact, 1975 didn't accomplish what he had really set out to do when he started the campaign.

"No, I'm not satisfied (with a 10-2 record)," Hyder admits. "I was proud of the way these youngsters had rallied from a disaster to the region championship. But none of us were happy after losing in Jesup. Defeat is disappointing regardless of when and where it comes. But it also sets commitment and determination."

Hyder's not ashamed to confirm the theory that he thought his Wildcats should have beaten Wayne County and possibly claimed the state championship. After winning the Region 1-AAA crown it's almost the expected feat.

"We certainly felt like we could have been in contention (for the state title)," he said. "One thing we learn in every facet of preparation for every ball game — do not take anything for granted the crowd, the tickets, the game preparation..."

Apparently, the Wildcats did. And Hyder takes all the blame.

"Our game preparation was sound, but our mental attitude needed to be worked on," he confided. "But then Jesup did play as they had at no other time in the season. I guess that just goes to show you how much people want to beat Valdosta."

Armed with that knowledge, Hyder and his staff have turned their attentions to the 1976 season with vigor, only to find they had sabotaged themselves during the previous season.

The Wildcats assembled at their preseason work camp at Twin Lakes two weeks ago to begin knocking heads and realized they were younger and less experienced than they thought they would be. More so, in fact, than they should have been.

"We didn't play as many people on offense last season as we should have," Hyder explained. "I'll take the blame for that. That's one of my first rules. But now we've got to work harder than ever."

Things were hard enough on the Wildcat offense when nine of 11 starters were lost through graduation and one of the remainders was moved to another position. Their failure to play more people in those positions has just made things rougher.

Returning to his old position is former freshman and sophomore quarterback sensation Buck Belue, hoping to repeat as region passing leader. But the rest of the offensive backfield will be newcomers.



— Times Staff Photo.

Nick Hyder: A Worried Coach

Defense, where the 'Cats return seven starters, is a little more promising, but even here the team has its problems.

Among those returnees were standouts such as safeties Lawrence Lowe, and Allen Worthy, linebackers Keith Middleton and Robert Baldwin and tackles Eddie Denard and O'Keefe Hunter.

In the past two weeks, however, Lowe has broken a small bone in his foot that could sideline him for the first part of the season and Baldwin and Hunter have received less extensive injuries.

"We've got to have experience," Hyder explained, "and the only way to get it is to get out and work for it."

The only way to prepare for that is to put themselves to work in the trenches and the Wildcats have done just that, preparing for their season opener against Crisp County here Sept. 10.

That takes a lot of preparation. Ever since the 'Cats finished the 1975 season, for example, they've been on a weightlifting conditioning and agility program to help prepare for the upcoming season.

"We worked two weeks in shorts at the school preparing for the camp where we first put on pads," Hyder pointed out. "Then we work two weeks in camp preparing for the season."

Next in line is another two weeks in town, during which time the players will also be starting school, when they will work exclusively on preparing for the season opener.

And with all the odds at stake, it's no wonder that Hyder and his 'Cats would be apprehensive now.

Aug. 28 Dosta Teach. Tops In Second Cong. District

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School teacher was recently named Business and Office Educator of the Year for the Second Congressional District.

Beth Barfield, vocational office training coordinator and business ed teacher at VHS, was selected for the award earlier this month by the Georgia Vocation Association.

Miss Barfield, who advises the VHS Future Business Leaders of America Club, has also been honored twice as Eighth District Business Education Teacher of the Year.

A seven-year teaching veteran, Miss Barfield received her bachelors and masters degrees from Valdosta State College.

The award was based on her contribution to business education, professional development, involvement in professional and community associations and her philosophy of business education.

Miss Barfield is a past president of the Georgia Business Education Association and is first vice-president of the Valdosta Association of Educators and the Valdosta Business and Professional Women's Club.

City Schools Goals

Committee Meeting

Valdosta City School System goal-setting steering committee is to meet Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Sallas-Mahone Elementary School library, according to an announcement.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide guidelines to be used by parents, teachers and administrators in each Valdosta school for setting individual school goals.

Hahira Nips VHS 9th Grade

By Times Staff Writer

HAHIRA — The pass, catching combination of Jeff Stokes to Wayne Wright clicked for two late touchdowns to send the Hahira Junior High School Tigers to a 21-14 victory over the Valdosta High School ninth grade team here Thursday.

In the final four minutes of the game, Stokes took two pitchouts from quarterback Chuck DeVane and converted them into touchdown passes of 38 and 65 yards to Wright.

Stokes also hit all three of his extra point attempts in the Tigers' opening game of the year.

The Valdosta freshmen got on the scoreboard first when fullback Jimbo Hancock found paydirt on a six-yard plunge in the first quarter.

After the extra point attempt failed, DeVane tied it up for Hahira with a 20-yard aerial strike to Robert Burks. Stokes' extra point broke the tie, but VHS stormed back on John Bond's one-yard keeper for another TD in the third period. Bond also sneaked in for the two point conversion.

That score put Valdosta up 14-7 and set the stage for the Stokes to Wright connection. Hahira travels to Moultrie Thursday at 4 p. m.

Aug 29

1,000 Members

Touchdown Club Myth May Be A Myth No More

By Times Staff Writer

Ever since the Valdosta Touchdown Club was begun back in the 1940s there has been this myth about it having 1,000 members. But if David Waller has his way, that myth will be a myth no more.

"I'm just not going to be satisfied with anything less than 1,000 members this year," the Valdosta air conditioning executive declared as president of the Valdosta Touchdown Club. "If we get 1,000 people behind us we've got an awful lot of support. And that's exactly what we're looking for."

Other Touchdown Club members had a feeling

Word around town was that it had actually gone into the hole by a few thousand dollars. And membership was again down. So Waller headed the call once again.

"We started off needing a lot of help," Waller said. "We were afraid we might be on our last leg. But now we're in mighty good shape. We're out of debt, have the preseason camp already paid for and we're real happy with the whole situation."

The Touchdown Club's aim is to provide both financial and moral backing for Valdosta High School's Wildcats. Legendary head coach Wright Bazemore gives them credit for most of

the achievements the 'Cats accumulated under his direction.

But money isn't everything. Moral support is just as important. That's why Waller wants to see 1,000 smiling faces at the Touchdown Club meeting.

"In my opinion a good Touchdown Club is good support," Waller explains. "The membership is \$10 a year like it was back in 1945. We could have increased it. But my philosophy is to get people involved. And when you get 1,000 people behind you, it helps."

"Everybody respects people. You can get a lot more done with 1,000 people

at \$10 than you can with 500 folks at \$20. We'd much rather have the people than the money."

Waller figures it cost him around \$10,000 in his own time and that of his secretaries' to be president of the club in 1974. This season it'll probably cost him more.

"But I don't mind," he mused. "I'm proud to have been selected to do it. To me, it's a love of kids and the football team. There's really no way to put a money value on it. Money just isn't a factor in this to me."

"I believe if you help kids like we're trying to do, it'll make life that much better. I really love it."

Waller knew the club was in debt when he took the position.

"But I still consider it an honor," he said. "I knew it would take a heck of a lot of work. But I'm willing to sacrifice. We're trying to iron out the problems and right now I think we're on the way."

Waller praised his board first. "They work hard for me," he said. "They have committed themselves to the total program. You never really know how much they do. They not only take care of the supporters, banquets, and football camp, they act as coordinators between the school and the community."

Unless you're in it, you'll never realize how much of this comes to the Touchdown Club."

The 600 members already recruited by the Touchdown Club inspired Waller to look toward that 1,000-member plateau with optimism. It's the most ever signed up a week before the season starts. It has the makings of a great year.

"It's got to be great," Waller concluded. "We've just got to reach that goal this time."

He added anyone who cares to join the club may do so by contacting any of the members or writing the Touchdown Club at P.O. Box 794.

Butterfly Season Opens For Hyder

By Times Staff Writer

It's butterfly season again. They're all over Nick Hyder's stomach. A few have even made their way up into his throat.

The season started Friday night about 7:30 when Hyder walked into Crisp County Stadium to watch Crisp's Cougars and Bainbridge's Bearcats lock horns in the Region 1-AAA high school football season opener.

This Friday, Hyder's own Valdosta Wildcats must play host to the same bunch of Cougars who cut down the Bearcats 34-21 in that game. The following Friday they travel to Bainbridge to challenge the Bearcats.

"Yes I'm scared," Hyder offered. "I'm always scared. I had one of those semi-butterfly situations Friday night when I watched those two teams play; it suddenly dawned on me that we've got to play them both in the next two weeks. I pictured myself on the sidelines and it was frightening."

Hyder's Wildcats are the defending region champions and open their season again Crisp next week, hoping to take the first steps towards retaining that title. But Hyder's taking nothing for granted.

"We've been working five weeks now, three of them in pads, and we desperately need to play someone besides ourselves," Hyder said. "But we have no idea what to expect when we do take on someone else."

Cause of Hyder's anticipation is the inexperience of his Wildcats. Only one player returns to his starting position on the VHS offense. Only four return on defense.

"I'm happy with the effort we've gotten from all the players so far but we've still got an awful lot of gaps to fill," Hyder said. "I mean it. We're the most inexperienced team in the region. How do you think a naval air commander would like a bunch of pilots who have never landed on an air craft carrier before to be trying to land on his boat?"

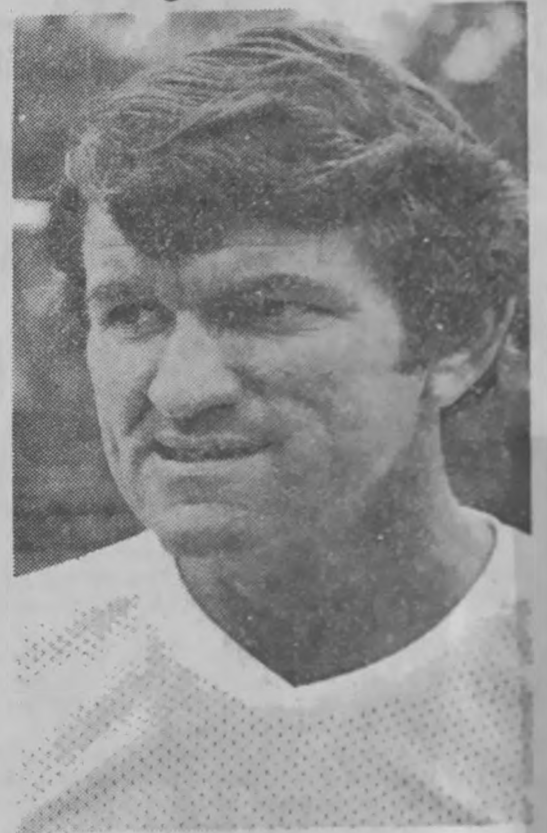
"That's the way it is with us. You've got to let a youngster actually play a game in Region 1-AAA before he really understands what it's all about. Anyone in this region can knock off anybody else and Crisp is coming in for an upset. They want us real bad. It would make the decade for them. I know. We made Bainbridge's two years ago."

It was two years ago that Hyder first came to Valdosta from West Rome High School for a disastrous first season with the 'Cats. They opened with a 3-0 victory over Crisp then fell to Bainbridge, 19-14. Before the season was over the 'Cats would lose six more and win only two others.

The 1975 Wildcats all but erased the memory of that 3-7 year with a 10-2 record last season. But Hyder remembers. And he doesn't care to go through that again.

"We worked real hard again this week," he said. "The heat slowed us down a little and coming back from camp to one-a-day practices made us a little sluggish. But even though we had six to 10 boys sick or injured, we never let up on hard work. To be prepared mentally you've first got to be prepared physically and that's what we're working on."

The Wildcats have offered a few cures for the butterflies, should Hyder care to take them. One is the play of reserve lineman Curtis Wright (180, jr.) who has filled in for the injured O'Keefe Hunter at tackle and



Nick Hyder: 'Always Scared'

also run some plays at middleguard.

Troy Thomas (170, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.) are standing out in practice at defensive cornerback with Carl Roe (150, soph.) at defensive safety. Robert Baldwin (195, jr.) has been moved to offensive fullback but still maintains a lead on his linebacking position as well. And John Lastinger (160, soph.) continues to give Buck Belue (195, jr.), last year's Region 1-AAA Offensive Player of the Year, a battle at quarterback.

"John and Buck have a real fine competitive situation at quarterback which I like," said Hyder. "John serves notice everyday that he wants to help this team and he's got the talent and mental input."

Also on offense is William Gaskins (155, soph.), at halfback and may end up with the job as his own, Jody Wilson (150, jr.) and Robert Smith (155, soph.) are leading the team as wide receivers with Leon Johnson (155, sr.), described by Hyder as "improving every day" and Craig Adams (163, sr.) at split end and Alvin Thomas (180, jr.) and Frank Council (175, jr.) at tight end.

Other standouts include offensive linemen Tom Copeland (185, sr.), Scott Griffin (185, soph.), and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.), Bryan Johnson (185, sr.) and Andy Chapman (177, soph.).

"And at center, even though we've got no experience there, have been Ben Blanton (215, sr.) and Tony Blasetti (185, fr.), who may be the best prepared ninth grade lineman I've ever coached," said Hyder.

The Wildcats turn their general practices into specific drills for their season opener Monday.

"I think all the players are ready to begin getting ready for Crisp," Hyder said. "They want to play and this is what it takes."

Wildcats Open '76 Season, Vikings Shoot For 2nd Win

Sept 6

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School unveils its newest edition of Wildcat football Friday night while across town, Joe Wilson

AREA GRIDSLATE Friday

Crisp at Valdosta
Monroe at Lowndes
Clinch at Glennville
Coffee at Cook
Brooks at Seminole
Berrien at Atkinson
Hamilton at Newberry
Madison at Florida High
Westbrook at Tiftarea

aims to extend the Lowndes' win streak to two.

Coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats host Crisp County's Cougars from Cordele in the Region 1-AAA season opener for VHS. Crisp gunned down Bainbridge 34-21 last week.

Also playing at home at the same 8 p.m. starting time are Lowndes' Vikings who are to tangle with the Golden Tornadoes of Monroe. This is the only Friday night during the football year when both Valdosta and Lowndes have home games.

Lowndes stunned Tift County (Tifton) 21-14 last week while the Tornadoes from Albany were idle. The Vikings escaped with a 14-0 triumph a year ago.

In other games Friday night, Clinch County (Homerville) opens its season at Glennville, Cook hosts Coffee County (Douglas) in Adel, Brooks County (Quitman) hits the road to Donalsonville to take on Seminole County, and Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) boards the bus to Atkinson County (Pearson).

Also, Westbrook (Dixie) travels to Chula to pair up with Tiftarea, Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.), opens on the road against Newberry, Fla., and Madison, Fla. kicks off its year in Tallahassee, Fla. against Florida High.

Coach Donald Tyson's Clinch team posted an 8-2-1 record last season, but makes

the move to class A this year from class B. Glennville campaigns in the same 2-A region as the Panthers, but in the opposite sub-region.

After a 6-0 loss to Berrien last week, Cook seems ill prepared to face a Coffee club which knocked off always powerful Irwin County (Ocilla) 27-21 Friday night. The contest is a Region 1-AA battle.

Early County (Blakely) zapped Brooks 21-0 in Ed Hayes' coaching debut. The young head coach hopes to revive his sleeping offense against Seminole.

Coach Foy Norwood's Berrien Rebs are undefeated for the first time since the former Valdosta standout

took over the club. Stepping down a notch to take on Atkinson may not hurt that record any.

Westbrook got bombed 34-6 in its opener against Southwest Ga. Academy, but head coach Buddy Ethridge has his eye on a brighter future beginning Friday night.

Hamilton's Trojans looked sharp in last week's jamboree. If it was a sign of things to come, head coach Coy Whitener may be in for another banner year.

Madison took more losses than it could stand last season and lost even more in the pre-season when the players were slow about coming out for the team. Head coach Lavaughn Bell might have his hands full with Fla. High.

VHS Frosh Win In OT Sept. 10

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's ninth grade football team evened its record at 1-1 here Thursday with a 14-6 overtime decision over Thomasville.

The game was tied at six apiece after regulation time, and both teams agreed to continue the action in an extra period.

In the overtime, Valdosta quarterback John Bond scored the winning touch-

down on a one-yard plunge.

Thomasville opened the scoring on a 40-yard end sweep by Mike Kavoklies in the first quarter.

Valdosta countered this tally in the second quarter on a 45-yard TD pass from Bond to Kenneth King.

Valdosta hosts Ware County's Gators from Waycross in its next outing Thursday at Cleveland Field here.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 8, 1976-18-

Belue, Valdosta Take On Cougars

By MIKE CHASON

For the past two seasons, the name of Buck Belue has become synonymous with Valdosta Wildcat football.

One of the few freshmen ever to start at quarterback for one of the nation's most heralded high school football teams, the 6-1 187-pounder was initiated in the roughest manner possible via a 3-7 record in 1974.

Last season, Belue turned his golden arm skyward time and again to lead coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats to a 9-1 regular season and a playoff win for the Region 1-AAA title over Thomasville.

The sophomore's state championship dream ended when Wayne County upset the Wildcats 15-14 on a November night in Jesup.

But Friday night, it starts all over again when Valdosta hosts Crisp County's Cougars from Cordele at Cleveland Field here at 8 p.m.

For Belue, it's the first step toward a chance to repeat as the region's offensive player of the year, but also an opportunity to lead the Wildcats into a state title throneroom they haven't visited since Wright Bazemore retired in 1971.

"It's sorta' hard to tell how we're going to be right now," Belue said. "Just practicing against ourselves, you can't tell that much. But I reckon we'll find out Friday night."

"They've got 15 starters back, and they look real



BUCK BELUE
Third Time Around

quick."

In Belue's freshman season, Valdosta trimmed the Cougars 3-0 when a Crisp receiver dropped a sure touchdown pass in the closing minutes. The game was never close a year ago when the 'Cats rambled to a 48-6 triumph.

But gone from the VHS lineup is top running back Alton Battles and number one receiver Billy Berrian as well as seven other members of the starting offensive unit. The defense returns five starters, but one of those, safety Lawrence Lowe, is recuperating from a cracked bone in his foot and isn't expected to see action.

Crisp thumped Bainbridge 34-21 last week in its season opener. The Cougars assumed a 34-0 advantage before the Bearcats staged a late comeback.

Hyder is expected to counter what appears to be a high powered Crisp offense with an equally quick striking one of his own which should feature Belue throwing to a trio of pass receivers.

"Last year, we threw mainly to Billy," Belue said. "But this time I think we're more balanced. We've got Jody (Wilson), 'Abu' (Alvin Thomas), and Leon (Johnson). It's sure nice to have people like that to throw to."

Belue grew an inch over the off season and gained nearly six pounds on what was already a sturdy frame. Like many of the Wildcats, he was a member of the regime that lifted weights from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. each morning before school during the winter and spring.

The training program began on Monday after what was an extremely disappointing loss to Wayne County on the preceding Friday night.

After two weeks in shorts and the last four in pads, Belue terms himself physically sound. It may be a good thing since for the first time, he has someone pushing him for the quarterback spot in the pre-season.

Hyder reported sophomore John Lastinger had performed well during the summer camp drills, and looked to be Belue's successor should the dark cloud of injury ever descend upon the main man in the VHS lineup.

"Our goal last year was to win the state championship," Belue said. "We fell short of that goal. Now we're just going to go out there and do the best we can, and see what happens."

Bulldogs Again Top Class AAA

ATLANTA (AV) —

Thomasville, Americus and Mary Persons were repeaters in the No. 1 spot in Classes AAA, AA and A in this week's Associated Press Advisory Board Georgia high school football poll.

Thomasville, which plays Albany this weekend in its first game of the season, has been projected as the top AAA team the past three weeks.

The Bulldogs beat out Valdosta, also untested, for the top AAA spot and Warner Robins, which crushed Columbus 28-0 last weekend in its season opener, was ranked third in AAA.

Class AAA	
1. Thomasville	94
2. Valdosta	82
3. Warner Robins	77
4. Wheeler	49
5. Moultrie	42
6. Douglas, Atlanta	40
7. Clarke Central	39
8. Wayne Co.	29
9. Henderson	18
10. Southwest DeKalb	13

Class AA	
1. Americus	99
2. Gainesville	78
3. Brown	69
4. Lakshore	68
5. Dalton	58
6. Swainsboro	43
7. Marist	33
8. Camden Co.	24
9. West Fulton	22
10. Bradwell Institute	16

Class A	
1. Mary Persons	94
2. Putnam Co.	71
3. Early Co.	59
4. Carrollton	49
5. Jackson	41
6. Cartersville	40
Duluth	40
8. Sylvan	35
9. Vidalia	21
10. East Rome	17

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Rains Slow Crisp Plans For 'Dosta

By JULIAN MILLER
Mother Nature has played games with Crisp County's Cougars as they prepare to take on Valdosta's Wildcats in a Region 1-AAA showdown Friday night.

And that could be either good or bad for Coach Ferrell Henry's Cougars, depending on how long she keeps it up.

Henry and his Cougars, who eliminated any chance of a second winless season with a 34-21 victory over Bainbridge last week, have been trying to prepare for Valdosta's expected ferocious passing attack.

"But it's been kinda' hard to do in a driving rain," admitted Henry, who is again head coach of the Cougars after a one-year absence from the coaching ranks.

"It has rained every time we've gone on the field this week, and it's hard to throw a football, much less defend the pass." But if it keeps up through Friday night it may do the same to Valdosta's passing offense.

"I'd like to think it would."

Henry continued. Henry, once head coach in Albany, transferred to Cordele as an assistant coach to Tom Avret two years ago and found himself the top man when Avret was fired in mid-season.

Last year, he moved to Sylvester to enter the administrative ranks as principal of Holley Junior High. But he couldn't take being away from the sport.

When Ron Clark, who suffered through 1975's 0-10 season, resigned, Henry was given the job again.

Even though he has one game under his belt, Henry doesn't really know what to expect Friday.

"It was sort of an unusual game against Bainbridge," he said. "The defense scored three touchdowns for us. We only controlled the football for one drive."

The game gets underway at 8 p.m. at Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

Probable starters for each team follow:

CRISP
Offense-ends F. D. Lawton (160, sr.) and Roger Bartee (175, jr.) or Jess Hobby (170,

jr.); tackles Rickey Canterbury (200, sr.) and John Lane (205, jr.); guards Lee Harris (210, sr.) and Ron Davis (150, sr.) or Kirby Wood (195, jr.); center Dennis Willard (165, sr.) quarterback Jimmy Hughes (180, sr.), halfbacks Rufus Royal (175, sr.) and Willie Smith (160, sr.) or Greg Walker (165, jr.) and flanker Gary Hester (135, sr.).

Defense-ends Elson Coffey (170, jr.) and Walton McClendon (150, sr.) tackles Bob Ward (200, jr.) and Lawrence Jones (175, jr.), noseguard Calvin Lewis (165, jr.) and linebackers Mike Browning (170, sr.) and Ray Jackson (180, jr.), or Chris Braswell (180, sr.), cornerbacks Mark Hughes (160, sr.) and Eddie Alexander (170, sr.) or Alvin Churn (140, sr.) and Safeties Roger Westbrook (170, sr.) and Bobby Roche (170, jr.).

VALDOSTA
Offense-ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) or Frank Council (175, jr.), and Leon Johnson (160, sr.) or Craig Adams (175, sr.); tackles David Cooper (195, sr.) or Doug Arnold (285, jr.), and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.) or Scott Griffin (200, soph.); guards Tom Copeland (190, sr.) or Andy Chapman (180, soph.) and Byron Johnson (185, sr.) or Charlie Warren (160, sr.); center Ben Blanton (215, sr.) or Tony Blasetti (190, sr.); quarterback Buck Belue (190, jr.) or John Lastinger (160, soph.); halfbacks William Gaskins (155, soph.) or Sam Fletcher (175, soph.) and Jody Wilson (160, jr.) or Robert Smith (155, soph.), and fullback Robert Baldwin (150, jr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, soph.) or Ricky Holcomb (170, jr.).

Defense-ends Jackie Cain (180, sr.) or Doug Conway (190, jr.) and Curtis Williams (185, sr.) or Alec Greene (175, jr.), tackles Eddie Denard (210, sr.) or Ray Lloyd (215, jr.) and O'Keefe Hunter (235, sr.) or Curtis Wright (180, jr.), middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.) or Raymond Johnson (185, sr.); linebackers Brad Cohen (185, sr.) or John Branam (175, soph.) and Keith Middleton (210, sr.) or Danny Rickman (160, soph.) or Wilbur Scott (155, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.) or Carl Demps (150, sr.); safeties Allen Worthy (175, jr.) or Rodney Gordon (160, soph.) and Carl Roe (160, soph.) or David Durham (160, jr.).

Offense Is Behind

Wildcats Deliver Message

Valdosta's Wildcats delivered a message loud and clear here Friday night ... to their own fans. And ironically, it was the same message head coach Nick Hyder had been trying to get across all along.

"I told you five weeks ago the defense was going to have to hold on while the offense caught up," Hyder said. "And that's exactly what happened."

What happened was a 23-7 opening night victory over Crisp County's Cougars at Cleveland Field just moments before. But the victory was somewhat frayed by the fact the Wildcat offense had to rely on the defense to set up all its touchdowns.

That was nothing new for Crisp Coach Ferrell Henry ... he's been watching Valdosta do that for many many years now. And it should have been no surprise to Valdosta fans. Lord knows, Hyder has spent enough time warning everyone that would happen. But it was.

Valdosta, you see, had an offense no one could completely stop last season as the 'Cats rose from the ashes of a 3-7 season in 1974 to claim the region championship. But nobody noticed then that only the "horses" were getting valuable playing time.

They realized it Friday night however, when it became bluntedly clear only two players, quarterback Buck Belue and tackle David Cooper return from last season's offensive starters.

It took almost a half before the 'Cats could create any kind of ground game. And Belue, constantly dodging Crisp defenders who tiptoed through his offensive line, never regained the composure he showed for the last two years.

But the defense ... Ah, there was the difference.

Led by linebacker Keith Middleton, a true all-American candidate who stalked Cleveland Field like a lion on the prowl, the Wildcat stop 'em crew was almost unimpeachable. It was only in the waning moments of the game, after the first and second defensive strings had played their allotted time, that the Cougars could break one loose for a score.

But that was nothing new to Henry. He has watched Valdosta defenses spell the difference in Region 1-AAA for years. It has only been in more recent times that offense took the lead.

"When has Valdosta not relied on it's defense?" Henry asked. "I can remember watching Bazemore coached teams doing it for years when I was in Albany. Valdosta might not score but 26 or 28 points on you. But the defense made sure that was enough."


Hyder also had a word or two about the Crisp defense ... and the rest of the Cougars.

"Don't sell Crisp too short," he warned. "They were hungry for a win last season when they didn't get one and all of those guys are back with them now. Last week's win over Bainbridge made them that much hungrier for us."

Henry agreed. But an old enemy named Cleveland Field jumped in his way.

"I think when our kids finally got over that Death Valley reputation this place has, they held their own pretty well. We

Sept -12-76



Julian Miller
Times Sports Editor

stayed right there with them (Valdosta) during the third and fourth quarters.

Crisp has had its problems since Henry last held the reins. That was in 1974. Last season he left Cordele for an administrative job in Sylvester and the Cougars went 0-10 under Ron Clark.

"A lot of the returning players we have this year didn't even play last season," Henry said. "We have had our problems to work out. But think they might be coming around now."

Hyder can only hope his problems are doing the same.

"We're very inexperienced on offense," he said. "And we're playing a lot of new people on offense too. But the only thing to do is get out there and work. And that's what we're doing. We played 70 people out there tonight. We're looking at everybody."

Henry noticed that. And he bluntly pointed out it was a cause of his team's only touchdown.

"Valdosta did play a lot of people," he said with that gleam in his eye. "I knew what they were doing. But what's that's what they have to do. Coach Hyder and his staff do a most excellent job. I know there are no Romes out there." ... The Romes, were brothers Roger and Stanford, who combined led the region in pass receiving for five consecutive years.

And that might be what's slowing down the Wildcats. There are no superstars, save for Belue-yet. But that's not all bad. Valdosta's reputation has been one of teamwork. And Hyder can point to several younger players who are coming up to take up the slack.

Sophomore Bobby Johnson and William Gaskins showed promise at fullback. And he also pointed out regular starter Steve Jennings, a senior, should be back from his arm injury in two weeks.

Hopelessly, the only way to gain experienced players is to play them. And that's what Hyder has in mind. How long it takes to compile a team as talented as the Wildcats are accustomed to having and what happens between then and now, however, still remains to be seen.

'Ba Digestion

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BIRMINGHAM: Alabama points pe Southeastern schools a giving up

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why this was important. We did what done to us, getting all our points in and shutting the Bears off. Our defe super."

Bartkowski himself admitted to flashbacks."

As in the Detroit game, there wa tial of a "big inning" Sunday, a high the Falcons. A Bartkowski pass slippe the hands of Alfred Jenkins in the en early Woody Thompson touchdown y back and holding charged to offensive Gotshalk, a most uncommon penalty.

As one press box observer said, " times do you see holding called on play at the goal line? Heck, there's n one big pileup down there."

Then, alas, Nick Mike-Mayer he field goal attempts, three of only med Put all those together and the score is

OUR KIDS

WANT TO

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Sept 11 -

Defense Pulls 'Cats Past Cougars, 23-7



Making Tracks: Valdosta's Buck Belue Rounds Right Corner To Begin One Of His Longer Ru

By JULIAN MILLER
 How does a football team win when its air-minded offense can't get off the ground and its ground game consists mainly of trying to pick up its own fumbles? Easy...turn it all over to the defense.

YARDSTICK	
Valdosta-Crisp	Crisp
First Downs	16
Yards Rushing	168
Yards Passing	63
Passes	7-16
Passes Intc. by	0
Fumbles Intc. by	3
Punting	3-37.6
Penalties	4-30

That's exactly what Valdosta's Wildcats did here Friday night. And it accounted for their 23-7 victory over a surprising bunch of Crisp County Cougars in their Region 1-AAA high school season opener.

"We said five weeks ago when we first went to (preseason) camp that the defense would have to hold on while the offense caught up," offered a weary Nick Hyder after his 'Cats had chalked up their hard-fought victory with a sluggish offense that could mount only one scoring drive.

"I'm glad we won and didn't get anybody hurt. And don't sell Crisp short. They were hungry for a win last year and got a lot of experience. And last week's win only made them hungrier."

While Hyder flashed his glad-to-be-alive frown, Crisp Coach Ferrell Henry, who wasn't around for last season's 0-10 disaster was beaming his moral victory smile.

"If Valdosta is as good as everybody's preseason picks say they are and we managed to stay with them as well as we did, I feel we just may be coming around. And I think

we have the potential to get better."

Crisp's defense bent but never broke last week in their season opener, until they had a stronger Bainbridge team 34-0 enroute to a 34-21 win. It wouldn't even bend for Valdosta's rebuilding offense.

In fact, all but one of Valdosta's scores were ideal setups produced by the more experienced defense.

Nailing Crisp punter Eddie Alexander on the two yard line while he frantically chased a wild snap from the center set up Valdosta's first score in the waning seconds of the opening stanza. A two-point safety two minutes later really put the show on the road.

Ironically, Valdosta's offense consisted mainly of quarterback Buck Belue, who led them to the Region 1-AAA championship last season as a sophomore. He ran for a total 68 yards and passed for 63 more, but lost 41 of his yards trying to evade Crisp linemen his inexperienced line allowed through, tossed two passes for interceptions, and fumbled the football away three times.

"We thought it would be about like this," Hyder admitted. "Of course, you never plan on fumbles and interceptions, but the offense is mighty inexperienced and it's gonna take some time. We knew we'd have to count on the defense to pull us through and it did. Those guys really did a good job."

Henry, a veteran Region 1-AAA coach, had the same idea.

"When does Valdosta not count on its defense?" he asked. "Even in (Coach

Wright) Bazemore's days (as VHS head coach), Valdosta might not score but 26 or 28 points. But they usually beat you by that many."

"We knew they'd be tough. Coach Hyder and his staff do a most excellent job. I mean, it's apparent they don't have any Rome's out there this year." (Roger Rome and Stan Rome are two standout pass receivers in VHS history.)

While Belue and Crisp quarterback Jimmy Hughes were testing out each other's secondary, two unexpected fullbacks worked their way into the picture. Sophomore Bobby Johnson emerged as Valdosta's leading rusher with 64 yards on 10 carries. Senior speedster Rufus Royal paced the now 1-1 Cougars with 67 yards in 16 carries.

It looked like an All-American punting duel between Belue and Anderson for the first six possessions. Then with 17 seconds left in the first quarter Anderson had to run down a high snap from the center and was nailed on the two by Valdosta's All-America candidate linebacker Keith Middleton.

On the next play, sophomore William Gaskins powered in for the touch down. Robert Baldwin kicked his first of three placekicks and Valdosta had a 7-0 lead.

The defense single-dedly padded that lead in the second quarter as defensive end Williams nailed end zone for safety. And the only offensive drive over a

Feix Leads VHS Cage Boosters

By Times Staff Writer
 William Feix was elected president of the reorganized Valdosta High School basketball boosters club at a meeting at the VHS Little Theater Wednesday night.

The club, inactive for the past two years according to newly elected vice president Jim New, got new life Wednesday under the direction of VHS Athletic Committee chairman Hulyn Smith and committee member Stan Bishop.

Mrs. Glenn O'Neal was the only other officer elected. She was named to fill a secretary-treasurer's role.

Named to the board of directors were James Daniels, Raymon Gish, C. H. Robinson, Mrs. Bobby Spake, James Brantley, and Mrs. James Powell.

VHS boys' head coach Norman Sainz and girls' head coach Jerry Don Baker were on hand to give outlines of their prospects for the coming season.

New explained the purpose of the club as "promoting the boys' and girls' basketball teams at VHS."

Bearcats To Test Wildcat Offense

9-14-76

By JULIAN MILLER
Prescott Forsyth is not at all convinced that Valdosta's offense is as weak as most other people thought after watching last week's season opening 23-7 conquest of Crisp County.

But he plans on knowing for sure Friday night.

"They looked tough to me," Forsyth said of the Valdosta Wildcats his Bainbridge Bearcats host in a Region 1-AAA high school football showdown in Bainbridge Friday.

"The defense is superior to what most folks have and that offense ... with Buck Belue (quarterback), is as good as any I know in high school football."

While Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats will be looking for their second straight win to keep their hopes of repeating as region champions alive, Forsyth's Bearcats will be trying to climb out of the cellar.

The Bainbridge team ran rampant over Crisp in its first game of the season, but could never push it across the goal line until it was too late in a 34-21 defeat. Saturday night, they lost to Westover 25-14 in Albany.

Friday, the Bearcats play on their own turf for the first time this season and they remember what happened two years ago, the last time the Wildcats made the trip to Bainbridge. The Bearcats upset the Wildcats 18-14 to send Valdosta reeling into a 3-7 season.

Like that year, Valdosta's offense is young and inexperienced, save for Belue, a junior in his third year as starting quarterback and David Cooper, a senior guard-turned-tackle.

"I know their offense is young," Forsyth argues. "But they're coming off the line pretty good, and the backs are running hard. I thought they had done a good job."

"They just had a few fumbles and interceptions, but if you'll remember, they had a touchdown called back that would have blown the game wide open."

Most people are expecting a showdown of Valdosta's passing attack and Bainbridge's hard running attack. Forsyth isn't sure.

"It's hard to tell what we're going to do," Forsyth said. "We're just going to try to execute. That's what we're trying to do."

"I think Valdosta is superior in size and it's one of the best passing teams around ... better than anyone else in this region. We've got a young secondary ... they're going to have to play well Friday night."

In defense of his own team, Forsyth said:

"We're not as bad as we looked in the first two ballgames. The offensive line has done a good job. We just fumbled the ball away, didn't run through the right holes ... and against Westover our defense looked like it was just standing around."

Greg Bess has taken over the quarterback slot vacated by Kent Shealey, who was injured in preseason practice, and has come into his own at the position.

"He keeps getting better and better each game," Forsyth praised. "We've got some good kids, who just haven't played that much. They've made some mental mistakes, but the effort has been there. I think as the season goes along, we'll improve week by week."

Among those who have already improved are running backs Clyde McKey and Jerome Peterson, the meat of the Bearcat attack. Each rushed for more than 100 yards against Crisp, a team the 'Cats could barely run on.

VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and Leon Johnson (160, sr.) or Craig Adams (175, sr.); tackles David Cooper (19, sr.) and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.); guards Tom Copeland (190, sr.) and Byron Johnson (185, sr.) or Charlie Warren (160, sr.) center Ben Blanton (215, sr.); quarterback Buck Belue (11, jr.); halfbacks William Gaskins (155, soph.) and Jody Wills (160, jr.) and fullback Robert Baldwin (145, jr.).
Defense — ends Jackie Cain (180, sr.) or Doug Conway (19, sr.) and Curtis Williams (185, sr.); tackles Eddie Denard (21, sr.) and O'Keefe Hunter (235, sr.); middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.) or Raymond Johnson (185, sr.); linebackers Bra Cohan (185, sr.) and Keith Middleton (210, sr.); cornerback Troy Thomas (160, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.); safeties Allen Worthy (175, jr.) and Carl Roe (160, soph.).

BAINBRIDGE

Ends — Kenneth Beaples (150, fr.) and Steve Ryals (175, sr.); tackles Richard Gordon (190, sr.) and James Fountain (190, jr.); guards Jeremiah Stubbs (188, jr.) and Stan Riles (200, jr.); center Larry Bragg (190, sr.); quarterback Greg Bess (190, jr.); runningbacks Clyde McKey (150, jr.) and Jerome Peterson (190, sr.) and slotback Steve Miles (175, sr.).
Defense — ends Tom Jones (190, jr.) and Mike Portivant (170, jr.); tackles Bill Bowen (190, jr.) and Mike Rudd (210, soph.); noseman Eddie Cooper (190, sr.); linebackers Robbie Benard (170, jr.) and Ken Williams (210, sr.); monster man Bubba Chase (160, sr.); halfbacks Lee Walker (160, soph.) and Mike Bowie (170, jr.) and cornerback Marty Brock (155, sr.).

Vikes, Wildcats Hit Road In Prep Grid Play Friday

Sept.

By Times Staff Writer
Lowndes and Valdosta both hit the road Friday night as the area high school football season begins its second full week of action.

AREA GRID SLATE

Friday
Lowndes at Moultrie
Valdosta at Bainbridge
Clinch at Charlton
Worth at Cook
Brooks at Fitzgerald
Turner at Berrien
Hilliard at Hamilton
Quincy Shanks at Madison
Irwin Academy at Westbrook

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats, a 23-7 victor over Crisp County (Cordele) last week, take on the Bearcats in Bainbridge Friday in another Region 1-AAA battle.

Bainbridge is currently riding a two-game losing

streak after a 25-14 loss to Westover in Albany Saturday night.

The Lowndes' Vikings of head coach Joe Wilson currently top the Region 1-AAA standings with a perfect 2-0 mark. They are to risk that record against a Moultrie team Friday which fell to Central of Thomasville 32-26 in its opener.

The Vikes roared back from a 14-0 deficit last week to overcome Monroe's Golden Tornadoes from Albany by a 28-14 score.

In other area games Friday, Clinch County (Homerville) travels to Charlton County (Polkston), Worth County (Sylvester) meets Cook in Adel, Brooks

County (Quitman) head Fitzgerald, and Berrien welcomes Turner County (Ashburn) to Nashville, Ga.

Also, Hamilton County hosts Hilliard, Fla., in Jacksonville, Fla., Madison, Fla., retains Quincy Shanks, and Brook battles Irwin Acad (Mystic) in Dixie.

Coach Donald Tyson's Clinch Panthers fell to Glennville 7-0 in their opener last week, and Tyson expects another rough time of Folkston against a Chattahoochee team which beat Clinch County in the Region 2-B title last year.

Cook coach Jack Thomason is still looking for his first victory this year after his Hornets lost to Berrien and Coffee Counties (Douglas). He hopes the Rams will oblige.

Ed Hayes, who's coached Brooks' Trojans for the time this year, is in much the same situation. His club is anxious for a win or at least some points after being blanked in its opening encounters.

Coach Foy Norwood's Berrien Rebels have scored much either, but they've posted enough points on the board to whip Cook County (Pearson) and Atkinson County (Pearson) Turner could be victorious by a number three.

Hamilton enters district competition against Hilliard and the Trojans need a win after being surprised by Newberry, Fla. last week.

Madison's Cougars have their home opener this week, but usually to Quincy Shanks may be wrong guest to invite.

Westbrook's bombardier Tiftarea 47-0 Saturday, halfbacks Billy Baker and Ervin Arrendale are healthy, Irwin might be in some of the same medicine.

Marshall, Middleton Take Area Honors

Sept. 16

By Times Staff Writer

A Lowndes High School fullback and a Valdosta linebacker have won the area back and lineman of the week awards sponsored by Roger Budd Chevrolet.

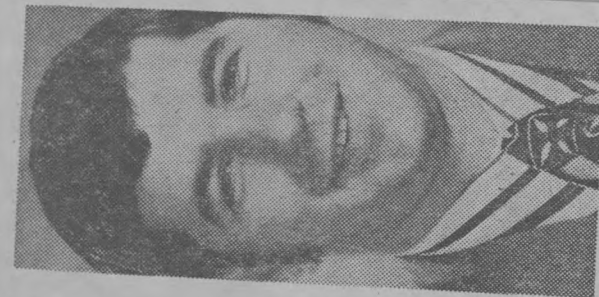
James Marshall, a key factor in Lowndes' 28-14 win over Monroe of Albany last week, and Keith Middleton, who directed the VHS defense in a 23-7 victory over Crisp County, are to receive their awards in separate ceremonies this week.

Marshall threw the fullback option pass three times for three completions, one touchdown and 55 yards of offense against Monroe. He also totaled 91 yards rushing in 16 carries.

Middleton racked up nine individual tackles, aided in several more, and was the nucleus of the Wildcat defense which held the Cougars from Cordele to only 53 yards rushing.

The winners of the weekly awards are selected by the Times sports department.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Sept. 12, 1976-4-A-



PAUL CRIBBS
Task Force Head



JACK P. NIX
15 Minutes A Day



DR. JOHN RICKS
Seeks Involvement

Parental Attention Is Education Key

By BECKY VAIL

Parents can be the ingredient in a child's education that means the difference between success and failure.

School officials say that attention from parents is critical to a child's progress in the classroom — and beyond.

And this is particularly true in reading, our school administrators say.

Test results released this week by the Georgia Board of Education show that even though students can recognize and read words on a printed page, they often cannot explain what they read, or even what was actually being expressed.

The involvement of parents in a child's education, though, can really make a difference.

That's one of the basic thoughts behind the educational task force set up in Valdosta last spring and behind a similar one being geared up for the Lowndes County schools this fall.

Education must be more than just teachers and school officials working alone, State Schools Supt. Jack P. Nix said.

"Georgia public schools are working hard to offer high quality education, but teachers cannot insure student achievement."

"They must have the active interest and support of parents as well."

Nix has called on parents to spend 15 minutes each day reading to their child — or listening as the child reads to them. Just 15 minutes.

Nix said a research report showed the "typical" American father spends just 30 seconds — a half minute — a day talking with his child.

"It is my firm belief that if parents would take the time to do what I am suggesting, the results would be far-reaching."

School authorities here too have been urging and pushing for closer home-school relationships, too.

The Valdosta Education Task Force — headed by Paul Cribbs, with school board member Dr. John Ricks and Valdosta Association of Educators head Montene Tennille — has laid the groundwork in setting some goals for this community.

Parents are being encouraged to participate.

Gov. George Busbee mandated these education task forces in an effort to improve the caliber of Georgia's education.

He too saw involvement of parents as a crucial ingredient in a child's learning success.

"We have spent a lot of state and federal money in Georgia over the years in an effort to increase students' reading ability," added the state superintendent.

"And we can show some progress, particularly in the early grades."

"But we still have many students who are not reading as well as they should."

In addition, state school officials said child-parent reading would benefit both.

The parents would have a better understanding of how well the child is really performing; and the child would have his self-image improved as a result of the extra attention.

Also, parents can help the child learn how to think, an area in which Georgia youngsters have come up deficient in nationwide tests, said Nix.

Sept 5

Memories Of Bainbridge Keep Valdosta Anxious

By JULIAN MILLER

It's no secret Valdosta's offense didn't look as well as everyone expected when the Wildcats opened their 1976 Region 1-AAA high school football season with a 23-7 victory over Crisp County's Cougars here last week.

"Little old ladies noticed it...and have been pointing things out to me about it," says head coach Nick Hyder.

But Hyder didn't need all those little old ladies telling him to be on his toes when he takes his 'Cats to Bainbridge Friday for their second match of the

season. Hyder remembers his last trip to the port city. And that's enough to keep him humble.

"I remember what happened two years ago," (when Bainbridge surprised Hyder's first team of Wildcats with an 18-14 victory enroute to a 3-7 season record), Hyder said. "Plus I know they're going to be fired up for us, keyed to the gills against us, because they see a chance of beating us."

Bainbridge coach Prescott Forsyth and his staff were on hand Friday night when Valdosta opened its season

against the team that had beaten Bainbridge 34-21 a week earlier.

And they noticed Valdosta's newly regrouped offense was having more troubles than the Bearcats had the week before, trying to move across the Crisp defense.

That's why Hyder is paying no attention to the form charts.

"Dang, listen, this bunch is stronger than Crisp," Hyder said. "I don't know what happened to them. But they were going in on the five yard line when Bainbridge fumbled and Crisp turned

it around on them."

Hyder also remembers the three fumbles lost and two pass interceptions his 'Cats chalked up against Crisp last week.

"Our emphasis is trying to correct mistakes...fumbles and interceptions definitely bogged down our offensive threat...and continue to do the job on defense."

It was the Wildcat defense that pulled the Valdostans out of last Friday's clash. Apparently, because of inexperience on the offense which returns

only two starters off last season's region championship team, the 'Cats will have to depend on the stop 'em crew again in Bainbridge.

"We needed to play a game to find out what we really needed to be working on," Hyder said. "And we found plenty. Hopefully, after working a week on them, we will be able to do them better than we did last week."

Still missing from the Valdosta lineup is standout safety Lawrence Lowe, who cracked a bone in his foot in pre-season camp four weeks ago, and

Steve Jennings, a senior halfback who broke his arm about the same time.

"We'd sure like to have Lowe and Jennings back," Hyder admitted. "But they're still doubtful. Neither has practiced at all this week."

With his Wildcats facing the Bearcats Friday night, Hyder was in no mood for someone's reminder that Valdosta takes on Thomasville, ranked the best team in the state, the following weekend.

"That's true," Hyder said. "But we just take them one game at a time."

Bearcats To Test Wildcat Offense

Sept. 16

By JULIAN MILLER

Prescott Forsyth is not at all convinced that Valdosta's offense is as weak as most other people thought after watching last week's season opening 23-7 conquest of Crisp County.

But he plans on knowing for sure Friday night.

"They looked tough to me," Forsyth said of the Valdosta Wildcats his Bainbridge Bearcats host in a Region 1-AAA high school football showdown in Bainbridge Friday.

"The defense is superior to what most folks have and that offense... with Buck Belue (quarterback), is as good as any I know in high school football."

While Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats will be looking for their second straight win to keep their hopes of repeating as region champions alive, Forsyth's Bearcats will be trying to climb out of the cellar.

The Bainbridge team ran rampant over Crisp in its first game of the season, but could never push it across the goal line until it was too late in a 34-21 defeat, Saturday night, they lost to Westover 25-14 in Albany.

Friday, the Bearcats play on their own turf for the first time this season and they remember what happened two years ago, the last time the Wildcats made the trip to Bainbridge. The Bearcats upset the Wildcats 18-14 to send Valdosta reeling into a 3-7 season.

Like that year, Valdosta's offense is young and inexperienced, save for Belue, a junior in his third year as starting quarterback and David Cooper, a senior guard-turned-tackle.

"I know their offense is young," Forsyth argues. "But they're coming off the line pretty good, and the backs are running hard. I thought they had done a good job."

"They just had a few fumbles and interceptions, but if you'll remember, they had a touchdown called back that would have blown the game wide open."

Most people are expecting a showdown of Valdosta's passing attack and Bainbridge's hard running attack. Forsyth isn't sure.

"It's hard to tell what we're going to do," Forsyth said. "We're just going to try to execute. That's what we're trying to do."

"I think Valdosta is superior in size and it's one of the best passing teams around... better than anyone else in this region. We've got a young secondary... they're going to have to play well Friday night."

In defense of his own team, Forsyth said:

"We're not as bad as we looked in the first two ballgames. The offensive line has done a good job. We just fumbled the ball away, didn't run through the right holes... and against Westover our defense looked like it was just standing around."

Greg Bess has taken over the quarterback slot vacated by Kent Shealey, who was injured in preseason practice, and has come into his own at the position.

"He keeps getting better and better each game," Forsyth praised. "We've got some good kids, who just haven't played that much. They've made some mental mistakes, but the effort has been there. I think as the season goes along, we'll improve week by week."

Among those who have already improved are running backs Clyde McKey and Jerome Peterson, the meat of the Bearcat attack. Each rushed for more than 100 yards against Crisp, a team the 'Cats could barely run on.

VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and Leon Johnson (160, sr.) or Craig Adams (175, sr.); tackles David Cooper (195, sr.) and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.); guards Tom Copeland (190, sr.) and Byron Johnson (185, sr.) or Charlie Warren (160, sr.); center Ben Blanton (215, sr.); quarterback Buck Belue (190, jr.); halfbacks William Gaskins (155, soph.) and Jody Wilson (160, jr.) and fullback Robert Baldwin (165, jr.).

Defense — ends Jackie Cain (180, sr.) or Doug Conway (190, jr.) and Curtis Williams (185, sr.); tackles Eddie Denard (210, sr.) and O'Keefe Hunter (235, sr.); middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.) or Raymond Johnson (185, sr.); linebackers Brad Cohan (185, sr.) and Keith Middleton (210, sr.); cornerback Troy Thomas (160, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.); safeties Allen Worthy (175, jr.) and Carl Roe (160, soph.).

BAINBRIDGE

Ends — Kenneth Beagles (150, fr.) and Steve Ryals (175, sr.); tackles Richard Gordon (190, sr.) and James Fountain (190, jr.); guards Jeremiah Stubbs (188, jr.) and Stan Riles (200, sr.); center Larry Bragg (190, sr.); quarterback Greg Bess (190, jr.); runningbacks Clyde McKey (150, jr.) and Jerome Peterson (190, sr.); and slotback Steve Miles (175, sr.).

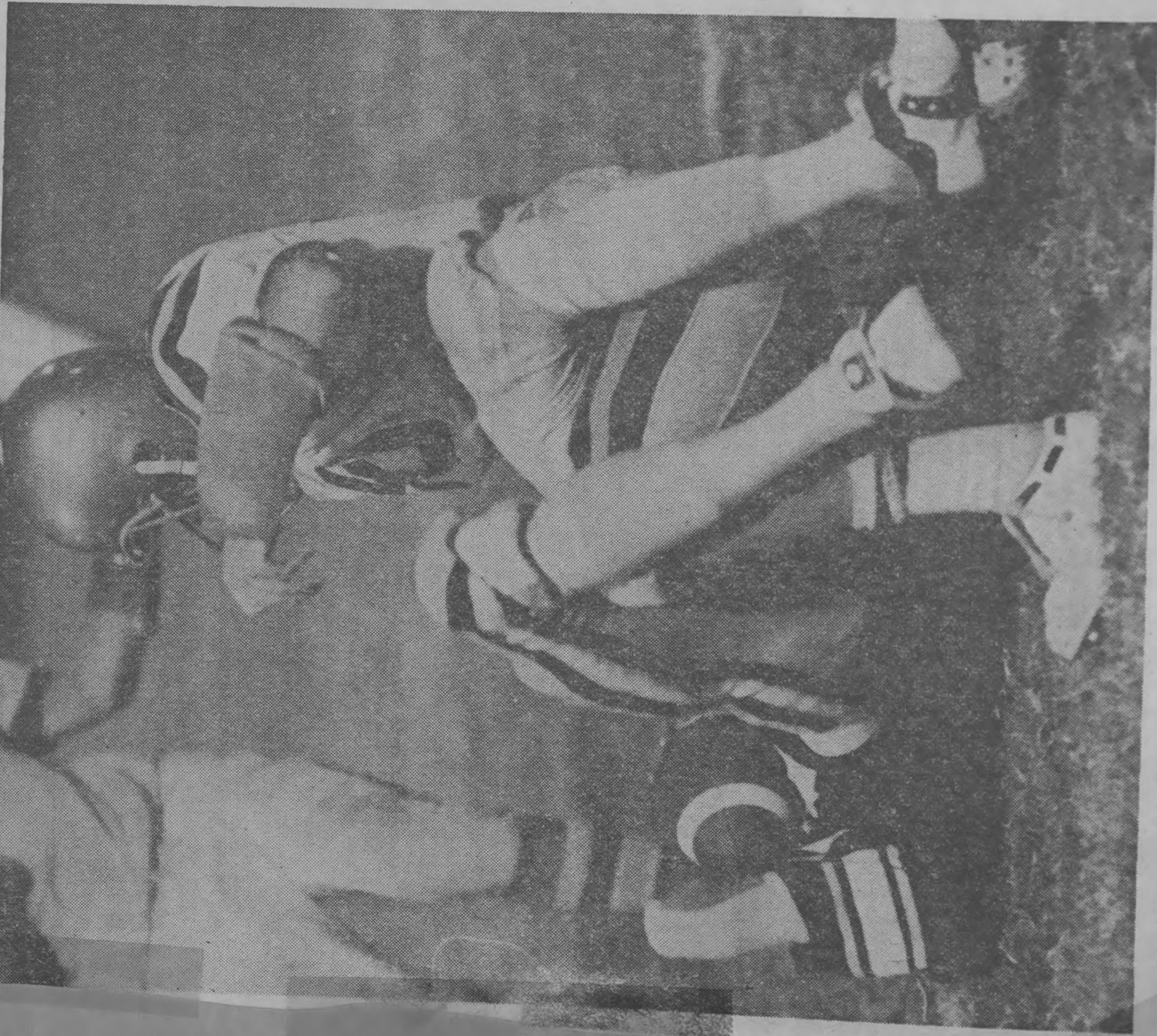
Defense — ends Tom Jones (190, jr.) and Mike Portivant (170, jr.); tackles Bill Bowen (190, jr.) and Mike Rudd (210, soph.); noseman Eddie Cooper (190, sr.); linebackers Robbie Benard (170, jr.) and Ken Williams (210, sr.); monster man Bubba Chase (160, sr.); halfbacks Lee Walker (160, soph.) and Mike Bowie (170, jr.) and cornerback Marty Brock (155, sr.).



Girls And Julie Pulliam Pulls

Sept. 19

Defense-Minded 'Dosta Bombs Bainbridge



Leaders Meet: VHS Offensive Star Buck Belue Is Stopped By Bearcats' Bubba Chason

By JULIAN MILLER

BAINBRIDGE — Valdosta's Wildcats went looking for an offense here Friday night and again found it buried in their own defense. And Bainbridge's Bearcats found out for themselves just how powerful that defense can be.

YARDSTICK

	Valdosta	Bainbridge
First Downs	17	8
Yards Rushing	136	46
Yards Passing	159	173
Passes	12-18	9-13
Passes Intc. by	2	1
Fumbles Lost	2-36.5	5-30.4
Punting	4-40	6-66
Penalties		

Bolstered by four loose fumble recoveries, two pass interceptions, a totally defensive touchdown off a fumble recovery and a stop 'em crew that wouldn't allow the Bearcats past the mid-field stripe more than twice, the Wildcats rolled to a 28-0 Region 1-AAA victory, their second straight high school football win of the season.

As in their first game, a 23-7 win over Crisp County's Cougars, the Wildcats relied on their defense which turned three fumble recoveries into touchdowns and brought on the fourth by pushing the Bearcat offense back to their own two yard line and holding them there.

About 4,000 fans looked on in Centennial Field as Coach Nick Hyder's unbeaten Wildcats, defending region champs, handed Prescott Forsyth's Bearcats their third loss in as many starts.

"That's the best Valdosta has played," someone told Forsyth after the game. "It's the best we played too," the colorful Bainbridge coach retored while pacing the grounds in front of his team's dressing rooms in a nervous fashion. "I thought our kids played real well. But Valdosta's got a lot of great kids. Buck Belue is the finest quarterback I've seen. Valdosta's got a young offensive team... but it's going to get better."

At the same time Hyder was recalling his last trip to

Bainbridge, when the Bearcats handed the Wildcats an 18-16 defeat to send Valdosta reeling into a 3-7 season in his first year as head coach. "It's a lot better than the last time we played," he offered while scanning down a list of game statistics. "We've matured a little more on the offensive line. It's blocking and catching much better. We're not inexperienced any more. We've got two games under our belts."

Ironically, Valdosta's young offense, increased its effectiveness geometrically with 136 yards passing and 159 on the ground. But it was all lost in the final stats when two long offensive drives died on downs inside the Bainbridge 10.

While the defense set up all four scoring drives, it took a few big offensive plays to keep them going. Most of them came on long Buck Belue passes to Leon Johnson, who caught six for 83 yards, Jody Wilson, who snagged two for 38 and one touchdown, and halfback Robert Smith, who hauled in a 23-yard aerial.

It appeared as though the Bearcats had the upper hand on their first two drives as the Valdosta defenders began missing tackles and the Valdosta offense stalled quickly on its first possession.

But mid way the first quarter, an 11-yard punt return by Troy Thomas, set the 'Cats up on the Bainbridge 39 and a 22 yard run by Belue, a three-year junior starter, took Valdosta to the Bainbridge five where two over thrown passes killed the drive.

Although the drive failed, the move seemed to inspire the Wildcats and from then on it was all Valdosta.

On the first play after the quarter, the Wildcat defense recovered a Clyde Mackey fumble and the Wildcat offense seemed to jell. Although Belue's first carry

was an 11-yard loss when his offensive line folded, his next move was a 41-yard pass to Johnson. Three plays later he dove in from three yards out. Baldwin kicked his PAT and VHS had a 7-0 lead.

After swapping punts, Bainbridge tried to take to the air as quarterback Greg Bess, one of the rising stars of the region, hit end Kenneth Biggles with a 21 yard pass. But Biggles bobbed the reception into Brad Cohen's waiting arms and the Valdostians were moving again.

Five plays later Belue and Wilson teamed up to cap the 57-yard drive when Wilson snagged a 32-yard bomb which had bounced off the hands of Bainbridge safety Marty Brock at the goal line. That gave Valdosta a 13-0 lead and a little more confidence.

It showed on the first play after the ensuing kickoff when Bainbridge's other runningback, Jerome Peterson, fumbled upon being nailed at the right corner and Troy Thomas scooped it up to ramble 15 yards to the end zone to boost the lead to 20-0 with just minutes left in the half.

Bainbridge made its first serious drive into Valdosta territory on its first possession of the second half but found itself 28 yards shy of the goal line when Thomas intercepted a Bess pass on his own six and returned it to the Valdosta 20.

That gave the Wildcats their first chance to put together their own sustained drive, but it ended nine yards shy of the Bainbridge end zone 13 plays later when sophomore fullback Bobby Johnson fumbled on a first down play and Bainbridge's Mike Rudd recovered.

After a short series by the Bearcats, the Wildcats tried it again, this time led by sophomore quarterback John Lastinger, who took them 25 yards to the Bainbridge four,

where the drive died on downs again.

Although Valdosta couldn't score on that one, it did lead to a touchdown in a round-about way when the VHS defense held the Bearcats at their own two and forced a 30 yard punt.

Valdosta took over at the 26. Johnson ran for 12, Belue hit Wilson for a six yarder and a four-yard penalty against Bainbridge moved the ball to the Bearcat four. Gaskins, the smallest back on the VHS backfield, then rambled in from there for the final TD. He teamed with Belue for a two-point PAT to end the scoring at 28-0 and that seemed enough for all.

For the night, Belue had connected on 12 of 18 pass attempts for 149 yards and a touchdown and run for 28 yards and another TD. Converted linebacker Robert Baldwin led the Wildcat ground game with 37 yards in six carries as Hyder again searched his ranks for a starting backfield.

Peterson led the Bearcats on the ground with 48 yards in eight carries while linebacker Bubba Chason emerged as the top defensive attraction of the game, roaming the field at will for 10 unassisted stops.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta — Baldwin 6-37, Johnson 9-30, Belue 9-28, Gaskins 7-32, Fletcher 1-9, Smith 2-8, Holcombe 1-0, Lastinger 3-minus 8; Bainbridge — Peterson 8-48, Mackey 9-30, Bess 13-minus 32.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 10-16-149, Lastinger 2-2-10; Bainbridge — Bess 7-18-173.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Johnson 6-83, Wilson 2-36, Smith 1-23, A. Thomas 1-9, Council 1-6; Bainbridge — Ryals 4-66, Biggles 3-41, Zoryka 1-4.
Punt Returns: Valdosta — T. Thomas 3-18; Bainbridge — Biggles 2-14.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — T. Thomas 1-47; Bainbridge — Peterson 1-21, Walker 1-13, Biggles 1-12.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Middleton 5, Denard 1-4, Worthy 3, Warren 3, C. Williams 3; Bainbridge — Chason 10, Bowen 7, Cooper 5, Portlidge 5, Walker 3, Brock 3, T. Jones 3, Conyers 3.

Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 0 20 0 8-28
Bainbridge 0 0 0 0-0
Valid — Belue 3 run (Baldwin kick)
Valid — Wilson 37 pass from Belue (kick failed)
Valid — T. Thomas 15 run on fumble recovery (Baldwin kick)
Valid — Gaskins 4 run (Belue pass 16 Gaskins).



—Times Staff Photos.

Here's The Plan: Nick Hyder Talks It Over With Two Of His Wildcats



Valdosta High Marchin' Cats Work As Hard As Their Football Counterparts

Sept 19

What Happened Region 1-AAA?

By Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta Touchdown Club is scheduled to meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Valdosta High School Auditorium.
TD club president David Valler said VHS head coach Nick Hyder is to be on hand to arrange the film showing of the Wildcats' 23-7 win over Crisp County (Cordele) here Friday night.
The meeting is open for members and prospective members of the club.

Shades of Vince Lombardi, Bear Bryant and Wright Bazemore, look what's happening to the world of Region 1-AAA football. A whole religion seems to be undergoing a refurbishing act.

Suddenly Valdosta and Thomasville, the two towns who have been dominating the region for the past eight years, have two teams each fighting for the spotlight. And the results are wreaking havoc in the region.

First it was Thomasville Central, newcomer to the region, who upset the appcart with a 32-26 win over Moultrie last week. And then Lowndes' Vikings had to go and prove it's nothing so sensational by beating the same Moultrie team 13-6 this week.

It's enough to make a veteran region watcher turn over in his 50-yard line season reserve seat. And it has thrown football fans into a tizzy.

I oughta know, I'm the one who keeps getting the phone calls. They started late Friday night and haven't stopped since.

"Hey, Julian, ya missed one!" the caller said.

"Yeah? Which one (of the many)?"

"Why, you picked Moultrie to beat Lowndes, son. Lowndes beat Moultrie 13-6. You missed that one!"

You would have thought it was the first time I've ever been wrong. And before long, it almost seemed as though it was. Had someone really been taking those Friday afternoon predictions as the Gospel?

"We want a retaliation (?)," said the next caller...a woman." You picked us to lose and we want a retaliation in tomorrow's paper!"

"What's a retaliation?" I asked.

"You know what a retaliation is and we want to see one tomorrow...click."

The calls hadn't stopped by noon Saturday. It kinda makes a guy wonder where all these people were when the Vikings were beating their brains out for the past eight years.

What's the difference? Success. This season Joe Wilson took over the helm of the Vikings and things started changing for him. The old-time leaders on the Lowndes team learned to shape up or ship out. Some shipped. Those who stayed shaped...and they did a good job of it.

Suddenly Lowndes, like Central's Yellow Jackets, are out to prove they're not destined to be number two. And both have done so.

Lowndes, through a little sideline finagling on Wilson's part in getting a later ball game moved up, now leads them with a perfect 3-0 record. When's the last time you thought you would see that?

And Central? Why will Roy Cooley's Yellow Jackets in their first year in the region are 2-0, right up there with Valdosta, Thomasville and Dougherty, tied for second place. That's a far cry from the 0-10 record the Jackets set in 1972, their last year in 1-AAA.

But all this turmoil has upset the region terribly. By rights, all the interest should be directed towards Friday night's showdown between Thomasville's Bulldogs and Valdosta's Wildcats. They're the same two teams who fought it out twice last year with no more than three points separating them in each game, for the region title.

Instead, folks around Thomasville are gearing up for Oct. 15th's showdown with Central...a team they've never lost to. The same holds true over here. Despite the fact that Nick Hyder keeps warning everyone not to look ahead more Valdosta fans are paying attention to the Vikings than they are to the Bulldogs.

In the end, it looks like it might wreak havoc on someone's pocketbook as well because from all indications Lowndes and Central fans, not used to the success in this region, don't know how to handle it. They're ready to bet the ranch on anything.

They'll get their chance this week...because while the 'Cats and Bulldogs are fighting it out in Valdosta, the Jackets and Vikes will be squaring off in Thomasville. What a night for football! And no one is willing to predict which will be the better game.

This week, the Wildcats went about business as usual with a 28-0 win over Bainbridge while Jim Hughes' Bulldogs did the same with a 34-0 win over Westover of Albany.

Central? Well, the Jackets were busy bombing the same team Valdosta just managed to beat 23-7 last week, Crisp County, 52-0 to mark their entrance into the region. And Lowndes, of course, was busy beating Moultrie, the only 1-AAA team to defeat Valdosta last year.

All-in-all, it makes for some mighty big football action this week and having four teams from Valdosta and Thomasville fighting it out just adds to the situation.

Our predictions? No way we're going to spill the beans yet. We're going to spend the next week eating a little crow and trying to figure out what a retaliation is.

Valdosta vs Thomasville: It's That Time Again

By JULIAN MILLER

If you didn't know better, you'd have sworn it was a Thomasville fan talking.

"Yes, Thomasville's talking big," Nick Hyder was saying. "And they've got a big team to talk about. They look like the Russians coming into town. They have a big line, a strong running game and a strong armed passer who throws awfully well in warmups but hasn't even had to try in a game yet."

Had Hyder been a Thomasville fan, those words about the Bulldogs, ranked number one in the Associated Press' high school football poll for the fourth straight week, would have been good news.

But Hyder is head coach of Valdosta's third-ranked Wildcats. And he has to figure out some way for the 'Cats to

beat the Dogs when they square off in Valdosta's Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. Friday.

The 'Cats accomplished the feat twice last season, knocking off the Bulldogs 12-10 in a regular season game and 3-0 in a playoff for the Region 1-AAA championship.

The year before, the 'Cats, under Hyder's direction for the first time, took it on the chin 40-0 from the Bulldogs in their own Cleveland Field, with a couple of boys named William Andrews and Roscoe Mitchell doing all the damage.

This year, the game is again in Valdosta and Hyder's not sure about which of his three previous confrontations with the Bulldogs stands out most in his mind.

"Last year's wins were very satisfying because they came in two mighty good football games," Hyder said. "We were at our best both times and managed to beat a team I feel was capable of going all the way (to the State Championship) again. No one asked for their money back after those two games."

"The year before, in that 40-0 rout, Jim Hughes hit us with all they (the Bulldogs) had. I certainly don't hold that against a coach. I'm sure he can remember similar scores in previous games that may have gone the other way."

"This year the Bulldogs come in with two more Andrews boys. T.C. Mitchell, the starting fullback leads the pack with Roosevelt Andrews helping to back him

up. "No one player has run all that much because they have used so many running backs," Hyder explained. "But all together they've rolled up a bushel of yardage. And no one has been able to put together a sustained drive to score on them."

That could lead someone to believe that Hyder is planning on his ace quarterback, junior Buck Belue, to take to the air in hopes of defeating the Bulldogs. But Hyder's saying nothing.

"If we're going to beat them we've got to outscore them," he said in a deadpan understatement. "What does Valdosta have to do to score?"

"Get the ball in the end zone," another dead pan. "I guess I could give

you the old cliché that we've got to eliminate our mistakes. Well, it's a fact. We've been making mistakes here and there and if we're going to win Friday we've got to eliminate them and get the ball in the end zone."

The Wildcats to date haven't been that impressive on offense. In each of their two previous wins, a 23-7 victory over Crisp County and 28-0 win over Bainbridge, the defense has done most of the work.

"But Thomasville's also 2-0 and their offensive line is bigger than our defensive line and more experienced," Hyder said. "It's up to our players. They've got to want this win. I know Thomasville has the desire because they want to make up for those two losses last season. I guess there's never

been a time when they didn't want to beat us."

On defense, the Bulldogs stack up much more impressively than the Wildcat offense has lately. Led by Reginaid Miller, a 6-5, 240-pound lineman, the defense has stopped every drive in their 34-7 win over Albany and 34-0 win over Westover.

"This is the September playoff," Hyder said. "We've been studying Thomasville so much this week I feel like I have been living next door to each and every one of their players. They're a well-coached team, a proud team. They're deserving of all the superlatives they've been getting. They have a lot of fine and deserving athletes and we're going to have to do it all and do it well to beat them."

Sports At A Glance

High School Scoreboard

REGION 1-AAA Region Overall	
Lowndes	3:00 3:00
Valdosta	2:00 2:00
Thomasville	2:00 2:00
Central	2:00 2:00
Dougherty	1:20 1:20
Albany	1:20 1:20
Crisp	1:20 1:20
Tift	1:20 1:20
Westover	0:20 0:20
Moultrie	0:20 0:20
Appling	0:30 0:30
Bainbridge	0:30 0:30

Last Week's Games

Valdosta 28, Bainbridge 0
Lowndes 13, Moultrie 6
Thomasville 34, Westover 0
Central 52, Crisp 0
Dougherty 26, Albany 6
Tift 21, Monroe 0

This Week's Games

Friday
Thomasville at Valdosta
Lowndes at Central
Monroe at Albany
Moultrie at Tift

Saturday

Dougherty at Westover

REGION 1-AA Region Overall	
Ware	2:00 2:00
Coffee	1:00 2:00
Cairo	1:00 3:00
Worth	1:00 2:00
Camden	0:00 2:00
Fitzgerald	1:10 1:20
Waycross	0:10 0:20
Appling	0:10 0:30
Brooks	0:10 0:30
Cook	0:20 0:30

Last Week's Games

Worth 7, Cook 0
Ware 6, Appling 0
Cairo 28, Waycross 7
Camden 29, Johnson 6
Fitzgerald 19, Brooks 7

This Week's Games

Cairo at Appling
Camden at Fitzgerald
Ware at Coffee
Cook at Waycross
Worth at Brooks

REGION 2-A (North) Subregion Overall	
Lyons	0:00 3:00
Arnold	0:00 0:20
Claxton	0:00 2:10
Glennville	0:00 2:10
Jenkins	0:00 1:21
SE Bulloch	0:00 1:10
Vidalia	0:00 1:10

Last Week's Games

Effingham 12, Arnold 0
Bacon 20, Claxton 16
Glynn Academy 26, Jenkins 2
Lyons 27, Montgomery 0
SE Bulloch 20, Screven 0
Irwin 8, Vidalia 6

This Week's Games

SE Bulloch at Effingham
Johnson at Glennville
Screven at Jenkins
Dodge at Vidalia
Jeff Davis at Lyons
Claxton at Blackshear

REGION 2-A (South) Subregion Overall	
Bacon	0:00 2:10
Berrien	0:00 2:10
Blackshear	0:00 0:30
Brantley	0:00 0:30
Clinch	0:00 1:10
Irwin	0:00 2:20
Jeff Davis	0:00 1:20

Last Week's Games

Bacon 20, Claxton 16
Atkinson 24, Brantley 0
Clinch 21, Charlton 7
Turner 49, Berrien 0
Irwin 8, Vidalia 6
Jeff Davis 33, Talfair 0

This Week's Games

Jeff Davis at Lyons
Berrien at Charlton
Unadilla at Clinch
Claxton at Blackshear
Jeff Davis at Lyons

Valdosta School Board Considers Drug, Contraband Search Policy

Times-Union Bureau Valdosta, Ga., September 22, 1976

pointed out at an earlier meeting that the Georgia attorney general had recommended against it last year.

The board still has not made a decision on Ceasar, whom some board members wanted to use to search lockers on the first day of school.

The tentative policy called for a witness to any searches, which were also to be attended by the student using the property.

The policy stated that "desks, lockers and other property furnished to the student, whether by rental to the student or not, remaining the property of the

Board of Education. School officials may search on grounds of "reasonable suspicion" that lockers, and automobiles, which are on school grounds, contain contraband.

The policy stated that a student must be asked for permission for the search of an auto but if he refused, he could not bring another motor vehicle on the school grounds. "We're trying to clean up our policies as related to all types of searches are concerned," Supt.-elect Ralph Brandon said.

'Dosta-T'ville Seats Available

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta City School system Finance Director Jack Kent announced this morning over 500 reserved seats are still available for the Valdosta-Thomasville high school football game to be held here Friday night.

admission seats priced at \$2 were also available. Tickets can be purchased at Barnes Drug store in Brookwood Plaza.

While it may grow as tall as 100 feet, the bamboo is not a tree, but a part of the grass family.

9-22-76

9-22-76

Thomasville, Americus, Mary Persons Lead

second-place ranking to Carrollton after defeating the Trojans 13-7. Macon County captured second place in B after shutting out Randolph County 40-0. Buford routed Banks County 51-14 for third. Reidsville defeated Savannah Country Day 12-7 to tie for fourth place. Jefferson was sixth, Bremen seventh, Pelham eighth, Mt. de Sales ninth and Charlton County 10th.

Brown victimizes 16-0 by Douglass of Atlanta, a AAA squad, tied for fourth in AA with Marist, which moved up from seventh after a 20-0 shutout of West Rome. Duluth moved into a tie for

Hogansville claimed the top spot after routing Brookstone 48-6. All the teams ranked in AAA last week were voted to the top 10 this week except Wheeler, which needed a double overtime period to defeat Campbell of Smyrna 28-21. Wheeler was replaced at 10th by Dougherty, which rapped Albany 26-6. Gainesville fell from its

ATLANTA (AP) — Thomasville and Americus rolled up weekend victories to easily win the Associated Press Advisory Board's top ratings this week in Classes AAA and AA of Georgia high school football. However, Mary Persons barely hung on to the lead in Class A after tying Putnam County 7-7 in a home game. And in the AP board's first rating this year of Class B,

9-24-76

Region 1-AAA White, Marshall Top Rush Stats

By ELLWOOD MOYER
Region 1-AAA Statistician

The top two ground gainers in Region 1-AAA go head to head tonight when Central of Thomasville takes on Lowndes' Vikings from Valdosta.

Central tailback Terry White exploded for 169 yards in 13 carries against Crisp County last week to vault his season total to 304.

James Marshall totaled 99 yards in 19 tries against Moultrie to bring the Lowndes' fullback up the 229 mark for the year.

Moultrie's Steve Tyus slipped past Lowndes' Lynn Pattillo for the region's passing leadership. Tyus has hit on 17 of 40 passes for 303 yards, and Pattillo has connected on 27 of 60 attempts for 292 yards.

Lowndes' halfback Nathaniel Burks dropped to third in the receiving stats with 11 grabs for 118 yards. Moultrie's Herbert McCoy leads the receivers with six catches for 138 yards.

Horace Smith of Central ranks second with six receptions for 121 yards.

Valdosta's Troy Thomas held onto his top spot in the punt return category with six runbacks for 49 yards, and Thomasville's punter-quarterback, Clifford Kerbo, zoomed to the punting forefront with four kicks for a 43.25 average.

REGION 1-AAA Rushing

Player	Carries	Yds.	Avg.
1. White, Central	35	304	8.69
2. Marshall, Lowndes	44	229	5.20
3. Moss, Dougherty	32	199	6.22
4. Peterson, Bainbridge	41	158	3.85
5. Brown, Albany	30	159	5.30
6. Kerbo, Thomasville	21	150	7.14
7. Mackey, Bainbridge	29	150	5.17
8. Crumley, Tift	38	149	3.92
9. Andrews, Thomasville	23	145	6.30
10. Ivey, Thomasville	16	134	8.38
11. Anderson, Albany	49	129	2.63
12. Jordan, Monroe	27	126	4.67
13. Mills, Tift	39	125	3.21
14. Carroll, Westover	12	116	9.67
15. Mitchell, Thomasville	23	113	4.91
16. Stephens, Westover	19	112	5.89
17. Quimbley, Dougherty	19	109	5.74
18. Scott, Westover	14	104	7.43

Passing

Player	Att.	Comp.	Yds.
1. S. Tyus, Moultrie	40	17	303
2. Pattillo, Lowndes	60	27	292
3. Bess, Bainbridge	44	18	233
4. Hughes, Crisp	27	16	20
5. Belue, Valdosta	32	17	212
6. Anderson, Albany	27	12	163
7. J. Johnson, Monroe	41	15	161
8. Mills, Tift	27	10	154
9. Aubin Dougherty	17	8	116
10. T. Moore, Westover	20	11	109
13. Marshall, Lowndes	4	3	55
15. Luke, Lowndes	3	2	33

Pass Receiving

Player	Catches	Yds.	Td's
1. McCoy, Moultrie	6	138	3
2. Smith, Central	6	121	3
3. Burks, Lowndes	11	118	2
4. Biggles, Bainbridge	7	106	1
5. Ryals, Bainbridge	8	100	1
6. Carter, Dougherty	5	86	1
7. Williford, Moultrie	5	85	1
8. Johnson, Valdosta	7	83	0
9. Alexander, Crisp	1	81	1
10. Montgomery, Lowndes	5	76	1

Pass Interceptions

Player	Inter.	Ref.
1. Jackson, Crisp	7	47
2. Westbrook, Crisp	1	20
3. Alexander, Crisp	1	19
4. Worthy, Valdosta	1	19
5. Turner, Central	1	19
6. Linton, Central	1	19
7. Grant, Albany	2	15

Punting

Player	Kicks	Yds.	Avg.
1. Kerbo, Thomasville	4	173	43.25
2. Cates, Albany	12	512	42.67
3. Aubin, Dougherty	6	239	39.83
4. M. Payne, Moultrie	10	383	38.30
5. Pattillo, Lowndes	16	593	37.06
6. Belue, Valdosta	5	176	35.20
7. LaMarr, Monroe	6	211	35.17
8. Turner, Tift	18	612	34.00
9. Singletery, Central	6	202	33.67
10. Close, Bainbridge	11	360	32.73

Punt Returns

Player	Ret.	Yds.
1. T. Thomas, Valdosta	6	49
2. Gilbert, Thomasville	2	48
3. Jenkins, Dougherty	5	39
4. Carroll, Westover	2	30
5. Waters, Lowndes	7	24
6. McClung, Tift	3	12
7. Smith, Central	2	11
8. Williford, Moultrie	2	10

Kick-Off Returns

Player	Ret.	Yds.
1. Alexander, Crisp	7	141
2. Biggles, Bainbridge	6	112
3. Anderson, Albany	4	105
4. Bragg, Moultrie	4	96
5. Ivey, Thomasville	3	90
6. Lane, Westover	4	69
7. Williford, Moultrie	4	64
8. Smith, Central	3	50
9. Terry, Tift	4	46
10. Smith, Valdosta	2	42

Scoring

Player	Td's	Pat's	Tot
Pattillo, Lowndes	4	8	32
Ivey, Thomasville	5	0	30
Smith, Central	4	0	18
White, Central	3	0	18
Mills, Tift	3	0	18
Belue, Valdosta	2	2	14
Gaskins, Valdosta	2	0	12
Scott, Westover	2	0	12
Carroll, Westover	2	0	12
Kerbo, Thomasville	2	0	12
McCoy, Moultrie	2	0	12
Jordan, Monroe	2	0	12
Burks, Lowndes	2	0	12
Ruis, Central	2	0	12
Jackson, Central	2	0	12
Bess, Bainbridge	2	0	12
Anderson, Albany	2	0	12
Hester, Crisp	0	5	11
Hurst, Central	0	11	11

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Sept. 23, 1976-19-

Thomasville Concentrates On 1976 And Valdosta

By JULIAN MILLER

Memories of two close losses to Valdosta's Wildcats to knock his Thomasville Bulldogs out of the number one spot in the state's high school football rankings twice last season don't prey on Jim Hughes' mind this week.

When his Bulldogs travel to Valdosta to take on Nick Hyder's Wildcats again Friday in their 8 p.m. Cleveland Field clash, he hopes they'll be more concerned with this season.

"We're primarily concerned with this year," the successful Crisp County native explained. "We had our opportunities last year and didn't take advantage of them. What we're concerned about now is 1976. It's what we do Friday night that matters. What we did in 1974, '75 or even '73 won't make a whole lot of difference."

What Hughes hopes to do is live up to

defenses and both are trying to establish their running games. The Bulldogs, however, have been more successful here than the 'Cats.

Although Thomasville has no one running back with a clear cut lead over the others, Hughes' stable of backs has accumulated bundles of yardage. It's not that he can't find a runner. It's more trying to give everyone a chance.

"There's just not a great deal of difference between several of our kids," Hughes explained. "We've got a highly competitive situation and we're trying to make use of everyone's energies. Ultimately, one guy might surface to lead the others but until then we're trying to get all the mileage out of everyone we can."

While his running backs accumulate yardage, the Bulldog pass attack, led by first year quarterback Clifford Kerbo, hasn't developed yet.

terback Buck Belue, last year's Region 1-AAA offensive Player of the Year, has yet to establish its running game and Hughes is banking on that.

Rumor has it that Hughes is bypassing Kerbo, who was injured during the Valdosta game last season, for Jerry Marria for the game. But the quiet Thomasville coach listed Kerbo, a defensive linebacker last season, as his number-one choice.

