



---

## Community Archives – Valdosta High School Scrapbooks

CA/001-01-026

---

1978

# Valdosta High School Scrapbook 26, May 1978 – December 1978

Valdosta High School

---

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7103>

UUID: 5180885B-9015-4DAB-B405-2ED33633C6E3

### **Recommended Citation:**

Valdosta High School. "Valdosta High School Scrapbook 26, May 1978 – December 1978".

*Valdosta High School Scrapbook Collection*, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Valdosta, Georgia.

<https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7473>

This item is part of the *Community Archives: Valdosta High School Scrapbook Collection* at Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Physical and intellectual rights are reserved by the Lowndes County Historical Society. Physical materials were loaned to Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections for the purposes of digital preservation. The digital items here are part of an online collection only. If you have any questions or concerns contact [archives@valdosta.edu](mailto:archives@valdosta.edu)

# 'Cats Wind Up With 20-0 Mark

By Times Staff Writer  
BAINBRIDGE — Valdosta's Wildcats ended their regular season on the same note they began Friday with an 8-5 high school baseball win over Bainbridge's Bearcats.

Valdosta has now rolled up a 20-0 record heading into the Region 1-AAA playoffs, beginning Tuesday.

Tift County (Tifton) trimmed Westover (Albany) 7-5 Friday to claim the title of the north half of the region. The Blue Devils finished 8-2 in subregion action.

With Friday's win, Valdosta wound up its subregion slate with a perfect 10-0 record.

Wildcat Coach Butch Brooks said the first game of the best-of-three playoff series is to be held at Valdosta's Bazemore Field Tuesday at 4 p.m.

The second game is scheduled for Tifton Thursday at 2 p.m. If a third game is necessary it is to immediately follow.

The region champion moves on to the state playoffs.

home run of the year with Mark Powell on base in the fifth inning. He also tripled in the opening inning.

Sophomore catcher Mike Ruff opened the game with a solo homer, his eighth of the season.

Dale Mock hit one out for the Bearcats, with Mike Jones aboard in the seventh.

VHS centerfielder John Lastinger led both teams with three hits, including two doubles.

Earnest Riles, now 2-2, took the hill loss for the Bearcats.

Brooks was proud to win but disappointed with the umpires.

"It had to be the worst umpiring job I've ever seen," Brooks said. "There were nine professional scouts there, and every one of them said it was the worst they had ever seen.

"When he (the home plate umpire) got ready to call it a strike, he did. It was real bad on the hitters. The ball would hit the dirt, and they'd call it a strike.

## Wildcat Box

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	BHS	ab	r	h	bi
Ruff c	4	1	2	1	Jones cf	3	2	1	0
Powell ss	4	2	2	0	Mock lf	4	1	1	2
Belue p	4	2	2	3	Shealy rf	4	0	2	2
White 3b	4	2	2	0	Riles p	4	0	1	1

"Being 20-0 in baseball is great," Brooks said this week. "I couldn't count on him not being stiff today."

Fugett struck out six and walked three. For the series, he had 21 strikeouts in 15 and 2-3 innings.

"I couldn't count on him not being stiff today," Brooks said. "That's why I pitched him last (Wednesday) night. I was hoping he could keep that second game close and maybe we could come back."

"We took him in after the game and one of our trainers, Mike Rose, did a helluva job on his (Fugett's) arm. I sent him down there to warm up, and he said it felt great."

"He did a damn good job."

Brooks wasn't sure Fugett could go the distance however. He had White warming up in the bullpen in the fourth inning.

"I had a question in my mind," Brooks said. "I didn't know if he would run out of steam. He hung in there. The kid's got a big heart."

But Brooks, as is his custom, didn't limit his praise to his bushy-haired fireballer. He started with his seniors, who accepted the championship trophy, and rolled right on down the line to the batgirls and fans.

But he did admit he had to hand out a strong dose of verbal encouragement after the first two innings.

"I had to chew their fannies after the first two innings," Brooks said. "My seniors finally came through for me but I was beginning to wonder about it."

"We just weren't playing the way we should have been in a game like this."

Brooks said he owed the team an apology for the outburst after the game.

"They all did a great job," he said, "every one of them."

The Wildcats gained some measure of revenge for last season when Kendrick traveled to Valdosta and took two out of three games in the same series. The Cherokees went on to claim the state title.

Kendrick Coach John Mallory hopes Valdosta follows the same route.

"I hope they take it now," Mallory, in his first year as head coach, said. "We want to keep that championship trophy in south Georgia. I'm just glad to give Valdosta what I think were three pretty good ballgames before they go into the finals."

Mallory said he felt confident before the afternoon began that the Cherokees were enroute to the state title round again.

But then he saw Fugett walk to the mound.

"I didn't want to see him again," Mallory said. "But I still didn't think he could shut us out like he did, especially after we hit the ball hard in the first couple of innings."

"He's definitely the best pitcher we've seen this year, and he might be the best we see in the next three or four years."

Kendrick has been shut out twice in the last two years. Fugett was responsible both times.

As well as his pitching heroics, Fugett came up with the first hit of the game, a double which dropped into a hole in right field in the second inning. Tag Welch came in to run for him and scored when Mike Ruff singled.

Brian Ammons, who pitched in the lone Kendrick victory but played first base Thursday, nicked Fugett for the Cherokees' only hit in the bottom of the second.

Brooks' pep talk affected at least two seniors in the third inning when White tripled to the Colonial Bread sign in right center to knock in another senior, Mark Powell, who had singled.

In the fifth, Ruff walked and centerfielder Buck Belue reached on an error by Kendrick shortstop John Metasavage.

White then smacked a tremendous drive to straightaway center field which hit the jugs green wall 410 feet away on one bounce. He wound up with another triple.

In the friendly confines of VHS's Bazemore Field, that ball would have said hello to the green wall in center as it passed 20 feet right over the middle of it.

being stiff today," Brooks said. "That's why I pitched him last (Wednesday) night. I was hoping he could keep that second game close and maybe we could come back."

"We took him in after the game and one of our trainers, Mike Rose, did a helluva job on his (Fugett's) arm. I sent him down there to warm up, and he said it felt great."

"He did a damn good job."

Brooks wasn't sure Fugett could go the distance however. He had White warming up in the bullpen in the fourth inning.

"I had a question in my mind," Brooks said. "I didn't know if he would run out of steam. He hung in there. The kid's got a big heart."

But Brooks, as is his custom, didn't limit his praise to his bushy-haired fireballer. He started with his seniors, who accepted the championship trophy, and rolled right on down the line to the batgirls and fans.

But he did admit he had to hand out a strong dose of verbal encouragement after the first two innings.

"I had to chew their fannies after the first two innings," Brooks said. "My seniors finally came through for me but I was beginning to wonder about it."

"We just weren't playing the way we should have been in a game like this."

Brooks said he owed the team an apology for the outburst after the game.

"They all did a great job," he said, "every one of them."

The Wildcats gained some measure of revenge for last season when Kendrick traveled to Valdosta and took two out of three games in the same series. The Cherokees went on to claim the state title.

Kendrick Coach John Mallory hopes Valdosta follows the same route.

"I hope they take it now," Mallory, in his first year as head coach, said. "We want to keep that championship trophy in south Georgia. I'm just glad to give

being stiff today," Brooks said. "That's why I pitched him last (Wednesday) night. I was hoping he could keep that second game close and maybe we could come back."

"We took him in after the game and one of our trainers, Mike Rose, did a helluva job on his (Fugett's) arm. I sent him down there to warm up, and he said it felt great."

"He did a damn good job."

Brooks wasn't sure Fugett could go the distance however. He had White warming up in the bullpen in the fourth inning.

"I had a question in my mind," Brooks said. "I didn't know if he would run out of steam. He hung in there. The kid's got a big heart."

But Brooks, as is his custom, didn't limit his praise to his bushy-haired fireballer. He started with his seniors, who accepted the championship trophy, and rolled right on down the line to the batgirls and fans.

But he did admit he had to hand out a strong dose of verbal encouragement after the first two innings.

"I had to chew their fannies after the first two innings," Brooks said. "My seniors finally came through for me but I was beginning to wonder about it."

"We just weren't playing the way we should have been in a game like this."

Brooks said he owed the team an apology for the outburst after the game.

"They all did a great job," he said, "every one of them."

The Wildcats gained some measure of revenge for last season when Kendrick traveled to Valdosta and took two out of three games in the same series. The Cherokees went on to claim the state title.

Kendrick Coach John Mallory hopes Valdosta follows the same route.

"I hope they take it now," Mallory, in his first year as head coach, said. "We want to keep that championship trophy in south Georgia. I'm just glad to give

Valdosta what I think were three pretty good ballgames before they go into the finals."

Mallory said he felt confident before the afternoon began that the Cherokees were enroute to the state title round again.

But then he saw Fugett walk to the mound.

"I didn't want to see him again," Mallory said. "But I still didn't think he could shut us out like he did, especially after we hit the ball hard in the first couple of innings."

"He's definitely the best pitcher we've seen this year, and he might be the best we see in the next three or four years."

Kendrick has been shut out twice in the last two years. Fugett was responsible both times.

As well as his pitching heroics, Fugett came up with the first hit of the game, a double which dropped into a hole in right field in the second inning. Tag Welch came in to run for him and scored when Mike Ruff singled.

Brian Ammons, who pitched in the lone Kendrick victory but played first base Thursday, nicked Fugett for the Cherokees' only hit in the bottom of the second.

Brooks' pep talk affected at least two seniors in the third inning when White tripled to the Colonial Bread sign in right center to knock in another senior, Mark Powell, who had singled.

In the fifth, Ruff walked and centerfielder Buck Belue reached on an error by Kendrick shortstop John Metasavage.

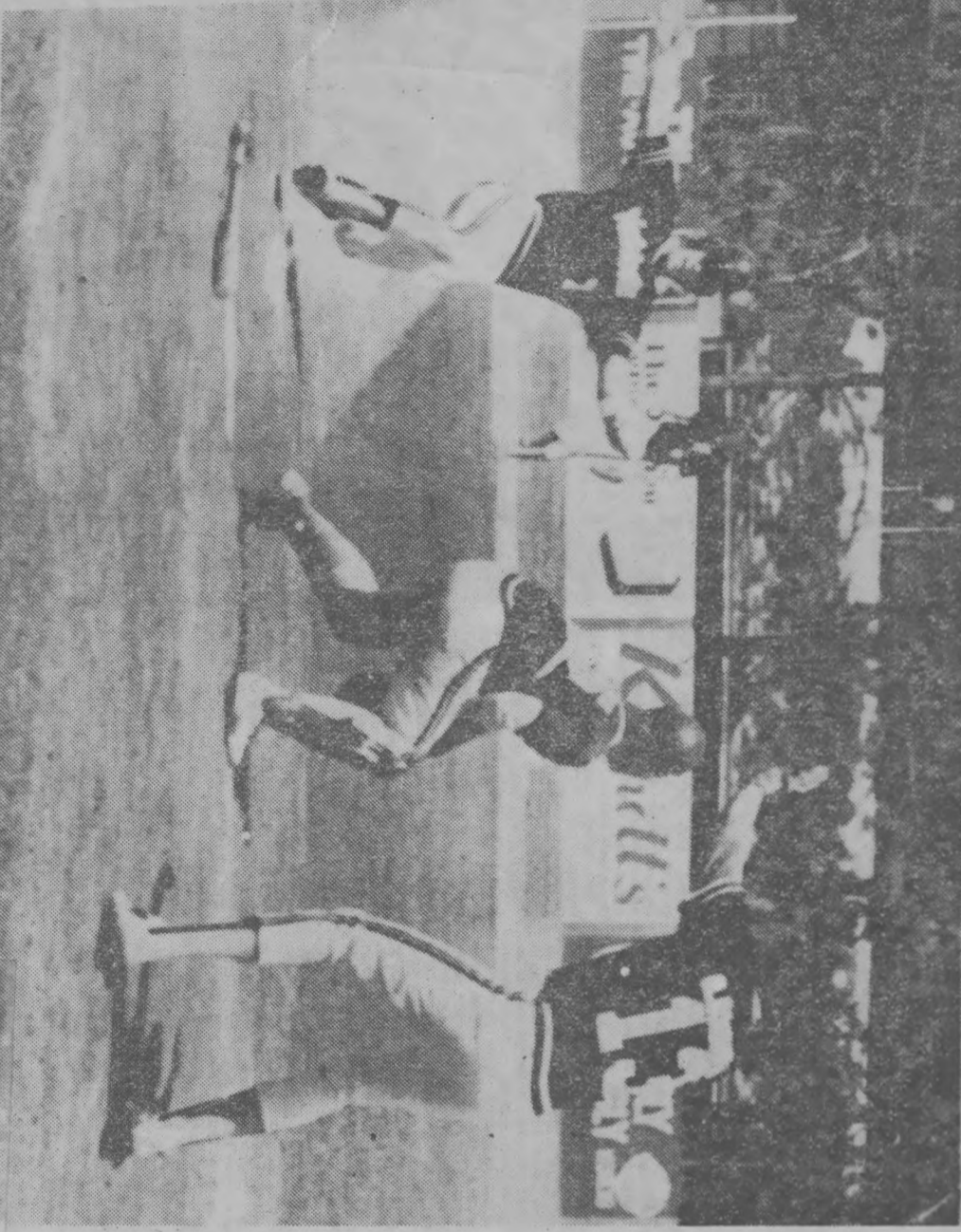
White then smacked a tremendous drive to straightaway center field which hit the jugs green wall 410 feet away on one bounce. He wound up with another triple.

In the friendly confines of VHS's Bazemore Field, that ball would have said hello to the green wall in center as it passed 20 feet right over the middle of it.

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	BHS	ab	r	h	bi
Ruff c	3	1	1	1	Jones cf	3	2	1	0
Powell ss	4	2	2	0	Mock lf	4	1	1	2
Belue p	4	2	2	3	Shealy rf	4	0	2	2
White 3b	4	2	2	0	Riles p	4	0	1	1

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	BHS	ab	r	h	bi
Ruff c	3	1	1	1	Jones cf	3	2	1	0
Powell ss	4	2	2	0	Mock lf	4	1	1	2
Belue p	4	2	2	3	Shealy rf	4	0	2	2
White 3b	4	2	2	0	Riles p	4	0	1	1

Valdosta's Buck Belue Slides Home As Chris Daniels (13) Gives All Clear Signal



# 'Cats Claw Kendrick 7-0 To Advance To Finals

By MIKE CHASON  
COLUMBUS, Ga. — The age of iron-armed pitchers has returned. Wayne Fugett is living proof.

With Valdosta's Wildcats facing a must-win situation in the Class AAA high school baseball playoffs, the junior righthander stepped to the hill and did what he's done all season... win.

Fugett's one-hit shutout enabled Valdosta to claim a 7-0 victory over Kendrick in the deciding game of the best-of-three series for the South Georgia Championship at Golden Park here Thursday.

It also earned Fugett the most outstanding player award of the series and gave him his second complete game in two days. He pitched a two-hitter Wednesday in a 3-0 VHS win in the opener and then had one and 2-3 innings of hitless relief work in a 6-4 second game loss.

The win sent Valdosta, now 26-1, into the state finals against Peachtree (Atlanta) next Friday.

Peachtree downed Southwest Dekalb 6-0 in the deciding game of their best-of-three series for the North Georgia championship Thursday.

VHS Principal Lloyd Mims said this morning the first game of the best-of-three series for the state championship is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. one week from today at Dekalb Central stadium in Atlanta.

The second game is scheduled for 1 p.m. a week from Saturday. If a third game is necessary, it is to immediately follow the second game.

"I felt great," Fugett said, "with the sweat still glistening on his brow from his effort on the hot afternoon. 'I warmed up about an hour before the game and got really loose. 'I was ready.'"

Fugett, now 11-0, didn't know until he warmed up that he was going to be the starting pitcher. VHS Coach Butch Brooks had earlier announced David White was the probable starter.

"I wanted to come back," Fugett said. "I didn't have all my speed on the ball but my curve was breaking today. I was just trying to throw strikes."

Fugett struck out six and walked three. For the series, he had 21 strikeouts in 15 and 2-3 innings.

"I couldn't count on him not

## The Valdosta Daily Times

# SPORTS



WAYNE FUGETT MVP Of Series

John Lastinger's double and three Kendrick errors scored Belue and White with the final runs in the seventh inning.

Lastinger had two hits on the day. The junior first baseman was easily Valdosta's top hitter with six hits in eight official trips to the plate in the three games.

In direct contrast, Belue, the leading hitter on the team during the regular season with a .613 average, was one for 11 in the series. He doubled in the second game.

Valdosta had two players injured in the game.

Tim Dame's bunt attempt in the sixth inning fouled off his head, and White twisted his knee slightly when he stole third base in the seventh.

Neither player is expected to miss the state championship round.

Dame made a great catch on a sinking liner off the bat of Ammons in the fourth inning.

"I knew right then it could be just a day for the Wildcats," Mallory said.

In the end, he was right.

VHS	ab	r	h	bi	BHS	ab	r	h	bi
Ruff c	3	1	1	1	Jones cf	3	2	1	0
Powell ss	4	2	2	0	Mock lf	4	1	1	2
Belue p	4	2	2	3	Shealy rf	4	0	2	2
White 3b	4	2	2	0	Riles p	4	0	1	1

TOTALS 30 7 9 6  
011 030 2-7-92  
000 000 0-0-1-5  
Kendrick  
E — White, Ruff, Metasavage 2, Morris.  
Ammos, Alexander, DP — VHS 1; LOB — VHS 7; KHS 3.  
2B — Fugett, Lastinger; 3B — White; 5B — Gandy, Welton 2, Belue, White; S — Fugett.  
Fugett (W, 11-0) 7 IP, H 6, R 0, SO 6  
Jimmison (L, 5-2) 4 IP, H 5, R 1, SO 3  
Valentini

Fla Times Union  
May 19, 1978

# Firepower!

## Fugett, Bats Pace Valdosta to Title

**By DAVE RONNINGEN**  
Times-Union Staff Writer  
COLUMBUS, Ga. — Valdosta High, behind the tireless pitching of junior Wayne Fugett and a suddenly-rejuvenated hitting attack, blasted defending state Class AAA champion Columbus Kendrick 7-0 here Thursday to take a best-two-of-three game series and walk away with the South Georgia Class AAA baseball championship.

The victory gave the Wildcats sweet revenge — Kendrick eliminated Valdosta in the South Georgia playoffs last year — and sends the now 26-1 Valdostans into the state championship series, where they'll face Atlanta Peachtree next week.

Peachtree downed Southwest DeKalb 6-0 in the deciding game of their playoff series Thursday.

The exact date of the best-of-three state title series, which will be played in Atlanta, will be determined by officials of the contending schools and announced later.

Fugett, now 11-0, had to work to earn most valuable player honors for the series.

The righthander fired a one-hitter Thursday. Kendrick's only safety was a single by first baseman Brian Ammons in the third inning and the Cherokees never threatened after that.

Fugett's title-game heroics came on the heels of an equally impressive performance in Wednesday's games — the junior two-hit Kendrick in Valdosta's 3-0 opening-game win then came in in relief of Buck Belue to pitch three innings of hitless ball in the 'Cats' 6-4 loss in the second game.

The two-day, three-game, 17-inning worksheet read no runs, three hits.

Fugett had plenty of help Thursday from the Valdosta bats, which had been strangely quiet during the first four games of the state playoffs.

David White, Valdosta's leading hitter all season, found the range Thursday, connecting for two triples and driving in three runs in three at-bats and first baseman John Lastinger added a pair of hits, one a run-scoring triple, in four trips.

The 'Cats gave Fugett all the runs he needed in the second inning,

and the Wildcat battery had a hand in the process. Fugett led off with a double and came in on a single by catcher Mike Ruff.

Valdosta got another run in the third, had a big three-run fifth with help from White's second triple, and added another in the seventh on Lastinger's triple.

The Wildcats had the bats, knocking starter Eddie Jamieson (5-2) out in the fifth, but Fugett didn't seem to need much help.

Ironically, the junior almost didn't start.

Valdosta Coach Butch Brooks had planned to start White but decided about an hour before the game's 2 p.m. start to go with Fugett, despite the fact that he had pitched 10 innings less than 24 hours before.

"He (Brooks) told me if my arm was all right to go down and warm up," Fugett said. "I was ready today. I got a good night's sleep and I felt good."

"My curve ball was breaking good and I was using it a lot."

Who to start wouldn't have been

a problem for Kendrick's Coach John Mallory.

"Fugett is the best that we've faced all year," the Cherokee pilot said. "He may be the best I'll ever see in high school."

Kendricks appeared to be connecting with the ball and Jamieson started strong in the opening innings, but Fugett dug in and the Wildcats found their offense in the second inning.

"The way it (Thursday's game) started off, we hit the ball good — right at somebody — the first four innings," Mallory moaned.

He added that Valdosta could be the best team that his Cherokees, who finished 18-7, have faced this year.

"Valdosta has got a good team," he said. "It could be the Wildcats' year. I hope we get them down there (in Valdosta) next year, but I just hope they keep that trophy in South Georgia."

South Georgia Championship  
At Columbus 011 130 1-7 10 0  
Valdosta 000 000 0 1 3  
Kendricks  
J. Fugett, Volentini (5) and Morris; Fugett  
WP: Fugett (11-0); LP: Jamieson (5-2).  
2BH: Fugett (V).  
3BH: White (2, V), Lastinger (V).  
Records: Valdosta 26-1; Kendrick 18-7.

### Brooks, 'Cats, Fans Celebrate Last Out

—Times-Union Photo by KEN KLANICKI



# 'Cats Depend On Batting Punch

**By MARTIN REGISTER**  
COLUMBUS — Valdosta's Wildcats are hoping their offensive punch can knock out a defending state champion when they tackle Kendrick here Wednesday in the opening games of the Class AAA South Georgia championship baseball series.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats have used that batting punch all season enroute to a near incredible 24-0 record, including sweeps of their first two playoff sets, with Tift County (Tifton) and Windsor Forest (Savannah).

Included in the powerful Wildcat batting order are centerfielder-pitcher Buck Belue, who blasted opponents with a .613 batting average during the regular season, and third baseman-pitcher David White, who boomed 15

better ball than we did in the Windsor Forest series," Brooks said. "Yet, we played well enough to win."

"When you're flat and can still win, that's a sign of a good ballclub. The kids are real excited about playing Kendrick again, and I think they will play real good ball."

Kendrick lost its two ace hurlers off last season's state championship team, but has made it this far mainly on the strength of consistent hitting.

"I know Kendrick is just like last year," Brooks said. "They are good defensively, and they capitalize on other team's mistakes."

"They're not really a power hitting team, but they try to get the wood on the ball somewhere."

"Anytime a team gets this far, they are in good shape," Wednesday's action, a doubleheader, is to begin at 5:30 p.m., at Golden Park Columbus Astros.

Brooks said the later starting time was agreed upon partly to give Valdostans time to get off from work and make the trip.

A few mistakes in the Windsor Forest series worried Brooks, but he said he felt confident his team would play well in an effort to avenge last season's losses to the Columbus team.

"I've been well-pleased all year long," he said. "I was not overjoyed with some of the mistakes we made in the past series."

"But when you win, you can't get too upset."



DAVID WHITE  
Home Run Leader

**V-71 m, Kittens Roll 4-5-78**  
Valdosta's Kittens took their second high school tennis win of the season over cross-county rival Lowndes at the VHS courts Tuesday.  
Coach John Booth's Valdosta girls, now 6-1, scored a 7-3 decision over the Vikettes.  
Valdosta travels to Tifton today.  
In Tuesday's Times, the Valdosta-Ware match was a B-team contest instead of a varsity match.  
Individual results from the VHS-LHS match follow:  
Singles — Lisa Feix (V) beat Jodie George 6-2, 6-1; Linda Hall (V) beat Ellen Herdy 6-3, 6-4; Carrie Sue Hurnicuff (L) beat Julie Spencer 9-5; Abby Hayes (L) beat Diane Paolotti 6-6; Debbie Mink (V) beat Karen Parker 8-6; Jan Pendleton (V) beat Catherine Dixon 6-4; Lourdes Rodriguez (V) beat Terri Miller 6-0.  
Doubles — Feix-Away 5, Powell (V) beat Hayes-Hurnicuff 6-2; Hall-Mink (V) beat Parker-Dixon 6-2; George-Hardie (L) beat Spencer-Rodriguez 9-8.



RONNIE CHRISTY  
Lowndes Star



JOHN LASTINGER  
.490 Average



MIKE RUFF  
Sophomore Catcher



CHRIS DANIELS  
Named 1-AAA DH



WAYNE FUGETT  
Standout Pitcher



BUCK BELUE  
Region's MVP



DAVID WHITE  
Pro Prospect

# VHS Dominates League's All-Stars

By Times Staff writer

Six members of Valdosta's Region 1-AAA championship high school baseball team have been named to the Region 1-AAA (South) all-subregion squad, and Wildcat Coach Butch Brooks has been named coach of the year.

The team, which is the first of its kind in recent history, was announced today by the sportswriters who cover the six teams in the south subregion.

Valdosta centerfielder-pitcher Buck Belue was named the most valuable player of the subregion after hitting .613 during the regular season and piling up a 7-0 pitching record.

Belue, a senior, was one of three outfielders named to the team.

"That's great," Belue said Monday. "I didn't even know they had a team like that."

For the first time in his four years as a starter, Belue didn't participate in spring football drills this season, and he pointed to that as one reason for his phenomenal average.

"That was a definite plus," he said. "I got a head start on a bunch of people. They were playing football, and I was able to be down there getting my timing down."

Brooks' selection as coach of the year came as no surprise since he led the Wildcats to a 20-0 regular season and now has his 26-1 club set to enter the state championship playoffs against Peachtree in Atlanta Friday.

"It's a great honor," Brooks said. "It's just something that you know isn't going to come your way but once every so often."

"I'm well pleased but I never would have made it

without the players and my assistant coaches. They just do a great job." Brooks, 32, is in his fifth year as the Wildcat baseball coach and carries an overall 92-21 record into the final round of the playoffs. His team won 25 straight games this season before bowing to Kendrick last week in the South Georgia championship.

Valdosta bounced back to take the third game of that series and is now aiming for what Brooks said would be

## The Valdosta Daily Times

### SPORTS

the first state baseball title ever for the Wildcats.

Brooks agreed with Belue's selection as most valuable player.

"He's a good all-round athlete," Brooks said. "You couldn't have picked anybody else who does a better job. I think Valdosta High School ought to be proud of Buck."

Other Valdostans named to the team were senior third baseman David White, junior first baseman John Lastinger, sophomore cat-

cher Mike Ruff, junior pitcher Wayne Fugett and senior second baseman Chris Daniels.

Daniels, who hit .424 during the regular season, tied with Moultrie's Tracy Hart as the team's designated hitter. The designated hitter did not have to be a player who assumed that role during the season.

Lowndes had one player on the team, senior second baseman Ronnie Christie. Christie was voted the most valuable player of the Vikings this year and finished the season with a .390 batting average.

Other members of the team included shortstop Earnest Riles of Bainbridge, who hit .616 with five homers, outfielders Roosevelt Andrews of Thomasville, who hit .439, and James Pullins of Moultrie, who hit .400, and Central of Thomasville pit-

cher Allen Howard.

Moultrie's Hart batted .427 during the season with five home runs and 28 batted in.

White, who's being looked at as a pro prospect, wallowed a school record 15 homers and hit a .468 clip for the Wildcats.

Lastinger batted .490 with 27 runs batted in, and Ruff hit .415 with eight homers. Fugett was Valdosta's ace

pitcher with a 7-0 record and a 1.27 earned run average. He struck out 99 batters in 55 innings of work.

Voting on the all-star team were Gary Johnson of the Moultrie Observer, Joe Crine of the Bainbridge Post-Searchlight, Mike Chason of the Valdosta Daily Times and Ray Willett of the Thomasville Times-Enterprise.

## VHS Wrestlers Eliminated

Feb 19, 1978 V-Times

By Times Staff Writer  
MARIETTA — The three Valdosta High School wrestlers who participated in the semifinal round of the statewide tournament consolation round, Steve Hall, Melvin Hunter, and John Jubert, were all eliminated here Saturday.

The matches were all held at the Cobb Civic Center. The stronger and more experienced Atlanta teams reportedly dominated the tourney.

# All-Sports Trophy Extended To VHS

By Times Staff Writer

For the third time in the four-year history of the award, Valdosta High School was presented the Region 1-AAA All-Sports trophy at the school's spring sports banquet here Monday night.

Albany Herald sports editor Paul McCorvey, who originated the award, was on hand at the one-hour banquet, to present the trophy, which recognizes the member of the 12-team region which has the top all-round sports program.

The track, tennis, golf and wrestling teams were also honored at the dinner at the Gold Plate Restaurant here.

Ty Edwards was named the most valuable member of Coach Jack Rudolph's golf team, which finished first in the region and fourth in the state tournament.

Other golf trophies went to Trip Singletary, most improved; Rusty Trancygier, most consistent and Buck Blanton, most outstanding.

Medals from the state golf meet for the low four scores

went to Singletary, Trancygier, Lew Richardson and Edwards.

Brett Warner was named most valuable for Coach John Burroughs' boys' tennis team, and Steve Connor was named most outstanding.

Biff Taylor was selected most improved, and David Broomberg copped the spirit trophy.

For Coach John Booth's girls' tennis team, which captured the region title, Linda Hall was the most valuable player and Lisa Feix was named most outstanding.

Julie Spencer was named most improved, and Lourdes Rodriguez was selected for the spirit trophy.

Coach Ed Jones gave out four boys' track trophies to Kenny Gallagher for the mile

and two-mile run, Kenny Washington for the broad jump, Nathaniel Ceasar for the high jump and Allen Worthy for the hurdles.

Vera Dotson was named the most outstanding member of Coach Jerry Baker's girls' track team. Jamie Dotson received the spirit award, and Nina Bryant was named most improved.

Lisa Jones, who won the state title in the long jump, was named the most dedicated.

The most valuable wrestler award went to Steve Hall. Melvin Hunter took home the hustle award for Coach Jim Landrum's squad, and Greg Godwin was named most improved.

David Clifton was selected as the most dedicated wrestler.

## VHS Actor Wins Third In Contest

By Times Staff Writer

Curtis Cochran, Valdosta High School junior, won third place for best actor in the annual Agnes Scott College Foreign Language Drama Contest, according to an announcement.

Sharon Gandy, VHS language teacher, said she took seven French students to the contest where they presented "The Thieves Carnival," a play in French.

Cochran was presented a silver plaque. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Cochran won honorable mention for best actor in the contest last year.

There were 14 schools competing, most of them from north Georgia and Atlanta. VHS, Mrs. Gandy said, was the only south Georgia school entered in the contest.

This is the second year VHS has entered the contest, she said.

Other students in the play were: Todd Cook, Joe Denley, Mary Wissert, Drew Sandbach, Margie Mathis and Chrissy Mead.

Mrs. Gandy said she directed the play with the assistance of Marilyn McKinney, VHS Drama teacher.

## Moody Airman Hurt In Wreck

By Times Staff Writer

An 18-year-old Moody Air Force Base man is in the surgical intensive care unit of South Georgia Medical Center today with a neck injury he received in a motorcycle accident Wednesday, reports said.

Airman Steven C. Wolfe is in fair condition, said a hospital spokesman.

According to a base spokesman, Wolfe lost control of a motorcycle he was riding on and crashed. No persons were involved.

# It's VHS In Favorite's Role This Year

By MARTIN REGISTER

ATLANTA — Valdosta's Wildcats are just where many people predicted before the high school baseball season ever started that they would be at this time — in the Class AAA state championship series.

Peachtree, a hometown product, is also in the best-of-three title series—but practically no one predicted its appearance here.

The illustrious 'Cats and upstart Atlanta team clash here Friday at 6 p.m. in the series' first game, and VHS Coach Butch Brooks is hoping Peachtree's Cinderella role won't work to its advantage.

"Nobody expected them to get this far," he said of his team's final round opponents, 24-3 on the year. "They're

real loose. They don't have anything to lose.

"They just go out there and go after it. They play aggressive baseball. I'm afraid of a team like that."

Peachtree's situation is much like that of Valdosta a year ago, when the Wildcats played giant-killer throughout the season before falling to eventual state champion Kendrick in three games in the state semifinals.

This season, Valdosta returned much of that team, including ace pitcher Wayne Fugett, sluggers John Lastinger, Buck Belue and David White, clean-fielding second baseman Chris Daniels and shortstop Mark Powell.

Almost before the season began, fans were predicting big things for Valdosta,

and the Wildcats didn't disappoint them.

VHS roared to 25 consecutive victories before losing to Kendrick in the second game of their playoff series last week at Columbus.

But the 'Cats defeated the defending state champs in two of three games, gaining revenge for last season.

Now, bearing a sparkling 26-1 record, the Wildcats assume their familiar roles as favorites in their series with Peachtree.

The two-day series is to conclude Saturday, with action beginning at 1 p.m., at DeKalb Central Stadium here.

A third game, if necessary, is to follow immediately.

Brooks said to get to the stadium, it would be necessary to follow Interstate

75 to Atlanta to the Interstate 285-East exit. He said the next turn would be off I-285-East on to the Memorial Drive exit.

After turning right on Memorial Drive, Brooks said the stadium would be visible after six or eight blocks. He said it might be necessary to bring folding chairs since the stadium seats only 500.

"They tell me the traffic in that area gets really tied up about 4 o'clock," Brooks said. "People going up there might want to keep that in mind."

Brooks said Fugett, 11-0 and sporting a 1.16 earned run average, is to start Friday's game.

Fugett pitched in all three games against Kendrick last week, and claimed the two pitching wins.

Belue was rocked for a grand slam home run in the second game, and saw his record dip to 9-1 in a 6-4 defeat.

Brooks, pointing to the fact that Belue actually surrendered just three hits, said he had no qualms whatsoever about starting the standout senior Saturday.

Pitching overall has been the key to the Wildcats' success so far, Brooks said, although he acknowledged that this year's team hits "a heck of a lot better than we've ever hit."

White and Tim Dame also had undefeated records, and Brooks has listed sophomore David New as available for action throughout the playoffs.

Four Wildcats (Lastinger, Belue, White and Daniels) are hitting with a percentage of at least .400.

Lastinger leads the team at .507, while Belue follows closely behind with a .500 batting percentage.

Brooks agreed that the pressure to perform had been on his team since the start of the season.

"A lot of people expected us to go this far after what we did last year," he said.

"But we were real lucky last year. We went a lot farther than anybody expected us to. Then, this year, everybody expected us to go a long way."

"You never start a year expecting to be in the state championship game, but you always set it as a goal."

After 27 games of flexing their muscles, the Wildcats are within two games of that goal.



Powell Brings .382 Average into Series

Fla Times 5-26-78

# Valdosta Realizes It's Now or Never

By FRANK RANNEY  
Times-Union Georgia Editor

DECATUR — Valdosta and Atlanta Peachtree meet in the opening game of a best-of-three series for the Georgia Class AAA state baseball title at DeKalb Central Junior College Stadium here tonight at 6 and Wildcat Coach Butch Brooks is pulling out all the stops right at the start.

The 'Cats will go with their ace pitcher, junior right-hander Wayne Fugett, in the opener.

Fugett was the hero of Valdosta's South Georgia championship series against Columbus Kendrick last Wednesday-Thursday. He pitched Valdosta to a 3-0, two-hit win in the opener against Kendrick, came in in relief to pitch three scoreless innings in a 6-4 loss, then hurled a one-hitter in the 'Cats' 7-0 title win the next day.

"My arm is feeling pretty good now," Fugett said earlier in the week. "I'm ready to go, even though I was a little weak after last week."

"We're going to have to have the

My arm is feeling pretty good now. I'm ready to go, even though I was a little weak after last week.  
— Wayne Fugett

Fugett will probably come back in the third game, if a third game is necessary.

Valdosta, which carries a .325 team batting average, had trouble with its sticks in the playoffs, but the Wildcats seemed to bounce back in the Kendrick series.

Third baseman David White slammed a pair of triples in the finale at Columbus and first baseman John Lastinger added a triple and a single to lead a 10-hit attack.

"It's like it is with any hitters," Brooks offered. "You go three or four days a week and you start doing things wrong — pulling your head out, swinging too hard. We started all over in practice and went back to fundamentals."

Lastinger leads the team with a .507 average, Belue is second with a .497, White and shortstop Chris Daniels are third with .400 averages, second baseman Mark Powell is hitting .382 and catcher Mike Ruff carries a .380 average.

# Cowart Takes Challenge, Plans To Make Most Of It

V. Times 5-28-78

Larry Cowart says it's a challenge. He says it may be the biggest challenge of his coaching career.

But it's a challenge he has accepted. And now, he's going to make the most of it.

Cowart is the new basketball coach at Valdosta High School. He was named to that position in March, soon after the Wildcats and Kittens had ended losing seasons and soon after his Irwin County girls' team had lost in the second round of the Class A state tournament.

A week ago, the 33-year-old Pavo native was honored with a reception here. He liked his first introduction to Valdostans.

"I was really impressed by the turnout," Cowart said. "My wife and I both commented on it."

Cowart also met with 60 prospective members of the two teams he is to take over next year. He didn't run any agility drills but there's plenty of time for that. Come July, he will begin in earnest.

"I think it's important this first year anyway to schedule some type of summer practice," Cowart said. "We may have some athletes who realize it's not quite what they want before school even starts."

"I'd say it's a big challenge, maybe the biggest I've ever had. I've never coached in triple-A before."

"But as far as I'm concerned, Valdosta is one of the finest schools in the state. You can go to California or anywhere, and people know about Valdosta. I think it's one of the most prestigious high schools in the state."

Wright Bazemore's football teams laid the groundwork for that athletic tradition but Valdosta has always had a well-rounded athletic program. VHS has won the all-sports trophy in Region 1-AAA for three consecutive seasons.

"Valdosta does have a lot of tradition, and I know the people want to win," Cowart said. "But a lot of coaches put the pressure on themselves to win. I know winning and losing is part of it but all I can do is go out there and give 100 percent to my job."

Cowart's effort paid off at Irwin, where his girls' team won the Class A state title two years ago. He's been at the Ocilla school for three years. Before that, he coached girls' basketball and baseball two years at Appling County. His longest assignment so far has been at Pelham, where Cowart coached for five seasons. He began his coaching career at a junior high school in Thomas County.

After Pavo consolidated with Central of Thomasville, Cowart was graduated from that high school and later received his degree from Valdosta State College.

Cowart believes in fundamentals and defense. He says if he has a weakness, it's in not coaching percentage shooting enough. Unlike some coaches, Cowart says he believes in doing most of his coaching during the week. He says that's where the Tuesday, Friday and Saturday night hardwood forays are won and lost... on the practice floor.



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

In the Berrien-Irwin state tournament game at Tifton in March, Cowart followed that philosophy to the letter. While his Berrien counterpart, Ken Weeks, was going through the usual towel-biting tension exhibited by most basketball coaches, Cowart sat calmly on the other side of the scorer's table. He seemed to seldom raise his voice in timeouts.

But on this day, Weeks' agony and the shooting of Lisa Rowan and Rose Smith paid off. Berrien won. Irwin lost.

"I've been blessed with having a lot of kids who have really put out for me," Cowart said. "I've had kids who are dedicated and were willing to pay the price."

Cowart should have no problem with that in Valdosta. Nothing breeds success like success. And VHS has had its share of winners.

But it's been many a year since one man coached both teams.

"I know there is some criticism on that sometimes," Cowart said. "But to me, it doesn't matter what class you're in, you're still competing with schools that have the same number of kids. I don't see much difference to tell you the truth."

"I always spend about two hours a day with the boys and about two hours a day with the girls. Time has to be allotted to each one of them."

Cowart knows football is big here, and he wants to help make it bigger.

"I'm going to help Coach (Nick) Hyder with some of the scouting for football," Cowart said. "I think we can work on a complementary basis. If I have a good athlete who I think can play football, I'll tell Coach Hyder about him. If he's got one playing football, I know he's interested in each one of them playing as many sports as he can."

"I think we have an excellent understanding." Cowart hasn't set any goals for next season. He admitted any coach would be a fool not to wish for a state championship but he says his first priority will be a break-even season.

Cowart figures to work uphill from that point.



—Times Staff Photo

New VHS Coach Larry Cowart

## White Thinking Homer, Announces UGA Pact

By Times Staff Writer

COLUMBUS, Ga. — David White was definitely thinking inside-the-park home run.

White walloped an Eddie Jamieson pitch 400 feet into centerfield in the fifth inning here Thursday to drive in two runs and help send Valdosta High School to a 7-0 series clinching baseball playoff victory over Kendrick.

The ball took one bounce and hit a monstrous green wall in dead center field. In most parks it would have cleared the fence easily. It was White's second triple of the game.

"I was thinking about it (stretching for a home run), but after that first one, I was tired," White said.

After the victory, which

sent Valdosta into the state championship against Peachtree next week, White said he had signed a college scholarship to attend the University of Georgia three weeks ago.

However, his commitment to the Bulldog baseball program will end if he signs a pro baseball contract this summer, he said.

"I want to play pro baseball," White said. "If I don't sign, then I'll play for Georgia. (Georgia) Coach (Roy) Umstadt understands that."

White said the scholarship would cover all his expenses except his food bill.

Batting in the cleanup spot, White hit .468 during the

regular season. He set an alltime Valdosta High School record with 15 home runs. He has hit one more homer in the playoffs.

Valdosta finished with a 20-0 regular season record and added five more games to that streak before bowing to Kendrick 6-4 Wednesday night.

"We wanted to go undefeated but it really didn't enter into anybody's mind until we got 24-0," White said.

The senior third baseman injured his knee slightly when he slid into third base during Thursday's game.

"I just twisted it," he said. "I've got to stop sliding on my knees and start sliding on my butt."



DAVID WHITE  
Triples Twice



### Sitting Down On The Job

Valdosta High School art teacher Patsy Smith was greeting passersby as she took a break from her latest project. Mrs. Smith is painting a new wildcat on the wall surrounding Cleveland Field. This one is at the corner facing Williams Street. "I've never seen such a social corner," she said. Her work is often interrupted by people who

stop to chat and ask what she's doing as she holds a paint brush. Mrs. Smith is being helped by VHS students Johnny Allen and Sam Fletcher. They work on the mural daily from 5-8 p.m. and expect to finish it in a few days, she said. They've worked on it a week.—Times Staff Photo.

## Valdosta Zips Past LHS In Dual Track Meet Here

By Times Staff Writer  
For the first time in at least four years, Valdosta surged past Lowndes in a high school track meet here Wednesday. Valdosta, coached by Ed Jones, picked up 77 points in the dual meet between the two cross-country rivals at the LHS track. Lowndes finished with 55 points. "I won't make any excuses," LHS Coach Newman Sanchez said. "They were ready. We weren't. They just

beat us." Allen Worthy and Kenny Gallagher won two events each for the Wildcats. Worthy won the long jump with a leap of 19 feet, nine inches, and the 120-yard high hurdles with the time of 17 seconds flat. Gallagher took the mile run with a time of 4:51:4 and then came back later in the day to take the grueling two mile run in a time of 10:57:3. Hugh Vankinscott was the

only double winner for Lowndes with victories in the 440-yard dash and the 880-yard run. He finished the 440 in a time of 52.8 and the 880 in 2:13:5.

Lowndes and Valdosta are scheduled to meet again Monday at the VHS track. Individual results follow:

- Pole vault — Brucker (V), H-8'6";
- Shot put — Day (L), Moore (L), Reaves (V), D-43'5/2";
- Long jump — Worthy (V), Vankinscott (L), Hargett (L), D-19'9";
- High jump — Gaines (V), Worthy (V), Merrin (V), H-5'8";
- Discus throw — Reaves (V), Day (L), Holmes (V), D-115'7";
- Triple jump — Hargett (L), Washington (V), Williams (L), D-41'9/2";
- 440 yard relay — Valdosta (Council, Smith, Evans, King), T-46.4;
- Mile run — Gallagher (V), Hargrove (L), Jenkins (V), T-4:51:9;
- 440 yard dash — Vankinscott (L), Scott (V), Lucas (L), T-52.8;
- 100 yard dash — King (V), Evans (V), McElroy (L), T-10.4;
- 120 high hurdles — Worthy (V), Williams (L), Washington (V), T-17.0;
- 880 yard run — Vankinscott (L), Green (V), Jones (V), T-2:13:5;
- 220 yard dash — Fulton (V), Burgman (L), Brown (V), T-24.4;
- 330 yard intermediate hurdles — Washington (V), Williams (L), Myers (L), T-45.1;
- Two mile run — Gallagher (V), Hargrove (L), Jenkins (V), T-10:57:3;
- Mile relay — Lowndes (Lucas, Williams, Burks, Vankinscott), T-3:42:7.

### VHS, LHS In Field Valdosta Time Sun April 8, 1978

## 1-AAA Golf Meet Here

team in this region has a possibility of winning."

For Coach George Hubert's Lowndes team, Jody Wilson and Richard Nelson have been the leading performers during the regular season.

Along with those two, Andy Blair, Debbie Wooley, John McClawhorn, Mike Killeen, Chris Walters, Mike Parker, Mark Shaw, and Ricky Davis are to be competing in the match for the Vikings.

"It's going to take a super effort for us to win," Hubert said.

Other Region 1-AAA teams to be represented in the match are Thomasville, Bainbridge, Moultrie, Tift County (Tifton), Dougherty (Albany), Albany, Westover (Albany), and Crisp County (Cordele).

The match is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. Monday.

By Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta and Lowndes' golf teams are to be competing along with eight other schools for the Region 1-AAA high school crown Monday at Francis Lake Golf Club near here.

Valdosta brings the most impressive record into the match after the regular season. In its 10 matches, Valdosta has defeated 21 teams, tied one, while losing none.

Coach Jack Rudolph's Wildcats are led by Buck Blanton and Ty Edwards, the number one and two golfers respectively on the team.

Also competing in Monday's region match for Valdosta are Trip Singletary, Rusty Trancygier, Lew Richardson, and David Parker. Mike McCleod is the alternate.

"On a one day match with high school kids, anything can happen," Rudolph said. "Any

## VHS Golfers Doing Great

4-30-78  
V-Times

unquestionable. The team won the Region 1-AAA golf tournament in 1977 and proceeded to finish fifth in the state tournament.

Valdosta was picked early this spring to repeat as region champions, but Rudolph knows the value of a pre-season ranking. "We lost one senior, but we added some good talented golfers to bolster the team, but you have to wait and see how the new guys will perform under pressure, especially on May 1." This is the date of the Region 1-AAA golf tour-



happen. First of all, Rudolph named a fellow teacher as his assistant coach, Joe Strain. Strain attended Oklahoma State University (a national power) on a golf scholarship, so his credentials were,

By BUCK BLANTON  
VHS 12th Grade

It is not unusual to find teams at Valdosta High School which go undefeated for almost an entire season. It is unusual that the unblemished record belongs to the golf team.

Prior to a year ago, the golf program at Valdosta High was almost unnoticed, as it had been for several years. A new trend began for this sport when Jack Rudolph, the football teams' colorful defensive coordinator, took over the reins of this failing team and things began to

# VHS Unveils New Vocation Program

By TERRY SMITH

Valdosta High School students are to have an opportunity to play doctor beginning this fall.

Or find out what a nurse does. Or what's required of an emergency medical technician or physical therapist. Or learn about a dental assistant's duties.

It's part of a new vocational program similar to what's been done at Lowndes High the past six years.

The health occupations department is to be for students interested in the medical field.

Beverly Smith, a veteran registered nurse who headed the in-service education department at South Georgia Medical Center, is to be the instructor.

"We're not going to try and make doctors or nurses," she said, "but expose them to what it's like..."

We will study basic medical terminology, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR),

anatomy, laboratory procedures, X-rays and make visits to the hospitals and, hopefully, some doctors and dentists' offices.

"If they want to go on after this," Mrs. Smith added, "they'll be qualified to work in a hospital as an aide or attendant."

The nurse-turned-instructor is a pert blonde, 36, who's been a RN for about 16 years. She's a New Jersey native who's worked in private offices and hospitals—the past three years at SGMC. There Mrs. Smith was a charge nurse on a medical floor then head nurse in charge of all three nurse shifts on a floor before the in-service instructor.

"The hospital has helped us a great deal in ordering new equipment and selling us surplus materials for our mini-hospital at VHS," she said. "We hope to have the students at the hospital once a week."

Ann Colson, Mrs. Smith's counterpart at LHS, praised the hospital's cooperation

and that of some physicians and dentists in helping her acquaint her students with the medical field.

"I've had at least 50 students over the years go on into the medical field as LPN's (licensed practical nurses), EMT's, lab technicians, aides and other jobs," she said. "It's very gratifying because they tell me they enjoy it and they got their start in high school."

"I think Bev Smith will do a fantastic job because she's set up the program over there on sound footing."

"We're extremely excited about the program and Mrs. Smith," said Jim Bridges, vocational education supervisor for the city schools system. "We've felt the need from the community and students' interest in such a program."

The program is planned to have about 18 students per class, three two-hour classes a day each quarter.

Prospective students are to be screened.

"Those students who progress rapidly," said Mrs. Smith, "will have every opportunity to move ahead."

"A hospital is a community in itself," she went on. "Not everyone wants to be a nurse or a doctor, but someone has to plan diets, clean the laundry, keep equipment working...It all means helping people who need help. I can't imagine doing anything else."

"When you see the look on the face of someone you've helped, all the study and work is well worth it. I'm really looking for 'patient people.'"



—Times Staff Photo  
Beverly Smith Discusses Program



—Times Staff Photo  
Drafting Is One Of Summer School Offerings

# Summer Students Like Long Weekend

By MARCIA McRAE  
Summer school students generally stay with friends

Mildred Wisenbaker, veteran

# VHS Researchers Find 'Gold Mine'

By VICKIE CHANDLER

"Jeremiah Wilson's Original Land Surveys, 1840-1866," isn't a barn burner, unless you owned a barn in the middle 1850s.

A project of two students and an English teacher at Valdosta High School, "Jeremiah Wilson's Original Land Surveys" is an alphabetized index of land surveys for Lowndes, Brooks and Thomas counties for 1840-1866.

Teacher Duane Pitts and students Theresa Knipper and Cindy Blow happened across a dusty book in Brooks County last week. It was a historian's gold mine.

In the book was a record of every survey Jeremiah Wilson, Lowndes county surveyor for more than 20 years, conducted. The record gave the name of the landowner, the location, lot number, district number, acreage and date.

Pitts and the two students set about to alphabetize the book, since no index existed.

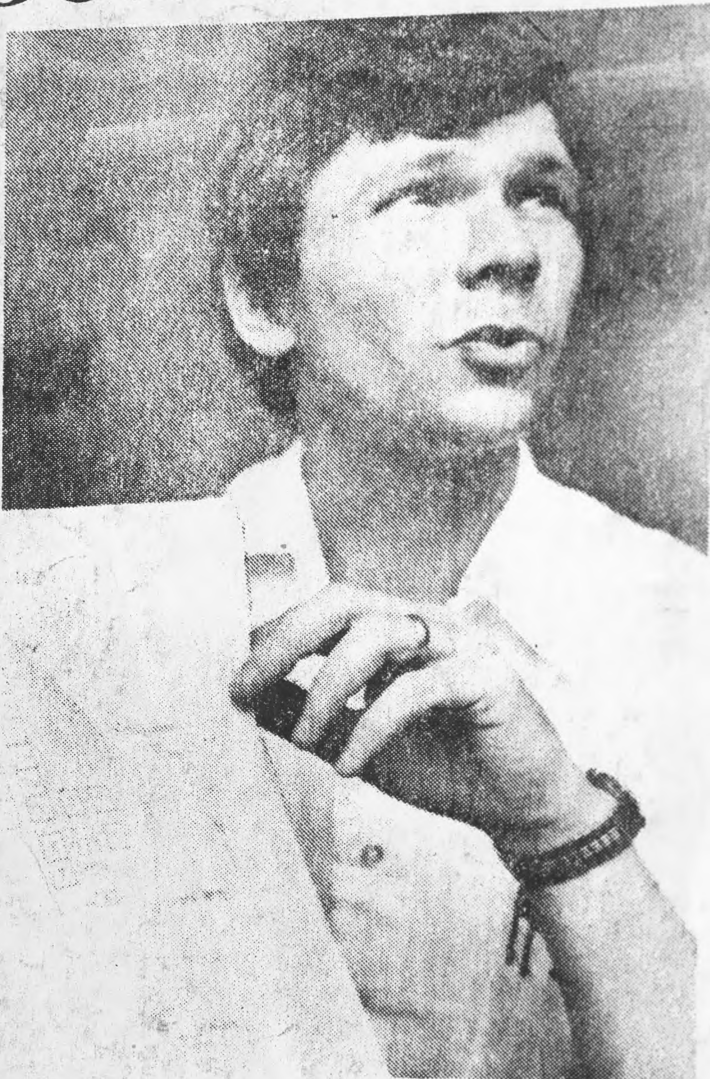
The book itself existed only by accident. It turned up in Waycross a few years ago when someone was clearing out a storage room. Fortunately, the book was rescued and given to Brooks County officials, who decided to preserve it at a cost of \$400.

Pitts said the new index, copyrighted this week, contained 376 names and 1,880 pieces of information.

"We think the index will be of the most value to historians and to people tracing their genealogy," Pitts said.

In addition to complete information found in the book, the index gives beside each entry the page number on which the record can be found in Wilson's book.

The index is on sale for \$3. The index was a stroke of good fortune, Pitts said, since he and his students, who are working on historical research this summer, did not know the book existed



—Times Staff Photo

## Pitts With 'Surveys' Sample

until last week.

The students in "Cracklings," a folklore history course at VHS, are this summer researching historic places in the area and sending their findings to the state.

"We hope to get some of these buildings on the Registry of Historic Places," Pitts said. "We've researched four buildings this summer and want to do more this fall."

The index contains several references to Troupville, including specific street names.

"In all the references I've seen to Troupville," Pitts said, "I've never seen a street name before."

Troupville was an early settlement which gave rise to Valdosta further to the south when the railroad came through south Georgia.

The index also contains copies of Wilson's layout of Quitman and other maps.

# Reading Scores Decline At VHS

By FRANCES SMITH  
VHS Outlook

A recent study of the reading levels of Valdosta High students reveals some shocking results. According to these figures taken from the ITBS, a test administered to all eighth graders, 423 students of 20 percent of the total student enrollment at Valdosta High read three or more grade levels below their current grade level.

A breakdown on this percentage is as follows: ninth graders, 24.7 percent (167 students), tenth graders, 24.2 percent (133 students), eleventh graders, 14.8 percent (74 students), and twelfth graders, 13 percent (49 students).

These statistics prove the need for a reading program and raise the question of why there is no reading program at Valdosta High. It would appear that emphasis is being directed more toward the higher level student and away from the lower level student who is in need of more attention.

Valdosta High formerly had a reading program until it was discontinued by the administration in the spring of 1977. The reasoning behind this discontinuation was that the classes were so small that it could not be justified for some teachers to have 100 students and not 150 and it was felt that some students had a stigma about taking a reading class.

Mrs. Mabel Wolinski, chairman of the English Department, agrees with the need for a read program. She stated that, "The former reading program was very good and for the first two or three years it worked well

until the other English classes became too large.

Mr. Mims decided to discontinue the program. One of the reading teachers resigned because of the action and the other resigned for other reasons. They were both experts in their field.

The teachers did not try to teach the students to read. The purpose of a reading program on a high school level is to increase or reinforce skills that the student has missed or never learned.

"I was instructed to send the reading materials to the junior high school, and no effort was made to replace the reading teachers. Two regular English class teachers were hired for the other classes," added Wolinski.

Mrs. Wolinski stated, "I do not agree with the reasoning behind the discontinuation of the program. I do not feel that the students have a stigma about being in reading classes and many teachers in the schools have fewer than 150 students so there is no justification behind these reasonings."

For Mrs. Wolinski, the reading program was absolutely one of her happiest thoughts about moving to the new Valdosta High building.

Reading is an essential part of education. If a student is unable to read well on his own level, he is going to fail not only English, but also math, science, and history. There is no class that does not require reading.

For the sake of the 423 students now attending Valdosta High who read three or more levels below their grade level, one would feel that a reading program would be justified.

# Having Fun With History

By MARCIA McRAE  
Valdosta High School students are at it again, delving into local history. This time they're trying to get south Georgia buildings in the National Register.

Guided by Duane Pitts, summer school history students of Mildred Wisenbaker and Lindsay Mason completed a bicentennial cemetery project.

Then they started studying historic sites in Lowndes, Brooks, Berrien, Cook and Lanier counties.

They've completed a preliminary form on Valdosta Primitive Baptist Church. By August they are to finish forms on The Crescent, Brooks County Courthouse, the 1884 Quitman jail and the old Quitman library and printing office, Pitts said.

The preliminary work is for the state which would submit the sites for listing in the National Register.

The historic preservation section of the Natural Resources Department is doing similar research.

"But I figure it'll be two to three years before they even get down here to do the preliminary work," Pitts said.

"That's why we're doing it, should speed it up," he said.

Pitts plans to keep a copy of the photos and information at the Lowndes County Historical Society and the school.

The most important part of the project is what the students get out of it, he said.

"I enjoy taking them out and watching their faces light up like Christmas trees when they're learning about records offices and city governments.

"They've really enjoyed it and found historical places they'd driven by and didn't know the first thing about.

"I think what's impressed them too is the older folks, so to speak. They're finding older adults do have something to offer and are not against teen-agers," Pitts said.

Pitts said there has been great cooperation from building owners and persons who know the buildings' histories.

He and Mrs. Wisenbaker plan to continue the project during the regular school year, he said.

It's an extensive process even using the preliminary short form.

It gives about one-third the

information needed for the longer six-seven page form.

What do they have to do to complete the forms?

"Oh, boy, let me tell you," Pitts said, listing a few.

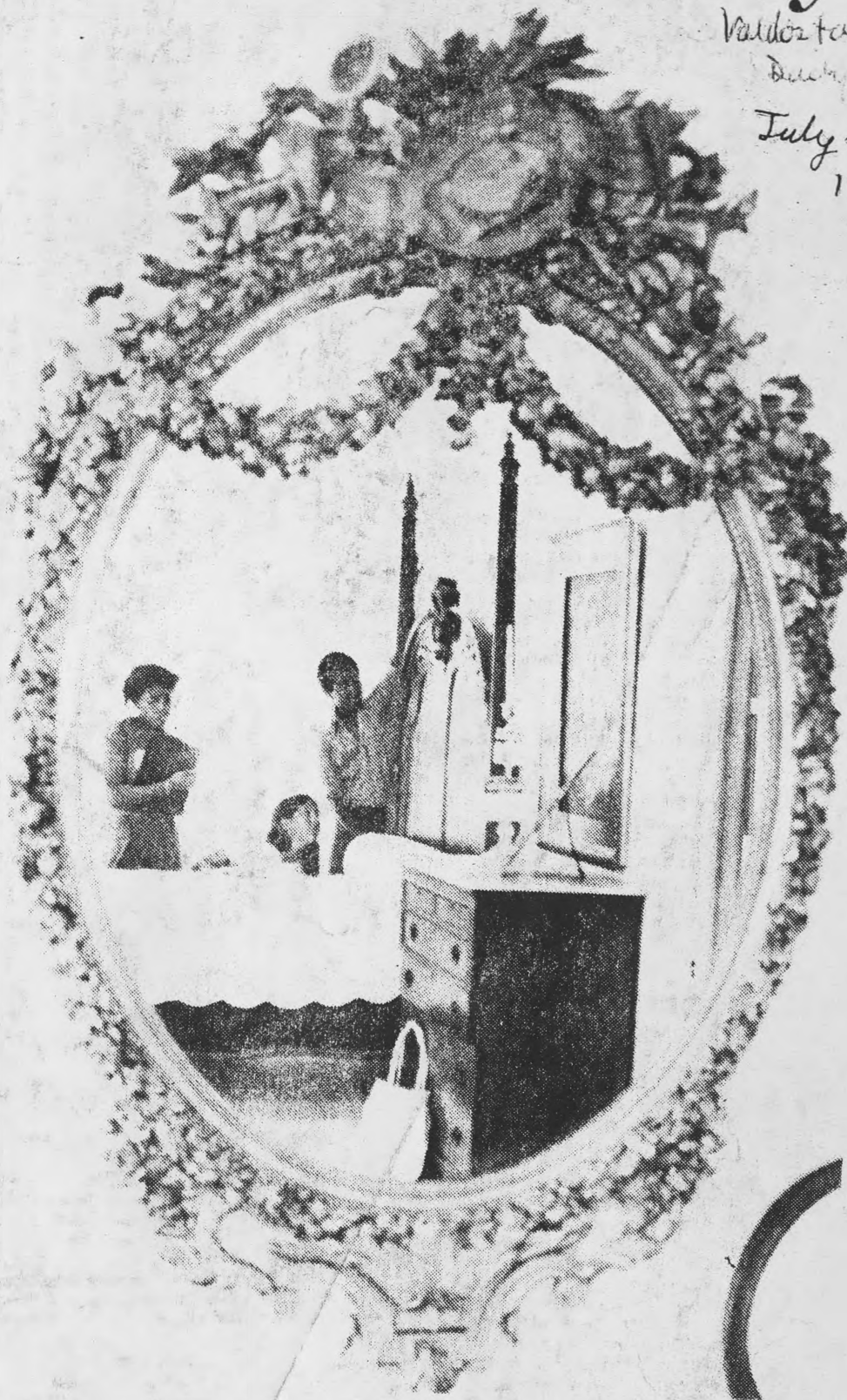
Every room's dimensions

must be made, they must describe in detailed terms the architecture, construction, including brick mortar, floor plans and environment.

They must also discuss the architectural merit,

preservation priority, the building's potential and why it's significant for preservation, Pitts said.

Research must be documented and detailed photos provided.



—Times Staff Photo

## The Crescent Is Part Of VHS History Students' Research

Valdosta

Daily Times

July 23,  
1976

# The Winners!



**TOMMY THOMAS**  
Takes Talent



**BUTCH BROOKS**  
Fundamentals



**LYNDAL WORTH**  
Reached Every Goal



**NICK HYDER**  
Credits Assistants



**CHARLES COOPER**  
Defense Is A Key

# Winnersville's Finest Let Their Secrets Out

What makes a winner? Is it luck, skill, coaching, scheduling, athletes, attitude, determination, guts, stamina, endurance or a good horoscope reading?

Here in Winnersville, we probably have more winners than any town this size in the state, maybe in the South and maybe in the country. The athletes deserve much of the credit but it is the coaches who harness those horses and point them in the right direction.

Many coaches distinguished themselves this past season but five local teams finished among the best in the state and the nation. To find out their ingredients for success, I pointed the question of "what made their particular team win?" at them. Their answers are honest and revealing. The names are arranged in no particular order.

**Losers take note.**

**CHARLES COOPER** — Cooper's Lowndes High School girls' basketball team was named the number one team in the nation by one rating service for the second consecutive year. The Vikettes won 30 straight games enroute to their second straight Class AAA state championship. They have won sixty games in a row and have won the Region 1-AAA title six straight years. Cooper has taken his team to the state final three of the past four years. He is a winner.

"I think it was a combination of things," Cooper said. "We've always had a tradition in girls' basketball. That always helps. We had a lot to live up to.

"We work extremely hard. A lot of people don't realize how hard we really do work. We've been fortunate over the years to have some talented ballplayers but these people are not good without a lot of hard work. I don't really feel like we had any better material than any team in Region 1-AAA this past year. It's the first year we've really had any height but we've won in the past with some little ballplayers.

"I think it's team effort. A lot of ballclubs have one or two real stars. They can be stopped. Another key is defense. The last two years we've held our opponents to 36.8 points a game. When you play that good a defense, you're not going to get beat.

"I do most of my coaching during the week. We don't run any fancy stuff. We stick to basic fundamentals. The main key is



**Mike Chason**  
Times Sports Editor

place finish in the Class AAA state playoffs. During Hyder's four years at the best known football school in Georgia, the Wildcats have won 34 games and lost 13. Seven of those losses came during his first year. VHS has won the Region 1-AAA title two of the past three seasons.

Take away the 3-7 year of 1974 and Hyder's record reads 31-6. He is a winner.

"I think the assistant coaches play a big part," Hyder said. "And we've got some good ones. The tradition in the town means a lot. It motivates the youngsters and the coaches when you have the Touchdown Club and the student body behind you.

"The faculty gets so much involved with the program too. The football players really appreciate that.

"We had an awfully hard time getting the program back on its feet because at that time we didn't have a junior high feeder system. Through a lot of work on the part of a lot of people, I think it's now taken hold. We've had three straight nine and one seasons.

"I don't think we had a whole lot of talent this year. I measure that by the interest shown by the Southeastern Conference schools in our seniors. We had one bonafide athlete (quarterback Buck Belue) they were interested in.

"This team never quit, even in the Lowndes game (a 7-2 loss). In the Dougherty game, we were behind fourteen to nothing and came back and won. They're fine youngsters. They're

straight years.

Worth had never had a head coaching job before she came to VSC. She is a winner.

"Obviously the talent of our players had a great effect," Worth said. "But I think there were other teams better than us in terms of raw talent. Our sum total was greater than the individual parts.

"Our conditioning was a big factor. There was only one team that outran us and that was Southern Connecticut (in the AIAW Sectional). But our letdown there was more of a mental one than a physical one.

"I think our fierce determination to win is a factor. Both teams mentally want to win but who wanted it the most six months before in terms of preparation? You reap what you sew ... if you reap. You've got to go out and take it. If you don't, somebody else will.

"We've always reached every goal we've ever set. But we've never went one step beyond. I think this year we undershot our potential. I think if we would have went for the whole ball of wax, we would have gotten it. When we got to the sectional, we had been to the mountaintop and we were on our way down."

**BUTCH BROOKS** — Brooks' Valdosta High School baseball team captured the Class AAA state championship with a magnificent 28-1 record. It was the first state baseball title in the history of the school. The Wildcats won 25 consecutive games before being tripped up by Kendrick in the state semifinals. But Valdosta brushed off the defeat and rolled on to the number one spot in the state. The 'Cats have won two straight Region 1-AAA titles and three straight subregion crowns.

Brooks has guided his club to at least a tie for the subregion championship in all five years as the head coach. He is a winner.

"I think our success was built on the foundation of hard work," Brooks said. "Hard work is a key in anything. We tried not to get away from fundamentals. That's one thing you've got to be careful of when you've got a lot of talent. You can see it in the big leagues. They lose when they have a breakdown in fundamentals. That's the reason you always need

every way. They back us 100 percent. If I had one wish where I would like to coach, I'd choose Valdosta High School. I'd like to be a head football coach one of these days but as of right now, I'm well pleased here. I don't thing there's one (school) that can touch it.

"I think the publicity the Valdosta Times and Florida Times-Union gives us is a factor. Without them, nobody would know about us. You'd have to pipe the sunshine in.

"All these things figure in. You can't print one without the others."

**TOMMY THOMAS** — Thomas' Valdosta State College baseball team finished fourth in the nation in NCAA Division II for the second straight year. Only one other team in the country, Delta State, has done better the past two seasons. The Blazers wound up with a 39-20 record. VSC has participated in the national tournament four out of the past six years. That's an incredible accomplishment for a school which has given less than a handful of full scholarships in its baseball history.

Thomas has won over 350 games in 11 years as the VSC head coach. He is a winner.

"I think we had some pretty fair country ballplayers this year," Thomas said. "We had two outstanding players in Cecil (Whitehead) and Sal (Amadeo). They could play for anybody in the country.

"I think tradition has a heckuva lot to do with it. I think our mental approach to tournaments is different than some other teams. Why else would a team like West Georgia fold up against a team like Augusta in the regional?"

"I said to myself after the regional this year, 'well, we've done it again.' It's just incredible to me. I can't put any common traits on these teams. I know they've all had some good talent.

"I would like to think I've had something to do with it but I would be foolish to think it was an overbearing amount. I think there are lots of my coaching techniques that could use some improvement. Maybe I have gotten better over the years. I have the reputation of being too easy. I agree with that.

# VHS Swats Knights To Claim Series Sweep

**By MARTIN REGISTER**  
Valdosta's unbeaten Wildcats earned a berth in the state Class AAA high school baseball semifinals here Friday, swamping Windsor Forest, 7-2, to sweep a regional playoff series.

The Wildcats, champions of Region 1-AAA, ran their record to a sparkling 24-0 with the triumph, and won the right to face Kendrick for the south Georgia championship next week.

Kendrick downed Macon Southwest, 4-2, Friday at Columbus to win the other south Georgia regional.

Times of next week's semifinal series are to be announced later.

The Valdosta-Kendrick series amounts to a grudge match, since it was the Columbus team last season's state champions, which eliminated the Wildcats in a similar playoff series last year.

Wednesday's victory was not particularly typical of Valdosta triumphs, since the usually scorching Wildcat attack managed just four hits.

Windsor Forest Coach Earl Etheridge scrambled his ranks continuously, switching positions and sending four different pitchers to the mound.

The Knights' starter, Bryan Risner, allowed four Valdosta runs, and was

tagged with the loss. His record dropped to 6-2.

Valdosta pitcher Buck Belue, meanwhile, went the distance, keeping the Savannah team off balance with change-up pitches, striking out eight, and running his record to 9-0 on the season.

The Wildcats pushed across three runs in the second inning, breaking a 1-1 tie. Windsor Forest never came close to catching Valdosta after that, though it outhit the Wildcats, 7-4.

Four Knight errors contributed heavily to the Valdosta cause.

"I'm proud of the kids," VHS Coach Butch Brooks said. "But everybody keeps talking about our winning streak."

"That's good, but I realize that we're going to drop one sometime. I'd rather the boys think about winning the series than about keeping the winning streak alive."

By far the biggest crowd of the season, estimated at 1,600, swarmed over the bleachers and along the fences of Bazemore Field, after VHS turned out its student body in honor of the event.

Brooks praised the pitching of Belue, who encountered serious difficulty only in the third inning, when Windsor Forest loaded the bases.

Belue escaped the jam,

however, allowing just one run to score, and leaving three Knights stranded on the bases.

"They're well-coached," Belue said of the Region 3-AAA winners. "They don't really hit the ball that well, and they haven't made many mistakes, except for today."

"But we haven't been playing up to our capabilities. Our bats have been sort of lazy, and I really don't know why."

Seven Wildcats reached base on walks, and VHS made good use of that fact. Valdosta base runners kept up a constant pressure game against the visitors.

Etheridge seemed impressed. "Their pitching was superb," he said. "Belue did a fine job of changing the speeds on his pitches."

"I felt like the key to the whole thing was the fact that they kept the pressure on us. They have a super team. They have a great chance of winning the whole thing, and I hope that they do."

The first Knight error set up a run by Belue in the opening inning, but Windsor Forest came back to knot the score when rightfielder Wes Lanier drilled a double to bring home third baseman Roy Babot in the second frame.

But Valdosta's three-run outburst in the bottom half

of the inning, fueled by three of the 'Cats' four hits, a walk, and another Knight error, put 'Dosta ahead to stay.

Windsor Forest scored again in the third inning, but Knight's second pitcher, Jimmy Fisher, issued four walks in the bottom half of the frame to give VHS another run.

Two Knight errors and the remaining Wildcat hit led to the final two Valdosta runs, in the fourth inning.

Danny Peigh replaced Fisher in the third frame, but stayed in the game for less than an inning before yielding to Billy Ray Smith, who came in from his shortstop position to hurl the final three frames.



Valdosta's David White Slides Into Waiting Tag Of Knight Catcher Gary Riddle

## Wildcat Box

WHS	ab	r	h	rbt	abr	h	rbt
Jenkins 2b	3	1	1	0	4	0	1
Ruff c	3	0	1	0	4	1	0
Blue p	4	0	2	0	3	2	0
Smith ss	4	0	1	1	2	1	1
Peigh cf	3	0	0	0	2	1	1
Babot 3b	3	1	1	0	2	0	1
Lanier rf	3	0	1	1	1	1	1
Smith lf	2	0	0	0	3	0	0
Long lb	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Rice ph	1	0	0	0	3	1	1
Smith p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	2	7	2	23	7	4

Windsor Forest	011	000	0-2-7-4
Windsor Forest	131	200	X-7-4-1
E - Jenkins, Sanders 2,			Brantley,
Powell; LOB - WFHS 7, VHS 5,			
2B - Lanier, Lastinger; SB - Belue,			Daniels,
White; S - Powell, Fugert, SF - Daniels,			
Risner (L-6-2)	1	1	3
Fisher	1	0	1
Peigh	2	3	0
Smith	3	1	2
Belue (W-9-0)	7	7	2
PB - Ruff.			

Thomasville head put...  
Thomasville has played 10...

# 'Dosta One, Lowndes Two In Region Poll

By GARY ROBINSON  
Sports Writer  
Albany Herald

ALBANY, Ga. — Although the name of the region has changed, the name of the team to beat remains the same, the sports writers who cover Region 1-AAAA predict.

In a poll of the seven newspapers in the 1-AAAA area, last year's region champions, the Valdosta Wildcats are favored to

Moultrie took the other vote, but this year, that distinction went to the Wildcats' cross-town rival Lowndes.

Unlike last year, though, when Moultrie finished fifth in the polling, the remaining writers were impressed enough with the Vikings to make Joe Wilson's team a solid second place favorite with 77 points, 15 better than the third place squad.

Following the two Lowndes County schools in the

tabulations were Thomasville with 63, Dougherty 62, Central of Thomasville 57, Tift County 53, Colquitt County 40, Bainbridge 34, Crisp County 32, Monroe 19, Albany 17 and Westover 9.

In picking the post-season berths and results, the scribes named Valdosta as region champ on six of the seven ballots, while Lowndes took the remaining vote. For runnerup, the Vikings drew three tallies, Thomasville

received two and Valdosta and Dougherty were each tabbed once.

Divided into the sub-region races, Valdosta and Lowndes again were on top of the North and South respectively. Following the 'Cats in the Northern half were the Trojans, the Blue Devils, the Cougars, the Tornados and the Indians. In the South, the Bulldogs placed second, the Yellow Jackets third, the Packers fourth, the Bearcats

fifth and the Patriots sixth. The Georgia High School Association rearranged its classifications for its members, moving the AAA schools into AAAA. The other name change occurred when Moultrie merged and became Colquitt County.

Each newspaper cast one vote. Those participating included Joe Crine of the Bainbridge Post-Searchlight, Harvey Simpson of the Ray Cordele Dispatch, Ray

Willet of the Thomasville Times-Enterprise, Gary Johnson of the Moultrie Observer, Mike Chason of the Valdosta Times, Jim Rathgeber of the Tifton Gazette and Paul McCorvey and Gary Robinson of The Albany Herald.

Crisp County  
Monroe  
Albany  
Westover

## OVERALL

1. Valdosta 83
2. Lowndes 77
3. Thomasville 63
4. Dougherty 62
5. Central 57
6. Tift Co. 53
7. Colquitt Co. 40
8. Bainbridge 34
9. Crisp Co. 32
10. Monroe 19
11. Albany 17
12. Westover 9

Team	Ranking	Best	Worst
Valdosta	1	1	2
Lowndes	2	2	3
Thomasville	3	3	5
Dougherty	4	4	6
Central	5	5	7
Tift County	6	6	8
Colquitt County	7	7	8
Bainbridge	8	8	10

South  
Lowndes  
Thomasville  
Central  
Colquitt County  
Bainbridge  
Westover

## VHS, LHS Players Are Well-Dressed

By Times Staff Writer

What's the well-dressed football player wearing in Valdosta? Those players at Valdosta and Lowndes high schools will be wearing about \$300 worth of equipment each this season.

The Wildcats and Vikings will be wearing helmets which cost about \$40 each, "the best we can buy," reports VHS Coach Nick Hyder. "The same headgear worn by the (Atlanta) Falcons or (Dallas) Cowboys or (Alabama) Crimson Tide."

"When I first came to Lowndes (three years ago)," said LHS Coach Joe Wilson, "I took money out of my own pocket to buy helmets."

With the helmet comes a face mask, mouthpiece and chin strap.

Players at each of these schools will wear shoulder pads which cost \$20 to \$90 a pair.

At Lowndes, some of the Vikings will wear pads previously used by the now defunct Jacksonville Sharks of the old World Football League.

Then there's rib pads and kidney pads available, padded giridle and thigh and knee pads which fit into often skin-tight pants.

