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Valdosta High School

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Wildcats To Be Featured On ESPN Special

V. Times 7-14-87

By ANTHONY DASHNER
Times Sports Writer

ESPN is coming to Valdosta. On August 19, ESPN and the Scholastic Sports America crew will be here to produce a feature on the Valdosta Wildcats.

The crew plans to visit Valdosta's pre-season camp at the high school through Aug. 22. The feature will air during the premier program, Wed-

nesday Sept. 2, at 7:30 p.m. (EST). According to one official of SSA, the choice of coming to Valdosta was an easy one to make.

"Because they're the best," stated SSA assistant producer Jerry Vaillancort Monday in a telephone interview. "Late last season Valdosta was ranked No. 1, not only in our pole, but in the one compiled by USA Today as well."

"Last season we had Valdosta ranked No. 1 for the majority of the season, but as the season passed on, we

saw Carson of California begin to emerge all through the season. Finally we had them No. 1, and the last game of the year we went out there to watch them, only to see them lose.

"Valdosta is a team that consistently ranks well. They were No. 1 in our final pole last year and are No. 1 in our pre-season pole."

Needless to say, Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder is extremely pleased with his team getting national exposure.

"I'm real excited. This is great not

only for the team but for the community as well.

"Some people called and told ESPN about us and then they picked up about us from USA Today. Our percentage of wins is among the tops in the country, and the recognition we received through National Sports News and USA Today gave them reason I suppose."

During their visit, ESPN and the SSA crew will be focusing on many different phases of the defending state and national champions.

"We try to focus on the top teams in the nation and Valdosta is certainly one of those teams," Vaillancort said. "In Pennsylvania, where football is probably as big as it is there in Valdosta, the pressure to win is very high. We want to see what it's like here."

"But that's not all. We are going to try to focus on what makes this team special. We also try to find out the human implications. For instance, is there a lot of pressure and how do the

kids handle it?"

"We are very interested in the town. We want to talk to the people in town, what is their reaction to the team, and focus on the players. We want to find out what makes the Valdosta Wildcats special."

This will be the 'Cats' first appearance on national television.

"It's quite a compliment and I'm extremely proud that we were selected to be included on this program," Hyder said.

Hyder To Lobby For Restoration Of Spring Football

V. Times 7-8-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High head football coach and athletic director Nick Hyder will address the State School Board today to try and get the board to reinstate spring football practice.

Earlier this year, the board voted to abolish the spring drills. But Hyder and many other coaches feel the practice sessions in the spring are vital not only to the football programs, but most importantly to the students.

"With the pass-five rule, we have to identify where the problems are before the seasons start," Hyder said. "We want to keep spring practice because it

has academic significance. Every other sport starts after school in session. You have to identify the problems and the only way to do that is with spring practice."

Hyder's main point is that in the spring is when most new athletes to football join the team. If a particular athlete is having problem with his studies, he still has the spring quarter or semester and/or summer school to rectify the problem. Other sports have at least one quarter or semester in the fall before they face such hardships.

Hyder will have 7½ minutes to address the school board.

"We're in the grave right now, but they haven't started to poured the dirt on us yet," Hyder said.

to study. If they don't study, they can't participate."

Hyder said he has 103 athletes on his football roster. Out of 618 classes taken, there were 147 Fs. Twelve weeks later that was cut to 59, a drop from 24 percent to nine percent.

"We would not have known about those problems had it not been for spring practice," Hyder said. "What we're telling the school board is let's join together. We're for academics. The coaches association is behind this."

"Georgia can take a national seat of prominence to help our youngsters by joining together and working together. We've got a chance to help our youngsters. It's going to be tough, but we want them to graduate. As long as

think it's fair to use the other sports to knock football. We have a right to choose the activities we participate in.

Besides, the schedules in the spring don't overlap. And if a kid wants to play a spring sport, he's not required to attend spring football."

Hyder said parents were contacted and study halls or tutors set up to help the kids who were not passing.

"We contacted parents in February, and told them their child was failing," Hyder said. "We set up study halls, tutoring, parent-student-teacher conferences. If you wait until May, the plane has already taken off. You've got to load the plane first and spring practice is when you do that."

you stay on track, you can take part in extra-curricular activities."

The state school board requires students pass 21 subjects to be eligible for graduation. But a student who participates in extra-curricular activities will have passed 24 by the time they graduate.

"That's like selling a car for \$14,000 and asking the buyer if he minds paying \$16,000," Hyder said.

Some people feel spring football needs to be dropped because it interferes with students participating in other sports.

"But not every kid wants to play baseball, golf, or track," Hyder said. "A lot just want to play football. I don't

NSCA Honors Bolton

V. Times 7-22-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

After "plugging away" for nine years, Valdosta High School assistant football coach Bob Bolton has received quite an honor from the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Bolton was elected vice president for high school and adolescent activities of the organization during its annual convention.

The organization, which has more than 12,000 members, works to further strength and condition research from the pre-adolescent on to the professional.

"One of our big projects now is research for Special Olympics and the handicap," Bolton said. "We're also trying to bridge the gap between high schools and professionals on an international basis."

During his membership of the NSCA, Bolton has helped to formulate a paper on pre-pubescent strength training and has also been the speaker at district clinics.

The organization has completely revolutionized strength training for all activities — from golf to swimming to football to running.

"Having a strength coach is a

luxury on any level," Valdosta head football coach and athletic director Nick Hyder said. "For a long time, coaches played hit or miss with it. His work with the organization has influenced us tremendously. People come from all over to observe what we do in the weight room."

"His work has influenced the entire physical fitness program of everyone at the school."

Having Bolton on the national committee will also help the Valdosta area get the latest in research.

"That research has helped develop athletes extremely well," Hyder said. "Bob has a tremendous amount to offer in it. It's one thing to have the athletes, it's another to develop them."

Bolton hopes to establish more clinics and a toll free hot line for coaches to the national office. By doing so, coaches can receive information to benefit his or her program.

"As assistant coaches in high schools, we never really got to be a voice in the high school associations," Bolton said. "We make up the majority of the organization, but we don't get the voice in it. Now, I'm an officer in the organization and will be able to voice my thoughts and opinions. It's a great honor. I never



Bob Bolton
NSCA Vice President

thought I'd be elected to something like this when I joined the organization."

Bolton's position is normally for a 2-year term, but he will only serve one year as he is completing an unfinished term by Mike Carter of Evergreen High School in Colorado. He was elected on a general vote from the organization and will automatically be endorsed for another term.

Grangers Set To Battle Wildcats

V. Times 7-8-87

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

When LaGrange travelled to Valdosta for the season opener in 1987, there was much pre-game hype surrounding the game. LaGrange was ranked No. 4 in the nation and No. 1 in the state in Class AAAA while Valdosta was 14th in the nation and No. 2 in the state.

Valdosta posted a 17-6 victory in that game en route to a 15-0 season and the state and national titles. And while Valdosta enters the 1987 game ranked No. 1 in the state, LaGrange is searching for some players.

"It has been extremely difficult getting ready for this game," LaGrange coach Gary Guthrie said. "You can't gauge it all to last year. We have no idea how we'll perform with only four players back from last year with any game experience. That is a tremendous question mark for us. But for us to have a chance, we'll have to perform well and minimize our mistakes."

Gone from last year's North Georgia runnerup team is quarterback DeChane Cameron and defensive end John Johnson.

Replacing Cameron will be senior DeShun Williams. Williams saw some action last year, but it was never in crucial parts of a game.

"Our quarterback situation will be about the same as whoever starts for Valdosta," Guthrie said. "Both are good athletes, but never did quarterback in the tight situations. DeChane started every ball game last year and played the biggest portion of the games, but DeShun did get some playing experience."

Behind Williams in the backfield will be fullback Ricardo Rutledge. The sophomore gained a good bit of playing experience last year and scored five touchdowns.

The Grangers had just over 20 seniors on the team last year, and 18 of them were seniors. The top player back off that 12-2 team is linebacker Kencil Jackson. The senior is 6-foot-1, 205-pounds and is the only true college prospect on the team.

Also returning to starting positions are center Chuck Mayfield, offensive tackle Jeff Moore and defensive tackle Kevin Smith.

"The big question mark, well it's just one, it's at every position," Guthrie said. "We've got a good center, linebacker and two tackles, but those are the only four returning starters for the most part."

Valdosta vs. LaGrange

- When: Friday, Sept. 4
- Where: Callaway Stadium, LaGrange
- Time: 8:30 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta, 0-0, 0-0; LaGrange, 0-0, 0-0
- Rankings: Valdosta, 1st (AAAA); LaGrange, 8th (AAAA)
- Series: Valdosta leads 9-4-0
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 16, LaGrange 6, 1986
- Last LaGrange Win: 1964, 13-0
- On Deck: Fulton at Valdosta, Sept. 12; LaGrange at Marietta, Sept. 11

"Our kids have given a good effort and they are working hard. But you can go out in a game and give a good effort and work hard, and if you don't execute, it doesn't chalk up as a win."

Mayfield, a 5-11, 200-pound senior, is a three-year starter for the Grangers and is one of the bigger players on the team.

He and several other of the offensive linemen have also been seeing some work in the offensive backfield this week. But it's not where they will play Friday night. They are there in an effort to get ready for Valdosta's big running backs.

"The only way to stop them (Valdosta's backs) is to gang tackle," Guthrie said. "One man is not going to bring them down. We're going to have to flock to the football. Though our big men are not giving the defense the same type of reads, it is like tackling them."

One of the strengths of the Grangers this year will be at linebacker. In addition to Jackson, LaGrange has sophomore Rodney Hunt. "We might be as strong at linebacker as we were last year," Guthrie said. LaGrange did lose in the spring game to Northside Warner Robins, 27-0. And if there's anything going in their favor against Valdosta, it would have to be the home-field advantage.

"That should be a big help," Guthrie said. "Our kids are familiar with the stadium and what goes on around here. With them coming up here for the first time, it could distract them a bit. But they've been around for so long, I doubt that will be a problem for them."

Former 'Cat' To Start At First Base Shaw Proud Of All-Star Selection

V. Times 7-14-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High graduate Derek Shaw has one more chance to play baseball before entering at least a year of hibernation at Valdosta State College. But what a chance it is.

Shaw was chosen as the only first baseman to the South team for the Georgia North-South High School All-Star baseball game. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m., July 22 at the University of Georgia's Foley Field.

Another first baseman made the team, but as an outfielder, so Shaw expects to see some playing time.

"I think it's an honor to be chosen," said Shaw. "It should be a lot of fun and I will do my best. I just hope I do well."



Derek Shaw

Ga. All-Star Game



July 22-24, Athens

Shaw, however, will probably not play in another organized baseball game until 1989. The first baseman hopes to play at VSC, and went through registration yesterday. He will not be eligible during the 1988 season, but will have a shot to try out in 1989.

Shaw had the opportunity to play junior college ball but wanted to play at VSC. In his opinion, the year off is worth the wait.

"I just didn't want to go to a junior college," said Shaw. "I guess it's always been my dream to play at VSC. I've been a fan and I always tried to go to the games when I could."

"I'll have to work hard and practice everyday, but it's going to be hard to be in street clothes during the games."

It is ironic that this first baseman was chosen to the South all-star team, was named as a top infielder in the nation by "College News", and has a shot at playing college ball. He failed to make the Region I-AAAA all region baseball team, but he along with Westover's Steve Baker were the only players chosen from this region to play for the South.

The lanky first baseman finished the year batting .303 with 22 RBI, a good year by anybody's standards. Shaw, however, was somewhat disappointed with his senior year performance. He has always been a good fielder, but he was a more effective batter his junior year.

"I think my hitting needs work," said Shaw. "I doubled everything I did this year my junior year," Shaw said. "I just didn't work as hard. There were a lot of days when I could have stayed late and hit some more, but I just went on home."

Shaw has managed to stay in the swing of things this summer by playing softball. Shaw plays first for the Morningside Baptist Church "A" team. No, he's not a ringer. Shaw works at the church and can be seen sitting in the pews come Sunday.

One Named All-American

VHS Cheerleaders Best Squad At Camp

Valdosta High School football cheerleaders returned from a National Cheerleaders Association summer workshop where they received top recognition as the best cheerleader squad at the camp.

The workshop was held at the University of West Florida in Pensacola and attracted hundreds of cheerleaders from surrounding states.

NCA sponsored the Award of Excellence award at each of the more than 280 NCA workshops across the United States. The VHS football cheerleaders were selected for the award on the basis of their cheerleading technique, unity, friendliness, cooperation, leadership and sportsmanship, a spokesman said. As the winner, the Valdosta cheerleaders automatically qualify to compete in the NCA 1987-88 High School Cheerleaders National Championship to be held in Dallas, Texas, next December.

The Valdosta cheerleaders also received the Spirit Award. Each squad in attendance voted for the squad which they felt was the most deserving of the award.

In addition to the Award of Excellence and the Spirit Award, the Valdosta cheerleaders were awarded the coveted Spirit Stick each day of camp and received all superior ratings.

Individuals were also recognized for All-American Cheerleader honors. Two of the four girls selected to compete for All-American were from the Valdosta squad. They were Lynn Stuart, a senior, and Bayh Brindger, a sopho-

more. Lynn won the All-American Cheerleader competition and therefore qualifies to go to the national competition and perform at the Hula Bowl in Hawaii.

The awards presentation came at the competition 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, organi-

zation and dedication. The Valdosta cheerleaders are coached by Jana Whitehead. The squad consists of Lynn Stuart, Meredith Stanaland, Stephanie Culverhouse (captain), Anna Field (manager), Margaret Mosby, Anne Wansley, Paige Braswell, Nanci Nichols, Margaret Anne Sineath, Wendi Connell (co-captain), Bayh Brindger, Meredith Coogan, Nicole White, and Paige Stabell.

Interact Members Of Week Named

The following students have been selected as VHS Interact's "Members of the Week."

They include Rosalyn Thompson, Chris Trice and Michelle Winfrey. They were honored by the Valdosta Rotary Club at its weekly meeting on Wednesday.

Rosalyn Thompson is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Thompson, Jr. She is a member of Interact, Foreign Language Club,

Drama Club and Beta Club. She is President of Pi Gamma Phi Sororith and is a member of the National Piano Guild. She is a finalist for the 1987 Governor's Honors Program in French, listed in Who's Who in Foreign Language and a Georgia Certificate of Merit winner. Her interests include swimming, playing tennis, and art. She plans to attend Florida State University after graduation from high school. She is a member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church and is active in the Joyful Noise Youth Choir and Youth Group.

Chris Trict is the 18-year-old son of the Rev. and Mrs. Jim Trice. He is a member of Interact, DECA and the varsity tennis team. He is employed in the tennis shop at the Valdosta County Club. He plans to attend VSC and then Auburn University after graduation and pursue a career in business or the computer field. Chris enjoys tennis, golf, drawing, swimming and being with his friends. He attends First United Methodist Church with his family, where his father serves as pastor. He is active in Youth Choir and is the President of the Youth Group.

Michele Winfrey is the 17-year-old daughter of Dennis and Sandra Williams. She is a member of Interact, DECA and is the Bookkeeper for Sigma Delta Theta sorority. She is employed by Modern Photographics. She plans to attend college and become a sociologist after graduation from high school. She enjoys jogging, sunbathing, swimming, sorority activities and exercising. Michele attends Lee Street Baptist Church and is active in youth activities.



Front Row, L to R: Stuart, Stanaland, Culverhouse, Field, Mosby, Wansley, Braswell; Back Row: Nichols, Sineath, Connell, Brindger, Coogan, White, Stabell

Time To Sign Up For Band At VHS

It is registration time at Valdosta High School and time to enlist or re-enlist in the band programs. The 1987-88 school year holds great promise for the band.

There are many exciting plans in the making for a super season. Entertaining, crowd pleasing music is being chosen for the different halftime shows, students are meeting to choose the stand tunes and the calendar is being formulated. A beginning band course has been added for those who wish to enter the band at the high school level.

Performance band/jazz lab has been added for those that wish to march with the cats and then play jazz music. Those students who just desire to play jazz also sign up for this course.

The Marchin' Cats encourage those good former band members to sign up for band and be a part of an exciting new era in music at Valdosta High School!!! Students desiring to add band need to bring it to the attention of the office.

Valdosta

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V. Times 8-12-87

Getting Ready

You can tell it's getting close to football season when you go to the weight rooms at Valdosta High and Lowndes High and 1987's crop of football players are busy pushing their bodies to the limit so they might get that extra little advantage during the game.

At Valdosta High School, Andre Hampton (above) shows grit and determination as he hoist up a heavy weight.

At Lowndes High, Doug Hubbard, (right) is busy getting his legs in shape with a series of leg presses.

Weight lifting is a very important part of the daily schedule players at Valdosta and Lowndes go through as they strive to become the best they can be in 1987. — Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy





V. Times 8-18-87

Sound Of Music

Instruments and cases are strewn around the Valdosta State College band field as members of the Valdosta High band are enjoying summer camp at the college. More than 180 students signed up to participate in the camp. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek.

Thurs., Aug. 20, 1987



Cheerleaders Win Honors

Valdosta High School varsity basketball cheerleaders brought home awards from the National Cheerleading Association camp at the University of Georgia in Athens.

More than 600 teen-agers from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida participated in the Aug. 11 through Friday competition. Of the 52 squads which competed, VHS was one of 12 squads who were nominated for the Award of Excellence. VHS received the squad achievement ribbon, two superior ribbons and two excellent ribbons and brought back one of the 15 Spirit Sticks awarded.

VHS adviser is Eloise Terry. The cheerleaders were accompanied by Lynn Joiner and Belinda Yeager.

Pictured at left are Emily Josey, Meg Rainey, Lisa See, Captain Leanne Yeager, Co-Captain Allison Buie, Beth Edwards, Stacie O'Neil, Stephanie Jones, Monique Parker.

Notebook *V. Times* 8-18-87

Wildcat Camp

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was extremely pleased following the first day of practice.

"The defense really had a good day," Hyder said. "Coronzoa Greene, Robert Fillmore and George Copeland on the defensive front really looked good."

"The defense is always ahead of the offense at this point, but they are really ahead this year. We had a lot of good hitting out there."

* * *

Of the 97 players listed on the Wildcats' roster, 94 of them were at camp the first day. The three who missed were gone because of family obligations. A couple more players missed the morning practice, but returned for the afternoon workouts.

* * *

One thing that was in favor of the players during the first day was the weather. Although it was warm during the morning, afternoon clouds moved in later and cooled off the field.

The players took advantage of the situation by enjoying a very spirited workout during the afternoon.

"Our morale is still very high," Hyder said. "They were ready to get camp going."

* * *

Valdosta opens the season in three weeks at LaGrange, and the Wildcat coaches have already started preparing their team for the Grangers. Valdosta will work on offensive and defensive drills every day as well as the kicking game.

* * *

The Wildcats suffered their first casualty of the season just before the conclusion of the morning practice. James Osborne, a 200-pound defensive lineman, suffered a dislocated ankle.

—ROBERT L. BRADLEY



Valdosta's B.J. Mason Hands Off

VHS Test A Good Fitness Indicator

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY *V. Times*
Times Sports Editor 8-28-87

How do you compare a small wide receiver to a big lineman when trying to determine physical fitness? It's easy. You develop a physical fitness test that is advantageous to either size athlete. You come up with a scoring system that will help fast and nimble athletes as well as strong ones.

That's what the Valdosta High coaching staff did six years ago when they developed the Super Cat test. The test measures strength, agility, endurance and speed.

"All four of those are essential to playing football," said Bob Bolton, the Wildcats strength and conditioning coach. "It's not set up strictly for a strength person or a speed person."

The attain the status of Super Cat, a player must earn 175-199 points. If he scores more than 200, he's earned Superior Cat while better than 225 gives him the title of Ultra Cat.

Most of the players on the team are in the 100-174 point range. Scoring 125-149 points is the Winner's Club and scoring 150-174 is the Champions Club.

Points are given for eight different tests: power clean, bench press, hip sled, 40-yard dash, 10-yard dash, side step, over-and-under, and 1 1/2-mile run.

A player who runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds can earn 28 points. If his time is 6.1, he gets just one point. But in the weight room, a player who bench presses 350 pounds will get 43 points while no points are awarded for 135 pounds or less.

"The players work out for eight weeks before we test them," Bolton said. "They really look forward to it. Everybody likes to be challenged and measured."

The players will have the test three times from the end of one season to the start of the next.

"There is a very low percentage of drop points from one test to the next," Bolton said. "Most of them work really hard and go up. If they do go down it's usually because of an injury or sickness."

"The program was very easy and simple to implement into our program, or any program for that matter. We tried different tests, but this one gives you a good measurement of the condition of the players."

Bolton also said the players enjoy the test because they can watch themselves grow physically.

"We had one kid two years ago who scored 19 points the first time he took the test. Now he's in the Winner's Club."



V. Times 8-87

Valdosta High School Accented With Shrubbery

Awards Are Nothing New For Former VHS Coach Wright Bazemore

UDT 8-21-87

Although he officially retired as athletic director in 1978, the honors and awards keep coming in for former Valdosta High coach Wright Bazemore.

Thursday afternoon Bazemore was named the recipient of the Book Of Golden Deeds by the Valdosta Exchange Club. It was an award well deserved.

As a newcomer to the area, I never really knew the complete story about Bazemore and his accomplishments until now. I did know this. Coach



Anthony Dasher

Times Sports
Writer

Bazemore was the man responsible for putting Valdosta High and the whole

city of Valdosta on the map. Back home in southeast Georgia, the football teams in region 3-AAAA don't play to get to the state championships, they play to go against Valdosta. They know that the road to the finals must come through Valdosta or Lowndes. That's quite a reputation to have.

Bazemore's accomplishments are legendary, 290 wins, only 43 losses, 15 state championships and three national championships. Remarkable.

But Bazemore is more than just a

great coach, he is a truly good person as well. Through the years he has helped countless Valdosta young people. Through his kind and caring nature, Bazemore has endeared himself to many.

"Coach Bazemore is a great man, he has helped so many young men," Hank Lee, a former Wildcat said. "Coach Bazemore planted some deep seeds in many individuals. Because of him these seeds began to grow, sprout and bear good fruit. He taught people to be responsible for their actions and work

Former VHS Coach Wright Bazemore

hard. "He is the Christian example, and he lives by it. He told us to pray to God and to remember what the Lord taught us. He also told us to dig deep, try hard and never quit. I've always remembered that."

A member of the Georgia High School Hall of Fame, Bazemore was humbled by the Golden Deeds presentation.

"I've received some awards before but this award by the Exchange Club probably means as much or more than

any of them," he said. "Old has-been coaches don't get the opportunity to be awarded something like this.

"It's been an honor for me to be associated with such great people like the ones that live in Valdosta. I've never been tempted to go anywhere else although I could have made more money. When I first came here and drove down Ashley Street I knew this is where I wanted to rear my children. This is the greatest community in the country."

Notebook V. Times 8-19-87

Wildcat Camp

Following Tuesday morning's 3-hour workout at Valdosta High School, coach Nick Hyder had some good things to say about his 1987 Wildcat squad.

"We had a good practice today. There was a lot of hard hitting out there this morning," he said. "We were getting some key blocks on the line for the runners."

"I think we're beginning to come around."

Both candidates for the quarterback spot were impressive as well. Both B.J. Mason and Ben Hogan threw the ball extremely well. "They've made a lot of progress," Hyder said.

Several players drew praise from Hyder after Tuesday morning's practice as well.

"George Copeland, a defensive lineman, Robert Fillmore at guard and Andy Rykard all did well," he said. "Jack Morgan, James Roberts, Earl Carter looked good at wide receiver and Anthony Williams at linebacker did well, too."

Hyder went on to praise safety Eric Toth and running back Lawrence Sharpe.

"We've got some young boys hurt," Hyder said. "But in this business collision is part of the game."

Another bright spot for the 'Cats was the kicking of Todd Peterson. Tuesday morning the senior was consistently booting field goals from 42 yards out with plenty of room to spare.

But despite some good performances by some good players, Hyder still sees much that needs to be improved on.

"We've got to improve on our execution," he said. "But we also have a depth problem that must be straightened."

— ANTHONY DASHER



Valdosta's B.J. Mason Airs It Out During Tuesday's Camp



Times Staff Photos By Paul Leavy

Runner And Tackler Collide During VHS Camp Thursday

Notebook

Wildcat Camp

Valdosta's bruising running back Lawrence Sharpe can be rightly called "a hoss". Sharpe, at 6-foot-2, 275 pounds, comes at diminutive defensive backs like a steam roller. He can even play defense.

Sharpe, however, says he's the runt of the litter.

"I'm the smallest in my family," claimed Sharpe at Thursday evening's Wildcat practice.

"I got one brother who's about 290 and another who's 345," claims Sharpe.

Strength coach Bob Bolton said he's like to see Sharpe as low as 235 and Sharpe said that was his goal.

* * *

Spotted watching the 'Cats from a distance was former Wildcat noseguard Eric "Crazy" Larry, who's pugnacious attitude earned him the reputation as one tough guy.

Taking Larry's place is his brother Robert Fillmore, who is apparently cut in the same mold as Larry.

"He may be uglier than me, but he's not better," claimed Larry.

* * *

Safety Jason Bridges claimed yesterday was his worst day of camp thus far.

It seems the high heat and humidity in the morning got to the 148-pound junior.

Bridges got a break from the heat last night as a smattering of rain cooled temperatures.

* * *

ESPN rolled into camp yesterday morning and filmed the 'Cats crawling out of bed. The players appear pretty unphased about the network being there.

The footage of the visit to VHS will air Wednesday, Sep. 2 at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN.

* * *

The Wildcats will get their first chance to scrimmage at Cleveland Field tonight at 7:30 p.m.

— By MIKE COLOMBO



V. Times

National School Lunch Week

10-16-87

Students here and across the nation are participating in the observance of National School Lunch Week which began Monday. This year's theme is School Lunch: It Makes a World of Difference and foods of other

cultures are being featured. Pictured above are Valdosta High School students serving their plates Wednesday with a West African menu of Congo Chicken. — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

Offense Sputters.

Defense Controls Cats' Scrimmage

By **MIKE COLOMBO**
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcat 1st-team offense could had trouble moving the ball against the 2nd team defense in Friday night's scrimmage at Cleveland Field.

Part of the problem might have been fatigue from 20 gruelling practices in the hot south Georgia sun. Was the offense tired?

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder had only good things to say about the defense.

"Hey, let's give credit where credit is due," said Hyder. "I think the defense played well. It's hard to run through bricks. They really plugged the holes out there."

Starting running back James Roberts, a 215-pound junior, amassed just 12 yards on eight carries.

Isaac Ceaser, who also tips the scales near the 200 mark, gained just 18 yards on five carries.

Causing some of the problem was defensive player George Copeland, sporting No. 74 during the scrimmage. Copeland made some vicious hits and came up with two fumble recoveries.

"Copeland's a mister," said Hyder. "He's a big strong kid and a good student too."

Safety Will Troutman also made his mark with a key tackle of split end Charles Steward after a long pass completion that could have gone for a score.

B.J. Mason and Ben Hogan alternated as quarterback for the first and second team offenses, and Hogan may force Mason to work just a little harder.

While Mason completed just 3-of-8 passes for zero total yards, Hogan hit 3-of-9 for 60 total yards.

He threw two long strikes to Steward for 25 and 33 yards and threaded the needle to complete a 22-yarder to receiver Timmy Holmes.

"B.J. is still our number one

quarterback, but Hogan's not far behind," said Hyder. "Hogan is a good athlete and has a strong arm, and we feel confident with him in there."

Twenty-four total points were scored during the evening.

Kenny Rose opened the scoring by returning a Joe Wright punt 54 yards for a touchdown with 3:21 left in the first period and Todd Peterson added the extra point.

The second score came in the second period after the first-team offense drove the ball from its own 34 to the 22 where Hogan ran it in around the right end. The 10-play drive was the longest of the evening for the main offense and Peterson again added the extra point.

The third touchdown drive was sparked by Hogan's 33-yarder to Steward that put the ball down to the 20-yard line where Carlos Paker ran it in and Peterson kicked the PAT.

Peterson showed his skills to finish the game, booting a 48-yard field goal.

Safety and punt returner Reginald Dandy showed his skills during the evening. He returned one kick 42 yards but it was called back because of clipping, but Dandy returned another 42 yards that stuck.

Dandy, Coronzoa Greene, Mason, Steward, and Andy Anderson were named the 1987 team captains. Steward is the overall team captain, Mason offensive captain, Anderson offensive co-captain, Dandy defensive captain, and Greene defensive co-captain.

Freshman punter and running back Joe Wright was the leading ground gainer, amassing 26 yards on six carries for the third-team offense.

Hyder said he was generally pleased with the progress of his team after its annual two weeks of football camp.

"I think we look pretty good after 20 practices," Hyder said. "The coaches have done a pretty good job. I'm just looking forward to spending some time relaxing this weekend, and I know the coaches are ready to spend some time with their families."



Kenny Rose Escapes Grasp Of Defender As He Breaks Off A Long Punt Return

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

Lowndes Will Escape Blue Devils; Valdosta To Trample Pats

There is little parity in high school football. High school football is built on tradition, community support, and quality coaching. Leave out one of these three elements, and any program is in trouble.

I have recently received criticism for picking Lowndes and Valdosta as such heavy favorites over their Albany-based opponents. Coaches argue that on a gridiron anything can happen. That's true within reason. My argument, however, is that it would be unreasonable to pick Valdosta or Lowndes and any Albany school in a close games.

Valdosta beat Dougherty 40-13 last week, and for this year's Dougherty



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

high team to beat Valdosta, Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder would have to play the Tomcats all night long, and I'm not sure that they would lose. The Trojans just plain stink. They have

little talent and, in recent times, have not been close to fielding a truly competitive team.

If Valdosta had played its first team all night long, Valdosta probably would have scored 54 or even 60.

Lowndes shutout Westover 35-0. The only way the Patriots would win is if the entire Viking starting squad had a collective cerebral brain hemorrhage.

Wilson and Hyder obviously have great respect for the Vince Dooley school of praising the opponent. I don't expect the two distinguished gentleman of Region 1-AAAA to say the enemy stinks, but let's not make Monroe look like Notre Dame.

A goat is a goat, even if you call it a

bull.

Lowndes at Tift County — I'm sure that Coach Wilson wants me to pick the Blue Devils. Tifton has a bruising defense, but the Devils have been inconsistent offensively.

Tifton quarterback Derick Henderson is not a great throwing quarterback, and despite what Tift did against Valdosta, Tifton's running game is not that solid.

Lowndes is first in the region against the rush and second against the pass. Don't look for Tift to score more than a field goal.

Lowndes 10, Tift County 3

Valdosta at Westover — No contest. Westover is 0-5 and got murdered by

V-Times

10-16-87

Lowndes last week. Ignore the home-field advantage; Valdosta will probably bring about as many people as Westover draws.

Valdosta is riding a 21-game winning streak. It won't end against the Patriots. Hyder will once again wisely see to it that some of the younger kids get to play.

Valdosta 35, Westover 10

10

It's That Time Of Year Again



VDT 8/30/87

VHS' Receiver Sugar Ray Robinson Does His Best To Elude Defensive Back Dexter Mitchell

V a l d o s t a



Chad Walkers Cools Off With Water Dousing

Yes, it's football season once again, although the weather is reminding area fans that baseballs are still flying through the air.

Most schools began football camp on Aug. 17 and completed the rigorous ordeal on Friday.

The Lowndes Vikings were only afforded a week of two-a-days because school started this past Monday.

Valdosta, however, had two full weeks of the double tortures.

For the second consecutive year Valdosta did not practice at the Twin Lakes 4-H camp, its usual summer practice location.

It appears that the Wildcats will not return any time soon to Twin Lakes. The air conditioned gym and well-stocked weight room make for a more

pleasant atmosphere.

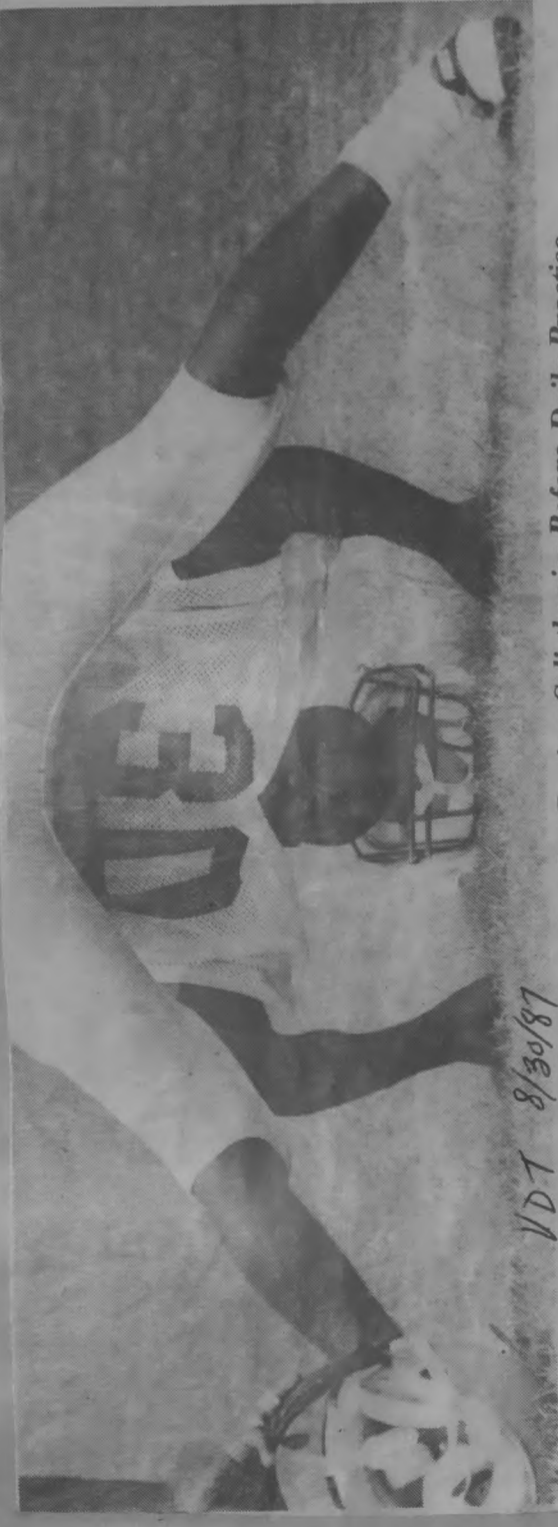
Also working hard are the Valdosta Valiants under the direction of new head coach Eric Thomas. Thomas is having to rebuild a program that in the past has experienced great success.

The Valiants have played in the state championship for the past three seasons, but lost almost the entire starting crew off last year's squad.

Lowndes and Valdosta begin the regular season on Friday, Sept. 4.

Lowndes plays host to Camden County while Valdosta travels to LaGrange to take on the Grangers.

The Valdosta State Blazers open their football season 7 p.m. Friday night on Sept. 11 against Fort Valley State at Cleveland Field.



VDT 8/30/87

Dexter Mitchell Stretches Out During Calisthenics Before Daily Practice

Don't Even Think That Wildcats Will Be Rebuilding

V.D.T. 8/30/87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

After the Valdosta High Wildcats won the state and national championships in 1986, one might assume that VHS is in for a rebuilding year during 1987. That's a dangerous assumption to make.

The 1987 Valdosta Wildcats are sizing up as a talented group of football players, perhaps matching the goals of 1986.

Valdosta fans may wait a long time before they see the likes of last year's offensive front again. A 265-pound average line is an abnormality in high school football, and John Wheelless, Jodie Sprengle, Ben Lane, and Troy Wells have all moved on to greener pastures.

But don't expect the 'Cats to field a bunch of midgets on the front. Replacing Lane at center is David Hazelhurst. A junior, Hazelhurst tips the scales at 201. Returning senior starter Andy Anderson (245) and senior Todd Pitchford (225) will assume the two tackle spots. Junior Andy Rykard (210) and senior Jackie Morgan (215) are the leading candidates to fill the guard spots.

"This year we're just not that big with Pitchford coming in for Wheelless. There's about a 10-pound difference between Morgan and Wells and of course there's a big difference between Lane and Hazelhurst," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

"These youngsters, with the exception of Hazelhurst, were all alternates last year so they have that experience."

Offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said he was also pleased thus far with the play of Shawn Eilder, Steve Smith, Mickey McSwain, and Matthew Butler.



All-American Charles Steward

"We probably have more depth than we had last year," said Baker. "We have more guys who can come right in there and play."

Running behind this experienced front line will be another stable of hard-hitting slashing running backs. Last year's hero, Jerome Callaway, is gone, but this year's backfield may be just as dangerous as a whole.

Back is James Roberts, who now tips the scales at 215, and junior Isaac Ceasar at 210 is a quick back who has good cutback ability and likes to demolish unwary secondary players.

Also a possibility in the backfield is behemoth Lawrence Sharpe, a 272-pound junior. Sharpe is a pure power runner but according to Hyder, he still needs to shed a little weight to be most effective.

"Roberts is 12 or 15 pounds heavier and he's been clocked at 4.5 and 4.6 (in 40-yard dash). He was a class back last year but was overshadowed by Callaway," said Hyder.

Hyder said Ceasar paid his dues last year running in practice most of the day against the first-string defense.

"That's how (last year's) quarterback Greg Talley became such a good football player," said Hyder.

Both Roberts and Ceasar scored higher on the Super Cat test than any other athletes since it was first given 12 years ago.

Hyder also said Carlos Parker, a 174-pound sophomore, has been impressive at running back.

Running back coach Mike O'Brien is also pleased with his squad of backs.



Wildcats celebrate state and national title in '86

for the third year at their respective positions.

Hyder named Eric Toth as a probable starter at one of the safety spots, saying that Toth played well in some clutch games last year.

Jason Bridges is a leading candidate for the other safety spot. Others who could see action there are Will Troutman, Chris Hart, and Kenny Rose.

Anthony Williams returns at one of the linebackers and according to linebacker coach Charles Tarpley, he has added some needed bulk, around 38 pounds.

Beau Laskey is a candidate for the other linebacker spot, but did not play during the spring because of a shoulder injury.

In his stead, Carlo Butler played and played well, and Hyder said he should also fit into the picture somehow.

"Hyder is 6-foot and has better passing potential," said Hyder. "I like our 1-2 quarterback combination. Both are friends but compete against each other very hard for playing time. The pressure is where it should be, on me."

Back at tight end and punter for another season is Charles Steward, and Bernard Hinson should see the majority of action at flanker.

Defensively, Jack Rudolph will assemble another competitive, aggressive squad.

While Eric Larry is gone at noseguard, his brother, Robert Fillmore, will take his place. Fillmore is a 167-pound sophomore and is known to be a scrappy player.

The two defensive tackles figuring to land in the thick of things are senior Coronzo Greene and junior Zabria Bell. Bell weighs in at a hefty 292 pounds and Greene tips the scales at 212.

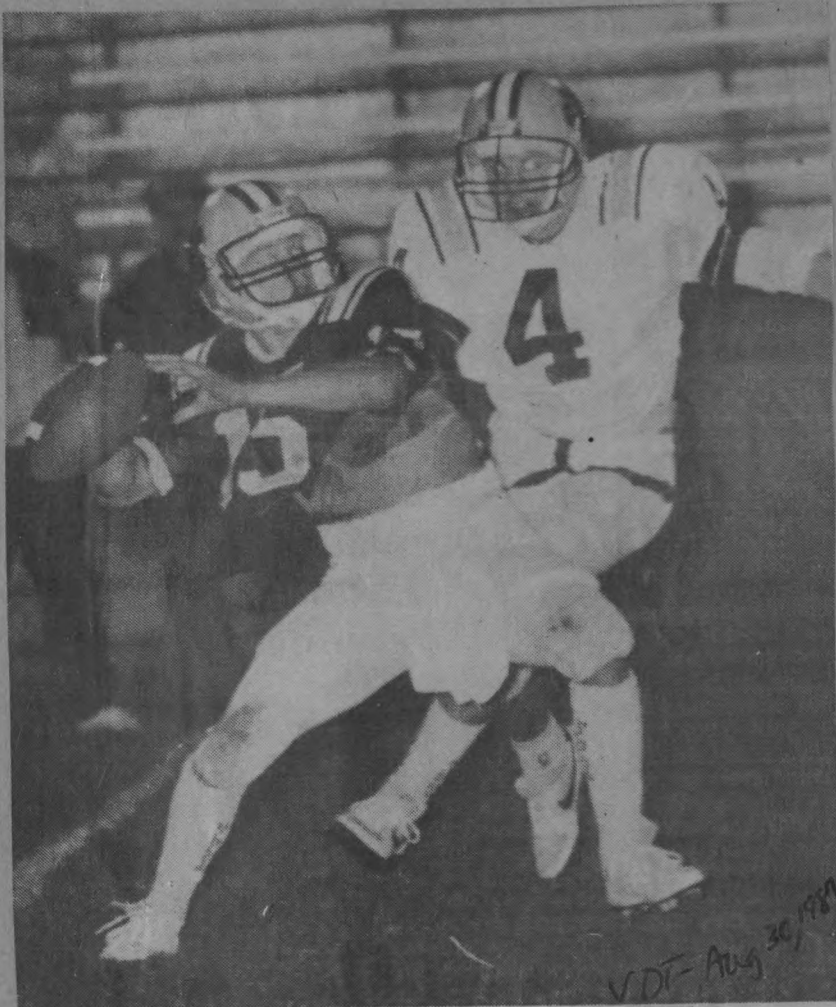
Backing these two up are George Copeland and Scott Barton, both who have been impressive to line coach Freddie Waters.

The Wildcats lost two great defensive ends last season in Seabron Williams and Michael Tolbert. Both have gone on and are currently playing collegiate football.

Fighting for the two starting spots now are Coleman Rudolph and Kenneth Berrian. Rudolph, son of defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, is a 183-pound junior. Berrian is a 162-pound senior.

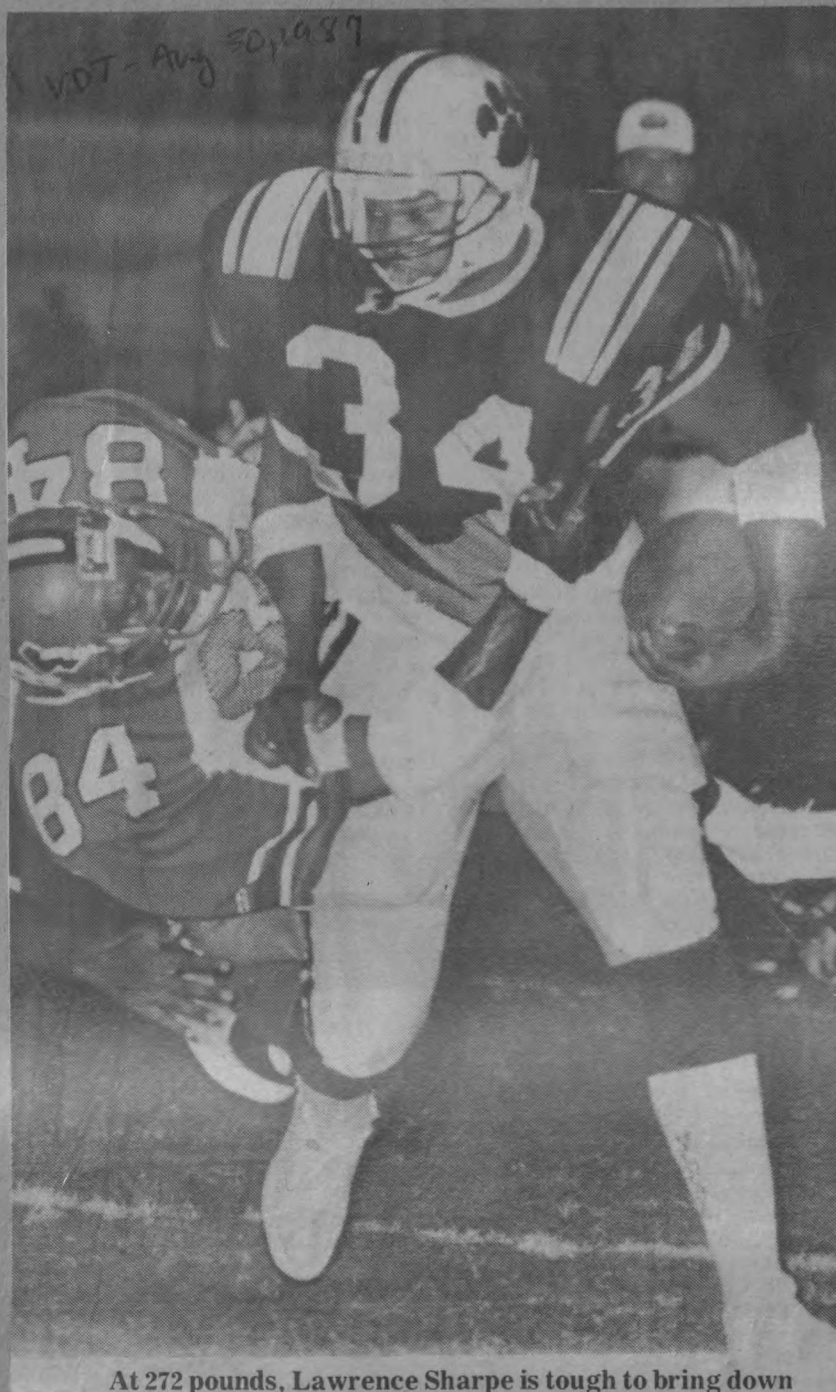
Hyder said Bobby Brooks and Wade Lindsey could also see some playing time at defensive end.

Gone from the secondary are Wait Gill and Derek Shaw, but returning are cornerbacks Reginald Dandy and Keith Henry, who figure to be starting



B.J. Mason will move from wide out to quarterback

VDT - Aug 30, 1987



At 272 pounds, Lawrence Sharpe is tough to bring down

VDT - Aug 30, 1987



James Roberts rushed for 861 yards on 144 carries in '86, an average of 6.0 yards per carry

VDT - Aug 30, 1987

Coming Attractions

VD 8/30/87

Box-Office Sensations To Sizzle This Season

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

There's nothing like a high school Friday night in the fall — two towns meeting for pride, two city rivals meeting for bragging rights or two region rivals meeting for a title and playoff bid.

High school football often becomes a maze of names and numbers. The amount of participation tends to give the players numbers for an identity, and many toil unnoticed through their careers.

But here are some players who won't go unnoticed because everybody's watching — coaches, opposing players, college scouts and fans.

These are 12 area players who will be noticed this year. These are the coming attractions.

Some are well on their way to high school stardom and possible college careers. Others have the "can't miss" tag attached to their uniforms.

The opposition will prepare for them for an entire week this fall — plotting ways to stop them or control them.

These are the players opposing coaches point out while watching game films. They shake their heads and mutter "how are we goin' stop that guy? I wish he was on our side because he ate us up last year."

You get the picture. So, screen these coming attractions.

Reginald Dandy, defensive back, Valdosta, 5-foot-7, 160 pounds, senior — probably respected more for his ability to return punts than play in the secondary... a very hard hitter who is very coachable and dedicated to football... has returned two punts for touchdowns — one against Lowndes and the other against Southwest Macon in the spring.

Doug Hubbard, offensive tackle, Lowndes, 6-foot-3, 210 pounds, junior — received quite a bit of recognition last year as a sophomore... uses his size and strength to create good holes for the running backs... already has good size and is expected to get even bigger... one of the more consistent blockers for the Vikings last year.

Herbert Mingo, running back, Clinch County, 5-foot-9, 175 pounds, junior — named first-team all-area two consecutive years... rushed for 846 yards on 157 carries (5.4 average) in 11 games and scored nine touchdowns... has good speed with a 4.5 in the 40... also handles place-kicking for the Panthers.

Rozell Orr, wide receiver, Lowndes, 5-foot-11, 150 pounds, senior — led Region 1-A-AAAA in receiving last year with 30 catches for 438 yards and four touchdowns... is small, but has good speed and hands... will be counted on to be spark for Vikings.

Bennie Pierce, defensive end, Lowndes, 6-foot-3, 235 pounds, senior — will be used primarily as a running back, but is getting wide recognition because he makes the best of his time on defense... had three quarterback sacks for 21 yards in losses against Valdosta and also had eight tackles

while playing entire game on offense... size and strength help him fight off blockers to get to ball carrier.

Freddie Richardson, linebacker, Lowndes, 6-foot-4, 235 pounds, senior — rated as one of the top 11 prospects in the Southeast by Athlon... named defensive back of the year by Times last season after averaging 13 solo tackles and 12 assists per game... also had seven interceptions, including one he returned for a touchdown...

James Roberts, running back, Valdosta, 6-foot, 210 pounds, junior — averaged 6.0 yards last year on 144 carries and is expected to be a major weapon this year... scored 11 touchdowns while rushing for 861 yards... also had 174 yards in receptions... is by far one of the biggest and fastest running backs in the state.

William Sims, linebacker, Brooks County, 6-foot-5, 224-pounds, junior — tremendously strong player who plays exceptionally well... very intense player... strong with a lot of stamina... will also see plenty of action as the Trojans' tailback... earned the title as Hit Man on the Brooks' defense last season.

Charles Steward, tight end, Valdosta, 6-foot-3, 225 pounds, senior — has shown great versatility over the years... played wide receiver as sophomore before moving to tight end... has also seen action at quarterback and is team's punter... caught 37 passes for 498 yards and 10 touchdowns last year, but is most effective as blocker.

Albert Tolle, quarterback, Hamilton
See Stars, Page 13-A



Pictured above (left to right from top) are the stars to watch in area high school football this year: Zabria Bell from Valdosta; Reginald Dandy from Valdosta; Doug Hubbard from Lowndes; Herbert Mingo from Clinch County; Rozell Orr from Lowndes; Bennie Pierce from

Lowndes; Freddie Richardson from Lowndes; James Roberts from Valdosta; William Sims from Brooks County; Charles Steward from Valdosta; Albert Tolle from Hamilton County; and Anthony Williams from Valdosta.

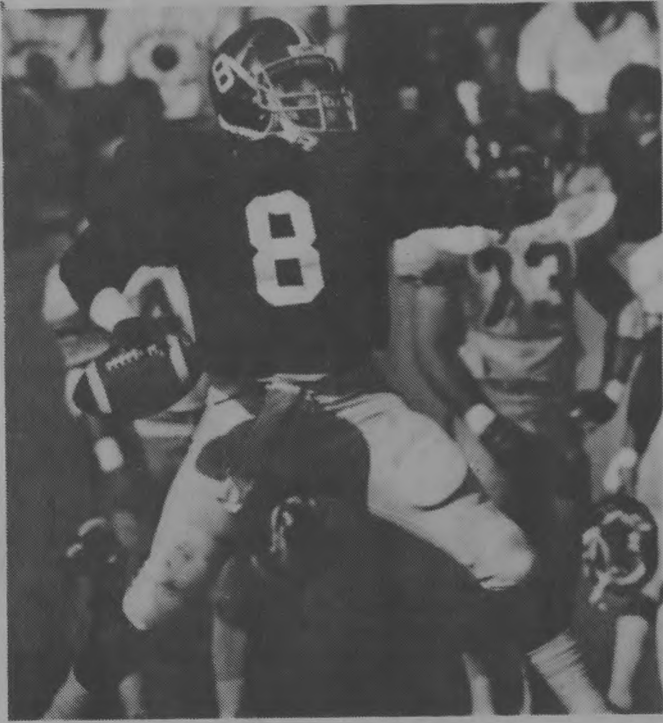
VDT-Aug-30-1987

...After All These Years

Parlez-Vous Francais?

It's been quite a transition for Tracy Ham. After quarterbacking the Georgia Southern Eagles to a national championship in 1985 and 1986. Ham, pictured right, is now playing with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League. Ham, however, has seen very limited playing time as he listed as the third-string quarterback.

He's also trying to learn how to speak French for his team's trip to Montreal.



1 + 1 = 7

Together Nick Hyder and Billy Henderson have won seven state championships in the past 10 years. Hyder has successfully guided the Valdosta High Wildcats to the state championship in 1978, '82, '84, and '86. Henderson, meanwhile, has led Clarke Central to the state championship in '77, '79 and '85.

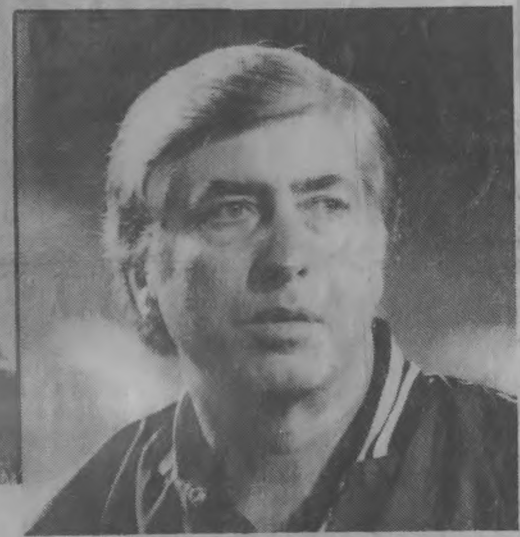
For the past several years, AAAA football in Georgia has been ruled by the two teams. Valdosta defeated Clarke Central 21-14 for the 1984 state title. The Gladiators then won 29 consecutive, including the 1985 title, before dropping a 28-0 decision to the Wildcats in last year's title game.



Hoping To Volunteer

After leading the Valdosta High Wildcats to two state championships and one national title, Derrick Folsom ventured to Northeast Oklahoma A&M, the nation's top-ranked junior college team. Northeast lost only two games during Folsom's two-year stint. Last year, he recored 19 tackles, eight assists, and three broken up passes. He is regarded as an excellent pass defender.

This year, Folsom will playing for the Tennessee Volunteers. He will be battling Kelly Days for the starting free safety position. Although neither has ever played a down for the Vols, Folsom should have an upper hand because he arrived in Knoxville in time for spring practice. According to the Tennessee press guide, Folsom has had little trouble adjusting to the Tennessee defense.



The Top Tutor

Football has been a way of life for Jack Rudolph. After playing high school ball, Rudolph went on to Atlanta to play for the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets under the legendary Bobby Dodd. As a defensive end, Rudolph lettered with the Yellow Jackets in 1957, 58 and 59.

After leaving Georgia Tech, Rudolph joined the Boston Patriots of the American Football

League. He finished his career with the Miami Dolphins.

When he retired from professional football, Rudolph came to Valdosta, his wife's hometown. He has become one of the top defensive coordinators in the state. His defenses are always tough to gain yards against, including last year when the 'Cats yielded an average of just 155 yards and 5.4 points a game.

'Cats Hold Off Tough Tift Co.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats took advantage of three key Tift County fumbles and linebacker Beau Laskey picked off a Derrick Henderson pass as Valdosta edged the Tift County Blue Devils 17-10 here Friday night in a Region 1-AAAA contest.

With Valdosta leading 10-7 in the third quarter, Tift County threatened to tie the game, driving the ball from its own 41 to the Valdosta 27. But on a fourth-and-one, Blue Devil running back Henry Williams fumbled the ball and the Wildcats recovered on their own 33.

Valdosta then drove the ball 67 yards in five plays to lead 17-7. Isaac Ceaser made two long runs up the middle and James Roberts then galloped 35 yards for the score. Todd Peterson added the PAT.

But Tift County wasn't done. Valdosta later had to punt from its own 8, and Tift County began a drive from the 'Cat 42. A 27-yard run by Benard King moved the ball down to the 7, but Tift had to settle for the field goal as the Wildcat defense stiffened, making it 17-10 Valdosta.

With two minutes left, Tift got the ball back on its own 12, but the drive ended when Laskey intercepted the pass and returned it to the Tift 15.

Valdosta's Roberts gave the ball back to Tift on the next play but Tift had only seconds left, and the game ended with defensive end Coleman Rudolph bashing Henderson into the dirt.

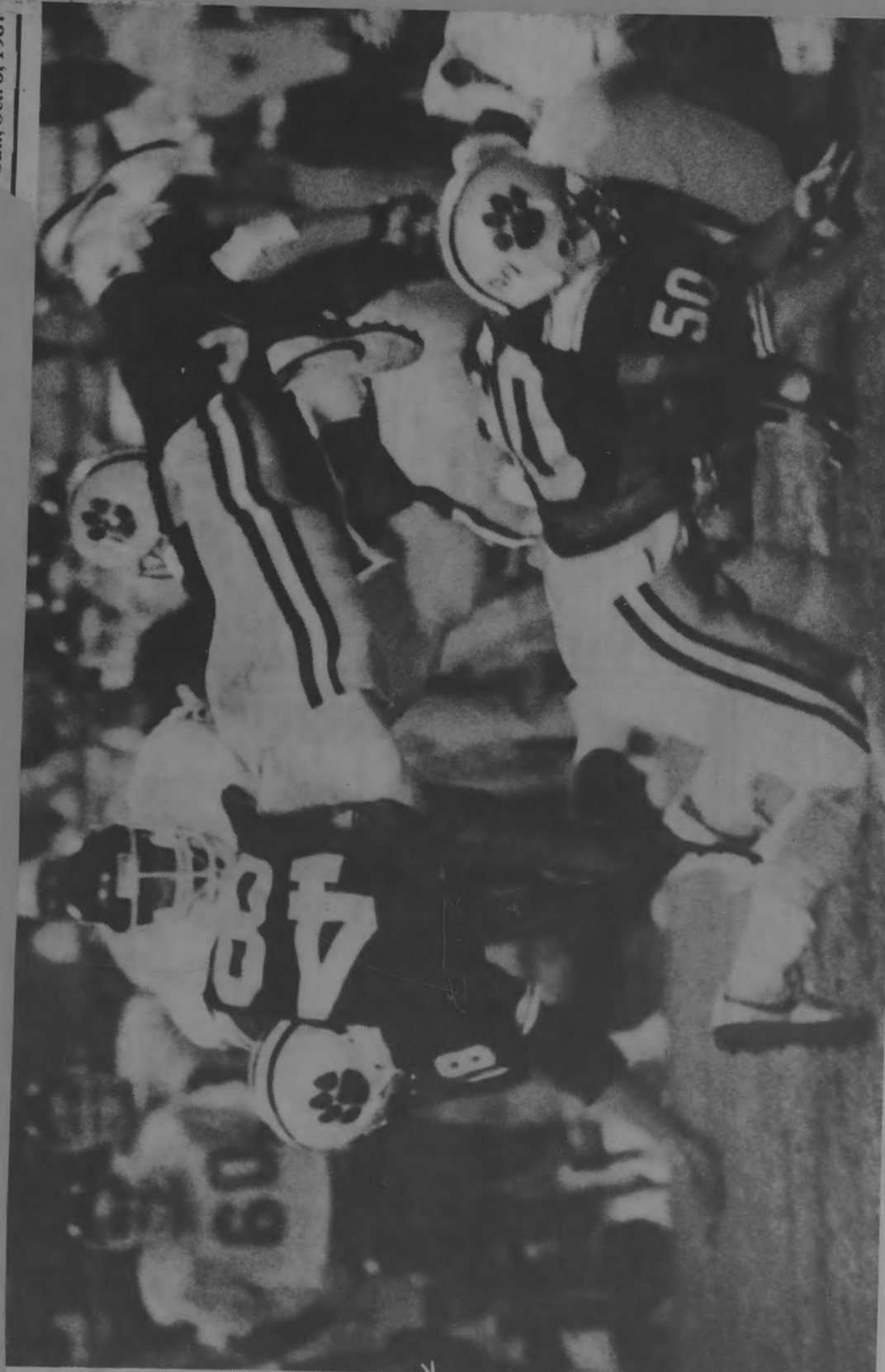


Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts (48) Dives Over Middle For Short Gain

only one pass to Charles Steward for 11 yards.

Valdosta forced Tift to punt in the first series of the game, and Valdosta took immediate advantage of the situation. Reginald Dandy returned the kick 45 yards to the Tift 21 and three plays later Mason ran it in from the 4. Peterson kicked the PAT and Valdosta

Henderson then tried to sneak it in but fumbled the ball into the end zone and the Wildcats pounced on the ball.

After another Tift County fumble on its own 38, Valdosta recovered and took the ball down to the Blue Devil 7. Mason was then called for grounding and Valdosta had to settle for a 40-yard Peterson field goal to make it 10-0.

Tift County came right back on its next possession. On the first play from scrimmage, King rambled 56 yards to the Valdosta 24. Valdosta later was charged with a personal foul that moved the ball to the 16. A 15-yard burst from King then moved the ball down to the 1 to make it first-and-goal.

Valdosta's B.J. Mason completed 12 carries. For Tift County, King had 107, Graham 76, and Williams finished with 46. The Blue Devils have been known in the past years for a good passing game, but Henderson completed only 7-of-25 passes for 91 yards and one interception.

Valdosta's B.J. Mason completed

Tift Co.	7	0	0	3-10
Valdosta	10	0	7	0-17

Val — B.J. Mason 4 run (Todd Peterson kick)
 Val — Peterson 40 fg
 Tift — Derrick Henderson 1 run (Russ Davis kick)
 Val — James Roberts 35 run (Peterson kick)
 Tift — Davis 21 fg

First Downs	Tift	Val
Yards Rushing	11	8
Yards Passing	254	193
Yards Attempts	37	37
Passes	27-7-1	5-1-0
Fumbles Lost	0-3	7-35-0
Punting	4-39-0	7-35-0
Penalties	1-10	5-50

Tift — King 8:107, Graham 676, Williams 13-46, Duckworth 5-33, Walker 2-4, Henderson 3-111, Valdosta — Roberts 17-116, Ceaser 12-47, Mason 7-22, Sharpe 2-6.

Tift — Henderson 25-7-1 94, Hughes 2-0-0 0, Valdosta — Mason 5-1-0-11.

Tift — Johnson 3-49, Graham 2-22, Williams 1-17, King 1-6, Valdosta — Steward 1-11.

Tift County had a great night statistically, outrushing Valdosta 254-193, and outpassing Valdosta 94-11. Tift even had more first downs, 11-8.

But Tift County turned the ball over four times, while Valdosta had just one turnover.

"We played a good football team," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "I was impressed with their running game, especially Benard King and Anthony Graham. But our defense deserves some credit. We stopped them when we really had to."

Wildcat offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker was more direct about the importance of the statistics.

"They pay thousands of dollars for scoreboards," said Baker. "In the end, all that's important is who has the most points."

Roberts led all rushers with 116 yards on 17 carries. Ceaser added 49 on



V. Times 9-4-87 **S-T-R-E-T-C-H**

Laura Dennis of Valdosta High stretches for not what coach Susan Montgomery wanted as ball in the Lady Wildcats first ever softball game Thursday afternoon at Valdosta High's new softball field. However the outcome was her team dropped a double header to Ware County by the scores of 6-3 and 3-1 — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy



V. Times 9-6-87

Volunteers Key To United Way

Volunteerism is one of the key ingredients of the United Way, and that trait was in ample evidence during the 1987-88 Lowndes campaign kickoff last week. The whole affair was an effort of volunteers, as is the campaign itself.

Particularly pleasing, according to UW Executive Director Ray Hamel, were the volunteer efforts of young people. Here (photo above) The Valdosta High School Band performs a routine during the kickoff. The band, under the direction of Steve Hankla, provided pep rally music. Also participating were cheerleaders from Valdosta High and Lowndes High (photo below), who cheered on the United Way effort.

The program itself was one of volunteers. A motivating skit in song and dance was presented by Hope Ince, Jacque Wheeler and Campaign Chairman Jerry Rainey. The script was written by Jacque and Randy Wheeler. Tess Price coordinated arrangements for the kickoff and Stacy Rogers was accompanist for the skit. The Elks Lodge provided the

facility on a last-minute, emergency basis, Hamel said.

Other volunteers who helped with the kickoff were Valdosta Coca-Cola, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Good Plate Restaurant, Dodge of Valdosta, Paul Cribbs Insurance, Crackin' Good Bakers and Valdosta State College.

Rainey said the campaign is off to a "rousing start" with Pacesetter firms pledging \$214,261 toward the goal of \$610,000. "It's a great start, but we need the rest of the community to maintain or exceed a 15 percent average increase in giving to hit our goal," he said.

Pacesetter firms include Barnes Drugs, Bayliner Marine, C & S National Bank, Crackin' Good Snacks, Dowling Bag, First State Bank & Trust, First Union National Bank, Georgia Power Co., Griffin Corp., Langdale Company Industries, Park Avenue Bank, SAFT America, Sears, Roebuck & Co., South Georgia Pecan Co., Texture-Tex, Tillman, McTier, Coleman, Talley, Newbern & Kurrie and Winn Dixie-Francis Lake.

'Cats Throttle LaGrange 40-7

V. Times 9-5-81

By ROBERT L. BRADLEY
Times Sports Editor

LAGRANGE — Although the Valdosta Wildcats lost quite a number of players off last year's state and national championship team, the 'Cats didn't show any side effect of those losses here Friday night.

Valdosta, ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 4 in the nation, opened defense of its championship with a sound beating of No. 8 LaGrange 40-7.

"There was a lot of good effort by both teams, particularly on the defenses," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said.

The 'Cats ran up a 26-0 lead, at the half as they outgained the Grangers 253-16 in the first 30 minutes. Only a 90-yard interception return by LaGrange in the third period avoided the shutout.

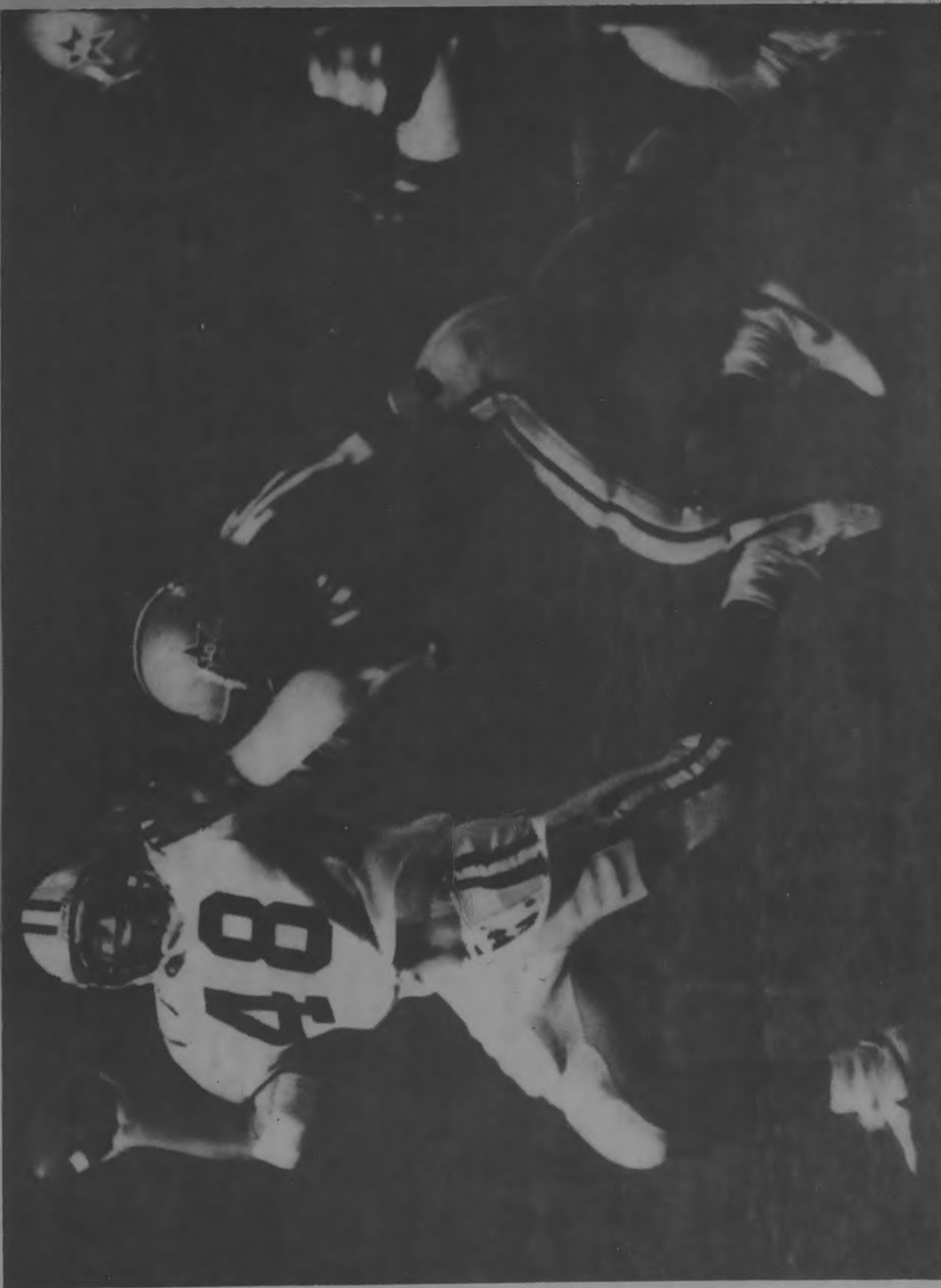
Valdosta's offense wracked up 444 yards in total offense, with 266 coming through the air and 178 on the ground. The 'Cat defense, which was one of the strongest in the state last year, held the Grangers to -3 yards rushing and 38 through the air.