Valdosta, meanwhile, is hoping the return of Steve Jennings and Lawrence Lowe can help bolster the team. Jennings, a senior halfback who can throw the option, broke his arm during preseason camp. He is expected to see some action. Lowe, a senior standout at safety and a four year starter, is more doubtful after breaking a bone in his foot during the preseason drills.

THOMASVILLE — ends Thomas Sapp (135, sr.), Tommy Mathes (155, sr.) or John Kelly (175, sr.) and Ira Blackshear (175, sr.); tackles Eddie McIntyre (200, sr.) and Jimmy Herbert (230, sr.); guards Lyle Miller (190, sr.) and Mike Morris (195, sr.) or Michael Benton (210, sr.); center Johnny Parrish (215, sr.); quarterback Clifford Kerbo (175, sr.); fullback T. C. Whinnell (180, sr.); tailback Horace Ivey (160, sr.) or Roosevelt Andrews (150, sr.); and flanker Jerry Marria (155, sr.); Running Back — ends Willie Walker (170, sr.) and Terry Harrison (165, sr.); tackles Reginald Miller (225, sr.) and Gary Clark (195, sr.); nose guard Bradford Walker (185, sr.); linebackers Johnny Byrd (215, sr.) and George Katsoudas (180, sr.); cornerbacks James Bryant (160, sr.) and Bernard Gilbert (155, sr.) or Tyrone Moore (160, sr.) and safeties Roderick Hunter (175, sr.) and Robert Grant (155, sr.).

VALDOSTA — ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and Leon

9-24-76

'I'd say they've got a big mad on for us—it's pretty heavy. The only thing that'll satisfy it is a win.'—Nick Hyder



Buck Belue



Clifford Kerbo

Valdosta Has Hyder, Hughes Is the Seeker

By LAWRENCE DENNIS
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA — "Well, we're... a little nervous," Nick Hyder laughed, nervously.

"We're anxious to get started with it," Jim Hughes quipped, eagerly.

The sentiments of the coaches from Valdosta and Thomasville, respectively, sum up the hopes and the fears of many of the approximately 90,000 citizens of the two cities, which are separated by 48 miles, and two football teams are licking their collective chops — THE Game is here.

Or it will be tonight, when Thomasville invades Valdosta's Cleveland Field for an 8 o'clock kickoff.

That's THE Game in Valdosta, but there's another one in Thomasville, where Lowndes and Central, equally unbeaten, meet. The two cities have almost cornered the market on winning 'em all — 80 per cent of Region 1-AAA's unbeaten are from the two. The other perfect recordholder in the league, Albany Dougherty, plays

Westover Saturday. Albany Monroe is at Albany and Moultrie is at Tift in other loop games.

In 3-AAA, fifth-ranked Jesup hosts Jenkins, Brunswick visits Benedictine, Glenn hosts Groves, Savannah is at Stateboro and Tompkins is at Windsor-Forest.

In 1-AA, another pair of unbeaten, Ware and Coffee, square off at Douglas, while eighth-ranked Camden is at Fitzgerald. Cook visits Waycross and Cairo is at Appling County.

In other South Georgia games, Berrien is at Charlton, Claxton is at Blackshear, Worth travels to Brooks and Unadilla visits Clinch.

Thomasville's Hughes is understandably eager. The veteran Bulldog coach has compiled an enviable record in the last four years — two consecutive state AAA titles ('73-'74), a national title ('74), 36 wins... and three losses. Two of the three losses were to Hyder's Wildcats, both last year,

and they knocked the Bulldogs out of their third straight region title. Even more galling, both came on Hughes' own turf. Valdosta won their regular season meeting, 12-10, and then went to the state playoffs via a 3-0 win in a special playoff.

"That's bound to crawl on him, considering the kind of personality he is — the kind of competitor he is," Hyder mused. "I'd say they've got a big mad on for us — it's pretty heavy. The only thing that'll satisfy it is a win."

"It's been on my mind for the past year," Hughes admitted, but quickly added, "I don't think the kids are concerned about that. They know you've got to win 10 games in this league to win it — they're thinking about 1976."

They're not the only ones. Some railbirds have been wisecracking that the state championship game is being played early this year — tonight.

And if all that's not enough to pack the house, the game offers a near perfect contrast in styles.

Thomasville's running quarterback, Clifford Kerbo, presides over a backfield corps that changes on almost every down a la Alabama. The Bulldogs grind it out in a multiple set, but it sounds like a wishbone — few passes, over 300 yards rushing per game, and an admitted disinclination to play catchup.

The Wildcats would like to run too — to set up the passing game for rifle-armed junior Buck Belue, who can and does throw the bomb. Hyder admits that the rushing game is Valdosta's weak link and Hughes says the Bulldogs have to stop it to win. "If Valdosta can rush the football effectively, it's hard to defend against them," he said. "We've got to take away their rush so we can fall back and play the pass."

Either way, it adds up to a lot of pressure on the offensive lines, both of which will be going against seasoned defenses. They've got plenty of company though — the pressure is on just about everybody — on the field and off.

REP FOOTBALL

Thomasville Has Hurt for Year

By BILL BRYANT
Journal Staff Writer

VALDOSTA—The only point of contention between the Valdosta and Thomasville football teams is a simple one.

They disagree on only one thing—who is the best high school football team in the state of Georgia and who is going to win the state championship.

They'll bring their little difference of opinion here to Cleveland Field Friday night to get things settled.

Twelve thousand others lucky enough to have tickets will accompany them. The crowd will be one of the largest to ever watch a football game in South Georgia as some 3,500 new seats were added to Valdosta's tradition-steeped stadium during the summer.

Ostensibly, the game is for the early lead in region 1-AAA, but none of the Valdosta or Thomasville players will have his sights set at such short range Friday. They are all thinking in terms of November, playoffs and the state championship ultimately.

It's a goal both teams have set for themselves and they say their season will be a success with nothing less accomplished.

"I couldn't settle for a region championship or anything like that," says Thomasville fullback F.C. Mitchell. "We just couldn't settle for that."

"I believe it will take that (a state championship) to call it successful," adds all-star center Johnny Parrish. "Once you've been there you want to stay there." Thomasville won state

Class AAA championships in 1973 and 1974.

The primary reason the Bulldogs didn't win a third title last year and accomplish what only one other team (Valdosta) has done by winning three consecutive championships was, coincidentally enough, the Wildcats of Valdosta, who won 12-10 and 3-0 games against them.

In region 1-AAA, most agree that you can't put too much emphasis on one opponent because usually to win the region and have a chance of going any further you have to beat everyone on the schedule. But try as they might, none in the Bulldog camp is succeeding in convincing anyone that this one isn't a little special because of the way circumstances evolved last year.

"You're damn right it sticks in my craw," says Thomasville coach Jim Hughes, who is capable of being profound on a number of subjects as well as very frank about the game of football.

"It sticks in my craw because they whupped our butts; they got in the playoffs; I wasn't voted coach of the year and everything. We just were not able to do what I thought we were capable of doing that game and that is particularly disquieting to me."

"I was really disappointed after we lost to them the second time," says Mitchell. "It was like the world was coming to an end and we had lost everything."

The end did come for Thomasville that night when Valdosta's Robert Baldwin connected on a field goal. But the end came also for Valdosta in the first week of the playoffs against Wayne County. They know how Thomasville feels when the Bulldogs talk about losing one

they think they should have won.

Now, their goal too is the state championship.

"The state championship is our only goal," says linebacker Keith Middleton.

NOTES: Thomasville, No. 1 in The Journal's AAA poll, and Valdosta, No. 2, have had no trouble with two opening opponents. Valdosta beat Crisp County 23-7 and Bainbridge 28-0; Thomasville beat Albany 34-7 and Westover 34-0... Valdosta, for the third game, will most likely be without safetyman Lawrence Lowe, one of the finest defensive players in the state, and half-back Steve Jennings. Both broke bones during the last week of preseason camp... Word from Valdosta is that local patrons have been a little less than satisfied with the play so far of quarterback Buck Belue, a preseason All-America as a junior. Belue hasn't had impressive games statistically thus far, but Wildcat coach Nick Hyder defends the player he calls the best quarterback he's ever coached by explaining Belue has had to adjust to new offensive people this year... Hughes says Belue's passing will test his secondary like it will never be tested. "Our defensive secondary to this point is untested. We don't test them in practice and neither team we've played has tested them. But they'll face the test of their lives Friday. Neither, one could argue, has the Bulldog offense received that much of a test. Usually the defense hands the ball over to the Thomasville offense in superior field position, and Hughes worries that "we still haven't stood in there eyeball to eyeball with anyone."

9-24-76

Showdown Not Sellout For 'Cats, Bulldogs

Sept 24

By JULIAN MILLER
Tonight's high school football showdown between Valdosta's Wildcats and Thomasville's Bulldogs, two of the top three rated teams in the state, is not a sellout. And officials are wondering why.

Jack Kent of the Valdosta City School System said today Thomasville is returning some 200 reserve seat tickets and 500 general admission ducats to the clash at Cleveland Field at 8 tonight.

In addition, some 88 of the Valdosta reserve seat tickets were still unsold this morning, along with some end zone seats.

Kent said reserve seat tickets would be sold at the game tonight only at the Northeast gate, near the intersection of Williams Street and East Brookwood Drive. General admission tickets are to be sold at all gates as long as they last.

Officials had been expecting a capacity crowd after two confrontations between the same two teams last season resulted in two sellouts at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Thomasville.

Fans had spent most of the night in ticket lines a week beforehand, hoping to get the rationed ducats. Several verbal discussions between rate fans and school officials led to hard feelings.

Tonight, as was the case in those two games last season, Thomasville comes into the game ranked first in the state by the Associated Press with the Wildcats ranked third. The 'Cats knocked off the Bulldogs 12-10 during the regular season and 3-0 in the Region 1-AAA playoff to regain top ranking both weeks last season. Both are 2-0 going into tonight's clash.

With a new 790-seat addition, Cleveland Field now has seating for around 11,000 and officials had expected all to be sold long before today.

"Really," Kent explained, "if we hadn't put in that

addition we'd be pretty close to being sold out by now."

Officials pointed out the fact that Lowndes' Vikings and Central's Yellow Jackets, also undefeated, play in Thomasville at the

same time tonight may have had some effect on gate receipts at the Valdosta-Thomasville game.

Central is located in Thomasville. Lowndes is Valdosta's cross-town rival.

VHS Freshmen Blank Tift 9-24-76

By Times Staff Writer
TIFTON — Valdosta's ninth grade combined a stingy defense with the running and passing heroics of quarterback John Bond to gun down Tift's ninth grade 12-0 here Thursday.

Valdosta's offense got rolling in the second half when Carl Wilcox hauled in a 25-yard fourth down pass from Bond and carried it into the end zone in the third quarter.

In the final period, Bond tucked the football under his arm and sprinted 35 yards around end to paydirt.

Mike Ruff and Nat Ceasar keyed the defense with a pass interception apiece.

Now 3-1, coach Bob Bolton's VHS frosh travel across county to Lowndes High Thursday at 4 p.m.



Firing Up

Three-in-a-Row for Valdosta?

9-24-76

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Even though each team is only two games into this young season, you can expect a sellout crowd of around 12,000 at Cleveland Field in Valdosta Friday night to see if the Wildcats can continue last year's dominance over the Thomasville Bulldogs.

Valdosta will be trying to make it three in a row over the No. 1 ranked AAA team in the state, as Nick Hyder's third-ranked Wildcats prevailed in two defensive struggles last season, 12-10 and 3-0, both in Thomasville.

The game shapes up to be another thriller, as both squads enter with 2-0 records and powerful squads. Thomasville has won 34-7 over Albany and 34-0 over Westover, while Valdosta has beaten Crisp County, 23-7 and Bainbridge 28-0.

Besides the great rivalry, of course, is the

expectation that the winner of the contest will probably be the eventual winner of region 1-AAA. Last year's three-way tie only happens "about every 50 years", according to Thomasville coach Jim Hughes.

Despite the fact that Valdosta has a potent offense, led by all-star candidate Buck Belue at quarterback, and a rugged defense, headed by super linebacker Keith Middleton, and despite the fact the Wildcats are playing at home, Thomasville is the pick in this one.

The Bulldogs have more experienced players returning, a brutal defense, and a super QB of their own in Cliff Kerbo. Besides, the 'Dogs remember last year when they were picked to rule the state only to be beaten twice right in their own backyard.

Another battle of unbeatens Friday has Coosa, sporting three straight shutouts and a No. 9 ranking in AA, visiting Marist, which is 4-0

and ranked seventh in AA. Marist is a slim favorite in this one, with a vicious defensive battle expected.

Other key games Friday include unbeaten Henderson battling once-beaten Sequoyah, unbeaten and top-ranked Hogansville hosting ninth-ranked Bremen in a Class B showdown, unbeaten Marietta traveling to tough Douglas County, Lagrange hosting Griffin, and Commerce at Jefferson.

Saturday's limited slate features two battles of unbeatens in Lakeshore at Avondale and Northside versus Southwest DeKalb.

Although it's never wise to pick against Avondale in "Death Valley", third-ranked Lakeshore must rate at least a touchdown edge going into this AA showdown, as the Lancers' offense has produced 146 points in three games. If Gerald "Black Magic" Harp gets loose, he could turn Avondale's "Death Valley" into "Lancer Land."



Julian Miller
Times Sports Editor

End Is Predicted For 'Cats, Vikes

Was the Crisp County team Central of Thomasville defeated 52-0 the same Crisp team that fought Valdosta to a 23-7 finish a week earlier?

Joe Wilson hopes it wasn't. His Lowndes Vikings have to play those Yellow Jackets tonight in a battle of unbeaten to help determine which teams lead Region 1-AAA this year.

Nick Hyder and Jim Hughes aren't concerned as yet, however. They have other things on their minds — each other.

Hyder's Wildcats, also undefeated and ranked third in the state, host Hughes' Thomasville Bulldogs, also undefeated — and ranked first in the state, at Valdosta's Cleveland Field tonight.

It's a dandy time to be picking football games. A nice guy could get killed trying. Last week for example, the old football prognosticator made a dozen new enemies just because he missed the count on that Lowndes-Moultrie game. (who'd have thought it — certainly not Moultrie.)

Despite picking Lowndes to lose wrongly for the first time his memory, the old football picker did all right though. Hit correctly on 17 of 21 predictions to boost his record to 57-18.

Here's the way things look this week.

THOMASVILLE at VALDOSTA

Can Jack Rudolph's defensive genius stop the Bulldogs? Maybe ... maybe not. The latter is a little more realistic. Judging from the way things have been going, it'll take more than the return of Lawrence Lowe and Steve Jennings to put the Wildcats on top.

It'll take that old Cleveland Field Ghost, who hasn't exactly been doing his job the last three years. Until we do see him we'll have to go with the facts: Thomasville, 19-14.

LOWNDES at CENTRAL

Despite the popularity of the above game, this one could be tops in fan support. Lowndes, never having had a winner before, is atop the region standings to the dismay of everyone. Central, in its first year in the region, is 2-0.

It has been Joe Wilson's wizardry and Lynn Patillo's quarterbacking that has kept Lowndes going so far. But against the sheer brute strength of Central something has gotta give. We never learn. We fear it'll be the Vikings: Central, 20-14. (And we won't mind being wrong either time.)

UNADILLA at CLINCH CO.

It's not exactly a move to the big time but Unadilla is going up to Class A from Class B. That shouldn't have that much to do with the outcome but Clinch's Panthers should. Clinch, 14-0.

COOK at WAYCROSS

Both are winless and having their problems but Dale Williams' troubles should turn for the better tonight. James Thomason and his Cook Hornets have more woes coming. Waycross, 12-6.

WORTH at BROOKS

Last week Brooks' Trojans scored for the first time this season. Worth County's Rams are a little more accustomed to it. When the dust has settled, the Rams should remain undefeated and Brooks, bless 'em, winless. Worth, 7-0.

BERRIEN at CHARLTON

Last year, Foy Norwood's Berrien Rebels campaigned in Class AA with little success. This year they're in Class A with just a little more. Tonight they go down to Class B, and worries await them. Charlton has the power to jump ranks. But the Rebels want it badly. Berrien, 6-0.

FLORIDA HIGH at HAMILTON

On paper it looks like a pretty good game. In reality, it should turn out that way. Florida High has the talent. Hamilton has the desire and home field advantage. Hamilton, 22-14.

LINCOLN at MADISON, FLA.

It's the third game and more of the same for Madison's Cougars. Lincoln, 24-6.

WESTBROOK at WESTWOOD

To date, Westbrook's had a loss, a win and a cancellation in their football season. It's time to break the chain. Westwood has too much power to buckle under, especially in Camilla. Westwood, 20-0.

OTHER GAMES

Albany over Monroe, Moultrie over Tift Co., Warner Robins over Baker, Macon Central over Northside Warner Robins, Wayne County over Jenkins, Laney over Josey, Cairo over Appling Co., Camden Co. over Fitzgerald, Coffee Co. over Ware Co. Swainsboro over Dublin, Americus over Auburn, Ala., Dodge Co. over Vidalia, Paulding Co. over Villa Rica, Turner Co. over Calhoun Co., Early Co. over Lee Co., Seminole Co. over Terrell Co., Duluth over East Hall, Pelham over Brookstone, and Dougherty over Westover.

The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Saturday, September 25, 1976

Hyder's Wildcats Aren't Hard To Find

VALDOSTA	THOMASVILLE
11	9
100	130
100	20
7-12-2	2-15-2
6-32-0	6-38-7
6-30	5-34

By LAWRENCE DENNIS
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — "Think I can stay around another week?" Nick Hyder said to no one in particular and everyone in general on the rain-soaked turf of Cleveland Field here Friday night.

"Yeah, hang around a little while

longer, Nick," would have been the collective reply if most of the citizens of this football-mad mini-metropolis had heard the question.

Yeah, Hyder can hang around a little while longer. Valdosta has a reputation of being hard on head football coaches, but there was no one to ride Hyder Friday night. His Wildcats had just pummeled the state's top-ranked AAA team, Thomasville, and sent the previously unbeaten Bulldogs on a long 48-mile ride home — the final verdict was 29-9.

AND UNLIKE the Cats' wins over

and for Thomasville last year, there was little doubt.

The win, which puts Valdosta in the driver's seat in a rugged Region 1-AAA title chase and undoubtedly makes the 'cats the top ranking, was for all intents and purposes in the bag after Valdosta's first offensive play.

Thomasville kicked off, in a driving rain, and Valdosta couldn't move, punting to the 'Cats' Troy Thomas at his 26. Thomas lost the handle on the wet ball, and tackle Buford Walker covered it. The Bulldogs picked up a first down but faced a fourth at the 11 and Ken

Johnson toed a three-pointer to give the 'Dogs a 3-0 lead with 6:52 left in the first quarter.

It looked dark for the Wildcats, and memories of last year's 3-8 state play-off win over Thomasville haunted the packed house, but the lights wasted little time in going out for the Bulldogs, not Valdosta.

IT TOOK one play for the 'Cats to get the lead, and after that, it was never close. Halfback Steve Jennings,

playing on his first snap of the year after a preseason injury sidelined him, took a handoff from quarterback Buck Belue, rolled to his left and hit a wide open Leon Johnson at the Thomasville 24. Johnson, who had ten yards on the nearest Bulldog defender, waltzed into the end zone for a 54-yard TD play.

The 'Cats had it then, but it took a rock-ribbed defense to turn the trick. Thomasville got a shot at the Valdosta 30 when Thomas fumbled another punt, but Alan Worthy stopped that mini-march with an interception on the 'Cat

six. After that, it was Katey-bar-the-door.

Three Thomasville fumbles, two of them on kickoffs, led to three Valdosta touchdowns (within 20 seconds). It was all over at the half—Valdosta 27-3.

The Wildcats, now 3-0, face another unbeaten next Friday night when they go against Dougherty at Albany.

Valdosta	7	20	0	2	-39
THO ASVILLE	3	0	60	-9	

(A)—Johnson 25 field goal
(V)—Johnson on 48 pass from Jennings (Baldwin kick)
(V)—Belue 1 run (kick failed)
(V)—Johnson 12 run with fumble (Baldwin kick)
(V)—Johnson 20 run with fumble (Baldwin kick)
(V)—Svey 14 run (kick failed)
(V)—Safety Andrews fumbled in end zone.

Valdosta 29, T'ville 9 Wildcats Put It All Together To Roar Past Top-Ranked Bulldogs

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta's Wildcats found a running back in a quarterback and a quarterback in a running back.

But a wide receiver, who insisted on scoring on the other team's kick off returns, stole the show as the Wildcats roared to a 29-9 victory over top-ranked Thomasville to

YARDSTICK

First Downs	Vald. 9	T'ville 9
Yards Rushing	100	130
Yards Passing	100	20
Passes	7-12	2-15
Passes Intc. by	2	2
Fumbles Lost	2	4
Punting	6-32	6-36.7
Penalties	6-30	5-34

knock the Bulldogs out of the number one position in the state for the third time in two years here Friday night.

It was just that kind of game.

On a night when some 11,000 fans expected a sudden rain to wipe out the passing attack, Valdosta's forte, the Wildcats put air brakes on Thomasville's powerful running attack.

After almost giving the Bulldogs an easy touchdown, then holding them to a field goal, the 'Cats scored with lightning quick speed when halfback Steve Jennings walked on the field for his first play of the season and lofted a 52-yard scoring pass to Leon Johnson.

Then Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue, a passing sensation, turned running back to set up Valdosta's second touchdown, the rest was unbelievable.

The Bulldogs fumbled the next two Valdosta kickoffs into the path of Leon Johnson and by the time the dust had settled the 'Cats had racked up 20 points in as many seconds and broken the backs of the visitors.

"Heroes?" asked a smiling Nick Hyder. "There's 90 players on that roster, all of them contributed to this game. I can't single out anybody."

Then he turned to a critic. "I keep tellin' ya...now listen to me," he said slowly with the patience of a kindergarten teacher with a student. "It takes a good defense, an offense and a kicking game. I don't know what we dominated but the TEAM won."

The Wildcats dominated it all. In fact, save for two-fumbled punt returns inside the Valdosta 30 to start things off, the Wildcats did very little wrong.

By halftime their previously almost nonexistent offense had accumulated 94 yards passing and 62 rushing compared to only 16 passing and 50 rushing for the Bulldogs' powerful go team. The Wildcat defense had recovered four Thomasville fumbles and intercepted two T'ville passes by the time the game ended.

And that left Hyder conducting the well-known spelling class he holds with newsmen after every big win.

"Just spell that V-A-L-D-O-S-T-A," he was telling a radio reporter with his index finger punching out each letter in the reporter's stomach.

"That's V-A-L-D-O-S-T-A. When this town gets behind this team they can't beat you."

"Can I stay another week, boss?" he asked of school board member Hulyn Smith.

"You want to sign the contract now?" Smith asked.

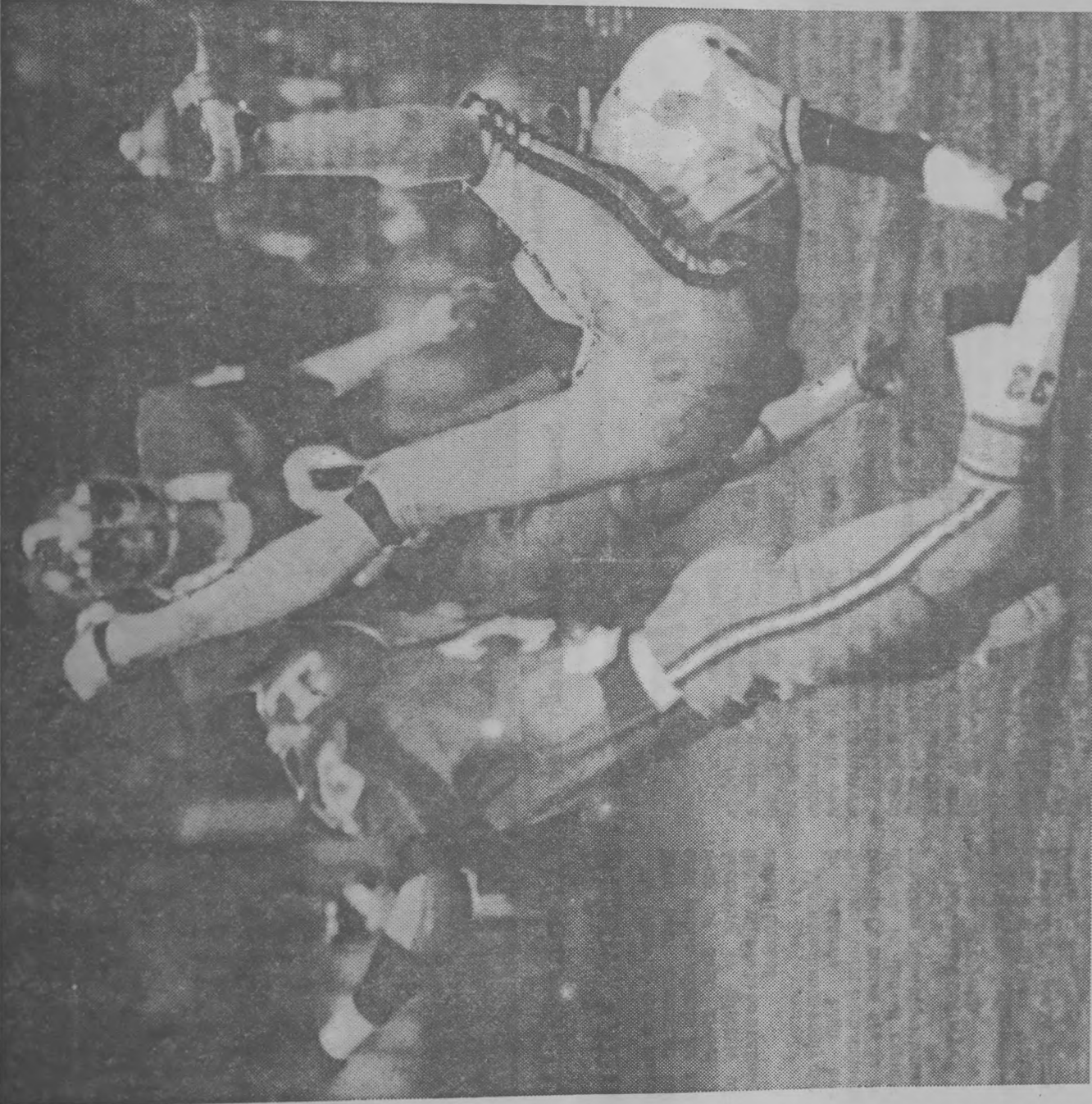
"Naw, I just live from game to game."

Thomasville coach Jim Hughes was somewhat less than enthusiastic. "When you get a three-touchdown lead you can do more things with a football," he said with his well-known matter-of-fact style. "We let them get ahead and it was hard to play catch up football."

Hughes explained his Bulldogs were trying to find the secret of moving on Valdosta's staunch defense. Until the second possession of the second half, nothing worked.

"If you're not strong enough to do what you want to do you're hurting," he explained. "We had the opportunities, two early fumbles inside the 30, and we didn't take advantage of them. They (Valdosta) had their opportunities and they did take advantage."

He shrugged off praises for his team. "We're going to find out (what kind of team Thomasville is) in the next



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

in to stop the Bulldogs shy of a first down on their next three possessions and on the third one the 'Cats turned it around.

It started when Lynn Roberts picked up T. C. Mitchell's fumble at the Valdosta 17 to bring on Valdosta quarterback sensation Buck Belue and his many moods.

First it was Belue the passer who evolved as he pierced Thomasville's defense for a nine-yard pass to Alvin Thomas. Then it was Belue the runner, who snaked his way seven yards up the middle to the Valdosta one. Then the junior quarterback plunged through for the score to give Valdosta its 13-3 lead with 5:30 remaining in the half.

But that was only the beginning. On the ensuing kickoff, Thomasville's Jerry Marria hauled in the kick at the 10, fumbled at the 12 and watched in vain as Leon Johnson sped in to scoop up the loose bobbie at the eight and ramble in for the touchdown. Baldwin's kick made it 19-3 and the 'Cats kicked off again.

This time Emanuel Simson took the kick at the eight, rambled to the 20 where he fumbled only to see Johnson emerge again, this time at the 18, to scoop up the bobbie and race in again. Baldwin's third PAT kick gave the 'Cats their 20th point in 20 seconds and the 'Cats a 27-3 lead for the half.

It looked more like the Bulldogs of old when the second half began and the visitors put their wide-scoped ground game to work. On Thomasville's second possession, tailback Horace Ivey came on to engineer a 61-yard drive in 10 plays, running for 14, 11, four, one and finally 14 yards again to score Thomasville's only touchdown with 3:24 remaining in the third quarter.

But that's when Belue and the Wildcats began their play-it-safe routine to run out the clock. A usually pass-oriented offense, the 'Cats threw only four times in the second half, with only one completion turning instead to

a stable of young runningbacks to gobble up yardage...and more important — time.

With the defense holding the Bulldogs at bay the rest of the night, Belue added the final insult with a 33-yard coffin corner punt his teammates downed at the one-yard line with four minutes remaining in the game.

On the next play Jack Cain and Ricky Warren broke through Thomasville's gigantic line to nail Mitchell in the end zone for a safety to end the scoring at 29-9 and the Bulldogs finally relented.

Four straight passes by Thomasville quarterback Clifford Kirbo went absolutely nowhere. Belue was content to sit on the ball for three straight falls to insure the victory while his classmates flashed that well known number one sign.

The win not only pushed the Wildcats, ranked third in the state by the Associated Press farther into the state spotlight, but it left them tied for the number one position in the region.

Central of Thomasville's 27-8 victory over Region leader Lowndes left the Yellow Jackets and Wildcats tied for the region lead. A Dougherty high win over Westover in Albany tonight could add the Trojans to the list of leaders until Dougherty and Valdosta clash again in Albany next Saturday night.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta — Gaskins 8-40, Belue 11-30, Smith 7-18, Johnson 1-9, Holcomb 2-4, Baldwin 1-3, Jennings 1-minus 4; Thomasville — Ivey 10-70, Andrews 9-31, Mitchell 6-20, Simon 3-5, Kerbo 10-4.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 6-11, 48, Jennings 1-1-22, Thomasville — Kerbo 2-15, Passes Received: Valdosta — L. Johnson 3-65, A. Thomas 2-15, Adams 1-15, Smith 1-5; Thomasville — Marria 1-16, Blackshear 1-4.
Punt Returns: Thomasville — Gilbert 1-0, Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Smith 1-22, Thomas 1-19, L. Johnson 1-4; Thomasville — Ivey 3-58, Simon 1-21, Kerbo 1-7.
Interception Returns: Valdosta — Worby 1-0, Roe 1-0; Thomasville — Moore 1-19, Grimes 1-14.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Williams 4, Conner 3, Worby 3, Warren 3, Thomas 3, Wright 4, Denard 4, Hunter 5, Roper 10, Middleton 31, Thomasville — Byrd 10, Hunter 7, Miller 6, Walker 4, Bryant 3, Clark 3.

Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 7 0 0 2-29
T'ville 0 0 0 9-9
Scoring: T'ville — K. Johnson 30/field goal
Vald — L. Johnson 52 pass from Jennings
(Baldwin kick)
Vald — Belue one run (kick failed)
Vald — L. Johnson 8 fumble recovery
(Baldwin kick)
Vald — L. Johnson 18 fumble recovery.
(Baldwin kick)
T'ville — Ivey 14 run (kick failed)
Vald — T'ville safety.



Julian Miller

Times Sports Editor

'Cats Lightning Left No Doubt

Midway through the second quarter of Valdosta's RAAA high school football showdown with Thomasville here night, Jess Booth did some quick addition on his fingers. "That's 20 points in 20 seconds," he announced. "You score 20 points in 20 seconds on Thomasville!"

Jess oughta know. Before he moved to Valdosta to Valdosta State and became a Valdosta football fan, VHS teacher, and then co-manager of the VHS press box brother John, in that order, he had spent his life in Thomasville. He wasn't the only Thomasville native to find himself astonished at the way Valdosta's Wildcats had dominated the Bulldogs. In fact, the most surprised people around were people on the Valdosta side of Cleveland Field.

Nick Hyder's Wildcats, ranked third in the state going frayed against the top-seeded Bulldogs, had definitely suited themselves in their annual showdown with their Thomasville friends.

The Valdosta defense, heralded with winning the first game of the 'Cats, not only completely stymied Thomasville's powerful running attack, it set up one sure touchdown and two others and a safety.

But this time the offense wasn't left out. It may not have outscored the defense Friday. But it did exactly what it was supposed to do...retain possession of the football.

Buck Belue, Valdosta's junior quarterback was at his best. Playing teams like Thomasville seems to bring that out in him. He was by no means the star of the night.

Johnson Was Brightest Star

If one had to be pointed out, it would be end Leon Johnson. He not only hauled in Steve Jennings' 52-yard pass for the first time down but scored two more in that 20-point barrage by picking off loose fumbles.

Yet he was only one of the sticky-fingered Valdosta players who managed to grab the football with authority. Anything the offense touched was caught in the ball game, save for two dropped by sophomore defensive back Troy Thomas who later made his mistakes with room to spare.

It prompted an unusual comment from one press box reporter who usually remains quiet throughout the game.

"These guys have bubble gum on their fingers," he said, watching Carl Roe jump skyward to intercept a pass on three fingers. "What'd they do before the game?"

By halftime, the 'Cats had completed six out of eight attempts. In the second half, they all but abandoned the attack that was supposed to be their only strong point...ground-control rushing attack.

Belue threw four times in the second half, completing 100 yards, seeing what would have been a sure touchdown down by T'ville's Robert Grant, throwing another long pass his fourth intercepted.

The rest of the time, the no-name conglomeration of runningbacks was playing with the T'ville defense, an unknowing kitten with a rattlesnake.

Bobby Johnson, for instance, a sophomore fullback, the shortest yet spunkiest player on the team, survived two sacks by the Thomasville defense to lead the 'Cats in 40 yards in eight trips. Belue rushed for 30 in 11 tries, others taking up the rest of the time.

The object of it all was to use up time. And that they managed to do. They killed an entire minute, somehow, just trying to get the game into the final quarter.

While the backs were having fun, Valdosta's young line seemed to jell for the first time this season. Belue's yard all night long due to tackles behind the line of scrimmage. Valdosta ran only four plays that didn't make it because of scrumming. That's blocking.

Defense Was Great

But if the offense was good, the defense was great. As though the 'Cats had placed a spy in the Thomasville press box. Every time the Bulldogs moved, the Wildcats were there to stop them.

It started off with linebacker Keith Middleton. He fielded like he owned it. Before the first series was over, Williams had joined him and the rest of the defense in a suit.

But was it really the play of Valdosta or that Cleveland Field Ghost returning to haunt the visiting team? There are several opinions. It could have been a combination of them both.

The Bulldogs were definitely not themselves. Two pass interceptions and four lost fumbles doesn't happen to them every game. But getting the breaks is only half the work. Putting them to use is even more important.

That's where the Wildcats came through. And they did it with the style of generations of Wildcats before them.

The 'Cats are back. This week's Associated Press poll would rank them at number one. And that brings on another problem...the number one jinx.

Thomasville was number one twice last year when Valdosta knocked them off 12-10 and 3-0. Valdosta took over both times and was knocked off itself by Moultrie, 28-20, and Wayne County, 15-14.

Can the Wildcats handle the number one jinx? They may not have to. Warner Robins, the number two ranked team is still around to be considered. But even so, any repeat performance of the way the 'Cats played Friday night would certainly keep that top rank going.

Prep Honor Roll

MIKE SULLIVAN-JEFF ROYSTER, Senior quarterback Sullivan ran 10 times for 72 yards, including a 15-yard TD, and completed five of 10 passes for 59 yards and a two-point conversion, while senior linebacker-fullback Royster scored two TDs on offense and had nine tackles on defense in a 38-0 win over Hart County.

JEFF RUMMEL-GUS MORRIS, Senior quarterback Rummel, a senior, gained 77 yards on nine carries, completed two of two passes, including an eight-yard TD pass, while playing quarterback and caught a pass for 10 yards as a spin blocker while senior defensive end Morris had four tackles, including a fumble and a fumble recovery in a 28-7 win over Coosa.

DARRELL BAKER-LAMELL ANDERSON, Senior defensive end Baker, a senior quarterback, ran 18 times for 185 yards, including a nine-yard TD run and a two-point conversion, and gained 34 yards on 11 carries, including an in-reward burst and ran 50 yards, set up the winning score in a 21-14 victory over Washington County.

RICKY HUCKEBA-TRACY CLARK, Senior defensive end Huckeba had 10 tackles, five assists, caused and recovered a fumble and blocked a punt and ran 11 20 yards for two touchdowns, including a 65-yard touchdown TD, punted five times for a 45-yard average and kicked four extra points in a 28-20 win over Pecos.

REGGIE BEAMON-MICHAEL TERRY, Senior defensive end Terry, a senior, had eight carries for 59 yards, including a 15-yard TD, and completed four of seven passes for 75 yards, while defensive end Terry made seven individual tackles in a 12-7 win over Southwest DeKalb.

KENNY ROBINSON-CHARLIE SANDERS, Senior defensive end Robinson, a senior, gained 114 yards on 13 carries in a 48-14 win over Bremen.

KEN BATTIE-CURTIS BROOME, Senior defensive end Battie, a senior, had six tackles and 16 assists, while senior linebacker Broome had six tackles and 10 assists in a 7-6 win over Chatham.

DAVID CASON, Senior defensive end Cason, a senior, had seven carries for 24 yards and scored an eight-yard run in a 20-7 win over Spalding.

MELVIN JENKINS-MITCHELL STRICKLAND, Senior defensive end Jenkins, a senior, had 35 yards on 17 carries, scoring on runs of 14 and 35 yards, while senior noseguard Strickland had 10 tackles and named the opposing quarterback for a safety in a 19-10 win over Habersham County.

DOUG BONNER, Senior defensive end Bonner, a senior, had two touchdowns and a two-point conversion in a 14-7 win over Newton County.

WILLIE WARD-LESTER JENKINS, Senior defensive end Ward, a senior, had 24 yards on 14 carries, scoring on runs of 24 and 23 yards, while senior defensive tackle Jenkins made nine individual tackles and assisted on two others in a 27-9 win over Henry County.

LEON JOHNSON, Senior defensive end Johnson, a senior, had 10 tackles and 15 yards in a 28-7 win over Thomasville.

NICK MANOS-BILL LIPPINCOTT, Senior defensive end Manos, a senior, scored three touchdowns on 17 carries, scoring three times on runs of two, four, and two yards, while junior nose-guard Lippincott had nine individual tackles and four assists in a 28-3 win over Berkmar.

DAVID ALLEN-JEROME SMITH, Senior defensive end Allen, a senior, scored three touchdowns on 17 carries, including a 10-yard TD pass interception that set up a TD on defense in a 39-14 win over Harper.

EUGENE YOUNG, Senior defensive end Young, a senior, ran 15 times for 135 yards, including a TD run of five yards, ran for a two-point conversion, and booted two extra points in a 28-12 win over Columbus.

MICHAEL WOODS-RANDY WALKER, Senior defensive end Woods, a senior, had 15 carries for 107 yards, including a 10-yard TD run, while senior linebacker Walker made nine individual stops and assisted on two others in a 17-6 win over Fulton.

SCOTT STRICKLAND-TIM THOMS, Senior defensive end Strickland, a senior, had 11 assists and recovered a fumble, while quarterback-safety Thoms completed five of eight passes for 116 yards, rushed for 44 yards on six carries and scored three TDs on offense, and had three assists and a fumble recovery on defense in a 28-7 win over Russell.

CLARENCE LOWERY, Senior defensive end Lowery, a senior, had 10 carries for 102 yards, including runs of 50 and 80 yards, and scored a touchdown on a seven-yard burst in a 21-14 loss to Swainsboro.

DAVID DULEY-RANDY MOORE, Senior defensive end Duley, a senior, had 10 carries for 102 yards, including TD runs of one and 38 yards, while senior tight end Moore caught two passes for 43 yards, including a 37-yard TD reception, in a 28-6 win over Ridgeview.

DAVID ARCHER-SCOTT IRELAND, Senior defensive end Archer, a senior, had 10 carries for 102 yards, including runs of one and 31 yards, had a punt return of 40 yards to set up another score, and threw a TD pass of 29 yards, while senior linebacker Ireland gained 109 yards on eight carries, scoring on runs of four and 77 yards, in a 30-9 win over St. Paul.

DAVID HAFER-TONY PHILLIPS, Senior defensive end Hafer, a senior, had 18 carries for 143 yards, scoring on bursts of 17 and 26 yards, while senior Phillips intercepted two passes as a defensive back, kicked two extra points, and had two pass receptions as a split end in a 27-12 win over Crestwood.

SCOTT MCKINNEY-GERALD HARP, Senior defensive end McKinney, a senior, booted field goals of 36, 31, and 40 yards, while senior linebacker Harp scored his team's only TD on an 83-yard kickoff return, rushed for 45 yards and completed a halfback pass in a 20-16 loss to Avondale.

MAC JONES, Senior defensive end Jones, a senior, had three passes intercepted and scored a school-record five TDs on runs of one, one, three, eight and 31 yards in a 48-6 win over Ware County.

GREG DAVIS, Senior defensive end Davis, a senior, had three passes intercepted and caught one pass on offense for a 48-yard TD in a 21-4 win over Druid Hills.

ERIC BELL-ALAN MATTHEWS, Senior defensive end Bell, a senior, had two key pass interceptions, while senior linebacker Matthews had 10 carries for 102 yards and scored two touchdowns in a 25-21 win over South Cobb.

Avondale Team of Week; Woerner Picked Top Back

ATHL. CONSTITUTION MON, SEP 27



By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

There were several outstanding individual and collective performances this past week in prep football, and the competition was extremely close for all four of the Constitution's high school awards.

No less than nine teams could build strong cases for receiving the "Team of the Week" award, but the honor goes to the Avondale Blue Devils for their impressive come-from-behind victory over a tough Lakeshore team.

Also receiving strong consideration for "Team" honors were Valdosta, Jonesboro, Northside of Atlanta, Milton, Westminster, Vidalia, Wrens and Union County.

"Coach of the Week" is Valdosta's Nick Hyder for preparing his Wildcats to smash top-ranked Thomasville, 29-9. Despite the fact that the legendary Wright Bazemore is still very much involved with the Valdosta program, Hyder is the man on the spot. He's the one who would have to take the blame if the Wildcats fail, so it's only fair that he get the credit when they are victorious.

Jonesboro's Scott Woerner is the "Back of the Week" for his fine play in a surprisingly easy win over favored Newnan, while Wilbur Phillips of Northside is the "Lineman of the Week" for his performance in a 12-7 upset of previously unbeaten Southwest DeKalb.

In beating Lakeshore, Avondale disposed of a team that had tasted defeat only once in the past 16 games—and that was at the hands of mighty Americus in last year's South Georgia AA championship game.

Although Reece Hefner's Lancers aren't quite the team they were last season, they still entered the Avondale contest having outscored three previous opponents 146 to six. Avondale held Gerald "Black Magic" Harp and company to just one touchdown, but three Scott McKinney field goals had Lakeshore ahead 16-6 entering the fourth period.

Crawford Kennedy's Devils rose to the occasion, though, and scored 14 points in the final stanza to take a 20-16 victory. Kennedy showed a little class at the end by having quarterback

Wilbur Phillips and Coach Theodocian

Davy Sawyer deliberately run out the clock on the final two plays at the Lakeshore 11 instead of trying to score again.

Woerner, Jonesboro's senior quarterback, has his "best game of the year" according to coach Weyman Sellers.

As a passer, Woerner completed six of 10 for 101 yards, including a 40-yard TD strike. He ran the ball 23 times for an additional 101 yards, scoring three times on runs of one, eight, and 18 yards. Woerner also ran for a two-point conversion and punted three times for a 41.2-yard average.

Phillips, a 6-0, 196-pound linebacker, sparked the Northside defense that held fifth-ranked Southwest DeKalb four times from inside the Northside 20-yard line.

The talented senior made 10 individual tackles and caused a fumble that a teammate recovered in the endzone for an all-important touchdown.

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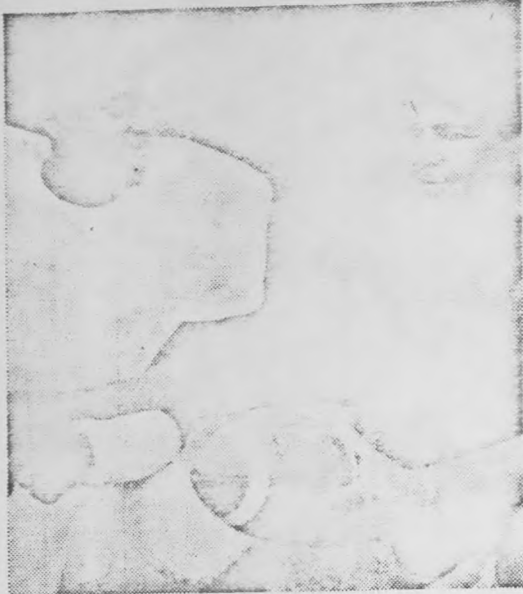
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The talented senior made 10 individual tackles and caused a fumble that a teammate recovered in the endzone for an all-important touchdown.

Prep Honor Roll

NICK MANOS-BILL LIPPINCOTT, Westminster: Senior halfback Manos gained 167 yards on 17 carries, scoring three times on runs of two, four, and two yards, while junior nose-guard Lippincott had nine individual tackles and four assists in a 28-3 win over Berkmar.

DAVID ALLEN-JEROME SMITH, Sylvan: Halfback Allen scored three touchdowns on runs covering one, three, and one yards, while Smith caught a pass for a two-point conversion on offense and had a fumble recovery and a pass interception that set up a TD on defense in a 39-14 win over Harper.

EUGENE YOUNG, Douglas of Atlanta: Senior halfback ran 15 times for 135 yards, including a TD punt of five yards, ran for a two-point conversion, and booted two extra points in a 28-12 win over Columbia.

MICHAEL WOODS-RANDY WALKER, Brown: Senior end Woods had four pass receptions for 39 yards, including a 10-yard TD grab, while senior defensive tackle Walker made nine individual stops and assisted on two others in a 17-6 win over Fulton.

SCOTT STRICKLAND-TIM THOMS, Headland: Strickland, a senior middle guard, was in on six individual tackles, 11 assists and recovered a fumble, while quarterback-safety Thoms completed five of eight passes for 116 yards and scored four touchdowns on runs of 44 yards on six carries and three TDs on offense, and had three assists and a fumble recovery on defense in a 28-7 win over Russell.

CLARENCE LOWERY, Dublin: Junior halfback gained 162 yards on just eight carries, including runs of 50 and 80 yards, and scored a touchdown on a seven-yard burst in a 21-14 loss to Swainsboro.

DAVID DULEY-RANDY MOORE, Milton: Junior halfback Duley gained 110 yards on nine carries, including TD runs of one and 38 yards, while senior tight end Moore caught two passes for 43 yards, including a 37-yard TD reception, in a 28-6 win over Ridgeview.

DAVID ARCHER-SCOTT IRELAND, Woodward: Junior quarterback Archer scored two touchdowns on runs of one and 33 yards, and a punt return of 40 yards to set up another score, and threw a TD pass of 29 yards, while senior halfback Ireland gained 109 yards on eight carries, scoring on runs of four and 77 yards, in a 33-8 win over St. Pius.

DAVID HAFFER-TONY PHILLIPS, Roswell: Junior halfback Haffer ran 18 times for 163 yards, scoring on bursts of 12 and 26 yards, while senior Phillips intercepted two passes as a defensive back, kicked two extra points, and had two pass receptions as a split end in a 27-12 win over Crestwood.

SCOTT MCKINNEY-GERALD HARP, Lakeshore: Junior McKinney booted field goals of 26, 31, and 40 yards, while senior halfback Harp scored his team's only TD on an 85-yard kickoff return, rushed for 45 yards and completed a halfback pass in a 20-16 loss to Avondale.

MAC JONES, Coffee: Senior halfback rushed for 121 yards on 14 carries, caught a two-point conversion pass and scored a school-record five TDs on runs of one, one, three, eight and 51 yards in a 40-6 win over Ware County.

GREG DAVIS, Collins: Senior had three pass interceptions on defense, returning one 38 yards for a touchdown, and caught one pass on offense for a 60-yard TD in a 21-6 win over Druid Hills.

ERIC BELL-ALAN MATTHEWS, McEachern: Bell, a senior cornerback, had two key pass interceptions, while junior halfback Matthews gained 119 yards on 19 carries and scored two touchdowns in a 25-21 win over South Cobb.

MIKE SULLIVAN-JEFF ROYSTER, Winder-Barrow: Senior quarterback Sullivan ran 10 times for 72 yards, including a 15-yard TD, and completed five of 10 passes for 59 yards and a two-point conversion, while senior linebacker-linbacker Royster scored two TDs on offense and had nine tackles on defense in a 36-0 win over Hart County.

JEFF RUMMEL-GUS MORRIS, Marist: Rummel, a senior, gained 77 yards on nine carries, completed two of two passes, including an eight-yard TD pass, while playing quarterback and caught a pass for 10 yards as a split end, while senior defensive end Morris had four tackles, seven assists, caused a fumble and recovered a fumble in a 28-7 win over Coosa.

DARRELL BAKER-LAMELL ANDERSON, Bradwell Institute: Baker, a senior quarterback, ran 18 times for 185 yards, including a nine-yard TD run and a two-point conversion, and kicked an extra point, while senior Anderson gained 116 yards on 17 carries, scored on a three-yard burst and ran 59 yards to set up the winning score in a 21-14 victory over Washington County.

RICKY HUCKEBA-TRACY CLARK, Central of Carrollton: Senior defensive end Huckeba had 10 tackles, five assists, caused and recovered a fumble, and blocked a punt and ran end Clark had two receptions for 65 yards, including a 49-yard TD, punted five times for a 45-yard average and kicked four extra points in a 28-20 win over Pepperell.

REGGIE BEAMON-MICHAEL TERRY, Northside of Atlanta: Quarterback Beamon ran eight times for 58 yards, scoring on a one-yard sneak, and completed four of seven passes for 75 yards, while defensive end Terry made seven individual tackles in a 12-7 win over Southwest DeKalb.

KENNY ROBINSON-CHARLIE SANDERS, Hogansville: Senior halfback Robinson gained 113 yards on 15 carries, scoring on runs of 10 and 28 yards, while Sanders, also a senior, gained 184 yards on 13 carries in a 40-14 win over Bremen.

KEN BATIE-CURTIS BROOME, LaFayette: Junior noseguard Batie had six tackles and 16 assists, while senior linebacker Broome had six tackles and 10 assists in a 7-6 win over Chattahoochee.

DAVID CASON, Northeast Macon: Junior halfback ran 27 times for 234 yards and scored on an eight-yard run in a 20-7 win over Spenser.

MELVIN JENKINS-MITCHELL STRICKLAND, Gainesville: Senior halfback Jenkins gained 156 yards on 17 carries, scoring on runs of 14 and 35 yards, while senior noseguard Strickland had 10 tackles and nailed the opposing quarterback for a safety in a 19-10 win over Habersham Central.

DOUG BONNER, North Clayton: Junior halfback ran 28 times for 174 yards, scoring a two-yard touchdown and a two-point conversion in a 14-7 win over Newton County.

WILLIE WARD-LESTER JENKINS, Jackson: Freshman halfback Ward ran 32 times for 264 yards, scoring on runs of 24 and 23 yards, while senior defensive tackle Jenkins made nine individual stops and assisted on two others in a 22-0 win over Henry County.

LEON JOHNSON, Valdosta: Senior split end caught a 52-yard scoring pass, recovered two fumbles and returned both of them for touchdowns covering 10 and 15 yards in a 29-9 win over Thomasville.

'Cats Take On Trojans

second straight shutout against Charlton County (Folkston) Friday, but the Herons from Nahantta might be just the cure for an ailing offense.

Keystone Heights is Hamilton's second District III, Class AA foe of the season, and the Trojans are intent on making it their second win. They need it to even up a 1-2 record.

Westwood slipped up on Westbrook Friday in a 25-7 ballgame which the Cougars from Dixie led 7-0 at one point. Head coach Buddy Ethridge should either play one quarter ballgames or somehow learn to deflate the football when he gets ahead.

Phillips, a 6-0, 196-pound linebacker, sparked the Northside defense that held fifth-ranked Southwest DeKalb four times from inside the Northside 20-yard line.

The talented senior made 10 individual tackles and caused a fumble that a teammate recovered in the endzone for an all-important touchdown.

Prep Scores

- Class AAA**
1. Thomasville (2-1, lost to Valdosta 28-9)
 2. Warner Robins (4-0, defeated Baker 48-0)
 3. Valdosta (3-0, defeated Thomasville 29-9)
 4. Clarke Central (3-0, did not play)
 5. Douglas (3-0, defeated Columbia 28-12)
 6. Wayne Co. (3-0, defeated Jenkins 70-0)
 7. Henderson (4-0, defeated Sequoyah 27-12)
 8. Southwest DeKalb (3-0, lost to Northside-Atl. 12-7)
 9. Central-Thomasville (3-0, defeated Lowndes 27-8)
 10. Dougherty (3-0, defeated Westover 36-0)
- Class AA**
1. Americus (4-0, defeated Auburn, Ala., 34-12)
 2. Lakeshore (3-1, lost to Avondale 20-16)
 3. Dalton (4-0, defeated Ringgold 34-20)
 4. Marist (5-0, defeated Coosa 28-7) - tie
 5. Brown (3-1, defeated Fulton 17-6)
 6. Swainsboro (3-0, defeated Dublin 21-14)
 7. Gainesville (4-1, defeated Habersham Cent. 19-10)
 8. Camden Co. (2-1, lost to Fitzgerald 16-15)
 9. Cedartown (4-0, defeated Rockmart 19-13)
 10. Bradwell Inst. (4-1, defeated Washington Co. 21-14)
- Class A**
1. Merry Persons (3-0-1, defeated Lithonia 37-14)
 2. Putnam Co. (3-0-1, defeated Hancock Cent. 27-0) - tie-Duluth (4-0, defeated East Hall 47-7)
 3. Early Co. (3-0, defeated Lee Co. 44-7)
 4. Sylvan (4-0, defeated Harper 39-12)
 5. East Rome (3-1, defeated Harrison Co. 32-0)
 6. Lyons (3-1, lost to Jeff Davis 28-13)
 7. Cartersville (4-1, defeated White Co. 28-0)
 8. Irwin Co. (2-2, did not play)
 9. Bowdon (4-0, defeated Darlington 34-14)
- Class B**
1. Hogansville (4-0, defeated Bremen 40-20)
 2. Macon Co. (4-0, defeated Hawkinsville 20-12)
 3. Buford (3-1, lost to Union Co. 8-6)
 4. Reidsville (3-1, defeated Metter 21-0) - tie-Savannah City Day (3-1, defeated Treutlen Co. 35-0)
 5. Jefferson (3-2, lost to Commerce 28-14)
 6. Penning (3-2, lost to Hogansville 40-14)
 7. Mt. Zion (4-0, defeated Brooks 31-0)
 8. Mt. Zion (3-1, did not play)
 9. Chatham Co. (3-1, defeated Berrien 12-0)

AREA GRIDSLATE

Alkinson at Clinch Friday
Appling at Cook
Berrien at Hamilton
Hamilton at Keystone Heights
Madison at Marianna
Pineland at Westbrook Saturday
Valdosta at Dougherty

matching 3-0 records. Central travels to Bainbridge Friday. All three leaders scored impressive victories this weekend when Valdosta Thomasville 29-9, Central zapped a tough Lowndes of Valdosta team 27-8, and Dougherty shut out Westover's Patriots 36-0.

In other area action this week, Clinch County's Panthers host Atkinson County (Pearson) in Homerville, Cook entertains Appling County (Baxley) in Adel, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) is at home against Brantley County (Nahunta), and Westbrook welcomes Pineland of Moultrie to Dixie.

Also, Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) travels to Keystone Heights, Fla., and Madison, Fla. hits the road to Marianna, Fla.

Lowndes' Vikings and Brooks County's Trojans from Quitman are scheduled to take this week off.

After dropping their season opener, Clinch's Panthers won their second straight game last week in a 31-7 triumph over Unadilla. Playing at home against a traditional rival might inspire coach Donald Tyson's club to make it three straight this Friday.

Cook's Hornets also have a string going, but in the opposite direction. Coach James Thomason's team is winless in four tries, and Appling's Pirates aren't the kind of team to pick on with a losing record.

Coach Foy Norwood's Berrien Rebels suffered their

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Coach Foy Norwood's Berrien Rebels suffered their

tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Little Theater at Valdosta High School. The highlight of the meeting is a film showing of the Valdosta-Thomasville game Friday night. Club president David Waller said VHS head coach Nick Hyder is to narrate the film and the entire Wildcat football squad is scheduled to be in attendance. Waller also said the meeting would be over in time for all members and prospective members of the club to make it home in time to watch the NFL game on television at 9 p.m.

Valdosta TD Club Sept 27, 1976

The Valdosta Touchdown Club is scheduled to meet

The Tradition

Tues, Sept 28, 1976

If It's Friday in Valdosta, It Must Be Football

By BILL BRYANT
Journal Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The game's been over for an hour and Valdosta coach Nick Hyder and his wife June are driving down the main street of Valdosta headed for a late-night steak supper with friends.

It has to be one of the more pleasant drives they've taken in some time.

They're in no particular hurry and their green Cadillac moves patiently down crowded North Ashley St. The Hyderys look out on either side of them and see Valdosta still overflowing with activity. They can see young people sitting on top of cars in the parking lots of hamburger stands and pizza parlors. They can hear their whoops and hollers and the honking of the car horns.

Hyder turns to his wife and mentions what a nice game it was and how sweet it was to win.

Friday night in Valdosta is coming to an end, and it's ending the only way people here like their Friday nights in the fall to end — after the Wildcats have won a high school football game.

This football game was no ordinary one. It was against Thomasville, Valdosta's arch-rival from 45 miles away, and

the team regarded all season long as the best Georgia had to offer.

The Wildcats have made a shambles of the Bulldogs, though, winning 29-9, and Valdostans don't want this rainy South Georgia night to end.

It will end, of course, in a couple more hours when the hamburger and pizza places close and all the cars have made one final sweep up and down North Ashley and blown their horns one last time.

But, to the delight of Valdosta, there is another Friday night only a week away. And it will be a lot like this one undoubtedly. Tension will build during the week, thousands of dollars will be bet on its outcome, tickets into Cleveland Field will be hard to come by and the 'Cats will win another football game. Probably. The 'Cats usually win. Especially here.

Things don't change much in Valdosta. At least they haven't changed much in the last 35 years or so as far as high school football is concerned. Hyder says that's one thing he finds so rewarding and refreshing about Valdosta football, that traditional values are still so treasured.

See FOOTBALL, Page 6-C

Tues, Sept 28, 1976

Football Reigns Supreme in Valdosta

Continued from Page 1-C

The Thursday night pep rally at Cleveland Field is traditional. It's a time when the cheerleaders get to say something, the team captains say a few words, the band plays something snazzy and everyone in general just gets "fired up," as football folks like to say.

They won't forget last Thursday's pep rally for a while.

Word had leaked out that over at Thomasville caps with the words "1976 National Champs" had arrived and were being sold. "I had been thinking all week what we could do to really fire them up," Touchdown Club president David Waller was saying, "and after I heard about those caps I knew I had to get one."

Knowing its possible ramifications, no one in Thomasville would have surrendered one of those caps to anyone from Valdosta for the life of them, but Waller is a resourceful and enterprising man. By Thursday afternoon he had one of the red and gold caps.

At the pep rally later that night, Touchdown Club member Bobby Greene took out a match and burned the cap in front of 3,000 people. They went bananas. That's called getting 'em fired up, literally.

The fact that there are a few tickets left unsold for the game merits front-page attention in the Friday afternoon paper. Valdosta school officials are almost at a loss for an explanation for such a phenomenon and they don't hide their concern at the development.

Heavy rain begins falling two hours before game time and that won't help sell those final few tickets.

It doesn't help soothe the tensions of the coaching staffs or members of the two teams either. The rain is only an additional worry.

Tension is mounting. The Valdosta coaches mill around outside their dressing room as the players pull on their uniforms. They all have on black pants, white shirts and a tie. The business-like attire is a tradition Wright Bazemore started here years ago among his coaches. If coaching football was your job, he reasoned, you should take it seriously enough to wear a tie.

Bazemore, who retired four years ago as coach but who keeps his office under the stands as athletic director, is wearing a white knit shirt

open at the collar. Coaching isn't his job anymore.

It's Nick Hyder's job now. Hyder is the one pacing around with the Coke in his hand. "I'm a little nervous," he admits to a friend.

So is defensive coach Jack Rudolph. He jokes with Hyder about going home, taking a nap and then watching "Walking Tall, Part 2" on TV. But he couldn't sleep even if he really wanted to. "Are you kidding?" he says. "I'm so nervous if you cut my throat I wouldn't bleed a drop."

There's no joking with the players, though. Hyder will orchestrate their emotions to the very last second, adding anxiety on top of anxiety.

The subject of pregame tension, probably the thing that drove Bazemore out of coaching after 29 years here, is one which fascinates Hyder. He did a graduate paper on the theme once.

"We try to build it," he says. "If you try to relieve it with jokes or anything you lose an edge. There's nothing else like it. You know, the world is looking for a case of beer or some soothing music to ease their tensions, but this may be the only place left where the tension is like this. There's nothing like it."

And it shows on the players' faces. Quarterback Buck Belue looks worried as he goes around shaking his players hands. He hasn't been playing the kind of football an All-America, which he wants to be by the end of his junior year is supposed to and he knows it.

It's five minutes before the game is to start and the 90 Valdosta players sit in their crowded, steamy lockerroom without uttering a word listening to Hyder's final instructions. He says a lot of traditional coaching things to them:

"Gentlemen," he says, "this is the state's number one football team we're going to play and they are a great football team. Let's put as much into this game as we can physically and mentally. We need to prove to the people here we have some class. Let's don't bush it."

"Gentlemen," he says as he pushes open the door, "let's go out and get this football game." They file out and you can hear the crowd

above the lockerroom shouting and stomping their welcome.

They have gotten off tractors in soybean fields and out of swivel chairs in plush downtown offices to come. They are rich; they are poor. But they all come. And they are yelling their heads off now as the 90 Wildcats make their way onto the field.

Belue waits behind with his head between his knees. Maybe he's praying, but that's no question to ask now. He's the last one out.

The first half goes amazingly well for Valdosta. The Wildcats score three touchdowns in a matter of 20 seconds of the second quarter and everyone is relieved to see the first half come to an end so they can breathe again.

The school band, the nationally famous "Marchin' Cats," come on at halftime and perform magnificently. It always does. It, too, is a tradition.

The second half doesn't go any better for Thomasville than the first, and the Bulldogs are going to lose their third game in two years to the 'Cats it soon becomes apparent. With four minutes left, Bazemore leaves his wife at their 50-yard line seats and begins making his way down to the field. It's the first time, they say, he's been back on the field during a game since he left it four years ago.

The final seconds tick off and as they do the scoreboard operator begins flashing the score — 29-9 — off and on to the delight of the Valdosta partisans.

Now, it's time for the celebrating to begin. "These people really know how to win," Hyder will say later.

"Those hats were brand new, never been on their heads," one man laughs as he thinks about the Thomasville caps. "You'll be able to get 'em cheap over there tomorrow." He laughs louder.

For the players, their celebration will come as much when they get up tomorrow as tonight. "When you lose in this region, you don't even want to go out of the house on Saturday morning," Belue says. "You don't even want to go to the drug store. Little old ladies will tell you what you did wrong."

That's a tradition of sorts here, too. But Belue and his friends will have no qualms about going to the drugstore this Saturday. In fact, Valdosta can't wait to see them.

Valdosta Rules AAA Again

By STEVE FIGUEROA
 Constitution Prep Editor

God's in his heaven and all is right with the world—at least, the prep football world.

Perhaps the two most tradition-rich schools in Georgia high school football are back in very familiar surroundings this week after absences of unusual length. Valdosta, which last won a state crown in 1971, in back atop the AAA poll, while Avondale, missing from the rankings since 1972, is once again a top-ten team.

Valdosta took over the No. 1 spot in AAA after ripping previously top-ranked Thomasville, 29-9. Thomasville fell to third behind unbeaten Warner Robins.

Avondale rallied to beat tough Lakeshore, ranked No. 3 last week in AA, and earned the No. 7 position in this week's poll. This is the first year

back in AA ball for Avondale since moving up to AAA in 1960 and it looks like Crawford Kennedy's Devils are adjusting to the new classification just fine. Lakeshore dropped to ninth after the defeat.

There are two new faces in the AAA poll thanks to a couple of major surprises. Southwest DeKalb, fifth last week, was beaten by Northside of Atlanta, 12-7, and fell from the elite, as did No. 7 Newnan, which was smashed by Jonesboro, 37-0.

Northside, 4-0, moved into the top ten in the No. 7 spot, while Henderson, also unbeaten in four outings, proved it can operate without injured quarterback Tim Rhino and grabbed the No. 8 position.

The only departure from the AA poll occurred when Marist whipped Coosa, 28-7. Marist jumped from seventh to fifth, while Coosa, No. 9 last

week, fell from the rankings. Lyons, which fell to Jeff Davis, 28-13, was the only ranked Class A team to taste defeat. Tenth last week, Lyons dropped from the poll. Vidalia, with only an 8-6 loss to No. 5 Irwin County to blemish its record, took the tenth spot after drubbing AA Dodge County, 22-0.

Three of Class B's top ten were beaten, but only one of the losses was a surprise. No. 3 Buford was nipped by Union County, 8-6, and thus dropped to sixth in the latest rankings.

Jefferson fell to tough Class A foe Commerce and dropped from sixth to eighth, while No. 9 Bremen was blasted 40-14 by top-ranked Hogansville and fell from the elite. Lincoln County, with a perfect 3-0 slate, took the opening in the poll, moving into the tenth spot.

Class AAA		Class AA		Class A		Class B	
1. Valdosta (3-0)	1. Americus (4-0)	1. Sylvan (4-0)	1. Hogansville (4-0)	1. Sylvan (4-0)	1. Hogansville (4-0)	1. Hogansville (4-0)	1. Hogansville (4-0)
2. Warner Robins (4-0)	2. Dalton (4-0)	2. Duluth (4-0)	2. Macon County (4-0)	2. Duluth (4-0)	2. Macon County (4-0)	2. Macon County (4-0)	2. Macon County (4-0)
3. Thomasville (2-1)	3. Brown (3-1)	3. Putnam County (3-0-1)	3. Reidsville (3-1)	3. Putnam County (3-0-1)	3. Reidsville (3-1)	3. Reidsville (3-1)	3. Reidsville (3-1)
4. Wayne County (3-0)	4. Gainesville (4-1)	(tie) Mary Persons (3-0-1)	4. Saw. Country Day (3-1)	(tie) Mary Persons (3-0-1)	4. Saw. Country Day (3-1)	4. Saw. Country Day (3-1)	4. Saw. Country Day (3-1)
5. Clarke Central (4-1)	5. Marist (5-0)	5. Irwin County (3-1)	5. Charlton County (3-1)	5. Irwin County (3-1)	5. Charlton County (3-1)	5. Charlton County (3-1)	5. Charlton County (3-1)
6. Wheeler (4-1)	6. Swainsboro (4-0)	6. East Rome (3-0)	6. Buford (2-2)	6. East Rome (3-0)	6. Buford (2-2)	6. Buford (2-2)	6. Buford (2-2)
7. Northside, Atlanta (4-0)	7. Avondale (4-0)	7. Early County (4-0)	7. Mt. de Sales (3-2)	7. Early County (4-0)	7. Mt. de Sales (3-2)	7. Mt. de Sales (3-2)	7. Mt. de Sales (3-2)
8. Henderson (4-0)	8. Cedartown (3-1)	8. Bowdon (4-1)	8. Jefferson (4-0)	8. Bowdon (4-1)	8. Jefferson (4-0)	8. Jefferson (4-0)	8. Jefferson (4-0)
9. Lakeshore (3-1)	9. Lakeshore (3-1)	9. Cartersville (4-1)	9. Wheeler County (3-0)	9. Cartersville (4-1)	9. Wheeler County (3-0)	9. Wheeler County (3-0)	9. Wheeler County (3-0)
10. Marietta (4-0)	10. Bradwell Institute (4-1)	10. Vidalia (2-1)	10. Lincoln County (3-0)	10. Vidalia (2-1)	10. Lincoln County (3-0)	10. Lincoln County (3-0)	10. Lincoln County (3-0)

HOW THEY FARED Top Teams Fall Easily

By BILL BRYANT
 Three of the top five teams in Class AAA lost their first game, and six other state-ranked teams were knocked off during weekend play.

No. 1 ranked Thomasville, No. 4 Newnan and Southwest DeKalb, No. 5, were the Class AAA casualties, and the surprising aspect of two of the three upsets was not the losses so much but the ease with which they were accomplished.

Thomasville lost 29-9 to Valdosta and looked like anything but the best team in the state doing it. Newnan didn't get anything going against Jonesboro and lost 37-0. Southwest DeKalb's 12-7 loss to Northside seemed a little more realistic.

Other ranked Class AAA teams were not extended in adding another win.

In Class AA, third-ranked Lakeshore was overpowered by unranked Avondale 20-16, and No. 6 Marist solved the puzzle of the Coosa defense by scoring the first points, 28 of them, Coosa has given away this season in a 28-7 win. Coosa entered the game ranked ninth in AA.

Lyons, which won the Class B championship last season, lost its first game since moving to Class A this year, and the No. 8 ranked Bulldogs' 28-13 loss to Jeff Davis was the only setback by a ranked Class A team weekend.

Bremen, the No. 3 team in Class B, ran into the Hogansville meat grinder and fared no better than anyone else has against the top-ranked Green Waves in four games and lost, 40-14.

Buford, ranked No. 4 last week, also took a tumble, falling to Union County 8-6. Jefferson, rated No. 8 in Class B and the North Georgia Class A champ last year, lost to county-rival Commerce 28-14.

- ### AAA
1. Thomasville (2-1) lost to Valdosta 29-9.
 2. Valdosta (3-0) defeated Thomasville 29-9.
 3. Warner Robins (4-0) defeated Baker 48-0.
 4. Newnan (2-1) lost to Jonesboro 37-0.
 5. Southwest DeKalb (3-1) lost to Northside 12-7.
 6. Wayne County (3-0) defeated Jenkins 70-0.
 7. Clarke Central (3-0) did not play.
 8. Henderson (4-0) defeated Sequoyah 27-3.
 9. Lakeshore (3-1) defeated Braircliff 32-11.
 10. Dougherty (2-0) did not play.

- ### AA
1. Americus (4-0) defeated Auburn (Ala.) 34-12.
 2. Dalton (4-0) defeated Ringgold 43-20.
 3. Lakeshore (3-1) lost to Avondale 20-16.
 4. Gainesville (4-1) defeated Habersham Central 19-10.
 5. Brown (2-1) defeated Fulton 17-6.
 6. Marist (5-0) defeated Coosa 28-7.
 7. Swainsboro (3-0) defeated Dublin 21-14.
 8. Fayette County (4-0) did not play.
 9. Coosa (3-1) lost to Marist 28-7.
 10. Cedartown (4-0) defeated Rockmart 19-13.

- ### A
1. Sylvan (4-0) defeated Harper 39-14.
 2. Duluth (4-0) defeated East Hall 47-7.
 3. Mary Persons (3-0-1) defeated Lithonia 37-14.
 4. Putnam County (3-0-1) defeated Hancock Central 27-0.
 5. East Rome (3-1) defeated Harrison County 32-0.
 6. Irwin County (2-2) did not play.
 7. Early County (3-0) defeated Lee County 44-7.
 8. Lyons (3-1) lost to Jeff Davis 28-13.
 9. Cedar Grove (3-0) defeated Stone Mountain 28-7.
 10. Cartersville (4-1) defeated White County 28-0.

- ### B
1. Hogansville (4-0) defeated Bremen 40-14.
 2. Macon County (4-0) defeated Hawkinsville 20-12.
 3. Bremen (3-2) lost to Hogansville 40-14.
 4. Buford (3-1) lost to Union County 8-6.
 5. Reidsville (3-1) defeated Metter 21-0.
 6. Savannah Country Day (3-1) defeated Treutlen 35-0.
 7. Mt. de Sales (2-1) did not play.
 8. Jefferson (3-2) lost to Commerce 28-14.
 9. Charlton County (3-1) defeated Bremen 12-0.
 10. Wheeler County (4-0) defeated Wilcox County 38-18.

'Dosta DE Club Elects Officers

By Times Staff Writer
 The Valdosta High School Distributive Education Club has announced its full slate of officers for the 1976-77 school year.
 Club President Marie Eunice was elected last May at the end of her first year in the DE marketing-merchandising program.
 Officers elected this year include:
 Judy Eanes, vice-president, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. William M. Eanes of 55 Loganberry Circle. She is a senior and first-year DE student.
 Rex Taylor, treasurer, son of Bob Taylor of 811 Eager Road. He is a junior and a second year student in the program.
 James Bruhl, historian, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bruhl of 1807 Cypress St. He is a senior and second year DE student.
 Steve Brogdon, division one vice president, son of George Brogdon of 1212 Dellwood Drive. He is a senior and second year student.
 Alec Green, division three vice-president, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Green of 1509 Hickory Road. He is a junior and second-year student.
 Cathy Dowling, sweet-heart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dowling Jr. of 6 Fox Hollow Circle. She is a junior and first year student.
 Julie Pulliam, secretary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berl Pulliam of 1998 Hammock Drive. She is a senior and second year student.
 Peggi Perry, reporter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Perry of 3103 Greenfield Lane. She is a junior and first year student.
 Emily Morgan, chaplain, daughter of Mrs. Pearl Morgan of 2104 Slater St. She is a senior and first year student.
 Anita Cobb, division two vice president, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Cobb of 49 Loganberry Circle. She is a senior and first year student.
 Louis Federico, division four vice-president, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Federico of 1706 Toni Terrace. He is a senior and first year student.
 VHS DE Club advisor is Norman Greene, who also coordinates the program at the school.



Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

They've Got Me Talkin' To Myself Now, Howard

Reclining in the sanctuary of my own home, the phone off the hook, a no vacancy sign out for the mail man and the garbage cans hidden from the trash collectors who have been making more of a mess than they cleaned up. I tried to figure how overnight I had gone from a pretty good guy to public enemy number one.

"I can't understand it," I said to myself. "All I did was guess at a high school football score or two. So I was wrong! What's the big deal?"

"The big deal," I answered, "is that you're now the most hated man in south Georgia."

"I know. So far this week I've been attacked by a VERY pregnant coach's wife, besieged by phone calls and 'non-fan' mail, banished from all public facilities, and warned to keep my insurance premiums up to date."

"I know that too. I'm expecting Lloyd Mims to show up at any moment to take back your high school diploma."

"But why?"

"Why! Because you thought Valdosta was going to get beat by Thomasville!"

"Yeah, but everybody thought that ... didn't they?"

"Yeah, but they didn't put it in the newspaper."

"Aw come on now. It's my job to put things like that in the newspaper. The week before I predicted Lowndes would lose, didn't I?"

"Huh, yeah. And if you think they hate you at Valdosta ..."

"Think! I know they hate me at Valdosta. There's a banner stretched across their lunch room there that spells it out. More people hate me there now than when I was in school there."

"Shhh. Don't tell anyone you graduated from there. Lloyd Mims will show up wanting that diploma."

"Now cut that out!"

"I'm not kidding. And talk is that Lowndes was going to make you an honorary graduate there so Carlton Adams can take back that diploma too!"

"Can they do that?"

"Ain't nobody around here going to tell them they can't. Least of all me."

"You hate me too, don't you?"

"I hate anybody that talks to himself like this."

"But you're talking to me."

"That's different."

"Why?"

"Because you keep asking me all these stupid questions, that's why! Look, Miller, face it. You've been making these predictions nobody really wants. They don't care if you're right or wrong. They want you to pick their team to win."

"But I'm trying to be objective about it. Those predictions weren't just guesses. I went about it by the most advanced mathematical method available in these modern times to reach them."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah .. I flipped a coin."

"Good grief! Well couldn't you just lie about it? Say the coin indicated the home team would win?"

"What do I do when Lowndes and Valdosta play each other?"

"Tell 'em it landed on its edge ... predict a tie."

"Who'd believe it?"

"Nobody, I guess. Then the people who don't have you now would despise you for giving in."

"You mean someone doesn't hate me now?"

"Of course. Some of them could care less whether you lived or died."

"Oh."

"Come on, Miller. Give in. Do yourself a favor, just pretend you're a cheerleader for the local teams and all would be forgiven."

"I can't do that! I've got to be objective. And besides, no one is supposed to take those picks seriously."

"But people think you actually want a team to lose when you say it will. They don't understand you're tryin' to be objective. They think you're just trying to be controversial. Like Howard Cosell."

"But I hate Howard Cosell."

"Not like everyone here hates you! Besides, Howard's got one thing on you."

"What's that?"

"He doesn't talk to himself."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 29, 1976-7-

Three Area Students In Merit Semis

By Times Staff Writer

Three area students — two from south Georgia and one from north Florida — have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program for Outstanding Negro Students.

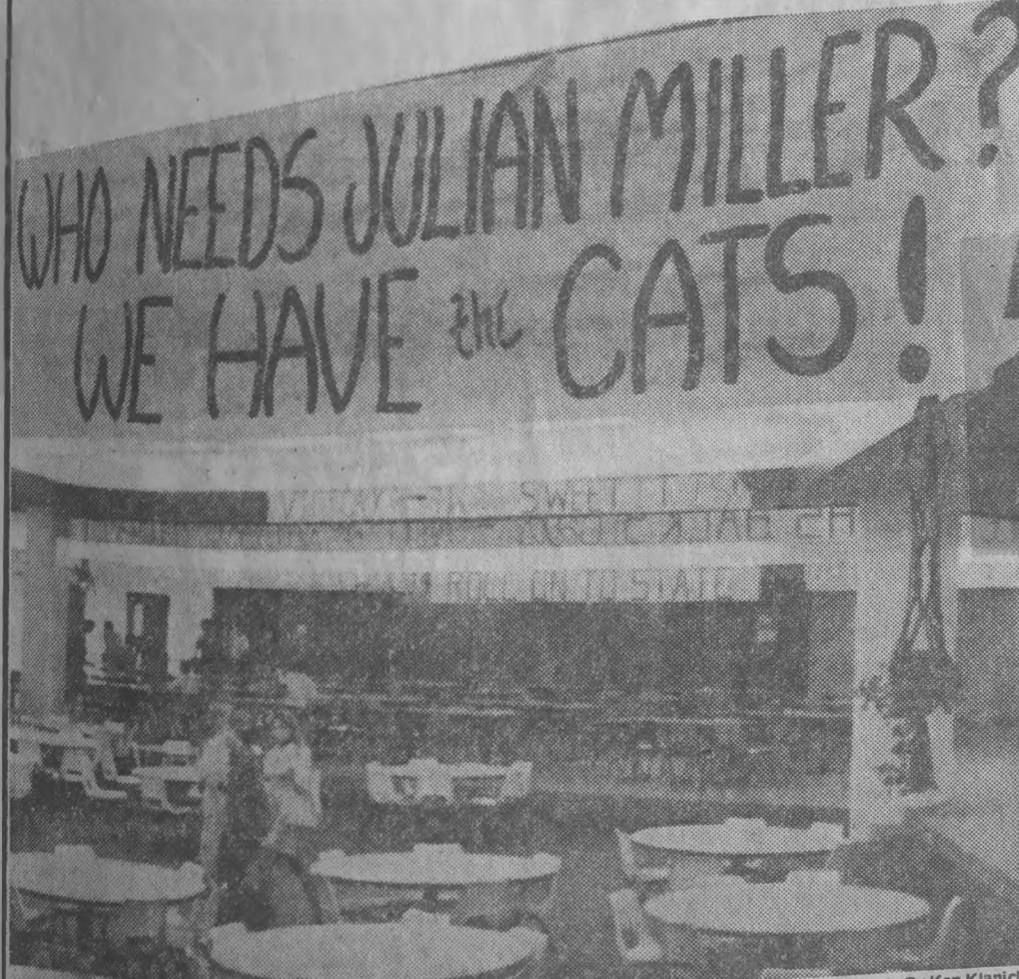
Gerald Ferguson, a Lowndes High School student, Cheryl A. Gatewood, a Valdosta High School student; and Kevin D. Anderson, a Hamilton County, Fla., High School student were named today to the honor.

The youths were three of 1,500 semifinalists in the program nationwide.

Black students with the highest 1975 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test-National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests were named Achievement Program semifinalists.

The number of semifinalists in a region is proportional to its black population percentage, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation said.

Finalists and scholarship winners in the program are to be announced later.



—Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

Miller Finally Makes It Big: No Popularity Contest

Letter To The Editor

Valdosta Daily Times Wed. Sept 29, 1976

Reader Raps Prediction

Sir: If your sports editor thinks he made a dozen enemies by predicting Lowndes High would lose to Moultrie, he's fortunate.

He now has 50 dozen enemies after predicting Valdosta would be defeated by Thomasville.

When the great Wright Bazemore retired, sure, Valdosta High School football suffered a great loss. However, Coach Nick Hyder and his staff are in Baze's shadow and have started a new era in VHS football.

They are continuing the Valdosta tradition with great dignity.

When the great Sammy Glassman (former sports editor) passed away, The Valdosta Daily Times suffered a great loss. Unfortunately the replacement isn't of his quality.

Now that the Wildcats have shown everyone exactly who's number one, what will poor Julian Miller write about?

He has put the 'Cats down all year along with criticizing the fans. Both are things Mr. Glassman never did.

Why don't you get a sports editor who will stand up for both VHS and LHS?

One night your sports editor will wake up and find that old Cleveland Field ghost staring him straight in the eyes. Maybe that will put some faith in him.