Players at these two schools have practice jerseys (about \$8) and pants (\$9) and game pants (\$12-\$14) and jerseys (\$13-\$15). The jersey cost depends upon how many "candy stripes" are on it, says former Texas Coach Darrell Royal.

Plus, there's athletic supporters, socks and cleated shoes, usually a pair for practice and a pair for games. Backs and starters wear higher-priced, lighter footwear at LHS, said Wilson.

At \$300 a boy and about 100 boys per team, that's about \$300,000 worth of equipment per team.

### Sports In Brief

## 'Dosta Ticket Renewal Asked

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School football season ticket-holders who have not renewed their seats for next season have been requested to notify VHS officials as to whether they want to keep their season tickets.

City School System Finance Director Jack Kent said he needs to know "right away" if anyone is going to drop their seats from last season.

Kent said 250 more season tickets than are available have been requested. He intends to satisfy some of that demand with any dropped reserved seats from last year.

Valdosta sold around 3,300 season tickets last year. Kent may be contacted at the school board offices.

# Mrs. Wolinski Finally Gave Up Skipping School

By MARCIA McRAE

Anybody nicknamed "Jelly Roll" is obviously not just the staid, professional, scholarly individual one knows on the first impression.

That's the case with Mabel Wolinski, Valdosta High School English department head and 26 years a teacher.

Mrs. Wolinski, 64, got her nickname as a child, not for plumpness but because Jelly Roll Morton was her favorite singer.

"I grew up on jazz," said the Valdosta native. "We had a black nurse and she brought her records to keep us entertained," said Mrs. Wolinski, one of nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Warren Jones.

"I liked the music of Jelly Roll Morton the best."

It was from her mother she got the unique spelling for Mabel. According to family tradition, her father had named her Mae Belle but her mother refused to use the name. She combined the two and coined "Mabel."

It was her mother who made it easy for the now demanding English teacher to habitually skip school.

Her mother worked at the family meat market, Mrs. Wolinski said, adding the children believe it was to avoid staying home with nine children.

"In the sixth grade I started playing hockey," Mrs. Wolinski said.

But for her playing hockey didn't mean a trip to the fishing hole.

"I'd stay home to read and then go to the movies."

Among her reading material was a magazine which reviewed the best and the worst movies each month.

"If one of those reviewed came to Valdosta I just had to see it," she said.

She liked to see samples from the best and the worst lists.

"I didn't realize it but I was doing a critical analysis of the thing."

Her hockey days ended when she got too close to the school, the Valdosta State College demonstration school for elementary grades.

## News-makers

### ... A Special Insight

"I was seen and reported. I had to stay in every day for a month," said Mrs. Wolinski who was later VHS valedictorian.

More recently than her sixth grade trauma is the disappointment she had in earning her doctoral degree from Florida State University.

Completing her course work in 1971 after several summers at FSU, she was ready to take a test and begin her dissertation.

But she did not meet the school's residency requirement of having had three consecutive quarters on campus. Therefore she could not take the test and do the dissertation.

However, she was told the requirement would probably have been waived if she were a young man.

After all that work, what did she do?

"I went home to my room and cried," she said.

Earning her college degrees has been difficult because of the "spotty" career she has had as a student and as a teacher.

She entered VSC during the depression and could only afford to go one year. She completed her bachelor's in 1957 and her master's in 1960.

Her teaching career was choppy too, until 1955. She taught at Habira, Lake Park and all grade levels in the city. She interrupted her work to go back to school and to stay home while her two children were pre-schoolers.

She and her husband Harry Wolinski, a native of

Siberia, Russia, were married on Sept. 2, 1944. They met through her brother-in-law and it was not love at first sight.

His first comment was, "You're 10 minutes late."

"Then we went to dinner, shopping and I tried to get rid of him and couldn't," Mrs. Wolinski chuckled.

Six weeks later, after several attempts to get rid of him, she accepted his marriage proposal.

The couple have two children, Mary Powell of Valdosta and Greg Wolinski, of Atlanta.

Mrs. Powell said her mother is a typical doting grandmother to her two children. She also dotes on her 5-year-olds in Sunday school at First Baptist Church.

As a mother she never let teaching interfere with her children and vice versa.

Their home was not like a classroom, Mrs. Powell said. And there was no Monday morning quarterbacking about report cards.

But Mrs. Wolinski does not hesitate to be a real Monday morning quarterback for the VHS Wildcats.

She keeps up with the plays and on Monday mornings tells the coaches what errors were made, said Virginia Branan, who knows Mrs. Wolinski through the American Association of University Women.

"She's a dedicated sports fan," Mrs. Powell said. "In 1971 she broke her foot on the way into a game and sat through the rest of the game."

Football players were among those she tutored as a high school student, said Dorothy Connell of Naylor.

Mrs. Connell was in senior homeroom with Mrs. Wolinski and later they taught together at VHS and roomed at FSU.

"She was very studious and I remember her being very helpful to anybody who would ask," Mrs. Connell said.

"Especially the football boys liked to get her help on homework."

It was tutoring that gradually lured Mrs. Wolinski into teaching.

"I did not choose teaching. Teaching chose me," she said.



—Times Staff Photo

Mabel Wolinski: She Gets All A's

*Fla Times Aug 30, 78*

# Valdosta pegged No. 1

ATLANTA (UPI) — Valdosta and Southwest DeKalb, which lost out in the playoffs a year ago, were picked to finish 1-2 in the new AAAA classification in Georgia high school football this fall.

Two other teams which swept it all in 1977 — Waycross and East Rome — were chosen as the top teams in Class AAA and AA respectively by sportswriters and sportscasters in the first weekly UPI ratings for 1978.

Valdosta, which lost to Clarke Central in the championship playoffs last year, graduated star quarterback Buck Belue but returns 14 starters for the annual dogfight in one of the state's toughest regions — 1-AAAA.

Southwest DeKalb, eliminated by Clarke Central in the semi-finals last year, brought back 10 starters and one of the top quarterback prospects in the state in Bob Berry who passed for 10 touchdowns and ran for 15 more in 1977.

Warner Robins, which finished at the top of the regular season ratings but was eliminated by Valdosta

in the semi-finals, was picked to finish No. 3 this year followed by Cedar Shoals which opened this past weekend with a 38-20 win over Spencer.

Next in AAAA came LaGrange, Lowndes County, defending champion Clarke Central — which lost 17 of 22 starters to graduation, Northside of Warner Robins, Lakeside, Wheeler and Benedictine.

Waycross also lost heavily in experienced personnel with 15 seniors gone from the team which went 14-0 a year ago. Nevertheless, the Bulldogs were selected to head the AAA ranks.

Next came Cedartown, Americus, Swainsboro, Dalton Perry, Marist, Woodward Academy, Ware County and Avondale.

## Georgia prep football ratings

ATLANTA (UPI) — Here are the Georgia High School football ratings by classification, with first place votes and won-lost records in parentheses (points based on 10 for first, 9 for second, etc.)

Classification	Team	Points	
AAAA	Valdosta (9) (0-0)	129	
	Southwest DeKalb (1) (0-0)	104	
	Warner Robins (1) (0-0)	95	
	Cedar Shoals (1-0)	82	
	LaGrange (1) (0-0)	76	
	Lowndes County (0-0)	58	
	Clarke Central (1-0)	51	
	Northside-Warner Robins (0-0)	42	
	Lakeside (1) (0-0)	36	
	Wheeler (tie) (0-0)	25	
AAA	Waycross (8) (0-0)	121	
	Cedartown (1) (0-0)	98	
	Americus (1) (1-0)	84	
	Swainsboro (1) (0-0)	78	
	AA	East Rome (7) (1-0)	116
		Commerce (2) (1-0)	111
		Cartersville (2) (0-0)	98
		Mitchell County (0-0)	81
		Claxton (1-0)	73
		Irwin County (0-0)	65
R.E. Lee (0-1)		59	
Lincoln County (0-0)		47	
North Springs (0-0)		38	
Mary Persons (0-0)		36	
A	Dalton (0-0)	67	
	Perry (0-0)	60	
	Marist (1-0)	42	
	Woodward Academy (0-0)	36	
	Ware County (0-0)	28	
	Avondale (0-0)	26	
	Others receiving votes included: Peach County, Gainesville, West Rome, Southwest Atlanta, Gordon, Pius, Carrollton, Murray County, Early County, Rockmart, Lithonia, Westminster, Rossville.		
	Others receiving votes included: Central-Macon, Newnan, Westside, Thomasville, Marietta, Campbell-Smyrna, Central-Thomasville, Dougherty, Statesboro, Laney, Kendrick, Marietta and Tompkins.		
	Others receiving votes included: Jackson, Wilkinson County, Jeff Davis, Vidalia, Morgan County, Pelham, Jefferson, Lee County, Dornington, Turner County, Bowdon, College Park, Seminole County.		

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thurs., May 25, 1978-24-



**507 Technical**  
NEED ROOFERS, PAINTERS, carpenters and people to install insulation and people to work on cabinets. Call 244-6443.

### PROGRAMMER ANALYST

The Babcock and Wilcox Company has an opening in the systems department. The position consists of designing and programming computer based information systems.

The applicant should be proficient in RPGII PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE with two-four years experience in manufacturing applications and familiarization with IBM system/3 equipment BS, BBA, or BA in business, mathematics, engineering, or computer science preferred, but not required.

For professional development and unlimited opportunity, for personal growth, ask us about our excellent salary and benefit package by forwarding a resume to

**Babcock and Wilcox Company**  
Personnel Director  
P.O. Box 1478  
Brunswick, GA 31520  
An Equal Opportunity Employer  
509 Employment Agencies



TROY THOMAS  
Overall Captain



JOHN LASTINGER  
Off. Captain



LYNN ROBERTS  
Def. Captain



ANDY CHAPMAN  
Off. Co-Captain



JOHN BRANAN  
Def. Co-Captain

# Wildcats Elect Team Captains

By Times Staff Writer  
Valdosta High School veteran cornerback Troy Thomas has been voted the overall captain for the 1978 Wildcat football team.

Thomas, who was also one of the top punt returners in Region 1-AAA last season, is approaching his third year as a starter for Coach Nick Hyder's VHS squad.

In other voting, Lynn Roberts was named the defensive captain and John Branán was named the

defensive co-captain. John Lastinger was selected as the offensive captain, and Andy Chapman was selected as the offensive co-captain.

The VHS captains are always voted on by the players when the team concludes its annual two-week camp at Twin Lakes as the Wildcats did Friday. Hyder announced the results of the voting at Friday afternoon's picture-taking session at Cleveland Field.

"I feel like this is the highest honor a football player can get," Hyder said. "The captains are elected by their teammates who are with them every day. We've had a long line of outstanding captains since I've been here.

"It's an honor I never received myself as a player. I certainly would have liked to have had it."

Hyder explained the position of the captains as a "liason with the coaching

staff and the administration.

"They represent the squad and come to me with complaints or suggestions," Hyder said. "I try to make them feel free to speak for the squad.

"Most of the captains I've had have gone on to play college ball. Not all of them, but most of them."

Hyder seemed pleased with this year's choices. Besides Thomas, Roberts, Lastinger

and Chapman have also started for two years. Hyder said Branán was a starter for the first time last season.

Roberts is a defensive end, Lastinger has been a pass-receiver but is switching to quarterback this year and Chapman is one of the guards on Valdosta's veteran offensive line.

The Wildcats open their season here Friday against Central of Thomasville.

## Class AAAA At A Glance

### Final 1977 Class AAA Poll

1. Clarke Central 14-0
  2. Valdosta 12-2
  3. Southwest DeKalb 12-1
  4. Warner Robins 11-1
  5. Newnan 10-2
  6. Benedictine 10-1
  7. Lakeside 9-2
  8. Westside 9-2-1
  9. Wheeler 11-2
  10. Campbell, Smyrna 10-2
- Also receiving consideration: Butler (8-2), Cedar Shoals (8-2), Dougherty (8-2), Kendrick (9-1), Laney (8-1-1), Lowndes (7-3), Peachtree (8-2), R.E. Lee (7-3), Statesboro (8-2), Thomasville (7-4), Tucker (8-2), Washington (8-3).

### Preseason 1978 Class AAAA

1. Valdosta
  2. Southwest DeKalb
  3. Lowndes
  4. Cedar Shoals
  5. Warner Robins
  6. LaGrange
  7. Wheeler
  8. Marietta
  9. Tompkins
  10. Central Macon
- Also receiving consideration: Benedictine, Campbell of Smyrna, Central of Thomasville, Clarke Central, Dougherty, Griffin, Kendrick, Lakeside, Newman, Northside of Warner Robins, Peachtree, Tift County, Thomasville, Tucker, Windsor-Forest.

### Returning All-State Players

Ronnie Alkins, LB, Lowndes.

### Others To Watch

Bob Berry, QB, Southwest DeKalb; Jack Lindsey, LB, Southwest DeKalb; John Lastinger, QB, Valdosta; Troy Thomas, DB, Valdosta; Keith Hitchcock, LB, Lowndes; Tim Case, T, Tift County; Nile Taylor, LB, Tift County; Homer Jordan, QB, Cedar Shoals; Stanley Nash, RB, Cedar Shoals; Gary Johnson, RB, LaGrange; Randy Edwards, T, Wheeler; Danny Holcombe, C, Wheeler; Dan Marlowe, T, Marietta.

Mark Fleetwood, QB, Lakeside; John Schaefer, NG, Lakeside; Erwin Mattox, RB, Campbell of Smyrna; Mark Sisson, QB, Campbell of Smyrna; Brent Martin, LB, Cherokee; William Prescott, RB, Laney; Roosevelt Hill, LB, Newnan; Edward Gibson, G, Baker; Stephen White, RB, McEachern; Billy Blaylock, QB, Sprayberry; Ricky Williams, RB, Griffin; Bubba Andrews, TE, Griffin; Zach Spencer, LB, Lithia Springs; Scott Gee, T, Lithia Springs.

Chuckie Davis, RB, Southwest Macon; Hal Atkinson, FB, Stephens County; Jon Sharretts, QB, Stephens County; Tim Crowe, T, Stone Mountain; Johnny Cheeks, DB, Johnson of Gainesville; Guy McIntyre, TE, Thomasville; Hillary Billups, RB, Clarke Central; Mitch Rushing, T, Peachtree; David Jackson, T, Tucker; James German, RB, Tompkins; Pat Hogan, TE, Towers; Roosevelt Wilder, RB, Central Macon; Damon McCarty, LB, Washington.

## Bounds Has Niche In 1-AAA Records

By Times Staff Writer  
Stanley Bounds stands alone in Region 1-AAA football history.

The Valdosta High Wildcats' quarterback of 1971 has been the only offensive back to gain more 2,000 yards in a single season.

During Bounds' senior season he ran for 350 yards and passed for 1,978 more—a 2,326 total.

Impressive? The year before Bounds ran for 163

yards and passed for 1,774—a 1,937-yard total.

No one else has really come close to either marks, although Valdosta quarterback Buck Belue did manage 1,777 yards—326 running and 1,451 passing—a sophomore in 1975.

The top offensive players in Region 1-AAA history as recorded by 1-AAA statistician Ellwood Moyer follow:

Year	Player	Rushing Yards	Passing Yards	Totals
1951	Mercer, Moultrie	1,003	165	1,168
1952	Heidi, Albany	1,018	49	1,067
1953	Littleton, Moultrie	798	0	798
1954	Littleton, Moultrie	984	236	1,220
1955	Minor, Lanier	1,027	0	1,027
1956	Curtis, R.E. Lee	587	158	745
1957	Copeland, Lanier	710	0	710
1958	Thomas, Valdosta	500	659	1,159
1959	Porterfield, Moultrie	1,073	0	1,073
1960	Mitchell, Columbus	135	808	943
1961	Bennett, Valdosta	771	965	1,736
1962	Thomas, Valdosta	690	1,062	1,752
1963	Dunn, Columbus	750	846	1,596
1964	Perdue, Warner Robins	30	1,330	1,360
1965	Davis, Valdosta	875	906	1,781
1966	Richardson, Jordan	66	1,541	1,607
1967	Oates, Columbus	218	1,170	1,388
1968	Deming, Valdosta	293	832	1,125
1969	Golden, Valdosta	159	1,025	1,184
1970	Golden, Valdosta	163	1,774	1,937
1971	Bounds, Valdosta	350	1,978	2,328
1972	Hilton, Valdosta	175	1,407	1,582
1973	Hilton, Valdosta	174	1,346	1,520
1974	Green, Dougherty	1,374	0	1,374
1975	Belue, Valdosta	326	1,451	1,777
1976	Mills, Tift County	666	883	1,549
1977	Aubin, Dougherty	334	1,181	1,515

# Valdosta, Lowndes To Wind Up Their Camps Today

VAI-TIMES 8-25-78

Notes, quotes and assorted trivia:  
 -Valdosta and Lowndes close out their summer camps today. The Wildcats are scheduled to move back into town from the Twin Lakes 4-H camp for a workout under the lights at Cleveland Field tonight, and the Vikings are slated to return home after their second week's stay at the "Hahira Hilton."  
 Catch the previews of both teams in Sunday's special football section.  
 -Bear Bryant says if football is indeed a brutal game "we shouldn't play it." Asked about the brutality in football series being run in Sports Illustrated, Bryant said "why, hell no I don't think it's a brutal game. It's a tough game," Bryant said.  
 "If it wasn't, you couldn't get enough uniforms for all the people who wanted to play it."  
 "It's a contact sport, but I don't think that anybody wants to hurt anybody." The Bear always has the last word.  
 -An autographed football was waiting on Keith Sampson when he arrived at Valdosta High School's preseason camp at Twin Lakes Tuesday. Sampson was injured at the camp last week and has still not recovered the full use of his right arm. Each of the Wildcats signed the ball which was presented to him.  
 -Concession stands in Brimingham are now selling aspirin, Bufferin and Alka-Seltzer for the first time. No wonder since the price of jumbo hot dogs has jumped from \$1 to \$1.25 and the price of regular dogs has leaped to 60 cents from 50 cents. Popcorn and peanuts are selling for 30 cents instead of a quarter.  
 Take me out to the ballgame.  
 -"I will be very disappointed if we do not play better than we did last week. It is an important game because we want to go into the regular season opener with some momentum. We must do a better job coaching than we did last week, and the



**Mike Chason**  
 Times Sports Editor

players must perform better."  
 Leeman Bennett said it. He hopes the Falcons are listening. Tune in tonight's Atlanta-Washington game and find out.  
 -A new set of Valdosta Recreation Department tennis lessons is scheduled to begin Monday. The cost is \$20 for six lessons. Tennis balls are to be furnished but students must provide their own tennis rackets and shoes. Contact Bryan Dickey for more information.  
 -For at least the 100th time, Bobby Orr says he's going to play for the Black Hawks this season. He's played only 20 games in two years and has had his knee cut on six times but the 30-year-old Orr says he's ready for one last fling at the game he mastered as a mere youngster.  
 -A guy named Bill Hamilton called Thursday and presented a worthy suggestion. When Valdosta put on its three touchdown blitz against Thomasville two years ago, the 'Cats scored 20 points in 20 seconds. Hamilton believes that could be Guinness Book of World Records material. He's probably right.  
 -A deaf-mute youth who was paralyzed in a high school

football game has filed an \$11.5 million lawsuit against the manufacturer of his helmet. The suit claims the defective design of the helmet was responsible for his injuries. The injuries included permanent paralysis to parts of his body.  
 -After the Sun Belt tournament championship wound up in a 22-20 decision last season, the college basketball conference decided to do something about it. It is experimenting with a 45-second clock this year. The shot clock is to be turned off during the last 45 seconds of a game and during any overtime periods.  
 -The press release says it is to be the largest purse ever paid for a 100-lap late model sportsman dirt track race in Georgia when the Lavonia Speedway puts a \$20,350 pot on the line Sept. 1. The release said \$6,000 is to be paid to the winner and \$2,500 to the second place finisher.  
 -The first annual 10,000 meter Southern Open run is to be held Sept. 2 in Columbus. The entry fee is \$2. Major Dave Fields is the race director. He may be contacted for further information.  
 -Former Lowndes High School star Marcia Player should get a chance to perform in Atlanta's Omni Jan. 29 when Auburn's women's basketball team meets Georgia State.  
 -Indiana Coach Lee Corso has an idea for a "Super Saturday" a week before the Super Bowl to determine the number one team in college football. Corso has suggested one representative from each of the nine NCAA regions and one football reporter from each of the regions should get on the telephone the night after the Rose Bowl and decide the teams.  
 The guess here is that some day soon something of this nature will come about. Television's big bucks will precipitate it.  
 -For those who have asked, Steve Somers got the axe from his Channel 11 sports show.  
 -D.W. Waldron recorded his second hole-in-one in six weeks

recently when his seven-iron shot on the 140-yard seventh hole at Valdosta Country Club found the cup. Waldron, 67, was playing with Bill Eager, Sid Pearlman and Lyle Osborne.  
 -Not to be outdone, 66-year-old Tom Jenkins aceed the 137-yard eighth hole at the old VCC course for his first hole-in-one ever recently. Jenkins was playing with Phil Seyfried and Ed Garland.  
 -The NAIA national baseball tournament is to move from St. Joseph, Mo., to Nashville, Tenn., next spring. NAIA officials have announced a three-year contract.  
 -Marie Bennie Jackson, who averaged 23 points a game for the LSU women's team last season, has decided to give up college basketball. The 6-foot-2 center is staying in Australia with her husband. Two Australians remain on the LSU roster, both 6-foot-2.  
 -James Stephens, who died after an Albany State football practice earlier this week, was the first grid-related death in 29 years of football at the school.  
 -"I wasn't going to sit back and see him destroy himself and the team," Rams owner Carroll Rosenbloom said after firing George Allen. Rosenbloom also said "George is right. I didn't give him a fair chance."  
 No evading the issue there.  
 -Bobby Halpern is thinking about a comeback. He's the 44-year-old boxer who was gunned down in a clothing store and left for dead. He still has eight slugs in his body.  
 "I feel good, I tell you," Halpern said.  
 "It was a bum rap," former Grambling quarterback Doug Williams said of the penalty slapped on his alma mater. "It's the old question of 'the rich get rich and the poor get poorer.' They're just trying to keep the poor down."  
 -And finally, Muhammad Ali's getting a candy bar named after him.

VAI-TIMES 8-27-1978

# Situation Normal: Valdosta Picked At Top

By MIKE CHASON

One year ago, Valdosta High School's Wildcats were rated as the team to beat in the Region 1-AAA title race before they even put one point on the scoreboard.  
 Nothing's changed...except the name of the region.  
 It's now Region 1-AAAA with the same 12 teams involved, and Valdosta is again rated at the head of the pack in the region sportswriters' poll.  
 But that's not all.  
 In the preseason poll in one of the Atlanta newspapers last week, Valdosta was rated the number one Class AAAA team in the state. Southwest Dekalb was second, and Valdosta's cross-county rival Lowndes was picked third. Lowndes was rated second in the region sportswriters' balloting.  
 Valdosta did finish second to Clarke Central in the state playoffs last season

surprise element."  
 That's one factor Hyder has never had on his side since he arrived here from West Rome in 1974.  
 "It's never been poor little old Valdosta," Hyder agreed. "Just about everybody expected Valdosta to be up there every year. Now, you've got Lowndes up there. I'm sure everybody in the state is talking about that."  
 "I don't think they've ever been picked that high. That proves what I'm trying to say."  
 "It's always easier to get on top than it is to stay there. That is a dimension that only the team that's there has to deal with. You can only have one team there."  
 "But it doesn't matter now. What matters now is what happens week after week. We're just going out there every day and playing good solid football."  
 "We're trying to be a better football

team every day."  
 Valdosta worked out under the lights at Cleveland Field Friday night, and Hyder was encouraged by the showing.  
 "We feel like our receivers have made great strides," Hyder said. "Coach Bob Bolton has really helped us out there. Fredrick Blair and Robert Smith have come through with what we knew was there. We know they have the talent and ability."  
 "Sam Fletcher at tight end has shown marked improvement. John Bond, in addition to his quarterback duties, has made enormous progress as a wide receiver. He's about six-four and a fine athlete."  
 "Mike Ruff is another one we have used at wide receiver. He's a proven veteran line and has looked good."  
 Hyder said the camp was "the best one we've had of the five since I've been here.

by one major college scout that he is the finest football player in the state of Georgia in their opinion."  
 Hyder said Valdosta freshman wide receiver Keith Sampson was still recuperating at home from a serious neck injury he incurred during the first week of camp.  
 Sampson had nerve damage to the cervical area of his neck and at first had no feeling in his right arm. He has regained some feeling in his fingers and shoulder. Sampson was in Shand's Teaching Hospital in Gainesville, Fla., for several days last weekend.  
 "They did two spinal taps down there," Hyder said. "They found blood both times. I believe I'm right in saying that does indicate some nerve damage."  
 Hyder said Sampson was involved in therapy on the arm.  
 Valdosta opens its season here Friday against Central of Thomasville.

Defensively, Hyder singled out the play of recently elected team captain Troy Thomas, who's returning for his third year at cornerback.

"Troy Thomas is a magnetic ballhawk," Hyder said. "He has a built in homing device for the ball. I was told

# Waycross To Repeat Title?

By The Associated Press  
The Waycross Bulldogs may keep a toothy grip on the state 1978 AAA football championship, and Valdosta has an edge on the AAAA title, but it's anybody's guess who will be on top in Georgia's AA and A classes.

Waycross is favored by several prep football observers, but the Bulldogs will have to work hard for the honor. They lost 15 seniors after their 14-0 season in 1977 and face stiff competition from the likes of Cedartown, Swainsboro, Dalton, Gainesville and Perry.

"Our defense was hit hard by graduation," Coach Dale Williams said. "We've got to rebuild our defense ... We've got two or three kids returning — Carl Butts, a linebacker, David Beathia, a defensive tackle, and Johnny Plowden, a defensive back."

"These boys kind of give us a nucleus of defense to work around. They were starters last year; we should be able to play around them," he said.

On the offense, Williams said one of his best prospects is returning split end Charles Junior, 6-5, 170, who was "a real fine receiver for us last year."

Williams said Barry Taylor, whose only experience was on the junior varsity last year, will be the quarterback. But he'll have some pretty good linemen for protection. Returning this year for the Bulldogs will be tackles Luther Bennett and Joe Douglas, center John Chaney and guard Jeffrey Murray.

Another factor in the Bulldogs' favor is their schedule — they don't play a single subregion game until their sixth outing.

"We'll have the first five to gain experience, then have subregion matches for the last five games," Williams said.

If Cedartown Coach John Hill can find a quarterback, his Bulldogs might physically abuse their opponents all the way to the championship.

"I've had some pretty good teams," Hill said, "but I've never had one without a great quarterback. I really don't know if you can have a championship team without a great quarterback, but we're going to find out this year."

The Cedartown offensive line is huge. Jim Vincent, a tackle, is 6-3 and weighs 220

pounds, and tight end Wallace Jones is 6-5 and weighs 252. But both are dwarfed by tackle Dwayne Puckett, who's 6-8 and weighs 317 pounds. Hill said Puckett has been slowed by an injured ankle but expects him to be back to normal by mid-season.

Swainsboro has seven of 11 players returning from its 10-2 1977 season, including quarterback Robert Troup and running backs Milton Gray and Barry Young, both who weigh in the 190s.

Sparking the Tigers' defense will be 226-pound middle guard Moses Jones, and 265-pound tackle Byron Waters, both returning seniors.

Dalton lost 17 of its 22 starters, and the only returner on defense has been switched from cornerback to safety. But the Catamounts have experienced offensive backfielders with Kenny Sharp at quarterback, Danny Westfall returning at fullback and last year's fullback Bill Joynor moved to running back.

"We're going to be young," Coach Bill Chappell said. "In addition to being young, we're small and we're slow. It sounds like we're hurting, but our kids like to play."

The Gainesville Red Elephants' line averages 227 pounds from tackle to tackle, 15 of the 22 starters from their last year's 7-3-1 season are returning, and Coach Bobby Gruhn's team is looking for its best season in several years.

Perry Coach Bob Morrow said, "This is the best material I've had in 17 years of coaching. If we can avoid the big injuries, we'll be right in the thick of things."

The Panthers have a strong running attack with John Ridley, 5-9, 156, and fullback Sam Kendrick, 5-9, 170, rushing behind linemen Marcus Riley, 6-4, 260; Daryl Parker, 6-2, 235, and Tommy Stokes, 5-11, 210.

"We're just not looking good at offense, we don't have a running back who's played back there, but passing is looking pretty good," he said. "Defense ... is about where it ought to be."

In the new AAAA class, Valdosta lost 23 seniors, 10 of whom are now playing college football, but the depth is still there.

The offensive line returns virtually intact, with new

men only at one tackle spot and at split end, said Coach Nick Hyder.

The Wildcats lost veteran quarterback Buck Belue, but returning are 175-pound fullback William Gaskins and 160-pound halfback Robert Smith, a two-year letterman. Last year's split end John Lastinger will be quarterback.

Six starters are returning on defense, including college prospect Troy Thomas, a corner-halfback in his fourth year at Valdosta.

About Valdosta's prospects, "I'd say the word to use is 'hopeful' ... This is a black-and-blue league down here," Hyder said.

Warner Robins, Central of

Macon, Cedar Shoals and Southwest DeKalb are also expected to rank high in the state AAAA standings. Lakeside of Atlanta, Benedictine and Northside of Warner Robins will also be strong this season.

Warner Robins Coach Robert Davis said, "We don't have a set backfield yet ... and it's mighty late in the season still to be looking. That's what makes us feel uncomfortable."

Otherwise, the offensive line, keyed around center George Durden, is in good shape, Davis said, and "defense is looking pretty fair" with eight lettermen returning from 1977's 11-1 team.

Central of Macon only had a 4-5 season in 1977, but they're returning 17 starters who will be led by running back Roosevelt Wilder. Wilder, 5-9, 195, who gained about 1,100 yards last year.

Cedar Shoals went 8-2 in 1977 and returns almost everybody this year. Observers expect them to win the Athens city championship from last year's state champs, Clarke Central, who are rebuilding.

Southwest DeKalb Coach Dewey Alverson said his Panthers, No. 3 last year, face "definitely the toughest schedule I've ever had to play," including Henderson, Tucker, Peachtree and Lakeside.



RODNEY GORDON  
VHS Punter



CHUCK DEVANE  
LHS Quarterback

Game	At. Comp.	Gain	Avg.
1. Valdosta	24	52	26.00
2. Monroe	13	5	42.00
3. Lowndes	28	9	98.00
4. Westover	21	8	113.50
5. Central	15	7	123.66
6. Dougherty	28	10	157.78
7. Thomasville	4	13	211.105.50
8. Tift	5	17	213.105.50
9. Beltrridge	3	12	223.111.50
10. Crisp	30	13	223.111.50
11. Albany	17	27	278.139.00
12. Colquitt	4	24	416.268.00

Game	Carries	Net Avg.
1. Tift	6	3.00
2. Lowndes	63	41.20.50
3. Thomasville	49	77.38.50
4. Crisp	60	172.86.00
5. Colquitt	70	183.91.50
6. Valdosta	48	241.120.50
7. Albany	85	292.141.00
8. Dougherty		

Game	Carries	Net Avg.
1. Thomasville	73	428.214.00
2. Valdosta	93	384.192.00
3. Westover	75	374.187.00
4. Central	85	309.154.50
5. Beltrridge	52	222.111.00
6. Dougherty	73	216.108.00
7. Lowndes	68	181.90.50
8. Crisp	59	111.55.00
9. Monroe	55	96.48.00
10. Westover	61	20.00.00
11. Albany		
12. Albany		

## DeVane On Top In Pass Statistics

Lowndes' Robin McElroy and Cedric Jones follow in second and third places with 49 and 48 yards respectively.

Valdosta's Rodney Gordon is third in the passing department with 205 yards on 10 of 22 tosses. His number one receiver, Fredrick Blair, is fourth in receiving with eight catches for 172 yards.

**PASS RECEIVING**

Player	Rec.	Yds.	Td's
1. Player, Lowndes	7	176	3
2. Anderson, Monroe	7	179	2
3. Thompson, Tift	5	180	0
4. Blair, Valdosta	8	172	0
5. Terry, Tift	6	140	1
6. Chuck Jones, Lowndes	6	114	2
7. Egan, Dougherty	6	69	0
8. Edwards, Lowndes	6	69	0
9. Cedric Jones, Lowndes	5	61	0
10. Anderson, Central	4	89	0
11. Smith, Valdosta	2	56	1
12. Brown, Colquitt	1	47	0

**PASS INTERCEPTIONS**

Player	Games	Inter.	Ref.
1. Arrington, Tift	2	1	60
2. Strickland, Tift	2	1	50
3. Jones, Tift	2	1	20
4. Fairclough, Beltrridge	1	1	18
5. Conaway, Valdosta	1	1	10

**KICKS**

Player	Yds.	Avg.
1. Gordon, Valdosta	43	32.00
2. Crisp, Beltrridge	3	115.28.33
3. Thompson, Tift	3	114.28.33
4. Stokes, Lowndes	6	224.37.00
5. Barbee, Colquitt	11	293.35.72
6. Norman, Dougherty	8	262.32.75
7. Voyles, Central	9	293.32.55
8. Musshelwhite, Crisp	9	263.28.37
9. Chastain, Tift	15	414.27.60
10. Rogers, Westover		

**PUNT RETURNS**

Player	Games	Ret.	Yds.
1. Thomas, Valdosta	2	5	119
2. McElroy, Lowndes	2	1	49
3. Cedric Jones, Lowndes	2	1	48
4. James, Dougherty	2	1	48
5. Spears, Tift	2	1	27
6. Shiver, Crisp	2	1	27
7. Mason, Colquitt	2	1	22
8. Williams, Albany	2	1	22

**KICK-OFF RETURNS**

Player	Games	Ret.	Yds.
1. C. Senko, Westover	2	3	97
2. Blakely, Dougherty	2	3	80
3. Terry, Tift	2	3	70
4. Robinson, Central	2	3	61
5. Smith, Monroe	2	3	51
6. Acres, Colquitt	2	3	38
7. Crisp, Beltrridge	1	1	46

## Final Poll Of 1977

ATLANTA (AP) — Here is a complete listing of the top 10 teams in all classifications, their records including playoff victories, points received on a scale of 10-1 from 10 members of the AP board and other teams nominated for the final poll of 1977:

Rank	Team	Record	Points
1	Waycross	14-0	70
2	Dalton	12-2	63
3	Woodward Acad.	11-2	50
4	Americus	10-2	46
5	Gordon	11-2	42
6	Ware Co.	9-2	32
7	Swainsboro	10-2	29
8	Stephens Co.	10-2	28
9	Fayette Co.	8-2	11
10	Cedartown	9-2-2	4

Others nominated: Appling Co., Avondale, Gainesville, Lakeshore and Peach Co.

Class	Team	Record	Points
<b>Class AAA</b>			
1	Clarke Central	14-0	70
2	Valdosta	12-2	63
3	SW DeKalb	12-1	52
4	Warner Robins	11-1	45
5	Benedictine	10-1	43
6	Newnan	10-2	34
7	Westside	9-2-1	23
8	Lakeside	9-2	20
9	Wheeler	11-2	18
10	Dougherty	8-2	5
<b>Class AA</b>			
1	Waycross	14-0	70
2	Dalton	12-2	63
3	Woodward Acad.	11-2	50
4	Americus	10-2	46
5	Gordon	11-2	42
6	Ware Co.	9-2	32
7	Swainsboro	10-2	29
8	Stephens Co.	10-2	28
9	Fayette Co.	8-2	11

Others nominated: Butler, Campbell-Smyrna, Cedar Shoals, Kendrick, Laney, Lowndes Co. and Statesboro.

Class	Team	Record	Points
<b>Class A</b>			
1	East Rome	15-0	70
2	Early Co.	12-1	59
3	Commerce	11-2	58
4	North Springs	10-1-1	44
5	Jeff Davis	10-3	38
6	Mary Persons	10-3	35
7	Vidalia	9-2	26
8	Seminole Co.	9-1	20
9	Morgan Co.	8-3-1	17
10	Wilkinson	8-2-1	10
<b>Class B</b>			
1	Lincoln Co.	13-0	70
2	Jefferson	10-4-1	63
3	West Point	9-3	45
4	Bremen	8-2-1	41
5	Savannah Country Day	10-3	40
6	Pelham	9-3	36
7	Gordon Lee	9-2	23
8	Atkinson Co.	7-3-1	19
9	Rabun Co.	8-2-1	15
10	Morgan Co.	8-3	14

Others nominated: Brookstone, Buford, Metter and Mt. de Sales.

Valdosta Lowndes To Wind Up Their Camps Today

# ★ Valdosta ★ Hyder's Giving Only One Clue

By MIKE CHASON

Nick Hyder doesn't go out on many limbs. He abides by the Bear Bryant-Wright Bazemore philosophy of praising the other folks and pulling out the crying towel on his own team.

But he is giving out one small clue as just how good his Valdosta High School Wildcats will be this fall.

"It looks very similar to last year's team," Hyder said. "I think we've got a little more speed than last year."

Take heed. Those may be prophetic words indeed.

Last season, Valdosta wound up with a 12-2 record, Hyder's second Region 1-AAA championship in his four years at VHS and a second place finish behind Clarke Central in the state playoffs.

To most, the superb season was not so surprising. The Wildcats were led by Buck Belue, everybody's All-America and a four-year starter at quarterback.

But now Belue is decked out in Georgia Bulldog-red and Hyder is facing 10 regular season games against what many call the toughest football competition in the state.

The fall fever begins with an 8 p.m. game at Cleveland Field Friday night against Central of Thomasville.

"Last year, we had a proven superstar," Hyder said. "The first thing people thought about last year was Belue and how they were going to stop him. But really, the strongest point of our football team was our defense. Give Coach (Jack) Rudolph his just reward there."

"I don't know whether or not we'll be able to sustain it or not but in some areas we're ahead of last year. But you've got to be lucky. We believe the harder you work, the luckier you get. Injuries are rotten luck, and everybody hopes to stay away from those."

"Last year, we had some players who were fairly well fixed in their positions. The absence of those players creates a little bit of apprehension over who will play."

There is very little of that apprehension over who will replace Belue.

John Lastinger (180, sr.) was the backup quarterback last season and proved himself well-equipped to step in at the signal-caller's slot with an impressive showing in a spring game win over Warner Robins.

Mike Ruff (165, jr.) and John Bood (185, jr.) are battling it out for the number two spot.

Running backs include Irwin Roe (150, jr.), Bobby Johnson (190, sr.), William Gaskins (175, sr.) and Ernest King (180, jr.).

Hyder said King "could be one of the best if not the best runner we've had since I've been here."

Tight end Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) is one of eight returning offensive starters. Hyder also expects Willie Hankins (180, jr.) to play some at that position.

Gary Guthrie is the only missing link from Valdosta's offensive line, which is sure to be one of the most veteran-laden in the region this season.

Hyder said Scott Griffin (200, jr.), Harvey

Carter (185, jr.), Darrell Swindle (195, sr.) and Cass Burch (218, sr.) are likely starters at tackle with Andy Chapman (195, sr.), Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), Rob Register (175, sr.) and Billy Harvey (180, sr.) filling the guard slots.

Tony Blasetti (210, jr.) returns at center, and Mike Rose (175, sr.) is his backup.

Hyder said Robert Smith (160, sr.), Frederick Blair (155, sr.) and Tim Dame (155, sr.) are the top prospects at wide receiver.

"Defensively, they've been stubborn," Hyder said of the unit which returns six of 11 players who started in the state title game.

Due to veteran linebacker John Branam's bout with mononucleosis, Lynn Roberts (185, sr.) has been moved at least temporarily to linebacker. Anthony Battles (180, soph.) will also probably see some action at that position along with Branam (190, sr.) when he recovers.

"Jamie Harris (185, sr.) has been our most pleasant surprise," Hyder said. "He's a transfer student we put at defensive end."

Marlin Beaufort (180, sr.) and Kenny Evans (175, sr.) are also expected to see some defensive end play.

Hyder listed Carroll Johnson (208, sr.), Jimbo Hancock (175, jr.), Willie Beatty (205, soph.) and Danny Hunter (185, sr.) as the tackles.

Demps Johnson (180, sr.) and James Conaway (160, sr.) have been manning the middle guard position.

Troy Thomas (175, sr.), who Hyder said was "one of the best punt returners in the region last year," returns to his cornerback spot along with Rodney Gordon (180, sr.), James Horton (155, soph.) and Bubba Skelton (150, sr.) have also been playing there.

Veteran safety Carl Roe (180, sr.) is back and so is Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.). Dante Jones (165, soph.) and Mark Toth (155, jr.) have also been impressive at that position.

Gordon and Dame are to take over Belue's punting duties, and Reaves is expected to take on the placekicking responsibility.

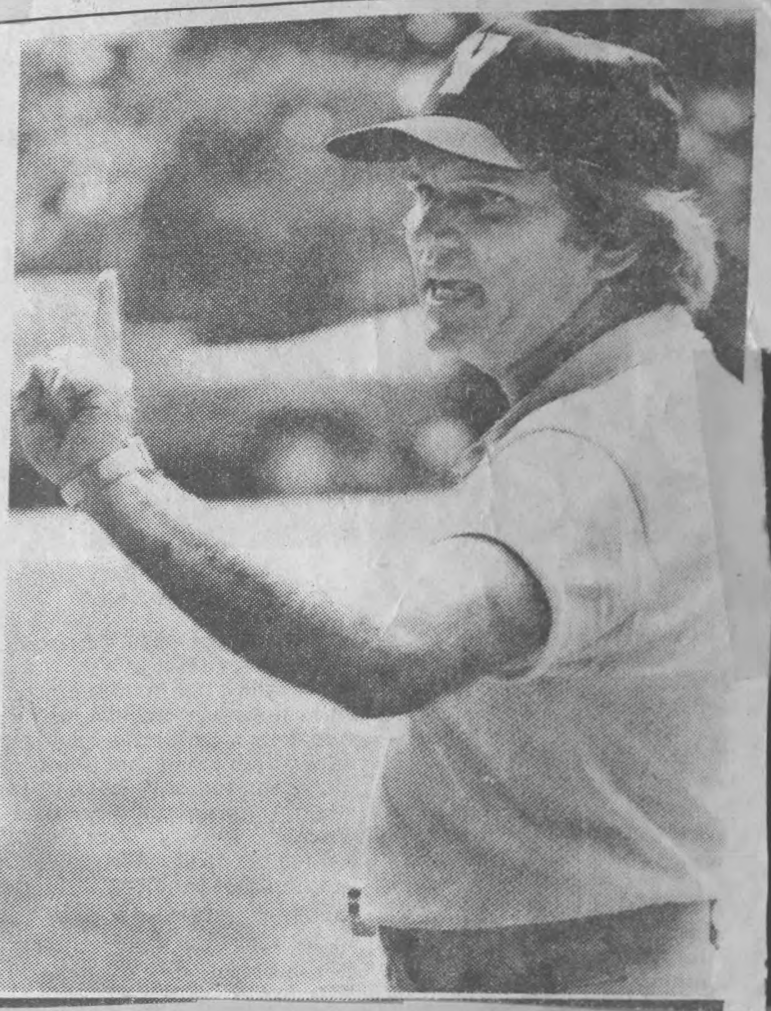
As far as the opposition is concerned Hyder said "I think the region is going to be like it was in '75 and '76. There wasn't a split hair's difference in the top teams those two years. Anything made a difference."

"You've got to respect everyone in this region," he said.

Hyder wouldn't pick a winner in Valdosta's north subregion, choosing instead to pick out the strong points of Monroe (Albany), Crisp County (Cordele), Albany, Tift County (Tifton) and Dougherty (Albany). Albany is the only one of the five Valdosta plays at Cleveland Field.

In the south subregion, Hyder picked Central of Thomasville, Thomasville and Lowndes as the frontrunners.

"From what I know personally, Lowndes is an excellent football team," Hyder said. "Just looking at what I know about them, they're strong in every area."



## Wildcat Freshman Sent To Hospital

By Times Staff Writer

One of the top freshman prospects on Valdosta High School's football team is in the hospital with nerve damage in the cervical area of his neck.

Keith Sampson, who figured to be battling for a starting spot in the Wildcat receiving corps, was injured Tuesday afternoon in a scrimmage session.

VHS Coach Nick Hyder explained that Sampson went out for a pass, it was intercepted, and he made the tackle on the boy who intercepted it.

"He made a good, clean tackle," Hyder said. "But the shoulder and head hit when he made it. We cut his jersey

off and got him to the hospital. He's been there ever since."

Hyder said Sampson had nerve damage in the cervical area of his neck. He said the player had not regained any feeling in his right arm.

Carl Gaines and David Reaves have also been sidelined because of sickness.

"Gaines has complained of constant headaches," Hyder said. "We found out he's been having them since last spring. One of the doctors said it could be a case of malnutrition."

"Reaves has been bothered with some type of sickness that makes him real weak. We don't know exactly what it is."

"Other than that, we've just got a lot of scrapes and scratches and bruises. There's been an awful lot of heavy hitting in extremely hot sun."

Valdosta is to conclude its first week of preseason camp at the Twin Lakes 4-H Club facility Friday morning. The Wildcats are to return to Valdosta Friday afternoon and prepare for a practice under the lights at Cleveland Field Friday night.

# New Offense May Bring UGA Back

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Aug. 27, 1978—13-C-

**By Times Staff Writer**  
**ATHENS** — University of Georgia Coach Vince Dooley (103-49-5) attempts to return his team to the championship flight of the Southeastern Conference this season after dropping to sixth in 1977.

If won't be easy. Dooley has 34 lettermen available for duty but misses 11 skilled starters. Losses include All-America guard George Collins and four all-SEC players, including linebacker Ben Zambiasi, rover Bill Drug, defensive tackle Ronnie Swoopes and

running back Kevin McLee. Jeff Lewis, an academic All-America, is also missing from the linebacker corps. Georgia has returned to the I formation after a record number of fumbles with the veer last season. Jeff Pyburn, who missed three games with a knee injury last year, is the quarterback and his chief aide may be a freshman, former Valdosta High School standout Buck Belue.

Willie McClendon, who gained 705 yards at a 6.1 per carry clip in '77, has running help from several sophomores, especially

James Hodge and Ulysses Norris are fine receivers while Ray Donaldson, Matt Guest and Matt Braswell are line veterans.

The defense begins anew. Only the ends, Robert Goodwin and Gordon Terry, tackle Louis Freedman and defensive back Robert Hope return. Punter Mike Garrett is also back.

Paul Petrisko is the most likely candidate for the fourth down lineman, and Ricky McBride leads a new linebacker corps. Former Valdosta High star Keith



**BUCK BELUE**  
Freshman Prospect



**KEITH MIDDLETON**  
UGA Linebacker

Middleton may also see some linebacker play.

Scott Woerner, who returned punts at a 9.3 yard average and kickoffs at a 24.8 yard average, is to play safety. Jeff Hipp and Bob Kelly are the other promising defensive backs.

Dooley has already forecast that the Bulldogs will have problems being better than mediocre this season.

Georgia is scheduled to kick off its season here Sept. 16 in a regionally televised battle against Baylor.



**LAWRENCE LOWE**  
Soph. Safety

## Tech Coach May Have Best Team

**By Times Staff Writer**  
**ATLANTA** — The "bone" is gone at Georgia Tech and the "I's" have it as far as Coach Pepper Rodgers is concerned.

Tech is abandoning its familiar Wishbone attack this year and installing the in-

### Wildcats Have Been Dominant

**By Times Staff Writer**  
**Valdosta, Valdosta, Valdosta...** Repeat that 11 times and you will get the idea that the Wildcats have dominated Region 1-AAA high school football like no other team.

Lanier High of Macon, which is no longer in the region, is next in winners with six titles won during the region's first 10 years.

Albany and Columbus, the latter no longer a current region member, follow with three championships apiece.

Moultrie, Thomasville and LaGrange, another non-member now, have each won the title two times.

The Region 1-AAA champions, according to region statistician Ellwood Moyer follow:

#### REGION 1-AAA Champions

Year	Winner
1947	Lanier
1948	Lanier
1949	Lanier
1950	Lanier
1951	Jordan
1952	Albany
1953	Lanier
1954	Albany
1955	LaGrange
1956	Lanier
1957	Columbus
1958	LaGrange
1959	Albany
1960	Valdosta
1961	Valdosta
1962	Moultrie
1963	Columbus
1964	Valdosta
1965	Valdosta
1966	Columbus
1967	Valdosta
1968	Valdosta
1969	Valdosta
1970	Valdosta
1971	Moultrie
1972	Thomasville
1973	Thomasville
1974	Valdosta
1975	Dougherty
1976	Valdosta
1977	?
1978	?

formation to better utilize personnel on what many observers feel is Rodgers' best team since coming to the school four years ago.

Eddie Lee Ivery, a 6-foot, 210-pound senior from Thomson, is slated to be the deep man in the backfield. Ivery was Tech's leading ground-gainer last season and the I is expected to up his yardage gained.

Three contenders are battling for the starting quarterback position but last year's starter, Bucky Shamburger, a senior this year, isn't among them. He's been switched to slotback.

"I must have caught jillions of balls all summer," said Shamburger, who is happy with his move to slotback. Those trying to step into his shoes are Ted Peeplees, 6-foot, 194; Gary Hardie, 5-foot-10, 175; and Steve Henderson, 6-foot-1, 191 pounds.

The offensive line returns center Tom Daniel, 6-foot-4½, 226-pound junior; senior tackles Mike Taylor (6-foot-7, 266 pounds) and Kent Hill (6-foot-6, 258 pounds); and junior guards Terrell Osborne (6-foot-6, 262 pounds) and Scott Simmons (6-foot-4, 244 pounds).

Two south Georgia products figure big into the Tech defensive strategy. They are 6-foot-5 senior tackle Mike Blanton and Lawrence Lowe, a 6-foot-4 inch, 197-pound sophomore safety.

Blanton played for Lowndes High School while Lowe performed for cross-town rival Valdosta High School.

Other potential defensive standouts are senior nose guard Roy Simmons (6-foot-3, 273) and Mackel Harris, a linebacker.

Tech opens the season Sept. 9 at Duke.

## VHS Player Back Home

**By Times Staff Writer**  
**Valdosta** — A Valdosta High School football player injured last week has been returned to Valdosta from a Gainesville, Fla., hospital.

Keith Sampson, a freshman split end candidate, received nerve damage to the cervical area of his neck Aug. 15 while making a tackle. Sampson at first had no feeling in his right arm but then began to have a tingling sensation in his fingers late last week.

The player was carried to Shand's Teaching Hospital in Gainesville where he stayed until Tuesday. He was present for Valdosta's annual preseason camp scrimmage before the Touchdown Club Tuesday night.

"He does have a feeling in his biceps and some parts of his shoulder," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "There is hope now. Hope's a good word."

## It Might Be The Biggest Game Ever Played Here



—Times Staff Photo

John Lastinger (11) Steps Into Buck Belue's Shoes

### October 13

By Times Staff Writer

No game has ever received so much attention so early. Before last season had faded into the January coldness of basketball fever, the word was out. Since then, the game has been hashed, rehashed and chopped to pieces.

Barring an act of God or Georgia Power, Lowndes and Valdosta will engage in what might be the biggest football game every played in Lowndes County on October 13, 1978.

It's not a state championship. It's not a region championship. It's not even a game between two teams in the same subregion. But on that night Valdosta's Cleveland Field will be jammed with 12,000-plus fans in anticipation of the hottest rivalry since Army sunk Navy.

Football has always been more than just a game to Valdostans and now Lowndes fans have been infected with the same fever. The game was never close until Joe Wilson left Valdosta High after 14 years as an assistant coach and became head coach at Lowndes.

In Wilson's first season, the Vikings held a 3-0 lead with less than five minutes to play in the game. Valdosta punched in two late scores to take a 14-3 win.

Last season, Lowndes held Valdosta's high-powered offensive scoreless and the Wildcat defense did the same to the Vikings' helter-skelter point-scoring corps.

The final 7-2 margin of victory for Lowndes came on an interception return by Bill Schreffler. Viking quarterback Kenny Luke was forced down in the end zone for Valdosta's only points.

But it's a new year with the proverbial rubber match between the two squads on the line. Valdosta does have two spring game wins to its credit but the two squads didn't play last spring.

The game became even more of an attraction this week when the Region 1-AAAA sportswriters picked Valdosta first in the preseason poll and Lowndes second. Never has Lowndes been picked so high, and Valdosta is in the same spot it began and ended the season a year ago.

Both teams have six games between now and the time when the gold-helmeted 'Cats tangle with the silver-helmeted Vikings. It's entirely possible neither team will be undefeated when the time comes.

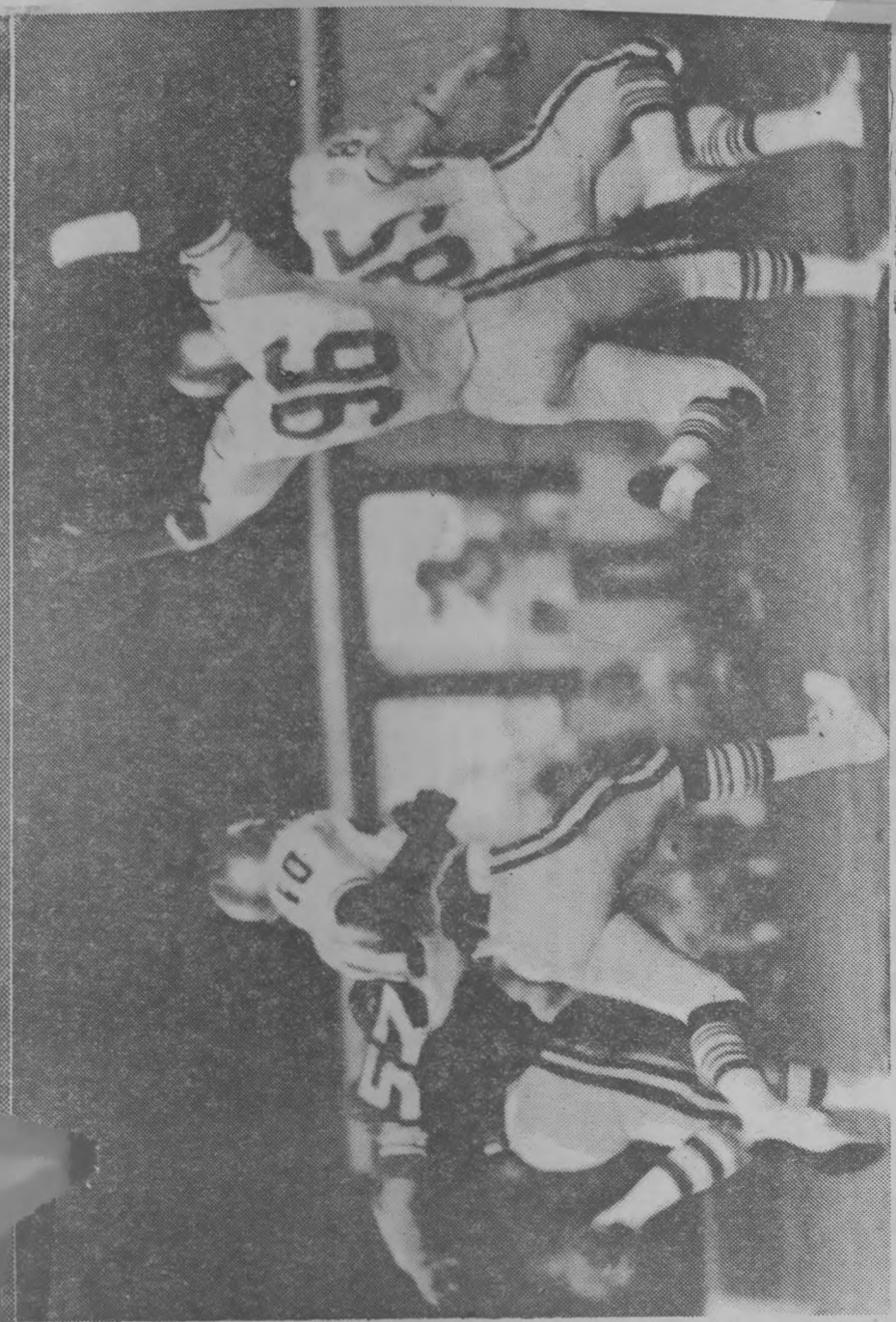
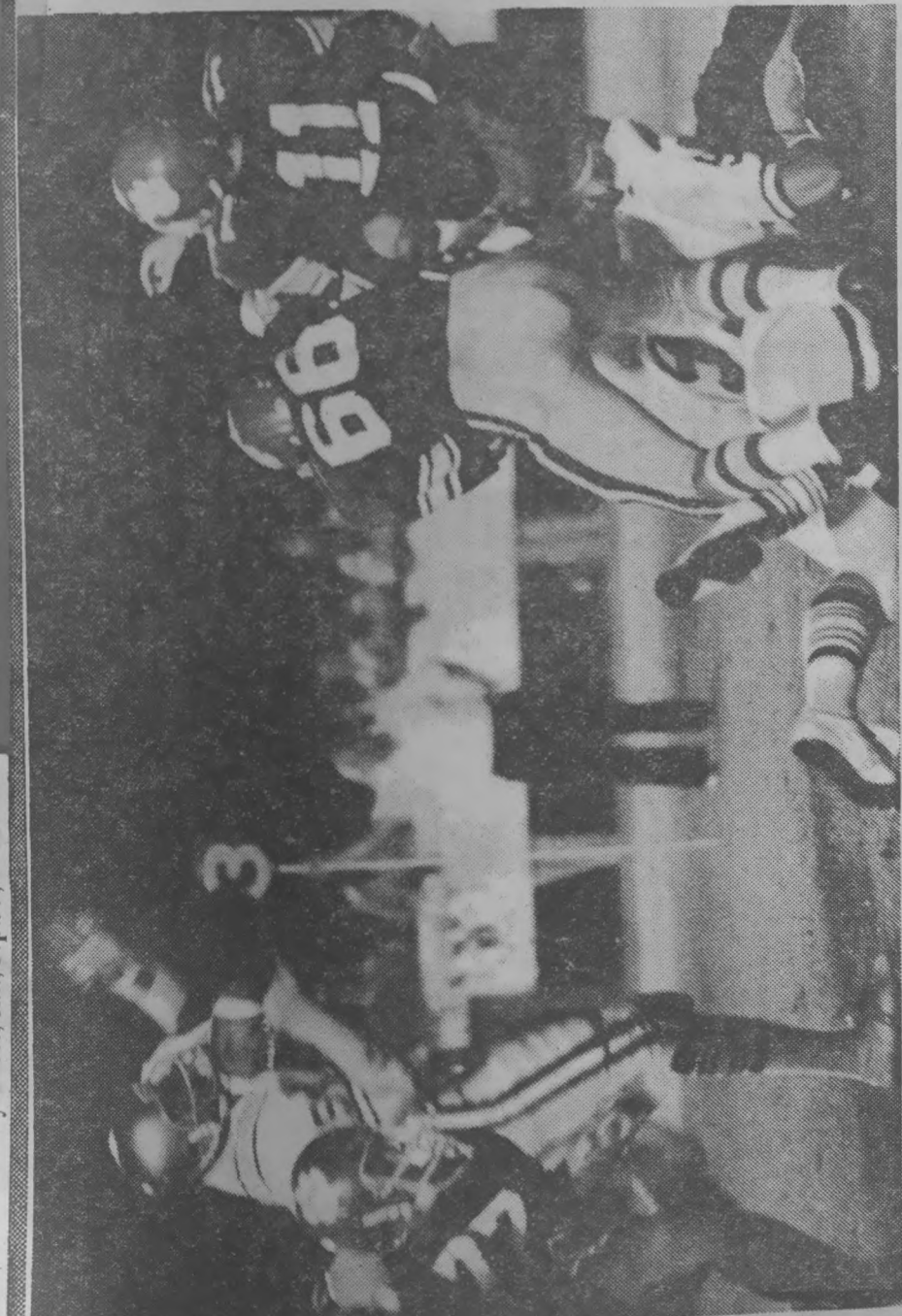
But then again, both might be unbeaten. No one is absolutely sure what's going to happen in the next seven weeks.

Only one thing is positive. This is one Friday the 13th that Lowndes and Valdosta fans are going to remember a long, long time.



—Times Staff Photo

Lowndes Ronnie Adkins (55) Could Be The Best In the League



—Times Staff Photos By Robert Winter 11

Valdosta's James Conaway (85) Grabs Pass From Crisp Quarterback Skeebo Musslewhite (11) And Carries It Into The End Zone To The TD Sign Of Lynn Roe (96)

# Wildcat Aerial Game Wipes Out Crisp, 35-7

By MIKE CHASON

**CORDELE**—It was a historic moment. For the first time in the nine-year history of their rivalry, Crisp County led Valdosta in a high school football game.

But it didn't last long. No, it didn't last long at all.

YARDSTICK	Valdosta	Crisp
First Downs	17	14
Yards Rushing	207	10
Yards Passing	10-22	3-2
Passes Inct. By	1-30	2-7-34
Fumbles Lost	3-25	3-25
Penalties		

With his team trailing 7-0 in the first quarter, Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder gave the green light to a Wildcat passing attack which was kept under wraps in a 40-0 season-opening victory over Central of Thomasville last week.

But the secret is out. Wheeling and dealing behind the deadly accurate throwing arm of John Lastinger and the pine tar fingers of pass-catcher Frederick Blair, Valdosta clobbered the hometown Cougars 35-7 here Friday night.

"When we got behind, that did open it up more," Hyder said. "But we planned to throw more than we did last

week.

"That was a good defense we faced out there. He (Crisp) Coach Ferrell Henry) has got six or seven boys anybody in the region would like to have. He's got some good football players."

Henry didn't stop with just a few players when he talked about the number one-rated Wildcats.

"Let's face it," Henry said. "Valdosta has just got a great football team. Coach Hyder's game plan was excellent."

"Here we were practicing all week against the run, then they come up here and throw it. But I tell you, Valdosta's going to beat a lot of people."

Henry, who was beaten 40-14 by last year's state runner-up Valdosta team, went one step further. He thinks this edition of black-and-gold football might be better than the last one.

"I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings or anything," Henry said. "But he's got more skill people than last year. I don't know who their receivers were last year but I don't remember them making all these splendid catches against us."

Blair wasn't a major factor

in last season's 12-2 team but he and Lastinger were the trigger men in the Region 1-AAAA (North) matchup Friday night.

With Lastinger getting all the protection he needed from what might be the best offensive line in the league, Blair found gaping holes in the Crisp secondary.

For the night, Lastinger hit on 10 of 19 passes for 207 yards. He had one interception on a tipped pass and threw touchdown tosses of 40 yards to John Bond and 12 yards to Robert Smith. Blair caught seven passes for 150 yards.

"I didn't think I was throwing it all that good," Lastinger, called "a great one" by Hyder, said. "The receivers just caught everything I threw."

"The offensive line did a real good job. I only got tackled one time."

Blair credited Hyder with helping him to develop his concentration.

"My concentration was a lot better tonight," Blair said. "Coach Hyder's been helping me a lot. I used a lot of Grip too. John was throwing it good."

Lastinger's back-up as well as a pass-catcher, was covered perfectly by Anthony Murray but simply plucked the pigskin off Murray's fingertips.

"I made up my mind I was going to get it," Bond said. "John just laid it up there nice and pretty."

For Valdosta's third touchdown in the second quarter, Lastinger shifted to the shotgun formation with impressive results. He carried the 'Cats 89 yards in 10 plays and behind the blocking of center Tony Biasetti and the rest of his trench crew, the senior quarterback zipped the ball to Smith for the 12-yard score.

Ernest King, who lost Valdosta's other fumble, plowed three yards for the final touchdown with 6:12 left in the third period. Troy Thomas' 29-yard punt return to the Crisp 27-yard-line set up the 3-play scoring drive.

Playing cornerback with an intensity which has become characteristic of him, Thomas also led the defense with nine individual tackles. Linebacker Lynn Roberts and Conaway added five

yards passing but did pick up 116 rushing. However, much of that total came on a 45-yard run by Ford against the VHS reserves in the fourth period. Ford had 93 yards in 24 carries.

Henry seemed to take the loss in stride. In fact, he seemed almost as concerned over the theft of some of the personal belongings of the Valdosta players as he did losing the game.

The veteran head coach looked on with a grim face, even when one Wildcat reported his underwear had been stolen.

But Henry was in a different mood last season when he accused Hyder of running the score up on his team by

going for a 2-point conversion late in the game.

"I felt like he was fair tonight," Henry said. "He played a lot of people. But my opinion of Coach Hyder has never really changed, he's always been a gentleman."

"I hate it that those boys had some of their stuff stolen. That just makes losing even more sour."

Thomas, Roberts and end James Harris each recorded a sack of Musslewhite, who featured dual gold sweatbands on each wrist.

"They were tough in the beginning," Roberts said. "We were a little slow, but we'll be ready. Next week, we've got Thomasville, and they're going to be a lot tougher. But all of them are tough."

Crisp managed only 10 yards passing but did pick up 116 rushing. However, much of that total came on a 45-yard run by Ford against the VHS reserves in the fourth period. Ford had 93 yards in 24 carries.

Henry seemed to take the loss in stride. In fact, he seemed almost as concerned over the theft of some of the personal belongings of the Valdosta players as he did losing the game.

The veteran head coach looked on with a grim face, even when one Wildcat reported his underwear had been stolen.

But Henry was in a different mood last season when he accused Hyder of running the score up on his team by

Valdosta	Crisp
Score by Quarters:	21 7 0-35
	7 0 0-7

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

Rushing: Valdosta—Johnson 6-23, Roe 5-27, King 2-30, Gaskin 4-24, Lastinger 3-29, Ford 2-49, Blair 2-3, Pate 2-29, Fier 1-1, Criss 1-5, Pate 2-29, Musslewhite 13-10, Harvey 3-5, Shivers 2-8, Bond 0-2, 1-0, Gaskin 0-1, 0-0; Crisp—Musslewhite 3-9, 1-10; Pass: Valdosta—Lastinger 10-19, 1-207; Crisp—Musslewhite 3-9, 1-10; Punt Returns: Valdosta—Blair 7-150, Bond 1-40, Roe 1-5, Smith 1-12; Crisp—Ellis 1-11, Stuckey 1-1, Ford 1 minus 2; Kickoff Returns: Valdosta—Thomas 2-66; Crisp—none; Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta—Thomas 9, Roberts 5, Conaway 5, Harris 4, Gordon 3, Hancock 3, Reeves 2, Clifton 2, Cessar 2, Jones 2, C. Roe 2, Darne 2, Clifton 2; Crisp—Williams 9, Nixon 7, Shell 5, Barner 4, Brown 3, Waller 2, Brinson 2, Dorrough 2, Murray 2, Carter 2.

# AFC Previews

## Raiders Aim To Regain Supremacy In AFC West

DENVER (AP) — You could hear the laughter from coast to coast.

Tom Jackson, the Denver Broncos' ebullient linebacker, predicted on the eve of the 1977 season that his team would win "at least 11 of our 14 games."

But Jackson had the last laugh. No one else came as close to predicting Denver's 12-2 season.

So what does he see in his crystal ball this time around? "If we avoid injuries to our key personnel, we'll be 13-3," he said.

You can bet that, over in Oakland, Al Davis & Co. aren't chuckling. Instead, they're gearing up for being better than 13-3 and reclaiming the American Conference's West Division title, which went to the Broncos for the first time last season.

The 1978 division race shapes up as another close Central Division

flawless quarterbacking from Craig Morton.

Coach Red Miller plans few changes in the Bronco lineup this fall. Miller hasn't tampered with the defense, highlighted by its active linebacking corps that includes Jackson and Randy Gradishar. Other defensive standouts are end Lyle Alzado, cornerback Louis Wright and safety Bill Thompson.

The offensive line emerged as a weak spot, especially during the Super Bowl loss to Dallas, but Miller expects improvement with the return of tackle Bill Bain, out last season with a knee injury.

Morton ranked third in the AFC in passing last season and threw a league-low eight interceptions. But he also was sacked an alarming 43 times.

You won't find any 1,000-yard rushers on the Broncos roster because of Miller's policy of rotating his backs.

Otis Armstrong paced the team with 489 yards last year. Haven Moses heads up the solid receiver corps.

Jim Turner, the fifth leading scorer in NFL history, is a reliable place-kicker. Punter Bucky Dilts, as a rookie, averaged only 39 yards a kick but showed amazing accuracy.

Unlike the Broncos, the Raiders were devastated by injuries in 1977. It began with linebacker Phil Villapiano in the season opener and ended with wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff in the AFC title game.

"Injuries just killed us," said Davis.

The Oakland secondary, a potential weakness, has undergone some shakeups. With safety George Atkinson having been released and cornerback Willie Brown beginning to show his 37 years, youngsters Charles Phillips and Lester Hayes

## Steeler QB Says Unity Is T

PITTSBURGH (AP) — So far in 1978, Terry Bradshaw's been buffeted by a bull on his ranch, tossed through a window in a movie stunt and given a broken nose in a National Football League

winter doing fight scenes for the movie "Hooper" and working on his Louisiana ranch, where he was bruised one day by a bull that banded against a fence.

"We just never played that could be..."

sidelined with a blood disease; receiver Jim Smith broke an ankle just after Pittsburgh traded Frank Lewis, and defensive tackle Joe Greene has a neck injury

Gifford Nielsen, a Mormon with misgivings about playing on Sundays, "might be the wrong the come judgment day, but my intention to conti



## 2 Old Vets Get The Ax In Last Cut

By The Associated Press

Len Hauss and Lem Barney are no longer asking for whom the bell tolls — it tolls for them.

Hauss, the anchor of the Washington Redskins offensive line for over a decade, and Barney, who patrolled the secondary for the Detroit Lions for 11 years, were the latest victims of the National Football League's final cutdown before the 1978 season opens this weekend.

"Yes, it's a hell of a way to go, but that's how things happen in this business," said Hauss, a five-time All-Pro who played in every one of the Redskins last 196 games.



KEN STABLER 'Off Year In '77 who led the AFC in rushing last year with 1,273 yards



LYLE ALZADO Bronco Defender will see much action, along with newly acquired cor-

### Sports In Brief

starters. The defense alone

9-1-78

## VHS Ninth Grade Blanks Hahira

From Staff, Wire Reports

HAHIRA — Clint East galloped for two touchdowns of 41 and 48 yards to power the Valdosta High School ninth grade team to a 28-0 victory over Hahira Junior High School here Thursday.

VHS quarterback David Parker passed 15 yards split end Edward Robinson for another score, and cornerback Buster Scurry cracked a 60-yard interception return for yet another touchdown.

Ted Welch and Scurry had two interceptions for the Valdosta defense, which had five interceptions and a fumble recovery on the hot afternoon.

Coach Norman Sains' Valdosta team takes on Thomasville Thursday.

# 'Cats Rated Number 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Three untested teams — Valdosta, Warner Robins and Southwest DeKalb — dominate Class AAAA in this week's Associated Press high school football poll after voting by a board of state sportswriters and broadcasters.

In fact, only two of the top 10 teams in Class AAAA have played — No. 4-ranked Cedar Shoals and No. 6-ranked Clarke Central. Central-Macon and Northside-Warner Robins tied for ninth with 23 voting points each from 12 members of the AP board.

Class AAA is led by untested Waycross, followed by Americus, which beat AA's fifth-ranked R.E. Lee of Thomaston 14-3 Friday night. Other ranked AAA teams include Cedartown, Swainsboro, Marist, Perry, Dalton and Gainesville. Avondale and Ware are tied for ninth, followed by Woodward Academy.

Here is a complete list of the top 10 teams in all classifications, their records and the voting points they received from 12 members of the AP board. Following the top 10 in each class is a list of other schools nominated this week.

Class AAAA	
1. Valdosta (0-0)	113
2. Warner Robins (0-0)	88
3. Southwest DeKalb (0-0)	79
4. Cedar Shoals (1-0)	61
5. Lowndes (0-0)	42
6. Clarke Central (1-0)	37
7. LaGrange (0-0)	34
8. Benedictine (0-0)	33
9. Central-Macon (0-0)	23
10. Northside, W.R. (0-0)	23
11. Lakeside (0-0)	22
Others nominated: Thomasville (0-0), Marietta (1-0), Griffin (0-0), Newman (0-0), Wheeler (0-0), Westside-Augusta (0-0), Campbell-Smyrna (1-0), Central-T'ville (0-0), Dougherty (0-0), Kendrick (0-0), Savannah (0-0), Southwest-Macon (0-1), Butler (0-0), Laney (0-0).	
Class AAA	
1. Waycross (0-0)	106
2. Americus (1-0)	93
3. Cedartown (0-0)	80
4. Swainsboro (0-0)	61
5. Marist (1-0)	57
6. Perry (0-0)	54
7. Dalton (0-0)	26
8. Gainesville (0-1)	25
9. Avondale (0-0)	24
10. Woodward Acad. (0-0)	20
Others nominated: Glenn Hills (0-0), Southwest-Atlanta (0-0), Westminster (0-0), Rossville (0-0), Lithonia (0-0), Peach Co. (0-0), Dublin (0-0), Gordon (0-0), Ear-	

Clarke Central dropped Southwest-Macon 3-0 in the top AAAA game Saturday night.

The Patriots brought the ball within Clarke Central's 20-yard line five times, but were held each time. The Gladiators managed to cross Southwest-Macon's frontier only once. They drove to the Patriot's 14 before stalling — then Richard Green kicked a field goal.

"We only had one (scoring opportunity)," said Gladiator Coach Billy Henderson. "But we made it count."

Cedar Shoals, expected to whip crosstown-rival Clarke Central this season, thrashed Spencer of Columbus 38-20.

East Rome leads Class AA following its 26-0 victory over Bremen, which is ranked No. 4 in Class A despite the loss. Untried Cartersville is No. 2 in AA, followed by Commerce, Claxton, and R.E. Lee. Jefferson, which beat

Roswell 26-13, and untested Jeff Davis are tied for No. 10.

Buford, a preseason favorite, heads Class A after beating big Crestwood 6-0 in a game in which poor field position plagued both teams. The only other Class A teams that played Friday were Bremen and Clinch County, which dropped Wheeler County 25-6.

The big upset among the ranked teams was No. 5-ranked Marist's 21-7 win over Gainesville, No. 8, in Class AAA action.

Marist received little mention in preseason augurs, but held talked-about Gainesville scoreless until

within a minute of the game's end when Etherean Williams ran in from the 15-yard line.

Marist's points came on a two-yard run by fullback Eddie Fortier, a one-yard plunge by quarterback Mike Gunn, and a 55-yard sprint by halfback Mike Bauknecht.

Southwest Georgia's big game was the Americus Panthers' 14-3 victory over R.E. Lee. Americus Coach Alton Shell said his team, now ranked No. 2 in AAA, got "stronger and stronger" as the game progressed. Tommy Perdue, Lee's coach, said his players became tired late in the game, causing a costly fumble.

ly Co. (0-0), Rockmart (0-0), Appling (0-0), and Carrollton (1-0).

Class AA	
1. East Rome (1-0)	91
2. Cartersville (0-0)	90
3. Commerce (1-0)	87
4. Claxton (1-0)	57
5. R.E. Lee (0-1)	48
6. Irwin Co. (0-0)	43
7. Mitchell Co. (0-0)	42
8. Lincoln Co. (0-0)	38
9. North Springs (0-0)	21
10. Jeff Davis (0-0)	17
Jefferson (1-0)	17
Others nominated: Wilkinson Co. (0-0), Duluth (0-0), Greene Co. (1-0), Turner Co. (0-0), Vidalia (0-0), Mary Persons (0-0), Morgan Co. (1-0), Jackson (1-0), Seminole Co. (0-0), S.E. Bulloch (1-0), Pelham (1-0), Lee Co. (1-0), Darlington (1-0), Bowdon (0-0), Lakeshore (0-0) and Harlem (0-0).	

Class A	
1. Buford (1-0)	98
2. Sav. Country Day (0-0)	89
3. Hogansville (0-0)	68
4. Bremen (0-1)	61
5. Warren CO. (0-0)	60
6. Clinch Co. (1-0)	39
7. Meffer (0-0)	39
8. Charlton Co. (0-0)	34
9. Johnson Co. (0-0)	32
10. West Point (0-0)	26
Brookstone (0-0)	21
Mount de Sales (0-0)	21
Also nominated: Emanuel County Institute (1-0), Trion (0-1), Miller Co. (0-0), Treutlen (1-0), Feldwood (0-0), Reidsville (1-0), Monticello (0-0), Gordon Lee (1-0), Wheeler (0-1), Toombs Central (1-0), Rabun Co. (1-0), Athens Academy (0-0).	



