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Valdosta High School

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Adrian Lewis Breaks Into 'Universal Cat' Status

By GREG McILVAIN
ADL. Thurs. June 21, 1990

Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's Adrian Lewis has broken new ground in the football program's fitness test.

Lewis, a senior-to-be defensive back, scored a school-record 256 points in testing recently completed. The score earned him "Universal Cat" status.

He's the third Wildcat to reach the level. Ex-Cats James Roberts and Isaac Caesar both scored 250 points.

"There's a lot of preparation and work which goes into it," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "Adrian sort of predicted he'd do it.

But going out for track was the final touch.

"He has 4.4 speed, plus he's done a good job in the weight room. He should be a dominate player at his position."

Lewis scored highest on the test when it was given in early May, prior to the two-week spring practice period. Then he scored 242 points, giving him "Ultra Cat" status along with defensive end Marcus Moss and linebacker Dexter Daniels.

Those three, along with linebacker Jonathan Davis and running back Joe Wright, will also receive awards for making "Ultra Cat" status. Davis, a senior-to-be, is making a comeback

after two separate broken legs since his sophomore season.

Wright made a 40-point improvement from the early May test, while Davis made a 32-point improvement. Both did not participate in spring drills.

Sixteen Wildcats will be awarded for "Superior Cat" status (200-224 points) and another 38 will receive awards for "Super Cat" status (175-199 points).

"We've got more Super Cats and more Superior Cats than ever before," said Hyder. "We're right on schedule, but I don't know if that means we'll win."

The "Superior Cat" winners include: defensive linemen Tim Mc-

Clain and Kevin Major; wide receivers Carlos Moore and Carlos Folsom; offensive lineman Derrick Phillips; running backs Brian Wiseman, Kendrick Patrick and Dexter Mitchell; defensive ends Brad Tarpley and Durwin Logan; defensive back Marshun Lane; and tight end Reginald Mitchell.

Moss, Davis, Wright and Daniels will also receive "Superior Cat" honors.

The "Super Cat" winners include: defensive linemen David Stewart, M.J. Johnson, Andre Scruggs, Richard Thomas and Monte Stewart; offensive linemen Andre Zanders,

Eddie Wooten, Shaun Eiders and Giles Godwin; defensive ends Eric Phillips, Aldrich Graham and Xavier McCormick; wide receivers Scott Stuart, Brice Hunter, Steve Jaramillo, Kelvin Reed and Frank Henderson; running backs Albert Edmonds, Leroy Williams and Alfred Barnes; defensive backs Deric Cotton, Trampis Wrice, Kelly Holmes and Terrence Daniels; quarterback Alton Hinson; and linebackers Marcus Williams and Nathan Tart.

Stewart, Derrick Phillips, Moore, Reginald Mitchell, Folsom, Wiseman, Patrick, McClain, Logan, Major and Tarpley will also receive "Super Cat" honors.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, August 12, 1990

C

Wildcats Point Toward Camp

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

Friday night, as darkness fell over Valdosta High School, one unceremonious act was carried out. The hand dummies used in football practice the last three weeks were put away — for good.

It's time for players to be dressed out in full gear. It's time for full contact. It's time for the traditional two-week camp.

"Two-a-day practices for two weeks. Twenty practice sessions, three hours apiece. We will find out who are the real quality football players," said head coach Nick Hyder. "We're going in with 120 on the roster, and we'll see who's ready to go."

For the last three weeks, the Wildcats have been practicing in less-than-full gear — some

weeks shorts and helmets, last week with shoulder pads added. There's been little full contact, and those blasted hand dummies.

"There's a lot of argument and disagreement over who's at a handicap with the dummies," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "The offense says we use them illegally, the defense says they can grab them. Live is the only way it's done. We don't like tag. "Offense, defense, everybody is ready to get to pads."

Camp — sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club — begins Monday morning, with workouts scheduled at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The players will live, work and sleep at the high school during the two-week period.

Scrimmages are also set for the end of both weeks at Cleveland Field, with a Touchdown Club function set for Aug. 23.

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The first weeks of practice have given the coaches some early idea of the team.

"The senior leadership seems to be good," Hyder said. "There are a few disappointments with about three of four of them who haven't made up their minds that they want to compete. They want to inherit something."

"What they've found is a junior or a sophomore might take their place. That works awfully well to have the younger youngsters ready to go."

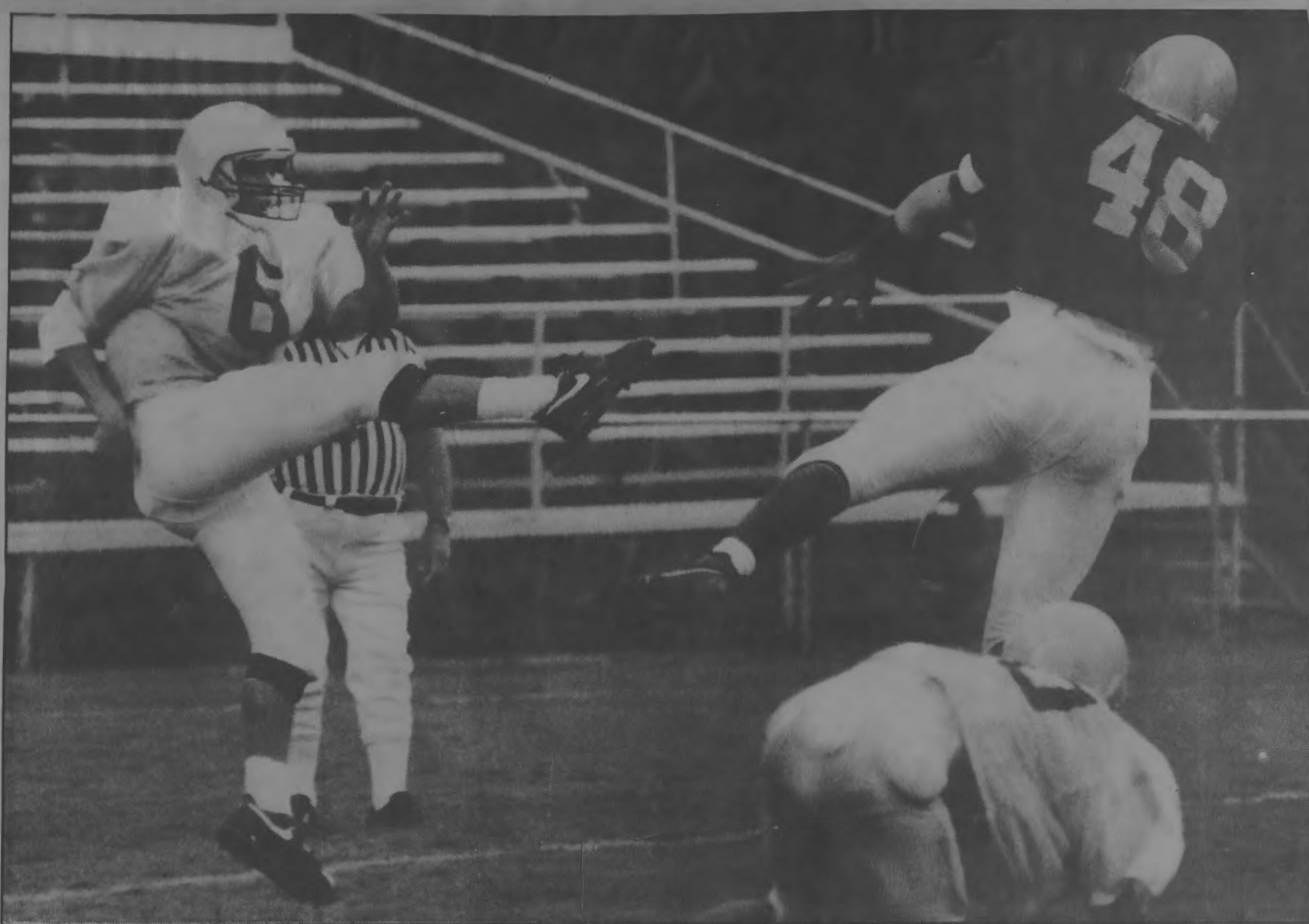
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know where to line up because of experience at key positions."

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"I'm ready, we're ready. We just have to get to camp and fine tune everything. We hope we can get two weeks of practice in without anybody getting hurt."

And things have come together off the field as well. "They have responded real well to the attitude periods I use, not that they like it," Hyder said about an hour-long period prior to practice. "But they hear it over and over again, and we get our points over on behavior, on values, on collision, on character, on our priority system."



Valdosta High's Dexter Daniels (48) blocks a Steve Jaramillo punt during Friday's scrimmage at Cleveland Field. Daniels blocked two punts in the series, but one was nullified by a penalty — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Make Good On Chances

Sat. Aug. 18, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
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Before you're ready to prematurely celebrate a great 1990 season, remember that the following was done with the first unit playing against the second unit — something not done during the regular Wildcat practice.

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All four first-half scores came from the defense and the kicking game doing their job well.

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See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

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Wildcats Gather

To Come Together

Vol. 100, No. 1, Aug. 12, 1990

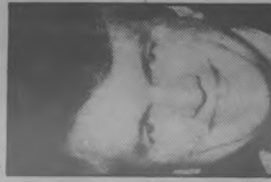
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"This is the main thing which helps builds this team," said head coach Nick Hyder. "When we come away from camp at the end of two weeks, that will be the Valdosta Wildcats. That will be the young men who are ready to play, and they should know the things we want done."



HYDER

This is the fifth year the Wildcats have held camp at the high school since moving from the Twin Lakes 4-H Camp in south Lowndes County. And while the lure of leaving town for some time may have had its good points, staying close to home has its highlights, too.

"Everybody was broken hearted when we left the 4-H camp. Really, everything here at the school is better," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.

"You've got better showers, you've got air conditioning, you've got the weight room here. You're closer to town, to hospitals — really, truthfully, here in town is the best place for you to be for everything concerned."

"When we were at camp, with no air conditioning, it was a nasty place down there. It made men of you. You've got everything you want here."

And you have togetherness. "[Camp] is a time where you have them all together, where you can take them all and See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

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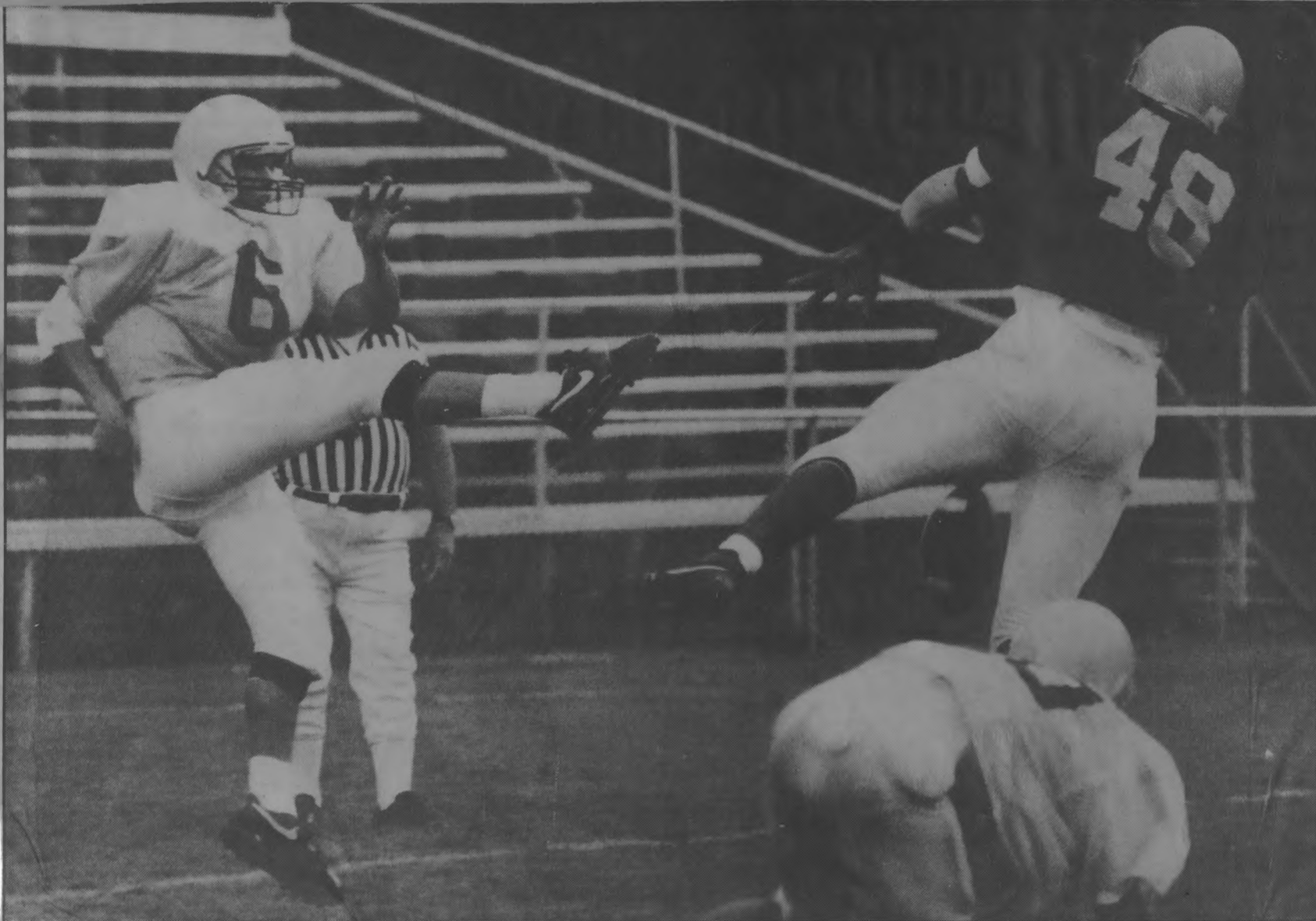
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The camp is the No. 1 project of the Valdosta Touchdown Club. Second-year president Dave McCracken said that this year's camp may cost near \$15,000 because of the rising cost of food — the biggest part of that cost figure.

"We'll feed 199 people for lunch — the varsity players, coaches, managers, the ninth-grade team and coaches," McCracken said. "And we'll feed the varsity in the morning and at night."



Valdosta High's Dexter Daniels (48) blocks a Steve Jaramillo punt during Friday's scrimmage at Cleveland Field. Daniels blocked two punts in the series, but one was nullified by a penalty. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

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Wildcats Start With Big Plays

VDT TIMES, Aug. 14, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Is it an indication of things to come, or just a spark to light up the defense?

It's the first play of the first series pitting Valdosta High's top offensive players against the top defensive players — No. 1 vs. No. 1. It's the first day of the two-week preseason football camp, and the first day of full contact.

Quarterback Alton Hitson gets the ball to tailback Joe Wright, who goes around right end and down the sideline for a long touchdown run.

Instant offense.

"I don't believe in omens, but that was good for the offense," said head coach Nick Hyder. "It was shocking to the defense, but it was a beautiful play."

To the defense's credit, that was one of the few offensive highlights during the two practice sessions on Monday.

"You don't learn by not making mistakes," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "They got better after that."

"An offensive bad play is a 2-yard loss. A defensive bad play can be a touchdown."

Hitson did hit Albert Edmonds on a 50-plus-yard touchdown pass/run in the two-minute drill to end the morning session, but the offense was limited to a few first downs during the evening session.

Other than that and other items, it was a rather uneventful — but physical — first day at camp as the Wildcats begin to prepare for the 1990 season.

"There's no way our offense and defense can look good the way we practice," Hyder said. "One will look good and the other will have to adjust."

The Wildcats also got into the habit of living at the school where they will begin academic work in two weeks. The varsity players will live, eat and sleep at the high school for camp, which is sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

Monday's work wasn't limited to the field and the weight room. The players helped move new furniture into the 10 new classrooms built for this school year. "We moved 300 desks for Mr. (school principal Bill) Aldrich. They'll do it and have a good attitude doing it."

Practice continues at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. today at the high school.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sat. Aug. 18, 1990



Watching The Game

Marsha and Jack Rudolph sit in solitude during the Valdosta High School Wildcat Football team's fall scrimmage Friday night.

Rudolph was the former defensive coordinator for the team, and is now the ninth-grade coach for VHS — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



VDT, Sun. Aug. 19, 1990
State Winner

Marsha Tucker won first place in the Food for Fitness project at the State 4-H Congress in Atlanta. The 16-year-old VHS senior is the daughter of Lloyd and Melissee Tucker of Valdosta. Her honors include second in state competition last year, 4-H'er of the Year and vice president of the 4-H County Council.

Catch The Fever

Backs Back

For 'Cats

VDT Fri. Aug. 10, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Remember back to the spring, and the football workouts at Valdosta High School.

More times than not after practice was over, backs coach Mike O'Brien stayed on the field with some young running back giving him some extra instruction or working on some extra "ball-protection" drills.

Then, O'Brien had little or no experienced backs to work with. They were all getting a crash course in the Wildcats' multiple offense.

Now when you go out to practice, the scenario is much different. There's experience in the offensive backfield behind quarterbacks Alton Hitson and Jamey Waters.

And there's numbers — six backs who get a share of the work with the top unit.

And the six give O'Brien and the Wildcats plenty of combinations to work with. "They may not work out, but they give us a lot of combinations to look at to where we can settle down to what we want," said O'Brien.

The six evenly break into two groups — all trying to fill the void left by the graduation of all-star running back Carlos Parker, who gained 1,600 yards and scored 26 touchdowns last season, and others.

"I've got a lot more depth. At spring practice I didn't have any depth," said O'Brien. "I had kids who had never really played before."

There are the three with previous game experience, but those who missed spring practice because of grades.

They're led by senior tailback Joe Wright, a four-year player who started some games last season with Parker.

Add to that fullback Kendrick Patrick and swingman Dexter Mitchell.

"Joe has played there, so all he needed was the timing part. He'll get it," O'Brien said. "Kendrick and Dexter needed the spring, but they've been through enough so they know what to do. They needed the polish."

The second three are those inexperienced backs who were the starters in the spring. Swingman Albert Edmonds was the leading ground gainer in the spring game, gaining 68 yards on 10 carries.

There's also fullback Brian Wiseman and tailback Leroy Williams.

"They (the second three) gained valuable experience (in the spring), and the ones who came back have really helped," said O'Brien.

And with the schedule the Wildcats face in 1990, both non-region and region, they just may need all six backs at one time or another.

"It's possible, especially the way we get them beat up in the region," O'Brien said. "We need depth there."

And for now, they've got it.



Joe Wright (11) is the most experienced of the Valdosta High Wildcats' six top running backs — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Valdosta School System 2nd Largest

Sun. Aug. 12 1990
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta School System has come a long way since the 1850s when all grades were taught in one room. Today, it's the second largest city school system in Georgia.

Only Atlanta has a larger independent school system, said Anne Raymond, public information director for the state Department of Education.

"We're so much larger than the other schools systems around us," said Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman. "Other (city school systems) are consolidating with the counties to have more numbers."

The soon-to-be consolidated Way-

cross and Ware County school systems is an example of systems combining to get a higher student enrollment. Altman said the city and county are coming under one governing body to have a higher student enrollment for increased state funding.

Altman said there are too many students in Valdosta and Lowndes County to be adequately managed by one body. The city has an enrollment of about 7,300 students, and the county has about 7,050 students.

"We're not too small to provide all the types of programs available, and we're not too large that we can't maintain the programs and keep it on a more personal basis," he said. "The larger school systems get, the

more cumbersome they are to manage."

Altman said there is nothing to be gained economically or academically by consolidating Valdosta and Lowndes County schools.

Because a consolidated school system here would mean an enrollment of nearly 14,500 students, increased state funding would not be beneficial because that enrollment would exceed the highest funding possible for a slightly lesser enrollment. "It could be more expensive to consolidate," Altman said.

In this area, the Valdosta School System is No. 1 in size. The following is a list of how area school systems ranked in size last academic

year out of the 186 systems in the state:

- Valdosta — 34th.
- Lowndes County — 37th.
- Berrien County — 95th.
- Brooks County — 99th.
- Cook County — 102nd.
- Clinch County — 156th.
- Echols County — 178th.

The Valdosta School System began in the 1890s by taking over the private school and building known as the Valdosta Institute, now the Valdosta Junior High, which was sufficient to house the entire white school system.

By 1894, the system had two more schools in addition to Valdosta Insti-

tute. They were Lee Street Academy and Valdosta Academy, the two black schools.

In 1895, the trustees of The Valdosta Institute acted as school commissioners and became responsible for the operation of the Valdosta public schools. The trustees of the black schools held ownership and authority for some time after the school commissioners became responsible for the operation of the schools, which were deeded to the school commissioners later in 1895.

In the early years of operation of the three original schools, from time to time other buildings or homes were rented in order to relieve overcrowding in the several schools.

Wildcats Gather To Come Together

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"And there's the sleeping, the skull sessions with the coaches, the weight room and the field."

The camp is the No. 1 project of the Valdosta Touchdown Club. Second-year president Dave McCracken said that this year's camp may cost near \$15,000 because of the rising cost of food — the biggest part of that cost figure.

"We'll feed 199 people for lunch — the varsity players, coaches, managers, the ninth-grade team and coaches," McCracken said. "And we'll feed the varsity in the morning and at night."

Mon. Aug. 13, 1990

Wildcats Start With Big Plays

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Tue. Aug 14, 1990

Is it an indication of things to come, or just a spark to light up the defense?

It's the first play of the first series pitting Valdosta High's top offensive players against the top defensive players — No. 1 vs. No. 1. It's the first day of the two-week preseason football camp, and the first day of full contact.

Quarterback Alton Hitson gets the ball to tailback Joe Wright, who goes around right end and down the sideline for a long touchdown run.

Instant offense.

"I don't believe in omens, but that was good for the offense," said head coach Nick Hyder. "It was shocking to the defense, but it was a beautiful play."

To the defense's credit, that was one of the few offensive highlights during the two practice sessions on Monday.

"You don't learn by not making mistakes," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "They got better after that."

"An offensive bad play is a 2-yard loss. A defensive bad play can be a touchdown."

Hitson did hit Albert Edmonds on a 50-plus-yard touchdown pass/run in the two-minute drill to end the morning session, but the offense was limited to a few first downs during the evening session.

Other than that and other items, it was a rather uneventful — but physical — first day at camp as the Wildcats begin to prepare for the 1990 season.

"There's no way our offense and defense can look good the way we practice," Hyder said. "One will look good and the other will have to adjust."

The Wildcats also got into the habit of living at the school where they will begin academic work in two weeks. The varsity players will live, eat and sleep at the high school for camp, which is sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

Monday's work wasn't limited to the field and the weight room. The players helped move new furniture into the 10 new classrooms built for this school year. "We moved 300 desks for Mr. (school principal Bill) Aldrich. They'll do it and have a good attitude doing it."

Practice continues at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. today at the high school.

Rudolph Adds To Tech's Sting

Sat. Aug 11, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer V D 7

If last year was any indication, Georgia Tech may be well on their way to challenging for a conference title this season.

In 1989, Bobby Ross' Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets had the south buzzing with their resurgence in the Atlantic Coast Conference — a sound Tech defensive tackle Coleman Rudolph is happy to hear.

"As far as looking ahead to this season, we have to be able to put last year behind us," said Rudolph. "I have a feeling that we have a good chance to in the hunt for the conference championship. We've got seven games at home and some of the tougher ACC opponents at Tech.

"Our play last year is all thanks to Coach Ross. I think anytime you get a situation where the program is down, it takes a while to get back on your feet," said Rudolph. "Coach Ross has done a great job of building his own team and I think he's doing just fine as evidence of last year's record of 7-4."

When the former Valdosta High standout reports to the Tech campus on Aug. 16, it will mark his return to the playing field. Rudolph suffered a torn ligament to his knee during spring workouts.

According to reports from the Tech staff, it's going to take a lot more than an injured knee to take the sting out of this Yellow Jacket.

"Coleman is a young player who will be seeing a lot of playing time for us this year," said Ross. "We accomplished a lot in the defensive line this past spring, and he is a fine defensive tackle. He has really shown me a lot in his attitude and ability on the field."

In his freshman season, as a reserve outside linebacker, Rudolph recorded 10 tackles and a quarterback sack. Since then he's beated up in

"My knee is fine and I really didn't miss that much in the spring other than the spring game, and I'm just going to try and carry that into the season. The knee is just not a serious situation, and I just want to go up there and do my best. I feel we're going to have a pretty good season and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

— Coleman Rudolph
Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket

the weight room, gaining 30 pounds to now stand 6-foot-4, 260 pounds. His physical improvement even made Rudolph's father, Valdosta High assistant football coach Jack Rudolph, do a double take at a spring football function.

And he was moved to defensive tackle, where he played this spring prior to the knee injury. Rudolph admits his focus will be on the field rather than on his knee.

"My knee is fine and I really didn't miss that much in the spring other than the spring game, and I'm just going to try and carry that into the season," said Rudolph. "The knee is just not a serious situation, and I just want to go up there and do my best. I feel we're going to have a pretty good season and I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

"We just need to stay focused on what needs to be done this year and don't worry about the fans or polls," said Rudolph. "The talent is there for this team to have a good season and get a bowl bid. But we have to go out there this year and play well."



Valdosta's Coleman Rudolph works on his season at Georgia Tech — Times Photo by Mike sprints in preparation for the 1990 football Tanner

For The Fun Of It/A Weekly Feature About Other Sports Stars

VOT. Wed. 15, 1990 Dennis Duo A Hit On All Fields

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

No matter the time of year, sisters Laura and DeDe Dennis can probably be found on an athletic field playing something and playing it well.

While both play basketball and run track for Valdosta High during the winter and spring, it's the summer and fall that the twosome really excel. Both play softball for the Lady Wildcats and spend their summers traveling from field to field across the Southeast in softball tournaments.

This year, DeDe played with the 16-under Lady Stings as well as teaming with her sister with the 18-under Georgia Bandits. The Bandits won the NSA state championship and placed second in Marietta at the World 18-under softball championship the first week of August.

For her efforts, Laura was named as the All-World first baseman, one of five Bandits named to the squad.

"I was surprised because I got hurt and didn't play in the championship game," Laura said.

DeDe recently injured her elbow at the ASA 16-under national championship held last weekend in Jacksonville, Fla. But she will be back this fall to join her sister at VHS. DeDe, a leftfielder for the Lady Wildcats, said two wins over perennial power Tift County last year were no fluke. She hopes to prove that in a couple of months.

"We've got most everybody coming back so we should do pretty good," DeDe said. "I think we can beat 'em twice and win the region this year. We've got a good team."

The Bandits are made up of softball stars from all across the state. They are just one of the teams the two have played for since their

start. They've also competed with the Valdosta Sluggers and the Tifton Tomboys III.

Both began their careers about six years ago under the guidance of their father, Wally Dennis, who still coaches his girls during the summer. While the advantages of coaching daughters are obvious, Laura said it can be tricky.

"I think it's tougher because he's always getting on us," she laughed. "He always expects me to hit a home run."

Laura has been known to hit a few of those as she has led the Lady Wildcats in hitting the past three years. She hopes this will be the season her team finally breaks Tift County's stronghold on the region title.

"I hope we can get it because it's my last year. I think it will come down to Tift County and us and this might be our year," Laura said.



DeDe, left, and Laura Dennis successfully this past summer season — Times Photo by participated in national softball competitions Paul Leavy

6-A Friday, August 17, 1990

Lifestyles

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Class Of 1950 Reunites

Out-of-towners attending the 1950 VHS class reunion Aug. 3-5 were the following:

Mr. and Mrs. James E. Blanton of Thomasville; Mr. and Mrs. Red (Grace Burnette) Holderby of Dothan, Ala.; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew (Ruth DeLoach) Pejko and Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Dowling of Albany; Mrs. Charles (Marcia Reagan) Muhlfield of Bantam, Conn.; Mrs. Richard (Elvada Feazel) Driskell of Cocoa Beach, Fla.; Mrs. Harold (Marion Godwin) Gulliver of Atlanta; Charles W. (Jack) Hall of Apollo Beach, Fla.; Mrs. (Boots Howell) Williams of Marietta,

accompanied by Henry Kemmerling of Atlanta; Mr. and Mrs. Jay (Mary Louise Kelly) Stanley of Greenville, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. June (Lynette Maxwell) Downing of Hahira; Mrs. Cecil (Jean Metcalf) Eatmon of Jasper, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nussbaum of Nashua, N.H.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nussbaum of Grant's Pass, Ore.; Mr. and Mrs. George W. Smith of Pensacola, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Abbie Stephens) Gibson of Thomasville; Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Stephenson of Quitman; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stewart of Stone Mountain; Jeanette Tillman

Cole of Arvada, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace of Rome; Mr. and Mrs. Alton (Bonnie Faye Wetherington) Parker of Fayetteville, N.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wood of Windermere, Fla.; Betty Jean Yearwood Walker of Casselberry, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Mike (Betty Young) Moyer of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Marlene Holland Little of Jacksonville, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Roger (Barbara Dickens) Wooten of Royston; and Sara Jo Carter Heslep of Orlando, Fla.

Local classmates attending were Mr. and Mrs. Bud Goodson, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Greene, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bonner, Mrs. James Perryman, Mr. and Mrs. Norman (Wyolene Grant) Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Elizabeth Hall) McCall, Mrs. Fred (Betty Hughes) Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Marlene Knight) Evans, Mr. and Mrs. John Milhous, Carey Wells, Remer Wetherington, Mr. and Mrs. Donald (Catherine Ganas) Yale, Mr. and Mrs. A.B. (Eugenia Holland) Crosby Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Hartford Wetherington, Johnny B. Lastinger and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stephen-son.

Wildcats

Head To

Cleveland

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After four days of hitting each other, living with each other and learning with each other, Friday night's scrimmage at Cleveland Field will give the Valdosta High football team a different look.

The Wildcats will take the field around 7 p.m. in their first under-the-lights scrimmage during preseason camp.

"We'll have officials, we'll have lights and we'll video it. That's three things which are different," said head coach Nick Hyder. "We'll be as close to game conditions.

"The coaches will be on sidelines (as in a regular game) instead of the field (as in practice), and that's different ... it gives us a little break from here."

The Wildcat players have gone through three weeks of conditioning work and the week of camp all at the high school. Tonight's move to Cleveland Field shakes some things up.

"I want to see an adjustable team, one that can adjust to different situations — field position, officials, coaches that can adjust to the different problems," Hyder said.

Defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley says traditional camp scrimmages also give the players a new look on the other side of the ball. During regular practices, the first team goes against the first team, the second against the second, etc.

"Usually in the scrimmage it's one against two. You're going against people you don't go against in practice," Tarpley said. "And the second team is usually good enough to give the first unit some opposition."

And Tarpley points out that if a second-team player makes a good showing tonight, he could find himself with the first unit Monday morning — and vice versa.

Valdosta High will have one more week of camp next week, with two-a-day practices at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The Valdosta Touchdown Club, which sponsors the camp as its main project of the season, will have its night at the high school Thursday.

A scrimmage between the varsity third-team unit and the ninth-grade team is scheduled for next Friday morning, with the final varsity scrimmage — part of a Tailgate Party Night at Cleveland Field, sponsored by the Touchdown Club and Band Boosters — set for Friday night. The varsity players will also vote on team captains that Friday.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sunday, August 19, 1990

C

VHS Works To Fill In Positions

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Who'll play and where will they play when Valdosta High opens the 1990 football season Sept. 1 against McEachern?

That question will be closer to being answered when the Wildcats return to two-a-day practices and camp this week at the school.

"We've got to get units, decide on positions," said head coach Nick Hyder after Friday night's scrimmage at Cleveland Field.

And here's plenty of deciding to do. Among those decisions:

● Two sophomore second-team linebackers, Marcus Williams and Franklin Wiseman, made

their mark against the first-team offense Friday night. But linebacker is also one of the deepest positions the Wildcats have, and Williams and Wiseman may be used in any of the front seven positions.

End Brad Tarpley also stood out on the second-team unit Friday night — one of four players fighting for playing time at those spots.

● The defensive backfield may be one of the units set as far as starters, with guys like cornerback Trampis Wrice — who picked off three passes Friday — there.

But the search for backups continues. Senior Leroy Williams, among those in the running-back logjam, put on a black defensive jersey Thursday and played there Friday night.

"We're continuing to try to find that third cornerback and third safety," said Hyder.

● The running-back logjam. Behind the four mainstays — Joe Wright, Dexter Mitchell, Kendrick Patrick and Albert Edmonds — are many players. Four more backs ran with second team, but they combined for 9 yards on 16 carries Friday against the first-team defense.

Even with the competition, Hyder says the team is coming together.

"The unity may be as good as I've seen at this point," Hyder said. "Our kids are usually pretty serious unity. The things which are happening in Kuwait and in the world are kind of making them get

kind of serious about what is going on. It makes them appreciate each other more, and maybe it should make us all do that."

● Quarterback John Bell was in on 40 of the 61 total net yards gained when the third team scrimmaged for a quarter Friday night. Bell netted 15 yards on 10 carries, losing 15 yards on two sacks near the end of the quarter. He also threw a 25-yard pass to Clark Drury down to the 2-yard line, which set up David Williams' 1-yard touchdown run.

Bell got a chance to play with the second team in the second half of the varsity scrimmage, but was shaken up on a sack near the end zone. "He was exhausted," said Hyder.

4-B Thursday, August 30, 1990

VHS Goes For Title

Could this be the year that the king of the Region 1-AAAA softball hill gets knocked off? Valdosta High would like to give it a try.

Tift County High has won the last three state softball titles, leaving the other teams sitting home after region-tournament play.

"If you hope to get out of the region, you have to think about getting past them," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery about Tift.

The Lady Wildcats, who finished second in last year's Region 1-AAAA, want to be that team to break Tift's title hold. It returns all but two starters from last year's team. Tift is "rebuilding," depending on younger players with softball experience to keep it going.

After after playing against each other for most of the month, the coach said her team is ready for today's non-region doubleheader against Lowndes at Sunset Park. First pitch is at 4:30 p.m.

Montgomery has three seniors in her opening-day starting lineup, balanced by five sophomores and a freshman.

The seniors are first baseman Laura Dennis, second baseman Jennifer Launey and rightfielder Vashit Manning.

The sophomores are catcher Lisa Vincent, shortstop Shannon West, centerfielder Gwenette Sanders, shortfielder Yasmine Bivins and pitcher Amanda McGhin. Freshman Lashon Hargett plays third base. Rounding out the lineup is junior leftfielder DeDe Dennis.

Softball Schedules

VALDOSTA	
Today	Lowndes (Sunset Park)
Sept. 4	at Colquitt County
Sept. 8	at Tifton Tournament
Sept. 11	at Bainbridge
Sept. 18	at Echols
Sept. 25	at Coffee
Sept. 27	at Tift County
Oct. 2	Lowndes
Oct. 9-11	1-AAAA Tournament

all games are c and start at

— By Greg McIlvain

C-A-M-P

C-A-M-P. C is for the competition. The fight for that precious position and a chance to perform under the lights, in front of thousands, on those fall Friday nights.

A is for the attitude of togetherness that the successful teams need through the good times and bad times. The attitude which comes together from living, eating, working and practicing together for a week or two during the dog days of August.

M and P are for the mental and physical preparations for that tough season ahead. Those drills, those sprints, those times in the weight room. Most teams can be ready to play early in the first quarter. A few are prepared for the tough times, late in the game when that extra effort is called for.

Football camp. A tradition for south Georgia high schools, especially in Lowndes County with Valdosta and Lowndes high schools.

Both schools now have their camps at the high school building — Lowndes this past week, Valdosta last week and this week.

Both camps are sponsored by the respective schools' touchdown clubs, and the cost runs in the thousands of dollars.

The teams practice on the practice field twice a day, lift weights in their weight room, live and sleep in the school building and eat in the lunch room. The school, which is their workplace for nine months, is their home for a short time.

"It's time to start zeroing in on football and leave a lot of the extras behind," said Lowndes High head coach Rick Tomberlin. "It's an important time for our kids, because we feel that this is the time where you really mold our team and get down to just playing football."

"Camp is the main thing which helps build this team," added Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "When we come away from camp at the end of two weeks, that will be the Valdosta Wildcats. That will be the young men who are ready to play, and they should know the things we want done."

By Greg McIlvain



Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson (15) tries to scramble away from pressure during Tuesday morning's football practice at the high school — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

VPT. Wed. Aug 15, 1990

'Cats DB Picture Still Cloudy

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's the most game-experienced group on the Valdosta High School football team. But that fact doesn't make defensive backs coach Keith Middleton rest any easier these days.

As do the rest of his fellow Wildcat coaches, Middleton wants more than just his starting unit ready to go into Region 1-AAAA combat. So it doesn't matter that Valdosta has three returning starters in the secondary.

"Right now we don't have 1-AAAA secondary people backing those people up," said Middleton. "We've got to come out of camp with those people. We've got to find two or three

backs who can come through in that situation."

"Those people" are returning starting cornerbacks Adrian Lewis and Trampis Wrice and returning starting safety Marshun Lane. Add in Deric Cotton and Sam Lightsey as the top candidates to replace Chris Hart (now with Navy).

With six of the front-seven starters gone, it's the secondary with the most experience on the Wildcats' defense.

"They were the best, but they're gone. So we have to make a name for ourselves," said Lewis, who made a name for himself this past spring by setting a school record (the first Universal Cat award) on the team's "Super Cat" fitness test. "Coach Middleton is staying out late with us,

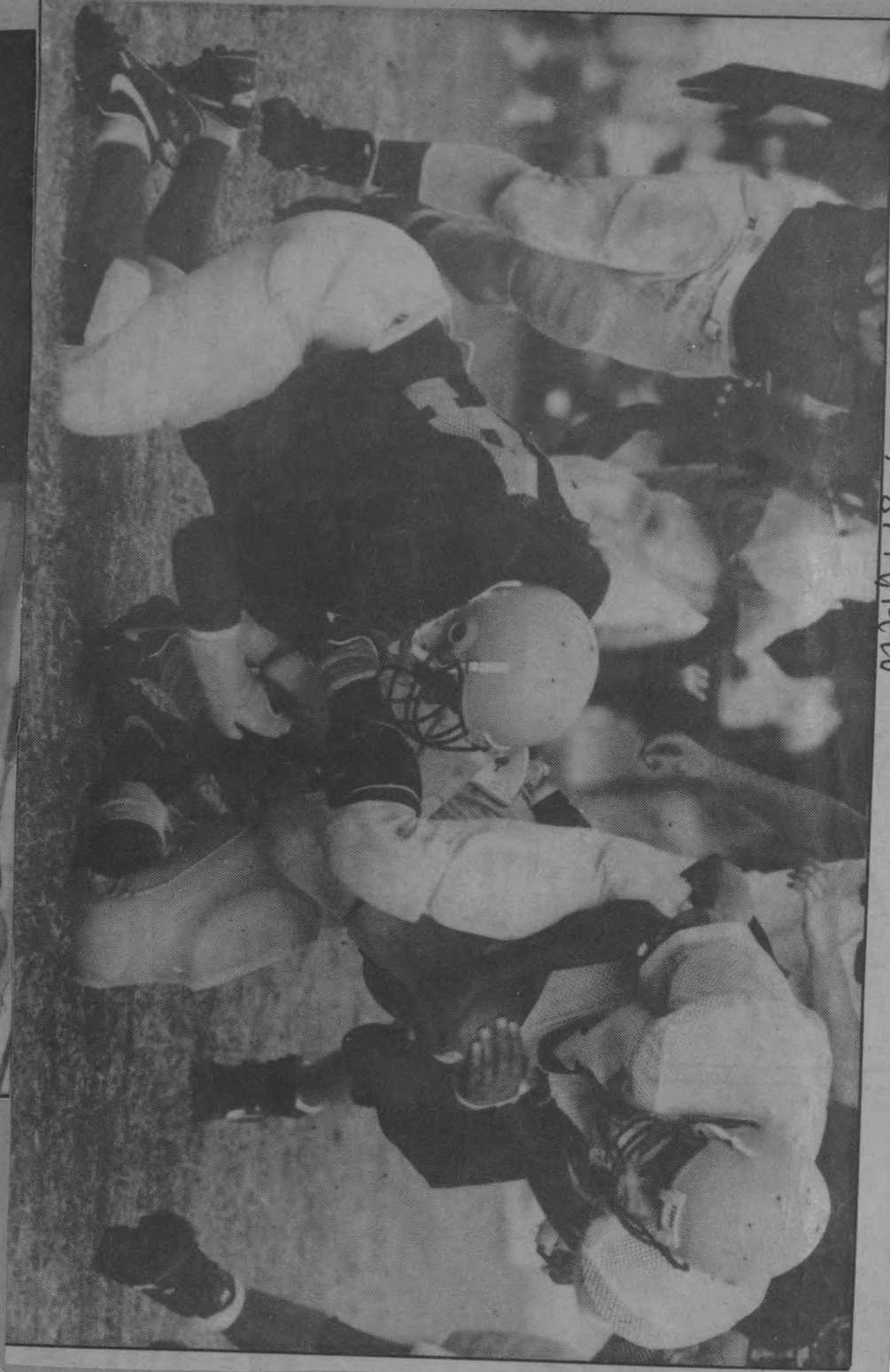
and we're having defensive secondary meetings. We're all helping a lot."

And a lot of new and inexperienced faces are trying to make it come together. Seniors Kelly Holmes and Steve Sanders got the call with the first unit on Monday. A junior, John Walker, took a hit to the chin Monday morning and missed practice.

Tuesday, Middleton tried a quartet of sophomores — Jerald Davis, DeAnthony Roundtree, Reggie Morrison and Jason Jelks.

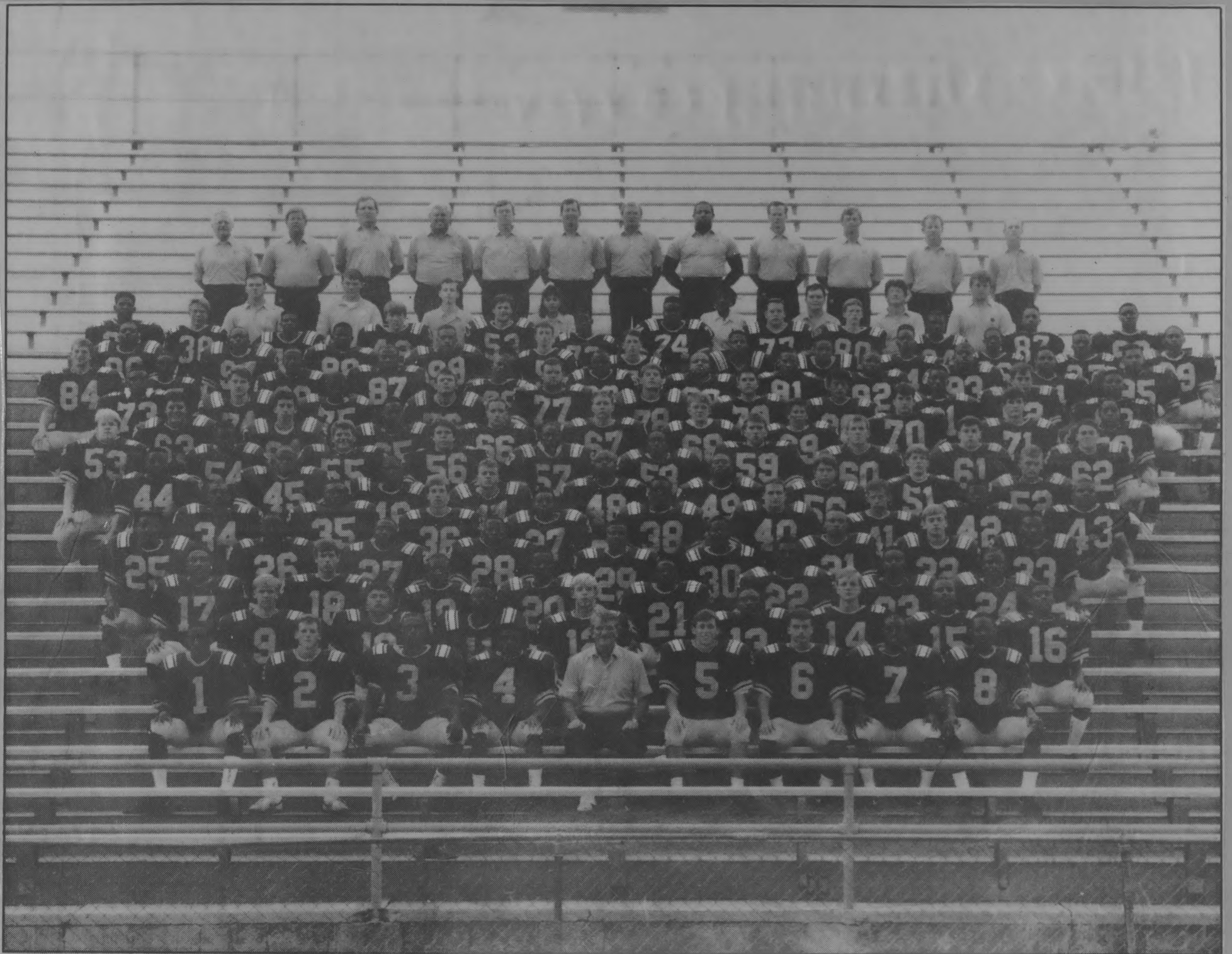
"The best coaching we have now is competition," Middleton said. "We're not going to say they're set. Anytime, especially at the one safety position, you say you're set, you do things to the backups. We're not in that position right now."

VDT. Sun. Aug. 19, 1920



C-A-M-P





1990 Valdosta Wildcats



1990 Valdosta Wildcats

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y

VICTORY!!

VALDOSTA

HIGH!



1990 VALDOSTA HIGH CHEERLEADERS

Sunday, August 26, 1990 7-F

1990

FLORIDA FOOTBALL



Drury's Thrive

On Competition

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There are a few certainties in life — death, taxes and a Drury kicking the football for the Valdosta High football team this season.

The best bet for the job is junior Dow Drury, a two-year all-region kicker. But in the true sense of Wildcat competition, one of those battling Drury is Clark Drury, sophomore and brother of Dow.

"I want him to push me as hard as I can (he pushed) because competition makes me better," Dow Drury said. It helped last week when Dow said he was in a slump, and Clark kicked well.

Each made a field goal in Friday's scrimmage at Cleveland Field — Dow from 22 yards, Clark from 27 yards. Dow made three extra points, Clark two.

Dow's now back in the groove, falling back on the fundamentals he learned at Auburn's kicking camp this summer.

He made seven field goals and 35 extra points last season. He's set a goal this season to make 90 percent of his field-goal and extra-point attempts.

"I've pushed myself harder than in my freshman year. Then I took things slow and easy, and I didn't push myself hard enough," Dow Drury said. "Now I see the potential for colleges and scholarships, so I push myself harder."

What Drury hasn't had a chance to do in two years is kick that game-winning field goal with the pressure on, coming late in the game.

"I'm looking forward to it. It happens in every kicker's life," Drury said.

That happened to Drury's predecessor, and the person who directed him to Valdosta football, Todd Peterson.

Peterson and Drury worked together on kicking while attending Valwood School. It was Peterson who told the Wildcat coaches about Drury, who didn't play football his



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hisson receiver during a recent practice — squeezes the ball while looking for a Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

DRURYS

From Page 1-B

first year, the eighth grade, in the Valdosta school system.

Peterson kicked a 47-yarder to beat Lowndes in the 1987 Winnersville Classic, and Drury said that one kick elevated the kicker in Valdosta thinking.

"The kickers have been getting a lot more respect since then," Drury said. "Now they think the kicker is supposed to make it all the time, every time."

Until he gets that chance to kick, he has to wait. And wait. And wait. And wait.

"It plays a bunch of games with you," Drury said. "You get all psyched up, fixing to kick, then there's a fumble or turnover. There's a loss, and you feel like you can't make it."

Dow Drury will stick with kicking for now. Clark, who was the ninth-grade kicker last season, also plays wide receiver.

He caught a 23-yard pass to set up a touchdown in the third-team scrimmage Friday night.

"I think I'll go farther kicking," said Clark.

And for the next two years, Valdosta fans will see how far both can go.

VHS Takes Two

From Lowndes

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Flashing lights and sirens ushered in the 1990 high school softball season at Sunset Park Thursday afternoon. So did Valdosta High's bats.

The Lady Wildcats recorded 13-2 and 9-0 wins over Lowndes High in a non-region doubleheader Thursday, rapping out 24 hits in between lightning bolts, high winds and rainshowers. Mother Nature finally won out after two stoppages in play, cutting the second game to five innings because of lightning and rain.

Did it really matter that the lights and sirens were heading over to a nearby problem — an uprooted tree which fell on some power lines and caught fire after wind gusts hit the Brookhaven Drive area?

"We seemed to keep ourselves in tune," said VHS coach Susan Montgomery, who said it has rained on a Valdosta season-opener for the past four years. "We were kind of expecting it to rain."

Valdosta's flair for the big inning almost matched the big storm clouds in the area. An eight-run third inning — which included Vashti Manning's grand-slam home run — and a four-run seventh accounted for most of

the runs in the first game. The Lady Wildcats scored three runs in the third and five in the fifth of the nightcap.

"Some other people stepped up and got some good hits," Montgomery said. "That's what it is going to take, to have some other people to win some games."

Yasmine Bivins, Shannon West and Laura Dennis had three hits each for Valdosta. Manning added two hits.

Wanda Floyd had two of Lowndes' five hits.

In the second game, Valdosta pitcher Amanda McGinn shut out Lowndes on three hits.

"She did a great job pitching," Montgomery said. "She put the ball across the plate and let the defense help her out." West, at shortstop, made five of the putouts and assisted on another out.

Lashon Hargett had two hits and scored two runs in the nightcap for Valdosta.

"If you don't hit you don't win," said Lowndes High coach Larry Maffit. "We don't have kids who can drive the ball."

The two teams begin Region 1-AAAA play next week — Valdosta is at Colquitt County Tuesday, while Lowndes hosts Colquitt Thursday.

Wildcats Need Game Opponent

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Look in the Coach's Useful Sayings book, somewhere near the front in the preseason chapter.

Where it says, "We've hit ourselves for so many weeks now. We're just ready to hit somebody else."

Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder will attest to that statement. After two weeks of spring practice, another three weeks of conditioning work, two weeks of camp and three days of game week, it may be true.

"We're at a point where we need to play a game to see where we are," said Hyder. "We've got our depth lined up, now we need to see who can perform under pressure."

"We need to play the games, see who can compete in game conditions. There are always surprises."

That game is Saturday night at Cleveland Field, when the top-ranked Wildcats meet No. 7 McEachern. Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

It's the most highly-ranked opener for the Wildcats since 1986, when then No. 1-ranked LaGrange came to town. VHS's 16-6 victory was the closest any team came to the Wildcats in that state and national championship season.

Valdosta High has lost just one season-opener since 1950, none in Hyder's 16 years with the Wildcats.

Hyder said the team has adjusted well after preseason camp, thanks in part to three days off before starting game-week practice on Tuesday.

"We've been kind of surprised. They didn't come back as sluggish as they usually do," said Hyder. "They didn't come back full of kerosene, gripes, nags and complaints. They've worked hard in the weight room and conditioning."

Some of Valdosta High's athletes are familiar with McEachern athletics. The two teams have wrestled against each other, and the state Class AAAA meet has been held at the Powder Springs school.

"McEachern is a situation of quality. They've got all the money they need, and have great facilities," Hyder said. "Their youngsters can win state in wrestling, and they've got a good basketball program."

●WILDCAT NOTES: Valdosta High School will do its part to remember the military forces now based in the Middle East. An American flag was imprinted on a shoulder of each Wildcat jersey Thursday by Graphic Imprints of Valdosta, Hyder said.

Hitson Named Captain

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

If it wasn't official by now, then Friday's vote confirmed it. Senior quarterback Alton Hitson is the leader of the 1990 Valdosta High football team.

Hitson was the overwhelming choice of the football team to be the overall team captain of this year's team, which opens the season Saturday night at Cleveland Field against McEachern.

Wide receiver Carlos Moore (offense) and cornerback Adrian Lewis (defense) are the unit captains, with center Giles Godwin (offense) and safety Marshun Lane (defense) the unit co-captains. The vote was taken Friday prior to the Wildcats breaking their two-week preseason camp.

"I think it's the greatest honor any teenager can ever get," Hitson said Friday night prior to the Wildcats' scrimmage at Cleveland Field. He was held out of the action because of minor toe and ankle problems. "I try and lead by example. I don't talk too much. I get along well with everybody."

The honor adds another chapter to Hitson's story with the Wildcats. He entered preseason camp last year as a wide receiver, then was moved to quarterback when starter Jason Nichols broke a leg.

Despite two hip pointers, Hitson continued to work on learning the offense and the quarterback position. He ended up as the starting quarterback for the Class AAAA state-championship team, the school's 20th overall and fourth in the 1980s.

He was later named the team's most valuable offensive player.

Now, with a year of experience, more is expected of Hitson this season. "It's put more pressure on me than anything," said Hitson. "I feel a lot better about playing ... I feel I know what I'm doing."

Why the pressure? "People expect me to do more than I did last year, because I was rushed into it last year," Hitson said. "This year they expect me to know what I'm doing."

Head coach Nick Hyder said he commended the players for their choice, and for the serious nature in which they treated the vote.

"Everyone voted for a player," Hyder said. "There were no Donald Ducks, no other made-up names."

He could not immediately remember the last offensive player to be named team captain.

Defensive back Chris Hart, who now attends the U.S. Naval Academy, was last year's captain.

The Valdosta Daily Times



VDT. Sept. 8, 1990
Sat.

Leadership Team

Patrick and Chris Carlson Park Avenue United Methodist Church were first campers and now members of the 'prestigious' Leadership Team for summer camp at Epworth-By-The-Sea. The brothers attend Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. The boys are keep-

ing a close eye on fellow church members Allison Pitcock, left, and Elizabeth Halter; second row (L-R) Bobby Reece, Chris Carlson, Matt Dorsey, Patrick Carlson and Brent Walker. At top are David Herndon, left, and Johathan Solvason — Contributed Photo.



Stan Grubb VDT

Picks Are Tough For Openers

In about 15 hours from now there's going to be some smiling faces and some frowns. But the first weekend of high school football usually does that to people in this area.

No, wait, try every weekend. Nevertheless, the 1990 prep football slate is full of games, and I'm going to attempt to sort out the winners and losers for all you prognosticators in the coverage area.

First of all, I'm just so glad to see McEachern find the time to fit Valdosta into their schedule plans. For the past several years, the McEachern fans have talked about having the team to beat the 'Cats. Well, we'll find out soon if all the talk is worth anything on Saturday night.

When it comes to teams in need, the Lowndes High Vikings would be tops on the list in the area.

The Vikes haven't been a part of a victory celebration since Sept. 28 against Dodge County. The final on that night was 28-21. LHS hopes they can turn things around.

When you've lost 15 of your last 20 games played, you'll take anything at this point.

But with 1990 comes a new playoff format and a bunch of happy folks in the southern part of the state.

As many of you know, the top two teams in each region will advance to the state playoffs. And many a year has gone by when the top two teams in the state in each classification has come from the south.

Even though things could change at anytime, look for the south to try and make a statement to the northern teams.

There's no need to stretch this thing out any longer. It's time to make the picks.

●McEachern at Valdosta: I think it's safe to say the Wildcats are just like a monster in a horror film. They just keep coming back for more.

And Saturday night in Death Valley, the crew from McEachern will find out first-hand what Region 1-AAAA is all about.

Valdosta, however, does boast one of the stiffest schedules in school history this season. But don't look for McEachern to have a successful trip down south.

Even though Valdosta is known for their slow starts, this game should end after three quarters...VALDOSTA by 14.

Lowndes SATs Up, VHS Down

Fri Aug 31, 1990
By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer VDT

Lowndes High School students showed improvement in their Scholastic Aptitude Test scores while Valdosta High School students had a slight decrease in theirs.

Ron Irwin, director of public relations for the Lowndes County Schools, said for the 1989-90 school year the average test score for high school students was 413 in the verbal portion and 450 in the math portion.

Last year at this time, students scored 391 on the verbal portion of the test and 427 on the math portion of the test. For both years there were 156 students who took the test which determines college eligibility.

"I'm glad to say ours has headed in a different direction," Irwin said, referring to the state scores which showed an overall decrease.

"We are very proud of the improvement. Our curriculum people and teachers have been working very hard to improve these scores," said

Lowndes School Superintendent Leon Pate.

Emphasis was made this year on writing, vocabulary and reading. In addition, teachers paid close attention to critical thinking skills which helped with the math portion, he said.

While Valdosta High School students' test scores went down, they were very close to the Lowndes average test scores.

On the verbal portion of the test, Valdosta High students had an aver-

age score of 411, said Bill Aldrich, principal of the school. For the math portion, the average score was 453, he said. There were 189 students from the school that took the test.

Last year Valdosta students averaged 422 on the verbal portion of the test and 454 on the math portion, Aldrich said.

He said the decrease could be due to those students being tested while not being prepared.

"They should start preparing earlier," he added.

Cats' Moss Makes Most Of Chance

Tues. Sept. 4, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor VDT

It's the chance any defensive players would like to have. A football lying on the ground, ripe for the picking, and plenty of open field ahead.

Valdosta High defensive end Marcus Moss got that chance Saturday night against McEachern. A backward pass was thrown more like a curve ball to a McEachern receiver, a curve ball which bounced backward even more toward the Wildcats' goal.



MOSS

Moss was the first player to reach the ball. He picked it up at the 24-yard line and ran the rest of the way for the final touchdown in a 28-6 victory.

"The first thing which came to my mind was to get the ball," Moss said Monday after Valdosta's camp-like morning practice. "When I got the ball I tried to make it into the end zone.

"I was just the first one to get to it. If it was somebody else I would have blocked."

It was a play that McEachern had tried before. When the ball bounces on the ground as it did, there's a tendency to think of it as an incomplete pass. But when the pass is thrown behind the quarterback, it's a lateral — and a free ball.

"There was no hesitation. That was a fumble," Moss said. "The first thing which came into my mind was to get the ball."

There was something else on Moss' mind Saturday. It was his first chance as a starter for the Wildcats, and he was having to replace some big, fast shoes.

"It was good to get on the field and show everybody what I can do," Moss said. "I had some big shoes to fill, with Fred Henton (graduating)."

Moss has shown that improvement through the school's Super Cat fitness test. Moss scored 238 points, second-highest on the team, at the end of last season. That earned him "Ultra Cat" honors.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS



VALDOSTA WILDCATS SCHEDULE

Colors: Black and Gold

SEPT. 1	McEACHERN
SEPT. 7.....	CAMDEN COUNTY
SEPT. 14	AT WAYNE COUNTY
SEPT. 21	JESS LANIER (ALA.)
SEPT. 28	ROBERT E. LEE (ALA.)
OCT. 12.....	AT BAINBRIDGE
OCT. 19	AT COLQUITT COUNTY
OCT. 26.....	AT TIFT COUNTY
NOV. 2	COFFEE COUNTY
NOV. 9.....	LOWNDES



Cats Top-Ranked
AP Poll Released—Page 1-B

AP: 'Cats No. 1

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The state's top two-ranked Class AAAA high school football teams will be in Valdosta this weekend — on different days at different stadiums.

Valdosta High got unanimous support from the 10 voters on the Georgia Associated Press voting board for the preseason No. 1 ranking in the statewide Class AAAA poll. The Wildcats are one of three defending state champions to get the preseason No. 1 ranking, but the only school to be unanimously voted as No. 1.

Valdosta's opening-game opponent, McEachern, was voted No. 7.

Two other members of Region 1-AAAA were voted in the Top 10 — Colquitt County at No. 4 and Tift County at No. 9.

Another 1-AAAA team, Coffee High, received votes for the poll, but not enough to make the Top 10. Two other Valdosta High opponents also received votes in the Class AAA poll — Camden County and Wayne County.

Valdosta's two Alabama opponents — Robert E. Lee of Montgomery and Jess Lanier of Bessemer — were ranked Nos. 3 and 4 in the Alabama Sports Writers Association preseason poll earlier this month. Those teams meet Sept. 7 to open their season in Bessemer.

Valdosta was ranked No. 1 in the state's other prep poll, compiled by *The Atlanta Constitution* newspaper. Nick Hyder's Wildcats are also the preseason No. 8 team in *USA Today's* poll released this week.

Lowndes' lone non-region opponent to be ranked fell behind Valdosta in the Class AAAA poll. Friday's opponent at Martin Stadium,

Warner Robins, received 73 votes to be a distant second behind Valdosta.

Both Warner Robins and Valdosta finished tied for third in last year's final Class AAAA poll (to end the regular season), with Southwest DeKalb ranked No. 1.

Among area teams, Cook received some votes in the Class AA poll, while Clinch got some votes in the Class A poll.

Defending state champions Mitchell-Baker (Class AA) and Lincoln County (Class A) are the preseason No. 1s in their classifications. Defending Class AAA champion Marist is second to Worth County.

Thomasville is tied for No. 4 in the Class AAA poll.

The Associated Press poll is compiled by the wire service's Atlanta office from votes by state sportswriters, including *The Valdosta Daily Times'* assistant sports editor Chris Beckham.

The Associated Press Rankings

CLASS AAAA		CLASS AA	
1. Valdosta (10)	100	1. Mitchell-Baker (4)	90
2. Warner Robins	73	2. Early County (5)	77
3. Southwest DeKalb	65	3. Lovett (1)	59
4. Colquitt County	52	4. Manchester	42
5. Griffin	49	5. Jeff Davis	37
6. LaGrange	47	6. Pepperell	30
7. McEachern	39	7. Cartersville	28
8. Clarke-Central	38	8. West Rome	26
9. Tift County	23	(tie) Rockmart	26
10. Morrow	12	10. Greene-Taliaferro	24
(tie) Brookwood	12	Also receiving votes: Claxton, Cook, East Hall, Gainesville, Mary Persons, Morgan County, Perry, Vidalia, Washington-Wilkes, Waycross.	
Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Cedar Shoals, Coffee County, Marietta, Mays, Norcross, Northside-Warner Robins, Southwest Macon, Statesboro.		CLASS A	
CLASS AAA		1. Lincoln County (8)	98
1. Worth County (6)	90	2. Dacula (2)	84
2. Marist (3)	85	3. Bowdon	56
3. Carrollton	76	4. Wilcox County	45
4. Thomson	35	5. Metter	43
(tie) Thomasville	35	6. R.E. Lee	39
6. Stephens County	27	7. Brookstone	37
7. Winder-Barrow	25	8. Warren County	31
8. Habersham Central	20	9. Bremen	22
(tie) Hart County	20	10. Montgomery County	15
10. Crisp County (1)	18	Also receiving votes: Clinch County, East Rome, Greenville, Heard County, Johnson County, Louisville, Pelham, Reidsville, Trion, Wilkinson County, Wrens.	
Also receiving votes: Burke County, Cairo, Camden County, Carver-Columbus, Cedartown, Dalton, Elbert County, Fitzgerald, Kendrick, Tucker, Villa Rica, Wayne County			



Valdosta junior cornerback Trampis Wrice is looking forward to another year patrolling the secondary for the Wildcats — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Wrice Still Playing, Just A Junior

VDT, Tues., Aug. 28, 1990

GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

You've heard the whispers before. "You mean he's still playing? He's been around forever."

Region 1-AAAA opponents could be saying the same thing about Valdosta High cornerback Trampis Wrice. And yes, he is still playing.

And he's just a junior.

Wrice is a typical Wildcat. He came straight from the junior-high ranks to be an alternate in the defensive secondary.

And when Kenny Rose died early in the 1988 season, Wrice moved up. He's stayed a starter since.

"I didn't expect to start. All of a sudden I had to start, and Coach (Jack) Rudolph pulled me up," Wrice said.

Whether Wrice was ready or not. He had liked being a part of a three-man rotation.

"I knew enough to start, because I was ahead of some sophomores and juniors," he said. "Coach Rudolph was sure I could play in any game. I wasn't quite ready yet because I was making some mistakes. They were picking on me because I was a freshman.

"Later in the season I began to play good, and by my sophomore year I played excellent football."

Wrice also was able to do some growing up as he played.

"My freshman year I was making mistakes, getting down on myself," he said. "My sophomore year I began to focus on the game."

The circumstances following Rose's death also helped that process.

"It kind of hurt. We played with more emotion than mental," Wrice remembers. "We started making more mistakes and fussing at each other. The coaches had to call time outs and calm us down, telling us not to be so emotional."

This year, Wrice is the lone junior starter in a senior-laden secondary — a group which includes returning starters Adrian Lewis and Marshun Lane, both seniors and both defensive captains.

For Wrice, the 1990 season seems like his senior season — again. "I've just had to play every year like my senior year, because everybody expects me so much out of me," he said. "I just try to play every game one at a time."



**KICK OFF
FOOTBALL SEASON**



'Wildcat Tradition'
Show Begins Tonight.



Rainy Romp
Cats Rout
Wayne Co.,
38-6—Page 1-B



Universal Cat
Adrian Lewis Is Tops



Double Dip
Cats, Vikes At Home.



New Valdosta Air Attack Works

Mon Sept. 3, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

UDT

That was no misprint in Sunday's *Valdosta Daily Times*.

Right there, next to the Valdosta High football game story — the one about Valdosta's 28-6 victory over McEachern Saturday night.

Fifth column of the paper, underneath the picture, in the statistics box. Right-hand side of the box score.

Yes, right there. Valdosta High did have more passing yards than rushing yards in a football game. Not by much, but it was enough — passing, 124; rushing, 113.

Pressed for an answer later Saturday night, Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder couldn't recall a time when that has happened before. No doubt, somewhere, sometime, some

This Friday's Area Schedule

Camden County (1-0) at Valdosta (1-0)
Savannah Groves (0-1) at Lowndes (1-0)
Brooks County (0-1) at Cook (0-1)
Berrien (0-1) at Atkinson County (0-1)
Wilcox County (0-0-1) at Clinch County (1-0)
Westbrook (1-0) at Maranatha (NA)
Hamilton County (0-0) at Dixie County (0-0)
Valwood (1-0), Madison County (0-0) do not play

game it has happened.

This happened by design. "I told Coach (Wright) Bazemore Saturday that we planned to open up early. I thought he'd be pleased," said Hyder. "He was."

"Air Valdosta" helped put the Wildcats up 13-0 before most of the Cleveland Field-faithful could really

settle in their seats. It was a reminder of this year's preseason scrimmages, when the first-team offense victimized the second-team defense on some big plays. Then, the plays were passed off as the usual first team beating up on the second team.

Flight No. 1 was a six-play, 45-

yard drive. Five running plays, a McEachern penalty and two first downs led to quarterback Alton Hitson's 20-yard touchdown pass over the middle to Carlos Moore.

Two plays later, McEachern quarterback Marcus Hinton fumbled to a diving Dexter Daniels at the Indians' 42. Flight No. 2 ensued, with Hitson finding Carlos Folsom open downfield along the right sideline. Folsom caught the pass and fought through a defender into the front-corner of the end zone.

In 95 seconds, it was 13-0 Wildcats.

"The offensive line was blocking and the receivers were open," said Hitson, simply explaining the early success.

"We'll need to get our running and blocking timing down," Hyder said.

'Cats Talk About Line Work

Sun. Sept. 9, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

UDT

If there's one quote which may sum up a problem which came out of Valdosta High's 14-14 tie with Camden County Friday night at Cleveland Field, it may have come from Nick Hyder.

Asked why the Wildcats didn't go for two points on the second extra-point attempt late in the game, Hyder gave a short list of reasons. One stands out.

"We weren't moving the ball well enough except to throw it," said Hyder. And when you have less than two yards to go to the end zone, there's not much room in which to throw.

Valdosta finished with a tie Friday night, the school's first regular-season deadlock since before the current players were born.

The Wildcats (1-0-1) also concluded that there will be some work done with the offensive line this week.

Valdosta only had 68 rushing yards on 45 carries against Camden, with the visiting Wildcats dropping Valdosta players for a loss on 15 plays. Most came against quarterback Alton Hitson, who sometimes couldn't find a receiver open, sometimes couldn't have time to find a receiver.

Take out last week's 25-yard touchdown run Hitson had, and he has no yards net rushing on 24 carries. Friday night did much of that damage.

Case in point — Valdosta is running the ball 74 percent of the time

after two games, while getting only 43 percent of its yardage by the run. Its opponent is running 74 percent and getting 77 percent of its yards.

"We're still young," offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker is quick to point out. He does have just one starter back from last year.

They'll get some more attention this week.

And so will the kicking game. A bad snap at game's end cost Valdosta a chance at a possible game-winning 35-yard field goal. And Clark Drury came on to replace older brother Dow to make the second, game-tying extra point, after a highly-discussed penalty nullified a miss.

Valdosta makes its first road trip of the season Friday night, when it goes to Wayne County (1-1).



WILDCATS

Here are the overall records, this week's results and next week's opponents for Valdosta High's non-region opponents:

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Osborne, 52-6; does not play

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V. Times 9-2-90

Defense Claws Indians

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

McEachern High got its introduction to South Georgia football, Valdosta High style, Saturday night at Cleveland Field.

The classroom instruction consisted of defense, defense and more defense. Add in three big offensive plays and you get a 28-6 Wildcat victory over the seventh-ranked Indians.

The top-ranked Wildcats limited the Cobb County visitors to 35 total yards and two first downs in the first 3½ quarters. The Indians victimized the Wildcat backups from there, including Billy Quince's 77-yard touchdown run as time expired.

"It was a good effort by the whole first two units, until the end," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "I don't think they were tired

(at the end), but they were complacent with a 28-0 lead."

"They play a real pressure scheme, and they have some good athletes on defense," added McEachern head coach Jimmy Dorsey. "We got what we came for tonight. I think we'll be a better team down the road."

Valdosta's defense dropped McEachern runners at or behind the line of scrimmage on 10 of the 19 first-half running plays, limiting the visitors to 11 total yards by intermission.

McEachern never got closer than the Valdosta 38 until the final play, and that was because of a second-quarter fumble.

"That's our style of football," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

It was McEachern's first regular-season loss since the end of the 1985 regular-season. But all of the regular-season games have come within Re-

gion 5-AAAA play, a region which McEachern has won three of the last four years.

Valdosta jumped on the visitors early, scoring twice on Alton Hitson touchdown passes midway in the first quarter — a 20-yard pass to Carlos Moore and a 42-yard pass to Carlos Folsom, both coming within 95 seconds of each other.

After the teams settled into a defensive posture for the next two quarters, Hitson broke free for a 25-yard touchdown run with less than a minute left in the third quarter.

Defensive end Marcus Moss tacked on the last score, picking up an errant backward pass and running 24 yards for the touchdown with 6:33 left in the game.

"We played a team tonight that knows how to win," said Hyder, whose teams haven't lost an opener in his 17 years as coach. "It was a

chess game, and we made some adjustments."

Valdosta tried to make a rout of it early, capitalizing on some nervousness from the visitors. The Wildcats scored on their first two possessions, driving 45 yards in six plays for the first score. On first down, after the Wildcats had made first down on an offsideline penalty, Hitson hit Moore over the middle for the 20-yard touchdown pass. Dow Drury added the first of his two extra points.

Two plays later, McEachern quarterback Marcus Hinton fumbled after a 13-yard gain, with linebacker Dexter Daniels recovering the ball at the McEachern 42.

On the next play, Hitson found Folsom down the right sideline. Folsom forced his way just into the front right corner of the end zone against the Indians' pressure to make it 13-0. The extra-point kick failed.

That streak ended with three minutes left in the third quarter. Joe Wright broke a 29-yard run on first down, then a 7-yard run on third down. After a McEachern offside, Hitson scrambled out of trouble, picked up some downfield blocks and went into the end zone from 25 yards.

From there, the defenses adjusted and took over. The teams traded seven possessions from the end of the first quarter to the third, with Valdosta turning the ball over twice and Drury missing short a 43-yard field goal. Six drives went three downs and punt.

Same for McEachern, with turned the ball over on an Trampis Wrice interception in the middle of the streak.



Valdosta High defensive end Eric Phillips (35) chases McEachern High quarterback Marcus Hinton during Saturday's season-opening high school football game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 12-52, Alton Hitson 7-33, Steven Everson 1-14, Dexter Mitchell 1-5, Carlos Moore 1-4, Albert Edmonds 1-2, Alfred Barnes 1-2, Kendrick Patrick 2-1, McEachern: Billy Quince 9-104, Jimmy Powers 2-11, Terrell Small 9-104, Marcus Hinton 13-7, Eddie Workinger 2-3, Charles Turner 2-1, John Waldon 1-1, Wright 1-2-1 32, Everson 0-1-0 0, John Bell 0-1-0 0, McEachern: Hinton 1-7-1 6, RECEIVING: Valdosta: Carlos Folsom 2-74, Moore 2-44, Sam Hogan 1-6, McEachern: Adam Meadows 1-6.

McEACHERN	VALDOSTA
4	10
38-137	26-113
6	124
1-7-1	5-13-1
8-30-4	6-31-8
6-38	3-16
2-2	1-1

VALDOSTA 28, McEACHERN 6
McEACHERN 0 0 0 6-6
VALDOSTA 13 0 8 7-28
V — Carlos Moore 20 pass from Alton Hitson (Dow Drury kick)
V — Carlos Folsom 42 pass from Hitson (kick failed)
V — Hitson 25 run (Jamey Waters run)
V — Marcus Moss 24 fumble recovery (Dow Drury kick)
M — Billy Quince 77 run (no conversion attempt)

'Cats Talk About Line Work

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

VDI. Sun. Sept 9, 1990

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Monday, September 3, 1990



Valdosta High School basketball cheerleaders win the spirit stick, most improved squad, and were in the run-off for

award of excellence. Stephanie Everett was in the run-off for All American — National Cheerleaders Association Photo.

VHS Cheerleaders Win

The Valdosta varsity basketball cheerleaders recently returned from a National Cheerleaders Association summer camp workshop where they received top recognition as the most improved squad at the camp.

The workshop was held at Jacksonville University and attracted more than 200 cheerleaders from surrounding states.

The National Cheerleaders Association is sponsoring the "Most Im-

proved" squad award at each of more than 315 NCA workshops held across the United States. The Valdosta basketball cheerleaders were selected for this award above all other cheerleaders at the workshop on the basis of their cheerleading technique, unity, friendliness, cooperation, leadership and sportsmanship, according to a news release.

The presentation of the NCA "Most Improved" squad came at the completion of a full workshop of training on cheerleading technique, cheers, chants, jumps, partner stunts and pyramids, as well as a leadership program for sportsmanship, crowd participation, responsibilities, organization and dedication.

VHS team members include Rasheda Steward, captain; Stephanie Everett, co-captain; Tami Reed, Katie Cantrell, Shauntell Wingate, Jennifer Vance, Leslie Wetherington, Jennifer Robbins, Tami Calhoun. Adviser is Julia McDonald.

'Cats Tangle At Cleveland

VDI. Fri., Sept. 7, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There will be two Wildcats on a mission tonight at Cleveland Field.

One Wildcat, that top-ranked team in Class AAAA, will be looking for that steady, game-to-game improvement which its head coach preaches about.

The other Wildcat will be looking to have a better showing that it did last week, or last year at the storied football field.

No. 1 Valdosta High (1-0) meets Class AAA's Camden County High (1-0) tonight at 8 p.m. — two teams with the two missions.

"We've worked to correct the little things," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "The angles, the head positions, the shoulder and foot positions on blocking and tackling. If a player looks at the films, it proves it.

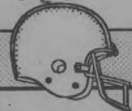
"If they see what could happen if they do one little thing correct, maybe there's another three, five, 10 yards ... and we've continued to work on our pass blocking."

In Saturday's 28-6 victory over McEachern, the Wildcats actually passed for more yards (124) than they ran for (113). Quarterback Alton Hitson threw for two scores — nearly back-to-back in the first quarter — and ran for a third.

Camden won its opener, 13-0 over Charlton County. It was the first time in three years that Camden hadn't opened with Valdosta.

"Camden is a much, much more quality football team than the score indicates, but I don't know that much about Charlton County," Hyder said. "We can't help but feel they were looking at us while playing somebody else. We've been their opening game the last two years, and they'd been counting the days on the wall. They couldn't do it this year."

Camden head coach Bill Thombs wasn't pleased with the effort in that game, and has indicated a similar



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (1-0) vs. Camden County Wildcats (1-0)

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets available.

ON THE AIR: WAAC-FM (93).

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 28, McEachern 6; Camden 13, Charlton 0.

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 1 in Georgia AP, No. 6 in USA Today.

outcome to last year's 34-0 Valdosta High victory may occur.

Last year Camden lost 25 total yards and had no first downs.

"It was hard to do anything against that bunch," Hyder said of his defense which recorded the first of its six shutouts. "They did it to our offense in practice."

Camden quarterback Marlo Mobley is back from last year's 7-5 team which finished second in Class 2-AAA. Mobley has senior Clay Clark (6-3, 255) blocking for him.

Mobley and back Keith Cummings ran for touchdowns in last week's game. But the Camden offense also felt the pressure of the Charlton defense.

● **WILDCAT NOTES:** Senior nose guard Andre Scruggs may face surgery on a knee he hurt late in the game against McEachern. After the Wildcats had gone up 28-0, the defensive substitutes went into the game. But after a couple of long gains, the first unit went back in. It was then when Scruggs was hurt.

Hyder said the fourth-year player has ligament and cartilage damage, and may miss the rest of the season. "This one may take a long time," the coach said.

"He's had rough luck," Hyder added, noting that Scruggs was hurt in his freshman year. "He was a leader of that defensive-line group."



Two Wildcats Battle To Tie

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A 14-14 tie snatched from the jaws of defeat — a good way to describe top-ranked Valdosta High's come-from-behind effort against visiting Camden County Friday night at Cleveland Field.

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On the drive, Valdosta converted on two third-down plays — a 23-yard Hitson to Steve Jaramillo pass to the VHS 38 and a 21-yarder keeper by Hitson to the Camden 22. Four plays later, on fourth-and-three, Dexter Mitchell charged ahead for 4 yards to the 11.

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CAMDEN COUNTY	7	7	0	0-14
VALDOSTA	0	0	7	7-14

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CAMDEN COUNTY	VALDOSTA
9	12
26-112	45-68
67	118
7-15-0	6-12-0
6-30-7	6-31-7
7-57	2-10
1-1	1-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

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It wasn't over. After Camden ran three plays, including a dropped pass on third down, Valdosta got the ball on its 46. On the first play, Hitson hit Moore over the middle on a 41-yard

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B



Valdosta High's Albert Edmonds (33) surges ahead for yardage as Camdens fend — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

Sept. 8, 1954



Valdosta running back Albert Edmonds runs into Camden County defender Steve Scott during their battle at Cleveland Field Friday night. The teams fought to a 14-14 tie — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

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Going for the win on second down, Clark Drury lined up for a 35-yard field goal with 14 seconds left. But the snap went past the holder and toward open ground. Valdosta recovered and, with no time outs, time expired.

Valdosta came out of the halftime intermission rolling, with Wright going 47 yards with the opening kickoff to midfield. A face-mask call tacked on 15 more yards.

Tight end Reginald Mitchell's 23-yard pass/run play to the 2 set up the score, with Kendrick, Patrick blasting over from the 1 for the score less than two minutes into the half. Dow Drury made the extra-point kick.

But the 'Cats had a fake punt fall short later in the third quarter, and the field goal missed after Jonathan Davis recovered a fumble at the Camden 25.

It was reflective of much of the troubles Camden caused Valdosta throughout the game. Camden dropped Valdosta backs for losses 15 times, many on Hitson passing attempts.

"They were using a good scheme on the front," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "They used a 4-3, and they brought linebackers. They were bringing seven and eight people. We'll look at the film."

Last year, in Valdosta's 34-0 win over Camden, the visiting Wildcats lost yardage and had no first downs. In the first half, it was nearly the opposite.

Camden moved 64 yards in eight plays on its second possession, making three first downs on either first or second down. Quarterback Mario Mobley's 13-yard pass to Travis Thrift set Camden up first down at the 12.

Valdosta held on three downs, and faced a fourth-and-one at the 3. But Mobley scrambled right and evaded one Valdosta defender. His pass was juggled in the end zone, with Keith Cummings making the catch for the touchdown.

Bucky Buchanan's kick made it 7-0 with 3:05 left in the first quarter.

The second score came after Terrence Baker's 43-yard punt return to the Valdosta 38.

Jimmy Hutchinson opened the drive with a 12-yard run, and Mobley's 9-yard scramble set up Camden first down at the 11.

On the next play, Hutchinson went up the middle, running over a Valdosta defender near the goal line, and into the end zone to make it 14-0 with 4:59 left before halftime.

Valdosta had just two first downs by halftime, both on pass plays after the first touchdown. But that drive ended with two Hitson sacks, and Valdosta never got past the Camden 40 the rest of the half.

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Cats Tie
 Game Ends
 14-14—Page 1B



Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times
 Saturday, September 8, 1990

B

Two Wildcats Battle To Tie

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

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7-15-0	PASSES	6-12-0	
6-30-7	PUNTS-AVG.	6-31.7	
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Wildcats *Cont 9-8-90*

From Page 1-B

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Hitson Developing Into Wildcat Leader

V. Times 9-9-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

His teammates named Alton Hitson their leader back in August. Through the first half of the regular season, the Valdosta High senior quarterback and team captain has done little to disprove that.

"He's the cement between the bricks. It's hard for a wall to stand up without the cement," said head coach Nick Hyder. "He makes the team stand up."

What Hitson has done is taken advantage of a second year as the Wildcats' starting quarterback. He was thrust into the position last fall because of an injury, then overcame his own nagging injuries to direct the team to a 14-1 record and the school's 20th state championship.

And despite a new set of maladies this season, Hitson has been able to help move the team to a 4-0-1 record and a probable No. 1 position in the state AAAA poll this week.

Hitson has passed for 381 yards (with no interceptions) and run for another 145 yards — almost 45 percent of the Cats' total offense.

Hitson is the leading scorer (24 points) and has been in on eight of the team's 12 offensive touchdowns (four pass, four rush). He's also recorded 24 of 62 first downs (10 rush, 14 pass).

"I've developed my reads, and I have a lot more confidence," Hitson said. "I'm getting to know the offense better."

"The experience, the seasoning of the off-season, put him in the position to think about (playing quarterback)," said Hyder. Hitson had been a quarterback on the ninth-grade team, but he was moved to wide receiver once with the big boys.

What Hyder likes in Hitson is the combination of competitiveness and coolness.

"Some of the other quarterbacks we've had have been noticeably excitable. We'd have to call a time out

See HITSON, Page 3B



Quarterback Alton Hitson has led to Wildcats to 18 wins against only one loss and one tie since taking over the job before his junior season — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Mon. Sept 10, 1990

UDC Honors Area Students

One Receives Scholarship;

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Lifestyles Editor

A Valdosta student has been awarded a four-year scholarship by the Georgia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Meredith Lynn Stanaland, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Stanaland III, received the Leodelle Jolley Scholarship, one of six offered in Georgia. The announcement was made by Mrs. Dorsey Matthews of Moultrie, second vice president and chairman of the education committee of the Georgia Division of the U.D.C.

Applicants must be lineal descendants of Confederate veterans. Miss Stanaland's mother and grandmother, Mrs. D.J. Maddox, are members of the Valdosta Chapter #471 of the U.D.C.

Miss Stanaland will be using her scholarship at Georgia Southern University. She graduated in June from Valdosta High School where she was a varsity and junior football cheerleader and captain, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, charter member of the Interact Club, on the girl's track team, the yearbook staff and bat girl.

She was a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority and participated in the Valdosta Dance Theatre. She is active in First United Methodist Church where she participates in the youth choir, youth council, district youth council and council on ministries.



MEREDITH STANALAND
Headed For Georgia Southern

Throughout her high school career she amassed many honors including being named to the lists of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, *Outstanding High School Students of America* and *Society of Distinguished American High School Students*. She was named All American Scholar by the U.S. Achievement Academy and present a national leadership and service award. She won first place in district Distributive Education Clubs of America competition and the National Cheerleading Association Award of Excellence. Despite her many activities she did well with her

Complete Schedule Awaits Area Teams

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Forget the off weeks, the delays, the waiting. It's the third week of the 1990 football season, and the first week all 10 area high school football teams and Valdosta State College will be in action.

The 10 prep teams will be playing in eight games, with two cross-county matchups — Brooks County (1-1) at Berrien High (0-2) in Nashville, and Hamilton County (1-0) hosting Madison County (0-0) in Jasper.

The three Lowndes County-area high school teams hit the road for the first time, with Valdosta High (1-0-1) at Wayne County (1-1), Lowndes High (2-0) at Dodge County (1-0-1) and Valwood (1-0) at Deerfield.

And Valdosta State (0-1) opens its 1990 Gulf South Conference schedule on the road, travelling to meet Tennessee-Martin (2-0). Completing that half-day trip won't come soon enough for the Blazers, who will wave goodbye to Martin, Tenn., on the way out — this is the Pacers' last year in the Gulf South.

It's the first full week of football action in our area. The Florida schools start the season one week later than the Georgia schools, and Madison County couldn't find an opponent to agree to meet it last week.

Valwood took its week off after whipping Brookwood on Aug. 31, 24-13 at Goddard Field. So did Valdosta State, which used last week to heal and to get in some extra work in after the close loss at Georgia Southern.

The three remaining area teams all go on the road this week, giving fans who like to stay close to home not much choice but to get in the car and drive — Cook (0-2) goes to Fitzgerald, Clinch County (2-0) is at Pelham and Westbrook (2-0) makes the short trip to Thomasville to play at Brookwood.

●NOTES: Lowndes, which should move up from its No. 9 spot in last week's Associated Press poll, has won its first two games of the season for the first time since 1985 — the last year it won the Region 1-AAAA title.

But the Vikings may have to beat more than Dodge County Friday night. Add in some history — the last Lowndes team to go 3-0 to start the season was in 1980, when the Vikings won state. The 1982, 1983 and 1985 teams all started 2-0, but lost the third game (Tift in 1982 and 1983, Clarke Central in 1985) ... The three points allowed in two games is Lowndes' best start since the 1978 teams had back-to-back shutouts to open the season, and second-best ever. But that '78 team also lost its third game (to Tift) ...

Valdosta's tie against Camden County was its first regular-season deadlock since 1967 ... It's the first time the Wildcats haven't started the season 2-0 since head coach Nick Hyder's first season, 1974 ...

Valdosta State is 5-1 in Gulf South Conference openers which also don't serve as the season opener. Four of the wins, and the loss, came against UT-Martin.

Hitson ^{cont} 9-9-90

From Page 1B

out to settle them down," Hyder said.

"(Hitson) is burning yet he's calm. He's the most alert person, not going berserk. Greg Talley had that. Hitson has the temperament a quarterback should have."

Hitson has had to stay calm this season. Twice the 'Cats have had to come from 14 points down. Once the 'Cats tied, the second time — on national television — the 'Cats won.

"This has been the toughest schedule I've faced, but I think we handled it pretty well," Hitson said. "All of them felt like region games, championship games. It's got us really pumped up for the region."

"The tie made us work harder."

Beginning Friday at Bainbridge, Hitson and Valdosta High enter that five-game segment of Region 1-AAAA games. The Bainbridge game is the first of three straight on the road.

"We want to start playing four quarters a game, come out strong at the beginning," Hitson said. "We need to have both our running game and our passing game working at the same time."

Something that Hitson will have plenty of control over.

Moore Uses Dad's Push

V. Times's 9-11-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Is the football field a place for a 5-foot-5, 150-pound high school senior? It is if your Valdosta High wide receiver/kick returner Carlos Moore.

With a lot of determination and a hard push from Moore's father, Kenneth Moore, the small player has made his mark this and last seasons.

Moore, who was elected offensive captain prior to the start of the season, leads the Wildcats with four pass receptions for 99 yards and a touchdown. He almost scored again late in Friday's 14-14 tie against Camden County, a 41-yard reception which gave the Wildcats a chance for a game-winning field goal.

And while he has yet to post some big numbers as a kick returner this season, Wildcat fans will remember Moore for his athletic 85-yard punt return against Shaw in last season's playoffs.

"I may not be that talented, but everyone knows I'll go as hard as I can," Moore said. "My dad is my inspiration. He keeps me up. He works as hard as I do, on football and baseball."

Without that work, Moore may have been watching the Wildcats play instead of being watched.

As an eighth-grader at the junior high school, Moore didn't play on the main Tomcats team; he didn't play with his friends Alton Hitson and Carlos Folsom. He was an 85-pounder on the second eighth-grade team.

"I was about to quit. I loved it, but I'd get down," Moore said. "My dad said if I didn't start working out, and gain a little weight, I wasn't going to be out there."

So he worked. He gained 30 pounds over that summer, then made his point with the ninth-grade team one day on a long punt return against the varsity scout team. "Coach (Al) Akins and Coach (John) Davis gave me a chance," Moore said.

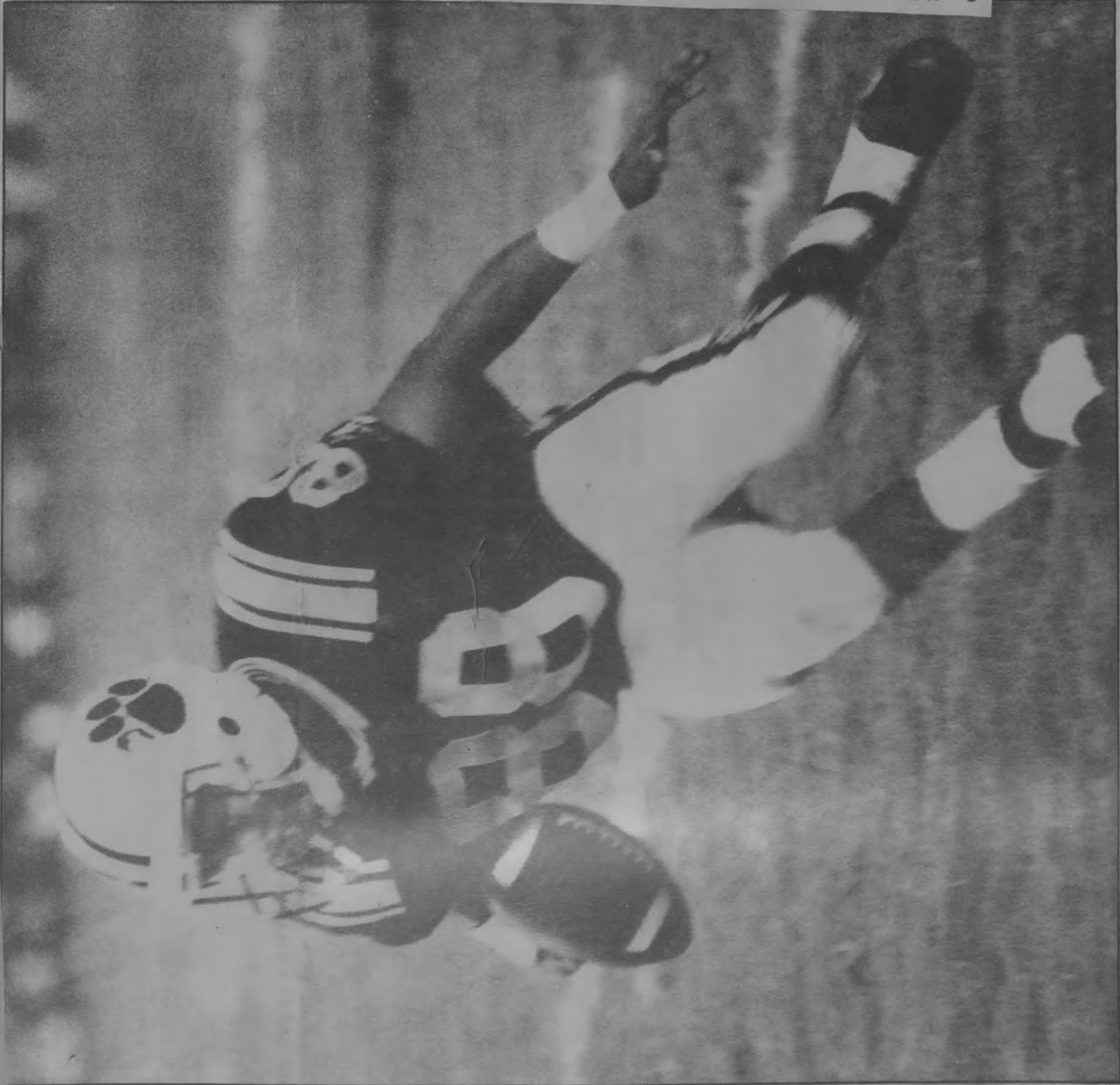
Then he caught the eye of head varsity coach Nick Hyder and receivers coach Bob Bolton. "They gave me a chance, and I continued to work on it," Moore said.

And he kept working with his dad, who was a small high-school student like his son, but was noticed as a good athlete. "My dad never had someone to push him like he pushes me," Moore said. "Coach (Freddie) Walters once told me we ought to be watching him on television now."

"I really love football, but if it weren't for my dad I'd probably be 115 pounds."

The next push came this year. It started when Moore's mother died on the Fourth of July, 1989.

See MOORE, Page 3-B



Valdosta High senior Carlos Moore has turned his size into an advantage as he darts through defenders during one of his many punt returns — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Moore

From Page 1B

As Moore was making a name for himself last football season, he was flunking two classes. When report cards came out after the first semester, he was ineligible for spring sports — his beloved baseball and spring football practice.

"It was my fault. I got down on myself, and had a bad attitude with my teachers," Moore said.

But Moore, as usual, came back. Moore's dad and his teammates encouraged him through the tough times, and Hyder and his wife June worked to get him in summer school.

He passed his classes, and returned to the football field. At the end of camp, he was elected offensive captain.

"It had me crying," Moore admits. "I didn't let any of my teammates see me. They look up to me."

Even if most of them have to look down to see him.



WILDCATS

Here are the overall records, this week's results and next week's opponents for Valdosta High's non-region opponents:

McEACHERN (1-1): Did not play; home to Alexander

CAMDEN COUNTY (1-1-1): Lost to Brunswick, 21-17; home to Glynn Academy

WAYNE COUNTY (1-2): Lost to Valdosta, 38-6; at Brooks County

JESS LANIER (Ala.) (1-1): Lost to Daniel (S.C.), 27-20; at Valdosta

ROBERT E. LEE (Ala.) (0-2): Lost to Pascagoula (Miss.), 16-13 (OT); home to Carver (Ala.)

Linemen Get Ready, And 'Cats Run

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The first serious preparations for Valdosta High's 38-6 victory over Wayne County Friday night in Jesup may have come at offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker's house the previous Sunday.

His linemen got a good, long look at the game film from the 14-14 tie against Camden County two nights earlier. "We graded out real low on the film," said Baker. "They came up to me and told me they were going to play sound football mentally and physically.

"It's all attitude — our attitude about blocking was better tonight... Last week showed we weren't mentally prepared to play football. We took that team lightly. When you start reading the newspaper clippings, that happens."

Baker said his senior linemen stepped forward this week and were leaders.

"We did more talking during the week. We worked harder to work hard on the blocking scheme. We got more ready for this ballgame than we did last week," said Giles Godwin, senior center and the offensive co-captain.

And the linemen were ready. So were the Wildcat backs, to a total of 233 yards and 14 rushing first downs — more than Valdosta, now 2-0-1, had in the first two games **TOTAL**.

Senior tailback Joe Wright ran for 80 yards on seven carries and a touchdown, then went 44 yards for a punt-return score which made the game 28-0 midway through the first quarter.

Then add in sophomore fullback David Williams, making his first varsity start. He added 49 yards on six carries — just 5 yards less than the two other fullbacks had in the first two games combined.

And quarterback Alton Hiltson threw for one touchdown and ran for a second.

"We got out of the chute, got a couple of breaks early and had couple of big plays," said

backs coach Mike O'Brien. "I thought Joe Wright had the best night of his career. And we're superly impressed with David Williams. He's stepped up, and now it's a battle for him to lose the job."

Baker pointed to the play of senior tackle Shaun Eiders, the veteran on the line. "He played his best game so far this year. He showed what he is capable of doing," Baker said. Andy Sheffield stood out in his first start at guard, while junior Eddie Wooten — one of those 20 or so Wildcats who have to share a number with another player — made his presence felt in his first extended action.

And the defense and kicking game helped in its own way to make the offensive's job a bit easier. Seven of VHS' 10 drives started in Wayne territory, with the average drive start at the Wayne 45.

Other notes:

● The Wildcat defense picked up where it

left off in the second half of the Camden game. Wayne was limited to 67 rushing yards on 23 plays, while hitting on just five of 22 passes for 14 yards. The Yellow Jackets did drop their share of passes for quarterback Tracy Flournoy, as did some Wildcat defenders.

● Who's that kicker? With only one, Dow Drury, listed on the numerical roster, you may need some help in identifying the rest.

Here it goes: Clark Drury hit the first two extra points, but missed the third. Older brother Dow came back to kick the 29-yard field goal in the third quarter.

Alan Sanderson did the kicking off, including getting nugged by a Wayne County player after the 'Cats went up 28-0. The Yellow Jackets were called for a personal foul on the play. Sanderson was also going to kick the field goal at the end of the first half — before the snap was fumbled.

And Alan's brother Ryan — part of a set of triplets — kicked the last extra point.

ABC News plans to have a crew in town beginning today to work on a story about Valdosta and Valdosta High football. And SportsChannel America will cablecast the game live to its affiliates as part of its national high school football package.

So far there are no plans to have the game cablecast live or delayed in Valdosta.

The second team on Valdosta's Alabama slate is Robert E. Lee of Montgomery. Lee and Lanier met on Sept. 7, with Lanier winning 7-0.

The hottest team in town in 1990 is the Lowndes High Vikings. Rick Tomberlin's 3-0 team will be on the road for a rare Saturday-night contest.

Valdosta High (2-0-1) enters the Alabama segment of its schedule this Friday when it hosts Jess Lanier High of Bessemer, Ala., at Cleveland Field. This is the first time the Wildcats have met a team outside the Eastern Time Zone.

The game will be Jess Lanier's second long trip in two weeks — it played at Daniel High of Central, S.C., Saturday night, losing 27-20 on a game postponed a day because of poor field conditions. Jess Lanier is 1-1.

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The hottest team in town in 1990 is the Lowndes High Vikings. Rick Tomberlin's 3-0 team will be on the road for a rare Saturday-night contest.

Valdosta High (2-0-1) enters the Alabama segment of its schedule this Friday when it hosts Jess Lanier High of Bessemer, Ala., at Cleveland Field. This is the first time the Wildcats have met a team outside the Eastern Time Zone.

Unbeaten Teams Hit The Road
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Cameras To Focus On Valdosta, 'Cats
V. Times 9-17-90

The Georgia Associated Press poll is scheduled to be published in Wednesday's *Valdosta Daily Times*. In last week's poll, Valdosta was No. 4 and Lowndes No. 7 in the Class A poll. Clinch was No. 4 in the AAAAA poll.

For a full list of games, including junior varsity, ninth grade and junior high in the Valdosta-Lowndes area, see the Sports Calendar on page 2-B.

Other Friday games include Cook County (0-2-1) hosting Tift County, Brooks County (1-2) at home against Wayne County and Hamilton County (1-1) at Suwannee.

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VHS Feeder Teams Have New Look

VDT. Thurs., Sept. 13, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The younger teams which form the feeder system for Valdosta High's future football players has a new adult look this season.

Tim Horton, a former ninth-grade assistant coach, is now head coach for the ninth-grade team. His two assistants were at other jobs last season — defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph made the move from the varsity for family reasons, while assistant Eddie Crocker was a late addition to the staff. He'll also serve as varsity wrestling coach.

And John Davis, the former ninth-grade head football coach and varsity wrestling coach, is now

heading up the Valdosta Junior High football program.

Horton's club opens the season tonight on the road, at Lake City, Fla. Game time is 7 p.m., and Horton says the opponent treats the battle with Valdosta as one of the season's biggest.

"We've been practicing for four weeks, so we're ready to play somebody," said Horton. "Our offense is coming around, and the defense has been there the whole time."

"Having Coach Rudolph working for us is great. He's probably the best defensive coach in the United States."

Davis has stepped in for long-time junior-high coach Norman Sainz, who stepped down after last season. The Tomcats opened the season Saturday

with a 33-0 win over Lowndes Middle School at Martin Stadium, an added "bowl game" to kick off the season.

The Tomcats will host Tifton at Cleveland Field today at 5 p.m. Meanwhile, the Alleycats — which won its opener, 6-0 over Aucilla — will host Monticello, Fla., at the junior high school at 5 p.m.

A third team, the Straycats, lost their opener to Jennings, Fla., 16-8. The Straycats played at Ware County Wednesday night. A fourth team, the Bobcats, open later this month.

"It's basically the same," Davis said. "All the kids in Valdosta work hard. Repetition, just like the varsity, is the best technique."

Davis commended the support the program has received from all areas, especially the parents.

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature About Local Young People



Davidae Stewart, a 17-year-old senior at Lowndes High, is interning at TMA Ministries in Valdosta — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Student Has Whole Life 'Planned'

Stewart Sets

Goals High

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Davidae Stewart, 17, has had her whole life planned out since the third grade.

The Valdosta High School senior who aspires to be an architect was inspired by local architect Tommy Gregory, owner of TMA Ministries Inc., a local firm that specializes in religious and urban construction.

Gregory spoke to Miss Stewart's class about architecture when she was in the third grade at Sallas Mahone Elementary School. The two kept in touch and today, Miss Stewart is an intern at TMA.

Miss Stewart said she often visited Gregory at his office where he shared with her pictures and sketches of the structures he was building. She said it was this relationship that cinched her career goal for good.

She does a lot of errands and

Davidae Stewart

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School
- Family: Parents, David and Dorothy Stewart; twin brother David, 17, sister Melana, 4
- Activities: Beta Club, Spanish Honor Society, DCT

some drawing but feels it's the kind of training she needs to pursue the career. Because of Gregory's status as her mentor, Miss Stewart believes everyone should seek out someone in their future career area to help them along the way. It was his interest and what he taught her, Miss Stewart said, that kept her going.

"He's kind of like a godfather," Miss Stewart said. "If a child has something they want to do, they should never give up on it," even if that means a long college term.

Many of her peers are turned off by the years in college required for professional careers, Miss Stewart said, but that should not be an

obstacle.

Miss Stewart hasn't decided which college program she'll attend. She still has to check them out to see which one best suits her needs. Auburn and Northwestern universities are both in the running, as is Southern Technical Institute in Marietta. She wants a program that will allow her to study both architecture and civil engineering simultaneously.

"It deals with the people a little bit more. With civil engineering, you get to go out and talk with more than engineers about the projects," she said.

The trainee's professional interests correspond with her teacher's.

A goal of her's is to design safer housing projects with bigger rooms. Miss Stewart said she used to have relatives who lived in the projects and it was a shame to see them living in such cramped conditions. Additionally, too much concrete around the units creates a hazard for the numerous children who often live there.

Her dream of building houses and churches was formed from much more than the need to make money, she said, but a desire to help the urban and religious communities.

V. Times 9-14-90

'Cats No. 4, Vikings No. 7

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

In that imperfect science called football polls comes this week's "Believe It Or Not".

Lowndes High, riding its first 2-0 start in five years, moved up two places to No. 7 in this week's Associated Press Class AAAA poll. But the team it knocked off to start the season, Warner Robins, moved up to No. 3 and got one first-place vote after beating Southwest DeKalb last week.

The four teams in front of the Vikings have either a loss or a tie, including Valdosta High. The Wildcats fell from a unanimous No. 1 to No. 4 after Friday's 14-14 tie against Camden County — which couldn't crack its Class AAA poll.

LaGrange is the state's new No. 1, moving up from a tie for second after beating Northside-Warner Robins. Griffin is now second, up from fifth,

after beating Clarke Central — which stayed sixth despite the loss.

Colquitt County took the biggest fall, going from No. 4 to No. 10 after losing, 10-7, at Dothan, Ala.'s, Northview Friday night. Morrow fell out of the poll after a 14-7 loss to Baldwin.

The only other Valdosta Daily Times-area team in the poll is Clinch County (2-0), which moved up from No. 7 to No. 5 in Class A after beating Wilcox County Friday night.

In Class AAA, Worth County got 10 of the 12 first-place votes, two more than last week. But the two voters who did not vote Worth No. 1 almost didn't recognize the school. Marist, which got the other two first-place votes, got two more total points than Worth County and became the class' new No. 1.

In Class AA, Region 1-AA foes Early County and Mitchell-Baker remained tied for first.

And in Class A, Lincoln County got nine of 12 first-place votes. But Dacula made up 16 points from last week to draw into a tie for No. 1.

Georgia Associated Press Football Poll

CLASS AAAA		CLASS AA	
1. LaGrange (6) (2-0)	106	1. Early County (4) (2-0)	103
2. Griffin (3) (2-0)	103	(tie) Mitchell-Baker (6) (2-0)	103
3. Warner Robins (1) (1-1)	82	3. Lovett (1) (2-0)	99
4. Valdosta (2) (1-0-1)	80	4. Jeff Davis (2-0)	80
5. Southwest DeKalb (1-1)	67	5. Cartersville (2-0)	58
6. Clarke Central (1-1)	57	6. Manchester (2-0)	49
7. Lowndes (2-0)	53	7. Pepperell (1-0)	47
8. Statesboro (2-0)	24	8. Greene-Talbot (1-0)	32
9. Brookwood (2-0)	20	9. East Hall (2-0)	22
10. Colquitt County (1-1)	19	10. Rockmart (1-1)	18
Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Brunswick, Cedar Shoals, Central-Macon, Mays, Marietta, McEachern, Morrow, Newton County, Tift County, and Stone Mountain		Also receiving votes: Cedar Grove, Gainesville, Grady, Franklin County, Loganville, Mary Persons, Morgan County, Toombs County, Upton, Vidalia, Washington-Wilkes, Waycross, West Laurens and West Rome	
CLASS AAA		CLASS A	
1. Marist (2) (2-0)	107	1. Lincoln County (9) (2-0)	109
2. Worth County (10) (2-0)	105	(tie) Dacula (3) (1-0)	109
3. Stephens County (2-0)	79	3. Bowdon (2-0)	92
4. Habersham Central (2-0)	75	4. Metter (2-0)	78
5. Thomson (2-0)	62	5. Clinch County (2-0)	64
6. Thomasville (0-1)	40	6. East Rome (2-0)	61
7. Carrollton (1-1)	35	8. Oglethorpe County (2-0)	34
8. Elbert County (2-0)	28	8. R.E. Lee (1-1)	21
9. Cairo (1-0)	23	9. Wilcox County (1-1)	20
10. Crisp County (1-0)	20	10. Macon County (2-0)	14
Also receiving votes: Burke County, Camden County, Carver-Columbus, Cedartown, Fitzgerald, Kendrick, Ringgold, Westminster		Also receiving votes: Bremen, Calhoun County, Decatur, Calvary Baptist, Glennville, Hawkinsville, Monticello and Pelham	

There's History In Jesup

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

When Valdosta High announced its 1990 football schedule, long-time Wildcat fans couldn't be blamed for remembering a piece of history. Bad history.

Friday's game at Wayne County marks the first time the two schools have met in the regular season since 1969. But it's the 1975 state-playoff game in Jesup which is the piece of history.

Wayne County 15, No. 1 Valdosta 14. A game which taught current VHS assistant coach Keith Middleton not to overlook anybody.

"We knew that Jesup had to be halfway decent, but as a player, us and the town were looking to Michael Jolly and Central of Macon. We looked ahead," Middleton said. He was a junior linebacker for the Wildcats that season, and played that game in front of his future college coach, Georgia's Vince Dooley.

At the time, who could have blamed Valdosta High for some added confidence. It was current head coach Nick Hyder's second season at Valdosta, and the Wildcats had rebounded from that un-Valdosta like 3-7 season a year before.

The Wildcats had knocked off No. 1 Thomasville twice in the season, including the 3-0 Region 1-AAA playoff game in Thomasville a week before.

Wayne County hadn't beaten Valdosta since a 1955 regular-season game, and the series between the two schools had ended with 35-0 and 34-0 shutout wins by Valdosta in 1968-69. Wayne County had been shutout the last five-straight games against the Wildcats.

"At the time, we had tried to buy them out and play the game in Valdosta," Middleton remembers. But highly-regarded head coach John Donaldson, in his third year back home after coaching college ball, and Wayne County said no.

The game's first half did nothing to lower Valdosta's expectations. Billy Berrian — who had 224 total yards of Valdosta's 302 for the game — caught touchdown passes of 48 and 66 yards to help the Wildcats to a 14-0 lead.

"We had to dress in their gymnasium," Middleton said. " (At halftime) we were in there overconfident."

The rest of the night — and history — was Wayne County's.

The Yellow Jackets' first touchdown was set up by a personal-foul penalty. "As the player was making the tackle, his feet swung around in the air. His foot hit the ref in the jaw," Middleton said. "You could see on the film the ref reach for his pocket. That was a crucial call."

On the next play, from the Valdosta 13, Wilbur Carter — who had dropped a sure touchdown pass late in the first half — ran for a touchdown. The Jackets went for two, with then-sophomore Lindsey Scott catching the scoring pass. It was the future Bulldog's lone catch of the night.

With 7:40 left in the game, the play came. Quarterback Billy Lott lined up in punt formation. Instead of kicking, he went right and hit Donnie Palmer on a 67-yard touchdown pass. The extra-point kick was successful, and Wayne County held on for the upset.

"I can't tell you what happened (on the play)," Middleton said. "I was the linebacker on the right side, and they ran down our sideline, the left side of the defense. Everybody reacted to it, even the kick-return man."

The result was a nightmare for the Wildcats and Middleton. It didn't even matter that Dooley came into See JESUP, Page 4-B

Jesup

From Page 2-B

the locker room after the game to congratulate the Wildcats on a good season.

"Things kind of blew up in our face," Middleton said, remembering that a second-half injury to fullback Alton Battles had limited Valdosta's offense. "That loss hurt more than in my senior year, when we lost that Tuesday playoff game to Central (of Thomasville).

"We had the better team, but that night Wayne County outscored us. It was as embarrassing as any of the defeats in my sophomore year. We were supposed to beat them."

Middleton says he'll have no revenge in his heart when the Wildcats return to town Friday night. But he can, and has, related the experience of that night to his players — especially after last week's 14-14 tie with Camden County.

Valdosta Wildcats Returning After Tie

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

In the week after *The Tie*, the Valdosta High School football team has worked to build on their second-half performance against Camden County.

The Wildcats won the second half of last Friday's game at Cleveland Field, 14-0, but came away with a 14-14 tie. "We adjusted well in the second half," said head coach Nick Hyder. "I'm proud of the way the team came back."

It's the numbers — 168 total yards to Camden's 78, 10 first downs to Camden's two in the second half — which are the ones to build upon. And Valdosta will try to do it tonight at Jesup, meeting Wayne County in the Wildcats' first road game of 1990.

"We've had a good week. We've had to make some personnel adjustments," said Hyder.

Junior Albert Edmonds at tailback (three carries, seven yards in 1990) and sophomore David Williams at fullback (no carries in 1990) have been part of the movement at running back — a running game which has averaged 90.5 yards in two games. Tackle Eddie Wooten has joined in as the offensive line has worked, as has tight end Shadrick Green.

Converted running back Leroy Williams has gotten more time in the defensive backfield, where John Copeland may have to step in for an injured Marshun Lane at safety.

Senior tailback Joe Wright has 267 all-purpose yards in two games, including a 31.0-yard average on three kickoff returns, and has picked up half of the team's rushing first downs. Senior quarterback and team captain Alton Hitson has hit on 10-of-21 passes for 210 yards, eight first downs and two scores.

Wayne County is 1-1 after beating Class A's Glascock County 42-0 last week. Its defense returns eight starters.

'Cats Are Back, 38-6

V. Times 9-15-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

JESUP — Mother Nature did its best Friday night to stop the Valdosta High football team. But when the lady gave its best shot, the Wildcats took over.

Valdosta High rolled nearly untouched for 28 first-half points, then finished up with a 38-6 victory in the first meeting between the two schools in 15 years.

"We feel like Wayne's defense is as good as Camden's," said head coach Nick Hyder, referring to the team which tied Valdosta 14-14 last week. "When our people block and execute well, our offense is pretty steady."

The fourth-ranked Wildcats (2-0-1) started early, after lightning in the area delayed the start of the game for 22 minutes. Though the lightning got worse and the rains continued as the night wore on, the game began.

And all the Wildcats did was scored on their first two possessions, then added two more scores in the first three-plus minutes of the second quarter. Fifteen minutes into the game, Valdosta led 28-0.

The Wildcats' running game clicked better than it has in the first two games combined, accumulating 233 of VHS' 271 total yards. Joe Wright ran for 80 yards on seven carries, including a touchdown, and tacked on a 44-yard punt return for a score to make it 28-0.

And sophomore fullback David Williams tacked on 49 yards on six carries in his first varsity start.

"We just got ready as a unit more than we did last week," said senior center Giles Godwin.

"We wanted it more," added Wright.

Defensively, Valdosta limited the home team to 12 yards by halftime and 81 for the game. The lone score came with 2:11 to go in the third quarter, a quarterback sneak by Tracy Flournoy on third down which turned into a 7-yard touchdown — on a drive helped by two penalties for first downs.

"We did a real good job. Their game plan was to throw, and the weather may have hampered it," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. Wayne County hit on just 5-of-22 passes, with Jonathan Davis and Deric Cotton picking off passes.

A six-play, 55-yard drive led to the night's first score. After five running plays, including a 20-yarder by Wright, quarterback Alton Hitson hit

WILDCATS 38, JACKETS 6

VALDOSTA	14	14	03	07-38
WAYNE CO.	00	00	06	00-6

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VAL — Joe Wright 19 run (C. Drury kick)
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WILDCATS	JACKETS
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2-7-0	PASSES 5-22-2
2-24-0	PUNTS-AVG. 7-26.4
7-50	PENALTIES-YARDS 4-31
1-1	FUMBLES-LOST 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Wildcats: Wright 7-80, David Williams 6-49, Hitson 7-25, Albert Edmonds 7-21, Jamey Waters 2-21, Kendrick Patrick 5-16, Albert Barnes 2-13, Dexter Mitchell 1-12, Steven Everson 1-5, Brian Wiseman 3-4, Justin Cabral 1-(-2), Team 1-(-11); Jackets: Tyrone Nix 8-49, Jason Brumback 8-11, Tracy Flournoy 4-11, Benji Strickland 1-1, Steve Mandray 1-(-1), Bernard Jones 1-(-4).

PASSING: Wildcats: Hitson 1-4-0 22, Waters 1-2-0 16, Wright 0-1-0 0. Jackets: Flournoy 4-20-2 8, Donnie Johnson 0-1-0 0, Madray 1-1-0 6.

RECEIVING: Wildcats: Brice Hunter 1-22, Craig Hunt 1-16. Jackets: Tyrone Nix 2-(-8), Buddy Starling 1-11, Ladale Hill 1-6, Johnson 1-5.

Brice Hunter in the back of the end zone for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Clark Drury added the first of his two extra points.

After a short punt was compounded by a 10-yard Carlos Moore return to the 19, Wright weaved his way through on a trap play for a 19-yard touchdown with 6:16 left. Drury's kick made it 14-0.

Valdosta was stopped on fourth down inside the 10 on its next series, but improved it to 20-0 on the next drive.

Hitson and Dexter Mitchell had runs of 12 yards each to the 9, before Hitson kept around left end for the third touchdown. Drury's kick was wide right. After holding Wayne County (1-2) again — the Jackets only got as far as their own 31 in the first half — Wright took the punt at Wayne's 44 and went the distance for the fourth score. Hitson hit Albert Edmonds for the two-point conversion, making it 28-0 with 8:46 left before halftime.

The game settled in the second half, as the Wildcats cleared the bench. Dow Drury made a 29-yard field goal with 7:06 left in the third quarter on the Wildcats' first drive of the second half.

See WILDCATS, Page 3B

Wildcats

From Page 1B

And after Wayne went 76 yards on 11 plays for its score, Valdosta answered with a 45-yard, nine-play drive which ended with Brian Wiseman's 1-yard run, his first varsity score. Ryan Sanderson made his first varsity extra-point kick, and the game's final points were posted with 5:19 left.

Valdosta enters its interstate part of its schedule the next two weeks, hosting Jess Lanier of Bessemer, Ala., Friday night in a nationally-cablecast game from Cleveland Field.

Jess Lanier's game at Daniel High of Clemson, S.C., was rained out Friday night.



V. Times

9-15-90

Bag Lady?

Valdosta High School junior Robin Rowe covers her head while running through the rain at VHS Friday afternoon. Rowe was meeting other Valdosta High Marchin' Cats for the road trip to Wayne County for the Wildcats' Friday night game —



Former Valdosta High School head football coach and athletic director Wright Bazemore, left, and his wife Bettie relax at their North Valdosta home — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Bazemore Battles Back

VPT, Sun, Sept. 16, 1990
 By STAN GRUBB
 Times Sports Writer

For decades, Wright Bazemore's Valdosta High Wildcat football teams made a habit of beating the state's opposing programs. Now, Bazemore is beating the odds in the biggest game of all — the game of life.

A stroke in May 1989 left VHS' legendary leader with speech problems and without use of his right arm. But this veteran of many high school football wars is not giving in.

In fact, his wife Bettie says that Bazemore's improvement has been over 50 percent, and he shows no signs of slowing down.

In her own words, he's just Wright.

"He just finished a complete physical the other day and things are very good. There still is not movement in his right arm, but his speech is improving," said Mrs. Bazemore. "A lot of people have trouble understanding him, but he is very aware of what's going on around him and he's making every effort to respond."

"He is aware of all the prayers and concerns shown by the people around the area and state, and not one day passes that we don't get a call or letter asking about the coach," she said.

"And as time passes, all you can do is hope and pray for the best."

In his coaching career at Valdosta High (1941-42, 1946-71), Bazemore's teams won 268 games with only 57 losses and seven ties. In all, the 'Cats captured 14 state championships and three mythical national titles during his reign.

With the aid of friends and well-wishers, Bazemore makes at least one trip a week to a Valdosta High practice and has also visited a practice at Lowndes High School and head coach Rick Tomberlin's Vikings.

"That's where he wants to be if he can make it," Mrs. Bazemore said. "And thanks to his friends such as Buck Thomas and others, he's able to get out and see the team."

Current VHS head football coach Nick Hyder says it's always special to see Bazemore at a Valdosta High gathering.

"The man has a standing invitation with us and we'd love to have him out here anytime he can be out at practice," said Hyder. "And in his own way, he's trying to communicate with everyone and he has a brilliant mind and is very aware of things. It means a lot to see him doing what he loves and wants to do, and we welcome him anytime and anywhere."

And while LHS and VHS may be crosstown rival schools, Tomberlin says just his presence means a great deal.

"I think when you talk Wright Bazemore, you're talking about one of the finest high school coaches of all time. And I'm very privileged that he would come out to watch our football team," said Tomberlin. "He's welcome here anytime and we want him to know that. He's done a lot for the game and for the kids he's coached, and I wish the best for him."

In March, Bazemore chose to give up his therapy sessions and is presently working at home on a stationary bike. He is no longer confined to a wheelchair.

But now that football season has arrived, Mrs. Bazemore says it's one hand on the television remote-control and one hand on the bike.

"Football's his life and he'll usually stay up to 10 p.m. and watch whatever games is on, or watch while doing his exercises. One night, he told me to go to the back room to watch the Miss America Pageant because the game was on," Mrs. Bazemore said chuckling. "It's a

See BAZEMORE, Page 3-C

Bazemore —

From Page 1-C

madhouse of sorts with it being football season. But he's happy, so why make him unhappy. Whether it is exercise or television around the house, we want to make it comfortable on him and pleasant."

Hyder credits the endless love of Mrs. Bazemore and the family for her husband's recovery.

"I think she and her family is the key to the whole thing for Coach Bazemore. Her whole life has been dedicated to him and she's the real story," said Hyder. "She does the housework, cooking, cleaning, make special arrangements and they just have a strong love for each other. Which in this day and time, some many young people could possibly learn from this kind of thing."

While the work for complete recovery has been both strenuous and somewhat mentally draining, the Bazemores remain optimistic.

"There had to be a meaning for it and a master plan by God," said Mrs. Bazemore. "And we as Christians have made the best of it. We're just trying to enjoy life and make the best of it, which is what Wright's doing."

"For me, I'm happy because I have my husband with me. And it's a joy and a pleasure to be able to have him with us and be able to care for him."

'Cats Are Back, 38-6

VDT Sat., Sept. 15, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
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1-1	FUMBLES-LOST 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Wildcats: Wright 7-80, David Williams 6-49, Hitson 7-25, Albert Edmonds 7-21, Jamey Waters 2-21, Kendrick Patrick 5-16, Albert Barnes 2-13, Dexter Mitchell 1-12, Steven Everson 1-5, Brian Wiseman 3-4, Justin Cabral 1-(-2), Team 1-(-11); Jackets: Tyrone Nix 8-49, Jason Brumback 8-11, Tracy Flournoy 4-11, Benji Strickland 1-1, Steve Mandray 1-(-1), Bernard Jones 1-(-4).

PASSING: Wildcats: Hitson 1-4-0 22, Waters 1-2-0 16, Wright 0-1-0 0. Jackets: Flournoy 4-20-2 8, Donnie Johnson 0-1-0 0, Madray 1-1-0 6.

RECEIVING: Wildcats: Brice Hunter 1-22, Craig Hunt 1-16. Jackets: Tyrone Nix 2-(-8), Buddy Starling 1-11, Ladale Hill 1-6, Johnson 1-5.

Brice Hunter in the back of the end zone for a 22-yard touchdown pass. Clark Drury added the first of his two extra points.

After a short punt was compounded by a 10-yard Carlos Moore return to the 19, Wright weaved his way through on a trap play for a 19-yard touchdown with 6:16 left. Drury's kick made it 14-0.

Valdosta was stopped on fourth down inside the 10 on its next series, but improved it to 20-0 on the next drive.

Hitson and Dexter Mitchell had runs of 12 yards each to the 9, before Hitson kept around left end for the third touchdown. Drury's kick was wide right. After holding Wayne County (1-2) again — the Jackets only got as far as their own 31 in the first half — Wright took the punt at Wayne's 44 and went the distance for the fourth score. Hitson hit Albert Edmonds for the two-point conversion, making it 28-0 with 8:46 left before halftime.

The game settled in the second half, as the Wildcats cleared the bench. Dow Drury made a 29-yard field goal with 7:06 left in the third quarter on the Wildcats' first drive of the second half.

See WILDCATS, Page 3B

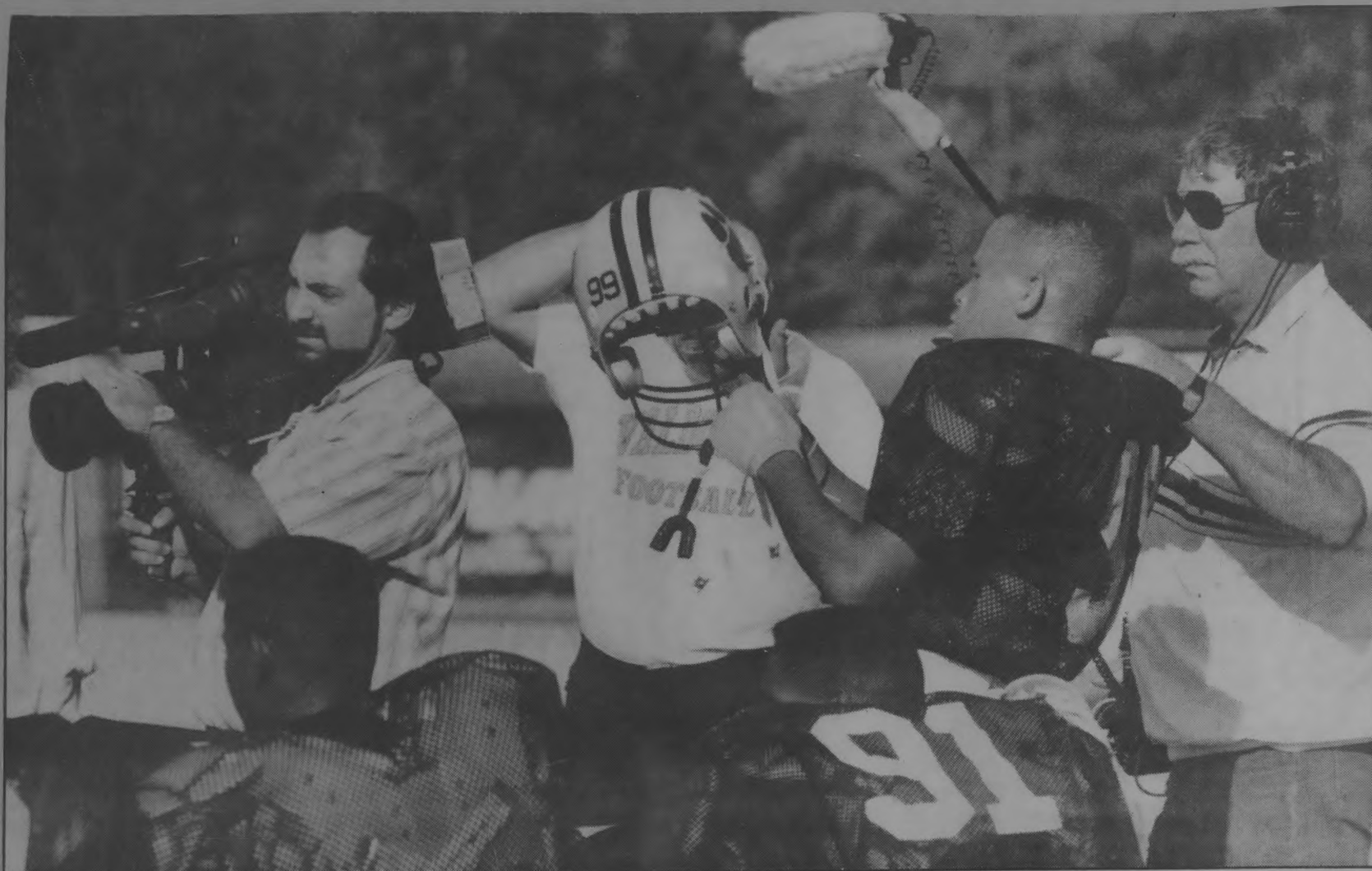
Wildcats

From Page 1B

And after Wayne went 76 yards on 11 plays for its score, Valdosta answered with a 45-yard, nine-play drive which ended with Brian Wiseman's 1-yard run, his first varsity score. Ryan Sanderson made his first varsity extra-point kick, and the game's final points were posted with 5:19 left.

Valdosta enters its interstate part of its schedule the next two weeks, hosting Jess Lanier of Bessemer, Ala., Friday night in a nationally-cablecast game from Cleveland Field.

Jess Lanier's game at Daniel High of Clemson, S.C., was rained out Friday night.



The ABC News film crews got plenty of action to get on tape Monday at Valdosta High. The team will be in town throughout

the week for a story on the Wildcat football team — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

ABC News Team Begins Work

VDT Tues., Sept. 18, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

An ABC News team arrived in Valdosta Monday, scheduled to spend this week in town working on a story about the city and the Valdosta High football program.

The four-person group attended practice Monday afternoon at the high school, then went to the Valdosta Touchdown Club meeting later in the day. They will be working on the story throughout the week, including Friday-night's game at Cleveland Field against Jess Lanier.

ABC News correspondent Armen Keteyian, a former *Sports Illustrated* investigative reporter, is among the crew. His idea to do a story on a high school football town and its team was inspired by the book *Friday Night Lights*, which focused on Odessa, Texas, and Permian High School.

"The book crossed my desk about a month ago," Keteyian said Monday. "I read it in about two nights. It was a terrific book.

"I was looking to do a story about high school football for World News Tonight for the fall season, and I hadn't come to grips with what shape it was going to take. When I read the book, principally about a town and a team, I started to look around. You don't have to look too far to see that Valdosta is one of the premier high school football programs in the country."

The fact that this week's game will be nationally cablecast on SportsChannel America added to Keteyian's interest. "Coach (Nick) Hyder is an interesting subject to look at, and the great success that the program is and the way the town supports it ... it all fell together.

"We're just looking to understand how the town and the team supports one another, and how the kids draw strength from the town and the support the town gives. How the kids themselves, through the football field, bring so much to the community. How they co-exist. And the pressures the players and coaches are under ... the world of high school football in a nutshell through the eyes of Valdosta High School."

Keteyian said the comment made in a Valdosta Touchdown Club preseason newsletter about the current Middle East situation and Valdosta football did not figure into the decision to come to South Georgia.

"Carol Williams, the producer, called me and said, 'Did I see the thing in USA Today?' But I had already made a decision to come here three or four days before that was even in the papers.

"That comment doesn't really affect me one way or the other. Obviously there is a lot of pride in the football program. It's a political statement, and certainly people are free to say what they want.

"I'm not into doing sensationalized stories or the stories that have the preconceived slants into them. I just want to be here to see how this town gears up, gets excited about something that they are very proud about. I'm looking forward to Friday night."

Keteyian said he'd seen the piece done last year by a 20/20 team on the Valdosta High program. "I liked it," he said. "But he has 20 minutes to do it, I have about four. Mine will be a little different, See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

the focus will be a little sharper — about the town and the team."

There has been no date set when the piece will run on ABC's *World News Tonight*. "With what's going on in the Middle East, it's hard to get four minutes on the news," Keteyian said.

●WILDCAT NOTES: Valdosta Touchdown Club officials are still talking with SportsChannel American about obtaining permission to show Friday's game on a delayed basis, VTC president Dave McCracken said Monday night. The game will not be shown live in Valdosta, except to those who can pick up SportsChannel's signal on a satellite dish.

Georgia Associated Press Football Poll

CLASS AAAA			CLASS AA		
1. LaGrange (8) (2-0)	114		1. Mitchell-Baker (11) (3-0)	119	
2. Griffin (2) (3-0)	106		2. Lovett (1) (2-0)	88	
3. Valdosta (2) (2-0-1)	85		3. Jeff Davis (3-0)	84	
4. Warner Robins (2-1)	77		4. Cartersville (3-0)	75	
5. Lowndes (3-0)	63		5. Early County (2-1)	70	
6. Southwest DeKalb (2-1)	53		6. Pepperell (2-0)	60	
7. Clarke Central (2-1)	48		7. Manchester (3-0)	51	
8. Brookwood (3-0)	42		8. East Hall (3-0)	35	
9. Statesboro (2-0)	26		9. Waycross (3-0)	17	
10. Colquitt County (2-1)	14		10. Morgan County (1-1)	15	

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bainbridge, Brunswick, Marietta, McEachern, Meadowcreek and Newton County

CLASS AAA			CLASS A		
1. Worth County (7) (2-0)	111		1. Lincoln County (10) (3-0)	118	
2. Marist (5) (3-0)	110		2. Dacula (2) (2-0)	88	
3. Stephens County (2-0)	93		3. Metter (3-0)	76	
4. Habersham Central (3-0)	72		4. Clinch County (3-0)	75	
5. Thomson (2-0)	58		5. Oglethorpe County (2-0)	54	
6. Elbert County (3-0)	37		6. Bowdon (2-1)	47	
7. Thomasville (1-1)	35		7. R.E. Lee (2-1)	36	
8. Carrollton (2-1)	34		8. East Rome (2-1)	24	
9. Cairo (2-0)	29		9. Macon County (3-0)	22	
10. Burke County (3-0)	17		(tie) Wilcox County (2-1)	22	

Also receiving votes: Camden County, Cedartown, Crisp County, Hart County, Kendrick, and Peach County

Also receiving votes: Claxton, Franklin County, Greene-Taliaferro, Rockmart, Vidalia, Washington-Wilkes and West Laurens and West Rome

Also receiving votes: Calvary Baptist, Emanuel County Institute, Gordon Lee, Heard County, Miller County and Wrens

Valdosta, Lowndes In Top 5

Staff Reports

After victories Friday night, both Valdosta High and Lowndes High moved up in this week's Georgia Associated Press high school football poll.

Valdosta moved up a spot to No. 3 after defeating Wayne County, 38-6, in Jesup, while Lowndes moved up two spots to No. 5 after its 14-0 win over Dodge County.

A third Region 1-AAAA team, Colquitt County, is ranked, at No. 10. Bainbridge received votes after knocking off former Class AA co-No. 1 Early County.

LaGrange remained at No. 1, getting eight first-place votes. Griffin is still No. 2, and received two first-place votes.

Meanwhile, Clinch County (3-0) continues its move up the Class A poll. The Panthers are now No. 4.



Offensive Players Stood Out Friday

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In the third week of the high school football season, offense played a big role in several victories by area teams.

And for their efforts offensive standouts, Joe Wright of Valdosta High; Jason Ives of Westbrook School; Madison County's Odell Livingston and Clinch County's Fred Edmonds, along with Lowndes High linebacker Randall Godfrey were all named as Players of the Week by The Times' sports department.

With his Valdosta Wildcats fresh off a 14-14 tie against Class AAA foe Camden County, Wright rushed seven times for 80 yards to lead VHS to a 38-6 rout of Wayne County in Jesup.

The senior tailback scored two touchdowns in the contest, one of which was a 44-yard punt return. The other score came on a 19-yard scamper from scrimmage. With the win, Valdosta improves to 2-0-1.

While the spotlight was centered around Madison County star tailback Frankie Wilkins, backfield mate Odell Livingston stole the show last Friday night in Jasper, Fla., versus the Hamilton County Trojans.

The stocky fullback rumbled for three touchdowns to lead the Cowboys to a season opening 27-6 win. His touchdown runs covered 25, 15 and 33 yards.

In Pelham, Edmonds directed the Clinch County Panthers to a 34-6 win and their third victory on the year.

Edmonds, the Panthers' quarterback, carried the football 10 times

for 80 yards and accounted for two touchdowns. Twenty-five of his 45 yards passing in the game was completed to receiver Donell Grady for a score.

Edmonds also had a 1-yard touchdown run and a two-point conversion run.

Ives paced the Westbrook Cougars 21-11 win over Brookwood rushing for 115 yards on 19 carries, with a 1-yard touchdown run. Westbrook is now 2-0 on the season.

In Eastman, Godfrey led a Lowndes High Viking defensive surge which held the Indians to but a single yard in the second-half of play and 39 yards total on the night. Godfrey alone accounted for 13 tackles for LHS and now has 27 total tackles to lead his team.

Valdosta's winning tradition doesn't scare Alabama team

FTU Fri, Sept. 21, 1990

By Lawrence Dennis

Sports writer

Carroll Cox, coach of Bessemer (Ala.) Jess Lanier High, says he isn't the least bit concerned about his football players having the jitters when they line up against Valdosta tonight at the Wildcats' Cleveland Field.

"I'd go to hell and back with our boys," said Cox, whose Tigers are 1-1 and currently ranked No. 6 in the Alabama Class AAAAAA poll. "They're not intimidated by anyone. If Valdosta thinks they're going to be intimidated, they're wrong."

The Wildcats — at 666-136-33 since 1913 the winningest high school football program in history — do intimidate a lot of people. They're 127-10-1 since 1979 and have won two national and four state championships in that time, the most recent last year. Coach Nick Hyder's 'Cats are 2-0-1 this year and are ranked No. 3 in Georgia's Class AAAA poll.

"They're a real good football team, but they're not any tougher than the area opponents we play," said Cox, whose Tigers finished 10-3 last year after losing 21-16 in the playoffs to eventual state champion Anniston.

Lanier is 1-1 this season, squandering a 20-6 third-quarter lead and losing to Clemson (S.C.) Daniel 27-20 last week on a touchdown scored with 11 seconds left in the game. The Tigers beat Montgomery Lee, Valdosta's opponent next week, 7-0 in their opener.

Cox said he had told his players who they were facing and what they were going into.

"Our kids had never heard of Valdosta," he said. "We told them, 'We're playing a big-name school in a big-name football state. Look, these guys have won 125 games in 10 years. They're a great football team.' We made them aware of it. This isn't an area game that's going to determine whether or not we make our playoffs. We want our boys to enjoy themselves. If we go in there with that attitude, I think we can beat them."

Lanier, located in a suburb of Birmingham, is a respectable team in Alabama's highest classification. The Tigers are 80-44-2 under Cox since 1978, and this year's team features three of the biggest offensive linemen a Valdosta team has ever faced.

Senior guards Ja Ja Dawson (6 feet 4, 353 pounds) and DeWayne Daniels (6-4, 310) flank senior center Tim Minor (6-3, 302). The Tigers like to run their wishbone dive-option offense straight ahead behind all that beef, with junior quarterback Chris Windsor (6-2, 180) keeping or handing off to fullback Jonathan Porter or halfback Greg Stevens.

Defense has always been one of the Wildcats' strengths, but they don't have anywhere near the size of Lanier's offensive front, which averages 305 pounds from tackle to tight end.

"I don't know if we can stop them," said Hyder.

Valdosta, opponent go on national TV tonight

FTU Fri, Sept. 21, 1990

By Lawrence Dennis

Sports writer

Anyone who thinks paydays haven't become a major factor in the high school football picture should take a look at the checks that'll be cut after tonight's game between Valdosta, Ga., and Bessemer (Ala.) Jess Lanier at Valdosta's Cleveland Field.

Lanier, which made the 400-mile trip from the Birmingham suburb to Valdosta via Atlanta by bus yesterday, stands to make more money off the game than many smaller high schools bring in from a whole season of football games.

"We get an \$8,000 guarantee from Valdosta and \$1,200 from the TV people," explained Lanier coach Carroll Cox.

The "TV people" are from SportsChannel America, a national sports cable network that has a maximum coast-to-coast audience of 11 million households.

The New York-based cable network is televising the game live, with Bob Papa of the NFL New York Giants

telecast team on the play-by-play and former Miami Dolphin Glenn Blackwood providing color and analysis.

The game is being aired as part of the National Federation Game of the Week series, which is produced by SportsChannel under an agreement with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Ironically, TCI Cable in Valdosta won't be carrying the telecast live, but the Wildcat booster club hopes to arrange a couple of delayed replays of the game. Clay Cablevision will carry the live telecast in the Jacksonville area, beginning at 8 tonight. Cable outlets in Palm Coast and the Gainesville area also will carry the telecast. The game also can be seen on sets tied in to a satellite dish.

The SportsChannel crew won't be the only TV people in town. An ABC-TV News team has been in Valdosta all week working on a segment on the town and the high school's football program that's scheduled to be aired at a later date on *The World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*.

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

VHS Salesman Always Gets His Ad

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

"I'm going to get them."

That's what Valdosta High School senior John Allen says about his intended victims: unsuspecting business owners with money to spend on advertising. Allen is Ad Manager this year for the VHS yearbook staff and he's out to break the record he set last year when he sold \$5,000 worth of advertising, about 80 percent of all ads appearing in the 1990 edition of the Sandspur.

"I guess it's just luck that helps me sell ads, or maybe it's persistence ... I think it would be more persistence," Allen pondered. "I don't like people being evasive ... I'm a real go-getter."

Allen sells the vast majority of his ads over the phone. The 18-year old had a stroke when he was born and is visually impaired. Unlike the typical traveling salesman, he's unable to drive a car to get around. He does visit some businesses occasionally, however, he said, especially if it's necessary to land the sale.

Poor vision has helped fine tune other senses and abilities, Allen believes. He has a very professional speaking voice — "business-like" is the term Sandspur advisor Eloise Cupp uses to describe it — and an excellent memory. Chances are, Allen can recite phone numbers for just about anyone who's ever bought an ad in a VHS publication.

In his independent study yearbook class, Allen spends the entire hour

John Allen

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School
- Family: Parents, Don and Mary Allen
- Activities: Beta Club, Spanish Honor Society, yearbook staff, marching band

on the phone, dialing and redialing, until he gets his prey on the phone.

For being the top ad man last year, Allen won an elegant prom package that included a stretch limousine ride to and from the dance, a tuxedo rental and dinner for two.

Riding in style grew on the industrious student, he said, and he's out to land the grand prize again this year.

Although he lives with a salesman — father Don runs a local insurance business — Allen said he got a real feel for sales when he began making calls for the program passed out at the Southern Open, a yearly band competition sponsored by VHS.

The student found he had a knack for persuasion and joined the Sandspur staff shortly thereafter. "I guess it comes easy to me. I enjoy working with people."

Allen is contemplating a career in sales. If he doesn't go into business with his father, he'd like to sell advertising for a television or radio station. Allen loves top 40 music and wouldn't mind being around it all the time, he said.



John Allen, a Valdosta High senior, sold \$5,000 worth of ads for the school's yearbook. Allen said he would like to get into sales — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Its teachers like Ms. Cupp that have made his school days as easy as possible, he says. In just about every subject, Allen has a favorite who's taken extra time to ensure he has the resources he needs to learn. Large print books and a new IBM computer that magnifies images up

to eight times help him with his studies.

In addition to his yearbook office, Allen plays sideline percussion for the marching band and is the "Arrive Alive" Chairman for the Interact Club.

'Cats Meet First Alabama Foe

Questions, Answers Over; Teams Clash At Cleveland

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A week's worth of talk and more than the usual amount of questions and answers are over. Let the game begin.

It's Jess Lanier of Bessemer, Ala., versus Valdosta High tonight at Cleveland Field, kickoff at 8 p.m. Some 8,000 to 10,000 football fans, maybe more, will be on hand — as well as the cameras of SportsChannel America (cablecasting the game live to 17 million households, none in Valdosta) and the camera of an ABC News team (working on a story about a city and its high school football team).

By the way, it's the first time Valdosta High has met a team from Alabama or played a team from the Central Time Zone.

"It hadn't been a distraction," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, who's used to answering more than a few questions from the local and area media. "Who they are may make a difference."

"They're excited about the whole thing. I hope we can stay focused," said Lanier head coach Carrol Cox after his team worked out Thursday at Valdosta Junior High School. "It's a lot of distractions for 16- and 17-year olds. Adults, too. I'm finding it hard to concentrate."

Jess Lanier is one of Alabama's top prep football programs, making the state playoffs six times in the

1980s. The Tigers went 10-3 last year, losing in the quarterfinals to eventual Class 6A champion Anniston.

Cox's 1990 team is 1-1, including last week's late-touchdown loss at Daniel High of Central, S.C. It is ranked No. 6 in this week's Alabama Sports Writers Association Class 6A poll, while Valdosta is No. 3 in the Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll.

"It's got to be our best game," Hyder said. "We've looked good in categories, but we've not played well for a whole game."

Much of the football talk about the game has centered on Jess Lanier's offensive line, which averages over 300 pounds from guard to guard and is led by 340-pound guard JaJa Dawson.