Judging from his last week's 1-AAA predictions, the old football prognosticator needs a new crystal ball. Perhaps then he

can predict objectively and not emotionally.

Remind your sports editor it's not the size of the cat the fight, but the fight in the cat.

And the VHS 'Cats have whole lot of fight in them too!

Steve Sumner
P. O. Box 1912
Valdosta

LJHS To Take On VHS Frosh

By Times Staff Writer

Lowndes Junior High's Golden Eagles take on Valdosta High School's ninth grade in a key South Georgia Junior High Conference game at Lowndes' Martin Stadium at 4 p.m. Thursday.

Coach Lindy Evans' Eagles are 3-0-1 overall, and the VHS frosh of head coach Bob Bolton are 3-1.

Hyder Calls Dougherty 'Region's Roughest Team'

By JULIAN MILLER

It was almost as if Nick Hyder had forgotten his Valdosta Wildcats have already beaten Thomasville and were going to play the Bulldogs again this week end.

"This is probably the region's roughest team," the Valdosta head coach was saying. "With 14 starters they're sound on defense, execute extremely well on offense and match up with fairly good balance of passing and running."

No, Hyder didn't think he was playing the top-ranked Bulldogs again. He knew

exactly who he was talking about.

The Wildcats, now ranked number one in the state by the Associated Press, go into their third game against an undefeated foe in four starts Saturday night when they take on Dougherty's Trojans in Albany.

And Hyder's expecting even more of a battle than the 'Cats had last week when they knocked off the then top-ranked Bulldogs, 29-9.

"Dougherty came into the season the dark horse of the Region," Hyder explained. "They're a tall team physically ... have seven or eight boys

over 6-foot-2. And that's an advantage for them. Add their experience and motivation and they're talking region championship in the newspapers over there."

Hyder rarely looks past any team but the entire state learned not to overlook Luther Welsh's Trojans two years ago when the Dougherty team sneaked up on Thomasville for a 24-22 victory in Thomasville. It was the Bulldogs' only loss of the season enroute to the 1974 State Class AAA championship.

Last season the Trojans came to Valdosta undefeated only to run into a

brick wall and bounce back with a 32-0 defeat.

"They're hungry for us this year," Hyder said. "They've been talking about it all season. We heard it all last season and in the spring too. Those people are hungry for a championship because they've never had one. They'd like this to be the year."

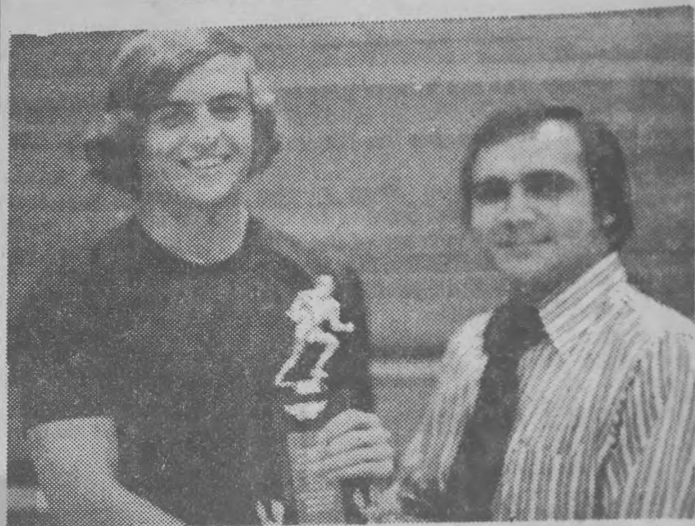
The Wildcats meanwhile, are also looking for that Region 1-AAA championship, in hopes of showing the world a 15-14 loss to Wayne County's Yellow Jackets in the first round of the state playoffs last season was an upset.

well. Six-four Don Cassiter holds down one end position, with 6-2 Curtis Gainer on the other.

"They execute the veer very well," Hyder said. "We'll be facing a team with two tight ends for the first time this season."

Hyder points out the 'Cats will have some problems just overcoming the Saturday night play date. Valdosta plays all its other games on Friday night. Dougherty, being in Albany where four high schools share Hugh Mills stadium, plays more of the Saturday games.

AREA LINEMAN AND BACK OF THE WEEK October 1, 1976



Jody Wilson, Valdosta High School Split End caught two touchdown passes on his way to claiming the Lineman of Week Trophy.



Buck Belue, Quarterback for Valdosta High School threw two touchdown passes and ran for one, won the honors of Back of the Week.

AREA LINEMAN AND BACK OF THE WEEK Oct. 29, 1976



Eddie Denard of Valdosta High made 5 individual tackles and stayed in Tift High's backfield all night. Eddie accepts Lineman of the Week Trophy from Bobby McCrary of Roger Budd Chevrolet.

Number One Tag No Worry For Wildcat Head Coach

BY JULIAN MILLER
Despite the fact their first game as the top-ranked team in the state is undefeated dark-horse Dougherty on a Saturday night, the number one rating won't bother Valdosta's Wildcats.

At least that's what head coach Nick Hyder predicts. That's because Hyder refuses to pay any attention to opinion polls until the die is

cast for an entire season and the number one team has proven itself by winning the state championship.

"We don't pay any attention to that (polls)," Hyder said upon being notified his team has been selected as the top High School football team in the state by the Associated Press advisory board Tuesday night.

"We've gotten that thing

before and really the only thing that matters is the one you earn by a system of playoffs. I've been number one before in these opinion polls, and we've never gotten anything for it."

The selection came as no surprise. Last week Hyder's Wildcats surprised top-ranked Thomasville in a 29-9 conquest in Valdosta to explode from third to first place in the standings.

"Don't get me wrong," Hyder said. "I'm not knocking the rating system. I think it's good. It stimulates a lot of interest and by the same token everything I'm saying is a fact. There is no award given for leading the polls."

"Next week there could be a new number one team, and this week's choice will be forgotten. But the team that

wins it all is usually remembered a bit longer."

Hyder admits there's a good chance the Wildcats' reign could end early, especially if what some people call "the number one" jinx slips up on the "Cats."

They play Dougherty, ranked eighth this week, in another Region 1-AAA showdown Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Albany's Hugh Mills

Stadium.

The 'Cats won't only be playing in Dougherty's backyard, they'll be doing it on Saturday night, a time when Dougherty is more accustomed to playing.

"We've made a tremendous adjustment to get ready for Saturday's game," Hyder said. "We're asking parents to make sure their youngsters eat breakfast at

the same time they would if they were going to school, and we'll be serving them lunch at the school here.

"We'll watch about an hour of football on television then head to Albany about 3:30 p.m. What we're trying to do is follow the routine of a regular game night. That's what usually makes the difference in Saturday games."

Valdosta Ranked First In State

ATLANTA (AP) — It only takes 20 seconds to fall from the top in Georgia Class AAA high school football. Ask Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes.

Bulldogs were ranked No. 1 in Class AAA in The Associated Press Advisory Board poll until last weekend, when, in a 20-second period that will go down in Georgia prep history, Valdosta scored three touchdowns to upset Thomasville 29-9.

It goes without saying that Valdosta, ranked third last week by the AP board, moved into the top position in this week's poll.

Americus, teeing off against Auburn, Ala., 34-12 for its 32nd straight victory, was the unanimous choice for the top spot in Class AA. Mary Persons pounded

Lithonia 37-14 to capture the No. 1 ranking in Class A and powerhouse Hogansville, which bombed Bremen 40-14, was ranked first in Class B.

Valdosta, 3-0, edged Warner Robins, 4-0, by two rating points to lead this week's AAA rankings. Warner Robins of region 2AAA shut out Baker of Columbus 48-0 Friday night.

The big weekend upset in AA was by Avondale, which clipped Lakeshore, ranked second last week, 20-16.

- Class AAA**
1. Valdosta (3-0) 121
 2. Warner Robins (4-0) 119
 3. Clarke Central (3-0) 79
 4. Wayne Co. (3-0) 71
 5. Thomasville (2-1) 64
 6. Henderson (4-0) 59
 7. Dougherty (3-0) 57
 8. Northside-Atlanta (3-0) 56
 9. Central-Thomasville (3-0) 55
 10. Northside-Atlanta (4-0) 29
- Others nominated: Cedar Shoals (3-1), Jonesboro (3-1), LaGrange (2-1), Lakeside (3-1), Marietta (4-0), Northside-Warner Robins (4-0), Richmond Academy (2-1), Southwest DeKalb (3-1), Westside-Augusta (4-0), Wheeler (4-1) and Windsor Forest (4-0).

- Class AA**
1. Americus (4-0) 130
 2. Dalton (4-0) 113
 3. Marietta (5-0) 97
 4. Gainesville (4-1) 74
 5. Swainsboro (3-0) 65
 6. He-Brown (e-1) 65
 7. Lakeshore (3-1) 48
 8. Cedartown (4-0) 48
 9. Avondale (4-0) 39
 10. Bradwell Institute (4-1) 27
- Others nominated: Cairo (4-0), Camden Co. (2-1), Coffee (3-0), Fayette Co. (4-0), Lafayette (4-0), Stephens Co. (3-1) and West Fulton (2-2).

- Class A**
1. Mary Persons (3-0-1) 118
 2. Puhama Co. (3-0-1) 108
 3. Duluth (4-0) 105
 4. Sulvan (4-0) 90
 5. Early Co. (3-0) 85
 6. East Rome (3-1) 87
 7. Cartersville (4-1) 43
 8. Bowdon (4-0) 42
 9. Irwin Co. (2-2) 28
 10. Lyons (3-1) 10
- Others nominated: Carrollton (1-2-1), Cedar Grove (3-0), Commerce (4-1), Johnson Co. (3-1), Monroe Area (4-0), Turner Co. (3-0) and Vidalia (2-1).

- Class B**
1. Hogansville (4-0) 124
 2. Macon Co. (4-0) 106
 3. Reidsville (3-1) 91
 4. Savannah Country Day (3-1) 72
 5. Pelham (4-0) 66
 6. Charlton Co. (3-1) 66
 7. Buford (3-1) 51
 8. file-Mt. de Sales (2-1) 36
 9. Lincoln Co. (3-0) 36
 10. Wheeler Co. (4-0) 37
- Others nominated: Bremen (3-2), Emanuel Co. Institute (2-1), Heard Co. (4-1), Jefferson (3-2), Warren Co. (2-1), West Point (4-1), Wrens (2-0-1) and Union Co.

AREA LINEMAN AND BACK OF THE WEEK October 15, 1976



Stan McCloud, Hamilton County High School accepts Back of the Week Trophy from Eartha Coffee of Roger Budd Chevrolet.



Curtis Williams, Valdosta High School collects his Lineman of the Week from Bobby McCrary of Roger Budd Chevrolet.

Congratulations From Your Friends At

Roger Budd

CHEVROLET

2900 N. ASHLEY

Valdosta Daily Times, Sept 28, 1976
Curtis, Leon

Cited By 'Cats

By Times Staff Writer
Lineman Curtis Williams and wide receiver Leon Johnson have been chosen as Lineman and back of the week for the Valdosta Wildcats.

The two players, chosen by their coaching staffs, were cited by the Valdosta Civitan Club Monday night at the weekly meeting of the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

VHS NJROTC Announces Company Commanders

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Sept. 29, 1976-3-

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has announced company commanders for the 1976-77 school year.

Cadet Lt. Cmdr. Michael Anderson was named company commander for the VHS unit. Thursday in the annual commissioning ceremony, Lt. Gordon Hopkins was named company executive officer.

The NJROTC unit also announced these promotions during the ceremony:

- Lieutenant: Greg McCaskill.
Lieutenant (jg): Marionette Pride, David Sandbach and Robert Reeves.
Ensign: Quinton Williams, Greg Hill, Jessie Graham, Monte Richardson, Albert Green and Fredrick Joyce.
Chief Petty Officer: Curtis Jones, Orrestes Johnson, David Folsom and Jessie Marshall.
First Class Petty Officer: Annie Williams, Tommy Tyler, Clifford Williams, Randolph Del Rossi, Chuck Mitchell, Ricky Blifinger and Randy Wyatt.
Second Class Petty Officer: Carolyn

- Berrian, Ronnie Cowert, Jason Corbett, Katherine Johnson, Carolyn Mitchell, LaVerne Mitchell, Barbara Trapp, Sharon Warren, Ed Carter, John Robertson, Michael Gilliam and Ricky Harris.
Third Class Petty Officers: Jimmy Bostock, William Wheeler, Vernon Terry, Charles Jenkins, Jeff Frazier, Johnny Williams, Randy Spencer, Frank Williams, Charles Shaw.
Henry Sherman, Melvin Dalley, Howard Hughes, Sylvia Nelson, Margie Trapp, Lewis Gordon, Sandra Graham, Mark Lief, Johnny Roberts and Don Smith.

TD Club Reaches 1,000 Plateau

Valdosta's Touchdown Club, famous through the past decade for being the only one of its kind with more than 1,000 members, has finally caught up with its reputation. In fact, it has surpassed it.

President David Waller announced at the club's regular Monday night meeting this week that 1,029 memberships have been sold to the Valdosta High School football boosters club and about 1,200 are expected by the end of the season.

That's pretty good work for a club that had only 600 members when the season started four weeks ago and had never topped 900 before. And while Waller credits his board of directors, everyone else is crediting him.

It was Waller who was brought out of his second retirement as TD Club prexy to help try to pull the organization back together after 1975 left it in debt some \$3,000.

Already serving as president in 1969, when the club had its largest previous membership, and in 1974, when he was elected to help unify the club split by the departure of head coach Charlie Greene, Waller was recruited to work his wonders again.

And he boldly vowed for the first time ever, the TD Club would have the 1,000 members newspapers throughout the state have been bragging about.

Behind The Program

Monday night, Touchdown Club members, proud of their latest achievements, enlarged a membership card to an 11 by 14-inch poster and presented it to head coach Nick Hyder. It should have made his day.

Because until then, all he had to think about was the 28-26 loss his Wildcats sustained Saturday night at the hands of Dougherty's Trojans, and the fact that the game film had been delayed in processing and wouldn't be ready for club member's inspection Monday.

"I feel real good about it," Waller said. "It gives us the financial means to operate like we need to and I think it shows the people are behind the program. It took a lot of hard work on a lot of people's part to do it."

The TD Club depends primarily on its membership dues to pay for the team members' preseason football camp, numerous banquets and meals and countless other projects it holds annually for the team.

In that regard, Waller could have done as well by raising the dues which have been \$10 per member since the club was established in the mid-1940's. But the meeting goes deeper than money.

The Biggest Club?

"This organization is designed to support the football team and when you have 1,000 people behind you, you've got a mighty powerful group," Waller explained. "Plus, the more people you have, the more people you have to do the work. I'd rather have 1,000 people at \$10 a head than 500 at \$20."

Waller hasn't researched the fact, but he believes Valdosta had already had the largest club of its kind. Now he's almost sure of it.

"I talked to the Thomasville sportswriter and he told me the Thomasville Bulldogs had about 300 and Central of Thomasville about 100 people in theirs," Waller said.

"I'm sure this is one of the largest or maybe even the largest. But it has taken a lot of hard work on the part of a lot of people to get it like this. We've only played four games so we should be getting about 100 more this season...maybe even up to a total of 1,200."

"But my board (of directors) has worked harder than ever getting this membership up and I think they deserve the credit."

For Hyder's 'Cats

Kicking Game Pays Off

Two and a half years ago, when Nick Hyder first migrated south to Valdosta from West Rome High School, he had only two really new innovations in football to bring with him — the wishbone and the kicking game.

The wishbone disappeared into oblivion about the time his first spring practice session was over but Hyder's determination to include the kicking game as one of the most important aspects of the sport instead of just a necessary evil has paid off again and again.

Friday night, Hyder's Wildcats blasted Monroe's Tornados off the field in a 30-0 rout but when the stats had been accumulated it was actually the kicking game where the 'Cats really held the margin.

First and foremost was the booming coffin-corner punting of junior quarterback Buck Belue, who until that game had been 13th in the 12-team region in putting his toe to the ball.

Hyder graciously explained why ... moments after Belue had convinced everyone stats aren't everything.

"There's more to punting than just kicking a ball," Hyder explained. "We have worked real hard on this and I believe it was a difference in the strategy of the game here Friday."

"There's more to a punt than just distance. When you're booming them from the end zone you want to get them as far away as possible. But close, you really want to get them inside the 20 and as close to the one as possible."

Here, Belue was at his finest Friday, booming four of his five punts for 61, 37, 50 and 40 yards to land inside the four-yard line. Most of the time they stopped there of their own accord. Other times his teammates were able to down them there. And there's reason for that as well.

"Buck's a natural kicker," Hyder explained. "The way he kicks the ball has a great deal to do with what kind of roll he gets after it hits the ground. You'd kick it differently, for example, if you wanted it to roll further. But when you're kicking inside the 20 you don't want much roll."

"Buck's a natural at it. He's aware of how much distance he needs, whether to kick it out of bounds or go inside the 20. We work on this every day ... talk about it every day ... practice it."

There are other phases of the kicking game, of course. Robert Baldwin, for instance, put three kickoffs into the end zone to eliminate run backs. He also kicked four perfect PATs.

Hyder feels it was really those booming punts that put the Tornados in the hole and gave him a chance to play all 87 gridders on the squad Friday. But he can recall games when the kicking game actually made the difference between winning and losing.

Last season, for example, Valdosta defeated Thomasville 12-10 the first time they played in the battle of unbeaten when the Bulldogs missed a field goal in the final quarter. Some still say the kick was good.

The next time they played, in the Region 1-AAA playoff, the Wildcats won a 3-0 decision on Robert Baldwin's field goal.

There are stories that go the other way as well. In the next game that year, Wayne County scored on a long pass out of the punt formation and then went for two points on the point after to defeat Valdosta 15-14.

In Hyder's first game as head coach here, the Wildcats defeated



Julian Miller
Times Sports Editor

Crisp County 3-0 on another field goal. Last season it was a 28-20 decision to Moultrie, brought on by a mistake in fielding a punt inside the five-yard line, that led to Valdosta's fall and a three-way tie for the region championship.

This season it was the kicking game, in general and the points after touchdowns specifically that led to Valdosta's 28-26 loss to Dougherty.

"Dougherty hurt us all night with their punting game and then they kicked all four PATS to win by two points," Hyder explained. "In every close ballgame it usually comes down to the kicking game."

REGION NOTES: That 28-26 loss to Dougherty has thrown the region into a five-way race right now with Dougherty and Central of Thomasville leading the way. But things should become active in the next three weeks.

Next week, Central (5-0) takes on Thomasville, whose only loss in five starts was a 29-9 decision to Valdosta, in the first football confrontation between the two schools.

The following week, Central plays hosts to Dougherty in what could be the determining game of the Region championship. If both go into that fray unbeaten, the winner could well become the league champion.

And the next week, Dougherty makes its second straight trip to Thomasville to take on the Bulldogs.

— When asked if Hyder was looking to the next three weeks with anticipation or fear the cautious Valdosta coach graciously declined.

"I think the word would be 'hope'," said Hyder, whose Wildcats must not only win their next five games but must hope someone knocks off both Central and Dougherty to get back into the race.

"I said before the season started this year could be more interesting than last year's race," he continued. "But we can't spend our time watching everyone else. If we lose again it'll be over for us."

— The Wildcats, coincidentally, in the next three weeks, take on Moultrie, the annual contender who Hyder still insists capable of beating anyone; Lowndes, one of the top five teams and Valdosta's arch rival; and Tift, the up and coming Bulldogs who were edged by Central 3-0 this week.

HIGH SCHOOL TOP TENS

Dougherty Leaps to No. 2 Spot in AAA

By STEVE FIGUEROA
Constitution Prep Editor

Thomasville coach Jim Hughes kept warning everybody, but no one paid any attention.

Back during the preseason when the topic of conversation around the prep world was whether Valdosta or Thomasville would rule the state in AAA, Hughes kept saying, "Don't forget about Dougherty. They've got a super football team."

Hughes' words have come home to roost. Dougherty's Trojans dumped Valdosta, 28-26, this past Saturday night, just eight days after Nick Hyder's Wildcats disposed of Thomasville and took over the No. 1 spot in the AAA poll.

Needless to say, Dougherty's little upset caused quite a scramble in the

AAA rankings as well as the 1-AAA race.

Warner Robins, ranked second all season long, took the big step upward into the hot seat at the top of AAA, while Dougherty was just a notch behind in the No. 2 position.

The Warner Robins Demons, probably the most talent-rich team in the state, are presently 5-0 and have outscored their opponents 232-38. The Demons have had a problem in recent years getting out of their region, however, and it remains to be seen if Robert Davis' team can conquer this jinx.

Other changes in AAA saw Wayne County, upset by Brunswick, 26-22, drop from fourth to seventh, while No. 6 Wheeler lost for the second time this season—a 14-10 decision to Douglas

County—and fell from the top ten.

There were two real shockers in AA, as No. 2 Dalton fell to Chattooga, 14-13, while No. 3 Brown lost to Class A foe Smith, 7-6. Dalton dropped to the No. 6 spot, while Brown fell all the way to tenth.

The only other change in AA occurred when No. 9 Lakeshore, which lost a week ago to Avondale, was tied by Fayette County, 10-10, and dropped from the elite. Unbeaten Coffee, which seems to have emerged as the cream of the 1-AA crop, took the vacant spot in the poll after dealing with previously undefeated Cairo, 16-13, in Cairo.

For the first time this season, there are no changes in either A or B. Seven of the 20 ranked teams in A and B took the week off, and the other 13 came up winners.

- Class AAA**
- Warner Robins (5-0)
 - Dougherty (4-0)
 - Clarke Central (4-0)
 - Valdosta (3-1)
 - Thomasville (3-1)
 - Northside, Atlanta (5-0)
 - Wayne County (3-1)
 - Henderson (4-1)
 - Lakeside (4-1)
 - Marietta (5-0)
- Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Campbell, Smyrna (4-1), Cedar Shoals (4-1), Central, Thomasville (4-0), Douglas (3-1), Jonesboro (4-1), LaGrange (3-1), Newnan (3-1), Northside, Warner Robins (5-0), Richmond Academy (3-1), Rockdale County (4-1), Southwest DeKalb (4-1), Wheeler (4-2).
- Class AA**
- Americus (5-0)
 - Gainesville (5-1)
 - Marist (4-0)
 - Swainsboro (5-0)
 - Avondale (4-1)
 - Dalton (4-1)
 - Cedartown (5-0)
 - Bradwell Institute (5-1)
 - Coffee (4-0)
 - Brown (3-2)
- Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Cairo (4-1), Collins (4-0-1), Coosa (4-1), Dublin (4-1), Fayette County (4-0-1), Gordon (2-2), LaFayette (5-0), Lakeshore (3-1-1), Stephens County (3-2), West Fulton (3-2), Woodward (4-1).

- Class A**
- Sylvan (4-0)
 - Duluth (4-0)
 - Pulnam County (3-0-1)
 - (tie) Mary Persons (4-0-1)
 - Irwin County (3-2)
 - East Rome (4-1)
 - Early County (4-0)
 - Bowdon (5-0)
 - Cartersville (4-1)
 - Vidalia (3-1)
- Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Cedar Grove (4-0), Commerce (5-1), Lyons (4-1), Milton (4-1), Monroe Area (5-0), Turner County (4-0).
- Class B**
- Hogansville (5-0)
 - Macon County (5-0)
 - Reidsville (3-1)
 - Sav. Country Day (4-1)
 - Charlton County (4-1)
 - Bulford (4-1)
 - Mt. de Sales (3-1)
 - Jefferson (3-2)
 - Wheeler County (4-0)
 - Lincoln County (4-0)
- Also receiving consideration (in alphabetical order): Bremen (4-2), E.C.I. (3-1), Pelham (4-1), Union County (4-1), West Point (4-2), Wrens (2-1-1).

Wildcats Leave Tornadoes Singing The 'Belues'

By JULIAN MILLER

Buck Belue, the number 13 punter in the 12-team league, held a lesson session in what it's all about here Friday night and convinced Monroe's Tornadoes.

The heralded Valdosta quarterback, who went into the game dead last in the punting category, boomed coffin-corner punts of 61

YARDSTICK		
	Valdosta	Monroe
First Downs	15	9
Yards Rushing	219	89
Yards Passing	43	47
Passes	5-15	3-13
Passes Int. by	1	1
Fumbles Lost	1	3
Punting	5-47.4	7-35.2
Penalties	5-65	5-55

yards to the three-yard line, 37 yards to the four, 50 yards to the one-foot line and 49 yards to the three to break the backs of the Tornado offense.

Then he cut down the Monroe defense by running for the first three touchdowns to lead Valdosta's fifth ranked Wildcats to a 30-0 Region 1-AAA high school football victory here Friday night.

"It's still football ... FOOTBALL," explained a jubilant Nick Hyder as the some 6,000 fans, who braved a night of steady rains to watch Valdosta chalk up its fourth win in five starts, left a soggy Cleveland Field.

"There's a difference between a kicker and a punter. We've worked on this (the kicking game) ... where to kick it, how high, and what kind of bounce. You'll notice some of those just hit and stayed there. It's a natural kind of thing Buck gets from the way he kicks it."

Tornado coach Winfred Benson, who saw a two-game win streak snapped with the worst loss his now 2-3 Tornadoes had suffered to date, admitted it "got to" his players.

"I guess we played well in the first quarter. But Valdosta just kept coming and we laid down. You'll never win a ball game doing that."

"But Valdosta's got a great

perienced group of running backs had tried no less than a dozen players out on the ground with a couple of newcomers standing out. Freshmen running backs Ernest King and Sam Fletcher showed promise of things to come, running four times for 30 yards and one touchdown and three times for 13 yards respectively.

"We knew King and Fletcher had the talent, but this is the first chance we've had to test them under game circumstances," Hyder said. "But then, of course, I think all our young running backs are doing a good job."

Things started out as a punting duel between Belue and Monroe's Kenneth LeMarr. But LeMarr was usually backed up to his own goal when he did it and Belue spent his leg time putting the Tornadoes back there. After the sixth time around it finally took effect.

That's when Belue's 50-yard punt was downed on the one-foot line and on the next play defensive tackle Eddie Denard charged through the Tornado line to nail halfback Wallace Jordan three yards deep in his own end zone for a two-point safety.

That almost convinced the Tornadoes. Valdosta's next feat convinced everyone.

The Wildcats took the ensuing kickoff and marched 49-yards in 10 plays to score.

Halfback Steve Jennings actually set up the TD when he went back to pass in a third and nine situation from the 11, saw no one open, and turned on the speed to ramble nine yards to the two for a first down. But Jennings and Monroe's Richard Walker, who ran him down on the wet sidelines, both had to be helped off the field after the play.

Belue capped things with a two-yard plunge on the next play and the Wildcat offense was on the board as well, 9-0, with 4:10 remaining in the quarter.

It was two possessions into

It's still called football ... FOOTBALL
—Nick Hyder

ball club. They should win the rest of their games and if Dougherty and Central lose, I think they'll be right back in it."

It was Dougherty, Monroe's cross town rival, that toppled the 'Cats from the state and tie for the region lead last week with a 28-26 victory in Albany.

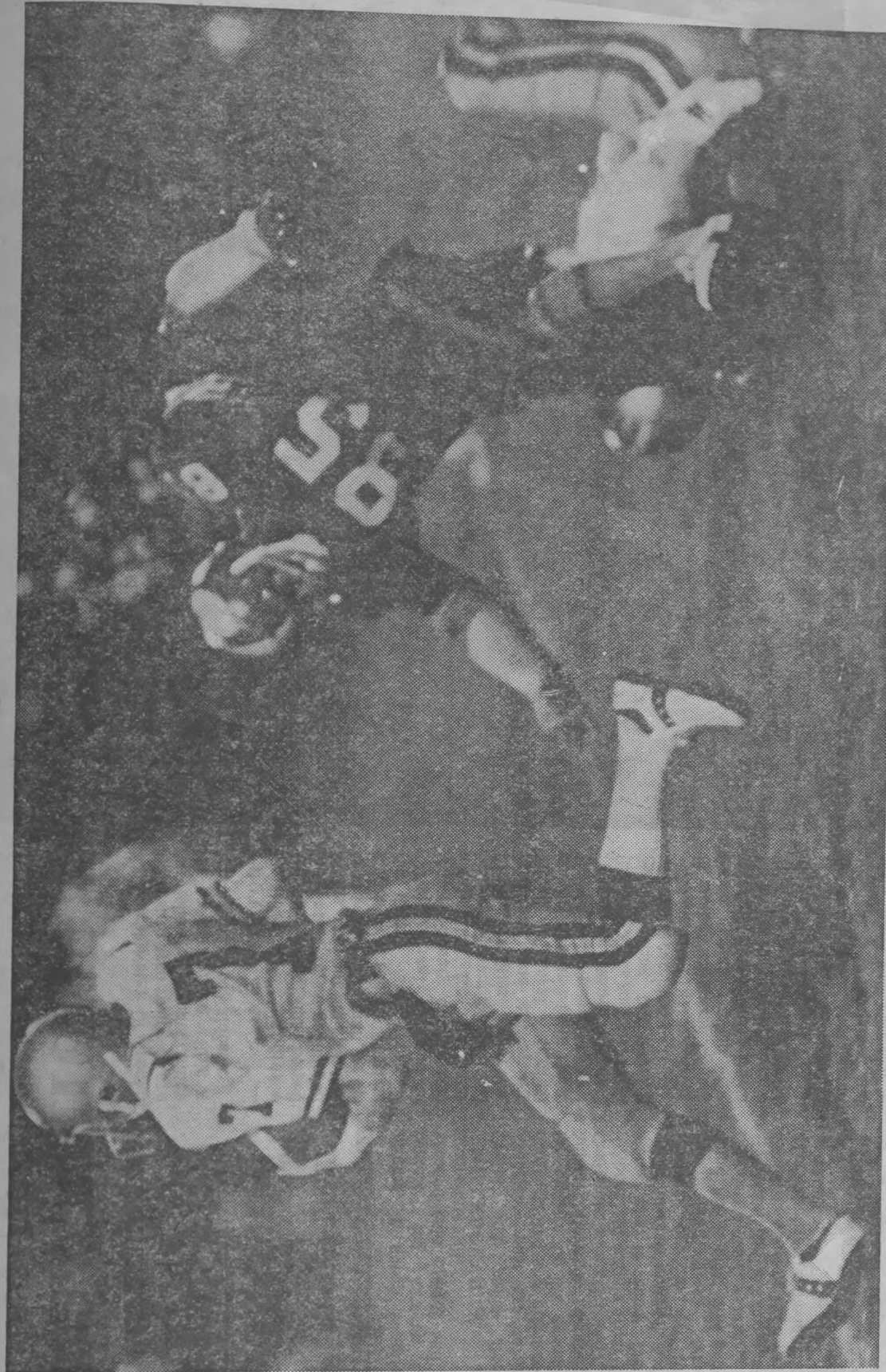
That left Dougherty and Central tied for the lead with Valdosta, Lowndes and Thomasville one game back. But it was more the way Valdosta snapped back from last week's loss than the fact that they did, that impressed Hyder.

"We played 87 players," the young head coach beamed from the middle of Cleveland Field's soggy turf. "That's everyone on the team except two players ... one had five teeth pulled and the other was sick. I guess we could have scored again had we kept Buck and the first team in there but I'd much rather play those 87."

Buck and the boys had done enough. The third year starter had suffered through the downpour in the passing department, hitting on only four of 12 attempts for 31 yards, but he had carried nine times for 51 yards, three touchdowns and four first downs and punted five times for a 47.4-yard average.

As a team, the Wildcats had outrushed the Tornadoes, 102-66 by the half and 219-89 for the game. They had held the Tornadoes to only nine first downs and kept them out of Valdosta territory all night, save for one trip to the Wildcat 39 on the first series, and another to the 'Dosta 46 on the last.

But Hyder, desperately trying to build up his inex-



—Times Staff Photo.

Skirting The Issue: Valdosta's Buck Belue Skirts Around Right End For First Down

left all night, began a wholesale shuffling job to get as many players into the game and all of them did about as well with the now worn out Tornadoes.

It was second string quarterback John Lastinger, a sophomore, and running backs Ricky Holcombe and Ernest King, who dictated Valdosta's last scoring dive.

It began on the Monroe 48 after a punt and ended 12 plays later, with 8:06 remaining in the game, when King, in his most impressive showing of the night, bounced

Middleton, plowed through the line to nail Johnson from behind, shake the football loose, throw Johnson to the ground and recover the bobble for the Wildcats.

Three plays later, after a seven-yard run by sophomore fullback William Gaskins and three yard run by Fletcher, Belue carried for two yards and his final TD of the night and with 6:12 remaining in the third quarter and Valdosta leading 23-0, that was it for the Valdosta first string.

Hyder, who had been substituting players right and

his way six yards through the breadbasket to score the final TD.

Defensively, it was a battle of the linebackers between Middleton and Monroe. Both roamed the field like they owned it. Middleton a senior, finished the night with a dozen individual stops and around that many more assists. Albritten, a junior, was credited with 18 individual stops.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta—Belue 9.51, Gaskins 8.31, King 4.30, Johnson 4.30, Holcombe 5.16, Fletcher 3.13, Hunter 2.14, Lastinger 5.12, Smith 2.9, Jennings 4.5, Dame 1.5, Hodde 1.3, Monroe—Jordan 11.50, Thomas 4.24,

Nicholson 4.19, Blake 4.7, J. Johnson 1. minus 5, R. Johnson 1. minus 4, Whitfield 3.47.
Passing: Valdosta — Belue 4-12-41, Lastinger 1-3-12; Monroe — J. Johnson 3-13-47.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Adams 2-20, Smith 1-12, Wilson 1-7, A. Thomas 1-4, Harris 1-14.
Punt Returns: Valdosta — T. Thomas 1-12, Demp 1-16; Monroe — R. Johnson 1-9, K. Koff 1-13, Suen 1-15, Blake 1-3.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Middleton 12, C. Williams 4, Baldwin 4, Cohen 3, Roberts 3, R. Johnson 3, Warren 3, Monroe — Albritten 18, Hubbard 8, C. Thomas 5, Jones 5, Holsey 4, Rivers 4, R. Johnson 3, Walker 3, H. Smith 3.
Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 0 0 9 14 7-30
Monroe 0 0 0 0 0-0
Scoring: Valdosta—Belue 9.51, Gaskins 8.31, King 4.30, Johnson 4.30, Holcombe 5.16, Fletcher 3.13, Hunter 2.14, Lastinger 5.12, Smith 2.9, Jennings 4.5, Dame 1.5, Hodde 1.3, Monroe—Jordan 11.50, Thomas 4.24, Valdosta—Belue 2 run (Baldwin kick), Valdosta—Belue 2 run (Baldwin kick), Valdosta—King 6 run (Baldwin kick).

Tornadoes Believe In VHS

By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY — Winfred Benson looks at his little-regarded Monroe Tornadoes with their two-game win streak, then at Valdosta's previously top-ranked Wildcats just coming off a 28-26 upset loss to powerful Dougherty and shudders.

"To tell you the truth, I don't want to go," the Tornadoe Head coach said of his Friday night date to match his Tornadoes up against the defending Region 1-AAA champs in a high school football game.

"We have to think Valdosta has a very fine football team — they pass well and the defense is extremely tough — and that loss to Dougherty is just going to make them mad," he speculated. "Then they're going to try to take it out on us."

The Tornadoes, 2-2 now, after upending two cross town foes, Albany, 7-0, and Westover, 7-6, square off against Nick Hyder's 3-1 Wildcats and their staunch

pass attack Friday at 8 p.m. in Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

"We're going to come to play, though," Benson continued. "We're not going to lay down out there. When we come we come to win. But we're going to have our hands full in Cleveland Field."

The Tornadoes, who have a proven passer in quarterback Jeff Johnson, are still trying to find a pass receiver to replace B. J. Lamarr, who helped make Johnson the number two passer in the region last season.

"But we just haven't thrown a whole lot this year because we dropped a lot of them and had some interceptions," explained Benson, who usually has a passing team.

"To have a strong pass attack you've got to work all week and in the summer. The quarterback I have can throw and throw well, but we don't have a receiver yet who can catch with any consistency."

Hence, the Tornadoes have taken to the ground with the running of halfback Ricky Blake and tailback Wallace Jordan. Jordan is eighth in region standings with 241 yards on 57 carries. Blake is 22nd with 140 yards on 36 carries.

Valdosta's leading rusher is sophomore fullback Bobby Johnson, 23rd in the region with 134 yards on 23 carries.

"We're going to try to balance it between the rush and the pass as much as we can," Benson said. "But this year we have gone mainly with our running game."

The Tornadoes must also try to cover Valdosta's wide open passing game, led by quarterback Buck Belue. Belue leads the region in passing percentage with a .514 average after hitting 35 of 68 for 445 yards and three touchdowns so far this season.

Probable starters for each team follows:

VALDOSTA
Offense-ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and Leon Johnson (160, sr.), or Craig Adams (175, sr.); tackles David Cooper (195, sr.) and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.) guards Tom Copeland (190, sr.) and Bryan Johnson (189, sr.), center Buck Blanton (190, jr.), quarterback Buck Belue (195, jr.) halfbacks William Gaskins (155, soph.) and Steve Jennings (175, sr.), and fullback Bobby Johnson (180, soph.).

Defense-ends Jackie Cain (180, sr.) and Curtis Williams (185, sr.), tackles Eddie Denard (210, sr.) or Curtis Wright (180, jr.) and O'Keefe Hunter (235, sr.), middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.), linebackers Brad Cohen (185, sr.) and Keith Middleton (210, sr.) cornerbacks Troy Thomas (160, soph.) or Robert Baldwin (165, jr.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.) and safeties Allen Worth (175, jr.) and Carl Roe (160, soph.) or Lawrence Lowe (200, sr.).

MONROE
Offense-ends Ned Harris (175, jr.) and Willie Starling (175, sr.), tackles Lorenzo Williams (sr. 220), Ronald Ponder (195, sr.) guards Joe Fowler (175, sr.) and James Williams (180, sr.), center Freddie Johnson (165, jr.), quarterback Jeff Johnson (160, jr.), gullback Ricky Blake (180, sr.) and tailback Wallace Jordan (170, sr.), slotback Otis Raley (145, sr.).
Defense-ends Willie Jones (165, sr.) and Fletcher Smith (160, sr.) tackles Ezekiel Jones (230, jr.) and Members Holsey (245, sr.), noseguard Melvin Ingram (170, jr.), linebackers Richard Walker (165, sr.) and Ricky Albritton (160, jr.) cornerback Sam Wilson (179, jr.), and Anthony Anderson (150, jr.), safeties Ray Johnson (170, sr.) and Ronald Christian (175, sr.).

Buck, Jody Cited For Play

By Times Staff Writer
Most outstanding players usually come from winning teams but Valdosta's Wildcats proved there are exceptions this week when two of their members were cited by the Valdosta Daily Times Sports Staff.

Quarterback Buck Belue, who completed 14 of 28 passes for 185 yards and two touchdowns, ran four times for 36 yards and another touchdown, caught a 33-yard pass and punted four times for 37.5 yards, has been named most outstanding back in the Times coverage area.

Jody Wilson, a split end who doubles as a wide receiver, who caught four passes for 97 yards and two touchdowns, including one on a 50-yard pass that wasn't meant for him, has been named most outstanding lineman, despite the fact that Valdosta lost the game 28-26.

Wilson hauled in the 50-yard pass after it bounced off the hands of a Dougherty defender 25 yards away, and never broke stride to score.

"Most people don't notice that Jody always runs a good pass route," said head coach Nick Hyder. "And Buck played one of his best games ever against Dougherty."

The two players are to be cited with trophies by Roger Budd Chevrolet Co. at the weekly pep rally Friday.

Johnson, Day Cited By Times

By Times Staff Writer

A pint-sized Valdosta running back and a Clinch County Panther who goes both ways have been named the area back and lineman of the week in the weekly balloting sponsored by Roger Budd Chevrolet.

Bobby Johnson, sophomore fullback for coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats, ran for 111 yards in 16 carries

against Lowndes last week in a 14-3 VHS victory. Johnson included a 44-yard scamper in his total which set up the second Wildcat touchdown.

Johnson's effort marked the first time this season any Valdosta player has cracked the 100-yard rushing mark in a game.

Larry Day sparkled for Clinch's Panthers from Homerville last week in

a 34-0 decision over Berrien (Nashville, Ga.). He caught two touchdown passes from his end position and made six key individual tackles on defense.

Both players are to be presented trophies by Roger Budd at their schools' respective pep rallies this week.

The players are selected by the Times sports department.

Buck And Keith Cited For Play

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School coaching staff has selected quarterback Buck Belue and linebacker Keith Middleton as their top back and lineman of the week.

Belue and Middleton delivered standout performances in Valdosta's 28-26 loss to Dougherty Saturday.

They were presented plaques by the Valdosta Civitan Club at the Valdosta Touchdown Club meeting Monday night.

Local Briefs

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Oct. 14, 1976-21-

Faucette, Middleton Cited

By Times Staff Writer

Westbrook's Craig Faucette and Valdosta's Keith Middleton claimed top honors in the weekly Roger Budd Chevrolet back and lineman of the week balloting.

Faucette quarterbacked the Dixie school to a 41-6 win over Flint River Academy last week, running 19 times for 109 yards and four touchdowns, throwing for another touchdown and recovering a fumble to set up yet another score.

Middleton racked up 12 individual tackles besides numerous assists in a 30-0 Valdosta victory over Monroe.

The two were singled out over all the players in the area by the Times sports department.

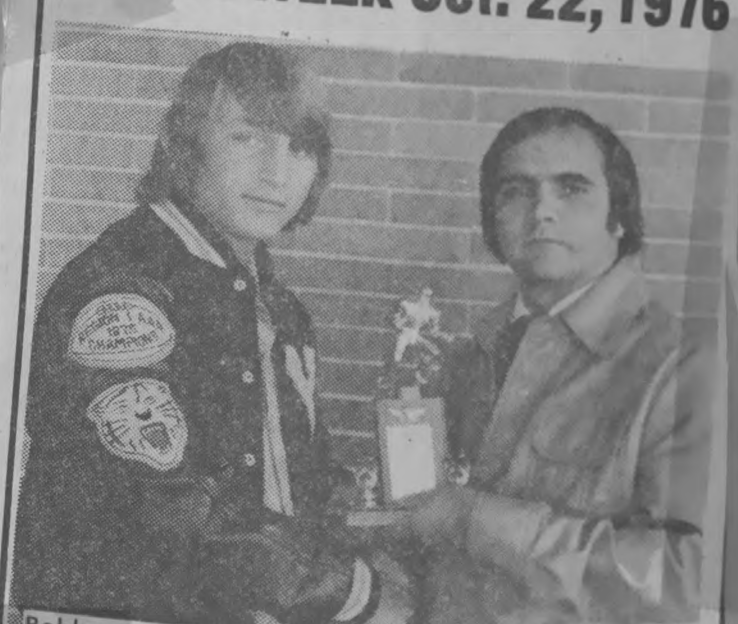
They are to receive trophies this week from Roger Budd.

AREA LINEMAN AND BACK OF THE WEEK October 8, 1976



Keith Middleton, Linebacker for Valdosta High School accepts his second lineman of the week trophy after shutting out Monroe of Albany 30-0.

AREA LINEMAN AND BACK OF THE WEEK Oct. 22, 1976



Bobby Johnson of Valdosta High School ran for 111 yards in 16 carries to help his team defeat cross town rivals Lowndes High. Bobby accepts back of the week trophy from Bobby McCrary of Roger Budd Chevrolet.

Moultrie Has Hyder Worried

By JULIAN MILLER
Nick Hyder has this thing about Moultrie's Packers. When he hears the name he shudders once or twice ... and with reason.
Hyder has never beaten Moultrie. In two years as head coach of Valdosta's Wildcats, it's the only Region 1-AAA team his 'Cats haven't been able to beat.

"And we play them again Friday night in Moultrie," Hyder points out.

For the first time in five years however, the Wildcats seem to be a hands down favorite to end that losing string against the Packers. But Hyder, pessimist that he

is, is no where close to being convinced.
"Why doesn't anyone believe me?" Hyder asks in astonishment when he talks of the upcoming region clash. "Moultrie leads us in almost every category of the region statistics. I think they're back to their usual selves, an outstanding football team.
"They've got a good passing game, two of the best receivers in the region, and they're a scrappy little team. But the most important thing is if we don't beat them, then we're out of the region race."
Valdosta, 4-1 after defeating Crisp County, 23-7, Bainbridge, 28-0, Thomasville, 29-9, and

Monroe 30-0, and losing to Dougherty 28-26, is ranked fourth in the state wide associated press poll this week.
Moultrie, 2-3 after losing to Central of Thomasville, 32-36, Lowndes 13-6 and Tift County, 21-7, and defeating Albany, 21-7 and Westover, 6-0, has done it mainly on the passing of quarterback Steve Tyus and catching of receivers Milton Tyus and Larry Williford.
Ironically, Valdosta ranks low in the region on pass defense, a fact which not only worries Hyder but spurs extra practice sessions in the area going into Valdosta's first showdown with a primarily passing team.

At the same time, the Wildcats are primarily a passing team themselves, behind the arm of quarterback Buck Belue, but they'll be trying to improve on their shaky running game.
"We've consistently tried to bring our ground game around," Hyder explained. "Last week we were forced to by the rain, and we were able to get some work for a lot of young backs. This week we hope to improve even more."
It's not greed on Hyder's part. The Moultrie defense has had more problems stopping the rush than the pass this season and Hyder would like to capitalize on that.
But he'll have to do it

without the aid of halfback Steve Jennings, a senior who has only played in three games, but was sidelined with stretched ligaments in the Monroe game last week.
Jennings, the only running back who gave Valdosta a passing option is out indefinitely after sitting out the first two games of the season with a broken arm.
"Moultrie seems to have turned it around since they benched five seniors and they still have Steve Tyus who picked us apart last season," Hyder said. "He's number one in the region in passing this year again."
Valdosta lost its only region game to the Pack, 28-20 last season.

Marchin' Cats Host

30 Bands To Compete Here

October

BY BECKY VAIL
Thirty bands with over 400 musicians from three southern states are preparing to compete in Valdosta for the Southern Open championship band competition next month in an "inaugural" band competition hosted by the Valdosta High School Marching Cats.
Band enthusiasts can sate their appetites Nov. 20 with the competition and performances of high school bands from Georgia, Florida and Alabama, along with a demonstration by the Cats, a guest appearance by Lowndes High School's Marching Vikings and an exhibition by

the famous Troy State University Sound of the South.
VHS Band Director Frank Butenschon said tickets for the day-long band competition to be held at Cleveland Field are now on sale at several Valdosta businesses.
For two years the Southern Open has been a dream in Butenschon's mind, as he pushed for a south-Georgia band competition similar to the ones Marchin' Cats and Marching Vikings have traveled to for years.
VHS Band Boosters have banked on the success of the competition — to the tune of \$10,000 — the cost necessary to buy trophies, do mailings, purchase buttons and t-shirts for the affair and to pay the judges for their rating work.
Profits from the Open are to go to the boosters organization for the band, said Butenschon.
Competition for the Open blue ribbon is to begin at 8

a.m., and bands are to be on the field, marching, and playing all day long, and into the night.
Preliminaries between the bands are to be held during the day, with the final competition beginning at 8 p.m.

Tickets are good for the entire Open and can be purchased from 11 city stores, from an order blank to be in a Times' advertisement from the boosters. They are also part of the package deal the boosters are offering in (See 30 Page 2)

OTHER GAMES

Tift Co. over Albany, Dougherty over Bainbridge, Warner Robins over Dresher, S.C., Wayne Co. over Beach, Northside-Atlanta over Murphy, Waycross over Fitzgerald, Bradwell Institute over Johnson of Savannah, Swainsboro over Effingham Co., Americus over Peach Co., Dublin over Dodge Co.
Worth Co. over Appling Co., Fayette Co. over Henry Co., Dalton over Lakeview, Early Co. over Calhoun Co., Turner Co. over Lee Co., Southeast Bulloch over Vidalia, Sylvan over Price, Central Carrollton over E. Rome, Duluth over Central Gwinnett, Macon Co. over Vienna, Charlton Co. over Atkinson Co., Mt. de Sales over Warren Co., and Crisp over Monroe.

Vikes, 'Cats Cited

Oct 12, 1976

By Times Staff Writer
Two members each of Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes High's Vikings have been cited by the Valdosta Civitan Club for outstanding play in their team's high school football victories this

weekend.
Defensive back Robert Baldwin and lineman Craig Adams were selected as the most outstanding back and linemen respectively by their coaching staffs after Valdosta's 30-0 win over Monroe Friday.
David Johnson was named Lowndes offensive player of the week and Rocky Carter was the defensive star in Lowndes' 21-6 win over Albany Saturday.

They were presented their trophies at booster club meetings at the two schools Monday night.

Bond Sparks Valdosta Win

10-22-76

WAYCROSS — Valdosta quarterback John Bond threw for a pair of touchdowns and ran for another to lead the Valdosta High School ninth grade football team to a 28-8 win over Waycross here Thursday.

After Carl Wilcox fired the burner with a 35-yard TD run for Valdosta in the opening period, Bond threw to Willie Hankins for the two-point conversion and then followed it up with a 15-yard TD scoring pass late in the half.

Bond galloped eight yards to paydirt in the third period before capping his day in the final quarter with a 35-yard scoring toss to Kenneth King.

Waycross finally got on the board late in the final quarter to spoil the shutout for the now 6-2 VHS team.

Head coach Bob Bolton carries his charges into a battle against Valdosta Junior High School Thursday.

VHS FBLA Officers Named

Oct 22
Valdosta High School's Future Business Leaders of America club has elected officers for the 1976-77 school year.
Mark Rogers, son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Rogers of 800 Cypress St. was elected president of the VHS chapter.
Steve Shapiro, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Shapiro of Greenfield Lane was named first vice-president.
Other officers elected included: Susan Kroll daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Kroll of 2 University Place, second vice-president; Mack Seckinger, son of Mrs. Helene Perry of 2324 Sterling Place, third vice-president;
Sandy Maples, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Maples St. of 1109 N. Patterson St., secretary; Jo Lynn Salter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Salter of 1214 Linda Drive, treasurer; Joanne McCoy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCoy Jr. of 909 Maplewood Drive, reporter;
Susan Fontaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence J. Fontaine of 1205 Lakeview Drive, parliamentarian; and Jimmy Pitts, son of the Rev. and Mrs. James Pitts of 210 E. Park Ave., historian.

VHS Frosh Rout VJHS

Valdosta High School's ninth grade football team closed out its season here Thursday with a 32-6 victory over Valdosta Junior High's Tomcats.
Irvin Roe picked up 115 yards rushing and scored the first touchdown for coach Bob Bolton's VHS ninth graders who finished the season with a 6-2 record, losing only to Lowndes and Hahira Junior High.
Quarterback John Bond also scored for the victors on a three-yard run to compliment a five-yard TD run by Jim Hancock and an 11-yard end around play for a touchdown by Willie Hankins.
Coach Mack Wilder's 6-2 VJHS team scored in the final quarter on an eight-yard pass play from David Parker to Steve Green.

'Cats, Vikes Seen Tonight's Victors

It seemed as just more of that football coach's talk when Nick Hyder reported Moultrie's Packers had gotten word to him that they would be waiting for his Wildcats when they played Valdosta this season.

But when Packer coach Bud Willis confirmed it, that sent thoughts flying.

Willis, the grand old gentleman of high school coaches, admitted in a telephone interview Wednesday, the Packers have scouted Valdosta in every game they've played so far this season.

"Tell Nick we sure would like to make it three in a row," Willis said after talking about his two-game win streak and three wins in the past four times the two Region 1-AAA teams have met.

With that kind of attitude, even from a team that is 2-3 going into the fray against the fourth ranked team in the state, it demands a little bit of extra consideration when a football prognosticator stops to make his weekly picks.

These are very tender times, not only for the Wildcats and the Lowndes' Vikings, who need to stay in the Region 1-AAA race, but for the old prognosticator himself, who has finally brought his average back up to par.

The seer hit it right on 27 of 31 picks last week raising his right-wrong total for the year to 121-38, a .761 average. That's a far cry better than the 18-9 record posted the week before in his most disastrous week ever.

Hoping to stay above the 76 per cent mark for the rest of the season, here's the way things look this week.

VALDOSTA at MOULTRIE

Through the years, Bud Willis has shot the old saying "nice guys finish last" full of holes. The "nicest" guy in the region still always manages to finish somewhere around first. But when the muscle's not there, the bone won't move. Valdosta needs this win too badly to let the Pack feast on Wildcat another year: Valdosta, 16-7.

WESTOVER at LOWNDES

Westover Coach Johnny Palmer hit the nail on the head when he said one never knows what to expect out of a Joe Wilson-coached team. But he can expect one thing out of Wilson's Vikings, they won't be willing to give up this game without a fight.

A win would keep them even with Valdosta going into next week's cross-town showdown and their hopes alive for a region champion ... two things many LHS fans thought they might never hear of a year ago: Lowndes, 14-7.

CENTRAL (T'ville) at THOMASVILLE

This is really the key game to it all. If Thomasville can't knock off their neighboring foes tonight all Thomasville's hopes go down the drain and next week's Central-Dougherty clash could mean the Region championship: Thomasville, 21-14.

CLINCH at IRWIN

Irwin County's Indians have a four-game win streak and something to prove. They were eliminated from championship playoffs by an illegal practice ruling before the season ever started.

Clinch has a four-game win streak with something to prove too. They're in Class A for the first time ever. But experience will win out: Irwin, 21-0.

INTERLACHEN at HAMILTON

This is the only team the Hamilton County Trojans need to beat to win their district championship for the second consecutive year. It matches the two best teams in the district. And Hamilton's home field should make a difference: Hamilton, 12-0.

CAMDEN at COOK

Home field advantage has nothing to do with it here. Camden has too many horses to be tamed by a swarm of Hornets who haven't had anything else go their way this season either: Camden, 14-0.

BROOKS at COFFEE

Coffee's Trojans had very little trouble dishing out the punishment to Camden 33-0 last week. This week, the winless Trojans from Quitman challenge them in their own back yard. That's enough to make anyone angry ... even if they are called by the same name: Coffee, 24-6.

MADISON at RICKARDS

If Madison, Fla.'s Cougars thought those last four teams were trouble, they haven't seen anything yet: Rickards, 32-0.

Oct. 16, 1976

'Cats Bury Pack, 31-14, In Second Half Avalanche

By JULIAN MILLER

MOULTRIE — Valdosta's Wildcats re-discovered their running attack and Nick Hyder learned for the first time what it feels to beat Moultrie in a Region 1-AAA high school football game here Friday night.

Hyder's Wildcats, ranked fourth in state-wide polls, who had all but abandoned their running attack in the early stages of the season, hit

YARDSTICK	
Valdosta	Moultrie
First Downs	10
Yards Rushing	63
Yards Passing	190
Passes	192
Passes Intc. by	6-15
Fumbles Intc. by	1
Fumbles Lost	0
Punting	1-35 6-40.7
Penalties	2-20 4-26

the jackpot with a 210-yard ground attack and a 31-14 victory over the Moultrie Packers they had never beaten under their head coach.

"And it feels good," said an eased Hyder as some 9,000 fans filed out of Moultrie's Mack Tharpe Stadium, after his Wildcats had boosted their own record to 5-1 at the expense of Bud Willis' now 2-4 Packers.

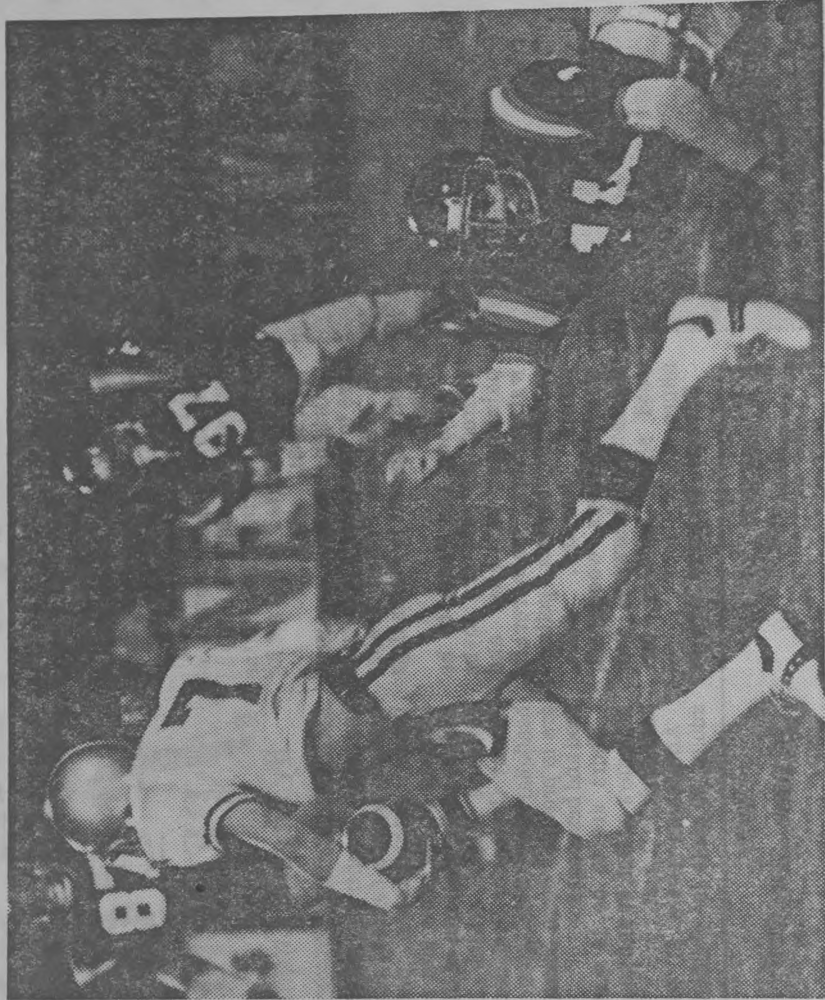
"That's the best we've looked on offense in a long time," the unusually quiet head coach continued after the victory. "Four hundred yards is not a bad night on offense is it?"

Then he shed some insight on why he might not have been as talkative as usual after a victory when he looked ahead:

"That sets the stage for next week's game and it should be a good one."

The Wildcats next week take on cross city rival Lowndes in another region match and for the first time ever the Vikings come into the intra-city clash on an even status. The Vikings are also 5-1 after Friday's 26-12 victory over Westover of Albany.

The Wildcats had surprised the Packers by abandoning their awesome air game in the early stages of the first half to try to beef up their running game against the



—Times Staff Photos, By Robert Winter 111

Spreading The Belues: Valdosta Quarterback Buck Belue Put On An Open Field Running Exhibition At Moultrie's Expense With These First Down Jaunts

unusually weak Packers. But the Pack didn't understand.

Instead of knuckling under, the Moultrie team stormed back with its equally awesome air game to take a 7-6 lead into the dressing rooms at halftime. That's when the Wildcats woke up.

"What did you tell them at halftime," a staunch fan asked after the 'Cats had completely dominated the second half.

"Uh ... you don't really want me to answer that," Hyder said without a smile.

The Wildcats had put together 192 yards in passing to go with 210 rushing and once again 1975 offensive player of the year, junior quarterback Buck Belue, was the star of them both.

Belue rushed a dozen times for 94 yards and one touchdown and threw for 166 yards and another touchdown to move into the region lead in scoring. But his brightest spot of the night came on a

yard line where safety Lawrence Lowe had pushed him out of bounds.

Two plays into the second quarter, Packer quarterback Steve Tyus put the Pack ahead with a two-yard plunge and then kicked the PAT to give the home team a 7-6 lead and Moultrie fans something to cheer about.

The problems increased for the 'Cats on their next two possessions when Valdosta drove 79 yards to the Moultrie 7 and 50 yards to the Packer 3, failing to score each time.

First a fourth down pass from Belue to Jody Wilson had been broken up in the end zone by Keith Weeks, who made a habit of doing so the rest of the night.

Then officials penalized Moultrie five yards to their own 3, allowed Valdosta to run a play and moved it back to the four just before Valdosta's last play of the half. Belue ran three yards to the one and was stopped

inches from the goal. "I didn't like that (not scoring) at all," Hyder admitted. "I'm not saying that kept us from scoring but we ran three yards and were stopped a yard from the goal after they moved the ball back. But the thing is, we went too far not to have scored."

If two missed touchdowns could be made up, the 'Cats did so on the next half when they completely dominated the Packers.

The Wildcats scored the first four times they touched the football in the second half. Baldwin came on to kick a 31-yard field goal to cap a 15-yard drive after a Keith Middleton pass interception. Spunky halfback William Gaskins, who wouldn't admit he was smaller than anyone else on the field, scored on a one-yard plunge to cap a 57-yard drive.

A picture-perfect 36 yard pass from Belue to Wilson

capped a 77-yard drive. And Baldwin kicked a 47-yarder that crossed the crossbar by inches to cap a 62-yard drive that started with Curtis Williams' recovery of a Steve Tyus fumble he had caused himself with a back breaking tackle.

When the Packers caught the VHS defense off guard with two long passes, a 36-yarder to Williford and 52-yard bomb to Milton Tyus for Moultrie's second touchdown, the 'Cats rebounded angrily. Williams did all the dirty work himself when he broke through the Moultrie line to knock down a Steve Tyus lateral, scooped it up and returned it 35 yards for the final TD.

The drive that produced Baldwin's 47-yard kick drew the most attention when officials were booed handily after changing their minds on who recovered a Gaskins fumble. Apparently, one official, not waiting to see who ended up with the

kick failed.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta — Belue 12-94, Gaskins 14-31, Johnson 6-26, Smith 4-17, Fletcher 3-6, Lastinger 2-26, King 3-8, Holcombe 2-2; Moultrie — Bragg 12-57, Pullins 7-19, Weeks 1-3, Glow 1-2, S. Tyus 1-4, Minus 1-8.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 10-15-166, Lastinger 1-1-26; Moultrie — S. Tyus 6-14-790, Williford 6-1-0.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — L. Johnson 4-71, Wilson 4-59, A. Thomas 2-41, Council 1-13; Moultrie — M. Tyus 3-90, McCoy 3-88, Williford 1-12.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — T. Thomas 2-19.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — King 1-20, Smith 1-16; Moultrie — Williford 1-22.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Hunter 8, Middleton 7, Wright 5, Cain 4, Thomas 4, Baldwin 3, Denerd 3; Moultrie — Brinkley 11, Willis 6, Hayes 6, Weeks 5, Hall 4, Daniels 3, Griffin 3, Payne 3, French 3.

Score By Quarters

Valdosta 6 0 9 15-31

Moultrie 3 7 0 7-14

Scoring:

Vald. — Belue 3 run (kick failed)

Moul. — S. Tyus 2 run (S. Tyus kick)

Vald. — Baldwin 31 field goal

Vald. — Gaskins 2 run (kick failed)

Vald. — Wilson 36 pass from Belue (Baldwin kick)

Vald. — Baldwin 47 field goal

Moul. — M. Tyus 52 pass from S. Tyus (S. Tyus kick)

Moul. — C. Williams 37 fumble return (kick failed)

Moultrie Aims For Third Straits als Sk

By JULIAN MILLER
MOULTRIE — One day before his Moultrie Packers take on fourth ranked Valdosta in their annual Region 1-AAA high school football war, Bud Willis sent a message to Nick Hyder: "Tell Nick we'd sure like to make it three in a row!"

But Hyder, probably the only person in Valdosta who won't find the humor in the message, already knew it.

Despite the fact that his Wildcats go into the battle with a 4-1 record and number four ranking in the state, and all the Packers have to show are two wins in five starts, he is openly frightened.

The Wildcats, who have lost three out of their last four games with the Packers, have never beaten Moultrie since Hyder took over their helm. And Hyder would like to end that status.

And that's when both head football coaches start talking the same lines: "Moultrie has done what it takes to

turn it around," Hyder said of the Pack, which comes into the fray with a two-game win streak.

"Yeah," admitted Willis, "we're doing better than we were, by golly!"

But while Hyder tries to figure out what the Packers are going to try to do now, Willis is busy trying to figure out what happened to give his team its worst start ever under his leadership.

"It was terrible," he said. "We had things happen to us that shouldn't happen to anyone. We were bruised up pretty good and then the truth of the matter is we ran up against a pretty good football team in Central (of Thomasville), Lowndes was much improved and Tift (County) had improved — and bingo we'd done lost three ball games before we ever got started."

Willis admits he may have taken over the helm of the Packers with visions of never losing a game, "But after 12 years I found out (you can't win 'em

all). Still, it never feels good.

"A coach likes to walk into a dressing room after a victory and see the kids he has worked with half his life happy."

"But we started working harder and trying to get the feeling back up under our belts ... take stock in the situation and see what this thing is all about. We're used to going up against Valdosta undefeated."

What it's about is that the Packers, who are known for size, good overall speed and at least one fleet footed running back who can break the big play from the ground at any time, have none of the above this year.

"Our backs are slow, and our lines are both little and slow ... usually it's one or the other," Willis contends. "We've always had one (back with speed) but we don't have one this year. And it really hurts when we don't have a back that can break it."

To compensate for that, the Packers have taken to the air with quarterback

Steve Tyus and his pass look up I see

of Milton Tyus, Larry s for each

Herbert McCoy. extra base hits that included double and triple by Hal

The Pack has thrown cRae.

before and consequen That overcame a pair of

game at 8 p.m. Frid The runs by Graig Nettles

Mack Tharpe Stadium, the Yankees and sent the

three passing attack in so division champions back

"We've had to throw one more game in this see-

if offering an apology w series.

doing a great job of it McRae, who broke out of a

of a great little old g imp that had left him

athlete but a good less in the first three

highly respected by al games of the series, thought

It's not his own para it beating Hunter in Game

that of Valdosta's th t would give the Royals

the gentleman of edge tonight.

coaching ranks, go I feel we have the

match. mentum now," said

"I don't know w Rae. "I think we're in the

coming in from dow t position. We beat their

"Valdosta has al t pitcher — their big gun.

football, and I hav y won't have the same

them coming up he h in the guy they throw

over our field with t orrow (Thursday night)

Oct. 17, 1976 Dosta vs Lowndes It's More Than Just A Game



Julian Miller
 Times Sports Editor

About a month ago, when Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes Vikings were just getting their 1976 high school football campaigns on the road, Joe Wilson and Jack Rudolph made some secret plans to build up the upcoming confrontation between their two teams.

Now, a week before the two intra-city rivals clash in a Region 1-AAA headliner, neither has said a word. First of all, the game doesn't need it. Nothing either could say could build the rivalry any more than it already is.

And second, neither would dare. Things have gotten too serious to start monkeying around now.

Friday night's showdown at Cleveland Field promises to be the most exciting thing to happen to football in this area since the inflatable balls were invented.

First of all, the game pits two of the bitterest rivals in the region against each other. Ordinarily, that would be enough. But the two teams have rarely gone into the game on even status before. The one exception was the 1974 season when the Wildcats were doing as bad as the Vikings were accustomed to doing going into the fray.

This time, however, the new-look Vikings go into the match doing as well as the Wildcats are accustomed to, and the heat of the rivalry grows higher. Both teams not only take a 5-1 record into the meeting but hopes of a region championship as well.

And that's only the beginning.

For one thing, the game matches two of region's top three passers, Lowndes' Lynn Pattillo, a surprisingly improved senior who has passed for 783 yards, and Valdosta's junior Buck Belue, the third leading passer, who was named Region 1-AAA's offensive player of the year as a sophomore.

Belue has completed 49 of 97 attempts for 642 yards. But each of the quarterbacks shares many other duties.

Pattillo, for instance, punts, kicks extra points and kicks off. In fact, he's the number one punter in the region. Belue also punts and serves as the number one rusher for the Wildcats.

Each has ample pass receivers. Nathaniel Burks, for example, is second in the region in pass receptions with 21 for 249 yards and five touchdowns. George Waters is seventh in the league after snagging 15 for 145. Pattillo can also throw to newcomer Clarence Reed, end David Johnson, fullback James Marshall and end Joe Kelly.

Belue, meanwhile, has last week's number six and eight receivers in the league in Leon Johnson (18-253) and Jody Wilson (11-202) but can also throw to halfbacks Bobby Gaskins, Ernest King and Robert Smith, fullback Bobby Johnson, and ends Alvin Thomas, Frank Council and Craig Adams.

On the ground, the Vikings have a decided advantage with the likes of Marshall, who has rushed 91 times for 392 yards, Waters (29-151) and Pattillo (63-86). But the Wildcats show more depth on the ground and rapid improvement with Belue (46-258), Johnson (40-190), Gaskins (46-156), Robert Baldwin (14-87), Smith (17-60), Holcome (13-29), and John Lastinger (9-38).

All things being even in those two categories, the spotlight turns to defense, where Valdosta takes a decided edge. The Wildcats have given up only 58 points against their 167. Lowndes has given up 59 points against its own 117.

Valdosta's defense has been credited with winning the first two games of the season, mostly behind the power of its defensive line and linebackers.

The Lowndes line has done almost as well but it depends mainly on its secondary to stop opposing pass attacks. Against Westover last Friday, for instance, four different Vikings picked off Patriot passes during the night.

While Valdosta's defense is easier to pass on, according to region statistics, the Wildcat secondary can usually hold onto opposing receivers long enough for their more experienced defensive line to nail the quarterbacks.

Each team must count on its quarterback to pull off the impossible. Lowndes found the odds stacked against them two weeks ago when Pattillo developed a knee injury against Central of Thomasville.

A check with the past scores gives the Wildcats a decided edge. They defeated Monroe of Albany 30-0 and Moultrie 31-14 while Lowndes upended Monroe's Tornadoes 28-14 and Moultrie's Packers 13-6.

But that's where past feats end and personalities take over.

Wilson, Lowndes' head coach, comes to the Vikings from a long assistant coaching career at VHS. In fact, he probably knows the old Valdosta multiple offense better than anyone else.

But while he would like nothing better than to defeat his old team and alma mater, and consequently his own son, Jody, who still plays for the 'Cats, the desire is probably just as great in Hyder to win over Wilson.

While those two are fighting it out on the football field, another group may be fighting it out in the pressbox.

In the past, no Valdosta radio station has ever been allowed to air a live broadcast of a home game. This year both WVLD, which broadcasts VHS road games, and WGAF, which airs Lowndes games, are to be producing a live play by play.

Those stations are hoping to prove once and for all to Valdosta, and that live broadcasts will help, not hinder the paying crowds. And judging from the way things shape up, it looks like a mighty good game to try to prove their points.

Lowndes and Valdosta—It's a

Lowndes and Valdosta—It's a

Lowndes and Valdosta—It's a

Lowndes and Valdosta—It's a

Lowndes and Valdosta—It's a

By LAWRENCE DENNIS
 Times-Union Sports Writer

Crosstown rivalries can get pretty hairy sometimes.

When both teams are playing out-of-town opponents it's always "them and us," but when the battle lines are drawn up between really close neighbors they can often divide towns, neighborhoods and even families.

That'll be the case in Valdosta Friday night when Lowndes visits crosstown rival Valdosta in a Region 1-AAA clash.

VALDOSTA HAS been a perennial 1-AAA power for more years than most of the players in Friday night's contest have been around. Lowndes hasn't been as impressive. The Vikes have never beaten their city cousins, and in fact

have only come as close as 13 points once, in 1973, when Valdosta won, 20-7.

The people out by Interstate 75 have traditionally referred to the Valdostans as stuck-up city snobs, while the Wildcats have retaliated with jibes about rednecks and country bumpkins — the two schools' attendance zones are determined by the city limits.

The "rednecks" are hungry for a win — they've got seven years of starvation to make up for. The "snobs?" Well, Valdosta doesn't ever like losing a game — they've never gotten used to it — and they especially don't want to lose one to Lowndes: They'd never hear the end of it.

Which makes the game a pretty big deal for everyone involved.

IT CAN'T be a bigger deal for anyone than it can be for two of the games participants though.

Joe Wilson coaches Lowndes — and has coached them to a 5-1 season so far — and his son, Jody, is a wide receiver for Valdosta.

And what's going on around the supper table at the Wilson household the past week?

"I think one of us is scared and the other one is glad of it," laughed Poppa Wilson, who coached at Valdosta for 14 years before moving to Lowndes this year. "Really, we don't talk about it a whole lot. There's probably been less talk of football around our dinner table than around any other one in town."

"WE NEVER really get serious about the game," son Jody, a junior Wildcat, said. "There's some joking between us two about it, but he doesn't say a lot about it."

Jody gets a little bit of static from his teammates. "They ask me what he

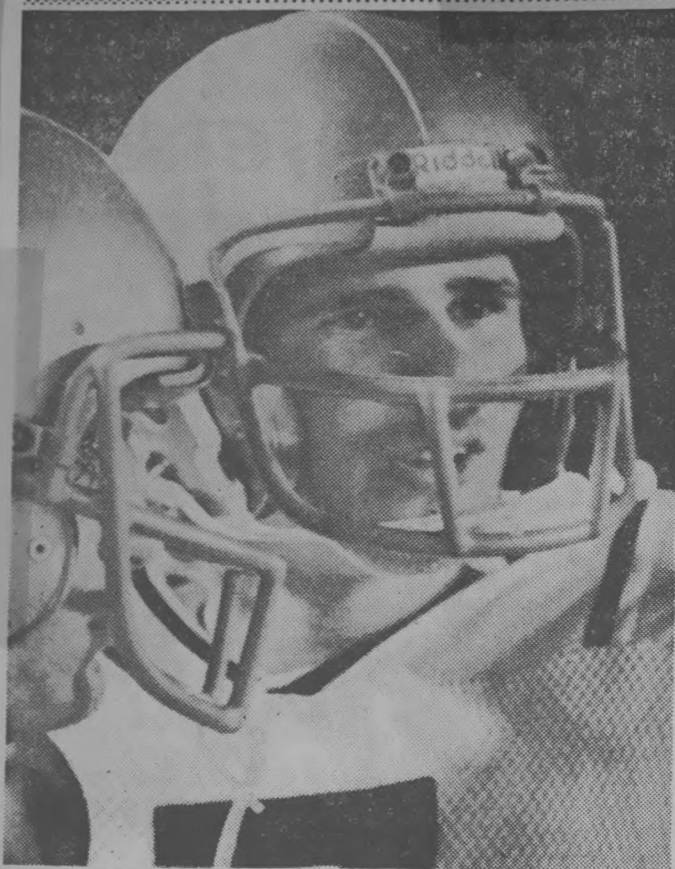
(Coach Wilson) has been saying doing this week, but we never much about the game — who's going to take

The Wilsons, unlike many Wildcat and Viking fans, are save everything for the field. "It's a big think much about it anyway anybody contended. "Everything that's

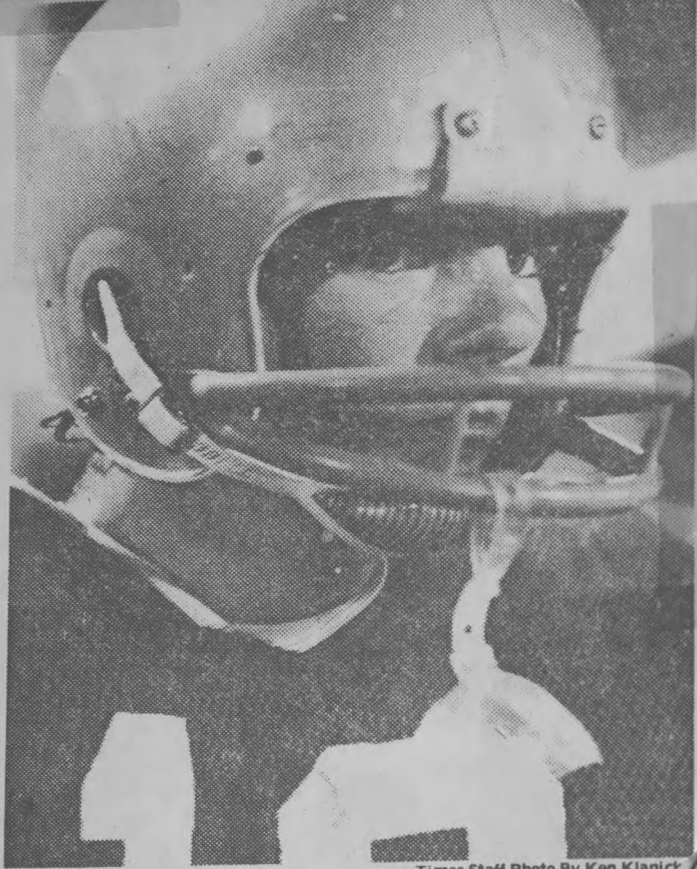
Scores
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—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III



—Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanick

Two Of The Best: Buck Belue (Left) And Lynn Pattillo Look Ahead To Friday Cont

Third Time Around

Pattillo, Belue Meet Again

Every successful high school football team needs a quarterback who can turn the offensive ignition switch on crucial occasions. Friday night's battle between Lowndes and Valdosta is one of those occasions, and both teams have quarterbacks who can really turn it on.

Valdosta signal caller Buck Belue has been one of the most publicized schoolboy athletes in Georgia during the past three seasons and with good reason. One of the few freshmen ever to handle the controls of the famed Valdosta multiple offense, Belue showed as a 15-year-old he had the ability to become a terrific offensive football player despite the 1974 team's 3-7 record.

Shrugging off the old sophomore jinx theory a year ago, Belue took advantage of a veteran offensive line to guide the 'Cats to the Region 1-AAA title and gain Offensive Player of the Year honors for himself. This season Belue has turned into the team's top rusher as well as its punter. He's third in the league in passing and has been a key factor in coach Nick Hyder's team's 5-1 record.

Lynn Pattillo took over the Viking controls midway through his sophomore season and hasn't let go since. He has never known the glamor Belue has experienced because he's never been the key man in the offense Lowndes employed...until this season.

When Joe Wilson was named head coach at Lowndes, he knew his revitalization program had to start with the offense, and the offense had to have a quarterback who could throw. Pattillo filled the bill perfectly.

At 150 pounds, Pattillo is one of the lightest quarterbacks in the region but perhaps its most deadly passer. He's leading the league in passing and punting and threw for 195 yards in a 26-12 Lowndes' win over Westover of Albany last week. Working behind an offensive line that is so far giving him time to throw, Pattillo is the main reason behind the Vikings 5-1 record.

Belue and Pattillo have met two previous times during the regular season. As they have in every meeting in the history of the two schools' rivalry, the Wildcats won both games handily. In a spring game last season, Valdosta won a 35-7 rout. It was Pattillo's first test with the Wilson offense. He's learned a lot since then.

"This is the first time we've played them with equal records," Pattillo said, "and we're going to be going after them. I hope we get them this time."

Belue expressed respect for the Vikings and Pattillo who he was quick to call his "good friend."

"I saw them play against Albany, and they looked pretty impressive," Belue said. "I think this is the first time they've played us with over a .500 record, and that might make a difference."

Belue said the 'Cats were fired up for the annual matchup, but he personally regarded the game as no bigger a contest than the Thomasville game which Valdosta won 29-9. For the first time, he regards both Lowndes and Thomasville as contenders for the region title.

Wilson is in the unique position of having coached both quarterbacks. As offensive coordinator at Valdosta last season, he tutored Belue through the intricacies of the multiple offense which he's now adapted at Lowndes.

"Buck is bigger, stronger and more experienced in the kind of attack they're running," Wilson said. "He's been running that offense since he was in junior high."

"I've said all along that this offense is one you have to grow up in. Well, Lynn's only been running it a half a season. He has not run

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Oct. 19, 1976-11



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Writer

a pro type offense in the past. He did more handing off and less passing. He has caught on and done a beautiful job."

Wilson views both quarterbacks as having their strong points. He cites Belue's ability on the sprint option pass which Buck said he used twice against Moultrie on long runs. Wilson believes Pattillo can carry the ball up the middle better when his patterns break down.

"Buck's got the edge in receivers," Wilson said. "I think Valdosta's receivers are head and shoulders above ours. Jody (Wilson's son) was their best receiver in terms of yards gained last year, and then they've got 'Abu' (Alvin Thomas) and Leon Johnson. Both of them are basketball players with good size."

"We may have the edge on the back coming out of the backfield, but on the other three they are ahead. Nathaniel (Burks) could be the premier pass receiver in the region. He played on the (Lowndes) B-team last year and just doesn't have much experience. Our split end (Clarence Reed) only weighs 135 pounds, but made some good catches for us last week. George (Waters) has started to catch the ball a little too."

Hyder gives the psychological edge to Pattillo.

"Lynn being a senior and coming on real strong like he has, I'd just have to say it gives him a little psychological edge," Hyder said. "He directs their offense real well, and throws that ball with pinpoint accuracy. He's done an outstanding job of catching on to the style of play Joe teaches."

"But Lynn is a senior, and Buck's a junior. Lynn is looking at his last year in (high school) football. He knows there is no tomorrow."

Hyder calls Belue "the best all round" quarterback he's seen in 19 years of high school coaching.

"He just continues to amaze me," Hyder said. "He's had to adjust to a lot of new people this year, and he's done it real well. The second half against Dougherty he gave us the leadership we needed. I can't remember coaching a better passer."

So there you have it...two quarterbacks who can run, pass, and punt. The loss of either one would cripple that team's offense and probably lead to a victory for the other. Both tried to stress the importance of their teammates, but realize they are to be the center of attention.

For only a brief moment in their lives, Pattillo and Belue will be enemies Friday night. But when that moment is passed, their friendship, just as time always does, will go on.

Wildcats To Keep Their City Crown

Some time ago, before this writer ever read the sports section of the daily newspaper in fact, some kind soul decided the sports editor should guess each week on how the high school football games would go that night.

That was long ago, when Valdosta only had one high school football team and it was almost guaranteed that a vote for that team would raise the right column on his right-wrong average by at least one game.

Whoever came up with the brainstorm never considered the fact that Valdosta may one day have another high school football team and that one day they'd go against each other with 5-1 records and enough furor to raise the Titanic.