Staff Photo — Steve Deal

SWD's Bob Berry Missed Chance At Buck Belue, But . . .

## Southwest DeKalb, Valdosta Try Again

By Steve Figueroa  
Constitution Staff Writer

It "almost" happened twice last year. But Clarke Central and Peachtree saw things differently.

This year, however, "almost" should not pop up in Southwest DeKalb's or Valdosta's vocabulary around playoff time when it's expected the two will meet for a state title.

The two powers find themselves ranked one-two in The Constitution's pre-season AAAA poll, with Valdosta's always-strong Wildcats sitting in the hot seat.

Last fall, Southwest DeKalb fell 20-7 to Clarke Central in the North Georgia championship game and missed meeting Valdosta in the final. Then, SWD's baseball team was eliminated by Peachtree in the North Georgia series, again missing a meeting with the Wildcats.

"Our kids really wanted to go against Valdosta, too," said SWD Coach Dewey Alverson. "It was kinda a disappointing year to lose both times in the North Georgia playoffs. I know Bob Berry wanted to compete against Buck Belue more than anything in the world."

Berry, Southwest DeKalb's senior quarterback, missed his chance to play against the graduated Belue, but the heralded Panthers' quarterback will have to be content with another trip to the playoffs.

The 6-foot, 180-pounder had over 1,600 yards total offense last season, passing for 10 touchdowns and running for 15 more. He has extremely quick feet, an accurate arm, and can bench press 220 pounds.

The SWD offense is in good hands as long as Berry stays healthy. On defense, linebacker Jack Lindsey (6-2, 215), another highly-recruited prospect, returns for his senior year.

John Threlkeld (6-6, 232) and Rick Walsingham (6-1, 250) return to anchor the SWD line, while 9.6 sprinter Paul Selesky should give the Panthers a deep threat at split end.

A schedule including the top teams from both Region 7-AAAA and 8-AAAA could prevent SWD from duplicating last year's 10-0 regular season, but the Panthers are a solid choice to make the playoffs and fulfill their goal of meeting Valdosta.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder isn't so sure his Wildcats will be around come playoff time, however. He's quick to point out that quarterback Belue and nine other scholarship players are missing from last year's state-runnerup team.

A little more prodding, though, and Hyder reveals that 14 of the players who started against Clarke Central in the championship game are back. Included among the 40 seniors on this year's team are seven three-year starters.

Quarterback John Lastinger (6-2, 180), tight end Sam Fletcher (6-2, 190), fullback William Gaskins (5-7, 170), tackle Scott Griffin (6-2, 208), guard Andy Chapman (6-0, 196), defensive back Troy Thomas (5-10, 175) and linebacker Lynn Roberts (5-10, 180) have 21 years of varsity experience between them, giving Valdosta an excellent nucleus around which to build.

# Valdosta, Lowndes Picked In Openers

It just might be the most talked about football season in years. And it hasn't even arrived yet.

Folks started talking football in mid-July. Not just idle chatter mind you, but honest to goodness down home who's gonna beat who in the fall type conversations.

Tonight, we finally get to see a game so we can all talk some more and maybe even know what we're talking about.

Will Valdosta be better than the Buck Belue-led Wildcats of '77? Will Lowndes be as good as everybody says? Can Billy Presnell make the change from Clarke Central and turn Berrien into a winner? Is Bud Willis the saviour Cook is looking for? Is this the year Clinch County's Panthers are going to strike it rich?

Can Coy Whitener work his magic again at Hamilton County behind the bigtime ability of Ellis Singletary? Will Buddy Ethridge combine scrap and fight to make Westbrook a winner? Is Curtis Cason going to bust the thousand yard mark and send Brooks County's Trojans over the hump? Can Frank Yanossy revive the dow-but-not-out Madison Cougars?

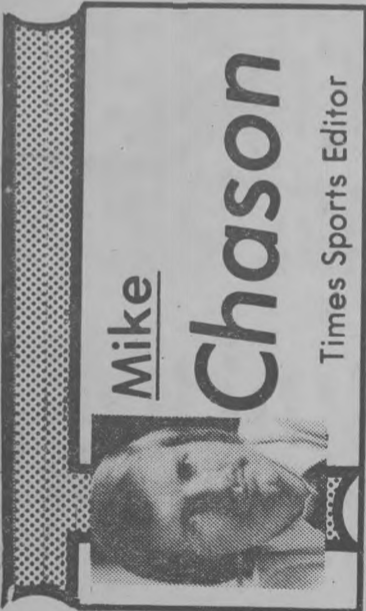
For the answers, tune in to Saturday's Times for the next 10 weeks or so. Expect some of the expected and some of the unexpected. There'll be some thrills and chills. Somebody will be a big loser again and somebody will climb the playoff totem pole.

If there's one characteristic about sports that usually holds true over the course of an entire season, it's that the whole business is unpredictable. I wouldn't have it any other way.

From this typewriter last season, 184 winners were picked out of 225 games for a mark of 82 percent. I'll gladly settle for that kind of hit-and-miss guessing this year. Here goes.

### CENTRAL AT VALDOSTA

For once, Valdosta is not opening the season against Crisp County. Crisp has never been one of the better teams in the area but hasn't soaked in the cellar either. Central is a



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Yellow jacket of a different color. Will Roy Cooley's team pulls a winning number out of the hat every year.

This could be a good one. The only other time these two teams have played was on this same Cleveland Field in 1976. Most people expected Valdosta to win on that Tuesday night. Everybody except Will Roy that is. The guy just exudes confidence. On that night he had something to be confident about. Central won 21-6.

Tonight should be a different story. Nick Hyder's 'Cats have their best running game since the Alton Battle-Billy Berrian days. John Lastinger can throw it and Fredrick Blair and Robert Smith are supposed to be able to catch it. Coupled with the ground attack of Bobby Johnson, Ernest King, Irwin Roe and William Gaskin, that should be enough offense. Nobody's worried about the VHS offensive line holding up.

If there are any question marks on this Wildcat team, they are on defense. Robert Baldwin is gone, Allen Worthy is gone, Doug Conway is gone, Curtis Wright is gone and so are two or three more stout-hearted lads.

Central has always been able to put a few points on the board. Quarterback Ben Carter is supposed to be a shifty little 140-pounder who weighs closer to 128. But he can sling it.

However, you don't put your chips opposite the number one team in the state or the defensive skills of Troy Thomas, Lynn Roberts and Co. The pick is Valdosta, 28-10.

### LOWNDES AT ALBANY

Joe Wilson has done his best to make this game seem like more than the rout it is expected to be. Just like every other coach in the state this week, Wilson has had that Alka-Seltzer stomach as game time approaches.

Never has Lowndes had so many good words laid on it in the preseason. On paper, they all appear well deserved. But as Wilson keeps trying to tell everyone, his team hasn't won a game yet.

That won't be the situation after about 10 p.m. Saturday night.

Steve Thomas and Robin McElroy should strap on their John Travolta shoes and disco dance through an Indian defense which leaked 42 points to the Vikings last season. Chuck DeVane proved in the spring he is certainly a capable quarterback and Saturday night he gets a chance to show he's even better than that.

The loss of Hal Sprengle on defense is a tough blow. Sprengle has a twisted knee and Wilson says the veteran cornerback won't play. However, there are still enough guys like Ronnie Mashburn, Keith Hitchcock and Adam Reese around to keep the Indians bottled up in their teepees all night long.

And then there is Ronnie Adkins. To win defensive player of the year honors in the region again, Adkins is going to have to play even better than last year. You don't gain that kind of honor by resting on your laurels. Adkins never rested at anything. Vikings by a bunch, 31-0.

### BROOKS AT COOK

This should be interesting. Despite Willis' shot of confidence into the Hornet hive, Brooks seemed like a favorite until Charles Lane had to have two pins put in his shoulder. A two-year starter at quarterback, Lane was to have provided the Trojan air game while Curtis Cason took care of the ground attack.

Cason's still around but he may not be enough. Shaky nod goes to Cook, 14-12.

### CHARLTON AT BERRIEN

Berrien's Rebels are low notches up the classification pole over Charlton. That may not mean a thing as far as this game is concerned but then again it may make all the difference in the world. Berrien whipped Charlton 10-6 last season and since nobody likes to lose their home opener, here's another vote for Presnell's Rebs this year. Berrien, 14-7.

### SW GA. ACADEMY AT WESTBROOK

Westbrook's Cougars put three sixes on the board against Ravenwood last week in their season lidlifter. That victory amounted to half the games Buddy Ethridge's team won last season. A different year might be ahead but it might have to wait a week to start again. SW Ga. Academy, 21-7.

### OTHER GAMES

Besides the Central-Valdosta affair, the most interesting game in 1-AAAA tonight should be Dougherty's meeting with Thomsville in the Bulldogs' den. According to their preseason survey, Dougherty's Trojans lost just about everything from last season. Thomsville is making some loud noises. The Bulldogs in a thriller, 21-17.

Also, Crisp over Westover, Colquitt over Monroe, Tift over Bainbridge, Wayne over Glynn Academy, Ware over Bradwell Institute, Clarke Central over Northeast Macon, Cedar-town over Lithia Springs, Waycross over Appling, Coffee over Fitzgerald, Mitchell over Cairo, Worth over Turner, Peach over Early, Atkinson over Patterson and Pelham over Lee.

# 'Dosta Proved Its No. One Ranking

V91-TIMES 9-3-78

It's nice to be number one and then prove you deserve to be there. Valdosta did it Friday night.

The game was billed as Central's wide open offense going against a Valdosta team which was playing without some key defensive starters who graduated off last year's state runners-up. The Wildcats were a definite favorite but most folks figured Central would put a touchdown or two on the scoreboard.

It didn't happen.

Will Roy Cooley's shifty Yellow Jackets didn't come close to turning their zero into something higher in the 40-0 shellacking. In two previous viewings of Cooley-coached teams, I was impressed by their versatility. Friday night, Rodney Gordon's punting took the punch out of Central's offense. The Yellow Jackets were never in a position to rock and roll. Gordon kept them snowed under 80 and 90 yards from paydirt.

Which all goes back to Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder's philosophy about the kicking game. He preaches it daily. Even in the 3-7 year of '74, VHS had a respectable punter in Cecil Whitehead. Buck Belue has been around since then, and now it's Gordon.

Once Central got in the hole, the Valdosta defense kept it there. Of 28 Yellow Jacket runs from scrimmage, only two gained more than nine yards. Ben Carter never got a chance to show off his passing skills. He completed only two of 10 tosses for 40 yards.

Charles Anderson, who Cooley has already labeled the best pass receiver in the state, caught only one pass, a 19-yarder from Carter. Neither team chose to put it up very much. Valdosta passing only eight times and Central only 15.

Because of the fact, the game lacked some of the excitement a heated passing duel brings. But the running game worked for Valdosta, and Hyder opted to stick with it. He confirmed af-



Mike  
Chason  
Times Sports Editor

terwards that the ground attack was the brunt of the game plan.

VHS quarterback John Lastinger pulled off the flashiest piece of footwork during the penalty-marred contest, flashing 28 yards down the sidelines for a touchdown on a rollout pattern. With his best Earl Monroe imitation, Lastinger whirled around one defender in a classic case of playing on instincts.

"I was real proud of our quarterbacks," Hyder said. "There's a lot of pressure being a quarterback."

It was hard to get a true picture of Lastinger's overall ability because he only threw the ball three times. He really didn't have to go to the air because after a 26-point second quarter, the game was never in doubt. Hyder undoubtedly plans to exhibit the Lastinger air show on another fall Friday.

Or maybe it will be the John Bond aerial circus. Bond came in, threw three passes, completed all three and made the third

a touchdown toss to a wide open Tim Dame, who was playing with a broken bone in his hand. With a front line of Andy Chapman, Scott Griffin and gang in front of him, Bond looks like he could be an explosive weapon from the shotgun formation.

Valdosta might have its deepest stable of runners in years. When Lastinger and Ernest King weren't carrying the ball, fullbacks William Gaskins and Bobby Johnson were. Johnson back after a year's layoff due to disciplinary reasons, could be a real key. Irvin Roe can scoot, and Eugene Patterson, Welton Fraizer and Carl Wilcox put on a few tricky moves of their own.

Valdosta was lucky to recover a couple of fumbles, causing one pressbox wit to thank the legendary ghost of Cleveland Field for stepping in again. Central had a terrible time hanging on to the ball on kickoffs and on punts.

Hyder figured the two main factors in the game to be Gordon's punting and the pre-game preparation by his assistant coaches. He seemed a little surprised Central didn't find the end zone but he again pointed to Gordon's field position punting and the defensive preparation, mapped out by defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

The Yellow Jackets could have been affected by the thought that Cooley was coaching his last game but it seems that would be a positive instead of negative influence. You know, with one for ole' Will Roy and all that. Like Cooley, I'm inclined to agree it wasn't really a factor.

One game into the season, it appears Valdosta's punting game is as strong as last year, the defense is surprisingly tough and the running game is destined for greater things. The passing attack is a virtually unknown quantity, and the extra point kicking team is a little erratic.

But things can change. One game does not a season make.

# Valdosta, Lowndes Picked In Openers

It just might be the most talked about football season in years. And it hasn't even arrived yet. Folks started talking football in mid-July. Not just idle chatter mind you, but honest to goodness down home who's gonna' beat who in the fall type conversations.

Tonight, we finally get to see a game so we can all talk some more and maybe even know what we're talking about.

Will Valdosta be better than the Buck Belue-led Wildcats of '77? Will Lowndes be as good as everybody says? Can Billy Presnell make the change from Clarke Central and turn Berrien into a winner? Is Bud Willis the saviour Cook is looking for? Is this the year Clinch County's Panthers are going to strike it rich?

Can Coy Whitener work his magic again at Hamilton County behind the bigtime ability of Ellis Singletary? Will Buddy Ethridge combine scrap and fight to make Westbrook a winner? Is Curtis Cason going to bust the thousand yard mark and send Brooks County's Trojans over the hump? Can Frank Yanosy revive the dow-but-not-out Madison Cougars?

For the answers, tune in to Saturday's Times for the next 10 weeks or so. Expect some of the expected and some of the unexpected. There'll be some thrills and chills. Somebody will be a big loser again and somebody will climb the playoff totem pole.

If there's one characteristic about sports that usually holds true over the course of an entire season, it's that the whole business is unpredictable. I wouldn't have it any other way.

From this typewriter last season, 184 winners were picked out of 225 games for a mark of 82 percent. I'll gladly settle for that kind of hit-and-miss guessing this year. Here goes.

## CENTRAL AT VALDOSTA

For once, Valdosta is not opening the season against Crisp County. Crisp has never been one of the better teams in the state but hasn't soaked in the cellar either. Central is a



Mike

Chason

Times Sports Editor

Yellow jacket of a different color. Will Roy Cooley's team pulls a winning number out of the hat every year.

This could be a good one. The only other time these two teams have played was on this same Cleveland Field in 1976. Most people expected Valdosta to win on that Tuesday night. Everybody except Will Roy that is. The guy just exudes confidence. On that night he had something to be confident about. Central won 21-6.

Tonight should be a different story. Nick Hyder's 'Cats have their best running game since the Alton Battle-Billy Berrian days. John Lastinger can throw it and Fredrick Blair and Robert Smith are supposed to be able to catch it. Coupled with the ground attack of Bobby Johnson, Ernest King, Irwin Roe and William Gaskin, that should be enough offense. Nobody's worried about the VHS offensive line holding up.

If there are any question marks on this Wildcat team, they are on defense. Robert Baldwin is gone, Allen Worthy is gone, Doug Conway is gone, Curtis Wright is gone and so are two or three more stout-hearted lads.

Central has always been able to put a few points on the board. Quarterback Ben Carter is supposed to be a shifty little 140-pounder who weighs closer to 128. But he can sling it.

However, you don't put your chips opposite the number one team in the state or the defensive skills of Troy Thomas, Lynn Roberts and Co. The pick is Valdosta, 28-10.

## LOWNDES AT ALBANY

Joe Wilson has done his best to make this game seem like more than the rout it is expected to be. Just like every other coach in the state this week, Wilson has had that Alka-Seltzer stomach as game time approaches.

Never has Lowndes had so many good words laid on it in the preseason. On paper, they all appear well deserved. But as Wilson keeps trying to tell everyone, his team hasn't won a game yet.

That won't be the situation after about 10 p.m. Saturday night.

Steve Thomas and Robin McElroy should strap on their John Travolta shoes and disco dance through an Indian defense which leaked 42 points to the Vikings last season. Chuck DeVane proved in the spring he is certainly a capable quarterback and Saturday night he gets a chance to show he's even better than that.

The loss of Hal Sprengle on defense is a tough blow. Sprengle has a twisted knee and Wilson says the veteran cornerback won't play. However, there are still enough guys like Ronnie Mashburn, Keith Hitchcock and Adam Reese around to keep the Indians bottled up in their teepees all night long.

And then there is Ronnie Adkins. To win defensive player of the year honors in the region again, Adkins is going to have to play even better than last year. You don't gain that kind of honor by resting on your laurels. Adkins never rested at anything. Vikings by a bunch, 31-0.

**BROOKS AT COOK**  
This should be interesting. Despite Willis' shot of confidence into the Hornet hive, Brooks seemed like a favorite until Charles Lane had to have two pins put in his shoulder. A two-year starter at quarterback, Lane was to have provided the Trojan air game while Curtis Cason took care of the ground attack.

Cason's still around but he may not be enough. Shaky nod goes to Cook, 14-12.

**CHARLTON AT BERRIEN**  
Berrien's Rebels are low notches up the classification pole over Charlton. That may not mean a thing as far as this game is concerned but then again it may make all the difference in the world. Berrien whipped Charlton 10-6 last season and since nobody likes to lose their home opener, here's another vote for Presnell's Rebs this year. Berrien, 14-7.

**SW GA. ACADEMY AT WESTBROOK**  
Westbrook's Cougars put three sixes on the board against Ravenwood last week in their season lidlifter. That victory amounted to half the games Buddy Ethridge's team won last season. A different year might be ahead but it might have to wait a week to start again. SW Ga. Academy, 21-7.

## OTHER GAMES

Besides the Central-Valdosta affair, the most interesting game in 1-AAAA tonight should be Dougherty's meeting with Thomasville in the Bulldogs' den. According to their preseason survey, Dougherty's Trojans lost just about everything from last season. Thomasville is making some loud noises. The Bulldogs in a thriller, 21-17.

Also, Crisp over Westover, Colquitt over Monroe, Tift over Bainbridge, Wayne over Glynn Academy, Ware over Bradwell Institute, Clarke Central over Northeast Macon, Cedar-town over Lithia Springs, Waycross over Appling, Coffee over Fitzgerald, Mitchell over Cairo, Worth over Turner, Peach over Early, Atkinson over Patterson and Pelham over Lee.

# 'Dosta Proved Its No. One Ranking

Val-Times 9-3-78

It's nice to be number one and then prove you deserve to be there. Valdosta did it Friday night.

The game was billed as Central's wide open offense going against a Valdosta team which was playing without some key defensive starters who graduated off last year's state runners-up. The Wildcats were a definite favorite but most folks figured Central would put a touchdown or two on the scoreboard.

It didn't happen.

Will Roy Cooley's shifty Yellow Jackets didn't come close to turning their zero into something higher in the 40-0 shellacking. In two previous viewings of Cooley-coached teams, I was impressed by their versatility. Friday night, Rodney Gordon's punting took the punch out of Central's offense. The Yellow Jackets were never in a position to rock and roll. Gordon kept them snowed under 80 and 90 yards from paydirt.

Which all goes back to Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder's philosophy about the kicking game. He preaches it daily. Even in the 3-7 year of '74, VHS had a respectable punter in Cecil Whitehead. Buck Belue has been around since then, and now it's Gordon.

Once Central got in the hole, the Valdosta defense kept it there. Of 28 Yellow Jacket runs from scrimmage, only two gained more than nine yards. Ben Carter never got a chance to show off his passing skills. He completed only two of 10 tosses for 40 yards.

Charles Anderson, who Cooley has already labeled the best pass receiver in the state, caught only one pass, a 19-yarder from Carter. Neither team chose to put it up very much. Valdosta passing only eight times and Central only 15.

Because of the fact, the game lacked some of the excitement a heated passing duel brings. But the running game worked for Valdosta, and Hyder opted to stick with it. He confirmed af-



terwards that the ground attack was the brunt of the game plan.

VHS quarterback John Lastinger pulled off the flashiest piece of footwork during the penalty-marred contest, flashing 28 yards down the sidelines for a touchdown on a rollout pattern. With his best Earl Monroe imitation, Lastinger whirled around one defender in a classic case of playing on instincts.

"I was real proud of our quarterbacks," Hyder said. "There's a lot of pressure being a quarterback."

It was hard to get a true picture of Lastinger's overall ability because he only threw the ball three times. He really didn't have to go to the air because after a 26-point second quarter, the game was never in doubt. Hyder undoubtedly plans to exhibit the Lastinger air show on another fall Friday.

Or maybe it will be the John Bond aerial circus. Bond came in, threw three passes, completed all three and made the third

a touchdown toss to a wide open Tim Dame, who was playing with a broken bone in his hand. With a front line of Andy Chapman, Scott Griffin and gang in front of him, Bond looks like he could be an explosive weapon from the shotgun formation.

Valdosta might have its deepest stable of runners in years. When Lastinger and Ernest King weren't carrying the ball, fullbacks William Gaskins and Bobby Johnson were. Johnson back after a year's layoff due to disciplinary reasons, could be a real key. Irvin Roe can scoot, and Eugene Patterson, Welton Fraizer and Carl Wilcox put on a few tricky moves of their own.

Valdosta was lucky to recover a couple of fumbles, causing one pressbox wit to thank the legendary ghost of Cleveland Field for stepping in again. Central had a terrible time hanging on to the ball on kickoffs and on punts.

Hyder figured the two main factors in the game to be Gordon's punting and the pre-game preparation by his assistant coaches. He seemed a little surprised Central didn't find the end zone but he again pointed to Gordon's field position punting and the defensive preparation, mapped out by defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph.

The Yellow Jackets could have been affected by the thought that Cooley was coaching his last game but it seems that would be a positive instead of negative influence. You know, win one for ole' Will Roy and all that. Like Cooley, I'm inclined to agree it wasn't really a factor.

One game into the season, it appears Valdosta's punting game is as strong as last year, the defense is surprisingly tough and the running game is destined for greater things. The passing attack is a virtually unknown quantity, and the extra point kicking team is a little erratic.

But things can change. One game does not a season make.

# Valdosta Knocks Off T'ville In A Thriller



## Hughes, Hyder See Two Sides

By MIKE CHASON

When it was over, a man walked up to Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder and folded some money into his hand. He said what had just taken place on Cleveland Field was worth more than the price of admission.

It was that kind of football game.

Like two bull elephants who never get enough of fighting, Valdosta and Thomasville squared up here Friday night

has also produced five ties. "I'm not at all surprised, nor am I disappointed," Hyder said long after the crowd of 9,800 had left the near legendary confines of "Death Valley." "Our people had to learn poise in the fourth quarter. Thomasville is a sound football team.

"I think we learned a lot of real good lessons from the game. Patience is a lesson. You have to learn that."

Valdosta fans were anything but patient with the clock ticking away and the prospect of two 5-minute overtime periods becoming more of a reality every second.

"I was prepared for overtime," Hyder said. "We were ready if it came to that."

But it didn't.

Lastinger, who had problems throwing the ball consistently was one of the main reasons why VHS sewed up its third straight win of the year in regulation play.

With 3:02 to play, he engineered a 56-yard, 4-play drive. First, he ran 18 yards on a weaving, broken field pattern and then he threw 28 yards to Robert Smith on the Thomasville side of the field.

"That pass to Robert kind

of broke their back," Lastinger said.

Flashy halfback Ernest King then followed offensive guard Fomby Hardin for seven yards up to the Thomasville 4-yard line. Lastinger then wheeled to his right and dived into the end zone for the sweetest six of his career.

"If we don't score, I'm leaving town," Lastinger said he was thinking of the final drive. I would have been looking for the nearest exit."

The touchdown touched off mass hysteria on the home side. Lastinger could only feel relief.

"I'm finally here," he said he thought.

Hyder said tight end Sam Fletcher, tackle Scott Griffin and guard Andy Chapman opened the way for the score.

Earlier, the veteran Valdosta line had some problems containing the aggressive Bulldog defense.

"They were beating us off the ball," Lastinger said. "But our offensive line got together on the sideline and talked it over. They started holding them out."

For the night, Lastinger connected on 10 of 23 passes for 123 yards. He had one interception.

"I felt like John was rushing his passing a little bit," Hyder said. "But they were rushing him with two or three tall people who kept their hands up.

You can't throw out of a well. He had to see to throw."

Keyed by a 16-yard gallop by King, who had 59 yards rushing in nine carries, Valdosta pushed down to within 12 yards of the goal line the first time it touched the ball.

But Irwin Roe couldn't shake free on a fourth down run, and the ball went over.

Three minutes later, Roe stepped into the spotlight again. This time, he danced 14 yards to paydirt after Lastinger had set up the play with two passes to Fredrick Blair.

David Reeves kicked the first of two extra points in the game and the Wildcats were on the board with 3:16 left in the opening period.

VHS middle guard James Conaway, who had 10 individual tackles, and cor-

YARDSTICK

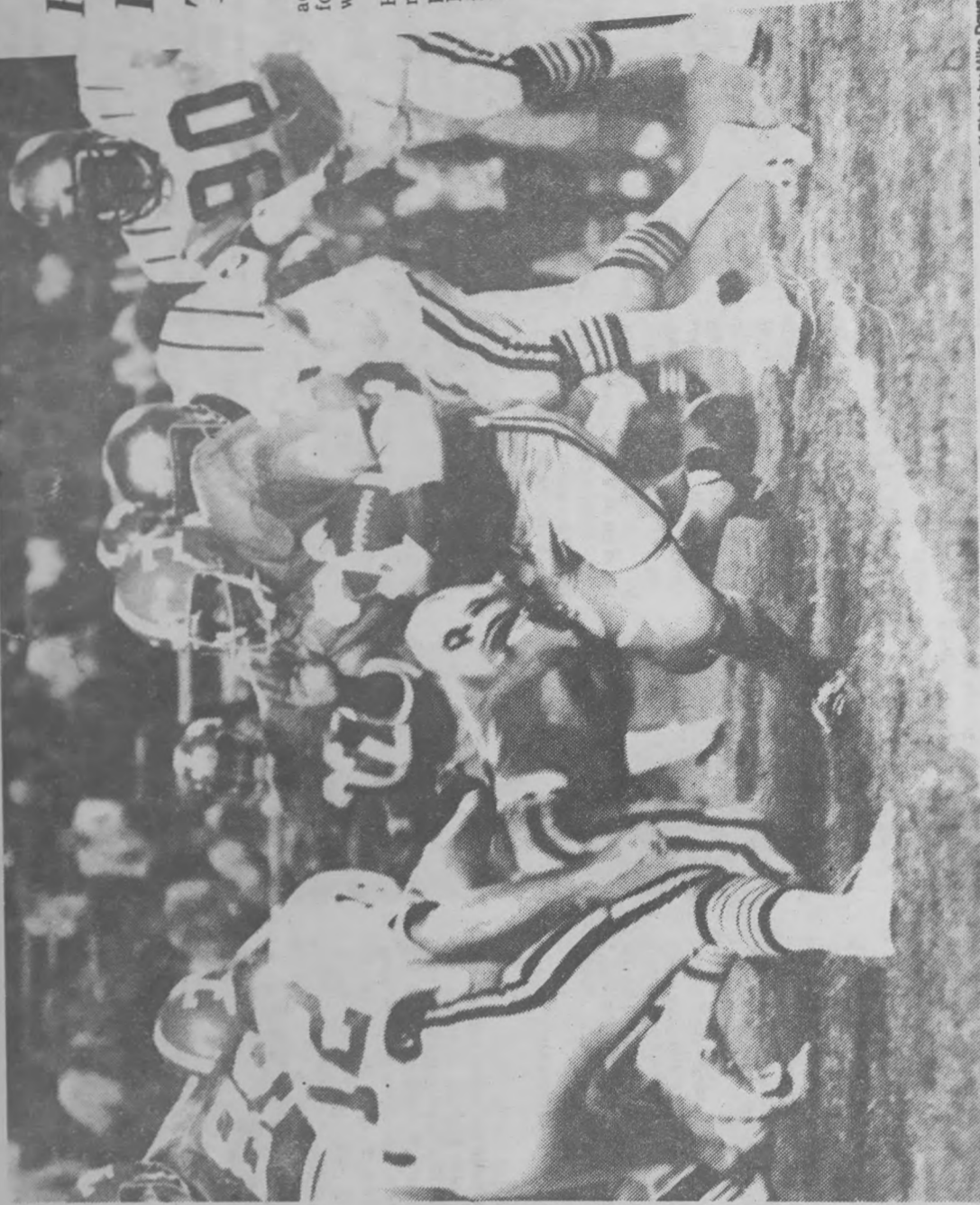
First Downs	15	5
Yards Rushing	163	111
Yards Passing	123	9
Passes	10-24	1-2
Passes Inct. By	0	0
Fumbles Lost	5-34.4	9-28.8
Penalties	2-20	2-10

for the sixty-second renewal of one of the oldest prep football rivalries in the state.

The end result was predictable but it wasn't easy to come by.

Valdosta needed a 4-yard touchdown run by quarterback John Lastinger with just 1:41 showing on the end zone clock to clinch a 16-7 win over a Thomasville team it has beaten 42 times since 1914.

Before that piece of fancy footwork by the senior signaler, Thomasville looked very capable of picking up its 16th win in the series, which



—Times Staff Photo by Mike Downe

## Valdosta's Rodney Gordon (12) Waits On Bulldogs' Cary Clark To Come His Way

nerback Troy Thomas, who had eight, were helping to bog down the Thomasville offense completely.

The Bulldogs didn't even get a first down the first quarter and wound up with only five for the almost penalty-free game.

"We've got to get our offense to be as efficient as our defense," Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes said. "I felt like our defense would have to keep us in the game... and it did."

"But we couldn't get anything going offensively. We only had that one offensive drive."

That 60-yard march in four plays was a beauty.

Fullback Cary Clark ripped off a 46-yard run en route to his 71-yard rushing performance and put a move on

Hughes, a Woody Hayes disciple all the way, went to his air game only two times. Chastain completed one of the two.

"Field position dictates how much we throw," Hughes said. "And if you'll remember, we didn't have any kind of field position."

"I thought they would (throw more)," Hyder said. "But my feeling about Jim is that he'll throw, but he doesn't like to. I was proud of our defense. It responded when it had to."

After Valdosta scored the second time, Chastain did start sniffing for the TD bomb but got bombed in his own end zone for a safety by a gang of Wildcats which included Carrol Johnson, James Harris and Conaway.

Thomasville recovered the resulting free kick but the clock ran out of ticks for the Bulldogs' first loss in three games this year.

Valdosta	7	0	0	9-16
Thomasville	0	7	0	0-7

Score by Quarters

Scoring  
Val. - 1. Roe 14 run (Reaves kick)  
Tho. - Stringer 3 run (Strickland kick)  
Val. - Lastinger 4 run (Reaves kick)  
Val. - safety.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta - King 9-59, Gaskin 7-41, Roe 8-24, Lastinger 7-31, Johnson 1-4, Fletcher 1 minus 1; Thomasville - Clark 14-71, Kavouklis 11-56, Duncan 1-19, Stringer 2-3, Wheeler 1 minus 1, Chastain 12 minus 37.

Passing: Valdosta - Lastinger 10-23-172, Gaskin 0-1-0; Thomasville - Chastain 1-2-0.

Pass Receiving: Valdosta - Blair 4-52, Bond 3-24, Smith 3-44, King 1-1; Thomasville - Clark 1-8.

Punt Returns: Valdosta - Thomas 4-9; Thomasville - None.

Kickoff Returns: Valdosta - 1 Roe 3-22; Thomasville - R. Wheeler 3-22.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta - Thomas 3, Conaway 10, Branin 6, Roberts 3, Beaufort 2, C. Roe 2; Thomasville - Wilson 7, Meach 4, Arrington 4, C. Wheeler 4, Mitchell 3, Howell 3, Bates 3, Strickland 3, Harbin 2.

Valdosta finished 3-7 that season, Hyder's first. Since then, the Wildcats have won 34 games and lost only six, including a spotless 3-0 record and the Associated Press' number one ranking this season.

"It's nice to win in this region in any way, shape or fashion," Hyder said. "This is a black-and-blue region. That was a cat and dog fight out there tonight."

Neither coach would offer a prediction as to what the chances were of their teams meeting again in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Thomasville is in the south subregion, and Valdosta is in the north.

"That's pure speculation," Hughes said. "I'll leave that to you guys (sportswriters)." Thomasville hosts Baldwin Friday, and Valdosta meets Albany here.

# Green return helps Redskins defeat Cards

Times-Union News Services

ST. LOUIS — Rookie Tony Green re-a kickoff 99 yards and Joe Theis-threw touchdown passes to Jean and Clarence Harmon Sunday, lift-Washington Redskins to a 28-10 vic-er the winless St. Louis Cardinals.

Green, a University of Florida e, also returned a kickoff for a own last week.

neismann completed 5-of-12 passes yards before being replaced by Billy late in the third quarter with the s holding a 28-3 lead.

Redskins are now 3-0, while Car- ch Bud Wilkinson is still looking st victory as a pro.

## er 27, Chargers 14

VER — The Denver Broncos o touchdowns within the last four of the game on a 75-yard punt re- Rick Upchurch and a 20-yard run e Perrin for a 27-14 triumph over Diego Chargers.

e Chargers had led 14-13 until Up- returned the punt for the TD with t. Denver followed with Perrin's n their next possession to score 3 remaining.

arterback Dan Fouts had guided rgers to two second-period touc- but with 3:17 to go, the Bronco de- eld the Chargers at their own 26, f West kicked a 49-yard punt. Up- took the ball on his own 25, slipped a line of Chargers and raced down ft sideline for the go-ahead own.

ver's other touchdowns came on a ass from backup quarterback Nor- se to Rick Egloff and a 1-yard run in. Jim Turner missed the extra ter Perrin's first touchdown.

## ers 28, Bengals 3

NCINNATI — Terry Bradshaw ouchdown passes of 28 and 12 yards enco Harris and Rocky Bleier each touchdowns to power the unbeaten gh Steelers to a 28-3 rout of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Bradshaw, off to the best start of his eer, rifled TD passes of 28 yards to Bennie Cunningham and 12 yards to Lynn Swann, shredding the Bengals' defense by completing 14-of-19 passes for 242 yards.

Harris bolted 15 yards for a ouchdown and Bleier raced five yards for another score as the Steelers boosted their record to 3-0.

Cincinnati, whose record slipped to 0-3, could manage only a 33-yard field goal by Chris Bahr.

## Oilers 20, 49ers 19

HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers, stunned by a controversial first-half call and two second-half touchdown passes by San Francisco's Steve DeBerg, struck back for a 20-19 victory when Toni Fritsch kicked a 19-yard field goal with 1:16 left in the game.

Fritsch's field goal, his second of the game, climaxed a madcap Houston drive that covered 80 yards in 11 plays and erased an outstanding second-half passing performance by DeBerg.

The Oilers had taken a 10-6 halftime lead on Earl Campbell's 4-yard run and a 38-yard field goal by Fritsch.

The 49ers countered with field goals of 26 and 19 yards by Ray Wersching, the second coming on a controversial call as time ran out in the first half.

After Houston had apparently stopped a San Francisco drive at its one-yard line with seven seconds to go and no time outs, the official clock inexplicably stopped, giving Wersching time to get off his pressure kick before the half ended.

Referee Don Wedge, also involved in a similar controversy in the Denver Oakland game last week, explained that official timekeeper Paul

## Pro Football

Wersching missed a 46-yard field goal as time ran out in the game.

## Seahawks 24, Jets 17

NEW YORK — David Sims' third touchdown of the game, a 3-yard run with 10:20 left to play, brought the Seattle Seahawks their first victory of the season, a 24-17 upset of the previously unbeaten New York Jets.

Sims' burst around right end to snap a 17-17 tie was set up by a 5-yard run by quarterback Jim Zorn off a fake field goal attempt that gave Seattle a first and goal at the Jets' two-yard line.

The Jets last hopes faded with 1:55 remaining when Bill Gregory and Peter Cronan threw Jet quarterback Richard Todd for a 10-yard loss after New York had moved to the Seattle 30.

## Bears 19, Lions 0

PONTIAC, Mich. — Chicago's Walter Payton converted a fumbled punt by Detroit into a 1-yard touchdown run and defensive end Tommy Hart turned a Greg Landry passing attempt into a safety keying a 12-point third quarter that helped the Bears keep their record spotless with a 19-0 victory over the Lions.

The Bears' ninth straight regular season win left them 3-0, while their NFC Central Division rivals slipped to 1-2. A crowd of 65,982 saw the Lions shut out at home for the first time since Los Angeles did it, 20-0, in 1975.

## Raiders 28, Packers 3

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Mark van Eeghen rushed for 151 yards, setting up two touchdown runs by Arthur Whittington and one by Perry Robiskie to lead the Oakland Raiders to a 28-3 National Football League victory over the Green Bay Packers.

Ken Stabler threw an 11-yard scoring pass to Dave Casper for the Raiders (2-1), who rushed for 347 yards. Most of them came behind the blocking of guard Gene Upshaw and tackle Art Shell, as the Raiders dominated the line of scrimmage and dropped the Packers' record to 2-1.

## Eagles 24, Saints 17

NEW ORLEANS — Philadelphia quarterback Ron Jaworski hit veteran wide receiver Harold Charmichael of Jacksonville with two second-half touchdown passes to lead the Eagles to a 24-17 victory over the New Orleans Saints in a National Football League game.

It was the 83rd consecutive game in which Charmichael caught at least one pass.

Charmichael had to cross the goal line twice for his second touchdown pass of the night. He took a 53-yard pass from Jaworski and sprinted into the end zone but was discovered stepping out of bounds on the eight-yard line.

After a holding call and a sack set the ball back to the 18-yard line Jaworski and Charmichael hooked up again and this time the touchdown counted.

Both teams are now 1-2.

## Giants 26, Chiefs 20

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Joe Pisarcik threw two first-quarter scoring passes and set up a third touchdown with a 46-yard toss to tight end Al Dixon to spark the New York Giants to a 26-10 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

Pisarcik tossed scoring passes of six yards to Bobby Hammond and 21 yards to Johnny Perkins to give the Giants a 14-0 lead. On the first play after New York recovered quarterback Mike Livingston's fumble with 1:09 left in the half, Pisarcik lofted a pass to Dixon to the Chiefs' five-yard line, setting up Larry Csonka's 1-yard TD plunge for a 20-7 New York lead.



Bears' Payton tak

# Rams Dallas

LOS ANGELES (AP) - touchdown pass to Willie M Rod Perry ran a Roger Stat for a final score as the Los Bowl Champion Dallas Cow

Haden, the Rams' R matched the Cowboys vetera partment while the Los Ang runner Tony Dorsett boefor the Coliseum.

Dorsett, who had been a ing in his first two games, v carries by the Rams' hard-c by Jack Youngblood and Ja

In winning their third M against no defeats, the Ram period on a 1-yard smash l evened the count early in th Billy Joe DuPree.

By halftime, the Ra touchdown pass from Hade 10-play, 99-yard advance. A the Cowboys — in search of tory — scored on an 18-yard Hill.

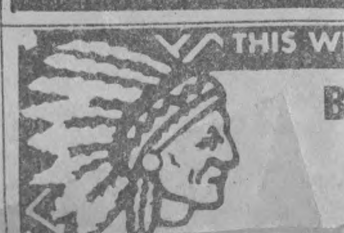
The Rams came storr plays, and Haden, who had l the afternoon, found Miller v end took on the 1 and carried penalty cost the Rams the Corral missed when the ball

Perry clinched the v Staubach's pass at the Dallas the end zone with less than

The Cowboys reached th seconds left, but Pat Thomas the threat.

The upset victory over t vored by four points, put the F las to 2-1.

**WARREN**  
**GUARANT**  
**WE FIN**  
 21st & PEARL ST.



# 'Bama took into hand,

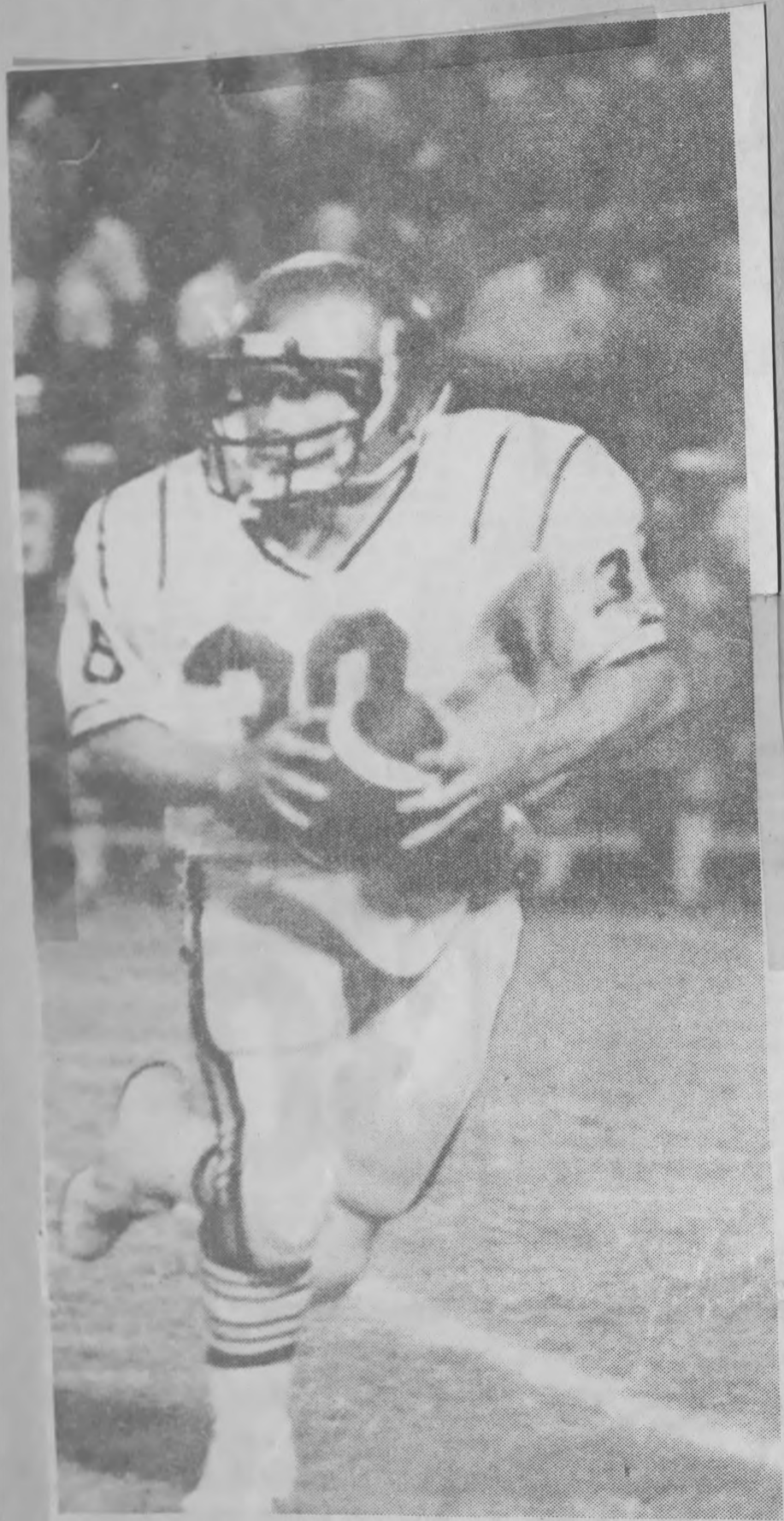
By IRA KAUFMAN  
 UPI Sports Writer

With the bitter memory of last season's lone defeat hanging heavily over them under a muggy midwestern sky, the top-ranked Alabama Tide took matters into their own hands — and chest — Saturday and rallied for a 38-20 triumph over 10th-rated Missouri.

Sophomore defensive end E.J. Junior blocked a Missouri punt early in the second half and teammate Rickey Gilliland carried it 35 yards for a touchdown to lift the 2-0 Crimson Tide to a 24-20 lead in the topsy-turvy game.

pacin  
 over  
 Fresh  
 off 96  
 quart  
 and p  
 third-  
 over  
 each  
 N  
 terbac  
 downs  
 run to  
 and S  
 pass  
 and a

Valdosta I sound do To Wind In Their Cam...  
... on T...  
... on



Valdosta's Gaskins was a stumpy workhorse

# 'Dosta, Thomassville Renew Old Rivalry

By MIKE CHASON

Since the fall of '74, Valdosta and Thomassville have met on the high school football field five times. But Nick Hyder is slow to forget.

The Valdosta football coach still remembers what happened to his team on a rain-soaked Friday night at Cleveland Field here four years ago.

"I have a vivid memory of a 40-0 score," Hyder said Tuesday. "That was a great football team that beat us that night. They had worked hard to get where they were."

After that victory, the worst ever administered to the Wildcats by the Bulldogs in their long rivalry, Thomassville rolled on to its second straight Class AAA state title.

Valdosta stumbled to a 3-7 record, only the second losing season in at least the past 38 years for the Wildcats.

But Hyder's 'Cats haven't lost to Coach Jim Hughes' Bulldogs since...not in three regular season meetings or two playoffs for the Region 1-AAA title.

Friday night, the two teams meet here again. In Thomassville a year ago

## The Valdosta Bulldogs SPORTS

Valdosta grabbed a 26-0 win. "We were hitting on just about every cylinder that night," Hyder said. "Our youngsters had one of their better games."

But with a 2-0 record and wins over Central of Thomassville and Crisp County (Cordele), could this team be even better than the one of a year ago?

"Going into this game, it probably is...on paper," Hyder said. "But I'm looking on paper...paper doesn't hit you back."

"Thomassville has an excellent defensive football team. They're capable of throwing on offense, but they'd rather run."

"They were one of three teams that defeated Lowndes last year. It took a good football team and a

program to do that."

Thomassville is also 2-0 this year with a 38-21 win over Dougherty (Albany) and a 21-0 victory over Westover (Albany) to its credit. Valdosta beat Central 40-0 and Crisp 35-7.

The Wildcats have been rated the number one team in the state by the Associated Press three weeks in a row. Thomassville, 7-3 a year ago, is unranked.

Hyder said his team's Friday night opponent here has seven starters back on defense and "either four or five back on offense."

"They've got a tight end named Guy McIntyre who's about six-four, 230," Hyder said. "All the colleges are listing him as desirable. That says he is an excellent

football player.

"Their quarterback is (Johnny) Chastain, and he's a good one. He can throw the football, and he's capable of executing their offense well."

Hyder believes it will be a better Thomassville team on Cleveland Field here at 8 p.m. Friday than the one Valdosta saw a year ago.

"I think so," he said. "They've got so many experienced players. The nine or 10 months since last year can make a mighty big difference with high school kids."

Hyder's own team has experience in the offensive line which opens the door for a corps of veteran running backs. Quarterback John Lastinger showed against Central he could operate the VHS ground game and then opened up against Crisp through the air to sure-handed Fredrick Blair.

"We work awfully hard on our passing game," Hyder said. "And give credit to Coach Bob Bolton there. All our coaches work together, and I think that's the way it's always been at Valdosta." Hyder has turned over the



NICK HYDER  
Credits Assistant

play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Butch Brooks, a change from last season when he called the plays.

"I know that burns some people in Valdosta because they want the head coach to call the plays," Hyder said. "But Butch has done a great job. He's done an outstanding job."

"We converse on just about every series, and he works extremely well with me. I like the way he works with the youngsters, and I like the way he works with me."

"I called all the plays last year in all the playoff games and everything. If I thought I had anything else to prove, I'd call them again." "I like to recognize my assistant coaches because I



BUTCH BROOKS  
Calling The Plays

was an assistant coach myself once. There are assistant coaches on every staff in this region although we may not realize it sometimes."

Since Valdosta ran for one win and threw for the other, it's anybody's guess what Hyder's plan will be this week. He's sticking with his patented reply.

"We'll do whatever we can do," he said. Hyder said Valdosta had escaped the Crisp game relatively injury-free except for a few bruises. He listed no doubtful starters.

"This will be the toughest test we've had," he said. "Thomassville has a proven football team with good speed, and they're well-coached."

**Fifth**

# Valdosta Still Number 1, Waycross On Top In AAA

Press  
a 14-12  
county to  
s AAA,  
s Class  
s Class  
AA and  
oped a  
poll of  
football

leader,  
ed last  
second  
annah  
ornets  
2 team  
gainst

1 in  
; Hart  
week's  
ad an  
ond.  
rtown  
Friday  
ericus  
team,  
thers  
ehind  
s win

one to  
inking  
etro  
their  
week's  
sboro,  
ninth-  
ward  
last  
yside  
AAA

AAA  
lister  
county  
ninth  
land

AAAA after they creamed Central-Thomasville 40-0 in 1AAAA action. Warner Robins dropped from second to fourth despite winning a tough season opener against Kendrick 14-7.

Southwest DeKalb gained a notch to second place after winning its starter against Gordon 37-0. Cedar Shoals whipped Johnson-Gainesville 32-6 and moved to third. Lowndes trampled Albany 33-0 but stayed at fifth.

Central-Macon, still untested, was tied for ninth last week with Northside-Warner Robins but wasn't returned to the top standings this week.

Behind Savannah Country Day and Buford in the top spots in Class A were 1-0 Hogansville at third, untried Warren County at fourth, and 1-0 Clinch County at fifth.

Charlton County won its opener and moved one step to sixth place.

In Class AA, Cartersville lost to underdog Rockmart Friday and tumbled from second place to seventh. East Rome came down to second, and Claxton moved one step to take third place.

Mitchell County won Friday and jumped three places to fourth, while R.E. Lee got its first win and stayed at fifth. Lincoln County, kicked up to Class AA this year, won its opener to move from eighth to sixth.

Irwin County lost its game and lost its ranking. Jeff Davis beat Lyons 7-6 but still lost its No. 10 place. Mary Persons beat Class AAA Perry 23-19 to fight its way into the standings.

## Prep Top 10

Here is a list of this week's top teams in the four classifications of Georgia high school football, their records and the voting points they received from the members of the AP board. Following the top 10 in each class is a list of schools nominated.

### Class AAAA

1. Valdosta 1-0 (88)
2. Southwest DeKalb 1-0 (78)
3. Cedar Shoals 2-0 (66)
4. Warner Robins 1-0 (53)
5. Lowndes 1-0 (45)
6. Clarke Central 2-0 (38)
7. Northside-Warner Robins 1-0 (24)
8. Benedictine 0-0 (1)
9. Marietta 2-0 (8)
10. Lakeside 1-0 (17)

Others nominated: Thomasville 1-0, Dunwoody 2-0, Newton County 1-0, LaGrange 0-1, Central-Macon 0-0, Griffin 1-0, Newman 1-0, Westside 1-0, Tompkins 1-0 and Jonesboro 1-0.

### Class AAA

1. Waycross 1-0 (83)
2. Cedar town 1-0 (79)
3. Americus 2-0 (68)
4. Marist 2-0 (49)
5. Ware Co. 2-0 (40)
6. Gainesville 1-1 (28)
7. Avondale 1-0 (27)
8. Dalton 1-0 (25)
9. Westminster 1-0 (23)
10. Lithonia 1-0 (18)

Others nominated: West Rome 1-0, Dublin 1-0, Rockmart 1-0, Perry 0-1, Swainsboro 0-1.

1. S.W.-Atlanta 1-0, Rossville 1-1, Peach Co. 1-0, Worth 1-0 and Woodward Acad. 0-1.

### Class AA

1. Commerce 2-0 (87)
2. E. Rome 1-0 (81)
3. Claxton 2-0 (71)
4. Mitchell Co. 1-0 (67)
5. R.E. Lee 1-1 (50)
6. Lincoln Co. 1-0 (46)
7. Cartersville 0-1 (35)
8. Jefferson 2-0 (24)
9. North Springs 1-0 (21)
10. Mary Persons 1-0 (18)

Others nominated: Jeff Davis 1-0, Irwin Co. 0-1, Vidalia 1-0, Model 1-0, Jackson 2-0, Harlem 1-0, Morgan Co. 2-0, Darlington 1-0, Turner Co. 0-1, Manchester 1-0, Bowdon 1-0, Pelham 2-0 and Duluth 1-0.

### Class A

1. Sav. Country Day 1-0 (91)
2. Buford 1-0 (89)
3. Hogansville 1-0 (5)
4. Warren Co. 0-0 (54)
5. Clinch Co. 1-0 (44)
6. Charlton Co. 1-0 (42)
7. Johnson Co. 1-0 (40)
8. Meffer 1-0 (25)
9. Miller Co. 1-0 (20)
10. Monticello 1-0 (17)

Others nominated: Treutlen Co. Emanuel County Inst. 2-0, Pacell' Gordon Lee 2-0, Mt. de Sales 0-1, Bre. 2, Trion 1-1, Ga. Military Col. 1-0, Mt. Zil. 0 and West Point 0-1.

# Wildcats Still Number 1

ATLANTA (AP) — Leaders in The AP's Georgia high school football poll kept comfortable holds on their No. 1 positions, but Buford and Southwest DeKalb, formerly the No. 2 teams in their classes, plunged after mediocre showings last weekend.

Buford, which was No. 1 for a week earlier in the season, dropped its Friday night game to Cherokee 14-7, falling to sixth place in Class A. Southwest DeKalb, 1-0-1, tied Henderson 3-3 and dropped to seventh place in Class AAAAA.

Valdosta, 2-0, cruised past Crisp County 35-7 and received 10 first-place votes from 11 Georgia sportswriters and broadcasters voting in this week's poll. Cedar Shoals, 3-0, slipped up one place to second after besting crosstown rival Clarke Central 12-3. The loss dropped the Gladiators, 2-1, from the rankings.

Marietta, undefeated after three games and flying after a 27-7 rout of Campbell-Smyrna, hopped from ninth

to fifth. Behind Marietta are Benedictine, 1-0; Lakeside, 2-0; Northside-Warner Robins, 2-0; Newnan, 2-0, and Central-Macon, 1-0.

Class AAA remained much the same this week, although the list was crowded near the top with Americus and Cedartown tied for second. The Waycross Bulldogs had 105 voting points compared with 90 for the second-place teams.

Avondale, 2-0, shoved Gainesville, 1-1, from fifth place to seventh, while former eighth-ranked Dalton climbed to sixth. Lithonia moved to eighth, Westminster dropped from the rankings and Swainsboro, off the list last week, is on again at 10th.

The top three of Class AA remained static, with Commerce, East Rome and Claxton all adding wins during the weekend. But Mitchell County, ranked fourth last week, dropped to sixth despite defeating Worth County 10-7.

Jefferson, 3-0, climbed to seventh to trade places with

Cartersville, 1-1, and Mary Persons, 2-0, went from 10th to ninth to trade places with North Springs, 2-0.

Buford in Class A dropped four rungs on the ladder, and Clinch County disappeared altogether after its 14-7 loss to Blackshear. Newcomers to the top 10 were Gordon Lee, 3-0; Treutlen, 3-0; Mt. Zion, 3-0, and Pacelli, 2-0.

Others former residents not found in this week's ranking are Charlton County, Miller County and Monticello.

Savannah Country Day beat S.E. Bulloch 9-7 to hang onto first. Hogansville whipped Monticello 24-7 to stay at second and knock Monticello out of the rankings after its week-long stint at No. 10.

Here is a list of the top 10 teams in the four classes, their records, the number of voting points they received from the AP board and others nominated:

- Class AAAAA**
  1. Valdosta, 2-0, 109.
  2. Cedar Shoals, 3-0, 91.
  3. Warner Robins, 2-0, 85.
  4. Lowndes, 2-0, 69.
  5. Marietta, 3-0, 44.
  6. S.W. DeKalb, 1-0-1, 31.
  7. Lakeside, 2-0, 28.
  8. Northside-W.R., 2-0, 28.
  9. Newnan, 2-0, 21.

- 9. Central-Macon, 1-0, 16.
- 10. Jonesboro, 2-0, 13.
- Others nominated: Tompkins, 2-0; Clarke Central, 2-1; Thomasville, 2-0; Stephens Co., 3-0; Dunwoody, 3-0.

- Class AAA**
  1. Waycross, 2-0, 105.
  2. Americus, 3-0, 90.
  3. Cedartown, 2-0, 90.
  4. Marist, 3-0, 69.
  5. Ware Co., 3-0, 56.
  6. Avondale, 2-0, 48.
  7. Dalton, 2-0, 39.
  8. Gainesville, 1-1, 37.
  9. Lithonia, 2-0, 28.
  10. Peach Co., 2-0, 12.
  11. Swainsboro, 1-1, 11.

- Others nominated: Dublin, 2-0; LaFayette, 3-0; S.W.-Atlanta, 2-0; Glenn Hills, 2-0.

- Class AA**
  1. Commerce, 3-0, 97.
  2. E. Rome, 2-0, 87.
  3. Claxton, 3-0, 83.
  4. R.E. Lee, 2-1, 70.
  5. Lincoln Co., 2-0, 64.
  6. Mitchell Co., 2-0, 61.
  7. Jefferson, 3-0, 40.
  8. Cartersville, 1-1, 39.
  9. Mary Persons, 2-0, 28.
  10. North Springs, 2-0, 13.

- Others nominated: Pelham, 3-0; Morgan Co., 3-0; Bleckley Co., 2-0; Duluth, 2-0; Cedar Grove, 3-0; Lakeshore and Manchester.
- Class A**
  1. Sav. C. Day, 2-0, 105.
  2. Hogansville, 2-0, 92.
  3. Warren Co., 1-0, 81.
  4. Johnson Co., 2-0, 71.
  5. Metter, 2-0, 62.
  6. Buford, 1-1, 44.
  7. Gordon Lee, 3-0, 33.
  8. Treutlen Co., 3-0, 21.
  9. Mt. Zion, 3-0, 20.
  10. Pacelli, 2-0, 17.

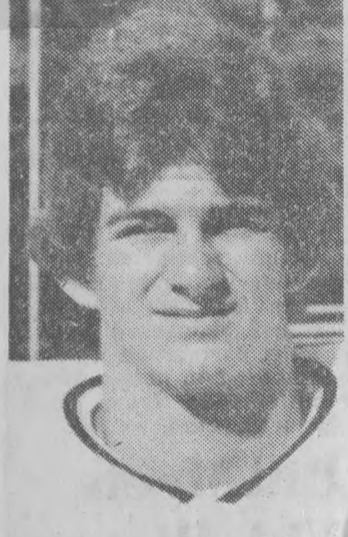
- Others nominated: Clinch Co., 1-1; Emanuel Co. Inst., 2-0; Charlton Co., 1-1; Decula; Trion, 2-1; Unadilla, 2-0; Monticello, 1-1; Miller Co., 1-1; and Ga. Military College.

# Hyder's Haunted By Appeal Case

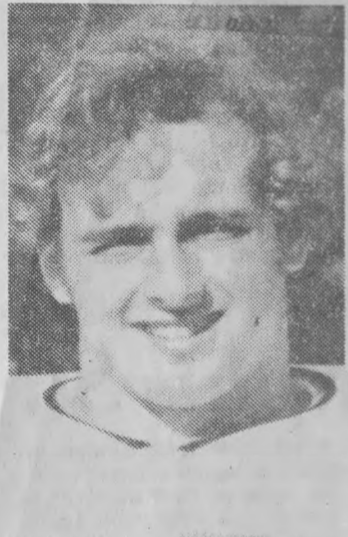
By Times Staff Writer  
Ferrell Henry's statement of a year ago still haunts Nick Hyder.  
"The Georgia High School Association got a thousand dollars, Valdosta got their games back and what did Crisp County get?" Henry, the Crisp County High School football coach, questioned.  
The situation involved came about when Valdosta receiver Alvin Thomas was declared ineligible after the first two games of the season last year. The GHSA had at first said Thomas was eligible but later discovered it was in error because of the senior's age.  
GHS Executive Secretary Bill Fordham ordered Valdosta to forfeit the two games but a later hearing before the GHSA Appeal Board brought on a reversal of the decision.  
Instead, Valdosta was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. The two Valdosta victories over Crisp County and Bainbridge were restored.  
However, Crisp County school officials were not satisfied with that ruling and carried the matter before the GHSA Executive Committee. There, the decision of the Appeal Board was upheld, reportedly by a narrow vote of 17-15.

Hyder believes Crisp County still has some ill will about the matter.  
"This team (Crisp) is going to be highly motivated because of the forfeiture situation," the Valdosta coach said of the team his Wildcats take on in Cordele Friday night.  
"They have an edge which we won't have. They want to prove something. The GHSA got a thousand dollars, Valdosta got their forfeitures back and Crisp County didn't get anything.  
"If I was them, I would use it (as a point of motivation)."  
Crisp wiped out Westover (Albany) 26-0 in its opener while Valdosta was taking apart Central of Thomasville, 40-0. The 8 p.m. game Friday is both teams' first Region 1-AAAA (North) encounter of the season.  
"We're looking at an older more experienced football team than we saw last year," Hyder said. "Plus, we're looking at it up there. They're capable of beating us."  
Valdosta, ranked number one in the state in today's Associated Press poll, knocked off Crisp 40-14 in its season opener last year. However, the Cougars were still very much in the game late in the third period.

"Crisp County has a much better football team than last year," Hyder said. "They played a tough game against Dougherty in the spring. I think Dougherty beat them like 20-12, and it was a tough game.  
"They're a team with two or three proven running backs. Eddie Ford wound up about fourth or fifth in the rushing statistics last year. He's a good hard-nosed runner.  
"Against Westover, they kicked two field goals, played good defense, ran for one touchdown and passed for one."  
Westover was winless a year ago and picked last in a preseason sportswriters' poll. Does that take anything away from Crisp's win?  
"It means they have a team that is capable of going under pressure," Hyder said. "It's hard to judge Westover. We don't play them but I know they're trying to get that program turned around. We do know that Crisp County is tough.  
"They've got eight boys back who started against us last year, and they beat Lowndes last year. I think they improved as the season went on."  
Valdosta relied almost



**JOHN LASTINGER**  
VHS Quarterback  
totally on its ground game to rout what was billed to be a quality Central squad. But the Yellow Jackets were never really in the game after the Wildcats put together a 26-point second quarter.  
VHS quarterback John Lastinger only threw the ball three times but ran for 55 yards on nine carries. He picked up two touchdowns among those hauls.  
"We were well pleased with Lastinger," Hyder said. "John is an altogether different performer than Buck (Belue, last year's quarterback). He does what he does with what he's got.  
"If a guy's a baritone, he can't sing soprano or bass. If a guy is a violinist, he can't play the clarinet. John just takes his style and uses it.  
"We were pleased with (John) Bond also. He was a



**ANDY CHAPMAN**  
'Doubtful' Starter  
very pleasant surprise. He probably gave his best performance."  
Bond came off the bench to hit on three of three passes, run for one touchdown and pass for another as Lastinger's back-up. He looked especially impressive from the shotgun formation.  
"Crisp County has a more settled situation on their coaching staff than the team we played last Friday night," Hyder said. "I think that had a lot to do with the way Central played."  
Central Coach Will Roy Cooley was named interim school superintendent of the Thomas County system Friday. At gametime, it was not known if he would continue his coaching duties.  
Hyder said starting right offensive guard Andy Chapman is a "doubtful" starter Friday night because of some root canal work on his teeth. He said Billy Harvey and Rob Register would fill in for Chapman.  
The only other injury was a 7-stitch cut on the chin of placekicker David Reaves. Hyder said Reaves should be able to play.  
Valdosta has beaten Crisp County eight years in a row.

# Lowndes Is Valde Wayc

By The Associated F  
Waycross wrested win from Appling Co hold the lead in Class AAAA, but the Class A leaders each slip notch in this week's AP Georgia high school f teams.  
Last week's Class A Buford, is 1-0 but rest weekend, slipping to a place behind Sav Country Day. The H were last week's No. 1 and won their opener at Reidsville 35-22.  
Commerce took No Class AA after ripping County 24-7. Last leader, East Rome, h open date and fell to sec In Class AAA, Ceda beat Lithia Springs I and slipped past Am this week as the No. 2 even though the Pa have two victories t them after Friday night over Douglas County.  
Marist stepped up e fourth place after bla Shamrock 16-0 in Atlanta action for second victory. Last v fourth-ranker, Swain sixth-ranked Perry and ranked Woodv Academy—all losers weekend—fell by the w in this week's Class ranking.  
New to the Class standings are Westm and Lithonia. Ware and Avondale, tied for last week, moved to sixth in this week's Georgia sportswriter broadcasters.  
Not surprisingly stayed at the top o

# White Liked Taste Of Major Leagues



DAVID WHITE  
Bound For Florida

By MIKE CHASON

David White only sat on the bench of the Chicago White Sox for five days but that was long enough to convince him he doesn't have a bad line of work.

After spending the summer with Chicago's Class A minor league team in Appleton, Wis., White moved up the major league club Sept. 8. The 17-year-old Valdostan returned to reality Wednesday when he came home

to spend a few days with his family before leaving for the Florida Instructional League today.

"It's great," White said. "You walk in the clubhouse and they've got your meals prepared, anything you want. Everything's ready for you."

"That first game was pretty exciting. Everybody just kept telling me to calm down. You walk out on the field, and it's like you're in a big world. All the kids start walking up to you."

White didn't see action in a game for Chicago but didn't really expect to.

"I think they moved me up just so I could see what it was like," he said. "I figured they would move me up. I had a good idea they would anyway."

Chicago played Seattle and Minnesota while White was with the team. He had a chance to study the perennial American League batting champ, Rod Carew, at close range.

"I saw him hitting batting practice," White said. "The man's unbelievable."

Appleton won the Midwest League title but the former Valdosta High School third baseman admits he wasn't a real key behind the success of the team.

"I thought I'd get to play a little more," he said. "I didn't get to play that much. They said they didn't want to rush me."

White said his batting average was "a little over .100." He hit .300 for the last 10 games of the season, however.

From a 16-homer year with Valdosta's Class AAA state

championship team in the spring, White fell to one home run for the whole summer with Appleton. He hit it in the first game.

"It took me about a week just to get used to the pitching," White said. "Everybody was throwing hard."

"It'll mess with your mind. They'll come in tight with one and then they'll come right back and hit the corner."

White said he played third base and batted in the designated hitter's slot for Appleton. He batted sixth or lower in the lineup.

The second round draft pick of the White Sox believes the next two months in the instructional league at Sarasota will help him.

"It should," he said. "you get up early in the morning, go to the field and either hit or take ground balls. Then you play a game about two o'clock in the afternoon."

"You do that until November."

White joins another local player, Cecil Whitehead, in the fall league. Whitehead was drafted in the second round by the Baltimore Orioles this summer. He hit .300 for Baltimore's rookie league team in Bluefield, W. Va., and is now stationed in St. Petersburg.

White's VHS teammate, Buck Belue, was also drafted by the White Sox in the second round but chose to pass up a chance at pro baseball to play college football at Georgia.

Belue saw brief action at quarterback in Georgia's victory over Baylor Saturday.

# Tift Coach Believes Mistakes A Factor

By MIKE CHASON

TIFTON — Gene Brodie says arrangements have been made to handle a crowd of 14,000 high school football fans here Friday night when Brodie's Tift County Blue Devils host Valdosta's Wildcats.

Brodie just hopes the game equals in excitement the work his staff and other school officials have turned out in preparation for it.

"Our folks have worked real hard trying to handle the fans," the Tift County coach said in an early morning phone interview today. "We started last week working on the bleachers. We've even made some new parking arrangements. We think we'll be able to handle 14,000 folks."

"I just hope we don't make a whole lot of mistakes so we can have a good ballgame. Coach (Nick) Hyder's team takes advantage of you when you make mistakes."

Brodie's Blue Devils and Hyder's Wildcats are both 5-0 on the season. Both have matching 2-0 Region 1-AAAA (North) records heading into the crucial subregion contest.

Valdosta is top ranked in the Associated Press statewide poll, and Tift is tied for fourth with Benedictine. Many observers are terming it the biggest game in the state this week.

"Our people say it's the biggest thing they've ever had here," Brodie said.

The Tift coach took over the Blue Devils in 1976 after leading Central of Macon to the state championship in 1975. He says the Blue Devils don't have the backs he had at Central but he knew from the start he had a good football team on his hands.

"Our goal this year was to get in the playoffs," Brodie said. "We've said that all along publicly. But the only advantage Tift County has Friday night is that we're playing at home."

"The advantages tend to go the other way after that."

Brodie said his team was preparing for the wide open offense of the Wildcats by "praying a lot." He did say 235-pound defensive end Ricky Wilson is returning to the starting lineup this week after missing much of the first half of the season with an injury.

Senior linebacker Danny Branch is to miss the game with torn cartilage in his knee.

Chances are, it will be a lot different Blue Devil team that takes the field at 8 p.m. Friday night than the one which was taken apart 27-12 by Lowndes in the spring.

"In the spring, neither one of our quarterbacks had taken a varsity snap," Brodie said.

Since then, sophomore Ken Hobby has won the starting

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

job, exhibiting skill as a runner and a passer. Hobby was the key factor when Tift upset Lowndes 18-7 earlier this season.

Brodie confirmed the rumor Hobby could throw with either hand but said he only did it in baseball.

Hyder pointed out in preseason that Tift and Valdosta were the only teams in the 12-team league returning every starter but one on the offensive line. He believes that is one of the reasons the two clubs are the only unbeaten ones left five games away from the season's completion.

Tift's line is anchored by 245-pound senior tackle Tim Case and 230-pound junior

tight end Landy Ewing.

Valdosta features 208-pound senior tackle Scott Griffin and 225-pound junior center Tony Blasetti as the heaviest members of its line. "Let's face it," Hyder said. "They're just so much bigger than we are."

"Everybody keeps talking about our size," Brodie said. "Thomasville is bigger than we are. We've got a couple of big kids, and that's it."

Tift knocked off Thomasville 14-7 last week in a game that left his team bruised up, Brodie said. Valdosta needed a touchdown in the last two minutes to play to beat Thomasville 16-7 earlier in the year.

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

### TIFT COUNTY

Offense—ends Antonio Terry (185, sr.) and Landy Ewing (230, jr.), tackles Tim Case (245, sr.) and Ken Cheek (190, jr.), guards Buddy Cawley (185, sr.) and Jerome Howard (205, sr.), center Willie Cox (200, jr.), slotback Michael Tillman (160, jr.), fullback Mark Hand (185, jr.), tailback Danny Morris (155, sr.), quarterback Ken Hobby (175, soph.).

Defense—ends Ricky Holt (200, soph.) and Ricky Wilson (235, sr.), tackles Scott Shiver (200, sr.) and Jessie Cox (195, jr.), linebackers Nate Taylor (190, sr.), Landy Simmons (180, jr.), Joe Schatch (175, jr.) and James Neal (190, sr.), safeties Larry Spears (160, sr.) and Robert Jones (150, sr.).

### VALDOSTA

Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Hankins (167, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irwin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (180, sr.).

Defense—ends Marlin Beaufort or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), or Demps Johnson (180, sr.) noseguard James Conaway (170, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) or Anthony Battles (180, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Danta Jones (170, soph.).

Kicker David Reaves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

Superman lives in a telet after this game your gona know

Send them I njurs back to their reservation!

Johnny may lie Force

Signs Are A Big Part Of Any Pep Rally As The Opponent Is Thoroughly Insulted

# The Valdosta Daily Times

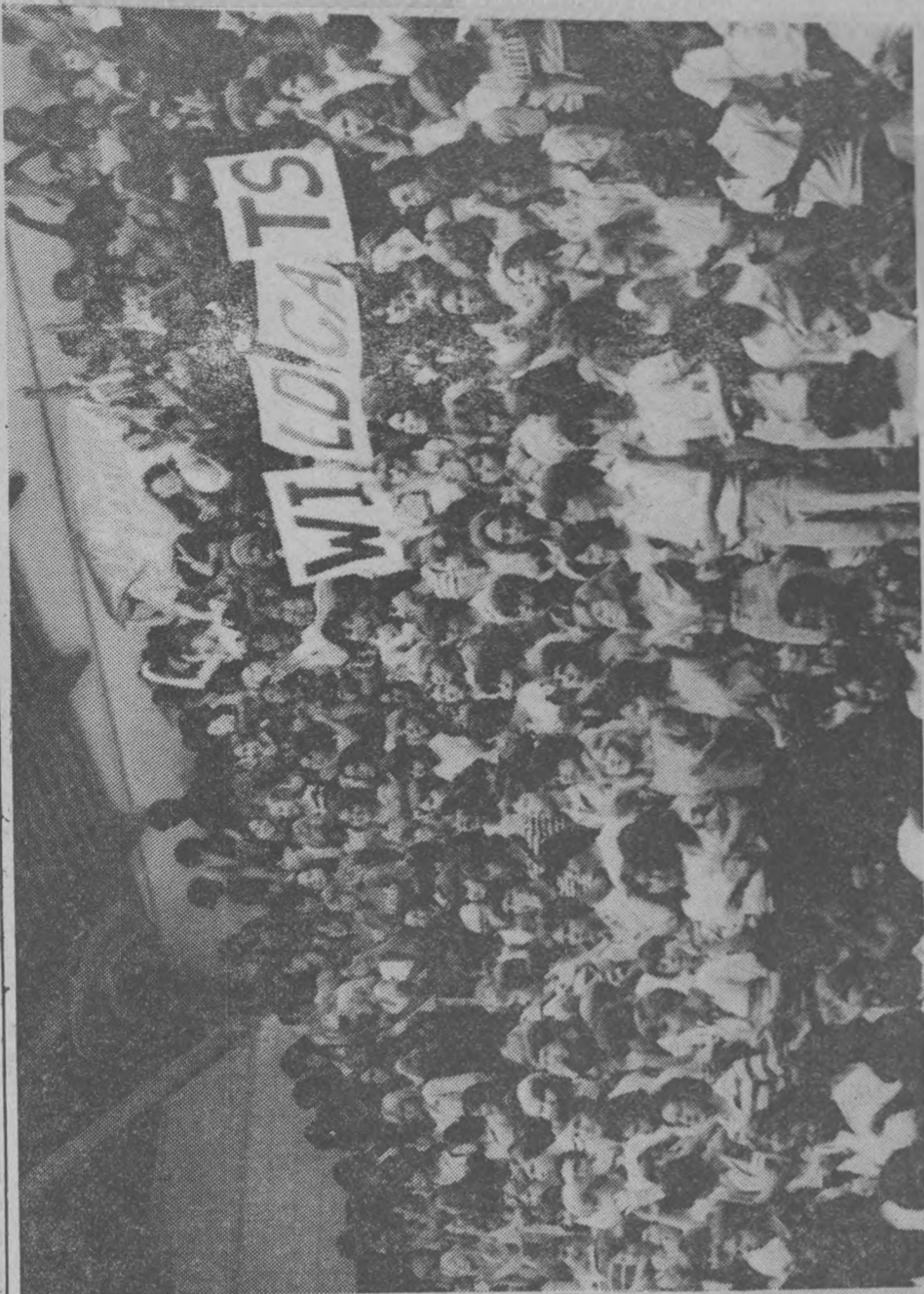
SECTION  
B

Valdosta, Georgia, Sunday Morning, October 8, 1978

Moonlight, Roses  
At Harvest Ball  
... See Page 2-B



Valdosta High Principal Lloyd Mims Asks His Students Who's No. 1? And The Response Inside The VHS Gymnasium Is Deafening



Valdosta High Principal Lloyd Mims Asks His Students Who's No. 1? And The Response Inside The VHS Gymnasium Is Deafening

## At Hall Of Fame Banquet

# Dodd Says Valdosta 'Special'

By Times Staff Writer

While the two best baseball teams in America battled it out on television, some of the top local sports teams and athletes of the past and present were honored at the first annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame banquet here Tuesday night.