Despite the effort, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph saw some room for improvement.

"We made enough mistakes that we'll have plenty to work on next week," Rudolph said. "We've got some things we've got to work-out, like covering the crossing routes on passes."

"I was really encouraged with the play of the second unit. LaGrange got a drive going on, but they stopped them. That gave us a good chance to see some kids and hopefully get some depth from that."

The Wildcats opened the game on a bad note, as Earl Carter fumbled the opening kickoff and LaGrange recovered at the 'Cats' 24-yard line. But the Valdosta defense gave a strong show-



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts Hurls Unsuccessful Halfback Pass During Friday's Game

to James Roberts and then connected with Carter for a 41-yard scoring strike. On the touchdown, Carter went high for the catch and went past a slipping defender for the score.

An interception by Demetricus Waters set up Valdosta's final first half score. Two long passes from Mason to

Charles Steward for 35 yards moved the 'Cats deep in LaGrange territory. Sharpe ran all over LaGrange's defense for 20 yards to the 1, Mason then scored a sneak with 10 second left.

"The defense did a fine job," Hyder said. "We fumbled on our opening possession and really put the pressure

on them. But the offense got enough chances that we were able to come back. The offensive line gave the quarterback good protection."

Valdosta continued the onslaught in the second half as they drove 60 yards in four plays for a score. The TD was a 48-yard pass from Mason to Carter.

Although the pass resembled a wounded duck, Carter out-jumped the defense and scampered into the end zone. LaGrange then scored on an interception by Grover Cox. Valdosta added insult to injury with a final score with 2:51.

Valdosta, Brooks, Clinch All Ranked In Poll

The Associated Press

Three reigning state champions in Georgia high school football are picked to repeat in their divisions by The Associated Press' panel of sports writers and broadcasters, the exception being in Class A where East Rome is picked to succeed Lincoln County.

Perennial power Valdosta was the unanimous choice to top the Class AAAAA rankings. The Wildcats finished 15-0 last season, defeating Clarke Central in the championship game 28-0, and were named the No. 1 team in the nation by USA Today. For Valdosta, it was the 19th state and fifth national championship.

In Class AAA, the pollsters tabbed defending champions Villa Rica to repeat. Villa Rica finished 1986 with a 14-1 record and downed Worth County 13-0 in the championship game.

Central Carrollton is the No. 1 pick in

Class AA. The Lions topped a 14-1 season with a 17-0 championship victory over Washington-Wilkes, which was previously undefeated.

In Class A, East Rome edged defending champion Lincoln County by four points to take the No. 1 ranking. The Gladiators were picked No. 1 on nine ballots, while Lincoln County got the other five first-place votes and is ranked a close second.

Class AAAAA Pollsters again favor Valdosta and Clarke Central as the two best teams in the state's largest classification. The two met in the state finals last year for the second time in three years, and Clarke Central has been to the finals three years in a row, winning in 1985. Valdosta lost its quarterback and leading rusher from last season, but the 'Cats always seem to have talent waiting on the sidelines.

Coach Nick Hyder has two potential

replacements at quarterback, senior B.J. Mason and junior Ben Hogan. They will have talented tight end Charles Stewart as a target and a big offensive line to operate behind.

Taking over the bulk of the rushing load will be junior James Roberts, who played at fullback last season.

At Clarke Central, Coach Billy Henderson returns his leading rusher of the past two years, Kenny Brown, and has two experienced quarterbacks, Andy Mangel and Adrian Jarrell.

Southwest DeKalb is picked third. The Panthers were 11-2 last year, losing to Clarke Central in the state quarterfinals.

Warner Robins and Griffin tied for No. 4, followed by Baldwin at No. 6, McEachern, the only ranked team to have played so far this year at No. 7, LaGrange at No. 8, Tift Co. at No. 9 and Lowndes at No. 10.

Class AAA

Villa Rica lost its 1986 season opener to eventual Class AA champion Central Carrollton, then did not lose again as it marched to the state title. The Wildcats return 13 starters and are again tabbed as the No. 1 team.

Close behind is Worth County, which lost to Villa Rica in the 1986 title game. Worth County returns 12 starters from that 13-2 team and received one first-place vote.

Central Thomasville is picked No. 3, including two first-place votes. The Yellow Jackets fell to Worth County last year in the semifinals.

At No. 4 is Lakeside, which lost a 28-26 decision to Villa Rica in the other semifinal last season.

Gainesville is picked No. 5, followed by Thomasville at No. 6, Marist at No. 7, Dalton at No. 8, and Troup at No. 9. Peach County and Westminster tied for the No. 10 spot.

Troup and Peach County received

the other two first-place votes.

Class AA powers once again are expected to be Central Carrollton, the defending champions, and Washington-Wilkes, which lost only once last year, to Central in the championship game. It was Washington-Wilkes' second straight loss in the final.

Central Carrollton returns eight starters, Washington-Wilkes 12, eight on defense.

Central Carrollton is led by running back Walt Crowder, while Washington-Wilkes returns quarterback Josh Rogers. With Rogers at the helm, the Tigers are 26-2 in the past two seasons, and last year led the state in scoring with 538 points.

No. 3 is R.E. Lee, ousted in the quarterfinals last year by Washington-Wilkes. No. 4 is Mary Persons, No. 5 is Swainsboro, and at No. 6 is Camden County, which got the

two first-place votes Central Carrollton didn't get.

No. 7 is Manchester, followed by Greene-Taliaferro, Lovett and Brooks County.

Class A Lincoln County defeated East Rome 7-6 in last year's state title game, but the pollsters have reversed the order to start the 1987 season and named East Rome No. 1.

East Rome returns seven starters, while two-time defending champion Lincoln County has only three. Ranked No. 3 is Wilcox County, a loser in last year's semifinals to Lincoln County. At No. 4 is Greenville, which lost to East Rome in the quarterfinals but has won its region for eight years in a row.

No. 5 is Louisville, followed by No. 6 Commerce, No. 7 Bowdon, No. 8 Clinch County, No. 9 Palmetto and No. 10 Montgomery County.

Valdosta Gearing Up For Battle With Improved Fulton High Squad

Fri. Sept. 11, 1987

By Stan Grubb
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder knows his No. 1 Wildcats are heavy favorites over Fulton, but that's now what he wants his team to think.

In preparing for Saturday night's battle with Fulton at Cleveland Field, Hyder feels "respect" is the key motivational factor.

Valdosta defeated an undermanned and inexperienced Fulton team 30-6 last season. Fulton, however, returns many skilled ballplayers from last year's squad.

Hyder said his Wildcats must come ready to play against a more experienced Fulton team.

"The situation at hand is all we are concerned with," said Hyder.

"You must be mentally and physically prepared for each and every opponent."

Valdosta comes into the Fulton game at full tilt. The Wildcats racked up 26 points in the first half on their way to a

40-7 victory over LaGrange. Hyder, however, is not depending on last week's performance as an indicator of what his team will do.

"Our offense must always adjust depending upon the situation," Hyder said.

The Wildcat defense comes off a performance in which they yielded no points. Against LaGrange, the Valdosta defense showed its strength in the Grangers' first possession, stopping them on four straight downs.

"The defense looks good at this time," said Hyder. "It's a competitive struggle on the defensive side. The defense has great depth, with everyone competing for a starting job. The competitive struggle creates a determined atmosphere on the defense."

Willie Hunter and his Cardinals enter the rematch with Valdosta 1-0 after a 31-0 blowout over Mays. Valdosta enters the game a strong favorite to defeat Fulton this Saturday, but looking ahead is what Hyder and his staff are trying to avoid.

Valdosta vs. Fulton

- When: Saturday, Sept. 12
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Fulton 1-0, Valdosta 1-0
- Series: Valdosta leads series 1-0
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 31, Fulton 6, 1986
- Last Week: Fulton 31, Mays 0; Valdosta 40, LaGrange 7
- On Deck: Waycross at Valdosta, Sept. 18

Laskey Shows Guts

Valdosta Times 9-24-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

If any Valdosta High player had overcome adversity in making the squad, perhaps no one has battled as fiercely as linebacker Beau Laskey.

Laskey, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound linebacker, is turning into one of the top defensive players at Valdosta, and in doing so has showed signs of determination and true competitive spirit.

"Beau is turning into a fine football player," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "Due to some adversities, Beau is having to learn the system quite fast, and adapting to his surroundings very well."

Because of an injured shoulder that required surgery, Laskey missed this season's spring drills.

But according to Rudolph, Laskey has had to come along way but has not been too impaired by the loss of spring work or recent surgery.

"He's a mentally tough kid, considering some of the setbacks he has had to overcome. Laskey has not let it

stand in his way of competing," Rudolph said.

Laskey lived in Michigan and Louisiana, before coming to Valdosta in 1985. His father, Bill Laskey, was an accomplished football player as well and played pro ball.

Laskey said having a father who played professionally for the Oakland Raiders and the Denver Broncos was not the main factor in influencing him to play ball.

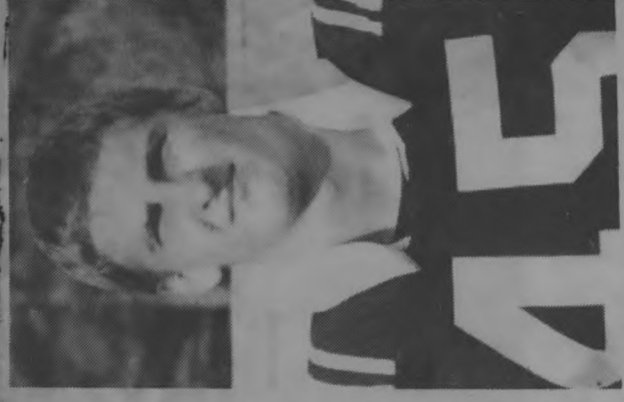
"I have always wanted to play football," said Laskey. "Except for guidance and encouragement, it has been my decision to play."

Since arriving in Valdosta his sophomore season, Laskey has been most impressed with the team concept, and the overall attitude of the players and the coaching staff here.

Pressure at Valdosta is enormous, but Laskey said it is one phase of the game that doesn't seem to bother him.

"I don't mind the pressure, because I just do not let it affect me while I'm playing," said Laskey. "All I can do is play the game the best I can."

Behind the coaching of ends and linebacker coach Charles Farpley, and defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph,



BEAU LASKEY
VHS Linebacker

Laskey seems to be coming into his own as a member of the Valdosta Wildcats.

"Beau does whatever is asked of him, and does that quite well," said Rudolph. "He is a team player."

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'Cats Outclass Quick Redbirds

Times 9-13-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High fell behind Fulton 7-0 at Cleveland Field Saturday night, but the 'Cats cruised back to a 26-7 victory over the Redbirds to up their record to 2-0 on the season.

Redbird running back George Wynn found a hole on the right side of the offensive line and rambled 85 yards for the score at the 9:10 mark in the first period.

Ramondo Davison added the extra point and Fulton enjoyed a brief 7-0 lead.

Later in the period, the Wildcats fell on a Redbird fumble on the Fulton 23-yard line. Five plays later Valdosta scored when quarterback B.J. Mason ran it in from the 1-yard line. Todd Peterson added the PAT to tie it at 7-7.

The big play of the drive was a 17-yard pass from Mason to tight end Charles Steward. Mason, however, completed only one more pass during the evening and backup quarterback Ben Hogan also completed two as Valdosta accumulated just 25 net yards in the air.

"This was one of the worse offensive games we've played since I have been here," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "We had no enthusiasm at all — we just went through the motions."

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder agreed with Baker that the offense did not look tremendous.

"The highlight of our game was the defense," Hyder said. "I don't know what the problem was on offense but I guess it says something for us as a team if we can win 26-7 when we're not playing well."

Valdosta scored its other 19 points during the first half, most of the scoring drives extremely short ones.

Valdosta made it 13-7 with 2:17 left in the first period when Joe Wright ran a

Fulton..... 7 0 0 0-7
Valdosta..... 13 13 0 0-26
Ful — George Wynn 87 run (Ramondo Davison kick)
Val — B.J. Mason 1 run (Todd Peterson kick)
Val — James Roberts 6 run (kick failed)
Val — Lawrence Sharpe 3 run (pass failed)
Val — Mason 1 run (Peterson kick)

First Downs..... Ful 8 Val 12
Yards Rushing..... 112 175
Rushing Attempts..... 35 45
Yards Passing..... 115 25
Passes..... 15-61 11-41
Fumbles Lost..... 5-4 2-2
Penalties..... 5-32.2 3-39.4
Rushing — Fulton, Wynn 6-89, Barlow 6-14, Mabry 11-13, Ragland 11(-4), Valdosta, Sharpe 7-35, Mason 7-38, Ceaser 10-21, Parker 7-33, Hogan 2-5.
Passing — Fulton, Ragland 14-8 115, Barlow 1-0 0
0, Valdosta, Mason 6-2 0 12, Hogan 4-2 0 13, Roberts 1-0 10.
Receiving — Fulton, Worham 3-42, Barlow 3-35, Mabry 2-28, Valdosta, Steward 2-12, Bullard 1-11, Thomas 1-2.
Missed Field Goals — Peterson, 53 F.G., 38 F.G.

punt 50 yards to the Fulton 6, and James Roberts plunged the ball in for the score.

Valdosta's Steve French then recovered a fumble on the Redbird 16 and fullback Lawrence Sharpe ran it in from the 3-yard line to make it 19-7. A two-point try failed.

Wildcat Demetricus Waters found another fumble in the closing moments of the first half and returned it 28 yards to the Fulton five and Mason dove in from the 1 two plays later. Peterson made the PAT with just :57 left in the first half to close out the scoring.

The second half was without incident save for a Fulton drive marked by a pair of sensational catches that moved the ball deep into Valdosta territory.

But on a third-and-goal from the three, 'Cat safety Eric Toth stopped Fulton quarterback Vaughn Ragland for no gain. Fulton went for it on fourth down but noseguard Robert Fillmore burst through the line to tag Ragland for a 4-yard loss.

Valdosta finished with 175 yards rushing on 45 carries. Sharpe carried the 12 times for 43 yards and Mason scrambled for 38 yards.

The Wildcats earned 12 first downs, six each half but none in the second period.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Quarterback B.J. Mason Turns The Corner Against An Oncoming Fulton Cardinal Defender

Wildcats

On Top

V. Times 9-23-87

The Associated Press

Three teams have been ranked No. 1 in Class AAA in Georgia high school football so far this young season, the latest being Central of Thomasville, and Coach Charlie Greene hopes his troops learned a lesson last year about being at the top.

"I agree it's a hard place to stay," Greene said. "We've got a pretty good group of kids that keep things on a pretty calm level. They realize being No. 1 that everybody's going to shoot at them; we learned that the hard way last season when we were ranked No. 1 and got knocked off real early."

Central moves up from No. 2 in this week's AP poll of sportswriters and broadcasters to replace Worth County, which held the top ranking for two weeks before losing last Friday to Thomasville. Villa Rica started the season No. 1 in AAA, but lost its first game.

Thomasville moves to No. 2, setting up a showdown with Central Oct. 16.

Central got eight first-place votes, Thomasville got four and No. 3 Lakeside got the other two.

The other No. 1 teams remain the same this week: Valdosta in AAAA, Central of Carrollton in AA and Lincoln County in A, the only unanimous No. 1 pick.

The Newnan Cougars, winners of three straight, replace winless Clarke Central in the top 10 in Class AAAA in this week's poll.

Newnan edges past Warner Robins and into the No. 9 spot to enter the rankings for the first time this season. Clarke Central, which lost the state championship game last year to Valdosta, has dropped its first two games this season and falls from the top 10.

The top 10 in each classification has a new team. In Class AAA, Hart County, 3-0, moves to the No. 10 spot while Americus, No. 8 last week, falls from the rankings after losing to Lowndes.

In Class AA, the new team is West Rome, 2-0 after downing archrival East Rome last weekend 14-0. East Rome, which at the time was the No. 2 team in Class A, falls to fifth. West Rome replaces East Hall at No. 10.

In Class A, the rising star is Brookstone, which twice has won impressively — 46-0 over Athens Academy in the season opener and 49-6 last weekend over Crawford County. Bowdon, which lost for the second time in three games, falls from the rankings.

Class AAAA

The top four teams are the same — Valdosta, Griffin, Baldwin and McEachern, although Griffin did manage to take away one of Valdosta's first-place votes this week, the first time the Wildcats have not been a unanimous choice.

No. 5 Evans, No. 6 Southwest DeKalb, No. 7 Tift Co. and No. 8 Lowndes each moved up one notch to fill the space left by Clarke Central's departure. Warner Robins stays 10th and Newnan moves to ninth.

Newnan has beaten McIntosh, Shaw and Fayette by an aggregate score of 126-29.

Class AAA

Central of Thomasville remained unbeaten with its 17-14 victory over AAAA Colquitt County last weekend.

Thomasville's 21-10 victory over Worth County propelled the Bulldogs from fourth to second, while Lakeside remains No. 3.

Marist moves past Villa Rica to take the No. 4 spot, and Worth County falls to No. 5. Villa Rica is No. 6, followed by Cedartown and Habersham Central.

Peach County falls two spots to No. 9 after its tough 21-20 loss to Mary Persons. Hart County moves into 10th after its third straight victory. The Bulldogs have yielded only seven points in those three games.

Class AA

AA is the most stable classification so far this season. The first nine teams are the same and in the same order: Central of Carrollton remains No. 1, then Robert E. Lee at No. 2, Camden County at No. 3, Swainsboro at No. 4.

Mary Persons remains fifth after its dramatic victory over Peach County; Manchester is sixth, Greene-Taliaferro is seventh, Washington-Wilkes is eighth and Lovett is ninth.

The only change is at No. 10, where West Rome edged East Hall, although East Hall won last week, 14-6 over Morgan County. But West Rome beat highly regarded East Rome in convincing fashion.

Class A

Lincoln County got all 14 first-place votes and remains No. 1. Louisville moves up a notch to No. 2.

Clinch Co., tied last week with Louisville, now has the No. 3 spot all to itself.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Fri., Sept. 18, 1987 3-A

7 Area Students Picked To Seek 'Merit Scholar'

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Seven area youth have been selected as semifinalists in the 33rd annual Merit Program sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Local semifinalists are from four different high schools including Beth A. Haywood from Lowndes High School.

Semifinalists from Valdosta High School were Ann L. Clark, Holly A. Davis, Jeffrey S. Lahr and Gregory N. Leong.

From The Valwood School, Kristin L. Carpenter was a semifinalist as was Darin M. Cowart from Cook County High School.

These area students were among some 15,000 young men and women across the country who were selected as semifinalists.

These academically talented high school seniors in all 50 states will have an opportunity to continue in the 1988 competition for above 6,000 Merit Scholarships worth over \$23 million.

More than one million students in some 19,000 U.S. secondary schools entered the current Merit Program by taking a qualifying test, the

PSAT/NMSQT, in 1986 when they were juniors. The top scorers in every state, representing about half of one percent of the state's high school graduating class, are included in the nationwide Semi-finalist pool.

To be considered for Merit Scholarships, semifinalists must first become finalists by meeting high academic standards, being fully endorsed and recommended by their high schools, taking the SAT and confirming their qualifying test performance and submitting information about their school and community activities, personal interests, and goals.

Approximately 13,500 of the semifinalists are expected to advance to finalist standing and to compete for merit scholarships in 1988. About 44 percent of the distinguished finalists will receive a Merit Scholarship and all winners, regardless of the type of award offered will be chosen from the finalist group.

Every finalist will be considered for one of 1,800 National Merit \$2,000 Scholarships, awards that are distributed on a state representational basis according to each state's percentage of the total of U.S. 12th graders. Winners will be selected by a committee of college admission professionals who will judge which finalists in each state have the strongest combination of academic and extracurricular accomplishments.

Corporations, foundations, and other business organizations also will underwrite some 1,400 Merit Scholarships for finalists who meet their preferential criteria.

Most sponsors designate their awards for finalists who are children of their employees, residents of an area the company serves, or finalists with career goals the sponsor wishes to encourage. Nearly all corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships are renewable and provide between \$500 and \$8,000 for each college undergraduate year; a few are one-time awards of \$2,000.

The 1988 class of Merit Scholars to be announced next spring will join some 102,500 other academic champions who have received Merit Scholarships worth \$310 million since the first Merit Program was completed in 1956.

'Cats Hold Off Feisty WHS

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats turned away a pesky Waycross squad 38-29 in front of a partisan Wildcat crowd at Cleveland Field Friday night.

The Bulldogs showed that they came to play after losing to Coffee County last week. Waycross marched the length of the field on its first possession, going 69-yards in only seven plays to take an early 7-0 lead.

"We were not to be denied," said Waycross head coach Dale Williams. "I think we showed a lot of character."

The opening drive was capped by a 20-yard run by speedster, Barry Boyd.

The 'Cats, however, bounced right back, as they drove 55 yards in 10 plays to knot the score at seven. The drive was capped with a 5-yard run by Isaac Ceasar at the 5:47 mark in the second quarter.

The lead was short lived, as the Bulldogs scored on a 55-yard pass play from quarterback Bill Roach to, who else, Boyd.

The scoring drive only consumed 1:30 as the Bulldogs once again jumped on top of the Valdosta Wildcats 14-7.

Valdosta once again gathered itself to score the tying touchdown keyed by a 35-yard run by James Roberts that moved the ball down to the Waycross 10. Ceasar scored his second touchdown of the night from 10-yards out.

The 'Cats' defense stiffened, and with 1:56 left on the clock in the first half the Bulldogs were forced to punt



Isaac Ceasar Breaks Loose On Touchdown Run

in from four yards out, as Valdosta took what seemed a commanding lead of 35-14.

But the Bulldogs once again came roaring back on the arm of Bill Roach. The Waycross quarterback threw a 15-yard pass to a wide open receiver to

tighten the lead at 35-20, and a two-point conversion was stopped by the Wildcats.

Entering the 4th quarter, the Bulldogs were on the move again. A 22-yard field goal by Jeff Jacobs cut the Wildcat margin to 35-23.

'Cats' Quarterback B.J. Mason Turns Upfield

"They just kept on coming," Hyder said. "They just flat came to play."

Valdosta answered that score with one of their own. Driving 40 yards to the Waycross 12, placekicker Todd Peterson gave the Wildcats their last score of the ballgame at the 5:08 mark, contention at 38-29.

The Bulldogs wasted no time on their next possession, a 75-yard pass from Roach to Boyd put the Bulldogs back in contention at 38-29.

Times Staff Photos by Bob Lupinek

Waycross.....	7	7	6	9	29
Valdosta.....	0	21	14	3	38
Way — Barry Boyd 20 pass from Bill Roach (Jeff Jacobs kick)					
Val — Isaac Ceasar 5 run (Todd Peterson kick)					
Way — Boyd 85 pass from Roach (Jacobs kick)					
Val — Ceasar 10 run (Peterson kick)					
Val — Reginald Dandy 55 punt return (Peterson kick)					
Val — James Roberts 45 run (Peterson kick)					
Val — Carlos Parker 4 run (Peterson kick)					
Way — Jackson 15 run (run failed)					
Way — Jacobs 22 FG					
Val — Peterson 29 FG					
Way — Boyd 75 pass from Roach (run failed)					

First Downs	Way	Val
Yards Rushing	16	17
Rushing Attempts	164	281
Yards Passing	34	42
Passes	208	67
Fumbles:Lost	12-8-1	8-4-0
Punting	2-0	2-1
Penalties	4-31-0	2-37-5
Rushing — Valdosta, Ceasar 16-96, Roberts 9-89, Mason 10-55, Parker 3-15, Wright 3-21, Waycross, Boyd 15-153, Roach 11-12, Medlock 5-10, White 3-(-11)		
Passing — Valdosta, Mason 8-40-67, Waycross, Roach 12-8-1208		
Receiving — Valdosta, Roberts 1-42, Carter 2-15, Steward 1-10, Waycross, Boyd 4-130, Williams 1-23, Nichols 1-55		

from their own 23-yard line.

Return artist Reginald Dandy gave the Wildcats a lift by returning the punt 55-yards, to give the Cats a 21-14 lead.

The 'Cats came out of the locker room determined, and wasted no time on increasing their lead to 28-14. Running back James Roberts scored on a 45-yard touchdown run.

"Roberts, and Ceasar turned in clutch performances," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Led by B.J. Mason, the offense dug in and played hardnosed football."

Valdosta's next scoring drive was set up by a 45-yard punt return by Joe Wright, to the Waycross 13-yard line.

From there, Carlos Parker rambled

Hyder Shooting For 200th Win

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder will be attempting Friday to do what no other coach in Georgia high school history has done, and that is win 200 games in twenty seasons.

Hyder enters the Leon-Valdosta matchup with a career record of 199-36-4, a career that started back in 1968.

A win Friday night would give him the record. But Hyder does not see it as so much of an individual honor.

"Unselfish people working together for one common goal, that's winning," said Hyder. "That's what it is all about."

"So many people are responsible for my success, and it's unfair to give me all the credit," Hyder said.

From 1970-1986, Hyder has been named either Georgia Coach of the Year or Region Coach of the Year. Ten times in the last seventeen years and four of the last six, Hyder has been coach of the year. Hyder was also named National Coach of the Year in 1984.

Hyder began his career at West Rome high school, where he was an assistant for ten years before becoming Athletic Director and head coach in 1968.

Hyder compiled a 53-12-3 record at West Rome, with his first career victory coming against Charlie Brake's

Westminster team 35-27.

In 1974, Hyder left West Rome and arrived in Valdosta to take over as Wildcat head coach. His first season may have been forgotten by fans, but Hyder hasn't. According to Hyder, it was a year to remember.

"The '74 squad stands out in my mind because of the determination, and dedication those men had," said Hyder. "Although we were 3-7, we could have easily been 0-10 if it were not for a relentless effort they gave for themselves, and more importantly the Wildcat tradition," said Hyder.

"Since then the records speak for themselves, such as four state titles, one state runner-up, and two national titles."

And in the last ten years, the 'Cats have played for the region championship every season.

All games are of the utmost importance to Hyder, but one game does stand out above the rest, and that game was the State Championship of 1978 against the Griffin Bears.

Griffin had one of the more talented teams in Georgia history with laden likes of Willie Gault (Chicago Bears), Freddie Gilbert (Denver Broncos), and Florida State standout Ricky Williams.

"That may have been the toughest team I have ever had to coach against," Hyder said.

Coaching twenty seasons, Hyder has built a common bond between his

coaching opponents and that is respect. "Every coach deserves respect," said Hyder. "Coaches are teachers as well as instructors on the football field, and the teaching of priorities is a must.

"If there was one thing I could change in my twenty years of coaching, I would have incorporated my priorities sooner in my coaching career," Hyder said.

According to Hyder, as long as Valdosta allows him to coach, and he is able to make a worthwhile contribution he will coach several more years.

Hyder's showed no signs of slowing down. Valdosta has won 18 games in a row, and the Wildcats are an incredible 87-7-0 in the 1980s.

Big Cats Ready To Lock Up

V. Times 9-24-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The nation's winningest high school football team, the Valdosta Wildcats, will take on Florida's winningest team, the Leon Lions, 8 p.m. Friday night at Cleveland Field.

This is a rematch of last year's game in which Valdosta defeated the Lions 28-3, witnessed by 23,000 at Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee.

Valdosta comes into the game leading the season series 4-2. The 'Cats will once again be led by senior quarterback B.J. Mason, who had a fine performance in last week's victory over Waycross. Mason was 4-for-8 for 67 yards passing.

Valdosta's steady offensive line will get a boost this week, with the return of 6-foot-1, 245 pound tackle Andy Anderson. Anderson is returning from knee surgery that kept him out of the first three games.

"The offensive line is making very good progress," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder.

The return of Anderson should toughen an already top offensive line led by the likes of senior tackle Todd Pitchford (225), senior guard Jack Morgan (215), junior center David Hazelhurst (205), junior guard Andy Rykard (210), and freshman tackle Shawn Eilders (245).

According to Hyder, there is no real game plan or schemes, only to take advantage of what Leon is willing to give the 'Cats.

V. Times Sat., Sept. 26, 1987

Hyder Wins 200th

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder became the first high school football coach in Georgia to win 200 games in 20 years when the Wildcats posted an impressive 41-20 win over Tallahassee's Leon High here Friday night.

Hyder's career record is now 200-36-4. He got his first head coaching position at West Rome High School where he coached from 1968 through 1973 and compiled a 53-12-1 record. He took over at Valdosta in 1974 with a 3-7 record but has been 140-17-1 since his initial season in Valdosta.

He has won four state titles (1978, 1982, 1984, 1986) and two national titles (1984 and 1986).

While Hyder is proud of his accomplishments he was quick to give credit to those who have helped him through the years. A deeply religious man, Hyder is especially grateful to his God.

"I have a strong belief in my creator," Hyder said. "It's a deeply personal thing."

Hyder also credited the community for being so supportive and expressed a deep thanks to his coaching staff. He has lost only two coaches in his 14 years at Valdosta.

Hyder has adopted a priority system that he has tried to instill in his players, and he credits the establishment of this system for much of his success.

God, family, academics and Wildcats can be seen scrawled across any blackboard Hyder's been near. And those are the priorities Hyder endorses — in that order.

Hyder grew up in Tennessee and was strongly influenced by his parents, who impressed on him the importance of setting goals and never giving up.

"If I fell out of an airplane without a parachute, my mother would expect me to manufacture one on the way down," mused Hyder. "My parents taught me never to give up."

Another person who influenced Hyder was former Tennessee coach General Bob Neyland. Those avid football fans will remember Neyland as the coach with the highest winning percentage in SEC history at 83 percent.

Hyder first remembers watching the Neyland coached Vols in 1946 do battle with the University of North Carolina. Hyder was 11 then, and realized he wanted to be a football coach.

"I always wanted to be a coach," said Hyder. "I wanted to be the best coach in the world. My parents taught me to strive to be the best at whatever I did. If I was a garbage man, they would want me to get that rag and be the best garbage man ever."

This yearning for perfection has driven Hyder through the years. He went on to play college ball at Carson-Newman College where he was a blocking back and defensive cornerback. Hyder also called offensive plays. According to Hyder, he wasn't a naturally gifted athlete.

"I really wasn't very good, but I tried so hard and I believed in the team concept so strongly that almost any coach was willing to have me," Hyder said.

It is this attitude of perseverance that Hyder has tried to get his players to understand — and not just on the football field.



NICK HYDER
Valdosta Head Coach

"Academics come first," said Hyder. "That's why the schools are here to begin with. But that's also why I pushed so hard for spring practice for football. We are teaching these youngsters things that can help them in the classroom."

Those students participating in athletics have a lower dropout rate than the overall dropout figures for high school.

Hyder also credits high school football for helping the integration process in the south.

"Football was about the only place where there has been integration without bloodshed," said Hyder. "These players learn to respect each other as human beings, and that's one great part of the game."

Hyder does not fit in with the stereotype of the football coach as a jock. He has taught high school algebra, and his father is a PhD.

"Football is part of the educational system," said Hyder. "It is useful. Everyone at this school is a teacher. I just happen to love teaching football."

V. Times 9-26-87

'Cats Stun

Leon 41-20

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats made head coach Nick Hyder's 200th career win look too easy here Friday night as Valdosta easily defeated Leon of Tallahassee 41-20 at Cleveland Field.

The 'Cats drove the ball 97 yards on their first possession in 15 plays to take the lead 7-0, a lead they would never relinquish.

Issac Ceaser capped the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run.

After the impressive drive by Valdosta, Leon answered with a scoring march of its own, going 15-plays in 80-yards to knot the lead at 7-7, on a 8-yard run by Mike McClinton.

From there, the 'Cats never looked back, scoring once again on their second possession keyed by a 69-yard run from scrimmage by James Roberts.

From the 10-yard line, Ceaser scored his second of three touchdowns on the night to give the Wildcats a 14-7 lead.

"I thought it was real imperative that we come out with a good showing early," said offensive backfield coach Mike O'Brien. "The key play without a doubt was Roberts' 69-yard run to set up the go ahead score."

Valdosta placekicker Todd Peterson had a fine night connecting on two field goals one from 43 and 45-yards respectively.

Peterson's 43-yard field goal put the Wildcats up 17-7, after defensive back Eric Toth picked off a John Haley pass to give Valdosta good field position.

Before the end of the first half, Ceaser scampered 4-yards to up the Wildcat margin to 24-7.

"The offensive line played super," said Hyder. "Coach Mike O'Brien's call for the Roberts' touchdown was perfect; he deserves all the credit. It was a great call."

Trailing 24-7 going into the second half of play, it did not do the Lions' spirits any good to see the 'Cats take the ball and proceed to drive the length

Leon	7	0	7	6	20
Valdosta	7	17	17	0	41

Val — Isaac Ceaser 1 run (Todd Peterson kick)	Leo	20	17
Val — Mike McClinton 8 run (Brian Karkoska kick)	Leo	144	238
Val — Ceaser 10 run (Peterson kick)	Leo	38	35
Val — Peterson 43 fg	Leo	146	58
Val — Ceaser 4 run (Peterson kick)	Leo	22-16-3	8-5-0
Val — B.J. Mason 52 run (Peterson kick)	Leo	2-41-0	1-25-0
Val — Peterson 45 fg	Leo	5-30	10-30
Val — Charles Steward 5 pass from Mason (Peterson kick)	Leo	40, Hogan 3-1-0 18	
Leo — Anthony Thompson 37 pass from John Haley (Karkoska kick)	Leo	4-36	Thompson 2-67
Leo — John Gladden 9 pass from Haley (kick failed)	Leo	1-9	

of the field again.

In only three plays, Valdosta drove the ball 64 yards in only one minute and twenty seven seconds to stretch the lead to 31-7, with quarterback B.J. Mason running 52 yards for the score.

"That was the backbreaker," Leon head coach Gene Cox said. "They come at us from every direction."

Amidst all the scoring by the 'Cats, the 'Valdosta defense had its share in the victory as well.

"Interceptions by Eric Toth and Demetricus Waters were very big plays in the game," Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "Any time you can keep an explosive team such as Leon off the field, we'll take it."

With Leon trying to get back in the contest, Jason Bridges recovered a McClinton fumble which led to another Valdosta score, this time coming from 45-yards out as Todd Peterson drilled the long field-goal to widen the gap to 34-7.

Late in the third quarter Valdosta struck again. After a Waters interception at the 5:16 mark, the 'Cats only needed one minute before Mason hit



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Running Back Isaac Ceaser Bursts Through The Line For A Touchdown

tight-end Charles Steward from five yards out as the Wildcats were on cruise control with a 31-point lead, 41-7. "Leon is an explosive football team," said Hyder. "With competitors such as Haley, McClinton, and Randolph, the game is never over."

A quote was never so true, for on the

next Lion possession, they immediately went 68 yards in only 7 plays, as the Leon squad pulled to 41-14, with a 37-yard touchdown pass from Haley to Anthony Thompson, a scoring drive that only took 2:56 off the clock.

After a Leon fumble recovery, the Lions were on the move again. In just two plays, the Lion offense scored from nine yards out on a pass from Haley to John Gladden to open the fourth quarter.

From there the Valdosta defense took over and the 200th victory for Nick Hyder was close at hand.

From The Classroom

FBLA Officers

By Sirena Gosier
Special to the Times

The 1987-88 officers of VHS FBLA met Wednesday morning at Shoney's to plan the year's activities. Advisors Maxine Martin and Lynne Joiner were on hand to assist the new officers.

This school year's officers are President, Debra Waters; Vice President, David Cole; Secretary, Kelisa Brown; Treasurer, Marianne Moore; Reporter, Sirena Gosier; Historian, Tanya Mabry; and Parliamentarian, Brian Mueller.

will be given a badge with the theme, "Catch The Wave."

Advisors for the chapter are Mrs. L. Daughtrey, Mrs. E. Rayford, and Mrs. K. Zahmiser.

Y-Club Officers

By Melanie Whiggs
Special to the Times

The Valdosta High School Y-Club has elected officers for the 1987-88 school.

The new officers are Lisa Scherer, president; David Odell, vice-president; Dennis Hall, chaplain; Nanci Nichols, secretary; Blair Barnette, treasurer; Katrina Scribbon, school projects chairman; Marsha Tucker, community projects co-chairman; Michaelann Wells, publicity co-chairman; Melanie Whiggs, publicity co-chairman; and Patti Smith, World service and Home Extension chairman.

Student Council

By Simone Allen
Special to the Times

As the 1987-88 school year begins, the student council starts to prepare for upcoming events. At the end of summer student council members made identification cards for all students attending VHS this year.

For the students who would not take their ID's on August 20th and August 21st, make-up ID's were made before school in the mornings and during lunch. On August 24th the student council sponsored a breakfast for the teachers during their pre-planning week.

The student council is meeting this week to begin planning the Homecoming festivities to be held on October 23rd and 24th. The new officers for the 1987-88 school year are Stephanie Culverhouse, president; Susan Burns, vice-president; Simone Allen, secretary; and Lee Thomas, treasurer.

VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

FHA Drive

To kick off their membership drive, the Valdosta High Future Homemakers have chosen as their theme, "Catch the Wave." Members have carried the theme out by displaying posters in the Home Economics Dept. and throughout the school.

Several activities have been planned. A skate party was held at Holiday Skate Place, Wednesday, Sept. 12th. The members enjoyed a fun filled afternoon. Coming events include, a "Bring Your Banana Party", students will be able to create their own ice cream sundae. The membership drive will continue throughout October 9th.

As members join the chapter they

Valdosta High Interact Students Selected

By Leslie Hiers
VHS Reporter
9-26-87

The Interact Students of the Week for Valdosta High School have been announced. Four students have been selected.

The first is Sonji Barnes, the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Barnes. She attends Lee Street Church of Christ and is a member of the FBLA, the PAMS club, and the Marchin' Cats Drill Team at V.H.S.

She participated in the 1987 Miss V.H.S. pageant, Who's Who Among American High School Students, and plans to attend DeVry Institute in Atlanta. She wants to pursue a career in computer programming.

Kanawha Braswell, the daughter of Ellen Braswell attends First Presbyterian Church. She is a member of Interact, Beta club, played saxophone in the band for two years and plays softball.

She plans to own a business after attending the University of Georgia. Kanawha was one of the first girls to play on the YMCA Boy's baseball team and attended the VSC baseball camp.

Krista Bradford is the 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Bradford. She attends Cornerstone Methodist church and is a member of the Interact club, the Foreign Language club, FBLA and the National Spanish Honor Society at VHS.

She has been selected for Who's Who Among American High School Students and Who's Who in Foreign Language. Krista works in the business office at South Georgia Medical Center and plans to be a psychiatrist.

The fourth Interact Student of the Week is Natalie Bishop, who attends the first Baptist Church with her parents Royce and Delia Bishop. This VHS senior is a member of Sigma Delta Theta sorority, in DECA, Interact, and was in FHA for three years. Natalie is employed at Barbara's Bridal Boutique and plans to be an interior designer.

Other students chosen for Interact Students of the Week since the beginning of school are as follows:

David Cole is the 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Cole. He is a senior at Valdosta High and attends First Presbyterian Church. David is the president of Interact, secretary of the Key Club, and the vice-president of FBLA. His hobbies include reading and watching old movies. David attended the 1987 Governor's Honors Program in Executive Management.

Brian Mueller is the son of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Timothy Mueller. He is a 17-year-old senior at VHS and participates in varsity wrestling, the Key Club, Beta Club and Interact. He serves as treasurer of Interact. Brian attends Trinity Presbyterian Church, works at the Winn Dixie Marketplace, and plans to be an Electrical Engineer.

Jason Bridges is the 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bridges. He attends First Methodist Church and participates in Wildcat football and

other varsity sports. Jason is the President-Elect of Interact, the Secretary of the junior class on student council, and a member of the Key Club.

Julie Andersen is the daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Paul C. Andersen. She is a junior at VHS and is 16-years-old. She has won several math awards at competitions with the VHS Math Team and is also a member of the Beta Club. Julie attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church and worked at the Appalachia Service Project in Virginia. She is moving to Germany in October and later plans to be in Commercial Advertising.

Toni Essinger is the 16-year-old daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Robert Knox. She is on the Youth Council at Park Avenue Methodist Church and is a member of the choir. She played the clarinet in band for 4 years and enjoys working with children and reading. After college, Toni wants to work as a child psychologist.

Leslie Hiers is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John T. Hiers. She is a junior at VHS and is 16-years-old. Leslie is a member of the Beta Club, the Reporter/Historian of Interact and plays the French horn in the VHS band. She is also a member of the National Piano Guild. She is an active youth at Christ Episcopal Church. Leslie hopes to be a marine biologist.

Jamie Essinger is the 16-year-old daughter of Lt. Col. Robert and Mrs. Billye Knox. She is a junior at Valdosta High and attends Park Avenue United Methodist Church. She traveled to Texas with the church choir and participated in the Appalachia Service Project in Jonesville, Va. this summer. Jamie plans to be a high school teacher after college.

Laura McMillan is the 16-year-old daughter of Arthur and Elaine McMillan. She attends Lee Street Baptist Church where she is in the youth choir, active in the youth group, and is on the Youth Council. She has been the Interact secretary for two years. Laura, now a senior, is also a member of the Beta Club and Vica. She was a member of the Student Council her junior year. She works for Dr. Moorman and plans to attend college.

Melanie Denmark, 17, attends Park Avenue Methodist Church with her parents, Jim and Sue Denmark. This senior is the social chairman of Interact, a member of the student council, the Senior class president and is a mat-girl. She works at Camera America and plans to be a CPA.

Deania Denmark is the 16-year-old daughter of Glenn and Pat Denmark. She is active in the youth group, choir, and girls assembly. Deania is the school projects chairman for Interact, in VICA, has been a mat-girl for 3 years and a bat-girl for 2 years. She is employed by Dr. F.L. Smotherman, DDS and plans to go to college for nursing or dentistry.

Susan Burns attends First United Methodist Church with her family. The daughter of Mrs. Jan Burns, Susan, is Vice-President of the Student Council.

Chaplain of Interact, and member of DECA and Beta Club. This senior at VHS attended Georgia Girls State this summer. She works at Slender You and hopes to attend Auburn University.

Kathy Farley is the 16-year-old daughter of Vince and Cathy Farley. She is the President of Catholic Youth Organization and attends St. John's Catholic Church. She is a senior at Valdosta High, a member of the Beta Club and is the Community Projects Chairman of Interact. She was an English major at the Governor's Honors Program and is listed in Who's Who in American High School Students. Kathy works at the Valdosta Police Department and plans to be a lawyer.

Alan Gollivesky is the son of Norman and Francis Gollivesky. He is involved in the conduction of Sabbath services at the Temple Israel. Alan is the Parliamentarian of Interact and was

Students Prepare In Summer; Debaters Ready For New Year

By Jay Connell
Special to the Times

In preparation for the 1987-88 season five students attended workshops over the summer. Susie Grant and Barry Gollivesky attended an Emory University workshop in Atlanta for two weeks.

Kelly Shelton attended the National Debate Institute at the University of Vermont for three weeks. Holly Davis went to West Georgia College in Carrollton for a week and Michelle Jones participated in a workshop at Mercer University in Macon.

The national high school debate topic for 1987-88 is "Resolved that the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America."

Debaters have been researching the

Interact Freshman of the Year in 1987. He is a sophomore at VHS and plans to be an accountant. Alan also has two sisters, Robin and Marcie.

Joy O'Neal is the 17-year-old daughter of Betty and Frank O'Neal and is a member of the youth department at St. Paul A.M.E. Church. She is on the VHS Drill Team in the band and is a Pams Club officer. She is in the Society of Distinguished American High School Students and is listed in Who's Who in American High School Students. She is employed at the Closet in the Valdosta Mall and plans to be a journalist.

topic and holding intrasquad debates this month to prepare for competition.

The VHS debate club plans to participate in the Westminster Novice Debate Tournament on Saturday, September 26, in Atlanta. Competing in the junior varsity division will be Holly Davis and Barry Gollivesky and Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton.

Novice debaters include Terry Snyder, Susie Grant, and James Coffman and Michelle Jones.

Debate club members are planning to sell spirit buttons to raise money to help pay tournament and travel expenses. A debate booster membership drive will start next month.

Valdosta High has won the Region 1-AAAA Debates five of the past six years. VHS placed third in the States Debates last year.



Its 200th For Coach Hyder

Valdosta High School Football Coach Nick Hyder is given a lift off Cleveland Field Friday night after teams under his leadership have won 200 victories. The victory for the team came over Leon High of Tallahassee. Hyder is surrounded by players, boosters and friends while he reaches for the people who win games---his players. Hyder took a few minutes to celebrate and started preparing for next week, he told sportswriters. —Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Field Position Costs Tift County

By TOM SHARP
Associated Press Writer

Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder Friday night became the first coach in Georgia high school football history to get 200 victories in 20 seasons as his Wildcats trampled Leon, Fla., 41-20.

Valdosta, No. 1 in Class AAAA and the defending state champions, led 24-7 at the half behind Isaac Ceaser's three touchdown runs, and stretched it to 41-7 by late in the third quarter.

Quarterback B.J. Mason ran 52 yards for one touchdown and passed 5 yards to Charles Steward for another.

In a game between two ranked AAAA teams, No. 10 Warner Robins kept No. 7 Tift County bottled up in its own end of the field practically all night to post a 10-3 victory in Tifton.

Tift never started farther upfield than its own 29 yard line, and with two of its best running backs benched for disciplinary reasons, managed just six first downs, five in one possession.

Warner Robins scored on a 21-yard run by John Perkins and got a 42-yard field goal by David Compagna as time expired in the half.

Lincoln County, No. 1 in Class A, showed what speed can do in downing Class AA No. 7 Greene-Taliaferro 28-23 in Greensboro. The Red Devils never sustained an offensive drive, but they didn't have to. All four scoring plays covered more than 50 yards.

Garrison Hearst scored on runs of 80 and 78 yards on consecutive possessions in the third quarter to rally the Red Devils from a 17-14 deficit.

Lincoln also scored on a 53-yard pass interception return by Dewayne Simmons and a 55-yard scoring run by Bernard Hearst.

Three other ranked teams lost.

Class AA No. 3 Camden County was upset 21-17 by Middleburg, Fla., when the Broncos drove 72 yards and scored the winning touchdown with 56 seconds to play.

West Rome, No. 10 in Class AA, lost 27-10 to Cartersville, and Commerce, No. 4 in Class A, was upset 23-22 by Madison Co.

Class AAAA

No. 2 Griffin continued its winning ways, going to 4-0 with a 23-7 victory over Jonesboro.

No. 4 McEachern scored on the second play from scrimmage, a 36-yard pass from Greg Stewart to Eric Reily, and went on to beat South Cobb 21-7. Kevin Coleman scored from 6 yards out in the third quarter, and Marcus Gober iced the cake with a 43-yard TD run for the Indians.

South Cobb's Kelvin Bowen rushed 23 times for 136 yards and a touchdown.

No. 6 Southwest DeKalb clobbered Stone Mountain 40-6.

No. 8 Lowndes manhandled Waycross 36-14. Mark Walker rushed 17 times for 110 yards and three touchdowns to lead Lowndes.

All the ranked teams that played won.

Quarterback Shawn Jones led No. 2 Thomasville to a 35-7 decision over Westover. He rushed for 159 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries, and completed eight of 18 passes for 133 yards and another TD.

No. 3 Lakeside continued to roll with a 42-7 victory over Peachtree. No. 4 Marist downed Shamrock 31-0 as Hal Crosswell ran for one touchdown and returned an intercepted pass 35 yards for another.

No. 5 Worth County beat Cook 47-13.

No. 7 Cedartown beat Murray County 35-15 behind LeWayne Ridgeway's three touchdowns. He ran 122 yards on 17 carries. David Pace had a 48-yard touchdown run.

No. 8 Habersham Central clobbered South Gwinnett 48-0, and Peach County beat Carver of Atlanta 27-6.

Tenth-ranked Hart County got two touchdown passes from Spezio Stowers of 20 yards to Rodney Crossley and 30 yards to Daryl Rucker and beat Franklin County 27-10 in a game Franklin led 10-0 at one point.

Class AA

Top-ranked Central of Carrollton won its 13th straight game, an impressive 41-0 trouncing of Model, which had yielded just 14 points in three previous victories this year.

Tailback Walt Crowder rushed for two first-half touchdowns and quarterback Mark Holt threw for two more to stake the Lions to a 28-0 lead at intermission, and the Carrollton defense held Model to just 32 total yards for the night.

Class A

No. 2 Louisville shutout Jenkins County 26-0.

Third-ranked Clinch County downed McIntosh County Academy 27-8 as Herbert Mingo scored two TDs, one on a 91-yard kickoff return. He also rushed for 104 yards on 16 carries.

No. 4 Commerce controlled everything but the scoreboard in losing 23-22 to Madison County.

Trailing 22-16, Madison drove 54 yards in seven plays and scored with 1:16 to play on a 3-yard run by Eric Wymbys to tie. After a 15-yard holding penalty Mitch Hardeman kicked a long extra point for the winning point.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Swarming Valdosta Wildcat Defense Closes In On Leon- Tallahassee Running Back During Friday's Game
V. Times 9-27-87

Valdosta, Lowndes Atop 1-AAAA Again

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson could hardly expect their teams to be playing any better headed into the first week of Region 1-AAAA games.

After being tested by a talented Waycross bunch, the Valdosta Wildcats rebounded to thrash Leon of Tallahassee 41-20 Friday night.

Lowndes, meanwhile, stepped all over Waycross, leading 36-0 before the Bulldogs scored two touchdowns on the second and third team defense.

I know it's a little early for this sports writer to be making predictions, but I can't help feeling it will be Lowndes and Valdosta once again in the Region 1-AAAA title game.

The only team that may challenge the two is Tift County, but the Blue Devils are 1-2 and appear to have all the offensive punch of the Baltimore Colts.

What's impressive about Valdosta's last two wins is the fact that the Wildcats have done it without the services of running back Lawrence Sharpe.



Mike Colombo
 Times Sports Writer

Sharpe has been benched for disciplinary reasons, but that hasn't hurt the Wildcat running game any. James Roberts, Isaac Ceaser, and BJ Mason combined for 238 yards against Leon and all are near the top in the region rushing statistics.

Back for the Wildcats was offensive lineman Andy Anderson, who missed the first three games with a leg injury.

"For the running game to work, you have to execute. That means the line has to block well," said Valdosta's Hyder, who became the first high

school coach in Georgia to win 200 games in 20 seasons with the win over Leon.

"Our front line deserves a lot of credit. Todd Pitchford, David Hazelhurst, Jackie Morgan, Andy Rykard and Steve Smith have done fine jobs. Shawn Eilders has come in and gotten some golden experience, and that's rare for a freshman lineman."

But equally impressive is Lowndes' running game. Running back Mark Walker had another vintage night against Waycross, gaining 110 yards on 17 carries. Walker got help from Bennie Pierce and Bobo Perry. This is the strongest rushing offense Lowndes has had in years.

Lowndes' defense, however, is playing incredible. Anchored by noseguard Chuck Miller and linebacker Fast Freddy Richardson, Lowndes has proven to be a brick wall against the running game.

While Waycross finished with 172 rushing yards, the Bulldogs had only 29 after the first half and got the vast majority of their rushing yardage on

two long runs.

In other action around the area, Clinch County's Herbert Mingo solidified his ranking with the best running backs in the area by rushing for 104 yards on 16 carries and returning a kickoff 91 yards for a score. Clinch whipped McIntosh County Academy 27-8 and is 4-0.

In Nashville, Jason Hamil returned to play after recuperating from a collar bone fracture. Hamil immediately made his presence felt, catching a touchdown pass from Ben Smith in the Rebels' 14-0 win over Turner County.

The Valwood Valiants proved me wrong by thrashing Bulloch Academy 47-0 in Statesboro. That game featured the return of Rusty Byington at quarterback. Byington led the team to a state title in 1985, but did not play at Valwood last season. Until Friday, Byington was the No. 2 man to Danny Swilley.

Byington passed for 90 yards, completing 9-of-12 with no interceptions and one touchdown.

LHS, VHS Ready For Region Tourney

V. Times 10-6-87

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Both the Valdosta and Lowndes softball teams will be trying to atone for sub-par seasons when the two squads travel to Tifton today for the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament.

Action will get underway this afternoon at the H.B. Hamilton Softball Complex.

The Lady Wildcats will play their first game at 4:30 against Monroe. If coach Susan Montgomery's team is successful, they will play regular season champion Tift County at 5:45.

Tift wound up the regular season with a 16-0 mark.

Lowndes will play at 4:30 against Colquitt County. The Lowndes-Colquitt winner will take on the winner of the Westover-Dougherty game at 7:00.

Valdosta is coming into the tournament with a little bit of momentum after sweeping a double header from

Lowndes by the scores of 6-3 and 4-2. This was the first season Valdosta has put together a softball team and coach Montgomery is generally pleased with the results.

"I am really pleased with the progress the girls have made in this our first season," she said. "Overall we made our share of errors this first season but that comes from a lack of playing together more than anything else.

"We only have three seniors on the team and I was very happy with the job they did. I was happy to have all the girls who turned out to play this year. All we can do is get better."

Valdosta finished the season 6-10 and 6-6 in the region.

"That's not too bad a record considering it was our first season, especially since Tifton and Colquitt County have been playing for five years and Monroe only three," Montgomery said.

Laura Dennis, one of the seniors,

leads the Wildcat attack. The first baseman, who this summer played for the Valdosta Sluggers, batted a cool 548.

"I feel that she is the best first baseman in region 1-AAAA and I've told the rest of the girls on the team that they had better be glad she's on our team," Montgomery said. "She's our big hitter. Both of our pitchers, Alice Creque and Barbara Isom, have also done a good job."

Another Lady Wildcat who has stood out is shortstop Sissy Anderson, a transfer from Valwood, who batted 500.

"The region tournament is a whole new season and anything can happen," Montgomery said. "If we beat Monroe we will have to turn right around and play Tifton. Maybe since we would be coming off a win, and Tifton has been sitting back, we could have some sort of advantage."

But while Valdosta managed six victories in its inaugural season, Lowndes has struggled from day one,

finishing with an 0-12 mark.

And the prospects in the region tournament are not much brighter. Senior shortstop Dana Hillman who signed with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, the Vikettes leading hitter at 474, has a cracked bone in her shoulder and is doubtful for today.

"Dana's injury has really hurt us and we are a very young team to begin with," Lowndes coach Cindy Fondren said. "Shannon Fountain is our only other senior and the rest of the girls are freshmen and sophomores."

But Fondren won't throw in the towel.

"We played Valdosta close, and it is a possibility that we could beat some teams, and it would be an upset. But when you play teams close anything can happen."

"Our biggest problem this year has been our hitting, none of our girls are very big and and with Dana doubtful, we are hurting even more."

Valdosta Students Receive 5 Governor's Scholarships

V. Times 9-30-87

Five Valdostans have been awarded Governor's Scholarships to study at various Georgia colleges.

Those receiving the scholarships included the following:

Anna L. Tomberlin will begin study at Agnes Scott College this fall. Miss Tomberlin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Tomberlin of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of Valdosta High School.

Bobby J. Murphine Jr. will begin study at Shorter College this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby J. Murphine Sr. of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of VHS.

William R. McCall will begin study at Georgia Institute of Technology this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph R. McCall of Valdosta and is a 1987 graduate of VHS.

Kevin A. Williams will begin study at Emory University this fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Williams and is a 1987 graduate of Lowndes High School.

Timothy B. Starks will begin study at Mercer University this fall. He is the

son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Starks and is a 1987 graduate of LHS.

The scholarship was awarded to 321 outstanding high school seniors from across the state. Because the scholarship can only be used at Georgia colleges and universities, it also offers an incentive for exceptional students to continue their education in Georgia.

Selection for the highly competitive scholarships were based on academic performance, consistent school attendance and achievement test scores. Additional criteria included interscholastic participation, leadership and community involvement.

The Governor's Scholarship covers tuition costs up to \$1,344 per year for full-time study in Georgia. It may be renewed for an additional three years if students maintain acceptable grades.

Additional information about the scholarship may be obtained by contacting the Georgia Student Finance Authority, 2082 Exchange Place, Suite 200, Tucker, Ga. 30084 or by phoning 404/493-5402.

VHS Ready For Tift

V. Times 10-1-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

Tift County is 1-2 and the Valdosta Wildcats are 4-0, but when the two collide Friday night at Cleveland Field anything can happen.

"It will be a tough game," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Tift County is always up for us and they usually play us close here."

Valdosta fans will remember last year's game that ended in a 35-14 Wildcat victory. The game, however, was closer than the score indicated. It was tied 14-14 at the half but Valdosta's Jerome Callaway broke loose for two long touchdown runs early in the third period to put the game away.

Gene Brodie's Blue Devils, however, haven't beaten the Wildcats since the 1983 Region 1-AAAA finals, and things don't look any better for Tift County this year.

Offensively, the Wildcats have been a grinding, ball-control team, giving the opposition few opportunities to capitalize on a turnover.

Starting quarterback B.J. Mason has thrown no interceptions, and backup Ben Hogan has thrown one. Fumbles, too, have been held to a minimum.

At the heart of Valdosta's offensive

scheme is a running game that can wear down the sturdiest of defensive teams.

The Wildcats have three running backs that tip the scales at more than 200 pounds in James Roberts (220), Isaac Ceaser (220), and Lawrence Sharpe (256). Carlos Parker weighs in at 180 pounds.

"What a lot of people don't understand is we're a relatively young team," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "We've been playing a freshman (Shawn Eilders) on the front line, and that's rare."

"We've definitely been more of a running club this year, and I think the backs have a lot to do with that, but also B.J. Mason is more of a running type quarterback and that's what we've centered our offense on."

In four games, Valdosta has accumulated 872 yards on the ground and is averaging 5.45 yards per carry with 16 rushing touchdowns.

Roberts leads all carries with 229 yards, followed by Ceaser with 210, Mason with 209, and Sharpe with 125.

Sharpe did not play against either Waycross or Leon, but is expected to be back in the lineup this Friday.

But the 'Cat passing game is not absent. Mason has completed 16-of-26 passes for 246 yards and two touchdowns. Hogan is 9-of-17 for 170 yards, one touchdown, and one interception.

While the Valdosta defense received criticism for its performance against Waycross, it has played well overall.

The Wildcats are yielding just 104 yards per game and 107 through the air. In all fairness, most of the damage was done in the Waycross game. The Wildcats are giving up only 15 points per game.

Safety Eric Toth had two interceptions last week and now has three on the season. The front line consisting of Robert Fillmore, Coronzoa Greene, and Zabria Bell has played well. Valdosta has depth at linebacker with Carlo Butler taking one spot and Beau Laskey and Anthony Williams alternating at the other spot.

Friday night's game is the first Region 1-AAAA contest for both Valdosta and Tift County.

Valdosta

vs.

Tift Co.

- When: Friday, Sept. 25
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Tifton 1-2; Valdosta 4-0
- Series: Valdosta leads series 46-10-2
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 35-14, 28-16 (playoffs), 1986
- Last Week: Warner Robins 10, Tifton 3; Valdosta 41, Leon 20
- On Deck: Valdosta at Dougherty, Oct. 10

Tift Hoping To Find Offense Against Valdosta

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

The Tift County Blue Devils began the season ranked in the Associated Press' top 10 high school football poll. But things haven't exactly worked out the way Tift County fans might have liked.

Heading into their fourth game against the Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. Friday, the Blue Devils are 1-2 with two consecutive losses. After opening the season

with a 28-0 win over Northside-Warner Robins, Tift fell to Central-Thomasville 13-6 and last week lost to Warner Robins' Demons 10-3.

Giving up 23 points in three games says something about the Tift County defense, but the Blue Devil offense is on shaky ground.

Tift County head coach Gene Brodie was more direct.

"We just aren't very good," said Brodie. "There's not an above average player on the whole team."

When asked what he was going to do against Valdosta, Brodie replied

"Show up."

Brodie was also disappointed in the play of his defense against Central, citing two long Yellow Jacket drives in which his defense was defenseless.

Tift is averaging 123 yards per game on the ground but had just 65 yards rushing last week, and not much more than that against Central.

The Blue Devils' passing attack is not faring any better, averaging only 94 yards per game.

Tift County's leading rusher is tailback Anthony Graham with only 127 yards on 27 carries. Benard King is

V. Times 10-7-87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

TIFTON — Susan Montgomery knows her Lady Wildcats will have to climb quite a mountain if they wish to claim the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament. For the Lowndes Vikesettes, a win here would even be more momentous.

Valdosta won its first game Tuesday afternoon here at the E.B. Hamilton softball complex, thrashing a hapless Monroe team 22-5. In game two,

however, the Lady 'Cats were faced with a powerful Tift County team, and fell 10-2.

Valdosta will play again in Tifton this afternoon at 5:45 against the winner of the Lowndes-Dougherty game scheduled for 4:30.

The Vikesettes will be out of the tournament if they fall to the Lady Trojans. Lowndes was soundly beaten Colquitt yesterday 18-2. The Vikesettes managed only four hits and got some help from Colquitt to score the two runs.

With the loss, Lowndes falls to 0-17

overall.

The 7-11 Lady Wildcats have reason to be optimistic about making it into round three. Valdosta beat both Dougherty and Lowndes twice during the regular season.

"I am pleased with the way we played today," Montgomery said. "We hit the ball in the first game. In the second game, we didn't get the hits we needed, but defensively, we played pretty good."

In the 10-2 loss to Tifton, Valdosta yielded four home runs, three in the

first two innings as Valdosta fell behind early 7-0.

"Some of those home runs were my fault," said Montgomery. "I didn't have the girls in the right spots and they hit the balls in between us or over our heads. But Tifton is going to score runs. We just need to score runs with them. We can't afford to fall behind and expect to come back in the seventh inning."

In that seventh inning, Valdosta scored its only two runs. Trina Cody reached on a single and scored when

Tippett also collected two each each for Valdosta.

Monroe jumped out to a 3-1 lead after two innings, but Valdosta scored six runs in the third and never looked back.

Bradley opened the inning with a single and went to third after two groundouts by Kanawha Braswell and Cody.

But Alice Creque singled home Bradley and three singles by Tippett, Dennis, and Sissy Anderson combined with the Twine homer accounted for the six runs.

Marci Tippett hit a deep fly ball that eluded a Blue Devil outfielder. Tippett came home on a sacrifice by Laura Dennis.

Valdosta had just five hits in that game but saw several chances eliminated by Tift County's defense. The Lady Blue Devils turned three double plays during the game.

In Valdosta's 22-5 win over Monroe in game one, Valdosta's Cassandra Twine showed her athletic ability by gathering three hits, including a homer run that went to deep center. Dennis and

Lady Wildcats Split, Lowndes Drops One In Region Tourney



average of 52.5 yards per game, and only one touchdown pass while picking off three.

Size Doesn't Hinder VHS Quarterback Mason

V. Times 10-7-87
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Some say a 5-foot-6, 160-pound athlete is too small to be playing quarterback in Region 1-AAAA, but Valdosta High's B.J. Mason has proved otherwise.

Mason, a senior at Valdosta, is presently the quarterback of the state's top-ranked team. But such was not the case one year ago. Mason was previously a mainstay at the wide receiver position until this season.

For some, making the switch from receiver to quarterback is asking too much, but according to Mason the switch was no problem.

"I never really realized that it was such a big change," said Mason. "A great deal of pressure, along with being on top of each and every situation is key."

According to Mason, at receiver it

was basic, but with playing quarterback goes more responsibility.

"B.J. has the tools to play quarterback for Valdosta," said head coach Nick Hyder. "B.J. is a top athlete, possessing the ability to run the complex Valdosta system and receives the confidence of the coaching staff as well."

Mason is also a standout student at Valdosta, and hopes to continue his education at an engineering institution such as Georgia Tech, but for now completing school, and performing to the best of his abilities week in and week out as a Valdosta Wildcat is all that concerns Mason.

This season, Mason has completed 17-of-31 passes for 257 yards, and has also accounted for 232 yards rushing.

"He is a student of the game," said conditioning and receiver coach Bob Bolton. "He is always preparing for his opponent and is eager to learn."

Since becoming the Wildcat signal caller, Mason has found the position to his liking.

"You are more involved in every play," said Mason. "You must always play at your best night in and night out. Every snap is important."

According to Mason, there is more of an involvement from a player's view concerning his teammates.

"The offensive line has done a super job, without them I'm lost," said Mason. "The other members of the team are always there lending support and guidance, which is a big key in the success of a quarterback."

Mason's qualities reach far from the playing field into everyday life. Mason is the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the 'Cats, something he takes most pride in doing.

According to Mason, football does not take precedence over God or academics.



B.J. Mason

Lady Wildcats Remain Alive In Region 1-AAAA Tourney

V. Times 10-8-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — The Valdosta Lady Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikesettes took extremely different paths yesterday afternoon in the Region 1-AAAA softball tournament played at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex.

With each team facing elimination, the Vikesettes were defeated by the Lady Trojans from Dougherty 12-4 in opening action, while the Lady 'Cats remained in the title chase winning two consecutive games to advance to the semifinal round today at 4:30 against Colquitt County.

The Lady Wildcats defeated Dougherty in a wild affair 9-8, then won the nightcap 14-4 over Monroe.

Against Dougherty, the Vikesettes committed six errors and scored only four runs, two of which were unearned. The Vikesettes complete the season with an 0-18 mark.

The Lady 'Cats elevated their record to 9-11 on the season with yesterday's victories.

"It was hard getting up for the first game due to the circumstances, but as the game wore on everything slipped

into place," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery. "We showed a lot of determination and just played our ballgame."

In that first contest, Valdosta came out of the gate early scoring three runs in the first inning to take a comfortable lead. But the Lady 'Cats found themselves trailing by one run, 8-7, entering the sixth inning.

With two outs and two runners on base, Marci Tippet delived what proved to be the game winning hit with a base clearing triple.

Tippet paced the Lady Wildcats going 5-for-9, with 5 runs scored for the evening.

"Without a question Marci's triple was very big," said Montgomery. "Marci has been improving all season long and her confidence level seems to be improving with each performance."

In the second game, the Lady 'Cats scored early and often. After spotting Monroe the early lead, Valdosta scored 8 runs in the first two innings to put the game away. Trina Cody and Alice Creque led the Wildcat assault with each going 3-for-4 at the plate.

Valdosta School News V. Times 10-10-87 Industrial Election

By Alexander Hodge
VHS Reporter

The Industrial Arts Club held its annual officers election in the Industrial Arts lab September 29.

Club advisor Isaiah Isom directed the meeting and talked to the students about the activities of the club including the importance of each office.

Those elected were president, Angel Best; vice president, Tracy Carter; secretary, Michelle Green; treasurer, Rico Knowles; reporter, Henry Hodge; parliamentarian, Jonathan Irvin and sargeant at arms, Jerald Bryant.