Nevertheless, the tradition has been extended until now and in days of old, the old high school prognosticator has managed to maintain a healthy average in his picks.

Unfortunately, however, people remember what they can remember and even if the old man picked 1,000 right this week, 99 per cent of his readers will be interested in only one. And we're into him if he gets it wrong.

Consequently, that brings on a special tactic. It's called a cop-out. But it's an obvious cop-out in a game such as this when Lowndes and Valdosta have so much at stake. And deciding what to do is a week long decision.

It comes at an ironic time. The seer hit right on 26 of 27 predictions last week to raise his right-wrong record so far this season 147-44, finally an .800 average.

And here comes the doomsday report for this week:

LOWNDES at VALDOSTA

There's more at stake here than just a football game. But you've already heard all that. There'll be no coin flips, ties or cop-outs. In a game this close you go by tradition...and mutual respect. Coaches of both teams have requested I pick their opponents. Much for credibility.

So far the Wildcats have looked more impressive against some teams although the Vikings have looked more impressive than they ever have before. The pendulum points to the Wildcats. Valdosta, 28-15.

DOUGHERTY at THOMASVILLE

While Valdosta and Dougherty fight it out here, these two teams may actually be deciding the region championship. Fact is, somebody has to beat both Dougherty and Central of Thomasville or either Valdosta or Lowndes are to get a second chance.

It appears as though only Dougherty is left to defeat Central. That leaves only Thomasville to knock off Dougherty. But with two wins and knowing they're out of the race it doesn't look like Bulldogs can do it. Dougherty, 20-9.

BERRIEN at CLINCH

What a difference a year makes. Last season Berrien was Class AA and Clinch in Class B. That's quite a difference. The same match wouldn't have really meant that much anyway. This year it could mean everything, and surprisingly it looks like going to the little guys. Clinch, 14-12.

HAMILTON at SUWANNEE

In North Florida, Hamilton's Trojans are convincing even though they're just as tough as last year when they went all the way to state finals. Why not Suwannee? Hamilton, 14-3.

WESTBROOK at BROOKWOOD

Westbrook's Cougars had it easy last week against Westover Citizen's Christian in Douglas. Taking on powerful Brookwood Thomasville is something else. Methinks the Cougars might find out why Brookwood is a perennial favorite...again. Brookwood, 21-6.

COOK at WARE

It's the same sad song. And it gets sadder by the week. Ware's Hornets. A win would do wonders for the Adel crew but County is anything but willing to help. Ware, 21-7.

CAMDEN at BROOKS

Same song, second verse. Brooks' Trojans would be a match for Cook's Hornets. But not for Camden's Wildcats. Camden, 30-0.

MADISON at FAMU HIGH

You guessed it...third verse. Madison's Cougars would be things just as rough against the Hornets and Trojans in the games above. Once again, FAMU High's Rattlers are anything but willing to help. FAMU, 13-0.

OTHER GAMES

Monroe over Bainbridge, Moultrie over Crisp Co., Tift Co. over Westover, Northside Warner Robins over Baker, Americus over Kendrick, Fayette Co. over Baldwin, Waycross over Appling, Cairo over Fitzgerald, Coffee Co. over Worth Co., Dodge Co. over Peach Co.

Dublin over W. Laurens, East Rome over West Rome, Irwin Co. over Turner Co., Terrell Co. over Lee Co., Lyons over Milledgeville, Irwin Co. over Brantley Co., Mary Persons over Milledgeville.



Jody—'He's Responsible For What I Am Today'



Joe—'When It's Over, He'll Be Jody And I'll Be Daddy.'

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Oct. 20, 1976—21—



Julian Miller

Times Sports Editor

Coach Joe Vs Jody

It's No Family Affair For Them

Smack dab in the middle of the Valdosta High School cafeteria is a huge paper sign reading: "Jody says sock it to the Ole Grey Fox!"

The ordinary school visitor might not even notice it. And if he did, he probably wouldn't know what it meant.

But everyone at Valdosta High School and cross town at Lowndes High School knows it's talking about Joe Wilson and his son Jody.

Joe Wilson is head coach of Lowndes High's Vikings, 5-1 so far this season in their best start ever and on the brink of setting their best record ever in Region 1-AAA.

Jody Wilson is his 16-year-old son, top pass receiver for Valdosta's Wildcats, also 5-1 in Region 1-AAA and hoping to repeat as region champions.

The sign is obvious ... the two teams play each other in what promises to be the biggest intra-city football clash ever in Valdosta here Friday night.

But while tension, excitement and gala mount by the hour, things are relatively calm around the Wilson household, where what may be the most sports-minded family in Valdosta talks about Friday's 8 p.m. confrontation.

"It's all in good fun," points out the elder Wilson, who was dubbed the 'Ole Grey Fox' while serving as offensive co-ordinator for the Wildcats since 1962. "Some people have gotten away from the fact that this is all for the kids, the students and players.

"I can take all the ribbing. Jody's a fine young man and he can take it too. But we just don't have a whole lot of it going on between the two of us."

It's not that the Wilsons purposely play down the game — "There no sense saying it's just another game. In reality, it isn't. It's THE game. But family and religion and certain things like that come first," the elder member says.

To hear the first year head coach talk about it, the only discussion between the two is an occasional bit of advice from the coach to his son.

"I tell him to go to bed early to get his rest and to eat properly," Coach Joe

says. "But I don't tease him and in turn he doesn't tease me. If you talk to Jody, he'll probably play it down too."

To hear Jody tell it, things are not always quite as innocent, but his father was correct in saying the younger gridiron star plays down the confrontation between them.

"You know how he (Joe) is," Jody explained. "He jokes about taking it easy on us ... you know the kind of things he would say. But there's really not that much controversy."

The Viking coach bends over backwards to keep controversy about himself away from his eldest son. When Wilson left his assistant's job and that of head coach of the basketball Wildcats during the 1975-76 basketball season, he bluntly told this reporter; "I'll quit coaching and never pick up another football if this change will make things rough on Jody. But he's a smart young man and I think he can take it."

The coach was right. Although under pressure from both Valdosta ... to stay, and Lowndes ... to follow his father over to the new school, Jody made his own decision to stay for his junior year at Valdosta.

"Yes sir, I thought an awful lot about it," the younger Wilson recalled. "Really, I thought he was the best offensive coach anyone would have an opportunity to play under and as far as him being head coach I really wanted to play under him."

Some high school youngsters might not feel that way about their old man. But then the relationship between the two Wilsons is a little closer than the usual between father and son.

"I've been sports minded ever since I was real little," Jody explains, "and he's always been involved in everything I've been associated with. He's helped me a lot and he's responsible for what I am today."

Wilson was not only his son's football coach and basketball coach in high school, he was head coach of Jody's little league and pony league teams before prep years and in general,

probably Jody's biggest fan.

And even now, when the two obviously have different opinions on how things should come out Friday night, coach Joe doesn't let it come between them.

"He takes a lot of pressure off me," explains Jody. "He's the type of person who can do that. Even if I was playing in another big game, he would try to keep me cool and level-headed."

"People could make an unpleasant situation out of this if they were given a chance, I guess," the elder Wilson said. "But we won't let that happen."

"We're too close with everyone. Why Jody and Buck Belue (Valdosta's star quarterback and Jody's closest friend) have sat around my house until three in the morning after a game night talking about their game and ours."

"There hasn't been a whole lot of kidding between us before this game and I don't think there'll be afterwards. There wasn't after the spring game (when Nick Hyder's Wildcats defeated the Vikings soundly, 35-7.)"

Of course that doesn't go for everyone in the family. There's also Mrs. Wilson (Jean) and younger brother Jay Bird to contend with. But on the whole, both Joe and Jody contend their needling is bi-partisan.

"Jody's Mama gets on us and his little brother, the Bird, likes to kid anybody," the elder Wilson explains. "But when it's over, he'll still be Jody and I'll be daddy."

Until then however, there's still a game to be played. And when the two meet in the middle of Valdosta's Cleveland Field Friday night, that's what will be on their minds.

"We'll play him like any good receiver," the elder Wilson explains.

"They said today (Tuesday) that all the tickets had been sold," Jody said. "It ought to be a football game. And all the pressure's on us!"

So, no matter what, the two Wilsons will be playing to win. But if the loser doesn't look so much like a loser when all is said and done, it won't be hard to understand why.

Wilson, Vikings Earn Their Wish

The battle is over...the war has been won. But the general concensus of the most recent edition of the annual Valdosta-Lowndes city championship struggle is that Valdosta won the game but Lowndes gave the Wildcats all they wanted.

The observations go deeper than that. To most of the 11,000-plus fans who watched in Cleveland Field Saturday night and the umpteen hundreds who listened in on radio, it was obvious, Lowndes had the ball game won until the last five minutes of play.

That's when the Wildcats, who have never lost a game to their cross-town cousins, rallied back with two touchdowns to offset Lowndes first half field goal.

Joe Wilson is probably willing to lay odds that sometime within the next three years the outcome will be the other way around. And if the advancement his Vikings make in their next year under his rule is anything like the first year you'd be a fool to take him up on it.

Wilson went into the highly publicized fray with only one request of his team and the news media. "I don't care who wins or loses, I don't want to see anybody say this is 'the same old Lowndes,'" he said.

Wilson and his Vikings have earned their wish. It's definitely not the same old Lowndes. The old Lowndes had a bad habit of folding every time they saw a black and gold jersey. The old Lowndes would never have given Valdosta the fight the new Vikings did. And it didn't take a football fan to notice.

Enter Times photography editor Robert Winter III, stage left. Winter, a well-known figure around these parts, is recognized as a general genius. And geniuses, as the saying goes, usually could care less about football.

Robert fills the bill perfectly. His only interest in football is the pictures he gets out of the game. But he notices people, attitudes, efforts and pride. He noticed them all Friday night.

Interception Hurt

"That's not the same Lowndes team I've been shooting (pictures of) all these years," Winter said after the game Friday, totally oblivious to all the printed reports to the same effect published before the game.

"The old Lowndes team would never have caught the passes they caught last night. Some of the ones they caught just shouldn't have been caught! For most of the game it really looked like Lowndes was outplaying Valdosta."

There was good reason for things looking that way, Robert ... That's exactly the way they were.

The Vikings not only cut off Valdosta's feared passing attack, they intercepted four of Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue's passes and recovered three Wildcat fumbles, fumbles they had caused with their undying habit of grabbing the football first and then the ball carrier.

Ironically, it was the fourth pass interception, however, and not the roughing the kicker penalty that really turned the tables for the Wildcats.

The roughing the kicker penalty only gave Valdosta a first and 10 at the Lowndes 35. After the next play it was a first and 15 from the Lowndes 40. The 'Cats had been there before and the Viking defense had held strong.

The turning point came when Belue lofted a 34-yard pass to Leon Johnson down the right sidelines, releasing the pass just as Johnson slipped to the ground.

Lowndes safety Richard Landrum had no choice but to intercept it. After all it WAS a first down pass and if he didn't Belue would have three more chances to accomplish his goal.

But when Valdosta fans realized they finally had the Vikings backed up to their own goal line, instead of vice versa as it had been all night, most of them smiled. They knew the Valdosta defense is unmerciful inside the opposition's 10.

Credit Defense

After all, most teams take few chances on throwing from their own end zone. And with a nine man rush on, even if they do, it must be quick. As they had done in every other game this season, the Wildcats' stop 'em team held, then forced a crucial fumble with a high-low tackle by Curtis Williams and Ricky Warren.

That set Valdosta up on the five yard line and the following touchdown, although disputed, was routine.

"For all practical purposes the game was over right then," admitted Wilson. When a clipping penalty killed Lowndes' next drive in the waning moments of the game the Vikings finally relented...or the Wildcats finally rallied on their own. At any event, VHS put together a 69-yard drive for another touchdown. Belue got it on the last play of the game.

Most of the pre-game attention had been centered on Wilson, Valdosta's offensive co-ordinator for most of the past 16 years, and Hyder, Valdosta's third year head coach. But in reality it was their defensive co-ordinators who probably deserve most of the credit.

Jack Rudolph, who returned to the Wildcats last season, and Brad Almon, who once spearheaded Thomasville's defense, but came out of retirement to work with Wilson, were in charge of the two most impressive aspects of the game.

Leading the way were linebackers Keith Middleton, a Valdosta senior, and Ronnie Adkins, a Lowndes sophomore.

"If Adkins isn't All-Region they should quit giving it," Almon said of the sophomore. Middleton has drawn so much acclaim in his career at VHS most people don't even worry about All-Region titles any more.

All-in-all, the annual showdown didn't come off as well as either side expected, but absolutely no one was asking for their money back. Most of them wouldn't even leave the field when the game was over.

But for the first time in the history of the series, Viking fans were leaving with the statement, "wait until next year."

Lowndes at Valdosta

Battle of Compliments Precedes Friday's Showdown

By JULIAN MILLER

Three days before his Vikings were to take on Valdosta's Wildcats in the annual Valdosta-Lowndes High Region 1-AAA cross-city showdown, Joe Wilson called a Valdosta sports writer.

"If I had my choice of beating Valdosta this weekend and losing all the rest of the games this season, or losing to Valdosta and winning the three games left, which do you think I'd choose?" he queried.

"Beat Valdosta?"

"To beat Valdosta!"

"Hey coach, that's not what you said Sunday night, is it?"

"No, it's not. But this thing has gotten BIG since then! And you know Valdosta feels the same way!"

And Wilson, in his usual manner of open frankness, had hit the nail on the head. Friday's 8 p.m. showdown of the two cross-town rivals, each 5-1, hoping for a berth in the region playoffs and most of all hoping to knock off the other in the gridiron version of Russian Roulette, may well have drawn more excitement than any game either has been associated with before.

It certainly has at Lowndes, where the Vikings, 5-1 and on the verge of their first winning season ever, have set their sights on doing it with their first win

ever over their rivals who have kept them in the shadows of high school football ever since their school was built.

But it's no different at Valdosta where Nick Hyder's Wildcats are desperately trying to get back into the region title race to prove their 1975 championship after their most miserable showing since 1963 in 1974 was no fluke.

And ironically, each of the two coaches warmed up for the match trying to convince everyone they'd rather be coaching the other team. It started with the quarterbacks:

Wilson: "Looking at both teams, let's start with the Moultrie game ('vs. Valdosta.) Robert Baldwin kicks off five times into the end zone ... (quarterback) Buck (Belue) averages 50 yards a kick, Baldwin kicks field goals longer every day ... I think it's around 80 yards or so now — Valdosta has the best kicking game ever."

"And Buck threw for 1,500 yards in his freshman and sophomore year alone. He's head and shoulders the better passer. I tell you, we're gonna have our hands full."

And then Hyder: "I'm tremendously impressed with (Lowndes quarterback Lynn) Pattillo. He's always a good

athlete who can do anything. When I saw Lowndes play, Pattillo executed extremely well and every one of his interceptions have been tipped passes that probably should have been caught by his own men. He's an extremely versatile young man, a senior, and don't forget he's the leading passer in the region."

Pattillo, however, may be a doubtful starter for the slugfest. Besides nursing an injured knee the senior has developed a strep throat.

The battle of the compliments continued between the two coaches as the showdown date drew nigh.

"Valdosta's got that iron curtain defense with three starters on the offensive line, (David) Cooper, (Ben) Blanton and (Tom) Copeland rated as top college prospects," Wilson continued. "They've got depth, maturity, experience and the home field advantage."

"They're going to be playing on their own home field before 12-13,000 people like they're used to while our kids aren't, and they've got that Valdosta tradition...what do ya'll call it — a ghost?"

"This is the first year Lowndes has

(See Battle, Page 22)



Hyder — "They're impressive, aggressive and play together well."



Wilson — "How far can finesse, hard work and spirit take you?"

Oct. 21, 1976

But It's Not Valdosta Yet

'Lowndes Ain't The Same Old Lowndes Anymore'

By MIKE CHASON

Lowndes is not the same Lowndes, but Lowndes is not yet Valdosta.

Rev. Bobby L. Telum

Corner River Street and Stanley St.

AZALEA CITY CHURCH OF GOD

Post staff member, Stephen Isaacs, found that of 1,744 daily newspapers in the United States in 1970, less than 6 per cent were principally owned by Jews.

score the go-ahead TD.

"The ghost of Cleveland Field jumped up and pulled the yellow flag out of his pocket," and earlier roughing the

doors for me through my talent. I felt that another door was opening when I resigned. Perfect this talent to

Preacher."

"I never had any instruction in card tricks," McCoy says. "It is a God-given talent. I was brought up in a strict Methodist home and we were not even allowed to have cards. But when I was about 6, I got a deck and began practicing in secret. When I showed my family how I was using this ability, they let me continue to

their money in card games. "Many of these youngsters were only 17 or 18 and this was the first time they had been away from home," he says. "Working with these young recruits, an experienced card shark could make as much as \$10,000 a week."

"God has opened many doors for me through my talent. I felt that another door was opening when I resigned. Perfect this talent to

"I lead the prayer before the meal Friday night," McCoy says. "Then, after dinner, I open my session with a few card tricks to help the players to relax. The tricks grab their attention and help open them up. I show them that there really isn't anything that matter with the cards, but it's all in how you use them."

"I challenge them to continue to develop all their talents. Herb McCoy is chaplain of the Valdosta High School football team. He's always a good

The Valdosta Daily Times

goal would hold up for the only score, but he said those thoughts disappeared when he saw the yellow flag float to the turf on the roughing the kicker call.

"Never have I been associated with a finer and more dedicated group of her members. "Park Avenue is a church of real strength and vitality," the minister said.

"The key to real vitality and strength at Park Avenue is in the joyalty and dedication and commitment of her members."

Adkins and that little defense," Wilson said. "But there's no denying we had our opportunities and didn't cash in."

District Superintendent

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta pastor has been appointed superintendent of the Macon district of the South Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Rev. W. O. "Bill" Powell, pastor of Park Avenue United Methodist Church, is to assume his new duties Jan. 1.



"Park Avenue is a church of real strength and vitality," the minister said.

"The key to real vitality and strength at Park Avenue is in the joyalty and dedication and commitment of her members."

"I challenge them to continue to develop all their talents. Herb McCoy is chaplain of the Valdosta High School football team. He's always a good

score the go-ahead TD. "The ghost of Cleveland Field jumped up and pulled the yellow flag out of his pocket," and earlier roughing the

doors for me through my talent. I felt that another door was opening when I resigned. Perfect this talent to

Preacher."

10-22-76

LHS vs VHS:

Wilson's Offense Meets Rudolph's Defense Once Again

By MIKE CHASON

For 12 years Jack Rudolph has matched his defense against Joe Wilson's offense for low stakes. But tonight all the chips are on the table when the two high school football coaches face each other on opposite sides of Cleveland Field.

Wilson is now the head coach of Lowndes' Vikings while Rudolph is in the defensive co-ordinator's position he's held for so many years with Valdosta's Wildcats. Wilson was formerly the offensive strategist for the 'Cats.

But times have changed and so have the Vikings.

Under Wilson's influence, they are now longer the no offense-good defense team of the past. Now they're the leading passing club in Region 1-AAA with an offense that's deadly from anywhere on the field.

Only hours before the 8 p.m. starting time, Rudolph couldn't be more aware of the fact.

"Joe and I have been offending and defending each other for an awful long time," Rudolph said. "But I know he'll have something new tonight."

"We've been working all week getting them ready for any new plays or new offensive formations we could think of. We've been polishing our old defenses and really working hard because you just can't rationalize what's coming out of the hat next."

As if to prove Rudolph's point, Wilson has spent at least part of his practice time this week behind locked doors in Lowndes' Martin Stadium. In Rudolph's mind, there's no telling what one of his best friends is concocting across the way.

"Anything could come," Rudolph emphasized. "We could see anything from a guard around pass right on up. As the game goes on, he's going to see what we're doing, and I'm sure he'll have something."

Across town, Wilson is chuckling over the idea implanted in all Valdostans' heads that he's coming out with a surprise.

"The only surprise we're going to have is Kenny Luke at quarterback if Lynn (Pattillo) is too sick to play," Wilson said. "That would surprise them don't you think?"

It would indeed and Pattillo, Lowndes' starting quarterback, has indeed been sick. He didn't attend school Wednesday because of a strep throat infection, and was reported weakened by his illness at school Thursday.

But Pattillo is Wilson's concern. Lowndes defensive co-ordinator Brad Almon has enough worries of his own about Wildcat quarterback Buck Belue and a talented corps of receivers.

Rudolph — 'You can't rationalize what's coming out of Joe's hat'



Almon — 'Best overall team we've played'



—Times Staff Photos.

"Of course, that bunch over yonder (Central of Thomasville) has really come on strong."

Central, now 6-0, whipped the Vikings 27-8 for Lowndes only loss in six games. Dougherty beat Valdosta 28-26 for the Wildcats' lone setback in six outings.

If statistics mean anything, Almon's defense should be just suited to Coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta offense. The Vikings are lowest in the region in pass defense, allowing only 48.83 yards a game.

Valdosta is dead last in the 13-team league, giving up 101.67 yards a game. The 'Cats are second against the run, allowing only 92.17 yards a game while the Vikes are seventh, giving up 174.33 yards a game.

Lowndes tops the loop in passing with a 153.50 per game average, and Valdosta is second with a 129.00 average.

"With the passing attack they have, I feel certain Joe's going to throw the ball more than anybody has against us," Rudolph said. "Of course, with (James) Marshall at fullback, he's going to run the ball too."

"We're just really hanging loose though. We could get ready for the pass, and he'd come up and run 70 times right at us."

Rudolph figures the strength of his defense lies in the defensive line and at linebacker where Keith Middleton and Robert Baldwin reside. He cited the team's weakness as "over there on the sidelines under my hat."

For the really big game, high school kids often react in different ways. Some get fired up and play over their heads while other yield to the pressure and make mistakes they never would have made against a lesser known foe.

How will the Wildcats react to their biggest challenge ever from the county school which has never beaten the famed Valdosta Black and Gold?

"Sixteen-year-old kids are going to make mistakes," Rudolph said. "You've just got to try to minimize the mistakes. One kid is going to play above another, but you've just got to hope you're basically sound."

How about the Vikings, who have never had a winner in class AAA; and could gain that distinction tonight?

"You always hope a game like this is going to get them to play better," Almon said. "But there's always the chance of mistakes when the pressure's on."

For Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings, the pressure cooker is boiling.

"That puts a lot of added pressure on you when you're playing a quarterback who can do that."

"But I really look for Valdosta to do the same thing that got them where they are now ... passing. I saw them against Dougherty, and I guess they will be the best overall team we've played."

Belue, the third leading passer in the region behind Pattillo and Moultrie's Steve Tyus, has been a master at the sprint-pass option rollout this year. He has developed into Valdosta's leading rusher when he runs instead of passers on the play.

"You better believe that fouls up the defense," Almon said.



City Crown take

By JULIAN MILLER

A bonfire is scheduled at Lowndes High School tonight. Friday may find a Viking ship launched on Valdosta's private sea.

Friday night, Lowndes' Marching Viking band is to join Valdosta's Marching 'Cats in the middle of Cleveland Field to play the Star Spangled Banner.

And that's probably the only friendly gesture that will be seen between the two high schools here this week.

Not that the two public schools have a history of brotherly love. But just after the two bands yield the field Friday, Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings square off in what promises to be the most exciting city cham-

were on the brim of getting a little too exciting for at least one football coach.

"Sometimes I think the boys might be getting too keyed up," admitted Lowndes defensive coordinator Brad Almond. "You know you have to guard against that too."

Battles have broken out in a war for tickets to the game. Valdosta school system officials have announced once again that Cleveland Field seats only 11,000 people and

(See City, Page 2)

Issuing 23 speeding tickets, three for running red lights, six for illegal parking, two for failing to grant right of way and two driving too fast for conditions.

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Moses Samuel
ADDEL — Moses Samuel 63, of Adel, died last Saturday at Adel Memorial Hospital after a short illness.
Born in Greenville, Fla., he had lived in Adel for the past 50 years where he was a member of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church.
Survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Annie Bell Stephens, Mrs. Lula McCullough and Miss Dollie Samuel of Adel; and one brother, Frank Samuel of Adel.
Funeral services are to be held Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church with the Rev. C. H. Parker, pastor, officiating.
Burial is to be in Adel Cemetery.

Joe Freeman Flucas
Joe Freeman Flucas, 50, of 605 E. Force St., died Tuesday in Lake Haven Nursing Home here after a long illness.
Born in Lowndes County, he attended school here, was a member of St. Peter's A.M.E. Church and was custodian in a lawyer's building.

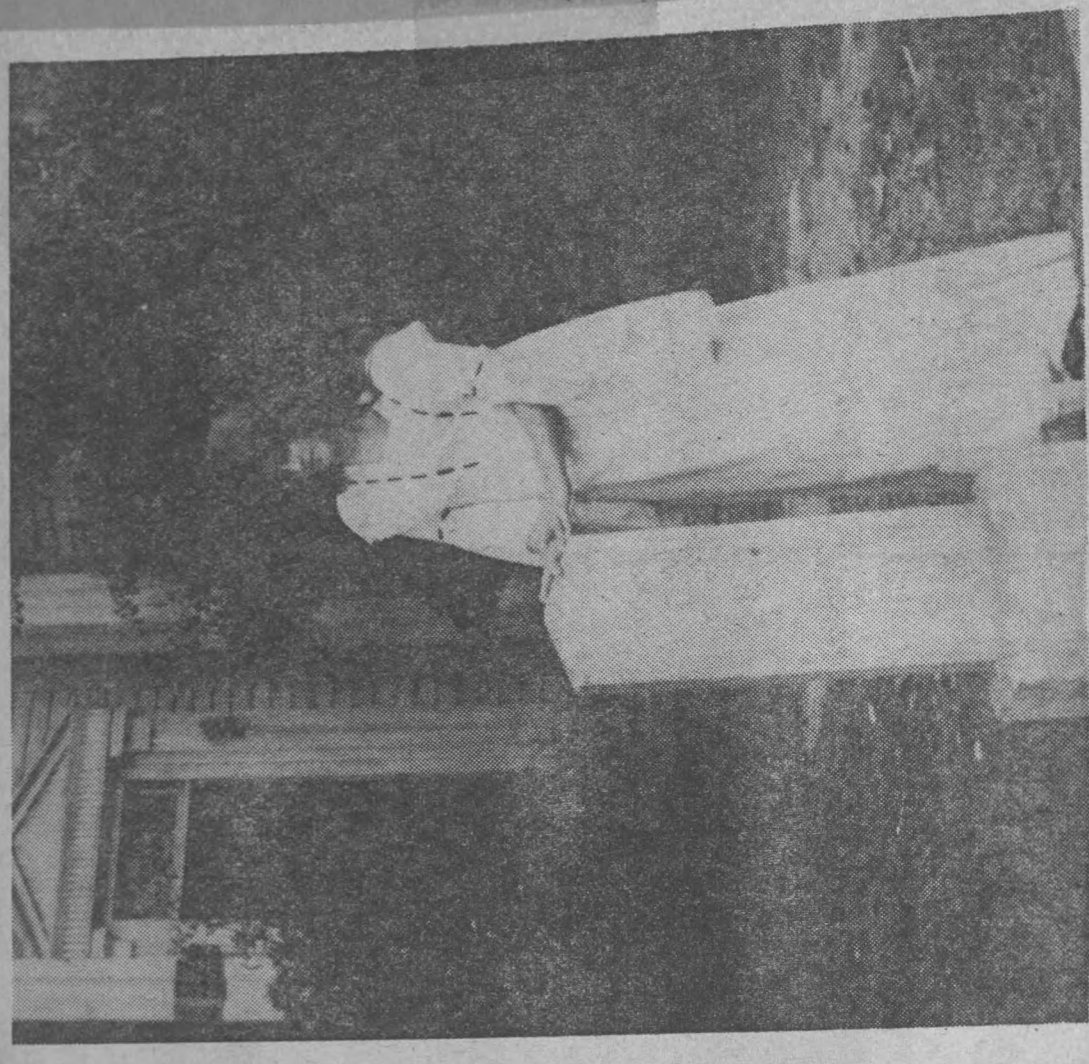


Valdosta, Georgia, Sunday, October 24, 1976

H A L L O W E E N



*Future Goblin Joy Feinberg
Tries Her Coffin For Fit*



Ghostly Welcome Awaits At Haunted House

Demons Get Ready To Prowl

By Times Staff Writer
Area hobgoblins, witches and warlocks, scarecrows and ghosts are putting their holiday finery in order this week for a rousing celebration Saturday night. It's Halloween.

Black witches hats, white-washed ghost suits and rumpled scarecrow garb are being readied for the annual parade of fun-loving fiends as they trick-or-treat from decorated door to decorated door.

Halloween — a time for recognizing the spirits and their special, mystical, magical world.

Mostly it's a time for little "demons" to prowl, looking for a fall larder of fruits, candies and assorted other goodies kept by cautious housedwellers.

At home, at school, the eerie haunting atmosphere of Halloween wafts through the

air just as fabled ghosts slip through the night.

Preparations for the celebration have been in order for weeks.

Haunted houses, and school Halloween carnivals are planned to provide safe family fun for youngsters this season.

The March of Dimes has readied a Haunted House at North and Patterson streets, and Action Travelers has also put together a montage of frightening, haunting delights at old Valdosta High School.

Coffins, devils, graveyards and a spooky shark or two have won many wide-eyed stares and stifled gasps of horror from the early haunted house visitors.

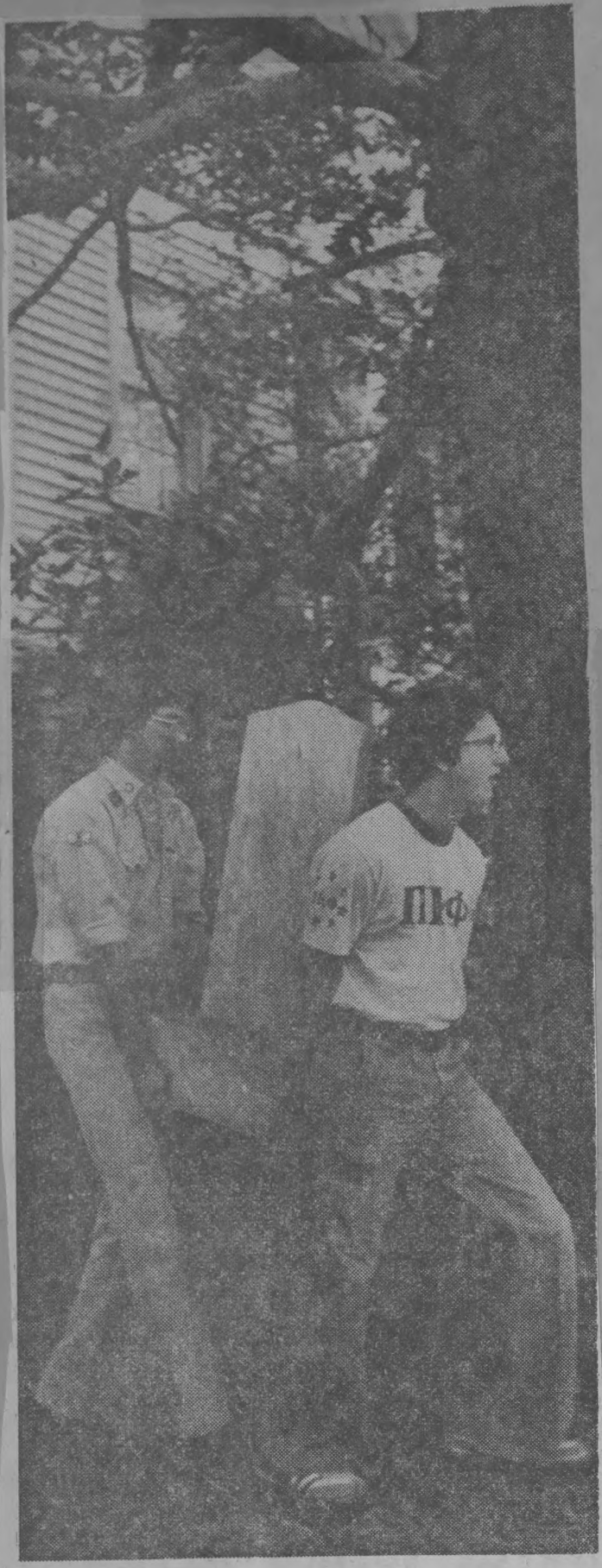
Adults, too, get into the mood of Halloween revelling in the delights of the young and reconciling themselves to the pleasures of autumn.



Gaping Jaws of "Sharkness" Monster Being Prepared By Susan Davis



Eric Kachechofer Paints Goblins In Haunted House



"Grave Robbers" Disturb Eternal Rest.

City Championship

Cats Battle Back To Defeat Determined Vikings

Times Oct. 23, 1976

By JULIAN MILLER

Lowndes' Vikings led Buck Belue and Valdosta's Wildcats through three and a half quarters of horror here Friday night, catching almost as many of the talented quarterback's passes as his own receivers — four.

Had it been only three, Lowndes might have won the ball game.

As it was, however, a sensational pass interception by safety Richard Landrum, his second of the night, gave the Vikings possession at their own six...the first time the Wildcats had pushed the Vikings behind their own 25 yard line.

Three plays later the 'Cats finally did what they had been doing all season, forced a fumble to set up the first of two Belue one-yard touchdown plunges, as the Wildcats stormed back to take a 14-3 victory and their ninth straight city championship in the Region I-AAA high school football game.

When the dust had settled at Valdosta's Cleveland field, most of the 11,000-plus fans, who had endured the last three quarters without a time clock, were refusing to leave and a dazzled Nick Hyder was savoring the taste of victory.

"It was as good a football game as you will ever see," said Hyder of the victory which gave his 'Cats a 6-1 record and retained their hopes of backing back into the region championship race.

"Two good teams fought their hearts out," he continued. "Lowndes played a great game but the Wildcats did too. They both played great...but it could have gone either way."

Indeed it had gone Lowndes' way most of the game, especially since the last Viking drive of the first half when Lowndes quarterback Lynn Pattillo split the uprights perfectly for a 20-yard field goal that held up until the last four minutes of the ball game.

The Vikings had taken advantage of a mix-up between Belue and freshman runningback Ernest King to recover a missed lateral and march 40 yards in four plays — the longest a 26-yard pass to David Johnson, to set up the field goal.

It typified the way Lowndes was dominating the game. The Vikings had three drives into Wildcat territory in the first half and three in the second, to the 18, 30 and 30, while holding the 'Cats deep in their own territory until the last five minutes of play.

Ironically, it was also Lowndes kicking game, in the form of a roughing the kicker penalty, that gave the Wildcats the new life they needed for the last minute heroics. At least that's the way Joe Wilson sees it.

"What can you say," the highly touted Lowndes coach, who for the past 16 years had been an assistant coach at Valdosta, said with honest despair showing all over his face.

"That roughing the kicker penalty killed us. If it hadn't been for that we would have had good field position...that and the fumble."

"But this loss didn't set our program back. We'll have a good season. We're still coming strong."

Valdosta, unable to mount any kind of drive with Vikings secondary picking off most of Belue's passes, found itself in a fourth-and-nine situation at their own 49 when Belue got off a punt.

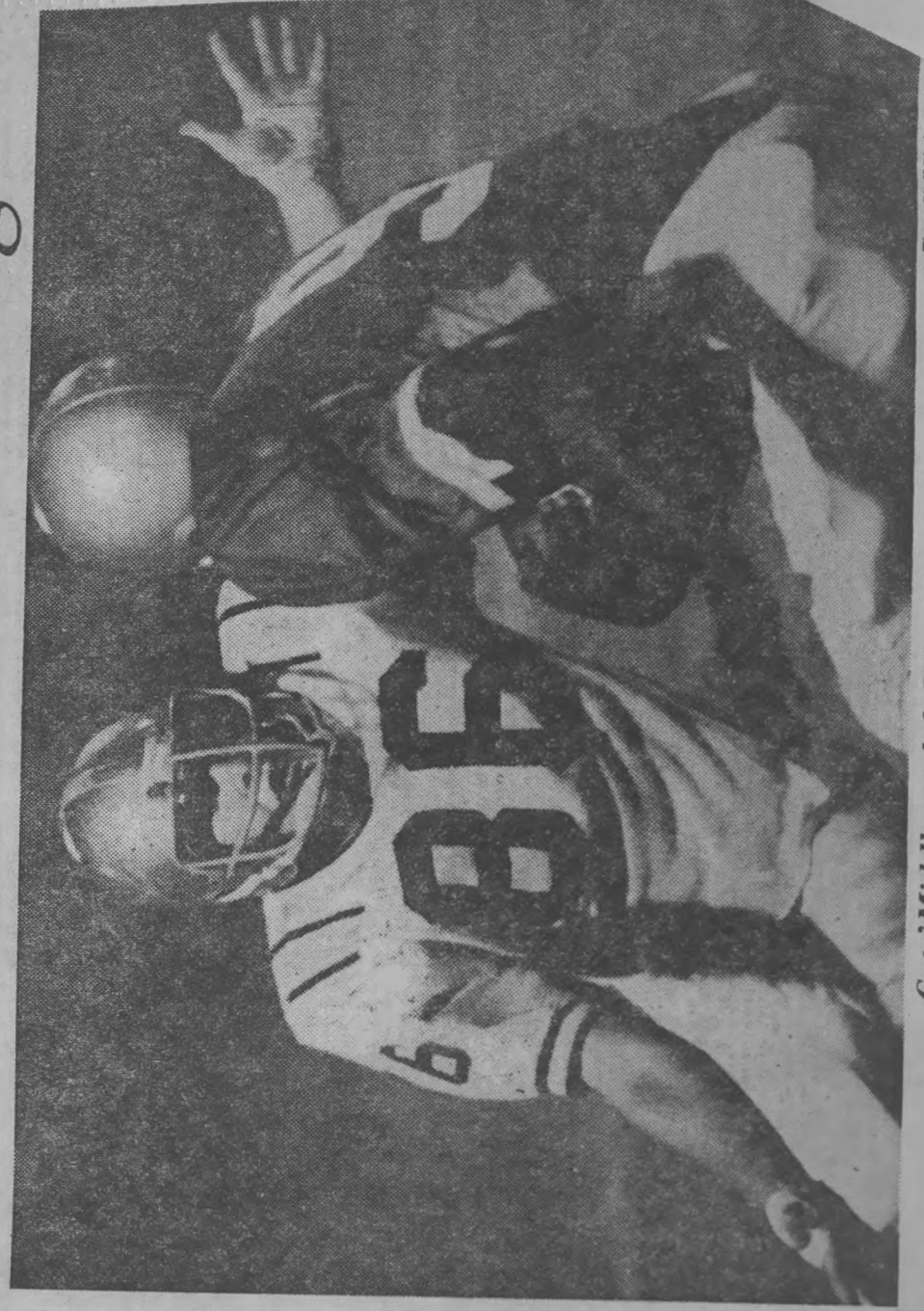
Lowndes' Robin McElroy fielded it at Lowndes' 18 and returned it all the way to the 38, but while everyone was watching that action the officials were watching a Lowndes defender roll Belue.

The 15-yard penalty was enough for a Valdosta first down at the Lowndes 34 and Belue broke around his left end for a 10-yard run that was converted into a five yard loss by a 15-yard clipping penalty.

On the next play Belue lofted a 40-yard pass towards star receiver Leon Johnson. But Johnson stumbled as Belue released and only Landrum, who pulled down his fourth and fifth interceptions of the season, was there to catch it.

He caught the pass over his shoulder and slid to the six where the Vikings took over for one series.

Unfortunately for Lowndes, however (See Cats Page 6)



Cats' Middleton, left, Vikes' Reed Alone At Last

Top Passers To Meet Tonight

By ELLWOOD MOYER
Region 1-AAA Statistician
Four of the top five passers in Region 1-AAA collide tonight when Lowndes meets Crisp County in Valdosta, and Valdosta takes on Tift County in Tifton.

Lowndes quarterback Lynn Pattillo is leading the league in passing as he has for most of the year with 854 yards on 80 of 169 passes. Jim Hughes, his opponent from Cordele tonight, is fourth in the region with 599 yards on 43 of 116 passes.

Valdosta signal caller Buck Belue has thrown for 700 yards on 56 of 112 tosses and is third in the standings behind Moultrie's Steve Tyus. Tift's Ray Mills is the fifth leading passer with 485 yards on 34 of 81 passes.

This week's statistics are off somewhat since the Central of Thomasville-Albany game and the Thomasville-Dougherty contest were not reported last week.

Central tailback Terry White still leads the rushing department ahead of Monroe's Wallace Jordan and Lowndes James Marshall.

Moultrie's Herbert McCoy tops the pass receivers followed by Tift's Antonio Terry, Lowndes' Nathaniel Burks, and Valdosta's Leon Johnson.

Pattillo maintained his punting lead, but Thomasville's Perry Keyton and Dougherty's Jerry Aubin has narrowed the gap. Pattillo has punted for a 40.74 yard average followed by Keyton at 40.65 and Aubin at 40.10.

RUSHING

	Carries	Yds.	Avg.
1. White, Central	117	921	7.87
2. Jordan, Monroe	97	506	5.21
3. Marshall, Lowndes	103	497	4.82
4. Moss, Dougherty	83	481	5.80
5. Quimby, Dougherty	64	430	6.72
6. Mills, Tift	109	426	3.91
7. Ivey, Thomasville	56	423	7.55
8. Lane, Westover	78	382	4.90
9. Scott, Westover	56	379	6.77
10. Braggs, Moultrie	73	378	5.18
11. Smith, Crisp	95	365	3.84
12. Andrews, Thomasville	59	355	6.53
13. Crumley, Tift	85	351	4.13
14. Brown, Albany	71	312	4.39
15. Hughes, Crisp	60	301	5.02
16. Johnson, Valdosta	55	290	5.27
17. Mitchell, Thomasville	59	289	4.90
18. Belue, Valdosta	74	285	3.85
19. Morris, Tift	54	285	5.31
20. Kerbo, Thomasville	55	283	5.15
27. Gaskins, Valdosta	60	198	3.30
31. Waters, Lowndes	31	163	5.29
46. Baldwin, Valdosta	15	92	6.13
51. Pattillo, Lowndes	72	68	0.94
55. Smith, Valdosta	16	56	3.50
57. Lastinger, Valdosta	11	46	3.28
58. King, Valdosta	8	35	4.38
61. Holcombe, Valdosta	13	26	2.00
64. Jennings, Valdosta	8	19	2.38

PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.
1. Pattillo, Lowndes	169	80	854
2. Tyus, Moultrie	120	47	791
3. Belue, Valdosta	112	56	700

4. Hughes, Crisp	116	43	599
5. Mills, Tift	81	34	485
6. Bess Bainbridge	98	32	452
7. Aubin, Dougherty	47	17	416
8. Anderson, Albany	76	29	355
9. J. Johnson, Monroe	92	29	354
10. Ruis, Central	45	17	250
11. Moore, Westover	24	14	158
12. Kerbo, Thomasville	47	13	134
13. Strickland, Westover	28	12	123
14. Marria, Thomasville	7	4	120
15. Carroll, Westover	36	13	107

PASS RECEIVING

	Catches	Yds.	Td's
1. McCoy, Moultrie	13	289	3
2. Terry, Tift	17	267	0
3. Burks, Lowndes	23	260	5
4. Johnson, Valdosta	19	251	1
5. Carter, Dougherty	10	240	3
6. Williford, Moultrie	19	234	3
7. Reed, Lowndes	19	230	1
8. M. Tyus, Moultrie	10	222	2
9. Wilson, Valdosta	11	201	4
10. Smith, Central	11	188	3
11. Waters, Lowndes	17	165	1
12. Biggles, Bainbridge	9	157	2
13. Hester, Crisp	10	155	4
14. Thomas, Albany	13	154	0
15. Thomas, Valdosta	15	150	0
16. Johnson, Lowndes	10	150	0

PASS INTERCEPTIONS

	Inter.	Ref.
1. Davis, Dougherty	1	90
2. Jenkins, Dougherty	3	68
3. Churn, Crisp	2	50
4. Smith, Monroe	1	50
5. Jackson, Crisp	2	47
6. Beauford, Tift	1	46
7. McClung, Tift	1	46
8. Hunter, Thomasville	2	45
9. Linton, Central	4	42
19. Landrum, Lowndes	5	5

PUNTS

	Kicks	Yds.	Avg.
1. Pattillo, Lowndes	31	1,263	40.74
2. Keyton, Thomasville	17	691	40.65

3. Aubin, Dougherty	21	842	40.10
4. M. Payne, Moultrie	40	1,498	37.45
5. Belue, Valdosta	23	856	37.21
6. LaMarr, Monroe	29	1,055	36.37
7. Singletary, Central	26	925	35.57
8. Oates, Albany	29	1,000	34.48
9. Turner, Tift	40	1,344	33.60
10. Close, Bainbridge	11	360	32.73

PUNT RETURNS

	Ref.	Yds.
1. Weeks, Moultrie	8	109
2. Kerbo, Thomasville	8	86
3. T. Thomas, Valdosta	10	68
4. Jenkins, Dougherty	9	65
5. Williford, Moultrie	8	58
6. Gilbert, Thomasville	3	48
7. McElroy, Lowndes	5	48
8. McClung, Tift	7	43

KICK-OFF RETURNS

	Ref.	Yds.
1. Anderson, Albany	8	239
2. Peterson, Bainbridge	10	186
3. Moore, Westover	5	169
4. Ivey, Thomasville	7	159
5. McElroy, Lowndes	7	155
6. Braggs, Moultrie	6	147
7. Moss, Dougherty	6	141
8. Alexander, Crisp	6	141
9. Smith, Central	6	132
10. Biggles, Bainbridge	7	124
11. Smith, Valdosta	6	125
15. Register, Lowndes	4	93
16. T. Thomas, Valdosta	6	84

SCORING

	Td's	PAT's	Totals
Belue, Valdosta	12	0	72
Ivey, Thoasville	11	0	66
White, Central	8	0	48
Pattillo, Lowndes	5	13	46
Quimby, Dougherty	7	0	42
Carter, Dougherty	3	18	36
Mills, Tift County	6	0	36
Hester, Crisp	4	12	36
Kerbo, Thomasville	6	0	36
Jordan, Monroe	6	0	36
Burks, Lowndes	5	2	32
Hurst, Central	1	19	31

AAA Championship Vote Should Never Be Needed

Luther Welsh hates lawyers about as much as he loves kids. But he hates votes even more.

So if it boils down to having to hire a lawyer and entering a court suit to keep Region 1-AAA from eliminating his Dougherty Trojans from the high school football championship race, he's prepared to do it.

So far, it's all supposition but when the Trojans knocked off previously unbeaten Central of Thomasville 24-21 Friday night, the possibilities took a tremendous turn for the better.

The results of Dougherty's rally left both teams with 7-1 records. Valdosta's Wildcats are also 7-1 and it would be an upset indeed if any of those three teams lost to one of their last two regular season foes.

If things follow the form chart, the Trojans, Yellow Jackets and Wildcats will all be 9-1 when the season is over and tied for the championship. And that can only mean one thing unless other action is taken soon. Region coaches may have to vote a team out of the picture.

Ridiculous? Absolutely! But before you laugh consider the fact that it actually happened last year when Valdosta, Thomasville and Moultrie each finished with a 9-1 record. Moultrie was voted out. Thomasville lost a 3-0 playoff to Valdosta. And Valdosta lost a 15-14 decision to Wayne County in the first round of the state playoffs.

Fantastically, nothing was done to prevent the same thing from happening this season and although objections have been aired right and left, the same fate seems destined for one of the three teams this season.

With the last regular season game of the season coming up Nov. 12, and the first round of the state playoffs set Nov. 26, only one week remains to determine which team represents the region and only one game can be played.

Welsh feels it should never have come to this. Central Coach Will Roy Cooley agrees. But while Cooley is ready to accept his part of the blame, Welsh is more anxious than ever to remedy the situation.

And it's not just because his team is involved.

"Yeah, this thing bothers me," he admits. "We've worked too hard to get where we are. We were the stepchild of the region ever since this school was built in 1965. We've been building this particular team for three years now. It would be a shame to lose it on a vote."

"I'll lose it on the field if it works out that way but I'll be dog-gone if I'm going to lose it on a vote! And if I do I'm not too sure I can't get something done about it. Now I hate lawyers and courts but I swear to God I just don't see anything right about settling it this way!"

Welsh figures every other coach in the region feels the same way and which ever team loses the ballot would probably entertain the same thoughts.

"People are upset over this thing," he continued. "We tried to get something done about this at the last region meeting. Jim Hughes (Thomasville coach) and Bud Willis (Moultrie coach) brought it back up again this year."

The Bainbridge principal (Carroll Miller) said he doesn't want to go through a vote again. He said when he came out of that meeting last year and saw the expression on the faces of those Moultrie players after they had been told they were voted out he didn't want

to go through it again. It made him sick and I don't blame him!"

The movement to take care of the situation hit a snag when someone mentioned the region had "lasted 50 years without having a voting tie" and would "probably go another 30 before it happened again."

Cooley, however, who just moved into the region with his Yellow Jackets, disagrees.

"As long as the region is like it is, the problem is going to grow more so," Cooley insists. "We've got more good teams now. Look at what Lowndes is doing (6-2). Coach (Joe) Wilson is doing a super job there."

"And there's coach (Gene) Brodie at Tift (County). You just wait until next year. (Ferrell) Henry is at Cordele ... give him a year or two."

"You've got Valdosta, Moultrie and Thomasville and nobody laughs at us anymore. Look, you're going to wind up with this situation almost every year. The region is just that balanced. No one's ever going to come out of here without getting scarred (beaten) any more."

Cooley figures a vote would be most detrimental to his Jackets.

"I don't think our chances in a vote would be good at all simply because we're a AA team that has moved up this year into 1-AAA," he said. "We know we've embarrassed some folks by moving up and beating a lot of teams we weren't supposed to and consequently some folks will do whatever is necessary to keep us out."

"Consequently, we felt we had to win last night (Friday) to stay in it. That didn't happen so we just don't feel good about the situation at all."

Cooley, however, who never "cries over spilt milk," isn't blaming anyone, however.

"The region hasn't come up with anything better but we're part of the region and we haven't come up with anything better either. So we have to share the responsibility."

"There are ways of eliminating the problem. But there are probably no really good ways of doing it except let everyone play everyone. If we had played Valdosta we wouldn't have wound up in a tie."

However, before Central entered the region all 1-AAA schools did play each other. And things did get fouled up last season when Valdosta defeated Thomasville 12-10 then lost to Moultrie 28-20 and Moultrie lost to Thomasville 30-0.

So Welsh has come up with some suggestions of his own. The first, of course, is to never let the situation happen. But since it has, there may be other alternatives. First of all, he points out, Valdosta plays Westover it's last game of the season while Central plays Albany.

His suggestion was to allow Central and Valdosta to play then instead with Albany playing Monroe. The Albany schools certainly shouldn't complain. But either or both of the co-leaders probably would, pointed out Welsh, who admits it gives his team an advantage.

"But to be honest with you, if I thought my team would be voted out, I'd rather play for it," he added.

Another would be to ask the Georgia High School Association to delay the playoffs another week this year to allow the region issue to be settled and start the season a week earlier next year to

(See Region, Page 17-A)

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Oct. 31, 1976-17-A

...Region Vote

allow two weeks before the playoffs

"If we didn't have to have a playoff I don't think having two weeks off would hurt the region champions," Welsh said. However, other coaches would disagree. "But it's a lot better than this," he added.

GHSA executive director Bill Fordham expressed doubt that the playoffs would be postponed.

"No sir! I would not care for it at all," he admitted. "We finish now on Dec. 15 and I think that's late enough. Of course, it's up to the executive committee but I'll do everything in my power to stop that. That penalizes the other seven regions in the state."

However, there may be help on the way from the executive committee Monday. On the agenda for the regular scheduled meeting is the request to allow the region to hold two playoff games in 10 days. The decision should come Monday in Thomaston but an affirmative vote would set a new precedent.

Welsh figures the real mistake was in allowing the situation to exist in the first place.

"It seems like sometimes our own people don't want to change ... even if it's for the better, until you force them," he said. "But I'm sure hate to be one of those people like coach Willis last year. It was awful to him and his boys."

"It hurt him enough but a coach is older and understands a kid can't understand how grown people can vote him out. We must not let this happen. The kids have worked too hard and they should have the same shake as everyone else. I mean, who's to say the Moultrie really wasn't the team that should have represented the region last year."

In all honesty, Welsh figures his team deserves the first seat in the playoffs should the problem arise. After all, his Trojans had beaten both of the other teams.

"But there's no fairness to this thing," he insists. "There's nothing democratic about it at all. It's a cut-throat thing. You're really voting on a coach ... if you like him or have a personal conflict with him. But the kids are paying the price for the adults. The kids didn't bring this problem on, the region did!"

Welsh insists the GHSA could postpone the playoffs if that was the only alternative.

"It would only delay this thing one week," he said. "I don't see anything wrong with that. They did it last year," (when the GHSA overturned the first Douglass, Atlanta and Lakeside semi-final playoff and forced a repeat of the game). "They delayed it two weeks then. Don't tell me they can't do it."

"If I was to win this region and they had that problem in Region 1-AAA, I wouldn't mind waiting a week. High school football is for the kids, and they should be allowed to play!"

Ex-VHS Drum Major Returning As Judge Of Band Competition

By BECKY VAIL
 A former Valdosta High School award winning drum major is to be one of nine judges for the Southern Open Band Competition to be held Nov. 20 at Cleveland Field.

Elizabeth Cottle, who has led the VHS Marchin' Cats to national title victories has been chosen one of the judges who are to pick a grand champion from a crowded field of competitors for the inaugural contest.

Miss Cottle, a student at the University of Georgia, is to join eight other judges from seven states to grade 30 bands vying for the championship title and the best-in-class ratings.

Other judges for the Open include Doyle Heffron of Dundee, Ill., Bob Codner of Cicero, N.Y., Jim Stuppy of Hopkinsville, Ky., Bob Bruckner of Sylva, N.C., Joe Tate of Lake Charles, La., and Sandy Scott of Abbeville, S.C. who are to judge the bands; Tom Hunter of Tuscaloosa, Ala., who is to be timing and penalty judge; Miss Cottle, to judge drum majors; and Mike Trull, also of Sylva, to judge flags.

VHS band members and the boosters organization have been working for months on the Open.

Thirty bands from three

southern states are to participate in the competition this year, and Band Director Frank Butenschon said he hopes the competition will become an annual event.

"Just how good a band competition is depends on the judges," said Butenschon. "And we've got the best judges around."

More than 4,000 band students are expected to be in Valdosta Nov. 20 for the Open.

Bands competing, by class, include:

— Class A: Largo, Fla., High School, Nathan B. Forrest High and Terry Parker High, both of Jacksonville, Fla., Sprayberry High of Marietta, Johnson High of Gainesville, Tift County High of Tifton, Rockdale High of Conyers, South Cobb High of Austell, Statesboro High, and Enterprise High from Alabama.

— Class B: Norcross High, Cook County High, Waycross High, Chattooga High of Summerville, Appling County High, Coffee County High, Coosa County High of Rome and Effingham County High.

— Class C: Port St. Joe Fla., High, Calhoun County High and Pepperell County High.

— Class D: Florala High

from Alabama, Southland County High, Southland Academy and Metter High.

— Class E: Hudson High of New Port Richey, Fla., Albany High, Americus High, Glynn Academy and the Valdosta High Spirit Band.

The Marchin' Cats are not to compete, but are to demonstrate some of the do's and don't's of band com-

petition, said Butenschon.

In addition, the Lowndes High School Marching Viking Band is to give a gust performance.

The Troy State University Sound of the South Band is also to demonstrate in the day-long competition which is to start at 8 a.m.

Final competition is to start at 8 p.m.

Hyder Worries

VHS vs Westover; It's Crucial

Times 11-10-76

By Times Staff Writer
 If All Nick Hyder had to worry about was how his 8-1 Valdosta Wildcats would stack up against Westover of Albany's 1-8 Patriots Friday night, he'd still be worried.

But tell him the game could be the first of four crucial contests his Wildcats will face in the next 20 days and it's enough to bring on heart failure.

The Wildcats, tied for the Region 1-AAA lead with Central of Thomasville and Dougherty of Albany, must win Friday night to finish the season with a 9-1 record and still in that tie.

Then Tuesday, should Central also defeat Monroe of Albany and Dougherty upend Moultrie Friday, the Wildcats play Central in the first round of a three-way playoff set up Tuesday in a special meeting of region officials.

The winner of that game plays Dougherty Friday or Saturday for the Region 1-AAA championship and the right to host the Region 3-AAA winner in the first round of the state playoffs Friday, Nov. 26.

It's a situation Hyder has never faced before. In fact, few coaches have. But considering the alternatives, he's glad to be there.

"I'm just glad we're involved at all," admitted Hyder after hearing of an unsuccessful plan to elect Dougherty as region champion despite the fact that all three teams may tie in standings.

"But if there's a common denominator to all three of the teams that are tied its that all three of them have to win Friday night to keep this tie going. That means we've got to have this one and there's always danger of a let down."

By the form chart, none of the three tied teams should have much trouble. Besides the matchup between the 8-1 Wildcats and 1-8 Patriots, Central's 8-1 Yellow Jackets face the 3-5 Monroe Tornadoes and Dougherty's 8-1 Trojans meet the 4-5 Moultrie Packers Friday.

But upsets have been known to happen and Hyder is taking nothing for granted.

"Westover is big," he warned. "They've got Jeffry Fields, whose father Pat Fields coaches at Albany, who is 225 pounds and one of the best linebackers in the region.

"They've also got David Reneer, a fine defensive lineman and several boys of the 220-pound variety.

"They've moved the ball up and down

the field all season. They just haven't had any luck scoring. And I hope we're not their good luck charm."

The Wildcats, meanwhile, are bruised up pretty bad, according to Hyder. "And those bruises build up," he added.

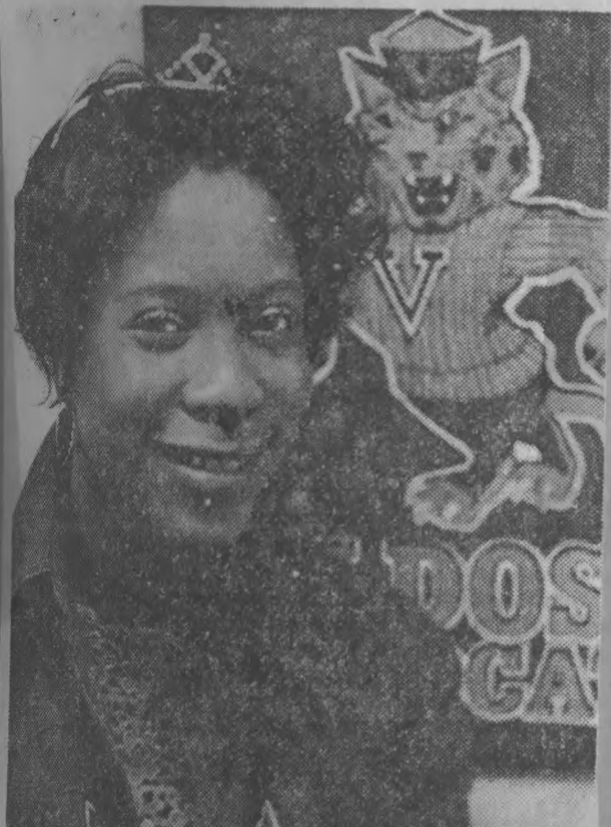
As long as the Wildcats win, the games will seem to get closer and closer together, which brings on another problem ... fatigue.

"We'll have to try to play as many people as possible to avoid that," Hyder explained. "That means instead of one player at each position to use at least two. If we win Friday we'll have to work over the weekend some to get ready for Tuesday. But the key is we have to win Friday.

"Westover is big and well coached, they've just had bad luck. They could always put it together against us. They've got several athletes who could play for any team in the region, a pretty good passing game and some pretty good pass routes."

The game gets underway at 8 p.m. Friday in Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium.

Times 11-12-76



VHS Queen

It appears as if the Valdosta High School mascot, the Wildcat, is a little angry at Janice Williams but that certainly wouldn't be the case. She reigned over homecoming activities at the school Friday as VHS scalped Albany High School's Indians 34-7. The homecoming queen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams of 618 Johnson St. — Times Staff Photo

Letters To The Editor

Nov. 3

VHS Hair Rule Is Blasted

Sir: I am a senior at Valdosta High School and would like to express my opinion about an issue that has plagued our school for too long.

That is the mandatory hair-length rule forced upon every student in the city school system.

This rule stands only to confuse and dispute the meaning, on which this country was founded: the freedom of self-expression. This was set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

Apparently the board of education has disregarded these two documents in setting school policy.

This God-given right to express ourselves through the length of our hair and how

we dress is being denied Valdosta school students.

It's a prime example of sex discrimination too. No girl has ever been expelled or suspended because of the length of her hair. Yet, every day male students, myself included, are being threatened with suspension because of this.

In the student handbook at VHS, there is no mention of the word "female" in the section referring to hair length.

There can be no logical explanation for the rule and on three separate occasions when I asked about it I got the same answer: "Those are the rules and must be followed."

Students of Valdosta schools should not be subjected to such self-righteous

whims of the members of the board of education. This kind of attitude distorts the attitudes of students.

I grow my hair long because I like it that way and if I'm labeled a "freak" because of it, so be it. It's my life.

If you wish to have shorter hair, that's all right. I will respect your decision. I don't ask everyone to be like me.

I am only asking everyone else let me be myself and not some image they have created for me.

VHS Student

NOV. 14

Marchin' Cats Work Showing

By BECKY VAIL

The Marchin' Cats may not be in the running for a trophy at the Southern Open Band Competition to be held here Saturday.

But they'll be running — and hard — all day long.

In fact, all this week, band members and band boosters are to be scurrying about in preparation for the inaugural music fest officials hope is the cornerstone to a national event.

Valdosta High School Band Director Frank Butenschon said Marchin' Cats members will be doing a multitude of things in which to make the things run smoothly for the 30 southeastern bands which are to compete for the grand champion trophy at Cleveland field Saturday.

The final preparations for the Open are now underway, with trophies being polished as shining as the tubas, trombones and sousaphones of the high school musicians.

The Cats, in addition to their duties as host for the to-be-annual pageant, are to demonstrate the do's and don'ts of showmanship in competition at 8 p.m., said Butenschon.

But the most important thing is for the competing bands to go away from Valdosta with a sense of satisfaction and a plan to come back next year for the second annual competition.

Three Cats members are to be assigned to each of the 30 bands from Georgia, Alabama and Florida high schools that intend to compete at the stadium.

Six other students throughout the day and night events, are to be "runners" — assisting bands in retrieving dropped equipment.

In addition, one student will be a judge's aide. Others will help man a first aid station.

And large crews will be responsible for parking — more than 100 school buses carrying more than 4,000 musical students, along with spectators — are expected for the affair.

The Southern Open, despite all the work, seems well on its way to success because of the help offered by band members, boosters and the community, said Butenschon.

Competition is to begin at 8 a.m., with each band performing at near 15 minute intervals.

Finals are to begin at 8 p.m., with the five finalists competing for the top prize — a four-and-one-half-foot championship trophy.

It's during the evening performance the Cats will do their humorous sketch.



Times 11-8-76

Homecoming Heartburn

Valdosta High School students dressed as their favorite movie stars for their homecoming game Friday night. For senior Aubrey Whitfield, it was Bela Lugosi and Count Dracula and his outfit included the

traditional wooden stake through the heart. Everybody seemed to enjoy the event except the Albany High School Indians who lost to VHS 34-7. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki



Hooray For Hollywood Times 11-6-76

Friday was Homecoming for Valdosta High School and the students took the opportunity to dress as their favorite Hollywood movie characters. One of the more innovative costumes was the Tin Man (left) from "The Wizard of Oz," complete with oilcan and worn by Laura Busch. The long-

snouted fellow wandering about is Pinnerchio, (right) looking his master Gepetto, no doubt. The homecoming ended hap With the 'Cats beating the Albany Indians, 34-7. See Page details of the game. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki.

Valdosta's Powerful Defense Buries Albany, 34-7

By MIKE CHASON
 Nick Hyder and Cardon Dailey wrote the script, and Valdosta's Wildcats and Albany's Indians turned in Academy Award winning performances before a crowd of some 7,000 cold, cold high school football fans here Friday night.

YARDSTICK	
	Valdosta Albany
First Downs	11 13
Yards Rushing	116 198
Yards Passing	97 68
Passes	10 22 5 15
Passes Intc. by	3 0
Fumbles Lost	4 3
Punting	3 30 5 29
Penalties	2 11 2 20

Just like the hero that always gets the girl, the now 8-1 Wildcats got the Region 1-AAA victory in the end by a 34-7 margin. Dalley's Indians, who were playing the part of the villain at the 'Cats' own Cleveland Field, bowed out of the picture with a 1-8 record.

Before the game Hyder expressed his fear that with the excitement of Homecoming, the South Ga. Legion Fair in town, and playing a team that hadn't won but one game all year, his club would be a bit flat.

The Wildcats lived up to his premonition by losing four fumbles, dropping several easy passes, and scoring on but one long drive.

Dalley said before the game his Indians had experienced no problems moving the ball up and down the field. They just couldn't seem to punch it into the end zone.

Again, Dalley set the stage perfectly. The Tribe ripped holes in Valdosta's defense to the tune of 198 yards rushing. But on two first and goal situations four yards from paydirt, they turned the ball over.

Coach Jack Rudolph's Valdosta defense deserves some of the credit for those two turnovers.

Behind the leadership of defensive tackle Eddie Denard who turned in nine individual tackles and middle linebacker Keith Middleton who had seven individual stops, it was just impossible for Albany to run when it got close to the goal line.

On the first occasion near the end of the half, Albany's Winfred Anderson fumbled the ball at the one-yard line on second down. On the other in the third period, Valdosta's

Robert Baldwin picked off an Anderson pass and raced 96 yards to paydirt.

If the Indians had scored those two times, it may have been more of a game for the fans who began sneaking out midway the third period. But as it turned out, it was just like everyone expected ... a rout.

"We weren't an explosive team like we have been in the past," Hyder said after the game in the cozy confines of athletic director Wright Bazemore's office. "But I did think that one drive in the third quarter looked pretty good."

Hyder was referring to a 53-yard march in 10 plays which ended when quarterback Buck Belue followed center Ben Blanton into the end zone from two yards out. A nifty 35-yard return of the second half kickoff by Frank Council set up the ideal field position.

"I thought Belue did a real good job passing," Hyder

continued. "He had five or six passes where he hit his receivers right in the head, and they dropped it."

"I guess we might have played just well enough to win, but then again we scored 34 points. I've seen times when 34 points has been well received."

Valdosta remained tied with Dougherty of Albany for the league lead with the victory. Dougherty spanked cross city foe Monroe 35-6 Friday night. Central of Thomasville can make it a three-way tie again tonight in Albany against Westover.

Hyder said a meeting was set for Tuesday to decide what will be the outcome if the three teams are tied after Friday's final regular season game.

The Georgia High School Association paved the way for a possible three-team playoff earlier this week by waiving a rule for the region which required six days

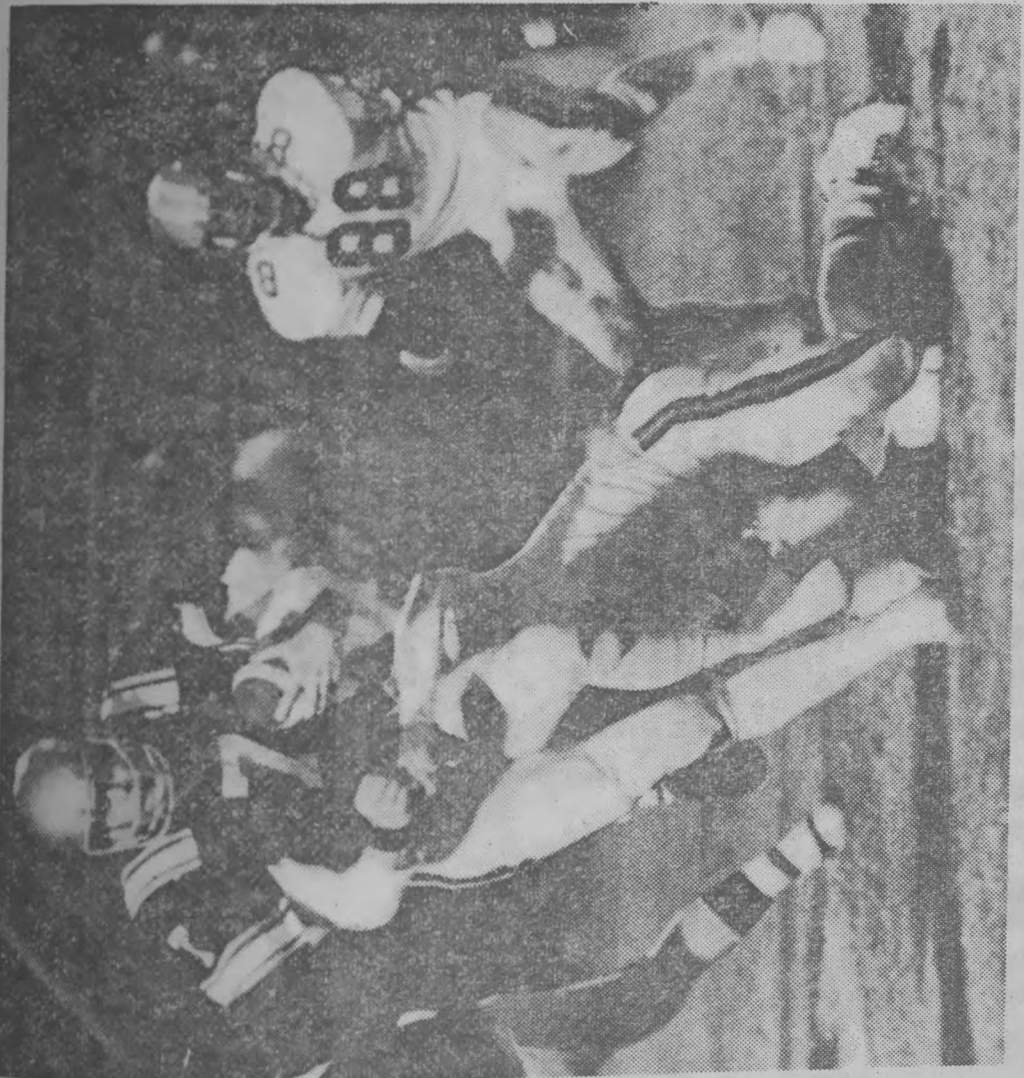
between games. If it so chooses, the region can now have two playoff games in the two weeks between the end of the regular season and the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 26.

But there wouldn't have been even a thought of a playoff for the 'Cats if they had lost Friday. Belue and Co. must have had that in mind when they moved 19 yards in four plays for the first TD with 9:59 showing in the first quarter.

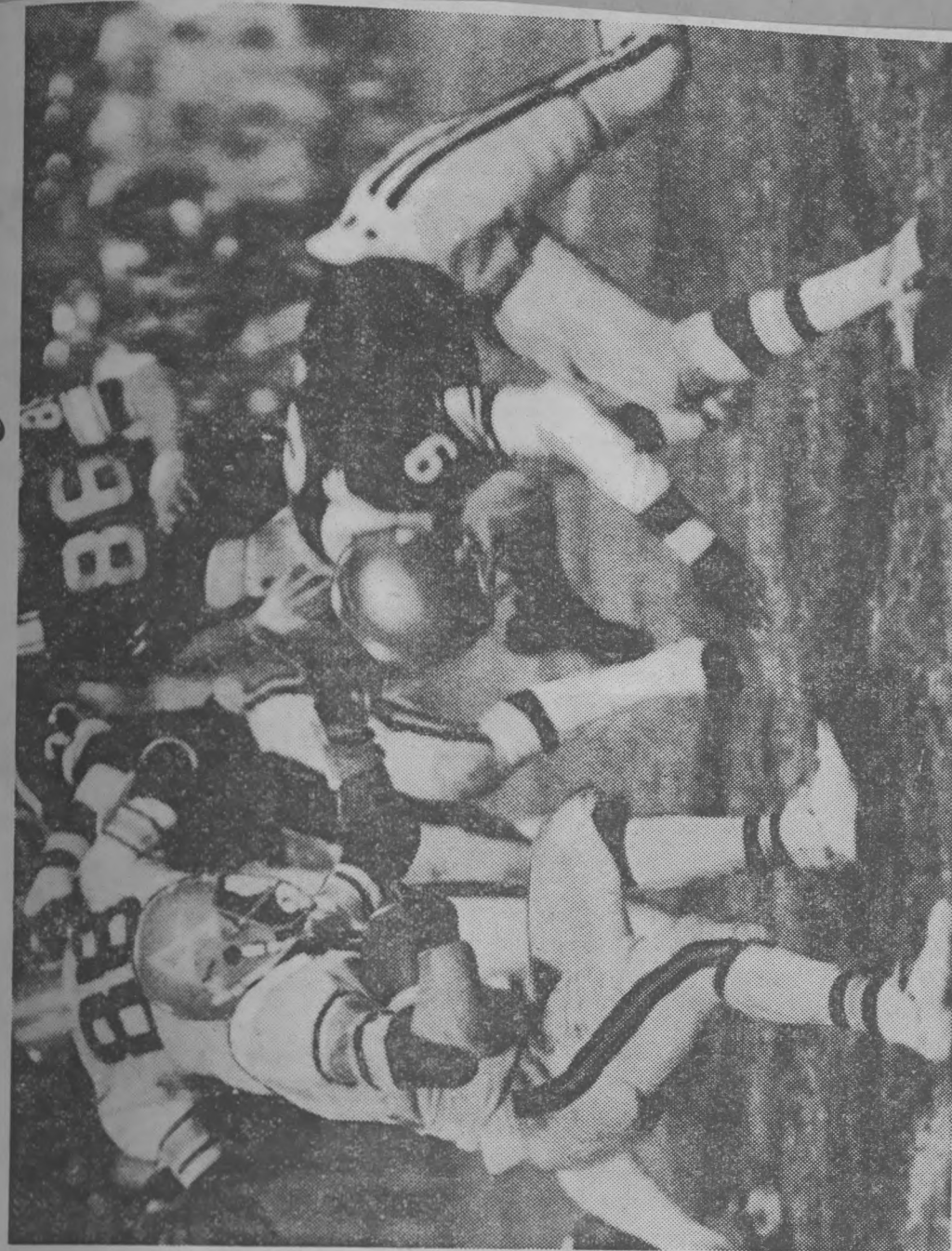
Belue carried the ball over from three yards out for the score. Robert Baldwin kicked the first of four extra points, missing only the last one, and Valdosta was on its way.

Middleton set up the touchdown by intercepting Albany sophomore quarterback Jim Lightle's pass on the first play of the game and returning it 16 yards.

After Alec Greene recovered an Albany fumble on the Indians' own 14-yard



Screaming Halts: Valdosta's Buck Belue Is Finally Stopped By Albany Lineman and Tribe's Roger Williams Meets 'Cats' Carl Roe



—Times Staff Photos.

game sparked the drive when he hauled in a 16-yarder down to the Albany 22.

There was 3:35 showing on the clock when Baldwin missed his only extra point. But Middleton had one more point to make for the defense.

Lightle, who may turn into a solid quarterback but lacks the passing arm now, suffered the wrath of Valdosta's senior linebacker with just seconds left when Middleton sacked him for a six-yard loss on the next to last play of the game.

"We're just not strong enough physically down close to the goal line," Dalley said after the game. "The offense just turned it over several times that really hurt us."

"Anderson had a good night. He really should have been playing that position (halfback) all year. But we had to have him at quarterback because Lightle was just not ready."

Judging by his dying duck

clinger on a 19-yard pass to Alexander Branch. Jody Moore kicked the extra point.

Midway the fourth quarter, Anderson could have cut the gap even further, but Baldwin's interception took care of that. Ironically, if Anderson had looked up just a bit farther, he'd have seen a receiver wide open in the end zone ... but he just didn't see him.

What he did see was Baldwin headed for the other end of the field with a flock of Valdosta black jerseys guarding his path the entire 96 yards.

But Valdosta wasn't through yet.

When Wilbur Scott intercepted a Lightle pass at the Albany 45 with just over five minutes to play, Hyder sent back in his first unit.

Six plays later, Belue threw a 15-yarder which Jody Wilson grabbed in the corner of the end zone for his only catch of the night. John Lastinger's third catch of the

line in the second quarter, Valdosta needed only six plays to crack the end zone with 6:58 to play in the half.

Halfback William Gaskins lugged it in from one yard away for the score.

Albany then launched its 58-yard drive with Anderson doing some beautiful running. However, he would undoubtedly have sacrificed all his 138 yards in 22 carries, for the lost fumble at the one to end the threat.

Valdosta's longest march of the night followed just after the half, and it was highlighted by the first of two fake punts by Belue. Instead of booting the ball on fourth down, he hit split end Leon Johnson for a 25-yard gain down to the Albany 11. Belue scored four plays later.

A 57-yard run by Anderson sparked Albany's only touchdown with three minutes to play in the third period. Anderson even took over at quarterback to throw the

passes, Lightle is still not ready, but inexperienced sophomore quarterbacks have been known to turn into senior stars.

Dalley has already written a script for that scene too.

Rushing: Valdosta — Johnson 113, Belue 103, Holcombe 31, Gaskins 39, Fletcher 2, 12, Smith 1, Anderson 2, 138, Williams 11, 54, Thomas 1, 5, Knighton 3, 7, Lightle 1 minus 6.

Passing: Valdosta — Belue 10, 22, 97; Albany — Lightle 15, 48, Anderson 0, 10.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Lastinger 3, 21, L. Johnson 2, 32, Thomas 2, 19, Wilson 1, 15, Council 1, 7, Adams 1, 3; Albany — Branch 3, 50, Thomas 1, 12, Burson 1, 4.

Punt Returns: Valdosta — L. Johnson 1, 11; Albany — none.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — Council 1, 35, C. Demps 1, 19, Albany — Williams 2, 32, Anderson 1, 39, Knighton 1, 8.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Denard 9, Middleton 7, Worby 5, Roberts 3, Wright 3, Baldwin 3, Conway 2, Lloyd 2, Hunter 2, Branam 2, Albany — Banks 8, Milton 11, Rither 6, Williams 6, Thomas 4, Branch 3, Anderson 2.

Scoring: Valdosta — Belue 3 run (Baldwin Kick), Val — Gaskins 1 run (Baldwin Kick), Alb — Branch 19 pass from Anderson (Moore Kick), Val — Baldwin 86 interception return (Baldwin Kick), Val — Wilson 15 pass from Belue (kick failed).

Score by Quarters:
 Valdosta 7 7 7 13 34
 Albany 0 0 7 0 7

'Cats Host Tribe, Vikes On The Road

By Mike Chason

Lowndes Vikings look like a solid bet to overcome a winless Bainbridge team on the road Friday night, and Valdosta's Wildcats are heavy favorites to topple Albany this week as the high school football season starts to play out its final notes.

Coach Joe Wilson's Vikings bombed Crisp County

AREA GRID SLATE

Lowndes at Bainbridge
Albany at Valdosta
Westbrook at Terrell
Cook at Fitzgerald
Bacon at Clinch
Brooks at Cairo
Irwin at Berrien
Hamilton at Wakulla
Santa Fe at Madison

(Cordele) 42-14 Friday night to raise their record to 6-2 and insure their first winning season since entering Region 1-AAA in 1967.

Cook's Hornets have no hope of a .500 record, and an upset over Fitzgerald's Hurricane appears unlikely. Wild winds have been known to blow in the Hurricane Hangout, and a weak Hornet offense may contribute to a hometown point-scoring storm.

Berrien's Rebels fried Bacon County last week, and Clinch's Panthers have the same idea in the two team's Region 2-A (South) duel this week. Clinch is still very much in the subregion race with a 6-2 record.

Brooks' 0-8 record won't win it any region titles, but an upset is always in the mind of Ed Hayes when his defensive-minded Trojans take the field. Cairo seems an unlikely place for one to pop up however.

Berrien renews an old

rivalry with an Irwin club which has been declared ineligible for postseason play because of illegal scrimmaging before the season began. Coach Foy Norwood's Rebs are sitting tight with a 4-4 record, but Irwin has won six straight.

Hamilton needed only one touchdown to nip Chiefland, Fla. last week, but head coach Coy Witner has a feeling it might take more than that to overcome Wakulla. He also has a feeling he's going to keep his club out of fights, after last week's fisticuffs in Chiefland.

With the end of the season rapidly approaching, Madison's Cougars still haven't won a game. Santa Fe wants to keep it that way Friday night.

Valdosta, Clinch Top Area Talent

One national title for Indiana's Hoosiers, an NBA crown for Boston, and a six-day World Series ago, the high school basketball season came to a close. But now it's time to dust off the Wilson Jets and Spalding 100's and take to the hardwood again for the mania which envelops this part of south Georgia from November through March of each year.

No one really knows what kind of year it will be. But in the back of every coach's mind from Clinch County's Austin DeLoach to Hamilton County's John Brown, there is always that spark of hope for a state championship. DeLoach came close last year ... Brown didn't.

But now it's a new season, and the record books are wiped clean. Not even Brooks County's Trojans (who didn't win a game last year) have a loss yet, and new head coach Art Gamble aims to keep it that way.

In a survey of area talent in this column a year ago, it was predicted Clinch and Valdosta would be strong candidates for region title honors. DeLoach's Panthers from Homerville wound up winning Region 2-B and advancing to the finals of the state tournament in Macon. Valdosta's Wildcats, who picked up a new coach in midseason, finished second in Region 1-AAA, but lost their first state playoff game.

This year it looks like more of the same for both clubs. You'll never get old slick talkin' Austin to admit it, but his Panthers must be rated as strong contenders for another state playoff berth, despite moving up to class A this year. He's got three starters back in Dennis Morgan, Tony Mikell and Andrew Wells plus a hot shooting guard off last year's B-team. Wells could be one of the most dominating pivots around.