As the Dodgers and the Yankees were moving into Game One of the World Series, former Georgia Tech football coach Bobby Dodd was telling the crowd of about 250 persons how much Valdosta has meant to him.

"Some of the best football players I ever had were your young athletes that Wright Bazemore sent me," Dodd said. "They were well disciplined and well trained."

"If I ever saw a city appropriate for a Hall of Fame, it's Valdosta, the high school football capital of the world. This is a special city."

Dodd was the guest speaker at the banquet, which was for the purpose of inducting 15 prominent athletes and coaches of the past into the Hall of Fame.

Local teams who captured regional, state or national honors last year were also recognized along with athletes who received all-

state or All-America honors.

Former Valdosta High School quarterback Buck Belue was the unanimous choice of the selection committee as the athlete of the year. Belue, who was named to the all-state and one All-America team, is now the second-team quarterback at the University of Georgia.

The longest ovation of the night came for former Valdosta High football coach Wright Bazemore after he accepted his Hall of Fame plaque. Bazemore called the honor "the finest he had ever received."

Other inductees receiving their plaques in person were former VHS football star Brooker Blanton, former major league baseball player Paul Carter, former major league baseball player Ellis Clary and former Dasher Bible School basketball star and Valdosta State College basketball coach Gary Colson.

Also on hand to receive their plaques were T. Guy Connell, who was instrumental in bringing minor league baseball to Valdosta, former outstanding amateur golfer W.L. "Dynamite" Goodloe and former VHS and University of Georgia football standout Bobby Rose.

Other inductees included former Valdosta football coaches Mike Herndon, Bobby Hooks and Turner Rockwell. All three are now deceased and were represented by family members.

The plaques of the late Nelse Holcombe, one of the original founders of the Valdosta Touchdown Club, the late Jack Oliver, an outstanding local golfer, and the late Eddie Zant, a former standout VHS football player, were also received by relatives.

Former Valdosta football star Noah Langdale was the only living member of the inductees who couldn't make the banquet. His plaque was accepted by John Peeples.

Teams honored included

the Lowndes High School girls' basketball team for winning state and national championships, the Valdosta High baseball team for winning the state championship and the Valdosta State College women's basketball team for winning state and regional championships.

Also cited were the region championships by the VHS girls' tennis team, the VHS golf team, the VHS football team, the Georgia Christian School boys' basketball team, and the Valdosta State cross country team, which captured the South Atlantic Conference title.

The Valdosta State baseball team was also recognized for winning the

South Atlantic Regional.

Athletes honored for all-state accomplishments included Belue, Deland Guthrie of Georgia Christian, Robert Baldwin of VHS, Karen Parker, Marcia Player and Rhonda Rowell of Lowndes and Ronnie Adkins of Lowndes.

For All-America honors, Bruno Caldwell, Sal Amadeo, Cecil Whitehead, Joe Germano and Carol Chason of VSC were recognized.

Belue and Player were also cited for making All-America teams.

The Hall of Fame was initiated by the Valdosta Boys' Club. The plaques of the 15 inductees are to be showcased at the club until a permanent site is found.

## Notes...Quotes...Trivia

# Lastinger, Thomas Did A Night's Work

Notes, quotes and assorted trivia:

— John Lastinger and Steve Thomas scored nine touchdowns between them Friday night. Lastinger, Valdosta's senior quarterback, ran for five touchdowns against Albany, and Thomas, Lowndes' durable fullback, popped into the end zone four times against Central of Thomasville. Some players are lucky to score that many sixes in a season.

— Just once I'd like to hear a coach say "we might have looked better but our offense had to stay on the field too long."

— It's hard to believe Ernie DiGregorio and Curtis Perry have already retired from the National Basketball Association. It seems like just a few months ago when Perry was a key figure in title runs for the Milwaukee Bucks and Phoenix Suns. DiGregorio was rookie of the year and then melted into oblivion.

— Lowndes quarterback Chuck DeVane had number 12 on his back again Friday night. DeVane wore number 11 for the Tift County game because somebody swiped his game jersey from his locker. Call it superstition if you will but that's the only game Lowndes has lost.

— Westbrook's football team has to be the surprise of the year in the area. The Cougars are 5-0 and were ranked third statewide in the last poll. Buddy Ethridge has something cooking in Dixie.

— Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent said Cleveland Field seats only 11,232. He doubts 12,000 could be packed into the stadium. He says no chairs will be placed on the sidelines for the Lowndes-Valdosta game.

— How many times is Pete Banaszak going to be waived, only to return to the Oakland Raiders?

— Washington Coach Jack Pardee wishes the Redskin cheerleaders would move to the other side of the field. The Washington gals are wearing new uniforms this season with bare backs, plunging necklines and diamond-shaped cutouts at the midriff.

"I find it in very poor taste," Pardee said, "whether it's at a football game or any other place. That's a carte blanche statement, not just referring to the new uniforms our girls have, but the whole league."



— Eastern Kentucky University has four Georgia players on its squad this season including former Lowndes High School tackle Buddy Moor. The other players are Jeff Williams, a freshman tailback from Marietta, Chris Taylor, a freshman offensive tackle from Waycross and Richard Bell, a freshman defensive end from Marietta. Moor is a defensive tackle. Former Lowndes High assistant coach Frank Vohun is an assistant at Eastern Kentucky.

— Martina Navratilova keeps being rated number one but the world isn't ready to accept anybody for that tag except Chris Evert. Navratilova just doesn't rule with the same iron hand. The recent U.S. Open was a shining example. Martina lost to Pam Shriver. Evert didn't.

— Two big games are on tap in Region 1-AAAA Friday night and Tift County travels to Thomasville. Tift is the only team to score on Lowndes, and Lowndes is the only team to score on Tift. Dougherty and Thomasville are both 3-1.

— Eighty percent of the 200 employees who make the footballs for the National Football League are women. The Wilson Sporting Goods factory in Ada, Ohio, turns out all of the 8,000 balls used in the NFL each year. Wilson has been supplying the pros with footballs since 1941. Twenty-four balls must be made

available for each NFL home game. Six new balls are used in each quarter. Three dozen balls must be on hand for the Super Bowl.

— Valdosta State College's basketball Blazers have two tournaments in their home gym this season.

— Mark Williams left a \$40,000-a-year job as vice-president for Blue Cross in Wisconsin to become the rookie head football coach at Carroll College. He says he took a "tremendous pay cut."

Williams served as an assistant at the 1,100-student private school for four years on a parttime basis. Now, he's plunged whole hog into the sports world. What is the mystique about athletics which turns a successful businessman into a sideline orator?

— Try as he might, Jim Brown couldn't draw George Allen into a controversial statement when the two men did the color commentary on the Los Angeles-Atlanta game two weeks ago. Brown kept setting the bait but Allan refused to criticize the team that fired him after two exhibition games.

— Four of the last six Valdosta football games are on the road. Three of those games (Tift, Monroe, Dougherty) are subregion contests. Four of the last six Lowndes games are at home and one of the away games is at Cleveland Field. The Vikings have to leave town only once more (to Crisp County) before the end of the regular season. LHS has all three (Westover, Bainbridge, Thomasville) subregion games at Martin Stadium.

— Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson is to speak at the North Valdosta Rotary Club's meeting Monday.

— Valdosta's 49 points against Albany Friday night was the top offensive production for the Wildcats this season but was topped by two 50-point nights last year.

— Dallas Coach Tom Landry says quarterbacks need more protection from the game officials.

"The quarterbacks are getting hit too much, and the officials aren't calling it," Landry said. "They need to, because the quarterback needs to be protected." Dallas quarterback Roger Staubach is one of the few NFL signal-callers not limping at the present. Zebras have ears too.

# Hughes Says VHS-T'ville Needs No Extra Flavor

By MIKE CHASON  
THOMASVILLE — Just Valdosta against Thomasville is enough. Jim Hughes isn't using any other kind of psyche job on his football team.

The two giants of the Region 1-AAAA prep grid scene square off within the picturesque and tradition-laden walls of Cleveland Field in Valdosta Friday night.

It's a rivalry which extends back to 1914 but Hughes, the Thomasville coach, isn't using the past or the fact that Valdosta is rated the number one team in the state to pump any additional adrenalin into the unbeaten Bulldogs.

"I just think you're muddying the water when you start talking about the number one ranking and also when you talk about last year and the year before," Hughes said Wednesday.

"It (Valdosta's top rating) hasn't been a topic of conversation with us this week. That poll changes every week."

"The Valdosta-Thomasville rivalry goes back a long time, and it's been a good rivalry. I don't think this game needs anything extra. It has the makings of being a good football game."

Both teams are 2-0 heading into the 8 p.m. struggle which is a non-subregion bout. Thomasville is in the south half of 1-AAAA, and Valdosta campaigns in the north half.

The two teams represent exactly half of the unbeaten left in the powerful 12-team league. The other two undefeated squads, Tift County (Tifton) and Lowndes, meet in Valdosta Saturday night at Lowndes' Martin Stadium.

In their last meeting, Valdosta trimmed Hughes' Bulldogs 39-20 in the region

championship last November.

"We think we're a much better defensive football team than we were last fall," Hughes said, echoing the same sentiment expressed by Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder Tuesday.

"We think we have more capabilities offensively. But we haven't necessarily demonstrated them yet. Potentially, we are a better offensive team, but in actuality we're a better defensive team."

Hughes said at the season's outset that he expected his team to be more pass-conscious than in the past. The Bulldogs have been known to like the ground better than Patton's army.

"We've thrown it a little bit," Hughes said. "We haven't necessarily caught it. But I don't keep up with that like you sportswriters do."

"We are more capable of throwing and catching the football. We just hope we can do what's necessary to move the football and put some points on the scoreboard."

Hughes said his team did have two running backs who are doing an "effective job," tailbacks Reginald Wheeler and Johnny Kavouklis.

"Neither of them individually is as outstanding as some of the kids we have had in the past," Hughes said.

Sizing up Valdosta offensively, the Thomasville coach expects his team to be tested through the air and on the ground.

"They're capable of doing both," Hughes said. "I would hope they'll have to do both. Surely, we'll be able to stop something. They have shown tremendous offensive balance so far."

"Initially, I think we have to demonstrate an ability to stop the rush. If we can do that and then do anything against the forward pass, we might have a chance to stay in the game."

Although he has chosen to forget the past, Hughes' team traveled to Valdosta two years ago ranked as the number one team statewide. The Bulldogs became in-

fectured with a case of slippery fingers on kickoff returns, and Valdosta walked away with a 29-9 victory.

Obviously, he doesn't want that to happen again.

"Valdosta is one of the better if not the best team we'll play," Hughes said. "When you play somebody who's good, you better play well or you'll get embarrassed."

Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent said this morning "five to six hundred reserved seat and fifteen-hundred general admission" tickets remained on sale for the game. They may be purchased at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza.

The probably starting lineups for both teams follow:

#### VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.) fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irwin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (185, sr.).  
Defense — ends Martin Besoufort (180, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.) or Lynn Roberts (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), noseguard Clifford Johnson (175, sr.) or James Conaway (170, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) and Anthony Bette (180, soph.) or Roberts, cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reeves (155, sr.), punter Gordon.

#### THOMASVILLE

Offense — ends Guy McIntyre (220, sr.) and Darrell Duncan (160, jr.) or Harrell Guy (160, jr.), tackles Tony Anderson (210, jr.) and Bill Tanner (200, sr.), guards Bernard Thomas (190, jr.) and James Lawyer (190, sr.), center Bryan Jenkins (175, sr.), tailback Reginald Wheeler (150, sr.) or Johnny Kavouklis (165, jr.), fullback Cary Clark (180, jr.), quarterback Johnny Chastain (170, jr.), flanker Karl Abrams (150, sr.).  
Defense — ends Mike Mash (165, sr.) and Oscar Morris (190, sr.), tackles Dwight Wilson (235, sr.) and Wayne Arrington (195, sr.), noseguard Alvin Grimes (180, sr.) or Charles Bates (190, sr.), linebackers Steve Strickland (190, jr.) and Calvin Wheeler (180, jr.), cornerbacks Phil Clay (160, sr.) or Scott Horton (160, sr.) or Hiram Parker (160, sr.), safeties John Howell (175, sr.) or Willie Mitchell (165, jr.) or Jimmy Mecklen (160, jr.).  
Kicker Strickland or Calvin Wheeler, punter Chastain.

## Valdosta Meets Colquitt In Game Of Old Rivals

V. Times 9-27-78

By MIKE HAGOOD  
A game Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder calls "one of the oldest rivalries in the state of Georgia" is to be played in Moultrie Friday night when Hyder's VHS Wildcats take on Colquitt County.

"I expect a tough, hard-nosed football game," Hyder said. "They are traditionally tough. This game is never easy."

Valdosta, rated number one in the state in today's Associated Press poll, matches its 4-0 record against the 1-3 mark of the Packers in the 8 p.m. 1-AAAA non-subregion bout.

Hyder believes Colquitt will be ready to play.

"They have spent as much time practicing as anyone. It's midseason and the time of the early season surprise is over," Hyder said.

Moultrie has a junior dominated ballclub, according to Hyder.

"They play four seniors, nine juniors and three sophomores on offense and five seniors, seven juniors and one sophomore on defense" he said.

In looking at the Colquitt

### The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

County offense, Hyder said, "Tyrone Sands has been getting all the publicity, but their other running back, Acree, may be faster and is probably as good."

Colquitt County runs the wishbone offense with Terry Mock (190, sr.) at the helm. "I saw him in their spring game and he's a good one," said Hyder.

Split end Jamie Wisham is a threat as well, in Hyder's opinion.

Outstanding players on the offensive line for Moultrie are guard Wayne Howell (165, sr.) and center Robert Belcher (165, sr.) Hyder said.

Hyder calls the Packer defense, "good, sound, well coached and mature."

"They run an Oklahoma style split 50, which is as

tough a defense as there is if played properly," said Hyder.

Hyder mentioned Chris Jenkins in the defensive backfield and linebackers Tracy Billings (165, sr.) and Leroy Madison (180, sr.) as players to watch for Moultrie.

Rover Paul Simpson is another good one in Hyder's estimation.

In looking at Valdosta's season thus far and the team's hopes for the rest of the year Hyder said, "we don't use the star system, we use the team system."

"All the players are important at Valdosta. We try to use a lot of kids."

When asked if he was using the Bear Bryant system Hyder said, "no the Wright Bazemore system. Baze

developed an amazing system here at VHS."

Bazemore retired as the VHS coach after the 1971 season but rang up 15 state titles and three national championships before he hung up his whistle.

Bazemore also developed the famed "multiple offense" of Valdosta which makes extensive use of the passing and running game but concentrates on neither.

Colquitt, which was called Moultrie before it consolidated with Norman Park and Doerun this year, bases its offensive attack on the ground game with Sands doing most of the pigskin-toting.

Hyder said Sands had been called "the franchise" in Moultrie.

In their last outing, the Packers lost a 21-16 decision to Westover in Albany. Colquitt has also lost to Lowndes, 28-0 and Dougherty (Albany) 39-13.

Coach Bob Griffith's club beat Monroe (Albany) 31-27 in its season opener.

Hyder said his team was relatively injury-free going into this week's game.

# Colquitt Coach Believes Odds Are Against Packers

By MIKE HAGOOD  
MOULTRIE — Colquitt County High School football coach Bob Griffith doesn't like the odds against his Packers beating the state's number one-ranked team, Valdosta, here Friday night. Griffith said, "we can't come close to matching Valdosta physically. Our program is about three years away. We have twelve seniors, eight of them play, and there is no way that you can win in this region with that few seniors," Griffith said.

"Our goal is not to get embarrassed. Actually we had better athletes last year in AA," said Griffith whose team at Appling County (Baxley) lead Georgia Class AA teams in rushing last year. The key to Colquitt County's wishbone attack, star running back Tyrone Sands, is scheduled to start Friday night, but Griffith doubts that he will be 100 percent. Sands had 212 yards rushing against Monroe (Albany) in the season's

opener, but has been slowed by injuries in the past three games, gaining no more than 40 yards a game. Griffith calls Sands "a great talent and a fine college prospect. He runs the forty in 4.6, is a good receiver and has the strength to break tackles. His weaknesses are blocking and faking, which really isn't his fault." In last week's 21-16 loss to Westover (Albany), Colquitt was ahead 16-15 when Sands fumbled the ball at the Packers' 10-yard line

Westover took the ball in for the score. The Packers' other two losses have come at the hands of Lowndes (Valdosta) 28-0 and Dougherty (Albany) 39-13. Griffith describes his wishbone attack as not "ultra-option conscious. We take a lot of reading off of the quarterbacks' shoulders by calling the plays in the press box. If we run the option, we generally have the pitch man already figured," said Griffith. "Some times we set-up

three wide receivers, so we're really not so triple option conscious. Overall, we're in the top five offensively, but we're really green, which hasn't shown yet. We've been able to move the ball, but these kids have never seen a wishbone before this year," said Griffith. The Packers have been throwing more from their wishbone, gaining over 100 yards through the air in their last two ballgames. Griffith says the key to his passing attack is the play action. "We can't come out throwing the ball against Valdosta, because their defensive line will run right over us," Griffith said. "We are going to have to run." Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

## Tribe Coach Not Optimistic

By Times Staff Writer  
Coach Cardon Dalley brings his Albany High Indians to town Friday and is not overly optimistic about his team's chances against the Valdosta Wildcats. "We'll just try to find eleven guys who want to play football," said Dalley. "We just don't have the caliber players to play with Valdosta. It's one heck of a game to try and get the boys up for, against the number one team in the state." Dalley's club has been hit by dissension in past weeks due to the team's 0-3 record. "We had six players quit after last week's game," said Dalley. Albany lost that contest 31-7 to crosstown rival Westover. Dalley explains his situation at Albany High is caused by the lack of talent that comes to his school. "We have one lineman who was first string in junior high. The rest were second and third string players," said Dalley. "In Dougherty County there are three high schools on one side of the river (Albany High, Westover and Monroe) and one (Dougherty) on the other side," Dalley said. "There are four junior highs feeding the three schools on our side and two feeding Dougherty exclusively. The team has sort of been down in the dumps after losing the first three games." In those three games Albany has scored seven points to the opposition's 94. The Indians lost their opener 33-0 to Lowndes, the second game 30-0 to Tift County and then came the loss to Westover. "I may get one player from one school and two from another. Sometimes it's three years before I see a quarterback." Albany has seven seniors

out of 22 starters, so the rest of the team is expected to be back next year. "These are the times when you build confidence and gain game experience, but that is not easy to do," said Dalley. "Very few of my players have had much game experience before this year. The Indians run from a Pro-I offensively and use a 5-2-4-defensively. The game is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. at Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:  
**ALBANY**  
Offense — Ends Nikita Jenkins (200, jr.) and Charles Watson (170, sr.), tackles David Stearn (210, sr.) and Derrick Marsh (210, jr.), guards Al Davis (185, jr.) and Curtis Coleman (190, jr.), center Glenn Jones (175, jr.), fullback Glenn Dowling (170, jr.), tailback Clifford Bass (165, jr.), quarterback Jim Lightle (170, sr.), halfback Gerry Anderson (170, sr.).  
Defense — ends Derrick Marsh (175, soph.) and Ken Girdner (175, soph.), tackles Emory Lewis (180, jr.) and Sammy Sheard (210, soph.), middle guard Chuck Findley (185, jr.), linebackers John Kirksey (185, jr.) and Curtis Coleman (190, jr.), cornerbacks Henry Washington (155, sr.) and Robert Lippitt (170, sr.), safeties Henry Nix (165, soph.) and Carl Martin (170, soph.).  
**VALDOSTA**  
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.)

and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irwin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (180, sr.).  
Defense — ends Marlin Beaufort (180, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.) or Lynn Roberts (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), noseguard Clifford Johnson (175, sr.) or James Conaway (170, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) and Anthony Battle (180, soph.) or Roberts, cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

**COLQUITT COUNTY**  
Offense — tight end Brad Mock (179, jr.) or Tony Barber (180, jr.), split end Jamie Wisham (160, jr.), tackles Greg Tillery (195, jr.) and Olin Yarborough (220, jr.), guards Ross Lawrence (170, jr.) and Wayne Howell (165, sr.), center Robert Belcher (165, sr.), halfbacks Bernard Acree (160, jr.) and Tyrone Sands (175, sr.), fullback Mike Patterson (165, soph.), quarterback Terry Mock (190, sr.) or Greg Robinson (160, jr.).  
Defense — ends Steve Austin (205, jr.) and Kilt Wilkes (190, jr.), tackles Curt Davis (190, sr.) and Ed Daersol (190, sr.), nose guard Chris Jenkins (220, jr.), linebackers Tracy Billings (175, sr.) and Scott Brady (190, jr.) or Leroy Madison (180, sr.), cornerbacks Keith Todd (165, soph.) and Jim Pruitt (160, jr.), safeties Paul Simpson (170, sr.) and Kirby Hall (165, jr.).  
**VALDOSTA**  
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) and Frederick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irwin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (180, sr.).  
Defense — ends Marline Beaufort (180, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.) or Lynn Roberts (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), noseguard Clifford Johnson (175, sr.) or James Conaway (170, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) and Anthony Battle (180, soph.) or Roberts, cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

9-23-78

# V. Times Valdosta Bombards Albany High, 49-0

By MIKE HAGOOD

Things went much as expected as Valdosta High School's Wildcats routed hapless Albany High School 49-0 in a football game here Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The 'Cats used five touchdowns by quarterback John Lastinger, a 6-yard run by

YARDSTICK		Valdosta	Albany
First Downs	19	9	9
Yards Rushing	304	136	1
Yards Passing	173	12-26	2
Passes	7-24	0	1
Passes Inct. By	0	2-40	7-25
Fumbles Lost	0	3-35	7-85
Penalties			

Ernest King and a 14-yard pass from reserve quarterback John Bond to half-back Tim Dame to account for all of the game's scoring.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder was somewhat upset by the game, not by his team's performance, but by what he called "tactics not traditional in Region I-AAAA."

"Albany is having some problems (a winless season so far)...I think our players did a good job not retaliating to these tactics," Hyder said. Apparently, the game got a little too rough in an unsportsmanlike way in Hyder's opinion. Hyder would not elaborate.

VHS offensive coordinator Butch Brooks complimented the offense by saying, "the team showed a lot of character. When we needed the first down, the kids got it. They never let up."

VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was equally

happy about his players' performances, as they held Albany scoreless and totally shut down its rushing attack for a net total of minus one yard.

"Any time you hold the other team scoreless, you've got to be happy," Rudolph said.

"We need to work on the second team's consistency...to develop the pride to stop the other team on the first series of downs and not wait until they get down around the goal line. "We are approaching the meat of our schedule, and you need more than eleven guys ready to play," said Rudolph.

Valdosta's first score came on its first possession, when Lastinger scored on a 6-yard run, set up by a 30-yard pass to Robert Smith.

On their next possession, the 'Cats drove 82 yards in ten plays culminating in Lastinger's second score, a 13-yard run.

Ernest King scored on a 6-yard run after Albany fumbled on its own 16-yard line to end the first quarter's scoring at 21-0.

The next time the 'Cats had the ball, they scored again. Valdosta moved the ball 50 yards in two plays, one a 22-yard pass from Lastinger to John Bond and the other a 28-yard run for the score by Lastinger.

The first half ended with the score 28-0 and some of the 7,000 in attendance were

already heading for the exits as the inevitable had become all too apparent.

By the half, Valdosta had already gained 150 or the 304 yards rushing it was to get for the evening.

The first time the Wildcats had the ball in the second half, they drove from their 22-yard line. One scoring opportunity was muffed as Lastinger threw to Robert Smith, who dropped a pass in the end zone.

However, on third down and nine yards to go from the 23-yard line, Lastinger threw a short pass over the middle to Willie Hankins, who scored the touchdown. A clipping penalty at the 3-yard line nullified the score, moving the ball back to the 18-yard line.

After an incomplete pass, a fourth and eleven situation was set up. The 'Cats elected to go for the first down rather than the field goal.

On this play, which might have been important if the score had been different, Lastinger kept the ball and ran 15 yards to the three-yard line.

Three more plays and the senior quarterback had his fourth touchdown as he ran one yard behind the Valdosta offensive line, which has been outstanding game in and game out.

Albany had one serious scoring threat, when it advanced the ball to Valdosta's eight-yard line in the fourth quarter. However this drive



JOHN LASTINGER

Scores 5 TD's was stopped and the 'Cats shoved it right back into Indian country again. This drive was halted when a pass by fullback William Gaskin was intercepted.

Valdosta is now 2-0 in Region I-AAAA (North) and 4-0 overall. The Wildcats' next game is at Moultrie Friday against Colquitt County in a non-subregion contest.

Albany is now 0-4 overall and 0-2 against subregion opponents.

Score by Quarters		Valdosta	Albany
1	7	7	14-49
2	7	0	0-0
3	7	0	0-0
4	7	0	0-0

Scoring:  
Val-Lastinger 6 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-Lastinger 13 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-King 6 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-Lastinger 28 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-Lastinger 1 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-Lastinger 3 run (Reeves kick);  
Val-Dame 14 pass from Bond (Reeves kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
Rushing: Valdosta-Lastinger 12-171, Gaskin 8-46, I. Roe 7-36, King 2-10, Bond 7-70, Johnson 2-19, Wilcox 1-0; Albany-Bass 4-2, Alfonza Davis 6-3, Lightle 5-41, McFarland 1-4, Dave Williams 9-34, Glenn Davis 2-3, Montgomery, 1-2, Peter Gilbert 1-1.  
Passing: Valdosta-Lastinger 5-16-178 yds; Bond 2-6-0-0 yds; I. Roe 0-1-0-0 yds; Johnson 0-1-1-0 yds; Albany-Lightle 12-26-0-136 yds.  
Receiving: Valdosta-Robert Smith 2-35, Bond 2-30, Hankins 2-21, Johnson 1-37; Albany-Jenkins 6-60, Alfonza Davis 1-2, Danson 4-71, C. Wiersma 1-1, Alfonza Davis 1-2.  
Punt Returns: Valdosta-Thomas 4-32; Albany-Dave Williams 1-5.  
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta I. Roe 1-32; Albany-Clifford Bass 2-31, Dave Williams 2-67, Kirksey 2-18.  
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta-Cesar 5, Jones 4, Carl Roe 2, Gordon 4, Skelton 3, Thomas 2, Clifton 4, Batten 4, Harris 3, Evans 3, Clifford Johnson 4, Danny Hunter 2, Conaway 3; Albany-Washington 4, Nik 7, Martin 4, Gilbert 4, Findley 4, Kirksey 10, King 6, Lewis 3, Sheard 3, Gironer 6, West 3.



—Times Staff Photo By Roger Winter III

Albany Defenders Stack Up Valdosta's Irwin Roe At The Line Of Scrimmage

# In 49-0 Rout

V. Times 9-30-78

# Valdosta Blasts Colquitt

By MIKE HAGOOD  
MOULTRIE—The Valdosta Wildcats said a prayer before Friday's high school football game with the Colquitt County Packers. As it turned out, the Packers did not have a prayer.

The 'Cats used all phases of their offensive attack to rout their opponents 49-0, for the

YARDSTICK		Valdosta	Colquitt
First Downs	20	7	
Yards Rushing	259	67	
Yards Passing	178	112	
Passes	7-14	4-11	
Passes Inct. By	0	0	
Fumbles Lost	2-35	6-33.5	
Punting	4-40	1-5	
Penalties			

second week in a row. Last week, Valdosta beat Albany by the same score.

'Dosta quarterback John Lastinger, who scored two touchdowns said, "Coach Butch Brooks (VHS offensive coordinator) said we weren't ready to play, so that kind of fired us up for the game."

A crowd of 5,000 for the contest at Moultrie's Mack Thorpe Stadium discovered just how devastating the state's number one-ranked team can be.

Valdosta scored on its second possession of the game to open the offensive onslaught. The 'Cats drove 51 yards in six plays with Irvin Roe carrying the ball in from the 14-yard line for the score.

A weak punt by Colquitt after being stopped deep in its own territory set up Valdosta's second drive. Lastinger carried the ball twice on the two-play drive, scoring from the 25-yard line for his first score with 22 seconds left in the first quarter.

On their next possession, the 'Cats scored again on a 50-yard drive. Ernest King ran nine yards for the touchdown.

Lastinger's passes of eight yards to Willie Hankins and 25 yards to Roe set up the King TD.

On each of Valdosta's next two possessions, it drove for touchdowns.

Troy Thomas returned a Packer punt 17 yards to the 39-yard line to initiate the first effort. Irvin Roe rushed for 16 yards and on the next play, Lastinger threw to Robert Smith for a 23-yard touchdown. The extra point by Dale Parker made the score 27-0 and little was in doubt about the final outcome.

On Valdosta's final possession before the half, Lastinger scored on a 3-yard run with 44 seconds left. Two 22-yard passes to John Bond and Time Dame were the big

plays in the nine play, two minute drive.

Valdosta's first team played very little in the second half. VHS Coach Nick Hyder was particularly pleased that he was able to play his entire squad after halftime.

Valdosta's defense continually rose to the occasion in the first half drawing oohs and ahs from the Moultrie crowd with its hard hitting. The 'Cats held the Packers to a net rushing total of 67 yards for the game, limiting Tyrone Sands to 19 yards in 14 carries.

The now 1-4 Packers only effective offensive weapon proved to be long passes from quarterback Greg Robinson to split end Jamie Wisham. The passing duo accounted

for all of Colquitt's 112 yards passing.

The 'Cats tallied early in the third quarter as the combination of Bond to Dame accounted for a 48-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the drive.

The 'Cats final drive spanned the end of the third quarter and the first of the fourth quarter.

William Gaskin's determined run from the 3-yard line capped a 58-yard drive. Passes of 12 and 14 yards from Bond to Hankins and a 14-yard run by Bond highlighted the six-play drive.

Score by Quarters:

14	21	7	7-49
0	0	0	0-0

Valdosta  
Colquitt

Scoring:  
Val.—Lastinger 25 run (Reaves kick);  
Val.—King 9 run (kick failed);  
Val.—Smith 23 pass from Lastinger (Parker kick);  
Val.—Lastinger 7 run (Lastinger run);  
Val.—Dame 48 pass from Bond (Parker kick);  
Val.—Gaskin 3 run (Parker kick).

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS  
Rushing: Valdosta—Lastinger 49-110; Bond—33-0-78; 1 Roe—0-2-0; Colquitt—Robinson 49-0-112; Mock 0-2-0.  
Pass Receiving: Valdosta—Hankins 3-34; Dame 2-7-4; 1 Roe—1-25; Bond 1-22; Smith 1-23; Colquitt—Wisham 4-112.  
Punt Returns: Valdosta—Thomas 3-73; Colquitt—no returns.  
Kickoff Returns: Colquitt—Sands 3-50; Acree 3-50; Todd 1-2; Valdosta—no returns.  
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta—Caesar 4, Thomas 4, Roberts 4, C. Roe 4, Battle 4, Hardin 3, Branam 3, Evans 3, Conaway 3, Carrol Johnson 3, Toth 2, Clifton 2, Reaves 2; Colquitt—Todd 5, Billings 5, Madison 5, Hall 4, Bradley 4, Pruett 3, Simpson 3, Dearisol 3, Wisham 2.  
Pass Interceptions—Moultrie—Kirby Hall 1-0, Valdosta—None.



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III  
**John Lastinger Throws, Rob Register (64) Watches The Result**

## At Hall Of Fame Banquet

# Dodd Says Valdosta 'Special'

By Times Staff Writer  
While the two best baseball teams in America battled it out on television, some of the top local sports teams and athletes of the past and present were honored at the first annual Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame banquet here Tuesday night.

As the Dodgers and the Yankees were moving into Game One of the World Series, former Georgia Tech football coach Bobby Dodd was telling the crowd of about 250 persons how much Valdosta has meant to him.

"Some of the best football players I ever had were your young athletes that Wright Bazemore sent me," Dodd said. "They were well disciplined and well trained."

"If I ever saw a city appropriate for a Hall of Fame, it's Valdosta, the high school football capital of the world. This is a special city."

Dodd was the guest speaker at the banquet, which was for the purpose of inducting 15 prominent athletes and coaches of the past into the Hall of Fame.

Local teams who captured regional, state or national honors last year were also recognized along with athletes who received all-

state or All-America honors. Former Valdosta High School quarterback Buck Belue was the unanimous choice of the selection committee as the athlete of the year. Belue, who was named to the all-state and one All-America team, is now the second-team quarterback at the University of Georgia.

The longest ovation of the night came for former Valdosta High football coach Wright Bazemore after he accepted his Hall of Fame plaque. Bazemore called the honor "the finest he had ever received."

Other inductees receiving their plaques in person were former VHS football star Brooker Blanton, former major league baseball player Paul Carter, former major league baseball player Ellis Clary and former Dasher Bible School basketball star and Valdosta State College basketball coach Gary Colson.

Also on hand to receive their plaques were T. Guy Connell, who was instrumental in bringing minor league baseball to Valdosta, former outstanding amateur golfer W.L. "Dynamite" Goodloe and former VHS and University of Georgia football standout Bobby Rose.

Other inductees included former Valdosta football coaches Mike Herndon, Bobby Hooks and Turner Rockwell. All three are now deceased and were represented by family members.

The plaques of the late Neise Holcombe, one of the original founders of the Valdosta Touchdown Club, the late Jack Oliver, an outstanding local golfer, and the late Eddie Zant, a former standout VHS football player, were also received by relatives.

Former Valdosta football star Noah Langdale was the only living member of the inductees who couldn't make the banquet. His plaque was accepted by John Peebles.

Teams honored included the Lowndes High School girls' basketball team for winning state and national championships, the Valdosta High baseball team for winning the state championship and the Valdosta State College women's basketball team for winning state and regional championships.

Also cited were the region championships by the VHS girls' tennis team, the VHS golf team, the Georgia Christian School boys' basketball team, and the Valdosta State cross country team, which captured the South Atlantic Conference title.

The Valdosta State baseball team was also recognized for winning the permanent site is found.

South Atlantic Regional. Athletes honored for all-state accomplishments included Belue, Deland Guthrie of Georgia Christian, Robert Baldwin of VHS, Karen Parker, Marcia Player and Rhonda Rowell of Lowndes and Ronnie Adkins of Lowndes.

For All-America honors, Bruno Caldwell, Sal Amadeo, Cecil Whitehead, Joe Germano and Carol Chason of VSC were recognized. Belue and Player were also cited for making All-America teams.

The Hall of Fame was initiated by the Valdosta Boys' Club. The plaques of the 15 inductees are to be showcased at the club until a permanent site is found.

VAL-Times Sept 29, 1978

# VHS, Tribe To Tangle

By MIKE HAGOOD

The Valdosta Wildcats take on the Albany High Indians at 8 p.m. here Friday night at Cleveland Field in a game where the Wildcats' biggest problem "is to keep from being flat," according to Coach Nick Hyder.

The Indians bring an 0-3 record into town and might easily be lightly regarded by the state's number one ranked Class AAAA team, but Hyder knows better than to take any team lightly.

"I've been in football for 21 years and one thing I have learned is never to look past any team to your next opponent," said Hyder.

"There are a lot of factors in having a winning team and given another set of factors, such as playing different teams at the first of the season and given a few breaks, the Albany situation might be totally different."

Albany's first two games were against 1-AAAA powers Lowndes and Tift County (Tifton), games that Albany lost 33-0 and 30-0. The Indians' 31-7 loss to Westover is a "complete mystery" to Hyder. The game represented Westover's first win.

Hyder respects the abilities of the Albany players. He said, "they have good athletes and some hard hitters."

On offense, running back Gerry Anderson is described "hard nose player" and three-year quarterback Jim Lightle is tabbed as a "good quarterback, who is capable of

producing."

Tight end Nikita Jenkins at 6-3, 220 is another in the crop of good tight ends in Region 1-AAAA, Hyder believes.

The Indians boast two 210-pound tackles, Hyder said. Their blocking, coupled with the blocking of Jenkins has given Albany a definite tendency towards running off tackle. Hyder said.

Overall, Hyder calls the Albany offense "capable."

On defense, Hyder's scouting reports show the middle of the Albany set has the best players. The linebackers, John Kirksey and Emanuel Coleman are good ones and middle guard Chuck Findley is another hard-nosed player, Hyder said.

Both ends, Derrick March and Ken Girdner, are 175-pound juniors.

In looking at last week's 18-7 victory over Thomasville, Hyder said "there were some things we might have taken advantage of that we didn't, things like placement of personnel, getting your best runners behind your best blockers...adjusting."

Although the 'Cats had substantial offensive yardage last week, moving the ball well, Hyder said "when you are playing a good team, yardage doesn't make any difference. Only the score matters."

Valdosta is 3-0 this season with a 40-0 win over Central of Thomasville, a 35-7 walloping of Crisp County (Cordele) and the win over Thomasville under its belt.

# Valdosta Meets Colquitt In Game Of Old Rivals

V. Times 9-27-78

By MIKE HAGOOD

A game Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder calls "one of the oldest rivalries in the state of Georgia" is to be played in Moultrie Friday night when Hyder's VHS Wildcats take on Colquitt County.

"I expect a tough, hard-nosed football game," Hyder said. "They are traditionally tough. This game is never easy."

Valdosta, rated number one in the state in today's Associated Press poll, matches its 4-0 record against the 1-3 mark of the Packers in the 8 p.m. 1-AAAA non-subregion bout.

Hyder believes Colquitt will be ready to play.

"They have spent as much time practicing as anyone. It's midseason and the time of the early season surprise is over," Hyder said.

Moultrie has a junior dominated ballclub, according to Hyder.

"They play four seniors, nine juniors and three sophomores on offense and five seniors, seven juniors and one sophomore on defense," he said.

In looking at the Colquitt

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

County offense, Hyder said, "Tyrone Sands has been getting all the publicity, but their other running back, Acree, may be faster and is probably as good."

Colquitt County runs the wishbone offense with Terry Mock (190, sr.) at the helm.

"I saw him in their spring game and he's a good one," said Hyder.

Split end Jamie Wisham is a threat as well, in Hyder's opinion.

Outstanding players on the offensive line for Moultrie are guard Wayne Howell (165, sr.) and center Robert Belcher (165, sr.) Hyder said.

Hyder calls the Packer defense, "good, sound, well coached and mature."

"They run an Oklahoma style split 50, which is as

tough a defense as there is if played properly," said Hyder.

Hyder mentioned Chris Jenkins in the defensive backfield and linebackers Tracy Billings (165, sr.) and Leroy Madison (180, sr.) as players to watch for Moultrie.

Rover Paul Simpson is another good one in Hyder's estimation.

In looking at Valdosta's season thus far and the team's hopes for the rest of the year Hyder said, "we don't use the star system, we use the team system."

"All the players are important at Valdosta. We try to use a lot of kids."

When asked if he was using the Bear Bryant system Hyder said, "no the Wright Bazemore system. Baze

developed an amazing system here at VHS."

Bazemore retired as the VHS coach after the 1971 season but rang up 15 state titles and three national championships before he hung up his whistle.

Bazemore also developed the famed "multiple offense" of Valdosta which makes extensive use of the passing and running game but concentrates on neither.

Colquitt, which was called Moultrie before it consolidated with Norman Park and Doerun this year, bases its offensive attack on the ground game with Sands doing most of the pigskin-toting.

Hyder said Sands had been called "the franchise" in Moultrie.

In their last outing, the Packers lost a 21-16 decision to Westover in Albany. Colquitt has also lost to Lowndes, 28-0 and Dougherty (Albany) 39-13.

Coach Bob Griffith's club beat Monroe (Albany) 31-27 in its season opener.

Hyder said his team was relatively injury-free going into this week's game.



Lastinger (11) directed the Wildcats' attack



Sideline encouragement didn't help

# Cooley Realistic About 'Death Valley'

By MIKE CHASON  
THOMASVILLE — Will Roy Cooley refuses to be intimidated by a journey to "Death Valley."

Cooley, coach of the Central of Thomasville Yellow Jackets, carries his high school football team to Valdosta Friday night for a bout with the number one-rated Valdosta Wildcats.

The Wildcats, who finished second in the Class AAA state playoffs last season, play their home games at Cleveland Field, nicknamed "Death Valley."

"We're a big bunch of hams," Cooley said. "The more people we can play in front of, the better off we are. Cleveland Field is marked off just like ours, one-hundred yards long and I think 52 yards wide. "They can't play but eleven

at a time. They'll put out the best eleven they've got, and we'll put out the best eleven we've got. Then we'll do our best.

"If we lose, it will be because we got beat by a superior ballclub."

Central is a team Valdosta has never beaten. The two Region 1-AAAA powers have met only once. That was in a playoff for the region title in 1976. Central came away with a 21-6 victory at Cleveland Field.

"We've only played them one time," Cooley said. "That's not a whole bunch of history to go on. It's not really a trend or anything. Valdosta's the best competition you could find."

The two teams haven't met during the regular season since Central re-entered the region two years ago. But a change of scheduling this season brought about the matchup. "We wanted at that time (in 1976) to play Valdosta," Cooley said. "We both tried to work it out. We wanted it for a number of reasons. There's the prestige of playing Valdosta plus the high level of competition. "It wouldn't help us a bit to play Sopchoppy. If you play Valdosta and compete on an even basis, you can kind of judge your personnel."

"We feel we're in the cabdriver's seat. We're going to learn something about our team Friday night. We may learn a lot of things we don't want to know. "But it's just as well. Then we've got nine weeks to work out our problems." Cooley said he didn't know what kind of attack his team would feature in the game and he was just as unsure about Valdosta's offensive approach to the season. "I don't think so," he said. "These are young kids. I don't think they're really worried about who's ranked. I don't think ranking is a big concern of ours."

And how is that going to be? "I don't know what we're going to do," he said. "We're kind of like an old Model-T Ford, running on three cylinders. We try to do a little bit of everything. "We're smaller, slower and less experienced than they are. Our 13 seniors line up against the 40 they have. That should tell you something."

The 8 p.m. game will not count on the subregion records of either team because Valdosta campaigns in the north half of 1-AAAA, and Central is included in the south half. Central is without last year's all-region tight end, Willie Hopkins, who was killed in a car accident during the off-season. Cooley said he would be missed. "That took away half of our

passing attack right there," he said. "We've talked about the thing, and we might be playing a little bit for Willie this year."

The Thomas County school system has been racked by controversy this year with Superintendent E. R. Cone being indicted by the Grand Jury.

Cooley says what has happened won't have any effect on Friday's game. "Their parents talk about it, so it's got to have some effect," he said. "But we don't make much of it. We're going to play football. We don't think it's going to have any effect at all."

The probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

**CENTRAL**  
Offense — ends Ricky Hopkins (163, sr.) and Charles Anderson (174, sr.), tackles Cole Voyles (219, sr.) and Craig Hurst (179, sr.), guards Victor Hurst (179, jr.) and Tim Venzant (176, soph.), center Wayne White (156, sr.), slickback Mike Wright (154, jr.), running backs Willie Robinson (185, jr.) and Mike Armerst (185, sr.), quarterback Ben Carter (140, sr.).

Defense — ends Steve Jones (190, jr.) and Derrick Lewis (155, sr.), tackles Gordon Roderberry (190, soph.), end Vasco Wickens (162, sr.), middle guard Bill Colson (148, jr.), linebackers Dewayne West (180, sr.) and Richard Revels (185, sr.), defensive backs Marcus Adkins (140, jr.), Jeff Bass (156, jr.), Eric Wright (145, soph.), Calvin Esson (160, jr.).

**VALDOSTA**  
Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) and Freddie Blair (160, sr.); or John Bend (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Stridde (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (192, sr.) and Forney Herdin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback Willie Essin (173, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (160, jr.), halfbacks Ernest King (160, jr.) and Halberts (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (180, sr.), defensive ends Martin Beasler (180, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (196, sr.) and Clifford Johnson (175, sr.), noseback Cliff Johnson (170, sr.), linebackers or James Conahan (170, sr.) and Anthony Battle Lynn Roberts (180, sr.) or John Brennan (195, sr.), end cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.), fullback Buba Shelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Casser (180, jr.) or Bernie Jones (170, soph.).

Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

## VHS, LHS Hold True, Central Doesn't

With two weeks of the high school football season on the shelf, it appears the Region 1-AAAA sportswriters' preseason poll is holding true to form except in the case of Central of Thomasville.

Central, picked fifth overall in the 12-team league, has lost both games it has played and has yet to score a point. The Yellow Jackets lost 40-0 to Valdosta in both teams' opener and then dropped a surprising 14-0 decision to Bainbridge Friday night.

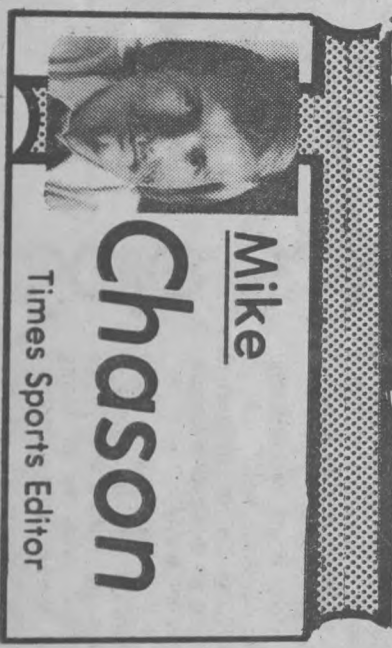
Losing to Bainbridge puts Central one down in the south subregion and with four of those counting games left to play, the Yellow Jackets might be hard-pressed to battle back. The switch of Will Roy Cooley to Thomas County School Superintendent and Don Garland to head coach may have been a psychological factor but that was an abnormal situation that apparently couldn't be prevented.

Looking at the rest of the ratings, Valdosta was picked as the team to beat for the second straight year with 83 out of a possible 84 votes. Never did the Wildcats look more deserving than Friday night in Cordele.

The Valdosta air game is an unknown quantity no longer. Quarterback John Lastinger threw the ball with authority, and Fredrick Blair caught it like he owned it. When the 'Cats shifted to the shotgun formation, Lastinger's offensive line gave him time enough to scan every corner of the field and pick out a pretty face or two in the stands before he released the ball. He was sacked only once. Bubba (Fomby) Hardin and the boys are better than a piece of the rock when it comes to protection.

The Valdosta defense did give up its first points Friday night but they'll gladly shift the blame to the offense for coughing up a fumble nine yards from paydirt. Cornerback and team captain Troy Thomas looked particularly bruising. The Crisp County offense went nowhere until Nick Hyder started running in his fresh jerseys.

Lowndes was tabbed second in the poll, and Friday night's win probably solidified that ranking in a lot of minds...and



Mike Chason  
Times Sports Editor

probably made others start drooling for one more rung up the ladder. But the chance for that will come on October 13.

Colquitt County's wishbone offense tore up huge hunks of turf against Monroe in its opener but had to settle for small patches of real estate against the Ronnie Adkins-led Lowndes' defense. LHS Coach Joe Wilson indicated Adkins had been served special notice that Tyrone Sands was his responsibility. Adkins took it to heart. Sands rushed for only 33 yards after picking up 212 the week before.

Chuck DeVane is molding himself a solid foundation as one of the top passing quarterbacks in the league. DeVane, just a junior, threw for 215 yards on 12 of 20 attempts. Always gracious with his compliments, Wilson described DeVane's performance as "fair to middling" Saturday.

Steve Thomas looks and plays like one of the premier fullbacks around. He gained 95 yards in 22 carries Friday night. He is the quiet side to the Vikings' flashy offensive spectacular.

In the number three spot in the preseason was Thomasville. The Bulldogs are 2-0 after a 38-21 win over Dougherty and a 21-0 decision over Westover. Westover, picked 12th and winless a

V. Times 9-10-78

year ago, had Thomasville tied 0-0 at the half according to one report.

Dougherty, picked fourth, lost that first game to Thomasville and was expected to bounce back over Monroe Saturday night. At the time of this writing, the result of that game was still on the Mills Stadium floor. Don't count the Trojans out of anything.

Behind Central in sixth place was Tift County. The Blue Devils might have been picked a shade low. Tift is 2-0 after a 26-0 whipping of Bainbridge and a 30-0 thumping of Albany.

Colquitt, Bainbridge, Crisp County, Monroe, Albany and Westover were the bottom six teams and each has at least one loss. Albany, like Central, still hasn't scored. Colquitt and Bainbridge are the most likely candidates to challenge any of the top six.

I try to disdain from calling any game "big" but the two coming up this weekend in our midst ought to be worth sitting through.

The Thomasville-Valdosta rivalry is to be renewed Friday night in Cleveland Field, and Lowndes hosts Tift County in its first home game Saturday night at Martin Stadium. All four teams are unbeaten, and neither Tift nor Lowndes have given up any points. It's a good chance for Tift fans to get a look at the 'Cats and vice versa. Although the games are of the non-subregion variety, both Lowndes and Valdosta have to be shooting for unbeaten records as that magic October 13th date approaches.

Last year, the two local teams had one Friday night during the year when they both played at home. To alleviate that problem they agreed to switch one of the games to Saturday on the same weekend. Next year, Valdosta is to switch one of its games to Saturday, and Lowndes is to keep the Friday night spot. Both will probably benefit from increased gates but nevertheless they are to be commended for working out the arrangement.

Neither will be so charitable 33 days from now.

# Valdosta's Blair Top Pass-Catcher

By ELLWOOD MOYER  
Region 1-AAAA Statistician  
Valdosta High School's Fredrick Blair is the new leader among Region 1-AAAA pass receivers with a 52-yard performance on four catches against Thomasville. Last week's leader, Steve Player of Lowndes dropped to third place.

Chuck DeVane of Lowndes held his lead among 1-AAAA passers with a mark of 28 completions for 375 yards. Valdosta's John Lastinger ranks second and took honors for last week as he completed 10 passes for 123 yards.

Eddie Ford of Crisp County (Cordele) took over the rushing lead from Tyrone Sands of Colquitt County (Moultrie) with a 180-yard game against Bainbridge. Sands was held to 19 yards by Dougherty, but remains in the second position. Ken Hobby of Tift County (Tifton) moved into third place with a 108-yard game against Lowndes.

Tift County is the top rushing team and the top team against the rush in the region. Lowndes tops 1-AAAA in passing, while Valdosta is tops in pass defense.

RUSHING		
	Carries	Net Avg.
1. Ford, Crisp	65	342 5.26
2. Sands, Colquitt	38	265 6.97
3. Hobby, Tift	47	259 5.51
4. James, Dougherty	33	239 7.24
5. Robinson, Central	36	217 6.03
6. S. Thomas, Lowndes	41	207 5.04
7. Kavouklis, Thomasville	34	200 5.88
8. Morris, Tift	29	161 5.55
9. Clark, Thomasville	35	159 4.54
10. Smitley, Bainbridge	31	152 4.75
11. King, Valdosta	22	137 6.23
12. Arrmster, Central	39	136 3.48
13. Franklin, Dougherty	25	118 4.72
14. Acree, Colquitt	36	116 3.22
15. Walker, Bainbridge	15	116 7.73
16. Hand, Tift	18	114 6.33
17. Wheeler, Thomasville	12	114 9.50
18. Bryant, Westover	34	93 2.74
19. Laster, Westover	22	91 4.14
20. McElroy, Lowndes	18	90 5.00
21. Roe, Valdosta	21	86 4.10
22. Lastinger, Valdosta	18	81 4.50
23. Gaskins, Valdosta	12	72 6.00
24. Johnson, Valdosta	11	57 5.18
25. Frazier, Valdosta	5	28 5.60
26. Jones, Lowndes	4	17 4.25

PASSING		
	Att. Comp.	Gain Yds
1. DeVane, Lowndes	59	28 375 2
2. Lastinger, Valdosta	45	20 328 2
3. Norman, Dougherty	49	15 282 5
4. Mock, Colquitt	52	18 269 3
5. Mock, Colquitt	18	10 161 1
6. Whatley, Westover	29	14 124 1
7. Carter, Central	24	7 119 0
8. Lightle, Albany	57	12 116 0
9. E. Thomas, Lowndes	5	3 114 0
10. Hobby, Tift	18	7 113 1
11. Whitehead, Tift	16	7 113 0
12. Musselwhite, Crisp	21	8 85 1
13. Biggles, Bainbridge	20	7 84 0
14. Bond, Valdosta	5	3 77 1
15. Sherrod, Central	17	6 72 1
16. Chastain, Thomasville	14	6 70 0

CATCHES		
	Catches	Yards
1. Blair, Valdosta	13	224 0
2. Anderson, Monroe	9	223 3
3. Player, Lowndes	12	218 3
4. Terry, Tift	10	182 1
5. Rush, Dougherty	7	154 2
6. Chuck Jones, Lowndes	5	142 1
7. Smith, Valdosta	5	102 1
8. Wisham, Colquitt	4	97 1
9. Anderson, Central	5	95 0
10. Jenkins, Albany	6	91 0
11. Brown, Colquitt	6	87 0
12. Edwards, Lowndes	3	84 0

13. Hopkins, Central	3	67 1
14. Bond, Valdosta	3	64 1
15. Cedric Jones, Lowndes	2	61 0

PASS INTERCEPTIONS		
	Inter.	Ret.
1. Arrington, Thomasville	1	60
2. Strickland, Thomasville	1	50
3. Eason, Central	2	51
4. Acree, Colquitt	2	20
5. Faircloth, Bainbridge	1	18

PUNTERS		
	Kicks	Yards Avg.
1. Gordon, Valdosta	10	388 38.80
2. Thompson, Tift	14	528 37.71
3. Norman, Dougherty	14	509 36.57
4. Barbee, Colquitt	11	394 35.81
5. Stokes, Lowndes	10	353 35.30
6. Close, Bainbridge	14	408 34.00
7. Voyles, Central	8	262 32.75
8. Musselwhite, Crisp	12	380 31.67
9. Chastain, Thomasville	16	430 28.67
10. Walker, Albany	23	597 28.42

PUNT RETURNS		
	Kicks	Yards Avg.
1. James, Dougherty	6	147
2. Thomas, Valdosta	9	128
3. Spears, Tift	10	79
4. McElroy, Lowndes	7	75
5. Cedric Jones, Lowndes	3	48
6. Williams, Albany	6	42
7. Terry, Tift	6	30

KICK-OFF RETURNS		
	Ret	Yds.
1. C. Sanko, Westover	5	97
2. Terry, Tift	4	95
3. D. Williams, Albany	7	88
4. Blakely, Dougherty	3	80
5. Anderson, Monroe	4	74

RUSHING DEFENSE		
	Play	Game
	Net Avg.	Avg.
1. Tift	104	1.12 34.67
2. Lowndes	238	2.31 79.33
3. Thomasville	250	3.05 83.33
4. Crisp	279	2.93 93.00
5. Valdosta	292	2.63 97.33
6. Westover	327	3.99 109.00
7. Dougherty	368	2.90 122.67
8. Albany	404	3.64 134.67
9. Colquitt	425	4.52 141.67
10. Central	634	5.07 211.33
11. Bainbridge	648	5.94 216.00
12. Monroe	643	4.65 214.33

TEAM RUSHING		
	Carries	Net Game Avg.
1. Tift	113	625 308.33
2. Valdosta	108	537 179.00
3. Thomasville	126	535 178.33
4. Crisp	121	472 157.33
5. Colquitt	135	470 156.67



FREDRICK BLAIR  
Leading Receiver

6. Dougherty	95	450	150.00
7. Bainbridge	120	416	138.67
8. Central	95	376	125.33
9. Lowndes	97	293	97.67
10. Westover	102	274	91.33
11. Monroe	88	189	63.00
12. Albany	78	7	2.33

TEAM PASSING		
	Att. Comp.	Gain Avg.
1. Lowndes	79	35 537 179.00
2. Valdosta	54	23 405 135.00
3. Monroe	61	21 359 119.67
4. Dougherty	51	15 282 94.00
5. Tift	37	14 226 75.33
6. Bainbridge	50	18 224 74.67
7. Colquitt	31	14 213 71.00
8. Central	42	13 191 63.67
9. Albany	60	14 154 51.33
10. Westover	36	17 146 48.67
11. Crisp	22	9 122 40.67
12. Thomasville	20	8 99 33.00

PASSING DEFENSE		
	Att. Comp.	Gain Avg.
1. Valdosta	26	7 61 20.33
2. Lowndes	36	12 128 42.67
3. Monroe	22	10 133 44.33
4. Westover	37	10 148 49.33
5. Central	31	10 193 64.33
6. Crisp	43	16 241 87.00
7. Tift	83	25 276 92.00
8. Bainbridge	38	15 277 92.33
9. Dougherty	45	19 296 98.67
10. Thomasville	68	23 334 111.33
11. Albany	57	27 364 121.33
12. Colquitt	56	27 481 160.33

## VHS-Tift Tickets To Be Sold Here

By Times Staff Writer

Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent has announced that 2,900 reserved seat tickets are to be available here for Friday night's Valdosta-Tift County high school football game in Tifton.

Kent said 1,000 student tickets are also available along with 1,000 general admission seats. The reserved seats are \$3, the student tickets are \$1.25 and the general admission seats are \$2.25.

If any general admission seats are left the day of the game, Kent said they would be sold at the gate for \$2.50.

Kent said student tickets would be available at Valdosta High School Monday and Tuesday. Also on those days, members of the VHS football team and of the VHS band would be able to purchase reserved seat tickets for their parents.

On Wednesday, tickets are to be on sale at the old VHS Band Room on Slater St. from 8-11 a.m. for Valdosta Touchdown Club members. From 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., tickets are to be available at the same location for Valdosta season ticket-holders.

If any tickets are left, they are to be on sale at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza Thursday.

# Wildcats Biggest Winners

By Times Staff Writer  
Valdosta High's Wildcats have mixed the best scoring punch with the most defensive muscle and produced the winningest football teams in Region 1-AAA the past 17 years.

The Wildcats, who have managed 149 wins against 29 losses with two ties between 1960-77, have averaged 27.2 points per game on offense.

That combines well with an 8.04 per game allowance on defense.

Thomasville High has

averaged 26.93 points per game on defense since it joined the region in 1970. That has enabled the Bulldogs to put together a 63-14-3 record.

Another regular winner has been Moultrie High with a 120-54-6 worksheet. The Packers have averaged 20.39 points per game on offense and given up an average of 11.56 points per game on defense.

Here's a look at Region 1-AAA teams since 1960, according to Region 1-AAA statistician Ellwood Moyer:

## Teams (Won-Lost-Ties)

Valdosta (149-29-2)  
Thomasville (63-14-3)  
Moultrie (120-54-6)  
Thomasville Central (17-20-3)  
Albany (92-82-6)  
Tift County (59-59-2)  
Lowndes (42-55-2)  
Dougherty (62-75-3)

## TEAM SCORING

Games	Pts.	Avg.
180	4,898	27.21
80	2,155	26.93
180	3,671	20.39
40	634	15.85
180	2,694	14.97
120	1,681	14.01
100	1,378	13.78
140	1,859	13.28

Crisp County (23-56-1)  
Monroe (35-59-4)  
Bainbridge (17-58-5)  
Westover (11-44-5)

80	1,026	12.83
98	1,255	12.81
80	846	10.58
60	417	6.95

Wayne County (11-9-0)  
LaGrange (43-31-4)  
Ware County (3-17-0)  
Coffee County (1-19-0)  
Totals (748-682-46)

## OTHERS

20	339	16.95
78	1,136	14.56
20	169	8.45
20	124	6.20
1476	24,282	16.45

## Teams (Won-Lost-Ties)

Valdosta (149-29-2)  
Thomasville (63-14-3)  
Moultrie (120-54-6)  
Albany (92-82-6)  
Tift County (59-59-2)  
Thomasville Central (17-20-3)  
Dougherty (62-75-3)  
Lowndes (42-55-2)  
Monroe (35-59-4)  
Crisp County (23-56-1)  
Westover (11-44-5)  
Bainbridge (17-58-5)

## OPPONENTS SCORING

Games	Pts.	Avg.
180	1,477	8.04
80	855	10.69
180	2,081	11.56
180	2,348	13.04
120	1,664	13.86
40	572	14.30
140	2,193	15.66
100	1,749	17.49
98	2,092	21.35
80	1,745	21.81
60	1,394	23.23
80	1,916	23.95

## OTHERS

78	932	11.95
20	281	14.05
20	572	28.60
20	581	29.05
1,645	22,422	15.19

## Lowndes Is 8th

VAL-TIMES 9-20-78

# 'Cats Remain On Top

ATLANTA (AP) — The Hogansville Greenwaves fell from their perch near the top of the Class A Georgia high school football standings this week after twice-defeated Brookstone turned on the Greenwaves and maimed them 24-7.

Other teams in The Associated Press standings also suffered in this week's poll, although the leaders remained the same — Valdosta in Class AAAA, Waycross in AAA, Commerce in AA and Savannah Country Day in A.

The Lowndes Vikings had advanced through the Class AAAA ranks to fourth place by last week only to be hit from left field by unheralded Tift County last weekend, 18-7. Lowndes' loss knocked the Vikings down to No. 8 this week and brought Tift from nowhere to No. 6.

In other changes in Class AAAA, Southwest DeKalb, ranked high early in the

season, dropped from sight after its 15-13 loss to Tucker. And previously unbeaten Marietta dropped a game to Walton 3-0 to fall from fifth to ninth.

Otherwise, it was business as usual in AAAA with Valdosta at the top and Warner Robins and Cedar Shoals tied for second. Behind them were Lakeside, Benedictine and Northside-Warner Robins.

Here is a list of the top 10 football teams in each classification of Georgia high school football, their records and voting points received from members of The Associated Press board. Other schools nominated follow each list.

### Class AAAA

1. Valdosta, 3-0, 118
2. Cedar Shoals, 4-0, 97
3. Warner Robins, 3-0, 97
4. Lakeside, 3-0, 62
5. Benedictine, 2-0, 55
6. Northside-W.R., 3-0, 51
7. Tift County, 3-0, 29
8. Jonesboro, 3-0, 24
9. Lowndes, 2-1, 23
10. Marietta, 3-1, 19

Also nominated: Westside-Aug., 3-0; Hardaway, 3-0; Clarke Central, 3-1; Newnan, 2-1; Forsyth Co., 4-0; Fayette Co., 3-0; Glynn Acad., 3-0; Thomasville, 2-1; Central-Macon, 1-1; Dunwoody, 4-0; S.W. DeKalb, 1-1-1; Laney, 3-0; Northside-Atl., 0-

3-1; Peachtree, 3-0.

### Class AAA

1. Waycross, 3-0, 116
2. Americus, 3-0, 102
3. Marietta, 3-1, 92
4. Ware Co., 4-0, 76
5. Lithonia, 3-0, 53
6. Dalton, 3-1, 47
7. Gainesville, 2-1, 37
8. Swainsboro, 2-1, 30
9. Peach Co., 2-0, 22
10. Glenn Hills, 2-0, 11

Also nominated: Avondale, 2-1; Southwest-Atlanta, 2-1; Perry, 1-2; Thomson, 2-0; LaFayette, 4-0; Troup, 3-0; Jones Co., 2-0; North Hall, 3-0.

### Class AA

1. Commerce, 4-0, 107
2. Claxton, 4-0, 97
3. East Rome, 3-0, 96
4. Lincoln Co., 3-0, 79
5. Jefferson, 4-0, 69
6. Mitchell Co., 3-0, 56
7. Mary Persons, 3-0, 48
8. North Springs, 3-0, 37
9. Morgan Co., 4-0, 27
10. R.E. Lee, 2-2, 9

Also nominated: Cedar Grove, 3-0; Bleckley Co., 3-0; Harlem, 3-0; Jackson, 2-1; Pelham, 3-0; Manchester, 3-0; Carterville, 1-2; Darlington, 3-0, and Greene Co., 3-1.

### Class A

1. Sav. C.D., 3-0, 111
2. Warren Co., 2-0, 104
3. Gordon Lee, 4-0, 83
4. Johnson Co., 3-0, 83
5. Treutlen, 4-0, 64
6. Pacelli, 3-0, 56
7. E.C.I., 3-0, 32
8. Hogansville, 2-1, 30
9. Ga. Mil. Col., 3-0, 17
10. Clinch Co., 2-1, 10



—Times Staff Photos.

*Students And Teachers At Lowndes High, Valdosta High, Indulge In 50s, Country Days*

## LHS, VHS Enjoy Week

By Times Staff Writer  
Tacky Day. T-Shirt Day.  
Plowboy Day. City Slicker  
Day.

Students at Valdosta High and Lowndes High geared up for their biggest football game of the year, tonight's annual clash between the city and county high schools, with a week of antics.

Each day this week was designated a crazy day at both schools, when students dress like farmers or city slickers, 1950's teenagers, or in wild T-shirts.

The festive mood carried into Thursday night with spirited pep rallies.

Between the student bodies, said VHS band director Mike Chapman, the

rivalry remains friendly.

"The students are very definitely excited," Chapman said, "It's like this every year, regardless of the records of the two teams.

"We could be winning 7-0 and Lowndes losing 0-7 or vice versa, and it wouldn't take away from the excitement of the game."

Did VHS' Wildcat victory over Tifton last Friday dampen the spirits of Lowndes Vikings?

"No. We want to see Valdosta win every game, except one," said LCHS principal Carlton Adams.

"There's a lot of suspense in the air and the students are very hopeful."

On Thursday night, LCHS

band had an annual bonfire to rev up the students.

Today is when the excitement was thick enough to cut with a knife.

"It starts our kind of slow on Monday," Adams said, "and builds up during the week. By Friday, things really get going."

At LCHS, Monday was Sock and Hat Day; Tuesday, Tacky Day; Wednesday, 1950's Day; Thursday, Day of Mourning and Friday, Plowboy Day.

At VHS, Monday was Black and Gold Day (school colors); Tuesday, Hats and Boots Day; Wednesday, City Slicker Day; Thursday, Overalls Day and Friday, T-Shirt Day.

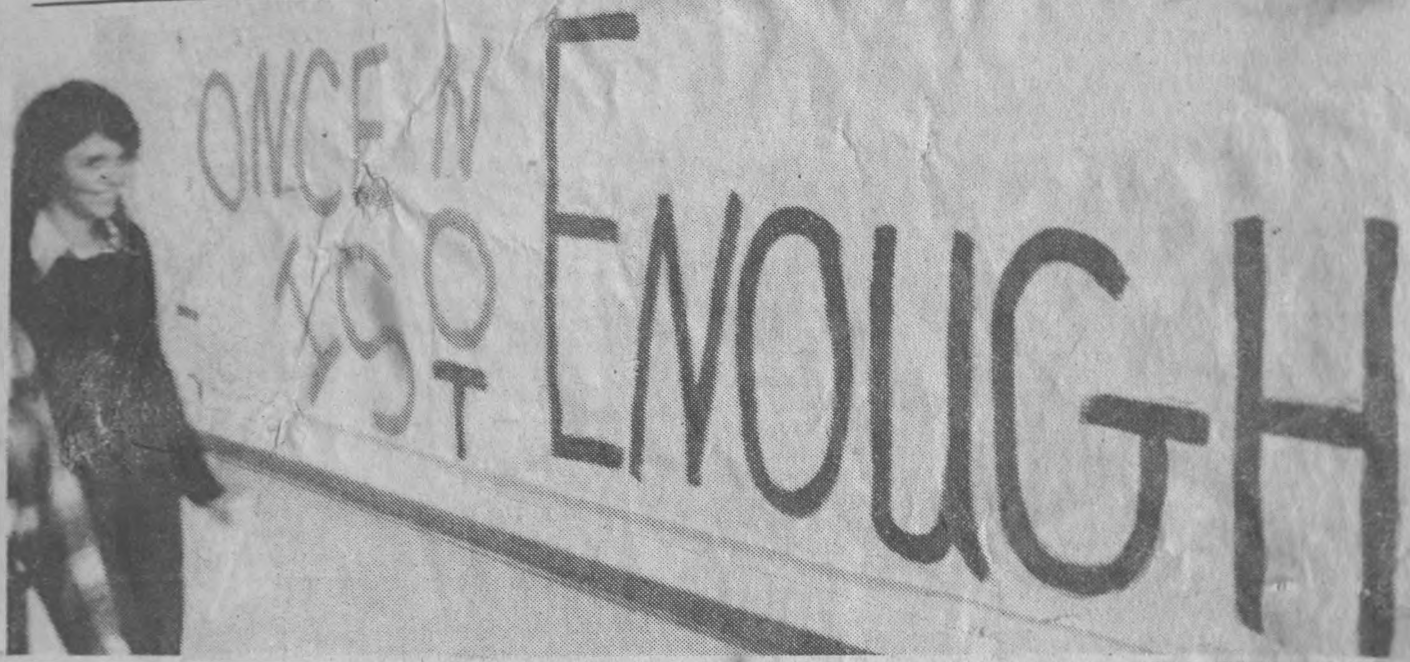
## Proposal Writing Conference

TIFTON — The Committee for the Humanities in Georgia is to conduct a proposal writing conference at the Rural Development Center here on Oct. 31, according to an announcement.

It is to be from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and is open to the public at no charge.

The conference is designed for persons who have no experience in proposal writing as well as experienced writers, said a news release.

The conference is to also explain the committee's guidelines for grants, for proposal preparation and submission.



### *Difference Of Opinion*

With the long-awaited showdown between the county's two excellent football teams drawing near, supporters of the Lowndes Vikings and Valdosta Wildcats are getting more and more excited. The Vikes beat the 'Cats for the first time ever last season, and LHS fans haven't let Valdostans forget it. The sign above is stretched down a hallway at Lowndes High, indicating the Vikings enjoyed last year so much they want to do it again. But another sign (at right), adorning the carport at the residence of an avid Wildcat fan gets the message across that Valdostians have a different idea. Both schools will get even more "fired up" tonight with giant pep rallies planned. The big game, which is a sellout, gets underway Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field. — Times Staff Photos by Robert Winter III.





# Wilson Says 'Cats Ready For Vikings

By MIKE CHASON

Joe Wilson played football for Valdosta High School for four years, he coached football at Valdosta High School for 14 years and now he's going to try to beat Valdosta High School on the football field for the second year in a row.

And Wilson, the Lowndes High School football coach, says his old alma mater is going to be more ready than it has ever been for a football game.

"Valdosta is going to be higher for this game than any Valdosta team has ever been," Wilson said Tuesday. "Valdosta's going to be more ready to play football than at any other time in the school's history.

"They've had enough of seven to two. All year long, they've been warming up to seven-two instead of one-two in their exercises. They've heard it until they have had enough of it."

It was by that 7-2 score that Wilson's Vikings defeated Valdosta last season for the first time in the 10-year rivalry of the two Region 1-A AAAA schools here.

Since that time, the numbers have been paraded at a basketball game between the schools, plastered on bumper stickers and painted on signs all across town. Even a billboard on Interstate-75 had the score in bold paint at one time.

Friday night at 8 p.m., the two teams meet again at Valdosta's Cleveland Field. Last year, they played at Lowndes' Martin Stadium. A jam-packed house of 11,600 is expected for the contest. The game was a sellout Tuesday morning.

"Our scouts tell us this is the best Valdosta team they've ever seen," Wilson said. "I have not seen them.

"I think they have some attributes this year they didn't have last year. One of their finest qualities is a great offensive line. This year's Valdosta team seems to be very opportunistic. You give them an inch, and they take a mile.

"They're certainly deserving of the number one ranking."

Valdosta is ranked in the top position in today's Associated Press poll for the

seventh consecutive week. The Wildcats are 6-0. Lowndes, 5-1, is rated sixth.

Although he quickly tabbed Valdosta a better team than the one his team beat at this point in the season a year ago, Wilson isn't ready to compare this year's Vikings with last season.

"It would be pretty hard for us to say we're putting a better team on the field than last year," Wilson said. "That team last year won this game. They have their win. This bunch has to earn their's.

"This is a very prestigious game. We're playing the number one team in the state. They have a fine-coached team. They've got a great momentum and a great program going for them.

"Lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place."

Unlike Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, Wilson plays up the fact the game is a non-subregion bout. Valdosta is in the north subregion of 1-A AAAA, and Lowndes is in 1-A AAAA (South).

Both teams are 3-0 against subregion foes and could virtually wrap up postseason playoff spots with wins next week. Valdosta travels to Monroe (Albany), and Lowndes hosts Bainbridge.

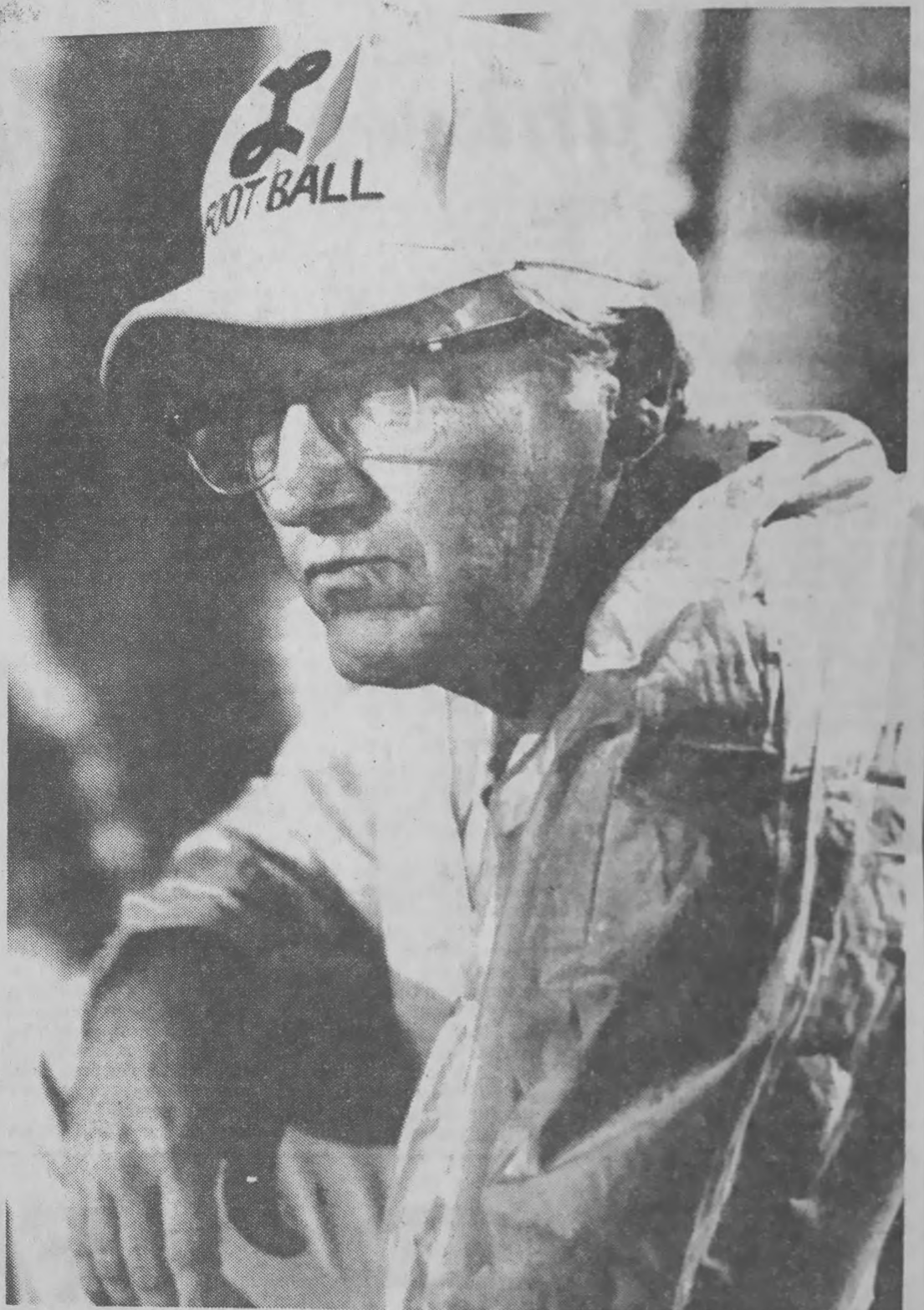
"The thing that concerns me the most is that you get these kids and this community so fired up over a ballgame that don't really amount to a hill of beans as far as what your goal is," Wilson said.

"Your goal is to get into the playoffs. Here you are getting so sky high, you lose sight of what your goals are. Then you go out and lose to a Bainbridge and get knocked out of the playoffs.

"We fooled around last year and got them (the Wildcats) right, and then we fooled around and Crisp County beat us. What we've got to try to do is play a good football game and have a good time and not overextend ourselves so we can't play against Bainbridge."

