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Valdosta High School

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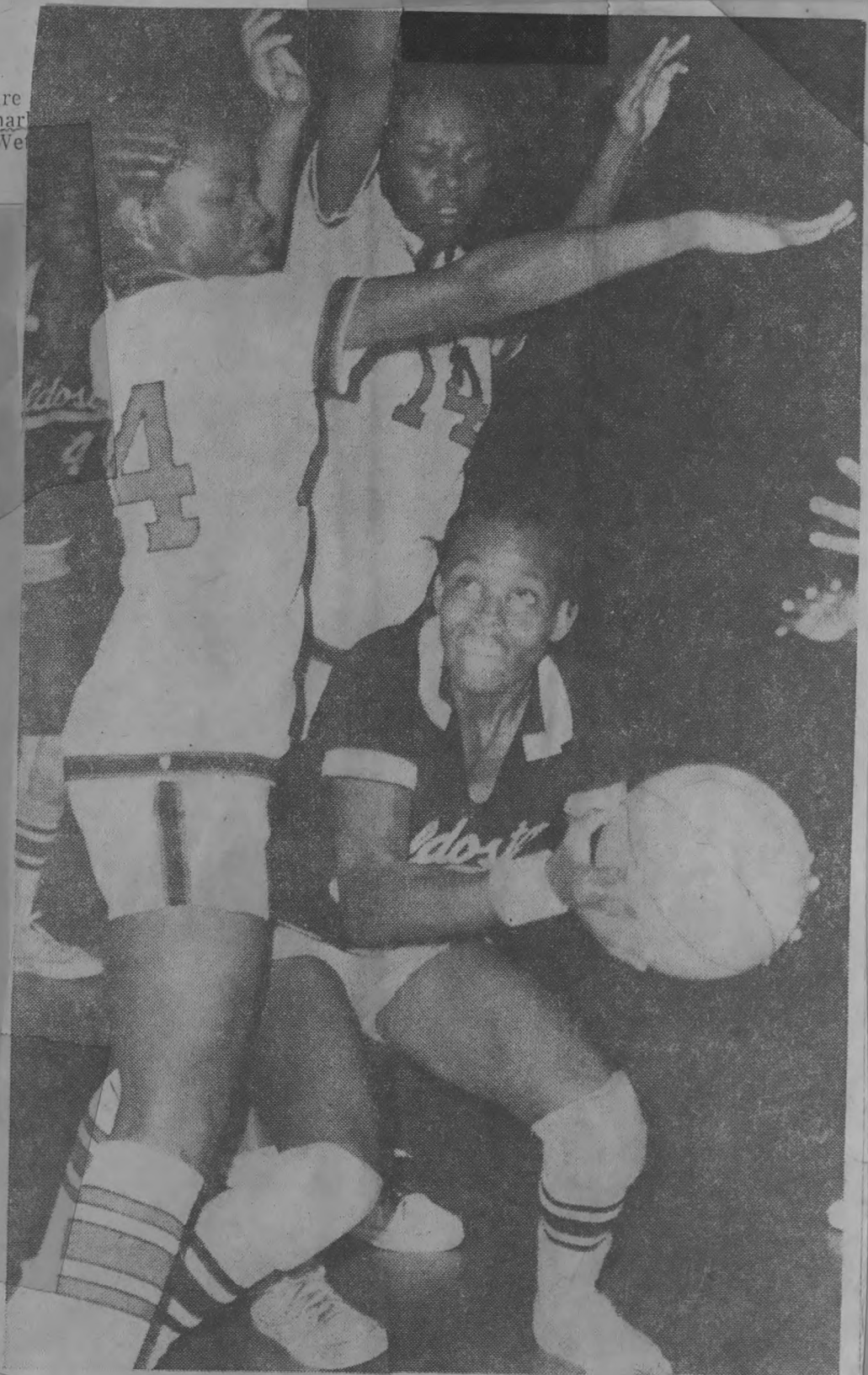
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Stacking Up The Food

Major Travis Israel of the Salvation Army here helps the members of the Valdosta High School Student Council and senior class stack food collected by the students for distribution to needy families. The VHS food drive is an annual event. Giving Israel

a hand with the food are president of the council; Charlene Weir, and Teresa Weir, president.



Kitten Gwen Durham Is Boxed In By Two Bulldogette Defenders

—Times Staff Photo

Face Region Opponents

Vikes, 'Cats Off To Albany

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Lowndes and Valdosta travel to Albany Friday to play Region 1-AAA foes in high school basketball action this weekend.

The once-beaten Wildcats of Joe Wilson and the Kittens of Steve Kobbler take on Dougherty Friday, and the Lowndes Vikings and Vikes are hosted by Albany.

Wilson's 'Cats try to get back on the winning track after seeing their 20-game winning streak snapped by Macon Northeast Saturday. The Wildcats are still undefeated in

region play.

In other area basketball action Friday, Berrien County (Nashville, Ga.) visits Jeff Davis in Hazlehurst, Clinch County (Homerly) travels to Charlton County (Folkston), Westbrock of Dixie plays at Smithville, and Valwood travels to Ocilla Christian.

Saturday's action pits Georgia Christian (Dasher) against Alabama Christian, Westbrock plays Randolph Southern, Valwood travels to North Academy and St. George plays Echols County in Stateville.

Coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes High Vikings are not up to par physically going into

AREA HOOP SLATE

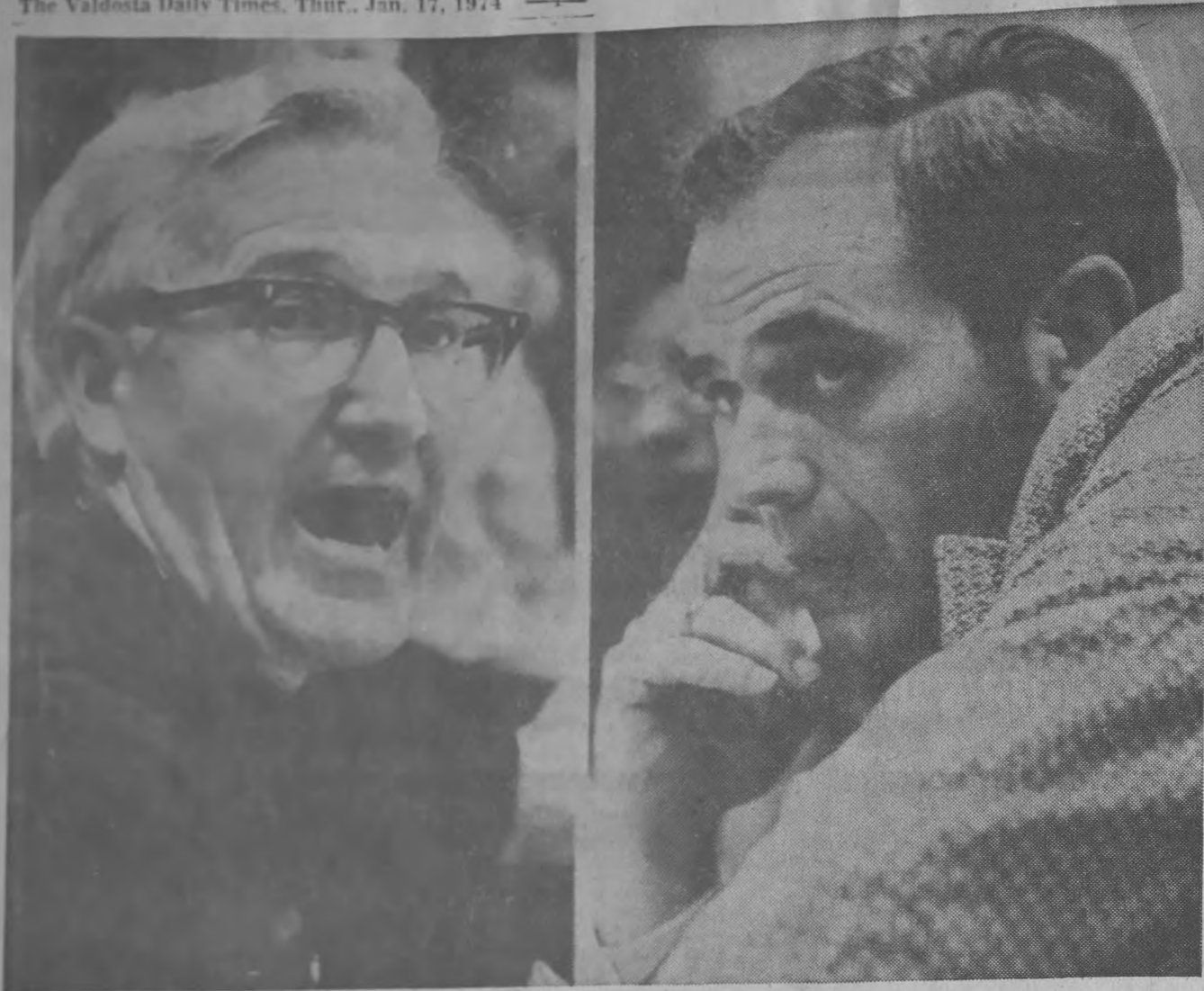
Friday
Lowndes at Albany
Valdosta at Dougherty
Berrien at Jeff Davis
Clinch at Charlton
Westbrock at Smithville
Valwood at Ocilla Christian
Saturday
GCS at Alabama Christian
Westbrock at Randolph Southern
Valwood at North Academy
St. George at Echols

Friday's contest with the Albany Indians. Keith Grimes has had a relapse of his threat troubles and is unlikely to make the trip to Albany. Grimes has missed school and practice most of the week.
The Vikes' other inside man,

Larry Powell, has injured his previously good ankle and is now playing with two bad ankles. Cooper expects Powell to see action but does not know how effective he will be.
"I don't see how we'll be able to play with Albany as beat up as we are," said the Lowndes coach. "What we're trying to do now is get the boys physically ready for the tournament. Maybe we'll be well by then."
Cooper said his defending Region 1-AAA champion Vikes are in good shape physically and mentally.
"The girls," he said, "are in good shape and should be ready to play."

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thur., Feb. 7, 1974

—22—



—Times Staff Photo

It's All In The Game

Basketball games can be especially rough on the coaches' nerves and Valdosta Wildcat Coach Joe Wilson and Lowndes Coach Charles Cooper are prime examples. Times Photographer Ken Klanicki

caught Wilson, left, and Cooper in these different moods at their cross-town showdown here Tuesday night. Wilson's Wildcats defeated Cooper's Vikings, 88-65.

Eanes, Hornbuckle

Two Win Elks' Awards

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Two Valdosta High School seniors, Bruce Hornbuckle and Charlotte Eanes, have won statewide Elks Club leadership awards and are making preparations for national competition, said Joe Gore, chairman of the Valdosta Elks Lodge 738 Youth Activities Committee.

Hornbuckle, the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hornbuckle of 2516 Rolling Road, and Miss Eanes, the

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Dec. 23, 1973 —7-B—

Young Ideas...

16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eanes



CHARLOTTE EANES
Outstanding Student



BRUCE HORNBUCKLE
So Is He

'Cats, Vikettes Lead Stat Race

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikettes, both defending Region 1-AAA champions again lead the standings in high school basketball play.

Coach Joe Wilson's undefeated Wildcats put 5-0 overall and 2-0 region records on the line against the second place Bainbridge Bearcats (6-1 and 3-0) tonight.

The Vikettes, coached by Charles Cooper, take on the night, hoping to improve on 3-3 and 3-1 records.

Thomasville Bulldogettes tonight, hoping to improve on 3-3 and 3-1 records.

Region 1-AAA teams with their overall and region records follow:

REGION 1-AAA		
BOYS		
	Overall	Region
Valdosta	5-0	2-0
Bainbridge	6-1	3-0
Albany	4-2	3-0
Crisp	2-5	2-2
Monroe	4-2	1-1
Moultrie	4-2	1-2
Tift	3-4	2-4
Thomasville	0-1	0-1
Dougherty	0-7	0-3
GIRLS		
	Overall	Region
Lowndes	5-1	3-1
Bainbridge	3-4	2-2
Crisp	2-5	2-2
Albany	3-3	1-2
Moultrie	3-3	1-2
Dougherty	1-6	1-2
Thomasville	0-1	0-1
Valdosta	2-2	0-2
Monroe	4-2	0-2
Tift	1-5	0

High School Water Issue Is Boiling

By MARY CROUSE

A letter from William Eanes, outspoken Valdosta Board of Education member, to Mayor-Council asking for reconsideration of its action in November to send a monthly bill to the new city high school for its water, has brought sharp retorts from city fathers.

Mayor James Beck said he had no comment but councilmen were vocal in their reaction to the communication.

Eanes in his letter told the city fathers the taxpayers expect them to find some way to compensate for the educational bond money exacted in 1970 to pay part of the cost for a city water system expansion as a condition for service to the new Valdosta High School.

"Before considering a decision, please carefully examine the ways in which our local board of education sustains the city's recreation program," said Eanes.

The board and city has an agreement which allows the Parks and Recreation Department to use some of the school gymnasiums and campuses for its programs for groups of all ages.

"Thousands of voters will be waiting for your action. Hundreds of new voters at the high school will trek to new polling places next February . . . on school property, perhaps . . . to let you know what they think about the things you have been doing," said Eanes in his letter.

He said current revenues do not adequately finance the city school system.

"With our new high school and with other school improvements Valdostans have a right to expect, educational finances have become too critical a realm to allow needed bond money to remain as invested capital in a revenue-bonded public utility," the board member said in his letter.

Eanes said he sent the communication on his own without consulting the entire school board on the idea.

Councilman Lamar Culbreth said he can't understand the controversy involved in the VHS water situation.

"I've asked certain members of the school board if it was a commitment from a

council to give consideration or reimbursement on the water system and they said 'no,' he said.

"Instead of all the energy spent on this, if they spent some on consolidation of the school systems, they'd do the community a favor," said Culbreth.

Ashley Hill also had a comment on the letter.

"Mr. Eanes keeps mentioning the board of education's investment in the city water system. What Mr. Eanes is overlooking is that it is not his investment as a board member but the investment of the citizens of Valdosta, the taxpayers, not only in the city water system but in all school facilities.

"The final decisions with reference to water service to the new Valdosta High School are precisely that which were agreed upon when the site was selected by the board of education and with some reluctance brought into the city limits by the council," he said.

Hill said the council has done that which was agreed upon.

"I think it is an ill-timed decision on the part of Mr. Eanes to seek to create dissension between city government and the city school system when we are really the same people," he said.

Councilwoman Bette Bechtel said her own feeling is that water is a commodity which the city can charge equal rates for usage.

"If everybody pays his own way, we will be better off. We all dip into the pot as far as taxes are concerned. We do have to improve the quality of education and where the money is coming from is a problem," she said.

Councilman Gil Harbin said Eanes' letter doesn't change the way he feels.

"My understanding is that no one gets free water, that everyone gets charged. There was no mention of a reimbursement during the talks while the school was in the planning stages.

"They (board) made an of-



-Times Staff Photo By Ken Klasicki

Rome On The Rise

Lowndes High's Anthony Hodge found the road to the basket blocked when Valdosta's Stanford Rome got in the way in the two cross town rivals' Region 1-AAA high school basketball showdown here

Tuesday night. Rome spent the game in such poses while scoring 37 points in leading the Wildcats to an 88-65 victory, their 13th straight this season. For full game details see page 23.

cur with. My philosophy and views have not changed," he said.

Councilman Charlie Norris said there was never any expression by Major - Council that the board would be compensated or allowed free water.

"The choice the board made was for the betterment of the entire city. They felt like the \$117,000 they put into the item would have installed a complete private system.

"But their water system is not going to be replaced. It would be replaced by a self contained system bogged down and the State Department of Education recommended the board go in with the city in a joint project.

At no time at any of the meetings according to official minutes, was the board led to believe it would be reimbursed or exempt from monthly bills.

Handwritten notes and signs are visible at the bottom of the page, including:

- SETT UP TAPE PLAYER
- 21
- Reg. 39 96
- COMPARE ANYWHERE
- CONSTRUCTION
- 5 to 6
- LA
- LIMIT LIMIT

Wildcats Take 14th Win

By BILL COOPER

Hot-shooting guards and Stan Rome paced Valdosta's Wildcats to their 14th straight win of the season and the Kittens equaled their combined victory total for the past two seasons in high school basketball action here Friday.

Cecil Whitehead and Stepney Cowart scored 17 and 18 points respectively for the 'Cats from the guard position and Rome scored 36 to pace the Valdosta cagers to a 95-63 win over the Crisp County (Cordele) Cougars.

Chesta King topped Cougar scorers with 17 points while Roosevelt Williams, Alvin Wright and Bubba Jones each scored 12 for Crisp.

The Kittens overpowered the Cougarettes in the second half to capture a 58-40 win. The victory was the Kittens' seventh of the year against six losses, equalling the combined number of victories the Valdosta girls recorded in the past two seasons.

Gwen Durham quarterbacked the Kittens' win with her ball control. She scored 10 points against Crisp, while Cathy Brown and Ruby Knight had 18 and 16 points for the Valdosta sextet. Jeri Roche scored 17 points for Crisp.

After the two teams battled to a 9-9 first quarter tie, the Kittens opened up a seven-point lead in the second period, only to see it dwindle to three at halftime.

Valdosta increased its lead to 11 behind the scoring of Brown and Knight in the third quarter, enabling coach Steve Kebler to clear his bench in the final period.

"Tonight's game was important for us," said Kebler. "I was real proud of the way the girls bounced back after the Lowndes' loss."

"We played spotty tonight, but were never really in trouble. I messed up a little in the first half when I started substituting too soon, but the girls held together."

Gwen (Durham) had her usual fine floor game. Cathy Brown did a real good job scoring for us, and Ruby Knight really picked us up coming in off the bench."

Crisp sagged in on Rome under the basket in an effort to slow down the Top Cat's scoring. The strategy failed when Whitehead and Cowart

responded with precise outside shooting, forcing the Cougar defense to come out to stop them.

The 'Cats jumped to a 20-12 first quarter lead, relying mainly on Rome's strength under the basket to produce the points. When the defense sagged in on Valdosta's big man, the guards started their bombardment of the basket, lifting the 'Cats to a 42-24 halftime spread.

Wilson started substituting liberally in the second half. Before the game concluded all the Wildcats except Dave DeMersseman, out with a bad ankle, had seen action.

"We did well to win," said Wilson. "This isn't going to make much sense, but we really missed DeMersseman."

"Crisp has a good scrappy little ball club. They brought the game to us all the way."

"We got good scoring efforts from our guards, Whitehead and Cowart. Larry Melton did nothing for us offensively tonight, but he did a real good defensive job on Crisp's top scorer Jones. In the first half Jones only got two points. Our freshman (Greg Sampson) had a good game too."

"What can you say about a team that's won only three games? They're a lot better than a lot of the teams we've played who've won seven or eight games. They are going to surprise some people."

Valdosta travels to Adel tonight to take on the Cook Wasps and Hornets. The Hornets have not lost at home this year. Tipoff time for the girls' contest is 7 p.m.

GIRLS

Valdosta 9 24 42 58
Crisp 9 21 31 40

VALDOSTA (58)—Knight 16, Durham 10, D. Hill 4, Johnson 8, Council 2, Barker, Brown 18, Nathan, Zacha, Kebler, Hunter, Owens, Solomon, Cobb, G. Hill, Clayton, Copeland, Jones.

Team totals: field goals 25, free throws 8 of 15, fouls 16.

CRISP (40)—Alexander, Hughes, Roche 17, Gilliam 2, Childers 7, Fitzibbons 2, Barnes 8, Fullwood 4, Sharpe, Monson, Putman, Jurion, Griffin, Bryant, Dent.

Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 6 of 12, fouls 16.

BOYS

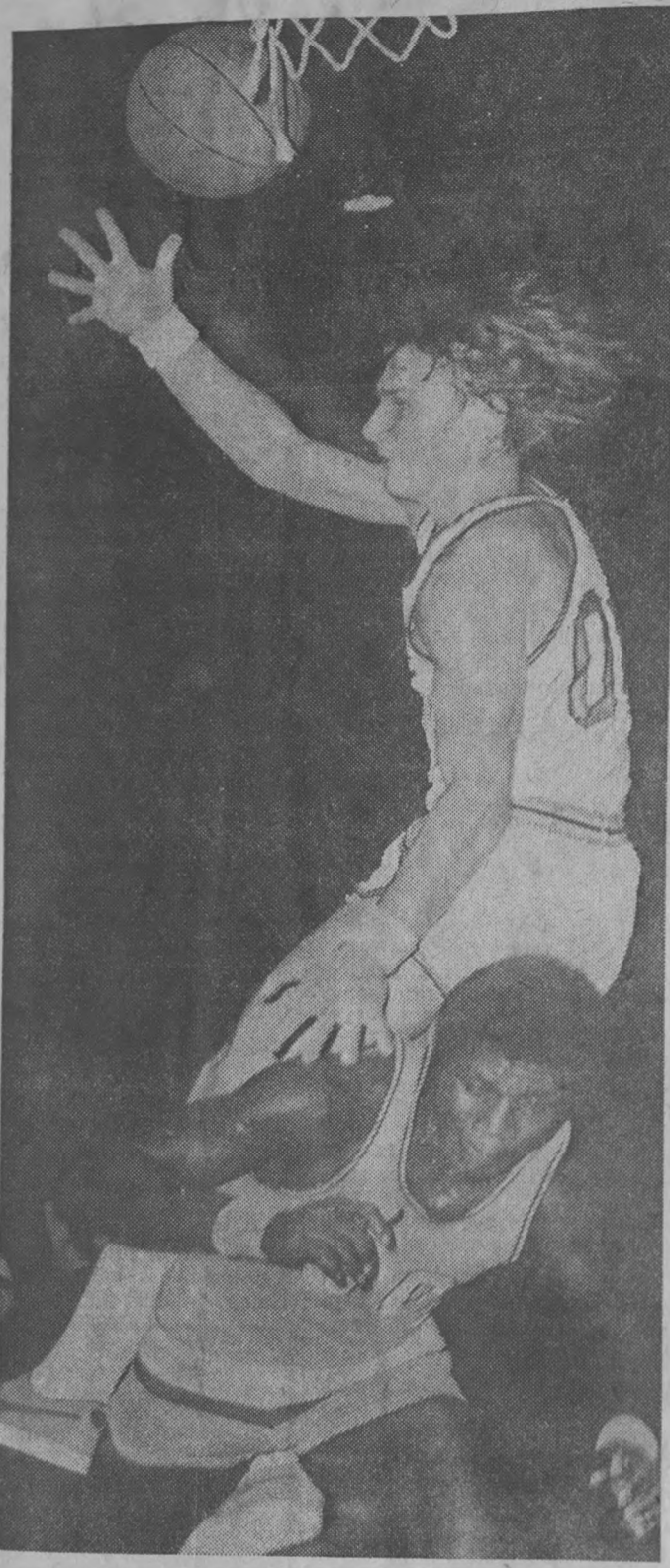
Valdosta 20 42 65 95
Crisp 12 24 46 63

VALDOSTA (95)—Melton 4, Hanson, Sampson 14, Graham 4, Green, J. Whitehead, Rome 36, Painter, Webb 2, C. Whitehead 17, Cowart 18, Stewart.

Team totals: field goals 42, free throws 11 of 20, fouls 7.

CRISP (63)—Wilson 2, Walker, Williams 12, Wright 12, Jones 12, Folsom, King 17, Busbee 8.

Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 5 of 8, fouls 17.



Whitehead Comin' Down: Cecil Falls Over Williams

— Times Staff Photo

Tomcats Nip VHS Frosh In Catfight

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta Junior High's undefeated Tomcats showed Valdosta High's freshman one year makes no difference as the eight graders came away with a 56-50 win over the Baby Wildcats in a VHS family-style basketball game her Friday.

Coach Norman Sainz's Tomcats boosted their record to 8-0 win the win over Frank Deming's 1-3 ninth graders.

Chandler Daniels led the victory with 16 points. Alvin Thomas, who hit three hook shots from the outside to turn the game around added 13. Allen Worthy who blocked seven shots scored 10 and Randy Griffin matched it with 10 points of his own.

Leon Johnson scored 16 points and Lawrence Lowe 14 for the VHS frosh. The Tomcats take on Hahira Junior High's T.gers in Hahira Tuesday.

'Cats Still Unbeaten

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Jan. 12, 1974 —7—

Valdosta Teams Pound Tift

TIFTON — Tight defense and an ability to beat the press gave Valdosta's Kittens a 43-36 win over Tift's Angels while a player who shouldn't even have played was responsible for turning a close game into an 85-46 Wildcat runaway in high school basketball action here Friday.

Yvette Council topped Kitten

scorers with 16 points. Sherri Johnson scored 11 for Valdosta. The Kittens' offensive success was due, however, to Gwen Durham's ability to beat the Tift County press with her ballhandling. Karen Smith and Linda Dixon each scored 11 points for Tift.

Stanford Rome was held to six points in the first half but exploded in the second half to end the night with 27. Terry Graham added 16 for the Wildcats, but Larry Melton was the 'Cats hero Friday.

Melton scored only 10 points, but he caused Tift's 6-6 center David Pease to foul out with 4:50 left in the third quarter. This opened up the lane for Rome, who atoned for his poor first half with 21 second-half points.

Melton's play against Pease was more conspicuous since he was not expected to start due to ankle and knee injuries. He was also feeling "under the

coach Joe Wilson.

"Melton played just long enough to foul their big man Pease out," said the Wildcat coach. "We had to get him out of a sick bed to play."

"Actually we shouldn't have played him at all. They had a good game plan and executed it well. We had to have him in there."

"We made 13 of 25 free throws. Six of the ones we missed were the first one of and one situations, so actually we could have scored 19 more points."

The Kittens' defense allowed the Angels to score in double figures in only one quarter. That was the fourth after Valdosta had secured the win.

"We gave a good overall team effort," said Kitten coach Steve Kebler, whose girls have not lost in 1974 in three starts.

"Gwen Durham and Sherri Johnson did a good job of

night moving the basketball.

"Our defense was consistent, much more so than when we lost to the Angels at home earlier this season," Kebler said.

The Kittens have now climbed above the break-even mark with a 6-5 record. Wilson's Wildcats continue in their unbeaten path with a 12-0 mark.

GIRLS

Tift 8 14 22 34
Valdosta 11 16 26 43

TIFT (36)—Smith 11, Dixon 11, Sparks 8, Ross 4, Vickers 2, Johnson, Poole, Young.

Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 4 of 6, fouls 20.

VALDOSTA (43)—Council 16, Johnson 11, Brown 7, Durham 5, Knight 4, Barker, Hunter, Nathan.

Team totals: field goals 18, free throws 7 of 17, fouls 13.

BOYS

Tift 8 22 34 46
Valdosta 12 27 37 85

TIFT (46)—Dominey 12, Pease 6, Ernest Savage 12, Mitchell 2, McLean 4, Miller 6, Woods 4.

Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 0 of 5, fouls 21.

VALDOSTA (85)—Melton 10, Hanson 2, Sampson 4, Terry, Graham 14, J. Whitehead 27.

Arts & Crafts

Pigeon Loft Opens Christmas Bazaar

By MARY CROUSE

The Pigeon Loft opened its Christmas Bazaar today with arts and crafts ranging from sand-cast candles to oil paintings.

According to Jerry Pilcher, one of seven local artists who operate Valdosta's newest art gallery, the Christmas gift selection offers a wide range of creations done by the group.

"It is our idea to show these different works which takes in

a large scope of the art media so that people can give unusual and more permanent types of gifts," said Pilcher who is also head of the art department at Valdosta High School.

There are miniature drawings, large acrylic paintings, water colors and pottery of every description.

Patsy Smith, VHS art instructor, has been invited to show her works in the Loft's first Christmas Bazaar. The gallery opened in October.

"Patsy is extremely talented and brings a new dimension to our gallery. Her work is full of life and completely charming," said Pilcher.

The Pigeon Loft, located in a second story office building overlooking Friedlander's at the corner of Ashley Street and Hill Avenue, consists of several different rooms.

The original idea was to find a place where all the seven artists could work undisturbed and show their work at specific hours.

All seven artists are professionals and have worked in art galleries and had their efforts displayed throughout the Southeast.

Sculpture, weaving, ceramics and metal crafts are also in wide evidence in the various rooms of the Loft.

The Loft is to be open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Sundays and from 4-6 p.m. weekdays.

Artists besides Pilcher and Mrs. Smith who are participating in the bazaar include Bill Martin and Claude Singer, Valdosta State College art professors; Pat Taylor, VHS photography and pottery instructor; Tim Teasley, West Georgia College art instructor; Shirley Singer, designer, and Mark King VSC art student.



— Times Staff Photos

Pilcher Pours Wax Into Sand While King Watches: Unique Candles On Display

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thur., Dec. 6, 1973 —25—

LHS, VHS Test Loop Foes

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Lowndes' basketball teams travel to Moultrie Friday for a Region 1-AAA cage confrontation, then return home to host the Bainbridge Bearcats and Kittens Saturday.

Valdosta is idle Friday but plays host to Tift County Saturday to headline a full basketball slate for area cagers.

Moultrie coach Roy Saturday believes the Packers are now a competitive Region 1-AAA basketball team. Despite their lack of size, he believes the Pack is

no longer the perennial pushover that long played on the Moultrie hardcourt.

"We're small and inexperienced," he said. "We returned only four players with playing experience, and only Brad Smith (6-0, sr.) started last year.

"We've played exceptionally well so far this season. I don't know how we'll do against Lowndes. They're much bigger than we. I don't even know what we'll run against them. We usually adapt our style to

the opposition."

The games between Lowndes and Moultrie are to be in the Moultrie gymnasium Friday.

Valdosta hosts Tift County (Tifton) and tries to keep its perfect records intact. Top 'Cat Stan Rome has been little short of overpowering in the Wildcats' first three games. In their last outing against Rickards High of Tallahassee, Fla., Rome grabbed 17 rebounds and scored 43 points as the 'Cats blitzed the Redskins in the second half. Other area cage action this

weekend finds Berrien County (Nashville, Ga.) at Blackshear, Westwood (Thomasville) plays at Westbrook (Dixie), Lanier County (Lakeland Ga.) takes on Norman Park there, Whigham plays Georgia Christian in Dasher, Clinch County (Homer, Fla.) plays Broxton, and Madison, Fla. takes on Bradford, Fla.

Saturday's action pits Westbrook against Baker Academy in Hawkinsville, Georgia Christian tests Lanier, Brooks County

AREA HOOP SLATE

Friday

Prep

Lowndes at Moultrie

Berrien at Blackshear

Westwood at Westbrook

Lanier at Norman Park

Whigham at Georgia Christian

Cook at Doerun

Clinch at Broxton

Madison at Bradford

Saturday

Prep

Tift at Valdosta

Bainbridge at Lowndes

Westbrook at Baker

Georgia Christian at Lanier

'Dosta, Bainbridge Split Two

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

BAINBRIDGE — Bainbridge's Bearcats tried a familiar tactic and Valdosta's Wildcat used a just as familiar reaction to strengthen their lead on the Region I-AAA standings as the two schools split a high school basketball doubleheader here Friday night.

The Bearcats, second in the region standings, found doubling up on region scoring leader Stan Rome didn't work when Valdosta guard corps got hot and led the Wildcats to an 85-64 victory over the Bearcats.

But the Bearkittens found the Wildkittens an easier target as they turned on the steam in the second quarter enroute to a 43-30 victory over the Valdosta girls.

Bainbridge's Boys sagged in on Rome, who leads the region in scoring with a 41-point average, and managed to hold the 6-4

senior to four points in the first quarter.

But David Demersseman, another four-year starter, hit five straight from the outside and Jerome Whitehead and Steph-ey Cowart accounted for six more points from the outside as the 'Dostans surged to a 26-12 first quarter lead.

When the Bearcats backed off Rome, the big forward turned on some steam of his own to amass 33 points to lead the victory.

The game was similar to one played earlier this week when Moultrie's Packers held Rome to only six points in the first quarter only to watch Demersseman hit five corner buckets to break open the scoring.

"We got 31 points from our guards, Cowart, Whitehead and Demersseman," praised head coach Joe Wilson. "We've been saying all along if we can get

scoring from them we'll do all right."

Demersseman scored 15 points and Cowart 10 as the Wildcats, defending region champions, pushed their records to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in Region Play.

Willie Jack King scored 21 points while Jack Washington added 12 and Charles Manor 15 for the Bearcats who fell to 6-2 and 3-1.

"Larry Melton did a great job on Washington," Wilson added. "He usually averages 19-20 points per game."

The girls game was a different affair. The Bainbridge sextet staged a second quarter rally to overcome an 8-7 Valdosta first quarter lead and never stopped rallying until they had the 43-30 win.

"It's the same old story," said VHS coach Steve Kebler. "We had another bad night shooting."

Gwen Durham became the only Wildkitten in double figures with 12 points as her team dropped its third straight to fall to a 2-3 record.

Carol Chason scored 15 and got 10 points each from Marsha McCall to lead the Bainbridge girls to 4-4 and 3-2 overall and region records.

Valdosta travels to cross-town rival Lowndes for another region twin-bill tonight beginning at 7 p.m. It makes the third road game this week for the VHS teams.

Individual and team scoring follow:

GIRLS

Valdosta	8	14	20	30
Bainbridge	7	23	34	43
VALDOSTA (30) — Knight 9, Durham 12, Hill, Johnson 6, Council 2, Barker, Nathan Brown, Eckrote, Hunter.				
Team totals: field goals 13, free throws 4 of 12, fouls 19.				
BAINBRIDGE (43) — McCall 10, Chason 15, Smiley 10, Davis 4, Broughton 4, Humphrey, Glenn.				
Team totals: field goal 15, free throws 13 of 25, fouls 17.				

BOYS

Valdosta	26	44	65	86
Bainbridge	12	27	45	64
VALDOSTA (86) Melton 4, Hanson 2, Sampson 4, Graham 8, Green, J. Whitehead, Rome 33, Painter 2, Demersseman 15, Webb 2, C. Whitehead 6, Stewart, Cowart 10.				
Team totals: field goals 40, free throws 6 of 11, fouls 20.				
BAINBRIDGE (64) — King 21, Hamilton 6, Washington 12, Manor 15, Jeffery 4, Austin 4, Roberts 2.				
Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 8 of 15, fouls 12.				

—14— The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Dec. 7, 1973

VHS And Lowndes In Weekend Duels

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta and Lowndes both see hardcourt action this weekend as area cagers are involved in a full slate of basketball action.

Friday Lowndes travels to Moultrie to take on the Packers and Packerettes in a Region I-AAA basketball contest. The Vikes and Vikettes return home Saturday to entertain the tough Bearcats and Kittens of Bainbridge.

Valdosta has Friday off but

hosts Tift County (Tifton) Saturday.

Other area basketball action Friday pits Berrien County (Nashville, Ga.) against Blackshear, Westwood of Thomasville plus Westbrook in Dixie, Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) plays Norman Park there, Whigham visits Georgia Christian in Dasher, Cook County (Adel) plays Doerun there, Clinch County (Homerville) takes on Broxton in Broxton, and Madison, Fla. visits Stark to play Bradford County, Fla.

Saturday's action finds Westbrook at Baker County (Haw-

AREA HOOP SLATE

Friday
Prep
Lowndes at Moultrie
Berrien at Blackshear
Westwood at Westbrook
Lanier at Norman Park
Whigham at Georgia Christian
Cook at Doerun
Clinch at Broxton
Madson at Bradford
Saturday
Prep
Bainbridge at Lowndes
Tift at Valdosta
Westbrook at Baker
Georgia Christian at Lanier
Westover at Brooks
Berrien at Ware (girls)
Berrien at Fitzgerald (boys)
Charlton at Clinch
Hamilton at Clay
College
NFJC at Lake City CC

kinsville), Georgia Christian plays at Lanier, Brooks County, (Quitman) plays Westover of Albany in Quitman, Berrien's the Rebelettes take on Ware County in Fitzgerald, Charlton County (Folkston) visits Clinch, and Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) takes on Clay County in Greenco Springs, Fla.

College action features North Florida Junior College's Sentinels of Madison, Fla. traveling to Lake City, Fla. to play Lake City Community College.

Marchin' Cats Are Selling Unusual Christmas Cards

By E. RANDALL FLOYD

It's not like the usual holiday cards although the sentiment wishes the receiver a Merry Christmas.

But it's an idea which will help the members of the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band.

Bill Hamilton, the United States Army recruiter here, came up with the idea of selling Christmas cards with a color picture of the band on the front.

The picture was taken during the Miami Dolphins-New York Jets pro football game at the Orange Bowl earlier this fall.

The Marchin' Cats gave three different shows during the grid match activities including before, halftime and after the game.

Hamilton went with the band and said some of the students lacked spending money.

"I said I would help to see to it that wouldn't happen again," he said.

Hamilton saw the pictures Al Mills of Valdosta took of the game and suggested the idea of selling them in the form of Christmas cards to the students.

"They went wild over it. I

told them all the profit would be returned to them. I intend to give each student \$5 to take with them on their St. Petersburg Festival of States competition this spring," explained Hamilton.

He said he undertook the project on his own.

"And when I gave out the cards to the students to sell

this week, they about mobbed me. They went wild," he said.

The cards sell for \$4 for a box of 20. Hamilton ordered 15,000 cards.

If they are all sold, there will be about a \$1,000 profit, he explained.

"The nice thing about these cards is that they can be used any year and they represent our city in a pretty fine way," said Hamilton.

The Army recruiter said he hasn't missed one of the band's performances in the past several years and has traveled all over the country with the group.

"They should be named the official band of Valdosta. I think Mayor - Council should designate it as such and the Chamber of Commerce should encourage it. They are a fine group and a real credit to this town. I have never heard the likes of this band," said Hamilton.

He said Valdostans should realize what a great ambassador it has in the VHS Marchin' Cats.

"They brought \$1.6 million worth of free publicity for Valdosta during the Miami football game show," said Hamilton.



Band Members Admire Unusual Christmas Cards Being Sold

Wildcats Try It On Road Tuesday

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats, already super successful at home with a 4-0 record, try it on the road this week starting with rough-tough Moultrie Tuesday.

The 'Cats and their Kitten counterparts travel to Moultrie Tuesday to put their 4-0 and 2-1 records on the line against the 4-1 Moultrie Packers and 1-3 Packerettes.

Friday night the VHS teams travel to Bainbridge and return to Valdosta Saturday for a cross

1-AAA affairs.

"We're on the road for three straight games this week," said 'Cat coach Joe Wilson. "We'll be glad to get by at least two of them."

The Bainbridge Bearcats have handed the Packers their only loss so far, a 77-53 decision.

The VHS-Moultrie game kicks off a nine-game schedule Tuesday: Cook (Adel) hosts Central, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.) hosts Bacon County (Alma), Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) travels to Broxton, Clinch County (Homerville) travels to St. George, Westbrook (Dixie) travels to Brookwood (Thomasville), Valwood hosts Southwood (Waycross) in the Lowndes Junior High School gym, and Madison, Fla. hosts Live Oak, Fla. in other games and twin-bills.

AREA HOOP SLATE Tuesday Prep

Valdosta at Moultrie
Central at Cook
Bacon at Berrien
Lanier at Broxton
Clinch at St. George
Westbrook at Brookwood
Live Oak at Madison
Southwood at Valwood
College
Gulf Coast at North Florida

town trip to take on Lowndes in the Vikings and Vikettes' gym. All three twin-bills are Region

In junior college play, North Florida hosts Gulf Coast Junior College of Panama City, Fla. in Madison, Fla.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Dec. 11, 1973 —13—

'Cats, Hogs In Region

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens go hog-hunting tonight in a Region 1-AAA twin-bill that starts a three-game road trip which could make or break them in region standings.

Coach Joe Wilson takes his 4-0 Wildcats to Moultrie tonight to defend their region title against the taller 4-1 Packers while Steve Kebler's improving Kittens put a 2-1 record up against the 2-3 Packerettes.

Even with the Region's leading scorer Stan Rome behind him Wilson expects to have his hands full tonight.

"Moultrie's got what their coach says is their best team in years" Wilson said. "He says they aren't going to be the door-mat any more."

"They've got a 6-5 center who's a mighty good ball player and we got a starter, Larry Melton, slowed with an ankle injury. He may start anyway. If not we'll move David (Demersseman) to forward.

Other starters are to come from the trio of Terry Graham, Steppy Cowart and Cecil Whitehead, Wilson said, with Greg Sampson seeing a lot of action.

Friday night Valdosta travels to Bainbridge when the 'Cats take on the Bearcats, the only team to have beaten Moultrie so far this season. Saturday they return for a cross-city showdown with Lowndes in the LHS gym.

"We'll have our hands full this week. We'll be tickled to win one," said Wilson, correcting a story in the Times Monday which quoted him as hopeful of winning two. "We'll be real surprised to win two."

"Bainbridge has got everybody back from last year and they played us some real fine games then. And we always have our hands full with Lowndes."

than he.

"We're going to get better but the games are going to be extremely tough this week, Keb-

AREA HOOP SLATE Tonight Prep

Valdosta at Moultrie
Central at Cook
Bacon at Berrien
Southwood at Valwood
Westbrook at Brookwood
Lanier at Broxton
Clinch at St. George
Live Oak at Madison
College
Gulf Coast at North Fla.

ler said. "Moultrie and Lowndes always are at home. We're going to have to be at our best to even play with them."

Although his team is somewhat erratic on shooting and scoring Kebler is still optimistic.

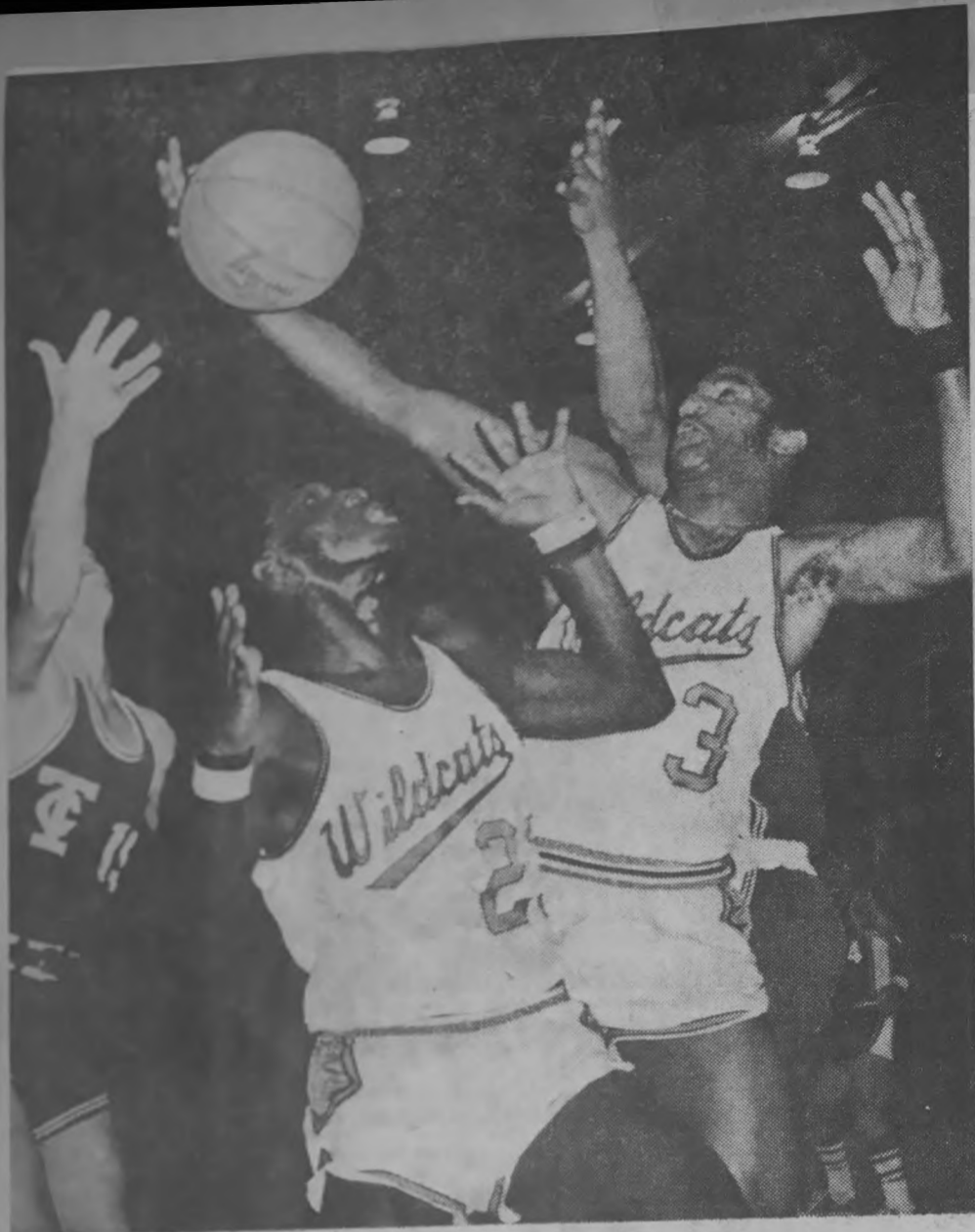


-Times Staff Photo

Preparing For The Show

Debbie Showalter, a Valdosta High senior, keeps her eyes on the director, as she and other members of the VHS Pep Band rehearse for Monday night's performance at Valdosta State College's opening home basketball game. The pep band, directed by

drum majors Elizabeth Cottle and Dan Fennell, performed at halftime of the VSC-Palm Beach Atlantic game. The VHS flag corps also was on hand for the halftime performance.



—Times Staff Photos

Basketball Battles: Valdosta's Stepney Cowart (23) Looks For Rebound But Rome (3) Has It; Kitten Yvette Council (14) Tries Backwards Rebound

'Cats Rout Imps, Kittens Fall

By JULIAN MILLER
Tift County's always strong Blue Angels rallied and then fought off Valdosta's Kittens for a Region 1-AAA high school basketball win here Saturday night.

But Stan Rome and David Demersseman and Company were just too much for Tifton's Blue Devils to compete with.

As a result Coach Joe Wilson's Wildcats successfully defended their region championship for their fourth straight game this season with a 107-77 rout of the Blue Devils, and Coach Steve Kebler's Kittens dropped their first loss of the season to the Angels, 53-51.

With Demersseman pacing the 'Cats with his passing and ball-handling and Rome making the Devils coached by former Valdostan Johnny Rutland, miserable with blocked shots and rebounds, and both hitting the scoreboards heavily, the 'Cats easily pulled away from a 6-6 tie to lead 18-15 at the end of the first quarter.

By halftime intermission, the 'Cats had a 53-36 lead and no place to go but up.

Rome, who scored 47 points, not including six for the other team on three goal tending calls, pulled down 20 rebounds.

Larry Melton, whom Wilson describes as a key to the Valdosta game, scored 19 points and was credited with 10 rebounds. Other 'Cats in double figures were Greg Sampson with 14 and Demersseman with a dozen.

David Peace led the Imps with 15 points while Dick Dominney and Mike McLean added 12 and 10 respectively.

"I think Melton and Demersseman played outstanding, as well as Rome, who hit his season high," said Wilson. "Melton has got to play well for our plan to work and he started fast tonight."

"David handled their man-to-man press real well bringing the ball down court for us."

The victory boosted the 'Cats to a 4-0 overall record in their initial regional bout. Rutland's Devils are now 2-4.

The girls game proved to be a nip-and-tuck affair all the way. The Kittens surged ahead to a 15-12 first quarter lead be-

hind the scoring talents of Cathy Brown but by halftime had been passed by the Angels, then ahead 33-25.

Brown led the Kittens to the lead again and the home-standing Kittens had a 43-41 edge going into the final stanza. But the Angels weren't to be stopped.

With five minutes left in the game the Angels, coached by Mrs. Rita Griffin, a student coach at VHS last year, had jumped to a 48-43 lead.

The Kittens closed it to 48-47 on baskets by Sheryl Johnson and Ruby Knight. A jump shot by Patricia Ross gave the Angels a 50-47 lead with 2:40 remaining but Gwen Durham stole the basketball and passed in to Knight for a layup that cut it again to one point, 50-49 with 2:26 left.

But when the Angels let Beverly Soarks see how long she could dribble the basketball, the Kittens had to start fouling to get possession. It was a bad move because the petite rover hit all three of her free throws for three of her four points to put the game out of reach.

Both teams hit on 22 field goals but the Angels hit on nine of 18 free throws while the Kittens hit on only seven of 26 to account for the difference.

The loss left the Kittens with a 2-1 record and an 0-1 Region 1-AAA mark. The Angels are now 5-1.

In a boys B' team game, the Baby Wildcats pounded Tift 65-49 behind the 17-point effort of Arthur Harper. The B' team is now 3-1.

Girls				
Valdosta	15	25	43	33
Tift	12	33	45	33
VALDOSTA (51) — Brown 21, Knight 4, Durham 4, Hill, Council 2, Eckrose 1, Barker 2, Nathan 1.				
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 7 of 26, fouls 19.				
TIFT (52) — Johnson 5, Poole 5, Ross 5, Sparks 4, Dixon 4, Vickers 2, Smith 1.				
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 9 of 18, fouls 25.				
Boys				
Valdosta	18	52	76	107
Tift	13	34	51	77
VALDOSTA (107) — Melton 19, Hanson 7, Sampson 14, Graham 4, Green 7, Rome 47, Demersseman 12, C. Whitehead 3, Cowart 2, Stewart 7, Webb, Painter, J. Whitehead.				
Team totals: field goals 49, free throws 9 of 16, fouls 24.				
TIFT (77) — Dorminey 12, Tease 15, Savage 6, Ledford 4, Mitchell 8, McLean 10, Miller 4, Moore 2, Yeomans 4, Woods 6, Hillman 3, Horn 1.				
Team totals: field goals 28, free throws 21 of 35, fouls 19.				

At Wildcat
Doug
By TIMES STAFF
Valdostans can get account of the 1973 bowl game here when University of Football coach Don peaks at the annual high school football The 1974 graduate university is to be the g Valdosta Touchdown school cafeteria Jan. Valdosta's Wildc posted an 8-2 record 1973 football season coach Charlie Green honored at the banq Among the awards sent at "Super sportsmanship, spir fensive lineman bes lineman, best offen best defensive back proved most loyal, m sive, scholastic ad most outstanding and uable, according to TD Club president Clabe Chapman. Also to be presented

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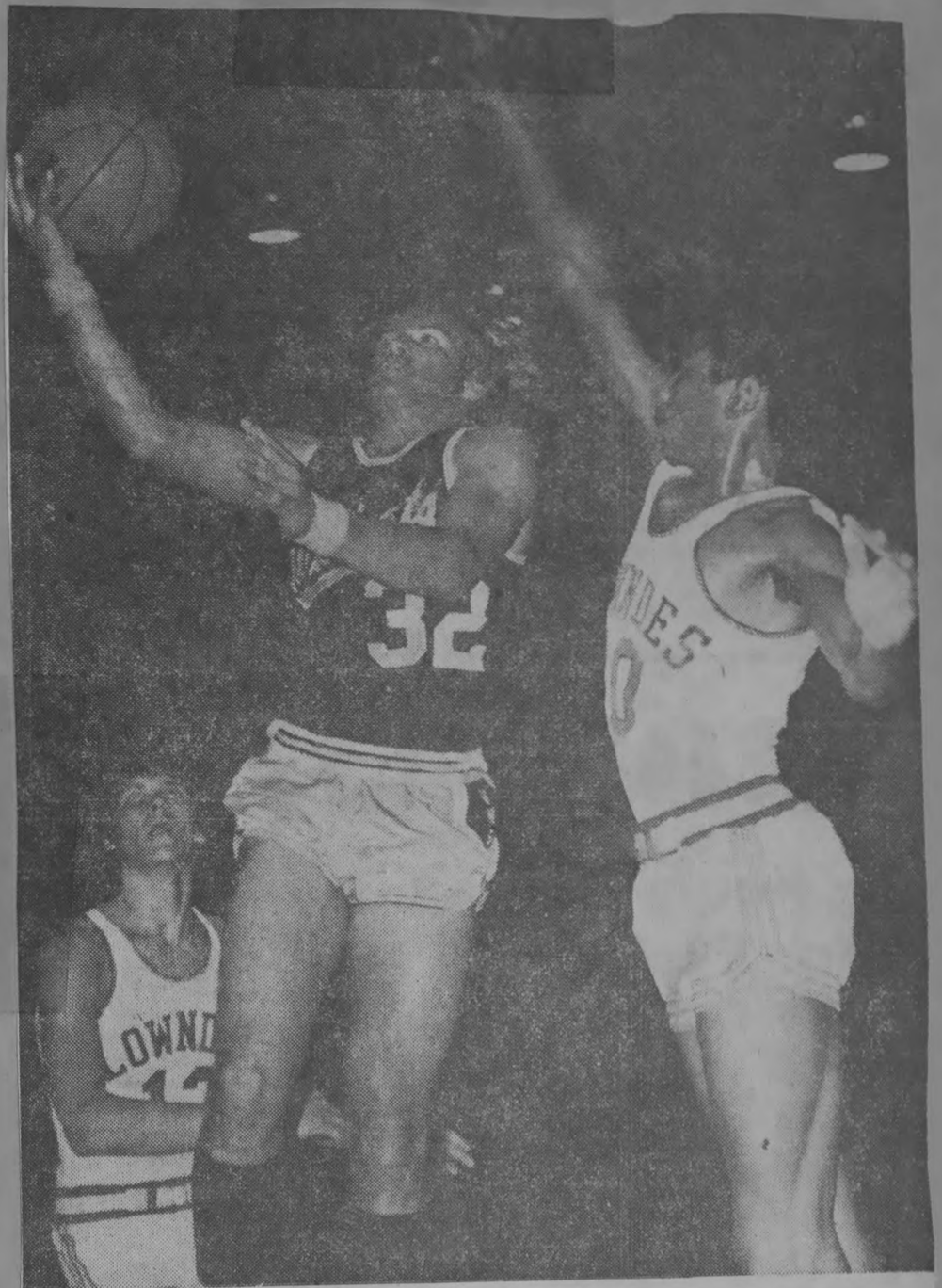


-Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

Sock It To 'Em Kittens!

The Valdosta girls' basketball team knew they were in for a rough night when the Waycross Bulldogettes roared to a 17-7 halftime lead. As Valdosta rallied, the reserves provided the

vocal support demonstrated here by Linda Eckrote (L), Susie Kebler (R) and Lisa Owens (below). Rally or no rally, Waycross prevailed by a 40-31 score.



-Times Staff Photos

Wildcat David Demersseman Lays It Up Against Vikes' Billy Hunter

'Cats, Vikettes Grab

By JULIAN MILLER
Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikettes showed why they're Region 1-AAA's defending champions and are leading the running again this year by claiming their halves of a high school basketball twin-bill here Saturday night.

The 'Cats made up for a heavily guarded Stan Rome to blast Lowndes Vikings 68-44 while the Vikettes put the scoring of Debra Ard and Sue Ann Christie to work to dump the Kittens 32-

27. Lowndes managed to hold Rome, the 'Cats' and region's leading scorer to just three points the first quarter. The rest of the 'Cats, led by David Demersseman, and Larry Melton, more than made up for it.

By the end of the first quarter Melton had six points and Demersseman, the 'Cat floor leader had hit three and passed for many more and Valdosta held

a 20-7 lead.

The Vikings did manage to hold Rome who averages 41 points per game, to his season low, 23 points. Larry Melton added another 19 and Terry Graham 10.

The victory boosted Coach Joe Wilson's Wildcats to 7-0 overall and a 4-0 region record.

Billy Hunter was the only Viking allowed in double figures as the Vikes dropped to 1-6 overall and 0-5 in league play.

While Wilson was disappointed over his 'Cats' play, Cooper was satisfied with his Vikes.

"I though we played as well as we could," he said. "Valdosta has a tremendous ball club, definitely the best in the region and one of the best in the state."

"We did a good job on Rome. Larry Powell played him man-to-man most of the time and he (Rome) only had 12 points at the end of the third quarter."

Wilson said two other wins on the road this week left his 'Cats flat for the night.

"We played one of our poorest games this year in ball handling and shooting," he said. Also they played a stall game and our kids wanted to play. We got frustrated and didn't play as well as we should have.