Echols May Push Lanier

Norman Sainz returns for his first full year as head coach at Valdosta after replacing Joe Wilson in midseason last year when Wilson resigned to take over Lowndes High's football team. Sainz is well aware the pressure is on him to produce this season with such starters returning as Lawrence Lowe, George Robinson, Greg Sampson, and Leon Johnson. Allen Worthy, Alvin Thomas and big Jeff Sirmans are also available for board duty. On paper, the Wildcats look awesome.

Willie Bradley and Nathaniel Burks should head up coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes Vikings, who lost heavily through graduation. Lacking the man in the middle, the Vikes have had their problems the past several years. Unless the unexpected happens, it could be another lean season.

Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) and Echols County (Statenville) should be the pride of Region 2-B this year with Clinch's Panthers out of the way. Lanier Coach Clay Clark doesn't have the depth he's been blessed with in the past two seasons, but he does have four starters by the name of Franklin Patten, Billy J. Foster, Walter Barnes and Roosevelt Sirmans who can play w anybody.

Valdosta Tackles Tribe Here Friday

By MIKE CHASON

With the thought safely tucked away that they won't be voted out of a postseason playoff, Valdosta's Wildcats take on Albany's Indians in a Region 1-AAA high school football matchup at Cleveland Field here Friday night.

The Georgia High School Association Executive Committee voted Monday that should the region end in a three-way tie, the teams involved would be allowed to have two games within a 10-day period if that is the method by which the region decides to break the tie.

Only one weekend stands between the end of the regular season and the first round of the state playoffs and that is the date set aside for a two-way tie playoff within a region or a playoff between two subregion winners.

However, until Monday's decision, there was no alternative for a three-way tie. Last year, region officials voted Moultrie out of a similar three-way tie which seems destined to occur this season.

Valdosta, Dougherty (Albany), and Central of Thomasville currently top the league standings with 7-1 records and unless they succumb to huge upsets, they should finish the year at 9-1.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder has been involved in two ties and two votes. He's 1-1 in that department and



NICK HYDER

Homecoming Woes

awfully glad he's not going to have to endure such a procedure at the end of this season.

"I had hoped they (the executive committee) would

enough to overcome Albany Friday night and Westover in Albany next week, so that a vote is necessary.

Since both opponents are 1-7, that may not be so easy.

Hyder's task is made all that much tougher with the Homecoming festivities set for Friday and the arrival of the South Georgia Legion Fair here Thursday.

To offset these distractions, he's set a 9 p.m. curfew for his football players and kept the air filled with compliments about coach Cardon Dalley's Indians.

"I've seen them twice against Moultrie and Lowndes," Hyder said. "They moved the ball extensively each time. Several times they got close to the goal line, but couldn't score but one touchdown each game. It seemed like either an interception or fumble really hurt them at a crucial time."

VHS Freshmen Blank Tift

By Times Staff Writer

TIFTON — Valdosta's ninth grade combined a stingy defense with the running and passing heroics of quarterback John Bond to gun down Tift's ninth grade 12-0 here Thursday.

Valdosta's offense got rolling in the second half when Carl Wilcox hauled in a 25-yard fourth down pass from Bond and carried it into the end zone in the third quarter.

In the final period, Bond tucked the football under his arm and sprinted 35 yards around end to paydirt.

Mike Ruff and Nat Ceasar keyed the defense with a pass interception apiece.

Now 3-1, coach Bob Bolton's VHS frosh travel across county to Lowndes High Thursday at 4 p.m.

Curtis, Leon Cited By 'Cats

By Times Staff Writer

Lineman Curtis Williams and wide receiver Leon Johnson have been chosen as Lineman and back of the week for the Valdosta Wildcats.

The two players, chosen by their coaching staffs, were cited by the Valdosta Civitan Club Monday night at the weekly meeting of the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's David Cooper and Eddie Denard and Lowndes' Bobby Kovach and Danny Clayton have been selected as the top players of the week by the coaching staffs at Valdosta and Lowndes High School. The Valdosta Civitan Club gives trophies to the top offensive and defensive players from Lowndes and Valdosta each week as selected by the coaches at the two schools

Valdosta, Lowndes Players Cited

Albany's Indians Already Point To Next Season

BY MIKE CHASON
"Wait 'til next year" has arrived early for Albany's Indians, but saddled with a 1-7 season record, head coach Cardon Dalley really had no other choice.

Dalley admitted he has resorted to playing younger boys in his lineup just to prepare them for next season despite the two games left on this year's schedule including an 8 p.m. bout with Valdosta's Wildcats here Friday.

Buck) Belue, you've got to have some kind of offense." Albany's offense has had fair success moving between the goal lines, but never over them. Halback Winfred Anderson (175, sr.) is always a threat to break a long run, and tight end C.C. Thomas (205, sr.) can catch the ball with anybody when he sets his mind to it.

Eddie Denard, VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph credited togetherness with the defensive effort which came only a week after his defense shut down Lowndes with only a field goal.

Tom Copeland (185, sr.) or Andy Chapman (177, soph.) and Bryan Johnson (185, jr.), center Ben Blanton (215, sr.), quarterback Buck Belue (195, jr.), halfbacks Jody Wilson (155, jr.) and William Gaskins (155, soph.) or Earnest King (175, jr.), fullback Bobby Johnson (175, soph.).

Valdosta Meets Westover

By MIKE CHASON
Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings close out the regular season portion of their high school football schedules Friday night at opposite ends of the spectrum.

and Dougherty (Albany) all take wins Friday, they would wind up in a three-way tie for the Region 1-AAA lead. Central takes on Monroe (Albany) and Dougherty meets Moultrie.

out one of the three teams and allow the other two to have a playoff. Moultrie was voted out last year, and Valdosta defeated Thomasville in a playoff.

Meanwhile, Lowndes' 7-2 Vikings take on Thomasville's Bulldogs who are also 7-2 and anxious to close out their season with a win at the Vikes' own Martin Stadium here.

Neither team has any region title hopes unless all three of the frontrunners lose Friday night.

Coach Joe Wilson's Vikings are enroute to their best record ever in Region 1-AAA and would like nothing better than to finish their campaign

The Georgia High School Association Executive Committee waived the six-day rule between games last week to set the way for a possible three-way playoff between the teams in the two weeks between the end of the regular season and the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 26.

The region could vote to have that three-way playoff or vote to have one of the teams declared champion. It could also follow last year's decision and vote

Local Briets

Nov. 17

'Dosta Boosters Present New Plan

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Basketball Boosters Club has come up with a membership plan which is hard to top. For a \$10 membership fee, a person can join the club as well as gain admission to all nine Valdosta home games for his entire family.

Waves Won't Stop 'Dosta, Lowndes

Nov. 5

The University of Florida's Gene Ellenson has his "positive molecule theory" that he contends has changed the course of some sports events just by aiming positive or negative brain waves in the right direction.

Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets and Dougherty of Albany's Trojans would like nothing better than for Valdosta to lose this weekend. If so, it would eliminate the three way tie for the Region 1-AAA lead.

Then Albany's Indians will be sending the same kind of waves toward the Valdosta bench. But that's because they'll be sitting on the other side of Cleveland Field and would dearly like to end a seven-game losing skid.

ALBANY at VALDOSTA
The negative waves from Central and Dougherty won't be all that strong tonight because the Yellow Jackets and Trojans will be busy with games of their own. It only takes one loss by any of the three tied teams and the tie is broken.

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta defensive tackle Eddie Denard and Berrien halfback George Ward have been named the top lineman and back in the area in the weekly balloting sponsored by Roger Budd Chevrolet.

Times Cites Ward And Denard

Nov. 7

AREA GRID SLATE
Friday
Thomasville at Lowndes
Valdosta at Westover
Wet Davis at Clinch
Brooks at Cook
Blackshear at Berrien
Santa Fe at Hamilton
Houston at Jefferson

Area Football Tie To Be Talked In Tuesday Meet

assurance Tuesday to decide what method they'll use to break a three-way tie that has carried into the last regularly scheduled games of the season.

that prediction hold I three would finish the season with 9-1 records and tied for the region lead although Dougherty has beaten each of the other two teams.

The Trojans, Coach By Luther Welsh, defeated Nick Hyder's Wildcats 28-26 and Will Roy Cooley's Yellow Jackets 24-21 before losing to Thomasville 30-0. Valdosta and Central had each defeated Thomasville, 29-9 and 7-3 respectively.

High School Association's executive committee a waiver of rules allowing them to schedule two playoffs games in 10 days should the need arise.

team as the region champion, have a three team playoff, eliminate one team, as they did last year, and allow the others to play off, or have no region representative at all.

Butenschon Honored

Frank Butenschon and his wife Susan read a flyer featuring the band director's accomplishments in music at Friday night's halftime ceremonies at Cleveland Field held in tribute to him by the Albany High School Marching Chiefs Band.

Roger Mubern, director of the Albany band, presented a plaque inscribed to "the

most fantastic band director" after both the Albany and the V.H.S Marching 'Cats Bands entered the field and shouted in unison: "We love you, Mr. B."

Butenschon, director of the award-winning V.H.S. band, appeared surprised by the presentation. — Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III.

Playoff Slated Here

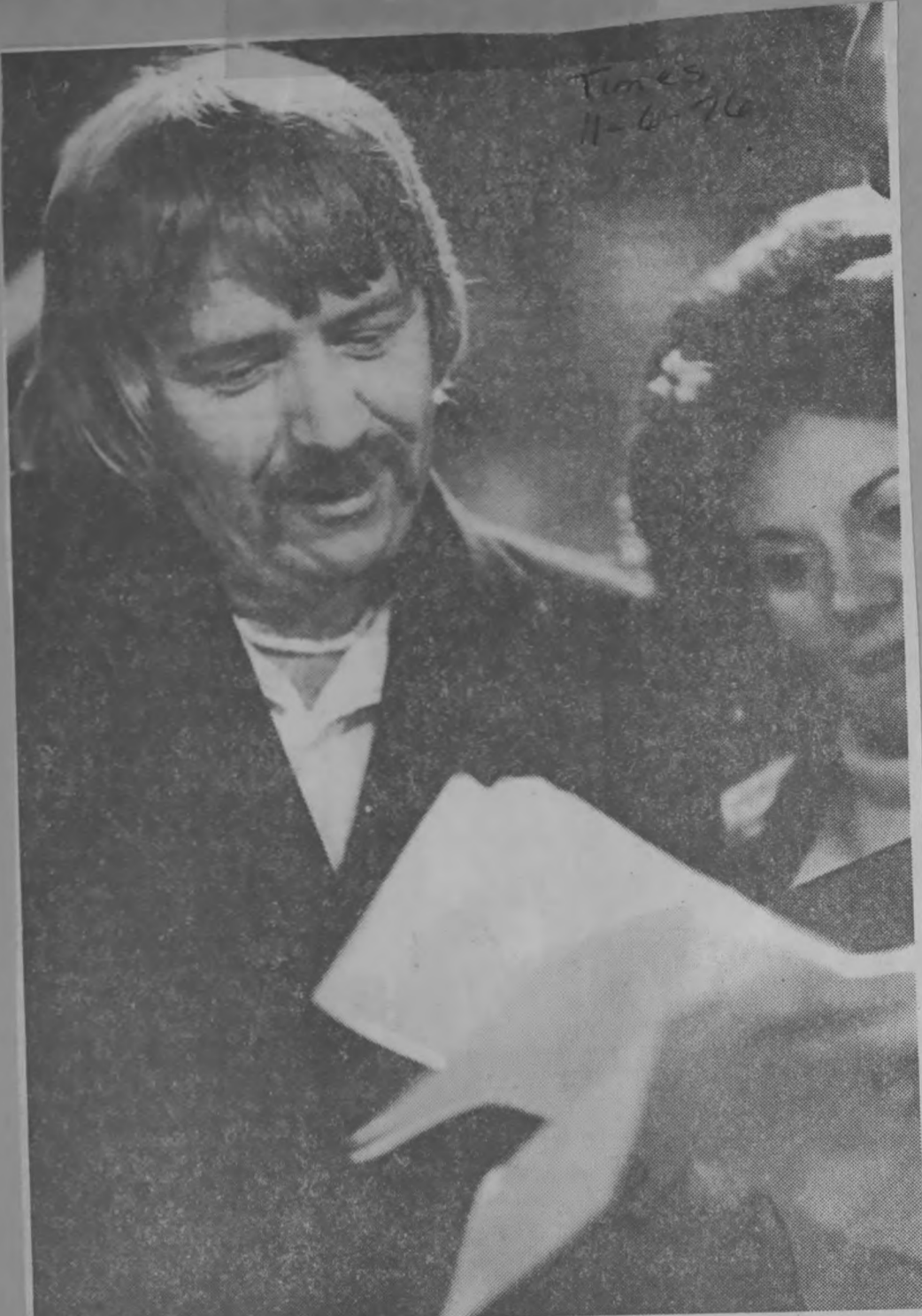
By JULIAN MILLER Chalk another one up to the Cleveland Field Ghost.

The Valdosta High School football stadium is to be the scene of the first round playoff for the Region 1-AAA high school football championship Tuesday after all, if three teams remain tied for the championship through this weekend.

Central High of Thomasville officials told Valdosta Principal Lloyd Mims they would agree to play the Tuesday night game in Valdosta next week because they would be unable to meet Georgia High School Association specifications in their own stadium.

The Yellow Jackets obtained the right to host the game at a special meeting of the Region 1-AAA officials in Moultrie Tuesday via a coin flip with Valdosta. However, their own Thomas County Stadium seats only 6,400, 1,600 below the GHSA minimum for Class AAA playoffs.

Nov



Westover Still Looking For Battle Plan For 'Cats

By JULIAN MILLER

ALBANY — When you're 1-8 and going into your last game of the season against an 8-1 team that's fighting for a championship you just look for something that will work.

And Johnny Palmer promises that if he finds it, his Westover Patriots will definitely try it against Valdosta's Wildcats in their Region 1-AAA high school football finale here Friday night. The Patriots are cast as spoilers for the championship-minded Wildcats, who must win Friday to remain in a three-way tie for the region championship.

Plans have already been made for the Wildcats to host Central of Thomasville

Tuesday night for the right to play Dougherty of Albany later on in the week should all three teams win Friday and finish the season with 9-1 records.

With visions of playoffs dancing in their heads, Palmer doesn't look for much help from the Wildcats Friday. "I think they're a fine football team," said the first year head coach. "I hope we can find something to use against them. I don't know really what yet... just something. But if we can find something that's what we'll do."

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder casts the Patriots as a huge team with terrible luck. And Palmer agrees.

"Luck's been part of it," he said. "We've moved the ball but just couldn't

get it over the goal lines. But our own turnovers have been hurting us more than that.

"We can't blame it on youth because most of our players are seniors. But they're still inexperienced. We've been in every game but two, Thomasville and Dougherty. I'm not taking anything away from the other teams in the region, but we almost gave the rest of the games away."

With the Patriot success coming more often on the ground game, Palmer looks to running backs Johnny Scott and James Lane to handle most of Friday's action. Scott had collected 120 yards in three quarters against Central of Thomasville recently before

leaving the game with a minor injury. Lane, he admits, was more productive last season but still has the talent.

Quarterback Randy Strickland is the most consistent passer on the team, but Palmer feels he's not consistent enough to really depend on. "Some times he looks pretty good passing," Palmer admitted. "But no one is really that consistent."

When it comes to Valdosta, the stocky coach changes his tune.

"Of course I saw them against Albany last week when they were apparently really flat but their running game seems to have improved quite a bit since the earlier part of the season, and we all know about their passing

game. "And then there's no need to even talk about Valdosta's defense. It has been the thing that has carried them all year."

While Palmer stacks the odds in Valdosta's favor, Hyder isn't so sure. In fact he's warning of a letdown. "There is no tie until we all win Friday night," the cautious head coach points out. "We've got to have this win to stay in it."

Probable Starters follow:

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Frank Council (175, jr.) or Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and Craig Adams (163, sr.), tackles David Cooper (195, sr.) or Tony Blisetti (190, sr.) and Gary Guthrie (225, jr.) or Scott Griffin (190, soph.), guards Tom Copeland (185, sr.) or Andy Chapman (177, soph.) and Bryan Johnson (185, jr.), center Ben Blanton (215, sr.), quarterback Buck Belue (195, jr.), halfbacks

Jody Wilson (155, jr.) and William Gaskins (155, soph.) or Ernest King (175, jr.), fullback Bobby Johnson (175, soph.), ends Curtis Williams (175, sr.) or Alec Green (165, jr.) and Jack Cain (170, sr.) or Doug Conway (182, jr.), tackles Eddie Deard (206, sr.) and O'Keeffe Hunter (230, sr.) or Curtis Wright (180, jr.), middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.), linebackers Keith Middleton (210, sr.) and Robert Baldwin (195, jr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (170, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.), safeties Allen Worley (175, jr.) and Lawrence Love (196, sr.).

WESTOVER
Offense — ends Alphonso Holsey (175, soph.) and Jeffrey Fields (225, sr.), tackles George Benson (180, sr.) and Mike Roberts (210, jr.), guards Melvin Lewis (190, sr.) and Phil McCallie (205, sr.), center Calvin Stokes (245, sr.), quarterback Randy Strickland (170, jr.), running backs Johnny Scott (140, jr.) and James Lane (175, sr.), flanker Wes Barbary (175, sr.) or Cole Blair (140, jr.).

Defense — ends Willie Chester (180, jr.) and Thomas Lassiter (180, sr.), tackles Andrew McIntyre (190, sr.) and David Teemer (190, sr.), linebackers Steve Stokes (210, sr.) and Ronald Raleigh (180, soph.) and Jeff Young (180, jr.) or Phil Fields, Roverback Steve Greenfield (165, jr.) or Phil DeLoe (185, sr.), defensive backs Tony Moore (165, jr.), David Ware (165, sr.) and James Cook (120, sr.).

Hyder Worries

VHS vs Westover; It's Crucial

Nov. 10

By Times Staff Writer

If All Nick Hyder had to worry about was how his 8-1 Valdosta Wildcats would stack up against Westover of Albany's 1-8 Patriots Friday night, he'd still be worried.

But tell him the game could be the first of four crucial contests his Wildcats will face in the next 20 days and it's enough to bring on heart failure.

The Wildcats, tied for the Region 1-AAA lead with Central of Thomasville and Dougherty of Albany, must win Friday night to finish the season with a 9-1 record and still in that tie.

Then Tuesday, should Central also defeat Monroe of Albany and Dougherty upend Moultrie Friday, the Wildcats play Central in the first round of a three-way playoff set up Tuesday in a special meeting of region officials.

The winner of that game plays Dougherty Friday or Saturday for the Region 1-AAA championship and the right to host the Region 3-AAA winner in the first round of the state playoffs Friday, Nov. 26.

It's a situation Hyder has never faced before. In fact, few coaches have. But considering the alternatives, he's glad to be there.

"I'm just glad we're involved at all," admitted Hyder after hearing of an unsuccessful plan to elect Dougherty as region champion despite the fact that all three teams may tie in standings.

"But if there's a common denominator to all three of the teams that are tied its that all three of them have to win Friday night to keep this tie going. That means we've got to have this one and there's always danger of a let down."

By the form chart, none of the three tied teams should have much trouble. Besides the matchup between the 8-1 Wildcats and 1-8 Patriots, Central's 8-1 Yellow Jackets face the 3-5 Monroe Tornadoes and Dougherty's 8-1 Trojans meet the 4-5 Moultrie Packers Friday.

But upsets have been known to happen and Hyder is taking nothing for granted.

"Westover is big," he warned. "They've got Jeffrey Fields, whose father Pat Fields coaches at Albany, who is 225 pounds and one of the best linebackers in the region."

"They've also got David Reneer, a fine defensive lineman and several boys of the 220-pound variety."

"They've moved the ball up and down

the field all season. They just haven't had any luck scoring. And I hope we're not their good luck charm."

The Wildcats, meanwhile, are bruised up pretty bad, according to Hyder. "And those bruises build up, he added.

As long as the Wildcats win, the games will seem to get closer and closer together, which brings on another problem... fatigue.

"We'll have to try to play as many people as possible to avoid that," Hyder explained. "That means instead of one player at each position to use at least two. If we win Friday we'll have to work over the weekend some to get ready for Tuesday. But the key is we have to win Friday."

"Westover is big and well coached, they've just had bad luck. They could always put it together against us. They've got several athletes who could play for any team in the region, a pretty good passing game and some pretty good pass routes."

The game gets underway at 8 p.m. Friday in Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium.

ed., Nov. 10, 1976-4-



Cracklings

Sandy Morgan and Billy Retterbush, members of the Cracklings staff, thumb through the latest edition of the folklore magazine which is compiled and edited by

Valdosta High School students. The magazine is on sale at several locations throughout the city. Staff advisors are Emily Carey and Duane Pitts. — Times Staff Photo.



Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

'Cats To Win 9th, Vikes Meet Match

When it comes to high school football, there is usually safety in numbers. Depth, for instance, has been the sole reason many large teams won many large football games.

One of those teams with a reputation for putting a flock of players on the field is Valdosta. And the Wildcats also have the reputation of playing a flock of games.

Right now the Wildcats hope to make it 15 games this season, which has got to be some kind of record, and would lead them to the State Class AAA championship finals.

But to do so, the 'Cats are going to have to win four games in 20 days and that's a bit much for even a high school football prognosticator, much less a high school football team.

Last week, this gridiron fortune teller tried his largest number of guesses ever and posted what may be his finest right-wrong record, 33-3. That boosted his average to .810 with a 210-49 record.

Here's the way things look this week:

VALDOSTA at WESTOVER

With visions of playoffs dancing in their heads, anything can happen to Nick Hyder's Wildcats. But predicting Westover's upset of what hopes to be a number one team in the state is going out too far on a limb. The guess is here that the 'Cats are ready for the playoffs and will prove it with a 24-0 win over the 1-8 Patriots.

THOMASVILLE at LOWNDES

Lowndes' Vikings have something most college teams are still fighting for, an invitation to a bowl game ... the Florida Bowl in Gainesville, Fla., to the exact. But they also have to face a Thomasville team Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson insists is the best team in the state.

Don't get too excited yet. GHSA boss Bill Fordham says he will probably overrule a request for permission to play in the bowl game. And Thomasville will probably ruin Lowndes' chances for an 8-2 season. We've been wrong on this one before and were glad of it. Hoping for another wrong pick: Thomasville, 18-16.

DOUGHERTY at MOULTRIE

Just like Valdosta and Central of Thomasville, the Trojans of Dougherty have to win this one to keep the playoff picture as it is. Dougherty has the roughest finale of the three playoff-minded schools, but the Trojans won't give up this close: Dougherty, 35-7.

MONROE at CENTRAL

Same song, second verse. The Jackets can't fall this close to their goal: Central, 21-0.

CENTRAL at VALDOSTA

This game won't even come off unless three of the four preceding predictions are correct. But if they do play Tuesday, we think the 'Cats can take it: Valdosta, 14-6.

JEFF DAVIS at CLINCH

Most people probably haven't noticed, but this is a championship match as well ... Region 2-A (South) to be exact. Jeff Davis has more experience in the region and had momentum going before last week's night off. Clinch warmed up with a 33-14 blasting of Bacon County. That could be the difference: Clinch, 14-0.

BROOKS at COOK

Another big match of sorts. It's a big traditional rivalry, of course, but grows in interest when you add the fact that both teams are winless in their first nine games and hope to end the season by leaving the other in the area cellar. Brooks has the defense to shut out the Hornets. Cook has the home field advantage: Brooks, 7-0.

BLACKSHEAR at BERRIEN

Berrien needs this one to end the season at .500. And head coach Foy Norwood and his Rebels deserve it: Berrien, 14-6.

HAMILTON at SANTE FE

Hamilton doesn't HAVE to have this one to go to the playoffs. Lately that means the Trojans won't get it: Sante Fe, 24-8.

MADISON at JEFFERSON

One more team vying for the area cellar — Madison's Cougars: Jefferson, 21-12.

OTHER GAMES

Tift Co. over Bainbridge, Crisp Co. over Albany, Warner Robins over Northside Warner Robins, LaGrange over Spencer Windsor Forest over Wayne Co., Richmond Academy over Heph ziah, S. W. DeKalb over Clarkston.

Clarke Central over Henderson, Camden Co. over Appling Co. Cairo over Worth Co., Coffee over Fitzgerald, Bradwell Institute over Screven Co., Swainsboro over Thomson, Americus over Dodge Co., Dublin over Perry, Early Co. over Randolph Co.

S.E. Bulloch over Lyons, Irwin Co. over Bacon Co., Mary Persons over Jackson, Macon Co. over Wilcox Co., Charlton Co. over Patterson, Savannah Country Day over Metter, Lincoln Co. over Monticello, Mt. De Sales over Wadley, Sylvan over Fultan.

Nov. 11 Lowndes, Valdosta In Bowl Contention

By Times Staff Writer

Despite warnings that the Georgia High School Association frowns upon post-season bowl games and has a rule against such affairs, officials in Gainesville, Fla. are hoping to land one of five Region 1-AAA teams for their first annual Georgia Florida high school football game later this month.

Al Hall of the Gainesville Sun told the Times the Bowl Committee is hoping to land Valdosta's Wildcats, Dougherty's Trojans, Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets, Lowndes' Vikings or Thomasville's Bulldogs for the contest.

Home team for the game to be played in Gainesville as a promotion for the Boys Club there is to be Gainesville High School which has an 8-2 record.

Officials pointed out the region 1-AAA champion would more than likely be unable to compete in the bowl but expressed hopes of luring one of the other top teams into the fray.

Florida High School Association officials hope to persuade GHSA executives into allowing a Georgia team to participate, Hall explained.

11-13-76 Times Region 1-AAA Football A Tie

By Times Staff Writer

It's official. The Region 1-AAA championship tie is really a tie. And now, while most teams are resting from a long-hard season, Valdosta's Wildcats, Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets and Dougherty's Trojans are just beginning work.

The three teams tied for the region championship honors, just as they had been expected to Friday night when the Wildcats rallied past Westover, 24-7, Dougherty bombed Moultrie 42-0 and Central pounded Monroe of Albany, 28-0.

That set the stage for Tuesday's showdown between Valdosta and Central in Valdosta's Cleveland Field as dictated by a vote of region officials assembled to settle the championship question last Tuesday.

Officials voted then that Dougherty, a 28-26 winner over Valdosta and 24-21 victor over Central but 30-0 loser to Thomasville during the regular season, would bypass the first round to take on Tuesday's winner Friday night for the region championship.

Central won a coin flip for the right to host Tuesday's 8 p.m. contest but opted to move the game to Valdosta when it became apparent Thomas County stadium was 1,600 seats shy of the 8,000-

seat Georgia High School Association minimum for Class AAA playoffs.

The GHSA had to waive a rule limiting teams to one playoff game in six days to allow the three-team battle.

Region 1-AAA received state-wide attention for the past few weeks as it became apparent the league was heading for its second three-way championship deadlock in as many years.

For full details see page 5.

It's Official — It's A Tie!

'Cats Spot, Whimper And Roar For 24-7 Victory And Share Of Region Deadlock

BY JULIAN MILLER
ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats spotted Westover's Patriots a quick, easy touchdown, whimpered back to a short halftime lead and finally roared to a 24-7 victory to make the expected three-way Region 1-AAA championship tie a reality here Friday night.

But while the Wildcats were struggling, their championship opponents

	Valdosta	West.
First Downs	15	13
Yards Rushing	145	24
Yards Passing	131	40
Passes	11-22	3-14
Picks Int. by	2	1
Fumbles Lost	4	1
Punting	2-41.0	5-28.0
Penalties	8-90	7-95

were cruising to easy victories to bring on an unusual three-way playoff that begins Tuesday.

Dougherty's Trojans, selected by region officials for one berth in the region's championship game, were busy manhandling the Moultrie Packers 42-0 in a game played mostly by substitutes.

And Central's Yellow Jackets were blasting Monroe's Tornadoes 24-0 without the use of star Terry White, who left the game after setting the region rushing record, to set the stage for Central's trip to Valdosta Tuesday.

The victories came in the last night of regular season high school football competition for Region 1-AAA and left all three teams tied for the championship with matching 9-1 records.

By a vote of region officials last Tuesday, Central and Valdosta were selected to play each other Tuesday in Valdosta for the right to meet Dougherty at a neutral site Friday for the region championship.

But Valdosta's exhibition Friday was hardly one expected of a team going for the region championship.



Westover's James Cook (33) Can't Hang On To John Lastinger (Left), But Keith Middleton (86) Makes No Mistake On Johnny Scott

holes left by injured starters. It took Valdosta only one series to catch up to the surprisingly tough Patriots but it took a 46-yard Robert Baldwin field goal in the last 31 seconds of the half to finally put the 'Cats ahead 10-7. And that came only after another Westover touchdown was nullified by a penalty.

It wasn't so much the less-than-impressive play style as it was the effects that left VHS head coach Nick Hyder with such a long face after the victory.

"It's nice to be in it (the playoff) and other than the bumps and bruises we got we came out pretty good, I guess," he said after the victory. "All the injuries we have, we had before the game tonight."

"We had to play them all the way through while we had hoped to rest them some for Tuesday's game. But give Westover some credit now, by gosh they hit hard ... hit really hard."

linebacker Keith Middleton, who made 10 individual stops, found its place in the second half to hold the Patriots to just 27 yards rushing and 11 passing in the second half.

But the second half was much different from the first, where the Patriots outgained the 'Cats 116-113 and sent shivers up the spines of the playoff-minded fans.

The Patriots stopped Valdosta's first drive easily when a pass that bounced off end Craig Adams' hands was ruled a fumble and Tony Moore recovered for the Pats, and the second when Westover's Steve Greenfield picked off a Belue pass at the Patriot 32 and returned it to the 38.

That was enough to inspire the Westover offense and quarterback Joel Carroll led the Patriots in a five play march to paydirt. Carroll had run for 25 yards in a third and eight situation himself to set up leading rusher James Lane's nine yard TD run

picked off Carroll's aerial at the Valdosta 33 and returned it to the 49 and four plays and two penalties later the 'Cats stalled at the Westover 29.

Baldwin planted his tee at the 36 and the field goal split the uprights three feet over the cross bar with 31 seconds left to finally put the 'Cats ahead.

untouched up the middle. With 4:22 left in the quarter Kelvin Stokes kicked the PAT and the Westover stands went wild.

Belue and Co. figured that was enough and the next series turned into a 66-yard drive with the VHS quarterback running for 14 yards and passing for 51, including a 22-yard sideline pass to Lastinger. Lastinger, a back up quarterback in reality, took advantage of a Jody Wilson block that took out two would be tacklers to dance into the end zone with 1:44 left in the quarter. Baldwin tied it up with his first of three PAT kicks.

But the rest of the half was a bizarre series of turnovers and penalties with Westover's Johnny Scott having a 30-yard touchdown run nullified by a clip.

It was finally the first of safety Allen Worthy's two interceptions that got the 'Cats marching again. He picked off Carroll's aerial at the Valdosta 33 and returned it to the 49 and four plays and two penalties later the 'Cats stalled at the Westover 29.

Baldwin planted his tee at the 36 and the field goal split the uprights three feet over the cross bar with 31 seconds left to finally put the 'Cats ahead.

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Being shown up by their own offense was all the Valdosta defense needed and for the entire third quarter the two factions seemed to be working together perfectly as the 'Cats boosted their lead to the final count.

Westover was allowed only one first down in the half as the Wildcats marched 65 yards on one drive and 59 on the second for two more TD's.

The first came on a four-yard Belue-to-Council pass seven plays and a penalty after Worthy had intercepted his second pass of the night at the Westover 44.

The next TD came with 45 seconds left in the quarter as Belue romped in from two

— Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter 11-

yards out on a fourth down play after VHS missed on three tries inside the six.

The decision being all but settled, the two teams settled back down to their series of turnovers to run out the clock and end the miseries.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta-Council 11-45, B. Johnson 6-29, Belue 10-27, Gaskins 5-26, Smith 2-13, Fletcher 4-8, Westover-Lane 18-62, Scott 18-33, Carroll 3-34, Benzsten 1-5, Strickland 1 minus 10.
Passing: Valdosta-Belue 11-21-131, Lastinger 0-1-0, Westover-Carroll 3-11-40, Strickland 0-3-0.
Punt Returns: Valdosta-Lastinger 4-52, Thomas 2-30, Adams 3-19, Council 2-15, Wilson 1-15, Westover-Barbary 2-22, Holsey 1-8.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta-B. Johnson 1-14, Westover-Carroll 1-20, Moore 1-21.
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta-Middleton 10, Deneard 8, Copeland 5, Hunter 3, Cain 3, R. Johnson 3, Baldwin 3, Brennan 2, Westover-Young 8, Field 6, Moore 5, Teemer 5, Lester 4, McIntyre 4, Stokes 2, Ward 2, Ware 2, Barbary 2, Interception Returns: Valdosta-Worthy 2, Scott 1-5, Williams 1-3, Westover-Greenfield 1-30.

Score By Quarters:
Valdosta 7 3 14 0-24
Westover 7 0 0 0-7
Valdosta 9 run (Stokes kick)
Vald Lastinger 22 pass from Belue (Baldwin kick)
Vald Baldwin 46 field goal
Vald Council 4 pass from Belue (Baldwin kick)
Vald Belue 2 run (Baldwin kick)

Countdown Begins

Banged Up Wildcats Prepare For 1-AAA Playoff

By JULIAN MILLER

If Nick Hyder had his druthers, he'd have more than just three days to prepare for Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets in the first round of the Region 1-AAA high school football playoffs.

But as far as Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats are concerned, it's still business as usual . . . even if they are practicing on Saturday and Sunday.

"The morale is high, surprisingly good," the Wildcat coach said after putting the Valdostans through their paces for their first Saturday drill ever this weekend.

"I noticed after the game last night. Of course it's always nice to win, but we had to struggle through the whole ball game."

The Wildcats, who defeated Westover of Albany 24-7 Friday to finish the season with a 9-1 record and tied with Central and Dougherty of Albany for the region championship, host the Jackets Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Cleveland Field.

The Jackets warmed up for the event by blasting Monroe of Albany 28-0 Friday while Dougherty exploded past Moultrie 42-0. The winner of Tuesday's game meets Dougherty to determine when and where the region championship game is to be held.

Dougherty was selected for the first round bye in a ballot of region officials in a special meeting Tuesday in Moultrie to determine

how the tie would be broken, should it persist. Central and Valdosta did not play during the regular season.

"It ought to be a good ballgame," Hyder said. "I really think we should have a good crowd. It's definitely going to be the only game in town . . . maybe the world. I don't think anybody else is going to be playing Tuesday night."

With the joking aside, Hyder turned to business at hand, namely, how his crippled Wildcats, who haven't looked impressive at all in their last two games could compete with the ever-improving Yellow Jackets who are in their first season in the region.

"Naw, we haven't looked too good the last two games," Hyder conceded. "I don't know what the problem was. When our offense looks good the defense looks shaky. They both were shaky the first half against Westover. In the second half, the offense sort of took charge. But the first half was certainly nothing to write home about."

The game was about par. Valdosta has become known, more or less, as a second half team after coming back from early deficits to defeat Tift County, 20-7, Moultrie 31-14, and now Westover. "I'm proud of that," Hyder said. "It shows the kids haven't given up."

However, it'll take more than that against Central. The Jackets feature Terry White, the top rusher ever in Region 1-AAA, and a defense that has allowed only one touchdown

scored against them on the ground.

"They concentrate on the run so much they can pass almost any time," Hyder said. "We pull our linebackers up to stop the rush and either Mike Singletary or Donald Ruis can throw easily."

"And they run anywhere: wide, off tackle in the middle, trap, kickouts or sweeps. Their defense is so quick and they have a flock of kids who remind me of (Valdosta's) Lawrence Lowe. They've got tall secondary people and a well balanced football team."

That brought Hyder to another problem . . . injuries. The Wildcats accumulated only lumps and bruises Friday but had enough injuries to last a season from practice the week before. Among the casualties are Lowe, that standout safety, running back Ernest King, and top pass receiver Leon Johnson.

"Johnson is our speed," Hyder points out. "But we tried John Lastinger (Valdosta's backup quarterback) there Friday and were pleasantly surprised. In fact we had several surprises."

"Frank Council took over King's running back position and looked good as a receiver. John Brannen looked good on defense at linebacker after we moved Robert Baldwin to cornerback to replace Brad Choen. (Cohen went out with mononucleosis several weeks ago).

"Sam Fletcher has also been looking good at fullback, putting pressure on Bobby

Johnson, and we're still hoping to have Lowe, King and Leon Johnson back by Tuesday."

Coach Will Roy Cooley's Yellow Jackets dropped a 24-21 decision to Dougherty during the regular season while Valdosta fell to the Trojans 28-26. But Dougherty has fallen to Thomasville 30-0, a team Valdosta and Central upended 29-9 and 7-3 respectively, to bring on the deadlock.

The Georgia High School Association executive committee waived a ruling to allow region teams to play more than one game in six days to bail the region out of the bind. Ordinarily there would not have been time for the three-team playoff before the Region 1-AAA champion hosted the Region 3-AAA winners Nov. 26.

Last year, Valdosta, Thomasville and Moultrie tied for the honor when Valdosta defeated Thomasville 12-10, Moultrie beat Valdosta 28-8 and Thomasville bounced Moultrie 31-0.

Officials then voted to place Valdosta and Thomasville in a playoff for the title. Valdosta won 3-0 but lost in the first round of the state playoffs to Wayne County in Jesup, 15-14.

Wayne County and Windsor Forrest, both 9-1, meet for the Region 3-AAA crown Friday.

Tickets to Tuesday's Valdosta-Central game were to go on sale for a first-come, first-served basis at the old Valdosta High School Band Room on Slater Street at 9 a.m. Monday. They were first offered to reserve seat ticket holders Saturday.

Prep Top Ten

Class AAA

1. Warner Robins (9-0) defeated Jordan 30-0.
2. Valdosta (7-1) defeated Tift Co. 20-0.
3. Clarke Central (7-1) lost to Tucker 21-0.
4. Central Thomasville (7-1) lost to Dougherty 24-21.
5. Henderson (8-0) defeated Habersham 35-6.
6. Marietta (8-1) lost to Wheeler 28-17.
7. Wayne Co. (7-1) defeated Tompkins 38-12.
8. Dougherty (7-1) defeated Central Thomasville 24-21.
9. Northside, Atlanta (8-0) defeated Dougherty 7-0.
10. Columbus (8-7) lost to Columbus 8-7.

Class AA

1. Marist (9-0) defeated Westminster 40-7.
2. Avondale (8-0) defeated Druid Hills 48-21.
3. Swainsboro (8-0) defeated Johnson, Savannah 40-0.
4. McDonough (8-1) defeated Chatham 70-0.
5. Gainesville (7-1) defeated Winder-Barrow 31-8.
6. Coffee (8-0) defeated Waycross 26-14.
7. Americus (7-2) defeated Jones Co. 21-8.
8. Fayette Co. (8-0-1) defeated Troup 41-0.

Class A

1. Sylvan (8-0) defeated Bass 26-0.
2. East Rome (7-2) lost to Bowdon 40-14.
3. Irwin Co. (6-2) did not play.
4. Bowdon (9-0) defeated East Rome 40-14.
5. Putnam Co. (7-1-1) defeated Oglethorpe 25-0.
6. Turner Co. (8-0) defeated Randolph Co. 35-0.
7. Duluth (6-1-1) tied Commerce 3-3.
8. Mary Persons (5-2-1) lost to Lamar Co. 7-6.
9. Cedar Grove (8-0) defeated Milton 10-7.
10. Vidalia (8-1) defeated Arnold 15-6.

Class B

1. Hoopeville (9-0) defeated Manchester 48-0.
2. Macon Co. (8-0) did not play.
3. Reidsville (7-1) defeated Wheeler 40-0.
4. Savannah Country Day (7-1) defeated Emanuel Co. 33-0.
5. Bluff (8-1) defeated Dacula 40-0.
6. Lincoln Co. (8-0) defeated Wadley 70-0.
7. Jefferson (7-2) defeated Loganville 35-6.
8. M. de Sales (6-2) defeated GMC 2-0.
9. Bremen (8-2) defeated Gordon Lee 21-8.
10. Charlton Co. (6-2) defeated Callahan, Fla. 19-7.

Only Three Teams Unbeaten

undefeated teams and the Class AAA Top 10 both took a beating over the weekend.

The records of four state-ranked Class AAA teams were bruised for the first time, leaving only three Top 10 teams from last week's poll still undefeated.

It was also a weekend for winners, and, oh, how six of the state-ranked teams did win — by putting 373 points on their half of the scoreboard and shutting out five of their six opponents.

First, the losers:

Class AAA No. 3 Clarke Central was upended 21-0 by Tucker, a team with three losses and a tie going into Athens Friday. Central Thomasville, a notch behind Clarke in fourth, lost to No. 8 Dougherty 24-21 and left the crazy 1-AAA race in a three-way tie with Central, Dougherty and Valdosta, all with one region loss.

Wheeler ended its regular season by knocking off 5-AAA South front runner Marietta, the sixth ranked team last week, 28-17.

Warner Robins was the other Class AAA loser, stumbling 8-7 to Columbus.

The Class AA Top 10 all survived the weekend without a scratch to their records, as did the best of the state's Class B teams. But things didn't go as smoothly for Class B Top 10 members as No. 2 East Rome was smothered 40-14 by No. 4 Bowdon, and No. 8 Mary Persons got clipped 7-6 by Lamar Co.

They haven't coined words strong enough to describe the jobs six of the state-ranked teams did on their opponents Friday. "Annihilate" and "massacre" don't really give you the true picture.

Warner Robins (Class AAA No. 1) 90, Jordan 0. Swainsboro (Class AA No. 3) 40, Johnson, Savannah 0. Dalton (Class AA No. 4) 65, Chattahoochee Valley 20. Hogansville (Class B No. 1) 48, Manchester 0. Buford (Class B No. 5) 60, Dacula 0. Lincoln Co. (Class B No. 6) 70, Wadley 0.

That's called making sure of your poll position. — BRYANT

First-Come, First-Serve Playoff Tickets Up For Grabs

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta Wildcat fans who didn't take advantage of an opportunity to buy tickets to Tuesday's Region 1-AAA high school football showdown with Central of Thomasville Saturday had to fight it out with the masses today.

City school system Finance Director Jack Kent said all tickets left over from Saturday's sale were to go on sale today on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Season reserve seat ticket holders were given a chance Saturday to buy those same seats for the playoffs and only about 250 of the 3,300 tickets remain unsold according to Kent.

"We had put all the tickets in envelopes with the name of those reserve seat owners who would probably be coming to pick them up and we had about 80 envelopes with an average of three tickets in each left over," Kent explained.

From then on Kent's personal telephone rang off the hook with people asking how they could get the tickets they had neglected to pick up.

"One person even brought a check by my house while another started banging on door of my office Sunday when I went down there to work," Kent said. "I told them all the same thing. They would all go on sale today."

The school system has established a reputation of taking care of its season reserve seat ticket holders first, whenever possible, because advance sales furnish the Wildcats with their operating finances early. But officials believe one day is enough.

"We'll sell them to anyone who wants them starting today at 9 a.m. at the band room (behind the old Valdosta High School)," Kent said. "Those will be general admission and reserve seat. Student tickets will be sold at the high school."

"If any of the general admission or reserve seat tickets are left after today, they'll go over to Barnes (Drug Store) at Brookwood (Plaza) to be sold Tuesday."

Officials are putting a limit of 10 on the tickets on sale today and Tuesday. They don't expect a lot left by the 8 p.m. kickoff time Tuesday.

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Monday, November 15, 1976 — 8 —

NOV. 15 Cooley Plays Down 'Dosta Home Field Hex



Will Roy Cooley Eyes Playoff Duel — Times Staff Photo.

Central blasted earlier in the season, slipped up to defeat the Wildcats 15-14 in the first round of the state playoffs.

Ironically, Camden's Wildcats had stopped Central's Yellow Jackets while Wayne's Yellow Jackets had pulled the plug on Valdosta's Wildcats in first round playoffs the entire state felt were upsets.

Sunday, Cooley and his Jackets were talking Wildcats again.

"We looked at Friday's films (of Central's 28-0 win over Monroe of Albany) and talked about Valdosta, and they all looked to be in pretty good shape," Cooley said.

Cooley dispels the belief that his quick-as-cat Jackets are every bit as big as the Wildcats.

"I take exception to that," he said. "We have two tackles who are 218 and 220 and a middle guard who is 208 and those are the only players we have over 200."

But they're quick:

"Yeah, we're fairly quick ... they'd better be. If they stand in one place long they're gonna get killed!"

But that's not the mark of the Jackets.

"Well no, the mark of this club is just plain old cussedness," he elaborated. "They're not good athletes, you know. But they don't know that. No one has ever told them. Consequently they do things they don't know they can't do."

"Don't tell them yet they ain't supposed to be doing what they're doing."

What are the Jackets doing?

Well, the "other" team in Thomasville came up from the Class AA ranks it has dominated in south Georgia for the past five years, to sweep nine out of 10 games its first year back in Region 1-AAA where it lost all 10 in 1971.

And most of the credit has been given to speedy tailback Terry White, the runningest player ever in the region. White ran for 143 yards Friday against Monroe to beat the old

Jesup last year ... you know how bad Wayne County was supposed to be ... and had them 40-7 by the end of the third quarter.

"Like one of our players told me the other day ... he said 'Coach, I don't know if we're smart enough to be afraid.' Maybe there's a lot to it."

Cooley points out such logic is all in a team's mind. And he tries to work around it as much as possible.

"It's a psyche thing. We try to discourage it as much as we can. Teams have won on the road. We've won on the road. We can do it again."

The question of home field advantages over, Cooley worked on his next sore point ... taking them one game at a time.

Last season his Jackets seemed destined for the Class AA championship with what he considers the best team he's had until his current one. But a little-known Camden County team from St. Marys ended all that in the first round of the state playoffs.

"We were getting ready to play Americus," Cooley admits. "That was a real big mistake. We really thought last year that we had the potential for winning it all. It was the best team we've had until this team."

"We felt we were good enough last year, particularly on offense. We made a real big mistake getting ready for Americus that early, and Camden County put it on us. We won't do that again. We're happy to be where we are ... tickled and grateful we got this far. We try to take every day as they come."

Valdosta fans won't have to worry about their own Wildcats looking ahead either ... for two reasons.

First of all, like Central, Valdosta has been practicing all weekend since Friday night's season finale to prepare for Tuesday's playoff.

And second, the Wildcats were looking ahead to Macon Central last season when those same Wayne County Yellow Jackets

By JULIAN MILLER
Will Roy Cooley doesn't fret about depriving his own football team of its home field advantage. He doesn't believe there is such a thing.

So when, after winning a coin flip with Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder for the right to host the first round of the Region 1-AAA playoffs Tuesday, Valdosta offered \$12,000 to move the game to Valdosta, Cooley and his Central of Thomasville Yellow Jackets gladly accepted.

"Oh yeah, I've caught some flack," said the talkative, likeable Yellow Jacket boss.

"Both from our fans and some who weren't our fans.

But what the heck ... we couldn't host it. And we felt it ought to be played at either our field or theirs. We're real satisfied with the decision. I just hope coach Hyder doesn't make us look like fools."

The playoff between the Jackets and Wildcats, who finished the regular season tied with Dougherty of Albany, each 9-1, gets underway at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Valdosta's Cleveland Field. At stake is the right to play Dougherty for the Region title Friday.

Central's home field, Thomas County Stadium, seats only 6,400, 1,600 less than the Georgia High School Association minimum for Class AAA playoffs. It was apparent from the beginning the game would have to be moved. After Valdosta started talking money, deciding where was just a formality.

Does Cooley think he also sold the home field advantage?

"No I don't," he offers freely. "I'm personally not sold on the home field advantages. We've lost three regular season games in the last five years and two of them were at home. Thomasville has lost three tough home field games in two years, two to Valdosta and one to us."

"We just don't mind going on the road. This crew of ours is very unusual. We went to

record of 1,343 yards in a season set by Dougherty's Mack Greene last season, then promptly went to the sidelines with a knee injury.

But he'll be back Tuesday with a couple of quarterbacks, Mike Singletary and Don Ruis, who have shared starting duties, and a defense that has allowed only one rushing touchdown all season.

Both Valdosta and Central lost to Dougherty, 28-26 and 24-21 respectively, then held their breath while the Trojans fell to Thomasville, 30-0 to bring on the tie.

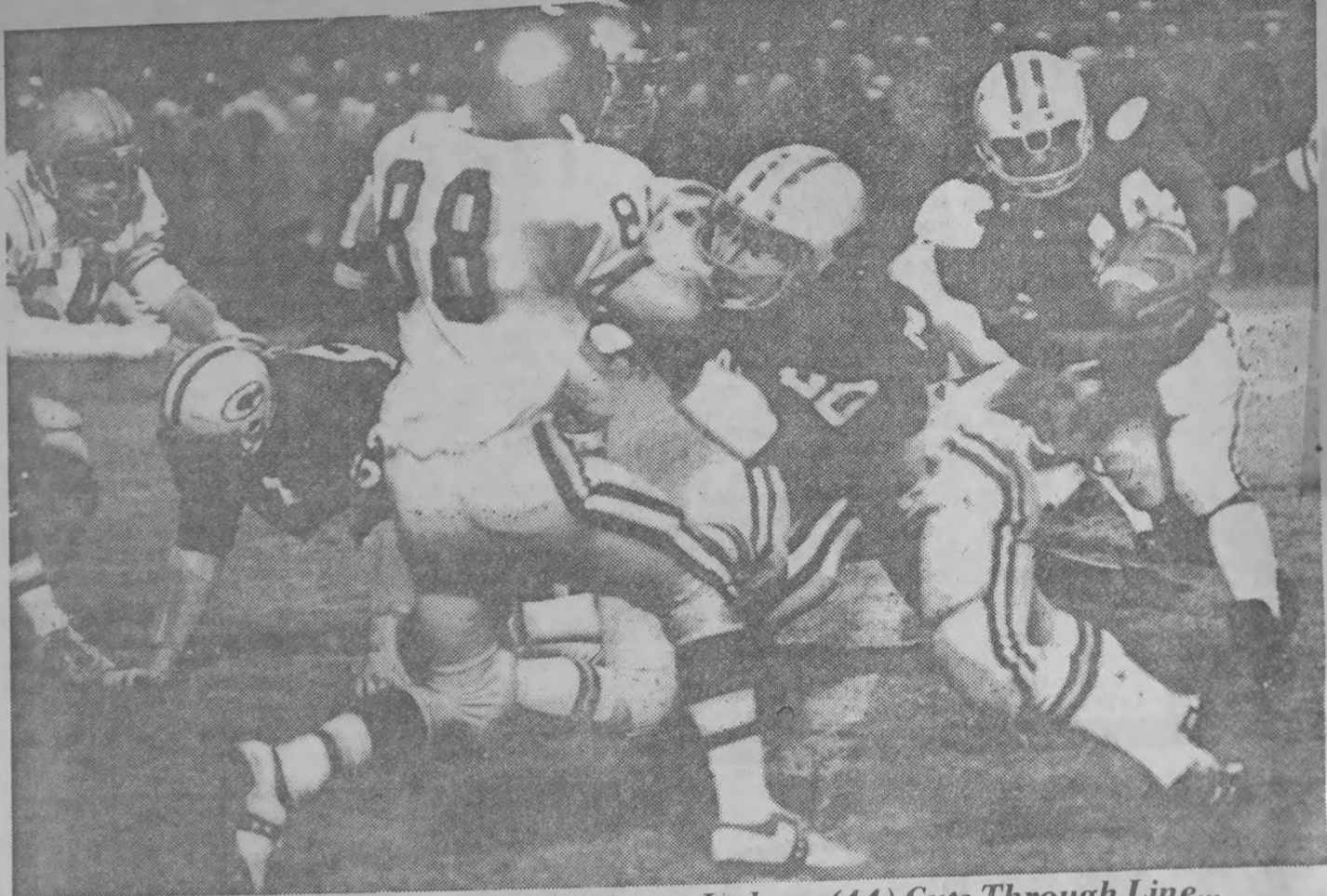
The Georgia High School Association waived one of its own rules placing playoffs six days apart to bring on the two playoff games in one week. And region officials voted to accept the waiver and give the bye to Dougherty because of the wins.

Ironically, Cooley and Hyder had fought for the right to play each other before the season ever began but couldn't because the GHSA allows only 10 games in regular season and both schedules were already full.

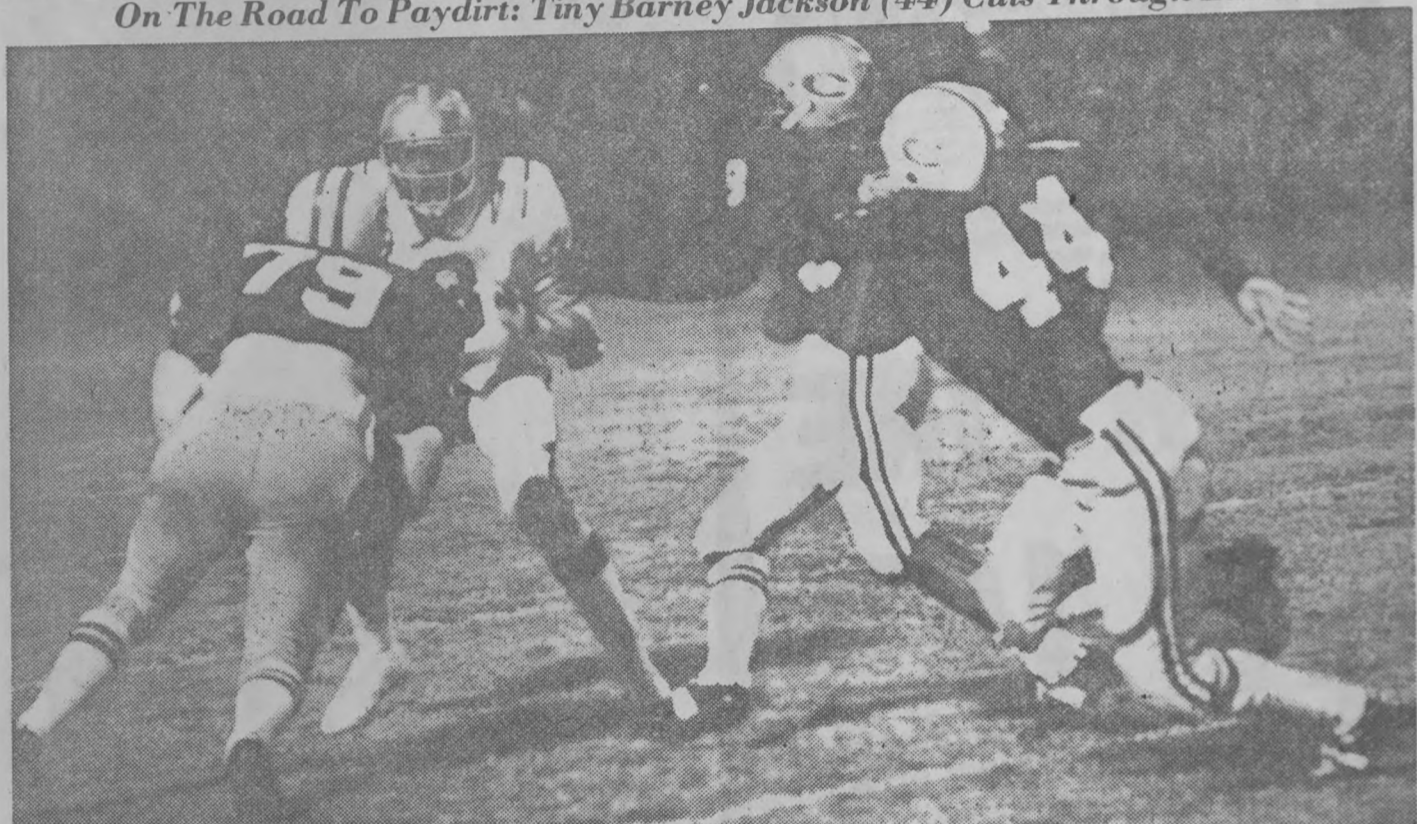
Probable starters for each team follow:

VALDOSTA
Offense — ends Alvin Thomas (185, jr.) and John Lasinger (160, soph.), tackles David Cooper (195, sr.) and Gary Guhrle (225, jr.) or Scott Griffin (190, soph.), guards Tom Copeland (185, sr.) or Andy Chapman (177, soph.) and Bryan Johnson (185, jr.), center Ben Blanton (215, sr.), quarterback Buck Belue (190, jr.), halfbacks Frank Council (175, jr.) or William Gaskins (155, soph.) and Jody Wilson (155, jr.) and fullback Bobby Johnson (175, soph.)
Defense — ends Curtis Williams (175, sr.) or Alec Greene (165, jr.) and Robert Baldwin (195, jr.), tackles Eddie Denard (206, jr.) and O'Keefe Hunter (230, sr.), middle guard Ricky Warren (190, sr.), linebackers Keith Middleton (210, sr.) and John Brannen (165, soph.) or Baldwin, cornerbacks Troy Thomas (170, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (160, soph.) or Wilbur Scott (140, sr.) and safeties Allen Worthy (175, jr.) and Lawrence Lowe (198, sr.) or Carl Roe (150, soph.).

CENTRAL
Offense — ends Horace Smith (168, jr.) and Vance Hurst (190, sr.), tackles Dain Clark (219, jr.) and Tracy Harper (217, sr.), guards Les Herring (154, sr.) and Henry Watson (160, jr.), center Scott Nesmith (202, sr.) quarterback Don Ruis (185, jr.), tailback Terry White (178, sr.), fullback David Harris (176, jr.) and slotback J. P. Hill (130, jr.)
Defense — ends Leonard Guyton (154, jr.) and Milton Jackson (170, sr.), tackles Mike Smith (208, sr.) and Dwayne West (170, sr.), middle guard Willie Coston (154, sr.), linebackers Anthony Walden (166, sr.) and Wallace Davis (190, sr.) and defensive backs Anthony Bryant (180, sr.), Lee Howard (140, sr.), Lee Roy Reddick (165, jr.) and Robert Linton (185, jr.).



On The Road To Paydirt: Tiny Barney Jackson (44) Cuts Through Line...



...Follows Blockers Past Lawrence Lowe for First Central Touchdown

—Times Staff Photos. By Ken Klanicki

The End Comes Suddenly As Wildcat Season Closes

By MIKE CHASON

It began in the sultry month of August with enthusiasm pictured in the sweat of players' faces, and ended on a cold, wet November night with cheerleaders crying their eyes out on the sidelines.

For the Valdosta Wildcats, the 1976 high school football season is complete.

Unlike the beginning, which always seems to take forever to arrive, the end came suddenly in the form of two Don Ruis touchdown passes and a 59-yard gallop to glory by Barney Jackson.

The scoreboard was turned off almost as soon as the game ended, but it couldn't hide the 21-6 Central of Thomasville victory which was burned in the minds of the some 11,000 fans who braved 40-degree weather and a misting rain to see the first round of the Region 1-AAA playoffs here Tuesday night.

For Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, it had to be one of the longest nights he's ever spent on a football field.

"Losing just leaves you sort of numb," Hyder said while accepting condolences from the Valdosta faithful. "Don't blame the kids though. All I asked from them was to never quit, and they never did."

"I'll take the blame. I called the plays. We just didn't take advantage of things when we got down there near the goal line... and that's my fault. The kids really fought hard."

The Wildcats racked up 16 first downs in the game on 239 yards of total offense, but almost amazingly, didn't score a touchdown for the first time since they defeated Thomasville 3-0 in a playoff for the region title a year ago.

Sam Fletcher and Frank Council gave the 'Cats yard after yard through the heart of the Central defense, but when it came time for third down with the goal line in sight, the Yellow Jackets rose up to stop every attempt.

"We needed that one in the third quarter," Hyder said. "That missed field goal, the fumble, and the interception we had in the second half really stopped us. We didn't have a fumble or an interception the first half."

Hyder also cited a crucial interference call against safety Lawrence Lowe which gave Central a first down and led to a touchdown as another turning point.

The official dropped the flag almost as an afterthought on the play, much to the chagrin of Lowe and the joy of the Yellow Jackets who were facing a fourth down had the pass simply been ruled incomplete.

Central head coach Will Roy Cooley is leaving that one to the discretion of the man in the striped shirt, but he's awful glad it went the way it did.

He's also powerful proud his defense bowed its back when it had to.

"Nothing counts unless you cross that goal line right there," Cooley said when it was mentioned Valdosta moved his defensive unit all over the field.

"We didn't generate a whole lot of offense that first half, but (Mike) Singletary made just a super catch on that touchdown in the second half. He's a good young athlete."

Cooley confirmed that standout tailback Terry White was "100 per cent sound" physically despite the fact White ran only three times for 12 yards in the first half. The region's all-time leading rusher wound up with only 59 yards on the night, one of his lowest totals of the season.

It is to the credit of the Valdosta defense that it never let White break for a touchdown and only allowed Ruis to complete two passes. Unfortunately for the 'Cats, those two tosses went for six-pointers.

Cooley sees his Saturday night duel in Thomasville's Veterans Memorial Stadium against Dougherty for the region title as "just a super football game." The Trojans clipped his Jackets 24-21 earlier in the season for their only loss.

For Hyder, there is no playoff to worry about. By the same token, there's not one for him to look forward to either.

It's been a trying year for Hyder in that his team has never displayed the awesome offensive ability of last year's Region 1-AAA champions although it finished with the same 9-1 regular season record.

At the beginning of the year, the VHS running game

was almost nonexistent. But through the effort of fullback Bobby Johnson and quarterback Buck Belue, it came of age.

Johnson didn't carry the ball Tuesday night because of a bruised shoulder, but Fletcher, Council and Belue all found holes to run through. Belue also had great success in the first half throwing to end John Lastinger.

"Losing Alton Battles and Billy Berrian out of the backfield really hurt us," Hyder said. "We really had only two starters back on offense, but now they're mostly all back next year."

"It seemed like they just tried to do what they had to do from game to game. We'll be fighting back next year. They never quit."

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It's All Over But The Crying

in mud, Valdosta safety Lawrence Lowe sits in stunned
Susan McCall walks off in tears after Tuesday's 21-6
to Central of Thomasville. The defeat sent Valdosta to

the sidelines with thoughts of next year while Central and Dougherty of Albany
fight it out for the region title in Thomasville Saturday night. — Times Staff
Photos by Robert Winter III.



Stacked Deck

Valdosta High School running back Sam Fletcher shows all
termination in the world but it appears to be getting him
ere fast against a rugged Central of Thomasville defense
esday's Region 1-AAA playoff game. Fletcher carried 13
for 49 yards but the Wildcats lost 21-6. — Times Staff

Jackets Make Mockery

From Times and AP Reports
Central of Thomasville's
Yellow Jackets forgot to
check with the Associated
Press statewide poll before
taking on Valdosta's Wildcats
here Tuesday night.
Or maybe it was the
Associated Press that forgot
to check with the Yellow
Jackets.
In any event, the Jackets
got the last laugh today when
the poll was released showing
them ranked fifth and the
Wildcats they defeated 21-6
Tuesday ranked second.
The Jackets, however, may
have been too busy looking at
the number three spot, held
by Dougherty of Albany, to
laugh yet. They host the
Trojans Saturday at 8 p.m.
for the right to represent
Region 1-AAA in their first
year back in the leagues after
a four-year stint in Class AA.
Warner Robins' Demons

continued to reign as the
number one team in Class
AAA, however, after a 35-13
victory over Northside of
Warner Robins, a game they
had been awaiting for 13
months.
This week's Georgia high
school football poll rated the
Demons No. 1 in Class AAA.
Northside, which finished the
year 7-3, had upset Warner
Robins 20-18 in the final
seconds of last year's annual
rivalry between the two
teams.
Marist of Class AA and
Hogansville of Class B, both
undefeated this season, were
ranked No. 1 in their
classifications. Sylvan, which
edged Fulton 7-6 Saturday
night, was No. 1 in Class A.
Three AAA teams lost their
weekend encounters, and

one, Windsor Forest, fell
from the Top 10 after its 21-19
loss to seventh-ranked Wayne
County. Windsor Forest
travels to Wayne County this
weekend for the region 3-AAA
playoff.
Northside-Atlanta, ranked
second last week, dropped a
13-6 decision to Washington
and fell to eighth. Henderson,
upset by fourth-ranked
Clarke Central 10-0, fell from
third to sixth and lost a
chance to meet Peachtree in
the region 8-AAA playoff.
Peachtree, which blasted
Dunwoody 26-12 to finish the
regular season 9-0-1, was
voted 10th.

Class AAA	
1. Warner Robins (10-0)	110
2. Valdosta (9-1)	86
3. Dougherty (9-1)	84
4. Clarke Central (9-1)	68
5. Cent. Thomasville (9-1)	67
6. Richmond Acad. (9-1)	51
7. Wayne Co. (9-1)	50

Cooley Likes Valdosta, Picks T'ville

Times Staff Writer
Roy Cooley not only
to see ghosts in
sta Cleveland Field
y night ... he kinda
ie place.
's play here," Cooley
ougherty Coach Luther
Tuesday night when
got together to decide
Welsh's Trojans and

Cooley's Central of
Thomasville Yellow Jackets
would meet to decide the
Region 1-AAA champion.
The Yellow Jackets had
come to Cleveland Field to
defeat Valdosta 21-6 in the
first round of the Region
playoff Tuesday and won the
right to meet Dougherty for
the title.

But Welsh wasn't as
anxious to see Cleveland
Field again as Cooley was
and a 90-minute conference
followed before Central
finally won a coin toss for the
right to host the Trojans in
Thomasville's Veterans
Memorial Stadium Saturday
at 8 p.m.
Both teams had agreed to

play in Moultrie as a neutral
site, but a call to Moultrie
principala Ike Aultman
revealed a \$1 per person head
tax for the stadium neither
team wanted to pay.
"A dollar a person!" said
Welsh. "That don't sound like
a tax ... it sounds like they're
trying to pay for the
stadium!"

Cleveland Field was ruled
out because Valdosta hosts
the Southern Open Band
Contest there Saturday, and
Central insisted on that night
to play.
Cooley also refused to go to
Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium,
citing, among other things,
the condition of the dressing
rooms.

8. Northside-Atlanta (9-1)	21	9. Woodward Acad. (9-1)	25	Others nominated: Cartersville (8-2),	
9. Henderson (9-1)	19	10. Dodge Co. (8-2)	5	Cinch Co. (8-2), Josey (5-4), Putnam Co.	
10. Peachtree (9-0-1)	15	Others nominated: Americus (7-3),		(7-2-1) and Wilkinson Co. (9-1).	
Others nominated: Griffin (9-2), Low-		Brown (8-2), Dublin (8-2), Fayette Co. (8-1-			
ndes (8-2), Marietta (10-1), Thomasville		1) and Stephens Co. (8-2).			
(7-3), Westside-Aug. (9-1), Wheeler (8-3)					
and Windsor Forest (9-1).					
Class AA					
1. Marist (10-0)	108	Class A			
2. Avondale (10-0)	99	1. Sylvan (10-1)	107		
3. Coffee (10-0)	88	2. Turner Co. (10-0)	101		
4. Dalton (9-1)	76	3. Bowdon (9-1)	85		
5. Bradwell Institute (9-1)	68	4. Cedar Grove (10-0)	68		
6. Swainsboro (9-1)	50	5. Early Co. (9-1)	63		
7. Gainesville (8-1-1)	44	6. Irwin Co. (8-2)	51		
8. Cedartown (10-1)	34	7. Duluth (8-1-1)	37		
		8. East Rome (9-2)	32		
		9. Commerce (8-1-1)	27		
		10. Vidalia (9-1)	20		
				Class B	
				1. Hogansville (10-0)	107
				2. Macon Co. (10-0)	99
				3. Lincoln Co. (10-0)	88
				4. Reidsville (9-1)	75
				5. Sav. Country Day (9-1)	68
				6. Buford (9-1)	57
				7. Charlton Co. (8-2)	40
				8. Mt. de Sales (8-2)	32
				9. Bremen (8-2)	26
				10. Heard Co. (8-2)	11
				Others nominated: Jefferson (7-3) and	
				West Point (8-2).	

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Nov. 17, 1976-7-B

OF AP POLL

1-AAA Playoffs

Thomasville Central Blasts 'Dosta, 21-6

By JULIAN MILLER

Will Roy Cooley never believed in ghosts, goblins or home field advantages.

Tuesday night, he ignored the legendary "Ghost" of Cleveland Field to call on a few spooks of his own, namely a star tailback who wasn't there and a surprisingly tough defense that was.

YARDSTICK		
	Valdosta	Central
First Downs	16	11
Yards Rushing	97	176
Yards Passing	142	39
Passes	18-27	2-4
Passes Intc. by	2	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punting	2-33.0	5-35.2
Penalties	2-20	2-10

And when the mud had settled on that Cleveland Field Cooley's Central of Thomasville Yellow Jackets had accumulated 21 points, a 21-6 victory over Valdosta's Wildcats and a berth in the Region 1-AAA high school football playoff finals Saturday.

The Yellow Jackets, who didn't even play in the region until moving up this season, even went a step further by winning the right to host the game Saturday at 8 p.m. in Thomasville's stadium.

"Naw, I didn't see any ghosts," the grey haired Central coach teased after his victory over the Wildcats to break a three-way tie for the region championship.

"Our defense letting them have anything outside the 20's and not letting them into our end zone," he said. "That was the key."

The Wildcats gave up a quick touchdown on Central's first possession, then seemed to be bouncing back on their next four possessions when they drove the ball all over the field to set up four field goal attempts.

But junior Robert Baldwin's foot kicked true on only two of them and Valdosta's hopes of installing the three-pointer as the savior of the Cleveland Field advantage ended when Central quarterback Don Ruis threw two touchdown passes in as many attempts in the second half.

That ended Valdosta's dreams of repeating as Region 1-AAA champions and brought on a 90-minute meeting between Central and Dougherty officials to finalize plans for the championship game Saturday.

Central's iron-clad defense did more than keep Valdosta out of the Yellow Jacket end zone. It held the Wildcats to zero yards rushing in the second half and only 75 through the air where the Wildcats were supposed to earn their salaries.

It also picked off one of junior quarterback Buck Belue's passes to set up one touchdown drive and recovered Valdosta's only fumble of the game to start another. The Jacket defense has now refused to allow a touchdown in 13 consecutive quarters. It was the seventh game this season in which



— Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

Central's Willie Coston, Right, Eyes Council (80) Fumble

they allowed no touchdowns.

Meanwhile the Jacket offense seemed almost to ignore the presence of Terry White, the sensational tailback who has broken the region's season rushing record in the previous 10 games. The fleet-footed halfback was the game's leading scorer with 59 yards on 17 carries, but most of the crucial plays went elsewhere.

"Look, that kid has run the ball 200 times this season and he has his lumps and bruises," Cooley explained. "There's nothing wrong with him but Valdosta was spreading out and waiting for him. We were able to do some other things."

"Other things" included the scatback trip of tiny Barney Jackson, who sped for 59 yards and the first Central touchdown and then touched the ball only one more time, and passing of Don Ruis, who ignored interceptions on his first two passes to try twice more, both for touchdowns.

It took Central only 70 seconds to score its first touchdown and without knowing it the Jackets had the game won. On the third play of the game Jackson slanted left, worked his way through the line and sped 59 yards to paydirt. Vance Hurst kicked his first of three PAT's and the game was on.

After a punt exchange the 'Cats came back. Sticking mainly to the ground with Belue passing to his sideline occasionally to keep things honest, Valdosta drove 57 yards in 14 plays to set up Baldwin's first attempt. It was a 28-yarder that split the uprights to cut the lead to 7-3 with 1:34 left in the quarter.

The Wildcat defense gave up nothing on Central's next possession and a Singletary punt started another Valdosta drive from the

Wildcat 31. This time, however, a dozen plays and a penalty only reached the Central 26. Baldwin tried his luck from 43 yards away and the kick fell short and wide to the left.

Another Central possession found Valdosta's defense even tougher and Singletary's third punt set things up at the VHS 30. This time 12 plays, including only two completed passes, went to a fourth and five at the 14 and Baldwin kicked his second field goal, a 32 yarder to cut the lead to 7-6 with .38 seconds left in the half.

Valdosta's momentum seemed to carry over into the second half where the 'Cats stopped Central's first drive in five plays when Allen Worthy intercepted his second pass of the game and eighth of the season.

Valdosta marched from its own 41 to the Central 10 in just eight plays, as Belue turned more to his passing arm. But with 5:44 left in the third quarter, Baldwin's fourth and final attempt of the night slipped outside the left upright from 27 yards out and that was all the 'Cats would get.

Robert Linton broke the backs of the Wildcats with 3:44 left in the quarter when he intercepted a Belue pass at the Central 40 for his sixth theft of the season.

Seven plays later in a third-and-nine situation officials charged safety Lawrence Lowe with pass interference to give the Jackets new life.

Two plays later Ruis found Singletary open at the 10 for a pass the backup quarterback-turned halfback juggled all the way to the goal line before hanging on for the TD.

With 11:16 left in the game Wildcat hopes began to fail. They hit rock bottom five plays later when junior runningback Frank Council

made his only mistake of the season on a two-yard run and Willie Coston recovered the fumble at the Jacket 44.

An 18-yard run by White and 20-yard scamper by fullback Davis Harris helped move the ball to the 14 in six plays and Ruis found Hurst all alone in the left corner of the end zone. Hurst kicked again and ended the scoring with 6:21 remaining.

The Wildcats turned to desperation on their next two possessions, trying to take to the air on both to no avail. Both died on downs and the Jackets happily ran out the clock on their last four plays.

Offensively, Belue had outgained everyone, hitting on 18 of 27 pass attempts for 142 yards and running nine times for 25 yards. Sophomore halfback Sam Fletcher had carried 13 times for 49 yards as the 'Cats wound up their season at 9-2.

Defensively, Valdosta linebacker Keith Middleton again led the Wildcats with 10 individual stops, including several sacks. But he was outshined by Central defensive end Milton Jackson with 13 individual stops as the Jackets boosted their record to 10-1.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing: Valdosta-Fletcher 13-49, Council 8-26, Belue 9-25, Gaskins 2-3, Lastinger 1-minus 6; Central-White 17-59, Harris 12-49, B. Jackson 2-57, Ruis 6-11, Williams 3-1, Reddick 1-minus 1.
Passing: Valdosta-Belue 18-25-142, Thomas 0-1-0, Lastinger 0-1-1; Central-Ruis 2-4-39.
Pass Receiving: Valdosta-Lastinger 7-37, Council 6-54, Wilson 2-42, Thomas 2-2, Adams 1-7; Central-Singletary 1-25, Hurst 1-14.
Punt Returns: Valdosta-Baldwin 1-2.
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta-Council 1-14, Central-Smith 4-73.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta-Middleton 10, Wright 7, Baldwin 6, T. Thomas 5, Denard 3, Worthy 2, Scott 2, Hunter 2, Cain 2, Williams 2; Central-Jackson 13, Davis 8, Bryant 5, Howard 5, Walden 5, Hurst 4, Turner 4, Coston 3.

Score by Quarters:
Valdosta 3 3 0 0-6
Central 7 0 0 14-21
Cent - Jackson 59 run (Hurst kick)
Vald - Baldwin 28 Field Goal
Vald - Baldwin 32 Field Goal
Cent - Singletary 25 pass from Ruis (Hurst kick)
Cent - Hurst 14 pass From Ruis (Hurst kick)

Local Briefs

Top Back,

Lineman Cited

James 11-19-76

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue and Lowndes' middle guard Tim Yorkey have been named the top area back and lineman in the weekly balloting sponsored by Roger Budd Chevrolet.

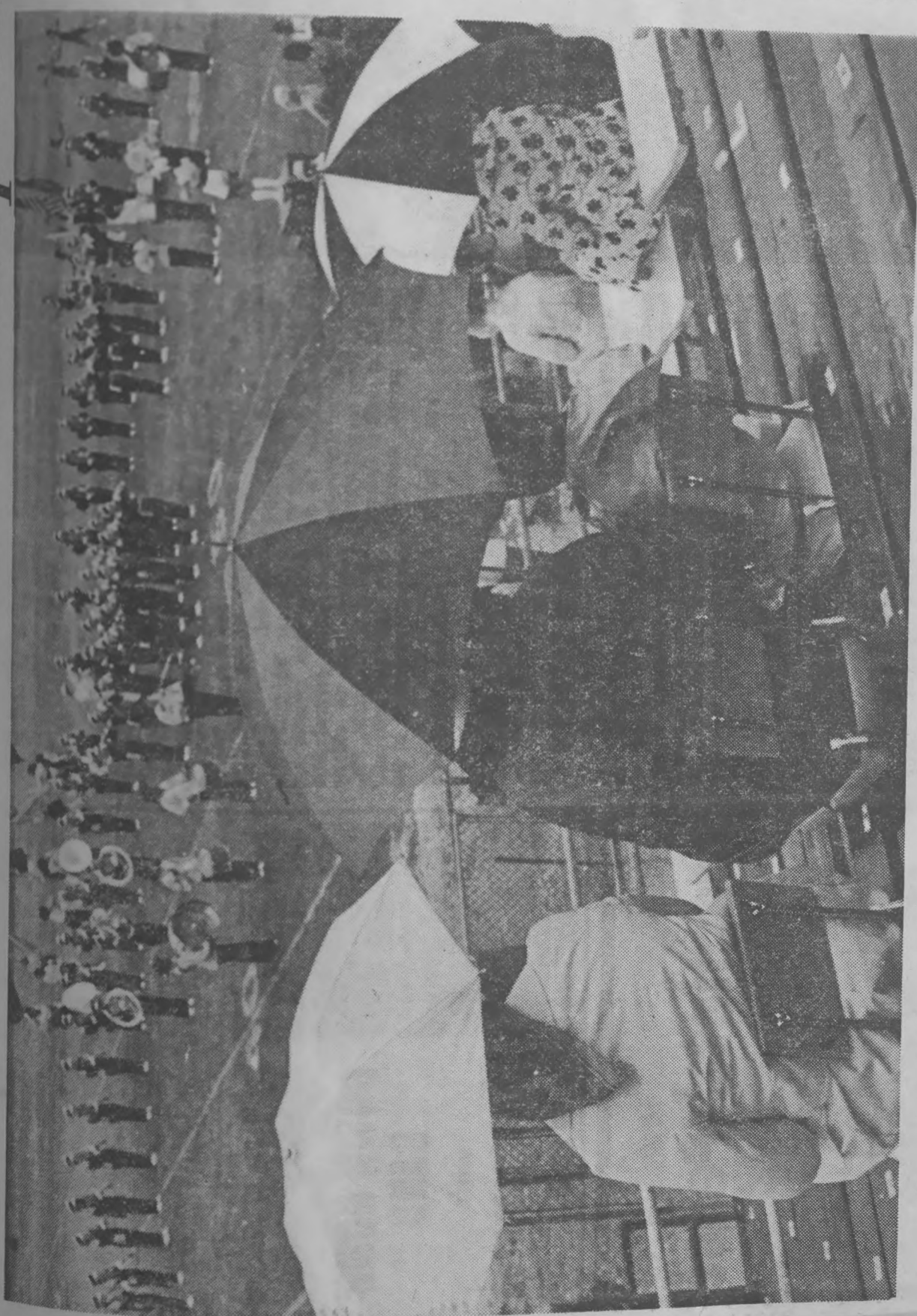
Belue closed out the regular season for the Wildcats by passing for 131 yards on 11 of 21 tosses and running for 27 more yards on 10 carries. He also punted twice for a 41.0 yard average in Valdosta's 24-7 victory over Westover in Albany.

Yorkey made the longest run of the game and of his career for the Vikings when he picked up a Thomasville fumble and galloped 95 yards to paydirt for the winning touchdown in a 17-14 Lowndes' win.

He was also credited with three individual tackles which LHS defensive coordinator Brad Almon called "almost as important to us as the touchdown run."

The players are selected each week by the Times sports department.

Bad Weather Couldn't Stop Southern Band Open



Spectators Broke Out Umbrellas As 'The Show Went On' As Scheduled



Muddy Boots Tell The Story

Bands Would Do It In A Tornado

Musicians from 30 high school bands from three southern states battled each other and a hard, driving rain here until nearly midnight Saturday to find the winner of the first Southern Open Band Competition.

And despite clouds that brought the cold damp weather that hung over Cleveland Field, everybody out there would do it again in a tornado," said Frank Butenschon, band director at Valdosta High School who

The five finalists — those bands receiving top scores in the preliminaries from eight judges from around the nation, — included: Tift County High School Band from Tifton; Nathan B. Forrest High School Band

The count, a Paris attorney, paid \$145,000 for the

Butenschon said of the Open that in spite of the rain and cold weather "we think in no uncertain terms, it was a complete success.

Every band came ... some marched in the driving rain ... for the finals the stadium became known during

The band flew the flag in his memory for a year, then presented the flag to the Abbeville, S.C., Grenaders, to fly in memory of their band captain who was killed when a tornado struck the town.

The Grenadiers then presented the flag to VHS in 1974 in honor of two band members who were killed in an automobile accident on the way home from band camp.

Watson said, but he called the expenditure justified on both moral and financial grounds. Cancer costs Georgia roughly \$200 million a year in hospitalization, funeral expenses and lost wages, he

Lafayette, outbid the Smithsonian Institution to win possession of a sword presented to Lafayette in 1779 by the American Continental Congress.

Carter suggested she read "Boys on the Bus," an irreverent look at press coverage of the 1972 presidential campaign.

About 500 to 600 guests at the TSU band which

**Story By Becky Vail
Photos By Ken Klanicki**

Southern Open will be an annual occurrence here, and the Cats are already looking at a calendar for next year when the rain may not be a problem.