Hyder doesn't think that factor will take away from the game.

"That's a mechanical factor, not an emotional one," Hyder said. "It's kind



—Times Staff Photo by Mike Dorse

## Joe Wilson Believes Valdosta Is Tired Of 7-2 Score

of like a sidelight to the main attraction."

Like Hyder, Wilson admitted there were some ideas he had not used in a game. However, he denied the theory he was saving them for Valdosta.

"We have not run some stuff, but we weren't saving it for a particular game," Wilson said. "We haven't done some things because we thought we could do something a little better.

"We're going to do the things they let us do which isn't going to be very much."

The Valdosta defense has given up only 21 points this season. The Viking defense is second-best in the league with only 30 points scored against it.

Middle guard Adam Reese, tackle Keith Hitchcock and linebacker Ronnie Adkins

have had a lot to do with that. Wilson said Adkins was not held out of last week's Westover game just to save him for Valdosta.

"We held Adkins out because he was injured," Wilson said. "If he's not in any better shape this Friday night, we'll hold him out again. We're not going to play a kid who's injured, not even if we're playing the Oakland Raiders.

"I did that one time and my son (Jody) has three scars on his knee."

The younger Wilson had to have an operation on his knee after playing while it was hurt part of last season.

The Lowndes coach said Adkins had a bone bruise in a location he didn't disclose because "some people will want to take shots at it, maybe not this week but the following week." Wilson said his starting lineup would be basically intact Friday night

for the first time in weeks. Sophomore halfback Cedric Jones saw brief action last week, and multi-purpose offensive back Eric Thomas returned to fulltime duty.

Both are cogs in a Lowndes offense which also features junior quarterback Chuck DeVane, sophomore flanker Steve Player, senior fullback Steve Thomas, senior halfback Robin McElroy and senior tight end Chuck Jones.

Lowndes has averaged 21.8 points a game this year.

Because he was once a Wildcat himself, does Friday night's game carry any extra significance to Wilson?

"Most certainly," he said. "Since it is the crosstown rivalry, it means more than some others. But it is not as important to our school, our program and our fans as that one next week.

"This school has never been in the playoffs. That would be a great thing."



*Lowndes' Cheerleader's Face Reflects Final Score*

ly  
ill  
to  
ill  
Do  
t  
ga  
in  
ug  
a  
ag  
ly  
e  
e  
yo  
gl  
tu  
ne  
r

## Game Was Anti-Climactic

# Power Failure Stole The Show

By RICK ROUNTREE  
Central casting in Hollywood couldn't have offered a more ominous looking day as a preview to Friday night's Valdosta-Lowndes matchup.

Dark, thick clouds hanging heavy built up throughout the day, much the same as the tension for the game had all week.

It was the darkened sky and uneasy tension that found

stands for both teams filled and poised a full hour before all thought would be the start of the game.

The steady breeze did little to relieve the muggy night which nobody could realize

would be so long.

Many gazed upward into the sky over Cleveland Field, worried that any advantage the Wildcats might take into the affair could be lost to showers.

But in the end it was the trappings of technology that provided the night's strongest tension.

It was Georgia Power Co. thrown into the role of villain (though unjustly) for more than 45 minutes as power crews worked frantically against the most untimely malfunction of the year.

A shorted out line flickered graphically from the southwest corner of the stadium while fans watched 8 p.m. come and go in a dimly lit setting. And in the end it was the lights which drew more comments than the game.

Revenge was the emotional key to the game more than one Valdosta fan said before the kickoff.

Remembering well the shocking loss at Martin Stadium last year, more than one fan spoke almost in reverence of Death Valley and how it got its name.

"Valdosta will win this one because they're supposed to, because they have to," said one woman from the end zone fence.

Once the game started one VHS student said there wasn't the tension of the year before. It was almost a blind determination, the student said, to right a wrong.

"All they've said in school this week is 'once but no more.' Last year was Martin

Stadium. This year it's here."

It wasn't long into the first quarter before the remark started to come true.

An early safety for Valdosta's first points brought comments of last year in which a safety was the best the Wildcats could muster.

And as Valdosta moved into command of the game, the rain came and 11,000 umbrellas popped open and into place.

"We hoped it would rain more...maybe that would have evened things out more," said one Lowndes fan leaving the game.

But by the time the rain had fallen and a cool breeze moved in, the game seemed to move into a pattern where it would stay.

"Frankly I was disappointed in Lowndes' defense," said Alton Jones. "I'd read so much about them...it just wasn't their night at all."

Two Lowndes students talked about getting the key breaks as they left following the game.

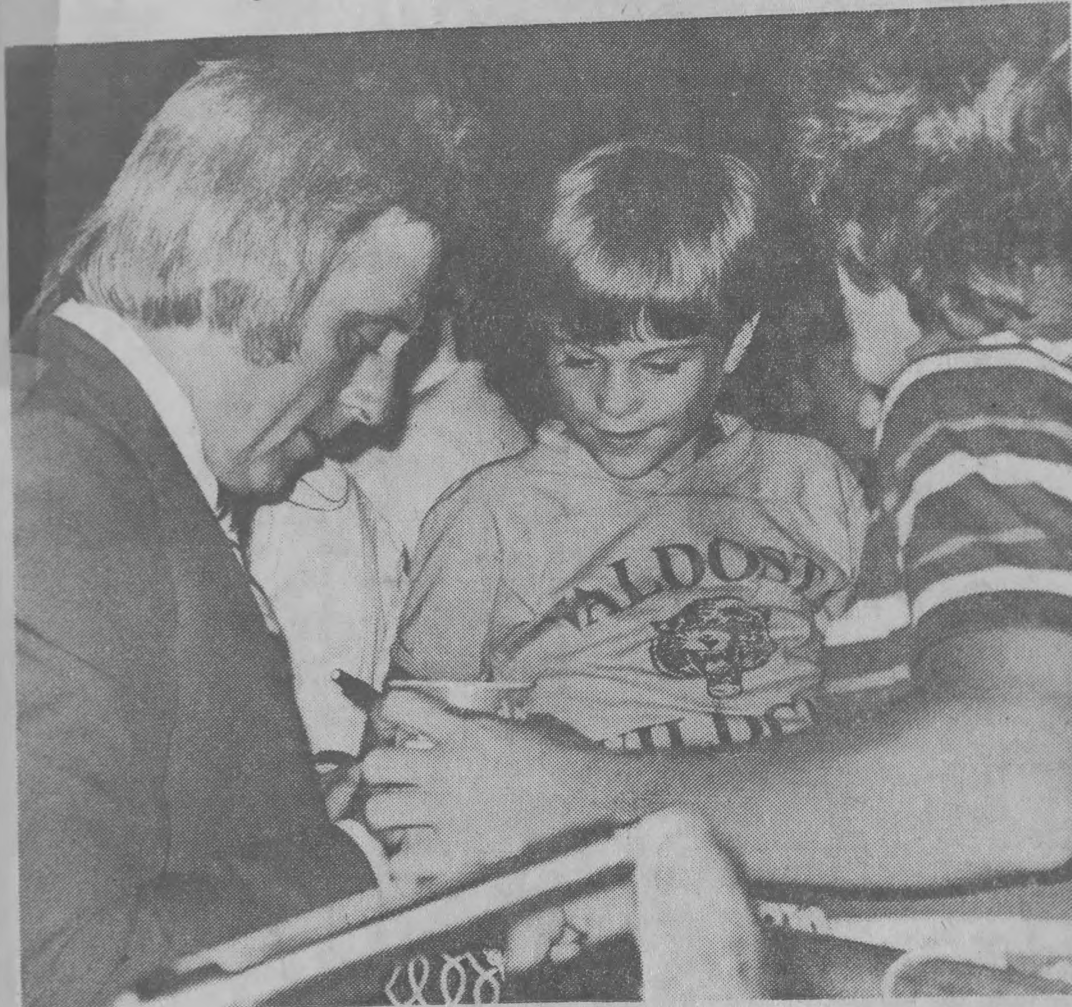
"They got all the breaks. They outplayed us but they got all the breaks, too."

"Any other night we could have played them a better game," said the other student.

"There never was any question tonight," said a Valdosta fan standing at his seat following the game.

"It was a great game to watch. I just wish I'd had more light to watch it in."

Photos By Mike Dowse And Robert Winter III



Happiness: A Wildcat Victory & A Phil Niekro Autograph

# Almon And Rudolph Prepare For Offenses

**By MIKE HAGOOD**  
The task of stopping offensive football teams as explosive as Lowndes or Valdosta High School is not an enviable job.

Brad Almon, defensive coordinator at Lowndes, puts the situation in good perspective saying "when you play a team that passes or runs solely it's much easier. When it is balanced between the two it's much more difficult."

Jack Rudolph, defensive coordinator at Valdosta, echoed similar sentiments when he said "nobody else presents the possible problems that Lowndes does."

Both defenses must stop the other teams variation of the Bazemore system developed by former Valdosta Coach Wright Bazemore.

Head coaches Nick Hyder of Valdosta and Joe Wilson of Lowndes have been quite successful with their own personal variations of Bazemore's offense.

Neither Almon or Rudolph knows if this year's game will be a repeat of last year's 7-2 defensive struggle.

"It could be real tight or it could be blown way open. I just don't know," said Almon.

Lowndes currently ranks as the number one 1-AAAA team statistically in both pass defense and defense against the rush. The Vikings have given up an average of 72.16 yards on the ground and 41.50 yards through the air.

Valdosta ranks third in rushing defense, giving up 88.17 yards a game, and ranks second in pass defense in Region 1-AAAA with a 59.83 yards per game mark.

These statistics have little meaning to Almon who said, "you can throw the records out the window. The emotion of the kids themselves and the involvement of the people in the town have such a great effect on the game. We feel if the end result is winning, the stats will take care of themselves."

According to Rudolph, the Lowndes offense "is based on the strength of their fullback" (Steve Thomas) who Rudolph calls "the best runner in the region."

The fact that Thomas and his running mate, Robin McElroy, complement each other so well presents an additional problem for the Wildcat defense, Rudolph said.

Looming heavy in Rudolph's mind as well is the number of good receivers Lowndes has and the number of players the Vikings have that can throw the ball out of the backfield.

"They must have three of the top five receivers in the region," said Rudolph.

Steve Player and Chuck Jones rank one and two among 1-AAAA pass receivers.

"(Chuck) DeVane's statistics speak for themselves. He

is a very good passer. Throwing as many times as they do and with as many good receivers as they have you're bound to connect sometime," said Rudolph.

Almon has a great deal of respect for the Valdosta offensive line. He said, "gosh, they've got them all back and they're bigger, quicker and a year older. Every one of them is a two or three-year starter, I think."

The depth of the Wildcats has Almon worried as well.

"They have about 45 seniors and they're pretty well spread around. They have the depth to come back at you with fresh people," said Almon.

Both defensive coaches are quick to point out the size of their teams.

"This is the littlest defensive line I've had since I've been at Valdosta. No kid is over 200 pounds," Rudolph said.

Almon says that his defense is "the smallest in the region.

"Our ultimate goal is to be playing after a lot of other folks hang-up their equipment."

When asked if this year's Wildcat defense is the best that he has coached, Rudolph said, "we'll wait 'till the end of the year to decide that."

Game time tonight at Cleveland Field is 8 p.m.



**BRAD ALMON**  
Vike Defensive Head



**JACK RUDOLPH**  
Readies 'Cat Defense

## Valdosta's First, Lowndes Is Sixth

ATLANTA (AP) — The Georgia high school Class A Top 10 was a tossed salad again this week after six of the teams — including the top two — lost their weekend games.

Savannah Country Day, having done penance by dropping to third place for a week, is back on top of Class A in the Associated Press poll after a tough 14-13 victory over subregion rival Johnson County.

In the other classes, East Rome slipped past Commerce to take first place in AA and Waycross still leads AAA after whipping Berrien 32-0. Valdosta defeated No. 4 Tift County 35-7 to hold the high ground in AAAAA.

Gordon Lee, which held Class A's first place for a week, lost to AAA No. 8 LaFayette 35-17 and dropped to a second-place tie with Georgia Military College. GMC rose from fifth place to its new spot by slaughtering Social Circle 56-0.

The Warren County Devils, formerly No. 2, also suffered for playing out of their league when Class AA Mary Persons pounded them 28-7. The loss dropped the Devils to sixth in Class A.

Charlton County, in fourth last week, lost to Baker County, Fla., 9-0 and fell to eighth place. Daacula,

### The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

previously tied for sixth, was splattered 49-0 by Athens Academy and disappeared from the standings.

The Class AAA top 10, in contrast, is apparently crystalizing. Only two standing changes were made this week and three last week, with no membership changes. Last week, only three additional teams were even nominated for the top 10, and this week only one, Dalton, was nominated without being included.

The first five again this week are Waycross, Americus, Marist, Cedar-american and Gainesville.

Here are the top 10 teams in each classification of Georgia high school football, their records and the voting points they received from the AP board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Other teams nominated this week follow each list.

- Class AAAAA**
1. Valdosta, 6-0, 119
  2. Cedar Shoals, 6-0, 98
  3. Northside-Warner Robins, 6-0, 91
  4. Benedictine, 6-0, 82
  5. Stephens Co., 6-0, 64
  6. Lowndes, 5-1, 46
  7. Tift Co., 5-1, 28
  8. Westside-Aug, 6-0, 24
  9. Lakeside, 4-1, 22

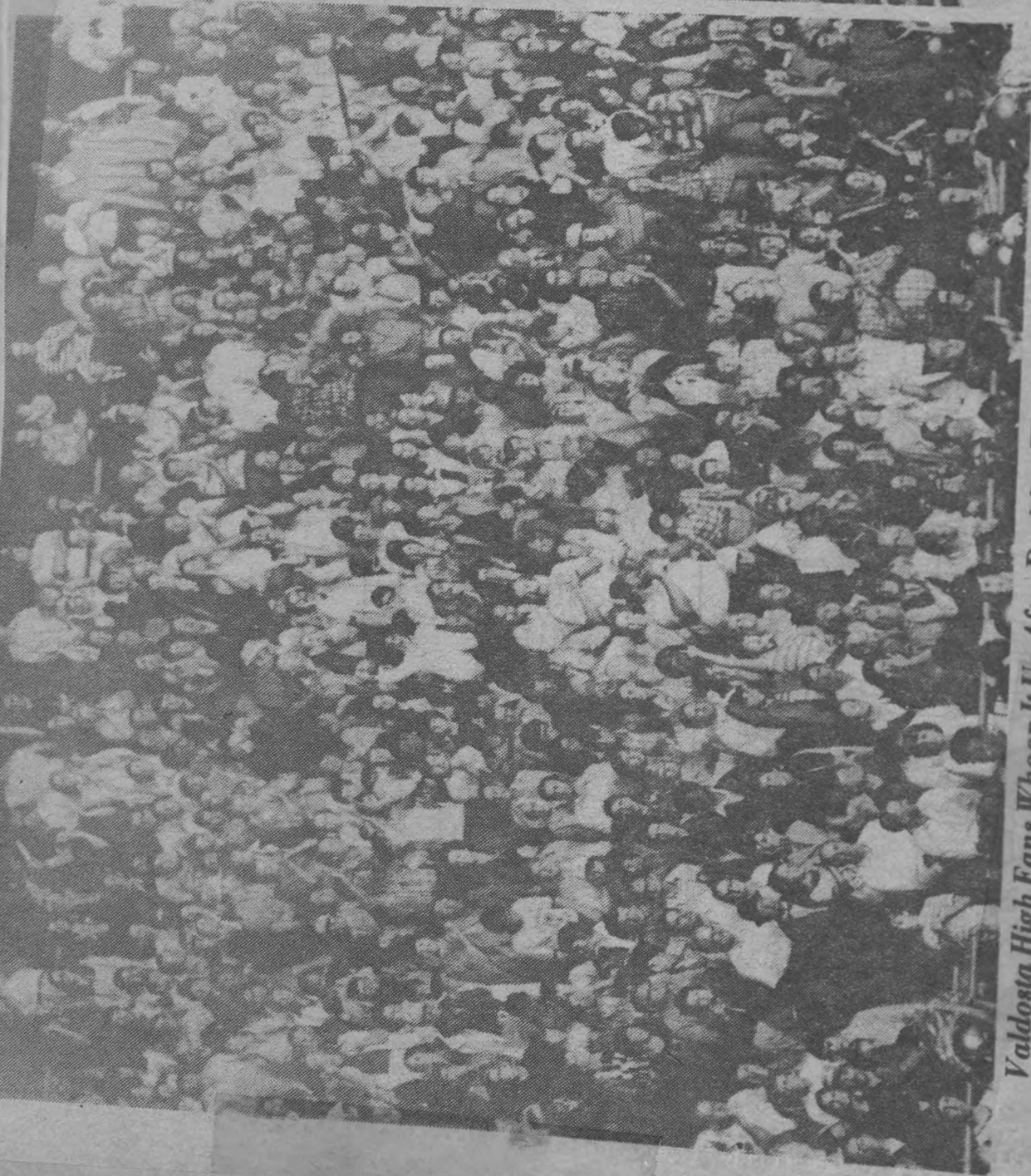
- Class AAA**
1. Waycross, 6-0, 116
  2. Americus, 5-0, 105
  3. Marist, 7-0, 98
  4. Cedartown, 5-0-1, 77
  5. Gainesville, 5-1, 60
  6. Glenn Hills, 5-0, 55
  7. Ware Co., 5-1, 46
  8. LaFayette, 6-0, 38
  9. Swainsboro, 4-1, 37
  10. Lithonia, 5-1, 25

- Class AA**
1. East Rome, 6-0, 108
  2. Commerce, 6-0, 106
  3. Claxton, 7-0, 83
  4. Lincoln Co., 6-0, 79
  5. Mitchell Co., 6-0, 68
  6. Mary Persons, 6-0, 64
  7. Jefferson, 7-0, 63
  8. Harlem, 6-0, 22
  9. R. E. Lee, 4-2, 19
  10. North Springs, 5-1, 11

- Class A**
1. Sav. C.D., 5-1, 109
  2. Ga. Mil. Col., 5-0, 93
  3. Gordon Lee, 6-1, 93
  4. Emanuel Co. Inst., 5-1, 68
  5. Hogansville, 4-1, 60
  6. Warren Co., 3-1-1, 50
  7. Miller Co., 5-1, 41
  8. Charlton Co., 4-2, 39
  9. Johnson Co., 4-2, 36
  10. Treutlen, 5-1, 19

- Also nominated:** Morgan Co., 6-1; Cedar Grove, 6-0; Cartersville, 4-2; Bleckley Co., 6-0; Taylor Co., 6-0, and Pelham, 5-0.
- Class A**
1. Unadilla, 4-1-1; Clinch Co., 4-2; Buford, 4-2; Dacula, 5-1; Brookstone, 3-3; Greenville, 3-2-1, and Athens Acad. 3-2-1.

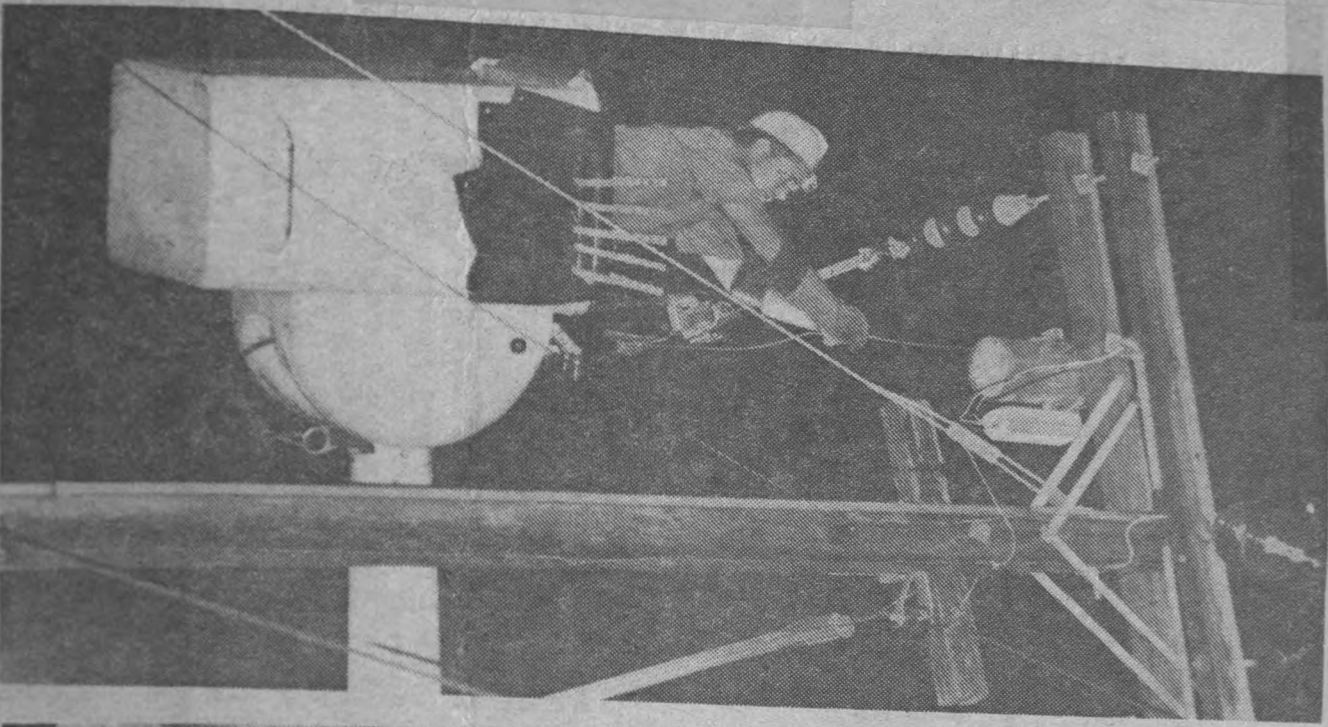
...guy ready in ...  
...defense ...  
...and then ...  
...sight ...  
...ng, ...  
...in ...  
...the ...  
...ugh ...  
...me ...  
...pt ...  
...her ...  
...ren ...  
...ler ...  
...oug ...  
...real ...  
...lect ...  
...tou ...  
...ffs ...  
...ert ...  
...din ...  
...ner ...  
...ral.



*Valdosta High Fans Whoop It Up After Decision Was Made To Play Game*



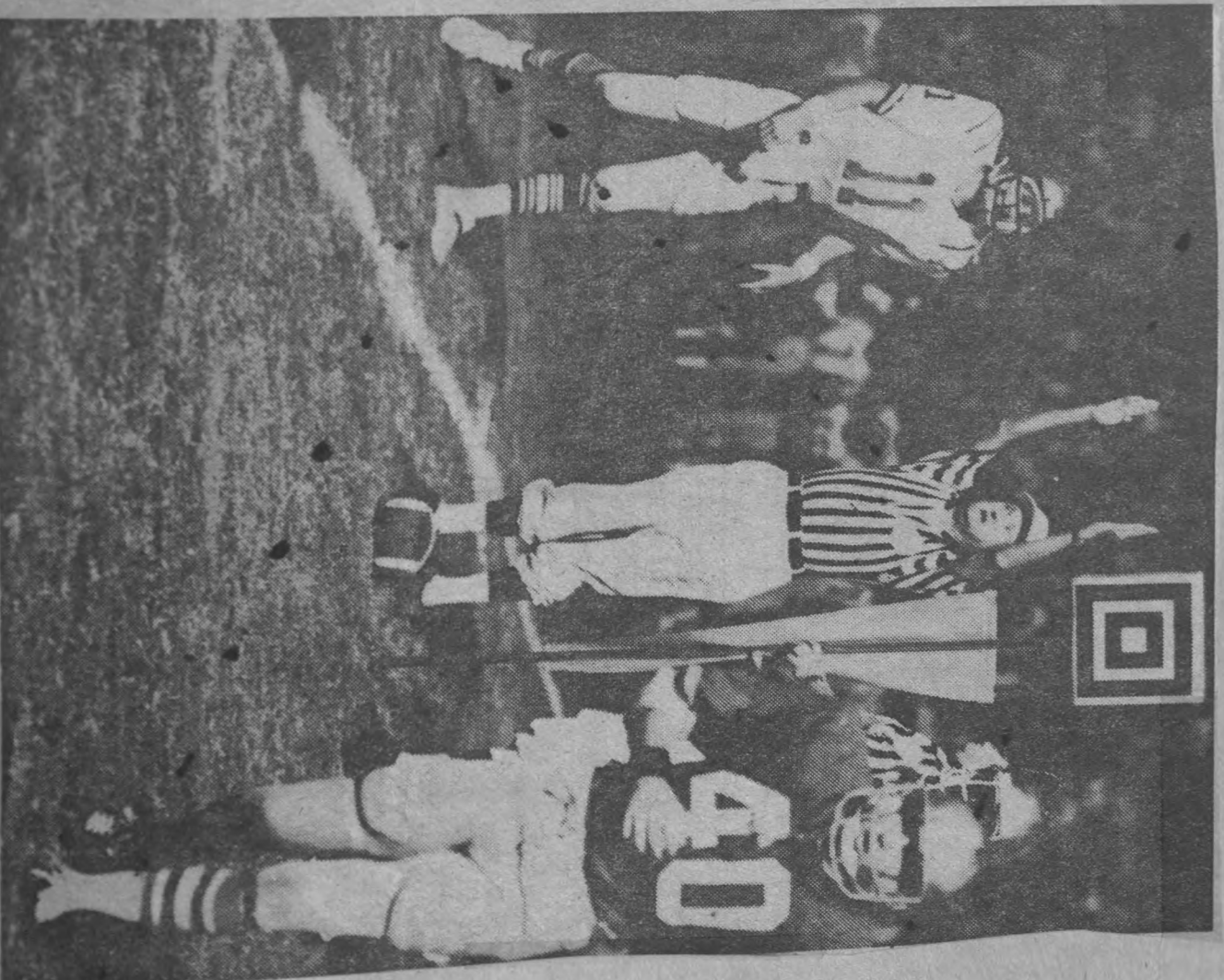
*Before The Battle: Vikings Hold Sign Aloft But Smiles Turned To Frowns*



*All In Vain: Georgia Power Tried But...*



*VHS Coaches Hyder, L, Brooks Watch The Action*



*That Close: Cats Got This First Down, Many More*

## Not A Seat Available For Vike-Wildcat Game

By Times Staff Writer

Tickets...everybody wants one and not everybody can find one.

A seat to the Valdosta-Lowndes high school football game here Friday night has become the hottest commodity on the market. It was announced by both schools Tuesday morning that the 8 p.m. game at Cleveland Field is a complete sellout.

That leaves some fans out in the cold, including some Lowndes season ticket-holders.

"It's hard to take seventeen-hundred tickets and stretch it into four-thousand," Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson said Tuesday. "Any way you do it, you're wrong."

"We've got better than twenty-six hundred season ticket-holders. We had seventeen-hundred reserved seats. So figure that out. We had the head of our math department trying to make it work and even with the new math, he can't do it," Wilson said in a tongue-in-cheek manner.

Valdosta City School System Finance Director Jack Kent announced Saturday

that 3,414 tickets had been sent to Lowndes. Of that allocation, 1,714 were reserved seats, 700 were student tickets and 1,000 were general admission seats.

Kent said Tuesday that about 10,600 tickets have been sold for the game. He said the rest of the space in the 11,232 seat stadium is to be taken up by the bands of the two schools, school officials and teachers.

Counting the visiting coaches and officials who have Georgia High School Association passes, the press box crew and other workers at the game, Kent figures the most the stadium could hold is 11,600.

But that doesn't solve Wilson's problem.

"Every one of our touchdown club members that signed up for tickets got tickets with the exception of one or two whose names we misplaced," Wilson said. "And we're trying to scrape up some for them."

"I reiterate...there's no way to get seventeen-hundred tickets and make four thousand out of them."

her with a gift of silver.

# Can they be stopped? Valdosta High Wildcats keep roaring along

By BILL THOMPSON  
Times-Union Sports Writer

Now that the snarling Wildcats of Valdosta High have staked their flag on the summit, the carcasses of the vanquished strewn haphazardly down the slopes in their wake, the burning question at last must be asked.

Is anyone bad enough, mean and mad enough to knock Coach Nick Hyder's nice-guy "bullies" off the mountain?

Several thought they had the capacity, only to fall helplessly under a Valdosta avalanche that has buried all corners through seven games.

The Wildcats, with apparent ease, have demolished powerful opponents on back-to-back playing dates. Valdosta throttled then third-ranked and unbeaten Tift County 35-7 two weeks ago and last Friday disposed of archrival Lowndes, the co-leader in the neighboring Region I-AAAA (South) sub-region, 22-0. The 'Cats earlier beat the other South sub-region co-leader, Thomasville, 16-7.

We haven't as yet had a groundswell of anguish demanding those in power to "break up the Wildcats."

but if the current trend continues, don't be surprised to hear it.

"No team is invincible. No team is unbeatable," says Lowndes' Joe Wilson, who was a long-time VHS assistant coach himself before taking over at Lowndes, despite seeing his talented team held to minus-25 yards rushing against the 'Cats in last week's loss. "Sure, they're No. 1-ranked and they deserve it. Valdosta has size, strength and balance. Some teams are physically tougher, but few, if any, are as consistently rugged and cool. They can be had, but it's going to take one heck of a team playing its absolute best to do it."

The 1978-edition Wildcats have been favorably compared with the great teams of the long Wright Bazemore era, or more accurately, dynasties. Parallels have been drawn particularly with reference to the 1971 national championship club, one of Valdosta's finest.

Yet the crux of the matter is not how good or sensational the present aggregate is. Rather, it is how Valdosta has attained — and maintained — its level of excellence throughout the years.

"It's just a remarkable program and has been for a long time," offers

Paul McCorvey, who has seen plenty of South Georgia prep powerhouses come and go during his tenure as a sports writer for *The Albany Herald*.

"Football has been a very instrumental part of the town of Valdosta for as long as anybody can remember. It's the proverbial 'only game in town' and everyone puts so much time and energy into making it go.

"The school's latter-day success is no surprise. From the midlevel league right on up the ladder, the watchwords are solid, often brilliant coaching, super organization and genuine care for the players as athletes and youngsters.

"The student body is always enthusiastic and supportive, as are parents, merchants — everyone. When you have tradition like that, you don't exactly have to beg the best people to play."

Granted. But why does it seem that for the past several decades, teams have lived in fear of that one weekend when Valdosta appears on the schedule?

"That's easy," says McCorvey. "There's so much respect for Valdosta on the part of its opponents, even from those who conceivably might be better, it's just amazing. Often, the other team comes in thinking Valdosta

is better than it is and with that, Valdosta has threequarters of the battle won before the ball is fed up."

Polish is something that normally comes with time. As a rule, individual athletes do not reach such a plateau of maturity, on-field execution and even psychological temperament until they are well into their college careers.

At Valdosta, the process is accelerated as a matter of course.

"As coaches, we try to make the game enjoyable for the player, to not have it be little more than a job," says Hyder, well into his fifth year at the helm as successor to the legendary Bazemore. "I had to earn my spurs here, just like the players do. But there's always been such a fine base on which to build. We pay attention to a young man's moral and psychological well-being as well as the physical, and it manifests itself on the field.

"The qualities of courage and persistence, sportsmanship and maturity have been trademarks here for a long time, but they don't come easy. As with everything else, hard work and dedication produces."

Though no one in Wildcat Coun-

try has the temerity to compare this year's group with teams of the past, there is one aspect of their play which is compatible with the past.

"In a word, I would define our present team as unselfish," says Hyder. "And that holds true down the line — from coaches to players to parents and fans. You simply can't overestimate its value, either."

All this is not to say that Valdosta has not been fortunate down through the years. Lady luck continues to play its accustomed role.

"Valdosta has always had a free-wheeling offense and a solid defense," says McCorvey. "But it has had the players, too. They have a tradition of multi-talented, versatile people that few schools can touch.

"For one thing, Valdosta always has been blessed with great quarterbacks. You can just go right down the list: Dale Williams, Bruce Bennett, Don Golden, Stan Bounds, Buck Belue and now Johnny Lastinger. There have been a number of good ones in between as well.

"It's hard to beat the system, the following and the enthusiasm they have going. But it may just be the last of those that is their secret."

'Sure, they're No. 1-ranked and they deserve it. Valdosta has size, strength and balance. Some teams are physically tougher, but few, if any, are as consistently rugged and cool. They can be had, but it's going to take one heck of a team playing its absolute best to do it.

— Lowndes' Joe Wilson



Nick Hyder Believes LHS Defense To Be 'Cats' Toughest Test  
—Times Staff Photo by Miss Dowse

# It's That Time Again, Valdosta Against Lowndes

By MIKE CHASON

It was this past New Year's Eve, Nick Hyder was sitting at home, probably anticipating a quiet entry into 1978.

It was not to be.

The phone rang. The female caller on the other end didn't bother to identify herself but rushed into her pre-arranged monologue.

"Nick Hyder, you're a great coach," she said. "But come October, your a-- is grass."

It's now October, and Hyder's derriere is as solid as ever. So is his unbeaten Valdosta High School football team.

But Hyder has no doubt the game to which the caller was referring is still three days in the future.

Before an expected capacity crowd at Cleveland Field here Friday night, two of the prep football giants in Georgia square off in what will probably be the most emotional game of the season for both.

It's Lowndes against Valdosta in their most ballyhooed matchup ever.

"I've never had so many call me for tickets for any game I've ever coached," Hyder said. "I've had calls from Atlanta and everywhere. I might could get two tickets for my mother and dad but I couldn't even promise them."

The two teams have played

ago when they inflicted one of only two defeats on the 12-2 Wildcats.

"I'd hate to think so but they possibly are," he said. "We faced a mighty fine team a year ago."

How about his own club? Is it better at this point in the season than last year's team?

"In some regards, we are," Hyder said. "In some regards, we're still struggling."

The Wildcat defense, sparked by the aggressive play of such standouts as linebacker Lynn Roberts and cornerback Troy Thomas, has allowed the opposition only 21 points this season.

The VHS offense, guided by the steady hand of senior quarterback John Lastinger and a veteran offensive line which includes Andy Chapman and Scott Griffin, has been consistently brilliant.

Valdosta has averaged 37.3 points a game.

But Hyder is wary of the Lowndes' defense, which has surrendered only 30 points all season.

"It's the best defense we've faced," Hyder said. "Brad (Almon, defensive coordinator) does a great job for them. The similarities of our offenses will make it a little bit easier."

"But they've got some good, quick, tough athletes on that defense."

Does Hyder believe

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

in the Associated Press statewide poll. Lowndes is 5-1 and ranked seventh.

"I prefer this type game to the one we're working toward right now. We always put our major emphasis on the next ballgame and don't look ahead. We definitely will not be looking ahead. We definitely will not be looking ahead to Monroe," he said in a tongue-in-cheek manner.

It would have been natural to believe Valdosta would have looked ahead to Friday night's vaunted encounter while playing Tift County last week but the Wildcats were impressive in a 35-7 win over the Tifton team. There was no looking ahead.

Tift is the only team to beat Lowndes this year.

Hyder believes the Vikings may be a better team Friday night than they were a year

each other 10 times in the past but it was not until Joe Wilson left Valdosta after 14 years as an assistant and moved to Lowndes that the rivalry grew downright intense.

In Wilson's first year in 1976, Lowndes held a 3-0 edge until late in the fourth period. Valdosta escaped with a 14-3 victory.

Last season, Wilson's Vikings pulled out a 7-2 win to mark the only time Lowndes has ever beaten Valdosta on the high school football field.

Lowndes went on to lose two of its last three games and didn't even get into the Region I-AAA championship.

Valdosta rolled on to the 1-AAA title and then finished second to Clarke Central in the state playoffs.

"The fact that they beat us was hard to live with," Hyder said Monday. "But it did get us going."

This year the two teams head into the 8 p.m. contest with exactly the same records as last year. Valdosta is 6-0 and ranked number one

Lowndes held out senior linebacker Ronnie Adkins in a 28-12 win over Westover (Albany) last week just so he would be fresh for the 'Cats? "They probably could have won without him, which they did," Hyder said.

Hyder admits he and offensive coordinator Butch Brooks still have a few goodies in the bag in preparation for Lowndes. But he's sure Wilson hasn't shown everything he's got either.

"We have (saved) for him," Hyder said. "Imagine he's done the same thing for us. We'll use them all if we have to."

"I think Joe will go over our scouting report and pick out the things he thinks will work against us. Neither one of us are locked into any kind of offense. That's the good thing about the Bazemore system."

"And it is the Bazemore system we're using. Some people might get burned by that but Wright Bazemore (former Valdosta coach) invented this thing."

Hyder views the game as a classic matchup between two rivals who relish the chance at whipping the other.

"Lowndes is a well-disciplined, well-coached football team," Hyder said. "They are certainly one of the top teams in the state. Add to that the emotion involved from being close by, and you've got a barn-burner."

"It'll be a tough one."

# This Game Is Special

By The Associated Press

A high school football game will be played here tonight, just as at 134 other places across Georgia.

If you want to see a game, however, go to one of the other 134. There's no room here.

The game pits Valdosta High School versus Lowndes High School, and this city — the original of the south Georgia football hotbeds — gobbled up the last of the 12,000 tickets early Tuesday morning.

Welcome to Valdosta, football town extraordinaire.

"There's always been a demand for tickets here," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, "but never have I seen it quite like this."

Most of the tickets have been gone for weeks, many of them since mid-summer. The final ones were put on sale at 7:30 Tuesday morning at Lowndes High.

People here and elsewhere are still trying to latch onto tickets — convincingly, desperately, unsuccessfully.

"A friend of mine got stopped for speeding last week," said Hyder, "and the policeman offered to swap him the speeding ticket for two Valdosta-Lowndes seats." No deal.

Friday's gate will run around \$30,000, which exceeds the total athletic budget of many Georgia high schools. Somehow, it's difficult to grasp that this is just a high school football game. But then, this is Valdosta.

And this is Valdosta versus Lowndes. And Lowndes did win for the first time in the 10-year history of the intra-county series last fall. Valdosta does want revenge. And the teams have lost only one game between them this

season.

"I don't guess I could get Jimmy Carter a ticket if he wanted one," Hyder said, "but if he did and I could, the fans' emphasis would still be the same. We might have the president of the United States in the stands, but the only thing that would matter would be the football game."

"The priorities in this town are football, politics and religion — in that order," Hyder continued. "I don't think anyone is going to be talking about politics Friday night, and the only church happenings will be a few people praying for their team."

It's certain that which ever side loses Friday will feel pressure from its fans, although Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson — perhaps because he's been here longer — suggests the reactions will be more severe than does Hyder.

"Sure they're going to criticize you if you lose," Wilson said. "Some of them will criticize you if you don't win by 35 points or if you score with a pass when they wanted you to run. Most of the state has Monday morning quarterbacking, but down here we have seven-day-a-week quarterbacking. That's what happens when people are used to winning."

## Radio To Carry Vike-Cat Game

By Times Staff Writer  
Play-by-play of the Valdosta-Lowndes football game tonight from Cleveland Field is to be broadcast on Valdosta radio stations WGAF and WVLJ.

WGOV is to carry quarterly reports. Play-by-play broadcasts are to begin at 7:45 p.m.

## Still Unbeaten

# Hyder And Staff Left With Smiles

By STEVE ROBERTS

The lights high above Cleveland Field's South stands were still out. But the smile on Nick Hyder's face accepted congratulations from Valdosta High fans who streamed onto the wet turf following the Wildcats' domination of their cross-county rival Friday night.

Hyder's Wildcats had just played a near perfect football game under less than ideal conditions and kept their No. 1 ranking secure with a solid 22-0 victory over the stunned Lowndes Vikings before a packed house.

A power failure about an hour before the scheduled 8 p.m. kickoff had delayed the game for 45 long minutes. It was finally determined that power could not be restored, and the decision was made to play the game.

With the win, the now 7-0 Wildcats also reclaimed the county championship which Lowndes won for the first time a year ago.

Hyder had won back the bragging rights, and he was ready to brag. "I just want to talk about my coaches," Hyder began, and he recited off the names of the entire VHS staff. "Jack Rudolph, Butch Brooks, Fred Waters, Charles Tarpley, Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton and Jim Burroughs did a tremendous job of preparing our young men for this game."

"This coaching staff week in and week out puts on the type show our fans enjoy and expect, and they proved it again tonight."

Hyder said once the decision was made to play the game, it was simply a matter

of adjustment trying to use the lighted part of the field to his team's advantage.

Rescheduling the game was impossible, Hyder said. "There was no way to play it any other time. We were told it would take three to four days to repair an underground cable. There was just no other time to play."

Coach (Joe) Wilson agreed. "Hyder said the only real adjustment made in the game plan was to use the lighted north side of the field for his passing game."

"We tried to throw toward the lights, and I noticed Lowndes did too. We had some success and so did they."

Valdosta's passing game was instrumental in the first scoring drive, but one of the completions which erased a holding penalty and kept the drive alive was thrown to the dark side of the field.

But it was a bruising ground attack and a swarming defense that gave the Cats control of the game in the second quarter.

"I thought our offensive and defensive line played extremely well. Our backs ran hard, and we avoided costly mistakes," Hyder said. Rudolph, who directed the vicious VHS defense, was also smiling.

"I'm very proud of these kids tonight. This may have been the finest team effort we've had on defense in a couple of years. It would be hard to single any one player out because it was such a team effort," Rudolph said.

The Wildcat defenders played with reckless abandon and kept tremendous pressure on a trio of



—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III

## Wildcats' Irvin Roe Searches For A Hole In The Viking Defense

scrambling Viking quarterbackbacks all night.

"The pressure is something you always hope you'll be able to generate. The tempo of the game usually dictates whether or not you'll be able to do it. We were able to apply good pressure tonight."

"The big thing now is not to let down. That was a big win

tonight. There's a lot of emotion involved because they're the other school in the county, but this win means nothing as far as the ultimate goal is concerned."

Hyder echoed those words. "But serious preparation for Monday. For the time being, Hyder, Rudolph and the rest of the Wildcats were smiling."

Hyder had a tough time against Monroe last year and we've got to come down off this cloud and get ready to play next Friday night in Albany."

# Lastinger, DeVane Pitted Against Each Other Fri.

By MIKE CHASON  
Two former Boys' Club football league teammates pit their quarterbacking skills against each other here Friday night in a game where both will undoubtedly occupy the spotlight.

In an 8 p.m. contest at Cleveland Field, Lowndes High School junior signal-caller Chuck DeVane matches wits with Valdosta High senior quarterback John Lastinger in the annual confrontation of the two cross-county rivals.

"It's probably the biggest game I've played in so far," DeVane said Wednesday night. "I feel a good bit of pressure. It'll be something new for me."

DeVane, the leading passer in Region 1-AAAA, stepped in as the LHS quarterback this season. Last year, he watched from the bench as Lowndes took its first win in 10 tries against the Wildcats via a 7-2 decision.

Lastinger was on the Martin Stadium turf for that game, but at the wide receiver position.

"I guess this game has always been in our minds," Lastinger said. "We've been

through all the seven-to-two and the pep rallies and everything. I guess the time for talking is over now though."

Lastinger said he was serenaded by two truckloads of Lowndes fans Tuesday night.

"Once is not enough is what we're hearing from them," Lastinger said.

The two 17-year-olds played together on a Boys' Club football team which featured Lastinger as the quarterback and DeVane as the fullback. When Lastinger moved up a notch in classification, DeVane took over the quarterbacking duties.

"We're all pretty excited about the game," DeVane said. "From what I hear, Valdosta is pretty keyed up too. They've had seven-to-two to live with for a whole year now."

DeVane figures the LHS win last season might give the Wildcats a bit of psychological edge.

"In a game like this, it's usually who gets the breaks," DeVane said. "I think we've got a good defense, and I think they've got a good defense."

"We still haven't really gotten it together on offense yet. I think we can execute better than we have so far this season."

"Their offense has probably played better than our's so far but I think our offense could be just as good."

Lastinger said he felt a little more pressure than last year, especially when he thought about "eleven defensive guys trying to tear my head off."

"The breaks are going to have a lot to do with it," Lastinger said. "Scoring early like we did against Tift County could be a big advantage."

"If we can get ahead early, maybe we can hold them."

Valdosta's offensive line, which includes tackles Scott Griffin, Harvey Carter and Darrell Swindle, guards Andy Chapman and Fomby Hardin, center Tony Blasetti and tight end Sam Fletcher or Willie Hankins, has been recognized as one of the best in the region all season long.

Lastinger wouldn't have it any other way.

"They've done a good job so far," he said. "This will be the biggest test for them Friday night."

Both Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson had nothing but praise for their quarterbacks.

"Ability-wise, the college scouts are telling us Lastinger has the quickest release they've seen as far as throwing the football," Hyder said. "He's a very talented, unselfish athlete."

"He's a very loyal and dedicated Wildcat, having grown up here in the era when he was able to see Valdosta at its best. That was during Coach (Wright) Bazemore's last seven or eight years of coaching."

Wilson said the combination of DeVane, back-up Kevin Stephenson and halfback Eric Thomas had made Lowndes the top passing team in the region for the third year in a row.

Wilson does not deny the

pressure on DeVane or any of the players on either team.

"Any time a kid goes into a game like this, it has got to have an effect," Wilson said. "But I believe this young man (DeVane) will be as calm and collected and use his physical tools as well as anyone I've ever been associated with."

Wilson is also very much aware of the talent of Lastinger, who's the second-leading passer in the region.

"I've heard John Lastinger is as good or better than Buck Belue," Wilson said. "Last year, I heard Belue was the best quarterback in the south. But Kenny Luke was the quarterback who won the football game."

"Valdosta has great talent and great tradition. But their biggest weakness, if they have a weakness, is the outside influence brought on by the coaches and players by people who think they know football."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

### LOWNDES

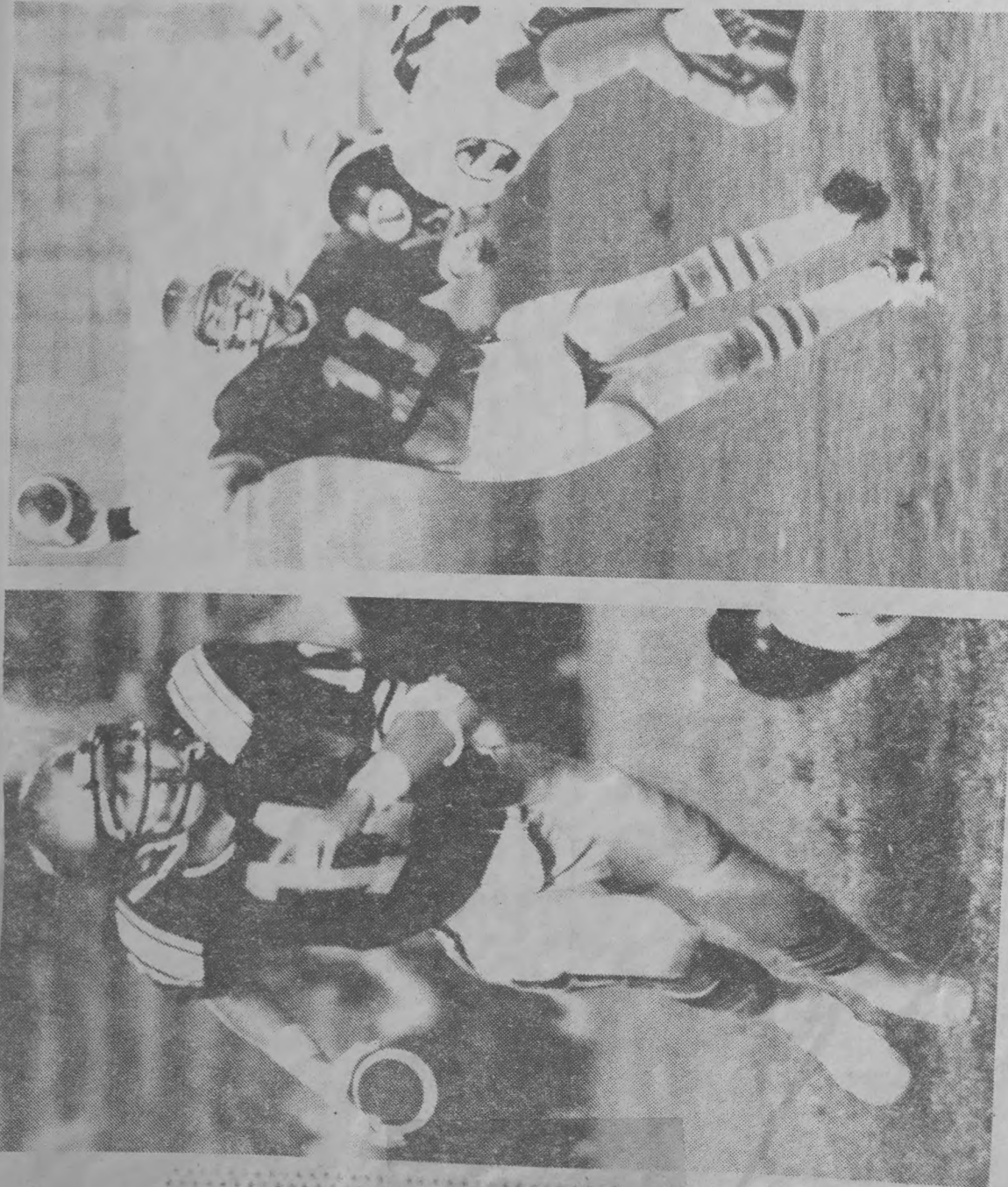
Offense—ends Chuck Jones (185, sr.) and Brent Edwards (160, sr.); tackles Don Newham (170, soph.) or Glen Touchton (166, sr.) and John Flythe (240, sr.); guards Cam Parker (158, sr.) and Frankie Tyson (179, sr.); center Benny Culpepper (187, soph.), halfback Robbin McElroy (170, sr.), fullback Steve Thomas (169, sr.), flanker Steve Poyer (165, soph.), quarterback Chuck DeVane (165, jr.).  
Defense—ends Allen Culpepper (154, jr.) and Bill Cribb (155, soph.) or Tony Crawford (163, jr.); tackles Keith Hitchcock (190, sr.) and Wayne Wright (199, soph.), middle guard Adam Reese (159, jr.) or Joey Pedrick (195, sr.); linebackers Ronnie Adkins (203, sr.) and Terry Cooper (173, sr.); cornerbacks Dennis McDonald (163, sr.) and Hal Sprengle (181, sr.); safeties Bill Schreffler (171, sr.) and Ronnie Mashburn (180, sr.).  
Punter Jeff Stokes (190, jr.); placekicker Stokes.

### VALDOSTA

Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Hankins (167, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.); tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.); guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.); center Tony Blasetti (223, jr.); fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.); halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irwin Roe (166, jr.); flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.); quarterback John Lastinger (185, sr.).  
Defense—ends Marlin Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.); tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.); middle guard James Conaway (170, sr.) or Dempse Johnson (190, sr.); linebackers John Brannan (195, sr.) or Anthony Battles (180, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.); cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Roger Covert (160, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.); safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.); punter Gordon.



BUDDY ETHRIDGE  
1-A Championship



John Lastinger, Left, Chuck DeVane Carry Quarterbacking Load For 'Cats And Vikings  
—Times Staff Photos



—Times Staff Photo.

*Chuck DeVane Faced This Kind Of Pressure All Night Long*

## LHS Coach Credits Valdosta Defense

By MIKE HAGOOD  
Coach Joe Wilson of Lowndes High School predicts "better days", but Friday the thirteenth in October '78 will be remembered as a very unlucky night for the Vikings.

After much hoopla and ballyhoo, the kind of game most Lowndes fans were hoping for never materialized at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The now 5-2 Vikings fell to Valdosta 22-0 in the annual matchup of the cross-country rivals.

"A great defense took our offense away" Wilson said. "We just didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

Last year, Lowndes defeated Valdosta in a historic win for Wilson. Safety Bill Schreffler returned an interception of a Buck Belue pass 80 yards for the game's only touchdown in a 7-2 LHS win.

This year, Schreffler and the Lowndes defense were unable to stop the Valdosta offense.

"We couldn't keep our defense off the field" said Wilson.

When the Lowndes defense, led by Hal Sprenkle and Ronnie Adkins, stopped Valdosta on its first possession, momentum appeared to be in the Vikings' favor.

Lowndes threatened early after Robin McElroy set up a scoring opportunity with an outstanding punt return, but a Steve Thomas fumble returned the ball to Valdosta and the Vikings were not a genuine threat to score again.

"A better football team

beat us tonight" said Wilson. "We did come back some in the second half, but not enough."

"They handled us at the line of scrimmage offensively and defensively. They've got a big, powerful offensive line."

When asked if it seemed that Valdosta was cutting down the Lowndes defensive ends with regularity, Wilson said "yes, cutting them down or running right over them. They've got some big 'ole tackles."

The Lowndes defense had its problems with Valdosta quarterback John Lastinger.

"He's got a good, quick release like everybody has said. We just couldn't put the pressure on him, although Adam (Reese) got to him a time or two," Wilson said.

The home side lights at Cleveland Field were inoperative for the game. Wilson felt that the 45-minute delay did not affect his

team's performance.

Before the game, Wilson commented that the light problem "might take a little of the Christmas out of it (the game)."

Wilson also predicted that "they ought to be more fired up than us, they probably want it more."

"This is more than a ballgame. You can look around you and tell that."

Star LHS tackle Keith Hitchcock suffered a knee injury in the game.

"They're taking him to the hospital after the game. We don't know how bad it is" said Wilson.

Looking ahead, Wilson said "our job now is to get them ready to play Bainbridge. I've said all along that that was the must game."

With a victory over Bainbridge Friday at Martin Stadium, Lowndes can clinch its first playoff spot in the school's history.

# Shealy Hoping For The Breaks

By MIKE CHASON  
**BAINBRIDGE** — Miller Shealy has a problem. It's not an uncommon one. In fact, eight other teams have had the same problem this season.

Not one has solved it. But Shealy has hope his Bainbridge High School football team can be the first to find an answer as to how to defeat the number one-rated, undefeated Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field in Valdosta Friday.

"We're going over there to win," Shealy said. "We've got to try to think like that anyway."

Shealy had that same intention last week when his Bearcats visited Valdosta for a bout with Lowndes. Bainbridge came away with a 27-12 licking on its 4-4 season record.

"If Valdosta would give us the same breaks Lowndes gave us last week, it would

sure help," Shealy said. "But I don't think they're going to do that. I think Valdosta is much better than Lowndes."

"With all the breaks we had, we should have won that game last week. We had our chance but we just couldn't do it."

Shealy was named coach of the year in 1-AAA (now 1-AAAA) by the sportswriters who cover the 12 league schools last season. He turned the Bearcats from a winless team in 1976 to a 5-5 club in 1977.

Now that Lowndes has dashed all playoff hopes for the Bearcats, Shealy is aiming for at least that break-even season again.

Bainbridge hosts Westover (Albany) in its last game of the season.

But that's next week. Shealy's concern at the present are the 8-0 Wildcats,

ranked number one statewide in Class AAAA for the ninth straight week Wednesday.

Besides the obvious physical ability of Valdosta to deal with, Shealy's team has to walk on the almost hallowed turf of Cleveland Field, a place the Wildcats haven't lost at in two years.

"Playing at home is an advantage for anybody," Shealy said. "But for Valdosta, it's even more of an advantage. They've got that big crowd and when they get to going, that bandwagon really starts rolling."

"Once they get started, it makes you feel like going off and hiding somewhere. It looks like the whole town is there behind them."

"But all that didn't just come. A lot of hard work has gone into that program. That's just an example of what hard work can do for you."

Shealy said his offensive plan is to try to throw on a Wildcat defense which has allowed only three touchdowns all season.

Defensively, his Bearcats are sharpening their claws for VHS senior quarterback John Lastinger.

"We've got to try and stop him," Shealy said. "He starts their whole offense. But they've got some good running backs this year too."

"Last year all we worried about was the throwing. This year they've got a good running team too. They've just got a fine football team."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

**VALDOSTA**  
 Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Hankins (167, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony

Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irvin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (169, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (185, sr.).

Defense—ends Marlin Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), middle guard James Conaway (170, sr.) or Demps Johnson (180, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) or Anthony Baffles (180, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.) cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).

Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

**BAINBRIDGE**  
 Offense—ends Kenny Wilson (170, jr.) and Mike Harrell (170, jr.), tackles Jimmy Norris (215, jr.) and Bubba Eckenrod (245, sr.), guards Brian Griffin (165, jr.) and Mitchell Smith (180, sr.), center Gary Shoats (230, jr.), quarterback Kenneth Biggles (185, jr.), halfbacks Lee Walker (175, sr.) and Marcus Close (170, jr.), fullback Willie Smiley (200, jr.).

Defense—ends Jim Smith (200, jr.) and Carlton Stubbs (170, sr.), tackles Bill Brown (205, sr.) and Willie Johnson (215, soph.), noseguard Eddie Carroll (200, sr.), linebackers Leroy Akins (205, sr.) and Otis Smith (190, sr.), cornerbacks Thomas Howard (160, jr.) and William Douglas (170, sr.), safeties Tim Herring (170, sr.) and Greg Jeter (160, jr.).

Kicker Walker, punter Close.

# Benson Doesn't Like His Chances

By MIKE HAGOOD  
**ALBANY**—Coach Winfred Benson of Monroe High School does not like his Tornadoes' chances against Coach Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcats in their 8 p.m. clash here Friday night.

Benson echoes the sentiments expressed by many coaches about to play the state's number one-ranked Class AAAA football team.

"This is not the ballclub to compete with Valdosta. You never give up, but we are just not as good as last year," Benson said.

Benson's 2-5 Tornadoes are to host the league-leading Wildcats in the 1-AAAA (North) subregion game. Valdosta is 7-0 and has been

ranked number one all season.

Benson felt that his team's best shot would be to "hold the score down," rather than win.

"To have a chance, we are gonna have to try to hang loose on defense. When you play a team as balanced as Valdosta, there is no one factor you can key on. If you key on one thing, they will kill you with another," Benson said.

Speaking of his approach to the game offensively, Benson said "we have got to be able to pass the football. If we can't throw, we are in trouble. If we don't get time to throw, we can hang it up. Throwing the football is our thing."

Benson points to the loss of his offensive line and most of his defensive unit as the reason the Tornadoes will be hard pressed to compete with Valdosta. He said "we're not the ballclub we were last year. We have five back on defense and six back on offense."

Benson feels he has at least three quality ballplayers in fullback Gregory Prate, slotback Billy Anderson and noseguard Donald Tumblin.

He said "Pratt is one of the better fullbacks in the region.

Anderson is our one good receiver. Tumblin is a definite college prospect. He has led the team in tackles on several occasions."

Earlier in the week, Hyder called Tumblin "an animal in the middle."

Talking about the Monroe season to date Benson said, "I thought we would have been able to win more games. We haven't been able to capitalize on the other teams mistakes. We've had some problems at Monroe High School. I wish I could solve them."

"Last week we were on the Bainbridge eight-yard line with a fourth and three. We passed the ball and our guy dropped it."

From talking to Benson, one gets the feeling that his Tornadoes are expecting to be gracious hosts in Friday's game. Hyder voices the opposite sentiment, expecting a tough, hard fought game.

Probable starting lineups follow:

**MONROE**  
 Offense—ends Russell Dawson (165, sr.) and Carl Turner (178, sr.), tackles Melvin Clemons (175, sr.) and Kim Harris (184, sr.), guards Vincent Williams (151, jr.) and Freddy Porter (219, sr.), center Derrick Conyers (298, sr.), fullback Gregory Pratt (215, jr.), tailback Jimmy Hollins (163, sr.), slotback Billy Anderson (133, sr.), quarterback Melvin Hall (158, sr.).

Defense—ends Jerome Lowery (172, sr.) and Tony Jones (175, jr.), tackles Kelvin Allford (173, sr.) and Reginald Washington



—Times Staff Photo.

## Benson, 'Must Throw Ball'

(262, sr.), noseguard Donald Tumblin (192, sr.), linebackers Abraham Johnson (158, sr.) and Jeffery Bodford (165, sr.), cornerbacks Kenneth Nighton (141, sr.) and Calvin Cook (135, jr.), safeties Doug Shealy (149, sr.) and Michael Jordan (133, sr.).

**VALDOSTA**  
 Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Hankins (167, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Fomby Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irvin

Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lastinger (185, sr.).

Defense—ends Marlin Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), middle guard James Conaway (170, sr.) or Demps Johnson (180, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) or Anthony Baffles (180, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).

Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

her with a gift of silver.



### *Kitty's Korral Just Rolls Along*

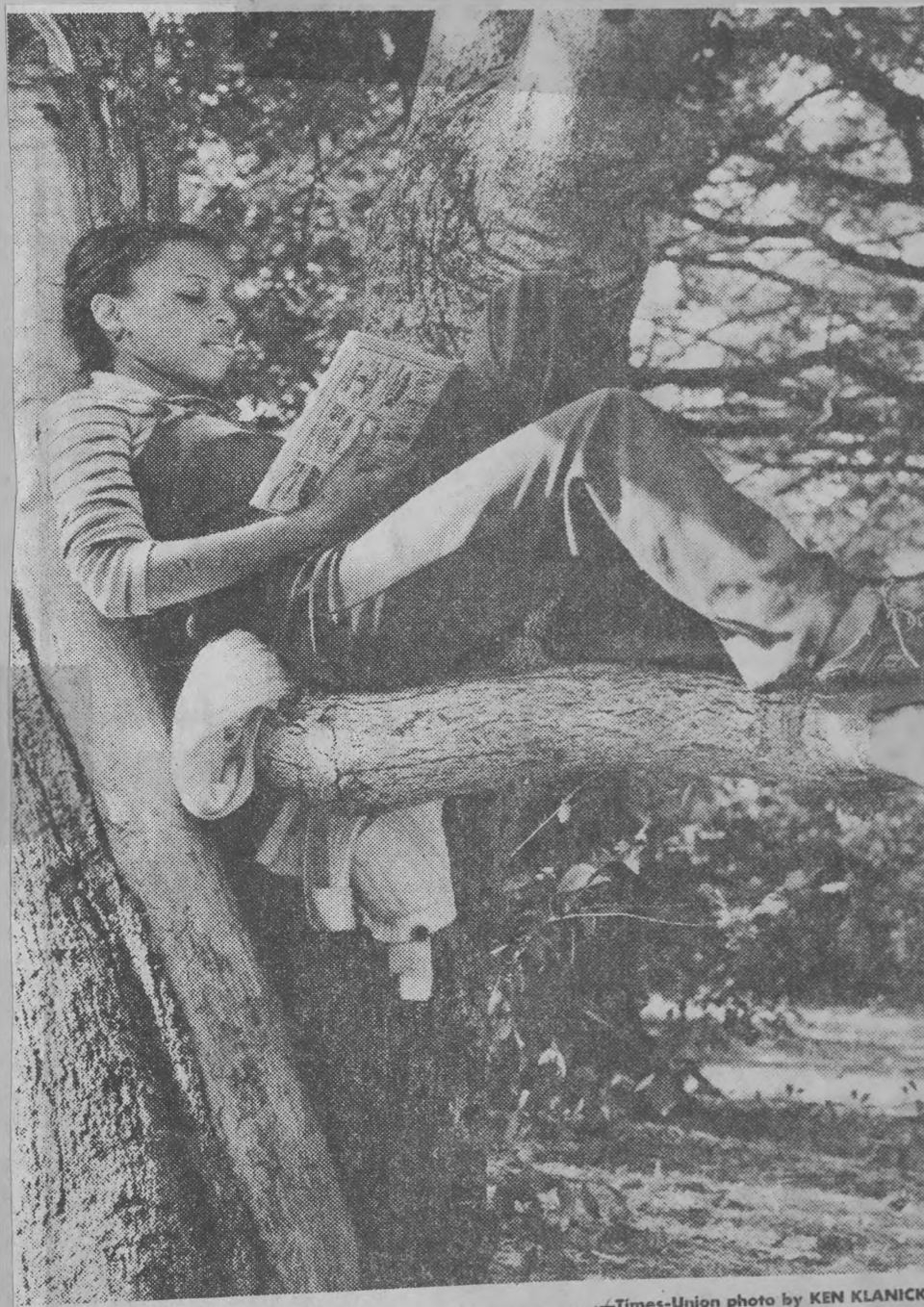
Valdosta High School language club members set up Kitty's Korral for their float entry in the annual homecoming parade Friday. The Wild Wild West theme was reflected in the other floats in the short parade that was rained on. The parade began homecoming activities the

highlight of which was the VHS-Bainbridge game. The 40-0 score was in favor of the Wildcats. Homecoming activities are to end today with a dance at 8 p.m. at Mathis city auditorium.—Times Staff Photo by Mike Dowse.



## Homecoming Queen

Valdosta High School students elected Vera Sirmans homecoming queen. Here she's being presented at the VHS-Bainbridge football game Friday. Senior Greg Powell was her escort. Penny Hunter was senior representative. Other homecoming court representatives were Gretchen Scruggs, Faith Baker, juniors; Carla Johnson, Eleanor Mitchell, sophomores; Ellen Stuart, Pam Good, freshmen.—Photo Special To The Times



FLA Times 10-27-78 Times-Union photo by KEN KLANICKI

## Shady study

The autumn weather in South Georgia makes the outdoors a very nice place to be — whether you are working or playing. Valerie Foster, 16, a Valdosta High School senior, found this tree limb near the South Georgia Regional Library in Valdosta a pleasant place to get an early afternoon start on her homework. Valerie was working while waiting for a ride home.

# Hyder's 'Glued In' For Bearcats' Visit

By MIKE CHASON

Nine weeks ago Nick Hyder never thought about his Valdosta High School football team being undefeated eight games into the season.

In fact, Hyder says at that time his only concern was beating Central of Thomasville and being 1-0.

"My mind is glued in to the next opponent," Hyder said Tuesday. "I don't even want the scouts to come in here and talk to me about the next team we play."

"Just like this week, we're concentrating on Bainbridge and not worrying about anybody else. Everything we do is geared to our next opponent."

"Our thinking is centered on whatever we can do to adjust our offense against their defense and stopping their offense. That's a lot of work right there."

Hyder is perhaps more locked in to the old "play 'em one at a time" theory than some coaches but nobody can argue with success.

Heading into Friday night's 8 p.m. homecoming matchup with Bainbridge here, Hyder's Wildcats are 8-0 and ranked as the number one Class AAAA team in the state.

Valdosta has not slipped out of that top spot since the first Associated Press poll

nine weeks ago.

Bainbridge comes into Cleveland Field with a 4-4 mark and hopes only to finish with a break-even record for the second year in a row. All Bearcat playoff dreams were shattered in a 27-12 loss to Lowndes last week.

"They're bigger than we are," Hyder said. "Their game against Lowndes could have gone either way right on up to the end, our scouts tell us."

Hyder believes Valdosta is assured of a 1-AAAA playoff spot, no matter what happens against Bainbridge or in the Wildcats' final game of the season against Dougherty in Albany.

"The way I interpret it, we would at least get in as the second place team," Hyder said. "Somebody else may see it different."

The Wildcats top the north subregion of 1-AAAA with a 4-0 record. Dougherty and Tift County (Tifton) are both 3-1.

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

Tift has Crisp County (Cordele) left on its subregion slate, and Valdosta and Dougherty play each other Nov. 4.

If Valdosta beats Dougherty, the 'Cats would move into the playoffs with a perfect subregion record.

If Valdosta loses to Dougherty and Tift beats Crisp, all three teams would be tied with matching 4-1 subregion records. The two teams with the best overall records would then move into the playoffs.

Dougherty already has a 5-3 record, and Tift is 7-1. Even if Valdosta loses both its remaining games, it would have a better overall record than Dougherty, thus solidifying the Wildcats' hold on a playoff berth.

If Tift loses to Crisp, and Dougherty beats Valdosta, Dougherty and Valdosta would be the two north representatives.

On Nov. 10, the top team

from the north subregion hosts the second place finisher in the south subregion. On the same night, the first place team in the south subregion hosts the second place finisher from the north subregion.

The two winners flip a coin to see which one hosts the region championship game Nov. 17.

There is a possibility Lowndes and Valdosta both might be first place finishers in their subregions. Lowndes and Thomasville play Nov. 3 to see which one finishes first in the south subregion.

If that happens, Hyder thinks school officials might want to make some arrangements so both playoff games would not be held here on the same night.

"I'd certainly think we'd want to sit down and talk about it," Hyder said. "That would put a lot of football going on in the same town on the same night."

"I'm sure the administrative powers of both schools would agree on what would be best for everybody."

Priming Valdosta's playoff pump as of late has been junior halfback Irvin Roe. The 160-pound junior ran for 88 yards in 15 carries, caught two passes for 70 yards and threw another for 50 yards in



NICK HYDER  
No Looking Ahead

a 41-0 VHS win over Monroe in Albany last week.

"He's close to James Brooks as any high school lad I've seen," Hyder said. "I watched Brooks at Warner Robins, and now he's done a real fine job for Auburn although he's hurt right now."

"Irvin is just a tiny little kid who slams in there with authority. An added feature is that he can throw the ball. He is one of our backup quarterbacks."

Without a lot of fanfare, number one VHS quarterback John Lastinger has developed into one of the more skilled signal-callers in the 12-team league. The 185-pound senior leads the region in passing.

"There's a tremendous burden on your quarterbacks," Hyder said. "It's similar to what you have on your coaches. John has accepted each challenge."

# Bainbridge Becomes 9th Victim For VHS

By MIKE CHASON  
Miller Shealy is ready to hand the Region 1-AAAA championship trophy to the Valdosta High School football team.

"I definitely think they'll win the region," the Bainbridge coach said after YARDSTICK

First Downs	23	78
Yards Rushing	255	38
Yards Passing	125	38
Passes Inct. By	8-24	4-13
Fumbles Lost	2	3
Punting	1-31.0	0
Penalties	6-60	6-55

Valdosta had ripped apart his Bearcats by a 42-0 count here Friday night.

"I don't know about the state (playoffs) but it's going to take a heckuva good football team to beat them anywhere. They're the best we've played."

Eight other coaches in the 12-team league many call 'Takes No Credit'

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

the toughest football region in the state would probably agree with Shealy's assessment.

Not since Wright Bazemore's final year as head coach in 1971 has a Wildcat team reeled off nine consecutive victories without a defeat. Not since 1969 has a VHS squad recorded six shutouts.

this year's black-and-gold defense with any of the other four Valdosta teams he has coached.

"That '76 defense was pretty good," Hyder said long after the crowd of 7,000 had left Cleveland Field Friday night. "We had eight or nine players off that defense to get scholarships and Troy Thomas and Lynn Roberts are still here."

# King Scores Three TDs

By Times Staff Writer  
For the second time in three weeks, Ernest King put three touchdowns on the board for the Valdosta High School Wildcats. But the junior halfback still isn't taking any of the credit.

"Just like I told you last time, I didn't have nothing to do with it," King said after the Wildcats trampled Bainbridge 42-0 here Friday night. "It was all the offensive line, the best one in the region."

King led Valdosta's 256-yard rushing attack with 63 yards in 11 carries. He scored his touchdowns on runs of six, four and 16 yards. "We still have never had

Ernest King ready to do what he is capable of doing," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said. "He's capable of really being a money back. I'm talking about some of those in that (Tony) Dorsett group. Irvin Roe is also in that category."

Roe had 39 yards rushing in seven carries and caught two passes for 36 yards. He had over 200 yards in total offense against Monroe (Albany) last week in a game that King missed because of a sore hip.

"King's a little tired," Hyder said. "We didn't work him last week but we did work him in practice this week." Although the second team

captain, made his presence known with six individual tackles against the Bearcats. Roberts, a senior linebacker, had four solo tackles.

"Our defense played real good," VHS senior quarterback John Lastinger said of the unit which has allowed only 21 points all season and featured five tackles and one pass interception by junior safety Nathaniel Caesar Friday night.

Lastinger and his gold-helmeted comrades on the VHS offense scored at least once in every quarter. Junior halfback Ernest King bolted into the end zone on three occasions on runs of six, four and 16 yards.

Lastinger scored on a 9-yard run in the third period and fullbacks William Gaskin and Bobby Johnson posted a couple of sixes between them. Gaskin barged to paydirt from 3 yards out in the second quarter after keying the 54-yard TD drive with a 41-yard run through the heart of the Bainbridge defense.

Like a well-aimed pile-driver, Johnson crashed over the goal line on a 2-yard score with 7:44 showing on the clock in the fourth quarter. David Reaves kicked six straight extra points.

Despite the lopsided score, Lastinger termed his performance as "kinda flat." "We got a couple of breaks, and that helped us," the senior signal-caller, who was being eyed by University of Florida assistant coach Steve Spurrier in the pressbox, said. "The offensive line blocked real good."

Billy Harvey, who alternated with Bubba "Fomby" Hardin at left offensive guard, credited

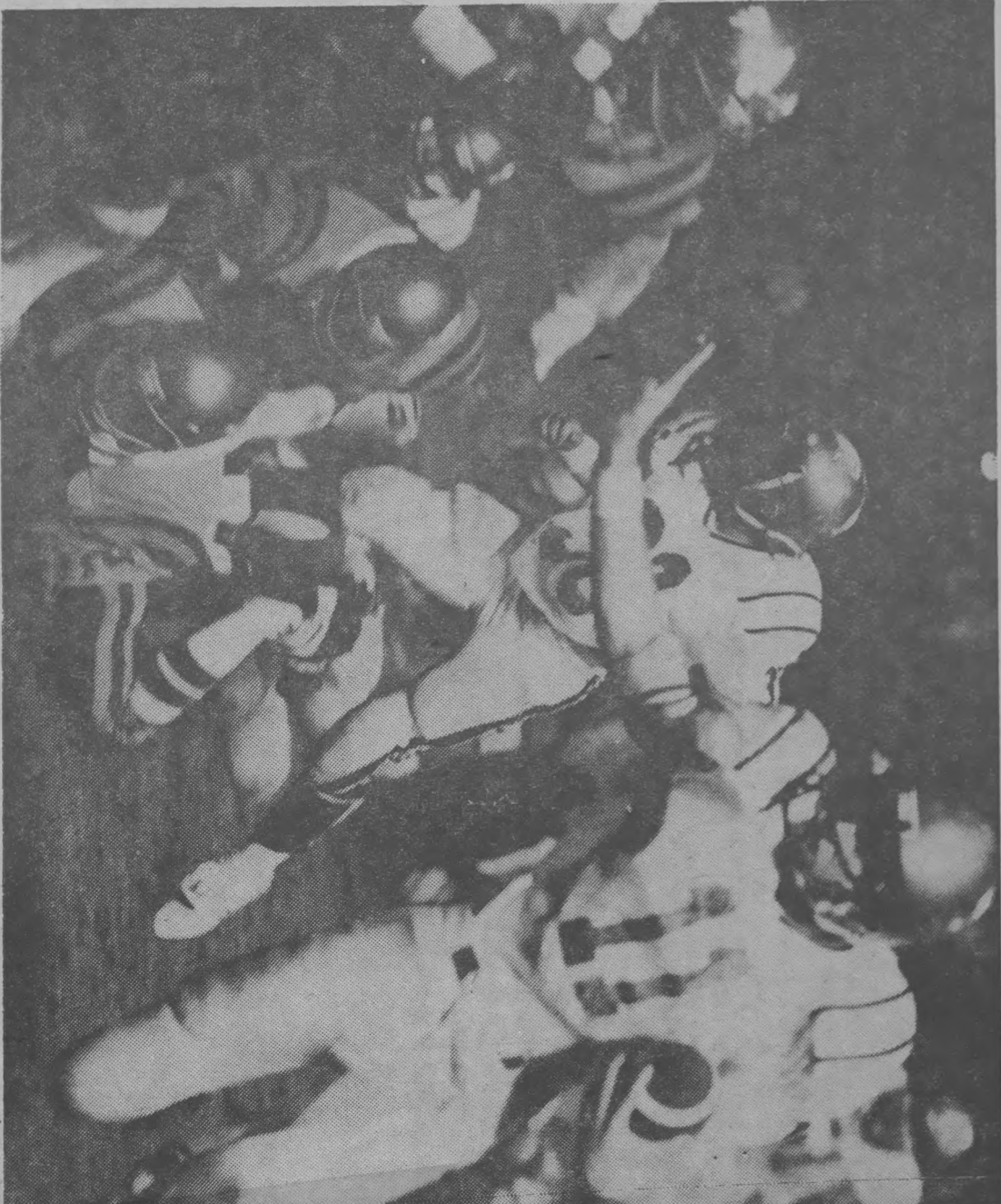


Photo Special To The Times  
Valdosta Quarterback John Lastinger Wards Off Hard-Charging Bearcat Defender

"togetherness" with the success of the VHS line, often touted as the best in the league.