Language Club

By Sabrina Watson
VHS Reporter

The 1987-88 officers of the Foreign Language Club are: Brooke Price; Pres., Janet Rose; French Vice-Pres., Angela Greene; Spanish Vice-Pres., Sabrina Watson; Secretary, and Sheri Boyd; treasurer. All of the officers this year are seniors.

The club projects are a tutorial program to help foreign language students with potential problems, a homecoming project and a nursing home project to provide signs for patients' doors with their name and their doctors' names.

The club is in the process of naming Miss FLC who will represent the club during Homecoming.

The featured officer this week is Brooke Price, Pres. She is the daughter of George and Catherine Price of Valdosta. Brooke's other activities her senior year include serving as the debate team's secretary her part-time job at Sears Department Store as a data processor.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Police Captain Bennett Examines Fake Driver's Licenses

VHS Student To Be Arrested Today For Making Fake ID's Officers Recover 14 Licenses Made For Friends, Classmates

V. Times 10-7-87

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of a 17-year-old Valdosta high school student who has made at least 14 fake driver's licenses for friends and classmates, said Capt. Ronnie Bennett with the VPD detective's division.

A warrant was sworn Tuesday for the arrest of Nicholas Allen Murry, 17, of Valdosta for felony forgery under the counterfeiting laws, said Bennett.

Murry's fake I.D. business was discovered after a juvenile was arrested over the weekend trying to purchase beer with one of the false licenses.

"The chief has pushed us on the possession of alcohol by minors," said Bennett.

The licenses were all made with the states of Nebraska and Tennessee falsely identified as the issuing agencies, said Bennett.

Murry made the I.D.'s by taking a piece of poster board about two feet wide by three feet long and pasting

vinyl letters on them with a name, address, license number and even a state seal.

The fake Nebraska license has a bright blue strip across the top with a blue background for the photo and a bright orange strip is used for the top and background of the fake Tennessee license.

The purchaser of the license would stand in front of a colored square on the cardboard while Murry took a picture with an instant camera, said Bennett.

The photo was then trimmed and laminated with clear plastic.

Murry was selling the licenses for \$10 and at least 14 were sold, he said.

"We want those who may have bought the licenses to know that the use of them is illegal. It is a felony," said Bennett.

He urged anyone who may be in possession of the licenses to contact the Valdosta Police department for proper disposal.

Bennett also encouraged bartenders and liquor store clerks to look for the licenses still in circulation.

Working On Yearbook Honors College Skills

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Features Editor

College freshmen who have worked on a yearbook staff in high school have higher American College Testing composite scores, perform better on standardized college writing tests, and achieve higher grade point averages during their first year of college than freshmen with no high school yearbook experience.

That's according to a recent study by the American College Testing Program.

"I think it's due to the maturity," said Eloise Terry, adviser of *The Sandspur* yearbook at Valdosta High School.

"And also from the experience of having to work under pressure to meet a deadline," added Vallye Blanton, adviser of *The Munin* at Lowndes High School.

The study was cited in a resolution passed by Congress and signed by President Ronald Reagan proclaiming this week as National Yearbook Week.

Miss Terry, an English teacher who has guided the VHS yearbook staff four years, said she has watched the students mature through the responsibility they have had in producing the yearbook. "They develop self-confidence and writing and business skills.

"The neatest thing is to watch their faces when the yearbooks get there and they open them," said Miss Terry. "I love it."

Both women emphasized producing a yearbook is much more than pasting pictures on a page.

"These kids work awfully hard selling ads, working on Saturdays and during the summers," Miss Terry said and her counterpart at LHS echoed those sentiments.

Nineteen students work on the VHS yearbook while 26 students at LHS throw their energies into producing the yearbook there.

"*The Sandspur* is a fall delivery book so we work from August until June," Miss Terry said. "It takes us three weeks after school is out to finish the yearbook."

LHS students have a spring delivery, working on the main yearbook from August to March and on the supplement from March until June.

The VHS yearbook is about 260 pages while the total book including the supplement at LHS is 272 pages. Cost for the VHS book is about \$20,000 while the LHS book runs about \$2,000 more because all their pictures are developed by a professional photographer, Miss Blanton said.

At VHS working on the yearbook is an elective credit. "At LHS the



Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS' Brian Harris Uses Computer To Work On Yearbook

yearbook staffers take journalism and they get credit for journalism and they work on the book on their own time," said Miss Blanton, a math teacher who has directed the LHS staff three years.

The first thing the yearbook staffs must do is to select a theme around which the whole yearbook will revolve. "It's really a brainstorming session with the students," Miss Terry said. "The students select it. I just try to channel all their thoughts and narrow them down some."

Miss Blanton said the school has a theme for the year at LHS. "For the previous two years we've used the school theme for the yearbook, but this year our school theme is the same as it was last year so we picked a new theme for the yearbook — *LHS — The Place To Be*."

One More Look is the theme at VHS. Yearbook staffs must select sections for the yearbook and page allotments for each section and then do a massive scheduling of pictures. "During the

impossible to do what we have to do without the co-operation of the principals, the other faculty members and the professional photographer."

Added Miss Blanton: "It's a lot more work than I thought it was."

What has meant the most to the advisers?

"The relationship you have with the students after working so hard with them on something that's so important to them is by far the most rewarding (thing) to me," said Miss Blanton.

Working on the LHS yearbook are Cindy Law, editor, Tari O'Gorman, co-editor, Emma Barker, Chandler Griffin, Mimi Atkinson, Valerie Lash, Millie Zipperer, Lisa Dennis, Laurie Janney, Amy Alexander, Laine Scarborough, Leigh Scarborough, Tanya Caldwell, Miranda Paulk, Nashlee George, Stacy Hall, Rhett Akins, Richie Coleman, Wayne Williams, Ron Jones, Christy Prine, Crystal Starling, Collette Collins, Barbara Strappell, Beth Haywood, and Wendy Kirbo.

The Sandspur staff consists of Melissa Quintero, editor; Marilois Owens, deadline editor; Lara Wetherington, student life editor; Kevin Elliott, sports editor; Jill Singletary, portrait editor; Kelisa Brown, organizations editor; Patrick Carlson, academics editor; David Cole, advertising manager; Tanya Bennett, business manager; Michelle Cutforth and Meredith McMillan, photographers, and Leslie Altman, Tracy Burgsteiner, Lea Hemby, Faylene Joiner, Brian Harris, Lawrence Sharpe, Laura Stump, and Stephanie Webb, staff members.

scheduling process we are also selling advertising," Miss Terry said.

The color section is due first so the staffs do the color pages by drawing layouts, writing copy and shooting the color pictures. "The color section of our yearbook is where we try to emphasize the theme," Miss Blanton said.

"It's the most appealing section to the students," added Miss Terry.

By this time, each student has an assignment and is working on his particular section. "When deadline time is near with so many pages due, they will chip in and help each other to make sure a particular section is ready to go," Miss Terry said of her staff.

"They are really good about helping each other," Miss Blanton said.

Four weeks after LHS sends in the first shipment of pages, the staff starts getting proofs of every page. They have to be corrected and sent back.

"It's a lot of fun, but there are days..." said Miss Terry. "It would be

'Cats Dispose Of Westover, 38-0

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats increased their record to 7-0 with an impressive 38-0 whitewashing of the Westover Patriots Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany.

The 'Cats, for the second straight week, placed a stranglehold on their opponent, and the game began ominously for Westover.

Reginald Dandy's 60-yard punt return only two minutes into the game gave the Wildcats an early 7-0 lead.

"We moved the ball very well," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "The punt return seemed to get us going."

"Give Westover credit," said Hyder. "Westover came to play."

On Westover's next possession, the Patriots drove the ball 40 yards down to the Wildcat 40-yard line before the defense made its presence known. Westover ended up having to punt.

The Valdosta passing game was slow in developing. On Valdosta's next possession, a B. J. Mason pass was tipped and intercepted by Westover's Paul Kohler giving the Patriots the ball at the Wildcat 24-yard line. Four plays later a 37-yard field goal fell short and the 'Cats still were clinging to a 7-0 lead.

Although Westover had two first-half drives deep into Valdosta territory, penalties and a stinging defense turned the Patriots away.

Valdosta then went back to work. The 'Cats drove 61 yards in 14 plays culminating in a 37-yard field goal by placekicker Todd Peterson. The lead, which was now 10, would soon rise even higher.

On the kickoff, Westover's Eric Whitaker mishandled a reverse and the

Valdosta	38	7	24	7	0	0	38
Westover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Val — Reginald Dandy 60 punt return (Todd Peterson kick)							
Val — Peterson 37 fg							
Val — Isaac Ceaser 2 run (Peterson kick)							
Val — Ceaser 4 run (Peterson kick)							
Val — James Roberts 1 run (Peterson kick)							
Val — Roberts 20 run (Peterson kick)							
First Downs	Val	Wes					
Yards Rushing	16	8					
Rushing Attempts	273	79					
Yards Passing	37	37					
Passes	92	29					
Fumbles-Lost	15-5-1	7-2-0					
Punting	1-42.0	7-34.2					
Penalties	7-55	9-80					
Rushing	Valdosta—Roberts 9-42, Ceaser 8-72, Mason 5-39, Sharpe 9-77, Parker 4-27, Hiltson 1-15, Hogan 1-1, Westover—Whitaker 17-44, Ward 7-51, Williams 1-(-3), Harden 1-(-7)						
Passing	Valdosta—Mason 9-21 30, Hogan 5-2-0 13, Westover—Whalley 7-2-0 28						
Receiving	Valdosta—Steward 1-8, Hiltson 1-22, Holmes 1-49, Berrian 2-13, Westover—Wallace 1-19, Stallworth 1-8						

fumble was recovered by Valdosta's Steve French at the Patriot 2. From there running back Isaac Ceaser scored his first of two touchdowns on the night, going over from 2-yards out to extend the Valdosta lead to 17-0 with 8:01 left before intermission.

After forcing a Westover punt, Valdosta proceeded to march the length of the field, going 80 yards in only six plays to take a commanding 24-0 advantage. Ceaser, who rushed for 72 yards in only eight carries, scored from 4-yards out, capping the Wildcat drive.

After a Westover quick kick from its own 5-yard line, the Wildcats took over at midfield.

Three plays later, running back James Roberts scored from 1-yard out to give Valdosta a comfortable 31-0 cushion at the intermission.

Roberts ended a perfect night scoring from 20-yards out, capping an 81-yard drive for the final score in the third period.



Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Receiver Timmy Holmes Runs Under Halfback Pass From Wildcat Running Back James Roberts

'Cats Whip Dougherty

V. Times 10-11-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

ALBANY—The Valdosta Wildcats dismantled the Dougherty Trojans 40-13 at Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium Saturday night as Valdosta won its second consecutive Region 1-AAAA game.

The Wildcats showed no mercy, scoring on six of their seven possessions of the first half alone.

Valdosta was impressive in every area of the ballgame. The 'Cats racked up a total of 233 yards rushing and played flawless on defense, holding the Trojans to only 53 yards rushing, 40 of which came in the second half.

The Wildcats emptied the bench early and often as they cruised to their 21st consecutive victory.

"We played a total ballgame," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Offensively and defensively, we came to play."

On their first series after a Trojan punt, the 'Cats drove 53 yards in only seven plays taking an early 7-0 lead when Isaac Ceaser ran it in from the 2.

On the next series of downs, the Valdosta defense held the Trojans once more on downs, and one play later on the Dougherty 49-yard line James Roberts rambled 49 yards for the score.

The only flaw, if there was one, came

"I was very pleased with the defensive play," said Hyder. "It was outstanding."

After recovering a Dougherty fumble, three plays and 33 yards later Steward hauled in a 12-yard pass from Mason to give Valdosta a commanding 21-0 lead with 3:06 still left in the first quarter.

The Wildcats were just getting started. On Dougherty's next possession, VHS safety Bridges picked off a Greene pass and went in from 36 yards out to up the lead to 28-0.

The 'Cats never looked back, scoring 12 more points in the second quarter alone, six coming from placekicker Todd Peterson to give Valdosta a 40-0 halftime lead. Peterson's kicks were from 32 and 46 yards out.

"We had problems controlling the ball several times in the second half but overall the effort was great," said Hyder.

Despite the fact that the Wildcats were only able to score in the first half, the Trojans were no problem at any time in the contest.

One side note to the 'Cats' 21st consecutive victory: Tony Alvarado was given the game ball by his teammates for his dedication and hustle he displayed throughout his playing time at Valdosta. Alvarado and his parents are moving due to prior commitments. Valdosta will play at Westover next Friday night.

Valdosta	28	12	0	0	0	40
Dougherty	0	0	0	0	13	13

Val — Isaac Ceaser 2 run (Todd Peterson kick)	7
Val — James Roberts 49 run (Peterson kick)	7
Val — Charles Steward 12 pass from B.J. Mason (Peterson kick)	7
Val — Jason Bridges 29 interception return (Peterson kick)	7
Val — Peterson 32 fg	7
Val — Bernard Hitson 13 run (Kick failed)	7
Val — Peterson 46 fg	7
Dou — Johnny Greene 4 run (Michael Gillyard kick)	7
Dou — Johnny Gordon 39 run (Kick failed)	7

First Downs	V	D
Yards Rushing	11	8
Rushing Attempts	233	53
Yards Passing	25	36
Passes	37	148
Fumbles-Lost	17-4-1	21-8-3
Punting	0-0	7-38-0
Penalties	3-35-0	5-40

Dougherty — Greene 4-1, Hill 9-2, McCartherens 16-50, Valdosta — Roberts 4-78, Ceaser 8-83, Mason 2-34, Sharpe 4-26, Hitson 1-14.

Dougherty — Greene 16-7-3, 135, Wifcomb 3-1-1, 13, Gordon 2-0-0, Valdosta — Mason 8-2-1, 16, Hogan 8-2-0, 11, Nichols 1-0-0

Dougherty — Mathis 3-42, Polite 1-16, Hill 2-49, Gordon 1-39, Valdosta — Steward 1-12, Carter 2-11, Hitson 1-4
--

on Valdosta's next possession as quarterback B.J. Mason's pass to Charles Steward was tipped away and intercepted.

But as would be the case all night long, the Wildcat defense led by the Zabria Bell, Robert Fillmore, Eric Toth, and Jason Bridges turned the Trojans away once more.

Three plays later, the ball was jarred loose from quarterback Johnny Greene and Anthony Williams recovered for Valdosta.

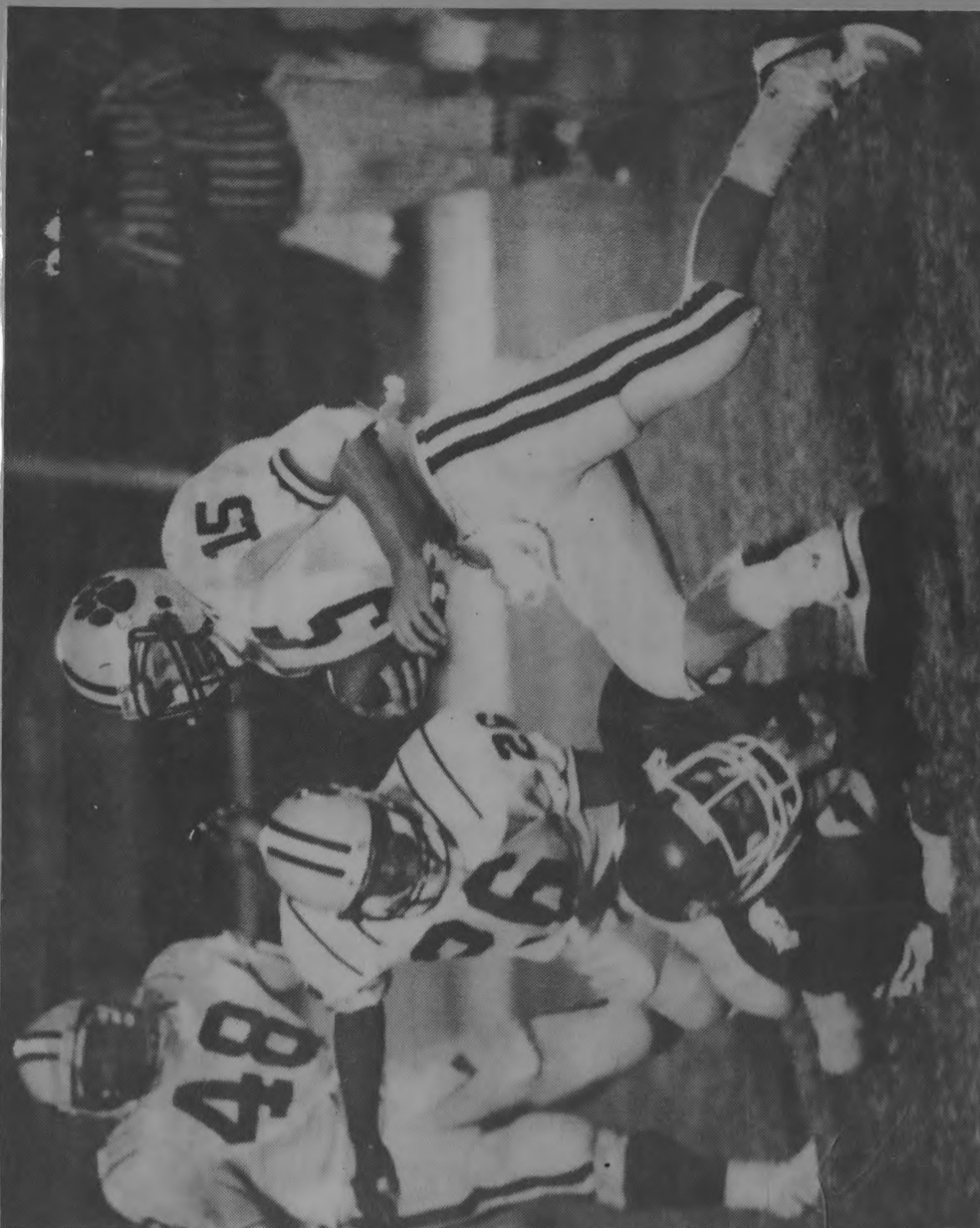


Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Quarterback B.J. Mason Races Upfield Against Dougherty Saturday Night

Hyder Refuses To Overlook Winless Westover Patriots

V. Times 10-14-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Westover Patriots are shooting for their first victory of the season, as they go up against the Valdosta Wildcats Friday night at Albany's Hugh Mills Stadium.

Head coach Buddy Cox brings his young but aggressive 0-5 Patriots into battle with the top-ranked Wildcats. Westover's sour record has come about thanks in part to a schedule that has included the likes of Albany, Southwest Macon, Worth County, Thomasville, and Lowndes.

Among the five teams Westover has faced, the combined total of losses is only four. And against Valdosta the task is no easier. According to Valdosta head coach

Nick Hyder, underestimating your opponent is both dangerous and unwise.

"The Patriots have had a no quit attitude from the start," said Hyder. "They have top athletes that can give anyone problems, therefore, Westover cannot be taken lightly."

Quarterback Steve Whatley runs the I-formation offense for the Patriots. Whatley is known for his tremendous passing prowess.

Throwing for 303 yards on the season makes Whatley a key ingredient in the offensive attack for the Patriots.

Joining Whatley in the backfield will be junior Jimmy Harden (186), and the leading ground man for Westover is senior Eric Whitaker.

Whitaker has accounted for 207 yards on the ground in 56 carries. Whitaker and Harden will be flanked by Otto

Stallworth. Stallworth is a big play man coming out of the backfield.

Whatley's main target is receiver Reginald Ward. Ward the leading Patriot receiver, pulling down seven catches for 146 yards and two scores. Ward also doubles as a cornerback on defense.

The Patriot offensive line includes senior Billy Goodson (196), junior guards Deron Handley (230) and Ben Wallace (153), and junior tackles Todd Sheffield (230), and Eric Sibley (250).

The defensive line is comprised of senior William Harrell (235) and sophomore Konocho Williams (275). The Patriot down linemen are Melvin Jackson (205) and Altha Stewart (187).

Patrolling the secondary will be four sport letterman Reginal Tinch (180) and safeties Ricco Jones (165) and John Fields (160).

'Dosta High Class Of '37 Assembling

When the members of the 1937 Valdosta High School class meet in Valdosta Friday and Saturday to celebrate their 50th anniversary, they will be coming from nine different states and abroad.

Class members to attend include Valdostans Durward Bland, William Cheek, Maxine Connell Steinberg, Jack Davis, A.E. Dennis, Virginia Hart Rykard, Mary Frances Johnson Woodward, Riley Kendall, Susan McKey Thomas, Mattie Ruth Parrish Bowers, Grace Morrison McKinney, Mac Tillman, Gwendolyn Winter Goodloe, Alice Yarbrough McKinney and Billy Peeples.

Other Georgians: Noah Langdale, Walter Carter and Ernestine Girardin Symonette of Atlanta; Carver Hunt of Alpharetta; Katherine Mundy Bateman of Sylvester; Alberta Plemmons of Albany; Helen Quarterman Fisher of Sautee; Sara Sasser McClenahan of Marietta; Joyce Stewart Speck of Fairburn; Lonzie Wester of Waycross; Frances William Yonge of Savannah; Donald Dasher of Ashburn; Julian Griffin of Darien and Frances Giddens Davis of Lakeland.

From Florida: C. Talmadge Allen of St. Petersburg; James Black of Pensacola; Maude Dukes Hester of Lakeland; Porter Greene of Orlando; Doris Rogers Whitaker of Deland; Charles Salter of Tallahassee; Bernice Smith Lokey of Clearwater and George Henry of Boca Raton.

Also, Leadell Dameron Williams of Ozark, Ala.; Carroway Sikes of Sun City, Ariz.; Josephine Graham Chaudoin of Louisville, Ky.; Miriam Quinker Brown of Metairie, La.; Susan Mackey Godehn of Hendersonville, N.C.; Roscoe Rouse of Stillwater, Okla.; Verna Simpson Asbury of Lookout Mountain, Tenn., and Louie

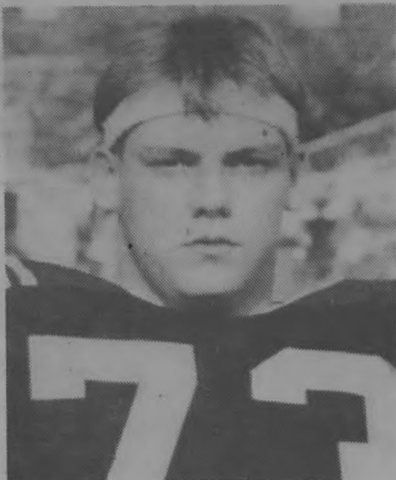


Photograph of VHS Class Of 1937 Taken On Steps Of VHS On Williams St. And Published In The Times 50 Years Ago

Peeples White of London.
 The Sheraton Inn will be the headquarters for the group with registration being held from 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Friday. At 10:30 a.m. Saturday class members will attend a poolside brunch with the afternoon featuring a trip to the Lowndes County Historical Society by a social hour from 6 p.m.-7 p.m.
 with a buffet dinner following. Throughout the evening music of the '30s will be provided by pianist, Ed Barr.



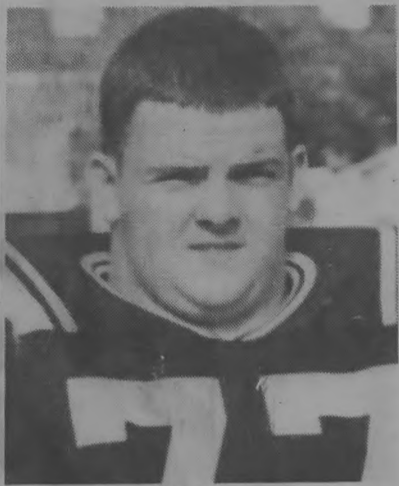
ANDY ANDERSON



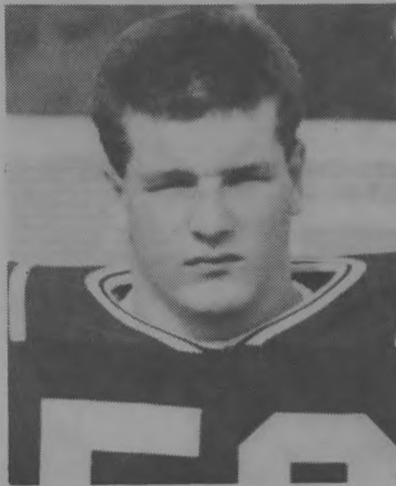
TODD PITCHFORD



JACK MORGAN



SHAUN EILDERS



DAVID HAZELHURST



ANDY RYKARD

Wildcat Line Successful

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

According to most football experts, scoring ability is the most glamorous and entertaining facet of a football team. While it is true the backs get the glory, fans unfortunately too often forget who provides the gaping hole or the tremendous protection given the quarterback. All of these areas can be attributed to only one group, the offensive line.

At Valdosta High School, the Wildcats have comprised one of the finest lines anywhere.

Including junior center David Hazelhurst (215), senior tackles Andy Anderson (245) and Todd Pitchford (225), along with freshman tackle Shaun Eilders (255), guards junior Andy Rykard (210) and senior Jack Morgan (215), flanked by senior tight-end Charles Steward (225), the Valdosta Wildcats have been in good hands from day one.

The offensive line was hit hard due to the graduation of Jodie Sprenkle, now at Georgia, and John Wheelless, now at Livingston College. Combine those departures with the loss of center Ben Lane and an offensive line

coach might dread the upcoming season. But according to line coach Jerry Don Baker, the task was both demanding and rewarding.

"When you lose the caliber of players such as Sprenkle, Wheelless, and Lane, you have to be concerned," said Baker. "Senior leadership has been a big plus."

With the leadership qualities shown by Anderson and Steward, the togetherness of this group has stayed intact. At the beginning of the season the character of this group was tested early, due to the knee injury that sidelined tackle Andy Anderson.

"Having to produce early was beneficial," said Baker. "The line did a tremendous job holding their own."

According to Baker, guard Andy Rykard's experience thanks to enormous playing time last season was key.

"Rykard is a very intelligent ballplayer, and seems to be able to compensate regardless of any situation," said Baker.

The biggest surprise according to Baker, has been the play of center Hazelhurst. Hazelhurst, according to Baker, ranks first in blocking among all the offensive linemen. Filling the shoes of Lane was a very big task,

but so far Hazelhurst has come through with flying colors.

Playing the last two seasons with a blood clot, Morgan has always given his best as well.

"Morgan sucks it up and goes," said Baker. "He is always giving 110 percent all the time. His dedication is relentless."

According to Baker, Pitchford has been performing well due to more playing time. Pitchford's role on the Wildcat team has been instrumental.

Up until his injury, Anderson was to be the anchor on the offensive line. But due to his early absence this season, a true freshman emerged.

At 255 and at 14 years of age, Eilders has played above his head when called on, and was brilliant in the wake of Anderson's injury.

"He has the best foot coordination of any lineman I've ever coached," said Baker. "Starting five ballgames this season, Eilders has carried more than his weight."

"Normally it takes at least three years before a lineman develops. And more times than not, you are working with kids no one wants," said Baker.

The offensive line is the backbone of any offensive scheme. And at Valdosta, the offensive line has been second to none.

VHS FHA In Albany 'Leaders On Move'

By Charlotte Edwards
VHS Reporter

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 24, 1987

The Valdosta High Chapter of Future Homemakers of America attended the Fall District Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17. The meeting was held at Albany High School with the theme "Leaders On The Move."

Valdosta High had the largest number of delegates from this district with 47 in attendance. The meeting focused on FHA State Projects for 1987-88, which included Membership; Student Body; Star Events; and Financial Fitness.

Valdosta High Chapter has completed Membership, one state project, by doubling their club membership to 55. Another project, Student Body (a fitness project) was started with an activity during National School Lunch Week when the FHA honored the 14 members of the cafeteria staff by presenting them with corsages.

To complete the meeting day, the FHA club spent the afternoon at the Albany Mall.



Nov. 6-7, at the Hyatt Regency Ravinia Hotel in Atlanta.

"I am looking forward to attending this conference and meeting other DECA students from Georgia," said Susan Burns.

The Marketing Education students are members of the 13,000 Georgia DECA organization which operates as the only professional student organization for high school enrollees interested in a career in marketing.

Members/Students attending from Valdosta High School are: Natalie Bishop, Susan Burns, Brant Campbell, Gina Hampton, Rad Johnson, and Michele Winfrey.

The Marketing instructor, Norman Greene, will also attend the two-day series of workshops designed to prepare young adults for their roles as leaders in the school and the community.

Cats Hold Down No. 1

By TOM SHARP
Associated Press Writer

V. Times 10-12-87

Three undefeated teams — Effingham County, Etowah and Southwest Macon — move into the Georgia high school football Class AAAA rankings this week in the AP's poll of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Effingham County and Southwest Macon both are 4-0, while Etowah is 6-0 and has posted four shutouts. They replaced three of the five top 10 teams that lost last weekend. Lowndes, Newnan and Warner Robins drop from the rankings.

The other two top 10 teams which lost stay in the rankings. Baldwin, which fell to Southwest Macon 31-30, drops to sixth. Redan, 6-0 losers to No. 5 Southwest DeKalb, remains at No. 10.

Effingham County downed Bradwell Institute 35-0 last weekend; Southwest Macon pulled out the thrilling victory over Baldwin, and Etowah blanked Shiloh 27-0.

The only other new team in the rankings is Dalton, which returns at No. 8 in AAA. The Catamounts were ranked in the preseason but fell out after a scoreless tie in the season opener. They've won fourth straight since then, the latest a 39-8 thumping of Ringgold.

In AA and A, the same 20 teams are ranked, although the order changed somewhat.

CLASS AAAA

Unbeaten Valdosta remains first, Griffin stays a solid second and McEachern keeps its No. 3 ranking. Each is 5-0. Griffin got one first-place vote.

Evans moves up a spot to No. 4 on the heels of its victory over Warner Robins. Southwest DeKalb goes up a notch to No. 5, and Baldwin falls to sixth.

Effingham County, Southwest Macon

and Etowah are 7-8-9, and Redan remains tenth.

CLASS AAA

The top four spots are unchanged — Central of Thomasville, Thomasville, Lakeside and Marist. Central got nine first-place votes, Thomasville four and Lakeside the other two.

Worth County moves up one notch to fifth. Defending state champion Villa Rica, last week's No. 5 team, drops to tenth with its 15-14 loss to Campbell of Fairburn. Villa Rica is now 2-2.

Habersham Central moves up two places to sixth; Peach County is seventh, and Dalton moves to No. 8.

Cedartown drops one spot to ninth after losing to Central of Carrollton, the top-ranked team in AA.

CLASS AA

Central of Carrollton remains the unanimous No. 1 choice after beating Cedartown 35-21.

Robert E. Lee, which edged ranked Mary Persons, stays at No. 2, and Swainsboro remains third. Unbeaten Manchester moves up a place to fourth after posting its third shutout in four games, and Camden County moves to fifth.

Mary Persons falls two spots to sixth with its loss to R.E. Lee.

Lovett breaks a tie and is now alone at No. 7, while Washington-Wilkes becomes eighth. Greene-Taliaferro stays at No. 9, and East Hall remains an unbeaten tenth.

CLASS A

Lincoln County took 14 of 15 first-place votes to stay in the top spot after a week off.

Louisville barely kept its No. 2 ranking, by one point, over No. 3 Clinch County. Louisville beat Screven County 21-18 last Friday, while Clinch County beat Cook 35-6.

The next four spots, fourth through seventh, are the same as last week: East Rome, Pacelli, Wilcox County and Monticello.

She's Business TOTY For District 8

By LIZ VICKERS
Times Staff Writer

A Valdosta High School secondary education teacher likes change and that is what she has found over the last seven years in her climb to being named the 1987 Georgia Business Education Association Teacher of the Year for District 8.

Maxine Martin was speechless as she walked forward to receive the plaque at the GBEA district meeting at the Holiday Inn in Douglas. Presenting the award was Debbie DeThomas, former recipient of the award and instructor at Valdosta Technical Institute.

Mrs. Martin told what had led her to choose teaching as a career. "I had always wanted to be a teacher since I was in elementary school," she said. "I was a member of Future Teachers of America when I was in high school and we got to teach one day a year. I taught three out of my four high school years and I just loved it."

Another influential factor in deciding on the teaching profession in secondary education was the impression Mrs. Martin's high school Vocational Office Training Teacher, Linda Todd, made on her.

"She helped me find my first job," said Mrs. Martin about Mrs. Todd who was present when she received her award. "She was such an inspiration and she talked me into doing all activities with FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America). She's fabulous. "She tells me that I'm her success



MAXINE MARTIN
Valdosta High School Teacher

story. When I was going back to my chair (after receiving the award) she said she could have told me this was going to happen 22 years ago."

Mrs. Martin is the business department chairman and Vocational Office Training coordinator at VHS. In her seven years at the school she has taught almost everything in the department including typing, accounting which is her favorite, business machines, record keeping and business management.

She also serves as a part-time faculty member at Valdosta State College and has taught extension courses for Troy State University at Moody Air Force Base.

The Valdosta native receives much enjoyment from being associated with business and VOT students. "I get to be with them in the classroom and I get to see them on the job," said Mrs. Martin. "It's unique because teachers usually say you have to wait years before you see results, but with VOT you see them all the time." She also feels that her position makes way for the students to confide in her and talk to her about problems they face in work experiences.

Some of the problems she has been faced with include students being unhappy with their jobs because they can't get along with the employer or schedule conflicts because there aren't enough hours in a day. "They also tell me exciting and good things that have happened and that is what I like to hear," said Mrs. Martin.

"I usually get good reports from the employers and we (VHS VOT Program) have a good working relationship with the community businesses."

Mrs. Martin's rewards from her career are continuously reaped as graduate students return and let her know that they benefited from business classes at VHS. "It's very rewarding to have students who have graduated to come back and tell me that they appreciate what they learned in busi-

ness classes, especially what they learned in mine."

But it is possibly the changing times and updated technology that keeps the job exciting for her. "I like challenges and change," said Mrs. Martin. "There was not one computer in the business department when I started teaching at Valdosta High School and now we have two rooms full which are occupied all day and there is a need for more."

"Everything is geared to high technology today. We've gone from using manual to electric typewriters and have done a lot of updating not only with equipment but with courses. I like new things and business ed offers this."

Mrs. Martin, now a candidate for the state GBEA Teacher of the Year, accepts the nomination with pride and will continue to follow her philosophy that teachers are in school for the students. "Everything we say and do, the students are watching," she said.

"They learn from us as well as textbooks and we need to give them the best we have."

Mrs. Martin is the daughter of Freeman and Sara Fletcher of Valdosta. She is married to Johnny L. Martin and they have three children, Janet, 15, and twins, Craig and Greg, 12. She is the Christian education director at Azalea City Church of God.

She holds an Educational Specialist degree from Valdosta State College and hopes to work on her doctorate soon. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies and several professional organizations.

Former Valdostan In College Comedy

LaGRANGE — A Valdosta High School graduate is performing in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at Price Theater at LaGrange College.

Julie Rensenhout plays in the comedy which will continue through Saturday. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Moore of Tabb, Va., formerly of Valdosta.

The play, written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, features Wayne Ballantyne, An Equity guest artist, in the role of the cantankerous Sheridan Whiteside. Ballantyne has been an actor most of his adult life and boasts a lost list of credits, including six years as a principal player in the company of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival.

Curtain time for the play is 8:15 p.m. A matinee performance to benefit the Dr. Maxie C. Estes Scholarship Fund will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday as part of the college's homecoming celebration.

Directing the production will be Dr. Ed Bowen, chairman of the Speech Communications and Theatre Department at LC.

Cost of admission is \$4.

Valdosta High Homecoming This Week

UDT 10-22-87
By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

The annual Valdosta High School Homecoming parade will be held this Friday with the crowning of the homecoming queen at 7:30 Friday night as the Wildcats meet up with the Colquitt County Packers culminating a week of activities celebrating this year's event.

"Space: The Final Frontier" is the theme of VHS's Homecoming celebration and the parade will begin Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. at the corner of Patterson and Ann streets.

"We will be following a new route this year," said Nancy Hjort, sponsor of the VHS Student Council, the coordinators of the Homecoming festivities.

The parade will move to Sallas Mahone and will end at Mathis city auditorium.

According to Mrs. Hjort, the theme was selected this year because of the past winning record of the Wildcats.

"The Wildcats have won all the championships local, state and national. So there is only one place left to go, space" said Mrs. Hjort.

Recognition of the senior football players, band members, cheerleaders and the Homecoming Court will begin at 7:30 at Cleveland Field.

Seniors vying for the crown of Homecoming Queen are Stephanie Culverhouse, Janet Rose, Melanie

Dennard and Erica Miller.

Spirit buttons with the Homecoming theme will be sold at the game by the VHS Debate Team and corsages, which are being sold by the Distributive Education Club of America, will also be available at the stadium.

A dance will be held on Saturday night for all Valdosta High School students at Valdosta Junior High School. "Glow" a top-40 band from Perry will be performing and admission is \$2 per couple.

All this week students and teachers at the high school have been celebrating with theme days.

Monday was 50's Day, Tuesday was Tacky/Crazy Day and Wednesday was Jersey Day.

Today the student's celebrated with Black and Gold Day and Friday will be Theme Day with all of the students dressed in outer space costumes.

'Cats Face Hungry Westover

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Friday night at Hugh Mills Stadium in Albany will mark the 15th meeting between the Westover Patriots and the Valdosta Wildcats, with the 'Cats holding a commanding 13-1 series record against Westover.

Valdosta enters the contest with Westover as the overwhelming favorite and for good reason. Valdosta is 6-0 overall, with the state's top ranking and a No. 3 ranking nationally.

But according to Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, every opponent poses different problems.

After their convincing defeat over Dougherty 40-13 last week, the 'Cats must prepare for a hungry and determined Westover squad.

Valdosta rolled up a total of 233 yards rushing, behind the huge offensive line including senior Andy Anderson (245), junior David Hazelhurst (215), junior Andy Rykard (210), senior Todd Pitchford (225), senior Jack Morgan (215), and freshman Shaun Elders (255).

The Wildcats scored on every

possession but one in the first half to pace the win.

Isaac Ceaser led all Wildcat rushers with 83 yards, followed by James Roberts' 78 yards. Combined, the 'Cat tandem accounted for 161 yards on the evening in just one half of play.

Defensively the Wildcats were simply outstanding. Led by the three interceptions, one for a touchdown by Jason Bridges, the 'Cat defense only allowed the Trojans 53 yards rushing. Forty of which came in the second half.

The Wildcats played a near perfect game last week and are hoping for the same against Westover this Friday.

"With the exception of preparing our younger kids more for game action, we played outstanding," said Hyder. "That is a must entering the rest of our schedule."

The Wildcats will be attempting to shut down a free spirited attack by Westover, where the improbable can be expected.

On the season the 'Cats have scored 202 points, while only allowing 86.

A crucial and often overlooked area is the kicking game. That is an area Valdosta has excelled in all season long.

Westover VS Valdosta

- When: Friday, Oct. 16
- Where: Hugh Mills Stadium, Albany
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta 6-0; Westover 0-5
- Series: Valdosta leads series 13-1
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 58, Dougherty 13, 1986
- Last Week: Valdosta 40, Dougherty 13; Lowndes 35, Westover 0
- On Deck: Colquitt Co. at Valdosta, Oct. 23

Placekicker Todd Peterson connected on field goals of 32 and 46 yards in the win over Dougherty, and even though only appearing three times, punter Charles Steward had an average of 35 yards per kick.

Rolling all ingredients together will be the key for success against the Westover Patriots, with Colquitt in the wings.

Colquitt's Packers Multitalented Bunch

UDT 10-22-87

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High fans will well remember the last time the Wildcats hosted Colquitt County Packer for Homecoming. It was not a pretty sight.

In 1985, the T.J. Edward led Packers spoiled all the festivities by upsetting the Wildcats 21-14. On Friday night, Colquitt will try to turn the trick again when it invades Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. for the 1987 Homecoming.

According to Wildcat coach Nick Hyder, his squad had better be prepared or the nightmare that happened two years ago may return.

"Colquitt has got another fine football team," he said. "They play really smart ball and they are very well coached. They have fared well against some tough competition and right now are second in the region.

"Overall they are as fine a football team as we've faced. They do all the little things that are necessary to win and they don't make mistakes."

The Wildcats enter the contest with a 7-0 mark, 3-0 in Region 1-AAAA with a 22-game winning streak. Colquitt is 4-2 and 2-0.

Through seven games, the Wildcats have relied on a tough running game and a defense which has played very well of late, despite giving up some big yards early in the season.

James Roberts leads the ground assault with 465 yards on 66 carries and six touchdowns. Close behind is Isaac Ceaser with 414 yards and a team leading eight scores.

Quarterback B.J. Mason has proven to be a double-threat quarterback, rushing 47 times for 363 yards and six touchdowns and completing 28-of-48 passes for 303 yards and 3 scores. Ben Hogan has also seen considerable

action at quarterback completing 12-of-26 for 189 yards and one touchdown.

Averaging 34 points per game, Valdosta is first in the region in rushing, averaging 224 yards and first in total yards per game with 303.

The defense's star has shone brightly as well.

According to Hyder, defensive end Kenneth Berrian and Wade Lindsey have performed well. Others praised by the Wildcat coach for continued improvement include defensive lineman Coleman Rudolph, Zabria Bell, Scott Barton, Corozona Green, George Copeland, Robert Fillmore, Andre Hampton.

Others include linebackers Beau Laskey, Anthony Williams, Carlo Butler, Bruce Daniels, safetys Demetricus Waters, Steve French, Eric Toth and Jason Bridges, also cornerbacks Reginald Dandy and Chris

Hart.

As a team, coach Jack Rudolph's charges have given up an average of 120 yards per game, 108 through the air and given up an average of 14.3 points.

"Up till now I have been very pleased with both the improvement of our team, both individually and as a group," Hyder said.

But despite his team's improvement, Hyder is extremely cautious of the visiting Packers.

"They have really had a tough schedule, opening with Thomasville and Central Thomasville. They've played a tough Eufala, Ala. team, not to mention Lowndes.

"They definitely rank right up there with Tift as far as quality of teams we have played go. They're a tough, well-coached group."

Steward Hoping For Repeat

V Times 10-23-87

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Despite the fact that practically every major college in the country has shown an interest, Valdosta High team captain Charles Steward has only one thing on his mind, and that is to help the 'Cats repeat as state champions.

"Right now I feel the offense is doing a pretty good job. We're not as big on the offensive line but in my opinion we've been able to move the ball about as well.

"But the defense deserves a lot of credit too. It's been a team effort."

As a tight end and punter for the defending state and national champions, Steward has already been bestowed with many honors, including being named a preseason prep All-American. Steward is also very high on the list of many national recruiting magazines. Steward is currently ranked as the top prospect in the entire state of Georgia.

In 1986, Steward, who runs a 4.5 forty, grabbed 37 passes for 498 yards and 10 touchdowns. So far in 1987, the senior has caught 11 passes for 104 yards and two scores. As a punter, he has averaged 36.5 yards.

"I haven't been upset that I haven't been getting the ball any more than I have. Just as long as the team wins is all I'm concerned about," Steward said.

"Charles has worked extremely hard and has a lot of potential. He has worked hard to get where he is," Hyder said. "He's also our team captain and that is the biggest honor that could possibly have been bestowed upon him. Charles was elected team captain in a close vote by his peers and to be a team captain at Valdosta High is a big honor."

When not hauling in passes, Steward enjoys listening to music and reading books.

"I like listening to some soul and rap, but I like to read too. I especially like 'The Pearl.'"

But right now, Steward's thoughts are on the Wildcats' game with Colquitt County, and the 6-3, 222 pounder is not about to take the Packers lightly.

"We've had a really good attitude during practice this week," he said. "We're ready. A lot of the guys still remember when we played them for homecoming two years ago and lost 21-14. We don't want that to happen again."

Steward, whose record stands at 46-3 during his career as a Wildcat, has had many people to guide him growing up. One such person, to no surprise, is coach Hyder.

"Coach Hyder has really helped me a lot. He has taught me a great deal, both on and off the field," he said. "I also attend church more and have started to study better. I just want to pass Proposition 48."

As a punter, Steward's 36.5 average is deceiving. Steward has excelled in kicking the ball high and having it downed inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

"There's really no secret to being a successful punter," he said. "There are times when placement is important but most of the time I just have to

boom it as far as I can."

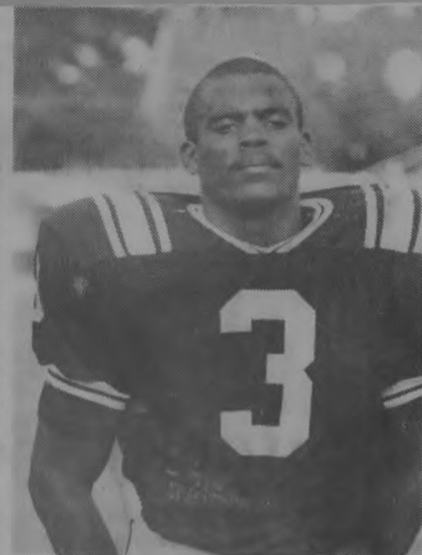
Steward is also an outstanding blocker and has also seen action on the kicking team.

Steward has been a three-sport performer, having played basketball and run track. As a sophomore, Steward averaged 15 points and in track has thrown the shot put 50 feet.

Once high school is over, Steward will have to make a decision about which college he wants to attend. Among the schools showing a great deal of interest include Georgia, South Carolina, Clemson, Auburn, Florida and Nebraska.

"I just want to be remembered as an unselfish player who gave all he had," Steward said.

He already is.



CHARLES STEWARD

Valdosta vs Colquitt Co.

- When: Tonight
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta 7-0; Colquitt Co. 4-2
- Series: Valdosta leads series 50-11-5
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 36, Colquitt 6, 1986
- Last Week: Colquitt 21, Monroe 6; Valdosta 38, Westover 0
- On Deck: Monroe at Valdosta, Nov. 6

Oct. 27 VHS Having Open House

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School will hold an Open House on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. with the theme for the evening "Parents Night Back To School."

Parents and children will follow the student's daily class schedule with each class lasting 10 minutes, said Valdosta High School Principal Bill Aldrich.

This is the first time this type of open house has been held at the high school and Aldrich hopes this will give the parents a chance to ask questions about subject matter and an opportunity to meet the individual teachers.

"We would like to have as many ninth- and tenth-grade parents as possible. That's the age group we really need to target," he said.

With a majority of the student's parents working, Aldrich said it is often difficult to arrange parent-teacher conferences.

"We want to promote communication," Aldrich said.

Thursday night's open house will not allow for individual conferences, but it will give the teachers and parents an opportunity to meet and exchange information that can help promote this communication, Aldrich said.

Because of the format of the event, Aldrich requests only VHS student's and parents attend.

Aldrich hopes to organize several parent committees in the near future to work with some of the important issues facing the students.

One committee, to be organized immediately, will focus on alcohol and drug awareness, Aldrich said.

"We want to get that information across to the parents," he said.

A questionnaire will be distributed at the open house to parents, and door prizes will be given at random throughout the evening.



V. Times
10-23-87

VHS Homecoming

Valdosta High School cheerleaders prepare to jump into the limelight as they watch several VHS teachers dance around in their space suits. "Space, The Final Frontier" is the theme for the VHS Homecoming week and these 'space teachers' were part of the big pep rally held at the school this morning. — Times Staff Photos by Bob Lupinek

Two years ago Colquitt County rained on Valdosta's homecoming parade when the Packers topped Valdosta 21-14 with the help of speedy T.J. Edwards.

While it would be considered quite an upset if the Packers were to repeat that feat this year, it would be unwise for Wildcat fans to look for a blowout.

The Packers are 4-2, beat Lowndes 8-7, and played respectable games against Thomasville and Central, the No. 1 and No. 3 ranked teams in Class AAA.

Colquitt has some size on its offensive and defensive lines and has a stable of not great but good running backs.

I think this game will be a fairly

Colquitt May Give

V. Times 10-23-87



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

close one, but once again the constant hammering of running backs James Robert, Isaac Ceasar, Carlos Parker, and Lawrence Sharpe will wear down the staunch Parker defense. Valdosta 24, Colquitt 17.

Wildcats

Dougherty at Lowndes — Lowndes Viking head coach Joe Wilson would like to see his troops have a good game here after losing to Tift County last week. The Vikings certainly can't afford another region loss, and a defeat at the hands of Dougherty could mean Lowndes wouldn't even make it to the region playoffs.

This game looks like a blowout on paper with Dougherty scoring only 26 points in six games, but look for the Trojans to come to play. The Vikings have had a tendency to start off slow. Look for a close first half.

Lowndes 21, Dougherty 7
Brooks Co. at Terrell Co. — Brooks Trojan coach Max Milligan says Ter-

Trouble

rell is the team to beat in Region 1-AA, and he's not crying wolf. The Green Wave has two running backs that tip the scales at over 200 pounds and both have been timed at under 4.6 in the 40-yard dash.

Brooks will obviously have to guard well against the run, but that is something defensive coordinator Roger Powers has prepared for well in the past.

A win here pretty much assures Brooks of a region playoff spot, and don't look for the Trojans to roll over and play dead.

Brooks 28, Terrell 20.
Cook at West Laurens — West Laurens has not been known in the recent past for its powerhouse football

Homecoming

team and Adel's Hornets are hungry for a win. Cook is 1-6 but it could be 2-6 by the time this one is over with Friday night.

Cook 17, West Laurens 14.

Westover at Monroe — This Albany rivalry will be an interesting game even though neither team is near the top of the Region 1-AAAA standings. Winifred Benson has done his best to turn around the Monroe program and I think the Tornados have been playing better even though their won-loss record is 2-3-1.

Westover has been struggling all year and the Patriots are winless. Monroe will have the bragging rights this time.

Monroe 14, Westover 0.

Memorial at Valwood — This Saturday game pits Valwood once again against a bigger school. Valwood is 2-5, but the Valiants have shown flashes of brilliance even in their losses. Valwood should once again play well, but I'm afraid that won't be enough.

Memorial 28, Valwood 10

Westbrook at Ravenwood — Jim Mills' Westbrook Cougar lost a slew of seniors last season and it shows in the Cougars' 1-6 record. Ravenwood has a decent team and the game is there.

Ravenwood 35, Westbrook 6.

Last Week: 2-2
Season: 29-12

Cats In Space At Homecoming

By Simone Allen
VHS Reprter

The VHS Student Council is preparing for the 1987 Homecoming week in which the theme is, "Space, The Final Frontier."

This theme is chosen because the Valdosta Wildcats have already won numerous regional, state, and national championships leaving the only unconquered field, outer space.

During Homecoming week, each day will portray a different event in which the students will dress to fit the occasion.

Daily events for October 19th through October 23rd are as follows: Monday, fifties day; Tuesday, tackey day; Wednesday, jersey day; Thursday, black and gold day; Friday, theme day.

The parade will be held Friday, Oct. 23, beginning at 4 p.m. The parade route begins at the corner of Ann and Patterson streets and travels north on Patterson to Sallas-Mahone. Turning right on Woodrow Wilson, the parade will end at Mathis city auditorium.

Miss FHA At Valdosta

By Charlotte Edwards
VHS Reporter

The Valdosta High Chapter of Future Homemakers of America recently selected Tracy Horton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Horton of Valdosta, as Miss FHA for 1987-88. The attendants selected are Salina Shumphard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shumphard Jr. and Sessceal Wade, daughter of Mrs. Dorothy McKeever all of Valdosta.

Misses Horton, Shumphard, and Wade will represent FHA in the Valdosta High School Homecoming Parade, Oct. 23.

VICA Selects 1988 Officers

By Laura McMillan
VHS Reporter

VICA is a student organization that began in 1967, with the purposes of developing character, leadership, and responsibility among the nation's youth.

The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America is associated with the Diversified Cooperative Training Program at Valdosta High School. Students in DCT go to school for half a day and work in various businesses in Valdosta for the remainder of the day.

At a breakfast held on Friday, Oct. 9, the 1987-88 officers were elected.

Ashley Moorman, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Moorman was chosen as president. He works at Keeman Petroleum where his boss is Jim Keener.

Kelly McBride, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Michael T. McBride, was elected vice-president. She is employed by the Valdosta Daily Times. Her boss is Steve McPhaul.

Jaime Gagliardi, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gagliardi, was chosen to be the VICA secretary. She is works at Mr. J's Steak House and her boss is Briggs Mathis.

Deania Denmark, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Denmark, was chosen as treasurer. She is employed by Dr. F.L. Smotherman, D.D.S.

Kevin Breeden, the son of Nelson and Wanda Breeden, was elected parliamentarian. He works at Quincy's steakhouse and his boss is Michael Mack.

Laura McMillan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McMillan, was chosen



as VICA reproter. She is employed by Dr. William Moorman, D.D.S.

Wendi Connell, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Connell, was chosen as an advisor. She is employed by Leon's and her boss is Steve Scherer.

Anna Field, the daughter of John Field and Genelda Field, was also elected as an advisor. She is employed by Sharon Sessions at Balloon Express.

Melanie Meeks, the daughter of Laura Meeks, was also chosen as an advisor. She is employed by the Valdosta Daily Times where her boss is Steve McPhaul.

VHS FHA Officers

By Charlotte Edwards
VHS Reporter

The Valdosta High Chapter of Future Homemakers of America recently elected and installed the 1987-88 officers. The new officers are: Freda Lewis, President; Monica Jones, Vice-President; Sessceal Wade, Secretary; Kim Porter, Historian; Pam Rome, Projects Chairperson; Muriel Holmes, Honor Roll Chairperson; Charlotte Edwards, Public Relations Chairperson; Oceana Wooden, Degrees Chairperson.

The officers and new members were installed during a candlelight ceremony. During the ceremony, each officer was presented with a red carnation and each member with red and white ribbons.

A tea prepared by the Chapter Advisers, Mrs. Lisa Daughtrey, Mrs. Essie Rayford, and Mrs. Karen Zahniser followed the ceremony.

PAMS Begins Active Year

By Erica Miller
VHS Reporter

The PAMS Club has been very active this year. On October 3, several PAMS members participated in the 'Campaign for Literacy' sponsored by the Valdosta Reading Clinic. These members were televised on channel 44 WVGA as they presented the club contribution of \$42.

The club sponsored a social for the

new members at the home of Debra Waters.

New members are Myel Robinson, Nicole White, Jameleah Sharpe, Tara Demps, Monique Parker, Nikki Norris, Angela Pompey, Anquinette Henderson, Tanya Moore, Stephanie Jones, LaTonya Brown, Regina Williams, Cynthia McCoggle, Suzette Davidson, Arleathea Brown, Felicia McKeithen, Stacy Daniels, and Chantelle Cason.

The new 1987-88 PAMS Sweethearts are Spencer Iverson, John Iverson, Jason Griffin, Demetrius Jones, Aadrain Dawsey, and Christopher Hart.

The PAMS Club officers for the 1987-88 school year are Rhonda Henderson-President, Erika Duckworth-Vice-President, Sabrina Watson-Secretary, Joy O'Neal-Assistant Secretary, Deldre Sirmans-Treasurer, Stephanie Moody-Chaplain, Bernard Hitson-Parliamentarian and Erica Miller-Club Reporter.

The PAMS Club plans to participate in several community projects during this year. Also, the club participates in all phases of school activities.

Marilyn Moss represented the club by giving the invocation at the Oct. 2 football game. During the pep rally, the club members joined the Principal in leading the student body in the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The PAMS Club is a service club. The letters PAMS denotes: P-Personality, A-Appearance, M-Manners, and S-Scholarship and Service. Club sponsors are Mrs. Patricia Rayford and Mrs. Pearl Mobley.



VDT 10/23/87
The New Queen

Erica Miller, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly B. Dansey, was crowned Homecoming Queen of Valdosta High School during Friday night's Homecoming football game, where the Wildcats defeated Colquitt County High 35-0. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek.

W.G. Nunn Second Grade Class Adopts 'Cats For Learning

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Seven-year-old Irven Kenny sat quietly, his small frame dwarfed by the two big fellows on either side.

For nearly 15 minutes he didn't speak but listened intently to what the two had to say.

The smile on his face, which stretched from ear to ear, was the only indication that he was a very happy little boy.

According to Barbara Bankston, a second-grade teacher at W.G. Nunn Elementary School, Irven's reaction to the two class visitors was a normal response since the "Adopt-A-Cat" program began in her classroom a month ago.

"To be that big and strong, they tell us to eat lots of vegetables and they don't eat junk food. I want to be big and strong like them."

*Keith Richardson, 7
Second Grade, W.G. Nunn*

No, the felines aren't small cuddly kitties, but huge brawny seniors from the Valdosta High School Wildcats football team who visit the classroom every Thursday as part of a most unusual learning program.

Mrs. Bankston began planning the program early in the summer to meet a common need she saw in her classroom.

"I wanted to help the children develop a sense of pride in the school and community and give them something to relate to," she said.

Hence, "Adopt-A-Cat" was conceived and after a month, the idea has blossomed into a successful program.

Not only are the children learning lessons in dedication, the importance of academics and the rewards of hard work, routine class work has evolved into a fascinating experience as Mrs. Bankston mixes academics with fun.

"For instance, we write letters to the players each week and before they come to the classroom, we discuss how we'll ask them questions and what sort of questions will be asked," she said.

A corner of the room has been set up for newspaper articles and photos of the team and she said the children now scan the paper eagerly each night to find mention of their new found friends.

"My second graders are interested in the paper," she said smiling.

The lessons the players bring with them are also an important part of the learning process.

"Lots of the children don't have men in the homes, and it provides a positive male image for them," she said.

The children are enthralled. They scarcely breath as the players answer the endless stream of questions.

The adopted cats on this particular Thursday were B.J. Mason, quarterback, and Todd Pitchford, offensive left tackle.

"What happens if you break a rule when you're playing?" Kevin Williams asked tentatively.

"It's a penalty," Mason answered, "You know, when they throw a flag."

The question is asked what the boys do when they aren't playing football.

"I spend a lot of time studying, and I belong to the Key Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes," Pitchford said.

"I'm real involved in my church," Mason said, "and I try to get caught up on my studies."

Seizing the moment, Mrs. Bankston makes a point.

"See, they have to study to do well in school," she said.

After more questions, the autograph



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Le

Valdosta High Seniors Talk Things Over With Group Of Second-Graders

session begins and the children are eager to share what the football players have taught them.

Keith Richardson, 7, thinks all of the players are very nice and he has learned a lot from them.

"To be that big and strong, they tell us to eat lots of vegetables and they don't eat junk food. I want to be big and strong like them," he said.

Irven Kenny, who has finally left Mason's side for the first time all afternoon exclaims his enthusiasm.

"They are really neat," he said, denoting high praise for a second grader.

Irven wishes he had a brother like the 'Cats who come to visit. "I got a sister," he said, "But I can pretend they're my big brother."

Jessica Coombs, a 7-year-old aspiring cheerleader, brings the matter into focus.

"I like talking to them. All of us like to write letters to them," she said matter of factly.

While the program was designed to benefit the children, it also means much to the players who participate.

"We talk a lot about how the kids look up to us, and we try to teach them the right way," Pitchford said.

"This reminds me that they are always watching and little kids imitate

what they see older kids do," Mason said.

Mason admits the undiluted admiration of the children is a boost, but he has always liked to be around children.

"I really like little kids," he said.

If Mrs. Bankston's plan was to sneak in an array of lessons while the children were having fun, her goal has been accomplished.

"It's just fun to have them here cause they know so much," said Ernest Brown, 7.

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—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Running Back James Roberts Eludes Handful Of Monroe Defenders

VDT 11-8-87

Griffin Rolls, Gladiators Lose

The Associated Press

The No. 3 Evans Knights notched their 23rd regular-season victory in a row Friday night with a 20-19 victory over Northside-Warner Robins behind the passing of Craig Cassidy and the running of Lenny Springs in Georgia high school football action.

The outcome was in doubt until Northside quarterback Mark Ivory was pressured into a bad pass on a 2-point conversion attempt that would have put his team ahead with 42 seconds to play.

Elsewhere, the four, No. 1 ranked teams all posted impressive victories.

Class AAAA Valdosta cruised past Monroe 49-3; AAA leader Thomasville downed a good Bainbridge team 28-0; AA No. 1 Central of Carrollton edged West Rome 21-10, and A No. 1 Lincoln County continued to roll with a 48-0 thrashing of Portal.

Class AAAA
Second-ranked McEachern com-

pleted a perfect 10-0 regular season with a 14-0 victory over Paulding County. McEachern yielded just 43 points in those 10 games.

No. 3 Evans beat Northside-Warner Robins 20-19.

No. 5 Griffin got back on the winning track, downing LaGrange 42-7.

It hasn't been Clarke Central's year. The No. 9 Gladiators lost their third game of the season, 21-14 to Newton County. The Rams scored the winning touchdown after recovering a Clarke Central fumble at their own 44; two running plays took it to the Central 1, whence Corey Anderson scored.

Class AAA

Bainbridge, which pushed third-ranked Central of Thomasville into overtime last week before losing, did not fare as well against No. 1 Thomasville, losing 28-0.

Ronnie Gardner gained 125 yards on 15 carries, 121 of them in the first half as the Bulldogs took a 21-0 lead. Eddie Coleman and James Jackson each

scored twice for Thomasville, Coleman capping a 99-yard drive in the second half with a short run.

Thomasville quarterback Shawn Jones was 5-of-12 passing for 142 yards.

Appling County took the opening kickoff and drove 70 yards in 16 plays to take a 7-0 lead over No. 3 Central of Thomasville, but Central answered with 42 straight points en route to a 42-14 victory.

Class A

Lincoln County continued to stow why it is No. 1 with a 48-0 victory over Portal. Reserve running back Leroy Craig scored three touchdowns on runs of 13 and 20 yards and a 7-yard pass reception.

No. 2 Clinch County got a 65-yard touchdown pass from A.C. Cooper to Dondre Lacy and a 22-yard TD run from Jamie Spates to down Irwin County 12-0. Herbert Mingo added 155 yards on 22 carries.

In an upset, No. 4 East Rome lost 14-0 to Trion.

Three Top Athletes Hall Of Fame Bound

VDT 11-10-87

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Lou Blanton, Noel George and Evelyn Wilkes Schwandt were honored Monday night as the three were inducted into the Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame during a banquet at the Valdosta Country Club.

Former Valdosta High quarterback and current Georgia Bulldog Greg Talley was named Athlete of The Year.

Wildcat head football coach Nick Hyder, Valwood head coach Eric Thomas and Lowndes High girls basketball Elinor Goode were also recognized.

Others receiving plaques for all-state honors were Beverly Williams and David Hargett of Lowndes, Jerome Callaway, Jodie Sprenkle, John Wheelis, Derek Shaw and Talley all of Valdosta High were also named.

Also, Billy Boatwright, Maurey Copeland, Don Faircloth, Shannon Houchins, Anthony James and Todd Peterson of Valwood were also honored.

Candice Fincher and Jessie Tuggle,

Valdosta State College's two All-Americans were also recognized.

For Blanton, an offensive and defensive tackle on VHS's first state championship team in 1940, his induction, not surprisingly, was greatly appreciated.

"It feels great. To be chosen by people from your home town, who ought to know better, is really an honor," he said. "This is a real pleasure. I wasn't all that outstanding or great an athlete and that makes my induction feel all the better."

"I'm just elated," said Lowndes head baseball and assistant football coach Noel George. "It's great to be honored by the town in which you were born. It's also nice that people remember, no matter how long ago you did what you did."

For Evelyn Wilkes Schwandt, a four-year starter for the Valdosta Wild Kittens basketball team which won a state championship, her induction came as quite a surprise.

"It feels great to come back to my hometown, Valdosta, and be honored like this," the Beaverton, Ore. resident said. "I can't thank my former teachers and coaches enough."

Three Students Pledge Sorority

VDT 11-12-87

Three Valdostians have pledged the Gamma Mu Chapter of Kappa Delta Sorority at Valdosta State College.

Pledges include Laura Allison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Allison; Julie Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Davis, and Laurie McAllister, daughter of Harriet S. McAllister, of Valdosta.

Miss Allison is a freshman majoring in business. She is a graduate of Valdosta High School where she was active in Distributive Education Clubs of America and Sigma Delta Theta Sorority.

Miss Davis is a freshman majoring in education. She is a graduate of VHS where she was active in the drill team and DECA. She was also a member of Sigma Delta Theta Sorority.

Miss McAllister is a freshman majoring in pre-dentistry. She is a graduate of VHS where she was active in the drill team, Future Business Leaders of America and a mat girl.

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Mon., Nov. 9, 1987

Tradition Becomes Passionate Friday

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

In 1976, Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson brought life to a sleeping Lowndes Viking program and helped intensify a high school rivalry that has become the most heated regular season football game in the state.

That rivalry continues this Friday night at Martin Stadium when the Vikings challenge the Valdosta Wildcats in the final regular season game of the 1987 schedule.

For Lowndes, the season will end on Friday but the Wildcats will go on to the Region 1-AAAA playoffs and hopefully state competition.

But just because Lowndes is out of post season play, don't get the idea that the game doesn't mean anything.

"The tradition of the game, the natural rivalry, gives added incentive to the contest," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Collision is a serious business. You can get your



From The 1968 Battle: Pictured Are VHS' Don Golden (12), Gary Dove (86), and LHS' Henry Otis Register (32)

1969 Valdosta won 40-0 and tied Athens High in the state final. Don Golden passed for two touchdowns while Willie Jones, Danny O'Neal, Bo Blalock, and Henry Davis also scored. Henry Otis Register had 97 yards on 25 carries for Lowndes. The thermometer read 32 degrees that evening.

1970 Lowndes fell 26-0. Valdosta quarterback Stanley Bounds was 17-of-27 for 231 yards and 2 TD passes — one to Stan Rome. Lowndes threatened to break the shutout on a great kickoff return by Leonard Stafford, but Charles Daniels saved the shutout with an open field tackle. It was Noel George's first year as Viking head coach.

1971 No surprise. Valdosta 40-0 and the 'Cats won state again.

Stan Rome caught six passes for 144 yards to break the region reception record.

1972 It was Charlie Greene's first year as Valdosta head coach and to that date, the tightest Valdosta-Lowndes game as the 'Cats won 20-7. It was only 7-0 at the half. Rome caught 2 TD passes and Pat O'Neal scored the third. Lowndes scored on a 47-yard pass brome Larry Thomas to Abe Clemons.

1973 Greene's 'Cats won 29-0 over the West Thomas led Vikings. The Wildcats had 342 yard to Lowndes' 99.

1974 Hyder's first year as Valdosta head coach. Freshman quarterback Buck Belue sparked Valdosta after leading 7-3 at the half. Lowndes' sophomore quarterback Kip McLeod tried to rally the troops but was unsuccessful.

1975 Valdosta. Jody Wilson caught 41-7 Valdosta. Jody Wilson caught three touchdown passes, Alton Battles ran for one score, Belue threw for four scores and ran one in on his own.

1976 Wilson takes over as Lowndes head coach and threatens Valdosta. Lowndes led 3-0 with six minutes left on the clock. But Valdosta took advantage of Lowndes turnovers and Belue dove in for two touchdowns to give Valdosta a 14-3 win.

In a pre-game interview with *The Times*, Wilson says: "If I had my choice of beating Valdosta this weekend and losing all the rest of the games this season, or losing to Valdosta and winning the three games left, which do you think I'd choose?"

1977 The Vikings finally win, 7-2, but not without controversy. Bill Schreffler

returned a Belue pass 80 yards. Valdosta returned a Kenny Luke pass for an apparent score, but the officials say he was down in the end zone before he released the ball.

Charles Burgman ripped the No. 7 jersey off of Belue and he played the rest of the game wearing No. 1. Belue drove Valdosta to the Lowndes 41 when time expired.

1978 Valdosta won twice, 22-0 during the regular season and 21-7 in the region playoffs. In the first game, Ernest King ran for two touchdowns and John Lastinger rushed for 59 yards.