In the girls game Coach Steve Kebler's Kittens found his homecoming was not such a joyous one.

The Kittens, coached by Kebler, a former Vikette coach who led them to their first Region championship several years ago, had a familiar problem. They couldn't hit the basket and the Vikettes could.

With Ard & Christie in the lead the Vikettes compiled a 10-4 first quarter lead and bumped it to 22-11 by halftime.

Ard and Christie scored 10 and 11 points respectively as the Vikettes boosted their record

Rome Is Selected For All-America

By BILL COOPER

Stanford Rome of the Valdosta High School Wildcats was one of three Georgians named today as members of Parade Magazine's 11th Annual All-American High School Football team. Rome, Reg. on 1-AAA's all-time leading pass receiver, was joined on the 50 man squad by running back Greg Graves of Southwest High School in DeKalb, Ga. and quarterback Anthony Flanagan, of Southwest Atlanta.

Being named to the All-America team was the latest in a series of honors which saw Rome chosen for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Class AAA All-State team and named the AAA lineman of the year by the newspaper.

When informed he had been selected to the squad, Rome responded, "Hey man, that's great. What did you say the name of that magazine was again?"

"That's really an honor. Great, just great."

Valdosta football coach Charlie Greene was as pleased as Rome at the big end's selection to the team.

"Great," said Greene. "I can't think of a player who deserves it more."

"Stan did a real fine job for us again this year. He's a tremendous athlete and a fine person. No one could deserve it more," Greenes sentiments.

Valdosta athletic director Wright Bazemore seconded Greene's sentiments.

"I think it's a well deserved honor," said Bazemore, who coached Rome as a freshman and a sophomore. "Stan has all the ability in the world. He doesn't know how much talent he does have."

"Rome had a real great freshman and sophomore year. It's unusual for an athlete to mature as early as he did."

"He didn't have a particularly good season his junior year, but he was great this past season. It's a well-deserved honor. Nobody deserves it more."

Rome caught passes for more than 4,200 yards in his four-year career with the Valdosta Wildcats. He also played defense when needed and was a stand out at linebacker and defensive back.

"Parade's" selections follow:

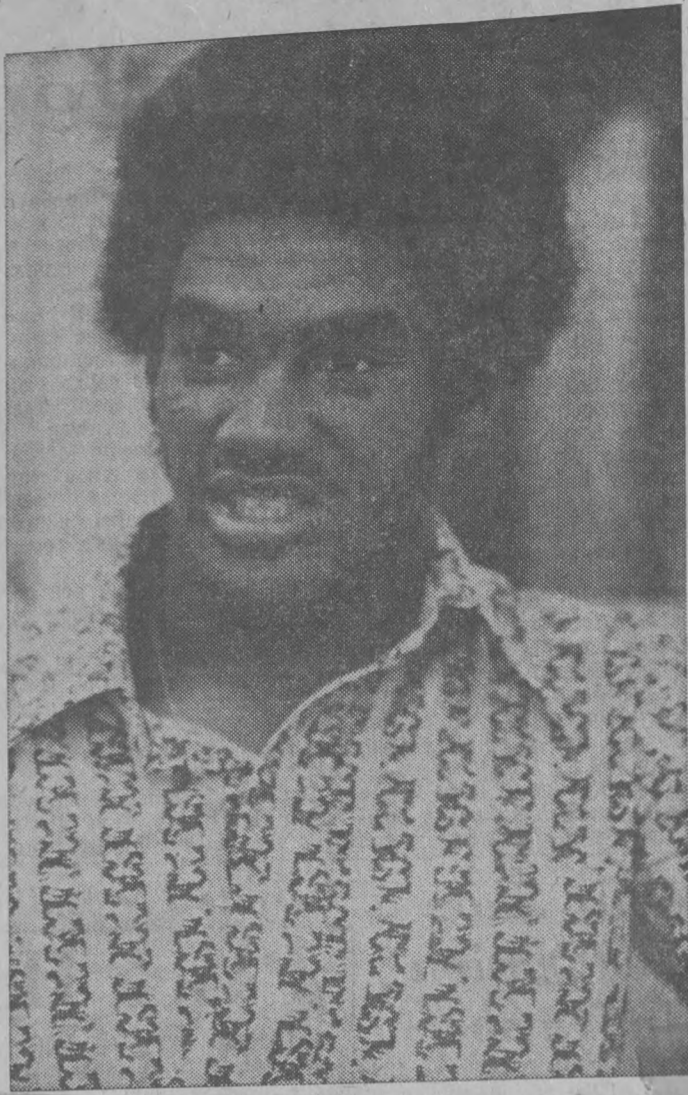
Quarterbacks—Anthony Flanagan, Southwest High School, Atlanta; Jeff Knapp, Fairview High School, Boulder Colo.; Joe Montana, Ringgold High School, Donora, Pa.; Mark Manges, Fort Hill High School, Cumberland, Md.; Gary Forst, Divine Child High School, Dear

born, Mich., and Johnny Evans, Andrews High School, High Point, N. C.
Running backs—Jerry Eckwood, Brikley, Ark., High School; Ted Bell, Cardinal Mooney High School, Youngstown, Ohio; Willie Wilson, Summit, N. J., High School; Earl Campbell, John Tyler High School, Tyler, Tex.; Elvis Peacock, Central High School, Miami, Fla.; Myron Shogte, Spiro, Okla., High School; Terry Miller, Billy Mitchell High School, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Tony Nathan, Woodlawn High School, Birmingham, Ala.; Dwight Ford, Bell High School, Los Angeles, Calif.; Jim Cefalo, Pittston, Pa., High School; Greg Graves, Southwest High School, DeKalb, Ga.; Ron Bonner, Westwood High School, Mesa, Ariz.; Pierre Davis, Bayside High School, Queens, N. Y.; Dennis Johnson, Weir, Miss., High School; Ron Smith, Sylva-Webster High School, Sylva, N. C., and Paul Rice, Lewisville, Tex., High School.

Linemen—Otis Page, Saratoga, Calif., High School; Leotis Harris, Hall High School, Little Rock, Ark.; Jeff Weston, Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester, N. Y.; Ed Calloway, Elkin, N. C., High School; Jim Green, Richfield High School, Waco, Tex.; Ray Cardinelli, Monterey, Calif., High School; Keith Aury, Valley Station High School, Louisville, Ky.; Harry Woebkenberg, Moeller High School, Cincinnati, Ohio; Jim Kogut, Marmion Academy, Aurora, Ill.; Bill Dufek, E. Grand Rapids, Mich., High School; Sam Claphon, Stilwell, Okla., High School; Alfred Sanders, Temple, Tex., High School; James Emerson, Great Bend, Kan., High School; Kim Taliferro, Clovis, N. M., High School; Terry Colby, Danville, Ill., High School, and Steve McDaniels, Renton, Wash., High School.

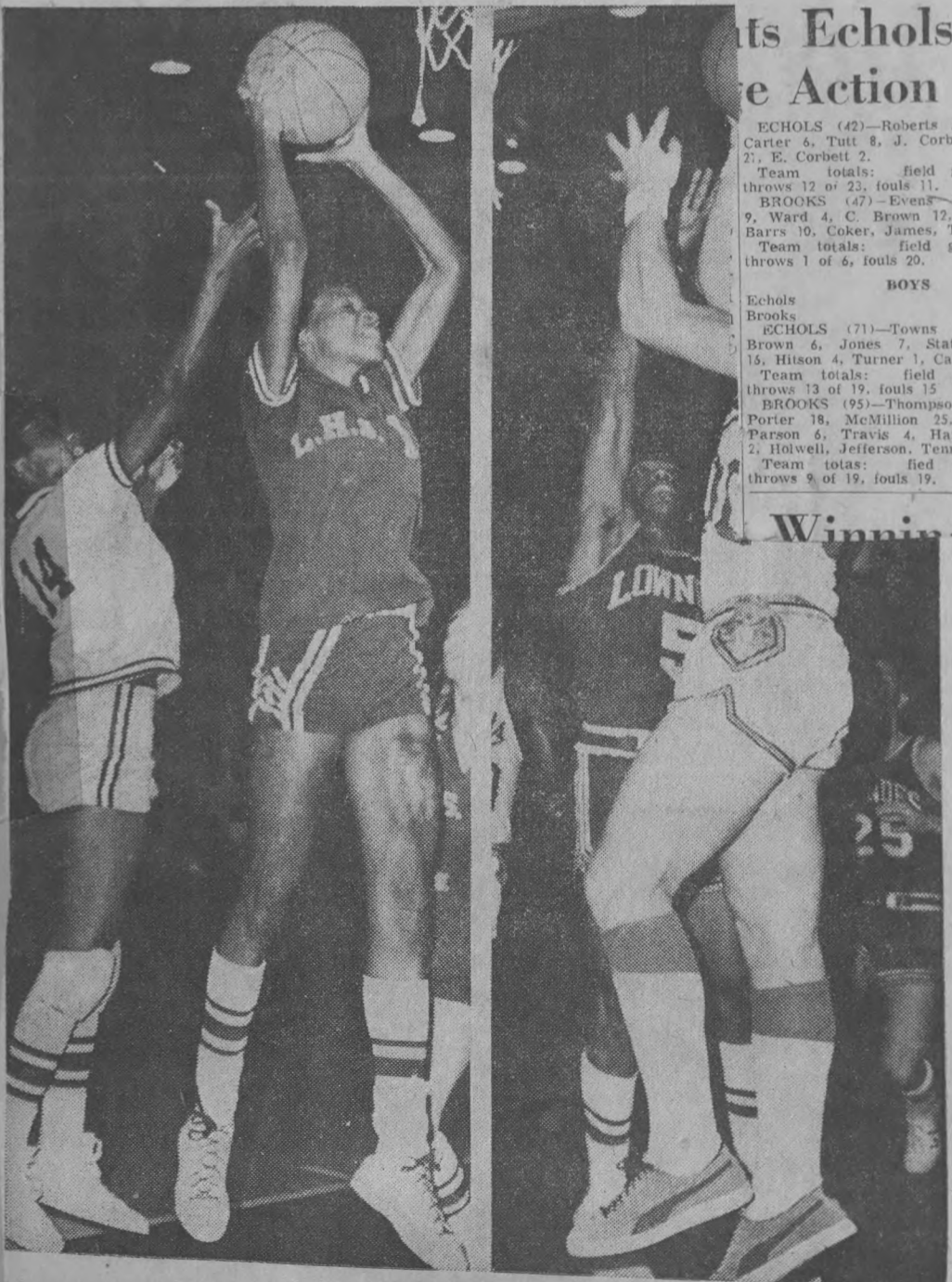
Ends—Ken MacAfee, Broeckton, Mass., High School; John Washington, Roosevelt High School, Dallas; Stan Rome, Valdosta, Ga., High School; Herman Jones, South Dade High School, Miami, Fla.; Larry Bethea, Ferguson High School, Norfolk, Va., and Ron Burns, Sam Houston High School, Arlington, Tex.

Linebackers—Joel Estes, Sherman, Tex., High School; Frank Manumaleuna, Banning, Calif., High School; Pete Allard, St. Laurence High School, Oak Lawn, Ill.; Greg Jones, Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tenn.; Pete Johnson, Goodrich High School, Fond Du Lac, Wisc., and Paul Redzinski, Catholic Cent. High School, Detroit.



— Times Staff Photo

Stanford Rome: Another Honor



'Cats' Cecil Whitehead Makes Shot (Right), Vikette Anne Williams Gets Rebound

—AP Wirephoto

Cats Echols in Action

ECHOLS (42)—Roberts 5, Swilley, M. Carter 6, Tutt 8, J. Corbett, R. Carter 2, E. Corbett 2.

Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 12 of 23, fouls 11.

BROOKS (47)—Evans—12, B. Bloom 9, Ward 4, C. Brown 12, Horne, Betty Barrs 10, Coker, James, Trotter, Carr.

Team totals: field goals 23, free throws 1 of 6, fouls 20.

BOYS

Echols 11 35 52 71

Brooks 30 46 68 95

ECHOLS (71)—Towns 17, Gowin 2, Brown 6, Jones 7, Staten 19, House 15, Hitson 4, Turner 1, Cavady.

Team totals: field goals 20 free throws 13 of 19, fouls 15.

BROOKS (95)—Thompson 14, Rich 14, Porter 18, McMillion 25, Reynolds 10, Parson 5, Travis 4, Harrel 2, Adams 2, Holwell, Jefferson, Tennyson, Brown.

Team totals: field goals 43 free throws 9 of 19, fouls 19.

Winnipeg Team All Not Realistic

Someone else will get in there soon."

It hasn't happened yet. But Col. There have been two tournaments on the pro tour this year. Miller has won both. He scored with a mby four strokes in the weather-shortened ras shortened Bing Crosby then

A crowd of more than 1,500 crammed VHS's new gymnasium for the twin-bill, the largest so far.

Rome, Valdosta's 6-4 forward accounted for 37 points, at least five blocked shots, and a high number of rebounds to pace the victory.

The Region 1-AAA scoring leader had 14 buckets to his credit and after experimenting with his free throws in the first half and going zero for eight, settled down to conventional form and hit nine of 11 in the second half.

"We were real proud to win that one," Wilson said. "Lowndes played real fine basketball game."

"Greg Sampson, a ninth

four fouls

VJHS Takes Two Wins From LJHS

Valdosta Junior High's Kittens scored nine points in overtime while holding Lowndes scoreless to take a 39-31 win as VJHS swept a basketball doubleheader here Tuesday.

Lisa Fixe scored 20 points and Pam Wilson 17 as the Kittens of Mrs. Ann Baldwin bumped their record to 7-3.

Meanwhile the Tomcats defeated the LJHS Eagles 56-36 for their 12th victory in 13 starts. Chandler Daniels led the 'Cats with 13, Allen Worthy scored 13 and Buck Belue 10. Lawrence Williams scored 18 for Lowndes.

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Silver State Medals Given To 21 Valdosta Students

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Silver state medals for outstanding work have been awarded to 21 Distributive Education students at Valdosta High School.

DE coordinator Norman Greene said the state merit awards are presented each year to those students who achieve excellence in five different competency areas.

The students include Doris Wilcox, Paula DeLoach, Cheryl Griffin, Sherlene Brown, Beth George, Dennis Schunoff, Ray Glass.

Terre Walker, Ronnie Weldon, Katherine Pierce, Loretta Wilcox, Joseph Stokes, Wayne Hughes, Tommy Smith, Steven Nichols, Robin

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Dec. 16, 1973 —7-B—

Young Ideas...

Sheffield, Mike Becton, Kathy Brown, Kathryn Aultman, Bobby Johnson and Connie Maples.

Five of the students are now competing for national gold medals for their work in the five competency areas.

The competency areas are economic understanding, product and service knowledge, communications, marketing and human relations.

Greene said the students are competing with themselves. "It was felt there was enough

in DE with competition against one another so this was devised to give them a chance to excel on their own and to do in-depth research in a field in which they are interested," explained the coordinator.

The competency program allows the students to do research in a chosen field to determine if they want to pursue this as a career when they finish school, said Greene.

"This is the beauty of the whole program. The activity lets the student learn, receive credit and recognition for something which could help him in a chosen field," said Greene.



—Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

Smith's Barber Shop At Valdosta High

Valdosta High students no longer have to leave the campus in order to get their hair trimmed down to Board of Education specifications as Johnny An-

derson found out last week. The "long hairs" simply report to art teacher Patsy Smith's classroom and she takes care of the extra hair at no charge.



—TIMES-UNION PHOTO BY FOSTER MARSHALL

Valdosta Star Athlete Rome and Friend, Melody Howard

NAME OF THE GAME: RECRUIT STAN ROME

By DAVE HARRISON
Times-Union Sports Writer

VALDOSTA Ga. — Looking at the house at 504 South Street, you would never guess that it is Valdosta's favorite stopping-off place for the college football and basketball coaches.

It's a small frame house, with fading green walls and a shingled red roof that seems to be a little off-center. Brick pilings raise the house above a postage-stamp yard that contains maybe a half-dozen blades of grass.

It isn't a shabby house by ghetto standards, but it isn't the Hilton, either. But those coaches who've been coming to this South Georgia community by the dozens lately wouldn't think of going anywhere else.

You see, there's something at 504 South Street that the coaches couldn't find elsewhere in Valdosta. In fact, only a handful of places in the country offer a comparable treasure.

His name is Stan Rome, and coaches all want him desperately.

high praise that is. Rome is also, without question, the finest basketball player ever at Valdosta High, turning

a team that was once largely ignored into an all-winning

(Continued on A-7—Column 1)

Name of Game in Valdosta: Recruit Stan Rome

(Continued from A-1)

Juggernaut that is ranked second in Georgia's largest classification.

BUT AS IMPRESSIVE as Rome the athlete is, his coaches think Rome the person is even more so.

"You couldn't ask for any better than Stan," said football coach Charlie Greene. "He's a real fine boy, well-mannered, sincere and friendly with everyone. It's amazing, with all the recruiting and coaches bothering him constantly, how he stays so level-headed."

"And Stan is very loyal. Many times he had a chance to visit a college and he said: 'I can't go, we've a game this weekend.' He's a real leader."

Rome is a leader of men and a leader of statistics.

As a wide receiver in football, Rome's career receiving figures are 201 catches, 4,047 yards and 45 touchdowns. He also excelled at linebacker and any other position Greene put him in.

As a center in basketball, Rome leads the region with averages of 33.5 points and 22 rebounds, hitting 68 percent of his field goal attempts. The Wildcats are 16-0 this year and 9-22 during Rome's career.

"I like basketball better," Rome said. "It's more fun to play and basketball practices are a lot easier than football. I wasn't going to play football as a freshman (at Valdosta) but the coaches talked me into it."

AT ONE TIME Rome

talked about playing both sports in college, but now he says it would be too much of a strain. His basketball coach, Joe Wilson, believes Rome will wind up playing basketball at one of the few schools that hasn't talked to him in person — UCLA.

"He got a second letter from UCLA a few days ago and Stan was very excited about it," Wilson said. "The indications I've gotten from him lead me to believe he would go to UCLA if they offered him a scholarship. And if they (UCLA) saw him play I'm sure they would offer him a scholarship. Stan can play for them."

Rome conceded that his future depends on a great extent on what UCLA does, but added: "I don't want to go somewhere and sit on the bench for four years. I'd like to be able to start as a freshman. A lot of people have told me I have a better future in football. If I had to make a decision right now I honestly couldn't make up my mind."

One of the problems Rome would face as a basketball player is making the switch from center to guard. Only Wilson doesn't think it would be that much of a problem. "He'll make somebody a fine running guard," Wilson said. "He's a good outside shooter and he can handle the ball well enough."

"One time a college coach was scouting him in a game and questioned his ability to play guard. Just for his benefit, I had Stan bring the ball the length of the court against a press and score a

layup. The coach said: 'He can play guard.'"

PERHAPS ROME'S finest hour on the court was in a region tournament game against Crisp County last year, when he was matched against 7-1 giant Wayne "Tree" Rollins, now starting in Clemson. During the time they were guarding each other, Rome scored 28 points and Rollins two.

"You hear all these people saying Rollins is going to be the Bill Walton of the East," Wilson grinned. "And he is a great player. But Stan is a better one. Stan proved it."

"The thing about Stan is that he dominates the scene in any game he plays, because he excels in all phases of the game."

Greene admitted that Rome is leaning toward basketball. In one respect that makes him sad.

"Pro-vice, I think his future is in football," Greene said. "That's my opinion and the opinion of quite a few others."

"He has a tremendous knack for catching the football. That's something that's really hard to teach — to really want to get the football, to catch a pass that isn't well-thrown. With Stan, you throw it and he'll go get it."

"Stan has the speed to go deep (4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash) and he runs patterns well. He runs the down and out as well as anybody I've ever seen."

GREENE SAID coaches who have watched him play say Rome is a superathlete

who could start for any team as a freshman. He said the schools that are interested in him as a football player include Georgia, Florida, Florida State, all the Southeastern Conference schools, Southern California, UCLA, Michigan, Notre Dame, Kansas and Kansas State.

Greene laughed off the suggestion that Rome may have reached his peak in high school.

"Stan hasn't realized how great he can be. He may grow a little physically, and he hasn't completed his growth mentally and emotionally. Stan can play anything he makes up his mind to play."

Stan's mother, Roberta, remembers that Stan made up his mind to play ball at a very early age. At the house at 804 South Street, the tall, handsome woman managed to squeeze in a few memories between coaches' visits.

"I've had as many as three in one day," Stans mother sighed.

"I remember Stan was 3 years old when I bought him and Roger a football and basketball for Christmas. (Roger is Stan's older brother, now a basketball player at Florida). They would play with them all the time."

The brothers didn't get a goal to shoot at until two or three years later. "All we did at first was throw the ball at each other," Stan laughed.

Even the goal didn't solve the problem. No one in the family could assemble it, Stan's father having remarked, "Finally, about 10 neighborhood kids succeeded in hoisting the goal, and the Rome brothers secured their first regulation basketball with two books of trading stamps."

"Our backyard would stay full of boys," Roberta laughed. "Every day they would play until dark. I even got out there myself once and fell and scraped both knees."

Stan said the countless one-on-ones against his old-

er, taller brother were good training. "I had to learn to be a good basketball player. Playing against Roger allowed me to improve."

Stan got up and walked to the front door and pointed to the old Pinevale High School across the street — where Stan thought he would be going to school as recently as 1969, before integration.

"When I got older, I started going to the gym at Pinevale with some of the other kids. I still do."

The old gang still gets together to play basketball, but not as often. Roger has to come from Florida, Robin Holley from Gainesville (Ga.) Junior College, Edward Jones from Florida Memorial and George Roundtree from Albany State.

All but Roundtree are college basketball players. Roberta was originally opposed to Stan and Roger playing any sport in school. "I thought they might get hurt," she said, perhaps remembering those scraped knees.

But the brothers double-teamed their mother and made her change her mind.

WHEN INTEGRATION came, Stan and others had

Tornado Risk Study Started

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A countrywide tornado risk study has been started by Dames & Moore, a Los Angeles environmental consultant firm, for the Atomic Energy Commission.

The \$150,000 survey will last 12 months. Dames & Moore said it is one of the few nationwide tornado risk studies ever made and it may be the first to incorporate both meteorological and engineering data on such a large scale.

an additional incentive to make good.

"When I was younger, it seemed like there was a wall between us and Valdosta High," Rome said. "We knew it was out there, but it was unfamiliar to us."

"When I found out I was going to Valdosta it made me want to play harder. All the guys from Pinevale wanted to show they could play."

Stan succeeded so well that all Valdosta — black and white — knows his name. But the amazing thing is that he hasn't changed in spite of the attention from fans and college coaches.

"I talk to all of them (coaches) and I try not to let them bother me, because I know it's going to be for my betterment. In fact, I kind of enjoy it."

Just then, Stan Rome got another chance to enjoy himself. A basketball coach was knocking at the door.

Julian Miller Times Sports Editor Coach Committee Knows What Goes

It was understood, or should have been, when a committee was formed to find a new coach for Valdosta High School, just any coach wouldn't do. In the tradition of Valdosta High School, when the group of officials decided to undertake the job they planned on doing it right.

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'Cats, Kittens Swamp Pack

By JULIAN MILLER

When the Pack's away the 'Cats will play.

That may not be the way most people remember that little saying but it told the story of how Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens stormed over Moultrie's Packers and Packerettes in a Region 1-AAA high school twin-bill here Tuesday.

Coach Steve Kebler's Kittens began a three-quarter long rally in the second quarter and upset the Packerettes 44-33 to avenge an earlier loss in Moultrie.

Then the Wildcats of Coach Joe Wilson made their appearance and left the Packers sitting cold for a 96-42 victory, their 15th straight against no losses so far this season.

It was obvious from the start the 'Cats weren't going to have any trouble with the Packers. Mid-way the first quarter they were practicing different ways to score and Wilson was busily substituting.

Mid-way the second quarter everyone on the Wildcat bench had played except playmaker David Demersseman, still hobbled with a badly sprained ankle.

By the end of the first stanza the 'Cats were ahead 29-5 with everybody getting in on the act.

Valdosta's standout forward Stan Rome was obviously not at his best, but he was nowhere near his worst either. After causing four straight turnovers the 6-4 senior settled down to account for 18 halftime points and finished the game with 31 all the while blocking shots stealing passes and setting up VHS plays.

"We played a pretty well balanced game with Stan couple of points ahead a

usual," Wilson said. But he was more interested in the future.

"David's ankle is not coming around and Larry Melton still isn't able to practice. He has bronchitis. Rome played with the flu. You can't keep winning without practice."

Stepney Cowart, who teams up with Cecil Whitehead in a quick passing routine to bring the ball downcourt chalked up 17 points, Melton added 12, Larry Hansen, Greg Sampson and Cecil Whitehead added eight each for the 'Cats.

Willie Dobson was the only player in double figures for coach Roy Saturday's now 6-10 Packers who also took a 100-55 defeat from the 'Cats in Moultrie earlier this season.

Fouls made the difference in the girls game while Moultrie was charged with 18.

The Kittens led in shots from the field 17-16 but added to it

hitting 10 of 24 from the line. The Packerettes went to the line five times and sank only one.

Floor leader Gwen Durham and top shooter Cathy Brown kept the Kitten game alive. Brown sparked the rally by hitting a basket at the end of the first quarter and coming back with three straight to keep her team in the game at the beginning of the second stanza.

Durham hit two free throws at the start of the second half to break a 17-17 tie and the Kittens never trailed again.

Brown and Durham scored 14 and 10 points respectively as the Kittens boosted their record 9-6 overall and 4-4 in region standings, atoning for 42-36 loss to the Packerettes in Moultrie earlier.

"We played a bad first quarter and then settled down," said Kebler, who put most of the praise on the Kitten

defense." Tammy Tanner led the now 9-6 Packerettes of Coach Travis Allegood with 15 points.

In a B' team game, Coach Glen Phelps' Baby Wildcats outscored Moultrie 55-44 to raise their record to 10-0.

Girls
Valdosta 6 17 29 44
Moultrie 7 17 23 33
VALDOSTA (44) — Knight 7, Durham 10, Hill 3, Johnson 6, Council 2, Marker, Brown 14, Nathan 2.
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 10 of 24, fouls 8.
MOULTRIE (33) — Davidson 8, McGee 2, Burgess, Tanner 15, C. Norman 2, Hancock, W. Norman.
Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 1 of 5, fouls 18.

Boys
Valdosta 29 46 72 96
Moultrie 5 17 28 42
VALDOSTA (96) — Melton 12, Hansen 8, Sampson 8, Graham 5, Green 6, J. Whitehead 1, Rome 31, Painter, Webb, C. Whitehead 8, Cowart 17, Stewart.
Team totals: field goals 33, free throws 20 of 27, fouls 5.
MOULTRIE (42) — Smith 2, Dobson 11, Bright 2, Moss 5, Johnson 4, Coleman, James 7, Hernandez 7, Wright, Mason 6, Williams 2, Lewis.
Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 2 of 4, fouls 18.

Tells No Plans

By WINK DeVANE

Valdosta High School head football coach Charles Greene resigned today after two years in that position.

Greene, who compiled a 17-3 won-loss record after succeeding the legendary Wright Bazemore, cited religious convictions in his letter of resignation which was handed to City School Supt. J. Foster Goolsby at 11 a. m.

The 33-year-old ex-VHS gridiron standout said he feels the resignation is the will of the Lord and it makes no mention of future plans.

It refers only vaguely to criticism to which Greene has been subjected after finishing the past season 8-2 and the previous season 9-1.

In one section, Greene says his appointment as head coach was the "fulfilling of a lifelong dream and has brought a great deal of happy relationship to my life."

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St Regis P	32 32
Stv C Cola	17 17
Revlon Ind	43 43
Revlon	57 57
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RCA	18 18
Ration P	43 43
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Polartoid	80 80
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COACH GREENE Religious Convictions

-Tells Continued From Page 1

Married to the former Linda Doig, he is the father of two sons.

Goolsby said the resignation was completely unexpected.

"I don't feel there is a finer young man in this profession than Charlie Greene is," he said. "He is of superior character and dedicates himself completely to any responsibility assigned to him."

"He has a sincere personal interest in each student with whom he comes into contact and he puts forth every possible effort to help each student."

"He deals with all people with complete honesty which is an unusual characteristic and of course, he has my best personal interest and sincere best wishes whatever he does and wherever he goes."

Goolsby said the letter was addressed to the board of education which still must go through the formality of acting on it.

Greene left town shortly after submitting the resignation and was unavailable for comment.

Valdosta, Lowndes Travel For Region 1-AAA Battles

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats, cruising along unbeaten after 15 games, face what could be their stiffest test so far when they, along with their kitten counterparts take on Monroe in Albany.

Things won't be much easier for Lowndes' high sailing Vikings and Vikettes. They travel to Crisp County Friday for another Region 1-AAA basket twin-bill against the Cougars and Cougarettes.

Saturday night the 'Cats and

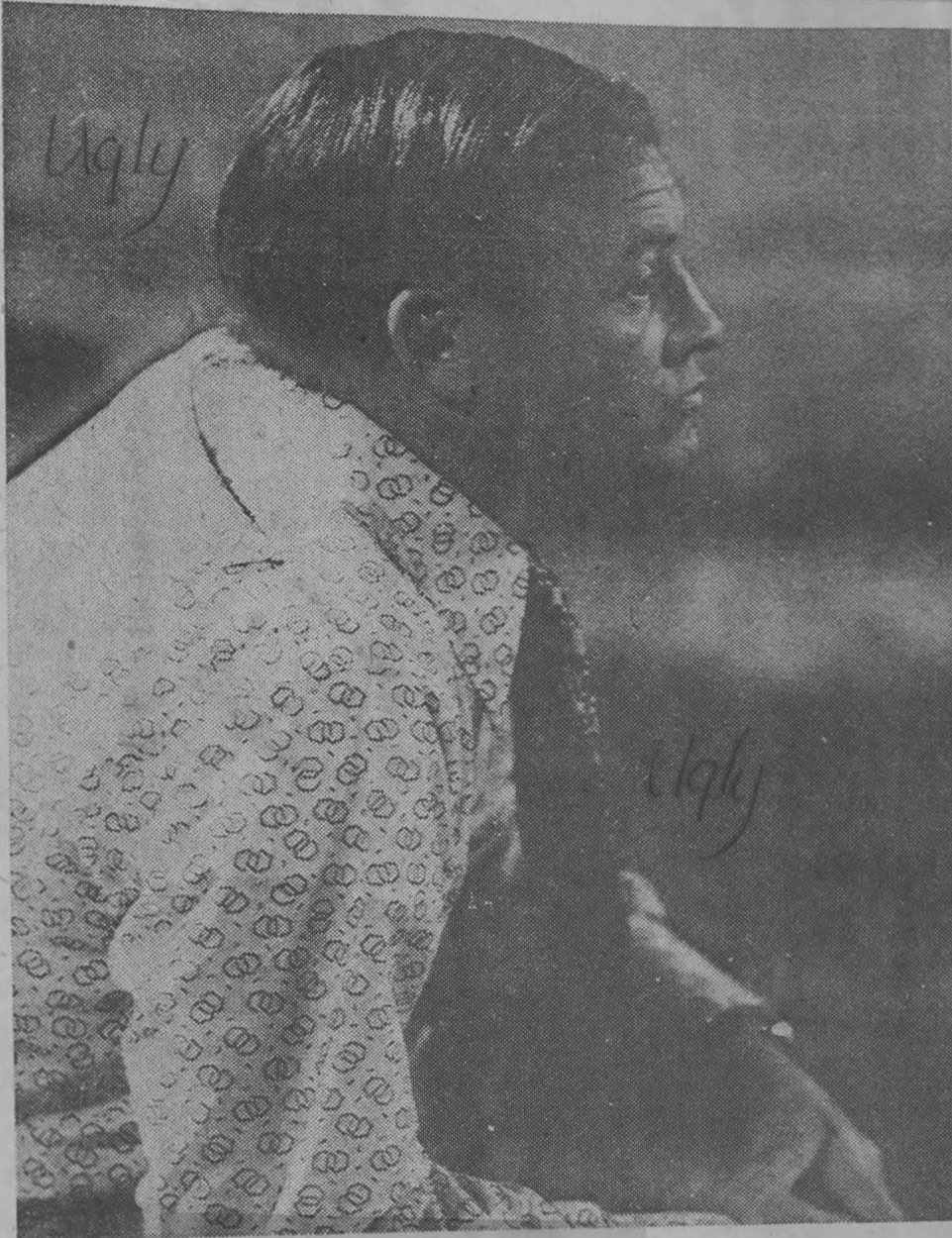
Kittens have to scrap again, this time hosting tough Bainbridge in yet another region showdown.

AREA HIGH SCHOOL GAMES Friday night
find Central (Thomasville) at Brooks County (Quitman), Bacon County (Alma) at Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) at Clinch County (Homerville); Cook (Adel) at Thomasville; Tift area (Tifton) at Westbrook (Dixie), Madison, Fla. at Baker

County (Macclenny, Fla.) Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) at Sante Fe (Alachua, Fla.), Echols County (Statenville) at Norman Park, and Bainbridge Christian at Valwood.

AREA HOOP SLATE Fri
Valdosta at Monroe
Lowndes at Crisp
Bacon at Berrien
Lanier at Clinch
Cook at Thomasville
Tift area at Westbrook
Madison at Baker
Hamilton at Sante Fe
Bainbridge Christian at Valwood
Echols at Norman Park
Saturday
Bainbridge at Valdosta
GCS at Whigham
Taylor at Hamilton
Greenfield at Westbrook

Other Saturday games find Georgia Christian (Dasher) at Whigham, Greenfield at Westbrook, and Taylor County (Perry, Fla.) at Hamilton.



Being Named Head Coach ... brought a great deal of happy relationships to my life. It has also brought many trials- Charles Green

Another Heartache: Greene Shown During Loss

Won't Be Bazemore? Search Is O

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

City School System Athletic Director Wright Bazemore, who has been through just about everything at Valdosta High School starts on a new endeavor Monday.

He is the man who is to lead the search for a new head football coach to replace Charles Greene who resigned the position Friday after posting a 17-3 record for the past two years.

And the only thing the Legendary coaching wizard who has been the anchor of VHS sports since 1941 could promise was "It ain't gonna be me."

"No sir, I resigned didn't I," Bazemore restated for the umpteenth time into the telephone from his office under Cleveland field. "How many times have you seen me change my mind? I served my time."

But Bazemore said the well-known pressure Greene was placed under as head coach, even though he lost only one game in 1972, after being named Bazemore's successor on the gridiron at the end of the 1971 season, and two in 1973, including one 6-0 loss to the eventual State Class AAA champions Thomasville, should have no adverse effects on bringing a coach to Valdosta.

"No, I don't think so," Bazemore said. "If I was

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sp

JULIAN M.
BILL COOPER

going to coach then I don't know of any situation better than here."

"While Bazemore said he would have to start 'looking around,' for a new head coach, he didn't say whether the selection would come from the coaches already at the school or from another school.

"I don't know," he emphasized, "We'll have to look around and see who's available. It won't be my decision anyway. A group of board members, maybe the athletic association, will have to make our recommendation to the Board of Education.

"They'll have to decide and there's nothing that says they've got to decide on one of our recommendations."

Greene surprised officials by handing in a prepared letter of resignation as Head Coach of football to school Supt. J. Foster Goolsby Friday morning.

Greene's letter of resignation only vaguely

Melton And Knight Lead Way

Wildcats And Kittens Claim Wins At Monroe

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens found new super stars, Larry Melton and Ruby Knight, and both teams found Region 1-AAA high school basketball victories over Monroe High's Golden Tornadoes and Lady Tornadoes here Friday night.

Melton, a 6-5 senior, became the first player to outscore his teammate Stan Rome this season with 33 points to lead

the undefeated Wildcats to their 17th straight victory, a 96-77 win over the highly-respected Tornadoes.

And Knight picked up 16 points to lead the Kittens to a 53-42 romp over the Lady Tornadoes to give VHS a rare twin-bill sweep in the Monroe gym.

Wildcat head coach Joe Wilson gave his 'Cats credit for their best offensive effort yet in a "rough, aggressive basketball game."

"Melton was 10 for 14 from the floor and 13 for 15 from the foul line," Wilson said. "It was his best game ever. He made three or four three-point plays when he got busted after a basket."

Rome, the region's leading scorer, was doubleteamed the

entire game and had to be taken out of the game for a few moments to recuperate from a hard collision with the floor after drawing a foul.

Three Tornadoes fouled out trying to keep up with him. Still the 6-4 senior managed to account for 23 points.

The 'Cats managed to take a five-point 23-18 lead by the end of the first quarter and by halftime had increased it to 45-34.

They also managed to play team floor general David Demersseman, who had missed the past six games with an injured ankle. He played one minute and accounted for two points. Besides Melton and Rome, Terry Graham was the only other 'Cat in double figures

with 16 points.

James Redding, Riley Williams and Reginald Lemon led the Tornadoes as they fell to 10-5 overall with 19, 14 and 12 points.

The Kittens of coach Steve Kebler spent the night trying to stay in front of the Lady Tornadoes and with the help of Knight, floor general Gwen Durham and Sherri Johnson did a fine job of it.

Those three girls scored 16, 13 and 12 points respectively as the Kittens chalked up their 10th win against only six losses and boosted their region record to 5-4.

Durham, who leads the team with her ball-handling and aggressive play was at her best and after taking a short rest on the bench, during which the Monroe girls cut the lead to seven points, went back in the final period and helped raise the margin to 18. It was then Kebler played the last of his bench.

Rosemary Sann and Topais Mathis scored 19 and 14 points respectively as the Lady Tornadoes fell to 7-9 and 4-5 in the region.

Both Valdosta teams have their hands full tonight when they take on Bainbridge in

their own gym.

Wilson's Wildcats host the Bearcats who are ranked seventh in the same statewide poll that has Valdosta rated second. The 'Cats won an 86-64 decision over the Bearcats, the second team in the region standings, in Bainbridge before Christmas.

Kebler's much improved Kitten lost a 43-30 decision to the Bearkittens in Bainbridge but have lost only one game while winning seven since Christmas.

That twin-bill tonight starts at 7 o'clock in the VHS gym.

GIRLS

Valdosta	12	31	40	53
Monroe	8	21	29	42
VALDOSTA (53) — Knight 16, Durham 13, D. Hill 2, Johnson 12, Council 2, Brown 6, Mathan 1, Hunter 1, Barker, Kebler, Owens, Solomon, G. Hill, Clayton, Conelash, Jones.				
Team totals: field goals 20, free throws 13 of 33, fouls 14.				
MONROE (42) — Swann 19, Mathis 14, Clements 6, Woodall 1, Penn 2, Isaac, Spry, Overstreet, Craswell.				
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 8 of 11, fouls 24.				

BOYS

Valdosta	23	45	62	96
Monroe	18	34	50	77
VALDOSTA (96) — Melton 33, Sampson 2, Graham 16, Rome 28, Demersseman 2, Whitehead 7, Cowart 8, Hansen				
Team totals: field goals 34, free throws 28 of 39, fouls 16.				
MONROE (77) — Anthon 9, Williams 14, King 6, Greene 2, Lemon 12, Redding 19, Windon 6, Roberts 7.				
Team totals: field goals 32, free throws 11 of 17, fouls 31.				

'Dosta Meets T'ville, LHS At Berrien

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Injuries have slowed the Vikings and Wildcats, team tension troubles the Kittens but the only thing bothering the Vikettes is Berrien's once-beaten Rebelettes as area high school basketball action resumes Tuesday.

Coach Joe Wilson's undefeated Valdosta Wildcats take on Region 1-AAA foe Thomasville in Bulldog Country. If history repeats, the game should be close.

"Thomasville plays well at home," Wilson said. "We've had two one-point games there in the last two years."

"David (Demersseman) is still slowed by his ankle. Otherwise we're in good shape."

"We've got to win two of our next three games to be assured of top seed in the region tournament in February."

"I don't mean to look past Thomasville, but we've got to get some people out when Albany comes in Friday. Our crowds have been terrible. Crowd support is very important in basketball."

Steve Kebler faces different problems with his Kittens.

"Our team's not together," said the Kitten coach. "A few of my kids don't have their minds where they should be."

It's starting to punish the ones who care.

"It seems some of my girls have lost respect for what we're trying to do. I've told my kids if we make great demands on ourselves, we'll collect great rewards. If our demands are smaller, our rewards will be smaller too."

AREA HOOP SLATE

Tuesday
Lowndes at Berrien
Valdosta at Thomasville
Brooks at Echols
GCS at Norman Park
Jefferson at Madison
Brookwood at Valwood
Santa Fe at Hamilton

"Most of my girls are making the sacrifice necessary to be winners. A certain few are cutting our throats."

Kebler's Kittens play the Bulldogettes in Thomasville Tuesday.

In other area action Brooks County (Quitman) plays Echols County in Statenville, Georgia Christian (Dasher) travels to Norman Park, Brookwood (Thomasville) plays at Valwood, Jefferson County (Monticello, Fla.) plays Madison, Fla.) and Santa Fe plays Hamilton County in Jasper, Fla.

Although his Vikes are ailing under the basket, Charles Cooper is confident his boys will make the best of a bad

situation. "We're in worse physical shape than we've been in since Christmas," the Viking head coach said. "Keith Grimes is in bed with the flu, Larry Powell has a sprained ankle and Billy Hunter's knee still bothers him."

"All three of my inside men are sick or hurt. We won't know until Tuesday how much they'll play."

"Our boys will give everything they've got to give against Berrien. Whether it's enough, we'll just have to wait and see."

"We're looking forward to playing Berrien. We're optimistic and just hope for the

best." In what should be an excellent girls basketball game, Berrien County's Rebelettes host Lowndes Vikettes prior to the Viking-Rebel contest. Coach Dona Fields' sextet has lost only one game this season. That loss was to Waycross in the Lowndes Christmas tournament championship game.

"Our girls have improved greatly since the season began," said Cooper. "But Berrien has lost only one game. The Rebelettes have improved too. They beat us here by seven points. We'll have to play extremely well to stay in the game playing on their home court."

Bazemore Refuses To Name Own Price

By MARY CROUSE

Wright Bazemore has turned down an offer from the Valdosta Board of Education to pick up the mantle as head football coach at the new Valdosta High School.

The board met in special session late Monday afternoon to discuss a personnel matter and the coaching position which has been vacated by the resignation of Charlie Greene.

Holyn Smith, acting chairman in the absence of Dr. Robert Quattlebaum, said several members of the board and members of the Athletic Association met Monday morning with Bazemore to talk about the coaching job at VHS.

"We knew that Mr. Bazemore would not come back into coaching but we felt we had to do something to stop all these rumors. He said he would not go back into coaching under circumstances," said Smith.

Supt. Foster Goolsby said the board asked Bazemore to name a price for the position. "Every effort possible was made to get a different answer from him. It was an uncompromising no at each turn," said the superintendent.

"We didn't even get a maybe," said Smith.

However, if a new coach has not been hired in time



WRIGHT BAZEMORE Turns Down Job

for spring football practice. Bazemore will manage the workouts, said Goolsby.

"We wanted to clear the air for any potential applicants. We want and are looking for applicants and we wanted to clear things up for anyone who might want to apply for the job," said the superintendent.

Smith said there has been a lot of public discussion about Green and his coaching position being talked about at board meetings.

"Never has there been any discussion at a board meeting since last spring about coach

Greene," he said.

Goolsby said no board of education member individually or collectively put any pressure on Greene to resign "and he'll say that, too."

Greene handed in his resignation to Goolsby late Thursday morning after two years as head of the fabled VHS Wildcats. He ended his top coaching career on the gridiron with a 17-3 record for the two season stint.

The 33-year-old former Wildcat standout was picked by the legendary 'Baze' to take over the reigns after Bazemore announced his retirement from coaching. Bazemore was named athletic director for the city school system.

There was dissension among some board members and football buffs after Greene's first coaching season. Some football enthusiasts wanted Bazemore to "help" the young coach.

Greene reportedly made it clear during the 1973 season he didn't want any outside help with his grid charges.

Goolsby said Tuesday there have been a couple of applicants for the job.

"All applications will be reviewed with Mr. Bazemore, the superintendent's staff, VHS principal Lloyd Mims and go to the board for final selection," said Smith.



CHARLES GREENE No Plans Yet

Charlie Uncertain As To Future

By JULIAN MILLER
Four days after resigning as head football coach at Valdosta High School, Charles Greene is as uncertain about his future as he was when he made the decision to quit. But he's still taking his teaching and head track coach position at the school very seriously.

"I don't know," the 33-year old Valdosta native said. "I feel like I've still got a job teaching but I also feel like I want to stay in coaching." Asked if that could possibly lead him to stay in Valdosta as a teacher, Greene explained, "It's hard to live off a teacher's salary only."

Coaches are given a supplement to their regular salary because of late working hours and other extra duties. One school official told the Times, Greene drew a large supplement as head football coach.

"It was a tough decision to make," said Greene, who still refrains from elaborating on the pressures which led to his resignation after coaching the Wildcats to a 17-3 record since taking over the reigns from the legendary Coach Wright Bazemore. The 9-1 and 8-2 records the Wildcats netted their first two years under Greene were identical to the 9-1 and 8-2 marks the 'Cats set under Bazemore in 1941 and '42, his first two seasons. Bazemore went on to rack up 290 wins, 43 losses and 6 ties along with 15 state championships.

Speculation has arisen the football position will either be offered to Dale Williams, a former teammate of Greene's on the 1957 squad of Wildcats, who coached Waycross' Bulldogs to a 8-2 record in 1973, including a 23-7 upset over Greene's 'Cats on homecoming night. Other speculators say Bazemore, still athletic director for the city school system will take the helm during spring practice and eventually resume his once-held position as head coach, even though he refused the job Monday. Bazemore repeatedly has denied any plans of returning to coaching, saying a move is underway to search for potential candidates. And Greene admits he has no idea what officials plan to do about the position. "I don't know what they plan to do," Greene admitted. "I think there are a number of coaches who are being discussed." He added he thought a coach would be named before spring practice. Greene, meanwhile, who has already earned a Masters' degree in social studies, is only 10 hours (two courses) away from obtaining his Masters in physical education at Valdosta State College. He is currently enrolled in one-five hour course and plans to complete his degree requirements next quarter, somewhere.



Redessa Johnson, Dexter Johnson, Billie Connell, Dwayne Patterson With Calendar

Times Staff Photo

VHS Marchin' Cats Named Georgia's Representative

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats band has been named the official musical group of Georgia to represent the state in the big St. Petersburg, Fla. extravaganza April 3-6.

VHS band director Frank Butenschon said he has been notified by Gov. Jimmy Carter that the Marchin' Cats are the official Ambassadors of Goodwill for the state in the band festival.

Ed Folsom is chairman of the booster project.

Butenschon said his marchers are hoping for a good response from the effort.

"We are really looking forward to the festival. It is the first time we have ever participated in it and it will be a tough series of competitions," he explained.

The local band will compete with 27 other bands from other states in the invitational festival.

Butenschon is taking 245 students to the event.

division is April 5. The parade competition is April 6.

There is another trophy which the Marchin' Cats want to bring home. And they intend to take a lot of Valdosta and the rest of the state with them in their efforts.

The Heart of St. Petersburg award is given to students who are judged to be the most friendly and represent their state best through public relations, said Butenschon.

"Now we feel we do this everywhere we go. We really would like to bring this one

Butenschon said his charges will take peanuts, pecans, tobacco leaves, peaches and hopefully pine tree seedlings to pass out to the crowds.

"We want to take many things which are native to Valdosta and the state. This is a gesture to show the folks young people have a lot of good in them and to do something for the people of St. Pete," said the band director.

The Chamber of Commerce is going to outfit the students with hundreds of "There are

Many Firsts For DE Honorees

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Two firsts marked this year's selection of Valdosta High School Distributive Education Students of the Year. Charlotte Eanes is the first person to win two years in a row, and Alfred Bea is the first black student to win the award.

Miss Eanes is a 17-year-old senior who aspires to be a DE coordinator after college. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eanes of

55 Loganberry Circle, State secretary of Georgia D.E.C.A. and divisional vice-president here, she is president of the student body and vice-president of Interclub Council.

She is a member of Students for Action for Georgia Education (formerly FTA), Beta Club, National Society of Student Leaders and the Society of Outstanding American Students.

A member of St. John's Catholic Church, Miss Eanes teaches third grade Sunday school and is a recipient of the State Elks Award. In conjunction with her DE class, she works at Char-Del



CHARLOTTE EANES Second Time Around

shoes. At present she is undecided which college to attend.

Bea is an 18-year-old senior who plans to attend Valdosta State College. He is the son

of Mrs. Verdelle Bea and the late Samuel Bea of 828 W. Adair St. Vice-president of the DE club at VHS, he is also vice-president of the senior class, sports editor for the 'Dosta Outlook, the school newspaper, and member of SAGE.

He is a member and usher at Silver Run Baptist Church. As part of his DE course he works at Hardee's.

Bea said all aspects of the program will be helpful when he gets into the business world, and he looks forward to the day when he owns his own firm.

"Charlotte is really a good salesperson," said Bea. "She talked me into joining DE when I was sure I didn't want to, and now I think it's great," he said.

"I am interested in all fields of DE," said Miss Eanes who is motivated toward learning all aspects of the program for when she teaches DE.

The Student of the Year contest is recognition of accomplishments in DE as well as in other school and com-



ALFRED BEA Gets Another First

munity achievements, said Norma Greene, DE Coordinator at VHS. Points are tallied on club participation, academic record, character and cooperation in school,

achievement in on-the-job training, and an interview with local businessmen.

Students attend school half the day, usually taking three subjects in addition to the DE class. After school most students go to work, averaging 15 to 25 hours per week.

Marketing and market research are important aspects of DE classes, with students completing manuals on community business opportunity.

Miss Eanes is doing her project this year on the food industry, and whether trading stamps are still attractive to shoppers. Bea's project concerns community interest in development of an independent delivery service.

Greene said the program stresses an attitude of "doing whatever you do the very best you know how" and the importance of knowing how to compete once out in the business world. Students of the Year are selected because they reflect those qualities of competitiveness and achievement.

Wildcats Win 19th In T'ville Split

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

THOMASVILLE — Thomasville's Bulldogs got a slow start on purpose and Valdosta's Kittens got one by accident.

Both came out with losses in a Region 1-AAA basketball doubleheader but nothing was going to stop Valdosta's Wildcats here Tuesday night.

Coach Joe Wilson's Wildcats chalked up their 19th straight victory in as many starts, with a 53-43 victory over the Bulldogs.

But Coach Steve Kebler's Kittens, who couldn't buy a field goal in the first quarter, couldn't quite catch up to the quick-starting Bulldogettes and took it on the chin, 44-36.

The Bulldogs came out ready

to play a slow down waiting game and almost persuaded the 'Cats to play their game. After racking up 13 first half fouls, however, the 'Cats settled back to wait on the Bulldogs and never trailed.

"That's our 19th," said Wilson, and we're glad to get it any way we can. We didn't play very well at all. We got frustrated and fouled early trying to get the ball away."

Wilson hesitated to score the Thomasville holding attack but admitted, "I wouldn't do it. It's detrimental to the game."

"With 30 seconds to go and them trailing by 18 points, their coach (Don Hancock) yelled for them to 'wait' for the last second shot. Their fans started yelling

for us." Although he doesn't like it, Wilson had to admit the slow down game may get more and more popular for teams trying to knock off his undefeated Wildcats, defending Region 1-AAA champions.

"That's harmful to the game," he said. "But if you can win that way, use it. But after the other team gets ahead, it seems like they would try something else."

While Thomasville was holding the ball, Wildcats Stan Rome, who leads the region in scoring, and Al Melton chalked up 19 and 18 points respectively.

Randolph Griggs scored 15 points to lead the now 9-6 Bulldogs.

In the girls game, the Kittens couldn't get it on in the first quarter. Nor could they stop the Bulldogettes who held a 14-3 lead at the end of the first quarter.

But the Kittens put it together behind Gwen Durham and Sherri Johnson and began a comeback that ate up a 15-point lead but never put the Kittens in serious contention for a win.

"We got back together again in the second half," Kebler said. "They hustled hard but it was too late. But we're together better than ever this year."

Durham and Johnson scored 11 and 10 points for the now 10-8 Kittens. Gail Livings and Susan Ivey paced the 10-6 Bulldogettes with 19 and 15 points.

Girls
Valdosta 3 10 18 36
Thomasville 14 22 31 44
VALDOSTA (36) — Knight 6, Durham 11, D. Hill 2, Johnson 10, Council 1, Brown 5, Nathan 1, Barker, Hunter.
Team totals: field goals 13, free throws 10 of 27, fouls 24.

THOMASVILLE (44) — Becknell 2, Balfour 2, Ivey 15, Faulk 4, Hayes 2, Livings 19, team totals: field goals 17, free throws 10 of 16, fouls 27.

Boys
Valdosta 12 25 37 58
Thomasville 8 17 27 43
VALDOSTA (58) — Melton 18, Sampson 6, Graham 4, Rome 19, Demersseman 5, C. Whitehead 4, Cowart 2, Hansen.

Team totals: field goals 24, free throws 10 of 15, fouls 17.
THOMASVILLE (43) — Thomas 12, Griggs 15, Austin 2, King 4, Robinson 2, Andrews 8.
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 9 of 15, fouls 14.

Valdosta's Jones, Waycross' Orange Are Drafted By Falcons

By JULIAN MILLER

Two South Georgia football players who never got to play each other may get the chance to play together for the Atlanta Falcons.

And as far as Valdostans and Waycross fans are concerned, the Falcons couldn't have made better choices when they drafted Willie Jones and Doyle Orange Wednesday.

Jones, a three-year starter for Iowa State was a 1969 standout for Coach Wright Bazemore's Valdosta Wildcats, and was a mainstay in their race to the State Class AAA co-championship.

Orange, starting runner for Southern Mississippi and a 1970 graduate of Waycross High School, set the still existing state records of 2,341 yards rushing and 25 touchdowns his senior year.

"Willie can play pro ball," Bazemore said today. "He's got a lot of skill and talent. He's a Paul Warfield type. He's got a good pair of hands and deceptive speed and he knows what to do after he catches the ball."

"He was a quiet leader who tried hard at everything," said the legendary coach who remembered Jones as one of the reasons integration at VHS was handled so smoothly.

"He tries hard at everything. He's a leader in every sense of the word. Yes, the Falcons can use him."

"I think I have a great

chance to play pro football," Orange said in a telephone interview with the Times Tuesday, just hours after learning he had been drafted in the 10th round by the Falcons.

"I'm gonna make it. I've got a determined mind to make it where ever I go."

Orange has been making it since high school days at Waycross High School. His senior year led Waycross people to believe he is the top runningback ever in the school's history, certainly in modern times.

Doyle, who is to receive his degree in athletic administration and coaching this year, has planned to at least try the pro ranks all along.

"I was really excited at first," he said. "I had wanted to go someplace down south. I was really enthused about being drafted by Atlanta. As far as I know the Falcons have never drafted a Georgia player before."

Orange's senior year was plagued by a minor leg injury that sidelined him for two games. He only managed to gain around 600 yards rushing this season. However, he was more satisfied with his junior year in which he picked up 965 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Orange used to have something to prove to Georgia and Georgia Tech, both of which failed to offer him scholarships. But he doesn't any more.

The 200-pounder was more

or less expecting to hear from the fledgling World Football League first, but later on when they complete the rest of the draft.

"I'm going to see what the opposition has to offer," he said. "I like the NFL but the WFL is pro football and pro is pro."

"I can see a lot of improvement since I've left high school. It's different in college where you don't have to do everything. I might want to get into coaching one day and I'll probably start in the summer during the off season."

"But I'm going to give pro football a try first."

Efforts to contact Jones at Iowa State were unsuccessful.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thur., Jan. 31, 1974 —26—

'Cats Go After Top Seed

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats can clinch the regular season championship and top seed in the Region 1-AAA tournament Friday when Valdosta hosts Albany and Lowndes entertains Monroe in high school basketball play.

Following Friday's region contest with Albany, Joe Wilson's Wildcats and Steve Kebler's Kittens travel to Macon to play Northeast High. Northeast's boys are 16-2 this season. They lost by only one point to Southwest Macon earlier this season. Southwest is the top-ranked AAA prep team in Georgia.