No one on Valdosta's front seven can match that size.

"It's going to be a problem. They're a good collision team and can move the football," Hyder said. "You have to play percentages. You have to make down and distance calls on a percentage basis."

Hyder can't remember playing a team which the interior size of Jess Lanier. "Teams may have had one or two players like that, but not three or four. It requires us to be alert. We might have to chase these people."

"We've got to stand in there, but we can't go toe-to-toe."

Cox says a quick, aggressive Valdosta defense may be a good counter. "Valdosta steps up and challenges folks," he said. "Their



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (2-0-1) vs. Jess Lanier Tigers (1-1)

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets available.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta.

TELEVISION: SportsChannel America. No live cablecast available in Valdosta, but satellite-dish owners can view the game on SATCOM 4, Transponder 3. The game will be rebroadcast on TCI Cablevision Channel 36 (Valdosta) Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 9 p.m.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 38, Wayne County 6; Daniel (S.C.) 26, Jess Lanier 20 (Saturday).

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 3 in Georgia AP; Jess Lanier, No. 6 in Alabama writers poll.

quickness and speed is to their advantage."

The skill people for both clubs has had the coaches talking as well. Lanier's junior quarterback Chris Windsor has scored three of his team's four touchdowns, and may remind some of the troublesome Camden County quarterback Marlo Mobley. Fullback Johnathan Porter is a threat from the Tigers' wishbone alignment.

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

Storied Field Is Turned Into A Football 'Studio'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Cleveland Field has been a lot to many people for many years. Tonight, it turns into something else — a large, outdoor television studio.

SportsChannel America will give prep football fans in many parts of the United States a look at Valdosta High and the nation's winningest football program tonight, when the Wildcats meet Jess Lanier. And while the game won't be seen live here in Valdosta (unless you have a satellite dish), Wildcat fans will get two chances to see the broadcast repeated next week.

The SportsChannel crew, which will number from 30-35 people, will place six cameras throughout Cleveland Field — three high in the South stands, two hand-helds for each sideline, and one camera focused on the game clock.

Many crew members made it into town Thursday, attending both team practices and finalizing plans for tonight's game. Including in the group were the play-by-play broadcasters, Bob Papa and former Miami Dolphin safety Glenn Blackwood.

"(Cleveland Field) is a nice facility, and the lighting is pretty good, which helps us out a great deal," said producer Steve Danz. "It makes it better to send the pictures back to New York."

Danz plans to touch on the storied history of Cleveland Field and the

Valdosta High program, especially in the opening segment.

"I feel we'll be sending a little high-school history to the homes," Danz said. "We'll be opening the show with some old black and white film of Valdosta football, then showing some current shows from the past couple of years."

It's the second year that SportsChannel America, in conjunction with the National Federation of State High School Associations, has televised high school sports contests.

In the prep world, Danz has found, there's more of an appreciation for the coverage. "It's something you don't see in the NFL," he said. "This is looked upon more as a Super Bowl."

The SportsChannel crew also hopes to have more luck than it did last week in Charleston, W. Va., when it broadcast its first game of the season. The game was delayed for an hour due to lightning and almost called off. And the 21-3 contest wasn't a nail-biter, either.

● The four-person ABC News crew which has been in town since Monday will finish its work with Friday's game.

"It's been great. It's been a busy and rewarding week," said correspondent Armen Keteyian. "We've seen the sights and sounds of Valdosta. It's a slice of American everybody should see."

"And Coach (Nick) Hyder has made a very strong impression on all of us."

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

Cox concerns himself with quarterback Alton Hitson and his weapons, running back Joe Wright and receivers Steve Jaramillo and Carlos Moore. "They're able to throw the ball deep. I've seen 88 (Moore) make some great catches, and 11 (Wright) is so dangerous."

Valdosta (2-0-1) will have the advantage in the numbers. The Wildcats will dress out 110-115 players, while Jess Lanier only brought 50. It's caused Cox to take a good, hard look at tonight's weather forecast.

Cox attended the opener against McEachern, played on a hot and muggy South Georgia Saturday night three weeks ago. "Valdosta totally dominated that ball game, and they were in good condition," Cox said.

Wildcats

Compare

States

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

At least two Valdosta High School offensive linemen will have more than a passing interest in the Wildcats' next two games.

Reserve center and deep snapper Brian Salze and family moved to Valdosta from Jefferson County, Ala., during the summer — where he saw Friday opponent Jess Lanier play in a jamboree this past spring.

And guard Andy Sheffield is waiting to renew some old acquaintances when Robert E. Lee rolls into town next Friday. He moved to Valdosta last year, after his father was transferred to Moody Air Force Base. He played junior-high football in Montgomery, Ala., with some of Lee's current players.

Both players are high on the results of their move to Valdosta, and favorably compare the Wildcat program with their past experiences.

"When you have 12,000 people in the stands, it's a big change," said Salze. "There's more intensity here."

"Midfield (where Salze played last year) had good teams back in 1983 and 1984. Now the students have given up. We didn't have many people go to the games."

Salze has changed his opinion about Jess Lanier — which is also located in Jefferson County — after seeing its game film against Lee, a 7-0 victory in Bessemer on Sept. 7. "They didn't look like the same team from the jamboree," said Salze. "I think it will be a good game Friday."

Sheffield was thankful for the change in scenery after going through spring practice at Jeff Davis High School in Montgomery two years ago. Sheffield said he considered quitting football because of injuries caused by misfitted and faulty equipment.

Instead, his father, Larry, took advantage of an opportunity to transfer to Moody. He recently retired from the Air Force, but still has contacts in the Montgomery area and brings back Montgomery papers for Valdosta fans to read.

The younger Sheffield also pointed to the support which Valdosta gives its football program as compared to his former school.

"Over there they aren't into prep football much. Here it's football, football, football. And they stress academics here more."

Sheffield also likes the hands-on attitude of head coach Nick Hyder. "The coach over there didn't talk with us as much. It seemed liked he really didn't care all that much."



VDT Sat., Sept. 22, 1990

Painted And Ready

Valdosta City School employees work on marking Cleveland Field before Friday night's Valdosta High Wildcat football game. Marking the field takes a full eight hours, and the

workers went to extra lengths to make it look spiffy for the television crews at the game. See game story, Page 1-B — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

***** FRI., SEPTEMBER 21, 1990

The Atlanta Journal AND CONSTITUTION

G-7

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Valdosta reaches prime time

Georgia power goes against Alabama school on national TV

By Matt Winkeljohn
Staff writer

For decades, Georgians have known of Valdosta's outstanding high school football program. The rest of the nation is starting to catch on.

Tonight at 8, Valdosta (2-0-1) plays at home against Jess Lanier (1-1), from Bessemer, Ala. The game will be broadcast on SportsChannel America, a cable network with approximately 10.7 million subscribers across the nation.

SportsChannel, based in Woodbury, N.Y., is available in the Atlanta area on Summit Cable in Marietta and Rifkin in Lawrenceville. Atlanta schools Douglass and Southside played a basketball game on SportsChannel in January.

Tonight's game is the first involving a Georgia high school football team to be telecast nationally.

In a sense, it will be Valdosta's first chance to strut its stuff for the ultimate prep audience, a chance to demonstrate how and why the defending state champion Wildcats have won 20 state championships and five national titles since 1940.

Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, however, doesn't view it as a chance to prove anything. To him, it's just another football game. Although the Wildcats have never played a game on national TV, they've been on network television several times, most recently last fall on ABC's 20/20 when the team was featured as one of the na-

tion's best.

In fact, ABC has had a camera crew at the south Georgia school since Monday gathering footage for a report scheduled to air on the evening news within two weeks.

"It hasn't altered the intensity of what we do," said Hyder, whose team is ranked No. 3 in Georgia. "It doesn't interfere with us and . . . the TV people are very courteous."

Hyder has other things to worry about, like the size of the Jess Lanier offensive line. Ranked No. 6 in Class 6A in Alabama, the school will start three offensive linemen who weigh more than 300 pounds. The biggest of the three, senior guard Ja Ja Dawson, is 6 feet 4 and weighs 353 pounds.

Cats Roar Back

Beat Lanier,
17-16—Page 1-B



VALDOSTA 17, JESS LANIER 16



Valdosta High defenders Eric Phillips (35) and Leroy Williams (22) close in on Jess Lanier running back Gary Stevens

during Friday's game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Never, Never, Never Quit'

VOT. Sat., Sept. 22, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It was like you could hear one of Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder's favorite speeches over the 8,000 gathered at Cleveland Field.

"Never, never, never, never, never, never, never, never quit! Never quit!" has Hyder been known to tell his Wildcat football team. Friday night, over the crowd noise and over the hubbub of national television, the Wildcats heeded the call and responded.

Down 14-0 less than five minutes into the game, Valdosta battled back. It scored the go-ahead points late in the third quarter on Alton Hitson's 46-yard pass play to Carlos Folsom and Dow Drury's extra point, then tailback Joe Wright (110 yards on 22 carries) and crew played keep-away in the fourth quarter for a 17-16 victory over Jess Lanier.

The game, Valdosta's first against an Alabama team, was cablecast live on SportsChannel America. And an ABC News crew was also finishing its work on a story to be aired in the near future.

Yes, the Wildcats won a game

with the television eye upon them.

"You couldn't have written a better script," said Hyder. "There is a difference between clutch and choke in play situations. Our line, our quarterback and Joe Wright performed. It was a real fine team effort."

"They were bigger, but we were faster and in better condition," said senior offensive tackle Shaun Eilders. "When it came down to the end, we wanted it a little more."

And Charles Tarpley's defense responded after the four-play, two-touchdown explosion by the visiting Tigers. Jess Lanier gained 117 yards on the first four plays, 112 on the final 39 plays (43 on 24 second-half plays). Valdosta kept the ball for 3:38 more (26:19-21:41), and outgained Jess Lanier, 276-229.

"Nothing really was said. We just may have been scared after the long kickoff," said Tarpley. "Hey, they played a perfect game."

The Valdosta defensive line, smaller but quicker than the Tigers' much-publicized half-ton middle threesome, did its job by coming from every direction. "Ricky Thomas played like the four-year senior he is," said line coach Larry

VALDOSTA 17, JESS LANIER 16

JESS LANIER	14	2	0	0-16
VALDOSTA	7	0	10	0-17

JL — John Burke 44 pass from Chris Windsor (Carter Horn kick)

JL — Greg Stevens 15 run (Horn kick)

V — Alton Hitson 1 run (Dow Drury kick)

JL — Safety, punt snap went out of end zone

V — Drury 20 FG

V — Carlos Folsom 46 pass from Hitson (Drury kick)

VALDOSTA JESS LANIER

15	FIRST DOWNS	10
49-188	RUSHES-YARDS	33-156
88	PASSING YARDS	73
4-9-0	PASSES	6-12-1
4-34.5	PUNTS-AVG.	5-28.0
7-59	PENALTIES-YARDS	2-3
1	FUMBLES LOST	0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 22-110, David Williams 10-50, Alton Hitson 11-32, Kendrick Patrick 3-6, Albert Edmonds 2-4, team 1-(14). Jess Lanier: Chris Windsor 10-88, Jonathan Porter 10-31, Greg Stevens 10-32, John Burke 2-5, Thurman Jones 1-0.

PASSING: Valdosta: Hitson 4-8-0 88, Wright 0-1-0 0. Jess Lanier: Windsor 6-12-1 73.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Carlos Folsom 2-61, Carlos Moore 1-21, Steve Jaramillo 1-6. Jess Lanier: Burke 3-48, Jones 1-13, Leo Hutton 1-10, Stevens 1-2.

Jester, who also commended Tim McClain.

Jess Lanier (1-2) tried to make it

look like a rout early. Gary Stevens ran back the opening kickoff to the Valdosta 47. Two plays later, quarterback Chris Windsor hit John Burke on a short pass over the middle. Burke moved around the safety and went the remaining yards for a 44-yard touchdown. Sixty-one seconds into the game and it was 7-0.

The next series took 28 seconds. Windsor ran 55 yards on the first play, tripping himself up at the Valdosta 15. Stevens scored on the next play. With 7:31 left in the first quarter, it was 14-0 Jess Lanier.

"I felt like we should have won," said Lanier coach Carrol Cox. "Their depth and their skill people hurt us. We were scared of getting beat deep."

"It makes you cry. If we could have still moved the football ... but we were stymied on offense."

Jess Lanier tried to drive for a third score early in the second quarter, but Windsor was stopped three yards short on a fourth-and-4 at the Valdosta 19.

The Tigers never got past midfield again.

Valdosta (3-0-1) put its first score

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

on the board after Lanier's second score, going 62 yards on 10 plays. Kendrick Patrick's 1-yard run on fourth-and-1 at the Lanier 20 kept the drive alive. A Hitson-to-Carlos Moore pass put the ball on the 4, where — after two Jess Lanier penalties — Hitson went over from the 1. Drury's kick made it 14-7 with 2:55 left in the quarter.

But the Wildcats fumbled away a chance midway in the second quarter, when end Dwayne Harris — who finished the game with 13 tackles and four sacks — forced Hitson to fumble on the Lanier 14.

And near the half's end, the snap sailed over VHS punter Steve Jaramillo's head and out of the end zone for a safety.

Valdosta game out quickly in the second half. Wright ran 41 yards on the second play, and David Williams got seven yards on a fourth-and-1 at the Lanier 16. But the Wildcats couldn't score the touchdown, settling for Drury's 20-yard field goal at the 6:56 mark.

The winning drive went 73 yards in six plays.

Folsom got behind the Jess Lanier defender, and Hitson found his fellow senior open down the right sideline. The play covered 46 yards, and with Drury's extra-point kick Valdosta got what it would need. Wildcats, 17-16 with 27 seconds left in the third quarter.

Valdosta had two fourth-quarter drives which ate up time but didn't score points. A 13-play drive accounted for 4:24, but netted only 17 yards because of two penalties. Then the 'Cats ran off another 2:50 on six plays, then punted to its 14 with 1:06 left.

Windsor was sacked by defensive end Marcus Moss on first down, and two plays later Trampis Wrice picked off the final desperation pass.

'Winnersville' Is Reaffirming Name

mon. Sept 24, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor VDT

If there was any doubt that Valdosta and Lowndes County is "Winnersville USA" then just look at its football teams. They've opened the season on a torrid note.

Lowndes High is 4-0, ranked among the state's top five Class AAAA teams and off to its best start in 10 years. The coach who led the Vikings to that hot start in 1980, Joe Wilson, has got his new school, Valdosta, off to a 3-0 start.

And while Valdosta High isn't 4-0 for the first time since 1981, the Wildcats are 3-0-1 and were ranked No. 3 in Class AAAA.

That puts the county's mark 10-0-1 four weeks into the season. Add in Valdosta State, which has won two straight after an opening-game loss and knocked off a Top 5 team in Division II, and that mark goes to 12-1-1.

But the fifth week of the 1990 football season may bring the biggest challenge to the Winnersville Four.

On Friday, Lowndes meets Northeast Macon, now 3-1 after whipping

Central last week. Valdosta hosts traditional private-school power Southwest Georgia.

Without the television cameras looking on, Valdosta will meet its second-straight Alabama opponent — Robert E. Lee from Montgomery. Lee (1-2) won its first game of 1990 on Friday, but its first loss came in a 7-0 decision against Jess Lanier (which Valdosta beat 17-16 Friday).

And Saturday night, Valdosta State will put up its one-third share of the Gulf South Conference lead with another leader, Troy State.

Success isn't limited to the above teams. Three other area teams are also unbeaten — Clinch County and Westbrook at 4-0, and Madison County at 2-0. All three teams are at home Friday, with Clinch hosting area rival Cook (0-3-1) and Madison at home against traditional power Suwannee County. Westbrook hosts Riverview.

Friday's other games include Berrien (1-3) at Turner County, Brooks County (2-2) at Coffee and Hamilton County (1-2) at Chiefland.

LANIER (1-1) AT VALDOSTA (2-0-1) — Coach Nick Hyder's Wildcats vented their wrath on Wayne County 38-6 last week after the tie with Camden.

Most years that would indicate that Valdosta had bounced back big. But this is a rare down year for the Yellow Jackets, traditionally one of Region 2-AAA's strongest teams.

Folks in Valdosta are already calling this edition of the 'Cats a mystery team — it'll be a mystery how they win, lose or tie each week.

The mystery tonight will be how the much smaller Wildcats can stop a Lanier dive-option attack that runs behind a center and two guards that weigh more than 300 pounds apiece.

Overall, Lanier is probably the biggest team the Wildcats have ever faced, on both sides of the line. But mystery or not, it's never smart to pick against Valdosta, especially at Cleveland Field. Somehow, the "Mystery 'Cats" will find a way. **VALDOSTA BY 6. FTU 9-24-90**

The Week Has Come For VHS

At last, the week every Valdosta High fan has looked forward to since the season started.

And not only will the locals be able to watch the game versus Alabama's Jess Lanier High School, the game is being televised by SportsChannel America for all of the nation to see.

The information on Jess Lanier is limited, while the reports have not been good for the 'Cats when the bright lights come to town. The only thing that scares me is Jess Lanier having nothing to lose and everything to gain by knocking off Valdosta with the rest of the nation watching. Valdosta, on the other hand, needs not to win to establish national credibility or improve a program, but just to show the other teams around the country they are the kingpins of high school football.

I have a feeling the town of Cincinnati, Ohio, will be taking a look at the winningest school in the country. And probably wouldn't mind seeing the VHS team play a pretty fair school in their city — Moeller High. A good showing by VHS would all but put the contracts in the mail to take part in the annual preseason clash in Riverfront Stadium. But would the 'Cats be allowed by the GHSA to go if they wanted to?

The 'Cats just want win this one first, then entertain other offers.

Don't look now, but Valdosta and Lowndes High are in the state's top five rankings. That's the way it should be in Winnersville.

Which brings me to my next question. Why didn't more Lowndes fans make the trip to Eastman last week? That really bothers me, especially when you've got a top-ranked and undefeated team. I was really disappointed to see that the LHS band outnumbered the fans.

This week, the Stone Mountain game is on Saturday, giving most Viking fans no excuse to be in attendance.

● **JESS LANIER at VHS:** I just want to know what the deal is guys?

I pick you by 30 points over Camden County, and we have a tie. Last week was by five points, and you roll up a 32-point spread on Wayne County.

I know, making me look good in the picks is not what you're out to do. You're out to win titles.

This week, everyone, who has a satellite dish that is, will be watching Valdosta in action. Under the microscope again, one might say. And I'm sure Jess Lanier wants to embarrass Valdosta.

It's going to be tough. VHS needs perfect execution from everyone, including the place kickers. **VALDOSTA by 2.**

Generals, 'Cats To Finally Meet

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor VDT

It's a game that may be four years too late in coming, but Valdosta High and Robert E. Lee of Montgomery, Ala., will get their chance to play tonight at Cleveland Field.

Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

Four years ago, the two schools were the top-ranked teams in the nation, according to USA Today. The No. 2 Generals had already won their Class 6A state championship, and waited to see if Clarke Central could knock off the No. 1 Wildcats for the AAAA state title.

The Gladiators didn't, and Valdosta won its second national title in three years. "I wish we could have played in 1986," said Lee head coach Spence McCracken. "That would have been a great game."

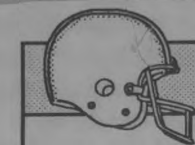
Now, McCracken and the rest of those interested will have to settle for a game between the 1990 teams. The schools will also meet again in Valdosta in 1991.

The current teams aren't off to the starts which those past teams had. Valdosta High is 3-0-1 and ranked No. 2 in Georgia's Class AAAA poll, but it's the first time the 'Cats haven't been 4-0 since 1981.

And Lee is 1-2 (the Generals have averaged 2.3 losses since McCracken took over in 1984), losing its first two games by a combined 10 points before rumbling past crosstown rival Carver, 31-6, last Friday. One of the losses was a 7-0 decision at Jess Lanier three weeks ago. Valdosta beat Jess Lanier, 17-16, last Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"They're a different team from that first week," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

The game will feature a battle of top tailbacks. Valdosta's Joe Wright has run for 285 yards in four games, almost half of the Wild-



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (3-0-1) vs. Robert E. Lee (Montgomery, Ala.) Generals (1-2)

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets available.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 17, Jess Lanier 16; Lee 31, Carver (Montgomery, Ala.) 6.

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia AP.

cats' total rushing yards. He's run for 15 first downs (of 38) and two touchdowns (of seven). Wright — who ran for 110 yards last week against Lanier — has also run back a punt for a touchdown and is the 'Cats' top kick returner. Quarterback Alton Hitson has accounted for 402 total yards and been in on seven of the Wildcats' 11 offensive touchdowns.

Lee has tailback Tyrone Johnson, who played his first full game last week against Carver. Valdosta coaches say he may be one of the best backs the 'Cats have faced.

"Lee's got great athletes in the backfield; a great running back and an excellent quarterback, and a lot of tradition," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "They run multiple sets, so it's going to be a tough offense to stop."



Valdosta High defensive lineman Ricky Thomas has answered all of the challenges his senior year has brought him. And he's still answering them — AP Laserphoto.

Thomas Answers Cats' Call

Set Sept 21 1987

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Standing 6-foot-3, 215 pounds, Ricky Thomas didn't match up numbers-wise with Jess Lanier's 300-pounders Friday night.

But by the end of the night, Thomas had led the charge which took on the large Tigers — and won.

"Ricky isn't a real rah-rah type player," said defensive line coach Larry Jester. "I looked in his eyes and knew he was ready to play."

"We challenged them. They looked for us to run from them, but we didn't."

"We had to stand and hold our ground, and that's what we did," added Thomas.

But having a good game in the battle of interstate teams isn't all of Thomas' story.

The senior defensive left tackle has stepped in to become a leader for the group, especially when fellow senior Andre Scruggs went down with a knee injury in the McEachern game.

"I've been real pleased with Ricky's play," Jester said. "He's stepped it up a notch. When Andre went down, then M.J. (Johnson) went down in the Wayne County game, we were looking for some senior leadership."

And the senior, in his fourth year on the varsity, has filled the bill.

"I think I have to be the one to tell everybody to get up. I've been here four years," Thomas said. "I try to lead by example. I don't say too much."

"Whatever I do, I won't be ashamed for them to do it."

Thomas was one of those players which had maybe the biggest shoes to fill from last year's state-championship season. The players on last year's defensive front had gained a reputation as part of the Wildcats' ultra-tough defense. They were quick, and they caused plenty of trouble.

Thomas was ready for the challenge.

"We got a lot of game time last year, and some the year before," Thomas said. "We were prepared"

See THOMAS, Page 4B

Thomas

From Page 1B

for this year, and to step up to the next level."

And he also had to deal with another chance. Jester was the new coach on the Wildcats' staff, replacing the retired Freddie Waters.

Jester made his mark early, stepping in on the first day of spring

practice.

"It's been a dramatic change," Thomas said. "Both are great coaches, but they have two different styles."

"But their purpose is the same."

And Thomas has answered the call.

Wildcats Winning Position

DT Sept 27, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's a problem Nick Hyder better left for football than his days as a mathematics instructor.

The formula is similar: Kick off and limit the return. Let the defense hold or force a turnover, then force a punt and get a good return. Then have the offensive, in good field position, either score or push the opponent farther back. Repeat the process.

And as the Wildcats have started the 1990 season at 3-0-1 and ranked No. 2 in the Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll, they're winning the field-position battle.

Through four games, Valdosta High has an average drive start at its own 44-yard line — 56 yards from a touchdown. The opponent's average drive start has been 16 yards back, at its own 28.

"The shorter you have to drive, the more times you score," Hyder said. "We've worked for that, and it's worked pretty well for us."

Fifteen of Valdosta's 43 drives have begun in the opponents' territory, while another eight have begun between its 40- and 49-yard line. And 40 of the Wildcats' 82 offensive-produced points have come when drives have begun in opponents' territory.

Only five of the opponents' 45 drives have begun in Valdosta territory, seven from its 40 and up. Two of the opponents' six touchdowns have been scored when the opponent has had the short distance to go, and one came to open Friday's 17-16 win over Jess Lanier.

"We've had a couple of situations on kickoffs where they've brought it back to midfield or so," Hyder said. "We've still stiffened pretty well and had some good drives. Some phases of the kicking game has helped."

But some haven't given the Wildcats a big advantage. Steve Jaramillo has averaged 31.9 yards per punt, about three yards better than the opponents. The Wildcats have a 1½-yard advantage on punt returns (10.5 yards to 9) and a 2.7-yard advantage on kickoff returns (21.6 yards to 18.9).

Senior tailback Joe Wright (team-high 285 rushing yards) has been the big force on the kicking game. He averages 15.7 yards per punt return, including a touchdown against Wayne County. He adds 27 yards per kickoff return.

■The gambling Wildcats?

Valdosta is 5-for-7 in fourth-down conversions this season, including a perfect 4-for-4 against Jess Lanier. Each of the three top fullbacks — David Williams, Kendrick Patrick and Dexter Mitchell — have one fourth-down conversion. Quarterback Alton Hitson got the last two.

"I can remember when we couldn't do that," Hyder said. "But our youngsters punched it in there hard."

"I think the key to it is Hitson. It's a mutual shared confidence between he and his linemen and the other players. He finds some way to get it done."



Valdosta High's Laura Dennis (left) runs to first base during Tuesday's double-header — Times Photo by Paul Leavy stretches for a throw as Coffee's Jenny O'Neal

Lady 'Cats 'Split Ugly'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

"Splitting ugly" isn't what Susan Montgomery wanted to see from her Valdosta High softball team Tuesday.

In the Lady Wildcats' on-campus opener, it took a six-run explosion in the bottom of the sixth in game two to avoid two Region 1-AAAA losses. Valdosta High (8-4 overall, 4-2 in region) won game two, 7-5, after losing the opener, 14-12.

On a day where Valdosta's two Dennis sisters took second-game spills which forced them from the game, where Coffee (4-6) was allowed to illegally use an extra batter during its first trip through the second-game lineup, and where it took more than two hands to count Valdosta's errors — a Lady Wildcat fan was thankful for that last at-bat explosion.

"It was ugly. We'll take the split," said Montgomery. "I don't understand it. Defense has been one of our plusses in the past. (Today) we were totally out of it."

"It's just a lack of concentration all the way. We're definitely better than

that, we've just got to start showing it."

The winning rally in game two had 10 Valdosta players come to the plate, five after two were out and the score was 5-3 Coffee.

Shannon West (two hits) opened the inning with an opposite-field triple to right, then scored on Antren Cowart's double. Cowart (two hits off the bench) scored when Laura Dennis' grounder to first was mishandled — Dennis' was shaken up in the first-base collision.

After a fielder's choice and a line out, Valdosta got its second wind. Vashti Manning walked, then Cindy Rumph singled home Lashon Hargett to make it 5-4. And when Lisa Vincent's infield grounder was mishandled, Manning scored the tying run.

Kendra Elliott, the second-game pitcher returning from an injury in the season-opening series, then hit a line drive down the left-field line which was played into a triple, scoring Rumph and Vincent to break the tie.

Then the Lady Wildcats turned into defensive specialists, with Manning and West getting back-to-back force outs at second before a fly out ended the game.

Coffee had scored five unearned runs in the fourth and fifth innings to take a 5-1 lead. Valdosta had the early lead when Yasmine Bivins scored on Laura Dennis' bases-loaded fielder's choice.

In the first game, Valdosta had to fight back from 4-0 and 7-3 deficits to take an 8-7 lead after three innings. Coffee posted three runs in the top of the fourth, before Laura Dennis' sacrifice fly and Manning's single tied the game at 10-10.

But Coffee scored four unearned runs in the top of the sixth to break the game open. Sacrifice flies by DeDe Dennis and Gwinnette Sanders got Valdosta back to 14-12, but the tying runs were left on base.

West had three hits in the opener, while Laura Dennis and Hargett had two hits and two RBI. Sanders had three RBI on a walk and two sacrifice flies.

■WILDCAT NOTES: A week after SportsChannel America and ABC News were in Valdosta to focus on the Wildcats, another national news organization will be in town beginning today to work on a story. An NBC News team plans to do a segment on Valdosta for the *Sunday Today* program ...

ABC News correspondent Armen Keteyian told *The Times* Wednesday night that a target air date for his story on Valdosta football will be set early next week ... The second replay of the SportsChannel America broadcast of the Valdosta-Jess Lanier

See WILDCATS, Page 4-B

Wildcats

From Page 2-B

game will be shown tonight on TCI Cablevision's Channel 36 at 9 p.m., following the cablecast of *Wildcat Tradition* ...

Preparation work began Wednesday on a new eight-lane, rubber-based running track around the football practice field. The \$102,000 project will take about a month to complete, Hyder said.

"It's a very proud time for me," the coach said. "We're very excited about what our administration has done."

National telecast had Valdosta, opponent playing waiting game

Fla. Times
9-25-90

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

Valdosta High School's football players, coaches and fans found out it isn't always easy being TV stars in the Wildcats' come-from-behind 17-16 victory over Jess Lanier of Bessemer, Ala., last Friday night.

The Wildcats are no strangers to TV cameras. ABC-TV's 20/20 program did a spot on Valdosta's football program last November. And Friday night, another ABC crew was on hand to wrap up work on a segment for the network's *World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, which is scheduled to air this week or early in October.

But the Wildcats were making their first appearance in a live, nationally televised game — SportsChannel America telecast the game to a potential audience of 11 million households as part of its *National Federation Game of the Week*.

And the players and fans of both teams had to deal with delays for TV timeouts.

"That worked in their [Lanier's] favor," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, whose third-ranked Class AAAA Wildcats had to overcome a 14-0 first-quarter deficit to beat Alabama's No. 6 Class AAAAAA team. "We were trying to wear their big boys out, and the timeouts gave them more breaks than they would have gotten."

Many of the fans weren't too happy with the delays, either.

The scheduled 8 o'clock kickoff was delayed seven minutes, prompting shouts like "C'mon, let's play ball," from some of the approximately 8,000 fans at Cleveland Field.

The Wildcats and Tigers huddled in opposite end zones, waiting for their cues from the TV crew to charge onto the field while fans yelled, "What are they waiting for?"

They were waiting for the start of the show.

"We were still in our lead-in, and hadn't actually started the live coverage," explained Karen Spina of SportsChannel, which is headquartered in Woodbury, N.Y. "We intended to hold the teams up two minutes, but someone brought them out early."

Once the teams got out and lined up for the kickoff — with Valdosta kicking — there was yet another delay, long enough that some of the Valdosta cheerleaders holding others on their shoulders faltered, as did the band drummers beating the drum roll for the kick.

TV delays worked in their [Lanier's] favor. We were trying to wear their big boys out, and the timeouts gave them more breaks than they would have gotten."

— Nick Hyder,
Valdosta coach

Once the game got under way, the offenses sometimes lined up for a play, only to be stopped from snapping the ball by the officials, who were getting their cue for TV timeouts from a production crewman standing on the sidelines.

"We had a meeting with the officials an hour and 15 minutes before the game," said SportsChannel producer Steve Danz. "Our person on the sidelines made eye contact with the back judge each time the ball changed hands. If we needed a timeout, he crossed his arms."

Danz said the production team ran two commercials each quarter, mostly for primary sponsor Gatorade, at the end of each period and at halftime. He added that some of the commercials were run during team timeouts or officials' timeouts for the "heat breaks" required by the Georgia High School Association.

"I don't think it affected our players," Hyder said. "If it was any kind of distraction, it was for me, with all the stuff I have to do."

"I don't think it was necessarily a detriment to us," Valdosta Touchdown Club president Dave McCracken said. "We appreciate the recognition."

But one Valdosta fan, who requested anonymity, probably summed up the feelings of many.

"I'm just glad it's all over with now and we can get back to concentrating on football," he said.



Wed., Sept. 26, 1990
VDT

Letters From Home

Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps members at Valdosta High School Chet Stewart and Derrick Crowder, left, place their

letter in the mailbox as SallyAnn Coleman and Elliott Fann look on. For story see Page 2-A — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

'Letters From Home' Program Started

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

A mother-daughter team, one from Valdosta and the other from the Atlanta area, is helping to make service people in the Middle East less lonely.

Norma Gail Spencer, an English teacher at Valdosta High School, and her daughter, Suzanne Chaffin, a history teacher at Pope High School in Marietta, have organized a "Letters From Home" program in their schools that is as beneficial to their students as it will be for mili-

tary personnel.

"Most of the kids have really gotten excited about this because they're reading about other kids doing this," said Mrs. Spencer, who, with her daughter, started the program about two weeks ago to encourage students to write letters to military personnel in the Middle East.

Hopefully, Mrs. Spencer said, more than 1,000 letters will be mailed from here Friday.

"I think it's a good project because they (overseas U.S. military personnel) are lonely and need let-

ters to cheer them up," said Elliott Fann, VHS student who helped Mrs. Spencer and another VHS student, Sally Ann Coleman, prepare the decorated mail boxes placed around campus.

"When I was writing the letter, I thought about how I'd feel if I was over there," he said.

Miss Coleman said in her letter she thanked the military for its efforts to restore peace in the Middle East and included a few tidbits on the Valdosta Wildcats, something the military football fans should find of interest.

"I just wanted to include things that might take their minds off the situation for a while," she said.

Although Mrs. Spencer organized the school-wide project, VHS's Reserve Officer Training Corps already had begun its own project, which ROTC is combining with the school's overall letter-writing project.

"As an English teacher, I think this is helpful in teaching the students letter-writing skills, but it's also helping them become aware of what's going on in the outside world," Mrs. Spencer said.

More Than Football

This week, the Valdosta High School football team had enough to think about.

Then came Thursday.

Two years ago, on Sept. 28, 1988, defensive back Kenny Rose collapsed and died after jogging on the track around the Wildcats' practice-field area. It was part of a chain of events during that season, but one which continues to touch the school and the football team.

No one wears Rose's No. 39 these days, though 10-15 young men have to dress out each night wearing somebody else's number — and usually get called by someone else's name.

Some of the older jerseys that the current players wear have that No. 39 Cats' paw emblem still on the sleeve.

Rose's locker in the high school dressing room remains empty as a tribute to the young man. There is a display about Rose in the trophy case, and his number is painted prominently in the Cleveland Field locker room. There is even a Kenny Rose Scholarship in his memory.

Friday night, when the Wildcats played Robert E. Lee, it was also time to remember Kenny Rose. It was two years to the day of Rose's death.

It was also time to make some connections with the present.

A day before, Valdosta Junior High assistant coach Rusty Redshaw collapsed at that school's field. He was rushed to South Georgia Medical Center, where he continues to recuperate today. Redshaw has touched many young lives in the community as a junior high coach and baseball coach for the Boys and Girls Club.

I was at the Valdosta High practice field Thursday afternoon when word got to the varsity coaches about Redshaw. One couldn't help but to reflect back about Rose, and think of the too-unreal coincidence about the date.

Much of the levity surrounding the game between the varsity scout team and the ninth-grade team — the limiting penalties, the good-natured kidding about play calls, the talk and dreams about the new track — was gone quickly.

"This was a big week with that in mind," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder after Friday's game, referring to Rose and Redshaw. "There's been serious, serious thinking for all of us."

"If anything positive happens out of it, it makes us cut out the foolishness and the things folks might do that aren't exactly things we're proud of and start being more mature."

It makes you think of more things than blocking assignments, pass routes and defensive schemes. Those other things were discussed at Friday's devotional.

"Thoughts of Kenny Rose and what has happened with Coach Redshaw makes us all rise up to a maturity level," Hyder said. "Maybe our Creator is helping us in that regard."

"It's serious business, very serious ... checking the value of a human life."

Southern football dynasty displays class as well as physical talents

As the car moved into the Valdosta, (Ga.) city limits, I felt somewhat disappointed.

I mean this was the prep football capital of the South right? A place where the local high school has compiled an .887 winning percentage with 20 state and five national championships since beginning play 77 years ago. A place which currently has 38 players on college football teams across the country and can only tell of five losing seasons in those 77 years. Yet there were no signs of the tradition which makes Valdosta famous.

Maybe I had expected too much. Somehow I had envisioned streets of black and gold, banners hanging over intersections or a least a sign saying 'Welcome to Valdosta, home of the Wildcats.'



Tommy Sims
Journal Sports Writer

Yet there was nothing to really distinguish this rural Georgia town from the others I had passed through on the way.

Upon arriving at Cleveland Field, a place Valdosta fans refer to as Death Valley, signs of the famous program began to take shape. There were the cat paws painted along the walkway through a local shopping center which fed into the stadium area. Inside, a woman sold t-shirts with Valdosta, the team of the century, printed on the fronts.

Now, this is what I had in mind. Still, though the stadium was nice, it was certainly not the shrine I had envisioned. The field looked uneven and gates were broken like most prep stadiums are and the crowd was not packed in yet as I had expected. As I sat and looked around a slight mood of disappointment crept into my mind. Could it be that the mystique of Valdosta High School football was simply a lot of hype?

Then, just as the excitement of seeing something special was about to be lost, the sounds began to penetrate the stadium. Like a distant storm brewing, the noise became louder and louder as I looked for its source.

It became obvious the noise which sounded like a cattle stampede was cleats going across some sort of iron grate coming from the tunnel. Then colors of black and gold streamed from the tiny opening in the corner of the endzone. The Val-

desta players filed on the field, and filed and filed until 122 players, including 44 seniors, had formed a large huddle in the endzone.

After a few words from coach Nick Hyder the team broke for calisthenics, forming a shoulder to shoulder circle from the back of the endzone, down each sideline and extended to the 47 yard line with seven players in the middle to lead the exercises. It was definitely a sight to behold as the Wildcats went through warm-ups that looked like a college squad in numbers.

The Robert E. Lee players tried not to notice the sea of black and gold players on the other end of the field, but the sight was one you almost couldn't help but see. Before I had realized it, I looked around and the stands were almost full of people from six-months to 90 years old dressed in the Wildcats' colors.

Before the game the color guard went out on the field and in a strange twist, the crowd was asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance along with the Star-Spangled Banner before the game began.

And once the game began it became obvious that the true Valdosta tradition did not lie in the stadium or its surroundings. The spirit rode in the hearts of the men who wore the black and gold.

They weren't the biggest or the fastest players I've ever seen. And contrary to prior thinking,

there were no capes hanging out from under their jerseys. No, these were not super humans, just young men who loved their school, all the tradition it stood for and wore their hearts on their sleeves.

As the game wore on and the crowd got more and more into the contest the Wildcats played their hearts out on each and every down — almost like it was the last.

Now, don't get me wrong, the Generals also have a lot of pride and they played like it. Both schools played with all of the intensity usually reserved for state championship contests.

Still, the force behind the Valdosta team simply proved too much to overcome in the end.

And unlike some teams who excel on this level, there was no flaunting or taunting from the Wildcats Friday night. Valdosta displayed all the class of a true championship team and when it was over neither squad had left anything on the battle field they call Death Valley.

It reminded me that despite the hype and expectations which sometimes accompany athletics, the game is still played on the field and the hearts of the young men playing as important as their skills.

Yes, Friday night in this sleepy little South Georgia town was what high school football is all about.

Wildcat Defense Answers Call, 10-0

V. Times 9-29-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's not a tangible trophy which Charles Tarpley can put on his mantle, but he'll take it anyway. He got his first shutout as Valdosta High's defensive coordinator.

The Wildcats' defense bent for 199 total yards, but did not break when it came to Robert E. Lee (1-3) putting the ball in the end zone. Almost the same thing could be said for the visiting Generals from Montgomery, Ala. — almost. Valdosta 10, Lee 0 at Cleveland Field Friday night.

"They've got good, quick backs and they look like a good football team," said Tarpley. "Three times they got down there a little bit and we stopped them."

"I'm glad to get a zero and get through these first five games."

Second-ranked Valdosta made it through its first five non-region games with four wins and a tie. Twice the 'Cats have given up one touchdown, including that 77-yard game-ending touchdown in the opener against McEachern.

"It was two good football teams on the field," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "The game could have gone either way."

"They moved the football and got yardage. We just stopped them when we had to."

"You may think I'm crazy, but I think we improved on offense tonight," said Lee coach Spence McCracken. His team has been shutout twice this season, the first time by the Jess Lanier team which Valdosta beat, 17-16, last week. "We couldn't get the ball in the end zone. Valdosta played great defense."

Valdosta got all it would need on the first play of the second quarter, when quarterback Alton Hitson swept left and struggled into the end zone from four yards out. Hitson and fullback David Williams had 19-yard runs to open the six-play, 58-yard drive. Hitson's 13-yard pass to Shadrick Green at the four set up the touchdown.

Dow Drury added the extra point, then tacked on a 36-yard field goal

VALDOSTA 10, R.E. LEE 0

R.E. LEE	0	0	0	0-0
VALDOSTA	0	7	0	3-10

VHS — Alton Hitson 4 run (Dow Drury kick)
VHS — Drury 36 FG

LEE	VALDOSTA
9	FIRST DOWNS 10
31-146	RUSHES-YARDS 42-150
53	PASSING YARDS 71
5-19-2	PASSES 5-9-0
7-30.4	PUNTS-AVG. 4-33.3
4-21	PENALTIES-YARDS 4-40
1	FUMBLES LOST 1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 14-63, Joe Wright 17-52, David Williams 11-35. Lee: Mason Miller 4-76, Tyrone Johnson 13-67, John Feagin 7-22, Stacy McDonald 2-8, Kenny Jones 1-3, Peter Williams 1-1, Matt Thompson 1(-14), Matt Gaines 2(-17).

PASSING: Valdosta: Hitson 3-7-0 61, Wright 2-2-0 10. Lee: Feagin 3-14-2 27, Gaines 2-5-0 26.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Shadrick Green 4-44, Steve Jaramillo 1-27. Lee: Kenny Jones 2-23, Deon White 2-14, Mason Miller 1-16.

with 5:14 left in the game for some insurance.

The rest of the night was a series of could-have-beens which wasn't. Valdosta did have 221 total yards, with Hitson running for 63 yards and passing for 61 more.

■ On Valdosta's first series, the Wildcats had runs of 20 yards by Hitson and 14 and 12 yards by tailback Joe Wright. And the 'Cats, in punt formation, drew Lee offside for a first down.

On third-and-11 from the Lee 37, Hitson hit Steve Jaramillo for a 27-yard pass. Jaramillo made one good move on a defensive back, and headed for the end zone. But he dropped the football twice, the second time into the hands of Lee's Michael Dennis.

■ After safety Deric Cotton picked off a John Feagin pass at the 31, Valdosta gave the ball back when Wright's pass to Green was two yards short of a first down.

■ Lee's best first-half chance came in the last minute. Mason Miller broke free for a 53-yard run to the Valdosta 26, with Trampis Wrice dragging him down. The Generals threw one incomplete pass in the end zone, then Jay Tuley's 44-yard field-attempt came up short.



Valdosta fullback David Williams (37) follows the block of center Giles Godwin (55) for yardage during Friday's game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

■ Lee got down to the Valdosta 29 late in the third quarter. But linebacker Dexter Daniels dropped an interception on third down, then Stacy McDonald's seven-yard run on a fake field-goal attempt was just short of the down marker.

■ Lee again. After Drury's field goal, Miller ran 52 yards on the kickoff to the Valdosta 43, with Cotton making the open-field tackle.

But that's not all for the senior safety. On the next play, Cotton broke up a pass attempt by backup

quarterback Matt Gaines, who lined up as a wide receiver and had received a lateral pass from Feagin. Then Cotton drove running back Tyrone Johnson out-of-bounds after a four-yard gain.

Two plays later, on fourth down, Marshun Lane intercepted Feagin's tipped pass.

■ Lee again, again. On its last series, defensive end Brad Tarpley came up with two quarterback sacks around Johnson's 23-yard run to the 'Cats 24. The second one would even-

tually force Lee to try a longer (53-yard) field goal with 12 seconds left. That one was short, too.

■ Valdosta wasn't forgotten, just stopped. It got past its 40 only once in the second half, when it started a drive at midfield after M.J. Johnson pressure Lee punter Michael Dennis into a 24-yard kick. Valdosta got back-to-back first downs on a 21-yard pass from Hitson to Green and a 10-yard run by Williams. The 'Cats moved no more, and Drury came on to kick the field goal.

■ **R.E. LEE at VALDOSTA:** I can remember sitting in the press box in Nashville with one ear to the radio, and I didn't like what I was hearing.

Valdosta was playing with fire and coming ever so close to what could be referred to as a rout. But like I said, was.

If someone would just tell VHS at the start of the game it was the third quarter, the 'Cats would be just fine.

Don't ask me how Valdosta won last week. I'm still trying to figure out how they rallied from a 14-point deficit in 1981 to beat Lowndes in Martin Stadium.

The 'Cats just know how to win. Now that I've said that, they'll get blown out tonight.

Seriously, don't look for Lee to get off to a fast start. Valdosta's gone that route before, and almost lost. But look for Lee to slip through a weak spot VHS has had for years — kickoff returns. LEE by 3.

Fri Sept. 28 1990
**No Rest
For VHS
Wildcats**

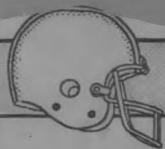
Just when it seems the Valdosta High Wildcats deserve time to celebrate last week's come-from-behind win over Alabama power Jess Lanier, another 'Bama school awaits in Cleveland Field.

This week, the foe is Robert E. Lee of Montgomery. And one thing's for sure, Lee (1-2) has no intentions of just looking good for the Death Valley crowd.

Valdosta proved last week what Coach Nick Hyder has been saying about his clubs since his arrival in 1974 — they never quit. With that in mind, the 'Cats shook off a 14-0 and 16-7 Lanier lead and started making things happen.

If the mark of a great team is winning the close ones, then Valdosta is on schedule. No one doubted the talent Lanier had, or their ability to put points on the board. But Valdosta, which has a history of dominating the second-half of a football game, did it again.

You can bet he doesn't want to see another 14-point deficit this week. That would be like going to well once too often.



9-30-90

VDT

Sun.

REGION 1-AAAA

Here are the region and overall records, this week's results and next week's opponents for members of Region 1-AAAA:

COLQUITT COUNTY (1-0, 3-2): Lost to Early County, 30-14; home to Dothan (Ala.)

LOWNDES (0-0, 5-0): Defeated Northeast Macon, 2-0; at Coffee

VALDOSTA (0-0, 4-0-1): Defeated Robert E. Lee (Ala.), 10-0; does not play

TIFT COUNTY (0-0, 4-1): Defeated Northside-Warner Robins, 21-17; does not play

COFFEE (0-0, 3-1-1): Defeated Brooks County, 40-20; home to Lowndes

BAINBRIDGE (0-1, 3-1): Defeated Dothan (Ala.), 14-6; home to Northview (Ala.)

Trainers Gain Much Ground

Sun Sept. 30, 1990

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Old-time football, when chin straps and helmets were in the way more than they were anything else, paid little attention to injuries. A player needing a breather could easily get one by faking an injury and coaches kept that in the back of their minds when one of their own went down.

Because of that, careers were frequently ended early to a severe injury or to an injury that wasn't treated in time. During the last 10 years, there has been a major movement to further athletic careers by treating injuries with technology and specialists. The field of sports medicine exploded.

Now, most colleges have some type of athletic training program with more and more colleges becoming certified by the NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association). Since this area has found much success on the playing field, it stands to reason that Valdosta and Lowndes high schools would both emphasize the importance of athletic training and proper treatment. And they have.

Lowndes High has Troy Kaufman, who is in his first season with the Vikings, and VHS has long-time trainer Jim Burroughs. Both feel their specialty field will continue to expand and, more importantly, that it should.

"It's gone from almost nonexistent to a very reputable field," said Burroughs, who's been at Valdosta High for nearly 15 years. "I think

our Board of Education and Touch-down Club have seen the advantages of it."

Kaufman is a product of new wave of trainers. After obtaining an undergraduate degree and a masters, he was the Assistant Athletic Trainer at Livingston University for two years before coming to Lowndes. After working in the college atmosphere, he said there is a difference on the high school level.

"Probably the biggest difference is that you don't have the high school athlete at your disposal all the time," Kaufman said. "Some don't have their own way of transportation and they are under a structured school situation. Where as in college, many of the athletes have more freedom.

"I think you see about the same amount of injuries on the high school level as you do in college," Kaufman added. "You just don't have as many severe knee injuries at the high school level."

The emphasis placed upon sports medicine is not just in the attitude; the difference is tangible. Valdosta High has recently upgraded their facility with a new training room and Burroughs believes that indicates the system's dedication to advancement.

"It (the new room) almost doubled our square footage. It offers us the ability to do more advance type work with the rehabilitation part of it," Burroughs said. "Now, we have an excellent training room. We can probably compete with most colleges."

See TRAINERS, Page 3-B

Wildcats Finish Their First 'Headache'

Sun, Sept 30, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Traditionally, going through the Region 1-AAAA schedule can be a one long five-week headache. Some of the state's best AAAA football teams gravitate toward the Florida-Georgia state line, making for some back-to-back-to-back challenges.

Valdosta High took it one step further in 1990. Forget that the Wildcats play three straight 1-AAAA games on the road, and they have to go to Tift and Colquitt on back-to-back weeks.

Nick Hyder put together what may have been the Wildcats' toughest non-region schedule. With Friday night's 10-0 win over Robert E. Lee of Montgomery, Ala., the Wildcats came out almost unscathed at 4-0-1. And they may be a better team for it. "I feel very fortunate to be where we are," said Hyder. "They were

very fine football teams — well-coached and good athletes.

"Our record is well earned by our coaching staff and players."

The five non-region opponents — McEachern (now 3-1), Camden County (3-1-1), Wayne County (2-3), Jess Lanier (2-2) and Lee (1-3) — came in with top-notch reputations.

All had made their respective region or state playoffs last year, finishing a collective 47-14. Those five teams this year, outside the Valdosta game, are 11-6.

"I think the mentality of us coaches, our team, our town, our community is that we're expected to be 5-0," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "Right now, the talent we played and the injuries and things like that, I'm proud. We're on a rise going into the open week and then the region games."

Trainers

From Page 1-B

Both high schools benefit from the program at Valdosta State College, one of the few in the Southeast certified by NATA. The high schools are able to use the college facility and receive help from Dr. Jim Madaleno, the head of the VSC sports medicine program. Also, the Viking staff has Bonita Tanner, a VSC student trainer, assisting Kaufman during the football season.

Soon, both Burroughs and Kaufman feel it will be a necessity to have trainers on the field at all high school athletic events. Some cities, such as Orlando, Fla., have already made it a law for schools to hire a trainer and Kaufman said that need should be emphasized at every school.

"Not to be negative, but as far as getting trainers at the high school level, it's a must because of two reasons. The first is lawsuits, and the

other is that the parents of these kids want better care for their son, or daughter. They know that the coach just can't everything. And they want professional care for their kids, and I don't blame them," Kaufman said.

"If you don't have somebody on the sidelines that knows a little bit about the medical aspect of it, it will create a problem for the coach or the coaching staff because they're intent on the game," Burroughs said. "I think it helps if you don't have that liability."

Times Sports staffers Greg McIlvain and Stan Grubb contributed to this story.

"We got a little better each week." And four of those teams found out about the Valdosta way. McEachern hadn't lost a regular-season game in four years, but hadn't run up against a Wildcat-type team until it advanced into the state playoffs — when it usually lost big. Little has changed, since the Indians went back to Cobb County after the 28-6 loss and have run up the scores on three Region 5-AAAA foes.

Camden County was the lone blemish for the Wildcats so far. It brought in a talented quarterback and other good skill people, jumped to a 14-0 lead by halftime. The 'Cats came back, tied the game late and could have won.

Fans and players found out that this wasn't last year's Camden model, the one which couldn't get a first down on Valdosta the year before. This one almost may have

served a lesson much like last year's Colquitt loss did.

Since then it's been all Valdosta. The weather came closer to stopping the 'Cats than did Wayne County in Jesup two weeks ago in a 38-6 win.

Then there was the first-ever venture into Alabama, against two of that state's high-profile programs — but two teams which are working to find themselves in 1990.

Jess Lanier also got a 14-0 lead on the 'Cats, but lost 17-16 when Valdosta played score and keep-away in the second half. And Lee moved well between the 30s, but couldn't punch it in against the stingy Valdosta defense.

All of that sets the stage for the last five weeks, the Region 1-AAAA schedule, which begins Oct. 12 in Bainbridge. Against teams which are a combined 18-5-1.



Valdosta High trainers Amanda McGhin Phillips on the sidelines — Times Photo by (left) and Eric Kajfas (center) attend to Eric Mike Tanner

McGhin Breaks Ground At VHS

Sun. Sept 30, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

V.D.T.

Yes, sports and medicine do mix. Even for women. Valdosta High's Amanda McGhin has found that out quite nicely.

The sophomore softball player/athletic trainer had experienced both worlds through her parents. Her father, Robin McGhin, is a leading booster with Valdosta High's basketball program. Her mother, Janie McGhin, is a school nurse at the high school.

It took Amanda one game on television to see that both worlds can mix.

"My dad got me into sports, and my mom's a nurse. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to put both of them together," she said.

"I was watching television one day (and saw a female trainer). I said, 'Mom, what is she doing out there. I'd like to do that.'"

And now she's opening some doors. McGhin is the first female student trainer at Valdosta High. A football-team manager, Karen Green, is also learning the ropes about taping and training. And four female students at Lowndes High have also taken an interest in learning athletic training from LHS trainer Troy Kauffman.

"She does an excellent job. I'm amazed at how much she's learned," said veteran Valdosta High trainer Jim Burroughs. "She can tape as good as anybody."

McGhin was among the group of Valdosta High student trainers which went to Florida State for training and certification this summer.

McGhin

From Page 1-B

"They taught me everything, how to treat injuries and what questions to ask. They taught CPR," she said.

Her on-field experiences started with spring practice last May, then through the tough two-week pre-season camp in August.

Unlike the male student trainers and managers and the team members which stayed overnight in the gym, McGhin and Green had to head home each night after the 12-hour workday.

It's all part of the hard work which one day may mean a college scholarship. "I want to, hopefully, get a scholarship," McGhin said. "I don't necessarily have to go into sports medicine."

Her training has even come in handy on the school's softball team, which has suffered more than its share of injuries this fall. McGhin is a pitcher for the team.

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V.D.T. Sun., 9-30-90
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'New Kids On Block' Adjust To Valdosta

VDT Sun, Sept. 30, 1990

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

More students, a strong school spirit and a prestigious football team are helping four new Valdosta High School students ease into a new atmosphere.

Scott Goodwin, Brian Salze and twin sisters Jane and Joanna Fueyo, all juniors, are starting over at VHS this year. Each of them recently moved here from different towns and smaller high schools.

"When I found out we were moving, I thought it was the end of the world," said Goodwin, who moved here from Rome where he attended a private school. "I had heard all these rumors about South Georgia being full of rednecks."

His experience here hasn't been nearly as horrible as his imagination may have led him to believe. Goodwin, like other new VHS students, have noticed and appreciated the southern hospitality here, they said.

"The people here have been

really friendly," said Joanna Fueyo, whose family moved here from Durham, N.H. "People here are more open. One of the best things about coming here is the school spirit."

The school spirit and support for the VHS football team, the Wildcats, as been especially important to Salze, who came to Valdosta from Birmingham, Ala. Salze looked forward to the move just so he could play football here.

"I've been playing football since I was real little," Salze said. "It's good to be in a good program."

Last year while in Birmingham, Salze came here and saw a Lowndes High School football game. He noticed then the football spirit here and became excited knowing he would soon be a part of it.

"I could only imagine what it would be like. When I played last year, we had about 3,000 people watching us," Salze said. "It's really something to play in front of about 12,000 people. There's a lot of spirit

See NEW, Page 2-A



Brian Salze, Joanna and Jane Fueyo, and Scott Goodwin, talk after classes at Valdosta

High School. All of the students are new at VHS — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sun, Sept. 30, 1990
New

From Page 1-A

here. Nobody where I came from really cared."

The first day of school wasn't such a fright for the new football player because fellow team members are in his first couple of classes. They talked to him, included him and helped him around the school.

"All the rest of the team accepted me pretty well," Salze said. "I didn't know what to expect, so that meant a lot to me."

Jane Fueyo received comfort from students who were new at the school last year. Introducing themselves to her and helping her find her way around are only some of the ways her fellow students are helping her to adjust.

Although people are friendly to her, Jane realizes it takes time to build solid friendships, which made leaving her old friends in New Hampshire difficult.

"The hardest part is getting use to a different culture," Joanna said. "People dress different, talk different and do different things."

Having lived in New Hampshire, the Fueyo twins are having a little difficulty muddling through South Georgia accents, but they find the southern drawl intriguing and fun to hear.

Another big change for the students is being around so many other students. Jane and Joanna came from a high school with a student enrollment of about 350. At VHS, they are part of about a 2,000-member student body.

The students are also glad to be in a school where they have so many opportunities to be involved. Each of them has joined clubs or become involved in other ways, so friend-making has been much easier.

Questions And Answers/A Weekly Discussion With Sports Stars

ABC Correspondent 'Refreshed'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor V.D.T.

Sun. Sept. 30, 1990

Armen Keleyian and a crew from ABC News came to Valdosta two weeks ago to find their own story about the Friday Night Lights of high school football.

The television correspondent and former writer for Sports Illustrated said he left Valdosta with a good impression of the community and its football team.

Before he left, he spoke with The Valdosta Daily Times about his stay in Valdosta, what he discovered and his early impressions on the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. As of this weekend, no certain time had

been set for the broadcast of Keleyian's story.

QUESTION: Your impressions of Valdosta after a week?

KELEYIAN: I think it's the friendliest place I've been in the last five years. People will kill you with kindness. I've never heard so many yes sirs, no sirs. It's really refreshing.

I hope the people on World News Tonight will get the feeling I want to portray to the rest of the country — that this is really a special place, that people should be proud of this football team and to live in this town.

QUESTION: Are you surprised about what you found?

KELEYIAN: I was surprised, I think, about the depth of the devotion

of the people in this community and high school football in general — both at Valdosta and Lowndes. It permeates the whole atmosphere here.

Winnersville, USA, is tied to the football team. That didn't surprise me as much as it did underscore my feelings about my city.

QUESTION: You came to town to focus on Valdosta and Valdosta High. What were your impressions of Lowndes High?

KELEYIAN: I spent some time on the Lowndes campus. I was trying to capture the feeling of being in high school again, I guess. I ran some sprints up and down their football field, I looked at the lights in the stadium. See Q&A, Page 2-B



ARMEN KELEYIAN

Q&A

From Page 1-B

dium, I watched kids go back and forth to the school.

I graduated in 1971, so it has been almost 20 years ago since I went through high school. I wanted to remember those feelings when I write the script.

Unfortunately, Lowndes won't be part of the story because I'm focusing on Valdosta. I've been reading

the paper about Lowndes, and how they've been the weak sister. It's nice to see. If I had the opportunity, I'd love to come back and see the Winnersville Classic and see what Lowndes can put on the table this year.

QUESTION: You were in Seoul for the 1988 Summer Olympics as an NBC-TV correspondent. What will the 1996 Summer Olympics mean for Atlanta?

KELEYIAN: It's hard to describe the enchantment the people will feel when they roll into Atlanta. You got a sense of it when the announcement was made.

I think the people of Valdosta will definitely be a part of it. If you're not swept up by it, then it is your own fault. If people don't go up and see it, you'll be missing something. It's an event of a lifetime.

September 30, 1990

VDT

FOOTBALL '90

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Lifestyles Editor

Ah, the sights and sounds of Friday night football in sultry south Georgia:

Pretty, peppy cheerleaders ... a sea of school colors in the stands ... big, booming bands ... the pounding of the drums ... hearts beating a little faster ... bleachers rattling with excitement ... tensions high ... the roar of the crowd ... a quick, silent prayer that your son or boyfriend will do well and no one will get hurt ... a rollercoaster ride of emotions — hope (OK, boys, you're not going to freeze because the cameras are on you, are you?), despair (Fellows,

you're running like your feet are in concrete!), anger (Come on, ref, didn't you see that infraction?), frustration (Hey, guys, they're in a class below us; wake up.), joy (What a pass! Look at you run.), pride (We knew you could do it; keep showing them the stuff you're made of.), exhilaration (Touchdown!)

But it's not over. A hearty meal to celebrate the victory and a good's night's sleep to refresh body and spirit; then it's off up the road a few hours to have a tailgate picnic before watching your favorite university play between the hedges.

And for the true football fanatic, there's Monday night professional football.

The good life!



From left, Phyllis Moore and daughters, Angel and Amy, are decked out in football finery accented with ribbons and bows as they yell for

Angel's boyfriend, Valdosta High School Wildcat Giles Godwin, and the other members of the team — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

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Trainers Gain Much Ground

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Old-time football, when chin straps and helmets were in the way more than they were anything else, paid little attention to injuries. A player needing a breather could easily get one by faking an injury and coaches kept that in the back of their minds when one of their own went down.

Because of that, careers were frequently ended early to a severe injury or to an injury that wasn't treated in time. During the last 10 years, there has been a major movement to further athletic careers by treating injuries with technology and specialists. The field of sports medicine exploded.

Now, most colleges have some type of athletic training program with more and more colleges becoming certified by the NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association). Since this area has found much success on the playing field, it stands to reason that Valdosta and Lowndes high schools would both emphasize the importance of athletic training and proper treatment. And they have.

Lowndes High has Troy Kauffman, who is in his first season with the Vikings, and VHS has long-time trainer Jim Burroughs. Both feel their specialty field will continue to expand and, more importantly, that it should.

"It's gone from almost nonexistent to a very reputable field," said Burroughs, who's been at Valdosta High for nearly 15 years. "I think

our Board of Education and Touch-down Club have seen the advantages of it."

Kauffman is a product of new wave of trainers. After obtaining an undergraduate degree and a masters, he was the Assistant Athletic Trainer at Livingston University for two years before coming to Lowndes. After working in the college atmosphere, he said there is a difference on the high school level.

"Probably the biggest difference is that you don't have the high school athlete at your disposal all the time," Kaufman said. "Some don't have their own way of transportation and they are under a structured school situation. Where as in college, many of the athletes have more freedom.

"I think you see about the same amount of injuries on the high school level as you do in college," Kaufman added. "You just don't have as many severe knee injuries at the high school level."

The emphasis placed upon sports medicine is not just in the attitude; the difference is tangible. Valdosta High has recently upgraded their facility with a new training room and Burroughs believes that indicates the system's dedication to advancement.

"It (the new room) almost doubled our square footage. It offers us the ability to do more advance type work with the rehabilitation part of it," Burroughs said. "Now, we have an excellent training room. We can probably compete with most colleges."

See TRAINERS, Page 3-B



Valdosta High trainers Amanda McGhin Phillips on the sidelines — Times Photo by (left) and Eric Kajfas (center) attend to Eric Mike Tanner

VDT Sun - Sept. 30, 1990

McGhin Breaks Ground At VHS

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Yes, sports and medicine do mix. Even for women. Valdosta High's Amanda McGhin has found that out quite nicely.

The sophomore softball player/athletic trainer had experienced both worlds through her parents. Her father, Robin McGhin, is a leading booster with Valdosta High's basketball program. Her mother, Janie McGhin, is a school nurse at the high school.

It took Amanda one game on television to see that both worlds can mix.

"My dad got me into sports, and my mom's a nurse. I never thought I'd have the opportunity to put both of them together," she said.

"I was watching television one day (and saw a female trainer). I said, 'Mom, what is she doing out there. I'd like to do that.'"

And now she's opening some doors. McGhin is the first female student trainer at Valdosta High. A football-team manager, Karen Green, is also learning the ropes about taping and training. And four female students at Lowndes High have also taken an interest in learning athletic training from LHS trainer Troy Kauffman.

"She does an excellent job. I'm amazed at how much she's learned," said veteran Valdosta High trainer Jim Burroughs. "She can tape as good as anybody."

McGhin was among the group of Valdosta High student trainers which went to Florida State for training and certification this summer.

See McGHIN, Page 3-B

9-30-90 VDT Sun.

McGhin

From Page 1-B

"They taught me everything, how to treat injuries and what questions to ask. They taught CPR," she said.

Her on-field experiences started with spring practice last May, then through the tough two-week pre-season camp in August.

Unlike the male student trainers and managers and the team members which stayed overnight in the gym, McGhin and Green had to head home each night after the 12-hour workday.

It's all part of the hard work which one day may mean a college scholarship. "I want to, hopefully, get a scholarship," McGhin said. "I don't necessarily have to go into sports medicine."

Her training has even come in handy on the school's softball team, which has suffered more than its share of injuries this fall. McGhin is a pitcher for the team.

9-30-90 VDT Sun.

Trainers

From Page 1-B

Both high schools benefit from the program at Valdosta State College, one of the few in the Southeast certified by NATA. The high schools are able to use the college facility and receive help from Dr. Jim Madaleno, the head of the VSC sports medicine program. Also, the Viking staff has Bonita Tanner, a VSC student trainer, assisting Kauffman during the football season.

Soon, both Burroughs and Kauffman feel it will be a necessity to have trainers on the field at all high school athletic events. Some cities, such as Orlando, Fla., have already made it a law for schools to hire a trainer and Kauffman said that need should be emphasized at every school.

"Not to be negative, but as far as getting trainers at the high school level, it's a must because of two reasons. The first is lawsuits, and the

other is that the parents of these kids want better care for their son, or daughter. They know that the coach just can't everything. And they want professional care for their kids, and I don't blame them," Kaufman said.

"If you don't have somebody on the sidelines that knows a little bit about the medical aspect of it, it will create a problem for the coach or the coaching staff because they're intent on the game," Burroughs said. "I think it helps if you don't have that liability."

Times Sports staffers Greg McIlvain and Stan Grubb contributed to this story.

Fans Angry At TV Segment

V. Times 10-6-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A news correspondent for the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) has apologized for glitches surrounding Thursday night's broadcast of a story on Valdosta and the Valdosta High School football team, but some reactions to the story he directed some anger at its content, not the glitches.

Armen Keteyian, the correspondent who was in Valdosta with a four-person crew from Sept. 17-21, faxed an "open" letter Friday to *The Valdosta Daily Times* expressing two apologies and many thanks to those who helped the crew with the story.

Keteyian apologized for not giving those interested much advance notice about when the story would air. The story was supposed to be aired on Monday, but was delayed because of other national breaking stories, Keteyian said.

In addition, Keteyian told *The Times* in a telephone interview later Friday, the story shown on the 6:30 p.m. show (which is shown on Valdosta's WVGA-TV) was from a backup tape which wasn't cued properly and didn't have the identifying graphics.

The piece was aired in full on the 7 p.m. show, which could be seen in Valdosta by TCI Cablevision viewers on ABC's Atlanta affiliate.

Keteyian said he was pleased with the story, though 48 seconds of the original piece was cut because of time constraints. "We cut out some pictures from the junior high, and a standup I did downtown," he said, noting some other minor editing as well.

Keteyian wrote in the letter that "I'm sure the tone and focus of my spot will offend some people."

"I think there were some good things, but overall I was disappointed," said Valdosta Touchdown Club president Dave McCracken.

"It didn't do the community and Coach Hyder justice. It ignored what the program stands for. It generally just came up short."

"The phone calls I've got (from around the nation) have all been good. The reaction was very good," Valdosta High head coach Nick Terrell Friday afternoon prior to *The*

Open Letter To Valdosta

Editor's Note: ABC Television correspondent Armen Keteyian released this letter to *The Times* Friday.

An open letter to Coach Nick Hyder, his players and the people of Valdosta:

I don't often write letters like this or begin them with apologies, but in this case, I feel it's important to do both.

Television, by nature, is a complicated and often unpredictable business. Especially network television. As correspondents, we're asked to report on large and sometimes complex issues and distill them down to one, two or three minutes.

Speaking of which, on Thursday, Oct. 4, my spot on the Valdosta High School Wildcats ran on "World News Tonight."

Originally, as many of you know, it was set to run on Monday night. But then President Bush had to go and have a budget breakdown, and Germany united; Valdosta, for a few days, had to go back on the shelf. I say this because I want to apologize for not letting the town know sooner when the spot was on. As it was, I found out two hours before it ran on Thursday night — just enough time to call Greg McIlvain and Coach Hyder,

and my parents (see, even correspondents think about things like that). I'm sorry we couldn't get the news out sooner.

Apology No. 2 centers around the spot itself. As I said, television is an unpredictable business. We do our job, then we rely on others

See LETTER, Page 2-A

Times receiving the letter.

"I don't think all of the fans are as carnivorous as one or two that were (shown). There are people who support and back the Cats no matter what they do."

From Page 1-A

to make sure it airs properly. Unfortunately, in our 6:30 p.m. broadcast, that didn't happen. A technical error by one of our otherwise crack engineers had my piece running while Peter Jennings was still on camera introducing it. Thus, when America (or at least the Eastern time zone) saw it, it opened in the middle of my first paragraph, with the football team running on the field. What you missed was a beautiful opening shot of Cleveland Field from above, the band marching off the field, other pre-game excitement shots and the beginning of my script, with the saying, "Friday Night, Valdosta, Georgia. ... The pressure is on ... A team, a town and a 77-year-old tradition roar to life."

It wasn't Updike, but it certainly set the mood better than what you saw, which I believe was just the team running on the field and the words, "a town and a 77-year-old tradition roar to life." Anyway, I have sent Coach Hyder a copy of the spot which ran in our 7 p.m. broadcast, one seen in the Midwest and other time zones. It was perfect. Maybe he'll show it at a touchdown

club meeting or something. Or maybe he won't.

I'm sure the tone and focus of my spot will offend some people: The emphasis on pressure, meeting adult expectations, how the town's identity is linked with the fate and fortunes of its high school football team. I'm just as sure there will be others who will point out how I credited Coach Hyder for trying to keep it in perspective; how special football is to your town.

I can only tell you that my job, as a correspondent for this network, or any network, is to try to be as fair and accurate and balanced as possible. To tell all sides of a story in a very limited amount of time.

I hope you can understand and appreciate the philosophy. I can also tell you that Peter Jennings and the executive producer in New York, Paul Friedman, loved the spot. Friedman said it felt "like a novel told in three minutes." For what it's worth...

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank a coach, a team and a town for opening up their hearts to myself, my producer, Carol Williams, and Joe and Jim, our camera and watching coaches like Charles Tar-

sound guys from Miami. I have done a lot of stories in my life, and my trip to Valdosta has to rank at the very top for the kind of people we met, the friendships we made, the hospitality we felt. It would take me a week to name everybody, but there are a few I want to mention publicly. They are Fire Chief Williams, who bent over backwards on our behalf, setting up our opening shot; the police chief and his men for watching over halftime shoot; to the staff at Nicky's who kept us fed and laughing; to the guys at the Valdosta Touchdown Club (Scott Alderman and Dave McCracken) for their insight and introductions; and certainly to all the folks who took the time to be interviewed by us and did not make the piece.

We wish, somehow, we could have fit you all in. But then we'd have done a half-hour documentary, and believe me, we thought of that, too.

But most of all, I want to thank Coach Hyder, his coaching staff and the 1990 Wildcats. Never have I been around a more inspirational group of coaches and young men in my life. I miss those afternoons watching coaches like Charles Tar-

ton pushing their players to get better. And I'll miss watching 118 young men do just that — working, sweating, sacrificing — pushing on their own, toward a common goal, winning. Making themselves and the town feel proud.

And all of us are going to miss Harry Sewell, who seems to be everywhere at the same time. Making things work. Getting the job done. You would have been a great producer, Harry.

Thanks again to everybody for everything. It will be a long, long time before I forget the feelings of Friday night, Sept. 21. We all wish you nothing but the best in your quest for still another jewel in the crown that is Wildcat Football.

Armen Keteyian
ABC News
New York

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Senior Studies In Colorado In Young Scholars Program

This summer a Valdosta High School senior, John Peebles, spent a month at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

John studied in an extensive learning program called "Young Scholars Summer Session." Topics he studied were astronomy and the atmosphere. The course in astronomy covered characteristics of the solar system, study of the galaxies, general and special relativity and relativistic effects. John also toured the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the Alpine and Arctic Research Facility in Nederland, Colo. There he studied the ability of plants and animals to adapt to survival on the tundra — By Brian Stanley.

VICA Meets

Valdosta High School vocational education students had a chance to "get acquainted" at a breakfast meeting Sept. 5 hosted by the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America.

Students were served doughnuts and juice by VICA advisers Janie McGhin, Verl Sherrod, Henry Cannington, Clarence Griffiths, Wayne Sapp, Paula Parker and Lynn Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson spoke to the students about the purpose of VICA and the opportunities available through membership. VICA is a vocational student organization that aims to prepare students for the world of work through involvement in community, school and competitive events. VICA has more than 8,000 high school members in Georgia. Valdosta High School has the second largest VICA chapter in the state.

Science Club Elects

The Valdosta High School Science Club held its yearly election of officers in the spring for the 1990-91 school year.

Officers elected were President Kelly Holmes, Vice President Chris

Valdosta High School



Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

Gregg, Secretary Lisa Bussey, Treasurer Jennifer Eidson, Reporter Brian Stanley, Historian Jennifer Spencer, Parliamentarian Lee Scott and Public Relations David Farber.

The new officers will play a role in helping to develop this year's slate of activities for the Science Club membership. Plans are being made to participate in Georgia Junior Academy of Science and independent competitions that occur throughout the year. It is the responsibility of the officers to aid in the continuation of existing projects and competitions as well as the development and implementation of new ones — By Brian Stanley.

PAMS Elects

PAMS Club officers for the year 1990-91 school year are President Marsha Tucker, Vice President Kim Rayford, Secretary Tefe Stone, Treasurer Rhonda Payton, Chaplain Dexter Mitchell and Reporters Rasheda Stewart and Cheryl Harrell.

New PAMS members are Tammy Calhoun, Althea Cochran, LaCarra Godfrey, Ebony Hatcher, Margaret Iverson, Yolanda Jones, Latasha McBurrough, LaTammy Newsome, Quinlin Parker, Kristie Rayford, Yolanda Reviere, Latricia Richardson, Tumika Rome, Katrina Scriblon, Tarnisha Sirmans,

Joyette Smith, Chesy Thomas, Alyssia Walker, Shawanda Williams and Shantel Wingate.

Newly elected sweethearts include Carlos Moore, Dexter Nelson, Steven Sanders, Trevor Scott and Michael Young.

PAMS stands for Personality, Appearance, Manners and Scholarship. PAMS is a service club. Members also participate in several social activities — By Cheryl Harrell.

VICA Elects

Valdosta High School Vocational Industrial Clubs of America held officer elections Sept. 11.

The newly-elected officers are President Ryan Collins, son of Glenda Collins; Vice President Rodney Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Fountain; Secretary Permelia Moore, daughter of Martha Moore; Treasurer Clarence Duvall, son of Mrs. Petra Lee; Chaplain Meredith Fletcher, daughter of Mr. See VHS, Page 8A

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VHS VDT

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and Mrs. Mike Fletcher; Historian Eric Stanley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Stanley; Parliamentarian Coy Peterson, daughter of Sandra Cooper; and Reporters Nicole Moore, daughter of Shirley Moore, and Lydia Freeman, daughter of Howard Freeman.

Officers met Sept. 14 at Cracker Barrel, made plans for officer leadership conference in Atlanta Oct. 12-14 and discussed homecoming.

DECA Elects

The Valdosta High School Chapter of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) held its annual officers election breakfast Sept. 14 at Shoney's Restaurant.

Elected were President Drew Respass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Respass; Vice President Bill Little, son of Lenora Little; Secretary Gina Albritton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Albritton; Treasurer Jessica Brown, daughter of Dorris Foster; Reporter Martha Stalvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Stalvey; Chaplain David Farber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Farber; Vice President of first period, Michael Seago, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Seago; Vice President of second period, Mike Akins, son of Ronnie Akins; Vice President of third period, Angel Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Moore; Vice President of fourth period, Chris Greene, son of Norman

Greene. Sweethearts who were also elected were Chrissie Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Williams, and Brian Johnson, son of Mary Anthony — By Martha Stalvey.

Y Club Elects

The Y-Club officers for the school year 1990-91 are President Dashanti Jefferson, Vice President Chassity Loving, Secretary Tiffany Daniels, Treasurer Lashanda January, Chaplain Davidae Stewart, Publicity Chairman Shawn Brown, Scrapbook Keeper Corey Strickland and Fund-Raiser Chairman Amanda Harris — By Dashanti Jefferson.

VHS Rolls, Vikettes Gone

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats and the Lowndes High Vikettes took different paths in the 1990 Region 1-AAAA Softball Tournament played Tuesday at Valdosta High.

The Lady Wildcats opened play in the tournament by rolling past Bainbridge, 14-6. Then, they advanced into the winner's bracket finals by edging the Vikettes, 7-6, sparked by a four-run, first inning.

Lowndes, on the other hand, saw its championship hopes dashed with two losses. The first coming to Valdosta, then LHS fell to Colquitt County in loser's bracket action.

The Colquitt County Lady Packers needed just five innings to dispose of the Vikettes, 19-4. The Lady Packers also benefitted from a season-high 13 errors by the Vikettes in the fifth inning.

Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcats will now meet the Tift County Lady Blue Devils in the winner's bracket finals today beginning at 1 p.m. The winner advances into today's championship contest set for 4:45. If a second game is needed, it will start at 6 p.m.

"The way we won both games today was good because we played good defense," said Montgomery. "We made some errors, but that didn't prove to be too crucial. For the mostpart, we got the outs we needed and we hit behind our runners

The way we won both games today was good because we played good defense. We made some errors, but that didn't prove to be too crucial. For the mostpart, we got the outs we needed and we hit behind our runners well and played two games the way we needed to play.'

— Susan Montgomery
VHS Softball Coach

well and played two games the way we needed to play."

In other 1-AAAA softball results, Coffee High opened with a 9-7 win over Colquitt County and then Tift County squeezed by Coffee, 8-6. In loser's bracket results, Coffee beat Bainbridge, 4-0, and will now face Colquitt County, who eliminated Lowndes. Coffee plays Colquitt County today at 2:15, with the winner taking on the Tift-Valdosta loser in the loser's bracket finals beginning at 3:30.

In the Valdosta-Lowndes game, Valdosta jumped out on top of the Vikettes 4-0 in the first inning. After hits by Vashti Manning, Dede Dennis and a walk to Laura Dennis, Cindy Rumph singled home Manning and Dede Dennis for a 2-0 lead.

Lashon Hargett's sacrifice plated Laura Dennis giving Valdosta a 3-0 lead. Then Gwinnett Sanders singled home Rumph putting VHS in front, 4-0.

Lowndes roared back to tie the game at 4-4 in the bottom of the first. The key hit in the inning was a two-run singled by Shanell Jenkins which scored Stacy Cothran and Wanda Floyd to cut the VHS lead to 4-2. Jenkins later came around to score on the throw from center field making the score, 4-3.

Vicky Williams then reached on an error, and Shelly Lieupo scored Williams on a single to center for a 4-4 tie.

Valdosta then held Lowndes without a hit until the fifth inning. And in the meantime, the Lady 'Cats took advantage of the Vikettes' hitting woes.

Valdosta scored twice in the third inning for a 6-4 lead. Dede and Laura Dennis opened the inning with singles. Then, both scored on a two-run single by Hargett.

VHS went up to stay at 7-4 in the fourth as Yasman Bivins singled home Kendra Elliott, who had started the inning off with a double to left.

Cothran's single in the fifth was all Lowndes could get until the bottom of the sixth when LHS scored two runs on three hits making the score, 7-6, in favor of Valdosta.

Jenkins, Williams and Lieupo opened the inning with singles. Jenkins later scored on a VHS error, and Williams pulled Lowndes within one scoring on Brandy Hobbs' grounder to short.



Lowndes High's Jennifer Britt catches the throw to first base, as Valdosta's Dede Dennis hustles down the first base line dur-

ing Wednesday's action in the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament held here —Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Tony Anderson
Buried yesterday

Football dreams of ex-Valdosta star end in accident

By Noble Sprayberry

Staff writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — In a town where football verges on fanaticism, running back Tony Anderson seemed to have it all: Valdosta High School glory, a college scholarship and, looking ahead, a professional football career.

It was not to be.

Instead, Anderson's past is cluttered by battles with coaches and law enforcement officials that culminated in a six-month prison stay.

Yet Anderson's family says the 23-year-old had

started to turn his life around while living in California.

What Tony Anderson could not have known was that his life would offer him no more chances.

He drowned June 9 in a boating accident on California's Lake Shasta.

His body was recovered recently, and he was buried in Valdosta yesterday.

As a junior running back for the Valdosta High Wildcats, Anderson scored three touchdowns in a 21-14 victory over Clarke Central High School of Athens, Ga., to win the 1984 Class AAAA state

football championship.

That season, Anderson rushed for nearly 1,000 yards, despite having missed the first 4½ games of the 15-game championship season because of abdominal surgery.

"Tony had the talent to win the Heisman Trophy, and he could have been a first-round draft pick in last year's draft," said Wildcats football coach Nick Hyder. "But, I guess I'm just dreaming for my kids again."

Indeed, trouble had already arrived by that time

for Tony Anderson.

Less than 48 hours after the 1984 championship game, Anderson was identified as the driver of a car involved in a drive-by purse-snatching at the Valdosta Mall shopping center. The victim and her husband decided not to press charges, saying they did not wish to tarnish the athlete's record.

Anderson's troubles continued, however, and he was dismissed from the football team during 1985

'All he ever wanted to do was play football'

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spring practice after he showed up intoxicated for a workout.

Later that year, Anderson was horsing around with his car in the parking lot of a Valdosta convenience store and struck another teenager who was riding a bicycle.

Initially, Anderson was charged with aggravated assault, but the incident was later ruled accidental, District Attorney Lamar Cole said. Anderson pleaded guilty to one count each of reckless driving, driving without a license and leaving the scene of an accident.

Superior Court Judge Arthur McLane sentenced Anderson, then 18, to 2½ years' probation for the three pleas.

"He blamed everything on someone else," the judge said.

Anderson's attorney, James Council, said his client seemed to come to expect the benefits that came easily to a small-town high school athletic hero. It went to his head.

"Tony was very talented athletically, and some people in the community were not as stern with him as they should have been," Council said. "Tony was a star here, and he was just not able to handle the success."

Hyder said he remembers Anderson saying in court in 1985 that Wildcat supporters would slip money into his helmet after football games and treated him like a king. None of the coaches was aware that Anderson was receiving money, Hyder said.

"During Tony's first three years here, we won 41 games and lost one," Hyder said. "A record like that makes some people in the public forget about a value system and that these kids need to learn about earning what they get."

Hyder said that even after he dismissed Anderson from the team, he remained in close contact with his former running back.

"I want to make it clear that, even though Tony was not a part of the team, I was still his coach and I wanted to help him any way I could," Hyder said. "I accept my share of the blame. I just did not strike the right note with him, and I really wish I had."

After he was thrown off the team, Anderson enrolled at Georgia Christian Academy, a small private school south of Valdosta. However, Anderson remained only about one month before leaving school, principal Robert Lester said.

"He was a nice young man with a lot of personality skills," Lester said. "He had all of the ability

in the world and was waiting for the apples to be plucked."

Hyder said Anderson never graduated from high school, but instead earned a high school-equivalency diploma by passing the General Education Development test in 1986. Anderson then enrolled at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, a two-year junior college.

Northeastern Oklahoma head football coach Glen Wolfe said Anderson attended the school for about two weeks before he became involved in a feud with another player.

"Tony was the cause of it. It was just personalities and they could not get along," he said. "We decided we would rather keep the other kid, and Tony went back to Valdosta."

Shortly after returning to Valdosta, Anderson was charged with violating the probation from the reckless driving conviction. He tested positive for marijuana use, ignored meetings with his probation officer and broke curfew, McLane said.

In November 1987, McLane sentenced Anderson to serve at least six months in the Colquitt County Correctional Institution near Moultrie, Ga. Six months later, McLane ordered Anderson's release on the condition that he attend college.

With Hyder's recommendation, Anderson received a football scholarship to Navarro College, a two-year school in Corsicana, Texas.

"He was an excellent running back and I believed his future was in professional football," Navarro head coach Bob McElroy said. "I hoped he could get into the Canadian Football League. I think that basically, down deep inside, he was a good kid and for the most part he was liked by everybody else while he was here."

But by the spring of 1988, after less than one year in school, he dropped out.

"I think he was more dedicated to playing football than he was to the classroom," McElroy said. Anderson's difficulties were only academic, and the running back was generally well-liked, the coach said.

Despite the setbacks, Anderson's dream of playing professional football never wavered, his family said.

Anderson's mother, Rosa Anderson of Valdosta, said, "Tony never gave up on football, and he had a great hope of playing again in the pros."

Ms. Anderson, 52, raised Tony and her three daughters alone, working as a maid to support the family.

"All he talked about was going pro and being able to do all of these things for his mother," said Linda Smith of Valdosta, Anderson's aunt. "I re-

member he said, 'I've been in trouble, and I've been in prison, but now I'm going to make it right.'"

Ms. Anderson said her son moved to Victorville, Calif., last year, living for about eight months with his father, Clinton Williams, whom he had not seen since he was 9 years old.

"Tony went to California and was trying to put everything behind him," she said.

Anderson's stepmother, Diane Williams of Victorville, was impressed by her husband's son.

"When Tony got here he had a good head on his shoulders and things would have worked out for him," she said.

Mrs. Williams said Anderson ran, lifted weights and swam in a nearby pool to keep his 230-pound frame in shape.

He worked as a clerk in a Victorville sporting goods store, and police in the city said they had no trouble with Anderson.

Mrs. Williams said Anderson often talked of his dream of trying out for a West Coast semiprofessional football team. His plan was to play a year of semipro, then move to Canada for a shot at the Canadian Football League, she said.

This spring, Anderson took a job in Redding, Calif., working as a laborer for Moore & Associates, a construction firm. His employer, Aaron Reagan of Redding, described Anderson as a diligent worker, noting none of the troubles that had plagued his past.

Before he died, Anderson told several of his friends and family that he thought he was finally on the verge of putting his troubled past behind him.

"Tony called me about two weeks before the accident happened and asked if I would be a referee for him when he tried out for a semipro team," Hyder said. "He sounded good and seemed to really be trying to put everything together."

On a sunny day this June, while boating on Lake Shasta with four friends, Anderson dived into the water to escape the 90-degree heat, witnesses told authorities.

When a stiff breeze moved the boat away from him, Anderson panicked and drowned, authorities said.

"I talked to Tony a few days before the accident," said Ella Jackson, his sister, "and he seemed like he was finally on the right road."

"He said he had plans and that things were looking good," she said, "but he wanted to keep everything hush-hush because he wanted it to work out before he told us about it. You know, all he ever wanted to do was play football."

(See 'ALL, Page A-2)

'Cats, Face Region Foes

V-Times 10-12-90

No. 1 Valdosta Starts Road Trip

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

"Black October" for the top-ranked Valdosta High football team continues tonight in Bainbridge.

That doesn't refer to the color of the Wildcats' uniforms, but the darkness of Cleveland Field on Friday nights this month. Four October Friday nights, no home games.

Last week was an open date prior to the opening of the Region 1-AAAA schedule. Tonight begins a three-week road-game stretch which will also take the 4-0-1 Wildcats to Colquitt County and Tift County.

The road starts tonight in Bainbridge, a team which already has one Region 1-AAAA loss (a 24-0 defeat to Colquitt) included its 3-2 record.

Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

"They already have an open wound," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, referring to the loss and warning about the Bears' attack.

Tonight's game pits the two lowest-rated offenses (based on total yards) in the region, though the teams have gone their different ways with those yards — both on the scoreboard and on the field.

Valdosta has been living by the run of late, led by tailback Joe Wright (337 yards, two touchdowns), fullback David Williams and quarterback Alton Hitson.

Bainbridge has gone through the air, with junior quarterback Brian Powell throwing for 689 yards in five games. Powell is also the region's leading punter (41.3-yard average).

"We've faced some strong, mobile athletes at quarterback this season," said Hyder. "This youngster is a good, strong-armed athlete. He's a good baseball pitcher."

Receiver Stanley Flanders is the region's leader in receptions (23), yards (412) and



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (4-0-1 overall, 0-0 in Region 1-AAAA) vs. Bainbridge High Bearcats (3-2 overall, 0-1 in Region 1-AAAA)

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Centennial Field, Bainbridge; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets available.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta; WMGR-AM (930) in Bainbridge (Bainbridge broadcast)

LAST WEEK: Valdosta did not play; Northview (Dothan, Ala) 22, Bainbridge 6

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 1 in Georgia AP.

touchdown catches (five). Fullback Vidal Lively is a dual-threat from the backfield — rushing (264 yards, four touchdowns) and receiving (11 catches, one touchdown).

That offense, however, has scored just 20 points in the last three games (going 1-2) after scoring 69 in the first two games (victories over Thomas County Central and then-No. 1 (Class AA) Worth County).

The difference may be in the defense. Valdosta is among the region's top units (based on total yards), and may be the healthiest in the defensive backfield since the first of the season, with defensive captains Adrian Lewis (knee) and Marshun Lane (ankle) recovering from in-

1-AAAA Tourney Begins

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

When the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament begins in Valdosta today, it won't be at Sunset Park as originally planned. Instead, the Valdosta High softball field will be the site of the event due to a complaint by a region coach.

Apparently, one of the coaches at Friday's region meeting objected to playing the tourney at Sunset Park because the bases were 65 feet apart instead of the regulation 60 feet as approved by the Georgia High School Association. The coach had contacted GHSA president Bill Fordham who agreed that another site should be selected.

Aside from the tournament's move across town, some other changes were called for. Since the VHS field has no lights, all games will be played during the day beginning at 11 a.m. today. The format has also been changed to a two-day event.

For the last three years, it seemed to not matter if the tourney was held in the Grand Canyon since the Tift County Lady Blue Devils rolled through and won all three en route to state championships.

But this year, the changing of the guard may have begun. Lowndes split with the Lady Devils during the regular season and Colquitt County and Valdosta came very close to taking region wins from Tift County. Both LHS head coach Larry Maffitt and VHS head coach Susan Montgomery believe there is more parity in the league.

"I think Tift County has been head and shoulders above the rest for the last three years but I think there are three or four teams who are capable of knocking them off this year," Maffitt said. "I still think Tifton would have to be the favorite. They have a lot of tradition up there and they know how to win. I don't think they're as strong as they usually are but as sure as I say that, they'll come out and kill us."

"Everybody really does have a chance this year, moreso than in the past," said Montgomery. "We're going to have to play good defense to win and we're on our own field which may give us a little edge although I don't really know that it will. We're going to have to play during the day which isn't great but it doesn't help much to complain. You've just got to go out and play."

If anyone should be picked to knock the defending champs, it would probably be the Vikettes or the Lady Wildcats. They finished second and third behind Tift County this season.

Valdosta begins their schedule at 12:15 against sixth-seeded Bainbridge with the winner facing Lowndes at 2:45 p.m. In the 11 a.m. game, Coffee High, seeded fourth, will face fifth-seeded Colquitt County. Tift County will see the winner at 1:30 p.m.

Two loser's bracket games will also be played Tuesday.

The final four games and a possible "if" game will be played Wednesday.

"We've made lots of improvement during the year and my kids deserve a lot of credit. Early in the year, I wasn't too sure if we'd win many games but the kids believes in themselves," Maffitt said. "We finished the season on a high note but we can't take anybody for granted."

Hyder: 'Cats Enter Second Phase

VDT Sun., Oct. 7, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

They've faced maybe their toughest non-region schedule, the national television cameras and a tie.

Now the Valdosta High football team (4-0-1) has to face the second phase of its schedule — the Region 1-AAAA teams. The first game is Friday night at Bainbridge.

During the Wildcats' off-week this week, head coach Nick Hyder talked about the team, the season so far and the season ahead.

QUESTION: Your thoughts about the first five games?

HYDER: Each team has its own personality. The personality is the

'Cats To Be No. 1?

The Valdosta High football team may be the new No. 1 team in Georgia when the poll is released Wednesday morning. No. 1 LaGrange lost to Morrow, 14-7, Saturday night, opening the door for the No. 2 'Cats to return to the top spot in the Class AAAA poll.

gathering of the people who make the team blended into one. You could term some teams as selfish, you could turn some teams as dependent on one individual, you could term teams as struggling,

working hard.

This team this year in the first five games has learned as much about themselves in five games as any team in five games. I don't remember having to come from behind in years gone by from 14 points back.

We've played tough teams from out-of-state ... we've learned. Maybe that's good. There is a lot of education going on.

QUESTION: Your thoughts about the region schedule ahead?

HYDER: The Region 1-AAAA, some say we have annointed ourselves as a tough region. I don't compare the other region, I just know it is tough. What other regions

See HYDER, Page 2-C



NICK HYDER

Hyder

From Page 1-C

think about themselves is their own business.

There are great amounts of feelings in the region. When we continue this thing, we have to realize this phase is what it is all about. Each week goes quickly, and it is an entirely new chapter. All six teams have a shot at any of the three places available.

QUESTION: Any surprises so far?

HYDER: The surprises would come in the form of struggling, jockeying might be a better word, for playing time. Compete is a better

word. We've had some youngsters on the offensive line who have really come forth — Andy Sheffield, Jay Bowling, Tim O'Brien have really come on. The leadership of Shaun Eilders has been good there.

We've had some good sophomores to come around, and I thought they would and they have — David Williams, Shadrick Green, Marcus Williams and Franklin Wiseman. There are others beginning to show.

The in-season improvement of Dow Drury, because of the margin of victory in the two Alabama games ... he's faced pressure and handled it.

'Cats On TV?

A story on the city of Valdosta and the Valdosta High School football team may be shown tonight on ABC-TV's World News Tonight With Peter Jennings. ABC News correspondent Armen Keteyian told The Valdosta Daily Times Sunday night that, unless changes to the story were required or a major news story broke during the day, the story would probably be aired during an open period in the newscast tonight. World News Tonight is aired at 6:30 p.m. on Valdosta's WVGA-TV Channel 44 (TCI Cablevision Channel 7), and at 7 p.m. on Atlanta's WSB-TV (TCI Cablevision Channel 28).

Defensive Players Lead Times' Honors List

VDT Sun., Oct 1, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For their efforts in high school games last Friday night, nine area players have been chosen as Players Of The Week by The Times' Sports Department.

This week's list includes performances by Lowndes High linebackers Randall Godfrey and Jerry Register; Valdosta High free safety Deric Cotton and defensive end Brad Tarpley; Valwood School's quarterback Chris LaMontagne; Cook's Terry Smith and Donnie Carter; Hamilton County's tailback Eric Claridy; and Madison County's tailback Frankie Wilkins.

Lowndes High's defensive unit has been a dominating force for the Vikings all year. And they passed perhaps their biggest test holding off the Northeast Macon Raiders.

While the entire Viking defense had a huge hand in the 2-0 shutout, Godfrey and Register were the leaders. Godfrey finished with eight tackles, including a touchdown-saving tackle, and Register had nine tackles.

Cotton was in a touchdown-saving mood last Friday, as his open-field tackle on Robert E. Lee's Mason Miller saved a score on a second-half kickoff. He immediately followed by breaking up a pass from Matt

See HONORS, Page 3-B

Monday, October 1, 1990 B-3

Honors

From Page 1-B

Gaines, then brought down Lee's star tailback Tyrone Johnson after a four-yard gain.

Tarpley had two quarterback sacks around a 23-yard run by Johnson, which could have set up a short field-goal attempt. However, Tarpley's seconds sack forced Lee to try, and miss, a longer field goal with 12 seconds left.

LaMontagne led his Valiants past the defending GISA large-school state champions Southwest Georgia, 27-7. LaMontagne threw touchdown

passes of 57 and 13 yards. He also connected on a 47-yard field goal.

In Cook High's 7-6 upset win of Clinch County, Smith and Carter combined for 255 yards offense. Smith was 10-of-15 passing for 117 yards and one touchdown of 48 yards to Carter. Carter had 53 yards rushing, and caught seven passes for 85 yards.

Hamilton County rolled past Chiefland, 20-0, and Claridy once again was a key factor.

Claridy rushed 12 times for 87 yards. he had two touchdowns runs,

one of two yards, the other by five yards.

And while the Madison County Cowboys came up short against three-time Class AAA champs Suwannee High, Wilkins turned in a star-like performance.

Wilkins took the first handoff of the contest and rambled 75 yards for a touchdown. By game's end, Wilkins had rolled up 187 yards rushing on 27 carries. Wilkins' 187 yards last Friday was two yards more than he gained against the Bulldogs in 1989.

Jack Rudolph Making Adjustments

VDT Sun. Oct. 14, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Jack Rudolph has had to make adjustments before, so he's taken his latest move in stride.

Rudolph, the long-time defensive assistant coach for the Valdosta High varsity football team, is now the defensive coach for the school's ninth-grade team. He's also become a full-fledged Georgia Tech football supporter, getting to see his son Coleman be a part of the nationally-ranked Yellow Jackets' success.

Before Rudolph headed to Atlanta for Saturday's Tech-Clemson game, he spoke with *The Valdosta Daily Times* about the new phases of his life.

QUESTION: How has the adjust-

ment been from the varsity to the ninth-grade level?

RUDOLPH: It's been very smooth and very good. It's not really a major adjustment because you are still doing what you do. You coach.

The biggest adjustment has been to get along with a younger group of kids who are not probably as sophisticated in football as the kids are on the varsity. One year in age, from ninth to 10th grade, is a great deal of difference in a lot of things.

The game is still blocking and tackling. You want the kids to learn that that's the important thing. Our major job as ninth-grade coaches is to get them ready for the varsity program, and not so much the win-loss record. We want to make sure the foundation is there.

QUESTION: Any surprises for you so far?

RUDOLPH: Every day there is something that's a surprise. When you are dealing with not as mature a kid ... there's something new. The big thing is we have to keep on going over and over things so many times because it's not firmly entrenched in these kids.

I see a big difference now. Every week, every day, I can see where we've reached a point that I think, OK, now these kids understand what to do against this formation, or finally learning where to line up and what we mean by being on the outside shoulder. We've got three more weeks with them, and I see as the program continues this year that

See RUDOLPH, Page 7-C



JACK RUDOLPH

Rudolph VDT Sun. Oct. 14, 1990

From Page 1-C

they seem to get a better grasp of it.

QUESTION: Your assessment of the varsity's play this year?

RUDOLPH: I've seen the films — I've only seen two games — and I think they are a constantly improving team. The defensive secondary has had plenty of key injuries, and the kids have come through. The offensive line is starting to gel.

The tough pre-region schedule that we had did a lot to help get the team ready. On a week-to-week basis through the films I've watched I've seen constant improvement. That's what you look for, not big scores or things like that.

QUESTION: Do you miss Friday nights?

RUDOLPH: Well, if you were going to miss them you would have never left them. I've got another thing that is very important in my life, and I am doing it.

I miss certain things about Friday night but they are made up for by the thrill I get on Thursday afternoon. It all balances out.

People told me when I quit playing (pro football) that I was going to miss being a player. I went right in from being a player to being a coach, and I was still involved in football. It was a different twist, a different angle. I really didn't miss

being a player. I was learning to be a coach.

I'm still in football. If I was completely out of it, yes I would think it would be something you'd really miss. I'm just in a different area of football.

QUESTION: Your assessment of Georgia Tech's season?

RUDOLPH: If they were to give a coach of the year award at midseason, I think Bobby Ross would be a strong candidate. I've been to several of their practices and scrimmages during the summer, and I've been to the games they've played.

I can't tell you the change in a couple of years in the attitude of the players, the town of Atlanta, the student body. When we left the campus after the South Carolina game, which was a sellout game, it was just like a college campus should be. Fraternity houses were buzzing, the people were still lingering around the football stadium, the thrill of a big victory was there and fresh on their mind.

The Clemson game may be the biggest on-campus game there in eight or 10 years.

I just can't say enough about seeing a 2-9, 3-8 team go to 7-4 and now 4-0 (now 5-0). A lot of people on campus are doing a lot to get the fever of the 1950s back on campus.

AAAA Poll

1. Valdosta (7) (4-0-1)	104
2. Warner Robins (1) (4-1)	95
3. Southwest DeKalb (4-1)	71
4. LaGrange (4-1)	67
5. Statesboro (1) (5-0)	64
6. Brookwood (6-0)	56
7. Cedar Shoals (2) (5-1)	52
8. Lowndes (5-1)	29
9. Mays (5-0)	15
10. Clarke Central (4-2)	13
(tie) Griffin (3-2)	13

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Effingham County, Colquitt County, Fayette County, Morrow, Newnan, Norcross and Tift County

Cats Back In First

V. Times 10-11-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After a three-week absence from the No. 1 position, Valdosta High has regained the top spot in this week's Georgia Associated Press high school Class AAAA football poll.

With LaGrange's loss to Morrow Saturday night, the Wildcats moved back to No. 1 after being No. 2 last week. Valdosta was the unanimous No. 1 team to start the season, but fell from the top perch after a 14-14

tie against Camden County on Sept. 7 at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta (4-0-1) has won three-straight games since then, but it did not play Friday night. Valdosta was also an honorable-mention team in this week's USA Today Super 25 high school poll.

Meanwhile, Lowndes' Region 1-AAAA loss at Coffee Friday night sent the Vikings (5-1) to No. 8 in the poll. Lowndes and LaGrange has nearly-similar point drops from last week's rankings (LaGrange lost 41 points, Lowndes 42), but LaGrange

fell three spots, while Lowndes fell five spots.

The biggest upward mover of the week was Cedar Shoals, which has won five-straight games after an opening loss to No. 10 Clarke Central. Cedar Shoals gained 35 points, and two first-place votes, to be No. 7. Unbeaten Statesboro gained 27 points, and a first-place vote, to move to No. 5.

Warner Robins garnered 24 more poll points this week to be No. 2 behind Valdosta, which gained just five points from last week.

See POLL, Page 4-B

Poll

From Page 2-B

Two other Region 1-AAAA teams, Colquitt County and Tift County, received some votes but not enough to make the Top 11.

Clinch County, despite a two-game losing streak, stayed in the Class A poll at No. 10. Clinch hosts No. 3 and unbeaten Metter this Friday night.

McMullen, Cats Roll Past Vikes

V-Times 10-19-90

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VALDOSTA 25, LOWNDES 13

LOWNDES	7	0	0	6-13
VALDOSTA	6	6	0	13-25

LHS — Mack Copeland 72 run (Chuck Woodall kick)
VHS — Sam Thomas 1 run (kick blocked)
VHS — Thomas 9 run (kick failed)
VHS — Thomas 4 run (pass failed)
VHS — Nakia McMullen 4 run (Cedric Bell kick)
LHS — Michael Thompson 2 run (kick failed)

LOWNDES	VALDOSTA
4	FIRST DOWNS 19
20-92	RUSHES-YARDS 46-245
83	PASSING YARDS 54
6-9-1	PASSES 5-6-0
5-38.7	PUNTS-AVG. 2-22.2
1-5	PENALTIES-YARDS 3-25
2-0	FUMBLES-LOST 2-2

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Lowndes: Mack Copeland 4-87, Michael Thompson 8(-1), Corey Williams 2-4, Travis Lissimore 6-2. Valdosta: Nakia McMullen 15-118, Sam Thomas 16-84, Larry Melton 8-17, Cody Radney 3-0, Kelvin Moore 1-7, Cedric Bell 3-19.

PASSING: Lowndes: Michael Thompson 6-9-1 83. Valdosta: Cody Radney 5-6-0 54.

RECEIVING: Lowndes: Ryan Seymour 3-64, Jonathan Drew 1-6, Andy Cooper 1-7, Joe Baker 1-5. Valdosta: Archie Lewis 2-24, Larry Melton 1-6, Robert Randolph 1-8, Sam Thomas 1-16.

Valdosta High's Nakia McMullen finished off what Lowndes High's Mack Copeland started in ninth-grade football action Thursday night.

Under the lights at Cleveland Field, McMullen paced the Wildcats (3-0-1) with 118 yards on 15 carries and a touchdown, as the 'Cats rolled over the Lowndes High Vikings, 25-13.

"These kids have done everything Coach (Jack) Rudolph and I have asked them to do. We knew it was going to be physical against Lowndes tonight and it was," said VHS head coach Tim Horton. "We ran the ball very well, but we threw the ball pretty good when we had to. We've got a good bunch of kids that just played hard tonight and got the win."

LHS' Copeland, however, was not far behind with 87 yards rushing. In fact, the LHS speedster set the tone from the outset, cutting through the VHS defense and rambling 72 yards for the score on the game's third play.

Copeland, who touched the football just four times in the game, put his team in front with 8:25 left in the first quarter. Chuck Woodall's point-after was good and Lowndes (1-4-1) led, 7-0.

But from that point on, it was all Valdosta High.

The 'Cats needed just nine plays following the ensuing kickoff to reach the Viking end zone.

The key man in the drive was VHS tailback Sam Thomas. Thomas grinded out 12 yards rushing on the drive and dove in for the first of his three touchdowns from one yard out. But Copeland, who also finished with seven fackles and a tipped punt attempt, blocked Cedric Bell's kick and Lowndes still led, 7-6.

Both teams then touched the ball twice more, before Valdosta was on the move again from there own 41 af-

ter an interception by cornerback Laron Poulian.

McMullen and Thomas teamed up on the 41-yard drive, with Thomas doing the honors from nine yards out with 2:35 before intermission. The VHS kick failed, but VHS took a 12-7 lead and never trailed the rest of the contest.

VHS' stingy defense held the Vikings to just a pair of first downs the entire first quarter. LHS finished with four. Valdosta had 19 first downs and 245 yards rushing.

After a punt, Valdosta took over at its 49, and nine plays later reached paydirt again. Thomas, who finished with 84 yards, opened the fourth quarter by capping off this drive running in from four yards out to make the score, 18-7. The key play of the drive was when Cody Radney hit re

See NINTH-GRADE, Page 3-B

Ninth-Grade

From Page 1-B

ceiver Archie Lewis for a 15-yard pickup on a third-and-9 call at the Lowndes 26.

After another three-play defensive hold by Rudolph's defense, Valdosta put the game away marching 58 yards on 12 plays.

The first three running plays by VHS on the drive picked up first-down yardage, while McMullen galloped in from four yards out and the 25-7 lead after the kick by Bell.

Lowndes finished off the game scoring on its final drive of 62 yards. Receiver Ryan Seymour caught a 20-yard pass on a fourth-and-10 from quarterback Michael Thompson to keep the drive alive. Then three plays later, Seymour hauled in another Thompson aerial good for 39 yards down to the VHS two. Thompson later scored on a keeper for the 25-13 finish.

In eighth-grade action, the Valdosta Junior High Tomcats defeated the Lowndes Middle School Vikings, 20-12. Vaughn Clark had two touchdowns for VHS and LHS' Antwan Sirmons had a 97-yard run for a score.

VHS Marching Cats Sweep Awards, Set For Open

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Marching Cats band swept awards at a Douglas competition last weekend and are readying for the Southern Open competition this Saturday.

"It's been a great year," said Valdosta Band Booster president Mary Allen, who also is a Valdosta School

Board member. "These kids have really, really worked."

Not only does the band's Grand Champion Award in Douglas signify the first competition it has won since 1984, but the Marching Cats took top awards in every category at the Gold Leaf Marching Invitational.

Three band representatives — drum major Michael Young, band president Byron Williams and vice

president Mickey McAfee — on Monday gave a presentation of their success this year to the Valdosta School Board.

"I am very proud of the band this year, as you can see," Superintendent Walter Altman said after praising the band representatives and band director Stephen Hankla.

Altman encouraged people to attend the Marching Cats' host invita-

tional competition, the Southern Open, on Saturday.

Twelve bands will compete on a superiority scale, and the Marching Cats, Valdosta Junior High Marching Tom Cats and the Valdosta State College Blazin' Brigade will perform exhibitions.

The Southern Open, to be held at VSC's Cleveland Field, is being divided into a festival and a competi-

tion. Gates open at 10 a.m. and performances will begin at 10:45 a.m. Lunch and supper will be available at the stadium, since the competition will not begin until 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Allen said admission gates will close at 8:30 p.m., just before all competing bands march on field together in formation.

"It's a beautiful thing to see," she said.

Southern Open advance tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. At the gate, tickets will cost \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

The Southern Open is not the last chance the Marching Cats will have to shine. The school board voted Monday to allow the VHS band to compete in the Tidewater Showcase of Music competition in Norfolk, Va., in April.

New Scene, Same Result

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

A few hours before Valwood's 27-22 win over Bulloch Academy Friday night, head coach Joe Wilson was perusing Goddard Field, studying what could be a big problem for both teams once they took the field.

"This rain's got these fireants everywhere," the venerable coach said as he poured a solution on one of the mounds.

For 30 years, Wilson had other things to worry with aside from field maintenance. But in his second season at Valwood School, Wilson has taken a different attitude toward guiding his club. And the plan is working.

Valwood, a Class AA school in the Georgia Independent School Association, is 6-0 including four wins over Class AAA teams. The way the Valiants have won should come as no surprise — long punt returns, halfback passes, reverses and the like are all in the offensive repertoire of the team guided by the man who some call one of the greatest offensive coaches in memory.

"I call it 'Vintage Bazemore,'" Wilson said, referring to his former boss at Valdosta High. "What worked back then still works now. Football hasn't changed. You still block and tackle. Our philosophy is when they expect something, do the opposite."

Wilson's coaching accomplishments read much longer than his six-game streak at the private school. He was an assistant

at Valdosta High for 13 years, mostly under Wright Bazemore, and was the head coach at Lowndes High for 17 years. A graduate of Valdosta High in 1952, Wilson has had success playing and coaching many different sports at every level imaginable.

His memories are long and lasting.

"I miss the camaraderie of the great coaches I've coached with. But life goes on. Heck, I still miss playing and I haven't played in 100 years," Wilson said. "I've been around youngsters a long time and even though I don't look young, I think it's kept me young."

Wilson realizes, and enjoys, the difference in coaching 27 players rather than 80-90 at a AAAA public school. There is more time to instruct, enjoy and place importance where it needs to be placed.

"There are still a great many things outside football that you don't really have time for at a big school. We really don't do that much with the youngsters here. If we practice for an hour and a half, it's a long practice. We're going to let them off at 5 so they have time for school. You've got to study to stay in school here and that's how it oughta be," Wilson said.

Down the road from Wilson's domain, his old team, the Lowndes High Vikings, are 6-1 and enjoying their best season in several years. Wilson is not surprised in the least at the Viking resurgence. He knew all along.

"When I started there, we had a
See WILSON, Page 7-C



Joe Wilson now oversees the football program of Valwood School, installing his brand of wide-open, winning football in the Valiants — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wilson

From Page 1-C

plan and it worked because we won the state championship in 1980. Five years later, we won the region. These kids now, I knew they would make a good team," Wilson said. "I still see them all the time. We pull for them and Valdosta and they pull for us. A lot of our kids are friends with their kids so we all pull for each other.

"This is really a better brand of football here than I thought when I took this job," Wilson added. "We've got seven or eight kids here who could've started for most of my Lowndes teams."

One constant for the coach is a right-hand man and a best friend that has been there for as long as Wilson can remember. Coach Noel George played alongside Wilson in high school and has coached with him at Lowndes and now Valwood. "We've been together since dirt was invented," Wilson said.

On Friday nights, Wilson's philosophy of a flamboyant offense is not reflected in his demeanor. He paces the sidelines quietly without raising

a voice or arguing a call. Such actions don't win games.

"Getting excited or angry or running around and hollering and using profanity just creates more anxiety and more frustrations. It doesn't accomplish anything," Wilson said.

He doesn't know how long he'll remain at Valwood. His dedication to winning may indeed carry the team to a state championship, or several, in the coming years. But Wilson carries along "one day at a time." But he insists that football is just a game and the emotions involved are the same at any level.

"Two of the most enjoyable years I ever had was when I coached the Playland Toy Jets. The people behind us were just as enthused about playing as if they were at a big high school," said Wilson. "What a lot of people don't realize is that you can't just walk on a field and win if you're a Valwood or a Lowndes or a Valdosta. Sometimes, the 11 people on the other side of the line may be better than you. But a lot of people don't think about that."

Wilson can't pay too much attention to the bigger gridiron names in

the city and he doesn't feel the need to. "This is where I get my paycheck so this is where I need to take care of business," he said.

And now his wide-open system is firmly implanted, the good fortunes for the Valiants continue to come.

"Last year, we didn't really know our athletes and they didn't really know us. I thought we'd be better this year but I never dreamed we'd come this far," Wilson said. "And that bubble could burst anytime. The bottom line is that everyone has supported this program. That makes it a lot easier. We're working together for a common goal. There is great cooperation here."

Much like there was with those famous Playland Toy Jets. By the way, how successful was Wilson's stint into the little leagues?

"We won the city championship both years," Wilson said. "We had some good boys."

And those boys had a coach who realized that a game is a game and winning is possible no matter where the game's played.

Even on a field that is home to many a fireant.

FAST FACT:

THE VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IS SCHEDULED TO BE FEATURED TODAY ON NBC'S "SUNDAY TODAY," 8-9:30 A.M. ON TCI CABLEVISION CHANNEL 27



Jack Rudolph

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Jack Rudolph has had to make adjustments before, so he's taken his latest move in stride.

Rudolph, the long-time defensive assistant coach for the Valdosta High varsity football team, is now the defensive coach for the school's ninth-grade team. He's also become a full-fledged Georgia Tech football supporter, getting to see his son Coleman be a part of the nationally-ranked Yellow Jackets' success.

Before Rudolph headed to Atlanta for Saturday's Tech-Clemson game, he spoke with *The Valdosta Daily Times* about the new phases of his life.

QUESTION: How has the adjust-

ment been from the varsity to the ninth-grade level?

RUDOLPH: It's been very smooth and very good. It's not really a major adjustment because you are still doing what you do. You coach.

The biggest adjustment has been to get along with a younger group of kids who are not probably as sophisticated in football as the kids are on the varsity. One year in age, from ninth to 10th grade, is a great deal of difference in a lot of things.

The game is still blocking and tackling. You want the kids to learn that that's the important thing. Our major job as ninth-grade coaches is to get them ready for the varsity program, and not so much the win-loss record. We want to make sure the foundation is there.

Rudolph

From Page 1-C

they seem to get a better grasp of it.

QUESTION: Your assessment of the varsity's play this year?

RUDOLPH: I've seen the films — I've only seen two games — and I think they are a constantly improving team. The defensive secondary has had plenty of key injuries, and the kids have come through. The offensive line is starting to gel.

The tough pre-region schedule that we had did a lot to help get the team ready. On a week-to-week basis through the films I've watched I've seen constant improvement. That's what you look for, not big scores or things like that.

QUESTION: Do you miss Friday nights?

RUDOLPH: Well, if you were going to miss them you would have never left them. I've got another thing that is very important in my life, and I am doing it.

I miss certain things about Friday night but they are made up for by the thrill I get on Thursday afternoon. It all balances out.

People told me when I quit playing (pro football) that I was going to miss being a player. I went right in from being a player to being a coach, and I was still involved in football. It was a different twist, a different angle. I really didn't miss

being a player. I was learning to be a coach.

I'm still in football. If I was completely out of it, yes I would think it would be something you'd really miss. I'm just in a different area of football.

QUESTION: Your assessment of Georgia Tech's season?

RUDOLPH: If they were to give a coach of the year award at midseason, I think Bobby Ross would be a strong candidate. I've been to several of their practices and scrimmages during the summer, and I've been to the games they've played.

I can't tell you the change in a couple of years in the attitude of the players, the town of Atlanta, the student body. When we left the campus after the South Carolina game, which was a sellout game, it was just like a college campus should be. Fraternity houses were buzzing, the people were still lingering around the football stadium, the thrill of a big victory was there and fresh on their mind.

The Clemson game may be the biggest on-campus game there in eight or 10 years.

I just can't say enough about seeing a 2-9, 3-8 team go to 7-4 and now 4-0 (now 5-0). A lot of people on campus are doing a lot to get the fever of the 1950s back on campus.



JACK RUDOLPH

Making Adjustments

QUESTION: Any surprises for you so far?

RUDOLPH: Every day there is something that's a surprise. When you are dealing with not as mature a kid ... there's something new. The big thing is we have to keep on going over and over things so many times because it's not firmly entrenched in these kids.

I see a big difference now. Every week, every day, I can see where we've reached a point that I think, OK, now these kids understand what to do against this formation, or finally learning where to line up and what we mean by being on the outside shoulder. We've got three more weeks with them, and I see as the program continues this year that

See RUDOLPH, Page 7-C



A NBC News production crew surrounds Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder during work earlier this

week on another feature story concerning the Valdosta High football program — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

ABC Shows 'Cats Story; NBC Is Next

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

10-23-

It's two down and one more to go for Valdosta High School's "Television Wildcats."

A story on Valdosta and the Wildcats was shown Thursday night at the end of the *World News Tonight With Peter Jennings* program. A four-person team from ABC News, including correspondent Armen Keteyian, was in Valdosta from Sept. 17-22 to work on the story.

The piece touched on the relationship between Valdosta and its high school football team, referring to a fine line between "tradition and obsession" — and referring to the pressures a young teen-ager faces being part of the program.

"I'm pleased and relieved. I'm glad they didn't put us in a bad light," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "Armen had called me today (Thursday) and said he was disappointed it was cut down to three minutes.

"He also brought out how we are working together," said Hyder about the racism question which is usually brought up in a story about the South. "They also talked about our principles, but didn't talk about our total school and total concept."

It's the second time that Valdosta High has been featured on national television this season. The Sept. 21 game with Jess Lanier was shown live on SportsChannel. See TV CATS, Page 3-B

From Page 1-B

America and replayed twice on a Valdosta cable-television channel.

This past week, a four-man NBC News crew was in Valdosta to finish their own piece to be shown either this Sunday morning or next Sunday morning on the *Sunday Today* program. The crew also attended last week's Valdosta-Lee football game.

Sunday Today is not carried by WALB-TV in Albany, but may be seen by TCI Cablevision subscribers on WXIA-TV in Atlanta (cable channel 27) from 8-9:30 a.m. Sundays.

Much of the attention surrounding high school football this fall comes from the book "Friday Night Lights" which featured Odessa Permian High. The book angered supporters of the program.

Valdosta High Runs

Into New Track Era

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After 12 years on the job, Jerry Don Baker is losing one of those time-honored duties of a Valdosta High track and field coach — lining off the cinder track for a meet.

Don't worry, however. With a new all-weather running track soon to replace the old track at the high school, Baker has been and will be kept busy by a renewed interest in the sport.

The first phase of the \$102,000 project, laying the asphalt base under the polyurethane latex surface, was completed Friday. Work on pouring the top surface will begin next week, with the track open for business two weeks after that.

Baker says once the project is complete, Valdosta High will have the finest running track in south Georgia. Similar work has been done on college tracks at Georgia, Clemson and Florida.

Baker says opposing coaches have already recognized that.

"Before, nobody except Lowndes would send a full team to our track meets. We'd have to go to meets out-of-town," Baker said. "People are now calling me to schedule meets here. There's already double the interest from the students."

Baker said he'll try to have "95 percent" of his meets on his home track, including some large weekend

See TRACK, Page 4-B

From Page 2-B

with band, chorus or whatever extracurricular activity you chose, is important from a discipline standpoint.

"Most have regimented hours of practice and then it's up to the individual to get the work done at home," he said. "Without football, basketball, baseball or wrestling, I just don't what I would have done. But at the same time, making good grades was just a matter of pride for me. I wanted to do my best. And for me, going to Princeton was just a chance of a lifetime."

Regardless of his play in the minds of Wildcat fans, Parker was pleased with his play as VHS quarterback

Whatever Happened To . . . / A Weekly Feature About Former Sports Stars

Doctor Parker Made His Mark

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Following in the footsteps of such notable Valdosta High Wildcat signal callers as Buck Belue, John Laster and John Bond, David Parker knows what pressure is all about.

While Parker's stats in two years as the VHS starting quarterback did not erase any records, the 'Cats did win football games. And what Parker felt he missed on the football field, he made up for in the classroom.

The spring of 1982, Parker graduated valedictorian of his class with a 3.97 grade-point average and named the school's best all-around senior.

From Page 2-B

invitationals. For now, however, there is one drawback — there are no lights at the track, which encircles the football practice field.

The lights may come next year, Baker said.

Coffee High has Region 1-AAAA's other all-weather track. The running track in Albany has a similar surface, but Baker says the latex surface slated for Valdosta is a newer substance developed after the Albany track was finished.

"It causes less injuries. The surface gives with the runner," Baker

teaches life the best way he knows how to his kids."

Parker guided the Wildcats to 11-1 and 11-2 seasons, including a Region 1-AAAA championship in 1981.

Don't just call him David Parker. This former VHS quarterback is now called Dr. Parker since his graduation from medical school last March. That same time, Parker married the former Leslie Slocumb of Valdosta. Both now reside in San Antonio, Texas.

"I just think my ability to make good grades and quarterback for the Wildcats was self-motivation," said Parker. "Sports and athletics, along

See PARKER, Page 4-B

Parker later attended Princeton University, where he played football for three years. He graduated in the spring of 1986 with a degree in Biology and a 3.6 grade-point average.

"It's just the most important aspect of school," said Parker. "It's when you can really get your foot in the door with proper grades and attitude about academics. And at Valdosta High, I was fortunate to have another driving force in Coach Nick Hyder.

"Along with my family and teachers, Coach Hyder never let one day go by without mentioning the importance of academics," said Parker. "The man gets a lot of credit for wins and losses in football. But he also

said, "It's easier to run on, and to get better times. The kids enjoy it more."

"It's like running on air. It's a great surface to train on."

The running track is not the only change for the track and field facility.

The high-jump area located behind the south football end zone is being resurfaced, and a new north-south jumps runway and landing pits are being built along the east side inside the track.

Baker says the shot put and discus area will be built outside of the north football end zone, and a four-foot fence will encircle the track

'Even' Scenario Hits Wildcats

JDT, Sun, Oct. 14, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — Maybe it can be explained by the "even-game scenario."

Top-ranked Valdosta High did nothing to dispute that, playing its sixth game of the 1990 season Friday night and leaving with a 3-0 Region 1-AAAA win over Bainbridge.

In the second, fourth and sixth games of the season, Valdosta has tied, won by a point and won by three points. In the other three games, wins have come by a total of 64 points. It still adds up that the Wildcats are 5-0-1 overall and one of three unbeaten (albeit 1-0) teams in 1-AAAA.

Friday night's contribution to the "even-game scenario" added up to just enough offense, which wasn't much, against a defense which is continuing to rise to the occasion.

Charles Tarpley's unit hasn't allowed a point in almost 140 minutes, since that potent one-two punch by Jess Lanier early in the first quarter back on Sept. 21. The streak also includes full-game shutouts against Lee and Bainbridge.

"I'm just happy to win and go on to the next week," Tarpley said.

Bainbridge quarterback Brian Powell did complete 16-of-32 passes, but only one completion over 11 yards. The Wildcats gave up the short pass, but not long — and not one in the end zone.

Included in the heroics was stopping stopping Bainbridge's 13-play, 82-yard drive at the Valdosta 12 midway in the fourth quarter — a drive which ended with a missed 29-yard field goal.

Bainbridge outgained Valdosta, 178-175, but that slight advantage came only because Valdosta downed the ball on the last three plays (minus-seven yards) to run out the clock.

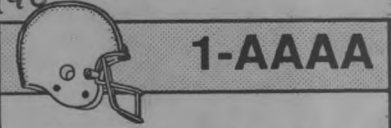
Valdosta's offensive ineffectiveness may be due to two items. No. 1, you have to have the ball to be on offense. In the second half, Bainbridge ran 40 plays, Valdosta 21.

No. 2, "we were well-scouted," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. Bainbridge took away tailback Joe Wright, the 'Cats leading rusher who didn't even touch the ball in the second half.

"We should have thrown to the backs more," Hyder added. Valdosta did complete its first pass to a running back, a 15-yarder to backup fullback Kendrick Patrick in the first half.

There were two pass plays which made have made the difference against Bainbridge.

First, when punter Steve Jaramillo had to scramble to retrieve a punt



Here are the region and overall records, this week's results and next week's opponents for members of Region 1-AAAA

VALDOSTA (1-0, 5-0-1): Defeated Bainbridge, 3-0; at Colquitt County

COFFEE (1-0, 4-1-1): Did not play; home to Tift County
COLQUITT COUNTY (1-0, 4-2): Did not play; home to Valdosta

LOWNDES (1-1, 6-1): Defeated Tift County, 20-7; does not play

TIFT COUNTY (0-1, 4-2): Lost to Lowndes, 20-7; at Coffee

BAINBRIDGE (0-2, 3-3): Lost to Valdosta, 3-0; home to Rickards, Fla.

snap which sailed over his head, he eventually threw an incomplete pass. So what? It made Bainbridge have to go 25 yards further in the last minute of the first half — a half which ended when the Bearcats couldn't get off a 35-yard field goal attempt.

Then came Alton Hitson's 67-yard pass/run play with Carlos Moore late in the third quarter. Valdosta got down to the 3, but missed on a fourth-down pass. It also made Bainbridge go that much farther on the long fourth-quarter drive.

Other notes:

● Backup quarterback Jamey Waters is in good condition after a collision with a log truck Thursday night on North Valdosta Road.

The truck, according to a Georgia State Patrol report, did not have rear-signal lights. The driver was trying to pull the truck into a private drive, according to the report, and blocked the northbound lanes of the road. Waters did not see the truck and hit its side.

Waters' injury left Valdosta with two healthy quarterbacks Friday night — Hitson and sophomore Steven Everson.

● Another nationally-televised story on Valdosta and the Wildcats was scheduled to be aired this morning on NBC's "Sunday Today."

It can be seen by TCI Cablevision viewers on Atlanta's NBC affiliate, cable channel 27, from 8-9:30 a.m. The program is not aired on Albany's NBC affiliate.

'Cat Defenders Shine In Relief

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There was a time, back at the beginning of this football season, when one looked at the Valdosta High defensive backfield as an experienced unit.

While only one of the front seven defensive starters were back from the 1989 unit which contributed so heavily to the school's 20th state championship, three defensive backs returned.

Defensive backfield coach Keith Middleton worried not about his starters, but the backups. They were inexperienced as the starters were experienced.

Then the season started — as did the injuries. Reserve Jerald Davis injured a knee on the last play of the McLachern game, far away from the Indians' runner scoring on a long touchdown run. He had surgery and will be out for the season.

The next week, against Camden County, starting safety Marshun Lane reinjured an ankle. Then in practice the following week, starting cornerback Adrian Lewis suffered a bruised knee.

What Middleton was left with was a former quarterback at safety, a former running back at cornerback and a former reserve at the other safety. Middleton was also left with a backfield which has been holding his own quite nicely.

"The kids are responding," Middleton said after Tuesday's practice, the first this week during Valdosta High's off-week schedule. "Injuries really make you check what you got behind you. The kids that are in their now had no game experi-

"When you put a kid in with no game experience, it's a lot of pressure. I think both those guys have responded to their call."

The learning process actually began last spring, when former quarterback Deric Cotton was given a chance at graduated team captain Chris Hart's safety position. Cotton had some slow going in May, but began to pick up the pace this fall. He's turned in more than his share of touchdown-saving tackles or pass breakups this season, both on defense and the kickoff team. "He's had to take on a leadership role," Middleton said.

John Copeland, a junior, was next when Lane came hobbling to the sideline. Then Leroy Williams, who was moved back from running back to defensive back during camp, got his chance when Lewis was hobbled. Both Lane and Lewis have tried to play since their injuries, but Copeland and Williams have ended up replacing them.

The constant throughout all this has been cornerback Trampis Wrice, a junior who had started the past two seasons.

"It's making us better all around. Now, we've got confidence in them — good, stationary backups and starters," Middleton said. "We're looking to be competitive at those positions."

"It's going to strengthen us in the long run."

Valdosta is second only to Lowndes in Region I-AAAA's pass defense, allowing 213 yards in five games with six interceptions. But its biggest test may come next week in Bainbridge, against an offense which features the region's top passer, Brian Powell (637 yards in four games), and receiver, Stanley Flanders (22 catches, five touchdowns).



Former Valdosta quarterback Greg Talley will start for Georgia this weekend when they face the Clemson Tigers — Photo Special to The Times.

Talley Gets Starting Nod

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Coach Ray Goff said Tuesday that former Valdosta Wildcat Greg Talley, who left last week's game against East Carolina with a head injury, will be Georgia's starting quarterback Saturday when the Bulldogs meet No. 16 Clemson.

Preston Jones, who replaced Talley, led 3-1 Georgia to a 19-15 comeback victory.

"Like I've said before, it doesn't make a bit of difference who our starting quarterback is," Goff said. "We have a great deal of confidence in both of them."

Goff said that to beat 4-1 Clemson in South Carolina, the Bulldogs will have to play a perfect game. "That means that we cannot turn the ball over and we have to force them into some mistakes," Goff said.

"There is no doubt that Clemson is the best football team we have faced

this season," he said. "Their defense is one of the best in the country."

After a two-hour practice session, Goff said he was impressed by senior Brian Cleveland, a former tailback who was converted to strong safety two weeks ago.

"Cleveland is making some ground in a hurry," Goff said. "You can expect to see him play Saturday unless he blows some circuits."

Sophomore defensive back Chris Wilson returned to practice for the first time since he suffered a bruised kidney in Georgia's season opener against Louisiana State. "His return will be a big lift for us," Goff said, adding that Wilson is working out at cornerback.

Tracy Huzzie, who broke a thumb before the season and has not seen any action, has been working out at noseguard. Georgia has had little depth at that position with preseason starter Curt Douglas academically ineligible and 1989 starter Robert Bell lost for the year with a shoulder in-

AAAA Poll

1. Valdosta (7) (4-0-1)	104
2. Warner Robins (1) (4-1)	95
3. Southwest DeKalb (4-1)	71
4. LaGrange (4-1)	67
5. Statesboro (1) (5-0)	64
6. Brookwood (6-0)	56
7. Cedar Shoals (2) (5-1)	52
8. Lowndes (5-1)	29
9. Mays (5-0)	15
10. Clarke Central (4-2)	13
(tie) Griffin (3-2)	13

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Effingham County, Colquitt County, Fayette County, Morrow, Newnan, Norcross and Tift County

Cats Back In First

V. Times 10-11-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After a three-week absence from the No. 1 position, Valdosta High has regained the top spot in this week's Georgia Associated Press high school Class AAAA football poll.

With LaGrange's loss to Morrow Saturday night, the Wildcats moved back to No. 1 after being No. 2 last week. Valdosta was the unanimous No. 1 team to start the season, but fell from the top perch after a 14-14

tie against Camden County on Sept. 7 at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta (4-0-1) has won three-straight games since then, but it did not play Friday night. Valdosta was also an honorable-mention team in this week's USA Today Super 25 high school poll.

Meanwhile, Lowndes' Region 1-AAAA loss at Coffee Friday night sent the Vikings (5-1) to No. 8 in the poll. Lowndes and LaGrange has nearly-similar point drops from last week's rankings (LaGrange lost 41 points, Lowndes 42), but LaGrange

fell three spots, while Lowndes fell five spots.

The biggest upward mover of the week was Cedar Shoals, which has won five-straight games after an opening loss to No. 10 Clarke Central. Cedar Shoals gained 35 points, and two first-place votes, to be No. 7. Unbeaten Statesboro gained 27 points, and a first-place vote, to move to No. 5.

Warner Robins garnered 24 more poll points this week to be No. 2 behind Valdosta, which gained just five points from last week.

See POLL, Page 4-B

Poll

From Page 2-B

Two other Region 1-AAAA teams, Colquitt County and Tift County, received some votes but not enough to make the Top 11.

Clinch County, despite a two-game losing streak, stayed in the Class A poll at No. 10. Clinch hosts No. 3 and unbeaten Metter this Friday night.

VHS Marching Cats Sweep Awards, Set For Open

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High School Marching Cats band swept awards at a Douglas competition last weekend and are readying for the Southern Open competition this Saturday.

"It's been a great year," said Valdosta Band Booster president Mary Allen, who also is a Valdosta School

Board member. "These kids have really, really worked."

Not only does the band's Grand Champion Award in Douglas signify the first competition it has won since 1984, but the Marching Cats took top awards in every category at the Gold Leaf Marching Invitational.

Three band representatives — drum major Michael Young, band president Byron Williams and vice

president Mickey McAfee — on Monday gave a presentation of their success this year to the Valdosta School Board.

"I am very proud of the band this year, as you can see," Superintendent Walter Altman said after praising the band representatives and band director Stephen Hankla.

Altman encouraged people to attend the Marching Cats' host invita-

tional competition, the Southern Open, on Saturday.

Twelve bands will compete on a superiority scale, and the Marching Cats, Valdosta Junior High Marching Tom Cats and the Valdosta State College Blazin' Brigade will perform exhibitions.

The Southern Open, to be held at VSC's Cleveland Field, is being divided into a festival and a competi-

tion. Gates open at 10 a.m. and performances will begin at 10:45 a.m. Lunch and supper will be available at the stadium, since the competition will not begin until 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. Allen said admission gates will close at 8:30 p.m., just before all competing bands march on field together in formation.

"It's a beautiful thing to see," she said.

Southern Open advance tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. At the gate, tickets will cost \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

The Southern Open is not the last chance the Marching Cats will have to shine. The school board voted Monday to allow the VHS band to compete in the Tidewater Showcase of Music competition in Norfolk, Va., in April.

Fans loyal to Wildcats in Valdosta

*Decades of tradition
unite town at games*

By Noble Sprayberry
Staff writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Enchanted by the glow of legend surrounding Valdosta High School football, David Newton happily treks 375 miles from his Chattanooga, Tenn., home to watch his adopted team nearly every week.

"The Valdosta Wildcats are the best high school football team in the country, and they are the only hobby I have. I love to watch them play," the 46-year-old pharmacist said.

Since the Wildcats' first game in 1913, Valdosta football teams have racked up 15 undefeated seasons to only five losing slates in 77 years of competition. The 1918 season was canceled because of World War I and a flu epidemic. The school boasts of 20 state championships, taking its first in 1940 and notching another last year.

While Newton's passion may seem excessive to the uninitiated, old-time Wildcat fans only smile when told of Newton's hobby. They have heard it all before.

The games have an atmosphere of a 12,000-member family reunion, with the grandparents expectantly waiting for the next generation to bear the torch of a decades-long winning streak.

A history of the career of the school's winningest coach, Wright Bazemore, published by the Valdosta Touchdown Club, notes that in the late 1940s, Robert T. Stevens, a New York businessman, rarely missed a game, flying from New York to Valdosta each Friday night.

"I live to see the Wildcats play, but I wouldn't make a 750-mile round-trip just to watch a bunch of kids play football," Newton said. "It's the people that make it so special



Herbert Ross, 67, a Wildcats halfback in 1940 and 1941, now stands on the sidelines, urging

fans to cheer and rattle the bleachers. He has been leading the cheers for four years.

(See DECADES, Page B-4)

Decades of football tradition unite Valdosta community

(From Page B-1)

here. This is a one-of-a-kind place where there are no strangers."

Ask for the best example of the football tradition, people in the stands will point to two seats on Row 11, directly above the 50-yard line behind the Wildcats bench.

There, the 74-year-old Bazemore and his wife, Bettie, 62, watch the latest version of the team that has dominated their lives.

Bazemore coached the Wildcats for 28 seasons, running up a record of 268 wins, 51 losses and seven ties. He ended his coaching career in 1971 and was athletic director until 1979.

In May 1989, Bazemore had a stroke, leaving his right arm paralyzed and making speech impossible.

While communication is difficult, Bazemore greets his friends with a nod or a knowing look as they pass him in the stands, and during the game, his eyes rarely stray from the playing field.

"I wish he could tell everything he remembers," Mrs. Bazemore said of her husband.

Mrs. Bazemore speaks for both of them now, agreeing that in Valdosta, football has become more than just a game.

"It's what everybody talks about on Monday morning, and if somebody asks you the score, you better be able to tell them," she joked.

"It's a tradition-type of thing that a lot of schools are losing because the towns are so big. Wildcats football is something that brings the whole community together," she said. "Everyone wants to carry on the tradition."

For example, before each game, Marion Channell offers each player a piece of gum from a brown paper

bag, continuing a practice he began in 1967 when he drove the team bus. Channell, 77, now long retired, lives in Jacksonville but rarely misses a game, making the two-hour drive to Georgia each week and never forgetting the little paper bag.

Herbert Ross, 67, said, "I tell you why this is so big. The kids are following their grandfathers, fathers, brothers. Everyone in this town almost feels an obligation to the community to play and support Wildcats football."

Ross has become part of the tradition himself. A 129-pound Wildcat halfback in 1940 and 1941, he now stalks the sidelines, waving signs urging the crowd to cheer and rattle the bleachers.

"It's hard to explain if you're not a part of it, but the whole community supports this team and they always have," said Earl Wetherington, 64, who claims to have missed only a handful of games since graduating from Valdosta High in 1945.

"A lot of people say we put too much emphasis on football, but everybody in the world knows where Valdosta is because of Wildcats football," Wetherington said. "We believe Valdosta is the winningest football team in the world, and nobody disputes it."

"If you watch the game films from the '50s and '60s, the only difference is the uniforms and the faces of the people wearing them," he said.

While the tint of the gold helmets is a little more yellow and the wooden bleachers of the 1940s have long been replaced, little else about Valdosta football has changed.

The fans still cheer, the Wildcats continue to win and Bazemore still watches over his charges, albeit from the stands.

Stakes High In Moultrie

V-Times 10-19-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

How high are the stakes for tonight's Valdosta-Colquitt County high school football game?

The winner will be either the only unbeaten team in Region 1-AAAA, or share the honor with Coffee High (if it beats Tift County tonight in Douglas). The loser can afford the loss, but can't afford to suffer another in the last three weeks of the regular season.

And the best players seem to want to be in the big game, no matter what. Colquitt's star fullback, Nathan Williams (493 yards rushing, seven touchdowns), plans to play tonight despite a broken jaw he suffered in a pickup basketball game. The jaw will be wired shut, and he'll wear an oversized face mask. But he plans to play.

Kickoff is at 8 p.m. at Mack Tharpe Stadium.

It's all part of one of Georgia's oldest series, one

which began with a tie (Valdosta High's first-ever game) and a Valdosta win in 1913. The two schools have met every year since 1950, with the Packers having more success against Valdosta than any other Region 1-AAAA school. Valdosta leads the overall series, 55-13-4, with the Wildcats going 32-9-2 since 1950.

Colquitt was one of two schools to beat Valdosta more than once in the 1980s. One of those losses came last year in Valdosta, a 7-0 game which was eventually featured on ABC-TV's 20-20 program. The night that aired, Valdosta defeated Colquitt, 20-7, in the region-championship game.

The 1990 game pits the region's top two defenses (by total yards allowed) against Colquitt's top-ranked offense and Valdosta's sometimes-potent attack.

Colquitt's defense allows 151 yards per game, while Valdosta is at 168 yards. But the Wildcat defense has been hot of late, not allowing a point in 11½ quarters.

Colquitt's defense has picked off a region-high 10 passes, but has allowed a region-high three touchdowns.

Valdosta's defense will go against the top-ranked offense in Region 1-AAAA, led by Williams, quarterback Parks Hughes, the son of head coach Jim Hughes, and a host of receivers. Hughes matches Bainbridge's Brian Powell for the region lead with six touchdown passes.

The Wildcats' offense is next-to-last in Region 1-AAAA, and coming off a 3-0 win at Bainbridge last week.

"I'll have to do a better job of play-calling this week," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. The 'Cats have also moved starting tackle Bucky Allen to guard, with Tim O'Brien to get the start at tackle.

Valdosta has scored but two touchdowns in 11 quarters, but has relied on the right foot of Dow Drury to account for a field goal a game in the last four games.



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (5-0-1 overall, 1-0 in Region 1-AAAA) vs. Colquitt County High Packers (4-2 overall, 1-0 in Region 1-AAAA)
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Mack Tharpe Stadium, Moultrie; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets on sale at game.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta; WMGA-AM (580) and WMTM-FM (93.9) in Moultrie (Colquitt County broadcasts)

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 3, Bainbridge 0; Colquitt County did not play

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 1 in Georgia AP.



Valdosta High ninth-grade running back Sam Thomas (41) charges upfield during Thursday's game at Cleveland Field. Thomas ran for three touchdowns — Times Photo by Mike Tanner



No Easy Win For Wildcats

VDT Sat., Oct. 13, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — To paraphrase an old golf saying, Friday night's Region 1-AAAA football game was a "pass for show and kick for dough" affair.

Valdosta High's Dow Drury, a good golfer in his own right, pulled out his eight-iron (right leg) and kicked a 31-yard field goal in the second quarter. It was good enough for the "dough," a 3-0 victory over Bainbridge.

It also beat Bainbridge's driver and woods, supplied by Brian Powell's strong right arm. And it was better than the short irons kicker Stephen McRae used. He mis-hit and missed right a 29-yard field goal in the fourth quarter, and never got a chance to try a 35-yarder when time ran out at intermission.

"I know exactly how he feels," said Drury of his fellow kicker, who has rebounded from an early-season slump to kick a field goal in four-straight games.

Top-ranked Valdosta's defense posted its second straight shutout, extending its scoreless string to just over 100 minutes. But it had to withstand Powell's arm and arsenal of seven different receivers.

Powell completed 16-of-32 passes for 127 yards, six to region-leader Stanley Flanders. But Valdosta (5-0-1 overall, 1-0 in region) never broke, including turning back a 13-play, 84-yard drive in the fourth quarter.

"They had me frustrated and I wanted to give up, but coach told me to stay with it," said cornerback Trampis Wrice. "Coach (Keith Middleton) said to give up the short stuff and don't give up the long stuff."

Only one of Powell's completions was over 11 yards.

"A shutout is a shutout ... against a good offensive team," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "This league is tough."

"I don't have any complaints. We made mistakes, we had penalties, we had coaching mistakes. But we still played well enough to win."

After the teams evenly battled through the first quarter plus, Valdosta took the early advantage when it moved 31 yards in nine plays to the Bainbridge 14.

Included in the drive was a fourth-and-4 first-down conversion by fullback David Williams, but the drive was stopped three plays later. Drury kicked the 31-yard field goal with 3:21 before halftime.

Bainbridge's best first-half threat came at half's end, after punter Steve Jaramillo salvaged a bad snap with an incomplete pass, giving the Bearcats the ball at midfield with 1:01 left.

Powell had four pass completions to move Bainbridge to the Valdosta 18, but the Bearcats couldn't get the field-goal attempt off before the half-time horn.

Both teams missed their chances in the second half as well.

After a fumbled punt return gave
See WILDCATS, Page 3B

FG Good Enough

Wildcats Take 3-0
Win—Page 1-B



Wildcats VDT Sat., Oct. 13, 1990

From Page 1B

Bainbridge the ball at the Valdosta 26, the Bearcats fumbled it back three plays later, with Richard Thomas making the recovery.