1979 Lowndes claimed an exciting 15-14 regular season win and wore black jerseys for the game. Trailing 14-7, Cedric Jones took a Chuck Devane pass 58 yards for the score. The 2-point conversion was broken up but Dante

Jones was called for pass interference. Eric Thomas ran it in for the two point. Valdosta got revenge in the region playoffs. John Bond went 60 yards for the score and Valdosta won 24-21. Lowndes' Thomas threw three touchdown passes.

1980 Lowndes won the state title, but Valdosta embarrassed the Vikings during the regular season 17-8 and led 17-0.

David Parker threw 2 TD passes and Keith Sampson booted a 27-yard field goal.

Lowndes got revenge, winning 6-0 in the region final.

1981 Valdosta came from behind to take a 20-13 win. Lowndes led 13-6 with 7:37 left. The Wildcats put together a 10-play, 74-yard drive and Parker dove in from the 2 to tie it up.

Charles Arnold later sacked Randy Gay and he coughed up the football. Ozeil Ramsey recovered at the Viking 7 and Pernell Bee ran it in to secure the win.

1982 Valdosta won 22-0. The Wildcats went 15-0 and beat Peachtree 10-7 in the state title game.

1983 Valdosta won 35-6, went 11-0 before losing to Tift County 17-13 in the region final.

1984 Valdosta claimed a 28-6 win and went on to beat Clarke Central 21-14 in the state final.

1985 The only year Lowndes has ever beaten Valdosta twice. The Vikings won the regular season game 10-0 thanks to a 40-yard field goal by Joey Parker and a 16-play 98-yard drive that ends in a touchdown.

Lowndes won the region title 14-7. Bobby Eason hit Eric Blades for a 55-yard touchdown pass, and Mark Jones scooted 31 yards for a second score.

William Dixon scored from 12-yards out for Valdosta.

1986 Valdosta got revenge for 1985, beating Lowndes 17-6 during the regular season and 28-0 during the region final. In the regular season game, Reginald Dandy returned a punt 74-yards for a score, Greg Talley hit Guy Belue for a 37-yard TD pass, and Dan Tillman booted a 20-yard field goal.

The Vikings fared no better in the region final, gaining only 102 total yards as the Jerome Calloway show stunted Lowndes.

Sounds Of Southern Open



Valdosta High Schools' Marchin' Cats' In Formation During Their Exhibition Performance Gave The Crowd The Other Half Of What Makes Valdosta's Fridays

Competition was the order of the day last Saturday as 11 high school bands competed in the Eleventh Annual Southern Open Marching Band Competition sponsored by the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band Boosters and held at Cleveland Field.

Bands from four states including Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Tennessee played, marched and performed their hearts out for the coveted award.

According to VHS Band Director Steve Hankla, the quality of the competing bands this year was top of the line. Fort Walton Beach High School Band from Fort Walton Beach, Fla. walked away as the big winner of the day-long

V. Times 10-25-87

Lowndes High School's "Georgia Bridgemen" finished second with Cleveland High School from Cleveland, Tenn. placing third in the Gold Division.

The Valdosta Junior High School Marchin' Tom Cats, the Valdosta State College Blazin' Brigade and the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats were the exhibition bands of the day.

The judges for the event came from all over the United States and were impressed with the level of skill the high school musicians exhibited, said Hankla.

'Cats' Defense Making Waves In Region 1-AA

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta High defense is wrapped in an almost mythical aura. Under the tutelage of defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, the Wildcat defense has been known for uncanny football savvy, the ability to hit hard, and most important, the ability to keep the points off the scoreboard.

It is often said that in Region 1-AA, defense wins football games. Valdosta has certainly won its share of events.

One reason for the success of the defense is the interior line's play against the inside rushing game. Valdosta has always ranked near the top of the region against the rush, and this year is no exception.

Part of the credit has to go to the overall program at Valdosta High, which is good at producing quick, strong, and big youngsters to battle in the trenches. But part of the success must also go to interior line coach

Freddie "Muddy" Waters, who gently watches and guides the players.

Like the linemen he works with, Waters doesn't exactly find his name in the paper every week. But opposing running backs seldom find their way into his end zone.

The Wildcats are giving up just over 100 yard rushing per game, but gave up over 200 yard against both Tift County and Waycross that tipped the balance a little.

Last week against Colquitt, Valdosta gave up only 46 yards on the ground and went on to claim a 35-0 victory.

"They really fired off the line last Friday," said Waters. "If they keep coming off the snap like that every week, we'll be in great shape come playoff time. They should be peaking about then, and that's just the time when you want your squad to peak."

Anchoring this year's line is 285-pound junior Zabria Bell, who is the only returning bona fide starter at right tackle. Bell is big, quick, and strong.

Starting at noseguard is Robert Fillmore who tips the scales at 170. Like his brother Eric Larry, who started last year at that spot, Fillmore is small but scrappy.

The other tackle spot is filled by Coronzoa Greene, a 225-pound senior. While Greene did not start last season, he saw plenty of playing time behind Otis Conaway and could be considered a seasoned veteran.

Another senior who has seen ample playing time this year is 190-pound Scott Barton.

Barton is one of many Waters can shuttle in to play on the defensive line, and play well. And the youth of the squad is incredible.

Sophomore George Copeland has opened some eyes along with freshman Aundra Scruggs (245), freshman Ricky Thomas (185), freshman M.J. Johnson (165), junior Chad Walker (195), sophomore Andre Hampton (170) and junior Willie Simon (240).

Another youngster Waters is counting on for next season is 215-



Zabria Bell

ound James Osborne, who was injured during camp this year but should return next season.

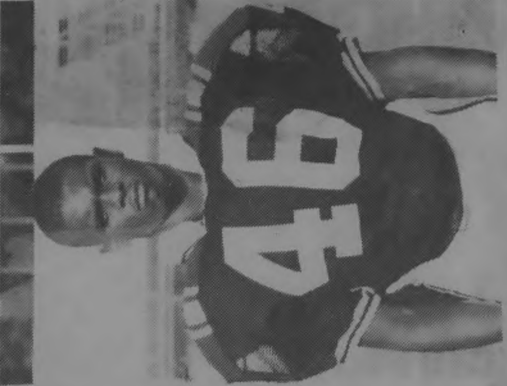
"We're really a young squad," said



Coronzoa Green

Waters. "Out of 13 or so kids we only have two seniors and we'll only have three next year."

And all of the above mentioned won't



Robert Fillmore

walk on to the field green next year. Waters has seen to it that they get some playing time this year.

By next season, they'll be ready.

Cream Rises To Top In AP's High School Football Poll

By TOM SHARP
Associated Press Writer

After eight weeks of furious churning, the cream of Georgia's high school football crop has pretty much risen.

Thirty-eight of the 40 teams ranked last week in the four classifications are still there, the newcomers to the Associated Press prep football poll this week being Hart County in Class AAA and Dacula in Class A.

Hart is 6-1, its only loss to a solid Gainesville club. The Bulldogs move into a tie for the No. 9 spot with Dalton, which lost for the first time last week and falls from sixth.

Dacula is 7-0 and moves to tenth in Class A, replacing Warren County,

which falls from the rankings after last weekend's loss to Portal.

The Falcons have only been challenged twice, in a 14-6 victory over Jackson County and a 22-21 squeaker over Meadowcreek. In three games since, Dacula has outscored its opponents 151-13. They'll likely get a sterner test this week against Buford. The No. 1 teams stay the same in rankings by the AP's panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Valdosta solidified its position atop AAAA with a convincing 35-0 victory over Colquitt County. Thomasville stays No. 1 in AAA with its 42-14 victory over Appling County; Central of Carrollton remains tops in AA after beating Rockmart 21-14, and Lincoln County is still No. 1 in A after downing

Aquinas 27-10.

CLASS AAAAA

The top seven spots in AAAAA are the same, and the same 10 teams are ranked. The only change is that Savannah, which lost a tremendous contest to fifth-ranked Effingham County last weekend, falls from seventh to tenth. Tift County and Clarke Central each moved up a spot, to eighth and ninth, to fill that void.

Griffin stays second after edging Riverdale 17-13; McEachern remains third and is 8-0 after beating Osborne 22-0, the Indians' third straight shutout. Fourth is Evans, 7-0 after last weekend's 21-0 victory over Southwest Macon. Effingham County worked hard to stay at No. 5 with its 35-34 victory over Savannah,

Redan had the week off and remains sixth, and Southwest DeKalb keeps the No. 7 spot with its 15-8 victory over Dunwoody.

The top five teams are 37-0.

CLASS AAA

Here, the top five spots are unchanged. Second-ranked Marist, 7-0, beat Henderson 40-7 last week. No. 3 Central of Thomasville beat Coffee 41-14, fourth-ranked Worth County beat a good Dodge County team 21-0, and No. 5 Lakeside didn't play.

Villa Rica moves up one spot to sixth, replacing Dalton. Stephens County moves to No. 8 from a tie for tenth after downing Monroe Area 33-14 to go to 6-1.

Dalton drops into a tie for ninth with the newcomer, Hart County.

CLASS AA

The same ten teams are ranked in the same order in this most stable of classes.

Robert E. Lee went to 7-0 and remains second after beating Harris County 38-16.

Mary Persons is third after shutting out Jackson County 21-0; Camden County remains fourth after a week off; and Lovett gets to rest this week with its No. 5 ranking after beating Cedar Grove 28-20.

Washington-Wilkes is sixth after pounding Harlem 55-0. Manchester stays seventh with its 46-0 victory over Pike County. Greene-Taliaferro remains eighth after clobbering Hancock Central 42-0, the same score by which East Hall beat Lumpkin County to stay

at No. 9. East Hall has yielded just 20 points in its seven victories.

Swainsboro is tenth after its 41-6 victory over Claxton.

CLASS A

Besides the addition of Dacula in the No. 10 spot, there is one other change here.

Brookstone, 7-0, eased past Monticello for the No. 6 spot. Brookstone not only leads the state in scoring, averaging 52.7 points per game, but the Cougars have given up fewer points than anybody else — just 19, or less than a field goal per game.

Clinch County, Louisville, East Rome and Pacelli continue to hold down the 2-3-4-5 spots. Monticello takes its 7-0 record downstairs one notch to seventh.

Monroe Hungry

Wildcats Prepare To Face Improved Monroe Squad

Thurs, Nov 5, 1987

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The 8-0 Valdosta Wildcats are preparing to face their toughest emotional challenge, according to head coach Nick Hyder, when they play host to the Monroe Golden Tornadoes 8 p.m. Friday at Cleveland Field.

This may not be the usual Valdosta-Monroe clash. The Tornadoes are riding a two-game winning streak as they head toward playoff action for the first time in the school's history.

The top-ranked 'Cats coming off an open week in their schedule, know that Monroe deserves full and immediate attention.

"Monroe is a quality team," said Hyder. "The week off has been beneficial in preparing for the

Tornadoes." The Valdosta production has been staggering. Against Colquitt County two weeks ago, the Wildcats manhandled the Packers on their way to a 35-0 whitewashing.

"We have had some quality time the past week," said Hyder. "Mental preparation has been the key." According to Hyder, time spent in practice last week was solely directed for Monroe and no one else.

The Valdosta offense will hope to expand on its yardage and point production Friday night as it faces a tough test in the defense of the Tornadoes.

Valdosta leads the region with 275 total points, while only giving up 86.

The Wildcat offensive yardage has come on the heels of junior running backs James Roberts, a 215 pounder

and Isaac Ceaser 210. Valdosta is first in the region with a game average rushing of 232 yards, and is presently third in passing, averaging 78.8 yards per game.

The Wildcat passing attack is led by senior quarterback B.J. Mason and junior Ben Hogan. Mason and Hogan hope to provide the 'Cats with stability offensively with a top passing performance against Monroe.

Senior Charles Steward (6-3, 225) leads the receiving corps for Valdosta. Steward is averaging 15.1 yards per catch and owns two touchdowns on the year.

The defensive unit for Valdosta seems to have risen to the occasion several times this season and will need the same type of effort to keep the explosive Tornadoes out of the end zone.

The defensive unit shapes up like this: sophomore noseguard Robert Filmore (170), senior tackle Coronzo Greene (225) and junior tackle Zabria Bell (285). Flanking the line will be ends senior Kenneth Berrien (165) and junior Coleman Rudolph (185). The secondary will be led by senior corner-back Reginald Dandy.

According to Hyder, one of the most critical areas of a football team is the kicking game. The 'Cats seemed to be well represented in each department.

The punting chores will be handled by Charles Steward, while the placekicking duties will be in the foot of senior Todd Peterson. Peterson presently leads the region in scoring with 53 points.

Everything is set for the battle with the Tornadoes emotionally and physically, but according to Hyder, there is a little matter of a ball game to be played. And Hyder's 'Cats expect a war with Monroe.



Valdosta vs. Monroe

- When: Friday, Nov. 6
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Monroe 4-3-1, 3-2; Valdosta 8-0, 4-0
- Series: Valdosta leads series 18-1
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 43, Monroe 0; 1986
- Last Week: Monroe 14, Lowndes 8; Valdosta idle
- On Deck: Valdosta at Lowndes, Nov. 13

Wed. Nov. 4
Nov. 4
1987

Former VHS Bands Meet To Celebrate 50th

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Cats, cats and more cats will collect to recall the 50th Anniversary of the Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats Band Saturday at 7 p.m.

Held in the Valdosta High School Gym, the reunion is being given for all of the members of the band since its inception in 1937, said Steve Hankla, band director at VHS.

The evening will begin with a performance in the gym by the 1987-88 Marchin' Cats and recognition of "Honorary Cats."

"Honorary Cats are all of those people who have helped the band," Hankla said.

The reunion will then move into the cafeteria where proclamations from Valdosta's Mayor and several other governmental bodies will be presented.

Special guests for the evening include Ralph Johnson, who started the band in 1937, Frank Butenschon, who was the band director from 1963-1977 and who changed the name of the band to Marchin' Cats, and Mike Chapman, the band director from 1978-80, said Hankla.

A large table of band memorabilia will also be on display with the trophies the band has won over the years and old uniforms, Hankla said. A reception will follow at the end of the evening.

Tee shirts and programs commemorating the reunion will be sold and the event is open to all former members of the Valdosta High School Wildcat Band and Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats.

No Surprise: VHS Still Ranked 1st

tough assignment this weekend against Bainbridge, which is 5-2-1 and played third-ranked Central of Thomasville into overtime last weekend.

Marist is second, Worth County is fourth, Lakeside is fifth, Villa Rica stays at No. 6, Woodward Academy remains seventh, and Stephens County is eighth.

The only change this week is that Hart County and Dalton fall back into a tie for the ninth spot instead of being ranked 9-10 as they were last week.

Class AA

This was the only class where the first-place votes were split. Central of Carrollton stayed on top with 12 of them, while Robert E. Lee and Camden County each got one.

Lee remains second, while Mary Persons is third.

Camden County is fourth, Lovett fifth, and Washington-Wilkes sixth, all in the same place they were last week.

Greene-Taliaferro moves up to No. 8 and Manchester, 42-0 losers last week to R.E. Lee, falls to ninth from seventh. Rockmart enters the rankings at No. 10.

Class A

No question, Lincoln County is No. 1 in the voters' minds here. Clinch County is a strong second, Louisville remains third, East Rome stays No. 4 and Pacelli is fifth.

The only change here is that Brookstone falls from sixth to 10th after losing to Greenville, and Dacula jumped two spots to eighth. Palmetto stays ninth. Metter goes up to seventh and Monticello goes back to No. 6, which was wrested from it in last week's poll by Brookstone.

Class AAA

The rankings in this class are virtually unchanged. Thomasville remains the unanimous No. 1 choice. The Bulldogs have a

See scoreboard for ranking list

Morrow's lone loss of the season was in the second game of the season to McIntosh, 7-0. The Mustangs take on Newman, 5-2, in a region 6-AAAA game this weekend.

Rockmart lost its season opener to Cedartown, tied the second game with Litchfield, Ala., and since has lost only to AA No. 1 Central of Carrollton, that by a 21-14 score.

Class AAAA

Valdosta keeps its uncontested No. 1 ranking with all 14 first-place votes. The Wildcats return to action this week against Monroe.

McEachern edges Evans for the No. 2 spot vacated by Griffin. Effingham County moves up a notch to fourth, and Griffin is fifth.

Redan maintains its No. 6 ranking, and Southwest Dekalb stays No. 7. Eighth is Morrow. Clarke Central County drops one spot to 10th.

Sky High Monroe To Test Wildcats

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Turning over a new leaf is the battle cry being heard from the Monroe Golden Tornadoes' camp. The Tornadoes are sky high as they prepare to do battle Friday night in Cleveland Field against the top-ranked Valdosta Wildcats at 8 p.m.

Monroe enters the contest on the heels of the school's biggest football victory ever over Lowndes County 14-8 last week. Monroe not only won its fourth victory on the season, but clinched the first ever playoff berth by a Tornado football team.

Motivation will not be a problem for the Tornadoes as they go for win number five for the year.

Monroe, 4-3-1, is led by head coach Winfred Benson.

Benson is in his 27th year with the Monroe football program, elevating his squad from a 1-9 record in '86 to an almost sure playoff berth in '87.

"They are a very high tempo ballclub," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "Putting a lot of pressure on their opponent is what they do best."

Putting pressure on their opponents they have indeed. In the Tornadoes' last two games they have yielded only 14 points, while scoring 32.

The Tornado offense is led by junior quarterback Johnny Gilbert 6-foot-2, 190. Gilbert is one of the top passers in the region hitting on 70% of his attempts.

Gilbert's favorite receiver is senior Theron Conley, 6-1, 175. Conley caught a 52-yard touchdown pass to sink Lowndes last week.

"Throwing the ball is their game," said Hyder. "Gilbert is

the best passing quarterback we've seen to date." But Gilbert is not alone in this high powered attack.

Monroe sports one of the region's top backfields. Junior Richard Rollins (5-9, 155), a transfer from Westover, heads the running game for the Tornadoes.

Rollins is presently fourth in the region with 442 yards to his credit and three touchdowns. Rollins' running mate in the backfield is senior Johnny Ford (5-8, 170). Ford leads all Monroe ballcarriers averaging 5.6 yards per carry.

Paving the way for the Tornado attack is Monroe's offensive line. Anchoring the line is center David O'Hara (5-10, 180).

Flanking O'Hara on the line will be guards Thomas Hale (5-10, 185) and Eddie Robinson (5-10, 190).

Defense has been the key to Monroe's success this season and Hyder expects nothing to change.

"Monroe's defense is tough to operate against," said Hyder. "They are very quick and pursue the ball tremendously."

Heading the defensive group for Monroe is all-region candidate linebacker Zaybian Robinson (5-11, 187). Robinson was credited with seven unassisted tackles against Lowndes last week as the Monroe defense only gave up a total of eight points on the evening.

Robinson is joined in the defensive backfield by senior noseguard Michael Parms (5-11, 175). The defensive tackles for Monroe are senior Gromasky Albritton (5-10, 165) and sophomore Vincent Williams (5-10, 185).

According to Hyder, Monroe is a complete team.

"The biggest thing is that they are small in size, but big in heart," said Hyder. "All attentions must be on the Tornadoes. They are very deserving of their status."



VHS Space Race

Valdosta High School celebrated the homecoming game against Colquitt see page 8. — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

It's Time To Fall Back

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the nation's uniform time zones were introduced more than a century ago, controversy followed, and the dispute continues today as the nation nears the semi-annual shift between daylight and standard time.

Opponents of daylight-saving time will be pleased to see the clocks turned back an hour to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday.

On the other hand, proponents of the daylight-saving system will decry the loss of that hour of light in the evening.

"I received two letters today, one in favor of daylight-saving time and one opposed to it," Joanne Petrie, a Transportation Department lawyer who supervises time zones and changes, said Wednesday in a telephone interview.

The system of time zones was introduced after railroad transportation became common in the 19th century. It was designed to ease the confusion caused by allowing every city and town to set its own time.

The move was denounced as excessive government interference and was opposed by people who condemned changes in "God's time."

At any rate, daylight-saving time lasted a bit longer than usual this year, having gotten under way on the first Sunday in April instead of at the end of that month.

It is concluding at the normal time though, at 2 a.m. the last Sunday in October.

Most people will set their clocks back before retiring Saturday night to prevent them from being an hour early Sunday for church or other gatherings, she said.

VHS DECA Conference

VDT 10-24-87

By Michele Winfrey
VHS Reporter

Students from the Valdosta High School Chapter of Georgia DECA will be attending a two-day conference,

Nov. 6-7, at the Hyatt Regency Ravinia Hotel in Atlanta.

"I am looking forward to attending this conference and meeting other DECA students from Georgia," said Susan Burns.

The Marketing Education students are members of the 13,000 Georgia DECA organization which operates as the only professional student organization for high school enrollees interested in a career in marketing.

Members/Students attending from Valdosta High School are: Natalie Bishop, Susan Burns, Brant Campbell, Gina Hampton, Rad Johnson, and Michele Winfrey.

The Marketing instructor, Norman Greene, will also attend the two-day series of workshops designed to prepare young adults for their roles as leaders in the school and the community.

14 The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Oct. 24, 1987

From The Classroom...

VHS FHA In Albany 'Leaders On Move'

By Charlotte Edwards
VHS Reporter

The Valdosta High Chapter of Future Homemakers of America attended the Fall District Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17. The meeting was held at Albany High School with the theme "Leaders On The Move."

Valdosta High had the largest number of delegates from this district with 47 in attendance. The meeting focused on FHA State Projects for 1987-88, which included Membership; Student Body; Star Events; and Financial Fitness.

Valdosta High Chapter has completed Membership, one state project, by doubling their club membership to 55. Another project, Student Body (a fitness project) was started with an activity during National School Lunch Week when the FHA honored the 14 members of the cafeteria staff by presenting them with corsages.

To complete the meeting day, the FHA club spent the afternoon at the Albany Mall.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students



Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta Running Back Lawrence Sharpe Goes Over The Top For Second Touchdown

'Cats Roll To 35-0 Blitz Over Packers

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

B.J. Mason scored two touchdowns and threw for another as the Valdosta Wildcats cruised to a 35-0 victory over the Colquitt County Packers here Friday night at Cleveland Field in a Region 1-AAAAA battle.

Jim Hughes' Packers just could not get on track as the Wildcat defense played perhaps its finest game of the year, holding Colquitt to just 88 total yards.

On the offensive side of the ball, Valdosta's ground game was as dominant as ever, rolling up 285 yards on the evening.

With the win, Valdosta, ranked No. 1 in the state, moves to 8-0 on the year and 4-0 in the Region 1-AAAAA standings. Colquitt drops to 4-3 and 2-1.

"Tonight's game is just the product of our progressive improvement," Wildcat coach Nick Hyder said. "It was a total effort both defensively and offensively."

The game was scoreless the first quarter as both teams were forced to punt on their opening possession. But on the Wildcats' second possession of the night, James Roberts fumbled on the first play from scrimmage giving Colquitt the ball right back on its own 49-yard line.

But defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's squad stiffened and held the Packers on three plays.

Colquitt County..... 0 0 0 0-0
Valdosta..... 14 14 7-35

V-B.J. Mason 1 run (Todd Peterson kick)
V-Lawrence Sharpe 1 run (Peterson kick)
V-Mason 45 run (Peterson kick)
V-Roberts 4 run (Peterson kick)
V-Bernard Hilton 26 pass from Ben Hogan (Peterson kick)

First Downs Val 9
Yards Rushing 18
Rushing Attempts 46
Yards Passing 27
Passes 42
Fumbles-Lost 17-5-1
Punting 9-5-0
Penalties 5-25-0 3-40-0
3-25

Colquitt—Yates 10-51, Wilson 5-21, Howard 4-11, McFadden 3-3, Wiggins 5-33, Valdosta—Mason 10-75, Parker 2-47, Ceaser 10-25, Sharpe 7-27, Hilton 3-13, Chachere 3-13, Wright 1-4.

Colquitt—Wiggins 16-51, Goff 1-0-0. Valdosta—Mason 11-1-0, Hogan 6-4-62, Roberts 2-0-0.

Colquitt—Bridges 2-20, Wilson 2-2, McFadden 1-20. Valdosta—Hilton 3-47, Steward 1-17, Bullard 1-11.

The 'Cats got on the board at the 6:26 mark in the second quarter. Mason burst 28 yards on a second-and-14, moving the ball to Colquitt's 32. Bernard Hilton went 18 yards on a trap play and Roberts carried the ball three straight times to the Packer 1-yard line.

But Colquitt would stiffen until Mason capped the 10-play drive with a 1-yard plunge on fourth-and-goal. Todd Peterson's kick was good and Valdosta led 7-0.

Marcus Ponder returned the following kickoff 56 yards to the Valdosta 38 but the Packers would move backwards as Anthony Williams recorded the first of his two sacks of quarterback Ben Wiggins.

Then on fourth down, Colquitt went

back to punt but the snap sailed over the head of Wiggins and the 'Cats had the ball on the Packers' 14.

Three plays later, Lawrence Sharpe bulled his way over from the one at the 3:02 mark in the second quarter and Valdosta held a 14-0 halftime lead.

Keith Henry had an interception to stop a Packer drive late in the half.

The Wildcats received the ball to open the third quarter but could only move the ball nine yards setting up a fourth-and-one at the Colquitt 45.

Hyder then instructed his troops to go for it and Mason responded by breaking the initial contact at the line. He then cut right and raced down the sidelines for a 45-yard touchdown scamper to make the score 21-0.

Mason finished the night with 75 yards on 10 carries. Roberts led all rushers with 61 yards.

"That fourth-down play was one key in the ball game," Hyder said. "My ancestors would turn over in their graves if they knew I went for it on fourth-and-one leading only 14-0. But it paid off."

Ben Hogan took over at quarterback on the Wildcats' next possession and proceeded to complete three straight passes, driving the 'Cats down to the 31. Then after Isaac Ceaser ran the ball three times to Colquitt's 5, Roberts capped the drive with a 4-yard run at the 4:04 mark in the third for a 28-0 lead.

Valdosta's last touchdown came on a 26-yard touchdown pass from Hogan to Hilton on the first play of the fourth quarter.

Against "CC" Defense Made All The Right Plays

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

After having their problems in the Wildcats' 38-29 win over Waycross early in the season, Valdosta High defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph's charges began to receive a little heat from the media and fans alike.

But after the Wildcats' 35-0 drubbing of Colquitt County Friday night, the defense appears to have come into its

own. The defense held the Packers to 46 yards rushing and 42 through the air. At the end of the first half, Colquitt had -21 on the ground.

"I think our defense played pretty well during the Tift game," Rudolph said. "In that game we caused them to make a lot of mistakes but if you look at the overall stats and the fact that we were able to play a lot of our guys, it's our best performance of the year."

Leading the way for Valdosta de-

fensively was sophomore linebacker Anthony Williams who sacked Colquitt quarterback Ben Wiggins twice for -37 yards. Coleman Rudolph and Eric Duncan also got into the act earlier when they combined to sack Wiggins to stop Colquitt's first drive of the night.

For Williams, his performance was especially sweet. Since the beginning of the year, the linebacker has been having eye problems but is seeing fine now.

According to Rudolph, Williams re-

ceived a special pair of protective goggles, but until two weeks ago, has had trouble adjusting to wearing them during the game.

"He's seeing the entire field a whole lot better now and for the past two weeks has really played good ball," Rudolph said of his linebacker. "Those glasses have really seemed to help him a lot."

But perhaps the defense's finest moment came when the Packers were stopped on their only legitimate scoring

opportunity of the night.

Late in the game, Colquitt had moved the ball to the Wildcat 7 setting up a first-and-goal. Runningback Bernard Howard ran the ball on three straight times to the one but a fourth-and-one, cornerback Reginald Dandy and Bobby Brooks were among those who helped keep the Packers out of the end zone.

"I was very pleased with the fact that we were able to play a lot of people. We had a good game last week

too," Rudolph said. "We got a lot of good movement and they really went after the ball carriers. We did a lot better job with the option tonight. Against Waycross we had some trouble but lately we have been seeing a lot of that. I think our guys are starting to get where they need to be in those situations."

"I guess since we've seen so much of the option, our guys our guys are getting a little more experienced. They're looking better."

Man The Battle Stations; Winnersville Week Is Here

Winnersville Classic week is perhaps the strangest string of days on the calendar.

Friday night's game between Valdosta and Lowndes will be the third time I've seen the two collide in regular season play, and I can't help but admit that I find the game exciting as well as fascinating.

The two games I've seen have both been tremendous, even though last year's game wasn't much of a contest in the second half.

It's amazing how much intensity can go into a high school football game. It's the Georgia-Florida, Nebraska-Oklahoma of the high school ranks.

BUT, I could really do without the week before. Not because it's a tacking week, but because of all the spite that infects the area.

The great Roman orator, Cicero, was a master of the rhetorical device of praeteritio. Southerners may not know what that is but they know how to do it.

Praeteritio is used by all those gossips who wish to sound polite. It goes something like this: "I won't even mention the fact that her husband ran away with the milkman."

That's the kind of stuff that goes on before the big game. "I won't mention that all their players are over 23 and served time in prison," or "I won't mention the fact that they're all on steroids," or "I won't mention that fact that the kicker's mama was given a job by the coaches' brother."

Finger pointing abounds, and 99.9 percent of it is sheer garbage.

Rabid fans on both sides like to find fault with the opposing program, and in most cases, it's the pot calling the kettle black.

And of course, there are the rumors. Usually once a year, Kevin Price (formerly a Times' employee, use to be at Thomasville, now at Savannah)



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

calls and says he heard Viking head coach Joe Wilson or Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder has been fired.

In 1985 we had calls from all over the place from people saying Hyder was going to reactivate four players who had been suspended for the whole season.

These were probably the same people running for the root cellar when Orson Welles did his famous radio broadcast of *War of the Worlds*.

What happens on the field is usually tremendous. It is amazing how civil and respectful the Vikings and Wildcats can be toward each other. They usually shake hands and trot of the field, and that goes for the coaches as well.

Of course Valdosta and Lowndes fans will always like to claim otherwise. "Why, they wouldn't even shake hands after the game," say both sides. I haven't found that to be the case.

I truly believe some of the fans carry more malice to the game than the football players do.

Then there are the little traditions that are humorous — like the wreath of black roses sent to Lowndes every year emblazoned with Rest In Peace.

That's a good-natured prank that makes a local florist some bucks. No harm in that.

I'm hoping for a quieter week this

year, and asking for a little mutual respect. The Valdosta-Lowndes rivalry truly is the greatest in the state, and I hope it stays that way. And that endorsement comes from a New Jersey yankee.

* * * * *

J.D. Langley died on October 26 after a battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 66.

And who, you may ask, is J.D. Langley? Wildcat fans may remember Langley as the former Rockmart coach who whose team beat Valdosta 52-21 in the 1950 state championship game.

Rockmart had a tremendous running back named Max Mason. Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder says Bear Bryant told him that Mason was the best athlete he ever recruited. Bryant was at Kentucky then, and wanted Mason so bad that he even gave Langley an offer as an assistant coach. Neither Langley or Mason panned out at Kentucky.

Anyway, what's interesting about all this is that Langley's family saw fit to mention his state title win over Valdosta in his obit. I guess beating the Wildcats is quite an accomplishment.

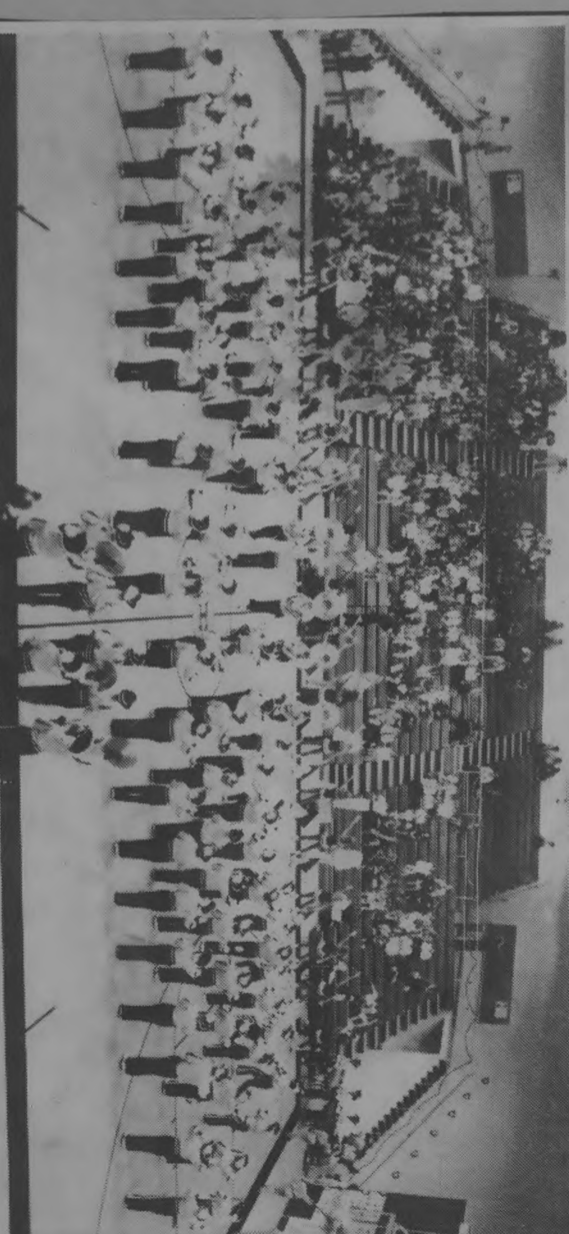
* * * * *

Things have not exactly gone the way Coach Terry Wilkes might have expected. The Lowndes Viking basketball team has already experienced two setbacks and the season is still two or three weeks away.

Within a week's time, the Lowndes gym was victimized by fire and 6-foot-8 sophomore Marvin Lucas was lost because of a severe muscle tear on his right leg.

That's almost as unfortunate as the 1985-1986 season when Wilkes had to forfeit half his games because of unwittingly playing some ineligible players.

Chin up, coach.



VDT 11-8-87

Marchin' Cats

The Valdosta High School Marchin' Cats "twisted, shouted and whistled while they worked" as they entertained special guests at the 50th Anniversary of the Marching Wildcats and Marchin' Cats Saturday night

at the school. During the program, the 1987 Marchin' Cats performed several numbers including a Walt Disney Medley and the rock and roll favorite "Twist and Shout." — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy



VDT 11-8-87

Vivid Memories

Saturday night was a time for remembering the old days as former and present members of the Valdosta High Marching Wildcats and Marchin' Cats met for the 50th Anniversary of the band at VHS. Roger

DeCesare, a member of the band in 1967, shows his wife April a trophy won at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. DeCesare was color guard captain from 1966-69. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

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Tues., Nov. 10, 1987

VD 1

Vikings Hope To Stop VHS Running Game

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

While Lowndes defensive coordinator Brad Almon and Valdosta offensive coordinator Jerry Don Baker have their differences, they certainly agree on one thing: Valdosta has a solid rushing offense.

Almon is working hard to figure out how to throw a wrench in the works when Valdosta and Lowndes meet Friday night at Martin Stadium. Baker is hoping the machine will keep humming along. Both agree that the Wildcat rushing game will be a focal point Friday night.

The Valdosta Wildcats lost a tremendous front line last year with the graduation of John Wheelless (315), Jodie Sprengle (275), and Troy Wells (225). Center Ben Lane was lost because his parents moved.

But the Valdosta offense hasn't missed a beat, it just changed gears.

Last year's team was both a running and passing club. This year, it's run, run, run. But it hasn't been three yards and a cloud of dust — more like 6 yards and some bruised defenders.

Valdosta has gained 2137 yards rushing in nine games for an average of 237 yards per game and an incredible 6.21 per carry with 35 rushing touchdowns.

Conversely, the Wildcats have thrown the ball only 99 times in nine games for only 666 yards.

Lowndes, meanwhile, is first in the region in rushing defense, allowing only an average of 95 yards per game, nine rushing touchdowns, and only 3.26 per carry.

The Vikings, of course, haven't played Valdosta. Then again, Valdosta hasn't played Lowndes. So it's all speculation, but it is safe to say that whoever wins that war in the trenches stands a good chance of winning the game. Valdosta will attack with a deep and



Andy Anderson

competent offensive line. The undisputed leaders on this line are seniors right guard Jack Morgan (220), right tackle Todd Pitchford (225), and left tackle Andy Anderson (245). Right guard Andy Rykard (210) is a junior.



Freddie Richardson

Also seeing extensive playing time is freshman Shaun Eilders and junior Steve Smith.

"We've got to figure out how to stop that Valdosta multiple offense," said

Lowndes defensive coordinator Almon. "They just come right at you. They'll pull you to sleep with the running game and then, bang, they'll hurt you with a pass. Plus they've got those big old running backs."

Almon will counter with a defensive front and linebacking squad that has certainly earned respect this season.

Most of the praise has been lavished on linebacker Freddie Richardson (265), but Antwoine Clarke (200) has filled position admirably as well.

Lowndes' three down linemen have played well this year. Leading the way is noseguard Chuck Miller (263). The tackles are Brooks Akins (196) and Casper Vinson (177). Both Vinson and Akins have shown good pass rushing ability and along with Miller have allowed few yards up the middle.

George Wisenbaker has also played well on the defensive line.

The only game the Viking defense can really be faulted for was the Tift County game, where Lowndes got beat

26-0. But in that game, the defense had to tow the line because the Viking offense had trouble moving the ball and the Blue Devil offense kept it most of the night.

"Those down linemen do a good job plugging the hole, especially Miller in the middle," said Baker. "That kind frees up Richardson, and he can go right to the ball carrier."

"We're going to have to neutralize Richardson," said Baker. "Then we'll have to do something to stop the front three."

Baker will also have to find a way to contend with defensive ends, led by Bennie Pierce, who also plays fullback on offense.

Baker is fortunate to have such quality backs as James Roberts, Isaac Ceasar, Lawrence Sharpe, B.J. Mason. The offensive linemen don't have to work quite as hard.

"Our backs can turn a little crack into a 6-yard gain," said Baker. "All they need is a little daylight."

You Heard It Here First: Wildcats Will Edge Vikings 20-10

VD 1 11-13-87

The Valdosta-Lowndes game is such an emotion-filled contest that only a fool would bet on it.

So why am I going to attempt to predict the outcome? Call me foolish.

I think the key to the ball game will be how well Lowndes' defense can stop Valdosta's brutal rushing attack.

The Wildcats have accumulated 2137 yards on 344 carries, averaging 6 yards per run with 35 rushing touchdowns. Those 2137 yards are more than Lowndes and most of the other Region 1-AAAA teams have in TOTAL offense. James Roberts, Lawrence Sharpe, and Isaac Ceasar are just punishing



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

runners, and they make the machine work behind a strong front line. Quarterback B.J. Mason has good foot speed and is both a running and

throwing quarterback, but is most dangerous when he scrambles out of the pocket.

BUT: Valdosta has not had to throw the ball. The Wildcats have thrown less than any other team in the region with only 99 tosses on nine games. Mason and Hogan, however, have been successful. Valdosta is third in passing with 739 total yards, averaging 82 yards a game.

It would be unwise to dismiss Lowndes' defense. The Vikings are No. 1 in the region against the rush, allowing only 95 yards per game and 3.26 yards per carry. Lowndes is second in pass defense,

yielding just 60 yards a game with 14 interceptions.

The only poor game the Viking defense played was against Tift County, and the Viking offense didn't exactly give the defense much of a chance to rest.

It is my opinion that Lowndes will hold Valdosta below its rushing average, and I don't think the Vikings will allow themselves to be hurt too much by the pass.

Lowndes' offense, however, must find a way to move the ball and create scoring opportunities — something the Vikings have not done well during the second half of the season.

Mark Walker has to have an excellent night and Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson has to figure out a way to get Bobo Perry into the open.

Another Viking player who will have to play well is quarterback Rhett Akins, who has really been struggling.

Akins has a habit of throwing the ball low and concentrating on only his primary receiver Rozell Orr. I think Akins is going to have to throw to the tight end and backs more, and the line will have to allow him the time to throw.

Unless Lowndes shows something they've kept hidden, I don't think the Vikings will score more than 10 points

on Valdosta. Ever since the Tift County game, it's all been for naught.

If the game is close, Valdosta will have the edge by virtue of Todd Peterson, who can kick far with accuracy. Charles Casey has come on strong for the Vikings, but doesn't have the power of Peterson.

Both teams have exciting return teams. Lowndes has Orr and Valdosta has Reginald Dandy.

The punting team advantage also goes to Valdosta largely because of excellent coverage and the leg of Charles Steward.

Here goes nothing: Valdosta will win 20-10.



Lowndes
vs.
Valdosta



VDT 11-13-87

- When: Tonight
- Where: Martin Stadium, Lowndes County
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Valdosta 9-0, Lowndes 5-4
- Series: Valdosta leads series 19-5
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 28, Lowndes 0; 1986
- Last Week: Valdosta 49, Monroe 3; Lowndes idle
- On Deck: Monroe at Valdosta (Region Playoffs)

Valdosta Offense

QB — B.J. Mason, tailback — James Roberts, fullback — Isaac Ceaser, flanker — Bernard Hitson, receiver — Timmy Holmes, tight end — Chales Steward, center — David Hazelhurst, right guard — Andy Rykard, right tackle — Andy Anderson, left guard — Jack Morgan, left tackle — Todd Pitchford, placekicker — Todd Peterson.

Lowndes Defense

Noseguard — Chuck Miller, tackle — Casper Vinson, tackle — Brooks Akins, end — Reggie Lane, end — Bennie Pierce, linebacker — Freddie Richardson, linebacker — Thong Lott, cornerback — Reggie Gance, cornerback — Kelvin Williams, safety — Shea Phillips, safety — Antwoine Clark, punter — Will Spain Kelly.

Lowndes Offense

QB — Rhett Akins, halfback — Mark Walker, fullback — Bo Bo Perry, flanker — Max Ward, receiver — Rozell Orr, tight end — Zane Craven, center — Ron Jones, right guard — Slade Bush, right tackle — Doug Hubbard, left guard — Richie Coleman, left tackle — Chris Hubert, placekicker — Charles Cosey.

Valdosta Defense

Noseguard — Robert Fillmore, tackle — Zabria Bell, tackle — Coronzoa Greene, end — Kenneth Berrian, end — Coleman Rudolph, linebacker — Beau Laskey, linebacker — Carlo Butler, cornerback — Reginald Dandy, cornerback — Keith Henry, safety — Jason Bridges, safety — Eric Toth, punter — Charles Steward.

Team Stats

		Rushing					
	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg	
Valdosta	9	344	2137	6.00	35	237	
Lowndes	9	343	1466	4.27	14	162	

		Passing					
	G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
Valdosta	9	99	44	739	16.8	6	82.1
Lowndes	9	152	50	638	12.7	5	70.8

		Total Offense			
	G	Plays	Yards	GAvg	
Valdosta	9	443	2876	319.5	
Lowndes	9	495	2104	233.7	

		Scoring Offense		
	G	Pts	Avg	
Valdosta	9	323	35.8	
Lowndes	9	150	16.6	

		Rushing Defense					
	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg	
Lowndes	9	262	855	3.26	9	95.0	
Valdosta	9	288	996	3.45	6	110.7	

		Passing Defense					
	G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Int	TD	GAvg
Lowndes	9	132	46	545	14	3	60.5
Valdosta	9	153	63	868	8	8	96.4

		Scoring Defense		
	G	Pts	Avg	
Valdosta	9	89	9.8	
Lowndes	9	104	11.5	

Individual Statistics

		Rushing				
	G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	
Walker, Low	9	166	829	5.0	5	
Roberts, Val	9	87	664	7.6	10	
Ceaser, Val	9	86	505	5.9	10	
Mason, Val	9	60	421	7.0	8	
Pierce, Low	9	48	198	4.1	1	
Perry, Low	9	43	191	4.6	2	
Parker, Val	9	26	138	5.3	1	
Overman, Low	9	29	133	4.5	1	
Akins, Low	9	42	118	2.4	2	

		Passing				
	G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Int	TD
Mason, Val	9	52	31	361	2	3
Akins, Low	9	89	33	369	5	4
Hogan, Val	9	32	15	278	2	2
Overman, Low	9	40	19	217	1	2

		Receiving				
	G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
R. Orr, Low	9	21	292	13.9	3	32.4
Steward, Val	9	14	168	12.0	2	18.7
Carter, Val	9	9	167	18.5	2	20.8
Craven, Low	9	8	77	9.6	0	9.6

Belue Recalls Rivalry Fondly

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer



BUCK BELUE

When it comes to re-living past Valdosta-Lowndes football games, former Wildcat and University of Georgia quarterback Buck Belue has enough memories to last a lifetime.

Belue, who starred for the Wildcats from 1974 to 1977, recalls that in 1974, even though the 'Cats were suffering through a 3-7 campaign, the crowd at Cleveland Field was tingling with anticipation as the kickoff drew nearer.

"I felt like this was the first time coming into the game when Lowndes actually thought they would win. Neither one of us was very good that year but there wasn't an empty seat in the house," Belue said. "We had a couple of screen plays that put us on the board a couple of times and I guess that made it 14-3. We were leading 7-3 at the half and I think it ended 20-3."

According to Belue the 1974 win over Lowndes helped ease the agony of a disappointing season but in 1975, the Wildcats turned their fortunes around.

"Then next year (1975) is the year I remember a great deal. In 1975, Lowndes was suffering through a bad season and we had rebounded from 3-7 a year ago and were on a roll. We had lost to Moultrie for our only region loss and came into that game with Joe Wilson as our offensive coordinator.

That helped our offense a great deal because at that point in time, coach Hyder had worked extremely hard adjusting to the Valdosta system because he had been a wishbone man all those years. Wilson was a former Valdosta High School player and was coordinator under Wright Bazemore for 15 or 16 years and that was a great deal of help that year because I had more fun as a quarterback that year than basically my whole high school and college career.

"Simply, we were throwing the ball more and throwing it for a great deal of efficiency. One of my primary targets, who happened to be my best friend at time was Jody Wilson, coach Wilson's son. It was sort of a family affair."

However 1975 turned out to be Wilson's last season at Valdosta as he took control of a young Lowndes' program and quickly propelled the Vikings to greater heights.

"I feel like the Lowndes-Valdosta rivalry really got started in 1976 when Joe left our program and took his Valdosta tradition and his successful way of thinking over there. I'm sure he looked into the situation carefully before he went over there. Lowndes had finally put together a team that had a good deal of talent, and had some good kids on the ball team. I'm sure he thought about that before he made the move."

According to Belue, Wilson's move to Lowndes had an immediate impact.

"We played them in the spring game and wore them out. But Valdosta came into that game with a very good team.

"We knew it (the 1976 game) was going to be a struggle. We knew they were coming on as a team. I'm sure they gained a lot of confidence from coach Wilson and began to take pride in their football team. I don't think in the past they had been able to do that. They had a great deal of vision with Joe there."

Valdosta won the 1976 game 14-3, but Belue remembers the 'Cats had to

struggle to do it.

"Offensively we had not played very good and they had a very good defense led by Ronny Atkins, the middle linebacker. We got a couple of late turnovers and as it turned out the turnovers enabled us to win the ball game. We had got a punt inside the 10-yard line and of course from that close in we were going to score, that made it 7-3. There was a fumble on the next possession and I think we took it in 25 yards for the score. I think Lowndes left after that game feeling they should have won."

Through 1976, the Vikings had never defeated the Wildcats but in 1977, Belue's senior year, Wilson had his Lowndes team primed and Belue just shakes his head when recalling that fateful night.

The Vikings defeated the Wildcats 7-2, as Belue had his passed returned 80 yards for the only touchdown of the game.

"We came into the game at the time undefeated. I think they may have lost one ball game. They had a fine offense with Kenny Luke at quarterback. Jody Wilson had left after our 14-3 win our junior year to join his father for his senior year. John Lastinger stepped in for Jody and played very well at wide receiver and we didn't miss a beat.

"That ball game in 1977 turned the tide for the Lowndes program. It was something they'd dreamed about since starting football in 1968. They had been putting up with Valdosta whippings every year.

"That game we moved the ball well between the 20's but that was about it. I remember it was on second down and we threw a 12-yard out-and-up but we dropped the pass which would have been a touchdown. On the very next play on 3rd-and-10, I dropped back and threw a curl pattern and Bill Schrefler, who again I grew up knowing, picked it off and I was the only one left back and he had three or four of his linebackers blocking for him.

"I kept giving ground and giving ground hoping that someone would be able to catch up and make the tackle. But right in front of the Lowndes' bench they bowled me over around the 30-yard line and I could see Bill running down the sideline scoring. The place went bananas."

But according to Belue, the final score of the game was not all that he remembered.

"After the ball game, the thing I remember was the traffic jam. The

...Belue

Continued From Page 1-B

Lowndes people weren't going to leave the stadium. Billy Martin's leading the band and they're all out there celebrating. We just sat on our little yellow school buses and looked up into the stands and after the game the Lowndes fans were giving us the devil as they walked by.

"We had this kid who had just moved in from California and had joined our team. He was on the bus at this time happening, and after about the 500th time this Lowndes fan yelled in the said 'Aw hell, it took you ten years to do it.' I remember one of our players standing up and saying 'Oh Buddy sit down, you don't know what the hell this is all about.'"

Despite the Valdosta-Lowndes rivalry being probably the most heated rivalry in the state, Belue doesn't remember anything out-of-line happening.

"What makes this rivalry so intense is that you grow up knowing these people. You play against them in junior high so you know these people well. Whereas you play Warner Robins and you don't know anyone."

"Here you know the coaches, you know the players, you know their girlfriends and they know yours. That's what makes the rivalry so intense."

Even though it's been 10 years since that 7-2 loss to the Vikings, Belue still gets kidded about it on a regular basis.

Much of the kidding is centered around the fact that Belue had his jersey ripped off his back by former Viking Charles Burgman.

"I've seen Charles Burgman several times since then and he comes up and says 'Hey Buck, remember me,' and I say 'Oh yeah Charles, I remember you.' The next comment I hear is 'Hey Buck, I remember when they ripped

your jersey off that night."

"I ended up having to wear Jody's old jersey, No. 1. I wanted to wear that jersey in honor of Jody. I thought it was neat."

Before the game I heard they had a bounty on my jersey. I said, hey, let them rip the jersey off my back, all we want to do is win the game."

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Thomas Excited About Big Game

VDT 11-13-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The mention of the Winnersville Classic between the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings holds mixed emotions for former Viking star quarterback Eric Thomas.

Thomas, presently the head coach at Valwood, is very quick to point out his feelings pertaining to the Lowndes-Valdosta rivalry, and the way he has seen the battle unfold from the past to the present.

"I feel that this particular game is actually only a step lower than the Georgia-Florida rivalry from the standpoint of the crowd," said Thomas. "It's great for the community, and the players involved to come together and partake in all the activities leading up to the ultimate event — THE game."

For Thomas it all started in 1977, the year of the first Viking victory ever against the Wildcats. According to Thomas, it was a new beginning in a way for the Lowndes program. For the first time ever, the Viking fans really felt the emotions surrounding the game.

"After the 14-3 loss to Valdosta in '76, the rivalry has simply taken off since that time," said Thomas. "In many respects, with Wilson's arrival came optimism and it seemed to filter down through the ranks."

The rivalry in itself is a historic one, according to Thomas.

"Growing up amongst all your friends, knowing that one day you will meet competing for the bragging rights of the city is enormous," said Thomas.

As the '77 season wound down, the 'Cats were the top team with Lowndes as the understudy until, as fate would have it, the tables quickly turned.

On an October night at Martin Stadium in front of a sellout crowd, Thomas and his teammates would rewrite the history books.

As Thomas tells it, even amidst the controversy that surrounded that game it was special.

"That game seemed to put the rivalry into perspective," said Thomas. "Lowndes was starting something new and that win sent the town into a frenzy."

The Vikings defeated the Wildcats 7-2, with the biggest play from scrimmage being an interception return of 80 yards by Bill Schreffler to give Lowndes its margin of victory.

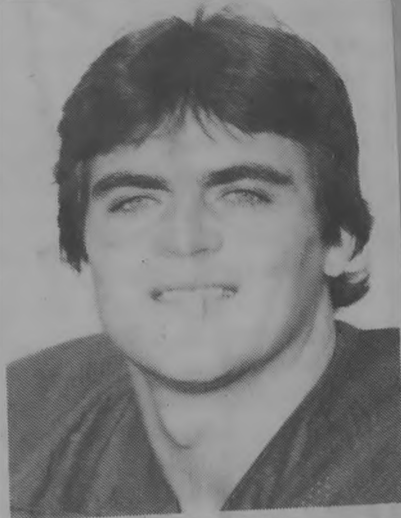
According to Thomas, the next two seasons Lowndes would take two different paths in the series with the 'Cats.

"In '78 Valdosta had our number," said Thomas. "But in '79 the fortunes of the Vikings were both sweet and agonizing."

In 1979, the Vikings, according to Thomas, fielded one of its greatest teams ever, and behind the watchful eye of head coach Joe Wilson it looked as if the Lowndes partisans would finally witness the crowning of a new king in Valdosta.

"The regular season game was a classic," said Thomas. "Our backs were as far against the wall as you can get trailing by seven late in the fourth quarter, until Cedric (Jones) scored from 75-yards out with the clock showing 1:11 left to play. Fortunately, the two point conversion was successful (by Thomas) for the win."

A very fond memory for Thomas, indeed it was. But to this date Thomas' worst nightmare was the rematch



ERIC THOMAS

three weeks later in the opening round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

In the second meeting between the two clubs not only did the outcome change, but so did the entire Lowndes County community.

Thomas remembers that game too well. For Thomas' Vikings lady luck was none too kind as the Wildcats were winners 24-21 in one of the greatest games in the Lowndes-Valdosta history, but the significance of that defeat suffered at the hands of the 'Cats would serve as the catalysts for the following year.

"Actually, the '79 season provided the boost that we needed to obtain our goal in '80," said Thomas. "But the road was far from being paved. There was a little matter of beating the Wildcats that stood in our way, and boy did they ever."

With Thomas at the helm, he led the Vikings to their one and only state title in 1980, and that year was a season of mixed emotions for Thomas.

"Although we went on to win the state title, the regular season meeting between both teams did not meet up to the standards of the rivalry," said Thomas. "Valdosta came to play and we obviously did not, but the bottom line was plain and simple — a Wildcat romp 17-8 after we entered the obviously better team. But it was not to be."

"Valdosta, for me, was a game that no hype was necessary for motivation," said Thomas. "Losing to Valdosta 24-21 in '79, and the 17-8 defeat suffered in 1980 seemed to bring everything into focus, and our character was being stretched to the limit as it came down to a cold night at Death Valley to make our dreams come true."

The 17-8 outcome alluded to by Thomas was something just as soon forgotten by the Lowndes fans, but Thomas did not see that game in that perspective at all.

According to Thomas, never a year went by that he did not dream about defeating the 'Cats and in 1980 the clock never struck midnight.

"Behind one of the greatest coaching jobs I have ever witnessed, we finally accomplished what we had set out to do," said Thomas, speaking of the Vikings' 6-0 win in the Region 1-AAAA final. "Coach Wilson came up with a perfect game plan, and thanks to such great athletes as Cedric Jones, Steve Player, and Ray Luke the dream was a reality."

See Thomas, Page 2-B

The Game I'll Never Forget

VDT 11-14-87

As the saying goes, who would have thought it.

The Valdosta Wildcats, ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 nationally, were picked by many fans in town to just annihilate Lowndes but the Vikings proved to be quite an inhospitable host, losing only 10-7.

Quite frankly it was the guttiest performance by any two teams that I've ever seen, high school, college or pro.

Like I said in an earlier column this was the first Winnersville Classic I've ever witnessed and I was hardly disappointed.

Just as the fans, I was eager with anticipation all day long and as the kickoff drew nearer, I was as excited as if I were cheering for my own college or high school.

Friday night, I saw first hand why Region 1-AAAA plays the best football, bar none, in the entire state.

The electricity that crackled through this crisp Friday night was tremendous. And when the Vikings arrived in their black tops and silver bottoms I just knew this would be special game. And it was.

I wanted to experience this game a different way so I spent my time on the sidelines getting a close-up view of the action.

When Rozell Orr returned the opening kickoff for an apparent touchdown the excitement on the sideline was something I've experienced only once before.

Now don't get me wrong, I wasn't excited because I was pulling for Lowndes, but I was excited in the fact that this was going to be game worthy of the Winnersville Classic title.

It's just a shame that someone had to lose because neither team did. Heroes? They're almost too numerous to name.

B.J. Mason, Todd Peterson, Coleman Randolph, Jason Bridges, Carlo Parker, Andy Anderson, Anthony Williams for Valdosta; Rhett Akins, Freddie Richardson, Casper Vinson, Mark Walker and the rest of the Lowndes team all did just fantastic.

I must admit that going in, that earlier in the week, I didn't feel like Lowndes would be able to hang with Valdosta but as it got closer and closer to game time my feelings changed.

Lowndes was hardly the same team that got blown out by Tift County and was upset by Monroe. At times the Vikings looked as if they wouldn't be stopped as Walker, Akins and Orr each made several long runs. Head coach Joe Wilson had his team prepared to a tee.

But so did Valdosta head man Nick Hyder.

The courage of both these men was evident last night. In the first quarter on the Wildcats' first drive, Hyder elected to go for the touchdown on fourth-and-goal rather than kick the field goal. His gamble failed but his reason was clear.

First of all, it showed the extreme confidence Hyder has in his entire offense, and second, even if the play failed, the Vikings would be backed up in a desirable spot.

Then here's Wilson, who on a 3rd-down ran Akins on a draw play, crossing up the Wildcat defense and earning a first down.

Credit must also be given to Wilson for sticking with Akins at quarterback. Akins, who has been criticized by some this year, perhaps played his best all-around game of the year. Akins played like a champ.

The coverage this game got was unbelievable. Newspapers, television crews and magazines, from all over Georgia and Florida converged on Martin Stadium. Coverage such as this is usually reserved for big-time college sports.

But the biggest thing I remember, besides my feet freezing off, was the class exhibited by the fans of both teams and the players both during and after the game. It was first class all the way.

And I tell you, I almost got a lump in my throat at the game when players and coaches from both teams gathered at mid-field for a post-game prayer. It was something I'll always remember. It just made me think how fortunate the county of Lowndes and the city of Valdosta is to have young people such as these in the community.

Again, let me take this opportunity to personally congratulate both head coaches, all the players and fans from both teams. They are certainly as classy a group as there is anywhere.

As I walked off the field, I was asked by Valdosta assistant Jerry Don Baker what I thought of the game.

My answer was simple. It was the best high school football game I ever saw.

...Thomas

Continued From Page 1

Lowndes defeated Valdosta 6-0 courtesy of an 11-yard run around right end by Jones to seal the 'Cats fate and send the Viking faithful home happy.

"That win meant a lot to me because that was the first time the Vikings had ever beaten the Wildcats at Cleveland Field," said Thomas. "For our players and the coaching staff it was a proud moment and one I will certainly never forget."

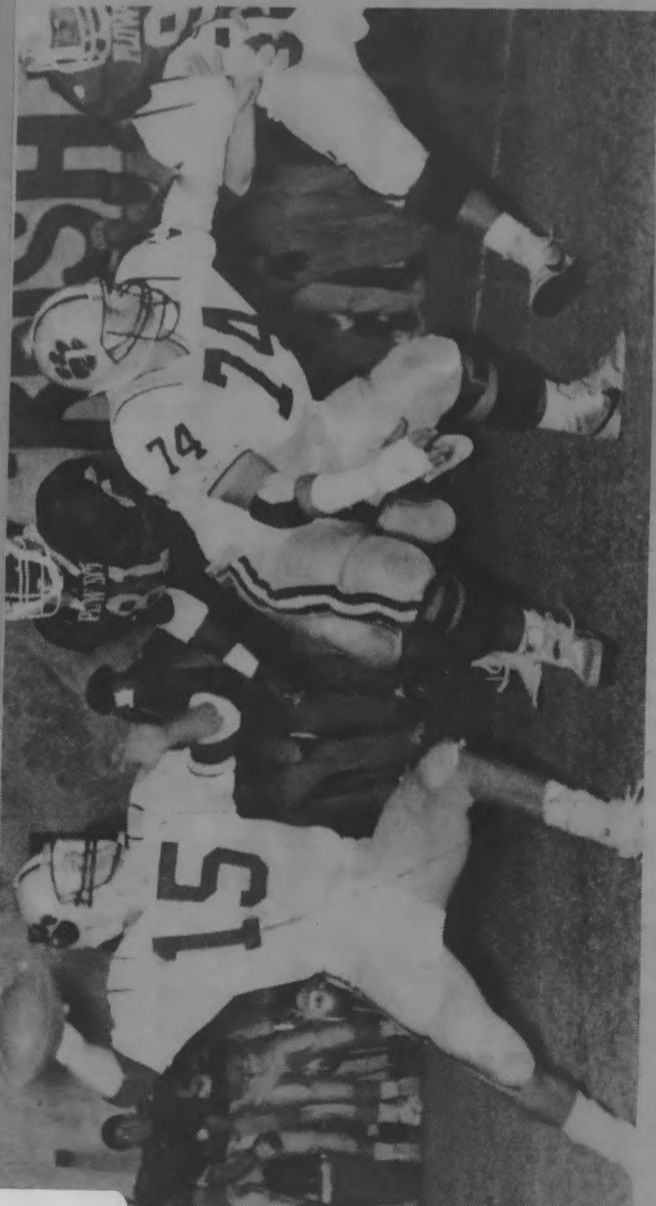
"I still remember what was said in the huddle before that play to kick place," said Thomas. "We called Cedric's number, and asked him if he wanted to go to state and his answer only took seven seconds."

The Vikings and Wildcats have staged some great wars since their first hookup in 1963. According to Thomas, it was such an honor to be involved in one of the greatest high school rivalries in the south and possibly the nation.

"I feel that the rivalry stems from a key asset that both teams possess and that is class," said Thomas. "Regardless of the final outcome of the game, my feelings were never any different, win or lose simply because of the two organizations being the programs that they are."

Although Thomas was quick in pointing out that this would be his first Winnersville Classic he has seen in a number of years, due to his football career at Florida State, nothing has changed.

"I enjoyed being a member of such a historical event. Although the memories were not all fond ones, it was something I will always cherish," said Thomas.



Valdosta Quarterback B.J. Mason Ready To Fire Pass Downfield While Line Blocks

—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Vikings Reflect On Loss

VD T 11-14-87

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

everyone before the contest was played, Lowndes played solidly on both sides of the ball. The Vikings' stood up and were definitely noticed.

"Well, once again we were snakebit," said Viking head coach Joe Wilson. "It's a shame our kids have nothing to show for this effort. I guess it's just par for the course."

According to Viking defensive tackle Casper Vinson, the Vikings' played by far their best, but simply came away empty handed.

"This team showed what it is really made of. We all played hard and won although the scoreboard doesn't indicate that. Just ask them and see what they will say," said Vinson.

The defense, according to Lowndes defensive coordinator Brad Almon, once again was simply superb.

"All I can say is that they know they were in a football game. I assure you,"

said Almon. "The defense really showed a lot of character all year and tonight was no different."

The Vikings in defeat were quick to point out that Valdosta also showed what it is made of and had only good wishes for their rival.

"We played as hard as we could. The plain and simple truth was simply better execution made the difference not the players at all," said Viking linebacker Freddie Richardson.

"Mistakes killed us. But I wish only the best for the 'Cats. They are a class team, no two ways about it."

For Vikings Antwoine Clark and Chuck Miller the feeling was mutual. "We did alright, the best we could," said Clark. "Except for losing, it was a great way to end what has been a bizarre season. These guys have

See Vikings, Page 10

The Viking lockerroom after the heart-breaking loss 10-7 to cross-town rival Valdosta was one of pride and agonizing disbelief.

The 5-5 Lowndes Vikings have nothing to be ashamed of. The Vikings' displayed one of the greatest single efforts witnessed by Lowndes fans all year.

The way the Vikings lost could almost be described as gut wrenching. And according to the Lowndes players the sentiment was echoed.

"We played our hearts out tonight, but have nothing to show for it," said Rozell Orr. "We have just have had nothing go right all season and tonight was just an example."

For a team that was counted out by

respect, I was very pleased." In the words of Viking quarterback Dicket Akins, "Our team character reigned supreme. Each of us came out winners, regardless of the scoreboard."

Asking the Viking seniors such as Richardson, Miller, Akins, if being a Viking has been something special, the replies were similar.

"The team rewards were few, but the experience can never be replaced," said Richardson.

Echoing that statement, Orr was quoted as saying, "It was fun, I enjoyed being around such class athletes."

For a team that was virtually

crucified by fans and sports writers alike, the class and determination by one Lowndes County football team was evident Friday night.

The 1987 Viking football team will not be remembered for its overall record but for one wild night in Martin Stadium where the top-ranked 'Cats were on the ropes.

Math Competition Held At Mercer

16 The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., Nov. 14, 1987

By Melissa Quintero
Valdosta High School's Math Team competed at a math tournament held at Mercer University on Oct. 31st.

Math Team members Greg Leong, Cindy Supp, Brian Mueller, Anne Clark, Toby Baskin, Melissa Quintero, Tasha Quartermain and Rosalyn Johnson, represented Valdosta High School.

Each student was required to take a 90 minute exam consisting of 45 questions from all areas of math.

A team of four Toby Baskins, Greg Leong, Anne Clark and Cindy Supp, competed in a ciphering competition, also.

Seniors, Greg Leong and Anne Clark, came away with the ranks of 9th and 10th out of 115 students competing from around the state.

Debaters Win

Two Valdosta High debaters captured the first place trophy at the Warner Robins High School debate tournament last Saturday.

Juniors Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton eliminated teams from Westminster and Savannah Country Day in the semi-final and final rounds to finish with a perfect 7-0 record in the junior varsity division.

Connell also won the second place speaker award.

Senior Barry Golivesky and junior Susie Grant finished preliminary competition with a 5-0 won-loss record and were eliminated in the semi-finals of the novice division by a team from Harlem High School.

"In tournament competition, this is the first time any team from Valdosta has ever made the cut to the elimination rounds," said Frank Hjort, director of debate.

"Last year the team made the semi-finals in the State AAAA debates but this Warner Robins tournament included tough competition from all Georgia high School Association classifications."

Other students competing in the novice division were senior Kellie Smith, sophomores Michelle Jones and Heather Strayhorn and freshman

Tammy Crowe.

Valdosta won decisions over teams from Central of Carrollton, Dougherty, Glynn, Harlem, Mary Persons, Northside Warner Robins, Pace Academy, Pike County, and Southwest Macon high schools.

The national high school debate topic for 1987-88 is "Resolved that the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America."