In other area action Friday Cook County (Adel) travels to Brooks County (Quitman), Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) visits St. George.

County in Statenville as brothers Austin Deloach and Ashley Deloach send their cagers against one another with the sub-region lead at stake in both the boys and girls games. Westbrook (Dixie) plays Crisp Academy in Cordele, Madison, Fla. plays Santa Fe, Fla. and Florida A&M University high school of Tallahassee, Fla. takes on Hamilton County in Jasper, Fla.

In Saturday action Brooks plays at Lanier, Berrien County (Nasville, Ga.) hosts the Fitzgerald boys and Ware County (Waycross) girls. St. George visits Georgia Christian in Dasher, and Westbrook travels to Westwood (Camilla).

With floor leader David Demersseman almost back to

normal after mending a severely sprained ankle, Wilson looked forward to Friday's game with Albany and Satur-

AREA HOOP SLATE

Friday
Monroe at Lowndes
Albany at Valdosta
Cook at Brooks
Lanier at St. George
Cinch at Echols
Westbrook at Crisp
Madison at Santa Fe
FAMU at Hamilton
Saturday
Valdosta at Northeast
Brooks at Lanier
Fitzgerald (boys) at Berrien
Ware (girls) at Berrien
St. George at GCS
Westbrook at Westwood

day's contest with Northeast, but with some apprehension.

"Albany's beaten some tough teams," said Wilson. "We've got to have a good effort to win Friday."

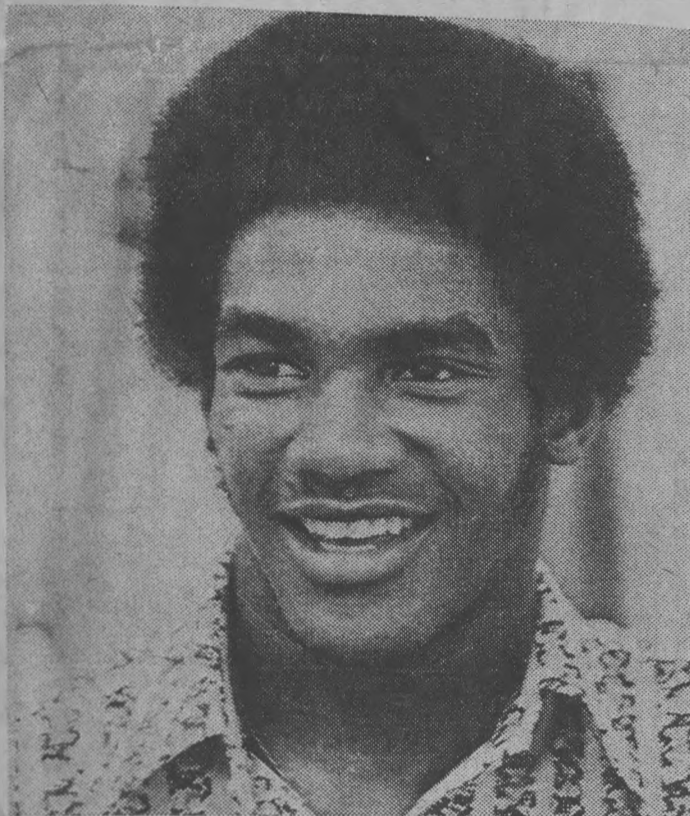
"David (Demersseman) still is slowed slightly by his ankle. He's got to get back to the game after quite a long layoff."

Wilson thinks Saturday's game with the Macon school could tell how good his Wildcats are. Northeast is the biggest team VHS is to play this season. The 'Cat's run and gun play must offset this heightn disadvantage if Valdosta is to continue its win streak.

"The boys are looking forward to playing Northeast," said Wilson. "They've been working hard and their spirits are high. They're tough but we're ready to play."

Friday's games between Lowndes and Monroe and Valdosta and Albany tip off at 7 p.m.

Rome Named All-American



—Times Staff Photo

Stanford Rome: All-American Boy

NEW YORK — Stanford Rome of the Valdosta High School football Wildcats was named today as a member of Scholastic Magazine's High School All-America Football team.

Rome was one of three Georgia players to be honored by the national education publication. Included on the team are 26 running backs, 22 quarterbacks, 14 ends, 25 interior linemen and 13 center-linebackers.

Being selected to the Scholastic Magazine team was no great surprise to Rome.

"What can I say?" Rome responded. "It's a great honor. I'm very proud of being chosen."

When asked how many all-America teams he had been selected to this year, Stan replied, "Three. No, two. I made another one besides those two, but they haven't announced it yet."

Valdosta Athletic Director Wright Bazemore considered the selection an honor to Rome and to Valdosta.

"I'm real proud of Stan," said Bazemore. "In fact it's quite an honor to the town, the school and the area as well. It's an honor Coach Greene, the

coaching staff and Valdosta can take pride in.

"And the award is well-deserved. Stan is a great athlete. He earned the honor.

"Having a little share in this myself makes me doubly proud of this honor. I knew when Stan was a freshman he was going to be a great athlete.

"And all the awards and honors he's received haven't changed him one bit. He's just as polite as when he was a freshman. He still says 'yes, sir' and 'no, sir' to everybody.

"He's an all-American on or off the field."

Hawks Topple

Braves, 132-122

ATLANTA (AP) — Pete Maravich tossed in 33 points, including 14 in the final quarter Saturday night as the Atlanta Hawks defeated the Buffalo Braves 132-122 in National Basketball Association game.

Maravich's late scoring spree helped break open a close contest in which the Hawks led 90-88 after three periods.

The Hawks shot 50 per cent in the opening half to take a 62-58 edge at intermission.

Florida Times Union
Feb. 7, 1974

FORMER COACH WAS FIRED?

Valdosta Must Take Second Choice

LaGrange's Jimmy Hightower, one of the most respected coaches in South Georgia, has turned down

the Valdosta High coaching post in midst of reports that Coach Charles Greene was actually fired and resigned only because he was told to.

School officials are refusing to discuss the situation and insist the job at hand is finding a replacement for the "resigned" Greene.

Greene's not talking saying, "It isn't the Christian thing to do."

Sources close to the Greene family insist that "Charlie was fired." Greene succeeded Wright Bazemore as head coach two years ago and won nine of 10 games his first year only to become the center of a specially called school board meeting

at which he was given another year.

In 1973, the Wildcats dropped two games giving Greene the exact same record that Bazemore had his

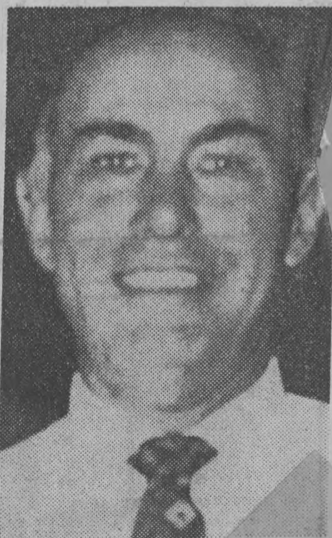
first two years as the head VHS coach, 17-3, but again he was under fire and supposedly was given until the spring football jamboree to prove himself. However, his

resignation turned up last month and was labeled as "definitely unexpected."

In LaGrange, Hightower, who built Americus into a Class AA football power before moving into the AAA ranks, has been reported as saying, "After looking into the Valdosta picture closely, I couldn't touch it with a 10-foot-pole."

Hightower was supposed to be in Valdosta Tuesday to sign a contract, but Wednesday morning notified VHS officials that he decided to stay where he is.

Another reported prospect — Dale Williams of Waycross, who like Greene was on the 1958 VHS championship team, has told his superintendent that he's staying put. All Williams will tell the press is, "I've only talked to them on the phone. I've not received a concrete offer and unless I do get that I'd rather stay out of it. I'm happy where I am."



Wright Bazemore

A Stranger in Town

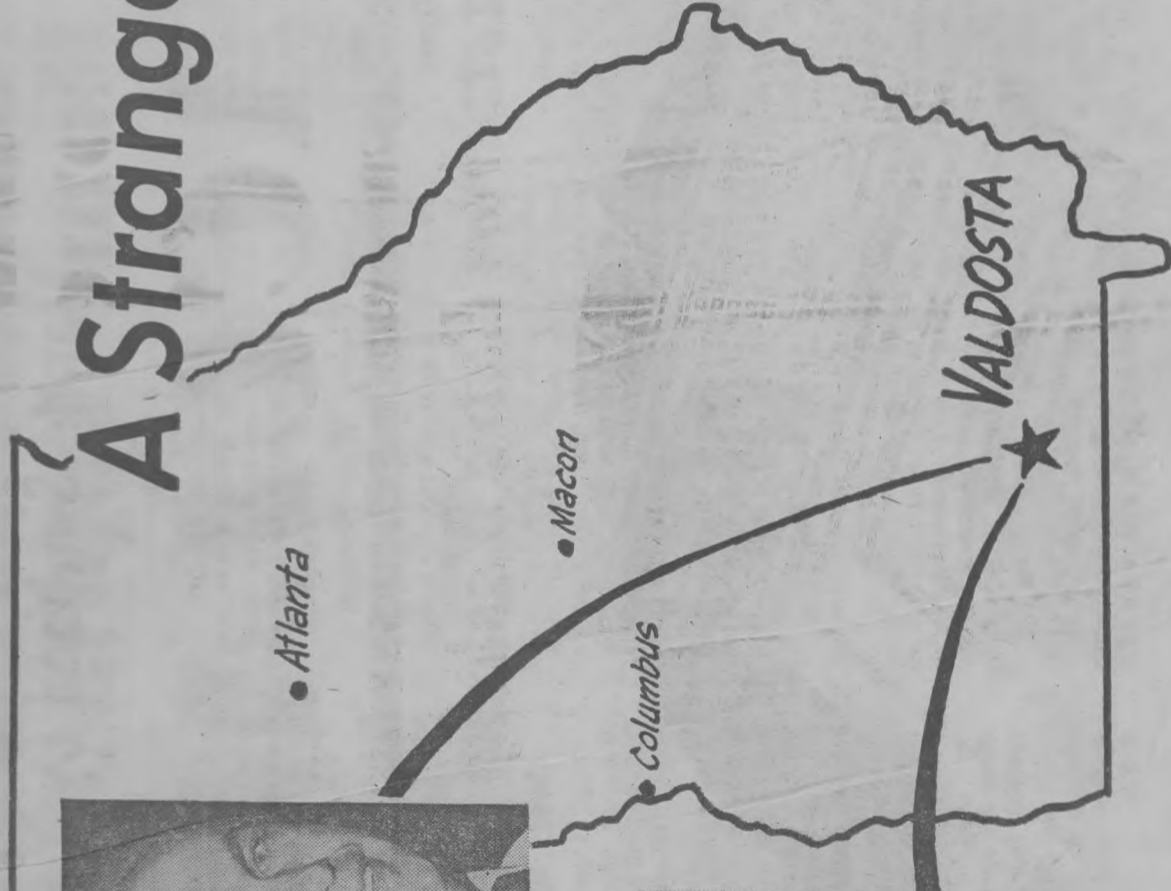
Charlie Greene grew up in Valdosta. He played and coached for the legendary Wright Bazemore during all those No. 1 years. Then Greene became head coach and things began to change.



BAZEMORE



GREENE



By FRANK HYLAND
Atlanta Journal Staff Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Driving into the city of Valdosta from the north, down the Forrest Road extension, there is a sign under the one marking the city limits.

"There are no strangers," it reads, "in the city of Valdosta."

The city takes great pride in that. "I don't care if a person has been here for just three months," boasts Chamber of Commerce head John Latsinger. "He's no stranger here. People just take them right in."

Well, just as there are exceptions to every rule, so is no statement absolute. There is a stranger in Valdosta. His name is Charlie Greene.

Charlie Greene used to be the head football coach at Valdosta High School. He quit the job, generally considered to be the most prestigious in the state, if not the entire South, two weeks ago.

He quit after two seasons as the head man here and after winning 17 of 20 games. Now, an .850 winning percentage is hardly something to scoff

The Atlanta Journal SPORTS I-D

Green's chief misfortune was succeeding the brilliant Wright Bazemore as the head coach. Bazemore extended beyond mere success as a high school coach. He became a legend. Following in the footsteps of a legend can be a most difficult thing.

Bazemore coached 29 seasons. In that time, he won 290 games and lost just 43. Fifteen of those 43 losses came in three years, 1958-59 and 1963. Fifteen times he won the state championship. Few, if any, records compare on any level.

It was into this atmosphere Charlie Greene stepped in 1972 after 10 years apprenticeship at the right hand of Bazemore. It was an impossible situation. No matter what he did, he could not top the old master.

That does not, however, mean people did not expect him to do as well. The people are used to being No. 1 in Valdosta and they absolutely will not accept any less.

Take two typical responses in Val-

at, yet Charlie Greene quit. Immediately, the charges began to fly: He was forced out, pressured out.

"Mr. Greene resigned," says the head of the Valdosta Athletic Association, Hulyn Smith. "He was not fired." Mr. Smith makes the statement beligerently. He is tired of hearing the pressure rumors.

But the rumors persist. The rumors are correct, too, in a way. There was pressure.

Why? Because, when it comes to high school football, Valdosta, Ga., is a strange animal indeed.

Thus, to try to understand why Charlie Greene quit, one has to try to understand Valdosta and high school football.

See CHARLIE, Page 6-D

Charlie Greene—Stranger in Valdosta

Continued from Page 1-D
 dostia concerning Greene and his 17-3 record of two seasons.

"We used to be good," said one Valdostan, "but we lost our coach (Bazemore)."

"We flubbed it the last two years," said another. "I guess we did okay, but we weren't No. 1."

The city is obsessed with No. 1. "Moody Air Force Base is No. 1," claims Letsinger. "Valdosta State College is No. 1. The Army recruiter here is No. 1."

Ask a Valdostan to count to two and he can't do it.

And so, there were some mutterings about the Wildcats, the pride of Valdosta. Greene heard some of those words. He couldn't help not to.

"Maybe it wasn't always public," says Valdosta Daily Times sports editor Julian Miller, "but it was always there. I guess the only one who really said anything openly was a gospel singer who sings in bars on Friday and Saturday night."

Greene heard, listened and accepted in a strange, fatalistic way. "My decision was more religious than anything else," he says with conviction. "Those pressures were tools used by the Lord to move me."

He will move out of town, in all likelihood. After 34 years, after being born, reared and schooled in Valdosta, Greene will move. Just where he isn't sure.

And when he goes, people all over the state will say the pressure, not the Lord, moved him.

The city — and Bazemore — will become the villains.

"Pressure," grouses Smith, a local automotive parts dealer. "What pressure? Have you ever heard of pressure from within, of creating pressure within yourself?"

"Why blame me?" pleads athletic director Bazemore, as he sits in his comfortable office beneath the stands at Cleveland Field, the home field of Valdosta High. "I didn't make it hard on Charlie. All I did was win. I should not be condemned for that."

Bazemore sits back in his chair and gives one the impression pressures would not have moved him. In fact, Bazemore was in almost exactly the same position 32 years ago.

He was an assistant here. He was elevated to the head job, succeeding a state championship coach. He went 9-1, 8-2 his first two years in the job. But, he endured for 29 years.

"Bobby Hooks was a god here when I took over," says Bazemore of

the man he succeeded back in 1941. "If you were to select an ideal high school coach, he was it."

There was one difference, though. Bobby Hooks went on to coach at Mercer. Bazemore stayed.

"The presence of Bazemore," says sports editor Miller, "has a lot to do with it. People know he's still there. They look to him."

Some look to him to come back and lead Valdosta from the depths of No. 5 or No. 6 back to No. 1, but he insists he won't do it. "I've served my time," he says.

Bazemore, Smith and the rest of the athletic board will have no trouble filling the position. In one hour's time last week, Bazemore had three calls inquiring about the job.

"If I were going into a new town," says Bazemore, "it's 10-to-1, I'd rather go into a good program like there is here."

"It's going to be a good situation," says Greene, "for whoever comes in here."

But is wasn't for Charlie Greene. He wasn't successful in the eyes of the city, an agricultural based city of some 35,000. He wasn't No. 1.

And that is the monster created here. It isn't just high school football here. It is the biggest game in town

and one of the richest. The last year Bazemore coached and won the state title, in 1971, the school took in over \$65,000 in three playoff games. When it comes to the ultimate in prep football, it is right here.

"Success breeds success," says Greene, "until you ask yourself, 'what is success?'"

"Is success a million dollars? It is to me, but it isn't to Jean Paul Getty. That's what has happened here."

It oozes success. Bazemore's telephone is gold. The facilities at the high school are second to none anywhere. The city prospers and revels in being No. 1.

"If you've never heard of Valdosta because of anything else," says Smith, "you've heard of the Wildcats football. Eight and two is not Valdosta. They've become adjusted to winning."

"It's a matter of civic pride."

And pride means staying No. 1. Pride means getting upset when you're not. Pride means pressure. Pride means being a part of the community.

Eight and two is not a part of this community. Eight and two or 17-3 is a stranger.

... And there are no strangers

Face Region Opponents

Vikes, 'Cats Off To Albany

By Times Staff Writer

Lowndes and Valdosta travel to Albany Friday to play Region 1-AAA boys in high school basketball action this weekend.

The once-beaten Wildcats of Joe Wilson and the Kittens of Steve Kebler take on Dougherty Friday, and the Lowndes Vikings and Vikettes are hosted by Albany.

Wilson's 'Cats try to get back on the winning track after seeing their 26-game winning streak snapped by Macon Northeast Saturday. The Wildcats are still undefeated in

region play.

In other area basketball action Friday Berrien County (Nashville, Ga.) visits Jeff Davis in Hazlehurst. Clinch County (Homerville) travels to Charlton County (Folkston). Westbrook of Dixie plays at Smithville, and Valwood travels to Ocala Christian.

Saturday's action pits Georgia Christian (Dasher) against Alabama Christian. Westbrook plays Randolph Southern. Valwood travels to Worth Academy and St. George plays Echols County in Statesville.

Coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes High Vikings are not up to par physically going into

AREA HOOP SLATE

Friday
Lowndes at Albany
Valdosta at Dougherty
Berrien at Jeff Davis
Clinch at Charlton
Westbrook at Smithville
Valwood at Ocala Christian
Saturday
GCS at Alabama Christian
Westbrook at Randolph Southern
Valwood at Worth Academy
St. George at Echols

Friday's contest with the Albany Indians. Keith Grimes has had a relapse of his threat troubles and is unlikely to make the trip to Albany. Grimes has missed school and practice most of the week.

The Vikings' other inside man,

Larry Powell, has injured his previously good ankle and is now playing with two bad ankles. Cooper expects Powell to see action but does not know how effective he will be.

"I don't see how we'll be able to play with Albany as beat up as we are," said the Lowndes coach. "What we're trying to do now is get the boys physically ready for the tournament. Maybe we'll be well by then."

Cooper said his defending Region 1-AAA champion Vikettes are in good shape physically and mentally.

"The girls," he said, "are in good shape and should be ready to play."

On Disputed Shot

Raiders Cut Down Wildcats 48-46

By Times Staff Writer

MACON — Macon Northeast's Raiders caught Valdosta's Wildcats on a cold night and ended a 26-game winning streak here Saturday night, but head coach Joe Wilson can't help but believe it might be a blessing in disguise.

"We can't help but think it'll take some pressure off us," Wilson said after his 'Cats dropped a 48-46 decision on a disputed shot.

The controversial play came with less than eight seconds on the clock when David Demersseman took the ball in and passed to Larry Melton who shot. Cecil Whitehead caught the rebound and put the ball back up.

It rolled around the hoop three times before falling through for what could have been the tying points.

"This referee called it good, the other said nothing and the official scorer overruled the officials and said it was no good," Wilson said.

"He said he couldn't hear the buzzer."

The loss gave the home school a clean sweep in the high school basketball doubleheader. Earlier in the action the Northeast girls had defeated Valdosta's Kittens, 45-32.

"We can't make excuses," Wilson said after the game. "We just got beat."

Valdosta's super scorer Stanford Rome who averages 22 points per game was held scoreless in the first half, and had scored only nine in

the second before fouling out with three minutes to go.

Still the 'Cats came back and tied the game on Terry Graham's jump shot from the corner but the Raiders went back up by the final score.

The disputed play took place with just eight seconds left and was followed by "mayhem" between the Valdosta and Northeast fans.

"We had quite a few people up there," Wilson said. "We can't help but think it will take some of the pressure of going undefeated off us now."

"We'll start over again Monday."

"We actually did everything wrong. We threw the ball away on our fast break and our two guards were zero for 14 from the floor."

The Valdosta Daily Times

SPORTS

Sunday, February 3, 1974 — Page 10-A

"Stan was three for 19," it was just a flat night. But we found out something. We can play with these people up here. Whenever they only get us by two points up here you can't help but feel we can come back with them."

The game was the next-to-last on the Wildcat schedule. A Region 1-AAA twin-bill with Dougherty in Albany Friday rounds out the schedule for the 20-1 'Cats and 11-9 Kittens of Coach Steve Kebler before the Region tournament begins.

The 'Cats, Region 1-AAA defending champions, host the boys tournament.

Valdosta took a 14-12 first quarter lead in the game that never saw either team with a comfortable lead.

But by halftime the taller Raiders had taken over and led 28-20. It was a nip-and-tuck affair the rest of the night.

Only Melton and Demersseman who shoot from the outside corners, were able to reach double figures for the 'Cats. They had 15 and 14 respectively.

Northeast, however, which has lost only two games so far this season, put three players in double figures.

Gary Green scored 22, Jerome Finney and Jerome Hutchins added 10 points each.

Foul shots mattered little in the battle of the giants. The Raiders outshot the 'Cats 24-19 from the floor. Valdosta hit eight of 19 from the line compared to 0 of 5 for Northeast, but that couldn't make up for the difference.

Individual and team scoring follows:

Valdosta 14 20 34 4
Northeast 12 38 36 4
VALDOSTA (46) — Melton 15, Graham Rome 9, Demersseman 14, Whitehead, Coway Sampson.

Team totals: field goals 19, free throws of 19, fouls 12.

NORTHEAST (48) — Green 22, Finney Hutchins 10, Jackson 2, Thomas 4.

Team totals: field goals 24, free throw of 5, fouls 17.



-Times Staff Photos

Cook's Regina Holton Gets Off Jumper, Against Appling; Right, Hornets' Phillip Sumner Scores Against Ware County

Hornets Advance, Wasps Are Beaten

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

DOUGLAS—Cook High's Hornets used a balanced scoring attack to bury the Ware County Gators, 82-56, in the opening round of the Region 1-AA East boys and girls basketball tournament here Thursday night.

But the Wasps fell behind Appling County early, could never catch up and dropped a 33-26 decision to the Lady Pirates.

The double figure scoring of Dennis Thomas, Rodney Pettigrew, Eddie Wheeler and Judson Lavind sparked coach Lamar Chapman's Hornets past the foul-plagued Gators, setting the stage for a semi-final match against top-seeded Camden County tonight at 6:20 in the same South Georgia College fieldhouse.

The Hornets, who lifted their season record to 17-4 with the impressive win, started slowly and fell behind by four points early in the contest. A late first quarter surge knotted the count at No. 14.

Thomas, Pettigrew and Lavind went to work in the second period and by halftime Cook had built an eight-point cushion.

The Hornets stretched the lead to 20 points at 48-28 midway the third period, but the scrappy Gators rallied to cut the lead to nine points late in the quarter. However, Cook regained its poise and pulled away in the fourth quarter.

Thomas led the Hornet attack, firing in 21 points. He was followed by Pettigrew with 20, Wheeler with 20, Wheeler with

Hornets did not play a sub-region schedule, faces a tough test tonight against Coach John Trimmell's top-seeded Camden County Wildcats. Camden is 12-7 on the year.

A win tonight would send Chapman's troops into the tournament finals Saturday night against the winner of tonight's Appling-Coffee game.

In the girls game, the Wasps could never overcome an early three-point deficit and went to the sidelines for the season with a 2-19 mark.

Cathy Stafford scored 10 points for the Wasps and Ann Mays added eight. Appling was led by Phyllis Kitchens, who scored 12 points.

In Thursday night's final

game, Appling's Pirates routed Fitzgerald to advance to tonight's semi-finals match-up with Coffee.

GIRLS

Appling 12 15 23 33
Cook 9 12 18 24

APPLING (33) — Kennedy 5, Wilcox 8, Williams 8, Kitchens 12, Floyd, Kicklighter, Herrington.

Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 3 of 12, fouls 20.

COOK (26) — Mays 8, Stafford 10, Folsom 2, Roberts 3, Holton 2, McNeal, Brown, Johnson.

Team totals: field goals 10, free throws 6 of 16, fouls 18.

BOYS

Ware 14 26 40 56
Cook 14 34 51 82

WARE (56) — Carr 8, Barnes 8, B. Stewart 8, W. Stewart 5, Gibbs 18, Humphrey 1, Dixon 7, Carradine 1.

Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 9 of 9, fouls 18.

COOK (82) — Pettigrew 20, Lavind 12, Chapman 2, Thomas 21, Wheeler 15, Sumner 7, Emrich 2, Spencer 2.

Team totals: field goals 29, free throws 19 of 32, fouls 9.

School, Laura ... School of Lowndes High School and Theresa DeBenedittis of Valdosta High School, have been named 1974 Betty Crocker Family Leaders of Tomorrow at their respective schools.

They won the honor by scoring highest at their schools in a written examination administered to seniors throughout the country on Dec. 4, 1973.

Each of the students is to receive an award from General Mills which sponsors the annual Betty Crocker Search for Leadership in Family Living.

The area winners are to be eligible for further state and

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Feb. 12, 1974 —7—

High School Students Gain Additional Recognition

national honors.

The young women are to compete among other Georgia high school students for the title State Family Leader of Tomorrow. The state winner is to be selected through judging centered on test performances.

The winner is to receive a \$1,500 college scholarship. The winner's school is to be presented a 20-volume reference work from an encyclopedia corporation. The second a \$500 scholarship.

During April, winners from every state and the District of Columbia, each with a faculty advisor, are to gather at Washington, D. C., for an expense-paid educational tour of the capital city and Minneapolis, Minn.

Personal observations and interviews during the tour are to be added to state level judging which determine the All-American Family Leader

of Tomorrow, who is to receive a \$5,000 college scholarship. Second, third and fourth place winners are to receive scholarships of \$4,000, \$2,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

All judging is prepared conducted by Science and Research Associates of Chicago.

Rome, Durham Score Big To Lead VHS Closing Wins

BY TIMES STAFF WRITER
ALBANY—Stanford Rome had a hurt ankle and the initiative and Gwen Durham had the range.

Individually they each turned in one of their best performances ever to lead Valdosta's Wildcats and Kittens to Region I-AAA high school basketball victories in their last twin-bill of the season here Friday night.

Rome, who twisted his ankle before halftime, came back with a lot of tape and a hot hand, scoring 33 points to lead Coach

Joe Wilson's Wildcats to a 101-55 come-from behind victory over Dougherty's Trojans.

And Durham, hitting a fantastic 17 for 20 from the floor, scored 40 points while leading Coach Steve Kebler's Kittens to a 70-40 rally victory over the Trojanes.

Both Valdosta teams found the hapless Dougherty Cagers a rough bunch to handle in the first quarter.

When the opening stanza came to an end the Trojans had a 20-19 edge on the 'Cats. But a rally led by Rome, Larry

Melton, Terry Graham and Greg Sampson took care of that.

By halftime the Valdostans were ahead, 43-34, but their star scorer, Rome, had twisted an ankle.

After having the injury taped at halftime, the 6-4 senior forward came back in the third quarter to score 14 points while Melton added 10 more as the 'Cats coasted to their 21st victory in 22 games.

Rome finished the night with 33 points, continuing his domination of the region scoring statistics. Graham, a smooth

outside shooter had 19, Melton 18 and Sampson 10.

Wilson was far more pleased with the victory than in the 'Cats' play last weekend when they dropped their only game so far this season, a 48-46 decision at Macon Northeast in Macon.

That loss didn't hurt anything but our feelings," Wilson said. "When we stopped standing around and started playing basketball we looked as good as ever."

The 'Cats shot 54 per cent from the floor, not their best

this season, but good enough for Wilson. The coach added Rome should be full strength before the region tournament in which the 'Cats defend their I-AAA title in their own gym beginning Feb. 21.

Durham just wasn't to be stopped by the Trojanes.

"We didn't really try to get the ball to her," Kebler said. "She just took it away from them and put it up. I don't know how many three-point plays she turned in."

With Durham's 40 points, a 10-point effort from Cathy

Brown, and nine points from Yvette Council, who was in the game only five minutes, the Kittens broke a 12-12 first period tie, 25-22 at the half.

By the end of the third quarter they had all but put the game out of reach and had their 12th win against nine losses.

Diana Croft and Juanita Hines scored 12 points each for the Trojanes.

Valdosta 19 43 76 101
Dougherty 20 34 44 55
VALDOSTA (101) — Melton 18, Hanson 5, Sampson 10, Graham 19, Green 1, J. Whitehead 2, Rome 33, Painter, 7, Cowart 2, Stewart.
Team totals: field goals 40, free throws 21 of 38, fouls 8.
DOUGHERTY (55)—Drake 12, Hayes 12, Jackson 12, Clayton 5, Rush 6, Ford 4, L. Jackson 2, Section, Hall, Young, Corv.
Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 8 of 7, fouls 31.

Barker 1, Nathan, Hunter, Jones.
Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 16 of 36, fouls 13.
DOUGHERTY (40)—Craff 12, Hines 12, Nelson 8, Gable 8, Keelson, Everett, Harrington, C. Gable, Polite, Taylor, Jones, Pratt.
Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 6 of 11, fouls 25.

Valdosta 19 43 76 101
Dougherty 20 34 44 55
VALDOSTA (101) — Melton 18, Hanson 5, Sampson 10, Graham 19, Green 1, J. Whitehead 2, Rome 33, Painter, 7, Cowart 2, Stewart.
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Team totals: field goals 26, free throws 8 of 7, fouls 31.



JACK SULLIVAN
Wildcat Again

Sullivan Decides On Davidson Grant

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Jack Sullivan has combined the best of two worlds.

The 180-pound Valdosta High School Wildcat linebacker put academics and football together here Tuesday night when he accepted an offer to play football for academic-orientated Davidson College.

The two-year mainstay on the VHS team was signed by coach Dave Roberts in a small ceremony at Lake Francis.

"There is no doubt in my mind we have signed the best linebacker in the state of Georgia," Roberts told the some 17 people who attended the dinner. "Davidson is very lucky to get him."

Academic standards at Davidson are the highest in the country, the young coach explained. Not everyone can play for the school.

However, he hopes to improve on the record the Davidson Wildcats posted in 1973 (2-8) and figures Sullivan is the type player it takes to get it.

Former head coach Charles

Greene described the straight-A student and team captain as not so much a defense leader but a "team leader." Both he and Wright Bazemore, former VHS coach and now city athletic director assured Roberts Sullivan would be a great benefit to Davidson.

Although leaving an 8-2 team of Wildcats for a 2-8 squad, Sullivan is still optimistic.

"Coach Roberts is going up there to try to change that," the VHS senior said. "I want to try to do my best to help him."

"They don't push football as much as academics there. That's something that impressed me. I'm not big or fast enough to play pros and when I get through with school I'm going to need to do something else."

Lucy Stewart Memorial Established At Troy State

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 10th grade Valwood School student has established a memorial to his sister at Troy State University in Troy, Ala.

Jeff Stewart, son of Fluker Stewart and Nell Stewart, established the Lucy Martin Stewart Memorial in the Epsilon Kappa chapter of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority on the Troy State campus.

Miss Stewart was killed March 8, 1973 in an automobile accident near Lake City, Fla.

The nineteen-year-old Valdosta High graduate was a beauty title winner and had attained a variety of honors as a student musician and as an actress in school productions.

When the accident oc-

curred, she had relinquished her job as a singer in Miami and was planning to leave the next day for New England to seek a role in theater productions.

While attending Troy State University, Miss Stewart became the first freshman ever chosen for a lead in one of the school's major musical productions. She won the role of Lucy in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

Ironically, the memorial trophy was given to Patti Mitchell of Florida, who later played the role of Peppermint Patty in the same production.

The recipient of the award is chosen by members of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, of which Miss Stewart was a member.

DE Club Schedules Open House

Valdosta High School Distributive Education students are to get together with parents and employers at the new school building to observe vocational-educational week here Thursday.

According to Norman Greene, VHS DE coordinator, parents and employers of DE students are invited to a social hour and to a tour of the school's facilities for the DE program.

A social hour with punch and snacks is to be held at 7:30 p.m. with a distributive and educational program to follow.

"The purpose of doing this is to draw the public's attention to vocational education and to the facilities at the new school," Greene explained.

Students have also been making posters to display at the school, at businesses where they work and even on cable television on channel four.

The activities to observe the vocational educational week began Monday and are to continue through Friday, said the coordinator.

School Bill Delay Is Hit By Goolsby

By MARY CROUSE

The Valdosta school superintendent has charged that the proposed comprehensive education bill has been held back until the end of this legislative session "in order to hide some weiners" and that passage will not guarantee transportation funds here.

Supt. Foster Goolsby said his is against the Adequate Program for Education in Georgia Act because of the hidden provisions and the bill's failure to adequately finance the proposals.

The APEO bill based on the December 1973 report of the blue-ribbon panel headed by Gov. Carter and Sen. Terrell Starr of Forest Park made 1 separate proposals for revising the state's Minimum Foundation Program for Education passed in 1964.

The bill contains provisions for transportation allocations to city school systems which currently receive no state money for busing, a new funding formula and a statewide kindergarten.

The bill presents a year-round school plan but stops short of funding provisions recommended by the study committee which would allow students to attend any three quarters they choose without reducing the state allocation to their local system.

The proposed bill zipped through the Senate education committee earlier this week but its authors withheld the bill from Senate action Thursday after Carter expressed misgivings about it.

Starr said he agreed to work with the governor on possible amendments before bringing the bill up for debate.

Goolsby said there are many provisions in the bills which he personally thinks are great but is afraid of the hidden

See School — Page 2

—School

Continued From Page 1

provisions. He said the transportation allotment clause doesn't mean anything without proper financing.

"It will take another bill to appropriate the money to finance the transportation system. We can't get into the bus business without money. When the state passes a bill to finance it we will get into the transportation business," said the superintendent.

He said most of the provisions in the bill cost money to implement.

"I am afraid of Gov. Carter and his staff when it comes to his expertise in some basic educational philosophies," said Goolsby.

He declined to be specific in his reference to Carter's philosophies.

The bill is a policy document to be funded as state revenues permit over the next few years.

The bill also calls for a pupil-teacher ration of no more than 25 to one, art and music teachers and other specialists on a ratio of one for every 15 classrooms, the hiring of more counselors and required minimum performance stan-

The sign says "bridge out" on Bay Tree Road but Valdosta High School Senior Susan Davis found out different on a recent visit to Sugar Creek. The concrete structure is twice the size of the older bridge it replaces and is more than twice as wide. Although the

Bridge Over Sugar Creek

bridge only lacks side guard rails, however, don't get too anxious to see the construction project come to an end. Officials still say it will be more than a year before the Bay Tree Road widening is completed.

home Feb. 1.

Steve Kebler's young Valdosta Kittens are playing their best basketball of the season coming into tournament play.

"We've really been playing together as a team the last three or four games," Kebler said. "The girls have decided they're going to make a good showing in the tournament."

"The team's attitude is good, and we're in our best physical condition of the year."

Valdosta's opponent in the quarterfinal round is Tift County. The Kittens and the Blue Angels from Tifton have met three times this season.

The Kittens won the last two meetings after dropping the first encounter by a 53-51 score. The largest winning margin in the three games was seven points.

The Valdosta-Tift contest is slated to begin at 5:45 p.m. tonight. Lowndes and Monroe tangle at 9:15 p.m.

Vikettes, Kittens In Quarter-Finals

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The defending Region 1-AAA girls basketball champion Lowndes Vikettes begin the defense of their title tonight with both pivot guards suffering from the flu.

But Valdosta's Kittens are in their best shape of the season both physically and mentally going into tonight's quarterfinal action in region 1-AAA girls high school basketball tournament here.

Coach Charles Cooper said his Vikettes are just about as ready to play basketball as their health allows.

"I don't like to make excuses," said Cooper. "But it's going to be pretty obvious something's wrong with both Annie (Williams) and Robin (Cribb) out of the lineup. Both will suit up for the game, but I don't know how much action either will see."

Cooper said neither Williams nor Cribb is expected to start tonight's game against Monroe. Lowndes defeated Monroe, 64-34, at



—Times Staff Photo

Vikettes, Kittens Battle To 1-AAA Finals

By BILL COOPER
 Lowndes' polished Vikettes out-classes a strong Bainbridge Kitten team, 54-42, and the gutsy Valdosta Kittens out-hustled Thomasville, 41-39, to advance to the championship game of the Region 1-AAA girls basketball tournament in semi-final action here Friday.

The defending champion Vikettes methodically defeated the Kittens from Bainbridge to insure themselves of a return trip to the state tournament.

Like cogs in a well-oiled machine the Lowndes players performed their assigned tasks.

Strong defense, the rebounding of Annie Williams and the scoring of Sue Ann Christie and Debra Ard were key elements in the Lowndes win.

Valdosta got into today's championship game with Lowndes using the same tools they've used all season, hustle and guts.

Led by floor general Gwen Durham, the Kittens out-fought a more experienced Thomasville team for the right to play Lowndes.

"I won't believe this team is ever beaten," said Kitten coach Steve Kebier.

"You can best describe these girls with what Vince Lombardi used to say about his Green Bay Packers: We never got beat this season. Time may have run out on us in some of the games, but we were never beaten."

Durham put Valdosta ahead at the end of a slow first period by scoring six of the first eight Kitten points. Thomasville crept ahead in the second period of play by converting six free throws during the period into points.

Trailing 33-31 as the final quarter began, the Kittens regained the lead for the first time since they lost it in the second period. Captain Ruby Knight was fouled in the act of sinking a basket which tied the game at 35-all. She then sank the free throw and Valdosta led, 36-35, with 4:01 left in the game.

Valdosta's Cathy Brown Is Sandwiched Between A Couple Of Bulldogettes



basket put the Thomasville girls back on top with little more than three minutes of play remaining.

Valdosta recaptured the lead at 2:43 when Cathy Brown beat Thomasville defenders inside to make the score 38-37, Valdosta.

Brown scored what proved to be the decisive basket with two minutes remaining. Thomasville climbed to within one point when Susan Ivey swished a set shot from the corner at 1:47 but Ivey's basket was the last of the Thomasville score of the basketball season.

With one second left in the game Valdosta freshman Sherri Johnson sank the front end of a one-and-one free throw situation to boost the Kitten margin to 41-39.

Johnson's second shot missed, but the final buzzer sounded as the freshman grabbed the game's final rebound.

Durham led the Valdosta attack with 16 points and a steady floor game. Johnson had nine points for the Kittens while Brown and Knight scored eight and seven respectively.

Ellen Faulk paced the Bulldogette attack with 10 points.

Becknell, who got in foul trouble in the first half and sat out much of the game, added nine points for Thomasville.

In what Vikette coach Charles Cooper termed a great basketball game, Lowndes combined sticky defense with a polished offense to defeat Bainbridge, 54-42.

Sue Ann Christie again led Vikette point producers, this time with 24 points.

Debra Ard played her usual consistent floor game and added 14 points to the Lowndes totals.

Marcia McCall scored 24 points for Bainbridge and Carol Chason added 10 for the Kittens. Lowndes set the tone of the game early by jumping to a 6-0 lead. Four free throws by McCall and two plus a basket

Lowndes Sue Ann Christie Chases Rebound

by Chason for the Kittens cut the lead back to 12-8 at the end of the first quarter.

Lowndes methodically increased its lead to 29-20 at half. After an even third quarter left the Vikettes with a 10-point lead, Christie sparked a Lowndes spurt which produced 10 straight Lowndes points to put the game out of reach at 50-33 with 1:36 to play.

Bainbridge cut the margin to 11 points but Lowndes got the points back as Christie and Cathy McCurdy each sank two foul shots in the last minute to make the final score, 54-42.

"It was a great basketball game," said Cooper. "We played up to our potential and stuck to our game plan."

"Our girls showed they are really winners. They decided at the first of the season they wanted to go back to state."

"They dedicated themselves to hard work when the season started and now they're going again."

Lowndes puts its defending region title on the line tonight against Valdosta at 9 p.m. Bainbridge and Thomasville play in a consolation game at 7:30 p.m.

Valdosta
 Thomasville
 Valdosta (41)—Knight 7, Durham 16, D. Hill, Johnson 9, Barks, Brown 8, Nathan 1, Hunter.

Team totals: field goals 17, free throws 1 of 19, fouls 13.

THOMASVILLE (39)—Becknell 9, Palour 4, Ivey 8, Faulk 10, C. Hayes 2, Rumbale, Livings 6.

Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 9 of 12, fouls 19.

Lowndes
 Bainbridge
 Lowndes (54)—Ard 14, Christie 24, McCurdy 5, Bliet, A. Williams 1, Critch 2, Waller 8, Linsban Barry.

Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 12 of 17, fouls 22.

BAINBRIDGE (42)—McCall 24, Chason 10, Smiley 2, Rumphrey, Glenn, Broughton 6, Davis.

Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 14 of 25, fouls 16.



—Times Staff Photo

Lowndes, 'Dosta Girls Advance

By BILL COOPER

Lowndes began its defense of the Region 1-AAA girls high school basketball championship by thumping Monroe, 60-42, and Valdosta beat the devil out of the Angels, 56-35, in girls region tournament quarter finals here Thursday night.

At the same time, Thomasville's Bulldogettes romped over Crisp County's Cougarettes 54-27 and Bainbridge's Kittens routed Moultrie, 41-18 as the tournament moves into semi-finals tonight at the Lowndes High gym.

The Vikettes outscored the Lady Tornados from Albany 22-10 in the second quarter to open up a 14-point halftime lead, 30-16.

The offensive outbreak was sparked by Sue Ann Christie and Cathy McCurdy, both of whom ended the game with 19 points.

The outburst also featured four consecutive foul shots by pivot guard Robin Cribb, who is recuperating from a bout with the flu.

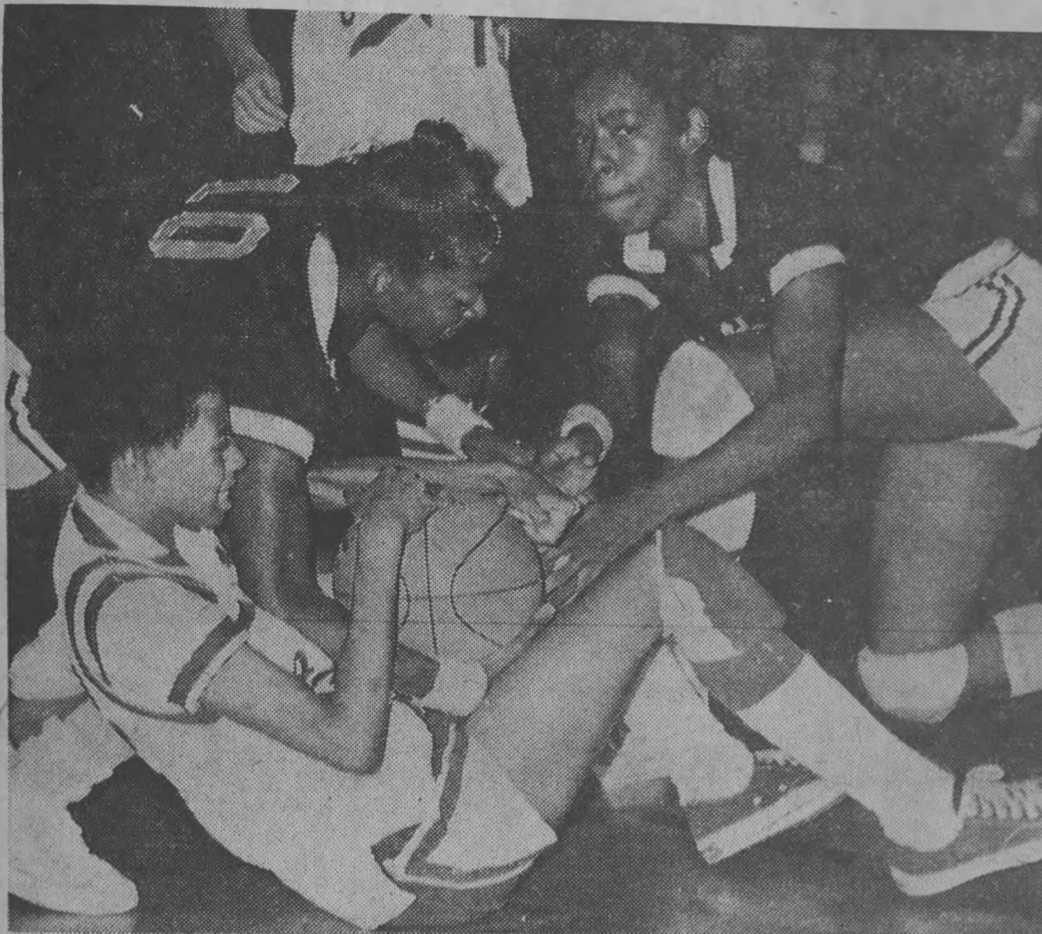
Gwen Durham scored 24 points in the first half to spur the Kittens to a 36-16 halftime lead over Tift County (Tifton). Durham's shooting and control of the floor game allowed the Kittens to take an early command of the contest with Tift.

Durham totaled 28 points before fouling out with six minutes of play remaining. Sherri Johnson and Cathy Brown scored nine each for Valdosta.

Thomasville's romp over Crisp County's Cougarettes moved them into tonight's semi-final round against Valdosta.

Gail Livings led the Bulldogette offense with 19 points against the Cordele team. Greer Becknell added 10 points for the second-seeded Bulldogettes. Jeri Roche and Kristy Childers led Crisp scorers with 10 points apiece.

Bainbridge combined stingy defense and aggressive board play to rout Moultrie's



—Times Staff Photo

Scramble: Kittens Ruby Knight And Cathy Brown Fight For Loose Basketball

Packerettes.

Marcia McCall dominated the backboards for the Kittens, while Carol Chason and Shirley Smiley hit for 17 and 14 points respectively to pace the Bainbridge attack. Michael Davidson topped Moultrie scorers with 10 points.

Bainbridge meets Lowndes in semi-final action tonight at 9:15 p.m.

Coach Charles Cooper was disappointed in his team's showing.

"We played just well enough to win," said the Vikette boss. "The girls had opening night jitters, I guess. I was disappointed in the way we played."

"We're going to have to play a lot better to beat

Bainbridge."

With regular guards Annie Williams and Cribb suffering from the after-effects of the flu, Cooper started Wanda Linahan at a guard slot to begin the game.

The contest quickly developed into a physically demanding battle, with Monroe staying close on the scoring of Topsis Mathis and Rosemary Swan. Both Mathis and Swan ended the game with 17 points.

Cooper began substituting after halftime and by the end of the third period of play, Lowndes had stretched its lead to 46-26. The Vikettes coasted to their 60-42 win.

Steve Kebler was more pleased with his team's play than was Cooper

The Valdosta coach was especially pleased with the play of floor leader Gwen Durham, whose first half shooting and dribbling exhibition put the Kittens in control of the game.

"Tonight you saw Durham at her best," Kebler said. "With all the things we ask her to do, I'm really surprised at her ability to score too."

"Pound for pound and inch for inch she's the best player I've ever coached."

Durham scored 12 points in the opening period and 24 in the first half to secure the Kitten win.

Tift never threatened the Kittens' lead after Durham's first quarter show had provided the Valdosta sextet with a 16-8 lead.

Patricia Ross topped Tift pointmakers with 15 points. Beverly Sparks added seven points for the Blue Angels.

"We're playing our best basketball of the season," added Kebler. "If we play our best and get defeated, we'll just have to accept it."

"The girls are responding well to tournament pressure. I'm mighty proud of them."

The Kittens meet second-seeded Thomasville in tonight's semi-final action at 7:30. The Vikettes test Bainbridge in the second game at 9:15 p.m.

The winner of the tournament here is slated to meet Wayne County (Jesup) in its first game in the state tournament in Macon. The tournament runner-up plays 18-0 Waycross in Macon on Monday, Feb. 25.

GIRLS	
Thomasville	12 30 45 54
Crisp	4 8 20 27
THOMASVILLE (54)—Becknell 10, Ralour 8, Ivy 9, Faulk 1, C. Hayes 2, Lavings 19, D. Hayes 2, Rumble, Shannon 3.	
Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 16 of 23, fouls 12.	
CRISP (27)—Alexander, Hughes, Roche 10, Gilliam, Childers 10, Fitzgibbon 7, Sharpe.	
Team totals: field goals 13, free throws 1 of 8, fouls 21.	

Moultrie	4 4 8 18
Bainbridge	10 18 32 41
MOULTRIE (18)—Davidson 10, McGee 4, DeMott, Tanner 2, C. Norman, W. Norman, Burgess 2, Hancock, Rock, Barnum.	
Team totals: field goals 9, free throws 0 of 2, fouls 9.	
BAINBRIDGE (41)—McCall 6, Chason 7, Smiley 14, Humphrey, Glenn, Broughton 4, Davis, Phillips, Cox, Kegler, Floyd, Kelly, Hatcher.	
Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 3 of 4, fouls 5.	

Valdosta	16 36 47 56
Tift County	8 16 24 35
VALDOSTA (56)—Knight 6, Durham 28, D. Hill 4, Johnson 9, Council, Brown 9, Nathan, Kebler, Hunter, Owens, G. Hill, Clayton, Copeland, Jones.	
Team totals: field goals 22, free throws 12 of 22, fouls 16.	
TIFT COUNTY (35)—Smith 6, Sparks 7, Dixon 6, Ross 15, Brown 1, Young, Poole.	
Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 1 of 13, fouls 22.	

Lowndes	8 30 46 60
Monroe	6 16 26 42
LOWNDES (60)—Ard 3, Christie 19, Cooper 2, McCurdy 19, Biles, A. Williams, Cribb 4, Green 1, Waller 7, Linahan 3, Milliron, Barry 2, D. Williams.	
Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 22 of 37, fouls 24.	
MONROE (42)—Swan 17, Mathis 17, Clemens 4, Spry 2, Isaac, Stevens, Reynolds, Curry Penn 2.	
Team totals: field goals 16, free throws 10 of 25, fouls 27.	

'Dosta, Lowndes Square Off Again

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Look who's going to state. As expected, the Lowndes High Vikettes assured themselves of a return trip to the state playoffs by defeating Bainbridge, 54-42 in the region 1-AAA girls basketball tournament here Friday night. The defending Region 1-AAA champs didn't really surprise anyone.

But the Valdosta Kittens shocked a favored opponent for the second straight night, edging Thomasville's second-seeded Bulldogs 41-39, to nail down the other region berth in the state tournament.

Tonight at 9 p.m. coach

Charles Cooper's Vikettes and Steve Kebler's Kittens square off to decide the Region 1-AAA championship. Regardless of the outcome both teams have a seat in the state tournament in Macon beginning Feb. 25.

"Valdosta has become a very good basketball team this season," said Cooper. "They're big and they're just as quick as we are. We expect a very close game."

The Vikettes have already been to the state playoffs twice in the past five years. Their opponent in the championship game won more games this season under Kebler than they did in the previous two seasons

combined.

In two earlier meetings this season the Vikettes twice defeated the young Kittens.

"Lowndes is a well-disciplined, well-coached, experienced basketball team. We're extremely proud to have an opportunity to play the Region 1-AAA champions."

Kebler said the home court advantage and victories in their first two contests should give Lowndes an edge in the title game.

"When the champions step onto the court, their belt is put aside," Kebler added. "And then they're no longer the champions. They'll be fighting for the title just like we are."

Gametime for the Lowndes-Valdosta championship shoot-out is 9 p.m. Thomasville and Bainbridge meet at 7:30 p.m. in the battle for third in the region.

VHS, Lanier Co. Score High In Testing Program

By MARY CROUSE

Valdosta High and Lanier County High's 11th graders were the only local and area school systems to score above the state average in every area, according to the results of the 1973-74 statewide testing program.

Lowndes High in the Lowndes County system here scored above the state average in one area along with Clinch County High.

Berrien County High 11th graders surpassed the state norm in two areas.

But none of the local or area school systems, with the exception of Berrien County, managed to score on the state average for fourth graders in reading, according to the testing results.

In fact most of the schools dropped in their reading scores

from last year's test findings. This is in keeping with the indication across the state that Georgia schools continued to drop behind national norms on standardized achievement tests, according to the scores.

The average Georgia fourth-grader was five months behind grade level at the school year while the average eighth grade pupil was more than a year behind the national norm.

The controversial tests were given to fourth, eighth and 11th graders in September. Last year the tests were administered several weeks later into the year.

Some state and local school officials contend this has colored the score result picture somewhat.

And the IQ tests were dropped this year. Last year both Valdosta and Lowndes County

students were about eight points below the national average in the IQ range.

When the IQ's of last year's findings are studied on a school to school basis in relationship with the test scores on the other parts of the exams and other variables, one could question the validity of the accuracy of some of the results.

A state official pointed out the type of students who take the tests and the way the exams are administered all have direct bearing on the results.

Also, the material the students are given during their studies plays a part in how the pupils will score.

"That's why we will be stressing certain things next year that we haven't thought were that important before. But since we will be judged on that, that's the avenue we will take,"

said Lowndes County School Supt. A. B. "Sonny" Martin.

Even Berrien County, where the fourth graders scored higher than the state average in all the areas this year, slipped from last year's results.

But Southeast Elementary here, a predominately black facility, scored above the state norm in every category.

Last year the students there whose IQ's were 87.7 on verbal and 86.3 on the non-verbal portion of the tests were far below the state average in all the achievement areas.

The test score differences at the school were so obvious city school Supt. Foster Goolsby was asked by a Times reporter to comment.

Goolsby said he does not know how principal C. C. Hall managed to bring up the scores, as much as 15 points in vocabulary, over the previous year.

In the opening remarks in the five volumes prepared on the system by system findings, state school officials explained that family incomes, environment, level of intelligence of the pupils in each class, prior instruction the year before, general student attitude toward school and achievement were contributing factors to how a school would score.

Many educators stress there is a direct correlation between IQ and achievement and the two together serve as invaluable tools to the classroom teachers.

Some of the educators contend the state officials were pressured into dropping the IQ portion this year by low socio-economic groups.

But while the Valdosta schools fourth graders as an average scored 60.8 in vocabulary, 59.6 in reading, 61.9 in language, 62.3 in work study and 61.1 in math, nearby Thomasville managed to rank above the state norm at every turn.

Waycross and Tifton school systems didn't reach the state average at the fourth grade level.

The Lowndes County fourth grades as an average scored .5 of a point higher than the state norm in language and were on the state average in math at 62.5.

At the eighth grade level, the picture is a little different. The students were tested in the

(See VHS, Lanier, Page 2A)

Statewide Testing Results -- Local and Area Schools

FOURTH GRADE	No. Students	vocabulary	reading	language	workstudy	math
STATE AVERAGE		61.2	61.0	63.2	63.4	62.5
Valdosta	595	60.8	59.6	61.9	62.3	61.1
Lowndes County	490	59.4	60.4	63.7	62.9	62.5
Berrien County	258	62.6	61.6	63.9	63.5	62.8
Clinch County	90	53.9	53.6	56.7	59.3	57.8
Cook County	245	59.5	60.2	61.4	62.1	62.3
Echols County	57	53.6	57.7	60.9	60.6	58.4
Lanier County	115	53.8	56.3	58.0	59.3	58.0
Brooks County	232	57.7	57.9	60.7	60.9	60.9

EIGHTH GRADE	No. Students	vocabulary	reading	language	workstudy	math
STATE AVERAGE		91.1	92.5	90.7	93.0	92.7
Valdosta	586	89.7	91.6	90.7	91.2	92.1
Lowndes Jr. High	315	89.9	91.7	88.9	92.6	92.1
Hahira Jr. High	256	93.5	95.6	91.4	95.7	93.7
Brooks County	255	85.9	86.4	83.3	88.2	89.5
Berrien County	244	91.5	94.7	92.5	95.3	93.7
Clinch County	109	83.0	85.7	84.6	87.3	87.9
Cook County	235	87.7	90.0	86.1	91.1	91.2
Echols County	46	90.2	91.2	89.9	92.9	93.8
Lanier County	132	83.4	87.6	85.1	87.7	88.0

11TH GRADE	No. Students	comprehen'on	reading	math
STATE AVERAGE		45.4	46.0	45.3
Valdosta	387	48	48	45.9
Lowndes County	477	44.9	46.4	45.1
Berrien County	175	46.2	44.8	46.1
Brooks County	198	41.0	40.5	40.2
Echols County	31	42.7	42.5	41.3
Clinch County	100	43.5	45.3	40.6
Cook County	149	44.8	45.5	45.2
Lanier County	77	46.1	46.5	45.9

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Feb. 10, 1974 --2A--

--VHS, Lanier Co.