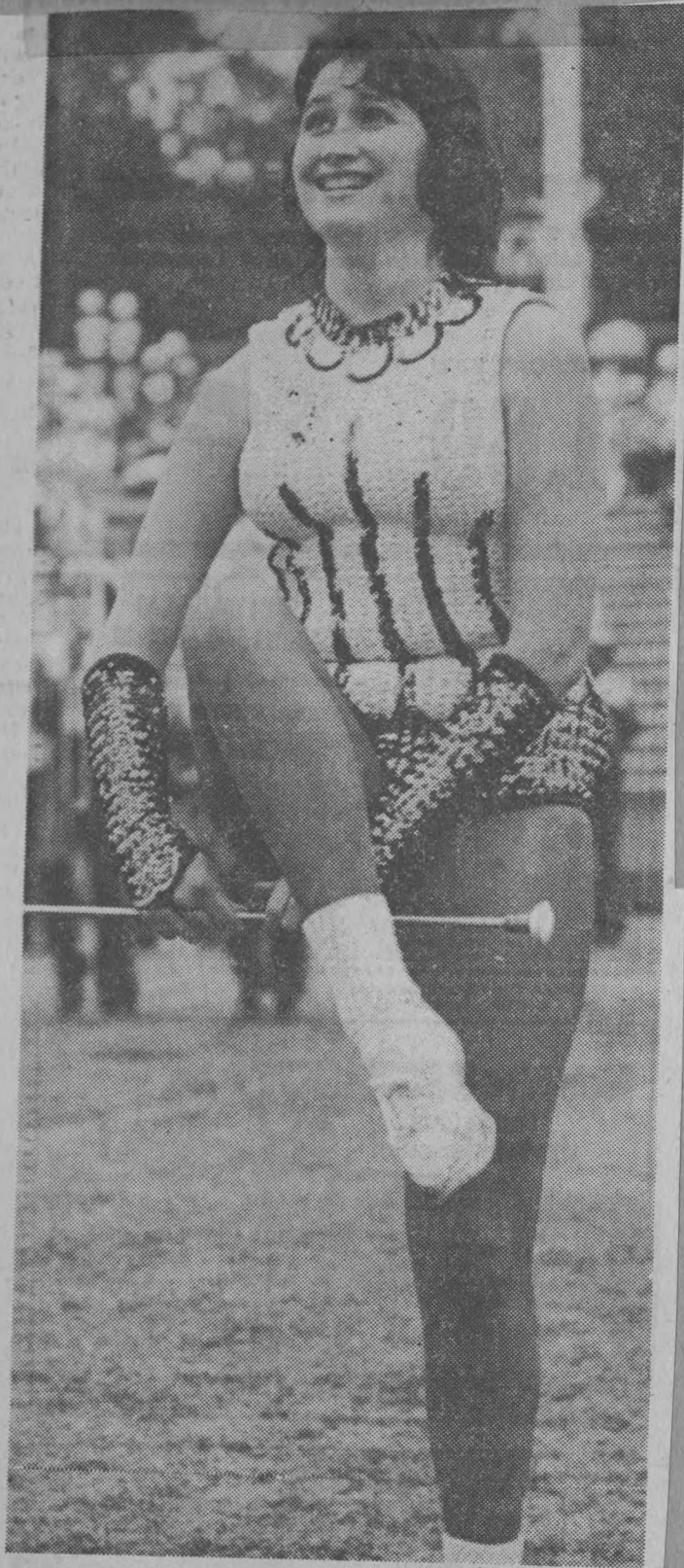
Whether the competition made any money is uncertain yet, added Butenschon: the counting is to be done this week.

In addition to thanking the people of Valdosta for helping support the Open

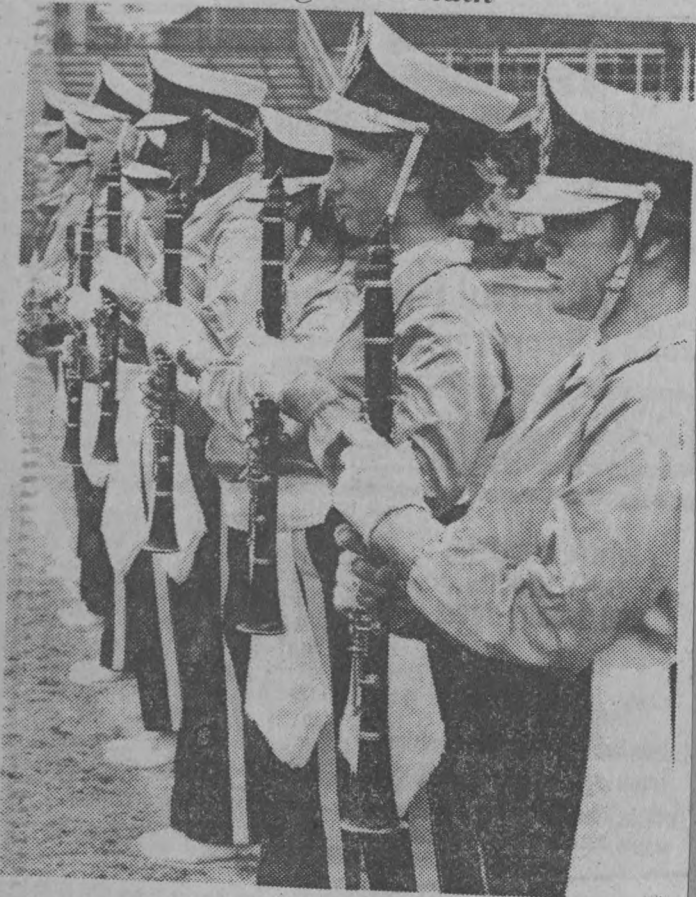
combat the poultry disease, infectious coryza.

The disease, much like the common cold in humans, reduces egg production and poultry profits, said Dr. Richard B. Davis, associate professor of

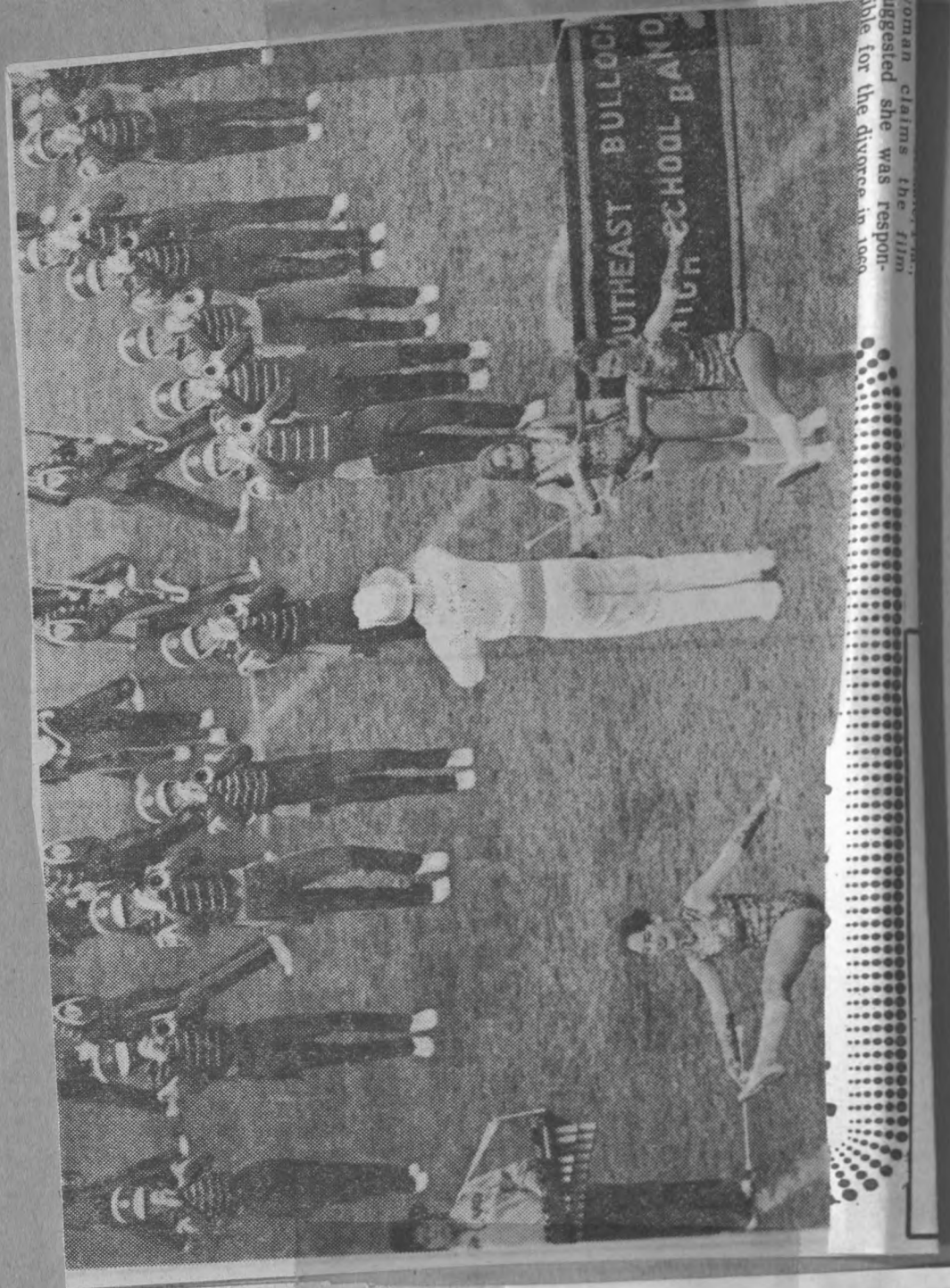
honeymoon," a spokesman said after the ceremony Sunday. "Marisa doesn't even know. Jim has it all planned." He said they will be gone up to 10 days.



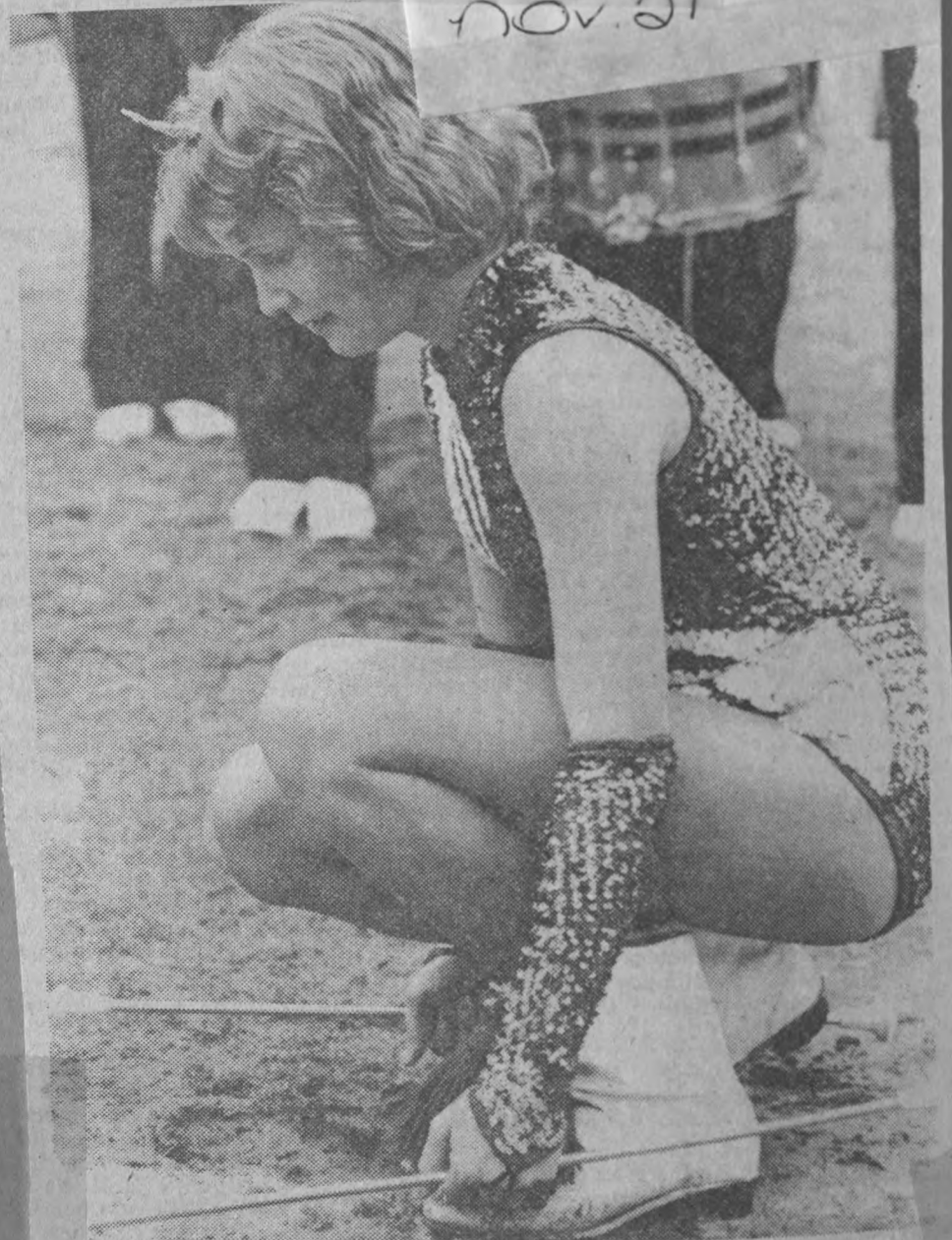
*Demopolis, Ala., Majorette Smiles
Through The Rain*



Floral, Ala., Clarinets At Rest



Woman claims the firm suggested she was responsible for the divorce in 1969.



The Show Must Go On

This unidentified majorette, a member of the Floral (Ala.) High School Band, looks like she had rather be somewhere other than the middle of Cleveland Field on a rainy Saturday morning in Valdosta. The Floral band was one of 30 high school bands in town for the first Southern Open Band Competition, hosted by the Valdosta High Marchin' Cats. The competition began at 8 a.m. Saturday and ended late Saturday night with the winner receiving a 4½-foot championship trophy. The competitors persevered through a steady rain most of the day, and judges selected five finalists for night competition. The showers mercifully ended in time for the finals Saturday night. Full picture coverage of the Open is to be a part of Monday's Times. — Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki

11-21-76



Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

People Close To Wildcats Know Their Hard Work

It only took Nick Hyder three years to reach the same esteem his predecessor Wright Bazemore reached in 30 in some people's minds ... they want to get rid of him.

"Bazemore tells me he got the same treatment in 1970," the Valdosta head football coach said when this newsman pointed out the rumors of discontent circulating among the spectators behind him.

Hyder's right. The few anonymous letters and phone calls and secret meetings to find a better coach by people who don't really have anything to do with the program are nothing compared to the talk about Bazemore after his only losing (2-7-1) season in 1963.

"The old man's had it," they said then. "The game has passed him by." In 1970, hints of the same reappeared when the Wildcats lost in the state Class AA semi-finals after tying Athens 26-26 for the title the year before.

"He'll never get another state championship," they were saying.

But the Baze showed 'em. His 1971 team rode through Georgia like Sherman's army, beating Avondale 62-12 for the state title and winning the mythical national championship with a sparkling 13-0 record.

And then the Baze let 'em hold it. He retired as head football coach to take over as city-wide athletic director.

Now those comments from anonymous sources are coming back to haunt the head coach again. No one knows where they came from. They just make their presence known.

"But they're not coming from the people who count," Hyder points out. "The people who are really behind this program don't feel that way. The parents of the kids who play the game don't feel that way. The people who will talk to us face to face don't feel that way."

"And as long as there are good people like that, it makes it all worthwhile."

Actually that's not the main aspect that makes it all worthwhile. Midst criticism that Hyder can't call a football game, works his players so hard they don't enjoy the game, and in general isn't the coach Bazemore was, Hyder held a meeting for students other than football players or B-team and junior varsity members who want to go out for the team last week.

"Over 200 kids showed up," Hyder said. "That doesn't include the 90 we had on the team this year and the 50 we have coming up next year. That's 200 others who don't even play football yet. If we get just eight out of those we're doing good."

The complaints, all anonymous, come from folks who are discontented

with the 9-2 record and tie for the region championship the Wildcats achieved this season. Mostly it was the way the Wildcats failed to move the ball consistently in the second half against Central of Thomasville in the 21-6 loss in the region playoff Tuesday night.

"I'm going to let the people fight this out among themselves," Hyder said. "There are a lot of people in this community that will fight those folks. Some feel we took this team farther than it would have gone."

"Against Thomasville (29-9) and Tift County (25-7) I was the best play caller in the world. They were comparing me to everyone. Then we don't move the ball one night and all of a sudden I'm down to nothing. Play calling is like pitching. A pitcher never means to throw balls. But sometimes it happens."

In all fairness to Hyder, the young head coach has inherited problems of the program before him. When Bazemore retired after 31 years, 290 wins, and 15 state championships Charlie Greene was named his replacement.

That touched off a war between Greene supporters and those for Joe Wilson, who was also on the staff. Greene had enough after two years and left town with 9-1 and 8-2 records and Wilson was again passed up while a "special coach selection committee" looked up "someone better." Hyder was the man. And that left him with ill feelings from both the Greene and Wilson sides.

"But I expected all that when I took the job," Hyder insists. "It shows people are interested in the program."

Why would a football coach put up with such ridiculous conditions?

"Because of the good people involved, the good kids, the touchdown club that stuck right with us through that 3-7 season ... who still got 50-100 people out to watch every film, whether we won or not ... the school administration that keeps on backing us and the community that stays behind us."

Hyder's year-round conditioning program is more upsetting to adults who are in no way involved than to the kids who are.

While the first group contends it turns players away with too much of a good thing Hyder can show how it has turned his program around ... and the number of participants is steadily growing without complaints or anyone quitting.

"I can tell you what would have happened without it ... a 3-7 record, that's what!" Hyder contends. "And that's not a guess it's a fact. That's what happened in 1974 and I won't forget it. The anonymous comments were much greater then."

The trouble is, people don't believe Hyder when he tells them what to expect. At the beginning of the season, for instance, he repeatedly pointed out the 'Cats had lost all their offensive backfield save for quarterback Buck Belue.

Nobody believed him. And even when the Wildcats went through an entire season, constantly moving runningbacks around to find one who could really get the job done, no one believed.

"I've been told this team had more talent than any Valdosta team before it," Hyder said. "I don't believe it. Give the players credit. They scrapped and hustled and earned everything they got. They didn't have any Steve Stanalands, or Don Goldens, or big backs like McCaskill or Danny O'Neal, no Giles Smiths or Tom Holts ... this was mostly a young, inexperienced team. They're comparing them with senior-laden teams like that 1971 bunch. It's not fair."

"This team never quit and I really think it did an outstanding job to get where it did. I think the coaches did a good job of coaching to help get them there. Next year, we should be in a little better shape but we'll have other problems."

"This time we lose about 10 starters through graduation. Last year we lost almost all of them, especially on offense. In fact, only two other teams, Bainbridge and Crisp County have less returning starters than we did."

The night Valdosta, Dougherty and Central of Thomasville finished the season with matching 9-1 records, Central fans were so overwhelmed they gave head coach Will Roy Cooley a brand new pickup truck.

Hyder's not asking for one. He's not asking for anything. He just wants to turn the Valdosta football program into the first class football team it is regarded as throughout the southeast.

"People don't realize times are changing and Valdosta has to change with them," he said. "We've done all right with the little change we have. But all the teams in the region are getting the high-salaried, high talented head coaches now. And they're all putting in these type programs."

"You see what it did for (Gene) Brodie at Tifton, (Tift County) Jim Hughes set the pattern with his program in Thomasville. Luther Welsh installed the same thing in Dougherty. So did Will Roy Cooley in Central."

"The people who really know the program, the parents and the people who come to practices and to pre-season camp and work with it are the ones who build a program. They're the ones who know. And I think they're still behind us. And as long as they are, those few anonymous ones don't matter."

Valdosta Naval ROTC Unit Takes Honors At Pensacola

The Times-Union Bureau

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The Naval Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps of Valdosta High School recently won first place in military appearance and second place in military drill competition at the Fifth Annual Navy League Field Day at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla.

According to VHS Naval Science Instructor Capt. (Ret.) David Scott, 14 high schools and about 500 ROTC cadets from Texas, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Louisiana competed in the categories of military drill, athletics, and academics.

VHS Cagers

June 11-21-76

'Cats Have It All, Kittens Are Short

By JULIAN MILLER

Norman Sainz knows half the basketball coaches in south Georgia are watching his Valdosta Wildcats like a hawk awaiting its foe's first mistake.

But with the 1976-77 high school basketball season opener only three days away, he's more concerned with convincing his Wildcats they're not the best team around.

And it's getting to be a full-time job.

On paper, the Wildcats seem to have it all — height, speed, experience, and shooting, rebounding and jumping ability everything a basketball team needs to win big.

But the young head coach going into his first full season at the helm of the Wildcats warns the potential the Wildcats appear to have must be developed quickly to have the kind of season he would like.

While Sainz tries to keep a handle on his Wildcats, his counter part at VHS, new girls' coach Jerry Don Baker, is trying to convince his Kittens height isn't everything on the basketball court.

If he's wrong it could be disastrous.

"We sure won't lead any rebounding charts," the first year head coach expounds with characteristic sincerity.

"We've got no height whatsoever. We're going to have to rely on speed and hard work. But we do have that and we're ready to see how it works."

The two new coaches take their first head coaching assignments under unusual circumstances. Both have only their own high school careers, physical education classes at Valdosta State College and junior varsity, B' team or junior high work to fall back on.

Sainz took over the helm of the Wildcats as interim coach last year when Joe Wilson left the post at Valdosta to become head football coach and athletic director at cross-city Lowndes High School.

The new head basketball coach took over the helm of the then 7-3 Wildcats after the Christmas Holidays and totally revamped the offense enroute to Region 1-AAA (South) and Region 1-AAA runners-up positions behind champion Bainbridge. They finished with a 16-10 record, losing to Macon Southwest in the first round of the state tournament.

Baker replaces Glenn Phelps as the Kitten coach after a 12-7 season. Unlike Phelps, however, the new head coach is slowed by his activities as assistant coach for the football team.

"That made it harder on the girls," Baker admits. "I just couldn't be in two places at once."

Sainz must constantly deal with everyone else's optimistic evaluation of his Wildcats. As head coach, however, he tries to remain more level-headed.

"We've got the potential to be a good team," he conceded. "But it's what we do with it that is going to make the difference. The kids have put in a lot of work to stay in shape."

"Jumping...every kid on the team has improved, some as much as six inches in jumping."

"We've changed our offense a good bit. But we've always run before and we're going to try to again this year. The defense will be somewhat new."

The 'Cats have to do without five outstanding players from last season's team. Bernard Robinson, Billy DeMersseman, Otis Whitfield and James Stewart were graduated. Leon Johnson, a promising senior was lost when he broke his ankle last

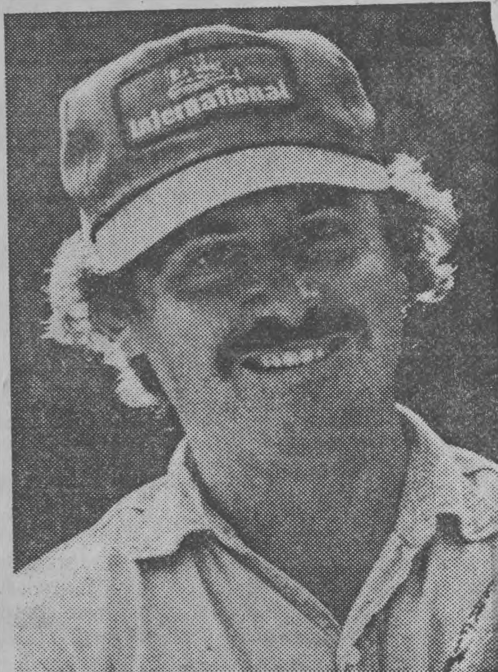
week in football practice and Jody Wilson decided to devote more time to other sports.

Returning, however, is Lawrence Lowe (6-4, sr.) who led the region in rebounding last season, Greg Sampson (6-0, sr.) who has the potential and experience to be one of the best offensive players in the league, and center-forward George Robinson (6-7, sr.) who came on strong after Sainz took over the helm last season.

Also returning are forward Alvin Thomas (6-2, jr.), Allen Worthy (6-4, jr.), Greg Lynch (6-5, sr.), and Greg Powell (6-1 soph.); center Jeff Sirmans (6-8, sr.), and guards Chandler Daniels (6-0, jr.), Chris Daniels (5-7, jr.), Lance Russell (5-7, jr.), Buck Belue (6-0, jr.), and Robert Baldwin (5-9, jr.)

Thomas is a competent ball handler while Worthy is the best jumper on the team.

"He can flat sky," Sainz said. "Lynch moved in from Augusta and is going to be a good rebounder and shooter and we found Antonio Johnson walking the halls here. He's an excellent jumper, great offensive and



NORMAN SAINZ Potential Is There

defensive player...the most pleasant surprise we've had."

But Sainz expects the competition to be much improved over last season.

"I look for Bainbridge to be as strong as ever, but the entire region should be a lot tougher than it was last season," Sainz said. "Crisp County is going to be tough and Lowndes always gives us fits."

Like the Wildcats, Baker's Kittens have plenty of depth. Baker, however, would like to try stacking his players on top of each other.

"We've got a bunch of quick, short girls," Baker said. "And we're going to have to depend on that speed. A lot depends on Lisa Feix and her shooting from outside. We hope to fast break but we're going to have problems getting the ball off the boards."

The Kittens received a double setback when 5-11 Linda Berrien, a stalwart from last season died of hepatitis earlier this year. It was both an emotional and physical loss.

Then 5-11 Vera Crawford transferred in from Lowndes Junior High but after practicing with the team was ruled ineligible to

(See 'Cats on Page 22-A)

Area Roundup

V. Times 11-30-76

Lowndes, 'Dosta Resume Action

By Times Staff Writer

Lowndes and Valdosta return to the hoop wars tonight, hitting the road for Region 1-AAA basketball doubleheaders in Thomasville and Moultrie.

Lowndes' unbeaten Vikings and Vikettes visit Thomasville Central's Yellow

AREA HOOP SLATE

Tonight
Valdosta at Moultrie
Lowndes at Central
Westbrook at Valwood
Brooks at Cook
Atkinson at Lanier
College
Ga. Southern at VSC Women
Wednesday
FJC at NFJC

Jackets, while Valdosta's Wildcats, 1-0, and Kittens, 0-1, face the Packers and Packerettes at Moultrie.

In other area high school games, Westbrook of Dixie visits Valwood (Valdosta), Brooks (Quit-

man) is at Cook (Adel), and Lanier (Lakeland, Ga.) plays host to Atkinson (Pearson).

In a college game, the unbeaten Valdosta State College women entertain Georgia Southern College at the Blazer Fieldhouse.

Florida Junior College visits North Florida Junior College's Sentinels in a game on tap for Wednesday in Madison.

The veteran-loaded Lowndes teams are both 2-0 after sweeping doubleheaders from Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) and Tift (Tifton) last week.

Valdosta opened against Tift a week ago, with the Wildcats coasting to an easy win, but with the inexperienced Kittens dropping a hard-fought decision to the Tifton quintet.

'Cats Have

P. 22 A

play this year.

"Lisa Owens (5-6, sr.) is the only senior on the team and has shown a lot of leadership at center," Baker said. "She's a scrapper."

"Overall we've been working on our fast break, trying to get our offense moving. Most of them started working at the end of last school year and worked on their own during the summer to keep in shape."

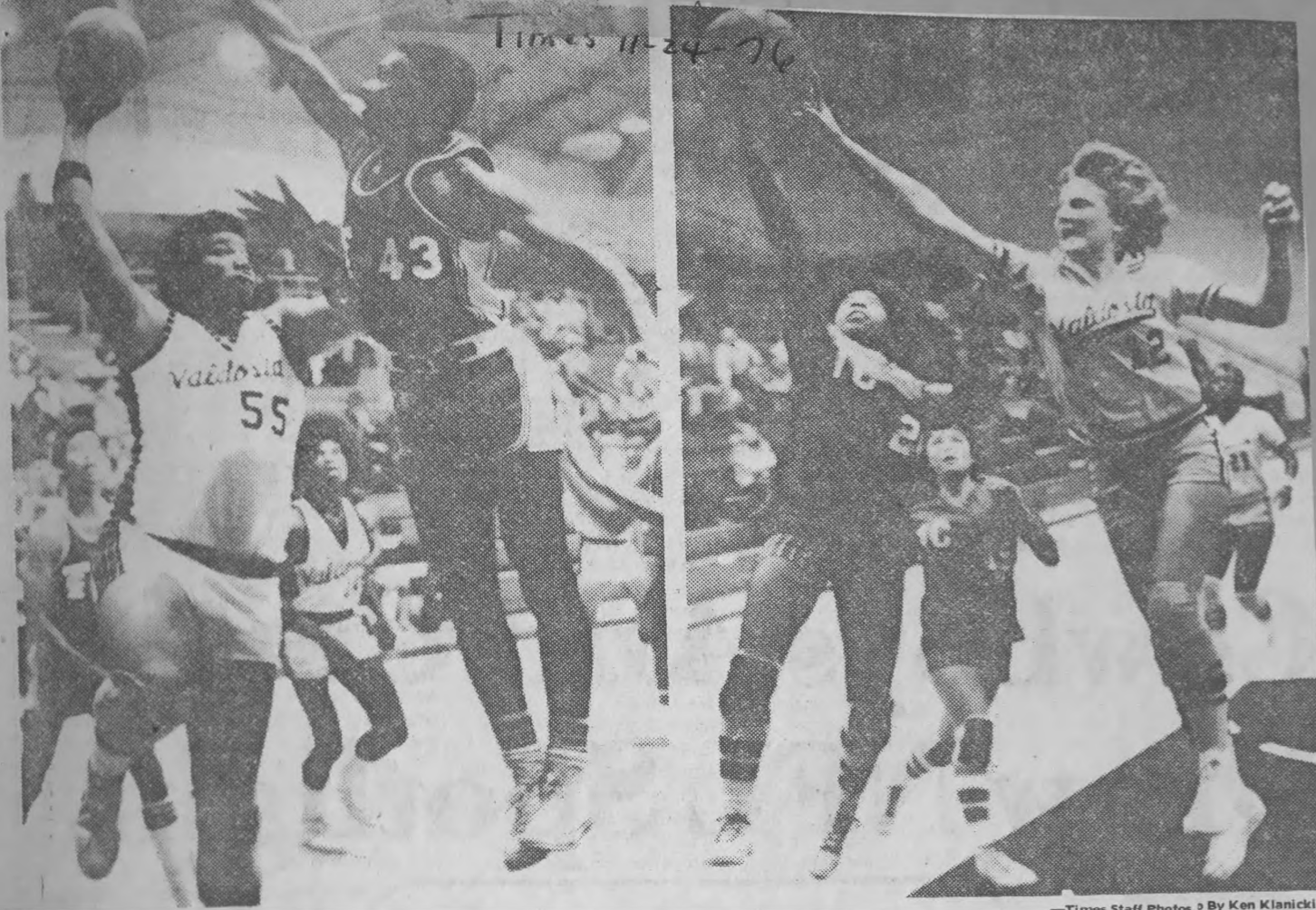
Rounding out the 19-girl roster are forwards Lisa Feix (5-7, jr.), Valerie Baker (5-6, jr.), Glenda Williams (5-8, sr.), Maggie Powell (5-7, soph.), Sherry Maples (5-9, fr.), Abigail Way (5-6, fr.) and Diane Wise (5-6, fr.); centers Phyllis Stewart (5-9, jr.), Rene Whitehead (5-9, soph.) and Andrea Sloan (5-8, soph.); and guards Shirley Berrien (5-6, jr.), Sunnie O'Neal (5-5, soph.), Janice Evans (5-5, soph.), Tanya Brooks (5-6, fr.), Faye Tillman (5-7, fr.), and Renee Skelton (5-0, fr.).

Valdosta's schedule follows:

Nov. 23, Tift County (Tifton), home; Nov. 30, Moultrie, away; Dec. 3, Monroe (Albany), home; Dec. 7, Lowndes, away; Dec. 10, Bainbridge, home; Dec. 14, Thomasville, home; Dec. 17, Central (Thomasville), home; Jan. 7, Bainbridge, away; Jan. 15, Waycross, home; Jan. 11, Lowndes, home; Jan. 14, Crisp County (Cordele), away; Jan. 18, Moultrie, home; Jan. 24, Thomasville, away; Jan. 28, Albany, away; Feb. 5, Waycross, away; Feb. 8, Central, away; Feb. 11, Westover, away.

June 11-21-76

Times 11-24-76



—Times Staff Photos. By Ken Klanicki

Big Jeff Sermons Shoots Around Freddie Engram: VHS' Renee Whitehead Blocks Shot

Wildcats Blast Tift, 69-36

By Times Staff Writer

It was opening night for both Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens here Tuesday ... but that's where the similarity ended. Inexperience and a lack of practice time stood out well for the Kittens, who dropped a 53-45 decision to Tift County's Angels. But Norman Sainz's hopes of keeping his talent-laden Wildcats under wraps for a while disintegrated when the Wildcats blasted Tift's Blue Devils 69-36 in the high school basketball twin-bill. The two games were complete opposites to the large crowd of spectators in the Valdosta High School gym. Valdosta's girls found themselves trailing 14-2 from the start and battled back to within five in the last two minutes before settling for the eight-point margin loss. But Sainz's Wildcats held the upper hand from the time they started taking warmup shots during halftime intermission of the girls game. By the end of the first quarter, the Wildcats held a 16-10 advantage. In the second quarter they outscored coach John Rutland's Blue Devils 18-2 while Sainz played the rest on his bench and Rutland followed suit. To Sainz, who has been working with his Wildcats full-time, almost since the start of school, it was about what he had

expected. "I expected a lot of mistakes and we got them," said the first year head coach. "I expected a good defense and we got that. We stress defense here. I thought we hustled good and rebounded good. And we didn't make the stupid fouls we used to make." Then he ruined it all by adding: "But we got a long ways to go, mister. We took a step in the right direction but we've got to work on some things before we win consistently." It would have been difficult indeed to convince Tift of that. With 15 of Sainz's 16 players scoring, the 'Cats were led by sophomore Chris Daniels, who scored 12 points despite being in the last group to check in. Smooth shooting Greg Sampson added 10, 6-7 George Robinson and Antonio Johnson, recruited out of the halls and destined for stardom added eight each. For the now 0-2 Blue Devils, it was Jeff Gill leading the way with 14 points and Freddie Engram adding eight. Despite being down 14-2 from the start, Coach Jerry Don Baker's Kittens fought back to a 20-13 deficit by the end of the opening quarter and managed to keep it around that margin for the rest of the game. Led by junior Lisa Feix and sophomore Maggie Powell, who scored

13 points each, the Kittens scrapped back to a five point deficit, 50-45 before Tift's Darby Cottle added two more buckets for the final score. "You've got to remember, we've only had organized practice for 10 days," explained Baker, who also coaches football. "Tift has been practicing for 10 months." "We showed potencial if we can just work on it. We've got a long way to go. Our shooting was off tonight. But I think you can see they hustle out there."

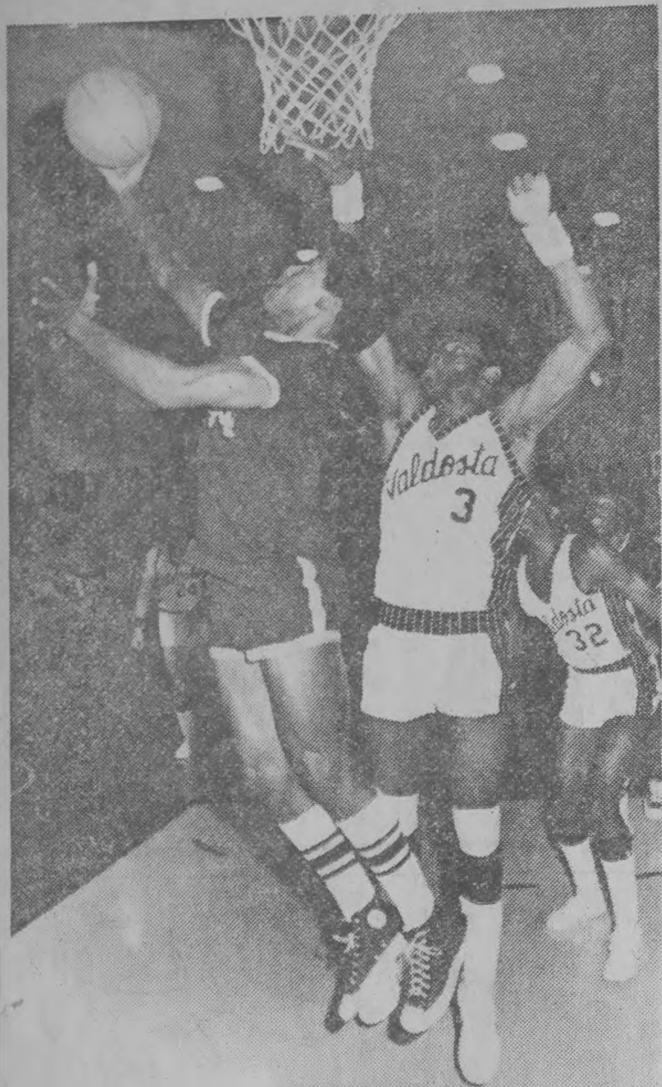
Both Valdosta teams return to action Tuesday when they travel to Moultrie for their first Region 1-AAA (South) double header.

	Girls			
Valdosta	13	22	32	45
Tift	20	28	40	53
VALDOSTA (45) — Feix 13, Powell 13, Whitehead 8, O'Neal 3, Berrian 8, Owens.				
Field goals 18, freethrows 9 of 15, fouls 13.				
TIFT (53) — Sparks 16, Cottle 13, Grayson 10, Houston 6, Brown 2, Mitchell 2, Kitchen 4, Thomas.				
Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 5 of 9, fouls 19.				
	Boys			
Valdosta	16	34	50	69
Tift	10	12	24	36
VALDOSTA (69) — Chris Daniels 12, Sampson 10, Robinson 8, Johnson 8, Thomas 5, Powell 4, Sermons 4, Lowe 4, Belue 3, Blanton 3, Chandler Daniels 2, Hartman 2, Lynch 2, Baldwin 2.				
Team totals: field goals 30, free throws 9 of 29, fouls 12.				
TIFT (36) — Gill 14, Engram 8, Turner 6, Matchis 2, Benjamin 2, Terry 2, McClung 2, M. Smith, White, Spurlin, Johnson, Brown, Miller, Sorrells, Knight, Case, Troxwell, R. Smith.				
Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 4 of 9, fouls 14.				



Valdosta High School
Marchin' Cats twirler Sharon Greene do her thing.
Times 11-26-76 High Steppin'

Moultrie Takes Two Wins From Valdosta Teams



Lawrence Lowe (3) Can't Stop Charles Lee

By Times Staff Writer
MOULTRIE — A scrappy Moultrie team shredded the Valdosta Wildcat defense here Tuesday night for a surprising 73-57 Region 1-AAA (South) high school basketball victory.
 Valdosta's Kittens had no better luck, falling to the taller Moultrie girls by a 50-43 margin despite 12 points by Lisa Feix and 11 by Maggie Powell.

"They outscrapped us, outthrustled us, outbounded us, outshot us, and outscored us," dejected Wildcat coach Norman Sainz said this morning. "They just played great ball."

"I tell you ... they've got the finest high school basketball team I've seen this year. They're going to wear some people out."

Moultrie raised its record to 3-0 behind 22 points by Calvin Richardson who Sainz said "may be the finest guard in the region." Butch Sears added 19, Herbert McCoy threw in 12, and Larry Williford added 10 points.

For the now 1-1 Wildcats who appeared to have one of their strongest teams ever before the season began, Lawrence Lowe muscled inside for 15 points but yielded high scoring honors to

6-7 George Robinson who dumped in 19.

Greg Sampson added 10 from his guard position for about the only outside scoring the Wildcats put on the board. They are still without top backcourtman Leon Johnson who broke his foot on the final day of football practice.

"I'm really glad it came now instead of later," Sainz said. "Now we know the areas we need to concentrate on."

One of those areas has to be at the foul line where Valdosta hit on only 11 of 28 shots.

Sarah Edwards, Nancy Anderson, and Mona Moss scored 13, 12, and 10 points respectively for the Moultrie girls who dominated the boards, but didn't pull ahead

to stay until the final period. "That last quarter killed us," VHS head coach Jerry Baker said. "We had an eight point lead one time and all the opportunities in the world, but we just didn't take advantage of them."

Girls	
Valdosta	15 26 38 43
Moultrie	13 26 36 50
VALDOSTA (43) — O'Neal 4, Berrian 8, Feix 12, Powell 11, Owens 3, Whitehead 5.	
Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 5 of 20, fouls 17.	
MOULTRIE (50) — Willis 4, Edwards 13, Kilgore 2, Carr 8, Moss 10, Anderson 12, Newsome 1.	
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 6 of 15, fouls 17.	

BOYS	
Valdosta	8 17 33 57
Moultrie	11 28 50 73
VALDOSTA (57) — Lowe 15, Sampson 10, Robinson 19, Daniels 5, Belue 6, Hartman 2, Worthy, Johnson, Daniels, Thomas.	
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 11 of 28, fouls 26.	
MOULTRIE (73) — Sears 19, Williford 10, Richardson 22, Daniels 1, McCoy 12, Lee 4, Reynolds 5.	
Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 21 of 33, fouls 25.	

'Cats And Kittens Gun Down Monroe

By MIKE CHASON

With Alvin Thomas throwing up hand grenades from the corner and George Robinson providing some dynamite tip-ins up close, Valdosta's Wildcats exploded to a 66-57 high school basketball win over Monroe here Friday night.

Thomas came off the bench to score 20 points, mostly on long arching corner shots, while Robinson used his 6-7 frame and a remarkably soft touch to add 18 more.

In the girls' game, coach Jerry Baker's VHS Kittens picked up their first win of the season over their Region 1-AAA foe from Albany by a 62-53 margin.

But it was the boys' contest which kept the crowd buzzing, particularly after coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats ignored a nine-point deficit (30-21) with 3:19 to play in the half to knot the game at 32 all as the halftime buzzer sounded on Greg Sampson's 10-footer.

"That shot right there really helped us," Sainz said. "Jack (Sampson) is beginning to be an outside threat for us, and that's just what we need. Thomas came in there and started hitting from outside too. That opened the middle up for us to go inside."

For Valdosta, going inside usually means getting the ball to 6-3 Lawrence Lowe. The beefy senior did stick in eight points, but it was Robinson who made the offense click in close.

Sampson was also very effective in leading Valdosta's non-stop running game. Often, he'd pull up and shoot his jumper over a surprised Monroe defender who was waiting for the cool-headed senior to take it to the hoop.

Sampson wound up with 14 points, and along with Thomas and Robinson, led the charge to a 49-46 third quarter lead which the Tornadoes could never quite overcome.

Except for the final three minutes, Monroe dominated the opening two quarters, going underneath to 6-5 Tony Riggins time and again. Riggins fired in 21 points, but had trouble against Valdosta's 1-3-1 zone in the second half.

Audrey Latimer threw in 19 points now 2-3 Tornadoes who were in it all until missing two layups in the final of play.

The Monroe offense started going south the second quarter when the Tornadoes seemed content to launch 25-foot misses the basket instead of going to their basket and-butter within eight feet of the hoop.

And that's when the now 2-1 Wildcats turned the game around.

Baker's Kittens, now 1-2, led almost the opening tip, but fought off repeated Monroe rallies in the final two periods.

Lisa Feix sparked the VHS offense with 12 points, and Maggie Powell dumped in 10 more. Sonnie O'Neal managed nine points and dribbled the ball right through the Monroe Tornadoes' press on numerous occasions.

With Monroe closing in midway the third period, Lisa Owens came off the bench to score four points, steal the ball twice, and grab a couple of rebounds to spark the Kittens back to safety.

Katharine Patten and Gwen Williams shared scoring honors for the now 2-3 Monroe girls with 17 and 14 points respectively.

"I was hungry for a win," Baker said of his first victory as head coach of the Kittens. "I knew it was going to take a couple of games to get together, but I knew we could do it."

In preliminary game, the Valdosta B-team whipped the VHS ninth grade 55-40 behind 23 points by Rodney Gordon. John Bond has 18 points for the freshmen. Both teams are now 2-1.

GIRLS	
Valdosta	20 33 49 62
Monroe	10 21 43 53
VALDOSTA (62) — Feix 19, Powell 16, O'Neal 9, Whitehead 8, Berrian 6, Owens 4.	
Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 10 of 22, fouls 14.	
MONROE (53) — Patten 17, Williams 14, Greene 9, Ealy 6, Taylor 4, Bowen 2, Holsey 1.	
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 7 of 16, fouls 21.	

BOYS	
Valdosta	14 32 49 66
Monroe	14 32 46 57
VALDOSTA (66) — Thomas 20, Robinson 18, Sampson 14, Lowe 8, Daniels 2, Worthy 2, Belue 2, Hartman.	
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 4 of 19, fouls 15.	
MONROE (57) — Latimer 19, Riggins 21, Jefferson 5, Blake 8, Johnson 2, McFarland 2, Collier.	
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 11 of 17, fouls 15.	



Times 12-4-76

Lowndes, Valdosta Clash Again

By Times Staff Writer

The last time Valdosta and Lowndes clashed in an athletic contest, it was on a cold October night before a packed house at Valdosta's Cleveland Field. The game was football, and Valdosta took a 14-3 decision.

Tuesday night, the two intra-county rivals pair up again. This time Lowndes has the home advantage, and the game is basketball.

Coach Charles Cooper's 5-0 Lowndes' Vikettes tip off the

action at 7 p.m. when they take on the 1-2 VHS Kittens of head coach Jerry Baker.

AREA HOOP SLATE

Tonight College
FSU JV at NFJC
Tuesday
Valdosta at Lowndes
Berrien at Jeff Davis
Brookwood at Valwood
Atkinson at Echols
Broxton at Lanier
Clinch at Brantley
Madison at W. Nassau College
Lincoln Memorial at VSC
VSC Women at FSU

The matchup between Cooper's 2-3 Vikings and

Norman Sainz's 2-1 Wildcats immediately follows.

In other area high school action Tuesday night, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) travels to Hazlehurst to meet Jeff Davis, Valwood tries to halt a two-game losing streak against Brookwood of Thomasville here, and Atkinson County (Pearson) battles Echols County in Statenville.

Also, Lanier County hosts Broxton in Lakeland, Ga., Clinch County (Homerville)

hits the road to Nahunta to face Brantley County, and Madison, Fla. travels to West Nassau, Fla.

In college play, North Florida Junior College welcomes Florida State University's junior varsity to Madison, Fla. tonight, and hosts Gulf Coast (Panama City, Fla.) in another JC tilt Wednesday.

Valdosta State's Blazers meet Lincoln (Tenn.) Memorial here Tuesday night, and the VSC women's team journeys to Tallahassee, Fla. to match up with Florida State.

The Lowndes' girls' team hasn't been seriously challenged so far, and could be on its way to a fifth consecutive Region 1-AAA title.

The Vikettes feature the inside play of junior Marcia Player, sophomore Rhonda Rowell, and senior Rosalyn Williams as well as the long range shooting of senior Faye Hart and junior Karen Parker.

The Kittens are a run-and-gun team which loves to fast break. But to break, a team needs the ball, and getting rebounds against the taller Lowndes' front line won't be easy.

Sophomore Lisa Feix is

Valdosta's major offensive threat, but Maggie Powell and Sonnie O'Neal are both capable scorers. Rene Whitehead and Shirley Berrian are the other starters, and Lisa Owens made a healthy contribution off the bench in a 62-53 win over Monroe of Albany.

Lowndes' Vikings have dropped three in a row, and Cooper is anxious to put the skids on the streak. When it gets hot, his "Wild Bunch" can play with anybody, providing it doesn't get beat on the boards too bad.

That may be a problem against Valdosta's 6-7 George Robinson, 6-3 Lawrence Lowe, and 6-3 Alvin Thomas. That trio beat the boards to death against Monroe, getting four consecutive shots at one point.

Lowndes can counter with 6-1 Nathaniel Burks, 6-2 Woodrow Clemons, and 6-2 Reggie Hollaway on its own front line.

From the outside, Valdosta has fine shooters in Thomas and guard Greg Sampson. The 'Cats' top outside gun, Leon Johnson, is still recuperating from a broken bone in his foot sustained on the final day of football practice.

No Masks, Cigars

Dec. 5, 1976

ERS Monday

any cigar smoking wrestling match is

ool wrestling team m Nashville, Ga. at

ear, but Landrum is

andrum said. "Plus, Georgia College. That

Jaramillo in the 112-Jack Cain in the 158-nd class, and Billy

situation it's never

Landrum said. "We might as well accept e thing happening in

same as any other

weight as follows:
dwin, 105-pounds —
119-pounds — David
vid Henderson, 132-
138-pounds — Steve
Gaskins, 150-pounds
ds — Jack Cain, 167-
Fletcher or Danny
yweight — O'Keefe



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— Billy Red
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Hunter.

Realization

Santa Claus at the annual
ke such concentrated interest
mall boy? The photographer
on the face of Garland Smith,
Albany, as he watched for the
im come into sight, and finally
Staff Photo.

Prizeword y's Times

aper for the new
make it easier for

Letters To The Editor Valdosta Times 12-2-76

Hyder Results Lacking

Sir: After reading the recent article on the Wildcats' hard work, I am thankful the writer is not a Republican speech writer. If he were, I feel sure that the past Presidential election would have resulted in the reelection of Richard Nixon with Attila the Hun as VP. Frankly, I am less than dazzled by the writer's logic. I have not heard one person question the work output of the team or coaches. Instead the questions and criticism concern the lack of results. In the six years prior to Mr. Hyder's employment, Valdosta lost only three region football games. Mr. Hyder with his "new" program and handpicked assistants was able to lose over twice that many his first

year. Only with the return of Joe Wilson and Jack Rudolph to run the offense and defense was the team able to return to pre-Hyder form. Yet we are asked to believe that Mr. Hyder is blameless and the fault lies with the preceding coaches. Mr. Hyder cites the lack of outstanding players as the reason for his recent failures. I always thought that it was the job of the coach to develop great players. Mr. Hyder can not deny that he has a larger student body to draw talent from than has any preceding coach. He can not logically go down the roster of players and deny the existence of size, speed, and strength on his last

fans with the cry of "wait until next year." I would like to offer my signature, but I have been urged to remain anonymous by friends and relatives closely associated with Valdosta High School who fear reprisals. My embarrassment at this is overwhelmed by shame that such fears must exist in a free society.
Valdostan

Coach Hyder Is Defended

Sir: Regarding a letter to the editor on Nov. 27, I think it's a pity the person who wrote it didn't have the guts to identify himself. It is also a pity your paper didn't have something better to print. I think there are several things that point up the good job Coach Nick Hyder, head football coach at Valdosta High School, is doing. He has a record of 18-2 for the regular season over the past two years despite the fact he was new to our system and the region. The fact that more than 200 boys wanted to take part in his program and play ball for him this past year speaks for itself. Most any armchair quarterback can call a good ball game after he sees what didn't work. I don't recall hearing a thing about the play-calling of the Thomasville or Central of Thomasville coaches when they didn't work.

T.W. Rogan
303 Harsfield
Lane



Lynn Cops 2 Posts

By Times Staff Writer
What a difference a year makes.

Last season, in Lynn Pattillo's junior year, Region 1-AAA's sportswriters never even considered the curly-haired quarterback when they met to form their 1975 All-Region team.

This year, it took a revamping of the rules to allow them to make him the first player ever to hold two positions on the 1976 team.

Pattillo, who passed for 1,447 yards, ran for 94 more, passed for 17 touchdowns, including a record six in one game, punted for a 40.11-yard average, kicked off, place kicked, and in general led the Vikings to an 8-2 season and their first winning year ever, was named the region's top quarterback and punter in the All-Region team announced today.

In addition, he was barely edged out in a vote for the Region's Offensive Player of the Year.

"I loved it," said the shy Pattillo, who usually lets his beaming expression do his talking. "I just wish I could play some more."

"As a team we didn't expect to do as well as we did. Coach Wilson made me work hard on my passing and punting. At the first of the year, he told me I'd be passing about 60 per cent of the games. I think we ended up passing more than that...about 75 per cent."

Wilson disagrees with Pattillo's percentages but agrees he had big plans for the quarterback's passing arm.

"We did work hard on his passing," admits Wilson, who was tabbed as the Region's Coach of the Year in his first season ever as a head coach.

"We worked on it every day. I guess that's why it was successful. Most teams just work on it when they think they'll need it. For us, it was a steady diet."

Pattillo, who became 18 Monday, is termed "a very coachable youngster with all the ability in the world," by his head coach. "He just needed the confidence."

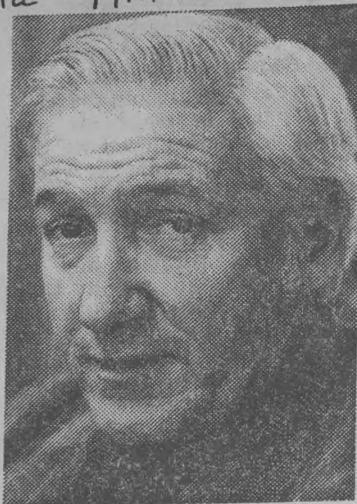
"He was everything on our team. Lord knows, I don't know what we would have done if he had gotten hurt. He was the quarterback, punter, place kicker...he did everything but drive the bus. If this were an NFL team we would have had to give him three salaries."

Joining Pattillo on the first team were two teammates who had also never been considered before. Richard Landrum (162, sr.) who tied with Valdosta's Allen Worthy for the most interceptions in the regular season, seven, was one of three unanimous selections for the team as safety. Nathaniel Burks (175, jr.), who led the region in pass receiving with 31 for 478 yards, was a landslide selection for offensive end.

Across town, Valdosta's Keith Middleton, a 215-pound senior linebacker, was not



LYNN PATTILLO
Two Positions



JOE WILSON
Coach Of Year



KEITH MIDDLETON
Defensive Star

OFFENSE

Player of the Year: Terry White

First Team

- End Nathaniel Burks, 175, Jr. Lowndes
- End Horace Smith, 155 jr., Central
- Tackle Tracy Harper, 205, sr., Central
- Tackle David Beard, 207, sr., Moultrie
- Guard Richard Williams, 175, sr., Dough.
- Guard George Herring, 150, sr., Central
- Center Johnny Parrish, 215, sr., T'ville
- QB Lynn Pattillo, 160, sr., Lowndes
- RB Terry White, 176, sr., Cent.
- RB Greg Crumbly, 195, sr., Tift
- RB Fred Quimby, 160, sr., Dough.
- PK Tim Carter, 155, sr., Dough.

Second Team

- Leon Johnson, 165, sr., Vald.
- Gary Hester, 135, sr., Crisp.
- David Cooper, 195, sr., Vald.
- Irwin Dollarson, 210, sr., Dough.
- Brent Middleton, 185, jr., Dough.
- Phil Macolly, 205, sr. West.
- Ben Blanton, 215, sr., Vald.
- Buck Belue, 195, jr., Vald.
- James Marshall, 190, sr., Lowndes
- T.C. Mitchell, 180, sr., T'ville.
- Winfred Anderson, 170, sr., Alb.
- Robert Baldwin, 190, jr., Vald.

DEFENSE

Player of the Year: Keith Middleton

First Team

- End John Holloway, 195, sr., Dough.
- End Mark Daniels, 188, sr., Dough.
- Lineman Eddie Denard, 206, sr., Valdosta
- Lineman O'Keefe Hunter, 230, sr., Valdosta.
- Lineman Roy Jones, 180, sr., Dough.
- Linebacker Keith Middleton, 215, sr., Valdosta.
- Linebacker Jeffry Field, 225, sr., T'ville
- Linebacker Johnny Byrd, 215, sr., T'ville
- Safety Richard Landrum, 162, sr., Lowndes
- Safety Robert Linton, 195, jr., Central
- Safety Allen Worthy, 175, jr., Vald.
- Punter Lynn Pattillo, 160, sr., Lowndes

Second Team

- William Shiver, 180, sr., Lowndes
- Milton Jackson, 150, sr., Cent.
- Gary Clark, 195, sr., T'ville
- Tim Yorkey, 173, sr., Lowndes
- Vance Hurst, 185, sr., Central
- Larry Apurline, 205, jr., Dough.
- Ronnie Adkins, 185, soph., Lowndes
- Jeff Hilyer, 185, sr., T'ville
- Ricky McClung, 167, jr., Tift
- Roderick Hunter, 165, jr., T'ville
- Phil Deriso, 185, sr., Westover
- Jerry Aubin, 180, jr., Dough.



WHITE BURKS DENARD WORTHY LANDRUM HUNTER.

and a first year center took that position on the second team.

Split end Leon Johnson (155, sr.) who sat out the last few games with a broken ankle, secured that position. Offensive tackle David Cooper (195, sr.), and placekicker Robert Baldwin (195, jr.) who kicked all Valdosta's PAT's and five field goals, including a 47-yarder against Moultrie took those positions.

Lowndes added three more to the second team. Ronnie Adkins, a 5-10, 185, sophomore linebacker, and the only sophomore even nominated, took the second team selection, along with halfback James Marshall

tackler. Shiver didn't receive as much credit as he deserved as defensive end through the season but he was a king pin in our defense."

Hyder wasted little time in singing praises of Middleton.

"It's richly deserved," Hyder said when told of the big senior's award. "I don't think anyone in the region would dispute that. He was probably considered last year."

"He has the many qualities of aggressiveness it takes to be a football player and the gentleness that everyone likes to be around. It's a rare combination of qualities...he's captain of the team and president of the Fellowship of Christian

mighty good year. And it'll probably give Buck something to shoot for next year."

Central of Thomasville's Terry White, who set the region's all-time rushing record with 1,375 yards in the 10 regular season games was selected the region's offensive player of the year and was the third unanimous choice for the All-region team with Middleton and Landrum.

Overall, Dougherty players led the selections with six first team and four second team selections, Central followed with five and two, with Valdosta third with four and five and Lowndes fourth with four on each team.

Gets Top Award

By Times Staff Writer
Keith Middleton got himself so wrapped up in Valdosta's search for a state football championship this season he had completely forgotten about such things as Region 1-AAA All-Region teams and Defensive Player of the Year awards.

Then Tuesday night, he got a phone call that told him he had been selected as both.

The 6-foot-2, 215-pound Valdosta Linebacker was one of three unanimous choices for the All-Region team, as selected by sportswriters who cover Region 1-AAA games, announced today, and led the vote for the highest defensive award presented by a landslide.

"I tell you, it shocked me," said the enthusiastic redhead who only recently made his selection to continue his gridiron career and education at the University of Georgia.

"I had forgotten all about these things and kept thinking about winning the state championship."

Middleton was a mainstay for the Wildcat defense for the past two years as Valdosta rolled to a 10-1 record and region championship before losing a 15-14 decision to Wayne County last season in the first round of the state playoffs, and a 14-14 record this season after finishing in a three-way tie for the region championship for the second straight year before losing a 21-6 playoff decision to Central of Thomasville.

But Middleton, who is also president of the Valdosta chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, doesn't see it all as a losing season.

"I thought we had a pretty good year," the easy talking, mild-mannered Middleton said. "It was not what we were shooting for or what the team wanted but I thought we did good with the material we had."

Middleton was just as overwhelmingly elected overall team captain by his own teammates prior to his senior year and he took the position and all the responsibility of it.

"There was a lot of pressure on me when the team elected me captain," he replied.

The responsibility carried over to the FCA presidency something he also took seriously.

"We're still trying to get new projects going," Middleton said of the religious organization of athletes. "You know, coach (Nick) Hyder really influenced my life"

"With the FCA and christian character, I felt the Lord has been good to me this season...staying healthy and all. I really felt for Lawrence (Lowe) when he got hurt. I know how much pressure was on him."

If it sounds as if Middleton is trying to say good things about everyone and everything, it's because he is.

PHONE

CITY

Middleton Is Georgia-Bound

LAWRENCE DENNIS
Times-Union Sports Writer

"I'll sign officialy Dec. 11," Middleton said Wednesday. "I feel that (Georgia) is the place where I'll be happiest."

Middleton cited the Bulldog "Junkyard Dog" defense and Georgia defensive co-ordinator Erk Russell as major reasons for his choice.

"I like the people up there in Athens," he said. "They're dedicated football fans and they take a lot of pride in their defense. They've got one of the best defensive co-ordinators in the country in Coach Russell."

Middleton said that he thought his chances of playing early at Georgia

history, and that's quite a compliment since Wildcat teams have been renowned for their defenses.

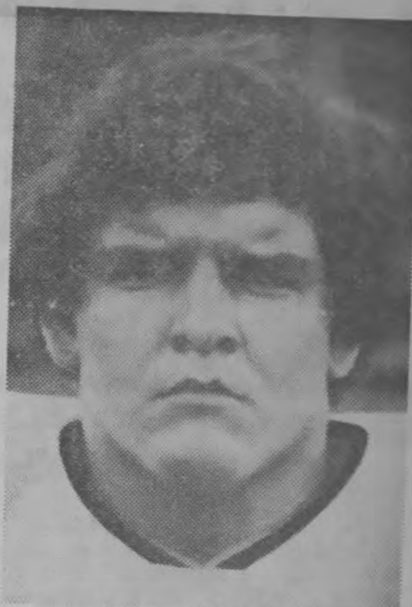
"I'm not in a position to say that," Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder, who just completed his third year at Valdosta, said. "But I've heard it said by people who have been around here a while. I have coached some great linebackers. I've had some that were maybe better in one department or the other, but Keith is the best all around linebacker I've ever coached."

Middleton said that he thought his chances of playing early at Georgia were good. "It'll be tough my freshman

year, I know, but I think I'll have a pretty good chance of playing at linebacker my sophomore year." Ben Zambiasi, Georgia's all-SEC linebacker, will be back next fall but will graduate in 1978.

Georgia is also in the running for another highly recruited Wildcat. Safety Lawrence Lowe, a 200-pounder, has reportedly narrowed his choices to Georgia and Georgia Tech.

Other highly sought after Wildcats are center Ben Blanton, 6-2, 215, and defensive end Curtiss Williams, 6-2, 190.



Keith Middleton

Letters To The Editor Times 12-6-76

Diehard Football Era?

Sir: This letter refers to recent discussions in your paper concerning Coach Nick Hyder and the VHS football team. For the record, I am a 1975 graduate of VHS and was a Marchin' Cats member for three years.

It was very disheartening for me to learn that there were still diehard faithfuls left from another era. And, of course, I mean the Bazemore era. No one ever doubted that an era ended when Bazemore retired.

But the majority of us realized that change must take place. It was unfortunate that Charlie Greene had to be the scapegoat during this transition. So, after two seasons of no state championship, these diehard faithfuls "helped" Coach Greene to resign.

Then Nick Hyder came,

and by now, pressure to be state champs had eased somewhat. So the diehards were heard from rarely, even through the 3-7 season. The next year brought on a region championship, and inside the faithfuls wished for more. When this season ended in "disaster" for them, it was inevitable that the diehards would speak out. And, so the story goes.

These diehards I speak of are people so caught up in that past era that nothing can change them. Literally, they will settle for nothing less than a 13-0 record and state championship. But I pity them, for change is inevitable, and attitudes must likewise change; their's have not.

I am a faithful supporter of Nick Hyder, yet this is not my point. Instead, I wish to

emphasize that everyone in Valdosta, and especially those linked so close to the past, must realize that the Bazemore era is gone forever, and no coach can ever be like him.

Finally, the results of Hyder's program are not lacking, as one letter suggested. On the contrary, the program is one of, if not the, best in the country. Its aims and goals are not to win, but to build character. I wish more people would remember this.

Against the advisement of friends and relatives who fear reprisals, I proudly sign my name.

Scott Alderman
106 Garden Drive

Wildcat Frosh Beat Waycross Times 12-3-76

By Times Staff Writer

John Bond pumped in 13 points while Tony Daniels added 12 and Nate Ceasar and Jim Hancock 11 each as Valdosta High School's freshmen staved off a third quarter rally to defeat Waycross' frosh 63-52 in basketball action here Thursday.

Nate Ceasar also pulled down 21 rebounds for VHS, which took a 32-22 lead into halftime intermission but led only 44-42 after the third quarter.

The 2-0 Baby Wildcats were scheduled to take on the VHS B' team today.

Area Hoop Roundup

Wildcats, Vikings Must Regroup Valdosta Times 12-2-76

By Times Staff Writer

After tough road games accounted for their first losses of the season Tuesday night, Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings return home to regroup Friday.

Coach Norman Sainz' Wildcats dropped a 73-57 decision to Region 1-AAA (South) foe Moultrie while

AREA HOOP SLATE

Friday
Monroe at Valdosta
Moultrie at Lowndes
Lanier at Berrien
Tiftarea at Valwood
Waycross at Brooks
St. George at Echols
Greenfield at GCS
Pineland at Westbrook
Worth at Cook
Clinch at Broxton
Madison at Quincy Shanks

Saturday
Lowndes at Bainbridge
Terrell Acad. at Valwood
Brooks at Lanier
Echols at Clinch
Norman Park at Cook
Hamilton Boys at MacClenny
College
Okaloosa-Walton at NFJC

the Vikings of head coach Charles Cooper fell to another league foe, Central of Thomasville, by a 60-55

margin.

Valdosta was expected to be one of the teams battling for the region crown this season, but the Wildcats take a 1-1 record into Friday night's game against Monroe of Albany here.

Lowndes' Vikings, who are playing a hustling, aggressive "Wild Bunch" brand of basketball, are 21-1 and except for 27 points by Central's 6-7 Darnell Cleveland, may have picked up their third win Tuesday. The Vikes host Moultrie here Friday.

In other games on a full night of action, Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) travels to Nashville, Ga. for a traditional bout with always tough Berrien, Valwood's Valiants eye their fifth straight win against Tiftarea (Chula) here, Brooks County (Quitman) hosts Waycross, and Echols County welcomes St. George to Statenville.

Also, Georgia Christian aims to keep its perfect record intact against Greenfield (Weston) in Dasher, Westbrook (Dixie) entertains Pineland (Moultrie), Worth County (Sylvester) meets Cook in Adel, Clinch County (Homerville) opens its season in Broxton, and Madison, Fla. travels to Quincy, (Fla.) Shanks.

In Saturday night play, Lowndes visits Bainbridge for a game against last year's region 1-AAA champions, Valwood hosts usually strong

Terrell Academy (Dawson), and Lanier County welcomes Brooks County.

Other games include a traditional matchup between Ashley DeLoach's Echols County Wildcats and his brother Austin's Clinch County Panthers in Homerville, Norman Park at Cook, and Hamilton County's Trojans from Jasper, Fla. at MacClenny, Fla.

In the only weekend college action, North Florida tangles with Okaloosa-Walton (Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.) in Madison, Fla. Saturday.

Times 12-3-76



MARIE EUNICE
Heads VHS Club

DE President Is Aiming High

Special To The Times
The Valdosta High DE Club has high hopes for this year and the one to lead the club in fulfilling its aspirations is Marie Eunice, the president of the club for 76-77.

The 17-year-old senior is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eunice, Sr. and is a second year DE student at Valdosta High.

When asked about her plans for the future of the DE Club, Miss Eunice said, "We're planning to go on the nationals this year. We're working our hardest to be the very best."

"The club is going very well so far, but more effort is needed. Every club can use improvement and we're pushing hard to be better and better."

The club's main project at the time is informing the town about DE week.

A luncheon is being planned to which the mayor will be invited to proclaim the day, DE day. After DE week, we are open to other projects to help the community, said Miss Eunice.

"I want to be the leader of the best club possible so I can be proud of the job we have done together," she added.

DE Club Is \$\$-Maker

Special To The Times
The Valdosta DE club has the reputation of being one of the biggest money making clubs in town.

And it's true. The treasurer takes in more money than any other club at Valdosta High School, a fact the club is proud of.

This year the club has sold bumper stickers, sold chrysanthemums for the homecoming game, and is in the process of selling calendars.

Where does the money go? The DE club sponsors many civic projects such as Thanksgiving food basket and Christmas toy drives during the year.

Other club sponsored activities include the Employer-Employee Banquet and attending state and national conferences.

Times 12-3-76

Times 12-3-76



-Times Staff Photo.

Rex Taylor On The Job

Some DE Students Work For Fathers

Special To The Times
Many people have belief that when a person begins to work, his job takes him away further and further away from his family.

This is not true, however, for some students who are part of the DE program at Valdosta High School. These are the students who work for their fathers. There don't seem to be any problems.

In fact, after talking with the fathers, who are em-

ployes, every things is going fine. According to Bob Taylor, owner of the Taylor Clothing Center, "Nothing could be better. The DE program at Valdosta High is fantastic."

"The training Rex (Taylor's son) is getting through DE, is the best thing that could have happened to him. Rex seems to be perfectly happy working at the clothing center and he gets no special treatment."

A Valdosta High School junior, Wesley Wetherington, is also in the DE program and is employed by his father, Robert Wetherington, at the Sing Oil Station on West Hill Avenue. Wetherington said he believes that DE is good and practical for his son and that having Wesley as an employe is working out fine.

There are four more students involved in DE who work for their fathers. They are: Anne Green, Earl Alvarez, Bill Gregory and Brenda Schunhoff.

The general reaction from these students is that they enjoy their work and feel it is important to them and is helpful in preparing them for the future.



Sweetheart Cathy Dowling With Emblem — Times Staff Photo.

DE Day Is Proclaimed By Mayor

Special To The Times
Mayor Gil Garbin of Valdosta declared today Distributive Education Day in Valdosta. This event is being sponsored by the Valdosta High School DE Club.

"This is the day we set aside to thank our employers and other people who support our club," said Norman Greene, teacher-coordinator of the club.

Scheduled events include club promotional activities at Valdosta High as well as a luncheon.

"On DE Day, we try to tell the general public about our club. Too many people have misinterpretations of what the Distributive Education is," said Greene.

The day was highlighted with the reading of proclamation by Harbin, the DE Day Luncheon held at Ashley Way Restaurant this afternoon.



Boy Of The Year Rusty Redshaw

Times 12-3-76

Educators Like DECA Too

Special To The Times
Nowhere is the DE program so highly regarded as it is in the ranks of high school administrators. This fact was quite evident in separate interviews with William "Bill" Eanes, board of education member, and Lloyd Mims, principal of Valdosta High School.

Both Eanes and Mims have a great appreciation of the entire vocational program, and a special esteem of its DE sector. In relation to DE, Eanes said, "I think it is a good program and will benefit any student who will put his best efforts into it."

Mims had special praise for DE's club activities. Stressing that club work promotes responsibility. He said, "Group projects are beneficial in that they teach students to work and explore together."

Mims specifically cited DE's bringing in business community members to address the club as a good project.

Both administrators strengthened their appreciation of the DE program with an in depth knowledge of its work program, its club activities, and its competitive

events.

When asked about DE's place in the educational system, Eanes said, "With the renewed emphasis on career development, DE has a vital place in our high school curriculum."

"Introducing students to on-the-job experience gives them an opportunity to enter the labor market upon completion of school with experience and recommendations. DE participation is of the utmost value to students planning careers in the business world, regardless of their choice."

On the same subject, Mims

said, "Vocational programs as I see they play a vital part in rounding out the educational process ... without them, we have a missing link to total education."

He also cited the advantages DE offers students socially and financially.

Both men expressed optimism about the success of the Valdosta Chapter in DE's forthcoming competitive events. The chapter plans presently include vying for state and possible national honors in the Chapter of the Year and Student of the Year contests.

Times 12-3-76

DE Trains Future Sales Force



NORMAN GREENE
VHS DE Coordinator

By NORMAN GREENE
What is DE? Distributive Education identifies a program of instruction which teaches marketing, merchandising, and management.

What is DECA? DECA identifies the Program of Student Activity relating to DE — Distributive Education Clubs of America — and is designed to develop future leaders for marketing and distribution.

DECA is the only national student organization operating within the nation's schools to attract young people to careers in marketing, merchandising, and management.

DECA and the Student — DE students have common objectives and interests in that each is studying for a

specific career objective.

DECA activities have a tremendous psychological effect upon the attitudes of students, and many students have no other opportunity to participate in social activities of the school or to develop responsibilities of citizenship.

DECA members learn to serve as leaders and followers and they have the opportunity for state and national recognition that they would not have otherwise.

DECA and the school — DECA Chapter activities are always school-centered, thus contributing to the school's purpose of preparing well-adjusted, employable citizens.

Chapter activities serve the Distributive Education teacher as a teaching tool by creating interest in all phases

of marketing and distribution study, and serve as an avenue of expression for individual talent.

The Chapter is the "show window" for student achievement and progress and is the public relations arm of the DE instructional program. It attracts students to the DE program who are interested in marketing, management and distribution careers and assists in subject matter presentation.

DECA and the Community — DECA members have made numerous studies and surveys to aid the economic development of their own community. Individual and group marketing projects continue to encourage this type of contribution.

Many businesses favor hiring DE students because

of their interest in training. Many leaders in business and government have praised DECA for its civic-related activities.

DECA and the Nation — DE instruction and DECA activity constantly emphasize America's system of competition and private enterprise. Self-help among students is the rule rather than the exception and DECA leaders give constant encouragement to continued education.

History has proven that whenever a nation's channels of distribution fail to function, that nation is shortlived.

As DECA attracts more of our nation's youth to study marketing and distribution, the total DE program becomes a vital necessity to our national economy.

To Columbia

By The Associated Press

Tom Young had every right to plead, "No defense." "Every time we'd come close," said the Rutgers basketball coach, "we somehow managed to give them a cheap bucket."

It was an open-and-shut case against the 17th-ranked Scarlet Knights Thursday night—they were guilty of playing poor basketball en route to a stunning 85-75 loss to unheralded Columbia.

That was the first loss for Rutgers after 30 regular-season victories, spanning two seasons.

"Our lack of 'get' hurt us tonight ... particularly our lack of experience," noted Young, whose team reached the final four in last year's NCAA playoffs but lost two key starters in Phil Sellers and Mike Dabney.

The victory, particularly notable because it came at Rutgers' court, was especially rewarding to Columbia Coach Tom Pennders, although he tried to play down its significance.

"We're trying to build and this is certainly a step in the right direction," said Pennders. "I don't want to go overboard. I don't want the kids to think they've arrived, because we have a lot of work to do."

In other games involving college basketball's ranked teams, No. 5 Kentucky walloped Texas Christian 103-53, No. 11 Arizona trimmed Oregon State 81-73, and No. 16

Maryland defeated Long Island University 49-45.

Juan Mitchell scored 26 points and Alton Byrd contributed eight assists as the inspired Lions upset Rutgers. Mitchell, a 6-foot-5 forward, and Byrd, a 5-7 guard, were playing only their second varsity games.

Mitchell scored 16 points in the first half, helping the Lions to a 12-point lead. Columbia took advantage of Rutgers' lack of frontcourt depth by dominating the boards after 6-9 James Bailey and 6-7 Abdel Anderson were forced to the bench with three fouls apiece during the first nine minutes of the game.

Rick Robey scored 21 points and dominated the inside game and Jack Givens added 20, leading Kentucky over TCU and providing Coach Joe Hall with enormous satisfaction.

"I feel a lot better tonight," said Hall, who complained about Kentucky's close-call victory over Wisconsin last Saturday. "I think the team showed they have learned to play unselfishly."

TCU Coach John Swain obviously agreed with Hall.

"I can't say how good Kentucky is because I haven't seen that many teams yet," said Swain, "but I can't imagine anybody much better."

Phil Taylor and Herman Harris combined for 45 points, leading Arizona past Oregon State.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Dec. 3, 1976-18-

Julian

Miller

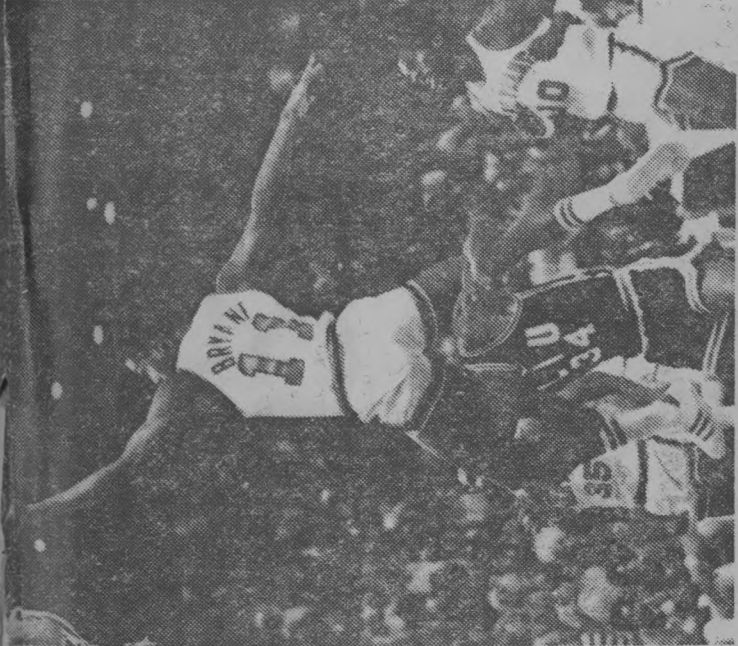
Times Sports Editor

Don't Count Out Bruce's Gators

How can a team beaten 40-6 once this season, come back from a 20-0 deficit to beat that same team 21-20 in the playoffs?

Bruce Bennett used to stop a second to think about that one...but only a second.

"Well, I think what happened was Coffee had a real experienced senior football team and we had been a good football team all year but had matured an awful lot," the Braves' Coffee said.



-AP Wirephoto.

Up And Over: Terps' Bill Bryant Scores

Bullets Gun Down Atlanta, 102-90

By The Associated Press

Pay attention now: Dick Motta is giving a class in sports psychology.

"The most dangerous thing is a 20-point lead," notes the coach of the Washington Bullets.

Why?

"When you get that far ahead," says Motta, "you have a tendency to let up, and you usually drop down to about eight points. By the time you build a big lead, you have spent yourself."

The lesson was dramatically put across Thursday night when Motta's Bullets had to pull out of a tailspin in the last quarter before posting a 102-90 National Basketball Association victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Washington led 73-54 in the third quarter before Atlanta chopped the big lead to six points. But then Elvin Hayes helped the Bullets pull away.

"Washington did an excellent job from a physical standpoint," noted Atlanta Coach Hubie Brown. "They took our front line men right out of the game. From our side, we got poor production from our key people. We finally came back but we had a poor defensive lapse, allowing a three-point play by Hayes. Then we came down court and made the mistake

To Baseball Forever

CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Danny Murtaugh, who pledged to make his fourth baseball retirement his last, so he could devote more time to the grandchildren he loved, is dead at age 59.

Murtaugh, who left the Pittsburgh Pirates just two months ago, slipped into a coma and died Thursday night after suffering a stroke two days earlier.

"In my younger years, I don't think I spent enough time with my children," said the sentimental Irishman when he quit in October.

"I'm going to make it up with my grandchildren." Murtaugh was stricken at his home in nearby Woodlyn Tuesday and taken to Crozer Chester Medical Center. The stroke was considered serious and his condition steadily deteriorated.

He had a 10-year history of heart trouble and his death followed what he said was a season of very bad health.

His friends in baseball mourned the fact that he would not get the chance to fulfill his retirement dreams: scout ballplayers in the warm and easy sun, smell the roses, and play with his grandchildren.

"He was a baseball man," said Cincinnati Reds Manager Sparky Anderson. "He liked it so much he came back to it when he shouldn't have."

Murtaugh was lured out of retirement three times by his close friend and mentor, Pirates General Manager Joe L. Brown, who gave Murtaugh his first managing job.

Born in Chester on Oct. 8, 1917, Murtaugh began playing pro baseball at 19 and broke into the majors with the Philadelphia Phillies four years later.

The Boston Braves traded him to the Pirates in 1947 and the following year he had his best season, leading the league in putouts for a second baseman, assists and double plays while batting .290.

Brown hired Murtaugh to manage the New Orleans farm club in 1952 and he guided them to fifth place his first season while playing part-time.

He had been third base coach for the Pirates less than two years when Bobby Bragan was fired and Murtaugh was promoted to manager.

Pittsburgh finished in second place the next season after eight years at the bottom, or near bottom, of the National League.

Just two years later, in 1960, he led the Pirates to a World Series triumph over the New York Yankees. His heart condition forced him to retire in 1964 but he stayed on as a part-time scout.

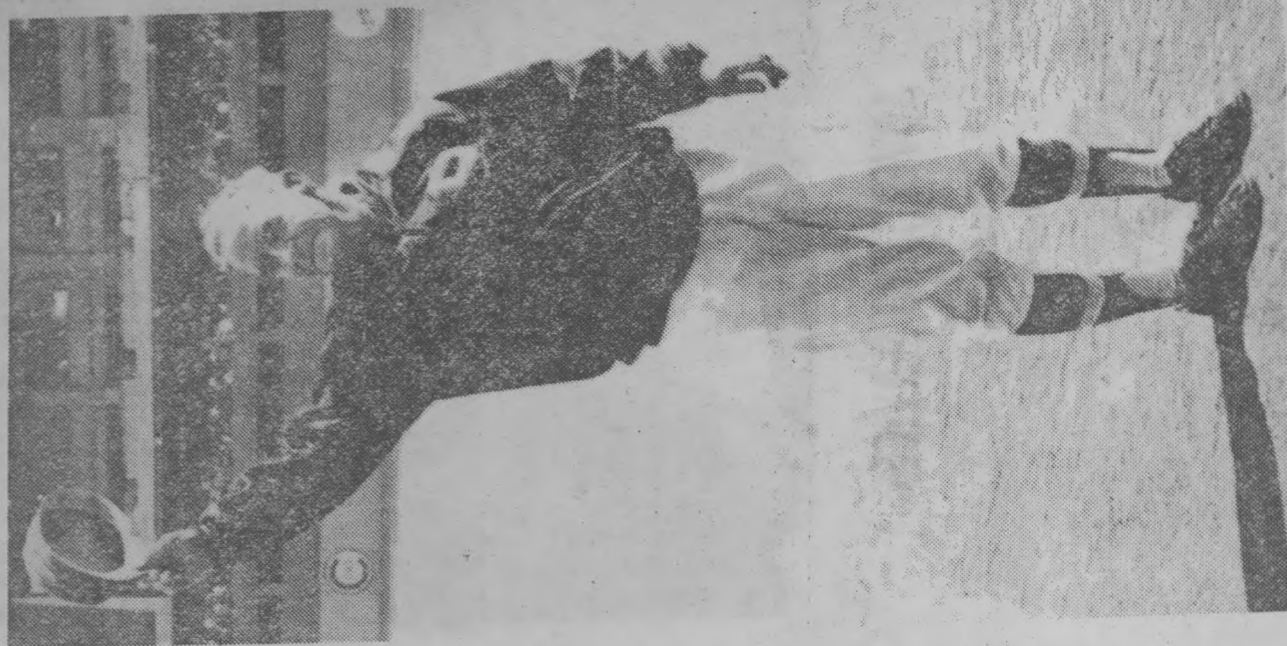
It was to be the first of four retirements for Murtaugh as Pirates manager.