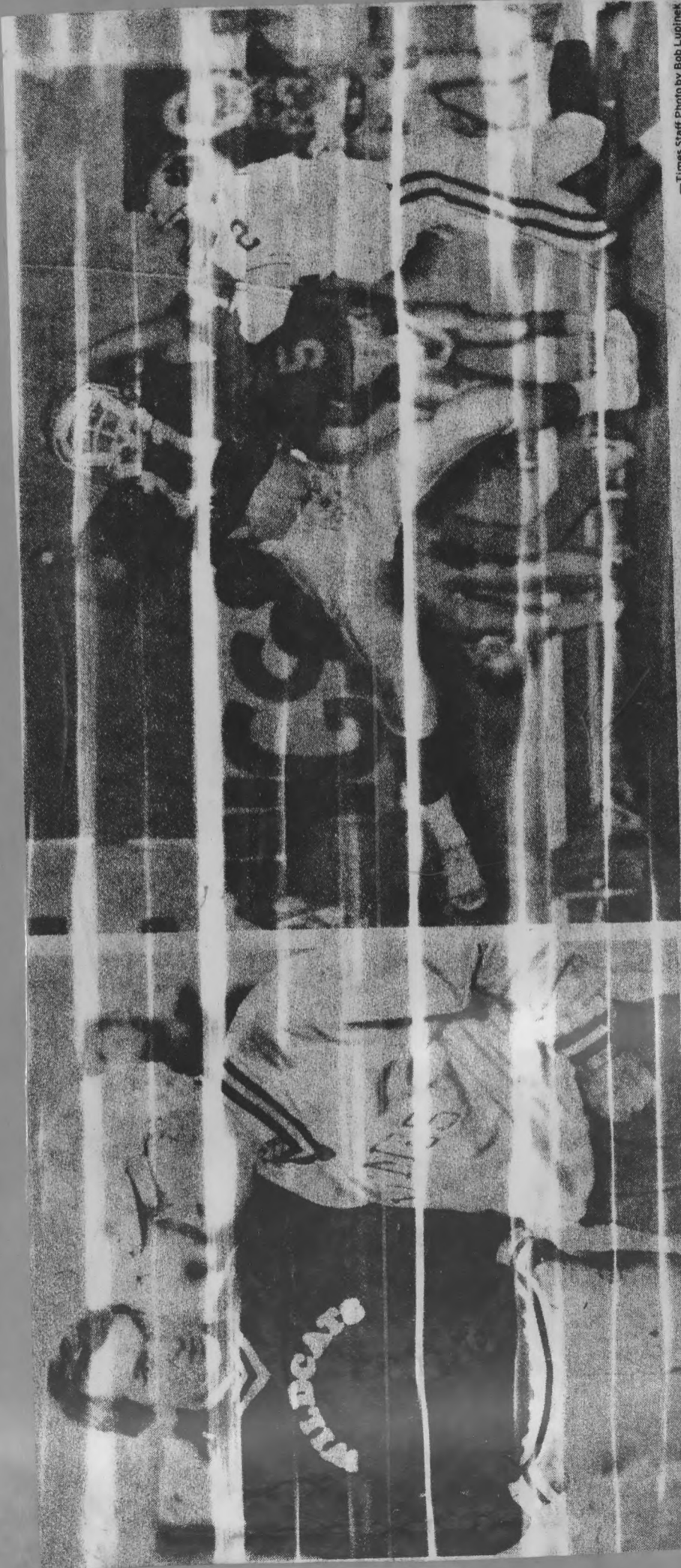
Golivesky and Miss Grant proposed an affirmative plan to provide total support for the Contras in Nicaragua. Connell and Miss Shelton won their affirmative rounds with a plan arguing for a crackdown on Latin American terrorism. In the final round Connell and Miss Shelton won on a 3-0 decision defeating the Savannah Country Day team's proposal to normalize relations with Cuba.



VHS NEWS

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Today and Friday the Debate Club plans to enter competition at the Lee County High School debate tournament in Leesburg, Ga. The Debate Club will host an invitational debate tournament on January 16.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

VDT 11-14-87
Coaches Nick Hyder And Joe Wilson Confer Before Game

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy
Shea Phillips Of Lowndes And 'Cat Timmy Holmes Both Battle For Pass By B.J. Mason

The 'Cats Performed Magnificently In The Clutch

By ANTHONY DASHER
 Times Sports Writer

Although the Lowndes Vikings were able to break several long plays on offense and on special teams in Friday night's 10-7 loss to Valdosta, the defense of the Valdosta Wildcats and the bionic right leg of kicker Todd Peterson provided the big plays when they were called on.

"After Lowndes took the punt and that long run moved it deep into our territory early in the second half, things were looking mighty good for them," Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "But to our credit our defense came through and made the big play. I felt that was the key

point in the game. "The first half, Lowndes came out fired up and we gave up some big plays but our guys never quit and came through in the clutch."

But so did placekicker Peterson. Peterson, who transferred from Valwood before the season began, responded to the pressure situation as only a true champion does.

And as it turned out, the senior's 47-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter proved to be the difference in the game.

"We've had confidence in Todd ever since he stepped on the practice field," Valdosta assistant Bob Bolton said. "He's been kicking 40 and 50 yards regularly in practice and when you have a guy who can do that you never hesitate to put him out there. We didn't

hesitate at all." Peterson, of course, was ecstatic over his game-deciding field goal and is only thankful that head coach Nick Hyder had the confidence to put him in.

"I felt great going out there but once I went on the field I didn't feel much of anything," he said. "Coach Hyder told me to be expected to be put in a pressure situation and I'm just glad I was able to respond."

"I guess I had a lot of nervous energy built up inside me. When I kicked I thought it was going to miss and hit that white sign over on the left-hand side but luckily it didn't."

But it took some sterling play by the Wildcat defense to give Peterson his chance to be a hero.

After Mark Walker's 63-yard run carried the ball to the Wildcat's 11 in

the opening minutes of the third quarter, the Vikings appeared ready to take a 14-7 lead but the Wildcat defense rose to the occasion and the Lowndes drive ended when Anthony Williams stopped Mark Walker on a fourth down on the 3-yard line.

Jason Bridges also made a key fumble recovery to stop a Viking drive late in the third quarter. Defensive end Kenneth Berrian and linebacker Carlo Butler each had sacks for the 'Cats.

But perhaps what hurt the Vikings more than anything was when defense end Coleman Rudolph almost single-handedly stuffed the Vikings on their possession following Peterson's field goal.

On back-to-back plays, Rudolph nailed the Viking runner for minus five yards and on the next play sacked

quarterback Rhett Akins for a huge loss. "All that way going through my mind was that I had to do something to help my team win," said Rudolph. "On the sack, Mark Walker was lined up to the outside and I was just wide open to make the play. It was just a freak thing that happened."

Another one of Valdosta's many heroes was quarterback B.J. Mason who, despite being harassed all night by a menacing Viking defense, made several big plays throughout the night.

In the first quarter, Mason gave his team a key first down when he burst off right tackle for a 56-yard gain and during the 'Cats' only touchdown drive of the night, completed three consecutive passes to spark the rally.

"On that run they were keying on the

big backs and I was able to get open on the wing and had an open field. I still don't know who it was that caught me," said Mason.

"This game will go a long way in preparing us for the playoffs. But give Lowndes all the credit in the world. They came more than ready to play tonight and are to be commended for doing such a good job."

But according to coach Rudolph, the Wildcats' work has just begun.

"We had more big plays go against us tonight and as I said earlier in the week, we've got to cut that out if we are to continue to win."

"This feels great," said Valdosta fullback Lawrence Sharpe. "This should give us momentum heading into the playoffs."

Peterson Field Goal Lifts

'Cats, 10-7

By MIKE COLOMBO

Times Sports Editor

VDT 11-14-87

The 1987 Winnersville Classic was just that — a classic. Valdosta and Lowndes fought toe to toe here at Martin Stadium Friday night with the VHS Wildcats coming away with a slim 10-7 win over their cross-town rivals.

Lowndes had more yards passing and running than Valdosta, but the 'Cats got a sensational 47-yard field goal by Todd Peterson with 10:38 left in the game to go ahead 10-7.

Valdosta then held on downs and Wildcat quarterback B.J. Mason made three key runs for first downs as the Wildcats were able to run down the clock and preserve the win.

The Wildcats now own a 20-5 lead in the series that dates back to 1968. Valdosta, 10-0 and riding a 25-game winning streak, will host Monroe next Friday in the first round on the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Lowndes' seasons ends at 5-5.

"It was quite a game," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder after the victory. "Todd Peterson will be remembered around here for a long time."

Hyder was equally impressed with the play of Mason, especially in the final drive that ran out the clock.

"It was B.J. and company. They were jamming the line so we decided to let B.J. keep it and go outside. He does that well."

A drained Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson had little to say after the game.

"It was a great game," said Wilson. "Our youngsters played their hearts out and played well. We have nothing to hang our heads about. We made some crucial mistakes at crucial times and they killed us."

Viking receiver and kick returner Rozell Orr let the Wildcats know immediately that Lowndes was ready to play. Orr took the opening kickoff 100 yards for an apparent score, but the play was called back when the officials ruled that Orr stepped back into the end zone for a touchback.

Valdosta held Lowndes and got the ball back on its 39. On the second play from scrimmage, Mason carried the ball down to the Lowndes 5. The Viking defense, however, rose to the occasion and forced the Wildcats into a 4th-and-goal from the 3 after short runs by Isaac Ceaser, James Roberts, and Mason.

But on the crucial 4th down play, Ceaser took a pitch left but was dragged down for a loss of 2 and Lowndes got the ball back.

Neither team, however, was able to move the ball with any success in the first quarter.

But the Vikings struck paydirt in their first possession of the second quarter. Lowndes drove the ball from its own 12 to the Valdosta 1 on nine plays and quarterback Rhett Akins dove in for the score. Will Spain Kelly added the point after and the Vikings led 7-0 with 4:59 left in the first half.

The drive was kept alive on two key catches by Rozell Orr and Jason Orr. Running back Mark Walker also had a 13-yard romp up the middle to set up Akins' scoring leap.

Valdosta, however, came right back at Lowndes. The Wildcats took the ball from their own 42 to the Lowndes 13 in nine plays. Mason again was Mr. Clutch. The nimble quarterback threw three straight completed passes in a row, his only three of the night, to Timmy Holmes, Charles Steward, and Bernard Hitson.

Valdosta scored from the 13-yard line on a tremendous run by Isaac Ceaser, who shook off at least two defenders to score. Peterson's PAT was good to tie the game.

Then the unstoppable Rozell Orr did it again for Lowndes. Orr took the

Valdosta.....	0	7	0	3-10
Lowndes.....	0	7	0	0-7
Low — Rhett Akins 1 run (Will Spain Kelly kick)				
Val — Isaac Ceaser 13 run (Todd Peterson kick)				
Val — Peterson 47 fg				
	Val	Low		
First Downs	11	10		
Yards Rushing	139	144		
Rushing Attempts	43	29		
Yards Passing	35	89		
Passes	8-3-0	14-5-0		
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-2		
Punting	5-32.6	3-23.6		
Penalties	2-10	2-20		

Rushing
 Valdosta— Mason 18-77, Roberts 13-24, Ceaser 12-38. Lowndes— Walker 17-121, Akins 9-15, Pierce 2-6, Perry 1-2.

Passing
 Valdosta— Mason 8-3-0 35.
 Lowndes— Akins 14-5-0 89.

Receiving
 Valdosta— Hitson 1-15, Holmes 1-15, Steward 1-5. Lowndes— R. Orr 3-57, Perry 1-23, J. Orr 1-9.

kickoff at his own 5 and ran it 78 yards to the Valdosta 17 but the 'Cat defense then rose up.

Akins threw an incomplete pass on first down, and on second down, Valdosta linebacker Carlo Butler surged through the line to sack Akins for an 8-yard loss. Another incomplete pass forced Lowndes into a field-goal situation, but the snap from center was bad and the kick never got off.

In the second half, Lowndes threw a scare into Valdosta on its first possession. Walker rambled 63 yards to the Valdosta 11 but Lowndes couldn't take advantage of the situation and came away with no points.

For the rest of the half, the offenses again were pretty much overpowered by fine defensive play. But it was a Viking turnover that perhaps made the difference in the game.

Valdosta recovered a Lowndes fumble on its own 47, but Valdosta was unable to mount a drive. Peterson then solved the problem with his 47-yard field goal to account for the final 10-7 score.

On their next possession, the Vikings looked as they would tie the game up. Lowndes drove the ball from its own 40 to the Valdosta 37 before a broken play and a key sack killed the drive.

Akins made a beautiful 18-yard run to keep the drive going as Wilson caught the Wildcats blitzing on a 3rd-and-eight. Akins also drew Valdosta off sides for another first down, but the sack cost Lowndes.

Valdosta got possession of the ball and then ran out the clock.

Walker finished as the leading rusher with 121 yards on 17 carries. Mason led Valdosta with 77 on 18 carries and Ceaser added 38. Lowndes outrushed Valdosta 144-139.

The Viking defensive front of Chuck Miller, Brooks Akins, and Casper Vinson had a lot to do with slowing Valdosta. Linebacker Freddie Richardson had six unassisted tackles and was in for 13 assists. Vinson had two quarterback sacks as did Reginald Lane. End Bennie Pierce got to Mason three times.

"They really stacked the front line," said Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. "They came up with 9, 10, and even 11 men at times. There was not much we could do."

Butler led Valdosta with six unassisted tackles. Butler and Kenneth Berrian also had two quarterback sacks.

The Vikings outpassed Valdosta 89 yards to 35 yards. Akins went 5-of-14 with no interceptions for all the Lowndes passing yardage. Mason went 3-of-8 for 35 yards and no interceptions.

Lowndes' Rozell Orr came down with three catches for 57 yards.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lowndes' Mark Walker Finds Running Room



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Wildcat B.J Mason Drops Back For Pass

Classic Efforts Produced Classic Game



Lowndes Head Coach Joe Wilson Yells Instructions



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

VDT 11-15-87

I've done some bad and I've done some good, but I did a whole lot better than they thought I would.

— Don McLean

Singer and songwriter Don McLean certainly wasn't considering the outcome of a football game when he scribed these lines for a song on his American Pie album, but the sentiment was probably rattling around in the heads of the Valdosta and Lowndes players after Friday night's game.

The Wildcats won 10-7 and both sides had reason to be at least proud if not happy about the outcome.

The Vikings obviously played a tremendous game and had every reason to walk tall. Many area football fans didn't give Lowndes a chance. Even Viking head coach Joe Wilson did not put forth a very optimistic picture for the press.

But Wilson and his Vikings surprised everyone. From the opening kickoff it was apparent that Lowndes was in it for the duration against the No. 1 'Cats.

I imagine B.J. Mason got sick and tired of hearing about how he couldn't throw the ball. Mason can, but head coach Nick Hyder doesn't like to.

But when the chips were down, Hyder had to and Mason came through. He completed three consecutive passes on the Valdosta touchdown drive. The passes were a must.

The Viking defensive line toiled endlessly for 10 games while linebacker Freddie Richardson got his picture in the paper every day.

But on Friday night, Brooks Akins, Chuck Miller, and Casper Vinson did more than suffice. Vinson was in on 13 tackles and sacked Mason twice. Noseguard Miller was in on seven tackles and plugged up the middle against a powerful Valdosta rushing game.

Viking quarterback Rhett Akins and running back Mark Walker had the heat on them after a poor offensive showing last week at Monroe. Lowndes did more than score on Valdosta, the Viking offense had more yardage both rushing and passing.

Walker, a senior, used his last game to cement his hold on the top rushing spot in the region. Against a tough Valdosta defense, he rushed for 121 yards on only 17 carries.

Akins threw for 89 yards and did not have a pass picked off.

And it all came down to Todd Peterson's 47-yard field goal. Pure drama.

Peterson kicked the ball so hard, he probably would have made it from 54 yards out at least. Those who think special teams are unimportant need to give Hyder a phone call.

For the Wildcats, the game was good for two reasons. A win is always nice, but head coach Hyder said his team needed a close contest in order to get in good mental shape for the playoffs.

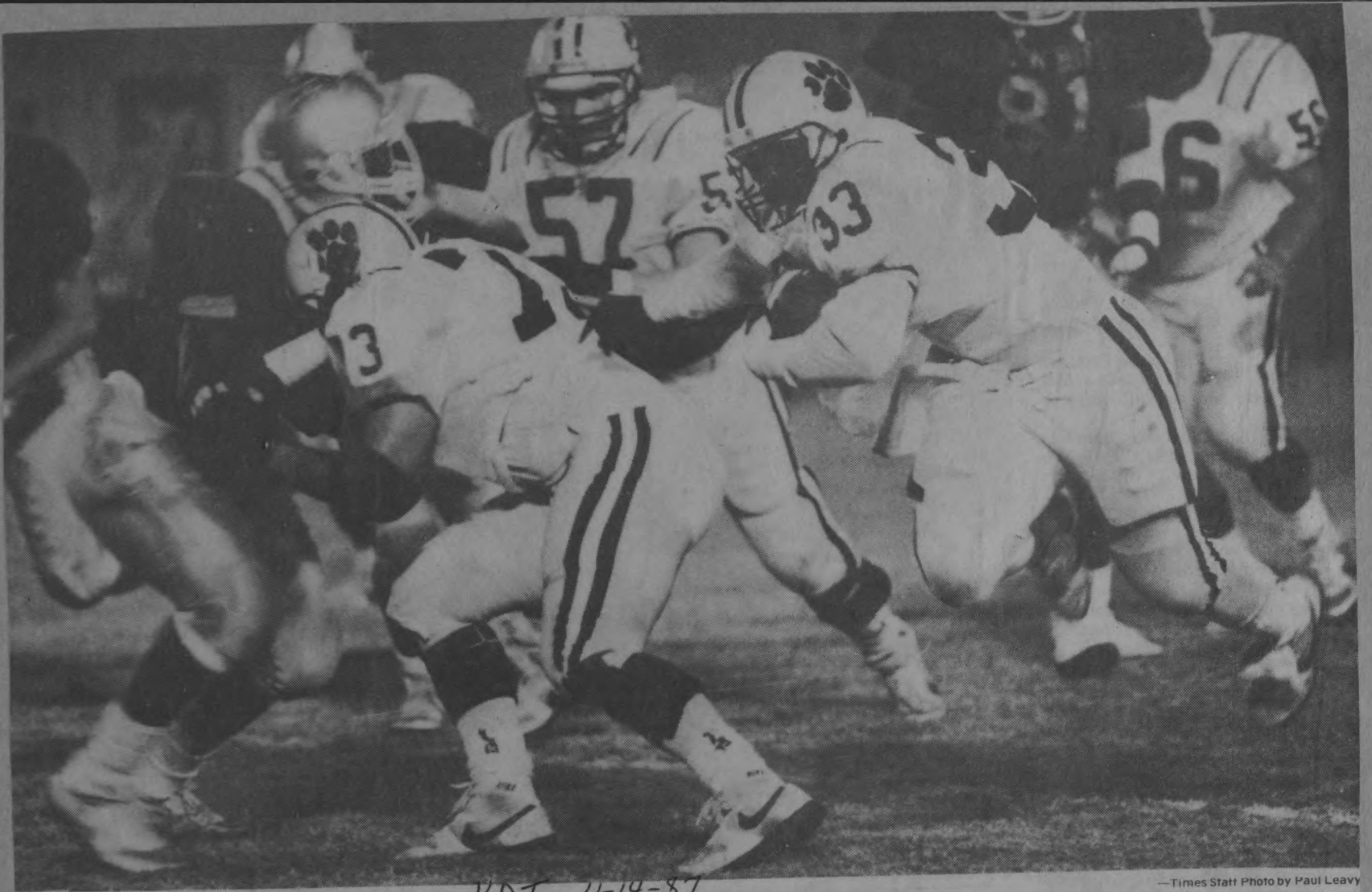


Nick Hyder Watches Contest With Great Intensity

For Lowndes, the result had to be frustrating for two reasons. Losing 10-3 is not easy, but the shame of it is that the Vikings found out how well they could really play but won't get a chance to do it again.

It seems strange not having Lowndes in the playoffs. It will also hurt both teams in the financial department. Lowndes will be deprived of playoff income, and Monroe won't bring that many people over from Albany after getting beaten by Valdosta 49-3 in the regular season.

The game was one of the best games I've ever seen, and that's because both sides poured heart and soul into the effort. It's hard to watch such a fierce rivalry and not be affected by it. I'm already looking forward to next year.



VDT 11-14-87
Valdosta's Isaac Ceaser Follows Blocker On Touchdown Run In First Half

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy



VHS Quarterback B.J. Mason Gets Treated Roughly



VDT 11-15-87
Viking Running Back Mark Walker Rips Off Yardage



Valdosta Cheerleader Uses Megaphone For That Little Bit Extra

Wildcat Tradition On TV

Wildcat Tradition will air tonight at 7:30 on Channel 44, WVGA. The show will feature Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder and Mr. Wildcat himself Calvin McGuyrt along with guests Buck Belue and David Waller.

7th winners were Fred and Carol Buesher

8th winners were Fred and Mary Dodson

Valdosta's 'Cats Still No. 1

The Associated Press VDT 11/18/87

The first three weeks of the season weren't so hot for Newton County, involving as they did two losses, but the Rams since have won seven straight games and enter the Associated Press poll of Georgia high school football teams this week at No. 10 in Class AAAA.

One other team is in the rankings this week that wasn't there a week ago — Cedartown, 8-2, now 10th in Class AAA. The Bulldogs had worked their way as high as No. 7 earlier in the season before back-to-back losses to Central of Carrollton and Villa Rica.

The No. 1 teams all stay the same after last week, which was the final regular-season game for all but a handful of teams in the state. This week begins, for most teams, regional playoff action.

Valdosta tops AAAA, where it has been all season after winning the state championship last year. Thomasville completes the regular season atop AAA; Central of Carrollton, as it has been since the preseason poll, is No. 1 in AA; and Lincoln County finishes the regular year ranked first in Class A.

Class AAAA

Newton County, 8-2, takes the place of Savannah, which dropped from the No. 10 spot after losing last weekend in overtime to Wayne County. Newton County lost its season-opener to Griffin, won once, then dropped a 14-13 decision to Central Gwinnett. Since then, the Rams have won seven in a row, including a 21-14 triumph over Clarke Central.

The top five teams are the same. Valdosta is No. 1. Evans keeps its solid No. 2 ranking, even managing to wrest one first-place vote away from the Wildcats.

McEachern remains third, Effingham County is fourth, and Griffin is fifth.

Morrow moves up a notch to sixth and Redan, despite its 49-0 thumping of Washington, falls to seventh.

Southwest DeKalb remains eighth, and Tift County is still ninth.

Class AA

The same 10 teams are ranked in AA, but Washington-Wilkes' 16-6 victory over Greene-Taliaferro juggled things around a bit. Washington-Wilkes moves up a spot to sixth, and East Hall does the same to No. 7. Greene-Taliaferro drops to eighth.

Robert E. Lee remains a solid second, with one-first place vote. Mary Persons is third, Camden County is fourth, and Lovett is fifth. Manchester and Bacon County remain the 9-10 teams, respectively.

Class A

Lincoln County has gotten every first-place vote for No. 1 in Class A since it beat Louisville back in October, including this week.

Clinch County remains second and Louisville is still third. The top three teams were ranked in that order on every ballot.

East Rome edges up two spots to eighth, and Monticello drops to ninth. Palmetto drops two spots to No. 10 after losing last week to Etowah, a team that's 8-2 in Class AAAA.

'Cats Ready For Monroe Rematch

By MIKE COLOMBO VDT 11/19/87
Times Sports Editor

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets played diminutive Cumberland College only three times and won all three. During the last contest, Tech whipped Cumberland 22-0 in 1916. While the difference between Valdosta and Monroe certainly isn't 222 points, the 46-point margin in the game two weeks ago is almost as insurmountable for Monroe. Or is it?

The Valdosta Wildcats thrashed Monroe 49-3 on Nov. 6 and will get the opportunity to do the same this Friday when the Tornadoes come whirling back into town in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder, however, is working on keeping his team from overlooking Monroe. He also thinks the 49-3 score is not indicative of how well Monroe can play.

"I would agree with that," said Hyder. "I think Johnny Gilbert (Monroe quarterback) is an outstanding passer and a good athlete. He can stand in there and throw the ball. Theron Conley is about as fine a receiver as they come, and remember Rozell Orr from Lowndes burned us last week."

Valdosta beat Lowndes 10-7 last week on a 47-yard field goal, and the 5-5 Vikings came right at Valdosta. Once again, Valdosta fell prey to several big plays, something that defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph and Hyder have not pleased with.

"I would say that's something we're concerned with," said Hyder. "Lowndes had two or three big plays against us last week. We were very fortunate that we were able to run them down or hem them out of bounds and that they didn't score more than they did."

Valdosta heads into the contest

riding a 25-game winning streak extending all the way back to the 1985 Region 1-AAAA final when they lost to Lowndes.

The Wildcats have done it this year on the ground behind the muscle of running backs James Roberts, Isaac Ceaser, Carlos Parker and Lawrence Sharpe.

In the first battle with Monroe, Valdosta led 42-0 at halftime and rolled up 281 yards on the ground.

"We blocked a kick and got another early score on a long run. We had our first 28 points without having much offense," said Hyder. "If they get the ball and keep it we could have some trouble."

"The 49-3 score itself is a problem," said Hyder. "You always have to work uphill during the season. A lot of people see that 49-3 score and think we won't have any problem. They moved the ball against us and they have some quality skill people."

VHS Basketball Team Confident

By STAN GRUBB VDT 11/19/87
Times Sports Writer

The attitudes are positive for both basketball squads at Valdosta High School, despite less than storybook seasons last year.

According to Lady Wildcat head coach Susan Montgomery and Wildcat head man John Miller both teams can hardly wait to tip off the new season.

Both teams start their season Tuesday November 24th against Central of Thomasville in Valdosta.

Each team has been suffering through poor season the past few years, but this year both coaches seem optimistic.

Millers' 'Cats could only muster three victories last year, leaving Miller and his players speechless entering this year. But according to Miller that time has passed and a new season is on the horizon.

"Last year was simply a learning experience for everyone involved," said Miller. "But with the loss of four key starters last season we are trying to put that year behind us and only move forward."

Miller has been very pleased with the attitude each player has entered with this year and hopes it will continue throughout the season.

"Because of new faces, I think approaching this year with a new sense of spirit is very necessary," Miller

said. "Each player seems as if they would like to start from scratch, and so would I."

Miller feels rebounding may be a Wildcats' strong suit with the addition of 6-foot-5, freshman Michael Moore and 6-5 junior Vincent Williams.

"One basic element that has been pleasing since the year began is the work habits of this year's team," said Miller. "Everything is geared for improvement, and I like that."

Millers' probable starters for the '87 campaign are guards Gary Campbell, a 5-11 senior, John Iverson, a 5-3 senior, and James Manning, a 5-11 sophomore.

The forward positions will consist of

See Valdosta, Page 3-B

... Valdosta

Continued From 2-B

Williams, along with Jason King, a 6-1 sophomore, and Carlo Butler, a 6-2 junior (presently playing on the football squad).

The word is excitement from the Lady 'Cats camp where Montgomery is trying to approach the season in a realistic manner.

"Realistically I am looking for a 500 season, and certainly will take anything better," said Montgomery. "Our ultimate goal will be of course to come away winners every game, but that frankly will not happen. This team would simply like to show improve-

ment game after game, and then go from there."

Montgomery has a majority of players returning and a few new faces as well.

Montgomery's squad is composed of 14 players, six of which are freshmen.

"Due to the obvious lack of experience on this team, correcting mistakes early and often will be a key for any success this team may enjoy," Montgomery said.

According to Montgomery, reviving the interest in girls' basketball at Valdosta is a goal she would like to achieve and most of all maintain.

"The past few seasons have been rough on the basketball program at

Valdosta and I would like to see a new image develop for the girls' program," said Montgomery. "The only way to do that, however, is to improve."

The key players for the Lady 'Cats are centers Casandra Twine and Swondolan Phillips. In the backcourt will be guards Sissy Anderson, Valerie Plummer and Alice Creque.

Two freshmen sure to see their share of playing time will be forward Laura Dennis and guard Ashley Schleusner.

At this point and time both Montgomery and Miller have only one thing in mind, and that is to improve by season's end, and create a new atmosphere surrounding the status of basketball at Valdosta High School.

Valdosta State Can Still Look Back With Pride On 1987

Even though the last two weeks have been disappointing for the Valdosta State Blazers, a win over the University of North Alabama Saturday would give the Blazers a positive outlook for 1988.

A 7-3 record would be nothing to sneeze at especially when you consider how young the Blazers were coming into this season.

Consider this, VSC starts only three seniors, Bryan Banks, Jimmy Holton and John Norris on offense, and Eric Faulkner and Emmett Watkins on defense. The rest are mostly sophomores including two freshman starting on offense and defense. A winning foundation has been built



Anthony Dasher
Times Sports
Writer

at VSC by head coach Mike Cavan and his staff. The season has been an interesting one to say the least. VSC opened by ripping off four straight wins including

two tough road triumphs over Livingston and Jacksonville State, spoiling the Gamecocks' homecoming festivities. The Blazers also rose as high as No. 7 in the country.

Then their was Troy State. All week prior to the game, the excitement and expectation that captivated the entire VSC campus was memorable.

Unfortunately, the Blazers found the Trojans to be as tough as ever and fell 44-7.

The Blazers then came back to defeat West Georgia and Savannah State before dropping two straight to Mississippi College, 20-12 and Delta State 24-21.

But despite dropping the Troy game, VSC was just 13 points away from making the Division II playoffs.

Against North Alabama, VSC has the opportunity to go out on a winning note and in the process build for next year.

For the underclassmen, it will be an opportunity to show Cavan and the rest of the coaches who has the desire to play next year.

For the seniors it will be a matter of pride.

Banks, Norris, Holton, Faulkner, Watkins and Mark Dace have over the years proven to be outstanding leaders and the entire VSC program has benefited from having them.

One more win and the Georgia Southern Eagles will get the opportunity to do what no other 1-AA school has ever done. Win three straight back-to-back national championships.

All the Eagles have to do is defeat South Carolina State in Orangeburg Saturday and the a berth in the playoffs is all but assured.

Granted, going into this season without Tracy Ham, Gerald and Ricky Harris, I felt there was no way GSC could ever get back into the playoff picture but after wins over Western Carolina, Western Kentucky and James Madison, it's obvious that the water from Beautiful Eagle Creek hasn't lost much of its power.

Even with a pair of freshman in the starting backfield, Raymond Gross at quarterback and fullback Joe Ross, the Eagles are 8th in the country in rushing offense at 259 yards per game.

But it's been the defense, long an Erk Russell trademark, that has sparked GSC's rise.

Russell's troops rank as one of the top defensive units, giving up only 278 yards per game.

Can the Eagles do it? I doubt it. But stranger things have happened.

As Eagles' assistant coach Pat Spurgeon said recently: "If it's an Erk Russell team, you'd better beat it before the frost gets on the pumpkin. It is already getting a little chilly."

Tift Will Have Tough Time Against Fired Up Cats

The Valdosta Wildcats sent the Tift County Blue Devils a clear and pointed message Friday night with a 49-6 thrashing of Monroe in the first round of the Region 1-AAAA playoffs. That message? Look out.

While Valdosta was taking the air out of the Tornados in Monroe's first playoff appearance, Tift County was struggling with Colquitt County 47 miles north on Interstate 75.

The Blue Devils just got by Colquitt County 6-0 on a 14-yard run by quarterback Derrick Henderson in the second quarter.

Tift County finished the regular season at No. 2 in the Region 1-AAAA standings. Tift finished 7-3 overall,



Mike Colombo
Times Sports
Editor

losing to Warner Robins, Central-Thomasville, and Valdosta.

The loss to Valdosta was the Blue Devils' only loss in region play, but the margin was only 17-10.

Tifton may not be that great a team,

but Blue Devil head coach Gene Brodie and Lowndes coach Joe Wilson have one thing in common — they know how to get their respective teams up to play against Valdosta.

Brodie better be able to do it again because his squad will be facing a fired up group of Cats on their own turf. And every one know that beating Valdosta at Cleveland Field in the playoffs is no easy task.

Valdosta fans will also remember that the Wildcats slapped Colquitt hither and yon in a 35-0 victory on Oct. 23.

You can rest assured that Brodie has already seen the game films from the Valdosta-Lowndes game, and is al-

ready planning his strategy.

Lowndes played Valdosta closer than any team this year, falling only 10-7 on a 47-yard field goal. The Viking stopped Valdosta's potent running attack by stacking the line and daring head coach Nick Hyder to let quarterback B. J. Mason throw the ball.

Mason threw and threw well when he had to. Last night, it appeared that Valdosta was already looking past Monroe after taking a 7-0 lead.

On the Wildcats' next series, Mason threw the ball three times. He finished with 10 attempts and backup quarterback Ben Hogan threw the ball nine times. Nineteen tosses are a lot

with running backs like James Robert and Isaac Ceaser.

Offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker admitted his team was "practicing" a little against Monroe for the Tift County game.

"We feel like we have a good, solid running game, but Lowndes filled the line and held us pretty well," said Baker. "There's a good chance that Brodie will do the same. We know we're going to have to throw the ball."

"Tonight, we worked on rolling B. J. out a little deeper in the pocket so he could see the field a little better. We also worked on getting the ball to

Charles Steward a little more."

Steward is a phenomenal receiver and an all-around tremendous athlete. He has been called the best athlete on the team. Doubtless, Hyder and Baker would like to see him catch the ball more.

Steward finished Friday's game with two catches for 40 yards, but both catches were touchdown tosses from Mason.

The Tifton-Valdosta game is usually a war kin to the Valdosta-Lowndes game. Next Friday's game should be an exciting one between these two great rivals.

Valdosta High Starts Spanish Society

By Patti Smith

VDI 11/21/87

One of the newest organizations at Valdosta High is The National Spanish Honor Society. The newly elected president, senior Diedra Williams, says, "I hope to get the Society involved with the community and to get members to work on getting scholarships."

She also said, when asked why she wanted to be president, "I like being president because I like to be in a leadership position, and I thought that it would be great to be the first president of the first chapter of this society at Valdosta High."

Her personal goal is to write a poem or poems to be submitted to the Society's national magazine, "Albricias!"

The sponsor of the society, Mrs. Patty Smitherman, was also interviewed. The results are the following:

WHY DID YOU START THE CHAPTER?

"To honor students who have excelled in Spanish."

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

"To get the work of students' work published and a student or students to get scholarships."

Debate Team Wins

By Jay Connell

Juniors Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton won the first place affirmative team trophy at the Lee County High School Forensics Tournament last weekend.

The team of sophomore Michelle Jones, senior Terry Snyder, Miss Shelton and Connell were 8-2 overall and received the second place four-man team award. Receiving speaker awards were Connell, third place; Snyder, ninth place; and Miss Shelton, tenth place, out of 128 speakers in the open division.

Seniors Cindy Supp and Holly Davis

Y-Club Week

By Melanie Wiggs

VHS Y-club members participated in events celebrating "Y" Club Week, November 8-15. The purpose of the club is to create, maintain, and extend throughout the home, school, and community high standards of christian character. These clubs are sponsored by YMCA of Georgia.

Each member may participate in many different types of activities ranging from local, school and community projects to district conferences. Further more, they participate in many District and State activities.

Probably the best known event for grades 9-12 is the Youth Assembly held in Atlanta. They serve as Senators, Representatives, Lobbyists or Judicial participants while learning first-hand our governmental process.

In other business, the Y-club, along with other organizations, will be helping with the Special Olympics. The event will take place today and Friday.

Wildcats Roll Over Monroe In Round 1

VDT 11/21/87

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats made Monroe's first trip ever to the Region 1-AA-AA playoffs a memorable one. Valdosta welcomed Monroe to the big leagues by pouncing the Tornadoes 49-6 before a sparse Cleveland Stadium crowd in the first round of the region playoffs.

Valdosta will host Tift County next Friday for the region championship game. Tift was a 6-0 winner over Colquitt County.

The first time Monroe and Valdosta met it was 49-3 Valdosta. Friday night's game wasn't much different.

"I'd say this game was almost an exact replay of the first game," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "We watched the films and knew how to beat them. We wonder how this team beat Lowndes."

There was no stopping the Valdosta offense. Tight end and punter Charles Steward only had to punt the ball four times. Even the second-team offense had its share of success.

It was a heads up call by Hyder that put Valdosta on top 49-0 with 5:43 left in the third quarter. On 4th-and-10 from the Tornado 13, the Wildcats lined up in field goal formation, but holder and backup quarterback Ben Hogan rolled left after the snap and found Lee Thomas in the end zone for the score.

"We practice that play," said Thomas. "It was supposed to be a screen pass, but he spotted me and got the ball to me."

That play was indicative of how the

Monroe.....	0	0	6	0	6
Valdosta.....	7	28	14	0	49
Val — B.J. Mason 21 run (Todd Peterson kick)					
Val — Charles Steward 24 pass from Mason (Peterson kick)					
Val — Roberts 4 run (Peterson kick)					
Val — Steward 16 pass from Mason (Peterson kick)					
Val — Roberts 23 run (Peterson kick)					
Val — Lee Thomas 13 pass from Ben Hogan (Peterson kick)					
Mon — Kelvin Glover 67 pass from Johnny Gilbert (pass failed)					
	Mon	Val			
First Downs	8	12			
Yards Rushing	19	168			
Rushing Attempts	22	28			
Yards Passing	197	78			
Passes	31-12-1	19-5-1			
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	4-31-5			
Punting	6-35.3	4-31.5			
Penalties	3-27	5-30			
	Rushing				
Monroe—Hudson 3-23, Rollins 5-16, Ford 6-13.					
Valdosta—Roberts 10-91, Mason 5-35, Ceaser 5-26.					
	Passing				
Monroe—Gilbert 31-12-1 197.		Valdosta—Mason			
10-4-0-65, Hogan 9-1-13.					
	Receiving				
Monroe—Conley 5-36, Glover 3-171, Brown 3-42.					
Valdosta—Steward 2-40, Hinson 2-25, Thomas 1-13.					

whole game went for the Tornadoes. The stubborn Wildcat defense held Monroe to just 19 yards rushing. Monroe managed 197 yards in the air, but most of that came in the fourth quarter when the game was no longer in doubt.

Two sterling defensive plays set up Valdosta's fourth and fifth scores before the end of the first half.

Ahead 21-0, Valdosta found a Monroe fumble on the Tornado 16. On the first play from scrimmage, starting quarterback B.J. Mason connected with Steward for a touchdown pass.

On Monroe's next possession, defensive end Coleman Rudolph burst through the line for a sack and forced quarterback Johnny Gilbert to fumble as noseguard Robert Fillmore pounced on the ball.



Valdosta High's James Roberts (48) Lowers His Head To Score Touchdown Against Monroe Late In The Second Quarter.

Fullback James Roberts then carried the ball in from the Monroe 23, clobbering four Monroe players on the way.

"I thought Roberts had a good night," said Hyder. "He really ran tough, especially on that touchdown." Robert finished as the leading ball carrier with 91 yards on 10 carries. Mason had 35 on five carries.

It took the Wildcats only 2:28 to score in the third quarter to make it 42-0. Isaac Ceaser returned the kick to the

21-yard keeper by Mason that went around left end. The score was set up by a beautiful punt return by Dandy that went for 55 yards to the Monroe 30.

It became 14-0 when Mason hit Steward for a 24-yard touchdown pass with 7:13 left in the half. Roberts ran in from the 4 with 4:05 left to make it 21-0.

The Wildcats have now won 26 consecutive games and will face a talented Tift team next week. Valdosta won the regular season meeting between the two 17-10.

"He's a dangerous quarterback," said Hyder. But a strong Valdosta pass rush by Zabria Bell, Coronzo Greene, and Fillmore neutralized Gilbert.

The Valdosta secondary did its job well. Demetricus Waters came up with an interception, and several good licks by Eric Toth, Jason Bridges, and Reginald Dandy separated receivers from the ball. Linebacker Beau Laskey was given the game ball.

Valdosta opened the scoring with 7:53 left in the first quarter on a

—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Wildcats, Blue Devils Go For It All

It's the Blue Devils against the 'Cats for all the marbles. Since 1979, the Tift County Blue Devils have been a thorn in their opponents' side. The Blue Devils have reached the region championship plateau three of the last seven years, taking home the top honors twice. The Devils also have the distinction of being the first team to beat the 'Cats twice in one season.

Tift defeated the Wildcats twice in 1979 (13-12 at Cleveland Field; 24-6 Central in the state title game). The 'Cats, for one reason or another, simply have a tough go of it with the Tift County squad. But don't be quick to give Tift all the credit — the 'Cats will be making their 12th straight appearance in the region championship



Stan Grubb
Times Sports
Writer

game. Valdosta has not lost to the Blue Devils since 1983. Ironically, that was the last time the Devils and 'Cats met for the championship.

For the Devils, it was an historic year taking state honors as well. The true fact of the matter is that when it is

region championship time, Tift is not far behind the 'Cats. Let's be honest. Valdosta has been victimized by the new region playoff system ever since its induction in 1978. Valdosta has posted the best overall record in the region during six of the last nine years, but because of the playoff system the 'Cats were forced to defeat two teams which they had already defeated during regular season play.

Why post a great record during the regular season? You'll probably make the playoffs anyway. This year's championship matchup is a classic. Although the Blue Devils have three losses on the year, they are without a doubt one of the top three teams in the state.

Rudolph's troops to stop Tift quarterback Derick Henderson and running backs Anthony Graham and Henry Williams. "These two are a couple of premiere running backs," Hyder said. "Williams is very versatile and their offense is very balanced, capable of making some big plays."

On defense Coronzo Green, Zabria Bell, Kenneth Berrian, Robert Fillmore and Coleman Rudolph will be the men up front trying to keep the Blue Devils in check. Beau Laskey, Carlo Butler, Anthony Williams and Bruce Daniels will man the linebacking positions, alternating frequently. In the secondary, Reggie Dandy, Eric Toth, Steve French and Keith Henry will be out looking to intercept several of Henderson's aeriels. Toth and Demetricus Waters each

Valdosta will be playing Tift for the second time this year. The 'Cats won round one 17-10 back on October 2. But thanks to the lovely playoff system, that game meant nothing compared to the magnitude of Friday's tilt. Winning when it really counts is what Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder and Tift County coach Gene Brodie will be faced with.

The last time these two teams met for the region title, Tift County won 17-13, behind quarterback Brian Massingill. For Valdosta's winningest quarterback, Ted West, the winning streak of 26 was halted in its tracks on that cold November night in Death Valley. That game brings back too many unforgettable memories for this sports

have three interceptions while Jason Bridges has two. Dandy and Kenny Rose have one each. Todd Peterson, whose 47-yarder won the Lwondes contest, may have to be called on again to rebound. Peterson leads the 'Cats in scoring with 71 total on the season. The punter is Steward who is averaging 37.3 yards per kick.

According to Hyder, he hopes his team will be effective running the ball against Tift but says if forced to throw, he has all the confidence in the world in Mason. "We'll throw if the situation calls for it. In the last game we started around the 10-yard line four or five times," He said. "Field position does directly affect if you throw or not but if you've got backs over 215 pounds who are as strong and as fast as they are, why pass? If had Johnny Unitas I'd probably pass. If I had Jim Brown, we'd probably run."

writer. The most vivid was a third-and-nine screen pass with 1:25 left to play. West's pass to a wide open Dana Brinson was off the mark. Then on fourth down, it was a simple sweep for no yardage. And the Blue Devils were champs. That game was a perfect example of the system coming back to strangle the 'Cats. Valdosta had defeated the Devils' 14-10, two weeks earlier, but as the saying goes, "That's life."

The '87 clash has the makings of the same type scenario. Valdosta defeated the Devils' 17-10, but as would be the case, Friday's game is all that really counts. One thing is for sure, the winner of Friday's clash might as well make reservations for a trip to the state championship game three weeks down the road!

So, get your South Georgia, and possibly state championship tickets early. Friday night's contest should be a great game. The Blue Devils will head into the game feeling they are the best team in the region based on the first game between the two teams. Tift fell by only a touchdown. Although the Blue Devils were not given credit for a touchdown they apparently scored, there is no doubt they left the game feeling like they should have won.

Who do I think is going to win? What do I know? I'm only a sports writer. I know nothing about football. I just hope the game lives up to its billing.

Hyder Expecting A Classic Struggle

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer VDT 11/26/87

The Tift County Blue Devils enter Friday Night's Region 1-AAAA championship game full of emotion, ready to knock the Valdosta Wildcat's out of their No. 1 ranking, but Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder appears to have his school ready to go. "We have a great attitude right now," Hyder said. "Tift has a great deal of experience and we have a great deal of respect for them. This game should be one of the finest high school football games in the country, a classic."

Game time Friday night is 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field. "They are a fine football team. They run, pass, block and tackle extremely well and their coaches do a fine job." In their last meeting, Tift fell to the 'Cats 17-0 despite outgaining Valdosta

and has also scored 10 times. Against Tift, this group rushed for 198 yards and Hyder feels his entire team learned something from that game. "We learned that our younger players could stand up to an outstanding, senior laden football team such as Tift," Hyder said. "Tift played in tough luck against Central Thomasville as there were some close calls and against Warner Robins they had some disciplinary problems."

At quarterback, Mason has thrown or 461 yards on 47 of 70 attempts for five touchdowns. He has only thrown two interceptions. The starting wide receivers will be Bernard Hitson and Timmy Holmes. On defense, the 'Cats have given up an average of only 105 rushing yards per game and 104 through the air. But it will take another supreme effort by defensive coordinator Jack

by 100 points, so be it. We'll teach them the meaning of respect and intimidation." "The Columbus schools have always wanted their own region," Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said. "They didn't want to join 1-AAAA in the first place. I don't blame them for wanting to stick together."

So now, this is how it stands. Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift, Colquitt, Coffee and Bainbridge will not play the Columbus schools in the regular season. But what is most disturbing, is the fact that the Columbus schools now hold the voting majority. I don't call

Region 1-AAAA Will Never Be The Same After Latest Ruling

The Georgia High School Association has finally gone and done it. They've let all eight thousand Columbus schools (actually eight) into Region 1-AAAA.

Now isn't that special. At first it was proposed that the Columbus schools, Baker, Carver, Columbus, Jordan, Kendrick, Hardaway, Shaw and Spencer would be split in half with four going up north and the other four moving south to 1-AAAA. But after a couple of months of bickering by school officials from Columbus and Atlanta, the GHSA finally gave in and put the kabosh on that plan.

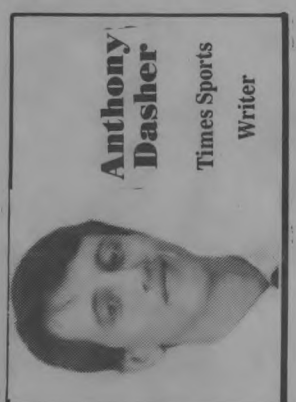
eight votes to six too fair. Who knows, they may vote to have just a one game playoff for the region championship, their top team against the top team in the other sub region. While this may make things a lot easier it will leave out at least four deserving teams out of a playoff chance. Could it be that the Columbus schools know that the second best team in the Valdosta-Lowndes-Tift subregion can beat the top team in their subregion? Naw, couldn't be.

Solutions? To me it's very simple. As coach Hyder suggested, divide all the high schools into groups of 25 percent in terms of enrollment. The top

25 percent being AAAA, the next 25 percent being AAA, the next AA and the next A. If the GHSA would do this, both Thomasville schools would also be back in 1-AAAA.

Travel would be cut considerably and more deserving teams would get playoff opportunities. Sure beats a 4 1/2 hour drive to Columbus.

Right now only one Columbus school, Hardaway, because of enrollment, is a legitimate AAAA school. All the rest have enrollments which border between AA and AAA. Things could have been done a whole lot better.



Anthony Dasher
Times Sports
Writer

Now I must admit if I were a coach at one of these Columbus schools I wouldn't be keen on splitting up the Class AAAA schools in my city but the

Valdosta vs. Tift Co.

- When: Friday, Nov. 27
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Tift Co. 8-3; Valdosta 11-0
- Series: Valdosta leads series 47-10-3
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 17, Tift Co. 10, Oct. 2
- Last Week: Tift Co. 6, Colquitt Co. 0; Valdosta 49, Monroe 6
- On Deck: Round 1 State Playoffs

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'Cat Offense Must Execute Perfectly

By STAN CRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VDT 11/24/87

When the Valdosta Wildcats square off with the Tift County Blue Devils Friday night for the Region 1-AAAA title, offensive production may just hold the key for success for the 'Cats. It is no secret that points will be a premium Friday night, therefore, the Valdosta offensive coaches believe that proper execution all evening long is imperative.

"Consistency will be a big key," said Valdosta running back coach Mike O'Brien. "From the running back standpoint, picking up valuable yardage in crucial situations and most of all keeping their offense on the sideline is important towards us being successful."

The Wildcats expect almost any and everything out of the swarming defensive front of the Blue Devils and only hope that their offensive team is blessed with good field position for most of the game.

"In every game field position plays a very vital role in an offensive squad's production, either good or bad. And with that in mind, the offense will have to take full advantage of any valuable field position that they may enjoy," said Valdosta offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker.

According to receiver coach Bob Bolton, the 'Cats must have a ball control type of offensive structure to be able to score points against the Devils.

"Taking time off the clock and making the proper moves in crucial situations will be to our advantage, if we are successful in doing so," said Bolton.

Offensively, every Wildcat coach

understands the need in producing points in a game of this magnitude, according to Baker. Not giving anything away as far as offensive schemes will also be a big influence Friday night.

"Keeping Tift County off balance is the main objective," said Baker. "And we must provide an effective passing attack to do so. In the last few games, the productivity in that area has not been what we are use to, but Friday night with the chips on the line it will be critical to throw."

Bolton echoed those sentiments saying, "if and when we do throw they must be precise routes and we must stay away from turnovers. By that I mean that if the pass is not on line or whatever the situation, the receivers must become the aggressor, keeping the ball out of Tift County's hands."

For the 'Cats, simply scoring early may hold some type of significance for success or failure come Friday night.

"I feel points will be hard to come by Friday night, so scoring early may really help out our situation," said Baker.

"Making a statement quickly may just set the tone for our team," said O'Brien.

One major point of concern for the Valdosta offensive coaches will be the kicking game. According to the offensive staff of Valdosta, the productivity or lack of it is important.

"We must be solid in both areas, placekicking and punting to set things up offensively," said Baker. "Our offensive team must be given a chance to score points, and the kicking game can easily provide that."

"In a game of this importance, the kicking game always seems to be a key," said Bolton. "And I expect nothing less Friday night."



'Cats Hope Quarterback B.J. Mason (15) Can Help Establish Running Game Along With Running Back Isaac Ceaser (33)

—Times Staff Photos by Bob Lupinek

Expect A Nailbiter For The Region Crown

My mother didn't raise any idiots, and I'm not about to pick against the Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field in the Region 1-AAAA championship game.

Tonight's 8 p.m. game has been THE topic of conversation around here for two weeks, and believe me, I've heard it all by now.

I just think when the chips are down, the 1987 Wildcats will come together and make a stand. The game's at home and Valdosta's undefeated. What more can I say?

But just so Valdosta fans don't get too comfortable, let me say this: Like the first game, Tift will dominate the statistics. The Blue Devils will have more yards rushing and more yards passing.

I know what you're asking. Well, how's Valdosta going to win if Tift

the first game had been played in Tift County, and I think the same can be said of tonight's game. But the home field advantage is why they play the regular season.

There is no doubt that Tifton head coach Gene Brodie has studied the Lowndes-Valdosta game intensely, and 'Cat fans can expect an 8 and 9-man defensive front for the Blue Devils. And Tift County has some monstrous defensive players in the secondary.

I think Valdosta quarterback B.J. Mason showed during the Lowndes game he can throw well when he has to. But I think that Tift County won't stop the run as well as Lowndes did.

Valdosta will be able to rush the ball against the Blue Devils. Maybe not for 222 yards, but for enough to get the job done. I don't think Valdosta will be forced into many must-throw situa-

tions, but quarterback B.J. Mason proved he can throw the ball well in the clutch against Lowndes. Tifton better not assume he can't.

Defensively, the Wildcats will have their hands full with Tift. Quarterback Derrick Henderson has improved vastly, and that bodles ill for Valdosta. I think the Blue Devils will move the ball well between the 20s but that end zone is going to be elusive. And again, I firmly believe they'll fumble the ball away at least twice.

Tifton will get its share of big plays on offense, especially with the pitch out and the pass. But while the Wildcat defense may bend, defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph will see to it that they don't break.

This game will come down to a field goal plus 1. The score: Valdosta 14, Tift County 10.

Valdosta vs. Tift Co.

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- On Deck: Round 1 State Playoffs



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

can move the ball? The answer to that one is simple — turnovers.

The Blue Devils like to turn the ball over. They did so three times against Colquitt County last week. They turned the ball over four times against Valdosta in the first battle. You can't turn the ball over against Valdosta and win.

I think Tift County would have won if



Playoff Berths On Line

VDT 11-27-87

By The Associated Press

Two of Friday night's regional finals match the Nos. 1 and 3 teams in their classification against each other — No. 1 Thomasville against No. 3 Central of Thomasville in Region 1-AAA and No. 1 Lincoln County against No. 3 Louisville in Region 4-A.

In both cases, the third-ranked team has lost but once this season — to the team they play Friday.

Thomasville downed Central 15-6 in the regular season, and Lincoln County edged Louisville, at the time the No. 1 team, 21-17.

CLASS AAAA

In Region 1, top-ranked Valdosta takes on Tift County. The Wildcats won the first match 17-10, a game that Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder admits "could have gone either way." Tift has not lost a game since then.

In Region 3, Wayne County travels to No. 3 Effingham County. Effingham won the regular season meeting 14-7.

Northside-Warner Robins goes against second-ranked Evans in the Region 4 final. Evans eked out a 20-19 victory against Northside earlier.

Region 9 champion and No. 4 McEachern goes against Region 5 winner Wheeler. These two teams have not met this season.

A big battle in this class is in Region 6, where fifth-ranked Griffin will try to avenge their only loss this year against sixth-ranked Morrow. Both teams are 10-1.

In Region 7, No. 7 Redan takes on No. 8 Southwest DeKalb. Southwest won the regular season match 6-0, Redan's only setback of the year.

Newton County will try to wrap up the Region 8 crown against Brookwood.

CLASS AAA

Thomasville and Central of Thomasville play to get out of the tough Region 1.

Thomson is at Butler in the Region 2 playoff, and Dodge County takes on No. 4 Worth County in Region 3.

Troup will play Lithonia in Region 4.

Second-ranked Marist hosts No. 10 Clarkston in the Region 5 matchup. Marist edged Clarkston 15-12 earlier this year.

In Region 6, No. 5 Lakeside takes on George.

Dalton is at Villa Rica for the Region

7 crown. The ninth-ranked Catamounts did not play No. 7 Villa Rica, the defending state champs, during the regular season.

No. 7 Hart County hosts No. 8 Stephens County in Region 8.

CLASS AA

Fitzgerald is at Seminole County to play for the Region 1 title.

In Region 2, fourth-ranked Camden County takes on Screven County.

In one of the state's toughest regions, Region 3, seventh-ranked Manchester is at No. 2 Robert E. Lee. Lee won the first meeting 42-0, but neither coach expects a repeat of that.

Two more ranked teams will battle for the Region 4 title. No. 6 Washington-Wilkes hosts No. 8 Greene-Taliaferro. Washington-Wilkes won the first game 16-6 in the regular season finale.

Fifth-ranked Lovett will try to capture the Region 5 title against Sequoyah. Lovett won the first game this year 14-7.

Turner and North Fulton play for the Region 6 title.

Top-ranked Central of Carrollton takes on Cartersville in a Region 7 battle. Central won 27-7 earlier, but Cartersville has come along well since then.

Seventh-ranked East Hall is at home against Jefferson for the Region 8 title. They haven't played yet this year.

CLASS A

Stewart-Quitman hosts Pelham in the Region 1 title game.

Second-ranked Clinch County takes on Irwin County in Region 2. Clinch won 12-0 earlier.

In Region 3, fifth-ranked Metter hosts Montgomery County. They haven't met yet.

Region 4 is top-ranked Lincoln County against No. 3 Louisville.

In Region 5, perennial champion Greenville will try to keep its crown against No. 7 Brookstone. Greenville handed Brookstone its only loss this year, 14-7.

Region 9 contains the year's Cinderella story, unbeaten Dacula, which never before had had even a winning record. No. 4 Dacula is at home against No. 9 Monticello. Dacula won 27-12 in the last game of the regular season.

VHS Ecstatic After Victory

By STAN GRUBB

Times Sports Writer

VDT 11/28/87

The mood inside the Valdosta Wildcat lockerroom after one of the greatest triumphs in school history, a 24-22 victory over the Tift County Blue Devils in the 1987 region championship game, was one of relief and respect as the majority of the Wildcat players and coaches were savoring the hard-fought win.

According to defensive ends and linebacker coach Charles Tarpley, it was one great game from start to finish.

"The Blue Devils are men," said Tarpley. "We beat a great football team in every sense of the word."

For the entire Valdosta football team, it was a matter of pride the entire game, coming up with one big play after another when they needed it.

"It is so hard to defeat the same team twice in one season, especially when you are talking about a quality team such as Tift County," said receiver coach Bob Bolton. "Each team gave it all they had, but I feel our team showed so much character and heart that they just were not going to be denied."

The Wildcats knew under no circumstances that the Blue Devils would roll over and die, and that was evident by the gritty performance the 'Cats showed at Death Valley.

"We have the utmost respect for the Blue Devils and their coaching staff. Brodie and his staff do a tremendous job preparing their team for every contest. The Blue Devils are to be commended for their efforts," said Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "I was very proud of the way our offense and defense played tonight. In a game of this magnitude desire plays a very big role. And as far as the defensive side is concerned, the heart and soul of our entire defensive team was tremendous."

The Valdosta players were ecstatic with the 24-22 win as they now advance to the state playoffs next week, but as far as they are concerned this was only one of many hurdles.

"I think tonight's game proved to everyone that this team is for real, but the season is not finished by a longshot," said Valdosta placekicker Todd Peterson. "This team seems to be able to answer any challenges and we proved it tonight."

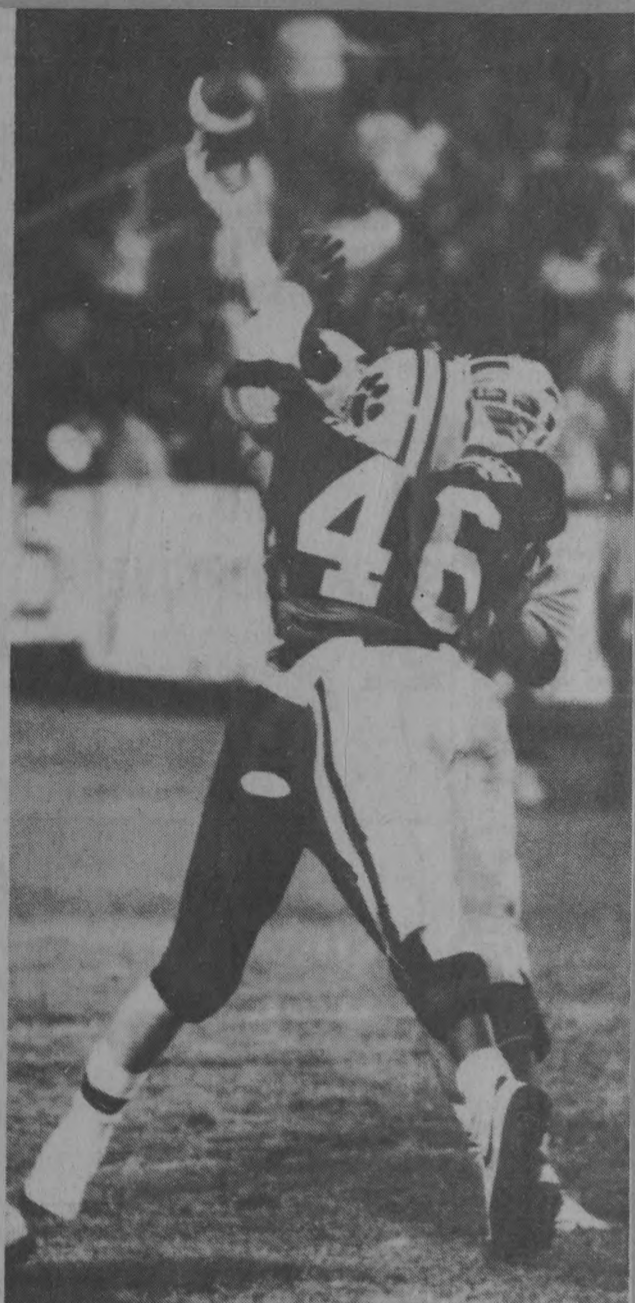
For senior offensive lineman Andy Anderson, just simply being able to advance to another state playoff in his final year with the team meant everything.

"I'm just glad it's all over," said Anderson. "The Blue Devils are a great team, it's just such a relief to be finished with them."

Defensive end Coleman Rudolph had only words of praise for the Devils and a word of thankfulness concerning the ballgame.

"Tift County is such a physical team that every contest is a war," said Rudolph. "It's a great victory for this team and everyone concerned. I'm glad to see that we are rid of Tift County once again."

Ironically, most avid fans had their doubts about the outcome entering the Tift County rematch, but all speculation was put to rest as the 'Cats once again showed why they are the top ranked team in the state.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Robert Fillmore Covers Derick Henderson

According to most players, the 'Cats beat the second-best team in the state.

"If they are not the second best team in the state they are in the top five," said safety Jason Bridges.

Amidst talk circulating about a Tift County victory, the Valdosta team simply did what they have done all season long — won.

Valdosta posted its 27th consecutive victory and will be making its seventh trip into the state playoffs in eleven years.

Valdosta Lines Controlled Tempo

VDT 11/27/87

The Valdosta Wildcats silenced all critics Friday night against Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA championship game and proved they are indeed of championship caliber.

Valdosta won the game 24-22, holding off a Tift County 2-point conversion attempt with just eight second left when Blue Devil quarterback Derick Henderson threw incomplete in the end zone.

In my poor opinion, the game wasn't as close as the 24-22 score indicated. Valdosta really dominated both lines of scrimmage and set the tone for the game by jumping out to a 14-point lead.

I thought the game would be statistically lopsided towards Tift County but said Valdosta would win. The Wildcats proved me wrong.

"The guys had the articles that you had written all week long taped on their lockers," said offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker.

"In the first game, Tift County did dominate the line of scrimmage, but tonight I thought we got after them. We



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

knew we had to play well and we did when it counted."

Baker had only good things to say about the individuals who make up his offensive front.

"Andy Anderson just did a great job. He got two great blocks on tackle traps that got James Roberts free on his two long runs.

"Todd Pitchford played probably his best, no, his best game of the season by far. Andy Rykard and everybody played great. Charles Steward didn't catch any passes but he did block well.

He did what the team asked him to do."

Baker also pointed out that his front line was seriously outweighed, but overcame the deficit.

And Roberts? He was simply magnificent as was Isaac Ceaser. The Wildcat backs looked extremely fired up and appeared to be two steps quicker than normal and 20 pounds heavier.

Roberts finished with 186 yards on 15 carries, and he muscled his way for two long touchdown runs of 49 yards and 62 yards.

Ceaser had 86 yards on 13 carries.

Quarterback B.J. Mason once again proved his worth as a member of the backfield. Mason officially only had one pass attempt on the evening, but had 31 yards rushing. His mere presence, however, kept the Tift County defense guessing and off-balance.

Defensively, Valdosta shut down the Tift County running game and forced

the Blue Devils into passing more than any high school team likes to.

And the 'Cats hounded Henderson all night long, especially defensive end Coleman Rudolph and noseguard Robert Fillmore.

Fillmore was taken to the hospital after the game after he was chop blocked by Tift County on a Valdosta punt late in the fourth quarter. The Wildcats, however, made Tift County pay dearly for sending their stellar noseguard to the sidelines.

The illegal block gave Valdosta a first down and allowed Todd Peterson to kick a field goal to make it 24-16, forcing the Blue Devils to score and then make a two-point conversion.

"I think the defense played well overall," said defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "They came through when they had to. I think if you guys tear up those statistics and really look at the football game, you'll see what kind of heart and soul this team really has."

Region Finals Produced Several Exciting Games

By TOM SHARP
Associated Press Writer

Top-ranked Valdosta thwarted a 2-point conversion attempt with six seconds remaining to edge Tift County 24-22 in the Region 1-AAAA playoff final in Georgia high school football.

Thomasville, the No. 1 team in Class AAA, was not as fortunate, as Central of Thomasville quarterback Charlie Ward passed for 216 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Yellow Jackets to a 35-21 victory in the Region 1-AAAA final.

The other two No. 1 teams won. Class AA Central of Carrollton got 182 yards on 26 carries by Walt Crowder to down Cartersville 17-0 in the Region 7 championship, and No. 1 Lincoln County shut out No. 3 Louisville 7-0 in the Region 4-A title match.

All the winners of Friday night's games advance to the first round of the state playoffs next weekend.

CLASS AAAA

James Roberts gained 186 yards on 15 carries and scored on runs of 49 and 62 yards to pace Valdosta to its 27th consecutive victory. The Wildcats overcame an excellent performance from Tift County's Jay Johnson, who scored all three Tift touchdowns on a 36

and a 4-yard pass from Derick Henderson and a 71-yard punt return.

The 4-yard catch pulled Tift to within two points with a few seconds left, but Henderson, under heavy pressure, could not get the conversion pass to Johnson.

No. 4 Effingham County jumped to a 28-0 halftime lead and coasted to a 34-7 victory over Wayne County in the Region 3 championship. Tim Townsend gained 100 yards on 14 carries and scored twice to lead Effingham, which converted two Wayne County turnovers into touchdowns in the first half. Effingham quarterback Paul Sumner ran for one TD and passed 20 yards to Richey Dickey for another.

Evans squeezed by Northside Warner Robins 9-7 to win the Region 4 title.

McEachern, the state's No. 4 team and Region 9 champion, managed just five first downs but broke the big plays to beat Region 5 champ Wheeler 16-6.

After McEachern blocked a punt for a safety, Marcus Gober scored on a 31-yard run, and Chris Appleby sped 70 yards to give the Indians a 16-0 lead in the third quarter.

For the second time this year, Morrow downed Griffin, this time 23-7.

Southwest DeKalb beat Redan 14-3 for the Region 7 title, and Newton County edged Brookwood 27-24 in overtime for the Region 8 crown.

CLASS AAA

The Central of Thomasville-Thomasville matchup pitted two of the state's best quarterbacks against each other, and they lived up to their billing. Central's Ward not only threw for 216 yards and three touchdowns, he made one of the biggest defensive plays of the game, saving a touchdown with his team ahead 23-21 in the fourth quarter.

Thomasville's Shawn Jones passed for 214 yards and two touchdowns.

Tommy Rainge caught two TD passes from Ward. Jerome Williams caught two from Jones.

Butler downed Thomson 34-12 for the Region 2 crown.

No. 4 Worth County easily captured Region 3 with a 27-0 victory over Dodge County. Dodge turned the ball over seven times, and four of them were converted to touchdowns by Worth.

Troup got touchdowns on a short run by Marcus Frazier and a 36-yard pass from Dino Stafford to Paul Knox to down Lithonia 14-0 in Region 4.

In Region 5, Reid Hardin kicked a 30-yard field goal and one extra point

to account for the difference as No. 2 Marist edged Clarkston 10-6. Jacob Alston scored on a 1-yard run for Marist; Clarkston cut it to 7-6 on a 21-yard run by Brett Maddux in the third quarter, and Hardin's field goal ended the scoring.

No. 5 Lakeside had little trouble winning Region 6, downing George 30-0.

Defending state champion Villa Rica, ranked sixth, got a 29-yard field goal from Phil Bishop with just 55 seconds to play to get by No. 9 Dalton 17-14.

Santray McCoy came off the bench and threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Rodney McCoy and scored on a short plunge for Villa Rica's two touchdowns.

No. 8 Stephens County edged No. 7 Hart County 24-20 to capture the Region 8 title.

CLASS AA

It was Walt Crowder's night for Central-Carrollton in its 17-0 victory over Cartersville. Crowder scored on a 5-yard run in the first quarter to cap a 99 yard drive, of which he picked up 69 in one carry.

Crowder got his second touchdown on a short run in the second quarter, and

won the Region 8 title.

Second-ranked Robert E. Lee scored twice in the fourth quarter to break open a close game and down No. 7 Manchester 28-12 in the Region 3 final.

Four different players scored for Lee. Douglas Stanley passed 21 yards to David Kendall to put Lee ahead 21-12, then Stanley ran it in from two yards out for the final margin.

No. 5 Washington-Wilkes edged No. 8 Greene-Taliaferro 10-9 to win Region 4. Fourth-ranked Lovett edged Sequoyah 14-10 in Region 5.