In four plays came the night's biggest play. At its own 12, Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson found Carlos Moore behind a fallen Bainbridge defender and connected on a 67-yard pass and run play. Moore weaved his way around blocks until tackled at the Bainbridge 21.

Valdosta got the ball to the 3, but was dropped for losses on plays wrapped around the end of the third quarter. And a fourth-down Hitson pass to Steve Jaramillo in the front corner of the end zone was incomplete.

"I'd have thrown the ball, but I should have called another route," Hyder said.

From the Bearcat 6, Bainbridge (3-3, 0-2) had its drive — full of passes (4-for-8 for 43 yards) and penalties (two pass interference calls against Valdosta, including one in the end zone, plus an ineligible man call on Bainbridge at the Valdosta 10).

After that last flag, Powell missed Flanders again in the end zone, then settled for a 3-yard completion to set up the field goal.

But that kick, lined up on the right hashmark, never came left enough. The thud sound from the football and foot impact may have told the story.

That miskick came with 5:29 left. But both teams did their best three downs and out imitation to finish the

game, including a 2-for-7 effort from Powell's arm.

Bainbridge did outgain Valdosta, 178-175. Hitson had 117 yards pass-

ing on 6-of-10, but he did throw his first interception of 1990.

The two teams combined to run for 109 yards, 58 from Valdosta.

Class AAAA	
1. Valdosta (6) (5-0-1)	91
2. Warner Robins (1) (5-1)	89
3. LaGrange (5-1)	73
4. Statesboro (1) (6-0)	61
5. Southwest DeKalb (5-1)	57
6. Brookwood (7-0)	49
7. Cedar Shoals (2) (6-1)	47
8. Lowndes (6-1)	21
9. Clarke Central (5-2)	17
(tie) Marietta (6-0)	17
Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order):	
Bradwell Institute, Colquitt County, Effingham County, Fayette County, Griffin, Mays, Morrow, Newnan and Wheeler.	

Staff, Wire Reports

By the slimmest of margins did Valdosta High win its Region 1-AAAA opener Friday in Bainbridge.

And by an even slimmer margin, the Wildcats held on to the top spot in this week's Associated Press high school football poll.

Meanwhile, Lowndes stayed No. 8 in the Class AAAA poll, while Clinch County moved up from No. 10 to No. 8 in the Class A poll after knocking off former No. 3 Metter Friday. Metter fell to No. 9.

Valdosta got six of the 10 first-place votes cast this week, but was just two poll points (91-89)

ahead of No. 2 Warner Robins, which got one first-place vote.

Southwest DeKalb, despite winning this week, fell two spots from No. 3 to No. 5. Former No. 1 LaGrange moved from No. 4 to No. 3, while upstart Statesboro went from No. 5 to No. 4.

Brookwood, Cedar Shoals and Lowndes kept their position from Nos. 6 to 8. Unbeaten Marietta moved into the poll at No. 9, tied with Clarke Central. Mays and Griffin fell out of the Top 10.

In Class AAA, Marist routed Westlake 40-6 to keep its spot at No. 1 as Cairo, Stephens County and Habersham Central returned at second, third and fourth.

Worth County, previously ranked sixth, moved up to fifth, vacated when Thomson slipped to sixth.

Kendrick, ranked ninth last week, hopped into seventh, switching places with Carrollton. Burke County continued to hold at eighth.

Baker, a newcomer to the list, grabbed 10th from Crisp County, which fell from the poll.

In Class AA, Mitchell-Baker grabbed 10 first-place votes for 100 points as the top eight teams in the class reclaimed their seats.

Ninth-ranked Greene-Taliaferro, which shared the spot with Morgan County last week, stood alone there this week. Morgan County took the 10th position.

In Class A, Lincoln County hasn't budged since it was voted No. 1 in its class in the preseason.

Cats' AAAA Lead Shrinks

V-Times 10-17-90

VALDOSTA 3, BAINBRIDGE 0

VALDOSTA	0	3	0	0-3
BAINBRIDGE	0	0	0	0-0

VHS — Dow Drury 31 field goal

VALDOSTA	BAINBRIDGE	
7	FIRST DOWNS	12
36-58	RUSHES-YARDS	27-51
117	PASSING YARDS	127
6-12-1	PASSES	16-32-0
5-36.0	PUNTS-AVG.	7-40.7
4-47	PENALTIES-YARDS	6-58
1-1	FUMBLES-LOST	1-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: David Williams 13-34, Alton Hitson 13-11, Joe Wright 8-11, Kendrick Patrick 1-2, Albert Edmonds 1-0. Bainbridge: Harrison Smith 20-49, Thomas Jackson 5-13, Stanley Flanders 1-9, Brian Powell 1-(-10).

PASSING: Valdosta: Hitson 6-10-1 117, Wright 0-1-0 0. Steve Jaramillo 0-1-0 0. Bainbridge: Brian Powell 16-32-0 127.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Jaramillo 4-35, Carlos Moore 1-67, Patrick 1-15. Bainbridge: Flanders 6-49, Shawn Wilson 3-37, Ryan Pearson 2-11, Jason Andrews 2-10, Scott Piland 1-9, Basque Martin 1-6, Harrison Smith 1-5.

V. Times 10-20-90
Cats KO Packers

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — A pair of Region 1-A AAAA heavyweights stood toe-to-toe in the second half of Friday's high school football game at Mack Tharpe Memorial Stadium.

Top-ranked Valdosta (6-0-1 overall) and Colquitt County traded punches and counterpunches for the final 24 minutes. But when the final punch landed, Valdosta came away with a 28-18 victory.

The victory left Valdosta alone atop the Region 1-A AAAA pile only two-fifths into the schedule. With Tift's 21-20 win at Coffee, Valdosta is the lone unbeaten team in the region at 2-0.

Lowndes (which was off Friday), Colquitt, Tift and Coffee are all 1-1, while Bainbridge is 0-2.

Each time Colquitt scored a touchdown in the second half, pumping up the home-side crowd, Valdosta answered back.

"It's just a team victory," said head coach Nick Hyder. "We had a lot of unselfishness tonight. It couldn't have come at a better time."

"That was great football tonight ... the kicking game was the difference. Give them credit. They are a strong ballclub," said senior offensive tackle Shaun Eilders. "But we worked on some things in practice ... and we got it in there."

"We just have to have confidence in our abilities, that once we score the defense is going to hold them."

VALDOSTA 28, COLQUITT CO. 18

VALDOSTA	3	10	0	15-28
COLQUITT	3	0	7	8-18

CC — Parks Hughes 26 FG
 VHS — Dow Drury 27 FG
 VHS — Drury 21 FG
 VHS — Alton Hitson 10 run (Drury kick)
 CC — Hughes 1 run (Hughes kick)
 VHS — Steve Jaramillo 3 pass from Hitson (Albert Edmonds from Hitson)
 CC — Hughes 1 run (Michael Boatwright pass from Hughes)
 VHS — Joe Wright 2 run (Drury kick)

VALDOSTA	COLQUITT
13	FIRST DOWNS 14
35-197	RUSHES-YARDS 38-158
73	PASSING YARDS 131
7-10-0	PASSES 10-22-2
2-50.0	PUNTS-AVG. 4.38.5
6-60	PENALTIES-YARDS 6-41
1-1	FUMBLES-LOST 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 21-125, Alton Hitson 11-54, David Williams 3-18. Colquitt: Nathan Williams 20-70, Parks Hughes 11-31, Eric Hawkins 5-29, Jimmy Merritt 2-8.

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 7-9-0 73, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0. Colquitt: Parks Hughes 10-22-2 131.

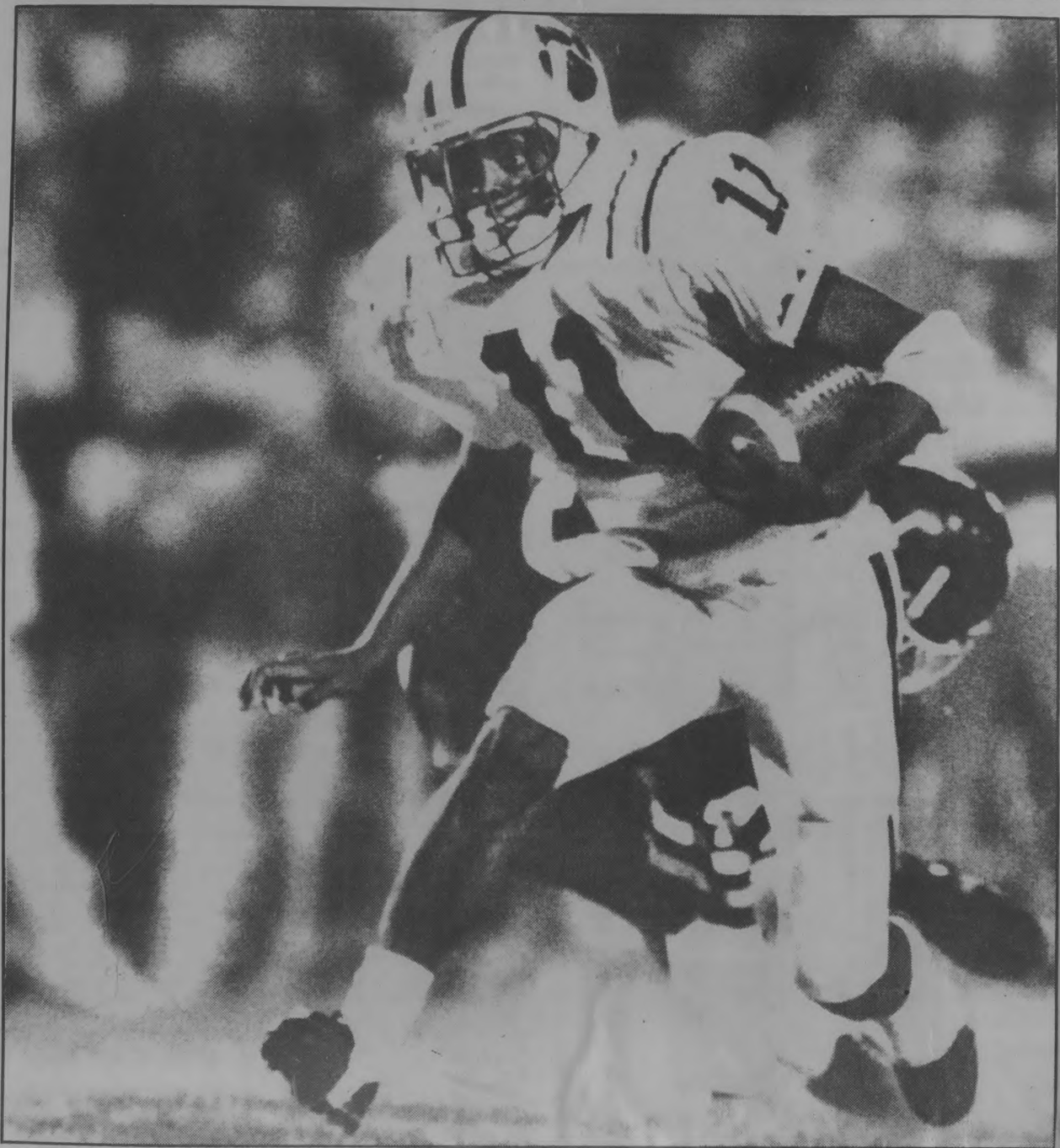
RECEIVING: Valdosta: Steve Jaramillo 4-39, Joe Wright 1-22, Carlos Folsom 1-6, Carlos Moore 1-6. Colquitt: Anthony Bridges 5-63, Cliff Middlebrooks 3-21, Chris McCranie 1-38, Bill Tucker 1-9.

"We have to believe in ourselves."

Down 13-3 at intermission, Colquitt rallied twice. Valdosta answered twice.

"We got ourselves back in the football game. We got our kids and our folks as excited as I've ever seen," said Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes. "But then Valdosta

See CATS, Page 3-B



Valdosta running back Joe Wright looks for an opening around the corner as he runs past the Colquitt County defense Friday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Cats

From Page 1-B

answered back ... we couldn't do enough good things and then we couldn't hold them."

In the third quarter, the Packers went 61 yards on eight plays, with quarterback Parks Hughes getting the first of his two 1-yard touchdown runs. His extra-point kick made it 13-10 with 2:44 left in the quarter.

Then came counterpunch No. 1. Valdosta went 69 yards in 10 plays, twice converting on third down — once on a 17-yard Alton Hitson-to-Steve Jaramillo pass, then a 29-yard Hitson run.

Early in the fourth quarter, on fourth-and-one at the 3, Hitson hit an outstretched Jaramillo in the right side of the end zone. Hitson went left to find a diving Albert Edmonds for the two-point conversion, making it 21-10.

"Alton was just the leader he is," said Jaramillo. "I just caught the pass and held on to the ball."

That's not all. Colquitt (4-3) answered with a 75-yard, seven-play drive. Anthony Bridges set up Hughes' touchdown run with a 23-yard pass and run from Hughes to the 1. Hughes hit on three passes for 42 yards on the drive.

Hughes passed to Michael Boatw-

right for a two-point conversion, as the Colquitt sidelines called for timeout. It was 21-18 with eight minutes left.

Then came Valdosta second counterpunch, a series of blows. There was Jaramillo's season-best 51-yard punt to the Valdosta 20.

Three plays later, after a holding call, safety Deric Cotton grabbed Hughes' pass away from Boatwright and returned the ball nine yards to the 19.

Four plays later, a series which included a personal foul penalty against Colquitt which quieted the home crowd for good, Valdosta drove home the final blow. Joe Wright capped his 125-yard night with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:25 left.

Colquitt was out for the count. Valdosta had tried to break the game open in the second quarter, scoring 10 unanswered points to make it 13-3.

Two long runs set up the scores. First, Wright — who had fumbled inside the Colquitt 5 on the previous series — broke a 51-yard run to the Colquitt 15. A pass interference call gave Valdosta another first down at the 7, but the Cats had to settle for

Dow Drury's 21-yard field goal and a 6-3 lead with 5:44 left.

After Colquitt failed to make a first down, Carlos Moore struck with a 28-yard punt return to the Packer 21.

Three plays later, Hitson ran a bootleg around the right side, avoiding one Packer and stepping just into the right front corner of the end zone with 2:12 left. Drury's kick made it 13-3.

The teams had traded long drives and field goals to start the game. Colquitt took the opening kickoff and went 59 yards in eight plays, settling for Hughes' 26-yard field goal.

Valdosta answered with a 13-play, 61-yard drive which ended with Drury's 27-yard field goal and a 3-3 tie.

Then the teams traded turnovers, with Trampis Wrice's interception of a Hughes pass followed by Wright's fumble after a 22-yard pass/run play to the 3.

VDT, Fri, Oct. 19, '90

Let The Games Begin

Tonight's Colquitt County-Valdosta High game needs no hype.

It's one of the longest running football series in the state, with 72 games played, and the winner will gain an inside track to the Class AAAA playoffs.

Valdosta leads the series, 55-13-4.

The teams have played every year since 1950. And the series dates back to VHS' first football season of 1913.

Beginning the night, Valdosta, Colquitt and Coffee remain as the lone unbeaten squads in 1-AAAA. Coffee hosts Tift County, which was drilled by Lowndes 20-7.

I'm sure the Vikings, 1-1 in region play, would like to see the Packers upset the 'Cats. After all, the Pack is next on the schedule for Lowndes in Martin Stadium next week.

With Valdosta's heart-stopper in Bainbridge last Friday night and Coffee's rally earlier this year against Lowndes, don't pencil in the Region 1-AAAA champion just yet.

This year's champion is more than likely to be decided on the final week of the regular season.

Will there be back-to-back Winnersville weeks? Only time will tell. But I won't be surprised if both teams are planning some type of playoff strategy in Week No. 10.

But don't tell VHS head coach Nick Hyder, or even Rick Tomberlin for that matter.

However, both coaches will have one thing in common this week — Colquitt County. Hyder and Valdosta will be taking the field, while Tomberlin and his staff scout the Packers for an Oct. 26 collision.

VALDOSTA at COLQUITT COUNTY: A note to any national media who might be at Mack Tharpe Stadium. Please keep it quiet.

Even though VHS came through like the defending champs they are in a national debut versus Jess Lanier High, that stuff has been a Valdosta High jinx the past several years.

Most Valdosta fans believed last year's 7-0 regular-season loss was a fluke. And after a playoff blowout by Valdosta, you could certainly make a case for it.

The 'Cats need much more offense than they've seen in recent weeks to win this game. Jim Hughes' Packers know what the deal is. A win means the Region 1-AAAA lead.

Colquitt's not going to fool around with Valdosta. Look for the Pack to stack the line with up to eight linemen, and force VHS to pass. Valdosta doesn't want to throw the ball 25 times, and I'd bet it doesn't plan to. But if Colquitt can get the 'Cats to do something they really would rather not do, VHS could get frustrated.

But having gone up against a good passing team in Bainbridge will be a plus for VHS. Just playing at home won't do it for Colquitt. **VALDOSTA by 3.**



Valdosta High defenders Marcus Moss (43), the heat on Tift County quarterback Mickey Tim McClain (91) and Ricky Thomas (93) put Weldon — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

VDT Sun., Oct. 28, 1990

'Cats Inch Closer To Title

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — Oh, to dream for just a second.

Valdosta High needs one victory in its last two games to clinch another Region 1-AAAA football championship. The Wildcats are back home Friday night at Cleveland Field, meeting a school (Coffee High) it has never lost to before.

So while you're planning for a region-championship celebration, planning not to have a VHS game on Nov. 16 (because the region's top team gets a bye into the state tournament) and not having to worry about leaving the friendly confines of Cleveland Field again, we bring you these words from VHS head coach Nick Hyder.

"You can't let up. You have to keep going. You have to respect (Coffee). We'll do the same thing regardless of who it is. We will get our team ready, our intensity will be as high as it has ever been," says Hyder. "In 1-AAAA anything can happen and usually does. Our concentration will be on Coffee.

"They're the surprise team of the region, because they have great speed."

Valdosta got to this point because of its 23-7 win at Tift County Friday

night. Then it watched as the returns came in from the other precincts — Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8 and Colquitt 20, Lowndes 17.

It leaves Valdosta at 3-0, Colquitt at 2-1 and everybody else at 1-2. Everybody else.

So how did Valdosta post its seventh victory against a tie? It created turnovers and, for the most part, cashed in on them. They got the breaks.

● There's senior cornerback Leroy Williams, who went into pre-season football camp as a running back. When there was a lack of defensive backs and a surplus of running backs, Williams was moved.

When there were injuries, Williams was called into duty. And when there were interceptions needed Friday, Williams got them — three of them. How he didn't score at least once or twice we'll never know. He came very close.

There were two other interceptions, and almost a third near game's end. Add in a fumble on a punt return and Tift had six turnovers.

● Valdosta's scoring drives went 3, 6, 1, and 54 yards. The Wildcats also went 72 yards, then 38 yards, after turnovers and didn't score.

Valdosta did try to show Tift it could throw the ball. But the only dif-

ference between Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson and Tift quarterback Mickey Weldon was that Hitson's passes were falling incomplete (4-for-18, 61 yards). Weldon's passes (5-for-16, 62 yards) were being caught by Wildcats.

Wildcat tailbacks combined for 99 yards rushing on 22 carries (Joe Wright 56 yards, Albert Edmonds 43 yards). Tift, as a team, ran for 74 yards.

● You make the call: That 1-yard drive in the fourth quarter turned into a third-and-goal at the 13 because of a penalty and two rushing losses. So running backs coach Mike O'Brien called for fullback David Williams for his lone play of the night. The fullback draw was cashed in for a 13-yard touchdown run.

● The unfair advantage award: One of Valdosta's newer offensive alignments is to put its biggest linemen across the front, no matter the position.

On the first touchdown, tackle Shaun Eilders lined up at left guard. He then cleared the way for Hitson to run 3 yards for a touchdown.

But everything isn't perfect. The Wildcats tried the formation again with the ball at the 1. The play was called for an unbalanced line, and that caused confusion — and a 5-yard penalty.



High Stakes

VHS, Colquitt Meet—

Teachers Named

For Who's Who

VDT, Tues, Oct. 23, 1990
By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Several area teachers faced their roughest challenge and won. Their former students selected them to be part of the first edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

Nationwide, about 24,500 teachers are being honored after being selected by last year's Who's Who Among American High School Students, a publication recognizing America's top 5 percent high school and college students.

Students were requested to nominate teachers who "made a difference in their lives," according to Paul Krouse, the teachers publication publisher, said. "There is no greater honor teachers can receive than to be recognized by former students for their excellence and dedication. In this publication we clearly have the best teachers in America selected by the best students."

Here are the teachers being represented within *The Valdosta Daily Times'* coverage area:

●ADEL: Bernice McEachern Shiflett of Adel Elementary School.

●MOULTRIE: Vickie Lyn Graham of Colquitt High School; Richard Charles McLendon of Colquitt Jr. High School; Sharon Jones Rinehart of Cox Elementary School and Teresa Mims Venet of R.B. Wright Elementary School.

●NASHVILLE: Carol Rowan Tomberlin of Berrien High School.

●QUITMAN: Effie Melton Keith of Brooks County; Sylvia Bristow Lane of Quitman Elementary School.

●TIFTON: Kenneth Michael Murphy of Tift County High School; Deanne Dodson Veal of Len Lastinger & A.B. Clark Elementary.

●VALDOSTA: Patricia Louise Barrett of Lowndes High School; Owen

Clemons of Lowndes Middle School; Marie Lister Evans of Lowndes Middle School; Sharron Griffin Gandy of Valdosta High School; Billy Hayes of Lowndes High School; Janeen (Curl) Josey of Valdosta City School System; Oma Velma Miles in Lowndes Middle School; John P. Thrasher of Lowndes High School; Peggy Passmore Wilkes of Lowndes High School.



FAST FACT:

THE VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S DEFENSE ALLOWED ITS FIRST TOUCHDOWN IN 170 MINUTES FRIDAY NIGHT AT COLQUITT COUNTY

VDT.
Sunday, October 21, 1990

Sports Editor



Greg McIlvain

Nothing Decided In 1-AAAA

MOULTRIE — One thing may have been decided here Friday night — nothing's been decided in the Region 1-AAAA football race after two rounds of play.

OK, so Valdosta is 2-0 and Bainbridge is 0-2. And so everybody else is 1-1. That's just the preliminaries.

The real fun starts Friday night at venues across South Georgia.

"This is just another week," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder after Friday's 28-18 win over Colquitt County.

"Everybody can still get in the playoffs, including Bainbridge. Everybody still has a shot.

"Nothing much is settled other than we're one week closer and three weeks to go."

Colquitt County head coach Jim Hughes could be heard saying much the same to his folks. Friday's loss does nothing to knock the Packers out of contention.

Everybody still has a shot at one of three playoff berths. Under the GHSA's new format for this season, the top team in Region 1-AAAA gets a week off and advances to the 16-team state playoffs. Plus, the No. 1 team in 1-AAAA will be at home in the playoffs as long as it keeps winning.

The No. 2 team meets the No. 3 team in a region-playoff game on Nov. 16, with the winner advancing as 1-AAAA's No. 2 team.

Here are some of the realities —you're probably going to make the top three with two losses, which means everybody is still in the running. And Bainbridge has already lost to Colquitt and Valdosta, two of the tougher teams in the region. That's why the Bearcat fans can have hope as well.

The sorting-out process starts Friday night, the midpoint of the region schedule.

Two key games are in Valdosta and Tifton. Colquitt meets Lowndes at Martin Stadium, with the loser handed its second loss. And Tift could bring Valdosta back to the pack, or suffer its second loss.

And in Bainbridge, Coffee meets Bainbridge. Coffee can keep pace, knocking Bainbridge out of contention, or the Bearcats can keep their hopes alive —which would tighten the race just outside the third spot.

If you want to look down the road, the schedule for Nov. 2 is: Lowndes at Bainbridge, Coffee at Valdosta and Tift at Colquitt. Then on Nov. 9, there's the Winnersville Classic (Lowndes at Valdosta), Bainbridge at Tift and Colquitt at Coffee.

●In other business from Friday night, it seems Colquitt running back Nathan Williams did well playing with a slight break in his jaw.

Williams played with his jaw wired shut and an oversized face mask, but he gained 70 yards on 20 carries and carried out his kickoff duties.

Mixing that injury with a tough brand of football isn't the wisest thing to do. I wish him well.

For The Record

VDT, Sun, Oct. 28, 1990

REGION 1-AAAA STANDINGS

Here are the region and overall records, this week's results and next week's opponents for members of Region 1-AAAA

VALDOSTA (3-0, 7-0-1): Defeated Tift County, 23-7; home to Coffee

COLQUITT COUNTY (2-1, 5-3): Defeated Lowndes, 20-17; home to Tift County

LOWNDES (1-2, 6-2): Lost to Colquitt County, 20-17; at Bainbridge

TIFT COUNTY (1-2, 5-3): Lost to Valdosta, 23-7; at Colquitt County

BAINBRIDGE (1-2, 5-3): Defeated Coffee, 31-8; home to Lowndes

COFFEE (1-2, 4-3-1): Lost to Bainbridge, 31-8; at Valdosta

Valdosta Still No. 1; Lowndes Out

The Associated Press

VDT, Wed. Oct. 31, 1990

Lowndes and Statesboro suffered losses and gave up their rankings among the state's best high school football teams while Fayette County and Griffin grabbed spots on the Georgia Class AAAA poll.

Lowndes, previously ranked seventh in Class AAAA, lost 20-17 to Colquitt County and was dropped from the list. Statesboro was 10th among large schools before its 14-7 loss to Effingham County.

Fayette County moved onto the poll in the spot left by Statesboro. Griffin, which lost a spot earlier this season, received enough votes from The Associated Press board of sportswriters and broadcasters to return at eighth.

No. 1 Valdosta continued to stand at the top of its class and received seven first-place votes and 85 points. Warner Robins squeezed out of the second-place tie it held with LaGrange and stood alone in the spot this week. LaGrange slipped into

third despite receiving one first place vote.

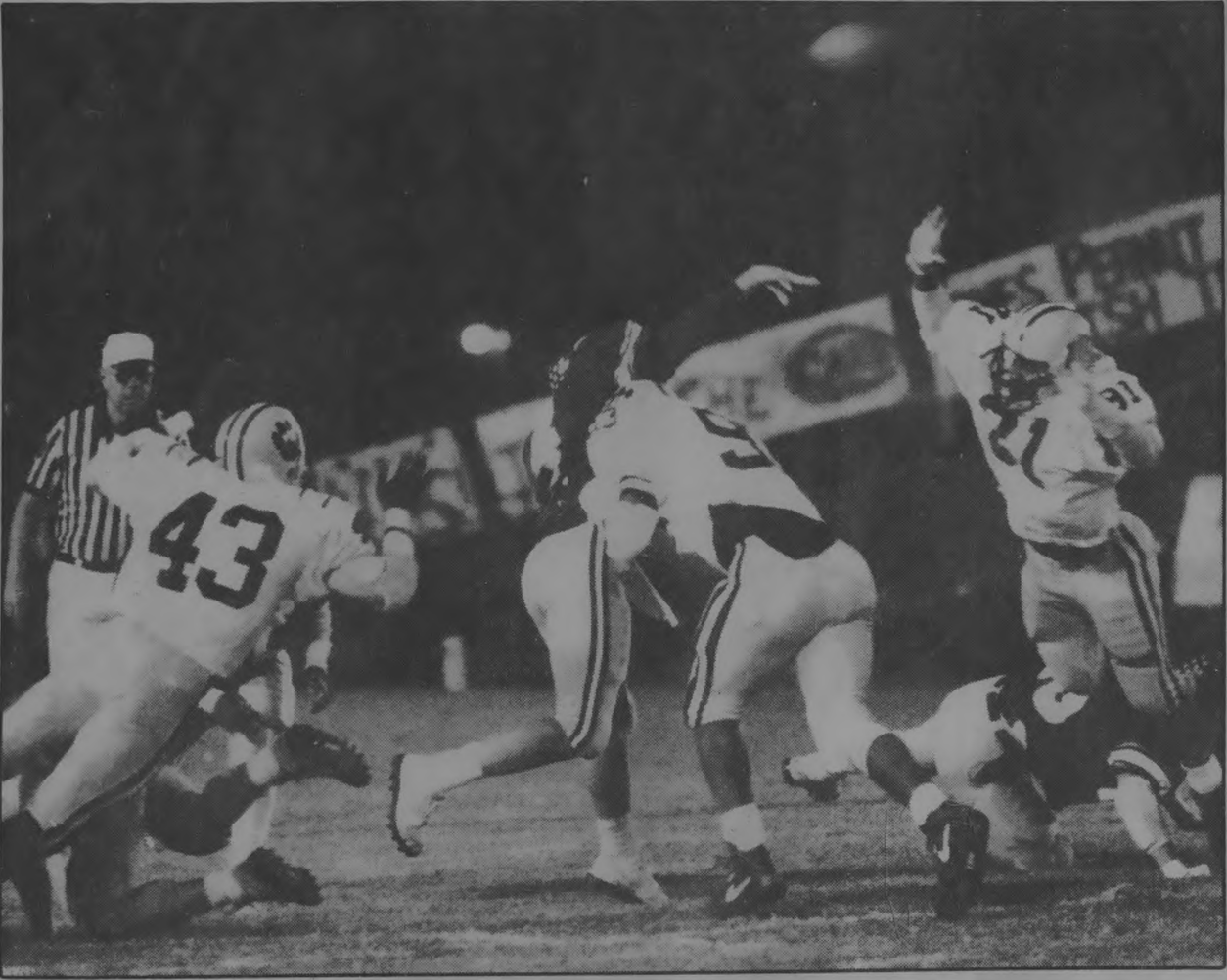
Cedar Shoals, previously ranked fifth, took fourth as Southwest DeKalb fell to fifth. Clarke Central maintained its ranking at sixth. Marietta, which held eighth last week, moved to seventh as Griffin moved into eighth.

Brookwood was forced to share its ninth place position with newcomer Fayette County.

In the Class A poll, Clinch County moved to No. 6.

Class AAAA

1. Valdosta (7) (7-0-1)	85
2. Warner Robins (7-1)	80
3. LaGrange (1) (7-1)	74
4. Cedar Shoals (8-1)	59
5. SW DeKalb (1) (7-1)	53
6. Clarke Central (7-2)	41
7. Marietta (8-0)	39
8. Griffin (6-2)	17
9. Brookwood (7-1)	15
(tie) Fayette Co. (8-1)	15
Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Central Gwinnett, Effingham Co. and Wheeler.	



Valdosta High defenders Marcus Moss (43), the heat on Tift County quarterback Mickey Tim McClain (91) and Ricky Thomas (93) put Weldon — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Inch Closer To Title

VDT, Sun, Oct. 28, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — Oh, to dream for just a second.

Valdosta High needs one victory in its last two games to clinch another Region 1-AAAA football championship. The Wildcats are back home Friday night at Cleveland Field, meeting a school (Coffee High) it has never lost to before.

So while you're planning for a region-championship celebration, planning not to have a VHS game on Nov. 16 (because the region's top team gets a bye into the state tournament) and not having to worry about leaving the friendly confines of Cleveland Field again, we bring you these words from VHS head coach Nick Hyder.

"You can't let up. You have to keep going. You have to respect (Coffee). We'll do the same thing regardless of who it is. We will get our team ready, our intensity will be as high as it has ever been," says Hyder. "In 1-AAAA anything can happen and usually does. Our concentration will be on Coffee."

"They're the surprise team of the region, because they have great speed."

Valdosta got to this point because of its 23-7 win at Tift County Friday

night. Then it watched as the returns came in from the other precincts — Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8 and Colquitt 20, Lowndes 17.

It leaves Valdosta at 3-0, Colquitt at 2-1 and everybody else at 1-2. Everybody else.

So how did Valdosta post its seventh victory against a tie? It created turnovers and, for the most part, cashed in on them. They got the breaks.

● There's senior cornerback LeRoy Williams, who went into preseason football camp as a running back. When there was a lack of defensive backs and a surplus of running backs, Williams was moved.

When there were injuries, Williams was called into duty. And when there were interceptions needed Friday, Williams got them — three of them. How he didn't score at least once or twice we'll never know. He came very close.

There were two other interceptions, and almost a third near game's end. Add in a fumble on a punt return and Tift had six turnovers.

● Valdosta's scoring drives went 3, 6, 1, and 54 yards. The Wildcats also went 72 yards, then 38 yards, after turnovers and didn't score.

Valdosta did try to show Tift it could throw the ball. But the only dif-

ference between Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson and Tift quarterback Mickey Weldon was that Hitson's passes were falling incomplete (4-for-18, 61 yards). Weldon's passes (5-for-16, 62 yards) were being caught by Wildcats.

Wildcat tailbacks combined for 99 yards rushing on 22 carries (Joe Wright 56 yards, Albert Edmonds 43 yards). Tift, as a team, ran for 74 yards.

● You make the call: That 1-yard drive in the fourth quarter turned into a third-and-goal at the 13 because of a penalty and two rushing losses. So running backs coach Mike O'Brien called for fullback David Williams for his lone play of the night. The fullback draw was cashed in for a 13-yard touchdown run.

● The unfair advantage award: One of Valdosta's newer offensive alignments is to put its biggest linemen across the front, no matter the position.

On the first touchdown, tackle Shaun Eilders lined up at left guard. He then cleared the way for Hitson to run 3 yards for a touchdown.

But everything isn't perfect. The Wildcats tried the formation again with the ball at the 1. The play was called for an unbalanced line, and that caused confusion — and a 5-yard penalty.

Cats ^{VDT} March To Win

*Sat. Oct. 27
1990*

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — Welcome to the Blue Devils' Family Nightmare.

In this pre-Halloween thriller, visions of No. 22 are flying through Tift County's heads. Add in the onrushing No. 40, No. 35, No. 43 and a bunch of linemen wearing 90-something jerseys.

The result? A haunting 23-7 Region 1-AAAA victory for the top-ranked Valdosta High Wildcats (7-0 overall, 3-0 in 1-AAAA) over Tift County (5-3, 1-2) at the Devil's Den.

The victory, combined with victories by Colquitt County and Bainbridge, puts Valdosta in the 1-AAAA lead at 3-0. Colquitt is 2-1, with the loss coming last week to Valdosta. Lowndes, Coffee, Bainbridge and Tift are all 1-2.

Tift County turned the ball over six times, including a school record-

VALDOSTA 23, TIFT CO. 7

VALDOSTA	7	3	0	13-23
TIFT CO.	0	0	0	7-7

VHS — Alton Hitson 3 run (Dow Drury kick)
VHS — Drury 24 field goal
VHS — David Williams 13 run (Drury kick)
VHS — Kendrick Patrick 8 run (kick failed)
TCHS — Guill Burns 7 pass from Mickey Weldon (Jim Jones kick)

VALDOSTA	TIFT CO.
12	FIRST DOWNS 7
44-156	RUSHES-YARDS 20-74
61	PASSING YARDS 78
4-19-1	PASSES 6-17-5
3-40	PUNTS-AVG. 4-32
3-24	PENALTIES-YARDS 2-21
0-0	FUMBLES-LOST 1-1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 17-56, David Williams 1-13, Kendrick Patrick 9-30, Alton Hitson 11-20, Steven Everson 1-4. Tift Co.: Jermaine Johnson 4-30, Roderick Bryant 3-23, Jason Jones 6-21, Moses Baker 3-5, Lyric King 2-5, Mickey Weldon 2-(-10).

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 4-18-1 61, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0. Tift County: Mickey Weldon 5-16-5 62, Gannon Hall 1-1-0 16.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Carlos Folsom 3-53, Carlos Moore 1-8, Tift County: Gannon Hall 3-49, Brian Blomgren 1-16, Guill Burns 1-7, Jason Jones 1-6.

tying five interceptions. Senior cornerback Leroy Williams (No. 22) picked off his first three passes of the season, while Trampis Wrice added his team-high fourth. In all, Tift was limited to 152 total yards.

Boo!

"Williams made some good plays and we had some pressure on him (Tift quarterback Mickey Weldon)," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "Our ends — Brad Tarpley (No. 40), Marcus Moss (No. 43) and Eric Phillips (No. 35) — did a heck of a job containing him ... The back-side people were getting the sacks."

"Good defense, good secondary work," said head coach Nick Hyder. "It was defense at its best."

And it could have been worse. All of Valdosta's points came off the turnovers, and two other chances

See CATS, Page 3-B



Wildcat linemen watch as Alton Hitson (15) crosses into the endzone with Valdosta's first touchdown of the night

against Tift County in Region 1-AAAA action — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Cats

V. Times 10-27-90

From Page 1-B

went point-less after a missed field goal and a missed pass on a fake field goal.

Not to mention that Weldon wasn't the only hard-luck thrower. While Weldon went 5-for-16 with five intercepts and a late touchdown pass, Valdosta's Alton Hitson was 4-for-18 with one early interception.

It was just that Valdosta didn't have to go as far after the turnovers.

Valdosta got three turnovers in each half, stretching a 10-0 halftime lead with 13 fourth-quarter points.

In the first quarter, Derrick Phillips fell on a fumbled punt reception at the Tift 3. After an incomplete pass, Hitson followed tackle Shaun Eilders, lined up at left guard, into

the end zone. Dow Drury's extra-point kick made it 7-0 at the 3:27 mark.

In the second quarter, a wild series of exchanges eventually led to Drury's 24-yard field goal with 47 seconds left.

The series began eight minutes earlier, when Valdosta punter Steve Jaramillo had his first punt blocked. Tift recovered at the Valdosta 32.

After Williams dropped a possible interception, Tift faked a punt on fourth-and-16. Gannon Hall's pass to Brian Blomgren got just enough for the first down.

But on the next play, Williams got even by picking off Weldon's pass at the Valdosta 14.

The 'Cats went 72 yards on 10 plays down to the Tift 14, but

Drury's 31-yard field goal was wide right — his first miss in seven field-goal attempts.

But that wasn't all. Williams picked off another Weldon pass and returned it 36 yards to the Tift 6.

A run and two incomplete passes later, and the 'Cats called on Drury to make the 24-yarder.

At the half, Tift had been held to 44 total yards.

Valdosta's best third-quarter chance went scoreless (after Wrice's interception) when Hitson's fake field-goal pass bounced off Albert Edmonds and Williams in the end zone.

But the Wildcats answered twice in the fourth quarter. Williams, on his third interception, came inches from scoring.

After the 'Cats lost 12 yards on a penalty and two runs, David Williams — on his only play of the game — ran 13 yards nearly untouched on the draw play for a touchdown. Drury's kick made it 17-0 with 9:34 left.

Two minutes later, Tarpley picked off a Weldon pass near midfield.

Backup tailback Albert Edmonds got all his 43 yards on the drive, 23 on a fourth-and-2 from the 31 before tripping himself up in the open field.

Three plays later, fullback Kendrick Patrick bulled over from the 8 for the last touchdown. The extra-point kick failed at the 2:33 mark.

Tift got its lone points with 26 seconds left on Weldon's 7-yard pass to Guill Burns. Weldon's 28-yard pass to Gannon Hall set up the score.



Valdosta High's Carlos Moore (38) moves upfield during Friday night's Region 1-AAAA game at Cleveland Field. Pur-

suing Moore is Coffee High's Eddie Dunlap (32) — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Valdosta Wins Region Again

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

We've been told that all good things must come to an end.

But in the tale of two teams Friday at Cleveland Field, the good things haven't come to an end — for Valdosta High.

The top-ranked Wildcats continued their mastery of Coffee High, winning their 20th straight game without a loss over the Trojans, with a thrilling 30-29 victory. And for the fifth-straight year, the Wildcats are Region 1-AAAA champions.

And to the victor go the spoils:

- Thanks to a combination of Tift's last-minute 21-16 win over Colquitt, and Bainbridge's 25-0 win over Lowndes, Valdosta (8-0-1 overall, 4-0 in Region 1-AAAA) is the outright region champion. Coffee is eliminated, with the other four teams having their chances at the two remaining berths. Friday's Winnersville Classic game at Cleveland Field — for Valdosta — will be for bragging rights only.
- Because Valdosta is the No. 1

VALDOSTA 30, COFFEE 29					
COFFEE	3	7	12	7-29	39-139
VALDOSTA	14	7	0	9-30	176
C — Mathew Smith	27	FG			15-24-1
V — Steve Jaramillo	36	pass from Alton Hitson (Dow Drury kick)			315
V — Joe Wright	22	run (Dow Drury kick)			4-33.8
C — Reggie Glover	1	run (Shane Shook kick)			6-40
V — Carlos Folsom	41	pass from Hitson (Drury kick)			0
C — Gerry Hill	27	pass from Ken Eldridge (kick failed)			
C — Eldridge	21	run (pass failed)			
C — Glover	1	run (Smith kick)			
V — Safety		Glover tackled in end zone			
V — Kendrick Patrick	2	run (Drury kick)			
COFFEE	VALDOSTA				
15	FIRST DOWNS		18		
				RUSHES-YARDS	33-219
				PASSING YARDS	132
				PASSES	7-16-1
				TOTAL YARDS	351
				PUNTS-AVG.	4-46.3
				PENALTIES-YARDS	4-27
				FUMBLES-LOST	2
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS					
RUSHING: Coffee: Glover 26-72, Hill 2-38, Eldridge 6-13, Williamson 2-9, Grady 3-7. Valdosta: Wright 12-89, Patrick 12-66, D. Williams 2-24, Moore 2-23, Hitson 4-12, Edmonds 1-4.					
PASSING: Coffee: Eldridge 15-24-1 176. Valdosta: Hitson 7-15-1 132, Wright 0-1-0 0.					
RECEIVING: Coffee: Hill 6-87, Grady 4-60, Lanier 2-9, Tomblin 1-9, Spivey 1-7, Campbell 1-4. Valdosta: Jaramillo 3-53, Moore 3-38, Folsom 1-41.					

team in the region, it will not play the week of Nov. 16 — the week set aside for the region playoffs. It will host a first-round Class AAAA state-playoff game on Nov. 23, and will be at home as long as it wins.

- And because of the way the 1991 schedule is set up, Valdosta High's next road game is Nov. 1, 1991, at Coffee High.

"We earned the victory," said Val-

dosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "We're going to enjoy the region championship for 24 hours, then we'll concentrate on Lowndes."

But all those perks didn't come without a fight. The Wildcats found themselves down 29-21 with 10:51 left in the game after Reggie Glover popped in his second 1-yard touchdown run.

Later, Valdosta went to work.

When the Wildcats' answering drive was stopped after one first down near midfield, Steve Jaramillo's punt sailed over a Coffee receiver's head and toward the end zone. But before the ball could roll in, Marcus Williams made the stop at the Coffee 1.

On the next play, the Wildcat defense stuffed Glover back into the end zone for a safety. With 8:28 left, Coffee's lead was 29-23.

"We did tackle him, where we hadn't stopped him for less than 3 to 5 yards all game long," said Hyder. "That was the one time."

After a short punt on the free kick, Valdosta began its eight-play, 42-yard drive to the winning score. Carlos Moore's 19-yard run on a backward pass got one first down, and Kendrick Patrick's 4-yard run to the Coffee 7 set up the last series.

The 'Cats got but one yard on the next two plays. So on third down, Patrick got four yards to the 2. Then, on fourth down, Patrick followed the right-side of the line and reached across the goal line for the

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B



Wildcat defensive back Leroy Williams chases down a Tift County receiver. The for-

mer running back had three interceptions last Friday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Finally, Williams Gets His Chance To Shine

VDT Tues., Oct. 30, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Friday night's three-interception performance by Valdosta High senior defensive back Leroy Williams may have helped to complete a transformation.

In three years Williams has gone from a disgruntled non-player spending his time at Lowndes High to a starter for the Wildcats — by way of many detours.

"Friday night was good for me," Williams said. "The defensive line did a good job of containing the quarterback, and I just kept my eyes on the receiver."

It was Williams' first interceptions of the season, and moved him to tied for second (with safety Deric Cotton) behind fellow cornerback Trampis Wrice (four) for the team lead in pickoffs.

That's a far cry from two years ago. Williams, though he lived in Valdosta, established his athletic eligibility at Lowndes High. He played ninth-grade ball there, but sat out his sophomore season after clashing with a Viking coach.

Even though the coaching staff at Lowndes changed after that season, Williams chose to transfer to Valdosta

High before his junior season. But because Williams wasn't moving his residence when he was switching schools, Williams was forced to sit out the season.

He went through spring practice at running back, one of a collection of inexperienced backs who went through a tough two-week training period. It was as tough off the field, as he worked in the Rent-A-Cat program to earn money for summer school.

Williams began fall camp at running back, but that position became even more crowded when a trio of experienced backs regained their academic eligibility. So when a need for depth in the defensive backfield was identified, Williams made the move.

"His speed is more adapted to defensive back, but he could have been a good running back," said head coach Nick Hyder. "Because of the need for the team, we put him in the secondary. It's worked out well for us."

"I wanted to play," Williams said. "I didn't have the plays down at running back, but I was running well. I still wanted to play running back sometime."

He had to learn cornerback quickly. Injuries began to hit the defensive backfield by the

See WILLIAMS, Page 3-B

Former Drug Addict Speaks

Drugs Oct. 30, 1990
VBT. Sun., Oct. 28, 1990
Spoke at VHS and brought VBT



ONDIE BRUM
Spent Time In Prison

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Evangelist Ondie Brum, whose conception was the result of a rape in a small village outside Vienna, Austria, will speak at a Morningside Baptist Church revival starting today.

Brum's mother was left to die in a wheelbarrow in a pool of blood with both legs broken and a head injury. "Bitterness would keep her from expressing the love she felt and I needed as a little boy growing up," he said.

As a result of the lack of love he felt, Brum said he became bitter and violent. He was arrested the first time when he was 14 years old, and at 16 he began using drugs. "It didn't take long before I was addicted," he said.

A judge decided the answer to Brum's problem was prison. While in

prison, he tried to hang himself. "My problem was spiritual; I needed a new heart," he said.

After prison, he attended a rehabilitation center for job training where he met his wife, Suzi. They moved to Arkansas and Texas, but Brum soon landed in jail in both states. He also tried group therapy and a psychiatrist but still was addicted. He thought having children would help him.

"For 15 1/2 years I was addicted to the demon of heroin," he said.

His wife left with their two sons. Again, Brum attempted suicide, this time with a gun. While recovering in 1988, Brum was visited by a friend who invited him to a revival meeting. Brum said he felt God "speak to his heart" at the meeting.

Brum will speak at Morningside today at 10:45 a.m. and tonight Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Williams

From Page 1-B

second game of the season, and Williams had to step up.

Then came Friday night. He began the night with a pass breakup, then a dropped pass which could have been another interception.


"The only reason I dropped it was because I couldn't believe it," Williams said. "I said I was going to get it back, and I picked off the next one."

He even got to show off that running ability. He had a 36-yard interception return which ended with an airborne flip at the Tift 6. On another interception return, he was ruled down just inches from the goalline after a 12-yard run.

All in a career night's work.

They Said It...

V-Times 11-10-90
Valdosta



WILDCAT QUOTES

RUNNING BACK KENDRICK PATRICK: The team was down and everybody was under pressure. We had to give it all we had to give.

LINEBACKER JONATHAN DAVIS: At first, we were just giving it to them and let them drive on us. We got two 15-yard penalties and let them get us. We came back out and regrouped.

CENTER GILES GODWIN: The first half we came out dead, didn't have any life. Things were working against us. At halftime we calmed down. We knew we had to do it, had to come back. We just came back and did it.

LINE COACH JERRY DON BAKER: At halftime, the offensive linemen got together. We felt we were doing the same thing we did at Bainbridge, we were very passive and tentative about our blocks. We weren't getting after people, we were waiting for somebody else to do it for us.

QUARTERBACK ALTON HITSOON: We had to get back to the people we know that we are. It was power football.

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN BUCKY ALLEN: I was kind of surprised. I didn't think they'd lay down like they did. We had a couple of breaks and they folded.

RUNNING BACK JOE WRIGHT: I was hoping he (Lowndes back Chris Wright, his cousin) would do good, and I'd do good. I was shooting for 100; I don't know what his goal was. I'm happy.



Lowndes

VIKING QUOTES

CENTER DONNIE ANDERSON: I'm just real disappointed the way things turned out after the way we started. This team deserved a better fate in this game, but we just came up short. It's always tough to play these people that close and lose.

OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR DAN CASTERLINE: It's just so disappointing for us to play so well in the first half and then make the kind of mistakes in the second half that a team like VHS just sits back and waits on. You just can't afford to play the way we did in the second half and expect to beat a team like Valdosta. But, I love these guys and I would do anything for them and just plan to work hard and come back strong next season.

TACKLE ANTHONY HARGETT: We just had too many breakdowns in the second-half and it killed us. We played hard, we played to win, but it just didn't end up in our favor.

LINEBACKER RANDALL GODFREY: Playing these guys close is not the idea, you want to win. It just seemed like we couldn't get to them in the second half. We'll be back next year.

Lowndes To Play A Biggie

V-Times 11-2-90
I don't dare call tonight's Region 1-AAAA game for Lowndes High School the biggest game ever. But at the same time, it's the biggest they will play this regular season.

Forget the outcome against Valdosta High next week. Oh, I struck a nerve there I bet. Seriously, Lowndes has to win this football game against Bainbridge if it wants to go to the playoffs.

While Lowndes has the talent to defeat VHS, the odds are certainly not in its favor.

Just looking at tonight's 1-AAAA matchups, most fans would agree the winners will more than likely be Valdosta over Coffee and Colquitt County over Tift County, putting Coffee and Tift at 1-3 entering the final week.

That leaves Lowndes or Bainbridge to take over third place at 2-2. A win by Lowndes would give it an upper hand on Bainbridge and Tift in a tie-breaker situation. Coffee High meets VHS tonight and finishes with Colquitt County next week. The odds on them ending with a region mark of 1-4 is good. So that just leaves Tift, Bainbridge and Lowndes up for third place.

Let's now discuss Valdosta High School's post-season situation. It's a lot less complicated and doesn't take as much time.

No matter who wins in other region games, Valdosta only needs to win one of its last two region games to capture the 1-AAAA football title.

I told you it wouldn't take long.

In Valdosta, you have a team some people around the state consider as the worst top-ranked team ever. Others just say all they do is win ugly and just sneak by people with their slow-working offense and opportunistic defense.

But no matter what comes before the name, the word winner has been right beside it.

I think it was someone connected with Valdosta High that came up with the phrase "Just win, baby" before L.A. Raiders' owner Al Davis did.

COFFEE at VALDOSTA: Seeing how the 'Cats haven't lost against the Trojans in the school's history, it looks bad for Coffee High.

Two weeks ago, Coffee receiver Johnny McFatten cost his team a possible win over Tift County thanks to his "Andre Rison shuffle" celebration after a fourth-quarter score. Then, Bainbridge stomped Coffee, 31-8, last week. It looks as if Coffee is on the way out as usual. After tonight, Bonwell Royal and the Trojans will be looking 1-4 in region play dead in the face.

Nothing needs to be said about Valdosta except that, even with a sporadic offense, it is still the team to beat in the league.
VALDOSTA by 14.

Vikings Reflect On Loss

By STAN GRUBB

V-Times 11-10-90
Times Sports Writer

When senior offensive tackle Andy Pollock clutched the hands of quarterback Jeffrey Thomas as the final seconds ticked off the Cleveland Field clock, no words could ever do the moment justice for the Lowndes High Vikings.

Pollock's statement to Thomas was one of thanks for all the exciting moments he gave to the Lowndes faithful. He later added that they gave it a good shot and good luck in college football.

For the second straight year, the Vikings slugged it out with the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats, only to suffer the same fate — a defeat. But for a team given little, or no chance of taking out Valdosta, the Vikings remained a proud group.

"It just feels real numb right now," said Thomas. "They played a great game and won. We have nothing to be ashamed of and I know we can hold our heads high."

"I'm just full of mixed emotions at this time. My high school football career ends on this field tonight, and I really wanted to go out with a win over Valdosta," Thomas said. "I feel good about the way things worked out for me and hopefully it's time to move on to bigger and better things. I just hate it for my teammates for us to play so well early and go flat in the second half."

The Vikings, who dominated the 'Cats with their physical play in the opening two quarters, just opened the gates for VHS in the second half.

Falling prey to the endless ground attack of the 'Cats, in addition to costly penalties and turnovers, Lowndes seemed to clear a path in which the Wildcats crawled through.

"We stopped ourselves too many times when we had something going," said LHS head coach Rick Tomberlin. "We played real physical in the first half and didn't do the same in the second half. You don't make the kind of mistakes we did in a game like this, and expect to win."

Junior defensive tackle Anthony Hargett pointed to Valdosta's ability to slip through the cracks in the second half as the key.

"We had Valdosta and just let them get away in the second half," said Hargett. "We just had way too many mistakes to beat 'em. But our guys tried, we just didn't win. It's a team thing, and it's always going to be a team thing, win or lose."

For the second straight time, the top-ranked Wildcats were only able to score twice against the Vikings. However, both times proved to be enough.

Viking I-back Chris Wright said good-bye Friday to a senior year which included 10 touchdowns and 703 yards rushing.

But the one thing that eluded him and the rest of the Viking seniors was a win over Valdosta.

"I feel like this team did pretty well this year everything considered and I just want the guys to know time will heal the hurt we feel right now," said Wright. "I wish the best for the players moving on to a career in college like Jeffrey, and others who may get a chance. I hope to get my chance. And I just would like to thank Coach (Rick) Tomberlin and Coach (Dan) Casterline. I wish them the best in the future with the program."



Steve Jaramillo tries to get away from a Leroy Williams' tackle during Monday's Wildcat practice. The VHS senior is

now the team's leading receiver — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Cats' Jaramillo Catching On

10-23-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Look at the recent surge in his statistics, and Steve Jaramillo will have a good explanation why — others, both his teammates and his opponents.

In the last two games, both Region 1-AAAA contests, Jaramillo has caught four passes a game. With that, he's become the team's leading receiver (by receptions) with 13 catches.

"The defenses we've been playing, most of the time they invert a strong safety to the tight-end side. I'm on the other side, so I'm open," said Jaramillo. "People tend to overlook me a lot."

And the senior has upped his punting average in recent weeks. By matching his season-high long kick (49 yards) against Colquitt County, then surpassing it later (51 yards), Jaramillo has raised his punting average to 34.1 yards — up from 31.9 just three weeks ago.

"Brian Salze's snaps have been a lot better, and the line has been holding them up a lot," Jaramillo said. "I've had plenty of time to get the ball off."

Those same numbers which have been expanding of late also show that Jaramillo is far from the big-number receiver on the team.

Regions Wrapup

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The Region 1-AAAA race isn't the only tight one among the 13 AAAA divisions.

In 1-AAAA, top-ranked Valdosta is the lone unbeaten team after two rounds of play. The Wildcats are 2-0, while Lowndes, Colquitt County, Tift County and Coffee are 1-1. Even Bainbridge, at 0-2, still has a shot at one of the three region-playoff positions.

The No. 1 team in Region 1-AAAA gets a week off on Nov. 16, then enters the 16-team state-playoff bracket the next week.

The No. 2 team meets the No. 3 team in a region-playoff game on Nov. 16, with the winner advancing to the state playoffs.

The Region 1-AAAA teams will meet the Region 2-AAAA teams in the first round of the redesigned state playoffs, with the No. 1 teams hosting the No. 2 teams.

Warner Robins and Northside-Warner Robins are fighting for the top spot in Region 2-AAAA — which will determine its state-playoff teams in the same manner as 1-AAAA.

Both teams are 4-0, and will meet each other Nov. 9 at Northside.

Jaramillo averages 11.3 yards per reception, far below the 28.2-yard average of Carlos Folsom (141 yards on five catches) and the 27.6-yard average of Carlos Moore (193 yards on

seven catches). Those two receivers have made first downs on nine of the 12 catches, while Jaramillo has six first downs among his 13 catches.

There's a logjam for the No. 3 spot. Evans, Northeast Macon and Southwest Macon are all 2-2, while Baldwin is 2-3.

In other AAAA playoff races:
●In Region 3-AAAA, Bradwell Institute leads Division A at 3-0. Upstart Groves, after an 0-5 start, is 2-0 in region play. Groves knocked off previously unbeaten Statesboro (now 2-1 in region) last Friday.

In Division B, Effingham County is on top at 3-0. Beach is 2-1, Brunswick 2-2.

●In Region 4-AAAA, Fayette County and Riverdale are 4-0 in Division 1 and heading for a clash Nov. 2 at Riverdale. Griffin trails at 2-1.

In Division 2, Morrow leads a crowded pack at 3-1, but has already played the other four teams chasing behind at 2-1 — Forest Park, LaGrange, Mt. Zion and Newnan.

●In Region 5-AAAA, nothing's new. McEachern is 5-0 with Campbell (4-1) the biggest obstacle left (there, Nov. 2).

Pebblebrook is 5-1 and Alexander is 4-2.

●In Region 6-AAAA, Marietta and Wheeler are 3-0 in Division A with the other teams having at

See REGIONS, Page 3-B

But Jaramillo's been the man to go to of late.

"The quarterback is making a read on the play and he's going to the open side," said receivers coach Bob Bolton. "We're taking what the defense is giving us."

"Steve has been fortunate that they've given him the side to work with. He's made his reads, especially on the move."

Jaramillo had a key 17-yard, third-down reception on a drive which answered Colquitt's first second-half touchdown. Later, Jaramillo came through on fourth-and-one at the 3, leaping to catch his first-ever touchdown pass.

"My route was to go long. I went to the back of the end zone and tried to work up," Jaramillo said. "I saw Alton (Hitson) rolling out, so I started to ease out toward the sidelines. He threw it, and I jumped up and got it."

"I wanted to make sure I didn't fumble or drop that one," he added, remembering a couple of other plays this season he'd rather forget.

Jaramillo's last contribution against Colquitt came with his foot. With VHS up 21-18, he unloaded on the 51-yard punt which put the ball at the Colquitt 20.

Three plays later, Deric Cotton picked off a Parks Hughes pass to set up the Wildcats' insurance touchdown.

V. Times 10-20-90
Cats KO Packers

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — A pair of Region 1-AAAA heavyweights stood toe-to-toe in the second half of Friday's high school football game at Mack Tharpe Memorial Stadium.

Top-ranked Valdosta (6-0-1 overall) and Colquitt County traded punches and counterpunches for the final 24 minutes. But when the final punch landed, Valdosta came away with a 28-18 victory.

The victory left Valdosta alone atop the Region 1-AAAA pile only two-fifths into the schedule. With Tift's 21-20 win at Coffee, Valdosta is the lone unbeaten team in the region at 2-0.

Lowndes (which was off Friday), Colquitt, Tift and Coffee are all 1-1, while Bainbridge is 0-2.

Each time Colquitt scored a touchdown in the second half, pumping up the home-side crowd, Valdosta answered back.

"It's just a team victory," said head coach Nick Hyder. "We had a lot of unselfishness tonight. It couldn't have come at a better time."

"That was great football tonight ... the kicking game was the difference. Give them credit. They are a strong ballclub," said senior offensive tackle Shaun Eilders. "But we worked on some things in practice ... and we got it in there."

"We just have to have confidence in our abilities, that once we score the defense is going to hold them."

VALDOSTA 28, COLQUITT CO. 18

VALDOSTA	3	10	0	15-28
COLQUITT	3	0	7	8-18

CC — Parks Hughes 26 FG
 VHS — Dow Drury 27 FG
 VHS — Drury 21 FG
 VHS — Alton Hitson 10 run (Drury kick)
 CC — Hughes 1 run (Hughes kick)
 VHS — Steve Jaramillo 3 pass from Hitson (Albert Edmonds from Hitson)
 CC — Hughes 1 run (Michael Boatwright pass from Hughes)
 VHS — Joe Wright 2 run (Drury kick)

VALDOSTA	COLQUITT
13	FIRST DOWNS 14
35-197	RUSHES-YARDS 38-158
73	PASSING YARDS 131
7-10-0	PASSES 10-22-2
2-50.0	PUNTS-AVG. 4.38.5
6-60	PENALTIES-YARDS 6-41
1-1	FUMBLES-LOST 0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 21-125, Alton Hitson 11-54, David Williams 3-18. Colquitt: Nathan Williams 20-70, Parks Hughes 11-31, Eric Hawkins 5-29, Jimmy Merritt 2-8.

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 7-9-0 73, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0. Colquitt: Parks Hughes 10-22-2 131.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Steve Jaramillo 4-39, Joe Wright 1-22, Carlos Folsom 1-6, Carlos Moore 1-6. Colquitt: Anthony Bridges 5-63, Cliff Middlebrooks 3-21, Chris McCranie 1-38, Bill Tucker 1-9.

We have to believe in ourselves."

Down 13-3 at intermission, Colquitt rallied twice. Valdosta answered twice.

"We got ourselves back in the football game. We got our kids and our folks as excited as I've ever seen," said Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes. "But then Valdosta

See CATS, Page 3B



Valdosta running back Joe Wright looks for an opening around the corner as he runs past

the Colquitt County defense Friday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Cats

From Page 1-B

answered back ... we couldn't do enough good things and then we couldn't hold them."

In the third quarter, the Packers went 61 yards on eight plays, with quarterback Parks Hughes getting the first of his two 1-yard touchdown runs. His extra-point kick made it 13-10 with 2:44 left in the quarter.

Then came counterpunch No. 1. Valdosta went 69 yards in 10 plays, twice converting on third down — once on a 17-yard Alton Hitson-to-Steve Jaramillo pass, then a 29-yard Hitson run.

Early in the fourth quarter, on fourth-and-one at the 3, Hitson hit an outstretched Jaramillo in the right side of the end zone. Hitson went left to find a diving Albert Edmonds for the two-point conversion, making it 21-10.

"Alton was just the leader he is," said Jaramillo. "I just caught the pass and held on to the ball."

That's not all. Colquitt (4-3) answered with a 75-yard, seven-play drive. Anthony Bridges set up Hughes' touchdown run with a 23-yard pass and run from Hughes to the 1. Hughes hit on three passes for 42 yards on the drive.

Hughes passed to Michael Boatw-

right for a two-point conversion, as the Colquitt sidelines called for timeout. It was 21-18 with eight minutes left.

Then came Valdosta second counterpunch, a series of blows. There was Jaramillo's season-best 51-yard punt to the Valdosta 20.

Three plays later, after a holding call, safety Deric Cotton grabbed Hughes' pass away from Boatwright and returned the ball nine yards to the 19.

Four plays later, a series which included a personal foul penalty against Colquitt which quieted the home crowd for good, Valdosta drove home the final blow. Joe Wright capped his 125-yard night with a 2-yard touchdown run with 2:25 left.

Colquitt was out for the count.

Valdosta had tried to break the game open in the second quarter, scoring 10 unanswered points to make it 13-3.

Two long runs set up the scores.

First, Wright — who had fumbled inside the Colquitt 5 on the previous series — broke a 51-yard run to the Colquitt 15. A pass interference call gave Valdosta another first down at the 7, but the Cats had to settle for

Dow Drury's 21-yard field goal and a 6-3 lead with 5:44 left.

After Colquitt failed to make a first down, Carlos Moore struck with a 28-yard punt return to the Packer 21.

Three plays later, Hitson ran a bootleg around the right side, avoiding one Packer and stepping just into the right front corner of the end zone with 2:12 left. Drury's kick made it 13-3.

The teams had traded long drives and field goals to start the game. Colquitt took the opening kickoff and went 59 yards in eight plays, settling for Hughes' 26-yard field goal.

Valdosta answered with a 13-play, 61-yard drive which ended with Drury's 27-yard field goal and a 3-3 tie.

Then the teams traded turnovers, with Trampis Wrice's interception of a Hughes pass followed by Wright's fumble after a 22-yard pass/run play to the 3.

A familiar spot for Valdosta: Proving it belongs at No. 1

By Lawrence Dennis
Sports writer

After Valdosta's narrow 3-0 victory over Bainbridge in the Region 1-AAAA opener two weeks ago, a frustrated Wildcat fan summed up what a lot of people must have been thinking.

"We must be the worst No. 1-ranked team in the country," he said.

But the defending state champion Wildcats are ranked No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA, and that's not likely to change after they went to 6-0-1 last Friday with a 28-18 victory over archrival Colquitt County in Moultrie.

The Packers were the only team to beat Valdosta last year during a 14-1 championship season and were considered the best bet to dethrone the 'Cats for the region title.

But now, Valdosta is 2-0 in the league, and even with tough games remaining against Tift County Friday night, Coffee and crosstown archrival Lowndes, the Wildcats are in the driver's seat to take their fifth consecutive region championship.

Ironically, the early-season setback that started all the questions about this year's team may be the reason why Valdosta is where it is now.

"The Camden game was somewhat of a turning point," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said of a 14-14 tie with Class AAA Camden County Sept. 7 in the second game of the season. "It wasn't so much a shocker to wake us up like the Moultrie game was last year [Colquitt won 7-0 in Valdosta], but it made them aware of where they had to make adjustments."

The tie may not have shocked the Wildcats, but it stunned high school football fans around the state and dropped Valdosta out of its accustomed No. 1 spot in the state poll. Since then, the 'Cats have won five straight, despite some adversity.

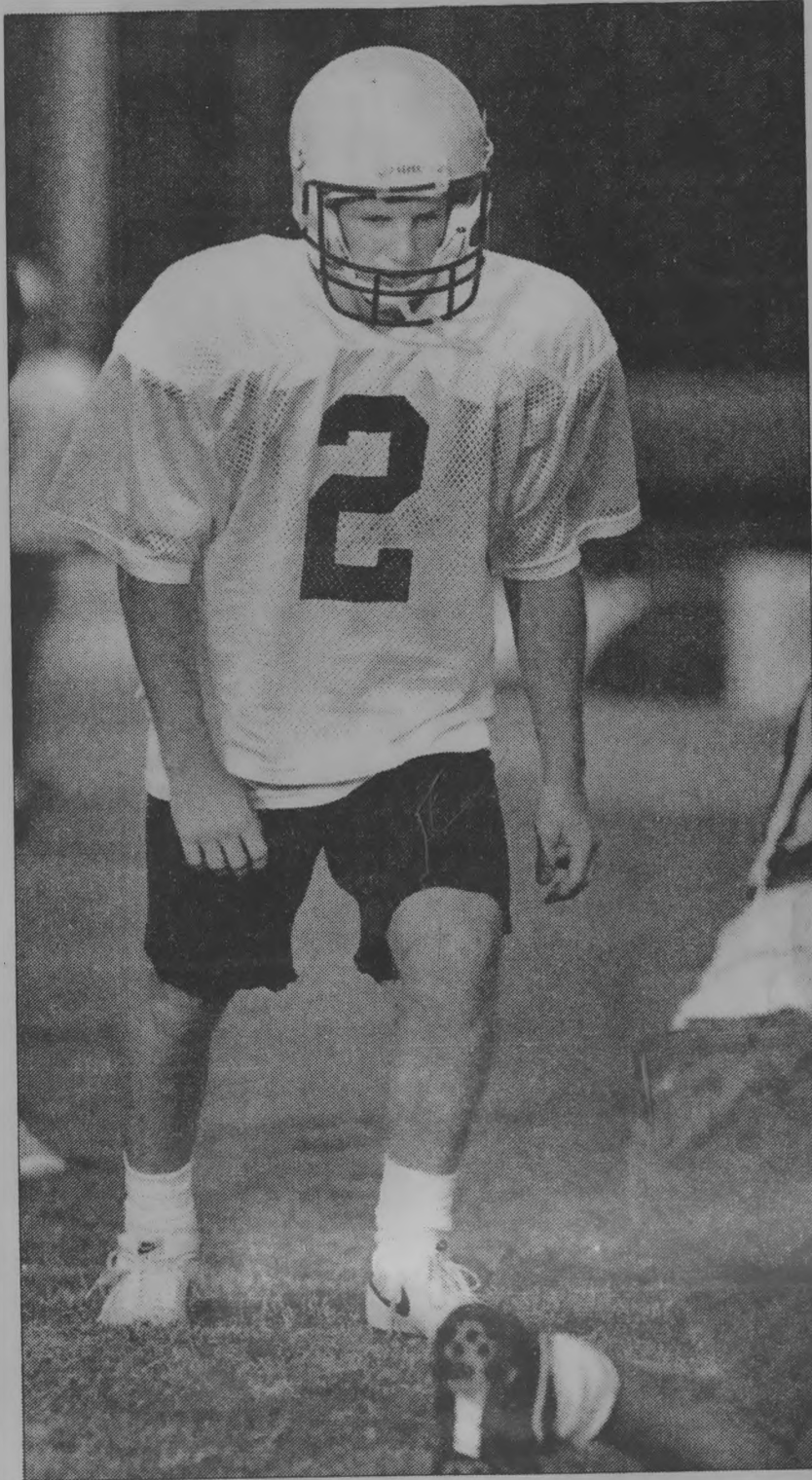
Valdosta rallied from a 14-0 first-quarter deficit to beat Jess Lanier of Bessemer, Ala., Sept. 21; had a tough 10-0 win over Montgomery (Ala.) R.E. Lee the next week; struggled to the victory over Bainbridge two weeks later; and played probably its best game of the year against Colquitt.

"A big thing this year has been the different teams we played, like McEachern, Wayne County and the two Alabama teams," Hyder said. "All of these required adjustments."

Valdosta beat Powder Springs McEachern 26-7 in the opener and Wayne County 38-6. It was the first time Valdosta had played McEachern and the Alabama schools, and it hadn't played Wayne since the 1975 state playoffs.

Then, there were other trials as well, such as the distractions of being on stage before national TV cameras. SportsChannel America televised the Lanier game, and there have been spots on the team this season on ABC and NBC.

"The media attention has been something else to deal with," Hyder said. "I doubt if any high school in the country has to deal with that like we



— Ron Bell/staff

Dow Drury's placekicking has been a key factor for Valdosta lately.

do. I think our youngsters have adjusted well to that."

But as always, the key to Valdosta's success is its defense. The Wildcats' unit may not be up to the standard set by last year's team, but it has done just enough.

"The defense has done its job, and that's to bend and not break," Hyder said.

Another major reason for Valdosta's success has been the improvement of the offense and senior quarterback Alton Hitson. He was thrown into the position last year when scheduled starter Jason Nichols broke a leg in the preseason and led the Wildcats to the state title. But he wasn't much of

a passer.

"He has given their offense a dimension they didn't have last year in that they can throw the ball this year," Colquitt coach Jim Hughes said before last week's game.

Against Colquitt, Hitson completed 8 of 12 passes for 72 yards, including four to senior wide receiver Steve Jaramillo, one for a touchdown and others that kept scoring drives alive.

"The keys on offense have been the improvement of Alton Hitson and good performances from people like Shaun Eilders [a Times-Union Super 11 tackle] and Steve Jaramillo and Dow Drury's kicking," Hyder said.

Drury, a junior, produced eight points on two field goals and two PAT against Colquitt.

THE SCOREBOARD

FOOTBALL

GEORGIA SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

Starting time: 8 p.m.

Valdosta at Tift Co. (Tifton) (1-AAAA)
Colquitt Co. at Lowndes (Valdosta) (1-AAAA)
Savannah Benedictine at Brunswick (3-AAAA B)
Glynn Academy at Savannah (Garden City Stadium) (3-AAAA A)
Dublin at Camden Co. (St. Marys) (2-AAA)
Fitzgerald at Ware Co. (Waycross) (2-AAA)
Waycross at Bacon Co. (Alma) (2-AA)
Charlton Co. at Clinch Co. (Homer-ville) (2-A)
Coffee at Bainbridge (1-AAAA)
Appling Co. at Hephzibah
Savannah Windsor Forest at Bradwell Institute (Hinesville)
Savannah Jenkins at Savannah Groves (Savannah State Stadium) (3-AAAA A)
Statesboro at Effingham Co. (Springfield)
Albany at Albany Dougherty
Crisp Co. at Thomas County Central (1-AAA East)
Cairo at Lee Co. (Leesburg) (1-AAA West)
Albany Westover at Thomasville (1-AAA West)
Dodge Co. at Wayne Co. (Jesup) (2-AAA)
Turner Co. at Brooks Co. (Quitman) (1-AA)
Early Co. at Mitchell-Baker (Camilla) (1-AA)
Seminole Co. at Randolph-Clay (Cuthbert) (1-AA)
Berrien at Cook (Adel) (2-AA)
Pierce Co. at Brantley Co. (Nahunta) (2-AA)
Open — Atkinson Co., Irwin Co., McIntosh County Academy.

SATURDAY

Savannah Johnson at Savannah Beach (Memorial Stadium) (3-AAAA B)
Worth Co. at Albany Monroe (1-AAA East)

SCHEDULES, SCORES

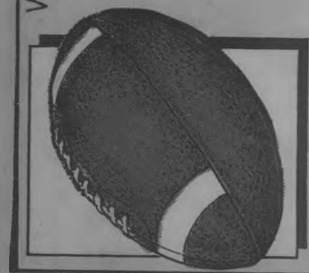
NOTE: x-region or sub-region game.

REGION 1-AAAA

BAINBRIDGE

34	Thomas County Central	16
35	at Early Co.	14
0	at Colquitt Co.-x	24
14	at Dothan, Ala.	6
6	Northview, Ala.	22
0	Valdosta-x	3
48	Richards, Fla.	0
Friday Coffee-x	
Nov. 2 Lowndes-x	
Nov. 9 at Tift Co.-x	

VDT
Thurs. Oct. 25, 1990
Still The One
Wildcats Top Preps—



FAST FACT:

THE VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S DEFENSE ALLOWED ITS FIRST TOUCHDOWN IN 170 MINUTES FRIDAY NIGHT AT COLQUITT COUNTY



VDT

Sunday, October 21, 1990

AAAA Squads Fight For Spots

VDT Mon., Oct. 29, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There may be just two weeks left in the 1990 Georgia high school football regular season, but there's still a lot of jockeying to do in order to set up this year's AAAA playoff picture.

By Nov. 16, there will be only 30 teams (of 89) left to challenge for the title won last year by Valdosta High. Because of their region rules, the 1-A AAAA champion and the 2-A AAAA champion will get byes into the 16-team state playoff bracket which begins Nov. 23. Fourteen other games on Nov. 16 will decide the other combatants.

With two weeks left, there are still 62 teams with a mathematical shot at the 30 spots. Here's a look at the race:

●**THEY'RE IN:** Stone Mountain, which hasn't lost since a Sept. 22 home game with Lowndes, clinched the No. 1 spot in Region 7-A AAAA East. Clarke Central, the runnerup to Valdosta last year, will be the No. 1 team in Region 8-A AAAA South. Both teams finish their regular season this week.

●**THEY'RE KNOCKING:** The Warner Robins-Northside winner (Nov. 9) will be the Region 2-A AAAA champion. Both will be in the playoff process.

Friday's Groves-Bradwell winner will have the inside track on the Region 3-A AAAA Division A top spot, while Effingham County has games left with two second-division teams before winning Region 3-A AAAA's Division B.

Fayette County will clinch Region 4-A AAAA Division 1 if it beats fellow unbeaten Riverdale on the road Friday.

In Region 5-A AAAA, McEachern will clinch Region 5-A AAAA with a win at Campbell Friday night.

In Region 6-A AAAA Division A, Friday's Marietta-Wheeler winner is the champion, while the Walton at Pope winner is in the same boat in Region 6-A AAAA Division B.

Southwest DeKalb needs one win against a pair of second-division teams to win Region 7-A AAAA West.

In Region 8-A AAAA North, Friday's Central Gwinnett at Cedar Shoals winner is the sub-region champion. Brookwood needs one win in its final two games to be the No. 2 team in Region 8-A AAAA South.

●**THEY'RE HOPING:** Evans is the best of the rest in 2-A AAAA, the top pick to be the No. 3 team. It finishes with road games against the bottom two teams in the division.

Statesboro, in Region 3-A AAAA Division A, could do some damage when it meets Groves Nov. 10, if it can beat Jenkins Friday. In Region 3-A AAAA Division B, Brunswick has finished with a 3-2 sub-region record. It has to hope for Effingham and/or Beach to lose its remaining sub-region games.

In Region 4-A AAAA Division 1, Griffin is lurking behind Fayette and Riverdale, hoping Fayette beats Riverdale to make the Griffin-Riverdale game on Nov. 9 a game for the second spot.

Valdosta Has Spot In 1-A AAAA

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High has clinched some type of berth in the Region 1-A AAAA football playoffs, and can win the No. 1 position in the region in 52 of 64 possibilities.

And if the standings finished the same as the probabilities, Colquitt County would meet Lowndes in the region-playoff game on Nov. 16.

The Valdosta Daily Times calculated the 64 different scenarios which can happen in the last two weeks of the season. The Wildcats would finish first, either outright or by tiebreaker, in 52 possibilities. In another eight possibilities Valdosta would finish second, while it would be third in the last four possibilities.

Lowndes High has the next-best chance of finishing first, in five possibilities. The Vikings make the playoffs in half of the scenarios, finishing second in six possibilities and third in 21 possibilities.

The Vikings are helped in most all multi-team tiebreaker situations because it has played and won more non-region, in-state AAAA teams. Lowndes was 4-0 in those games, while Tift was 3-0 and Valdosta and Colquitt 1-0. Coffee and Bainbridge did not play non-region, in-state AAAA teams.

Colquitt County High makes the playoffs in 37 different scenarios, including winning the region four times. It finishes second in 29 possibilities, third in 14 possibilities.

Tift County High makes the playoffs in 22 possibilities, including one chance of winning the region. It can finish second in 13 possibilities, third in eight possibilities.

Coffee High has two chances of winning the region. It can finish second in four scenarios, third in five scenarios.

Bainbridge High is the only team which doesn't have a chance of winning the No. 1 spot in the region. But it has four chances at finishing second and 12 chances at third.

In Division 2, Morrow (4-1), LaGrange (3-1) and Forest Park (3-1) are headed for a three-way tie. In that case, Morrow and LaGrange have the advantage because of AAAA records.

Pebblebrook, Campbell and Alexan
See STATE, Page 9-B

Valdosta High strengthened its hold on No. 1 in this week's Georgia Associated Press high school football Class AAAA poll, while Lowndes moved up a spot to No. 7 after a shift among last week's teams.

Meanwhile, Clinch County remained No. 8 in the Class A poll after taking the week off in preparation for Region 2-A play.

With Brookwood and Statesboro both losing sub-region games last week, there was room for some movement. And most of the Class AAAA runnerup Clarke Central, which went from a tie for ninth to sixth, past Lowndes, after thumping Brookwood.

Valdosta strengthened its hold on No. 1 with a 28-18 victory at Colquitt County Friday night. The Wildcats got seven of the nine first-place votes.

Last week, Valdosta had a slight edge over Warner Robins for the No. 1 position. But this week, Warner Robins was beaten in subregion play.

Brookwood was blasted by Clarke Central and Statesboro was beaten by Groves, which lost to Lowndes earlier this season but is now unbeaten in subregion play.

Valdosta Tightens Hold On No. 1

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Southwest DeKalb moved up a spot from No. 5 to be fourth this week. The Region 8-A AAAA teams, Cedar Shoals and Clarke Central, then made their jumps to be Nos. 5 and 6.

Marietta, at No. 8 this week, is the lone unbeaten and untied team in the Class AAAA poll.

Class AAAA Poll

1. Valdosta (7) (6-0-1)	86
2. Warner Robins (1) (6-1)	72
(tie) LaGrange (6-1)	72
4. Southwest DeKalb (6-1)	56
5. Cedar Shoals (1) (7-1)	54
6. Clarke Central (6-2)	36
7. Lowndes (6-1)	26
8. Marietta (7-0)	21
9. Brookwood (7-1)	16
10. Statesboro (6-1)	14
Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Effingham County, Fayette County, Griffin, Morrow, Norcross, Tift County and Wheeler.	

From Page 1-B

der are the top three contenders for the Nos. 2-4 spots in the Region 5-A AAAA playoff. Paulding County isn't far behind.

North Cobb needs to win its last Region 6-A AAAA Division A games, and hope Marietta defeats Wheeler, so it can be the No. 2 team. Cass and Sprayberry are in much the same boat in Region 6-A AAAA Division B.

Saturday's Dunwoody-Douglass winner will be in line for the No. 2 spot in Region 7-A AAAA West, much as the McNair-Mays winner will be in Region 7-A AAAA East.

Duluth's best bet in Region 8-A AAAA North is for it to win at Norcross Friday, hope for a Cedar Shoals win over Central Gwinnett, then have Duluth beat Central Gwinnett on Nov. 9 so it can be the No. 2 team.

Cats Roll Packers

VHS Wins Big,
28-18—Page 1-B



Nothing Decided In 1-A AAAA

VDT Sun., Oct. 21, 1990

MOULTRIE — One thing may have been decided here Friday night — nothing's been decided in the Region 1-A AAAA football race after two rounds of play.

OK, so Valdosta is 2-0 and Bainbridge is 0-2. And so everybody else is 1-1. That's just the preliminaries.

The real fun starts Friday night at venues across South Georgia.

"This is just another week," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder after Friday's 28-18 win over Colquitt County.

"Everybody can still get in the playoffs, including Bainbridge. Everybody still has a shot.

"Nothing much is settled other than we're one week closer and three weeks to go."

Colquitt County head coach Jim Hughes could be heard saying much the same to his folks. Friday's loss does nothing to knock the Packers out of contention.

Everybody still has a shot at one of three playoff berths. Under the GHSA's new format for this season, the top team in Region 1-A AAAA gets a week off and advances to the 16-team state playoffs. Plus, the No. 1 team in 1-A AAAA will be at home in the playoffs as long as it keeps winning.

The No. 2 team meets the No. 3 team in a region-playoff game on Nov. 16, with the winner advancing as 1-A AAAA's No. 2 team.

Here are some of the realities — you're probably going to make the top three with two losses, which means everybody is still in the running. And Bainbridge has already lost to Colquitt and Valdosta, two of the tougher teams in the region. That's why the Bearcat fans can have hope as well.

The sorting-out process starts Friday night, the midpoint of the region schedule.

Two key games are in Valdosta and Tifton. Colquitt meets Lowndes at Martin Stadium, with the loser handed its second loss. And Tift could bring Valdosta back to the pack, or suffer its second loss.

And in Bainbridge, Coffee meets Bainbridge. Coffee can keep pace, knocking Bainbridge out of contention, or the Bearcats can keep their hopes alive — which would tighten the race just outside the third spot.

If you want to look down the road, the schedule for Nov. 2 is: Lowndes at Bainbridge, Coffee at Valdosta and Tift at Colquitt. Then on Nov. 9, there's the Winnersville Classic (Lowndes at Valdosta), Bainbridge at Tift and Colquitt at Coffee.

Fans Angry At TV Segment

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A news correspondent for the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) has apologized for glitches surrounding Thursday night's broadcast of a story on Valdosta and the Valdosta High School football team.

But some reactions to the story have directed some anger at its content, not the glitches.

Armen Keteyian, the correspondent who was in Valdosta with a four-person crew from Sept. 17-21, faxed an "open" letter Friday to *The Valdosta Daily Times* expressing two apologies and many thanks to those who helped the crew with the story.

Keteyian apologized for not giving those interested much advance notice about when the story would air. The story was supposed to be aired on Monday, but was delayed because of other national breaking stories, Keteyian said.

In addition, Keteyian told *The Times* in a telephone interview later Friday, the story shown on the 6:30 p.m. show (which is shown on Valdosta's WVGA-TV) was from a backup tape which wasn't cued properly and didn't have the identifying graphics.

The piece was aired in full on the 7 p.m. show, which could be seen in Valdosta by TCI Cablevision viewers on ABC's Atlanta affiliate.

Keteyian said he was pleased with the story, though 48 seconds of the original piece was cut because of time constraints. "We cut out some pictures from the junior high, and a standup I did downtown," he said, noting some other minor editing as well.

Keteyian wrote in the letter that "I'm sure the tone and focus of my spot will offend some people."

"I think there were some good things, but overall I was disappointed," said Valdosta Touchdown Club president Dave McCracken.

"It didn't do the community and Coach Hyder justice. It ignored what the program stands for. It generally just came up short."

"The phone calls I've got (from around the nation) have all been good. The reaction was very good," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder Friday afternoon prior to *The*

Open Letter To Valdosta

Editor's Note: ABC Television correspondent Armen Keteyian released this letter to *The Times* Friday.

An open letter to Coach Nick Hyder, his players and the people of Valdosta:

I don't often write letters like this or begin them with apologies, but in this case, I feel it's important to do both.

Television, by nature, is a complicated and often unpredictable business. Especially network television. As correspondents, we're asked to report on large and sometimes complex issues and distill them down to one, two or three minutes.

Speaking of which, on Thursday, Oct. 4, my spot on the Valdosta High School Wildcats ran on "World News Tonight." Originally, as many of you know, it was set to run on Monday night. But then President Bush had to go and have a budget breakdown, and Germany united; Valdosta, for a few days, had to go back on the shelf. I say this because I want to apologize for not letting the town know sooner when the spot was on. As it was, I found out two hours before it ran on Thursday night — just enough time to call Greg McIlvain and Coach Hyder, and my parents (see, even correspondents think about things like that.) I'm sorry we couldn't get the news out sooner.

Apology No. 2 centers around the spot itself. As I said, television is an unpredictable business. We do our job, then we rely on others

See LETTER, Page 2-A

Times receiving the letter.

"I don't think all of the fans are as carnivorous as one or two that were (shown). There are people who support and back the Cats no matter what they do."

Letter

From Page 1-A

to make sure it airs properly. Unfortunately, in our 6:30 p.m. broadcast, that didn't happen. A technical error by one of our otherwise crack engineers had my piece running while Peter Jennings was still on camera introducing it. Thus, when America (or at least the Eastern time zone) saw it, it opened in the middle of my first paragraph, with the football team running on the field. What you missed was a beautiful opening shot of Cleveland Field from above, the band marching off the field, other pre-game excitement shots and the beginning of my script, with the saying, "Friday Night, Valdosta, Georgia. ... The pressure is on ... A team, a town and a 77-year-old tradition roar to life."

It wasn't Updike, but it certainly set the mood better than what you saw, which I believe was just the team running on the field and the words, "a town and a 77-year-old tradition roar to life." Anyway, I have sent Coach Hyder a copy of the spot which ran in our 7 p.m. broadcast, one seen in the Midwest and other time zones. It was perfect. Maybe he'll show it at a touchdown

club meeting or something. Or maybe he won't. I'm sure the tone and focus of my spot will offend some people: The emphasis on pressure, meeting adult expectations, how the town's identity is linked with the fate and fortunes of its high school football team. I'm just as sure there will be others who will point out how I credited Coach Hyder for trying to keep it in perspective; how special football is to your town.

I can only tell you that my job, as a correspondent for this network, or any network, is to try to be as fair and accurate and balanced as possible. To tell all sides of a story in a very limited amount of time.

I hope you can understand and appreciate the philosophy. I can also tell you that Peter Jennings and the executive producer in New York, Paul Friedman, loved the spot. Friedman said it felt "like a novel told in three minutes." For what it's worth...

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank a coach, a team and a town for opening up their hearts to myself, my producer, Carol Williams, and Joe and Jim, our camera and

producer, Harry. Thanks again to everybody for everything. It will be a long, long time before I forget the feelings of Friday night, Sept. 21. We all wish you nothing but the best in your quest for still another jewel in the crown that is Wildcat Football.

Armen Keteyian
ABC News
New York

sound guys from Miami. I have done a lot of stories in my life, and my trip to Valdosta has to rank at the very top for the kind of people we met, the friendships we made, the hospitality we felt. It would take me a week to name everybody, but there are a few I want to mention publicly. They are Fire Chief Williams, who bent over backwards on our behalf, setting up our opening shot; the police chief and his men for watching over halftime shoot; to the staff at Nicky's who kept us fed and laughing; to the guys at the Valdosta Touchdown Club (Scott Alderman and Dave McCracken) for their insight and introductions; and certainly to all the folks who took the time to be interviewed by us and did not make the piece.

We wish, somehow, we could have fit you all in. But then we'd have done a half-hour documentary, and believe me, we thought of that, too.

But most of all, I want to thank Coach Hyder, his coaching staff and the 1990 Wildcats. Never have I been around a more inspirational group of coaches and young men in my life. I miss those afternoons watching coaches like Charles Tar-

Battle Of Bands



The Valdosta State College's Blazing Brigade performs to the crowd at the South Open Band Competition Saturday afternoon at Cleveland Field during their exhibition performance. Bands from Georgia and Florida participated — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT. Sm. Oct. 21, 1990

Powers May Be Away From Cats

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

If the Georgia Associated Press football poll can be used as an indicator, the strength of this year's Class AAAA playoff bracket may lie in the half opposite Valdosta High.

Six of the remaining nine ranked teams are in the other half of the 16-team bracket, including four of the top six teams — No. 1 Warner Robins, No. 4 Cedar Shoals, No. 5 Southwest DeKalb and No. 6 Marietta. Cedar Shoals plays at Southwest DeKalb Friday night.

Friday night, second-ranked Valdosta High (9-0-1) opens defense of its 20th state title it won last December in Athens. The opponent is Northside-Warner Robins (7-4), with kickoff at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m.

The tournament field is also full of past champions. Of the seven schools which have won titles since the AAAA league was founded in 1978, six are in this year's group of 16.

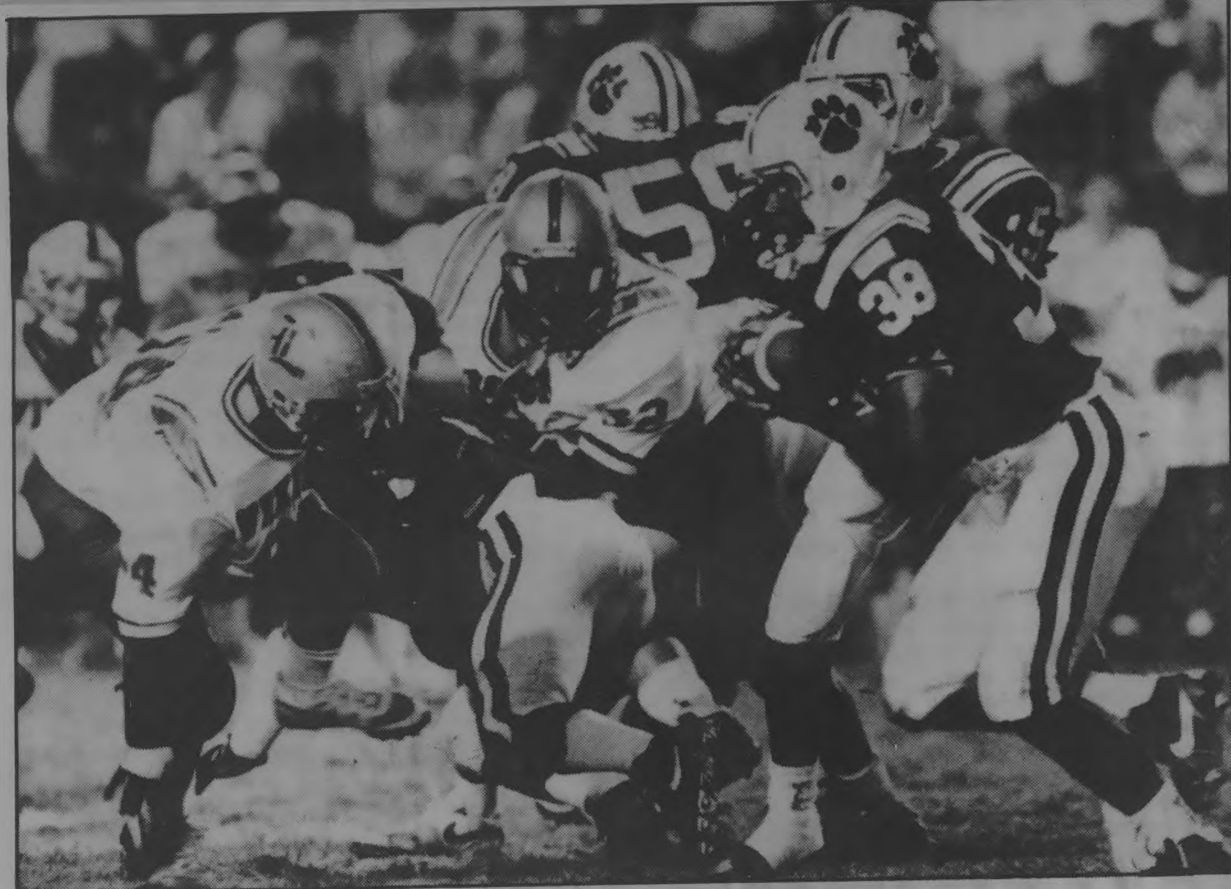
Hot AAAA Teams

Many Class AAAA high school football teams enter the final 16 of the state playoffs on long winning streaks:

Marietta	11
Cedar Shoals	10
Effingham County	9
Southwest DeKalb	9
Warner Robins	9
Valdosta	8★
Clarke Central	7
Stone Mountain	7
Alexander	6
Griffin	6
Morrow	6
McEachern	5

★Valdosta hasn't lost in its last 18 games, but tied Camden County.

Here's a quick look at Friday's first-round games:
NORTHSIDE-WARNER ROBINS (7-4) at VALDOSTA (9-0-1): The two See REGION, Page 3-B



Valdosta moves into the round of 16 this week against other familiar names from Georgia AAAA playoff history — Times File Photo.

GRIFFIN (9-2) at EFFINGHAM COUNTY (9-2): The other game which matches ranked teams. Griffin is No. 8, Effingham tied for No. 10.

Griffin turned giantkillers early, knocking off No. 3 LaGrange, 34-16, Friday. But because fellow Region 4 AAAA winner Morrow and Griffin had not played this season, and both had the exact same AAAA record, the region coaches had to vote to designate the No. 1 and No. 2 teams. Morrow got the nod, with the vote held prior to Friday's games.

ALEXANDER (8-3) at MARIETTA (11-0): Marietta is the lone unbeaten and untied team in Class AAAA, and has all-everything quarterback Eric Zeiter. It's also scored 40 or more points in eight games. So why is it only the No. 6 team in the state?

Alexander comes from that same Region 5-AAAA which has been so maligned because of McEachern's non-region play. It avenged an earlier loss to Pebblebrook to make it to the final 16.

CEDAR SHOALS (10-1) at SOUTHWEST DEKALB (10-1): The best of Friday night's games? May be.

Cedar Shoals, back after a trouble-filled year's end in 1989 which kept it from the playoffs, was two points away from an unbeaten season and switching places with Clarke Central. The 28-21 win over Brookwood Friday was its closest since early in the season.

Southwest DeKalb had its close calls this year, but has won nine in a row.

Region

From Page 1-B
schools met the last two years during the regular season, with Valdosta winning 24-0 and 35-0. It's the first time they've met in the playoffs.

Valdosta was off last week, with the coaches getting a chance to watch in person as Northside rallied to kick a late field goal and beat Evans, 17-14, to earn a berth in the playoffs. Northside has won five of six since a 21-17 loss to Tift County.

STATESBORO (9-2) at MORROW (9-2): Morrow may be the best team not ranked in the poll. It has won six games in a row, including knocking off both of Region 4-AAAA's sub-region champs — LaGrange in the regular season, Fayette County last week. That was recognized when the region's coaches voted Morrow the region's No. 1 team over Griffin.

Statesboro, in its first year in AAAA, had given up 65 points in 10 regular-season games. It defeated Beach for the second time this season to make it this far.

MCEACHERN (9-2) at WHEELER (10-1): They're back! McEachern swept through Region 5-AAAA again, making it to the state playoffs for the fourth time in five years. Getting past this point has been the tough part for the Indians, who could get a chance to play at Valdosta again if both teams win two games.

Wheeler didn't win the region title for the first time in four years, but gets in under the GHSA's new playoff format which takes the top two teams from each region.

STONE MOUNTAIN (9-2) at CLARKE CENTRAL (9-2): For the first time, Clarke Central and Valdosta are in the same half of the bracket — which means if the teams each win twice, the traditional finalists (seven times since 1955, three in the 1980s) will meet in the semifinals — in Valdosta.

Clarke Central has made the playoffs for 16 straight years, as has Valdosta.

But this is Stone Mountain's first trip to the dance in a decade. It made the round of 16 with a 10-0 win over Douglass Saturday night, its seventh straight win since a home loss to Lowndes.

TIFT COUNTY (7-4) at WARNER ROBINS (9-1): Gene Brodie's bunch saved its best offensive explosion for last, turning a 10-7 loss to Bainbridge a week earlier into a 35-34 victory over the Bearcats in Friday's region-playoff game.

Tift County does match Northside for the worst record among the final 16, but it did beat Northside earlier this season.

Warner Robins has won nine straight since losing at Lowndes. And five blowouts in its last six games helped send the Demons to the No. 1 spot past Valdosta.

Fight For The I-AAAAA Berths

U-Turn Wildcats Play For Title

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's football team makes a U-turn tonight.

For the first time in over a month, the top-ranked Wildcats won't be getting on a yellow school bus and heading out of town. They'll be back at Cleveland Field for the first time since Sept. 28, this time hosting Coffee High in a Region 1-AAAAA game. Kickoff for Valdosta's homecoming is at 8 p.m.

Valdosta High (7-0-1 overall, 3-0 in region) can clinch the Region 1-AAAAA title and home-field advantage for the state playoffs with a victory tonight.

"I really like being back home, but October wasn't too bad to us," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. The Wildcats won region road games at Bainbridge, Colquitt County and Tift County in the last three weeks, after one off-week.

And the Wildcats, for the first time in a month, don't have to prepare for one of the region's top passers. Instead, the Trojans bring to Valdosta the region's top-ranked running game.

"They're a very fast team. What we respect about them is that they scored 26 points against Lowndes," Hyder said. "They came back in that game, and they struck in the last 30 seconds against Tifton. They're a capable football team, and well-conditioned."

What Coffee lacks in the passing game it makes up for with a diverse running attack. "We've seen them run 30 different formations," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpoley. "With the time change, we've struggled to teach the kids the basics. You've got to line up exactly right."

"They've got a couple of fast backs that can hurt you."

TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (7-0-1 overall, 3-0 in Region 1-AAAAA) vs. Coffee County High Trojans (4-3-1 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAAA).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets on sale at game.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 23, Tift County 7; Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 1 in Georgia AP.

Coffee's workhorse back is fullback Reggie Glover, the region's No. 2 runner (659 yards, eight touchdowns). The linebackers behind him contribute just as many yards.

But Coffee (4-3-1 overall, 1-2 in region) has a bit of history working against it. The Trojans have never beaten Valdosta in 19 tries, but came close last year in a 10-3 loss in Douglas.

"It comes down to one-on-one matchups, and we don't have the horses," said veteran Coffee High coach Bonwell Royal. "We'll have to play with a lot of intensity. We can't go toe-to-toe with them because we don't have the people."

Coffee came close to a 2-0 start in region play, but a penalty called after a last-second touchdown contributed to the Trojans missing an extra-point attempt in a 21-20 loss to Tift.

Last week, Bainbridge walked away with a 31-8 victory over Coffee.

Vikings Need Win For Playoff Spot

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When the Lowndes High Vikings board their bus for Bainbridge, thoughts of a post-season appearance will be with them.

And if Lowndes (6-2, 1-2) can come away with the win tonight at Centennial Field, combined with losses tonight by both Coffee High and Tift County, the Vikings will have clinched a playoff berth.

Even with one week remaining in the Region 1-AAAAA slate, the Vikes, should they lose to Valdosta, would do no worse than a tie for the final playoff spot. And due to a 4-0 mark against non-region Class AAAA opponents, Lowndes would be in the playoffs.

With the cards are on the table, can the Vikings deal themselves a winning hand?

"It's the biggest game we've played since I've been here at Lowndes High," said Lowndes head coach Rick Tomberlin. "We certainly don't have to be reminded of the playoff situation and the kids seemed to be very focused. We're going up against a fine Bainbridge team and we're going to have to play the best we've played all year to win it."

Tomberlin points to consistency as well as pressure when it comes to win its final region games to make the playoffs.

Both the Bearcats' explosive passing game and talented defensive unit must be controlled according to Tomberlin. And the quickest way he feels his team can do this is control the football.

"Moving the football and keeping the Bearcats' offense off the field is going to be the key," said Tomberlin. "They are a very sound team all the way around and Coach Smart has done a great job with that team. We can't make any mistakes and expect to win this game. Bainbridge is just too good."

When the Vikings want to churn up yardage, they will more than likely turn to I-back Chris

TONIGHT

THE GAME: Lowndes High Vikings (6-2 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAAA) vs. Bainbridge High Bearcats (5-3 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAAA).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Centennial Stadium, Bainbridge; gates open at 6:30 p.m.; tickets available

ON THE AIR: WSTI-FM (105.3) in Valdosta;

WMGR-AM (930) in Bainbridge (Bainbridge broadcast).

LAST WEEK: Colquitt County 20, Lowndes 17; Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8

Wright. The shifty running back is No. 3 among Region 1-AAAAA rushers with 624 yards and nine touchdowns.

Through the air, senior receiver Ivory 'Tricky' Williams heads the Vikes' list. Williams has caught seven passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, lineman Anthony Hargett leads his team in tackles with 57, while linebacker Randall Godfrey has 56.

With the passing prowess of Bainbridge, defensive end Damion Shiver will be called upon to put pressure on BHS' quarterback Brian Powell. Shiver, who is the region's top pass rusher, has 45 tackles and 10 quarterback sacks this season.

Valdosta, Georgia

VALDOSTA 16, LOWNDES 7

Sunday Nov. 10, 1990



Lowndes High defensive back Alton Crawford breaks up a pass intended for Valdosta High receiver Brice Humphrey in

Friday night's Winnersville Classic, which the Valdosta High Wildcats won, 16-7 — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

A Big Night For Two Teams

'Man On The Fence' Knows Game's Special

By DEE McLELLAND
Times News Editor

The man on the fence knew. Amidst the popping sound of thousands of raincoats being pelted with rain. The man who leaned on the fence surrounding Cleveland Field knew.

It was something special.

Valdosta High School's 16-7 win over arch-rival Lowndes High Friday night didn't fit the mold of a regular high school football game. To the people in the stands, it was special, but to the players on the field, it was something they would remember for the rest of their lives.

The man on the fence knew they would.

"I can tell you this," the man said while wrapping the garbage bag that

served as his shelter from the showers around his shoulders, "Them boys know how special this is. The people that are sitting up in the stands may not think about it again after they get a little something to eat, but those boys will go to sleep for the rest of their lives remembering this night."

A night that had been building all year finally arrived with sweeping winds that brought fierce showers and a multitude of colors in the stands. Bags and plastic sheets of all colors obscured school colors, but the heart and spirit of each team's cheering section was easy to identify.

Waves of sound bellowed from each section as the fate and fortunes of the teams changed with each bounce of the ball. First, Lowndes moved with precision and

quickness that would give it the chance it need to take a 7-0 lead.

The Viking faithful followed in unison with waves of cheers as the LHS squad made the first big plays of the game.

And then the shift of sound as Valdosta made its statement in the form of several big defensive plays. Up and down the sound went as the Wildcats moved close after a field goal to make it 7-3.

The man knew.

"I see it coming," he said. "It's changing, you can feel it."

And it did.

Again the rains started to beat down on the famous prep field and with it came the dampening of Lowndes chances.

Valdosta moved to a score to take the lead for the first time 9-7 and

then again added a score to go in front 16-7.

The game was over with the exception of a few plays here and there for both teams in the final minutes. The players continued to battle, Lowndes never giving up and inch without a fight and Valdosta never letting up just like it was down by a single point with only seconds to go.

Finally, something the man on the fence knew from the start was evident to all. There were no winners or losers in a game like this. Each person, player and coach would take something special with him from the 48 minutes on Cleveland Field.

Valdosta and Lowndes. Lowndes and Valdosta.

The Winnersville Classic. Something special.

The man on the fence knew.

Locally

VDT. Sat., Nov. 3, 1990

VHS Queen Picked

Elizabeth Foster, a senior at Valdosta High, was chosen Valdosta High School's Homecoming Queen for 1990 in pre-game ceremonies Friday night at the Valdosta vs. Coffee game at Cleveland Field.

Miss Foster is the daughter of Patricia Foster of Valdosta and Dr. Arthur M. Foster of Winston Salem, N. C.

— Staff Reports



FOSTER

That's what can happen with a week which has event after event after event leading up to the game. And it can happen with 12,000 screaming fans packed into the stadium watching every move and counter-move.

"We'll go in with as much intensity as we know how, which as much respect as we know how, and that why I think the adults can look forward to another classic," Hyder said.

●WILDCAT NOTES: The Valdosta Touchdown Club moved its weekly meeting to today, 7 p.m. at the school auditorium, so not to conflict with Monday's Sports Hall Of Fame Banquet at Valdosta Country Club.

Game films from the 30-29 victory over Coffee High will be reviewed ... Valdosta High's first-round state-playoff opponent will come from a list of five schools in Region 2-AAAA.

The Northside-Warner Robins-Warner Robins winner will win the region title and the No. 1 spot from Region 2-AAAA for the playoffs.

The loser will meet either Evans (if it wins Friday) or the Central-Southwest winner (if Evans loses) in a region-playoff game Nov. 16. The winner from that Nov. 16 game will be playing at Cleveland Field on Nov. 23.

No Rest For VHS

W. Times, Nov. 6, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's an interesting dilemma to be in.

Valdosta High knows it has a future in the 1990 Georgia high school football season. It has already clinched the Region 1-AAAA title. It knows it will not play on the night of Nov. 16, and knows it opens the state playoffs at home on Nov. 23.

In most cases, a team could take it easy for the last game of the regular season. The injured players could be rested a extra week to prepare for that run for the 21st state title. Some younger players could get a look. Some new plays and new defensive sets could be tried.

But folks, this isn't most cases. This is Winsterville, USA. This is where two heated rivals meet to end the regular season.

To Valdosta High, it's not a week to rest. It's quite the opposite.

"The Lowndes game takes on a perspective as one of the truly great rivalries in the state of Georgia and maybe the country," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "It's as big as any championship game we've played in. It always is. It's good, clean competition between schools which want to do things correctly."

"That puts this game into focus. That's beyond or above the playoff situation ... the intensity rises to another level as far as the game is concerned. The game itself has its own significance."

10TH ANNUAL WINNERSVILLE CLASSIC

Winsterville Classic
NOV. 3-10 1990

Bands: Friendly Rivals

V. Times 11-10-90

By LAURA JOHNS
and KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writers

The fierce competition between Valdosta and Lowndes County high schools extends only as far as football. The schools' bands harmonize, both band directors say.

"We're fortunate to have two fine band programs in Valdosta and Lowndes County," said LHS band director Billy Martin. He said the traditional combined pre-game "Star Spangled Banner" number is symbolic of the bands' solidarity.

Valdosta High School band director Steven Hankla agrees.

"We don't promote the rivalry at all," Hankla said. "We try to play that down. Our philosophy with our kids is if you have to talk bad about someone, you must feel insecure about yourself."

Hankla said this community is unique because it has two quality band programs. Many times there is a better program, but that's not the case here, he said.

"We're kind of in the music thing together. We play down the rivalry and leave it to the football team," he said. "Of course we support our Wildcats."

The harmony of both bands was apparent at Friday's Winsterville Classic game between the VHS Wildcats and the LHS Vikings.

The VHS band dazzled the audience with its program. Their show consisted of a variety of tunes including "Brazil," "Since I Fell for You," and the Miami Sound Machine song "Conga." The closure was a medley of patriotic tunes in a salute to the flag.

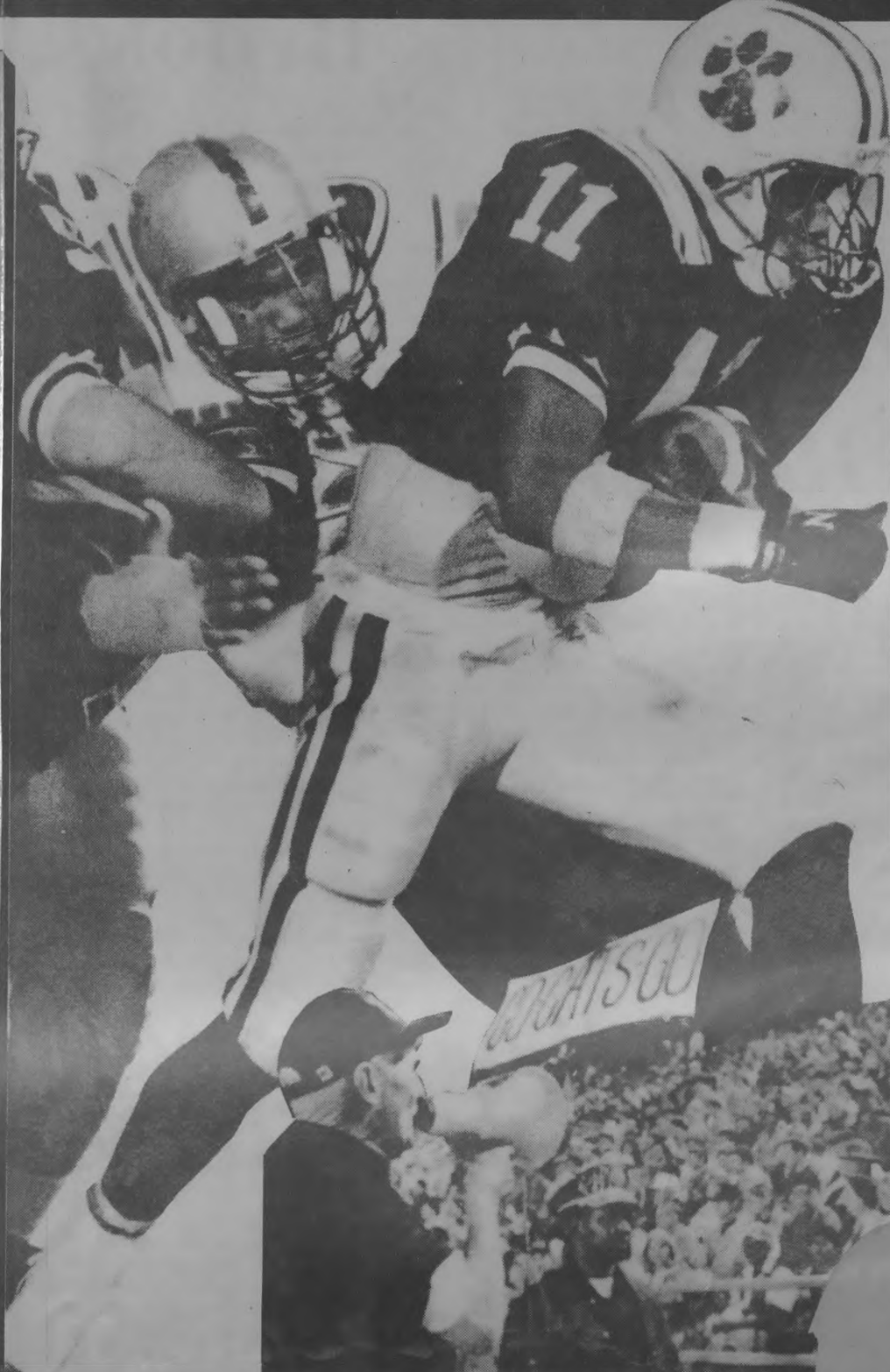
The LHS band gave a typically excellent show as well. Opening with "Somewhere in Time," which featured french horn soloist Micah Riggie, the show continued with "Another Star" by Stevie Wonder and "The American Trilogy," the bands salute to America's armed forces — especially to those in the Middle East.

The LHS band program is known for its excellence. Since 1977, the band has won many major competitions across the Southeast.

"It's because of good kids, good parents and tremendous support from our administration," Martin said.

The VHS band program is on an upward swing now and is building its reputation as one of the best bands around, Hankla said.

"It's exciting for our kids because they know students in other bands and have a lot of respect for what they have accomplished," he said.



Times Photos by Paul Leavy, Mike Tanner

Winsterville Classic
NOV. 3-10 1990

Wildcats Look For Experience

Wildcats, Nov. 27, 1990

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

This is the year John Miller has been concerned about for quite some time.

After building the men's basketball program at Valdosta High back to respectability the past couple of years, Miller felt this season would be pivotal. Last year, he had seven seniors among his top nine players and finished at 13-10, the squad's best mark in years. Now, with a fresh crop of mostly new faces, Miller is wondering what kind of impression the 'Cats will make on their opponents.

"We look real good getting off the bus," Miller said of his tall but young team, "but after that I'm not so sure. We're breaking in a whole new team so it may take a few games to find out just what we've got. Most of our team is made up of juniors so we've got to grow up quick."

The maturing process begins tonight when Valdosta faces Lanier County in their season-opener in Lakeland. Last year, Valdosta finished with their best record in years (13-10) and in the process upset perennial power Bainbridge in Bainbridge. Miller is hoping some of last year's success rubbed off on the younger bunch.

A lot of the load is expected to be given to the only two returning starters — senior post player Michael Moore and junior wing Ernest Lowe. Moore, 6-5, is a three-year starter while Lowe, 6-2½, improved vastly last season and can drive as well as shoot from the outside.

Miller is still unsure of the the rest of the starting five. Vying for the nod at the other post spot are twin brothers, Aaron and Tharon Lane. Aaron is 6-5 while his "big" brother is 6-7. Junior Matt Baker will start at point guard while three players are still battling for the other wing position — junior Frank Mazion and seniors Jed Dennard and Joel Montgomery.

"Defensively we won't be as quick as we have been and we'll look to go inside. But we don't want to do that all the time, we don't want to be read like a book or one-dimensional," Miller said.

Miller doesn't see any clear-cut favorite in the Region 1-AAAA this season as he expects just about every team to be in the hunt for the playoffs.

"Bainbridge is always going to be there, Lowndes has a good group coming back and Tifton has just about everybody back. Coffee consolidated with two schools over there and that should help them a lot," Miller said.

The other region teams do have one advantage over the Wildcats. Except for Tift County, the rest of the region's players who play both football and basketball are practicing. VHS and the Blue Devils are still participating in the state playoffs. When the season ends, Miller is expecting sophomore Steven Everson and junior Trampis Wrice to join the team and make an impact.

Cousins Pulling In Different Directions During 'Classic'

V-Times 11-10-90

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Since youth leagues, running backs Chris Wright and Joe Wright have found themselves on opposing athletic teams. And Friday's Winnesville Classic win, 16-7, by Valdosta marked possibly the final time the two will go head-to-head in competition.

To date, the only thing that keeps the two apart on the football field is 47 yards rushing, and a state championship, according to both runners.

Joe Wright bowed out of the classic rushing for 103 yards on 16 carries. His performance was good enough to erase the 47-yard lead by his cousin and Viking I-back Chris Wright. Chris Wright rushed 11 times for 38 yards.

Joe Wright finished the regular season with 141 carries for 721 yards. Chris Wright finished the season with 703 yards on 123 carries.

With the blood lines so talented, both agree each have given a lot to the sport and their schools.

"It all started in the Boys Club football leagues, when Joe always wanted us to be on different

teams," said Chris Wright. "Since that time, we've tried to prove to each other who was the best back. I've watched Joe and he's a great running back. I think he's done a lot of great things for himself and Valdosta High."

Joe Wright also applauded his cousins' ability carrying the football.

"He's leading as far as yardage goes, but we're both small backs," said Joe Wright. "He's a little bigger than I am and he can cut better and may be a little bit stronger. Chris seemed to get down on himself last year when he missed so many games. But he's played good this year and is showing he's a good running back."

Had it not been for a fire at the Wright household, both might have finally teamed up on the same squad.

After the fire, Joe Wright's family moved into the city, while Chris Wright's family remained in the county. And even though Joe Wright would later moved back to the county, his high school eligibility was established at Valdosta High.

"I'm glad I'm where I'm at and Chris has run the ball well at

Lowndes High. There's no bragging rights in the family," said Joe Wright. "When you look at it, on paper Chris has had a better year and it just comes down to the game against Valdosta and Lowndes."

Due to school and practice time, the Wrights rarely see each other, much less speak about the team's they play on, or the season. But Chris Wright admits he has always wished Joe well up until Winnesville week.

"That's just the way it is. I don't want to see anybody get hurt on any team. But I don't want Joe to have a good game against us and I'm sure he feels the same," said Chris Wright. "I wish him well off the field and on, except when we're going against each other."

"Joe has helped me a lot though, and he's been someone I've tried to pattern my play after," said Chris Wright. "I would like to some day get the chance to play on the same team. The next step is college, and if we're fortunate to get a chance to play college football, I would like for it to be on the same team. I plan to talk to him about it."



Wildcats Do It Running

V. Times 11-10-90
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The first half of Friday night's Winnersville Classic was a sight too familiar to 1990 Valdosta High fans.

Lowndes High had stuffed back the running attack. A few Valdosta High passes fell complete, but others headed toward the end zone didn't. For the fifth time this season, the Wildcats were behind in a game.

But once again, Valdosta High used that 20-minute, band-filled intermission to regroup and reload.

And, oh my, did it happen.

Thirty second-half plays. Thirty running plays. A net total of 181 rushing yards in 24 minutes.

And that 7-3 deficit by halftime turned into a 16-7 victory for the Wildcats — their ninth in 10 Winnersville Classics, and their 23rd overall in 28 meetings with the crosstown folks.

"We made some mistakes in the first half. They were stunting and we were missing people," said running back coach Mike O'Brien. "We messed up early. It was a total mess up. Backs, line, everything."

"At halftime, the offensive linemen got together," added line coach Jerry Don Baker. "We felt we were doing the same thing we did at Bainbridge (a 3-0 Valdosta victory). We were very passive and tentative about our blocks. We weren't getting after people. We were waiting for somebody else to do it for us."

Instead, the Wildcats did it for themselves.

"We just settled down at half and really ran what we planned to run. We just executed a little better," said O'Brien.

"The offensive line came around and started blocking. That's what won the game for us," said senior tailback Joe Wright, who looked for a half to be playing second-fiddle to cousin Chris, the Vikings' top runner. Instead, Joe Wright ran for 100 second-half yards on 11 carries, finishing the night with 103 yards on 16 carries.

"I didn't think it would turn around like it did, but I hoped it would and I'm glad it did."

To O'Brien, it all added up.

"They had three deep and four linebackers," he said. "They've got seven men back in the secondary, four on the line of scrimmage that have to stop seven of us. The score speaks for itself."

Wright took care of the explosive end of the deal. His 40-yard run on a sweep right helped set up the first touchdown. A 22-yarder set up the second, while a 14-yard blast started off another drive.

Quarterback Alton Hitson got the important yards. Of Valdosta's 10 offensive first downs in the second half, Hitson got six. His long runs of 15 and 11 yards helped sustain the night's final drive. He'd rather, however, forget the two fourth-quarter fumbles which stopped drives.

Fullback Kendrick Patrick will be Friday's designated scorer. While other people may have got the 'Cats near the end zone, he got them in with runs of 2 and 5 yards. Patrick had two runs of nine yards each, not the numbers of those above but good enough.

"I give it all to the offensive linemen. I couldn't do it without them," Patrick said modestly. He did get 23 of the last 29 yards on the first drive.

AAAA Parity Grows

V. Times 11-1-90
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Could this be a year of parity for Class AAAA high school football teams in Georgia? Or is just a magnified picture of what is happening in Region 1-AAAA this season?

Take a look at this week's Class AAAA poll. There's only one unbeaten, untied team in the list — and that's pass-happy, but No. 7, Marietta. Its fellow subregion member, Wheeler, is also unbeaten but unranked. And one of those teams will have a loss by the end of Friday night — they meet in Marietta.

No. 1 Valdosta's lone blemish was the second-week tie with Camden County. But the 'Cats play and reputation has helped the team be No. 1 for six of the season's 10 polls, with LaGrange holding down the spot for the other four.

But the remaining ranked teams have at least one loss, with two teams — No. 6 Clarke Central and No. 8 Griffin — at two losses.

"From my years of looking at it, there's some stronger parity this year," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, whose teams seem to buck a trend of parity. "There are more good teams."

"More coaches are putting more of an effort into it. There's more community spirit. College and pro games on television are great advertising for football. Television is also a great teacher with the instant replays."

The story may be told even further by looking at the USA Today national prep poll, which ranked Valdosta 21st this week.

Dick Krider, an Indiana sports-writer who does the poll for USA Today, has said he considers Georgia one of the six top prep football states in the country. This would usually mean that he'd ranked one, and sometimes two, teams in the state in the poll. He did at the beginning of the year, with Valdosta and LaGrange listed.

But when Valdosta tied, it dropped out. And when LaGrange lost, it fell — and the USA Today poll had no Georgia team ranked for three weeks.

"They don't put you in with a loss," Hyder said. "And there are only a couple of teams with ties in the Top 25."

Most of those losses came early in the season. In the 13 region or sub-region races, only one (Region 4-AAAA Division 2) doesn't have an unbeaten team (in region) atop the standings. Six have two unbeaten teams.

In Region 1-AAAA, Valdosta's got the upperhand after road victories at Bainbridge, Colquitt and Tift. One way or another, the Wildcats will be in post-season play.

But the remaining five teams have a good shot at one of other two post-season berths.

"Look at our region. All six teams have a chance at the playoffs. That's a good definition of parity," said Hyder. Region 1-AAAA is just one of two regions/subregions which have all teams with at least one region/subregion win. The other is the Marietta-Wheeler subregion, where the other five teams are beating up on each other.

In The Times/A Weekly Feature About The Newspaper Family

Times Employee Faces Graduation

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Knowing the whole world is at her fingertips is exciting to Valdosta High School senior Rhonda Payton, but she knows too well the stress of deciding what to do with the rest of her life.

As the school year progresses, Miss Payton's graduation day approaches. It's a day she has looked forward to for most of her school years, but the pressures of which college to go to, what major to choose and which profession to enter are closing in on her.

"My high school counselor told me that the first two years of college are just core classes, so I've got some more time to decide," Miss Payton said. Already she has given a lot of thought to upcoming decisions.

She is considering attending Clark Atlanta University and is thinking of two careers — dentistry and business.

"I've always wanted to be a doctor, but I can't stand to see blood," she said smiling. "I figure being a dentist is safe."

Miss Payton, a member of VHS's Future Business Leaders of America,

also is interested in becoming a businesswoman. She enjoys working and through her high school's Cooperative Business Education, she landed a job as the news clerk's assistant at *The Valdosta Daily Times*.

The only job she had prior to *The Times* was at a fast-food restaurant.

"This is really not what I expected," Miss Payton said. "I didn't realize you had to do so much just to put out a paper. It's really different."

Her newspaper duties include typing wedding and engagement announcements, church briefs, Goings On and other briefs into the computer. She enjoys typing in her school news because it helps her to keep up with what's going on in her academic environment.

At VHS, Miss Payton is a member of several clubs and likes being involved. She also is active at her church, Payton A.M.E. in Clyattville, as she is a member of the Junior Usher Board and secretary for the Young People's Department.

Her involvement in church and school have helped her develop goals for her life, and although she is not sure of what her future holds, she's prepared to take one day at a time.

North Teams In, South Still Fights

VDT. M.B. Nov. 5, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

As different as South and North Georgia may be, so are the Class AAAA football playoff pictures for the two halves of the state.

In regions 5-8, the north half of the state, the 16 region-playoff teams have already been unofficially determined. It'll take some minor refining from one game to set the pairings.

But in regions 1-4, eight teams have unofficially clinched berths — including the defending state champion Valdosta High. But there are 12 other teams fighting for the other eight spots.

Here's a look at the regions, as determined by information obtained and calculations by *The Valdosta Daily Times* sports staff.

●REGION 1-AAAA: Top-ranked Valdosta (8-0-1) has clinched the No. 1 spot in the region outright. The Tift County (6-3)-Bainbridge (6-3) winner and Colquitt County (5-4), if it beats Coffee, will be the other two teams.

Coffee, which is lone region team eliminated, can open the door for Lowndes, if the 6-3 Vikings can be Valdosta; Tift, if it lost; and Colquitt. Bainbridge must win.



Rhonda Payton works at a computer terminal at *The Valdosta Daily Times* — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, November 2, 1990

Fight For The 1-AAAA Berths

U-Turn Wildcats Play For Title

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's football team makes a U-turn tonight.

For the first time in over a month, the top-ranked Wildcats won't be getting on a yellow school bus and heading out of town. They'll be back at Cleveland Field for the first time since Sept. 28, this time hosting Coffee High in a Region 1-AAAA game. Kickoff for Valdosta's homecoming is at 8 p.m.

Valdosta High (7-0-1 overall, 3-0 in region) can clinch the Region 1-AAAA title and home-field advantage for the state playoffs with a victory tonight.

"I really like being back home, but October wasn't too bad to us," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. The Wildcats won region road games at Bainbridge, Colquitt County and Tift County in the last three weeks, after one off-week.

And the Wildcats, for the first time in a month, don't have to prepare for one of the region's top passers. Instead, the Trojans bring to Valdosta the region's top-ranked running game.

"They're a very fast team. What we respect about them is that they scored 26 points against Lowndes," Hyder said. "They came back in that game, and they struck in the last 30 seconds against Tifton. They're a capable football team, and well-conditioned."

What Coffee lacks in the passing game it makes up for with a diverse running attack. "We've seen them run 30 different formations," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "With the time change, we've struggled to teach the kids the basics. You've got to line up exactly right."

"They've got a couple of fast backs that can hurt you."



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Valdosta High Wildcats (7-0-1 overall, 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA) vs. Coffee County High Trojans (4-3-1 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAA).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m., tickets on sale at game.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) in Valdosta

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 23, Tift County 7; Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 1 in Georgia AP.

Coffee's workhorse back is fullback Reggie Glover, the region's No. 2 runner (659 yards, eight touchdowns). The halfbacks behind him contribute just as many yards.

But Coffee (4-3-1 overall, 1-2 in region) has a bit of history working against it. The Trojans have never beaten Valdosta in 19 tries, but came close last year in a 10-3 loss in Douglas.

"It comes down to one-on-one matchups, and we don't have the horses," said veteran Coffee High coach Bonwell Royal. "We'll have to play with a lot of intensity. We can't go toe-to-toe with them because we don't have the people."

Coffee came close to a 2-0 start in region play, but a penalty called after a last-second touchdown contributed to the Trojans missing an extra-point attempt in a 21-20 loss to Tift.

Last week, Bainbridge walked away with a 31-8 victory over Coffee.

Vikings Need Win For Playoff Spot

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When the Lowndes High Vikings board their bus for Bainbridge, thoughts of a post-season appearance will be with them.

And if Lowndes (6-2, 1-2) can come away with the win tonight at Centennial Field, combined with losses tonight by both Coffee High and Tift County, the Vikings will have clinched a playoff berth.

Even with one week remaining in the Region 1-AAAA slate, the Vikes, should they lose to Valdosta, would do no worse than a tie for the final playoff spot. And due to a 4-0 mark against non-region Class AAAA opponents, Lowndes would be in the playoffs.

With the cards are on the table, can the Vikings deal themselves a winning hand?

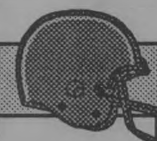
"It's the biggest game we've played since I've been here at Lowndes High," said Lowndes head coach Rick Tomberlin. "We certainly don't have to be reminded of the playoff situation and the kids seemed to be very focused. We're going up against a fine Bainbridge team and we're going to have to play the best we've played all year to win it."

Tomberlin points to consistency as well as pressure when it comes to the 5-3 Bearcats, a team which needs to win its final region games to make the playoffs.

Both the Bearcats' explosive passing game and talented defensive unit must be controlled according to Tomberlin. And the quickest way he feels his team can do this is control the football.

"Moving the football and keeping the Bearcats' offense off the field is going to be the key," said Tomberlin. "They are a very sound team all the way around and Coach Smart has done a great job with that team. We can't make any mistakes and expect to win this game. Bainbridge is just too good."

When the Vikings want to churn up yardage, they will more than likely turn to I-back Chris



TONIGHT

THE GAME: Lowndes High Vikings (6-2 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAA) vs. Bainbridge High Bearcats (5-3 overall, 1-2 in Region 1-AAAA).

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Centennial Stadium, Bainbridge; gates open at 6:30 p.m.; tickets available

ON THE AIR: WSTI-FM (105.3) in Valdosta; WMGR-AM (930) in Bainbridge (Bainbridge broadcast).

LAST WEEK: Colquitt County 20, Lowndes 17; Bainbridge 31, Coffee 8

Wright. The shifty running back is No. 3 among Region 1-AAAA rushers with 624 yards and nine touchdowns.

Through the air, senior receiver Ivory "Tricky" Williams heads the Vikes' list. Williams has caught seven passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, lineman Anthony Hargett leads his team in tackles with 57, while linebacker Randall Godfrey has 56.

With the passing prowess of Bainbridge, defensive end Damion Shiver will be called upon to put pressure on BHS' quarterback Brian Powell. Shiver, who is the region's top pass rusher, has 45 tackles and 10 quarterback sacks this season.

NO. 1 VALDOSTA 30, COFFEE 29



Valdosta High's Carlos Moore (88) moves upfield during Friday night's Region 1-AAAA game at Cleveland Field. Pur-

suing Moore is Coffee High's Eddie Dunlap (32) — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

VDT, Sat, Nov 3, 1990
Valdosta Wins Region Again

Whatever Happened To . . . / A Weekly Feature About Former Sports Stars

V. Times 11-1-90
'Dipper' Davis Moves To Another Football Hotbed

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Just one year removed from the coaching wars in the Valdosta City School System, William Davis is back in another football hotbed in Southwest Georgia.

This fall, Davis took over as the offensive line coach for Class AAA power Worth County High School in Sylvester.

And while Davis, nicknamed Dipper, states nothing can compare to his playing days at Cleveland Field, the Rams have captured the Class AAA title three of the past four years.

Davis says his days under the gun playing for Valdosta High (1977-80) and later coaching

at VJHS, prepared him for the pressures at Worth County.

"I think the change and background in high school and playing in a big-time football situation toughened me up for the type pressures at Worth County," said Davis. "I give a lot of the credit for my rise in coaching to Coach (Norman) Sainz (former Valdosta Junior High head coach). He taught me a lot from just a coaching standpoint and it's helped me out a great deal to have played in such pressure-packed games as the Wildcats have had in the past.

"Of course, we do some things here differently but the principals are the same," Davis said. "The biggest adjustment is just learn a

new system and new way of doing things. We have a top-notch program here and the pressure is as great as anywhere I've been."

Before taking over his first varsity position at Worth, Davis coached four years at Valdosta Junior High School.

His first two seasons were spent as the defensive line coach for the Alleycat team. Then he took over the offensive line duties for Sainz and the Tomcat eighth-grade squad.

Worth County (6-2) needs only a win over Albany High Friday to clinch a playoff spot in Region 1-AAA. But long before Davis was mapping out blocking schemes for the Rams, coaching was not in his plans while attending college.

"I actually did not have coaching on my mind in college, and I just decided to give it a chance months after I finished," said Davis. "It is and the pressure to win around here that's so great. Coach (Milt) Miller has built a great program and winning is what they expect."

Davis and his wife Trina have been married for four years and they have three children. The oldest child is named Jessica, who is four. William IV is two and they have an eight-month-old daughter named Julie.

"My family is the key to the whole thing. Because the football is season a very trying time and getting to be with wife and kids is tough sometimes," said Davis. "But my wife supports what I'm doing 100 percent, but I do enjoy spending time with my family."

Valdosta Wins Winnerville, 16-7

V Times 11-10-90



Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson (15) turns upfield for some yardage against Lowndes High Friday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Last Half Boosts Cats

V-Times

11-10-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High football team turned back the clock Friday night at Cleveland Field, and turned away its cross-town rival for the fifth straight time.

The top-ranked Wildcats (9-0-1) ran 30 running plays without a pass in the second half, posting 13 unanswered points in the final 24 minutes to defeat Lowndes, 16-7, before a packed house of 12,000 rain-drenched fans at the old field.

The victory was Valdosta's eighth-straight, and helped it complete the Region 1-AAAA slate at a perfect 5-0. Lowndes (6-4, 1-4) could have made the 1-AAAA playoff game with a victory, combined with Coffee's 10-7 win over Colquitt Friday night, but didn't.

Bainbridge defeated Tift County, 10-7, Friday night in Tifton, setting up a region-playoff rematch between the two schools on Nov. 16 in Bainbridge. Valdosta is off on Nov. 16, and will meet the Northside-Warner Robins-Evans winner in the first round of the state playoffs on Nov. 23 at Cleveland Field.

"We didn't fold up under adversity and a fired-up Lowndes bunch," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "We were back on the ropes but never went to the canvas. We didn't pull a Buster Douglas."

Valdosta was down 7-3 after the first half, only able to muster 79 yards of total offense in 23 plays. Lowndes did just a little better, compiling 85 total yards on 24 plays. "I thought in the first half we played the kind of game we needed to — real physical style of game," said Lowndes High head coach Rick Tomberlin. "We just stopped ourselves too much in this game."

Then came the transformation, done with power, speed and leadership behind the offensive linemen. The power was fullback Kendrick Patrick (57 yards on 14 carries),

VALDOSTA 16, LOWNDES 7

LOWNDES HIGH 7 0 0 0-7

VALDOSTA HIGH 0 3 6 7-16

LHS — Chris Wright 6 run (Chris Singletary kick)

VHS — Dow Drury 40 FG

VHS — Kendrick Patrick 2 run (kick failed)

VHS — Kendrick Patrick 5 run (Dow Drury kick)

LHS

9 FIRST DOWNS

32-97 RUSHES-YARDS

37 PASSING YARDS

134 PENALTY YARDS

4-10-1 PASSES

5-37-4 PUNTS-AVG.

7-59 PENALTIES-YARDS

2 FUMBLES LOST

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Lowndes: Clay Washington 6-

43, Chris Wright 11-38, Jeffrey Thomas 14-

18, Billy Poole 1-(2). Valdosta: Joe Wright

16-103, Kendrick Patrick 14-57, Alton Hitson

13-42

PASSING: Lowndes: Jeffrey Thomas 2-5-

0 19, Jamie DeLoach 2-5-1 18, Valdosta: Alton

Hitson 4-9-0 58, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0.

RECEIVING: Lowndes: Sedrick Nealoms

1-11, Chad Cowart 1-10, Chris Wright 1-9,

Jeffrey Thomas 1-7, Valdosta: Brice Hunter

1-20, Carlos Moore 1-20, Steve Jaramillo 1-

16, Joe Wright 1-2.

whose touchdown runs of 2 and 5 yards in the second half were the difference on the scoreboard.

The speed was tailback Joe Wright, who had all but three of his game-high 103 yards rushing in the second half.

And the leadership came from quarterback Alton Hitson (42 yards on 13 carries), who ran for six first downs — including the 'Cats last four.

Valdosta ran for 181 yards in the second half, averaging six yards a carry. Half of the game's 202 yards came in the fourth quarter, when Valdosta ran 17 plays to Lowndes' seven.

Lowndes posted just 49 total yards in the second half, 134 for the game.

The Wildcats' first second-half drive came after Lowndes had been stopped just inside midfield after two 10-yard plays. A covered fumble

and a sack on quarterback Jeffrey Thomas snuffed out the series.

Valdosta went 80 yards in 13 plays, with half the yards coming on Wright's 40-yard run to the Lowndes' 29. Patrick ran the ball on six of the next eight plays, including a first down on a third-and-3 from the 22. On third-and-goal from the 2, Patrick powered his way into the end zone and a 9-7 Valdosta lead with 2:18 left in the third quarter. Dow Drury missed the extra point wide-right.

The last drive was set up when Leroy Williams recovered Chris Wright's fumble at the Viking 38. A Lowndes personal foul negated a 4-yard loss by Joe Wright on first down.

On the next play, Joe Wright went 22 yards to the 5, setting up Patrick's blast toward the goal line. Drury's kick made it 16-7 with 11:32 left.

Lowndes had posted the early 7-0 lead on a strange 11-play, 48-yard drive in the first quarter.

The drive was kept alive when Valdosta roughed punter Matt Futch on a fourth-and-17 play at the 44. Lowndes then gave up yardage on an offside call and a 13-yard bad pitch back to the 47.

But Thomas answered with an 11-yard run which turned into 26 yards thanks to a personal foul call against Valdosta. Chris Wright converted on third-and-3 from the 22, then on second-and-5 from the 13. Two plays later, from the 6, Chris Wright bounced off a pile and into the end zone for the touchdown, his 10th of the season. Chris Singletary added the extra-point at the 1:30 mark.

Valdosta successfully threw to open two drives in the second quarter, but the first series ended with a Tony Mathis-led sack at the Lowndes 30.

The second ended with three incomplete passes toward the end zone and Drury's 40-yard field goal, his personal best, with 3:27 left

VALDOSTA 16, LOWNDES 7



Friday night's Winnersville Classic, which the Valdosta High Wildcats won, 16-7 — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Lowndes High defensive back Alton Crawford breaks up a pass intended for Valdosta High receiver Brice Humphrey in

A Big Night For Two Teams Man On The Fence^{VT} Knows Game's Special

11-10-90

By DEE McLELLAND
Times News Editor

The man on the fence knew. Amidst the popping sound of thousands of raincoats being pelted with rain. The man who leaned on the fence surrounding Cleveland Field

It was something special. Valdosta High School's 16-7 win over arch-rival Lowndes High Friday night didn't fit the mold of a regular high school football game. To the people in the stands, it was special, but to the players on the field, it was something they would remember for the rest of their lives.

The man on the fence knew they would. "I can tell you this," the man said while wrapping the garbage bag that

served as his shelter from the showers around his shoulders, "They boys know how special this is. The people that are sitting up in the stands may not think about it again after they get a little something to eat, but those boys will go to sleep for the rest of their lives remembering this night."

A night that had been building all year finally arrived with sweeping winds that brought fierce showers and a multitude of colors in the stands. Bags and plastic sheets of all colors obscured school colors, but the heart and spirit of each team's cheering section was easy to identify.

Waves of sound belloved from each section as the fate and fortunes of the teams changed with each bounce of the ball. First, Lowndes moved with precision and

quickness that would give it the chance it needed to take a 7-0 lead.

The Viking faithful followed in unison with waves of cheers, as the LHS squad made the first big plays of the game.

And then the shift of sound as Valdosta made its statement in the form of several big defensive plays. Up and down the sound went as the Wildcats moved close after a field goal to make it 7-3.

The man knew. "I see it coming," he said. "It's changing, you can feel it." And it did.

Again the rains started to beat down on the famous prep field and with it came the dampening of Lowndes chances.

Valdosta moved to a score to take the lead for the first time 9-7 and

then again added a score to go in front 16-7.

The game was over with the exception of a few plays here and there for both teams in the final minutes. The players continued to battle, Lowndes never giving up and inch without a fight and Valdosta never letting up just like it was down by a single point with only seconds to go.

Finally, something the man on the fence knew from the start was evident to all. There were no winners or losers in a game like this. Each person, player and coach would take something special with him from the 48 minutes on Cleveland Field.

Valdosta and Lowndes. Lowndes and Valdosta.

The Winnersville Classic. Something special. The man on the fence knew.

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

tying points. Dow Drury added the game-winning kick with 5:46 left.

"We had good blocking," Hyder said. "You have to give the line credit. We told them we were going off-tackle and we had to get it in."

Coffee (4-4-1 overall, 1-3 in region) never got past midfield again.

Coffee jumped back into the game in the third quarter after being down 21-10 at intermission. The Trojans recovered a Valdosta fumble after a short kickoff, then scored in two plays — the second a 27-yard Ken Eldridge to Gerry Hill swing pass. But the extra-point kick failed.

Late in the quarter, Coffee took the lead after a 78-yard, eight-play drive. Eldridge had a 35-yard pass play in the drive, then went 21 yards on an option keeper for the touchdown. Coffee led 22-21 with 51 seconds left, but misfired on a two-point pass play.

And the Trojans moved quickly to add another score. Teyon Herring picked off quarterback Alton Hitson's

pass at the Valdosta 46. Eldridge found Hill behind the Valdosta secondary for a 41-yard reception, and three plays later — in the fourth quarter — Glover scored to send Coffee up 29-21.

Valdosta had used some big first-half plays to go up 21-10. Ten plays were of 10 yards or more, with the 'Cats getting 239 of their 352 total yards in the first 24 minutes.

Hitson struck to Jaramillo for a 36-yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, then hit Carlos Folsom on a 41-yard touchdown pass with 2:10 left before halftime.

Between, tailback Joe Wright (89 yards on 12 carries) had weaved his way through the Coffee defense for a 22-yard touchdown near the end of the first quarter. Drury made all three extra points.

Coffee had opened the scoring with Mathew Smith's 27-yard field goal, then Glover scored on a 1-yard drive to cap a 16-play, 81-yard effort to make it 14-10 'Cats.

Region 1-AAAA

STANDINGS

x-Valdosta.....	4-0
Bainbridge.....	2-2
Colquitt.....	2-2
Tift.....	2-2
Lowndes.....	1-3
y-Coffee.....	1-3

x-clinched region championship, Region 1-AAAA No. 1 berth in state playoffs, bye on Nov. 16 y-eliminated from playoff contention

FRIDAY'S SCORES

Valdosta 30, Coffee 29
Tift County 21, Colquitt County 16
Bainbridge 25, Lowndes 0

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Lowndes at Valdosta (annual Winnersville Classic at Cleveland Field)
Bainbridge at Tift
Colquitt at Coffee

Valdosta Wins Winnersville, 16-7



Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson (15) turns upfield for some yardage against Lowndes High Friday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Last Half Boosts Cats

V. Times 10-10-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

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VALDOSTA 16, LOWNDES 7	LOWNDES HIGH	7	0	0	0	7
VALDOSTA HIGH	0	3	6	7	16	

LHS — Chris Wright 6 run (Chris Singletary kick)	VHS	
VHS — Dow Drury 40 FG	VHS	
VHS — Kendrick Patrick 2 run (kick failed)	VHS	
VHS — Kendrick Patrick 5 run (Dow Drury kick)	VHS	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	VHS
FIRST DOWNS	16
RUSHES-YARDS	43-202
PASSING YARDS	58
TOTAL YARDS	260
PASSES	4-10-1
PUNTS-AVG.	4-10-0
PELVITIES-YARDS	3-44-3
FUMBLES LOST	4-60
	2

RUSHING: Lowndes: Clay Washington 6-43, Chris Wright 11-38, Jeffrey Thomas 14-18, Billy Poole 1-(2). Valdosta: Joe Wright 16-103, Kendrick Patrick 14-57, Alton Hitson 13-42.

PASSING: Lowndes: Jeffrey Thomas 2-5-0 19, Jamie DeLoach 2-5-1 18, Valdosta: Alton Hitson 4-9-0 58, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0.