"We're just more together this year," Harvey said. "We have some seniors on the line who have given us more leadership. But Bainbridge came at us pretty tough. We kind of broke down at first."

Valdosta gave Bainbridge a first down by jumping offsidest the first two times Bearcat quarterback Kenneth Biggles stepped up to his center and began a herky-jerky snap count.

"Their snap count was the only thing that surprised us," Hyder said. "Other than that, our scouting report had them down pretty good. Our

coaches did a good job of keeping the youngsters' minds on football this week. "There were a lot of things that went on that took our minds off football."

Homecoming festivities had to be one of those things but the pre-game homecoming queen ceremonies and recognition of the seniors seemed to have about as much an effect on the game as the weather. . . which was perfect.

Bainbridge, now 4-5 overall, had only 136 yards in total offense and mounted only one serious scoring threat. That third quarter drive to the Valdosta 21-yard line ended when Caesar picked off a Biggles' pass and

returned it 27 yards.

Defensive end James Harris also latched on to a Biggles' aerial when the junior quarterback had his arm hit while in the throwing motion and sent up a baby lame duck in the second quarter.

Harris caught it at the Bainbridge 7-yard line. King chalked up one of his touchdowns two plays later. Valdosta closes out regular season play next Saturday in Albany against Dougherty. Bainbridge hosts Westover (Albany) Friday.

The Wildcats begin postseason competition Nov. 10. Valdosta 7 14 7 14-44  
Bainbridge 0 0 0 0-0

Scoring  
Val. — King 6 run (Reaves kick);  
Val. — King 4 run (Reaves kick);  
Val. — Gaskin 3 run (Reaves kick);  
Val. — Lastinger 9 run (Reaves kick);  
Val. — Johnson 2 run (Reaves kick);  
Val. — King 16 run (Reaves kick).

Individual Statistics  
Rushing: Valdosta — Roe 79, King 11, Gaskin 7, Smith 5, Johnson 6, Walker 2, Zolva 1, Baukman 6 minus 6.  
Passing: Valdosta — Lastinger 6/16/284, Bon 2/6/141, Roe 0/2/0; Bainbridge — Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Roe 2/36, Smith 2/14, Bond 1/11, Blair 1/23, Darne 1/9, Fletcher 1/20, Bainbridge — Close 1/13, Walker 7/24, Baukman 1/3, Goodwin 1/18.  
Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 2/15; Bainbridge — no returns.  
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — no returns; Bainbridge — Close 2/36, Harrell 1/5, Goodwin 2/39.

Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Caesar 5, Thomas 4, Roberts 4, Gordon 3, Evans 3, Harcock 3, Brannan 3, Hankins 2, C. Roe 2, Carter 2, C. Johnson 2, Battles 2, Bainbridge — McCallister 6, Jeter 5, J. Smith 4, O. Smith 3, Douglas 4, Brown 3, Zolva 3, Atkins 3, Howard 2.



Jennifer Smith Plans Career In Art

—Times Staff Photo.

# VHS Art Student Displays Work At State BofE

V. Times 10-30-78

By MARCIA McRAE

A Valdosta High School senior has her art work displayed at the Georgia Board of Education board room in Atlanta.

Jennifer Smith, 17, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Tom Smith Jr., is among several Georgia high students whose work is being displayed in the state education building, said a spokesman.

VHS art department head Jerry Pilcher selected Miss Smith's works for the distinction. She received a certificate of merit and her art works may be purchased.

But she has not seen them hung.

"I was invited to go up for the presentation," said Miss Smith, "but it was in the morning and with school I just had too much to do."

Pilcher had her send two pieces, a pencil drawing of a gun and a rice paper and ink abstract design.

The gun was one of two gun drawings which ranked honorable mention in the annual VHS Spring Art Show, she said.

Guns are among her favorite subject matter, she said, adding she doesn't really know anything about them.

"I just like to do details. Drawing is probably my favorite work with pencils my favorite medium and pen and ink my second favorite," said Miss Smith.

She said it was through her brother Harding, 15, that she started drawing guns.

"He likes to hunt and has gun books. So one day I picked one up and got interested in drawing guns for the details."

A New York native who has lived all but nine months of her life in Valdosta, Miss Smith has taken "just about every" art course at VHS.

She has worked in a variety of media and has done etchings. She's working in sculpture and spending a lot of her spare time on it.

Her art interests are being broadened into photography.

"I like to go to the beach. I usually take my camera and get landscape scenes. I don't necessarily do the drawings or paintings there but I get ideas for later," said Miss Smith. She added she's been interested in drawing since she was a young child.

Claiming she gets her art talent from her mother, Harriet Smith who's an avid craftsperson, Miss Smith is eyeing an art career.

After graduation she hopes to go to Queen's College in Charlotte, N.C., and study art.

After getting a degree she may try commercial art or graphic arts, she said.

Maybe I'll go into advertising or illustrating," said the red-haired hazel-eyed young woman. "Right now I'm not sure."

Miss Smith, who was a Governor's Honors alternate last year, is also interested in tennis, jogging and swimming, she said.

She's chaplain of Sigma Theta sorority and is a member of the Beta Club.

# Valdosta Holds AAAA Top Spot

V-Times Oct 18, 78

ATLANTA (AP) — Three of the four top teams held their No. 1 spots in The Associated Press' Georgia high school football rankings this week, but AAA leader Waycross careened from first to sixth after losing 17-8 to Camden County.

In Class A, Savannah Country Day beat Episcopal

of Jacksonville, Fla., 21-6 and garnered nine of 12 first-place ballots from the AP board. East Rome battered Darlington 33-0 to keep a grip on the Class AA lead.

Valdosta was the unanimous choice for No. 1 in AAAA this week after defeating rival Lowndes 22-0 before about 11,700 fans.

The loss to Camden County was the Waycross Bulldogs' first defeat in 21 consecutive starts.

Americus defeated tough Peach County 40-8 to take the Class AAA lead, and the former third-place through sixth-place teams — Marist, Cedartown, Gainesville and Glenn Hills — all moved up a notch to take up the slack this week.

Worth County beat AAA's former No. 7 Ware County 22-12, causing the Rams to drop from the standings. Dalton, which was knocked from the standings recently, defeated Ringgold 22-14 to take ninth place.

In Region 3A-I action, Emanuel County Institute edged Johnson County 14-10, rising from fourth to third place in Class A and bumping Johnson County from its ninth-place spot.

Miller County trampled strong Unadilla 41-0 and hopped from seventh place to fourth in Class A. Georgia Military College had split Class A No. 2 with Gordon Lee last week, but tied Louisville 6-6 Friday and dropped to sixth. Feldwood beat Buford 20-14 and placed tenth.

Lowndes, ranked AAAA

No. 6 last week, dropped from the standings after its loss to Valdosta. Westside-Augusta, fresh from a 13-7 victory over Evans, rose from eighth to sixth to replace Lowndes.

Benedictine rose one place to third in AAAA, swapping positions with Northside-Warner Robins, which took the weekend off. Trailing Westside was Tift County at seventh, followed by Lakeside, Marietta and Warner Robins.

No losses occurred in Class AA, but a 14-14 tie between 8A-East powerhouses Commerce and Jefferson brought some minor changes to the top 10.

Commerce, ranked second last week behind East Rome, fell to No. 6 this week. Claxton, Lincoln County, Mitchell County and Mary Persons rose one place each into second through fifth place.

The standings remained the same behind Class A No. 7 Jefferson, with Harlem at eighth followed by R.E. Lee and North Springs.

Here are top 10 teams in the four classes of Georgia high school football, their records, their voting points and the number of first-place nominations they received from members of The Associated Press board. Other teams nominated follow each top 10 list.

Class AAAA  
1. Valdosta, 7-0, 120 (12)

2. Cedar Shoals, 7-0, 95  
3. Benedictine, 6-0, 86  
4. Northside-W.R., 6-0, 84  
5. Stephens Co., 7-0, 61  
6. Westside-Aug., 7-0, 50  
7. Tift Co., 6-1, 38  
8. Lakeside, 6-1, 19  
9. Marietta, 6-1, 18  
10. Warner Robins, 5-1, 17  
Also nominated: Laney, 6-0; Savannah, 6-0; Clarke Central, 6-1; Kendrick, 4-2; Lowndes, 5-2; Southwest DeKalb, 5-1-1; Newnan, 6-1, and Thomasville, 5-2.

Class AAA  
1. Americus, 6-1, 116 (8)  
2. Marist, 8-0, 109 (3)  
3. Cedartown, 6-0-1, 87 (1)  
4. Gainesville, 6-1, 72  
5. Glenn Hills, 6-0, 71  
6. Waycross, 6-1, 62  
7. LaFayette, 7-0, 53  
8. Swainsboro, 5-1, 42  
9. Dalton, 6-1, 15  
10. Lithonia, 5-2, 8  
Also nominated: Southwest-Atlanta, 6-1; Gordon, 5-1; Ware Co., 5-2; Rockmart, 5-1; Parkview, 5-1; Rossville, 4-3; Woodward Acad., 4-3, and Worth Co. 5-2.

Class AA  
1. E. Rome, 7-0, 113 (8)  
2. Claxton, 8-0, 96 (3)  
3. Lincoln Co., 7-0, 92 (1)  
4. Mitchell Co., 7-0, 73  
5. Mary Persons, 7-0, 69  
6. Commerce, 6-0-1, 68  
7. Jefferson, 7-0-1, 50  
8. Harlem, 7-0, 44  
9. R.E. Lee, 5-2, 20  
10. North Springs, 6-1, 11  
Also nominated: Bleckley Co., 7-0; Cedar Grove, 7-0; Taylor Co., 7-0; Morgan Co., 7-1; Pelham, 5-1, and Cartersville, 5-2.

Class A  
1. Savannah C.D., 6-1, 107 (9)  
2. Gordon Lee, 6-1, 100 (1)  
3. Emanuel Co. Inst., 6-1, 88  
4. Miller Co., 6-1, 75 (2)  
5. Hogansville, 5-1, 68  
6. Ga. Mil. Col., 5-0-1, 62  
7. Warren Co., 4-1-1, 43  
8. Charlton Co., 5-2, 36  
9. Treutlen, 6-1, 33  
10. Feldwood, 5-0-1, 18  
Also nominated: Louisville, 4-1-1; Johnson Co., 4-3; Trion, 5-2; Brookstone, 4-3; Clinch Co., 5-2; Athens Acad., 4-2-1; Netter, 4-3; Dacula, 5-2; Greenville, 3-2-1, and Unadilla, 4-2-1.

# Valdosta's King, Evans earn T-U grid awards

Valdosta, the state's No.1 ranked team in Class AAAA, also had the two top players last week.

Ernest King and Kenny Evans are The Times-Union offensive and defensive Players of the Week, respectively.

King scored three touchdowns and gained 70 yards on 10 carries in Valdosta's 33-7 win over Dougherty. The win enabled Valdosta to finish the regular season undefeated at 10-0.

While King's yardage statistic isn't that impressive, Valdosta runners don't get the opportunity to pile up yardage.

"We run four to five backs," Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder said. "King has good size (5-foot 11, 185 pounds). He also has good speed."

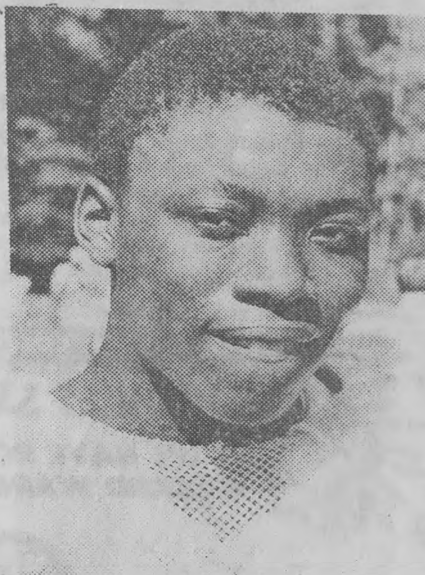
Defensively, the 6-1, 170 Evans was "outstanding," Hyder said.

"He had nine tackles, sacked the quarterback twice and had two big tackles on kickoff situations. He has lightning reflexes and made seemingly impossible tackles cross field."

Others considered:

#### Offense

Johnny Robinson, Camden; Charles Alexander, Fitzgerald; Ray Young, Way-



Ernest King

cross; Tim McCray, Ware County; Nicky Sermons, Bacon; Larry Smith, Wayne; Steve Austin, Colquitt County and Michael Day, Atkinson.

#### Defense

Cedric Conyers, Bainbridge; Curtis Roberson and Walt Gerard, Charlton and Keith Ellis, Camden.

# Hyder 'Enjoys The Pressure', Prepares For

By MIKE HAGOOD

Valdosta High Coach Nick Hyder is not worried by any pressure that might be mounting as the playoffs near, nor is he glad that any pressure that might have been on him to beat Lowndes has passed.

"I like the pressure. It will be five years come February that I've been at Valdosta. If you don't like the pressure,

you have no business being at Valdosta High" said Hyder.

Hyders' Wildcats take on the 2-5 Monroe Tornadoes in Albany Friday night in a 1-A AAAA (North) subregion game and will be seeking to extend their winning streak to eight straight games.

Hyder expects a strong effort from Winfred Benson's ballclub, judging from past

meetings of the two teams.

"Last year, they played a good ball control game against us. They have some real fine athletes this year," he said.

Last year Valdosta won a close, 13-7 game.

"Greg Pratt is a good hard nosed back. He gained over 119 yards against us last year," said Hyder, who listed Pratt's weight at 220 pounds.

The size of the Monore offensive guards concerns Hyder. He lists right guard Calvin Jackson at 289 pounds and left guard Freddy Porter at 219 pounds.

"They kept getting three, five or seven yards a play against us last year," Hyder said.

"You know our defensive line isn't big. Johnson is about 190 and Branan at

linebacker is 190."

The Valdosta defensive line did not suffer from lack of size in last week's victory over Lowndes. Coach Joe Wilson of Lowndes felt the Wildcat defense, particularly the 'Cat line, took the offense away from his own club.

Hyder felt high school football fans saw football at it best last Friday.

"You saw two good football teams, both ranked either first or second in every category in the region," he said.

Hyder pointed to his team's experience as a major factor in the Lowndes game.

"Possibly our experience in the offensive line was the key to our win."

As good as his team played last week, Hyder felt that it may not have been the best the Wildcats have played this season. He said, "we had a real good effort up at Cordele this year" (a game that Valdosta won, 35-7).

The chance that Valdosta might have an off-night down the road does not worry Hyder. He said, "you just live on Monday and let Tuesday take care of itself."

Hyder commented on the league race and how it shapes up at this point in the season

saying, still inv into the still unde

Dough Tift Coun a game t cannot a Dougher up a rem Dougher

Hyder "the tough last year Benedictin real toug playoffs Dougherty includin Warner Central.

# Can they be stopped? Valdosta High Wildcats keep roaring along

By BILL THOMPSON  
Times-Union Sports Writer

Now that the snarling Wildcats of Valdosta High have staked their flag on the summit, the carcasses of the vanquished strewn haphazardly down the slopes in their wake, the burning question at last must be asked.

Is anyone bad enough, mean and mad enough to knock Coach Nick Hyder's nice-guy "bullies" off the mountain?

Several thought they had the capacity, only to fall helplessly under a Valdosta avalanche that has buried all comers through seven games.

The Wildcats, with apparent ease, have demolished powerful opponents on back-to-back playing dates. Valdosta throttled then thrummed and unbeaten Tift County 35-7 two weeks ago and last Friday disposed of archrival Lowndes, the co-leader in the neighboring Region 1 AAAA (South) sub-region, 22-0. The Cats earlier beat the other South sub-region co-leader, Thomasville, 16-7.

We haven't as yet had a groundswell of anguish demanding those in power to "break up the Wildcats,"

but if the current trend continues, don't be surprised to hear it.

"No team is invincible. No team is unbeatable," says Lowndes' Joe Wilson, who was a long-time VHS assistant coach himself before taking over at Lowndes, despite seeing his talented team held to minus-25 yards rushing against the Cats in last week's loss. "Sure, they're No. 1-

ranked and they deserve it. Valdosta has size, strength and balance. Some teams are physically tougher, but few, if any, are as consistently rugged and cool. They can be had, but it's going to take one heck of a team playing its absolute best to do it."

The 1978-edition Wildcats have been favorably compared with the great teams of the long Wright Bazemore era, or more accurately, dynasty. Parallels have been drawn particularly with reference to the 1971 national championship club, one of Valdosta's finest.

Yet the crux of the matter is not how good or sensational the present aggregate is. Rather, it is how Valdosta has attained — and maintained — its level of excellence throughout the years.

"It's just a remarkable program and has been for a long time," offers

Paul McCorvey, who has seen plenty of South Georgia prep powerhouses come and go during his tenure as a sports writer for The Albany Herald. "Football has been a very instrumental part of the town of Valdosta for as long as anybody can remember. It's the proverbial 'only game in town' and everyone puts so much time and energy into making it go.

"The school's latter-day success is no surprise. From the midlevel league right on up the ladder, the watchwords are solid, often brilliant coaching, super organization and genuine care for the players as athletes and youngsters.

"The student body is always enthusiastic and supportive, as are parents, merchants — everyone. When you have tradition like that, you don't exactly have to beg the best people to play."

Granted. But why does it seem that for the past several decades, teams have lived in fear of that one weekend when Valdosta appears on the schedule?

"That's easy," says McCorvey. "There's so much respect for Valdosta on the part of its opponents, even from those who conceivably might be better, it's just amazing. Often, the other team comes in thinking Valdosta

is better than it is and with that, Valdosta has three-quarters of the battle won before the ball is teed up."

Polish is something that normally comes with time. As a rule, individual athletes do not reach such a plateau of maturity, on-field execution and even psychological temperament until they are well into their college careers.

At Valdosta, the process is accelerated as a matter of course.

"As coaches, we try to make the game enjoyable for the player, to not have it be little more than a job," says Hyder, well into his fifth year at the helm as successor to the legendary Bazemore. "I had to earn my spurs here, just like the players do. But there's always been such a fine base on which to build. We pay attention to a young man's moral and psychological well-being as well as the physical, and it manifests itself on the field.

"The qualities of courage and persistence, sportsmanship and maturity have been trademarks here for a long time, but they don't come easy. As with everything else, hard work and dedication produces."

Though no one in Wildcat Coun-

try has the temerity to compare this year's group with teams of the past, there is one aspect of their play which is compatible with the past.

"In a word, I would define our present team as unselfish," says Hyder. "And that holds true down the line — from coaches to players to parents and fans. You simply can't overestimate its value, either."

All this is not to say that Valdosta has not been fortunate down through the years. Lady luck continues to play its accustomed role.

"Valdosta has always had a free-wheeling offense and a solid defense," says McCorvey. "But it has had the players, too. They have a tradition of multi-talented, versatile people that few schools can touch.

"For one thing, Valdosta always has been blessed with great quarterbacks. You can just go right down the list: Dale Williams, Bruce Bennett, Don Golden, Stan Bounds, Buck Beule and now Johnny Lastinger. There have been a number of good ones in between as well.

"It's hard to beat the system, the following and the enthusiasm they have going. But it may just be the last of those that is their secret."

Sure, they're No. 1-ranked and they deserve it. Valdosta has size, strength and balance. Some teams are physically tougher, but few, if any, are as consistently rugged and cool. They can be had, but it's going to take one heck of a team playing its absolute best to do it.

— Lowndes' Joe Wilson

# Cleveland Field: Guiding Light

By MARCIA McRAE

Cleveland Field may have a new underground electrical system for its lights and it may take a call board meeting to approve it, according to city school Superintendent Ralph Brandon.

Brandon said Friday he's waiting for Georgia Power Co. engineers to send specifications on the project before he can present them to the board and have bids taken on them.

In the meantime the temporary wiring system has been reworked by Georgia Power and made safer, said Joe Cordova division manager.

Cleveland Field lost half its stadium lights Oct. 13 for the Valdosta-Lowndes football game.

The Southern Open band competition was the next day and the power company "went beyond the call of duty of

or obligation" to get the system operating for the schools, Brandon said.

But the system met no safety standards, he told the board of education at its regular meeting the following Monday.

The temporary measure included stringing power lines above the steel and aluminum stands.

Cordova said the crews worked this week to reroute the system away from spectators.

A pole was placed in the south parking lot behind the stands. The wires extend from the pole to transformers, he said.

Cordova said the temporary system could last through the football season.

"But temporary means just that," he said.

Brandon told the board the power company engineers'

preliminary recommendations had been for an underground system.

Cordova confirmed that's their recommendation after inspecting the area. But they are working out details.

"They recommended the underground system and taking the transformers off the existing poles and put at ground level," Cordova said.

He said the proposed system would be capable of being switched to avoid blackout of more than one pole.

"It would have great flexibility regardless of where the trouble occurs in the stadium.

"But it's not a real sophisticated system by any stretch of the imagination so it would not require a lot of maintenance," he said.

As to cost, Cordova said he could "not even tell which ball park we're in."

# VHS Working Against Saturday

By MIKE CHASON

In the past, Valdosta's Wildcats have found Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany almost as terrifying a place to visit on a Saturday night as most college teams find the pit of LSU's Tigers in Baton Rouge, La., on the same autumn evening.

Two years ago, Dougherty's Trojans nailed Valdosta with its only regular season loss by a 28-26 count on a Saturday night.

Last year, Monroe's Tornados came within a whisker of a tremendous upset in Mills Stadium before Valdosta pulled out a 13-7 win.

This Saturday, Valdosta

and Dougherty meet again on the Mills Stadium turf in an 8 p.m. contest which is the last regular season football game for Region 1-AAAA.

But times have changed.

Just as LSU's snakepit hasn't been all that effective against visitors from the Southeastern Conference this season, Dougherty's 6-3 Trojans haven't been the dominating team of past years.

However, the Trojans are undefeated at home. Nobody knows that any better than Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder.

"We came from behind and beat them by one point last year," Hyder said. "Year before last, they beat us

twenty-eight to twenty-six on a Saturday night. Only three points have separated us the past two years.

"They have an excellent program up there."

Valdosta, 9-0 overall and 4-0 in 1-AAAA (North) subregion play, is guaranteed a spot in the postseason playoffs no matter how it fares against Dougherty.

The Trojans are in a different situation.

If Tift County, 8-1 overall and 3-1 in north subregion play, beats Crisp County (Cordele) Friday night, Dougherty has no chance at the playoffs.

Even if the Trojans beat Valdosta, they would have a

## The Valdosta Daily Times

## SPORTS

worse overall record than either the Wildcats or the Tifton team. That is the deciding factor in case of a three-way tie.

However, if Crisp upsets Tift and Dougherty beats Valdosta, the Trojans would be in the playoffs as the number one team from the north subregion.

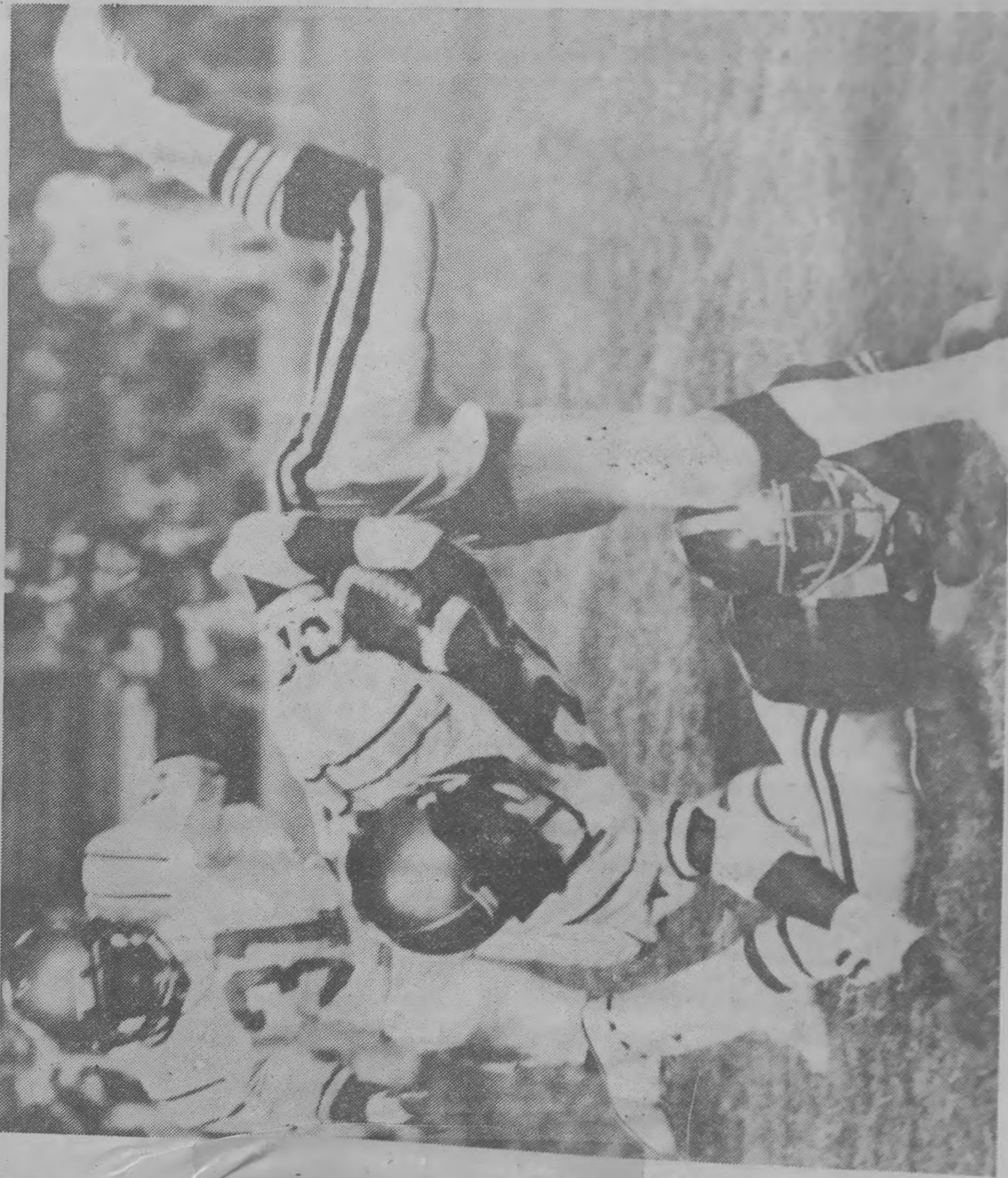
If that happened, Dougherty and Valdosta would have one subregion loss apiece and in the case of a 2-way tie, the subregion champion is determined by who-beat-who during the regular season.

Tift would be eliminated in that instance with two subregion losses.

If Tift lost to C Dougherty lost to Tift would get the bid it beat Dougherty ea year.

"If Tift loses, it them (the Trojan Hyder said. "I'm sur well aware this would chance.

"They don't have size but they have good nosed players. Our se Blackmon is as good better than any line they've seen this year. "(Ronnie) Adk Lowndes is almost i by himself as linebackers go exc he's so short. Blackr short. He's well )



—Times Staff Photo.

**Irven Roe Performs Acrobatics That Totaled 208 Yards In Offense**

# 'Cats' Playoff Spot Assured

By MIKE HAGOOD

ALBANY—In a game where players and coaches admitted that the Wildcats were a bit flat, Valdosta still managed to score 41 points in a shutout of Monroe High here Friday.

Valdosta's 41-0 victory gives the 'Cats an 8-0 overall mark and a 4-0 1-AAAA (North) subregion record. Tift defeated Dougherty

#### YARDSTICK

	Valdosta	Monroe
First Downs	14	5
Yards Rushing	140	18
Yards Passing	219	47
Passes	11-25	6-9
Passes Intc. by	0	1
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Punting	3-27	9-31.5
Penalties	8-50	8-69

Friday, 23-0 to give the two second place teams identical 3-1 subregion records. Tift's overall record is now 7-1, while Dougherty falls to 5-3.

Friday's win assures Valdosta a spot in playoff activity. Decisions in the two remaining games will decide the 'Cats position for the playoff and 1-AAAA (North)'s other representative.

"It was good strategy to slow it down," said Valdosta Head Coach Nick Hyder. Monroe managed only three first half first downs, but took considerable time between plays and used their first half possessions well, keeping the ball from the Valdosta offensive team.

"We decided to open-up and

throw the wide stuff. They jammed up the close stuff," said Hyder of his second half game plan.

The opening up started on Valdosta's last series of the first half, when the 'Cats took the ball 75 yards in three plays. A Troy Thomas punt return had the ball at the 25-yard line. A pass interference call on quarterback John Lastinger's pass from the shotgun moved the ball from the Valdosta 25 yard line to the 40.

On the next play Lastinger passed laterally to Irven Roe in the flat, who passed the ball 50-yards to Fredrick Blair at the Monroe ten-yard line. Blair said, "I felt I could beat him deep. I smelled the goal line."

Lastinger then threw ten yards to John Bond for the 'Cats second score of the night with 46 seconds left in the half.

The Wildcats first score came after a methodical drive spanning the last of the first half and nearly half of the second quarter.

The drive covered 74 yards in 13 plays. Lastinger and Rowe ran for the two first downs each in a scoring march that was capped by a two-yard keeper for touchdown by Lastinger.

After some question of Valdosta's readiness to play

at halftime, the 'Cats put the game away early in the second half.

Offensive coordinator Butch Brooks said he "had to chew a lot of fanny at half time. I apologize for the chewing out now. We weren't down, just a little flat."

Defensive Coordinator Jack Rudolph said, "we experienced a letdown after getting so psyched for the last three games."

Hyder said, "other than missing a few first down situations, I think we played good tonight."

The Wildcats appeared ready to go in the second half, as they took the opening kick-off and drove 76 yards for a 20-0 lead.

The touchdown came at 10:42 in the quarter when Lastinger threw to Roe across the middle and Roe danced for a 47-yard score.

After the ensuing kick-off, Monroe was pushed deep in their own territory. A holding penalty pushed the Tor-nadoes back to their own eleven-yard line. The snap got away from punter Melvin Bell in the end zone. Jamie Harris outran Bell for the loose ball and suddenly at 9:00 in the third quarter, the ballgame was out of reach for Monroe.

Harris said, "I wanted it. It was my second biggest play

of the year. I had one against Tifton too."

On the 'Cats first possession in the fourth quarter, they drove 32 yards in six plays with William Gaskins getting the score on a one-yard blast. A 23-yard pass from Bond to Roe moved the ball to the Monroe five in that drive.

Roe accounted for 70 yards in pass receiving for the night, along with 88 yards rushing in 15 carries. Add his 50-yard pass to Blair and a very productive 208-yard total offense game results.

The 'Cats took the ball 39 yards for the final score with :16 seconds left in the game.

Valdosta	Monroe
Score by Quarters:	0 14 13 14 41
Scoring	0 0 0 0 0

Val—Lastinger 2 run (Reaves kick); Bond 10 pass from Lastinger (Reaves kick); Roe 47 pass from Lastinger (kick failed); Harris fumble recovery end zone (Reaves kick); Gaskins 1 run (Reaves kick); Bone 2 run (Reaves kick).

#### INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing: Valdosta: Roe 15-88, Lastinger 5-27, Gaskins 6-12, Bond 4-3, Smith 2-4, Wilcox 2-6; Monroe: Pratt 11-28, Hall 8-20, Cook 1-4, Bell 7-25, Richardson 6-24, Seay 1-5.  
 Passing: Valdosta: Lastinger 8-18-1125, Bond 2-4-0-44, Roe 1-1-0-30; Monroe: Hall 47-0-29, Richardson 2-0-18.  
 Pass Receiving: Valdosta: Wilcox 1-21, Blair 2-74, Bond 3-19, Smith 4-36, Roe 2-70; Monroe: Turner 3-14, Stubbs 1-9, Cook 1-10.  
 Punt Returns: Valdosta: Thomas 7-65; Monroe: Anderson 1-0.  
 Kickoff Returns: Valdosta: Roe 1-12; Monroe: Anderson 2-14, Cook 2-24, Torddon 1-12, Seay 1-14.  
 Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta: Carrol 6, Thomas 5, Roberts 4, Harris 4, Johnson 3, Conway 3, Gordon 2, Clifford Johnson 3, Conaway 3, Beaufort 2; Monroe: Johnson 7, Turnbull 7, Knighton 6, Cook 4, Alford 4, Webb 3, Washington 3, Green 2, Shealy 2.

# Valdosta Favorite Again In Intra-County Rivalry

Most people figured it would come down to this one autumn evening as early as 11 weeks ago. They were right. It's live and let die time for either Lowndes or Valdosta.

Will it be the Wildcats in the Great Payback II, or will it be the Vikings in 7-2 Or Bust?

The only thing for certain is that around 10:30 p.m. tonight (later if the lights go out), either Nick Hyder's Valdostans or Joe Wilson's Plowboys are going to be whooping it up in joyful relief over the fact that the intra-county rivalry to top all intra-county rivalries is in the record books until next October. Both will probably feel a great weight has been lifted from their shoulders.

Five other area teams closed out their seasons last week although it has been reported in two different newspapers that Clinch County meets Patterson tonight in the Region 2-A playoffs. The fact is the Panthers from Homerville have hung it up until spring practice because of a 14-7 loss to Charlton County last week. Since there are only three teams in the entire region, the regular season champion is to represent the league in the state playoffs.

Charlton is that champion because of an earlier win over Patterson and the squeaker over Clinch. With just a couple of breaks, Clinch could have beaten Charlton and Blackshear and played Miller County closer. But 7-3 ain't bad.

Westbrook did wind up 9-1 as expected, and Buddy Ethridge certainly deserved his coach of the year recognition. Westbrook's season came down to the Westwood game, the Cougars' only loss. It's wait 'til next year for Buddy and his boys.

Bud Willis didn't bolt Cook into the playoffs but Hornet fans



are still buzzing over a 4-5-1 record after entering the season with a 21-game losing streak. The foundation has been laid. Better times are ahead.

Berrien's Billy Presnell and Brooks County's Ed Hayes didn't have much to brag about this year, and Hayes resigned because of it. Hayes' entire preseason prognostication was built on quarterback Charles Lane and running back Curtis Cason. Cason played as expected but Lane never threw a pass because of a shoulder injury. Presnell is still gathering kindling wood after his first season, hoping to convince Nashville fans the Rebels can be winners in football as well as basketball.

Last week's record was 16-4 for an overall total of 159-40, right at an 80 percent hit-miss tally.

## LOWNDES AT VALDOSTA

Almost every player questioned in both dressing rooms after Valdosta's 22-0 win back on Oct. 13th downplayed the importance of that game and predicted the two would meet again. Last week's 13-7 Lowndes loss to Thomasville brought the matchup into reality.

In the Lowndes dressing room Friday night, there was an attitude of grim determination. It was obvious the loss wasn't going to grind a pessimistic note into their playoff hopes.

Valdosta's dressing room after a 33-7 rout of Dougherty Saturday night was a scene of unbridled enthusiasm. The Wildcats were shakin' and jivin' in unison over a floor littered with shoulder pads, helmets and sweat-soaked jerseys. On that night, it was obviously fun to be 10-0 and ranked as the number one team in the state.

Tonight, the party's over for at least four quarters. The pick is Valdosta, 21-7.

## HAMILTON AT UNION

If Hamilton County's Trojans win this game, it would save everyone a lot of heartache and give Coy Whitener's team the district title. If the Trojans lose, all the league representatives are tied, and there's going to be a scramble for the championship.

Thursday's Times incorrectly indicated Hamilton was playing Jefferson in this game. Fortunately, Whitener knew better and breathed a sigh of relief. Tonight, Union finds out why. Hamilton, 17-7.

## MADISON AT JEFFERSON

It's been another long year for the Madison Cougars but after tonight it's all over until 1979. For Frank Yanossy, next year probably starts Monday. Jefferson, 24-10.

## TIFT AT THOMASVILLE

Before Ken Hobby broke his wrist, Tift would probably have been favored in this game. But Hobby has made the Blue Devil offense go since he took over as the number one quarterback in the Lowndes' game.

Hobby can throw with either hand but has a cast on the broken one, and the Georgia High School Association frowns on players clubbing other players with casts. Thomasville, 21-10.

## OTHER GAMES

Dale Williams and the Waycross Bulldogs should shake themselves back into the thick of the Class AAA state title chase tonight with a victory over Worth County's Gold Rams. In the other 1-AAA playoff, it's Camden in a squeak over Bruce Bennett's Ware County Gators.

Also, Northside over Warner Robins, Benedictine over Savannah, Americus over Dodge and Claxton over Bacon County.

# Wildcats Hold Big Edge In LHS-VHS Series

By Times Staff Writer  
Tonight's high school football game at Cleveland Field marks the 12th meeting of the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings.

In the 11 previous meetings, Valdosta holds an impressive 10-1 edge, including a 22-0 win earlier this year.

Last year Lowndes cracked the wildcat

The 1976 game is remembered as the year that Lowndes led until a late onslaught gave Valdosta a 14-3 win in Joe Wilson's first year at the Lowndes' helm.

Both teams were suffering miserable seasons in 1974. Lowndes finished 2-8 that year, while Valdosta went 3-7. The 'Cats won that game 20-3.

formed 4-team playoff system. Lowndes offers a 7-3 record, which equals last year's mark.

As far as team statistics go, Valdosta leads three of four categories computed by the 1-AAAA statistician Ellwood Moyer. Last season's Wildcat club led in only one category and finished second in the state. The 1977 state title was

passing and rushing. This is the first year that the local schools' hold on statistical domination.

Valdosta averaged 145.60 yards per game passing in the regular season. Lowndes

followed closely with 141.70 yards per game.

The Viking pass defense has given up a stingy 44.90 yards per outing, while Valdosta has allowed 60.20 yards a game.

The statistic that stands out is the team rushing totals for 1978. Valdosta has averaged 208.10 yards a game to lead the region. Lowndes finished as the 11th ranked team running with 75.30 yards a game.

This year Valdosta has recorded six shutouts, one

more than the Vikings with five.

As impressive as those totals are, the 1969 Wildcat team recorded 11 shutouts on its way to a 26-26 tie with Athens in the state championship game.

Only Tift scored on the 'Cats before the championship game that season.

Looking back on previous games, the series looks as follows: 1978-Valdosta 22, Lowndes 0; 1977-LHS 7,

VHS 2; 1976-VHS 14, LHS 3; 1975-VHS 41, LHS 7; 1974-VHS 20, LHS 3; 1973-VHS 29, LHS 0; 1972-VHS 20, LHS 7; 1971-VHS 40, LHS 0; 1970-VHS 26, LHS 0; 1969-VHS 40, LHS 0; 1968-VHS 48, LHS 6.

Valdosta has shut out Lowndes in five of eleven games in the series.

Lowndes has scored no more than a single touchdown in any game since the rivalry began in 1968.

## The Valdosta Daily Times

## SPORTS

### Prep Poll

# Valdosta Keeps Number 1 Spot

ATLANTA (AP) — Marist's astounding 41-0 loss to Westminster in a Friday night massacre threw the Top 10 in this week's Georgia high school football Class AAA standings into a shakeup that left most other teams higher in the standings.

The leading teams in all four classes remained the same in voting this week by The Associated Press board. Most Georgia high school teams finished their regular seasons last weekend, and many began preparing for regional playoffs beginning Friday.

Valdosta was tops in AAAA, Americus was No. 1 in AAA, East Rome had a tight grip on Class AA and Gordon Lee held the lead in Class A.

Marist, 9-1, had been undefeated and was No. 2 in Class AAA before the loss to Westminster. The defeat sent Marist sailing down to No. 9, while Westminster was voted onto the map at seventh place.

Cedartown moved from No. 3 to second in AAA, and Gainesville moved from a fourth-place tie with Waycross to third place. Waycross stayed at No. 4. Swainsboro moved from sixth to fifth, Dalton hopped from seventh to sixth and Glenn Hills climbed from ninth to No. 8.

Gordon, formerly No. 8, lost to Lithonia last weekend and fell from the poll. LaFayette sat tight at No. 10.

Little changed in Class AA this week, except that unranked Duluth blew away former No. 6 Jefferson, knocking Jefferson into an eighth-place tie with Mary Persons. Former No. 9 Taylor County and former 10th-ranked Model both lost and disappeared from the rankings.

Cedar Grove rose a notch to

Bleckley County climbed a step from No. 8 to replace Cedar Grove. North Springs is back in the standings at No. 10.

The top of Class AA was the same, with East Rome followed in order by Claxton, Lincoln County, Mitchell County and Commerce.

In Class A, former No. 6 Emanuel County Institute lost to Johnson County and dropped from the standings. Plummeting alongside E.C.I. was former No. 10 Athens Academy, which lost 21-10 to Buford.

Here are the top 10 teams in the four classes of Georgia high school football, their records, their voting points, and the number of first-place ballots they received from members of the AP board. Others nominated follow each list.

#### Class AAAA

1. Valdosta, 10-0, 110 (11)
2. Cedar Shoals, 10-0, 94
3. Northside W.R., 9-0, 81
4. Benedictine, 9-0, 79
5. Westside, 9-0, 58
6. Clarke Central, 9-1, 55
7. Warner Robins, 8-1, 40
8. S.W. DeKalb, 8-1-1, 38
9. Lakeside, 8-2, 14
10. Thomasville, 8-2, 12

Others nominated: Tift Co., 8-2; Stephens Co., 8-2; Laney, 8-1; Griffin, 8-2; Dunwoody, 8-2; Marietta, 8-2; Savannah, 7-2, and Newnan, 8-2.

#### Class AAA

1. Americus, 9-0, 109 (10)
2. Cedartown, 9-0-1, 96 (1)
3. Gainesville, 9-1, 77
4. Waycross, 9-1, 73
5. Swainsboro, 8-1, 68
6. Dalton, 9-1, 42
7. Westminster, 8-2, 28
8. Glenn Hills, 8-1, 24
9. Marist, 9-1, 23
10. LaFayette, 9-1, 21

Others nominated: Worth Co., 8-2; Lithonia, 8-2; Troup, 8-2; Avondale, 8-2; Woodward Acad., 7-3; S.W. Atlanta, 9-1; Camden Co., 7-1-1, and Ware Co., 8-2.

#### Class AA

1. East Rome, 10-0, 103 (6)
2. Claxton, 10-0, 93 (2)
3. Lincoln Co., 10-0, 90 (3)
4. Mitchell Co., 10-0, 81
5. Commerce, 9-0-1, 59
6. Cedar Grove, 10-0, 55
7. Bleckley Co., 10-0, 52
8. Jefferson, 8-1-1, 16
9. Mary Persons, 9-1, 16
10. North Springs, 9-1, 10

Others nominated: Turner Co., 8-2; Harlem, 9-1; Morgan Co., 9-1; Taylor Co., 9-1; Model, 8-2; Lovett, 7-3, and Cartersville, 8-2.

#### Class A

1. Gordon Lee, 9-1, 101 (4)
2. Miller Co., 8-1, 91 (4)
3. Hogansville, 8-1, 90 (3)
4. Faldwood, 8-0-1, 73
5. Warren Co., 7-1-1, 69
6. Treutlen, 9-1, 48
7. Savannah C.D., 8-2, 46
8. Johnson Co., 7-3, 32
9. Buford, 6-3-1, 22
10. Trion, 7-3, 11

Others nominated: Ga. Mil. College, 6-2.



## Old VHS Is Gone Forever

Looking out from the old Valdosta High School corridor in front of what was the science wing, one sees only dirt and weeds where the halls of the school once began. The school was destroyed by fire Nov. 19, 1977. Almost a year later the last of the building has been demolished. Cooper Equipment Contracting leveled the last walls of the old gymnasium this week. City Schools Superintendent Ralph Brandon said

there is just lumber to be hauled off and a "little bit of footing at the front of the gym" to be taken down. "Other than that he (Jerry Cooper) is finished with the demolition," Brandon said. "He's begun the cleanup. I think he'll be through in a couple weeks with no problem. The job was to be completed July 15.—Times Staff Photo.



—Times-Union photo by KEN KLANICKI

Valdosta's Ernest King sets sail against Lowndes

FLA Times 11-12-78

# Valdosta downs Lowndes 21-7

	Lowndes	Valdosta
First Downs	6	16
Rushes-Yards	16-minus 27	51-206
Passing Yards	92	63
Passes	30-11-4	16-5-2
Punts-Avg	7-37	3-41
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	4-4
Penalties-Yards	5-45	6-41

Roe ran for 90 yards, including a 16-yard touchdown, on 14 carries, while King rushed 22 times for 74 yards and one TD, a three-yarder.

The Vikings never advanced into Valdosta territory in the first quarter and only did so in the second period on Wildcat turnovers. Valdosta had a hard time holding onto the ball, fumbling once in each quarter. Plus, the Viking secondary intercepted two passes from the Wildcats, who suffered a total of six turnovers.

Lowndes, however, had a poor night itself in the turnover department, losing possession four times on interceptions and once on a fumble. The Wildcats lost several scoring opportunities via the fumble route, including one on the Lowndes' 11-yard line in the first quarter and again in the third period on the Viking one-yard line.

William Gaskins scored on a three-yard run with 1:50 left in the third quarter to give Valdosta a 21-0 lead. David Reaves

kicked the last of three extra points.

Lowndes scored on a 37-yard drive with 31 seconds left in the game on Steve Thomas' six-yard run. The drive was set up by a Valdosta fumble which was recovered by defensive end Allen Culpepper.

Valdosta scored its first touchdown with 7:51 left in the second quarter when King ran three yards to cap a 10-play, 32-yard drive that was highlighted by a 13-yard Poe run. The march started when John Brannan picked off a Lowndes' pass.

The second Wildcat score came with 22 seconds left in the second quarter when quarterback John Lastinger's only three completions of the first half produced first downs and Roe ended a 65-yard drive with a 16-yard run up the middle.

That march also started after a Lowndes' mistake, when Valdosta's Rodney Gordon picked off another Lowndes' pass.

Lastinger completed four of 11 passes

for 56 yards, and one interception, and only had six yards rushing.

	0	0	0	7	-7
Lowndes	0	0	0	7	-7
Valdosta	0	14	7	0	-21
V—King 3 run (Reaves kick)					
V—Roe 16 run (Reaves kick)					
V—Gaskins 3 run (Reaves kick)					
L—Thomas 6 run (Stokes kick)					

By DAVE RONNINGEN  
Times-Union Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta High School Wildcats, 11-0 and ranked No. 1 in the state's Class AAAA poll, used a more conservative than usual game plan, but still managed to easily defeat the Lowndes Vikings for the second time on Cleveland Field this season, 21-7, and earned the right to play in the Region I-AAAA championship game next week.

Valdosta will play Thomasville, which defeated Tift 28-16, also Friday night.

The Wildcats worked running backs Irvin Roe and Ernest King, who combined for 206 rushing yards against a Viking defense which was expecting a multiple Valdosta offense.

## VHS Choir To Perform At UGA

Valdosta High School Choir is to perform with the mass choir at the halftime show for the University of Georgia-Virginia Military Institute game Saturday, according to an announcement.

A Choir Boosters Association spokesman said the choir was selected one of the 10 best school choirs in Georgia in order to participate. The choir is directed by Herman Revels.



# Wilson: 'Biggest Game In Lowndes History'

By MIKE CHASON  
Joe Wilson calls it "the biggest football game in the history of Lowndes County."

To his Lowndes High School Vikings, it may very well be. Before an expected capacity crowd at Cleveland Field here Friday night, Lowndes meets cross-county rival Valdosta in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

Never in the history of the LHS football program have the Vikings been in the playoffs. In fact, before Wilson took over the head coaching job in 1976, Lowndes had never had a winning season.

But all that has changed in the three years the silver-haired native Valdostan has been the pilot of the Viking warship.

Wilson, who moved to LHS after a 14-year career as an assistant coach at Valdosta, has a three-year record of 22-8. The Vikings have played before occasional sellout crowds and enthusiasm over the program is at a peak level.

That's particularly so this week with Friday's 8 p.m. kickoff inches ever closer.

"This is something new," Wilson said Tuesday night. "I think there's more excitement around the school than when we played them the first time. Everybody's talking about it."

In the two teams' regular season meeting, also at Cleveland Field, Valdosta took a 22-0 victory behind a concrete defense which held Lowndes to minus 23 yards rushing and left LHS quar-

terback Chuck DeVane on his back most of the night.

But Wilson doesn't believe the term "totally dominated" applies to that Oct. 13 contest. "I think that's a little strong," he said. "A couple of plays could have turned that thing around. We're going to make some adjustments and changes. But you can't change your whole outlook."

"We'll try to do a few little things different and continue to build on some other things. You can't play ten football games and then decide you're going to run the single wing or the Dallas Flex defense."

Lowndes has depended on a usually flashy passing game to secure most of its offensive yardage this year. DeVane's favorite targets have been flanker Steve Player and tight end Chuck Jones.

Split end Brent Edwards also came into his own as a pass-catcher in Friday's 13-7 loss to Thomasville. Edwards caught a final second pass which looked to be the tying touchdown but Edwards was ruled out of the end zone by the official at the scene.

It was a heartbreaking loss for the Vikings and left them 7-3 overall and in second place in the south subregion of 1-AAAA.

Thomasville hosts Tift County (Tifton) Friday in the other region playoff game. Tift finished second in the north subregion behind the 10-0 Wildcats.

"The film shows he (Edwards) caught the ball a yard and a half inside the end line," Wilson said. "When he came down, he dragged the one foot he needs in high

school across the line.

"But that one's over. It's just mighty tough for these kids to work that hard and have a human element be a factor against them."

Despite the loss, Wilson said his team was not dispirited. "I don't think they're down at all," he said. "They're more determined than ever to play good. They showed they could play football with the big boys of this region."

Valdosta certainly belongs in that "big boy" category. The Wildcats were ranked as the number one team in the state today for the 11th straight week.

"This is probably one of the best Valdosta teams of all time," Wilson said. "This football team of ours has been a good enough team to have

won this thing in the past.

"If we had come along a year or two sooner or a year or two later, we might have been the top team. This is just a year of good football teams in this region."

Lowndes has been one of those teams because of a defense which has kept the Vikings in every game. Junior noseguard Adam Reese has been one of the sparks to the defense along with veteran linebacker Ronnie Adkins.

Wilson said before injuries cut into the Viking ranks, this year's team was the most talented of the three he's coached.

Halfback Eric Thomas, defensive tackle Keith Hitchcock and offensive tackle Leslie Bunte are three players Wilson said would

probably not see action Friday.

Thomas and Hitchcock have ankle injuries and Bunte has just recently had the cast removed from a fractured leg.

To win the game, Wilson believes several factors are going to have to be working for his team.

"We are certainly going to have to have some breaks," he said. "But we're due to have the sunshine on us. We've had terrible luck all year."

"Our kids are going to have to play together, do the best they can and help their teammates. We've got to put it together."

"I think we have a better chance to win this game than we did last year against Valdosta."

One year ago, Lowndes upset eventual state runner-up Valdosta by a 7-2 score. "I've seen a lot stranger things happen," Wilson said. "We'll be more of an underdog this time than when we played the first time. But I'd rather be a big underdog than a slight underdog."

Wilson said tickets for the game went on sale to the general public today at Lowndes High School. Reserved seats are \$4, general admission seats are \$3 and student tickets are \$2.

This week's winners meet Nov. 17 for the region title.

The region titlist hosts the first round of the state playoffs against the Region 4-AAAA champion Nov. 24.

# It's 'Cats Vs. Vikings...Again

By MIKE CHASON  
Success breeds confidence. But in the case of his Wild-cats, Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder believes winning does not necessarily precipitate overconfidence.

Hyder says there will be no fat and sassy 'Cats on the home sideline at Cleveland Field Friday night when Valdosta hosts Lowndes in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA high school football playoffs.

"I don't think you could accuse us of being fat and sassy," Hyder said Monday. "Skinny and hungry would be more like it."

With a 10-0 season record, Valdosta is sure to be ranked as the number one team statewide in the Associated Press poll for the 11th consecutive week Wednesday.

But any time Valdosta matches up against Lowndes in any sport, there is an emotional factor involved. Situated in the same county, the two schools have developed an intense rivalry fueled mainly by Joe Wilson's move from VHS after 14 years as an assistant coach to the LHS head coaching job in 1976.

The competitive nature of the situation and the now or never importance of Friday's 8 p.m. contest leaves Hyder wary of the 7-3 Vikings, who finished second in the south subregion of the league. "All your playoff games take on a different personality," Hyder said. "Naturally, there's more excitement. You put out your very best and try to get everything going."

## The Valdosta Daily Times

### SPORTS

holds-barred approach will be taken to an even greater degree in this game than in the two teams' Oct. 13 matchup which was pre-billed as a spine-tingler but turned out to be a 22-0 Valdosta victory.

"This game will be more emotional because there is no tomorrow for the loser," Hyder said. "The other game was just a contracted regular season game. This is the game where the real emotion is."

everything they've got. "They've got an excellent football team."

Hyder has seen Lowndes play four times this year including games against Albany, Tift County (Tifton), his own team and Thomasville.

job for them. He's a mighty fine receiver. The other two boys, Chuck Jones and Steve Player, are just premier receivers.

"I'm sure they will work on the problems they had last time. I expect Joe will do whatever he thinks is open for him. We'll just watch for anything and everything."

Sparked by the play of linebacker Lynn Roberts and cornerback Troy Thomas, Valdosta's defense has been the stingiest in the league this year, allowing only 28 points.

The Wildcats have six shutouts and came within eight seconds of their seventh against Dougherty. The Trojans scored with eight seconds left in the final period when VHS had already flooded the field with reserves.

region. Offensively, Valdosta has been equally as impressive behind the cool quarterbacking of John Lastinger, the running of Irvin Roe, William Gaskin and Ernest King and the pass-catching ability of Robert Smith and Fredrick Blair.

Perhaps the best offensive line in the region makes it all possible. Scott Griffin, Andy Chapman and Tony Blasetti are three of the boulders on that line.

"We strive for improvement," Griffin said in the dressing room after the Dougherty game. "We take a lot of pride in our blocking just like the backs take a lot of pride in their running. "We all try to pull together."



**ANDY CHAPMAN**  
VHS Off. Guard  
Hyder downplays the revenge motive Lowndes would seem to have in the game. "My guess is that when you enter into a playoff situation, you're fighting to stay alive," he said. "I don't think about revenge. You have to be a vindictive person to think like that."



**SCOTT GRIFFIN**  
Takes Pride in Work  
best we can and respecting our opponents."  
Valdosta gained the right to host the game by winning its subregion. Thomasville won the south subregion and hosts Tift County, the second place finisher in the north in another game Friday.  
Friday's winners are to flip a coin to see where the region title game is to be played Nov. 17.

# Lastinger, Player, Thomas Top Stats

By ELLWOOD MOYER  
Region 1-AAAA Statistician  
John Lastinger and Troy Thomas of Valdosta and Steve Player of Lowndes finished first in three different Region 1-AAAA statistical categories.

Lastinger ended the 1978 season as the region's leading passer. Thomas was 1-AAAA's leading punt returner. Player finished as the top pass catcher.

Local teams led in all four team statistics. Valdosta was the top team in rushing, passing and defense against the run. Lowndes led 1-AAAA in pass defense.

Two Lowndes players finished second to Lastinger and Thomas in their respective departments. Chuck DeVane followed Lastinger closely in the final passing standings. Lastinger gained 96 more yards through the air and had a .3 percent margin in completion average.

Robin McElroy of Lowndes finished second to Thomas in punt returning. Cedric Jones of Lowndes, finished as the fifth ranking punt returner.

Chuck Jones of Lowndes finished as the number two pass receiver, a position he held for most of the year.

Eddie Ford of Crisp County (Cordele) emerged as 1-AAAA's top rusher for 1978. The totals of the Tift County-

Crisp County game are not included in the overall statistics and Ford still leads the region's rushers.

Steve Thomas of Lowndes ended the 1978 regular season as the ninth ranked rusher. Irvin Roe of Valdosta finished in 12th place. Ernest King of Valdosta was 15th. William Gaskins of Valdosta was 19th and McElroy finished 20th.

Does not include Tift County, Crisp County and Bainbridge-Westover games and Bainbridge individual statistics in the Tift County game.

RUSHING		
Player	Carries	Net Avg.
1. Ford, Crisp	209	999 4.78
2. Sands, Colquitt	164	881 5.37
3. James, Dougherty	132	873 6.61
4. Robinson, Central	145	804 5.54
5. Kavouklis, T'ville	143	682 4.77
6. Morris, Tift	109	597 4.98
7. Armster, Central	124	591 4.77
8. Clark, T'ville	99	528 5.33
9. S. Thomas, Lowndes	128	521 4.07
10. Acree, Colquitt	131	509 3.89
11. Close, Bainbridge	103	474 4.60
12. Roe, Valdosta	79	465 5.89
13. Hobby, Tift	129	462 3.57
14. Smiley, Bainbridge	92	430 4.67
15. King, Valdosta	82	425 5.18
16. Lastinger, Valdosta	75	419 5.59
17. Bryant, Westover	109	386 3.54
18. Pratt, Monroe	97	377 3.89
19. Gaskins, Valdosta	54	290 5.37
20. McElroy, Lowndes	68	288 4.24
21. R. Wheeler, T'ville	46	289 6.28
22. Hand, Tift	47	255 5.42
23. Hollins, Monroe	56	237 4.23
24. Walker, Bainbridge	31	237 7.64
25. Norman, Dougherty	67	231 3.45
26. Patterson, Colquitt	70	231 3.30
27. Williams, Albany	78	213 2.73
28. Cook, Monroe	33	213 6.45
29. Chastain, T'ville	79	210 2.66
30. Harvey, Crisp	47	208 4.42
31. Shiver, Crisp	27	190 7.03
32. Bond, Valdosta	28	178 6.36
33. Johnson, Valdosta	41	163 3.97
34. Blakely, Dougherty	43	154 3.58
35. Hudson, Westover	44	144 3.27
36. Biggles, Bainbridge	62	142 2.29
37. Stringer, T'ville	39	139 3.56
38. Bell, Monroe	30	111 3.70
39. Franklin, Dougherty	32	125 3.91
40. Abrams, T'ville	14	104 7.42
41. Davis, Albany	34	95 2.79
42. Lester, Westover	22	91 4.14

PASSING			
Player	Att.	Comp.	Td's
43. Terry, Tift	12	88	7.33
44. Atkinson, Tift	20	84	4.20
45. Musselwhite, Crisp	72	73	1.01
46. C. Sancho, Westover	20	72	3.60
47. Petty, Dougherty	26	60	2.31
48. Whitehead, Tift	15	58	3.86
49. McClain, Central	19	56	2.75
50. Stephenson, Lowndes	14	54	3.86
51. Carter, Central	35	54	1.54
52. Frazier, Valdosta	8	46	5.75
53. Richardson, Monroe	46	44	0.96
54. Mason, Crisp	15	43	3.60
55. Hall, Dougherty	29	37	1.28

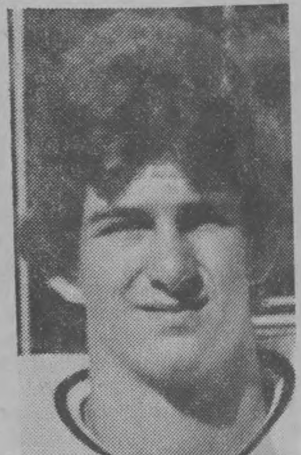
PASSING				
Player	Att.	Comp.	Gain	Td's
1. Lastinger, Vld.	151	65	1068	8
2. DeVane, Lowndes	171	73	972	4
3. Hall, Monroe	152	55	798	10
4. Norman, Dghty.	154	51	713	6
5. Carter, Central	110	41	708	4
6. Whaley, Westover	125	46	647	4
7. Chastain, T'ville	85	42	645	7
8. Hobby, Tift	98	44	596	8
9. Lightley, Albany	141	48	549	0
10. Biggles, B'bdge	82	31	462	1
11. Robinson, Colquitt	53	20	394	2
12. Mock, Colquitt	39	25	361	2
13. Bond, Valdosta	27	13	312	2
14. Thomas, Lnds.	20	7	274	2
15. Mslwhite, Crisp	70	25	264	2
16. Link, T'ville	28	12	214	2
17. Whitehead, Tift	29	12	189	1
18. Stephensn, Lwds	24	14	181	2

PASS RECEIVING			
Player	Catches	Yds	Td's
1. Player, Lowndes	31	626	5
2. Chuck Jones, Lowndes	33	553	2
3. Anderson, Central	29	547	0
4. Terry, Tift	38	510	6
5. Wisham, Colquitt	15	413	3
6. Blair, Valdosta	19	387	0
7. Best, Westover	17	324	3
8. Smith, Valdosta	25	319	2
9. Anderson, Monroe	15	315	4
10. Roe, Valdosta	13	314	3
11. Rush, Dougherty	15	300	3
12. McIntyre, T'ville	15	279	1
13. Turner, Monroe	21	260	0
14. Shiver, Crisp	13	231	1
15. Edwards, Lowndes	22	231	1
16. Jenkins, Albany	19	225	1

INTERCEPTIONS	
Player	Inter. Refs.
1. Rogers, Westover	4 95
2. Eason, Central	3 74
3. Gaines, Westover	1 69
4. Arrington, T'ville	1 60
5. Strickland, T'ville	3 49
6. Mashburn, Central	3 38
7. Anderson, Central	2 34
8. Howell, T'ville	2 32
9. Thomas, Valdosta	2 28
10. Caesar, Valdosta	1 25
11. McNair, Bainbridge	1 25
12. Shealy, Monroe	3 25



STEVE PLAYER  
Receiving Leader



JOHN LASTINGER  
Passing Leader



TROY THOMAS  
Top Punt Returner

PUNTING		
Player	Kicks	Yds Avg.
1. Norman, Dougherty	51	1957 38.37
2. Thompson, Tift	44	1652 37.54
3. Stokes, Lowndes	51	1819 36.38
4. Barber, Colquitt	32	1094 34.18
5. Gordon, Valdosta	31	1059 34.16
6. Close, Bainbridge	40	1211 33.63
7. Chastain, T'ville	24	1098 33.27
8. Musselwhite, Crisp	23	1256 33.05
9. Rogers, Westover	49	1574 32.12
10. Liek, Central	34	1023 31.00

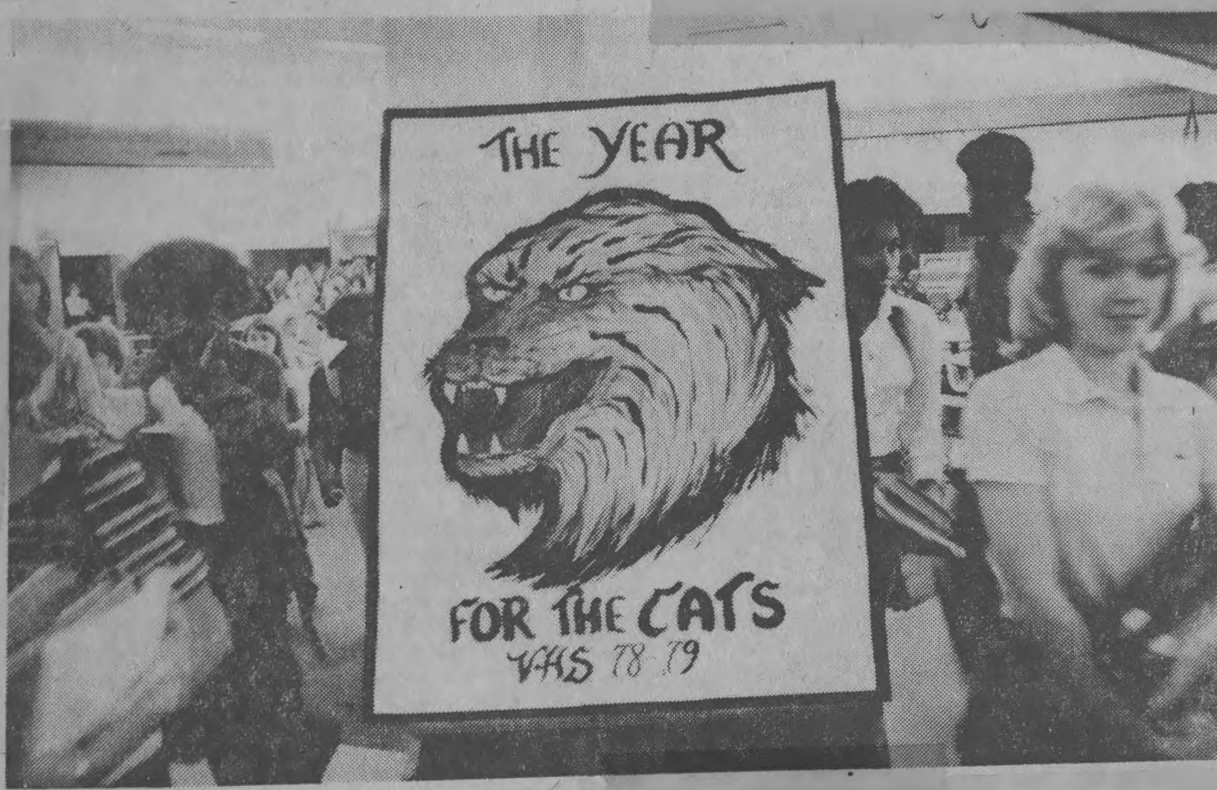
TEAM RUSHING			
Team	Carries	Net Avg.	Play Game
1. Valdosta	397	2081 5.24	208.10
2. Thomasville	430	2028 4.72	202.80
3. Tift County	355	1596 4.49	177.33
4. Colquitt	465	1734 3.73	173.40
5. Crisp	394	1535 3.89	170.55
6. Central	356	1596 4.48	159.60
7. Dougherty	344	1579 4.59	157.90
8. Bainbridge	359	1418 3.95	157.55
9. Monroe	372	1039 2.79	103.90
10. Westover	299	703 2.35	78.11
11. Lowndes	306	753 2.46	75.30
12. Albany	269	197 0.73	19.70

RUSHING DEFENSE			
Team	Carries	Net Avg.	Play Game
1. Valdosta	334	684 2.05	68.40
2. Thomasville	309	786 2.54	78.60
3. Tift County	294	746 2.53	82.88
4. Lowndes	373	1084 2.91	108.40
5. Crisp County	330	1088 3.29	120.89
6. Dougherty	406	1233 3.04	123.30
7. Westover	324	1413 4.36	157.00
8. Bainbridge	338	1440 4.26	160.00
9. Monroe	396	1634 4.13	163.40
10. Colquitt County	383	1681 4.39	168.10
11. Central	419	1863 4.45	186.30
12. Albany	430	2307 5.36	230.70

TEAM PASSING				
Team	Att.	Comp.	Gain	Td's
1. Valdosta	193	80	1456	11
2. Lowndes	233	100	1417	8
3. Monroe	189	68	984	11
4. Central	156	54	914	8
5. Tift County	130	56	785	9
6. Thomasville	112	53	859	10
7. Westover	143	51	706	4
8. Albany	185	50	738	1
9. Colquitt County	94	46	724	4
10. Dougherty	157	52	713	1
11. Bainbridge	118	44	589	1
12. Crisp County	87	31	455	3

PASS DEFENSE				
Team	Att.	Comp.	Inter.	Gain
1. Lowndes	128	37	11	449
2. Valdosta	142	49	9	602
3. Tift County	195	61	14	747
4. Thomasville	182	58	8	845
5. Monroe	142	56	6	893
6. Westover	123	52	11	820
7. Central	124	52	6	935
8. Dougherty	146	57	12	987
9. Crisp County	158	58	13	914
10. Bainbridge	160	59	9	918
11. Albany	166	74	11	1030
12. Colquitt	143	69	6	1198

November 10, 1978



## Getting In The Swing

Students at Valdosta High School and Lowndes High School apparently are all set for tonight's first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. The two teams square off against each other at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field. VHS took a regular season game by a 22-0 score. — Times Staff Photos by Robert Winter III and Mike Dowse.



Wright Bazemore Led Valdosta To Third Place In Twenty-Year Listing

11-10-78

## Georgia's 20-Year Top 20

State Titles In Parentheses

	W	L	T	Pct.
1. Avondale (3)	192	27	5	.868
2. Carrollton (5)	197	38	11	.823
3. Valdosta (8)	183	41	4	.811
4. Americus (4)	173	46	5	.783
5. Thomasville (3)	163	45	15	.765
6. Coosa (2)	170	51	7	.761
7. Early County (1)	157	48	6	.758
8. Dalton (1)	166	53	6	.751
9. Rossville (1)	163	54	1	.750
10. Lincoln County (5)	158	50	9	.749
11. Savannah Country Day (1)	139	45	7	.746
12. Wayne County (1)	158	51	9	.745
13. Westminster (1)	158	55	6	.735
14. Saint Pius (1)	143	50	9	.730
15. Athens-Clarke Central (2)	155	57	4	.727
16. Washington-Wilkes (4)	154	56	8	.725
17. Gainesville (0)	165	62	5	.722
18. Commerce (0)	156	57	10	.721
19. Richmond Academy (0)	144	56	8	.712
20. Moultrie (0)	142	56	7	.710



Avondale's Ramsey



Carrollton's Grisham

# Winners Keep Winning

By Steve Figueroa  
Constitution Staff Writer

Winning begets winning in Georgia high school football.

It's no coincidence the first five and 12 of the 20 teams with the best records in the state for the past 20 years are in the playoffs this year.

And, with the playoffs due to begin Friday night, these top 20 teams have a combined total of 43 state championships to their credit.

Perhaps somewhat of a surprise to south Georgians is the fact Valdosta does not have the best record from 1958 to present.

That honor belongs to Avondale. The Blue Devils from DeKalb County have a 20-year record of 192-27-5 for an .868 percentage.

Carrollton (197-38-11, an .823 percentage) is second, followed by Valdosta (183-41-4, .811).

"That's all right," said legendary Valdosta Coach Wright Bazemore. "It won't worry anybody in Valdosta to be behind Avondale and Carrollton the last 20 years. We're proud of what we've done, but if somebody did it better, that's all right, too."

Nobody did it better than Bazemore when it came to winning state titles. Eight of his 15 came during the 20-year survey period, including three straight from 1960-62 and five in seven years from 1965-71. His 1960-62 teams won 37 games in a row.

Knowledgeable Valdosta fans will also point out Bazemore's first and last AAA titles came over Avondale, 20-14 in 1960 and 62-12 in 1971.

Rounding out the top five in the survey are

Americus, 173-46-5 for a .783 percentage, and Thomasville, 163-45-15 for .765.

"Pride" and "tradition" are the key words at most of the top schools, even if they do seem like overworked cliches.

"Maybe it does," said ex-Avondale Coach Calvin Ramsey, "but we tried to teach a kid that it was something special to put on that blue jersey and represent Avondale."

"I think you can sum up all of Avondale's success in just one word — pride."

It should come as no surprise that Bazemore and Carrollton's Charlie Grisham echoed Ramsey.

See POWERS, Page 13-D

# Powers

Continued From Page 1-D

"Our players took football serious," said Grisham, who has been Carrollton's only coach the past 20 years. "The tradition had a lot to do with it. Nobody wanted to be on the worst Carrollton team in history. A lot of times, our kids won despite being small and slow just because it was expected of them."

Nowhere is the tradition stronger than in Valdosta.

"We've got the best touch-down club in the United States," said Bazemore, who retired from active coaching following his championship team of 1971. "And this is one of the most knowledgeable football communities anywhere. Add the great winning tradition, mix it all up and you have Valdosta."

Integration in the late '60s caused problems at many schools, but the big winners just kept winning. Superstars like Danny Buggs at Avondale and Stan Rome at Valdosta helped create immediate compatibility, and there were very few athletic problems at the powerhouses.

"I had heard that black players missed practices and things like that," admitted Bazemore, "but that first year when they did away with Pinevale, which was the black school in Valdosta, I had a group of black players come up to me on the field and say 'Coach, we'll work just as hard as your white boys. We just want a chance to play.'"

"Our winning tradition helped us there, too, because the black players came in with a great attitude, and we never had any problems."

Bazemore's retirement in 1971 and Ramsey's in 1969 were big tests at the two schools, but each weathered the coaching changes and continued to win.

Current Avondale Coach Crawford Kennedy admitted he "was a little hesitant" about following a man like Ramsey, who came from Birmingham, to build the Avondale program from scratch in 1951. But Kennedy has done all right, as his 71-16-2 record in eight years indicates.

"Yeah," said Kennedy with a laugh, "I'm averaging about eight wins a year (8.8 actually) and I've pulled the record down since I've been here. There aren't too many places where you can say that."

The incredible streak for Avondale was between 1958 and 1970 when the Blue Devils lost 12 games in 13

years and brought the first

North Georgia  
Abundant - Down, Clear, Good  
for catfish - using chicken livers;  
good for crappie using doll flies and  
minnows; fair for others.  
Down, Clear.

## Fishing Reel

since bag limits and possi  
different species of waterfowl, it is  
to identify each kind of duck. Know  
you out of trouble when the game w  
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
waterfowl guide, illustrating all the  
geese in their fall migration p  
Distance."  
This 52-page booklet contains  
species such as shapes, colors, flight  
sizes, behavior and flock formations.  
It is available at \$1.80 per copy.  
of Documents, U.S. Government Printing  
D.C., 20240.  
Another excellent reference  
Ducks and Geese Of North America  
from Windward Publishing Company  
Fla., 33137

play westside of Augusta in  
Valdosta Friday. Hyder said  
"Westside has played 10  
at this. I want to expect to  
lose."  
attempt which was with  
"The  
down into the  
straight down into the  
I  
said I  
some guy I can't see on  
said I  
lose  
men  
and  
straight  
them"  
Evans, the Valdosta defense  
The play to which Gordon

# Hughes Hopes Home Field Helps



—Times Staff Photo.

### Jim Hughes Makes A Point To Official

Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reeves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

#### THOMASVILLE

Offense — ends Guy McIntyre (220, sr.) and Darrell Duncan (160, jr.) or Harrel Guy (160, jr.), tackles Dwight Wilson (240, sr.) and Bill Tanner (200, sr.), guards Bernard Thomas (190, jr.) and James Lawyer (190, sr.), center Bryan Jenkins (175, jr.), tailback Johnny Kavouklis (145, jr.), fullback Gary Clark (180, jr.), quarterback Johnny Chastain (170, jr.), flanker Karl Abrams (180, sr.) or Reginald Wheeler (160, sr.).

#### DEFENSE

ends Mike Mash (165, sr.) and Oscar Morris (190, sr.), tackles Dwight Wilson (235, sr.) and Wayne Arrington (195, sr.), linebackers Steve Strickland (190, jr.), Charles Bates (190, sr.), and Calvin Wheeler (180, jr.), cornerbacks Phil Clay (160, sr.) and Scott Horton (160, sr.), safeties John Howell (175, sr.) and Jimmy Macklan (160, jr.).  
Kicker Strickland or Calvin Wheeler, punter Chastain.

### GOLDEN ISLE SPEEDWAY

Brunswick, Ga.  
First annual \$12,000.00 Georgia-Florida

### WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP 100,

Saturday and Sunday, November 18 and 19.

Starting time 1:30 each day. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. Overnight camping permitted.

Track phone 912-778-4611.

control the football. We've got to be able to throw and catch it."

The winner of the game hosts the first round of the state playoffs Nov. 24 against Westside's 10-0 Patriots from Augusta. Westside won the Region 4-AAAA championship and did not have to participate in any region playoffs because that league is decided by which team wins the regular season.

In past years, the 1-AAAA champion has matched up with the 3-AAAA champion but this year the 2-AAAA titlist meets the winner of that region.

If either Valdosta or Thomasville keeps winning, it would also host the South Georgia championship game Dec. 1 and the state title game Dec. 8 or Dec. 9.

"Ordinarily when Thomasville or Valdosta wins the region, they continue to advance," Hughes said. "That tradition plus the fact that Region 1-AAAA would have the home field advantage throughout the playoffs makes me an optimist about our region's chances."

Probable starting lineups for both teams follow:

#### VALDOSTA

Offense — ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Jenkins (107, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Bubbs Hardin (190, sr.), center Tony Blazetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irvin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Tim Darte (147, sr.), quarterback John Lasinger (185, sr.).