In Region 6, Turner took the title with a 14-12 victory over North Fulton. East Hall shut out Jefferson 24-0 to win the Region 8 title.

CLASS A
In Region 1, Stewart-Quitman quarterback Cornelius Thomas threw touchdown passes of 7 yards to Pat Armour and 8 yards to Jonathan Owens in his team's 13-7 victory over Pelham.

No. 2 Clinch County edged Irwin County 10-6 in Region 2. Montgomery County intercepted three Metter passes and upset the No. 5 Tigers 21-0 in Region 3.

Top-ranked Lincoln County edged No. 3 Louisville for the second time this year, 7-0. Lincoln won the first meeting between the Region 4 powers 21-17.

No. 6 Brookstone avenged its only loss of the season against No. 9 Greenville, winning the Region 5 title 20-12 as Mack Strong rushed for 178 yards and all three touchdowns.

Greenville led 12-7 on a 24-yard run by Willie Crum and a 20-yard run by Larry Parks at the half, but Strong went 66 yards for a TD to give Brookstone the lead, then padded the margin with a 6-yard run.

In Region 8, eighth-ranked Monticello upset fourth-ranked Dacula 41-15. It was Dacula's first loss of the year.

Sat., Nov. 28, 1987

'Cats Claim Region Title

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

For those who questioned if Region 1-AAAA plays the best brand of football in the entire state, all doubts were erased Friday night at Cleveland Field.

The Valdosta Wildcats, pushed to the limit by the Tift County Blue Devils, turned back a two-point conversion attempt by quarterback Derick Henderson with six seconds left in the game to defeat the Blue Devils 24-22 and claim the Region 1-AAAA championship for the second year in a row.

The Wildcats, 12-0, will go on to play Carver of Columbus next Friday at 8 p.m. at Cleveland Field in the first round of the state playoffs.

"I'm not a predictor but I knew this would be a great high school football game. All of our backs ran extremely hard and overall it was just a great defensive effort," Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder said. "All our coaches did an excellent job. Coach Jack Rudolph, Jerry Don Baker, Mike O'Brien, Charles Tarpley, Freddie Waters and Bob Bolton did an outstanding job of getting our kids ready against a fired up Tift County team.

"But you also must give coach Brodie and his team all the credit in the world. They came ready to play and then some."

On the Blue Devils' final drive, 'Cat defensive end Coleman Rudolph picked up his third sack of the game when he dumped Henderson for a 10-yard loss back to the Valdosta 20-yard line setting up a fourth-and-ten.

However, the 'Cats were hit with a pass interference call on the fourth down play and the Blue Devils were in business at the 15 with a first down. Bernard King carried the ball down to the four before Henderson hit Jay Johnson for the touchdown to make the score 24-22 with eight seconds left.

The Blue Devils went for two but Henderson, who was under heavy pressure from the Valdosta defense, sailed his pass incomplete and the 'Cats had won their 27th straight game. Tift head coach Gene Brodie was obviously upset after the game.

"I'll be back next year. But these seniors won't. It's them I hurt for more than anything else," he said. "They got up on us early and that may have been the key point in the game. But to our credit we never up and came back to put ourselves in position where we had a chance to at least tie the game. I couldn't be more prouder of our kids."

Valdosta led 14-9 at the half as a pass interference against the 'Cats set up a 47-yard field goal by Tift's Russ Davis with no time showing on the clock.

The Blue Devils had the momentum but Valdosta quickly stole it right back as the third quarter began.

After receiving the third quarter kickoff, running back James Roberts went right to work.

On a 1st-and-10 from the 22, Roberts powered his way 30 yards to Blue Devil

Tift County	0	9	0	13	-22
Valdosta	14	0	7	3	-24
V — B. J. Mason 4 run (Todd Peterson kick)					
V — James Roberts 49 run (Peterson kick)					
T — Jay Johnson 36 pass from Derick Henderson (kick blocked)					
T — Russ Davis 46 fg					
V — Roberts 62 yard run (Peterson kick)					
T — Johnson 71 punt return					
V — Peterson 24 fg					
T — Johnson 4 pass from Henderson (pass failed)					
		TC		V	
First Downs		15		12	
Yards Rushing		76		308	
Rushing Attempts		30		41	
Yards Passing		153		0	
Passes	10-22-1	0-1-0			
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	2-1			
Punting	5-39.6	36.4			
Penalties	7-80	5-40			
		Rushing			
Tift — Graham 16-32, King 7-12, Williams 6-19, Johnson 1-12, Merritt 1-4, Valdosta — Roberts 15-186, Ceaser 13-86, Mason 10-31, Sharpe 2-2.		Passing			
Tift — Henderson 22-10-1153, Valdosta — Mason 1-0-0		Receiving			
Tift — Johnson 4-88, Nixon 2-20, Jones 3-36, McLain 1-9					

43 but a pushing penalty took the ball back to the Valdosta 38.

But Roberts took advantage of outstanding blocking by the 'Cats' offensive line and streaked 62 yards for a touchdown with 11:24 showing on the clock.

Todd Peterson's kick was good and Valdosta held a seemingly safe 21-9 lead.

Roberts finished the night carrying the ball 15 times for 186 yards and two scores. Isaac Ceaser finished with 86 yards on 13 carries.

Reginald Dandy had an interception that killed Tift's first drive of the third quarter.

Tift, which managed only 76 yards on the ground, never really could get its rushing attack going as the Wildcat defense led by Rudolph, Carlo Butler, Beau Laskey, Coronzoa Greene, Anthony Williams, Fredrick Hinton, Dandy, Kenneth Berrian and Robert Filmore all did a superb job.

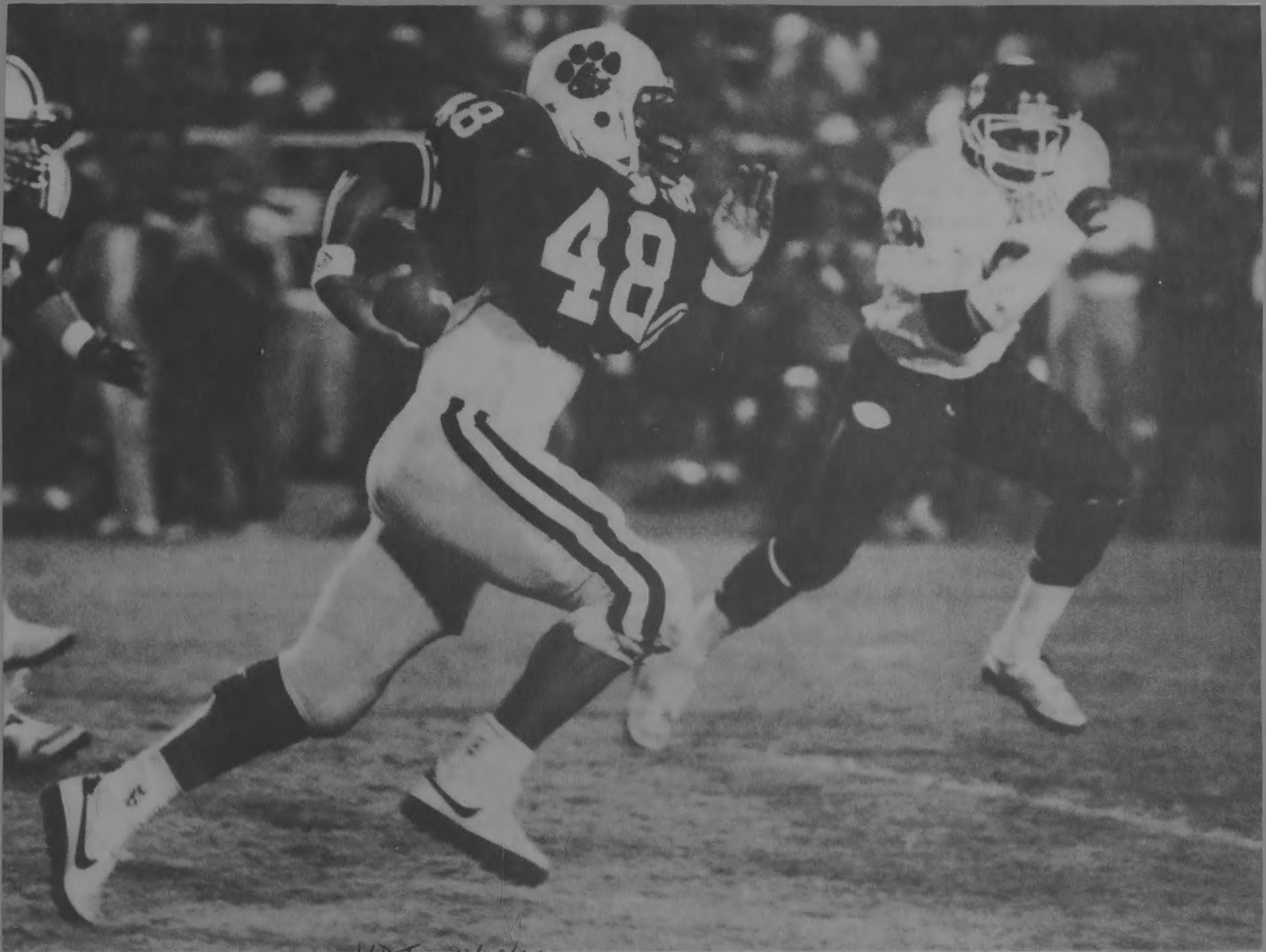
But the Blue Devils special teams came to play when Johnson returned a punt 71-yards for a touchdown to cut the 'Cat lead to 21-16 with 8:31 left in the game.

Johnson scored all of Tift's touchdowns, the first on 36-yard pass from Henderson to cut the lead to 14-6 in the second quarter. The point-after was blocked by Hinton.

"Jay Johnson is a good a player as we've played against," Hyder said. "There's no doubt that he's an all state player."

After Johnson's touchdown run, Tift seemed to have momentum after appearing to stop Valdosta, but after Charles Stewart hit a high booming punt, a chop block foul against the Blue Devils gave the 'Cats' the ball right back at the 29. Ceaser and Roberts moved the ball the down to the 29 before Peterson drilled a 24-yard field goal with 2:54 left that meant the difference on the game.

The Wildcats had built a 14-0 first quarter lead on a 4-yard run by Mason to cap a four-play drive set up by a 26-yard run by Ceaser with 9:01 left in the first quarter and a 49-yard run by Roberts which was set up when Anthony Williams recovered a fumble on the 'Cat 49.



VDT 11/28/87

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cat Running Back James Roberts, Who Dashed For 186 Yards, Scores His Second Touchdown, A 62-Yard Run

2-C The Valdosta Daily Times, Sun., Nov. 29, 1987

Valdosta-Tift Contest Had Many Big Plays

By **MIKE COLOMBO**
Times Sports Editor

It's interesting to look back at the high points and low points of individual football games. After Friday night's classic between Tift and Valdosta, it was tempting to point out Tift's failed 2-point conversion as the big play in giving the VHS Wildcats the 24-22 victory.

Looking at the game as a chronological event, that failed conversion was the biggest play of the night, but actually, the game was full of big plays, all that kept the momentum hard to keep.

One could argue that the biggest play of the game was the chop block perpetrated upon Wildcat noseguard Robert Fillmore late in the fourth quarter.

The block came on a Valdosta punt and as a result, the Wildcats got the ball back and Todd Peterson was able to kick a 24-yard field goal to make it 24-16 Valdosta. Those 24 were enough to win.

Of course, it was the big play that got Tift County back in the ball game to begin with. Trailing 21-9, Tift return man Jay Johnson carried the ball 71 yards for the score to make it 21-16.

Tift's final drive of the evening was also full of great happenings. Valdosta appeared to have the drive stopped when the Wildcats made crucial mistake. On a 3rd-and-10 from the Wildcat 20, Blue Devil quarterback Derick Henderson was sacked by Coleman Rudolph, making it 4th-and-20.

The Wildcats, however, were called for pass interference on the fourth down play, and the Blue Devils got a new lease on life on the 15.

Tift County eventually put the ball in the end zone on a 4-yard pass play from Henderson to Johnson, who scored all of Tift County's touchdowns.

Even the opening kickoff was a big play, or rather, proved to be a big play eventually. A Tifton player muffed the catch and as a result, the Blue Devils started off with poor field position at their own 10-yard line.

Tift had to punt the ball from deep in its own territory and Valdosta started off with good field position, scoring its first touchdown after Isaac Ceaser rambled for a 20-yard gain.

Later in the quarter, Tift running back Eric Graham coughed the ball up and the Wildcats recovered on the Tift 49. On the first play from scrimmage, Wildcat running back James Roberts scooted 49 yards for the score and

Valdosta led 14-0 with 2:21 left in the first quarter.

Tift County, however, scratched its way back into the game. Tift made it 14-6 on a 36-yard pass from Henderson to Johnson that the receiver snatched out of thin air over the middle and then found the end zone. Kicker Russ Davis, however, missed the extra point. A big play? Give Tift that one point back and they wouldn't have had to go for two at the end of the game.

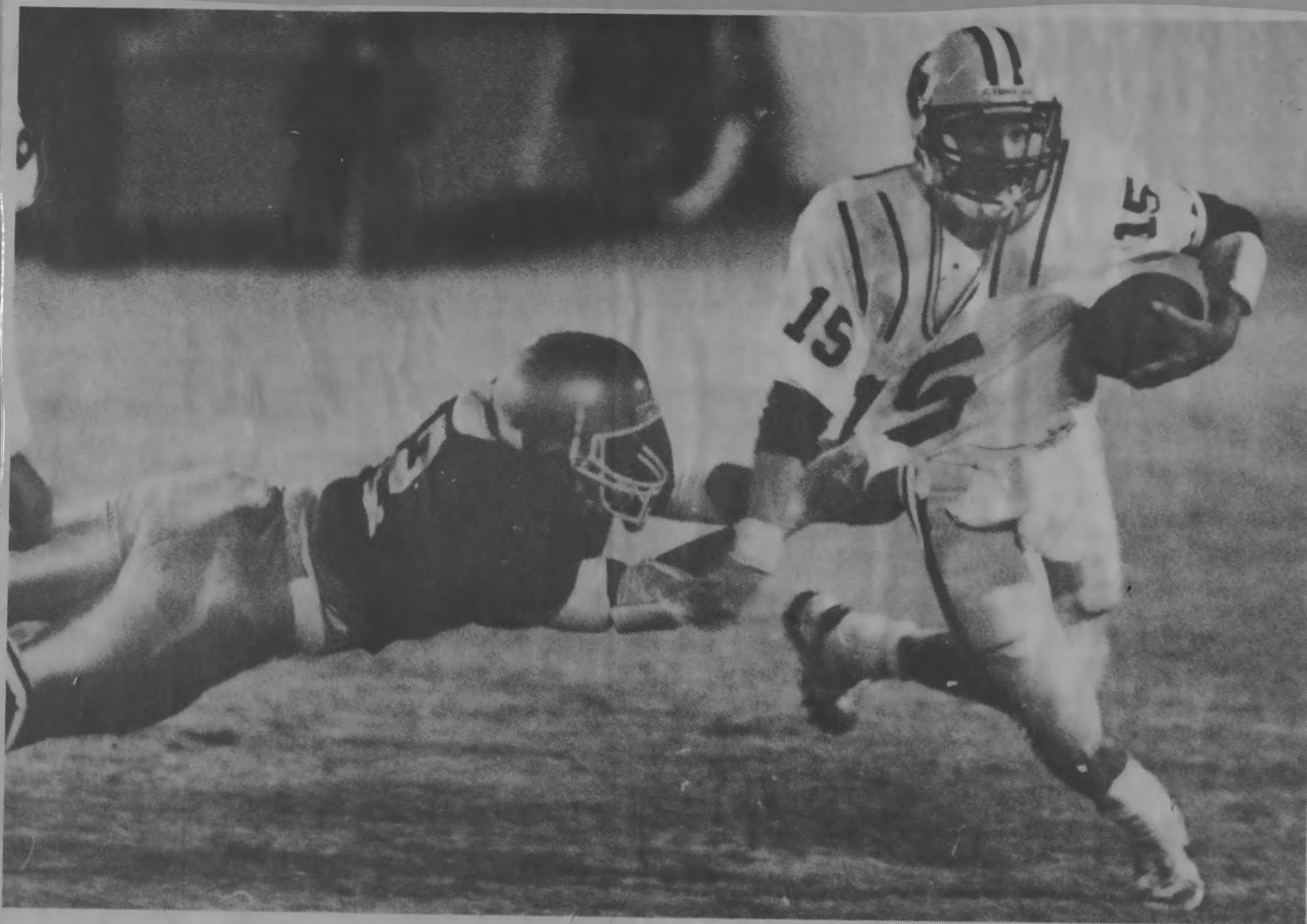
But Davis came through when the chips were down and in the closing minutes of the first half booted a 46-yard field goal to make it 14-9.

Valdosta received the second-half kickoff. On the second play of the half, Roberts found a hole and went 62 yards for the score to make it 21-9.

In the final analysis, Valdosta had one more big play than Tift and made one less blundering error.

The Wildcats won't know Fillmore's status until Monday. It would be a blow the 'Cat defense if the noseguard had to miss a playoff game, but the play that sent him out of action certainly helped Valdosta in the short run.

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Valdosta Quarterback B.J. Mason Tries To Elude Lowndes Viking Defender

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

No. 1 Valdosta dodges a bullet to escape Tift 24-22

Special to the Times-Union/Journal

VALDOSTA — Coach Nick Hyder may not know much right now about Carver High School of Columbus, his Valdosta Wildcats' opponent in the first round of the Georgia state Class 4A playoffs Friday night, but he definitely knows all he needs to about the Tift County Blue Devils.

Tift stretched Valdosta to the limit 24-22 in front of an almost-capacity crowd of 12,000 Friday night in the Region 1-4A championship game, which history may record as the classic prep battle in South Georgia this decade.

The win was the 27th in a row for Valdosta (12-0 and top ranked by The Associated Press in Georgia and in the nation by the ESPN cable network and No. 2 in USA Today's national poll). But the outcome was in doubt almost until the final horn as Tift (8-4) refused to roll over.

Coach Gene Brodie's Blue Devils took the fight to Valdosta to the very end, scoring a touchdown with eight seconds left in the game, only to see what might have been a game-tying two-point conversion pass batted away by a Wildcat defender.

"I thought we had a chance," a heart-broken Brodie commented as he walked off the field. "But Valdosta? They are for real."

On the horizon for Hyder's Cats is Carver (8-2), the champion of Region 2-4A who have had two weeks off since ending their regular season. While Hyder doesn't know that much about this year's Carver squad, he remembers the first round of the '86 state playoffs. The temperature was close to the freezing mark in Columbus last year, and the Wildcats found themselves in a scoreless deadlock at halftime before two blocked punts opened the door to a 28-0 victory.

"Carver has a good football team and has a lot of speed," Hyder said. "A lot of people have tried to make an assumption of what will happen, but they have some good athletes and they are motivated."

Hyder knows when a team reaches the region and state playoff championship levels, it had better be motivated. He saw that Friday night in Tift, which VHS had defeated 17-10 during the regular season.

"That's as good a football team we've played since we played them last year," Hyder said of the Blue Devils. "And that's the closest game we've played in a long time."

It appeared from the onset that Valdosta might turn the game into a rout as the Wildcats, aided by a pass-interference penalty, drove 42 yards in three plays on their first possession for a 3-yard touchdown run by quarterback B.J. Mason.

Later in the first period, the Wildcat defense set the table as linebacker Anthony Williams recovered a Tift fumble at midfield. On the next play, junior running back James Roberts hit a big hole in the center of the line, cut to his right and streaked down the sideline for a 50-yard touchdown run. Todd Peterson's second PAT put Valdosta up 14-0.

But the Tift offense kept coming as the Blue Devils drove to Valdosta's 13 before losing a second fumble. After forcing the 'Cats to punt, Tift quarterback Derrick Henderson connected with wide receiver Jay Johnson on a crossing pattern and the 165-pound receiver split the Valdosta defense for a 65-yard touchdown with 2:53 to play in the half. Russ Davis' PAT kick was blocked by linebacker Frederick Henton, a play which would later cost the Devils.

But Tift wasn't through. The Blue Devil defense again forced a Valdosta punt. Facing fourth and 1 at the Valdosta 46 with only seconds to play in the first half, Tift was given an extra play when Valdosta was called for pass interference on a "Hail Mary" attempt. Davis drove a 47-yard field

The Florida Times-Union/Jacksonville Journal, Jacksonville, Sunday, November 29, 1987

goal through the uprights with no time on the clock to cut the halftime margin to 14-9.

Valdosta came out the second half and padded its lead to 21-9 on a 62-yard run by Roberts, who finished the night with 181 yards on 16 carries. But the Blue Devils retaliated when Johnson returned a punt 66 yards with 8:36 left to play, cutting the margin to 21-16.

Tift's defense stopped the Valdosta rush at the Blue Devil 38, forcing Charles Steward to punt once again. Then the game changed. Tift was penalized 15 yards for a chop block on the punt that sent Wildcat middle guard Robert Fillmore out of the game, and Valdosta had new life at Tift's 23. Peterson stretched the Cats' lead to eight with a 23-yard field goal as the clock ticked down to 2:54.

Still, Tift wouldn't quit. The Blue Devils drove 49 yards to the VHS 19 before Henderson was sacked for an 11-yard loss by defensive end Coleman Rudolph. On fourth and 21, Henderson tried to hit Johnson at the VHS 8. The flags flew through the air ... pass interference against Valdosta defensive back Keith Henry with 55 seconds to play.

On third and 2 at the Valdosta 7, the

Wildcat defense sacked Henderson again, but there were more flags. The 'Cats were offsides, giving Tift a first down at the 4. A power sweep moved the ball to the 2, and with 11 seconds left to play, Johnson beat Henry in the left corner of the end zone for the reception from Henderson, pulling Tift to within two.

The Blue Devils moved the ball to the right hashmark for the PAT and Henderson threw left to Johnson one more time on a slant pass. This time, Henry was there to break up the attempt and give Valdosta the region championship.

"The play that mattered, the kid came up and made the play," Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said. "This was a great team effort. I can't say one person did better than another. I don't know when we've had a closer game, but somehow we got through the mistakes and the crucial plays."

As for Carver, Rudolph said, "We'll start working on them Saturday."

Tift	0	9	0	13	—22
Valdosta	14	0	7	3	—24
V—Mason 3 run (Peterson kick)					
V—Roberts 50 run (Peterson kick)					
T—Johnson 35 pass from Henderson (kick blocked)					
T—Davis 47 FG goal					
V—Roberts 62 run (Peterson kick)					
T—Johnson 66 punt return Davis kick					
V—Peterson 23 FG					
T—Johnson 2 pass from Henderson (pass failed)					

VHS Wrestling Starts Tomorrow

V. Times 12/8/87
The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team will begin its 1987-1988 season 7 p.m. Wednesday by hosting Tift County in the VHS gym.

Coached by Jim Landrum, Valdosta will be hoping to rebound from an 8-7 season last year.

Gymnast Qualify

The Valdosta YMCA Gymnastics Team traveled to the South Sectional gymnastics competition in Atlanta. Four girls qualified for the State Gymnastics Tournament to be held in February.

The members qualifying for state competition are Amy Murph, Missy Fisher, Stephanie Everett, and Amy Stephenson.

Scores in each individual area were as follows: Murph- Vault (8.45), Bars (7.40), Beam (6.80), Floor (8.20), All-Around (30.85). Fisher- Vault (7.35), Bars (7.00), Beam (7.00), Floor (6.70), All-Around (29.00). Everett- Vault (7.60), Bars (8.85) 1st Place, Beam (7.85) 2nd Place, Floor (8.10), All-Around (32.40) 2nd Place. Stephenson- Vault (7.00), Bars (5.75), Beam (6.10), Floor (8.55) 2nd Place, All-Around (27.00).

Wildcats Pin Devils

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team posted a victory in the opener of the 1987-1988 campaign by disposing of the Tift County Blue Devils 56-14 last night at Valdosta High School.

The 'Cats won 10 of a possible 13 matches on the evening as they cruised past the Blue Devils.

From the outset Valdosta wasted no time, winning four of the first five matches all by pins to giving the 'Cats an 18-4 lead after just 10 minutes into the contest.

Valdosta's Nick Gonis got things going early as he pinned Shane Pridgen in the later part of the second period. Steve Peterman followed suit by pinning Rodney Troupe, giving Valdosta an early 12-0 lead.

According to Valdosta head coach Jim Landrum, the victory was impressive, but his team has a long way to go.

"I'm happy for our kids to win the first one, but the work has just begun," said Landrum. "Most of our kids are still very rusty and it showed. The intensity and tough effort shown by our kids pleased me the most."

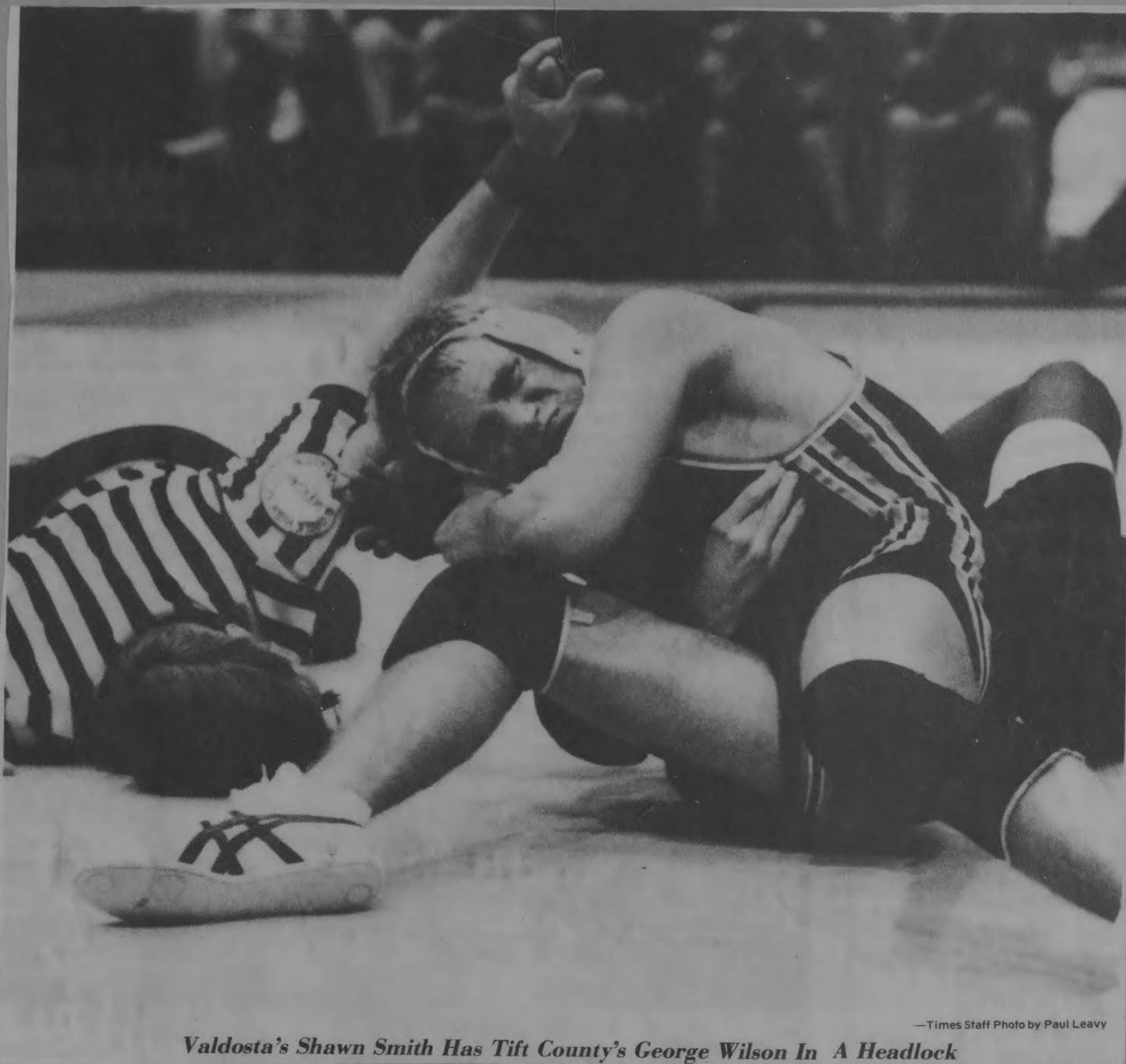
After the first ten matches, Valdosta had an insurmountable lead at 44-8.

Starting with the 125-pound class, Valdosta won five matches in succession building a 40-4 advantage over Tift. Valdosta's Justin Bridges started the onslaught by pinning Tift's Michael Barron and Brian Mueller finished up duplicating that feat by pinning Tift's Chad Alexander before Valdosta lost only its second of three matches on the evening.

Valdosta closed out an almost perfect evening. Ashley Moorman and Shaun Eilders closed out the match by pinning their opponents.

"We have a lot to learn overall, but the victory is big because of the confidence factor," said Landrum. "The kids did a super job, and that's all you can ask."

103 pounds — Gonis (V) pinned Pridgen; 112 — Peterman (V) pinned Troupe; 119 — Taylor (T) dec. Fann; 125 — Bridges (V) pinned Barron; 130 — Finland (V) pinned Bacot; 135 — McLeod (V) dec. Sears; 140 — Smith (V) dec. Wilson; 145 — Mueller (V) pinned Alexander; 152 — Daniels (T) dec. Mitchell; 160 — R. Moorman (V) dec. Gibbs; 171 — Goodwin (T) pinned Everitte; 189 — A. Moorman (V) pinned Henley; HWT — Eilders (V) pinned Calhoun.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Shawn Smith Has Tift County's George Wilson In A Headlock

Depth Will Hurt Carver Tonight

VDT 12/4/87

It's not often that I go on record when it comes to picking high school football games, but since this is a festive time of year I figured what the heck.

As you know this is the first week of the state playoffs, and the best teams from around the state will get to prove just who is the king of the mountain, who are the contenders and who are the pretenders.

Carver at Valdosta — This a rematch of last year's first round game in which the 'Cats won 28-0, exploding for all their points in the second half.

Carver, 8-2, is the regular season champions of Region 2-AAAA, a region which next year will become part of Region 1-AAAA.

The Tigers will bring a lot of speed to Cleveland Field led by tailback Robert Williams who runs the 40 in 4.4 second. Carver also has two quality quarterbacks who switch in and out throughout the game. Their receivers are also fearless when it comes to going over the middle to catch passes.

The 'Cats, coming off a very emotional 24-22 win over Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA finals, will have to be ready for what will be a fired up Carver team.

Valdosta, like in the Tift game, will need to score quickly to get the early momentum. The longer Carver is allowed to hang in the game the more confidence they will gain.

At half the game will be close, say 14-7, 17-7 but in the second half, look for the Wildcats' excellent depth to pay huge dividends as the Tigers, who play very few people, will begin to tire.

After the third quarter the game should be well in hand and when the final horn sounds, tah, dah, tah, dah, tah dah...it's Valdosta 35-13.

Evans at Effingham County — The winner of this game will host the winner of the Valdosta-Carver contest for the South Georgia Championship and I must admit that I have more than a little interest in this game's outcome.

Both teams come into the game with 12-0 marks and will feature one outstanding quarterback, Craig Cassedy of Region 4-AAAA champion Evans, against the wishbone attack of the Region 3-AAAA champion Rebels.

Cassedy is the type of quarterback who can do it all, throw and run effectively. The Rebels had better watch out because Cassedy will get his



Anthony Dasher

Times Sports
Writer

yards, regardless. Warner Robins and Northside Warner Robins weren't able to stop him.

But don't count Effingham out. The Rebels have rushed for 3,696 yards so far and average 7.5 yards per carry.

Effingham, averaging 35 points per game, has scored more points than any Class AAAA team this year and the Knights' defense should receive its sternest test of the year.

The scoreboard should really light up in this one, but on a hunch...Effingham 41, Evans 35.

Morrow at McEachern — The winner of this game will be the favorite in the North Georgia Championship game.

McEachern, despite its 13-0 record, has gotten no respect according to the AP High School football poll, dropping from second to fourth despite remaining undefeated.

Morrow 11-1, has beaten Griffin twice this year and that's enough for me. Morrow 24-17.

Newton County at SW Dekalb — Newton County's season has already been made just because they defeated Clarke Central for the first time ever.

The state playoffs are just icing on the cake. SW Dekalb has been there before so.... SW Dekalb 32-20.

Clinch at Stewart-Quitman — The Panthers, 11-0, must travel all the way to Lumpkin as they take the first step in trying to win a state football title to add to their basketball and baseball championships.

Stewart-Quitman is a young team, which went from 0-10 two years ago to 11-1 this year.

Clinch will have its toughest test of the year and the outcome will be in doubt until the final minute of the game when Herbert Mingo goes over from the two to lift.... Clinch 21-16.

In Class AAA, Central-Thomaspville will have an easy time with Butler 38-14, Worth over Troup 28-7, Marist over Lakeside 35-32 and Villa Rica will edge Stephens County 24-21.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cat Isaac Ceaser (33) Looks To Pick Up A Block From Receiver Bernard Hitson

Ceaser, Roberts Sparkle

VDT 12/1/87

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Going into the 1987 football season, the Valdosta High backfield was somewhat of a mystery as far as who would pick up the offensive slack for the graduated Jerome Calloway and Greg Talley. But the mystery is no more.

Tailback James Roberts and fullback Isaac Ceaser have proven they can run and block with the best backs around and along with Lawrence Sharpe, quarterback B.J. Mason and a host of quality backups, the Wildcats possess one of the most lethal rushing attacks in the state.

Against Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA finals, Roberts and Ceaser took no prisoners, dishing out as much, if not more punishment than they themselves absorbed.

"Tift had been doing some talking all week long and we just tried to go out and do a little intimidating ourselves," Cat backfield coach Mike O'Brien said. "We wanted them (Ceaser and Roberts) to punish whoever was there. They just did a great job."

Ceaser and Roberts agreed. "Last year Bradwell did a whole lot of talking and last week Tift County did the same. We wanted to prove them wrong," Ceaser said.

"We just wanted to try to prove that we had the best backs," said Roberts. "I think we did."

And did they ever. Roberts ran wild against Tift picking up 186 yards and scoring two touchdowns, a 49-yarder and a 62-yarder. Ceaser added 86 yards on 13 totes.

For the year Roberts has gained 965 yards and an average of 7.7 yards per carry. He has scored 14 touchdowns.

Ceaser has carried the ball 116 times for 655 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"A lot of people don't realize that James played fullback last year," O'Brien said. "So this is a new position for him. Both still have a lot to learn but their hearts are in the right place and will do whatever is necessary."



Valdosta's Isaac Ceaser (33) is an unwelcome sight in the defensive secondary and James Roberts (48) is also a punishing runner

According to Roberts, there isn't all that much difference between fullback and tailback.

"You prepare for both about the same," he said. "About the only difference is as a fullback is you block more."

"Both Roberts and Ceaser are also excellent blockers and are very unselfish when it comes to that," said O'Brien. "They are also very appreciative of the offensive line and the great job they do. They believe in

the team concept and know that football is not an individual sport."

Just ask Ceaser. "The entire offensive line has worked extremely hard and they do a great job of blocking the people they are supposed to. They're not as big as last year but have done a lot better than people think."

"And who would have thought that Shaun Eilders, a freshman, would have stepped in like he has. He's done a great job."

Beside possessing excellent speed, both Roberts and Ceaser have the size at 215 and 210 pounds respectively that could one day have them playing major college ball.

"Their size certainly helps," said O'Brien. "James is faster than Isaac but Isaac is not slow by any means. Right now James runs a 4-6 and Isaac a 4-7 or 4-8 but you can't really judge how good a runner is by comparing his timed speed and actual game speed. Both seem faster in the game."



Punishing Runner

According to Ceaser, the 'Cats learned a great deal from the Tift County game, a lesson that should help them in the upcoming state playoffs.

"I think we grew up a little bit in that game," he said. "I think it was important to have close game like that. Football is 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical and I believe that now we are more mentally prepared."

Having confidence in your teammates is a vital factor if a football squad expects to be successful and

even when the Blue Devils were threatening to tie the score. Ceaser knew things would work out all right.

"I had faith in the defense, I knew they would do it," he said. "The offense has faith in the defense just like the defense has faith in the offense. Even if Tift would have gotten those two points I feel sure the offense would have gone right back on the field and would have been able to move the ball and score."

Times Staff Photos by Bob Lupinek

Toughest Test Awaits Carver Tigers

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Carver-Columbus' task is great. The Tigers will be coming into Cleveland Field to face a Valdosta Wildcat team that beat them 28-0 last year in the first round of the state playoffs. Carver is hoping Friday night's 8 p.m. game is not an instant replay of that game as the two tangle again in round one of the state Class AAAA playoffs.

The Tigers enter the game sporting an 8-2 record. Region 2-AAAA sends its regular season champ to the state playoffs, doing away with region

Carver's only two losses came at the hands of Colquitt County, 21-7, and Central, Alabama, 14-8. This is the third consecutive year that Carver has won its region and entered the state playoffs.

The Tigers are led by senior running back Robert Williams, a 170-pound tailback. Williams has rushed for over 1000 yards this season. He has been clocked at 4.4 in the 40-yard dash and may be one of the fastest players in the Columbus area.

Paving the way for Williams is fullback Jon Thomas, who is used to

hammer the interior defensive line. Thomas does not have that many yards rushing but is an effective blocker and weighs in at 205 pounds.

The starting flanker for the Tigers is senior Anthony McHenry, who is a prime target in the Carver passing attack along with split end Chris Thomas. Both are long range receivers.

Nickey Pitts, a 200-pound junior, is one of the best tight ends in the Columbus area. Pitts is a dangerous pass receiver over the middle, and is a tremendous blocker.

Pitts can and has lined up at offensive tackle and guard, and also

plays on the defensive line. Columbus employs two quarterbacks in Scot Forte and Timothy Walton.

"We're concerned about the two-quarterback system. The Carver coach told me that they will use both kids, and that's one more thing we need to prepare for," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder.

Together, Walton and Forte have passed for over 1,000 yards against the opposition this year. Walton appears to be the better runner of the two.

Valdosta scouting reports warn that Carver's passing game is deadly because the receivers are fearless and

are good at catching the ball in traffic. The right side of the offensive line is where the beef is. Right guard Lonnie Pope anchors the line at 250, while Robert Stroy is 245.

Pitts and offensive left tackle Jody Hill make up the defensive line along with noseguard Xavier Lee, tackle Brenston Buckner and Curt Foster.

Lee is a quick and feisty noseguard, and the Valdosta scouts couldn't help but compare him to former Wildcat standout Eric Larry.

Dennis Tillman and Darrell Williams are the two linebackers. Tillman weighs in at 170 and Williams tips the scales near 180.

Walton and Thomas play the corner positions on defense, while Bobby Thomas and Robert Williams play the two safety spots.

Buckner performs the kicking and field goal chores while Thomas punts. He is averaging more than 40 yards a kick.

Valdosta fans are not used to so many kids going both ways in the Class AAAA competition. Carver basically has 17 or 18 starters. Whether those 17 or 18 can compete with Valdosta's numbers will be determined after four 12-minute quarters.

Lady Wildcats Win, Wildcats Fall In Thomasville

From Staff Reports VDT 12/4/87

THOMASVILLE — The Valdosta Wildcat basketball team suffered its first loss on the young '87 season at the hands of Thomasville 42-32 here last night.

For head coach John Miller, it was simply frustrating. The 'Cats were only 35% from the field and it cost the Valdosta squad.

"We simply shot very poorly and because of it we lost," said Miller. "When it came down to it we just did not get the job done."

According to Miller, the defense was the only bright spot for his team. Valdosta only allowed Thomasville four points in the opening period, but could not score points.

The Valdosta team was led by sophomore Jason

King. King tossed in 10, while teammate James Manning had 7.

"Thomasville had no surprises, they are a very physical team and they came to play. But the bottom line was we didn't," said Miller.

In the girls' contest, 19 first quarter points by the Valdosta Lady Wildcats proved to be the difference as Coach Susan Montgomery's squad edged Thomasville 45-42.

Valdosta led 25-20 at the half and 38-33 after three and held Thomasville off in the fourth quarter by hitting some key free throws.

Swandolyn Phillips poured in 16 points to lead the Lady 'Cats who are 1-1 on the year.

"Last night, I think, we matured as a team. It was nip and tuck the entire game and we hit some crucial free throws in the end to win," Montgomery said.

"We had to hit them too because both teams made 16

baskets. I was also proud of the way we handled the press. We played with a lot of poise and that's what we have to do to win."

The Wildcats' next game is home, Saturday night against Coffee County with the girls starting at 7 p.m..

(Boys)

Valdosta (32)	— King 10, Manning 7, Campbell 7, Williams 5, Sellers 3
Thomasville (42)	— Jones 14, Depasty 10, Jones 9, Curry 4, Johnson 1
Valdosta	..... 7 5 12 8 - 32
Thomasville	..... 4 13 14 11 - 42

Records — Valdosta 1-1.
Next Game — Coffee County at Valdosta (Sat.).

(Girls)

Thomasville (41)	— Brown 8, Meck 7, Sapp 6, Maria 13, Robinson 1, Bush 6
Valdosta (45)	— Plummer 12, Creque 3, Anderson 6, Phillips 16, Twine 3, Dennis 5
Thomasville	..... 9 11 13 8 - 41
Valdosta	..... 19 6 13 7 - 45

Record — VHS 1-1

I Stand Corrected

VDT 12/5/87

For those of you who were not a witness to the defeat the Valdosta Wildcats suffered at the hands of the Carver Tigers, let's just say it was not a memorable one for the 'Cats, or at least it's one they'll hope to soon forget.

Carver snapped Valdosta's 27-game winning streak, on its way to posting two school records.

I simply learned two things while watching this state quarterfinal game unfold. The main suggestion I have for future sports writers is that you never count a team out because of who they are and where they are from. I was very critical of the Carver Tigers, simply because of the overall play of that particular area in which they play. But as would be the case, I now get to put my small foot into my large mouth.

But by the same token, I cannot block or tackle. Things which Valdosta didn't exactly do perfectly either. Carver simply wanted the game from start to finish. The Tigers made their presence known early and often, keeping the 'Cats on their heels the entire game. Carver is much better than I or anyone else gave them credit for. There are lessons to be learned, and I just experienced one.

I said the Columbus schools do not add insult to injury, I said that the winner of last week's region championship game between the Tift County Blue Devils and the Valdosta Wildcats could make hotel reservations come state title week. Well they can, but neither will be a participant in the contest.

I obviously have a lot to learn about who's on top and who's not. For Valdosta, what do I need to say now that fans don't already know. The 'Cats showed tonight that anyone is free game. Carver took it to them. One major factor in the game was that they never let up.



Stan Grubb
Times Sports Writer

Once again the aerial show by the opposing team simply took Valdosta to school. Valdosta's secondary was stunned by the leaping and catching ability of the Tiger receivers. But to the 'Cats' credit, they never gave an inch on the coverage; the Tigers just executed in that area when they needed it the most.

For the most part, the Wildcats were not themselves. Add a fired up Carver team with flawless execution and you get your answer.

Carver combined elusive team speed with overall dedication for the victory. Putting the '87 season into perspective, I think it would be safe to say that Valdosta obviously had a good team, but not as great a team as some thought. Valdosta losing does not in any way tarnish the long lasting tradition or hard effort given by each player all year long. The only thing last night's game did was decide who advances to the state semifinal game next week against Evans, nothing more, nothing less.

As a local football fan, I have to say that I was not as disappointed in the team's performance as I was in the actions of the Valdosta "faithful".

I have to say that I was embarrassed to see the so-called Valdosta faithful exit before game's end.

It's hard on the players to see the fans hit the road when the going gets tough.

Carver's Speed A Concern For 'Cats

By MIKE COLOMBO VDT 12/3/87
Times Sports Editor

Those expecting Carver to roll over and play dead sometime in the first quarter of Friday night's state quarterfinal game against Valdosta are either short of memory or long in confidence.

While the Valdosta Wildcats have to be favored because of a 27-game winning streak and No. 1 ranking in the state, head coach Nick Hyder is not letting the overconfidence of the fans infect his thinking.

"Fans don't block and tackle," said Hyder during Wednesday's practice. "If we depended on our fans, we'd have to change our philosophy."

"These young men started work in July and are still here and it's December. I don't see many fans at practice when it's cold and raining."

I love the fans, but our job is to entertain them not to look to them for advice."

Hyder and his coaching staff are hoping for a good crowd Friday night, especially since it is the 'Cats' last home game of the year. The rest of the playoff games are all away.

"The fans are always asking us if the kids are up for the game," said linebacker and defensive ends coach Charles Tarpley. "I just hope they come out here and help us get the kids up for this one. This game will be tough and we'll have to be ready."

Last year's game between the two teams at the same juncture of the season ended in a 28-0 Valdosta victory. The game was scoreless at the half as Carver proved to have a tough defense.

The Wildcats opened the scoring when quarterback Greg Talley hit Jim Motes for a 52-yard score with 7:20 left in the third quarter.

Carver quarterback Scott Forte was then sacked by Coronzo Greene and he fumbled at his own 12. Two plays later, Jerome Calloway took the ball in for a 14-0 lead.

Otis Conaway then fell on a blocked punt in the end zone for another score and a Carver fumble on its own 3 set up Valdosta's last score — a pass from Talley to Charles Steward.

"We didn't move the ball that well against them. It took some big plays

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

For Valdosta defensive ends Coleman Rudolph, Frederick Henton and Kenneth Berrian, it's been a long season. At least it certainly started out that way, but the three have slowly matured into a cohesive and dangerous unit.

Rudolph, Berrian, and Henton were called on to fill some big shoes at a crucial defensive position, and while they struggled early, they have come into their own headed into the state playoffs.

The Wildcats lost a stellar pair of defensive ends after last season in Seabron Williams and Michael Tolbert, both who went on to sign college scholarships.

Their graduation left a big gap. In the early part of the season, it looked as if the Wildcat defense would struggle through the year. Waycross scored 29 points against the 'Cats and had more than 200 yards rushing.

Tift County moved the ball well in the regular season and fell by just a touchdown. The big play kept hurting Valdosta.

But the defense showed steady improvement. Valdosta gave up just 23 points in its last five games and is currently 12-0 on the season, riding a 27-game winning streak.

Much of the defensive credit should go to Berrian, Rudolph, and Henton.

Rudolph, son of defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph, had several key tackles for losses and three sacks in the final regular season game against Lowndes.

The Valdosta defensive ends played superbly in a 49-6 region semifinal win against Monroe.

for us to score and then we took control of the game," said Tarpley. "They don't have a big squad. I just hope we can wear them down late in the game."

Valdosta will once again attack behind its awesome running attack, led by tailback James Roberts and



COLEMAN RUDOLPH

Last week, Rudolph and Henton made life miserable for Tift quarterback Derrick Henderson as Valdosta claimed the region crown 24-22. Rudolph registered one sack and Henton had three tackles for losses.

"I'm just real proud of the way these guys have improved," said linebacker and defensive end coach Charles Tarpley.

"They made some key plays last week and also did a real good job against Lowndes. They've worked hard all year and stuck to it."

None played defensive end at Valdosta Junior High school where all three came up through the ranks. Tarpley appropriated them from the other assistants and has seen them gel.

"I think Coleman played safety until he came to the varsity. I stole Berrian from Freddy (Freddy Waters, defensive line coach) because he was too light to stand up to those big guys inside."

According to Tarpley, things were a little harder on Rudolph than on the

fullback Isaac Ceaser, both over 200 pounds. Roberts did not practice Wednesday but is expected to be 100 percent by Friday night.

The Carver defense will have to contend with a well-trained and deep front line consisting of David



FRED HENTON

others earlier in the season. "Well I think was a little tougher on me," said Rudolph. "I think everyone was watching me more than the other players because my dad's a coach."

"Some of the fans were a little too critical," said Tarpley. "I guess the coach's son is expected to be a little better than everybody else to avoid criticism, but that's not really fair."

"I'll show you films from last year where Tolbert didn't play that well at the beginning of the season. He struggled during the first four or five weeks, but then came along. It all comes with experience."

At 185 pounds, Rudolph is the tallest and heaviest of the three and has blossomed into one of the team's best pass rushers. Rudolph attributed attending football camps at Georgia Tech and Alabama for some of his improvement. Berrian and Henton have been alternating with Henton earning more and more playing time as the season has progressed.

Now Tarpley is hoping the year of

Hazelhurst, Jack Morgan, Todd Pichford, Andy Anderson, Andy Rykard, and tight end Charles Steward.

Offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker is confident his squad will be ready to go, even though last year his team was thwarted in the first half of



KENNETH BERRIAN

growth will pay off in the state tournament when the Wildcats take on Carver 8 p.m. Friday night at Cleveland Field.

According to Tarpley, his aggressive ends must stop the sweep and put pressure on the passer to neutralize the Carver offense.

"We know they have a bunch of speed in the backfield and they are pretty big," said Rudolph. "I think they'll run the sweeps against us and pass the ball a good bit."

Tarpley is pleased with this hard-working trio and looks forward to the return of Rudolph and Henton next season. For Tarpley, too, the year has been somewhat stressful.

"I have to admit I was a little gloomy the first couple of weeks," said Tarpley. "No one had to tell me we weren't getting the job done. I've been coaching for 22 years and have sent some kids to some good schools. But I know our system and these kids. I knew they would come around, and they did just that."

play against the same Carver defense.

"It was cold last year, and that had a lot to do with it," said Baker. "It was the first cold day we really had and the kids weren't ready for it. They just stood around in the first half and were going through the motions."

"We were also coming off a big win like we are now. We went in a little overconfident and they came after us. Playing down here is a plus. We don't have to drive on that long road trip. Also, we've had a good week of practice," said Baker.

"I think we'll be ready to play. The kids know there's no tomorrow. We got up for Tift and we can't afford to have a letdown."

"I think a key is to get out early and score. I said that against Tift. I think we'll have to do that again."

The Valdosta defense is preparing for a quick and gutsy Carver offense. Coronzo Greene, Robert Fillmore, and Zabria Bell lead the defensive line along with ends Coleman Rudolph, Fred Henton, and Kenneth Berrian.

Beau Laskey, Carlos Butler, and Anthony Williams will fill the linebacker holes while Reginald Dandy, Keith Henry, Jason Bridges, Eric Toth, and Demetricus Waters will be called on in the secondary.

"One thing we'll have to do is stop that sweep," said Tarpley. "They'll flip it out there all night long and may not run anything else if we can't stop that."

"Both their quarterbacks are good and can really drill the ball. Then they'll run the option. They might run down field and chunk the ball out of bounds, but sooner or later they'll chunk it three hours late and one of their guys will be there to catch it. They have good speed at the skill positions."

Another key to the game could once again be fumbles, just as turnovers were crucial in last year's game. Turnovers were crucial in Valdosta's win last week against Tift County. For some reason, Valdosta doesn't normally fumble the ball and will make the opposition pay if it does.

According to Hyder, credit for Valdosta's success at hanging on to the football goes to the Wildcat assistant coaches.

"Coaches Mike O'Brien, Jerry Don Baker, and Bob Bolton are connected with that phase of the game and they do a good job," said Hyder. "They work on that snap from center to quarterback, from quarterback to running back."

"We're not always perfect but we do work hard on it."

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VDT 12/4/87

In the sport of football, no one facet of the game is any more important than the kicking game. This is often an area where the outcome of the game is usually decided. And at Valdosta, the kicking game has been impressive all season long.

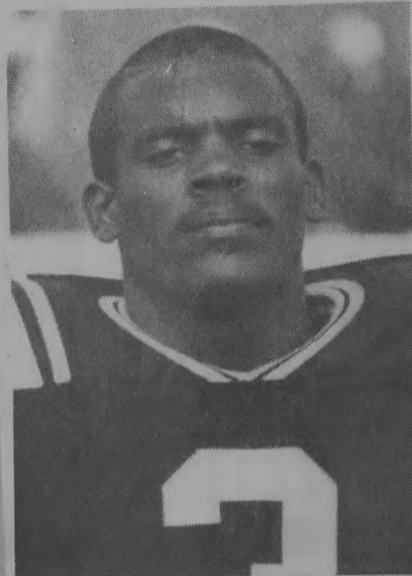
Behind the placekicking of senior Todd Peterson and the punting of senior Charles Steward, the Wildcat kicking game has been a major factor in the success the 'Cats have enjoyed thus far.

Peterson is presently second in total points scored among region players with 77 points, while Steward has been booming punts at a 36.9 yard average.

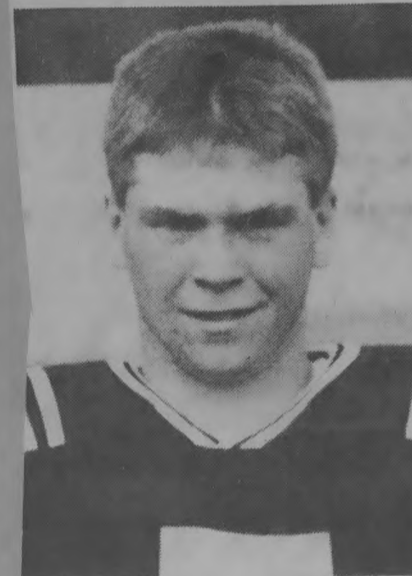
Peterson possesses long range accuracy, not that common for a high school kicker and Steward has allowed the Valdosta defense valuable yardage on each of his punts.

Never on one Valdosta squad has there been two more productive players at each of the two kicking positions than Peterson and Steward.

According to Wildcat kicking in-



CHARLES STEWARD



TODD PETERSON

structors coach Bob Bolton and Mike O'Brien, this may be the best tandem of specialty players ever comprised on the same Valdosta squad in some time.

"With the kicking game proving to be an area in which many games are won and lost, we have been very fortunate to own two of the best in the area," said O'Brien. "Both Peterson and Steward have opened up new avenues for our team. But by the same token, each player knows that is always a team effort especially in the kicking game."

"Without a doubt, Peterson and Steward are two of the best in the kicking game than I've ever seen at Valdosta," said Bolton. "It has been such an added boost to the confidence level of this team to have two of the

best specialty players in the south on the same team."

Bolton added, "Although the kicking game is one of the main areas of the team, there are many facets that enter into each area."

That particular sentiment was echoed by Peterson.

"For me, the kicking game has three facets kickoff, field goal, and extra-point try," said Peterson. "Each are equally important and require the same amount of effort."

According to Peterson, having the right frame of mind is a major key to a kicker's success or failure.

"Kicking involves an intense thought process. Once I enter the field, I like to picture myself kicking the ball through the uprights," said Peterson. "A mental picture is so important for your confidence and it sometimes relaxes you in a pressure situation."

For punter Charles Steward, much acclaim has come due to his prowess at tight end, but Steward has proven himself to be a step ahead of the rest in the punting category in Region 1-AAAA.

"Punting is simply another area in which I take great pride in performing," said Steward. "The punting game is a very critical aspect of football. Because field position plays such a pivotal role in the possible outcome of the game, every punt is important to your squad."

Both Peterson and Steward were quick to point out, however, the important roles in which their teammates play in their success.

"Regardless of the situation, it takes ten other guys to see the job gets done. In the kicking game everyone plays an enormous role," Peterson said. "It takes perfect line blocking, of which I have been blessed with all year long, plus a perfect snap from center and a proper hold. My job is simply set up by my teammates, I just try to finish what they have started in hopes that I'm successful."

Steward could not agree more. "Perfect execution on my teammates behalf makes my job very simple. Without the good punt blocking I have had, I would not have posted the marks I now enjoy," Steward said. "Each and every time I hope I can fulfill my end of the bargain, because my teammates have surely lived up to theirs all season long."

According to Bolton and O'Brien, the 'Cats have always taken pride in the area of the kicking game.

"The kicking game deserves a lot of attention," said Bolton. "We practice each area every day. A lot of determination goes into the kicking game, so we try to provide a game type of situation for each."

O'Brien added, "Coverage on each area of the kicking game is as important as the blocking and placements that enter into each."

Peterson and Steward also admit that they too have certain activities that they go through before kicking.

"Once the team is in my range, I alienate myself to one side of the sideline and began kicking into the net provided. And that is simply when my basic thought process begins," said Peterson. "And as I stated before, once I take the field, I picture making the kick."

Because of Steward's position at tight end, he follows a different mental preparation.

"Simply trying to put myself in the right frame of mind for the kick is first and foremost. Then executing the punt to perfection is the final step," said Steward.

For Peterson, the success at Valdosta follows a not so glamorous past at Valwood where Peterson was a member of the soccer team and placekicker for the Valiants.

But according to Peterson, he doesn't regret the change, nor does he think any less of the Valwood program.

"It was simply a personal move, nothing else," said Peterson.

VHS Kicking Game Impressive

Valdosta

vs.

Carver

- When: Tonight
- Where: Cleveland Field, Valdosta
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Records: Carver 8-2, Valdosta 12-0
- Series: Valdosta leads series 1-0
- Last Meeting: Valdosta 28, Carver 0
- Last Week: Carver idle; Valdosta 24, Tift 22
- On Deck: South Ga. Championship

Individual Statistics		Rushing					
		G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	
Roberts, Val		12	125	962	7.6	14	
Ceaser, Val		12	116	655	5.6	10	
Mason, Val		12	93	564	6.0	11	
Sharpe, Val		12	53	301	5.8	5	
Parker, Val		12	27	142	5.2	1	

Individual Statistics		Passing					
		G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Int	TD
Mason, Val		12	71	47	461	2	5
Hogan, Val		12	41	16	291	3	3

Individual Statistics		Receiving					
		G	No	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
Steward, Val		12	17	213	12.5	4	17.7
Hitson, Val		12	8	126	15.7	3	10.5
Bullard, Val		12	4	61	15.2	0	5.0

Individual Statistics		Scoring						
		G	TD	1Pt	2Pt	FG	Pts	GAvg
Roberts, Val		12	13	0	0	0	78	6.5
Peterson, Val		12	0	50	0	9	77	6.4
Ceaser, Val		12	11	0	0	0	66	5.5
Mason, Val		12	10	0	0	0	60	5.0
Sharpe, Val		12	4	0	0	0	24	2.7
Steward, Val		12	5	0	0	0	30	2.5
Hitson, Val		12	3	0	0	0	18	1.6
Dandy, Val		12	2	0	0	0	12	1.0

Team Stats		Rushing					
		G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
Valdosta		12	455	2624	5.76	43	218

Team Stats		Passing						
		G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
Valdosta		12	127	52	852	16.3	9	71.0

Team Stats		Total Offense			
		G	Plays	Yards	GAvg
Valdosta		12	556	3640	303.3

Team Stats		Scoring Offense		
		G	Pts	Avg
Valdosta		12	406	33.8

Team Stats		Rushing Defense					
		G	Att	Yds	Avg	TD	GAvg
Valdosta		12	370	1235	3.33	7	102.9

Team Stats		Passing Defense						
		G	Att	Cmp	Yds	Int	TD	GAvg
Valdosta		12	220	90	1307	10	11	108.9

Team Stats		Scoring Defense		
		G	Pts	Avg
Valdosta		12	124	10.3

Carver Surprises Wildcats 21-7

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Friday night at Cleveland Field, Carver of Columbus came to town and proved that it belonged with the elite of Region 1-A.A.A.A. At least for this year.

Behind a big-play defense that caused four fumbles, blocked one punt, and intercepted one pass, the Region 2-A.A.A.A. champion Tigers shocked the home-standing Wildcats 21-7 in the first round of the state football playoffs.

Valdosta, who saw its consecutive

Carver	6	0	8	7	-21
Valdosta	0	7	0	0	-7
CAR	Nicky Pitts 26 pass from Scot Forte (kick blocked)				
VAL	Charles Steward 25 pass from B.J. Mason (Todd Peterson kick)				
CAR	Robert Williams 25 run (Williams run)				
CAR	Pitts 24 pass from Timothy Walton (Brenston Buckner kick)				

First Downs	Car	6	Val	14
Yards Rushing		41		102
Rushing Attempts		24		43
Yards Passing		102		101
Passes		5-14-0		9-15-1
Fumbles-Lost		0-0		4-2
Punting		7-37-8		4-35-7
Penalties		10-90		5-25

Rushing
Carver—Harris 37, Williams 11-31, Thomas 6-10, Walton 4-7, Valdosta—Roberts 17-73, Mason 15-8, Ceaser 10-21.

Passing
Carver—Walton 10-3-69, Forte 4-2-33, Valdosta—Mason 15-9-103.

Receiving
Carver—Pitts 2-50, Thomas 2-45, McHenry 1-7, Valdosta—Hilton 3-37, Steward 3-37, Ceaser 1-5

game winning streak end at 27, winds up the season at 12-1.

Carver will now advance to the South Georgia Championship Game next Friday night where they will face Evans, who defeated Effingham County 12-10.

For Wildcat Coach Nick Hyder and his team, the loss was obviously a bitter pill to swallow, but like champions, accepted the loss with their heads held high.

"Carver just played a great game, they just whipped us, spanked us," Hyder said. "They didn't do anything that surprised us. We knew coming in that they had some outstanding athletes. Their defense made the big plays. They blocked the punt, hit hard and tackled well."



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Defensive End Coronzoa Greene Gave The 'Cat Fans Something To Cheer About When He Blocked This Carver Extra-Point

"You've just got to give the credit to our defense. They set everything up for us tonight," Carver head coach Wallace Davis said. "But let me tell you, Valdosta has an excellent defense and that had me worried all night. In fact, my wife told me she would send me to bed if I didn't calm down."

The 'Cats led at halftime 7-6 and with 8:08 left in the third, the Tigers went back to punt on the VHS 42 and it appeared that Valdosta would get the ball back again.

But Carver and coach Davis had a trick up their sleeve.

On the punt, the holder, quarterback Timothy Walton, picked up the ball and scampered around the right end, pick-

ing up 14 yards and a key first down. It would prove to be a costly play for Valdosta. Because three plays later, speedster Robert Williams scampered around the right end untouched for 25 yards and Carver scored what proved to be the winning six points.

Williams also ran the two-point conversion and the score was 14-7 with 6:07 left in the third.

"At that point we couldn't afford not to go for it (fake punt)," Davis said. "We had to show that we had confidence in our team. It was a chance that we couldn't pass up."

But the 'Cats weren't ready to pack it in just yet.

James Roberts, who finished the

night with 73 yards on 17 carries, and Isaac Ceaser moved the 'Cats 43 yards to the Carver 26, with Roberts picking up two key first downs in the process. But two plays later, B.J. Mason was sacked for an 18-yard loss by Chris Thomas and Valdosta was forced to punt.

On Carver's next series of plays, Walton was sacked for a 13-yard loss on a third down play by Fredrick Henton and Carver was forced to punt.

But what appeared to have been a swing in momentum for Valdosta, suddenly turned sour for Hyders' troops.

On a second-and-five, Mason had his pass picked off at the 'Cat 45 by

linebacker Darrell Williams who lumbered all the way down to the Wildcat 10.

But Valdosta held on this particular drive and stopped Carver, when they went for it on a fourth-down play.

But with the ball on its own 6-yard line, Valdosta fumbled the ball on the first play from scrimmage and Carver had the ball right back. They wouldn't miss this opportunity.

A clipping penalty moved the ball back to the 24, and on a third down, Reginald Dandy broke up a pass in the end zone to bring up fourth-and-24.

But on the play, Walton heaved the ball high in the air to Nicky Pitts who made a fantastic leaping catch, taking

the ball away from two defenders, and crushing any hopes Valdosta had of a comeback.

Carver took a 6-0 lead in the first quarter after Valdosta had its punt blocked by Pitts and the Tigers recovered at the 'Cat 29.

One play later, Walton hit that man again, Pitts, for a 24-yard touchdown pass.

The point-after attempt was blocked by Coronzoa Greene.

Valdosta began what would be its only scoring drive at the 4-23 mark in the second quarter.

Mason then hooked up with a wide open Charles Steward on the next play and Valdosta led 7-6.

VDT 12/5/87



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

VDT 12/5/87
Carver's Dennis Tilman Grabs Hold Of Valdosta Running Back James Roberts In Friday Night's Game

Interact Club Plans Season Projects

By Leslie Hiers

The Interact Club of Valdosta High is busy planning many service projects for this December. At a meeting on November 19, Janice Baker of the Lowndes Service Center spoke to club members about contributing time and friendship to the clients in the Center.

Other community projects that members will participate in include working for the Salvation Army Christmas store and adopting grandparents at local nursing homes. Interact also pledged \$455 to provide meals for a person for a year in the Break Bread program.

Community Projects Chairman Kathy Farley said, "We're happy to be able to make a difference in our community."

Deania Denmark and her School Projects Committee are continuing support for the Arrive Alive program and decided to pledge \$150 to the Special Olympics Fund. Interact is also sponsoring a little girl in Colombia, South America.

Spirit Chain

By Charlotte Edwards

In celebration of Winnersville Week, the Valdosta High Chapter of Future



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Homemakers of America challenged the classes, clubs and faculty to raise \$1000 for Special Olympics.

Links to a spirit chain were sold at 10¢ each with each class competing for the longest chain. The longest chain was made by the Freshman class, and a plaque was presented by the FHA to the winning class at the Valdosta-Lowndes Pep Rally Friday.

Freda Lewis, FHA President, and Tamula Berrian, Spirit Chain Project Chairperson, presented \$1400 in dona-

tions and pledges to Sandy Bonner, Area 15 Special Olympics Advisory Committee Chairperson and Faith Cooper, Special Olympics Valdosta High School Coordinator.

The money raised will be used specifically for the Valdosta High Chapter of Special Olympics.

Tamula Berrian commented, "the tremendous response of donations really shows our 'Wildcat Spirit' for a worthy cause. FHA wishes to thank everyone who participated with donations and helped to make the Spirit Chain."

Science Competition

By Melissa Quintero

Valdosta High School's Science Club attended their first competition of the new school year on Nov. 21. Georgia Southwestern held the competition.

The Competition consisted of a 95 question exam on all areas of science. This test lasted 90 minutes and was followed by two seminars of the student's choice.

Students attending the competition were from schools around the state. Science Club members, Toby Baskin, Melissa Quintero, Greg Leong, and John Peoples, represented Valdosta High School.

Wildcats Ousted By Carver; Morrow Chews Up McEachern

By TOM SHARP VDT 12/6/87
Associated Press Writer

The Carver of Columbus Tigers forced three turnovers, blocked a Valdosta punt and converted a fourth-and-goal from 24 yards out to post a stunning 21-7 upset of the No. 1 Wildcats in the Georgia high school football playoffs.

In other quarterfinal action Friday night, eighth-ranked Stephens County scored on a 65-yard Kelly Steele-to-Ken Swilling pass on the last play of the game to beat defending state Class AAA champion Villa Rica 13-10. Between them, the two teams managed seven points in the first 46 minutes and 20 seconds, then 16 points in the last 100 seconds.

Class AA No. 1 Central of Carrollton, the defending state champion, routed East Hall 35-7 behind Walt Crowder's 220 yards and three touchdowns.

Lincoln County, the No. 1 team in Class A, downed Montgomery County 13-0 as Garrison Hearst scored twice.

Class AAAA
"You've just got to give credit to the defense," said Carver Coach Wallace Davis. "They set everything up for us tonight."

Carver's Suquorey Pitts blocked a Valdosta punt in the first quarter, then caught a 26-yard touchdown pass from Scot Forte to give Carver the lead. Valdosta went up 7-6 at the half on a 25-yard TD pass from B.J. Mason to Charles Steward.

Carver, 9-2, went back ahead after getting a key first down on a fake a punt in the third quarter. Robert Williams scored from 25 yards.

The game's final points came in the

there would be any repercussions. Evans took a 6-0 lead late in the first half on a 26-yard pass from Cassidy to Craig Combs.

Effingham County cut it to 6-3, but Evans' defensive end Steven Heard blocked a punt and Bernard Marshall recovered it in the end zone for a 12-3 Evans lead.

Effingham County pulled to 12-10 on a 4-yard run by Tim Townsend, who gained 134 yards on 13 carries.