RECEIVING: Lowndes: Sedrick Neloms 1-11, Chad Covart 1-10, Chris Wright 1-9, Jeffrey Thomas 1-7, Valdosta: Bruce Hunter 1-20, Carlos Moore 1-20, Steve Jaramillo 1-16, Joe Wright 1-2.

whose touchdown runs of 2 and 5 yards in the second half were the difference on the scoreboard.

The speed was tailback Joe Wright, who had all but three of his game-high 103 yards rushing in the second half.

And the leadership came from quarterback Alton Hitson (42 yards on 13 carries), who ran for six first downs — including the 'Cats last four.

Valdosta ran for 181 yards in the second half, averaging six yards a carry. Half of the game's 202 yards came in the fourth quarter, when Valdosta ran 17 plays to Lowndes' seven.

Lowndes posted just 49 total yards in the second half, 134 for the game.

The Wildcats' first second-half drive came after Lowndes had been stopped just inside midfield after two 10-yard plays. A covered fumble

and a sack on quarterback Jeffrey Thomas snuffed out the series.

Valdosta went 80 yards in 13 plays, with half the yards coming on Wright's 40-yard run to the Lowndes' 29. Patrick ran the ball on six of the next eight plays, including a first down on a third-and-3 from the 22. On third-and-goal from the 2, Patrick powered his way into the end zone and a 9-7 Valdosta lead with 2:18 left in the third quarter. Dow Drury missed the extra point wide right.

The last drive was set up when Leroy Williams recovered Chris Wright's fumble at the Viking 38. A Lowndes personal foul negated a 4-yard loss by Joe Wright on first down.

On the next play, Joe Wright went 22 yards to the 5, setting up Patrick's blast toward the goal line. Drury's kick made it 16-7 with 11:32 left.

Lowndes had posted the early 7-0 lead on a strange 11-play, 48-yard drive in the first quarter.

The drive was kept alive when Valdosta roughed punter Matt Futch on a fourth-and-17 play at the 44. Lowndes then gave up yardage on an offside call and a 13-yard bad pitch back to the 47.

But Thomas answered with an 11-yard run which turned into 26 yards thanks to a personal foul call against Valdosta. Chris Wright converted on third-and-3 from the 22, then on second-and-5 from the 13. Two plays later, from the 6, Chris Wright bounced off a pile and into the end zone for the touchdown, his 10th of the season. Chris Singletary added the extra-point at the 1:50 mark.

Valdosta successfully threw to open two drives in the second quarter, but the first series ended with Tony Mathis-led sack at the Lowndes 30.

The second ended with three incomplete passes toward the end zone and Drury's 40-yard field goal, his personal best, with 3:27 left.

LHS, VHS Students Compete

The Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission announces the first annual Winnersville Art Competition. Nationally recognized award-winning artists will be judging the competition.

The high schools will be competing off the field in an art competition at the Cultural Arts Center. Lowndes and Valdosta High art students are competing during the month of November with representative art. More than 60 drawings, sketches and paintings representing the best of the high schools are now on display.

Awards and trophies will be announced and presented to the winning school and individuals. The art is on exhibit Monday through Friday at the Cultural Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St. For information call 247-2787.



Student Julie Dietrich and Art Teacher Debbie Barnard of Lowndes High School study the painting of Spencer Skinner of Valdosta High School — Photo By Mike Tanner.

Questions And Answers/A Discussion With A Sports Figure VDT. Sun., Nov. 11, 1990

Hyder's Thoughts On Winnersville

■ More on Lowndes, Page 3-C

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Friday night's 16-7 Winnersville Classic victory by Valdosta High over Lowndes High was VHS head coach Nick Hyder's 190th at the school.

Seventeen of those wins have come against Lowndes, a total second only to the 20 wins Hyder-coached Valdosta teams have over Tift County.

Hyder spoke with *The Valdosta Daily Times* after Friday's game. Here are some of his thoughts:

QUESTION: Your thoughts on the first half (with Valdosta down 7-3)?

HYDER: Not folding under adversity, three 15-yard penalties, hitting well and banging real well. The 'Cats were back on the ropes but never went to the canvas. They stayed up and stayed battling.

The players adjusted real well at halftime, made great suggestions to the coaches.

As hard as Joe Wright gets hit, he keeps on coming back. He keeps twisting and turning. Alton Hitson is the same way. They are just little ole' 160-170 pounds kids. So was David when he beat Goliath.

Our conditioning paid off real well. We work harder on the spiritual and moral conditioning than we do the physical. The mental is an everyday affair.

QUESTION: What was the reac-

tion from Valdosta High fans?

HYDER: I asked several people tonight that if they thought 10 weeks ago we'd still be undefeated on Nov. 9. Most said no, but we are.

QUESTION: What about the defense, especially after the early touchdown?

HYDER: I'm proud our defense hung in there and made adjustments. Jeffrey Thomas is slippery. And their 35 (Clay Washington) had a good night, an excellent night. We went after 17 (Thomas) and 28 (Chris Wright), and here comes 35 five or six times.

Then they put out Jeffrey at receiver. Had they been doing that? It wasn't in our scouting reports, but we had gathered that they would do it from your newspaper.



NICK HYDER

Who's Going Where? Friday's Games Decide

VDT. Mon., Nov. 12, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The 30 teams vying for a shot at the Class AAAA state football championship have been decided — barring a last-minute ruling or two. So what are some of the matchups one can anticipate in the next month?

In the top half of the bracket, where defending champion Valdosta High stands as Region 1-AAAA's No. 1 team, the champions from regions 1, 4, 5 and 8 will be entered with the No. 2 teams from regions 2, 3, 6 and 7.

Who may those teams be? It's not yet decided for sure, but here's *The Valdosta Daily Times'* unofficial look at the top half of the bracket.

● **NOV. 23 GAME NO. 1:** Valdosta High will host the Northside Warner Robins-Evans winner, a game schedule for Friday night.

Valdosta High and Warner Robins, the co-No. 1 teams in last week's Georgia Associated Press poll, got byes into the state tournament because of the way their regions handled their playoff system.

● **NOV. 23 GAME NO. 2:** In Region 3-AAAA, Effingham County will not fall in this half of the bracket. If it wins over Bradwell Institute, it will be the No. 1 team.

Savannah Beach will be the No. 2 team if it defeats Statesboro. Bradwell Institute will be No. 2 if it wins and Statesboro wins, and Statesboro will be No. 2 if it wins and Effingham County wins.

The No. 1 team from Region 4-AAAA could be any of the four region-playoff teams. LaGrange would be No. 1 if it won over Griffin and Fayette County defeated Morrow. Morrow would be No. 1 if it won and LaGrange won.

Fayette County would be No. 1 if it won and Griffin won. If Griffin and Morrow won, the Nos. 1 and 2 spots would be decided by a vote of the region members.

● **NOV. 23 GAME NO. 3:** McEachern will be No. 1 in Region 5-AAAA if it defeats Paulding County. If not, the Alexander-Pebblebrook winner would be No. 1.

In Region 6-AAAA, the Wheeler-Walton winner will be No. 2 if unbeaten Marietta wins. If Pope upsets Marietta, then Pope is No. 2.

Marietta, the lone unbeaten and untied Class AAAA team in Georgia, will not fall into Valdosta's half of the bracket.

● **NOV. 23 GAME NO. 4:** In Region 7-AAAA, Douglass will be the No. 2 team if it beats Stone Mountain. Mays will be No. 2 if it wins over Southwest DeKalb and Stone Mountain wins, while Stone Mountain will be No. 2 if it wins and Southwest DeKalb wins.

Southwest DeKalb will not be in Valdosta's half of the bracket.

If Clarke Central defeats Central Gwinnett, it sets up the chance that Valdosta and Clarke Central could meet outside of a state-championship game for the first time since 1939. Clarke Central would be the No. 1 team.

If Clarke Central loses, the Brookwood-Cedar Shoals winner will be the No. 1 team.

Area Teachers Have Different Roles

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Mary Jane Wetherington and Nancy Johnson are teachers who operate a little differently from their constituents — they don't have classrooms.

Mrs. Wetherington, with the Valdosta School System, and Mrs. Johnson, with the Lowndes School

System, are teachers for hospital or homebound students. The service allows a student to keep up with his school assignments and prevents him from being counted absent even though he is not in class.

"If they are good students when they're in school, they will be good students when they're out," Mrs. Wetherington said while tutoring Valdosta High School junior Malika Taylor, a burn victim.

Both teachers spend a minimum of three hours a week with each student they see. They take the students assignments from their classroom teachers and tutor them on a one-on-one basis.

To Malika, the program is a God-send. After her recent accident, her biggest worry was getting behind in school. She is a hard-working student

who wants to become a lawyer.

"I'm working hard here at home because I just don't want to make bad grades," the 11th-grader said. She said Mrs. Wetherington has helped her tremendously and eased her fear of falling behind.

The teachers mostly assist students who have injured in accidents or who have chronic illnesses such as cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia

and asthma. They do not tutor any student suffering from a contagious ailment.

"Each day you have to be flexible — according to how the child feels," said Mrs. Wetherington, who has taught hospital/homebound students since 1978. Before then she taught fifth and sixth grades for the city school system.

See TEACHERS, Page 2-A

Teachers

From Page 1-A

Mrs. Johnson was a classroom teacher for 16 years before taking the hospital/homebound teacher position for the county two years ago.

Although both teachers get satisfaction out of helping students stay abreast of their school work during critical times in their lives, they miss the teacher/classroom bond they had in the school building.

"I do miss the bond I had in the classroom, but there is a different type of bond I get from doing what I do now," Mrs. Johnson said. "You can teach so much more one-on-one, and you really want to help the students personally."

One disadvantage is not being with the students long enough to see them grasp a concept, Mrs. Wetherington said. But she did teach one student for three years. That student is now attending the University of Georgia, she said.

Valdosta Falls From Number One

The Associated Press

Warner Robins edged out Valdosta for the No. 1 spot in Class AAAA on the Georgia high school football poll as the state's best teams prepared to compete in regional playoffs.

The Demons, who tied Valdosta last week in first-place, moved ahead of the defending Class AAAA champion by grabbing two first-place votes and 91 points. Valdosta received six first-place votes but only 89 points from The Associated Press board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Both Warner Robins and the Wildcats received 90 points from the voters last week.

Class AAAA LaGrange and Cedar Shoals returned at third

and fourth after the final games of regular season play. Each team grabbed one first-place vote.

Other teams in the class maintained their positions, with the exception of Bradwell Institute, which dropped off the list from 10th place.

Effingham County and Statesboro moved onto the poll tied at 10th.

Class AAA

The top six teams in the class returned to their positions. No. 1 Marist grabbed seven first-place nods and 94 points, while second-ranked Cairo had three first-place votes and 91 points.

Lakeside-DeKalb, previously ranked 10th, moved up to seventh; Kendrick returned at eighth; Burke County dropped from seventh to ninth; and Worth County dropped from ninth to 10th.

Class AA

Mitchell-Baker received eight first-place votes and 98 points to stay at the top of a class that remained unchanged this week. Jeff Davis had 82 points and received one first-place vote.

Class A

Class A's top five teams held onto their spots as the bottom half of the poll saw changes.

Monticello lost its sixth place position and fell from the list, leaving room for Dacula to move up from seventh. Bowdon, previously ranked eighth, stepped up to seventh and Gordon Lee grabbed eighth, moving up two spots from last week.

Miller County returned at ninth and East Rome moved onto the poll in the 10th spot.

AAAA Poll

1. Warner Robins (9-1), 91.
 2. Valdosta (9-0-1), 89.
 3. LaGrange (9-1), 79.
 4. Cedar Shoals (9-1), 70.
 5. Southwestern DeKalb (9-1), 49.
 6. Marietta (10-0), 45.
 7. Clarke Central (8-2), 44.
 8. Griffin (8-2), 35.
 9. Fayette Co. (9-1), 21.
 10. Effingham Co. (8-2-0), 9.
- (tie) Statesboro (tie) receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Bradwell Institute, Brookwood, Morrow and Stone Mountain.

Valdosta Takes Home Night Off

By GREG McILVAIN

Times Sports Editor

Fri. Nov. 16, 1990

For the first time since 1976, the Valdosta High School football team doesn't have to worry about playing a playoff football game on the Friday following the completion of the regular season.

No, the Wildcats didn't get beat in a tiebreaker game on Tuesday, as they did against Thomasville Central in 1976. And it's not like 1974, the last year Valdosta High failed to make the playoffs.

It's 1990, the year of the new playoff format in Georgia high school football. Valdosta High has a bye, and awaits tonight's Evans-Northside winner for a game first-round state-playoff game Nov. 23 at Cleveland Field.

Instead, the Wildcats practiced Tuesday through Thursday, ending the week with an evening meal sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club. There's no practice today, with most of the coaches heading to Warner Robins tonight.

"We've argued all along that the percentage-winner, no matter who it is, needs to have some type of reward from the regular season," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "Otherwise the regular season doesn't have the meaning it should have."

"This (an off-week) is a good compromise, no matter who it is."

The Wildcats spent the three days of practice working on the general tendencies of both Northside and Evans. "We're familiar with their defense and offense sets," Hyder said. "Northside runs a Wing-T type of thing with a multiple approach to that. Evans is a wishbone team with a lot of passing."

"We'll scout the winner (tonight)."

Hyder will be joined in Warner Robins tonight by most of the varsity staff and two advance scouts — Tim Horton and Hodges McLendon.

At home, the Wildcats were able to use the week to mend from some injuries. Guard Jay Bowling played Friday's Lowndes game with three broken fingers, but has not had any contact work this week.

Quarterback Alton Hitson has continued to be held back from heavy contact work due to a number of nagging injuries.

Sophomore Steven Everson got most of the work in practice at quarterback, similar to the last two weeks, and was joined by fellow sophomore John Bell, who returns

2-AAAA Foes Meet Once Again

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Two Region 2-AAAA teams will get a second shot at each other tonight, with the winner getting at shot at second-ranked Valdosta next week.

Evans (5-5) travels to Warner Robins and International City Stadium tonight to meet Northside-Warner Robins (6-4) in their region-playoff game. Kickoff is at 8 p.m.

In their first meeting, Northside won 17-7. That started a four-game winning streak which ended Friday night against city rival Warner Robins, 41-6.

Evans won three of its last four games after the loss, beating Butler, 35-0, to clinch the playoff berth last Friday.

Northside has played Valdosta four times before, losing all four games by a combined 148-14 score. The teams met most recently in 1988 and 1989, with Valdosta posting two shutouts, including a 35-0 victory last season.

Evans and Valdosta have never met.

after breaking his collarbone in a junior varsity vs. ninth-grade game in late September.

●WILDCAT NOTES: Valdosta High did finish the regular season as the high-scoring team in Region 1-AAAA, averaging 20.7 points and edging Bainbridge and Colquitt County by four points, Coffee by six. The Wildcats were fourth in rushing and passing offense, fifth in total offense.

Valdosta was second in scoring defense (10.3 points) behind Bainbridge (9.5). The Wildcats were third in rushing, passing and total defense.

Individually, tailback Joe Wright was third in rushing (721 yards). Hitson was fourth in passing, while Steve Jaramillo was fourth in receiving (17 catches, 216 yards) and third in punting (38.6 yards). Kicker Dow Drury was seventh in scoring (40 points) ...

Despite its fall from No. 1 to No. 2 in this week's Georgia Associated Press poll, the Wildcats rose two spots to No. 14 in this week's USA Today national poll. Georgia's new No. 1, Warner Robins, wasn't ranked in USA Today.

at Ball St. (5-4)
at Indiana (2-5-1)
7 at Iowa St. (4)
Kans. (3-1)
at Kent St. (1-1)
at Michigan (6-2)
at North. (1-1)
Northwest
Dome (6-1)
at Penn St. (1-1)
at Ohio St. (1-1)
at Penn St. (1-1)
at Penn St. (1-1)

Hitson fills leader's role for Valdosta

By Mike Stephenson
Sports writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — It was the fall practice before last season and Valdosta High School quarterbacks and running backs coach Mike O'Brien noticed that his new quarterback was walking strangely.

"Are you all right?" O'Brien asked Alton Hitson.

"Coach, it only hurts when I move," Hitson replied without trying to be the least bit funny.

Hitson knew he had a job to do, and he wasn't going to let a pair of painful hips — sore from the grind of practice sessions — keep him from it. He wasn't seeking sympathy or special treatment. He was just answering the question.

The Wildcats' No. 1 quarterback, senior Jason Nichols, had broken his leg on the first day of practice in pads. Backup Deric Cotton still was recovering from knee surgery.

Hitson, then a junior who had played quarterback as a ninth-grader before moving to receiver as a sophomore on the varsity, was *the* man. Suddenly, he was the quarterback for one of the most famous high school football teams in the country. He had a job to do.

"From that day on, he took every snap, and he got a lot of respect from the team for playing with pain," O'Brien said.

For Valdosta coach Nick Hyder, Hitson's contribution is clear.

"He stepped in that very day and the rest is history," Hyder said. "We won the [Class AAAA] state championship."

Hitson attributed the success the team has had since he became the quarterback to his teammates and O'Brien.

"It wasn't too difficult," said Hitson, who is pursuing a second title as he leads Valdosta (9-0-1) into the state playoffs against Warner Robins Northside (7-4) Friday in Valdosta. "Coach O'Brien helped me. He made it pretty easy.

"I had a lot of pressure, but we had a lot of players last year that carried a lot of the weight."

That's pure Hitson. He's a soft-spoken, dedicated player who will do anything to help the team win.

If the coaches told Hitson they needed an offensive guard, he would be ready to step right in and line up with the big boys, O'Brien said.

"He never says a word," O'Brien said. "He never asks to get out of practice. If he's out of practice, we hold him out of practice."

Hitson's poise and dedication are drawn from his family, especially his mother, Gloria. She raised Hitson by herself after his father died in an automobile accident about 10 years ago.

"My father, he never got to see me play any sports," Hitson said. "I try to do my best to please him, and I still think about my father a lot."

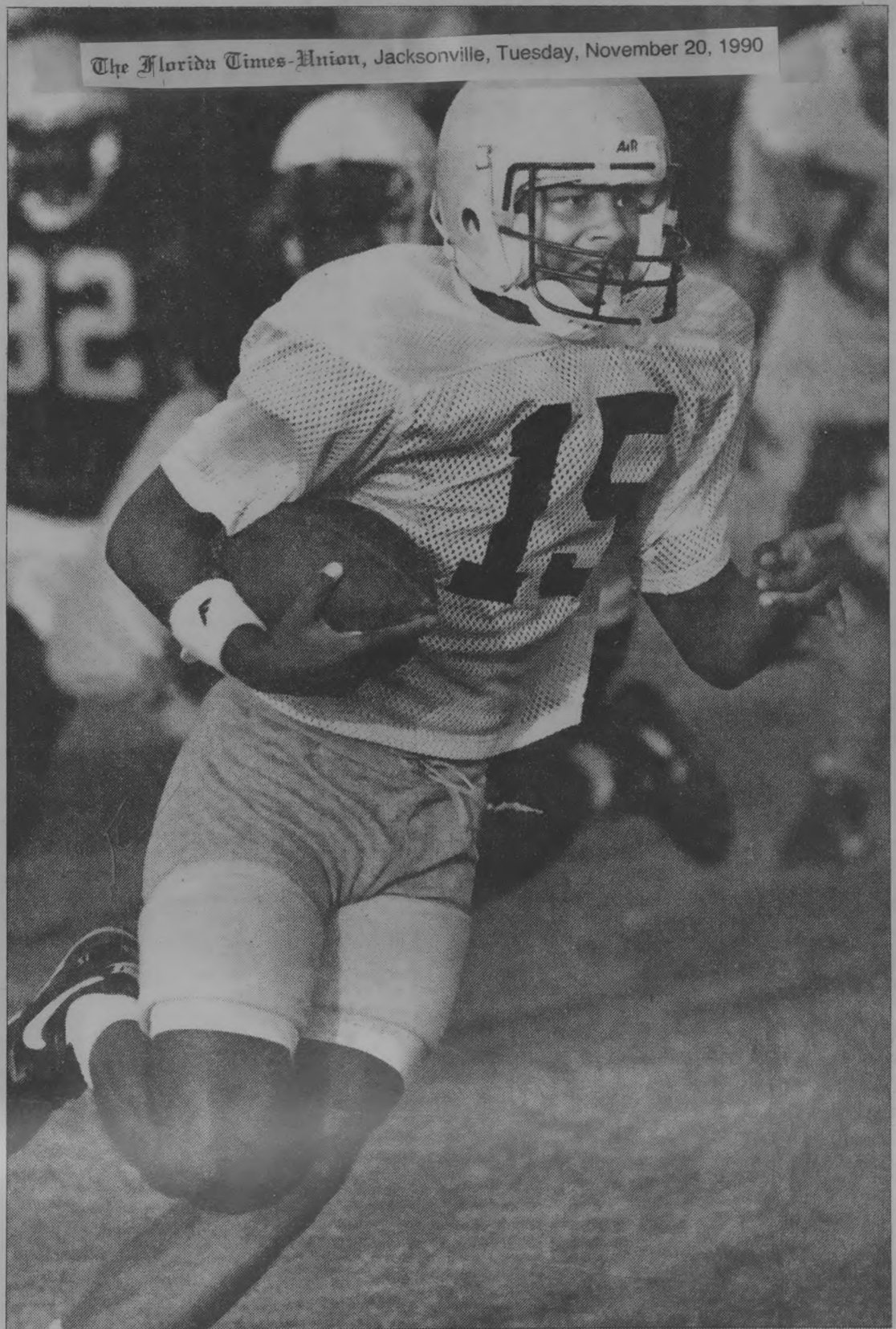
The loss of his father had a great influence on his personality, Hitson said.

"It made me mature a lot quicker," he said. "I can keep my mind on what other people are doing. Like the offense, I know what I have to do, and I know what they have to do to keep it going."

At 175 pounds, Hitson doesn't have great size, he doesn't have great speed and his statistics don't glitter. He's 46 of 101 passing for 822 yards with seven touchdowns and three interceptions. He has carried 109 times for 284 yards and six touchdowns.

Hitson isn't the kind of player who makes college recruiters drool. He isn't being inundated with calls and letters from the major powers. In fact, he said

The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville, Tuesday, November 20, 1990



— Staff/file

Alton Hitson: Valdosta is 21-1-1 with him starting at quarterback.

he'd probably rather play baseball in the future.

But what endears him to the Valdosta football coaching staff is that Hitson does have desire, and he is a leader. It's hard for others to shirk responsibility when they see what Hitson has done.

"His statistics don't really lift out great yardage or anything like that," Hyder said before Valdosta closed out its season with victories over Coffee and Lowndes. "[But] since he's started, we've won 21, lost one and tied one. That might stand out. He hasn't done that by himself."

Although senior running back Carlos Parker (1,750 yards and 25 touchdowns) was a major part of the offense last season, Hitson had his moments. In the 33-13 state championship victory over Clarke Central, Hitson broke the game open with a 65-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

"That was my best game of last year," Hitson said. "I think it was the best sports moment that I've

had."

This season, with Parker gone, Hitson has become a larger part of the offense. The Wildcats don't throw a lot, but when they do, it's usually a clutch situation. Hitson's passing has improved greatly since last season, making Valdosta a threat even when it's third and long.

"To me, if he was in Las Vegas playing poker, he'd be a millionaire," O'Brien said. "Whether we're up by 20 or down by 20, his expression never changes."

Of course, Valdosta rarely is behind, much less by 20, but Hitson still has had to face the pressure that comes with a visible position at a well-known school in a state championship game.

As he showed off the championship ring from that first title, Hitson said: "That's what I'm striving for, to get another one."

Pure Hitson. Statistics don't matter, just the ultimate team goal.

Wildcats Do It Running

V. Times 11-10-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The first half of Friday night's Winnersville Classic was a sight too familiar to 1990 Valdosta High fans.

Lowndes High had stuffed back the running attack. A few Valdosta High passes fell complete, but others headed toward the end zone didn't. For the fifth time this season, the Wildcats were behind in a game.

But once again, Valdosta High used that 20-minute, band-filled intermission to regroup and reload.

And, oh my, did it happen.

Thirty second-half plays. Thirty running plays. A net total of 181 rushing yards in 24 minutes.

And that 7-3 deficit by halftime turned into a 16-7 victory for the Wildcats — their ninth in 10 Winnersville Classics, and their 23rd overall in 28 meetings with the crosstown folks.

"We made some mistakes in the first half. They were stunting and we were missing people," said running back coach Mike O'Brien. "We messed up early. It was a total mess up. Backs, line, everything."

"At halftime, the offensive line-men got together," added line coach Jerry Don Baker. "We felt we were doing the same thing we did at Bainbridge (a 3-0 Valdosta victory). We were very passive and tentative about our blocks. We weren't getting after people. We were waiting for somebody else to do it for us."

Instead, the Wildcats did it for themselves.

"We just settled down at half and really ran what we planned to run. We just executed a little better," said O'Brien.

"The offensive line came around and started blocking. That's what won the game for us," said senior tailback Joe Wright, who looked for a half to be playing second-fiddle to cousin Chris, the Vikings' top runner. Instead, Joe Wright ran for 100 second-half yards on 11 carries, finishing the night with 103 yards on 16 carries.

"I didn't think it would turn around like it did, but I hoped it would and I'm glad it did."

To O'Brien, it all added up.

"They had three deep and four linebackers," he said. "They've got seven men back in the secondary, four on the line of scrimmage that have to stop seven of us. The score speaks for itself."

Wright took care of the explosive end of the deal. His 40-yard run on a sweep right helped set up the first touchdown. A 22-yarder set up the second, while a 14-yard blast started off another drive.

Quarterback Alton Hitson got the important yards. Of Valdosta's 10 offensive first downs in the second half, Hitson got six. His long runs of 15 and 11 yards helped sustain the night's final drive. He'd rather, however, forget the two fourth-quarter fumbles which stopped drives.

Fullback Kendrick Patrick will be Friday's designated scorer. While other people may have got the 'Cats near the end zone, he got them in with runs of 2 and 5 yards. Patrick had two runs of nine yards each, not the numbers of those above but good enough.

"I give it all to the offensive line-men. I couldn't do it without them," Patrick said modestly. He did get 23 of the last 29 yards on the first drive.

Patrick Answers Call

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Here's one of those stories about how it pays off to be prepared when called upon.

Kendrick Patrick's senior season hadn't been something to remember. He had started one Valdosta High game at fullback, but that game ended in a tie. In a later three-game period, he had just one carry.

But when the Wildcats made a change at fullback for the Tift County game, Patrick answered the call. And Patrick's made it a senior season to remember so far.

In the last three games, Patrick has rushed for 153 yards on 35 carries. He's also scored four touchdowns in that time, including Valdosta High's last three — part of the effort which has pushed the Wildcats into the state Class AAAA playoffs again.

"I just wanted it, that's all," Patrick said after Monday's practice. "I didn't start the beginning of the season. Now I have the playoffs to make up for it."

Patrick's had to fight off his share of obstacles to get to this point. He was one of a few experienced backs returning for the 1990 season, but had missed spring practice because he was ineligible.

"I had forgotten some of the plays and had got out of shape, and I wasn't doing well blocking," Patrick said. "I missed a lot, but I regained it."

Then, Patrick said, "I had an attitude problem. I was thinking of myself."

By the third game, at Wayne County, Patrick was on the bench. Sophomore David Williams was starting.

"I thought coach didn't believe in me, but I realized it wasn't his fault," Patrick said. "It was my fault. I had the lazy attitude. I just gave up."

It took some talk from his friends and teammates, and more from
See PATRICK, Page 2-B

Patrick

From Page 1-B

coaches, to get Patrick back on track.

"I realized that if I could play up to my abilities, I could have a starting position. I made up my mind," Patrick said. "If I wanted it, it was left up to me."

"I wanted it bad enough, so I jumped in there and got it."

Getting his yards isn't the only thing Patrick's doing. He's been blocking for tailback Joe Wright, who's upped his rushing average over 15 yards a game the last three games, and taken some of the running pressure off a battered quarterback Alton Hitson.

And he's scored a touchdown a game in the last three games, including the two second-half scores which pushed Valdosta past Lowndes two weeks ago.

It's far different from the beginning of the season. "I didn't think I'd be doing this," Patrick said.

But sticking it out paid off.



Valdosta High fullback Kendrick Patrick has shined during the second half of his senior

campaign. He hopes to cap it with a championship — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Kevin Hiers and Ann McCranie, co-anchors, run through a rehearsal of Valdosta High School's news broadcast as Wendy

Whatley directs, Jennifer Launey operates the camera and Bill Roberts works the sound — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Valdosta High Starts Television News Show

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

The next Tom Brokaw or Dan Rather could come from Valdosta High School. The school has started its own news broadcast which will air twice a month.

Twelve students in the VHS Video Club are digging up stories and filming their own news show. A test airing was on TCI Cablevision Co.'s Channel 36 Tuesday at 6 p.m., and the same show will air again tonight — same channel, same time.

The first broadcast includes stories on academics, scholarships, clubs and sports. Not only are the students doing the news casting, but they are also learning the technical end of getting out the news, teacher Ralph Guarino said.

Student Kevin Hiers, one of the co-anchors, said he is gaining public speaking experience, research skills and basic writing skills by participating in the broadcasts.

"It's a lot of fun," said student Wendy Whatley, one of the newscasters. "I'm learning a lot."

The broadcasts are being done through the VHS Video Club since no classroom time is devoted to the project. However, Guarino is hopeful the project will develop into a class for credit.

For now, 12 students are volunteering their time to get the news out. Those students are Jennifer Launey, Ann McCranie, brothers Bill and Tom Howard, Bill Roberts, Wendy Whatley, Kevin Hiers, Teri Lamorev, Brian Adams, Ken Hall, Showanna Brown and Darrel Jones.

Other VHS teachers helping with the project are Van Phillips, Tammy Parker and Norma Gail Spencer.

Valdosta VICA Students Bring Home State Awards

VDT. *Sun, Nov 18, 1990*
Staff Reports

Valdosta High School's Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Chapter sent 12 members to the Georgia VICA Leadership Conference in Atlanta recently and brought home several awards.

The students won a second-place membership trophy for 1989-1990.

The group also was able to work toward its Statesman Award.

In order to receive the special pin, students must recite the VICA creed, pledge and the uniform. Receiving the Statesmen Award were Ryan Collins, Rebecca Morgan, Jessica Morgan, Permelia Moore, Nicole Moore, Coy Peterson, Rodney Jones, Clarence Duvall, Lydia Freeman, Robert McSween and Eric Stanley.

The youth organization is composed of students in trade, industrial, health occupation and technical courses. The adviser of the group is Lynne Wilson.

The opening ceremony was headed by Georgia group President Dina Boswell. Tiombe Lockhart sang and Randy Kimby spoke, telling the group to "always do the best that you can with whatever you have available," and "reach for the highest star and believe that it is attainable."

The group also attended several training sessions.

Those training sessions included "Public Speaking and Communications," "Etiquette and Personal Appearance," "Club Management and Public Relations" and "How to Make Meetings Fun."

Channel 1 Good News For Valdosta Schools

V. Times 11-2-90

"I think it may be one of the best things we've started in a long time," said VHS Principal William Aldrich.

Produced by Whittle Educational Network, Channel One has three different kinds of shows. The first is a 15-minute student news and information program. It consists of world news, special stories and three minutes of commercials.

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School administrators, teachers and students say Channel One, a new educational television program in the curriculum, is good news despite commercials sprinkled throughout the show.

Another is a series of programs designed for supplemental teaching tools which make up the "classroom channel."

There also is a collection of programs for teachers which makes up the "educator's channel."

All Channel One programs are broadcast between 3 and 6 a.m. and are recorded automatically by a VCR.

in the school. The news programs are then played during homeroom period the same day.

Programs on the classroom channel and educator's channel are filed in the school library where teachers can check them out as needed.

"It's making me look at things differently," said VHS senior Rookie Gage. "It's on our level — even the

broadcasters are not much older than us."

Senior Claire Dempsey said the newscast is discussed throughout the day with both teachers and other students.

Colorful graphics and quick-paced news stories keep students' interest, they said.

"I think the students need to be exposed to the news, and this is probably the only exposure some of them get," said Lee Pulliam, chairman of VHS's English department.

Jimmy Taw, the school's government and advanced placement European history teacher, said the commercials are not targeted to teen-agers and are rarely remembered by viewers.

Valdosta High School Students On Honor Roll

Principal William Aldrich announces Valdosta High School honor roll students for the first six weeks.

Brian Adams, Michael Adams, Stephanie Adams, Thaddeus Agar, Gina Albritton, Mitzi Albritton, Corey Alexander, John Allen, Larry Allen, Phillip Allen, Clint Allred, Angela Anderson, Michael Anderson, Chris Andresen, Christina Aragon, Felecia Arnold, Pinkey Arnold, Shirley Arnold, Mary Aycock, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Rachel Baliles, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Laura Barbas, Kevin Barker, Dwayne Bass, Brook Bearden, Jeana Benfield, Shannon Bentley, Jennifer Berry, Sharone Bethea, Chris Bittinger, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Anna Blamar, Kelli Bland, Lee Boatenreiter, Trish Bolen, Michelle Bostock, Jennifer Boughton, Karlisa Bradley, Sabrina Bradshaw, Blake Brantley, Luther Brantley, Marirose Brase, Leigh Ann Braswell, Lardell Brinson, Page Broomberg, Tom Broome, Jessica Brown, Shawanna Brown, Keisha Brunson, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Stacy Burnett, Jonathan Burns, Carmelita Butts, Anthony Bynes, Justin Cabral, Laurie Campbell, James Canady, Angela Carter, Ethel Carter, Spence Carver, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Monica Clifton, Travis Clovis, Christy Clyatt, Matt Cole, Sallyann Coleman, Will Coleman, Elijah Collins, Suzanne Conrad, Ashley Connell, Shniece Cooper, Tanganyika Cooper, Tina Costello, Adrienne Cowart, Ryan Coyne, Kevin Cronin, Matt Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Kemisha Davis, Sabrina Davis, Jason Day, Glaire Dempsey, Jed Dennard, Laura Dennis, Michelle Dewitt, Anne Drumheller, Contina Dukes, Travis Dular, Jennifer Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Shaun Eilders, Kendra Elliot, Melanie Enmon, Tim Etheridge, Stephanie Everett, Peter Failor, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Felts, Pehn Fender, Andy Ferrell, Jaime Finland, Missy Fisher, Meredith Fletcher, Carlos Flores, Luis Flores, Ramonda Floyd, Regina Ford, Liz Foster, Lydia Freeman, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman, Jane Fueyo, Joanna Fueyo, Farrah Gage, Rookie Gage, James Galloy, Kristin Ganas, Genora Garland, James Garrison, Melissa Geier, Jason Giddens, Ashley Giles, Amy Glines, Brenna Goff, Detron Green, Jimmy Green, Merritt Green, Tamara Green, Chris Greene, Brian Gregory, Amy Griffin, Ward Griffin, Jamie Griffin, Melanie Griffin, Melissa Griffin, Parker Grow, Becky Guest, Melissa Hale, Christopher Hall, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Lonnie Hambrick, Michael Hampton,

Sung Ho Han, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Theresa Harper, Karen Harris, Marsha Harris, Andreu Harrison, Brady Harrison, Ebonye Hatcher, Byron Haynes, Linda Hendricks, Michael Herndon, Michelle Herndon, Stacey Hesters, John Hickox, Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Alton Hitson, Joel Hodges, Mary Hofmeister, Sarah Hofmeister, Sam Hogan, Jodie Hollenbeck, Grant Hollenbeck, Kelly Holmes, Samantha Hooper, Ashley House, Angela Howard, Thomas Howard, Bill Howard, Ashley Hudson, Terri Hundley, Craig Hunt, Matthew Hunt, Christopher Hunter, Jesse Hunter, Greg Hunter, Veronica Hunter, Ivan Iverson, Margaret Iverson, J.J. Jack, Crisie James, Steve Jaramillo, Dashanti Jefferson, Nie-mah Jenkins, Brian Johnson, Deborah Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Michael Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Darrel Jones, Rodney Jones, Scott Jones, Antron Jones, Jamie Kaeck, Erin Kelly, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kilgard, Jessica Konopa, Wendy Kuter, Jennifer Launey, Michelle Levy, Tammy Lewis, Christee Leynes, Sam Lightsey, Russell Lissimore, Bill Little, Durwin Logan, Karmell Logan, Alana Lovelace, Brandon Lovett, Chassitty Loving, Amy Lowery, Todd Luke, Janice Mallory, Vashiti Manning, Christopher Martin, Katherine Mathis, Ben Matson, Jennifer Matthews, Michael Mcaffie, Marlin McClure, Wendy McConnell, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Kenyetta McDowell, Stephanie McEady, Tina McGee, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Amanda McHenry, Tory McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Angela McSween, Robert McSween, Georgianna Meadows, John Meyer, Jesse Miley, Dutton Miller, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Lita Mitchell, Mallette Mitchell, Silvia Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Andrea Moody, Angela Moore, Kenyanda Moore, Pamela Moore, Rett Moore, Jessica Morgan, Jill Morgan, Rebecca Morgan, Alita Morrell, David Morrisette, Meredith Mosby, Sarah Muntz, Jennifer Neyens, William Nijem, Laura Nolan, Tim O'Brien, Christa Olson, Jodi Osborne, Katherine Owens, Ekta Patel, Hemali Patel, Hema Patel, Rachel Paterson, Gveda Patrick, Rhonda Payton, Sandy Peeples, Alexander Penn, Robert Peters, Katresa Peterson, Kordelya Peterson, Veronica Phillips, Philip Pieplow, Ben Pitchford, John Pitcock, Cindy Plageman, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Michael Pope, Tarnisha Primrose, Artis Pye, Celina Pye, Dan Rackley, Sarita Rainey, Eddie Rawls, Crystal Ray, Kimberly Rayford, Kristi

Rayford, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Anjana Reddy, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Catherine Register, Holly Rentschler, Drew Respass, Mary Richards, Russell Richardson, Michelle Riley, Jessica Roan, Tiffany Roan, Jennifer Robbins, Lashunda Roberts, Shanese Roberts, Bill Roberts, Corey Robinson, Kyndra Robinson, Wendy Robinson, David Roddey, Janet Rogers, Michael Ronn, Gary Ross, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Telishia Ruffin, Cynthia Rumph, Ty Sainz, Leigh Saliba, Brian Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Melissa Sauls, Rayshundra Scarborough, Joseph Schnake, Latonya Scott, Lee Scott, Anthony Scruggs, Alexia Seat, Bryan Shealy, Jesse Sheeley, Christy Shepard, Veronica Simmons, Heather Skiles, Aimee Smith, Brian Smith, Eddie Smith, Eric Smith, Jamie Smith, Pepper Smith, Rhonda Smith, Richard Smith, Tim Smith, Tywanna Smith, Christine Synder, Gregory Soshnik, Sara South, Latonya Speed, Jennifer Spencer, Perlita Spencer, Tina St. Cyr, Stephanie Staley, Brian Stanley, Eric Stanley, Joshua Stauber, Stacy Steinberg, Stephen Steiner, Christopher Stewart, David Stewart, Yolanda Stewart, Andy Stone, Joel Strickland, Jessica Stubbs, Julie Suggs, Eileen Sweeney, Tami Tanquay, Brad Tarpley, Nathan Tart, Malika Taylor, Anthony Thomas, Cornelius Thorpe, Monica Tillman, Tanya Tovar, Tracy Troutman, James Tucker, Mark Vannortwick, Miriam Vendemo, Kimberly Wade, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, John Walker, Chantell Washington, Richard Washington, Ginger Waters, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, Amanda Weldon, Richard Werner, Trent Wetherington, Wendy Whatley, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, Jennifer White, Will Whitesell, Liz Whitfield, Necole Wiggins, David Williams, Kimberly Williams, Leeanna Williams, Miranda Williams, Taras Williams, Kelly Wingrove, Brenda Wiseman, Trampis Wrice, Laurie Young, Shannon Yow, and Christopher Zweigler.



FG Good Enough

Wildcats Take 3-0

Win—



6-E Sunday, November 18, 1990

VDT

Art Students Design

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

The American military troops in Saudi Arabia are bound to receive thousands of Christmas cards through the mail during the coming weeks but none quite as personal as the cards now being drawn by Georgia high school art students.

Lowndes High School and Valdosta High School art students are participating in a Christmas card contest sponsored by an Atlanta-based company, Laing Properties.

Between 350 and 400 students at the two local high schools are decorating three Christmas greeting cards each.

The best designs will be entered into a contest and the other designs will be sent on to Laing's customers.

Because so many schools are participating in the program, Laing has more cards than they need and will send the excess cards to U.S. military troops stationed in the Middle East.

The company started the program four years ago as a philanthropic endeavor.

The money saved in printing costs is donated to the Atlanta Children's Shelter to benefit homeless children.

Formerly, the opportunity was only offered to Atlanta's high school art students but the participation has been expanded this year to high school art students across the entire state of Georgia.

Inside each of the cards is a Christmas message and information

about the homeless shelter, as well as information about the high school art program. And each student is asked to place his or her signature on the back of the card.

Valdosta High School art teacher Sherry Bennett said her students are getting very creative with the design project.

Keeping in mind that some of the cards will end up in Saudi Arabia, some of the students have incorporated a Middle Eastern theme into their card designs portraying a less than typical Christmas under sweltering heat conditions.

Other art students at Lowndes High went beyond the pen and paint and used some three-dimensional materials such as twigs, cotton, tissue paper and puff paints to decorate their cards.

The winner of the contest will receive a \$1,000 certificate of deposit which will accrue interest until the student enters college.

Third and fourth place winners will receive art supplies.

Students tend to take the challenge seriously, according to information supplied by Laing.

One student designed a musical card last year that played "Frosty the Snowman" and featured a Christmas tree that was lighted when the card was opened.

Some 1,400 cards from the Lowndes County area will be shipped to Atlanta to be distributed.

The Atlanta Children's Shelter is a shelter for homeless children that also provides rehabilitative services for their parents.

Stephenson Overcame His Early Obstacles

VDT, Times, Nov. 22, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

After a slow start growing up in Remerton, athletics added a new spark of life for Sonny Stephenson. The former Valdosta High Wildcat star receiver managed to overcome academic problems to provide a secure life for his family.

According to Stephenson, the lack of early grade-school education almost led him down a dangerous path. But thanks to athletics, a way out was only a pass catch away.

"I didn't know how to read and write growing up and was not even prepared for the public schools. I spent time in many summer schools and for the most part was unable to get the work done," said Stephenson.

Stephenson, now 61, admits that his talents in athletics in some ways enhanced his academic status in high school. But he also only finds fault in his early stages of learning and not the public system.

"But I think it got to where it was a situation of he's here now, so what are we going to do with him. And if it wasn't for sports, I wouldn't be where I'm at today."

The present for Stephenson includes an ownership of H&S Supply Company of 21 years, and the father

of five children and eight grandchildren. He and his wife, Bobbie, have been married for 40 years.

"I got a diploma, but shouldn't have. If I had not played sports, I don't know what would have happened to me?" said Stephenson. "I want any kids coming up now in the same situation as me to understand an education is the only thing that's really important."

Following one year of college football at Georgia, two years of military service and three seasons of professional baseball, Stephenson began to build his future in 1952 working at a local supply company. He eventually worked his way up in the company and opened H&S with co-owner Harold Evans, who died three years later.

During his playing days at Valdosta High (1944-47), Stephenson provided the Wildcat offense with a big-play, deep-pass threat.

Stephenson, who was a two-time All-Southern performer, scored four touchdowns in one game on four occasions. Most passes coming for his good friend and tailback, the late Billy Grant.

"All the stuff you see with the passing game today and exciting plays, under Coach (Wright) Baze See STEPHENSON, Page 2-C



Sonny Stephenson takes time out to look at a the right-hand corner with his school jacket on VHS football picture in which he is included in — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Stephenson

From Page 1-C

more we were already running that offense back in the 40s," said Stephenson. "Coach Bazemore was spreading out the field even before the pros did it. And now, much of what you see from the big college teams we did a long time ago. In our offense, we sent the quarterback in motion and snapped it to Billy, who was at tailback. And at that time, Bazemore was the one and only coach we had for all sports."

In the first game of his senior season of 1947, Stephenson got the 'Cats off to a fast start scoring four touchdowns — including three on passes from Grant and one interception return — to lead VHS to a 26-7 win over Glynn Academy.

Stephenson caught three touchdown pass the next week, and then hauled in four touchdown passes the following game against Miller County. In all, he finished with 19 touchdowns in a season in which Valdosta closed out with a state title. That same school year, the 'Cats, under Bazemore, won the state championship in basketball.

"There are a lot of lessons to be learned in playing athletics," said Stephenson. "That's why I think every kid should play any kind of competitive sport."

Wildcats Run, Run, Run, Run

V-Times 11-25-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Could Valdosta High football fans stand another 144 minutes of football like the last 72? If it brought the Wildcats their 21st state championship, so let it be done.

The current formula for offensive success for Valdosta High is to run the ball. And run the ball. And run the ball. And run the ball some more.

In the last 80 plays the main offensive unit has run (the second half against Lowndes, and the first three quarters against Northside-Warner Robins), the only "pass" the Wildcats have completed was a backward pass to Carlos Moore. That is statistically credited as a running play — and that gained nothing. Three forward passes have fallen incomplete.

The rest have been runs — 444 yards on 76 plays, about 5.8 yards a carry. The average drive lasts nine plays, with four going 13 plays or longer. And it's yielded five touchdowns and two victories, including the 21-0 win over Northside Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The forward pass hasn't died at Valdosta. It's just taking a break.

"The only thing we're going to do is do what we have to," said running back coach Mike O'Brien. "We feel like we should have thrown more and we will throw more. It just turned out that way."

Friday night's conditions didn't help.

"We came out early and we were going to throw the ball," said O'Brien, adding that the Wildcats had looked good throwing the ball in practice Thursday morning.

But Thanksgiving morning was sunny, warm and dry, making head-coach Nick Hyder wonder why he wore a sweatshirt to practice. Friday was rainy, cool and somewhat foggy.

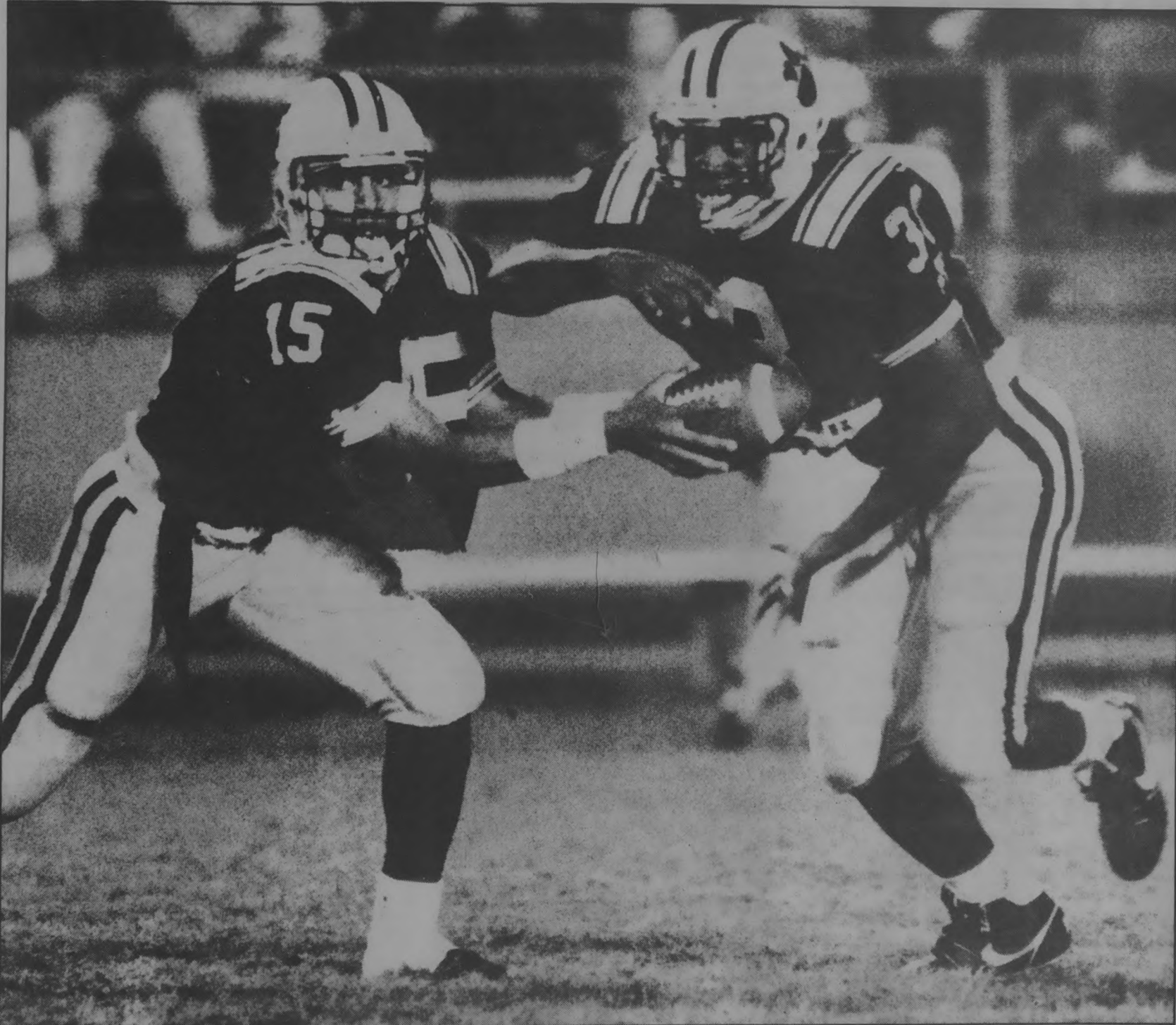
"The ball coming off the grass was wet on Alton's (quarterback Hitson's) hand, and he made the two bad throws," O'Brien said. "We adjusted his grip, and he was throwing OK. But by that time we were gaining four and five yards on the ground every time."

Not everything is perfect with the running game, however. The main concern when practice resumes Monday will focus on the quarterback holding onto the football, whether in the open field or on the center exchange.

Those items cost Valdosta one touchdown against Northside (two bad exchanges after a first-and-goal at the 1), almost another (Hitson fumbled before grabbing the football and scoring from the 1 against Northside) and two fourth-quarter possessions against Lowndes.

But then why should everything be perfect? Hyder and the Wildcats always like a good struggle. Anything for a shot at a title.

Cats Get To Cruise, 21-0



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson hands the ball to full-back Kendrick Patrick Friday night in the Wildcats' 21-0 win

over Northside-Warner Robins. Patrick ended the night with 88 yards — AP Laserphoto.

VALDOSTA 21, NORTHSIDE 0

NORTHSIDE	0	0	0	0-0
VALDOSTA	7	0	7	7-21

VHS — Alton Hitson 1 run (Dow Drury kick)

VHS — Hitson 1 run (Drury kick)

VHS — Kendrick Patrick 5 run (Drury kick)

NORTHSIDE		VALDOSTA
8	FIRST DOWNS	17
25-63	RUSHES-YARDS	57-263
54	PASSING YARDS	0
5-12-1	PASSES	0-6-0
5-29.2	PUNTS-AVG.	2-33.5
4-31	PENALTIES-YARDS	2-20
1	FUMBLES LOST	0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Kendrick Patrick 19-88, Alton Hitson 14-71, Joe Wright 8-46, Albert Edmonds 5-17, Carlos Moore 2-11, Brian Thomas 3-10, Steven Everson 3-7, Brian Wiseman 1-7, Brock Sanford 1-4, Alfred Barnes 1-2. Northside: Gabriel Daniels 17-51, Brian Upshaw 3-10, Johnny Bailey 1-6, Rayfield Boyd 4-(-4).

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 0-2-0 0, Joe Wright 0-1-0 0, Steven Everson 0-3-0 0. Northside: Rayfield Boyd 5-12-1 54.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: none. Northside: Joe Shuttlesworth 2-23, Marcus Trammell 2-23, Shedrick Mitchell 1-8.

VHS Defense Back In Its '0' Form

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High defense may be back in mid-season form — better yet, that form which it had in the middle of the season.

There was a time when the defense didn't allowed a point in some 140 minutes, a stretch of two full games and most of another.

And now, when it's do-or-die time, that unit is putting together another streak. After Friday's 21-0 Class AAAA state-playoff victory over Northside High of Warner Robins, the clock is at 85:50 and on hold —

until Friday's quarterfinal game against Statesboro at Cleveland Field.

Charles Tarpley's bunch again followed a script it's played many times earlier this season.

Give up a long drive early, usually ending with a score. Then make the adjustments and clamp down. Play it again, Charles.

"Their strength has been their offense. It never crossed my mind that we'd shut them out," said Tarpley, the 'Cats' defensive coordinator, after the team's third "0" of the season.

"Our offense controlled the ball,

and (Northside) didn't have the ball that much."

Northside's big drive came on its second, and not first, possession. Down 7-0, the Eagles went 55 yards in 13 plays. There was a 14-yard pass completion, and a 13-yard run on which safety Deric Cotton had to make a touchdown-saving tackle.

But the Wildcats rose to pressure quarterback Rayfield Boyd at the 10, stopping him for no gain on second down and forcing an incompletion on third down. A missed field goal followed.

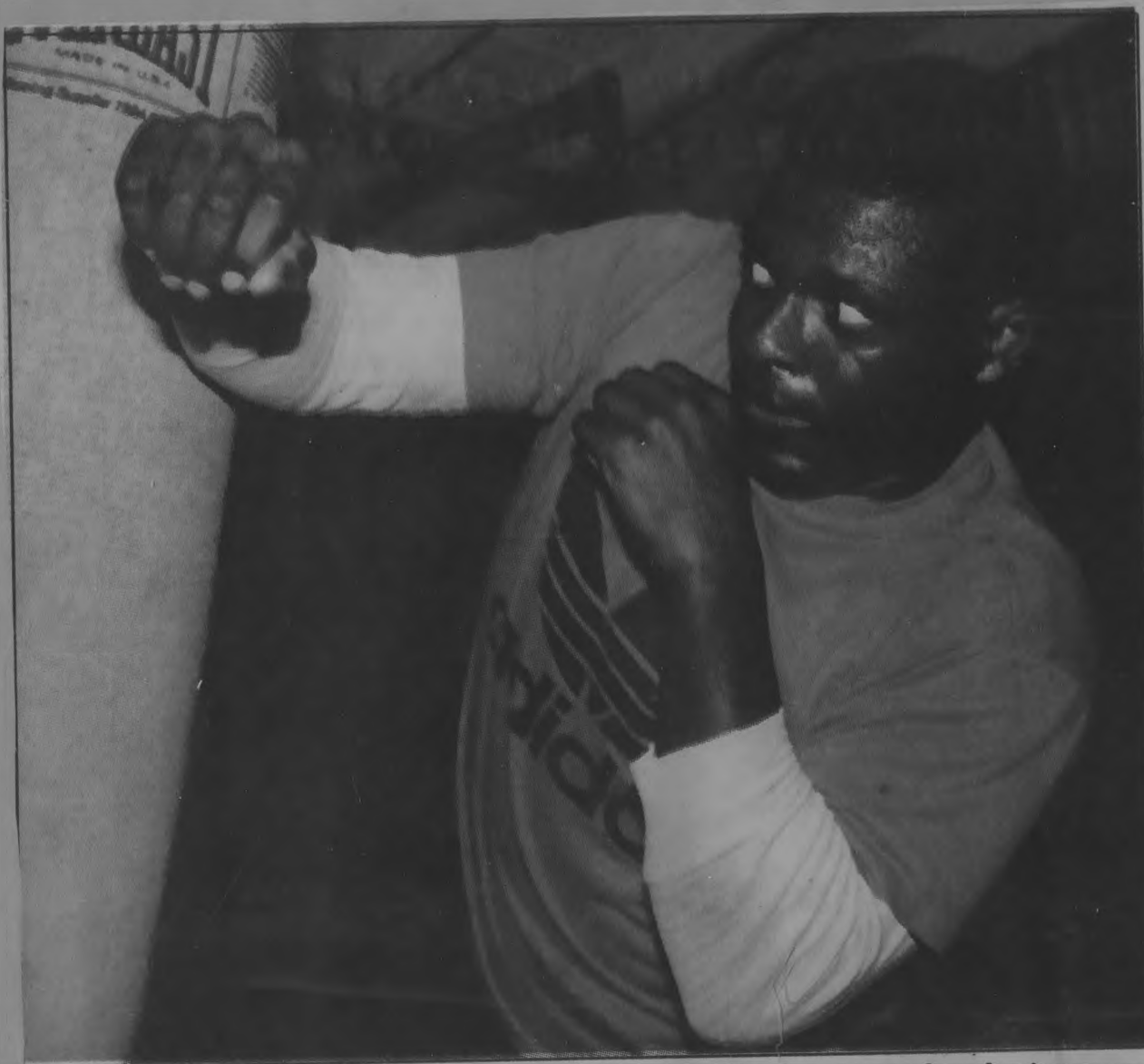
Instead of 7-7 or 7-3, the 'Cats still led 7-0. And Northside never had

another chance.

"We knew how good the quarterback and the running back (Gabriel Daniels) were, but we didn't get our minds off the other ones," said defensive lineman Ricky Thomas. "(The stand) was a big boost for us."

At drive's end, Northside had 60 total yards on 16 plays. To finish the game, the Eagles had 57 yards on 21 plays.

They got past midfield just once, and that came when the outcome was in little doubt in the fourth quarter.



Most of Gary Ross' boxing these days consists of working in his homemade gym. He's using the time to prepare for a boxing career — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Punching For Glory

VDT, Sun, Nov. 18, 1990

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Bred in the football haven of Valdosta, Gary Ross learned what it takes to win. But Ross rejected the small-town fame of high school football field for the much less publicized sport of boxing. And he will quickly and repeatedly tell anyone who will listen his choice was the right one.

"I played some football and I wrestled some. I had the guts but I didn't have the heart," the powerfully-built 16-year-old said. "I've got the heart for boxing. It's my whole life. I like to feel the power and the dominance. When I'm in the ring, there's no timeouts and you don't rely on anyone else. It's just me."

No doubt, at 5-11, 206 pounds, Ross would fit nicely into a Wildcat uniform. His broad shoulders and well-muscled frame are products of a workout program outlined by his trainer/promoter/advisor/father, the Reverend Willie Ross, a Baptist minister and former Air Force boxer. The schedule is strenuous with little time for normal adolescent endeavors.

"I get up at five in the morning,

run three miles, come back and jump rope for 10 minutes and get ready to go to school. After school, I do homework until about 5:30 or 6 and then I set up and start work on these," Ross says as he gestures toward a heavybag and a speedbag in the Ross garage, transformed into a rudimentary gym by the baby boy of the family.

"My father told me 'If you want to be a boxer, that's fine. But you're going to do it right. I'm not going to be waking you up at five in the morning, you're going to do it yourself,'" Ross added.

Like thousands of other youngsters, boxing was just a diversion for a while, an interest Ross never pursued. But in the past eight months, Ross has heightened his work ethic, his power and speed and most of all, his confidence.

"I've changed a lot. When I was younger, sometimes I couldn't control my temper. I was outrageous. I've matured a lot and it's because I know what I want. I'm going after boxing with everything and I'm going to make it. You know why? Because I'll never quit," Ross said as his voice grows stronger. "I got to some gyms and it's...I don't want to say I'm not welcome there.

It's just that if you're by yourself and you don't have a team coming up there with, they'll just pass you off to the side. I say keep ignoring me, you're gonna here from me one day."

The two things Ross lacks go hand-in-hand — experience and a sponsor. It takes money to buy the things he needs to compete with other young boxers in the country and he has yet to find a Valdosta sponsor to aid in the push. So far, he boasts only a couple of sparring-type exhibitions under his belt but would love to step up into the amateur ranks as soon as possible.

Ross and his father tried sending out letters to area businesses but met little success. Out of 20 certified letters mailed, Ross received no replies. "They probably saw the letter and thought I was crazy. But I'm going to go places and any publicity I get, it'll come back to my sponsor in Valdosta."

As battle-hungry and physical as Ross appears in his garage, he carries an unboxerly appearance at school, another workplace where he succeeds with an A average. While crediting the discipline learned from

See PUNCHING, Page 8-C

make it through one round with me. I know I could beat him."

With his moxie duly noted, Ross is the picture of the determined young fighter. No words phase him due to his undying confidence and no failures in his bid for backing will knock him out.

"Whether it's now or in a few months or when I'm in college or after I'm out of college, I'll be a boxer. The sooner I can move up the better because it hurts bad that I can't compete now. But I'm not quitting. This is it for me, this is what I'm going to do," Ross said. "Some of the people at school think it's a joke and a lot of other people too. But I know it's serious. If I get the chance, I'm going to win and I'm going to keep winning. I'm smart, I'm strong, I'm quick and I want it."

lary replays boxing telecasts. He also watches the tapes and sees some of the competition he might face if ever given the chance to prove his worth. Reminiscent of any other boxer, the youngster without a fight believes he would have the edge.

"As many amateur fights as I've been to, my competition that I'm looking at, it's mighty slim. I mean there's good guys out there, but there's not getting the right kind of training. There's not settled down out there," Ross said. "One guy in particular is the national Golden Gloves champion in the heavyweight division. I taped him and I watched him and I can guarantee anybody in Valdosta, I can guarantee it, I can guarantee it, I believe I can knock him out. In those three rounds of amateur boxing, I don't believe he'd

From Page 1-C

his reformed love as the reason behind his improved marks, Ross laughs when he hears the reactions from others that Gary the student is Gary the boxer.

"Some people see me and say I look like a nerd with my glasses and everything. I just like to look nice. They can't believe it when they find out I'm the guy who boxes. Some of them call me chicken because I don't play football and some of them try to test me out, not really but just joking. I'm not into that. When I'm at school, I'm at school. I do all my training here," Ross said.

Ross's bedroom is adorned with boxing posters, his collection of boxing magazines is stacked together in the corner and his television regu-



Valdosta High kicker Dow Drury, his team's leading scorer in 1990, practices his field-goal kicking during Thursday morning's brief workout at the high school. Holding for Drury

is quarterback Alton Hitson, with assistant coaches Jerry Don Baker (left) and Larry Jester looking on — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

'Cats Guard Against Repeat

V. Times 11-23-90

■VHS Statistics, Page 2-B

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Tonight's Class AAAA first-round football playoff game could bring back some memories for the Valdosta High football team — bad memories.

The opponent for the 8 p.m. game at Cleveland Field is Northside High of Warner Robins, an opponent which played second-ranked Valdosta High in the last two regular seasons with overwhelming results.

In Northside's last two trips down Interstate 75, it's headed home scoreless. Included was a 24-0 victory in 1988 in which Valdosta's hearts were heavy after the death of Kenny Rose. Last year, Valdosta ran away with a 35-0 victory when then-senior fullback Carlos Parker began to make a name for himself — 229 yards and three touchdowns in just over a half of play.

So you think tonight's going to be easy? Here's the history lesson.

Camden County was in much the same boat as Northside. It did play the Wildcats a bit closer in 1988 (31-14), but was stuffed back the next year in a 34-0 VHS victory. In both 1989 games, the Valdosta High defense dominated — minus-25 yards by Camden County, 89 by Northside.

In 1990, Camden County was expected to come in and provide Valdosta with another victory. Instead, Camden provided the only blemish on Valdosta's record, a 14-14 tie on



TONIGHT'S GAME

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (9-0-1 overall) vs. Northside High Eagles (7-4 overall).

WHAT: First round of state Class AAAA football playoffs.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Available at gate.

WEATHER: Decreasing cloudiness, lows in the upper 40s.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) for Valdosta High broadcast.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta did not play; Northside 17, Evans 14 in Region 2-AAAA playoff.

OVERALL SERIES: Valdosta leads, 4-0; no playoff games.

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia AP; No. 14 in USA Today national poll.

Sept. 14. Camden led the 'Cats 14-0 at halftime.

If the Wildcats (9-0-1) haven't directly been given the history lesson, head coach Nick Hyder and staff have approached it in a different direction.

"Our approach is that those were entirely different people," Hyder said. "Camden returned with eight starters on one side of the football,

nine on the other side. They were a quick, veteran, experienced team.

"We struggled in that game with a quarterback, a tailback and a right tackle, and wide receivers, who had played there (before). Offensively we had four or five people who played there last year against their nine on defense. And defensively, I don't think we had anybody in the same position, maybe one guy.

"This unit isn't the same as last year ... you get new people adjusted to the new challenge, but with the same schools and the same colors."

The "new people" of 1990 have adjusted well to their roles after three months of play. Adjusted to the point where tonight's game may develop into a repeat of last year's matchup.

Valdosta's offense averages 247 yards per game, with almost 160 coming from the running attack. Northside's defense has had its troubles against the run, especially lately against top-ranked Warner Robins and Evans, in the Region 2-AAAA playoff game. It's given up 164 yards rushing a game this year, but nearly 350 in the last two games.

Last year, with Parker doing much of the damage, Valdosta compiled 297 yards on 56 carries. This year, tailback Joe Wright has done much of the damage with 721 rushing yards. A trio which includes Wright, quarterback Alton Hitson and fullback Kendrick Patrick have combined for 15 touchdowns.

Valdosta's defense, which has forced 23 turnovers and allowed 190 total yards per game, must once again face the Wing-T attack of Stan Gann's Eagles (7-4). Fullback Gabriel Daniels, who rushed for 25 yards on six carries last year against Valdosta, has developed into a 1,000-yard rusher in 1990.

And Hyder's concerned about the ability of left-handed quarterback Rayfield Boyd, who has almost 1,600 total yards.

Statesboro Next For Wildcats

V. Times 11-24-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

For the first time in two months, that secure feeling fell over the Valdosta High sidelines before the final whistle.

There it actually was, for the first time since the Wayne County game in September. Young men in unfamiliar numbers running in and out of the game in the fourth quarter of a 21-0 Wildcat victory Friday night at Cleveland Field.

"We haven't had this, the liberal playing late in the third quarter and early in the fourth quarter, in a while," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder after his team's first-round Class AAAA state-playoff victory over Northside High of Warner Robins (7-5).

Second-ranked Valdosta (10-0-1) will host Statesboro, a 14-7 winner over Morrow Friday night, in the quarterfinals of the state playoffs Friday night at Cleveland Field. Other AAAA quarterfinal pairings included Clarke Central at Wheeler, Griffin at Tift County (a 10-7 winner over No. 1 Warner Robins) and Southwest DeKalb at Marietta.

Credit that easy feeling, and the early exit of most of the 7,000 or so in attendance, to a stingy defense and another run-oriented offensive attack.

"A great job by our defense," Hyder said. "That zero up there ... (coaches) Charles Tarpley, Al Akins, Keith Middleton and Larry Jester really worked overtime. (Northside) was a good offensive team tonight. We're real proud of the zero."

Quarterback Alton Hitson (71
See VALDOSTA, Page 3B

Valdosta

From Page 1B

yards) scored on a pair of 1-yard runs and fullback Kendrick Patrick (88 yards on 19 carries) added a 5-yard touchdown run — his fifth touchdown in four games — as the Wildcat running attack posted all of the team's 263 total yards. By game's end, 10 different Wildcats ran the ball at least once.

Valdosta misfired on all six pass attempts.

The Wildcat defense limited 1,000-yard runner Gabriel Daniels to 51 yards on 17 carries, while versatile quarterback Rayfield Boyd had 50 total yards.

The first 24 minutes was one of drives — mostly long and scoreless.

The first long one did yield Valdosta's lone points of the period, Hitson's 1-yard run on fourth and goal — that coming on the 13th play of a 40-yard drive.

Patrick converted on three straight third-down plays, the last giving Valdosta first-and-goal at the 7. But Patrick was also stopped on third-and-goal at the 1 prior to Hitson's score. Dow Drury added the extra point at the 1:45 mark of the first quarter.

Both teams followed with 14-play drives — and missed opportunities.

Northside's drive went 55 yards, and included a touchdown-saving tackle by safety Deric Cotton on Daniels' 13-yard run to the Valdosta 26. Daniels would later make a first down on fourth-and-1 at the 17, but the drive ended when Boyd was stopped on a second-down run and his third-down pass was incomplete.

Adam Dowd, who kicked last week's game-winning field goal against Evans despite an injured leg, then hooked a 26-yard field-goal attempt wide left while kicking from the right hash mark with 6:50 left.

That would be Northside's best chance. It got past midfield just

once after that, in the fourth quarter — and that was stopped by a Marcus Moss pass interception.

Valdosta's answer to Northside's drive was a 79-yard drive which died at the 1 with less than two minutes left in the half.

Hitson's 24-yard run, made possible by Derrick Phillips' block, put Valdosta in Northside territory. An offside penalty and two Patrick runs earned more first downs, the last to the 1.

But tailback Albert Edmonds was stopped on first down, and Hitson fumbled and recovered on the next two plays.

And to cap it off, Drury's 20-yard, right-hash field-goal attempt didn't move over enough to go through the goal posts.

Valdosta scored on its first two second-half possessions to put the game out of reach.

The first drive went 83 yards in 14 plays, with Hitson recording runs of 16 and 17 yards, while Patrick sandwiched in a 15-yard gain.

A face-mask penalty after a Hitson 7-yard gain — on a play where he twisted a knee which caused some concern — put the ball at the 6. After Patrick went 5 yards, Hitson dropped the ensuing snap, picked up the football and ran in from a yard out. Drury's kick made it 14-0 with 2:40 left in the third quarter.

Carlos Moore's 21-yard punt return to the Northside 32 began the last drive. Tailback Joe Wright followed with a 12-yard run, then Moore got 11 on a reverse to the 5. Patrick ended the scoring by bulling over the goal line for the last touchdown at the 11:06 mark of the fourth quarter.

Valdosta's Cedric Carter did recover a fumble the ensuing kickoff at the Northside 11, but that's when the flood of substitutions began — led by backup quarterback Steven Everson.

Wildcats Look For Experience

VDT Tues. Nov. 27, 1990
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

This is the year John Miller has been concerned about for quite some time.

After building the men's basketball program at Valdosta High back to respectability the past couple of years, Miller felt this season would be pivotal. Last year, he had seven seniors among his top nine players and finished at 13-10, the squad's best mark in years. Now, with a fresh crop of mostly new faces, Miller is wondering what kind of impression the 'Cats will make on their opponents.

"We look real good getting off the bus," Miller said of his tall but young team, "but after that I'm not so sure. We're breaking in a whole new team so it may take a few games to find out just what we've got. Most of our team is made up of juniors so we've got to grow up quick."

The maturing process begins tonight when Valdosta faces Lanier County in their season-opener in Lakeland. Last year, Valdosta finished with their best record in years (13-10) and in the process upset perennial power Bainbridge in Bainbridge. Miller is hoping some of last year's success rubbed off on the younger bunch.

A lot of the load is expected to be given to the only two returning starters — senior post player Michael Moore and junior wing Ernest Lowe. Moore, 6-5, is a three-year starter while Lowe, 6-2½, improved vastly last season and can drive as well as shoot from the outside.

Miller is still unsure of the the rest of the starting five. Vying for the nod at the other post spot are twin brothers, Aaron and Tharon Lane. Aaron is 6-5 while his "big" brother is 6-7. Junior Matt Baker will start at point guard while three players are still battling for the other wing position — junior Frank Mazion and seniors Jed Dennard and Joel Montgomery.

"Defensively we won't be as quick as we have been and we'll look to go inside. But we don't want to do that all the time, we don't want to be read like a book or one-dimensional," Miller said.

Miller doesn't see any clear-cut favorite in the Region 1-AAAA this season as he expects just about every team to be in the hunt for the playoffs.

"Bainbridge is always going to be there, Lowndes has a good group coming back and Tifton has just about everybody back. Coffee consolidated with two schools over there and that should help them a lot," Miller said.

The other region teams do have one advantage over the Wildcats. Except for Tift County, the rest of the region's players who play both football and basketball are practicing. VHS and the Blue Devils are still participating in the state playoffs. When the season ends, Miller is expecting sophomore Steven Everson and junior Trampis Wrice to join the team and make an impact.

Lady Cats Have Good Nucleus

Tues. Nov. 27, 1990

CHRIS BECKHAM
Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta Lady Wildcat head basketball coach, who has coached for a long time for tonight's opening game at Lanier County. She found that it's hard through an offseason wondering what has been.

Last year, the Lady Cats finished first in the region and were the top seed entering the state tournament. Then came a painful loss to Tift County and the season was snuffed. This season, Montgomery is hoping to lead, which returns four starters, will be consistent in reaching their goals.

"(Consistency) was our big problem last year," Montgomery said. "Our goal is to land one of those two playoff spots. Of course, everyone would like to have that top spot but it's just important that we stay consistent. To be a good team, we've got to improve every week."

Only post player Cassandra Twine, who signed on with Old Dominion, will not return to the court but don't think VHS is soft inside. Back for her junior season is 6-3 post player Esther Benjamin, last year's most improved performer.

"We've had to change some things in our game because everyone thinks she's going to be our one. We've got to be able to rely on other things or else

the opposition is going to key on her. There's a lot less pressure when you can spread things around," Montgomery said.

Also returning will be senior guard Vashti Manning, junior forward Natasha Johnson, senior forward Laura Dennis and sophomore guard Shannon West. Dede Dennis, Tracy Troutman and Lisa Vincent are the top substitutes. The guards have switched roles with Manning moving to the point and West going to the off-guard spot.

"Your point guard is your leader on the court and we want Vashti to give us that leadership. Also, Shannon's been shooting the ball real well so we hope we'll be helped there," Montgomery said.

See LADY CATS, Page 3-B

From Page 1B

"Laura has played a lot for us in the past couple of years and Natasha came to camp with us this summer and worked real hard. She's very versatile and can go inside or outside so we can do some things there.

"The girls are excited to get started. I think Coffee will have a real good shot this year but some of the other teams, you just don't know about. I really believe the season will be competitive with several teams having a shot at the championship. Hopefully, one of those teams will be us," Montgomery said.



Once upon a time, Coleman (left) and Jack Rudolph were part of the on-field activities at Cleveland Field. Friday night,

they left the playing and coaching to others — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Past And Present Jackets

V Times 11-25-50

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Everything seemed normal at Cleveland Field Friday night. Valdosta High kept the ball on the ground, won the game and the talk of yet another state championship filtered through the crowd. Not much seemed different at all.

But there was an oddity on the Wildcat sidelines. For the first time ever, two men who've each had a hand in many a Valdosta game both stood together on the sidelines with nothing to do but watch. For the first time, Jack and Coleman Rudolph were spectators.

Jack, the father of Coleman and the mastermind of the Wildcat defense for years, stepped down from his post of VHS defensive coordinator in the spring and joined the coaching staff of the ninth-grade squad. The reassignment was made to afford the father more time to watch his son play with the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets on Saturdays.

Coleman was in town Friday night to see his former high-school team play while home for Thanksgiving.

So far, the elder Rudolph, a former Tech star himself, has enjoyed watching his alma mater run through their best season ever. At 9-0-1 and ranked third in the country, the season has exceeded the expectations of even the staunchest Jacket fan.

"It's been a pleasant surprise. I felt like coming off a good 7-4 season last year that that was a start," said Coach Rudolph. "But I don't know in my wildest dreams that I thought it would be 9-0-1 at this point. It's just a good surprise for all Tech people."

With a win over Georgia this Saturday or a win over Nebraska in the Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day, the school more known for its academic prowess and basketball tradition will have 10 wins. The last time they accomplished that was in 1956, when the legendary Bobby Dodd was head coach and Jack Rudolph was a freshman.

The younger Rudolph agreed with his father's assessment of the season.

"Going into the season, we were young on defense and we didn't know how that was going to work.

After about four or five games, we realized we are a good defense. In the beginning of the year, I probably had my doubts which anybody does. Toward the middle of the year after we had gotten through Clemson and South Carolina, I think we built a lot of confidence and that's just stayed with us the whole year," Coleman said.

Though they assembled an impressive portfolio, it wasn't until they visited Charlottesville, Va., on Nov. 3 that the nation saw what Tech had to offer. Facing undefeated Virginia, an ACC foe and the top-ranked team in the country at the time, Georgia Tech came on in the second half and outscored the Cavaliers 41-38 before a nation of curious onlookers.

"I think we knew defensively that we had to play a good game which we didn't in the first half. But we came out in the second half and we did what we had to do, we stopped them on the goalline. Our offense just played a great game. I think we knew all along we could beat them," Coleman said. "People around here and everywhere else

knew we could too so I don't think it was that much of a surprise. The national recognition and being on national TV helped us out."

Coach Rudolph and his wife Marsha were in the stands that day, watching and anticipating what would happen right down to Scott Sisson's field goal with under a minute to play. Though the coach has seen numerous games through his playing and coaching career, that day in Charlottesville was special.

"It was probably one of the greatest games not to be involved in it that I've witnessed. Probably the conditioning that Tech had held up in the fourth quarter. I think that when the second half came around, I think that after we had taken the guys in, or when the coaches had taken the guys in that really Coach Ross and his staff did an outstanding job in the second half and probably outcoached Coach Welsh and Virginia," the coach said.

"You hear all the time about games where the last team that has the ball is going to win the ball game. Well, that was the first time I

See JACKETS, Page 3-C

Jackets

From Page 1-C

ever really witnessed one of those kind of ball games. It was a good defensive game in the second half because we got the turnovers that we needed and we did the one major thing that we had to do on defense and that was stop them on the goal line, which we did."

The bond between father and son and former player and alma mater is clearly seen in the coach's speech. He refers to his son's team as "we" and is proud of the accomplishments so far this season and excited about the possibilities. Even with archival Georgia coming up, the idea of a national championship still looms large in the subconscious of the entire squad.

Coleman said the thought is there, but first things come first.

"Everybody's aware of it but we know there's no way that can happen unless we go ahead and beat Georgia and beat Nebraska. If those two things don't happen, nothing's going to happen. You hear everybody say you have to take it one step at a time but that's really what you have to do," Coleman said. "You can't concentrate on things in the past. You just have to concentrate on what's happening and go from there."

"I think a lot of people don't realize what's going on at Georgia. They've got a lot of great players and the film we've looked at with them against Florida and Auburn, everybody sees that Auburn and Florida beat them big but Georgia, with the weapons they have, they could beat anybody at any time."

Coach Rudolph went a little deeper, likening the Georgia-Georgia Tech rivalry to the Valdosta-Lowndes battles.

"You can't ever predict what a real rivalry is going to be like. It's the most important game of the year which last games generally are. To have a chance at it and to have a great season, we've got to get by Georgia for two reasons. As many rivalries as we have down here, still the Lowndes game is the game that you've got to win to have a good year."

Campbell Finds His Tennis Niche

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

As a former college football player, it seemed natural that Kerry Campbell would want his only son to pursue similar athletic interests. Cannon did take up the sport for a little while as he did baseball. But it wasn't until the eight-year-old put a tennis racket in his hand that he found his own sporting interests.

At first unsure, his father warmed to the idea.

"I was always involved in football, playing and being a referee, so naturally I was hoping he'd go that way. But I'm glad he chose tennis," said Mr. Campbell. "It's a sport that you can play forever. There are tennis tournaments for every age group."

The Campbells moved to Valdosta in June and the job transfer couldn't have pleased Valdosta tennis fans more. Cannon Campbell is currently

the second-ranked player in the South and the 29th-ranked player in the country. He is also the newest future member of the University of Mississippi tennis program, signing a letter-of-intent to attend there next fall.

"Coach (Billy) Chadwick is one of the best coaches in the nation and they've got a real good program," Cannon said. "I liked the idea of staying down South and I think it was just the best place for me."

Since his arrival in Valdosta, Cannon has had to adjust his playing schedule and practicing routine. Due to the lack of numbers, he practices about 1½ hours a day compared to four hours a day in Atlanta. "Up there, there's just a lot more people to play. Obviously, it's not a step forward but it's never too hard to adjust to any easy schedule."

Cannon, a self-proclaimed sports fanatic, is looking forward to compet-

ing on the Wildcat tennis team. He was the No. 1 seed on the Walton High team that won last year's state crown and he would like to bring the singles championship back to Valdosta after this spring.

"There are a lot of other sports I like more than tennis, I'm just not good at them. I love football but I probably wouldn't be able to play much at Valdosta," he laughed. "My grandfather played at LSU and played baseball with the Atlanta Crackers so there's always been a lot of sports in my family."

The life of tennis families is unique with miles and miles travelled together and time spent in strange cities against unknown opponent.

"It's got to be a total family commitment. You do so much together, it's pretty hard to do it for a number of years. Cannon will play as many as 30 tournaments in a year so you have to be dedicated to it and close to your family," Campbell said.



Cannon Campbell, surrounded by his immediate family, recently signed a scholarship to play tennis for the University of Mississippi

'Cats, Devils Face Off Tonight

V. Times 11-30-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

First-year Statesboro High head football coach Charles Webb says there are two things for which to prepare a team when it's facing a Valdosta High-type program.

For one, there's the hype and intimidation of the program. Then there's the athletes who make up the program.

Webb says his Blue Devils have worked on preparing for the athletes. "We haven't had a lot of time for the hype," said Webb.

The time, hype or no hype, comes tonight at Cleveland Field. Second-ranked Valdosta High hosts No. 10 Statesboro in a quarterfinal game of the AAAA playoffs, kickoff at 8 p.m.

In other AAAA playoff games, Tift County hosts Griffin, Southwest DeKalb is at Marietta and Wheeler goes to Clarke Central.

Webb and Statesboro made their move up from Class AAA for this year — Webb from Elbert County, re-

placing Steve Brooks (now an assistant at Clarke Central). Statesboro didn't miss a step, qualifying for the AAAA playoffs like it did a year ago. That team lost in the quarterfinal round of the AAA playoffs.

"Statesboro had a solid nucleus from Steve Brooks, and Charles Webb has added to it," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder.

Both teams have proven to be strong defensive units in 1990. Statesboro (10-2) has allowed 85 points in 12 games, including four shutouts. The Blue Devils also have allowed just one touchdown in the final quarter, Hyder said — a period Valdosta has controlled (75-28) this season.

Valdosta has allowed 103 points in 11 games, including three shutouts.

But while Statesboro has allowed 20 points in two playoff wins, Valdosta hasn't given up a point in almost 86 minutes (nearly two games).

"I hope it is (a defensive game)," Webb said. "Our best chance to win is a close, low-scoring game."

The defenses are also different in their ages. Statesboro will start five

sophomores and just two seniors on the unit. The defensive backfield has been taught by former Lowndes assistant Nate Hayes, who worked with Webb at Elbert County.

Valdosta, while its experience may not match the numbers, has 14 seniors and six juniors in its list of 20 starters and alternates.

"Every team we play is a new and tougher challenge," said Hyder. "We'll have to solve the problems as the game progresses, and adjust to which way the breaks go."

And adjust to what the Statesboro defense gives, which means Valdosta could throw the ball more than it has the past 1¼ games — three passes, all incomplete, in 80 plays.

"We'll do whatever they give us, or let us do," Hyder said. "The ability to throw is there, but sometimes those things don't happen easy."

Statesboro has more than made do post-Tony Grant, which was the Devils' main back the last few seasons. Behind quarterback Todd Stewart, Statesboro has won each time it has scored 14 or more points.



TONIGHT'S GAME

- WHO:** Valdosta High Wildcats (10-0-1 overall) vs. Statesboro High Blue Devils (10-2 overall).
- WHAT:** Quarterfinal round of state Class AAAA football playoffs.
- WHEN:** 8 p.m.
- WHERE:** Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m.
- TICKETS:** Available at gate.
- WEATHER:** Clear and cold, low in the middle 30s.
- RADIO:** WAAC-FM (92.9) for Valdosta High broadcast.
- LAST WEEK:** Valdosta 21, Northside 0; Statesboro 14, Morrow 7.
- OVERALL SERIES:** Valdosta leads, 3-0, including one victory in 1984 Class AAAA semifinal
- RANKINGS:** Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll; No. 8 in USA Today national poll; Statesboro, No. 10 (tie) in Georgia AP Class AAAA poll.

STATESBORO at VALDOSTA:

We must be near December because I've seen signs proclaiming Valdosta as the back-to-back state football champions.

I really shouldn't be amazed. Valdosta's been the team to beat for ages. And this year just might turn into a nightmare for the state teams up north.

VHS' 1-AAAA foe Tift County is just two wins away from a possible showdown against the 'Cats, should VHS make it. The thought of it just makes me smile.

For years, many have tried to tell some of the jokers up north where the best football in the state is played. In both AAAA and AAA, the chance of an all-south state title game is pretty good. A matchup of Cairo and Worth County could be the ticket in AAA.

But that's tough. If you're not the best in the state, you have no business getting a free ride anymore.

Valdosta must keep things going tonight. In Cleveland Field, Statesboro will soon play its last game. VALDOSTA by 10.



JUST DO IT
CATS!
BACK TO BACK

The Valdosta High football team is getting at the south gate of the practice field — Times this daily encouragement with a sign stationed Photo by Mike Tanner

Foes Match Top Defenses

VDT. Thurs, Nov. 29, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Signs Please?

The Valdosta Touchdown Club is asking for help from local businesses to show support for the Valdosta High football team.

"We'd like for area merchants to put some sort of message on their signs to show their support and remember the Wildcats," said club president Dave McCracken. "We're just trying to drum up support and enthusiasm to help push the team through the state playoffs."

The Touchdown Club is responsible for the two signs at Valdosta High, one at the football practice field and one on North Forrest Street.

ready to play the 11 defensive positions each night.

Some of those nights it's looked like the final would be closer to 49 than to 0. But most every time, the Wildcat defense hasn't broken.

"All year we've been a little bit off and on. We've let people drive on us," Tarpley said. "Anytime you don't let people get easy bombs ... you make them drive and you make a big play somewhere, you stop them."

"We didn't stop Lowndes on the opening drive, when had a chance but had a couple of penalties. Since then we did."

"Last week we made a couple of big plays on the one drive Northside had."

Making the other team work for a score is the defense's objective.

"Our goal is not to try and give them the easy touchdown. If you play good offense and kick the ball well, it takes a good team to go 80 yards on you. That's what we're working at."

And this week comes another challenge.

"I wish we could keep it going. Statesboro has some nice looking running backs, and a big, strong offensive line," Tarpley said.

"If we play our game and we do well, we can win the football game."

If you go by the pre-game hype, Friday's Class AAAA quarterfinal playoff game is supposed to pit two of the top Georgia high school defenses going today.

On the one hand, there's Statesboro High. The new Blue Devils' unit has allowed 85 points in 12 games, pushing the Region 3-AAAA team to seven straight victories to open the season and three more to make Friday's quarterfinal game at Cleveland Field.

On the other hand, there's Valdosta High. It's allowed 103 points in 11 games, but it's on another hot streak — right when it's do or die time.

The Wildcat defense hasn't allowed a point in 85:50, not since Lowndes High's Chris Wright bounced off a few tacklers and into the end zone from 6 yards in the first quarter of the Winnersville Classic. Add in to that Friday's 21-0 win over Northside.

The shutout fact does surprise its leader, coordinator Charles Tarpley.

"I felt like Northside had a great offense," Tarpley said. "They scored early against Warner Robins, and they've moved the ball."

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times
Wednesday, November 28, 1990

B

Devils Change, Keep Winning

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Here is it again. Another week, another former opponent back to Cleveland Field to face the Valdosta High Wildcats.

There's just one thing different about this former opponent. It's undergone some changes from last season.

The Statesboro High Blue Devils (10-2) meet Valdosta (10-0-1) Friday night at Cleveland Field, 8 p.m. kickoff in the quarterfinals of the Class AAAA state playoffs.

Statesboro and Valdosta met for the first time in the regular season in 1988 and 1989, with the Wildcats coming away with 34-6 and 38-7 victories. Last season, the 'Cats spotted the Blue Devils a 7-0 lead before running away with the game. Valdosta "held" Statesboro's star running back, Tony Grant, to 89 yards.

Both teams went on to win their respective region championships. Valdosta would later win its 20th state title, while Statesboro lost in the quarterfinals of the Class AAA playoffs.

For 1990, the two teams didn't renew the series. Statesboro moved up to Class AAAA and brought in a new coach, Charles Webb.

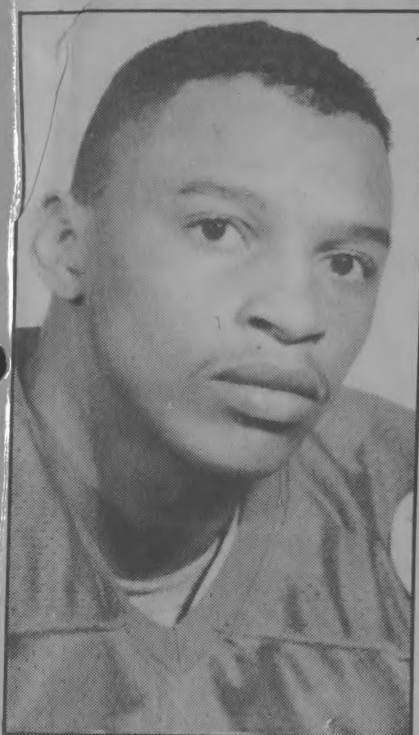
And both teams kept winning. Webb, who came from Elbert County High, and staff have worked to build one of the state's stingiest defenses. The Blue Devils have allowed 85 points in 12 games, helping them to a 7-0 start and to recover from a brief two-game losing streak.

That defense — which is young (five starting sophomores) and quick (all starters run a 4.8 or less 40-yard dash) helped save last week's 14-7 first-round win over Morrow. After Statesboro had gone 96 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with six minutes left, cornerback Chad Wiggins (6-3, 190) picked off a Morrow pass with less than two minutes left to seal the vic-

tory. It was his second interception of the night.

Wiggins is not all. Defensive tackle Jeff Kaiser (6-4, 235) keys the line, while senior Gary Williams (5-11, 195) and sophomore Aundra Rock (5-10, 225) may form the best linebacker combination Valdosta has faced this season.

On offense, junior quarterback Todd Stewart is back. He's thrown for 1,247 yards and eight touchdowns this season. Running back Steve Brown adds 846 yards and six touchdowns on the ground, while Wiggins has been catching passes (35, four touchdowns) when he's not picking them off.



HOSEA HEARD

Heard

From Page 2-B

pleased to be a part of it all.

"A lot has gone on up here and I was just happy to be with the guys," said Heard. "It was such a great year, but it was my last year and to

Heard Completes His Panther Career

VDT Times, NOV. 29, 1990
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In the past five years, former Valdosta High receiver Hosea Heard has experienced many peaks and valleys.

From being dismissed from the Wildcat squad before his senior season to earning a spot on the Pittsburgh Panthers' starting lineup as a freshman, the five-year senior has traveled many roads. But for Heard, the time has been well spent.

"You're always going to learn something in your life as you go along and I'm one of those people," said Heard. "It's just one of those things. I've had some good times and bad times and each gave me something to grow from."

Following an impressive junior year with the 'Cats as the team's top receiver, Heard seemed to have no limits.

But when he, along with two other teammates, was unable to play his fi-

nal high school year in 1985, Heard pondered if his football career was over.

First came spring practice, then camp, then the season, which seemed a lifetime for Heard, passed. Valdosta eventually fell short in the Region 1-AAAA finals to rival Lowndes High.

"I didn't know what to think. Was it over, was it not over?" said Heard. "Then I starting hearing from a few people and one of them was Pitt. Before you know it, I was heading up to Pittsburgh to play football. Who would have ever believed that I would get any attention after not playing my final year. It was wild."

Heard and his Panthers completed the 1990 football season with a 22-17 loss to Penn State. The loss gave Pitt a 4-7 record on the year.

And even though Heard saw limited action this fall, he was just See HEARD, Page 3-B

me it was going to be special no matter how we ended up."

With the chances of professional football not in his favor, Heard just wants to get his business degree and savor his past accomplishments.

"I want to just get finished with school because I know that the foot-

ball is probably over," said Heard. "If some Arena League team looks at me or something I might see about that, but I know the NFL is out. If been able to do a lot of great things thanks to football and I have a lot to talk about and remember."

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

Valdosta vs Statesboro Friday, November 30, 1990 Cleveland Field - 8:00 P.M.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to Cleveland Field) on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. For information call 333-8500.

OTHER WILDCAT FANS: Tickets can be purchased as follows: Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

STUDENTS: Tickets will be on sale at all schools.

CLEVELAND FIELD: Tickets will go on sale Friday, 6:30 p.m., at all gates.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, November 30, 1990

'Cats, Devils Face Off Tonight

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

First-year Statesboro High head football coach Charles Webb says there are two things for which to prepare a team when it's facing a Valdosta High-type program.

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In other AAAA playoff games, Tift County hosts Griffin, Southwest DeKalb is at Marietta and Wheeler goes to Clarke Central.

Webb and Statesboro made their move up from Class AAA for this year - Webb from Elbert County, re-

placing Steve Brooks (now an assistant at Clarke Central). Statesboro didn't miss a step, qualifying for the AAAA playoffs like it did a year ago. That team lost in the quarterfinal round of the AAA playoffs.

"Statesboro had a solid nucleus from Steve Brooks, and Charles Webb has added to it," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder.

Both teams have proven to be strong defensive units in 1990. Statesboro (10-2) has allowed 85 points in 12 games, including four shutouts. The Blue Devils also have allowed just one touchdown in the final quarter, Hyder said - a period Valdosta has controlled (75-28) this season.

Valdosta has allowed 103 points in 11 games, including three shutouts.

But while Statesboro has allowed 20 points in two playoff wins, Valdosta hasn't given up a point in almost 86 minutes (nearly two games).

"I hope it is (a defensive game)," Webb said. "Our best chance to win is a close, low-scoring game."

The defenses are also different in their ages. Statesboro will start five

sophomores and just two seniors on the unit. The defensive backfield has been taught by former Lowndes assistant Nate Hayes, who worked with Webb at Elbert County.

Valdosta, while its experience may not match the numbers, has 14 seniors and six juniors in its list of 20 starters and alternates.

"Every team we play is a new and tougher challenge," said Hyder. "We'll have to solve the problems as the game progresses, and adjust to which way the breaks go."

And adjust to what the Statesboro defense gives, which means Valdosta could throw the ball more than it has the past 1 1/4 games - three passes, all incomplete, in 80 plays.

"We'll do whatever they give us, or let us do," Hyder said. "The ability to throw is there, but sometimes those things don't happen easy."

Statesboro has more than made do post-Tony Grant, which was the Devils' main back the last few seasons. Behind quarterback Todd Stewart, Statesboro has won each time it has scored 14 or more points.



TONIGHT'S GAME

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (10-0-1 overall) vs. Statesboro High Blue Devils (10-2 overall).

WHAT: Quarterfinal round of state Class AAAA football playoffs.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS: Available at gate.

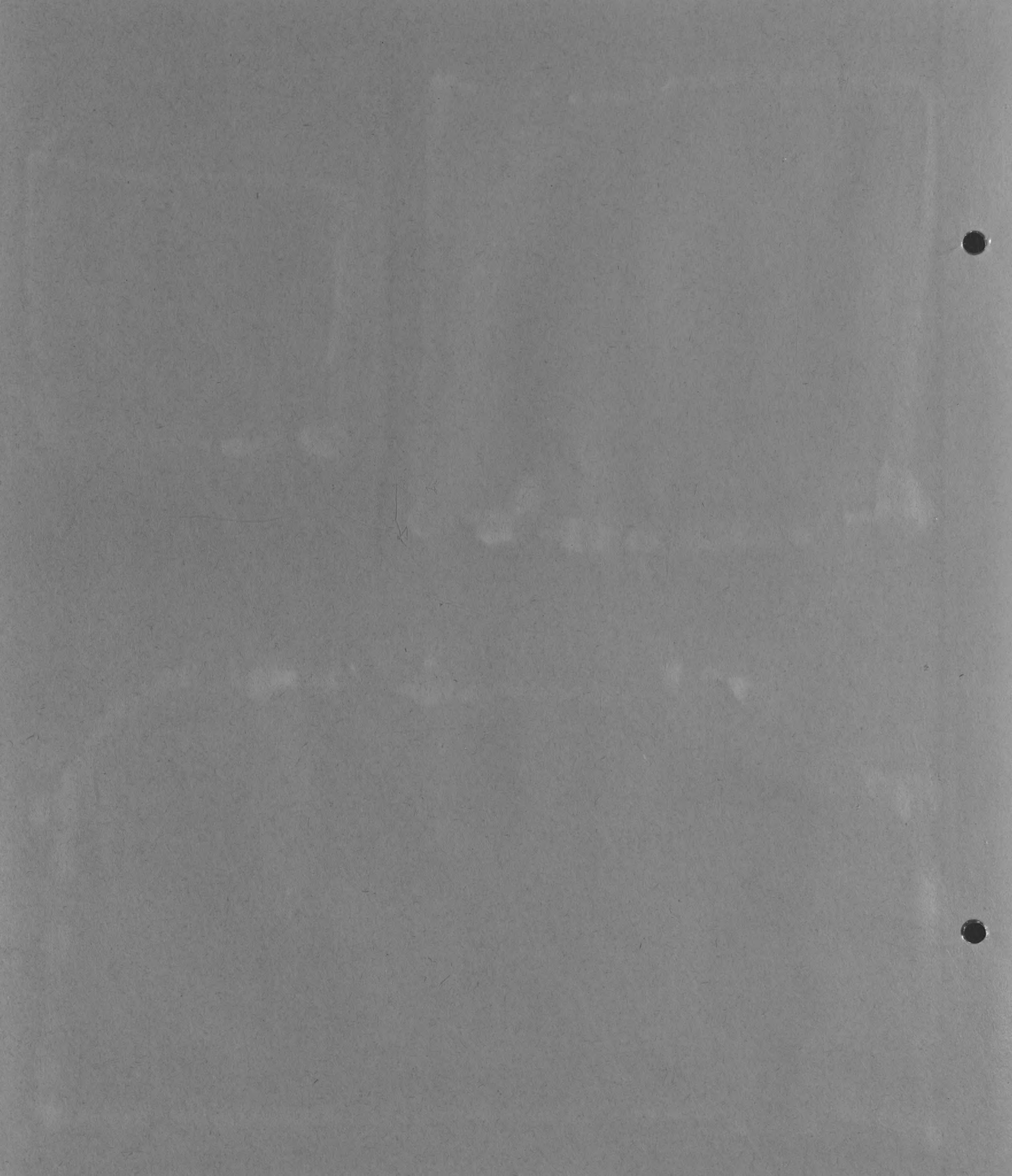
WEATHER: Clear and cold, low in the middle 30s.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) for Valdosta High broadcast.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 21, Northside 0; Statesboro 14, Morrow 7.

OVERALL SERIES: Valdosta leads, 3-0, including one victory in 1984 Class AAAA semifinal

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll; No. 8 in USA Today national poll; Statesboro, No. 10 (tie) in Georgia AP Class AAAA poll.



Guard Goodbye Planned

VST. Thurs. Nov. 29, 1990
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta community plans to give area National Guardsmen a grand send-off before they leave for Fort Stewart on Monday.

"The response from the community and the local businesses has just been unbelievable," said National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Joe Griner. "Hopefully, we'll have hundreds of people out here with flags and banners to give our boys a good send-off."

The Army on Monday formally ordered the 10,567 National Guard combat troops to report for active duty Friday in support of Operation Desert Shield. More than 10,500 National Guard combat troops from Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina and Alabama are slated to become the first reserve combat units to be activated in the Persian Gulf crisis.

The National Guard in Valdosta is part of the 48th Infantry Brigade in Georgia being activated.

"Whether one of these boys is your family member or not, all of these people are our boys now,"

See GUARD, Page 2-A

Guard

From Page 1-A

Griner said. "I just want all of these boys to know the people of Valdosta are behind them 1,000 percent."

The families of leaving troops will undergo a Commander's Mobilization Briefing on Saturday to learn how to cope with the absence of their family members. Griner said the men could be gone for a very long time.

On Monday between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., the troops will depart from the National Guard Armory in Valdosta on Cypress Street, where the send-off festivities will be held. Both the Lowndes County and Valdosta high school bands will perform, and Cypress Street near the armory will be lined with American flags.

Other community businesses and organizations have been helping by holding breakfasts for the men and giving them special gifts, Griner said.

"It really means a lot to them," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Lopera. "And once they get to where they are going, they're going to need all the support we can muster up. Being away from their families, the most important thing to them will be mail call."

Lopera is hoping Valdostans will send the troops letters and newspapers while they are away.

For the send-off service on Monday, Griner is asking people who don't have family members leaving to allow families of those departing to be closest to the festivities.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Monday, November 26, 1990

B

South Teams Boast Tough Schedules

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A survey of the eight remaining Class AAAA football playoff teams and their schedules can back up what most South Georgia fans believe — almost.

A look at the records of the opponents which played the playoff teams this season (including playoff games) shows that Valdosta High and Tift County High have played the most challenging schedules this season. But it's Tift County's opponents (74-32-3, 69.3 percent) which have a better record than Valdosta's opponents (64.4 percent).

Records used for the survey only consider the games outside the matchup with the playoff team. For example, Valdosta High's 11 opponents are a combined 71-49-2, but they are 71-39-1 outside their Valdosta game.

Eight teams remain in the Class AAAA playoffs which resume Friday night at four locations. Here's a look at the games with a look at the opponents' records:

STATESBORO (10-2) at VALDOSTA (10-0-1): It's the second straight game for the 'Cats in which the opponent didn't return to the Valdosta regular-season schedule for 1990. Valdosta whipped Statesboro, then a Class AAA

school, a combined 72-13 in 1988 and 1989 meetings.

Six of Valdosta's 10 regular-season foes made their respective playoffs, while a AAAA-high three are still alive — Tift County in Georgia, Jess Lanier (9-3) and Robert E. Lee (6-6) in Alabama's Class 6A quarterfinals. Jess Lanier knocked off No. 1 and nationally-ranked Woodlawn, 35-15, Friday night.

Statesboro's opponents are a AAAA-low 51.9 percent (54-50). None of the three opponent which made the playoffs are left.

This game's winner hosts the Clarke Central-Wheeler winner on Dec. 7.
WHEELER (11-1) at CLARKE CENTRAL (10-2): Clarke Central's opponents are third

among the AAAA teams, just behind Valdosta (74-43, 63.2 percent). Four of its 10 opponents made the playoffs, with Griffin left.

Wheeler stands fifth at 58.7 percent (61-43), better than the team which whipped it for the Region 6-AAAA sub-region title, unbeaten Marietta. Two opponents made the playoffs, with Marietta left.

This is a rematch of last year's quarterfinal game, which Clarke Central won 27-0.

GRIFFIN (10-2) at TIFT COUNTY (8-4): Just as Valdosta, six of Tift's regular-season opponents made the playoffs. Two are left, Valdosta and Worth County.

See PLAYOFFS, Page 3-B

Playoffs

From Page 1-B

Tift County may be the biggest reason why two teams should advance from each region into the playoffs. Since Valdosta has won five straight region titles, Tift's had to sit and watch since winning the 1983 Class AAAA title.

Griffin's opponents stand fourth on the AAAA list, 61.2 percent (71-45). Three foes made the playoffs, with Clarke Central still alive.

This game's winner goes to the Marietta-Southwest DeKalb winner on Dec. 7.

SOUTHWEST DEKALB (11-1) at MARIETTA (12-0): Only States-

boro separates these two teams from the bottom of the opponents' record list.

Southwest DeKalb's foes are 55.2 percent (63-51-1), despite having Warner Robins and Stone Mountain on the schedule. Those teams and a sub-region foe made the playoffs, with none left.

Marietta's all-everything quarterback Eric Zeier has thrown against teams with a 59-53-1 record outside the Marietta game (52.7 percent). It played just one playoff team, and that was in its own sub-region (Wheeler).

Lady Cats Have Good Nucleus

Lady Cats

From Page 1B

VDT. Tues. Nov. 27, 1990

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Valdosta Lady Wildcat head basketball coach has waited a long time for tonight's opening game against Lanier County. She found that it's hard going through an offseason wondering what might've been.

Last year, the Lady Cats finished first in the subregion and were the top seed entering the postseason tournament. Then came a painful loss to upstart Tift County and the season was suddenly finished. This season, Montgomery is hoping the squad, which returns four starters, will be more consistent in reaching their goals.

"(Consistency) was our big problem last year," Montgomery said. "Our goal is to land one of those two playoff spots. Of course, everyone would like to have that top spot but it's just important that we stay consistent. To be a good team, we've got to improve every week."

Only post player Cassandra Twine, who signed on with Old Dominion, will not return to the court but don't think VHS is soft inside. Back for her junior season is 6-3 post player Esther Benjamin, last year's most improved performer.

"We've had to change some things in our game because everyone thinks she's going to be our one. We've got to be able to rely on other things or else

the opposition is going to key on her. There's a lot less pressure when you can spread things around," Montgomery said.

Also returning will be senior guard Vashti Manning, junior forward Natasha Johnson, senior forward Laura Dennis and sophomore guard Shannon West. Dede Dennis, Tracy Troutman and Lisa Vincent are the top substitutes. The guards have switched roles with Manning moving to the point and West going to the off-guard spot.

"Your point guard is your leader on the court and we want Vashti to give us that leadership. Also, Shannon's been shooting the ball real well so we hope we'll be helped there," Montgomery said.

See LADY CATS, Page 3-B

"Laura has played a lot for us in the past couple of years and she's come to camp with us this summer and worked real hard. She's very satile and can go inside or outside. We can do some things there."

"The girls are excited to get started. I think Coffee will have a real good shot this year but so do the other teams, you just don't know about. I really believe the season will be competitive with several teams having a shot at the championship. Hopefully, one of those teams will be us," Montgomery said.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

Valdosta vs Statesboro
Friday, November 30, 1990
Cleveland Field - 8:00 P.M.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to Cleveland Field) on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. For information call 333-8500.

OTHER WILDCAT FANS: Tickets can be purchased as follows: Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

STUDENTS: Tickets will be on sale at all schools.

CLEVELAND FIELD: Tickets will go on sale Friday, 6:30 p.m., at all gates.

WILDCAT TRADITION TONIGHT:

The Wildcat Tradition football program can be seen tonight at 8 p.m. on TCI Cable channel 36.

The show is co-hosted by Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder and Calvin McGuyrt.

Tonight's special guest is Gus Cleveland, the son of Dr. A.G. Cleveland for whom Valdosta High's home field is named.

Also appearing is Curt Bazemore, the son of former VHS head coach Wright Bazemore and former VHS players Rev. David Tart and his brother Tommy. David played in 1955 and 1956, while Tommy played for the 'Cats from 1958 to 1960.

Buck Belue's special guest is former Valdosta High linebacker Tod Edwards.

The show will also include game highlights from Valdosta's first-round win over Northside-Warner Robins and a preview of Friday's quarterfinal contest against the Statesboro Blue Devils.

VDT. Thurs. Nov. 29, 1990



SPORTS BRIEFS

Valdosta High Opens With Lanier Sweep

VDT. Wed., Nov. 28, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

LAKELAND — Valdosta High opened its 1990 basketball season with a sweep Tuesday night.

Valdosta's center Michael Moore broke open a tight contest with three straight baskets in the third period to lead the Wildcats past the Lanier County High Bulldogs, 62-49. The Lady Wildcats, led by center Esther Benjamin, scored the first 13 points of the game as they defeated the Lady Bulldogs, 56-36.

For Wildcats' head coach John Miller, a struggle on opening night was what he had expected against the talented Bulldogs.

"I knew it wasn't going to be an easy one. Lanier County did a great job and gave us fits all night, and they are going to give a lot of people fits in their own league," said Miller. "To open against a team like this on their own home court is what we needed. And from that standpoint, it was good to play a team like this one."

After trailing 13 points at intermission, the Bulldogs closed within seven points on a layup by for-

Boys Game

VALDOSTA (62) — Michael Moore 26, Ernest Lowe 15, Jed Dennard 6, Billy Steinberg 6, Matt Baker 4, Tharon Lane 4.
LANIER CO. (49) — Isaac Camon 20, Cornelius Camon 8, Joseph Clines 7, Valentino Brockington 5, Will Watson 3, Ken Johnson 3, Gene Wrice 2, Dwight Boone 1.

Valdosta	14	16	12	20	62
Lanier Co.	6	11	18	14	49

Girls Game

VALDOSTA (56) — Esther Benjamin 15, Laura Dennis 14, Shannon West 8, Tasha Johnson 7, Vashti Manning 3, DeDe Dennis 3, Tracy Troutman 2, Lisa Vincent 2, Melissa Sauls 2.
LANIER CO. (36) — Tawanna Moore 18, Serena Moore 5, Tommy Williams 5, Michelle Brown 4, Wendy Haines 4.

Valdosta	16	9	14	17	56
Lanier Co.	6	7	4	19	36

ward Isaac Camon (20 points). And it was his turnaround jumper on the left baseline that cut the Valdosta lead to just five points with three minutes and eight seconds to play in the third period.

But while Camon was leading Lanier's comeback charge, Moore provided the leadership for his 'Cats.

Moore, who finished with a game-high 26 points, came through with a pair of jump shots in the final moments of the third period to give his team a 42-35 lead with one period to play.

Moore then answered the call in the fourth period by scoring six of his team's first eight points of the final period to increase the VHS lead to 10 at 48-38.

"Michael has been around and showed his senior leadership for the team in the big spots," said Miller. "He showed a lot of poise tonight and it helped us."

Lanier, however, was not ready to call it quits. Shots by Camon, Joseph Clines, and Cornelius Camon shaved the 'Cats' lead to six points with under three minutes to play. Valdosta finished things off with four free throws by guard Ernest Lowe.

"Valdosta just outplayed us tonight and we had some chances to scores but didn't convert," said Lanier head coach George Sorrell. "We turned it over too much, missed too many free throws and you can't do those things and expect to win."

Behind the rebounding of Benjamin, who had 13, and Laura Dennis, who had seven, Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcats had their way with the Lady Bulldogs. But even with an impressive win, Montgomery had mixed emotions.

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

"We made a lot of mistakes. But it was good to just play, get things underway and just see what we could do and what we need to work on," Montgomery said. "I was disappointed in the way we played defense. Everyone likes offense, but you have to play good defense to win in our region. Our goal is to be more consistent and improve every game."

Valdosta held Lanier without a basket until the 2:37 mark in the first period on a layup by Tawanna Moore. Moore led Ricky Davis' Lady 'Dogs with 18 points, but it was a combination of VHS' inside play and outside shooting by guard Shannon West which proved to be too much.

Benjamin, who led VHS with 15 points, scored seven of her team's first nine points. Dennis finished with 14 and West followed with eight points.

Valdosta held a 16-6 lead after the first period and a 25-13 lead at half-time.

Then VHS ran away from Lanier with 14 points in the third period to just four for the Lady Bulldogs.

Wildcats Do It Late, 17-10

V. Times 12-1-90



Marcus Moss (43) leads the Valdosta High defensive charge against Statesboro's Dammion Martin (44), who fumbled on this first-quarter play Friday night at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Catch Makes Up For Drop

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

With their first overtime of the year staring them right in the face, the Valdosta High Wildcats wondered if they were out of miracles. Their starting quarterback was hampered with a dislocated finger, the time left on the clock seemed to wind down by minutes instead of seconds and there was 11 yards between the 'Cats and a drive-saving first down from their own 41-yard line.

With 1:47 left in the contest against a dog-gone determined team of Statesboro Blue Devils, the Wildcat magic reappeared.

The play was a "Wing left, motion left, QB 36." Earlier in the game, the play was called and quarterback Alton Hitson aired one out to fellow senior receiver Steve Jaramillo, a pass which was incomplete. This time, the result was different. Jaramillo got behind the free safety and cut to the inside, never breaking a stride while cradling in Hitson's strike before being tackled at the Statesboro 8-yard line.

One play later, Kendrick Patrick scored and Valdosta saved the game from a possible loss.

"The safety was just playing shallow and I got behind him," said Jaramillo as friends

VALDOSTA 17, STATESBORO 10				
STATESBORO	0	10	0	0-10
VALDOSTA	7	0	3	7-17

V — Kendrick Patrick 1 run (Dow Drury kick)
S — Patrick Lanier 42 field goal
S — Chad Wiggins 5 pass from Todd Stewart (Lanier kick)
V — Drury 23 field goal
V — Kendrick Patrick 8 run (Drury kick)

STATESBORO	VALDOSTA
10	18
28-69	42-136
124	163
10-22-0	9-18-4
193	299
6-32.2	1-39
4-27	3-15
1	0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 16-55, Alton Hitson 13-37, Kendrick Patrick 7-21, Steven Everson 5-18, Carlos Moore 1-5. Statesboro: Steve Brown 12-53, Dwayne Eason 4-19, Leroy Lipsey 2-10, Dammion Martin 2-0, Todd Stewart 8-(4-13).
PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 8-16-3 146, Steven Everson 1-2-1 17. Statesboro: Todd Stewart 10-22-0 124.
RECEIVING: Valdosta: Steve Jaramillo 5-106, Carlos Moore 3-52, Brice Hunter 1-5. Statesboro: Leroy Lipsey 3-51, Chad Wiggins 3-22, Jeff Kaiser 2-47, Bill Vickery 1-3, Dwayne Eason 1-1.

mobbed the instant hero. "I was thinking about the one I dropped when they called the play and I didn't want to do it again. It was a perfect pass and all I was thinking was 'Just catch the ball.'"

Another Jaramillo in the crowd, Steve Sr., was hoping the same thing as the pass sailed through the air. A former Wildcat, the father knew the anxiety his son was going

through. After the catch, the father also knew his son's joy.

"It was beautiful. I'm always hoping they go to him every time because I like to watch him catch. I've got confidence in Steve and obviously (the coaches) did too," the proud papa said. "It's a tough catch running full speed like that but these are the times he'll remember best. It was a great throw and a great catch."

The Wildcats made the Blue Devils watch the ball in the air most of the night as they unleashed a passing attack with success. Former Lowndes High Coach and current Statesboro defensive secondary coach Nate Hayes said he expected Valdosta to throw the ball.

"They came out and said in the paper they were going to throw the ball. Our safety just jumped up on the receiver coming over the middle and the other guy went long. They threw to (Carlos Moore) a lot and the safety was just conscious of him," Hayes said. "I saw the big play coming after the play started."

So did the Wildcat fans who remained silent until the ball was completed. Another play, another win, another page filed away in the vast Wildcat history of game-saving performances.

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Just do it — just in the nick of time. Throughout the 1990 high school football season, the Valdosta High School football team has done whatever it took to win a football game. Friday night's Class AAAA quarterfinal playoff game against Statesboro High at Cleveland Field added a new chapter to that statement.

Kendrick Patrick's anti-climatic 8-yard touchdown run with 1:37 left broke a 10-10 tie and sent second-ranked Valdosta to a 17-10 victory and a berth in the semifinals against Clarke Central Friday night at Cleveland Field.

In the other semifinal, Southwest DeKalb (a 27-10 winner over Marietta) will play Griffin, which ended Tift County's season with a 28-10 victory in Tifton. Clarke Central defeated Wheeler, 28-20.

"You've got to give both teams credit. That was a fine football game," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

Why anti-climatic? On the play before, senior quarterback Alton Hitson hit senior wide receiver Steve Jaramillo on a 51-yard pass play to set up the touchdown, one which Patrick scored with ease behind the offensive line surge.

Go ahead, add to the soap opera. Hitson threw the pass with a dislocated little finger on his throwing hand — an injury which forced him to the sidelines a series earlier. Not to mention the knee problem aggravated by a first-quarter hit. Not to mention other bumps and bruises the two-year starter has ignored in recent weeks.

"I wanted to play. I felt like we needed it," said Hitson. "They taped the fingers together, so I felt alright."

It looked like the playoff game would go into overtime after Valdosta threw its fourth interception with 4:03 left in the game. Sophomore Everson, called into duty when Hitson pulled himself from the game after he recovered his own fumble, had completed a 17-yard pass and run for 18 more yards before throwing the interception.

When the Wildcats' defense made another crunching stop, behind David Stewart's and Eric Phillips' rush and a Trampis Wrice pass breakup, Valdosta got another chance. And while Everson may be the 'Cats future leader, the present one — the one who is 25-1-1 as a two-year starter — answered the team's call.

Hitson lost a yard scrambling, then threw an incomple- tion. But on third-and-11, Hitson found Jaramillo behind the Statesboro secondary. Jaramillo made one move to get some more yards before being dragged down at the 8.

Statesboro (10-3) did complete two passes on its last-gasp answering drive, reaching near midfield. But the Blue Devils missed on their last four passes.

Hitson threw for 146 of Valdosta's 299 total yards, but matched his season total of three interceptions. Jaramillo had five catches for 106 yards.

Valdosta (11-0-1) tried to make it look easy early, going 80 yards in 14 plays on the first drive, with Patrick's 1-yard run the scoring play. The Wildcats had come out throwing in the drive, unlike the past two games. Hitson completed three passes for 54 yards, two to Jaramillo.

Dow Drury added the extra point at the 5:45 mark. Later, with Hitson hurt on the sidelines after a pass interception, Statesboro drove to the 'Cats 26, settling for Patrick Lanier's 42-yard field goal. A tipped 34-yard completion from Todd Stewart to Jeff Kaiser set up the score.

Valdosta drove again afterwards, moving to the 6 after a late hit on Hitson. But Joe Wright lost seven yards on a sweep left, and two incomplections left Valdosta going for a 30-yard Drury field goal. But this was blocked by Chad Parrish.

Another Hitson interception set up Statesboro's touch- down. The 61-yard, eight-play drive had two acrobatic catches — Leroy Lipsey's jump-ball catch for a 36-yard play to the 'Cats' 30, and Chad Wiggins' 5-yard catch on a fade route which beat cornerback Leroy Williams in the back left corner of the end zone with 33 seconds left. Lanier's extra point made it 10-7 Statesboro at the half.

But the mistakes turned Valdosta's way in the third quarter. After a backwards-bouncing 12-yard punt was downed at the Statesboro 41, Valdosta moved down to the 6 — aided by a pass interference call on fourth down. Drury came on and made the 23-yard field goal from the right hash mark, his first make in four attempts.

Valdosta Again, 31-0

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

To talk that talk, you've got to walk that walk — or at least execute the basics of blocking and tackling very well.

Southwest DeKalb tried to talk its talk before the beginning of Saturday night's Class AAAA state championship game at Cleveland Field. The rest of the night it learned how the best in Georgia high school football does it.

Valdosta High 31, Southwest DeKalb 0. The 21st state championship in VHS' storied football history, six under head coach Nick Hyder. The first back-to-back

championship in Class AAAA history, and Valdosta's first repeat since 1968-69.

And the biggest blowout in Valdosta High state-championship since Wright Bazemore's last game in 1971, the 62-12 thumping of Atlanta Peachtree.

"What happened is that what we're trying to teach really came together," said Hyder. "Together they can accomplish so much more if they put their egos in the right place."

"This is a real state championship. Valdosta just clawed in there and earned it. Their coach admitted to me that he'd never seen a team block and tackle as well as

we did."

Where to start? Offensively, senior quarterback Alton Hitson ran for two short touchdowns in directing the 'Cats to their 27th win in Hitson's 29 starts. Hitson becomes the first VHS quarterback since Bruce Bennett in 1960-61 to lead VHS to back-to-back titles.

Senior tailback Joe Wright ran for 113 yards on 13 carries, all in the first three quarters. And his 14-yard touchdown run in quarter No. 2 made it 14-0. Senior fullback Kendrick Patrick added 88 yards on 18 carries.

Defensively, the Wildcats posted their fifth shutout of 1990 — the third in four playoff games. This

time, Charles Tarpley's bunch limited Southwest DeKalb to 72 total yards and three first downs. Quarterback Eric Johnson hit on just 1-of-15 passes with two interceptions, while 1,000-yard rusher Quevin Redding was limited to 50 yards. The Panthers never reached midfield.

And the unit posted its second touchdown of the season when reserve cornerback Leroy Williams picked off his team-leading fifth interception and returned it 37 yards for the final score.

The two teams nearly went at it prior to the game. Southwest DeKalb had stayed in the East end zone while Valdosta ran out on the

See WILDCATS, Page 2-C



Southwest DeKalb running back Quevin Redding (25) attempts to elude Valdosta High defenders Tim McClain (91),

David Stewart (92) and Trampis Wrice (28) during Saturday's game Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

VALDOSTA 31, SW DeKALB 0

SW DeKALB	0	0	0	0-0
VALDOSTA	7	10	0	14-31

V — Alton Hitson 1 run (Dow Drury kick)
V — Joe Wright 14 run (Drury kick)
V — Dow Drury 27 field goal
V — Hitson 6 run (Drury kick)
V — Leroy Williams 37 interception return (Alan Sanderson kick)

SW DeKALB	VALDOSTA
3	FIRST DOWNS 14
20-71	RUSHES-YARDS 54-249
1	PASSING YARDS 28
1-15-2	PASSES 2-6-0
72	TOTAL YARDS 277
6-38.3	PUNTS-AVG. 3-36.0
8-83	PENALTIES-YARDS 3-25
1	FUMBLES-LOST 1

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 13-113, Kendrick Patrick 18-88, Alton Hitson 15-39, Brian Thomas 2-18, Albert Edmonds 2-7, Alfred Barnes 1-(-2), John Bell 1-(-5), Steven Everson 1-(-9). SW DeKalb: Quevin Redding 14-50, Eric Johnson 5-21, Tony Snellings 1-0.

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 2-6-0

28. SW DeKalb: 1-15-2 1.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Brice Hunter 2-28. SW DeKalb: Stacey Davis 1-1.



Still
Going

Valdosta Wins,
17-10—



Statesboro's Dammon Martin (44) stands up Valdosta High fullback Kendrick Patrick on a rushing attempt during Friday's Class AAAA state-playoff game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats-Gladiators Repeat

V. Times 12-2-90
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The championship game of the 1980s has turned into a semifinal game in 1990.

If you've thought that it's just not a championship-type football season at Valdosta High without the Wildcats playing Clarke Central, you're right. For the fifth time in 14 years, the two powers of Georgia football will meet in a playoff-game setting.

Friday night's game at Cleveland Field, however, won't be for the state-championship trophy. With the new Georgia High School Association state-playoff bracket — with two teams from each region advancing, cross-bracketing, etc., — this game

is a semifinal game. The winner will host the Southwest DeKalb-Griffin winner on Dec. 15 for the championship.

The last three state titles the Wildcats won (1984, 1986 and 1989) have come with Clarke Central as the championship-game opponent. It's made up for the past, when Clarke Central (or Athens High) beat Valdosta twice and tied it once in four state-title meetings from 1955 to 1977 — including handing a Wright Bazemore-coached team one of its two losses and a tie in its 16 state-title game appearances.

"Everybody's on a first-name basis with each other," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder Saturday, after returning from a

meeting with Clarke Central to exchange game films. "There's a great deal of respect about anything you do against (CC head coach) Billy Henderson.

"It goes back to 1920. It's a storied past of playoff history."

After beating Statesboro 17-10 Friday night, the Wildcats are 96 minutes away from their own piece of history. You can reel off the numbers — 20 state titles, five under the direction of Hyder.

But not since the 1968-69 seasons has Valdosta High won back-to-back state titles, and the 1969 title was shared with, who else, Athens High.

The 1965 and 1966 teams won their titles outright.

In each of the Hyder-coached title

teams, the following team never made it past the first round of the state playoffs. The first three didn't make it past the Region 1-AAAA title game, the last against Columbus Carver in a 1987 state-playoff game.

This one has made it farther because of "the attitude of the players. You saw it on defense in the second half," said Hyder. "They just don't quit. They are not going to give up."

"We had the heart and guts to have a great second half and stop them," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley after Friday's game. "We're working our butts off. That's

See WILDCATS, Page 2-C

Wildcats

From Page 1-C

all I can ask.

"We need to have more fans out here pulling for us. Our kids are giving great effort, and it's exciting football. You can't ask for anything better."

That defense, after giving up its first touchdown in just under 110 minutes, stood tall in the second half. It allowed 42 total yards in the final half, 23 coming on the final desperation drive.

And the offense answered the call of team captain and senior quarterback Alton Hitson, who was knocked to the canvas twice and sent to the bench for the first time this season. Forget the three interceptions, which match his season total. The 51-yard pass to Steve Jaramillo which set up the last touchdown came with Hitson's fingers taped after dislocating his little finger.

It's those type of efforts which add to Valdosta High's football history.

'Cats Game Moved To Saturday

V. Times 12-4-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High School's football team suffered its first loss of the season on Monday — albeit off the football field.

The Georgia High School Association stepped in Monday and ruled that the Class AAAA semifinal game between Valdosta High (11-0-1) and Clarke Central High (11-2) of Athens would be played Saturday night at Cleveland Field, instead of Friday night. The kickoff time stays at 8 p.m.

The game had to be moved because of policy set by Clarke Central's school board, Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder said Monday.

"Their school board has a policy that (their students) can't get out of school without prior permission," Hyder said. The Clarke Central group would not have enough proper time to make the four-hour trip to Valdosta for a Friday game if it left after the completion of the school day.

Hyder said Valdosta High had initially opposed moving the game from Friday night, which forced the GHSA to make the final decision.

"Our feeling was that we weren't going to volunteer, since we were told the game was scheduled for Friday night," Hyder said. "Everything here is geared for Friday night. We've got to get 80-something workers to work the gates and the concessions ... that's a lot of scheduling, and everything has to be rearranged."

Hyder said the school will live with the decision made by GHSA executive director Bill Fordham. "I won't complain about it. We're just glad to be in the game," Hyder said.

But he did express some concern that if inclement weather postponed Saturday's game, the game would have to be played Monday "and they'd have to get out of school then," he said.

The GHSA's 1990-91 calendar does list Friday and Saturday as playing dates for the state semifinals. The state-championship games are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15.

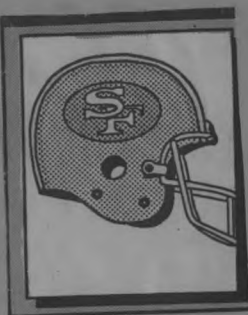
The other Class AAAA semifinal game, Griffin at Southwest DeKalb, is scheduled for Friday night.

This will be Valdosta High's second Saturday home game this season. The Wildcats opened

the season with a 28-6 victory over McEachern on Saturday, Sept. 1.

The change in game dates forced a slight change in the Wildcats' game-week preparations — though it wasn't the usual Monday schedule for a Saturday game.

WILDCAT NOTES: Valdosta held a light workout Monday afternoon amidst the rain-showers, reviewing Clarke Central's team. The usual schedule when the Wildcats play on a Saturday is for the team not to workout on Monday, delaying the game-week preparations one day ... A special "Wildcat Tradition" will be aired tonight at 9 p.m. on TCI Cablevision Channel 36. The show will focus on the Clarke Central game, interviewing those involved with the game.



Giants running back Rodney Hampton dances out of the arms of 49ers cornerback Darryl Pollard Monday night — AP Laserphoto.

Wildcat Preseason

Over 12-4-90
V. Times

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The one-game "exhibition season" is over for the Valdosta High varsity basketball teams. It's time for the Region 1-AAAA schedule.

The Wildcats and Lady Wildcats, after season-opening victories over Lanier County last Tuesday, begin region play tonight at home against Tift County.

"You've got to see what you are made of. You might as well go ahead and play it," said Lady Wildcats coach Susan Montgomery, somewhat leery of the early region outing.

"We didn't really want to schedule it this early. In our case, we usually still have the football playoffs going on," said Wildcat coach John Miller. "But you have to play them sometimes. We're just going to line it up and do the best we can."

Valdosta's boys opened the season with a 62-49 win over Lanier County, behind 26 points from Michael Moore.

"We really need to work hard on rebounding. Height isn't always the edge in rebounding," said Miller. "If you don't jump, if you don't block out, if you're not aggressive, then the height doesn't help out."

"We've also got to be a little better handling pressure."

Tift County and Valdosta's team may be the opposite of each other so far this season. Tift County, Miller said, is a senior-laden team which now has its football-playing players dressed for basketball after Friday's playoff loss. Valdosta is an inexperienced team awaiting at least two football players and more games before sorting out the team's real look.

The Lady Wildcats were 56-36 winners over Lanier County last week, with Esther Benjamin scoring 15 points and Laura Dennis adding 14.

"We've got to play better defense," Montgomery said. "The team which is going to win our region is the one which plays the best defense."

"We're going to be able to score, but we've got to play better defense. No question."

Montgomery said her team is comparable to the Tifton squad. "They do a lot of what we do," she said. "They play aggressive, so we'll see what we're made of."

And she said little in the way of revenge has been made about tonight's opponent. Tift County was the team which knocked Valdosta's sub-region regular-season champions out of the post-season tournament.

Winning AAAA Teams Still Alive

VDT Mon, Dec 3, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Four schools with a winning tradition past and present will be matched up in Friday's Class AAAA state semifinal football playoffs.

One semifinal will have more than its share of past successes. Valdosta and Clarke Central (8 p.m., Cleveland Field) have won seven of the 12 Class AAAA titles since the group was formed in 1978. Griffin, which plays at Southwest DeKalb, shared the first title with Valdosta in 1978.

All four teams are riding large win streaks. Valdosta — the defending Class AAAA state champion — hasn't been beaten in 18 games over a two-season period, and has won 10 straight since the 14-14 tie against Camden County.

Southwest DeKalb has the longest win streak, 11 straight games, since losing game No. 2 to Warner Robins, 10-7.

Clarke Central — which began the year 2-2, including losses to Griffin (9-0) and LaGrange (28-18) — has since won nine straight. And Griffin has won eight straight since back-to-back losses to Newnan (23-21) and Fayette County (14-9).

And if you think you've seen these teams before, you have. Three of the four state semifinals are back again this year, with fellow Region 4-AAAA foe Griffin replacing LaGrange — thanks in part to Griffin's region-playoff victory over LaGrange on Nov. 16.

Here's a look at Friday's games:

CLARKE CENTRAL (11-2) at VALDOSTA

(11-0-1): The championship game of the 1980s is now a semifinal game of 1990, thanks to the new GHSA playoff brackets.

The last three times Valdosta has won a state title, it has beaten the Gladiators (1984, 1986, 1989). Last year's game was a 33-13 victory in Athens.

Valdosta had to use a touchdown in the last two minutes to beat Statesboro, 17-10. Quarterback Alton Hitson, who is 25-1-1 as a two-year starter for the 'Cats, set up the score with a 51-yard pass to Steve Jaramillo.

This is the farthest Valdosta has advanced in the playoffs in a year after a state championship in the Nick Hyder era. And under Hyder, Valdosta is 5-0 in semifinal games.

Profiles/A Weekly Feature About Local People

VDT, Tues., Dec. 4, 1990



Basic skills teacher at Valdosta High School Ethel Smith works with student Eric

Smith during class Monday afternoon — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Student Back As Teacher

By CHARLES TAYLOR GAY
Times Staff Writer

It's the early 1980s, and if visiting Valdosta High School, you might meet student Darlene Jackson. Fast-forward to 1990 — she's still there, but not as before.

Mrs. Jackson, 26, returned to her alma mater this school year as a special education teacher, responsible for five mentally retarded students. As a 1982 graduate of VHS, coming back has been fun and rewarding for her.

"It was like going back home. I grew up in this place," Mrs. Jackson smiled.

If Valdosta High is earning high marks with her, she is doing the same there. Stacey Smith, father of one of Mrs. Jackson's five students, praised her dedication and patience with his 15-year-old Eric, a formerly disinterested retarded student who has perked up under her tutelage.

"Nobody's ever taken the time to teach him. But Mrs. Jackson has showed him so much attention," Smith said. "He's had a bad look or life — he's had a hard time writing especially. But now they have

working at the hospital and Wendy's and Food Lion ... and he wants to go to school and learn now."

Mrs. Jackson gives the credit to a new VHS program stressing a "community-based" curriculum.

Because retarded students have difficulty transferring learned skills from school to "real world" environments, the program puts them in local businesses where they learn to wash clothes, shop and perform other important daily tasks most of us take for granted.

"The community has been very receptive and it has worked out well," Mrs. Jackson said. "We're trying to prepare the children to function in this community."

A Valdosta native, Mrs. Jackson

said it has been her dream to be a teacher since she was a first grader at Lomax Pinevale Elementary. Teacher Betty O'Neal awakened a spark in her to help others, Mrs. Jackson said.

"She was so inspirational. She would say anything you want to do, you can do. She really touched me and from that experience I felt I could touch somebody in life also," Mrs. Jackson said.

Mrs. Jackson's life took an anxious turn Monday, as she wished good-bye to her husband, a local National Guardsman departing for possible Middle Eastern duty. "I'm proud of him, but I'd prefer to have him here," she said.

Wildcat Wrestlers Get Shot

V. Times 12-7-90
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The waiting is over for the new-look Valdosta High wrestling program.

While other high school wrestling programs may be a few weeks into their season, the Wildcats will end their wait by entering their first tournament, at West Laurens, on Saturday.

The two-time defending area champions have a new coach and some new wrestlers, but they still are waiting — waiting for the Wildcats' football season to end to fill out the beefy portion of the lineup.

"You have to wrestle from 103 pounds to heavyweight," said new coach Eddie Crocker, who takes over for John Davis. "When we signed up, we had all the 103-pounders and 160-pounders we wanted. But we didn't have any heavier weights. We won't have a heavyweight wrestling on Saturday.

"We're definitely going to be behind. Last week was our first full week of practice ... but we're very eager to get on the mat. We're not out to win state this weekend. We're out to get a little better."

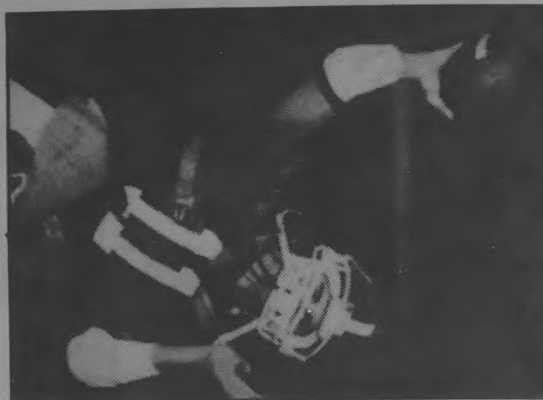
The varsity unit which will enter Saturday's meet will have just two seniors, but will have four sophomores and three freshmen.

The two seniors are returning varsity performers Tim Garland (112-pound class) and Justin Bridges (145). Juniors are Scott Jones (135), Ryan Coyne (152) and Andrew Denmark (171).

The most experienced sophomore is Ryan Thigpen (125), joined by classmates Mark Nestor (103), Cedric Brown (130) and Brahm Kellerman (189). And three freshman have made the transition from the junior high, including Curtis Emanuel (119), who went unbeaten last season. There's also Eric Skinner (140) and Eric Eldridge (160).

Crocker was a late hire to the Valdosta High staff and faculty, taking the position after the coach who was originally hired to replace Davis — who moved to Valdosta Junior High School — turned down the position during the summer. Crocker also served as an assistant coach for the ninth-grade football team this fall.

Crocker wrestled two years at Clemson, then three years at Carson-Newman at the 150-pound level. He was a two-time state champion in high school, first at Birmingham (Ala.) Irwin his junior year, and Troup County his senior season.



GREG TALLEY

Talley Finds Positives In Dawgs

VDI, Sun., Dec. 9, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For the University of Georgia Bulldog football team, the 1990 season was one filled with promise as well as numerous disappointments.

No one player felt more elated during the wins and low during the losses than Valdosta's own, and UGA junior quarterback, Greg Talley.

Talley, who shared the starting role for much of the season with the likes of Preston Jones and Joe Dupree, talked with *The Valdosta Daily Times* about what he sees in the future for Georgia football and

how he fits into that plan.

QUESTION: Where do you see the Bulldog team heading into next season?

TALLEY: We tried as hard as we could this year, and I think we've got a lot to look forward to next season. Not using this as an excuse, but we were very, very young this year compared to others. We've got some great talent coming back and I just don't think everyone should give up on us just quite yet.

QUESTION: Does the rotation of quarterbacks become a problem for you?

TALLEY: No. It's my job as any other player on this team to be ready when I'm called upon. Start-

ing or not starting is not up to me and I don't worry about it. Coach Golf is doing what he feels is best for the team.

QUESTION: Is there anything UGA can take from this past 4-7 season and build on?

TALLEY: Just knowing that we can get the job done in our hearts I think counts for a lot. This team never quit and we were even the game in the fourth quarter against a Georgia Tech team that may win the national championship. Talk about a team that's made a lot of improvement since I've been at Georgia, it's Tech. I think we can do the same.

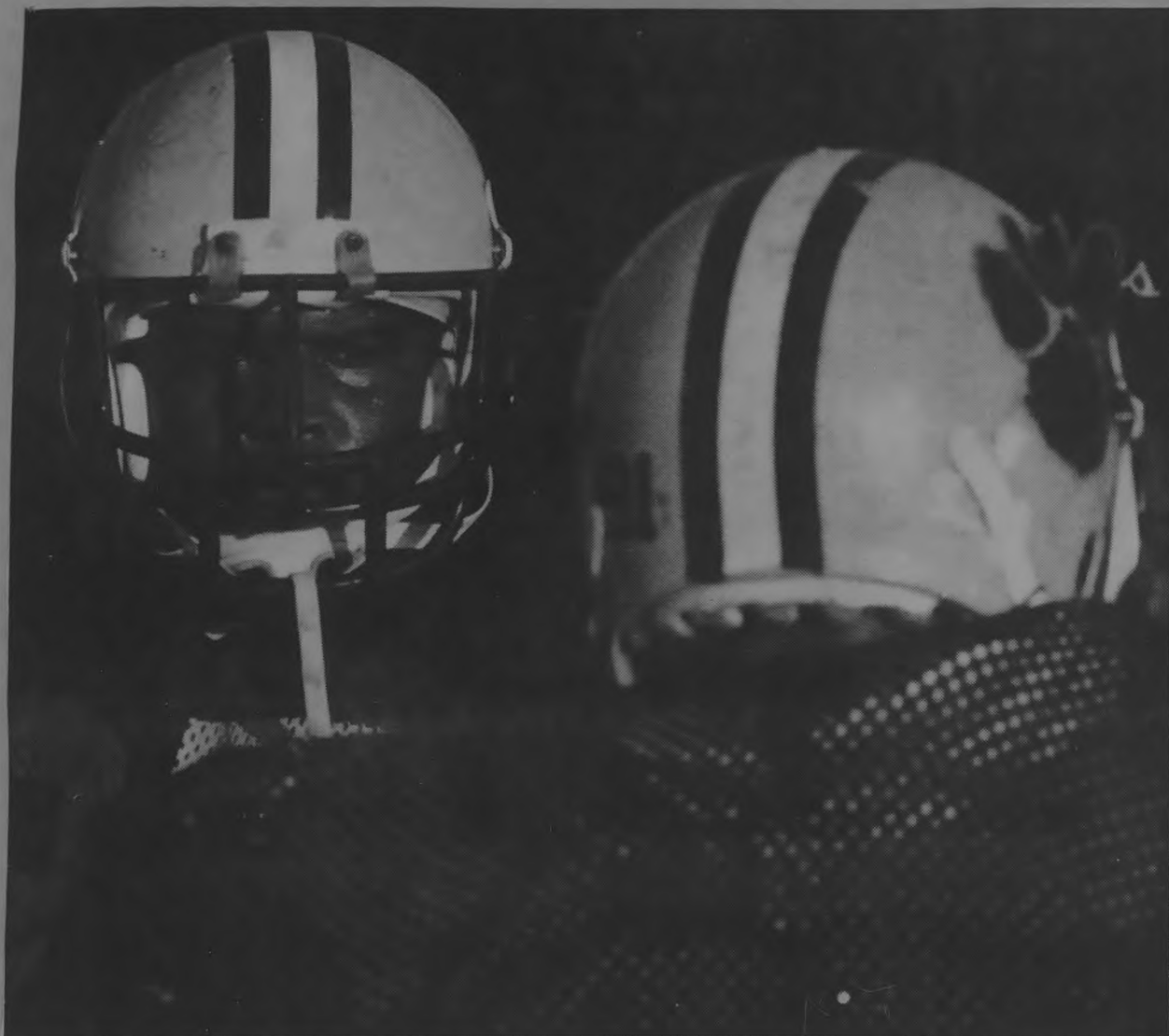
CLARKE CENTRAL at VALDOSTA: I don't like the looks of this one. If anybody is going to beat the Wildcats, the Gladiators would be high on the list.

After a 33-13 rout in their own stadium, the Gladiators are sure to be wanting revenge.

In this series, Clarke Central always seems to come up with a freak score off of a tipped pass. This year's Valdosta team should get an award for being one of the strongest second-half football teams in the state.

The old saying is a team must play four quarters to win. That must be true because Valdosta has taken it to heart. If the coaches told the players before Saturday's kickoff that it's the second half, we'd all be at home by halftime.

But the great teams just find a way to win whether you like them or not. Clarke Central should give VHS a scare, then comes the wakeup call. VALDOSTA by 6.



Valdosta High defensive lineman Andre Scruggs (left) has returned from an early-sea-

son knee injury to start again — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Scruggs Has His Season

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

V. Times
12-7-90

Many football fans call the post-season playoffs the second season.

For Valdosta High defensive lineman Andre Scruggs, the playoffs are his only season.

The senior has played in just four of Valdosta's 12 games this season — the opener against McEachern and the last three games. The rest of the time he's spend mending after injuring his right knee late in the McEachern game.

"I thank God for letting me come back," said Scruggs. "I just wanted to get back and practice with the team. I didn't care if I played."

Scruggs is doing more than playing. He's back starting at right defensive tackle, back on the line with his long-time friends and teammates, left tackle Ricky Thomas and nose guard M.J. Johnson.

"Win or lose, they are going to get to go out together," said defensive line coach Larry Jester. "They're like bosom buddies. When Andre went down, it was like a something happened to a member of the family."

Scruggs, Valdosta's largest defensive lineman at 265 pounds, went down late in the McEachern game. There was some question whether he should have been in the game, since the Wildcats had a 28-0 lead.

But after a pair of long plays against the second-teamers, Valdosta chose to try and protect the shutout and put the first team back in.

Instead, the Wildcats lost Scruggs, lost the shutout, and lost backup defensive back Jerald Davis to another knee injury on the last play.

"I wasn't that prepared for the blow. The guy was coming down and just hit me, and I was standing straight up," Scruggs said. "I wasn't prepared for the lick."

A week later, Scruggs had his knee arthroscopically repaired. He spend a "miserable" day in the hospital, and had to wonder when some good times would fall his way. This was another low point of Scruggs' year, after having his mother die in a house fire in May.