Defense — ends Martin Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (160, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (199, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), middle guard James Conaway (170, sr.) or Demps Johnson (180, sr.), linebackers John Branan (195, sr.) or Anthony Batties (180, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and

## The Valdosta Daily Times

## SPORTS

whether we have improved enough to narrow the margin any."

Hughes, who won state titles here in 1973 and '74, sees no weaknesses in what some call the best Valdosta football team since the state championship club of 1971.

"You always like to find somebody you can pick on," Hughes said. "With Lowndes, we had the size advantage in some areas. Against Tift, we have the advantage of some of the Tift athletes having to play both ways."

"I don't believe there is any size or conditioning advantage over the Valdosta team. The difference in size is not significant."

In the first meeting, Thomasville threw only two passes, completing one for nine yards. Against Tift last week, the Bulldogs threw only three times for 12 yards.

Hughes believes his run-oriented philosophy may have to be diffused a bit Friday night.

"We know we've got to throw the football," he said. "Again, it's not the number of times you throw but whether you complete the pass or not. I believe we're capable of throwing against them. I know we need to."

"I don't believe we're strong enough just to dominate the line of scrimmage against them. It's a matter of whether we can

with it."

Thomasville beat Lowndes 13-7 in the final regular season game to sew up the Bulldogs' second straight 1-AAAA (South) subregion title. This is the second straight year Thomasville and Valdosta have met in the region final. Last year, the Wildcats claimed a 39-20 victory en route to a second place finish in the state playoffs.

This season Valdosta is 11-0 overall and just off a 21-7 triumph over Lowndes in its first round playoff game last week. Nick Hyder's club was rated the number one team in the state by the Associated Press for the 12th consecutive week Wednesday.

Thomasville, 9-2, climbed to seventh in the poll, the highest the Bulldogs have been all year.

"I think both teams have improved a great deal over the course of the season," Hughes said. "Our offensive team has certainly improved, and we're counting on our defense being able to come up with a good football game."

"I think Valdosta has had just a devastating offense and an outstanding offensive line. They have a great kicking game and the defense appears to me to be better than ever."

"Both teams have improved. The question is

By MIKE CHASON  
THOMASVILLE — Jim Hughes has always heard how much of an advantage the home field is in any sport.

But the Thomasville High School football coach wants something a little more concrete than just a mental advantage. If the home team is supposed to be favored, he wants it up in lights.

"I don't know how much of an advantage the home field is," Hughes said Wednesday. "But I wish we could agree on the difference so we could go ahead and put it on the scoreboard."

"It's very difficult to estimate that sort of thing," Hughes' Bulldogs meet Valdosta's Wildcats here Friday night for the Region 1-AAAA championship. In the two teams' regular season meeting, the game was played on Valdosta's Cleveland Field. The Wildcats took a 16-7 decision.

"I thought that being in Cleveland Field did not affect the outcome of that game," Hughes said. "But I hope that being in Veterans Memorial Stadium will affect the outcome of this one, if the home field really is an advantage."

To get into the 8 p.m. title game, Thomasville used its home turf to best advantage in a 28-16 victory over Tift County (Tifton) in the first round of the region playoffs last week.

The Bulldogs had over 300 yards rushing, including over a 120-yard effort by tailback Johnny Kavouklis.

"That's a good night," Hughes said. "Particularly when you can get the scores to go with it. We had a good night rushing the football against Lowndes but we didn't have the scores to go

...eries  
Press  
... 220-5  
... 31x-11  
... (5)  
... Forster  
... L-Figu  
... (1).  
... (2).  
... 100-3  
... 000-1  
... and Y  
... 01. HF  
... 000-3  
... 000-30x-1  
... Hough  
... (8)  
... 1.0. L-  
... (1).  
... 000-0  
... 020 010 1-  
... (8) a  
... Tift



# Wildcats Win Region

... See Page 6

## It's Close, but Valdosta Escapes Again

By STAN AWTREY  
Special to Journal-Constitution

Valdosta almost found out how the other half lives Friday night, but the Wildcats awoke in the second half and won the Region 1-AAAA title with a 12-7 comeback victory over Thomasville.

The No.1-ranked and still undefeated Wildcats trailed 7-6 at halftime, but managed a 65-yard scoring drive in the third quarter and upped their record to 12-0. Tailback Erwin Roe, who rushed for over 100 yards, carried for most of the drive and William Gaskin capped the march with a five-yard touchdown run.

"The key to that drive was the play of our offensive line," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said, singling out center Tony Blasetti, guard Andy Chapman, tackle Scott Griffin and tight end Sam Fletcher.

Valdosta took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter, as quarterback John Lastinger hit Frederick Blair for an 18-yard touchdown. Kicker David Reaves missed the PAT.

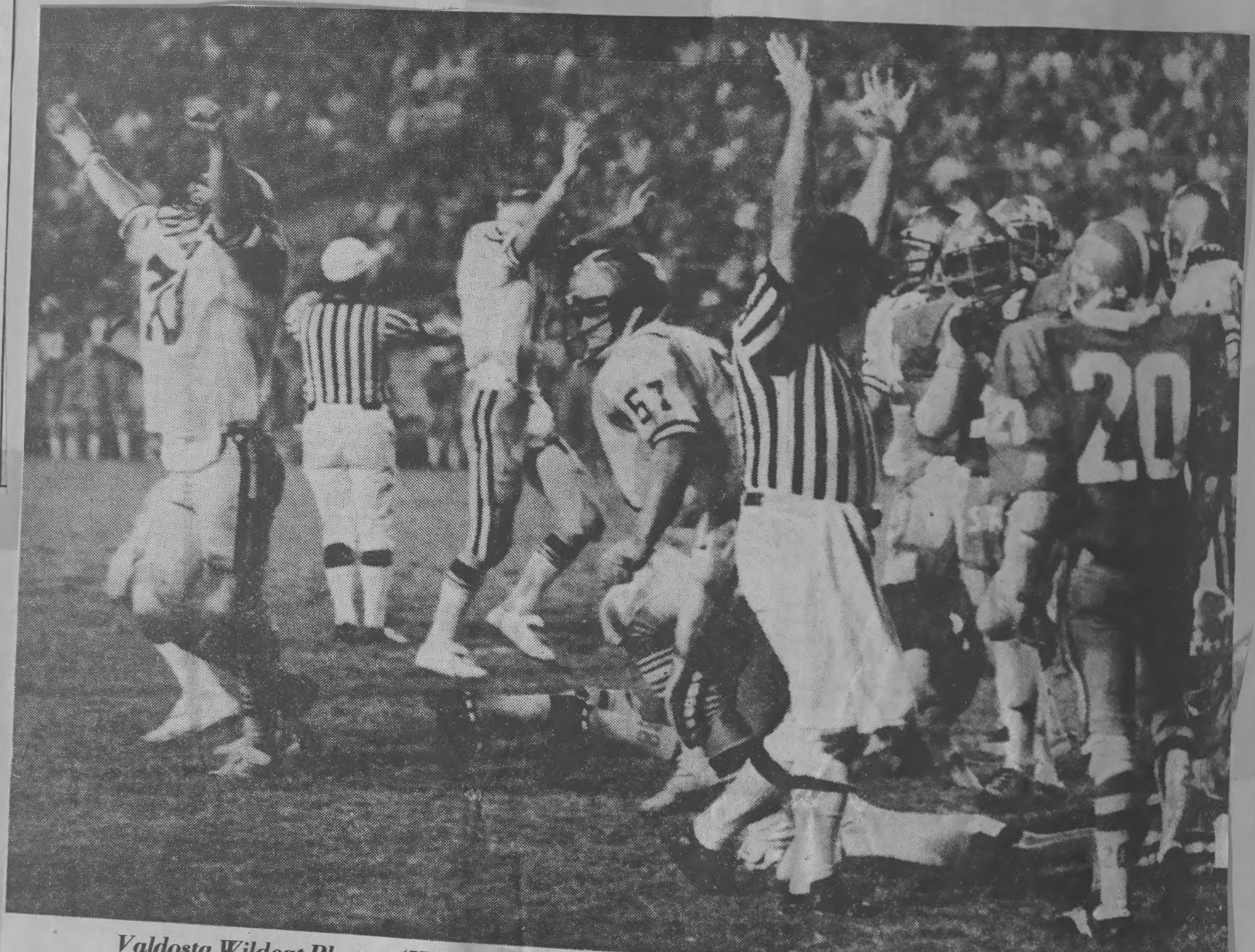
Thomasville, which ended the season 9-3, went ahead at

halftime by capitalizing on a Valdosta fumble and scoring on quarterback John Chastain's 40-yard TD pass to Guy

McIntyre. Valdosta will host Region 4-AAAA champ Westside of Augusta Friday night in the

AAAA quarterfinals. As a result of No. 2-ranked Cedar Shoals losing Friday, Valdosta and Westside are

now two of only three unbeaten Class AAAA teams in the state. The other is Northside of Warner Robins, 10-0.



Valdosta Wildcat Players 'Help' Officials Signal Touchdown In Region Playoff At Thomasville

—Times Staff Photo By Mike Dowse

# Hyder Calls Game 'Toughest' Of All

## The Valdosta Daily Times SPORTS

By MIKE HAGOOD  
THOMASVILLE

Thomasville gave Valdosta what Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder called "the toughest game we've had all year" in the Region 1-AAAA high school football championship game here Friday night.

"We came back," Hyder said. "That's what I mean by character. The Thomasville kids fought their hearts out." Valdosta defeated Thomasville 12-7 in a game which was almost always in doubt.

The 'Cats took the lead midway in the first quarter, largely on the strength of passes from quarterback John Lastinger to wide receiver Fredrick Blair. Blair's 17-yard, one-hand grab put Valdosta in front 6-0 at 6:18 in the quarter. Hyder said of Blair, "he caught a lot of key passes."

A missed extra point kick by David Reaves then put the game in an uncertain perspective with Thomasville gaining a psychological boost from the miss.

Blair became Lastinger's favorite target for the evening, as Robert Smith was out of the lineup due to injury.

Hyder said, "we missed Smith. He's a fine athlete. He improved everyday in practice, but we decided to

hold him out. He should be ready next week."

Through the rest of the first half, both teams showed the ability to move the ball, but both were unable to score again. With 22 seconds left in the half, Irvin Roe lost the ball on a fumble and the Bulldogs' Oscar Morris recovered at the Valdosta 41-yard line.

Then Thomasville struck for the lead. "Chastain rolled out, he faked and then threw to McIntyre on a well executed play. It was just good sound football," said Hyder.

Hyder and his staff were forced to go to the dressing room behind, 7-6. The only other time the 'Cats had trailed this season was 7-0 against Crisp County (Cordale).

Hyder told his players at halftime, "if they want to be champions they had to go out and get it. We said you've got to bruise yourself a little bit."

The Wildcats went out and got bruised the second half. The defense rose to the occasion on key situations and the offense took its cue to take a precious lead.

Valdosta's second six-pointer was set up when Clifford Johnson recovered a Cary Clark fumble.

"We lost the football that led to their second touchdown," said Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes. "Good teams force fumbles. Championship teams minimize fumbles."

"They'll win the playoffs," said a dejected Hughes as he walked from the field with his tearful daughter in his arms. "I didn't expect to lose."

have an excellent chance to win the state championship. They will have the home field advantage."

Hughes blamed himself for Thomasville's failure to convert at midfield on the Bulldogs next to last possession.

He said, "our failure was due to some confusion on my part. I should have used a time out. John Chastain made the most of a difficult situation. That was not the play for that situation."

That situation was a fourth down and about two yards to go for a first down. On third and long Troy Thomas had made a beautiful stop on tight end Guy McIntyre, two yards short of a first down. Chastain tried to run off tackle for the first down and was stopped again by Thomas and the right side of the Valdosta defense.

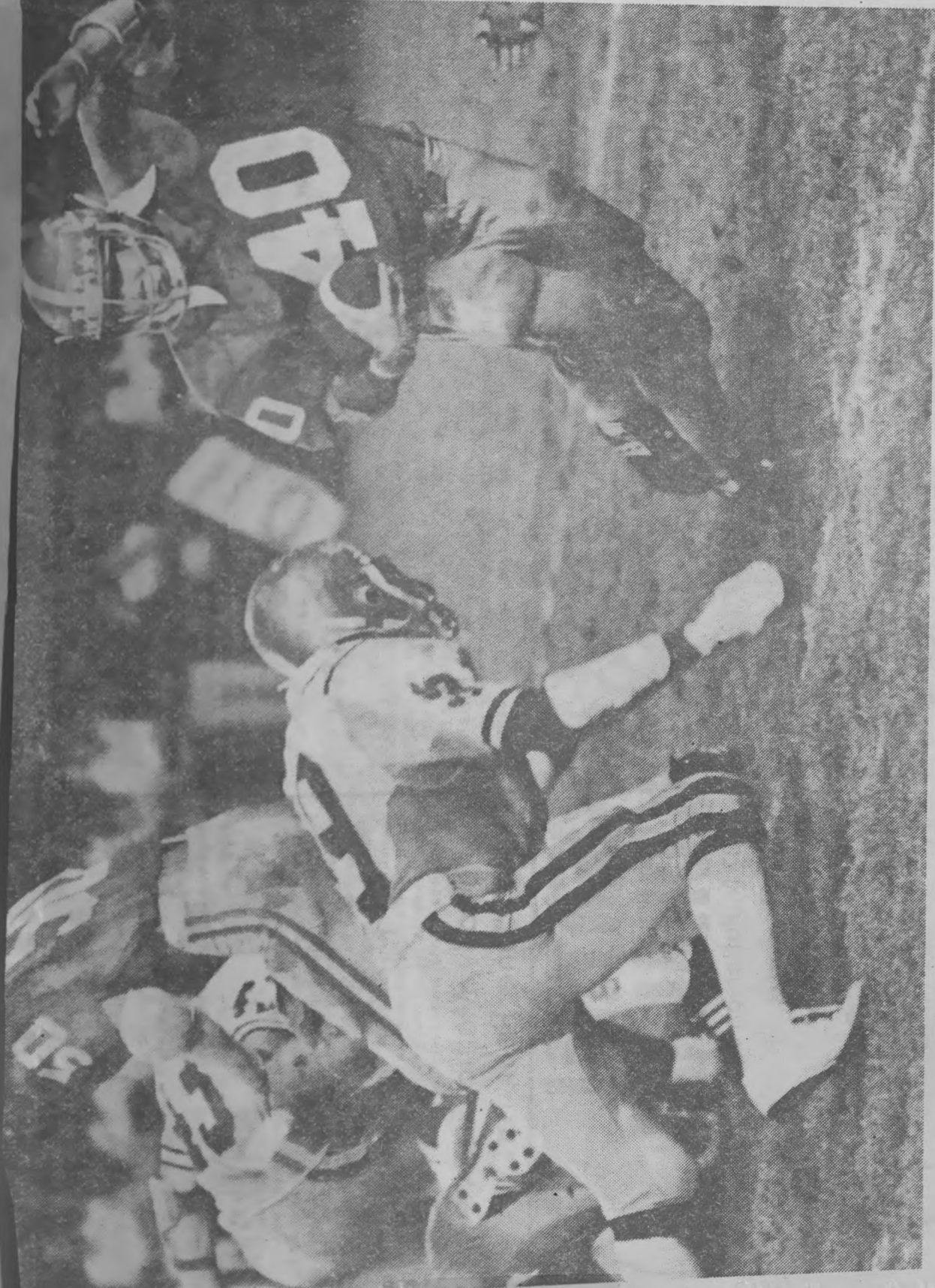
"Our goal was to play three more games," said Hughes. "Practice at this time is not drudgery, it is a privilege."

"It was almost a great game. Realistically at the half we had the score our way, but we were not exactly kicking them around. It could very easily have been 6-0. The second half was pretty much like the first. At times we moved the football. At times we were stopped."

"When we had the ball at midfield and weren't able to come up with a first down, that pretty much closed it out."

The close-out came on a Rodney Gordon interception of a Chastain pass.

The Wildcats move on to play Westside of Augusta in Valdosta Friday. Hyder said, "Westside has played 10 games. They are not bruised."



Wildcat Defender Begins Move Toward Lowering The Boom On Thomasville Running Back Johnny Kavouklis  
—Times Staff Photo.

# Hyder, Wilson Differ On Playoff Picture



**JOE WILSON**  
Favors New Setup

By MIKE CHASON

If Valdosta High School had gone undefeated during its 10-game regular season football schedule two years ago, the Wildcats would have been crowned the Region 1-AAAA champion and sat back quietly until the state playoffs began.

But that was two years ago. Last season, the 12-team league initiated a setup in which two subregion winners met for the region title.

Valdosta defeated Thomasville 39-20 for that championship.

This season, the number one finisher in the north subregion is hosting the number two finisher in the south subregion while the top finisher in the south subregion is hosting the second place finisher in the

north subregion.

Both games are to take place Friday night when Valdosta, number one in the north with a 10-0 record, hosts cross-county rival Lowndes, number two in the south with a 7-3 record.

Thomasville, number one in the south with an 8-2 record, hosts Tift County (Tifton), number two in the north with an 8-2 record.

In other words, Valdosta is still two games away from winning a region title it would have secured during the regular season two years ago. Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder voted against the change. Lowndes Coach Joe Wilson didn't.

"I wanted it the way it was and has always been," Hyder said this week. "Thomasville and Moultrie voted with us.

fans don't favor the 4-team playoff.

"Those are Valdosta people talking," Wilson said. "You won't find any of our fans or anybody in Thomasville or Tifton saying that. Three of us in there are tickled to death with it.

"Of course, if I was ten and zero, I'd be dead set against it too. But I'd vote for the same thing next year because I might not be ten and zero next year.

"I'll bet you Dougherty, Crisp County or any of them will swap. If they (Valdosta's Wildcats) don't want to play, that's all right with us. We'll just play the winner of the Thomasville-Tifton game."

Wilson believes financing dictated that this region and many others in the state go to some type of postseason

playoff.

"More than one team has to make money or the other teams are going to fade," Wilson said. "We make more money on one game than Crisp County makes all season on five home games.

"This game Friday night is going to make enough money just on the tickets we sell at Lowndes High School to pay Valdosta's light bill. All my people are going to bring flashlights."

Wilson was jokingly referring to the regular season matchup between the two teams when the lights went out on the home side of Cleveland Field. The game was played anyway.

"Everybody's involved in the playoffs now," Wilson said. "The NFL has them, the Boys' Club leagues have them, everybody has them. That's what it's all about.

"Their game against us this year is the last full house Valdosta has had in two years. Lowndes is now their biggest rival."

Friday's winners tangle Nov. 17 for the region championship. The site of that game is to be decided by a coin flip.

"You could add some emphasis to the regular season by letting the team with the best record of the two winners this week host the game the next week," Hyder said. "That's just a suggestion. It would give you some emphasis on the regular season games."

The Region 1-AAAA winner hosts the Region 4-AAAA championship in the first round of the state playoffs Nov. 24. The 1-AAAA champion would also host the South Georgia title game and the state championship if it kept winning.

That fact plus the strength of the region leads Wilson to believe the 1-AAAA survivor will roll on to the state title.

"Whoever wins this region will be a true champion," Wilson said. "Either of the four teams will end up as the state champion unless they lose a lot of kids between now



**NICK HYDER**  
Liked Old Way

and then for some reason or another."

Probable starting lineups for Lowndes and Valdosta in Friday's 8 p.m. game at Cleveland Field follow:

**VALDOSTA**  
Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Henkins (167, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) or John Bond (180, jr.), tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.), guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Timmy Herdin (190, sr.), center Tony Blasetti (225, jr.), fullback William Gaskin (175, sr.) or Bobby Johnson (185, sr.), halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irvin Roe (160, jr.), flanker Robert Smith (160, sr.), quarterback John Lestinger (185, sr.).  
Defense—ends Marilyn Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.), tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.), middle guard James Conaway (170, sr.) or Demps Johnson (180, sr.), linebackers John Branham (195, sr.) or Anthony Baillies (180, soph.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.), cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.) or Bubba Skelton (155, sr.), safeties Carl Roe (180, sr.) and Nathaniel Caesar (180, jr.) or Dante Jones (170, soph.).  
Kicker David Reaves (195, sr.), punter Gordon.

**LOWNDES**  
Offense—ends Chuck Jones (185, sr.) and Brent Edwards (160, sr.), tackles Don Newham (170, soph.) and John Fything (240, sr.), guards Cam Parker (136, sr.) and Frankie Tyson (177, sr.), center Benny Cuipey (169, sr.), halfbacks Robin McElroy (170, sr.) or Cedric Jones (170, soph.), fullback Steve Thomas (199, sr.) or Eric Thomas (179, soph.), flanker Steve DeVane (165, jr.) or Eric Thomas.  
Defense—ends Allen Cuipey (154, jr.) and Bill Crabb (155, soph.), tackles Joey Pedric (195, sr.) and Steve Davis (185, jr.), middle guard Adam Reese (159, jr.), linebackers Ronnie Adkins (203, sr.) and McCoy Cooper (173, sr.), cornerbacks Dennis McElroy (163, sr.) and Bill Schreffler (177, sr.) and Hal Spensie (181, sr.).  
Punter Jeff Stokes (190, jr.), kicker Stokes.



Mike Chason  
Times Sports Editor

# Lastinger To Sign With 'Dogs Today

By MIKE CHASON  
For the second consecutive year, the University of Georgia has lured the number one quarterback at Valdosta High School into the red and black colors of the Bulldogs.

VHS senior signal-caller John Lastinger announced Friday night he is to attend the University of Georgia on a football scholarship, beginning next fall.

Lastinger follows in the footsteps of Buck Belue, who ended a four-year career as the Wildcat quarterback last season and then signed with the Bulldogs a week later.

JOHN LASTINGER  
From VHS To UGA

will be happy up there. I'd like to be a part of it."

Lastinger, who won't turn 18 until February, had said earlier he wanted to find a place where he would be happy as well as a place where he could play football.

The three schools the Region 1-AAAA Offensive Player of the Year had narrowed his choices to on Thursday were Georgia, Alabama and Auburn.

"About Wednesday night, I really started thinking that Georgia was where I probably wanted to go," Lastinger said. "I didn't want to go to Alabama that bad. I just kind of had a feeling I didn't want to go there."

When Belue was the quarterback, Lastinger became an excellent wide receiver for Valdosta. He might occupy the same role with the Bulldogs, who feature Jeff Pyburn as their top quarterback at the present with Belue number two and closing fast.

"I waited it out in high school until my time came," Lastinger was the leading passer in Region 1-AAAA with 1,068 yards on 65 of 151 tosses. He was 16th in rushing

and wait my turn. "I'm going to work real hard this summer and go up there and try to do my best. If I get to play, great. If not, I'll wait it out a year or a couple of years."

with 419 yards on 75 carries, and third in scoring with 13 touchdowns and one 2-point conversion for 80 points.

The 6-foot-2, 174-pounder scored five touchdowns against Albany. He was the unanimous choice of the sportswriter who cover the 12-team league as the number one quarterback in the region.

But despite leading the Wildcats to their first undefeated regular season since 1971 and their region title in the past four years, Lastinger is not going to crown his senior year by playing in the state championship game.

Against Westside in the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs, Lastinger suffered a shoulder

separation which put him out of that game in the first quarter.

Lastinger also missed last week's South Georgia Championship game against Benedictine and is to be on the sideline again tonight when Valdosta tries for the Class AAAA state title here against Griffin.

John Bond has replaced Lastinger. "I'm still trying to figure out a way to play," Lastinger said with a chuckle.

The versatile athlete, who was a starter in football, basketball and baseball for VHS last year, can't foresee a possible pro baseball offer changing his mind about playing football.

Belue was faced with such a decision after being drafted

in the second round of the summer draft. He chose football after hearing the monetary offer made to him by the Chicago White Sox.

"I can't really answer that now," Lastinger said. It would take an awfully good year in baseball. I'm not planning on playing baseball up there (at Georgia).

"I like baseball but football is your free ticket to school. I guess I like football the best."

Lastinger said he received "30 or 40" letters from different schools, the farthest away being Porterville (Calif.) College and the University of California.

Lastinger is to sign with the Bulldogs at 4:30 p.m. today at his home, Georgia Coach Vince Dooley is to be in attendance.

# Hyder, VHS Team Doctor Against Extended Playoffs

Nick Hyder has politticked long and hard against the possibility of a 15-game football season. Now the Valdosta High School football coach has drawn a knowledgeable ally in local physician and VHS team doctor Jose Campa.

"At the beginning of the season, it is enjoyable," Campa said from behind a desk in his comfortable office last week. "At the end, it is not. Even if you have a year-round conditioning program, the boys can not go for 4½ months of bumping every day without getting hurt."

Obviously injuries are a part of sports, particularly in the grinding daily body contact of football. Campa agrees with that. But he's got the statistics to show that the longer the season is extended, the chances of a player getting hurt are much greater. In the case of Valdosta's Wildcats, much greater indeed.

Campa produced a list which showed Valdosta had 114 injuries during the season. Forty-five of those injuries occurred after the regular season had ended. In plain talk, that's 40 percent of the total which happened in the two games to decide the Region 1-AAAA champion and the three state playoff games.

Of the 60 percent which occurred before the playoffs, half happened during the month of preseason drills.

"During September and October, we had almost no injuries," Campa said. "And these are tough boys. They're not weaklings. I believe something has to be done."

Campa's suggestion is the same one Hyder has favored all along and the one used in the 12-team region until two years ago. That is to decide the 1-AAAA state playoff representative by which team finishes with the best regular season record.

Two years ago, the region coaches voted to have two subregions and the two subregion winners would meet for the region title. Hyder voted against that plan but it passed anyway.

do that but just so many times."

"The thing I want to see is how the people feel about the prolonged season," Campa said. "Even the colleges only play 11 or 12 games at the most. It's terrible when you have a good, solid healthy team in the first 10 weeks and then get hurt and hurt the performance of your team."

"Your team could just go to the wastebasket."  
Campa's list showed every VHS player who had an injury during the year, what type of injury it was and how long the player was lost from practice. At the end of the year, Campa sends the list to the Hughston Orthopedic Clinic in Columbus where a computer analyzes the frequency of a particular type of injury and to what players it plagued the most.

No wonder they call medicine a science. Campa said four Valdosta players were sidelined for all or part of the season. They were Keith Sampson, Craig Loftin, John Lastinger and Bobby Johnson. Sampson was injured in the preseason camp, Loftin was hurt during the season and both Lastinger and Johnson went down in the playoffs.

The most publicized ailment was Lastinger's separated shoulder which Campa quickly termed a dislocated shoulder instead of a separation. He said there is a difference. Lastinger missed all the final two state playoff games and most of the first one. Campa said if Lastinger chose to play basketball, he would be available in about four more weeks.

Campa also revealed that John Bond, who stepped in for Lastinger, had a "severe contusion in the lumbar (lower back) muscles," after the South Georgia championship game against Benedictine. On the day before the state title game, Campa said he had to aspirate 4½ syringes of fluid from the knee of Tim Dame, who was to play quarterback if Bond couldn't.

Valdosta's quarterback situation was certainly shaky, injury-wise, on that cold night just one week ago.

"The quarterback is 50 percent of the offense of his team,"

Campa, who devotes 30 percent of his practice to sports medicine, said. "Tifton was a good team. When they lost their quarterback, they were crippled."

But as hard as Hyder, Campa and every other opponent of the region playoff system campaigns against it, it may be here to stay. Every team that played for a state title in Classes AAAA, AAA and AA this year played 15 games. Only the Class A schools in the state finals didn't.

Most coaches say it's a matter of economics. Playoff games mean extra revenue. That money comes in handy when football has to pay the bills for the other sports.

Hyder knows that argument only too well. Valdosta also supports its athletic program from football revenue. But he believes by placing more emphasis on regular season games, the same result might come about.

"I think we should build up rivalries every week rather than exploit these youngsters in a 15-game season," Hyder said in a recent Associated Press story. "We're proud to have been there and share the championship but I think the championship could be won in 13 or 14 games than the extra one or two games."

"Are we looking to the welfare of the young men who provide the entertainment? I think it's debatable. I know you're going to have injuries whether you're in the playoffs or not but I'd just like to see the stadium packed for those 10 regular season games."

In January, the region coaches meet again. Hyder will be there, probably armed with Campa's statistics. He says he will ask for the champion to be decided by a 10-game regular season. A meeting of the two subregion titlists would be his second choice.

Hyder didn't say, but it was obvious there is no third choice in his mind. Come January, we'll all find out if his fellow coaches agree with him.

our. The play to which Gordon Evans, the Valdosta defense straight and men use to some guy really in the ui straight down into the attempt which was wide. Chastain made the best of a interception returns. Valdosta-Gordon 16; Thomasville-Horton 12.

# Patriots open in playoffs at Valdosta

By Gene Ballard  
Chronicle Sports Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga.— Westside High goes up against perhaps the most well-known high school football team in Georgia tonight as the Patriots take on the Valdosta High School Wildcats in the first round of the Georgia High School Association Class AAAAA state playoffs.

The Wildcats have won 12 games without defeat this season and have been ranked No. 1 in the Class AAAAA poll most of the season. Valdosta defeated Thomasville 12-7 to win the Region 1-AAAA title last week. The Wildcats' only loss in the past two seasons was a 16-14 setback to Clarke Central in the state championship game last year.

Westside will bring a 10-0 mark into the contest. The Patriots won the Region 4-AAAA crown without having to go through a playoff game, a fact which has Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder somewhat worried.

"I'm sure it will work to their advantage, having the week off," said Hyder, whose Wildcats had to battle through a two-game playoff series in addition to 10 regular season games. "We're pretty banged up. Anytime you get some rest this time of year should help out."

Hyder has spent the past week going over scouting reports of the Patriots and has not liked what he's seen.

"We're really concerned," he said. "Westside has a very well coached team with excellent speed. They hit well and adjust to all kinds of situations. They've played well under pressure and have come from behind several times, which is one of things I consider a mark of a well-coached football team."

"And people here still remember Coley Cassedy!"

Cassedy's 1970 Richmond Academy team knocked off the Wildcats 18-14 in Augusta, the only loss suffered by the Wildcats in a three-year period (1969-71) and the last loss ever de-

livered to the legendary Coach Wright Baze-  
more.

"That was seven years ago," said Cassedy. "I was at Richmond when they killed us too."

The Wildcats have a deep and talented squad led by quarterback John Lastinger and defensive back Troy Thomas, both considered top college material.

Lastinger is an walking example of the Valdosta tradition. Both his grandfathers played for the Wildcats as did his father, while his mother was a cheerleader. The 6-2, 180-pound senior is a threat to run or throw.

"I was impressed with him," said Cassedy. "It's amazing that they have a guy like Belue (Georgia freshman reserve Buck Belue) for four years and then have a guy like that."

Hyder interchanges six running backs with William Gaskin and Ernest King the leaders. Flanker Robert Smith has been injured, but is expected to be ready. The wide receiver is 6-4 John Bond, with 6-2, 190-pound Sam Fletcher the tight end.

Center Tony Blasettis (6-1, 230) is the biggest man on a line in which every other member is between 5-10 and 6-1 inches tall and 175-190 pounds.

"We have some good students on the line," said Hyder. "They've stuck with us for several years."

Thomas (5-10, 175) is the leader of a defensive unit at right corner and is highly rated by collegiate scouts.

The Patriots will counter with a ball-control offense with lots of depth at the skill positions. Cassedy has two quarterbacks he can use in juniors Lee Chomskis and Mark Hopkins, both with experience throwing touchdown passes with the game on the line, two sophomore tailbacks in Craig Best and Larry Elam and a group of wide receivers including Franklin Moore, Mark Gilliam, Jack Saunders and Michael Harrison. Neil Swann is one of three fullbacks.

The interior line is anchored by center Lee Muns, with Calvin Jordan and Tom Weid-

meier at guard, Dean Waters and Wayne Driggers at tackle.

The Patriots had to come from behind five times to win this season and each time their defensive unit helped keep the score close until Westside could pull off the game winner.

Hyder said his scouts singled out Waters, Tripp Kuhlke and Neal Swann as hard hitters. "No. 33 (Kuhlke) is all over our scouting reports. He's everywhere the ball shows up."

Gordon Robinson and Tim Wilson will be the ends, with Waters and Phil Gunnels at tackle. Dan Brady, Jay Pittman and Ken Johnson will all see action.

Curtis Williford, Kuhlke and Robert Connell are the linebackers, while Harrison, Timmy Richards and Swann form the secondary.

"I expect the game could be one or two touchdowns either way," said Hyder. "I'm expecting them to give us a good battle."

"We've had a good week of practice," said Cassedy. "We've got everybody healthy, now it's just a matter of doing it."

# Valdosta Tops Dougherty For Perfect Year

By The Associated Press  
Valdosta's Ernest King blasted into the end zone on runs of 6, 8 and 4 yards as the Wildcats finished the regular season with a perfect record by defeating Dougherty 33-7 and knocking the Trojans out of Georgia high school football post-season play. Saturday's victory insured Tift County's place in the AAAAA playoffs next weekend by giving them the runnerup slot in the AAAAA-North subregion. That means Tift will play Thomasville of AAAAA-South, and Valdosta will meet Lowndes.

Valdosta quarterback John Lastinger complemented King's running with scoring passes of 50 and 31 yards to Arvin Roe.

Kenny Jackson's 2-yard touchdown burst in overtime gave Windsor Forest a 28-21 victory over Bradwell Institute. That propelled Savannah into the 3AAAA region championship. Bradwell would have had the subregion championship if it had won its final two

games. But Bradwell's loss Saturday, coupled with Savannah's win over Statesboro on Friday, will pit Savannah against undefeated Benedictine in the 3AAAA playoff next weekend.

In other games Saturday, Evans defeated Northeast-Macon 28-21, Treutlen blanked Bryan Co. 26-0, Jenkins thrashed Beach 27-6, Alabama School for the Deaf edged Georgia School for the Deaf 14-12, Warner Robins beat Columbus 27-6 and Lithonia defeated Gordon 10-3.

In the Windsor Forest-Bradwell game, Windsor linebacker Anthony Mitchell picked up a Bradwell fumble and ran 73 yards to make the score 21-19, and quarterback Mike Huggins ran a two-point conversion to tie the game 21-21 and force it into overtime.

Bryant Gilliard returned a punt 90 yards, quarterback Howell Johnson ran 3 yards and Johnson passed 15 yards to Randy Robertson for Bradwell's touchdowns.

In Friday night action, the Waycross Bulldogs clinched a playoff berth in the region AAAAA championship by beating Appling County 27-12. Next weekend in the playoffs, the Bulldogs meet the Worth County Golden Rams, who earned the AAAAA-West title with a 36-8 win over Cairo.

Ware County defeated Coffee 33-7 Friday and plays Camden County next week, also in the AAAAA playoffs. Bacon County won its first 2AA playoff spot in 18 years of football competition by defeating Jeff Davis 21-20 Friday night.

In other Saturday games, Clarke Central beat Hen-

derson 30-7, Columbia downed Stone Mountain 13-7, Avondale routed Cross Keys 32-0, Cedar Shoals beat Chamblee 27-7, Decatur blanked Sequoyah 7-0, Darlington trampled Poppel 26-0 and St. Pius beat Riverwood 28-6. Smith beat Brown 12-6, Zion 7-0.

West Fulton defeated George 12-7, North Fulton shut out Bass 14-0, Carver beat Grady 20-14, Newton County defeated Riverdale 42-7, Fulton crushed Sylvan 28-6, Benedictine beat Brunswick 34-12, Jenkins defeated Beach 27-6 and Feldwood edged Mt.

# Westside Visits Valdosta's Lair

By Gene Ballard  
Herald Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Westside's unbeaten Patriots enter the Georgia High School Association Class AAAA football playoffs tonight against the state's top-ranked team, the Valdosta High School Wildcats.

Opening with a tough opponent is nothing new for the Patriots, who had to start with then No. 1-ranked Warner Robins last year, but that was in Augusta. This time the Patriots will be on enemy turf when the open up.

## Both Undefeated

Both teams are undefeated, while Westside comes in rested after avoiding a playoff while winning Region 4-AAAA. Valdosta, on the other hand, had to battle through a four-team playoff to win the 1-AAAA title.

"That's our lone consoling thought," said Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, "we're playing at our place. Although it's not that big an edge, we probably lose about one game a year here."

If that's the case, the Wildcats are about two years overdue, since the last loss administered at home was by Thomasville Central in the 1976 playoffs.

"We're more human around here now," said Hyder. "We don't expect to go out and run over everybody."

Still, the Wildcats have had just two close calls this season, both at the hands of Thomasville (16-7 and 12-7).

The Wildcats are led by senior quarterback John Lastinger (6-2, 185), whom Coach Coley Cassedy compares favorably with former Patriot Mike Kelley.

"Kelley is more of a pure passer," said Hyder, "but John can probably do more things. A lot of colleges have shown interest in him."

Valdosta's other blue-chipper at this moment is 5-10, 175-pound defensive back Troy Thomas, who is the captain of the team.

"We've got some good players on our line, but not many people are interested in them yet," said Hyder. "They're all between 5-10 and 6-1 and between 175-195, which colleges today say is too small."

"We hope we can keep the game close," said Cassedy. "Not just us, but anybody, has a chance to win it if you can stay close. It seems that's the way we've been playing all year."

The Patriots came from behind in five of their 10 victories this season.

Hyder and Cassedy have both been big winners the past several years. The Wildcats have won 24 of their last 25 ball games, losing only to Clarke Central in the state championship game last year. Cassedy's Patriots have carded 28-3-1 mark over the past three seasons including back to back region champion teams.

Westside was the first Richmond County team to go 10-0 in Georgia High School Association play since 1960 when the Richmond Academy Musketeers won all 10 regular season games. They ran into Valdosta in the playoffs and played to a scoreless tie with Valdosta winning 2-0 on the penetration rule.

## Run-Oriented

The Patriots rely on a run-oriented offense with sophomore tailbacks Larry Elam and Craig Best doing most of the carrying. Fullback Neil Swann is in the lineup primarily for his blocking ability. Franklin Moore is the flanker and Lee Chomskis the quarterback.

Jack Saunders and Mark Gilliam start at ends, Dean Waters and Wayne Driggers are the tackles, Tom Weidmeier and Calvin Jordan are the guards with Lee Muns at center.

The game will kickoff at 8 p.m.



Coley Cassedy



## Nothing But Bears Ahead

Valdosta halfback Ernest King tries to shake loose from Griffin's Jimmy Ward in first half action from Saturday night's Class AAAA state championship football game here. Griffin and Valdosta fought to a 7-7 tie in the contest before a capacity crowd at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats scored in the first quarter on a 1-yard run by junior quarterback John Bond and an extra point kick by David Reaves. The Bears

tied it up early in the fourth quarter on a 7-yard run by quarterback Jeff Ector and an extra point kick by Wally Wetherbee. In the state championship game, there is no overtime or penetration ruling. The two teams were crowned co-champions. Complete coverage is on page 18-A.

— Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III.

Interception Returns. Valdosta—Gordon  
10; Thomasville—Horton 1:24.  
Chastain made the best of a  
real poor situation.  
attempt which was wide.  
Thomasville might have  
straight down into the  
ground.  
Some guy really hit me on  
the back of the head. I  
wasn't hurt. I just  
got a little dazed.  
straight and then use  
them. I was a little  
Evans, the Valdosta defense  
shut down the first passville  
one. The play to which Gordon  
returned occurred in the

# Griffin's Bears Have Met Adversity Before

By MIKE CHASON  
GRIFFIN—For Lloyd Bohannon, it's what's inside that counts.

School football coach, realizes not a lot of folks are predicting a victory for his Bears in Saturday night's Class AAAA state championship game in Valdosta. But that doesn't bother him. He has seen his team battle back from adversity before, and he hopes it can do it again.

"We've been behind an awful lot this year," Bohannon said Wednesday morning. "We won our first game and then lost the next two in a row. Then we were behind 12-0 in our fourth one. We haven't been anything like the devastating team Valdosta has been, but we've hung in there."

Griffin, 12-2 overall, trailed favored Lakeside 14-3 midway the fourth quarter last week before turning the tables and springing an 18-14 upset.

That quickness is amplified on offense where both tailback Ricky Williams (175, sr.) and halfback Willie Grant (185, sr.) are reported to have 9.6 speed in the 100-yard dash.

Bohannon said Williams, Gault and quarterback Jeff Ector (175, jr.) "have been our big play people all year long."

This is Bohannon's first year at Griffin, and he inherited a dangerous breakout threat in Williams, who he said gained about 1,250 yards rushing during the regular season and now has a total of nearly 1,800 yards.

Williams accounted for one of the touchdowns that broke Lakeside's back in the fourth quarter last week.

Gault was thought so highly of statewide that he was listed as one of the top 40 high school prospects in the state in Wednesday's Atlanta Constitution.

## The Valdosta Daily Times

### SPORTS

that game of two years ago will have much psychological bearing on what happens at 8 p.m. Saturday on Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

"I don't really know," Bohannon said. "I wasn't even around then. This is a completely new coaching staff. I think we have two or three kids that played in that game."

"To them, it might be easier than it is to the rookies."

It has been said that some teams are beaten mentally once they arrive in Valdosta and walk out in front of nearly 12,000 persons, most of whom are 'Cat fans.

This year, a newly spotlighted Wildcat at one end of Cleveland Field, nicknamed "Death Valley," has added to the mystique established when Wright Bazemore won 15 state titles and three mythical national titles between its walls.

"We'd like to be playing at Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department ping-pong title in competition held between Lowndes and Valdosta students. Smith nipped Karl Chiang of Valdosta 21-19 in a matchup at Tuesday's VHS-LHS basketball games.

— Nobody could be a bigger Oklahoma Sooner fan than 62-year-old Cecil Samara.

"When I go to heaven, I know I'll have a bird's eye view over the 50-yard line for every Sooners game," Samara said. "I've given my wife specific instructions that if I die during a football game they are to wait until the final whistle is blown before they cart me out."

"I'm going to be buried wearing my red and white suit in a red and white casket. My finger will be pointed up in the familiar Number 1 position, and I'll have a big Sooner grin on my face."

When Samara grins, everybody knows it. He has the words "Big Red" permanently inlaid on his front teeth.

— Newly announced Westover football coach Leo Carvalis is running into some problems assuming the command of the Patriots. Hernando High in Brooksville, Fla., says Carvalis made a verbal commitment to coach its team before he took the Westover job. The suddenly much in demand coach did not sign a contract with Hernando but is expected to show up for duty Jan. 19 because of a verbal agreement. Carvalis has signed a Westover contract.

— The women have stepped into the places of command with the Valdosta Yacht Club. Gloria Coleman is the commodore of the club, and Glenda Akins is the Snipe Fleet Captain. A spokesman for the 30-member club said it is probably the only one in Georgia that has females in the top two spots.

— Former Lowndes High basketball star Marcia Player was recently chosen to the all-tournament team at the Lady Bulldog Classic in Starkville, Miss. Player scored a total of 43 points and had a total of 16 rebounds in two tournament games, both of which her Auburn University team lost. Player is the

home too," Bohannon said. "But when you get this far, you've got two good football teams."

"We don't feel awed by the tradition. We know Valdosta is a great football team, and they do have great tradition. We think it's going to take a super effort on our part."

Probable starting lineups for both teams and the game-by-game rundown of Griffin's season follow:

**VALDOSTA**  
Offense—ends Sam Fletcher (190, sr.) or Willie Hankins (197, jr.) and Fredrick Blair (160, sr.) tackles Scott Griffin (208, sr.) and Harvey Carter (185, jr.) or Darrell Swindle (190, sr.) guards Andy Chapman (195, sr.) and Bubba Harbin (190, sr.) or Billy Harvey (180, sr.) center Tony Bessie (225, jr.) fullback Willie Gaskin (175, sr.); halfbacks Ernest King (180, jr.) or Irvin Roe (160, jr.) flanker Tim Dame (147, sr.) or Robert Smith (160, sr.) quarterback John Bond (180, jr.)

Defense—ends Martin Beaufort (180, sr.) or Kenny Evans (156, sr.) and James Harris (180, sr.) tackles Carroll Johnson (198, sr.) and Jimbo Hancock (180, jr.) or Hal Dixon (213, jr.); middle guard James Conway (170, sr.) or Demis Johnson (180, sr.) or linebackers John Branon (195, sr.) or Anthony Bathie (160, sr.) and Lynn Roberts (176, sr.) cornerbacks Troy Thomas (175, sr.) and Rodney Gordon (180, sr.)

**GAME-BY-GAME**  
Griffin 29, Rockdale Co. 0  
Newman 14, Griffin 7  
Heritage 7, Griffin 7  
Griffin 22, LaGrange 21  
Griffin 28, Morrow 0  
Griffin 3, Fayette Co. 0  
Griffin 32, Jonesboro 14  
Griffin 41, Riverdale 7  
Griffin 39, Newton Co. 22  
Griffin 9, Forest Park 3  
Region 6-AAAA Playoffs  
Griffin 10, Fayette Co. 6  
Griffin 10, Newnan 7  
Griffin 27, Douglas 0  
Griffin 18, Lakeside 14

# Spring Football Games Set For Valdosta, Lowndes

second-leading scorer for the 4-7 Lady Tigers with a 14.7 average. She is the leading rebounder with an 8.6 average.

— The eye of the camera sometimes tells all. Photographer Gene Puskar of the Lancaster New Era snapped a picture of a smiling Philadelphia Eagles' cheerleader jumping out of her plunging, V-necked vest in front of a packed stadium.

When the picture appeared, he was immediately banned from covering any future Philadelphia games by club officials, but was re-instated only hours afterward.

"I was sitting on the sidelines with a 500-millimeter lens," Puskar said. "I just noticed there was a possibility something might be popping up. I saw it about to happen, and it did happen. I thought it was too good for just the bulletin board at the office."

The cheerleader caught in the picture wears a broad smile. Most of one breast was clearly visible, resting on the neckline of the vest that let her down.

— Of the 242 players in the NBA, only 75 are white. Of the 110 players who are on the first five of each team, only 26 are white.

— The average National Football League player makes \$60,000 a year. The minimum salary for a rookie is \$20,000. For a fifth-year player, it is \$30,000.

— Nobody could have any worse timing than Chuck Fairbanks. He deserves all the grief the Patriots are giving him.

— The Rose Bowl was the highest rated football game on television New Year's Day but the Tournament of Roses did even better. The Southern Cal-Michigan matchup drew 23.3 percent of the homes with TV sets turned on. The Orange Bowl with Oklahoma and Nebraska was second at 22.8. The Sugar Bowl stood at 21.7, and the Cotton Bowl was at 12.5.

— Telecast by NBC and CBS, the Tournament of Roses drew 22.4 on CBS and 12.3 on NBC for a combined 34.7. The combination of the Sugar and Cotton Bowls, telecast at the same time later in the afternoon, was 34.2.



1980 season. Cox said "naturally, I'm happy they have that kind of confidence in me. I think we'll be much improved next season. I think we'll climb out of the cellar and be a contender within the next two or three years."

— Ed Badger hasn't had the best of luck with his Cincinnati Bearcats this season. In his first year as head coach, the Bearcats have lost two players and been put on a two year probation by the NCAA.

Of the probation, Badger said "I was told they (the Bearcats) were under investigation, but they didn't think it was this serious."

Of the loss of the players, Badger said "we were planning some lineup changes anyway."

— "I just hope they keep making mistakes like that so we don't have to face them in the World Series," New York Yankee owner George Steinbrenner said of the Reds' decision to fire Sparky Anderson. "That was the biggest boo-boo of the year."

— Lowndes High School's Dennis Smith captured the

Notes, quotes and assorted trivia:

— Valdosta's Wildcats are scheduled to travel to Warner Robins March 23 for their Spring Jamboree football game this year. Lowndes is to meet Tift County in Tifton March 30 for its spring contest. Both Lowndes and Valdosta played at home against those same teams last spring.

— A play-by-play announcer without his voice is about as useful as a violinist without his fiddle. Johnny Most, the broadcaster for the Boston Celtics for the last 22 years, found that to be all too true Wednesday night when he lost his voice early in the second half of the Boston-Los Angeles game. Most turned the microphone over to a local sportscaster who happened to be watching the game from the stands.

— University of Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne is this year's "Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year." The award goes to the coach who best exemplifies "a higher and more noble aspect of college-coaching ... and a strong belief that the game of football should be kept in perspective of college life in general." Osborne is to receive the Atlanta Quarterback Club's award Jan. 26.

— Former Brooks County star Denise Monroe is listed on the roster of this year's Troy State University women's basketball team. Former Berrien High standout Sharon Harkins is also a member of the team.

— Ann Meyers has been named the outstanding collegiate woman athlete for 1977-78. Meyers, sister of the Milwaukee Bucks' Dave Meyers, led UCLA to the Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics for Women national basketball title last spring. She received the Broderick Award Cup at the AIAW convention. Meyers said her present goal is to play on the United States Olympic basketball team in 1980.

— Auburn running back William Andrews has been selected to play in the Senior Bowl Saturday. Andrews is a former Thomasville High star.

— The Atlanta Braves have signed Bobby Cox through the

# 'Dosta Reigns In First Spot

ATLANTA (AP) — When Waycross lost its first game this season, it fell from the throne of Georgia high school football's Class AAA to the middle of the top 10. Now the Bulldogs have lost again and have been booted from the standings.

Waycross led the Associated Press Class AAA top 10 for the season's first seven weeks before losing to Camden County and dropping to sixth place. The Bulldogs had fought their way back to fourth place last week, when Worth County beat them 33-18 in the Region 1AAA semifinal.

No teams stole the lead this week from the top teams in the four classes. Gordon Lee still controls Class A, East Rome overruns Class AA, Americus governs AAA and Valdosta reigns over AAAA.

Joining Waycross in its exodus from the AAA top 10 were LaFayette, which lost to Northwest Whitfield last weekend, and Glenn Hills, which lost to Swainsboro. Filling in the AAA vacuum were Worth County at No. 8, Southwest-Atlanta at ninth and Lithonia at No. 10.

Waycross' exit made room for Swainsboro to climb a notch to fourth, Dalton to step up to fifth, Westminster to jump one to sixth and Marist to rise two places to seventh.

Savannah Country Day's win over Treutlen in a Region 3A semifinal Friday sent a little shudder through Class A but no team fell out of the rankings.

Treutlen fell from Class A sixth to 10th. The seventh through 10th teams — Savannah Country Day, Johnson County, Buford and Trion — all climbed one step to take up the slack.

Benedictine's regular-season loss to Savannah cost it four steps in the Class AAAA standings, dropping it from fourth to eighth. Warner Robins fell 21-20 to rival Northside-Warner Robins and vanished from the list. Clarke Central lost to Lakeside and slid from sixth to ninth.

Savannah joined the AAAA rankings at No. 10, and former 10th place Thomasville

hopped three places to seventh. Lakeside climbed from ninth to sixth, and Southwest DeKalb skipped from eighth to fifth.

Bleckley County's Region 3AA playoff hopes expired with its loss to R.E. Lee, and the Royals have faded from the rankings in Class AA. Cedar Grove lost and fell from sixth to eighth, and Jefferson dropped from eighth to 10th. Mary Persons climbed from an eighth-place tie to sixth, and North Springs rose from 10th to seventh.

Here are the top 10 teams in each class of Georgia high school football, their records, their voting points and the number of first-place votes they received from members of the AP board. Other teams nominated follow each list.

- Class AAAA**
1. Valdosta, 11-0, 110 (11)
  2. Cedar Shoals, 11-0, 97
  3. Northside-W.R., 10-0, 85
  4. Westside, 10-0, 73
  5. Southwest DeKalb, 9-1-1, 66
  6. Lakeside, 9-2, 46
  7. Thomasville, 9-2, 45
  8. Benedictine, 9-1, 28
  9. Clarke Central, 9-2, 24
  10. Savannah, 8-2, 8
- Others nominated: Warner Robins 8-2; Newman, 9-2; Griffin, 9-2; Laney, 9-1, and Marietta, 9-2.

- Class AAA**
1. Americus, 10-0, 109 (10)
  2. Cedar town, 9-0-1, 97 (11)
  3. Gainesville, 10-1, 85
  4. Swainsboro, 9-1, 71
  5. Dalton, 10-1, 61
  6. Westminster, 9-2, 47
  7. Marist, 10-1, 45
  8. Worth Co., 9-2, 37
  9. Southwest-Atlanta, 10-1, 13
  10. Lithonia, 9-2, 11
- Others nominated: Glenn Hills, 8-2; LaFayette, 9-2; Rockmart, 9-2; Ware Co., 9-2; Waycross, 9-2, and Perry, 7-3.

- Class AA**
1. East Rome, 11-0, 103 (7)
  2. Claxton, 11-0, 99 (3)
  3. Lincoln Co., 11-0, 88 (1)
  4. Mitchell Co., 11-0, 81
  5. Commerce, 10-0-1, 69
  6. Mary Persons, 10-1, 40
  7. North Springs, 10-1, 39
  8. Cartersville, 9-2, 16
  9. Cedar Grove, 10-1, 16
  10. Jefferson, 8-1-1, 12
- Others nominated: Turner Co., 9-2; Harlem, 9-2; R.E. Lee, 7-4; Bleckley Co., 10-1; Lovett, 8-3; Fulton, 9-1, and Morgan Co., 10-1.

- Class A**
1. Gordon Lee, 9-1, 100 (4)
  2. Miller Co., 9-1, 99 (5)
  3. Hogansville, 9-1, 85 (2)
  4. Feldwood, 9-0-1, 73
  5. Warren Co., 8-1-1, 70
  6. Sav. C.D., 9-2, 55
  7. Johnson Co., 8-3, 47
  8. Buford, 7-3-1, 37
  9. Trion, 7-3, 13
  10. Treutlen, 9-2, 12
- Others nominated: Emanuel Co. Inst., 7-3, and Charlton Co., 8-2.

**FOR LEASE**  
Well Established  
**GULF STATION ON I-75**  
Contact C. E. Griner, Gulf Representative, Valdosta, 242-1707 days or 242-3151 evenings and week ends.

## Top VHS Players Cited

Clifford Johnson and Lynn Roberts have been named the top defensive players in last week's Valdosta High School football victory over Thomasville.

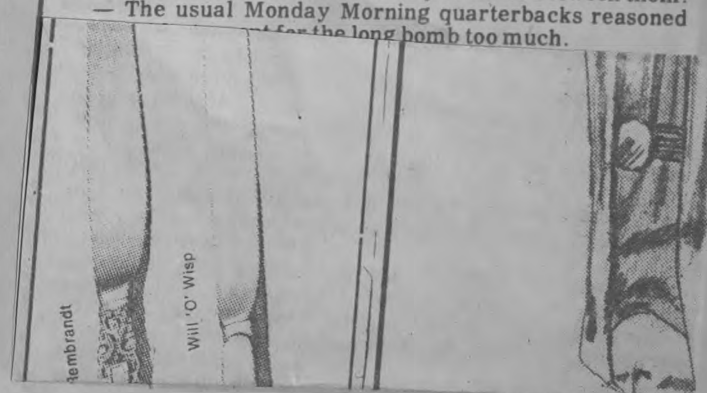
Fredrick Blair and Irvin Roe were named the top offensive players in the vote by the VHS coaching staff. The players have received plaques from the Valdosta Civitan Club.

The Civitan Club has also presented trophies to local players who finished first in Region 1-AAAA statistical categories during the year. Pass receiving leader Steve Player at Lowndes, passing leader John Lastinger at Valdosta and punt return leader Troy Thomas at Valdosta received the trophies.

# Memories Of The Great Tie

By MIKE CHASON

Memories of the state championship game:  
— The closer to game time it got Saturday night, the wider the point spread became in the minds of Valdosta fans between their Wildcats and the Griffin Bears. At least one guy figured it would be almost as bad as Valdosta's 62-12 rout of Avondale in the last state championship game at Cleveland Field.  
— It didn't turn out like that at all.  
— The only thing good about the weather at the game was that the rain stopped.  
— No, it wasn't as cold as it was in Athens last year for the 1977 title game...but it was moving in that direction.  
— With Griffin wearing yellow jerseys, what a psychological effect (ala Notre Dame and last year and Auburn this year) if Valdosta had come out in its black shirts. Now that would have been a psycheout.  
— The brown bear who was dancing around as Griffin's mascot looked like the same animal Mercer's Teddy Bears had as their mascot when they came to Blazer Fieldhouse two years ago for a women's basketball game. He either switched loyalties or he's part of a rent-a-bear service.  
— Griffin fans must have spent all week plastering "Back The Bears" on their cars. Brookwood Plaza might have gone into hibernation with all the Bear cars in it.  
— Lloyd Bohannon took half of the state championship pie in his very first year as a head coach. The 35-year-old Griffin mentor is reported to have turned down a dozen head coaching jobs in his 12 years as an assistant. He said he took the Griffin job because it seemed like the "right one."  
— It was.  
— The Valdosta cheerleaders and flag corps, particularly the flag corps, should have gotten purple hearts for standing out in the icy breeze before the game. Instead they got frostbitten knees. What ever happened to those capes they used to have?  
— Nick Hyder said afterwards he thought the wind might have had some effect on the game. For those who didn't think it was blowing that hard, they obviously didn't see the white and black VHS flags almost being ripped off their standards or the balloons carried away instantly when the cheerleaders let them out of their bags before the game.  
— Griffin's cheerleaders had their own bout with Old Man Winter's frosty breath when their "Shock The Wildcats" sign was blown into two pieces before the Bears even had a chance to run through it and break it.  
— They ran through it anyway.  
— About halftime, I came to the realization that if you don't shiver, it doesn't seem quite as cold. But you shiver because it's cold in the first place. There's some logic in there. Ask my wife, she explained it to me.  
— How can folks drink cold Cokes from the bottle on a 45-degree night with a stiff breeze turning everybody's breath to white smoke? Jack Rudolph finished off one right before kickoff, and Carlton Adams sipped on one through the halftime band show.  
— I hope Griffin's band realized the Valdosta fans were booing the departing zebras at the half instead of their march on the field.  
— Booing the zebras became the thing to do after the half and after the game.  
— Wally Wetherbee's first half field goal looked good from the pressbox. The officials ruled otherwise after a lengthy delay. On the other hand, Wetherbee's extra point kick after the Griffin touchdown looked like it was off the right. So much for calling the shots from the pressbox.  
— Between the two of them, Ellis Clary and Dynamite Goodloe must have enough stories to re-write Aesop's Fables. They were paired together on the Valdosta sideline as they have been for all the playoff games. They looked like two partridges in a pear tree.  
— The pass that Fredrick Blair dropped had touchdown autographed on its side.  
The Griffin quarterback never went on a quick snap count. It always seemed like there was a slight hesitation on the part of his offensive line because of that.  
— Nobody had shut off Valdosta's running game like the Bears did. The 'Cats got only 47 yards rushing and 71 yards passing. The "double dynamite" due of Ernest King and Irvin Roe carried the ball only 15 times between them.  
— The usual Monday Morning quarterbacks reasoned



Chastain made the best of a real poor situation that was... attempt which was wide... the... straight down... some guy really hit me on... then use... straight and... the... Evans, the Valdosta defense... shut down the... The play to which Gordon...

# Wildcat Dream Ended Saturday

For 14 straight games, Valdosta's Wildcats followed the Yellow Brick Road. On the night of the 15th, the Wicked Witch of the North came down and tied Dorothy, Toto and all the gang.

Everything just seemed to be going so perfect. Here you had Valdosta, rated number one in the state for 13 consecutive weeks and the proud owner of a magnificent 14-0 record.

Across the field were Griffin's Bears, 12-2 on the year and rated a Cinderella team at best. Nobody even expected the Bears to be in the state championship. They were supposed to lose to Lakeside last week. But even after they beat Lakeside, they were supposed to lose big to Valdosta's best football team since 1971 on a cold Saturday night at "Death Valley."

But they didn't. They didn't win but they certainly didn't lose.

"We're happy as hell to be co-champions in Class AAAA," Griffin Coach Lloyd Bohannon said after Saturday night's 7-7 tie.

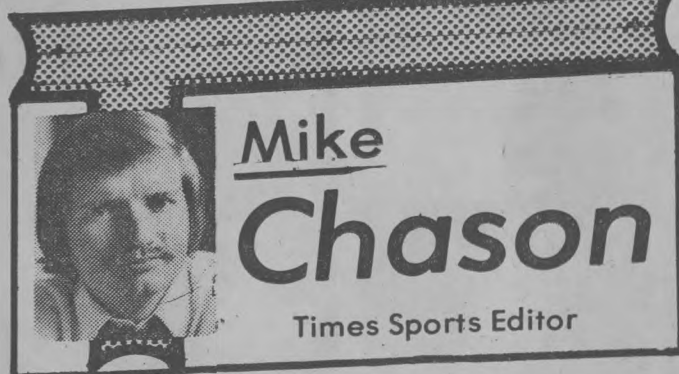
Bohannon jumped around like a kid with a new toy. He had a right to be happy. His team was 1-2 at one point during the season. Then it won 11 straight games and tied a team some thought untieable and unbeatable. The 35-year-old head coach did it with his very first football team. He served 12 years as an assistant coach.

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder stood out in the middle of Cleveland Field much more relaxed and a lot warmer than he was a year ago when his team lost to Clarke Central in Athens. For only the fourth time in an 11-year head coaching career, one of Hyder's teams had been tied. Before taking the Wildcats to their second state championship game in two years, he had never had one of his Valdosta teams to tie. Hyder's overall record is 101-25-4 and his five-year Valdosta record is 48-13-1.

But none of that was on the 42-year-old Tennessean's mind Saturday night.

"As advertised, they had the speed," Hyder said. "Our defense had to keep on going back out there. We've never faced that kind of speed before."

The Bears were quick and surprisingly big. Bohannon had said no member of his defense weighed over 200 pounds. He either hasn't taken out his scales lately or a couple of those



guys were hollow like chocolate bunnies at Easter. Griffin showed confidence in its running game right from the start. On fourth-and-inches on their own 30-yard line, the Bears went for the first down on their opening possession. Their faith was justified. Quarterback Jeff Ector sneaked for the first down.

But then came a fumble, and it looked like business as usual for the 'Cats. Valdosta recovered 17 fumbles from its opposition this season. Nine of those came in the playoffs.

Hitting the short passes which have worked well all year, John Bond directed his team to the 10-yard line where he lit the fuse to his "double dynamite" package of Irvin Roe and Ernest King. Bond finally punched it in himself from 8 inches away.

So, five minutes and 39 seconds into the game and Valdosta already had a score. A lot of those bundles on the home side of the field with the black and gold pom-poms sticking out of their overcoats had to already be chalking Griffin up as number 15.

But Valdosta never scored again.

In fact, the Wildcats never even threatened to move into scoring position again. When Fredrick Blair dropped Bond's long range floater, that might have eventually resulted in six points but with the kind of season Blair has had, nobody's putting black marks against his name for dropping one pass.

The one he caught against Thomasville in the region championship game makes up for a double handful of drops.

The call-back of Roe's punt return was certainly a key play but not one that Hyder or defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph dwelt on after the game. Just like everybody else, I was looking at Roe and not at what was going on behind him. Roe was returning punts because Troy Thomas couldn't perform that task with his severely sprained ankle.

"He (Thomas) told me he wanted to go back in and play defense," Rudolph said. "But he said he didn't think he could continue to return punts. He showed a lot of courage. It had to be hurting."

Valdosta turnovers undoubtedly played a part in why the 'Cats didn't wrap up the championship outright. Bond threw three interceptions and lost two fumbles. Ironically, he didn't throw a single interception against Westside or Benedictine.

However, Bond didn't face the rush in either of those games that he encountered Saturday night. The 6-foot-4 junior was sacked three times. In the second half, the Griffin defense really started unloading on him.

"The bad breaks just hurt us," Bond said. "I'm not making excuses, because they were tough. They must have had some good scouts because they knew what we were going to do."

For the first time all season, Valdosta did exchange films with another team. Hyder said it was only because Georgia High School Association Executive Secretary Bill Fordham said it was in the rules. Hyder said it was not in the rule book and said Fordham then said it would be in there next year.

The end result was that Valdosta sent Griffin two game films and Griffin sent Valdosta two game films.

Maybe, as Bond said, the Bears did their job in scouting VHS. The Valdosta offense looked about the same as it did all season except for the turnovers. During the regular season, the 'Cats lost but four fumbles. During the five playoff games, they lost eight.

Griffin drove 46 yards in eight plays for its fourth score. An Ector pass was the key play, proving again that you can't depend strictly on the run to beat (or tie in this case) Valdosta.

On this night, a tie seemed plenty for the Griffin folks. For the Valdostans, it was not nearly enough.

## Valdosta Touchdown Club Awards Banquet Tonight

From Staff, Wire Reports  
The annual Valdosta Touchdown Club football awards banquet is to be held at 7 p.m. tonight at Valdosta High School.

South Carolina Coach Jim Carlen is to be the guest speaker at the annual affair, which is to honor the 1978 VHS football team.

Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats rolled up a 14-0-1 record and claimed a share of the Class AAAA state title after tying Griffin's Bears in the final game.

Valdosta Touchdown Club members are to be admitted free to the banquet at the VHS cafeteria.

### For Tonight's Game

## Surprises Left In VHS Offense

By Times Staff Writer  
Valdosta High School offensive coordinator and play-caller Butch Brooks says there are still a few surprises left in the Wildcat grab-bag.

"We've got two or three little things in store that we haven't used this year," Brooks said as he and Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder outlined the offensive patterns for tonight's state championship game against Griffin.

"We've got two or three sets we haven't used. We've worked on them all year long. We just never had an opportunity in the ballgame to use them."

"You're liable to see a little bit of it all. We'll probably have to use everything to get by. Griffin is very tough defensively. I just hope we're capable of putting something on the board."

Valdosta averaged 33.5 points a game this year en route to a 14-0 season. The VHS offense was never held to less than two touchdowns and scored less than 20 points only in two wins over Thomasville.

A veteran Valdosta offensive line has made things a lot easier for junior running backs Irvin Roe and Ernest King.

"I've been here seven years, and I would say it's the best offensive line since I've seen here," Brooks said.

"We've had some great athletes on the offensive line but from tight end right on through tackle, this is the best one."

Sam Fletcher is the number one tight end and lines up alongside tackles Scott Griffin, Harvey Carter and Darrell Swindle, guards Andy Chapman, Billy Harvey and Bubba Hardin and center Tony Blasetti.

Griffin, Chapman and Blasetti were all members of the Region 1-AAAA all-star squad.

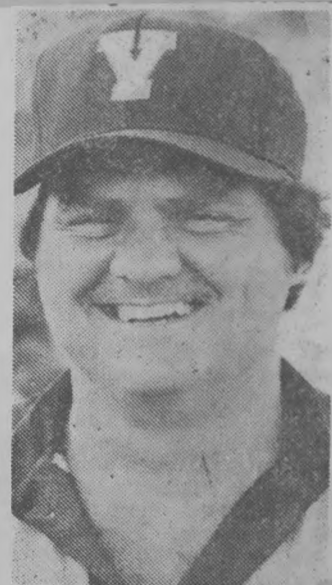
The Valdosta backfield took a jolt in the first round of the playoffs when senior quarterback John Lastinger, named the 1-AAAA Offensive Player of the Year, was sidelined for the rest of the season with a shoulder separation.

Junior John Bond entered the game, scored three touchdowns and helped direct Valdosta to a 52-0 trouncing of Westside (Augusta).

Bond also ran for three scores, including a nifty 48-yarder, in last week's 23-0 win over Benedictine (Savannah), which gave VHS its second straight South Georgia Championship.

The 6-foot-4, 180-pounder did receive a bruised back in the game but is listed as tonight's probable starter.

"He's a little sore," Brooks said. "I think he's going to be all right. Once you get into



the heat of battle, you forget about those things.

"John has a great responsibility there. He's worked at quarterback all year but this is the first time he's had to go fulltime all the way."

"The biggest responsibility John feels is that we don't have a regular quarterback as such after him."

Hyder is proud of the way his teammates have rallied around Bond.

"His teammates have responded to him," Hyder said. "Sometimes there is a jealousy or a rejection but it didn't happen."

"Your quarterback has to be the calmest person around. He's the guy that has to set the fuse on your dynamite. He can't be a cheerleader. He's got to carry that glycerin for you."

# Region Champs ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ It's VHS Vs. Westside In State Playoffs

By MIKE CHASON

THOMASVILLE — Rodney Gordon re-wrote "The Agony and the Ecstasy" Friday night. But instead of penning his thoughts to paper, he lived through the all-time classic on a high school football field moistened by the tears of both losers and winners. Gordon came up a winner. Burned for a Thomasville touchdown over his head in the second quarter, the

YARDSTICK

First Downs	19	11
Yards Rushing	237	150
Yards Passing	68	91
Passes	6-13	5-11
Passes Inct. By	2	2
Fumbles Lost	2-36.5	5-34.0
Punting	5-45	1-15
Penalties		

Valdosta cornerback thwarted all hopes of a Bulldog triumph with a clutch interception in the closing seconds. Gordon's effort closed the book on a 12-7 Valdosta victory in a game which should rank near the top in excitement, chills and thrills in a rivalry which began in 1914. It was the visiting Wildcats' 43rd win against 15 losses and five ties against Thomasville and sent VHS into the Region 1-AAAA (formerly AAA) throneroom for the second straight year. Valdosta now hosts Westside's 10-0 Patriots from Augusta Friday night in the first round of the Class AAAA state playoffs. Westside won the Region 4-AAAA regular season title without any kind of playoff.

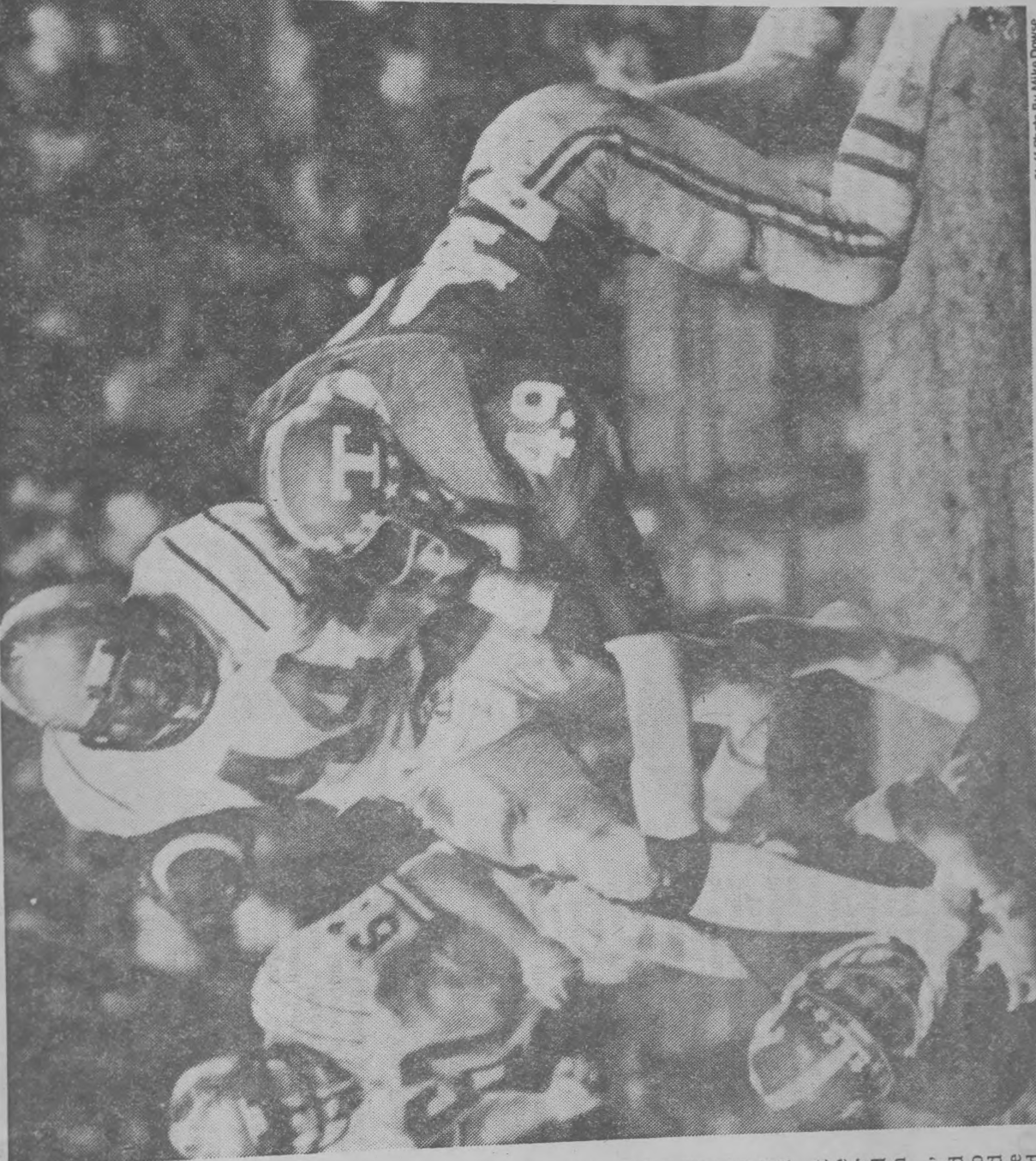
It took the Wildcats' 12 games to chalk up their third league crown since Nick Hyder took over as coach in 1974. They did it in an undefeated fashion not heard from since Wright Bazemore's 1971 VHS team. The prime-time actors in a drama which unfolded in a short two hours on the Veterans Memorial Stadium turf were numerous. But Gordon was certainly standing among them. "I wanted that one bad," Gordon said of his interception of a Johnny Chastain pass with 25 seconds left in the game. "I knew I had to make up for that other one." The play to which Gordon referred occurred in the

Chastain rolled left, scanned his receivers and spotted 6-foot, 4-inch tight end Guy McIntyre standing alone behind the Valdosta secondary.

The junior signal-caller laid the ball in McIntyre's hands, and the hometown fans in the crowd of 9,000 let out a Bulldog-sized bellow when the receiver completed his duties on the 41-yard scoring strike.

Calvin Wheeler kicked the extra point with 22 seconds to go in the second quarter to give Thomasville a 7-6 lead and put the 'Cats behind for only the second time all season. Valdosta also trailed Crisp County (Cordele) early in the campaign. "I was just so conscious of the run, I got sucked up," Gordon said. "I felt really bad. I thought 'oh no.' I just felt like...man it was a bad feeling."

"I knew we had just gotten beat," VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "That happens sometimes. But I told Rodney at halftime that you can make a mistake and then keep on trying and things will reverse themselves." Rudolph's assessment proved all too true for the Bulldogs, who wound up their season with a 9-3 record and dropped their seventh straight game to Valdosta. Judging by the Wildcats' first drive, the game would have turned out to be no contest. That 9-play, 56-yard scoring march took three minutes and 16 seconds and culminated with a 17-yard John Lastinger to Fredrick Blair touchdown pass with 6:18 showing on the first quarter clock. Blair made a sensational grab on the play, extending the number 19 on his back to its fullest with a head-long dive into the end zone and catching the ball on his fingertips. David Reeves' extra point kick was wide to the left. Led by eight tackles by Lynn Roberts, seven by John Branan and six by Kenny Evans, the Valdosta defense shut down Thomasville.



—Times Staff Photo By Mike Dowse

## Wildcats' Ernest King Tries To Escape The Grasp Of Bulldogs' Charles Bates

together its only real drive of the first half down to the VHS 16-yard line only to have it stopped by a fumble. Lastinger again pointed the 'Cats goalward. On a key third-down play, he ran right past a solid wall of red Bulldog jerseys for a first down 19 yards downfield. The senior quarterback took the punishment for it out of gas tonight. It would have been bad to win 11 straight and then lose to them.