He returned in 1967 after Harry Walker was fired, retired at the end of that season, and came back again in 1970 when Larry Shepard was dismissed.

He led the Pirates to a second World Series victory in 1971, over the Baltimore Orioles. He tried to retire again at the close of that season.

"I want to take some time to smell the roses," he said, but he did not spend long in the garden. Brown called again in 1973 after firing Bill Virdon.

Murtaugh is survived by his Kate, a daughter and two sons. His son Tim manages the Pirates' top farm club. Funeral arrangements were incomplete.



-AP Wirephoto.

Murtaugh On Final Day Of Season



Don't count on Uncle for

Times 12-7-76

Two 'Cats Among Top Prospects

By BILL BRYANT
The Atlanta Journal

ATLANTA (AP) — This year's top 11 high school football prospects sought by college recruiters range in size from 168 pounds to 225, are from Georgia towns as distant as Cedartown and Valdosta and represent big schools like Jonesboro and small ones like Duluth.

But they all have one thing in common: college recruiters are hot on their trails and can't wait to get their names on scholarships once signing becomes legal Dec. 11.

A poll of recruiters from Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida State, Georgia, Georgia Tech, South Carolina and Tennessee revealed these Georgia high school players were tops on recruiters lists:

—Scott Woerner, a 6-foot-1, 180-pound quarterback from Jonesboro.

—George Rogers, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound running back from Duluth.

—Keith Middleton, a 6-foot-2, 210-pound linebacker from Valdosta.

—Lawrence Lowe, a 6-foot-3, 187-pound defensive back from Valdosta.

—Carlton Williamson, a 6-foot-2, 185-pound quarterback-running back from Brown.

—Ted Peeples, a 6-foot-1, 190-pound quarterback from Cedartown.

—James Brooks, a 168-pound, 5-foot-10 running back from Warner Robins.

—Jeff Polofsky, a 6-foot-2, 225-pound running back-linebacker from Northside-Atlanta.

—Davis Allen, a 5-foot-10, 185-pound running back from Sylvan.

—Donnie McMickens, a 5-foot-11, 191-pound running back from Cherokee.

—Ronald Simmons, a 6-foot-1, 218-pound linebacker from Warner Robins.

Woerner, an average passer, is capable of running the option offenses being used more by college teams. Recruiters also have been impressed by his physical ability at the quarterback position.

"I think with the type offenses we're running now a quarterback has to be able to take a physical beating, and I think toughness is the No. 1 criterion for college quarterbacks," said one recruiter. "Scott is not one to just sit back there and hand the ball off or pass it. This guy tries to run over you."

Out of the wishbone backfield, Rogers has gained more than 3,300 yards in his career at Duluth and was the unanimous selection last year as Class B Back-of-the-Year.

Middleton has excellent lateral pursuit and covers backs out of the backfield well. At Valdosta, he was strong enough to play opponents head-on. His speed in the 40-yard dash is 4.8 seconds.

Lowe had a tremendous range in Valdosta's secondary and was a vicious tackler.

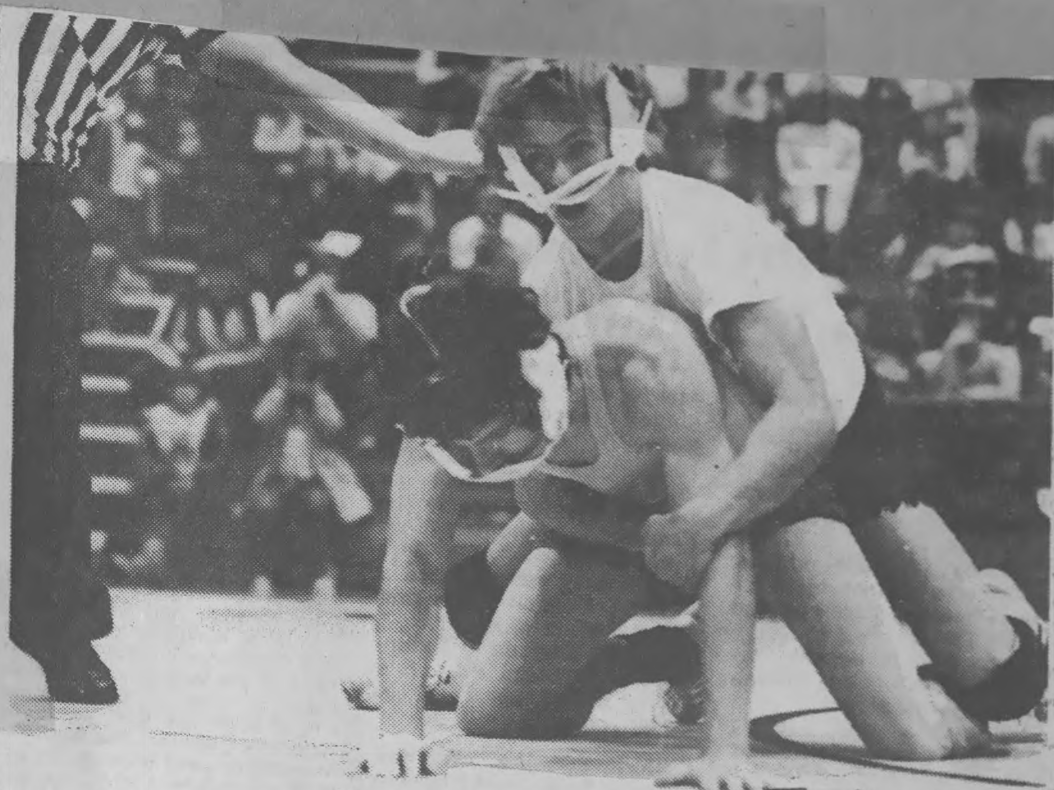
Williamson gained most of his yardage this year at Brown after being moved to running back to shore up an injury-depleted backfield. He is somewhat of a coach on the field, sometimes deciding himself on a play that better fits the situation than one sent from the bench.

Peeples is one of the most accomplished directors of the veer offense in the state. Noted primarily for his passing until this season at Cedartown, Peeples quickly developed into a gifted runner as well.

Although Brooks isn't as big as most colleges would like, recruiters say the Warner Robins running back has all the other qualifications plus the ability to make solid blocks.

Polofsky's played well at both running back and linebacker positions at Northside. And although his speed is questionable, he would make a durable type blocking back who is counted on to pick up short, but crucial yardage.

Allen, who is solidly built in the legs and upper body, is very versatile, having been part of one of the best secondaries in the state at Sylvan and used extensively as a blocking back. He's best at open field running.



Times 12-7-76

On Top To Stay

Valdosta High School wrestler Wayne Ellison rides the back of Berrien's Sammy Webster during a preliminary match between the two schools here Monday night. Ellison later pinned Taylor in the 138-pound

matchup. Coach Jim Landrum's VHS varsity Wildcats topped the Nashville, Ga. team 70-12. Valdosta hosts Madison, Fla. in its second match of the season here Thursday — Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

Totals 17 Touchdowns

Times 12-7-76

Belue Takes Region Scoring Title

By ELLWOOD MOYER
Region 1-AAA Statistician
Buck Belue of Valdosta High School has finished atop the Region 1-AAA standings in individual scoring for the 1976 football season, racking up 17 touchdowns for 102 points.

Belue, who finished second in league scoring last season, easily outdistanced his nearest competitor, Horace Ivey of Thomasville, who wound up with 72 points on 12 points.

Lowndes' Nathaniel Burks was third in scoring with 62 points, followed by Terry White of Central of Thomasville and Freddie Quimby of Dougherty, both of whom scored 60 points on 10 touchdowns.

Lowndes' quarterback and placekicker Lynn Pattillo was sixth, piling up 55 points on a combination of five touchdowns, 19 extra-point kicks and two field goals.

Thomasville led the league in team scoring with an average of 27 points per game, barely nudging out second-place Dougherty's 26.7 per clip.

Valdosta wound up in a third place tie with Central of Thomasville in the scoring department, averaging 25.90 points per contest, while Lowndes finished fifth with a 21.50 average.

Defensively, Central of Thomasville's 7.4 point yield per game was good enough to top the region, while Valdosta was second, giving up 8.2 points per game, and Lowndes allowed an 11.30 average for fifth place in the 12-team loop.

Burks, Lowndes	10	2	62
White, Central	10	0	60
Quimby, Dougherty	10	0	60
Pattillo, Lowndes	5	25	55
Mills, Tift	9	0	54
Kerbo, Thomasville	9	0	54
Hester, Crisp	6	17	53
Carter, Dougherty	3	35	53
Crumley, Tift	8	0	48
Hurst, Central	2	35	47

Smith, Central	7	0	42
Aubin, Dougherty	7	0	42
Baldwin, Valdosta	1	35	41
Harris, Central	6	0	36
Marshall, Lowndes	6	0	36
Jordan, Monroe	6	0	36
Hughes, Crisp	5	2	32
Marrisa, Thomasville	5	0	30
Wilson, Valdosta	5	0	30
S. Tyus, Moultrie	2	17	29

Turner, Tift	0	26	26
Gaskins, Valdosta	4	2	26
Hines, Thomasville	0	26	26
Williford, Moultrie	4	2	26
Ruis, Central	4	0	24
Jones, Dougherty	4	0	24
Waters, Lowndes	4	0	24
M. Tyus, Moultrie	4	0	24
Mitchell, Thomasville	4	0	24

Area Roundup

Times 12-7-76

Wildcats Battle Vikings

By Times Staff Writer
Crosstown rivals Lowndes and Valdosta lock horns tonight in a Region 1-AAA high school basketball doubleheader, highlighting a full slate of area action.

In other games, Berrien of Nashville, Ga. travels to Hazelhurst to battle Jeff Davis. Brookwood (Thomasville) brings its charges to Valwood, (Valdosta), and Echols County (Statenville) plays host to Atkinson County (Pearson).

Broxton goes to Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) for a Region 2-B doubleheader,

Clinch County (Homerville) is at Nahunta to face Brantley County and Madison, Fla., makes the trip to Callahan, Fla., to meet West Nassau.

AREA HOOP SLATE

Tonight
Valdosta at Lowndes
Berrien at Jeff Davis
Brookwood at Valwood
Atkinson at Echols
Broxton at Lanier
Clinch at Brantley
Madison at West Nassau
College
Lincoln Memorial at VSC
VSC Women at FSU
Wednesday
College
Gulf Coast at NFJC

In college action, Valdosta State College's Blazers play host to Lincoln Memorial College from Harrogate,

Tenn., and the Lady Blazers travel to Tallahassee, Fla., to oppose Florida State University's Lady Seminoles.

Wednesday, North Florida Junior College of Madison hosts Pensacola's Gulf Coast Community College.

Lowndes' Vikettes risk their perfect 5-0 record against coach Jerry Baker's Valdosta Kittens, who took their first win of the season Friday over Monroe.

Charles Cooper's Vikettes, meanwhile, survived a scare Saturday when they escaped with a 58-50 win over Bainbridge's Kittens.

The boys' contest pits coach Norman Sainz's 2-1 Valdosta team against Cooper's 2-3 Lowndes club.

Valdosta has wins over Tift and Monroe, with a 73-57 loss to Moultrie the only blemish on its record.

Lowndes started the year with two straight victories, but has since fallen into a three-game slump, losing to Central of Thomasville, Moultrie and Bainbridge.

Times 12-7-76

VHS Freshmen Trim Lanier

By Times Staff Writer
LAKELAND, Ga. — Behind the double pronged scoring onslaught of John Bond and Nate Caesar, the Valdosta High School freshmen basketball team gunned down the Lanier County High School B-team 65-54 here Monday.

Bond threw in 24 points, and Caesar added 20 more. Greg Weldon fired in 20 points for Lanier as well as grabbing 13 rebounds. Jim Hancock managed 15 boards for Valdosta.

	FG	Td's	Pat's	Total
Belue, Valdosta	17	0	0	102
Ivey, Thomasville	12	0	0	72

'Cats Manhandle Vikes: Vikettes Top Kittens



Vikes, 'Cats Scramble For Ball

By MIKE CHASON
Don't ever underestimate the power of a rebound... and don't expect Valdosta's Wildcats to ever let you have one.

Coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats manhandled Lowndes' Vikings on the boards and came away with a 72-56 high school basketball triumph as a result here Tuesday night in the first meeting this season of the intra-county rivals.

In the opener, Coach Charles Cooper's Vikettes raced to their sixth consecutive win with a 65-40 pounding of the young Valdosta Kittens.

All in all, the two games turned out about as expected by the 1,000 fans who gathered at the LHS gymnasium. In fact, for the past several years, the results have always been the same.

Cooper's now 2-4 Vikings were intent on changing that worn out tune in the early going, but could get only one shot on offense while the more physical 'Cats were taking two or three.

Nathaniel Burks kept the Vikes within reach with some tough moves inside when he could get the ball... and that was the problem.

Valdosta's 1-3-1 zone defense is weak in the corners, but devastating to any type of inside game, particularly when a team such as the Vikings has no consistent

The Valdosta Daily Times

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outside threat.

"Getting on the boards kept us in it all the way," Sainz said of his now 3-1 team. "We did a real good job on the offensive boards in particular. We were also able to run the ball well at times."

"I tell you though... Lowndes is a scrappy ballclub. That (Reggie) Hollaway made us do things we didn't want to do."

Hollaway paced the Viking scoring with 17 points and keyed a fourth quarter surge which brought his team within eight points (60-52) of the 'Cats with just over two minutes to play.

Some of the crowd had already drifted toward the exits when the fourth period began with Valdosta leading 56-39. Those that did choose the drizzling rain over the final period missed all the fireworks.

Hollaway and sophomore Lanice Jones ignited the Lowndes "Wild Bunch" to make what had been a dull

game for the second and third quarters into a near brawl with players diving after every loose ball that touched the floor.

Jones wound up with 11 points, Burks had 13, and Woodrow Clemons added 10 more for the Vikes who simply couldn't compete with the VHS front line of 6-7 George Robinson, 6-3 Lawrence Lowe, and 6-3 Alvin Thomas.

Lowe hit for 13, Robinson added 11, and Thomas had 10 in the point scoring column, but it was Lowe's stuff shot with a minute to play which really signaled the end for the Vikings.

There was no stopping the fired up 'Cats after that. There was really no stopping VHS's Greg Sampson all night.

The veteran backcourtman seems to have finally realized his potential after two mediocre years. He scored 18 points and made sure there was no sagging inside by the

Vikings with his long range swishers.

Both coaches went to their benches in the third period, before re-inserting the starters for the final eight minutes of run-and-gun basketball.

"The two middle quarters hurt us," Cooper said. "I don't think we got tired because we're in good physical shape. They (the Wildcats) just had a tremendous advantage on the boards."

Cooper admitted his girls' team had seen better nights, but he wasn't complaining about winning.

"We have had better ballgames, but when you win by 25 points, you can't complain too much," Cooper said.

VHS head coach Jerry Baker tried to take advantage of his team's quickness with a full court press which did result in several Lowndes' turnovers as well as some easy baskets for his Kittens, who fell to 1-3.

"Our press gave them trouble," Baker said. "We made them turn over the ball, but we just couldn't take advantage of it. They (the Vikettes) play a real good defense."

Baker said he started four sophomores in the game, a play he hopes will pay off for the Kittens next season.

But the Vikettes have their sights set on this season and their fifth consecutive Region 1-AAA title. With Karen Parker running the break, and Rosalynn Williams, Marcia Player, and Rhonda Rowell controlling the boards, that title doesn't seem far away.

Williams turned in her top performance of the year against VHS with 18 points and numerous outlet passes, leading to fast break layups.

Player scored 14 points, and Parker and Rowell added 10 apiece. Rowell hit the longest shot of the night when she took two dribbles past half-court at the end of the third quarter and connected on a 30-footer.



Faye Roberts Eyes Two-Pointer Friday, and Valdosta welcomes Bainbridge.

GIRLS

Lowndes 16 30 54 65
Valdosta 7 13 21 40
LOWNDES (65) — Williams 18, Player 14, Rowell 10, Parker 10, Hart 8, Roberts 2, Berrian 2, Todd, Miles, Montgomery, Southernland, Smith, Vickers, Brown.

Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 6 of 9, fouls 15.
VALDOSTA (40) — Berrian 13, Felix 10, Powell 6, Owens 4, O'Neal 2, Whitehead 5.
Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 12 of 21, fouls 12.

BOYS

Lowndes 14 28 39 56
Valdosta 18 37 56 72
LOWNDES (56) — Burks 13, Clemons 10, Hollaway 17, Mashburn 4, Jones 11, Carter 1, Pahlilo, Wormsby, Brown, Montgomery.

Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 10 of 18, fouls 16.
VALDOSTA (72) — Sampson 18, Robinson 11, Lowe 13, Champ Daniels 6, Thomas 10, Belue 2, Worthington 2, Chris Daniels 6, Powell 2, Russell, Sermons, Baldwin, Blanton, Lynch, Hartman 2.
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 10 of 24, fouls 14.

— Times Staff Photo.

25th Lowndes Tourney To Begin Action Monday

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikettes are rated as the teams to beat as the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament readies for opening night Monday at the Lowndes High School gymnasium here.

The 6-1 'Cats and 8-0 Lowndes' girls are expected to face heavy opposition from a field that features boys' and girls' teams from Lowndes, Valdosta, Brooks County (Quitman), Waycross, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) Tift County (Tifton) and Thomasville.

The event, in its 25th year, is a continuation of the old Hahira Invitational Christmas Tournament, and is the oldest of its kind in the state.

Hahira High School initiated the tourney in 1952, and since that time champions have come from all classifications, ranging from tiny Manor to Waycross and Valdosta.

The consolidation of the Hahira school into the county school system in 1967 necessitated a move to the Lowndes facility, where it has been held each year since.

Berrien has dominated girls' play in recent years, taking seven of the last nine championships and finishing as runners-up the other two seasons.

The Berrien boys won the title five times from 1967 through 1972, but have not

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made the finals since 1973, when they finished second behind Valdosta.

The girls from Nashville took their customary place at the top last season with a 62-48 win over Waycross in the tourney finals, while the Waycross boys claimed that championship with a 77-70 win over Valdosta.

Neither defending champion is favored this time out. The Nashville girls are seeded fourth in the tough girls' bracket with a 6-2 record, and the boys from Waycross also occupy the number four slot, but with a 2-4 slate.

"I think both the boys' and girls' brackets will be well-balanced," tournament director and Lowndes' head coach Charles Cooper said.

"Every girls' team has a winning record except one, and many of the boys' teams have lost to each other."

Brooks County's 6-1 Trojanettes, with a 71-40 loss to Lowndes the only blemish on their record, are seeded

second, while the 5-1 Waycross Bulldogettes, undefeated except for a 43-38 defeat at the hands of the Brooks girls, are seeded third.

Berrien's 6-2 Rebelettes are fourth, followed by Tift (6-3), Thomasville (4-3) and Valdosta (3-4).

Thomasville gave Cooper's Lowndes team its biggest scare of the year here recently before falling to the Vikettes 44-37.

And Valdosta's improving Kittens, the only girls' squad in the event without a winning record at 3-4, come into tourney play with a two-game winning streak.

On the boys' side, coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats are seeded just ahead of Berrien's 6-2 Rebels, who, like the Valdosta team, own a five-game winning streak.

Lowndes' 4-4 Vikings are seeded third, followed by Waycross (2-4), Brooks (2-6), Tift (2-7) and Thomasville (1-6).

In the first round games

slated for Monday, Valdosta sends its girls' team against Brooks at 6 p.m., followed by the Lowndes-Tift boys' matchup at 7:30 p.m.

Berrien's girls finish up the first night's action at 9 p.m. when they tangle with Tift's Blue Angels.

First round play continues Tuesday with the Brooks' boys opposing Waycross at 6 p.m. and the Waycross girls taking on Thomasville at 7:30 p.m. Berrien sends its boys' team against Thomasville at 9 p.m., completing first round action.

Semifinal action is set for Wednesday night, beginning at 5 p.m. with the winner of the Waycross-Thomasville girls' game taking on the Valdosta-Brooks victor.

At 6:30 p.m., the Lowndes-Tift boys' winner goes against the survivor of Tuesday's Thomasville-Berrien clash.

At 8, the winner of the Tift-Berrien girls' game takes the court against Lowndes, followed at 9:30 p.m. by the Valdosta boys against the Brooks-Waycross winner.

Finals are set for Thursday, with the girls' contest beginning at 7 p.m. and the boys' game immediately following.

"It takes a lot of work to put a tournament of this kind on," Cooper commented, "but the fans seem to enjoy it, and I think it's good for area basketball."



—Times Staff Photo.

Valdosta's Renee Whitehead (12) Stops Bainbridge Inside

'Dosta Defense Scalps Central

By MARTIN REGISTER

Valdosta's Wildcats used a stifling defense to crush Central of Thomasville 69-49 in a Region 1-AAA high school basketball game played here Friday night, extending their winning streak to five games.

The Kittens began a skein of their own in the first game of the doubleheader, outdistancing the visiting Yellow Jackettes 56-45 for their second win in a row.

Wildcat defenders swarmed all over the Central club, almost completely cutting off any inside Jacket maneuvers. But Valdosta coach Norman Sainz wasn't quite ready to start throwing compliments around.

"We played pretty good defense," the Wildcat mentor said, possibly understating the situation. "We're taking steps in the right direction, but we're not there yet. We're still playing sloppy."

The slow, deliberate Jacket offense proved fairly effective through the first half, limiting Valdosta to a 29-22 lead after two quarters.

The Wildcats came out smoking after intermission, however, hitting baskets from all over the floor, and finally breaking the game completely open in the final quarter.

Lawrence Lowe bucketed 14 points to lead a balanced 'Cat attack and pulled down eight rebounds, while Buck Belue contributed 10 markers. Big George Robinson led all rebounders with 11.

Central's Darrell Cleveland topped all scorers with 15 points, and teammate Terry White chipped in 10.

"Lawrence Lowe played a good ballgame for us," Sainz said. "He did a good job on the boards, and Chris Daniels helped us a lot when he came in and hit some shots from the outside, too."

Daniels connected on four long range set shots in the second half, which opened up the Central defense and may have been largely responsible for Valdosta's 27-point fourth quarter output.

"A lot of kids came off the bench and hustled," Sainz added, "and when you hustle, things happen."

The win pushed the Wildcats' record to 6-1 going into the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament, starting Dec. 27.

Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens, now 3-4, went ahead of the Thomasville team early, and by halftime had stretched the margin to nine points at 31-22.

However, the Jackettes rallied back largely behind



—Times Staff Photo.

Maggie Powell Looks For Opening

flat-footed set shots by Deane Willett, to cut the margin to four points early in the fourth canto.

But Valdosta's Sunnie O'Neal led a 14-2 'Dosta spurt which put the Kittens up by 16 points and ended Central's threat.

Maggie Powell, whose first half baskets were in a large part responsible for giving the Kittens their lead in the first place, led Valdosta with 15 points, while O'Neal finished the game with 14.

Rena Williams paced Central with 13 markers, and Willett added 10.

"We looked pretty good," Baker said of his squad after the win. "I'm proud of the girls, because Central was bigger than we were, and we just got out there and out-scraped them."

"Lisa Owens, our only senior, came in and sparked us, and that's the second time she's done that this season."

"We're improving, and if

we can keep hitting percentage shots and free throws the way we did tonight, then we'll be all right."

In a B-team boys' contest, Valdosta clipped the visitors 54-43 behind 17 points by Rodney Gordon and 14 by John Lastinger.

GIRLS
Valdosta 14 31 42 56
Central 10 22 36 45
VALDOSTA (56) — O'Neal 14, Berrian 9, Feix 9, Powell 15, Owens 3, Whitehead 4, Baker, Evans, Sloan 1, Skelton, Steward, Carson.

Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 16 of 24, fouls 14.

CENTRAL (45) — Williams 13, Stephens, Hankins 6, Hester 4, Coleman 6, Holton 4, Willett 10, Bracewell 2, Hallman, Brown, Beard, Jones, Botes, Johnson.

Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 7 of 17, fouls 21.

BOYS
Valdosta 11 29 42 69
Central 8 22 28 40
VALDOSTA (69) — Lowe 14, Sampson 7, Robinson 8, Champ Daniels 3, Belue 10, Worthy 5, Thomas 4, Hartman 2, Russell, Sermons 2, Chris Daniels 8, Blanton 8, Powell 1.

Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 19 of 29, fouls 17.

CENTRAL (40) — Cleveland 15, Donaldson 4, Clayton, Mills, Bryant 4, Linton 5, Lodge, Drew 2, White 10, Anderson, Wells.

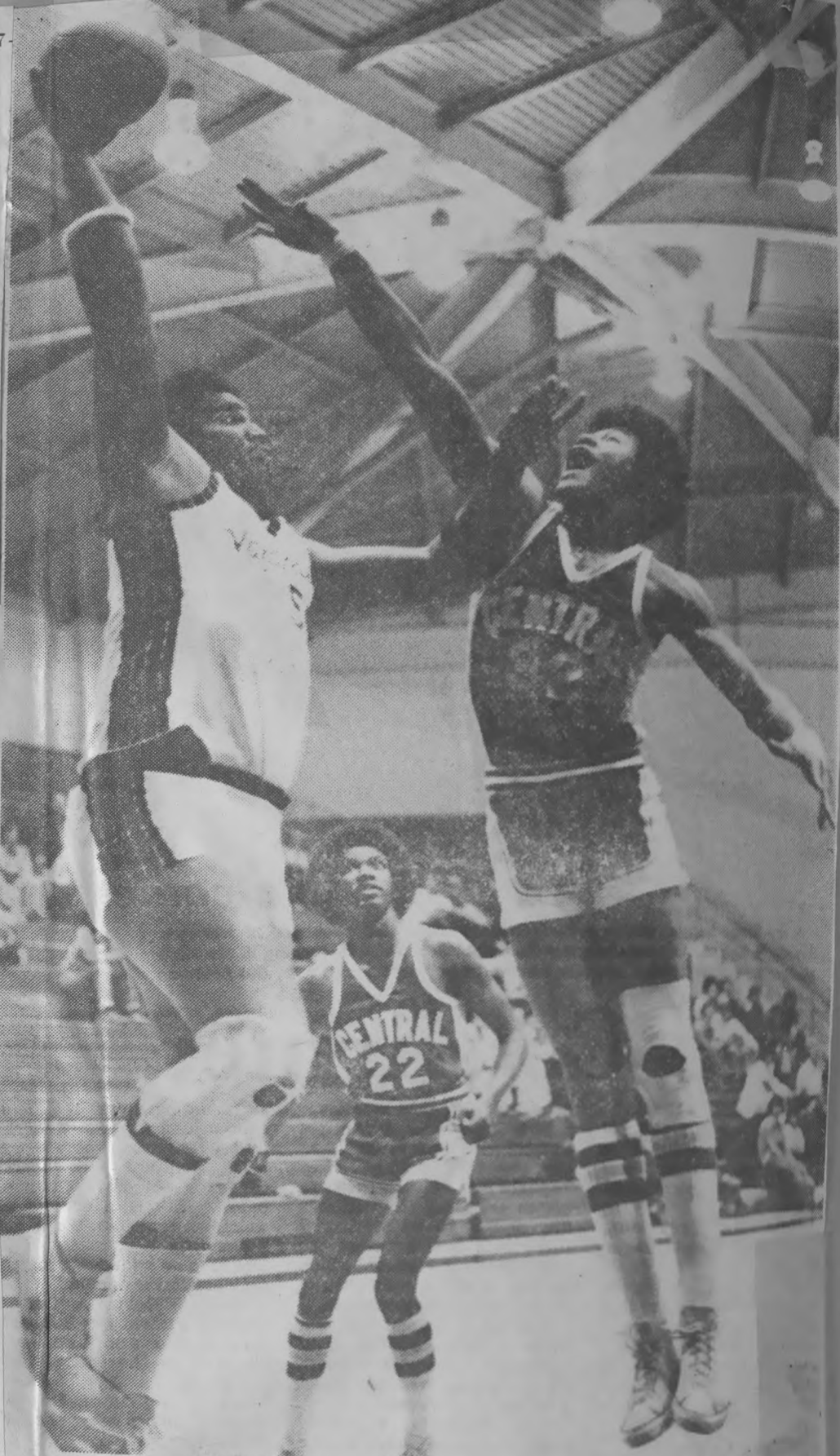
Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 10 of 15, fouls 22.

BROOKS 70, VALDOSTA 52

The class AA powerhouse Trojanettes, now 7-1, raced to a gaping 43-19 halftime lead over the Kittens, who scrapped for all they were worth but just couldn't find the range in the first half.

Coach Lucy Tedder's Quitman squad raised the advantage to 59-27 in the third quarter despite an all-out Kitten effort to stop them as Denise Monroe, Joan Bloom and Linda Thomas formed a three-pronged Trojanette attack that struck from every direction.

Coach Jerry Baker's 3-5 Valdosta team finally found the basket late in the game,



—Times Staff Photo.

Sky Hook: Jeff Sermons Lofts Hook Shot Over Anthony Bryant

and led by Lisa Feix and Maggie Powell, engineered a comeback which reduced the difference to a more respectable eighteen points by the contest's end.

GIRLS
Brooks 22 43 59 70
Valdosta 11 19 28 52
BROOKS (70) — Monroe 24, Stokes 2, Brown 2, Smart 4, J. Bloom 20, Thomas 12, Monds 2, James, Ward, A. Bloom 2, Gosier 2.

Team totals: field goals 32, free throws 6 of 14, fouls 15.

VALDOSTA (52) — O'Neal 8, Berrian 8, Feix 9, Powell 10, Owens 2, Whitehead 5, Seward, Baker, Evans.

Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 12 of 19, fouls 13.

BOYS
Lowndes 16 28 52 72
Tift 14 28 41 52
LOWNDES (72) — Pattillo 10, Brown 14, Montgomery, Bradley, Burks 8, Holloway 15, Clemmons 14, McEady 8, Jones 3.

Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 14 of 25, fouls 14.

TIFT (52) — Miller, Terry 4, Turner, McClung 6, White 10, Gill 16, McBrayer, James 1, Case, Knight, Troxell 2, Ingram 11, Spurlin 2.

Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 6 of 12, fouls 20.

GIRLS
Berrien 6 14 28 40
Tift 12 21 33 45
BERRIEN (40) — Rowen 6, Griffin 16, Pafford, Harkins 12, Smith 4, Griffin 2, Miller.

Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 2 of 9, fouls 17.

TIFT (45) — Sparks 6, Cottle 24, Mitchell, Houston 7, Brown 2, Graydon 6.

Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 7 of 18, fouls 12.



—TIME

'Dosta's Sunnie O'Neal Chases Loos

'Cats Nip Vikes; LHS Gals Bury Brooks Co.

Times 12-31-76

By MIKE CHASON

Valdosta's Wildcats didn't tame the "Wild Bunch", but they did passify Lowndes' Vikings just long enough to take a 62-60 victory in the finals of the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament here Thursday night.

In the girls' final of the tournament, now in its 25th year, Lowndes' Vikettes blasted Brooks County 63-34 for their first tourney crown since 1965.

A near capacity crowd looked on as coach Norman Sainz's now 8-1 Wildcats tried to keep pace with the 6-5 Vikings, who sprinted to a 14-4 lead in the first six minutes of the game.

Nicknamed the "Wild Bunch" for their wild un-coordinated style of play, coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes' club stuck it to their more talented crosstown rivals early and kept the heat on for 32 minutes of thrill-packed high school basketball.

The Vikes, who were in the tourney finals for the first time in seven years, maintained a razor thin advantage until George Robinson's five-footer put Valdosta up 38-36 with 2:23 to play in the third period.

Consecutive baskets by Nathaniel Burks gave LHS the lead again at the end of the quarter. Burks wound up with 10 points, but yielded high scoring honors to Woodrow Clemons, who netted 19, and Alvin Brown who hit for 18.

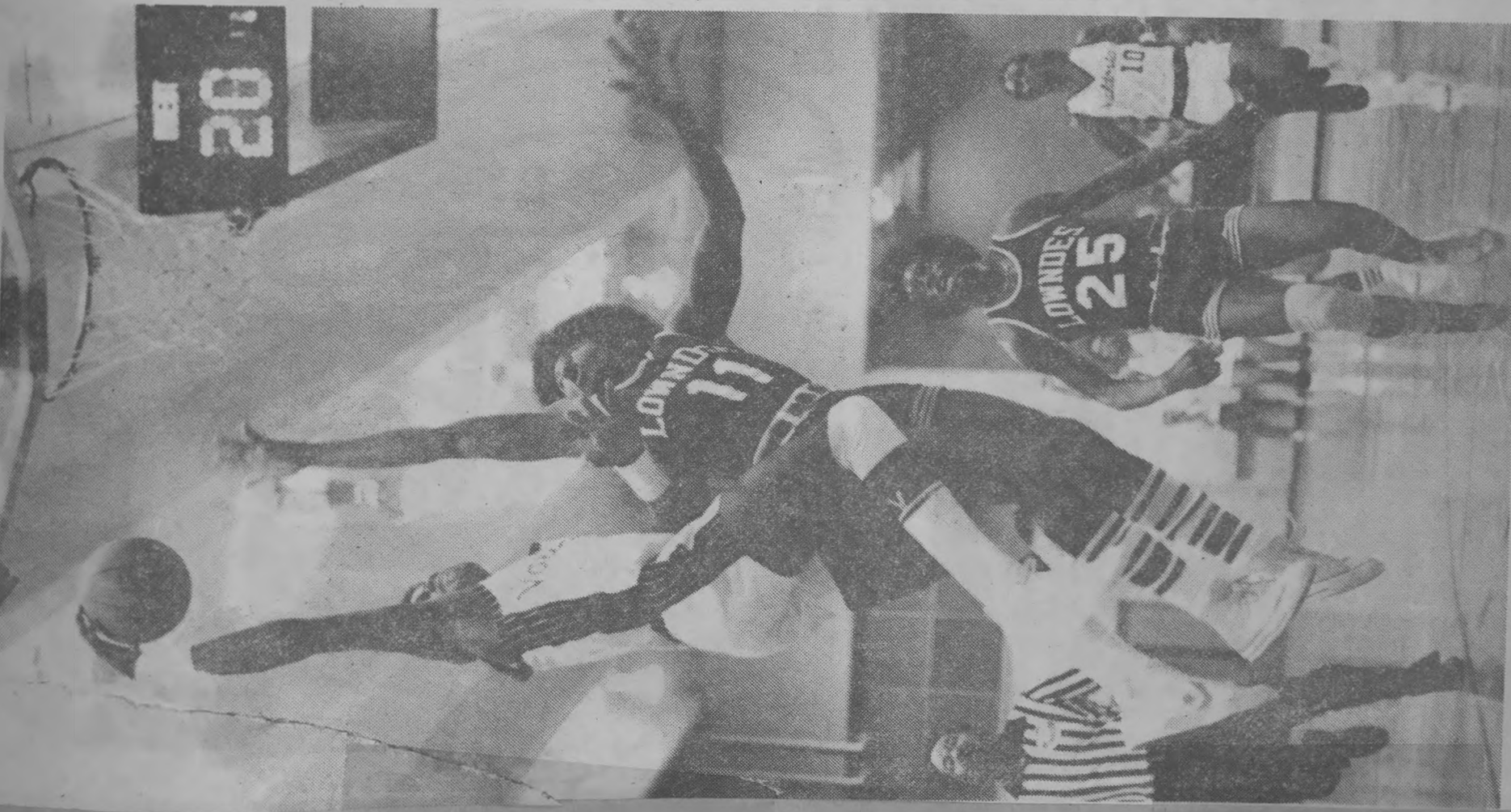
Valdosta played most of the third quarter without pivotman Lawrence Lowe who topped the Wildcat offensive show with 19 points. Lowe was slammed to the floor by the Vikes' Reggie Hollaway on a jump ball early in the quarter, resulting in some angry looks between the two.

Sensing his burly middle man was about to explode, Sainz benched Lowe for the final six minutes of the quarter.

It might have been the smartest move Sainz made all night.

Lowe came back in the game at the start of the fourth period, recorded his second dunk shot of the night, and scored 12 points to spark the Valdosta charge.

Not really known as a good foul shooter, Lowe...



VHS's Lawrence Lowe Scores On Nip - Times Staff Photo.

three minutes. The last two broke a 60-all tie with 39 seconds left to give VHS the lead and the ultimate winners' trophy.

Cooper's club, which hit on only 14 of 27 foul shots, still had a chance and called a timeout with 34 seconds left to take advantage of it.

"We wanted to get it to Clemons and let him drive the baseline to try for a three-point play," Cooper said. "We did get it to him, but we missed the shot."

Lowndes had three shots in the last 20 seconds, but the rim rejected each one of them.

Sainz was undoubtedly holding his breath the whole time.

"We're proud we won," Sainz said. "We fought some odds here tonight. Lowndes scrapped our eyes out. They are as fine a ballclub as there is in the region (1-AAA)."

Besides Lowe's heroics, Valdosta got 14 points from George Robinson and 10 from Allen Worthy. Worthy was filling in for Alvin "Abu" Thomas who missed both games of the tournament for the 'Cats. Sainz had no word as to when Thomas would play again.

Valdosta is scheduled to return to action next Friday in Bainbridge. Lowndes hosts Westover of Albany the same night.

Cooper's Vikettes will carry a perfect 10-0 record into that game after demolishing coach Lucy Tedder's Quitman five for the second time this season. Brooks County dropped a 71-40 decision several weeks ago to Lowndes for its only other loss in 10 games.

The Trojanettes, who won the state class A championship last season, were crippled by the absence of Ruth Monds and some early foul trouble by Denise Monroe. Monds missed the game due to illness, and Monroe fouled out with 1:08 left in the third quarter.

Joan Bloom scored 10 points to lead Brooks.

On the LHS end, sophomore Rhonda Rowell scorched the cords for 29 points for her career high. Marcia Player added 11 points and dominated the boards along with teammates Rosalyn Williams and Faye Hart.

Karen Parker kept the Vikette fast break attack moving and contributed nine points.

Rowell, Parker, Player, Monroe and Bloom were named to the all-tourney team by the working press at the tournament.

Valdosta's Lowe, Robinson, and Greg Sampson were picked to the boys' all-tourney team along with Lowndes' Brown and Clemons.

	14	27	40	63
Lowndes	9	20	24	34
Brooks	14	26	44	60
LOWNDES (63) — Rowell 29, Player 11, Smith 2, Vickers 2.				
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 9 of 14, fouls 15.				
BROOKS (60) — J. Bloom 10, Monroe 7, Brown 5, Stokes, Smart 2, Thomas 8, Shaw 2, A. Bloom.				
Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 6 of 10, fouls 18.				

	14	26	44	60
Lowndes	8	24	40	62
Valdosta	14	26	44	60
LOWNDES (60) — Brown 18, Clemons 19, Hollaway 4, Paffillo 6, Braulley 3, Burks 10.				
Team totals: field goals 23, free throw 14 of 27, fouls 19.				
VALDOSTA (63) — Lowe 19, Robinson 14, Worthy 10, Sampson 7, Belue 8, Johnson 4, Hartman.				
Team totals: field goals 24, free throw 14 of 21, fouls 18.				



Lowndes' Rhonda Rowell Goes For Two - Times Staff Photo.

'Dosta Knocks Off Bainbridge

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Saturday, Dec. 11, 1976 - 6 -

By MIKE CHASON

It only took 32 minutes of high school basketball to accomplish a feat Valdosta's Wildcats couldn't manage in four complete games last season.

When the last few hectic seconds were over, the scoreboard read 56 for Valdosta and 54 for Bainbridge, and the once mighty Bearcats had fallen for the second time in four days.

For VHS head coach Norman Sainz the win was one of the sweetest ever since he took over the Wildcat coaching duties almost a year ago. His club lost to Bainbridge four times last year including the Region 1-AAA south subregion and region championship games.

"Listen, I'm so excited right now, I don't even know who won," Sainz joked only moments after the game had ended. "They had me scared that second half when they came back and really got on the boards with us."

"Two or three times right there at the end, we had shots close in that just wouldn't fall for us. They're a tip top basketball team though ... don't let nobody fool you."

Coach Jerry Baker's VHS Kittens almost pulled the wool over the eyes of the Bainbridge girls in the night's opener, but the now 5-1 visitors escaped with a 60-51 victory.

Despite his team's 1-4 record, Baker didn't paint a completely gloomy picture after the loss.

"We're getting better," Baker said. "Tonight, we had some girls that were sick, and we're just not in the shape we should be. But that big girl was what really killed us."

Indeed, the "big girl" did. Sophomore Linda Akin threw in 29 points for Bainbridge and ruined a VHS comeback effort in the final quarter.

Behind a full court press

which featured some stand-out plays by Sunnie O'Neal, the Kittens cut what had been a 10-point Bainbridge lead to three (50-47) with just over four minutes to play.

Akin broke free for some easy layups after that to widen the gap. Sheila Williams also scored 12 points for Bainbridge.

Lisa Feix stuck in 16 points for Valdosta, O'Neal added 11, and Maggie Powell also dumped in 11 points.

The tone of the boys' game was set on the first time downcourt for Valdosta. The 'Cats got four shots at the goal before 6-7 George Robinson finally wound up getting fouled. He sacked both free throws, and Valdosta had a lead it never relinquished.

Coach Charles Bess' Bearcats, who dropped a 62-61 decision to unbeaten Moultrie Tuesday, kept trying to go inside to 6-6 Donald Barber. The strategy succeeded well enough for Barber to notch 20 points, but he didn't get much offensive help from his teammates.

The Wildcat defense took care of that. Almost daring the Bearcats to shoot from the outside, Valdosta collapsed its 1-3-1 zone into the free throw lane, putting even more pressure on Barber.

Meanwhile, the now 4-1 'Cats were playing their usual run-and-gun style and outrebounding the Bearcats at both ends of the floor. Alvin "Abu" Thomas and Robinson led the scoring with 14 points apiece.

Thomas is dangerous from either corner with a high arching two-hand set shot which brought the crowd to its feet more than once. Greg Sampson also scored 11 points for Valdosta, and Lawrence Lowe added 10.

Jimmy Hartman turned in

the most exciting play of the night when he dunked in a missed VHS layup. The referee ruled the ball was still on the rim however, and called offensive goaltending, nullifying the basket.

Valdosta held as much as an 11-point edge during one stage of the contest, but Bainbridge whittled that to two (39-37) at the end of the third quarter on a 16-footer at the buzzer by Dale Mock.

With 6:44 to play in the game and Valdosta leading 41-39, Bainbridge's Gene Fountain was hit with a technical foul for protesting too vigorously after a foul call.

Sainz called this "the key turning point" of the game as Lowe made both ends of the resulting one-and-one, and Sampson hit a layup immediately after. Robinson missed on the technical shot.

With 2:31 to go, VHS held what seemed to be a relatively secure 54-46 lead. But after the Wildcats continued their pell-mell style and refused to slow the pace down, the Bearcats sneaked back into it.

Curtis Henry's basket with nine seconds left brought Bainbridge within two, and Barber almost stole the inbounds pass at midcourt.

It rolled off his hands however, and on the next inbounds play with three seconds left, Chris Daniels was intentionally fouled by Mock.

Daniels missed both. The Bearcats grabbed the rebound and called a timeout with two seconds showing.

Barber then hauled in a length of the court pass and unleashed a shot from the corner at the buzzer, it sailed over the rim, and Valdosta had its victory.

VHS hosts another subregion foe Tuesday night when Thomasville comes to town.

		GIRLS			
Valdosta		11	23	36	51
Bainbridge		12	25	44	60
VALDOSTA (51) — O'Neal 11, Powell 11, Feix 16, Whitehead 9, Berrian 4, Owens.					
Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 9 of 16, fouls 13.					
BAINBRIDGE (60) — Akin 29, Strickland 7, Harrell 9, Williams 12, Edwards 1, Brown 2.					
Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 4 of 12, fouls 15.					
		BOYS			
Valdosta		16	28	39	56
Bainbridge		9	17	27	54
VALDOSTA (56) — Thomas 14, Robinson 14, Sampson 11, Lowe 10, Belue 4, Sermons 2, Champ Daniels 1, Harman, Chris Daniels.					
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 10 of 24, fouls 13.					
BAINBRIDGE (54) — D. Barber 20, Fountain 9, Henry 8, Bess 2, Mock 4, Hamilton 2, R. Barber 4, Taylor 5, Shealy, Heard.					
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 8 of 11, fouls 21.					



Times Tension Mounts 12-11-76

Youngsters are getting more and more excited daily anticipating Christmas day. But for these Valdosta High School basketball cheerleaders, there was something more immediately important to

get tense about. It was early in the game Tuesday night between Valdosta High and Lowndes High School and the score wasn't set. But in the end, VHS took the prize. — Times Staff Photo.

Wildcats Rip Apart Ware Co.

By Times Staff Writer
WAYCROSS — Valdosta's Wildcats racked up their third consecutive high school wrestling victory here Saturday in a 66-15 rout of Ware County's Gators.

"We seem to be getting stronger as the season progresses," VHS head coach Jim Landrum said of his 3-0 team. "But we are still a very young team, and we have a lot to learn."

Valdosta isn't scheduled to wrestle again until a Jan. 4 bout with Tift County in Tifton.

Individual match results follow:

98 lb. — Ronnie Miles (W) Pinned Greg Godwin; 105 lb. — Johnny Armstrong (V) won by forfeit; 112 lb. — Paul Hopkins (V) won by forfeit; 119 lb. — Danny Jaramillo (V) pinned Orrie McCraig; 126 lb. — David Clifton (V) pinned Tony Tanner; 132 lb. — Woody Carter (W) decisioned David Henderson 12-6; 138 lb. — Robert Cawaday (V) won by forfeit; 144 lb. — Steve Hall (V) pinned Bryan Davis; 150 lb. William Gaskins (V) pinned Danny Carter; 158 lb. — Billy Redfield (V) pinned Jimmy Sapp; 167 lb. — Jack Cain (V) pinned Blair Cadley; 178 lb. — Jerry Herndon (W) pinned Danny Hunter; 191 — Curtis Wright (V) pinned Danny Force; Heavyweight — O'Keefe Hunter (V) pinned Bruce Herrington.

Times Middleton Named All Star 12-26-76

From Times, AP Reports
ORLANDO, Fla. — Keith Middleton, star linebacker on the 1976 Valdosta High School football team, has been named to the 57th annual Orlando, Fla., Sentinel Star All-Southern high school football team.

Middleton helped lead coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats to a 9-2 season record and share of the Region 1-AAA football title.

Middleton was named to the team from Georgia along with Warner Robins back James Brooks, Buford quarterback Tracy Cohron, Richmond Academy back Darish Davis and George Rogers, a back on the Duluth team.

The Orlando Sentinel Star annually designates outstanding high school football players from each of the 12 southern states.

VHS Wrestlers Rip Tift

By Times Staff Writer
TIFTON — Valdosta High School's wrestling team ran its record to 4-0 on the year with a 46-26 win over Tift County in a match held here Monday night.

"I was really surprised at the final score," Valdosta coach Jim Landrum said. "Tift has a well-balanced team, and I thought the score would have been much closer."

Two of the Wildcats' three losses last season were at the hands of the Tift squad.

Seven Wildcat wrestlers, Arthur Allbritton, Danny Jaramillo, Robert Canaday, William Gaskins, Billy Redfield, Jack Cain and O'Keefe Hunter, remain undefeated after all four matches this year.

Individual results follow:

100 lb. class — Edwards (V) pinned Touchton; 105 lb. class — Allbritton (V) won by forfeit; 112 lb. class — Jaramillo (V) tied Tibbett; 119 lb. class — Osby (T) decisioned Clifton, 4-0; 126 lb. class — Davis (T) pinned Henderson; 132 lb. class — Canaday (V) pinned McAllister; 138 lb. class — Gaskins (V) pinned Veasley; 144 lb. class — Reaford (T) decisioned Ellison, 5-2; 150 lb. class — Redfield (V) decisioned Morris, 8-0; 158 lb. class — Cain (V) pinned Cole; 167 lb. class — Johnson (V) pinned Beckworth; 178 lb. class — Taylor (T) decisioned Wright, 13-7; 191 lb. class — Brooks (T) pinned Fletcher; heavyweight class — Hunter (V) tied Sanders.

12/15/76

Valdosta Swamps T'ville

By MARTIN REGISTER
Valdosta's Wildcats overcame a first-quarter deficit, then beat back a late Thomasville rally to whip the Bulldogs 77-60 in a high school basketball game here Tuesday night.

The homestanding Kittens surprised the Bulldogettes in the opener, 44-36, giving Valdosta a sweep of the Region 1-AAA doubleheader.

"Without shadow of a doubt," Cat coach Norman Sainz said, "that was the sloppiest game we've played all year except for the game against Moultrie."

Sainz was referring to Valdosta's early-season loss to the Packers, the only blemish on its 5-1 chart.

"We're mighty lucky to play the way we did tonight and still come out on top," he said. "We played what I would call ponchalant basketball ... we looked like we were tired."

The 1-6 Bulldogs jumped ahead at the start, sparked by

the shooting of Mike Posey and Roderick Hunter.

Posey's field goal gave the visitors a 16-7 lead with 1:54 remaining in the first quarter, but Valdosta began a gradual rally at that point and by the end of the stanza had cut the advantage to 18-15.

Valdosta appeared to take the upper hand in the second period, when Lawrence Lowe's dunk shot gave the Wildcats a brief 25-24 lead.

Thomasville turned the tide, however, on baskets by Posey and Kary Burklow to go ahead 30-25 with 4:55 left in the half.

The lead was their last. Led by George Robinson, the Wildcats let loose a barrage of baskets, outscoring the Bulldogs 18-4 in the time remaining to take a 43-34 lead at intermission.

Valdosta went on to lead by as much as 12 points in the third canto, but Thomasville didn't give up.

Instead, they came back

one last time, pulling to within 58-54 with 5:43 to go in the game on a pair of foul shots by James Hatch.

But Robinson and Lowe went on a scoring binge, scoring 14 straight points while the Bulldogs kept their silence, propelling Valdosta to a 72-54 lead and out of danger.

"I was proud of the way our seniors came in and took the lead before the half," Sainz said, referring to the spurt shortly before halftime which put the Wildcats in front.

"And one of the better aspects of the game was the fact that we used a lot of men in winning. We had to ... our brand of basketball is very strenuous."

"But we didn't play well at all. We can't afford to play the way we did tonight many times. They outthusted us."

"I do think Lawrence Lowe played his best game of the year. And (George) Robinson did a good job in the second half."

Robinson led the Wildcats in scoring with 18 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. Lowe snagged 21 rebounds and put in 17 markers.

In addition, Greg Sampson totaled 10 points and Alvin Thomas claimed 12 caroms for Valdosta.

Posey paced Thomasville with 20 points, and Burklow and Hatch added 10 apiece.

Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens looked for a while like they would blow the visitors out of the gym, sweeping to a

14-2 first-quarter lead and expanding it to 29-14 at the half.

But the Valdosta girls came out cold after halftime, and could manage only four points in the entire third quarter.

Thomasville cut the difference to a single point at 35-34 on Carolyn Kerbo's field goal with 3:58 left, and had several opportunities to take the lead on free throws and fast breaks.

The Kittens managed to break a three-minute scoring drought on a pair of free throws by Lisa Feix with 2:31 left, however, and went on to ice the victory with shots by Feix, Shirley Berrian and Renee Whitehead.

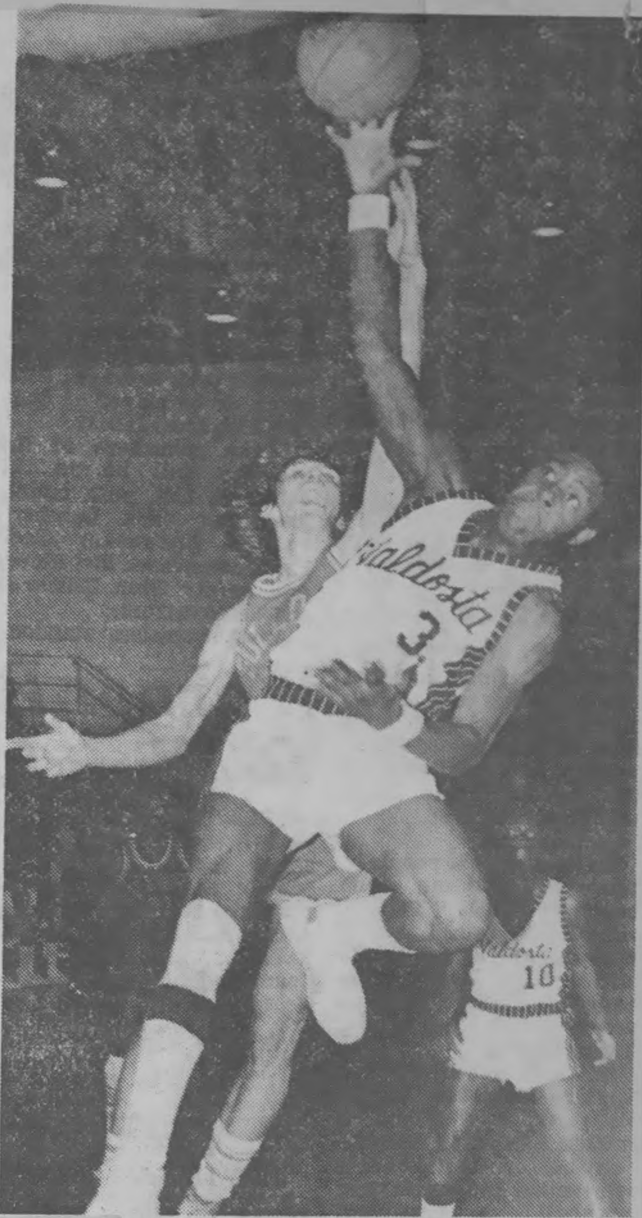
Baker credited defense with the Kitten victory. "We played read good defense, and our press really bothered them," he said, "especially in the first half."

GIRLS
Valdosta 14 29 33-44
Thomasville 2 14 24-36
VALDOSTA (44) — O'Neal 12, Berrian 4, Feix 13, Powell 10, Owens, Whitehead 5, Evans.
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 10 of 15, fouls 17.

THOMASVILLE (36) — Shannon 19, Thurman 3, Banks, Kerbo 12, Hayes, Johnson 2.
Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 6 of 19, fouls 11.

BOYS
Valdosta 15 43 56-77
Thomasville 18 34 50-60
VALDOSTA (77) — Lowe 17, Sampson 10, Robinson 18, Champ Daniels 6, Belue 7, Worthy 2, Thomas 7, Hartman 2, Russell, Sermons 2, Chris Daniels 6, Baldwin, Blanton, Powell.
Team totals: field goals 34, free throws 9 of 19, fouls 15.

THOMASVILLE (60) — Burklow 10, Nunnally 8, Hatch 10, Posey 20, Fann, Hunter 8, Marria 2, Johnson, Putnam 2.
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 6 of 12, fouls 19.



—Times Staff Photo
Lowe (3), Lutten Nunnally Vie For Ball

School Chiefs Worried By Heavy Absentee Day

By BECKY VAIL
Foul weather and extra-long Christmas holidays combined Monday to cause what could be the worst attendance day this year in city and county schools.
And the effects of a couple more days like that could translate into dollars moving out of the school systems, Valdosta and Lowndes County superintendents said.

the year, including the traditionally light first-of-the-year attendance.
Lowndes Supt. A. B. "Sonny" Martin said some county schools reported the worst attendance of the year, where others weren't as low.
The high school and junior high were sub-normal in each system, the superintendents reported.
Absenteeism isn't just a matter of numbers, however. If high enough, it translates into federal and state dollars lost for all kinds of school activities — teacher salaries, maintenance and operation money and funds for capital improvements.
Goolsby said about 300 students were absent from Valdosta High School Monday and Martin reported more than 200 absentees at Lowndes High.

All state funds under the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia — the meat and potatoes of operating monies for local school systems — are based on average daily attendance (ADA).
Absentees affect the amounts of money received.
Martin said the system needs to maintain about 95 per cent attendance each day.

Valdosta Supt. Foster Goolsby said Monday set the heaviest absentee pattern of

The "normal" absence for a rainy day at LHS, said Martin, is about 125 students. For a "normal" day, absentees run about 80, he added.
One unusually heavy absentee day doesn't have a major impact on teacher allotments and other funds, said Goolsby.
"But if you put together three or four days like this, it could hurt us badly."
Most of the absences Monday were likely due to the weather, though some families taking extended vacations through the New Year may have caused some students to remain out.
Weathermen reported 1.68 inches of rain in the past 24 hours.

AREA HOOP SLATE
Friday
Monroe at Valdosta
Moultrie at Lowndes
Lanier at Berrien
Tiftarea at Valwood
Waycross at Brooks
St. George at Echols
Greenfield at GCS
Pineland at Westbrook
Worth at Cook
Clinch at Broxton
Madison at Quincy Shanks
Saturday
Lowndes at Bainbridge
Terrell Acad. at Valwood
Brooks at Lanier
Echols at Clinch
Norman Park at Cook
Hamilton Boys at MacClenny
College
Okaloosa-Walton at NFJC
the Vikings of head coach Charles Cooper fell to another league foe, Central of Thomasville, by a 60-55

VHS Frosh Roll, 80-15

With all 17 players on the team contributing to the offensive effort, Valdosta High School's ninth grade basketball team wiped out Ware County's freshmen 80-15 here Monday.
Nathaniel Caesar led the rout with 11 points for the now 6-1 VHS freshmen who take on Hahira Junior High in Hahira Wednesday.
Lee Evans and Willie Burse scored five points each for the visitors from Waycross.

Area Hoop Roundup

Wildcats, Vikings Must Regroup

By Times Staff Writer
After tough road games accounted for their first losses of the season Tuesday night, Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings return home to regroup Friday.
Coach Norman Sainz' Wildcats dropped a 73-57 decision to Region 1-AAA (South) foe Moultrie while

margin.
Valdosta was expected to be one of the teams battling for the region crown this season, but the Wildcats take a 1-1 record into Friday night's game against Monroe of Albany here.
Lowndes' Vikings, who are playing a hustling, aggressive "Wild Bunch" brand of basketball, are 21-1 and except for 27 points by Central's 6-7 Darnell Cleveland, may have picked up their third win Tuesday. The Vikes host Moultrie here Friday.

Also, Georgia Christian aims to keep its perfect record intact against Greenfield (Weston) in Dasher, Westbrook (Dixie) entertains Pineland (Moultrie), Worth County (Sylvester) meets Cook in Adel, Clinch County (Homerville) opens its season in Broxton, and Madison, Fla. travels to Quincy, (Fla.) Shanks.
In Saturday night play, Lowndes visits Bainbridge for a game against last year's region 1-AAA champions, Valwood hosts usually strong

Terrell Academy (Daws) and Lanier County welcome Brooks County.
Other games include traditional matchup between Ashley DeLoach's Echols County Wildcats and brother Austin's Clinch County Panthers Homerville, Norman Park Cook, and Hamilton County Trojans from Jasper, Fla. MacClenny, Fla.
In the only weekend col action, North Florida takes with Okaloosa-Walton (Walton Beach, Fla.) Madison, Fla. Saturday.

In other games on a full night of action, Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) travels to Nashville, Ga. for a traditional bout with always tough Berrien, Valwood's Valiants eye their fifth straight win against Tiftarea (Chula) here, Brooks County (Quitman) hosts Waycross, and Echols County welcomes St. George to Statenville.

12/2/76

Letters To The Editor

Diehard Football Era?

Sir: This letter refers to recent discussions in your paper concerning Coach Nick Hyder and the VHS football team. For the record, I am a 1975 graduate of VHS and was a Marchin' Cats member for three years.

It was very disheartening for me to learn that there were still diehard faithfuls left from another era. And, of course, I mean the Bazemore era. No one ever doubted that an era ended when Bazemore retired.

But the majority of us realized that change must take place. It was unfortunate that Charlie Greene had to be the scapegoat during this transition. So, after two seasons of no state championship, these diehard faithfuls "helped" Coach Greene to resign.

Then Nick Hyder came,

and by now, pressure to be state champs had eased somewhat. So the diehards were heard from rarely, even through the 3-7 season. The next year brought on a region championship, and inside the faithfuls wished for more. When this season ended in "disaster" for them, it was inevitable that the diehards would speak out. And, so the story goes.

These diehards I speak of are people so caught up in that past era that nothing can change them. Literally, they will settle for nothing less than a 13-0 record and state championship. But I pity them, for change is inevitable, and attitudes must likewise change; their's have not.

I am a faithful supporter of Nick Hyder, yet this is not my point. Instead, I wish to

emphasize that everyone in Valdosta, and especially those linked so close to the past, must realize that the Bazemore era is gone forever, and no coach can ever be like him.

Finally, the results of Hyder's program are not lacking, as one letter suggested. On the contrary, the program is one of, if not the, best in the country. Its aims and goals are not to win, but to build character. I wish more people would remember this.

Against the advisement of friends and relatives who fear reprisals, I proudly sign my name.

Scott Alderman
106 Garden Drive

12/6/76

Times 12-19-76

Hunter Signs With Tuskegee

By MIKE CHASON

Almost to a man, most linemen will say they'd rather play defense than offense so they can hit rather than get hit.

But O'Keefe Hunter is just the opposite and that may be why he has recently signed a grant-in-aid to attend Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute to play college football for the next four years.

"I played defense in high school, but I'd rather play on the offensive line and that's where they said I would probably play," Hunter said. "It's more exciting for me. I can concentrate on who I have to block on each play."

Hunter becomes the third Valdosta High School player to sign a college scholarship this season. Linebacker Keith Middleton has signed with the University of Georgia, and safety Lawrence Lowe has signed with Georgia Tech.

The 6-0, 240-pound son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman L. Keys of Valdosta, Hunter was named to the Region 1-AAA all-star team this season at defensive tackle.

Hunter admits he would have preferred lining up with the offense, but yielded to what VHS coach Nick Hyder thought was best for the team.

"I think I might get to play a little next year,"



O'KEEFE HUNTER
'Rather Play Offense'

Hunter said. "College ball is not like high school. Everybody there is a lot bigger and stronger than high school."

Hunter served as one of the captains of the 9-2 Wildcats this year. Valdosta tied for the region title, but fell to Central of Thomasville in a playoff game.

Dougherty (Albany) later defeated Central for the league crown.

"I think we could have gotten a little farther this year," Hunter said. "We should have at least gotten to Dougherty. A lot of people have blamed coach Hyder, but I don't. I don't blame him at all."

Letters To The Editor

Hyder Results Lacking

Sir: After reading the recent article on the Wildcats' hard work, I am thankful the writer is not a Republican speech writer. If he were, I feel sure that the past Presidential election would have resulted in the reelection of Richard Nixon with Attila the Hun as VP.

Frankly, I am less than dazzled by the writer's logic. I have not heard one person question the work output of the team or coaches. Instead the questions and criticism concern the lack of results.

In the six years prior to Mr. Hyder's employment, Valdosta lost only three region football games. Mr. Hyder with his "new" program and handpicked assistants was able to lose over twice that many his first

year.

Only with the return of Joe Wilson and Jack Rudolph to run the offense and defense was the team able to return to pre-Hyder form. Yet we are asked to believe that Mr. Hyder is blameless and the fault lies with the preceding coaches.

Mr. Hyder cites the lack of outstanding players as the reason for his recent failures. I always thought that it was the job of the coach to develop great players.

Mr. Hyder can not deny that he has a larger student body to draw talent from than has any preceding coach. He can not logically go down the roster of players and deny the existence of size, speed, and strength on his last three teams. Valdosta has won before with less talent.

Mr. Hyder tries to discredit his detractors by saying they do not really know football, they are not closely associated with the program, and are not "the people who count." This is a telling attitude. Such as supercilious frame of mind has to make criticisms unbearable.

Criticism for Mr. Hyder is widespread and comes from veteran coaches to casual observers. The consensus is that the coach should use more imagination in play design and calling and less in inventing excuses.

In summary, I believe Mr. Hyder is a good coach in a situation that demands a great coach. He must realize that since he is paid with tax money, the public is entitled to express an opinion.

I sincerely hope he develops into a great coach before the Wildcat fans are permanently reduced to the level of the Florida Gator

fans with the cry of "wait until next year."

I would like to offer my signature, but I have been urged to remain anonymous by friends and relatives closely associated with Valdosta High School who fear reprisals. My embarrassment at this is overwhelmed by shame that such fears must exist in a free society.

Valdostan

12/2/76

Valdosta High School Plans Teaching Method Change

By DAVID RONNINGEN
Times-Union Staff Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Valdosta High School officials are implementing a new learning system and see little difficulty in making the transition away from the "packet teaching" the \$4.5 million facility was designed for, said Supt.-elect Ralph Brandon.

The school was completed three years ago with an architectural design that complemented a new learning concept using packets and doing away almost entirely with the need to lecture.

THE DESIGN CALLED for open classrooms — a change from the traditional enclosed rooms where teachers lectured and gave assignments in textbooks.

Learning packets were put into use when the school opened. With the packets, students were not lectured to but given reading material at periodic intervals and required to answer questions upon completion.

Students and parents complained about the packet system and officials decided to go to the more traditional concept of issuing textbooks and giving

lectures.

OFFICIALS INSTALLED about 15 floor-to-ceiling partitions during the last three years leaving between 25 and 30 per cent of the school's 85 classrooms open, said Brandon.

"If we redesigned that building now with the knowledge we gained after three years of use, we probably would not have as many open spaces as we currently have," Supt. Foster Goolsby said during an interview last fall. "We found that single classrooms of the tra-

ditional variety are still badly needed. The noise factor in the open spaces was, in some locations, more than we anticipated."

Students have complained that the packet systems were dull and unqualified teachers could get by.

"The packets weren't too popular with us because we were used to the old system of lecturing," said a student who asked not to be identified. "It was just so dull. There was very little contact between the teacher and the student."

BRANDON SAID THERE are no plans to add more wall partitions.

VHS Principal Lloyd Mims said the school maintained a scholastic level above the state's average before and after the packets were introduced.

"The only basic difference (in the new system) is they will have textbooks and be checked daily," Mims said.

Brandon said the new system, to be effective beginning spring quarter, incorporates the good aspects of the packets and eliminates its weaknesses.

Mims said he had heard no response from teachers or students since the announcement to change was made.

Fla Times-Union Fri, Jan 14, 1977

VHS Freshmen Nip Moultrie

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's freshman basketball team hung on to nip Moultrie's ninth grade 59-58 in a thrilling encounter here Wednesday.

Nate Caesar sparked the VHS attack with 19 points and 18 rebounds. John Bond also scored 12 for the now 4-1 freshmen.

Wayne Neal pumped in 21, and Mitch Aldridge added 14 for Moultrie.

The VHS frosh and Valdosta Junior High School's Tomcats are scheduled to meet Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the VHS gym.

12/6/76

'Cats Snap Bearcat Hex With 71-69 Win

By Times Staff Writer
BAINBRIDGE

Before this season, it seemed Bainbridge's Bearcats had cast a magic spell over Valdosta's Wildcats. No matter what route they took, the 'Cats just couldn't keep pace with the two-time Region 1-AAA champions. But after Friday night's spine-tingling 71-69 high school basketball triumph over the Bearcats here, it might be safe to say the hex has been broken.

And Norman Sainz couldn't be any happier about it. "I'm real proud of our kids," Sainz said after his now 10-1 Wildcats recorded their second two-point win of the year over their 1-AAA

(South) subregion foe. "Allen Worthy played the best ballgame he's ever played for Valdosta High School. His turnaround jump shots kept us in the game."

Coach Jerry Baker's VHS Kittens didn't have the good fortune of the Wildcats and lost their sixth game in nine tries by a 53-47 margin to the Bainbridge girls. Lisa Feix poured in 19 points for the Kittens, who jumped out to a 22-10 first quarter lead. Rene Whitehead added 10 more. Linda Akin stuck in 16 points for the Bainbridge lasses who have lost only to unbeaten Lowndes (Valdosta) this season. "We had the best three

quarters and the worst last quarter we've had all year," Baker said. "We were really ripping the nets that first half, and then we only scored five points the last quarter." Baker cited the departure of Maggie Powell via the five foul route as one reason for the Bainbridge comeback. Sainz's Wildcats also had to make a comeback after falling behind 11-1 before the game was two minutes old. Gene Fountain keyed the Bearcat spurt with some hot shooting from all over the court. He wound up with 31 points. Curtis Henry contributed 12, and Donald Barber added 10. But their efforts were not enough to offset a balanced

Valdosta attack which began with 20 points by Alvin "Abu" Thomas and featured 12 by Worthy, 11 by George Robinson, and 10 by Greg Sampson.

Thomas is back with the team after missing both games in the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament. Sainz said his star forward injured an ankle during a sandlot football game and was unable to play. The VHS head coach said some disciplinary action was being taken since at the tournament, he had no idea Thomas would be out and didn't find out until early this week why the 6-3 senior missed the games. But Valdosta needed every

point it could get before the packed house crowd here, and Thomas scoring output was welcome. The Wildcats sneaked back into the game after their horrendous start and finally pulled ahead 67-64 with just over a minute to play. Fountain took care of that with a three-point play to knot the game. Robinson promptly untied it with a pair of free throws to put 'Dosta up by a pair.

Henry's bucket set the score at 69-all with 25 seconds left, and Valdosta called a timeout to set up the last shot. Sampson took the shot with some four seconds left. It rolled out, but the hands of Robinson, Thomas, and

Worthy were all around the rim waiting for the tip-in. Robinson did tip the ball in at the buzzer to give Valdosta the victory, and leave a wild crowd suddenly silent. Wildcat forward Lawrence Lowe scored only three points in the game and was hit with two technical fouls. Both times he was called for basket interference after hanging on the rim after dunk shots.

Valdosta hosts crosstown rival Lowndes Tuesday. The Wildcats have taken both meetings with the LHS Vikings this season. In another Region 1-AAA matchup Friday night, Crisp County (Cordele) cut down

Henry's bucket set the score at 69-all with 25 seconds left, and Valdosta called a timeout to set up the last shot. Sampson took the shot with some four seconds left. It rolled out, but the hands of Robinson, Thomas, and

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previously unbeaten Moultrie 56-54. Moultrie is the only team to defeat Valdosta's boys.

Valdosta
Bainbridge 22 32 42 47
VALDOSTA (47) — O'Neal 7, Bertlan 5, Feix 19, Powell 6, Whitehead 10, Baker, Owens.
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 3 of 14, fouls 15.
BAINBRIDGE (53) — Strickland 6, Harrell 13, Akin 16, Edwards 7, Williams 12, Coy.
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 8 of 14, fouls 14.

Valdosta
Bainbridge 16 34 48 71
VALDOSTA (71) — Lowe 3, Sampson 10, Robinson 11, Belue 2, Worthy 12, Johnson 9, Chris Daniels 2, Thomas 20, Hartman 2, Chandler Daniels.
Team totals: field goals 30, free throws 11 of 23, fouls 16.
BAINBRIDGE (69) — Fountain 31, Bass 5, D. Barber 10, Henry 12, Mock & Hamilton 5, R. Barber 4.
Team totals: field goals 30, free throws 9 of 18, fouls 19.

Valdosta
Bainbridge 22 32 42 47
VALDOSTA (47) — O'Neal 7, Bertlan 5, Feix 19, Powell 6, Whitehead 10, Baker, Owens.
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 3 of 14, fouls 15.
BAINBRIDGE (53) — Strickland 6, Harrell 13, Akin 16, Edwards 7, Williams 12, Coy.
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 8 of 14, fouls 14.

point it could get before the packed house crowd here, and Thomas scoring output was welcome. The Wildcats sneaked back into the game after their horrendous start and finally pulled ahead 67-64 with just over a minute to play. Fountain took care of that with a three-point play to knot the game. Robinson promptly untied it with a pair of free throws to put 'Dosta up by a pair.

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Letter To The Editor

Ask Players About Hyder

12/8/76

Sir: In regard to the anonymous Valdostan's letter about "Hyder Results Lacking", I would like to express my opinion of Coach Nick Hyder. The writer criticized Coach Hyder's "new" program and hand-picked assistants for the seven losses experienced in 1974.

I was a junior on that team and I think the writer of the previous article should get some of the facts straight before he applies his so-called "constructive criticism".

The "new" program which consisted of the institution of the morning workouts was attended by very few players, of which I was not one. Coaches and players alike suffered through that miserable season. If any criticism is given, it should be toward the players like myself who missed these workouts.

But at the end of this season, my fellow teammates and I got together and decided that maybe Coach Hyder's off-season program was the answer. So we gave it a try. Sure enough, we became stronger, quicker and more agile. And the spring training was a complete turnaround of the year before.

We played better and had fewer injuries. We also won the "Has-Been Will-Be" game along with the Spring Jamboree. Workouts continued along with two weeks of conditioning before football camp. The results — we became 1-AAA champs, something that had not been done since 1971.

It is true what the previous writer said about Coach Hyder having a large student body to draw players from. And it is a fact that any

member from the student body that has asked to try out for the team has been granted the opportunity to do so.

It is true also that the roster does have many players with good size, speed and strength. But these players, some 6-4 and 200-plus pounds and some bench pressing 300 pounds can't run a 40-yard dash in six seconds. There are some players that are fast but are too small or inexperienced to start. To be a good football player, one has to combine all these factors into one body.

The writer also blamed Coach Hyder for not producing "great players". Coach Bazemore didn't produce Don Golden, Gary Rowe, Rhett Dawson or any of the other great players who played for him. They were naturals who worked on their own to become what they are today.

Coach Greene didn't produce Stan Rome. Stan could have done the same at any other school like Valdosta High. Any great player that comes out of Coach Hyder's program, however, such as Harold Renninger, Keith Middleton, Billy Berrian and Alton Battles will thank Coach Hyder for the program that has enabled them to be playing college football.

Why don't the people who criticize the coach ever consult the people who have played under him? We are closer to the coach than anyone else. But some people, especially those who attend only the 10 regular season football games and would not recognize Coach Hyder if he passed them on the street, are the first to criticize the man. Also, for a person to remain

anonymous after writing a letter to the editor for the public to read shows cowardness, something a football player that has played under Coach Hyder and has paid the price asked by him, never displays.

Thank you Coach Hyder for letting me experience football under you.
Clark Stull

VHS Freshmen Route Echols

By Times Staff Writer
STATENVILLE
Valdosta's ninth grade boys' basketball squad pulled away after a close first half to down the Echols County High School B-team 61-45 here Thursday.

John Bond paced the Valdosta attack with 13 points, followed by Nathaniel Caesar with 12 and Tony Daniels, who scored 10.

Echols' Danny Daugharty led all scorers with 18 markers. The game was the last before Christmas for Valdosta, now 8-1 on the year.

VALDOSTA 69, WAYCROSS 50

This was the final game of the night, and after the first half, even it wasn't much of a game.

On the basis of some long range shooting by McKinly Hill and Ricky Howard, the now 3-5 Bulldogs kept pace with the Wildcats throughout the opening two quarters.

But with Sainz inserting fresh troops at every opportunity, the Bulldogs just couldn't match the 'Dosta running game or the awesome advantage the Wildcats had on the boards.

The Bulldogs rarely got more than one shot, while the 'Cats seemed to tip to their heart's content.

Lawrence Lowe maneuvered well enough inside to notch 21 points, George Robinson swished in 14 more, and Greg Sampson gunned in 11.

Hill and Lamar Holmes had 12 points each for Waycross, and Howard scored 10 more.

The game marked the first appearance this season for standout guard Leon Johnson for VHS. Johnson, one of the premier performers in the backcourt last season, broke a bone in his foot on the final day of football practice this fall.

He didn't have a bad debut, scoring on three of three free throw attempts, and all three field goal tries.

Wildcat forward Alvin Thomas missed the game and Sainz didn't seem to know where the strong shooting cornerman was. Sainz did make it clear Thomas would not be available for duty in tonight's championship.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Dec. 27, 1976-7-



Karen Shaw

Wet Weather Shape With Stitching

— Times Staff Photo.

BOYS

Valdosta
Waycross 18 38 57 69
VALDOSTA (69) — Lowe 21, Sampson 11, Robinson 14, Hartman 6, Worthy 2, Johnson 9, Belue, Champ Daniels 2, Chris Daniels 4, Russell, Powell, Blanton.
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 7 of 17, fouls 13.
WAYCROSS (50) — Hill 12, Howard 10, Holmes 12, Belamy 4, Turner 2, Oliver 2, Perry 4, Taylor, Bell, Bailey 4, Flamery, Edwards.
Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 4 of 11, fouls 11.



NORMAN SAINZ
Couldn't Be Happier

Lowndes, Valdosta Clash Again

12/6/76

By Times Staff Writer
The last time Valdosta and Lowndes clashed in an athletic contest, it was on a cold October night before a packed house at Valdosta's Cleveland Field. The game was football, and Valdosta took a 14-3 decision.

Tuesday night, the two intra-county rivals pair up again. This time Lowndes has the home advantage, and the game is basketball.

Coach Charles Cooper's 5-0 Lowndes' Vikettes tip off the

action at 7 p.m. when they take on the 1-2 VHS Kittens of head coach Jerry Baker.

AREA HOOP SLATE
Tonight
College
FSU JV at NFJC
Tuesday
Valdosta at Lowndes
Berrien at Jeff Davis
Brookwood at Valwood
Atkinson at Echols
Broxton at Lanier
Clinch at Brantley
Madison at W. Nassau
College
Lincoln Memorial at VSC
VSC Women at FSU

The matchup between Cooper's 2-3 Vikings and

Norman Sainz's 2-1 Wildcats immediately follows.

In other area high school action Tuesday night, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) travels to Hazlehurst to meet Jeff Davis, Valwood tries to halt a two-game losing streak against Brookwood of Thomasville here, and Atkinson County (Pearson) battles Echols County in Statesville.

Also, Lanier County hosts Broxton in Lakeland, Ga., Clinch County (Homerville)

hits the road to Nahunta to face Brantley County, and Madison, Fla. travels to West Nassau, Fla.

In college play, North Florida Junior College welcomes Florida State University's junior varsity to Madison, Fla. tonight, and hosts Gulf Coast (Panama City, Fla.) in another JC tilt Wednesday.

Valdosta State's Blazers meet Lincoln (Tenn.) Memorial here Tuesday night, and the VSC women's team journeys to Tallahassee, Fla. to match up with Florida State.

The Lowndes' girls' team hasn't been seriously challenged so far, and could be on its way to a fifth consecutive Region 1-AAA title.

The Vikettes feature the inside play of junior Marcia Player, sophomore Rhonda Rowell, and senior Rosalyn Williams as well as the long range shooting of senior Faye Hart and junior Karen Parker.

The Kittens are a run-and-gun team which loves to fast break. But to break, a team needs the ball, and getting rebounds against the taller Lowndes' front line won't be easy.

Sophomore Lisa Feix is

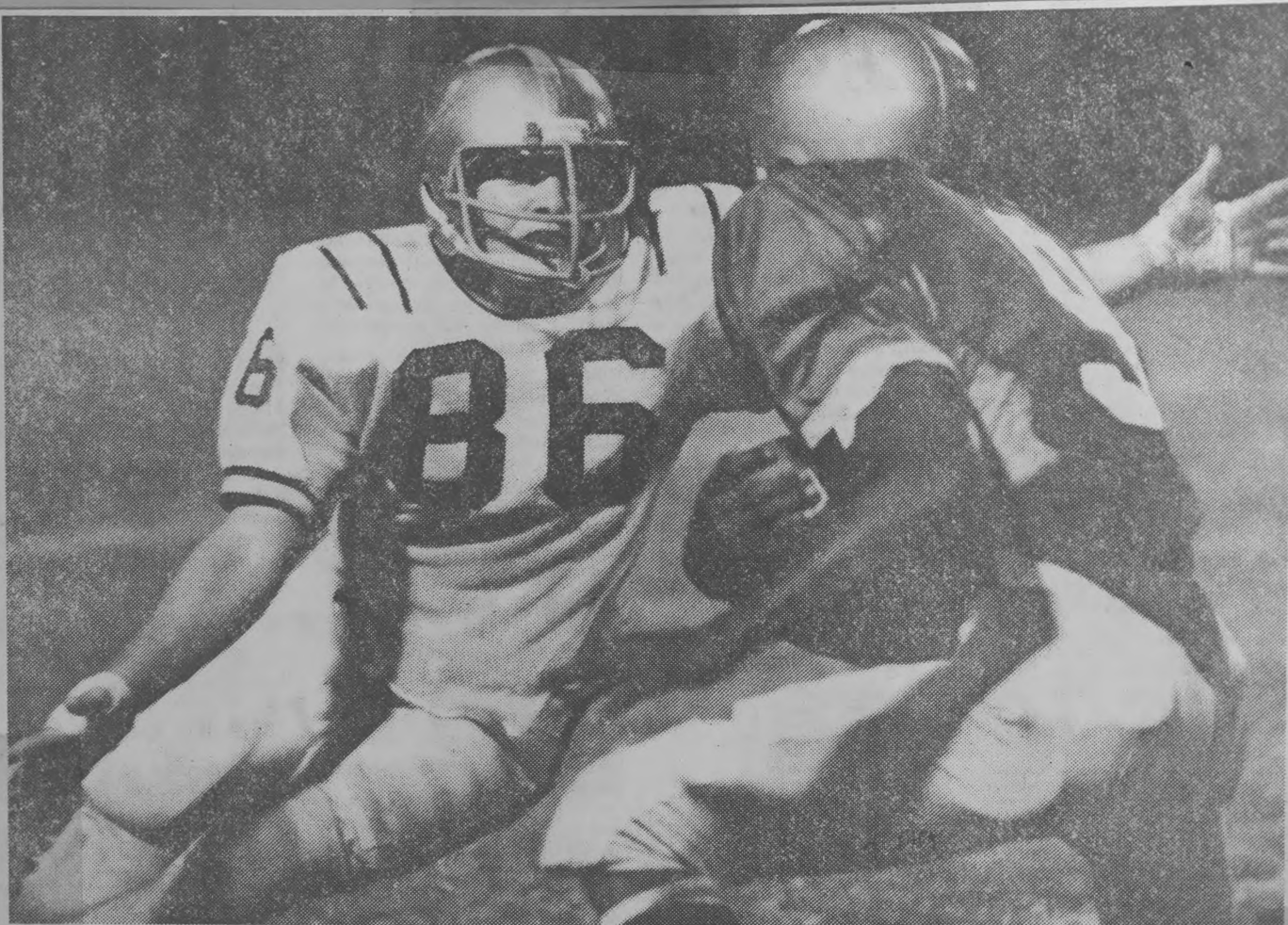
Valdosta's major offensive threat, but Maggie Powell and Sonnie O'Neal are both capable scorers. Rene Whitehead and Shirley Berrian are the other starters, and Lisa Owens made a healthy contribution off the bench in a 62-53 win over Monroe of Albany.