Continued From Page 1
 high school and a small rural high facility.

The only meaningful comparisons are those made between schools or systems which have similar characteristics and resources, as reflected in the categorical groupings," he said. Both the Valdosta and Lowndes County systems are among the lowest in the state on per pupil expenditures at the local level.

For the third year the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills were given to the fourth and eighth graders. The tests assess many of the fundamental skill areas is vocabulary, reading comprehension, language skills, work study skills such as map and graph reading, knowledge and use of reference materials and math skills.

The Tests of Academic Progress were given to the 11th graders.

At the other end of the county, Lowndes Jr. High pupils scored several points lower than their northern Hahira area counterparts. IQ's last year at that facility were 90.3 on verbal and 91.7 on non-verbal.

The average IQ at Valdosta Junior High where all the city's eighth graders are housed was 91.8 on verbal and 92.3 on non-verbal last year.

Berrien County again scored above the state level in all five areas for its eighth graders. County, the smallest school district in the state, did not have a high school. It is one of the poorest in the state and has the highest percentage of its population in the urban area.

Titus Singletary, associate school superintendent, said it is important to avoid at-compare systems or like urban

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(See Gel, Page 2A)



—Times Staff Photo

Scrapping For The Marchin' Cats

When members of the Band Boosters Club of Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats were looking around for a fund-raising project, they came up with a scrap paper drive. It was so

successful, they plan to continue it every month. Here from left are Casey Newman, Patti Perry, John McDuffie, Robin Reddish and Mat Smith.

Twenty-Sixth Annual

VHS DE Club Banquet Tuesday Night

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta High School's Distributive Education Club is to hold its 26th annual employer-employee banquet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the school's dining room.

Purpose of the banquet is to

show appreciation to "business and civic leaders in the community who have worked so hard with them throughout the year," according to Norman Green, DE Coordinator.

Guest speaker is to be Dr. John Letson, dean of education

at Valdosta State College.

Green said several awards are to be presented following dinner, including the Memorial Award going to the student most outstanding in DE activities; the W.E. Glenn Award, for the student considered most

valuable to DE activities; and a Coordinator Award to the second-year student who has shown the most significant improvement over the first year.

In addition, a Rookie Of The Year Award will be presented to the freshman most outstanding in DE Work, Green said.

Some 60 VHS-DE students are expected to attend the annual fete, along with parents and employers, Green noted.

"We thought this would be an ideal way to honor these students for their fine work and at the same time pay tribute to all the employers who worked with them throughout the year," Green said.

2-26-74 ★ ★ ★ F/O T/m Dedicate Shrine

The Times-Union Bureau VALDOSTA, Ga. — The Valdosta Exchange Club dedicated a wall-hung Freedom Shrine Monday at the city's new high school with a speech by Moody Air Force Base Col. Phillip Gast.

The shrine, which consists of mounted photocopies of the Declaration of Independence and other famous historical documents, covers about a 10-foot wall.

It was accepted before the assembled members of the senior class by Principal Lloyd Mims on behalf of the entire student body.

Exchange Club project chairman Rusty McCall said the freedom shrine is donated as part of a nationwide Exchange Club program to further the cause of freedom and a knowledge of the nation's heritage and the principles the nation was founded on.





-Times Staff Photo by Robert Winter III

In Grateful Appreciation

A gift he received from the graduating seniors apparently took a real liking to Valdosta High School Principal Lloyd Mims. Named '74, the Beagle puppy began gnawing on Mims' hand almost as soon as he was handed to him. Student leaders vow it

was the pup's idea — not theirs. The class is the same group which was graduated from Valdosta Junior High School five years ago when Mims was principal there.

Trumpet Leader Is Honored At Marchin' Cats Banquet

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A senior Valdosta High School student was awarded the student-voted award of Bandman of the Year at the annual Marchin' Cats banquet Monday night.

Earl Folsom, trumpet section leader and president of the band, was described as "a

really outstanding leader all year long," Folsom plays most of the trumpet solos on the field and, according to band assistant Mike Chapman, is "able to work with the kids and get them to do just about everything."

The band members themselves voted the winners of most of the awards given at the banquet. Guest speaker was

Herb Melanie, chairman of St. Petersburg Festival of States competition which the Marchin' Cats won in April.

Other awards were: Ricky Rowe, most improved musician, voted by the director; Terri Durden, rookie of the year, voted by the students; Kathy Mills, spirit of the Marchin' Cats, voted by the students; Julie Beck, Tex Mullis Loyalty Award, voted by the students; Elizabeth Cottle, Lucy Stewart Memorial Award, voted by the students; Kathleen O'Neal, outstanding senior, voted by the students; and Terry Green, Wilbur Riley and Joe Stokes, director's award, voted by the director.

Students selected the clarinet section as the section of the year.

Al Turner, a former Marchin' Cat, received a band award, a band booster award and an award from the percussion section for his volunteer work with the drum section.

Band director Frank Butenschon was presented with a barbeque grill, picnic table and cash award from the students, as well as a cash award from the Band Boosters.

Assistant directors Cecil Pollack, Mike Chapman, Travis Payno and John Riggle each received a portable television set for their work with the Marchin' Cats.

The annual banquet is set aside by the band members to honor their own. Seniors, and their parents had a covered dish supper first and were joined by other band members for the awards ceremony.



-Times Staff Photos

From Wasteland To Playland

City inspectors L. C. Coker (left) and M. M. Gramling survey the future site of Northside Park next to Valdosta High School where grading has already begun. The new park is part of a three

park project which includes new baseball, football and track fields, as well as new tennis courts.

Eanes, Cosey, Bea Are Winners

DE Banquet Reveals No Surprises

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

It was no surprise when the Girl of the Year won the coveted Warren Horton trophy at the annual Distributive Education Club awards banquet Tuesday night at Valdosta High School.

Charlotte Eanes, the popular

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eanes, had been previously named the girl of the year in the local VHS DE chapter and was second at the state level in that event.

She has also copped practically every major leadership and scholastic honor on campus.

Marcie Cosey won the W. E. Glenn award for the most outstanding student voted upon by the DE members themselves.

Former mayor James Beck was named a lifetime member of the VHS chapter.

Others winning awards were

Lee Fouraker, rookie of the year and Terry Fountain, coordinator's trophy for the most improved second year student.

Mis Fountain is also the new president for 1974-75.

Club coordinator Norman Greene was in charge of the program. Employees of the students were also recognized by Greene and thanked for hiring his charges.

Alfred Bea, the new vice president, was given the trophy for the Boy of the Year for his work in the club this year. He placed third in the state.

The Boy and Girl of the Year honors are announced prior to the annual banquet even though the trophies aren't given until the awards night. The announcements are made because the district and state competitions are held earlier in the year.

Dr. John Letson, dean of the School of Education at Valdosta State College, was the speaker for the two-hour program.

He told the group important things don't happen by accident.

"People make them happen. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us in previous generations," he said.

He said that occasionally teachers go out on a limb and they might as well live up to the responsibility of following through in a fair manner.

"I have been convinced in the years past, since my first year in the education profession, and the conviction has been reinforced every year since, young people will meet you half way if you meet them in the right way," said Letson.



-Times Staff Photo

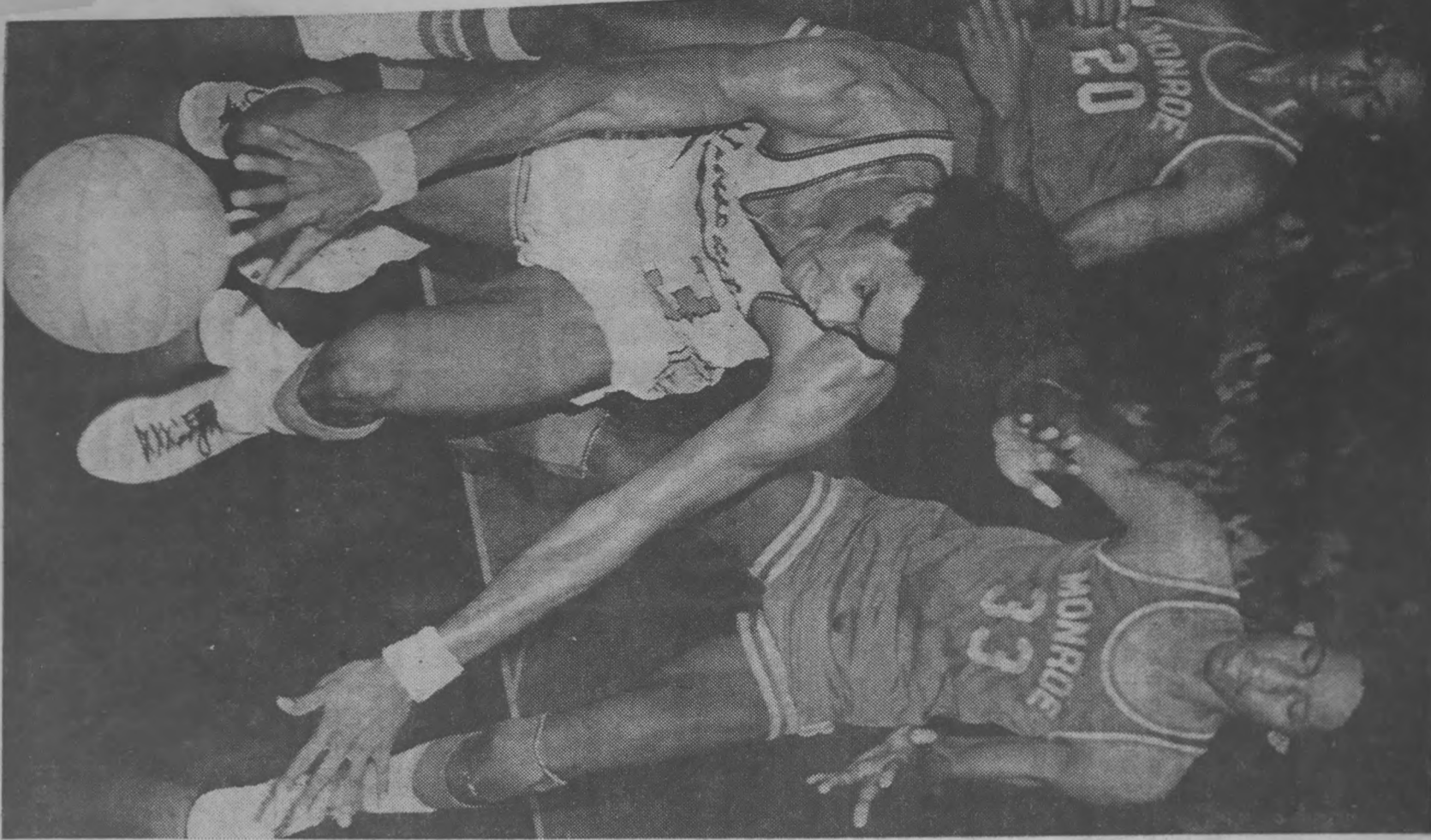
Misses Cosey, left, and Eanes with Trophies: They Won the Big Ones

Valdosta, Bainbridge Square Off For Region I-AAA Title 'Catfight'

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Feb. 23, 1974 —6—

Sports

JULIAN MILLER, Editor
BILL COOPER, Staff Writer



Coming Through: Redding And King (33) Watch Rome Grab Rebound And Go — Times Staff Photo

By JULIAN MILLER
Valdosta's Wildcats showed they could rough it up with the best of them and Bainbridge's Bearcats showed they're still around to be reckoned with here Friday night.

Both teams chalked up big victories in the semi-finals of the Region I-AAA boys high school basketball tournament here to set the stage for the biggest 'Cat fight' of the season in the championship game tonight.

Bainbridge's second-seeded Bearcats demolished Thomasville's Bulldogs 73-35 in the first semifinal game. Then the top-seeded Wildcats won an 87-72 victory over a rough playing bunch of Tornadoes in the second game.

The Bearcats and Wildcats square off in the region championship game at 9 p.m. in the Valdosta High gym after the Friday night losers meet in the 7:30 p.m. consolation game.

But both teams have earned berths in the State Class AAA tournament to begin March 6 in Georgia Tech Coliseum in Atlanta as either champs or runners-up in the region.

Valdosta met Bainbridge twice during the regular season in which their only loss in 24 games so far came at the hands of Macon Northeast in Macon. The Wildcats won both, 86-64 in Bainbridge and 77-60 at home.

Fouls were the determining factor in the Valdosta-Monroe game. The Tornadoes got off lightly being charged with only 30 while the Wildcats were charged with 20.

With both teams ending the battle with 31 field goals. The 25 of 38 free throws the 'Cats sank gave them the decided advantage over the Tornadoes

who hit on only 10 of 20.

Four Tornadoes, including 6-foot-8 center Ernest King who dominated the rebounding game, left the game via the five-foul route. King gave an extra free throw to the 'Cats when he refused to raise his hand after his fifth foul and was charged with a technical by Referee Don Bridges.

Monroe sharpshooter Fred Anthony sank the first bucket to put the Tornadoes ahead 2-0 but Larry Melton tied it 10 seconds later with 7:36 remaining in the first quarter when he rebounded a shot and put it back up for a basket.

Big Stan Rome, Valdosta's highly-touted forward and the region's scoring leader then sank two straight buckets on a pass from David Demerssemann and on another shot from behind the basket to give the 'Cats a 6-2 lead.

They never trailed again. But Monroe lingered on with tall lanky King dominating the rebounding under both baskets and Anthony, Ricky Williams and James Redding hitting from the outside.

But Valdosta had a few outside shooters themselves, namely floor general David Demerssemann, Stephen Cowart, Cecil Whitehead and Terry Graham and with those four hitting from the outside and Rome and Melton shooting from the inside,

Valdosta held a decided advantage.

Rome ended the night with 28 points and 21 rebounds. Melton finished with 23 markers and 10 rebounds. Demerssemann scored 14, Cowart eight, Whitehead six and Graham and Greg Sampson four each.

Anthony led the Tornadoes with 16 points, Williams and Redding scored 14 each and James Roosevelt added another 12.

Rome played better tonight, Wilson said of the 6-4 senior who was held to only 13 points, 20 below his average, the night before. "He's still having some trouble with his twisted ankle.

"Monroe really did the job for us tonight. You never notice that kid but he gets the job done.

"Monroe did score as many field goals as we did," he admitted, but five of them came in the last two minutes

their substitutes in the second half.

Jack Washington, who makes T'ville miserable by claiming most of the rebounds and putting most of those back up for baskets, ended the game with 24 points while outside shooters King, Hamilton and Charles Maynard scored 12, 10 and 10 points respectively.

Randolph Griggs, who scored 13 points against Albany the previous night and sank two free throws to break a 46-all tie and win the game with no time remaining against the third-seeded Tribe, was the high scorer for Thomasville again, along with teammate Edgar Johnson. They each scored eight points. Individual and team totals follow:

BOYS	
Valdosta	21 38 63 87
Monroe	12 33 48 72
VALDOSTA (87)—Melson 23, Sampson 4, Graham 4, Hanson 28, Demerssemann 14, C. Whitehead 6, Cowart 8, Stewart.	
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 25 of 36, fouls 20.	
MONROE (72)—Anthony 16, R. Williams 14, Redding 14, Roosevelt 12, Lemon 2, E. King 5, J. King 2, Taylor 4, V. Williams 6, Overstreet, Poor.	
Team totals: field goals 31, free throws 10 of 20, fouls 30.	
Bainbridge	13 38 57 73
Thomasville	10 16 20 35
BAINBRIDGE (73)—King 12, Hamilton 10, Washington 24, Maynard 10, Jeffrey 1, Lloyd 4, Bower 2, Roberts 2, Akin 1, Jenkins, Angle 2, Cainous 2, Anthony, Williams, Herriniv.	
Team totals: field goals 30, free throws 13 of 19, fouls 10.	
THOMASVILLE (35)—Griggs 8, Austin, Robinson, Andrews 6, Kins, Thomas, McPherson 2, Johnson 6, Mack 3, C. Anderson 6, Maxwell 2.	
Team totals: field goals 15, free throws 5 of 6, fouls 15.	

Wilson Makes A Happy Announcement

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Joe Wilson had a happy announcement to make, his happiest of the basketball season: "The pressure is off."

His Valdosta Wildcats earned what they had been searching for all season here Friday night when they defeated Monroe's Golden Tornadoes 87-72 in the quarterfinals of the Region 1-AAA boys basketball tournament.

That put them into the finals tonight against second-seeded Bainbridge, 73-35 victors over fifth-seeded Thomasville, with both teams knowing they've earned a berth in the state tournament beginning March 6 in Atlanta.

The biggest game of the tournament is the 9:30 p.m. clash tonight when the 'Cats

and Bearcats from Bainbridge tangle for the region championship.

But to Wilson last night's win was the biggest of the season because it assured them of that state tournament berth.

"The pressure is off," he repeated. "We're going to go out there tonight and play just as good as we can and try to win the region."

"But we're going to let this be our ticket to the state tournament and take that pressure off the boys. You can play a lot better without that pressure."

In 10 years of coaching Wilson found himself and his Wildcats under the most pressure ever to return to the state playoffs. It is their fourth trip in the last five

years for the defending Region 1-AAA champs.

"People started talking about going to state after our third ball game," Wilson said, "and they never stopped. That put the pressure on us to get there."

The Wildcats did a lot to help the pressure build. For one they never lost a game in the region and came close to losing in few others. They are now 23-1.

Their only loss so far this season was a 48-46 decision to Northeast High in Macon in a highly emotional game in which a basket which would have tied the game in the final second was disallowed.

"We didn't have as much talent or height as a lot of people," Wilson admitted.

"Whatever our boys got, they earned. These kids worked so hard they made themselves a good basketball team.

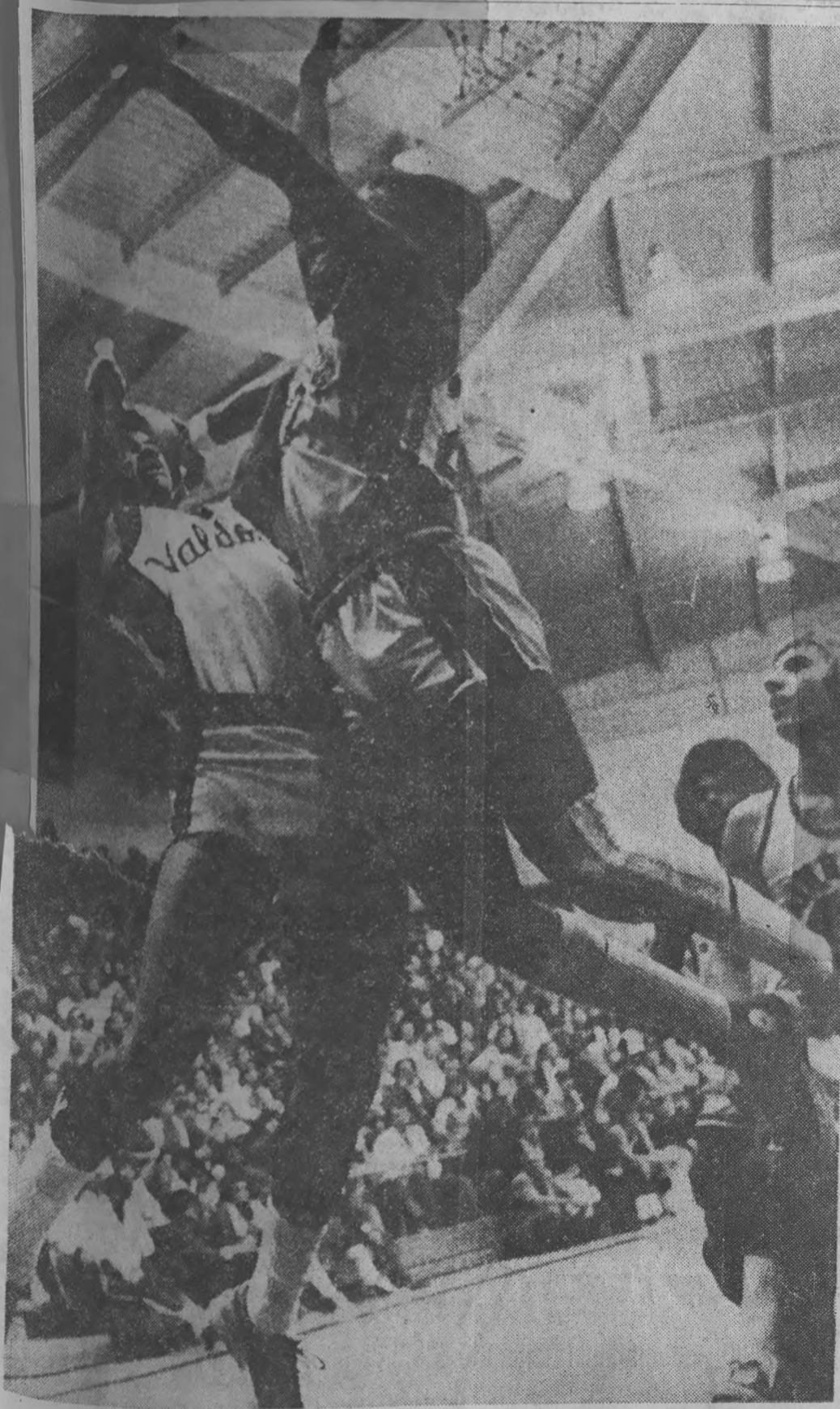
"They'll be better athletes and people because of it."

Wilson has by no means belittled the region crown. His 'Cats will fight tooth and toenail for the title again tonight.

But he feels with the knowledge that it will not be their last game, the pressure is over and his boys can settle down for some concentrated basketball.

"Our goal at the first of the year was to go to state," he said. "Now we're going after the region. I think we can play much better with the pressure off. I hope so. We'll find out tonight."

WILSON Adjustable



-Times Staff Photo By Ken Klanicki

The Winning Style

Valdosta High School forward Stan Rome bows his back and aims for the hoop while Bainbridge's Willie Jack King tries to block the path in their Region 1-AAA high school basketball championship game between the two

schools at the VHS gym Saturday night. Coach Joe Wilson's Wildcats won the game 69-60 for their fourth title in five years. Both teams advance to the State Tournament in Atlanta next week.

Vikettes, Kittens In 'State' Today

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

It's reckoning day today for the Lowndes High Vikettes and the Valdosta High Kittens. If they don't win now, they don't get to play again until next season.

The Vikettes and the Kittens enter first round state AAA girls basketball tournament action today, with the Vikettes slated to play at 11:40 a.m. and the Kittens scheduled for 9 p.m.

Coach Charles Cooper's Vikettes, Region 1-AAA champs for the second straight year, oppose Region 3-AAA runner-up Wayne County (Jesup) at 11:40 a.m. A win in this contest would take the Lowndes cagers farther than they have ever been in the state tournament.

The Vikettes lost in the first round in their first two trips to the state tournament.

Valdosta faces undefeated Waycross in its first state tournament action in several seasons. Steve Kebler's Kittens have played

the Region 3-AAA champs earlier this season when the Bulldogettes defeated Valdosta, 40-31, on their way to the Lowndes Christmas Tournament crown.

Waycross has basically the same team that carried it to the state tournament last season. Bulldogette coach John Pike figures this playoff experience can only improve his team's chances this time around.

Kebler's Kittens don't have as much polish and experience as the Bulldogettes. To win, they must overcome this disadvantage by out-hustling the Waycross girls. Hustle, though, was how the Kittens got into the state playoffs.

The Vikettes-Jackettes contest was scheduled for 11:40 a.m. today. The Kittens-Bulldogettes are slated to battle at 9 p.m. tonight.

The Vikettes game was broadcast over WVLD radio. The Kittens can be heard on WGAF.

VHS Principal Wants Strict Attendance Rule Reinstated

By MARY CROUSE

The principal at Valdosta High School wants to see a strict attendance rule, which was dropped by the city board of education at the beginning of winter quarter, reinstated at his campus March 11.

That's the date spring quarter begins at the secondary facility, said principal Lloyd Mims.

The attendance rule, which drew praise and criticism alike from parents because of its controversial nature, kept students in school and helped to eliminate potential drop-outs at VHS.

The crux of the rule was this: a student could be out for five days during a quarter with just a note from his parents. Anything over his five-day allotment required a physician's certificate stating the youth was sick or verification from the visiting teacher.

Any suspension time counted as part of the allotted five days. Students who failed to properly verify their absence beyond five days were suspended.

The result of the policy was the highest average daily attendance (ADA) Valdosta High has ever experienced, said Mims.

"It was the best thing that ever happened out here. We had

a tremendously high ADA and most parents and kids liked it. The kids were coming to school and it put the responsibility of attending school on the students," said the principal.

He said the students for the most part don't like the absence of the rule because there has been such a drop in attendance since the beginning of the year.

"We are down to about 90 per cent attendance now. There has been some sickness but the attendance dropped way down before this flu thing ever thought about hitting us," said Mims.

The policy was rescinded by the board earlier this year at an unannounced meeting. The action was never made known to the news media until The Times asked about the rule today.

Assistant school Supt. Ralph Brandon said the action was taken at a time at which the board was sitting around talking about policies. "I believe that is how it was," he said.

Brandon said the policy was discontinued because of advice given by Dr. Joe Edwards in State School Supt. Jack Nix's office.

"He said the rule, which was only in effect at VHS, might bring about some problems. It is used, however, by a number

of school systems on the quarter schedule and it works very well," he explained.

There has been some discussion among school officials to reinstate the policy for spring quarter at VHS, he said.

He said the policy was an incentive for students to stay in school.

"What we were trying to do was to have students with poor attendance records come to school. It was working. Some eighth graders and ninth graders last year had 40 to 90 days of absences.

"When they came to Valdosta High and the policy was explained to them, they found out we meant business. The ADA out there soared," said Brandon.

He explained the students who have a high percentage of absentees a school year are likely to lose interest in class and drop out.

"They become a statistic on the drop-out chart. This is what we were hoping to avoid. If we can get them in school and keep them, they will graduate. This was n't instigated as a disciplinary act, but to improve student attendance and provide them with educational opportunities available at Valdosta High," said the assistant superintendent.

Kittens Fall, 45-33, In State Tourney

By BILL COOPER
Macon — Waycross remained undefeated in its quest for the state AAA girls basketball championship by defeating a scrappy Valdosta Kitten basketball team, 45-33, in state tournament action here Monday.

The Kittens fell behind 13-4 at the end of the first quarter and trailed 25-12 at the end of the first half. The ball handling of Junnie Hughley and the scoring Willie Mc-

Clendon and Pam Baker led the Bulldogette spurt. Valdosta didn't give up however. Down 20 points at one point during the game, the Kittens narrowed the margin to eight before the more experienced Bulldogettes rallied again to put the game out of jeopardy. "They never quit," said kitten coach Steve Keblor of his girls. "They were down by 20 points once but kept battling back."

Keblor praised the Waycross team and commented on their poise in the opening game of the state tournament for both teams. "They are a polished, quick team," said the Valdosta coach. "They lost in the first round of last season's state tournament. The extra experience was the big difference in the two teams. We'll be back again."

Defense was a major factor in the Bulldogette win. Valdosta floor leader Gwen Durham was restricted to two points in the first half, and it wasn't until Ruby Knight came off the bench in the second half that the Kittens showed any sustained offensive punch. Knight added nine second half points to the four she netted in the first half to finish as the top kitten scorer with 13 points. Durham finished with 10 points. Mala Barker played well defensively for the Kittens, but the Bulldogettes' offense was too much for Valdosta to handle. Willie McClendon led Waycross scorers with 15 points. Pam Baker and Renarda Baker added 14 and 11 points respectively for the Bulldogettes.

The Kittens finished their season with a 14-11 record. Individual and team totals follow.

Valdosta	Waycross
VALDOSTA (21) — Knight 13, Durham 10, Johnson 4, Council 2, Barker, Brown 4, Nathan, Hunter, Owens	WAYCROSS (45) — P. Baker 14, Hughley 4, McClendon 15, R. Baker 11, McPherson 4, Hughley 1, Yermolovskiy, Westler
Team totals: field goals 14, free throws 5 of 14, fouls 18	Team totals: field goals 19, free throws 7 of 19, fouls 21

Cats, Dogs Tangle Again

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

There's another Wildcat-Bulldog battle brewing and advancement to the quarter finals of the State Class AAA high school basketball tournament is to be decided on the outcome.

Valdosta's once-defeated Wildcats, Region 1-AAA champions by way of a 69-60 victory over Bainbridge Saturday night take on the Beach High Bulldogs of Savannah in the first round of the State tournament in Atlanta on Monday.

And although neither team knows much about the other, both are proceeding with extreme caution.

The only thing I know about Valdosta is they knocked off Savannah in the State Tournament last year and I thought Savannah had a pretty good team said Bulldog coach Russell Ellington.

The Wildcats, coached by Joe Williamson, defeated Savannah enroute to winning the number three spot in the final standings by way of a consolation game victory.

The year before, Ellington's Bulldogs had reached the same prominence winning the 1972 consolation game.

"I know they've got State Rome and I understand a

considers his team young and inexperienced and one that will work for what it gets.

The Bulldogs start four juniors and one senior and run a more conservative set up offense.

The top man on the team is a 6-foot junior guard, Joe Riddle who averages about 19 points per game, mostly on outside shots.

The other guard is a 6-3 junior named Ricky Frazzer who averages 10 points.

On the front line are Kevin Mitchell, a 6-2 junior, Douglas McPherson a 6-4 junior and Raymond Gabriel, a 6-3 senior, who averages five, seven and 10 points respectively.

Beadh's only losses have come at the hands of Savannah, which lost its first two games and hasn't been beaten since, and Jenkins, considered the second best school in the region but was upset early in the tournament.

The Bulldogs will put a 17-5 overall record against the 24-1

Ellington continued "I coached his brother Roger in the State High School All-Star game in Macon a few years ago and I know how good he can be.

"From what we hear they have a pretty good ball club. I haven't heard much on their stats or height but I understand they're pretty good."

Ellington has already admitted he's happy to be in the bracket with Valdosta instead of some of the Atlanta schools.

"The year before last we had a pretty rough time against the Atlanta money schools," he explained. "They called 43 fouls against us one night.

"I don't know. Early in that tournament like this I would rather stay away from those money schools. They bring a good crowd into that Georgia Tech Coliseum because it's in Atlanta and that can make a difference."

Ellington, who is also the head football coach at Beach,

Wildcats.

"I think Savannah will have to be the favorite in the tournament," Ellington offered. "They just have so much height and pay good defense."

Miss Valenti Wins Grant From Elks

A Valdosta High School senior has been awarded a \$75 scholarship by the Valdosta Elks Club.

Sheree Lynn Valenti, daughter of Mrs. Jackie Valenti Blease of 705 Azalea Circle, was named winner of the scholarship which is based on academic record, leadership and community activities.

The 17-year-old student is editor of the yearbook, vice president of the foreign language club, a member of Beta Club, on the drug council and is an office aide.

The A plus student has achieved many honors including Star student, Who Who's Among American High School Students, National Society of Student Leaders, University of Georgia Certificate of Merit, Governor's Honors Program, DAR American history award, Society of Outstanding American High School Students, Presbyterian College Junior Fellow and National High School Award for Excellence.

The senior plans to study nursing at Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing.



SHEREE LYNN VALENTI
Another Honor

12 Valdosta High Students Reach Finals In DE Events

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Twelve students from Valdosta High School were named finalists in Distributive Education Clubs of America competitive events held Saturday at Tift County High School.

VHS students competed against 12 other schools in District 7.

In order to be a finalist, a student has to place first or second in district level competition.

Alfred Bea, son of Mrs. Verdell Bea of 328 W. Adair St., was a finalist in Boy Student of the Year. The senior was also a finalist in business speech and studies in marketing—service industry.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Eanes of 55 Loganberry Circle Charlotte Eanes was a finalist in Girl Student of the Year. The senior was also a finalist in job interview and

studies in marketing—food industry.

Crystal McDonald, the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. McDonald of 607 Pinetree Rd., was a finalist in sales demonstration.

Carla Fountain of 1514 Ricardo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Fountain, was a finalist in math.

Carolyn Adams, a senior, was a finalist in spelling and studies in marketing—department store industries. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Adams.

Anna Beth Hughes, a finalist in display, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hughes of 1308 McFee Drive.

The 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wetherington of 203 Miles, Udy Wetherington was a finalist in studies in studies in marketing—variety stores.

Patricia Dorminey, finalist in

studies in marketing—automotive and petroleum, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Dorminey Sr. of 606 E. Hill Ave.

Patti Norris, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Norris of 241 Briarwood Drive, was a finalist in studies in marketing—home furnishings industries.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wetherington of 1601 Beauford Place, Teresa Wetherington was a finalist in studies in marketing—specialty stores.

Angela Poirier, a finalist in distribution manual, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Poirer of 2000 McRee Drive.

Kenny Thompson, the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Wilson of Converse Apartments, was a finalist in merchandise information manual.

Flu And Bulldogs Worrying Wilson

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

What does a young coach do when members of his basketball team have missed a combined eight days of school with a flu epidemic less than a week before they play their first game in the State Class AAA tournament?

Joe Wilson worries a lot. "Between them Stan (Rome), Freshman (Greg Sampson), (Stepney) Cowart and (Phil) Painter have missed eight days with the flu and we don't know who's going to get it next said Wilson, who's Valdosta Wildcats are scheduled to meet Beach High's Bulldogs in the first round of the state playoffs in Atlanta Wednesday.

"We're going to have to be at our best now. They're are only 16 teams left, and mister, they've all got to be good to get that far."

The Wildcats, Region 1-AAA champions for the fourth time in five years and the defending third-place team in the state are scheduled to meet the Region 3-AAA runners-up from Savannah at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Georgia Tech Coliseum.

Bainbridge's Bearcats, region runners-up to Valdosta, are scheduled to meet the Region 3-AAA champion Savannah Blue Jacketts at 9 p.m.

Rome, Region 1-AAA's scoring leader, who has gone well over 700 points this season already, is the top cat with a 32-point scoring average with Larry Melton, another 6-5 senior giving him a run for his money for scoring and rebounding.

The Wildcat floor leader is David Demersman, an outside

sharpshooter with Terry Graham a 6-4 junior, Cowart, a 6-1 sophomore and Cecil Whitehead a 6-1 senior composing the rest of the starters.

Beach, coached by Russell Ellington, is led by 6-0 junior Joe Riddle who averages 19 points.

Other starters on the 17-5 club include Kevin Mitchell (6-2, jr.), Douglas McPherson (6-4, jr.), Raymond Gabriel (6-4, sr.) and guard Ricky Frazier (6-3, Jr.).

"We don't know much about Beach," Wilson admitted. "But they've got to be good to get that far."

"They've been there several times before and know what's going on."

Wilson discounted earlier reports he had heard that the

Bulldogs play only a disciplined offense.

"I understand they run with the ball when they can get it," he said. They usually run a zone defense. A zone is about all we've seen so far this year.

"I don't know whether he (Ellington) will change anything for Stanford or not. It's hard to defend a team you haven't seen."

"I imagine they'll play like they've done all year. Usually you get in trouble when you try to change for a team you don't know too much about."

'Cats Prowl On Diamonds Too

Valdosta's Brooks Is Optimistic

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Butch Brooks is optimistic.

And after looking at his Valdosta High School Wildcat baseball team on paper it's easy to see why.

The freshman baseball coach has a field of 32 to choose from including four undefeated pitchers among the 12 returning regulars from the 1973 Wildcat team.

That team lost only two games in 16 starts but never got out of the sub-region playoffs. Brooks hopes to do better.

"I'm very optimistic about this year," he said. "We've got the enthusiasm, and it seems the people want to have a real good year."

Brooks, who for the past two years was an assistant coach to head coach Joe Mercer was named head coach over the summer. He has already started working on building the already successful program.

A B-team has been added to allow more youngsters to play and Brooks is in the process of organizing a booster's club. He expects more than 60 members at the club's second meeting Monday night at the school.

"The boys are really enthused about it," he admitted. "And so am I. This B-team will give us more players and a chance to build some players for the future. Having the boosters is already starting to pay off."

Brooks, a former standout catcher for both South Georgia College and Georgia Southern, smiles when you mention pitching. That appears to be his team's strongest point.

Returning are David Demersseman, a steady hill performer for the past four years who doubles as a short stop. He went 3-0 last season with a .64 earned run average.

"I'm expecting a lot out of Larry Hansen this year," he said. "He went 3-0 with a .34 ERA last year. Ed Spell went 3-0 with one no hitter and a 1.66 ERA and Bruce Hilton was 1-0 and relieved a few times. We're going to work on his 1.16 ERA."

A former pitcher, Cecil Whitehead, has been moved to catcher to lead a contingent of younger players there.

"Cecil was a pretty good pitcher but I need him at catcher. He's got a good arm and a good head on his shoulders and I need someone who can

think to run that team."

The only player really to be missed from the battery is Gary Rowe, the top pitcher from the 1973 season, who had the misfortunes to be on the mound in both one-run losses to Moultrie, the Region 1-AAA (South) champs.

In the infield, Brooks has first baseman Charles Baulknight, "a smooth player with good hands," returning and sophomore Stan Chapman behind him.

At second is Billy Demersseman, only a sophomore but returning for his second year. Until he gets over a broken foot, however, Mike Mullis and Clark Stull can take over.

David Demersseman holds down shortstop when he's not pitching with Chip Moore and Francis Stewart on him.

At third, Brooks has big hopes for Johnny Holcomb, a junior and newcomer Steve Jennings, who he feels will soon be a top notch player.

"Brooks also has a lot of confidence in the outfield with three starters, Tony Alcorn, Raymond Washington, Mike Atkinson coming back to their regular positions.

In the batting department are such standouts as David Demersseman, who hit .417 last season, Whitehead who hit 3.35 and Washington, who hit .359. Also returning are outfielder - pitcher Ed Spell, who hit .429 "including the longest homerun ever hit in the Valdosta State College park."

"We have fairly good speed now and we hope to improve on it later," Brooks said. "Our weakest point right now is fielding but we haven't been working on defense too much yet."

Pendleton Park home of the 'Cats is being resod.

"We're having to practice in a field, he said. "I don't want to start working on that here and have to readjust to a baseball field later," he said. "It'll do more harm than good."

The Wildcat roster and schedule follow:

Roster
Pitchers — Bruce Hilton, David Demersseman, Larry Hansen, Ed Spell.
Catches — Bob Saunders, Cecil Whitehead, Michael Mullis, Ralph Hall, Brad Cohen, and Robert White.
Firstbase — Charles Baulknight, Stan Chapman, Mike Wetherington, Tony Riggs, John Roach.
Secondbase — Billy Demersseman, Clark Stull, Chip Moore, Berry Ganas.
Thirdbase — Johnny Holcomb, Telecia Davis.
Shortstop — Steve Jennings, Curtis Jones.

Outfield — Raymond Washington, Tony Alcorn, Mike Atkinson, Bob Hamel, Bruce Roberts, Tony Riviys, Francis Stewart, Greb Brown, Steve Ganas.
Scheduled

Mar. 30, VHS B-team, (2) home; Apr. 1, Berrien (Nashville, Ga.), away; Apr. 2, Thomasville, away; Apr. 4, Berrien home; Apr. 5, Lowndes, home; Apr. 6, Tift County (Tifton) away; April 9, Moultrie, away; April 10, Tift away; April 12, Bainbridge home; April 13, Waycross, home; April 17, Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.), away; April 18, Fitzgerald home; April 23, Lowndes, away; April 25, Moultrie, home; April 27, Lanier, home; April 30, Bainbridge, away.

Bulldogettes Know 'Dosta Girls Well

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

WAYCROSS — The Waycross Bulldogettes put their undefeated record on the line Monday at 9 p.m. in Macon against a fiery pack of Valdosta Kittens they have had dealings with before.

This time, however, the winner continues its journey towards the state girls AAA basketball title. The losers just go home.

Waycross defeated the Kittens, 40-31, on their way to the Lowndes Invitational Christmas Basketball Tournament title. The Bulldogettes earned the tourney championship by defeating Berrien, 42-40.

Coach John Pike is under no illusion his currently undefeated team is in for an easy time against Steve Kebler's scrappy Kittens.

"Valdosta has a fine basketball team," Pike said. "We just barely nipped them in the tournament. I've seen them play since then. They've come a long way. I expect a real tough game."

Waycross didn't remain undefeated by playing easy foes. Among this season's victims the Bulldogettes list Valdosta, Berrien and Northside of Warner Robins.

This is due largely to the

overall strength of the Waycross team. Pam Baker (5-7, sr.) is the team's leading scorer with around a 19 point per game average.

Junnie Hughley (5-5, sr.) averages about 15 a game, and Willie McClendon (5-10, soph.) and Renarda Baker (1-6, soph.) have contributed about eight points each per outing.

Kim McPherson (5-7, soph.) and Felicia Hughley (5-7, soph.) have been keys to the defensive success of the Bulldogettes all season. Bench strength, however, has been a major reason for Waycross' undefeated season.

"I would say I have about nine or ten girls who could play and who have played in close basketball games," said the Waycross coach. "They did the job."

"We have a lot of people back who got a lot of experience last year. I figure this experience has helped us out a lot."

Pike thinks his team's success is due more to quickness than to size. Whether his Bulldogettes quickness can neutralize the quickness of the Kittens he doesn't know.

"There are 16 good teams in the tournament," he said. "Anybody can beat anybody else at any time."

"The team that wins will be the team that puts four good games together. They'll be the team that doesn't give in to anybody."

Valdosta Cagers Have Come Long Way

A new sport made its way into the prominence of high school athletics in Valdosta this season. It's called basketball.

Basketball is nothing new to Valdosta really. It has been on the scene as long as king football has been on the throne here. But for the first time ever, three teams are traveling to the State Class AAA tournaments this year.



MILLER

Valdosta's Wildcats are traveling to the tournament in Atlanta beginning Monday March 6, and Valdosta's Kittens and Lowndes' girls are headed to the feminine version of the tournament to be held in Macon beginning tomorrow.

The state championship is still a long way for both of them but in basketball, it's an achievement just getting there. Only 16 teams from all the teams in the state have made it this far.

It took a long process to gain such prominence on the local level in basketball. This writer remembers not so long ago when basketball was a sport to keep the football players in shape and

no one would dream of spending a Friday or Saturday night in a gym watching one of their games.

Coach Joe Wilson and his Valdosta Wildcats started changing all that several years ago when lo and behold the Wildcats became a contender for the region crown.

More exciting than that, five years ago they actually won the tournament and VHS had a-team going to state.

The Vikettes from Lowndes got into the act four years ago when under Steve Kebler's direction, they won the girls AAA title too and Valdosta had two teams going to state.

Last season Kebler transferred away from Lowndes and Charles Cooper took over the helm of the Vikettes. His first year put them back into the region seat. Valdosta was still dominating the throne in the boys division and the Valdosta contingent going to state was dual again.

This year was the climax. Kebler took over the helm of the Valdosta Kittens and for the first time in history the town has three teams making the trip.

With all respect to the coaches in the area, if we had a trophy to give to the most outstanding coach, it would have to go to Steve Kebler.

He took an unorganized bunch of girls, some of whom had never played organized basketball before, and converted them from a team that won only five games in the 1972-73 season to the region runners-up this season.

Hard work is an understatement. It took a lot more than that. It took a lot of heart on the parts of both him and his girls.

With the limited talent they had at the beginning of the season, the Kittens put the scrap back into the game and emerged as a region representative. When Kebler says "they'll play their hearts out for me," says "they'll play their hearts out for me,".. he means it.

At the same time, Charles Cooper's Vikettes deserve all the credit they can get. In two years they lost eight games and won 41.

Cooper credits a combination of talent and teamwork for the winning results. You've never seen a more dedicated group and Cooper knows how to steer that dedication in the right direction.

But the pride of the area has got to be the Wildcats.

At the time of this writing, the 'Cats were on their way to the finals of the Region 1-AAA tournament against Bainbridge but they had already earned a seat in the state tournament, their fourth in five years.

With people like Stan Rome on the floor, it's hard to imagine the 'Cats being under pressure, but no team has ever been more so.

Julian

Miller
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta fans are funny. Win a few games by some of the scores they did and the fans start looking towards the state tournament. Wilson and his boys knew they had to win the trip and they did their dead-level best.

Through games where the other teams tried their patience by holding the basketball to cut down on the scoring, and those that tried to stop the 'Cats by either ganging up on Rome or beating up on the entire team, the 'Cats took a lot of abuse.

But sports fans state wide have quit thinking of Valdosta as a school where football is religion and nothing else counts.

And officials at both Valdosta and Lowndes will readily tell you there is a lot more coming in rising teams.

In the Valdosta school system alone were rarely defeated junior varsity, ninth grade, eighth grade and seventh grade basketball teams and a couple of under class girls teams that show promise of things to come.

No, basketball in Valdosta no longer has to look up to the North Georgia teams.

Wildcats Outclaw Bearcats To Win Region I-AAA Cage Championship

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta's Wildcats took a slim margin in the early going and fought repeated Bainbridge rallies to hold onto and take a 69-60 victory over the Bearcats to win their fourth Region I-AAA high school basketball championship in five years here Saturday night.

The 'Cats, moving behind the floor leadership and pinpoint shooting of floor general David Demerssman and hard fought rebounding and inside shooting of big Stan Rome and Larry Melton never lost the lead after breaking an early 4-4 tie.

It was Valdosta's 10th straight victory over the Bearcats over a four-year span and the third time this season they had defeated the taller quintet.

Demerssman, a 6-1 senior was the sparkplug for the 'Cats in their second straight region championship victory. He scored 22 points, most of them coming at crucial times throughout the game and set the pattern the Wildcats of Coach Joe Wilson ran.

Rome, Valdosta's All-America forward scored 18 points, 14 below his average, while Melton a 6-4 senior like Rome added 13.

Both however, showed their power under the baskets battling big Jack Washington for rebounds.

Washington, 6-foot-6, was the leader in both scoring and rebounding for the Bearcats with 10 points and more than twice as many rebounds as the rest of his teammates.

Willie Jack King scored 14, Ike Hamilton 12, and John Jeffrey 11 for the second-seated Bearcats who took their fourth defeat of the season.

Although Valdosta never lost the lead they never had a

moment's rest either, until the weighing seconds of the game when they took their greatest lead.

As region champs and runners-up the Wildcats and Coach Charles Best's Bearcats earned berths in the State Class AAA playoffs in Georgia Tech Coiseum in Atlanta March 4.

Wilson's VHS quintet takes on Josey of Augusta while the Bearcats meet the Region 2-AAA champions Macon Southwest. Southwest defeated Josey 65-48 in the finals of the 2-AAA tournament in Macon Saturday.

"I liked to blow the whole game trying to hold the 'bloomin' ball in the last few minutes," an elated Wilson admitted after the victory.

"I'm smarter than that. But I still think it would have worked if we hadn't had a bad pass.

"We had to go back to what's been our thing all season long. We went with the press when we had a three-point lead and that kept them from setting Washington up under the basket. It also brought on a lot of turnovers and we needed 'em."

Rome, still slowed by a twisted ankle that limited his jumping ability, helped hold Washington to just three points in the third quarter.

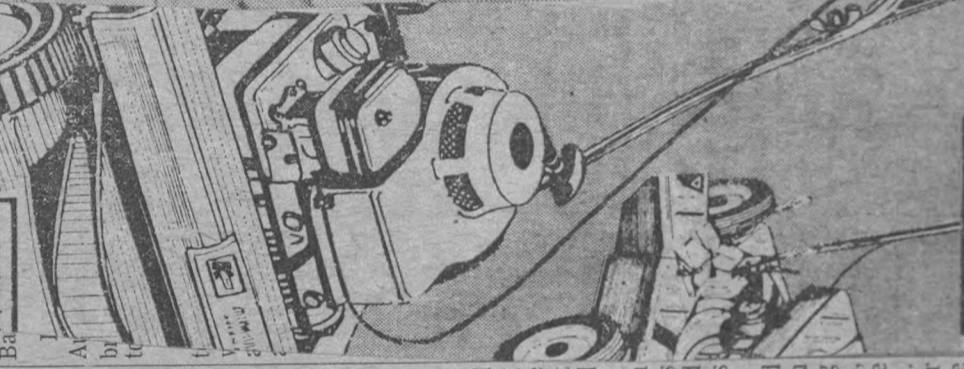
"Washington is big and strong. He hurt us," Wilson admitted. "I'm not taking anything away from Bainbridge, they got a good team. But we played a pretty ragged game."

Valdosta went out front for good with 6:05 remaining in the first quarter when Cecil Whitehead pumped in a field goal from the top of the key to break a 4-all tie.

Rome backed it up 20 seconds later when he stuffed in a pass

from Demerssman and the chase was on.

Bainbridge put the pressure on the Wildcats when Washington put two points up with a shot over Larry Melton's head, cutting the lead to 14-12 and then a timely Bearcat rebound brought the ball back to



—Times Staff Photo

Terry Graham Grabs Rebound From John Jeffrey



- Times Staff Photo

Freedom Shrine Display

The Valdosta Exchange Club gave a \$400 display to Valdosta High School this week. The Freedom Shrine is composed of reproductions of some of the most famous documents in America's history. According to Exchange Club officials, the exhibit is

to be used by the history and political science classes. The shrines are part of the nationwide effort by the Exchange Clubs of America to strengthen American Appreciation of our American Heritage.

Valdosta High Senior Lands Lead Role In Musical Gypsy

By ELIZABETH RIGSBY

A Valdosta High School senior, skilled in music, dance and art, is to play the lead role in "Gypsy."

Cindy Brown is to play the part of Louise (Gypsy Rose Lee) in the musical to be held March 22-23 at 8:15 p.m. at Mathis city auditorium.

The 17-year-old student is the daughter of Maj. and Mrs. William M. Brown of 2212 N. Forrest St.

Miss Brown said she has never had any major parts in drama but has always helped choreograph.

"I was really surprised when I was asked to be in Gypsy," she said. "I just about died because I don't think I really have that much talent in drama."

"It will be an experience I'll remember for a lifetime, I'm sure."

Miss Brown is a member of the American College of Musicians. She received a superior rating in national piano guild competition last year and intends on competing again this year.

The musician has been taking piano since she was about eight years old. She teaches piano for the Parks and Recreational Department and for Valdosta Music Academy.

She is also one of the lead singers and choreographer for "The Blues," a pop band sponsored by PARC. The



CINDY BROWN
Lead In Gypsy

group plans to represent PARC in June at the KOA convention at Jekyll Island.

She and her brother, Billy Brown, 14-year-old freshman

at VHS, sang at Grego's Restaurant to raise money to buy equipment for "The Blues."

The talented senior plays the banjo, guitar, accordion, organ and drums, in addition to the piano, and has been asked to cut some records.

Miss Brown was nominated for Governor's Honors program under music and is maintaining a 95 average in her studies.

Taking dancing since she was six years old, Miss Brown performed in the "Nutcracker" both years it was in Valdosta. She did the Spanish variation and Waltz of the Flowers this year.

She is taking advanced tap dancing and has done several advanced tap routines in recitals.

"I really enjoy tap; it relaxes me, whereas, in ballet you have to be very strict about your body positions and placement," Miss Brown said. "Of course I've always loved ballet."

The senior sold several art pieces at last year's VHS art show and has received several ribbons for her art work.

She was awarded the Midwestern Music and Art Camp Certificate of Merit for outstanding work in art, which provided her with a \$150 scholarship.

Miss Brown designs all program covers and posters for the Valdosta Music and Dance Academies and the Quota Club.

"I would love to go into commercial art but there's so much to it," she said. "You just can't plunge into it without a general idea of what you will be doing."

Wildcats, Vikings Begin Spring Drills

By JULIAN MILLER

Nick Hyder begins what could be termed a week of introductions today and West Thomas knows exactly what he'll be going through.

Hyder, Valdosta High School's newly appointed head football coach from West Rome High School in Rome Georgia began his first day on the job today.

Thomas is Lowndes High's

Thomas, who's Vikings went 5-5 in 1973 for their best season ever in Class AAA, is also going through his first spring practice with the team. He was still coaching in Fitzgerald last year at this time.

"I think I'll be a little better off," Thomas admitted. "I at least know the boys from this school. But I've still got to learn the names of the boys coming in from the junior

highs." Practice for both schools ends March 29 when they take part in a four-team Jamboree along with Moultrie and Waycross at Cleveland field.

The "Cats are scheduled to square off against former Wildcats in their annual Has Been-Will Be game March 15. But Thomas doesn't know just yet whether or not a scrimmage game will be set for his Vikings.

"We'll see how we're progressing before we decide," he said.

Although both coaches are heading towards the jamboree, neither are coaching just for it. Both explained they're more concerned with fundamentals and the 1974 season.

Thomas' fundamentals include blocking and tackling mainly while Hyder adds

running, the kicking game and officiating to his.

"We like to involve the officials as much as we can," he explained. "We have about 88 boys out and we want them to get as much scrimmage as we can every day.

Valdosta is to hold practice sessions beginning around 4

p.m. at Cleveland Field while the Vikings work out from 3-5 p.m. daily, the coaches said.



NICK HYDER
'Introductions'



WEST THOMAS
Viking Boss

Bill

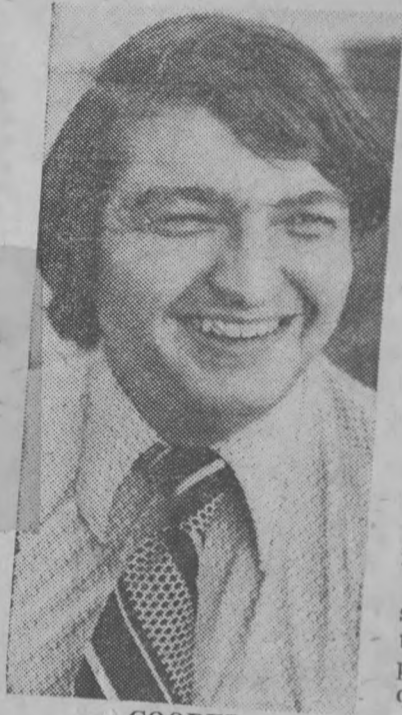
Cooper

Times Staff Writer

Basketball Coach Is Ex-Baseball Pro

About 23 years ago Steve Kebler started playing men's sandlot baseball league in Michigan when he was 14 years old. He played with the men because he thought the competition would help improve his game.

After his team went to the state playoffs a couple of years, baseball scouts began to notice Kebler. A couple of clubs offered him professional contracts. The young pitcher signed with Baltimore.



COOPER

"There was a \$4,000 bonus rule back then," said Kebler, now girls basketball coach at Valdosta. "I signed for \$2,200 and \$400 a month. That wasn't too bad then."

In 1955 the Valdosta coach was traded to the Detroit organization. He played in the Tiger farm system from 1956 to 1958.

His last season was 1958 for Valdosta in the Georgia-Florida league.

"I ran into arm trouble," Kebler said. "I got sent to Class D to try to be a relief pitcher.

"I threw a sinker and the opposing batters hit a lot on the ground."

Kebler had a winning season with Valdosta. Despite this fact he felt he wasn't progressing fast enough. He quit.

"I was too impatient," he admits in hindsight. "I wanted to make it too quick, and when it didn't happen right away I gave it up."

Kebler had his best season in pro baseball with Augusta in the old South Atlantic League. The Sally League was Class A then when Kebler compiled his 14-6 record.

In spring training of 1957 and part of 1958 Kebler worked out with the Birmingham Barons, a AA club. This was as high as he went up the professional scale.