"I tried to keep a positive attitude, but the doctor said it was pretty bad," Scruggs said. "I was kind of hoping I'd be back, since it was my senior year. Every night I prayed my knee would get better, to get normal."

Scruggs also became a manager and cheerleader for his friends on the line. He'd go to practices and to games. And he'd work to strengthen the knee.

Times were tough, "but he didn't lay down. He worked and got himself ready to play," said Jester. "His personal goal was to be in the Lowndes game."

And Scruggs played, at 65 or 70 percent, against the

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crosstown rival. Then after the off-week Valdosta earned for winning Region 1-AAAA, Scruggs was back for the playoff wins over Northside and Statesboro.

Now he and the Wildcats face Saturday night, and another

championship-calibre meeting with Clarke Central. The main focus of attention will be all-everything tailback Carlos Freeman.

"We're just going to have to do what was taught us, use fundamentals and tackle well," Scruggs said.

Hyder, Hargett Lead 1-AAAA Team

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For the fifth consecutive year, Valdosta High proved why they are considered by many to be one of the strongest programs in the state.

The Wildcats (13-0-1) didn't stop after wrapping up another Region 1-AAAA football championship as they proceeded to claim their second straight state title for the first time since 1969.

For his efforts, VHS head coach Nick Hyder was named as the All-Region Coach of the Year for 1990.

Hyder, who has received this honor on four other occasions, has now tallied 194 wins in 17 years as the Wildcats head man. For his career, Hyder has won 247 games.

"First of all, I'd like to say that our entire coaching staff does an outstanding job. Charles Tarpley, Keith Middleton, Al Akins and Larry Jester on defense, with Jim Burroughs as the team trainer, Jerry Don Baker, Bob Bolton,

Mike O'Brien and Ronnie Pitcock on offense and Tim Horton, Jack Rudolph and Eddie Crocker on our ninth grade team work very hard," said Hyder. "And John Davis and his staff did a fine job with our junior high programs.

"I consider myself a brother of this staff, a staff that really grew every day," said Hyder. "The youngsters also responded to the value system we have. I'm just very thankful and it was a special year."

Tift County's senior Clay Shiver became the first lineman ever to take the top offensive honors in 1-AAAA.

At 6-foot-4, 257, Shiver is one of the South's top college prospects and was named as the All-Region Offensive Player of the Year.

The Defensive Player of the Year award was split between a pair of dominating linemen. Bainbridge High's senior noseguard John Hinson and Lowndes High's junior Anthony Hargett shared the honor.

Hinson (5-10, 270) was the leading tackler on the Bearcats for the second straight year.

This past fall, Hinson racked up 51 tackles, 40 assists, to go along with four quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries. Hargett, on the other hand, also led the Vikings in tackles for the second straight season. At 5-11, 215, Hargett finished with 69 tackles, one interception, three fumble recoveries, and three quarterback sacks.

Valdosta High led the All-Region first-team list with six players, followed by Bainbridge High, Tift County, Colquitt County and Coffee High with four players each and Lowndes High had three.

The first team offense is led by Tift County senior quarterback Mickey Weldon. Weldon completed 102 of 197 passes for 1,708 yards and eight touchdowns. He also rushed for 206 yards and three scores.

The backfield includes Coffee High tailback Reggie Glover and Colquitt County's Nathan Williams. Glover and Williams battled it out for the region rushing lead for much of the season.

Williams finished with 923 yards on 160 carries and nine touchdowns. Glover, who missed

two games due to an injury, rushed for 878 yards and 11 touchdowns.

The receiving corps includes Bainbridge High's Stanley Flanders and Tift County's Gannon Hall. Flanders ended the year with 705 yards on 40 receptions and eight touchdowns. He also finished with a 17.6 yards per reception average.

Hall finished with 955 yards on 48 receptions and five touchdowns. In Tift County's playoff game versus Bainbridge, Hall had a career night catching seven passes for 271 yards, which was a school record, and three touchdowns, which tied a THS school mark.

The first-team tight end is Colquitt County's Michael Boatwright. Boatwright had 11 catches for 184 yards and one touchdown.

Tift County's Shiver, along with Valdosta High's Shaun Eilders and Bucky Allen headline the first-team offensive line.

Eilders (6-3, 280), who was also named first-team all-state, started in 33 consecutive games for the 'Cats while Allen (6-3, 245) helped pave
See ALL-REGION, Page 3-B

All-Region

From Page 1-B

the way for the VHS offense in yet another title chase.

Colquitt County's David DeRosso (6-1, 190) and Coffee's Kyle Lott (6-0, 218) were also named to the first-team offensive line.

The first-team placekicker is Valdosta High's Dow Drury. Drury, who connected on 10-of-17 field goals and 23-of-27 extra points this season, makes his second straight appearance on the squad.

Hargett and Hinson lead the first-team defense along with Valdosta High's senior Marcus Moss (6-0, 190) and Coffee's Jerry Hill (5-11, 230) on the defensive line.

Valdosta High junior Dexter Daniels (6-2, 225) and Lowndes' Randall Godfrey (6-3, 225) join Coffee's Clifford Kirkland (5-10, 195) and Bainbridge's Ronnie Bell (6-0, 210) as first-team linebackers.

The first-team defensive secondary is led by all-state defensive back Anthony Bridges of Colquitt County. Bainbridge's Michael Gibson, Tift County's Erick Walker and Valdosta High's Trampis Wrice complete the secondary.

The first-team punter was Bainbridge's Brian Powell. Powell finished with a 40.1 yard average on 33 punts.

For the second year in a row, Lowndes High's Jeffrey Thomas was named as the team's first-team specialty player. Thomas finished with a kick return average of 10.6 and a career average of 11.2. He is the only three-time All-Region performer on the squad.

Tift County had seven players named to the second-team, Valdosta High had six players and Lowndes High was third with five players.

The second-team offense is led by VHS' Alton Hitson (5-10, 170) at quarterback. Hitson became only the second quarterback in school history to lead his team to back-to-back championships.

VHS teammate Joe Wright (5-8, 170) and Bainbridge junior tailback Vidal Lively (5-10, 175) comprise the backfield, with VHS' Steve Jaramillo and Tift County's Brian Blomgren as second-team receivers.

The offensive line includes Lowndes' Chad Cowart at tight end, Coffee's Ron Adams (5-9, 175), Bainbridge's Jason Slaughter (6-0, 230), Lowndes' Andy Pollock (6-0, 240) and Tift County's Lee Bryan (6-5, 230) and Rocky Laster (6-1, 222).

The second-team placekicker is Tift County's Jim Jones. Jones was 28-of-29 on extra points and was 2-of-3 on field goal attempts.

Second-team defensive linemen include Lowndes' Damion Shiver (6-2, 220), who led the region with 12 quarterback sacks, Valdosta's Ricky Thomas (6-3, 240), Bainbridge's Lorenzo Murphy (6-0, 225), and Tift County's Kenyatta King (6-1, 219).

Valdosta's Jonathan Davis (6-2, 225), Tift County's Stephen Hobby (5-9, 200), Coffee's Eddie Dunlap (5-10, 170), and Bainbridge's Corbett Barker (6-0, 200) round out the linebackers.

The second-team defensive backfield has Valdosta's Deric Cotton (6-4, 195), Lowndes' Jason Clements (5-10, 170), Coffee's Lamar Tomblin (5-10, 190) and Bainbridge's Kelvin Miller (6-0, 190).

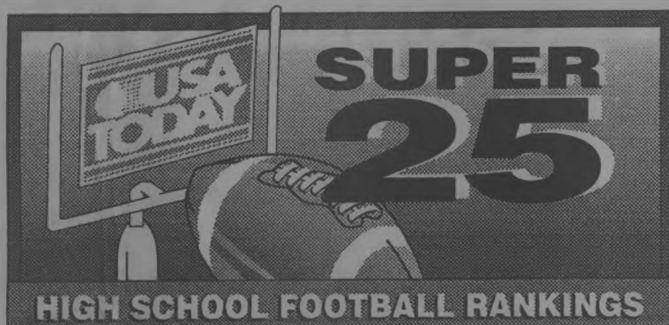
The second-team punter is Low-

ndes' Matt Futch. Futch, who led the region in punting in 1989, finished with a 38.5 punting average this fall. Futch punted 40 times for the Vikes.

Four players were given an honorable mention. They are Colquitt's Quessie Bridges and Chris McCranie, Coffee's Rob Lanier and Lowndes' Chris Wright.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

USA Today 12-4-90



1 Lawton, Okla. Eisenhower (14-0)

Last week: 1. Completed season by winning first state Class 5A title, 35-7 against Oklahoma City Putnam City North (12-2) before crowd of 10,000. Dwight McFadden ran 32 times for 234 yards, two TDs. Otis Blann intercepted two passes and defense allowed 71 yards.

2 Houston Aldine (13-0)

Last week: 2. Defeated city foe Booker T. Washington 30-26 before crowd of 18,500 in third round of Class 5A playoffs. Derrick Johnson ran 22 times for 189 yards, one TD, and Eric Gray 22 times for 88 yards, three TDs. **Next game:** Saturday vs. Mission in Houston Astrodome.

3 Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Dillard (12-0)

Last week: 3. Routed Pompano Beach Ely 44-7 before crowd of 8,000 in second round of Class 4A playoffs. James Bostic ran 18 times for 90 yards, two TDs. Jack Hallmon returned recovered fumble 35 yards for TD and made four solo tackles. **Next game:** Friday at Kissimmee Osceola (10-2).

4 Warren, Ohio Harding (14-0)

Last week: 4. State Division I champion.

5 Louisville Trinity (14-0)

Last week: 5. Won record third consecutive state Class 4A title and 42nd consecutive game, 27-14 against Bowling Green Warren Central before crowd of 12,600. Jamie Roberts ran 20 times for 169 yards. Craig DeSensi ran 17 times for 112 yards, two TDs and was 5-for-13 passing for 76 yards.

6 San Diego Morse (13-0)

Last week: 14. Defeated Chula Vista 35-28 before crowd of 8,000 in San Diego Section Class 3A semifinals. Gary Taylor ran 20 times for 165 yards, two TDs, and Teddy Lawrence 16 times for 123 yards, two TDs. **Next game:** Saturday vs. Orange Glen for San Diego Section title at Jack Murphy Stadium.

7 Chicago Mount Carmel (14-0)

Last week: 7. State Class 5A champion.

8 Valdosta, Ga. (11-0-1)

Last week: 8. Defeated Statesboro 17-10 before crowd of 9,500 in state Class AAAA quarterfinals. Alton Hitson was 9-for-18 passing for 134 yards. Dexter Daniels made 10 first hits and Marcus Moss eight. **Next game:** Friday vs. Athens Clarke Central (11-2) in Class AAAA semifinals.

9 Bradenton, Fla. Manatee (12-0)

Last week: 9. Routed previously unbeaten state No. 2 Orlando Evans 55-34 before 8,000 in Class 5A playoffs. Tommie Frazier ran 15 times for 102 yards, two TDs, and was 8-for-12 passing for 185 yards, two TDs. Tyrone Williams ran for 149 yards, scored five TDs. **Next game:** Seeks 21st consecutive win Friday at Fort Walton Beach Choctawhatchee (10-2).

10 Ruston, La. (13-0)

Last week: 15. Defeated previously unbeaten Thibodaux 27-3 before 16,000 in Class 4A semifinals. Brad Laird was 7-for-10 passing for 113 yards, one TD. Michael Metzger kicked FGs of 36, 23 yards. **Next game:** Saturday vs. Baton Rouge Catholic (13-1) in Louisiana Superdome for state Class 4A title.

11 Merced, Calif. (13-0)

Last week: 17. Raised winning streak to 27 with 25-7 victory against Stockton Lincoln in CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division I semifinals. Stephon Jackson and Jhay Roland combined for 328 yards rushing. **Next game:** Friday vs. Grass Valley Nevada Union for Sac-Joaquin Division I title at Modesto.

12 Jefferson City, Mo. (14-0)

Last week: 12. State Class 5A champion.

13 Randolph, N.J. (9-0)

Last week: Not ranked. Edged previously unbeaten Montclair 22-21 before crowd of 15,000 to win Group IV North Jersey title. Mike Groh was 11-for-18 passing for 150 yards and kicked winning 38-yard field goal on last play of game. Justin Malinchak ran 14 times for 100 yards, two TDs.

14 Wexford, Pa. North Allegheny (13-0-1)

Last week: Not ranked. Won Western Pennsylvania Class AAAA title, 35-17 against unbeaten Erie Cathedral Prep. Kevin Rock (1,066), Jonathan Craig (1,028), Mike McKnight (1,006) surpassed 1,000 yards rushing. **Next game:** Saturday vs. No. 25 Folsom Ridley (12-0) for state Class AAAA title at Hershey.

15 Fayetteville, Tenn. Lincoln County (14-0)

Last week: Not ranked. Defeated unbeaten Knoxville Central 28-14 before crowd of 15,000 in Class AAA semifinals. Randy Wood ran 11 times for 120 yards and Rod Buchanan 21 times for 98 yards, one TD. **Next game:** Saturday vs. Germantown (11-2) for state Class AAA title at Vanderbilt University.

16 Peoria, Ariz. (13-0)

Last week: 16. Defeated Phoenix Thunderbird 31-17 before crowd of 8,500 in Class 4A semifinals. Armando Castro ran 15 times for 89 yards, one TD, and Tony Rojas three times for 69 yards, one TD. **Next game:** Friday vs. Tucson Sabino (13-0) for state Class 4A title at Arizona State University.

17 Bakersfield, Calif. (13-0)

Last week: 19. Raised winning streak to 39 with 14-10 victory against Visalia Mount Whitney to win CIF Central Section title before crowd of 14,300. MVP Kevin Park returned intercepted pass 40 yards to set up winning TD. Aaron McDonald ran 13 times for 74 yards, two TDs.

18 Winchester, Mass. (11-0)

Last week: Not ranked. Won Division II Super Bowl 23-16 against previously unbeaten Walpole. Dan McGrath was 6-for-11 passing for 114 yards, one TD, and Tom Russo caught three for 97 yards, one TD. Brian Gianci ran nine times for 61 yards, two TDs.

19 Syracuse, N.Y. Henninger (11-0)

Last week: 20. Cross-section regional champion.

20 Great Falls, Mont. Russell (12-0)

Last week: 21. State Class AA champion.

21 Arlington, Texas Lamar (13-0)

Last week: Not ranked. Routed El Paso Andress 49-7 in Class 5A quarterfinals. Shawn Walters ran 10 times for 181 yards, three TDs. Tony Kennedy was 7-for-9 passing for 169 yards. **Next game:** Saturday vs. Dallas Carter (12-1) in Class 5A semifinals at Texas Stadium in Irving.

22 Burlington, N.C. Cummings (14-0)

Last week: 22. Defeated unbeaten state No. 2 Bailey Southern Nash 40-13 in Class 3A semifinals. Donnie Davis was 23-for-33 passing for 324 yards, three TDs. Buddy Fowler ran for 216 yards, two TDs. **Next game:** Friday vs. Statesville (13-1) for state Class 3A title at University of North Carolina.

23 Wellsburg, W.Va. Brooke (13-0)

Last week: 23. State Class AAA champion.

24 Marion, Iowa Linn-Mar (13-0)

Last week: 24. State Class 4A champion.

25 Folsom, Pa. Ridley (12-0)

Last week: Not ranked. Edged West Lawn Wilson 14-12 to win Eastern Pennsylvania Class AAAA title. Mike Busza ran for 135 yards, one TD, and Dennis Decker was 13-for-21 passing for 139 yards, one TD. **Next game:** Saturday vs. No. 14 Wexford North Allegheny (13-0-1) for state Class AAAA title at Hershey.

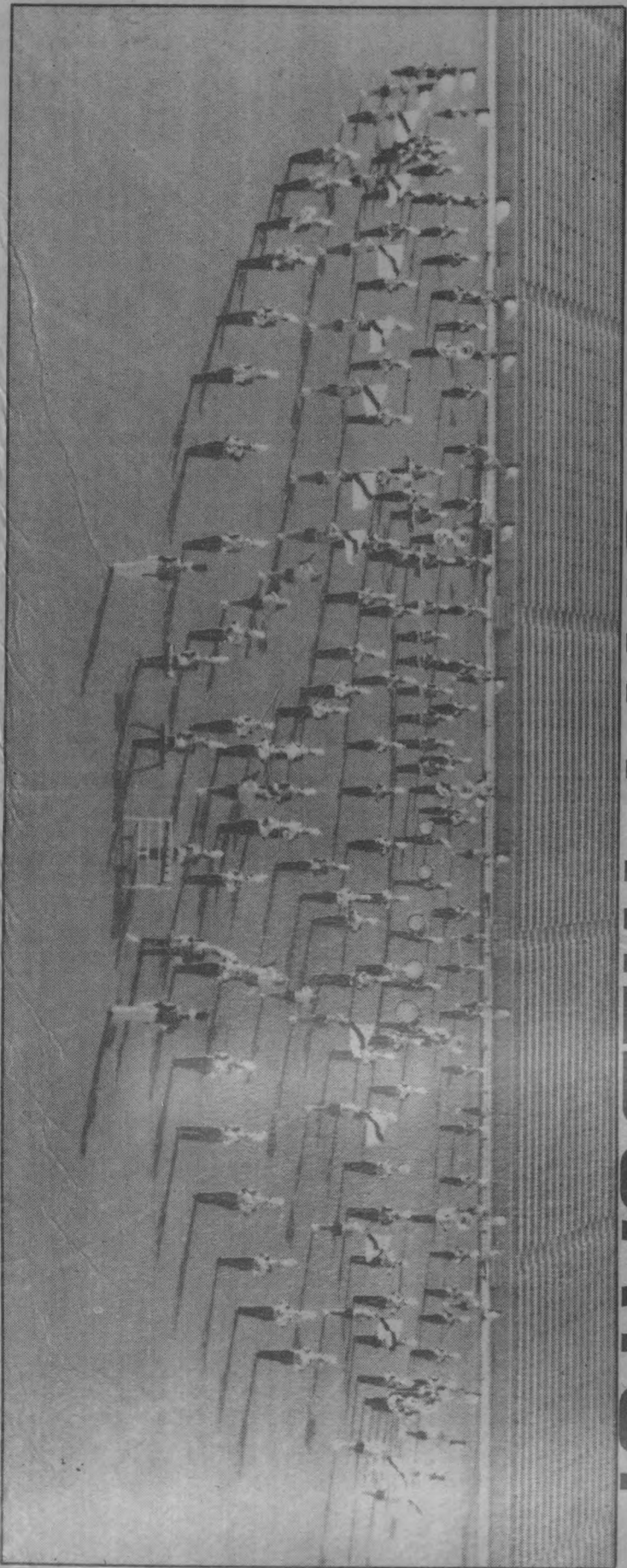
► **DROPPED OUT:** Montclair (N.J.) (No. 6, 10-1), lost to Randolph 22-21; Erie (Pa.) Cathedral Prep (No. 10, 10-1), lost to Wexford North Allegheny 35-17; Walpole (Mass.) (No. 11, 10-1), lost to Winchester 23-16; Knoxville (Tenn.) Central (No. 13, 13-1), lost to Fayetteville Lincoln County 28-14; Pittsburgh Perry Traditional Academy (No. 18, 11-1), lost to Pittsburgh Seton LaSalle 10-6; Beaverton (Ore.) Sunset (No. 25, 12-1), lost to Roseburg 7-0.

► **HONORABLE MENTION:** Anoka (Minn.) (14-0); Camden (S.C.) (15-0); Dumfries (Va.) Potomac (13-0); Indianapolis Franklin Central (14-0); Joliet (Ill.) Catholic (14-0); Papillion (Neb.) Papillion-LaVista (12-0); Peabody (Mass.) (11-0); Randallstown (Md.) (13-0); River Ridge (La.) John Curtis (14-0); Roseburg (Ore.) (13-0).

► Ranked for USA TODAY by consulting high school editor Dave Krider, a sports-writer in Indiana for 29 years who has written for a variety of national publications.

2 IN A ROW!

GO...MIGHTY WILDCATS!



1990 MARCHING CATS



VHS, Clarke Renew Rivalry

V. Times 12-8-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Talk about the best of Georgia high school football, and two of the schools one can list would be Valdosta High and Clarke Central High.

Talk about the best of Georgia high school football's coaches, and two of the men you can list are Valdosta's Nick Hyder and Clarke Central's Billy Henderson.

Those forces clash tonight at Cleveland Field, 8 p.m. kickoff. The team left standing will play for the Class AAAA state championship on its home field next Saturday.

The two schools have combined to win four of the last six Class AAAA state titles. Valdosta's won three, all by beating Clarke Central — that includes last year's 33-13 win in Athens. Clarke Central last won the title in 1985.

That was then. This is 1990.

"Those games were by other people. The key is to adjust to the new people," said Hyder. "That's what high school football is."

This one may be a hard-hitting, grind-it-out affair between two teams hotter than the weather. Val-

dosta (11-0-1) hasn't been beaten in 20 games, including a tie earlier in the season. Clarke Central (11-2) has won nine straight since a 2-2 start.

"They're built on defense, offensive line play and hard running," said Hyder of the Gladiators.

"Through the years, Valdosta has had a great defense. They're aggressive, physical and relentless. They have a great kicking game, and much imagination on offense," added Henderson. "Whenever you play Valdosta it is a challenge."

The focus of tonight's attention will be on Clarke Central tailback Carlos Freeman and Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson — while watching to see what the team's strong defenses will do to counteract them.

Freeman has run for over 1,200 yards this season, despite missing three games with an ankle injury. Last week, in a quarterfinal game against Wheeler, Freeman ran for a career-high 224 yards on 44 carries and two short touchdowns.

The Valdosta defense has allowed only one 100-yard rushing game this season, and that came because

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B



TONIGHT'S GAME

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (11-0-1 overall) vs. Clarke Central High Gladiators (11-2 overall).

WHAT: Semifinal round of state Class AAAA football playoffs.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m.; tickets available.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, low in the middle 30s.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) for Valdosta High broadcast.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 17, Statesboro 10; Clarke Central 28, Wheeler 20.

OVERALL SERIES: Valdosta leads, 5-2-2. This is the first time since 1939 that the two teams have met outside a GHSA state-championship game setting.

Valdosta High coach Nick Hyder is 3-1 against Clarke Central. Clarke Central coach Billy Henderson is 4-7-1 against Valdosta (including 3-4-1 at Willingham High).

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll; No. 8 in USA Today national poll; Clarke Central, No. 8 in Georgia AP Class AAAA poll.

Southwest DeKalb In AAAA Final

Staff Reports

Southwest DeKalb scored two third-quarter touchdowns to respond from a 14-10 halftime deficit and defeat Griffin, 24-14, Friday night in Atlanta to advance to the Class AAAA state-championship game.

The Panthers will play at either Valdosta or Clarke Central next Saturday night.

Marc Boston's 6-yard run was lowed by a fumble recovery in end zone to give Southwest DeKalb its 14 third-quarter points. Griffin could not answer.

Southwest had left 10-3 after Gavin Redding's 1-yard run and Olin Dean 28-yard field goal. Griffin scored on a 63-yard Chad Holes run, then took the lead at the on Phillip Richards' 1-yard run two-point conversion.

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

McEachern's Billy Quince ran 77 yards on the last play of the game.

"But we've faced nobody like that this season," Hyder said. "He's very much like James Roberts. He's a real fine football player."

In last year's game, Roberts was held to 37 yards on 17 carries and a touchdown.

Quarterback Chad Whittemore ran for one score and passed to set up two others last week. "The more we studied him on video, the more he rose to the occasion for them," Hyder said.

Hitson, 25-1-1 as a two-year starter for the Wildcats, overcame a dislocated finger in the fourth quarter to set up Valdosta's winning touchdown in a 17-10 victory over

Statesboro.

Hitson has run for 392 yards and passed for 968 more, and he's been involved in 15 of VHS's 29 offensive touchdowns.

Tailback Joe Wright has run for 822 yards and four touchdowns, while receivers Steve Jaramillo (22 catches, 321 yards) and Carlos Moore (15, 312 yards) are Hitson's favorite targets.

Henderson and staff had to rebuild the defense after last year's senior-oriented group. "It's completely different," Henderson said. "We have mostly one senior on defense, and four or five on offense. They've grown and improved."

"You take what you've got, and do the best with you've got and love them."

Panthers Get Script Rewritten In Defeat

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Southwest DeKalb Panthers ventured into historic Cleveland Field Saturday night hoping to write its own championship script. But the Panthers instead had to settle for second billing to the Valdosta High Wildcats.

"We just failed to do anything right tonight and that's not so much as it was Valdosta," said head coach Buck Godfrey. "It's hard to put a night like this into words because we lost the state championship. Plus, I don't want our kids to be too upset."

"It takes a mighty fine football team to make it to this point and we did something this year to be proud of," said Godfrey. "I know Nick (Hyder, VHS head coach) and he's a class guy, class team, and they just put a whipping on us. But we've got seven juniors this year and couple of kids I feel will be pretty good players from the middle school level and we'll see Valdosta at our place next year."

Southwest DeKalb, the pride of metro Atlanta in 1990 winners in 13 of 15 games played, managed to keep its spirits high for much of what was a frustrating game. Even after carrying the burden of a 17-0 deficit into the dressing room at

intermission, the Panthers roared out for the second half with the dream of knocking off Valdosta.

But while the spirit was willing, the results were to never come. In fact, when VHS' Alton Hitson scored the final points of the game, Chris Ward said to his teammates, "Don't worry guys, it's about over."

"Valdosta didn't do anything different than what we practiced for," said Panthers' star tailback Quevin Redding. "All they did was take everything away and win the championship. We did great this year, but it's hard to walk away with this kind of a loss."

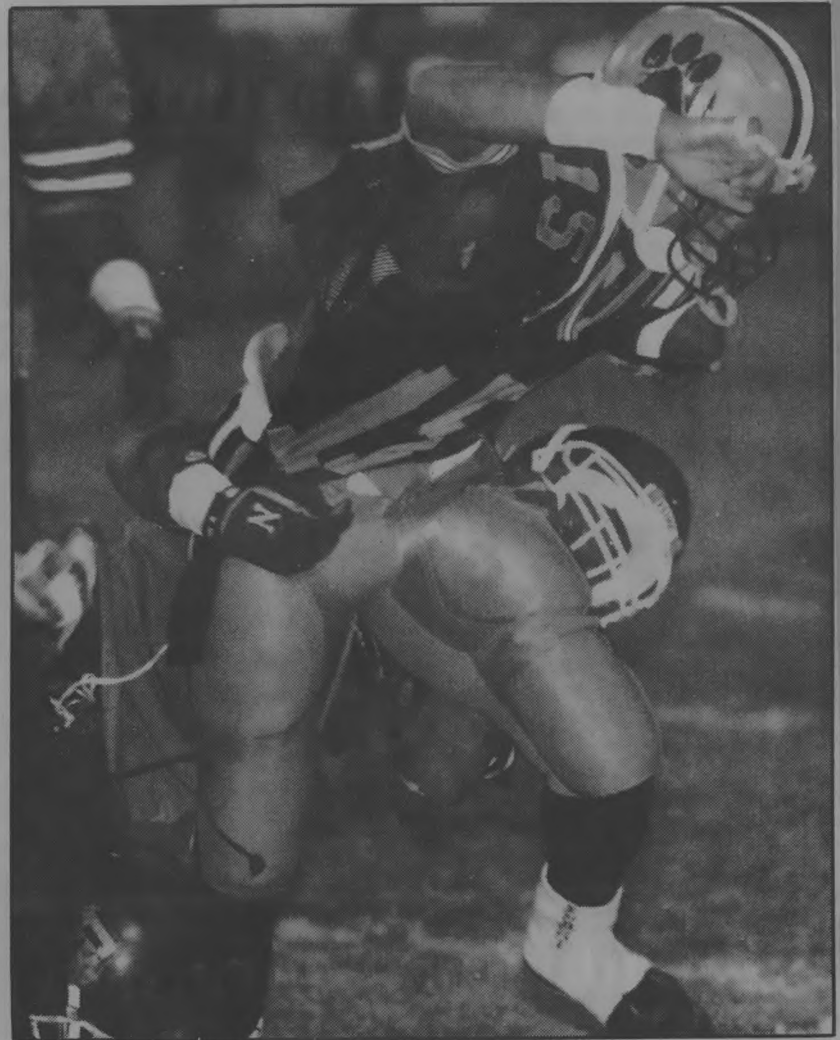
While the VHS lead increased to 24 points, Southwest DeKalb found themselves reaching deep into its playbook for a magical comeback finish.

But none of the calls selected held the key to victory.

Late in the third quarter, Panthers' defensive assistant coach Napoleon Cobb yelled into the mouthpiece of his headset, "Hell, they've (VHS) got an answer for everything I'm calling. We can't stop 'em."

Godfrey stated such comments told the story for his Panthers.

"The key to this whole thing was that we couldn't stop them," said Godfrey. "And on offense, we couldn't get any yards."



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson (15) struggles for some yardage — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

According to Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson, the 'Cats were determined — something he says played a key role in his team winning the state crown.

"All we did was try as hard as we could and worked to win a championship. What our team did may be surprise to some, but it's not to us," said Hitson. "It's just a great feeling to know you accomplished your goals. This team played with a lot of heart."

Through the 1990 season, Valdosta High had become accustomed to second-half outbursts which determined the game's outcome. Saturday night was another story.

The Wildcats scored a pair of touchdowns in each half and tacked on a field goal for good measure.

"The bottom line is that we're the champions now," said VHS tackle Shaun Eilders. "No polls, no stats, we proved it on the field. I'm just so proud of our team and coaches for the job they did. I think this one shows to a lot of people that desire means a lot. People can say we didn't have talent, although I know we did. But they also have to say we're the champions."

With back-to-back titles safely tucked away, the high school football team of the 1980s opened the 1990s as champs.

Wildcats Overcame Doubters

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Before the opening kickoff of the 1990 season, some critics had already closed the books on the Valdosta High Wildcat football team.

Reasons such as missing key players, no speed and no size were on the lips of Wildcat doubters. And yet, all the Valdosta High players did was line it up and play football. The Wildcats made their final speech, as they had in 13 previous games, between the goalposts at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta High allowed just one touchdown and 10 points total in the 1990 playoffs to wrap up its second consecutive Class AAAA state football championship, 31-0, over the Southwest DeKalb Panthers Saturday night. The win also marked VHS' third championship in five years.

"To give up just one touchdown the entire playoff is just a great tribute to everyone," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "To win back-to-back championships for the first time in 21 years is just tremendous. To work through some of the things we did this year, myself taking over as defensive coordinator, getting new coaches like Coach (Larry) Jester and have the kids and fans respond the way they did is the best Christmas present I could ever ask for."

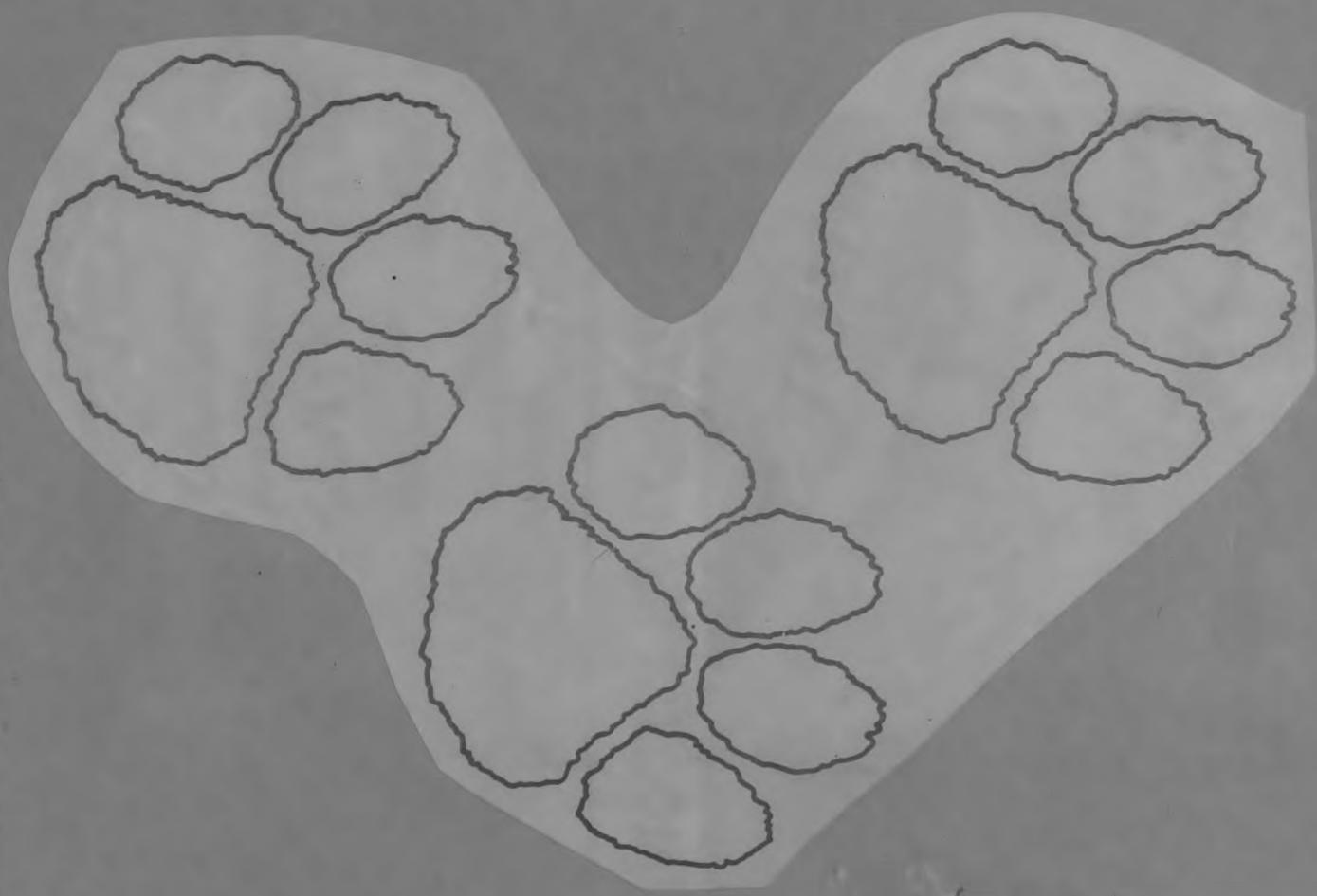


1990 WILDCATS



1990 VALDOSTA HIGH WILDCATS

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	WT.	GR.	NO.	PLAYER	POS.	WT.	GR.
1	Steven Everson	QB	155	10	62	Hec Wilder	OL	190	11
2	Dow Drury	K	160	11	63	Jay Bowling	OL	210	11
3	Deric Cotton	QB-DB	190	12	64	Jaret Broomberg	OL	170	11
4	Carl Thomas	DB	130	10	65	Andre Zanders	OL	200	12
5	John Walker	DB	155	11	66	Chris Sanders	OL	185	11
6	Steve Jaramillo	WR-P	160	12	67	Steve Walden	OL	195	11
7	Jason Jelks	DB	145	10	68	Matt Daugherty	OL	160	10
8	John Bell	QB	140	10	69	Darren Adkins	OL	170	10
9	Sam Hogan	WR	160	12	70	Greg Porter	OL	195	11
10	Justin Cabral	RB	160	12	71	Allen Holt	OL	155	10
11	Joe Wright	RB	150	12	72	Brandon Lovett	LB	205	12
12	Jamey Waters	QB	160	11	73	Derrick Philips	OL	200	12
13	Taras Williams	DB	145	12	74	Andy Harrison	OL	195	10
14	Kelly Holmes	DB	155	12	75	Antonio Fuller	DL	150	10
15	Alton Hitson, Team Captain	QB	175	12	76	Andy Sheffield	OL	205	11
16	Jerald Davis	DB	145	10	77	Shaun Eilders	OL	285	12
17	Durwin Logan	DE	165	12	78	Jody McSwain	OL	190	11
18	Scott Stuart	WR	165	12	79	Peter Failor	DL	160	10
19	Mike Roberts	WR	135	11	80	Suno Hahn	WR	135	11
20	Alfred Barnes	RB	170	10	81	Shadrack Green	TE	155	10
21	Octavius Oliver	DB	135	11	82	Craig Hunt	TE	185	12
22	LeRoy Williams	RB	185	12	83	Carlos Folsom	WR	155	12
23	Marshun Lane, Defensive Co-Captain	DB	185	12	84	Wayne DeVane	TE	165	10
24	Brock Sanford	RB	170	10	85	Jerone Scurry	WR	130	10
25	Brian Wiseman	RB	175	11	86	Terrence Daniels	DB	160	11
26	Adrian Lewis, Defensive Captain	DB	195	12	87	Andre Scruggs	DL	265	12
27	John Copeland	DB	140	11	88	Carlos Moore, Offensive Captain	WR	145	12
28	Trampis Wrice	DB	155	11	89	M.J. Johnson	DL	200	12
29	Brice Hunter	WR	155	11	90	Richard Thomas	DL	220	11
30	Dexter Mitchell	RB	180	12	91	Tim McClain	DL	205	11
31	Steve Sanders	DB	160	12	92	David Stewart	DL	195	12
32	Sam Lightsey	DB	165	12	93	Ricky Thomas	DL	215	12
33	Albert Edmonds	RB	200	11	94	John Gloster	DL	195	11
34	Reginald Mitchell	TE	190	12	95	Monte Steward	DL	245	12
35	Eric Phillips	DE-P	205	12	96	Kevin Major	DL	225	11
36	Andy Stone	WR	160	11	97	Donald Hitson	DL	155	10
37	David Williams	RB	175	10	98	Bobby Mangram	DE	180	11
38	Kendrick Patrick	RB	190	12	99	Cedric Carter	LB	175	11
40	Brad Tarpley	DE	170	12		Frank Henderson	WR	140	12
41	Chris Rockey	WR	145	10		Dennis Hampton	DL	180	11
42	Art Gordon	RB	165	12		Art Rizer	DE	175	11
43	Marcus Moss	DE	170	12		Teto Thomas	WR	140	11
44	Marcus Williams	LB	180	10		Eddie Wooten	OL	305	11
45	Jonathan Davis	LB	210	12		Brinson Barker	DL	180	10
46	Aldrich Graham	DE	145	11		James Canady	WR	125	10
47	Fleming Brooks	DE	140	10		Clark Drury	K-WR	130	10
48	Dexter Daniels	LB	215	11		Keith McConnehead	K	135	10
49	Franklin Wiseman	LB	155	10		Reggie Morrison	DB	140	10
50	Michael Cavan	DB	145	10		Veno Pierce	WR	115	10
51	Russell Baker	DE	150	10		DeAnthony Roundtree	DB	140	10
52	Jesse Hunter	C	165	10		Alan Sanderson	K	150	10
53	Nathan Tart	LB	195	12		Ryan Anderson	K	135	10
54	Quinn McCormick	DE-K	160	12		Brian Thomas	RB	150	10
55	Giles Godwin, Offensive Co-Captain	C	200	12		Chris Thomas	WR	140	10
56	Tim O'Brien	OL	225	11		Timothy White	WR	150	10
57	Keith Jones	OL	160	12		Vinson Winston	DB	145	10
58	Nakia Adams	OL	160	10		Martin Eilders	OL	225	9
59	Bucky Allen	OL	240	12					
60	Brian Salze	OL	175	11					
61	Nick Reed	OL	170	11					



Henderson Has VHS Connection

V. Times 12-5-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The connection between Clarke Central High School's Billy Henderson and the Valdosta High School football program goes back beyond any state-championship game meeting.

That link goes back almost 40 years, to a time when the veteran coach was a young assistant at Jefferson High School.

"I went to my first coaching clinic in Atlanta in 1951," Henderson said in a telephone interview discussing Saturday's Class AAAA semifinal contest at Cleveland Field.

At the time, the North and South all-star football teams were practicing at Grant Field. The South coach was Valdosta High's Wright Bazemore.

"I went and watched them practice. Coach Bazemore caught my eye. He was tremendous," Henderson said. "That made me make one of my goals to coach an all-star game."

The next time Henderson and Bazemore met was in 1960. Henderson was building the program at Macon Willingham from scratch, and he got some help from Valdosta — Bazemore paid Willingham to come to Valdosta for some games. The first three years, Valdosta High won by a combined 60-0.

Losses aside, "Bazemore was teaching me what it was all about. He was the epitome of what it is supposed to be," Henderson said.

"He taught me about having large numbers on a team, and great squads ... He could take an average player and make him a great player. And everybody was important, from first team to sixth team."

Henderson's teams grew and improved, and from 1963-65 Willingham defeated Valdosta. But that 1965 season was also a learning experience — after Willingham knocked off Valdosta, 12-7, Jordan eliminated a high-flying Willingham from the playoffs. Valdosta advanced, defeating Athens, 14-13, for the 1965 title.

Henderson attended the game in Athens, knowing his team could have been playing. "That hurt so bad," he said. "I didn't know when I was going to have another chance to be in a championship game."

The Bazemore-Henderson series concluded with games in 1966 (a 27-7 Valdosta win en route to a state title) and a 7-7 tie in 1967, Valdosta's last regular-season tie until this season.

It would be the last time the two coaches — whose wives had been cheerleaders together in Macon — met on the field again. It would be another 10 years before Henderson faced Valdosta again — this time with Henderson coaching at Clarke Central, and his coaching opponent Nick Hyder.

Henderson and Hyder made it to the Class AAA championship game, with Clarke Central winning, 16-14. The Gladiators won two more Class AAAA titles under Henderson, but have lost three times to Valdosta in the state title game.

"A lot of people say the 1984 game (a 21-14 Valdosta win) was one of the best high school games they've ever seen," Henderson said. The last two, 28-0 (1986) and 33-13 (1989) Valdosta wins, are ones he'd rather forget.

But he hasn't forgotten Hyder, who also defeated him in an all-star game. "I have as much respect for him as any person I've met," Henderson said. "He is one of three top high school coaches in America today."

"He's a people person. He loves his kids, and his wife is involved in his work. He teaches values. I make a point to be on the front row when he speaks at clinics."

Saturday night will be Henderson's first visit to Cleveland Field since that 1986 title game. That's also the last time Henderson and Bazemore met.

Saturday night, Clarke Central and Valdosta renew their high-stakes rivalry — only after two old coaching adversaries meet again.

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature About Local Young People

Valdosta Student 4-H Exception

V. Times 12-7-90

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

It's not often a city girl excels in 4-H activities but Valdosta High School senior Marsha Tucker is one exception.

Miss Tucker won first place in the state for her Food For Fitness project this summer and although there is no category for her presentation at the national level, Miss Tucker was awarded the privilege of attending the National 4-H Congress in Chicago this week for being a state winner.

Highlights of the trip which she returned from Thursday included special appearances from Olympic Gold Medalist in swimming, 1990's Miss America, and Dawn Lewis, who stars in NBC's television series "A Different World."

The menu included international foods which were tasty and unique, Miss Tucker said, but by the end of the convention the local group was ready to go back to the basics.

"We ate at McDonalds every chance we could; we were tired of new food."

At a dance sponsored by Ford Motor Company, Miss Tucker was one of the lucky door prize winners

and now sports a brown leather bomber jacket.

In addition to winning prizes and eating, these teen-agers did learn a few things. "It was a good learning experience," Miss Tucker said. "It was the trip of a lifetime."

It was friends that got her interested in the club when she was in the 5th grade, Miss Tucker said. Since then all her 4-H projects have been related to food, fitness and nutrition.

She enjoys the nutrition program because it serves a very important purpose. In today's health sensitive society, everyone is looking for ways to cut fat, cholesterol and calories from their diet — to stay healthy and trim — and keeping abreast of the information one needs to do this, especially at a young age, is instrumental in achieving one's health and fitness goals, the expert said.

The seven dietary guidelines included in Miss Tucker's presentation are: get plenty of fiber, limit alcohol, read sugar labels (and limit it), avoid fat, maintain ideal body weight, balance carbohydrates and avoid salt.

Also included in the project was a taste test for her auditors and judges. Miss Tucker demonstrated



MARSHA TUCKER

how to make mock sour cream to serve with fruit. The healthy low-calorie substitute was made from skim milk, lemon juice, cottage cheese, and to add a kick — Tang breakfast drink.

No complaints so far, she said.

This teen-ager practices what she preaches. Information garnered from the research done for her projects has helped her make choices about her own diet, fitness plan and her future. In the fall Miss Tucker plans to begin nursing studies at Valdosta State College.

Good nutrition "helps you have a

See 4-H, Page 5-A

From Page 1-A

better outlook on life," she said. "I know what I have to have from day to day and I encourage everybody to eat nutritiously."

Other state 4-H winners who attended the national congress were Laura Ledford, Wilson Faircloth and David Black, who brought home a national sectional award for his veterinary science project.

Marsha Tucker

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School, senior
- Family: Parents, Lloyd and Melissa Tucker
- Activities: 4-H, PAMS club president, Marching Cats Dance Team, FBLA, FHA, Jr. Church Choir and Usher Board at Bethel C.M.E.

THE 1990 CLASS AAAA PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

V. Times 12-9-90

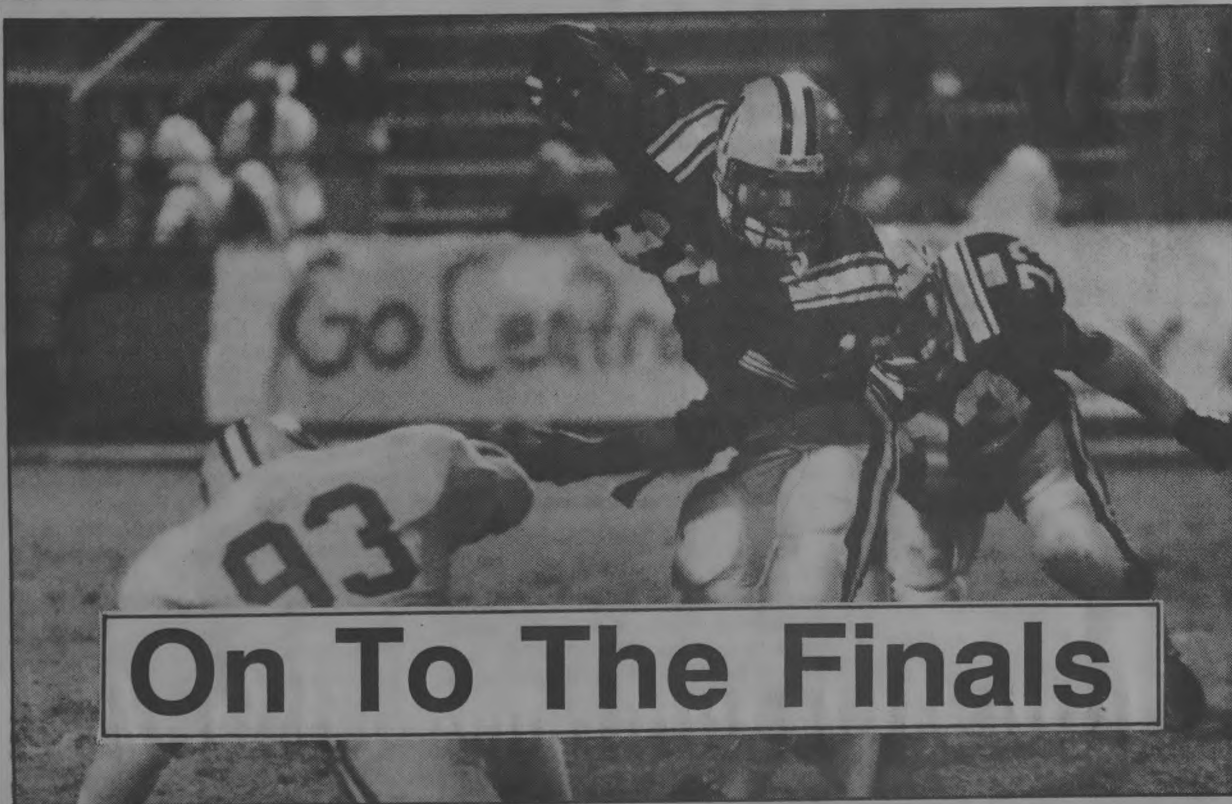


Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson (15) delivers a pitch while Clarke Central's Charlie Taylor (91) applies the pressure during Saturday's Class AAAA semifinal playoff game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

V. Times 12-9-90

Cats Win

The Valdosta Wildcats earned a berth in the A A A A state championship game against Southwest DeKalb with an 8-0 win over Clarke-Central at Cleveland Field last night. For game story see Page 1-C — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



On To The Finals

Defense Shines In Time

V Times 12-90

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

"Just one more time, just one more time," was the chant from Valdosta High cornerback Trampis Wrice following Friday night's Class AAAA state semifinals victory over the Clarke Central Gladiators, 8-0.

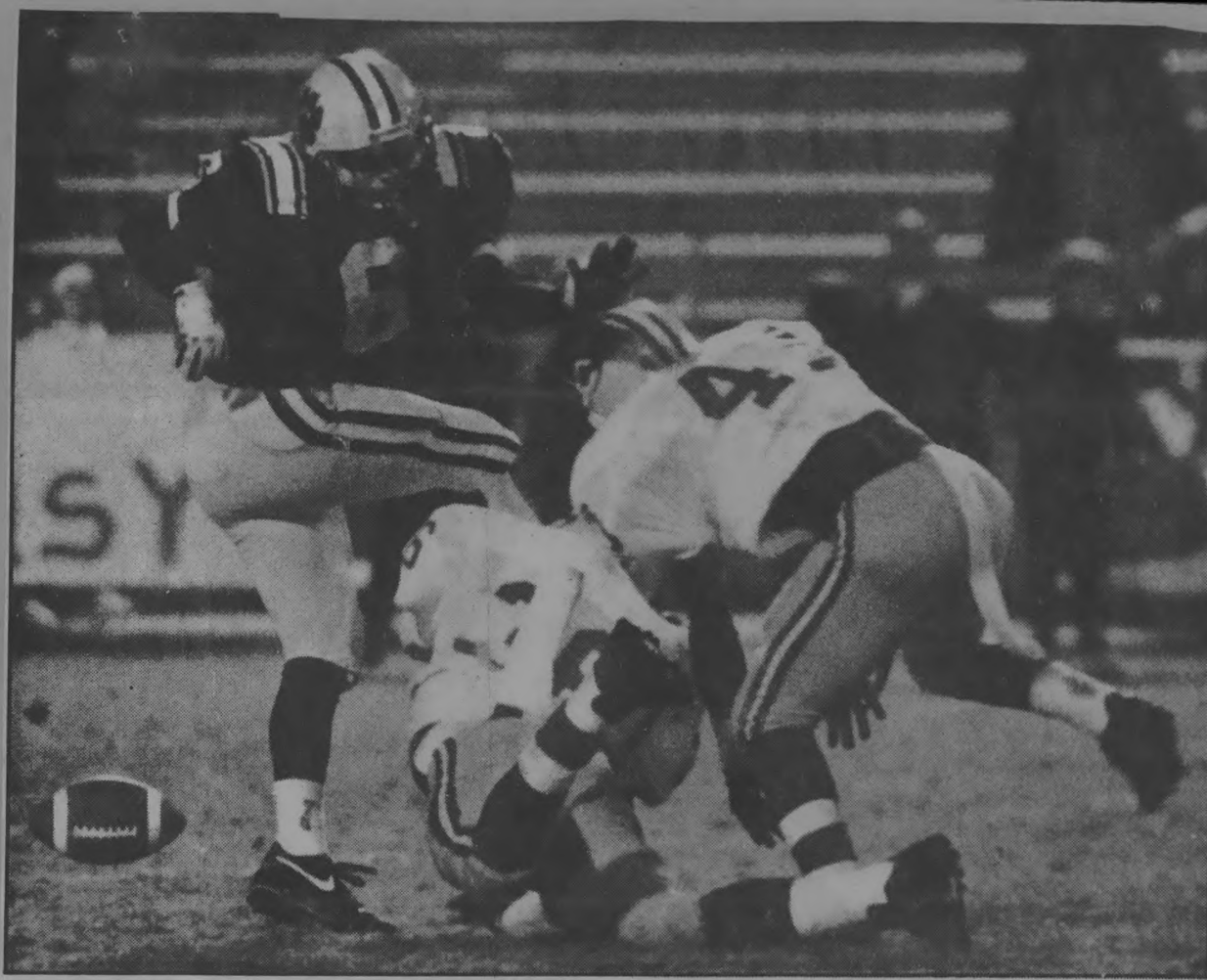
From the opening kickoff, defense would be stamped all over this matchup, as the Wildcats had just 71 yards at intermission and Clarke Central could do no better with 25 total yards.

And little did Wrice know before the game that he would find himself coming up with the biggest Wildcat turnover to date.

With under 10 minutes to play in the third quarter, Clarke Central fullback Clarence Goss took a first-down handoff and burst through the Valdosta line. But on his way out, VHS' Marshun Lane hit Goss and the ball came flying out of the pack and floated into the arms of Wrice.

Wrice carried the football down to the Clarke Central 36, which would set up Valdosta's lone scoring drive of the contest — capped by an 8-yard gallop by tailback Joe Wright.

See DEFENSE, Page 3-C



Gladiators Kevin Johnson and Lamont Steve Jaramillo to block a second-quarter Johnson (43) converge in on Valdosta punter kick — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Defense

From Page 1-C

And at the same time, may have well directed his team towards a second consecutive AAAA championship.

"It scared me to death," said Wrice. "My cousin Marshun said just before they snapped the ball that he was going to try and rip the ball away on the next running play. He came up and made the hit, and the ball just flew right to me as if it supposed to.

"I think we came get the job done from here on in as long as we stick together and not start pointing to any one player," said Wrice.

The Valdosta defense started its surge by dropping the Gladiators for a yard loss after a second-quarter blocked punt gave Billy Henderson's

club the football at the Valdosta 7.

Moments later, Lane got into the act again by breaking up a third-down pass from quarterback Chad Whittemore to Clement Doyle. Clarke had to settle for a field-goal attempt and it was wide left.

VHS put the final nail in the Clarke coffin when it stopped Central's Que Rucker on a fake punt on a third quarter, fourth-and-1 situation from the Valdosta 44.

"The punt fake fooled us. We had seen several other fake attempts by them, but the 'rookie' wasn't one of them," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "I don't even know who got him. All I know is that it was great play by somebody and the entire defensive unit just played a whale of a football game.

"Anytime you can get a shutout in the semifinals, that's a big accomplishment," said Tarpley. "We had everything pretty well covered and the guys just came out and shut them down."

End Eric Phillips also admits the fake caught him by surprise.

"I didn't know what that guy was doing with it between his legs, but I just stayed in my lane and he soon tried to make a break for it," said Phillips. "He had a step on me but I reached back and grabbed his leg and then help arrived."

In all, the Valdosta defense held the Gladiators to just 56 total yards. And for star tailback Carlos Freeman, he was held to 12 yards on nine carries.

Stan Grubb and I have discussed and discussed and discussed the final moments of Friday's Valwood game. And while I may not agree with the play call on Valwood's extra-point attempt, I agree in head coach Joe Wilson's attempt at going for the win.

Once you are in that situation, I think you don't let it go into another overtime. You win it in the first overtime.

I sat through two Shrine Classic games in Mobile, Ala., in 1988 and 1989 that went three and four overtimes. The coaches played it safe and went for it, until the Mississippi team made a mistake and the Alabama team kicked the field goal.

Same thing last year in a Mississippi state semifinal game, where the team I covered lost in overtime after beating the same team by three touchdowns earlier in the season. My team made the mistake, the other team kicked the field goal and won it.

You never know what's going to happen. Coaches will say the toughest situation is when you have to go nearly 10 yards on a first-and-goal situation. That changes the way offenses do things.

In our discussions about overtimes in the office, I said my favorite procedure was the one the NCAA uses in its championship games. But the ball on the 25-yard line, first-and-10. The offense either scores or is stopped.

It was used twice on Saturday. One game went three overtimes. Ties, ha. Let's hope I didn't bring one on Saturday night at Cleveland Field for the Class AAAA state title game.

Not Surprised, Dec. 9, 1990 Overtime, Overtime, Overtime

When last I wrote about ties and all there is wrong about them, the ugly occurrence happened at Cleveland Field — Valdosta High tied Camden County for what is to date the lone blemish on the Wildcats' slate.

Then this weekend came to pass. Ties, ha. Play it until there is a winner, boys. It's playoff time. It all started Friday night at Goddard Field. Gatewood and Valwood were tied at 6-6 in the championship game of the Georgia Independent Schools Association Class AA playoffs. The officials scrambled to see how the tiebreaker would be administered.

When the issue was settled, the GISA folks did two things that their public-school counterparts don't do. And my hat goes off to the GISA folks for the way they do it.

If it had been a public-school game, it would have ended a 6-6 tie. Both teams would have been declared champions. Nice, but it leaves a hollow feeling inside. There should be one champion.

To decide that champion, the GISA folks used the tiebreaker method approved by the national federation and used in most every state — except Georgia public schools. But the ball on the 10, give the offense four downs and give each team a shot at the end zone. The team with the most points after a round wins, and if it is still tied after a round, there's another round.

Breaks Go 'Cats Way, 8-0

V. Times 12-9-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's what you do with the breaks presented you which can decide the outcome of a tight game.

Valdosta did something with its breaks. Clarke Central didn't. The result was an 8-0 Class AAAA high-school football semifinal victory Saturday night at Cleveland Field, putting the Wildcats into the state-title game for the fifth time in nine years.

Valdosta (12-0-1) will play Southwest DeKalb, a 24-14 winner over Griffin Friday night, for the state title Saturday night at Cleveland Field. Valdosta will be trying for back-to-back state titles for the first time under veteran coach Nick Hyder.

"You either make the big plays in a game like this, or you don't," said Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson. "We did not make anything happen on any of our early chances and it killed us. If you don't capitalize on chances like the ones we had in this game, you can't expect to win the championship."

Valdosta's defense stopped Clarke Central for its fourth shutout of the season. It allowed 56 total yards, limiting all-star running back Carlos Freeman to 12 yards on nine carries.

"The defense was ready to play tonight. The staff had the youngsters ready," said Hyder. "In the second half our offense did what it had to do."

"This was a defense win, and an offensive support."

Valdosta converted after a fumble recovery two plays into the third

quarter, when Trampis Wrice picked up the loose football caused by a Marshun Lane hit and moved to the Clarke Central 36.

The drive was kept alive on fourth-and-3 from the CC 13. Valdosta lined up for a 30-yard field-goal attempt, and its right end moved. That's allowed, but movement in Clarke Central's defensive interior wasn't. The ball was moved five yards closer to the goal line, and Valdosta had first down.

On the next play, Joe Wright swept around left end and battled his way into the end zone for a 6-0 lead with 7:46 left. But Wright, in his enthusiasm, spiked the football after scoring. Valdosta was penalized 15 yards on the extra-point kick, which Dow Drury missed short and to the right.

"We had kept running up the middle, and they kept coming down the middle," said Wright. "I just swept right in."

Then a series of breaks went Valdosta's way. First, Tim McClain snuffed out Clarke Central's fake-punt play near midfield, dropping the Clarke Central runner for a 4-yard loss.

Valdosta couldn't move the ball, but Steve Jaramillo's 35-yard punt died at the Clarke Central 3. The Gladiators could get but five yards on three plays, then had the punt snap go through punter Lamont Johnson's hands and trickle out of the back of the end zone for a safety and the 8-0 Valdosta lead.

After Drury missed a 24-yard field goal wide right with 7:47 left in the game, the teams traded two posses-

VALDOSTA 8, C. CENTRAL 0

CLARKE CENTRAL	0	0	0	0-0
VALDOSTA	0	0	8	0-8

V - Joe Wright 8 run (kick failed)
V - safety, punt snap rolled out of end zone

CLARKE CENTRAL	VALDOSTA	
2	FIRST DOWNS	9
24-35	RUSHES-YARDS	46-128
21	PASSING YARDS	35
5-16-0	PASSES	5-9-1
56	TOTAL YARDS	163
5-42.2	PUNTS-AVG.	6-22.0
3-15	PENALTIES-YARDS	7-55
3	FUMBLES-LOST	0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Kendrick Patrick 20-79, Joe Wright 12-32, Alton Hitson 14-17. Clarke Central: Clarence Goss 7-24, Carlos Freeman 9-12, Ricky Smith 2-6, Chad Whittemore 4-5, Qwe Rucker 1-(-4), team 1-(-8).

PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 4-7-1 26, Joe Wright 1-2-0 9. Clarke Central: Chad Whittemore 4-15-0 15, Carlos Freeman 1-1-0 6.

RECEIVING: Valdosta: Steve Jaramillo 2-16, Carlos Moore 2-10, Brice Hunter 1-9. Clarke Central: Clement Doyle 2-13, Chad Whittemore 1-6, Clarence Goss 1-2, Carlos Freeman 1-0.

sions before the final horn.

Valdosta presented Clarke Central with opportunity after opportunity to score in the second quarter. The Gladiators came away only with frustration.

● Linebacker Tim Stephens picked off an Alton Hitson pass and ran it back to the Valdosta 28. Result: Three plays for six yards, then Dawson Ingram's 39-yard field-goal attempt which sailed low of the crossbar.

● Lamont Johnson and Kevin Johnson led the charge to block Jaramillo's punt, with Lamont Johnson falling on the ball at the Val-
See VALDOSTA, Page 3-C



WILSON FAIRCLOTH
VHS Sophomore

Student Tree Steward

A Valdosta High sophomore, Wilson Faircloth, was recently recognized at the Georgia Urban Forest Council Conference in Savannah as the Tree Steward of 1990.

Faircloth was commended for his treescape project at Valdosta High which resulted in 11 new trees planted on campus and his earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

With assistance from the Cooperative Extension Service, Faircloth designed a master treescape plan for the campus. The 11 willows and river birches planted by the Eagle Scott are only one phase of the plan with many more planting sites outlines for the future.

"His efforts required more than five months of planning, coordination and hard work. It is with grateful appreciation that we name Wilson Faircloth the Tree Steward for 1990," said Ed Macie, past chairman of the council.

Faircloth then received a limited edition print of the Majestic Oak of Savannah from the chairman of Georgia Urban Forest Council, Kim Coder, and the assistant director of the Georgia Forestry Commission, David Westmoreland.

The second annual forestry conference was attended by nearly 150 professional foresters, nurserymen, landscape architects, city planners and private citizens who wanted to learn more about trees and their role in improving urban communities.

For more information on the Georgia Urban Forest Council, call 1-800-GA-TREES.

Valdosta

From Page 1-C

dosta 7. Result: Three plays, minus-one yard. There was also a tipped pass off Carlos Freeman which Clement Doyle caught but was ruled out-of-bounds. And Ingram's 26-yard field-goal attempt from the right hash missed right.

● And the Gladiators ended the half with a rules-smart move. They

fair-caught Jaramillo's punt at the Valdosta 36, allowing Ingram to try a 46-yard free kick field goal. After the initial confusion, Ingram hooked the kick left.

Clarke Central (11-3) never got past the Valdosta 40 again.

Valdosta was also guilty of letting opportunities get away before that.

The Wildcats' first possession —kept alive by a fumbled punt —moved to the Clarke Central 1. But the Gladiators turned back the Wildcats on the next two plays to keep the game scoreless.

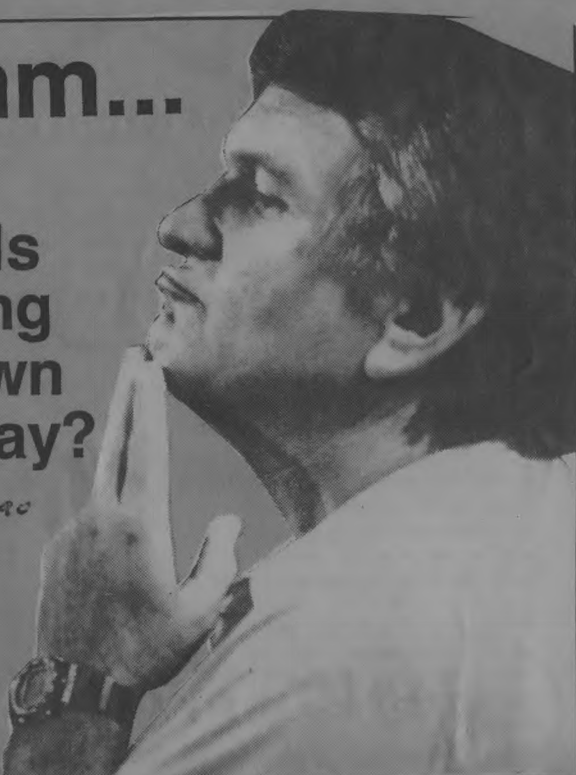
Valdosta also missed on a fourth-and-two from the CC 31 on the second play of the second quarter.

Hmmm...

Who Is Coming To Town Saturday?

V. Times 12-13-90

See Page 2-B



SW DeKalb Passes GHSA Check

V. Times 12-13-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The path toward Saturday's state-championship football game took an off-field turn for the unusual Wednesday.

The Georgia High School Association took a look into the eligibility of a student-athlete on the Southwest DeKalb High School football team on Wednesday. Head coach Buck Godfrey told *The Valdosta Daily Times* Wednesday night that the matter had been cleared up.

Meanwhile, Griffin High School's football team — which would take Southwest DeKalb's place in Saturday's game with Valdosta High if the Panthers were found ineligible — held a team meeting Wednesday just in case Southwest DeKalb was disqualified.

But it was business as usual in Valdosta, where the Wildcats' defense worked on "the 21 offensive sets of Southwest DeKalb," head coach Nick Hyder said. When an Atlanta television station, WXIA-TV, reported Wednesday night that Southwest DeKalb had been investi-

gated and Griffin practiced, it was the first Hyder had heard of the situation.

"I'm surprised nobody notified me," Hyder said. "I don't think they'd do something without letting us know. We'll wait and see what happens."

Late Wednesday night, Hyder spoke with Griffin head coach Lloyd Bohannon and confirmed the matter had been cleared in Southwest DeKalb's favor.

Hyder was told by Bohannon that GHSA associate executive director Tommy Guillebeau was in Atlanta Wednesday and checked into the status of a student-athlete's migratory transfer to Southwest DeKalb. Guillebeau reportedly found the move to be in order.

Bill Fordham, the GHSA executive director, would not expound on the matter when contacted by *The Valdosta Daily Times* Wednesday night.

"We have reports of ineligible players on the Southwest DeKalb football team, but I do not discuss these matters at my home," he said. "When I'm at home that is my own time, and if you would like to discuss this

WILDCATS		WILDCATS	
10	1990 CLASS AAAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP	10	10
30		30	
50	VALDOSTA (12-0-1)	50	50
30	VERSUS	30	30
10	SW DeKALB (13-1)	10	10
8 P.M. SATURDAY			
CLEVELAND FIELD			
TICKET INFO: 333-8500			

matter into Southwest DeKalb's team contact me at my office tomorrow morning."

Guillebeau's home phone went unanswered Wednesday night.

Godfrey said Wednesday night that he and his team plan to be in Valdosta Saturday night.

"It's always a distraction," Godfrey said of the day's experience, which he said was mostly handled by his principal. "But we'll see you Saturday night."

Respect For Opponent Stays At Constant Pace

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Ask any team about playing in a state championship game, and most would agree there's nothing that can compare to it.

And then there's the Valdosta High Wildcats — a team synonymous with championship hardware. Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Cleveland Field, Valdosta High will try to win its 21st Georgia state football title as it faces the Southwest DeKalb High Panthers, coached by Buck Godfrey, in the Class AAAA finals.

According to VHS head coach Nick Hyder, his team's appearance in Saturday's title game comes down to just one thing — respect.

"It's hard to tell one of our practices from another and we specialize in certain areas each day. But the one thing that remains the same is our high respect for opponents and respect for each other," said Hyder.

"It's always a sincere feeling we have and that includes a maximum respect for the opponent."

Hyder admits this season has been one of constant attention with the likes of national coverage by ABC and NBC. And even though it's state title week for his 'Cats, he says the two don't compare.

"After all the news media and all the coverage we've had this year, I don't even see how they compare," said Hyder. "This week is like no other week we've had. We're glad to just be able to coach and prepare our team for the next opponent."

"I think a big factor has been unity, and our coaches have really worked hard," said Hyder. "An awful lot of teaching and an enormous amount of communication has been going on. I call it a personal touch by the coaches and care about the youngsters on this football team."

Southwest DeKalb, who has fallen short in the state semifinals four

See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

From Page 2-B

times, finally got its chance.

And when Hyder speaks of the Panthers, he speaks from experience.

Hyder calls Godfrey's club the finest all-around team since his Wildcats faced a multi-talented Griffin Bear squad for the state crown in 1978.

"Southwest DeKalb's team reminds me a great deal of the Griffin team in 1978. Four of those play-

ers on that team ended up in the NFL," said Hyder. "They are a team that not only has the great athletes but a great coach in Buck Godfrey. He develops a fine player and his teams are well-conditioned and have a lot of poise."

"They are a team with playoff consistency having been in the state semifinals each of the past four years. Now then, he wants it and it's no fluke they are in the finals. They've earned the right to be where they are."

Lady Wildcats Even Season Record, 64-31

Staff Reports

MONTICELLO, Fla. — A revamped Valdosta High Lady Wildcat team stomped the Jefferson County Lady Tigers, 64-31, here Friday night. The win raised Valdosta High's record to 2-2.

After the Lady Wildcats' loss Tuesday night to Berrien County, four VHS players left the squad due to "a conflict of interests" according to head coach Susan Montgomery. Among the four were starting guard Shannon West and starting forward Laura Dennis along with top substitutes Dede Dennis and Lisa Vincent.

But Valdosta got the load of its scoring from Natasha Johnson, who pumped in 19 to lead the way. Not far behind were Esther Benjamin and Vashti Manning with 18 points apiece.

"I was real proud of them. This team has a good attitude and for only two days worth of practice, I thought we did real well," Montgomery said.

The girls team will play again in the Lowndes High Christmas tournament next week.

ECHOLS HIGH TOURNAMENT: Tonight's championship games are

set after the first round of the Echols High School Christmas tournament in Statenville Friday.

In girls first round action, Tawanna Moore erupted for 39 points to lead Lanier County to a 64-55 come-from-behind win over Hamilton. The Lady Trojans' Latasha Bristol shined in a losing cause with 36 points.

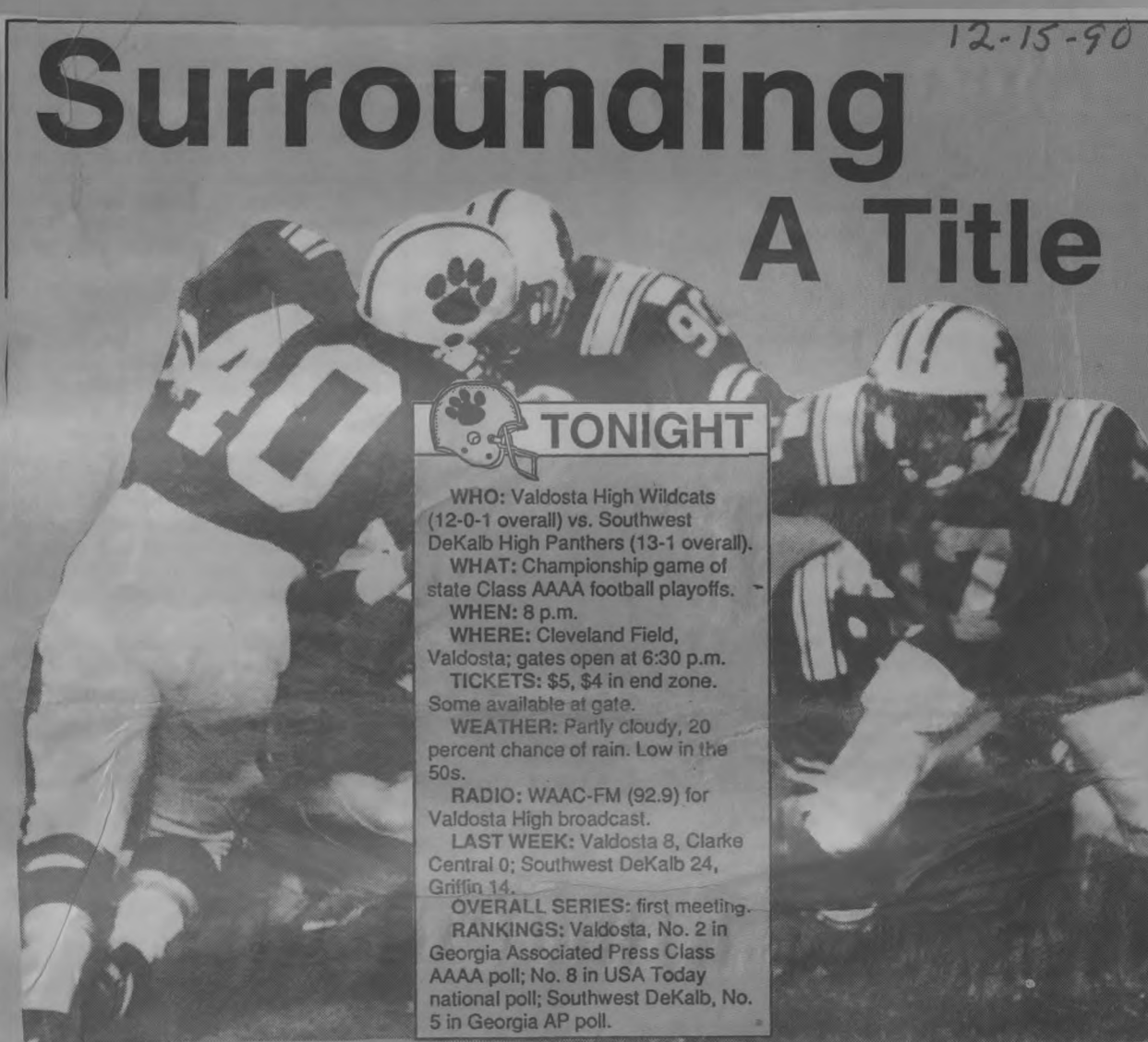
In the other girls game, the home-standing Lady Wildcats defeated Brooks County 55-46. Penny Carter led Echols with 16 while Michelle Smith had 11. For Brooks, Mandee Armstrong led the way with 20 points and Vicki Rayford had 12.

In the boys semifinal, Hamilton slipped past the Bulldogs from Lanier County, 72-68. Johnny Owens led the Trojans with 12 while Oliver Young had 18 and Fred Owens had 14. For Lanier, Isaac Camon led a balanced scoring effort with 20 points while Will Watson had 13, Marcus McGriff had 12 and Dwight Boone and 10.

Hamilton County will meet Echols County, who drew a bye, in the championship game tonight. The girls consolation game will be at 5:30 today with the girls championship at 7 and the boys championship at 8:30.

12-15-90

Surrounding A Title



TONIGHT

WHO: Valdosta High Wildcats (12-0-1 overall) vs. Southwest DeKalb High Panthers (13-1 overall).

WHAT: Championship game of state Class AAAA football playoffs.

WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHERE: Cleveland Field, Valdosta; gates open at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS: \$5, \$4 in end zone. Some available at gate.

WEATHER: Partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain. Low in the 50s.

RADIO: WAAC-FM (92.9) for Valdosta High broadcast.

LAST WEEK: Valdosta 8, Clarke Central 0; Southwest DeKalb 24, Griffin 14.

OVERALL SERIES: first meeting.

RANKINGS: Valdosta, No. 2 in Georgia Associated Press Class AAAA poll; No. 8 in USA Today national poll; Southwest DeKalb, No. 5 in Georgia AP poll.



Valdosta safety Deric Cotton is stretched before a Wildcat practice. Cotton volunteered to play safety entering his senior

season after being a quarterback in the VHS system — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

On Defense, Cotton Not Forgotten

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Deric Cotton could have finished his Valdosta High football career by saying "what might have been."

But by asking to make a move to the defensive backfield last spring, Cotton has made a new name for himself. Cotton the quarterback turned into Cotton the safety for this season, and in turn has picked off three passes and turned in other key defensive plays in this his senior season.

"I really wanted to make a contribution to the team. Everybody knew Alton (Hitson) had the position (quarterback) down pat, after leading the team to the state championship, so I knew I had to be smart and help the team somewhere else," Cotton said. So last year's backup quarterback to Hitson turned to the defensive backfield, where a fill-in for Navy-bound Chris Hart was needed.

Cotton could be found on some recruiting lists this fall, with those in the know considering his throwing

WILDCATS	
100	CLASS
300	1990 AAAA
500	STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
300	VALDOSTA (12-0-1)
100	VERSUS SW DeKALB (13-1)
100	8 P.M. SATURDAY CLEVELAND FIELD
TICKET INFO: 333-8500	

arm and his athletic ability. "I like offense better than defense," Cotton admits. "I think my natural talent is throwing the football."

But his days as a Wildcat quarterback were numbered when Hitson, and not Cotton, answered the call when projected starter Jason Nichols broke his leg during the 1989 fall camp. Cotton's playing time dimin-

ished to nothing as the season progressed and Hitson learned the position. So Cotton asked to make the move to defense.

"I wasn't ready to go. I didn't have my mind right," said Cotton, who was also recovering from his second knee injury at the time. "You have to have your mind right to play quarterback."

"I admire the guy (Alton) for stepping in and doing the job. I regret not being ready."

And now Hitson is the talk of state-championship trivia, his chance to be the first quarterback to lead Valdosta to back-to-back state titles in 30 years and his 26-1-1 record as a starter. Does Cotton think it could have been him?

"I can't lie. I definitely thought about it. I still have dreams of playing quarterback in college, so I'm not going to look back and say what if," he said. "But I guess we all say what if once in a while."

"Being a quarterback at Valdosta High School is probably the most pressure-packed position, besides

Coach Hyder's job. Everybody is looking at that quarterback. You have to have your mind straight every time you go out to play. Alton is probably the best example of leader by example that I've ever see."

Cotton said it took him about half the regular season to learn his left safety position. "By then I started getting the feel of things. It's not something you're going to get in one year," he said.

He can call on his past experiences as a quarterback, however. "I recognize things. I think about what I'd do and who I'd look for on what play. That's helped me in the transition."

It's taken a lot of hard work for Cotton to make the move to defense. But he says he's not the only hard worker among his teammates.

"This team has worked so hard to impress this town. They don't know how hard the Wildcats have worked just to look good for them on Friday night," said Cotton. "Saturday night, we just want to leave the field knowing our fans are behind us. That's what counts for this team."

Valdosta shuts down Central

FTU. Sun., Dec 9, 1990

By Mike Stephenson
Sports writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The regular season wasn't yet over when Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson looked at the Class AAAA championship ring on his finger and talked about becoming only the second quarterback to lead the Wildcats to two state titles.

"That's what I'm striving for, to get another one," Hitson said at the time.

Next week, he'll get his chance to join Bruce Bennett, who led the Wildcats to titles in 1960 and '61. Valdosta (12-0-1) beat Athens Clarke Central 8-0 last night at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats will try to win their 21st state title when they play host to Southwest DeKalb (13-1) next Saturday.

"You have to give Clarke Central [11-3] all the credit in the world for stopping us in the first half," Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said. "But you have to give our defense credit, too. We put ourselves in the hole a few times in the first half, and our defense bailed us out."

After a scoreless first half, Valdosta scored on its first possession of the second half.

The Wildcats kicked off, but on Central's second play, Clarence Goss fumbled at the Gladiators' 36 and Valdosta recovered.

Six plays later, Valdosta tailback Joe Wright scored from the 8 to give the Wildcats a 6-0 lead with 7:46 remaining in the third period.

An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the touchdown pushed the extra-point kick attempt back 15 yards and Dow Drury missed short.

The only other points of the game came on a safety with 1:58 remaining in the third period.

As Central punter Lamont Johnson attempted to punt from his end zone, the snap sailed over his head and out of the end zone to give the Wildcats an 8-0 lead.

Valdosta put together several long drives in the second half.

The touchdown drive included runs of 9 and 7 yards by fullback Kendrick Patrick, and a key offside call on a fourth-and-3 as Valdosta lined up for a field goal attempt with the ball on the Central 13.

(See WILDCATS, Page C-13)

Wildcats win, advance to Class AAAA title game

(From Page C-1)

After the penalty gave Valdosta a first down, Wright scampered in on the next play on a sweep left and down the sideline.

Patrick finished with 20 carries for 77 yards, and Wright had 13 carries for 42.

Patrick had 69 yards in the second half and sparked the Wildcats' drives.

Before yesterday's game, Hyder's wife, June, gave Patrick an alarm clock for Christmas because he is habitually late getting up in the morning.

"I guess the alarm clock woke up his running in the second half tonight," Hyder said after the game.

After the safety, Valdosta drove from the Central 49 to the Gladiators' 7 in 10 plays before Drury missed a 24-yard field goal attempt.

Clarke Central's next drive stalled, and Valdosta took a punt at its own 25 with 5:49 remaining in the game.

The Wildcats ran the clock down to 2:23 before punting, and then held Central on its last possession.

For the game, the Wildcats held Clarke Central to 36 yards rushing and 23 passing with only two first downs. Central quarterback Chad

Whittemore was 4 of 16 for 17 yards.

Neither team was able to take control in the first half, but both had chances.

After Valdosta's first possession went only 9 yards, Clarke Central's Jermaine Barnett fumbled Steve Jaramillo's punt and the Wildcats recovered.

Valdosta used seven plays to drive to the Clarke Central 1 but couldn't punch it in from there on two attempts, turning the ball over on downs at the 1. Central's Anton Goldwire stopped Patrick short on the fourth-down play.

Clarke Central moved the ball out enough to punt, but an 18-yard punt return by Wright set the Wildcats up at the Central 38.

But Valdosta struggled to move the ball this time, and Goldwire stopped quarterback Hitson a yard short of the first down at the Central 29 on another fourth-down play.

Clarke Central	0	0	0	0
Valdosta	0	0	0	0
V—Wright 8 run (kick failed)				
V—Safety, snap out of end zone				
First downs	2	Central	9	Valdosta
Rushes-yds	23-36		43-142	
Passing yds	23		34	
Passes	5-17-0		5-8-1	
Punts-Avg	5-43		6-22	
Fumbles-lost	2-2		2-0	
Penalties-yds	3-15		5-45	

Sign Of The Times



Mose Griffin, a Valdosta city worker, hangs a banner Thursday afternoon over Gordon Street to support the Valdosta High School Wildcats. The banner, provided by the

Touchdown Club, is one of four hung around Valdosta for Saturday night's playoff football contest — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Touchdown Club Continuing Push

V-Times 12-12-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

While the Valdosta High School football team is busy preparing for Saturday night's state-championship football game against Southwest DeKalb, the Valdosta Touchdown Club is as busy in its preparations.

"We need the support of all Wildcat fans at this game with Southwest DeKalb," said second-year Touchdown Club president Dave McCracken. "We need to display the same sort of spirit that we had last week (against Clarke Central), a spirit that has been characteristic of Valdosta for so many years."

McCracken was among the group of Touchdown Club members who heard head coach Nick Hyder

warn of overconfidence about Saturday's game. McCracken takes that a step farther.

"A number of fans already think we've won the state champion. If we go into Saturday's game with that attitude, we're going to get waxed," McCracken said.

He added that in conversations with his equal at Southwest DeKalb that the Panthers believe in winning.

"They're not intimidated by our tradition. They don't know about our tradition. They are coming to win," said McCracken. "All we have to do is to think back to the Carver game of 1987."

The Touchdown Club is asking local businesses to support the football team by putting up signs. Those who kept the "Go Cats Go" posters from Saturday's game are asked to display them in their cars, homes and businesses.

The Touchdown Club and Band Boosters will also be putting bumper stickers in the game programs Saturday night.

"I think it is a very big morale booster," McCracken said. "It lets the team know the city is behind them and thinking about them. It's invaluable."

The Touchdown Club is also planning some "high-flying" activities which McCracken would not elaborate upon. And Valdosta Mayor Jimmy Rainwater will proclaim Saturday as Wildcat Day in the city at Friday's practice.

TICKET NOTES: Southwest DeKalb asked for approximately 2,200 tickets, the seats in sections H, I, J & K, the northwest corner of the stadium.

Valdosta High season-ticket holders may pick up tickets through Wednesday, with the remaining tickets on sale beginning Thursday.

WILDCATS

CLASS

AAAA

STATE

CHAMPIONSHIP

VALDOSTA (12-0-1)
VERSUS
SW DeKALB (13-1)

8 P.M. SATURDAY
CLEVELAND FIELD

TICKET INFO: 333-8500

Valdosta digs deep on defense

Fla. Times 12-12-90

By Mike Stephenson
Sports writer

Valdosta High School defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley has made a habit over the years of taking his defense out to dinner.

At the beginning of this season's playoffs, Tarpley said he would take the defense out to dinner soon. Last week at practice, the players reminded Tarpley of the promise and asked when they could cash in.

He said, "If you win one more, I'll think about it."

They countered, "What if we win with a shutout?"

Tarpley answered, "Definitely."

Final score: Valdosta 8, Athens Clarke Central 0.

Not only did the Wildcats hold Clarke Central scoreless in the Class AAAA semifinals, they limited the Gladiators to two first downs and held standout running back Carlos Freeman to 12 yards, his second subpar performance in as many years against Valdosta. Last season, Freeman had only 37 yards in the Wildcats' state championship victory over Clarke Central.

Now, Valdosta (12-0-1) will go for its second consecutive state title when it plays host to Southwest DeKalb Saturday.

"It's just for us to get together, away from the field," Tarpley said of the dinner. "It's good to get around the kids in a different setting."

When Tarpley started his dinners about 20 years ago, it was 11 starters at about \$2 each. Today, the price has risen and the number of players is on the rise. Tarpley has 18 players he considers starters.

The increase in the number of "starters" has come because of a number of injuries that forced Valdosta to play some inexperienced players early in the season. Those players were forced to learn quickly, and now that everyone is healthy, the team has a wealth of players ready for game action. Valdosta has six players for its three defensive line spots, six for its four

(See WILDCATS, Page C-4)

Wildcats tough on defense

(From Page C-1)

linebacker positions and six for its four defensive back slots.

"All of them rotate very, very regularly," Tarpley said.

The early-season injuries to defensive backs Adrian Lewis, Deric Cotton and Marshun Lane and to defensive end Andre Scruggs have turned out to be a blessing to a defense that has allowed only 9.5 points a game this season and only one touchdown in three playoff games.

"The injuries have really helped us from the standpoint of getting through them," Tarpley said. "The other kids got to play a lot and now they're all back. It gives us a lot of depth."

That, in turn, has given the players an extra competitive edge.

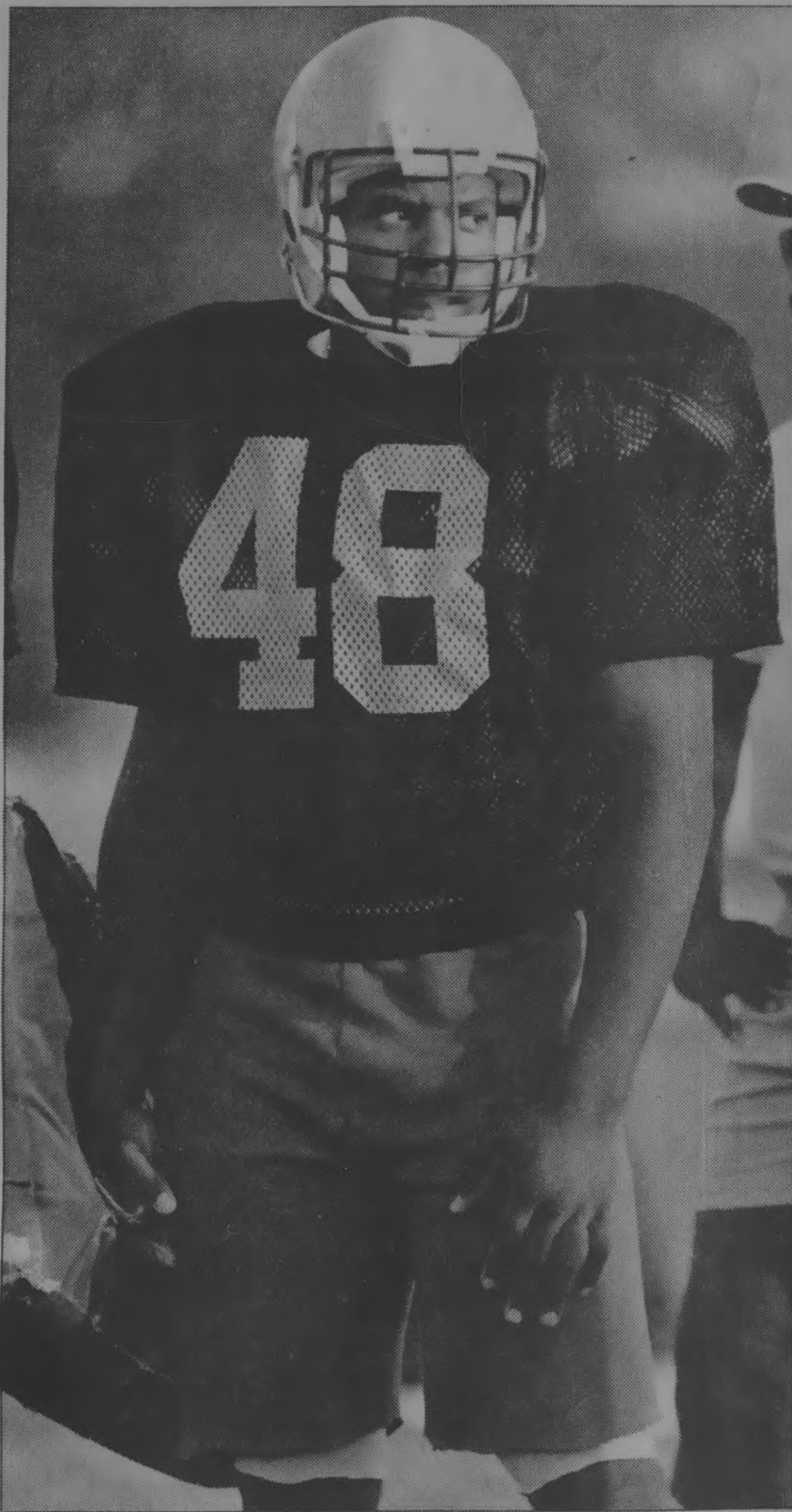
"The main thing it does for us is the competition of it," Tarpley said. "It keeps guys from getting complacent. If you've got guys who know it's theirs, they don't work as hard."

Another key has been the play of inside linebacker Dexter Daniels, who leads the team in tackles. Valdosta had solid linebackers last season and needed a defensive end, so Daniels played there. This season, he's back at his natural position.

"Dexter may be as good a linebacker as we've had since John Porter," Tarpley said, referring to the Super 11 linebacker who graduated in 1985. "[Daniels is] strong as an ox and can run. He may be as good a linebacker as we've had in five or six years."

Cotton has helped solidify the secondary that includes three-year starter Trampis Rice and returning starters Lewis and Lane. Cotton was a backup quarterback last season, but with Alton Hitson secure in that job, Cotton volunteered to move last spring.

"Deric came to us last spring and said, 'Coach, I want to start. Can I help you in the secondary?'" Tarpley said. "Now he's got all the big schools looking at him. He's got a good chance to go to a major college. He's really come through for us."



— Staff

Linebacker Dexter Daniels: Leader of the Valdosta defense

Daniels, Cotton and the increased depth have helped the Wildcats not miss a beat on defense after losing seven starters from last season.

"We practice long enough and try to develop the younger guys and then we've got someone to step in," Tarpley said. "We've always tried to

develop next year's team, while we're practicing this year's team.

"We try every day to give that little scrawny guy a chance to get better, and then next year he might not be a little scrawny guy."

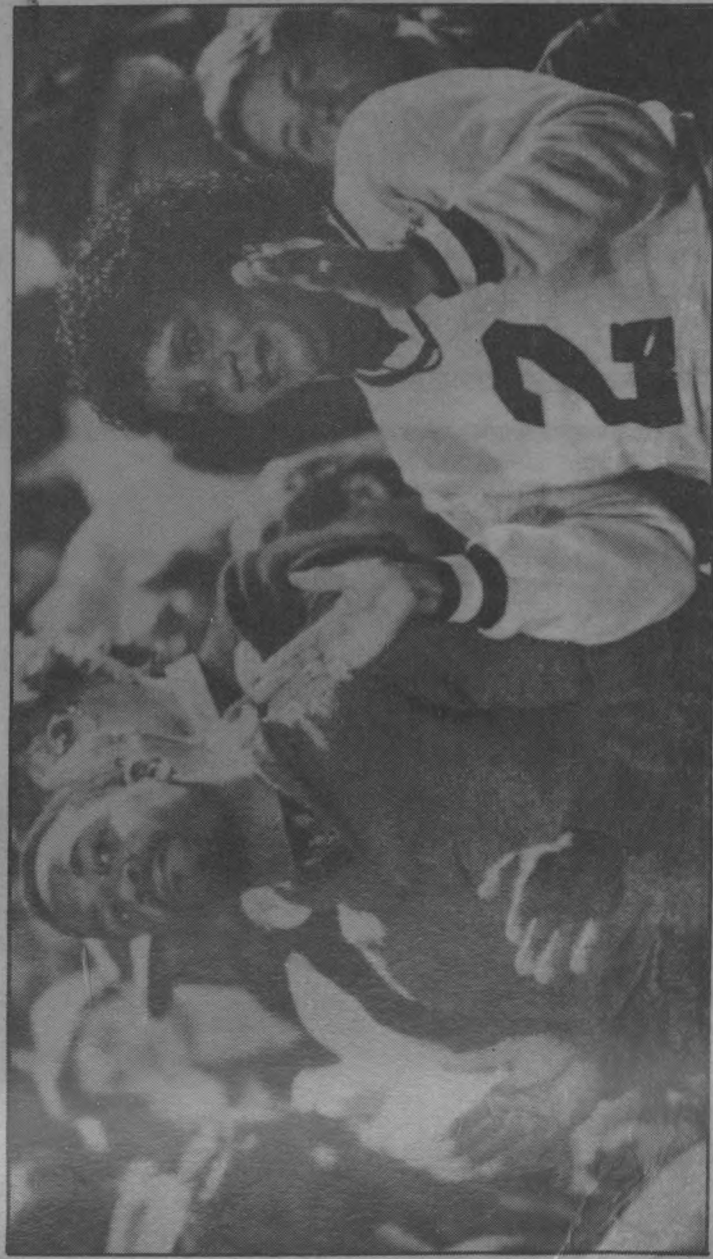
In fact, next year he might be feasting on opponents.



Special Delivery

Bert Bowden makes a parachute landing at Valdosta High School's football practice field Thursday afternoon to make a special delivery to VHS head football coach Nick Hyder — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

AAA CHAMPS



**Valdosta 31,
S. DeKalb 0**

Cleveland Field

December 15, 1990

Valdosta, Georgia

Title Time At Cleveland Field

V. Times 12-15-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor



Valdosta High's football players gather around head coach Nick Hyder for a pre-practice prayer before the final workout

for tonight's Class AAAA state championship — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta High Players Close In On History

V. Times 12-15-90
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The fallen sun Friday may have signaled the end of practices for the Valdosta High Wildcats in 1990. But more importantly for the VHS players, it moved them one step closer to a date with the history books.

Valdosta High (12-0-1) will take on the Southwest DeKalb Panthers (13-1) at 8 p.m. tonight at Cleveland Field for the Class AAAA state football championship. A win would mark the first time since 1969 that the 'Cats have repeated as state champions.

Is it on the minds of the Wildcats? Well, let's just say that many agree they wouldn't mind etching their names in the VHS record books.

"It's just a great honor to even in the state championship game," said senior tackle Shaun Eilders. "I think it's just a great tribute to the attitude and hard work these guys have put in this year. I use to say nothing surprises me, but this may be the best example of dedication and desire by this football team in my four years."

In fact, Eilders also stated that he felt Southwest will prove to be the best football team he and the Wildcats have faced in his career.

Since taking his first snap during the steamy August weather in 1989, quarterback Alton Hitson has proven to be one of the most durable signalcallers to lead the black-and-

gold. Hitson, strapped with numerous leg and arm injuries this season, hopes his team can duplicate the same results in 1989.

"I haven't really thought about the repeating and all that until the mayor came out here today and spoke to us," said Hitson. "A lot of people say we don't have any talent and that we've just been getting by. I don't think that's so. And I think a lot more of my teammates than that."

"These guys know how to win and just work like anything to get the job done," said Hitson. "I'm just proud of my teammates and hopefully things will work out for us Saturday."

Valdosta receiver Steve Jaramillo has been well-informed about the back-to-back possibility. His father, also named Steve, was a member of the 1968 and 1969 VHS title teams. And according to Jaramillo, nothing more can be said.

"It does seem a little weird that my dad was part of those teams. But you can only talk about it so much," said Jaramillo. "He just told me to go out there and do the best I can. We can't worry about repeating. The team that wins the game is going to want it more than the other."

"I want to win it not because of the other stuff, but because this is our goal," said Jaramillo.

HOW THEY GOT HERE ...

SW DeKALB (13-1)	VALDOSTA (12-0-1)
Columbia (1-9), 38-0	McEachern (9-3), 28-6
Warner Robins (9-2), 7-10	Camden Co. (6-4-1), 14-14
Stone Mountain (9-3), 24-10	Wayne Co. (3-7), 38-6
Redan (1-9), 41-0	Jess Lanier (11-3*), 17-16
Lithonia (8-3), 16-0	Robert E. Lee (7-7), 10-0
Cross Keys (5-5), 18-14	Bainbridge (7-4), 3-0
Douglass (7-4), 21-6	Colquitt Co. (5-5), 28-18
Dunwoody (5-4-1), 10-7	Tift Co. (8-5), 23-7
Therrell (1-9), 42-12	Coffee (5-4-1), 30-29
Tri-Cities (3-7), 38-8	Lowndes (6-4), 16-7
Mays (9-2), 35-7	Northside (7-5), 21-0
Cedar Shoals (10-2), 17-14	Statesboro (10-3), 17-10
Marietta (12-1), 34-14	Clarke Central (11-3), 8-0
Griffin (11-3), 24-14	*plays for state title today

After a week of hard work and "breaks from the monotony," title time has come in Valdosta.

Tonight at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field, second-ranked Valdosta (12-0-1) meets fifth-ranked Southwest DeKalb (13-1) for the Georgia High School Association's Class AAAA state football championship.

Valdosta High is trying to become the first Class AAAA team to repeat as state champions, after winning last year's title in Athens at Clarke Central. While no one has repeated since the large-school classification was first developed in 1978, Valdosta has won five of the 12 titles.

Valdosta High, trying for its 21st state title, last won back-to-back crowns in 1968 and 1969.

Southwest DeKalb is going for its first Class AAAA title. This is the Panthers' first final after five semifinal appearances.

The season's last workout on the worn Valdosta High practice field was held Friday afternoon, with the team entering and exiting once again past a portable sign with encouraging messages from the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

It's not all which has come the Wildcats' way. There have been hot-air balloons and skydivers flying over and into practices this week, and a fake newspaper column and T-shirt circulated which was meant to fire up the team. Friday, Valdosta Mayor Jimmy Rainwater presented a proclamation to the team, making it "Wildcat Day" in Valdosta.

"This wasn't like the SportsChannel week (against Jess Lanier)," said Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder, referring to the week the VHS game was nationally cablecast while two other national news organizations were in town. "Maybe it keeps you from being overly distracted."

"A lot of interesting things happened. But after more than 20 weeks of practice, you begin to appreciate different routines. It gives you a variety."

Valdosta's defense, which has given up just one touchdown in three playoff games, will be facing a variety of offensive sets from Southwest DeKalb. That unit is led by running back Quevin Redding (1,159 yards, 13 touchdowns) and quarterback Eric Johnson (1,202 yards passing, 15 touchdowns; eight rushing touchdowns).

Johnson has been compared favorably to some of the top quarterbacks Valdosta has faced this season, led by Camden's Marlo Mobley.

The Southwest DeKalb defense was one of the stingiest during the regular season, but has allowed seven touchdowns in four playoff games. They did, however, a number on all-star quarterback Eric Zeier of Marietta two weeks ago, picking off two passes.

Valdosta's offense, led by two-year starter Alton Hitson at quarterback, has posted 32 of its 46 playoff points in the second half.

In other championship games tonight, Region 1-AAA foes Cairo (14-0) and Worth County (12-2) meet in Sylvester for the Class AAA crown; Pepperell (14-0) is at Brown (12-2) in Class AA; and defending champion Lincoln County (14-0) is on the road at Charlton County (11-2) in Class A.



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson is stopped by the Clarke Central defense Saturday night in the Class AAAA semifinal playoff game — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

V. Times 12-9-90

Cats Owe Success To Frustrationball

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Welcome to "Frustrationball."

Better known as the 1990 Valdosta High football team, this year's team have been frustrating to the wits of the Wildcats and opponents, and their fans.

How frustrating? You can't blame everything on the ghost of Cleveland Field.

All you'll get to do is attend the 1990 Class AAAA state championship football game Saturday night at Cleveland Field. Valdosta vs. Southwest DeKalb. Kickoff at 8 p.m.

One last struggle for a head coach like Nick Hyder and a team which likes a good struggle.

Frustrationball?

●**Offensively.** The Wildcats score a touchdown every other time they get inside the 20-yard line (22 of 43 times). Many, many other times the 'Cats don't get that close.

Its best runner right now (fullback Kendrick Patrick) was buried on the bench at midseason. Tailback Joe Wright is having a quiet 854-yard season. The longest touchdown run (25 yards) came in the first game, and that by quarterback Alton Hitson.

That quarterback hits on less than 50 percent of his passes, and has thrown more interceptions in the play-

offs (four) than regular season (three). He's also the team's second-leading rusher, at 409 yards.

And Hitson spends as much time in the training room these days as the practice field.

But the unit plays follow-the-leader very well, and their on-field leader (Hitson) is now 26-1-1 as a starter. The line in front of him, after a good struggle, usually carries out their needed adjustments.

The offense always seemed to outscore the opponent, no matter how frustrating it may be.

●**Defensively.** More like Charles Tarpley's unit which has been doing the frustrating. For starters, the Wildcats have recorded four shutouts this season.

But in three other games, the 'Cats have given up a score long after the game's outcome has been decided. And in four more games, Valdosta's defense hasn't allowed a point past halftime — most of the time after breaking on the opening or second drive.

The crowing jewel came Saturday night at Cleveland Field. Valdosta allowed Clarke Central just 56 total yards, and limited all-star tailback Carlos Freeman to 12 yards on nine carriers.

●**The opposition.** How else do you explain that blue-sweatered Clarke Central fan which chased the officials off Cleveland Field Saturday night? Or the words which

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

From Page 1-B

Clarke Central and Valdosta coaches exchanged after the game?

One can keep on talking about all the breaks Valdosta gets at home — the second-chance extra-point kick against Camden County, or fourth-down penalties on Statesboro and Clarke Central which kept scoring drives alive.

Those things take one's mind off things like three missed second-quarter field goals by Clarke Central. Or like all those times their offense doesn't cross midfield, once "golden opportunity" chances are missed.

But you don't figure style points into the score at game's end. This isn't diving.

It's football. And it's another championship-game week for Valdosta High — however frustrating it was to get there.

Devils Bedevil Wildcats

V. Times 12-5-90

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Both the boys and girls basketball teams from Tift County High played by the same game plan at the Valdosta High gymnasium Tuesday night. And both plans worked.

The Blue Devils broke open a close game late in the second quarter with seven unanswered points and pulled away steadily in the second half for a 59-39 win over the Wildcats. In the girls game, the Lady Devils were down by five midway through the second period but scored 18 straight before halftime and put the game out of reach, gaining a 40-27 win.

The games were the Region 1-AAAA openers for both teams.

The Lady Wildcats' chances were dimmed when 6-foot-3 junior center Esther Benjamin went down with an ankle injury with 3:08 left in the opening period. Head coach Susan Montgomery said after the game she was unsure how long Benjamin would be out of action.

The boys game was close throughout the first quarter and most of the second as Valdosta center Michael Moore hit two free throws and guard Ernest Lowe converted a three-point play to cut a Tift County lead to 22-21 with 2:49 left before half. But the Blue Devils went on a run sparked by a short Travis Williams' jumper and a Gannon Hall 3-pointer to take a 29-21 lead at the half.

The Blue Devil offense got rolling in the third quarter with Brian Adams, Brian White and Williams leading the way from long range and from the free throw line, where TCHS was 19-of-25 on the night, and they had a 49-33 lead entering the fourth. Though the visitors switched to a slowdown offense, Williams never slowed up, and he kept the Wildcats out of reach. Williams finished the night with 25 points, with nine of them coming on 12 attempts from the free throw line.

Lowe led Valdosta with 13 while Moore added 10. Moore missed much of the second half due to foul trouble though he led the team with eight rebounds.

"I thought we played decent in the first half," said Valdosta head coach John Miller. "We just didn't seem to want to run any type offense in the second half. People think if you've got height, you're going to get rebounds but that's not all there is to it. You've got to have quickness and position and effort and they beat us there. We also didn't get Michael the ball enough and that comes with not running your offense."

The Blue Devils outrebounded Valdosta 21-13 in the second half.

See WILDCATS, Page 5-B

From Page 4-B

The Lady Wildcats' fate was sealed by the big second-quarter run by the Lady Blue Devils. In the final 5:20 of the half, the Lady Devils scored 18 points while Valdosta was shut out as they had trouble getting through an effective TCHS press.

"The press rattled us because they swapped it up on us from full-court to half-court," said Montgomery. "We made a comeback and I was glad to see that. I thought our defense did a good job because we forced a lot of turnovers but we couldn't finish them off. We were also

turning it over on our end of the court."

After surviving another Tift County scoring spurt in the third quarter, the Lady 'Cats did make cut the score in the final period. Down 38-18 with 6:40 left, Dede Dennis scored five points and Vashti Manning and Natasha Johnson both hit short jumpers to pull their team within 11. But the lead was too large and the time too short for a serious comeback.

Laura Dennis led Valdosta with 10 points while Kim Lester had 17 for the Lady Blue Devils.

Players Recall

1968-69

V. Times 12-14-90

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Cleveland Field has been the site of some of the greatest football games ever played in the state of Georgia.

From the five-touchdown aerial attack by Valdosta High quarterback Stanley Bounds in 1971 to the last-second field goal by VHS' Herbert Lowe to lock up the 1982 title against Peachtree, the stadium surrounded by the swirling oaks and protected by one small ghost could find itself playing host to another storied chapter in Wildcat football.

A victory tomorrow night in the Class AAAA finals would put this year's Wildcat team into select company in Valdosta history. The Wildcats will be attempting to capture back-to-back state football championships for the first time since 1968 and 1969. A win would also give VHS its third title in five years.

And while it may seem unchartered waters for the 1990 VHS squad, offensive line coach and former VHS defensive end Jerry Don Baker is the Wildcats' link to the historic past.

Baker, along with the likes of Charles Shenton, Don Golden, Willie Jones, Tom Holt and Bo Blalock just to name a few, were team members on both the 1968 and 1969 state championship clubs.

Players

Dec 14, 1990 V.D.T.

From Page 1-B

Athens High School (now Clarke Central). Valdosta was also named as the mythical national champions following the '69 title game.

Just the first half alone in the 1969 title would fill up any highlight reel.

One of the most memorable plays in that game was a 70-yard touchdown run by Athens quarterback Andy Johnson on the final play of the second quarter to tie the game at 13-13.

"It was the wildest thing I'd ever seen playing football," said Baker. "In the final seconds of the first half, they ran a play to the outside and we tackled Johnson. We started to head for the lockerroom as the final seconds ran off the clock. But the officials had thrown a flag on the play and marched the penalty off and with one second on the clock, Athens snapped the ball.

"Johnson ran around right end for a touchdown," Baker said. "We had about eight players on the field, the rest were halfway up the tunnel. Don Golden came running out of the lockerroom and almost made the tackle."

Late in the fourth quarter, Johnson drove his team 75 yards for a score

and then threw a two-point conversion pass for the tie.

"Everybody on that team came away with the feeling we should have won that game outright," said former VHS defensive lineman and tight end Bo Blalock. "It was still very exciting to accomplish what we did. You know, as juniors you're just glad to be a part of it all. Then when you're seniors, well it's like it's your year to win it. And I think back then team unity played a big key in our success and winning two in a row.

"I can't comment on what the kids today are going through, but I know for me and the guys I played with it was a great feeling to be part of both of those outstanding teams," Blalock

said. "It was nothing more than desire."

Baker would even go as far as to say the back-to-back possibilities are a part of his daily routine.

"Yes sir, in every offensive meeting we have I talked to the kids about this moment in time and what it feels like to win consecutive titles," said Baker. "It's certainly been a driving force for me, our team, and the entire coaching staff. This team has really come a long way and made some big strides. I can only point to one reason why this group will playing for its second championship and that is t-e-a-m. No one player has had a bigger impact than anyone else. These kids love to win and be in this spot and Coach Hyder has done another great job leading all of us."

Wildcats Win State

V. Times 12-16-90



Alton Hitson (15) goes flying through the air during Saturday's 31-0 win over Southwest DeKalb for the GHSA

AAAA prep football championship — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Back-to-back. The 1990 Valdosta High School football team convincingly added to its tradition-rich coffer of Georgia High School Association state championships Saturday night at Cleveland Field.

**More On
Pages
1B & 1C**

The Wildcats blanked Southwest DeKalb, 31-0, before a near-sellout crowd, recording its 21st state title. It's the sixth for head coach Nick Hyder, and the first time his teams have won back-to-back state titles. Last year, Valdosta defeated Clarke Central, 33-13, in Athens.

Valdosta (13-0-1) blocked and tackled its way past the visiting Panthers, which had won 12 straight games. The Valdosta defense, which allowed just one touchdown in four playoff games, limited the Southwest DeKalb attack to 72 total yards and three first downs.

Senior quarterback Alton Hitson capped a two-year storybook career as Valdosta's starting signalcaller (a 27-1-1 record) by running for two touchdowns, from 1 and 6 yards. Senior tailback Joe Wright ran for 113 yards on 13 carries and had the other offensive touchdown, a 14-yard run.

Kicker Dow Drury made a 27-yard field goal to give Valdosta a 17-0 lead before halftime, and the defense added the final points — a 37-yard interception return by Leroy Williams.

Valdosta Again, 31-0

V. Times 12-15-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

To talk that talk, you've got to walk that walk — or at least execute the basics of blocking and tackling very well.

Southwest DeKalb tried to talk its talk before the beginning of Saturday night's Class AAAA state championship game at Cleveland Field. The rest of the night it learned how the best in Georgia high school football does it.

Valdosta High 31, Southwest DeKalb 0. The 21st state championship in VHS' storied football history, six under head coach Nick Hyder. The first back-to-back

championship in Class AAAA history, and Valdosta's first repeat since 1968-69.

And the biggest blowout in Valdosta High state-championship since Wright Bazemore's last game in 1971, the 62-12 thumping of Atlanta Peachtree.

"What happened is that what we're trying to teach really came together," said Hyder. "Together they can accomplish so much more if they put their egos in the right place.

"This is a real state championship. Valdosta just clawed in there and earned it. Their coach admitted to me that he'd never seen a team block and tackle as well as

we did."

Where to start? Offensively, senior quarterback Alton Hitson ran for two short touchdowns in directing the 'Cats to their 27th win in Hitson's 29 starts. Hitson becomes the first VHS quarterback since Bruce Bennett in 1960-61 to lead VHS to back-to-back titles.

Senior tailback Joe Wright ran for 113 yards on 13 carries, all in the first three quarters. And his 14-yard touchdown run in quarter No. 2 made it 14-0. Senior fullback Kendrick Patrick added 88 yards on 18 carries.

Defensively, the Wildcats posted their fifth shutout of 1990 — the third in four playoff games. This

time, Charles Tarpley's bunch limited Southwest DeKalb to 72 total yards and three first downs. Quarterback Eric Johnson hit on just 1-of-15 passes with two interceptions, while 1,000-yard rusher Quevin Redding was limited to 50 yards. The Panthers never reached midfield.

And the unit posted its second touchdown of the season when reserve cornerback Leroy Williams picked off his team-leading fifth interception and returned it 37 yards for the final score.

The two teams nearly went at it prior to the game. Southwest DeKalb had stayed in the East end zone while Valdosta ran out on the

See WILDCATS, Page 2-C

VALDOSTA 31, SW DeKALB 0

SW DeKALB	0	0	0	0-0
VALDOSTA	7	10	0	14-31

V — Alton Hitson 1 run (Dow Drury kick)
V — Joe Wright 14 run (Drury kick)
V — Dow Drury 27 field goal
V — Hitson 6 run (Drury kick)
V — Leroy Williams 37 interception return (Alan Sanderson kick)

SW DeKALB	VALDOSTA
3	FIRST DOWNS 14
20-71	RUSHES-YARDS 54-249
1	PASSING YARDS 28
1-15-2	PASSES 2-6-0
72	TOTAL YARDS 277
6-38.3	PUNTS-AVG. 3-36.0
8-83	PENALTIES-YARDS 3-25
1	FUMBLES-LOST

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING: Valdosta: Joe Wright 13-113, Kendrick Patrick 18-88, Alton Hitson 15-39, Brian Thomas 2-18, Albert Edmonds 2-7, Alfred Barnes 1-(2), John Bell 1-(5), Steven Everson 1-(9). SW DeKalb: Quevin Redding 14-50, Eric Johnson 5-21, Tony Snellings 1-0.
PASSING: Valdosta: Alton Hitson 2-6-0. SW DeKalb: 1-15-2 1.
RECEIVING: Valdosta: Brice Hunter 2-28. SW DeKalb: Stacey Davis 1-1.



Southwest DeKalb running back Quevin Redding (25) attempts to elude Valdosta High defenders Tim McClain (91),

David Stewart (92) and Trampis Wrice (28) during Saturday's game Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats

From Page 1-C

As some of the Wildcat players air usual sprints to the opposite zone, the Panthers players over to attempt some intimate tactics. Some pushing forth with coaches separating the

rest was all Valdosta. "That d us up. It was like they were to start a fight," said ve end Eric Phillips. "We uck with our gameplan and at we had to do."

a penalty-filled first drive by dcats, VHS scored on its next

three possessions.

Valdosta used an option play backs coach Mike O'Brien had put in for the game to lead to the first score, a 1-yard run from Hitson behind center Giles Godwin and guard Shaun Eilders. Dow Drury added the first of his three extra points with 2:39 left in the first quarter.

On the drive, Wright had gained 17 and 19 yards on the option pitch from Hitson, the second which took the ball to the Panther 5. Hitson also had a 20-yard pass to Brice Hunter early.

On the second drive, Patrick's 14-yard ran to the 19 set up Wright two plays later. From the 14, Wright ran through and over Panther defenders into the end zone with 9:44 remaining before the half.

Phillips' interception of Johnson's pass at the 44 led to an 11-play drive which was extended by an Southwest DeKalb offside on a fake field-goal formation. Patrick ran nine yards to the 7, but the Panthers defended from there and Valdosta settled for Drury's 27-yard field goal at the 2:05 mark.

Southwest DeKalb got its first

first down on the next offensive play, and had just 18 total yards by half-time.

Valdosta's lone scoring drive in the third quarter ended with Patrick's fumble on the Panther 4. But the Panthers returned the favor at the 6 three plays later. And on the ensuing play, Hitson swept right and into the corner of the end zone for his second score with 10:43 left. On the play, Hitson slightly reinjured a knee and didn't return to the game. He wasn't needed.

The beat goes on.

Panthers Get Script Rewritten In Defeat

V. Times 12-15-90
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Southwest DeKalb Panthers ventured into historic Cleveland Field Saturday night hoping to write its own championship script. But the Panthers instead had to settle for second billing to the Valdosta High Wildcats.

"We just failed to do anything right tonight and that's not so much as it was Valdosta," said head coach Buck Godfrey. "It's hard to put a night like this into words because we lost the state championship. Plus, I don't want our kids to be too upset."

"It takes a mighty fine football team to make it to this point and we did something this year to be proud of," said Godfrey. "I know Nick (Hyder, VHS head coach) and he's a class guy, class team, and they just put a whipping on us. But we've got seven juniors this year and couple of kids I feel will be pretty good players from the middle school level and we'll see Valdosta at our place next year."

Southwest DeKalb, the pride of metro Atlanta in 1990 winners in 13 of 15 games played, managed to keep its spirits high for much of what was a frustrating game. Even after carrying the burden of a 17-0 deficit into the dressing room at

intermission, the Panthers roared out for the second half with the dream of knocking off Valdosta.

But while the spirit was willing, the results were to never come. In fact, when VHS' Alton Hitson scored the final points of the game, Chris Ward said to his teammates, "Don't worry guys, it's about over."

"Valdosta didn't do anything different than what we practiced for," said Panthers' star tailback Quevin Redding. "All they did was take everything away and win the championship. We did great this year, but it's hard to walk away with this kind of a loss."

While the VHS lead increased to 24 points, Southwest DeKalb found themselves reaching deep into its playbook for a magical comeback finish.

But none of the calls selected held the key to victory.

Late in the third quarter, Panthers' defensive assistant coach Napoleon Cobb yelled into the mouthpiece of his headset, "Hell, they've (VHS) got an answer for everything I'm calling. We can't stop 'em."

Godfrey stated such comments told the story for his Panthers.

"The key to this whole thing was that we couldn't stop them," said Godfrey. "And on offense, we couldn't get any yards."



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson (15) struggles for some yardage — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Can You Answer This One?

I guess things are somewhat different here in Valdosta.

Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder doesn't mind being called at home. You fans might have a question or observation, or a sports writer needs to get some information. Or a player, or former player, needs some help. If you can reach the veteran coach at home, he'll usually talk shop.

And it's been well-documented that some "fans" don't mind calling Lowndes High head football coach Rick Tomberlin at home. Other than that, he'll usually take time to answer a question or give a comment — or dispel the latest rumor.

But when it comes to the man who directs the Georgia High School Association, he's strictly a 9-to-5er.

In the midst of state championship week this week, word got out that Southwest DeKalb was investigated concerning a possible ineligible player. Rumors started to fly as well, as did concerns that Griffin was getting an "unfair" advantage in preparing to replace Southwest DeKalb as Valdosta's opponent.

Valdosta High fans wanted to know. So did head coach Nick Hyder, who heard of the investigation first when fans called him.

Word from Atlanta broke long after 5 p.m. We called the coaches involved, but they usually keep as late hours as we in the sports department do.

So I had Stan Grubb try to give W.C. "Bill" Fordham, the executive director of the GHSA, a call at home to clarify the matter.

After a few busy signals, Fordham answered. He didn't want to be bothered concerning business while at home.

"I do not discuss these matters at home," Fordham said. "When I'm at home that is my own time, and if you would like to discuss this matter into Southwest DeKalb's team contact me at my office tomorrow morning."

Bill, here's my suggestion.

The eight area schools in *The Valdosta Daily Times*' circulation area paid a total of \$6,284 in membership dues for this school year, based on figures in the GHSA handbook. And that's if the dues are paid on time. That comes either from tax money or money from athletic receipts. Public money.

Then comes the matter of the football playoffs. The GHSA receives 12 percent of the gross receipts from each playoff game, and it's paid before the officials or teams are paid. For example: If Valdosta High sold 10,000 \$5 tickets, the GHSA would receive approximately \$5,640 from the gate.

I'd have to say Valdosta High alone will give the GHSA over \$15,000 from gate receipts for four playoff games, money from the public buying tickets.

It seems our area's football fans have supported the GHSA enough through buying tickets. Enough to pay for an answer, or pay for someone to answer questions.

Bill, athletics isn't a 9-to-5 affair. Your job isn't, either.

What They Said/Quotes From The 1990 Championship Game

By STAN GRUBB
and GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Staff

Questions and answers from Saturday's Class AAAA state championship game.

QUESTION: Does this feeling match the one you had as a VHS player in winning back-to-back championships in 1968 and 1969?

OFFENSIVE LINE COACH JERRY DON BAKER: This one feels much, much better because I'm a lot older and I understand what kind of hard work it takes to just win one championship. A lot of long hours went into this thing and I'm as proud for these kids today as I ever was back in the late 60's.

QUESTION: Other than the final score, did anything surprise you about your team or the Valdosta

Wildcats?

SOUTHWEST HEAD COACH BUCK GODFREY: I sure didn't think things were going to be this hard for us tonight. We did everything we could and Valdosta just had an answer for all the calls and all the defensive sets.

QUESTION: Where does this rank in you and your team's accomplishments during the past two football seasons?

QUARTERBACK ALTON HITSON: You don't put things like this in a category, you just enjoy it. It's just been two of the greatest years I've had in sports period.

QUESTION: With the 1990 title safely tucked away, can the Wildcats top tonight's honor?

LINEBACKER DEXTER DANIELS: Three-peat baby, three-peat. As long as we stay together and

never give up, we can do it. Everybody said we weren't going to do it this time and you see what happened. You just have to believe in yourself.

QUESTION: How did you guys feel at the first of the game when you had the confrontation with Southwest DeKalb?

WIDE RECEIVER CARLOS MOORE: I just feel the Wildcats came alive.

QUESTION: Did all the talking by Southwest DeKalb give your team extra momentum?

SAFETY DERIC COTTON: Yes. They came out and did a lot of talking. We respected them and the talent they had. I just don't understand why other people can't come down here and respect us.

QUESTION: Did you feel you were going to be stopped on the

interception?

CORNERBACK LEROY WILLIAMS: I already had it all planned. He jumped hard for my legs and I just jumped over him and went in.

QUESTION: Why did this domination happen?

DEFENSIVE END ERIC PHILLIPS: It was just a lot of noise and they got down here and just couldn't do what they said they were going to.

QUESTION: Does sharing a championship with a family member make it more special?

OFFENSIVE GUARD DERRICK PHILLIPS: Me and my brother (Eric) dreamed about this all the way back to when we watched John Porter and all them guys played — back-to-back. We never thought one day we'd be here.

THE FINAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL POLLS

GEORGIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLASS AAAA

1. Valdosta (13-0-1)
2. Clarke Central (11-3)
3. SW DeKalb (13-2)
4. Griffin (11-3)
5. Statesboro (11-3)
6. Cedar Shoals (10-2)
7. Warner Robins (10-2)
8. Marietta (12-1)
9. Effingham County (9-3)
- (tie) Tift County (8-5)

CLASS AA

1. Pepperell (15-0)
2. Early County (11-3)
3. Mitchell-Baker (10-1)
4. Brown (12-3)
5. Jeff Davis (13-1)
6. West Laurens (11-2)
7. Lovett (10-2)
8. East Hall (11-2)
9. Manchester (11-2)
10. Washington-Wilkes (8-3)

CLASS AAA

1. Cairo (15-0)
2. Worth County (12-3)
3. Marist (13-1)
4. Thomson (11-1)
5. Habersham Central (12-1)
6. Carrollton (12-2)
7. Baker (11-2)
8. Lakeside-DeKalb (11-1-1)
9. Elbert County
10. Dalton (9-1-2)
- (tie) Crisp County (8-2)

CLASS A

1. Lincoln County (15-0)
2. Charlton County (11-3)
3. Macon County (12-1)
4. Commerce (10-4)
5. Heard County (10-3)
6. Dacula (11-3)
7. R.E. Lee (10-2)
8. Oglethorpe County (9-2)
- (tie) Miller County (10-2)
10. East Rome (9-4)

USA TODAY TOP 25

1. Lawton Eisenhower (14-0) won Oklahoma 5A state title
2. Houston Aldine (15-0) won Texas 5A state title
3. Gainesville Buchholz (14-0) won Florida 4A state title
4. San Diego Morse (14-0) won S.D. Section Class 3A
5. Warren Harding (14-0) won Ohio Division I title
6. Louisville Trinity (14-0) won Kentucky Class 4A title
7. Chicago Mount Carmel (14-0) won Illinois Class 5A title
8. Valdosta (13-0-1) won Georgia Class AAAA title
9. Ruston (14-0) won Louisiana Class AAAA title
10. Merced (Calif.) (14-0) won Sac-Joaquin Section D-1
11. Randolph, N.J. (10-0)
12. Jefferson City, Mo. (14-0)
13. Wexford, Pa., North Allegheny (13-0-1)
14. Fayetteville, Tenn., Lincoln County (15-0)
15. Bakersfield, Calif. (13-0)
16. River Ridge, La., John Curtis (15-0)
17. Burlington, N.C., Cummings (15-0)
18. Winchester, Mass., (11-0)
19. Tucson, Ariz., Sabino (14-0)
20. Syracuse, N.Y., Henninger (11-0)
21. Great Falls, Mont., Russell (12-0); 22. Longmont, Colo., (13-0); 23. Wellsburg, W.Va., Brooke (13-0); 24. Marion, Iowa, Linn-Mar (13-0); 25. Indianapolis Franklin Central (14-0).

'Cats Finish First, Eighth

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After Valdosta High won its 21st state football championship on Saturday night, other honors have followed.

The Wildcats regained the No. 1 position in the final Georgia Associated Press poll released Tuesday. Valdosta (13-0-1) had fallen to No. 2 behind Warner Robins in the final regular-season poll without losing a game, after beginning the season as the No. 1 team and regaining it at midseason a few weeks after the Camden County tie.

All four teams which won a state title on Saturday were unanimously declared No. 1 in their respective classes. Valdosta defeated Southwest DeKalb, 31-0, at Cleveland Field.

Clarke Central, one of two teams which came closest to Valdosta during the Class AAAA playoffs, finished second in the poll. Valdosta defeated the Gladiators, 8-0, in the semifinals. Southwest DeKalb was third.

Statesboro, which gave Valdosta its other serious threat, was fifth. Valdosta won that game, 17-10, in the quarterfinals.

Warner Robins fell to seventh, while Valdosta's fellow Region 1-AAAA foe Tift County — which sent Warner Robins packing in the first round — tied for ninth with Effingham County.

Meanwhile, the final USA Today Super 25 football rankings were released in the national paper's Tuesday editions. And as it has been in recent weeks, Valdosta High was ranked No. 8.

And has been the case in recent weeks, a team jumped past Valdosta into a higher position.

This week it was Gainesville, Fla., Buchholz, which moved to the No. 3 spot after knocking off previously No. 3 Fort Lauderdale Dillard, 24-7, for the Class 4A state title.

There was also some shuffling between Nos. 4-6, with San Diego Morse moving from No. 6 to No. 4 and the other two teams moving down a notch.

Lawton, Okla., Eisenhower (14-0) won its first Class 5A title and its first national title. Houston Aldine (15-0), the Texas 5A champion, was second.

Valdosta has won two national titles from USA Today. Last year it finished just outside the Top 10, at No. 11.

The Wildcats are also one of two teams to be listed in the poll and not go unbeaten and untied.

The USA Today poll is compiled by Dave Krider, a sportswriter in Indiana for nearly three decades.

"That has motivated me this season. I like Coach Hyder," Cox said. "When I get tired, I think about Nick Hyder. His words pick me up, and make me go harder. I've told the kids about that."

Jess Lanier left Valdosta with a 1-2 record, with the two losses coming against out-of-state teams. With their large offensive line and skilled quarterback, you knew they were better than a 1-2 team.

The Purple Tigers won their next three games before hitting the next bump in the road, a trip to area rival Walker of Jasper. A 16-15 loss.

"Walker hadn't beaten us in 10 years," Cox said. Walker was held under 100 total yards, but Lanier had two fumbles near the goal line — and the defeat.

It put Cox's team in a must-win situation for the rest of the season, if it wanted to make the state playoffs. And Jess Lanier has won, and won big. "We've hit a level," Cox said.

Jess Lanier won its last three regular-season games by a combined 125-27 score to win its area title, then has won four straight playoff games, 139-43, including last week's 35-0 semifinal victory.

"We cut back on our offense, to about four or five basic plays. We put in the counter sweep," Cox said. "And after the Walker loss, we started filming the practices."

But the early-season experience of heading to South Carolina, then to Georgia, was invaluable.

"Playing Valdosta and playing the other teams we've played, we've had some big games," Cox said. "We've been hit and we've been challenged. You learn a lot about a football team when you play good football teams."

"Our kids know they can win, and I've never had a team that knew it could win. They've thought they could win, but didn't know it."

Cox had not kept up on Valdosta's progress since the September game. He wasn't surprised the Wildcats were playing for the state title as well, and wasn't surprised that the Wildcats have won a number of close games.

It didn't matter whom the opponent was tonight. "Valdosta's going to win," Cox said. "They play too hard. Credit Nick Hyder for that."

As well as an inspirational boost to another state finalist.

Hyder

Inspiring

P-Tigers

Go back to the night of Sept. 21, 1990. It was a hectic night in Valdosta, and at Cleveland Field.

The cameras from SportsChannel America were focused on the action between Valdosta High and Jess Lanier High of Bessemer, Ala. This first meeting between interstate schools was being cablecast live to millions of viewers.

Add to that the camera of an ABC News crew, which had spent the week in town studying Valdosta football. Add to that the camera of an NBC News crew, just beginning its stay in town.

Did it really matter that the game was probably one the most hard-fought battles of 1990 for Valdosta High? That Jess Lanier jumped to a 14-0 lead within its first four offensive plays, only to have the Wildcats battle back to win, 17-16?

At game's end, the two teams met peacefully on the battlefield, congratulating each other about the game just experienced. The two head coaches met at midfield — but with a twist.

This meeting won't be known for angry words spoken. It's known for the inspirational words which has sent one team to its state-championship football game today.

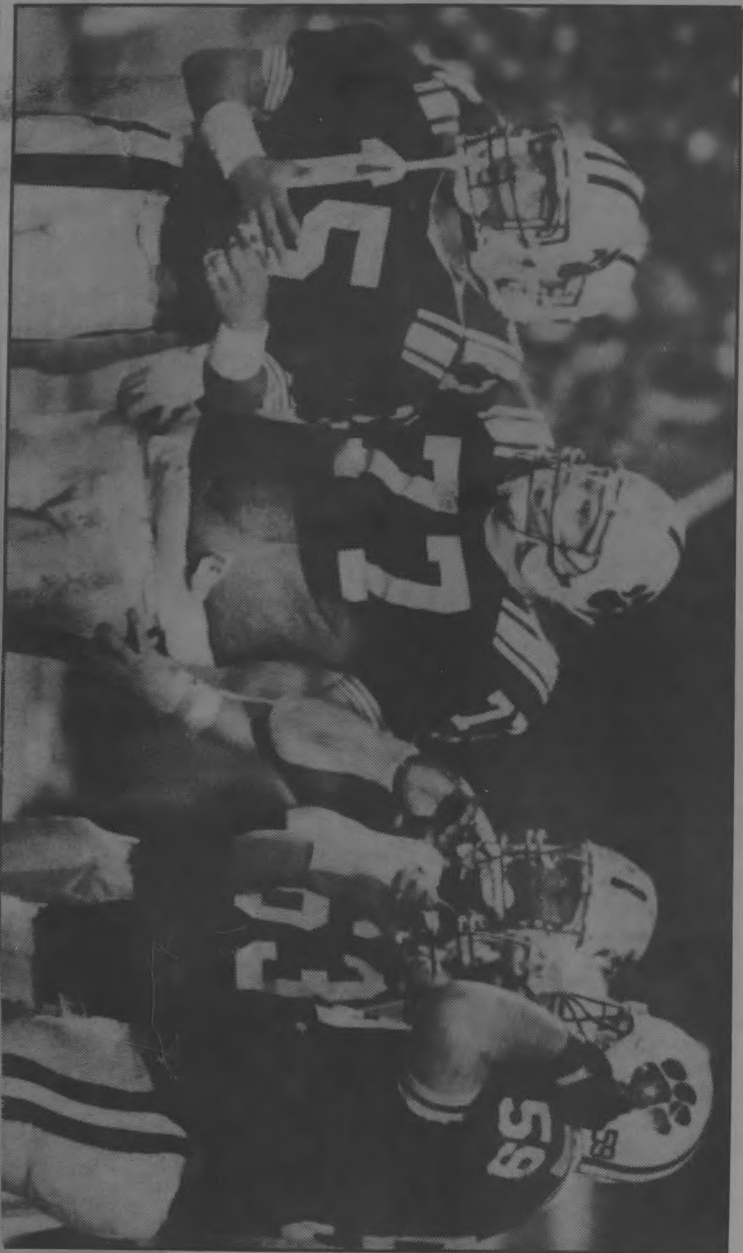
I called Jess Lanier head coach Carroll Cox earlier this week to do an update story on his team. The Purple Tigers had won 11 of their next 12 games since leaving Valdosta, and will play Mobile Murphy for the Class 6A state title today at 2:30 p.m. (Eastern) at Legion Field in Birmingham.

No longer than it took to identify myself on the phone, without a question, than did Cox give me an unsolicited response.

"You know what I remember about our game," Cox said. "The first thing Coach Hyder said to me after the game was, 'Go back and win that state championship.' He was real demonstrative about it. He said it three or four times." And it stuck.

V. Times 12-16-90

A Night For Champions



People File

Local Folks

Meet...

- **NAME:** Contina Dukess
- **RESIDENCE:** Valdosta
- **OCCUPATION:** Saleswoman at Friedmans Jewlers, and a Valdosta High School senior.
- **HOBBIES:** Shopping and dancing
- **QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "I hope everyone has a merry Christmas."

Dec. 17, 1990

WPT





Valdosta High's Vashti Manning, left, and Fitzgerald's Erika Fitzgerald went on to defeat Valdosta, 30-24, Thursday night — Times White battle for the rebound on a missed shot attempt. Fitzgerald Photo by Paul Leavy.

V. Times 12-21-90

Valdosta Ousted In Tourney

Lady Wildcats Miss Charity Chances

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats had their chances Thursday night against the Fitzgerald Lady Hurricanes, but they never cashed in.

Valdosta High, which trailed most of the contest, sank just eight of 19 free throws and fell to the Lady Hurricanes, 30-24, in the opening round of the Lowndes High Christmas Basketball Tournament.

In fact, both teams made just eight free throws in the contest. Valdosta, on the other hand, made just eight field goals as well.

Both Fitzgerald (3-3) and Valdosta (2-3) combined for just 25 points in the first half, with Fitzgerald clinging to a 13-12 advantage.

"When you don't make the shots you should make and add in 11 missed free throws, you're going to lose many times," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery. "It just came down to poor free throw shooting for us. I thought we played well enough in the second half to win."

Fitzgerald head coach David Mims was just glad to see his team rebound with a win.

"We played the way I expected, especially coming into the tournament with three straight losses," said Mims. "We didn't take some good shots out there tonight. Plus, some of the easier ones we missed. We're going to have to play far better than this to win Friday."

The score remained tied at 20-20 at

the end of three periods on a shot by Valdosta guard Vashti Manning late in the period.

But the Lady Hurricanes took control early in the final period by pressing Valdosta High. Fitzgerald jumped out to a 25-20 lead with under six minutes left and maintained at least a three-point lead late in the game.

The closest Valdosta got in the final period was 25-24 with 2:09 to play on a pair of free throws by Esther Benjamin.

FITZGERALD BOYS 72, COOK 68: The Hurricanes erased a four-point lead by Cook midway through the fourth period and took the lead for goods on a 3-pointer by guard Kevin Smith. Smith's shot gave his team a 59-58 lead with 5:28 left.

Cook forward Maysoc Wiley sank a 3-point shot with 30 seconds left in the game to tie the score at 68-68.

Then with four seconds to play, Fitzgerald's Cedric Watson tipped in a miss by teammate Bernard Brantley and put his team up 70-68. Cook, who was out of timeouts, called for timeout with two seconds left. A technical was called, and Michael Melton sank both free throws for Fitzgerald and the 72-68 win.

Lowndes Tourney

THURSDAY'S SCORES

Fitzgerald girls 30, Valdosta 24
Fitzgerald boys 72, Cook 68
Lowndes girls 68, Cook 28
Coffee boys 65, Valdosta 64

FRIDAY'S SCHEDULE

4:30 p.m. — Berrien girls vs. Fitzgerald
6 p.m. — Berrien boys vs. Fitzgerald
7:30 p.m. — Coffee girls vs. Lowndes
9 p.m. — Lowndes boys vs. Coffee

Coffee Sinks 'Cats With Free Throws

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Even after watching the Valdosta High girls' basketball team fall prey to missed free throws, Wildcat head coach John Miller had no idea free throws by

Coffee High would also eliminate his team.

The Wildcats needed just 40 seconds to claw back from a seven-point deficit against the Coffee High Trojans to tie the game at 61-61 with 55 seconds in the game.

But three Coffee High players sank four free throws in the final 35 seconds to take a 65-61 lead. Valdosta's Vidal Lowe then grabbed the rebound off a missed free throw by CHS' Peter Davis and nailed a 3-point bomb at the buzzer, but the Trojans prevailed, 65-64.

Coffee High, now 6-2, broke open a tight game on a jumper by Mark Moore with under seven minutes in the game. The Coffee lead of three points soon grew to seven almost a minute later on a 3-point shot by Davis giving his team a 58-51 lead.

VHS' Lowe, who led all scorers with 29 points, rallied his troops scoring five of Valdosta's next eight

points and cut the Coffee High lead to 61-59 with one minute and 16 seconds to play.

Coffee then lost the ball on an inside pass to Bruce Mackey and Valdosta took over possession. The 'Cats, now 1-4, worked the ball down court and fed the ball into Aaron Lane, who put a fake on Mackey and made the bank-shot to tie the game at 61-61, and was fouled. Lane, however, missed the free throw with 55 seconds left and Coffee's Billy Vereen sank two free throws after being fouled.

Up 63-61, VHS' Lowe forced a 3-pointer and missed, Moore yanked down the rebound and got the ball out to guard Sandy McKinnon. Moore took a pass from McKinnon and was fouled. Moore sank the first of a one-and-one situation for a 64-61 Coffee lead. Then on the miss by Moore, the ball slipped through the hands of VHS' Lane and went out of bounds.

VHS fouled Davis, who made the first of his one-and-one chance, for the 65-61 lead. After the miss on the second shot, Lowe finished the game with a 3-pointer.

LOWNDES GIRLS 68, COOK 28: The Lowndes High Vikettes also advanced with a 68-28 whipping of the Cook High Wasps.

The Vikettes (5-2) were led by center Lori Culpepper with 19 points.

Latina Childs tossed in 14 points for the Vikettes to go along with five assists, six rebounds and three steals.

Wildcats Wrestle To Split

V. Times 12-21-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A little early momentum was all Valdosta High wrestling coach Eddie Crocker could ask for Thursday night.

He got it in a match against Cook High. He didn't against West Laurens as the Wildcats came away with a split in a triangular match at Valdosta High.

Against Cook, the Wildcats got six straight pins to open the match. They finished with 11 pins overall in a 66-12 victory. But against West Laurens, the Wildcats lost three-straight matches after taking a 21-19 lead to lose 36-28 to the Class AA power.

In the third match, West Laurens defeated Cook, 48-30.

All 13 matches in the Valdosta-Cook contest were decided by pin, many not going beyond the first period.

"We started off with two tough matches we maybe should not have won," said Crocker after his first home matches of the season. "Our kids stuck them. They couldn't get into the match."

"Our lightweights got us rolling, just like West Laurens' got them going. In wrestling, whatever team gets off to the early start usually ends up (winning)."

After six matches, Valdosta had a 36-0 lead when Mark Nestor (103 pounds), Tim Garland (112), Ryan Thigpen (119), Steve Hubbard (125), Scott Jones (130) and Eric Skinner (135) put their opponents' shoulders to the mat.

Cook's David Dobransky broke the streak at 140 pounds, then Valdosta rolled off five more pins in the last six matches — Justin Bridges (145), Ryan Coyne (152), Chris Cheesman (160), Derrick Phillips (189) and Eric Phillips (heavyweight).

Cook's Alan O'Quinn (171) was the Hornets' other winner.

Against West Laurens, which finished sixth in last year's Class AA state tournament, it was different. Sean Garnto and Equan Ashe got West Laurens off to a 12-0 start with two pins, before Thigpen and Hubbard countered with pins to tie the match.

The teams traded off again in the next four matches, but Bridges' pin was the difference in giving Valdosta a 21-19 lead at that point. John Copeland (140) had earned a decision win before Bridges' victory.

Then West Laurens began to roll. Josh Christian (152) and Gerald Carr, the defending Class AA champion at 160 pounds, got pins. At 171, Sammy Blash won a superior decision and clinched the team victory.

The Phillips twins won decisions to round out the match. It was their first matches of the season, along with Copeland and Bobby Mangham (171), after completing the state-championship football season Saturday night.

In the West Laurens-Cook match, all 13 competitions ended in pins as well. Dobransky and O'Quinn recorded pins for Cook, as did Clint Bush (119), Christopher Aldermann (145) and Leslie Folsom (189).

The talk around Georgia high school football circles this year was that this was the season to knock off Valdosta High School.

But the large group of players, coaches and support group which form the Wildcats proved the state wrong, coming together for a 13-0-1 season and winning the school's 21st



HYDER
state championship last Saturday night.
The man who brings that group together is veteran head coach Nick Hyder. He recently spoke with *The Valdosta Daily Times* concerning the past season.
QUESTION: Why did this team come together like it did and win a state championship?
HYDER: They responded to the things we asked them to do. Before they could respond, the coaches had to gain confidence. We had coaches in new positions. Our defensive people ... our linebacker coach (Al Akins) had worked in another area last year. Coach (Charles) Tarpley moved to overall coordinator, Coach

(Larry) Jester moved in. Keith Middleton was the only one who had worked in the same position, and the offensive coaches were the same.
When the coaches learned to coach and not criticize, and the difference between screaming and yelling and hollering ... and coaching and teaching, then we got going good.
During September we began to grow as a team. We began to develop depth. We had competition, and the players saw that no one had it made. They had to earn their position every day, because the head coach feels he's the easiest person out there to replace. We don't go on

we have it made out there.
Sticking to our priorities of God, family, academics, friends and team, and the spiritual, moral, mental and physical objectives. Our theme this year was Matthew 18:1-6, about putting your egos in the right place. We also wanted to be honest and be a good example. When you are a good example, you work hard every day. You work smart every day.
When all this came together, and the players began to realize that we loved them and trusted them, and they trusted us, we made some great steps forward.
QUESTION: How much did the tough non-region schedule (four

See HYDER, Page 2-B

See HYDER, Page 2-B

Long Growth Process Ended With 'Cats Title

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

VDT Staff, Dec. 23, 1990

Questions And Answers/A Discussion With A Sports Figure

state championship last Saturday night.

state championship last Saturday night.

state championship last Saturday night.

state championship last Saturday night.

state championship last Saturday night.