That gave Valdosta a chance to launch another 35-yard march which appeared to be headed for 6-point country until Scott Horton picked off a Lastinger pass. "We're still not playing good football like we used to," Lastinger said. "I thought we were going to run out of gas tonight. It would have been bad to win 11 straight and then lose to them. Thomasville had put

the rest of the game. I kept putting ice on it. But Thomasville, which was led by eight tackles by Horton and seven by Calvin Wheeler, held on fourth down on the drive. Nothing changed about the VHS defense. Thomasville stalled again. When VHS got the ball back, Irvin Roe rolled out for a halfback pass, saw he was trapped and threw the ball straight down into the

calling intentional grounding, the official ruled the play a fumble after Thomasville's Oscar Morris recovered. Then came the Chastain-to-McIntyre episode. But Ernest King almost got it right back for Valdosta when he zipped 64 yards with the resulting kickoff with 11 ticks still on the clock. Lastinger threw one incompletion and Reeves came for a 40-yard field goal attempt which was wide. "I should have utilized my timeout and selected a better play," Hughes said. "John Chastain made the best of a real poor situation. That was

turned the tide in its favor forever when it took the second half kickoff and rolled down to the Valdosta 18-yard line, spurred by the efforts of Johnny Kavouklis, who had 77 yards in 14 carries and Cary Clark, who had 65 yards in 17 trips.

But the Bulldogs didn't get six out of it. Instead, Chastain missed on a fourth down pass which might have drawn an interference call against Valdosta's Carl Roe in the end zone but didn't. The zebras might have evened things up.

Turnovers were to be the tune of the night and the Bulldogs sang that song on their next possession when Clark coughed up the ball on his own 24-yard line. Clifford Johnson recovered, and Roe burrowed under the Thomasville defense four plays later on an 8-yard run with 2:20 to play in the third quarter. Lastinger tried to pass for the two-point conversion but couldn't find a target.

Running behind a Valdosta offensive line which Lastinger singled out as doing a "great job," Roe piled up 103 yards in 19 carries. He and King, who had 72 yards in 15 trips, had jerseys so dirty a Tide-mobile wouldn't touch 'em when the game ended.

King fumbled four yards from the goal line early in the fourth quarter to wipe out another possible six points from the region's third-leading scorer this year. With 8:17 to play, the Bulldogs then initiated a drive which most folks felt would be their last. It was one of those now-or-never, do-or-die deals.

Thomasville Coach Jim Hughes shuffled his cards and lost on a fourth down-and-two gamble at the Valdosta 47-yard line. Chastain came up six inches short on the run. "I should have utilized my timeout and selected a better play," Hughes said. "John Chastain made the best of a real poor situation. That was

not the play we should have run under those circumstances." As Hughes clenched his teeth, Rudolph unloosened the knot in his throat a bit.

"If they would have gotten that first down, Old Mo would have moved into town," Rudolph said. "That play and the fumble we got and scored on had to be the two turning points of the game."

"We expected Kavouklis to carry it but Troy (Thomas) just made a good stop on Chastain. I didn't know if he intended to carry the ball all the way or not."

Roe and King seemed to get new life on Valdosta's final time-consuming drive. With the offensive line opening holes with a renewed vigor, Valdosta's potent package of "double dynamite" kept hammering away at the enemy defense. "We wanted to keep the ball as long as we could and get it as far as we could," Lastinger said.

The Bulldogs did get the ball back with 1:05 on the clock 87 yards from the game-winner when Lastinger's dive for a first down was short. "You always have hope," Hughes said. "But we were out of timeouts. That takes you out of your offense." So does a Rodney Gordon interception.

Score by Quarters:

Valdosta	6	0	6	0-12
Thomasville	0	0	0	0-7

Scoring  
Val—Blair 17 pass from Lastinger (Kick failed)  
Tho—McIntyre 41 pass from Chastain (C. Wheeler kick)  
Val—1. Roe 8 run (pass failed)

STATISTICS  
INDIVIDUAL

Rushing: Valdosta—1. Roe 19, 103. King 15, 72. Lastinger 13, 44. Gaskin 3, 16. Blair 1, 1. Johnson 1, 1. Thomasville—Kavouklis 14, 77. Clark 17, 65. Chastain 5, 64. R. Wheeler 1, 12.  
Passing: Valdosta—Lastinger 6, 131, 66. Thomasville—Chastain 5, 11, 19.  
Pass receiving: Valdosta—Blair 4, 50. 1. Roe 1, 9. King 1, 7. Thomasville—McIntyre 2, 50. Clark 2, 24. Duncanson 1, 10. Thomasville—Kavouklis 1, 15. Kicker Returns: Valdosta—King 1, 44. Kicker Returns: Valdosta—King 1, 44. Thomasville—R. Wheeler 1, 15. Clark 2, 36. Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta—Roberts 8, Branan 7, Evans 6, Caesar 4, Gordon 4, Clifford Johnson 4, Thomas 2, Carlier 3, Roe 2, Johnson 2, Horton 8, C. Wheeler 7, Morris 6, Wilson 5, Walker 4, Mash 4, Strickland 4, Clay 3, Howell 3, Bates 3, Macklin 2, Arrington 2. Interception Returns: Valdosta—Gordon 1, 0. Thomasville—Horton 1, 2.

# VHS-Westside To Test Playoff System?

Valdosta has played 12 high school football games to qualify for the right to play in the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs. Westside played only 10 games to gain the right to play in the same game.

Will that fact make a difference when the Wildcats line up against the Patriots from Augusta on the Cleveland Field turf tonight at 8 p.m.?

"I think at this point in the season the rest favors them," Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder said earlier this week. "Early in the season, it's probably best to go ahead and play it straight through. But at this point, the rest would have helped us."

"We did profit financially but I'd gladly swap every dime we made to get rid of these bruises. I think the possibility of playing 14 games in a season is enough. It hit just about right last year for us. I think the possibility of 15 is a lot of aches and pains."

Westside Coach Coley Cassedy doesn't see his team having a distinct advantage by laying off for the past two weeks.

"I don't know if the rest factor will make a difference or not," Cassedy said. "We're used to playing every week during the season. The only advantage is that we got to see them play."

Region 1-AAAA went to a 4-team playoff system this season for the first time ever. Last year, the 12-team league divided into two subregions and the two champions met for the region title. This year the runners-up in each subregion got another shot at winning the whole shooting match in the playoffs.

Two years ago, the team with the best regular season record was declared the champion. That's the system Valdosta football fans would have favored this season since the Wildcats whipped every league contender during the regular season en route to a 10-0 record.

"I voted against the four-team system, and I'd do it again," Hyder said. "By virtue of their 10-0 record, Westside was the region champion. We were 10-0 and it qualified us to play two more games. A good test for this system is going to be Friday night."

Valdosta offensive coordinator Butch Brooks made his feelings clear on the subject after VHS escaped with a grueling 12-7 victory over Thomasville last week for the 1-AAAA title.

"I think it's ridiculous that a team goes 10-0 and everybody still gets another shot at them," the Wildcats' play-caller said.



**Mike  
Chason**

Times Sports Editor

The real reason the playoff system has been cussed and discussed so much this season is Valdosta's unblemished record. Wildcat fans rightly believe their team proved itself one time and did it in a fashion not known in this region since Thomasville rolled through the regular season and the playoffs unbeaten in 1973.

However, long before Valdosta even played a game, many fans questioned whether putting four teams in the playoffs was a good idea. There were some Lowndes' fans in that number even though it meant their team got a second chance to beat Valdosta and gave both schools an extra financial bonanza.

Most folks, myself included, do seem to go along with the subregion winners knocking heads but figure that allowing a second place finisher in a subregion a shot at the region championship is too much of a good thing. Again, this isn't just the opinion of those people with the "Wildcat Power" stickers on their bumpers. Some of that "This Is Viking Country" crowd and faded memories of "LHS 7, VHS 2" is mixed in there.

However, the region playoff system may be the coming thing. Formerly an oddity, at least half the regions in Classes AAAA and AAA used some form of it this year. If Westside had

not gone undefeated, it would have had to play the second place regular season finisher for the 4-AAAA championship.

It's all up to the league coaches when they have their next meeting. Will it be a six-team playoff next year? Will it drop back to two? Stay tuned.

Last week's record was 2-0 for an overall total of 166-44, a 79 percent rating.

## WESTSIDE AT VALDOSTA

Once upon a time eight years ago, Coley Cassedy figured out a way to beat Valdosta. If he can do it again tonight, they ought to crown him czar of Augusta or pope or something. The Westside coach says his team comes into tonight's game injury-free. That might go back to the two weeks rest the Patriots have had since gift-wrapping their region championship.

But Cassedy admits his team is small. He says he has two good runners but nobody to open consistent holes for them. Tonight, we can all find out whether Cassedy's opinion is realism or pessimism.

As for Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, he says Westside is capable of pulling off a victory between the "Death Valley" walls tonight. But he also says he doesn't remember a better tandem of running backs than Irvin Roe and Ernest King or a better offensive line than Andy Chapman, Tony Blasetti, Scott Griffin, Harvey Carter, Billy Harvey, Bubba Hardin and Sam Fletcher.

That last observation may be the clincher. With the King-Roe package of "double dynamite" exploding behind that talented of an offensive line, some sixes are bound to start popping up on the board.

With Hyder's stingiest defense in five years to hold back a Patriot offense which only averaged 18.5 points a game, it looks like win number 13 on the VHS ledger. The guess here is 28-7, Valdosta.

## HAMILTON AT WEST NASSAU

Coy Whitener planned to get his Hamilton County Trojans in the state playoffs this season but he didn't plan to do it with a 4-6 season record and a vote of the league coaches.

But that's the way it happened. Hamilton is either going to pull the upset of the century tonight or the Trojans are going to end a rather strange year on a losing note. I'm not one to buck the odds. West Nassau, 24-12.



## Ticket Time

The line formed early and grew long this morning at the Old Valdosta High School band room on Slater as tickets went on sale for the quarter-final AAAA football playoff game between VHS and Westside of Augusta Friday night at Cleveland Field. Season ticket holders could purchase

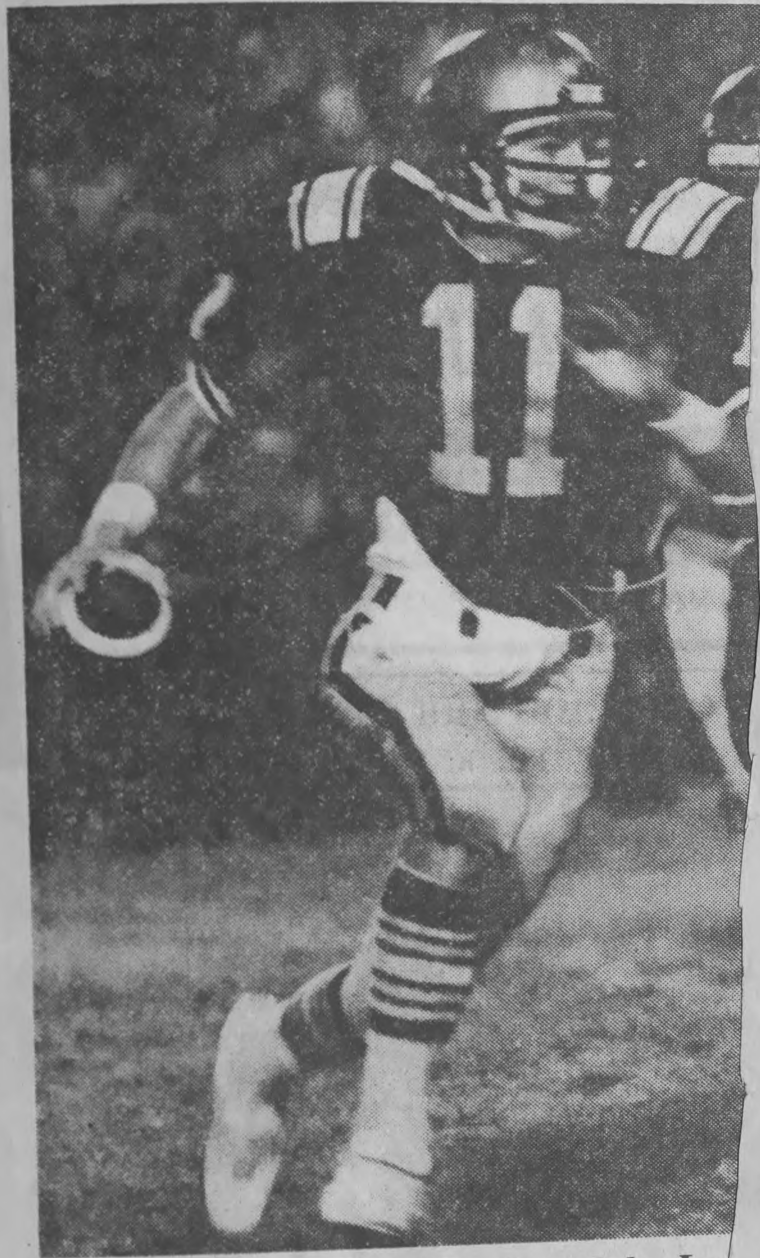
their tickets up until 6 p.m. today and from 9 a.m.-Noon Wednesday at the band room. Leftover tickets are to go on sale Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Barnes Drug Store in Brookwood Plaza.—Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III



**TONY BLASETTI**  
All-Region Center



**RONNIE ADKINS**  
All-Region Linebacker



*Offensive Player Of The Year John Lastinger*

# Hyder-Lastinger

By MIKE CHASON  
No good football team survives without quality players and sound coaching. As evidenced by the 1978 Region 1-AAAA all-star selections, Valdosta High School has a solid mixture of both.

Senior quarterback John Lastinger of Valdosta was named Offensive Player of the Year, and senior cornerback Troy Thomas of Valdosta was selected Defensive Player of the Year in the balloting released today by the sportswriters who cover the 12 league schools.

And for the second time in his five seasons as the Wildcat head coach, Nick Hyder was named Coach of the Year. Hyder also received the honor in 1975 when his team captured the region championship after going 3-7 the year before.

Hyder, a unanimous selection, has guided team to a 12-0 record and league title this year. Wildcats host West tonight in the quarter round of the state playoffs.

"I'm just proud to be a part of it," Hyder said. "There's just so many people involved in our program. I can't take the credit call on these coaches early in the morning, and they just do a great job."

Hyder then named off varsity assistants Jack Rudolph, Charles Tarpley, Butch Brooks, Bob Bolton, Jerry Baker and Freddy Waters. He also included ninth grade coaches Norman Sainz and Roger Rome, trainer Jim Burroughs, scout Larry Cowart and Valdosta Junior High coaches David Johnson, Curtis Williams, Mike Spear and Van Wilson.

Southeastern Conference schools and visited Sunday by Alabama's Bear Bryant. Lastinger finished 16th overall in the rushing stats with 419 yards on 75 carries.

Thomas handled his position with the ease of a master violinist pulling on his bow. Against Tift County (Tifton), the 168-pounder snagged two interceptions to

On the second team, Valdosta placed senior wide receiver Fredrick Blair and senior punter Rodney Gordon.

Lowndes had four first team picks including senior linebacker Ronnie Adkins, last year's Defensive Player of the Year, junior noseguard

## DOWNTOWN VALDOSTA'S AFTER Thanksgiving SALE



Sale Ends Mon.

# Ladies Shoes

Fall Styles and wood bottoms, Poly bottoms, high heels, low heels, Pumps, Sandals, Wedges. Leather, Suedes in Fall colors of tan, brown, rust. Spice, black, garnett.

**\$10.88**

Values to \$29.

**\$18.88**

Orig. to \$31.

### Entire Stock of Boots Reduced!!

Leather, Suede, Pant Boots, and Knee-hi Boots in black, brown, wine and camel. By Naturalizer, Giovanni, Life Stride, Personality, Hush Puppies.

**20% OFF**

Reg. Price

Reg.

Now

\$55.

\$44.

\$50.

\$40.

\$40.

\$32.

\$38.

\$30.40

DOWNTOWN  
114-116 N. PATTERSON STREET

## Patterson Jones SHOES

... FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

## DOWNTOWN VALDOSTA'S AFTER Thanksgiving SALE

TODAY, SATURDAY AND MONDAY

Super special on

### MEN'S DRESS SHOES

Lace up or Loafer Styles

Regular \$35.00 to \$50.00

SALE **\$19.99 to \$34.99**

Entire Stock

### LADIES FALL SHOES

Regular \$24.00 to \$44.00

SALE **\$19.99 to \$38.99**

One group

### LADIES BOOTS

Regular heel or wedge style

Regular \$35.00 pair

SALE **\$21.99**

Olson H. Luke

G  
Wes  
aut  
nish  
you'  
hom

SAL  
Mond  
These  
regula  
saving  
the m  
Tuesd  
Luke's

IN MEMORY OF

### Scores 3 Touchdowns

# Bond Shook Off Stinging Blow

By Times Staff Writer  
 As John Bond slowly lifted himself off the still green Cleveland Field grass, the Valdosta High School fans in attendance at Friday night's

Class AAAA South Georgia Championship game started joggling their memories for the name of the third team Wildcat quarterback.  
 Last week, they watched in

horror as senior quarterback John Lastinger, this year's Region 1-AAAA Offensive Player of the Year, walked off the field with a dislocated shoulder.

Bond came in and orchestrated a 52-0 washout of Westside in the Class AAAA quarterfinal contest.  
 But with 9:20 left in the second quarter and Valdosta leading 14-0, Bond looked about to take to the sideline never to return against Benedictine here Friday night.

After hitting tight end Sam Fletcher with a 4-yard pass, Bond was hit hard by a Cadet defender. He was slow getting up and then walked around trying to shake off what was obviously a stinging blow.

Finally, he nodded his head toward the VHS coaches and returned to the huddle. By the time he brought his team up to the line of scrimmage, a delay of game penalty was called.

Then Valdosta ordered a timeout so the 6-foot-4 junior could regain his bearings.

"I got hit in the back," Bond explained in the dressing room later. "I mean he really stuck me to. All of them could stick you pretty good."

Bond had already ran for touchdowns of 3 and 48 yards and still had a 1-yard scoring scamper ahead of him in the third period. Needless to say, he stayed in the game, and VHS took a 23-0 victory.

The 48-yard dash to paydirt as time ran out in the first quarter was one nobody really expected Bond to complete. He ran right through the gut of the Benedictine defense, escaped the grasp of four tacklers and ran right by three others.

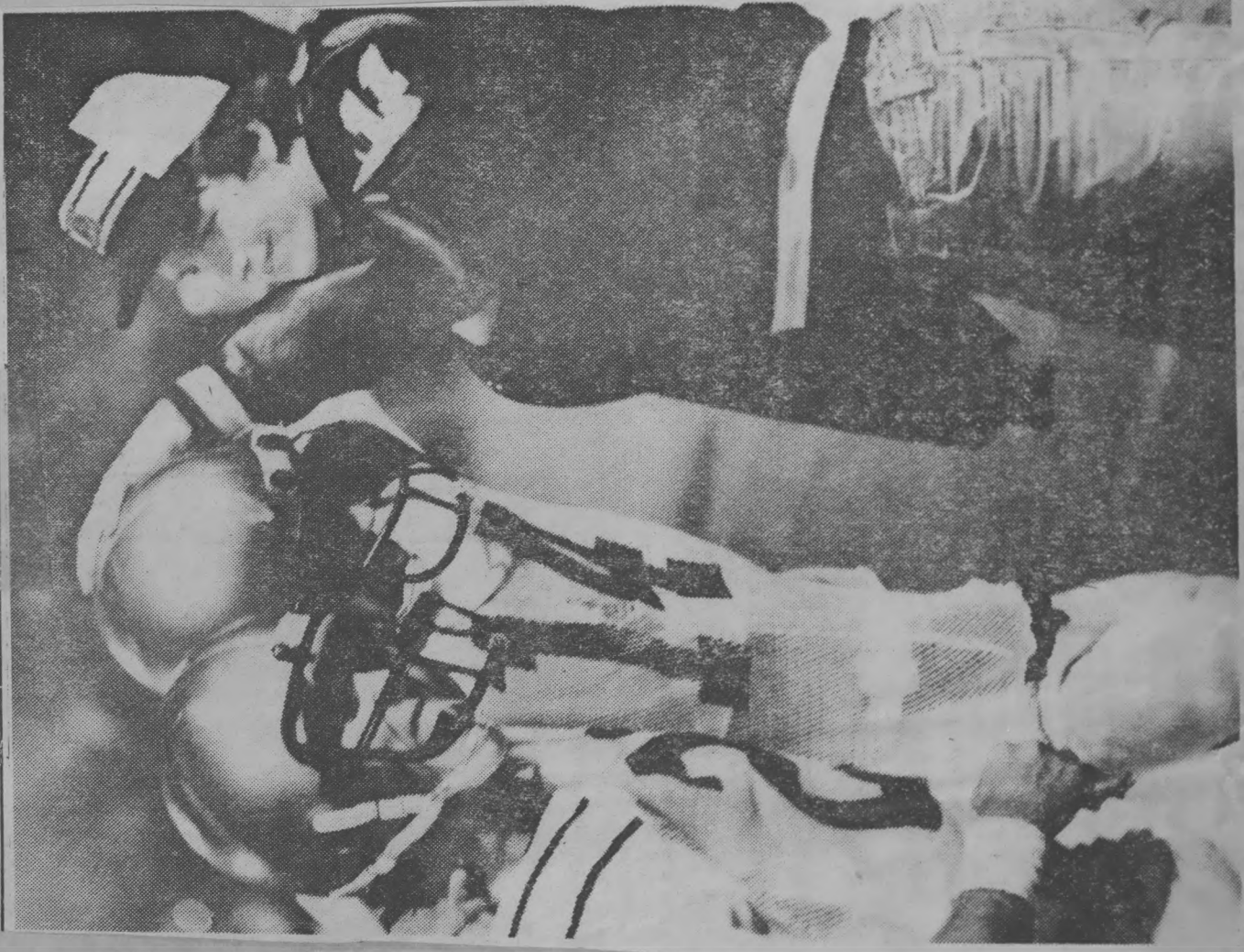
"I needed a long run," Bond said. "I had to get something started."  
 With the protection of an offensive line which featured three members, Scott Griffin, Tony Blasetti and Andy Chapman, on the all-Region 1-AAAA squad, Bond did get something started.

He has quickly established himself as a worthy successor to the position of Lastinger, and Friday night was the first time he had ever started a varsity game at quarterback.

"Bond's got some equipment few people have," VHS Coach Nick Hyder said. "He's six-four."

"The only difference between Bond and Lastinger is that one of them drives a later model car than the other one," Valdosta offensive coordinator and play-caller Butch Brooks said with a grin.

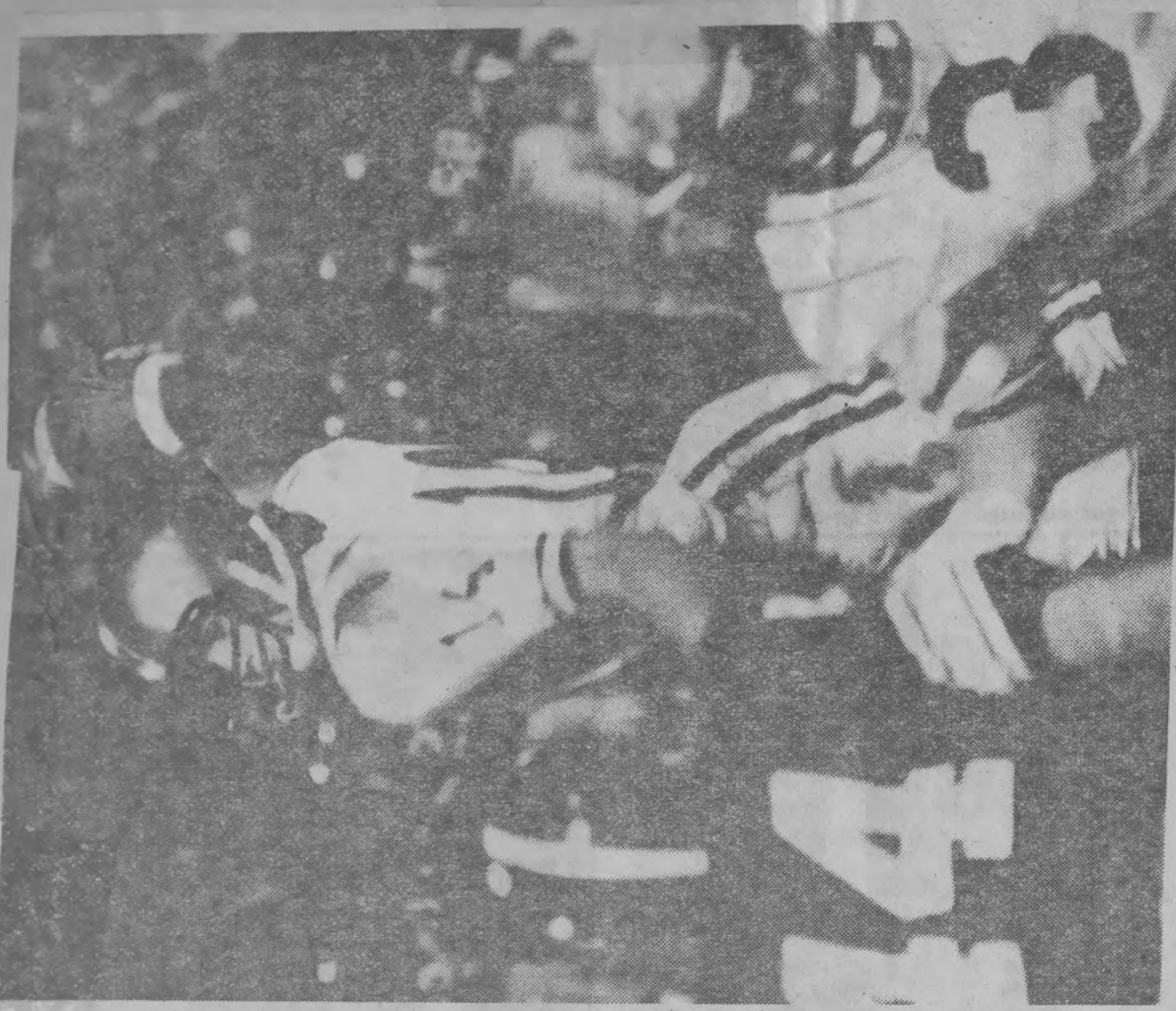
"John did a good job," Lastinger, who spent the game on the sideline in a black Valdosta letterman's jacket and gold VHS cap, said. "All of them did."



### From Past To Present

Valdosta High School senior quarterback John Lastinger, right, gives a congratulatory head slap to junior signal-caller John Bond during Friday night's Class AAAA South Georgia Championship Game. Lastinger was the starting VHS quarterback until he had a shoulder separation against

Westside last week. Bond was forced to take over the quarterback duties and has scored three touchdowns in both state playoff games. Valdosta defeated Benedictine 23-0 Friday night and now meets Griffin for the state championship.—Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III.



### VHS Quarterback John Bond Loads His Throwing Arm

—Times Staff Photo.

have some very timely tips for us concerning the family medicine cabinet.  
 HELLOISE  
 BY  
 some of your special hints. Plus, with a special section

instant type of thing. Mercer Shaw sometimes walks

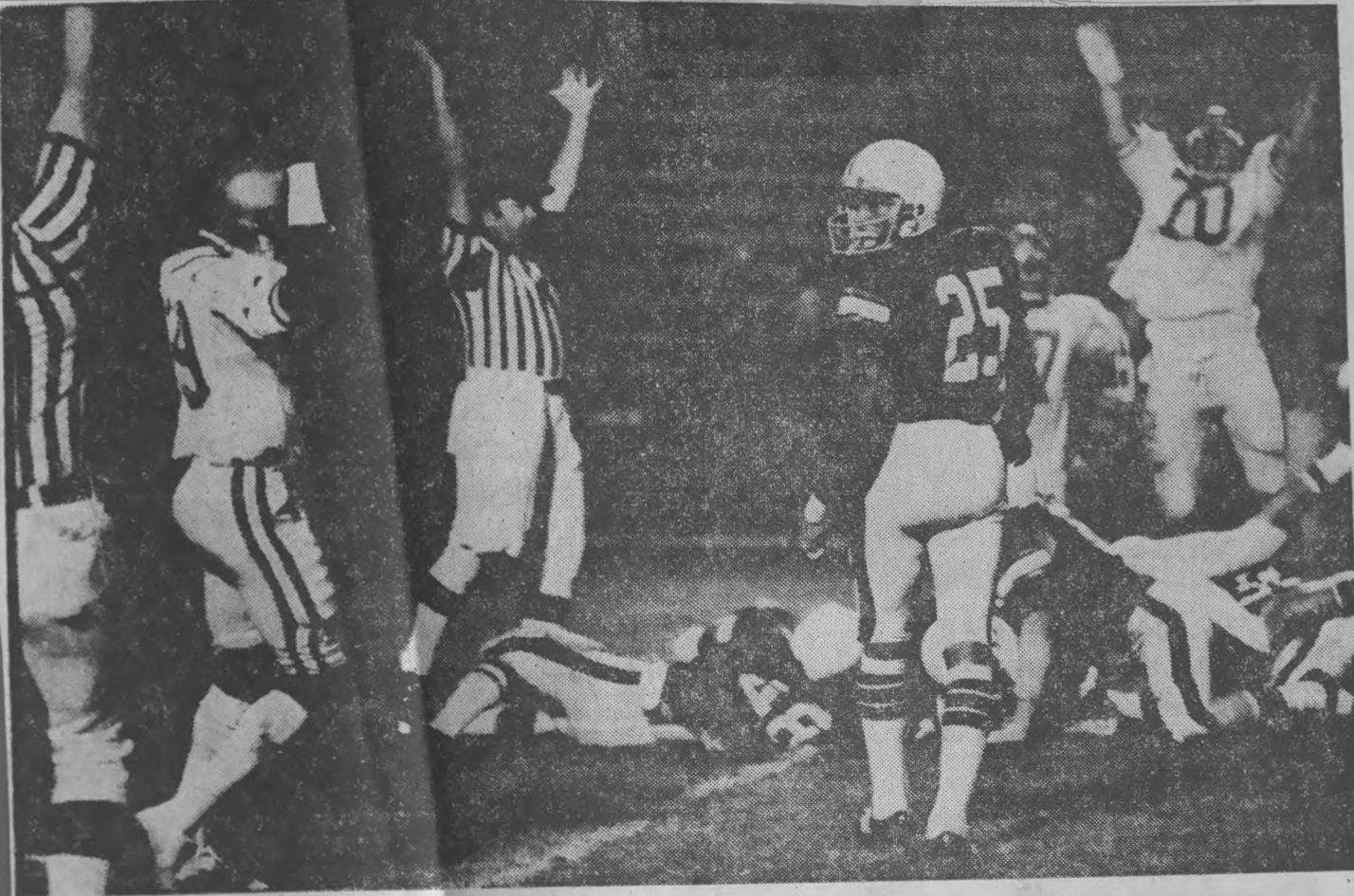
studios; director of a community theater in Oklahoma

miniature kitchen and ac-

and ac-

# Wildcats South Georgia Champs

... See Page 8



## It's Good

Augusta's Westside High School Patriot Number 25 looks about wearily after the Valdosta High School Wildcats scored yet another touchdown Friday at Cleveland Field.

This was the scene for the 1-A AAA quarter finals as the Wildcats scored 52-0. — Times Staff Photo By Robert Winter III.

## Valdosta, Westside Match Set For Cleveland Field

By The Associated Press  
Fulton, Lithonia and Cedartown will continue their prep football seasons next weekend after victories Saturday.

Derrell Pryor tossed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Wallace Cook and Lamar Whatley ran for a score as Cedartown beat Rockmart 15-0 for the Region 7AAA championship.

Fulton defeated Price 14-0, and Lithonia blanked Southwest-Atlanta 23-0 in the other games.

Cedartown, 10-0-1, had its first undefeated season since 1956, and won its second consecutive regional championship. The Bulldogs play Dalton next weekend.

Valdosta's Frederick Blair made a leaping, one-armed catch of an 18-yard John Lastinger pass to send the Wildcats on their way to a 12-

7 win over Thomasville and another 1AAAA title.

Thomasville took a 7-6 halftime lead when Guy McIntyre caught a 41-yard pass from Johnny Chastain at the goal line. The Wildcats capitalized on a Thomasville fumble on the Thomasville 24 to score their go-ahead touchdown.

Lakeside completed a double sweep of the Athens teams by edging previously undefeated Cedar Shoats 6-2 in 8AAAA. The Vikings defeated Clarke Central last weekend.

Vikings quarterback Mark Fleetwood hit split end Tom Bartik on a 47-yard pass play to put Lakeside up 6-0. Cedar Shoals' two points came on a late-game safety which Lakeside elected to give the Jaguars rather than risk a fumble on its own 3-yard line.

## Region Champs

- Class AAAA
  - Region 1—Valdosta
  - Region 2—Northside-Warner Robins
  - Region 3—Benedictine
  - Region 4—Westside
  - Region 5—Sprayberry
  - Region 6—Griffin
  - Region 7—Douglass
  - Region 8—Lakeside
- Class AAA
  - Region 1—Ware Co.
  - Region 2—Swainsboro
  - Region 3—Americus
  - Region 4—Westminster
  - Region 5—Lithonia
  - Region 6—Dalton
  - Region 7—Rockmart
  - Region 8—Gainesville
- Class AA
  - Region 1—Mitchell Co.
  - Region 2—Claxton
  - Region 3—Mary Persons
  - Region 4—Lincoln Co.
  - Region 5—North Springs
  - Region 6—Fulton
  - Region 7—East Rome
  - Region 8—Commerce
- Class A
  - Region 1—Miller Co.
  - Region 2—Charlton Co.
  - Region 3—Johnson Co.
  - Region 4—Warren Co.
  - Region 5—Hogansville
  - Region 6—Gordon Lee
  - Region 7—Feldwood
  - Region 8—Buford

## Area Basketball Roundup

## Valdosta Opens Season

By Times Staff Writer  
Valdosta opens its season at home and Lowndes hits the road in area basketball action Tuesday night.

Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens host Tift County (Tifton) in a 7 p.m. twin-bill to be played at the Valdosta Junior High School gymnasium. The high school gym floor is under repair.

Lowndes travels to Nashville, Ga., for a pair of games against Berrien. LHS's girls' team knocked off Dougherty (Albany) 91-35 Friday night, and the LHS boys dropped a 78-66 decision.

In games against Cook (Adel) Saturday night, Berrien's girls took an 80-56 decision, and Berrien's boys

hammered out an 88-50 win.

The 7 p.m. girls' game in that doubleheader matches two of the top squads in the state last year.

Coach Charles Cooper's Vikettes finished first in the Class AAA (now AAAA) ranks with a 30-0 record, and Coach Ken Weeks' Berrien girls' team was state runner-up in the Class AA (now AAA) category.

Larry Cowart makes his coaching debut in the Valdosta-Tift contests. Cowart took over both Valdosta squads this season after coaching at Irwin County (Ocilla) each of the past three seasons.

Cowart's Wildcats are to be without the services of the

school's football players who also play basketball. The VHS football team is involved in the state playoffs.

Last year, Valdosta lost five games before the football players returned to strengthen the lineup.

In other games Tuesday, it's Irwin Academy (Mystic) at Valwood, North Florida Junior College (Madison) at Jacksonville, Fla., against Edward Waters' junior varsity team, Cook at Waycross, Georgia Christian (Dasher) at Citizen's Christian (Douglas), Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) at Blackshear and Atkinson County (Pearson) at Echols County (Statenville).

# Valdosta Puts Patriots Away

By Gene Ballard  
Herald Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Valdosta scored the first six times the Wildcats had possession Friday night, including all five times in the first half, and went on to defeat Westside 52-0 in the opening round of the Georgia High School Association Class AAAA playoffs.

The Wildcats appeared invincible, at least on this one night, as they posted their highest score of the year in winning their 13th game without defeat.

"We never did dominate any aspect of the game," said Westside Coach Coley Cassidy, whose Patriots lost for the first time this season after 10 victories. "We're capable of playing a lot better, but they jumped on us and we're not a come-from-behind team."

The Wildcats drove 80 yards twice to touchdowns, had a 72-yard punt return, drove 69 yards and marched 18 yards after blocking a punt to take a 35-0 halftime lead.

"That's one thing about it," said Cassidy. "Everytime they had the ball, they had a long way to go, but they went."

"We didn't make many mistakes—one fumble, one intercepted pass which was as good as a punt and a blocked punt. They had some good athletes on this team and a lot of them. They put

	Westside	Valdosta
First downs.....	10	18
Rushing yardage.....	104	226
Passing yardage.....	93	171
Passes.....	6-18-1	7-9-0
Return yardage.....	181	113
Fumbles lost.....	1	1
Punts.....	5-32	1-22
Yards penalized.....	51	38
Westside.....	0	0
Valdosta.....	14	21
	7	10
	0	-52

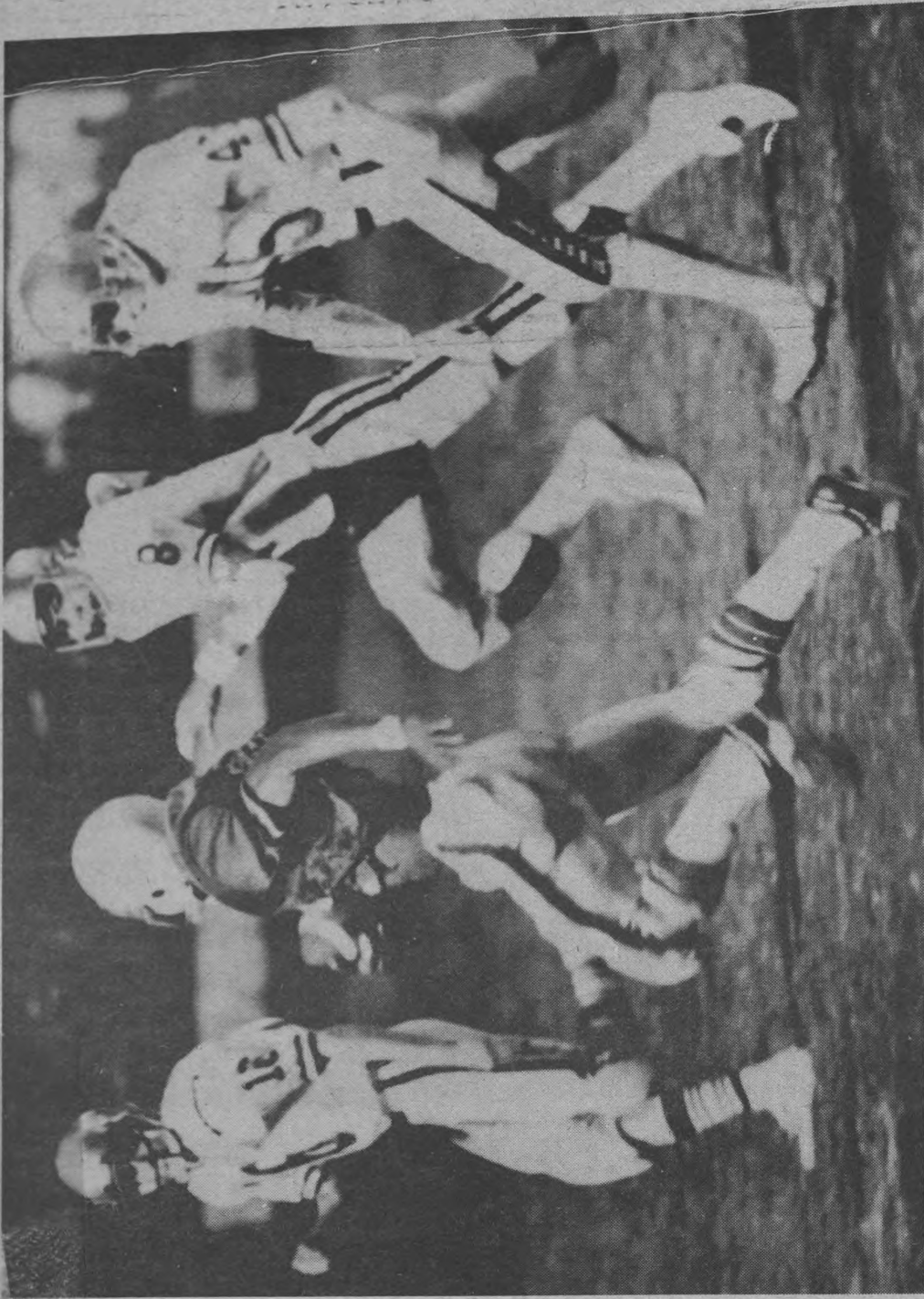
kick) Valdosta — Irvin Rowe 6 run (David Reeves (Reeves kick)  
Valdosta — Troy Thomas 72 punt return (Reeves kick)  
Valdosta — John Bond 12 run (Reeves kick)  
Valdosta — Bond 27 run (Reeves kick)  
Valdosta — William Gaskin 2 run (Keith Sampson kick)  
Valdosta — Bond 1 run (Sampson kick)  
Valdosta — Eugene Patterson 19 pass from Mike Ruff (Sampson kick)  
Valdosta — Reeves 35 FG

in the second string and you couldn't tell much difference. They had 34 seniors and we had 14," Cassidy refused to alibi about either the Patriots' long bus trip or the week's layoff due to not playing a region playoff.

"We looked pretty fresh before the game," he said. "I don't think having an open date made too much difference. We practiced just as hard."

Valdosta will advance to the semifinals next week against Benedictine, a 14-7 winner over previously undefeated Warner Robins, a team like Westside which didn't have to face a region

See WILDCATS on Page 2B



Augusta Herald Newsphoto, David Winter  
Westside's Larry Elam flees from Valdosta's Mark Toth (18), Dante Jones (8), Tommy Clifton (45)

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Nov. 22, 1978-12-

# 'Cats To Put 'Double Dynamite' To Work



IRVIN ROE  
Junior Speedster

By MIKE CHASON  
Just call them "double dynamite." There's no better way to explain how Irvin Roe and Ernest King explode past enemy defenses and set their number 22 and number 44 jerseys streaking toward the goal line.

Chances are Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder is going to dip into his powder keg and come up with a double handful of both their talents here Friday night when his Wildcats host Westside in the quarterfinal round of the Class AAAA state football playoffs.

"I don't remember a better ground game even when we had (Billy) Berrien and (Alton) Battle," Hyder said of the performance of his two junior speedsters against Thomasville in the Region 1-

Brooks (offensive coordinator) did a real fine job in not throwing."

Helped along by 44 yards on the ground by senior quarterback John Lastinger, Valdosta wound up with a 237-yard rushing attack which ate up some precious seconds off the clock as well as spearheading the scoring effort.

Hyder believes both Roe and King may be in for even better senior seasons. "They're capable of improvement," he said. "King is inside or outside. He seems to get better as the teams get tougher. He ran real well against Benedictine and Warner Robins last year."

Hyder said Roe didn't play at all last season because of a job commitment. However, he's making up for lost time

this year. During the regular season, Roe was 12th in the league in rushing with 465 yards in 79 carries. King was 15th with 425 yards in 82 carries. Lastinger was 16th with 419 yards in 75 trips.

But as has always been his policy, Hyder declined to say if the ground game will be the meat and potatoes of the VHS offensive attack in Friday's 8 p.m. contest at Cleveland Field.

"We'll just do what they allow us to do," he said. "They've got a pretty good defense. Nobody has scored more than two touchdowns on them."

"We've scouted them twice. They are very well coached. Coley Cassidy was the last coach to beat Coach (Wright) Bazemore in 1970.

He beat Valdosta 18-14 when he was at Richmond Academy.

"He (Cassedy) was also Mike Kelley's coach last year. Kelley has done a real fine job at Georgia Tech."

Hyder said Westside, 10-0 during the season and the Region 4-AAAA champion, sometimes employed the shotgun passing formation but had two quality sophomore running backs also.

"Our coaches tell us they're a lot like Dougherty," Hyder said. "They have a lot of offensive imagination."

If Valdosta defeats the Augusta team, the Wildcats would host the winner of the Northside of Warner Robins-Benedictine game next week for the South Georgia championship. Northside, 10-

0, is the only other undefeated Class AAAA team in the state besides Valdosta and Westside.

Valdosta would also host the state title game if it won next week.

"I think there's a difference in confidence when you play at home," Hyder said. "I think the Valdosta team plays well if our crowd is there. That makes Cleveland Field to our advantage. Give our fans credit. When they follow us as well as they do, we play well."

Hyder said flanker Robert Smith and offensive guard Bubba Hardin were the only regulars who might not start because of injuries. Smith missed last week's game because of a bruised knee, and Hardin has missed the last two games because of a bruised shoulder.



ERNEST KING  
'Inside Or Outside'

Atlanta also offers a variety of modernistic buildings, hotels and shopping malls for touring.

**ROME** — The Martha Berry Museum and Art Gallery is open free to visitors on Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Located on U.S. 27N at Mt. Berry, the museum is closed on Monday. Donations are asked.

**CALHOUN** — The New Echota Cherokee Indian Capitol is also an interesting place to visit for free, according to the Industry and Trade Bureau.

Open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday from 2-5:30 p.m., it is located on Georgia Highway 225, one mile east of I-75. The Capitol is closed Monday, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**CARTERSVILLE** — Etowah Indian Mounds is located three miles south of Cartersville and is open free to visitors Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday from 2-5:30 p.m.

The Mounds are also closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**HELEN** — Located one and half miles north of Unicoi State Park near Helen is Anna Ruby Falls, open 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Touring of Helen's Alpine Village is free and shops are open from 9-5 p.m.

**SAVANNAH** — The Savannah Science Center is open daily and is free to visitors from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. except on Sunday when it is open 2-5 p.m.

The center is located at 4405 Paulsen St. at 61 St.

**Sweet Or Hard**

**Cider Is Old-Time Drink**

By TOM HOGGE  
AP Newsfeatures Writer

When I was growing up on Long Island, we used to gather the windfalls from our apple trees each fall and cart them over to a nearby cider mill.

There the apples would be run through an ancient machine that stuttered and coughed with each new load. Slowly it sent the juice trickling into a wooden trough from which we funneled it into jugs we had brought along. As I recall, it

our most popular drinks in colonial days. The settlers, especially in New England, made great quantities of it. For variety, I like sweet cider with a little rum in it. Here's a formula for a hot punch.

- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ½ cup sugar
- 8 cups sweet cider
- 12 ounces light rum
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 12 pieces lemon peel

The spices in chesapeake



**Gracia-Lane Engagement**

Dr. Antonio J. Gracia of Valdosta and Mrs. Clara Inez de Gracia of Bogota, Colombia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Gloria Amanda Gracia, to Richard Bonner Lane Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Lane of Athens. The wedding is planned for Dec. 16 at the Iglesia de San Juan de Avila in Bogota.

**Tips For Terrarium Watering**

If the glass is lightly fogged, that means the terrarium has adequate water. If droplets collect and run, then it's too wet, according to Extension Service specialists.

Orlon is a fiber useful for awnings and curtains because it is resistant to fading from exposure to sunlight.

**Popular Paperbacks Told**

According to a wholesale bookseller the following are the most popular books in the southwest Georgia area:

**PAPERBACK**

**BESTSELLERS**

- "A Pirates Love," Johanna Lindsey.
- "The Immigrants," Howard Fast.
- "Bitter-Sweet," Janis Flores.
- "Battlestar Galactica," G. A. Larson and R. Thurston.
- "Honourable Schoolboy," John Le Carre.
- "Fair Blows The Wind," Louis L'Amour.
- "Kramer vs. Kramer," Avery Corman.
- "The Thorn Birds," Coleen Wright.

**NEW AND NOTABLE**

- "Banners Of Desire," Lorinda Hagen.
- "Stolen Splendor," Evelyn Hanna.
- "Dallas," Lee Raintree.
- "Stormy Surrender," Janette Radcliffe.
- "Wings Of Desire," Paula Dion.
- "Love's Fervent Fury," Robin Joseph.
- "Whitefire," Iris Summers.
- "Touch The Sun," Cynthia Wright.

and someday when we're least expecting it, the item turns up and then our memory suddenly becomes crystal clear as to why we put it there in the first place...

But...in the meantime...to get you started on making the newspaper "logs," do this.

Fold the papers in half and make about a one-inch high stack, alternating the folded side and the leaf side.

Roll them up as tightly as possible, making a log approximately five to six inches in diameter. Tie tightly with a strong cord or cut out both ends of a can which fits the roll and slip this metal band

soaked in water, then completely dried, they will burn longer.

Also, if you would like to give the logs a bit of pizzazz, add the following ingredients to the water before soaking the rolled papers:

- First, mix two tablespoons lime with two tablespoons vinegar. After this mixture foams a bit, add it to one-half gallon water.
- Pour into this water mixture two tablespoons dietic salt (salt substitute) and one tablespoon bluestone. (The chemical term for blue stone is copper sulfate or bluer vitriol, available from

McCutough.

"Beggarmen Thiel," Irwin Shaw.

"Zanzara," Michaela Morgan.

**DO YOU HATE YOUR**



Dr. Antonio J. Gracia of Valdosta and Mrs. Clara Inez de Gracia of Bogota, Colombia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Gloria Amanda Gracia, to Richard Bonner Lane Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Lane of Athens. The wedding is planned for Dec. 16 at the Iglesia de San Juan de Avila in Bogota.

If the glass is lightly fogged, that means the terrarium has adequate water. If droplets collect and run, then it's too wet, according to Extension Service specialists.

Orlon is a fiber useful for awnings and curtains because it is resistant to fading from exposure to sunlight.

Don't overwater — they say once every one to two months is sufficient. Add an ounce of specialists.

**Lastinger's Out, Benedictine Next**



★ Lastinger's Out, Benedictine Next ★

**Cats Clobber No-Luck Pats, 52-0**

# Wildcats Win Again

... See Page 6



## Go 'Cats, Score Again

Valdosta High School students' smiling faces reflect the mood of the 1-AAAA Quarter Final playoff Friday night at Cleveland Field. The game was in the 'Cats favor and the

smiles rarely left the fans' faces. The Wildcats beat Westside High School of Augusta 52-0.—Times Staff Photo.

## Georgia's Top 40 High School Prospects

### Quarterbacks

Gordon Beckham, Westminster, 6-3, 195  
Bob Berry, SW DeKalb, 6-0, 180  
John Lastinger, Valdosta, 6-0, 180  
Robert Troupe, Swainsboro, 5-11, 165  
Otis Grant, Carver Atlanta, 6-3, 188  
Homer Jordan, Cedar Shoals, 6-0, 175  
Benjie McLane, Henderson, 6-2, 180

### Running Backs

Jehany Tutt, East Rome, 6-0, 175  
Chucky Davis, SW Macon, 6-0, 185  
Melvin Dorsey, Lakeside, 6-0, 180  
Chris McCarthy, Benedictine, 5-11, 190  
Chip Simmons, Columbia, 6-1, 187  
Billy Prescott, Laney, 5-11, 192

### Receivers

Willie Gault, Griffin, 6-0, 170  
Cole Egan, Westminster, 6-3, 180  
Gay McIntyre, Thomasville, 6-3, 220  
Ron Barkley, Lamar Co., 6-0, 175

### Linemen

Ray Brown, East Rome, 6-4, 230  
Andrew Provence, Benedictine, 6-3, 245  
Tim Case, Tift County, 6-4, 250  
Randy Edwards, Wheeler, 6-3, 242  
Charles Nalle, Bremen, 6-3, 235  
Dean Waters, Westside, 6-3, 225  
Mark Bickness, Clarkston, 6-5, 210  
Eric Jefferies, Redan, 6-4, 230  
Chris Higgenbottom, Oconee Co., 6-4, 215

### Linebackers

Joey Browner, SW Atlanta, 6-3, 196  
Will Forts, Fayette Co., 6-1, 205  
Damon McCarty, Washington, 6-3, 220  
Jack Lindsay, SW DeKalb, 6-2, 210  
Ben Ansley, Lakeside, 6-2, 220  
Cy Poss, Warren County, 6-3, 191  
Tim Marable, Clark Central, 6-2, 190  
Wally Cawthon, Jackson, 6-1, 215  
Tommy Barrow, Darlington, 6-0, 190  
Richard Povillaitis, Cross Keys, 6-3, 215

### Defensive Backs

Tim Painter, Dalton, 6-3, 180  
Troy Thomas, Valdosta, 5-10, 175  
Lyan Roberts, Valdosta, 5-10, 180  
Tom Eaton, Westminster, 6-2, 195  
Roosevelt Hill, Newnan, 5-10, 180  
Billy Blalock, Sprayberry, 5-11, 175  
LeRoy Kaylor, NW Whitfield, 6-1, 175  
Greg Ford, Stockbridge, 6-2, 190

# Valdosta Catapults Into State Title Game With 23-0 Clone Conquest Of Benedictine

**By MIKE CHASON**  
For perhaps the first time in high school football history, a game has been cloned.

It happened in a 23-0 Valdosta victory over Benedictine here Friday night in a contest which gave the hometown Wildcats their second straight Class AAAA

### YARDSTICK

First Downs	Valdosta	Bene.
Yards Rushing	10	8
Yards Passing	165	121
Passes	73	7
Passes Int. By	9-14	2-7
Fumbles Lost	0	0
Penalties	5-33.6	7-36
	7-55	6-50

(formerly AAA) South Georgia Championship and left the Cadets from Savannah with an eerie feeling they had seen it all before.

Call it deja vu if you will as the two prep powerhouses replayed their game of a year ago when Valdosta chalked up a 13-0 quarterfinal round victory over Benedictine in Savannah.

The now 14-0 'Cats used their same never-give-an-inch defense and their multiple offensive patterns to carve out a win over the wish-bone-minded Cadets who still haven't discovered the forward pass.

As a result, number one-rated Valdosta is headed for a state championship showdown with Griffin's Bears a week from today at Cleveland Field here. Griffin nipped favored Lakeside 18-14 in the other Class AAAA semifinal Friday night.

"Not being accustomed to the pass is the biggest problem for our type of offense," Benedictine Coach James Walsh said. "When you coach the run blocking, sometimes you have a hard time falling back for the pass."

But as Walsh knows only too well, teams that run a lot also take a chance on fumbling a lot.

The Cadets taught a course in fumbling on this 58-degree Friday night, and it might have made the difference in the ballgame.

Benedictine, which wound up 11-2, lost the ball three times on fumbles, and Valdosta converted two of

them into touchdowns.

"I don't know if the fumbles were the whole difference or not," Walsh said, "because I don't know if we would have gone on and scored. But we were moving the ball pretty well, and it could have put some pressure on them if we had."

"They were pretty loose after they got ahead, and when they're loose, nobody's going to beat them."

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder, who completed step one toward his 200th career coaching victory, pinpointed the fumbles and a Rodney Gordon punt which died on the Benedictine 3-yard line as the game-turning factors.

Three plays after that second quarter punt, Valdosta swarmed all over Cadet running back Chris McCarthy in the end zone for a safety.

"The fumbles were the thing that hurt them and that punt," Hyder, who now has a career coaching record of 101-25-3, said.

"We felt like our youngsters played fairly well. Our lads have played on a pretty even keel all year. We stress defense and the kicking game and both of them were big factors tonight."

To the surprise of no one among the bundled-up crowd of 9,900 the visiting Region 3 AAAA champions opened the game doing the same thing they were doing when the final curtain fell a year ago... running the football.

It worked to the tune of 121 yards for the night and 23 yards on this particular drive but a James Harris sack of Cadet quarterback Danny Dotson wiped out most of that on a third down situation.

When Troy Thomas returned the resulting kickoff 31 yards to the Benedictine

38-yard line, the 'Cats were already cooking.

Eight players later, junior quarterback John Bond dived over all-region center Tony Blasetti from three yards away for six points.

David Reaves kicked the first of three extra points, and Benedictine's hopes began to fade as quickly as the multi-colored balloons floated away from the VHS cheerleaders at the start of the game.

Behind the running of McCarthy and fullback Mario Dela Guardia, the Cadets did jam the ball down to the VHS 24-yard line on their next possession.

At that point, Dotson uncorked a wild pitchout, and the omni-present Harris recovered.

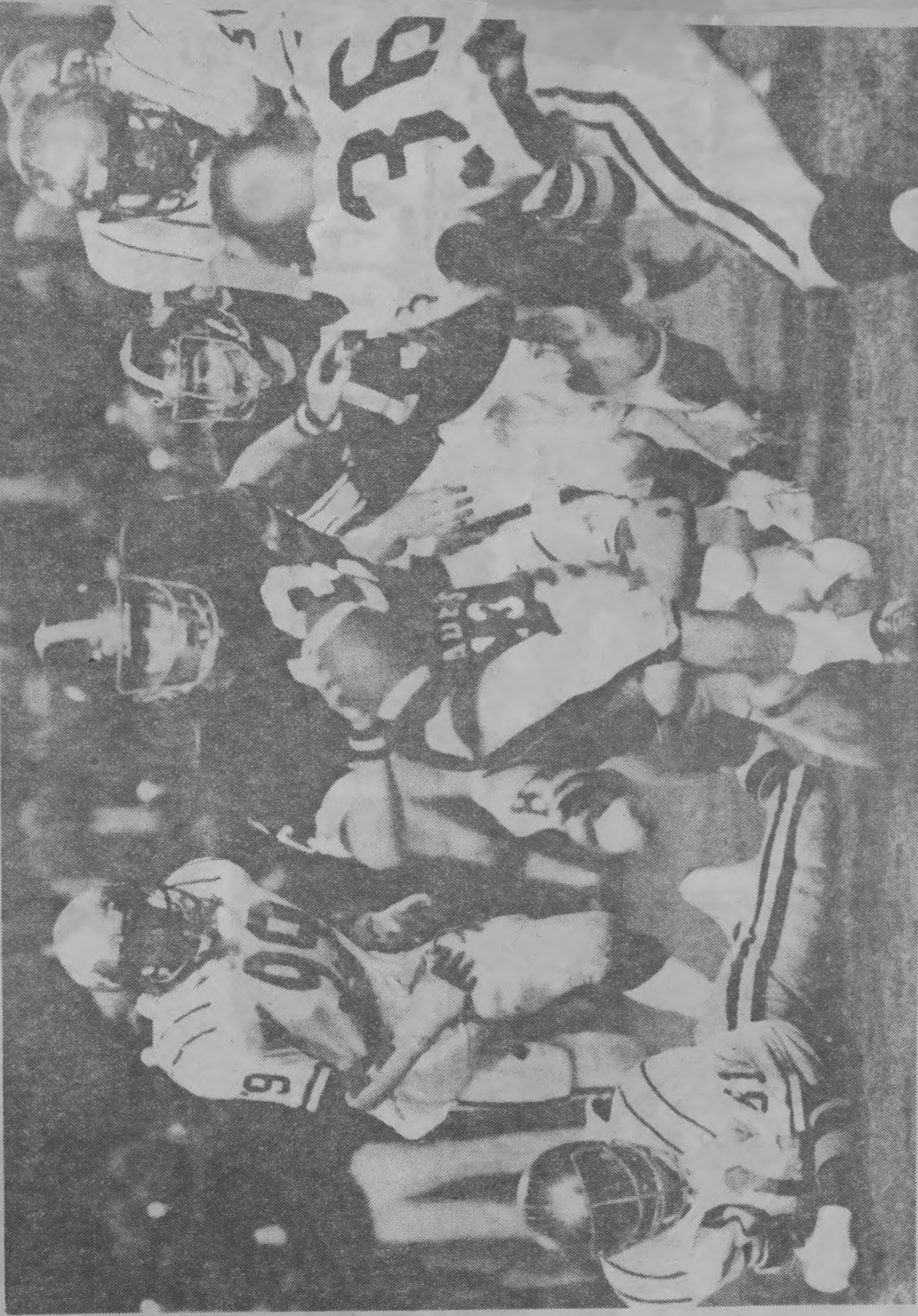
But Hyder had seen all he wanted to see of McCarthy. "McCarthy is as good as I've seen," Hyder said. "He's a tough runner. Lawsy mercy, he's my kind of back."

It was almost all Bond on the ensuing 69-yard, four-play drive which culminated with a picturebook display of a broken field running by the big junior, making his first varsity start at quarterback.

Bond galloped 48 yards for his second touchdown as time expired in the opening period. A second team quarterback just two weeks ago, Bond looked like a cocky veteran with both fists thrust in the air after the score.

On the sideline, the guy Bond replaced looked on with almost as much joy. Senior signal-caller John Lastinger incurred a shoulder separation in a quarterfinal matchup against Westside and is out for the year.

Clifford Johnson recovered another Cadet fumble in the second quarter but the scoreboard remained silent until the ever aggressive VHS



**Benedictine Quarterback Danny Dotson Starts To Deal Ball Off With Troy Thomas (36) Awaiting The Tackle**  
-Times Staff Photos By Robert Winter III.

defense piled on McCarthy in the end zone with 47 seconds left before the halftime gun.

Harris led the way for the night with eight tackles from his end slot, cornerback Thomas added seven, linebacker Lynn Roberts had seven, linebacker John Branan had six, and Kenny Evans and Johnson had five apiece.

Roberts leaped on a Dela Guardia fumble in the third quarter to initiate Valdosta's final touchdown march.

Flashy halfback Ernest King, wearing number 4 after his traditional 44 was torn from his shoulders early on, shook loose for a 53-yard run down to the Benedictine 6-yard line. King totaled 73 yards in the nine carries.

Irvin Roe, the other half of the Wildcats' "double dynamite" combination, carried the ball to the 1, and Bond did his thing again from there with 2:52 left in the third period.

Benedictine never smelled the end zone in the second half, and VHS came close again only once. Reaves attempted a 40-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter which was blocked by Wayne Robinson.

And now the stage is set for Valdosta's second straight shot at the state crown. The Wildcats dropped a 16-14 decision to Clarke Central in Athens last season. The game could be switched to Friday night if both schools agree but Hyder

wants no part of that. "It will be on Saturday unless somebody chokes me," the VHS coach said. "I want to play on Saturday. We need Monday off. We'll start again Tuesday."

Score By Quarters  
Valdosta 14 2 7 0-23  
Benedictine 0 0 0 0-0

Scoring  
Val. — Bond 3 run (Reaves kick)  
Val. — Bond 48 run (Reaves kick)  
Val. — Safety  
Val. — Bond 1 run (Reaves kick)

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
Rushing: Valdosta — King 9-73; Bond 12-35; Roe 7-46; Gaskin 2-6; Dela Guardia 1-11-56; Loventhal 3-19; Dotson 11 minus 6.  
Benedictine — McCarthy 17-34; Dela Guardia 11-56; Loventhal 3-19; Dotson 11 minus 6.  
Interceptions: Valdosta — no in-terceptions; Benedictine — no in-terceptions.  
Fumble: 2-17, Moore 1-1.  
Passing: Valdosta — Bond 8-12-0-0-0-0; Gaskin 1-1-0-4; Benedictine — Dotson 2-7-0-8.  
Pass Receiving: Valdosta — Blair 6-48; Fletcher 2-21; Bond 1-4; Benedictine — McCarthy 1 minus 1; Von Waldner 1-8.  
Punt Returns: Valdosta — Thomas 1-31; Roe 1-21; Benedictine — Loventhal 1-4.  
Kickoff Returns: Valdosta — no returns; Kickoff — Burger 1-18; Dela Guardia 1-11; Loventhal 2-38.  
Defense (Number of Tackles): Valdosta — Harris 8; Thomas 7; Evans 5; Clifford Johnson 5; Conaway 4; Hancock 4; Caesar 4; Roberts 7; Branan 6; Carroll Johnson 2; C. Roe 2; Gordon 2; Richardson 2; Beauport 2; Benedictine — Walsh 6; Provence 5; Holt 7; Morgan 5; Rice 4; Kelly 3; South 3; Robinson 2; Bergman 2; Wortle 3.  
Interception Returns: Valdosta — no in-terceptions; Benedictine — no in-terceptions.

# Cats, Bears AAAA Co-Champions

## One to go

### Valdosta, Charlton County eye AAAAA, A titles



By LAWRENCE DENNIS  
Times-Union Prep Editor

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder flirted with the wishbone offense briefly once but thought better of it.

Charlton County's Tony Branch never even thought about it.

Both must have been congratulating themselves for their wisdom Friday night.

Because, by 11 p.m., both found themselves just one win away from their respective state titles courtesy of wins over wishbone opponents.

Valdosta pounded Savannah Benedictine 23-0 and will host Griffin in the Class AAAA title game Saturday night.

Charlton County registered an impressive 17-7 upset win in Colquitt over top-ranked Miller County and will travel to Buford Saturday night for the Class A championship battle.

There were many factors in Valdosta's decisive win over a rugged Benedictine team that was expected to offer a sterner test to the No. 1 Wildcats — a standout three-touchdown performance by substitute quarterback John Bond, a banner 73-yard rushing night by halfback Ernest King, ferocious defensive play by ends James Harris and Lynn Roberts and cornerback Troy Thomas and the rest of an aroused defense and the punting of Rodney Gordon.

But a definite factor was the Cadets' inability to keep their hands on the ball.

Benedictine fumbled six times, losing three. Two led directly to Valdosta touchdowns. Harris pounced on one at the Valdosta 24 and the Wildcats covered 76 yards in five plays for their second score and Roberts recovered a fumble at the Wildcat 41 and the hosts took it in for their final tally of the evening.

"We took advantage of their mistakes," Hyder said. "When you run the wishbone, you're going to leave it on the ground a lot. They had rough luck with fumbles."

Hyder, when he was coaching at West Rome, used the wishbone briefly but thought better of it.

"Yeah, we ran it for two games, surprised some people with it and won," the fifth-year Wildcat coach said.

The Cadets definitely considered the turnovers the difference in the two teams.

"You gave us a scare," a Valdosta assistant charitably said to one of his Benedictine counterparts.

"Yeah, we'd have scared you more and maybe hurt your feelings if it hadn't been for the fumbles," the Cadet coach shot back with less grace.

ence. The Cadets had some success with their option and off-tackle plays in the first half, but the fumbles and the Wildcat defense meant that they never got closer than the VHS 24 in the first half.

"You remember, they had two good plays," said Hyder, "their inside fake off tackle and their triple-option to those tough running backs."

But after Valdosta made its halftime adjustments, the defense almost completely closed down the Cadet attack.

Benedictine went driving only once in the last two quarters and that march, from the Cadet 22 to the Valdosta 41, ended in Roberts' fumble recovery.

After the Wildcats' ensuing score, it was all Valdosta as Dotson, desperately trying to pass his team back into the game, spent most of his time either on his back or trying to scramble away from onrushing defenders.

All-in-all, Valdosta defenders held Benedictine to 111 yards rushing and 9 passing, slapped down Cadet backs for 47 yards in losses and held All-State candidate Chris McCarthy, who averaged over 100 yards a game during the regular season, to 41.

Charlton County wasn't as successful preventing Miller County's rugged wishbone backs from gobbling up real estate (202 yards) — all the Indian defense did was keep the Pirates from turning their yardage into points.

But Branch was quick to admit that the Charlton County defense had some help.

"There were several turnovers in the ball game that helped our defense stop their offense," he said. "We rarely got a bridge on them all night. If we didn't stop them we got a break somewhere that did."

Among the breaks were two recovered fumbles. One gave the Indians the ball at the Pirates 15 and the other resulted in a Charlton insurance field goal. Another break kept the drive for what proved the winning touchdown alive when a pass interference call nullified a Miller County interception.

But Branch didn't mention that the Pirates got their share of the breaks too.

Miller's only score came after the Pirates recovered Charlton's only lost fumble at the Indian 41 in the first period and the visitors' scoring threat after the fumble recovery at the 15 was turned back by a interception in the end zone.

And, Branch said, the Indians' generally good field position didn't hurt.

"I thought we did a good job of playing field position

ALL-WAUKEE (104): W. Johnson 15, Guckner 2, 0-0, 4, Winners 8, 2-2, 18, Guckner 2, 0-0, 4, Von Lier 0, 0-0, 0, Guckner 6, 4-4, 16, G. Johnson 1, 0-0, 2, Benson 3, 1-1, 7, Wolfson 1, 0-0, 2, 70- for, 5, 17, 2, 14, 2, 6, 17-20.

Northern 97-97, Dept Wake For- est 78-93, lost to Duke 78-88, 13350, Fredonia 83-111, Dept Chico UN-C-Greenboro 81, Averett 79, W. Carolina Tech 79, VMI 66, Green 48, York (Pa.) 95, Seaboard V.S. 79, 70-69, Dept Rider 101-51, lost to Atlanta 75, Seaboard V.S. 79, 70-69, 77-70.

Charlton 98, Biscove 69, UN-C-Greenboro 81, Averett 79, W. Carolina Tech 79, VMI 66, Green 48, York (Pa.) 95, Seaboard V.S. 79, 70-69, 77-70.

College Football

How the Top 20 Teams in The Association

Today 9 p.m. (Ch. 17) Chicago at San Diego 12:30 a.m. (Ch. 17) Rudy Hubbard Show (with high-

## Prep playoffs

### Georgia

#### CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

(All games will be played Saturday night at 8 p.m.)

- Class AAAA  
Griffin (12-2) at Valdosta (14-0)
- Class AAA  
Westminster (12-2) at Dalton (13-1)
- Class AA  
East Rome (14-0) at Claxton (14-0)
- Class A  
Charlton Co. (9-3) at Buford (9-3-1)

#### SEMIFINAL RESULTS

Class AAAA

- Valdosta 23, Benedictine 0
- Griffin 18, Lakeside 14
- Class AAA  
Westminster 29, Swainshoro 28 (penetration, OT)
- Dalton 26, Gainesville 14
- Class AA  
Claxton 19, Mitchell Co. 14
- East Rome 14, Commerce 13
- Class A  
Charlton Co. 17, Miller Co. 7
- Buford 21, Feldwood 0

### Florida

#### THIS WEEK'S GAMES

##### CLASS A CHAMPIONSHIP

Tallahassee FAMU (10-2) vs. N. Palm Beach Benjamin -01-1) at Tallahassee

#### SEMIFINAL GAMES

Class AAAA

- Pensacola Pine Forest (10-1) vs. Tampa Plant (11-1) at Tampa
- Merritt Island (12-0) vs. Miami Lakes (10-2) at Hialeah
- Class AAA  
Melbourne Palm Bay (11-1) vs. Milton (10-2) at Milton
- Barlow (10-2) vs. Delray Atlantic (9-3) at Delray Beach
- Class AA  
Wakulla (9-2) vs. Crescent City (9-3) at Crescent City
- Mulberry (10-2) vs. Dunnellon (12-0) at Dunnellon

#### QUARTERFINAL RESULTS

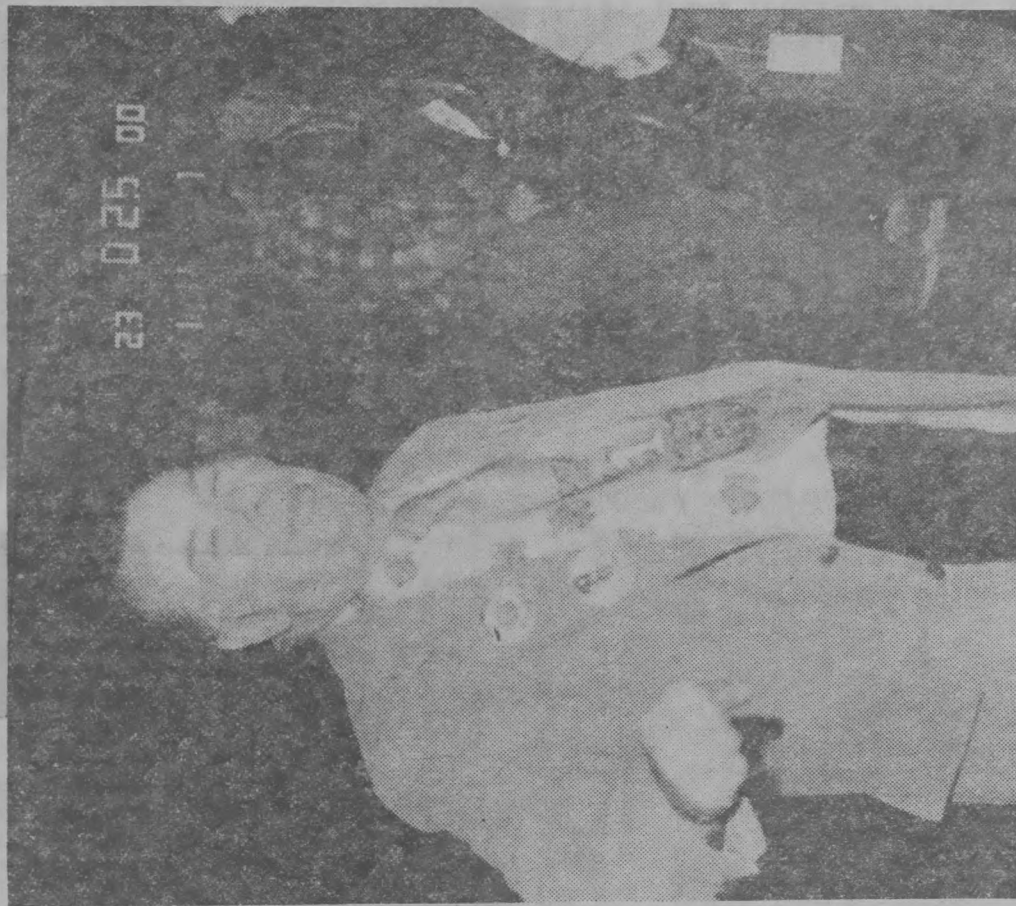
Class AAAA

- Pensacola Pine Forest 34, J'ville Wolfson 6
- Tampa Plant 15, Orlando Edgewater 13
- Merritt Island 30, Deerfield Beach 12
- Miami Lakes 14, Miami Springs 7
- Class AAA  
Milton 20, Perry Taylor Co. 7
- Meibourne Palm Bay 27, St. Augustine 20 (OT)
- Bartow 41, Arcadia 0
- Deiray Beach Atlantic 7, Key West 6
- Class AA  
Wakulla 24, Jay 0
- Crescent City 19, Callahan West Nassau 0
- Dunnellon 14, Clermont 7
- Mulberry 34, Fort Lauderdale Pine Crest 17

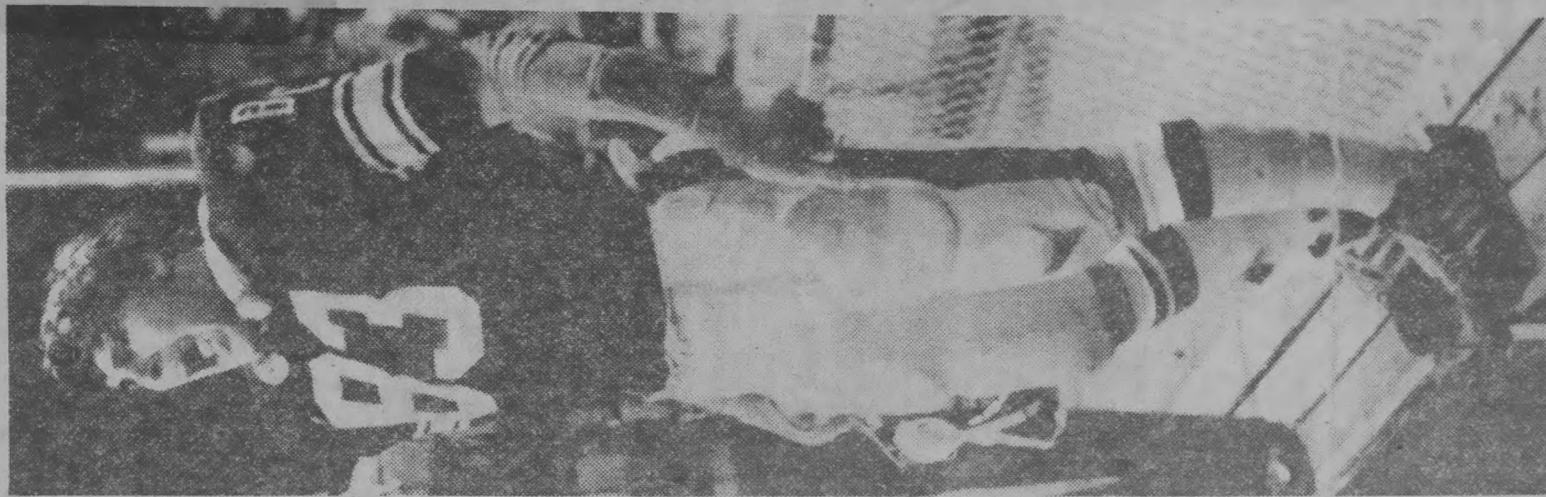
#### SEMIFINAL RESULTS

Class A

- Tallahassee FAMU 7, J'ville University Chr. 0
- Norta Palm Beach Benjamin 7, Sarasota Booker 6



Mood of Principal Lloyd Mims, scoreboard tell story



Frustration for BC's Jim Walsh Jr.



Cat defenders rest

## Times-Union photos by Mike Roberts