Of all his professional seasons his last one in 1958 had the greatest effect on his future life. While playing here in Valdosta, Kebler met the then Susie Lindstrom, whom he married. Afterwards he went to Valdosta State College.

Still Loves Game

Basketball is now his main athletic concern, but the Valdosta Kitten coach still finds time for baseball.

Kebler helps Ben Belue with American Legion baseball by working with the pitchers.

"I still love it," he admits. "You know I love kids. That's the way I get my kicks I guess. I just love to work with them."

Besides working with the American Legion players, Kebler also works with other age groups.

"I'll be working with (Valdosta Wildcat coach) Joe Wilson in the Pony League again this year," he said. "Last year we went to state."

Part-Time Umpire

Kebler, who will be 37 Tuesday, also keeps busy by umpiring some Little League games. He feels programs like the ones he works with have a lot to do with the development of kids into good citizens.

"It gives the kids a chance to play baseball," he said. "It's important to remember if the kids are playing baseball, they don't have much time to run around and get in trouble. They're too busy."

Kebler thinks the backing given athletic programs by the people of Valdosta is commendable.

"I think we're very fortunate to live in a town that provides such a complete athletic program," he said. "There are all kinds of sports activities going on here."

High Hopes

The Valdosta coach thinks the number of persons involved in the summer baseball programs justify their existence. Still he hopes that someday more outward proof of the

The Marchin' Cats-- A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Frank Butenschon dug down in a pile of photographs heaped high on a big coffee table in his office.

"To me this sums up the Marchin' Cats," he said, showing me a big glossy print of some of the band members.

It was a picture of two members of the flag corps holding the banner which read The Greatest Band in Dixie 1972. The Valdosta High School girls had just been handed the huge satin banner only seconds before a photographer snapped his camera.

And what he caught on film is the spirit of the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats.

There is pure uncontrolled joy and pride in the faces of the high stepping girls and the other band members in the background. There are jubilant spectators lining the street in New Orleans where the Marchin' Cats had won the coveted title for the second time in three years.

"There is a sense of accomplishment on the faces of those two girls. And see how it is mixed with the enthusiastic response from the crowd. I think we really were the crowd favorites that year. But this picture says more about the Marchin' Cats than I can ever put into words," said the red haired 36-year-old

band director.

Butenschon has been director of the fabulous Marchin' Cats since 1960.

And he has taken the once small amateurish performing group and turned them into a professional looking and sounding outfit which has won national acclaim and reaped scores of top awards.

He has done it with the cooperation of school officials, parents and the willingness to work toward that goal of the students themselves.

The father of two children, he is proud of his young charges and their accomplishments. He doesn't attempt to mask this pride. Nor does he try to take the credit. He says all the band directors in the city school system have helped and worked hard to make the Marchin' Cats what they are today.

The 250-member band, which is a rival to many college bands, draws as many spectators to the VHS football games as the grid players. And if there is a parade or concert, many will attend just to hear the teen-agers make with the sounds.

The Marchin' Cats make their own kind of music. They borrow tunes but the arrangements are pure Butenschon, his staff and sometimes students.

The group has traveled more than 45,000 miles to perform during the past 12 years, representing the school, the city and the state.

The students work hard for their awards and honors. Butenschon demands it. But he puts their academic work, family life and religious activities first. Band comes fourth. Dating and other social endeavors must fall after that.

Nobody seems to mind. And that is part of the wonder of the Marchin' Cats.

Perhaps the best example is the fact the students themselves often call additional night rehearsals and crack of dawn practices to get ready for a concert, halftime show or competition.



Visiting Band On Sideline: Spectators Remain Seated For High Stepping VHS Mar



Elizabeth Colth. At Practice: Students Serve as Directors

They are not adverse to working on weekends and their schedule often calls for it.

Before the Greatest Band in Dixie competition several years ago, Butenschon was surprised to arrive on campus and find lights on the football field before dawn.

Hearing music, he shook his head and emerged grinning on the field to see his group of contest hopefuls busily going through their paces under the direction of head drum majorette Rozzie Bird.

The band has won the National Cherry Blossom Parade of Princesses Championship in Washington and has been invited to participate in the Rose Bowl parade. Finances have hindered that trip so far.

The group has performed during the New Orleans Saints game before a crowd of 83,000 and participated in the Peach Bowl Parade of Champions held in Atlanta.

Their first place win in the first Winternationl Marching Band Contest in Miami, Fla., brought the privilege of performing on national television at the Miami Dolphins - Baltimore Colts football game.

They were again invited to return to the Orange Bowl as the feature band for the Miami Dolphins - New York Jets football game which was televised nationally.

Their success and ability has not been restricted to the marching field, although they have always received superior ratings at marching festivals.

During the concert season, which is underway now, the group has never received less than an excellent rating.

The Symphonic Band has taken superior ratings in concert festivals and the group has made a tour of Florida and the Bahamas where they played to capacity crowds.

VHS was one of the first schools in South Georgia to organize a lab band three years ago. The students do their own thing under the direction of one of Butenschon's staffers Cecil Pollock.

Jazz enthusiast and classical buffs sit side by side and improvise. The result is good listening.

And under Butenschon's See Marchin', — Page 7-B

Valdosta Gains Sr. Boys Title

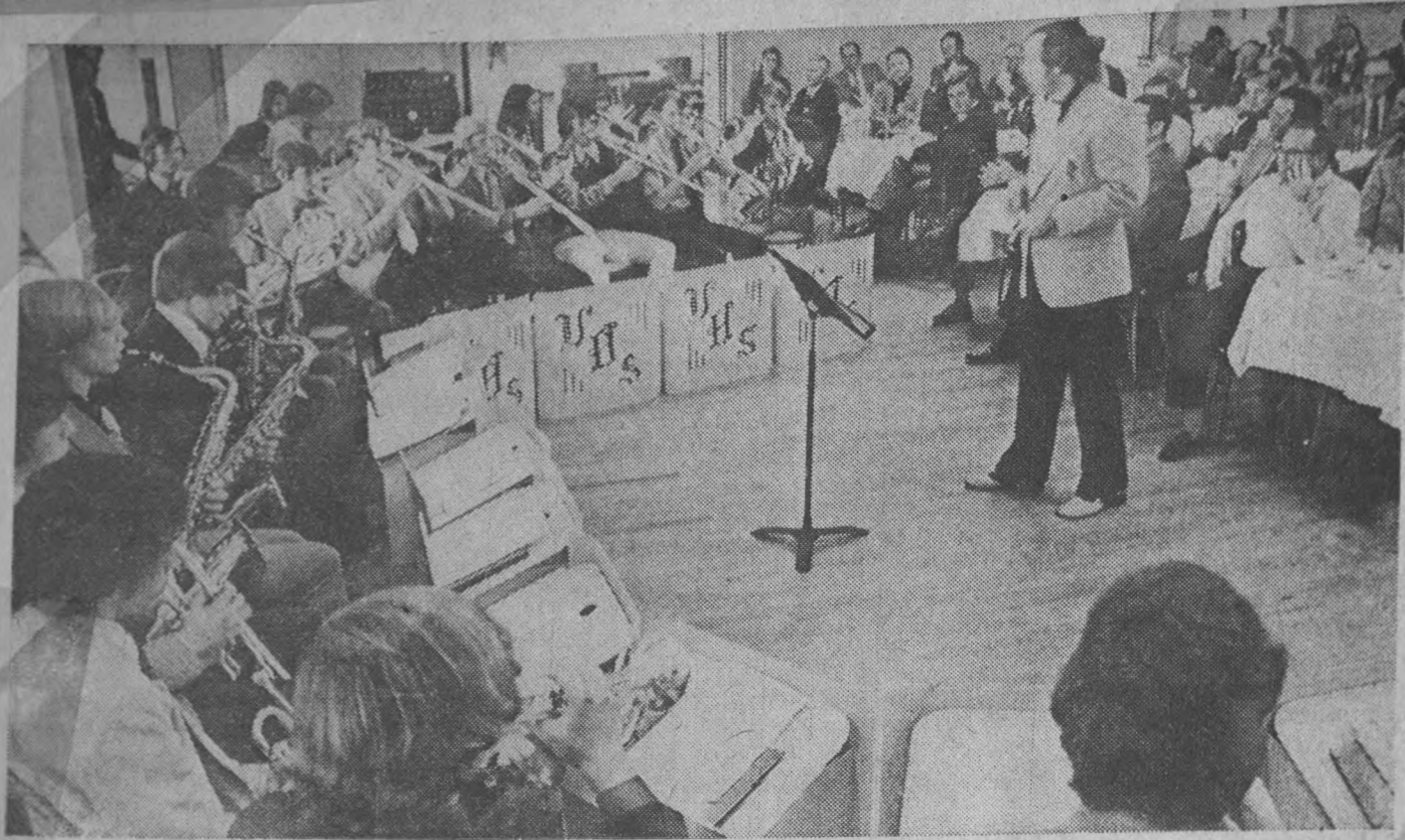
By TIMES STAFF WRITER

MOULTRIE — Valdosta's Senior Boys defeated Thomasville, 119-38, in semifinal action of the Georgia Recreation and Parks District III tournament and then defeated Moultrie, 74-61, for the title here Saturday.

Joel Jenkins led 'Dosta scorers with 19 points in the rout of Thomasville. Jerome Nathan paced the 'Dostans with 23 points against Moultrie.

In other tournament action Valdosta fell to Moultrie's Junior girls, 32-30, in semi-final action. Pam Wilson scored 13 for Valdosta.

In the Junior Boys championship Moultrie edged Valdosta, 36-35. Greg Powell scored 11 for 'Dosta.



Cecil Pollock, Lab Band at Rotary Meeting: Another Innovation of Band Department

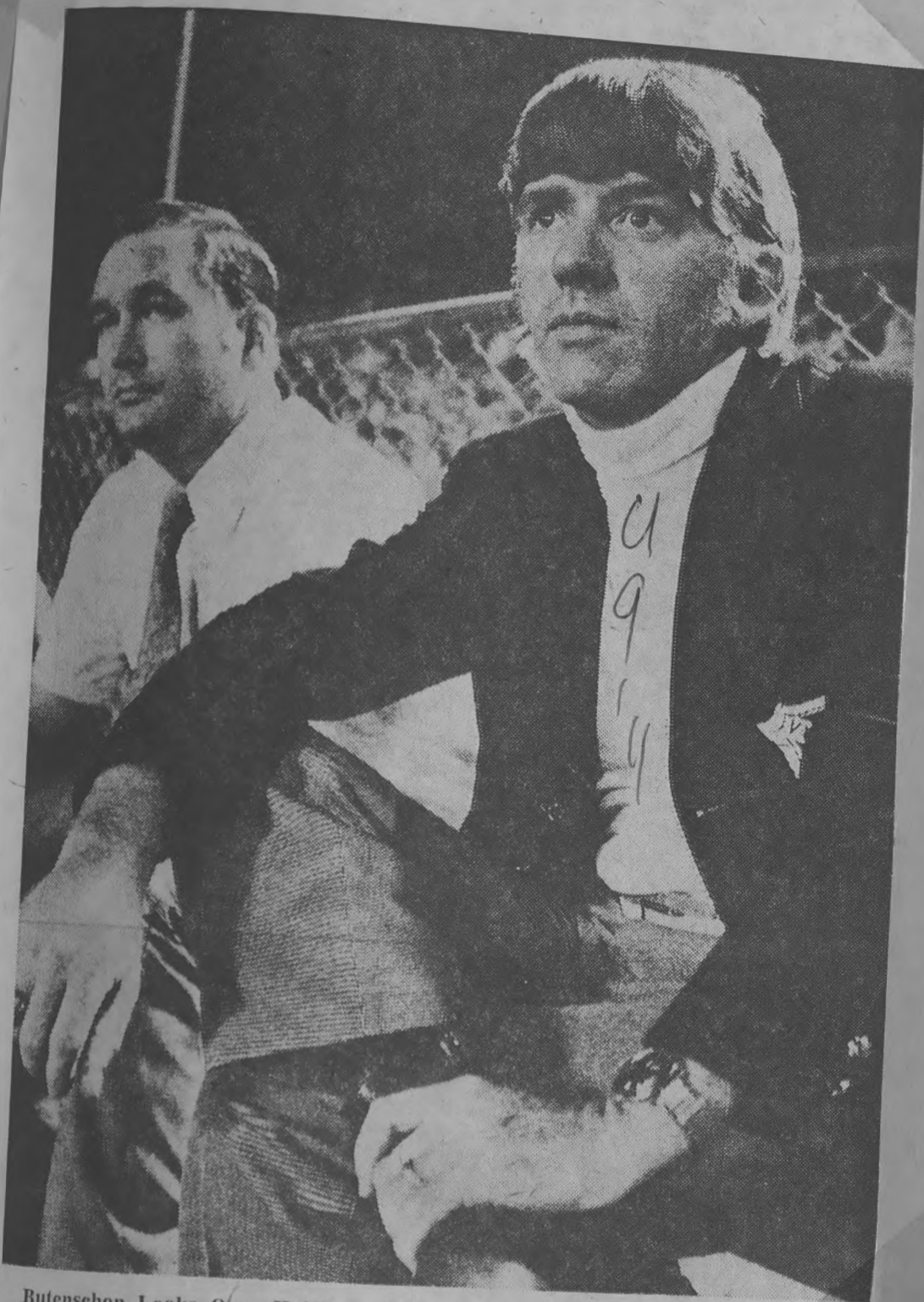


Butenschon Watches Students: Flag Corps Here Was One of First in the State



Marchin' Cats Take Field: Pride, Talent and Love of Band Combine to Make Them One of Nation's Best

Story By Mary Crouse
Photos By Robert Winter III



Butenschon Looks Over Halftime Show: Here's When Rehearsals Pay Off

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Mar. 5, 1974 —10—

Hyder Pleased With 'Cats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Wildcats were restless...and Nick Hyder was pleasantly surprised.

"I think for a first day we'd have to rule it satisfactory," said the new head coach of the Valdosta High School Wildcats after his first day of putting his gridders through spring practice drills at Cleveland Field.

"The morale was good. We sat out there a little over three hours and nobody complained."

Hyder, who moved to Valdosta from Rome, Ga., where he was head football coach at West Rome High School only this weekend, credited pre-season work by his assistant coaches for the smooth sailing Monday.

"Bill Aldrich and Butch Brooks did a real fine job with the offense along with coach Freddie Waters, and defensively Coaches Edward Jones, and Steve Kebler did a real good job."

While it took Hyder a little over three hours to get practice organized and completed, he explained it wasn't an indication of things to come.

"I think two or two and a half hours per day is long enough," he said. "We just had a lot of work to do today getting just the language down and lining everything up."

"My terminology takes a little bit of time to catch on to and we got a lot of hitting and scrimmage. Our 'Cat offense, the top offense, moved against the head hunter defense and did pretty good."

Hyder had already announced he would be adding his offense, including the Wishbone, to the regular 'Cat offense. Brooks and Aldrich had been working on it before he moved to Valdosta.

"We're working real hard for an exciting offense," he said. "We know the people around here aren't going to be satisfied with anything else."

Hyder got another pleasant

surprise when he took a good look at his team size.

"I'm not used to it," he admitted. "I think that's the biggest difference between Class AA and AAA in Georgia. We're having to change our drills some to include the big boys."

"Don't get me wrong, I'm glad to have them. We need them badly because you meet some big boys in this region. I just have to make some changes in our drills to make sure they aren't left out."

"I was mighty pleased with the effort and response. I don't know why I would have expected anything different. They would have stayed there until 9 p.m. if I would have wanted them to."

Hyder admits he was a little nervous in moving to Valdosta...until he hit the field.

"I really appreciated all the welcome and fanfare and all. But when I got on the field I really felt relieved. It felt

great. Now I'd just like the chance to work with them and prove myself."

Hyder implemented speed drills he got from Arizona State after being impressed with the Sun Devils' overall quickness in the Peach Bowl a few years ago, and began his systematic practice season.

Hyder's practice sessions always include an explanation session to discuss exactly what is to be done that day, flexibility drills, stretching drills, a devotion by either himself, an assistant coach or one of the players, and plenty of scrimmage."

"The main purpose of spring training is to get this team ready to play competitive championship football next year and that's what we're doing," he said.

About 88 players are out for the drills to conclude March 29 with the annual Jamboree with crosstown rival Lowndes, Moultrie and Waycross.

VHS DE: 'Very Good Year'

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Two Employer-Employee Banquets, a batch of region, state and national honors and a rejuvenated alumni organization have highlighted the year for Valdosta High School Distributive Education students.

The second of the banquets, both of them morning affairs, was held today. It is the first time in the history of the VHS DE Club that two banquets were held and it also was the first time the gatherings were held in the morning.

Norman Greene, DE coordinator, said the double banquets were designed to spread out the activity of the club.

"Usually, the Employer-Employee Banquet (a highlight of the DE year) is held at a time when students are getting ready for state and national competition," he explained.

"This way, we can spread out the workload and recognize those students who have achieved honor during the school year."

The banquet adds points toward the state chapter of the year contest, Greene said the banquet held today will point in next year's competition.

Greene said the first banquet, held in February, counted toward this year's contest in which VHS was second. North Fulton High School of Atlanta was named the state winner.

The club saw five of its students win in state contests, including the Male Student of the Year competition.

That event was won by Mark Eanes, a senior and second year student in the sales-oriented vocational education club.

Other first place finishers included Eanes' sister, Charlotte, a junior and first year student, who won first place for her studies in marketing manual on service industries.

Jeannie Turner, a senior and second year student, won two state events, spelling and merchandising information manual.

Eanes, in addition to winning SOY honors, was named the best DE reporter in the state.

Besides the first place wins, VHS DE clubbers came through with two second place finishes and six students were third in various contests.

Club president Perry Welch was second in the state ad planning and layout competition and Miss Eanes was a close second in the Female Student of the Year Contest.

The club also copped the Georgia DECA contest trophy for the best showing in contests at the state level.

VHS'ers also placed students in a regional and state office. Miss Eanes was elected state secretary at the leadership conference in Atlanta and Terry Fountain was named southeast district chairman at the regional gathering in Waycross.

Miss Turner's merchandising information manual was eighth in the nation at the national leadership conference in Atlantic City, N. J.

Six students who won state Merit Awards were to receive their silver medals at the banquet this morning. The Merit

Award Program (MAP) is designed for students to achieve individual recognition in studies of a chosen marketing area.

"They don't compete against anyone else," Greene explained. "They have a certain number of steps they have to complete.

"If they do, they get the awards. If they don't, they don't. It's as simple as that."

Larry Staley, president of the 'Dosta DE Alumni Association, said the group is aiming at a membership of 300 during his term.

It's apparently a pretty lofty goal considering the organization had only about 15 members when he took office.

"I still think it's a realistic figure," he said when the goal was announced. "You have to remember we have about 800 former DE club members in this area."

Staley, a freshman at Valdosta State College, said he believes at least half of them would be willing to join the alumni group.



—Times Staff Photo

Seago at the Saw: Former DE'er Now His Own Boss

Seago Had To Take His DE Training, But He Liked It

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A man who got into Distributive Education "through necessity" says it went a long way toward helping him get where he is today.

Gene Seago, owner-operator of Steaks, Inc., at Five Points Center said he stopped looking at retailing as a job and began eyeing it as a career when he

got into the DE program at Valdosta High School.

"I got into DE through necessity," he explained. "I had to work to finish my education."

"Even as early as junior high school, I was working at Harvey's Supermarket in Castle Park. But once I got into DE, I began looking at retailing as a vocation, especially the management end of it."

After he was graduated from VHS, Seago studied marketing and management at Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School and attended Valdosta State College.

"Everything I've ever studied has been connected with marketing and retailing," he mused. "I guess it was what I always wanted to do."

The 26-year-old Valdosta native was hired at Steaks, Inc. 3½ years ago and became the store's owner about two years ago.

Married to the former Sandra Fesler, he is the father of one daughter. He is a member of the Lions Club here and also holds membership in the Georgia Retailers Grocery Association.

Seago also is a member of First Baptist Church here. Though he was "not the most active member I ever saw" during his two years (1966-67), he still considers DE the most valuable high school course he took.

"DE is one of the finest programs a student can get involved in if he is interested in a business in the marketing and distribution world," he said.

"I know I would not be where I am today if it were not for the two years I spent in the DE program."

"The experience a student can receive in it is unlimited."

Former Club Reporter

Editor Found DE Helped

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

One wouldn't think sales and distribution courses would help a career in the journalism profession but that's not true, according to the managing editor of the Valdosta Daily Times.

Wink DeVane, a former Distributive Education student at Valdosta High School, said he learned a great deal from the sales-oriented vocational education course.

"To begin with, I was club reporter," he recalled. "I guess that's where I got my first taste of news writing."

"And too, sales training teaches you to talk to people you've just met. That's a very important part of newspaper reporting."

The 31-year-old Valdosta native took DE only one year, his senior year, but stayed in the program his freshman year in college after he was elected to a national DEGA office.

Prior to joining the Times' Staff in 1969, he was news director of radio station WJEM here. Coincidentally, he got into broadcasting while in DE and remained in the field for 11 years.

He still holds a part-time job at the same radio station on Sunday. "I'm just hooked on it, I guess," he said.

DeVane is an honorary lifetime member of the VHS club. The life membership is the highest honor the club can bestow.

Prior to succeeding Earl Braswell as managing editor, DeVane was Times city editor and has covered a wide range of news areas.



WINK DeVANE
Talk To People

He began his career as crime and courts reporter and was responsible for reporting on city

Proclamation Notes DE Day

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Mayor James Beck of Valdosta declared today Distributive Education Day in Valdosta. The Valdosta High School D. E. Club is the sponsor of the event.

"Today is the day that we set aside every year to say thank you to the employers and other people who support our club," said Norman Greene, teacher-coordinator of the club.

Scheduled events include club promotional activities at VHS. "On D. E. Day we try to tell the general public about our club. Too many have misinterpretations of what Distributive Education is," said Greene.

The day was to be highlighted by an Employer-Employee Banquet at the Holiday Inn.

government affairs when he assumed the ME's post.

Married to the former Mercer Lois Jeffords of Waycross, he is the father of a son and two daughters.

A Kiwanian, he is a former Lions Club member and coaches a cadet league basketball team for the Valdosta Boys Club.

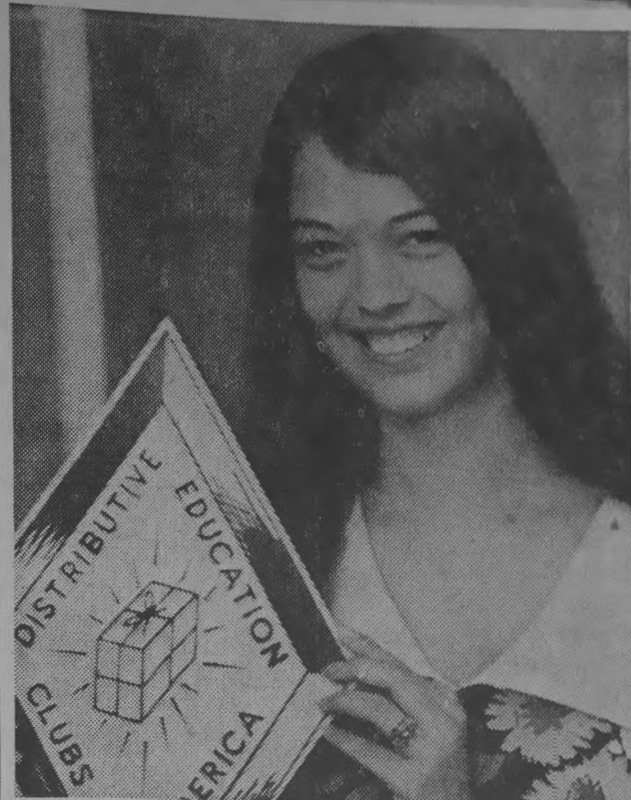
He and former DE coordinator W. E. "Bill" Glenn were recipients of the first annual Benny Schwartz Memorial Award given by the Boys Club earlier this year.

The award was in recognition of their team's first place finish in cadet league competition.

DeVane also received the journalism award from the Black Community Action Group this year.



NATIONAL WINNER —
Jeannie Turner, VHS DE student, was a national finalist in DECA's merchandising information manual competition. Her project dealt with the shoe industry and was judged first in state competition in Atlanta.



Club Sweetheart Sandra Brownlee Holds Emblem

DECA Diamond Means Student Is Ready For A Vocation

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The symbol for the Distributive Education Clubs of America is a four point diamond. Vocational understanding, civic consciousness, social intelligence, and leadership development are symbolized by the four points of the diamond.

The first point of the diamond represents vocational understanding. After participation in the D.E. program, a student is well prepared to take his place in the business world and capable of handling the day to day business.

The second point of the diamond is expressed in the student's civic consciousness. It is taught to the Distributive Education student through both classes and chapter activity. The student learns to recognize his obligation to the community. He does so by studying community needs and planning projects to meet these needs.

The third point of the diamond stresses social intelligence. Through activities and social events sponsored by the D.E. Club the DECA member is given the chance to develop his poise and social graces that are necessary in our growing society.

Leadership development is the last point of the diamond. The D.E. student holds many activities throughout the year which supply opportunities for the students to participate and learn to be good leaders as well as good followers.

In the center of the DECA diamond is a wrapped package. This package stands for a job well-done and a well-rounded education. This is achieved through the cooperation of the school administration, teachers, parents, and businessmen all working together to develop the student.

Former DE Students In College

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Three Valdosta young people were recipients of scholarships as a result of their achievements in the Distributive Education program at Valdosta High School. Brenda Ward, Ken Webb, and Kathy Malone received four year scholarships to Valdosta State College from leading Valdosta businesses.

Brenda Ward, a freshman, was awarded a scholarship from the C&S Bank for her essay on what D.E. has done for her. She was judged on this essay, her grades and her activities in the D.E. program. Miss Ward plans to major in speech.

The Valdosta Exchange Club sponsored a scholarship for Webb, a sophomore. Webb plans to major in management and is currently working at Sears in the catalogue department. He earned his scholarship through an interview with John Peoples, a Valdosta lawyer.

Miss Malone, a junior, was awarded her scholarship by the First National Bank. She is employed at the Valdosta Daily Times as a switchboard operator and proofreader. Miss Malone is majoring in psychology.

Welch Finds DE Presidency Real Challenge

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Perry Welch, president of the Valdosta High School Distributive Education Club, finds that this year is a real challenge due to the many and varied club activities he must oversee.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Welch of Northfield Rd., he is employed by Pronto Press as an ad layout specialist.

Other D. E. club officers are: Sandra Brownlee, vice-president; Jeannie Turner, chaplain; David Register, sergeant-at-arms; Mary Jane Keene, treasurer; Mark Eanes, reporter; Charlotte Eanes, historian; Randy Grover, parliamentarian; Su Beth Tillman, secretary.

Division Vice Presidents are: Linda Staley, Division I, Steve Sumner, Division II, Cheryl Jones, Division III, and Pam Kelly, Division IV.



—Times Staff Photo

All In The Family

Carol and Beth Harrison, twin sisters, are just one of many students to whom DE is a family affair. Brother-sister teams include Roger and Elaine

Ellis and Charlotte and Mark Eanes. Su Beth Tillman and Perry Welch, two other students, are employed in businesses operated by their families.

VHS'ers Get State Offices

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Two members of the Valdosta High Chapter of Distributive Education have received positions of leadership in the state club.

Charlotte Eanes and Terry Fountain hold a state and district office, respectively.

Miss Eanes, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Eanes, was elected state secretary during the State Leadership Conference held in Atlanta in February. She also won second on the state level in Girl Student of the Year competition and first in her studies in marketing manual.

Besides her school life, Charlotte works at Char-Del Shoes in conjunction with her job training with the D. E. program.

Miss Fountain, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Fountain, was elected district chairman of the Southeast Division of Georgia DECA in Waycross during the district competition.

Both girls attended the National Leadership Conference in Atlantic City, N.J., and are to return to VHS in the fall as second-year DE students.



CHARLOTTE EANES
State Secretary



TERRY FOUNTAIN
District Chairman

She is a cheerleader and works at Barnes Drug Store after school.

Both girls attended the National Leadership Conference in Atlantic City, N.J., and are to return to VHS in the fall as second-year DE students.

Eanes Was Suprised At State Win

A Valdosta High School senior walked with Male Student of the Year honors at the 27th Annual Georgia DECA Leadership Conference held earlier this year in Atlanta.

Mark Eanes, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. "Bill" Eanes, said he was "really surprised" at being named the top Distributive Education student in the

state. "I didn't expect to win," he said.

Eanes was also named the top DE reporter in Georgia and was third in the business speech contest.

In addition to his DE activities at VHS, Eanes is editor of the school yearbook, a member of the student council, a mem-

ber of the Beta Club and is active in Boy Scouts of America work.

He is also the winner of the state Elks Leadership Contest.

The student of the year contest is based on the student's vocational standing, scholastic record and his participation in extra-curricular activities.

DE Is Not Confined To Class

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Distributive Education program consists of classroom instruction in the morning and on the job training in carefully selected businesses in the afternoon.

The afternoon laboratory part of the program, supervised by the employer and the coordinator, gives the student an opportunity to put into practice the related instruction received in the morning session. The student actually experiences the activities involved in the career area in which he has expressed an interest to enter after graduation.

The Distributive Education program is in its 25th year at Valdosta High School. The program has developed from a class of 12 to as many as 75 students.

Many of the students who came through the program attribute their success to the education and guidance they received in the classroom and on the job training.

As the program continues to grow and more emphasis is placed on vocational education, new legislation is being enacted to establish and develop these programs.

The State Department of Education stresses the importance of designing classroom training that is needed in helping the student find a career or interest that relates to his needs and desires.

Beach Defeats 'Cats, 55-53

By JULIAN MILLER
 ATLANTA — Three missed points all day, became an in- one and one foul shot, each stant here for Beach High's of which could have iced the Bulldogs when he wrestled a Game, and a 6-3 substitute rebound away from Valdosta's named Samuel White made the Larry Melton and put it back Valdosta Wildcats' stay in the up as the final buzzer sounded state class AAA basketball to give the Bulldogs a 55-53 tournament a short one here Wednesday night.

Smith, who only scored six the Wildcats of Coach Joe Russell Ellington's Bulldogs, Region 3- AAA runners-up, who came on strong at just the right time, the win was the best in their last six games and gave them a berth in today's 4 p. m. quarter final game against defending state champion, Macon Southwest, a 78-47 winner over Carver of Columbus.

"We just tightened up," a shell-shocked Wilson said after seeing his fourth trip to the state tournament in the past five years come to a sudden end.

"We couldn't make a free throw. And we tried to use a last break but couldn't convert when we got it there."

Time after time the 'Cats managed to work the fast break to perfection only to miss the easy layup shot with no one around.

From the foul line, the 'Cats had their worst night of the season, hitting only 11 of 30 attempts.

But the most painful came in the last minute when twice Stanford Rome, the team and Region 1-AAA's best scorer, missed the front end of one and one foul shot with the 'Cats ahead only 53-51.

Then, with only 11 seconds left in the game and the score tied 53-53, Valdosta's most consistent free throw shooter, David Demersseman, went to the line only to meet the same fate.

The ball bounced onto the court and out of bounds and went to Beach with only eight seconds left.

Bulldog superstar Joe Riddle dribbled through the Wildcat

scoring wizard from Beach, to only six points, 15 below his average.

But while Melton was holding Riddle, the Bulldogs were double teaming Rome and held the 6'4" senior all American to only 15 points, 17 below his average.

In a game that saw the lead change hands 15 times and was tied at four others, the 'Cats took their biggest lead with 2:58 to go in the third quarter as Cecil Whitehead picked off a Bulldog pass, ran across court, for a layup to give Valdosta a 43-36 lead.

The 'Cats stretched it back up to six with 4:40 left in the game when Demersseman worked the ball into Rome under the basket for a 61-45 lead.

It was at that point, Raymond Gabriel sparked a Bulldog comeback with two straight field goals to cut the lead to 53-51 with 1:22 left in the game.

After Rome's two missed one-on-ones, Riddle sank a long distance field goal to tie the game at 53-53 with 17 seconds remaining.

Demersseman got his chance at the line and the rest is history.

Region 1-AAA runnerup Bainbridge had the same fate as the Wildcats, falling to Savannah High, Region 3-AAA champions, 65-38.

In other action Josey of Augusta defeated Baker of Columbus 75-68.

Boys

Valdosta 17 29 45 53
 Beach 18 30 41 55
 VALDOSTA (53) — Melton 20, Graham 3, Rome 15, C. Whitehead 9, Demersseman 2, Cowart 4.
 Team totals: field goals 21, free throws 11 of 30, fouls 10.
 BEACH (55) — Frazier 19, Gabriel 10, McPherson 6, Riddle 6, Henley 5, Smith 6.
 Team totals: field goals 27, free throws 11 of 6, fouls 21.



Wildcat Larry Melton (44) Scores On Beach's Archie Bryant

Introductions Are Made At VHS

By BILL COOPER
Introductions were being made this past week as the Valdosta football Wildcats completed their first four days of practice under new head football coach Nick Hyder, and so far the coach has liked what little he's seen.

What Hyder likes most, seemingly, is the job his assistant coaches are doing for him.

"They're all deeply involved in helping with the organization of the football team," he said. "I have been very much impressed with everyone's willingness to help out, particularly Coach Green."

Hyder complimented former Valdosta head coach Charlie Green on the way he has managed to hold the boys together during the transitional period in which Hyder assumed control of the team.

"As far as I know every youngster intending to play football is still playing football," said Hyder. "That's what it's all about."

The first-year Valdosta coach had praise for the rest of his staff. Bill Aldrich, said Hyder, is working with the offensive backs, Butch Brooks handles the offensive line, Edward Jones coaches the defensive front, Steve Kebler takes care of the defensive secondary and Freddie Waters and Eddie Herrin are filling in where needed.

Hyder was pleased with the coaches working at Valdosta Junior High. These include Norman Sainz, Mac Wilder, Jack Bethea and student coach Bob Bolton.

"People tend to forget assistant coaches," said Hyder. "But they're the keys that open the door."

After four days working with the boys Hyder feels a necessary introduction has been made.

"I came here to coach football and get the team ready for next fall," he said. "I've found the boys to be very aggressive, as anybody in the state could have told you."

"We had aggressive players where I was before. The main difference I've found is down here everybody is aggressive and the players are bigger."

"I like that difference."
Hyder figures the first thing he had to do as new head coach of the Wildcats was to let the

boys know he would back up his discipline policy. He thinks he has shown at least 95 per cent of the players he means what he says. The rest, he believes, will either convert to his way of thinking or eliminate themselves.

Though pleased with the progress the team has made, Hyder is under no delusion that his course will run smoothly from now on.

"The real test," he said, "comes when you play in the fall, but you have to get ready to play the game."

"It's sort of like Noah's Ark. Everybody wanted to ride in it, but nobody wanted to help him build it."

"Only here everybody wants to help."

The coach realizes dependence on his assistants is inevitable until he has a chance to get to know the players himself.

"That's my biggest problem now," he said. "I've got to get to know the boys."

Roster of players by position follows:

OFFENSE

Quarterbacks: Luther Joiner (jr., 195), Steve Jennings (soph., 155), Buck Beue (fresh., 155), Ronnie Christy (fresh., 130); fullbacks: Harold Renninger (jr., 200), Alton Battles (jr., 165), Sam Bivins (soph., 145), Mark Hodge (soph., 135); halfbacks: Robert Demps (sr., 165), Billy Berrien (jr., 175), Carl Dennis (soph., 135), Jerry Smith (jr., 155), Kenny Daniels (soph., 160), James Bryant (soph., 130), Billy Gay (soph., 135); split ends: Ralph Morris (sr., 185), Clark Stull (jr., 155), Craig Adams (soph., 150), Robert Solomay (jr., 150); light ends: Zollie Cobb (sr., 185), Keith Middleton (soph., 175), Charlie Waren (soph., 150); tackles: Randy Horn (jr., 200), Dean Cone (sr., 185), Forrest Sweat (sr., 210), Lee Harbin (jr., 185), Billy Dykeman (soph., 175), Bryan Johnson (soph., 140); guards: Phil Teffetteller (sr., 170), Mike Holmes (jr., 170), David Tate (jr., 180), Jack Henry (sr., 155), Vick Sellar (fresh., 175), Randy Dalton (fresh., 150), Shawn Steidinger (soph., 145); centers: Gary Mims (jr., 185), T. Bush Smith (sr., 155), Tom Copeland (soph., 160), Van Penlin (fresh., 160).

DEFENSE

Middle guards: Keith Miller (jr., 210), Bobby Werley (jr., 200), Greg West (jr., 145), Glenn Knight (fresh., 175), Wesley Wetherington (fresh., 145); tackles: Mike Wetherington (jr., 240), John Showalter (jr., 250), Ken Pittman (sr., 200), O'Keefe Hunter (soph., 230), Doug Arnold (fresh., 210), Dennis Harrington (soph., 200), David Adams (sr., 180), Jack Bethea (jr., 220), Raymond Johnson (soph., 185), Tim Rofdl (soph., 160), Sean Harvey (jr., 190); ends: Walter Elliott (sr., 170), Ricky Register (jr., 175), Wren Blalock (sr., 195), Ricky Kirland (sr., 170), Doug Goadaway (fresh., 155), Alex Geene (fresh., 150), Gary Williams (jr., 170), Jack Cain (soph., 145), Curtis Williams (soph., 190), Wayne Berrien (fresh., 180), Wayne Causey (jr., 155), Herbert Golden (jr., 150), Steve Dixon (sr., 160), Wilbur Scott (soph., 130), Bobby Bryant (soph., 130), Anthony Lynch (jr., 150), Ben Brynson (jr., 145); defensive halfbacks: Ralph Hall (soph., 165), Tim Worthy (jr., 160), Robert Hamel (sr., 165), Roger Hamel (soph., 130), Herbert Holmes (jr., 155), Lamar Mitchell (fresh., 145).



—Times Staff Photo

Grid Coach-Baseball Fan

Nick Hyder, recently-hired football coach at Valdosta High School, takes time out from the rigors of spring drills to attend a Valdosta State College baseball doubleheader Sunday. Hyder, left, talks over the Blazer

situation with Lowndes County businessman and VSC supporter Jack Sullivan. If Hyder looks serious, there's good reason. VSC dropped both ends of a doubleheader to Vanderbilt, 8-4 and 8-5.

President Of GAE To Speak At VHS

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The president of the Georgia Association of Educators is to speak at the city teachers meeting Wednesday at Valdosta High School.

The regular meeting of the Valdosta Association of Educators, which begins at 3:45 p.m. in the Little Theater campus, is to feature a question and answer period following GAE president William J. Breeding's speech.

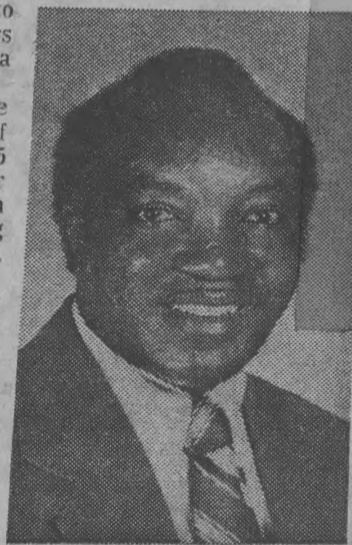
Special guests for the meeting are the Lowndes Association of Educators, according to VAE president Ruth K. Council.

Breeding is an elementary school principal in Greene County where he has been with the educational system since 1951. He has been a teacher of mathematics and French.

He is chairman of the board of Directors of Action, Inc., a commissioner of the Greensboro Officials' Association, a member of the American Legion and is on the Blue Ribbon Study Committee for the National Council of State Education Association. He is a Mason and works with the Boy Scouts.

He attended the public schools in Birmingham, Ala., received his undergraduate degree in math from Clark College in Atlanta and did his graduate work at Atlanta University.

He and his wife have two children.



WILLIAM J. BREEDING
To Be Here Wednesday

VHS Senior Wins Essay Contest

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A Valdosta High School student was judged to have the best overall Spanish essay at a contest at the Spanish Festival held Saturday at Valdosta State College.

Nicola Redmon, a senior, won over 31 other entries from 15 high schools in south Georgia and north Florida.

Her essay was on the Jesuits or Society of Jesus.

She received a color picture book of Spanish costumes.

Other VHS students received certificates from the Spanish National Tourist Office in St. Augustine, Fla., for their essays:

The best essay in Level I from VHS was Martica Coffey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack N. Coffey of 1606 Slater St. The sophomore's essay was on Christmas customs in Spain.

Level II competition from VHS was won by Joni Abernathy was her essay on music and dances of Spain. The junior is the daughter of Mr and Mrs. L. D. Abernathy of 1703 Dodo Drive.

Donna Albans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ablans of 113 Fairway Dr., won Level III competition from VHS with an essay on Christmas in Spain. She is a senior.

Lili Martinez, a sophomore, had the best essay from Level IV at VHS. Her essay was on Isabel I: Catholic Queen of Spain.

Absence Policy Reinstated

By MARY CROUSE

The controversial five-day absence policy has been reinstated at Valdosta High School by unanimous decision of the city board of education.

The board took the action at a meeting Thursday night after a lengthy discussion of the regulation and a plea for reinstatement from VHS principal Lloyd Mims.

Mims told the board that since the policy had been lifted the first of January that absenteeism had risen drastically on campus.

He said he asked Supt. Foster Goolsby to suspend the rule "after the board saw fit to let a child be suspended without it counting as the unexcused absences."

"I don't think we need a rule which shows partiality. We don't need regulations which don't treat all students exactly alike. I asked this to be done," explained the principal.

He said under the board's old rule, which was in effect during the first quarter of this school year, stated unexcused absences could not be made up in academic work and suspensions counted as unexcused absences.

Board member William Eanes said the decision to do away with a policy is a board matter not an administrative one. He looked over the board minutes to see if there was any reference to any such action.

"There was no action by us," he said.

Goolsby said he polled each board member by telephone on the issue to do away with the regulation before making his decision. He took the action following the board's Jan. 2

meeting at which time the board voted to waive the policy for a student.

"The response I got from all the board members was positive. It was unanimous," he said.

Eanes said the question the superintendent asked was "don't you think we will have more of the same coming before us and should we treat them the same way?"

Eanes said he is against students missing school.

"But there was no official action by us. I think we should reinstate the policy we have which was never legally suspended," he said.

Mims said he appreciated Eanes and other board members' support and pointed out the absentee record for Thursday included 63 ninth graders.

"Now 30 of them were high absentee students last year. It's funny that fall quarter they weren't sick. Now that we don't have the rule they have developed all this sickness," said Mims.

The board voted unanimously to go back to its policy of allowing students only five unexcused absences a quarter.

Anything over that now requires a doctor's certificate, verification from the visiting teacher or any staff member the administration designates.

Board attorney Reuben Yancey said there is a legal question involved in the policy.

The rule stipulates that a student cannot earn credit for the quarter if he accumulates more than five unexcused absences.

If the board lets the student with a number of excused ab-

sences make up the work, you might have to let the student with unexcused absences take the exams, too, and pass the quarter if they make the grades, explained Yancey.

Former board chairman Dr. Robert Quattlebaum said "the old rule must have been a damn good one" because of the difference in the absentee records winter quarter and fall quarter.

"I think the principal had good cause to ask to throw it out if it wasn't being enforced for everyone. I think we should go back to it," he said.

Newly elected board chairman Hulyn Smith said it's time the school officials "got hard nosed about the absentee percentages."

"We are running a school system. The students are adults, they are driving their cars to school. . . We are not running a baby sitting agency. Five days is lenient for a quarter. We are letting the sentiment of a few weak people cause us to sway," he said.

Smith said students who are suspended must pay the price and have it counted in their unexcused absences.

"Why are students suspended in the first place? We don't owe those students anything. If he can't behave, he doesn't deserve any leniency," said the new chairman.

The board also unanimously voted to furnish each student at VHS with a copy of the absentee policy and require parental and student signature. The policy goes into effect Monday.

"I think this would help and we would know each person is aware of the rule," said new board member Dr. Joe Crane.

Several parents have contended they did not know all the ramifications of the board's policy.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 10, 1974 -10-A-

Big Scrimmages Top 'Cats Week

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta High School begins its second week under new coach Nick Hyder with three big scrimmages looming as the week's highlights.

The big event is the annual has-been football game between the Valdosta team and senior members of last season's squad still enrolled in the school. The game is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday. Tickets can be purchased from members of the has-been team or from members of the Touchdown Club, which sponsors the game.

Hyder said this week's work will place an emphasis on the kicking game. All phases of the game, including both offensive and defensive sides, will be covered.

Defense, especially in the secondary, ranks as a major problem for Hyder and his 'Cats.

"We feel we have a lot of gaps to seal up," he said, "especially in the secondary. We're trying several boys back there to see who can do the job for us."

"Defense is at least as important as offense. We like for our defensive people to have a lot of pride in what they do. We try to sell them on it."

Hyder said the 'Cats will continue to use the basic defenses the 'Cats used last season. However a few changes will be necessary.

"We'll continue to run the defenses Valdosta is accustomed to," said Hyder. "And we'll add a couple I brought along."

"This plus the terminology I use to communicate is about the main change there is."

Offensively Hyder plans to work on the power game, the passing game and the option game as they apply to the wish bone offense. . . . Passing has become somewhat of a tradition here

in the last couple of years, so we'll work harder on the passing game," Hyder said. "The lack of an effective passing game was the big disappointment in Friday's scrimmage."

While Hyder continues to make changes on the field, the biggest changes may be coming off the field.

"Every Friday I conduct some sort of Christian athlete meetings," said the new 'Cat coach. "The boys have responded well to the introduction of this program in Valdosta."

Hyder mentioned that former Wildcat star Kenny Bounds is the Georgia representative for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes out of Atlanta, then explained what Christian

Athletes stand for.

"What we try to do," said Hyder, "is do the best we can all the time, as a family member, as a student and an athlete."

Hyder also plans to institute a player committee comprising five seniors, four juniors, and two freshman. At least one member of each race will serve as representative in each class.

The player committee will represent the squad with its grievances, gripes and brags. The main purpose of the committee though is leadership.

"We call it the player committee," said Hyder. "And the objective is leadership."

"I don't think any team can win without leadership. In fact I'm sure it can't."

Wildcats Get Ready To Tangle With Has Beens

The Valdosta Daily Times, Wed., Mar. 13, 1974 —25—

DAMES STAFF WRITER

Enthusiasm by a defense that appears to be catching up with the offense and all-around hustle, Nick Hyder looks to the annual Has Been-Will Be battle here Friday night to determine just how much his Valdosta Wildcats have learned.

The Wildcats, now in their second week of spring football practice under the new head coach, are scheduled to meet the squad of some 28 former

Wildcats in coached by Frank Deming the annual battle at 8 p.m. Friday on Cleveland. And although the former Rome, Ga., coach expects to have his hands full, he doesn't foresee any problems getting the Wildcats up for the game. "I'm really pleased with the aggressiveness of the boys," he admitted. "I've been coaching 16 years and know you sometimes have to fight to get them up. These boys have natural aggressiveness and I'm pleased with the response we've been getting." Hyder, who stressed all aspects of the game, was even

more pleased when his defense finally outscored his offense in a scrimmage session this week. We award points for stopping an offensive driver, recovering fumbles, interceptions, etc., he explained. "They (the defense) hung on and finally came out on top. "This game will be our first time against someone other than ourselves and it brings us into a game type situation to see who can operate under pressure with the crowds and officials." He added it would be as

much a test for the coaches, including himself, as for the boys. Hyder has a long list of players who have stood out in practice. On defense it includes: Ends Walter Elliott, Ricky Register, Wren Blalock, Ricky Kirkland and Gary Williams; tackles Keith Miller, Mike Wetherington, Kim Pittman, O'Keefe Hunter and David Dykeman; Middle guards John Showalter, Bobby Worley and Greg West; linebackers Mark Stevens, David Sumner, Stan Chapman, Mike Bennett,

George Aring and Bud Hendricks; Corner backs Tobie Berrien, Hal Causey, Ralph Hall and Jerry Daniels; and safeties, Herbert Golden, Carl Rude, Robert Hamill and Tim Worthy. "We've been working pretty hard in the secondary because that's an area where we need to make sure we're pretty well set. In addition, Billy Berrien and Luther Joiner will probably help some on the defensive secondary when not playing offense."

On offense, tight end Zollie Cobb has stood out again along side Forrest Sweat, a transfer student with Randy Horn, Dean Cone and Lee Harbin shining at tackle. Guards mentioned included David Cooper, Mike Holmes, Roy Mitchell, David Cato and Jack Henry with centers Gary Mims, Tom Copeland and T. Bush Smith. Split end standouts include Clark Stall, Ralph Morris and Craig Adams.

The offensive backfield is one of the best with a lot of potential. At quarterback is returning Luther Joiner, rising sophomore Steve Jennings and rising freshman

Buck Belue. "The boys are really competing for that position and there is a real good battle going," Hyder said. "The real surprise is Buck Belue, being as far along at his age. Jennings is a real versatile athlete and Joiner is also be used as a runningback. "At tailback Robert Demps, who played quite a bit last year, has been impressive with his willingness to block and get involved with the requirements of the offense. It's an unselfish offense that involves total commitment to blocking as well as ball carrying. Billy Berrien has also looked good there and both are good pass receivers." At halfback are Carl Demps, Kenny Daniels and Jerry Smith with fullbacks Harold Renninger and Alton Battles. In addition Hyder feels Jack Henry will give the Cats an added attack with his place kicking. "Henry might be the hardest worker on that team," he said, "he just made himself a good football player. And he did it with a lot of hard work."

Wildcats, Seniors To Battle Tonight

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Frank Deming has already denied the Valdosta Wildcat seniors he's coaching could possibly beat the upcoming team of Wildcats in the annual VHS Has Been-Will be game here tonight.

Now he and the seniors try their best to make liars out of themselves when they square off against Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats at 8 p.m. tonight at Cleveland field.

The traditional game, designed to show the coaching staff exactly how much the team has improved in spring drills, and where more work is needed, has turned into a lot more.

Tradition is at stake. The seniors have spent a year as the "top cats" of the Wildcats and Deming has been associated with three previous games and helped win them all.

Deming and Hyder were both in fine form as they squared off for pre-game talks at the Valdosta Touchdown club membership drive kickoff supper here Thursday night.

After exchanging puns and jokes, Deming confirmed reports Stan Rome, the All-America split end who today signed a basketball grant-in-aid with Clemson University, would not play.

Hyder, however, in a serious mood, explained his upcoming team would be young and untested.

Only one three-year letterman returns to the team next season and he and three other seniors are the only ones on the offensive starting lineups.

Four more seniors help compose the defensive lineup for tonight's game.

Zollie Cobb, a 190-pound senior and a three-year standout for the Wildcats, anchors the tight end position for the Wildcats.

Other starters include split end Ralph Morris (160, sr.) or Craig Adams (150, soph.), tackles Forrest Sweat (210, sr.) and Randy Horn (210, jr.), guards David Cooper (210, soph.), and Mike Holmes (180, jr.); center Gary Mims (185, jr.).

At quarter back, Hyder plans

on testing all three possibilities: Luther Joiner (185, jr.), Steve Jennings (155, soph.) and Buck Belue (155, fr.).

Harold Renninger, a 200 pound junior who captured the fullback position during the 1973 season, starts there again with halfbacks Robert Demps (160, sr.) and Billy Berrien (175, jr.).

On defense, the starting lineups include ends Ricky Register (175, jr.) and Walt Elliott (185, sr.); tackles Mike Wetherington (240, jr.) and Bobby Worley (210, jr.) or Dennis Harrington (200, soph.), middleguard John Showalter (240, jr.); linebackers Mark Stevens (170, sr.) and David Sumner (180, jr.); cornerbacks Tobie Berrien (160, sr.) and Hal Causey (160, jr.) and safeties Ralph Hall, (165, soph.) and Jerry Daniels (155, sr.).

Five members of the squad won't be able to play tonight after sitting out practices last week with injuries.

Hyder said senior tackle Phil Teffeteller broke his arm last week, Keith Miller and T. Bush Smith received injuries, Steven Dixon injured in a game last Friday won't be able to play and O'Keefe Hunter received a bruised shoulder.

Hyder said enthusiasm has maintained a high level in practice and he was pleased with the hustle he got from the team.

"This game will be our first against someone other than ourselves and it brings us into a game-type situation to see who can operate under pressure

with crowds and officials," Hyder explained.

Helping Hyder with the drills are Bill Aldrich, Steve Kebler, Ed Jones, Butch Brooks, Norman Sainz, Freddie Waters, Mack Wilder, Bob Bolton and Eddie Herrin.

Glenn Phelps has been working with Deming with the Has Beens.