In a mild upset, No. 6 Morrow shredded the previously staunch McEachern defense to post a 49-20 victory over the fourth-ranked Indians.

Danny Williams led a Morrow rushing attack that piled up 247 yards with 144 yards on 24 carries, with one touchdown, and Jeff Howard threw three touchdown passes, two of them to Andre Hasting.

Ray Doran gained 92 yards on 10 carries, scored two touchdowns and kicked all seven extra points for Morrow, 12-1. McEachern ends its season 13-1.

Ninth-ranked Southwest DeKalb downed No. 10 Newton County 14-10 to earn a spot opposite Morrow in next weekend's North Georgia championship.

Class AAA
In Stephens County's dramatic victory over Villa Rica, Villa Rica led 7-0 until Kelly Steele scored from 5 yards out with 1:40 to play to tie the game.

Villa Rica took a 10-7 lead with just 21 seconds to play on a 32-yard field goal by Phil Bishop.

Steele's pass to Swilling started with 9 seconds on the clock. Swilling caught it at the Villa Rica 30 between two defenders, and raced untouched to the end zone.

Second-ranked Marist got 132 yards on 13 carries from Rob Perez, including a 70-yard touchdown, to down No. 5 Lakeside 17-9. Carlos White gained 151 yards on 20 carries for Lakeside.

Third-ranked Central of Thomasville overcame a 13-6 halftime deficit to down Butler 27-19 behind Steve Fleming's 118 yards rushing and three touchdowns.

Butler drove 70 yards in 14 plays with the opening kickoff, with Michael Williams scoring from a yard out for a 6-0 lead.

Central responded with a 58-yard drive that ended with Fleming's first TD to tie it 6-6, but Butler needed just two plays to regain the lead on a 58-yard run by Donald Taylor.

The Central offensive line took control in the second half. The Yellow Jackets went 65 plays for a TD on their first possession to tie it at 13-13, then drove 73 yards on their next possession to take the lead for good.

Butler cut it to 20-19 on a 72-yard pass from Williams to Taylor. Central ended the scoring with a 91-yard drive capped by Fleming's third touchdown

from five yards out. No. 4 Worth County clobbered Troup 44-0 as Calvin King scored on runs of 5, 4 and 28 yards. Troup turned the ball over four times, three leading to Worth scores on the way to a 28-0 halftime lead.

It was the third straight shutout in the playoffs for Worth County, which held Troup to minus 4 yards rushing.

Class AA
Central of Carrollton showed why it has been atop the polls all season by manhandling East Hall 35-7. Sixth-ranked East Hall went into the game with a 12-0 record and had allowed just 32 points all year.

Walt Crowder dominated from the opening kickoff, which he returned 40 yards. He went 40 more yards on the next play, then scored two plays later.

On Central's next possession, Crowder scored from 29 yards out. On its third possession, Crowder gained 65 yards in an 89-yard drive and Walter Dunson got the TD.

On the first possession of the second half, Crowder carried 10 times in a

13-play drive and scored his third touchdown to put Central up 28-0. He sat out the rest of the game.

Class A
Top-ranked Lincoln County lost star running back Bernard Hearst to a neck injury in the first quarter, but the defense rose to the occasion in the Red Devils' 13-0 victory over Montgomery County, which managed just 79 total yards.

Bernard Hearst was taken to a hospital for observation. The extent of his injury was not known.

Second-ranked Clinch County ended Stewart-Quitman's first foray into the playoffs, 26-13, as Herbert Mingo rushed for 179 yards on 27 carries and scored two touchdowns. Jamie Spates gained 112 yards on 10 carries and scored twice for Clinch.

Sixth-ranked Brookstone got 129 yards from Mack Strong and two touchdowns passes from Randy Cowart to Derek Goshay to down East Rome 31-7. Cowart also rushed for a TD.

'Cats Beat CHS

By MIKE WHITE VDT 12-6-87
Times Correspondent

The Valdosta Wildcats overcame a 5-point halftime deficit thanks to a pressure defense and some key rebounds by Brad Sullins and Jason King to defeat Coffee County 76-70 here Saturday night.

The Wildcats came out in the second half playing a superb full court press as Sullins picked off 4 passes and dished off to King who converted the turnovers into baskets and the 'Cats turned loose 8 unanswered points and took a 3-point lead, 42-39.

After a Trojan time out Sellars and King went to work again adding six more points on turnovers and giving Valdosta a 9-point lead.

When the Trojans finally began breaking the press they looked for their big man underneath but Charles Edmonds fouled out of the game with 5 minutes to go in the third quarter and they had to look elsewhere for production.

Desmond Murphy, who was hot in the first quarter, came alive and hit ten points in the third quarter which included a 3-pointer at the buzzer ending the third quarter to pull the Trojans to within 7.

But Valdosta kept the full court pressure on in the fourth quarter and the Trojans began passing long to break it.

Murphy added 10 more points in the fourth quarter to pull the Trojans to within 3 but the 'Cat defense tightened up and pulled away in the last minute of the game.

Coffee jumped out to an early lead as their 6-foot-6 center Edmonds closed off the lane and blocked shots at will from the bottom of the lane.

The 'Cat's managed to scratch their way back toward the end of the quarter as Edmonds had to sit down due to early foul trouble. James Manning lit up the scoreboard from the 3-point

range three times in the first quarter to pull Valdosta within one as the quarter ended, 19-18.

The Trojans' Desmond Murphy came alive in the second quarter as he poured in 14 points and gave Coffee a 5-point lead going into the lockerrooms at the half, 39-34.

Lonnie Phillips lead all rebounders with 9 and King collected 7, all in the second half.

The Lady Wildcats weren't as lucky on the evening as their rally attempt fell one point short as they lost, 52-51.

The Lady Trojans took an early 8-1 lead but Valerie Plummer and Cassandra Twine began pounding it in from the lane and brought Valdosta back to take a 2-point lead at the end of the first quarter 14-12.

The Lady Trojans began pressing the Lady Cat's and they caused a number of turnovers in the third quarter and Coffee took a 43-28 third quarter lead.

Valdosta began a full court press of its own in the fourth quarter. The press, when finally put into use, brought the Lady 'Cats to within 4 before Valerie Plummer hit on a 3-pointer as the final buzzer sounded to give Coffee a 52-51 win.

"We only have two seniors on the team and only one, Plummer, starts," said Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery.

"When Alice Creque, a sophomore, and Ashley Schleusher, a freshman, get a little more playing time we will improve as a ball team."

(Boys)

Coffee (70)	—	Murphy 31, Jones 9, Bailey 8, Bussey 6, Edmonson 6, Huff 4, Mitchell 2, Bidwell 2.
Valdosta (76)	—	Manning 19, Phillips 17, Campbell 13, King 13, Williams 7, Sullins 5, Iverson 2.
Coffee	.....	19 20 13 18 —70
Valdosta	.....	12 11 20 9 —52
Records — Valdosta 2-2	.....	18 16 25 17 —76

Next Game — Colquitt at Valdosta, Tuesday.

(Girls)

Coffee (52)	—	Paulk 23, Carter 10, McFadden 6, Merriweather 6, Braswell 2, Chauncy 2, McClelland 2, Paulk 1.
Valdosta (51)	—	Plummer 18, Creque 9, Twine 9, Schleusher 7, Phillips 6, Dennis 2.
Coffee	.....	12 11 20 9 —52
Valdosta	.....	14 7 7 23 —51

Records — Valdosta 2-1.

'Cats Win 65-62

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Valdosta High fought back from a 14-point deficit in the first half and went to edge Wakulla High School 65-62 in the quarterfinals of the Rickards High Christmas Tournament here Thursday night.

Wakulla was undefeated at 4-0 coming into the game.

The 'Cats now advance to the semifinal round where they will take on Florida A&M High School tonight at 7:00.

Carlo Butler scored 18 points to lead Valdosta as all players on the 'Cat roster scored. Gary Campbell added 17 for Valdosta who moves to 3-2 on the season.

Wakulla (62)	—	Jackson 18, Greene 6, Farmer 14, Gay 4, Nelson 8, Lawahom 11.
Valdosta (65)	—	Jo. Iverson 2, Manning 5, Campbell 17, King 8, Phillips 5, Sullins 2, Sp. Iverson 3, Butler 18, Williams 5.
Wakulla	.....	21 14 14 13 —62
Valdosta	.....	14 15 17 19 —65

Record — 3-2
Next Game — Today vs Fla A&M 7:00

CASTELOES FAMILY

Edward Casteloes Sr. is an industrial foods representative and his wife, Susan, is a substitute teacher for the

Valdosta city schools. Ed Jr. is a junior at Valdosta High School and Stephen is a sixth grader at West Gordon Elementary School.

"The Casteloes family clearly reflects a true American family, devoted to supporting each other's activities, excelling in ordinary things such as 4-H, promoting individual growth, and giving of themselves to their community," said a friend, Patricia M. Hitchcock of Route 4.

"Teamwork is emphasized whether it be in support of athletics, projects and presentations, or daying Easter eggs for a fledgling Community Soup Kitchen.

"Ed Sr. is an enthusiastic supporter of his sons' activities. A victim of cancer of the larynx and functioning with an artificial voice, he uses a tongue-clicking noise followed by hand gestures to 'coach' soccer and baseball. Even though his job requires extensive travel, he keeps in touch with Susan and the boys each evening by phone."

He is a member of St. Joan the Evangelist Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

An elder in First Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Casteloes has for several years headed up the service committee, said the Rev. Dr. Dwyn M. Mounger, senior pastor.

"She has personally spearheaded efforts that resulted in the formation of the Community Soup Kitchen of Valdosta, for which she is an active volunteer; LAMP (the Lowndes Associated Ministries to People), upon which board she sits; the Unity Food Bank, and other helping organizations," Mounger said.

"Annually Susan accompanies members of her committee and myself to the Lowndes County Correctional Institute, where we hold a Christmas party and service of worship for the inmates. Each Good Friday evening, she returns with us, as we lead a Communion service for the prisoners."

Stunned when son Ed Jr. was injured in an accident involving an intoxicated teen-ager, Mrs. Casteloes plans to bring to the Lowndes County Grand Jury in the very near future, the problem of abuse by and sale of alcohol to minors, Mrs. Hitchcock said.

VDT - Sun. Dec. 13, 1987



-Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Edward Casteloes Family Decorates Tree For Christmas

Mission Project Begins

VDT - Sat. Dec. 12, 1987

By Kathy Farley

This month the Foreign Language Club began PROJECT HAITI, an effort to provide for the Medical Missions team based in Valdosta. Boxes have been placed throughout the Foreign Language Department for students' contributions and will remain in place until December 18.

have been requested in morning announcements by FLC President, Brooke Price.

"The club and I think that it is worthwhile project to help a neighboring country that is suffering so much," said FLC sponsor, Patty Smitherman. "We know this aid goes directly to Haiti because the Medical Mission team takes the items with them."

FLC members recently visited Heritage House nursing home where they hung decorative signs on the doors of the residents.

The signs, made by club members, each had pictures drawn on them as well as the resident's name and doctor. Penny Little, Cristi Lowe, Jane Edwards and Mrs. Smitherman hung these signs and also took time to talk with the elderly.

Regarding the visit, Penny Little said that she was "glad that FLC was participating in the nursing home project. Elderly people need someone to talk to when they feel lonely and FLC's members tried to be good company."



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Important items--soap and clothing--are foremost in need and

Mingo, Richardson Head All-Area Team

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

VDT 12/6/87

During the 1987 football season, tailback Herbert Mingo of Clinch County and linebacker Freddie Richardson of Lowndes combined tremendous athletic ability with a burning desire to do whatever possible to help their respective teams win.

As a result of their efforts, Mingo has been named the Offensive Player of the Year and Richardson the Defensive Player of the Year to head the 1987 edition of the *Times'* All-Area Football Team.

The Valdosta Wildcats placed seven players on the first team. Wildcat star Charles Steward was chosen as the first team tight end as well as the first punter.

Lowndes also placed seven on the first team followed by Berrien County with three. Clinch County and Brooks County had two while Madison County and Cook had one each.

On the second team, it's the Wildcats leading the way again with ten selections, Lowndes five, Berrien four, Clinch and Valwood two each and Brooks County with one.

Mingo, through 13 games has rushed for 1,633 yards on 205 carries good for an average rush of 7.9 yards per game and has scored 19 touchdowns leading



HERBERT MINGO

his team to the Class A South Georgia Championship game against Lincoln County this Friday. A junior, Mingo also plays linebacker and kicks extra-points and field goals for the Panthers.

Mingo also set the Clinch rushing mark, beating the mark of 1,364 yards set by head coach Don Tison.

"Herbert Mingo has given our team a threat with his speed. He has great ability when it comes to running the ball and no doubt, has been a real important cog in our team," said



FREDDIE RICHARDSON

Tison. "Herbert just has a natural knack when it comes to running the football. He runs like you would want a runner to run and that is with a good forward lean which makes it hard to get a good lick on him. He also has enough speed that he can break a long run at any time."

When it comes to Freddie Richardson, it's hard come up with another outstanding adjective that hasn't already been used to describe the 6-4, 245 pound senior linebacker.

Throughout his career, Richardson

was a menace to opposing offenses. Whenever posing teams planned their strategies, they diagramed them around how to avoid Richardson. And with good reason.

Fabulous Freddie averaged 13 tackles per game and returned an interception 27 yards for a touchdown against Camden County in the first game of the year.

Richardson has also been listed as being one of the top linebackers in the country and is high on just about every college recruiter's list.

"He was our catalyst, no question about it, a player from sideline to sideline," said Viking head coach Joe Wilson. "He's a pleasure to be around and very coachable."

The quarterback of the first team is senior Ben Smith from Berrien County. This year, Smith completed 112-of-211 passes for 1,536 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also rushed for six scores to help the Rebels post a 6-4 mark. Smith was also named the punter on the second team, averaging 34.1 yards per kick.

At first-team running back along with Mingo is James Roberts of Valdosta and Mark Walker of Lowndes. WALKER ended up leading Region 1-AAAA during the regular season in rushing with 950 yards.

"Mark improved game in and game out," Wilson said. "He was also one of

First Team Defense
NG — Chuck Miller, Lowndes
DT — Casper Vinson, Lowndes
DT — Coronzo Greene, Valdosta
DE — Carlos Beverly, Madison County
DE — Bennie Pierce, Lowndes
LB — Freddie Richardson, Lowndes
LB — Adrian Goss, Brooks County
CB — Reggie Glance, Lowndes
CB — Reginald Dandy, Valdosta
SA — Fred Watts, Brooks County
SA — Andy Baker, Cook
P — Charles Steward, Valdosta

First Team Offense
QB — Ben Smith, Berrien County
RB — James Roberts Valdosta
RB — Mark Walker, Lowndes
RB — Herbert Mingo, Clinch County
WR — Scotty Harris, Berrien County
TE — Charles Steward, Valdosta
OL — David Hazelhurst, Valdosta
OL — Skip Jones, Clinch County
OL — Bo Houston, Berrien County
OL — Doug Hubbard, Lowndes
OL — Andy Anderson, Valdosta
PK — Todd Peterson, Valdosta

Second Team Defense
NG — Robert Fillmore, Valdosta
DT — Brooks Akins, Lowndes
DT — Zabria Bell, Valdosta
DE — Coleman Rudolph, Valdosta
DE — Antwoine Clark, Lowndes
LB — Beau Laskey, Valdosta
LB — Jamie Spates, Clinch County
CB — Kelvin Williams, Lowndes
CB — Shea Phillips, Lowndes
SA — Eric Toth, Valdosta
SA — Jason Bridges, Valdosta
P — Ben Smith, Berrien County

Second Team Offense
QB — B.J. Mason, Valdosta
RB — Isaac Ceaser, Valdosta
RB — Edgar Thomas, Valwood
RB — William Sims, Brooks County
WR — Alvin Barr, Clinch County
TE — Marvin Thomas, Berrien County
OL — Ron Jones, Lowndes County
OL — Roger Tucker, Berrien County
OL — Jack Morgan, Valdosta
OL — Mike Edward, Valwood
OL — Todd Pitchford, Valdosta
PK — Steven Snipes, Berrien County

Up front on the offensive line is junior David Hazelhurst (210) of Valdosta, Skip Jones (6-3, 210) of Clinch County, Bo Houston, (6-3, 210) from Berrien County, junior Doug Hubbard of Lowndes (6-3, 236) and Andy Anderson (6-0, 245) a senior from Valdosta.

See All-Area Page 5-C

the few backs to rush for 100 yards against Valdosta this year."

Roberts led the 'Cats in rushing with 1,038 yards and 14 touchdowns.

"James has responded to the pressure all year long," VHS assistant Mike O'Brien said. "No one back has been able to endure so much pressure and still play hard every snap."

...All-Area

Continued From Page 1-C

"Andy Anderson has been a steady performer the past two seasons," Cat offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker said. "His senior leadership has been very instrumental to the line's success. He's a tough competitor."

"David has been the biggest surprise of the season. He's had some big shoes to fill because of Ben Lane's departure, but has responded and then some. He's a very hard worker. He graded out the highest in offensive line production for 1987."

Hubbard was the anchor of a fine Lowndes offensive line last season and Wilson sees a bright future ahead for his star lineman.

"Doug has a great deal of potential. He's college bound and always gave 100 percent in the weight room and on the field. He's a fine young man," Wilson said.

As the *Times* first team tight end and punter, Steward, at 6-3 and 225 pounds, has been listed by several publications as the top prep prospect in the state.

Steward caught 20 passes for 250 yards and five touchdowns. As a punter he has averaged 36.9 yards per kick.

"Charles is one of our top competitors," VHS receiver coach Bob Bolton said. "He can make something happen from anywhere on the field and usually does. He's a major college prospect and a threat whenever he touches the ball."

At wide receiver is senior speedster Scotty Harris from Berrien County.

In 1987, Harris teamed up with Ben Smith by hauling in 37 receptions for 605 yards, a 16.4 average and six touchdowns.

The placekicker is none other than Todd Peterson of Valdosta. Peterson's strong right leg won the Lowndes game when he booted a 47-yard field goal.

Almost a sure thing on extra points, Peterson scored 78 points for the 'Cats this year.

"Todd simply does his job to perfection," Bolton said. "No glamour, no fuss he just does a tremendous job. Todd is a major college prospect because of his long range."

On defense, Lowndes placed three on the defensive front with senior noseguard Chuck Miller (6-2, 263), junior defensive tackle Casper Vinson (5-8, 177) and senior defensive end Benny Pierce (6-2, 220).

"Chuck has improved a lot, to say the least, over a one year period of time. He has a lot of potential," said Lowndes defensive coordinator Brad Almon. "In Casper's case, every year you find a player who you don't think has the physical capabilities to play football but goes out and proves you wrong. Casper's small but nobody ever told him that he couldn't play football. He led the team in sacks, including three of B.J. Mason in the Valdosta game, and averaged 8 or 9 tackles a game."

Reginald Dandy from Valdosta and junior Reggie Glance from Lowndes.

Dandy, who is also a dangerous punt returner for the 'Cats, intercepted two passes during the year.

At safety is junior Fred Watts (6-4, 186) from Brooks County and senior Andy Baker from Cook.

Baker intercepted six passes during the year including four in one game.

Leading the second team is quarterback B.J. Mason who sparked the 'Cats all season with his quick feet and timely throws.

Mason (5-7, 160) completed 56-of-86 passes for 562 yards, six touchdowns and only three interceptions. He also rushed 108 times for 572 yards and 11 touchdowns.

"For his size, B.J. has been very impressive," O'Brien said. "Considering his position and the instability that surrounds it he has proven his worth. He's a team player in every way."

At the running back positions are junior Isaac Ceaser of Valdosta, junior William Sims of Brooks County and Edgar "Scatman" Thomas of Valwood. Ceaser was second rushing 'Cat with 676 yards and 10 touchdowns. Sims

(6-4, 228), who also plays linebacker and kicks extra-points for the Trojans, rushed for 672 yards while junior Thomas went over the 1,000 yard mark this season.

On the offensive line at center is Ron Jones (5-11, 204) from Lowndes, at the guard positions, senior Jack Morgan (215) from Valdosta and senior Rodney Tucker (6-0, 215) from Berrien County.

At the tackle positions are seniors Mike Edwards of Valwood and Todd Pitchford (225) of Valdosta.

The tight end is senior Marvin Thomas of Berrien who grabbed 18 catches for 205 yards and two touchdowns. The second team wide receiver is senior Alvin Barr from Clinch County who has caught 26 passes so far this year.

Steven Snipes of Berrien County, who averaged 34 yards per kick is the punter.

On the second team defense, all but one of the 11 positions are dominated by Valdosta and Lowndes.

From Valdosta are sophomore noseguard Robert Fillmore (170), junior defensive tackle Zabria Bell (285), junior defensive end Coleman Rudolph (185), senior linebacker Beau Laskey (215) and safeties senior Eric Toth and junior Jason Bridges. Toth has three interceptions for the 'Cats while Bridges has two.

Lowndes representatives are tackle Brooks Akins (196), junior defensive end Antwoine Clark (200) and senior cornerback Kelvin Williams (157) and Shea Phillips (159).

Junior Jamie Spates of Clinch is the only non-Valdosta area player on the second team defense, making the team as the other linebacker. Spates also doubles as the starting fullback for the Panthers.

Valdosta Native Gets Persian Gulf Surprise

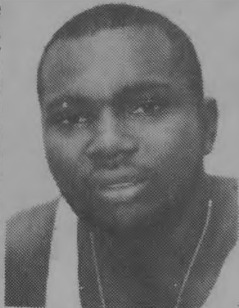
By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Leo McGill wanted to see the world when he graduated from Valdosta High School in 1984.

But he never expected that three years later he would be in the middle of the Persian Gulf as a member of the United States Navy on a ship carrying mine sweepers to one of the most politically tense areas in the world.

It's all in a day's work for Petty Officer 3rd Class McGill who is one of the hundreds of Navy seamen assigned to the U.S.S. Raleigh.

"We went over there (to the Persian Gulf) in early September. Basically we aided and escorted other ships through. We transported some hostages through the Gulf, and we transported mine



LEO MCGILL

sweepers from Charleston to the Gulf," said the 20-year-old McGill.

Home for a short leave, McGill admits there were a few times he wasn't sure he would make it to his home again.

"At first, I thought it was stupid for our ship to be there. Then all of a sudden everything started happening," he said.

He had his doubts particularly one night during the Raleigh's first trip through the Gulf.

"They came on the intercom and said Iranians were manning their missiles. I was terrified."

Another night, several Sea Bats — small planes which are engaged only at night — took off from the Raleigh.

"We had to send them out because gunboats were headed toward Farsi Island where we had a barge for the mind sweepers. We could see the Sea Bats firing at them," he said.

Strangest to McGill and his buddies was the fact that the Raleigh was scheduled to go the yards in Norfolk for repair work, not the Gulf.

"We had just got back in February from a seven-month deployment. We came in and trained and then went to Boston for July 4th and more training.

We were going back to the yards and that's when we got the message from Washington to go to the Gulf," said McGill.

"We didn't want to go," he laughed.

His fiancée, at home in Valdosta, wasn't thrilled with the prospect either.

"She was scared," he said.

She wrote him letters telling him she had heard a lot about the Raleigh on the news.

"She would always tell me how frightened she was," he said.

But McGill has no regrets when it comes to his decision to join the Navy.

"I did want to see the world. I figured I could go more places in the Navy and I have," he said.

His travels have taken him to countries far from Valdosta, including Spain, France, Italy, Norway and Jamaica.

The Navy has also taken him to new horizons as a person.

"I used to be sort of shy and timid, but the Navy helped me grow out of it," he said.

And the Navy has given him an opportunity to continue following his interest in accounting, since McGill works in the records department on the ship.

"I always liked accounting when I

was in high school. I may go to college and study accounting," he said.

McGill enjoyed his trip home, but was disappointed to see what had happened to many of the people he knew.

"I saw a lot of students at school who were drugged out. It was really sad," he said.

"You know the best thing for them would be to join the service," added McGill.

Although McGill has been in life threatening situations, he doesn't regret his decision to join up.

After all, he is getting to see the world.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sports

Wed., Dec. 9, 1987

VHS Drops Two

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta Wildcat head coach John Miller saw a 3-point halftime deficit blossom into a 20-point defeat here Tuesday night against the Colquitt County Packers.

The Wildcats led 14-12 after the first quarter and trailed just 27-24 at the intermission. But the third quarter spelled doom for the Wildcats as they were outscored 19-8 and 17-11 in the final quarter as the Region 1-AAAA contest ended 63-43.

"We're young so we're going to be up and down," said Miller. "We played well Saturday night but just looked flat tonight. We did not do a good job on offense and we did not get the ball inside. I honestly think we're capable of doing that against almost anybody."

(Boys)
Colquitt County (63) — Sumner 11, Mansfield 9, Jackson 8, Stokes 9, Roberts 6, Stevens 5, Henry 4, Boyd 3, Troupe 2, Martin 2, Grose 2, Williams 2.
Valdosta (43) — Manning 10, Williams 9, King 8, Phillips 6, Campbell 6, J. Iverson 2, S. Iverson 2.
Colquitt County.....12 15 19 17—63
Valdosta.....14 10 8 11—42
Records — Colquitt County 4-1, 1-1; Valdosta 2-2, 0-1.
Next Game — Thomasville at Valdosta, Friday.

(Girls)
Colquitt County (54) — P. Hill 20, Poole 11, Williams 10, Freeman 9, Henry 2, M. Hill 2.
Valdosta (29) — Phillips 8, Twine 7, Plummer 6, Schleusner 4, Creque 2, Dennis 2.
Colquitt County.....6 18 14 16—54
Valdosta.....2 7 10 10—29
Records — Colquitt County 2-2, 1-1; Valdosta 1-3, 0-1.

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats hit only two field goals in the first two stanzas and fell 54-29 to the Lady Packers.

In the boys' game, Valdosta didn't get its first basket of the third quarter until 5:42 left when Gary Campbell sank an underhanded layup to cut

Colquitt's lead to five, 31-26, but that's as close as Valdosta would come to knotting the game.

Colquitt scored seven consecutive points to end the third quarter, taking a 46-32 lead into the final quarter. But unfortunately for Valdosta, the fourth period was only more of the same.

James Manning paced Valdosta with 10 points, including two 3-pointers. Vincent Williams followed with 9, Jason King 8, and Lonnie Phillips and Gary Campbell both had 6.

Twelve Packers managed to score on the evening, led by Jim Sumner with 11.

Both of Manning's 3-pointers came in the first quarter and Phillips scored four of his six points in the first quarter to enable Valdosta to take a 14-12 lead.

The Lady Wildcats, meanwhile, never got on track. Valdosta was 2-of-34 in the first half and trailed 24-9 at the half.

The only bright spot for the Lady 'Cats was Swandolyn Phillips, who pulled down 8 first-half rebounds and finished with eight points.

Valdosta was in the position to make some easy baskets but they just rolled off the rim.

"I told them at the half to look at where we were shooting from," said Valdosta Lady 'Cat head coach Susan Montgomery. "Almost all our shots were in the lane. We just couldn't get it to go in."

"Phillips does a good job for on the boards but we need to get other people in there to contribute. We couldn't get her going on offense."

Cassandra Twine followed Phillips with 7 points and Valerie Plummer added six. Pheadra Hill had 20 for Colquitt.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS's Spencer Iverson Glides Down The Lane For Two

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'Cats Finish 2nd, Clinch 3rd In Poll

The Associated Press

Morrow rose from the ranks of the unknown in The Associated Press preseason Georgia high school football poll to be the Cinderella team of 1987, capturing the Class AAAA championship and earning the No. 1 ranking Tuesday in the final poll of the year.

There were no surprises in the other three classifications as Central-Carrollton repeated as state champion in Class AA, Lincoln County captured its third straight title in Class A and Worth County took the Class AAA championship. All three, as expected, were ranked No. 1 in their respective classifications by The AP board of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Central-Carrollton and Lincoln

County each were rated No. 1 in the preseason poll, while Worth County was No. 2 behind defending state champion Villa Rica.

Morrow, 14-1, which won the state championship last weekend by beating Effingham County 21-0, made its way into the poll for the first time late in the season at the No. 8 spot and moved up to No. 6 entering the playoffs. In the final poll, Morrow received 10 first-place votes and 108 points.

Valdosta, the defending champion which was upset in the playoffs by Carver of Columbus, wound up second in the final poll with 82 points, followed by Effingham County with 80 points. Evans was ranked No. 4, followed by Southwest DeKalb, Griffin and McEachern.

Carver received the other first-place

vote and was eighth, followed by Tift County and Newton County.

In Class AAA, Worth County, 14-1, earned its No. 1 ranking by beating Marist 26-15 in the title game after Villa Rica had been ousted in the first round by Stephens County. Marist wound up No. 2, followed by Central of Thomasville, Thomasville and Lakeside.

Stephens County was sixth and Villa Rica seventh, followed by Clarkston, Hart County and Butler.

Worth received 10 first-place votes and 109 points, while Marist had 95 points. Thomasville received the other first-place vote.

In Class AA, Central-Carrollton, 15-0, closed out its season on a 25-game

Dacula and Metter.

Here is the final 1987 ranking of Georgia high school football teams by The Associated Press board of sportswriters and broadcasters. Teams are followed by record, first-place votes and total points.

- Class AAAA**
1. Morrow (14-1) 10, 108
 2. Valdosta (12-1) 82
 3. Effingham Co. (14-1) 80
 4. Evans (12-1) 68
 5. SW DeKalb (11-3) 67
 6. Griffin (10-2) 40
 7. McEachern (13-1) 38
 8. Carver-Columbus (9-3) 1, 33
 9. Tift Co. (8-4) 25
 10. Newton Co. (10-3) 21

Also receiving votes (in alphabetical order): Brookwood, Columbus, Hardaway, Northside-Warner, Robins, Redan, Savannah and Wheeler.

- Class AAA**
1. Worth Co. (14-1) 10, 109
 2. Marist (14-1) 95
 3. Central-Thomasville (12-2) 87
 4. Thomasville (11-1) 71
 5. Lakeside (11-2) 58
 6. Stephens Co. (12-2) 51
 7. Villa Rica (10-3) 38
 8. Clarkston (10-2) 28

- Class AA**
1. Central-Carrollton (15-0) 11, 110
 2. R.E. Lee (14-1) 99
 3. Lovett (13-1) 84
 4. Washington-Wilkes (11-2) 82
 5. Fitzgerald (10-4) 50
 6. Camden Co. (11-2) 43
 7. East Hall (12-1) 40
 8. Greene-Taliaferro (9-3) 36
 9. Manchester (9-3) 34
 10. Mary Persons (9-2) 29
- Also receiving votes: Bacon Co., Cartersville, Jefferson, Louisville, Macon Co., Screven Co. and Sequoyah.

- Class A**
1. Lincoln Co. (15-0) 11, 110
 2. Brookstone (13-2) 97
 3. Clinch Co. (12-1) 86
 4. Louisville (10-3) 58
 5. Palmetto (10-3) 58
 6. Montgomery Co. (9-3) 51
 7. East Rome (8-3) 38
 8. Stewart-Quitman (11-2) 30
 9. Dacula (11-1) 27
 10. Meher (11-1) 17
- Also receiving votes: Greenville, Pacelli and Irwin Co.

winning streak, capped by its 28-7 victory over R.E. Lee in the final R.E. Lee was rated No. 2 in the final poll, followed by Lovett, Washington-Wilkes, Fitzgerald, Camden County, East Hall, Greene-Taliaferro, Manchester and Mary Persons.

Central-Carrollton received all 11 first-place votes and 110 points. R.E. Lee had 99 points.

In Class A, Lincoln County, 15-0, took its third straight title and extended its winning streak to 26 games in a 19-14 victory over Brookstone. Lincoln also received all 11 first-place votes and 110 points. Brookstone was No. 2 with 97 points.

The other ranked teams in Class A, in order, were Clinch County, Louisville, Palmetto, Montgomery County, East Rome, Stewart-Quitman,

Steward, Richardson Parade All-Americans

By STAN GRUBB Times Sports Writer

Valdosta tight end Charles Steward and Lowndes linebacker Freddie Richardson have been voted to the 1987 Parade All-American High School Football Team. The Parade squad is chosen by a panel of college coaches, scouts and recruiters.

Both Steward's and Richardson's outstanding talents have obviously become known nationwide.

For the 6-foot-4, 235-pound Steward, this caps an impressive four-year career as Valdosta High's main receiver and punt specialist.

In his four years at Valdosta High School from 1984-87, Steward and his mates tallied up 51 victories, while only suffering 4 defeats. Valdosta also captured two mythical national titles

during his tenure—in 1984 and 1986. At 6-4, 247, Richardson struck fear into the hearts of offensive players everywhere.

In three years as a Viking, Richardson's team played for the Region 1-AAAA championship two consecutive years, 1985-86. The Vikings wrestled the crown from Valdosta in 1985.

"It has been my pleasure to be associated with such a knowledgeable player, as Richardson certainly was," said Lowndes head coach Joe Wilson. "It is a great honor for the school itself and Freddie."

In his junior season with Valdosta, Steward caught 37 passes for a total of 498 yards and 10 touchdowns. Steward had an impressive 13.5 yard reception average, plus a 33.2 yard average per contest. Along with his passing stats, Steward has a 35 yard punting average for his career.



Charles Steward

Freddie Richardson

Steward finished up his career this past season by adding to his already lofty statistics. He hauled in 20 passes for a total of 250 yards, with a 10-yard pass reception average along with a 25 yard average per game.

Steward's statistics dropped only because the Wildcats focused on the running game during his senior year.

Richardson was a force for the Lowndes Vikings his entire career. Richardson made a habit of bringing down the ball carrier for negative yardage.

In his three seasons at Lowndes, Richardson totaled up more than 400 tackles in his career, while averaging close to 14 tackles per game, six of which were for negative yardage.

"In every way, Freddie is very deserving of his all-american status. Freddie's knowledge of the game of football is something you can't teach.

He is a student of the game," said Wilson. "He made a habit of simply getting the job done. I never coached a player that knew more or was as dedicated as Freddie."

Neither Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder or Wildcat receiver coach Bob Bolton could be reached for comment.

In his senior year, Richardson averaged exactly 14 tackles per contest and had one pass interception for a touchdown to his credit.

Richardson wound up his illustrious career at Lowndes by rolling up 12 total tackles, eight of which were unassisted, against cross-town rival Valdosta in a 10-7 defeat to the defending state and national champs.

For both of these players, the possibilities are limitless, but for now they are simply known as the best at their positions for 1987.

Sun. Jan. 3, 1988

VHS Wrestlers Split

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta's Steve Smith was good enough for a tie but that wasn't good enough to give Valdosta a sweep of Berkmar and Tallahassee's Lincoln High here Saturday afternoon.

The Wildcats blew away Lincoln 41-29, but fell to Berkmar 30-27 in the second match. At 189 pounds, Smith and Berkmar's Mike Laterza wrestled to an 8-8 deadlock with Valdosta trailing 28-19. Valdosta's Shaun Elders won by forfeit in the heavyweight division to account for the final score.

Both Cook High and Lowndes also wrestled Berkmar and Lincoln, with the Cook Hornets sweeping and the Vikings getting swept.

"We gave up pins and 119 and 125 and you just can't afford that in a match like this one," said Valdosta head coach James Landrum after the meet. "I thought Smith did a good job. He wrestled hard. He just hasn't been at it that long. Ashley Moorman also wrestled well in both matches."

Valdosta is now 2-1 and will travel to Adel on Wednesday to take on Cook, who went to 11-0 with the two victories Saturday. Lowndes is even at 2-2.

Cook got a big win from John Brooks at 171 and took advantage of a forfeit at heavyweight to beat Berkmar 35-25. Cook disposed of Lincoln with little trouble, 48-24.

The match against Cook was

Berkmar's first duel meet this year, and it showed as several Patriots sputtered in the third period.

"I think conditioning was a factor," said Cook head coach Barry Davis. "They looked like they ran out of gas which was good for us. We put a lot of emphasis on conditioning. Brooks did an excellent job for us. We needed his match to secure the win and he came through for us. Scott Morris wrestled a tough kid and that was one of those matches where conditioning played a part."

Lowndes fell to Berkmar 60-12, getting six points on a forfeit and another six on a pin by Billy Swords at 152. Lincoln stopped Lowndes 53-10. The Vikings' 10 came on a forfeit and an 11-3 win by Jimmy Hiers.

Jason Finland (130) and Jeff McLeod (135) were the only two Wildcats to win both their individual matches. Other claiming victories for Valdosta were Nick Gonis (103), Steve Peterman (112), Ashley Fann (112), Justin Bridges (125), Shawn Smith (140), Brian Mueller (145), Maurice Dean (152), Ryan Moorman (160), Ashley Moorman (171), and Shaun Eilders (Hwt.)

The Hornets from Adel had five wrestlers win two matches: Andrell Durden (112), Marese Wright (119), Jason Bryan (130), Scott Morris (140), and Spencer O'Quinn (145).

Winning once for Cook were Brad Caldwell (152), Brooks, Eric Postell (Hwt), Daryl Wright (125), Slade Ensley (135), and Earl Joiner (160).



—Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Mark Bennett (Bottom) Is Pinned By VHS's Ashley Fann

Wildcats Will Have Their Hands Full

Cook versus Valdosta doesn't sound like much of a rivalry, but the two schools have found that on the wrestling mat Class AA or Class AAAA matters little.

When the two meet tonight, Jim Landrum's VHS Wildcats will head in as the underdog against a talented and experienced Cook team.

This season, Cook has amassed an 11-0 duel meet record and won its own tournament before Christmas. Those matches all spell trouble for Valdosta.

The Wildcats have wrestled in only 3 duel matches and one tournament, and it's been difficult for Landrum to assess just where his team is. He does know that his team could use more experience.

Valdosta will start Steve Peterman at 103 if he makes weight, Ashley Fann or Carlos Moore at 112. The 119 class will be filled by Truett Wakefield, followed by 125 Justin Bridges, 130 Jason Finland, 135 Jeff McLeod, 140 Shawn Smith, 145 Brian Mueller, 152 Maurice Dean, 160 Ryan Moorman, 171 Ashley Moorman, 189 Steve Smith, and heavyweight Shaun Eilders.

Cook will counter with Darin Cowart at 103, 112 Andrell Durden, 119 Marese Wright, 125 Daryl Wright or Allan O'Quinn, 130 Jason Bryan, 135 Slade Ensley, 140 Scott Morris, 145 Spencer O'Quinn, 152 Brad Caldwell, 160 Earl Joiner, 171 John Brooks, 189 Hank Pitts, and heavyweight Eric Postell.

"We're looking forward to it," said Landrum. "In years past, the Cook-Valdosta matches have always been hard fought. At this time, we feel like Cook has one of the best teams in the state. They were third or fourth in state last year and I think they're as good or better now."



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

One thing Landrum hopes to avoid is the pin, and thinks pins could play a crucial role in the outcome of the match.

"We were about eight points away from them last year. There are one or two ways of looking at it. A lot of it will depend on if Peterman can make weight or not at 103. We also can't get pinned. I can guarantee you that whoever gets pinned the most is going to lose."

112, giving Nick Gonis a spot at 103. Gonis will be the odd man out if Peterman is able to go back down.

Landrum predicted that a crucial match will be at 119 where Wakefield must take on Cook's Marese Wright, a returning state champion.

"We could really get hurt there," said Landrum. "Wright's pinned everyone he's wrestled and I'm not certain we can prevent that."

Wright has given Landrum fits for year now, and Landrum will be glad to see the youngster graduate.

"He's a tough kid, there's no doubt about it. He's done such a job for them that it seems like he has been wrestling over there for 10 years," joked Landrum. "Maybe I should check his eligibility."



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

VSC's James "The Bear" McRae Tries To Put Move On Livingston Defender

Lowndes-Valdosta Clash Tops High School Basketball Action

VDT 1-5-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Local basketball teams take to the court tonight beginning the stretch run for area titles. Heading the local hoop action will be a Region 1-AAAA tilt between cross-town rivals Lowndes and Valdosta at the Lowndes High School gymnasium with tip-off scheduled for 6 p.m.

In other local action tonight, Cook is at Waycross, Berrien entertains Irwin County, Clinch travels to Echols County, Brooks is at Hamilton County, Ga. Christian is at Valwood, and Madison hosts Taylor County.

Entering what some call the second season, both Lowndes and Valdosta are simply hoping for a little consistency and good luck.

On the Lowndes ledger, the Vikings come into the game sporting a three game win streak, the most recent a championship tourney victory over Cook before the Christmas break, which has boosted their record to 5-4. But the Vikettes are an even 4-4 after having lost to Cook in the same tourney.

For Viking head coach Terry Wilkes and Vikette head coach Elinor Goode, it has simply been one thing after

another.

Valdosta coaches John Miller and Susan Montgomery are basically looking to notch some victories and head in the proper direction for the remainder of the season.

The Wildcats enter the contest 3-3 on the year. The 'Cats finished up the first half after being eliminated in the Tallahassee Invitational Tourney. Montgomery's Lady 'Cats, 1-5, are finding the wins hard to come by in the '87-88 season, but all the games have all been decided in the second half of the contest. Two losses were by a total of five points.

"Opening up the second half of the season on the road is not my idea of starting the stretch run, but by the same token it should be a good measuring tool for our progress thus far," said Miller.

"After the holidays, a game of this stature is simply speculation at best," said Wilkes. "Only by gametime will we be able to tell who has dedicated themselves during the break. Anything can and will probably happen in tonight's game."

For both Montgomery and Goode, playing mistake free and establishing tempo may just hold the key for success in the ballgame.

"In our previous two ballgames, we

have made enough turnovers to last a lifetime," said Goode. "Simply keeping our errors to a minimum and establishing our style of play will be important as the game wears on."

Montgomery defended her team's record.

"Actually, I feel this team has not played as bad as the record indicates. A few breaks and a little luck and who knows," said Montgomery. "But right at this moment we need to get off to a good start as we head towards the region competition. Playing well now can only help set a tone for the final games this season."

Wilkes and Miller both expressed admiration for each team's program and are expecting a real tight battle between the squads.

"Valdosta has done nothing but impress me. Although they are even for the year, they really come at you and attack on both areas of the court," said Wilkes. "Their overall team quickness is a main focal point. They are so relentless on the defensive end giving the opposition a different look each trip. They simply make all baskets hard to come by. And I'm sure tonight's game will be no exception."

"This Lowndes squad may be the best in a long time. They come at you from every direction forcing their style of play the entire game," said Miller. "With the overwhelming size and scoring prowess that Lowndes has, just stopping them will be a challenge."

For Viking success, Wilkes knows full well his team must produce the entire game to hold down the speed of the 'Cats.

"We must handle the ball properly on offense and come away with points when the opportunity arises," said Wilkes. "Our height will mean absolutely nothing without good execution and that means scoring points."

Miller echoed the same sentiments, but with different meaning.

"Lowndes is so powerful on both ends that we must take the points when they present themselves and go from there," said Miller. "Lowndes will not give you anything, therefore, being patient and taking a high percentage shot is crucial for success."

One sidenote to this boys' clash, Wilkes will be without the services of point guard senior Jamie "Malibu" May, due to his family's recent move to Kentucky. Plus Miller will be without his point guard due to an ankle injury.

For the ladies, both coaches are well aware of the task that this on tap for tonight.

"If we play up to our potential the entire game, it should be a tough game," said Montgomery. "Creating our own momentum early could be a key for our team. But most of all, simply not allowing Lowndes to dictate the tempo of the contest will play a big role."

"Lowndes can score points from anywhere on the floor, with (Carol) Bradley and (Laine) Scarborough. With that in mind, defensive success on our part will be pivotal," said Montgomery.

"Although it will be the first serious test for this team since the break, just the uttering of Valdosta-Lowndes seems to take care of itself," said Goode.

In the wake of a recent power outage at Lowndes high school yesterday, on top of the earlier mishap with the Lowndes gymnasium, Wilkes and Goode were asked if home court will mean anything. Wilkes and Goode had the same reply: "What home court? Right now I don't know what home court is."

Cook Girls Out To Even Score

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Cook-Berrien girls' matchup is a strategist's dream. Cook has the height, Berrien the speed. And so far, Berrien has the win.

The Rebelettes from Nashville conquered Cook in the finals of the Lowndes Christmas Tournament last month, and Cook will be out for revenge when the Wasps host Berrien Friday night at 7 p.m. in a Region 2-AA Southwest battle.

In other games, Valdosta travels to Monroe for a Region 1-AAAA battle, Clinch hosts Region 2-A foe Atkinson County, and Brooks hosts Early in a Region 1-AA South battle.

Also on tap Friday night are Valwood at Ocmulgee, Hamilton County at Suwannee, Georgia Christian and Crisp Academy, FAMU High at Madison County, Open Bible at Byne Memorial, and Lanier at Broxton.

Saturday's games include Cook at Irwin, Berrien at Lowndes, Long at Clinch, Echols at Hamilton, Worth Academy at Georgia Christian, and Open Bible at Central Fellowship.

Cook is 8-1 overall and 1-0 in the subregion after stopping Waycross Tuesday night. Despite the win and the record, Cowan is still concerned about his team.

"We shot 35 percent through the first 8 games and that's not good shooting," said Cowan. "We have a lot of people scoring points, but that's going to

happen. We keep the pace up so we're going to shoot the ball a lot. What concerns me is our shooting percentage. We're working on it; it's just going to be a matter of time.

"We don't shoot the ball well or rebound well and those are two things I hope we improve on."

Cook's attack will form behind senior guard Tarrell Durden, junior center Zarayna Harris, and junior forward Julia Morris.

Durden was a key for Cook last season, and this year she has been helped by the maturing of his teammates.

"Julia Morris has been a big help this year and her sister (Juliette Morris) is really coming around for us. She's only a 10th grader and the more

she plays, the better she'll get," said Cowan.

Cowan also praised Harris' rebounding and defensive abilities, but warned that Harris has to learn how to stay out of early foul trouble.

Berrien will counter with a speedy team lead by Molly Clark and Melissa Mackey.

Clark is a tremendous inside player despite her size, and Mackey is a dangerous perimeter shooter, and is considered one of the top female players in the area. Shawanda DeBerry has come on too. She scored 28 points against Irwin County Tuesday.

"They are very quick," said Cowan. "They have three or four great athletes. They played very hard

With Berrien

against us in that Christmas tournament."

For the boys' teams, the role is reversed. Cook beat Berrien in the Christmas tournament and is 7-2 overall and 1-0 in the subregion. Berrien is struggling at 4-4 and 0-2.

Berrien head coach Clay Clark's bread and butter is the inside play of Travia Pitts (6-3), Kenneth Green (6-3) and Scott Purvis (6-3).

Cook has some size too in 6-8 forward Edgar Snead and 6-6 post player Wesley Jenrette, who has signed an early scholarship with Valdosta State College.

But Cook can also get the outside shot from Snead and guard Quaneski

Smith, and that concerns Clark. "The most important thing is to keep them off the boards and don't let them get those second and third shots," said Clark. "Then you got to keep a hand in their face every time they shoot. Of course that's standard against everybody."

Purvis comes into the contest averaging 18 points a game. Green is averaging 13. Pitts, who has never played before, is averaging 11.

"I'm pleased with Travia Pitts," said Clark. "He's averaging 11 points a ball game for us. He's a senior and he's never played before, so he's doing well. I didn't anticipate starting a 9th grader but I've been pleased with Eric Taylor. Scotty Harris has played well, too."

Hornet Grapplers Down VHS

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

ADEL — That ominous sound of the referee's hand slapping the mat sealed the Valdosta High wrestling team's fate Wednesday night at Cook High, just as VHS Wildcat head coach Jim Landrum said it might.

The Cook Hornets rolled to their 12th victory with no defeats as they downed Valdosta 42-22. Valdosta is now 2-2 on the season.

Six of the eight Wildcats that lost were pinned. Valdosta won only five individual matches and earned only two pins.

"I knew coming in that the pins would be big," said Landrum. "They just took it to us. We had a couple of people that didn't make weight where I thought they would be, and that hurt us too."

Cook coach Barry Davis was somewhat surprised with the outcome of the match.

"It was a lot better than I thought it would be," said Davis. "I think we won

a couple we shouldn't have, but so did they."

Davis pointed out the 145-pound match where Valdosta's Brian Mueller won a hard-fought 3-2 match over Spencer O'Quinn.

O'Quinn beat Mueller during DeCember's Hornet Classic, but this time Mueller pulled it out.

"We're just glad to get a chance to wrestle Valdosta," said Davis. "They have a quality program and are a real class team."

The match opened up disastrously for Valdosta. Cook's Darin Cowart (103), Andrell Durden (112), and Marese Wright (119) earned three pins as the Hornets took an 18-0 lead.

The Wildcats then lost a heart-breaker at 125. Justin Bridges and Slade Ensley were tied 7-7 at then end of two periods, but Ensley got a reversal in the final seconds to win 10-9, giving Cook a 21-0 lead.

Valdosta's first win came at 130 where Jason Finland stopped Jason Bryan 3-2. Jeff McLeod decisioned Brett Bishop at 135, and Mueller won at

145.

After Hornet Brad Caldwell stopped Maurice Dean at 152, Valdosta fans got something to cheer about. Ryan Moorman and Ashley Moorman earned pins at 160 and 171 to make the score interesting at 30-22. But that's where Valdosta's spurt of good luck stopped.

Cook's Hank Pitts (189) and heavyweight Eric Postell closed out the match with two pins. Valdosta's Steve Smith was beating Pitts 11-7, but he later found himself on his back.

"Smith did a good job for us," said Landrum. "It's only his first year. If he knew a little more he could have pinned him."

Action for Valdosta continues Friday when the 'Cats host Dougherty, Westover, and Monroe. Lowndes, too, will wrestle the three Albany schools.

Cook vs. Valdosta
103 — Cowart (C) pinned Gonis. 112 — Durden (C) pinned Peterman. 119 — Wright (C) pinned Fann. 125 — Ensley (C) dec. Bridges. 130 — Finland (V) dec. Bryan. 135 — McLeod (V) dec. Bishop. 140 — Morris (C) pinned Smith. 145 — Mueller (V) dec. O'Quinn. 152 — Caldwell (C) dec. Dean. 160 — R. Moorman (V) pinned Jolner. 171 — A. Moorman (V) pinned Brooks. 189 — Pitts (C) pinned Smith. Hwt. — Postell (C) pinned Elders.



Ashley Fann Of VHS (Bottom) Has A Problem With Cook's Marese Wright

Wildcats Finish 20th In Final NSNS Football Poll

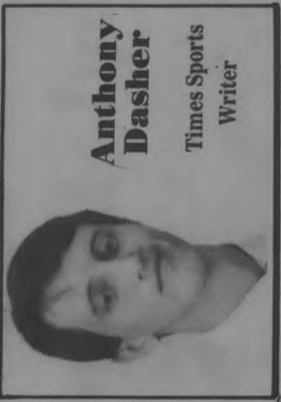
The Valdosta Wildcats didn't finish No. 1 in the country this year but the 'Cats still managed an impressive national ranking.

In the final poll conducted by the National Sports News Service, ranking high schools since 1927, Valdosta finished 20th in the nation.

Plano, 16-0, won its sixth state title in 7 title games this past season and finished ranked No. 1 in the nation.

The final 1987 National High School Rankings are as follows:

1. Plano, Tx. (16-0), 28-game win streak
2. Dandridge Jefferson County, Tn (15-0)
3. Pittsburg North Hills, Pa (15-0)
4. Fontana, Ca (14-0)
5. Doylestown Central Bucks West, Pa (11-0), 43-0
6. Brockton, Ma (11-0)
7. Alexandria T.C. Williams, Va (14-0)
8. Union N.J. (11-0)
9. Cincinnati Princeton, Oh (12-1)
10. Lawton, Ok (14-0)



Anthony Dasher
Times Sports
Writer

The NSNS also announced its individual awards for 1987 and yes Valdosta was listed for one of them. However, it's one that 'Cat coaches, players and fans would just as soon forget.

It was an upset to say the least and apparently the NSNS agreed as Carver's 21-7 win over Valdosta was called the Upset of the Year.

The Player of the Year went to 6-7, 235 tight end Derek Brown of Merritt Island Fla.

Plano's Tom Kimbrough was named Coach of the Year while the Game of the Year went to Kansas City Rockhurst and it's 25-20 win over Fort Smith Northside. As it turned out Rockhurst wound up the Missouri 5A champ while Northside won the Arkansas 4A state title.

At 631 career wins, the Wildcats rank as one of the all-time winningest high school football teams. However, it appears that the No. 1 spot belongs to Little Rock Central of Arkansas.

According to Barry Sollenberger, editor of the National Sports News Service, Central has amassed 653 wins over an 81-year period.

But there is more to this story. Central began playing football in 1897 but records of the first ten years have been lost in some dusty shelves of a newspaper office. So realistically, Central could quite possibly be closer to a record 700 wins.

For the record, Central, which competes in the highest classification in Arkansas, has won 30 national championships.

Hopefully the full story will be told

soon. Sollenberger informed me in a telephone conversation Wednesday that he is right in the middle of searching through old microfilms and promised he will have a final total in the weeks to come.

Here's another tidbit of information that I found hard to believe. What state do you think leads the nation in average attendance at high school championship games? Texas? Florida? California? Ohio? Pennsylvania? Wrong!

Believe it or not, Hawaii leads the nation, averaging 24,282 at championship games during the last decade with the largest crowd being 32,812 at the 1978 state finals.

Now that's a lot of pineapples.

From The Classroom...

VDT 1-9-88

Valdosta High's Debators Win 1st

By Jay Connell

Two Valdosta High debaters captured the first place trophy at the Americus High School debate tournament last Saturday, Dec. 19.

Juniors Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton eliminated teams from Brunswick and Central Thomasville in the semi-final and final rounds to finish with a 4-3 record in the junior varsity division.

Connell also won the first place speaker award. Senior Cindy Supp and freshman Tammy Crowe finished the two-day competition with a 3-2 won-loss record and won the second place negative team award in the novice division. Miss Supp also won the fourth place novice speaker award.

Other students competing in the junior varsity division were senior Terry Snyder and junior Susie Grant. Junior Marty Diamond and sophomore John Casker, competing in their first tournament, finished with a 3-2 record in the novice division.

Senior Barry Golivesky and former VHS debater Matt Winters served as judges at the tournament.

Valdosta won decisions over teams from Brunswick, Central of Thomasville, Lee, Macon County, McIntosh, Southwest Macon, Thomasville and Warner Robins high schools.

The national high school debate topic for 1987-88 is "Resolved that the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America."

The Debate Club will host an invitational debate tournament on January 16, 1988.

Debates Held At High School

By Jay Connell

Valdosta High School's Debate Club will sponsor the Second Annual Valdosta Debates at Valdosta Junior High School next Saturday.

Schools from Albany, Columbus, Savannah, Thomasville, Tifton and several other areas have entered the meet.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Junior High lobby. Four rounds of debate will begin at 9:30 that day in two divisions, open and novice competition.

The open division 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 will compete in a semi-final round. The winning teams will advance



to the final round Saturday night.

The novice division is limited to debaters with less than twenty rounds of experience. Participants in this division will use a four-person format with the same time frames as in the open division.

The topic for debate in both divisions is the national high school debate topic for 1987-88, "Resolved: That the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America." 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, VHS Director of Debate. "We hope to make this a yearly contest that draws the best debaters in the state."

Last year over twenty schools entered the Valdosta Debates. Money raised from entry fees will be used to pay travel and tournament expenses for the VHS Debate Club.

Interact Has Busy Christmas

By Leslie Hiers

The Interact Club participated in many service projects during the Christmas season.

Members distributed food and toys for the Salvation Army, worked for the American Cancer Society's Tour of Homes, distributed Arrive Alive flyers at area supermarkets, and served refreshments at the Lowndes Service Center party.

According to Emily Broome, "It was very rewarding to see the happiness on both the faces of the workers on this project before and intend to work on it again next year."

In addition to these services, the club members continue to visit their adopted grandparents and are planning many new activities for 1988.

VHS Girls End Drought

VDT 1-6-88

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Before Tuesday night's Region 1-AAAAA clash at the Lowndes High gym, the last time the Valdosta Lady Cats had defeated the Vikettes, Jimmy Carter was still holding the office of President of the United States.

VHS coach Susan Montgomery hopes her team doesn't have to wait another eight years to beat Lowndes again but she will take her club's 42-38 win over the Vikettes just the same.

"I'm just so proud of all the girls," Montgomery said. "I told the team if they would have confidence in themselves and do what the coaches told them to do and that is to keep their big scorers from having big games and play hard defense, then we had a chance to win the game."

With the win, the Lady 'Cats up their record to 2-5 on the season and 1-1 in Region 1-AAAAA. The Vikettes fall to 4-5 and 3-1.

"We had the shots but we just couldn't get them to fall through," LHS coach Elinor Goode said. "We missed 17 free throws (6-23) and you can't miss that many and expect to win."

Valdosta didn't fair much better than Lowndes shooting only 35 percent and Montgomery is just happy those misses didn't come back to haunt her team.

"We work hard on our free throw shooting every day. I don't know what happened tonight. We're just lucky that Lowndes didn't shoot well either," she said.

The score was only 6-6 after one quarter of play but Valdosta exploded in the second quarter scoring the first six points of the period to build a 12-6 lead at the 5:30 mark.

Lowndes tied the score at 14 on a turnaround jumper by Laine Scarborough but Swandolyn Phillips hit an eight-foot jumper with 8 seconds left to give Valdosta a 16-14 halftime lead.

"The turnovers in the game were almost even," Goode said. "We had opportunities to make good shots. You can't ask for much more than that. But the difference in the game was the rebounding. Valdosta was able to get most of the offensive boards. I don't know the exact total but that was the key."

Valdosta went on a 10-point run to up its lead to 24-14 with 5:42 left in the third but Lowndes chipped away and cut the lead to 28-24 with time running out in the quarter on a pair of free throws by Scarborough.

But Valdosta would not be shaken and upped its lead to 34-23 early in the



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Laine Scarborough Goes For Jumper

The Lady 'Cats would hold their 10-point lead until the final minute when Jill Dykes came off the bench to hit two 3-pointers to lead a valiant Vikette comeback attempt but it was too little too late.

"We knew coming in that if we were to win then we would have to shut down their two big scorers, Scarborough and Carol Bradley. We felt if Lowndes was to beat us then the other girls would have to do it," Montgomery said.

"Sissy Anderson did a heckuva a job for us on defense. Anytime you can hold their two big guns to 12 and 6 points you've done a fantastic job."

Valerie Plummer and Ashley Schleusner scored 10 points apiece to lead Valdosta.

In the boys' game, the Vikings bounced back from a 34-28 halftime deficit to post a 72-57 win over the fired up 'Cats.

Arney Lucas and Israel Brown led the way, fighting up the boards for 27 and 25 points respectively. Gary Campbell scored 15 and Carlo Butler 13 for the 'Cats.

"Basically all I told the guys at halftime was to correct the errors they were making the first half," Viking head coach Terry Wilkes said. "I didn't scream, fuss or cuss. I just told them

what they needed to correct.

"The first half, we were just running the ball down the court and taking one shot. It didn't matter if it was a good, bad or ugly shot, we just put it up. We weren't patient at all but in the second half we settled down, got into our offense, made some smart passes and started doing what we needed to do."

For Wildcat coach John Miller the loss was a disappointing one but was pleased with his team's effort.

"I can't tell you enough how proud I am of the boys. They've come a long way and if we continue to play aggressive ball we'll be in good shape," he said.

Lowndes jumped out to a 13-6 first quarter lead but Valdosta took the lead at 21-19 at the 6:26 mark in the second quarter when Butler drove the lane, scored, was fouled, and hit the free throw.

Valdosta built its lead to 30-23 late in the second but Brown hit some key baskets in the final two minutes to cut the lead to 34-28.

As the third quarter began, Wilkes inserted seldom used guard Calvin Murphy to counter the speed of Valdosta's John Iverson. Wilkes' decision was a smart one as Murphy used his speed to spark the Vikings' comeback.

"Calvin was the key to the ball game," Wilkes said, crediting his assistants for the move. "Iverson has tremendous speed and because of it we were not able to stop him from penetrating our defense in the first half."

"We told Calvin that his job was to drive, penetrate and pass first. But if the shot was open to take it to the hole. He did exactly that."

Lowndes overtook Valdosta at the 3:10 mark on a basket by Brown, scoring nine straight points in the process to take a 49-40 lead.

The Vikings had little trouble the rest of the way.

The Vikings will return to the hardwood Saturday night when they host the Berrien County Rebels beginning with the girls' contest at 7:00. Valdosta will travel to Monroe Friday night.

(Boys)	
Valdosta (57)	— J. Iverson 2, Manning 8, Campbell 15, Phillips 6, Butler 13, Williams 6, King 7
Lowndes (72)	— Thomas 9, Brown 25, D. Williams 7, Murphy 4, L. Williams 5, A. Lucas 27
Valdosta	..... 12 22 10 13 — 57
Lowndes	..... 17 11 24 20 — 72
Record	— Valdosta 3-0-2, Lowndes 6-4-2

(Girls)	
Valdosta (42)	— Plummer 10, Anderson 8, Phillips 7, Turner 6, Dennis 1, Schleusner 10
Lowndes (38)	— Scarborough 12, Brown 6, Eason 3, Campbell 2, Culpesser 3, Bradley 6, Dykes 6
Valdosta	..... 6 10 14 12 — 42
Lowndes	..... 4 8 10 14 — 38

Next game: Lowndes 4:53 p.m., Valdosta 2:51 p.m. Friday, Valdosta at Monroe, Saturday Berrien County at Lowndes



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Spencer Iverson (3) Fights For Possession

81

'Cats Victorious In Mat Action

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School came out the big winner in a six-team wrestling meet Saturday afternoon at the VHS gymnasium.

The Wildcats won all four of their matches, taking Fitzgerald in the opening match 65-6, Dougherty 36-30, Monroe 54-21 and Westover 59-14.

Coach Newnan Sanchez' Lowndes Vikings were also in the meet and split four matches.

The Vikings lost to Dougherty 52-24 and Fitzgerald 36-30 but defeated Westover 42-30 and Monroe 42-30.

"We're still struggling at it," Viking coach Sanchez said. "We're still an awful young team with six kids who have never wrestled before. But we seem to be improving and if we keep getting better bit by bit, by the time the season is over we may be a decent team."

Valdosta only had trouble in its match with a tough Dougherty squad as they cruised in the other three matches. But VHS head coach James Landrum still feels his team can get even better.

"I feel real fortunate to come away from this four team meet with four wins," Landrum said. "If some of our younger kids can keep picking up some experience we should get better as the year goes on."

The 'Cats opened with Fitzgerald but met with little resistance from the Purple Hurricanes. Joe Tombley was the only Fitzgerald wrestler to manage a victory as 12 Wildcat wrestlers either pinned or out-pointed the opponent.

"Fitzgerald is down this year. I don't think there's much doubt about that," Landrum said. "They may have made us look better than we really were but I'm still very proud of our guys."

The Westover Patriots were the next victims for the 'Cats. Truett Wakefield pinned his opponent in the 119 weight class, Shawn Smith pinned his in the 140, Brian Mueller in the 145 class and Maurice Dean in the 152.

Those outpointing their opponents were Justin Bridges in the 125 class (20-6), Jason Finland 130 (6-0), Jeff McCloud 135 (16-0), Nick Gonis (103), Ryan Moorman (160) and Ashley Moorman (171) won their matches by forfeit.

Against Dougherty, Valdosta was down 19-9, with only a forfeit awarded to Steve Peterman and an 8-3 decision by Wakefield to show for thier efforts.

But Valdosta responded to win its next five matches, with Shawn Smith decisioning Chris Pollock 6-0, Brian Mueller pinning Reginald Brown in the 145 pound class and Dean pinning Maurice Johnson. Ryan Moorman decisioned Tony Morely 6-4.

Dougherty won the next two matches but VHS won the overall match when heavyweight Shawn Eilders as awarded a forfeit.

Against Monroe, Gonis, Finland, McCloud, Mueller and Ryan Moorman all pinned their opponents. Peterman, Ashley Moorman and Steve Smith were all awarded forfeits.

"We're still trying to get some guys to make their weights," Landrum said.

"If Peterman can drop down to 103, and he's trying hard, we will tighten up and be that much better."

Carlo Butler led Valdosta with 15 points followed by Jason King with 14.

"We had Monroe running scared for a time there and managed to tie it up with two minutes to go in the game. It's to our credit that we could go into their place, which was packed and give them the kind of game we did," said Miller.



Lowndes' Bobby Bramlett Pins His Monroe Opponent During Saturday's Match

The Vikings whipped Monroe in its opening match as Doug Stewart (103) and Bryan Rice (130) won their matches on pins. Lee Hendricks (125), Brett James (135) and Bobby Bramlett (140) won on points.

Tom Barker, Billy Swords and Darren Broome were awarded forfeits. Lowndes fell to Dougherty as Bramlett and Swords managed pins. Barker and Al Allen (heavyweight) won on forfeits.

Against Westover, Barker, Bramlett, Jimmy Hiers (145), Swords and Broome won on pins. Hendricks outpointed his opponent 15-0 while Stewart and Mike Estes (160) won on forfeits.

Bramlett, Swords and Estes had pins against Fitzgerald. "Bob Bramlett and Billy Swords had a good day but really it's hard to point any particular person out," Sanchez said. "I'm just so happy for all of them."

'Cats Go Down Fighting Against Monroe's Tornadoes, 58-56

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats came into Saturday night's region 1-AAAA game with Monroe as heavy underdogs but the Tornadoes found VHS was a little tougher than expected as Monroe nipped the 'Cats 58-56.

Valdosta cut the lead to two with time running out but was unable to get the ball back as the final few seconds on the game clock ticked off.

A five-point third quarter did the Wildcats in but according to head coach John Miller his team showed guts.

"As we did against Lowndes, we came out cold in the third quarter but to our credit we came back and put ourselves in position to win the game.

"I think that we are a lot better than our 3-5 record indicates. And like I said the other night, if we keep improving game by game we'll be all right once the season ends."