Lowndes' Vikings have dropped three in a row, and Cooper is anxious to put the skids on the streak. When it gets hot, his "Wild Bunch" can play with anybody, providing it doesn't get beat on the boards too bad.

That may be a problem against Valdosta's 6-7 George Robinson, 6-3 Lawrence Lowe, and 6-3 Alvin Thomas. That trio beat the boards to death against Monroe, getting four consecutive shots at one point.

Lowndes can counter with 6-1 Nathaniel Burks, 6-2 Woodrow Clemons, and 6-2 Reggie Hollaway on its own front line.

From the outside, Valdosta has fine shooters in Thomas and guard Greg Sampson, The 'Cats' top outside gun, Leon Johnson, is still recuperating from a broken bone in his foot sustained on the final day of football practice.



—Times Staff Photo By Ken Klaricki

Closing In: Middleton Prepares To Make Tackle On Lowndes' End Clarence Reed

Times 12-10-76

Middleton Headed For Ga.

By MIKE CHASON

Whether it be tackling an opposing ballcarrier or signing a college scholarship, Keith Middleton has never been a guy who waits around for something to happen. He'd rather initiate the action.

At 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the 6-2, 212-pound middle linebacker for Valdosta High School's Wildcats is to initiate his college football career when he is scheduled to sign to play for the University of Georgia Bulldogs for the next four years.

Saturday is the first day scholarships can be officially handed out, and that's when Middleton has chosen to ink his pact with Vince Dooley's 'Dogs.

"I felt like it would be best if I would go ahead and sign," Middleton said. "You get kinda' uptight after awhile with everybody calling you."

For Middleton, who played in the shadow of another fine Valdosta linebacker, Harold Renninger, last season, the real pressure of the college recruiters began in the Wildcats' preseason camp. It hasn't slacked up a day since.

"Recruiters started coming down to camp before the season even started," Middleton said. "When the season started, they really started calling me. I knew then I'd have to start narrowing it down."

Middleton, who was named Defensive Player of the Year in Region 1-AAA this season, did narrow the list to three schools — Georgia, South Carolina and Georgia Tech. Renninger signed with South Carolina last season, but according to Middleton is no longer enrolled there. Middleton was sought by "everybody in the SEC" and a few junior colleges, but decided he'd make his final pick from those three.

"South Carolina has a good coaching staff and nice facilities and all ... but I just didn't think it was the place for me," Middleton said. "And Georgia Tech ... well, I'm just kind of hesitant about going there."

"I definitely wanted to go with somebody with a good football reputation and somewhere I thought I'd be happy ... that would be the main

reason. I made the final decision myself. I don't think anybody could tell me what to do. I would be risking my happiness for them to be happy."

Middleton says he likes the "linebacking situation" at Georgia despite the presence of clutch performer Ben Zambiasi who's heading into his senior year. He figures it will be a bit too much to ask to even think of a starting spot next season, but when his sophomore year rolls around, he's anxious to crack the starting 11 for Erk Russell's "Junkyard Dogs".

Middleton was overall team captain of coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats this season, and the VHS head coach didn't try to play down the role the big senior played in the 'Cats 9-2 season record.

"He has the many qualities of aggressiveness it take to be a football player, and the gentleness that everyone likes to be around," Hyder said. "It's a rare combination of qualities. He's also captain of the team and president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes."

Middleton, 17, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Middleton of Valdosta.

Lowe Takes Step Toward Career

By MIKE CHASON

Lawrence Lowe takes the first step toward what he hopes to be a career in the National Football League tonight when he is scheduled to sign a grant-in-aid with Georgia Tech.

Lowe, a 6-4, 190-pound safety, is one of the few players ever to start all four years of his high school eligibility for Valdosta's Wildcats.

The 17-year-old son of Mrs. Margaret Lowe gained All-Region 1-AAA honors last season while aiding the 'Cats in their drive toward the region championship.

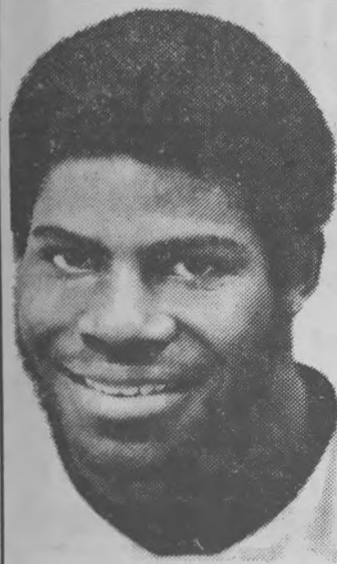
He was hit with a stroke of bad luck at the beginning of this season when he cracked a bone in his foot in preseason camp. Lowe turned in several standout performances, but never gained the form he enjoyed in 1975.

College recruiters still considered him one of the top prospects in the state. Lowe says he was approached by some 25 schools including Notre Dame and Pittsburgh.

But he decided on Pepper Rodgers' Yellow Jackets.

"I'd like to play pro ball, and by going to Tech, I might get a chance to," Lowe said. "They've got Bill Curry coaching up there, and he played in the pros for a great number of years.

"Al Guy is another coach, and he's the brother of Ray Guy (Oakland Raiders' punter). Of course, there's Pepper Rodgers, and he's been around the pros too. I



LAWRENCE LOWE Signs With Tech

think they'll help me out in the future."

Lowe trimmed the list of schools to three a couple of weeks back with Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Tennessee State still in the running. He decided to stay in the state because of his mother, and on Tech because he figures he'll get a chance to start right off the bat.

"I decided I wasn't going out of state because of my mother," Lowe said. "She's not doing too good right now. I think Atlanta is probably the best place for me.

"I've set a goal of starting my freshman year, and I think that's what they're

looking for me to do. I'll probably be playing free or strong safety. I know I'd rather stay on defense because I'd rather hit than get hit."

Lowe played some split end on offense in his sophomore season, but has stuck to defense exclusively for the past two seasons for coach Nick Hyder's club.

One handicap for some athletes at Tech in the past has been its high academic standards. Lowe doesn't foresee any problems in that area.

"I'm not what you might call an 'A' student, but with the study halls and tutoring that are available, I'm going to do the best I can to make it."

Basketball has been another sport Lowe has excelled at, and he hinted he might try the hoop sport at Tech if presented the opportunity.

Lowe is the second member of this year's Valdosta team to sign a major college scholarship. Middle linebacker Keith Middleton signed with Georgia Saturday.

Another area player, former Lowndes (Valdosta) defensive tackle Mike Blanton is already playing at Tech and earned a starting berth several times in his sophomore campaign this year.

Robinson's Heroics Rescue Tired 'Cats

Times 1-16-77

By MARTIN REGISTER

George Robinson ignited a fourth-quarter surge by Valdosta which propelled the Wildcats to a 67-63 high school basketball victory over Waycross here Saturday.

Valdosta fell short of gaining a sweep of the doubleheader when a remarkable last-minute Kitten rally narrowly missed an upset in a 40-38 Waycross win.

Robinson racked up 13 of his 15 points in the final quarter, leading the Wildcats from a 43-39 third quarter deficit.

Ricky Howard and McKinley Hill popped in 20 and 12 points respectively as surprisingly tough Waycross repeatedly surged from behind on inside jump shots to take the lead.

Valdosta, which had beaten Crisp County, the state's sixth-ranked team Friday night on the Cougars' home floor in Cordele, trailed for much of the first half until a short jumper by Alvin Thomas put the Wildcats in front 27-26 with 1:29 remaining in the second quarter.

A rim-jarring dunkshot by Thomas and a Lawrence Lowe tip-in gave 'Dosta a three-point lead seconds later, but Waycross came right back to go ahead by four in the third quarter.

But Valdosta found the bucket in the final quarter; and, pulled the game out of the fire to improve its record to 12-1 on the year.

"That's absolutely the worst game we've played all year," VHS head coach Norman Sainz said after the game. "We were very tired from last night, and didn't play well at all.

"Waycross has a fine ballclub. They execute well, and play good defense, but we just played a bad game."

Lowe muscled inside for 17 points to pace Valdosta. Leon Johnson also hit for 12, and Thomas added 11.

Kitten coach Jerry Baker voiced similar thoughts about his team's play against the Bulldogettes.

"We were flat tired," he said.

"Waycross has a very physical team, and they completely manhandled us on the boards. I'm not making excuses, but we played hard against Crisp last night, and were exhausted from it.

The 4-8 Kittens roared back from a 15-6 first quarter deficit to go ahead 18-17 at the half.

Waycross, 10-2, took the lead again in the second half, however, on short baskets by towering forwards Jackie Parker and Barbara Standley, and led 40-29 with just over a minute remaining.

But the Kittens, led by feisty Sunnie O'Neal, put on a furious rally, repeatedly stealing the ball and pumping in buckets to pull to within 40-38 on an O'Neal free throw with 12 seconds remaining.

Kitten Maggie Powell was fouled on an inbounds pass with four seconds showing on the clock and went to the free throw line on a one-and-one situation.

She missed the shot but came out of a mad scramble for the rebound clutching the basketball.

But the referee ruled her foot touched the out-of-bounds line, and Waycross simply salted the remaining time away.

Powell led the Valdosta attack with 10 points while Standley paced Waycross with 15 and Parker added 11.

GIRLS	
Valdosta	6 18 25-38
Waycross	15 17 34-40
VALDOSTA (38) — O'Neal 9, Berrian 7, Felix 6, Powell 10, Whitehead 6, Sloan, Owens.	
Team totals: field goals 13, free throws 12 of 17, fouls 9.	
WAYCROSS (40) — Taylor 4, Parker 11, Standley 15, Meeks 4, Loft 4, Brown 4, Morrison, Price.	
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 6 of 14, fouls 14.	
BOYS	
Valdosta	11 31 39-67
Waycross	18 28 43-63
VALDOSTA (67) — Lowe 17, Sampson 3, Robinson 15, Belue, Worthing 6, Johnson 12, Chris Daniels, Thomas 11, Powell, Hartman 2, Champ Daniels, Sermons.	
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 13 of 20, fouls 12.	
WAYCROSS (63) — Hill 12, Bailey 5, Holmes 5, Howard 20, Bellamy 4, Oliver, Perry 4, Flourney 2, Taylor 2, Hill, Junior 8.	
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 9 of 17, fouls 17.	

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., Jan. 6, 1977-15-

High Flying 'Cats Meet B'bridge

Fitzgerald visits Cook (Adel), West Nassau (Callahan, Fla.) is at Hamilton and Suwannee County (Live Oak, Fla.) is in Madison, Fla., to take on the Madison High Cougars.

In the night's only college contest, Palmer College of Iowa travels to Madison to oppose North Florida Junior College's Sentinels.

Coach Jerry Baker's Valdosta High Kittens should have their hands full in the first game of Friday's doubleheader.

The Talladega State women's game, previously scheduled for tonight was called off earlier in the week when the Alabama school forfeited the game because of a lack of players.

In other Friday games, Lowndes hosts Westover

In a trio of boys' games, Lowndes hosts Westover



VHS Coach Jerry Baker Gives Orders

Valdosta Knocks Off Crisp, 70-66

Times 1-15-77

By Times Staff Writer
CORDELE — Valdosta's Wildcats overcame a seven-point third quarter deficit to upend Crisp County's powerful Cougars 70-66 in a Region 1-AAA high school basketball game here Friday night.

The Valdosta girls gave the visitors a sweep of the event when they trimmed the Cougarettes 48-37 in the night's opening contest.

The boys' matchup had attracted attention during the week since both were ranked among the top ten teams in the state in a recent poll by an Atlanta newspaper.

The Cougars had been beaten only by top-ranked Macon Central and highly-rated Macon Northeast and were seated in sixth place in the poll. Valdosta was ranked ninth.

The game was everything it was expected to be. The momentum swapped hands several times, and coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats found they had to claw their way back from a 52-45 third quarter predicament to take the win.

Valdosta led in the early

going behind balanced shooting by Lawrence Lowe, George Robinson, Leon Johnson and Greg Sampson, and carried a 35-29 advantage into the dressing room at intermission.

But Crisp, 10-3, came charging back behind four straight dunks by 6-9 center Tommy Lewis and precision outside shooting by Frankie Lemmons to roar into the lead late in the third period.

Valdosta came back, however, turning in what Sainz termed its 'best fourth quarter ever' to come from behind and claim its 11th win against only one defeat.

Lowe, Robinson and Johnson spearheaded the Valdosta attack with 16 points apiece while Sampson added 14. Robinson claimed 14 rebounds while Lowe grabbed 11.

But Crisp's Lemmons took individual scoring honors with a scorching 35-point performance, mostly on outside jump shots. Lewis was the only other Cougar in double figures with 18.

"Boy, I'm proud of these boys," Sainz said. "I feel like we've really done something,

beating this team on its home court.

"The whole team played a good game. We rebounded well, we had balanced scoring, and the boys really hustled. We played like I knew we were capable of playing.

"Crisp had a lot of things going for them. They had just beaten Macon Northeast, and had the home court advantage. I'm just as proud of these boys as I could be."

Coach Jerry Baker's Kittens raced ahead from the beginning behind six straight baskets by Lisa Feix, and never trailed, notching their fourth win of the season against seven defeats.

Valdosta followed the shooting of Feix and Sunnie O'Neal, the rebounding of Renee Whitehead and a swarming pressing game to claim a 31-18 halftime lead and go on from there.

Feix finished the game with 18 points while O'Neal added 12. Whitehead put in nine points and came down with 11 rebounds.

"They just couldn't handle our press," Baker said. "And those first six baskets by Feix really got us started.

"Renee Whitehead played her finest game of the year," he added. "She's jumping better now ... she's realizing she can play."

Katherine Willum led the 5-5 Cougarettes with 16 markers, and was the only Crisp player in double figures.

The Valdosta teams play at home tonight, hosting Waycross's Bulldogs and Bulldogettes in a doubleheader.

GIRLS

Valdosta	16	31	40	48
Crisp	6	18	27	37

VALDOSTA (48) — O'Neal 12, Berrian 6, Feix 18, Powell 2, Owens 1, Whitehead 9.
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 4 of 11, fouls 15.
CRISP (37) — Willum 16, King 4, Jones 2, Braswell 2, Williams 9, Harvey 4.
Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 5 of 10, fouls 12.

BOYS

Valdosta	17	35	45	70
Crisp	12	29	52	66

VALDOSTA (70) — Lowe 16, Robinson 16, Johnson 16, Sampson 14, Thomas 4, Hartman 2, Worthy 2, Beise, Daniels, Sermons.
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 16 of 25, fouls 13.
CRISP (66) — Lemmons 35, Lewis 18, Daniels 4, Barner 4, Williamson 2, Hughes 2, Johnson 1, Lawton.
Team totals: field goals 30, free throws 6 of 12, fouls 17.

Valdosta Hosts Moultrie, LHS Meets Thomasville

1/17/77

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes take on the top and the bottom of Region 1-AAA (South) Tuesday night when Lowndes travels to Thomasville and Valdosta hosts Moultrie here. Coach Charles Cooper's 8-6 Vikings have already defeated the 1-10 Bulldogs 73-66 in an earlier meeting this season, but the veteran head coach is not taking anything for granted on the road.

"Our boys had a real flat game Friday night," Cooper

Tonight		Area Hoop Slate	
Tiftarea at GCS College	Clinch at Echols	Whigham at Brooks	Cook at Worth
NFJC at Middle Ga. JC	Madison at Rickards	Madison at Rickards	Madison at Rickards
Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Moultrie at Valdosta	College	College	College
Lowndes at Thomasville	Ga. Southern at VSC	Ga. Southern at VSC	Ga. Southern at VSC
Berrien at Brantley			

said of his team's 71-70 win over Tift County in Tifton. "I just hope we can get back up for Thomasville."

The Vikings, nicknamed the "Wild Bunch" for their running-gunning style of reckless play, have won six of

their past eight games, losing only to Valdosta.

Losing to Valdosta has been nothing new for any team this season since the Wildcats are riding an 11-game win streak.

Coach Norman Sainz's 12-1 club has lost only to Moultrie in a 73-57 decision on the Packers' home floor.

Coach Roy Saturday's Pack was undefeated at the time and is still unbeaten in subregion play. Overall, Moultrie is 8-3, having lost to Dougherty (Albany) 73-58, Monroe (Albany) 50-49, and Crisp County (Cordele) 56-54.

In the only area contests tonight, North Florida Junior College's Sentinels from Madison, Fla. travel to Cochran to face Middle Georgia JC, and Georgia Christian School hosts Tiftarea Academy in Dasher.

The GCS-Tiftarea game was originally set for Tuesday night, but was moved up due to exams by the Chula school.

In other Tuesday night contests, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) hits the road to Nahunta to face Brantley County, Clinch County (Homerville) travels to Statenville to play Echols County, and Brooks County (Quitman) entertains Whigham.

Also, Cook (Adel) journeys to Worth County (Sylvester), and Madison, Fla. goes to Tallahassee, Fla. to meet Richards.

'Dosta Streak On Line Against Central Tonight

Times 12-17-76

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's Wildcats put their four-game winning streak on the line tonight when Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets come to town for a Region 1-AAA basketball contest.

Coach Norman Sainz' 'Cats have won four game in a row, including a 56-54 victory over powerful Bainbridge, since dropping a 73-57 decision to Moultrie in the second game of the season.

Tonight
Central at Valdosta
Bacon at Berrien
Brooks at Moultrie
Echols at Charlton
Norman Park at Lanier
Jeff Davis at Clinch
Newberry at Hamilton boys
Valwood at Tiftarea Christmas tourney
College
VSC at Capital City Classic
VSC women at Blue Mountain Invitational
Saturday
Lanier at Cook
Broxton at Clinch
College
VSC at Capital City Classic
VSC women at Blue Mountain invitational

Holiday tournaments roll into full swing tonight, with the Tiftarea Christmas tournament in which Valwood is participating, concluding in Chula.

At Tallahassee, Fla., Valdosta State's Blazers run up against Kentucky State in a game slated for 7 p.m. in the Capital City Classic, and the school's women's squad clashes with Memphis State at 4 p.m. in the Blue Mountain Invitational in Blue Mountain, Miss.

Championship games in both the Capital City Classic and the Blue Mountain Invitational are set for Saturday night.

In high school action scheduled for Saturday, Lanier visits Cook (Adel) and Broxton is on the road at Clinch.

Coach Jerry Baker's Valdosta Kittens come into tonight's contest against Central with a 2-4 record, including Tuesday's 44-36 upset of Thomasville's Bulldogettes.

Valdosta defeated Thomasville 77-60 Tuesday night, but Sainz was entirely satisfied. "We were lucky," he said after the game, "that we didn't get beat the way we played."

In other high school games slated for tonight, Bacon County (Alma) visits Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), Brooks (Quitman) travels to Moultrie and Echols County (Statenville) hits the road to Folkston for Region 2-B match with Charlton County.

Norman Park is at Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.), Clinch County (Homerville) entertains Jeff Davis (Hazelhurst) and Hamilton County's boys from Jasper, Fla., play at home against Newberry.

1/17/77

VHS, LHS Grads Do Well At VSC

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta and Lowndes High School graduates now at Valdosta State College scored above the national average in freshmen tests this year and guidance counselors point to the scores as evidence their curriculum programs are on target.

Graduates of both schools topped the 50 per cent mean score in all categories, from reading to math.

VHS Principal Lloyd Mims and LHS counselor Bunnis Williams, said the scores speak well for the local academic programs and teachers, and how the schools prepare their students for college.

The tests represent only those students who attend VSC, and not those at other state and national colleges which admittance may be more restrictive, they said.

Mims said that VHS students apparently do well at VSC where 15 per cent of all incoming freshmen are directed into remedial courses to beef up on basic skills.

VHS officials said that number, while it's better at VSC than at other state institutions where as much as 60 per cent of the freshman class is involved in remedial classes, is misleading.

He and VHS guidance

counselor Virginia Wisenbaker said there are many colleges who take students who are not prepared, because the students did not take college preparatory classes.

"We have students that go to college that don't belong there, said Mims.

Mrs. Wisenbaker said she and other counselors question these students about going, but they never say no when the student believes that college is where he belongs.

VHS and LHS students fared well in competition with other youngsters trained at other high schools said Mims and Williams.

A mean score of 50 per cent is established as a national average. VSC reported these results for LHS and VHS freshmen this year:

Reading — VHS, 51.39 and LHS, 51.92; Sentences — 53.53 and LHS, 50.38; Year 2,000 — 55.00 for VHS and 53.55 for LHS; Mosaics — VHS, 55.08 and LHS, 54.04; Letter groups — 56.47 for VHS and 53.98 for LHS; Math (total) — VHS, 53.74 and LHS, 52.49
Academic Motivation — VHS, 54.27 and LHS, 54.47.

Williams agrees that the scores are good.

"It's welcome, encouraging news," he said.

1/18/77

Eanes, Strickland Are State Winners In Elk Competition

By Times Staff Writer

Judy Eanes has her sights set on a high school or college English teaching job in the not too distant future. Brian Strickland doesn't exactly like the subject.

But the two Valdosta High School seniors still have a lot in common because they have both been named state winners in the Elks Club Leadership contest.

Miss Eanes, 16, is the fifth member of her family to enter the contest and the third to nail down state honors in the prestigious contest which Valdosta High has swept for the third time in the past seven years.

"I couldn't believe it when they called me," she said of the message from the Elks that she had won state honors. "They said it so calmly. I was so excited..."

President of the VHS Student Council, vice president of the school's DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) club and a member of the Foreign Language Club and Future Teachers of America, she spends the rest of her spare time working at Sears, Roebuck and Co.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eanes of Valdosta, she plans on using the \$500 bond which accompanies the award to help further her education.

"I think I want to go to Florida State University but I'll probably start at Valdosta State College," the smooth talking Miss Eanes said. "I do want to major in English and get a teaching certificate...I've thought about teaching on the secondary level."

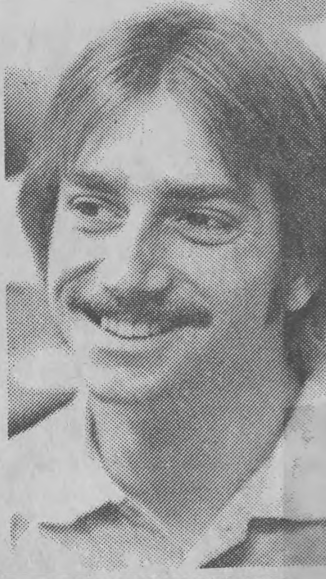
An English major is the furthest thing from Strickland's mind. In fact, other than an involvement in many extra-curricular activities, the two state winners don't seem to have that much in common.

Strickland, for instance, is a member of VICA (Vocational Industrial Club of America), which he says is much different from DECA.

"DECA is for students involved in distribution while VICA is for students in trade, technology and industrial education. And that's a lot of difference to me," said the 18-year-old senior who is employed as a loom fixer trainee at Strickland Mills, owned by his father, A.J. Strickland III.



JUDY EANES
Third Family Winner



BRIAN STRICKLAND
Put Money In Bank

Strickland's long range plans go deeper than that but the \$500 bond has its place. Presently, it's going into a bank but the state winner tentatively plans on putting it toward a degree in textiles at Georgia Tech.

A member of the Beta Club and state president of VICA, Strickland figures that probably helped nail down the state title for him.

"I never even thought about entering the contest until the school's Distributive Education coordinator, Norman Greene, stopped me in the hall and suggested I try it," he said. "I had never even heard about it to any great extent until then."

Once he got the idea, however, Strickland admits he attacked it.

"I kinda hit it all at once," he said. "I had written my paper about myself but the school's senior counselor didn't like it. Mrs. (Harry) Wolinski helped me rewrite it with a different format. I liked it a lot better. I think that's what may have gotten to them (state Elks judges)."

"I also had some pretty good ideas about the brochure I turned in. It took me a couple of days to get involved and understand what I needed to do. I hoped for the best but didn't expect to win this high. When I found out I won state I couldn't believe it."

Firehouse Construction

It's Official: City Gets VHS Land

By Times Staff Writer
The Valdosta Board of Education has officially agreed to deed a portion of the high school campus to the city for a fire station, ending the city's two-year search for a northeast firehouse.

In a meeting Monday night, the school board unanimously approved a resolution to give property off Forrest Street and next to the Valdosta High School pond to the city for a fire station which is expected to be constructed in about two years.

Board members have said they expect the city to build the firehouse in style compatible with the modern VHS architecture. In addition, the deed is to last only as long as the city uses the property as a fire station.

City fathers had been looking at numerous private developers' properties for the station, some costing as much as \$37,000 an acre. The school property was seen by fire experts, city administrators and politicians as an ideal site, as it is expected to be in the hub of new city growth and is to cost the city nothing.

In other action Monday night, the board of education:

- Turned down Coastal Plain Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.'s proposal for the board to pay for materials to reroof the old

Lomax school building which EOA now uses for some of its programs.

Board members said they could not use taxpayers' education dollars on school buildings which the board no longer uses.

Col. F. J. Smrcina of EOA had asked the board to pay for the materials to reroof the building, and said EOA would provide the labor.

The board originally thought EOA would also provide the materials. But it still did not like EOA's lease stipulation — that the board would reimburse EOA for reroofing costs if the board took back the Lomax school, whether to demolish it or to reuse the building.

The board property committee reported Monday there is no foreseeable use for the old Lomax school.

During the meeting, however, the board did agree

to extend EOA's lease for five years, under the present agreement.

- Agreed to hear from a committee on introducing stringed instruments in school music programs, as requested by the Lowndes Arts Commission.

Dr. Robert Quattlebaum recommended the board consider the request after a report from a committee of teachers, school administrators and board members.

Janet Robinson and Kathryn Mixson, with the Arts Commission, said they would like to see training for students in stringed instruments — violins, cellos, the bass, violas and the like.

- Heard a request from Sis May, with the American Red Cross, to involve high school students in the bloodmobile program.

Persons 17 years of age or

over can donate blood. The bloodmobile is at Mathis city auditorium monthly.

- Approved a request from Walter Newsom, chairman of the Lowndes County Democratic Party, and Mrs. May, representing the Republican Party, to have both parties talk with school classes during the next national election.

- Approved the bid from D. C. Cauthan Company for \$77,879 to construct four classrooms at Southeast School which are to be completed by the fall quarter.

- Approved the Central Church of Christ's request to use Cleveland Field June 11-16, 1978, for a areawide religious services.

- Heard a request from board member Dr. John Ricks that principals and teachers with special projects come before the board to explain the programs.

- Was reminded a special election to elect three board members if to be held Feb. 15.



KEITH BEST
Off To Good Start

Young Artist Aims High

By Times Staff Writer

A young Valdosta artist has already gained a moderate amount of statewide recognition for his work, and, like all aspiring creators, he's aiming for more.

Keith Best, a Valdosta High School senior, has three of his works now hanging in the State Department of Education office building in Atlanta.

The 17-year-old's silk screens and etching were chosen over artistry from a number of other south Georgia students for the display.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Best of 203 Hollywood St. said he plans to major in art in college after he finishes at VHS this spring.

A native of Valdosta, he is active in school and in the community. Best is a member of the Beta Club, and participated in the region debate competition. A member of Forrest Park Church of Christ, he is active in youth activities including a teenage visitation program.

The young man hopes a profit from selling his artwork during the annual VHS spring art show may net him enough funds to make a trip to Panama this summer with the church group.

Best said most of his hobby time is spent with art.

It was in his freshman year at VHS that Best's artistic talents were uncovered and his interest sparked.

Since then, he said he's taken almost every art course offered at VHS, from drawing and painting to glass blowing and ceramics.

Best said he most enjoys being creative — doing the actual work — but has an interest in art history too.

His favorite artist, he said, is Andrew Wyeth, a man who he said "puts work in his paintings... is very detailed."

In sculpture, Best said he likes Henry Moore's abstract creations.

The young man likes to work in a variety of media, but said the silk screens and etching he sent to Atlanta are representative of the best work he's done so far.

One of the silk screens is of an older building, surrounded by a barbed wire fence, with a "keep out" sign.

Eanes And Taylor Top DE Students

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta High School's boy and girl Distributive Education students of the year are carrying on family traditions, each in his-her own way.

Judy Eanes, DE's female student of the year, is the third Eanes youngster to win the prestigious award.

Male student of the year, Rex Taylor, works for his father in a clothing business.

The two were chosen this week by other DE club members and the program coordinator for the top honors, and are to compete with other top-placed students in district and state competition in the merchandising-marketing program.

Miss Eanes, at 16, is an active member of the local club, and has won numerous awards in other fields. She was recently named a state winner in the Elks Club Leadership contest.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William "Bill" M. Eanes, of 55 Loganberry Circle, she is vice-president of the DE club, president of the VHS Student Council, and a member of the Foreign Language Club and Future Teachers of America.

In connection with the work part of the work-study DE program, she works at the Sears and Roebuck Co. store here.

The senior is also a member of the Valdosta Education Task Force, St.



JUDY EANES
Another Honor

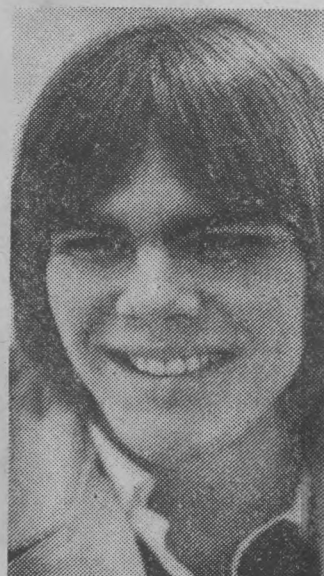
John The Evangelist Catholic Church, attended the bicentennial governor's conference and is to be participating in the student council's walk-for-mankind.

On DE, she said she has "learned how sales should be conducted... about merchandising, marketing, and distribution + about free enterprise."

Miss Eanes also said she has learned about people, and human relations, in the program.

That's one of the top things Taylor said he has learned in his two years in the program, too.

The 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Taylor of



REX TAYLOR
Likes His Work

813 Eager Road, is treasurer of the VHS DE club.

A member of the Azalea City Baptist Church, he works with his father at Taylors' Clothing Center, a job he likes, though he admits he might like to branch out on his own one day.

This is Taylor's second year in the DE program, — it's apparently interested him enough for him to aspire to a degree in business education at college after he finishes school.

"I've learned a lot about human relations," said Taylor of the DE program. "And about math... the easier way to do things."

1/19/77
VHS B-Team
Tops Moultrie
By Times Staff Writer
John Lastinger popped in 18 points and Rodney Gordon added 16 as Valdosta High School's B-team outscored Moultrie 67-51 in a basketball contest played here Tuesday.
Bernard Gamble added nine points for coach Jack Hart's 6-3 Valdosta team. Jimmy Hose topped Moultrie with 12.

Details



VHS Slips Past Moultrie Twice

By MARTIN REGISTER
 Tuesday was a very good night for Valdosta High School basketball. The girls' team started things out, holding off a late Moultrie comeback to nip the visiting Packerettes 46-43 and record its second win in a row.

Then, in the nightcap, the boys' squad gained a measure of revenge for its only loss of the season and pulled into a tie for the Region 1-AAA (South) lead with a 72-66 conquest of the Moultrie Packers.

"I am really proud of these boys," Wildcat coach Norman Sainz said. "We're getting there ... we may be a good ballclub by the time this season is over."

"We did what we needed to do," said Jerry Baker, coach of the Kittens. "This was a subregion game, and we really needed to win it."

The Packers jumped ahead 6-2 in the early going behind short jump shots by Larry Williford, but when Valdosta awoke, it did so with gusto.

The 'Cats reeled off ten straight points on layups and short jumpers to roar into the lead at 12-6, and stayed there the rest of the night.

Moultrie cut Valdosta's advantage to 16-15 by the end of the quarter, mainly behind the antics of Calvin Richardson, who drove in, around, up, down, and sideways for layups, then popped in outside jumpers for a total of 25 points.

But the Wildcats forged ahead again in the second canto, and it was the number two Wildcat platoon which boosted Valdosta to its biggest first half lead.

With Valdosta ahead 20-15 early in the quarter, Sainz sent in his second string to rest his starters, and the 'Cats promptly blew into a 28-19 advantage as Jimmy Hartman, Jeff Sermons and Lance Russell banged home buckets.

Getting double digit scoring from Greg Sampson, Lawrence Lowe, George Robinson and Alvin Thomas, the Wildcats swept

The Valdosta Daily Times
SPORTS
 Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1977 - 22 -

ahead further in the second half as Moultrie played a desperate game of catch-up.

Richardson and Herbert McCoy, who banged inside for short jump shots, consistently put the Packers on the scoreboard, but for every time the Moultrie side of the scoreboard lit up, there was more than one Wildcat basket to counterbalance it.

Lowe's reverberating dunk shot with two minutes left to play put 'Dosta on top 67-54 and seemed a fitting end to the contest, but Robinson came through with a stuff shot of his own less than a minute later to put the game out of reach at 69-58 and bring down the house.

The win avenged an early-season 73-57 beating the Packers handed Valdosta in Moultrie, the only blemish on the 'Cats 13-1 chart.

Perhaps most importantly, the Valdosta win throws the Wildcats and Packers into a tie for the subregion lead.

"It's apparent depth played a big role in this ballgame," an obviously pleased Sainz said. "The second team looked good both times they were in there. They picked us up when we had a lull."

"That (Calvin) Richardson is undoubtedly the best one-on-one player I've seen in this region," he added. "He's really tough."

Sampson bucketed 17 points to pace Valdosta, while Lowe hit for 16, Robinson racked up 12 and Thomas finished with 10.

McCoy wound up with 27 points for Moultrie, mostly toward the end of the contest.

Baker's Kittens pulled away from a 14-14 tie late in the first half to go ahead 19-14, then held the Packerettes

at bay the rest of the way in avenging a 50-43 loss to the Moultrie team earlier in the year.

Lisa Feix went on an eight-point scoring spree in the third quarter to keep Valdosta just ahead of the advancing Packerettes and send the home team to its second win in a row.

Renee Whitehead gave the Kittens a 46-37 lead on a layup with just over a minute left to play, but three desperation shots by Packerette Sarah Edwards found the mark in the final minute to cut the gap to three points.

Feix wound up with 17 points to lead Valdosta, now 5-8. Edwards paced Moultrie with 13, while Voncile Carr and Olga Pittman added 10 apiece.

Baker credited the alert, swarming Kitten press, which has become characteristic of the team, as a major reason behind its victory.

"Our press keeps being effective in causing turnovers," he said, "and then we wait for the good percentage shot."

GIRLS	
Valdosta	10 19 33 46
Moultrie	6 14 29 43
VALDOSTA (46) — O'Neal 8, Berrian 4, Feix 17, Powell 6, Owens 2, Whitehead 9.	
Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 4 of 11, fouls 10.	
MOULTRIE (43) — Willis, Edwards 13, Carr 10, Anderson 6, Moss 4, Pittman 10.	
Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 5 of 10, fouls 8.	
BOYS	
Valdosta	16 32 51 72
Moultrie	15 27 44 66
VALDOSTA (72) — Lowe 16, Sampson 17, Robinson 12, Belue 6, Worthy, Johnson 1, Chris Daniels, Thomas 10, Hartman 3, Champ Daniels 2, Sermons 3, Russell 2.	
Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 22 of 33, fouls 17.	
MOULTRIE (66) — Sears 2, Williford 4, Pullins, Webb, Richardson 25, McCoy 27, Lee 3, Reynolds 5.	
Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 8 of 13, fouls 22.	

Wildcat Sandwich: Packers Gang Up On George Robinson

The Fla. Times-Union *Tues, Jan 18, 1977*
Valdosta Aims To Pack Away the Packers

By DUB JOINER
 Times-Union Bureau
 VALDOSTA, Ga. — The No. 1 seed in the sub-region 1-AAA tournament could be on the line tonight in the Valdosta High School gym as the ninth-ranked Wildcats take on the unranked Moultrie Packers.

dict in Moultrie in a game which Packers Coach Roy Saturday said was not an indication of how well the teams could play.

The Wildcats, 12-1, will be coming off wins over sixth-ranked Crisp County and Waycross last Friday and Saturday while the Packers, 8-3, lost last Friday to Monroe of Albany by one point.

The Packers, however, are leading

the 1-AAA South with a 6-0 mark while the Wildcats are 6-1, with the only loss being to Moultrie.

Saturday said if his team could leave Valdosta tonight with another win, it would be "a great confidence boost," for the rest of the season. If Moultrie loses the two they will probably drop into a tie.

"Both clubs can shoot," said Satur-

day. "And the game could be a high-scoring one."

"We were fortunate to beat them at our place earlier in the season. That game was misleading in that they have a much better ball club than the score indicated."

The Moultrie coach, who is in his eighth year as head mentor of the Packers, said he felt 1-AAA South is the most balanced sub-region in the state.

"If you don't play as good as you are

capable of in every game, you will more than likely wind up losing, no matter what kind of team you have," he said.

In other games in South Georgia, Lowndes is at Thomasville, Atkinson County plays at Ware County, Waycross travels to Appling County, Wayne County is at Jenkins of Savannah, Berrien County plays at Brantley County and Patterson plays at Charlton County.

1/29/77

Lowe, Robinson Spark VHS Charge Past Tribe



By Times Staff Writer
ALBANY — Lawrence Lowe and George Robinson keyed a fourth quarter Valdosta uprising which sent the Wildcats to a thrilling 82-77 high school basketball triumph over Albany's Indians here Friday night.

Valdosta's Kittens had a much easier time of it, romping to a 61-38 decision over the Albany girls in the night's opening contest.

The hot-shooting Indians opened up an early lead and kept it almost until the very end of the contest.

Led by Region 1-AAA's leading scorer, C.C. Thomas, Albany took leads of as much as 21 points in the contest, and held what seemed a commanding 16-point lead with just four minutes remaining.

But that's when Lowe, Robinson and the rest of the Wildcat team went to work, breaking up the Indians' four-corner stall offense and finding the range on their own end of the court.

Both Robinson and Lowe canned 11 points in the final quarter spurt which propelled the Wildcats finally into the lead and to their 15th win in 16 starts.

Time and again Albany missed scoring opportunities in the waning moments from the free throw line, and watched in vain as Valdosta methodically chopped the Indian lead.

Robinson finished with 23 points, while Lowe was close behind with 22. Greg Sampson added 12.

Thomas canned 21 for the Indians. Jason Belk aided the Albany cause with 18 markers, while Willie Jones

put in 15.

"That's the best fourth quarter we've had all year," Sainz said. "We told our boys at halftime that trends change."

"Albany had been hitting almost everything they threw toward the goal in the first half, and they kept it up through the third quarter."

"It's always been our philosophy to stick with our game plan. Sooner or later, the tide will be bound to turn. And when it turned last night, it really turned."

The win was the 14th in a row for the 'Cats following a 73-57 defeat at the hands of Moultrie early in the season.

The loss was only the third in the last 10 games for Albany, which suffered a rash of early-season losses, but had won seven of its last nine outings.

Lisa Feix poured in 25 points, 16 of them in the third quarter, as coach Jerry Baker's Kittens racked up their fourth win in their last five games.

The Squaws trailed by only 26-19 at the half, but Valdosta swarmed out after intermission in its patented press to force costly tur-

GIRLS

Valdosta 15 26 46 61

Albany 9 19 25 38

VALDOSTA (61) — O'Neal 4, Berrian 15, Feix 25, Powell, Owens 6, Whitehead 2, Stewart, Sloan, Skelton, Carson, Evans 2.

Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 9 of 17, fouls 16.

ALBANY (38) — Hess, Dollar 6, Harrison 1, Morris 9, Melton 10, Dent 1, Robinson 11.

Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 10 of 18, fouls 13.

BOYS

Valdosta 11 32 50 82

Albany 20 44 66 77

VALDOSTA (82) — Lowe 22, Robinson 23, Sampson 12, Thomas 8, Johnson 5, Worthy 4, Hartman 4, Belue 2, Daniels 2, Sermons.

Team totals: field goals 35, free throws 12 of 25, fouls 16.

ALBANY (77) — Thomas 21, Belk 18, Jones 15, Snead 9, Thomas 8, Hagan 6.

Team totals: field goals 34, free throws 9 of 16, fouls 21.

novers on the part of Albany.

Linda Berrian added 15 markers for the 7-8 Kittens. Verona Robinson managed 11 for Albany.

"The first half was pretty close," Baker said, "but then we realized what we had to do. We probably had close to 20 turnovers in the first two quarters, but we came out in

the press in the third quarter. They (Albany) just had trouble handling it.

"Berrian really sparked us on the press," he added, "and (Maggie) Powell did a good job of rebounding."

Valdosta hosts Dougherty (Albany) next Friday, then journeys to Waycross the following night.

'Cats Wind Up In 5th

By Times Staff Writer

MACON — In what head coach Jim Landrum called a "super effort", Valdosta High School's wrestling team finished fifth in a 16-team wrestling meet here Saturday.

Central of Macon won the two-day meet with 133 points followed by host team Southwest of Macon with 126, Warner Robins with 123, Fitzgerald with 120, Valdosta with 119, and R.L. Osborne of Atlanta with 116.

"The kids just gave a super effort," Landrum said. "They wrestled with their heart as much as their body. I'm just really proud of them."

First place winners for the Wildcats were Robert Canaday in the 134 lb. division, and William Gaskins in the 140 lb. class.

Arthur Albritton took second in the 107 lb. class, and Jack Cain (160 lb.), Curtis Wright (180 lb.), and O'Keefe Hunter (heavyweight) managed third place finishes.

David Clifton also reached the semifinals, where he finished fourth in the 121 lb. class.

Valdosta travels to Columbus in two weeks for the area meet which determines which wrestlers move on to the state event.

VHS Holds Down Fourth

By Times Staff Writer

MACON — Valdosta's Wildcats have a strong hold on fourth place in the Macon Southwest Invitational Wrestling tournament heading into today's semifinal and final rounds.

Coach Jim Landrum's VHS squad trails Central of Macon, Warner Robins, and host team Southwest in the 16-team field.

Seven Valdosta wrestlers are still running for the individual titles including Arthur Albritton, 107 lbs.; David Clifton, 121 lbs.; Robert Canaday, 134 lbs.; Williams Gaskins, 140 lbs.; Jack Cain, 160 lbs.; Curtis Wright, 180 lbs.; and O'Keefe Hunter, heavyweight.

The finals are set for tonight.

Valdosta Schools To Reopen

1/23/77

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta schools are to reopen Monday after a two-day holiday forced by cold temperatures and short natural gas supplies, but the classrooms are going to be a little colder than normal.

Supt. Foster Goolsby said the Georgia Natural Gas Company has asked the school system not to turn the thermostat above 65 degrees until further notice.

Goolsby said students should wear warm clothing to school and be prepared to wear it all day.

No make-up dates for the Thursday and Friday missed days have been set, said Goolsby, and it may be some time before a decision is made, he added.

As long as rumors abound that the state legislature may decide make-up days are not to be required, no decision is expected.

VHS's Sainz Can't Believe His Eyes

Times Staff Photo.



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Sainz Not Thinking Of Title Just Yet

In actual talent, both on the floor and on the bench, there is no high school basketball team in the area that can match Valdosta's Wildcats.

Coached by a guy who never even played the sport in high school, the Wildcats avenged their only loss of the season Tuesday night when they thumped Moultrie 72-66. Now with a 13-1 record, it looks to be clear sailing right on up to the Region 1-AAA (South) tournament.

But don't expect head coach Norman Sainz to agree with that assessment.

"We've got five tough games to go," Sainz, never known as an optimist, said. "Albany and Dougherty are both rolling strong, and we have to go to Central of Thomasville and Thomasville. Everybody in the region just seems to have a real fine ballclub. Check your region scores and see how close just about every game has been."

Sainz is right. The games have been close, and his 'Cats have been involved in more than one of those cliffhangers. In fact, eight of Valdosta's wins have been by less than 10 points. The Wildcats escaped six of those games by five points or less.

But the good teams are going to win the close ones. Oh sure, they'll be upset once in awhile, but the majority of the time, that extra bit of spunk will make the difference at the end. Three of the 'Cats' wins have come in the closing minute of play. As Sainz knows only too well, that takes a little luck too.

But in Valdosta's case, Lady Luck may be getting a little help. Sainz has rested his starters in every game, sending in his second unit as early as the second quarter. That means in the late stages of a close game when the opposition has had its starters on the floor for four quarters, the 'Cats have that extra bit of energy. It has definitely paid off.

Everybody Plays

"I'd say our depth is the real reason behind our record," Sainz said. "We can play kids and get solid performances out of them. If you key on one, the others have been able to pick up the slack. Our kids that start and those that come off the bench are not that far apart in talent. The main difference is experience."

"If the kids that don't start know they are going to get to play some, it makes a difference. Our second unit came in against Moultrie and looked like a billion dollars."

The 'Cats are also blessed with such an array of talent that they don't have to go inside all the time or rely on the backcourt for most of their points.

As a senior, guard Greg Sampson is living up to the type player he was prophesied to be as a freshman. He has a smooth jump shot and doesn't mind taking it to the hoop if need be. Leon Johnson has not yet progressed to the form he showed last season, but by tournament time, he should be fully recovered from his broken ankle. When he is able to perform at full strength, there is no better backcourt in the region.

Alvin Thomas isn't a guard but he does have just as good a shooting range as either Johnson or Sampson. He has been particularly devastating from the corners.

With Thomas, Sampson and Johnson hitting from outside, there's no way anybody can sag in on George Robinson and Lawrence Lowe. The two front liners offer exact opposite styles. Lowe is a bruiser and muscles his way to the hoop. Robinson is smooth with a shooting touch softer than a lady's hanky.

Fears Lowndes

When he stays in control of himself, Champ Daniels is the third best guard. He's sometimes too aggressive but that's the kind of guy you need on a press. Buck Belue and Chris Daniels are capable shooters from outside, but don't have the mobility of Sampson, Johnson or Daniels.

Jimmy Hartman and Allen Worthy are good for a few rebounds when Sainz rests the big men, and Jeff Sermons won't hinder the attack any for short stints in the game.

Valdosta may not be the best team in the state and may not even get out of its subregion. But if it does, this could be the year the Wildcats can compete with the likes of Macon Southwest, Beach and the Atlanta powerhouses.

Talk like that drives the ever-cautious Sainz crazy.

"Our only concern right now is getting out of the subregion and then the region," Sainz said. "If we had a good night and executed like we should, we could play with people like Southwest . . . if we were lucky."

Surprisingly, the team that Sainz most fears is right here in his own subregion. In fact, the Vikings reside just across town.

"The team I'd least like to play is Lowndes," Sainz said. "They give us all in the world we can stand. They've got a fine ballclub, and they really get high for us. Being in the same town, the rivalry is real fierce. This is not to throw off on anybody else in the region, but Lowndes does give us fits."

Sainz is well aware the two rivals could very well meet again. That would be in the subregion tournament in a game which would mean no tomorrow for one of them. Talent or no talent, that is not a game Sainz is looking forward to.

Times Feb. 5, 1977

Trojans Top 'Cats, 102-87

By MIKE CHASON

It's spelled d-e-f-e-n-s-e.

It's defined as "resistance against attack."

It's called the most important part of basketball by many, but don't include Valdosta's Wildcats in that number. In fact, don't even ask them to spell it.

Dougherty's Trojans made a mockery of the VHS defense here Friday night and waltzed away with a 102-87 Region 1-AAA high school basketball victory as a result.

Valdosta's Kittens had their problems at both ends of the floor in a 50-41 loss to the Trojanettes from Albany in the opener of the twin-bill.

The Trojans' upset victory involved no fluke play at the end, no terrific strategy, and no one man show. It was a rather methodical performance of hustle, hot shooting, and tremendous board play.

In short, the now 9-9 Trojans just stuck it to the 'Cats right from the opening gun, and never let up.

"We got beat by a real fine ballclub," VHS head

coach Norman Sainz said after the game. "They hustled, they confused us with that fullcourt press, and controlled the boards as well as anybody has on us all year long."

"I think we have played better games, and I don't think they could play much better."

The 'Cats fell to 15-2 with the loss, heading into tonight's game in Waycross. The defeat also snapped a 14-game victory string.

The press to which Sainz referred consisted of man-to-man pressure on Valdosta's guards who never could figure out how to consistently break into the open.

Many times they did sneak past the Trojans for easy baskets at the other end, but all too often, the VHS player taking the ball out of bounds threw it away.

Over and over, Sainz gave instructions to his four-guard combination of Leon Johnson, Greg Sampson, Buck Belue, and Chandler Daniels. But right on up until the closing seconds of the game, the super quick Trojans

continued to steal the passes.

Sainz got too much one-on-one play from his backcourt early in the game and needed some clutch baskets by Lawrence Lowe to even hang with the visitors.

Lowe wound up with 31 points including a 25-footer at the halftime buzzer to trim a three-point Dougherty lead to 48-47.

Six-seven George Robinson added 17 points for the 'Cats, and Johnson totaled 10. Usually a deadly shooter, Johnson had only two baskets in the final three quarters.

For the Trojans, who have almost as strong a bench as the Wildcats, point guard Tim James paved the way with 26 points, Randolph Drake had 24, Donald Laster totaled 15, Robert Mitchell stuck in 12, and Curtis Gainer added 10 more.

James was a terror from outside. Time and again he swished long jumpers or passed underneath to Drake for easy layups.

The pencil-thin James really broke the Wildcats' back when he came off the bench in the fourth quarter

O'Neal.

The now 7-9 Kittens had numerous chances to make the game closer than it was, but like the Wildcats, were often beaten back down the floor.

"Credit their big girl," VHS head coach Jerry Baker said. "They would just leave her down at one end of the court most of the time, and she wouldn't even come down on defense."

In a preliminary game, the Valdosta B-team trimmed the VHS ninth grade 60-54. Rodney Gordon totaled 14 points for the VHS freshmen, and John Bond added 18.

GIRLS
Valdosta 16 24 34 41
Dougherty 7 28 38 50
VALDOSTA (41) — O'Neal 10, Feix 18, Whitehead 2, Powell 5, Owens 2, Baker, Sloan 4, Evans.
Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 5 of 14, fouls 14.
DOUGHERTY (50) — R. Johnson 6, Meriwether 7, J. Johnson 8, Wilmes 6, Howard 23.
Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 8 of 19, fouls 16.

BOYS
Valdosta 21 47 70 87
Dougherty 24 48 73 102
VALDOSTA (87) — Lowe 31, Sampson 8, Robinson 17, Belue 5, Worthy 4, Johnson 10, Thomas 4, Hartman, Daniels 6, Sermons.
Team totals: field goals 35, free throws 17 of 27, fouls 19.
DOUGHERTY (102) — Gainer 10, Drake 24, Laster 15, Emerson 2, James 26, Mitchell 12, Gullley 2, Spurlin 3, Davis, Marshall 8, Jones, Hembree.
Team totals: field goals 43, free throws 16 of 27, fouls 20.



—Times Staff Photo.

Looking For Daylight: Kittens Pen Up Martha Howard

Evans' Shot^{1/26/77} Sends VHS Past T'ville

By Times Staff Writer
THOMASVILLE — Janice Evans doesn't shoot much, but when she does, she makes sure she connects.

And connect she did here Tuesday night to give Valdosta's Kittens a 46-44 Region 1-AAA (South) high school basketball win over Thomasville.

There were no such last second heroics in the boys' game as the now 14-1 Wildcats blasted the homestanding Bulldogs 84-67 in a game which was never really close.

The Kittens trailed the opener much of the first half, but finally zoomed in front 34-31 at the end of the third period.

VHS head coach Jerry Baker said Lisa Feix and Sunnie O'Neal led the 14-point third quarter scoring spree which vaulted the now 6-8 Kittens into the lead.

Feix wound up with 14 points, and O'Neal had 10.

With the score tied at 44-44 in the final quarter, Evans took the first shot she's had all season. She hit the 15-footer, and Valdosta had the lead and the game.

Darlene Shannon, who scored 27 points for Thomasville, had time for a last second drive downcourt, but was called for a charging foul when she bowled over Feix.

"We were kind of flat that first half, but we had a real good third quarter," Baker said. "We usually don't play that good in the third quarter, but Feix and Sunnie really sparked us."

Coach Norman Sainz's Wildcats got their spark from 27 points by Lawrence Lowe who really added insult to injury in the final quarter with three spectacular dunk shots.

George Robinson added 14 for the 'Cats, and Leon Johnson had his best scoring night of the year with 13 points. Johnson missed the first half of the season due to

GIRLS

Valdosta	6	20	34	46
Thomasville	14	26	31	44

VALDOSTA (46) — O'Neal 10, Berrian 4, Feix 14, Powell 8, Whitehead 8, Evans 2, Owens, Baker.

Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 2 of 12, fouls 13.

THOMASVILLE (44) — Sermons 10, Shannon 27, Blackshear 1, Sanders 4, Anderson 1, Hines 1, Johnson, Kerbo.

Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 8 of 25, fouls 17.

BOYS

Valdosta	29	47	58	84
Thomasville	12	36	50	67

VALDOSTA (84) — Lowe 27, Robinson 14, Johnson 13, Sampson 8, Hartman 8, Thomas 4, Worlthy 2, Belue 8, Sermons, Russell, Lastinger, Powell, Daniels.

Team totals: field goals 35, free throws 14 of 28, fouls 17.

THOMASVILLE (67) — Kerbo 20, Posey 12, Johnson 9, Fann 8, Hunter 7, Hatch 4, Putnam 2, Dyson 2, Nunnally 2.

Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 9 of 19, fouls 20.

a broken bone in his foot.

Clifford Kerbo poured in 20 points for the Bulldogs who also got 12 points from Mike Posey.

"We really played good ball in the first and the last quarter," Sainz said. "That's as good a first quarter as we've had all year."

"I thought Jimmy Hartman did a good job for us off the bench. He came in and really helped us take control on the boards."

Valdosta travels to Albany Friday for a twin-bill with the Indians and Squaws.

VHS, Lowndes Students Place In FBLA Contests

By Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School student placed second and a Lowndes High School student was third in separate contests during the Future Business Leaders of America Region I Conference at VHS last weekend.

Paul Purcell, a senior at VHS, placed second in public speaking while Sharon Tucker, a junior at LHS, was third in the clerk-typist II contest.

Both received certificates

and earned the right to compete in the state contest April 1-3 in Atlanta.

More than 300 students from 25 area high schools participated in 13 contests Saturday.

Steve Shapiro, a VHS student, presided over the conference as Region I vice president.

Beth Barfield and Carol Irwin are FBLA advisors at VHS, and Linda Todd and Alice Osborne are FBLA advisors at LHS.



Ready For Inspection

Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at Valdosta High School go through their drills during the group's annual inspection Thursday. Capt. Robert Lemon of the staff of the

Commandant of the Sixth Naval District in Charleston, S.C., was the inspecting officer. — Times Staff Photo

9 VHS Students Win At DE Meet

By Times Staff Writer

Students from Valdosta High School won District Eight competition Wednesday at the Distributive Education Clubs of America contest in Albany.

Judy Eanes, a senior, was a finalist in two events: girl student of the year and merchandising information manual.

Her sister Ellen, a junior, was a finalist in spelling while Desiree Smith, a senior, was a finalist in the distribution manual; Rex Taylor, a junior, in the boy student of the year; Debbie Bruck, a senior, job interview; Alice George, a senior, in apparel and accessories; Cheryl Gatewood, a senior, in display; Cheryl Gray, a senior, in mathematics; and Gail McCray, a senior, in adversiting.

Norman Greene, DE coordinator at VHS, said his students are to compete in the state leadership conference in Atlanta March 25-27.

Despite Its Top Ranking, Valdosta In Shaky Spot

By Times Staff Writer
Valdosta's top-seeded Wildcats at first glance seem a shoo-in to easily dispose of their opponent Friday night in the Region 1-AAA (South) basketball tournament at Central High School in Thomasville.

That's at first glance. Coach Norman Sainz's 18-2 'Cats, who face the winner of Thursday's Lowndes-Central confrontation, defeated both teams every time they met during the regular season.

But Central and Lowndes, both with below .500 seasons, didn't go down easily to the talent-laden Valdosta team.

The Wildcats smothered Central 69-40 early in the season, but barely escaped with a 55-53 squeaker in a late-season meeting in Thomasville. That win came on a last-second shot by

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1977 - 22 -

Lawrence Lowe.

Valdosta took a 72-56 decision from Lowndes' scrappy Vikings early in the year, but was hard pressed to gain a 62-60 triumph over the Vikes in the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Tournament and again two weeks later in a 69-64 victory.

The Wildcats lost their second game of the season to Moultrie, but came back to win 13 games in a row before running into trouble late in

the year.

Dougherty (Albany) put a rude end to the string, running roughshod through the Valdosta defense for a surprising 102-87 win.

Valdosta then struggled through its last three outings, edging Waycross 68-65, defeating Central 55-53, then nipping Westover (Albany) in overtime, 68-64.

"We were playing tired," Sainz said after the Westover win. "We've played a lot of road games against a lot of tough opponents."

"I know everybody has to play road games, but it really took its toll on us toward the end of the season."

"We really needed the week off between our last game and the tournament."

Valdosta rode a deep 13-man squad to its top tournament pairing, led by seniors George Robinson and Lowe, and backed up by a very strong bench.

Coach Jerry Baker's 8-11 Valdosta Kittens have been a mystery team through much of the season, showing promise at times only to fall into sudden losing streaks.

Shorter than their opponents in almost every outing, the swarming, scrappy Kittens often pulled off wins over much taller opponents through sheer determination.

Led by junior Lisa Feix, the region's second leading scorer, the Kittens won four of five contests midway

through the year only to drop the next three games in a row.

'Dosta finished the season with a 60-44 drubbing of winless Westover, and carries the number three seeding into the tourney's first game Thursday against Moultrie's sixth-seeded Packerettes at 4:30 p.m.

Valdosta and Moultrie split a pair of games during the regular season, Moultrie winning the first game 50-43, but Valdosta claiming a 46-43 win in a contest late in the season.

Following the Valdosta-Moultrie girls' game Thursday, Bainbridge's third-seeded Bearcats take on sixth-seeded Thomasville at 6 p.m.

Central's fourth-seeded Yellow Jackettes tackle fifth-seeded Thomasville in another girls' matchup at 7:30, followed by the Lowndes-Central boys' match at 9 p.m.

On Friday, the winner of Thursday's Valdosta-Moultrie fray locks horns with second-seeded Bainbridge at 4:30 p.m.

Moultrie's Packers, seeded second, meet the Bainbridge-Thomasville boys' winner at 6 p.m.

Lowndes' top-seeded and unbeaten Vikettes take the court at 7:30 p.m. against the Central-Thomasville girls' victor.

Valdosta's boys complete semifinal action at 9 p.m., taking on the Central-Lowndes winner.

The girls' championship game is slated to get underway Saturday at 7:30 p.m., with the boys' title match following at 9 p.m.

All subregion finalists advance to next week's region tournament, to be held at Dougherty High School in Albany.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun. Feb 20, 1977

Valdosta Slams Past Suwannee

By Times Staff Writer
LIVE OAK, Fla. — Valdosta High's baseball Wildcats began their 1977 season on a winning note here Saturday, pounding previously unbeaten Suwannee Co. (Fla.) High, 14-0.

Three Wildcat pitchers combined for a three-hit shutout which mixed neatly with a 16-hit offensive attack.

Valdosta fielders didn't make an error, either.

Buck Belue, the strong-armed junior, struck out six in his three-inning stint, allowed only a single and knocked in two VHS runs with four hits: two singles, a double and triple.

Wayne Fugett also threw three innings, struck out three and gave up a hit, Chuck Mayne pitched the final two frames, allowing a hit and striking out two.

Fugett also had three hits and two RBIs, while David White added a double and triple and Bob White contributed a single and double.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats play next on March 19 at Lowndes Field against Savannah.

In a B-team, Valdosta won, 19-4.

	R	H	E
Valdosta High	340	200	5-14 16 0
Suwannee Co.	000	000	0-0 3 5

Belue, Mayne (4), Fugett (6) and B. White; Kirby, Moss (4), Anderson (7) and Scott. WP-Belue (1-0); LP-Kirby.

Central Stuns Valdosta, Lowndes Girls In Finals

By MIKE CHASON
 THOMASVILLE — An age-old basketball proverb says "it ain't how many games you win, it's when you win them."

Nothing could have been closer to the truth here Friday night when the king of Region 1-AAA boys' high school basketball this season took a nosedive right out of the Region 1-AAA (South) tournament.

The king is dead . . . And the slayer of what many called the "most talented basketball team in the area" was none other than Central of Thomasville's Yellow Jackets who toppled top-seeded Valdosta 55-52 in a classic hoop thriller.

But another king lives on . . . Or perhaps queen would be a better word for Lowndes' Vikettes from Valdosta who completely destroyed a one-girl Thomasville team 73-44 to earn a berth in tonight's subregion finals at the Central gym here against Bainbridge.

The 7:30 p.m. girls' title game features the 23-0 Vikettes of coach Charles Cooper against the Bainbridge girls who have lost but two games all season. Both of those losses were to Lowndes. Bainbridge picked apart

Moultrie 63-38 in another girls' semifinal round game Friday.

Coach Don Garland's Central boys battle Bainbridge's up-and-coming Bearcats in the 9 p.m. boys' championship. Bainbridge looked absolutely awesome in a 78-49 semifinal romp over a classy Moultrie outfit.

Bearcat forward Gene Fountain was almost unstoppable, scoring 35 points to lead the victory. Moultrie's Calvin Richardson, usually a deadly outside shooter, could manage only 11 points.

All four subregion finalists are to advance to the region tournament at Dougherty High School in Albany Friday to play the survivors from the north subregion.

As to the reasons why Valdosta's Wildcats won't be in that tournament and won't be on the court here tonight, there can be only one answer . . . Daryl Cleveland.

The 6-7 highest flying Yellow Jacket of them all lived on the rim all night, particularly on the offensive end.

Not known as a particularly good defensive team in the past, coach Norman Sainz's Valdosta club used a zone press about as effectively as any one former UCLA coach

The Valdosta Bail Times

SPORTS

Saturday, Feb. 19, 1977 — 6 —

John Wooden could devise. The Wildcats trapped the ball, stole it, but then couldn't put it in the basket.

When the Jackets, who never did really figure out the press, finally did get by it, they faced an umbrella defense at the other end which kept their guards and the ball away from the basket.

Sainz's idea was to keep Cleveland from getting the ball, and force everyone else to shoot it. That's exactly what happened.

However, when a guy scores 30 points the way Cleveland did, he's got to be getting them somewhere. The way he got them was on offensive rebounds.

His delicate tip-ins kept the Jackets in the lead for the entire second half and most of the first.

"We got beat by a fine ballclub" an obviously distraught Sainz said after the game. "Our kids fought back, but it wasn't quite enough."

"Cleveland is a good ballplayer. He's very smooth, and he keeps his cool. I think his domination of the game was really the difference. Plus, our poor free throw shooting didn't help us any."

Valdosta connected on six more field goals than Central, but hit only four of 12 free throws. The Jackets made 19 of 29 from the line.

On one foul call against Valdosta which Sainz questioned, he was charged with the first technical foul of his career by the referee.

A play typical of the way the game went occurred with 3:14 to play in the third quarter when Cleveland went right over Valdosta's Lawrence Lowe to dunk the ball and draw a foul from the 'Cats' burly pivot.

Alvin Thomas threw in 14 points for the 'Cats' who wound up 18-3 on the year. Lowe and George Robinson added 10 points apiece.

Valdosta lost the services of the 6-7 Robinson with five minutes to go in the game when he committed his fifth foul.

The Wildcats still cut the Central lead to 52-51 with 45 seconds to play on a shot by Allen Worthy.

But two free throws by Tom Clayton, which happened to be the only two points he made, and a field goal by Anthony Bryant iced the win for the 10-12 Jackets.

Cooper's Lowndes' girls looked to have their hands full in the first half of their game, but Thomasville just didn't have the firepower to match the Vikettes' balanced scoring attack.

The Bulldogettes trailed by only a 20-16 margin at the end of the first period, but fell back 36-24 at the half.

The third quarter was really the clincher for the Lowndes' girls. They poured in 17 points while holding Thomasville to only a single field goal by Darlene Shannon which came with one minute left.

Shannon represented about the only offense the Bulldogettes could muster with 30 points.

She was particularly effective in the first quarter when her teammates got her the ball in the middle, and she drove past the Vikettes for bank shots or drew a foul.

However, once Lowndes cut off the middle, the only thing left to the imagination was the final score. Thomasville just couldn't buy one from outside.

"We were a little sluggish there the first half," Cooper said. "But I thought we had a pretty good second half. We started cutting them off, and I don't think they scored but two points that third quarter."

"We got into foul trouble because when your reactions are slow, you make unnecessary fouls. We're going to have to play a better first half tonight."

The Vikettes got their usual balanced scoring from 19 points by Marcia Player, 17 by Faye Hart, 16 by Rhonda Rowell, and 11 by Rosalyn Williams.

Williams fouled out with 5:08 to play in the game, but it had already been decided by that time. Player and Rowell also had to sit out part of the contest because of foul problems.

GIRLS

Lowndes	20	36	53	73
Thomasville	16	24	28	44
LOWNDES (73) — Hart 17, Williams 11, Player 19, Rowell 16, Parker 2, Southerland 2, Vickers 4, Todd 2				
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 19 of 29, fouls 20				
THOMASVILLE (44) — Shannon 30, Thurman 5, Kerbo 1, Blackshear, Sanders 2, Hays 6, Anderson				
Team totals: field goals 12, free throws 20 of 32, fouls 19				

BOYS

Valdosta	8	24	38	52
Central	9	29	40	55
VALDOSTA (52) — Lowe 10, Sampson 6, Robinson 10, Beule 2, Worthy 6, Johnson 4, Thomas 14, Hartman, Daniels				
Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 4 of 12, fouls 22				
CENTRAL (55) — Cleveland 30, Denisson 2, Clayton 2, Bryant 8, Linton 6, Drew, White 5, Anderson 2				
Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 19 of 27, fouls 15				



Rim Rattler: Valdosta's Laurence Lowe (3) Goes Up For Tip-In

It's Over

VHS Just Another Team Now

The Valdosta Daily Times
Sun., Feb 20, 1977



The calls started flooding in almost as soon as we flipped on the switchboard Saturday morning.

Most of the callers had the same question. "Hey, what happened over in Thomasville last night? How'd Valdosta and Lowndes' do?"

Needless to say, not one of the area basketball fans expressed any sign of surprise that Lowndes girls' team won its 23rd consecutive game in a 73-44 rout over Thomasville to gain the finals of the Region 1-AAA (South) tournament.

But when we hit them with the Valdosta boys' 55-52 loss to Central of Thomasville, there were gasps, sighs, and a couple of "well, there goes old Norman's job."

'Norman' is Norman Sainz, head coach of Valdosta's Wildcats who put together an 18-3 season this year only to sit home through the subregion finals, the region tournament and the state tournament.

There was more than one VHS follower who had ideas of winning the whole shooting match this season, but now those thoughts have disintegrated about as fast as our recent snowfall.

Now the question is what did happen? How did a team loaded with such superb rebounders as Alvin "Abu" Thomas, Lawrence Lowe, George Robinson and Allen Worthy lose? How did a team with shooters like Greg Sampson, Leon Johnson, and Chandler Daniels lose?

Talent-wise, it was a club that had quality players to burn. One area coach remarked he'd just like to have Valdosta's bench-warmers.

This was the same team that at one point during the season won 13 consecutive games. This was the same team that beat powerful Bainbridge twice, split with a tough Moultrie team, and knocked off Crisp County in Cordele. The 'Cats had already whipped

Central twice before Friday night, once by 29 points.

But the fact is the Valdosta basketball team was not any better at the end of the year than at the beginning. The Wildcats were a very good team in November just as they were a very good team in February. They just didn't make any improvement ... and the rest of the region did.

"The rest of the teams just started playing better," Sainz said, trying to cool off in an open doorway after the game Friday night. "I thought we had a good season. It tapered off toward the end, but our kids never gave up. They kept hustling in every game.

"We got away from some of the things that made us a good ballclub. We didn't control the boards toward the end like we did at the first. But really, there was just not that much difference in the teams in the region at the end of the year ..

"Look at Dougherty. They beat us (102-87), but then lost to Thomasville. Thomasville Central lost to Tift County (Tifton) one time. Moultrie gets beat by Westover (Albany). I tell you, this was a tough region this year."

How far the region's representatives progress in the state tournament could make Sainz's assessment ever more accurate than it already is. Bainbridge looked unbeatable against Moultrie in Friday night's other semifinal and might be playing better than anyone in the region.

And as long as 6-7 Daryl Cleveland is around, Central's not going to get blown out by many teams. Cleveland scored 30 points against Valdosta despite some extremely physical coverage by Robinson and Lowe. Robinson fouled out trying to stop him, and Lowe had four fouls at the end.

Although on one occasion, he went right over Lowe's head to dunk the ball

two-handed, most of Cleveland's points came on soft tip-ins which he seemed to get just by floating around the rim, waiting for a teammate to miss.

And miss they did. No other Yellow Jacket even got into double figures. But they did get on the boards, one of the few teams that had the size to rebound with Lowe and Co.

The referees were not a deciding factor for either team. The "zebras" whistled 15 fouls on Central and 22 on Valdosta, but Central took more inside shots than the 'Cats. Inside shots mean more body contact, and that means more fouls.

When Robinson committed one too many with five minutes left, the 'Cats seemed to be hurting. But Worthy came in and did a respectable job. In fact, his bucket brought Valdosta within one with 45 seconds to play. That's how close the game was. A loose ball here or there or a missed tip might have vaulted the 'Cats into Saturday night's finals.

But it just didn't happen. "The press turned the ball over for us, but we just didn't hit," Sainz said. "I thought when we cut it to one there at the end, we'd go on with it. I tried to juggle my timeouts there to help us and slow them down. We had the opportunities ..."

Taking advantage of the other team's mistakes is a key factor in any ballgame, no matter what the sport. Valdosta had the talent and chances to do this, but on this particular night, in this particular game, in this particular gym, it didn't do it.

And now the chance is gone forever. Lowe, Thomas, Robinson, and Johnson are seniors. That's a big chunk out of a starting lineup which now will only be remembered as a very good basketball team.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Feb 20, 1977 A Message from Lowndes County And Valdosta High Band Boosters

The local Band Boosters entered into a contract with The National Youth Boosters of Birmingham, Alabama to sell booklets containing discount certificates from various local merchants, primarily restaurants, for \$3.00 per booklet. The contract contained no restrictions or limitations as to the number of booklets that could be sold.

The National Youth Boosters entered into separate contracts with various merchants and restaurant owners, wherein each merchant agreed to honor the certificates contained in the booklets. These various contracts contained no restrictions or limitations as to the number of booklets that could be sold by the Band Boosters. The merchants were obviously interested in and pleased with the promotional value of the booklets.

The Band Boosters sold approximately 6,500 booklets. Several merchants complained about the number of booklets being sold, and the Band Boosters voluntarily ceased selling the booklets, even though there were no limitations in any of the contracts as to the number of booklets that could be sold.

The Band Boosters did not contract with any of the individual merchants. If the merchants had desired that the number of booklets sold be restricted, that should have been provided for in the merchants individual contracts with The National Youth Boosters.

The Band Boosters very much regret any hardship that may have been caused any of the merchants. However, the Band Boosters have not entered into any agreements or contracts with the various merchants, and, if any merchant has cause to complain, he must look to The National Youth Boosters, with whom they contracted.

Both the Lowndes and Valdosta Band Members and Boosters are most grateful for the support shown by the merchants and people involved in this project.

It is most regretful that this situation has occurred, but both Booster Clubs were totally convinced that by selling these booklets they were helping both the merchants involved and the students of both bands.

Issued by joint agreement of Lowndes County High Band Boosters and The Valdosta High Band Boosters, Inc.

The Valdosta Daily Times
Feb 22, 1977

VHS DE'ers To Compete

By Times Staff Writer
Fourteen students from Valdosta High School are to compete in the Eighth District Distributive Education Clubs of America leadership conference in Albany Wednesday.

Norman Greene, VHS DE coordinator, said the contests are to be held at Dougherty High School.

Students and the events in which they are to compete included Rex Taylor, male student of the year; Judy Eanes, female student of the year and merchandise information manual; Desiree Smith, area of distribution manual.

Bill Brown, speech; Debbie Bruck, job interview;

Belinda Guess, sales demonstration; Cheryl Gray, merchandise mathematics; Ellen Eanes, business selling; Cheryl Gatewood, display.

Gail McCrary, advertising; Wesley Wetherington, automotive and petroleum; Alice George, apparel and accessories; Marie Eunice, food service; and Joey Ivansco, food marketing.

DE is a sales oriented vocational education program.



Mike Chason
Times Sports Editor

Subdivision Plan Seems Appealing

Lowndes High School football coach Joe Wilson attended the region 1-AAA coaches' meeting in Moultrie Monday with the idea of "doing something different."

Valdosta's Nick Hyder attended the same meeting with a vote against subdividing, but with the thought safely tucked away to get the best deal he could if the region split up.

Strange as it may seem, both coaches more or less got what they wanted.

By a 9-3 margin, the coaches voted to subdivide, and by that same count, voted in a plan where two six-team divisions were set up.

Valdosta, Crisp County (Cordele), Tift County (Tifton), Monroe (Albany), Dougherty (Albany), and Albany are on one side of the region, and Bainbridge, Central of Thomasville, Thomasville, Moultrie, Westover, (Albany), and Lowndes are on the other. The setup is the same as in basketball and baseball except that Valdosta and Westover have switched places.

Wilson got his "something different" at the meeting, but judging by last year's records, his Vikings are in the toughest subregion.

"You've got to play them all anyway," Wilson said. "I just wanted something different. What we've done in the past sure hasn't worked. I wouldn't mind being in the other subregion, but I just wanted to take an affirmative stand on subdividing. Really though, I don't think it (subdividing) will ever clear."

The reason for Wilson's doubt is simple. Moultrie High School principal Ike Aultman, who also serves as president of the region, voiced his opposition to any type of subregion for the 1977 football season before the meeting even got off the ground.

He said any changes in games would have to be approved by a unanimous vote of the coaches. Since the vote was 9-3, it wasn't 100 per cent, but the coaches felt the majority should rule.

Aultman To Protest

Aultman was to protest to Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham since he believes the non-subregion games will suffer at the gate, causing lost revenue. He says the "intent" of the contracts drawn up for this season are that each game is to count in the standings.

With the subdivisions, only the subregion games will count unless there is a tie in the subregion. In case of a three-way tie, overall records would have to be considered.

"I was really dumbfounded at Mr. Aultman's position," Wilson said. "I think it was just an example of bullheadedness."

In an uncharacteristic change of tune, Wilson seemed to reverse his position on the subregion he was in during the same interview.

"I don't really know if we're in the toughest side or not," he said, after already admitting he wouldn't mind being in the other subregion. "We've got two non-subregion games before we have to play our first one, so that should help us some."

Lowndes opens with Tift and Monroe before hosting Central and Moultrie. That means Central, which was tough last year, and Moultrie, which is supposed to be tough this year, are going to have to beat Lowndes at Martin Stadium where the Vikings went unbeaten last season.

Thomasville, the only other traditionally strong team in Lowndes' subregion, is the last game of the season, and if LHS is ever going to be ready to play, that should be the time.

Wilson also must be pleased not to be in the same subregion as Valdosta. Judging by the Wildcats' 9-1 regular season records the past two years and long history of outstanding football teams, how could anybody really want to be in the same subregion with Hyder's team?

Besides, if Lowndes won its subregion and Valdosta won its side, just think what a matchup that would be for the region title, either at VHS's Cleveland Field or Martin Stadium...or maybe the Gator Bowl or the Superdome to hold all the people.

No More Ties?

If that contest ever did come about, it would be the third time the two intra-county rivals would battle during the same year. They meet once during the regular season and in the spring game which has been set for March 25 this year.

But what does Hyder, who was one of the three coaches who voted against subdividing, think?

"As I look at it, in the other in part as I can see, there's a chance. I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance. I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance. I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance."

And if he had a chance, I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance. I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance. I don't think it's a sure thing, but I think there's a chance."

Region 1-AAA To Subdivide For Football

By MIKE CHASON

MOULTRIE — The football coaches of Region 1-AAA bucked their determined region president here Monday and voted to subdivide for the 1977 high school football season.

In a meeting of the 12 football coaches of the region as well as various other officials from each school, the coaches voted 9-3 to subdivide and then after voting down the so-called "Thomas County Plan", voted in the "Albany plan" of subdivision.

This motion also passed by a 9-3 margin. Moultrie, Thomasville and Valdosta voted against any subdivision at all, and Central of Thomasville, Moultrie and Thomasville voted against the "Albany plan".

Under this plan, which was the fourth proposed at the 2½ hour meeting, the 12-member league is to be divided into two six-team divisions.

Valdosta, Crisp County (Cordele), Tift County (Tifton), Monroe (Albany),

Dougherty (Albany), and Albany are in one division, and Lowndes (Valdosta), Bainbridge, Central of Thomasville, Moultrie, Westover (Albany), and Thomasville are in the other.

The pairings were already set up by several of the Albany schools before the meeting began, and met the general approval of most coaches present.

Voting was then held on the second half of the "Albany plan", which concerned the manner in which ties are to be broken.

The region has wound up in a three-way tie for the past two seasons. In 1975, Moultrie was voted out of the three-way jam-up, and Valdosta and Thomasville had a playoff.

Last season, the Georgia High School Association waived a rule which said a week had to elapse between each game. Valdosta and Central met in a playoff, and Central, the winner, took on Dougherty in Albany for the championship later the same week.

By an 11-1 margin with Central the only dissenting vote, the coaches elected to break a two-way tie within a subregion on the basis of how the teams fared against each other during the season.

In the event of a three-way tie within a subregion, the regular season record of each team would be considered. If the teams have the same record outside the subregion, the Georgia High School Association rules manual would be consulted.

By this book or "White Bible" as it is commonly referred to, the coaches could vote out the third team as they did Moultrie two years ago.

Also passed in the same motion was that a tiebreaker system be employed for every game of the season.

The "Kansas" tiebreaker system provides for two five-minute overtimes. Each team has the entire five minutes of its overtime to advance the ball either by running or passing.

The team which advances the farthest or scores the most points in its overtime is declared the winner.

Moultrie High principal Ike Aultman, who serves as president of the region, voiced his hearty disapproval of any subdivision of any kind right from the start.

Aultman said he had a letter from Georgia High School Association executive secretary Bill Fordham which said any kind of change involving region games must be subject to the unanimous consent of the schools in the region.

"According to this letter, I doubt the validity of a 9-3 vote," Aultman said after the motion for subdivision had passed.

Aultman's main point of disagreement was that game contracts had been signed for the coming year, and each of one of those games was expected to be a region game.

The coaches for subdividing responded to Aultman's complaint by saying the contract states only that a Region 1-AAA game is to be played between the schools.

The schedules are to remain the same as last year. They are adopted on a two-year basis.

"This has been a good region for football because it didn't do all those foolish things," Aultman said after the meeting had adjourned.

"Quite frankly, I think subdividing has been bad for those regions that are subdivided. You're basically going to get hurt at the gate."

Everything that transpired at the meeting could be null and void if Fordham accepts Aultman's protest without arms.

Contacted at the GHSA office in Thomaston Monday afternoon, Fordham said he would not comment on the situation until he had a written report of the proceedings at the meeting.

Aultman confirmed he was going to protest since the "intent" of the contracts was that each game would be a region game.

The "Thomas County plan" was the only other plan voted on at the meeting. It was presented by Central head coach Will Roy Cooley.

Under that plan, Crisp County (Cordele), Central, Albany, Thomasville, Monroe and Lowndes would have been in one subregion, and Westover, Valdosta, Bainbridge, Tift, Moultrie, and Dougherty would have been in the other.

It failed by an 8-4 margin. Central, Lowndes, Monroe, and Thomasville were the only schools which voted for it.

In the final motion, which was defeated by a 10-2 margin, it was proposed the season for all teams to begin on September 2. Moultrie and Thomasville were the only schools which voted in favor of it.

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