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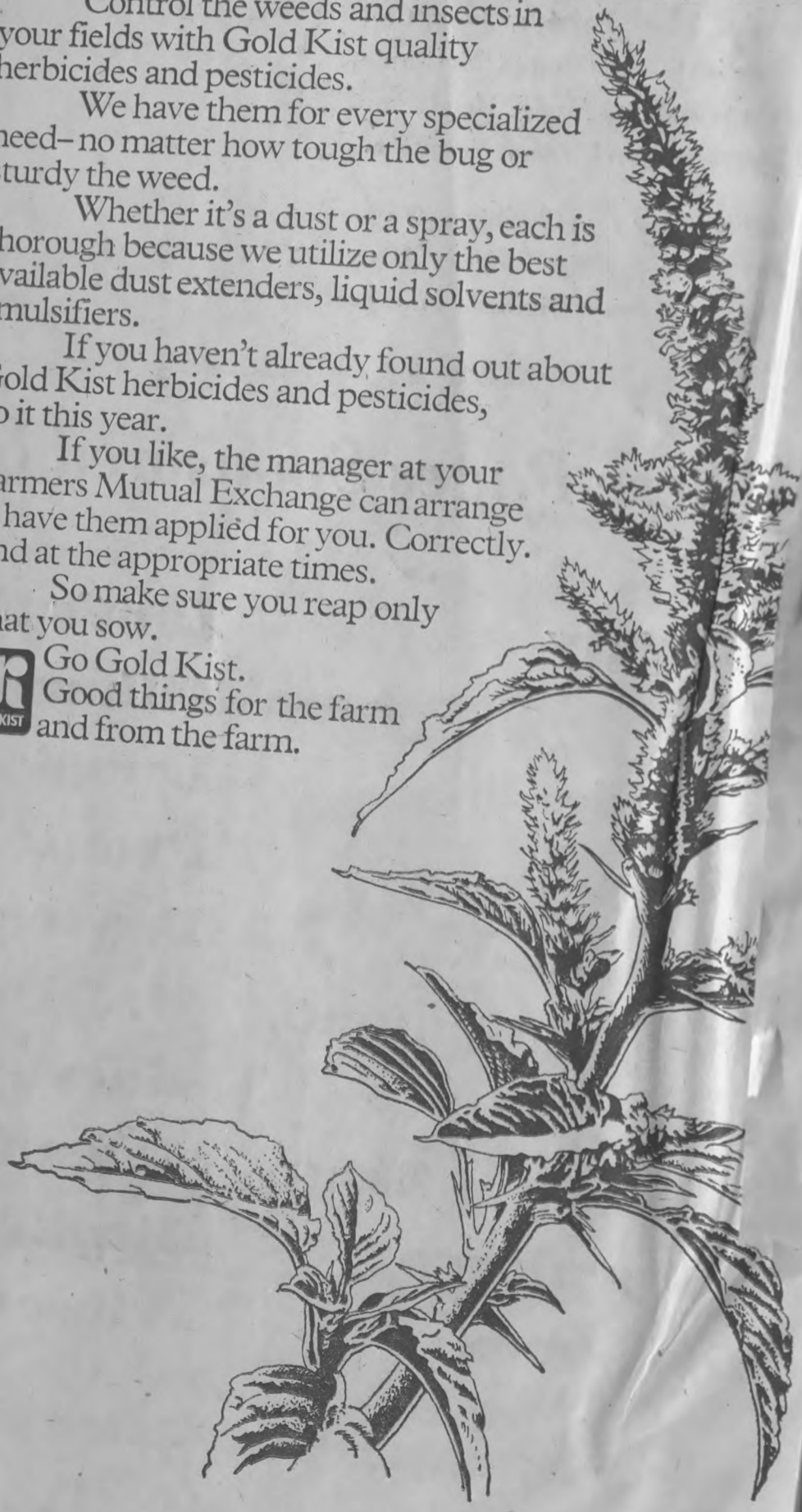
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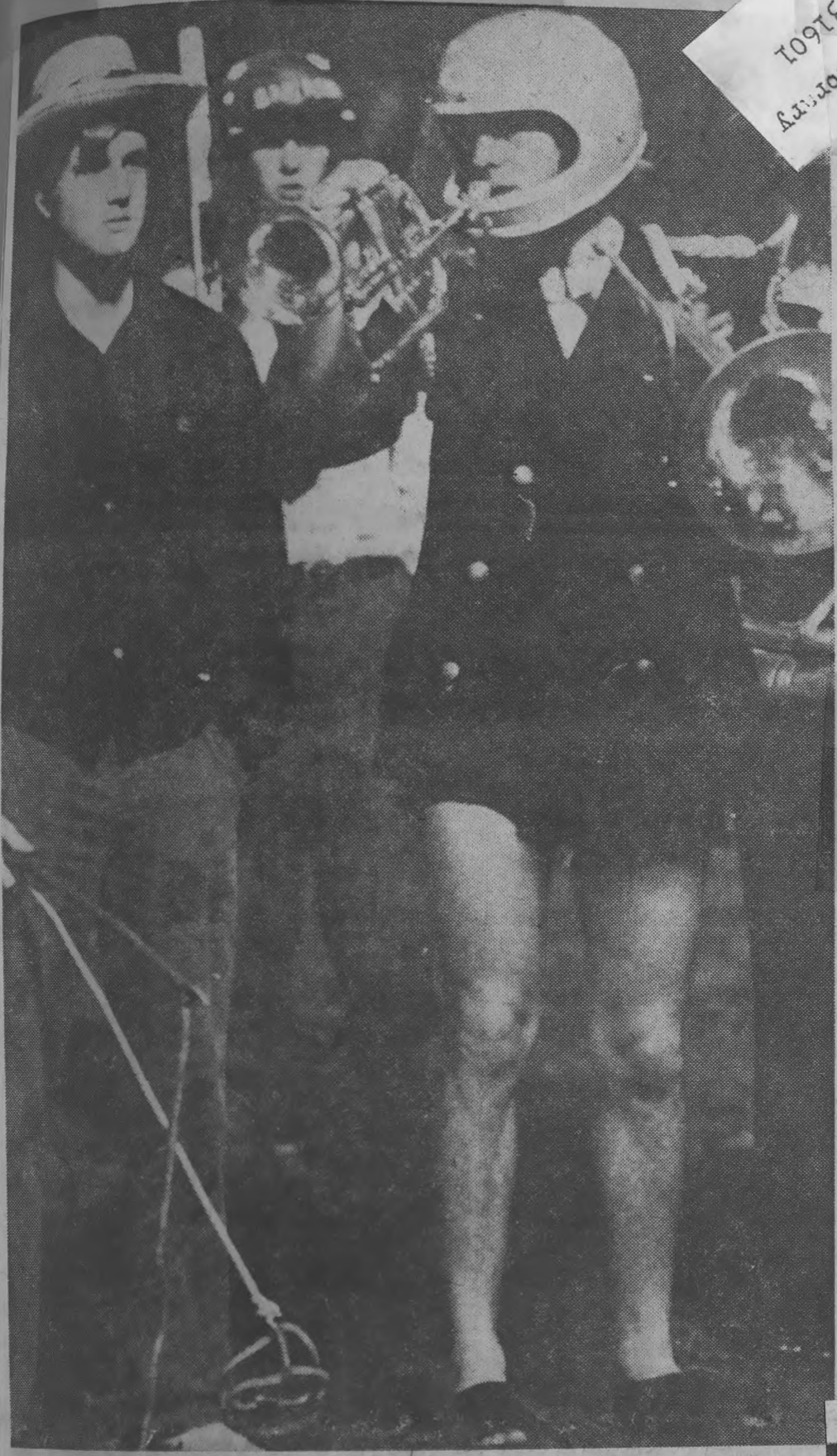
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—Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki

The Marching Cats?

Yes, but it is the Has Beens version. Between some pretty good sounds, the senior class members of the Valdosta High School band per-

formed at Friday night's football game between the upcoming Wildcats and those who are graduating. Details of the game are on page 8.

VHS DE Club Captures Top Honor In Georgia

By MARY CROUSE
 ATLANTA—The Valdosta High School Distributive Education Club has copped the State Club of the Year award and a chapter member has been elected Georgia DECA secretary.

Lowndes High School's DE chapter came in second in the state club of the year event and the Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School DE group placed in nine out of the 11 events entered.

This is Vo-Tech's second year in participating in the DE program.

Crystal McDonald of Valdosta, elected to the state secretary's post, advocated increasing the chapter rolls across Georgia. But the pretty brunette said the job rests with the students.

VHS' Charlotte Eanes, regarded by many as a top contender for national girl student of the year honors, came in second at the state level.

This was a bitter pill for the Valdosta chapter to accept in the hair splitting decision Monday afternoon at the annual state competition here.

"We were sick over this because she is one of the most outstanding students in the nation," said VHS DE coordinator Norman Greene.

Miss Eanes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eanes, won the local DE Student of the Year two consecutive years. She won two state scholarships and a national DECA grant it was announced at the awards banquet Monday night.

The VHS chapter took eight first place events, five second places and two third place awards in the various categories.

Alfred Bea of VHS was second in the Boy Student of the Year division.

Lowndes High students placed first in two events, took eight second places and one third place.

There were three first place

wins for the Vo-tech facility three second place honors and two third place citations.

Local students competed with youths all over the state for the annual state honors.

The first place winners are to participate in the national DECA convention in Chicago April 27.

This is the 15th time in 27 years of competition that VHS has captured their first place state club of the year trophy.

"Another thing people don't realize is that in the last 20 years the VHS chapter has been either first or second in the state," said the 33-year-old Greene.

The coordinator who is in his sixth year as head of the much heralded VHS chapter has brought home the top state award three times.

"I just inherited a good chapter and we have some great younguns," he said in a telephone interview this morning.

(See VHS, Page 2)

—VHS

Continued from Page 1.

Lowndes High's Phil Waldron said his chapter tried hard for the top honor but couldn't beat out VHS.

"VHS is hard to whip. You can't whip them in football and you can't whip them in DE. They did a great job but we are extremely proud of our students," he said.

Winners and their schools from the Valdosta area include:

VHS—first place Marcie Cosey, project of the year; Teresa Wetherington, reporter of the year; Terrie Fountain, creative marketing; Kenny Thompson, merchandising informal manual; Alfred Bea, service industry; Judy Wetherington, variety store industry; Patti Norris, home furnishings manual, and Teresa Wetherington, specialty store industry.

Second, Charlotte Eanes and Alfred Bea, students of the year; Miss Eanes, job interview; Bea, speech; Patricia Dorniney, automotive petroleum manual.

Third—Miss Eanes, food industry and Jonice Ellis, jewelry retail industry.

Lowndes High—first, Carol Reese, jewelry retail industry; Pam O'Steen, area distribution manual and Cathy Kutzli, department store merchandising.

Second, Andy Kannon, specialty store merchandising, business, spelling and vocabulary and project of the year; Jimmy Barr, home furnishing merchandising; Teresa Burnett, service industry; Johnny Lou Apolski, creative marketing, and Bobby

Hyder Wants More From His Wildcats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Nick Hyder gets his first chance to see what three other high school football teams will do against his Valdosta Wildcats here Friday night but he's more interested in seeing what his 'Cats will do against them.

The 'Cats play host to Lowndes' Vikings, Moultrie's Packers and Waycross' Bulldogs in the annual spring Jamboree here Friday night and Hyder hopes to see more than his 'Cats showed him in their annual Has Been-Will Be game two weeks ago.

"We were awfully disappointed after the Has Been game," Hyder said. But as coach I had to take the blame. The boys have worked awfully hard but they have a long way to go before they're ready to compete in Region 1-AAA."

"I tell you, we went to Thomasville Friday night and we were really impressed with those teams (Thomasville, Thomasville Central and Bainbridge). We also had some coaches at Lowndes Friday night who said they were hitting mighty good. Moultrie and Waycross, I'm sure, will both have fine football teams."

The 'Cats, took it on the chin 20-0 from the overpowering Has Beens but Hyder feels the experienced helped him and his staff spot weak position to work on.

"We found quite a few, mainly offensive," Hyder said. "We've since made several adjustments in our offensive approach. After watching the films we feel the wishbone offense was pretty good. But we didn't have the finesse we have to have in execution nor the passing game."

Since then Hyder has made several key personnel adjustments. Mike Wetherington has been moved back to offensive tackle from the same position on defense; Keith Miller was moved from noseman to defensive tackle; and Forrest Sweat was transferred from right tackle to either left guard or tackle.

"We're just getting started," Hyder admitted. "Of course we would like to have two more weeks of practice. We've got an awful long way to go in the way of getting what I want done."

"Of course we still have two

weeks of summer camp before the season opens and we don't open until Sept. 13, so hopefully we can accomplish the rest of what we need to.

"We have accomplished the disciplinary policies though. I think we've convinced them we intend to be fair with them and they have to be fair with us."

Hyder and his staff members, Bill Aldrich, Butch Brooks, Ed Jones, Steve Kebler, Eddie Herrin, Freddie Waters, Norman Sainz, Mack Wilder and Bob Bolton have been putting the 'Cats through their four weeks of spring practice. They conclude with the Jamboree.

The six quarter jamboree is to get underway at 7:30 p. m. at Cleveland Field when Waycross and Lowndes square off. The rest of the schedule includes Valdosta vs Moultrie, Valdosta vs Waycross, Lowndes vs Moultrie, Waycross vs Moultrie and Valdosta vs Lowndes.

The stadium has been divided into four sections of the fans. Valdosta remains in the Southeast section with Lowndes in the Southwest, Moultrie in the Northwest and Waycross in the Northeast.

Another injury set back the Wildcats this week. Rising sophomore Ralph Hali received a broken leg in practice Monday and will be out at least until pre-season practice.

"We really hope he'll be back next year," Hyder said. "He had already earned his position."

A SALUTE TO VHS



DECA



STUDENTS

This marks the Twenty-fifth year of business firms' cooperating in the Distributive Education Program of Valdosta High School. The backing and participation of these firms help make Dosta DECA one of the most outstanding programs in the country. A special salute goes to the businessmen of our community who are investing in the future of our youth by providing their pledges of business as laboratories in training these student for marketing career.

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I believe in fulfilling the highest measure of service to my vocation, my fellow beings, my country and my God - that by so doing, I will be rewarded with personal satisfaction and material wealth.

I believe in the democratic philosophies of private enterprise and competition, and in the freedoms of this nation - that these philosophies allow for the fullest development of my individual abilities.

I believe that by doing my best to live according to these high principles, I will be of greater service both to myself and to mankind.

1972-1973 D.E. STUDENTS

Bottom Row, left to right, Mr. Norman Greene, Steve Sumner, Charlotte Eanes, Pamela Kelly, Sandra Brownlee, Jeannie Turner, Mary Jane Keene, Su Beth Tillman, Mark Eanes, and David Register.

2nd Row, left to right, Ron Butler, Carla Wilkerson, Carol Allen, Dianne Brown, Mary Hubble, Elaine Ellis, Debbie Brown, Joyce Jeff, and Loretha Johns.

3rd Row, left to right, Janet Parrish, Judy Childree, Beverly Kent, Marcie Cosey, Donna McCranie, Beth Harrison, Jannie Morton, Angie Henderson, Delie Davis, Carl Harrison, and Terry Fountain.

4th Row, left to right, Jerry Cheshire, Wayne Hhes, Kent Buecher, Roger Ellis, Stephen King, Ke Becton, Stan House, Kenny Gifford, and Joe Town.



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The Valdosta Daily Times

Rome Takes Cage Grant With Clemson

By JULIAN MILLER

Stan Rome is convinced it's happening at Clemson and he wants to be part of it. Clemson can't see it any other way.

Rome, the 6-foot-4, 205-pound dual All-American signed a grant-in-aid to play basketball with the Clemson Tigers in a brief ceremony at Valdosta High School this morning.

On hand to recruit the VHS super star was Clemson head basketball coach Tate Locke, who declared the Valdostan has the potential of doing more in his freshman year than 7-foot Wayne "Tree" Rollins did this year.

"It was Rollins who first put Locke onto Rome, and who helped sway Rome's decision to Clemson.

"Tree told me the finest players he has ever played against were Valdosta's Star Rome and Southwest's Miles Patrick," Locke said, "and that some day he hoped to catch up to them."

"That's a real tribute for a guy to pay, especially at this age."

And Rome admitted it was knowing that Rollins, the Crisp County giant from Cordele, who turned into a super star for the South Carolina school this season, would be around and the super recruiting year the Tigers plan on having that swayed his decision.

Deciding didn't come easy for the four-year starter for the VHS Wildcats who helped take the team to three state Class AAA tournaments.

He had been hounded by well over 300 major colleges

and universities from coast to coast before making his decision.

"I reached a decision some months ago to sign a basketball grant-in-aid," said Rome, who had even more offers to play football after shattering records for the Wildcats.

"Once I decided that, I knew I would have to play in the Atlantic Coast Conference. I wanted to play where I had the best chance to start as a freshman and play if possible, with a friend."

Rome admitted he also looked for a school with academic and social life he "could grow in," and a coach he could "trust and respect."

"Clemson gave me a choice of football or basketball," Rome said, "without any pressure to sign either or to

play both sports." That was the determining factor.

Rome said Clemson football coach Red Parker and Locke, the head basketball coach, convinced him they respected him as an athlete and "wanted me in the Clemson athletic family."

It was also Rollins' recommendation.

"I played against him many times in high school and I look forward to playing with him at Clemson," Rome said. "I've been in close contact with 'Tree' and he's very happy at Clemson and thrilled with the competition and experience he's found as a freshman starter."

Rollins told Rome of the many hours Locke put in teaching him "the skills of basketball." It paid off with Rollins more than tripling his talent between his high school

and college career.

Finally it was the knowledge of who else Clemson had plans of recruiting. When Rome met the outstanding player in South Carolina last week, he learned he too was going to Clemson.

"We're going to sign three high school All-Americans in 48 hours, starting with Rome," Locke said. He declined to name the athletes until the papers are signed but did not deny one would be Southwest Atlanta's Anthony Flannigan after being asked."

Rome, considered one of the top 10 players in the country in both basketball and football was the scoring leader for Region 1-AAA this season.

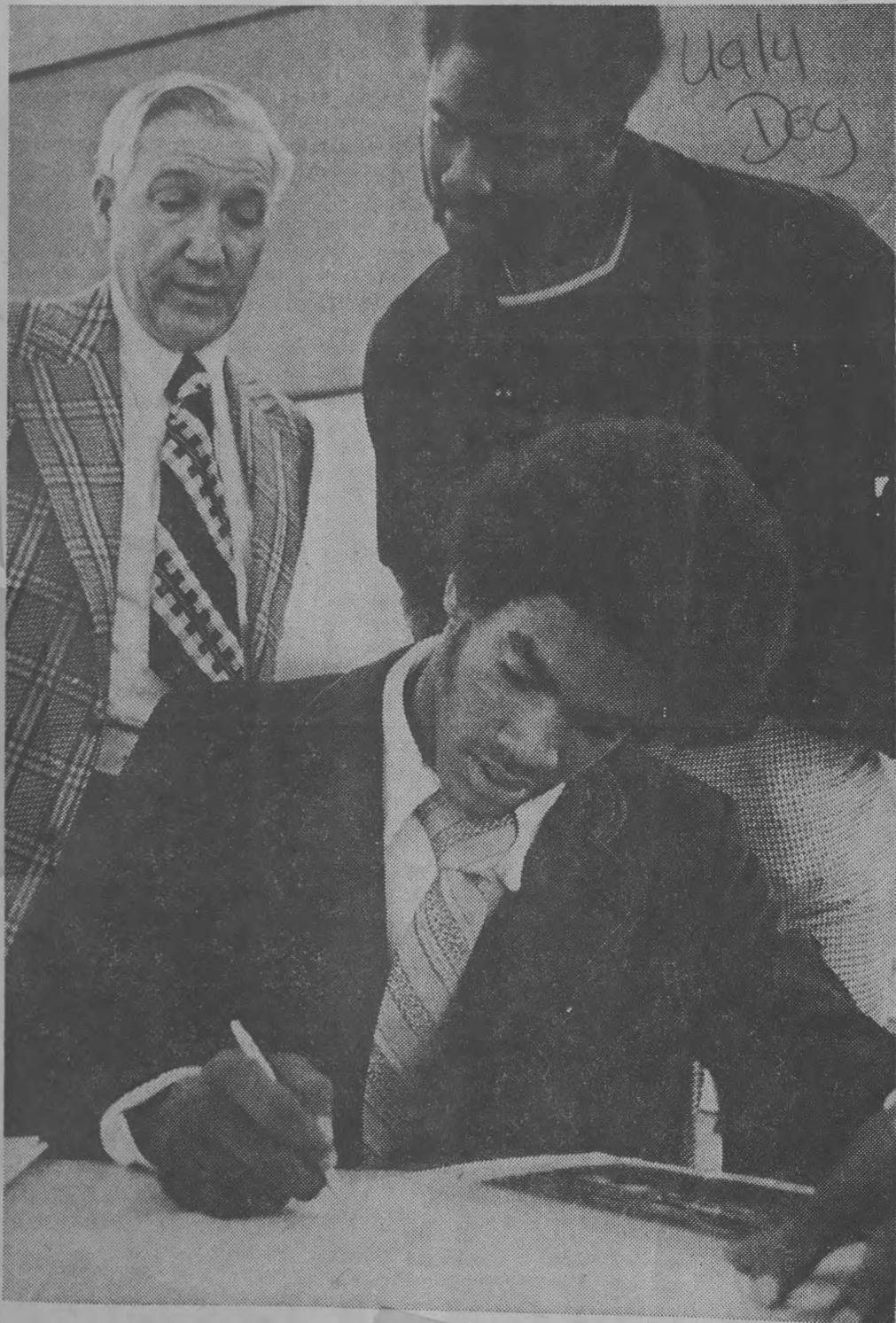
"He averaged 32 points per game throughout the season, easily doubling his nearest

rival's scoring. But although he played forward for Coach Joe Wilson's 'Cats, Locke has plans for some backcourt action.

"Stan's a great forward, but he's got the talent to play backcourt too," Locke said. "He has the potential to becoming one of the finest swingmen in the country. He's going to be a beautiful ball handler."

Also a four-year starter for the VHS football team, Rome has led the region in pass receiving for the past three years. He has pulled in more than 4,200 yards passing for more than 28 touchdowns and during the 1973 turned into one of the best defensive players ever.

He has been named to four high school all-America teams so far with at least two more honors in store this month.



-Times Staff Photo by Ken Klanicki

The Search Ends: Coach Joe Wilson, Brother Roger Rome Watch Stanford Sign

'Dosta Seniors Claim District

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's senior boys basketball team started strong and left little for Warner Robins enroute to a 107-41 basketball victory and the Georgia Recreation and Parks Society Middle Georgia Championship in Warner Robins Saturday.

Alvin Moore and Jerome Nathan scored 29 and 22 points respectively to lead the Valdostans.

They are scheduled to play Carrollton in Carrollton at 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the semi finals of the state GRPS tournament.

'Dosta Seniors Take 3rd Place

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

CARROLLTON — Valdosta's senior league basketball team captured third place in the Georgia Parks and Recreation Society basketball tournament here Saturday after dropping their first game of the playoffs earlier.

The Valdosta 17-and-under All-Stars outscored Brunswick 59-54 in the State Consolation game after dropping a 56-54 decision to Carrollton in the semi-finals Saturday.

Alvin Moore and David Brantley scored 19 and 10 points respectively to lead the Valdostans, who saw Carrollton break a 54-54 tie with two foul shots in the last 10 seconds.

Gene Smith scored 17 and Jerome Nathan 15 for Valdosta in the consolation game.



DEBBIE MAROSITZ District Winner



DORIS WILLIAMS Cosmotology Winner

1st Place Winners Seek More Honors

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A nurse's aid at South Georgia Medical Center here is to compete in the annual state Diversified Cooperative Training competition in Atlanta in May.

Debbie Marositz, a senior at Valdosta High School, won first place in the district competition here this week.

A Vocational Industrial Club of America student, Doris Williams, won first place in the cosmetology division of the district meet.

Both are to compete for state honors at the May 3-5 meeting.

Other VHS students placing in the ninth annual district meet held at Valdosta Area Vocational Technical School were Robert Copeland, second, extemporaneous speech and Anthony Courson, third,

prepared speech.

Miss Marositz is a native of Moses Lake, Wash., and has lived here most of her life. She is a member of the Foreign Language Club, the Society of Outstanding High School students and is president of the Sunday school at Forrest Street United Methodist Church.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Marositz, she won third in the state last year in the nurse's aid competition.

Miss Williams, a senior, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emory Williams.

A native of Valdosta, she is secretary of the VICA Club at VHS.

VHS Open House Set For Parents

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta High School's Lloyd Mims wants to get the parents of students on his campus involved with what is happening.

The principal is opening the school to the parents Thursday through Tuesday during the regular academic day so the adults can see the type of programs in progress on campus.

Parents whose last name begins with A-E are to go Thursday, the F-M group Friday, N-S on Monday and T-Z on Tuesday.

"We would like for the parents to visit one or all the classes of any student enrolled," said Lucy Greene.

The wife of businessman Parker Greene, she is a teacher and is coordinating the special project.

There are also meetings scheduled for Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the math classes and 8 p.m. for the social studies.

The English meetings are at 7:30 p.m. April 4 and the science department meets at 8 p.m.

"We are having these meeting so that parents can talk with the faculty members about their children. We are looking for a good response to the daytime open house and also the night meetings," said Mrs. Greene.

There has been some criticism of the VHS administration and faculty by some parents because they felt there was a lack of communication between them.

This is an effort to eliminate this feeling and to make the parents feel a part of the program and see first hand what their offspring is doing on campus, said Mrs. Greene.

'Cats Lead Way Into Jamboree

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Four Class AAA high school football teams end four weeks of grueling spring practice when they square off against each other in the annual spring jamboree here tonight and most of the coaches are interested in what Nick Hyder's Wildcats are going to do...including Nick Hyder, head coach of the Valdosta team for only four weeks now, has been installing all new procedures for his 'Cats in preparation for tonight's clash with Lowndes' Vikings, 'Waycross' Bulldogs.

And although Valdosta seems wrapped in a shroud of mystery, no one is taking any of the other teams involved lightly either.

West Thomas said he's interested only in what his Lowndes Vikings do in tonight's game. "As I said from the beginning, 'Thomas explained, 'We'll run our spring practice and play our game at the end of it and not spend a lot of time worrying and working on scout reports. The way I see it that's defeating the whole purpose of spring practice."

The four weeks spring drills were set aside for coaches to begin working with next year's team. The Jamboree was set up to help coaches determine just how far along their team progressed.

Fud Willis and Dale Williams are hopping for a lot of onto the football.

progression. Willis must replace the Pack's entire defense and offensive backfield and without the first player over 200 pounds.

And Williams is looking for an offensive line and defensive secondary for his Waycross Bulldogs. "We're young, small and inexperienced," Williams said. "But I feel we have a pretty good nucleus of experienced players to build around."

Williams agreed Hyder's position was a difficult one. "I was a new coach here a couple of years ago," he said and I did the same thing, Hyder probably has his hands full trying to put in a new system. But when he gets it and his assistant coaches installed he should be all right."

Hyder's Wildcats, traditional powerhouse in South Georgia, have switched to the wishbone offense during the past four weeks, a new trend for Valdosta teams.

Area grid fans are anxious to see how it turns out. Hyder, who was dissatisfied that Has Been-Will Be game

Thomas is also looking for improvement since his Vikings split up for their Crimson and White intrasquad scrimmage game last Friday. His interests lie mainly in the team's kicking game and fundamentals, namely blocking and holding.

The Vikes were handed another setback when Ronnie Johnson, returning quarterback, was listed as ineligible to play in the game because of a knee injury incurred in the intrasquad game. Thomas has turned to the four backup quarterbacks Anthony Hodge, Kip McLeod, Lynn Patillo and Richard Landrum for a signal caller.

Lowndes opens the action at 7:30 p.m. at Valdosta's Cleveland Field for a quarter against Waycross followed by Valdosta vs Moultrie, Lowndes vs Moultrie, Valdosta vs Waycross, Moultrie, and Valdosta vs Lowndes.

VHS Food Council Takes Care Of Complaints

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Mar. 24, 1974 -12-B-

Young Ideas...

By DAVE RONNINGEN
 No longer are student complaints about Valdosta High School cafeteria food to go unheeded.
 An old idea but not possible without the new school facilities is a student Food and Nutrition Council which has been given enough authority to catch the attention of school administrators.

The eight-member group of the council acts as a sounding board for administrators to learn the likes and dislikes of the student body regarding the school food.

According to Bessie Coalson, director of city school system food services, students were chosen from different clubs and organizations within the school to hear complaints and make suggestions to food administrators.

The eight sound out other students and even took a survey to find their favorite foods. The group considered the student's desires then consulted a chart of needed vitamins to turn out a menu satisfactory to the majority of students.

The tentative menu was given to administrators for consideration and approval. "When they first gave us the menu," Mrs. Coalson said, "I made copies of it and gave it to the managers who made what changes they thought could be made."

Some changes had to be made and a few items added because the eight members

and that's what counts." A poll taken by council members revealed the students have tastes in food that match any red-blooded American adult. The favorites included fried chicken, strawberry shortcake, roast beef, corn, pecan pie and pizza.

The council is a statewide idea with hopefully at least one council to be established in each of the 10 districts.

Mrs. Coalson said Valdosta's district has two of them. In addition to the VHS program the elementary schools here also have a similar program.

The director is to be installed as president of Georgia School Food Association, which has set the goals of the nutrition council.

Coalson, returning the compliment. "They have not made any unreasonable demands at all. It's really been just basic good suggestions."

"In spite of the crisis we have improved the quality of the meals as well as the content," said Mrs. Coalson. "I think we got a little enthusiasm among the students

don't have the experience and know-how of professionals dieticians.

But they have made progress, according to Mrs. Coalson. The number of students eating their meals in the school has increased about four per cent.

"We got them (administrators) to set up a separate salad bar," said council member Charlotte Eanes.

Miss Eanes said the students could go and get a salad rather than stand up and wait for the lunch line to dwindle.

The council was responsible for the menu during the month of February, which the students liked so much it is to be kept for this month also, said Miss Eanes.

The council member said there was no repetition in meals during the entire month.

"Mrs. Coalson has really been cooperative with us," she added. "It's just plain fun to work with them," said Mrs.



-Times Staff Photos

From Left, Hornbuckle, Green, Shepherd Work Out Suggestions For VHS Cafeteria Menu

Two VHS Students Seek Election To State DE Posts

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A group of Valdosta High School students hope to bring home some state honors Tuesday as well as a couple of Distributive Education offices.

The 25 students who are making the trip Sunday to Atlanta for the State DE Clubs of America meeting have two seeking statewide offices.

Crystal McDonald, a junior, is running for secretary while Lee Fouraker, a junior is after the first vice president's post.

Fouraker, who plans to run for state DECA president next spring, said the job of first vice president is to fill in for the top official.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ichabad Fouraker of Valdosta and has lived here about eight years. A native of Heartsville, S. C., he is the head bag boy at Piggly Wiggly supermarket.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. McDonald, the VHS first-year student said her platform in seeking the secretary's post is to increase DECA membership.

"I think it will have to come from within the individual clubs. I think the students have got to get out themselves and try to get more kids



CRYSTAL McDONALD
Secretary's Job

enrolled in the program," she said.

Miss McDonald is also competing in the sales demonstration contest at the state level. She works at Belk Hudson.

The three-day state session is to be held at the Sheraton Baltimore Hotel in Atlanta. A banquet is set for Sunday night and the contests are to be held Monday.



LEE FOURAKER
Vice President's Post

The awards banquet is Monday night and sessions are Tuesday.

Other VHS students competing for state honors include: Kenny Thompson, merchandise informal manual; Alfred Bea, student of the year, speech and studies in marketing service; Angela Poirier, distribution manual; Carla Fountain, math contest.

For Valdostans

DE Meet Is 'Satisfy

By BECK CAPOTOSTI

Reflections of area Distributive Education student leaders have left them with well-deserved, self-satisfying feelings.

The Valdosta High School chapter came home with 15 state trophies and Lowndes High School won 13 state trophies while representing this district in the state conference last weekend.

"We learned to work well together and we grew close to one another," said Andy Kannon, parliamentarian of Georgia DECA and vice-president of Lowndes DE.

"We really got together at the state conference—we made many close friends and hated to say goodbye when it was all over," said Terrie Fountain, VHS DE president and District chairman.

The state conference was

designed to be a learning experience for the students with competition areas being an added motivation. There were 23 areas of competition dealing with competencies taught in the classroom—including selling, display, and advertising.

"My theme for the year as state officer was 'Students Caring Students Sharing,' and I really think it worked."

When it came time for the new officers to be installed, "they could tell we were close to one another and hated to leave our office," said Kannon.

"It was like one big family up there," added Miss Fountain. "We got a lot of help from Lowndes, some strong backing," she said, claiming the closeness of this district's schools helped make the area's awards so numerous.

"We learned the importance of competition, and we learned that we want to help DE grow," said Charlotte Eanes, Georgia DECA secretary second place state girl student of the year, and divisional vice-president.

"There were a lot of discussion workshops where we put in our own ideas and thoughts from the local chapters into one pot so that we could bring back new ones," said Miss Fountain.

Lowndes is overall very satisfied," said Kannon. "It takes a lot of work to get the students interested and I think we did very well.

Competition is tough, with



TERRIE FOUNTAIN
Sad Goodbye

over 150 schools competing for state honors, and he felt there were a few more prizes that LHS may have deserved to win.

The hard work was stressed by Miss Eanes and Miss Fountain also.

"This may have been the best year we had, but at first it was hard to get our people to work."

Miss Fountain continued, "But we were lucky because when they did it, they did it right the first time."

Miss Fountain was in charge of the manual which won first place statewide on creative marketing.

"We explained which shopping center in Valdosta

Hyder Takes Blame For 'Dosta's Loss

By JULIAN MILLER

It was a mistake in calls that turned Valdosta's 7-0 lead into a 9-7 defeat by Waycross in a third of their own Jamboree here Friday night and Nick Hyder is trying to take all the blame.

"It was my fault they (Waycross) got that safety," the head coach for only four weeks said after his Wildcats had trailed Waycross 9-7, defeated Moultrie 7-6 and tied Lowndes 0-0 in the Spring Jamboree.

"I thought the referee has signalled the ball was in the end zone...and he did..." Hyder said. "So I called a wide end run to eat up some time since we were ahead 7-0.

"But it backfired on me. Instead of getting the ball on the 20 like I thought, we got it on the two-yard line and I couldn't get anyone to call time out."

As a result, VHS eighth-grade quarterback Buck Belue was thrown for a two-yard loss, and a safety to cut Valdosta's lead to 7-2 and the ensuing kickoff gave the Bulldogs a chance to drive in for a touchdown and the winning margin.

It was a rough initiation into south Georgia football for Hyder who is moving here from Rome, Ga. But it didn't leave him disenchanted.

"There were four good teams there," he said. "I can't be disappointed with the boys. They played hard. We've still got some things to work out and we knew it. We've got a long way to go."

It was anybody's jamboree and nobody won with all four teams coming out even. Valdosta finished 1-1-1 Lowndes,

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Mar. 30, 1974

Sports

JULIAN MILLER, Editor
MIKE CHASON, Staff Writer

scored on nobody but then allowed no one to score either to finish 0-0-3, while Waycross and Moultrie each tied Valdosta in standings with 1-1-1 records.

"We would like to have won all our games," admitted Lowndes coach West Thomas. "But then we were happy not to lose any either."

"But I thought our defense played exceptionally well and at times the offense took the ball and moved down field. But then we made mistakes and we beat ourselves. We had some individuals who I thought played real good football."

The Vikings had to play without probable starting quarterback Ronnie Johnson, who was one of the top passers in the region last year. But Thomas feels the outcome would have been the same even if Johnson hadn't been out with a knee injury.

"I don't think it would have made any difference in the outcome," he said.

"We've got to work on being consistent. Our offense at times blew them pretty good up the middle...all three teams we played. Then all of a sudden we'd fall down and make mistakes."

"All-in-all, I thought there were four teams of fine athletes on that field tonight."

Moultrie's Bud Willis was just as happy with his Packers, who covered up the fact they were carrying an entirely new defense well.

"I'm pretty well pleased," he admitted. "They did a heck of a job. Our defense was entirely new, and hasn't played a whole lot. The defense didn't have a starter on it from last year."

He had extra praise for Virginia Seay, a pint-sized junior halfback who left everyone standing still to gain 106 yards on the ground.

"He's a true sophomore. The congenial Moultrie coach said 'He'll be around for a while.'"

He also had praise for the other three teams. "Waycross kept running those backs out of the backfield. They're real deceptive."

"We had been practicing covering the wishbone for three weeks to get ready for Valdosta and then they came out running that same wishbone offense they ran for all three years and I couldn't do anything about it."

"I thought all of us did good in spots. Lowndes did good job on defense. They scored on them. You've never seen any of these schools do a sorry team. I think there were four pretty good teams out there tonight."

While everyone seemed pleased with the results, Williams was glad it was over. "My only major problem was that it was extremely difficult to prepare for three different team styles in the same night," he said.

"We looked good in spots but had in spots. I felt Mike Taylor threw real well but there were occasions when the receivers open and could not spot them."

ANDY KANNON Worked Well Together

is most popular, and why, why shoppers go out of town, and what local business can do to get them to come back," she said.

Kannon plans to enter the ministry after college and said DE helped him personally to reach that goal.

"It helped me develop my personality and it let me show others that Christ is in my life."

Working together seemed to be the most substantial achievement these leaders recall after their state conference—that cooperation and team effort is an important part of the business world distributive education explores.

seen an athlete... page of three, when

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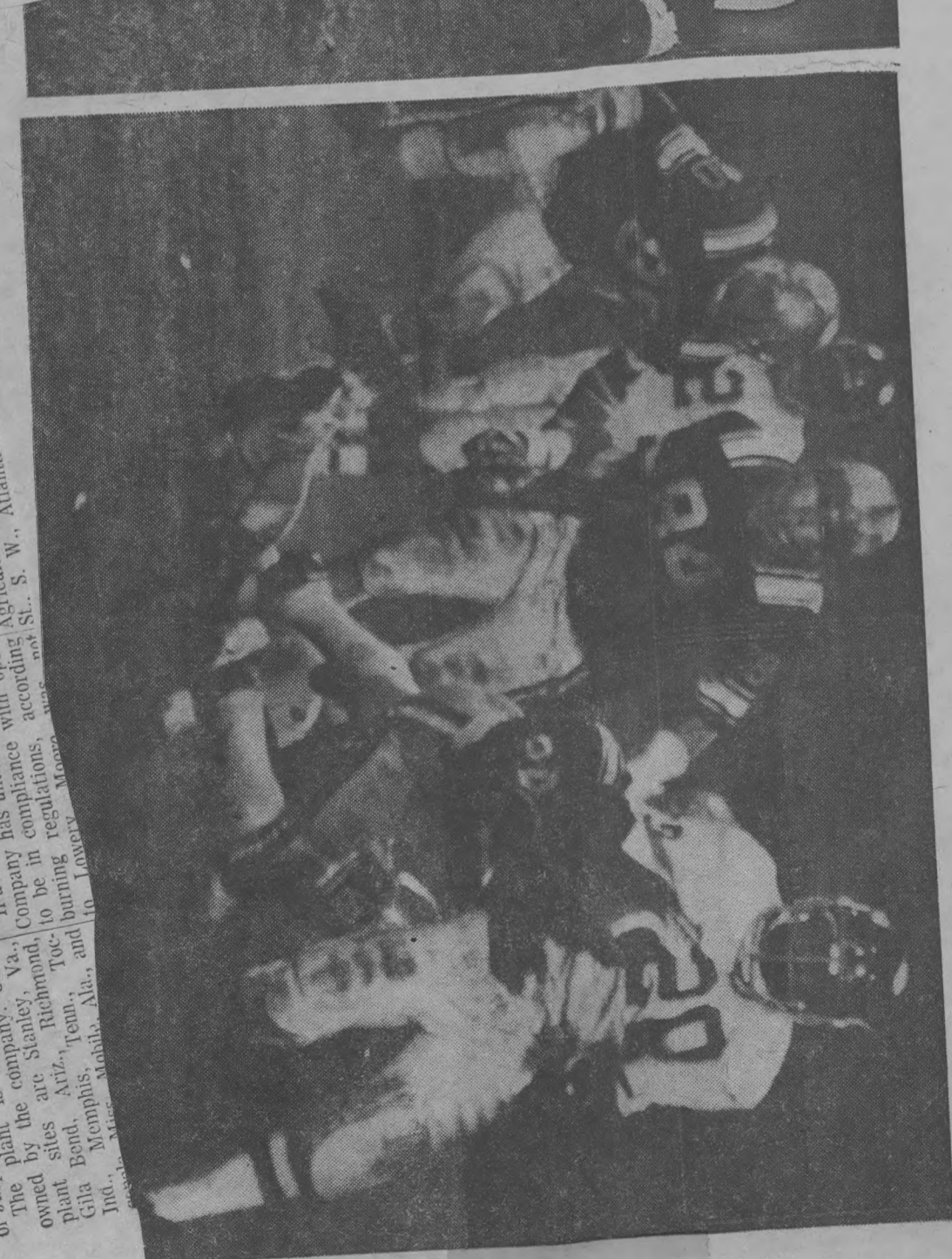
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Valdosta's Billy Berrien (34) Tries To Cut Corner Around Lo



Photos

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Stanford Is Named 'Best In Nation'

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Stanford Rome, Valdosta High School's basketball-football-track standout, has been named a member of the Parade Magazine first team All-America High school basketball team, tabbed as the top high school athlete in the nation by the magazine and accepted to play with the top athletes in the country in the Seamco Basketball Classic next month.

The 6-4 dual All-American named to the second Parade Magazine A-A list in the Parade issue to be released Sunday, accepted the invitation to play with eight other top basketball players in the charity basketball game Thursday after being notified of his A-A selection.

Only the third player to be named to both the football and basketball All-America teams in the Magazine's 18 years of selections, the story in Sunday's Parade cites Rome as the top high school athlete in the nation.

The honor comes on the heels of being selected to the Coach and Athlete top 100 team released earlier this week.

Rome and Mike Mitchell, a 6-8 senior at Price High School in Atlanta, were the two Georgia representatives on the 10 member first team selected by Parade.

Four more Georgians were selected to the second, third and fourth AA teams.



STAN ROME
Another Award

Jackie Dorsey of Atlanta's Archer High school was selected to the second team; Myles Patrick of Macon Southwest and Anthony Flannigan of Atlanta Southwest were selected to the third team and Lucious Foster

(6-9, sr.) of Savannah to the fourth.

As a first team A-A member, Rome was picked to play in the Seamco classic with other first team members, against the New York-New Jersey State All-Star team.

The game played Sunday, May 26, at Kutsher's Country Club in Monticello, N.Y. is a benefit for the American Cancer Society.

Other members of the All-America team to play in the Seamco include Moses Malone, of Petersburg, Va., considered the best high school player in the country.

Rome and his high school coach Joe Wilson are to attend the Seamco at the expense of Parade.

One of the most outstanding football and basketball players ever at VHS, Rome who also stands out in the track program there, has accepted a basketball in-aid to play at Clemson University.

Band Festivities

Marchin' Cats Win Competition

By MARY CROUSE

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats have won the International Field Competition here during the annual Festival of States Band festivities.

The high stepping Valdosta, Ga., group, representing the state in the four-day competition which ends Saturday, received a standing ovation Wednesday night from the thousands who gathered to watch the more than 20 top bands in the nation go through their paces.

Frank Butenschon's young charges were asked to repeat the show.

According to Valdosta School Supt. Foster Goolsby, there was about a five-point difference between the VHS band and the second place winner from Cincinnati.

"And you know the competition down there is so tough that the winners are decided by a 10th of a point normally," said Goolsby. "We are proud of the fine job our band has done."

The band is competing for the big Spirit of St. Petersburg award today. The winner is to be announced Friday morning.

This award is a public relations type honor which goes to the group of students who best represent their area and who display not only talent but friendliness to the local populus.

Former VHS band booster president Chuck Northcutt said in Valdosta today the Marchin' Cats have a good chance of winning the coveted prize.

This is the plum band director Butenschon wants to bring home.

"Our kids have always been ambassadors of good will wherever we have gone. They have an excellent opportunity of taking this one," he said.

The band took azalea bushes and peanuts to pass out to the crowds.

The 245-member group, which has won national acclaim in various band festivals in the country, is to compete in the marching competition Saturday morning.

Northcutt said Valdosta Mayor Gil Harbin is planning to come down today to ride in the parade and be with the band members.

"They are representing Valdosta High, the city and the

whole state and I think he feels they should be supported," said Northcutt.

This is the first time VHS has participated in the annual extravaganza here.

The band has been gearing up for the event here for several months. Butenschon has had his students practicing at night and all during the day for the expected heavy competition.

'Cats, Vikes Bow To Rain

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Rain destroyed any chance of finding out who is the best high school baseball team in the county Friday when the scheduled Lowndes-Valdosta matchup had to be postponed.

Lowndes High is coasting

along with an undefeated 7-0 record led by the pitching of Kenny Green and Jesse Ernest.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats are 1-0 after defeating Berrien County (Nashville, Ga.) 4-3.

Lowndes faced another cancellation today when the Vikings' scheduled game with Rickards High of Tallahassee, Fla. was written off, due to a death in the family of Rickards coach Bill Long.

The Vikes are now scheduled to host Tift County of Tifton, at 4 p.m. Monday.

Valdosta High was slated to clash with Tift County today at 2 p.m. at Pendleton Park.

The Lowndes-Valdosta game is to be re-scheduled.

Baseball Wildcats Kick Off Season With Berrien

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta High kicks off its 1974 baseball season against the Berrien High Rebels in Nashville, Ga. Monday.

Head coach Butch Brooks, in his first year at the helm

of the Wildcat nine, is reluctant to make any predictions about his squad because he hasn't had a chance to work with his team in recent weeks due to football practice.

"Most of these boys have been working on their own for the past two weeks, so I don't know what to expect," Brooks said.

The Wildcats have only three experienced players

returning from last season.

David Demersseman is to see a lot of mound duty and also play shortstop.

Cecil Whitehead is to return to third base, and Charles Bauknight is all set to handle first base again.

"Demersseman, Larry Hansen, and Bruce Hilton are our only pitchers right now," Brooks said, "but I hope Bob Saunders, Ed Spell, Johnny Holcombe, and Tony Alcorn will help us out from the mound."

But Greene's Hopeful

Odds Stacked Against 'Cats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

With two days of practice and one track meet behind them and only two weeks of competition before the sub-region track meet in front, Valdosta's Track Wildcats have the odds stacked against their return as one of Region 1-AAA's outstanding teams.

But Coach Charlie Greene is hoping for some outstanding efforts from a few individuals to pull it off.

"We didn't get to start with the track team until Monday," Greene explained. And it's been raining everyday but three."

The "Cats, track powers since Greene took over as head coach several years ago, have only had two days of practice with a third spent in a three-way track meet with Lowndes and Waycross. The 'Cats came in third.

Greene has a lot of positions to be manned since last season, two of them vacated by two superstars, George Roundtree and Stanford Rome.

Roundtree, who starred in the high and low hurdles, and mile and 440 relay teams is now in college at Albany State. Rome, a high school All-America football and basketball player has decided to sit out the 1974 track season.

Greene can't blame him either.



CHARLIE GREENE
Not Much Time

"I think Stan has worked real hard four years and he wants to rest a while and enjoy the rest of his senior year," Greene explained.

"He has a chance to go to New York in May for one big basketball game and another one a few weeks later and I can't blame the kid. He's too good a young man for that."

Even with the loss of Rome, Roundtree and Tony King, who ran the mile and 440 relays, Greene hasn't given up on his team.

"We have Robert Demps

back," he offered. "He was the region champion in the 880. He's the only member we have back who competed in a real bonafied meet but we have some individuals who have shown some good potential."

Otis Whitfield has been leading the way in the broad jump, triple jump and hurdles.

Tim Mann looks good in both hurdles, along with Sandy Atkinson and Bill Roberts in the mile and two mile.

Noah Fountain, who was third in the region in the shot last season "looks like he might do something this year," to the coach and Tobie Berr'en is back for the broad jump and triple jump.

The 'Cats, who usually host most of the meets they compete in have gone together with Lowndes' Vikings to hold all home track meets at the newly revamped LHS track this season.

"We're going to be inexperienced, this season," said Greene, who is in his last season at VHS before moving to Kansas State University this summer.

"But I think some individuals can come around and help us by sub region time. When you're as young as we are it's hard to get the youngsters experienced in the short season we've got."

Blazers, 'Cats, Vikes

Baseball Squads Hit Road

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta State College's Blazers, Valdosta High's undefeated Wildcats and Lowndes' unbeaten Vikings were all scheduled to hit the road today looking for good weather and baseball wins.

Coach Tommy Thomas' Blazers, now 13-5 with a four game winning streak going were scheduled to meet their second South Atlantic Con-

ference foe, Armstrong State College's Pirates in Savannah today.

The Vikings, coached by Noel George, now 6-0, had their rainouts stretched to more than a week when their regular scheduled Region 1-AA clash with Tift county High's Blue Devils from Tifton was rained out in the first inning here Monday.

Today, they were scheduled

to take on Coffee County in Douglas.

And Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats' 3-0 after only a week of action were looking for win number four today when they take on the Moultrie Packers in a region clash that also serves as a grudge battle in Moultrie today.

The Packers, defending Region 1-AA south champs, defeated the previously undefeated 'Cats twice last season to claim the title.

The Blazers return home Wednesday to begin their two-game homestand with Lewis College of Illinois at 3:15 p. m. Wednesday with another at the same time Thursday. Then VSC travels to Carrollton for another conference game, this time against West Georgia's Braves Saturday.

The 'Cats were scheduled to stay on the road another day to return a visit to Tift in Tifton Wednesday before hosting Bainbridge's Bearcats in another Region 1-AA affair here Friday and hosting Waycross' Bulldogs in a double header here Saturday. VHS home games are played in Pendleton Park.

Lowndes, meanwhile, has rescheduled it's rain out game with Moultrie to be played here at the Lowndes diamond on the school campus Thursday at 4 p. m.

Marchin' Cats Got Bonus

By MARY CROUSE

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats went to the 1974 Festival of States at St. Petersburg, Fla., with the thought of going all out for the field band competition.

They won that by a five point spread, but brought home an unexpected honor. The 245 member high stepping outfit which was designated the official band from Georgia in the festivities was second runner-up in the marching competition Saturday afternoon.

That was a bonus VHS band director Frank Butenschon didn't count on.

"We had so much bad weather before we left that we knew we would have to concentrate on one aspect of the competition," he said.

The talented and nationally acclaimed high school band chose the field event in which they put all their energies.

The bands from all parts of the country were judged on music, marching and maneuvering and general effect in the 1974 Festival of States



FRANK BUTENSCHON
Unexpected Honor

National Field Show Competition last week.

They scored first in each event for an overall total of

33.8. Second place was Roger Bacon High School from Cincinnati, Ohio with 78.78 and Airline High School from Bossier City, La., came in third with 78.66. Liberty High School from Bethlem, Pa., was fourth with 76.95.

"All those groups are fantastic. They were really outstanding and you can see how close it was for the next three places with these scores," said Butenschon.

The local band showed the colors which make it a national champion Saturday afternoon by scoring a second runner up position in the parade competition.

"We didn't expect this at all. We were so proud of this because we had concentrated on the field event, thinking we would have a chance at just that," said the director.

Airline High from Bossier City, La. won the parade event and Liberty High was first runner up. Liberty High beat the VHS marchers by 1.02 points.

The Heart of St. Petersburg award was captured by Oakcrest High School from New Jersey.

"They really deserved it. The band members call themselves the kids from New Jersey and they brought a red, white and blue dune buggy with them. They had Dixie Land bands all over the city and their title is the Marching Ambassadors,"

said Butenschon.

He said the trip to St. Petersburg for the seven days the New Jersey group was there cost the northern band \$52,000. VHS paid \$15,000 for its four day stay.

"The judges take into consideration how long the band stays, how they act, how much money they spend and what they do. Those kids put on concerts all week at Disneyworld and really did outstanding public relations work," said Butenschon.

He said the VHS band while winning the national field championship got two standing ovations from the thousands on hand for the shows last week.

"Immediately after the show the St. Petersburg Yacht Club gave us a reception at the club and the whole band entertained them. They treated us like royalty. I think Valdosta and the whole state can be proud of the showing we made; I know I am," said Butenschon.

He said the success of last week's trip goes to the outstanding dedication and efforts of the band staff including directors Travis Paune, Cecil Pollock, Mike Chapman and John Riggle.

"We had the complete cooperation of the entire school administration and the fund raising support of the band boosters. Of course I can't say enough for the band members themselves," he said.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Apr. 12, 1974 -14-

Wildcat Outburst Buries Bulldogs

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

THOMASVILLE — Wildcats only needed one scoring outburst but chalked up three to bury Thomasville's Bulldogs 9-2 in a Region I-AAA high school baseball game here Thursday.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats jumped into the lead with a three-run spree in the top of the second, strengthened it to seven runs with four more in the fourth and capped it with two in the seventh to remain region.

Churning out nine hits to Thomasville's five, and committing only one error to the home team's five, the 'Cats swamped the 'Dogs in every aspect to boost their record to 5-0.

"I thought the boys played a real good ball game all around," said Brooks after the victory. "We kept the pressure on Thomasville when we got on the bases and it paid off in a lot of mistakes."

Senior hurler Bruce Hilton, picked up his second win of the young season going the distance against the Bulldogs, giving up five hits and two earned runs while walking two and fanning three batters.

The 'Cats took the lead in the second when Johnny Holcomb hit a two-run single to score Ed Spell and Cecil Whitehead David Demersseman then scored the third run on Hilton's fielder's choice.

White headscored again in the fourth on Bob Saunders' fielder's choice, before Saunders tallied on Raymond Washington's single and a two-base error on Billy Demersseman's hit played Washington and Hilton.

It was a three-base error in the top of the seventh that turned Saunders' single into a two-run homar to close the scoring for the 'Cats.

Thomasville's two runs came in the fifth when Riles hit his way to second and scored on a single by Mike Raney, and

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...I still win," he said.
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...the famed Augusta National
...Thursday after matching par 72
...n still win," Miller said
...If this is my bad round, I
...Gs.
...st \$150,000 in money win-
...I victories and collecting al-

Bulldogs Outscore Vikings, Wildcats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

With James Thomas, Andrew Collins, and Jimmy Mitchell leading the way with a pair of first place finishes apiece, the Thomasville Bulldogs bumped the Lowndes High Vikings and Valdosta Wildcats in a three way track meet at the Lowndes High track Wednesday.

The Thomasville cindermen amassed 85½ points followed by Lowndes with 65 and Valdosta with 19½.

"We're still moving people around trying to find out where they look best," Lowndes High head coach Newnan Sanchez said.

"Our big problem is finding the right combination for the relays. We've just got to put the best four out there at one time."

"Really we're still trying to run ourselves into shape. We haven't had that much time to practice between meets, and some of our boys aren't in real good shape."

Larry Powell high jumped 5'8" to capture the only field event win for the home-standing Vikings.

William Howell took time off from his baseball heroics long enough to streak to victory in the 100 yard dash with a blistering time of 10:1.

Willie Alderman and John Thursby added to the Lowndes point total with first places in the 120 high hurdles and 880 run respectively.

Noah Fountain hurled the shot 46'1" for the only Valdosta first place.

"I'm still disappointed with our distance runners," Sanchez said. "Maybe they'll start to come around when they're in better shape."

The Vikings are to run again Wednesday, April 17 against Moultrie.

Results from Wednesday's meet follow:

Pole Vault — Elliot (T), Lewis (L), Tyson (L), White (L); Height — 11'
Shot Put — Fountain (V), J. Kovach (L), Gaston (T), Hunter (V); Distance — 46'1"
Long Jump — Thomas (T), Stringfield (L), Wright (L), Whitfield (V); Distance — 19'1½"
High Jump — Powell (L), Mack (T), Daniels (L), Tie Blackshear (T), Brantley (V) Height — 5'8"
Discus — McClure (T), Fountain Hay (T), Gaston (T); Distance — 115'
Triple Jump — Thomas (T), Greene (L), Nathan (V), Whitfield (V); Distance — 43'2½"
440 Relay — Thomasville (Anderson, Mitchell, Thomas, Covington), Lowndes, Time — 45:1.
Mile run — Collins (T), Kirbo (T), Chapman (V), Atkins (V); Time — 5:07.9.
440 dash — Mitchell (T), Joiner (V), Davis (T), Copeland (L); Time — 52:0.
100 Dash — Howell (L), Covington (T), Anderson (T), Stringfield (L); Time — 10:1.
High hurdles — Alderman (L), Scott (T), Daniels (L), K. Kovach (L); Time 16:5.
880 run — Thursby (L), Williams (T), Cook (L), Depew (T); Time — 2:13.0.
220 Dash — Mitchell (T), Carter (L), Crawford (L), King (V); Time — 23:8.
Low hurdles — Scott (T), Lewis (L), Covington (T), K. Kovach (L); Time — 72:0.
Two mile run — Collins (T), Williams (T), Hightower (L), Adkins (V); Time — 11:42.5.
Mike Relay — Thomasville (White, Covington, Thomas, Davis), Lowndes; Time 3:41.

Cats Avenged In Moultrie

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

MOULTRIE — Moultrie's Packers got the hits and Valdosta's Wildcats got the runs as the 'Cats shut off two Packer rallies to take a 6-2 Region 1-AAA high school baseball victory and a year's worth of revenge here Tuesday.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats, who managed to pick up only four hits, most of them to late to do any good, took advantage of five Packer errors to defeat the previously unbeaten Pack in its own den.

Using a four-run outburst in the top of the second inning that the home team could never quite overcome, the undefeated Wildcats stretched their record to 4-0, atoning for two losses

they received at the hands of the Packers last season in the Region 1-AAA (South) playoffs after going through the regular season undefeated.

Valdosta senior righthander David Demersseman picked up his second straight win after manning the mound for six and two-thirds innings before tiring in the seventh and turning the job of striking out Moultrie ace Danny Shiver over to Larry Hansen.

But while Brooks, in his first year as head coach of the 'Dosta nine, credited both the pitching and the defense with the win, he put most of the credit on the team members who didn't play.

"I don't know if you've ever

been to a game in Moultrie but that raggin' there is something else," he said. "But our boys on the bench hung in there and helped pull us through with a little raggin' of their own."

It was Demersseman who broke the scoring silence in the top of the second when he reached on a fielder's choice to start the Valdosta avalanche that landed on Moultrie pitcher Tim Bozeman.

Cecil Whitehead then hit into a two-base error at centerfield and Johnny Holcomb singled both home to give Valdosta a two-run lead. But wait, the 'Cats weren't through.

Holcomb then scored on a Moultrie error on Bob Sanders' blooper and Sanders tallied on

Bauknight's fielder's choice.

Moultrie tried its first rally in the bottom of the fifth when Bud Newton reached on a fielder's choice, and scored on Valdosta's only error off Bozeman's bat, cutting the lead to 4-1.

But Bozeman gave it back in the top of the seventh when he bobbled a catch to allow Whitehead to reach. Holcomb hit into another Moultrie error and Micky Mullis loaded the bases for the 'Cats with a single.

Bauknight's single plated Whitehead and Washington followed suit with another one-bagger to plate Holcomb.

Moultrie's last stab at trying to win the game came in the bottom of the last frame when Tim Roberson singled, took second on a balk charged against Demersseman and scored on a double by Dennie Eldridge. After two more outs and Packers on second and third, Demersseman turned the mound over to Hanson who whiffed Moultrie's talented Shiver to secure the win.