Hyder Is Top Coach

VDT, Tues., Dec. 25, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

A season which started with just another football camp on a sunny Aug. 13 morning concluded four months later as one of the more memorable years in Valdosta High School football history.

The Valdosta Wildcats blanked the Southwest DeKalb Panthers, 31-0, at Cleveland Field, becoming the first VHS team to claim back-to-back football championships since 1968-69.

The leader behind the championship madness was Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder. In his 17th year as the top Cat, Hyder guided his Wildcats to a 13-0-1 record and third state title in five years. The Wildcats also won the Region 1-AAAA football championship for the fifth straight season.

For his efforts, Hyder was selected as *The Times'* All-Area Coach of the Year.

"It's an interesting thing. To have won five region titles in our league is very tough. To begin with, I feel the play in our league speaks for itself," said Hyder. "I feel it's just been a great effort on the part of a lot of different people. And the youngsters in the arena did the collision and did it well and did everything that was asked of them."

"Plus, our coaching staff did another great job," said Hyder. "Our emphasis on our priority system of God, family, academics, friends and then the Wildcats was never more a factor than this year. We never strayed away from this all year long."

Hyder was quick to give praise to his entire coaching staff at Valdosta: defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley, Larry Jester, Keith Middleton, Al Akins, Jerry Don Baker, Mike O'Brien, Bob Bolton, Ronnie Pitcock, team trainer Jim Burroughs, ninth-grade coaches Tim Horton, Jack Rudolph and Eddie Crocker, along with VJHS head coach John Davis and his staff.

In a head coaching career which began in 1968, Hyder has amassed 247 wins. In 17 years as the head coach of the 'Cats, he has won 194 games against only 27 losses and two ties. The 1990 title won by Valdosta High marked the sixth championship by the Wildcats under Hyder.

With the exception of one tie to Camden County, 14-14, Valdosta High School battled through the season unscathed on what is considered to be the Wildcats' strongest schedule in Hyder's tenure at VHS.

"The schedule this past year was certainly a tough one," said Hyder. "Starting with McEachern, who was a playoff team, Camden County and two Alabama schools in which won the state championship and the other was a semifinalist."

"And our region, of course, speaks well," said Hyder. "You can take any of our region games and there's probably one touchdown difference in each game. A play here, a play there, and anything could have happened in our region."

Hyder

From Page 1-B

confidence. But the Bainbridge game (a 3-0 win) showed we still had a lot of growing to do.

QUESTION: Region 1-AAAA seemed to be a balanced league this season, but Valdosta finished unbeaten in those five games. Why?
HYDER: Our league is tough, and you have to be ready to play each night. And different personalities bring out different intensities ...

Almost every game was within a point or a touchdown, if not two touchdowns ... but we learned in the September games and held together in October and November.

QUESTION: Was there a time you knew this team could win a state championship?
HYDER: There are a lot of unknowns out there. What I liked about this team is that we could sit down and talk to them about problems. They were a happy team, a very loud team in the dressing room. They sing, they laugh, they talk.

We didn't have any fights in the dressing room. We had some (spontaneous) scuffles on the field, but they'd go away. They really liked each other. This bunch has a great deal of love for each other. That became obvious as the season progressed.

They've talked about their greatest thrill, and it was being out there with their friends and watching that clock tick down to zero.

Out of this came a victory. They were loose, but they cared ... and they wanted to be a good example.

Hitson Added To 'Cats History



Valdosta High senior tailback Joe Wright (11) moves through a hole in the line to gain yardage during Saturday's

Class AAAA state-championship game at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Holiday Wishing For All

J. Times 12-23-90

Ho, ho, ho, ho

It's hard to get in the Christmas spirit when it's 70 degrees outside and you can slide open the back door and let the wind blow through the apartment.

But do you think I'm going to complain? I'd rather forget the single-digit temps I went through at this time last year, and you'd rather forget the ice storm which hit Valdosta before I got here.

There's one thing you can't forget, however. There's plenty of folks in this country who won't have their family together for Christmas because of Operation Desert Shield. That was very evident on Thursday night on the Larry King radio show, when he opened 2½ hours of his three-hour show for people to call and pass messages to loved ones in Saudia Arabia.

My immediate family will be together for this Christmas, away from Memphis for one of the few times in my 29 Christmases. This will be a South Georgia Christmas, and not one spent trying to find a place to live and arranging a move.

I guess before it turns cold, I'd best get in the Christmas mood.

I'll shop for the real presents later (yes I've put that off), and give these gifts of words out now:

TO NICK HYDER: The ability to strike the word "threepeat" from every Wildcat fan's vocabulary — at least until December 1991.

TO DAVE McCracken: Permanent status as the president of the Valdosta Touchdown Club, until the Wildcats don't win a state football championship.

TO JACK AND MARSHA RUDOLPH: A national championship for Georgia Tech, or the addresses for the Associated Press poll voters if a complaint needs to be registered.

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Before taking his first snap from center in the summer of 1989, Alton Hitson was just another name on the Valdosta High football roster.

Two years and two Class AAAA football championships later, Hitson will be forever linked to the Wildcat football program as one of the winningest quarterbacks in school history.

In other words, move over Bruce Bennett.

Now Bennett and Hitson are the only VHS quarterbacks ever to lead the Wildcats to back-to-back championships. Bennett led VHS to titles in 1960 and 1961.

"I'm not big on records, but this type of stuff is really nice," said Hitson. "There's a lot of people that needs to be given credit, because I wasn't out there all by myself.

"The last two years have gone so fast, it's just amazing what has happened," said Hitson. "I'm just so happy for everyone involved and I have to thank Coach (Nick) Hyder for giving me the chance to play quarterback."

In 1989 and 1990, the Hitson-led Wildcats won 27 games, with one loss and a tie. Hitson capped off his career scoring twice against the Southwest DeKalb Panthers in front of the home fans at Cleveland Field.

"That's what makes winning back-to-back championships special when you can play in front of your own fans," said Hitson. "Our fans have meant so much to us and I'm glad we could win it at home. I just don't know what to say other than thanks to everybody. It's been fun."

Hitson's durability and courageous effort the past two years have also drawn high praise from the ones who have been closest to him — his teammates.

"I don't think anything else needs to be said about Alton except that he's got to be one of the greatest quarterbacks ever to play on Cleveland Field," said wide receiver Steve Jaramillo.

Tackle Shaun Eilders has spent the past two years blocking for a quarterback he simply calls "the leader".

"Alton is just one incredible football player and has to be one of the best leaders on the field this program has ever had," said Eilders. "Alton has proven to many people that he is a fine person and great football player. And I admire him and would do anything for him. I wish him the best in the future. He is a player who's meant many different things to many different people in his career, and he's been nothing but a winner."

When asked about his football future, the 5-foot-9 Hitson paused and then stated all he wants is a chance. And where Hitson's concerned, an opportunity could mean gold trophies for his squad.

"I'll talk to anyone who wants to talk to me," smiled Hitson. "I would like to play in college, but we'll see. I just want to go home, sit down, and enjoy all of this with my family. Hopefully, something will work out for me and we'll make it three in a row next year."

●As the Hitson chapter closed Saturday night, the upcoming stars got their chance to play at game's end. One highly-discussed freshman made a name for himself.

Nakia McMullen (the other No. 15 on Valdosta's roster, besides Hitson) was put in to return a punt with two minutes left in the game. After letting the punt roll, he picked the ball up and avoided the first Southwest DeKalb defender — and almost the rest. His 31-yard punt return was the second-longest by a Wildcat this season.

Defense Answered

?????? With !!!!!

V. Times 12-17-90

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

To begin the 1990 Valdosta High School football season, question mark beyond question mark were heaped upon the team's defense.

How would you replace a front seven which caused havoc for opponents enroute to the school's 20th state title?

How would you replace a well-respected defensive coordinator who stepped down in the spring, or a veteran assistant who retired? How would that gruff-talking linebacker coach do as the new defensive coordinator?

The answer? Near perfection when it counted, in the state playoffs. Only one touchdown allowed in four games. Giving up an average of 109.5 yards per game. Causing nine turnovers.

And at the end, the Wildcats allowed 128 total yards and five first downs — against Clarke Central and Southwest DeKalb combined.

"They played their hearts out like they have all year long," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "You can't ask for much better than that."

The Wildcats fit in new players into that front seven, which was being coached by new people. First-year coach Larry Jester came over from Bainbridge to replace retiring Freddie Waters as line coach.

Jester developed a rotation of eight players among the three positions, and overcame the regular-season loss of defensive tackle Andre Scruggs to a knee injury.

Long-time Valdosta system coach Al Akins moved to the defense to replace Tarpley as linebackers and ends coach. Akins had junior Dexter Daniels back, but at linebacker and not end. Jonathan Davis returns

after missing 1½ seasons due to two broken legs to work in tandem with Daniels.

Defensive backfield coach Keith Middleton was the lone coach in his same spot as a year ago. He did have three of four starters back, but his job wasn't easy. Two returnees had early injuries which got them out of rhythm, and he began the year with little if any quality depth.

So former quarterback Deric Cotton (three interceptions) stepped in at safety, and ex-running back Leroy Williams ended the year with a team-high five interceptions. Junior Trampis Wrice, the veteran of the bunch, added four pickoffs and two fumble recoveries.

"It's sweet for me and for the assistants that help us. We lost seven great defense players we didn't think could be replaced," said Tarpley, who could also share this title with son Brad, a reserve defensive end.

Jester got his first state-championship celebration, to experience what the other coaches have had so many times before.

"The kids have done what we asked them to do. They took the criticism and all the hype and did their job," Jester said. "I'm just tickled to be a part of it."

Tarpley credits the offense for some help, especially in the championship game. Against Southwest DeKalb, the offense made no mistakes in its own end of the field, helping to have the Panthers never cross midfield.

Against Clarke Central, a blocked punt and an interception led to two Gladiator possessions inside Valdosta territory. Clarke Central was stopped after three downs and missed field-goal attempts.

How They Fared

CLASS AAAA

1. Warner Robins (9-2) lost to Tift County in the first round, 10-7.

2. Valdosta (13-0-1) beat Southwest DeKalb for the championship, 31-0.

3. LaGrange (9-2) lost to Griffin in the regional, 34-16.

4. Cedar Shoals (10-2) lost to SW DeKalb in the first round, 17-14.

5. SW DeKalb (13-2) lost to Valdosta in championship, 31-0.

6. Marietta (12-1) lost to SW DeKalb in the quarterfinals, 34-14.

7. Clarke Central (11-3) lost to Valdosta in the semifinals, 8-0.

8. Griffin (11-3) lost to SW DeKalb in the semifinals, 24-14.

9. Fayette County (9-2) lost to Morrow in the regional, 20-10.

10. (tie) Effingham County (9-3) lost to Griffin in the first round, 21-12.

Statesboro (10-3) lost to Valdosta in the quarterfinals, 17-10.

CLASS AAA

1. Marist (13-1) lost to Cairo in the semifinals, 14-0.

2. Cairo (15-0) beat Worth County for the championship, 37-28.

3. Habersham Central (12-1) lost to Marist in the quarterfinals, 21-14.

4. Thomson (11-1) lost to Cairo in the quarterfinals, 17-12.

5. Stephens County (9-2) lost to Elbert County in the regional, 21-16.

6. Carrollton (11-2) lost to Worth County in the semifinals, 28-7.

7. Lakeside-DeKalb (11-1-1) lost to Carrollton in the quarterfinals, 19-0.

8. Kendrick (9-2) lost to Columbus in the regional, 10-7.

9. Burke County (9-3) lost to Baker in the first round, 24-3.

10. Worth County (12-3) lost to Cairo in the championship, 37-28.

CLASS AA

1. Mitchell-Baker (10-1) lost to Brooks County in the regional, 29-22.

2. Jeff Davis (12-1) lost to Brown in the semifinals, 14-9.

3. Pepperell (15-0) beat Brown for the championship, 42-8.

4. Early County (11-3) lost to Pepperell in the semifinals, 21-20.

5. Manchester (11-1) lost to West Laurens in the first round, 18-12.

6. Lovett (10-2) lost to Pepperell in the first round, 28-0.

7. Cedar Grove (11-1) lost to Morgan County in the first round, 26-13.

8. Washington-Wilkes (8-3) lost to Brown in the first round, 14-12.

9. East Hall (11-2) lost to Brown in the quarterfinals, 22-14.

10. Cartersville (8-3) lost to West Rome in the regional, 29-20.

CLASS A

1. Lincoln County (15-0) beat Charlton County for the championship, 6-0.

2. Macon County (12-1) lost to Lincoln County in the quarterfinals, 28-15.

3. R.E. Lee (10-2) lost to East Rome in the first round, 3-0.

4. Oglethorpe County (9-2) lost to Dacula in the regional, 34-0.

5. Heard County (10-3) lost to Dacula in the semifinals, 20-14.

6. Dacula (11-3) lost to Charlton County in the semifinals, 28-0.

7. Bowden (8-4) lost to Heard County in the first round, 14-7.

8. Gordon Lee (9-1) did not play.

9. Miller County (10-2) lost to Charlton County in the first round, 30-23.

10. East Rome (9-4) lost to Commerce in the semifinals, 12-6.



V. Times 12-16-91

'Enjoying The Struggle'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

"If it's blocking and tackling, it's serious business. Don't take it for granted..." — Nick Hyder.

To some, football can be a complex game. Eleven players having to come together to either negotiate a 120-yard by 53-yard area, or to prevent the other team from negotiating the area.

Nick Hyder has worked to keep the game's basics, its fundamentals, a top priority. In turn, his football teams have won 85.7 percent of their games over a 23-year period at West Rome and Valdosta high schools.

Most of the successes for the Elizabethton, Tenn., native have come as coach of the nation's winningest high school football program. In his 17 seasons with the Wildcats, his record is 194-27-2. His teams have won 11 region titles, six state Class AAAA titles and two national titles in those years. The past two Wildcat teams have won back-to-back Class AAAA state titles,

a first in Georgia largest-school class, and haven't been beaten in 22 games.

But there's more to Nick Hyder than just victories. He'll tell you that he just enjoys the struggle, and he's trying to live each day to its fullest. His story began in 1935.

Nick Hyder calls on the "wonderful family experiences" he had growing up as reasons why he does many of the things he does today.

"I grew up in church, school and at ballgames. We were always taking people home and helping them get (to different places)," Hyder says.

From those experiences he developed a priority system which he preaches upon every chance he gets — and uses to make decisions.

God. Family. Academics. Friends. Wildcats.

"The priority system came from a deep personal conviction that that's what life is all about," says Hyder.

"The Fellowship of Christian Athletes helped me boost my

thinking. It's compatible to the way I've been raised."

Hyder knew he wanted to be a coach when he attended, with his father, the 1944 Tennessee-Clemson football game in Knoxville. He watched Claude Holsclaw and John Manning, who would later coach Hyder, play on that Oct. 28 afternoon as Tennessee won, 26-7.

Hyder also wanted to be a naval air cadet, a navy pilot. That wouldn't work out, however, because Hyder was colorblind.

It was on to coaching.

Nick Hyder will try to find that silver lining in every cloud. It was something his first coach, John Large, did for him.

Hyder was a sixth-grader when he got his first taste of competitive football. He was a back in the single wing.

On his first play, the football was snapped back to him. When the bodies started to collide and the defense surged toward him, Hyder

See HYDER, Page 8-C



terback) in the same category with Deion Sanders? Here is a youngster whose dad died when Alton was six. His mother, sisters, and older brother struggled through life and have done well. They're proud of what has happened. You don't put it in a Prime Time category."

And then there's the other side — the push by the academic world to de-emphasize high school sports.

"When people get their egos right in what they're doing, we're the best bargain that Georgia has got," Hyder says.

"We can keep people in school if they'll let us coach them." Which is all what Nick Hyder has wanted to do.

Nick Hyder is 55 years old, and has been a coach and teacher in Georgia for 33 years. How much longer will he go? "As long as they'll let me coach," he says.

But times are changing, and it may be increasingly difficult to let the influences of the outside world — or those youngsters can watch on television each week — enter the world of Valdosta High football.

"Sports has gotten into this 'Neon Deion' thing," Hyder says. "He (Deion Sanders) is a great athlete, but he's a product of some promoter somewhere. I think Brian Bosworth got into a similar situation."

"Do you put Alton Hitson (the Wildcats' two-year starter at quar-

Hyder

From Page 1-C

froze. He lost "seven or eight" yards.

Hyder returned to the bench crying and shaken. But his coach looked at him and said, "Nicky, you did one thing right. You didn't drop the ball."

Through all the trauma of his first play, the coach had found something good to say to the young sixth-grader. "I was lifted up with a positive experience. It teaches you something as a coach," Hyder says.

There's very little which can shock Nick Hyder on or off the football field. All he has to do is look back to his first coaching experience.

It was the summer of 1956, after he graduated from Carson-Newman. Hyder and three others were assigned to work at an all-black reformatory in middle Tennessee. There were 256 people there — murders, rapists, robbers, arsonists, etc. The summer before, more than 100 escapes were attempted.

It was the quartet's job to create a football program for the inmates. They'd work their jobs in the self-sustaining facility in the morning, and play football in the afternoon.

By summer's end, only one inmate had tried to escape. Football was fun.

Nick Hyder first met Wright Bazemore at the 1962 Georgia Athletic Coaches Association banquet at Atlanta's Biltmore Hotel.

Hyder was coming off his second state baseball championship in three years as West Rome's coach. Bazemore was being honored for his 10th state football title at Valdosta High.

Hyder never even thought his path would cross with Bazemore's like it would in 1974.

Hyder returned home one day to find that his wife had left him a phone message. Bazemore had called.

At first, "I didn't believe her," Hyder says. "But she had a phone number written down, and she wouldn't be faking that."

Hyder called back, and Bazemore talked him into coming to Valdosta.

"He was very convincing," Hyder said. "They had others to discuss the job. But Baze said that my name kept coming up."

When he came to Valdosta, he went to meet Bazemore in Bazemore's office. With the veteran coach, now the school's athletic director, were 25 others crammed into the office. The search committee.

"The name Hyder intrigued me," said David Waller, now the chairman of Valdosta's school board and someone who considers Hyder a brother. "I was impressed with his attitude and the way we thought he thought."

Hyder accepted the job and immediately stepped in to mend fences which had been torn down during Charlie Greene's rocky two-year, 17-win tenure as Bazemore's immediate replacement.

"(Hyder) had a different kind of philosophy," remembers Keith Middleton, then a rising sophomore linebacker for the Wildcats and now a defensive assistant. "It was kind of off the wall. I thought it was going to take more than that."

"And after our 3-7 season, our uncertainty was founded. He had to come in and put in his system."

Oh, 1974. Three wins, seven losses. A 40-0 home loss to Thomasville.

But Hyder was beginning to make his mark. He had left a group of highly-conditioned, precisioned athletes in Rome and found divided loyalties in Valdosta. When 10 players chose not to participate in off-season workouts, Hyder dismissed them.

Back in Rome, Hyder's former team advanced unbeaten into the state finals, where it lost, 6-3, to Americus. Hyder watched in the stands.

But he never looked back. He listened and learned from Bazemore. Hyder also stuck through the hard times, against those who didn't want Hyder to do well. "Ninety-nine of 100 people couldn't have made it," Waller says.

Hyder's fifth season brought VHS a state championship.

Football

Nick Hyder hasn't always been the boss.

He was an assistant football coach for 10 years at West Rome High School. He also was the B-team girls' basketball coach. The varsity girls' basketball coach was June Thomas.

In 1964, the two were married. By running the Rent-A-Cat program, which finds odd jobs for the players to earn money, she hasn't quit those Wildcat players who've need help.

"She has a unique talent to care about people. She'll hang on to the underdog," says Hyder. "I could piecemeal (the Rent-A-Cat program). But everything is unscheduled."

Inside the lockerroom, Nick Hyder tries to do his part to help his players. Each day before practice, and before each game, Hyder talks about values, about the priority system, "and they're going to hear it every day," he says, a change from the early years.

It's an atmosphere which those coaches want their sons to experience as well. Tarpley's oldest son, Brad, was a senior defensive end for the 'Cats this year.

O'Brien's oldest son, Tim, was a junior offensive lineman who developed into a solid reserve as the season progressed. Mike O'Brien had a chance to take the Dublin job a year ago, Hyder says, but turned it down to keep the family in the Wildcat program.

Both men have younger sons whom you see every game night running the sidelines as ball boys or managers. So do four other assistants, with Baker's son, Don, on next year's ninth-grade team.

are now long-time assistant coaches. Another offensive assistant, Mike O'Brien, has been in Valdosta for a decade.

And two former defensive assistants, Jack Rudolph (now a ninth-grade assistant) and Freddie Waters (now retired) were there with Hyder from the beginning, or near it.

"Everybody wants to be a part of something great," says Middleton, who has been a part of six state championships in his eight years as a high school football assistant (two titles at VHS). He also was a member of the 1980 national champions at Georgia. "When you're on the outside looking in, you wonder how to do it. You just don't understand it."

Hyder does it because his players' families aren't like his. "Of our 41 seniors this season, 27 come from one-parent situations, divorced homes, or live with grandparents or aunts," he says.

Hyder is one who'll easily pass out the credit. The first place he'll turn is his eight varsity assistant coaches and long-time trainer, Jim Burroughs. In turn, those men have stuck with him and the program.

Defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley coached with Hyder for eight years at West Rome, then came with Hyder to Valdosta. Offensive assistants Jerry Don Baker and Bob Bolton are former Wildcat players who



SHAUN EILDERS

Eilders On All-State Team

V. Times 12-27-90

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

College recruiters take any and everything into consideration when projecting a prep player's chance at the collegiate level. On Wednesday, Shaun Eilders received one more thing to add to his pigskin portfolio.

Eilders, a senior offensive tackle at Valdosta High, was named as one of the top five offensive linemen in the state by the Associated Press in their annual All-State team. The honor was the fourth bestowed upon Eilders in the past week after three newspapers had included him on their all-star teams.

See List, Page 3-B

"I've been surprised but I thought there would be more people from our team (named to the squad)," Eilders said. "I think playing on a state championship team has a lot to do with how you're viewed."

Eilders started four games as a freshman at Valdosta High but was lost for his sophomore season with a knee injury. He returned to start every game during his junior and senior seasons.

"Since he's been with us, Valdosta High is 31-1-1 when Shaun is starting," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said. "I don't think any other offensive line-

man has had that kind of record since I've been here. The thing that impresses me about Shaun Eilders is that he gives you a continued effort until the whistle blows. At 285, he goes all the way downfield to make a block. He doesn't have sprinter's speed but how many tackles run the 100-meter dash? Or any kind of dash? An offensive lineman should be judged by how well he blocks and Shaun blocks very well."

Eilders is being looked at by several universities including Army, Florida, Georgia Southern, South Carolina, Mississippi and Liberty.

Other Region 1-AAAA players on the All-State team included Tift County offensive lineman Clay Shiver and Colquitt County defensive back Anthony Bridges.

Football

All-State Team

Here's the full lineup for the All-State team, as selected by voting members of the association:

Offense

Wide receiver — Myron Ponce, Cedartown, 6-3, 185, Jr.
Tight end — Justin Staten, Wrens, 6-2, 195, Sr.

Offensive line — Shaun Eilders, Valdosta, 6-3, 285, Sr.

Offensive line — Clay Shiver, Tift Co., 6-4, 276, Sr.

Offensive line — Bucky Beddingfield, Jackson, 6-3, 270, Sr.

Offensive line — Paul Taylor, West Rome, 6-5, 250, Sr.

Offensive line — David Weeks, Marietta, 6-6, 285, Sr.

Quarterback — Eric Zeller, Marietta, 6-1 1/2

Running back — Kenny Ward, Greene-Talbotton, 6-0, 170, Sr.

Running back — Robert Toomer, Worth Co., 5-11, 190, Jr.

Running back — Frankie Fletcher, Papeetele, 5-10, 180, Sr.

Pileckicker — Kannon Parkman, Stone Mt., 5-11, 170, Sr.

Defense

Down lineman — Jeff Kaiser, Statesboro, 6-4, 235, Sr.

Down lineman — Dashiw McKeever, Jeff Davis, 6-2, 245, Sr.

Down lineman — Henry McMillan, Chocoma, 6-2, 255, Sr.

Down lineman — Dexter Fryer, Laney, 6-5, 210, Sr.

Down lineman — James Singleton, Stephens Co., 6-4, 215, Sr.

Linebacker — Terry Solomon, Cairo, 6-2, 190, Jr.

Linebacker — Anthony Parks, Lincoln Co., 6-3, 210, Sr.

Linebacker — Frank Worts, Baker, 6-2, 207, Sr.

Secondary — Terry Harvey, Decatur, 6-2, 190, Sr.

Secondary — Anthony Bridges, Colquitt Co., 5-10, 175, Sr.

Secondary — Marcus Brown, West Lawrence, 6-1, 175, Sr.

Secondary — Chad Masley, Brainerd Academy, 6-2, 200, Sr.

Player of the Year: Eric Zeller, QB, Marietta.
Coach of the Year: Ralph Jones, Cairo.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Bucky Allen (Valdosta, 6-3, 245, Sr.)
 Scott Bass (Madison, 6-5, 225, Sr.)
 Eric Bryant (Brooks, 6-1, 205, Sr.)
 Shaun Eilders (Valdosta, 6-3, 280, Sr.)
 Giles Godwin (Valdosta, 6-0, 200, Sr.)
 Andy Pollock (Lowndes, 6-0, 250, Sr.)
 Steve Ward (Madison, 6-2, 240, Sr.)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN:

Anthony Hargett (Lowndes, 5-11, 215, Jr.)
 Marcus Moss (Valdosta, 6-0, 190, Sr.)
 Damion Shiver (Lowndes, 6-2, 220, Jr.)
 Ricky Thomas (Valdosta, 6-3, 240, Sr.)
 Darrell Wetherington (Clinch, 6-3, 225, Soph.)
 Derrick Williams (Hamilton, 6-2, 222, Jr.)

OFFENSIVE ENDS:

Jeff Haskins (Valwood, 6-2, 188, Sr.)
 Steve Jaramillo (Valdosta, 5-11, 165, Sr.)
 Terry Stewart (Brooks, 6-0, 175, Jr.)

LINEBACKERS:

Dexter Daniels (Valdosta, 6-2, 225, Jr.)
 Jonathan Davis (Valdosta, 6-2, 225, Sr.)
 Randall Godfrey (Lowndes, 6-3, 225, Jr.)
 Anthony McNeil (Clinch, 6-1, 210, Jr.)
 Jerry Register (Lowndes, 5-10, 185, Sr.)

OFFENSIVE BACKS:

Alton Hitson (Valdosta, 5-9, 170, Sr.)
 Darren Little (Brooks, 6-7, 210, Sr.)
 Jeffrey Thomas (Lowndes, 6-2, 190, Sr.)
 Frankie Wilkins (Madison, 6-0, 200, Sr.)
 Chris Wright (Lowndes, 5-8, 165, Sr.)
 Joe Wright (Valdosta, 5-9, 150, Sr.)

DEFENSIVE BACKS:

Donnie Carter (Cook, 5-10, 150, Sr.)
 Jason Clements (Lowndes, 5-10, 170, Sr.)
 Deric Cotton (Valdosta, 6-4, 195, Sr.)
 Tremayne Proctor (Brooks, 5-8, 175, Sr.)
 Trampis Wrice (Valdosta, 5-10, 165, Jr.)

OFFENSIVE MVP: Alton Hitson, Valdosta
KICKER: Dow Drury, Valdosta

DEFENSIVE MVP: Anthony Hargett, Lowndes
COACH: Nick Hyder, Valdosta

Hitson, Hargett Lead Area Squad

VDT, Tues, Dec, 25, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
 Times Sports Writer

After winning the Class AAAA state football championship in Athens last year, Valdosta High set its sights on nothing less than a repeat in 1990.

The Wildcats battled through a grueling schedule before putting to rest all doubters with a rout of Southwest DeKalb to win the AAAA title for the second straight year.

Spearheading the back-to-back run was their inspirational leader on and off the field, quarterback Alton Hitson. The 5-foot-9, 170-pound senior became only the second signalcaller in VHS history to lead the 'Cats to consecutive titles and is just one of 14 Wildcats named to *The Valdosta Daily Times'* 1990 All-Area Football Team.

Hitson headlines this year's talented cast of area stars as the Offensive Player of the Year. Lowndes High Vikings' defensive lineman Anthony Hargett was named as the Defensive Player of the Year.

"At first, I didn't think I could handle it. A lot was going on when I took my first snap at quarterback last year. But we finally worked everything out and moved on from there," said Hitson. "There's so many great players in the area and on my team. I'm very thankful for what has happened to me and things couldn't have worked out any better."

VHS' leader proved time in and time out he was determined to get the job done.

This type of attitude was never more evident than this past season where Hitson kept his 'Cats on track for the title, while playing through countless injuries. And even though Hitson often played on courage fighting his way through his bruises, VHS head coach Nick Hyder and teammates knew the pint-sized quarterback would be on the field come kickoff.

Hitson's numbers for 1990 include 448 yards rushing on 166 carries, which accounted for 38

first downs. He also scored 10 touchdowns, completed 60 of 132 passes for 1,031 yards and seven touchdowns.

Without question, Hargett was a dominating force on the Lowndes High football team, and has been for the past two seasons.

This 5-foot-11, 215-pound junior's ability to play several positions on defense made him the center of attention when it came to the opposing offense. Hargett, who has played defensive end as well as linebacker for LHS, used his compact frame and deceptive speed to rack up 69 tackles making him the Vikings' team leader for the second straight year.

"We started off strong and I hoped we would finish up that way," Hargett said. "I think I had a pretty good year but I wasn't at my peak. I hope I can have a better year next year and the team can finish up stronger. We've got the people who can do that if we work hard."

Hargett also had one interception, a sack and three fumble recoveries this year. For the past two years, Hargett has rolled up 145 tackles, five fumble recoveries, four sacks and an interception.

Offensively, Frankie Wilkins of Madison County High School is one of the most prolific backs in the south. Wilkins leads the pack among area backs with 1,800 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns. College teams such as Michigan, Miami and Penn State are interested in the Cowboy running back's services next fall.

Tabbed as one of the nation's top recruits, Wilkins finished his three-year career rushing for a total of 4,812 yards, 50 touchdowns and 440 points scored.

Lowndes High's seniors Jeffrey Thomas and Chris Wright join Brooks County quarterback Darren Little, along with VHS' Joe Wright and Hitson, in the all-area backfield.

Thomas has been the closest thing to a one-man show for the Vikings. Thomas rushed 104 times for

396 yards and four scores, caught two passes for 22 yards and completed 34 passes for 427 yards and two touchdowns. For his career, Thomas has 46 receptions for 1,199 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Chris Wright finished with 703 yards rushing on 123 carries and 10 touchdowns for LHS. VHS' Joe Wright had 967 yards on 190 carries and six touchdowns and accounted for 47 first downs. He also had a 44-yard punt return for a score.

Little, made his mark on the state when he outdueled Mitchell-Baker star Al Pinkins in consecutive weeks, while leading his team to a 29-21 playoff win over the Eagles. Little eclipsed most of the Brooks County passing records throwing for 2,212 yards and 22 touchdowns. He had a 43.1 yard punting average on the year. Little's has thrown for 4,263 yards in his career.

Little's main target, junior Terry Stewart, is among the three offensive ends named to the team. The others are Valdosta High's senior Steve Jaramillo and Valwood School's senior Jeff Haskins.

Stewart totaled 1,210 yards receiving and 18 touchdowns. Jaramillo caught 24 passes for 337 yards and two touchdowns and accounted for 14 first downs. All of which were VHS team high's except for touchdowns. Along with Little, he provides the team with a pair of top punters with his 34.5 yard average.

Paving the way for Wilkins was Madison County seniors Scott Bass and Steve Ward. These two offensive linemen combine with a Valdosta High trio comprised of Shaun Eilders, Giles Godwin and Bucky Allen and Lowndes High senior Andy Pollock for the all-area offensive frontline.

In his career at VHS, Eilders started 33 straight games for the Wildcats. He overcame a knee injury which forced him to miss his sophomore season.

From Page 1-B

The defensive line includes the likes of Hargett and Lowndes High teammate Damion Shiver and Valdosta High duo Ricky Thomas and Marcus Moss. There are also two underclassmen — Clinch County High sophomore Darrell Wetherington and Hamilton County High junior Derrick Williams.

LHS' Shiver spent much time in the opponents backfield on his way to a season which finished with 56 tackles and 12 quarterback sacks. Moss had two interceptions, a fumble recovery and scored one of VHS' two defensive touchdowns, and teamed with Thomas as part of the Wildcats' pressuring defense.

Wetherington dominated opponents racking up 115 tackles to lead the Panthers, while Williams finished with 71 tackles and graded out at 89 percent by the Hamilton County coaches.

Valdosta High, Lowndes High each have two members at linebacker, with Clinch County's junior Anthony McNeil adding to the list.

VHS' Dexter Daniels and Jonathan Davis not only mirrored each other in size, but in production. Davis accounted for one interception and one fumble recovery and Daniels had two fumble recoveries to go along with countless tackles and pressure on the quarterback.

Jerry Register and Randall Godfrey turned in strong seasons for the Vikes. Godfrey was two tackles shy of the team lead with 67, had one interception and two fumble recoveries. Register, who was second in tackles for LHS in 1989, had 61 tackles this year with one interception and two fumble recoveries. McNeil was second on the Panthers with 100 tackles and a 3.5 yards per carry average as a fullback.

Patrolling the secondary is Valdosta High teammates Trampis Wrice and Deric Cotton; Lowndes High senior Jason Clements; Cook High senior Donnie Carter and Brooks County High senior Tremayne Proctor.

Wrice was in on six VHS turnovers, accounting for four interceptions and two fumble recoveries. Cotton ended up with three interceptions.

Clements had one fumble recovery in which he returned for a 50-yard touchdown against Colquitt County. Clements broke up four passes and had seven tackles.

Carter finished with four interceptions and 51 tackles. He was also one of the top offensive weapons for the Hornets rushing for 795 yards and 10 touchdowns. Proctor had three interceptions, nine in the past two years, and accounted for 502 yards as a receiver for Brooks County.

Dow Drury makes his second straight appearance on the squad at placekicker. The 5-8, 160-pounder was 10 of 17 in field-goal attempts, including a career-long of 40 yards, and made 23 of 27 extra points. At one point this year, Drury connected on six consecutive field goal attempts.

Absolutely Super

VALDOSTA'S NICK HYDER



Veteran Valdosta High football coach Nick Hyder stands in front of some of the awards

which dress the walls of his Habersham Road residence — Times Photo by Paul Leavy



Cats Slip By
VHS Pulls Out
30-29 Win



School Dress Codes Differ

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer
VDT. Mon. Dec. 31, 1990

obeys it." In the city school system, students in grades 7 through 12 are not allowed to wear any kind of shorts, but girls are allowed to wear miniskirts no more than two inches above the knees. All other restrictions are similar to those at Valdosta.

The county school system's dress code is very much like the private school's, allowing students to wear long shorts.

John Bell Jr., a sophomore at Valdosta High School, is pleased with VHS's dress code, although he would like for knee-length shorts to be allowed. "Other than that, it's O.K.," he said.

Students at St. John's Catholic School have mixed feelings about going to school in uniforms, but Principal Sister Pauline Oetgen, like Lighthouse Christian Ministries officials, says uniforms save the students from the pressure of having to out-dress each other and the parents the cost of keeping up the latest fashions.

"We're a Christian school, so having uniforms means we don't have the problem of meeting a dress code and standards," said Janice Thompson, Lighthouse Ministries' learning center supervisor.

Uniforms at Lighthouse Ministries depend on the age group of the children. Female kindergartners through fourth-graders wear white oxford shirts and red jumpers bearing the school's emblem.

See DRESS, Page 2-A

the knee area, and boys' shirts must be worn tucked in and must have collars.

The school also requires that its male students' hair is worn off the collar and ears.

"We try to teach a principal of modesty rather than have a long list of do's and don'ts," Walker said. "If we can teach them to have pride in the way they look, I feel that's a better approach."

Some students in Lowndes County get an education dressed as they please — within limits, of course — while others wear uniforms. It all depends on whether they attend a public, private or parochial school.

Students who attend Valdosta or Lowndes County schools, Valwood, a Valdosta private school, and some parochial schools dress in regular clothes, although they must follow certain dress codes. Students who go to St. John's Catholic School or Lighthouse Christian Ministries dress in uniforms which sport their school colors.

Either way, school officials agree the way their students appear sets the tone of excellence they strive for in education.

"Any restrictions we have are designed to establish a sense of pride in the student and in his or her school spirit," said Emily Anderson, Valwood principal.

The private school's dress code is lenient, allowing students to wear knee-length shorts or skirts which are not too high or tight. Mrs. Anderson said no tank tops, midriff shirts, jeans with holes in them or T-shirts designed as undergarments are allowed.

"Compared to other schools, I think the dress code is very lenient," said Valwood senior Kerri Miller. "Everyone pretty much

required to be off the collar and ears, Lanier said.

At Georgia Christian School in Dasher the dress code also is "based on modesty," said President Carl Walker.

"We try to set those standards at a realistic level," Walker said.

Both girls and boys are allowed to wear jeans, as long as don't have holes and aren't too tight, but they can't wear shorts, Walker said. Girls' skirts and dresses need to extend to

Wildcats Overcame Doubters

V-Times 12-16-90

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Before the opening kickoff of the 1990 season, some critics had already closed the books on the Valdosta High Wildcat football team.

Reasons such as missing key players, no speed and no size were on the lips of Wildcat doubters. And yet, all the Valdosta High players did was line it up and play football. The Wildcats made their final speech, as they had in 13 previous games, between the goalposts at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta High allowed just one touchdown and 10 points total in the 1990 playoffs to wrap up its second consecutive Class AAAA state football championship, 31-0, over the Southwest DeKalb Panthers Saturday night. The win also marked VHS' third championship in five years.

"To give up just one touchdown the entire playoff is just a great tribute to everyone," said VHS defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "To win back-to-back championship for the first time in 21 years is just tremendous. To work through some of the things we did this year, myself taking over at defensive coordinator, getting new coaches like Coach (Larry) Jester and have the kids and fans respond the way they did is the best Christmas present I could ever ask for."

According to Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson, the 'Cats were determined — something he says played a key role in his team winning the state crown.

"All we did was try as hard as we could and worked to win a championship. What our team did may be surprise to some, but it's not to us," said Hitson. "It's just a great feeling to know you accomplished your goals. This team played with a lot of heart."

Through the 1990 season, Valdosta High had become accustomed to second-half outbursts which determined the game's outcome. Saturday night was another story.

The Wildcats scored a pair of touchdowns in each half and tacked on a field goal for good measure.

"The bottom line is that we're the champions now," said VHS tackle Shaun Eilders. "No polls, no stats, we proved it on the field. I'm just so proud of our team and coaches for the job they did. I think this one shows to a lot of people that desire means a lot. People can say we didn't have talent, although I know we did. But they also have to say we're the champions."

With back-to-back titles safely tucked away, the high school football team of the 1980s opened the 1990s as champs.



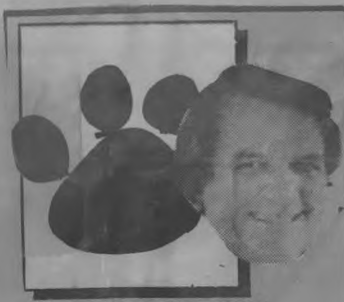
John Bell, a student at Valdosta High School, Kerri Miller, a student at Valwood school, Tracie Barnes, a student at Lighthouse Christian Ministry, and Betsy Comeau, a student at St. Johns Catholic School, display clothes they wear to school — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

either a white or light blue shirt and a blue sweater. All students are permitted to wear either white, black or brown athletic shoes, as long as they aren't high-tops.

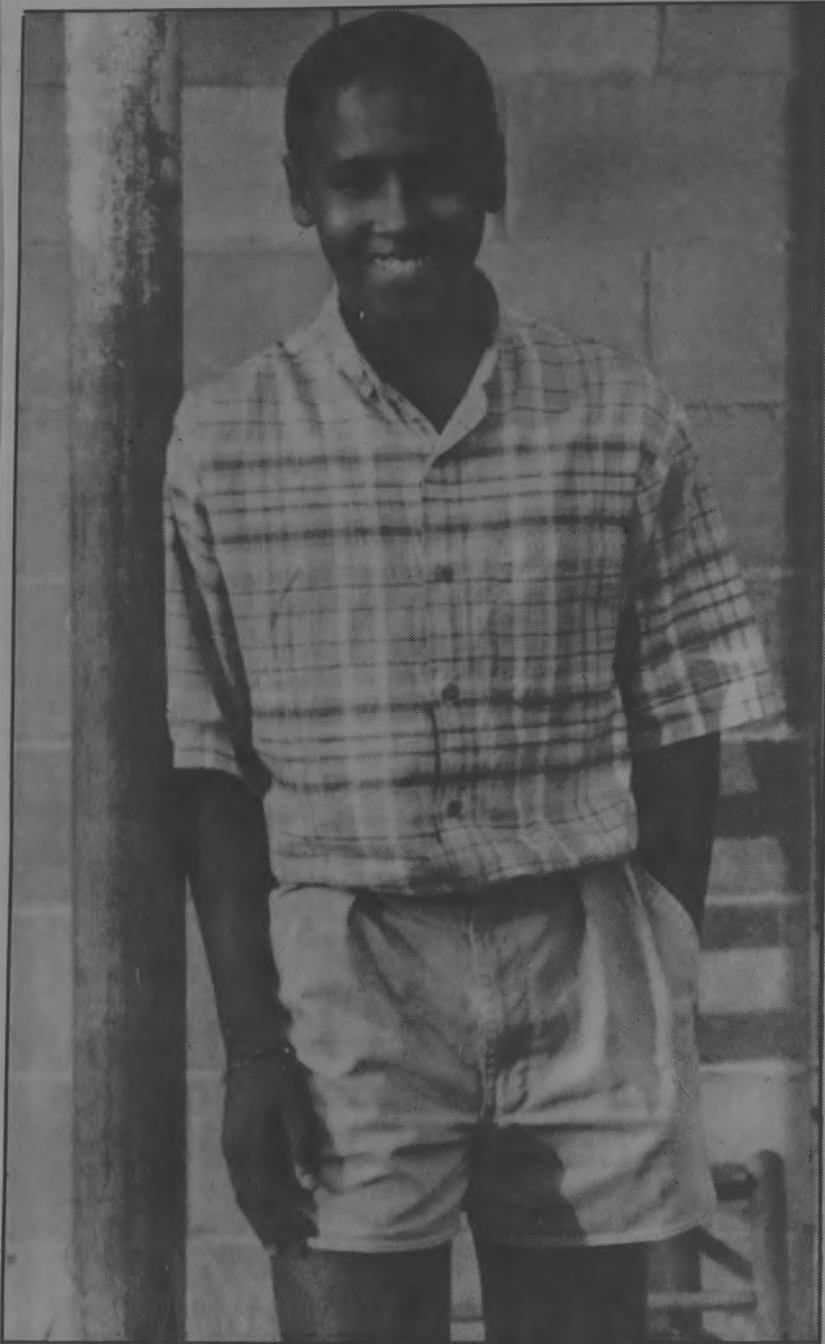
"Modesty prevails" at Open Bible Christian School, said principal Jerry Lanier. Girls are required to wear dresses or skirts, and boys are allowed to wear jeans and slacks. However, boys are required to wear a belt and socks, and their shirts must have collars. Also, boys' hair is

From Page 1-A
ing the school's lighthouse emblem. Females 11 years old and up wear white oxford shirts with the school's emblem and red skirts with thin straps which crisscross in the back. All age males wear blue jeans with red pull-over shirts bearing the school emblem.

At St. John's, girls wear white blouses with either blue skirts, slacks or jumpers and blue sweat-ers. Boys wear blue pants with



Nick Hyder
Wildcat Leader —



Rico Phillips, 14, wants to play football and be an Air Force pilot — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Teen-ager Dreams Of Being Pilot

VDT. Fri. Dec. 27, 1990

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Because his past involved a lot of pain and discomfort, Rico Phillips, 14, is looking toward a bright future.

That future includes a college education, a career as an Air Force fighter pilot, and in its not-so-distance reaches, a spot on the Valdosta Wildcat Football team.

But because two years of chemotherapy damaged the VHS freshman's heart, he may never get to play. Although he'll be disappointed if his doctor puts the nix on football, he can't complain because that chemotherapy worked.

Rico's been in remission from a rare form of glandular cancer for three years.

At nine, Rico was diagnosed with cancer Oct. 28, 1985. He remembers the day vividly, just like everything else about the disease and its treatment — losing his hair, sores and a lot of nausea.

But with three healthy years under his belt, Rico's over the hump. Doctors told him it takes five years of remission to be considered cured.

He and his friends don't talk much about cancer anymore, Rico said. Those who know he used to be sick are supportive and understanding but many don't know at all.

While undergoing chemotherapy he attended school as much as possible and kept up at home when he couldn't be there. For every week he spent in Atlanta receiving treatments, he needed two at home to recuperate.

Even when he's around other kids in his predicament, cancer isn't the topic of conversation either. Rico attends camp with other young cancer patients each summer in Cleve-

Rico Phillips, 14

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School
- Family: Parents, Sandra Curry and Robert Phillips; Grandmother, Lucille Morrison
- Activities: Manager for VHS Wildcat football team and National Jr. Honor Society

land, Ohio.

At camp, he and his friends swim, ride horses, play ball and other games expected at summer camp. Basically, "What your parents won't let you do at home, you do there."

The teen's Atlanta-based doctor told him to wait until the tenth grade before he thinks about football. This past fall, Rico enjoyed being a manager for the team.

Rico's father and grandmother keep a protective eye on the teen because of what he's been through and though they'll be holding their breath on the sidelines, if the doctor says O.K., they will too.

If that doesn't happen, however, Rico has plenty of other avenues to pursue to ensure other dreams in his future come true. Pilots have to be good in math and the Jr. Honor Society member said he's trying to hone those skills while in school.

Being a good soldier doesn't come easy either and Rico's preparing to do that by participating in VHS.

In his spare time Rico is working on his baseball pitcher's motion and playing basketball.

Valdosta High Students On Honor Roll

V. Times 12-31-90

Principal Bill Aldrich of Valdosta High has announced honor roll students for the second six weeks.

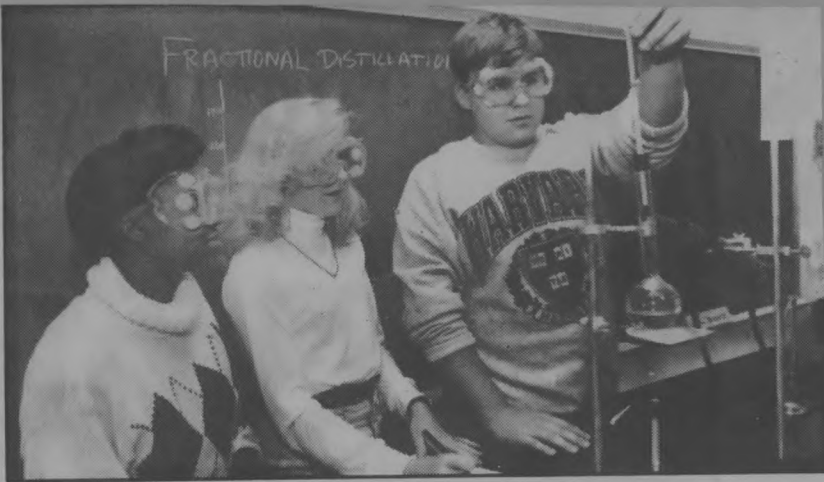
Brian Adams, Stephanie Adams, Thad Agar, Gina Albritton, Corey Alexander, David Alexander, John Allen, Phillip Allen, Clint Allred, Christopher Ames, Chris Andresen, Christina Aragon, Felecia Arnold, Valerie Arnold, Marie Aycock, Clifford Baker, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Rachel Baliles, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Laura Barbas, Brad Barrett, Billy Barthiel, Stephen Baskin, Kim Bass, Maribel Bauzo, Brook Bearden, Chad Belflower, Jeana Benfield, Emily Bentley, Jennifer Berry, Chris Bittinger, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Lorna Bius, Kelli Bland, Lee Boatenreiter, Trish Bolen, Michelle Bostock, Sherryl Boyd, Selenthia Bradley, Sabrina Bradshaw, Blake Brantley, Marirose Brase, Leigh Ann Braswell, Lardell Brinson, Lana Brooks, Julie Bryant, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse Budd, Stacy Burnett, Justin Cabral, Laurie Campbell, Angela Carter, Lotasha Carter, Spence Carver, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Monica Clifton, Travis Clovis, Christy Clyatt, Julie Coffey, Matt Cole, Elijah Collins Jr., Michael Collins, Ashley Connell, Shniece Cooper, Deric Cotton, Rebecca Coyne, Ryan Coyne,

Helen Crane, Kevin Cronin, Erin Cullen, Brandi D Amelio, Angela Daniels, Meadowlark Daniels, Pamela Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Kemisha Davis, Sabrina Davis, Jason Day, Glaire Dempsey, Jed Dennard, Laura Dennis, Michelle Dewitt, Belinda Downs, Anne Drumheller, Contina Dukes, Jennifer Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Kendra Elliott, Stephanie Everett, Misty Faglie, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Ginny Ferrell, Jaime Finland, Missy Fisher, Regina Flannigan, Meredith Fletcher, Carlos Flores, Luis Flores, Ramonda Floyd, Shawn Flynn, Liz Foster, Robyn Freeman, Jane Fueyo, Farrah Gage, Rookie Gage, Jim Galloy, Genora Garland, James Garrison, Melissa Geier, Jason Giddens, Ashley Giles, Robbie Gingrow, Amy Glines, Lacarra Godfrey, Brenna Goff, Marcie Golivesky, Artimendus Gordon, Eurica Goss, April Green, Keesha Green, Merritt Green, Tamara Green, Chris Greene, Chris Gregg, Brian Gregory, Amy Griffin, Ward Griffin, Melanie Griffin, Melissa Griffin, Parker Grow, Melissa Hale, Joey Hall, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Jenny Hamilton, Sung Chun Han, Sung No Han, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Theresa Harper, Marsha Harris, Andreu Har-

rison, Robyn Hastings, Ebonye Hatcher, Michell Hendricks, Tonja Henry, Michelle Herndon, Stacey Hesters, John Hickox, Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Joel Hodges, Benjamin Hofmeister, Mary Hofmeister, Sam Hogan, Laura Holland, Jodie Hollenbeck, Grant Hollenbeck, Tammy Hoover, Ashley House, Tom Howard, Bill Howard, Terri Hundley, Matt Hunt, Nathan Ingham, Margaret Iverson, Jennifer Jack, Beverly Jackson, James Jacobs, Victor James, Steve Jaramillo, Dashanti Jefferson, Carla Johnson, Debbie Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Jenifer Jones, Scott Jones, Xavier Jones, Jamie Kaeck, Amy Kilgard, Tongela Kinchen, Monique King, Jessica Konopa, Wendy Kuter, Teri Lamprey, Shawn Lancaster, Margaux Laskey, Jennifer Launey, Cate Lawrence, Christie Ledbetter, Tammy Lester, Michelle Levy, Christee Leynes, Todd Luke, Janice Mallory, Vashti Manning, Christopher Martin, Katherine Mathis, Ben Matson, David Matthews, Jennifer Matthews, Michael McAfee, Derick McBurrough, Brian McCombs, Wendy McConnell, Ann McCraine, Maggie McDonald, Larry McDougal, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Tory McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Angela McSween, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew,

Tiffany Minchew, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Andrea Moody, Angel Moore, Pamela Moore, Stephanie Moore, Jessica Morgan, Alita Morrell, Crystal Morrison, Meredith Mosby, Marcus Moss, Sarah Muntz, Demita Nelson, Mark Nestor, La-Tammy Newsome, William Nijem, Laura Lynn Nolan, Tim O'Brien, Jodi Osborne, Katherine Owens, Ekta Patel, Hemali Patel, Hema Patel, Rachel Paterson, Geveda Patrick, Afrika Patton, John Peebles, Sandy Peebles, Alexander Penn, Katresa Peterson, Moneka Peterson, Tomika Phillips, Veronica Phillips, Philip Pieplow, Ben Pitchford, John Pitcock, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Felecia Ponder, Tanya Ponder, Tarnisha Primrose, Brett Pruette, Celina Pye, Lequesia Quarterman, Dan Rackley, Sarita Rainey, Crystal Ray, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Stephen Register, Holly Rentschler, Mary Richards, Shantell Rizer, Jessica Roan, Tiffany Roan, Jennifer Robbins, Bill Roberts, Chaka Robinson, Corey Robinson, Kyndra Robinson, David Roddey, Michael Ronn, Gary Ross, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, Robin Rowe, Cynthia Rumph, Leigh Saliba, Ayanna Sampson, Brian Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Lori Santos, Me-

lissa Sauls, Monica Savage, Rayshundra Scarboro, Latonya Scott, Lee Allen Scott, Audrey Shaw, Melody Shaw, Lamar Sheffield, Tarnishia Sirmans, Heather Skiles, Aimee Smith, Eddie Smith, Eric Smith, Jamie Smith, Lila Smith, Richard Smith, Shelia Smith, Tim Smith, Tywana Smith, Julie Solomon, Gregory Soshnik, Sara South, Jennifer Spencer, Perlita Spencer, Chris Spurlock, Stephanie Staley, Brian Stanley, Davidae Stewart, Joel Strickland, Danny Struble, Leilani Struzick, Jessica Stubbs, Julie Suggs, Eileen Sweeney, Miki Swilley, Tami Tanquay, Nathan Tart, David Taylor, Pamela Terrell, Carl Thomas, Clarice Thomas, Monica Tillman, Tanya Tovar, Tracy Troutman, Cynthia Tucker, James Pete Tucker, Mandi Turner, Mark Van-nortwick, Miriam Vendemo, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, John Walker, Robin Walker, Cassandra Ward, Patty Warren, DeJaris Washington, Ginger Waters, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, Amanda Weldon, Rickard Werner, Annette West, Trent Wetherington, Wendy Whatley, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, William Whitesell, Elizabeth Whitfield, Isiah Whitfield, Keisa Williams, Leeanna Williams, Lashonna Wrice, Jonathan Yeargan, Laurie Young and Shannon Yow.



Lowndes High School seniors Kim Wright, Wendy Wisenbaker and Andy Pollock work on a chemistry experiment involving fractional distillation — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Schools Careful With Chemicals

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Disposing of toxic waste isn't just a problem for factories. Even schools have to follow proper procedures for disposing of toxic materials.

Some chemicals used for school chemistry experiments, photography chemicals and some paint used for art assignments are toxic.

"The biggest thing is making sure the chemicals are kept in safe containers," said Valdosta High School Principal William Aldrich.

He, like Lowndes High School Principal Dennis Tipton, makes sure the University of Georgia emergency preparedness plan, a state-issued safety guideline, is carried out to the letter.

The plan includes an outline on how to handle and dispose of all the different chemicals that could be found at the school, Aldrich said. The University of Georgia also con-

ducts school inspections every couple of years to ensure that state schools are following safety guidelines for handling toxic wastes.

It is required that chemicals be stored in appropriate containers which are clearly marked with their contents, Tipton said. The schools keep records of each time chemicals are used and how much is used in any certain experiment or project.

Tipton also said very few toxic paints are used for art projects because the school tries to use mostly acrylic paint, which is not toxic. When a paint which can give off toxic fumes is used, he said all safety precautions are taken to make sure not one gets sick or hurt.

"We have a storage plan that we follow, and we educate and stress the danger of some of these chemicals to the kids," Tipton said. "We stress to the kids that these are toxic chemicals, and you have to be careful."

Valdosta High Debaters Win Awards In Carrollton

Eight Valdosta High School debaters won awards at the Ernest L. Boyd High School Debate Tournament at West Georgia College in Carrollton Jan. 4-5.

Senior Thaddeus Agar and junior Kevin Hiers finished third out of 66 teams in preliminary competition with a 4-1 won-loss record. Hiers received the second place speaker award, and Agar was named fourth place speaker out of 132 debaters in their division. They defeated teams from Appling County, Shiloh, Thomasville and Trion high schools. The top eight teams advanced to elimination rounds. In the quarter finals, Agar and Hiers lost on a 2-1 decision to Henry County.

Junior Kristin Ganas won the third place negative speaker award and sophomore Lee Scott was named the fourth place negative speaker out of 272 debaters in their division. Miss Ganas teamed with freshman Travis Clovis to finish the five-round tournament with a 4-1 record, 277 speaker points and a fourth place negative team award. They defeated teams from Carrollton, Lowndes, Pace Academy and Riverwood high schools.

Scott teamed with senior Ward Griffin to finish with a 4-1 record, 273 speaker points and a seventh place negative team award. They defeated teams from Calhoun, Lithia Springs, Westminster and West Rome high schools. Freshmen David Matthews and Bill Roberts lost only one round in the two-day tournament to finish with a 4-1 record and a seventh place affirmative team award. They defeated teams from LaGrange and Pace and two teams from the Westminster Schools. Also debating on the affirmative were juniors Jane Fueyo and Joanna Fueyo, who finished with a 3-2 record. They defeated teams from Cass, Henry County and Trion high schools.

"According to tournament officials, this was the largest high school invitational debate tournament in the nation," said VHS English teacher Frank Hjort, who served as a chaperone for the trip. "To receive these awards at competition on this scale is quite an accomplishment for these students."

J. Connell, a VHS graduate and a Florida State University debater, served as a judge at the tournament. Also serving as judges were seniors

Ashley Connell and David Farber and sophomore Stephanie Everett.

NJROTC Awards

The NJROTC unit at Valdosta High School held its awards ceremony for performance during the opening period of the school year.

Awards were presented to unit platoons in the areas of drill excellence, athletic competition, academic attainment, spirit and leadership. Cadet Ensign Robert McSween was awarded the "Golden Aiguillette" as platoon commander of the honor platoon for best overall performance.

Promotions were also bestowed as follows: Robert Hollenbeck — lieutenant commander; Keesha Green and Gary Ross — lieutenant; Shantina Sirmans and DeJaris Washington — lieutenant junior grade; Felicia Cooper, John Copeland, Katresa Peterson, Felecia Ponder, Chester Stewart and Melissa Lyons — ensign.

Hollenbeck and Ms. Green were selected as the new commanding officer and executive officer of the unit.

Big Schools Luring Area Athletes

after that," Shiver said. "What other recruits might do or where they commit doesn't influence me. But it's interesting to keep up with where they are going."

FSU and Georgia are rumored to be the two favorites to land Shiver, a Parade All-American and All-State lineman.

Lowndes tailback Chris Wright has received offers from Indiana and Georgia Southern and has other schools such as Florida State and East Carolina also interested.

Valdosta High tackle Shaun Eilders is still waiting to see what kind of offers roll in. Eilders hopes to sign on with a Division I school, probably after the Feb. 6 national signing day. Florida and Georgia Southern are both schools that have spoken with him.

"I think my height is hurting me as far as the big schools go. But I'm hoping to get a chance to play with a good school and I think if I do, I can contribute," Eilders said.

Nebraska has said that Thomas is their top quarterback recruit and head coach Tom Osborne has made several trips to Valdosta in the last few weeks. Clemson has said Thomas is one of two quarterbacks they are recruiting and head coach Ken Hatfield has also visited Thomas a few times recently.

Georgia and Auburn will use Thomas at defensive back or wide receiver.

Tift County center Clay Shiver has his list narrowed to Florida State, Georgia, Auburn and Georgia Tech. He visited Tech the first weekend of the month and returned from his visit to Auburn Sunday. After returning home, he said his choice will probably not be made until just before the signing date on February 6.

"I really liked my first two visits and I'm looking forward to my next two. I'm not going anywhere next week but I'm going to Florida State the week after that and Georgia the week

terceptions during his four years including nine in his junior season. He had six this season while playing both defensive back and wide receiver.

Bridges visited Louisville in December and also visited Georgia last weekend. After his visit to Athens, he cancelled visits to East Carolina and Florida and committed to Louisville.

"I've been real high on them from the beginning," Bridges said. "I was just real impressed with their system and I think it's a place where I might be able to go in and play in a year or two if I prove myself to the coaches. I think I'll fit in well."

While Bridges has made his decision, some in his region peers haven't. Lowndes quarterback Jeffrey Thomas has visited Nebraska and Georgia and still has Clemson and Auburn to go. He was to visit Auburn this weekend but he delayed the visit to play against Bainbridge and Coffey in basketball Friday night.

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Because of the reputation of the Region 1-AAAA football success, college recruiters make regular stops in small south Georgia towns to woo a prized athlete on the brink of making a decision.

Now, with the date for high school football players to decide their collegiate future about three weeks away, the recruiting frenzy is at its peak. Several region players are being recruited by Division I schools and one of those has already made a commitment.

Colquit County's Anthony Bridges committed last Monday to the University of Louisville. Bridges was twice named to the Georgia Sports Writers Association All-State team and was one of the top defensive back prospects in the state. The 5-10, 170-pounder totalled 17 in-

Valdosta High Has Grown Since WWII

By CHARLES TAYLOR GAY
Times Staff Writer

Though not initially lauded as a great idea, Valdosta's public school system made great strides from its inception before the turn of the century to the eve of World War II.

Among the most successful of the public schools was, naturally, Valdosta High School, nationally known today because of its highly successful football teams.

The public school system, founded in 1893, began by taking over the private school and building known as Valdosta Institute, later Valdosta Junior High. The first school board included E.P.S. Denmark, B.P. Jones, W.S. West, J.M. Willkenson, J.G. Stevens and H.C. Briggs.

But public schools were not an immediate hit. "When the public school system was first organized, public sentiment in favor of public schools was not then as great as now," according to *History of Lowndes County* compiled in the 1940s.

"The system first moved off timidly and cautiously with a five-month school and a two mill tax. The school term was gradually

lengthened to nine months and the school tax increased to 7½ mills."

Several schools were founded, including a high school, until the Valdosta High School building was opened in 1922.

It was during the administration of Professor A.G. Cleveland as superintendent that VHS was built at 1306 Williams St. The cost, including equipment and grounds, was \$150,000. The addition of a basketball arena and several rooms in 1939 cost \$39,000.

Valdosta High was accredited from the beginning, so graduates entering college had all required units and examination.

The school remained at that location for more than 50 years, moving to North Forrest Street in 1973. Four years later the old building burned.

Growth at VHS and all other public schools "was great" during the period between the world wars. Segregated as virtually all schools were in that day, in 1919 there were 1,200 whites in the public school system, while in 1940 the number had increased to 2,100. VHS grew from 147 to 700 during the same period.

Meanwhile, there were 1,500 students in all of Valdosta's black public schools in 1940.



Valdosta High School, as it appeared on Williams Street in 1922. The school was later

moved — Photo Courtesy Of Lowndes Historical Society.

Valdostan In 'People'



Shirlene Cantrell looks over the photo in *People* magazine with her daughter Belinda — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Article Keeps Wife In Touch With Husband

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Shirlene Cantrell of Valdosta knew her husband's picture would be in the Jan. 28 edition of *People* magazine, but when she saw it, she had mixed feelings.

She is proud of her husband, Marine Staff Sgt. Ricky Cantrell,

pictured in an M60 tank in the Saudi Arabian desert. But then her wifely instinct made her feel her husband had lost a little too much weight.

Mrs. Cantrell's husband left Valdosta with the Marine Reserve Unit in Tallahassee, Fla., when it was activated Nov. 27. He spent

See PEOPLE, Page 2-A

People

From Page 1-A

about a month training at Fort LeJeune in North Carolina and then went to the Middle East.

The magazine photo, which encompasses two pages, is the first glance Mrs. Cantrell has had of her husband in nearly two months.

"It's good to see him. I'm so proud of him," she said. "But he doesn't weigh 185 pounds anymore — I can tell you that."

The picture was taken Jan. 9, the same day the magazine reporter

and photographer stayed with Cantrell to get the story.

The Marine staff sergeant is quoted as saying: "We stay ready, and we stay together. So when we come at you, we'll come as one, all mean and nasty. That's why we call ourselves the 'Nasty Boys.'"

Cantrell, the son of Mr. and Mrs. B.J. Cantrell, is the commander of a four-man crew in the 2nd Marine Division's 8th Tank Battalion.

On the home front, Mrs. Cantrell said she, as are her daughter and parents-in-law, is trying to keep a

positive attitude about her husband's participation in Operation Desert Storm.

"We know that he's coming home," she said. "But everything happened very quickly, and I've had a time adjusting to it. My days have been long."

The last time Mrs. Cantrell talked to her husband was a week ago, just a couple of hours before the war started.

"He was saying very positive things and had a good attitude," she said. "He's just looking at it like this

is something he has to do, and he is going to do his best at it."

Mrs. Cantrell and her daughter, Belinda, 17, are getting along by staying busy — very busy.

"I've never seen my daughter work as many hours as she has been lately, and I'm doing things at work I don't normally do," Mrs. Cantrell said. "I've been very productive."

Ricky has at least one thing to look forward to while in Saudi — "a good homecoming party," his wife said.

Wednesday Jan 16 1991 VDT

VHS, LHS Split Region Games

Lady 'Cats Continue Mastery

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Esther Benjamin's turnaround basket with eight seconds remaining gave the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats more than a 39-37 Region 1-AAAA victory over the Lowndes High Vikettes Tuesday night.

It kept VHS' recent domination of the Vikettes going. The Lady 'Cats now have won five of the last six games played between the crosstown rivals.

Benjamin, who finished with 20 points and 11 rebounds, also scored 10 of her team's 14 fourth-quarter points. In fact, Benjamin, who had seven blocked shots, was held to six points in the first half of play. But it was the production of teammate Vashti Manning which kept the Lady 'Cats in control for much of the contest.

"The entire ballgame we wanted to get into a halfcourt game. If our girls could do a good job protecting the ball and hitting the open people, I felt we had a chance," said VHS' head coach Susan Montgomery. "I thought Vashti, along with our whole team, did just that. We knew the pressure was going to be there and our young people hung in there and didn't fold.

"Tracy (Troutman) and Melissa (Sauls) did a good job not getting frustrated and we got the leadership we needed out of Natasha (Johnson), Vashti and Esther," Montgomery said. "Our shooting from the free throw line was just as important. This was our smartest game we've played all year."

Manning, who tallied 11 points for VHS, scored nine points in the first half to go along with five rebounds and four steals in a 17-14 halftime edge for Valdosta.

Following a pair of free throws by LHS' Delicia Carlo to tie the game at 37-37, Manning pushed the ball across the floor for Valdosta deep into the left baseline of LHS.

With precious seconds ticking off the clock, Manning turned and spotted Benjamin four feet away from the basket and fed her the ball. Uncontested on her shot, Benjamin sank the jumper. Lowndes immediately came flying down the carpeted court as Shanell Jenkins found Latina Childs for a last-second shot, which hit the rim and bounded off.

Lowndes drops to 6-4 and 3-1 in 1-AAAA play, while VHS improves to 3-
See GIRLS, Page 2-B



Valdosta's Vashti Manning (25) tries to make a pass with Lowndes' Latina Childs (30) providing the defense during Tuesday's game — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes Cashes In On Charity

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

If Valdosta High head coach John Miller wants to find the reason for his team's 78-68 loss to Lowndes High Tuesday night, he need look no farther than 15 feet in front of each goal.

Though the Wildcats played the Vikings tough throughout, they were a flop at the free throw line.

The Vikings gave Valdosta 35 chances to score from its carpeted charity stripe but Valdosta made only 17 shots. At the other end, Lowndes made good on 27 of its 35 shots. The 10-point difference at the foul line mirrored the 10-point difference in the final score.

Leading the scoring barrage for the Vikings was forward Ollie Daniels. After scoring eight points in the opening period, Daniels began firing away midway through the second quarter. In a span of less than four minutes, Daniels nailed five three-pointers. Aside from an Antwan Graham free throw, Daniels scored all of the Vikings' points in the last four minutes of the first half.

He finished the night with 26 points.

"It's hard to play a 1-3-1 defense against Ollie," said LHS head coach Terry Wilkes. "Eric (Peeler) and Antwan (Graham) did a good job with the fake to pinch their defense in and then passing the ball to Ollie. That way, he had plenty of time to shoot."

Lowndes built a 10-point advantage at the end of the first quarter that it maintained for most of the game. Valdosta did cut the lead to five points at the start of the fourth period, but Lowndes methodically stretched its lead back to 10 points with 4:25 left to play. Randall Godfrey then scored twice to up the lead to 14 points and ice the win for Lowndes.

"We just didn't shoot free throws well and they shot extremely well from the free throw line and from the 3-point area," said Miller. "We gave a good effort and hung tough with them. We kept working. I thought Michael Moore battled them tooth and nail and I was proud of our effort. Lowndes has a good team and Ollie Daniels is one of the best players in the region."

Moore led Valdosta with 24 points and 12 rebounds while Ernest Lowe had 16 points and nine rebounds.
See BOYS, Page 2-B

Girls

From Page 1-B

4 and 1-2.

Lowndes' head coach Larry Maffit saw his team go almost four minutes without a score to open the game, then watched as his Vikettes were unable to find the range in the third period. LHS was held to just one field goal, through the first 6:15 of the third period.

"Valdosta just took the game to us and we didn't respond. It's quite that simple," said Maffit. "I thought we went out there tonight not ready to play. I really think our kids thought that due to Valdosta's problems, we'd just show up and that would be that.

"(Lori) Culpepper and Jenkins had early foul trouble and that took away our top scorer and hurt our press. But we just didn't play well, and that's to take nothing away from Valdosta," said Maffit. "This was the exact same stretch of the season last year where we just died. Hope-

fully, we can go back tomorrow and Thursday and get things corrected."

Valdosta led 25-20 with one period remaining, before the Vikettes finally caught fire defensively.

Fullcourt pressure by LHS forced three turnovers and seven points of the period to take only its second lead of the game at 27-25.

Jenkins then hit three jumpers for LHS, and Benjamin answered with a pair of shots and Troutman a layup making the score, 31-31, with two minutes and 41 seconds left.

Carlo, who led LHS with 13 points, banked in a shot, then LHS saw Benjamin sink a jumper and two free throws to regain the lead for VHS, 35-33. Carlo tied the game on a pair of free throws as did Manning putting VHS in front by two with 50 seconds left.

After Benjamin missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity, Lowndes grabbed the rebound and called timeout. LHS then worked the ball inside to Carlo, who was

fouled, and sank two more free throws with 21 seconds in the game tying the score at 37-37.

Girls' Game

LOWNDES (37) — Delicia Carlo 13, Latina Childs 8, Shanell Jenkins 8, Lori Culpepper 6, Catina Jones 2.
VALDOSTA (39) — Esther Benjamin 20, Vashii Manning 11, Tracy Troutman 6, Melissa Sauls 2.

Lowndes 6 8 6 17-37
Valdosta 11 6 8 14-39

Boys

From Page 1-B

Billy Steinberg (11 rebounds) and Andre James (10 rebounds) also contributed on the boards. Aside from Daniels' 26, Godfrey and Graham had 13 points apiece while Godfrey had nine rebounds.

The win kept Lowndes unbeaten in the region with a 4-0 mark, 7-2 overall. Valdosta falls to 1-6 and 0-3 in the Region 1-AAAA.

Boys Game

LOWNDES (78) — Eric Peeler 6, Todd Wisenbaker 7, Ollie Daniels 26, Randall Godfrey 13, Antwan Graham 13, Jeffrey Thomas 7, Pete Ketterman 2, Sedrick Neloms 4.
VALDOSTA (68) — Rodney Robinson 5, Andre James 9, Ernest Lowe 16, Aaron Lane 6, Billy Steinberg 6, Michael Moore 2, Tharon Lane 2.

Lowndes 22 22 15 19-78
Valdosta 12 20 22 14-68

Underdog Has Shot In Rivalry

JDT, TUES., Jan. 8, 1991

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The good and the bad points of the infamous "crosstown rivalry" are being clearly illustrated in the city of Valdosta.

Just as soon as someone tells Valdosta High basketball coach John Miller that anything can happen in a rivalry such as the one between the Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings, he will explain just how overmatched he believes his young team is in tonight's Region 1-AAAA clash on the carpet at VHS.

On the other hand, when someone remarks to Lowndes head coach Terry Wilkes that his team is undefeated in the region and a favorite to win tonight, he reminds anyone within earshot that nothing is for certain in a game such as this.

Tonight the issue will be settled. The Vikings are 6-2 and 3-0 in the

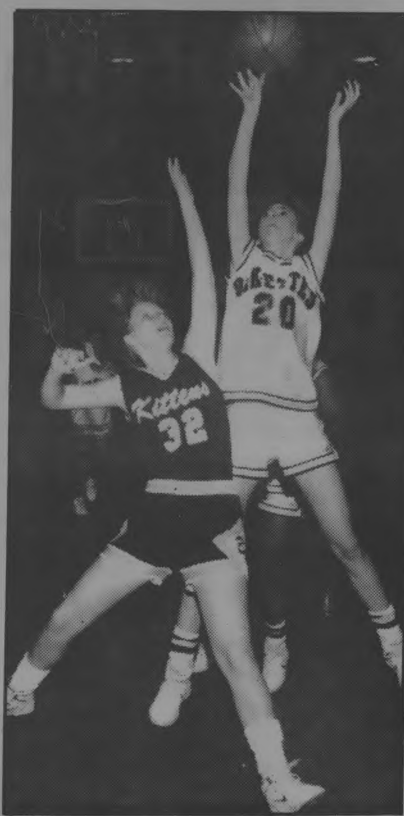
Region 1-AAAA games while Valdosta is 1-5 and 0-2 in the region.

"We're just inexperienced," said Miller. "It's going to take a great effort on our team's part to win tonight. We've got to shoot it well, play good defense and not break down if we want to win. We're going to go with our big lineup and we'll be seeing one of the best teams in the region. Up and down, Lowndes is as good as anybody."

Lowndes has had the luxury of spreading their scoring wealth around. Forward Ollie Daniels leads the team in scoring while Jeffrey Thomas, Randall Godfrey and Antwan Graham are also averaging in double figures. Point guard Eric Peeler is the fifth starter.

Miller is still searching for his most productive lineup. Tonight, 6-5 senior Michael Moore will start at

See BOYS GAME, Page 3-B



LORI CULPEPPER

Styles Clash In Big Game

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Whoever wins tonight's game between the Valdosta Lady Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikettes will probably be the team who determines the pace of the game.

The Vikettes have enjoyed their best successes when they push the ball upcourt, play pressure defense and rattle the opponent's psyche. But the Lady Wildcats have been forced to be more methodical. With a new mixture of players and schemes, VHS prefers to feed the ball inside and patiently wait for their best shot.

Tonight, the two squads will meet for the first time this year in a Region 1-AAAA matchup at Valdosta High. Gametime is set for 6 p.m.

The Vikettes have started strong at 6-3 and 3-0 in the region. Meanwhile,

Valdosta has already suffered a major team shakeup and they are now 2-4, 0-2 in league action.

"We definitely want to slow it down," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery. "We prefer a half-court type game. We haven't been able to put it all together in the last few games and we haven't played well. We'll need to execute better and continue to rely on some of our younger players to come through.

"It's harder when you have to count on freshmen to do the things that other teams have seniors to do. But that's the position we're in and we just hope to get better every game," Montgomery said.

Two starters, Laura Dennis and Shannon West, along with a Dede Dennis, a top substitute, left the Lady Wildcat squad a couple of weeks ago. West is now at Georgia

See GIRLS GAME, Page 3-B

Girls Game

From Page 1-B

Christian while the Dennis sisters are playing at Valwood. Since then, Montgomery has moved freshman Melissa Sauls into the starting lineup at the small forward and moved Tracy Troutman into the starting shooting guard spot. Natasha Johnson was moved from her starting spot at small forward to power forward.

Vashti Manning at point guard and Esther Benjamin at center have remained at their positions.

Boys Game

From Page 1-B

forward while Aaron Lane will start at center. Billy Steinberg will be the other forward with Rodney Robinson at one guard and Ernest Lowe at the point.

"I saw Valdosta play in our Christmas tournament and what I saw scared me. They took Coffee to the very end before they lost. It's unbelievable to me that they haven't

won more games than they have," Wilkes said.

"We're not using our youth as an excuse," Montgomery said, "but we are young. Playing against Lowndes, you hope your team gets motivated to play and play the best that they can. If we do that, we've definitely got a chance. But it will take our best to win."

A win by the Vikings on Valdosta's floor would give them another edge in the region race for good playoff position. They have already won a region contest at Colquitt County. The game marks the beginning of a critical week for the Vikes who host Bainbridge Friday and travel to Coffee High Saturday.

Valdosta Teen Steps Out Of Family Mold

VDT, Fri., Jan. 14, 1991

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta teen Karen Green is going to reshape her family mold.

Mom, dad and a sister are all accountants and another sister is studying business in college. However, Karen said her proficiency comes from using the other side of her brain — she's going to be an artist.

Not a starving artist, mind you. Karen plans to pursue a career in advertising as a commercial artist — one can hardly grow up in a family like hers and not be practical.

Her father Rudolph is a certified public accountant for Saft America and mom, Beverly, is an accountant at Crackin' Good Bakeries. Both are artistic, and Mrs. Green still enjoys pushing the tool of her trade to sketch, her daughter said.

The 16-year-old Valdosta High School student said she recognized her ability to draw at an early age. As a youngster at St. John Catholic School, she would draw scenes outside the classroom window, a neighborhood house, the church next door or a bell tower.

In the 11th grade, Karen is still drawing and plans to enroll in a quality art program after graduation. Her drawing and painting has evolved and gotten better, she said, due to lots of practice and help from VHS art teacher Patsy Smith.

"I keep telling my parents to please take down my old pictures."

Karen is not stingy with her talent but enjoys sharing her work. She often decorates the envelopes of letters to friends with custom-made scenes. In fact, it was this concept that landed her the third-place spot. See TEEN, Page 2-A



Karen Green, a student at Valdosta High School, displays one of her many paintings. A

career in the arts is in her future she hopes — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Winnersville Debates Set For LHS Saturday

VDT Fri., Jan. 14, 1991

Lowndes High School and Valdosta High School will co-sponsor the Winnersville Debates at Lowndes High School Saturday.

Schools from Adel, Albany, Baxley, Columbus, Fort Valley, Thomasville and Warner Robins along with several other areas have entered the meet. Registrations begin at 8 a.m. in the school's cafeteria. Four rounds of debate will begin at 9:30 a.m. that day in three divisions, varsity, junior varsity and novice competition.

The varsity and junior varsity divisions will use a two-person team format and debaters will have eight minutes for constructive arguments, three minutes for cross-examination and four minutes for rebuttals. After debating two rounds on the affirmative side of an issue and two rounds on the negative side, the top four teams compete in semi-final rounds. The two winning teams in each division will advance to final rounds in varsity and junior varsity divisions Saturday night.

The novice division is limited to debaters with less than 20 rounds experience. Participants in this division will use a four-person format with the same time frames as in the other divisions.

The topic for debate in both divisions is the national high school de-

bate topic for 1990-1991, "Resolved: that the United States government should increase space exploration beyond the mesosphere." Numerous awards will be given for teams and individual winners.

"We plan to provide competition to give local schools a good opportunity to prepare for regional debates later this month and encourage debate at the high school level in South Georgia," said Frank Hjort, the Winnersville Debates tournament director.

"At West Georgia College's high school debate tournament last Saturday there were more than 600 debaters, all from Georgia schools. Participation in debate is on the increase statewide."

Money raised from entry fees and the sale of concessions will be used to pay travel and tournament expenses for the Lowndes and Valdosta debate programs. Last year more than 20 schools and 140 students entered the Valdosta Debates, sponsored by Valdosta High School.

Tournament officials are seeking contributions from the community to help pay the cost of trophies and to provide food for the visiting coaches. Also, they ask that anyone interested in serving as a debate judge Saturday contact the VHS debate director.

Teen

From Page 1-A

in a statewide Christmas card drawing contest sponsored by an Atlanta printing company.

Her drawing of a decorated envelope atop an open letter to her boyfriend placed among more than 500 entries.

To practice her sketching, Karen said she often reproduces pictures from magazines and enjoys drawing scenery more than people.

"Maybe once I learn to do people better, I'll like it," she said. "If I see a picture and I say, 'Oh, Gee, this would be nice to draw,' I'll be inspired."

Currently, the Universities of Florida and Miami are at the top of her

Karen Green

- **Residence:** Valdosta
- **School:** Valdosta High
- **Family:** Parents, Rudolph and Beverly Green; sisters, Andrea and Michelle
- **Activities:** Wildcat football team trainer, VHS Interact Club, drawing and painting.

list of colleges to consider, but there's a lot more research to be done before a final decision is made, she said.

Karen was born in Jamaica and spent a few years elsewhere before coming to Valdosta.

Test Scores Up At Lowndes, Valdosta

V. Times 1-3-91

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes high schools' Basic Skills Test scores increased in math for 1990 over the scores for the previous year, but neither school showed improvement in reading.

"They dropped one percentage point in reading, but their analytical skills seem to be very strong," said Lowndes High Principal Dennis Tipton of the LHS students who took the test. "This class seems to be a strong class in math."

Passing the Basic Skills Test is required by the Georgia Department of Education before a student can at-

tain a high school diploma. The student must also satisfy credit-hour requirements.

All 10th-graders, repeating 9th-graders, 11th- and 12th-graders who transfer into Georgia schools or who did not pass the test previously are tested, Tipton said.

At LHS, 522 students took the 1990 test, and 603 VHS students took it.

Passing percentages for the 1990 testing show reading for LHS at 95 percent and VHS at 88 percent. In 1989, LHS had 96 percent pass the reading portion and VHS had 88 percent to pass.

In math for 1990, LHS had 95 percent to pass while VHS had a 85 percent passing rate. Math scores for the year before show LHS with a

passing rate of 92 percent and VHS at 79 percent.

"We have continued to improve," said VHS Principal William Aldrich. "We're pleased with the progress we've made in the math area."

The state passing average for reading and math in 1990 is the same as the year before. In reading 93 percent, and in math 87 percent passed.

Valdosta To Face Colquitt

WDT, Fri., Jan. 11, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A victory did wonders for Valdosta High's girls basketball team. So the boys team hopes it can receive the same prescription during a pair of games this weekend.

Valdosta High concludes its pre-exam schedule by hosting Colquitt County in a Region 1-AAAA double-header tonight and playing Lanier County in a non-region game Saturday at the school.

Tuesday's Region 1-AAAA victory over crosstown rival Lowndes broke a two-game losing streak for Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats. It was an important win in more ways than one for a team with just four upperclassmen on the roster.

"It was extremely important because of our attitudes," said Montgomery. "It helped. We've had two good days of practice since then.

"We seem to be getting used to each other, and have been doing some good things in practice."

With wins tonight and Saturday, Valdosta (now 3-4 overall, 1-2 in region) would go above the .500 mark entering the break for semester exams. After Saturday, VHS won't play again until Friday against Bainbridge.

In Colquitt County, the Lady Wildcats face a team searching for its first region win in two seasons. But on the Colquitt bench is former Valdosta High coach Jo Ellis. "They always get up for us," said Montgomery.

Two of Valdosta's four upperclassmen combined for 31 of the team's 39 points against Lowndes. Center Esther Benjamin had 20, including the winning basket, while Vashti Manning added 11.

The Wildcats have lost six straight since the opening-night win against Lanier County. Three losses have come in region play.

"We just need a win," said head coach John Miller. "We need to play well, and have a good game."

Colquitt (6-6, 0-4) is also in search of its first Region 1-AAAA win, one it almost came up with last week at Lowndes. It used its size inside to get Lowndes in some foul trouble, but guard Ollie Daniels got hot in the last four minutes to pull out the Lowndes win.

The coach said he's tried to work on adding some pressure to his defenses. But that puts him in a dilemma.

"We're not exactly the quickest team around," Miller said. "And we're not a very good half-court team. We're not truly quick enough for all-out pressure like I'd play."



Valdosta High's Natasha Johnson chases a loose ball along with several Lanier County players Saturday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta, Lanier Split Games

Sun., Jan. 13, 1991

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Saturday night at the Valdosta High gymnasium, the Valdosta Wildcats may have been caught looking behind or looking ahead. Wherever they were looking, it wasn't at the scoreboard.

The sight was too much to bare.

The Lanier County Bulldogs used their long-range shooting and quickness to shock the Wildcats, 59-50. In the girls game, the Lady Wildcats got a needed breather after two close region wins as they trounced the Lady Bulldogs, 60-37.

Valdosta falls to 2-7 on the year while the Bulldogs' record climbs to 5-5.

Valdosta trailed most of the game and fell behind the Bulldogs by as many as 12 points in the second quarter. The Wildcats fought back and cut the lead to two points during the third quarter but a Lanier County run built the lead back to ten points entering the fourth quarter.

The Bulldogs were never seriously threatened again.

"The shooting was the difference tonight," said Lanier boys coach George Sorrell. "We're playing good basketball right now. Will Watson came through for us tonight and Isaac Camon helped us in the middle. Dwight Boone also did a good job for us, especially in crunch time."

Boys Game

LANIER (59) — Isaac Camon 24, Dwight Boone 10, Will Watson 12, Cornelius Camon 9, Marcus McGriff 4.
VALDOSTA (50) — Andre James 7, Michael Moore 15, Tharon Lane 8, Aaron Lane 2, Ernest Lowe 7, Joey Benjamin 4, Rodney Robinson 5, Frank Mazion 2.

Lanier 16 12 16 15—59
Valdosta 12 11 11 16—50

Girls Game

LANIER (37) — Tawanna Moore 25, Tammy Williams 6, Wendy Haines 2, Michelle Brown 4.
VALDOSTA (60) — Esther Benjamin 20, Vashti Manning 7, Yolanda Benjamin 9, Tracy Troutman 6, Lashon Hargett 5, Natasha Johnson 10, Marti Montgomery 3.

Lanier 00 09 12 16—37
Valdosta 11 13 22 14—60

Camon scored 12 points in the opening period, including a thunderous dunk, to spark the Bulldogs early. When the Wildcat defense sank down to cover Camon, Watson responded from outside with three 3-pointers in the second quarter. The Bulldogs led 28-16 after a Watson bomb with 3:25 left in the first half. But Valdosta's Michael Moore came alive and scored the rest of the points before intermission with a pullup jumper, a free throw, a hook shot and a putback to cut Lanier's lead to 28-23.

The Bulldogs started the second half as strong as they controlled the first. Camon went on another streak, starting the half with six unanswered points to up the lead to 34-23. But the Wildcats answered with two baskets by Moore, a putback by Tharon Lane and a 3-pointer by Rodney Robinson and trailed 34-32 with 3:38 left in the period.

But they could get no closer. The Bulldogs outscored Valdosta 10-2 in the final three minutes of the third. Valdosta got as close as six points in the final period.

Isaac Camon led Lanier with 24 points while Watson added 12 and Boone added 10. Marcus McGriff led them in rebounding with eight boards. Moore led Valdosta with 15 points and 11 rebounds while Tharon Lane had eight points and 18 rebounds.

The outcome of the girls game was evident pretty early. Lanier County didn't score until 6:32 left in the second period to make the score 11-2. Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery freely substituted players throughout the game as the Lady Wildcats never lost control.

The win raised the Lady Wildcats record to 5-4 and ended a very successful week. Tuesday night, the Lady Wildcats defeated Lowndes and Friday night they beat Colquitt County.

Esther Benjamin played only about eight minutes of the first half and she came out for good with four minutes left in the third quarter. But when she was on the floor, she led the way with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Natasha Johnson scored all of her 10 points in the second half and she had nine rebounds. Tawanna Moore led Lanier County with 25 points.

V. Times 1-12-91

Cats Pull Plug On Packers

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Thanks to a lack of late-game firepower by the visiting Colquitt County High basketball teams, Valdosta High got charged up just enough to sweep a Region 1-AAAA doubleheader Friday night.

Michael Moore's free throw with five seconds left in overtime was what the Wildcats needed to break a 50-50 tie for a 51-50 victory — its first win since the season opener.

In the first game, Valdosta's girls scored the game's last nine points — six by Esther Benjamin — to pull away to a 48-41 win.

Colquitt County led both games after three quarters, then went on to hit dry spells — opening the door for Valdosta.

In the boys' game, Colquitt led 42-38 after three periods. But the Packers went to the slow-down game and followed by missing their first seven field-goal attempts.

"I was surprised," said Valdosta coach John Miller. "Everybody was talking about going man (defense), but we're not quick enough to play man. With them not looking to score, I thought it was in our favor."

Valdosta broke a 44-44 tie with Moore's three-point play with 1:16 left, then watched as Colquitt edged back. Kenny Clark's baseline drive with 57 seconds left was Colquitt's lone field goal of the quarter.

Then, after Valdosta's Tharon Lane missed two free throws with 18 seconds left, Colquitt's Al Jones had four free throw chances in the last six seconds to tie the game.

He missed two shots with six seconds left, then — after the loose ball pinballed around the court — Jones picked it up under the basket and was fouled with a second left. He made the second attempt, sending the game into overtime.

Clark's jumper with 21 seconds left tied the game again at 50-50. After Valdosta turned the ball over on an inbounds play 10 seconds later, Moore made the countering steal downcourt and was fouled.

He made the first free throw to untie the game and missed the second. With the rest of his teammates downcourt on defense, Moore won the 1-on-5 battle and got the rebound on the miss. He missed another free throw with two seconds left, but Colquitt couldn't get off one last good shot.

"You can't say enough about the way our guys fought," said Miller. "We're not the prettiest team ... but our kids came right back in there."

Ernest Lowe had 24 points for Valdosta (2-6, 1-3), while Moore added 11 and Lane 10. Garland Dozier had 16 points and Clark 14 for Colquitt (6-7, 0-5).

Vikings, Wildcats At Home

VOT. Jan. 25, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

With home games becoming a scarce commodity, Lowndes and Valdosta high schools will be in familiar territory for Region 1-AAAA basketball games tonight.

Lowndes hosts Tift County and Valdosta is home against Coffee High in Region 1-AAAA doubleheaders.

The girls' half of the evening begins around 7 p.m.

Tonight's games are the next-to-last home games for both schools. Valdosta High closes its home slate Saturday night against Hamilton County High of Jasper, Fla., while Lowndes finishes at home against Valdosta on Tuesday night.

Valdosta will play five straight games — four in Region 1-AAAA — and Lowndes has three straight games — one in Region 1-AAAA — on the road after their last home games.

Lowndes High's boys (11-3 overall) can at least maintain their one-game lead in the region standings with a win tonight (Tift County is 9-7 overall, 3-3 in region play).

Bainbridge had been in a virtual tie with the Vikings until losing at Coffee Tuesday night, dropping the Bearcats to a 5-2 region record.

Lowndes is 6-1, while Coffee is at 4-2.

Lowndes finishes its region schedule at Bainbridge on Feb. 1.

The Vikettes (9-6 overall) can bring second-place Tift County back into the pack tonight.

Coffee leads Region 1-AAAA with a 5-1 record, with Tift second at 4-2 (11-5 overall). Bainbridge and Lowndes are at 4-3.

Valdosta's teams are each in fifth place in the region standings, though the girls (at 2-3) are closer to the higher teams than are the boys (1-4 in region).

In the other Region 1-AAAA game tonight, Colquitt County is at Bainbridge.

Bainbridge Sweeps Valdosta

Jan 5, 1991

Staff Reports

BAINBRIDGE—One year ago here, the Valdosta Wildcats pulled a huge upset by defeating the perennially tough Bainbridge Bearcats. Friday night, Valdosta set their sights on another such feat and for a while, it looked like lightning might strike twice.

But the Bearcats ended the threat immediately after halftime.

Down 32-27 at the half, the Bearcats stormed back by outscoring Valdosta 27-5 in the third quarter on their way to a 71-56 victory in Region 1-AAAA action.

In the girls game, Keisha Breedlove poured in 22 points to lead the Lady Bearcats to a 55-42 win. The Lady Wildcats are now 2-4 on the year while the Wildcats are now 1-5.

The Wildcats saw their chances for another road upset dim when forward Ernest Lowe fouled out in the decisive third period. Bainbridge took advantage of his absence as guard Willie Perry scored 19 points to lead the way. Michael Lee added 13 and Xavier Close had 10. For Valdosta, point guard Rodney Robinson had 13 and center Michael Moore had 12. Also scoring for the Wildcats were Billy Steinberg and Tharon Lane with nine, Andre James with six, Eddie Emanuel with 2, Lowe with four and Joe Wright with one.

The Lady Wildcats were down by only seven points (25-18) at the half before the Lady Bearcats erupted in the third. Entering the fourth period, Bainbridge led 43-26.

Vashti Manning led VHS with 14 points while Esther Benjamin had 12, Natasha Johnson had six, Tracy Troutman had five, Melissa Sauls had three and Lashon Hargett had two.

Valdosta will play again Tuesday when they host crosstown rival Lowndes.

VALDOSTA GIRLS 48, COLQUITT 41: The Lady Packers, coached by former Valdosta coach Jo Ellis, haven't won a region game in two years. They came within three minutes of breaking that streak.

Colquitt led 41-39 with 3:05 left after Trice Troupe's jumper took one high bounce and fell in. Then Benjamin — who outscored Colquitt 10-6 in the fourth quarter enroute to a 26-point night — took over.

The 6-foot-3 center's turnaround jumper with 1:19 left broke the tie for good. She added another jumper at the 54-second mark, then two free throws with 13 seconds left to ice the victory.

"We finally played some basketball in the fourth quarter," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery, who saw her team improve to 4-4 overall, 2-2 in region play. "When it counted, we did some good things."

Natasha Johnson added 11 points, while Vashti Manning's passing led to many of Benjamin's goals. Troupe had 17 for Colquitt (2-11, 0-5).

Boys Game

COLQUITT COUNTY (50) — Garland Dozier 16, Kenny Clark 14, Mark Motley 9, Randy Lee 4, Johnny Lovett 3, Donald Daniels 2, Al Jones 1, Chris McCranie 1.

VALDOSTA (51) — Ernest Lowe 21, Michael Moore 11, Tharon Lane 10, Andre James 3, Aaron Lane 2, Rodney Robinson 2, Joey Benjamin 2.

Colquitt County 21 13 8 5 3-50
Valdosta 15 11 12 9 4-51

Girls Game

COLQUITT COUNTY (41) — Trice Troupe 17, Lashon Beard 11, Tasha Lee 11, Andra Poole 2.

VALDOSTA (48) — Esther Benjamin 26, Natasha Johnson 11, Yolanda Benjamin 4, Vashti Manning 3, Tracy Troutman 2, Lashon Hargett 2.

Colquitt County 14 13 8 4-41
Valdosta 13 8 12 15-48

Valdosta School System To Buy Buses

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Fourteen new diesel buses will soon help get Valdosta students to school. The Valdosta School Board approved the \$492,000 bus purchase at its Monday meeting.

Superintendent Walter Alman said he had prepared himself to ask for

fewer buses before bids were accepted for the purchasing project, but low bids are enabling the board to buy all the needed buses.

The board's bus replacement fund has a balance of \$505,000 before the \$492,000 outlay, which will be used to purchase the 14 new buses. The school system will then have all diesel buses.

Eleven 66-passengers will be purchased for \$35,268 each; two 48-passenger buses will be purchased for \$33,243 each, and one wheelchair bus, which holds about 15 passengers, will be bought for \$37,243.

In other action, the board discussed next school year's calendar schedule and appointed a committee which will compile a list of candidates to fill the board seat vacated

last month by Phyllis Lowther, who resigned to become Main Street director for the city of Valdosta.

Alman said next academic year's calendar will be similar to this year's — with a beginning date for students of Aug. 26 and an ending date of June 2, 1992 — but teachers and administrators will be polled to choose between two different Christmas break schedules. One of the two

choices has classes ending on a Wednesday and the other on a Friday.

Board Chairman David Waller appointed the following board members to a committee which will compile a list of candidates to fill a vacated board seat: Alma Williams, Maceo Horne and Dr. Joe Crane. Board member Mary Allen will chair the committee.

Shootout Moves To LHS Gym

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

With the region schedule winding to an end, the Lowndes Vikings need all the wins they can get as they try to regain one of the league's top spots by tournament time.

That has been drilled into the minds of the Viking players by head coach Terry Wilkes and senior forward Ollie Daniels has accepted the theory. Tonight, Daniels and his teammates will host crosstown rival Valdosta in a Region 1-AAAA contest with a little more than records on the line.

"It's a rivalry," said Daniels. "Most of the players know each other and I guess you could say it's going to be for bragging rights. But we definitely want to get back to the top of the region."

Earlier in the season, Lowndes defeated Valdosta 78-68 at Valdosta's gym and Daniels was a big key to the win. He went on a 3-point scoring barrage and ended the night with 26 points to lead both teams.

Valdosta senior Michael Moore, who led his team with 24 points in the first game, was battling down low while watching Daniels bomb most of those 3-pointers. Moore believes holding Lowndes' top gun to fewer shots and less points will give the Wildcats a chance for the upset.

"The first thing we've got to do is contain Ollie, not let him shoot so many 3-pointers because he makes a lot of them. We also need to control the boards and not let them get second shots," Moore said.

Lowndes enters the game at 11-4, 6-2 in the region while Valdosta is 4-10 and 1-5 in the league.

In the second half of the first game between the two, Valdosta employed a box-and-one defense with one player shadowing Daniels. Daniels expects to see more of the same treatment tonight.

"We practiced on that today in practice. It should come down to who executes and gets the job done. We need to get everyone into the game and see how it turns out," Daniels said.

While Daniels has been penciled in as the team's starting small forward the entire year, Moore has moved around the lineup. After some trouble adjusting to rotating positions, he claims he can play his game from anywhere on the court.

"At the first of the year, it was hard because I was even playing guard some and I wasn't used to it," Moore said. "But I feel comfortable now. I think we're playing a little better and we can make it a good game. I just need to take good shots and play my game."

Vikettes Look For Revenge

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Vashti Manning and Shanell Jenkins have jogged onto the court, shaken hands and battled each other from the point guard position for most of the past two years whenever Valdosta and Lowndes face each other. Tonight, the rivalry will resume between the players and the teams and each expects their team to have a big game.

The Vikettes are 10-6 overall and 5-3 in the Region 1-AAAA while the Lady Wildcats are 6-8 overall and 2-4 in region action. But records didn't mean much when they met earlier this year, a game ending in a two-point win, 39-37, for the Lady Wildcats.

Jenkins, Lowndes' junior point guard, had trouble coming up with an explanation for the first game but she doesn't plan on losing to the other team in town again this year.

"We just weren't ready to play the first game. I don't think they were really on or anything, we just didn't play well ourselves," Jenkins said. "This is a real big game especially because we lost the first one. I think we'll win this one for sure."

Jenkins finished the first game with eight points.

While Jenkins believes her team will not repeat the offensive drought, Manning, who had 11 points in the first meeting, feels her team's defense will be the key to the game.

"We need to keep them from scoring a lot of points. They like to play a halfcourt trap and we've just got to be patient and get through it," Manning said. "We did it the first game and I think that's why we won. The first time we didn't make that many turnovers and we need to handle the ball like that again."

"Actually, I think we need to run them and push the ball upcourt. I don't think they can run with us. I'd like to push it and maybe get them in foul trouble because they don't use their bench a lot. That would be a big help to us," Jenkins said.

Most of the two teams' players have played against or with one another in other sports and are familiar with each other. That's what makes the game important.

"I couldn't wait to go to practice today to get ready for it," Manning said. "I've been thinking about it all day. We worked on what we think they're going to try to do. They play good defense so it's important for us to play good defense too."

So would Manning like to see another low-scoring affair?

"Yeah," Manning said, "I'd like to see it low-scoring for them but not for us."

Tonight's game begins at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22, 1991 A-3

Valdosta Upends

Berrien

VDT Wed. Jan 23, 91

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Earlier in the season, the Valdosta High Wildcats gave Berrien a scare by taking them into overtime before losing. Tuesday night at the VHS gymnasium, the Wildcats got ahead again, but this time they finished the deal.

Junior Ernest Lowe had 27 points, eight assists and six rebounds to lead the Wildcats to a 69-63 win over the Rebels. Senior forward Michael Moore was on the receiving end of several of Lowe's dishes and he finished with 28 points.

In the girls game, the Rebelettes built a huge lead early thanks in part to a swarming defensive press and coasted easily to a 69-43 victory over the Lady Wildcats.

With the win, the Wildcats go to 3-9 while the Rebels fall to 9-5. The Rebelettes upped their record to 13-1 and Valdosta drops to 6-6.

In the boys game, Valdosta led throughout although Berrien stayed at the Wildcats' heels until the final minute.

With 2:01 left, Frank Mazion scored inside to push Valdosta up 63-56. But Berrien scored the next five points in under 30 seconds as Eric Taylor scored in the lane, Jermaine Nixon hit a free throw and Antwan Carter had a tip-in to cut the lead to 63-61.

On the next possession, Billy Steinberg hit two free throws with 1:06 left to stretch the lead to four points and, after a Berrien miss, Mazion fed Moore for a layup with 43 seconds left to put the game out of reach at 67-61. Moore ended the night's scoring, ironically on a pass from Lowe, as he dunked the ball with four seconds left.

"I thought we tried to dribble too much when we lost to Bainbridge and we've talked about passing the ball more," Valdosta head coach John Miller said. "Lowe was so unselfish tonight — he made some great passes and made some clutch shots. It was really a team effort all See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

Boys Game

BERRIEN (43) — Eric Taylor 20, Jason Kent 8, Ray Greene 4, Jermaine Nixon 6, Antwan Carter 10, Stevie Hill 3, Reggie Vinson 12.

VALDOSTA (69) — Michael Moore 28, Ernest Lowe 27, Frank Mazion 6, Aaron Lane 2, Billy Steinberg 4, Joey Benjamin 2, Berrien 2, Valdosta 12 13 19 19-43
14 16 21 18-49

Girls Game

BERRIEN (49) — Shonda Deberry 14, Dana Hill 16, Lamarice Green 8, Gwen Green 18, Pricilla Cloners 9, Tarrhonda Lester 2, Sonya Harper 2.

VALDOSTA (43) — Vashli Manning 3, Tracy Troutman 10, Yolanda Benjamin 2, Amanda McGlin 4, Esther Benjamin 16, Natasha Johnson 6, Melissa Souls 2, Berrien 20 24 19 6-49
Valdosta 6 8 2 27-43

From Page 1-B

the way down the line, it's hard to pick out any one person."

Taylor, Berrien's leading scorer, had 20 points but was never able to break the game open. Valdosta used a box-and-one defense with point guard Matt Baker shadowing Taylor wherever he went.

Valdosta went on their first run of the night in the second quarter after the Rebels gained their only lead of the game, which lasted for less than 1½ minutes. Down 19-18, Moore scored inside and had a dunk while Mazion hit inside and Lowe drained

a short jumper to grab their biggest lead of the game at that point, 26-19.

Berrien didn't pull back to within two points until the third quarter when Jason Kent put in an offensive rebound to make the score 44-42 with 1:43 left. While Taylor missed much of the final quarter in foul trouble, power forward Reggie Vinson kept Berrien in it with 10 of the team's 19 fourth-quarter points.

In the girls game, the quick Rebelette guards caused several early turnovers and they led 20-6 after the first period. Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery pulled her starters from the floor midway through the

second quarter and let her bench play the rest of the half, the entire third quarter and two minutes of the fourth period.

In that time span, Berrien outscored Valdosta 45-6.

"The main thing we tried to do was keep it in their backcourt because when they lob it to Esther (Benjamin), they score," said Berrien head coach Cliff Ranew. "Our press worked well and we need to keep playing like that."

Valdosta hosts Coffee Friday night while Berrien will travel to Cook.

In the boys B-team game Tuesday, Valdosta defeated Berrien 54-41.

VDT Tues. Jan. 22, 1991 Military Roundup



JAMIELIAH SHARPE
Supply Training Course

PV2 Jamieliah Gale Sharpe has graduated from the Quartermaster Center and School Supply Training Center of the Army School System in Fort Lee, Va.

Sharpe, the daughter of James E. Sharpe Sr. and Beverly F. Sharpe of Valdosta, graduated from the 76V10 Course, Materiel Storage and Handling Specialist.

She graduated from Valdosta High School in 1989.

Pvt. Michael T. Sherman has completed training at the U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Columbus.

He is the son of Leroy and Evelyn Sherman of Valdosta.

The private is a 1990 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Pvt. Keith Ludlum has completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

He is the son of Bobby R. and Kathy Ludlum of Valdosta.

The soldier is a 1990 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Wildcat Seniors Go Out In Style, 68-61

VDT Sun. Jan. 27, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head basketball coach John Miller had said earlier this year that center Michael Moore was one of the best players in the area.

Valdosta High center Michael Moore did not disappoint the home crowd Saturday as he poured in 27 points to lead the Wildcats past the Trojans, 68-61, at Valdosta High School.

It was the final home game for Moore, as well as senior teammates Eddie Emanuel and Aaron Pierre. The three combined for 46 points, 16 rebounds and three steals.

Valdosta High is now 4-10 and Hamilton County is 11-4.

On the other hand, the first-half trouble keeps mounting for Susan Montgomery's VHS Lady Wildcats.

Hamilton County, which trailed VHS by six points at the end of the first period, scored 24 points in the second period to take a 30-19 halftime edge. And with it, the Lady Trojans (11-8) also took control of the game.

The Lady Wildcats (6-8) were outscored 17-1 in the final 3:52 of the first half and fell to the Lady Trojans, 58-50.

Hamilton's Lady Trojans hit on six of 10 3-point attempts and were led by guard Greta McDuffie. McDuffie

Oliver Young had a tap-in and Strickland nailed a 3-pointer bringing Hamilton back within three points. But baskets by Moore, Emanuel, and Aaron James made the VHS lead 66-59 with under a minute remaining.

Owens had another layup and teammate Thomas Newsome had a chance to bring Hamilton within three points of VHS with 34 seconds left, but he missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity.

The Lady Trojans led by 16 points over VHS entering the final period. VHS not only made up the deficit, but did one point better at 17 for the fourth period. But Hamilton County chipped in with nine in the final period to hold off VHS.

came off the bench in the second period and finished up with 15 points, six rebounds and five steals.

Valdosta's Natasha Johnson tossed in a career-high 21 points and had seven rebounds to lead the Lady 'Cats.

The Wildcats held a 54-41 lead into the fourth period, before the Trojans opened with a pair of buckets by Johnny Owens and a jumper by Michael Strickland to cut the deficit to 54-46.

A minute later, Hamilton closed the gap to 56-50 on a slam-dunk by Owens. Then VHS answered by scoring six of the next eight points to take a 62-52 lead with two minutes and 56 seconds left.

Boys Game

HAMILTON CO. (43) — Johnny Owens 15, Oliver Young 12, Jermaine Morgan 10, Fred Owens 10, Tremaine Dye 7, Michael Strickland 5.

VALDOSTA (69) — Michael Moore 27, Eddie Emanuel 14, Ernest Lowe 12, Billy Steinberg 6, Aaron Pierre 5, Theron Lane 2, Andre Jones 2, Hamilton Co. 17 18 14 20-41
Valdosta 14 14 24 14-48

Girls Game

HAMILTON CO. (50) — Greta McDuffie 15, Ennie Graham 13, Annie Burnam 10, Latasha Bristol 9, Natalie Wiggins 9, Monique Thomas 2.

VALDOSTA (43) — Natasha Johnson 21, Esther Benjamin 11, Amanda McGlin 9, Tracy Troutman 7, Lashon Hargett 2, Hamilton Co. 6 24 19 9-58
Valdosta 12 7 14 17-50

"Michael did just a super job tonight and Eddie and Aaron turned in fine games too. Our seniors sure responded and that's what you hope for in your final home game of the year," said Miller.

Valdosta Upends Berrien

VDT, Wed. Jan. 23, 91
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Earlier in the season, the Valdosta High Wildcats gave Berrien a scare by taking them into overtime before losing. Tuesday night at the VHS gymnasium, the Wildcats got ahead again, but this time they finished the deal.

Junior Ernest Lowe had 27 points, eight assists and six rebounds to lead the Wildcats to a 69-63 win over the Rebels. Senior forward Michael Moore was on the receiving end of several of Lowe's dishes and he finished with 28 points.

In the girls game, the Rebelettes built a huge lead early thanks in part to a swarming defensive press and coasted easily to a 69-43 victory over the Lady Wildcats.

With the win, the Wildcats go to 3-9 while the Rebels fall to 9-5. The Rebelettes upped their record to 13-1 and Valdosta drops to 6-6.

In the boys game, Valdosta led throughout although Berrien stayed at the Wildcats' heels until the final minute.

With 2:01 left, Frank Mazion scored inside to push Valdosta up 63-56. But Berrien scored the next five points in under 30 seconds as Eric Taylor scored in the lane, Jermaine Nixon hit a free throw and Antwan Carter had a tip-in to cut the lead to 63-61.

On the next possession, Billy Steinberg hit two free throws with 1:06 left to stretch the lead to four points and, after a Berrien miss, Mazion fed Moore for a layup with 43 seconds left to put the game out of reach at 67-61. Moore ended the night's scoring, ironically on a pass from Lowe, as he dunked the ball with four seconds left.

"I thought we tried to dribble too much when we lost to Bainbridge and we've talked about passing the ball more," Valdosta head coach John Miller said. "Lowe was so unselfish tonight — he made some great passes and made some clutch shots. It was really a team effort all See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

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VALDOSTA (43) — Vashli Manning 3, Tracy Troutman 10, Yolanda Benjamin 2, Amanda McGhin 4, Esther Benjamin 16, Natasha Johnson 6, Melissa Sauls 2.
Berrien 20 24 19 6—69
Valdosta 6 8 2 27—43

Questions And Answers/A Discussion With A Sports Figure

Cats Try For Threeppeat Without 41 Seniors

VDT, Sun. Jan. 27, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor



Threeppeat?
The San Francisco 49ers won't get their chance to try today. Valdosta High's football team will get its shot in the 1991 season.

The Wildcats won the Class AAAA titles in 1989 and 1990 with teams consisting of few stars but a cohesive unit. It's been 30 years

HYDER
since Valdosta High has threeppeated as state champs (1960-62), the second of two times done under Wright Bazemore's reign.

QUESTION: You have to replace your largest senior class (41 players). How?

HYDER: We've got returning from last year's team 36 juniors. Not all will want to play, but that's still a big senior class. For years our senior class averaged 24-28 players. Anything above that is a big class.

From Page 1-C
type athletes. Wayne Devane is also there, as are others. There's Suno Hahn, Mike Roberts, Jerome Scurry and Chris Rokey.

At tackle, Tim O'Brien and Eddie Wooten are back, as are Andy Harrison and Alan Holt. And we've had Shawn Van Ausdall transfer in from Lowndes.

We're anxious about the quarterback situation. We have Steven Everson and John Bell, and we're going to have to see about Jamey Waters (ear wreck during 1990 season). And there's Cody Radney. That's four good athletes.

Two (Everson and Bell) had varsity practice all year. Both are good athletes and highly dependable. You could see them at quarterback, in the secondary, at a wide out or running back. That happens in the Valdosta system.

The running backs, we have Albert Edmonds and Alfred Barnes, Brock Sanford, Brian Thomas and David Williams — youngsters with us last year. Then we bring up McMullen and Sam Thomas, very gifted upcoming 10th graders. Then we look at moving good athletes like Brian Wiseman to defense, and maybe one or two others. I regret not involving Brian Wiseman more last year. He was good enough to

our regular long-snapper last year. We also have Matt Daugharty, Jesse Hunter, Jaret Broomberg, Jody McSwain, Greg Porter, Steve Walden.

At guards, Jay Bowling and Andy Sheffield are back. Our feeling is at this point we can name these names, where as a year ago we couldn't.

Brian Salze is at center. He was

could see them at quarterback, in the secondary, at a wide out or running back. That happens in the Valdosta system.

The numbers are hard to say. But in our off-season program in the winter, we will know more ... and we will involve some eight-graders.

The numbers are there. The coaches, they took a notch up in

their approach and I'm proud. They took the attitude that they were going to coach, and not yell. They got their egos to where they were going to teach something.

QUESTION: Who are some of the returnees on offense?

HYDER: When you do this, you do miss some people because we have so many.

At tight end, we have Brice Hunter and Shadrick Green. These are tight end-wide out combinations. It gives us a lot to do with our offense — we can bring both of them in, or let both wide, or one in and one wide. They are both that.

See HYDER, Page 2-C

a nucleus to build on.

We're awfully proud of Marcus Williams. He's at linebacker, and Franklin Wiseman can be at linebacker or defensive end. Bobby Mangrum is another fine defensive end, and Aldrich Graham is tough-nosed there. Cedric Carter is a fine linebacker.

There's Nick Reed, who was moved from the offensive line to defensive end at his request (during the season). We really like him there.

On the interior, Tim McClain, Richard Thomas and Kevin Major

are back. So are John Gloster, Brinson Barker, Art Rizer, Donald Hinson.

In the secondary, John Copeland started quite a bit (at safety), Jerard Davis is back after getting hurt in the first game. There's Jason Jelks, Vinson Winston, Carl Thomas, John Walker — and we're still looking to put some athletes back there. We'll put some priority on finding depth here.

All this doesn't include four or five

who have moved in the community, or 15 or 20 who will try out from the student body. Hopefully there will be one or two surprises.

the way down the line, it's hard to pick out any one person."

Taylor, Berrien's leading scorer, had 20 points but was never able to break the game open. Valdosta used a box-and-one defense with point guard Matt Baker shadowing Taylor wherever he went.

Valdosta went on their first run of the night in the second quarter

after the Rebels gained their only lead of the game, which lasted for less than 1½ minutes. Down 19-18, Moore scored inside and had a dunk while Mazion hit inside and Lowe drained

a short jumper to grab their biggest lead of the game at that point, 26-19.

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In the girls game, the quick Rebelette guards caused several early turnovers and they led 20-6 after the first period. Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery pulled her starters from the floor midway through the

Military Roundup

Army Pvt. Heather J. Caino, a military police specialist, has arrived for duty at Miesau Army Depot, Germany.

She is the daughter of Nancy C. and Robert Caino of Valdosta.

The private is a 1990 graduate of Valdosta High School.

From Page 1-B

second quarter and let her bench play the rest of the half, the entire third quarter and two minutes of the fourth period.

In that time span, Berrien outscored Valdosta 45-6.

"The main thing we tried to do was keep it in their backcourt because when they lob it to Esther (Benjamin), they score," said Berrien head coach Cliff Ranew. "Our press worked well and we need to keep playing like that."

Valdosta hosts Coffee Friday night

while Berrien will travel to Cook.

In the boys B-team game Tuesday, Valdosta defeated Berrien 54-41.

Bulldogs Put Bite On 'Cats

VDT, Thurs., Jan. 24, 91
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

On the wrestling mat Wednesday at Valdosta High, Suwannee High proved its bark is equal to its bite.

The visiting Bulldogs outdueled the Wildcats, 48-22, powered by three pins in their final five matches.

Valdosta finished the night with a pin, a decision and two forfeits to its credit.

And even with the more experienced Bulldogs racking up the points, VHS' head coach Eddie Crocker was pleased with his team's effort.

"I was pleased with all but one match in terms of credit. We were wrestling tonight with three freshmen in the lineup and every kid fought hard," said Crocker.

"With several starters not making weight and a few other things, you're looking at a young team," said Crocker. "We're young and it's going to take younger kids more time to learn things in wrestling. But that's a fact of life. We have to push ourselves even harder now."

Suwannee's Timmy Morgan opened the match with a first-period pin at the 37-second mark. Richie McMannaway won by forfeit and VHS was down, 12-0.

Ryan Thigpen then rallied from a 9-2 deficit for a 1:07 second-period pin over Scott Jones making the score, 12-6.

But from there it was all Suwannee High. The Bulldogs won the next three matches to take a 24-6 advantage.

Preston Andrews' (125-pound class) had the lone pin in that sapsn for Suwannee coming with one second left in the first period. Jason Langston and Joe Holland each won by decision.

Valdosta High's Justin Bridges then posted a 16-4 decision victory making the score, 24-10.

Wayne Phillips and Shawn Daniels had back-to-back pins for the Bulldogs and teammate Mark Houghton won by forfeit.

Suwannee's Jeremy Harris won by a first-period pin at the 1:26 mark and then Valdosta's Eric Phillips finished off the match by being awarded a forfeit.

"We just have to go from here and get better," said Crocker. "You can't learn everything you need to learn for a wrestling match in one year. Last week's strong showing up north tells us that we've improved, however. We just need to keep on moving forward."

Valdosta will participate in Lowndes' Super Saturday wrestling event this Saturday.

Coffee Heats Up Early

VDT, Sat., Jan. 26, 91
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Friday night at the Valdosta High gymnasium, the VHS basketball squads supported a roundball theory that coaches tirelessly preach. Points scored in the final minutes may be more exciting, but points scored in the first quarter mean just as much.

The Coffee High Trojans had a 35-point outburst in the first eight minutes before settling down to a 77-60 defeat of the Wildcats. In the first game, the Lady Trojans led 21-4 after the first period before holding on to a 74-62 win.

After Friday, the Coffee boys (5-2) are just behind region leaders Lowndes and Bainbridge (both 6-2). Overall, Coffee is 14-2 while the Wildcats are 1-5 in Region 1-AAAA and 3-10 overall. The Lady Trojans lead the region with a 6-1 mark and are 13-3 overall. Valdosta girls fall to 6-7, 2-4.

Coffee's boys built an 8-2 lead early and kept it going until they were up 22-6 less than three minutes into the contest. Valdosta managed to cut the lead to 12 but, in the final minute of the quarter, Sandy McKinnon had a layup and a 3-pointer and Peter Davis hit a 3-pointer to stretch it to 35-15.

The Wildcats cut the lead to 16 points at halftime and they stayed within striking distance through the third period. To begin the fourth quarter, Andre James scored twice and Michael Moore sank a short jumper to cut the Coffee lead to 62-52. After two Trojan scores, Steven Everson sank a free throw, Moore scored inside and Ernest Lowe drilled a 3-pointer to cut the gap to eight points with 3:46 remaining.

But Coffee regained their aim and squelched the VHS comeback by scoring the next 11 points of the game to secure the win.

"I was glad to see us not fold," said Valdosta head coach John Miller. "You're not going to see many teams score 35 points in the first quarter but they can wore it out. But the effort was good and we stayed on them."

Lowe led Valdosta with 19 points while Moore had 16 and James had 10. Tharon Lane led Valdosta with 12 rebounds. McKinnon was the game's leading scorer with 23 points.

While the Coffee boys found their success from the perimeter, the Lady Trojans executed the fast break to move ahead early. Caroline Lott ended several of the early flurries downcourt and had nine points at the end of the first period.

After the disastrous first eight minutes, Valdosta regrouped and didn't lose much more ground in the second and third quarters. Entering the

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

Boys Game

COFFEE (77) — Billy Vereen 14, Mark Moore 9, Bruce Mackey 12, Sandy McKinnon 23, Peter Davis 4, Rei McNeair 3, Hal Presley 4, Dewayne Moffett 4, Lamar Tomblin 2.

VALDOSTA (60) — Billy Steinberg 4, Ernest Lowe 19, Tharon Lane 4, Michael Moore 16, Joey Benjamin 2, Andre James 10, Steven Everson 3, Eddie Emanuel 2.

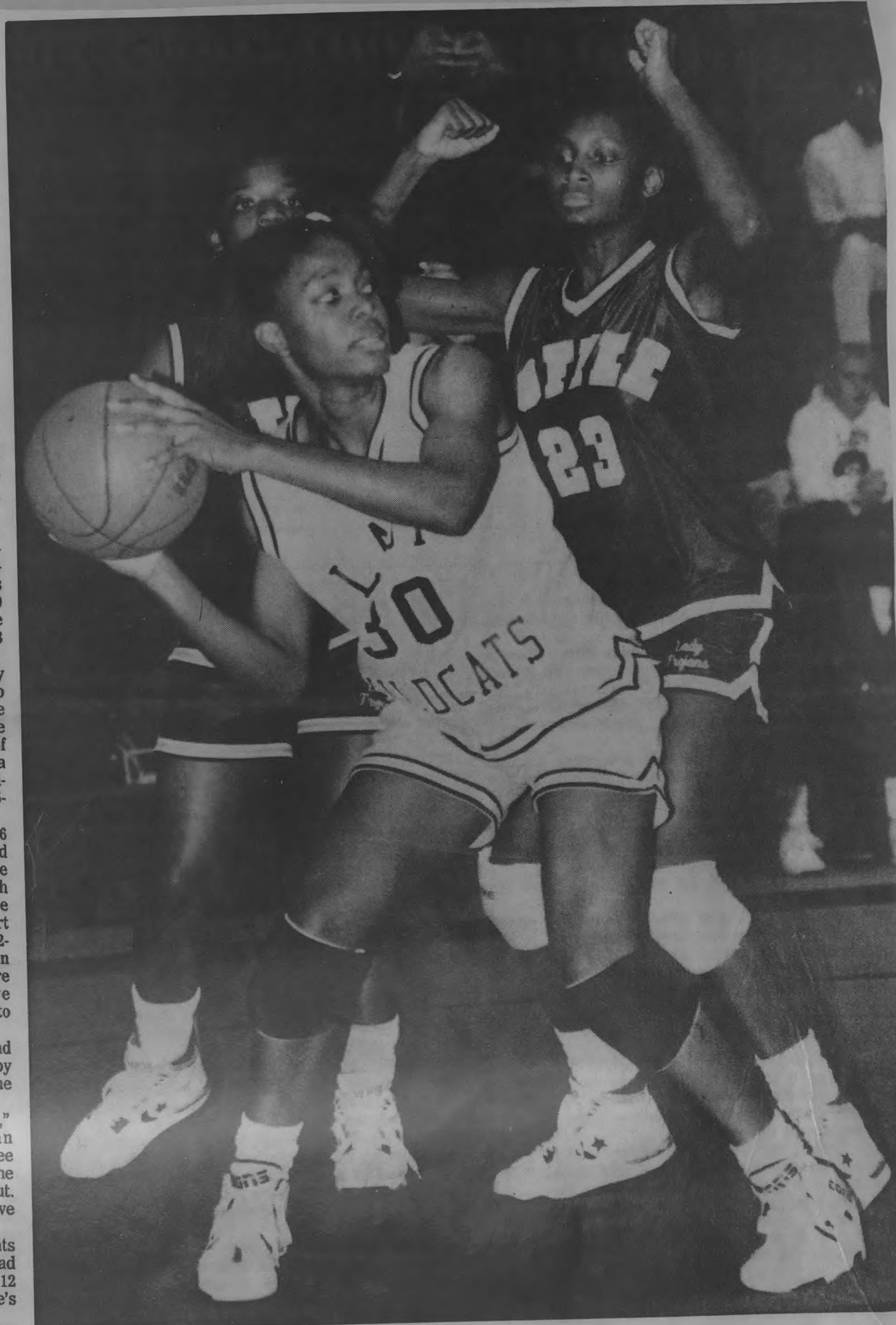
Coffee	35	13	14	15	77
Valdosta	15	17	14	16	60

Girls Game

COFFEE (74) — Regina Wilson 14, Beth Stockwell 12, Keyonna Watts 11, Kim Page 7, Carlisle Lott 18, Ciscely Paulk 7, Step Butler 3, Kelly Merritt 2.

VALDOSTA (62) — Tracy Troutman 8, Esther Benjamin 25, Vashli Manning 8, Amanda McGhin 14, Natasha Johnson 5, Melissa Souls 2.

Coffee	21	23	15	15	74
Valdosta	04	19	14	25	62



Where To Go?

Valdosta High's Natasha Johnson (30) looks to make a pass while Coffee High's Keyonna Watts (23) stands her ground on defense during Friday night's high school basketball game at Valdosta High School —Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

final period, the Lady Wildcats were down 59-37.

Led by Esther Benjamin, Valdosta rallied in the fourth period. A put-back by Benjamin and a jumper by Tracy Troutman cut Coffee's lead to 64-49 with 3:27 left. Less than a minute later, Amanda McGhin was fouled while draining a 3-pointer in the corner and she sank the free throw to cut the lead to 67-53.

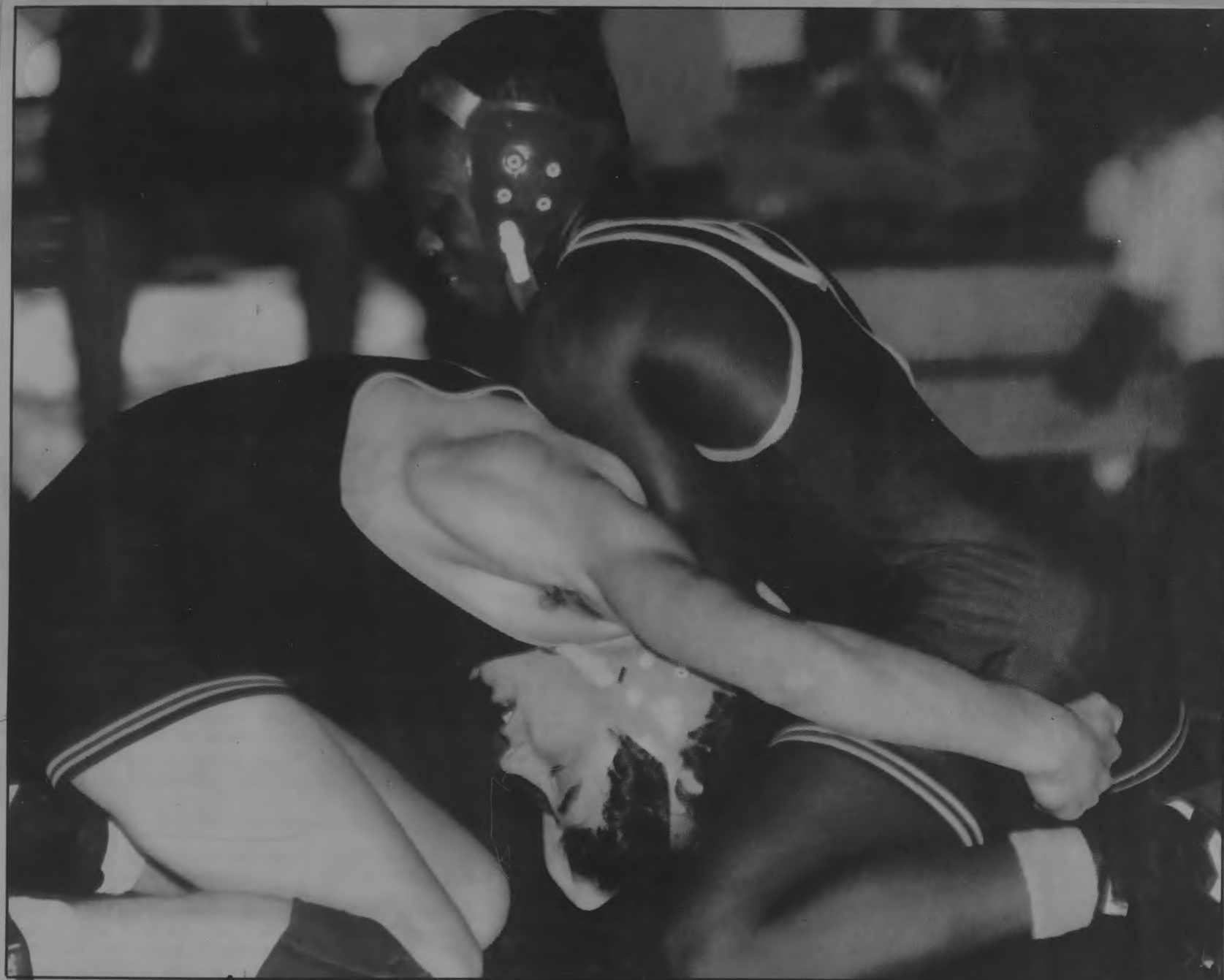
After two Coffee free throws, McGhin hit two more 3-pointers to cut the lead to 10 points with 1:31

left. But Coffee held off the rally in the final 90 seconds to win.

Lott led Coffee with 18 points while Benjamin led both teams with 25 points 15 rebounds.

"The first quarter just killed us," said Susan Montgomery, VHS head coach. "We were very flat early and we didn't get back on defense. I thought we had a tremendous effort in the second half and that credit goes to the kids. They didn't give up but it wasn't enough after they got so far ahead."

In B-team action, Valdosta defeated Coffee 60-42.



Lowndes High's Ben Austin (right) maneuvers against Valdosta High's Ryan Thigpen during a 119-pound match. Austin

scored a 13-0 major decision over Thigpen during Super Saturday — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

VDT Sun. Jan. 27, 1991

Lowndes' Wrestling Saturday Super

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Lowndes High's wrestling team proved Saturday it's ready to take a shot at the Area 1-AAAA wrestling championship.

On "Super Saturday" at the Lowndes High School gymnasium, the Vikings backed up their claim with a four-match sweep. The Vikings amassed a total of 23 pins, including a 38-36 win over rival Valdosta High School.

The Vikings had four pins in the final five matches to beat VHS in the

day's final match.

"It's nice to be able to finish with four wins before the area tournament," said Vikings' head coach Jim Morrell. "I hope it will help us next week to have been under this type of pressure and use to the surroundings.

"I know for a fact that it'll sure be nice not to have to get on a bus for a three-hour ride somewhere," Morrell said. "We were able to wrestle today with a lot of enthusiasm and spirit. I hope we can go on from here and have good showing next week."

After an opening pin by LHS' David Black in the second period, Valdosta built a commanding 30-14 lead on the Vikes. VHS' Raymond Kassum, Steve Hubbard and Keith McConnehead all recorded pins for an 18-10 lead. LHS' Jamie Lamon posted an 11-2 decision, then VHS' Justin Bridges (first period) and Mark Kassum (third period) had back-to-back pins for the 30-14 lead.

The Vikes went on to win the match with four straight pins ignited by a first-period pins by Chuck Pearson and Antwain Marshall. Waymon Wright followed with a second-

period pin and Jeff Vickers need just one minutes and 24 seconds to pin his opponent. Vickers' pin gave LHS a 38-30 lead, which clinched the win for LHS.

VHS' Eric Phillips ended the match with a second-period pin to make the final, 38-36.

Lowndes High opened the meet by avenging an earlier loss to Coffee High, by downing the Trojans, 52-22. LHS then beat Colquitt County, 47-24, and beat Tift County, 51-21.

The Valdosta High Wildcats came through the day with a 3-1 mark to See LOWNDES, Page 2-C

Lowndes

From Page 1-C

go along with 24 pins. Valdosta's wins came against Tift County, 39-32; Coffee High, 45-25; and Colquitt County 55-21. The second win proved to be costly for VHS as 130-pounder Scott Jones broke his right arm against Tift County.

"It was a tough was to end the day," said VHS' head coach Eddie Crocker. "I got a little greedy and

we did not finish strong in the end."

Lowndes High's top wrestlers were Pearson, with three pins and a forfeit; Marshall, three pins and a forfeit; Black, three pins and a decision; Ben Austin had three decisions; Waymon Wright and Mike Crosby each had three pins.

VHS was led by Bridges, with two pins and a decision; Mark Kassum

had three pins; Raymond Kassum had three pins; Ryan Coyne had two pins; Eric Phillips had three pins and Andrew Denmark finished had two pins.

In other matches during Super Saturday, Coffee High was 2-2 with wins over Colquitt, 38-31, and Tift County, 42-22. And Tift County and Colquitt County were winless on the day.

Lowndes Sweeps Region Games

V. Times 1-30-91

Vikettes Turn The Tables

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Three weeks ago, the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats pulled off the upset of their crosstown rivals, the Lowndes Vikettes, on their home floor. Tuesday night, the Vikettes looked to avenge the loss, but for a little while it looked like the Lady Wildcats would pull the trick again.

Down by one point after Natasha Johnson's bucket to start the fourth period, Lowndes went on a 13-3 run as it defeated Valdosta 50-40 Tuesday night.

Lowndes led 37-36 with under five minutes left when Vicky Williams made two steals and two layups to stretch the lead to five points. That ignited the Vikettes who kept Valdosta away from the basket and ran up the lead in the final two minutes.

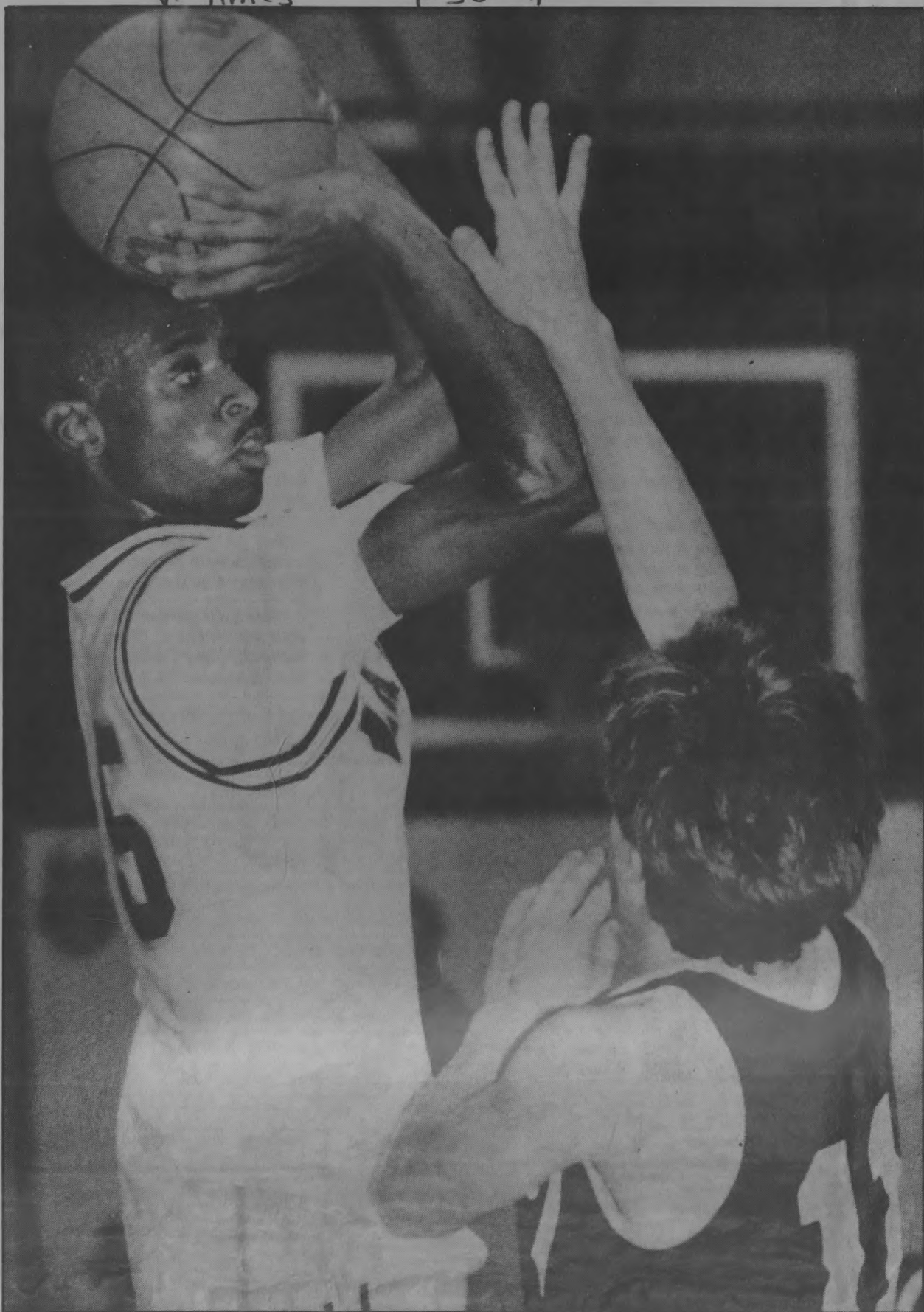
The Vikettes are now 11-6 and 6-3 in the league. They are a half-game behind Bainbridge and Tift County with one region game remaining — at Bainbridge Friday night. If Lowndes wins, it will receive a bye for the first round of the playoffs.

"We thought Mentha McNorton and Catina Jones played well throughout the game and Vicky Williams and Shanell Jenkins came on in the fourth quarter and showed some leadership," Lowndes head coach Larry Maffit said. "I think the press did the trick. I'm not known for my full-court pressure but we wanted to take advantage of our quickness. The one thing we didn't do too well tonight was shoot from the outside."

The Vikettes got the win with two starters missing from the lineup. Latina Childs was out of town due to a death in the family and Lori Culpepper was still out with a sprained ankle.

Valdosta led most of the way in the first quarter until Jones sunk a short jump shot and free throw and Jenkins had a steal and layup to give Lowndes a 14-10 lead at the end of

See VIKETTES, Page 3-B



Lowndes High's Ollie Daniels tries a jump shot against Matt Baker's defense during Tuesday's Region 1-AAAA contest at Lowndes High — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Girls Game

VALDOSTA (40) — Tracy Troutman 1, Esther Benjamin 17, Voshli Manning 8, Mariavia Irvin 2, Amanda McGhin 8, Natasha Benjamin 4.

LOWNDES (50) — Vicky Williams 13, Catina Jones 9, Shanell Jenkins 15, Mentha McNorton 9, Delicia Carlo 2, Kammi Bonner 2.
Valdosta 10 11 12 07-40
Lowndes 14 12 08 16-50

From Page 1-B

the first. They stretched the lead to as many as eight points before the half ended and they entered the intermission up 26-21.

Esther Benjamin cut the Vikettes' lead to three points only two seconds in the second half with a basket inside and the Lady Wildcats stayed close throughout the third period. Finally, with 1:35 left in the third, Benjamin scored on a nice pass from

Amanda McGhin to give VHS a 33-32 lead, their first since late in the first quarter. Lowndes' Williams ended the quarter by getting the lead back on a followup to make it 34-33.

Benjamin led all scorers with 17 points while grabbing 18 rebounds and blocking six shots. Jenkins had 15 for Lowndes while Williams added 13. Delicia Carlo led the Vikettes with 11 rebounds.

Valdosta drops to 6-9 and 2-5 in the region.

Students Compete For Scholarships

A pair of Valdosta students are among the 168 semi-finalists who will gather at Presbyterian College Feb. 2 for the college's academic scholarship competition.

Scheduled to compete are Charles Demond Johnson from Lowndes High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Johnson of Route 10, and Elizabeth Pond Foster from Valdosta High School and the daughter of Patricia Foster of Valdosta.

The day will begin at 8:45 a.m. with registration, followed by a welcome, campus tour, information sessions about various aspects of college, and interviews by faculty and administrators. A luncheon is planned for 1:30 p.m. with recognition of the semi-finalists.

Students are selected to participate in the semi-final round of this competitive event based on their high school performance, test scores, extracurricular activities and leadership skills. Each of the semi-finalists involved in the competition will be offered an academic scholarship. Awards will vary in amount, with the two full-cost Quattlebaum Scholarships being the highest offered.

Hitson, Wright Commit To Southern

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Georgia Southern University football team celebrated Super Sunday but it had nothing to do with Sunday's Super Bowl XXV in Tampa.

The Eagles landed two of Valdosta's hottest football prospects over the weekend as Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson and Lowndes running back Chris Wright both verbally committed to continue their football careers with the Division I-AA national champions.

Wright committed Sunday evening after fittings with Florida State.

"FSU called me about two o'clock today and offered me a scholarship. But then they called back and said they wouldn't be able to offer me a scholarship so I went with Georgia Southern," Wright said. "I feel pretty good about it and I hope I have the chance to go in and start my freshman year. I think I can do pretty well."

Hitson decided on the Eagles Friday after visiting the program the weekend before. After his trip to Statesboro, he cancelled a scheduled visit to The Citadel in Charleston, S.C.

"Georgia Southern's pretty close to here and they know how to win," Hitson said. "I talked to Carlos (Parker, former Wildcat and GSU running back) a lot when I went up there and he liked the school and the environment."

Both Wright and Hitson have qualified academically. Wright said the Eagles plan to use him at their A-back position, the GSU name for the slotback position. Hitson was given a choice of positions by the Southern coaches and he indicated he will try the safety spot.

"Coming up this year, they'll have a lot of seniors back there but the next year, they won't. I hope I can get some playing time then," Hitson said. "But nothing is sure yet. I could still get moved to another position, maybe quarterback."

"The A-back is a cross between the tailback and the wide receiver positions. I like that because I can either run or catch the ball, whatever they need. It gives me a lot of flexibility,"

Wright said. "Alton and I talked together and I told him if I didn't go to FSU, I'd go to Southern. I think we're going to be happy there. Their coaches said they liked players from Valdosta because we're hungry."

Wright turned down offers from Indiana, Memphis State and Mississippi.

Both players were big contributors to their teams' winning records this year. Wright was a two-year starter for the Vikings and shined his senior year with 703 yards on 123 carries for a 5.7 average. He scored 10 touchdowns rushing and he also caught six passes for 54 yards. Wright was fourth in the Region I-AAAA in rushing and second in scoring.

See COMMITMENTS, Page 3-B

"I think they had 11 more points from the line than we did. But what can you say about our team? Nobody gave us much of a chance coming into the game but we led most of the way. I thought we played well but they just got us when it counted."

The Wildcats had control of the game throughout and they built an eight-point lead in the first quarter, a seven-point lead at halftime and a 12-point lead in the third quarter. But Graham and Godfrey led the Viking rally in the final eight minutes.

Godfrey led both teams with 25 teams while Graham had 11 and Thomas had 10. Valdosta kept the Vikings' leading scorer, Ollie Daniels, to five points on the night. Godfrey also had 16 rebounds. Valdosta was led by Moore with 22 points and 12 rebounds while Lowe had 19 points. Eddie Emanuel had 12 points while Steinberg swiped 10 rebounds.

Lowndes is now 12-4 overall and 7-2 in the region with their final region game coming this Friday in Bainbridge. Valdosta is 4-11 overall and 1-6 in the region. The Wildcats visit Tift County Friday night.

From Page 1-B

Peeler canned both free throws and Lowndes had a 3-point lead, 70-67. As soon as the Wildcats inbounded the ball, Lowe ran down-court and, behind a pick from Moore, launched a long 3-pointer. The ball hit the back of the rim, bounced straight up ... and in for the tie with 54 seconds left.

"When I saw it hit the back of the rim, I just hoped that we had good position for the rebound," said Wilkes. "But then it went in and I couldn't believe it. I felt like it was over."

It might've been when Frank Mazion stole the ball with 36 seconds left and was fouled by Godfrey as he attempted a 3-pointer with five seconds left. Mazion missed both shots and Lowndes still had a chance.

Thomas threw the LHS inbound pass to Neloms, who caught it at halfcourt, drove down and was fouled with two seconds left to sink the game-winners.

"They beat us at the free throw line," said Valdosta coach John Miller.

From Page 1-B

"Chris was our Most Valuable Player and he still has a shot to make the North-South All-Star game," said Lowndes head coach Rick Tomberlin. "Chris has great character and great courage and I think he's going to be a great college football player."

Hitson's career with the Wildcats after he moved to quarterback from wide receiver on the second day of preseason workouts before his junior year. With Hitson behind center, Valdosta compiled a two-year record of 27-1-1 and has consecutive state championships to show for his work, the only quarterback in the history of the state's AAAA category that can make such a claim.

Hitson finished his 14-game senior campaign with 409 rushing yards on

151 attempts and eight touchdowns. He also completed 58 passes in 126 attempts for 1,003 yards with six interceptions and seven touchdowns.

"I'm delighted for Alton — I think he will be one of the alltime favorites at Valdosta High School," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said of Hitson. "He's just the type of player that can make any number of contributions and he excels when the pressure's on. Lots of players can bench a lot of weight and lots of players can run well for the stopwatch but Alton does the job on the field. The reason teams like Georgia Southern wins national championships is because of players like Alton. They've got a jewel."

Hitson will officially end his high school career in the North-South Georgia All-Star game this summer.

Neloms' Shots Sink Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

For 23 minutes and 55 seconds Tuesday night, Sedrick Neloms sat on the Lowndes Viking bench and watched his teammates battle furiously with the Valdosta Wildcats. His role as a vocal supporter seemed minor.

But with five seconds remaining and the score tied, LHS center Randall Godfrey was whistled for his fifth foul. Neloms entered the game, was fouled and sank two free throws with two seconds left to give Lowndes a 72-70 decision over the Wildcats at the LHS gymnasium.

"That was a sophomore up there," said an exhausted Terry Wilkes. "During the whole game, my assistant coach David Adams was elbowing me saying 'Remember, we've got Sedrick over here.' Those were tough free throws."

Neloms' dramatics proved a fitting end for a back-and-forth game between rivals that traded the lead during the final period.

Valdosta led 63-58 after Billy Steinberg's free throw with 4:44 remaining. Lowndes' Eric Peeler cut that gap to three points with a jumper at the 4:23 mark and Godfrey sliced it to one point with a score inside with 3:37 left.

Michael Moore made it 65-62 with 3:19 left but Peeler, usually not a frequent shooter, canned another jumper to make the score 65-64 with 3:04 left. Lowndes gained its first lead of the second half 25 seconds later when Antwan Graham nailed a shot from the baseline as the Vikes led 66-65 with 2:39 to play.

Ernest Lowe returned the lead to the visitors with a pair of free throws 10 seconds later but Godfrey scored again inside to put Lowndes up 68-67 with just over two minutes left. With 1:30 left, Valdosta took the ball down-court looking for a good shot but Peeler, in his last home game as a Viking, stole the ball and was later

See VIKINGS, Page 3-B

Boys Game

VALDOSTA (70) — Matt Baker 2, Frank Mazion 8, Ernest Lowe 19, Joey Benjamin 2, Billy Steinberg 3, Michael Moore 22, Eddie Emanuel 12, Tharon Lane 2.

LOWNDES (72) — Eric Peeler 9, Ollie Daniels 5, Randall Godfrey 25, Jeffrey Thomas 10, Antwan Graham 11, Sedrick Neloms 2, Russell Barbee 10.

Valdosta 22 10 16 14—70
Lowndes 17 16 12 21—72

V. Times 1-30-91

V. Times

1-28-91

Wildcats Put Title On Line

VDT Fri., Feb. 1, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High School's wrestlers put their two-year area-championship win streak on the line this weekend. And while this season may not have gone like seasons past, first-year head coach Eddie Crocker says his team isn't giving up the title without a good fight.

Thirteen schools are entered in the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament which begins at 6 p.m. at Lowndes High School. Two rounds of competition for the 13 weight classes will be held tonight on two or three mats, with semifinals at 11 a.m. Saturday and wrestlebacks (consolation round) beginning at 1 p.m.

The championship round begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Valdosta's coach and his first season in South Georgia aren't the only new things about this year's area tournament. The last two years, Valdosta has won the title going against the familiar Region 1-AAAA schools plus the Columbus-area schools. But with those Columbus schools dropping to Class AAA this season, wrestling's Area 1-AAAA now includes Macon-Warner Robins and Savannah-area schools.

Entered from South Georgia are Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County, Coffee and Colquitt County. From the north are Northeast Macon, Southwest Macon, Central (Macon), Warner Robins, Northside-Warner Robins and Baldwin, with Effingham County and Groves from the east.

And while the southern coaches wonder what the northern and eastern schools will bring to Lowndes, Crocker and Lowndes coach Jim Morrell are hoping that recent successes carry over to this weekend.

"We're not going to go down without a fight," said Crocker. "We've got some better seeds than our records."

"If we perform this Saturday like we did last Saturday, we've got a shot."

Lowndes comes in as the hot team, winning four-straight dual matches at last Saturday's "Super Saturday" meet at Lowndes. Valdosta was a close second, winning three straight before losing to Lowndes, 38-36.

"We got more kids seeded than I thought we would," Morrell said after Thursday night's coaches meeting. "I'm optimistic. If we wrestle hard and aggressive, I'll be pleased."

Lowndes has three wrestlers seeded No. 1 in their weight classifications — Jamie Lamon, at 135 pounds, Chuck Pearson at 152 and Waymon Wright at 171. Two
See WRESTLING, Page 3-B

Wrestling

From Page 1-B

others are No. 2-seeded — David Black at 103 pounds and Ben Austin at 119 pounds.

Two Valdosta wrestlers are top seeds — 140-pounder Justin Bridges and heavyweight Eric Phillips. Freshman Raymond Kassum — who stepped in at 112 pounds to record four pins last Saturday — is seeded second.

The top six wrestlers in each classification advance to the state AAAA meet, set for next weekend.

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The top six wrestlers in each classification advance to the state AAAA meet, set for next weekend.

Region 1-AAAA's Races Still Unclear

VDT Mon., Feb. 4, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There may be only three games left on the Region 1-AAAA high school basketball schedule, but little has been decided about the seedings for next week's region tournament.

What has been decided is that Coffee High is the region's girls champion, while Valdosta High will be seeded fifth and Colquitt County sixth. Lowndes High will be either third or fourth, depending on a coin flip with Tuesday's Tift County at Bainbridge loser.

But in the boys' race, almost anything could happen.

For example, Lowndes High's boys could finish anywhere from first to fourth, depending on the outcome of two of this week's games — Tift County at Bainbridge Tuesday, and Valdosta at Coffee Friday. Lowndes finished the region schedule with an

overtime loss at Bainbridge Friday, and ends the regular season Tuesday at Berrien.

Lowndes could get the top seed, or be second, third or fourth, if Tift and Coffee win their games. This would put the region in a four-way tie for first, with a coin flip deciding the seedings.

If Bainbridge wins, it will be the region champion and the top seed. Tift will be fourth, and Coffee must win to tie Lowndes for the second spot. Since the teams split their region meetings, a coin flip would determine the seedings — with the winner seeded second and getting the bye. If Coffee lost, Lowndes would be the second seed.

If Tift and Valdosta won the games, Bainbridge, Tift and Lowndes would be tied for first and flip coins for the seeds.

Meanwhile, Valdosta must win one of its last two games to clinch the fifth seed.

Region 1-AAAA

BOYS REGION STANDINGS

Bainbridge.....	7-2
Lowndes.....	7-3
Coffee.....	6-3
Tift County.....	6-3
Valdosta.....	1-7
Colquitt County.....	0-9

GIRLS REGION STANDINGS

x-Coffee.....	8-1
Bainbridge.....	6-3
Tift County.....	6-3
Lowndes.....	6-4
Valdosta.....	2-6
Colquitt County.....	0-9

x-clinched region title

TUESDAY

Valdosta at Colquitt County
Tift County at Bainbridge

FRIDAY

Valdosta at Coffee
Region 1-AAAA tournament at South Georgia College, Feb. 13-16. Top two teams in each group receive byes to Feb. 15 semifinals. Semifinal winners advance to the first round of the state tournament Feb. 28-March 1 at Macon (boys) and West Laurens (girls).

Baldwin Has Semis Edge

YDT Sat., Feb. 2, 1991
 ■ See semifinal matchups, Page 2-B

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

Baldwin High will enter today's final day of the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament with a bit of advantage over the rest of the 13-team field.

But close behind are three to four more teams with a shot at the area title.

Baldwin qualified seven of its 13 wrestlers for this morning's semifinals, and has a five-point lead (50-45) over Northeast Macon in the team standings.

Following closely behind are three to four other teams, including the host Lowndes.

The Vikings qualified six wrestlers for the semifinals, and were in third place in the team points at 43.5.

The team points do not include results from the 119-pound class, due to computer problems.

Today's action begins at 11 a.m. at the Lowndes High gym with the semifinals.

The consolation (wrestlebacks) round begins at 1 p.m., with the consolation finals at 4:30 p.m.

The championship finals begin at 6:30 p.m.

"Pretty good," said Baldwin coach Ken Thomas in his first-day assessment. "But it's only the first day."

"I expected five in the semifinals, but two more came through. Our 140-pounder (Matt Goins) and 145-pounder (Ricky Moore) were surprises."

Baldwin's two top seeds which advanced to the semifinals were 103-pound Matt Clay and 160-pounder Sherrod Fraley.

Lowndes, along with Coffee and Southwest Macon, each qualified six wrestlers for the semifinals.

"I'm proud we've got six in the semifinals, but we could have had one more," said Lowndes assistant coach Dan Casterline. "They have very tough matches tomorrow, but I'd like to think all six could make the finals."

"We will be ready to go tomorrow."

Lowndes No. 1-seeds which advanced included 135-pounder Jamie Lamon, 152-pounder Chuck Pearson and 171-pounder Waymon Wright.

Also making the semifinals were 160-pounder Antwain Marshall, 103-pounder David Black and 119-pounder Ben Austin.

Lowndes will go against Baldwin in two semifinal matches — Pearson vs. Curtis Mack and Marshall vs. Fraley.

Lowndes will go against Southwest Macon in one semifinal match (Lamon vs. Bennie Smith) and against Coffee in another semifinal match (Austin vs. Travis London).

Valdosta's two-year hold on the area title may have taken a severe blow Friday night.

The Wildcats had four wrestlers advance to the semifinals, but scored just 19.5 team points — including losing a point for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Valdosta's top seeds advancing included heavyweight Eric Phillips and 140-pounder Justin Bridges. Also moving on was 112-pounder Raymond Kassum and 119-pounder Ryan Thigpen.

Two Valdosta wrestlers — Kassum and Bridges — will go against Baldwin wrestlers in the semifinals.

The second round of Friday's tournament was a fast-paced circuit, with 42 pins and four technical decisions (15 points or more advantage) in the 52 matches.

The top six wrestlers from each weight class will advance to next weekend's state tournament.



Valdosta's Steve Hubbard is lifted by Coffee High's Josh Perry in the 125-pound class Friday at the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

2-B Saturday, February 2, 1991

Wrestling

Area Wrestling

Here are today's semifinalists in the Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament being held at Lowndes High. The semifinals begin at 11 a.m.:

103 pounds: Matt Clay (Baldwin) vs. Alton Ford (Southwest Macon); Jason Turner (Central) vs. David Black (Lowndes).

112 pounds: Carlos Braswell (Northeast Macon) vs. Eric Johnson (Coffee); Don Andrews (Baldwin) vs. Raymond Kassum (Valdosta).

119 pounds: Terrence Williams (Southwest Macon) vs. Ryan Thigpen (Valdosta); Travis London (Coffee) vs. Ben Austin (Lowndes).

125 pounds: Jose Deltoro (Tift) vs. Anthony Laff (Coffee); Zack Barnes (Baldwin) vs. Jamie Wells (Effingham).

130 pounds: Stacy Grady (Coffee) vs. Ray Scott (Effingham); Allen Richter (Warner Robins) vs. Milton Smith (Central).

135 pounds: Jamie Lamon (Lowndes) vs. Bennie Smith (Southwest Macon); Stacy Clemmons (Coffee) vs. Kenny Grant (Central).

140 pounds: Justin Bridges (Valdosta) vs. Matt Goins (Baldwin); Greg Martin (Northside) vs. Demetrius Campbell (Coffee).

145 pounds: Ricky Moore (Baldwin) vs. Carlos Rhodes (Southwest Macon); Jacob Neal (Northside) vs. Sunking Rodriguez (Warner Robins).

152 pounds: Chuck Pearson (Lowndes) vs. Curtis Mack (Baldwin); Joe Dingle (Warner Robins) vs. J.W. Vincent (Northside).

160 pounds: Sherrod Fraley (Baldwin) vs. Antwain Marshall (Lowndes); Darrell Mydell (Effingham) vs. Jeff Hodges (Northeast Macon).

171 pounds: Waymon Wright (Lowndes) vs. David Woolen (Effingham); Rendell Jackson (Northeast Macon) vs. Wayne Thompson (Northside).

189 pounds: Terrance Ellis (Northeast Macon) vs. Larry Insalaco (Effingham); Tim Hicks (Southwest Macon) vs. Bill Doss (Tift).

Heavyweight: Eric Phillips (Valdosta) vs. Vincent Farrar (Central); Rocky Lasster (Tift) vs. Haywood Simmons (Southwest Macon).

TEAM SCORES (Through two rounds): Baldwin 50, Northeast Macon 45, Lowndes 43.5, Southwest Macon 39.5, Effingham 38, Central 37.5, Northside 33, Coffee 30, Warner Robins 30, Valdosta 19.5, Tift County 18, Groves 4, Colquitt 0. (does not include scores from 119-pound class due to computer problems).

Seniors' Signing Day Nears

By CHRIS BECKHAM
 Times Assistant Sports Editor

Nearly all the pieces are in place as the national signing day for high school football recruits draws closer.

Most of the big names in the area have narrowed their list, checked it twice and decided which school would really be nice before signing their national letters of intent this Wednesday.

Already, the field of available recruits has been narrowed. Lowndes High quarterback Jeffrey Thomas decided over a week ago to attend the University of Georgia, shunning serious offers from

Nebraska and Clemson. Thomas' teammate Chris Wright chose Georgia Southern last Sunday as did Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson.

Of the local prospects, the one with the most accolades is also taking the most time before choosing. Tift County's Clay Shiver, a 6-4, 255-pound center considered by some as best offensive lineman in the state, told *The Times* Thursday that he will decide this evening on his choice of schools.

Shiver has visited Auburn, Georgia Tech and Florida State and went to the University of Georgia this weekend. He said he would

return from Athens Saturday night and take a day to himself before making a decision.

"I guess I didn't expect it to be this hard," Shiver said. "They're all good schools and I don't think I could go wrong any way I go. It's still going to come down to location and the quality of the people I meet because that's where I'll be for the next four or five years."

Shiver is reportedly going to choose from between Florida State and Georgia. His older brother Stan started at strong safety for the Seminoles before playing one year with the Green Bay Packers. Another of Shiver's brothers, Todd,

was a pitcher at Georgia Tech.

Several more Valdosta players are expected to make a decision in the coming week. Wildcat linebacker Jonathan Davis is leaning toward Carson-Newman, head coach Nick Hyder's alma mater, although he will still visit Fort Valley State next weekend.

Accompanying Davis on the trip to Fort Valley will be the Wildcats' three starting defensive linemen: Ricky Thomas, M.J. Johnson and Andre Scruggs. All three are close to making 700 on the SAT and have been offered scholarships by Fort Valley. VHS defensive line coach Larry Jester is a Fort Valley alum-

nus.

Deric Cotton, the one-time Valdosta quarterback who was switched to safety this year, is leaning toward attending the Naval Academy Prep School where Valdosta defensive back Chris Hart went after graduating last year.

In Madison, Fla., running back Frankie Wilkins has also not made a decision yet. Rated as one of the top backs in Florida, Wilkins has apparently narrowed his list to Florida or Florida State, according to head coach Bud O'Hara. Also, O'Hara said Cowboy linebacker Rod Williams has committed to Florida A&M.

At Ease/A Weekly Feature About Trends In Leisure

Couple Travels Globe

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

JENNINGS, Fla. — There are several ways to make history and other cultures come alive, and Don and Rosalie Allison's way is to experience it firsthand.

For 15 years the couple has traveled to Europe at least twice a year and other parts of the world.

"We spent Christmas in London," said Dr. Allison about their most recent trip.

It all began when the couple took their first trip to Europe. "After the first time I took her, she was hooked," he said.

While his wife had never been overseas, Allison had been there before as a young serviceman stationed in France.

Being "hooked" meant traveling to an estimated 30 countries in Europe, the Caribbean and South America. This also included the North American countries of Mexico and Canada. The couple usually conducts tours for groups.

It is hard to pinpoint their favorite place because they have "enjoyed them all," but Allison said Ronda, Spain, is on the top of the list.

"Hemingway said if you can't fall in love in Ronda, then you can't fall in love," he said.

The Swiss Alps is also one of his favorites. "They are so different," he said.

Dr. Allison said Yugoslavia was among the most "intriguing places" they have traveled.

Usually when the couple travels they stay for about a month in an apartment in Madrid, Spain. They then take several one- to five-day trips to surrounding countries.

There have been several high points while traveling. The couple attended a tea with the arch deacon of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The



Don and Rosalie Allen of Jennings, Fla., who lead travel tours overseas, plan their

next trip to Spain this summer — Times Staff Photo By Jeff Allen.

opportunity arose through a woman in the group who was a long-time friend with the arch deacon's sister.

On another occasion, they arrived back at their hotel to find a floor of guards armed with machine guns. While they were gone for the day, a peace delegation from the Soviet Union had checked in the hotel.

Fully experiencing another culture means experiencing the food. The

couple has eaten octopus in Spain and escargot in France. "Escargot is kind of like eating oysters," Allison said.

While traveling, the couple does not always stick to the tourist route but "will travel off the beaten path."

The couple will return to Spain this summer where they will gather with many of their Spanish friends they have made.

They still want to travel "down under" to Australia and New Zealand. They also wish to go to Hungary and Poland. Dr. Allison said she wants to have an extended stay in Belgium to trace her maternal family history.

As far as traveling the United States is concerned, they plan to save it for when they find traveling overseas too difficult.

Georgia Legislature Honors Cats

VDT Tues., Feb. 5, 1991

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Georgia legislature took a break Monday to honor the Valdosta Wildcat football team in Atlanta. A group of 41 seniors made the trip along with head coach Nick Hyder and other Valdosta School System officials.

After arriving in Atlanta just after 9 a.m., the group sat in on a joint session of the legislature. Then, both the Senate and the House of Representatives honored the AAAA state champions with proclamations and gave the team a standing ovation.

"It's hard to describe a feeling like that," said Valdosta tailback Joe Wright. "You just had to be there. Everybody on the team really enjoyed it a lot. There was a lot to do."

"They treated us real nice and all of them were real friendly," said offensive lineman Giles Godwin. "They singled us out because of the year we had and because of our record. We got to see a lot of things that most of us had never seen before."

The team visited the museum located in the capital building and then listened as Hyder addressed the Senate. After lunch at the Twin Towers, they visited the Martin Luther King memorial. The Wildcats departed from Atlanta around 3 p.m.

In past years, only the captains of the state championship squad made the trip to be recognized. But Hyder decided that the entire senior class represent the only team in the history of Georgia's AAAA class to win consecutive state crowns.

Gov. Zell Miller was out of town according to Valdosta Superintendent Walter Altman who accompanied the team on the trip. But Altman added that Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard did speak to the group.

The team was also able to sit in on a speech given by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

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3 Cats Sign, Changes Ahead

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

As three Valdosta High School football players took their first steps into college football, two of them took steps toward new positions.

The three Wildcats — Deric Cotton, Jonathan Davis and Alton Hitson — signed their necessary scholarship and letter-of-intent papers at Hitson's West Valdosta home Wednesday night — the first day high school football players could make written commitments to their intended colleges.

Cotton will join the list of Wildcats continuing their academic and athletic careers at the United States Naval Academy. He will begin his stint at the academy's prep school, where 1989 team captain Chris Hart is currently enrolled.

Davis will attend Carson-Newman College, the alma mater of Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. Hitson agreed to attend Georgia Southern University.

As the plans are now, Cotton will get a shot at playing quarterback — a position he played as a backup for

two years before moving to safety this past season. There he picked off three passes as a starter, and made some key tackles both on defense and the kickoff-coverage team.

"The name itself — the Naval Academy — attracted me," Cotton said. "Their recruiter talked about the opportunities I'd have, the variety of opportunities."

He'll also have an opportunity to be that drop-back passer not seen in Valdosta's offensive scheme. "They feel I can do the job, so all I have to do is go up there and do my best," Cotton said. "If not, then I'll go to defensive back."

Hitson, the Wildcats' two-year starter at quarterback, will see his signalcalling days end with this summer's Georgia North-South all-star game. Hitson says he'll play safety for the two-time defending Division I-AA national champions.

"I won't miss playing quarterback. That's just something that happened because of injuries. It's something I had to do," Hitson said.

Hitson was 27-1-1 as a starter at quarterback, leading the Wildcats to

See WILDCATS, Page 4-B



Valdosta's three signees (bottom left to right) Alton Hitson, Jonathan Davis and Deric Cotton are joined by Valdosta coaches (top left to right) Mike O'Brien, Nick Hyder and Charles Tarpley at Hitson's home Wednesday — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

the valdosta Daily Times

Wildcats

From Page 2-B

back-to-back state titles for the first time since 1968-69. Hitson was the first VHS quarterback to be on two title teams in 30 years.

Georgia Southern's winning ways — four I-AA titles in the last six years — was a major factor in Hitson's decision. "The winning and the closeness of the team," Hitson said.

This past season, Hitson ran for 448 yards and passed for 1,031 more. He ran for 10 touchdowns and threw for seven more — in on 17 of VHS' 33 offensive touchdowns. He was VHS's team captain.

Davis may be the sleeper of the bunch, though he did make himself known this season as part of the hard-nosed defense which allowed just one touchdown in four playoff

games. The 1990 season was the inside linebacker's first full season after recovering from a twice-broken leg.

"Jonathan bench-presses more than anybody we've ever had. He has great upper-body strength," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.

"Coach Hyder was talking to me about Carson-Newman, and the coaches there had been talking to me about the campus," Davis said.

Valdosta Pops Colquitt County

Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — The Valdosta High Wildcats built a double-figure lead in fourth period, then held off the Colquitt County Packers to post a 56-51 Region 1-AAAA victory Tuesday night.

Esther Benjamin scored 20 points to go along with six blocked shots to pace the Lady Wildcats past the Lady Packers, 54-40.

The sweep improves the Wildcats' overall mark to 5-13 and the Lady Wildcats, who clinches the fifth-place spot in the region with the win, are now 8-9 on the year.

Valdosta High trailed by just two points at halftime. But VHS outscored the Packers 18-6 in the third period to open up a 10-point advantage.

The Wildcats were led by guard Ernest Lowe. Lowe finished with 20 points, Michael Moore added 15 and Eddie Emanuel had 10.

Forced to foul in the final minutes of the game, Colquitt County closed

the gap thanks to seven missed free throws on the part of Valdosta.

The Lady Wildcats led the Lady Packers by only a 14-11 count after the first period. Valdosta then took a 26-17 lead at intermission behind the passing of guard Vashti Manning and shooting by Benjamin and Natasha Johnson.

Manning, who scored 10 points, handed out eight assists in the game. Johnson scored 15 points and had 11 rebounds for VHS.

In other 1-AAAA hoop action Tuesday, the Bainbridge Bearcats clinched its third straight regular-season region crown with a 58-53 win over Tift County while the Lady Bearcats won 41-39.

Coffee High and the Lowndes High Vikings are tied for second with three losses. A Coffee win over VHS Friday would force a coin flip to decide the second seed in next week's 1-AAAA tourney.

On the girls' side, Tift County's loss forces a tie with the Lowndes High Vikettes for the third seed.

VDT Wed., February 6, 1991

VHS Has Bomb Scare

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

A bomb scare, which sent Valdosta High School students home Friday morning, was a hoax, say city police and fire officials. But the makeshift device was so convincing, Moody Air Force Base's bomb squad detonated controlled explosives to destroy it.

"It's the closest thing to a real bomb we've had," said Valdosta Police Chief Charlie Spray comparing it with past area bomb threats. "Our investigation is continuing, but it looks like somebody's idea of a sick joke."

He said the bomb was about the size of a juice can with plenty of wiring. And though it didn't look like a "professional job," Spray said it was wired well enough to be mistaken by experts as the real thing.

Whomever placed the device in the school faces both state and fed-

eral felony charges, he said. There also were no signs of a forced entry into the school, he said.

Though both Spray and Valdosta Fire Chief Richard Williams said there was only one non-explosive device, rumors of more than one bomb to dynamite in the school flooded Valdosta.

Police and fire officials received a call from Valdosta High School personnel around 7:30 a.m. Friday after teachers making morning rounds found a wired device hooked to one of the storage lockers in the cafeteria.

A Valdosta High teacher, who would not give his name, told *The Valdosta Daily Times* the device looked real with wiring, trigger mechanisms and something that looked like a battery hanging from the locker.

Students were never allowed into the building for morning classes and
See HOAX, Page 2-A



Moody Air Force Base Bomb Squad finishes up after working on an alleged bomb found in a locker in the Valdosta High School cafeteria Friday — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Hoax

From page 1-A
there was no phoned-in bomb threat, Spray said.

Moody's bomb squad was contacted after police arrived. The bomb squad came equipped with a robot programmed to deal with explosives, Spray said.

Spray said his people and Moody personnel thought the bomb was

real and set controlled explosives to destroy the device.

At 9:20 a.m., a yell, "fire in the hole," was heard, followed by billowing smoke and a muffled "boom." The explosion caused minor damage to some of the school's lockers, officials said.

There were no injuries. Spray said they then learned the

device was unarmed and described it as being about the size of a normal juice can with wiring and tape.

Moody officials refused comment and said it was a Valdosta Police Department matter.

Neither the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation were contacted,

Spray said.

Hundreds of Valdosta High School students walked, drove or waited for buses home Friday morning. Though there were no incident reports Friday evening, police scanners buzzed as area students were showing up everywhere from convenience store parking lots to other area schools.

VDT - Sun., Feb. 3, 1991
Hyder Honored

Valdosta High Wildcats football coach Nick Hyder has been recognized by Georgia Secretary of State Max Cleland as an Outstanding Georgian of the Year.

The coach was presented a certificate by Cleland at the Rotary Club of Valdosta-North's cystic fibrosis fundraiser auction Saturday night.



HYDER

"He is extremely well deserving of it," said Cleland, adding that the last Georgian to receive the statewide top honor was famous actress Kim Basinger. "He motivates young people to lives of excellence."

Cleland also said Valdosta is the high school football envy of the state and the nation, and "More and more Valdosta and Lowndes County stands tall in our state."

Hyder said he is overwhelmed to be the recipient of the esteemed honor, especially since it was presented to him by Cleland, for whom Hyder holds much respect.

Cleland said the Valdosta High School football coach was nominated for the honor by Valdosta businessmen Jim Halter and Lena Bosch. The award is received only by about six Georgians each year, and Hyder is the first recipient in 1991.

Feb. 9, 91
Valdosta Is Swept

Staff Reports VDT Sat.

DOUGLAS — The Coffee High Trojans came into Friday's Region 1-A AAAA clash against Valdosta High with second place on the line. Coffee did get the prize it was after at the South Georgia College gymnasium.

The Trojans galloped past the Wildcats, 66-44, behind the 11-point scoring of center Billy Vereen. Coffee's 1-A AAAA finale puts it in a two-way tie for second place with the Lowndes High Vikings. Both teams finished region play at 7-3. The second-place seed, and first-round tournament bye, will be decided with a coin flip Monday morning.

In the girls game, the Lady Trojans took a commanding 30-6 half-time lead and went on to beat the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats, 56-38.

The Lady Trojans finish 1-A AAAA play with a 9-1 mark and a first-place bye in next week's region tourney.

Both the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats finish in fifth place. The Wildcats end the regular season at 5-14 and were 2-8 in the region. The Lady Wildcats finished up at 3-7 in the region.

The Trojans led, 20-13, at the end of the first period. But the turning point for the Wildcats came in the second period. VHS was held to just five points in the period, while Coffee bagged 18 points.

From that point, the Trojans, who led 38-18, simply matched VHS the rest of the contest.

Valdosta's scoring leader was Ernest Lowe with 15.

The Lady Trojans were led by Regina Wilson's 17 points. Valdosta's center Esther Benjamin led all players in the game with 19.

Valentines 'Blooming' At Valdosta Schools

VDT, Sun., Feb. 10, 1991
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

While some high schools nationwide are banning Valentine's Day deliveries, high schools in Valdosta and Lowndes County welcome the flowery tradition.

"It's a human touch that's part of growing up," said Emily Anderson, principal of Valdosta's private school Valwood. "We're not so large that we can't handle it."

Principals of Valdosta High and Lowndes High feel the same, although they are dealing with a much larger number of flower, balloon and candy deliveries.

"The kids enjoy it, and you can't take everything away from them," said William Aldrich, VHS principal. "If you can work it out so that it doesn't interfere with classes, and I think we have done that, then I don't see any problem with it."

Aldrich estimates about 500 flower and balloon deliveries are received at the school each Valentine's Day. LHS Dennis Tipton said his school handles about 800 deliveries.

Both of the public high schools have similar game plans for getting the deliveries to the students with

minimal disruption.

At VHS, only florists may make deliveries, which must be received by 1 p.m. Students are given messages and can pick up their flower or balloon arrangements from the high school gym between classes.

LHS's organization is similar, with student pick-ups in the school's lobby area between classes. The florists visit after school to pick up all the arrangements for students who were absent on Valentine's Day.

Tipton said the Valdosta florists cooperate with the schools and help deliveries to run smoothly.

"We've never thought of banning Valentine's Day deliveries, but we're always thinking of ways to make it run more smoothly," Tipton said.

Mrs. Anderson said the student council at Valwood has another treat for its Valentines — lollipops with special messages. It's a tradition which started only a couple of years ago.

Valwood students can buy lollipops which say "I Love You" in either Spanish or French in advance of Valentine's Day for 50 cents each. The lollipops, which have special messages attached from the sender, are delivered by teachers at the end of classes.



Valdosta High School Football Coach Nick Hyder talks to prospective football players.

Times 2-10-91

The Start Of Something Big

Building the foundation for what football fans will see at Cleveland Field and Martin Stadium this fall starts long before the first kickoff, and long before those first heat-filled days of football camps in August.

That foundation is being built now in the weight rooms at Valdosta and Lowndes high schools, as youngsters dreaming of hearing those Friday-night cheers work now toward those nights.

At Valdosta High, work for that possible third-straight state Class AAAA championship begins early in the morning. The traditional "morning workouts" which head coach Nick Hyder instituted when he came to Valdosta in 1974 start around 6 a.m. Some 170 student-athletes have answered the call for the early-bird exercises, which

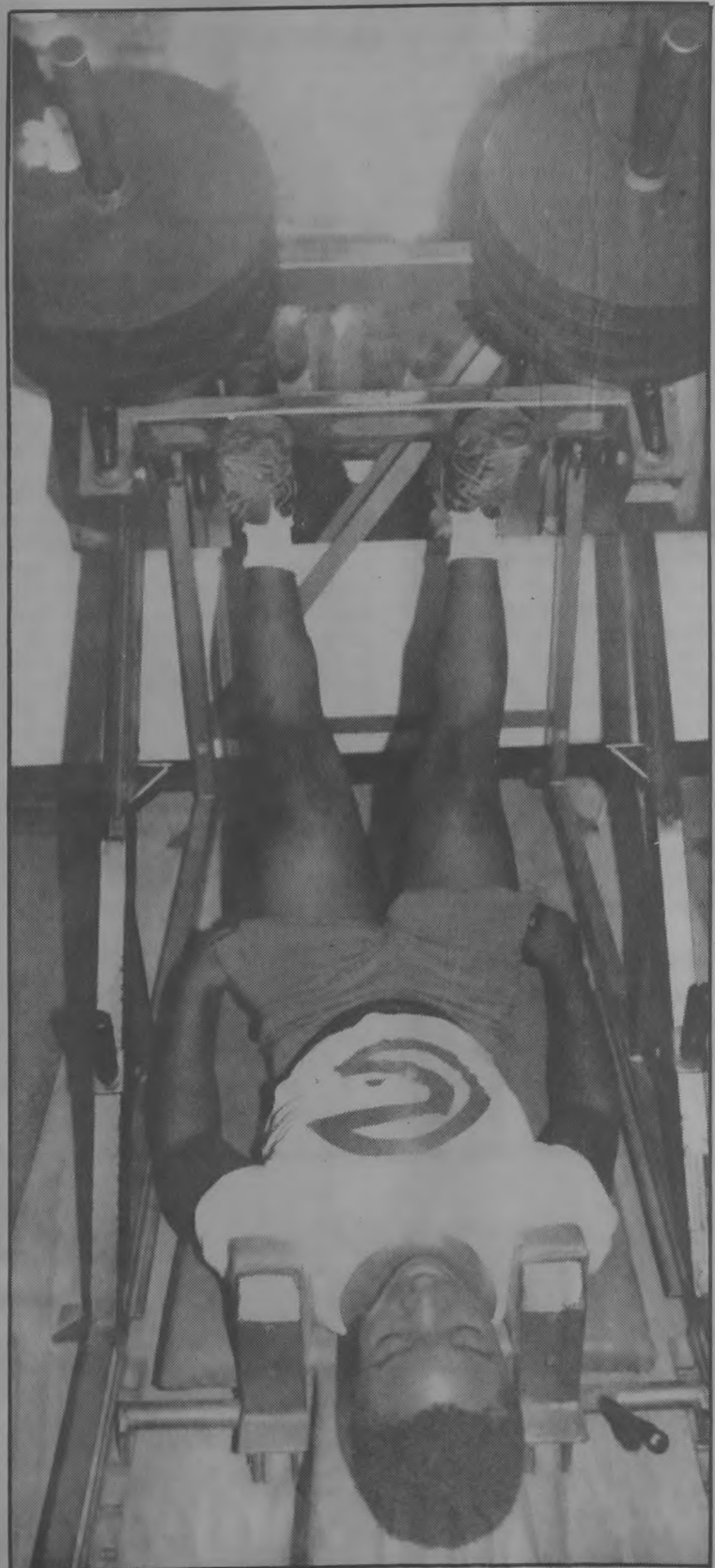
began last week.

At Lowndes High, the Vikings continue their building process as part of the regular physical-education classes. Having the players work in the weight room has been a priority for head coach Rick Tomberlin and staff, and the labors showed in 1990 as the Vikings improved from a 2-8 record to a 6-4 mark.

In 201 days, the 1991 high school football season starts. Lowndes High heads north on Interstate 75 to play at Warner Robins on Aug. 30. The next night, Valdosta High hosts McEachern High — the first of eight-straight home games for the Wildcats.

The work toward those nights has begun.

— By GREG McILVAIN



Levalis Paul works out at football practice.



Valdosta High School wrestler Justin Bridges left two years of frustration on the mat Saturday, when he finally captured an area championship.

Bridges, who was a two-time area runnerup, defeated Dewayne Campbell of Coffee High in the 140-pound class by a 7-5 decision.

"This was something I've been thinking about since I started. I came close the last two years and now I have my area championship," said Bridges.

VDT: Sun., Feb. 3, 1991



Carlos Demps and Derrick Henderson do over and unders at football training at Valdosta High School.



Six members of the Valdosta High School football team agreed to play football for Fort Valley State Wednesday night. Picture above with family members. In the second picture are, from left, Andre Scruggs, M.J. Johnson, Ricky Thomas and Jonathan Davis, along with family members — Times Photos by Jeff Allen

'Cats Send Six To Fort Valley

VDT, Thurs., Feb. 14, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Fort Valley State's football program nearly transplanted the entire Valdosta High School defense onto its campus Wednesday night.

Six starters off the Cats' stingy defense plan to attend the school this fall — including one player who changed his mind after last week's decision.

The six include down linemen M.J. Johnson, Andre Scruggs and Ricky Thomas, who were coached this sea-

son by Fort Valley alumnus Larry Jester. Also in the group are end Marcus Moss, linebacker Jonathan Davis and back Adrian Lewis.

All six met at Jester's South Valdosta home to sign the papers.

Davis chose Fort Valley State over Carson-Newman, with which he signed last Wednesday night. Davis visited Fort Valley this weekend, and told *The Valdosta Daily Times* Wednesday night that he would attend the Georgia school.

Because Carson-Newman (head coach Nick Hyder's alma mater) is

an NAIA school and Fort Valley is an NCAA school, Davis could accept offers from both schools and accept either one.

Jester — who played for Fort Valley from 1976-79, and was a Black College All-American in 1979 — took the six players for a visit of the campus this past weekend.

During the 1990 playoffs, which led to Valdosta High's second-straight Class AAAA state title, the Wildcats' defense allowed just one touchdown in four games.

L-Cats Short In Comeback

VDT, Fri., Feb. 15, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

DOUGLAS — The first half of play has plagued the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats all season. Thursday was no exception.

The Lady Wildcats were held scoreless for the final 4:21 of the second period. The drought proved to be enough for the Tift County Lady Blue Devils as they held off a late VHS rally to win 44-39 in Region 1-AAAA first-round tournament play.

Valdosta (8-12) trailed by three points (14-11) after the first period, but fell prey to the full-court pressure by the Lady Devils (16-8). The pressure forced eight VHS turnovers and accounted for 10 of Tift County's 12 second-period points.

In all, the Lady Wildcats turned the ball over 20 times — three times in the final 1:30 of the game.

"That's been our whole story, turnovers," said Lady Cats head coach Susan Montgomery. "We've played well in the final period, but just don't seem to have the same energy early in the game."

"I thought we fought very hard in the final stages of the game to get into position to win. We fought back and fought back all year," said Montgomery.

Tift County, who will now face top-seeded Coffee High in the semifinals, took advantage of the VHS miscues and broke away to an 11-point half-time edge (26-15).

Most of the damage came on an 11-0 run by the Lady Devils, with guard Becky Lastinger hitting on two 3-point shots. Lastinger led Tift with 11 points.

Entering the final period of play, VHS was down by 12 points. But as the Lady Wildcats have done many times this season, they rallied around the playmaking ability of guard Vashti Manning and center Esther Benjamin.

Benjamin opened the final period with a bank shot. Then Manning stole the ball and passed to Benjamin for another bucket.

Following a basket Tori Strawter and two free throws by Lastinger, Benjamin connected on back-to-back jumpers to cut Tift County's lead to 40-35 with 2:08 left.

See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

"I felt our team was finally starting to get some movement and create more baskets with the press," said Montgomery. "We were forcing them to give the ball up or force a shot. I was just worried about running out of time."

Lastinger sank one free throw some 40 seconds later, then Benjamin, who finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds, hit another shot in the lane after a pass from Manning, to make it 41-37.

VHS' Yolanda Benjamin then stepped in front of a crosscourt pass. After the steal, Amanda McGhin attempted a 3-point shot, but was wide. Patterson rebounded for Tift and was fouled. She hit just one free throw with 50 seconds left, leaving Valdosta down by five points (42-37).

VHS' Natahsa Johnson was wide on a shot in the lane. But Manning, who had five steals, came up with another steal and raced in for the layup and a 42-39 score with 32 seconds left.

Tift County later got a pair of free throws from Patterson to push the lead to five and ice the game.

In boys action, the Tift County Blue Devils opened up a 16-2 lead on the Valdosta High Wildcats and went on to defeat Valdosta, 62-47.

Led by Travis Williams' 22 points, the Devils connected on five 3-point shots and outrebounded VHS 28-16.

The Blue Devils (16-9) move on to play the Bainbridge High Bearcats. The Wildcats end their year at 5-15.

Tift County's Gannon Hall sank three 3-point shots, with Williams and Brett Taylor having the other two.

The Blue Devils never trailed the Wildcats, and build a 31-16 lead at intermission.

The lone spark for the Wildcats came from guard Ernest Lowe. Lowe scored 22 points and had five rebounds to lead VHS. Valdosta center Michael Moore chipped in with 12 points and nine boards.

Tift County put the game away for good in the third period. The Blue Devils held the Wildcats to just five points and grabbed a commanding 48-21 edge.

1-AAAA Tourney Starts 3-Day Run

VDT THURS, Feb. 14, 1991

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Region 1-AAAA Tournament

AT DOUGLAS SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

THURSDAY'S GAMES

4 p.m. — No. 4 Tift County girls (5-5 in region) vs. No. 5 Valdosta (3-7).

5:30 p.m. — No. 4 Tift County boys (6-4) vs. No. 5 Valdosta (2-8).

7 p.m. — No. 3 Lowndes girls (6-4) vs. No. 6 Colquitt County (0-10).

8:30 p.m. — No. 3 Coffee boys (7-3) vs. No. 6 Colquitt County (0-10).

FRIDAY'S GAMES

4 p.m. — No. 1 Coffee girls (9-1) vs. Thursday's 4 p.m. winner.

5:30 p.m. — No. 1 Bainbridge boys (8-2) vs. Thursday's 5:30 p.m. winner.

7 p.m. — No. 2 Bainbridge girls (7-3) vs. Thursday's 7 p.m. winner.

8:30 p.m. — No. 2 Lowndes boys (7-3) vs. Thursday's 8:30 p.m. winner.

SATURDAY'S GAMES

7 p.m. — Girls championship (pits Friday's winners).

8:30 p.m. — Boys championship (pits Friday's winners).

their 3-point shooters and at the same time be more patient on offense. That's what has happened lately to us. We're just too quick shooting and don't handle the ball well."

One team waiting in the wings today is Terry Wilkes' Lowndes High Vikings. The Vikings (13-6), who received a second-place bye, hopes this year's tourney will prove to be the ending of a second-place jinx.

For the past three seasons, the Vikings have been eliminated after one tournament contest. It's a trend Wilkes and Vikings are not interested in seeing go any further.

"That would be real nice to get over the hump. We don't really think of it as a jinx," said Wilkes. "We're anticipating a real good ballgame and going to give it all we've got."

"But if you can't finish on top, second is a pretty good place finish. It puts you one game away from state competition."

The Vikes will play Friday against today's winner between Coffee High and Colquitt County. And Wilkes is convinced it will be the Trojans marching to victory.

"... We're putting our all eggs in one basket and preparing for Coffee," said Wilkes.

While the goals remain the same, Lowndes High and Valdosta High enter the 1991 Region 1-AAAA basketball tournament on opposite paths.

The LHS Vikings and Vikettes are out to end losing streaks in post-season play. The VHS Wildcats and Lady Wildcats hope playing the roles of spoiler will be the road which takes them to the top.

First-round action starts today at South Georgia College in Douglas. And the first game of the day is a rematch of last year's semifinal clash between Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcats (8-11) and the Tift County Lady Blue Devils.

The Lady Devils' 38-28 upset of the top-seeded Lady Wildcats a year ago makes this game a very emotional one for VHS, according to Montgomery.

"We've discussed what happened last year with our team in great detail," said Montgomery. "I think last year we were caught looking ahead and there's no reason to think Tift will not be against us."

"One thing I want our kids to remember is that we've come up this road before as a No. 4 seed, and made it through," said Montgomery. "Tift, who is the defending tournament champions, can attest to the fact that anything can happen in a one-game deal."

As one of the tops seeds, the Lowndes High Vikettes (13-7) are just two wins away from a state tournament berth. However, there is only one thing on their mind — a tourney victory. The Vikettes have not won a post-season game since 1987.

"We're trying to be as honest as we can about this thing and emphasize to our people that we've worked five months to get to this point. It's time to play the way we're capable and take things, as many coaches say, one game at a time," said Vikettes' head coach Larry Maffit.

The Vikettes, winners in six of their last seven games, will take on the Colquitt County Lady Packers.

"Of course you want the bye, but I think things worked out well for us. Now we have to play hard the way I know we can to move on," said Maffit. "We need to try to be positive and realize that we are the only team, outside of Coffee, that has beaten every other team in the region."

The Valdosta Wildcats (5-14), winless against the Tift County Blue Devils during the regular-season, will get one more try for victory. And in this type of race, that's all VHS head coach John Miller could ask for.

"We've been telling our players that everybody is dead even now. Some pretty good teams are the favorites, and deservedly so. But we have a chance and a shot at the thing and I expect us to play hard," said Miller. "We've got to control

Questions And Answers/A Discussion With A Sports Figure



ERIC ANDERSON

Anderson Relaxed About Senior Season

■ Related Photo, Page 3-C

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Eric Anderson is taking the relaxed approach to his senior year at Valdosta State. After growing up as one of the top tennis players in the region and accepting a tennis scholarship at Furman University, he transferred back home so he could concentrate on his major as well as his serve.

As the Blazers' top seed, Anderson led his team to a win over Florida Tech Saturday as they enter the first

stage of the season. Anderson spoke to *The Times* following Saturday's win about his senior year and his career at Valdosta State.

QUESTION: What do you expect from the team this season?

ANDERSON: I really don't know. We took a lot of the NAIA schools off our schedule so that should help us some. NAIA schools don't have limits on scholarships so it's hard to compete with a team that has everyone on a full ride right through to number seven.

I think we've got a pretty solid team but we'll find out when we play Armstrong in a couple of weeks.

QUESTION: Have you set any goals for yourself for your senior year?

ANDERSON: Not tennis-wise. I want to go to nationals again but I'm just a lot more relaxed about it. I haven't even looked to see if or where I'm ranked. Priority-wise, tennis isn't as important as school right now. But I've found that I'm working harder and it benefits my game.

QUESTION: What are your plans after this year?

ANDERSON: I'm a chemistry major and I'm going to try to go to med-

ical school. I've already been accepted by one and hopefully I'll have some others so I can have some options on where to go.

QUESTION: Looking back on your transfer from Furman, how do you think it's turned out?

ANDERSON: Oh, I've been real happy here. Up there, there's really a lot more emphasis on tennis and I wouldn't be able to miss a practice or miss a match because of my school-work. I've known Coach Hansen practically all of my life so I knew it would work out if I came here and it has.

Arrest Made In VHS Bomb Scare

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School student was in juvenile custody Tuesday in connection with a bomb scare at the school Friday.

Valdosta Police Chief Charlie Spray told *The Valdosta Daily Times* the 16-year-old male is in custody at the Regional Juvenile Development Center in Thomasville.

Because of his age, the juvenile's name was not released.

Spray said the investigation into Friday morning's bomb scare at Valdosta High, which sent students home for the day, is continuing and more arrests may follow.

The juvenile was arrested late Monday after police questioned several witnesses and examined evidence, Spray said. Since juveniles are taken into cus-

tody differently than adults, there are no charges. Spray said an adult would have been charged with terrorist threats and acts, as well as criminal destruction of government property.

Valdosta police and city firefighters responded at about 7:30 a.m. Friday after teachers found a wired device connected to a cafeteria storage locker. Students were never allowed into

the building and were sent home.

Once local authorities arrived at the school, they decided the device looked enough like an explosive to contact the Moody Air Force Base bomb squad.

When Moody bomb experts arrived, they agreed.

Using a robot, the bomb squad attached controlled explosives to the device and detonated it at 9:20 a.m.

After the controlled explosion, authorities learned the device contained no explosives but only a series of wires attached to a container about the size of a juice can.

Several lockers in the cafeteria were damaged in the blast.

At the time of the bomb scare, Spray said the device did not look like a professional job, but appeared real enough.



SAMANTHA BRADLEY



TARA BROWN



TAMMIE COLSON



CASSANDRA GORDON



CORETTA JAMES



MARQUELLE MERRIWEATHER

Six Women Vie Today For Miss Black Valdosta

Six young women will compete for the title of Miss Black Valdosta today at Mathis city auditorium.

The pageant is being co-sponsored by the Southside Recreation Center, Magic 95 WGOV-AM and attorney Roy W. Copeland.

Gregory Battles and Jimmy Ingram will be the emcees. The contestants will be judged in six categories including talent, swimwear and eveningwear.

The winner of the pageant will receive an educational scholarship, and all of the contestants will receive trophies, plaques and certificates.

Carla Davis, the reigning Miss Black Valdosta, will perform and also crown the winner.

Other musical guests will include: The Boston Mass Choir, Jennifer Gilard, Regina Sirmans, Dexter Mitchell, Kenneth Washington, Richard Brown Trio and former Miss Black Valdosta, Angela Newton.

A short presentation on the history of black women will be rendered by Jackie Cooper, vice president of the Black History Committee.

The pageant is slated to begin at 4 p.m. Sandra Jones is the coordinator and Oliver Bradley is the director.

The contestants this year include:

Samantha Bradley, daughter of Jean Davis and the Rev. William L. Bradley of Thomasville. She is a senior at Valdosta State College, majoring in early childhood education. She enjoys meeting new people, singing, bowling and swimming. She's a member of Greater Union Baptist Church and her motto is: With man some things are possible, but with God all things are possible.

Tara Brown, 16-year-old daughter of Brenda McCormick. She is a student at Valdosta High School, and her hobbies are drawing, sewing and

singing. Miss Brown plans to attend college after graduation. She is being sponsored by Linda King of Valdosta Physical Therapy Inc.

Tammie Colson, a student at Lowndes High School. She's the daughter of Mary Colson. Miss Colson plans to move to Atlanta after graduation and continue her education at Morris Brown College. She loves to meet new people, and she also enjoys taking long walks, singing and dancing. Her motto is: "Life is what you make it and not what it seems." In the talent competition she will perform a popular Whitney Houston song.

Cassandra Gordon, 19-year-old daughter of Verma Gordon and Lewis Gordon. She graduated from Valdosta High School and is attending Valdosta Technical Institute, studying child care development. She says anything you can dream can be achieved if you try, so reach for the stars and try hard, you might catch one.

Coretta James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lee James of Valdosta. She's a senior at Valdosta High School. Miss James' major goal in life is to become a professional singer and music producer. Her motto is: "I can do all things through Christ Jesus, that strengthens me." She will sing a traditional gospel song in the talent competition.

Marquelle Merriweather, 20-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Merriweather of Valdosta. She attends Valdosta State College, pursuing a degree in communications. Her motto is: "Believe in yourself for there is no greater strength, climbing higher mountains and achieving your goals, making all your dreams come true." She is being sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. She will perform a dramatic monologue in the talent competition.

Students Named To Dean's Lists

VDT. Mon. Feb. 25, 1991
Kenneth Duane Chason of Valdosta has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Cumberland School of Law, Samford University. He is the son of William Chason.

To qualify for the honor, a law student must have earned a minimum 3.0 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 10 credit hours of course work.

Leslie Elizabeth Hiers, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Turner Hiers of Valdosta, has been named to the fall dean's list at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn.

Hiers, a sophomore English major, is a 1989 graduate of Valdosta High School. The dean's list recognizes students who have achieved a semester grade point average of 3.625 or higher.

Friday, February 22, 1991 A-7

Military Roundup

Cadet Anne L. Clark has been placed on the superintendent's list for academic and military excellence at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.

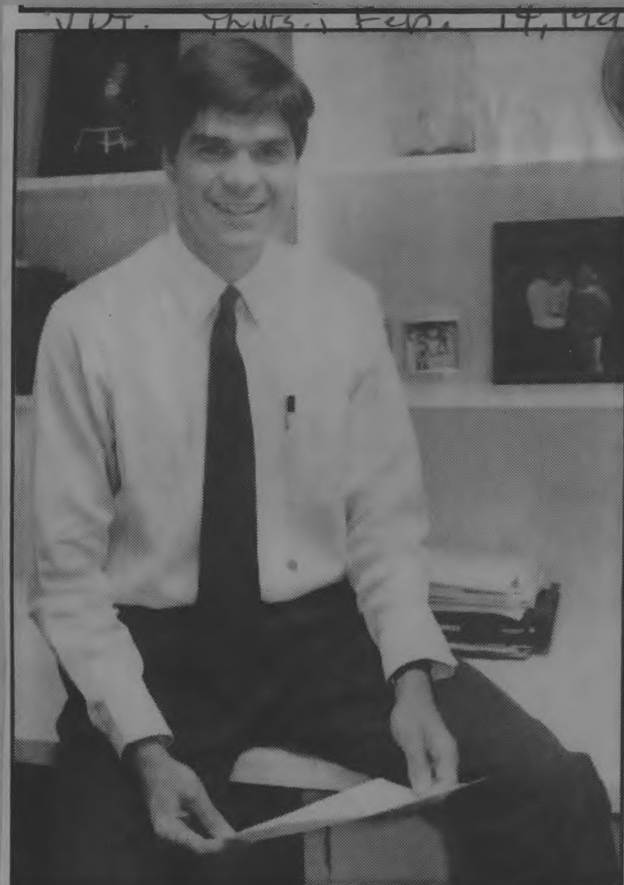
Clark is the daughter of retired Air Force Col. Richard R. and Jaqueline D. Clark of Valdosta.

She is a 1988 graduate of Valdosta High School.



VDT Sun., Feb. 17, 1991 **It's A Winner**

Valdosta State's Eric Anderson works during his singles match against Florida Tech Saturday at the VSC Tennis Courts. Anderson, Jonathan Lockeretz, Vedran Jankovic and Scott Hudler won singles matches in straight sets to lead Valdosta State's men's tennis team to a 5-4 win over Florida Tech. Jankovic and Chet Bundy pulled out the lone doubles win for the Blazers, who improved to 2-1. Valdosta State's next match is at Armstrong State on Feb. 25 — Times Photo by Jeff Allen



Ben Blanton was a two-year starter at center for the Valdosta High football team — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Blanton Realized His Dream

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When one thinks about Valdosta High School football, thoughts turn to championships and star performers. And while Ben R. Blanton didn't set any school records, he was in his own right a star.

As the team's offensive co-captain in 1976 and center for two seasons, Blanton was the triggerman on the Valdosta High offense. He was also a member on head coach Nick Hyder's first two winning squads at Valdosta.

"That's a pretty big thing to know I was a part of the first winning squads at VHS under Coach Hyder. Just playing in the Valdosta system is pretty impressive to say the least," said Blanton. "I always wanted to play football and I wanted to do it at Valdosta High. It was one big moment after another wearing that black and gold uniform.

"It means a lot to me to be able to say I played along side players like Buck Belue, John Lastinger and John Bond. Just in those three guys, you're talking about three of the all-time greats to ever play football in the South," said Blanton. "It's just a lot of memories and a long road to get to that point."

Blanton, who played center for the 'Cats in 1975 and 1976, came to VHS by way of Valwood School where he played baseball and basketball. Following his senior year, he was named to three all-star teams.

His father, Louis Blanton, played on VHS' first title team in 1940.

"I went Valwood School from the fifth grade through the 10th, because I was dyslexic and they had the special training I needed. But my goals were always to play for the Wildcats," said Blanton.

Blanton, 32, now works with his father at the Blanton Griffin Insurance Agency. He graduated from Valdosta State College in 1981.

He and his wife Jan have been married seven years and have a four-year-old daughter, Sloan.

In 1976 versus Thomasville, Blanton and his VHS mates were a part of one of the more incredible moments in Wildcat history. On the third game of the season, the Wildcats scored three touchdowns in just 22 seconds. One was by a pass, the other two by Leon Jones on fumble recoveries.

"It was like we were watching a film over and over again," said Blanton. "The first touchdown came on a pass. Then on the kickoff, the ball was dropped by their man and Leon scooped it up and scored. The next kickoff came to the same guy. And the same thing happened."

But when it comes to the little things at Valdosta High, Blanton puts Hyder at the top of the list.

"Coach Hyder was the nuts and bolts to the whole thing. Not a day went by that he wasn't trying to teach his players the difference between right and wrong," said Blanton.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fri., Feb. 22, 1991

Miss Black Valdosta Called 'Dear Abby' By Her Friends

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Recently crowned Miss Black Valdosta, Marquelle Merriweather said while she is a role model to many of her generation, she is also a problem solver among her friends.

"Many of my friends call me 'Dear Abby' because they can come to me with their problems," she said.

The 20-year-old student at Valdosta State College said she sees many problems with her generation and expressed them in the talent competition when she performed a dramatic monologue she wrote.

Entitled "But It Seems Nobody Loves Me," the monologue is about a young woman who, at one time, was heavily involved in the church but later turns to drugs. She tells about the heartache drug use has caused her.

"I don't want them (young people) to be influenced to use drugs," she said, talking about her role.

"Many young people feel nobody loves them, and that is why they start using."

The performance won her the talent portion of the competition.

Miss Merriweather said her motto is "Believe in yourself for there is no greater strength, climbing higher mountains and achieving your goals, making all your dreams come true."

While reigning as Miss Black Valdosta, she will have a concert at Valdosta city auditorium. Miss Merriweather said singing is also a talent she enjoys.

"There are times when I can express myself better through singing," she said.

She will also make appearances at area churches.

This is the first time Miss Merriweather has held a title and with it she earned a \$1,000 scholarship. She said she has placed second in the Miss Essence contest. Later this year she will vie for the Miss Black and Gold title in which she will have a chance to compete nationally.



Marquelle Merriweather, Miss Black Valdosta, plans a career in broadcasting and teaching music following graduation from VSC — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

After graduation, Miss Merriweather hopes to go into broadcasting and teach music.

She said she has received much support from a large group of people.

Born in Ohio, Miss Merriweather has lived in Valdosta 18 years. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Merriweather and was sponsored in Sunday's pageant by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.



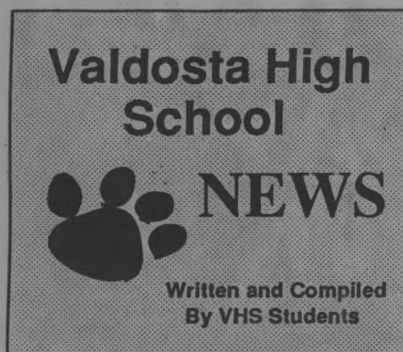
Valdosta's Andy Rykard starts for the Blazers
Sat., Feb. 24, 1991

Science Team Wins Back-To-Back Championships

The Valdosta High School Science Bowl Team won the Georgia Junior Academy of Science Regional Science Bowl at Valdosta State College for the second year in a row.

The Valdosta team consists of Kelly Holmes, John Peeples, Chris Gregg, Bert Eidson, alternate Jennifer Spencer and scorekeeper Meg Hiers. They will go on to the state competition in April in Augusta.

The other team representing Valdosta was composed of Andy Ferrell, Alex Penn, Jennifer Eidson, Lee Scott, alternate Brian Stanley, and scorekeeper Lisa Bussey. They were in third place after the first round but were eliminated in a later round by a Lee County team. Science club advisers are Karen Burroughs and



Perry Baskin.

Debate Team Wins

Valdosta High Debate Team won the Region I Debate Tournament at Lowndes High School Jan. 29

with a 4-0 record. Stephanie Everett and Jimmy Green were affirmative team members and Thad Agar and Kevin Hiers were negative team members.

Vocational Ed Week

The students and faculty of Valdosta High School observed National Vocational Education Week Feb. 10-16. The theme of this year's celebration was "Vocational Education: Classroom of the Future."

"National Vocational Education Week gives students an opportunity to show what they have learned in a variety of fields from computers to trades and home economic," said John Field, vocational supervisor. "This is also a time for us to educate the commu-

nity about how vocational education teaches young people the skills they need to be productive workers."

Some of the activities included a kick-off pizza party celebration sponsored by VICA Monday night, a DCT breakfast at Shoney's Wednesday, guest speakers for vocational classes, a VICA barbecue and a vocational fair Friday.

Also during the week, Field attended the Vocational Administrator's Conference Wednesday-Thursday in Atlanta. The conference included the Georgia Vocational Association's annual legislative breakfast and joint session with other secondary administrators, presidents of state technical institutes and Georgia Department of Education staff.

LHS, VHS DECA Clubs Compete Well

Lowndes High Distributive Education Clubs of America returned home big winners after placing in 15 of the 17 contests they entered in the DECA district competition.

The competitive events, which include a variety of tests and demonstrations in the areas of merchandising, finance and credit, marketing and economics, were held at Altamaha Technical Institute in Jesup. Valdosta High School was the host chapter to more than 230 students representing 14 high schools.

The Lowndes DECA members entered 17 competitive events which are designed to measure marketing and merchandising skills the students have developed in class and on the job. Winning first places were

Billy Wallace, finance and credit; Charity Roe, apparel and accessories master employee level; Lyle Rains, apparel and accessories supervisory level; and Amanda Hazzard, advertising services.

Second place winners were Lisa Weckworth, reporter of the year; Chris West, general merchandising master employee level; Steven King, vehicles and petroleum marketing; Paige Butler, quick-serve restaurant management; and Michelle Martin, tied for second in general marketing master employee level.

Stacy Copeland placed third in general marketing supervisory level; Harvey Dixon, third in math; Angela Blakenship, fourth in hotel/motel management; Greg Black, finalist

(top six) in full service restaurant management; Mitzi Rykard, finalist (top six) economics test; Kristy Ket, third (tie) in general merchandising supervisory level; Alivia Parker, third in food marketing master employee level, and Samantha Booth, fourth in food marketing supervisory level.

The top four contestants in each of the 19 competitive events are eligible to participate in the state DECA competition to be held March 7 in Atlanta. Winners at the state level advance to the national contest.

Valdosta High School DECA had 15 students attend the competition, and 13 students qualified for state competition: Martha Stalvey, first in the reporter of the year competition; Julie Bryant, fifth in general merchandis-

ing; Jennifer Jack, third in general merchandising; Gina Albritton, second in apparel and accessories; Jennifer Boughton, third in advertising services; Bill Little, first in vehicles and petroleum marketing; Donna Lowery, first in food marketing; Chris Bittinger, first in food marketing (supervisory level); Kim Williams, first in full service restaurant management; Melissa Hale, third in quick-service restaurant management; Drew Respass, second in hotel/motel management; Tiffany Minchew, second in general marketing; Debbie Johnson, second in general marketing (supervisory level); Chris Spurlock, fifth in the economics competition; and Will Coleman, second in the math competition.

VICA Members At VHS, LHS Advance To District Contest

Area Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition was held at Valdosta Technical Institute Feb. 9.

Sixty-six VICA member from eight schools in the Southwest District competed in leadership, health, trade, industrial and technical skills contests. The Lowndes High School VICA members and advisers served as host chapter with Jeremiah Lawton, VICA adviser at Lowndes High School, as area chairman.

First and second place winners of the area competition advanced to the district which will be held at Americus Technical Institute in March.

Valdosta High School winners included Eric Stanley, Amanda McGhin, Marist Jenkins, Jennifer

Brown, Angela Harper, Meredith Fletcher, Jessica Morgan, first place in opening and closing ceremonies; Rebecca Morgan, third place in prepared speech; David Farber, first places in extemporaneous speaking and outstanding student; Thad Agar, first place in job interview; Gina McGee, first place in dental assisting; Coy Peterson, first place in nursing assistant; Permelia Moore, first place in practical nursing; Terry Troope, first place in medical assisting; Clarence Duvall, third place in architectural drafting; David Farber, second place in electronics technology; Michael Thrift, first place in graphic communications; Eric Stanley, second place in machine drafting; Marist

Jenkins, third place in job skill demonstration A; and Jason Legg, second place in precision machining.

Lowndes High VICA winners were Jimmy Griner, first place in automotive service technology; Tracy Williams, first place in air conditioning and refrigeration; Clint Ziegler, first place in electronics products servicing; Jason Cone, first place in electronics products servicing; Dan Johnson, first place in electronics technology; Nikkie Roberts, second place in prepared speech; Eric Hollinger, second place in residential plumbing; Mitch Cannington, second place in residential wiring; and Ted Sauls, third place in machine drafting.

VDT

About Genealogy

By LILLIAN McREE

Listening last week while four high school students presented their winning DAR essays on patriots and patriotism, I was reminded the society began as a result of one woman's love for her country.

Just over 100 years ago, July 13, 1890, the *Washington Post* printed a letter written by Mary Smith Lockwood. Mrs. Lockwood was indignant over the exclusion of women from patriotic organizations. In Mrs. Lockwood's opinion, women were capable of patriotism equally as fervently as men. In her letter of protest she suggested a society composed of female descendants of American Revolutionary War patriots be formed.

Responding to Mrs. Lockwood's plea, three ladies braved a severe rainstorm to join her in formulating plans for a patriotic society. These ladies were Ellen Hardin Walworth, Eugenia Washington, Mary Desha and Mrs. Lockwood. Two were Southerners and two were Northerners, and one of their goals was to help reunite their country that had been divided by Civil War. From the beginning it was stressed the society should be a national one.

The first meeting of the new society was held on Saturday, Oct. 11, 1890, at the Strathmore Arms in Washington, D.C., with 18 potential members in attendance. The office of first president general was accepted by Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison. The purposes of the society were to be historic, educational and patriotic.

One of the first projects undertaken by the founders of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was to rescue from oblivion the records of the Revolution. This preservation of historic work focused attention nationwide on protection of public records. The establishment of the National Archives grew out of this project. Genealogists, whether society members or not, know the value of military and pension files, as well as the many other records now housed in the National Archives and the regional repositories across the nation.

The NSDAR maintains a Society Library in Washington that has a quarter million books that include census records, ship passenger lists, published and unpublished genealogies and other records. The society's Patriots Indexed and Rolls of Honor together with the NSDAR lineage books are among the publication most frequently used by family researchers everywhere. The library is



LAURA BARBAS



BERT EIDSON



JULIE DIETRICH



STEPHANIE POWELL

open to all persons interested in these resources for their own ancestral research.

The NSDAR also encourages its network of societies throughout the United States to collect and transcribe records of genealogical significance. The first history of Lowndes County is an example of work done by local DAR members.

As a further expression of the three-fold purpose of the society, members locate and mark hundreds of graves of Revolutionary War soldiers.

Each year students are encouraged to write essays such as the ones on patriots and patriotism read by this year's winners: Laura Barbas and Bert Edison from Valdosta High School; and Julie Dietrich and Stephanie Powell of Lowndes County

High School. Their well-expressed tributes were a reminder that patriotism is not an obsolete term.

What began over 100 years ago with a letter to a newspaper and the meeting of a few visionary women is today the largest hereditary patriotic organization in the United States. Since 1890, more than 700,000 women have dedicated themselves to fulfilling the purposes of the society. The essays read last week by four outstanding young students were a reminder of the importance of our patriots and our patriotism.

Lillian McRee is a recognized genealogical researcher and is founder and past president of Genealogy Unlimited. Questions about genealogy may be addressed to Mrs. McRee in care of this newspaper

Former Valdosta Football Star Tells About Life After Drug Habit

VDT Mon, March 4, 1991
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

He lost his professional football career to drugs, and he almost lost his life to drugs, but if Valdostan Stan Rome has anything to do with it, youths here won't travel the same path he did.

Rome was raised about two blocks from Hudson Dockett, a Valdosta housing project plagued today with a heavy drug and crime reputation. He graduated from Valdosta High School in 1974 and headed to Clemson University on a basketball scholarship.

"I drank and smoked marijuana a little bit in high school and college, but I started using drugs heavily in my senior year of college," Rome said honestly recounting his background.

At Clemson, Rome was both a basketball and football star and he earned a reputation as one of the school's star athletes. Before that, Rome earned the national record for receiving yards in a high school career, a record beaten by no one to date.

He graduated from college and headed straight for the National Football League, where he played with the Kansas City Chiefs for four years.

"I was cut from the team. They said it was because my performance had dropped off, but that was be-

cause I was using drugs — cocaine — heavily," Rome said.

When he was cut from the Chiefs, Rome entered a drug rehabilitation center and was clean for about six months before signing a contract with the Washington Federals in the United States Football League, which is no longer in existence.

Rome played football for only one more year before his life became so polluted by drugs that his every thought centered around getting high. Again he was cut from the team.

He worked as clothing store sales associate for about five years and in his own business of selling automobile warranties for one year before everything in his life came crashing down around him. His wife had separated from him.

Rome was shot in the head on Oct. 31, 1988, the day he tried to steal drugs from someone else who used a gun to stop him. The bullet lodged behind his left ear.

"By then, I had destroyed any kind of respect I had in the community," the former professional athlete said. "I realized I should have been dead. God had saved my life, and I knew it was my last chance. I was at the bottom. I made a commitment to God."

Retired Moody Air Force Base Col. Mike Stouffer visited Rome in the hospital and offered to help him get his life together. Rome lived with Stouffer for six months.

"After I surrendered to God, He started providing for me," Rome said. When he left Stouffer's supervision, he and his wife reunited, and he soon found himself in a position to keep others from falling into the drug trap.

Rome was chosen out of 32 applicants to serve as a drug counselor for the Lowndes Drug Action Council, known as LODAC.

Through a Georgia Bar Association grant, LODAC began an after-school program for children of Hudson Dockett, close to where Rome spent his growing up years.

Rome coordinates the children's activities at the housing project Monday and Wednesday afternoons, but he says he could not touch so many children's lives without the help of several volunteers who share his concern for the kids.

When Rome and his volunteers drive up to the housing project, hordes of kids from the entire com-

munity run over to greet him and join in for the day's events.

"We've got a chorus; we had a puppet show last week, and we're trying to see what we're going to do for Easter," said 10-year-old Peter Michaelsolo, just one of the many kids who gathered around Rome Monday. "We have fun when Stan and them come."

Besides recreational activities, the kids receive tutoring, alcohol and drug prevention education and choir practice.

The kids are not the only ones getting support. Rome and Valdosta leader Phyllis Lowther recently started a Tenants' Association to get Hudson Dockett residents actively involved in cleaning up their community.

"This is the best job I've ever had. It's an opportunity for me to try to give something back," Rome said. "If I can help one person the way I was helped, it will make everything I've gone through worth it."

VHS Football Cheerleaders Win

V Times 3-4-91

The Valdosta High School football cheerleaders returned from the Classic City Competition in Athens where they won first place in the large varsity division.

The girls competed against five other squads including a coed squad. This is the third competition that the VHS football cheerleaders have been

to this year and the third first-place finish.

Judging was based on cheerleading fundamentals (motion technique, jumps, tumbling, partner stunts, pyramids); projection (facial expression, spirit, showmanship, voice); transition (flow of routine, spacing); dance routine (creativity, execution,

incorporation of jumps, stunts, tumbling); precision and timing.

The other competitions included first place at the Waycross Exchange Club Competition in Waycross and first place at the Johnson High Cheerleading Competition in Gainesville in which they competed against 10 squads.



Members of the VHS competition squad include front row from left: Co-Captain Allison Roush, Melissa Fisher, Page Broomberg, Maria Baratta, Stephanie Richter; second row: Angie Redden, Co-Captain Leigh Ann

Braswell, Alison Bass, Kelly Mathis, Jill Morgan; back: Elizabeth Owens, Shalonda Hannans, Margaux Laskey, Michelle Hendricks, Captain Tiffany Minchew, Coach Jana Whitehead — Times Staff Photo.

Military Roundup

Army Sgt. 1st Class Eddie C. Jones has deployed to the Middle East with American military forces participating in Operation Desert Storm.

He is a track vehicle mechanic at Ferris Barracks, Germany.

Jones is the son of Eddie L. Jones of Valdosta.

The sergeant is a 1975 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Wildcats Count On Contact, Defense

V.D.T. Mon, Mar. 4, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The pitching is a concern. A lack of power with the bat is another.

So what does a coach do? Valdosta High head baseball coach Charles Tarpley hopes some team speed and a sound infield defense can counter any of the above problems.

"We've had two or three good weeks of practice, and we're ready to play someone," said Tarpley, who sends his team against crosstown rival Lowndes High in the first round of the Rebel Classic baseball tournament today at Billy Grant Field.

What Tarpley and the Wildcats don't have is veteran pitching. All-area player Sean Cullen has graduated, and last year's No. 2 pitcher, Jamey Waters, is still mending from

a fall auto-truck accident and has yet to receive full clearance to participate in athletics.

"We've got no experienced pitching to amount to anything. They're all new to the varsity," Tarpley said. "None have ever started a varsity game."

Carlos Moore, who did not play last season, is the lone senior on the staff. He'll also play in the outfield. Matt Baker and Joel Bius are juniors, with Baker likely to get the start today. Sophomore Steven Everson pitched some with the varsity last season, but has been slowed by the flu recently. Jason Denly and Jason Jelks are other sophomore hurlers.

Tarpley expects his team to hit few home runs this season. Instead, he expects a contact-hitting team which runs the bases well.

Defensively, the Wildcats are strong in the middle infield with returning starters Rookie Gage at second and Steve Jaramillo at shortstop. Brad Tarpley, the coach's son, is a returning starter at first base.

Chris Greene may get the nod at third base over Everson and Baker. Greene played some third last year when Cullen pitched.

Moore, Alton Hitson, Mike Akins and Arthur McConnehead are the leading candidates in the outfield. Chad Alfson can also play there, and will catch along with Chris Rockey and Tim O'Brien.

Hitson, the Georgia Southern football signee and football team captain, did some catching last year, but will remain in the outfield because of continuing problems with the right hand he injured during the football playoffs.

Rebel Classic

MONDAY AT VSC
Game 1: Lowndes vs. Valdosta, 4 p.m.
Game 2: Brooks vs. Irwin, 7:30 p.m.
TUESDAY AT NASHVILLE
Game 3: Berrien vs. winner game 2, 4:30 p.m.
Game 4: Monday's losers, 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY AT VSC
Game 5: Winner game 4 vs. loser game 3, 4:30 p.m.
Game 6: Winner game 3 vs. Winner game 1, 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY AT NASHVILLE
Game 7: Winner game 5 vs. loser game 6, 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY AT VSC
Game 8: championship game, 7:30 p.m.

Cats Ease By Irwin

V.D.T. Fri., March 8, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Valdosta High Wildcats' pitcher Matt Baker pitched four and two-third innings of no-hit baseball in leading VHS past the Irwin County Indians, 11-4, in the Rebel Classic loser's bracket finals at Frank Carter Field.

Baker entered a tied game at 4-4 with only one out in the Indians' third inning. The young right-hander proceeded to set down the first two batters on strikeouts. Then, retired 12 of the next 14 batters he faced en route to the victory.

Only lone two batters which reached base for Irwin County did so on a walk and a VHS error.

Valdosta (3-1) now advances to play the Lowndes High Vikings (2-0) in the Rebel Classic championship game tonight in Valdosta at Billy Grant Field. Gametime is set for 7:30 p.m.

The pitchers for the game will be Michael Johnson for LHS and VHS' starter will be Joel Bius.

"I'm as happy as I can be," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We don't have any true stars, just a bunch of kids working hard. And the work by Baker was just great. He's pitched very well for us and does a good job bearing down on the hitters."

Valdosta finished with 11 runs on nine hits and were led by Rookie Gage and Steve Jaramillo with two hits each.

VHS overcame an early 1-0 lead by Irwin County in the first inning on a lead-off double by Scott Roberts and an RBI single by Lance Tomberlin. Runs by Jaramillo and Arthur McConnehead in the VHS second put the 'Cats on top, 2-0.

But Irwin took a 4-2 lead with three runs in the third. The big blow was a two-run single by Tomberlin scoring Alan Morgan and Lemond Hall.

STAR Student, Teacher Named

V.D.T. Tues, Mar. 5, 1991
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High student leader Amy Karen Kilgard has been named the 1991 STAR Student from her school, and she named Lee H. Pulliam as VHS' STAR Teacher.

The announcement came as part of the statewide Student/Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program, which has been administered by the Business Council of Georgia for the past 33 years.

The Valdosta Kiwanis Club has sponsored the VHS STAR students and teachers since the beginning of the program in 1958. Selection of STAR students is based upon the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test, class standing and scholastic averages as reported by high school principals.

Amy, the daughter of Frank Kilgard Jr. and Lynn Kilgard, is the trombone section leader of the band, founder and president of the drama and thespian club, president of the Math Club, secretary for the French Honor Society and a member of the Beta Club.

Last summer, Amy attended the Governor's Honor Program. Her hobbies include community theater, reading and singing.



PULLIAM



KILGARD

She has selected Mrs. Pulliam as her STAR Teacher because of her willingness to "spend lots of time

working on theater and helping me with writing," she said.

Mrs. Pulliam, head of the English and drama department, has been teaching for 31 years, most of them at Valdosta High, where she teaches advance placement in English.

Mrs. Pulliam is married to Fred Pulliam and has three children.

Amy and Mrs. Pulliam have been given their awards by the Kiwanis Club, and they will receive expense-paid trips to the district STAR banquet March 11 at Valdosta State College and to the Georgia STAR banquet April 25 in Atlanta.

Rebel Classic Kicks Off With LHS-VHS Contest

V. Time 3-4-91
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Berrien High's Rebel Classic baseball tournament will kick off the 1991 high school baseball season today for five area high school baseball teams.

This year's Rebel Classic is in a double-elimination format, with a team added after last year's four-team, round-robin outing.

The tournament, weather permitting, will be played at Valdosta State's Billy Grant Field on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and in Nashville at Berrien High on Tuesday and Thursday.

The championship game is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday at BGF. That will be

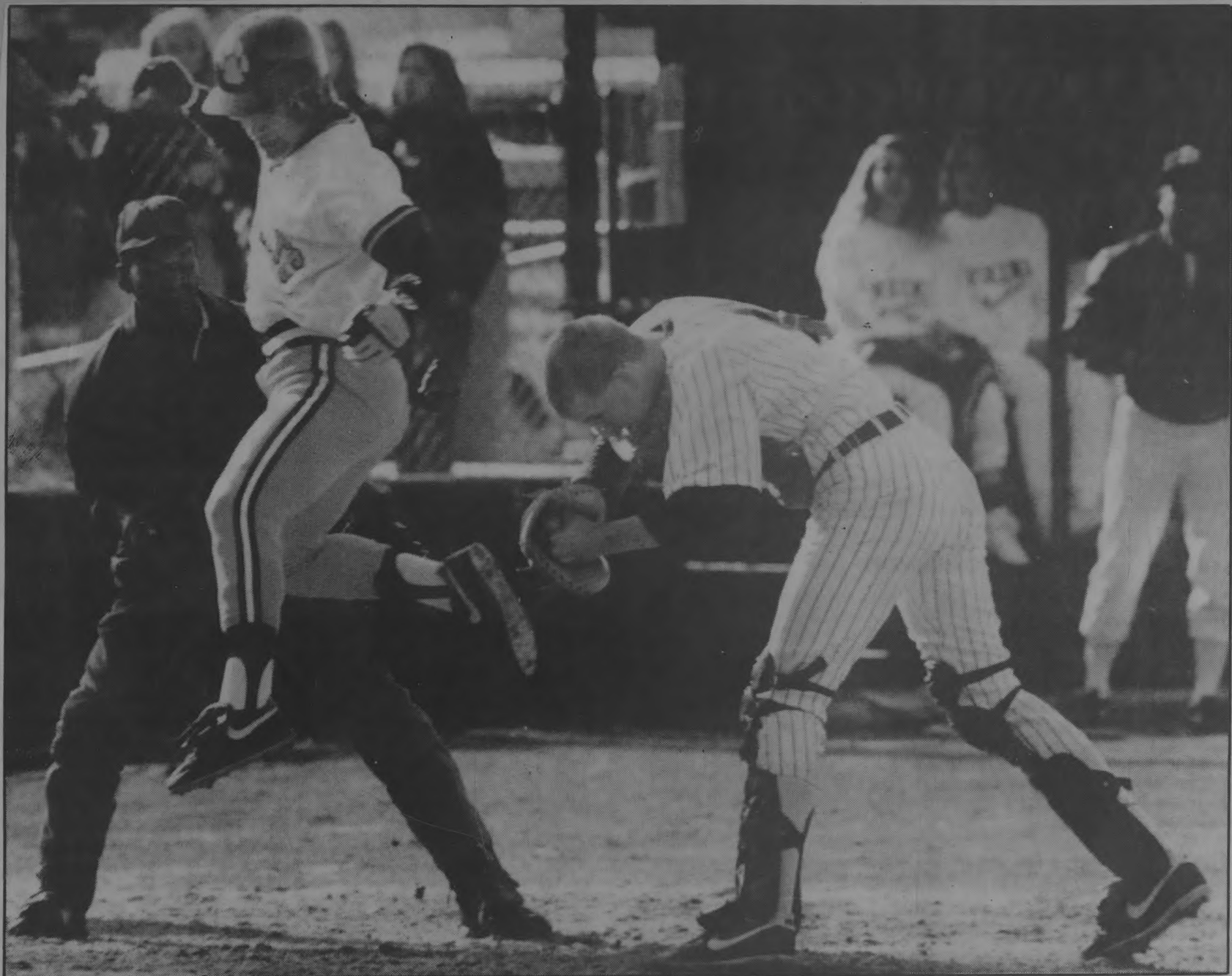
a winner-take-title game, no matter the teams' tournament records beginning the night.

"(This format) will mix the games up a little more," said Berrien coach Mark Murad. "There are more games at VSC, and that's good experience for the kids."

The tournament begins today at 4 p.m. with crosstown rivals Lowndes High and Valdosta High facing off. The game was moved up 30 minutes to accommodate Valdosta High, which has its football banquet Monday night.

Brooks County meets Irwin at 7:30 p.m. Monday. Berrien gets a first-day bye, and will play the Brooks-Irwin winner Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in Nashville.

Gage and Brad Tarpley crossed the plate for VHS in the bottom of the third to tie the game at 4-4. Then, Tarpley gave VHS the lead for good in the fourth on an RBI double to center. VHS tacked on six runs in the fifth inning and sent 12 batters to the plate.



Valdosta High's ^{Rookie Case} Steve Jaramillo can't leap past the tag of Lowndes High catcher Scott Regan during Monday's Rebel

Classic baseball game at Billy Grant Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Vikes Rally, Rout Cats

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Oh, if Valdosta High could have stopped Monday's baseball game after five innings so many of the Wildcats wouldn't have been late for the football banquet.

But the game went seven innings, and the Wildcats were late for dinner. They lost, too.

Crosstown rival Lowndes High poured it on for 13 runs in the last two innings, giving the Vikings a 16-8 victory in the first day of the Rebel Classic Baseball Tournament played at Billy Grant Field.

Lowndes will play Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., at Billy Grant Field against today's Berrien-Irwin winner. That game will be played today, 4:30 p.m., in Nashville. Valdosta will play Brooks in an elimination game at 7:30 today.

In Monday's second game, Irwin defeated Brooks, 18-0.

Lowndes (1-0) scored six runs in the sixth and seven more in the seventh to overcome a 7-3 deficit. The Vikings touched sophomore reliever Jason Jelks, in his first game, for nine hits after Jelks had retired the first seven batters he faced.

VIKINGS 16, WILDCATS 8

LOWNDES	ab	r	h	bi	VALDOSTA	ab	r	h	bi
Moran cf	4	2	1	1	Moore lf	3	1	0	0
Williams lf	5	2	2	2	Alfson c	2	3	2	0
Scruggs 3b-p	3	2	1	0	Gage 2b	3	0	0	1
Wisembaker pr	0	0	0	0	Tarpley 1b	3	0	0	1
Johnson p-3b	4	3	1	2	Akins rf	4	0	1	1
ShRegan rf-1b	4	2	2	2	Jaramillo ss	4	0	1	0
Ketterman 1b	4	0	1	1	Hiltson cf	4	2	2	0
Albritton rf	0	1	0	0	McConnehead dh	4	1	0	0
Willis ss	5	2	3	2	Baker p-3b	3	1	1	0
Morey dh-c	4	1	1	2	Greene 3b	0	0	0	0
Barbee 2b	4	1	1	0					
ScRegan c	0	0	0	0					
TOTALS	37	16	13	12	TOTALS	30	8	6	3

Lowndes	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta	012	006	7-16			
	231	101	0-8			

E—ShRegan, Willis, ScRegan, Scruggs, Johnson, Morey, Jaramillo 3, Greene, Baker. LOB—Lowndes 6, Valdosta 9. 2B—Willis, Johnson, Hiltson. SB—Moran, Alfson 2, Hiltson 2, McConnehead, Baker 2. SF—ShRegan, Morey.

LOWNDES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Johnson	4	5	7	1	5	5
Scruggs W, 1-0	3	1	1	1	1	2
VALDOSTA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Baker	3	4	3	1	2	2
Jelks L, 0-1	31-3	9	13	11	2	5
Bius	2-3	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—Moran, Albritton (by Jelks). WP—Jelks. PB—Alfson, ScRegan. BK—Jelks.

"Early they gave us a challenge and we didn't accept it," said Lowndes coach Steve Kebler. "Later on we accepted the challenge and went on."

"This showed us that when we get behind, and stay behind for a while, we can come back. That ought to show them that."

"I didn't even think we could play with them, then we had a chance to beat them and blew it," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "We just didn't make the defensive plays I thought we could."

The teams combined for 11 errors, with Lowndes making six.

The Vikings sent 11 batters to the plate in each of the big innings. Ivory Williams and Gary Willis each had two hits in the outburst.

Williams' two-run single in the sixth made it 7-6 Valdosta. Jelks walked the bases loaded, then was called for a balk to score Williams and tie the game. Shawn Regan's sacrifice fly to right scored Jimbo Scruggs with the go-ahead run. Pete Ketterman's infield single, when no Wildcat covered first, scored another run.

Michael Johnson's two-run double opened the seventh-inning floodgates. Regan (two hits) and Willis (three hits) followed with RBI hits, and Joe Morey finished the night with a sacrifice fly to welcome reliever Joel Bius.

Where Valdosta's relief help failed, Lowndes' shined. Johnson, Lowndes' top pitcher last season, was touched for five hits and seven runs in four innings. Six runs, however, were unearned and he did strike out five while walking five.

But Scruggs came in from third base to shut down the Wildcats. In three innings, Scruggs gave up just one hit — Mike Akins' RBI single in

the sixth — and retired the side in the seventh.

"Michael couldn't find the plate, and we had some errors. But Scruggs threw strikes," said Kebler.

The Wildcats (0-1) opened the scoring with two runs in the first off an outfield error. They added three more in the second on a double steal and two bases-loaded walks, then scored error-aided single runs in the third and fourth.

Lowndes got on the board with a run in the second on Antoine Moran's RBI single. Two more Viking runs scored in the third on infield ground balls.

Alton Hiltson and Chad Alfson each had two hits for Valdosta.

■ IN MONDAY'S SECOND GAME: Irwin pitcher Warren Sumner pitched no-hit ball for four innings, and his teammates scored runs in each inning to win going away. The game was called after five innings due to the run rule.

Irwin opened the game by scoring six runs in the first, then finished with seven runs in the fifth. Scott Roberts had three hits, while Alan Morgan scored four runs.

Tremane Proctor got Brooks' lone hit in the fifth off an Irwin reliever.

Irwin

Gets Past

VDT, Wed., March 6, 1991

Berrien

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — The power game put seven runs on the board for Irwin County. But it was the results of bunts which lifted the Indians past the Berrien County Rebels, 10-7, in nine innings in the Rebel Classic Tuesday at Frank Carter Field.

The tournament shifts back to Valdosta State College's Billy Grant Field today with the Indians, now 2-0, taking on the Lowndes High Vikings (1-0) in the winner's bracket final at 7:30 p.m. The Vikings are the defending Rebel Classic tournament champions.

The Rebels (0-1) will face the Valdosta High Wildcats today beginning at 4:30 p.m. in an elimination contest. Valdosta eliminated Brooks County, 11-1, later Tuesday night.

The Indians scored three runs in the ninth inning keyed by consecutive squeeze bunts by Matt McCranie and Trey Hudson.

McCranie's bases-loaded bunt scored teammate Lance Tomberlin, who reached on an error, while Hudson followed with a bunt which was dropped by Berrien pitcher Linus Baker. Casey Joyner, who was intentionally walked, crossed the plate for a 9-7 lead.

Jason Royal, who had earlier reached on a fielder's choice, scored on a throwing error by the Rebels for a 10-7 lead.

Bill Barrs (1-0), in relief of Tomberlin, retired three of the four Rebels he faced to give Irwin County the victory.

"It was a tough one to lose after the kids battled back the way they did," said Berrien County head coach Mark Murad. "I'm proud of my guys and the effort they showed. They never quit and that's a good way to start."

See CLASSIC, Page 2-B

Classic

From Page 1-B

After riding the right arm of Tomberlin, the Indians held a 7-5 advantage with one inning to play.

But with two outs, Berrien County sent the game into extra-innings on a triple by Danny Roberts and a two-run homer to left by Baker.

Hudson led the Indians' scoring attack with two hits on four at-bats, two runs scored and five RBI. Both of Hudson's hits were home runs.

Irwin took a 3-0 lead in the second inning on a three-run homer to left by Hudson. Then Hudson hammered

a two-run homer over the left-field fence in the fourth for a 6-4 Indians' lead.

Baker led Berrien County with two hits, two runs scored and three RBI.

■CATS CLAW TROJANS: Valdosta High starting pitcher Joel Bius scattered three hits, while striking out 11, in leading the Wildcats (1-1) past the Brooks County Trojans, 11-1, in a loser's bracket game.

The Trojans (0-2) took a 1-0 lead in the third inning on an RBI single to leftfield by Keith Barkley. Barkley, who had two of his team's three hits

on the evening, scored teammate Brian Gregory from second base.

Gregory singled with one out and reached second by way of a fielder's choice.

Valdosta High rallied for two runs in the fourth inning to grab a 2-1 edge. The key hit in the inning was an RBI double by Arthur McConnehead, scoring Steve Jaramillo. Then Chris Greene scored McConnehead on a grounder to third base.

Valdosta put the game away in the fifth inning with a nine-run outburst led by a two-run double by Jaramillo, and RBI singles by Rookie Gage and Mike Atkins.



University of Florida head football coach Steve Spurrier signs an autograph for 12-year-old Andy Bolton — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Hitson Tops Honorees At Valdosta Banquet

VDT Tues, Mar. 5, 1991

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High senior quarterback Alton Hitson, who led the Wildcats to back-to-back state football championships, was awarded the Most Valuable Offensive Player Monday at Valdosta High School.

Hitson's presentation highlighted the 46th annual Valdosta Touchdown Club Football Banquet honoring the 1990 Class AAAA state champion Valdosta High Wildcats.

The Wildcats finished with an overall record of 12-3-1 and claimed their first consecutive Georgia football title since 1968-69. VHS also became the first repeat Class AAAA state championship since the classification was formed in 1978.

Valdosta High School completed the 1990 season as the No. 8 team nationally in the USA Today prep poll.

Hitson, who directed the Wildcats to an impressive 27-1-1 record at quarterback, was given his award by former VHS quarterback and now Central Florida football assistant Bruce Bennett. Bennett, along with Hitson, are the only quarterbacks in Valdosta High history to lead their respective teams to back-to-back titles.

The 41 seniors, the largest senior class in Wildcat history, earned a 51-3-1 record with a winning percentage of .936. In that span, VHS won four straight Region 1-AAAA titles. The

class exits on the heels of a 21-game winning streak.

The guest speaker was Steve Spurrier, the head football coach at the University of Florida. In his first season as head coach, the Gators finished with a 9-2 record.

Spurrier's visit to Valdosta High School was the first as a head coach. Spurrier began his coaching career in 1978 at Florida where he served under Doug Dickey as quarterbacks coach.

Spurrier spoke to the crowd about what he feels it takes to be a winner. His list included attitude, effort and courage, the ability to compete with confidence, responsibility, creative risks, desire to prepare and how to handle adversity.

Other Wildcats receiving awards included Sam Lightsey (Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic Award); Brian Thomas (Super Skinner); Nathan Tart (Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship Award); Andre Scruggs (Julian Leflites Memorial Spirit of the Wildcats Award); Bucky Allen ("Dynamite" Goodloe Memorial Most Improved Award); Brad Tarpley (Most Loyal); Carlos Moore (Special Teams Award); Steve Jaramillo (Best Receiver); Shaun Eilders and Giles Godwin (Best Offensive Linemen); Ricky Thomas and M.J. Johnson (Best Defensive Linemen); Jonathan Davis and Dexter Daniels (Best Linebackers); Marcus Moss (Best Defensive End); Joe Wright (Best Offensive Back); Leroy Williams (Best Defensive Back); Deric Cotton (Most Valuable Defensive Player).

VHS Wildcats Break In New Track With Win

VDT, Thurs., March 7, 1991

Staff reports

The Valdosta High School track squad broke in its new track with a bang Wednesday with a tri-meet win over Atkinson and Cairo.

Valdosta outscored Cairo 79-50 while Atkinson recorded no points during the 12-event meet which was cut short by darkness.

VHS track coach Larry Jester said that the attitude of his squad was a big difference.

"These kids have been working since January and their attitude has been great," he said. "We have 57 kids out and that's the most we have had here in 10 years."

Valdosta's Ernest Lowe captured the long jump with a leap of (21.2), Trampis Wrice was second at (20.8)

and Maris Jenkins was fourth at (19-4.25).

In the pole vault Scott Stewart placed fourth for Valdosta at 9.6 feet.

Lowe also captured the high jump with a jump of 6.2 feet with Jenkins at 5.8 finishing fifth.

In the shot put, Dexter Daniels finished first with a toss of 47.7 feet. Ricky Thomas was second with a toss of 41-3.5 feet.

In the discus, Daniels was first again with a throw of 124.1 feet. Eric Phillips was next with a throw of 119.8 and Jonathon Davis third at 117.3.

In the triple jump, Terrence Daniels was third with a jump of 41-2.75 feet and John Bell was fourth at 40-9.5.

In the 4x100 relay, Valdosta's team of Lowe, Carlos Folsom, Wrice and

Frank Henderson finished in a tie with the Cairo team for first at 45.20.

In the 100-yard dash, Frank Wise-man was first at 10.8 seconds.

In the mile run, Mark Fogleson was second with a time of 5:11 with Sy Garland third at 5:21 and Mathew Hunt fourth at 5:26.

The 400-yard dash saw Henderson finish first with a time of 53.34 seconds, Folsom second at 55.38, Tito Thomas third at 55.69 and Aldige Graham fourth at 56.36.

In the 110-yard high hurdle, Henderson finished third at 16.61 seconds and in fourth was Brice Hunter at 16.70.

In the 200-yard dash, Lowe was first at 22.26 seconds, Wrice second at 22.45 and Thomas third at 22.81.



Valdosta High's Michelle Hendricks hurdles event Friday on Valdosta High's new track — her way to a victory in the 100-meter hurdles Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Girls Upend Coffee

Staff Reports

The Valdosta High School girls track team opened the 1991 season on its new track Friday with a 61.67-47.33 victory over Coffee High.

Much like the boys team, the girls have found added numbers in their program since the new all-weather track was constructed last fall.

"A bunch of our girls ran for the first time," said girls coach Dick Sturtevant.

Valdosta High's Natasha Hart had two individual firsts and a second,

while combining with teammates for two firsts on relay teams.

Hart won the long jump (15-10½) and the 100 meters (13.19), and was second in the 200 meters.

Hart teamed with Althea Cochran, Tiffany Wright and Michelle Hendricks to win the 4x100 meters in 53.7 seconds, and was on the 4x400 meter team with Cochran, Wright and Shawana Brown. That team won with a 4:46 time.

Wright had two seconds (long jump and 100 meters) and a third (200 meters). Hendricks had a first in the 100-meter hurdles (16.71) and a tie

for third with Vashti Manning in the high jump.

Brown was first in the 400 meters (1:07), while Cochran was third.

The distance team flip-flopped their positions in two races. Maggie McDonald was first in the 1,600 meters (6:20) while Khristina Lyons was second. In the 800 meters, Lyons was first (2:44) and McDonald second. Heather Burns won the two-mile run (14:04).

Valdosta High will host Lowndes, Tift and Thomasville at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

Cold Wildcats Run Past TCHS

VDI Sat. March 16, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Not every day can bring perfect weather or perfect conditions for a track meet. Valdosta High's boys head coach Larry Jester is waiting for the first day.

His Wildcats did come away with an 87-51 victory over Thomas County Central in a dual meet Friday afternoon. But there was something lacking.

"We won it, and I glad we won it because that helps build character. I'm just hoping we can get some warm weather," said Jester. "We just have to understand that our opponent is competing under the same conditions."

"A dual meet is a good indication of how we will fare later on. We did OK."

Jester also pointed out that the intensity of a multi-team meet against fellow Region 1-AAAA teams, like the one Valdosta held Wednesday.

Valdosta got a large lead after the field events, going up 44-10 after winning all six events. Ernest Lowe got two firsts by winning the long jump (21-5¾) and the high jump (6-2). Dexter Daniels (shot put), Jonathan Davis (discus), Terrence Daniels (triple jump) and Scott Stuart (pole vault) also won events.

Thomas County Central fought back by winning six of the 10 running events, though Valdosta's depth was evident in the second- and third-place finishes.

Sophomore Franklin Wiseman was a double winner for the Wildcats, winning the 100 and 200 meters. Keith Gartrison had the other VHS individual win in the 800 meters.

Wiseman also teamed with Lowe, Frank Henderson and Tramplis Wrice to win the 4x100-meter relay.

Area track and field action moves to Lowndes High next week with a meet Tuesday beginning around 5 p.m. Lowndes and Valdosta will be facing off against each other and Clinch, Cook, Hamilton and Suwannee.

Rebel Classic Finals

VDI Thurs, March 7, 1991
High in Friday's championship game in Valdosta.

Wildcat batters Chad Alston and Brad Tarpley led VHS with two runs scored on the day. In all, seven different Wildcat batters had one hit.

Matt Baker put the final touches on the Valdosta win by striking out six batters in just two and two-third innings pitched. Baker, who struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh for VHS, retired the last five Berrien County hitters he faced for the save.

Picking up the victory for Valdosta (2-1) was starter Carlos Moore. Moore pitched four innings giving up only one earned run with six strikeouts.

Valdosta opened the game by taking a 3-0 lead on the Rebels in the first inning.

Tarpley gave VHS a 2-0 lead when he drove his first offering in the gap

in left-center field. Tarpley's two-run triple scored Moore, who singled, and Alston, who walked, to start the game.

One batter later, Steve Jaramillo tripled to rightfield plating Tarpley for a 3-0 lead.

Berrien County cut the lead to one run at 3-2 in the bottom of the second on a two-run single by Derek Cornelius, scoring Chris Walker and Jason Smart, who both reached by a walk.

Mike Alkins' two-run homer to left-center field capped off a five-run, third-inning for Valdosta High.

Alkins' home run was one of only two hits in the inning for VHS. The other was a lead-off single by Alston. Berrien County aided the Valdosta cause in the third inning with three errors.

Berrien County (0-2) had just four hits in the game, with Danny Roberts, Linus Baker, Cornelius and Ryan Hancock having one hit each.

REBELS OUSTED BY VHS: Valdosta High exploded for eight runs in the first three innings and held off the Berrien County Rebels, 8-5, in an elimination contest played earlier Wednesday.

Valdosta now plays Irwin County tonight in the loser's bracket finals 6:45 p.m. at Frank Carter Field in Nashville. The game time was changed due to mutual agreement between the teams.

The winner will meet Lowndes

Valdosta Runs Past Berrien

By STAN GRUBB *3-13-91*
Times Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Valdosta High baseball fans were treated to a different type of outcome Tuesday. But the player in question remained the same — pitcher Matt Baker.

It was the legs and not the right arm of Baker which provided the Wildcats with a victory over the Berrien County High Rebels.

Tied at 4-4 in the fifth inning, Baker — who reached on a fielder's choice — later trotted home with the game-winning run for the Wildcats on a bases-loaded walk to teammate Chad Alfson.

Baker's run gave the 'Cats a one-run lead. Valdosta tacked on two more runs in the final innings to defeat the Rebels, 7-4, at Frank Carter Field.

Berrien County, which outthit VHS, 5-4, loaded the bases due to a pair of walks and an error in the final inning. But they were unable to get a hit off Baker.

Baker (2-0) allowed just three earned runs in his seven innings of work and had four strikeouts. In his last four innings pitched, Baker yielded just one hit, with only four Rebel batters reaching base.

"Again, we got solid pitching from Matt and came out a winner in the game," said Tarpley. "I'm just happy we can come away winners today, because we didn't play that well. We took advantage of some things here and there, but we put ourselves in some bad spots too."

The Rebels (0-3) went through three pitchers against Valdosta, with starter Danny Roberts working just two-thirds of an inning. In all, Berrien County pitchers struck out 10 VHS batters. However, it was four of the 11 walks given up by Berrien County pitchers which proved to be very costly.

Valdosta (4-2) scored four of its seven runs via batters that were walked. In fact, VHS' two go-ahead runs in the fifth inning came on bases-loaded walks.

Valdosta went up 4-0 in the first inning. Carlos Moore, who started the game with a walk, scored on an error as did Gage, who also walked. Then

See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

Sports

Valdosta Hoop Awards Presented

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

First-team all-region star Michael Moore captured the Valdosta High School basketball team's Most Valuable Player award, announced at Thursday night's banquet and awards ceremony.

Moore, a senior, also hauled down the Wildcats' Coach's Achievement Award and shared best rebounder with Billy Steinberg.

Coach John Miller said he was proud of his team despite its 5-14 mark.

Other boys varsity winners included: Best Offensive Player, Ernest Lowe; Best Defensive Player, Matt Baker and Tharon Lane; Wildcat Spirit, Frank Mazion; Most Improved and Sportsmanship, Eddie Emanuel; Most Hustle and Best Scholastic Average; Matthew Baker; Best Free Throw, Ernest Lowe.

The Lady Wildcats' season was disappointing as well — 8-12 — but there were big wins over Lowndes

High and Colquitt County and Coach Susan Montgomery said the team "stuck together and showed some team dignity and team unity."

No girls MVP was named. Awards and winners: Best Offensive Player: Vashti Manning and Esther Benjamin; Best Defensive Player, Natasha Johnson; Wildcard Spirit, LaShon Hargett; Most Improved, Natasha Johnson; Most Hustle, Vashti Manning; Best Scholastic Average, Amanda McGhin; Best Free Throw and Rebounder, Esther Benjamin; and Sportsmanship and Coaches Achievement, Vashti Manning.

Boy's B-team awards: Most Improved, Michael Chandler; Best Offensive, Steve Everson and Andre James; Best Defensive, Dexter Bridges.

Boy's 9th grade: Most Improved, Larry Melton; Best Offense, Chad Brooks; Best Defense, Laron Poulain.

Girls B-team: Most Improved, Monti Meriweather; Most Hustle, Tammy Wiseman.



WILDCATS BEAT CLINCH:

The Valdosta Wildcats cracked 15 hits, including two in the eighth by Rickey Cage and Brad Tarpley to break a 5-5 tie for a 9-5 win over Clinch County Thursday.

Joel Bias started the game for the Wildcats on the mound, but Carlos Moore picked up the win after coming on in the fourth. Nat Baker pitched in the eighth to pick up the save.

Moore, Chad Alsson, Gage, Tarpley, Mike Akins, Alton Hitson and Chris Green all had two hits in the win as the Wildcats improved to 5-2 overall.

Valdosta meets Brooks County at 4 p.m. and then opens Region 1-AAAA play on Tuesday at home against Bainbridge at 4 p.m.

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By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

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Valdosta got a large lead after the field events, going up 44-10 after winning all six events. Ernest Lowe got two firsts by winning the long jump (21-5 $\frac{3}{4}$) and the high jump (6-2). Dexter Daniels (shot put), Jonathan Davis (discus), Terrence Daniels (triple jump) and Scott Stuart (pole vault) also won events.

Thomas County Central fought back by winning six of the 10 running events, though Valdosta's depth was evident in the second- and third-place finishes.

Sophomore Franklin Wiseman was a double winner for the Wildcats, winning the 100 and 200 meters. Keith Garrison had the other VHS individual win in the 800 meters.

Wiseman also teamed with Lowe, Frank Henderson and Trampis Wrice to win the 4x100-meter relay.

Area track and field action moves to Lowndes High next week with a meet Tuesday beginning around 5 p.m. Lowndes and Valdosta will be facing off against each other and Clinch, Cook, Hamilton and Suwannee.

Math Tournament Winners Named

VDT. Sat., March 16, 1991

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

The Coastal Plains announced the winners Friday of its mathematics tournament held at Valdosta State College last week.

Fourteen schools in the 12 counties covered by the Coastal Plains participated in the March 8 tournament, said Cathy Franklin, a Coastal Plains spokesman.

She said the students competed according to the Georgia High School Association rating and trophies were provided by Liberty Savings Bank and Valdosta State College School of Education.

Jr. varsity student winners include: Angela Bozeman of Cook County High School, 2nd place Jr. Varsity Individual AA; Roy Kilgard of Valdosta High School, 2nd place Jr. Varsity Individual AAAA; Alexander Penn, 1st place Jr. Varsity Individual AAAA.

Overall jr. varsity school winners include:

Lanier County High School, 2nd Jr. Varsity School A; Brooks County High, 2nd place Jr. Varsity School AA; Cook County High, 1st place Jr. Varsity School AA; Valdosta High School, 1st place Jr. Varsity School AAAA.

Varsity students winners include: Becky James of Cook High, 2nd place Varsity Individual AA; Chad Peterson of Brooks High, 1st place

Varsity Individual AA; Andy Ferrell of Valdosta High, 2nd place Varsity Individual AAAA; Amy Kilgard of Valdosta High School 1st place Varsity Individual AAAA.

Overall varsity school winners include:

Lanier High, 2nd place Varsity School A; Brooks High, 2nd place Varsity School AA; Cook High, 1st place Varsity School AA; Lowndes High School, 2nd place Varsity School AAAA; Valdosta High, 1st place Varsity School AAAA.

Overall winners include: Cook County High School, 2nd place overall A & AA divisions; Valdosta High School, 1st place overall AAA & AAAA divisions.

Required School Reading Heavy On Classic Tales

VDT, Mon. March 18, 1991

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Remember the school days of being "forced" to read a book? Remember going to the library to see which book had the least pages, and even though it was short, hating the content?

Well, high school and college students are still required to read certain books. They can scale to the "Wuthering Heights" of Emily Bronte or plunge the depths of John Steinbeck's "The Pearl."

But whichever book a student chooses it is quite often selected with no great expectations.

"Nothing's changed in the past 30 years," said Genann Moser, a Valdosta High School English teacher. "It's pretty much the same books most of the students' parents were required to read."

This school year, Ms. Moser's class has or will read Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," William Golding's "Lord of the Flies," Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre," Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities," George Eliot's "Silas Marner," as well as William Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

Ms. Moser, who has taught English for 15 years, said traditionally "Lord of the Flies," the story of a group of civilized school boys reverting to barbarous and tribal ways when stranded on a desert island, is usually one of the more popular books required.

She said a Shakespearean play is required in each English class.



Younger students are required to read "Romeo and Juliet," or "Julius Caesar."

Seniors usually read Shakespeare's "Hamlet" or "Macbeth." Advanced seniors read "King Lear."

Ms. Moser said juniors read such works as Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird," and Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms."

Sophomores read works such as "The Pearl," while freshmen take on Dickens' "Great Expectations."

Students also are given a list of classic books to choose for themselves. Ms. Moser said the selection of literature relies mainly on the individual student.

Yet, many of the old standbys still apply.

Many students still choose the books with the least pages, while others try to give a report by using Monarch or Cliff Notes or watching

the movie instead of reading the book.

"What many students don't realize is that many movies, especially the older ones, are far different than the book," Ms. Moser said.

But while many high school students look for short cuts in their reading, some Valdosta State College students are driving two hours to discuss their adventures in literature.

Dr. Patricia Marks is teaching a British novel course offered once every two years at VSC. It is a split level undergraduate/graduate course.

During this quarter, Dr. Marks' class has read Henry Fielding's "Joseph Andrews," Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," Eliot's "Middlemarch," William Makepeace Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," Dickens' "Little Dorrit," and Mary Elizabeth Braddon's "Lady Audley's Secret."

"When reading a novel, you enter a microcosm, the small world of the author," she said.

The students seem most intrigued with "Middlemarch," Dr. Marks said.

"I had students say they stayed up until three in the morning reading the book. And they weren't waiting until the last minute to read it, they said they just couldn't put it down."

In addition to reading the literature, the class also studies and discusses the era (the 18th and 19th centuries) in which each book was written.

From class systems to prisons to utilitarianism, the students try to relate the times to the novel, Dr. Marks said.

'Cats, Vikings Open 1-AAAA

By CHARLIE GAY VDT, Tues. March 19, 1991
Times Staff Writer

Promising starts are in jeopardy beginning today as the Valdosta and Lowndes high school baseball teams head into Region 1-AAAA play. Both coaches expect a rough and tumble month with a few breaks needed to push inexperienced squads over the playoff hump.

Valdosta, 5-2, opens its region slate today at 4:30 p.m. hosting Bainbridge. The Wildcats' Monday road game against Brooks County was called off due to a wet field.

Meanwhile, Lowndes, 5-1, also ushers in region play today, entertaining Colquitt County beginning at 7 p.m.

"I think the region is going to be as tough as it's ever been in a long time, and it's always a good baseball league," Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said. "It's going to be very competitive."

In discussing the region's top programs, Tarpley and Lowndes coach Steve Kebler cited a power-laden Bainbridge lineup, Tift County's experience and Coffee High's track record and absorption of Broxton and Nicholls schools. Neither coach overlooks his crosstown rival, either.

"I wouldn't say they're (Bainbridge, Tifton and Coffee) in a class above us, but they'll be tough," Kebler said. "I think the rest of us are pretty evenly matched. Any one of us could break in," Kebler said.

Tarpley admitted he is somewhat surprised by his Valdosta team's showing so far, since the team lacks power and had no pitchers with any high school experience before two weeks ago, but finds the Wildcats' record encouraging.

Matt Baker (2-0) starts against Colquitt today.

Going into region play, Kebler likes that his team has played ball as a cohesive unit but said "every aspect needs improvement."

"I'm pleased so far, but we've got a long way to go, we don't have much experience," Kebler said.

Kebler admires his team's "hang-tough attitude," which along with experience will translate into victories later, though he is wary of a competitive region.

James Lester (2-1) takes the mound for the Vikings today.

Lowndes Gets Help To Defeat Valdosta

VDT, Wed. March 20, 1991
By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

The Suwannee High School track team made a friend in Georgia Tuesday night.

The Bulldogs from Live Oak, Fla., helped Lowndes High's boys team race past crosstown rival Valdosta High in a five-team meet at Lowndes High.

Suwannee won the second-to-last event and finished second in the last to help lift Lowndes over Valdosta, 128-127.

In girls' action, Lowndes completed a sweep, whipping Valdosta 115-54. Hamilton County (Fla.) High was third with 19 points and Suwannee's girls finished fourth with 9.

Valdosta's boys pulled out to an early 58-38 lead, powered by Dexter Daniels' first-place finishes in shot put and discus. But with the two-mile run and mile relay remaining, Lowndes had narrowed the gap to 10 points.

Suwannee's Phillip Harrington won the two-mile run and Lowndes runners Ed Borgman and Fred Williams finished second and third, closing the margin to a slim point, 121-120. The Vikings completed the nailbiting rally by winning the mile relay — assisted by Suwannee's second-place finish.

"They sure helped us in that last race," Lowndes coach Chuck Landy said.

Lowndes was paced by Chris Wright, who won the 300-meter hurdles and the long jump. Also for the Vikes, Clayton Washington won the triple jump, Fred Williams took the 1,600-meter run and James Lawrence the 200-meter dash.

Ernest Lowe set a new school record in high jump in a losing effort for the 'Cats. His six-foot, nine-inch jump beat Dante Jones' old record by an inch.

Other Valdosta winners, besides Lowe and Daniels, were Franklin Wiseman, 100-meter dash; Frank Henderson, 110-meter hurdles; and Scott Jones, 800-meter run.

Third place Suwannee finished with 53 points. Hamilton was a distant fourth with 5. Clinch County High was shut out.

Meanwhile, the Lowndes girls were in command throughout, winning nine of 13 events. Coach Hiram Johnson said he was pleased with the effort, a tuneup for this weekend's massive meet in Columbus.

Vikettes top finishers were: Latina Childs, 1,600-meter run; Vicky Williams, 400-meter dash and high jump; Shanell Jenkins, 100-meter hurdles; Catina Jones, 800-meter run; Tara McFadden, 200-meter dash; Elsa Davis, discus.

Natasha Hart, long jump, and Heather Burns, 3,200-meter run, registered the Lady Wildcats' triumphs.

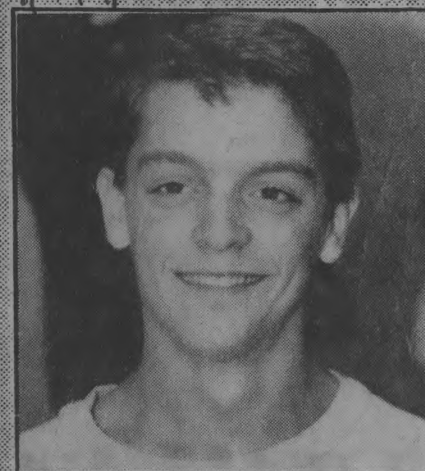
People File

Local Folks

VDT Wed. March 27, 1991

Meet...

- NAME: Danny Struble
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: Stock person at Country Cobbler, and a junior at Valdosta High School.
- HOBBIES: Tennis
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "A good game of tennis can make your day."





Valdosta High's second baseman Rookie Gage steps in front (22) slides safely to get a stolen base during Tuesday's game in of the base to take a throw as Berrien High's Danny Roberts Nashville — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Gage Keeps Working On Baseball

NOT Wed., March 13, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Baseball is not only a very time consuming sport to some people, but a boring one as well — that is for those who have never stepped across the chalked-lined base paths.

No matter what the time of day, or the length of the contest, Valdosta High's Rookie Gage can't seem to get enough of the sport.

"It never gets boring for me. I have too much fun playing the sport," said Gage. "I just enjoy playing the game and taking in every bit of the game while I'm out there on the field."

As a youngster growing up in Mississippi, Gage became an avid Mississippi State baseball fan. And after he attended his first college game, Gage couldn't wait to get in his swings at the plate.

"I grew up watching people like Will Clark play ball. It was always an exciting time for me," said Gage. "I looked forward to the day I'd get my turn at the plate for a high school team. And my hope is to be able to go on and play baseball in college."

Gage, a senior at VHS, not only can talk the game, but plays it with the same fever and passion.

For the past four years, he has attended such baseball camps as the Excell Camp in Orlando, Fla., and the Select Camp at Florida State University.

His intentions for the camps are simple — improvement. Because to this second baseman, the college scouts are looking for more than just a good arm.

"It's the mental aspect of the game that I feel is the most important," said Gage. "Want to be in every play, be alert, and make the play. Make a good

throw, or just whatever it takes at a certain position to be better than the next guy."

According to VHS head coach Charles Tarpley, Gage is one of the more complete baseball players he's ever coached.

"Rookie just gives you everything," Tarpley said. "You can't ever beat a kid being in the game like he is. He's very knowledgeable and his fundamentals are very sound."

"The only thing right now is that he's struggling with the bat," Tarpley said. "But his overall game is very sound and I happen to know several schools are interested in him. What else can I say? He's just a great kid."

Gage insists that his persistent attitude for baseball is the way all athletes should view their sport.

"To me, baseball is 24 hours. There's no end to my love for the game," said Gage. "Everyone should give their all when playing baseball or any sport."

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

Mike Akins singled home Steve Jaramillo, who reached on an error, for a 3-0 lead.

And Baker helped his own cause with an RBI single to left scoring Alton Hitson, who walked.

Roberts, who reached on an error, also scored for Berrien in the bottom

of the first on a VHS error. With the score, 4-1 VHS, Berrien County cut the lead to one run in the second on RBI singles by Roberts, scoring Cavan Perry, who doubled, and Jimmy Dupree. Dupree's RBI single plated Roberts for a 4-3 game.

Berrien County's Chris Walker then tied things up at 4-4 when he drove a pitch over the left-field fence.

VHS Students Make Honor Roll

VPT. Tues., March 12, 1991

Valdosta High School announces the honor roll students for the first semester. Brian Adams, Thaddeus Agar, Gina Albritton, Corey Alexander, David Alexander, John Allen, Larry Allen, Clint Allred, Christopher Ames, Chris Andresen, Christina Aragon, Felecia Arnold, Mary Aycock, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, David Baliles, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Laura Barbas, Stephen Baskin, Kim Dewayne Bass, Maribel Bauzo, Brook Bearden, Chad Bellflower, Jeana Benfield, Jennifer Berry, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Lorna Bius, Anna Blamar, Kelli Bland, Trish Bolen, Michelle Bostock, Jennifer Boughton, Selenthia Bradley, Sabrina Bradshaw, Blake Brantley, Marirose Brase, Leigh Ann Braswell, Lardell Brinson, Lana Brooks, Jessica Brown, Julie Bryant, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse Budd, Stacy Burnett, Jonathan Burns, Carmelita Butts, Justin Cabral.

And Laurie Campbell, Clarence Carter, Ethel Carter, Spence Carver, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Monica Clifton, Stefanie Clifton, Travis Clovis, Christy Clyatt, Julie Coffey, Matt Cole, Will Coleman, Elijah Collins, Ryan Collins, Ashley Connell, Shniece Cooper, Tina Costello, Adrienne Cowart, Rebecca Coyne, Kevin Cronin, Jason Cumby, Meadowlark Daniels, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Kemisha Davis, Sabrina Davis, Jason Day, Glair Dempsey, Jed Dennard, Michelle Dewitt, Belinda Downs, Travis Dular, Derek Duncan, Jennifer Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Kendra Elliott, Stephanie Everett, Peter Faylor, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Jaime Finland, Missy Fisher, Regina Flannigan, Meredith Fletcher, Carlos Flores, Luis Flores.

Also, Ramonda Floyd, Liz Foster, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman,



Jane Kay Fueyo, Joanna Fueyo, Farrah Gage, Rookie Gage, James Galloy, Kristin Ganas, Genora Garland, James Garrison, Melissa Geier, Jason Giddens, Ashley Giles, Robert Gingrow, Amy Glines, Lacarra Godfrey, Brenna Goff, Scott Goodwin, Eurica Goss, Jimmy Green, Keesha Green, Merritt Green, Chris Greene, Brian Gregory, Amy Griffin, Ward Griffin, Melanie Griffin, Melissa Griffin, Parker Grow, Becky Guest, Melissa Hale, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Sung Chun Han, Sung No Han, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Theresa Harper, Karen Harris, Marsha Harris, Andreu Harrison, Robyn Hastings, Ebonye Hatcher, Linda Hendricks, Michelle Herndon, John Hickox.

And Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Joel Hodges, Mary Hufmeister, Sarah Hufmeister, Sam Hogan, Laura Holland, Jodie Hollenbeck, Grant Hollenbeck, Tammy Hoover, Ashley House, Thomas Howard, Bill Howard, Mark Howell, Ashley Hudson, Matthew Hunt, Jesse Hunter, Veronica Hunter, Nathan Ingham, Ivan Iverson, Margaret Iverson, JJ Jack, Beverly Jackson, James Jacobs, Crisie James, Steve Jaramillio, Dashanti Jefferson, La Deitra Jeffery, Carla Johnson, Deborah Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Rodney Jones, Scott Jones, Xavier Jones, Jamie Kaeck, Erin Kelly, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kilgard, Tongela Kinchen, Monique King, Jessica Konopa, Wendy Kuter, Teresa Lamprey, Jennifer Launey, Tammy Lester, Michelle Levy, Tammy Lewis.

Also, Christee Leynes, Brandon Lovett, Chassitty Loving, Todd Luke, Janice Mallory, Katherine Mathis, Ben Matson, David Matthews, Jennifer Matthews, Michael McAfee, Derrick McBurrough, Marlin McClure, Brian McCombs, Wendy McConnell, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Tory McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Angela McSween, John Meyer, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Andrea Moody, Robert Moody, Pamela Moore, Stephanie Moore, Treva Moore, Alita Morrell, Meredith Mosby, Will Nijem, Laura Lynn Nolan, Tim O'Brien, Jodi Osborne, Katherine Owens, Amy Page, Ekta Patel, Hemali Patel, Hema Patel, Rachel Patterson, Geveda Patrick, John Peoples, Sandy Peoples, Alexander Penn, Robert Peters.

And Katresa Peterson, Moneka Peterson, Veronica Phillips, Philip Pie-

plow, Ben Pitchford, John Pitcock, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Tenya Ponder, Tarnisha Primrose, Celina Pye, Judson Rackley, Sarita Rainey, Courtney Ramirez, Crystal Ray, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Melanie Register, Stephen Register, Holly Rentschler, Mary Richards, Michelle Riley, Jessica Roan, Tiffany Roan, Jennifer Robbins, Lashunda Roberts, Bill Roberts, Corey Robinson, Kyndra Robinson, David Roddey, Janet Rogers, Michael Ronn, Gary Ross, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, Robin Rowe, Telisha Ruffin, Cynthia Rumph, Leigh Saliba, Ayanna Sampson, Alan Sanderson, Kristin Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Bobbie Sasser, Joseph Schnake, Latonya Scott, Lee Scott.

Also, Anthony Scruggs, Dtawahn Sexton, James Sharpe, Melody Shaw, Erica Short, Veronica Simmons, Tarnishia Sirmans, Heather Skiles, Aimee Smith, Eric Smith, Jamie Smith, Tim Smith, Julie Solomon, Gregory Soshnik, Sara Jane South, Jennifer Spencer, Lori Spurlock, Stephanie Staley, Brian Stanley, Davidae Stewart, Danny Struble, Jessica Stubbs, Julie Suggs, Eileen Sweeney, Tami Tanquay, Nathan Tart, Pamela Terrell, Monica Tillman, Tanya Tovar, Tracy Troutman, James Tucker, Mark Vannortwick, Miriam Vendemo, Kimberly Wade, Alysia Walker, Blake Walker, John Walker, Robin Walker, Cassandra Ward, Ginger Waters, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, Rickard Werner, Trent Wetherington, Wendy Whatley, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, William Whitesell, Necole Wiggins, Kimberly Williams, Leeanna Williams, Sharon Williams, Kelly Wingrove, Will Woodall, Lashonda Wrice, Michael Young, Shannon Yow.

The Valdosta Daily Times

2-B Thursday, March 14, 1991

Valdosta Edges Tift

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats were pushed to the limit during Wednesday's four-team track meet at Valdosta High School.

But by meet's end, it was Valdosta High doing most of the pushing as they edged out the Tift County Blue Devils, 107-93, for first place.

Colquitt County High took third with 27 points and Coffee High was fourth at 21.

VHS and Tift County remained knotted at 57-57 with six events left in the track meet.

Then three events later, VHS held a 79-75 points lead over Tift County, before the Wildcats swept the 200 meter dash. Led by Frank Wiseman's (21.80) first-place finish, VHS took command and held off the Devils for the victory.

Teammates Trampis Wrice (2nd); Carlos Folsom (3rd); and Ernest Lowe (4th) rounded out the 200m results.

"We've been trying to establish a new generation of boys' track at Valdosta. And when things got real tight today, our kids worked that much harder and the attitude was great," said VHS head coach Larry Jester.

"I really feel the attitude we had in practice and what we showed today was the single difference in this meet," Jester said.

Valdosta's Ernest Lowe opened the meet with a (22'7 $\frac{3}{4}$) in the long jump for first place. Xavier Paulin and Demetrius Roberson of Tift finished second and third, with VHS' Trampis Wrice taking fourth.

Terrance Daniels of VHS took first place in the triple jump at (41'5 $\frac{1}{4}$); Roderick Clark second and Vincent Winson and Deric Cotton of VHS was third and fourth. VHS' Dexter Daniels was just five inches off a school record, but was not enough to keep Jerry Hill of Coffee High from finishing first at (52'2).

Hill and Tift teammate Gary Lupo finished first and second respectively in the discus, then Lowe answered

for Valdosta clearing 6-feet in the high jump. Tift's Davis Allison (13') was first in the pole vault and VHS' Scott Stuart was third.

The VHS team of Lowe, Folsom, Wrice and Wiseman finished first in the 4x100 relay with a time of 43.96. Tift County was second and the VHS team of Nakia McMullen, Derwin Logan, Frank Henderson and David Williams took third.

The 1600 meter went to Colquitt's Paul Wilder, with VHS' Cy Garland third; Tony Stone of Colquitt was first in the 3200 meter run, Mark Fogleson of VHS was third; and Tift's Tony Powell was first in the 400 meter dash, with Henderson of VHS third.

Wrice of VHS was first (10.68) in the 100 meter dash and Wiseman of VHS was second. Terry Bozeman of Tift was first in the 110 meter hurdles, with Henderson and Brice Hunter of VHS taking second and third.

Roberson of Tift was first in the 800 meter run and VHS' Stuart and Keith Garrison finishing third and fourth.



Bainbridge pitcher Brian Powell can't get the tag down quick enough on Valdosta's Alton Hitson, allowing the Wild-

cats to score a fourth-inning run in Tuesday's Region 1-AAAA baseball game — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Bainbridge Bats Past 'Cats, 9-4

VDT, Wed, March 20, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN

Times Sports Editor

Bainbridge High's bats were hot enough to stay away from trouble Tuesday afternoon. Its star pitcher was wild enough to stay away from more problems.

The result was a Region 1-AAAA loss for the homestanding Valdosta High baseball team. The visiting Bearcats left with a 9-4 victory in the region opener for both teams.

Bainbridge (6-2, 1-0) pounded out 13 hits, three each by three Bearcat players. Pitcher Brian Powell walked six batters and threw five wild pitches in five innings, but allowed just four hits in his five innings of work.

"If I had known we'd score four runs, I thought we'd have a chance to win," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "But our pitcher had no control

whatsoever. If we had had a good game (from him), I think we would have had a chance."

Valdosta (5-3, 0-1) did have its chances in the middle innings against Powell, bringing the tying run to the plate in the third and almost the tying run in the fourth. Instead, the Wildcats left two runners on base in each inning.

"We cannot hit in the clutch," Tarpley said. "We haven't done it all year. We've got men on base. Maybe before it's over we'll get the hits in the clutch."

Bainbridge's big-hitting trio of Jason Andrews, Rodney Close and Eric Davis each had three hits. Andrews hit a home run off starter Matt Baker (four walks, three wild pitches) to open the scoring in a three-run first.

Close had three doubles, with RBI hits in the second and fourth, and Davis had three singles — including an RBI hit in the sixth.

Vidal Lively had a two-RBI double in the first, and added a single as the Bearcats batted around in the fourth to take an 8-1 lead. Chad Bennett's solo home run between the left-field fair pole and the scoreboard opened the scoring.

Powell was wild enough to the point of wild-pitching three runs home for the Wildcats, one in the first and two more in the fourth. Rookie Gage (two hits) singled home another run in that fourth inning, before Powell got his fifth and last strikeout to end the inning.

Powell and reliever Close settled down in the last three innings, allowing just two baserunners — Powell's walk of Alton Hitson in the fifth and Steve Jaramillo's two-out hit in the seventh.

Carlos Moore scored two runs, reaching base on an error and a walk and advancing on four of Powell's wild pitches.

Valdosta will makeup Monday's rainout at Brooks County this afternoon.

Coffee Pounds Valdosta, 20-4

VDI *Wed., March 29, 1991*
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

One of the biggest concerns for the Valdosta High baseball team this season was the lack of varsity-experienced pitching.

With No. 1 starter Matt Baker on the sidelines awaiting Friday's game with Colquitt County, the remainder of the staff showed its inexperience Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field. Four Wildcat pitchers combined for 13 walks and two hit batsmen as Region 1-AAAA leader Coffee pounded Valdosta 20-4.

The Trojans (6-4 overall, 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA) also had 10 hits, including three home runs in the five-inning game. Two came back-to-back in the first inning.

Coffee starter Shane Shook no-hit Valdosta after allowing three runs in the bottom of the first.

"We knew what our weakness was, and it came out today — no pitching," said Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley. "I didn't want to wear Baker out with Moultrie and Lowndes coming up.

"You can't beat grandma and grandpa with 13 walks."

Coffee even conquered Valdosta with just eight players for the last two outs. Rightfielder Shannon Ray reinjured a knee trying to chase down Chad Alfson's long fly ball, which turned into an inside-the-park home run. Coffee had already put in its five available substitutes, leaving no one to replace Ray.

The game's last out may have summed up Valdosta's bad day. Rookie Gage slapped a line drive into left-center field, what would usually be at least a double. But Coffee was

playing its two remaining outfielders in the gaps, and Gage's drive was an easy out.

Coffee scored all its runs in the first four innings, including a seven-run second which broke open what was a close game — a 4-3 Coffee lead.

Twelve batters went to the plate in the inning, with Scott Taylor (2-for-4, 4 RBI) and Sandy McKinnon (2-for-4, 5 RBI) each having two-RBI doubles. Three other batters walked, and one was hit.

In the third, five batters walked. Four were surrounded by Cassius Johnson's two-RBI double. Wild pitches helped bring other runs home.

McKinnon ended the scoring with a three-run home run to center in the fourth, after a wild pitch had scored one run. Valdosta reliever Mike Akins did give up that four-bagger, but it was the only hit he allowed in 1 2-3 innings. Akins shut out Coffee in the fifth.

Valdosta (7-6, 0-3) had tried to keep it close early, after Carlos Johnson had blasted a three-run home run and Keith Sutton followed with a solo home run in the first.

The Wildcats answered with three runs in the bottom of the first. Steve Jaramillo's bases-loaded double plated two runs, and Alton Hitson followed with a sacrifice fly.

But after that, Shook retired 10 of the next 11 batters he faced before giving way to a reliever in the fifth.

■ In the other Region 1-AAAA game, Tift County defeated Colquitt County, 10-6. Coffee leads the region at 3-0, while Bainbridge and Tift are 2-1. Lowndes and Colquitt are 1-2, while Valdosta is 0-3.



Coffee High's Shannon Ray slides safely into third base as Valdosta High's Chris Greene tries to make the play during Tuesday's Region 1-AAAA game — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Tift County Walks Past Valdosta, 4-3

VDI *Sat., March 23, 1991*
Staff Reports

TIFTON — Three straight walks by the Valdosta High Wildcats enabled Tift County's Bart Smith to score the winning run in Friday's Region 1-AAAA game.

Smith's run gave the Blue Devils a 4-3 victory over the Wildcats and a 7-3 overall record for the season.

With the score knotted at 3-3 in the seventh inning, Smith doubled and was sacrificed to third. Then, the Wildcats chose to intentionally walk the next two Blue Devil batters to load the bases. But the strategy failed, as VHS and then walked the winning run home on four pitches.

Tift, now 1-1 in the region, is in a four-way tie with Lowndes, Colquitt County and Bainbridge for second place. Colquitt County defeated Bainbridge, 3-2, Friday.

Valdosta (7-5) drops to 0-2 in the region.

Mike Hall (4-1) struck out nine VHS batters in picking up the win for Tift. Hall also had one hit and three RBI.

Tift scored three in bottom of first inning, with the big hit being a two-run double by Hall with two outs. Tift had four consecutive two-out hits in the inning to take a 3-0 lead.

VHS scored three times on three unearned runs in the fifth inning. Mike Akins singled and scored one out later on a single by Chris Greene (RBI single). Tim O'Brien then reached on an error and Steve Eversson entered the game to run for O'Brien.

Everson scored a fielder's double by Carlos Moore making the score, 3-2 Tift. Greene tied the game up at 3-3 on a wild pitch.



Valdosta High's Rookie Gage dives back into first base as Daviess County's Chris White awaits the throw. The Kentucky team swept the Wildcats in a day mixed with baseball and a cookout — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

'Cats Continue Hard Luck

VDT, Sun., March 31, 1991

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Following Saturday's doubleheader at Bazemore Field, all Charles Tarpley wants know is how to get a break.

The Valdosta High head baseball coach watched as the visiting Daviess County High Cougars took advantage of walks and untimely mistakes which enabled the Cougars to sweep VHS, 5-4 and 8-6.

Tarpley had hoped the carnival-type atmosphere with the visitors from Kentucky, which included a cookout in between games, would help his team's confidence. Instead, the Wildcats' losing streak was extended to five games. And even though the Wildcats were more productive offensively than the Cougars, VHS' record on the year now stands at 6-7.

"I just don't want to say other than the kids are trying hard, the play today was good. However, still not getting any breaks and we always seem to make a crucial mistake somewhere along the line," said Tarpley. "It was was a good day to play baseball and I think it helped us. But I want to win every game and it's tough to see us lose like this."

The Wildcats outhit Daviess County, 22-13, for the doubleheader. VHS starter Matt Baker (2-3) allowed just three hits in the first game.

VHS' offensive production included a six-hit afternoon by first baseman Brad Tarpley; four hits by second baseman Rookie Gage and five hits by shortstop Steve Jaramillo.

Infielder Chris White (5 hits, 2 runs, 5 RBI) was the leading hitter for the Cougars. And it was his fifth-inning, solo home run to left field in the first game which proved to be the game-winner for Daviess County.

In the first game, White had two of his team's three hits.

Valdosta, down 5-4 in the seventh, had runners on first and third. But on an attempted steal, Jason Jelks was caught on a pick-off move to end the game.

The second game started as private ownership of Daviess County. The Cougars erupted for three runs on three hits, the key was a two-run homer by Brad Emberton. Daviess went up, 5-0, on two hits in the second. The only RBI was by shortstop Jeff Howard.

The 'Cats had just two hits and one unearned run through three innings, before an RBI by Mike Akins and a sacrifice fly by Baker cut the deficit to 5-3. Valdosta then tied the game at 5-5 in the fifth.

Consecutive singles by Alton Hitson, Gage and Tarpley gave way to a two-run double to center by Jaramillo. Mike Akins then singled home Tarpley giving VHS the lead at 6-5.

But the VHS defense didn't cooperate in the sixth. An opening error at short allowed Howard to put runners on the corners with two outs. White again came through with the game-winner for Daviess County.

White hit his first pitch over the center field fence and an 8-6 Daviess County edge.

"I just had a good day, tomorrow might be a different story," said White. "We've just enjoyed coming back and playing. Hopefully the two schools can keep this type thing going. It's good for the players and fans involved."

Daviess County will now venture down to Florida to complete its southern baseball swing, while the Wildcats look to bounce back Monday. VHS hosts the Clinch County High Panthers at 4 p.m.

Region Teams Seek Playoff Path

VDT, Sat., March 30, 1991

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Region 1-AAAA swinging door is beginning to speed up.

With that in mind, Lowndes High's Steve Kebler and Valdosta High's Charles Tarpley just hope their baseball teams are one of four that make it through and into post-season play. And with 11 games played this year, the Vikings are closer to exiting than the 'Cats.

"I wouldn't count us into anything by any means," said Kebler. "At the same time, Valdosta is very much alive. A win here and there and Valdosta's in the playoffs."

The Vikings (8-3) are 2-2 in 1-AAAA play, including a one-run win over Tift County High Thursday.

LHS snapped a two-game losing streak with the win. However, Kebler says consistency is the key.

"The kids have played with a lot of heart, but we're just too inconsistent," said Kebler. "There's bright spots and some dull spots."

Lowndes entered the year as an expected front-runner for the region crown. But according to Kebler, countless mistakes in the field and spotty run production has the Vikings caught in the middle.

"I think the expectations by many others was just too high. And the kids are trying to live up to it. When that happens, frustration sets in. But, I like this team. And there's no doubt in my mind we can make it if we play well."

The Wildcats (6-5) are winless in three games in 1-AAAA and Friday's game versus Colquitt County was cancelled due to bad weather.

In fact, the game would have not been played in good conditions because the Packers' bus broke down en route to Valdosta. The game has been moved to next Saturday at 1 p.m.

VHS, who hosts Daviess County (Kentucky) High today (10 a.m.) in a doubleheader, must now play three 1-AAAA games next week — the first being against arch-rival Lowndes High at LHS Tuesday night.

"We needed to play today and of course win the game," said Tarpley. "We need to play like the next game could be the last, and get some sound pitching. If we can get some good pitching, we have a chance."

"Nobody, maybe Coffee, shows to be awesome. And for us, the Lowndes game is against one of the teams we have to beat to get into the thick of it."

Health Team Wins District Competition

A second Valdosta High School team is going for back-to-back state championships.

The VHS Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl Team finished first at the district level VICA Skill Olympics held earlier this month at Americus Technical Institute. The team will defend its state title in Atlanta May 10, according to Lynn Wilson, VHS VICA coordinator.

The only returner from last year's team is Junior Rebecca Morgan. Joining her on this year's team are Jessica Morgan, Anjana Reddy, Angela Harper and Amanda McGhin.

Senior David Farber is also hoping for a repeat first place at the state competition. Farber won first place in extemporaneous speaking. At the district competition, Farber also won second in electronics technology and third in outstanding student.

Other first place finishers from Valdosta High School included Terrence Troope in medical assisting, Michael Thrift in graphic communications, Thad Agar in job interview, and Gina McGee in dental assisting.

Permelia Moore second in practical nursing and Ryan Coyne third in

Valdosta High School



NEWS

Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

exploratory health occupations.

The students were accompanied to the district competition by Janie McGhin, VHS health occupations instructor, and Verl Sherrod, VHS electromechanics instructor.

First and second place finishers from the district level are eligible to go on to the State VICA Skill Olympics.

Last year Valdosta High School had five first place winners at the state competition, according to Mrs. Wilson. In addition to the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl and extemporaneous speaking, VHS students won in graphic communications, exploratory health occupations and surgical technology.

VHS Track Wins ..

Improving VHS Bests Two Foes

VDT Tues., April 9, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High girls track coach Dick Sturtevant has seen a pleasing trend among his runners in recent meets.

The Lady Wildcats' times have been dropping of late, including in Monday afternoon's triangular meet at the VHS track. Natasha Hart set new personal lows in the 100 and 200 meters and the 4x400 meter relay team which Hart anchors also got its personal best.

Valdosta defeated Region 1-AAAA foes Coffee and Tift, scoring 71 points to Coffee's 37. Tift was third at 29 points.

"We're really coming along," said Sturtevant. "I've seen steady improvement. Every meet, someone's times improve."

Monday, it was Hart. She won the 100 meters in 12.65 seconds and the 200 meters in 26.45 seconds. It was just part of a busy day for the Lady Wildcat, who also won the long jump (16 feet, 8¾ inches) and was in on two winning relay teams — the 4x100 along with Tiffany Wright, Vashti Manning and Michelle Hendricks (51.44 seconds). Hendricks, Wright and Shawanna Brown were part of the 4x400 team with Hart which won with a 4:19 time.

Valdosta fell behind in the field events, then rallied in track. A 1-2-3 Valdosta finish in the 1,600 meters, won by Maggie McDonald with Heather Burns second and Khris-tina Lyons third, gave the Lady Wildcats a team-points lead they would not relinquish.

A 1-2 Valdosta finish in the 100-meter hurdles (Hendricks and Wright) and 800 meters (McDonald and Lyons) strengthened the lead.

Brown (400 meters) and Burns (3,200 meters) rounded out Valdosta's first-place finishes.

The Lady Wildcats have three meets remaining before the Region 1-AAAA meet is held on Valdosta High's new track on April 24-25. VHS's girls will next run at Tifton on Wednesday.

Noteworthy

Get Scholarships

A high school senior from Valdosta was among the 129 semifinalists who were awarded scholarships by Presbyterian College in Clinton, S.C., following the school's academic scholarship competition.

Awarded a Southeastern Scholarship was Charles D. Johnson from Lowndes High School. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Johnson of Valdosta.

"All of the students received their scholarships based on their outstanding achievements in and out of the classroom," said Margaret Williamson, dean of admissions and financial aid.

Prior to the scholarship competition, the students were given a tour of the Presbyterian College campus and attended information sessions about various aspects of the college. They were also interviewed by faculty and administrators during their visit to the campus.

Justin Carracedo Cabral of Homerville has been awarded an academic excellence scholarship at The University of Mississippi.

The competitive scholarships are granted on the basis of college entrance test scores.

Cabral, a senior at Valdosta High School, plans to study premedicine at Ole Miss.

He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Justo F. Cabral.

VHS Students

In District

VDT. Mon. Apr. 1, 1991

VICA Contest

Valdosta High School students participated in the district Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition at Moultrie Tech.

The first and second place winners will advance to the state competition in Atlanta in May.

First place winners included David Farber in extemporaneous speaking; Thad Agar in job interview; Gina McGee in dental assisting; Terry Troope in medical assisting; Michael Thrift in graphic communications; and Rebecca Morgan, Jessica Morgan, Amanda McGhin, Anjana Reddy and Angela Harper in Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl.

Second place winners were Permelia Moore in practical nursing and Farber in electronics technology.

Third place winners were Farber for outstanding student and Ryan Coyne in basic health care skills.

Other students who participated in the events were Eric Stanley, Amanda McGhin, Rebecca Morgan, Jennifer Brown, Angela Harper, Meredith Fletcher and Jessica Morgan for opening and closing ceremony; Coy Peterson in nursing assistant; Stanley in machine drafting; and Jason Legg in precision machining.



Clinch County's Josh Carter slides safely into second base with a fourth-inning double as the ball bounces away from VHS' Rookie Gage — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Break Losing Streak

VDT. Tues. April 2, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

This was no April Fool's joke.

Valdosta High came out Monday afternoon at Bazemore Field and played sound defense, threw strikes and got timely hits.

And the Wildcats won for the first time in two weeks. The 'Cats evened their record at 7-7 with a 10-4 victory over Clinch County High, breaking a five-game losing streak.

Valdosta travels to Lowndes tonight for a 7 p.m. Region 1-AAAA game.

Valdosta was out-hit 8-7, but piled up all of its runs in the first three innings with the help of four Clinch errors and five walks. Valdosta didn't commit an error, turned a double play and picked a runner off base. Starter and winner Mike Akins

worked around six walks by stranding eight Clinch runners, with a little last-inning relief help from Joel Bius.

"It just feels good to win one," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We didn't make an error. I thought we had one of the best defensive teams we'd had in years ... if we throw the ball across the plate with anything on it, I think the kids do a decent job. We manage to get four or five runs a game."

The Wildcats broke out on top in the first when Chad Alfson (error) and Alton Hitson (double) reached. Rookie Gage scored Alfson with a sacrifice fly, then Hitson came home on the first of two Brad Tarpley RBI singles.

Three unearned runs scored in the second to make it 5-1. The inning was extended when Gage's popup was dropped, scoring Chris Greene. Hitson scored the second run on a

double steal, then Gage came across on Tarpley's single.

Valdosta turned to the long ball in the third for its last five runs. Akins led off the inning with a home run to center, and Alfson later followed with a three-run blast to right. Hitson scored the last run on Steve Jaramillo's ground out.

Reliever Jamie Bass — taking over for starter Shawn Blanton — retired 10 of the last 11 batters he faced to finish the game. Jaramillo's two-out, sixth-inning single, his second hit of the day, was the lone dent.