The 'Cats are scheduled to see action again here Friday when they host Bainbridge's Bearcats at Pendleton Park in another Region 1-AAA affair beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Valdosta	ab	r	h	rbi		
Washington, lf	4	0	0	1		
B. Dem., ss-2b	4	0	0	0		
Atkinson, cf	3	0	1	0		
Speil, rf	3	0	0	0		
D. Dem., p	3	1	0	0		
D. Dem., p	3	1	0	0		
Whitehead, c	3	2	0	0		
Holcomb, 2b	3	2	1	2		
Sanders, 2b	2	1	0	0		
Mullis, 2b	1	0	1	0		
Hansen, p	0	0	0	0		
Bauknight, lb	3	0	1	1		
Totals	29	6	4	4		
Moultrie	ab	r	h	rbi		
Groff, cf	4	0	0	0		
Smith, ss	4	0	3	0		
Shiver, 2b	4	0	0	0		
Jenkins, rf	2	0	0	0		
Lanic, c	3	0	0	0		
Clerk, 3b	2	0	0	0		
Newton, lf	3	1	1	0		
Roberson, lb	3	1	1	0		
Bozeman, p	2	0	0	0		
Eldridge	1	0	1	1		
Totals	32	2	6	1		
Valdosta	0-40	000	2-6-4-1			
Moultrie	000	010	1-2-6-5			
E — Sanders, Roberson 2, Groff, Clark, Bozeman						
LOB — Valdosta 2, Moultrie 6						
B — Eldridge						
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Demersseman (W-2-0)	6	2-3-0	2-1	2-2		
Hansen	1-3-0	0-0-0	0-0	0-1		
Bozeman (1)	7	4-6-2	0-0	0-3		
P.A.K. — Demersseman, Bozeman						
WP — Demersseman, Bozeman						



—Times Staff Photo

Boozers Are Losers

Cindy Brown, a senior at Valdosta High School, was the grand prize winner of \$25 in an alcohol abuse poster contest. First place prize of \$15 went to Wilbur Bragg, a VHS senior; second place of \$10 to Donna Coody, a senior at Lowndes High School; and third place of \$5 to Syd Shepherd, a

junior at VHS. The contest was sponsored by the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse, Dr. Clyde Hallman, chairman. Hallman is pictured above with Miss Brown and the grand prize winning poster.

A Teacher Salary Supplement Asked

By MARY CROUSE

The Valdosta Association of Educators has asked the city school board for a \$500 supplement base to be spread over the next five years beginning with a \$100 across the board increase this fall.

The request came from Betty Kretlow, a math instructor at Valdosta High School, who is chairman of the VAE Teacher Welfare and Economic Services.

Mrs. Kretlow, armed with facts and figures on teacher salary supplements throughout the state, told the Valdosta Board of Education at a meeting Thursday night there has been a 25 per cent turnover in the local school system recently.

"That's pretty high when we consider continuity is a necessity for a good academic program. I realize that pregnant women and wives of military personnel are always

leaving the system. "But even if we had 1 teachers to leave a year outside of these other reasons, then we should take that to mean we need some sort of change in our salary setup," said Mrs. Kretlow.

The board listened to Mrs. Kretlow's presentation and a couple of members said they sympathized with the teachers' plight, but the VAE representative received no committal.

Rather the board said that in view of a more than \$100.00 light bill for the new \$4.5 million Valdosta High School and other expenditures, it would be hard pressed to do anything about helping out the teachers.

Supt. Foster Goolsby said the system has more than its share of good teachers and he would continue to work for increases in pay.

The state pays the base teacher salary. Supplements beyond that are supplied by the local school boards.

Valdosta pays \$100 supplement annually to all beginning teachers. The maximum supplement for a classroom teacher here is \$300 regardless of the experience or certification.

Coaches, band directors and other specialists are paid anywhere from \$600 annual supplements to thousands of dollars here.

There are about 393 teachers plus administrators in the city school system.

Mrs. Kretlow said administrators are included in the request.

But VHS principal Lloyd Mims said that as far as he is concerned the teachers should be taken care of first.

"Money is needed for the teachers. I know with the high cost of living index that money is a big factor. Even \$100. Teachers need some consideration. Don't worry about the administration," he said.

To give the teachers a \$100 supplement boost would cost the system \$114.52 per instructor, according to assistant school supt. Ralph Brandon.

This would amount to more than \$40,000 or a half tax mill. The board has a maximum 14 mill limit and is now operating at 13.2 mills.

"There is no allowance here for anything new including an electricity bill that is tremendous. We'll give this request a long hard look, but we can't give much encouragement," said board treasurer Lamar Newbern Jr.

Goolsby said he knows money is a major problem with teachers.

"Some don't eat the last few weeks of the month in the lunchroom because of the tight money situation. I see young people who teach every third week of the month in my office and I know their problems," said Goolsby.

VAE president Ruth Council, curriculum director for the city schools, said the attitude of the board won't buy any groceries for the teachers.

"Unless the supplement here is increased we could lose some of our best teachers. I am hoping this request will be one of the board's priorities," said Mrs. Council in an interview this morning.

Fitzgerald Dumps VHS

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

FITZGERALD—What's worse than the white tornado? Try a fitted up bunch of Hurricanes.

Butch Brooks and his Valdosta Wildcats found out the hard way here Thursday when Fitzgerald's Hurricanes, led by Lee Masee and Glenn Davis, cleaned out an early Wildcat lead with a three-inning scoring outburst to take a 10-5 victory in a high school baseball game here.

Brooks thought his stumbling Wildcats were making a comeback but he soon learned the 'Cats had a comeback of their own in store.

Led by Masee, who not only pitched four innings but scored three runs and batted in another, and Davis who batted in two and scored one himself, the Hurricanes erased 3-0 and 4-1 leads and clinched their 11th straight win.

"I thought we were going to make a comeback," Brooks said after his Cats dropped their

second straight game and third in the last four games after remaining undefeated until Saturday.

"But we made five errors in one inning and just gave it away. Oh, Fitzgerald has a good team. They hit the ball. But we should have won that one and the boys know it."

The 'Cats moved out front 3-0 in the top of the first when Tony Alcorn, Bob Saunders and Mike Atkinson scored on two singles, a Fitz error and a base on balls.

Fitzgerald answered in the bottom of the frame when Masee scored on Davis' single. But Valdosta matched it with another run in the third when Atkinson tallied on Johnny Holcomb's single.

It was in the bottom of that frame the roof fell in however. Using Masee's double and four errors, Fitzgerald scored five runs, followed by three runs on a single, and two errors in the

fourth and a single run on a fielder's choice and two errors in the fifth.

Down 10-4 in the top of the final frame the 'Cats tried another come back as Davis singled and scored on Saunders' sacrifice fly. But it was a drop in the bucket against the margin.

The 'Cats matched the 11-0 Hurricanes in hits with eight apiece, but seven Wildcat errors, their highest number so far, ended any chance of victory.

"I'm not taking anything away from Fitzgerald. They've got a dang good team," Brooks said. "But we should have brought that one home."

"We made too many errors. I guess we still haven't gotten over the shock of losing David (Demersseman) and Washington yet."

Demersseman, the team leader and star pitcher was injured Monday in a collision at a second base and is now listed

in satisfactory condition at St. Luke's Hospital in Jacksonville Fla. Raymond Washington had his leg in a game last week.

The 'Cats hope to finally get together again today when they put their undefeated Region 1-AA status on the line against a tough bunch of Bulldogs from Thomasville in another game to start at 4 p. m. in Valdosta's Pendleton Park.

Wildcat Box

Valdosta	ab r h rbi
Alcorn, lf	2 1 1 1
Davis, lf	1 1 1 1
Saunders, 2b-p	3 2 2 2
Atkinson, cf	3 1 1 0
Whitehead, c	4 0 2 1
Spell, rf	3 0 1 0
Brown, rf	1 0 0 0
Holcomb, 3b-p	3 1 1 0
Bauknight, lb	2 0 0 0
Hilton, p	2 0 0 0
Mullis, 2b	1 0 0 0
B. Demersseman, ss	2 0 1 0
Jennings, 3b	1 0 0 0
TOTALS	25 5 8 3
Fitzgerald	ab r h rbi
Stokes, cf	3 1 1 1
Hobby, 3b	4 1 1 0
Masee, p	3 2 3 0
Evans, rf	1 0 0 0
Davis, 2b	3 1 2 0
Blackstock, lb	4 1 2 0
Phillips, rf-p	3 0 1 0
Seagroves, ss	4 1 1 0
Greg Freeman, c	4 0 0 0
P. Freeman, lf	4 0 0 0
TOTALS	33 10 1
Valdosta	301 001-54
Fitzgerald	195 310 x-104

E—Saunders 2, Demersseman 2, Jennings 2, Holcomb 1, Hobby 1, Freeman, Seagroves, Davis; Blackstock.

LOB—VHS 4, FHS 8.
2B—Masee
SB—Blackstock, Atkinson, Hobby
SF—Saunders.

Hilton (L, 2-1)	ip h r bb
Saunders	2 3 0 0 1
Holcomb	1 0 1 0 1
Masee	1 1 1 0 1
Phillips (W)	1 1 1 0 1
WP—Hilton	

Valdosta Falls To Lanier, 5-3

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

LAKE LAND, Ga.—Allen White helped his own cause from the plate and the mound and that and some timely singles by Bernard Williams were all Lanier County's Bulldogs needed to hand Valdosta's Wildcats a 5-3 defeat here Wednesday.

It was the second high school baseball loss in three games for Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats and left Bulldog coach Billy Pafford just as surprised as he was.

"You're doggone right I was surprised," a happy Pafford declared. "But I had told the boys we were going to win this one and they gave it all they had."

"They just beat our fannies, that's all there is to it," said Brooks after the loss. "They naturally hit the baseball. We weren't ready for them. They have a lot better team than a lot of people think."

White, picking up his fifth win in six starts, wiffed seven Wildcats and walked only one two singles and scoring two of the runs himself to help the cause.

Williams, the Bulldogs' first baseman batted in three runs while shortstop Franklin Patten batted in the other two to account for the win.

"I'd love to have White," Brooks admitted after the

game. "He did a good job. We just didn't get the hits."

The 'Cats, now 7-2 after going undefeated for their first six games picked up one run each in the first, fifth and sixth innings, but couldn't overcome two Lanier scoring outbursts in the first and third innings.

Cecil Whitehead's single in the bottom of the first plated Tony Alcorn, who had also saftied, to put VHS ahead 1-0.

But in the bottom of the frame the 'Dogs picked up three when Bob Jones and White scored on Patten's double and Williams brought in Patten with a single.

The winning runs came in the third when Williams stepped to the plate and slammed a two run single scoring White and Jones, who had each singled.

VHS first baseman Charles Bauknight scored when Alcorn singled in the top of the fifth and the 'Cats added another one in the sixth when Johnny Holcombe singled and scored on Williams' error. But it wasn't enough to change the tied.

The Bulldogs' seventh straight win came at the expense of VHS starter Ed Spell in his first start. The 'Dogs take a 7-1 mark to Atkinson County (Pearson) Friday and then meet Lowndes in Valdosta Saturday.

The 'Cats are scheduled to play Fitzgerald in another road

game today.

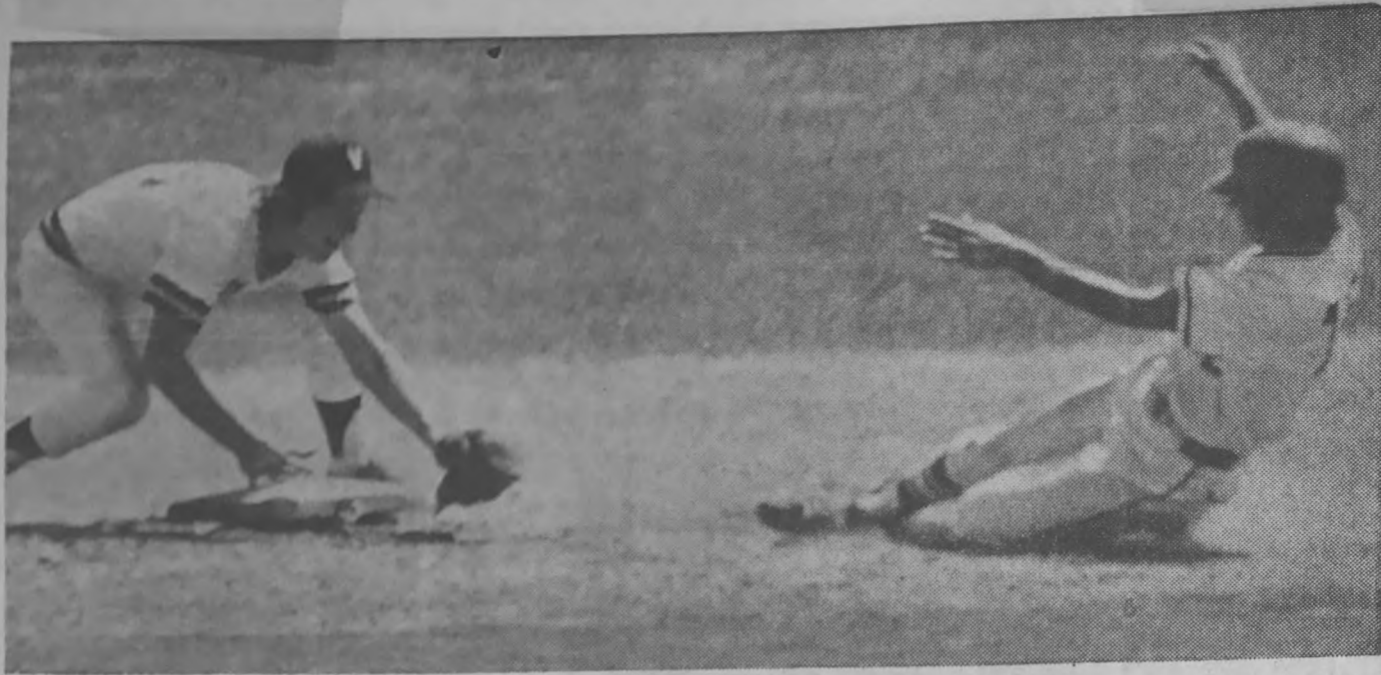
Brooks said the 'Cats missed the help of David Demersseman and Tony Washington. Demersseman, VHS's top pitcher and shortstop is still in St. Luke's hospital in Jacksonville after being knocked cold in a collision in a game Monday. Washington hurt his leg in a game last week.

Cat Box

Valdosta	ab r h rbi
Alcorn, lf	4 1 1 1
Saunders, 2b-p	3 0 0 0
Holcombe, 3b	3 1 1 0
Whitehead, c	3 0 2 1
Spell, p-rf	3 0 1 0
Atkinson, cf	3 0 0 0
Davis, rf	1 0 0 0
Mullis, 2b	1 0 0 0
White	1 0 0 0
Brown, rf	0 0 0 0
Bauknight, lb	3 1 1 0
B. Demersseman	3 0 0 0
TOTALS	25 3 7 2
Lanier	ab r h rbi
Scarnerough, cf	3 0 0 0
Simpson, 3b	3 0 0 0
White, p	3 2 3 0
Jones, c	3 2 2 0
Patten, ss	3 1 1 0
Williams, lb	3 0 2 3
Clent, rf	2 0 0 0
Mancil, lf	2 0 0 0
Pafford, 2b	3 0 0 0
TOTALS	25 5 8 3
Valdosta	100 011 0-3-7-4
Lanier	302 000 x-5-5-2

E—Spell, Bauknight, B. Demersseman 2, Williams 2.
DP—Holcomb to Mullis.
LOB—Valdosta 4, Lanier 2.
2B—Patten, White.
SB—Bauknight 2.

Spell (L, 0-1)	ip h r bb so
Saunders	2 1 3 5 5 1 3
Hilton	22 3 3 0 0 2
White (W, 5-1)	1 0 0 0 1
WP—White, Saunders 2	7 7 3 1 7



—Times Staff Photo

Billy DeMersseman Is Primed For The Putout On Lanier's Chuck Scarborough

'Dosta Powers Past Lanier

By MIKE CHASON

Valdosta High School's Wildcats may have finally gotten back on the winning track after combining 10 hits, 12 Lanier County errors, and some nifty base-running to take a convincing 23-1 victory over the visiting Lakeland, Ga. nine.

"We played today like we were playing at the first of the year," a smiling head coach Butch Brooks said after the massacre. "We hit the ball well and didn't make any of those stupid errors which have killed us lately."

Cecil Whitehead, usually behind the plate, was in front of it Saturday as he picked up his first mound victory of the year.

"Cecil is becoming a leader on our ballclub, and David (DeMersseman) is back now helping us coach a little, so maybe we'll get things together now," Brooks concluded.

The Wildcats completely dominated the game from the first inning on as they punched out two hits and racked up six runs in that frame alone.

The error-plagued Bulldogs added fuel to the fire by committing a trio of miscues in that initial inning also.

The VHS nine added another run in the third inning when Mickey Mullis beat out an infield hit, stole second, went to third on a fielder's choice, and crossed the plate on Billy DeMersseman's hit up the middle.

In the fourth inning, Johnny Holcombe, Ed Spell, Charles Bauknight, and DeMersseman hit safely and seven more runs were on the scoreboard.

The Wildcat machine rolled on in the following inning when Lanier pitcher Franklin Patten walked DeMersseman and Mike Atkinson, gave up a hit to Spell, hit Bob Saunders with a pitch and watched his teammates make three more errors to let in five more runs.

Lanier scratched out its lone run in the sixth inning when Chuck Scarborough beat out his second infield hit of the day, swiped second, and scored on Bert Simpson's screamer to left.

In their half of the sixth, the Wildcat subs managed to push

across four additional runs.

Billy DeMersseman had his best day at the bat for Valdosta as he socked three hits and drove in five runs.

"We just got the punk beat out of us," Lanierhead coach Billy Pafford said. "We got what we deserved today."

The loss snapped a twelve game win streak for the now 12-2 'Dogs. Their other loss came at the hands of powerful Lowndes High.

Valdosta is now 10-6 on the year and appears to be gaining momentum for their big matchup with Lowndes on Wednesday. Lowndes won the first Intra-city battle 9-3 last week.

Wildcat Box

Lanier Co.	ab r h bi	Valdosta	ab r h bi
Scarborough cf	3 1 2 0	Alcorn lf	5 1 0 0
Simpson p-ss-3b	3 0 1 1	Jennings lf	1 0 0 0
White 3b-p	3 0 0 0	Atkinson cf	3 2 1
Jones c	3 0 2 0	Brown cf	0 0 0 0
Patten ss-p	3 0 0 0	Holcomb ss	5 2 1 6
Wms lb	3 0 0 0	Hilton ss	0 0 0 0
Dent rf	2 0 0 0	Whitehd p	3 2 1 6
Pfird 2b	2 0 0 0	Spell rf	3 2 1 6
Mancil lf	2 0 0 0	Spell rf	3 2 2 1
Sirmans ph	1 0 0 0	Davis rf	1 1 0 0
		Mullis 3b	4 3 1 0
		Stull 3b	0 1 0 0
		Saunders c	2 3 0 0
		White c	1 0 0 0
		Bauknight lb	3 3 1 0
		Chapman lb	1 0 0 1
		DeMersseman 2b-p	4 1 3 5
		Moore 2b	1 1 0 0
		Hanson ph	1 1 0 0
TOTALS	25 1 5 1	TOTALS	39 23 10 7

Lanier Co. 000 001 0--1-5-12
 Valdosta 601 754 x-23-10-1
 E — Patten, Simpson 6, Mancil 4, White, B. DeMersseman
 DP — Holcombe to DeMersseman
 LOB — Lanier 3, Valdosta 6
 2B — Atkinson
 SB — Scarborough, Simpson, Whitehead, Holcombe 2, Davis, Mullis 2
 IP H R BB SO
 Simpson (L 2-1) 3 9 14 3 0
 Patten 2 1 5 2 1
 White 1 0 4 1 3
 Whitehead (W, 1-0) 5 3 0 0 8
 DeMersseman 2 2 1 0 1
 RBP — Spell by Simpson, Saunders by Simpson, Patten
 WP — White 3, Simpson
 PB — Jones 2.

'Cats, Share Moultrie, Region Lead

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Moultrie's Packers are scheduled to settle the question of which team represents the sub-region in the Region 1-AAA playoffs next week with a one game playoff in Moultrie Saturday.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats are scheduled to square off against Moultrie's Packers at 2 p. m. in the Moultrie High diamond for the third time this season.

Both teams finished the regular season with matching 6-2, sub-region even though the Wildcats defeated Moultrie in both their earlier encounters.

Valdosta took a 6-2 decision in Moultrie early in the season and defeated the Packers 5-4 in the final inning in a game in Valdosta last week.

"Moultrie has the psychological edge on us now," said Brooks. "It rough to beat a team three times in one season."

Brooks had tried to get the Region 1-AAA (south) playoff game scheduled in Tifton while Little opted for Thomasville. To settle the issue a coin was flipped for the choice and it went Moultrie's way.

Four Net Courts Get New Lights

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Night time tennis players get twice as much chance to play here this week when the city recreation department doubles its lighted tennis courts.

Valdosta Recreation and Parks Director Dave Christian confirmed Thursday four newly revamped courts at the old Valdosta high school are to be lighted this week with a dozen new courts coming in the near future.

"Valdosta Electric Co., has the contract to light the four courts at the old high school and two baseball-softball fields in Sunset Park," Christian said.

He added bids to erect six new courts at the new High school (Northeast Park) two at McKey Park and two on the Southside Park are to be opened this month and he has begun looking into the possibility of repaving two older courts at the old VHS building and the addition of lights there.

Christian explained the project to light and fence the tennis courts and the softball fields will cost the city \$13,500. About \$5,000 goes towards the tennis court lights.

Mayor-Council has asked Christian to look into the repaving of the two older courts at the old high school. He plans to submit his findings at the next regular meeting.

The new tennis courts been planned for more than a year and had been funded through a federal grant. But Recreation department has been unable to collect bids on project because the grant specified the entire project including lights, sodding, tennis courts and baseball fields awarded to a single company. Officials have since broken the projects down into separate parts and have received new bids.

Wildcat Rally Rips Vikes

By JULIAN MILLER

Jesse Earnest and Cecil Whitehead tied up in hard-fought pitching duel for six innings but it was Billy DeMersseman who chalked up the win as Valdosta's Wildcats rallied in the bottom of the sixth to defeat Lowndes' Vikings 5-3 in a cross-city baseball game here Wednesday.

DeMersseman, Valdosta's undefeated sophomore infielder-turned pitcher, blanked the Vikings for one and a third innings enroute to the victory, after the visiting Vikings had staged a two-run rally of their own to tie the game at three-all in the top of the sixth.

Earnest, the left-handed Viking hurler who one hit Valdosta to defeat the 'Cats 9-3 in their first game at Lowndes several weeks ago, and Whitehead, the junior catcher-turned pitcher battled it out for most of the game.

But they did it from the plate as well as the mound. Whitehead had blasted a 370-foot shot over the left field fence for a two-run homer that put Valdosta ahead in the bottom of the third while Earnest, who dropped to 6-2 on the year bated in Lowndes' first two runs and scored the tying tally to lead the Viking attack.

The victory not only atoned for the earlier loss to the cross-city foes for the 'Cats. It kept them in a two-way tie with Moultrie for the sub-region lead, boosting the 'Cats of Coach Butch Brooks to a 12-6 record and 6-2 league chart with their fourth straight victory.

But it left Coach Noel George's Vikings with nothing to look forward to but their best season ever and the hopes of defeating Bainbridge's Bearcats in their last game of the season in Bainbridge today.

"I thought we played a pretty good baseball game," said Brooks, after his team's last regular game of the season. "We never gave up. ... just hung in there. We didn't hit the ball all that well but we bunted well. I'm just proud of my boys."

"Cecil did a good job for us. But I just can't say enough about Billy DeMersseman."

George blamed below par play by his Vikings for the loss, along with a rough



Coming On Strong: Vike Jesse Earnest Set To Throw

schedule that called for his team to play four consecutive region games in four days this week.

"That homerun that was called back hurt us but there's nothing we could do about that," George said.

Catcher Marshall Fields blasted a long shot over the left field fence for what could have been a three-run homer in the top of the fourth. Paul Moran, one of the two base umpires working the game, signaled the ball fair but plate umpire Steve Williams overruled the decision and signaled a foul ball. After a short discussion, Fields batted again and popped out to the pitcher for the last out of the frame.

"But there's no sense crying over sour grapes," George added. "We didn't play good enough to win today. We had the chance to win it when we tied them 3-3 and we just blew up in one inning."

That one inning was the bottom of the sixth when the 'Cats started off with a Lowndes error and scored two

runs on back to back errors by Kenny Williams and Mike Blanton at the plate to break the 3-all tie and win the game.

With the bases loaded, Valdosta's Bob Saunders hit into a fielder's choice and Howell, Lowndes' steady shortstop, threw high to home, in an attempt to cut down Charles Bauknicht, moving in from third.

Howell had Bauknicht beaten but the throw was high and drew Fields off the plate to allow the winning score. As Fields chased after the loose baseball, DeMersseman helped his own cause by moving in from third. Fields tossed the baseball to Blanton, covering the plate for the out, but Blanton dropped the ball and DeMersseman scored.

Two nifty fielding plays and a pickoff brought about the last three outs in the top of the seventh and assured the 'Cats of the victory.

Lowndes had taken a 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Green singled and scored on Earnest's put out.

But in the bottom of the third Whitehead blasted his homer with Saunders aboard and Valdosta never trailed again. In the bottom of the fifth Micky Mullis plated Saunders on a sacrifice bunt and the 'Cats had a seemingly stable 3-1 lead.

But the Vikes tied it up in the top of the sixth when Earnest doubled to plate Blanton, who had saftied, and Fields singled to scored Earnest.

"Earnest didn't have his stuff today," George said of his star pitcher. "The whole team was tired from those first two games this week."

The Vikings take an 11-5 record and 4-4 sub region mark to Bainbridge today.

Box Score

LOWNDES		VALDOSTA	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Love lf	4 0 0 0	Alcorn cf	2 0 0 0
Williams 2b	4 0 0 0	Saunders c	4 2 2 1
Davis cf	4 0 1 0	Holcomb ss	4 0 0 0
Green 2b	4 1 2 1	Whitehd ss	2 1 2 2
Blanton lb	2 1 1 0	Mullis 3b	2 0 0 1
McKenzi lb	1 0 0 0	Aikins lf	3 0 0 0
Thomas rf	3 0 1 0	Hanson lf	0 0 0 0
Howell ss	3 0 0 0	Jennings lf	0 0 0 0
Ernest p	2 1 1 2	Spell rf	3 0 0 0
Fields c	3 0 1 1	Bauknigt lb	1 1 1 0
		DeMerssmn	3 1 0 0

TOTALS		TOTALS	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
30	3 7 3	24	5 5 4
Lowndes	0 10	0 0 2 0-3-7-4	
Valdosta	0 0 2	0 1 2 x-5-5-3	
E - Blanton	3	Howell	7
2. Mullis	LOB	Lowndes	7
6. 2b - Ernest	HR	Whitehead	SB
- Green, Davis, Howell	S	Mullis	
	ip	r	er
Ernest (L-)	6	5	5 2 5 2
Whitehead	5	2-3	6 3 3 2
DeMersseman (W, 3-0)	1	1-3	1 0 0 0
WP - Ernest	2	PB - Saunders	



-Times Staff Photo

Some Of Prettiest Members Of The Award Winning Marchers

The Flag Corps of the Valdosta High School Marching Cats listen to the other members of their band perform in concert at Williams Park during the Festival of States Celebration at St. Petersburg, Fla., last week. The group, which was designated the official

band from Georgia, won the National Field Competition award and the Mayor's trophy for exceptional performance in the Champions on Parade event.

Waycross, Valdosta Split Twin Bill

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., April 14, 1974 -10A-

By MIKE CHASON

Waycross High came to town ready to play baseball Saturday, and the Bulldogs caught the Valdosta High Wildcats down with a case of spring fever.

Even in their lethargic mood, the Cats gained a split in the day's twin bill when they took the first game 7-4, but the visiting Bulldogs captured the nightcap 6-3.

"It was about time for us to play a bad game," VHS head coach Butch Brooks said. "After you play five good ones in a row like these boys have, you deserve a letdown every now and then." "I'd have to say that Waycross is the best team we've played so far, but still we made way too many mental as well as physical errors in that second game.

"I think it upset our timing not being able to play yesterday, and it also messed up our pitching rotation."

The now 6-1 Wildcats were slated to take on Bainbridge High at Pendleton Park Friday, but the Bearcats thought Valdosta was coming to their city and never made the trip.

Larry Hanson stifled the Waycross nife for five innings in the first game, but appeared to tire in the sixth frame when he allowed two Bulldog runs.

In the top of the seventh, Bruce Hilton came on in relief after Hanson had let in another pair of runs, and it was all over for the visitors.

The Wildcat scoring machine got cranked up early as VHS picked Waycross pitcher Mike Harrison for five hits and four runs in the opening frame.

Raymond Washington led off with a single, stole second,

and raced to the plate when David Demerssman bounced a double over the left field fence.

Cecil Whitehead followed Demerssman with a walk, and both men scored when Johnny Holcombe doubled to left field. Tony Alcorn plated Holcombe with a blooper to left.

In the fourth inning, Larry Hanson and Mike Alkinson reached base on a walk and a single respectively.

But they didn't stay long as Whitehead crashed a tremendous home run to dead center field for his second homer of the year and put the hometown crew ahead to stay.

In the second game, both teams chalked up one run each in the second, third, and fifth innings, but in the seventh, Waycross added three to their total while the Wildcats failed to scratch.

Randy Scott of Waycross marked up their first run in the second inning when he walked, stole second, and came home on a throwing error by Whitehead.

Valdosta High countered in the bottom half of the inning with a 350' home run by first baseman Hilton.

The two squads matched each other again in the fourth and fifth frames with both Waycross runs coming on Wildcat errors.

In the seventh, Steve Harmon singled for Bainbridge followed by consecutive hits by Mike Harrison and Kennon Taylor. Pete Taylor then sacrificed to plate Harmon and Harrison followed him to pay dirt on a passed ball by Whitehead. Kennon Taylor surprised everyone by never slowing down as he rounded third and

his move was successful as Whitehead's throw to pitcher Holcombe went wild.

Holcombe took the loss for Valdosta to level his record at 1-1 on the year.

Valdosta High is scheduled to get back into action on Monday against Bainbridge High at Pendleton Park with a 4:30 p.m. starting time.

The Cats were previously slated to take on Waycross again at the Bulldog's home field but the region game with the Bearcats had to be made up.

Waycross	ab	r	h	rbt
Stanford, cf 2b	3	0	0	0
Harrison, ss	3	1	1	0
Sweal, 2b-3b	2	0	0	0
Chaney, p	2	0	0	0
K. Taylor, 3b-p	4	2	2	0
Pete Taylor, 1b	3	0	0	0
Randy Scott, c	2	1	0	0
Johnny Richman, rf	2	0	0	0
Greg Taylor, lf	1	0	0	0
Harrison, cf	2	2	1	0
McDuff, ph	1	0	0	0
Joyce, ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	27	6	4	1

Valdosta	ab	r	h	rbt
Dave's, lf	2	0	0	0
Brown, cf	4	0	1	0
Spell, rf	4	0	1	0
Whitehead, c	2	1	0	0
B. Demerssman, 2b	3	0	1	0
D. Demerssman, ss	3	1	1	1
Jennings, 3b	4	0	0	0
Hilton, lf	3	1	2	1
Sanborn, p	1	0	0	0
Alcorn, lf	0	0	0	0
Holcombe, p	2	0	0	0
Totals	26	3	6	2

Waycross	010	110	3-	6-4-3
Valdosta	010	110	0- <td>3-6-7</td>	3-6-7
E - Sweal, Chaney, Stanford, Whitehead, 2, Brown, Hilton, DeVriesman 2, Valdosta 12				
LOB - Waycross 8, Valdosta 2				
2B - K. Taylor, Hilton				
HR - Hilton				
SB - Whitehead 2, B. Demerssman, D. Demerssman 2, Harrison, Scott, Hickman				
S - P Taylor				

Waycross	ab	r	h	rbt
Chaney	4	3	2	4
K. Taylor	3	3	1	4
Sanborn	5	1	3	4
Holcombe	2	3	3	0
HBP	2	3	3	0
Holcombe, Scott by Holcombe				
Waycross	3	0	1	0
Harrison, p	2	1	1	1
Stanford, cf	4	1	2	1
Justice, lf	4	0	0	0
Chaney, rf	2	0	1	1
Harrison, ss	3	0	1	1
Sweal, 2b	3	1	1	0
McDuff, lf	3	1	1	0
Taylor, 3b	3	1	2	0

T'Ville Downs Dosta, 7-2

By JULIAN MILLER

Making good use of their own power hitting and stingy defense and Valdosta's inability to hit at the right times, Thomasville's Bulldogs handed the tumbling Wildcats a 7-2 defeat in high school baseball action here Friday.

Moving behind the homerun hitting of Perry Keyton, James Riles and Thomas Graham the Bulldogs atoned for an earlier 9-2 loss they sustained at the hands of the Wildcats and stretched Valdosta's losing skid to three and four in their past five games.

"I don't know what the problem is," admitted head coach Butch Brooks after his previously 6-0 Wildcats dropped their four loss in 11 starts and their first Region 1-AAA defeat.

"We stranded eight men when we needed them and they (Thomasville) were hitting the ball pretty good. It's hard to stop a team that hits three homeruns with men on. And two of them were on real good pitches too.

"Heck, you can think of all kinds of excuses so I won't make any. We've got to try to get back on the road to winning.

"I think we're just not sure of ourselves yet. We've got a lot of young boys, but then we have seniors too and that should make up for it."

Keyton and Riles did the most damage to the 'Cats' hopes. Riles, the T'Ville first baseman, went three for four with a homerun, and a double that would have been a homerun had it not been for Mike Atkinson, with two RBI's and scoring two others himself.

Keyton, who went the distance issuing only one walk and five strikeouts started things going with his two run homer to help his own cause.

Thomasville first came alive in the top of the second when Riles slapped the first pitch over the centerfield fence. But Valdosta's Mike Atkinson jumped up and knocked it back into the playing area to hold Riles at second.

But Keyton would have none of that. The next batter up, he zipped a blast over the 338 sign in left center to give his team a 2-0 lead.

The 'Dogs scored what turned out the deciding run in the third when James Jones reached on an error, and scored on Nunnally's double.

Valdosta tried its meager comeback in the bottom of the frame when Billy Demerssemán and Tony Albarn safetied and scored on Bob Saunder's single.

But it was all VHS could muster and the Bulldogs were not through.

For openers Graham blasted a solo homer 340 feet away to start the fourth and Riles pounded his two-run homer over the center field fence 340 feet away in the fifth. As a parting gesture and just for good measure they upped the margin to its final score when Jones, the leadoff batter of the seventh frame, doubled and scored on Nunnally's sacrifice bunt to third.

Valdosta tries to get back into action again here today at 2 p.m. when they play host to undefeated Fitzgerald, a team which defeated them 10-5 in their first encounter Thursday. That game was to get underway at 2 p.m. at Pendleton Park here. Monday they play tough Macon Northeast with their big battle against top rated Lowndes Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Biggest winner for the Texas Rangers last year was Jim Bibby with nine victories. The team won 57 games, lost 105.



-Times Staff Photo

Mike Rainey (Right) Chases Valdosta's Mike Atkinson To Second

BofE Chairman Blasts City

By MARY CROUSE

The chairman of the Valdosta Board of Education charges the school system is getting short changed by the city and that water and sewer funds are being transferred into the general fund.

Hulyn Smith, newly elected board chief, said the taxpayers own both the city government and school system but Mayor - Council doesn't see it that way.

He said his research into water-sewer books and budgets reveals there is a \$188,000 surplus in that department this year.

"They are taking money out of that water-sewer fund and putting it into the general fund for operation," he said.

Smith said he has the facts and figures to back up his statements.

"It's there in black and white. Our water-sewer rates have gone up citywide during the past couple of years and yet we, the school system is not benefitting," said Smith.

He also said the \$117,000 the board had to contribute to a water system which serves the northeast section of the city at the new \$4.5 million Valdosta High School "sticks in my craw."

Smith said the board literally gave the city the money and now the board has to pay a high water bill and is being assessed for paving at West Gordon Elementary School.

"The first time I heard about the paving assessment was a couple of months ago," he explained.

The board has not had to pay for paving assessments at some of the school sites. The city is billing the board about \$5,000 for the Gordon school

assessment.

Smith said the city also billed the board \$60 for police escorts when the portable classrooms at the old VHS campus were moved last year.

"They finally charged it off but that was ridiculous," he said. "It's a crying shame they press us at every turn."

Smith said he sat in a meeting with the city manager and then mayor Aubrey Stump who told him not to worry about the

\$117,000 the board was paying towards the new water system.

"They sat there and said 'you'll be getting free water.'"

Now, nobody seems to remember this. It's just a darn shame, I don't like to give anything away when it's taxpayers money and not get some sort of return," said the board chairman.

The board paid \$117,000 towards the water system while the city contributed

\$59,000 of the project.

A Housing Urban Development grant took care of \$126,000 of the \$302,000 project as recommended by consulting engineers Flood and Associates of Jacksonville, Fla.

The city council and the board entered into an agreement to bring the site for the proposed new high school into the city limits July of 1970 after the board agreed to provide its own water system.

Wildcat Box

T'Ville	ab	r	h	rbi	
J. Cannady, 1p	3	1	2	0	
L. Cannady, 3o	2	0	0	0	
Powell	1	0	0	0	
Nunnally, ss	4	0	1	1	
Riles, 1b	4	2	3	2	
Keyton, p	3	1	1	2	
Graham, cf	3	1	1	1	
Ramey, 2b	3	0	0	0	
McPherson, rf	3	0	0	0	
Jones, c	3	2	1	0	
TOTALS	28	7	9	6	
VALDOSTA	ab	r	h	rbi	
Alcorn, 1f	4	1	1	0	
Saunders, ss	4	0	2	2	
Atkinson, cf	4	0	0	0	
Whitehead, c	4	0	2	0	
Spell, rf	3	0	0	0	
Hilton, 1f	1	0	0	0	
Holcombe, 3b	3	0	1	0	
Backnizh, 1b	3	0	1	0	
Hanson, p	1	0	0	0	
Demerssemán, 2b	3	1	1	0	
TOTALS	30	2	8	2	
T'Ville	021 129 1-7-93				
Valdosta	002 009 0-2-8-1				
E-Holcombe, Riles, Nunnally, Keyton.					
LOB-VHS 8, JHS 3					
2B-Riles, Jones					
TR-Keyton, Graham, Riles					
S-Hanson, Nunnally					
Keyto	ip	h	r	bb	so
Hansen	7	8	8	1	5
WP-Hansen	7	9	7	0	7

High School Well May Be Salvaged

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The \$10,000 new Valdosta High School well, abandoned by the city for over a year because of poor water quality, may be salvaged for less than a \$1,000. City-County Engineer Sidney Stilley said today he is investigating a carbon treatment process which offers outstanding hopes for making the well's water suitable for city use.

The high school well, which was drilled in 1972, has been a sore spot in the side of city officials for over a year.

The well, which was financed by a Housing and Urban Development grant, was written off as a mistake by city officials after a few days of operation.

The well was tried three times, twice after extensive flushing attempts, but hasn't been used since 1972, water department officials say as water quality remained poor.

Tests by state and private

agencies show the discoloration in the water stems from organic material, which Stilley says probably can be removed.

He indicated the Calgon Corporation of Birmingham, Ala., is being consulted on the job.

According to Stilley, three processes are available to the city for saving the well including a chlorine treatment method and clarification, an aluminum treatment approach. However, a carbon absorption process probably will be the one used due to cost factors.

Carbon filters, Stilley said, will be used in a carbon absorption process.

The high school well draws 2.5 million gallons of water daily, according to the engineer. It's a lot better than drilling a new \$10,000 well, Stilley said.

The engineer said the carbon process is not "a gold-plating, but something most water should have anyway."

Ernest's One-Hitter

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta's Wildcats and Lowndes' Vikings got together here Tuesday to decide which had the best baseball team. But Jesse Ernest didn't give the 'Cats much chance to prove anything.

The hard throwing Viking righthander allowed only one hit in seven innings while equaling that for his own team and batting in two runs, leading the Vikings to an 9-3 Region 1-AAA high school baseball victory. Lowndes' first over the 'Cats since 1971.

Ernest put the skids on the Valdosta attack after Nicky Mullis' two-run double in the top of the second, then helped his Viking teammates erupt for a six-run outburst in the bottom of the fifth to take the lead and sew up the

victory.

It was more than just the end of a three-year losing string against the 'cats and a moral victory over their cross city rivals for the Vikings of Coach Noel George. It put the Vikes back in competition for the Region crown, something they've never won.

The loss was the second region defeat for coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats, who came into the game tied with Moultrie's packers for the lead. The Vikes and 'Cats are now tied for second place with Thomasville with two defeats each.

Ernest walked five batters and whiffed just as many enroute to his sixth hill victory in seven starts. He never faced more than four batters

in any inning but the second when the roof appeared to be falling in.

It was then that the 'Cats crased a 1-0 Viking lead when Ernest walked VHS first baseman Charles Bauknight and right fielder Ed Spell and Nicky Mullis slammed a triple to the right field fence to score both. The Valdosta Second baseman then scored on the next bat when starting pitcher Bruce Hilton bopped a sacrifice fly to left to score him.

But that was the end of the scoring for Valdosta and just part of the beginning for Lowndes.

The Vikes had started the scoring in the bottom of the first when Kenny Williams reaching on an error scored on Kenny Green's single. In

Baseball

By The Associated Press
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	9	6	.600	-
in Milwaukee	7	5	.583	-

the out in Milwaukee to cut the lead to 3-2.

The roof did fall in the bottom of the fifth, but on the 'Cats this time.

Leadoff batter Tom Love singled, stole second and scored when Valdosta's Tony Alcorn bobbled a throw in left field to tie the game. Then Davis put the Vikes ahead when he reached on a fielder's choice, and moved around the bases when catcher Cecil Whitehead and centerfielder Mike Atkinson chalked up back to back error trying to pick him off.

But Lowndes wasn't through and neither was big Mike Blanton. The tall Lowndes first baseman salmmed a towering solo homerun over the centerfield fence 425 feet away to add insult to injury and the rest was all routine.

Two straight walks by Hilton before he retired and a run scoring single by Kenny Lowery followed by a two run double by a happy Ernest pushed the Viking lead to 8-3.

But just for good measure the Vikes added the last run in the sixth when Both Kenny Williams and Mike Blanton walked and Williams scored

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., Apr. 23, 1974 -12-

VHS Wins, Sets Stage For Vikes

By JULIAN MILLER

Valdosta's Wildcats rode an early scoring outburst and a late defensive rally to a narrow 3-2 victory over Macon Southwest's Patriots Monday to end a four-game losing skid and set the stage for today's cross city match with Lowndes.

The 'Cats scored two runs in the first inning and a third in the second to grab a 3-0 lead over the visitors from Macon, then cut off a sixth inning rally at two runs to preserve the high school baseball win.

For Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats, who had come out on the short end of their last six outings after breezing through their first half dozen, it was a long time coming.

But to Billy Killgore's Patriots, who have lost eight of their 14 games, it was just another in a series of upsets.

It wasn't that way for Larry Hansen however, the Wildcat right hander who chalked up the victory after issuing only two hits, one base on balls and two strike outs in his four innings on the mound.

He got help from Ed Spell, who almost saw the Patriots rally to the lead in the top of the sixth and sophomore Billy DeMersseman, who received excellent defensive backing from his teammates against the last five batters.

After cutting off the Patriots in the top of the first with the runners on third and second, the 'Cats went to work in the bottom of the frame.

Bob Saunders bapped out a singled and scored when the next man up, Cecil Whitehead, clipped off a double. Then a two base error by Patriot second baseman Tom Stubbs on Mike Atkinson's bat plated Whitehead and the home team held a 2-0 lead.

The 'Cats added the winning run in the bottom of the second when first baseman Charles Bauknight walked, stole second, advanced to third on Larry Hansen's single and scored on Tony Alcorn's force out at first.

It was three up, three down for the Pats in the bottom of

the fifth.

With two away, second sacker Tom Stubbs singled, took advantage of a misplayed pickoff attempt by Whitehead to steal second, and scored on Randy Mullis' single.

after a two-base Valdosta error which made Brooks blow his stack in the dugout, Ricky Thomas clipped out another single to plate Mullis. But that was all the Patriots got and it wasn't enough.

"I blew my top in there in that inning," Brooks admitted. "We just keep making those silly mistakes that cause us to lose the ballgames."

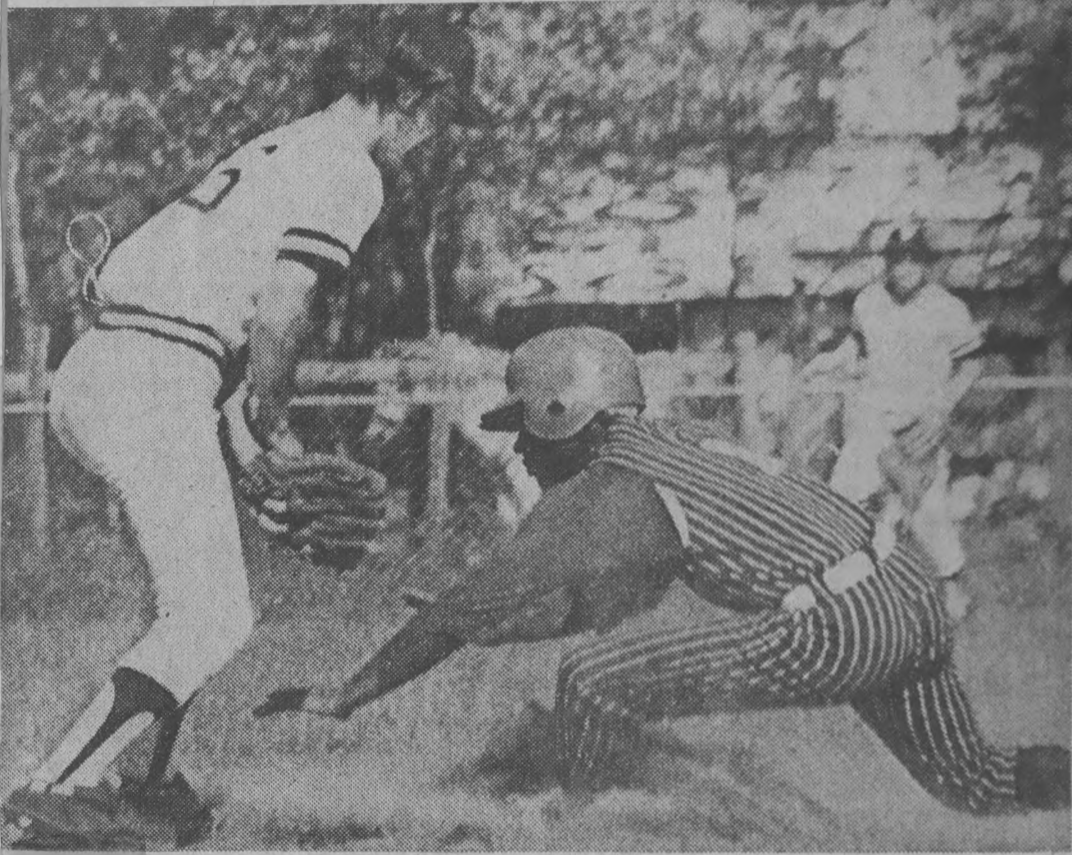
DeMersseman came in to get the last out in the sixth frame, replacing Spell, and allowed only one batter to get on base in the third. But he made up for it with a pitchout to Whitehead for a pickoff play at first to preserve the win.

Valdosta is scheduled to put it's 7-6 record against the powerful 8-3 Lowndes High Vikings in a Region 1-AAA match at the Lowndes High diamond on the school campus today at 4 p. m.

Valdosta is currently in a first place tie with Moultrie in region standings with only one league loss. Lowndes is in second with two 1-AAA defeats.

Wildcat Box

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Southwest	4	0	2	0
Allen p	2	1	1	0
Stubbs 2b	3	1	1	1
Mullis ss	3	0	0	0
Arnold cf	3	0	1	1
Thomas lf	2	0	0	0
Coleman lf	2	0	0	0
Varber 1b	3	0	0	0
Susahki 1b	1	0	0	0
Sansen c	2	0	0	0
Shirley c	1	0	1	0
Spouse 3b	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	27	2	6	2
Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Alcorn lf	2	0	0	1
Saunders ss	3	1	1	0
Whitehead c	3	1	1	1
Atkinson cf	3	0	0	1
Holcombe 3b	3	0	2	0
Mullis 2b	3	0	0	0
Bauknight 1b	2	1	0	0
Jennings rf	2	0	0	0
White	1	0	0	0
Hanson p	1	0	1	0
Spell p	2	1	2	0
Demersseman p	2	1	2	0
TOTALS	27	5	13	2



Lowndes' Kenny Williams Is Cut Down Stealing Second Base

-Times Staff Photo

Player	ab	r	h	bi
Valdosta	21	3	13	2
Lowndes	24	9	7	6

Totals 21 3 13 2

Valdosta 030 000 0-3-5
Lowndes 101 061 x-8-7-1

E-Saunders, Whitehead 2, Atkinson, Williams, Mullis, Alcorn LOB-VHS 3, LHS 6; 2B-Green; HR-Blanton; SB-Love; SF-Hilton.

Player	in	h	r	er	bb	so
Hilton	4	3	3	7	1	6
Hanson	1	1	3	2	0	2
Ernest	7	1	3	3	5	5

PB-Fields.

Rome Heads List For Star Game

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP) — Rosters for the 1974 Georgia High School All-Star basketball game announced Sunday include six All-Americans named by Parade Magazine

The All-Star game, sponsored by the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association and the Sports Medicine Foundation of America, will be held Aug. 1 at Georgia Tech's Alexandria Memorial Coliseum

the South squad while Southwest Atlanta Coach Da Jones heads the North.

The north squad include Flanaga, Dorsey, Mitchell, Jeff Anderson of College Park; Larry Brewster of West Rome; Keith Dean of West Fulton; Charlie Dorsey of Social Circle; Robert Heard of Hart County; Michael Maddox of Decatur; Steven Richardson of Druid Hills, Atlanta; and John Wilbanks of North Fulton, Atlanta.

The six All-Americans include Stan Rome of Valdosta; Anthony Flanagan, Southwest Atlanta; Lucius Foster, Savannah; Miles Patrick, Southwest Macon; Jackie Dorsey, Archer of Atlanta; and Michael Mitchell of Price of Atlanta.

Coach Don Richardson of Southwest Macon will handle

In addition to Rome, Foster and Patrick, the South's remaining players include Vincent Bennett of Jeff Davis; Charlie Mack Boston, Swainsboro; Greg Davis, Berrien County; Gary Green, Northeast Macon; Charles Slappey, Plains; Robert Walker, Jenkins, Savannah; Leon Parrish, Statesboro; and Vernon Knighton of Macon.

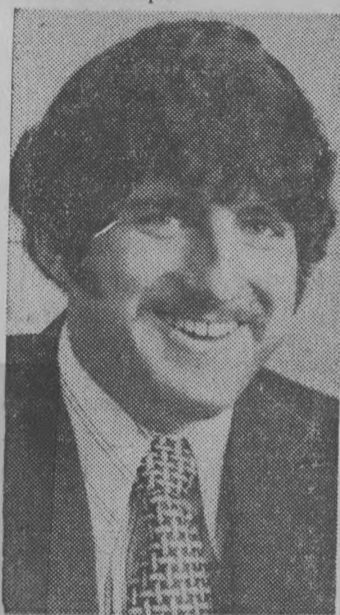
Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

Season Ends Early For DeMersseman

David DeMersseman entered the 1974 high school baseball season with a lot of plans. There were college and pro scouts, the possibility of state playoffs and the pleasant decision on whether to accept college basketball or baseball scholarships.



MILLER

It all ended early for the Valdosta High School senior, however, when a collision at second base landed him in a Jacksonville, Fla., hospital and ended his high school baseball career.

"Unfortunately it looks like I won't get to play any more in high school," said the pitcher-short stop after returning home from St. Luke's hospital.

"If we make it into the playoffs I just couldn't be able to play, but it doesn't look like that now."

The Wildcats had sustained only one loss under fluke circumstances when DeMersseman was hit in the head by the knee of a Bainbridge player trying

to jump over him in the game at Pendleton park.

Ironically it came just a few days after he had been knocked cold in a collision at Thomasville.

"I can remember the game but not that play at second," he said. "I woke up Monday morning (two days later) in Jacksonville and didn't remember a thing. I was knocked out a few days before that in Thomasville and I thought my mother had finally gotten me to visit a doctor for that. They told me I was knocked out again and I just said, 'really?'"

DeMersseman had already received several offers for college scholarships before his mishap and pro scouts filled the stands for the two games after he was knocked unconscious. But it did little good for the 'Cats.

Since DeMersseman has been out they have not only lost their leadership and confidence, they have lost six of their eight games and dropped down from undisputed first place to a three way tie for second.

Although disappointed in his quick season, DeMersseman somehow keeps from being discouraged.

"Well, I got to play three years and I enjoyed those. I guess I'll just look ahead to next year."

DeMersseman has already been contacted by Georgia Southern College, Valdosta State, and Shorter College. Shorter offers the chance to play both basketball and baseball. VSC has offered the possibility and Southern is mainly interested in him as a baseball player.

"I want to play both but I don't know if I'll be able to. In baseball I'd rather pitch but if I'm not pitching I want to play shortstop. I can't stand to be on the bench.

DeMersseman likes to think he's professional material. But school must come first.

"I'd like to be drafted," he admitted. "But it would have to be quite an offer if I accept it. But this new rule says I can come back as an amateur and play college basketball. That's something to think about."

Cats Take On Moultrie Here

Valdosta's Wildcats tied for second place in the Region 1-AA (South) title race, take on the top team here Friday when they play host to Moultrie's Packers in a high school baseball game.

Coach Butch Brooks' Wildcats, now 8-6 after losing six of their last eight ball games, try to regain the winning form they had at the beginning of the season when they defeated the Packers.

Meanwhile, Lowndes' Vikings, who knocked the 'Cats out of a first place tie with the Packers with a 9-3 defeat here Tuesday, take on the Tift County Blue Devils in Tifton.

Both games are scheduled to get underway at 4 p.m.



Miss Valdosta High School

Cindy Brown, a senior, is the new 1974 Miss Valdosta High School. The brunette who played the lead in "Gypsy" won over 29 other contestants in the junior class sponsored beauty pageant. A special feature of the pageant held at Mathis city auditorium was the appearance of Bonnie Freeman, Miss Moultrie, who provided the entertainment. The girls were judged in evening gowns and sports wear.

Wildcat Coaching Staff For Next Year Announced

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

With two coaches leaving and three coming in and a host of former Wildcats beginning their coaching careers, the 1974-75 coaching staff at Valdosta High School has a marked different look from this year's.

Athletic Director Wright Bazemore said the absence of former head football and track coach Charlie Greene, girls basketball coach, Steve Kebler and assistant football coach Conrad Harris left several holes to be filled.

Nick Hyder, who replaced Greene as head football coach brought two assistants with him from West Rome High School and at least four new coaches are to be added to the overall staff.

The football program, headed by Hyder, contains as assistants Bill Aldrich, Marion "Butch" Brooks, Edward Jones, Charles Tarpley and Wesley Jenkins and Freddie Waters.

Tarpley, the offensive back head coach and Jenkins the B'Team coach are both to move to Valdosta over the summer after their contracts with West Rome end.

Joe Wilson, the head basketball and former offensive backs coach, who was given basketball full time

when Bazemore resigned at the end of the 1971 season, has moved back into football to coach the ninth grade team with Bob Bolton, a former player about to be graduated from Valdosta State College as his assistant.

The eighth grade team at Valdosta Junior High School is to be coached by Norman Saintz with Mack Wilder and Jack Bethea as assistants and Ronnie Pitcock and Jerry Don Baker, two more former Cats coaching the seventh grade team.