Clinch's ninth-place hitter Jason Booth had two RBIs, one with a bases-loaded walk in the second and the second on a fourth-inning RBI single. Josh Carter also scored in the fourth on the second half of a double steal. Shortstop Fred Edmonds ended the Panthers' run production with a home run to center to open the fifth.

Error-Prone Cats Lose 8-3

V Times 4-5-91

Staff Reports

Errors once again proved to be the Valdosta High Wildcats' worst enemy Thursday.

The Bainbridge Bearcats used nine VHS errors to their advantage and defeated the Wildcats, 8-3, in Region 1-AAAA play in Bainbridge.

Valdosta, plagued by the error bug all season, committed seven errors in

a six-run, fourth-inning which gave the Bearcats the lead for good.

Chip Andrews picked up the win for Bainbridge, while Carlos Moore (1-1) took the loss for Valdosta High.

The Wildcats have lost seven of their last eight games played.

Bainbridge (12-2, 4-1 in 1-AAAA) scored single runs in the first and second inning without the benefit of a hit in taking a 2-0 lead.

In the first inning, Bainbridge scored a run on a walk, hit batter

and a passed ball. The second inning for the Bearcats included a walk, a Valdosta error, and a sacrifice fly.

Valdosta High (7-9, 0-5 in 1-AAAA) tied the game at 2-2 in the top of the fourth inning.

Valdosta High's second baseman Rookie Gage, who had three hits, singled.

Teammate Mike Akins put runners at first and second base when he walked with two outs.

Then, Moore singled to left to load the bases. Back-to-back walks to Matt Baker and Chris Greene knotted the game at 2-2. Chad Alfson lined out to end the inning.

With just two hits, a walk and seven Valdosta errors, the Bearcats scored six times in the bottom of the fourth.

The lead gave Bainbridge an 8-2 advantage.

Greene scored in the Valdosta seventh on an RBI single by Gage to close out the contest at 8-3.

Overall, Valdosta High had three runs on five hits and nine errors. Bainbridge scored eight and committed no errors.

Moore, the hardluck loser for VHS, allowed just four hits to the Bainbridge High Bearcats.

Valdosta High plays Saturday (1 p.m.) at Bazemore Field in a region game against Colquitt Co.



Valdosta High pitcher Matt Baker tags out fellow pitcher Michael Johnson, of Lowndes, at home after

Johnson tried to score a run in the first inning — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Vikes Top Error-Plagued 'Cats

VDT, Wed, April 3, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Defense, which Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley believed to be his team's strong suit, was almost non-existent Tuesday at Lowndes Field. Against Lowndes High, Valdosta's Wildcats committed eight errors and yielded just three earned runs to the Vikings.

Combined with the five-hit pitching of LHS' Michael Johnson, the Vikings defeated the Wildcats, 9-2, in a Region 1-AAAA contest. The loss leaves Valdosta (7-8, 0-4) in serious jeopardy of making the playoffs, while Lowndes (9-3, 3-2) takes over third place in 1-AAAA.

In other 1-AAAA action Tuesday, Coffee beat Colquitt County, 9-4. And Bainbridge defeated Tift County, 8-3. Coffee leads the region at 4-0. Bainbridge is 3-1, Lowndes 3-2, Colquitt 1-3 and Valdosta 0-4.

Valdosta is now 0-3 versus Lowndes this season. The Vikings plays Berrien County High tonight at Lowndes Field. The first pitch is slated for 6 p.m.

"Matt Baker (VHS starter) pitched real well, we just didn't give him any help," said Tarpley. "Heck, it's not his fault. He walks the first batter, that's about it. What I

thought we could do well, which was defense, we didn't play worth anything."

On the other hand, LHS' head coach Steve Kebler was thrilled with his team's play.

"Michael Johnson was the real Michael tonight, and I thought we played very well on defense," Kebler said. "I think Scott Regan's handling of pitches was excellent, we ran the bases well, and the whole team just seems more focused on what's going on. Only two errors tonight by the team. That's really great to see."

The Vikings quickly built a 6-0 lead through four innings of play and were aided along the way by poor VHS fielding. VHS, who had seven errors in the first four innings, watched as LHS speedster Antoine Moran (walked, two steals) scored on an error.

Lowndes went up 2-0 in the first when Jimbo Scruggs stole home following a double off the left field fence by Johnson. In the LHS third, Baker (2-4) was once again betrayed by his defense as Pete Ketterman reached on a throwing error. Ketterman, who went to second on the throw, made it 3-0 on a dropped fly ball.

Baker pitched five innings, gave up four hits and walked just two batters. All six runs by LHS off Baker were unearned.

In the meantime, Johnson (3-1, nine strikeouts) brought a no-hitter into the Valdosta fourth, before Steve Jaramillo (2-4) drove a 1-2 pitch deep to center for a double. Jaramillo, however, was left stranded by VHS and the Vikings took command in the bottom of the inning.

Baker, who had given up just two hits to LHS, saw three Viking runners cross the plate on just one hit and three VHS errors. Lowndes' Joe Morey reached on an error, then scored when the VHS center fielder dropped a fly by Gary Willis.

Leading now 4-0, Moran delivered with an RBI triple to right. Moran later gave LHS a 6-0 cushion by scoring on a VHS error.

Rookie Gage started a VHS rally in the sixth when he was hit by Johnson. One out later, Jaramillo singled putting runners at first and second. A ground out moved the runners up and Carlos Moore singled to center scoring Gage (6-1). Baker followed with an RBI single scoring Jaramillo (6-2).

Johnson then walked Chris Greene for the third time in the game loading the bases. But the junior fanned Chad Alfson on three pitches to end the inning.

Moore pitched the sixth for VHS and was greeted with three hits and three runs. LHS' Ivory Williams, James Lester and Ketterman accounted for all of the Viking hits and runs in the inning.

Bainbridge Races By Valdosta

VPT, Thurs., April 4, 1991
By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School boys track coach Larry Jester saw some familiar faces come to town Tuesday.

And he watched as the feet attached those faces' bodies — all of the above belonging to the Bainbridge High track team — raced past Jester's squad at a four-team meet in Valdosta.

Jester coached Bainbridge last year and admitted it was a little strange to see many of his runners again. "Yeah, it is. I coached most all of them last year," he said.

Bainbridge rode a balanced attack to a 121-80.5 victory. Thomasville High came in third with 22.5 points and Colquitt County tallied 21.

The Bearcats were paced in individuals by Fred Wright and Bernard Perkin, both of whom posted two wins. Wright won high jump and triple jump; Perkin won the 400 meter dash and the 800 meter run.

Valdosta rallied from an early 41-22 deficit, finishing first-second-third in the pole vault (Matthew VanNus-Scott Stuart-Marshall Biles) to close the gap to 41-35. But a consistent Bainbridge effort ultimately sunk the Wildcats.

Frank Wiseman starred for Valdosta, taking both the 100 and 200 meter dash.

"Coming off spring break, it wasn't a bad effort. We had some key people out, we felt they could have helped pick us up 18-22 points," Jester said.

A key knee injury to star Ernest Lowe, which occurred last weekend in Cairo, helped hold the team back, Valdosta coaches said.



Terrance Daniels of Valdosta High School grimaces as he completes a triple jump at the VHS track Wednesday. Daniels finished third

in the event; Valdosta High was outpointed in the four-team meet by Bainbridge High. — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

Whatever Happened To . . .

Folsom Answered Volunteer Challenge

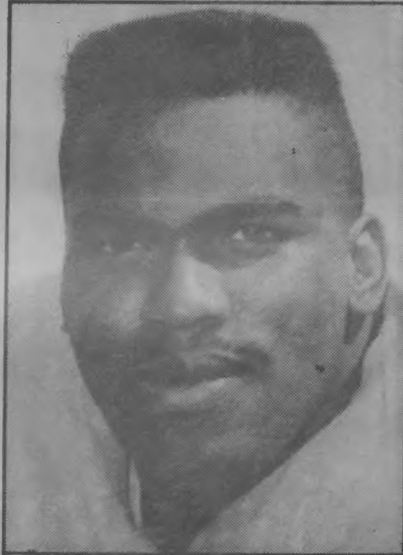
VPT, Thurs., April 4, 1991
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For Derrick Folsom, a chance is all he asked for. And when it came to a reply, the University of Tennessee answered the call after a short journey to Oklahoma.

Folsom, a former Valdosta High safety, played two seasons with the Tennessee Volunteers. His college career came to an end in the 1990 Cotton Bowl, with his team winners over the Arkansas Razorbacks.

But Folsom's response would be that he was the big winner.

"It was just a great opportunity for me to attend Tennessee and play for Coach (Johnny) Majors," said Folsom. "Things worked out real well for me coming out of junior college. I feel it was the right place for



FOLSOM

See FOLSOM, Page 3-B

Folsom

From Page 2-B

me and a team I always wanted to play for."

After winding up an illustrious prep career at Valdosta High in 1984, this 5-foot-11, 200-pounder went out west to Oklahoma.

Folsom was a two-year starter (1985-86) at free safety for Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College. In 1986, A&M was named as

the national champions.

During his career at A&M, Folsom recorded 19 tackles, eight assists and had three broken up passes in 1986. And in his two years playing for head coach Glen Wolfe, A&M lost just two football games.

Upon his arrival in 1987 to the Vols' camp in 1987, he was redshirted. From there, Folsom began his drive for a starting role in

the defensive backfield.

Folsom needed a strong spring practice in 1988 to tip the scales in his favor. But an injury slowed his progress. The culprit was an ankle injury that sidelined him several practice days and eventually moved him down in the Vols' depth charts.

Folsom's determination was the key in enormous playing time his junior and senior year.

School Nurse Works In Classroom

VDT

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

School nurses today have more than health screening duties — they are teachers, counselors and comforters for students at their school. Just ask Beverly Smith, the health educator for the Valdosta School System.

"The role of the school nurse has moved from the infirmary to the classroom," Mrs. Smith said. "School administration is realizing there is more than just a mind involved in learning — there is a heart and body too."

Mrs. Smith is a registered nurse who works part-time in South Georgia Medical Center's emergency room while school is in and full-time during the summer. During the school year, she works in all of the city's schools.

Although she tends to medical needs at the school she is in at the

'The role of the school nurse has moved from the infirmary to the classroom ... School administration is realizing there is more than just a mind involved in learning — there is a heart and body too.'

— Beverly Smith
Valdosta School System

time, the majority of her job today centers around teaching wellness, AIDS awareness, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse and sexual abuse, self-esteem, self-pride and peer pressure.

"The only way to prevent drug abuse and physical illness is to get to the children at an early age," Mrs. Smith said. "Behind it all, you've got to make the children feel they are important; if they have a question,

they can ask it; and that you're going to listen and try to help them."

Her techniques pave the way for her to fulfill her goal. She dresses in ways to best fit in at the school she is working at on a particular day, and she talks in terms the age group of her audience can understand.

Mrs. Smith is up on the latest musical and fashion trends, and is called "hip" by her students. She is the only teacher in the school system who has contact with every student in the system.

In the elementary grades, ME-OLOGY is a program Mrs. Smith uses to teach students the facts about drug abuse and give them the skills to resist peer pressure. The "Good Touch, Bad Touch" method is used to teach children about sexual abuse.

For students in grades six through nine, a program called Clear Choices is used to give students factual information and positive attitudes they need to help them make intelligent decisions about substance abuse in the face of powerful peer pressure.

Next school year, Mrs. Smith said she will use Clear Choices at Valdosta High School to arm students with the facts they need to refuse drugs during a time when they are strongly influenced by drugs.

"My medical background helps because I can discuss sensitive subjects without being embarrassed," Mrs. Smith said.

Because she has more duties involving wellness than treatment, anyone wanting to find the school nurse should look in classrooms throughout the city school system — not the infirmary.

Greene's Base Hit Bounces Cats' Way

VDT Tues. April 9, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

After a day of watching bad-hop bounces and soft swings turn into base hits, Valdosta High's Chris Greene got one of his own.

Greene poked a two-out pitch over the third-baseman's head into left field to score Steve Jaramillo with the winning run as Valdosta defeated Berrien, 6-5, in a high school baseball game Monday at Cleveland Field.

"That made up for it, finally," said Greene, the 'Cats ninth-place hitter and third baseman. "We haven't been hitting in the clutch. I just wanted to make contact."

The inning included a Berrien in-field error which made the run unearned and left head coach Mark Murad shaking his head. "We're just not playing to our capabilities defensively," he said. We make silly mistakes and it cost us."

Jaramillo opened the inning with a single to deep short and went to second on a stolen base. After one out, Carlos Moore reached on the infield error. One more out later, Greene came through.

"We finally won a close game," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley.

The Wildcats had taken leads in the second and third innings, only to see Berrien come back each time.

Alton Hitson's bases-loaded walk
See WILDCATS, Page 2-B

was followed by Rookie Gage's two-RBI single in the second. Starting pitcher Matt Baker drove home two runs

with a triple in the third.

Berrien had gone up 2-0 in the first on Linus Baker's two-run home run. Chris Walker tied the game in the third with a sacrifice fly.

Matt Lovein plated a run in the fourth on a bad-hop single into right, then Derek Cornelius tied the game again in the sixth with a solo home run.

Joel Bius got the win in relief for the Wildcats.

VHS STAR Student District Winner

VDT Tues. April 9, 1991

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's STAR Student Amy Kilgard and her chosen STAR Teacher, Lee Pulliam, will be honored as this district winners in Atlanta later this month and could be chosen as state winners.

The winner of the state competition will be announced in Atlanta on April 25 when all district winners will be honored at the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel.



KILGARD

The keynote speaker for the event will be Robert L. Rearden Jr., representing the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. The finalists will be interviewed on stage during the ceremony by Chuck Dowdle, sports director of WSB-TV.

It will mark the 33rd year the Business Council of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the Georgia Board of Regents, high school superintendents and principals and more than 170 businesses and civic groups have supported the

STAR program.

The program recognizes academic achievement in the state's high schools and stimulates interest in scholarship among high school students. It also honors teaching and promotes teaching careers.

"I'm very proud of Amy and Mrs. Pulliam," said Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman. "Amy is a fine young lady. She is a very active student, an excellent student and a leader in the Valdosta band. Mrs. Pulliam is a veteran teacher."

The state STAR student will receive a \$1,000 cash scholarship from Southern Bell and the state STAR teacher will receive a \$1,000 cash award from Puritan Churchill Chemical Company.

The first runner-up student and teacher will receive a \$750 cash scholarship and award from GTE South and L.G. Balfour Company, respectively.

Congressional district winners receive \$500 Cecil B. Day scholarships from the Cecil B. Day Investment Company in addition to an engraved gift and participation in the Day For STARS activities in Atlanta. STAR teachers in each congressional district receive a \$125 cash award from Atlanta Gas & Light Company.

Wildcats Break

Region Slump

VDI, Wed, April 10, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High's baseball team gathered six games of Region 1-AAAA frustration and struck back in one inning Tuesday afternoon.

The Wildcats got 10 runs in the fourth inning against Tift County, and went on for a 16-8 victory at Bazemore Field. It was Valdosta's first Region 1-AAAA win after six losses, and it broke a string of four-straight close losses to the Blue Devils.

"It's a region win," said a happy Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "We hit the ball well, and got some clutch hits. We gave up eight runs — if we hadn't had some good hitting, we could have lost."

The Wildcats stroked 17 hits, at least one in every inning, off three Tift County pitchers. Shortstop Steve Jaramillo had three hits and three RBI, including a solo home run to begin VHS' scoring, while winning pitcher Carlos Moore also had three singles.

Five other players each had two hits, with first baseman Brad Tarpley drilling a grand-slam home run off the green wall beyond the center-field fence to end the 10-run explosion in the fourth.

Valdosta (9-10, 1-6) fought back from a 2-0 deficit with two runs in each of the second and third innings off losing pitcher Jeff Sauls. Matt Baker (two hits, three RBI) drove home Mike Akins (two hits) with a double after Jaramillo's home run.

In the third, Jaramillo and Akins raced home after Moore's single was misplayed in right.

Then came the downpour, when 14 Wildcats went to the plate. Seven straight batters reached base after

Region 1-AAAA

STANDINGS	
Coffee.....	5-0
Bainbridge.....	5-1
*Lowndes.....	3-4
Colquitt County.....	3-4
Tift County.....	2-4
Valdosta.....	1-6

TUESDAY'S SCORES

Valdosta 16, Tift County 8
Coffee 7, Lowndes 6
Bainbridge 9, Colquitt 4

the first out, including five hits off three different pitchers. Jaramillo and Akins had RBI hits off reliever David Stone, followed by Baker's two-run double off reliever Brady Tucker.

After a pair of walks to load the bases, Rookie Gage (two hits) was hit by a pitch to score a run. Then Tarpley lined his home run loudly off the metal wall beyond the center-field fence.

Valdosta added single insurance runs in the final two innings — in the fifth on Jason Jelks' two-out double which scored Moore, and in the sixth on Jaramillo's single to center which plated Gage.

Tift County (10-6, 2-4) did pound out 10 hits. Valdosta also had six errors and six walks allowed, but it didn't hurt the Wildcats as much as in past games.

Mike Hall had two hits and three RBI, including a two-RBI double which gave the Blue Devils an early 2-0 lead. Sauls came back later to hit a two-run home run to right in the sixth, part of a four-run comeback after the Wildcats had gone up 15-3.

Valdosta is at region-leading Coffee Friday night.

Loose Wildcats Roll, 22-7

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

It's the beginning of the last week of the regular season, and you've already been eliminated from the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

So how does Valdosta High welcome the beginning of the end? With a 22-7 rout of Brooks County High, another team facing that same destiny in Region 1-AA.

The Wildcats scored in every inning, including a seven-run fourth. And it kept going after head coach

Charles Tarpley pulled the starters and let some of them occupy the coaching boxes — the subs scored three runs in the fifth and four more in the sixth to end the game on the 15-run rule.

"We got everybody in except Matt Baker (today's starting pitcher at Colquitt). Some of the younger kids got to hit against varsity pitching, and got some good hits," said Tarpley. "A win is a win right now. It should help us relax for tomorrow."

With Coffee's one-run win over Tift Monday night, the Trojans clinched the No. 1 seed in the four-team re-

gion playoffs. Bainbridge will also make it, with Colquitt and Lowndes almost locks. Both have a two-game lead over Tift with two games left.

Valdosta is at Colquitt County tonight, while Lowndes is at Tift County.

On with Monday, where the Wildcats combined 17 hits with five Brooks errors and 13 walks.

Leading the VHS starters was shortstop Steve Jaramillo, who went 3-for-3 with a RBI single to cap the seven-run fourth. Rightfielder Mike Akins was 2-for-3 with three RBI, while catcher Chris Rockey doubled

twice and drove in two runs in the fourth.

Second baseman Rookie Gage had a sacrifice fly and a two-RBI single.

The Wildcats played 19 players in the game, with some of the subs standing out. Keith McConnehead had a solo home run to center to open the sixth, followed by RBI hits by Greg Denley, Phillip Pipelov and Oclavious Oliver — the hit which ended the game.

Steven Everson had an RBI double in the fifth. Michael Crosby and Brian Gregory each had two hits for Brooks.

Region 1-AAAA

STANDINGS

Coffee.....	8-0
Bainbridge.....	5-3
Colquitt.....	4-4
Lowndes.....	4-4
Tift.....	2-6
Valdosta.....	1-7
MONDAY'S REGION GAME	
Coffee 7, Tift 6	
TUESDAY'S GAMES	
Coffee at Bainbridge	
Valdosta at Colquitt (7 p.m.)	
Lowndes at Tift (7 p.m.)	
THURSDAY'S GAMES	
Lowndes at Valdosta (4:30)	
Coffee vs. Colquitt	
Bainbridge vs. Tift	
END REGULAR SEASON	

LADY TRACK WINS: VDI, 4-11-91

The Valdosta girl's track squad captured a three-way meet Wednesday afternoon in Tifton.

The Lady Wildcats totaled 76 points on the afternoon with Tift County second at 38 points and Worth County with 23 points.

Placing in events for Valdosta were:

Natashia Hart captured the long jump with Tiffany Wright finishing second.

In the high jump, Michele Hendricks was first for Valdosta with Vashti Manning second.

In the 4x100 meter relay Valdosta was first with the team of Wright, Manning, Hendricks and Natashia Hart. In the 1600 meter run, Maggie McDonald was first with Kristina Lyons second. The 400 meter run had Shanna Brown finishing second and Althea Cochran third. The 100 meter dash was won by Hart with Manning fourth.

In the 100 meter hurdles, Wright was first with Hendricks second. McDonald and Lyons finished first and second in the 800 meter run. In the 200 meter dash, Hart was first with Wright second. In the 3200 meter run, Liz Foster was first with Rebecca Coyne fourth.

The 4x400 relay team captured first with Hendricks, Wright, Brown and Hart doing the work.

VALDOSTA BEATS COLQUITT:

Sam Hogan fired a 75 Tuesday in leading the Valdosta High golf team past the Colquitt County Packers, 312-325, at Sunset Country Club.

Other top VHS finishers included Dow Drury (76); Clark Drury (79); Michael Drumheller (82); Drew Reppess (83); and Michael Cavan (86).

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, April 16, 1991

B

VHS Students On Honor Roll

Honor roll students at Valdosta High School have been announced.

Brian Adams, Desi Albritton, Gina Albritton, Mitzi Albritton, Corey Alexander, David Alexander, John Allen, Larry Allen, Phillip Allen, Clint Allred, Christopher Ames, Chris Andresen, Julie Arnold, Pinkey Arnold, Mary Aycock, Laurie Bajalia, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, David Baliles, Rachel Baliles, Maria Baratta, Jason Barbas, Becky Barnette, Billy Barthiel, Brook Bearden, Chad Bellflower, Shannon Bentley, Sharone Bethea, Chris Bittinger, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Lorna Bius, Yasmine Bivins, Anna Blonar, Kelli Bland, Trish Bolen, Michelle Bostock, Selenthia Bradley, Blake Brantley, Cheryl Brantley, Latasha Brantley, Luther Brantley, Leigh Ann Braswell, Lardell Brinson, Tom Broome, Jessica Brown, Joann Brown, Kimberly Brown.

And Monica Brown, Keisha Brunson, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Tiffany Burgman, Stacy Burnett, Jennifer Butler, Carmelita Butts, Latonya Byrd, Laurie Campbell, Cedric Carter, Diane Carter, Ethel Carter, Lisa Carter, Spence Carver, Andrea Chalcraft, Rachel Childs, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Monica Clifton, Stefanie Clifton, Travis Clovis, Christy Clyatt, Julie Coffey, Matt Cole, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Suzanne Conrad, Ashley Connell, Angie Copeland, Nancie Corley, Adrienne Cowart, Rebecca Coyne, Justin Cribbs, Kevin Cronin, Tinne Cushion, Meadowlark Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Kemisha Davis, Jason Day, Glaire Dempsey, Jed Dennard, Michelle Dewitt, Belinda Downs, Anne Drumheller, Dow Drury, Contina Dukes, Derek Duncan.

Also, Jennifer Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Kendra Elliott, Stephanie Everett, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Ginny Ferrell, Meredith Fletcher, Carlos Flores, Seymond Floyd, Liz Foster, Lydia Freeman, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman, Jane Fueyo, Joanna Fueyo, Farrah Gage, Rookie Gage, Laverne Gamble, Kristin Ganas, Genora Garland, James Garrison, Jason Gaskins, Melissa Geier, Jason Giddens, Ashley Giles, Demetris Gilyard, Amy Glines, Brenna Golf, Dixon Goff, Marcie Golivesky, Charles Gray, April Green, Karen Green, Keesha Green, Merritt Green, Chris Greene, John Greene, Dena Greer, Amy Griffin, Melanie Griffin, Melissa Griffin, Parker Grow, Melissa

Hale, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Jenny Hamilton.

And Sung Han, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Theresa Harper, Karen Harris, Marsha Harris, Andreu Harrison, Ebonye Hatcher, Linda Hendricks, Michelle Herndon, Marie Herraiz, Stacey Hesters, John Hickox, Kevin Hiers, Meg Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Benjamin Hofmeister, Mary Lois Hofmeister, Sarah Grace Hofmeister, Laura Holland, Jodie Hollenbeck, Grant Hollenbeck, Kelly Holmes, Stephanie Horton, Ashley House, Thomas Howard, Bill Howard, Catherine Hoyt, Ashley Hudson, Joel Hunt, Matthew Hunt, Jesse Hunter, Veronica Hunter, Margaret Iverson, John Jacobs, Crisie James, Steve Jaramillo, Dashanti Jefferson, Natasha Jenkins, Deborah Johnson, M.J. Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Xavier Jones, Jamie Kaeck, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kigard, Monique King, Jennifer Kinsey, Amy Knowles, Jessica Konopa.

Also, Wendy Kuter, Jennifer Launey, Cate Lawrence, Christie Ledbetter, Michelle Levy, Christee Leynes, Erlish Locklear, Javon Longieliere, Brandon Lovett, Amy Lowery, Janice Mallory, Vashti Manning, Stanford Mathis, Ben Matson, David Matthews, Jennifer Matthews, Katrina Maxwell, Michael McAfee, Derick McBurrough, Brian McCombs, Wendy McConnell, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Stephanie McEady, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Jason McGhin, Amanda McHenry, Tory McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Angela McSween, Tammy Means, Maura Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Mitchell Mink, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Stephanie Monticelo, Andrea Moody, Angela Moore, Angelita Moore, David Moore, Kenyarda Moore, Quwanna Moore, Treva Moore, Rett Moore, Jill Morgan, David Morrisette.

And Crystal Morrison, Bryan Morrow, Meredith Mosby, Darshee Mosley, James Neal, Tim O'Brien, Stehanie O'Neal, Rebekah Odell, Ryan Ogden, Elizabeth Owens, Katherine Owens, Ekta Patel, Hemali Pa-

tel, Hema Patel, Geveda Patrick, James Pearce, John Peeples, Sandy Peeples, Alexander Penn, Katresa Peterson, Moneka Peterson, Veronica Phillips, Ben Pitchford, John Pitcock, Michelle Pitts, Cindy Plageman, Lisa Plair, Dana Pompey, Jennifer Powell, Tarnisha Primrose, Dan Rackley, William Raines, Sarita Rainey, Robert Randolph, Mary Rawls, Crystal Ray, Mendi Ray, Kimberly Rayford, Jeff Reames, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tamie Reed, Catherine Register, Stephen Register, Mary Richards, David Richardson, Tiffany Roan, Lashunda Roberts, Bill Roberts, Corey Robinson.

Also, David Roddey, Brandon Rogers, Tumika Rome, Gary Ross, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, Robin Rowe, Mark Rowland, Zane Rowland, Cynthia Rumph, Ty Sainz, Leigh Saliba, Chris Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Lori Santos, Monica Savage, Latonya Scott, Lee Scott, Mona Scott, Michelle Sermons, Melody Shaw, Anetra Sherman, Salina Shumphard, Tarnishia Sirmans, Heather Skiles, Eirc Skinner, Aimee Smith, Eric Smith, Joel Smith, Joyette Smith, Patricia Smith, Tim Smith, Tywanne Smith, Gregory Soshnik, Sara South, Latonya Speed, Alexandria Spells, Jennifer Spencer, Louisa Spencer, Lori Spurlock, Stephanie Staley, Brian Stanley, Eric Stanley, Bill Steinberg, Jennifer Steverson.

And David Stewart, Davidae Stewart, Corey Strickland, Jessica Stubbs, Julie Suggs, Eileen Sweeney, Clarissa Swift, Brad Tarpley, David Taylor, Ryan Thigpen, Carl Thomas, Monica Tillman, Tanya Tovar, Tracy Troutman, James Tucker, Marsha Tucker, Miriam Vendemo, Blake Walker, John Walker, Robin Walker, Chantell Washington, Richard Washington, Jamey Waters, Richard Werner, Annette West, Wendy Whately, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, Cecile White, Davina White, William Whitesell, David Williams, Kimberly Williams, Jennifer Willis, Latonya Wilson, Jonathan Yeargan and Shannon Yow.

VHS Boys Win Meet

Staff Reports VDT, Tues., April 16, 1991

DOUGLAS — The Valdosta High boy's track team overcame an early challenge from Coffee County, overpowering the Trojans and Irwin County in a road meet.

The Wildcats outpointed Coffee, 85-39.5. Irwin finished with 34.5 points in the 15-event meet.

Coffee proved pesky during the early field events. The Trojans won both the shotput and discus, the first two events. Coffee led Valdosta 20.5-20 after four events and trailed only 32-27.5 after six.

Valdosta's Ernest Lowe led the Wildcats' start out of the gates, winning the third and fourth events — high jump and long jump. Lowe, who later won the 400 meter dash with a 51.26 time, high jumped six feet 10 inches and long jumped 23 feet.

Valdosta then pulled away as Coffee faded and Irwin picked up its pace slightly.

The Wildcats proceeded, beginning with Lowe's high jump victory, to take the next seven events, a streak snapped only when Irwin took the 110 meter hurdles.

Terrance Daniels won the triple jump, a Valdosta team of Scott Jones, Frank Henderson, Franklin Wiseman and Robert Randolph won the 400 meter relay, Jones won the 1600 meter run and Wiseman took the 100 meter dash.

Other Valdosta winners were Carl Thomas; 300 meter hurdles; Wiseman, 200 meter dash; and Jones, Randolph, Wiseman and Henderson took the 1600 meter relay.

Region Playoffs

Colquitt's Jason Bullard then hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the second and the Packers added two more runs in the third for a 4-1 lead. Colquitt scored seven times in fourth to take a commanding, 11-1, lead.

VHS got two in fifth (11-3) as Alton Hitson (walked) scored on error and Rookie Gage (hit-by-pitch) scored on a single by Steve Jaramillo. In the sixth, VHS scored five times (11-8) with Hitson's two-run single, Gage's RBI single, and an RBI single by Tarpley doing the damage.

In the Valdosta seventh, Chris Greene and Gage walked with two outs. A wild pitch scored Greene (11-9), and Gage took second. Tarpley then walked, but as he trotted to first base, Gage tried to steal third and was tagged out to end the game.

In other 1-AAAA action Tuesday, Bainbridge beat Coffee, 8-7. The 1-AAAA playoff teams are set with Coffee at 8-1; Bainbridge is 6-3; with Lowndes and Colquitt County at 5-4.

■ **COLQUITT 11, VALDOSTA 9:** In Moultrie, the Colquitt County Packers jumped out to a 10-run lead and then held off Valdosta High for an 11-9 Region 1-AAAA win.

Brad Tarpley, who led VHS going 3-for-4 with an RBI, scored in the second inning on a single by Chris Rockey giving VHS a 1-0 advantage.

Valdosta Drubs LHS

VDT. Thurs., April 11, 1991

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

An improving Valdosta High's boys track team drubbed visiting Lowndes High and Tift County Tuesday, the impressive Wildcats undaunted by a double disqualification in the meet's last event.

Valdosta won the meet, tallying 73 points to 52 for Tift and 45 for Lowndes. Tift held its own in field events, actually leading the Wildcats 28.5-27, but Valdosta picked up steam in track events to shed the pesky Blue Devils.

The outcome was far different from that of last week, when Lowndes rallied in field events to nip Valdosta by a single point at the Vikings track.

"I was real pleased with our effort today, especially our distance running, that really hurt us the last time," said VHS coach Larry Jester. "Right now we're feeling really good going into region, we've got a good work attitude and a good mental attitude. They've worked hard and gotten better."

Though Tift and Lowndes ran several young team members in anticipation of upcoming meets and important region play, Jester and LHS coach Chuck Landy agreed that didn't diminish the Wildcats win.

"They were better than we were today," Landy said.

Valdosta winners were: Frank Wiseman, 100 meter dash and 200

meter run; Terrance Daniels, triple jump; Ernest Lowe, long jump; and Frank Henderson, 300 meter hurdle; Scott Jones, 1600 meter run; Dexter Daniels, shot put.

Lowndes winners were: Dana Smith, 800 meter run; Sedrick Neloms, high jump; and Fred Williams, 1600 meter run. Neloms jump set a school record.

Valdosta's relay team won both legs of the 4 by 400 relay, but was disqualified each time for taunting the opposition.

Jester said the incidents were his responsibility; he had not warned his team against taunting or coached them to avoid it. He chalked up the taunts to excitement over the team's improved performance in the event.



VDT. Thurs., April 11, 1991 Up And Over

Valdosta's Matt VanNus clears the bar during the pole vault Wednesday afternoon at Valdosta High School. VanNus cleared 10-

feet during the event. For results of the meet and other local events, see Page 3-B — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Region-Leader Coffee Too Hot For Valdosta

VDT. Sat., April 13, 1991

Special Reports

DOUGLAS — The Valdosta High baseball team continued its rocky journey through Region 1-AAAA play Friday, losing 7-0 to a powerful Coffee County High squad.

With the loss the Wildcats fell to 9-11 overall, 1-6 in the region.

Coffee leads the region at 6-0.

The Wildcats, using three pitchers,

tossed a six-hitter at Coffee but Valdosta batter could muster only four hits. The Coffee staff did not issue a walk.

Matt Baker (2-4) was hung with the loss. Mona Sutton won for Coffee.

As has been the case all season, Valdosta was again victimized by errors, committing four against Coffee.

The Trojans jumped out on top in the bottom of the first inning, scoring

two runs on an infield single, walk and a bloop double. Coffee added three runs in the third, aided by three errors, including back-to-back miscues with two outs.

Coffee scored two more in the sixth when, with two runners on, a single slipped past the Valdosta centerfielder for a three-base error.

"That's the way it's gone all year," Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley said.

Collecting Valdosta's hits were Steve Jaramillo and Mike Akins, who each doubled, and Alton Hitson and Rookie Gage, who had a single apiece.

Baker pitched the first four innings for Valdosta and was relieved by Joel Bius, who pitched the fifth. Jason Jelks hurled the sixth for the 'Cats.

Valdosta hosts Brooks County Monday afternoon to begin its final week of the regular season.

Kim Lives Up To Top Billing

VDT. Mon. April 15, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Daé Kim lived up to his top-seeded billing Sunday afternoon, winning the Men's A Singles title in the Spring Championships tennis tournament at McKey Park.

Kim, a Lowndes High student, defeated Keith Morris, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in the finals. Kim had advanced to the finals by beating Randy Miley, 6-2, 6-3, earlier in the day, while Morris — who had got past second-seeded Sean Miller when Miller retired in the quarterfinals with an injury — had beaten Wayne Baker, 6-3, 6-3.

Jacksonville's Rob Cole completed his roll through the Men's B division with a 6-0, 6-1 championship-match victory over Alvin Payton. Cole lost just 11 games in his four matches, the toughest a 6-2, 6-4 semifinal win over John Bassford earlier Sunday.

Payton had to go three sets in his semifinal match before defeating Charles LaHood, 6-4, 5-7, 6-1.

Valdosta's Becky Wallace finished unbeaten in the women's division round-robin after defeating Barbara Pettiford, 6-4, 6-0, on Sunday. Jennifer Bond was second, winning two of her three matches. On Sunday, she defeated Jill Kent, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

Jason Motley came away with the juniors' title when he defeated Rachael Baiornos, 6-4, 6-1, in Sunday's finals. It was the second Baiornos Motley defeated Sunday, topping Renee 7-5, 6-2, in the semifinals. Rachael made the finals by beating Stuart Carmichael, 6-4, 6-0.

Derek Rowen, who was eliminated from the main draw by Motley in the first round, came back to win the juniors consolation with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Clay Popham.



Valdosta's James Inman reaches to make a shot during Saturday's Men's B Division play in the Spring Championships Tennis Tournament — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Randy Miley teamed with two different players to win doubles titles. Miley and Don Hassebrock won the Men's A doubles with a 6-4, 6-3 decision over Burt Morrow and Bo Ball. Miley and Chan Dixon won the mixed doubles by losing just three games in their two matches Sunday — including the 6-0, 6-1 final over Ball and Gwen Davis.

Wallace won her second title Sunday, teaming with Davis in the women's division for a 6-2, 6-1 win over Florence Moffett and Barbara Pettiford.

Paul Burgdorf and David Powell were the men's B division doubles winners after defeating Frank Asbury and Frank Marinelli, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.

VHS Second At Muscogee

Special Reports

COLUMBUS — Led by the play of the Campbell family, Valdosta High's tennis teams both finished second among 17 schools in the Muscogee County School District Invitational this weekend.

Top-seeded Cannon Campbell won the boys singles title with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Michael Ray of Manchester. Campbell also teamed with Jonathan Burns to defeat Josh Bell and Tim Hanks of Warner Robins, 6-3, 6-0, to win the boys doubles title.

Campbell lost just eight games in five singles matches. In girls play, fourth-seeded Laurie Campbell advanced to the semifinals with three victories before falling to second-seeded Crawford Pate of Hardaway, 6-3, 6-2. Campbell and Mallette Mitchell, the top-seeded doubles team, advanced to the finals, where they lost to Shaw's Dana Coppedge and Lyn James, 6-3, 6-2.

Mitchell, the seventh-seed, won two matches before meeting Statesboro's Heather Arling in the quarterfinals, where Mitchell lost, 7-5, 6-3.

In the senior girls division, Betsy Richards, Hilary Davis and Kelly Crago each won one match before meeting seeded players. Richards lost to the top seed, Brookstone's Helen Waldrop.

Crago and Hinton, the sixth seed, and Davis and Richards won one match in doubles. They lost in the next round to higher-seeded players.

In other girls action, freshman Robyn Hastings won one match before losing to Pate. Hastings and fellow freshman Andrea Moody won one doubles match.

In the senior boys division, sixth-seeded Burns won three matches before losing to the third seed, Carlos Sanchez of Peach County, 6-2, 6-2. Richard Werner won one singles match.

In other boys action, Chris Anderson advanced to the quarterfinals after three straight-set victories. He lost to the top seed, Sam Gray of Brookstone. Ashley Giles won one match in convincing fashion, 6-0, 6-0.

Is Dome In 'Cats' Future?

Valdosta High's football program is no stranger to state-championship games. In the 50 years since the Wildcats won their first state title, VHS has been in 24 title games and come away with 21 championships.

Sixteen of those games have been played at Cleveland Field. But if the new Georgia Dome gets its way, the excitement of state-championship night at the historic stadium may be gone.

Georgia Dome officials will be making an initial presentation to the Georgia High School Association's Executive Committee meeting in Forsyth on April 22. They want to host the four state championship games beginning with the 1992 season — for starters.

Playing championship-football games at a central site isn't a foreign idea to schools in southeastern states — Louisiana (Superdome), Mississippi (Mississippi College), Tennessee (Vanderbilt), Alabama (Class 6A game, Legion Field), South Carolina (Williams-Brice Stadium) and Florida do it.

Those states bring together their state's best teams to a central location to feature the sport. Some states which have seen the support of high school football falter need that championship-site boost.

For some young athletes, it could be the game of a lifetime. "It would be another goal for a player to attain," says Dennis Berkholtz, the director of marketing and leasing for the dome.

But after a discussion about South Georgia's passion for football, he admits, "you may not need that (extra goal) down there."

He's right. "Our first preference is to play our games at Cleveland Field," says Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder. "If it's the north's time to host the game, they could play it in the dome. That's their business."

"But if the GHSA tells us we have to play up there, we have no choice."

Hyder says he's seen video tapes from other title games, and seen the empty seats. He's felt the bad weather of those mid-December nights, like in Athens in 1989.

There would be empty seats in the 70,000-seat Georgia Dome, but you'd keep warm during the game. And the stadium would be nicer.

But there's something about playing in front of a packed house at Cleveland Field or Martin Stadium or any number of other South Georgia sites.

"Just looking at it historically, there's no question it would affect us more," said Scott Alderman, the new president of the Valdosta

Touchdown Club. "The schools that have never hosted or played (in a title game) wouldn't mind. They don't know what it's all about. We have a history of playing in it."

"Hosting a championship game isn't something that should be bought. There's too much of that as it is."

The money. Berkholtz says he's still working on the money figures — the guarantees for each participating team and the GHSA's cut — which he will present to the executive committee. He says there's been some interest shown to him in televising a AAAA title game in the Georgia Dome.

Alderman thinks about those fans which packed into Cleveland Field last December. How many would make that trip up I-75 to go to the Georgia Dome?

And for the tourism-minded, Alderman considers the 2,500 Southwest DeKalb supporters which came down to watch the game — the motel rooms they rented, the meals they ate, the gas they bought, etc. "That's money which doesn't need to go to Atlanta," Alderman said.

If the Georgia Dome gets its way, it would become a home for Georgia high school athletics along with the Falcons and the 1996 Olympics.

There's talk of a high-profile North vs. South game to help open the Georgia Dome in 1992 — maybe McEachern vs. Valdosta — plus other high-profile games during the season. There are the all-star football and basketball games.

Times they could be changing.

Leynes Named Miss Valdosta High School

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Christie Leynes was named Miss Valdosta High School Saturday night at Mathis City Auditorium, and was more than surprised by the judge's decision.

"I am excited I never thought I would get this far," she said smiling.

This is the first pageant the brown-haired, brown-eyed beauty entered. She said she does not know if she will enter another pageant.

Miss Leynes, 17, is the daughter of Bob and Trish Leynes. A former basketball cheerleader, she is involved in Interact, FCA and VICA. She is also a Key Club sweetheart and a bat girl. The junior plans to enter Valdosta State College upon graduation to study physical therapy.

Shawana Brown was named first runner-up. The 17-year-old junior is the daughter of Setrell and Shirley Brown. She is a member of the VHS track team and serves as Junior Honor Society president.

The second runner-up was Jennifer Weaver. She is the daughter of Mac and Judy Weaver. The 17-year-old is a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students, Interact, the Foreign Language and Beta clubs FCA and the VHS dance team. She is a mat girl

'I am excited; I never thought I would get this far.'

— Christie Leynes
Miss Valdosta High School

for the wrestling team and bat girl for the baseball team.

Leslie Wetherington was named third runner-up. The 16-year-old ju-

nior is the daughter of Mary Jane Wetherington and James Wetherington. She has been a member of the

drill team, basketball cheerleader squad, Interact, FCA, yearbook staff and is a Key Club sweetheart.

The fourth runner-up was Jill Morgan. The daughter of Jack and Claudette Morgan is 17 and a member of band, the basketball cheerleader squad, varsity football cheerleader squad, FCA, STARS, Interact, the VHS tennis team and a bat girl.



Christie Leynes, 17, was named Miss Valdosta High School Saturday night — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.

'Cats Warm Up With Track Win

VDT. Tues., April 23, 1991

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

The Valdosta High boys track team breezed past a quartet of opponents at a home track meet Monday as the region meets loom next week.

But because powerful Tift County cancelled, it wasn't quite the tuneup Wildcats coach Larry Jester had in mind for his surging team.

"The only disappointment (Monday) was that Tifton didn't show," he said after his team won 10 of 15 events on its way to a comfortable win.

Valdosta tallied 164 points to second place finisher Thomasville High's 75. Colquitt County had 34, Clinch County, 30, and Berrien County, 25, in the meet, held at Valdosta's track. The 'Cats grabbed a 35-22 lead over Thomasville after three events and never let go.

"I was pleased with the effort," Jester said. "Coming off the good win last weekend, we ran well. We're getting better; our kids have great attitudes. We keep getting better in the events we were weak in and we're even stronger in the ones we were strong in. We're peaking at the right time."

The win last weekend was over seven Florida schools in Madison, Fla., on Saturday. Valdosta outdistanced Rickards, 111-73, with the other trailing.

On Monday, Frank Henderson led Valdosta, winning three events — 300 meter hurdles, 400 meter dash and 110 meter hurdles.

Valdosta also had two double winners — Ernest Lowe, who won the long jump and high jump and Franklin Wiseman, the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash.

Colquitt's Paul Wilder was the only other runner with two victories, posting wins in the 3,200 meter run and the 1,600 meter run.

Scott Jones won the 800 meter run for the Wildcats, and Matthew VanNus won the pole vault.

Valdosta travels to Thomasville Friday to compete in a meet hosted by Thomas County Central High.

Valdosta High is hosting both region meets, this week the girls (Wednesday and Thursday) and next week the boys.

People File

Local Folks

VDT. Mon. April 23, 1991

Meet...

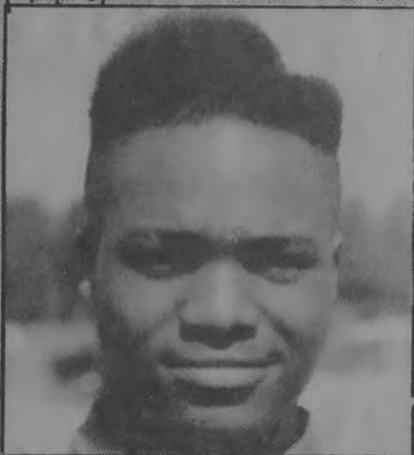
- **NAME:** Ashley House
- **RESIDENCE:** Valdosta
- **OCCUPATION:** Junior at Valdosta High School
- **HOBBIES:** Reading, and water and snow skiing
- **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**
"Above all else, to thine self be true."



VDT. Thurs., April 25, 1991

Meet...

- **NAME:** Brian Thomas
- **RESIDENCE:** Valdosta
- **OCCUPATION:** 10th grader, Valdosta High School.
- **HOBBIES:** Football and weight lifting.
- **QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Hey Angie, how is life going."



DCT Banquet

VDT. Mon. April 29, 1991
 The Valdosta High School Diversified Cooperative Training Annual Employer-Employee Banquet was held April 16 at the Sheraton Inn with VICA President Ryan Collins presiding.

Following dinner, Permelia Moore and Eric Stanley introduced special guests which included school administrators, department heads, representatives from Val-Tech, Lowndes High and Valdosta State College. Mayor Jimmy Rainwater was the special guest. Employers were recognized by Meredith Fletcher and Lydia Freeman who were presented with desk clocks in appreciation for their support this school year.

Lifetime membership to VICA were presented to Henry Cannington, retiring VHS transportation

V. Times 4-24-91
Smith Wins Region; Campbell In Finals

Staff Reports

TIFTON — One Valdostan clinched a region singles tennis championship Tuesday, while another is on the verge of a title.

Lowndes High's Nancy Smith lost just two games in three matches to win the Region 1-AAAA title at Abraham Baldwin College. The state's No. 1 18-under girls player defeated Tift's Jennifer Brim, 6-0, 6-1, to win her second region title in three years.

Both Smith, an Auburn University signee, and Brim qualified for the state Class AAAA

tournament May 17-18 at John Drew Center in Macon.

Meanwhile, Valdosta High's Cannon Campbell advanced to the finals of the rain-delayed tournament with two victories. He will play Colquitt County's Jason Blanton in Moultrie at 4:30 p.m. today for the title.

Campbell, an Ole Miss signee, and Blanton also qualified for the state tournament.

Smith got to the finals by defeating Valdosta High's Laurie Campbell, 6-1, 6-0, and Leigh Wilis of Colquitt County, 6-0, 6-0.

Smith was unavailable for comment Tuesday night.

Campbell, the South's second-ranked 18-under boys player, defeated Lowndes High's Dae Kim in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-3, after disposing of Rob Howell of Colquitt County, 6-0, 6-1.

"It was about the longest day I've experienced," said Campbell. "We got there at 8 a.m. (Because of the rain) they told us to come back at 10 and at 12. I played my first match at 1:30 p.m., then had to wait until 3 p.m. for my next match."

Later, when it was decided to postpone the final until today, Campbell suffered a rare loss.

In a best-of-three coin flip to determine the site for the final match, the coin went against Campbell twice.

Kim had made the biggest charge of the day, beating third-seeded Brian Blomgren in the quarterfinals in straight sets for his second win of the day.

In other matches, Valdosta's Stephanie Hinton beat Lee Bradford of Lowndes, 6-0, 6-1, before losing to fourth-seeded Margaret Pettyjohn of Bainbridge, 6-2, 6-2. Valdosta's Jonathan Burns and Lowndes' Hyo Kim were eliminated in their first-round matches.

VDT. Thurs April 25, 1991
Lowndes Holds Slim Lead In Region Meet

By GREG McILVAIN
 Times Sports Editor

While not everything went to form Wednesday afternoon, it did as far as the team scoring went.

Lowndes High, qualifying three athletes for next weekend's state Class AAAA meet in Albany, took a 7.5-point lead over Bainbridge (52-44.5) after six of 13 events in the Region 1-AAAA track meet being held at Valdosta High.

The final seven events, all running events, will be held beginning at 3:30 p.m. at VHS. The starting time was moved up 30 minutes to help one team avoid a conflict with another school-sponsored event.

The host, Valdosta High, is fourth behind Coffee (30 points to VHS's 25.5). Tift County (22) and Colquitt County (12) round out the team standings.

Lowndes' defending region-championship team was led Wednesday by Vicky Williams, who qualified twice for the state meet.

Williams had a season-best time in winning the 400 meters (:57.73) and finished second in the high jump.

Teammate Donna Hall won the 1,600 meters while Gretchen Lawson was second in the shot put.

Everything went as expected for us. I think the surprise was with the Coffee team. They came up and finished high in some events," said Lowndes coach Hiram Johnson. "We're just still operating on the same philosophy. Keep our heads cool and come back tomorrow. If we run like we're capable of running we will be alright."

Valdosta's Heather Burns was the Lady Wildcats' lone state qualifier after finishing second behind Hall in the 1,600 meters.

"It looks like it is going to be a real battle tomorrow," said VHS coach Richard Sturtevant. "We're sitting in fourth place in the points. We have some strong events coming up because we qualified. I'm optimistic going into the finals, but it's going to be rough coming back from fourth."

Bainbridge's Tandria Cox, who was third-seeded in the long jump, won the event. He was second behind Williams in the 400 meters. Teammate Cynthia Butler was second in the discus.

Coffee's Beth Stockwell jumped away from the competition to win the high jump with a 5-foot-1 leap. Teammate Stephanie Carter was second in the long jump.

Finals in the 4x100 meter relay, 100 meters, 100 meter hurdles, 800 meters, 200 meters, 3200 meters and 4x400 meter relay will be held today.



Valdosta's Michelle Hendricks, left, battles Shanell Jenkins during Region 1-AAAA track meet — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Valdosta Wrestlers Honored

V.D.T. Fri, April 26, 1991

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

With a senior record of 34-4 and a state final to his credit, Justin Bridges was clearly the driving force of the Valdosta High School Wrestling team.

And due to his outstanding accomplishments in his four-year prep career, Bridges headlined the VHS Wrestling banquet Thursday by taking home four awards, including Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Under the leadership of head coach Eddie Crocker and assistant Bob Bolton, Bridges captured his first 1-AAAA Area Wrestling championship in the 140-pound weight class.

Bridges' remaining awards were Senior of the Year; Key Match of the Year; and Most Takedowns (30). He, along with teammate Eric Phillips, were the 1991 VHS team captains.

Even though the Wildcats were unable to retain the Area crown in 1991, Crocker was pleased with the effort of his team.

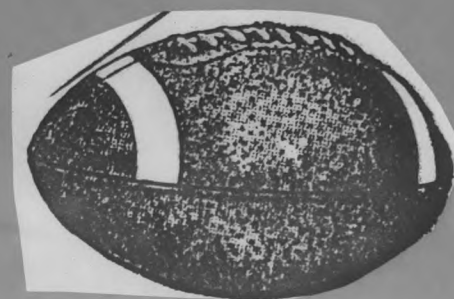
VHS' own Ryan Thigpen was named Sophomore of the Year and set a new Georgia state wrestling record with a winning pin in just seven seconds.

Scott Jones received four awards, which included Junior of the Year; Most Dedicated; Most Courageous; and the 110-percent Award.

Best Sportsmanship and Underachiever Awards went to Ryan Coyne; Steve Hubbard received the Wildcat Spirit Award; Most Reversals went to Bobby Mangham; and Most Improved went to Jason Yearby; and Raymond Kassum was Freshman of the Year.

The Coaches Award went to Eric Skinner and A.C. Willis was the Most Outstanding J.V. wrestler.

The Valdosta Junior High wrestling team's Most Valuable wrestler was Vaughn Clark. Brad Soshnik was Most Improved; Coaches Award went to Tony Norton; and Don Marconi received the Hustle Award.



Area Teachers Have Different Roles

Mon 11-12-1990

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Mary Jane Wetherington and Nancy Johnson are teachers who operate a little differently from their constituents — they don't have classrooms.

Mrs. Wetherington, with the Valdosta School System, and Mrs. Johnson, with the Lowndes School

System, are teachers for hospital or homebound students. The service allows a student to keep up with his school assignments and prevents him from being counted absent even though he is not in class.

"If they are good students when they're in school, they will be good students when they're out," Mrs. Wetherington said while tutoring Valdosta High School junior Malika

Taylor, a burn victim.

Both teachers spend a minimum of three hours a week with each student they see. They take the students assignments from their classroom teachers and tutor them on a one-on-one basis.

To Malika, the program is a God-send. After her recent accident, her biggest worry was getting behind in school. She is a hard-working student

who wants to become a lawyer.

"I'm working hard here at home because I just don't want to make bad grades," the 11th-grader said. She said Mrs. Wetherington has helped her tremendously and eased her fear of falling behind.

The teachers mostly assists students who have injured in accidents or who have chronic illnesses such as cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia

and asthma. They do not tutor any student suffering from a contagious ailment.

"Each day you have to be flexible — according to how the child feels," said Mrs. Wetherington, who has taught hospital/homebound students since 1978. Before then she taught fifth and sixth grades for the city school system.

See TEACHERS, Page 2-A

Mrs. Johnson was a classroom teacher for 16 years before taking the hospital/homebound teacher position the county two years ago.

Although both teachers get satisfaction out of helping students stay abreast of their school work during critical times in their lives, they miss the teacher/classroom bond they had the school building.

"I do miss the bond I had in the classroom, but there is a different type of bond I get from doing what I do now," Mrs. Johnson said. "You can't teach so much more one-on-one, and you really want to help the students personally."

One disadvantage is not being with the students long enough to see them grasp a concept, Mrs. Wetherington said. But she did teach one student for three years. That student is now attending the University of Georgia, she said.

Valdosta comes back to edge Coffee 30-29

Fla. Times 11-3-90

Special to the Times-Union

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The "ghost" has risen.

Valdosta's Cleveland Field "ghost," credited for so many of the Wildcats' last-minute victories over the years, made a return appearance last night as the Valdosta nipped Coffee County 30-29 to capture its fifth consecutive 1-AAAA championship.

Trailing 29-21 with 8:39 to play, Valdosta downed a 51-yard punt by Steve Jaramillo at the Coffee 1. On the next play, Coffee fullback Reggie Glover was tackled in the end zone to cut Coffee's lead to 29-23.

The free kick was short, and Valdosta started its game-winning drive on the Coffee 42. Nine plays later on a fourth-and-two, fullback Kendrick Patrick barely got the ball across the goal line for the touchdown, and Dow Drury's kick put the Wildcats up 30-29 with 5:46 left in the game. The Wildcats held on to secure the win.

Coffee stormed ahead with two

quick third-quarter touchdowns as a result of Valdosta turnovers. Quarterback Ken Eldridge ran one score in from 22 yards out and Glover ran in from one yard out to put the Trojans up 29-21. Coffee held the Wildcats on the next series before Valdosta downed the punt at the Trojans' 1 one prior to the safety.

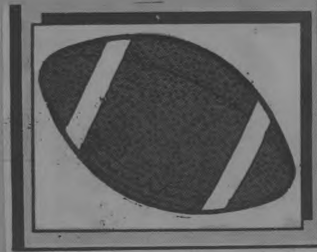
Valdosta improved to 8-0-1 overall and 4-0 in the region and Coffee dropped to 4-4-1 and 1-3.

Valdosta 30, Coffee 29

Coffee	3	7	12	7-29
Valdosta	14	7	x0	9-30

C—Smith 27 FG
V—Jaramillo 36 pass from Hitson (Drury kick)
V—Wright 22 run (Drury kick)
C—Glover 1 run (Shook kick)
V—Folsom 41 pass from Hitson (Drury kick)
C—Hill 28 pass from Eldridge (kick failed)
C—Eldridge 22 run (pass failed)
C—Glover 1 run (Smith kick)
V—Safety (Glover tackled in end zone)
V—Patrick 2 run (Drury kick)

	Coffee	Valdosta
First downs	14	16
Rushes-yds	36-90	33-167
Passing yds	219	140
Passes	18-27-1	9-18-1
Punts-Avg	4-37	7-36.5
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-2
Penalties-yds	6-35	4-30



Concession Workers Put Food Out For Thousands

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

V. Times 11-10-90

Folks poured into the gates of Cleveland Field like water through a thin-necked bottle. A little pushing, a little shoving, a little hunger.

Hunger? Yes, for as the wave of bodies flowed toward the stadiums to see the Vikings and the Wildcats play, a good number of folks trickled by the concession stand like a finger splitting water under a running faucet.

Behind the stand's counter, busy hands give what hungry mouths requested seconds earlier — sticky, sweet candied apples; hot, crunchy popcorn; icy, wet Cokes; sloppy, yet tasty, hot dogs.

But who works the stands during Valdosta's biggest football night of the year? Who are these self-sacrificing souls willing to miss the area's biggest sports and social gathering, so others may enjoy it without knowing the gnawing pangs of hunger?

They're the concession stand workers. They're folks like Rick and Mary Means, both parents of band members, who work the stand to help fund Wildcat band equipment and activities.

"We miss every home game," Mr. Means said. "And when we travel to see the away games, the band plays to the home-side stands."

But that's part of what's got to be done to help the band and keep the minions of fans fed. Each week about 55-60 parents of the 180 band families volunteer to work Cleveland Field's four stands.

Judy I. Pruet handles the cash register, and though most parents don't work two weeks in a row, this is her second tour of duty in as many games. "Some of our parents have kids playing football as well as playing in the band," she said.

And the worst part of it is, when these band parents' kids are doing their thing that's when every hand, ear and eye is needed to keep the concession stand running smoothly.

"Well, the band plays at halftime and that's when everybody comes to the concession stand," Mr. Means says with a smile and a good-natured shrug.

Time: Coaches Try To Make Activities

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

V. Times 11-10-90

There may have been a practice to go to, or an event to dress for, but there was still a question to be posed, an answer to be recorded.

And there was a head coach there to give that answer. It's the same thing Nick Hyder or Rick Tomberlin go through every week with the local and area news media.

But this was Winnersville Classic week, and the coaches' only worries weren't the questions being asked, or preparing their team for the biggest game of the season.

It was the breakfasts, the rallies, the banquets, the meetings, the Touchdown Clubs, the ticket requests ... and on and on.

"I've been involved in something every morning and every night. There have been some midday activities," Valdosta High's Hyder said. "But I've tried to maintain my responsibilities at the school."

"I've been going 33 years. I can make the arrangements, and I'm honored when I'm asked to help. But it's very, very crowded. My wife (June) guards my time very carefully and kind of screens my phone calls."

"There's a lot more prior to school and after school," said Tomberlin. "People come in and want to borrow stuff — I gave out four uniforms to a local bank."

"Everybody wants to see you at their function. They want to see your players, your coaches, you. And everybody's function is their most important function to

them. It's tough."

Hyder, as the veteran coach of the two, gets more requests. He left after practice Monday to attend the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall Of Fame Banquet, where he introduced the guest speaker. He had to fit in the taping of the "Wildcat Tradition" television show after Tuesday's Touchdown Club meeting. He was the guest speaker at the Exchange Club's prayer breakfast Thursday morning.

Both men attended their respective Touchdown Club meetings Tuesday night, then a goodwill breakfast Wednesday morning. And there was the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' rally after Thursday's practice.

"It's been a grueling week," said Tomberlin. "Last year, I was going to try to go to everything. This year I didn't change much."

"You try to get rest when you can, and do as much as you can. And you try to make the main focal point the work on the game."

Both men have the title of head football coach and athletic director. Nowhere does that say ticket manager.

"They don't bother me for tickets much," said Hyder, though his assistant coaches may disagree. "I refer them to the superintendent's office."

"Everybody in the world wants tickets," said Tomberlin, who's fielding more requests as the visiting coach. "We received 3,100 tickets, and we could have sold 7,100 or 8,100. There will be some people who have done a lot for this program that don't have tickets."

"And I can't give away tickets."

Region Track Meet Opens At Valdosta

VDT, Wed., April 24, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

For numerous times this spring, the Lowndes High girls track team has run against its fellow Region 1-AAAA members — and won.

Beginning today at Valdosta High, the Vikettes face their region foes again. But this meet is the most important.

Athletes from the six region school will compete today and tomorrow for the chance at qualifying for the state meet next week in Albany. Lowndes is the defending region champion.

Competition begins at 2 p.m. today with the field-event finals in the long jump, high jump, triple jump and discus. The running events begin at 3:30 p.m., with preliminary races in all events except the 1,600 meters and 400 meters, in which finals will be held.

The top eight (of a maximum of 12) runners in each of the preliminary

events will advance to Thursday's finals, which begin at 4 p.m.

In past years, the region meet has been held on one day. "By doing this (two days) our times will be better," said Jerry Don Baker, VHS' track coordinator. "In one day, our kids were give out and we didn't get a true indication of what we had in the region. We were one of the few regions to have it in one day. It should be done in two days."

Also, the schools don't face both a sub-region and a region meet this year. The last two years the South Georgia schools had to run against the strong Columbus schools, now in Class AAA, to qualify for state.

"We should have more people qualify for state," said VHS coach Dick Sturtevant. "It's a different type of competition without the Columbus teams."

Lowndes High coach Hiram Johnson has warned his team about not being complacent.

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature



Maggie McDonald prepares for a race at a track meet at Valdosta High School Thursday afternoon — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

4-C Sunday, April 21, 1991 The Valdosta Daily Times

Talley, Brinson Shine In Games

The Associated Press

ATHENS — Quarterbacks Greg Talley and Eric Zeier each completed five passes in leading the Red team to a 28-6 victory over the Black Saturday in Georgia's annual intrasquad G-Day game.

Valdosta's Talley, a starter most of last year, completed 5-of-10 passes for 133 yards, including a 44-yard touchdown pass to sophomore flanker Andre Hastings. Zeier completed 5-of-11 passes for 42 yards and one touchdown.

The Bulldogs operated out of their standard I-formation, keeping its new pro style offense under wraps until practice resumes in the summer.

"We don't want everybody to see what we're trying to do," said coach Ray Goff.

The Red team had a 28-0 lead in the fourth quarter before the Black team scored. Goff said the Red team may have had the superior talent.

"If you look at the rosters, I think you can see the Red team may have had a little more experience," Goff said. "Greg had the most experienced offensive line. Obviously, Greg has a lot of experience and I think it showed today."

The Black team, behind quarterbacks Preston Jones and Joe Dupree, attempted 27 passes. Jones

completed 10 of 21 for 125 yards, and hit Steve Moore for a 24-yard TD play, but completed only 10.

Dupree missed on all of his four attempts.

Running back Garrison Hearst got 93 yards on 17 carries and scored twice. He also turned a short pass from Talley into a 42-yard gain.

The offensive lines of the teams allowed seven quarterback sacks. But many of Georgia's offensive line starters missed the game due to injuries.

Georgia opens its season Aug. 31 against Western Carolina.

VHS Track Star Aims For Record

VDT, Fri., April 26, 1991

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School student Maggie McDonald has one year left to break a record she has her heart set on.

The 17-year-old junior has run track for three years and cross-country on and off since the fourth-grade. Awards, regional and state contests are important, but Maggie has her eye on VHS's women's mile record.

Her best time to date is five minutes and 48 seconds and with just over a half-minute to lose. She plans on breaking the record next year before she goes to college.

It might have happened this year were it not for a strained muscle, Maggie said. Maggie ran for the first time in nine days Wednesday, the first day of the regional track meet hosted by VHS.

She came in third in the mile Wednesday and fifth in the 800 meters Thursday. Although she got a plaque for her standing in the mile, Maggie said she expected to do much better. She needed to come in first or second in either category to go to the state contest.

"It makes me so mad because I know I would have gone to state if I hadn't gotten hurt," the runner said.

Maggie went to state cross-country contest last fall in Marietta, the only member of VHS's team represented. Cross-country, which involves running longer distances,

Maggie McDonald,
17

- Residence: Valdosta
- School: Valdosta High School
- Family: Parents, Allen and Kay, sister, Ginger, 13
- Activities: VHS track, Environmental Club, Beta Club

and was Maggie's first running endeavor as a youngster.

Because her Deltona, Fla., elementary school had a cross-country team, Maggie started running competitively at an age when playground relay races were in vogue.

"I just always liked to run and I was always the fastest of the girls."

Although an affinity for speed and winning accounts for some of the inspiration behind Maggie's drive, it isn't the only reason she keeps racing.

"I feel good about myself, not just when I win but when I push myself," Maggie said. "I'll probably always run, in college too."

Maggie hopes to get a track scholarship to the University of Georgia where she plans to study either pre-law or journalism.

When she's not running around, Maggie is involved in the school's Environmental Club which recently started a recycling program and the Beta Club.



Members of the Valdosta High School Science Olympiad Team are Chris Gregg (seated on floor); (seated, left to right) Meg Hiers, Laura Barbar, Wilson Faircloth, Kelly Holmes; (standing) John Peeples, Jessica McMullen, David Farber, Jennifer Spencer, Lee Scott, Bert Eidson, Bill Howard and Jennifer Eidson — Science Olympiad Photo.

Valdosta Science Team

VDT. Mon., April 29, 1991

Fourth In State Contest

The Valdosta High School Science Team placed fourth in the state finals for the Georgia Junior Academy of Science Olympiad held April 6 at Georgia Southern University.

The Science Olympiad consists of 23 events requiring knowledge and skill in all areas of science. The team members were John Peeples, Chris Gregg, David Farber, Kelly Holmes, Bill Howard, Matt Baker, Bert Eidson, Roy Kilgard, Jennifer Spencer, Jennifer Eidson, Jessica McMullen, Wilson Faircloth, Lee Scott and Meg Hiers. VHS students had their best finish ever by placing fourth overall and winning two events.

VHS students Wilson Faircloth and Roy Kilgard were first in the Scrambler event. The students built and raced a device that will transport an uncooked egg 10 meters in the shortest period of time without breaking the egg. Their time for the event was less than three seconds, 2.89.

VHS students Chris Gregg, Meg Hiers and Wilson Faircloth were first in Sounds of Music event. The students built and played a set of chimes, a set of drums, a trombone, built by Amy Kilgard, and an upright bass, built by Kelly Holmes. They played "America the Beautiful" and "Camptown Races."

VHS team members Lee Scott, Jennifer Eidson, Jennifer Spencer and Bill Howard were second in the Pentathlon. In this event each team member must perform an athletic event as well as answer science questions as they progress around the course.

The top three places in the competition went to Stone Mountain, New-

Valdosta High School



NEWS

Written and Compiled By VHS Students

nan and Tift County. VHS Olympiad coaches Karen Burroughs and Perry Baskin said that this was VHS's best finish yet.

teacher, and Valdosta Printing owners Cliff Hoover and Jim Micklon for outstanding contribution to the program.

VICA Vice President Rodney Jones presented the following student awards: Most Improved Student, Joann Brown; Most Dependable Student, Clarence Duvall; Outstanding Student — Students' Choice, Keesha Green; and DCT Student of the Year, Meredith Fletcher.

Interact Installs VDT.

Master Sgt. Roger Steis was the guest speaker at the Valdosta High School Interact Club annual awards banquet at the Sheraton April 15. He spoke on becoming a leader in today's world.

There was a slide show presentation by Stephanie Everett and Roger Steis that showed all the events and activities of the year. Liz Foster gave her farewell address, and the 1991-1992 officers were installed: Kevin Hiers, president; Rebecca Coyne, president-elect; Jennifer Weaver, secretary; Jennifer Edison, treasurer; and Tiffany Roan, reporter.

Other officers include Social Chairman Miss Everett; School Projects Chairman Meg Hiers; Community Projects Chairman Wendy Kuter; International Affairs Chairman Opal Berrian; Arrive Alive Chairman Ryan Coyne; and Historian Bert Eidson. Russell Baker gave an inspirational invocation and awards were presented by advisers, Charlotte Duplantis, Marcia Collins and William Studstill.

VDT. Monday, April 29, 1991 A-7

Students Nominated To Service Academies

Congressman Charles Hatcher has nominated Deric Cotton, Michael Edwards, Sidney Lyons, Cliff Powell, Nathan Tart and Chris Yarborough of Valdosta for appointments to the federal service academies.

Cotton is the son of Shelia S. Williams and Alvin Cotton. He has been nominated to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Edwards is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Edwards. He has been nomi-

inated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Lyons is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney A. Lyons. He has been nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Tart is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Tart. He has been nominated to the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Yarborough is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Yarborough. He has been

nominated to the U.S. Military Academy.

Hatcher nominated 21 young people in the Second District for appointment to the federal service academies. He stressed that the nominations are merely a step in the appointment process and do not ensure appointment. In all cases, each service academy makes the final selection.



Valdosta High's Earnest Lowe glides over the high-jump bar enroute to winning the event in Wednesday's meet at Valdosta High — Times Photo By Paul Leavy

Region Track Teams Close

VDT, Thurs, May 2, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

How tight is the Region 1-AAAA boys' track meet after the first day?
T-I-G-H-T.

Just 6½ points separates first-place Bainbridge High from fourth-place Lowndes High with nine of the 17 events completed. It left the four coaches involved counting their qualifiers for the final eight events and getting their game plans together for the final surge.

The competition continues at 4 p.m. today at the Valdosta High track.

Bainbridge used a 3-4 finish in the 300 meter hurdles to overtake field-event strong Tift County for the team lead with 66½ points. Tift is second at 65 points, while Valdosta High is third at 62½ points and Lowndes High fourth at 60.

Coffee High (14 points) and Colquitt County (11 points) round out the field.

"It's a fantastic track meet. We feel like we're in a good position," said Lowndes coach Chuck Landy. "We've got several events tomorrow that we're strong in.

"It could come down to the end, and we're confident in our mile relay team (the last race, in which Lowndes is one of the top seeds)."

"We're very pleased to be in the position that we're in," said Valdosta coach Larry Jester. "We knew it was going to be a dogfight.

"What I like about tomorrow is we have some of our strengths ahead. In

the preliminaries we finished first in the 4x100 (relay), the 200 and 100 and third in some of those events. We're looking forward to have a strong showing."

Lowndes made its biggest jump in the three running-event finals, including a 1-2 finish in the 400 meters by James Lawrence (:48.92) and Jeff Thomas and a first-place, school-record time effort (:38.52) by Chris Wright in the 300-meter hurdles. All three men qualified for next week's state meet in Jefferson, along with high jumper Sedrick Neloms (second place).

"We got some pretty good performances from our seniors," said Landy. "Chris Wright, in breaking the school record, was fantastic. James and Jeffrey ran well. They are three seniors who have been around."

Valdosta High was second behind Tift after the six field events, with Earnest Lowe turning in first-place finishes in the long jump (23-8) and high jump (6-4). Dexter Daniels was second in the shot put.

Both qualified for next week's state meet, as did Frank Henderson (second in the 300-meter hurdles).

"We feel we got enough points from the field events to make a good run for first place," said VHS assistant coach Ronnie Pitcock. "The competition brought it out in some of them."

Tift had two first-place winners — Davis Allison in the pole vault (13-3) and Gary Lupo in the discus (148-8). Coffee's Jerry Hill won the shot put (51-10½), while Colquitt's Donald Wilder won the 1,600 meters (4:32.13).

Lowndes, Valdosta Girls Head To State Meet

VDT, Thurs, May 2, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The fortunes of Lowndes and Valdosta high schools' girls track teams may be made or broke tonight in Albany.

Lowndes High enters six individual events and two relay teams, while

Valdosta High enters four individual events and a relay team in qualifying at the Class AAAA state track meet at Hugh Mills Stadium.

The top four finishers in each heat will make Saturday's finals, which begin at 2:10 p.m.

Competition begins at 6 p.m., when both Lowndes and Valdosta will have teams entered in the 4x100-meter re-

lay. Lowndes is represented by Vonda Wright, Shanell Jenkins, Wanda Floyd and Veronica Miley, while Valdosta will have Tiffany Wright, Vashti Manning, Michelle Hendricks and Natasha Hart.

Jenkins is in two more events — the 100-meter dash (7:10 p.m.) and the 100-meter hurdles (7:35 p.m.). Miley is in the 800 meters (8 p.m.)

Vicky Williams will run twice tonight, in the 400 meters (6:50 p.m.) and the 200 meters (8:25 p.m.).

And to end the night, Lowndes will participate in the 1,600-meter relay. That team consists of Sabrina Montgomery, Daphne Haynes, Miley and Williams.

For Valdosta, Hart is entered in the 100 and 200 meters. Hendricks is in the 100-meter hurdles heat.

The lone final event today is the 3,200 meters run, set for 8:45 p.m. Lowndes' Donna Hall and Valdosta's Heather Burns are entered.

On Friday, two Lowndes athletes will compete in field-event finals — Gretchen Lawson in the shot put and Williams in the high jump.

Hall and Burns will run the 1,600 meters final at 6:25 p.m. Friday.

1-AAAA Boys

Track Opens

VDT, Wed, May 1, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Bainbridge High will be the favorite when Region 1-AAAA's six schools gather at the new Valdosta High track for the region track and field meet.

The competition begins at 2 p.m. today with the finals in six field events. Running events begin at 3:30 p.m. with the finals in three events and the preliminaries in the other events.

Finals in the remaining events will begin at 4 p.m. Thursday. The top two finishers in each event qualify for the state Class AAAA track meet May 9-11 in Jefferson.

"We feel like we'll be very competitive. The whole region is very strong," said Lowndes coach Chuck Landy. "But Bainbridge won it last year and they're good again this year."

Lowndes, Tift and host Valdosta will also give chase to the visiting Bearcats. Lowndes showed its strength by winning the Statesboro Relays earlier this season, while the teams have run strong against each other in meets this spring.



Runners from Colquitt, Valdosta and Lowndes County battle it out during the 4X100 meter relay during Thurs-

day's Region 1-AAAA track meet at Valdosta High — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Bainbridge Wins Region Title

VDT. Fri., May 3, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Bainbridge High had to run a long way to do it, but when it happened it broke the stalemate called the Region 1-AAAA track meet.

Bainbridge finished 1-2 in the 3,200 meters to pull away from host Valdosta High and Lowndes High, then finished second in the 4x400-meter relay to win the team title Thursday afternoon.

Larry Clark's Bearcats scored 138½ points to Valdosta's 119½, with Lowndes third at 112. Tift County was fourth at 90, while Colquitt County (19) and Coffee (12) rounded out the field.

"We performed well but not as well as I hoped," said Clark. "Our strength all year has been depth, and that's why I think we were able to win today."

The second-place trophy was a triumph in itself for Valdosta High. "We

worked real hard to get better," said VHS coach Larry Jester, who helped Clark last year at Bainbridge. "We wanted to lay a foundation ... and we've accomplished that."

The day started with a four-team race for the title, with Tift County's strong showing in Wednesday's field events putting it in the hunt. But Tift didn't have the runners to stay with the other three teams, and fell quickly back.

Valdosta jumped into the lead early, getting a second and fourth in the 4x100-meter relay. Lowndes won the event (42.49), but its No. 2 team was disqualified when the anchor-leg runner lost his hold on the baton prior to the finish line.

The Wildcats' 3-5 finish in the 110-meter hurdles boosted the lead, with Lowndes High's Chris Wright winning the event (15.33) to push Lowndes into second over Bainbridge. Frank Wiseman's victory in the 100 meters gave Valdosta 10 more points,

while Lowndes followed close behind with a 3-4 finish.

But the beginning of the end came in the 800 meters, when Bainbridge's Xavier Close won (1:57.31) and a teammate added a fourth-place finish. Valdosta's Scott Jones was third, while Lowndes could only manage a sixth. Bainbridge led Valdosta by a single point (100½-99½) at that point, while Lowndes in third (92 points).

The Wiseman-Trampis Wrice duo finished 1-4 in the 200 meters to put Valdosta back in front by five points, but that was short lived. Jester had not planned on getting any points in the 3200 meters. He didn't.

And he didn't plan on Bainbridge's 1-2 finish by Shannon Sapp and Antione Griffin, which gave the Bearcats a 13-point lead with one event left.

In the finale, Lowndes's 4x400-meter relay team approached (3:19.66) but did not break the school record.

Bainbridge finished ahead of Valdosta for second, and had its No. 2 team cross the line fourth to complete the 19-point win.

Valdosta qualified four individuals and its 4x100-meter relay team for next week's state Class AAAA meet in Jefferson. Earnest Lowe (long jump and high jump) and Wiseman (100 meters, 200 meters) will go along with Dexter Daniels (shot put) and Frank Henderson (300-meter hurdles). The relay team includes Robert Randolph, Dexter Dudley, Trampis Wrice and Wiseman.

James Lawrence (200 meters, 400 meters) and Wright (300-meter hurdles, 110-meter hurdles) lead the Lowndes contingent, along with Sedrick Neloms (high jump) and Jeff Thomas (400 meters). The 4x100-meter relay team includes Wright, Tommy Starks, Washington and Lawrence, while Wright, Dana Smith, Thomas and Lawrence run the 4x400-meter relay.

Valdosta High Honors Baseball Squad

VDT. Sat. May 4, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Seniors Steve Jaramillo and Brad Tarpley shared the most valuable player award given Friday night at the Valdosta High School baseball banquet held at the school.

Jaramillo, a shortstop, hit .413 this season, while Tarpley had a .350 average with a team-high 34 runs batted in.

Fellow senior Rookie Gage, a second baseman, won the best defensive honor for the third-straight year.

Other top award winners included "The Spirit of Wildcat" to senior third baseman Chris Greene and "Most Loyal" to senior centerfielder Alton Hitson.

The five seniors, plus outfielder Arthur McConnehead, were presented awards for completing

four years in the VHS program.

Keith McConnehead (offense) and Chris Rockey (defense) were named the top 10th-grade players, while four ninth-graders were honored: Kevin Nolan (pitcher), Blake Patterson and John Greene (offense) and Dean Vinson (defense).

Wayne Bius succeeded Al Gage as president of the program's booster-club organization.

The Wildcats finished the season with an overall mark of 10-13 during the regular season with just a single win in Region 1-AAAA play.

New Quarterbacks To Lead 'Cats

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

He went 27-1-1 as a two-year starter at quarterback for Valdosta High School. He became the second VHS quarterback to lead the team to back-to-back state titles. He was team captain, and voted the most valuable Wildcat for two years.

And like every good high school athlete, his time has come to move on. When Valdosta High begins spring-football practice today at the high school, Alton Hitson won't be Wildcats' quarterback. Someone else will be wearing No. 15, and someone else will be taking snaps behind the No. 1 offensive line.

Enter Steve Everson and John Bell. And don't stop there.

The two-week period for spring drills begins today, with practice opening just after 3:30 p.m.

Scrimmages are set for the next two Friday nights at Cleveland Field.

Everson and Bell are two juniors-to-be who have served their "apprenticeship" on the scout team. Both got some varsity playing time last year, with Everson ahead of the game — Bell missed more than a month with a broken collarbone.

"Both are capable players ... both are tremendous athletes," said offensive assistant coach Mike O'Brien. "They're going to have to compete for the job. One will have to step up."

"They just have to be smart and not try to make big plays," added Hitson, who didn't get the luxury of spring training to prepare himself for the job. He stepped in from wide receiver during the fall of 1989 after projected starter Jason Nichols broke a leg. "And they'll be expected to know what to do."

The time on the scout team teaches many players the composure needed later in their

high school career. The scout team lines up against the opposing No. 1 unit in drills.

"They've got to have poise and composure," said O'Brien. "We're not asking them to be a star. We're asking them to run our offense with as few mistakes as possible."

You'll remember Everson best for relieving an injured Hitson in a quarterfinal state-playoff game against Statesboro. For the year, Everson ran the ball 13 times for 39 yards. He completed 1-of-6 passes for 17 yards.

He also worked with the first-team offense during practice in the latter stages of the season when Hitson was being protected due to his injuries.

"I feel now like it's my time to step in and prove I can take over," said Everson. "We're about the same-type quarterbacks. We've been playing together since junior high — one will play quarterback and the other wide receiver."

Bell broke his right collarbone when the "junior varsity" team scrimmaged the ninth-grade team on Sept. 27. He did get in during the state-championship victory over Southwest DeKalb, recording his lone rushing attempt of the year (a 5-yard loss). He had thrown an incomplete pass prior to the injury.

"To get into the starting lineup I've got to work real hard," Bell said. "I can contribute, I just have to do the best I can."

Both may have to make way for the variable in the quarterback situation — senior-to-be Jamey Waters. Waters was Hitson's backup early last season, until Waters' early-October automobile accident.

Extensive injuries to his right arm kept Waters on the sidelines this baseball season, where he would have given needed help as a pitcher. Waters still hasn't been cleared to practice, though he's done some conditioning work.

VDT Wed, May 8, 91

Returnees Lead Line For 'Cats

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There have been times Jerry Don Baker could look around and wonder where his offensive linemen went.

In recent years, it has seemed Baker, Valdosta High's offensive line coach, has had to start over every football season. He'd have either four or five of his linemen from the previous season graduate, and a new bunch of players to work with.

But for the first time in five years, Baker and assistant line coach Ronnie Pitcock have some familiar faces to work with this spring.

At the top of the list are tackle Tim O'Brien and guard Jay Bowling, mainstays on the line last season. O'Brien — the son of offensive backs coach Mike O'Brien — has added 30 pounds since last season to develop into a 6-foot-3, 255-pound weak-side tackle. Bowling has also added strength and about 20 pounds (to 230) to improve at left guard.

Third on that list should be right guard Andy Sheffield, who has bulked up to 245 pounds. But Sheffield has been stopped by an ulcer and has yet to practice this spring.

"Those kids, by getting that experience last year, are able to help the new kids, the younger kids," Baker said. "They can help them mentally to make the calls, and they are showing leadership early."

To fill in some holes, the Wildcats had two transfers move in. Baker got some center help when 240-pounder Bradley Grant, a starter last season at Lithonia High, moved to town. He comes in where last year's long snapper and backup center, Brian Salze, departs. Salze moved back to Alabama.

Then former Lowndes High tackle Sean Van Ausdall relocated into the Valdosta High district, and found a home in the weight room. The 6-foot-See LINE, Page 2-B

Line

From Page 1-B

6 tackle has gained 30 pounds to grow to 252 pounds.

Add to those the usual list of seldom-used players growing up into front-line players — junior tackle Andy Harrison, junior guards Allen Holt and Jesse Hunter and senior center Greg Porter. Senior tackle Eddie Wooten, a 300-pounder who is ineligible for spring drills, rounds out the list.

It all adds up for a group which will be blocking for a fast set of quarterbacks and running backs this season.

Stay tuned.

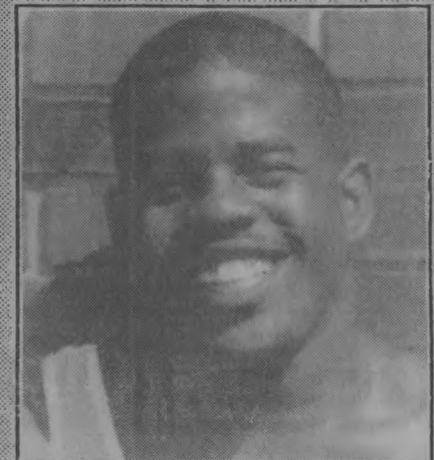
■ WILDCAT NOTES: VHS made its first move to break up the logjam at running back, sending junior Brock Sanford to cornerback. Sanford had one 4-yard carry in limited duty last season.

People File

Local Folks

Meet...

- NAME: Ricky Thomas
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: Senior at Valdosta High School.
- HOBBIES: Partying, all sports, and weightlifting.
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Take it light, and do it right, peace."



VDT MON May 6, 1991

People File

Local Folks

Meet...

- NAME: Andre Scruggs
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: Senior at Valdosta High School.
- HOBBIES: All sports, partying, and eating.
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away."



VDT Wed, May 8, 1991

Valdosta High VDT Students Honored

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School senior Amy Kilgard has had a successful last year. Not only was she honored as the school's Star Student, but Miss Kilgard will address her senior class as valedictorian at graduation on June 4.

Miss Kilgard, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kilgard Jr., was announced as VHS's 1991 valedictorian at Tuesday's Honors Day program.

Senior Holly Rentschler, the daughter of Thomas and Barbara Rentschler, was named salutatorian; and Elizabeth Foster, the daughter of Dr. A.M. and Patricia Foster, was named Best All Around Senior and the third honor graduate.

Other 1991 honor graduates are: Thaddeus Agar, Gina Albritton, John Allen, Gordon Armstrong, Kelli Bland, Michelle Bostock, Marirose Brase, Justin Bridges, Jessica Brown, Keisha Brunson, Justin Cabral, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Ashley Connell, Shannon Davis, Glaire Dempsey, David Farber, Andrew Ferrell, Meredith Fletcher, Lydia Freeman, Jarrod Gage, Jimmy Green, Chris Gregg, Ward Griffin and Shalonda Hannans.

Also, Angela Harper, Stephanie Hinton, Mary Hofmeister, Sam Hogan, Kelly Holmes, Teresa Lamprey, Jennifer Launey, Samuel Lightsey, Brandon Lovett, Janice Mallory, Jennifer Matthews, Tiffany Minchew, Cedric Mobley, Kenyarda Moore, Pamela Moore, Meredith Mosby, John Peeples, Crystal Ray, David Richardson, Allison Roush, Davidae Stewart, Julie Suggs, Nathan Tart, Melissa Wheeler, Kimberly Williams and Michael Young.

1991 Senior Superlatives are Holly Rentschler, Dexter Mitchell, Meredith Fletcher, Will Coleman, Amy Kilgard, Alton Hitson, Meredith Mosby, Nathan

nal Achievement Scholarship at Florida A&M University and National Achievement Scholarship at Exxon Education Foundation.

Community, state and national award winners are Jennifer Jones, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Kenyarda Moore and Rhonda Payton, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Richard Oelkers, Felicia Cooper and John Copeland are bronze, silver and gold honorees, respectively, of American Legion Post 13 and Nick Reed and Ryan Coyne, Boy's State; Jennifer Halter and Kristin Ganas, Girl's State of American Legion Auxiliary Post 13; Robert McSween and Keesha Green, Daedalian Awards; Shantina Sirmans, Daughters of American Colonist NJROTC Award; Liz Foster, Good Citizenship Award, and Katresa Peterson, NJROTC Award, from Daughters of the American Revolution; Vashti Manning, Kenneth Jones Rose Scholarship; Amy Kilgard, Star Student, and Lee Pulliam, Star Teacher, from Kiwanis Club; Ashley Connell, Literary Guild's Ruth Templeton/Webbie Smith Award for Excellence in English Literature; Gary Ross, The Retired Officers' Association Leadership Award; Chester Stewart, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 177; first place Will Coleman, second place Kelli Bland and third place Allison Roush for Wymodausis Club Alice Bingle Essay Contest.

Art awards include Jessica Konopa, Most Outstanding Freshman Art Student; Michelle Herndon, Most Outstanding Sophomore Art Student; Karen Green, Most Outstanding Junior Art Student; and Janet Rogers, Most Outstanding Senior Art student.

Vashti Manning was named Academic Athlete Student of the Year, and business education awards include Shannon Davis, Outstanding Accounting Student; Amy Cox, Outstanding Business Law Student; Nathan Ingham, Outstanding Data Processing Student; Tom Howard, Outstanding Keyboarding Student; and Kenyarda Moore CBE Student of the Year and Business Education Student of the Year.

English awards include Sara South and Stephanie Staley, Excellence in English (9th grade); Jennifer Edwards and Courtney Minchew, Excellence in English (10th grade); Laura Barbas, Excellence in English (11th grade); Liz Foster and Amy Kilgard, Excellence in English (12th grade); Amy Kilgard, Excellence in Drama; Liz Foster and Jimmy Green, Excellence in Composition; Thad Agar, Most Improved in Debate; Ashley Connell, Liz Foster and Stephanie Hinton, Co-Editors of the Literary Magazine; Liz Foster and Jimmy Green, RESA Writing Competition winners; Sarita Rainey, Governor's Honors Program in Drama.

Foreign language award winners are Jennifer Eidson, Most Outstanding French I Student; Sarita Rainey and Brandon Lovett, Most Outstanding French II Students; Holly Rentschler, Most Outstanding French III Student; Kayse Budd, Most Outstanding Spanish I Student; Laura Barbas, Most Outstanding Spanish II Student; and How-

Tart, Tiffany Minchew, Michael Young, Ashley Connell, Steve Jaramillo, Elizabeth Foster, Brad Tarpley, Jarrod Gage and Vashti Manning.

Scholarship winners are John Allen: Georgia Press Education Foundation and Odom Scholar at Valdosta State College; Gordon Armstrong: Presidential Scholarship for University of Alabama, National Merit Scholarship and Patrick F. Taylor Scholarship at University of New Orleans; Kelli Bland: Odom Scholar at VSC, Wal-Mart Foundation Scholarship and L.M. Fitten Scholarship at Georgia Institute of Technology; Justin Bridges: Odom Scholar at VSC; JoAnn Brown: Valdosta Technical Institute; Justin Cabral: Academic Excellence Scholarship at University of Mississippi; and Cannon Campbell: Tennis Scholarship at University of Mississippi.

Also, Ryan Collins: Alumni Scholarship at University of Georgia; Ashley Connell: Alumni Scholarship at UGA; Deric Cotton: Appointment to United States Naval Academy Prep School; Jonathan Davis: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State; Glaire Dempsey: Odom Scholar at VSC and Moody Officer's Wives' Club Scholarship; Michael Drumheller: Odom Scholar at VSC; Dexter Dudley: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Scholarship; David Farber: Dean's Scholarship at Georgia Institute of Technology; and Andy Ferrell: L.M. Fitten Scholarship at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Also, Liz Foster: Virginia Turner Self Scholarship at Converse College, Alumni Scholarship at University of Georgia, Alumni Scholarship at Davidson College, Tylenol Scholarship and Quattlebaum Scholarship at Presbyterian College; Jimmy Green: Alumni Scholarship at UGA; Frank Henderson: Trustee Grant at Mercer University; Stephanie Hinton: Unocal Scholarship Foundation; Alton Hitson: Football Scholarship at Georgia Southern University; Sam Hogan: golf scholarships from VSC, Huntingdon College, Central Wesleyan College and Charleston Southern University; and M.J. Johnson: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State.

Also, Jennifer Kinsey: Presidential Scholarship at Faulkner University; Adrian Lewis: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State; Samuel Lightsey: Odom Scholar at VSC; Brandon Lovett: Air Force ROTC Scholarship and Odom Scholarship at VSC; Amanda McHenry: Presidential Scholarship at Brewton Parker College; Janice Mallory: Sweetbriar College Scholarship and Moody Officers' Wives' Club Scholarship; Jennifer Matthews: Moody Enlisted Wives' Club Scholarship; Dexter Mitchell: Grant at Morehouse College; and Cedric Mobley: Thurgood Marshall Political Science Scholarship at Florida A&M University and Presidential Scholarship at Morehouse College.

Also, Kenyarda Moore: Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship; Marcus Moss: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State; Kimberly Rayford: Academic Scholarship at Savannah State College; Andre Scruggs: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State; Davidae Stewart: grant at Agnes Scott College; Nathan Tart: Appointment to U.S. Air Force Academy; Ricky Thomas: Football Scholarship at Fort Valley State; Kimberly Williams: Music Scholarship at UGA, "Red Coat" Band Scholarship at UGA, Foundation Scholarship at UGA, Brenau Scholarship at Brenau College and Foundation Scholarship at Brenau College; and Michael Young: Educatio-

and ~~and~~, Most Outstanding Spanish III Student.

Math award winners include Michelle Levy, Most Outstanding Algebra I Student; Alex Penn, Most Outstanding Geometry Student and Most Outstanding Algebra II Student and second place junior varsity in Coastal Plains RESA Math Tournament; Bert Eidson, Most Outstanding Trigonometry Student and Governor's Honors Program; David Roddy, Most Outstanding Pre-Calculus Student; Amy Kilgard, Most Outstanding Calculus Student and first place senior varsity in Coastal Plains RESA Math Tournament; first place senior varsity team members are Ryan Collins, Bert Eidson, Andy Ferrell and Amy Kilgard; first place junior varsity team members are Jennifer Eidson, Roy Kilgard, Alex Penn and Lee Scott.

Naval science award winners are Martina Hall, Distinguished Cadet First Year; Kristina Lyons, Distinguished Cadet Second Year; Dejaris Washington and Gary Ross, Distinguished Cadets Third Year; and Michael Norwood, Distinguished Cadet Fourth Year.

Science award winners are Wendy Whatley and Alex Penn, Most Outstanding Students in Biology; Jennifer Edwards, Most Outstanding Student in Physical Science; Bert Eidson, Most Outstanding Student in Chemistry; Andy Ferrell, Most Outstanding Student in Physics; Liz Foster and Kelly Holmes, Most Outstanding Students in Anatomy/Physiology; David Farber, Most Outstanding Student in Computer Science; and First Place Team in Region Science Bowl members Chris Gregg, Bert Eidson, Kelly Holmes, John Peeples, Meg Hiers and Jennifer Spencer.

Science Olympiad Region Competition first place winners are Meg Hiers and John Peeples, Tic Toc; Chris Gregg and David Farber, Computer Programming; Jennifer Spencer, Jennifer Eidson, Lee Scott and Bill Howard, Pentathlon; Chris Gregg, Meg Hiers and Wilson Faircloth, Sounds of Music; and Wilson Faircloth and Roy Kilgard, Scrambler.

Social Studies award winners are Stephanie Staley, Most Outstanding Freshman Student; Courtney Minchew, Most Outstanding Sophomore Student; Laura Barbas, Most Outstanding Junior Student; Brad Tarpley, Most Outstanding Senior Student; and Ann McCranie and Bill Howard, Governor's Honors Program.

Outstanding Students of the Year in Vocational Education include Chris Bittinger, Bill Little, Donna Lowery, Martha Stalvey and Kim Williams.

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America winners David Farber, Thad Agar, Gina McGee, Coy Peterson, Permelia Moore, Terry Troope, Michael Thrift, Eric Stanley, Amanda McGhin, Marist Jenkins, Jennifer Brown, Angela Harper, Meredith Fletcher, Jessica Morgan, Rebecca Morgan and Anjana Reddy.

Region Literary Competition winners include Jimmy Green and Laura Barbas, essays; Jim Galloy and Amy Kilgard, oral interpretation; Michael Young and Laura Barbas, spelling; Stephanie Everett Jimmy Green, Kevin Hiers and Thad Agar, debate; and Amy Kilgard, state competition first place in oral interpretation.

Special recognition was given to Dexter Mitchell, for being president of the Student Government Association, and to Ann McCranie and Kelly Holmes, co-editors of the *Sandspur*.



KILGARD



RENTSCHER



FOSTER

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

2-B Thursday, May 9, 1991

Waters' Dream Remains Alive

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Jamey Waters is one of the hundred-plus student-athletes at Valdosta High School participating in spring football practice this and next week.

One thing which distinguishes Waters from the rest of his teammates is the red jersey he's supposed to wear during drills. Another thing is the fact that his presence at spring practice should be an inspirational plus for the Wildcat football team.

Waters is making his comeback. His junior season ended after five games last season, not because of a football-related injury but a serious automobile accident.

Because of his injuries, he missed the rest of the football season and this past baseball season — one which he could have given needed pitching help to the Wildcats.

Instead, he spent time in rehabilitation and in the weight room. He had another surgical procedure on his arm about a month ago.

This week he was cleared for non-contact work during spring practice. It's a start for someone who considers himself lucky to be alive after running into the logs hanging off the back of a truck.

"I can't have any contact ... spring is collision, and without collision it's hard to do anything," Waters said. "But I had no idea I'd get this far. Many doctors told me I'd never play football again. I stuck with it."

It's also tough for a young man who has had a dream just like thousands of others like him — to play football for Valdosta High. "I've been in it since seventh grade. Then my senior year comes up and I can't participate in spring," Waters said.

Waters was Alton Hitson's backup quarterback to start last season. Waters got some playing time in a cou-

ple of early-season blowouts, showing he could be a tough runner.

But all that changed when Waters was heading home on North Valdosta Road after the Thursday night skull session in preparation for the Bainbridge game.

"It was about 8:15 p.m. and it was raining real bad," Waters said. "I saw some blinking lights up the road. I thought it was somebody turning."

"When I got there I switched lanes. Next thing I know there were logs in front of me. It ripped the top of my car off."

"I woke up and my head was busted open. My (right) arm was busted open. The state patrolman told me I was in an accident."

Within three hours Waters was at South Georgia Medical Center being rushed into surgery. He had a compound fracture on his right elbow. Amputation was considered.

"When I saw the logs I didn't have time to hit the brakes. I threw my arm in front of my face so my face wouldn't get busted up," said Waters. "It looked like a dull ax had gone through my elbow. The windshield wiper went up my arm all the way back to my shoulder. It tore my tricep."

He still doesn't have full motion with his arm, but it's more than doctors thought he'd ever have.

When the Wildcats enter camp this fall, Waters should be cleared for full contact. Then comes his next challenge — going up against juniors Steve Everson and John Bell for the quarterback job, against two players who received the chances for experience Waters would have had last year.

"When, not if, Waters gets a chance to take a snap from center this fall, it'll feel great," he said. "I've dreamed of being a Wildcat."

Dreams which haven't been squelched by a life-threatening doctor.



Jamey Waters is back in uniform for the Valdosta Wildcats after recovering from an

automobile accident last year — Times Photo by Jeff Allen.

Rain Doesn't Dampen Scrimmages



Valdosta High quarterback Steve Everson (1) turns upfield as Jesse Hunter (52) blocks a defender during Friday's spring-

football scrimmage at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Wildcat Offense 'Running'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Through the near-darkness of Cleveland Field Friday night, you could see some things about this fall's Valdosta High football team.

You could see the fullbacks will run. You could see the quarterbacks will run. You could see the work that needs to be done.

Just wait until next week, when all the lights will be on.

The Wildcats splashed their way through the dark stadium to finish the first week of spring work. The rainy night only added to the affair, which included only the north-side lights working. An attempt earlier in the day to turn on the south-side lights ended with two loud bangs, and a Monday appointment with Georgia Power.

The offensive explosions came from various sources — especially the short and tall of the fullback situation. Second-teammate Brian Thomas had the big night with over 80 yards rushing, while first-teammate David Williams added almost 50 yards. And rising sophomore Sam Thomas had the lone offensive touchdown of the varsity scrimmage, a 2-yard blast in the final quarter after a blocked punt.

And in the pair of rising junior quarterbacks, Steve Everson and John Bell. Everson matched Thomas' running yardage, while Bell added around 30 yards. Both worked with the first and second units, with neither getting any type of passing game going.

"All of them had good nights," said offensive assistant coach Mike O'Brien. "But we created our own mistakes for us. We missed blocks, we missed assignments, we fumbled the ball a couple of times. The weather was poor, but that's no excuse."

"Overall we were well pleased with the way the kids did. It was the first real game-type situation."

The defense had one goal-line stand, when they recovered a fumble on fourth-and-goal at the 1. Donald Hitson solidly blocked the punt which set up the touchdown, while Tim McClain got in to block the extra point after the score.

Jason Jelks and John Copeland had early interceptions. And to add to the Thomas show, defenders Carl and Teto Thomas ran back punts for touchdowns against the offense.

Practice continues next week at the high school, with the final spring scrimmage at Cleveland Field Friday night.

VHS Track In Second; Dennis Shot Put Champ

VDT, Sat, May 11, 1991

From Special Reports

JEFFERSON — The Valdosta High boys track team is a strong second after the first full day of the GHSA Class AAAA state track. Three team members also qualified for running events today.

The Wildcats trail Griffin High, 26-17, after the first day of competition in state meet, which has drawn schools from across Georgia.

Tied for third are Brookwood and Riverdale with 16 points. Tift County is fifth with 12 and Clarke Central has 10.

"We are real pleased coming up here and doing like we have," Wildcats coach Larry Jester said. "Our kids brought a good attitude here and they've worked real hard. They had the right attitude going in."

Valdosta High's Earnest Lowe finished second twice on Friday. He came in second in the long jump with a jump of 22 feet, 8¼ inches. Lowe was also second in high jump with a jump of 6 feet, 8 inches.

Dexter Daniels came in sixth in shot put, tossing it 50 feet, 7 inches.

In track-event qualifying, Frank Wiseman finished first in both the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash, running an 11 flat and a 22.15 respectively. And the 4-by-100 meter relay team of Robert Randolph, Trampis Wrice, Wiseman and Dexter Dudley came in second with a 42.88.

Jester is hopeful going into today's competition, noting the three events the Wildcats are competing in are "the backbone of our program."

No information was made available on Lowndes High's athletes participating in the meet.

■ **VALWOOD CHAMPION:** Laura Dennis of Valwood School became the state champion shot putter Friday in the state GISA track meet held in Albany.

Dennis hurled the shot better than 36 feet. She also placed third in discus competition; her sister Dede Dennis placed fourth in discus.

V Times 5-13-91

Wright Wins State; Wildcats 5th

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High senior Chris Wright became the school's first state track and field boys champion in 12 years, while Valdosta High came in fifth place in the Class AAAA state track meet this weekend in Jefferson.

Wright, who will attend Georgia Southern on a football scholarship this fall, set a new school record while winning the 300 intermediate hurdles with a 38.38 time. He becomes the first

state champion for Lowndes High in boys' track since Johnny B. Williams won the same event in 1979.

Meanwhile, Valdosta High finished fifth in the team standings, losing a spot to Southwest DeKalb when that school won the day's final event, the 4x400-meter relay.

Griffin High won the meet with 44 points, with Clarke Central second with 31. Northside-Warner Robins was third at 30, while Southwest DeKalb — which had the top two 4x400 teams in the state last year — used this year's

victory to edge Valdosta, 29-27. Riverdale was sixth with 24 points.

Unofficially, Lowndes finished eighth in 21 points. Both Valdosta and Lowndes finished ahead of Region 1-AAAA champ Bainbridge. Sixty-seven schools had athletes qualify for the meet.

On Saturday's final day, Valdosta High sophomore Frank Wiseman finished second in the 200 meters and sixth in the 100 meters. Wiseman was also part of the 4x100 meter relay team which finished sixth, along with Dexter Dudley, Trampis Wrice and Robert Randolph.

On Friday, junior Earnest Lowe was second in the high jump and long jump, while junior Dexter Daniels was sixth in the shot put.

For Lowndes, Wright was also on the 4x400-meter relay team which finished third behind Southwest DeKalb, which bettered its winning time (3:17) by two seconds from last year despite running in the rain. Members of Lowndes' team also included Dana Smith, Jeff Thomas and James Lawrence.

Lowndes got a 4-6 finish in the 400 meters with Lawrence (fourth) and Thomas (sixth).



Valdosta High senior, and Region 1-AAAA medalist, Drew Respass will be playing for a Class AAAA state individual golf championship today in a 36-hole tournament at Jekyll Island — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Respass Riding High To State

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Drew Respass was a little surprised when he qualified to play in state competition. Maybe he shouldn't have been — by his own admission he's playing the best golf of his life.

Respass, a Valdosta High senior, will compete individually in the Class AAAA state tournament today at Jekyll Island. He earned the trip by winning medalist honors in the Region 1-AAAA competition April 30 at the Bainbridge Country Club, outshooting Bainbridge's Robert Yeats in a playoff. Respass made a short putt for par while Yeats bogeyed.

"Right now I'm hitting the ball well, and I've played on the (Jekyll) course several

times and did pretty good. So I think I should do well," Respass said last week.

Respass, who shot a 74 in region play, was about as surprised as anyone when he qualified instead of the Wildcats' No. 1 player, Sam Hogan.

"I thought Sam was going to win. I was playing good, but I didn't know I'd shoot a 74," Respass said. "I figured Sam would shoot a 72 or something. But I feel pretty good."

Hogan shot a 78. Respass said he felt comfortable going into the playoff in part because of Hogan. The pair has played numerous tournaments together "so we're used to pressure," Respass said.

The state tournament is a one-day event — all 36 holes will be played today. Respass had been trying to shoot at least 18 holes a

day last week in preparation, though rain interrupted him at least one day.

Respass began playing golf five years ago as a seventh grader. He and his father were watching a tournament on television and that piqued the youngster's interest, he said.

"Then I heard the golf team started the next day and I went out for four-man; I've been playing ever since," Respass said.

Qualifying for state has given Respass a new confidence in his golf game. He is now considering trying to walk-on when he heads to college at Auburn University this summer.

"I've heard (professional golfer) Paul Azinger was 19 before he started shooting in the 70s so maybe my best golf is ahead of me," Respass said.

Vikes, Cats Get Back Top Players

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

So you've gone out to your favorite team's spring-football practice last week, looked around and thought there were a few folks missing.

You were right. And some of them — including some of the top names on the Lowndes High and Valdosta High teams — will be back beginning today.

The second and final week of spring drills begins with practice at the schools starting around 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. The teams will work toward their final scrimmages set for Friday night on their home fields.

At Valdosta High, at least three defensive starters missed last week's practice because they had qualified for the state Class AAAA track meet in Jefferson. Including in the group were two veterans — seniors-to-be linebacker Dexter Daniels and cornerback Trampis Wrice.

Veteran defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley will be quick to tell you that players like Daniels and Wrice used to get time off during spring practice to force the coaches to try younger players at the positions. But that was when the schools had four weeks of practice. Now there's just two.

Their absence did force some younger players to step up. Junior-to-be linebacker Marcus Williams had to become the leader on defense, while new faces like Brock Sanford, James Canady and Teto Thomas got a few days of work with the first and second team in the secondary.

But there's also been the wait for junior-to-be Frank Wiseman. A backup linebacker last year, Wiseman developed into a top sprinter this spring (second in the state in the 200 meters). Wiseman could go anywhere from end to cornerback on defense, depending on where he fits in and where he's needed.

There's also sophomore-to-be Robert Randolph, a leg on the 4x100-meter relay team who could be at receiver, running back, quarterback or defensive secondary before the end of the week.

The significant loss at Lowndes High was senior-to-be all-region linebacker Randall Godfrey, who was a sprinter for the Vikings' track team. Godfrey's absence affected another Williams — this one senior-to-be Chris Williams, who also stepped forward this past week.

The Vikings also will get some help on offense, as leading receiver Sedrick Neloms returns, as does fullback Tommy Starks. Sprinter/defensive back Dana Smith will also add to the experienced defense.

Also back will be two defensive coaches who were their school's respective track coaches — Valdosta's line coach Larry Jester and Lowndes' coordinator Chuck Landy.

'Cats Work To Stay Hungry

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

With back-to-back state championships in hand, Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder has stressed to his team to stay hungry as they work toward a possible third title.

After the first week of spring practice, which concluded with a Friday-night scrimmage, Hyder believes that his happening.

"The kids seem to want to do it," said Hyder. "We got organized this week with that objective. I think there's been tremendous mental toughness in their approach to practice. I'm amazed at the intensity, and that the kids haven't huffed up back at the coaches."

Friday's wet, dark scrimmage showed that the Wildcat quarterbacks and running backs can run the football. It also saw some holes on both offense and defense as well as the kicking game.

"We saw our need to search for the punt-coverage people," said Hyder.

The Wildcats, rain or not, had little success with the passing game Friday night.

"Passing is a part of what we do. We have to do it for both sides of the ball — the entire game must improve, the ability is there," Hyder said.

"Defensively we need to continue to teach alignment and pursuit — the defense has to learn to react."

Tennis Duo

Falls At State

Staff Reports

MACON — The state-championship hopes of two Valdosta tennis players ended in defeat here Saturday.

Valdosta High's Cannon Campbell, an Ole Miss signee, lost to Stone Mountain's Murry Lokasundaram, 6-4, 7-6, in the finals of the GHSA Class AAAA state tournament. Campbell had won two matches on Friday, then defeated his former Walton High teammate, Scott Lebovitz, 6-2, 6-3, in Saturday morning's semifinals.

Lowndes High's Nancy Smith lost to Jane Reid of Lassiter, 6-1, 6-4, in the semifinals. Smith, an Auburn signee, had won two matches on Friday to advance to the semifinals.

■VALDOSTA HIGH: Practice each afternoon beginning Monday at 3:30 p.m. at the high school practice field. Varsity scrimmage set for Friday night, around 7:30 p.m., at Cleveland Field. Scout-team scrimmage also planned for Friday.

People File

Local Folks

Meet...

- NAME: Lorna Bius
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: Valdosta High senior and a nursery worker
- HOBBIES: Fishing, sports and church activities
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Fifteen days or bust."



VDT, Tues., May 14, 1991



VHS' Moore Signs

Valdosta High basketball player Michael Moore, center, signs to play basketball for Albany State College as his father, Zebedee, and VHS coach John Miller (right) look on. Moore averaged 16.5 points and 10 rebounds this year, as the Wildcats' team captain made all-region honors — Times Photo by Jeff Allen

Touchdown Club Supporting Players

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Nick Hyder has talked about it. The Valdosta Touchdown Club is doing something about it.

"Coach Hyder has taught us about the kind of support the kids need. They don't need to know that we expect them to win. They need to know that regardless of what happens we still care about them," said new club president Scott Alderman.

"We've got something in mind that's different. We tried to analyze what support to the team means, not just to be another group that goes out and cheers."

It's called "Adopt-A-Cat". And while all the plans may not be finalized, there is a basic concept. Each board of director for the club will take the names of one or two Wildcats. "In some way they'll be in contact with them on a personal basis,

during the whole year, so we can show that we care about them.

"It's the biggest lesson that I've learned."

That's just part of the support the club shows for the storied high school program. Other support will be evident this week, when the club holds its annual spring supper at the high school.

After Thursday's practice, the Wildcats and club members will gather in the school's lunchroom around 6:30 p.m. for a dinner. Following that, Hyder and his assistant coaches will address the club and introduce the players.

"It's our first gathering for the club for the new year," Alderman. "It's a different thing since spring practice is so late. Pre-camp drills start in about two months."

The club is also selling \$2 tickets for Friday night' spring-ending scrimmage at Cleveland Field. That event will start around 6:30 p.m. with the younger players getting their time in, with the varsity players hitting the field around 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available from the players or the club's board of directors.

Alderman, like many of the Wildcat players do, has completed his progression up the club's ladder. He's been on the board for some 10 years, and was the club's vice president last year. He takes over for Dave McCracken, who spent two years as president.

To help cover the rising cost of dinners and other projects, the club had its first membership-fee increase in 17 years. Memberships are now \$20, with \$10 associate and \$5 children memberships available.

Parking permits for Cleveland Field will now be \$15 instead of \$10. The permits are good for all eight regular-season home games this season, plus any playoff games.

"We have three good meals every year, and cost of the meals alone are worth the membership. It wasn't paying for the benefits of the membership," Alderman.



Richard Thomas (foreground) and Tim McClain are two of the more familiar names returning to the Valdosta High defensive line this season — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats Work On Quick Line

VDT. Tues. May 14, 1991
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

If Larry Jester looks around, he may find that he's the biggest defensive lineman among the group at Valdosta High.

Jester is the position coach, however, and not a high school football player. His group will be counting on quickness, not bulk, as an asset this season.

"They're going to give up a lot of size, but they're small and quick," said Jester Monday after the Wildcats finished their first day of the second week of spring work.

Jester's group will also have some of the more experienced defensive players this season, thanks to the fact that he used two and three sets of lines last season. The first set graduated, and heads to Fort Valley State — Jester's alma mater — this fall.

"We have more depth on the defensive line than the other positions, so I think we're going to take a bigger load on the defense," Jester said.

To do that, senior tackle Tim McClain and senior noseguard Richard "Stump" Thomas step in to lead the group. They, along with Kevin Major, were the second wave on last year's line.

McClain scored the highest on the "Super Cat" fitness test before spring practice.

"Tim is going to be the anchor on the defensive line. He and Richard started several games last season," Jester said. "So far they've responded well."

"And we're farther ahead with the younger guys because they realize they've got to play."

Among the younger guys are left tackles Brinson Barker and John Gloster, right tackle Donald Hits and nose guard Peter Failor, who has edged ahead of Thomas.

VICA Students Compete

VDT. Mon. May 25, 1991
Valdosta High and Lowndes High recently competed at the 1991 State VICA Leadership Conference and Skill Olympics.

VICA hosted the conference at the Atlanta Stouffer Waverly May 10-12. Successful VHS students were Thad Agar, second place in job interview; David Farber, second place in extemporaneous speaking; Mike Thrift, second place in graphic communications; Terry Troope, second place in medical assisting; and Angela Harper, Amanda McGhin, Jessica Mor-

gan, Rebecca Morgan and Anjana Reddy, second place in the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl.

Also competing were David Farber, electronics technology; Gina McGee, dental assisting; and Permelia Moore, practical nursing. The Valdosta VICA club also received a Superior Club rating.

Lowndes also walked away successful with Dan Johnson taking second place in electronics technology.

For August

1991



Cannon Campbell, left, and Nancy Smith will be going for state singles titles as the represent Valdosta and Lowndes High. Both players are seniors playing their final prep tournament — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta, Lowndes Well Represented At State

Campbell, Smith Go For State Titles

VDT. Fri., May 17, 1991

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes County will be well-represented at the Class AAAA tennis singles tournaments opening today in Macon as two of the area's brightest tennis stars vie for individual honors.

Nancy Smith, a Lowndes High senior, and Cannon Campbell, a Valdosta High senior, are competing in the girls and boys singles tournaments, respectively. In first round action, Smith plays Christie Terry of Glynn Academy and Campbell plays Chris Rutherford of Jenkins County.

Both of the area's all-region performers told *The Valdosta Daily Times* they were looking forward to the tournament, being held at the John Drew Smith tennis complex.

"I'm just going to try to have fun with it; it's my senior year, it's the last high school match I'll play, so I'm going to try to enjoy it and not worry about anything," Smith said. "I know I'll play the best I can, that's all I can shoot for."

Campbell was confident the week before the

tourney. "I've been practicing a lot and I've got a good draw, so if I play my game I should do OK," Campbell said.

Though both Campbell, who is attending Ole Miss on a full tennis scholarship this fall, and Smith, who's doing the same at Auburn, are listed at the top of their brackets there was no real seeding for the GHSA tournament.

Smith, the state's No. 1 ranked player, had a taste of state tournament singles action — which wasn't held last year — her first two years of high school. She advanced to the finals before succumbing as a freshman, then lost in the semifinals the following year.

For Campbell, the pressure of being expected to win or perform superbly in this tournament is no real added burden to his game.

"If there weren't a little pressure it wouldn't be worth playing," he said. "I like going into anything with a little pressure."

Sixteen players are competing in each tournament, so each player would have to win four straight matches in two days to bring home the crown.

First round play begins at 2:30 p.m. today.

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Phase One toward building the 1991 Valdosta High football team — one which will try to win its third-straight Class AAAA state title — is complete.

With the close of the two-week spring-practice period, head coach Nick Hyder and the Wildcats began construction of the 1991 team.

"Phase one in achievement was to begin to put together the personality of the team," Hyder said. "We do everything with pressure — we begin to see who can perform under pressure."

The spring-practice period concluded with the offense putting together a rare night of pressure against the defense — with junior-to-be John Bell stepping forward in the race to lead the offense.

"Our quarterbacks were successful in competition," said Hyder. "Bell had his best night Friday night, but that's not to say that (Steve) Everson didn't play well."

See WILDCATS, Page 5-C

VHS '91 SCHEDULE

Aug. 31, McEachern

Sept. 6, Camden County

Sept. 13, Wayne County

Sept. 20, Jess Lanier

Sept. 27, R.E. Lee (Ala.)

Oct. 11, Bainbridge

Oct. 18, Colquitt County

Oct. 25, Tift County

Nov. 1, at Coffee

Nov. 8, at Lowndes

Wildcats

From Page 1-C

Then throw in the third cog. Senior-to-be Jamey Waters spent Friday night wandering the sidelines and the stands, not yet cleared for full contact after his October automobile accident.

It may not be the same as the Bond-Belue-Lastinger days, but it's competition. "Our needs might cause us to work one of the quarterbacks at another position," Hyder said.

Bell and Everson found some sure-handed receivers, especially tight end/wide receiver Brice Hunter and Mike Roberts. Both quarterbacks also got plenty of time to throw the ball behind a toughening line — including center Bradley Grant, guards Jay Bowling and Andy Sheffield and tackles Tim O'Brien and Sean Van Ausdall.

"The offensive line blocked extremely well (Friday). The protection was the best of the 10 days," Hyder said.

The running backs had their moments, with sophomore-to-be Nakia McMullen showing signs of the expectations some have for him. Alfred Barnes is still ahead of him, "and he did a good, steady job this spring," Hyder said. Fullbacks David Williams and Brian Thomas had their moments as well.

Defensively, senior Dexter Daniels didn't disappoint the college scouts which visited the campus. But the line — led by tackle Tim McClain — didn't put pressure on the offensive as wanted Friday night, exposing some holes in the inexperienced secondary. Daniels' track teammate, sprinter Frank Wiseman, got a start on learning his new position, end, along with Nick Reed.

"We'll fix the problems in the secondary with coaching," Hyder said. Returning cornerback Trampis Wrice has help from any number of players, including safeties John Copeland, John Walker and Jason Jelks and corners Carl Thomas and Brock Sanford.

Tight end Wayne DeVane stepped forward for the punting job. All-region kicker Dow Drury is back, but he's being chased by Alan Sanderson — who sent two kickoffs into the end zone.



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson is stopped cold by Wildcat defenders Deric Cotton and Marcus Moss during the team's annual spring scrimmage Friday night at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

'Cats Defense Shows Off

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Where can a player set up the offense with a long punt return, then stop the offense with an interception?

At Friday night's Valdosta High scrimmage at Cleveland Field, where many Wildcats got their chances to display their talents for fans, family, friends and other coaches. "That's one of the objectives of this 10th day of practice," said head coach Nick Hyder.

They also got a chance to show some of their stuff for the 1990 season, which opens Sept. 1 against McEachern.

The stuff? The defense, which allowed 115 total yards in 78 plays. It gave up just seven first downs, six after halftime, and two of those came by the way of penalty. Nineteen plays lost yardage.

And subtract a 57-yard Jamey Waters-to-Ernest Lowe non-scoring pass/run play in fourth quarter, and that makes for 58 total yards in 77 plays.

"I was happy. We had a couple of messed up alignments that hurt us, and we had some bad plays," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.

The defensive 'Cats also got their hands on four turnovers — two fumbles recovered by senior line-

man Monte Steward, an interception by junior Trampis Wrice (see above) and an interception by sophomore linebacker Marcus Williams, one he returned 40 yards for the game's first touchdown.

The rest of the scoring was in the second quarter.

After the second fumble recovery, at the 21, the offense gained 3 yards and settled for Dow Drury's 34-yard field goal.

When the next series was stopped, Wrice returned Steve Jaramillo's punt 41 yards to the 26. Senior quarterback Alton Hitson got the night's first first down with a 12-yard third-down pass to tight end Reginald Mitchell. On the next play, Hitson ran 7 yards to the 2. The next two plays netted a 2-yard loss, then Hitson scrambled from trouble and found Jaramillo in the end zone for a touchdown just 1:21 before halftime. Drury added the kick.

The farthest second-half penetration came after Lowe's catch and run to the 20. Waters later ran 12 yards to the 5, but he lost 8 yards on a third-and-goal play from the 4. Clark Drury's field-goal attempt missed.

Other notes:

● The punting wars. Jaramillo handled all the punting chores, with his highlight coming in the

third quarter. His punt from near midfield stopped on the 1, long before the coverage team covered the ball. He averaged 35 yards on 10 kicks.

But there were times Jaramillo had to turn into the tackler. Wrice turned in returns of 41, 40 and 37 yards, while Adrian Lewis had a 36-yard return.

"The kids they were returning against don't practice it," said Tarpley. "Our defense punts, and the offensive kids (out there) don't practice coverage."

"But we hope to have punt returns as a threat this year."

● Eleven different runners carried the ball, led by Albert Edmonds with 32 yards on 10 carries. All but one carry came in the second half.

● Valdosta quarterbacks completed 8-of-25 passes for 91 yards. Hitson was 3-of-9 for 16 yards, Waters 3-of-11 for 70 yards. The quarterbacks were also dropped for a combined 30 yards in rushing losses.

● In the earlier junior varsity game, the offense was held out of the end zone on 12 possessions, getting seven first downs. Octavius Oliver and Levalis Paul had fumble recoveries.

The offense ended the game with quarterback John Bell's long pass to Joe West, but West was dragged down some 10 yards from the end zone.

Three Students Named All-American Scholars



MELINDA DOWNING
National Conference Delegate

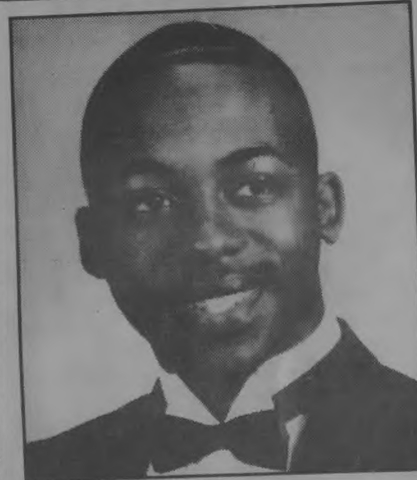
Farell M. Scott and Brandon Lovett of Valdosta High School and David C. McArthur of Lowndes High have been named All-American Scholars by the United States Achievement Academy.

The USAA has established the All-American Scholar Award Program in order to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or better grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified

sponsor are accepted. These scholars are also eligible for other awards given by the USAA.

Scott was nominated for this national award by VHS Counselor Pat Rayford, Lovett by Jim Burroughs and McArthur by Howard Weinstein, LHS assistant band director. These students will appear in the *All-American Scholar Directory*, which is published nationally.

Farell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Wells. McArthur is the son of Don and Sara McArthur. Lovett Brandon is the grandson of Adel R. Lovett of Valdosta.



FARELL SCOTT
Valdosta High School

Reunions V.D.T. Wed., June 27, 1990 VHS Class Of '50

Valdosta High School Class of 1950 will have a reunion Aug. 3-4. For more information call Wyolene Grant Nichols at 242-1322.



Jacquelyne Michelle Cox celebrates with her mother Mary Cobb after receiving her diploma from Valdosta High School Wednesday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

V. Times 6-7-90

Valdosta Graduates Go Into 'New Future'

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Dressed in school colors of black and gold, Valdosta High graduates crossed the road Tuesday night into a new future during commencement exercises at Valdosta State College Physical Education Complex.

Valedictorian James Andrew Inman and salutatorians India Siane Giuly and Nicky Legg addressed their fellow graduates with encouraging words for their futures.

"Through our own experiences

we have build a solid foundation," said Inman. "We will never accept failure or surrender."

Ms. Giuly spoke of "crossing the threshold," while Legg spoke of "support of God, family and friends."

The third and fourth honor graduates, Alan Emanuel Golivesky and Robin Ann Golivesky — brother and sister — also participated in the ceremony.

Other honor graduates are Jennifer Simone Allen, Daniel Lamar

See VHS, Page 2-A

The Valdosta Daily Times

Wednesday, June 6, 1990 A-5

VHS Graduates German Student

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

A special graduate will attend Valdosta High School's commencement ceremony today. Jasmin Ragheb of Germany is the first foreign exchange student to graduate from the school.

"I am very proud," said 16-year-old Jasmin, who came here from the 10th grade in Germany. She is able to graduate because she took and passed required credit courses instead of taking easier courses, which she could have done.

"English literature was tough," she said. "It's tough for American students to understand *Macbeth*, but it was really tough for me. My teachers helped me a lot. They were real nice to me — more like friends."



RAGHEB

Her graduation doesn't mean high school is completed — Germany has 13 school grades. But she's hoping this year's work will count toward her homeland's credit requirements to begin the 12th grade next academic year.

Jasmin says her American graduation experience is one she will cherish.

"We (in Germany) don't have caps and gowns — we don't walk or anything," she said. "There is a little ceremony at the school, but it's not big like this."

Many other American experiences have been impressed upon her memory, she said.

While here, Jasmin was a member of the VHS girls track team and the wrestling team as a mat girl. She

made honor roll the first semester and is still waiting to find out if she made the school's second semester honor roll.

"I've had a lot of fun," said Jasmin, whose host parents are Mr. and Mrs. George W. Jones and host brothers are Scott, 17, and Randy, 16.

She also was given airplane rides by family friend William Freeman Jr., whose daughter Robyn befriended her. She also learned to drive.

The soon-to-be VHS graduate will leave for home June 25.

Linda Jones, her host mother, said the exchange experience is one she won't forget. "It's been nice to have a girl. She had her first date and first prom — it's been neat to have all those experiences," Mrs. Jones said. "I don't know what I'm going to do when she leaves."

Wildcats Will 'Stay Hungry'

V. Times 5-11-91

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

One of the many time-honored traditions of Valdosta High football was renewed again Thursday night at the high school,



HYDER

with the Valdosta Touchdown Club sponsoring the annual spring supper.

It was the 18th supper for head coach Nick Hyder, who addressed the club while his assistant coaches introduced members of the 1991 Valdosta High team.

Hyder stressed many of his usual points to the players and to club members, while asking for the support and encouragement from the club members and parents present.

"Lay aside those weights and be proud of our youngsters," said Hyder. "This involves a lot of people. We use the word we because we're not separate from the other parts of the school."

The two-week spring-practice period concludes tonight with the

final scrimmage at Cleveland Field. After photographs are taken for the 1991 game program around 5 p.m., the younger varsity players will face off at 6:30 p.m. The older varsity players will face off around 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the game are \$2 and are available from players, touchdown club board members or at the gate. The Touchdown Club will also operate a concession stand at the gate.

Hyder has preached to his players about staying hungry even after winning two consecutive Class AAAA state titles.

"We want us to do it right, to hunger and thirst," Hyder said. "That will carry over into home and friends."

The assistant coaches spoke about their respective players, with backs coach Mike O'Brien speaking about intense competition at the quarterback and running back spots.

Line coach Jerry Don Baker said his group has the ability to be the best since 1986, the 'Cats' last national-championship team.

Defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley continued to stress that his coaches are working to get 22 players ready for the season opener Aug. 31 against McEachern.

Wildcat Lineman's Story Has 2 Parts

VOT. Thurs. May 16, 1991

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

This is a two-part story about a center finding his way to a football team and a coach having a dream come true.

Part No. 1: It's December 15, 1990. While much of Valdosta is at Cleveland Field watching the Valdosta High football team win another state championship, Bradley Grant is helping unload a moving van into his family's new residence.

Grant had already finished his sophomore season as a starting center-linebacker for Lithia Springs. His father, senior master sergeant Arthur Grant, had been transferred from Dobins Air Force Base to Moody.

Part No. 2: Wildcat offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker has spent the early part of the offseason letting his hair grow back after his 1990 linemen shaved his head in celebration of the state title.

Baker knew he had some returning linemen for the 1991 season, but there was a hole at center following the graduation of Giles Godwin.

"One night during the off-season I had a dream that an offensive lineman moved in," said Baker. "Center is one slot we needed some help in."

"One morning I came to school and coach (Nick) Hyder brought a kid who was 6-foot-2, 240 pounds. It was a dream come true."

And it has worked out ever since. Grant has stepped in to be the Wildcats' top center this spring, adding some beef to a growing line.

"He's had a very short time to learn. But Bradley has the intelligence, the dedication to work hard in the weight room, and the willingness to put forward the extra time before and after practice," Baker said. "He's already picked up a lot of things I thought he couldn't do."

"It's a tough adjustment for any kid to come in from the outside. To play on the offensive line puts even more on him."

Bradley Grant is working his way into a spot on the Valdosta offensive line — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Grant recognizes the challenge ahead of him.

"It's been a little bit rough. They play football a lot different here than up there," said Grant.

"I had to start lifting more weights and running to get in better shape."

He's also found practices different. His varsity team last season

had 35 players. He played both offense and defense, and found he went against a 'first unit' few times.

Not any more.

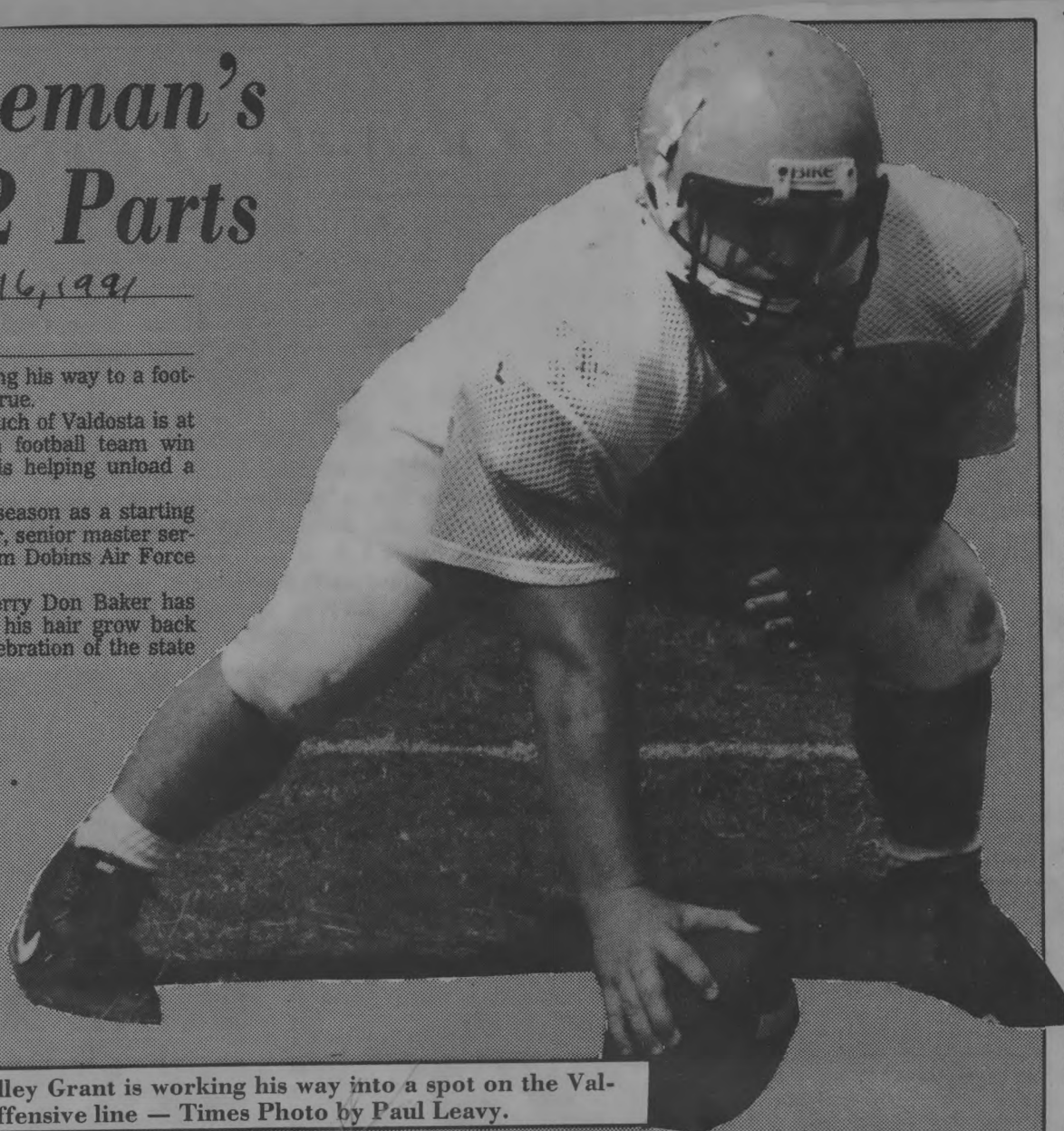
"Nothing's really the same. Everything is different," Grant said. "Other teams have bigger size, but Valdosta has more speed than other teams I've faced."

And he's got an immediate goal

for which to work. Valdosta opens the 1991 season against McEachern, which defeated Grant's old team and other Region 5-AAAA teams consistently in the past few years.

"I know they're tough. I've got to get in much better shape," Grant said.

For now, Grant's filled the bill — and a coach's dream.



Valdosta's Gage Named To Squad

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High second baseman Rookie Gage has been invited to play in the Mizuno All-Star Team at the University of Georgia in Athens May 25-26.

Gage, a senior, was notified by Clinch County High coach Cecil Barber that he had been selected for the game.

Gage is to report to Macon's Luther Williams Field, home of the minor league Macon Braves, for a practice Saturday afternoon, he said.



GAGE

"This is really the icing on the cake," said Gage, an all-region performer this year who is considering playing ball at several colleges next year. "My dad is coming to watch and my grandparents; I'm really looking forward to it."

Barber was South Georgia's representative to a Mizuno-sponsored body that picked 16 Southwest Georgia seniors to play on one of four all-star teams May 25-26.

"It's going to be real good for Rookie and it's an honor for Valdosta," Valdosta High head coach Charles Tarpley said.

Gage batted .384 primarily from the third slot in the Wildcats batting order. He racked up 22 runs batted in 22 games as Valdosta went 10-12. Gage was also named the team's best defensive player for the third straight year.

Gage, originally from Mississippi, is considering playing college baseball at Central Florida Community College, South Alabama and Tulane and several other schools.



Wildcat
Scrimmage
6:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M.
Cleveland Field

Spring Games End Drills



Valdosta High wide receiver Jerone Scurry (85) can't stretch enough in the end zone to haul in this pass during Fri-

day night's spring scrimmage at Cleveland Field. Brock Sanford (24) defended on the play — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats Go On 'Offensive'

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Put on the uniform and turn on the lights at Cleveland Field, and strange things have happened.

What happened Friday night, as the two-week spring-practice session closed, may not be that strange. But what was a defensive spring turned into an offensive night for Valdosta High.

The two Wildcat quarterbacks combined for 200 yards passing — 85 yards on six catches by Brice Hunter — while sophomore tailback Nakia McMullen went for 106 yards on just four second-team carries as the offense posted five touchdowns in the final scrimmage of spring practice. The event was cut six minutes short when lightning chased the Wildcats from the field.

"Of the 10 days, it was the only See CATS. Page 2-B

Cats

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real day the offense stepped forward," said head coach Nick Hyder.

And junior-to-be John Bell stepped forward for now in the competition at quarterback. Bell completed 4-of-13 passes for 104 yards and ran 12 times for 31 more yards. His main competition, fellow junior Steve Everson, hit on 5-of-14 passes for 96 yards, but he ran for just a net of 2 yards on nine carries.

"Both quarterbacks did well, but Bell stepped out," said Hyder. He also commended the first-team line of center Bradley Grant, guards Jay Bowling and Andy Sheffield and tackles Sean Van Ausdall and Tim O'Brien.

The offenses put the pressure on the defense early. On the first drive, Bell went 18 and 14 yards on two plays, the last setting up the offense at the 3. Bell also hit Mike Roberts (two catches, 75 yards) on a 43-yard pass.

Fullback David Williams, his play limited by a bad ankle, busted over

from the 1 for the first score. Keith McConnehead added the first of four extra-point kicks.

Two plays later, McMullen broke through the second-team defense and outran it for a 76-yard touchdown run. Dow Drury added the extra point.

The defense set up the third score, with Carl Thomas racing 52 yards with a punt return to the 5. From there, Bell — now running the second team — took one play to cross the end-zone line himself.

Less than seven minutes into the scrimmage, and the offense had scored three touchdowns.

"I hate to end the spring like that. We got beat a couple or three times in the secondary," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "It was two guys getting beat each time. And we needed more pass rush."

Tarpley also added that it didn't help the defensive morale when his unit set up scores, like with Thomas and a play later in the night. He also

noted that it took two full quarters after Bell's score before the offense scored again.

Included in that stretch was a goalline stand on a drive which included two personal foul penalties against the defensive bench. Everson had hit Hunter on passes of 29 and 16 yards, the second getting the ball to the 3. The first-team offense had second-and-goal at the 1, but couldn't score from there.

In the third quarter, Bell opened a drive with runs of 9 and 5 yards. A personal foul penalty pushed the ball 15 yards forward, then three plays later Bell hit a wide-open Chris Rockey behind the secondary. Rockey caught the pass and beat the defense to the end zone to complete a 44-yard pass play. Drury added the extra-point kick.

The defense set up the last score, when Marcus Phillips recovered Bell's fumble at the 2 following a 15-yard loss. Williams (24 yards, 10 carries) went over the goal line on the next play for the last score.

A Pat On The Back

V.P.C. Sun, May 19, 1991

Phyllis Hutchinson

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Dr. Bill Whitaker, a Valdosta native, and his wife Lessee visit Valdosta's sister city, Ville D'Aosta in Italy — Photo

Ville D'Aosta

Valdosta Native Visits Hometown's Italian Sister City

By CHRIS ETHERIDGE

Did you know that Valdosta has an Italian sister city?

Aosta is a city situated in a valley near the Alps in northern Italy. The city was founded by Romans somewhere around 25 B.C., and now has a population of about 40,000 people.

Aosta is often called Ville D'Aosta, meaning "The City of Aosta." The valley within which Aosta is located, called Valle D'Aosta, is an area of rolling green hills that precede the Alps.

Dr. William G. Whitaker, born and raised in Valdosta, but now a resident of Atlanta, recently took a two-week vacation in Europe that included a stop in Aosta.

Dr. Whitaker said that some of the most fascinating features of the area are the ruins, still partially intact, left by the ancient Romans.

The Romans used the area as an outpost to defend themselves against any attack that might have come from enemies in or beyond the mountains.

"The most interesting ruins are the theaters," said Dr. Whitaker. "They are just now digging up many of the ruins that are plainly visible from the main streets in the city. The valley is beautiful." But he

said the city doesn't remind him at all of Valdosta. "It looks like the devil," he said.

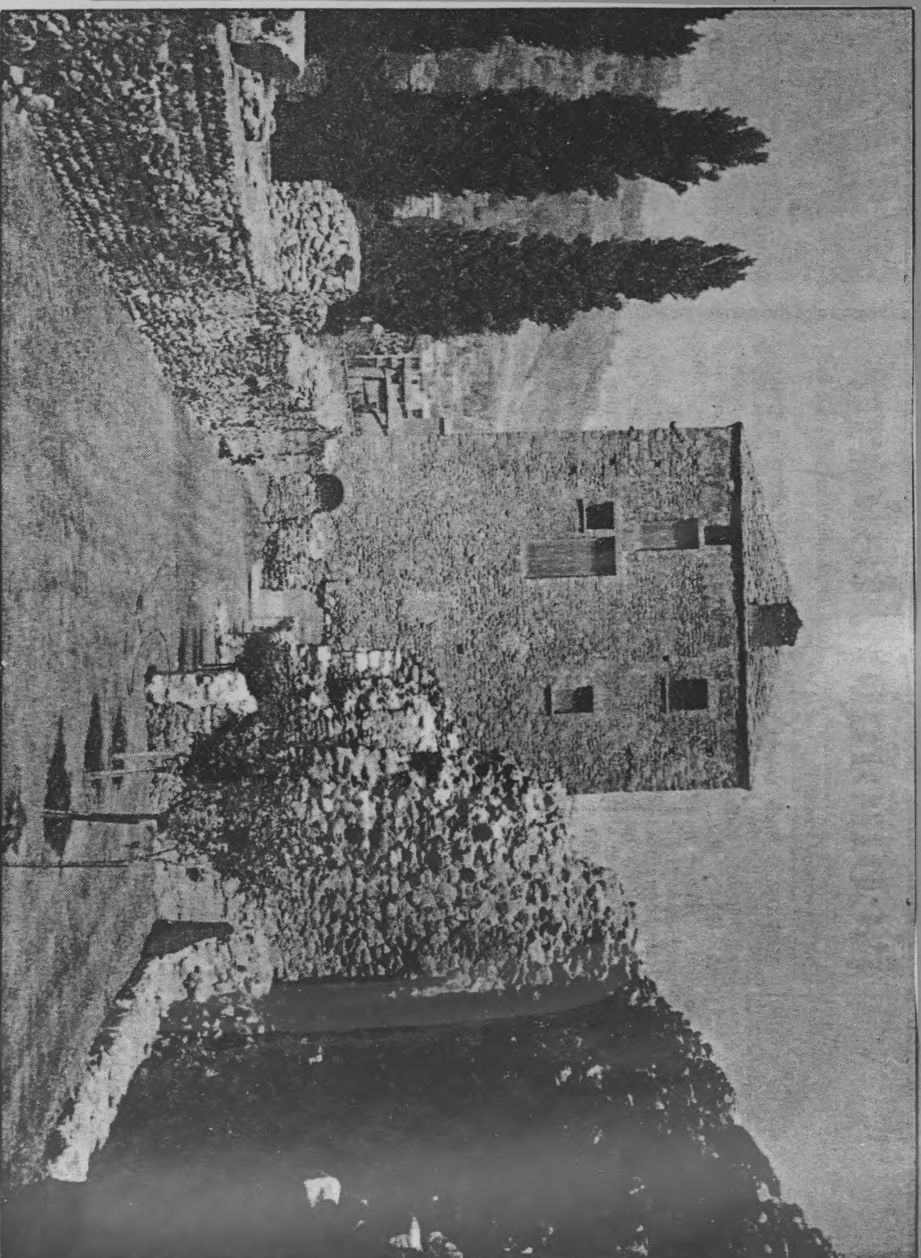
Back in the mid-1820s Georgia Gov. George M. Troup toured this area in northwest Italy on his honeymoon. He enjoyed the beauty of the valley so much he named his Laurens County plantation Valle D'Aosta in its honor.

Troup was governor when Lowndes County was created in 1825 and at the time Troupville was named the county seat. As railroad work progressed into south Georgia during the 1840s and 1850s, it became apparent the railroad was going to miss its desired destination of Troupville.

In 1865 the people of Troupville decided if the railroad wasn't coming to them, they were going to go to it.

The people living in this new settlement didn't want to rename the new town Troupville; however, they did want to hold an association with Gov. Troup. Col. Leonoren Delyon suggested the town be named after the governor's mansion in Laurens County, with a minor change, the English spelling of "Valdosta."

To this day, as far as most people know, there is only one "Valdosta" in the United States.



Founded somewhere around 25 B.C., Aosta features 'fascinating' ruins, still partially intact, left by the ancient Romans. The Romans used the area as an outpost to defend

themselves against any attack that might have come from enemies in or beyond the mountains. Among the interesting ruins are theaters — Contributed Photo.



Aosta, a city situated in a valley in northern Italy, has a population of about 40,000

people, comparable with Valdosta's population. Pictured above is the city hall.