Wilson remains as head coach of the Wildcat basketball team with Glenn Phelps who coached the B'team taking over the girls position left vacant by Kebler. Sainz is to coach the B'team with Danny Young coaching the ninth grade, Mack Wilder the eighth, Bob Bolton the seventh and Ann Baldwin returning to pilot the VJHS girls.

Aldrich and Ed Jones are to take over the track program after Greene leaves with Tarpley moving in to help Brooks as head baseball coach.

Jenkins is also to be head golf and tennis coach with John Booth coaching the Kittens netters. Hyder and

Waters are to pilot the physical training courses, Bazemore concluded.

Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

Kebler's Leaving For His 1st Love

With his mind made up, his future at stake and his first love in sight, one of Valdosta's most successful basketball coaches is on his way out.

Steve Kebler, the man who put both Lowndes and Valdosta High School girls' basketball teams on the road to success can't hack it any more. It has finally become too obvious to him he won't get anywhere in basketball.



MILLER

There were no hard feelings, when Kebler told Valdosta High School officials he won't be back to coach the team of Kittens he turned into one of the top 16 in the state this year.

Things just didn't work out the way he had hoped they would. After long hours of soul searching and unanswered questions, he's decided to get out. And somewhere in the back of his mind is a picture of the sport he really loves—Baseball.

It was baseball that made Kebler one of the best-liked men in the business instead of maybe a prisoner in some public work camp. He had a good start in the latter di-

rection.

"I was a juvenile delinquent," readily admits the Pontiac, Mich. native. "I had a lot of problems when I was young. I ran around with a crowd that fought and stole hubcaps after my father died and my mother had to work at night and had no control over me.

"Then Waldo Ashley, a baseball coach back home introduced me to baseball. Baseball let me explode a little. You know how it is. I'm the emotional type who likes to holler. In baseball you can vent your emotions. When you get through you sit down and shut up. Basketball is too confining.

"I was frustrated as a kid, just immature you know. I could take it out playing ball. I just love it. It was something to remember," I don't remember my dad real good but I do remember he once brought home a dime store catcher's mitt and we would play catch."

Those memories are pushing Kebler back to baseball. So far he has only tendered his resignation from VHS. Folks think it was to go into the insurance business with his father-in-law. But he has several things going, among them hopes to enter the junior college baseball coaching profession.

... No Great Demand

"I've got several things going," he revealed "But I don't think I'll be in coaching unless I can coach baseball on say a junior college level.

"It's not that I didn't enjoy basketball. I loved it. But let's face it there's not any great demand for a girl's basketball coach. There's no place to go up to.

Kebler had gotten into ninth grade football thinking there was possibly a chance there. Somehow in the back of his mind

Valdosta Netters Trip LHS

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta and Lowndes got together for a Region 1-AAA high school tennis match here Wednesday. But when the dust had settled it turned out all Valdosta.

Coach Conrad Harris' Valdosta Wildcats skuttled Lowndes' Vikings 10-0 while coach John Booth's freshman studded Kittens defeated the Viketees 5-1.

The 5-0 'Cats and 5-3-1 Kittens are scheduled to travel to Tifton for another region match against Tift County's Blue Devils and Angels today.

Individual results follow:

GIRLS

Singles - Kay Holland (v) beat Melissa Hunnicutt (L), 6-4, 7-9, 6-1;

Barham Saico (L) beat Lavoe Griffin (V), 6-4, 6-4; Gina Clayton (V) beat Cindy Spriggs (L), 8-1, pro set; Alice Reddick (V) beat Jane Barrales (L), 8-3, pro set.

Doubles - Reddick - Clayton (V) beat Hunnicutt Springle, 8-6 pro set; Kathy Reddick Pam Holland beat Spriggs - Barrales, 12-10, pro set.

BOYS

Singles - Billy Anderson (V) beat Andy Davis (L) 2-6, 6-1, 6-2; Matt Smith

(V) beat Jonathan Parrott (L) 6-2, 6-0; Richard Tomlinson (V) beat John Mitchell (L) 6-1, 6-2; Richard Harris (V) beat Steve Bouer (L) 6-4, 6-1; Chuck Darnell (V) beat Dennis Blaker (L) 6-3, 6-0; Scott Alderman (V) beat Rusty Acree (L) 6-3, 6-1; Jimmy Wright (V) beat Ken Harrison (L) 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles - Smith-Tomlinson beat Parrott-Davis 6-2, 9-7; Turner-Folsom beat Wade-Blaker 2-6, 6-3, 6-0; Allen-Darnell beat Bouer-Acree 6-3, 6-0.

Sub-Region Track

Greene Picks Vikes, 'Dogs

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats are pinning their hopes on the talents of five team members as they travel to Fitzgerald today to participate in the Region 1-AAA (South) sub-region track meet.

We have maybe five members I think can win a berth in the region track meet said, head coach Charlie Greene.

He named Tobie Berrien and Jerome Nathan in the broad and triple jumps, Noah Fountain in the shot and discus and Mike Bennett in the discus with Roberts Demps a possible winner in the 880.

Overall however, he rated the sub region title as a tossup between Thomasville and

Lowndes.

"I feel like probably Lowndes or Thomasville will win it," Greene said. "Lowndes is fairly strong in the high jumps and pole vault and prints.

"Thomasville is strongest in the running events."

The top three finishers in each event earn berths in the Region 1-AAA meet against the top three finishers from the Region 1-AAA North meet.

Greene figures Deugherty has a firm hold on that sub-region title.

"They'll probably win the region too," Green said. "They'll bring a lot of men to the region meet while Lowndes and Thomasville will split each other."

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In 7-2 Runaway

Fitzgerald Buries 'Dosta Again

By JULIAN MILLER

It was a seven-inning game but it only took the first and last for Fitzgerald's Hurricanes to put together their 13 hits and Valdosta's six errors and to deliver a 7-2 defeat to the Wildcats in a high school baseball game here Saturday.

The undefeated Hurricanes backed up a Valdosta error on the first batter with a triple and two singles to take a 3-0 lead in the first inning, then put together six singles and another error for a four-run outburst in the seventh inning to add to the stumbling Wildcats' miseries.

"Stupid errors," said VHS coach Butch Brooks after his 7-5 Wildcats had dropped their fourth straight game and fifth in the last six outings.

"We really played some good baseball except for two innings and then we made such stupid errors.

"And once again we couldn't get a hit with a man on base. We stranded, how many, seven? They (Fitzgerald) brought in almost every man they put on." The Wildcats racked up eight hits including a 345-foot solo homerun by second sacker Nicky Mullis, his first of the season. But that was

no match for the now 13-0 Hurricanes who racked up 13 in their second win over VHS.

"We hit the ball," Brooks said. "We really did. But we hit it right at somebody. Some of them were sure hits but fell right into somebody's glove every time."

Fitzgerald's Glen Stokes started things off in the top of the first when he reached on an error by Valdosta's Bob Saunders. David Hobby, the next man up slammed a triple and The 'Canes had a 1-0 lead with more to come. Hobby scored seconds later when Lee Massee tapped out a single and Massee followed

suit two batters later on Craig Seagraves' single.

Valdosta tried to comeback but couldn't even get a hit until Mullis came up for his first time at bat. His first swing sent the ball over the 338-foot sign in dead center for a solo homer and things looked better for the 'Cats.

But there were no more runs until the final frame and four of those five went to Fitzgerald, two of them on a disputed play in right field. Stokes again led off with a double followed by Hobby who hit into an error on the usually stable Saunders.

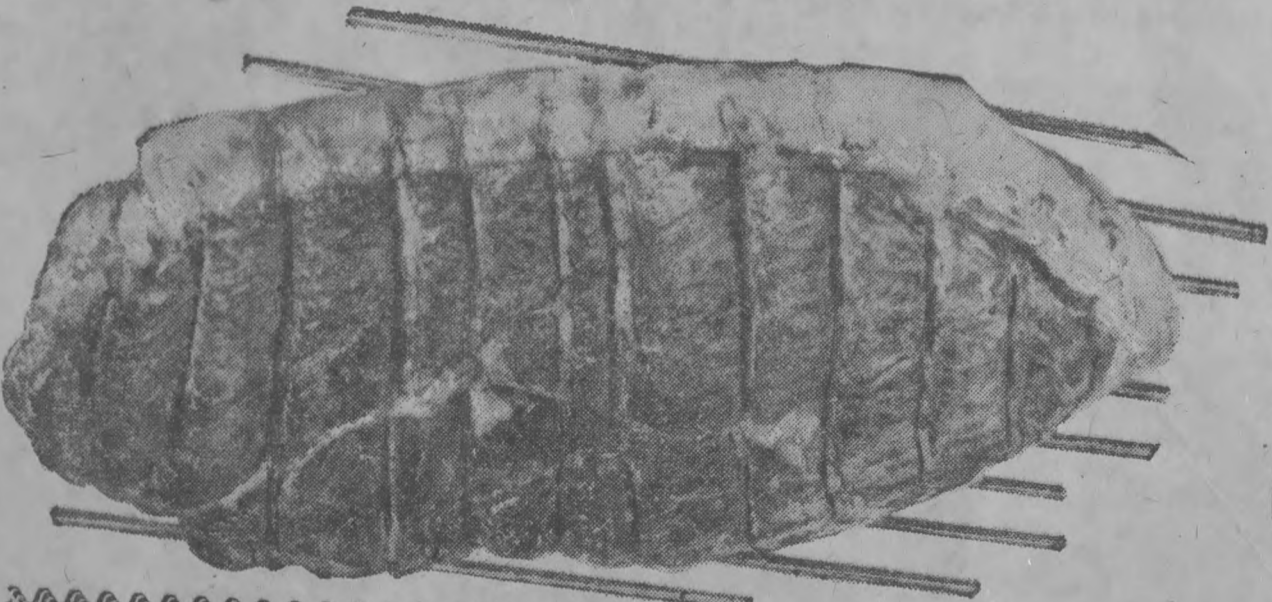
Stokes scored on Massee's second single of the day and Glen Davis' single plated Hobby.

It was then that Seagraves hit a line shot to right field where Tony Washington leaped up, snagged the parent homer and crashed into the retaining fence.

When he bounced off the fence, the ball bounced off of his glove and ump Tommy Haines signaled catch. With Washington trapped under the fence Davis scored and Seagraves moved to third. He later scored on Seamer's single. Valdosta's final run



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'Dosta, LHS To Compete At Region Track Meet

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Newnan Sanchez and Charlie Greene take their Lowndes Vikings and Valdosta Wildcats to the Region 1-AAA high school track meet in Fitzgerald today, each almost sure of a Dougherty High victory.

Sanchez brings 13 cindermen from his Lowndes track team to the meet while Greene takes three members of his team who won starting sports in the sub-region meet held last week.

Dougherty's Trojans bring 24 qualifiers to the meet to defend their title, while Thomasville's Bulldogs, the Region 1-AAA (South) champs bring 16.

Valdosta's three entries include Robert Demps in the 880 run, Noah Fountain in the shot and Tobie Berrien in the triple

jump.

Lowndes competitors include George Stickeir in the shot; Ronnie Daniels and Larry Powell in the high jump; Calvin Lewis in the pole vault and low hurdles; James Tyson in the pole vault; Donald Green in the triple jump; Ben Stringfield in the long jump; Kenny Kovack in the high hurdles; Jack Cook in the 880; and Bill Howell in the 100 and 220.

Sanchez gave the best chances of finishing in one of the top two positions to qualify for the state Class AAA meet to Powell in the high jump, Lewis in the pole vault and Howell in the 100. Greene believes all three of his cindermen have the potential but admits "they'll have to have a good day."

VOT Awards Announced

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Winners of Valdosta High School's outstanding Vocational Office Training (VOT) student awards have been announced:

They are:

Miss Teri Evans and Linda Eckrote, both winners of the Fay Tilkenton award; Miss Glin Webb, Loyalty award; and Miss Becky Parker, winner of the Miss Soc (Spirit of Cooperation) award.

The awards were made Thursday night at VOT's first annual employer-employee appreciation banquet held at VHS.

According to Mrs. June Cottle, VOT coordinator, about 90 persons attended the meeting, including guest speaker Dr. Sharon Presson of Valdosta State College's business and education department, and other high school officials.

Thomas To Talk At VHS Banquet

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta State College baseball coach Tommy Thomas is to be the guest speaker when Valdosta High School honors its baseball Wildcats for the first time at the first annual baseball banquet here Wednesday.

Head coach Butch Brooks said the banquet is to get underway at 7 p.m. at the school cafeteria with all members invited free. New members of the booster's club operating in its first year ever, may join at the door.

Awards to be presented include the most valuable player, spirit, Charles Reed Memorial Award for sportsmanship, best offensive player, best defensive player, bench jockey, most improved player, and most outstanding pitcher.

Scholarship To Be Given

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A special scholarship is to be presented to a Valdosta High School student tonight by the Valdosta Association of Educators at its annual banquet meeting.

According to VAE president Ruth Council, the grant is to be given to a student who plans to enter the teacher profession.

Also during the banquet 11 teachers who plan to retire in June are to be cited for their service.

New officers for 1974-75 are to be installed and Janetta Paulk, curriculum director at Fitzgerald, is to speak.

The banquet to begin at 7 p. m. at VHS.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Tues., May 7, 1974 —8—

Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

Billy Ends Year As Top Pitcher

Billy DeMersseman started the season hoping to be one of the best sophomore shortstops in Region 1-AAA this year. He ended up as the number one pitcher.



MILLER

region this year came from this city. The other was another shortstop turned pitcher, William Howell of Lowndes High School.

The right handed Viking was really too valuable at shortstop to put on the mound. But on several occasions Coach Noel George had no other choice. Two occasions to be specific. He won both of them to keep the Vikings in the running for the sub-region crown until the last week of play.

Tied for second with David Demersseman and Williams was Moultrie's Tommy Tyree.

The Valdosta high school baseball star was called upon to help fill out the Wildcat pitching staff when his older brother, David, who was billed as VHS' top hurler, was sidelined with a head injury.

Three decisions produced three wins for the best record of any pitcher in the region according to the unofficial stats released Monday by region statistician Elwood Moyer of Columbus.

David, by the way, who ended up almost as an assistant coach after being told he could play no more this season, finished in a three way tie for second.

In fact, three of the five undefeated pitchers in the



—Times Staff Photo

What Is The Answer?

group didn't win, they gained a little experience to help them in a similar tournament in Thomasville today. The Thomasville competition, called the Rose Bowl Noesis Tournament, was to be part of the Rose Bowl festivities. The Academic Bowl was a first-time experience for the students.

Becky Parker, Bruce Hornbuckle, Nicola Redmon and E. C. Painter (from left) check their answers to questions during recent competition with other high schools in the Academic Bowl at Georgia Southern College in Americus. The questions were from basic high school study areas. Although the

Valdosta High Senior Wins 2 DCT Awards

A senior Outstanding District Nurse TIMES STAFF WRITER

A Valdosta High School senior was honored as the Outstanding Student of the District and winner in the nurses aide competition at the annual employers-employees banquet for the Diversified Cooperative Training program Tuesday.

Deborah Marositz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Marositz of 717 Langdale Drive, was honored at the DCT banquet by her classmates, instructors and employer.

Coordinator of the DCT program, Jim Horn was presented a plaque of appreciation for his service to the club by the students. Horn is resigning from the VHS faculty this year after 14 years of association with the program.

During the banquet four local employers were also

presented with plaques of appreciation and named honorary life members of DCT: Charles Eidson, personnel director at South Georgia Medical Center; Warren Bowdoin, printing instructor at VHS; M. E. Nichols, coordinator of federal programs in Lowndes County; and Frank Southwell, chairman of Vica Club Advisory Committee.

About 200 people attended the banquet, according to Ledy Taylor, DCT instructor. He explained that as a district winner Miss Marositz is to compete at the state convention in Atlanta beginning Friday.

The nurses aide competition is a skill contest, according to Miss Marositz, where the aides show their ability in working with patients.

An employe at SGMC, Deborah plans to become a registered nurse after graduation from nursing school. She said she is to go to Georgia Baptist School of Nursing in Atlanta after graduation from VHS this June.

An honor graduate, she is a member of Beta Club and the Foreign Languages Club. Miss Marositz has been selected for Who's Who in Outstanding American Students and the Society of Outstanding American High School Students.

She is president of her Sunday school class at Forrest Street United Methodist Church.

According to Taylor, the DCT program has training in job areas from carpentry and nursing to brick laying. DCT provides on-the-job training in the trade and professional occupations, he said.

DCT has 102 students enrolled in the program this



-Times Staff Photo

Miss Marositz With Outstanding Student Trophy

year, he added, with over 90 local employers. Taylor said the annual banquet provides the opportunity for students in DCT to show their appreciation to the employers for their participation in the program.

Whitehead, 'Cats Nip Pack

By JULIAN MILLER
Moultrie's Packers got another lesson in why the game's not over until the final out here Friday and Cecil Whitehead was the instructor.

The Valdosta High School catcher cracked a bases-loaded line drive over second base into a two-base error to score three runs in the bottom of the last frame and gave the Wildcats a 5-4 victory over the visiting Packers in their Region 1-AAA (South) baseball showdown.

The victory not only put the 'Cats of coach Butch Brooks back on the winning path, but it threw the region title race into utter chaos, leaving four of the five sub region teams tied for the lead with less than a week to go.

"I just got a great bunch of boys," exclaimed Brooks after his team had racked up its second victory of the season over the Packers. "I've got a great bunch of young men."

Brooks had all but given up on the victory after the Pack had taken a 4-0 lead the 'Cats seemed to be unable to overcome. He had already played

17 members of his squad with mostly substitutes on the lineup when the seventh inning started.

But it was then the Valdosta breaks started coming through.

First, with only one out, Valdosta's Tony Alcorn barely beat out a single. Then Danny Shiver, the Pack's usually stable second baseman bobbled an error that allowed Mike Atkinson to reach and Chip Moore, loaded the bases when Moultrie pitcher Hal Jenkins tried to throw out Alcorn at third instead of going to first on Moore's fielder's choice.

It was then Whitehead came up to the plate and with one mighty swing sent the ball bouncing happily over second. Centerfielder Bill Groff went down to scoop up the baseball but it bounded over his glove and through his legs.

But the time he had run down the loose ball Moore was scoring the winning run and Whitehead was jumping up and down on third base. That's where the game ended.

"I was looking for a fast ball and he threw it," a breathless Whitehead said after his drive

had won the game. "I knew we'd won when he (Groff) missed it."

The victory was Valdosta's second over the Pack after taking a 3-2 victory in Moultrie earlier. Valdosta is now the only sub-region team to defeat the Packers and they have done it twice to leave Moultrie, Valdosta, Lowndes and Thomasville tied for the sub-region lead. Sub-region games must be completed by Friday.

It also handed Jenkins, a hard throwing lefthander his second loss of the season while dropping the Packers to 9-4.

Moultrie had first picked up a run in the top of the first when leadoff batter Groff singled, and scored on Paul Lanier's sacrifice fly.

In the second, the visitors made it 4-0 when Bud Newton, Dennis Eldridge and Groff each scored. Newton singled and came home when starting pitcher Larry Hansen walked Brad Smith with the bases loaded and Jenkins' double plated Eldridge and Groff.

The 'Cats cut the lead to 4-1 when Alcorn walked and scored

on Whitehead's single in the third, and to 4-2 when Bob White walked and scored on Nicky Mullis' single in the sixth.

Valdosta is scheduled to meet Lanier County's Bulldogs today at Pendleton Park here in a game beginning at 2 p.m.

Wildcat Box

MOULTRIE		VALDOSTA				
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi			
Groff cf	5 2 1 0	Alcorn lf	3 2 1 0			
Smith ss	7 0 0 1	Atkins cf	4 1 2 0			
Shiver, 2b	3 0 1 0	Hlembe ss	3 0 0 0			
Jenkins p	4 0 1 2	Moore 2b	1 1 0 0			
Lanier c	3 0 0 1	Whithd c	4 0 2 3			
Rbrsn 1b	3 0 0 0	Spell rf	1 0 0 0			
Clark 3b	2 0 1 0	Jennings rf	1 0 0 0			
Newton lf	4 1 2 0	White rf	0 1 0 0			
Eldridge rf	4 1 0 0	Brown rf	0 0 0 0			
Total	28 4 6 4	Hilton 3b	2 0 0 0			
		Stull 3b	0 0 0 0			
		Hansen p	0 0 0 0			
		Sndrs p	1 0 0 0			
		Mullis 2b-ss	1 0 1 1			
		Bknight 1b	1 0 0 0			
		Chpmn 1b	1 0 0 0			
		E. Dmrnsu 2b-p	3 0 0 0			
		Totals	26 5 6 4			
Moultrie	130 000 0-4 5-2					
Valdosta	001 001 3-5 6-4					
E— Smith, Shiver 2, Groff, Stull						
Speli; DP—Smith to Shiver to Roberson,						
ton; LOB—Moultrie 11, Valdosta; 2B—						
Jenkins, Atkinson; SB—Smith, Shiver,						
S—Stull; SF—Lanier.						
	ip	h	r	er	bb	so
Hansen (1-3,2)	1 2-3 3	4	1	4	3	
Saunders	1 1-3 0	0	0	2	0	
DeMerssemar	4	3	0	0	1	2
HBP—Lanier	by	Hansen;	WP—			
Saunders						

VAE Grant Goes To Bea

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta Association of Educators awarded Valdosta High School senior Alfred Bea the teacher education scholarship at their annual banquet Tuesday night.

The association also honored 11 teachers with 326 years total teaching experience who are retiring this June and installed new VAE officers for 1974-75.

Bea, who plans to attend Valdosta State College after graduation from VHS this June, has been an active member of the Distributive Education curriculum.

Chosen Outstanding Male Student of the Year for DE the first black to win the award, and vice-president of the club, he is sports editor of the school newspaper and a member of Student Action for Georgia Educators.

The scholarship is designed to update and improve the teacher education profession here by awarding a \$450 grant to a student intending to enter the education field at VSC, according to outgoing VAE president Ruth Council.

Retiring teachers were saluted by the association, with eight of the 11 teachers having

over 25 years of teaching experience behind them.

Recognized were: Miriam Anderson and Nell Greene, Sallas-Mahone; Alice Dewar, Mary Hewett and Rosamond Mosely, Valdosta Junior High School; Elena Johnson and Viola Williams, Southeast; Marion Johnson, Leila Ellis; Martha Oliver, W.G. Nunn; Idella Prine, West Gordon; and Ernestine Williams, S.L. Mason.

Association officers for 1974-75 were installed by district director for Georgia Association of Educators A.T. Johnson.

New VAE president is Mike Rogers, former STAR teacher of the VHS mathematics department.

Other officers include Ross Hudson, president-elect; Alfred Hiers, first vice-president; David Badcock, second vice-president; Ethel Keys,



ALFRED BEA
Receives Grant

treasurer; Isiah Isom, parliamentarian; Jo Swingley, recording secretary; and Mary Clark, corresponding secretary.

Guest speaker at the banquet was Janetta Paulk, curriculum director from Fitzgerald City and Ben Hill County schools.

VHS Choir Sets Concert

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta High School choir and The Revelers are to present a concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the VHS Little Theater.

According to J. Herman Revels, choir director, a special guest performance is to be given by Shaun Griffin, VHS student who recently won the state AAA piano contest.

Revels said another choir member, Marie Seymore, was second runner up in the state vocal meet.

Julian

Miller

Times Sports Editor

Rome Ready To Be An Unknown Again

Stanford Rome has had enough publicity from his sports achievement to make any high school kid's mouth water.

But while other kids yearn to be as popular as this Valdosta High School senior, what does Rome yearn for?



MILLER

"I'm ready to start all over as a freshman, in a town where nobody knows me. Man, I can't wait for that life," the Wildcat superstar admits.

For the 6-foot-4, 205-pounder, stardom has been no picnic.

"Every place you go people are saying, 'yeah that's him'." You can't ever be yourself."

It has also forced Stanford into many decisions most high school kid shouldn't have to make.

It was hard enough having almost every college in the nation chewing at the bits for a chance to give him a scholarship. How do you pick one college out of all

of them.

But to make matters even worse, most of them were after him for two sports making the choice that much harder. Should he play football, basketball or both?

Rome chose basketball and Clemson simultaneously. That should have ended the decisions. But they're only just beginning.

Rome now has another decision, he's been invited to play in the Seamco Classic cage tournament in New York with 10 of the top high school athletes in the country, and he's been chosen to play in the Georgia Coaches Association high school All-Star game to be played here in the summer.

Rome would like nothing better than to play in the Atlanta game, but the Georgia Coaches Association is following the same guidelines as those set by the Georgia High School Association when it was putting on the tournament. That means he can't play in both.

Can't Play In Both

It would be fine with Seamco, a tournament set up to help raise money for the American Cancer Society. But the Georgia game won't allow him to play in the high school all-star game if he plays in New York.

It didn't take long for Rome to make up his mind. He's never been to New York. It'll be the only chance he gets to play with the likes of Moses Malone, the only high school player ever drafted by the pros, and his first chance to play with Skip Wise, another All-American and a future teammate of Rome's at Clemson.

The Georgia High School Association actually has the players own good at stake. The Georgia games is sanctioned by the GHSA and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. But the Seamco is sanctioned by neither.

To play in an unsanctioned game before graduation would end his high school status, officials explained. And if he played after graduation it could cause the player to lose a year of eligibility in college.

Rome understands all that, but Clemson has okayed his playing in the Seamco and he feels he should be given a chance to play in both.

"I think it's dumb, really," Rome said. "You know, I could understand if I was still playing high school basketball. But that's all over now?"

It's really good publicity for Georgia to have players in these big games like this. I know of several other players who are supposed to be playing on this Georgia All-Star game who played in these other tournaments. I don't know if any of them were sanctioned or not but if they don't let any of them play it's not going to be much of an All-Star game."

The Blazers...
...at gave the...
...a scheduled...
...the third in-...
...me with West...
...ere Saturday...
...Branam in a...
...ve Traynor and...
...sted effort for...
...rallied and took a 4-2 lead in the...
...the rains came... and came...
...halfway point and was canceled as...
...was the second contest. The two teams...
...will try again today at 2 p.m. at Bla-
...zer Field on VSC's North Campus.



—Times Staff Photo

Just Before The Hanging: Mrs. Smith Poses With Some Of Her Paintings

Patsy To Have First Show

By MARY CROUSE
Her work reflects her thoughts, feelings and impressions of things around her. And the charm and warmth Patsy Carroll Smith's art efforts convey are the artist

herself. Mrs. Smith, a member of the highly regarded Valdosta High School Art Department, is displaying her art endeavors in a one-woman show this month at South Georgia Regional Library here.

This is the first time the popular artist has ever had her own private showing which opens to the public this afternoon.

And she is a little nervous. "Only because I've never had one before. I've always painted, drawn and done textile work for my family friends and students. It's a work of love for me," she said.

That love of art comes through in her efforts. In this collection are 30 water colors, graphics, acrylics and pencil sketches.

She considers herself a Sunday painter and hates to sell her work. It's that personal.

But Patsy Smith, wife of pharmacist Tom B. Smith Jr., is far from a Sunday painter.

Her style is influenced by artists Andrew Wythe and Ron Vickery.

"I'm an old fashioned painter. I paint for pleasure and don't follow any set pattern in art. I paint everything from bulldogs to my son's clothing," she said.

Sitting in her office at Valdosta High, Mrs. Smith said she was reared on a farm as a child and likes barns, flowers, natural surroundings and that sort of thing Wythe has a great influence on me," said Mrs. Smith.

The vivacious artist, Valdosta teacher of the year this year, said she has been encouraged by some art professors to go into abstract forms.

This isn't her style or direction.

"I guess I've not considered a well rounded artist. Most of my work is realistic and naturalistic. I try to put feeling in my work and if it is pleasing to those who look at it, I'm happy," she said.

Mrs. Smith's work also is well known. She is a former University of Georgia student and her paintings of the school mascot Uga, the English bulldog, are famous in the area.

Almost as popular as the VHS Wildcats which she has reproduced on glasses given at local service stations and the Chamber of Commerce. Her painting of the huge Wildcat at VHS's Cleveland Field is legendary.

When she moved up from the elementary school

students together and painted dozens of murals for the walls, decorated the trash cans with pop art and Disney characters and made paper weights for the other faculty members.

When she transferred to VHS and took over the art services classes, the gracious teacher was bombarded with requests from civic groups to businesses to help decorate their store windows and participate in their projects. But Mrs. Smith does her work with a smile and limitless enthusiasm.

Some of her work is so light and appealing to the eye the observer feels one of the butterflies hovering over a flower of boat might fly off the canvas.

Her work is to be up for public viewing for the entire month. Open house is from 4-5:30 p.m. today.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Thur., May 9, 1974 —19—

Thomas Challenges 'Cats

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Valdosta's Wildcats themselves challenged a man who's been there at the first annual Valdosta High School baseball banquet here Wednesday night.

Valdosta State College's successful baseball coach Tommy Thomas, who got his start in baseball at VHS, challenged the Wildcats to be their own men and to work to succeed in the academic world as they have worked to succeed in sports.

Thomas was the speaker at the banquet, sport-

sored by the VHS Baseball Booster's Club, an organization begun just this year by head coach Butch Brooks.

About 50 people turned out to honor the 1974 Wildcats, who rallied late in the season to the Moultrie for the Region 1-AAA

(South) sub region championship, forcing a playoff.

"I challenge you to be your own men, to stand up for your principles and not to do things because you think others expect it of you."

"Some people think you've got to do these things to get accepted even though you know

they're wrong." He mentioned smoking, drinking and drug use.

"Some say it's a sign of strength. I say you're gutless," Thomas said.

He also had some questions for the Wildcats.

"Are you a fair weather player?" he asked. "The kind who goes four for four with four runs batted in and you're a great guy to get along with?"

"What about the days you go zero for four with four K's, or you're a pitcher who gets shell shocked in the first inning? Are you the kind of person who then loses his temper?"

Thomas disagreed with both theories. "It's not whether you win or lose but how you play the game," and "It's how you win or lose." He called both "hogwash."

"You should

play the game, not whether you win or lose." He called both "hogwash."

The spirit award went to David Demerssem, who was sidelined with

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is Unique in the Mid-Size Field

GRAN TORINO BROUGHAM



SCHAUNE GRIFFIN
Wants To Travel

Diocesan Convention, delegate to EYC convention and on the liturgical commission.

The VHS student, who lived in France from four years old to eight and learned to read and write French before English, is eagerly anticipating a visit this summer with friends in Paris and Grenoble.

She is also going to church camp this summer in John's Island, S. C.

Her father, Lt. Col. William C. Griffin, is a professor of aerospace studies at Valdosta State College. Her mother plans to teach kindergarten next year.

William Griffin, her 10-year-old brother who is a student at Sallas Mahone Elementary School, is also a talented pianist, according to his sister.

Valdosta, Lowndes DE Students Win

By TIMES STAFF WRITER
CHICAGO—Three Valdosta area high school students took top honors as finalists in the National Distributive Education Clubs of America conference here this month.

The students were selected after competing in various job categories with thousands of students from across the country.

The students are: —Judy Wetherington, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ralph Wetherington and a student at Valdosta High School.

—Pam O'Steen, 18-year-old senior at Lowndes High School and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert O'Steen of Valdosta.

—Barry Godfrey, 17-year-old junior at Lowndes High and son of the Rev. and Mrs. H.C. Godfrey of Valdosta.

The five-day conference brought together the top students from the 52 state associations of DECA clubs representing 160,000 members to compete for national honors and to develop into future leaders for marketing distribution.

The DE Club is an organization whose program of leadership, personal development and career encouragement is designed specifically for students enrolled in distributive education.

Advisor for Miss Wetherington was Norman Greene of VHS. Phil Walden of Lowndes High was the advisor for Miss O'Steen and Godfrey.

Walden said the event gave the students a "good opportunity" to develop techniques vital for their own career fields.

Miss Wetherington placed in the marketing competition. This category was described as an effort to "improve, expand or evaluate" marketing principles and practices in a selected industry of the business economy and to provide an opportunity for individual study and research by a DECA member in his career objective area.

Miss O'Steen participated in the area of distribution manuals competition described as an experience in research, selection and

organization of information for practical use in one area or phase of marketing and distribution.

Godfrey, Lowndes DECA president, took part in the sales demonstration series competition in automotive and petroleum marketing.

On State Level

The Dosta Outlook Racks Up Awards

By TIMES STAFF WRITER
The Valdosta High School newspaper took top honors with several of its staff members enhancing the glory with individual awards.

The awards were given when more than 1,200 high school journalists from around the state met at the University of Georgia in Athens for a one-day Georgia Scholastic Press Association convention on May 3.

During the activities, The Dosta Outlook was awarded a General Excellence Plaque for senior high school printed newspapers in the large school category.

Bruce Hornbuckle, The Outlook's editor, was named one of the runnersup in competition for the Georgia Champion High School Journalist of the year and won third place in a general features category.

Jerome Sirmans of Valdosta won first place under Best Sports Photo.

Under sports features, Kim Smith placed second with a story on VHS Coach Charlie Greene entitled "You're a Good Man Charlie Greene". Lee McMichael won second

place for a feature on a VHS student who has curvature of the spine.

Susan Davis won third in competition for the best story on broadcasting.

VHS also claimed honors with having a person elected as an officer of the GSPA for the second year in a row

Russell Blocker, a VHS sophomore, was elected president by a voting committee comprised of three delegates from each school.

Hornbuckle was GSPA vice-president during the previous year.

The GSPA officers are to represent the organization at district workshops and press conventions during the year throughout the state. The representatives are also to publish monthly a GSPA bulletin.

Workshops were held throughout the day in the various aspects of journalism including editorializing yearbook publishing, broadcasting, sports writing and others.

Speaker for the 47th annual GSPA convention was Jocelyn Dorsey, a new reporter for an Atlanta television station.

Curiosity Turns His Eyes Toward Journalistic Field

By DAVE RONNINGEN

Curiosity started the wheels turning and may have determined a career in journalism for a local student. When he was a freshman, Valdosta High School sophomore Russell Blocker knew only what a newspaper looked like. But when he began to select sophomore courses, his curiosity of how a newspaper was composed, led the youth to sign up for two quarters of journalism.

Now, only a few months, later his curiosity was rewarded when he was elected by delegates from 250 state high schools to be president of the Georgia Scholastic Press Association.

Blocker was voted to the office during the 47th annual GSPA convention held at the University of Georgia at Athens earlier this month.

The GSPA is an organization of high school publications and is sponsored by the university's school of Journalism.

Blocker's name was submitted as a possible candidate with 13 other students but with the help of his campaign manager, Bruce Hornbuckle, he won the position by three votes over the closest opponent.

Bruce Hornbuckle of VHS is outgoing vice-president of the organization.

As president, Blocker is to write editorials for a monthly GSPA bulletin, attend workshops on state and district levels and is to preside over next year's GSPA convention.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Blocker of 1225 Thomwall St., he is now hoping to put his journalism knowledge to use in writing for the school newspaper and for the GSPA bulletin.

"I am looking forward to being on the Dosta Outlook staff," he said.

"If possible I will go to the University of Georgia and major in journalism," he replied when asked of his future plans.

The student added he hoped to participate in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program while in college.

Blocker was one of 1,000 student journalists and faculty advisors attending the convention.

VHS earned recognition when the school newspaper brought back an award of excellence in the large school category and several individual awards.



—Times Staff Photo

Blocker: A First For City School As State Press President Next Year

VHS Band Sets Spring Concert

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Valdosta High School band is to present its spring concert Friday at 8 p. m. at Mathis city auditorium.

The concert band is to present a varied program for its yearly spring offering, according to a VHS music department spokesman.

Tickets are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students.

They are to be available at the box office and at Barnes Drugs, Barr Jewelers, M&M Music, Rutlands and People's Finance.

Valdosta High

Data Processing To Be Added

By BECKY CAPOTOSTI

Valdosta High School is one of 10 in the state to first offer a course in data processing on the high school level this year.

"Data processing is really lots of fun," according to Carol Irwin, the June '74 Valdosta State College graduate who is to instruct the course.

"I really think the kids would be interested."

"This is the first time the course is being offered in the state on a high school level," she said.

Only 10 schools from all over the state have been

chosen to introduce the course. The renewed concept of business and career training can be seen in the emphasis of new course offerings, Mrs. Irwin said.

Schools are going more to the vocational aspects of education, de-emphasizing the push toward college in the past.

The chance of seeing more courses like this is on the rise, since career preparation is gaining importance she added.

"We hope to expand the program and get into other machines," Mrs. Irwin said. The first quarter of the course

is to be devoted to the keypunch machine and to the meaning of data processing.

"Later, perhaps we can develop a two year program with on the job training," she said.

Data processing is a simple concept that can solve many information problems as difficult as the job that needs to be done.

The course is designed to teach students how to deal with large quantities of data so that it can be used as a decision tool by business.

Data processing really has a future, according to Mrs.

Irwin. The demand is high and the pay is good.

Because the cost of computers is going down, more businesses feel they can afford them, she said. Consequently, the demand for qualified data processors is on the rise.

Mrs. Irwin is enthusiastic about the course, and glad to see a renewed emphasis on practical experience. A student teacher at Lowndes High School until June, Mrs. Irwin is the first VSC student to graduate certified to teach data processing. She received the college business education department award this year.

The school is going to get some benefit from the course, too, she said. Students in the course are probably going to do some of the students' scheduled as part of their experience work in the field.

Boys Club Closing

May 29 - June 1

The Valdosta Boys Club is to be closed May 29 - June 1.

Club officials said repairs are to be done to the building during that time and the staff is to use the period for training sessions.

Nix Explains Mix-Up

Age Limit Clause Implemented Early

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The controversial age limit clause of the new Georgia Education Act was not intended to go into effect until a fully funded statewide kindergarten was implemented.

This was the contention of State School Supt. Jack Nix this morning at an early breakfast meeting with the Valdosta and Lowndes County boards of education.

He said in an interview that it would be several years before a statewide kindergarten is fully funded.

"And the idea was to put the age law into effect at that time. Somehow it got in the act that it would be effective in the fall of 1975," said Nix.

He said the Legislature is split on any modification of the law which says children entering the first grade must be six before or by Sept. 1 of that academic year.

The kindergarten law goes into effect this July which states children must be five on or before Sept. 1 to enter the pre-school program.

The statewide kindergarten has been approved by the General Assembly in the massive education act but not totally funded.

"The blue ribbon education committee which studied long and hard on this and a number of other school matters felt the law would go into effect after the kindergarten was statewide," said Nix.

He was here to tour the new \$4.5 million comprehensive Valdosta High School and to do some politicking. He said he is running for reelection to the state's top education post in the Democratic primary in August.

Nix has been in office since 1966.

He said most educators don't

want the age law changed back but there are several plans for modifying it under study.

One calls for the law to be postponed until the kindergartens are fully funded. Another puts it on the local school boards to administer readiness tests to the preschoolers. There is divided support on this, he said.

"The third one which is gaining support is moving the age limit to December the first

year, November the next year, October the next year and September in 1978. There are those who say this is just asking for a lot of fuss every year though," he said.

A native of White County, the University of Georgia graduate is a staunch supporter of vocational and pre-school programs.

"In a kindergarten a child learns self discipline and how to work and play with others.

At an early age we instill in him self pride, respect for work and respect for the right of others' to work and play. The earlier we can get a child the better off he is and the schools are and eventually the community," said Nix.

Instead of spending so much time on reading, writing and arithmetic in kindergarten, more efforts should be devoted to the child's attitudes, he added.

Campus Roundup

VHS Grad In Who's Who

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is about area college students who have distinguished themselves on campuses here and away from home.

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

A 1971 Valdosta High School graduate was named to the 1974 edition of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities at Georgia Southern College in Statesboro recently.

Martha Alice Giddens, daughter of Mrs. Alice Joe Giddens of Valdosta was one of 36 GSC selected for the honor. She is a home economics and journalism major.

Two Valdosta students, **David Tony Black** and **Ben F. Vick Jr.**, received diplomas from Harding College in Searcy, Ark., graduation exercises recently.

Black, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Black of 500 E. Rodgers St., is a religion major and planned to attend Harding graduate school in Memphis, Tenn.

Son of Mrs. **Ettie Vick** of 308 Virginia Ave., **Vick**, is a physical education major and plans to attend the Memphis School of Preaching.

Six area students were honored during an annual Honors Day program at Abraham Baldwin

Agricultural College in Tifton recently.

The six included **Annette Cooper**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cooper of Morven; **Sandra Flynt**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Flynt of Habira; **James Fountain**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Fountain of Ray City; **David Slowick**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tessie Slowick of Valdosta; **Fred Smotherman**, son of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Smotherman of Valdosta; **Eugene Beasley**, son of the Rev. and Mrs. D. E. Beasley of Lenox; and **Melita Easters**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Easters of Lenox.

Mis Cooper was named the Most Outstanding Student in Home Economics. She was also selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

Also chosen for the Who's Who honors was **Miss Flynt**. She was also named a Distinguished Honor Student during the honors day program. The home economics major is an honor society member and is secretary of the Student Government Association at ABAC.

Fountain was awarded a Superior Honor Student award. He is a sociology major.

A Computer Science major,

Slowick also received a Distinguished Honor student.

Smotherman was named Superior Honor Student for maintaining a high academic average.

Beasley, a secondary education major, took two departmental awards including one each in education and mathematics. He was also to be listed in the Who's Who edition and earned a Superior honor student rating.

Mis Easters took top honors in the journalism department. She is a public relations and agricultural journalism major and is the editor of the college newspaper, The Stallion.

City School Chief Fails To Obtain Bus Facilities

By CAREY CAMERON
T-U Georgia News Editor

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Valdosta school Supt. Foster Goolsby says he explored the possibility of contracting with Lowndes County to run city school buses and having failed "to get a positive response," contacted Valdosta Mayor Gil Harbin about the possibility of maintaining the buses at the city shops.

Harbin told him to contract Lowndes County school Supt. A. B. Martin, Goolsby said Tuesday.

Goolsby was responding to newspaper criticism of plans to park and service buses on the old Valdosta High campus, no longer used for high school classes.

Lowndes County Ordinary Norwood Holcombe Jr., who lives near the campus, has threatened to sue to block the use of the property for bus maintenance.

"To have gone out and built a facility with enough parking space would have cost \$100,000 and we don't have it right now," Goolsby said Tuesday.

There are facilities on the old high school campus and the buses will be parked on the Slater Street side, away from the residential areas on the Williams Street side, Goolsby explained.

MARTIN SAID he didn't close the door to providing mechanical service to the city buses, which are on order, but did tell Goolsby he didn't want to share any of the operation and routing problems.

The city school official didn't further pursue the possibility of sharing shop facilities with the county after being told this, Martin said.

Harbin said the city shop complex may have enough land to add bus service facilities but the city doesn't have room in its existing shop for working on buses.

"We don't have mechanics or a parts inventory and the county school system does have," the mayor said. "We do have the old shelter it took us 50 years to get out of. It would probably have to be torn down in order to build a place for the bus work. Of course if they want to use it under present conditions, they could. Its open

sided and cold."

THE ISSUE OF city school buses came up after the state decided for the first time to provide funds for busing to independent city systems.

Previously only county systems could get state money for this purpose.

Lowndes County operates some 65 buses and owns 70 whereas the city has ordered nine buses.

Complicating the situation is the question of merger of the systems themselves and the racial question.

A grand jury-recommended city-county committee is presently studying the pros and cons of merger.

Valdosta school board

member Joella Blackburn, speaking at a Monday night meeting, said she favors consolidation and noted, "It is silly for us to build a bus maintenance shop when the county already has one. This is just one of a number of duplication of services."

SOME PEOPLE fear merger of the system would immediately bring federal court attention to a situation under which Valdosta's elementary schools have been allowed to maintain a neighborhood plan.

Others fear that since the lack of a bus system is one reason the neighborhood plan was left alone, buying city buses may rock the

boat.

However, the buses are primarily for transporting high school and junior high students.

The city school system is almost 50 per cent black and white while the county system is 75 white to 25 black.

Mrs. Blackburn pointed out there may be new directives on busing regardless of whether there is a merger.

Obviously forced pairing within the city alone would bring about a 50-50 mixture to each school whereas (there would be some variances since the 50-50 wouldn't be true for every age group) forced pairing with both systems involved would maintain a white edge in most, if not all schools.

DE Awards

VHS Students Scrap For Gold

By ELIZABETH RIGSBY

Distributive Education students at Valdosta High School here have racked up medals for themselves in the DE Merit Awards Program (MAP).

According to DE coordinator Norman Greene, eight students have received the local Bronze awards, and 36 students have landed the state silver medals.

Thirteen students will also be vying during winter quarter for the coveted national gold merit awards.

Competing for national recognition are to be Lee Fouraker, Angelia Poirer, John Salter, Deborah Rust, Cathy Bennett, Sandra Campbell, Rebecca Cooley, Gary Johnson, Gary Mock, Tamie Sanders, Anne Sturgis, Robbie Jenkins and Robin Kindley.

According to Greene, the unique program allows a student to compete against himself rather than against other students.

A DE student must complete a certain number of DE activities to get each of the three medals.

The local bronze medal is awarded for 10 activities in five competency areas—economic understanding, production and service, knowledge, communication, human and public relations and marketing.

To achieve the bronze medal, a student must research the areas and make a written report.

"For example, a student might interview his boss and find out why he went into business for himself," Greene said.

After a bronze award is achieved, a student may earn a state silver medal with seven activities in the five areas.

"The silver medal is much more difficult to achieve because the student must analyze the information he gets and reflect the knowledge he acquired with the bronze activities," Greene said.

"The student who interviewed his boss might ask his advice and suggestions for going into business for himself and then will write whether he agrees or disagrees and why," the coordinator said.

The student who achieves a gold award should be able to interpret the knowledge he acquired with the bronze activities and be able to explain facts and give his opinion.

"Using the same example, the student who interviewed

The Valdosta Daily Times, Mon., Dec. 9, 1974 —3—

Young

Ideas...

his boss about self-employment should be able to interpret factors which would influence self-employment and list considerations a person should make before entering self-employment," Greene said.

Greene praised the program which he said encourages students to learn more and provides recognition for them.

The coordinator, who likened MAP to the Boy Scout program, has 58 students in the program this quarter.

"It's the most we've ever had to compete for he awards and the most to receive the silver medals," Greene said.

"Last year we only had 23 silver medal winners and no gold medal recipients," he said, "but two years ago we had four gold medal winners."

State silver winners are to be recognized at a banquet at a state leadership conference in Atlanta March 16-18 with local bronze winners honored at a DE Employer-Employee banquet in the spring.

VHS Has Tough Weekend Ahead

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Facing what he calls the "premier ballclub in south Georgia" Friday night, Valdosta High head coach Joe Wilson knows his young pack of Wildcats have more than trouble on their hands. They're in an absolute dilemma.

Especially since after the Bainbridge Bearcats make their appearance here Friday, the scrappy Lowndes High Vikings make the crosstown trip on Saturday.

That makes two tough teams in two nights in a year when Wilson is only hoping for the best anyway after the graduation of three starters including All-America Stan Rome.

"We haven't played since last Tuesday," Wilson said. "I was hoping we could use the time to work out a few things, but now I think it's been too long a layoff."

"We've been trying to work on a zone defense to try to defend against the (Jack) Washington boy from Bainbridge. He's probably one of the best in the state this year."

Washington is a 6-6 Mr. Everything for the Bearcats.

Last season, he socked home 20 points a game and pulled down more than his share of rebounds.

The Bainbridge quintet also returns two other starters off last year's Region 1-AAA runner-up squad. So far, the Bearcats are strolling through the season with a 5-0 mark.

Coch Charles Cooper's Lowndes High Vikings are looking for revenge after coming up short during Rome's glory years with the VHS five.

They've piled up a 3-2 record this year, falling only to Bainbridge and the always powerful Berrien County Rebels. The Vikes whipped Tift County's Blue Devils who haven't been beaten since. That Tift string includes a win over the 2-2 Wildcats.

"Lowndes is like us," Wilson said. "They don't have a whole lot of size, but they're a hustling ballclub."

Wilson did say 6-7 sophomore Jeff Sermans would definitely see some action this weekend, especially against the tall and talented Bearcats.

Sermans lacks any hint of quickness, but does have a soft shooting touch, and his size

assures him of several rebounds a game whether he ever leaves the floor or not.

Ever the optimist, Valdosta High Kittens' head coach Glen Phelps believes his girls have the talent and desire to take

pretty quick. It's hard to get inside on them.

"We've moved Pat Nathan from guard to forward to try to get some more height under the offensive boards. We've also been working on our outside shooting."

Most of the Kittens' points this season have come within 10 feet of the hoop except for sporadic bursts by freshman Lisa Feix from outside.

Phelps sees Lowndes as a mature and experienced ballclub, while his own girls are young and lack maturity.

"By the scores of mutual opponents we shouldn't even be in the game with Lowndes," Phelps said. "But I believe we can beat them, and the girls believe we can."

The Valdosta-Bainbridge battle is only one of 10 local high school hoop matchups on tap Friday, but North Florida Junior College starts the weekend action off early when the Sentinels pair up with the Lake City Junior College Timberwolves in Lake City, Fla. tonight.

On Friday, Westbrook travels to Bainbridge Christian, Florida High of Tallahassee (Fla.) visits Madison (Fla.), Brooks Coun-

ty (Quitman) is on the road to Miller County (Colquitt), and Berrien High (Nashville, Ga.) takes on Region 1-AA West foe Cook High in Adel.

In other action Valwood hosts Pineland Academy, Lanier County (Lakeland, Ga.) ties up with Clinch County in Homer, Georgia Christian entertains Westwood, and Hamilton County (Jasper, Fla.) is on the road to Jefferson County (Monticello, Fla.)

AREA HOOP SLATE
Tonight
College
North Florida at Lake City
Friday
High School
Westbrook at Bainbridge
Christian
Florida High at Madison
Bainbridge at Valdosta
Brooks at Miller
Berrien at Cook
Pineland at Valwood
Lanier at Clinch
Whigham at Echols
Westwood at GCS
Hamilton at Jefferson
College
VSC at Hubbard Classic

wins over Bainbridge and Lowndes.

At 2-2, the Kittens have shown flashes of brilliance, but these brief glimpses of glory have been too few indeed.

But Phelps is willing to write off his girls' mistakes as long as they believe they have the talent to win games. And so far, they've kept the faith.

"Bainbridge got whipped by Lowndes and that sure surprised me," Phelps said. "I hear Bainbridge is real big and

VHS Meets Best On Court Tonight

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Wildcats meet the top Kittens in a Region 1-A affair, much better off as Bainbridge place against arch rivals Cook in a Region 1-AAA high school Adel. High's Hornets and Wasps in a full area state.

Valdosta is struggling Wildcats Bulldogs and Bulldogettes leave and Kittens play Homerville and Pinchettes in Homerville Florida action sees Madison's Hamilton County's Trojans while Jasper travel to Monticello to play highly regarded Jefferson County.

And private school play finds Westbrook's Cougars and Dixie at Bainbridge Christian, Valwood's Cougarettes from Dixie Valliant playing here, and Georgia's Moultrie host to Pineland or Valdosta. Generals and Georgia's Cougarettes playing host to Valdosta. Camilla in Dasher. Valdosta doesn't slow down a bit after rescheduling its twin-bill conflict with football play-offs.

In other action Saturday, Berrien's once-beaten Rebels, Echols continues its traditional battles against Broxton on its road.

Things had been going fairly well for Coach Joe Wilson's Valdosta boys and the Kittens of Glen Phelps until now. The Cats have won their last two games while the Kittens upset two previously unbeaten teams (Tift, 29-21 and Moultrie, 27-36) as each rammed to 2-2 records.

Both Bainbridge teams are ranked as the ones to beat in the region this year however. Behind the amies of 6-6 Jack Washington the Bearcats have posted a 5-0 record while a 3-2 Lowndes Saturday night is the only loss the Bearkittens have sustained.

Coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes Vikings, 7-4-4 losers to Bainbridge last weekend bring a 3-2 record into Saturday's fray while the Vikeettes come in 4-1 with a three game win streak.

County in a Region 1-A affair, while Berrien's Rebels and Rebelettes continue their torrid pace against arch rivals Cook in Lakeland, Ga., to test the unbeaten Clinch County Panthers and Pinchettes in Homerville.

In Class B traditional rivalries, Lanier County's Bulldogs and Bulldogettes leave Lakeland, Ga., to test the unbeaten Clinch County Panthers and Pinchettes in Homerville.

Florida action sees Madison's Hamilton County's Trojans while Jasper travel to Monticello to play highly regarded Jefferson County.

And private school play finds Westbrook's Cougars and Dixie at Bainbridge Christian, Valwood's Cougarettes from Dixie Valliant playing here, and Georgia's Moultrie host to Pineland or Valdosta.

Generals and Georgia's Cougarettes playing host to Valdosta. Camilla in Dasher. Valdosta doesn't slow down a bit after rescheduling its twin-bill conflict with football play-offs.

In other action Saturday, Berrien's once-beaten Rebels, Echols continues its traditional battles against Broxton on its road.

Things had been going fairly well for Coach Joe Wilson's Valdosta boys and the Kittens of Glen Phelps until now. The Cats have won their last two games while the Kittens upset two previously unbeaten teams (Tift, 29-21 and Moultrie, 27-36) as each rammed to 2-2 records.

Both Bainbridge teams are ranked as the ones to beat in the region this year however. Behind the amies of 6-6 Jack Washington the Bearcats have posted a 5-0 record while a 3-2 Lowndes Saturday night is the only loss the Bearkittens have sustained.

Coach Charles Cooper's Lowndes Vikings, 7-4-4 losers to Bainbridge last weekend bring a 3-2 record into Saturday's fray while the Vikeettes come in 4-1 with a three game win streak.

By Presbyterian College

Eight Prep Juniors Are Cited

By TIMES STAFF WRITER

Eight area high school juniors—four each from Lowndes and Valdosta High School, have been cited for academic excellence by Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C.

The eight were named Presbyterian College Junior Fellows, according to college president Marc C. Weersing.

Those receiving the honor from LHS included Joseph William Kovach III, son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Joseph W. Kovach Jr.; Joel Prentice Hunnicutt, II, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel P. Hunnicutt; Marguerite Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Johnson Jr.; and Dawn Acree, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Russell Acree of Hahira.

VHS juniors to receive the honor were Elmer C. Painter III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer C. Painter Jr.; Joseph Michael Clayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Clayton.

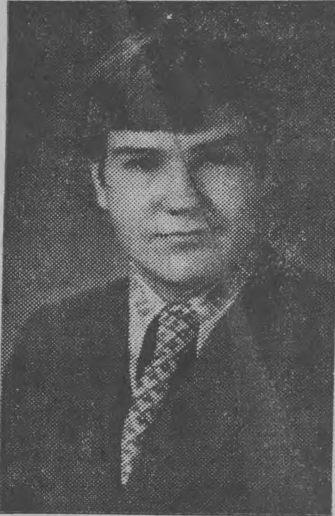
Sheree Lynn Valenti, daughter of Mrs. Jackie V. Blease; and Cathy Dyal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Dyal.

Inaugurated three years ago, Weersing said, the award is presented to high school students who, after the first semester of their junior year, have the highest cumulative averages for the previous 2½ years of academic work.

The award carries with it a minimum scholarship grant and automatic consideration in the college's broader scholarship program.



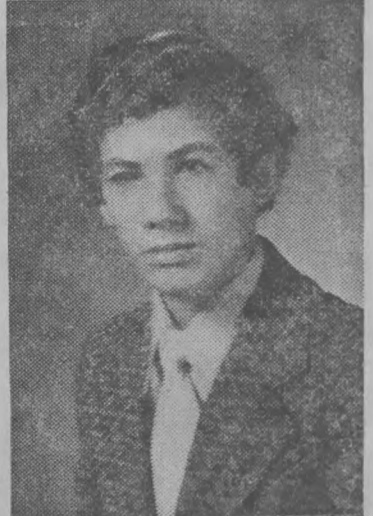
CATHY DYAL



E. C. PAINTER



SHERI VALENTI



JOE CLAYTON



JOE KOVACH



MARGUERITE JOHNSON



JOEL HUNNICUTT



DAWN ACREE