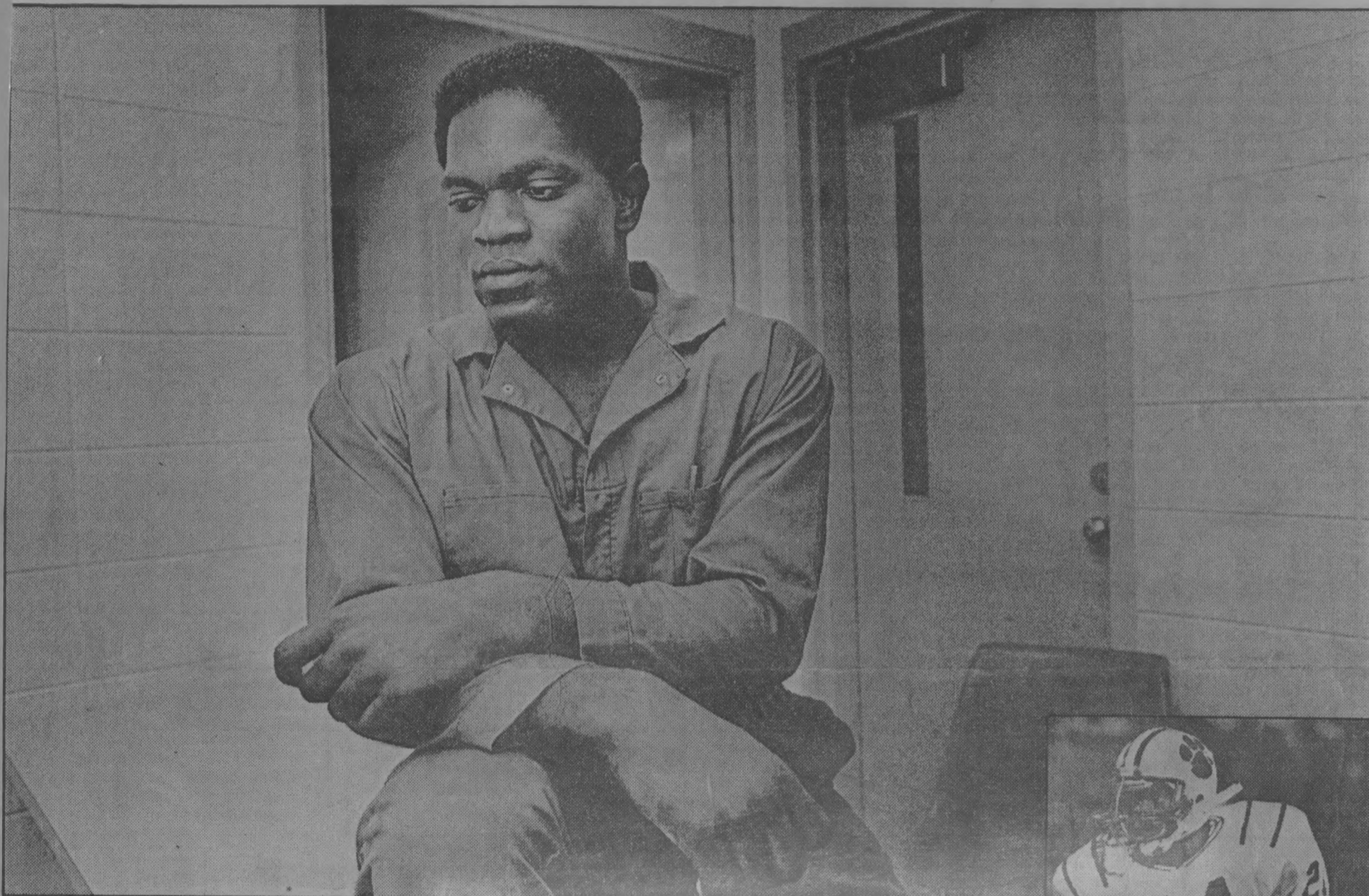
In the girls game VSC came out on the short end 53-28.

"We just didn't play good ball," VHS ladies coach Susan Montgomery said. "We didn't execute on offense and we didn't execute on defense. We played in spurts and you can see in the third quarter we didn't score but five points. WE just couldn't put four quarters together."

Valdosta (54)	Iverson 2, Manning 8, Cambell 8, King 14, Phillips 2, Butler 15, Williams 8.
Monroe (58)	Hutchinson 15, Taylor 20, Coleman 2, Branch 2, Freeman 9, Robinson 4, Brown 2, Gilbert 4.
Valdosta	10 20 5 21-56
Monroe	10 22 9 13-58
Record	Valdosta 3-503 (Girls)

Valdosta (28)	Plummer 3, Anderson 3, Swandolyn Phillips 9, Yelivr 8, Sleusmer 2, Larry 2, Braswell 2
Monroe (53)	Morrell 12, Walker 6, clemens 6, Jackson 12, Thomas 10, Hargroves 2, Hicks 5.
Valdosta	9 8 6 5-28
Monroe	16 8 14 15-53
Records	Valdosta 2-6, 1-2.

BROKEN DREAMS



Atlanta Const. 11-10-87

WILLIAM BERRY/Staff

Tony Anderson, once the most sought-after high school running back in the state, is currently serving a 42-day sentence on property theft and obstruction-of-officer charges; he also faces a revocation-of-probation hearing on Wednesday.

Ex-Valdosta runner Anderson now sits still — in jail

By Susan Howard
Staff Writer

VALDOSTA, Ga. — Tony Anderson was holding back tears. He knew that on a recent Saturday he should have been taking handoffs in some college football game rather than watching one involving the Georgia Bulldogs on television.

"I was sitting there looking at (cornerback) Ben Smith and (flanker) Nate Lewis," Anderson, a former blue-chip prospect from Valdosta High School, recalled of the afternoon in front of the TV. "I played against those guys in high school. I was watching the game, and it hurt me so much because I knew I should have been somewhere playing football."

Instead, he was in the Lowndes County

Jail, serving time for two criminal offenses that occurred this year.

"I just walked away from the television set, went off into my cell, went into a corner, and I bowed my head down and I cried," Anderson said softly. "Watching the game just hurt me so bad because they were out there and I was here. Here in jail. I should have been out there."

Anderson looked up from the floor, and his voice became louder. "All I've had to do is stare at these brick walls, and all I've had to do is think," he said. "Think about what I should have done and what I should not have done, but it all boils down to what I did and I can't put what I did on nobody else."

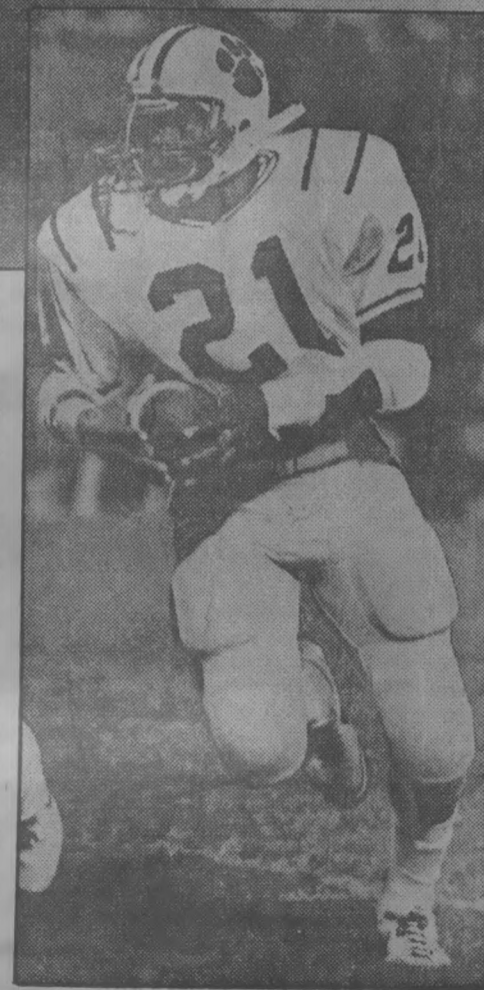
"You want to know what people out in

the public are saying about me? They say, 'Tony Anderson. Man, he's just thrown his life away. He's not doing anything with all that talent he has. He's nothing. He had everything and he just done threw it all away. He had great opportunities.'

"I get depressed, thinking about that. Sometimes I've felt that I was just nothing, that I had nothing. But I don't think I'm a failure. The opportunities are still there. Being in jail has helped me more than hurt me because I've let the past go. Now I have to start thinking about the future."

It is uncertain how long Anderson will have to devote his future to his past mis-

See TWO YEARS, Page 10-D



'Two years from now ... I want (to be) on the football field'

From Page 1-D

takes or if he will ever play collegiate football. Currently, he is serving a 42-day sentence on property theft and an obstruction-of-officer charges. He pleaded guilty to both charges at a trial in the Lowndes County Magistrate Court on Sept. 11 and faces additional charges at a revocation-of-probation hearing Wednesday in Lowndes County Superior Court.

Anderson's upcoming court hearing is the latest episode in what has been a tumultuous career for someone who was the most sought-after running back in Georgia.

In 1982, he was labeled a freshman sensation. Within three years, he was evoking comparisons to Herschel Walker and William Andrews, rushing for more than 2,700 yards and scoring 52 touchdowns by the end of his junior year. He made all-state and was selected to the Parade magazine and Scholastic Coach magazine All-America teams before his senior year.

He had secured the attention of coaches from more than 100 Division I-A schools, especially after he scored all three touchdowns in Valdosta's 21-14 victory over Clarke Central for the 1984 Class AAAA state championship.

As Anderson admits, his life has careened downhill since that game. He was kicked off the football team, along with two other players, by coach Nick Hyder for appearing drunk at the spring football game before his senior season. Since then, he has been arrested and charged with six different criminal offenses, ranging from driving without a license to grand larceny.

His story is more than one about a talented athlete who threw it all away. Rather, Anderson's travails symbolize the ill effects of athletic success for a teen who was cuddled and worshipped by a football-crazed city where:

- Fans went as far as to pay him money for scoring touchdowns.
- A booster for a rival high school offered Rosa Anderson a home, a job and a car for her son if would come and play for the other team.

- The winningest high school football coach in the state still wonders about what more he could have done to prevent Anderson from falling prey to crime and alcohol and drug abuse.

The end result is an individual struggling to define himself in the mire of a misspent youth. Anderson is a 21-year-old who still dreams of playing major college football, even after being unable to adapt to the pressures and demands of athletic success as a teenager.

The biggest obstacle to Anderson's goal is his criminal record. His problems started first with a purse-snatching incident when he was a high school junior in 1985. Charges were never filed against Anderson and two other students involved. But by the end of his junior year in 1986, Anderson had been charged with reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident and driving without a license.

Those charges led to Anderson receiving a 30-month probationary sentence, which was altered at a subsequent revocation hearing in 1986, when he was placed on intensive probation.

Charges are also pending against Anderson in Miami, Okla., where in 1986 he pleaded guilty to a grand larceny charge for stealing a 120-inch, 14-carat gold necklace and one \$10 bill. Anderson was given a two-year probationary sentence, but a warrant was issued for his arrest on Feb. 10 because Anderson failed to report to his probation officer, according to Mike Lillie, an Ottawa County probation officer.

"All I can remember about the case is that he failed to report and that I made several attempts to locate him and couldn't," Lillie said. "He was not allowed to leave Oklahoma. He just left Oklahoma."

The list of prior offenses prompts Lowndes County District Attorney H. Lamar Cole to release a heavy sigh. "It's a shame, isn't it?" he asked. "But all of this is from his own doing. He got a couple of breaks from the courts, but he hasn't taken advantage of any of them."

There is little doubt that Anderson received many of his "breaks" because he was a star product of "Winnersville, U.S.A." a/k/a Valdosta, an agricultural and clothing manufacturing city in south Georgia with a population of 45,000. The town's lone high school is one that is rich in tradition, largely because of football teams that have produced 19 state championships and five unofficial national championships since 1940. This year, Valdosta High is 9-0, ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 2 in the country.

To say that football is king in Valdosta is an understatement. Pep rallies that last three to five hours are common. Last year, a weekly highlights program titled "Wildcat Tradition" was one of the most popular TV shows in town. A 1,200-member Valdosta Touchdown Club pumps at least \$25,000 into the Wildcats' program each year.

With a program that prides itself on success, Anderson's plight was hard for the community to swallow — at first.

"We love our football and we love our 'Cats, but we don't love them to do wrong," said David Waller, a prominent Valdosta businessman and a three-time president of the Touchdown Club. "There's always new stories about what Tony has gotten himself into, and none of them are good. After so many times, you just write a person off. He's history. Now when someone says, 'Tony Anderson is in jail,' you say maybe that's where he ought to be."

"The community would still be proud of him if he just straightened up, but I doubt if the community expects it. If I could remember all the promises he made to do good, they'd number in the tens. I just wonder why all of a sudden he would change now."

Anderson says he has changed, largely because of the time he has spent in jail.

"Since I've been in jail I've learned about Tony Anderson, the person," Anderson said. "I was perceived to be something that I wasn't — a superstar. I was put up on a very high pedestal since the time I was in eighth grade, but I had problems as a person. With this town, it's just football, football, football. Nobody seems to care about anything else. For most of my life, I've only known myself as an athlete. Now I have to deal with myself as a person."

Anderson said the pedestal began to crack when he was kicked off the team in 1985. The decision to remove Anderson, Hosea Heard and Johnny Crook from the varsity football squad is one with which Hyder still wrestles.



WILLIAM BERRY/Staff

Rosa Anderson, Tony Anderson's mother, displaying his three years as a star running back for Valdosta High School.

"First of all, let me say that I will always be Tony's coach no matter where he goes or what he does," said Hyder, who had great expectations for Anderson. "I'm not going to play (Pontius) Pilate and wash my hands of him and be clean of him. Nick Hyder is going to have to accept some responsibility because I have to live with Tony Anderson's future for the rest of my life."

Anderson caught Hyder's eye in seventh grade when he played for a junior high school team, part of a four-team feeder program to Valdosta.

"They called him 'Touchdown Tony,'" said a smiling Hyder, his eyes lighting up. "If our team was the Jackson Five, Tony would have been Michael."

"I've sat right here, and I've said, 'Tony, I've coached all these years, but you're the only player that I think could win the Heisman Trophy. I was telling him this when I was trying to counsel him by getting him to come to school more and to get better grades. Good God Almighty, what talent. What talent God blessed him with."

"He was what we coaches call a north-and-south runner. That means he was always going down someone's throat. The east-and-west runners are cowards. They run away from the collision. Tony would come at you; he would hit you. He'd come at two or three tackles and keep going. He wasn't afraid. He was tough."

"But he was difficult to coach. He didn't have the speed and discipline that Herschel had, but if he had worked at it, he could have been as good as Herschel."

Hyder estimates that Anderson would usually miss at least one practice a week, even if there was an upcoming game. If Hyder wanted Anderson to work out with 200 pounds of weight, Anderson would only work on 100. Hyder contends that Anderson was into "welfare football" — he didn't want to work hard for what he wanted to accomplish and even turned down offers that Hyder made to find him a job in lieu of giving him money.

"Tony's not going to work," Hyder said. "No-o-o-o-o-o! He wants it handed to him. Tony probably thought he was entitled to a share of the gross ticket receipts from the games."

Hyder recalled the many times he tried to get Anderson to come to school, noting that he had numerous unexcused absences. Or the times he tried to help other teachers in the school discipline Anderson when he failed to turn in homework or refused to succumb to punishment from his instructors.

"He has some rebellion in his thinking," Hyder said. "But on game nights, when the lights were turned on, he was ready to go. And the bigger the game, the better he was."

The turning point was the "Has Been-Will Be" spring game, which pitted Valdosta's graduating seniors against the returning players.

"Tony and two of his teammates showed up fall-down drunk," Hyder recalled angrily. "Completely disruptive. Thousands of people watching us saw them drunk on the sidelines. I sat them out of the game after the first quarter. They backed me into a corner."

"What do I do?" Hyder asked. "I couldn't let him set a bad example for these kids who are playing now. All the youngsters just think Tony is a hero. The younger kids wanted to be like Tony Anderson."

So what do I say? 'You're the state champions; it's

OK for you to come in here in front of everybody drunk?' If I OKed what they did, I would be telling the other youngsters it was OK for them to come to games drunk, too."

Hyder gritted his teeth, clenched his fists and shook his arms. "I thought that if I took football away from him that it would shake him up," he said. "Oh, he'd butter you up, he'd cuddle up to you. He's a charmer. But Tony didn't think I would do it. He thought there would be such an uprising and groundswell of support for him in the community that they'd force me to take him back."

"In my heart, I just tried to be a father to him. The town was behind me. People told me, 'You did the right thing.' But I failed because it got to that point to start with. Many times I think things would have been all right with Tony if he had not been this famous person."

The relationship between Hyder and Anderson rapidly deteriorated after that Friday evening conference in Hyder's office. Anderson vehemently criticized Hyder and his decision in local newspapers. "It was clear that he hated my guts," Hyder said. "He despised me."

Hosea Heard, now a receiver for the University of Pittsburgh, admits that he, Anderson and Johnny Crook had been drinking beer before the spring game. He says Hyder's punishment was much more of a blow to Anderson than to the others.

"First of all, let me say that I will always be Tony's coach no matter where he goes or what he does. I'm not going to play (Pontius) Pilate and wash my hands of him and be clean of him. Nick Hyder is going to have to accept some responsibility because I have to live with Tony Anderson's future for the rest of my life."



Atlanta Const. 11-10-87

— Nick Hyder

"I'm not going to say whether Coach Hyder was right or wrong," Heard said. "It hurt all us, but it hurt Tony the most. I think the punishment was too strict, but I felt that I had to go on with my life. I don't think Tony knew how to go on with his."

John Porter, an inside lineman for Georgia Tech, also played for Valdosta when Anderson was kicked off of the team. He remembers a drinking incident at summer football camp that involved Anderson and some older players.

"Tony didn't know how to turn his problems into something positive," Porter said. "His problems started some time ago. At camp, his attitude was, 'They caught me this time, but they won't catch me the next time.' He was always making excuses, alibis. I talked to him about it because he had changed somewhere down the line. But I think something should have been done much earlier and not so severe."

"There were other times, earlier, when he could have been disciplined and he wasn't. It caused some friction ... jealousy, yes, among some of the other guys on the team."

One of Anderson's closest friends was Dana Brinson, now a cornerback at Nebraska. "We were living in the fast lane when Tony was kicked off of the team, and it's been hard for him to get his life back on track," Brinson said.

"Coach Hyder was wrong for kicking Tony off of

the team. For what? Drinking?" Brinson released a hearty laugh. "Before the 'Has Been-Will Be' game, all the seniors get wasted before the game. Everybody knows that. Now that's a Valdosta High School tradition."

"Tony hung out with seniors. The only way he was out of line was because he was drinking not with his peers, but with the older guys. So in my opinion, Coach's decision was much too severe and Tony was crushed by the fact that he stuck with it."

Brinson raises his voice in anger at the suggestion that Anderson is solely responsible for his mistakes.

"You don't understand Valdosta," Brinson said. "Coach Hyder babied Tony and treated him like a damn king. Everybody did. It was very unhealthy, and now we see that it was very damaging."

"I don't want to condemn the town, but it's very unhealthy, the way Valdosta treats football. It's worse than Nebraska, and this is a college. In Valdosta, football is worshipped like a god. Tony was led to believe that football was his life, that if he continued to do this he was special, that nothing else mattered."

"Now Tony Anderson is just another name. Tony got wrapped up in what other people made him out to be. But when the football stopped, he didn't know how to deal with life itself. He felt like he went from being everything to nothing."

Anderson's family cannot forget the glory days for Tony. Dozens of trophies, which litter Rosa Anderson's living room floor, are constant reminders of her son's athletic success.

"The community just did him up so high and with him being kicked off of the team, it just took something out of him," said his older sister, Ella Jackson. "He just gave up in a way."

"People were always giving him, giving him, giving him anything he wanted. I just remember people would say to him: 'I want two (touchdowns) out of you tonight.' People even gave him money just because he got a couple of touchdowns. He didn't ask for any money. He was just doing what he loved best and people wanted to pay him for it."

When Anderson was an eighth-grader, his mother said, she was approached by a booster from a rival high school who offered her a home, a job and a car if her son transferred. Ms. Anderson, who declined to identify the school, confesses that she, too, was led to believe that her son was someone who was extraordinarily special — just because of football.

A single mother and a domestic worker, Ms. Anderson laments that maybe things would have been different if her son had a father to relate to. He never had one in the home.

"It could have made a difference," she said. "I should have been harder on him. But I was looking at it this way — Tony was a good football player. Before, he had never given me no trouble in no kind of way. But I should have been tighter on him, because he was hanging around with the wrong people. I shouldn't have just let him go everytime he wanted to. But everybody looked up to him, and everybody was saying, 'He's Tony Anderson.' I guess I just got carried away with that, too."

"As long as Tony was running that football, I never got any calls from his teachers. Never a call. It was not until he was off the football team that I heard a thing about him from anybody. It was just, 'He's such a good football player.' That's all I ever heard."

Ms. Anderson admitted she had viewed football as her son's ticket out of Valdosta into bigger and better things. "I thought football was the way he could go to college," she said.

"Every Monday morning and Saturday morning there was a big write-up about your child in the newspaper, and it made you feel good. To know that everyone thought your child had such a high standing in the town, it made me proud because everyone in this town was so proud of Tony just because of what he did when he was running that football. And then when he made a mistake, everybody just vanished from the face of the earth. It shakes me up; it sure do."

The bitterness extends to Anderson's nephew, Valdosta High sophomore Michael Anderson, who maintains an adversarial relationship with Hyder, his physical education instructor. Michael remembers one day in class when Hyder announced that Tony was in jail and had wasted a brilliant football career.

"I let it go, and I just held my head down," Michael recalls. "But when he was talking about Tony the second day, the other guys were saying, 'Man, he's wrong, putting your uncle down like that.' So I told Coach Hyder that I didn't appreciate it and he admitted that he was wrong."

Michael refuses to play football. "I think Tony was used," he explained. "He was spoiled, the coaches spoiled him, his family spoiled him and his friends. I felt that I had more sense than Tony did, but he didn't need any (common) sense, he had everything, everything he wanted. He didn't need to know about life. He was a star."

"When I played street football as a kid, everybody would always fuss over who was going to be Tony Anderson. Everybody wanted to be Tony and run the ball. The kids used to call me 'little T.A.' because they thought I was Tony's brother. Ever since I was 5 years old, I wanted to be like Tony, but I don't want to get used. I'm still proud of him because I know he ain't no criminal. Even when I'm a grown man and if someone says, 'that's T.A.'s little brother,' I'm still going to smile."

Tony Anderson has little to smile about. He does not know what his court hearing will reveal, given his past failures with his probation officer. According to the original conditions of his probation, Anderson was supposed to stay in school, but he dropped out of Valdosta High, Georgia Christian and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M junior college. According to the 1986 petition on his probation revocation, he was found in violation of his probation when a drug test revealed that he had used marijuana.

Anderson regrets turning to drugs and a much older adult crowd for consolation after he was kicked off the Valdosta squad. "I thought those people were my friends, but they just stabbed me in the back," he said.

His goal now is to put his troubles behind him and go to a junior college far away from Valdosta and attempt to get on a team as a walk-on. Anderson has maintained the same weight and build that he had in high school, doing push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups in his jail cell. "The guys here are totally behind me," he said. "They always tell me, 'There's hope; don't give up.'"

Hyder retains hope that Anderson can play college football someday. "I've got all the films of all the games he played and that would impress any college coach, even now," Hyder said. "But he's going to have to show that he has repented. The truth is that no one wants a convicted felon for a \$60,000 scholarship."

Anderson, however, is optimistic about playing again.

"I haven't lost sight of my dreams," he said. "I know how to cope with life without football and I'll be better able to cope with life with football."

FOOTBALL TEAM

BY HASKELL COHEN

FOR THE SECOND YEAR in a row, a Florida athlete has been named Player of the Year on PARADE's All-America High School Football Team. This year's star is 6-foot-7 Derek Brown, who weighs 235 pounds, covers 40 yards in 4.6 seconds and plays tight end for Merritt Island High, near Cape Canaveral. He follows Emmitt Smith, who has been a standout as a freshman at the University of Florida.

Indeed, Florida placed eight players among the 67 on this year's squad—the 25th to be chosen in collaboration with college coaches, scouts and recruiters around the country. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia are represented on the team. Georgia, Ohio and Texas each had six all-Americans, second only to Florida.

This year's balloting for Player of the Year was very close between the tight end Brown and Kevin Williams, a running back from Spring High in Spring, Tex., whom many coaches and recruiters felt to be the best in the country.

Describing this year's top player, the Merritt Island coach, Gerald Odum, says, "Potentially, Derek Brown is the best athlete in the history of our school. There's no question in my mind that ultimately he will go into the pro ranks. He's an all-around athlete, having made the all-conference basketball all-star team last year, and it will not surprise me one iota if he makes the Florida all-state team in basketball this coming season."

Kevin Williams, who is 6 feet 2 and weighs 195 pounds, has rushed for more than 3500 yards in his high school career. He also has averaged 19 points a game as a forward in basketball and is in the top quarter of his senior class. His coach, Dale Baker, says, "Kevin is a once-in-a-coach's-lifetime running back. I had the opportunity to coach Eric Dickerson, the standout NFL halfback, and feel that, at this stage of the high school game, Kevin ranks with Dickerson so far as speed and vision on the field are concerned."

College coaches feel that the outstanding high school lineman in the nation is Mike Lustyk, 6 feet 5 and 246 pounds, of Bellevue, Wash. Coach Rollie Robbins calls Lustyk "probably the youngster with the most potential of all the stu-

dents I've coached at Interlake High." He adds, "In addition to football, he led our basketball team and the league in rebounding and scoring and made all-conference in baseball."

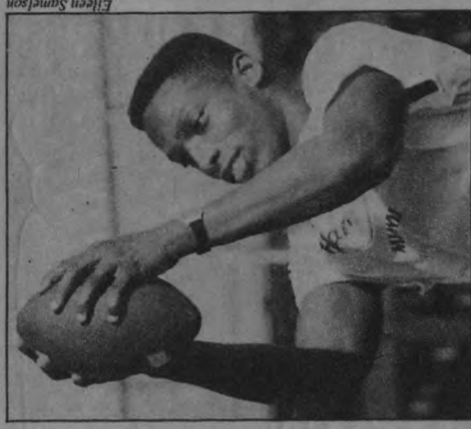
Curtis Bray of Gateway High School in Monroeville, Pa., at 6 feet 4 and 225 pounds, is regarded as best among the linebackers. "Curtis is as fine a player as we have ever had at Gateway," notes the athletic director, Larry Hanley. "He's the best linebacker we've ever had on our club and he's an all-around athlete."

The top defensive back, Buster Howe of Zanesville, Ohio, played both offense and defense this year. His coach, Whit Parks, says, "On defense this season, he made eight interceptions—running two back for touchdowns—and made 52 tackles. On offense, he scored 248 points, had a 40.8-yard punting average, rushed for 1695 yards and passed for 431 yards. He played a full game every time out, without a rest."

Three of the eight quarterbacks on this year's squad are from California, including the highest-rated, Todd Marinovich of Capistrano Valley High. He ended his four-year career with 8835 yards passing, breaking the record set by a 1977 PARADE all-American, Ron Cuccia, also of California. "He's one of the most gifted athletes I've ever run across," affirms his coach, Eric Patton. "I believe Todd is as good as any high school drop-back quarterback who has appeared on the scene in the past decade."

This year's team ranges in size from the 5-foot-9, 165-pound Ronnie Johnson of Texas to the substantial 6-foot-8, 285-pound Paul Sherrick of Ohio. One outstanding player, Florida's Harvey Thomas, a linebacker from Pompano Beach, made the squad despite injuries that cut his playing time to two games. However, he played well enough, when healthy, to be highly recruited.

Coaches selected Chris Gardocki of Redan High School, Stone Mountain, Ga., as the kicker for the squad. Gardocki finished the season with a 45-yard punting average, booted 31 extra points out of 31 attempts and succeeded at 11 out of 17 field goal tries. His longest field goal was for 59 yards, the best ever in Georgia. His kicking record is the ninth all-time best in the nation, according to recorded high school stats.



Parade's Player of the Year, Derek Brown



Kevin Williams



Lesfie Shepherd



Mario Johnson



Todd Collins



Chris Gardocki



Todd Marinovich



William Prince



Mike Lustyk



Curtis Bray



Buster Howe

Name	School	City	Ht.	Wt.
Quarterbacks (8)				
Todd Marinovich	Capistrano Valley	Mission Viejo, Calif.	6'5"	215
Michael Carr	Amite	Amite, La.	6'1"	177
Preston Jones	T.L. Hanna	Anderson, S.C.	6'3"	210
Darian Hagan	Locke	Los Angeles, Calif.	5'11"	190
Tony Sacca	Delran	Delran, N.J.	6'5"	200
Wendal Lowrey	Dillard	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	6'2"	180
Kirk Herbstreit	Centerville	Centerville, Ohio	6'4"	200
Bret Johnson	El Toro	El Toro, Calif.	6'1"	175
Running Backs (17)				
Kevin Williams	Spring	Spring, Tex.	6'2"	195
William Prince	Warren Central	Vicksburg, Miss.	6'3"	210
Jeff Simoneau	Smith Center	Smith Center, Kan.	6'2"	210
Kenyon Rasheed	Rockhurst	Kansas City, Mo.	5'11"	230
Xavier Crawford	Trezevant	Memphis, Tenn.	5'11"	205
Chuck Webb	Macomber	Toledo, Ohio	5'11"	195
O.J. McDuffie	Hawken	Gates Mills, Ohio	5'10"	175
Junior Hall	Ashbrook	Gastonia, N.C.	6'2"	210
Rod Smith	Roseville	Roseville, Minn.	6'0"	180
Rodney Culver	Deporres	Detroit, Mich.	5'11"	217
Raghib Ismail	Meyers	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	5'11"	272
Dexter McNabb	Walton	DeFuniak Springs, Fla.	6'2"	227
Adam Shinnick	Walpole	Walpole, Mass.	6'2"	194
Walter Boyd	Orange	Hillsborough, N.C.	6'0"	196
Kenny Spears	Woodward Academy	College Park, Ga.	6'2"	215
Raymond Braxton	Lackawanna	Lackawanna, N.Y.	5'9"	185
Bob Samuels	Farrell	Farrell, Pa.	6'1"	185
Wide Receivers/Tight Ends (9)				
Derek Brown	Merritt Island	Merritt Island, Fla.	6'7"	235
Leslie Shepherd	Forestville	Forestville, Md.	6'0"	170
Charles Steward	Valdosta	Valdosta, Ga.	6'4"	225
Rommie Johnson	LaMarque	LaMarque, Tex.	5'9"	165
Rodney McCoy	Villa Rica	Villa Rica, Ga.	6'2"	170
Bryan Sallier	Lincoln	Port Arthur, Tex.	6'8"	240
Mark Allen	Trumbull	Trumbull, Conn.	6'2"	228
Carl Pickens	Murphy	Murphy, N.C.	6'3"	185
Tre Everett	Ballou	Washington, D.C.	5'10"	180
Linemen (14)				
Mike Lustyk	Interlake	Bellevue, Wash.	6'5"	246
Mario Johnson	Hazelwood Central	Florissant, Mo.	6'4"	275
Bryan Madden	Broad Ripple	Indianapolis, Ind.	6'4"	275
Randy Hall	Halls	Knoxville, Tenn.	6'4"	274
Gene McGuire	Mosley	Panama City, Fla.	6'5"	275
Chester McGlockton	Whiteville	Whiteville, N.C.	6'4"	273
George Rooks	White Plains	White Plains, N.Y.	6'5"	270
Pete Kowalski	Central Catholic	Toledo, Ohio	6'5"	270
Ed King	Central	Phenix City, Ala.	6'4"	270
Lonnie Paielie	Blue Springs	Blue Springs, Mo.	6'5"	255
Paul Sherrick	Middletown	Middletown, Ohio	6'8"	285
Gariand Hawkins	DeMatha	Hyattsville, Md.	6'4"	232
Lindsay Knapp	Deerfield	Deerfield, Ill.	6'6"	232
Tim Cromartie	Godby	Tallahassee, Fla.	6'2"	253
Linebackers/Defensive Ends (12)				
Curtis Bray	Gateway	Monroeville, Pa.	6'4"	225
Todd Collins	Jefferson	Dandridge, Tenn.	6'3"	228
Michael Chalenski	Breatley	Kenilworth, N.J.	6'5"	235
Joe Bowden	North Mesquite	Mesquite, Tex.	6'2"	236
Harvey Thomas	Ely	Pompano Beach, Fla.	6'6"	220
Tommy Jeter	Deer Park	Deer Park, Tex.	6'6"	240
Shazzon Bradley	McMinn County	Athens, Tenn.	6'2"	230
Troy Ridgley	Ambridge	Ambridge, Pa.	6'4"	260
Payton Minter	M.L. King	Chicago, Ill.	6'5"	235
Freddie Richardson	Lowndes	Valdosta, Ga.	6'4"	247
Eric Renkey	North Hills	Pittsburgh, Pa.	6'3"	240
Zack Samuel	Manatee	Bradenton, Fla.	6'2"	210
Defensive Backs (6)				
Buster Howe	Zanesville	Zanesville, Ohio	5'10"	183
Baron Jackson	Southern Lab	Baton Rouge, La.	6'2"	190
Tyron Mouzon	Dunedin	Dunedin, Fla.	6'2"	215
Graylin Johnson	Austin	Port Arthur, Tex.	6'4"	205
Marvin Setzer	Bishop Noll	Hammond, Ind.	5'9"	183
Ken Swilling	Stephens County	Toccoa, Ga.	6'3"	220
Chris Gardocki	Redan	Stone Mountain, Ga.	6'2"	185

Thurs., Jan. 14, 1988

Twine Makes Strides

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Growing up, Cassandra Twine of the Valdosta Lady 'Cats didn't like basketball. In fact, she hated playing the game.

But fortunately for VHS ladies coach Susan Montgomery her 6-foot-2 post player has developed a love for the game and in the future could become one of the best players ever to come out of the Lady Wildcat program.

"I first started playing in the 7th grade but I hated it," sophomore Twine said. "But people kept encouraging me to play because I was



always taller than the other girls. It took a little while but I played last year and really began to enjoy the game. I love it now."

According to Montgomery, Twine has shown steady improvement since her freshman year but feels she can get even better.

"Cassandra has been on again and off again. Right now she's off but I feel that's because she's been ill," Montgomery said. "With her height she's got an advantage over most of the other girls but she still has to learn how to use it."

"But she's got the ability and I look for her to break some records here at VHS by the time she finishes her senior year."

Last July, Twine made the trip up to Knoxville, Tenn to participate in a basketball camp sponsored by the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers, the defending national champions of Division I women's basketball.

While at the week-long camp, Twine was able to meet and work with the entire coaching staff and players of the Lady Vols and because of her experience, feels she is the better player for it.

"I think I learned more in that week than I've ever learned before," she said. "It was a lot of hard work but it was a lot fun too. I was able to meet a lot of great players such as Sheila Frost, Tennessee's 6-5 center. Mostly we worked on the fundamentals of offense and defense aspects of the game."

Averaging 6.5 points per game so far this season, Twine feels her game has a long way to go but with hard work, has a chance to be a good player.

"Right now I feel that my strong point is defense but I have a lot of improvement to do," she said. "On defense all you have to do is be able to move your feet around and stay in position."

The Lady 'Cats have not been known for fielding powerhouse teams of late but according to Twine, her team's victory over arch-rival Lowndes last week could be a signal of better things to come.

"All the girls just played a great game that night," Twine stated. "We just went in and did the things that Coach Montgomery said we needed to do. She told us all we had to do was to execute our plays and we would have a chance to win."

With only two seniors on the team, the Lady 'Cats obviously have a very young team but Twine feels that with experience, this team has the potential to go a long way.

"Before the season started our goal was to play .500 ball. We're a very young team and for some, this is their first year playing basketball. But with hard work and play as a team, we may come close to that goal," Twine said. "Next year I feel, with more experience, we should be better than .500. And hopefully by my senior year we will win state."

Big Games For VHS, LHS

From Staff Reports

It's crunch time for Valdosta and Lowndes as both wade into Region 1-AAAA action Friday night.

The Vikings and Vikettes must make the long trip to Albany to take on Monroe, while Valdosta has the pleasure of taking on Dougherty at VHS. Both games will get underway at 7 p.m.

Two other key area games include Cook at Bacon in a Region 2-AA Southwest battle and Brooks at Randolph-Clay in a Region 1-AA South battle.

For both Brooks and Cook, the games will be litmus tests. Bacon and Randolph-Clay are ranked in the top 10 in their respective classifications.

In other local action, Berrien plays at Tift County, Westbrook hosts Valwood, Ehcols is at Atkinson, Madison hosts Hamilton, Georgia Christian travels to Terrell Academy, Pineland (Savannah) hosts Open Bible, and Lanier County hosts Irwin County.

Things don't get any easier for the Wildcats on Saturday as they travel to Tift County for another region game.

In other Saturday games, Berrien hosts Lowndes in a rematch of last week's game between the two at LHS. Hamilton plays at Fernindina Beach, Lanier at Cook, Terrell County at Brooks, and Lowndes Christian hosts Christian Heritage in its homecoming basketball game.

Mon. Jan. 15, 1988

Briefly

Two Valdosta Teens Killed In Accident

Two Valdosta teenagers were killed and an Adel teen was seriously injured in a head on collision Saturday night about 12 miles north of Nashville, Ga., on Ga. Highway 125, according to the Georgia State Patrol Post in Tifton.

Travis Michael Taylor, 16, of 3833 N. Oak St. Apt. 62, and his passenger Terry Ronald Cowart, 19, of 3833 N. Oak St. Apt. 164, were both killed in the accident, reported Trooper Eddie Edwards.

Taylor was a native of Valdosta and a student at Valdosta High School.

Cowart was a student at Valdosta State College and was also a Valdosta native.

The other passenger, Timothy Spell, 19, of Adel, is listed in stable condition in the surgical intensive care unit at Phoebe Putney Hospital in Albany, a hospital spokesman said.

The driver of the other vehicle, Charles Wallace Walker, 50, of Chula, was also killed during the accident, Edwards reported.

The accident occurred as Walker was driving north on Ga. 125 and crossed the center line striking Taylor's truck head-on, Edwards reported.

A blood alcohol test was performed on all of those killed, which according to a spokesman for the State Patrol is standard procedure with fatalities. The spokesman was unable to say will the results of the test would be complete.

Wed., Jan. 20, 1988

Wildcats Pin Camden But Vikings Fall Short

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In local wrestling action last evening at the Lowndes gymnasium, the wrestling teams from Valdosta and Lowndes squared off against the Camden Wildcats in a two team meet.

The Lowndes Vikings, the host squad, were simply unable to overtake early Camden leads, as they fell to defeat 36-35. But not before staging a tremendous rally to pull within one point at 24-23 with only four matches remaining.

The Valdosta Wildcats, on the other hand, defeated Camden by the score of 57-14. The 'Cats parlayed nine pins to their credit for the unanimous victory.

Valdosta 57, Camden 14
103 — Peterman (V) pinned Author. 112 — McGhin (C) pinned Moore. 119 — Wakefield (V) pinned Swilley. 125 — Bridges (V) pinned Kennedy. 130 — Finland (V) pinned Baker. 135 — McLeod (V) dec. over Jarmillio. 140 — Alexander (C) dec. over Smith. 145 — Mueller (V) pinned Johnson. 152 — Odell (V) pinned Akins. 160 — R. Moorman (V) pinned Gant. 171 — A. Moorman (V) pinned Channey. Smith (V) pinned Langlois. HWT. — Gilbert (C) pinned Hancock.

Camden 36, Lowndes 35
103 — Author (C) pinned Stewart. 112 — McGhin (C) pinned Barker. 119 — Black (L) dec. over Swilley. 125 — Hendricks (L) pinned Kennedy. 130 — Baker (C) pinned Rice. 135 — Jarmillio (C) pinned Jones. 140 — Bramlett (L) dec. over Alexander. 145 — Hiers (L) dec. over Johnson. 152 — Swords (L) pinned Akins. 160 — Gant (C) pinned Estes. 171 — Channey (C) pinned Jones. 189 — Broome (L) pinned Langlois. HWT. — Miller (L) pinned Gilbert.

For Viking head coach Newnan Sanchez, an outstanding comeback bid fell just one point shy. Giving up two

pins in the final four matches sealed their fate.

"You can't win if you give up pins. That's what it is all about," said Sanchez. "Our confidence level was still very high even after the early Camden lead, we just didn't execute and gave up crucial pins."

It was not a good beginning to say the least for the Vikings. Camden jumped out to an early 12-0 advantage with two first round pins before Spencer Black put Lowndes on the board with a 7-3 decision over Camden's Mike Swilley.

The Vikings' Lee Hendricks then answered the bell by pinning Steve Kennedy pulling the Vikings closer at 12-9.

Camden then had two pins of their own widening the margin once again. This time the Wildcats were up 24-9 over the Vikings with seven matches to go. Lowndes then made its move.

The Vikings won the next three matches to close the gap to only a single point at 24-23.

Lowndes' Bobby Bramlett scored a unanimous decision 11-0 over David Alexander cutting into the Camden cushion.

A Jimmy Hiers 8-0 decision brought Lowndes within seven at 24-17, and a Billy Swords pin at the :47 second mark of the opening period set the stage for the final four matches.

But the Vikings comeback would fall short on this night, as the Wildcats scored pin falls in the next two

matches to seal the win.

Two opening round pins by both of the Vikings' Darren Broome and Chuck Miller were simply not enough.

Broome's pin came just 1:00 into the opening stanza, while Miller put his man to the mat at the :43 mark of the same period.

The match was a credit to the hardwork and dedication of the Lowndes squad said Sanchez. Only the mistakes did them in.

"We had it, then gave it away," said Sanchez. "Overall, I'm pleased with our performance and then again still disappointed."

For Jim Landrums' 'Cats, it was simply one dominating match after another.

The Valdosta team posted nine pins and one decision in the thirteen match competition. According to Landrum, it was simply a good opportunity granted by the host Vikings to participate in this match.

"We were just happy to be invited and able to participate so well," said Landrum. "The kids came out with a very good effort, thus the win."

Valdosta wasted no time, as Steve Peterman proceeded to pin Camden's Scott Author just :39 seconds into the match giving his team an early 6-0 advantage.

Camden's Trip McGhin answered with a pin of his own to even the score at 6-6 just two matches gone, but for the Camden Wildcats it would be one of only three wins on the night.

Valdosta built an 18-6 lead with first period pins by Truett Wakefield and Justin Bridges. Wakefield's pin came at the :28 mark, while Bridges only needed 25 seconds to dispose of his man.

Jason Finland answered with a second period pin giving the 'Cats a 24-5 lead courtesy of an un-sportsmanlike conduct foul charged to

Camden's Terrance Baker.

Two matches later, Valdosta reeled off five consecutive pins to close the door shut on the Camden team.

The pins came from Brian Mueller, David Odell, Ryan Moorman, Ashley Moorman, and Steve Smith.

"You always want to stay sharp throughout the season and thanks to this opportunity, we should be in good

shape," said Landrum. "We now must turn our attentions toward this weekends match in Columbus."

Valdosta's next match will be the Hardaway Invitational (Jan. 22-23) in Columbus, while the Vikings take on Appling County (Jan.21) in Baxley, before partaking in the Hardaway Invitational as well.

Valdosta Surprises Central-Thomasville

VDT, Wed, Jan. 20, 1988

From Staff Reports

THOMASVILLE— The Valdosta Wildcats defeated the Central Yellow Jackets 69-66, but the Lady 'Cats were not as fortunate losing to Central 61-36 in girls action here last night.

According to Valdosta Wildcat head coach John Miller, it was a total team effort that spurred the victory.

"It was the best overall team performance this season," said Miller. "We played as well as we could possibly play and the hard work paid off."

Leading the way for Millers' 'Cats was freshman Carlo Butler. Butler pumped in 18 points on the night, while ripping down eleven boards.

Vincent Williams and James Manning also had a good performances on the evening. Williams scored 11 points, while Campbell score 8 in the victory. All of Williams' 11 points came in the second period as the Wildcats began to open up a lead on the Central squad.

"That second period was the best period this season. We were very aggressive in our play and it showed," said Miller.

In the second half, the 'Cats held off late Central rally attempts to prevail by six. According to Miller, it was the steady play of his entire team that made the difference.

"We were able to play a lot of people tonight, but more importantly everyone's effort was superb," said

Miller. "We made a lot of great strides in this game tonight, it's just a matter of staying at this level the rest of the way."

For Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats, the outcome was not to their liking. The heavily favored Lady Jackets roared past Montgomery's team with a furious 22 point third period performance that did in the Lady 'Cats on this night.

"At halftime we still had a chance to get back into it, but we simply could not score anything in the third period and it got away from us quick," said Montgomery. "As far as our play tonight, we need better inside play if we expect to do anything. Tonight was a perfect example of that."

(Boys)
Valdosta (69)— Manning 8, Campbell 6, King 6, Phillips 6, Spencer 4, Butler 18, Moore 5, Williams 11, Hart 2, Iverson 3.
Central (66)— Ward 20, Range 14, Payne 15, Dapheny 4, Wright 2.
Valdosta.....13 24 11 21 —69
Central.....16 8 18 24 —66
Records — Valdosta 47
Next Game — Fri. Jan. 22, at Westover

(Girls)
Valdosta (36)— Plummer 15, Anderson 6, Phillips 4, Twine 4, Dennis 3, Schlesner 2, Larry 2.
Central (61)— Lawton 12, Brennan 6, Scott 4, Taylor 6, Lovejoy 7, Register 4, Thomas 18, Duran 4.
Valdosta.....4 14 9 9 —36
Central.....15 10 22 14 —61
Records — Valdosta 28
Next Game — Fri. Jan. 22, at Westover

On The Road 69-66

City Schools' Test

VDT, Wed, Jan. 20, 1988

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Thursday is "C-Day" for Valdosta schools as a team of evaluators comes to the system for the first Comprehensive Standards Evaluation.

"This is the grand finale," said Director of Personnel and Instruction Vickie Burt, who has been in charge of preparing the schools for the evaluation.

Mrs. Burt briefed the members of the Valdosta Board of Education Monday night on the review which staff members have been working on for months.

Mateland Adams will head up the team of five evaluators from the state and they will arrive Thursday at 8 a.m.

A yearly review has always been conducted by the state, but this is the first review in which all the mandates of the Quality Basic Education Act must be documented as proof of implementation.

"If it hasn't been documented it hasn't been done as far as the state's concerned," said Mrs. Burt.

If any of the criteria are not met, the system will be considered in non-compliance. The state has 30 days to

notify the system of the results of the review and then the system has 30 days to get in compliance.

Of the some 40 schools around the state which have been reviewed, only one, the Bryan County School System in southeast Georgia, has passed the evaluation.

Among the items which the evaluators will examine are enrollment, schedules, curriculum guides and board policies.

Three hours have been allocated for each school in the system and although the team will not be evaluating classroom activity, teachers may be interviewed, said Mrs. Burt.

This is the first part of a three-year cycle review. Upon completion of the cycle the systems will only have the comprehensive evaluation every four or five years.

But that hasn't helped decrease the additional work load which has been placed upon administrators and educators to prepare for this review.

"So many of the things are not realistic. We are hoping for some relief," said Supt. Walter Altman.

For example, schools must now conduct a quarterly inventory of furnishings and supplies instead of a yearly inventory.



Quarterback Greg Talley Has Impressed Coaches At UGA

Talley Shines At UGA

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Georgia Coach Vince Dooley was cheered Thursday by the return to football practice of senior linebacker John Brantley, expected to be a mainstay for the Bulldogs' defense.

He had been out with a hamstring muscle injury.

"It's good to see John back out there," Dooley said. "We just have to make sure we don't push him too hard."

Freshman quarterback Greg Talley, who led Valdosta High School to state and national championship honors last year, was bracketed with junior Wayne Johnson as the first team quarterback. Regular starter James Jackson is out with a shoulder injury, although he is expected to be ready for Virginia.

"As we've said since we started, we're going to make some changes in the depth chart due to performance," Dooley said. "Based on Wednesday's scrimmage, Talley performed better than Johnson. On the other hand, it's a position you don't make arbitrary decisions for."

"So considering the fact that Johnson's been around, we bracketed the two of them with Johnson being first among equals," he said.

Talley completed 7 of 13 passes in Wednesday's scrimmage.

Valdosta's Campbell Leading By Example

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

A local wise man tracking the progress of the Valdosta Wildcat basketball team has predicted the 'Cats are two years away from having a truly bountiful season.

While local fans might find some solace in this statement, a person unfortunately caught in the web of time is senior guard Gary Campbell. Campbell has certainly played a part in leading his younger teammates toward the proposed promised land, but he won't be able to cross over.

Campbell's edition of the VHS Wildcats is sitting on a 3-5 overall mark and 0-3 region mark. While the Wildcats won't bring home many trophies at their current clip, they have played well. And Campbell has a lot to do with the team's upward swing.

The 5-10 co-captain of the team is averaging in double figures and is a good rebounder despite his position and size.

But what really makes Campbell valuable to head coach John Miller is his desire.

"He has a great attitude and really wants to do well," said Miller. "If I had to draw up a perfect basketball player it would be Gary Campbell."

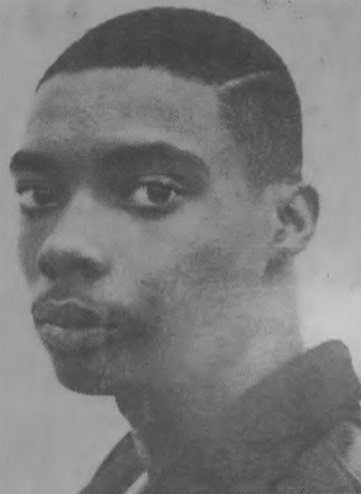
Campbell is the sole returning starter off last year's squad, and shares his captain's duties with senior post player Lonnie Phillips.

Last season, Campbell took home the best defensive trophy, and is well on his way to earning it for yet another season.

According to Campbell, one of the biggest keys to playing good defense is being in shape and hustling back after the ball changes hands.

"I just try to get back on defense and get set up," said Campbell. "My defense is getting better, offensively I think I'm about the same. That's where I hope to improve."

Campbell has played in the YMCA summer league, but never played



GARY CAMPBELL

organized ball in junior high. In the 9th grade, he decided to give basketball a try and worked hard at his game.

Campbell obviously got some help from his older brother, Wallace, who graduated from VHS in 1985 and went on to play at St. John's Junior College in Florida.

Campbell also attended basketball camp at Florida State during the off season to further hone his skills.

"What I like about Gary is that he leads by example," said Miller. "I've tried to get the kids to learn to never make excuses. Gary hardly says anything and I usually have to ask him if he's hurt."

"One time he had a badly bruised thigh and he really couldn't practice, but he ran with the team after practice. That's just the kind of kid he is."

Campbell and Phillips are the undisputed leaders of a relatively young VHS squad that came only two points from topping Monroe on the road last weekend.

Valdosta has come close during almost every loss. Perhaps with a little luck and a lot of work, Phillips and Campbell still have time to turn this season around.

VHS 9th-Graders Topple Echols

The Valdosta High 9th-grade boys team beat Echols County 42-24 here Thursday afternoon. VHS was led by Alfred Graham with 16 points. Dee Staten paced Echols with 10 points.

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Valdosta's 9th-grade team now stands at 3-2.

VHS Debate Competition A Success

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Eighteen schools competed in the second annual debates at Valdosta High School and according to team sponsor Frank Hjort, the event was a success.

"This was a real learning experience for the students and helps them prepare for the region tournament," said Hjort.

Schools from Brunswick to Macon participated in the day-long event, with Lee County High School in Leesberg taking the top honor for the day.

Second place went to Glynn Academy of Brunswick, third to Tift County High in Tifton and fourth to Central High of Thomasville.

Valdosta High School debaters did not compete but served as the hosts for the event. "My students did a great job at helping with the tournament," said Hjort.

The structure of the tournament allowed for both experienced and novice debaters. Also, several schools attended the tournament to watch the debates.

This year's debate topic is "Resolve that the U.S. should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America."

Hjort said not only does debating provide the students with an opportunity to travel and meet students from other schools, it greatly increases their knowledge of current events.

"The research can be used for other classes or in college. A lot of these debaters save their material," he said.

In addition, Hjort believes participating in debate provides the students with an opportunity to explore other careers.

He said the success of the VHS tournament shows there is a need for other non-region competitions.

"There is a definite need for more tournaments. I hope we can continue this because many of the debaters need more experience," he said.

VHS Football Banquet To Be Held Feb. 1

The annual Valdosta High football banquet will be held Monday Feb. 1 at Valdosta High School. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. with the awards portion of the evening to immediately follow in the Little Theatre Auditorium.

This year's speaker will be Valdosta State head football coach Mike Cavan who has coached at VSC for two years and gave Blazer fans two winning seasons, the first in VSC history.

Broome, Peterman Win Hardaway Tournament

Both Lowndes and Valdosta fared well in the Hardaway Invitational wrestling tournament held this past weekend.

Both team placed four men in the tourney. Lowndes' Darren Broome won the first tournament of his career at 189 pounds and Valdosta's Steve Peterman placed first at 105.

Viking heavyweight Chuck Miller took second, Bobby Bramlett (140) finished third, and Billy Swords (152) was fourth.

Others placing for Valdosta were Ashley Moorman who was third at 171, Chuck Bonner fourth (140), and Brian Mueller fourth (145).

Troup won the tournament with 232½ points. Valdosta was fourth with 110 and Lowndes took seventh with 81. A total of 18 teams participated.

Lowndes will host Valdosta Wednesday night at 7 p.m.

VHS Interact Club Dancing

VDI 1-30-88

By Leslie Hiers

All young dancers of the Valdosta High School Interact Club and their partners had an opportunity to appear on "Americian Bandstand" in Los Angeles, Calif.

Interact sponsored an ARRIVE

Six Flags Party

"I promise not to drink or use other drugs while driving, or ride with a driver under the influence. I promise to wear my safety belt at all times. I promise to support activities free of alcohol and other drugs."

This simple pledge is the cornerstone of Arrive Alive Georgia, an organization whose leading force is the teenage community which makes up its membership. On Saturday, February 13th, Arrive Alive and Georgia Public Television combine efforts to increase awareness of that pledge to the teenage population of Georgia.

The Arrive Alive Valentine's T.V. Party, broadcast live on GPTV from Six Flags Over Georgia, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., is a unique outreach project. The goal is clear — to have no teenage deaths related to alcohol or other drugs this school year.

To achieve that goal, Arrive Alive has intensified its membership campaign; to date, over 135 Georgia high schools have chapters, boasting over 500,000 teenagers who have signed the Arrive Alive Pledge in Georgia alone.

The special GPTV broadcast is scheduled to occur simultaneously with many high school Valentine's Day dances held across the state. Many of those dances will take on a new twist.

This year...the music will be provided from the GPTV broadcast, so each high school dance really becomes a "group event/viewing" of the television program.

And what music there will be! The headliner group, Native, is a five-piece straight ahead rock'n'roll band. Featuring vocalist Debbie Davis, Native has been performing for over five years throughout the Southeast in such cities as Atlanta, Nashville, Palm Beach and Birmingham. Much to its delight, Native has recently signed a recording contract with Clive Davis of Arista Records, the man responsible for bringing both Whitney Houston and Bruce Springsteen to audiences worldwide.

The live music will be augmented by music videos and records, and it will all be tied together by Domino — the new evening DJ from Power 99 (99.7 FM in Atlanta). Domino will also be one of the judges of the dance contest, another unique aspect of the project.

Arrive Alive chapters across the state are sending dance couples to Six Flags. The judges will select the winning couple that evening and award them the grand prize...a trip to Los Angeles and an appearance on American Bandstand.

To heighten interest in the teenage viewing audience, several prize drawings will be held throughout the evening. Students who have sent in postcards will have a chance to win concert tickets as well as a "matching" grand prize — a trip to Los Angeles and an American Bandstand appearance.

In addition to all this, Rich's will present a fashion show spotlighting what's hot this Spring in teen fashion trends. The telecast will also feature a comedy improvisation group provocatively called "Elive Has Left the Building," whose sketches will emphasize the real message of the program — say Yes to Life and Yes to Your Future, don't drink and drive or ride with a drinking driver.

ALIVE DANCE CONTEST at 7:30 p.m. in the VHS gym January 28, 1988.

The winners of this contest will compete at the state level, broadcast LIVE from Six Flags over Georgia, February 13. The winning couple at state receives a trip to Los Angeles and an appearance on "Americian Bandstand," scheduled for March 25-27.

Also, any student from VHS may address a postcard to ARRIVE ALIVE including his or her name, address, and phone number.

During the two-hour live broadcast from Six Flags, post cards will be drawn for various prizes, one of which is also a trip to Los Angeles and an appearance on "Americian Bandstand."

Further details concerning both the local and state contests are available at Valdosta High School.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

VHS Wrestling

VDI 1-31-88

From Staff Reports

ATLANTA — The Valdosta Wildcats tuned up for this week's Area Wrestling Tournament by winning two out of three matches here Saturday night.

The 'Cats defeated Sprayberry 46-27, Etowah 39-24 but lost to McEachern 39-36.

For Valdosta, in the 103 weight

class, Steve Petermann won all three of his matches. Justin Bridges was two-of-three in the 125, Chuck Bonner two-of-three in the 130 and Jeff McCloud won all three of his matches in the 140 division.

Maurece Dean won two-of-three in the 152, Derrick Phillips won all three in the 160 including two pins, Ashley Moorman picked up two wins in the 171 and Steve Smith had two wins in the 189.

Suwannee Pulls Out Tight Match Against Valdosta

VDI 1-15-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

If Valdosta had been gambling instead of wrestling Thursday night, snake eyes would have definitely come up more times than boxcars.

Valdosta fell to Suwannee High here last night 33-28 in a match that could have easily gone the other way.

"It's been a long day," said Valdosta head coach Jim Landrum. "At times, we didn't wrestle very well at all. We gave away matches at 103 and 119, and we got pinned. Like I've always said, in a match of this caliber, you just can't afford to give up pins."

The 103-pound match set the tone for the rest of the match. Valdosta's Steve Peterman was wiping up the mat with Bulldog Willie Ford, jumping out to a 13-2 advantage. But Ford reversed Peterman and pinned him.

Valdosta tied the match at 6-6 when Carlos Moore pinned his opponent, but at 119 VHS' Truett Wakefield saw a 6-1 lead evaporate and he, too, was pinned.

The Wildcats then lost the next five weight classes by decisions, five losses with only a combined margin of 11 points.

Justin Bridges fell 8-7 at 125, Jeff McLeod (135) lost 8-6, and Shawn Smith (140) fell 3-1.

Brian Mueller (145) collected the Wildcats' first win of the night with an 8-0 decision, but a pin at 152 set Valdosta back and the Wildcats trailed

27-10.

Brothers Ryan Moorman (160) and Ashley Moorman (171) then put the 'Cats back into the match by earning first-quarter pins to make it 27-22.

But Valdosta's Steve Smith couldn't hold off Suwannee's Kenny Gwin and the Bulldogs sealed the win with a 33-22 lead with only one match left.

Wildcat heavyweight Will Hancock ended the match by pinning Suwannee's Marcus Jones to account for the final 33-28 score.

"Mueller did a good job and beat a tough kid," said Landrum. "Both Moorman boys were terrific. Will Hancock's young but came in and did a good job for us."

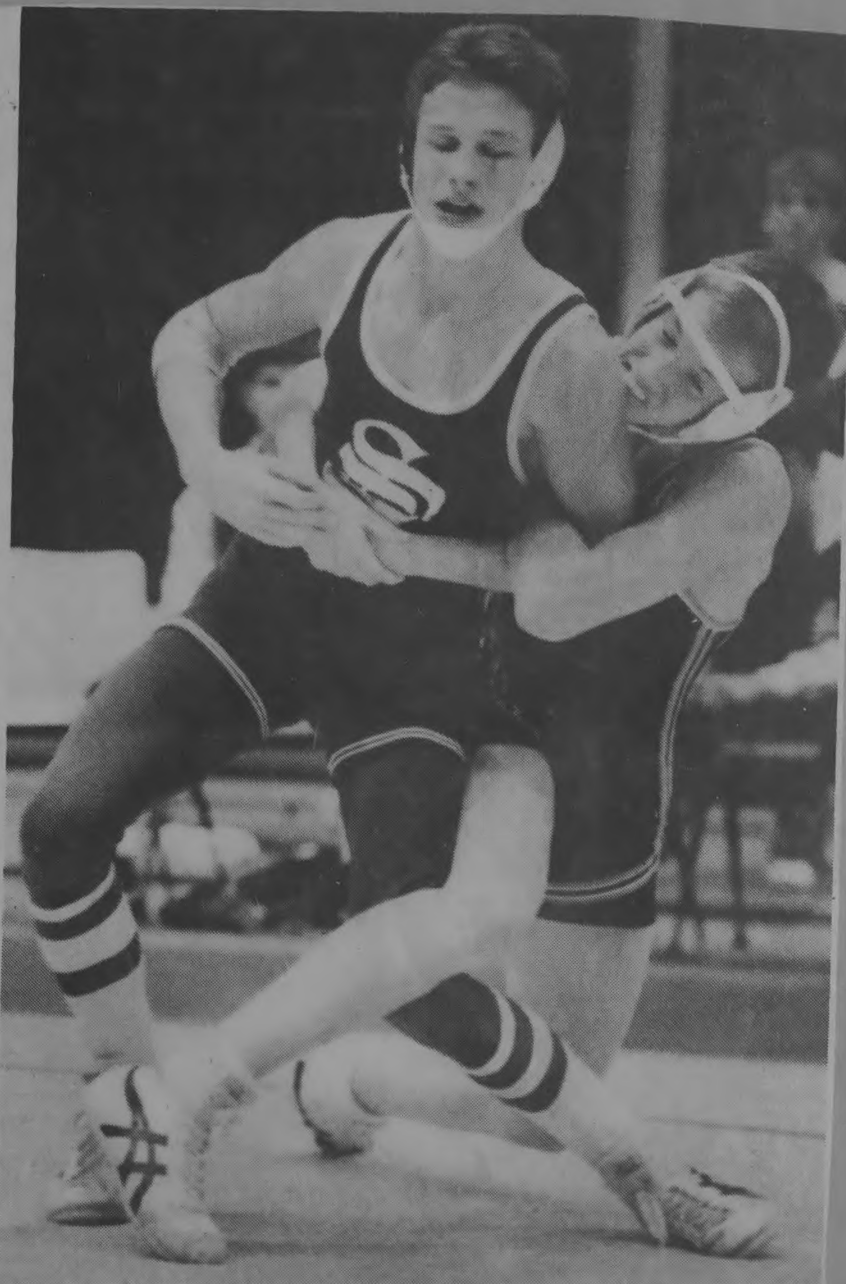
Hancock and David O'Dell at 152 are likely to become permanent fixtures in the VHS varsity lineup. O'Dell will replace Maurice Dean who quit the team yesterday, and Shaun Eilders won't be back at heavyweight because of a knee injury.

"Maurice really let us down," said Landrum. "He just decided to quit right before a big tournament. That's quite a shot to take."

Valdosta, 6-3, will travel to the Southwest Invitational in Macon starting tonight and finishing Saturday night.

Suwannee 33, Valdosta 28

103 — Ford (S) pinned Peterman, 112 — Moore (V) pinned Crane, 119 — Langston (S) pinned Wakefield, 125 — Smith (S) dec. Bridges, 130 — Clayton (S) dec. Finland, 135 — Croft (S) dec. McLeod, 140 — Hillhouse (S) dec. Smith, 145 — Mueller (V) dec. Haynes, 152 — Bell (S) pinned O'Dell, 160 — R. Moorman (V) pinned Howard, 171 — A. Moorman (V) pinned Brown, 189 — Gwin (S) pinned Smith, HWT — Hancock (V) pinned Jones.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Justin Bridges Fights For Control

90

Valdosta Set To Challenge Westover

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

After upsetting Central-Thomasville Tuesday night, the Valdosta Wildcats have a chance to win two games in a row. That is, if they can whip the Westover Patriots in Albany Friday night.

According to Wildcat coach John Miller, his team has about as good a chance of beating the Patriots as the "Americans had of beating the Russians" in the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Miller could be right. Westover has yet to lose a game, coming into Friday's contest with a perfect 14-0 mark, 5-0 in Region 1-AAAA and ranked No. 5 in the state.

"We haven't won two in a row this year and for us to do it now would take a miracle," Miller said. "On paper our chances seem slim but we played them close last year, three points at their place and two points here.

"They have one of the most talented teams in the state but we're not going to back down from anybody."

In other games around the area it's

Cook at Berrien County, Clinch at Atkinson, Ravenwood at Valwood, Broxton at Echols County, Hamilton County at Jefferson County, Madison County at FAMU, Open Bible at Lake City, Nicholls at Lanier and Brooks travels to Early County.

Carlo Butler pumped in 18 points and Vincent Williams 11 against Central Thomasville but the 'Cats may need even more to stay with the Patriots.

"I think that we have played fairly well," Westover coach Willie Boston said. "We've rebounded well as a team, play pretty good defense and

shoot the ball fairly well. We're about average as far as size goes. I would like to think we do a good job in every area and not just one or two. We're not dominant in any one area by any means but I feel we do a good job."

Starting for the Patriots will be 6-1 point guard Reginald Ward. Ward a senior is the Patriots' leading scorer averaging 16 points per game.

Ward supporting cast includes Eric Whitaker at shooting guard, 6-2 Rodney Ford, 6-5 Reginald Tinch and 6-7 Banastreus Wingfield at the forward

positions. Tinch is the leading rebounder averaging 14 per game.

Valdosta will counter with John Iverson and Gary Campbell at guards, 6-4 Lonnie Phillips at center and 6-5 Vincent Williams and 6-2 Carlo Butler at the forward positions.

"We're going to have to execute extremely well and be very patient on defense," Boston said. Valdosta has a very patient ball club and we went down there 10-1 last year and were lucky to win."

One advantage Valdosta may have is that Saturday night, the Patriots will be facing arch-rival Monroe and Boston admits that may be in the back of his players' minds.

"We're looking for a very tough basketball game. We haven't been able to concentrate on basketball because of semester exams, and rightfully so. But I'd be lying if I said we weren't thinking about Monroe, as big as the rivalry is between us. So due to the fact we play Monroe the next night, the game Friday is up for grabs."

Lowndes, Valdosta Set To Square Off On Basketball Court

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School will be the site tonight for the rematch or round two if you will, between cross-town rivals Lowndes and Valdosta.

The Region 1-AAAA slugfest tips off at 6 pm. when the Lady Wildcats, 3-9 and 2-4 in region play, take on the 6-7 Vikettes and the region leader with a 4-1 mark. In the nightcap, the Lowndes Vikings 8-6 and 2-3 try to make it two in a row over the 4-8 and 0-6 Wildcats.

Lowndes and Valdosta split on Jan. 5th. The Vikings handed the Wildcats a 15-point defeat by the score of 72-57, while the Lady Wildcats surprised the Vikettes 42-38 marking the first Valdosta win over Lowndes in eight years.

In other local hoop action tonight, Cook entertains Waycross, Valwood hosts Pineand, Berrien is at Lanier, Clinch travels to Charlton County, Echols entertains Hamilton County, Brooks is at Seminole County, Marnatha is at Open Bible, Madison hosts Jefferson County and Georgia Christian entertains Brookwood.

Although no one coach from either squad is predicting any outcomes this time around, each does however expect certain changes.

"The margin of victory we enjoyed in the first game with Valdosta is in no way indicative of us being the dominating squad, against a very

talented Wildcat team. And by the same token, it doesn't mean that we will necessarily be on the winning end of the scoreboard," said Wilkes. "We'll have to earn it."

According to Valdosta's Miller, the 'Cats must find a way to play four periods with the Vikings.

"In the first contest we proved to ourselves we can play with them, now it's a matter of finishing what we start," said Miller. "Lowndes is so talented, therefore, we must simply try and get into our style of game and hope for the best."

The word from the Vikettes practice grounds is simply, play with more emotion and intensity. That coming from Vikette head coach Elinor Goode.

"Give Valdosta credit, they played a great game the first time and defeated us. But we as a team must look for an overall better effort than in the last contest," said Goode. "We must try and take away some of the things that was a key for Valdosta, but most importantly for our team is the simple fact of turning our game up a notch. I don't expect Valdosta to make any real changes simply because their earlier game plan was successful."

Resembling the same team that won on Jan. 5th and being wary of any and all changes from the Vikettes is Lady Wildcat head coach Susan Montgomery's concern. "I'm pretty sure that Lowndes will

enter our building a better prepared team, no question," said Montgomery. "We have a very big task awaiting us. Not only will we have to play very well in all phases to have a chance for a second win, but be prepared for a more deliberate Lowndes squad. Adjusting to any changes come game time will be the key."

For Miller's Valdosta Wildcat team to pickup its first region victory in seven tries, Valdosta must find a way to stop Wilkes' intimidating frontline. Led by 6-foot-9 sophomore Marvin Lucas, 6-5 senior Arney Lucas, and 6-2 junior Israel Brown.

"To try and stop them is impossible. To try a limit their opportunities is something we shall try and do," said Miller. "Brown and (Arney) Lucas killed us in the previous game. Lowndes pulls no punches. We will have to simply play a tremendous game on the boards and take high percentage shots to have any chance."

Offensively for Valdosta they will try and counter with some of electricity of their own. Leading the way will be 5-11 senior guard Gary Campbell. Campbell is averaging almost ten points per contest along with an 11 rebound average.

Campbell's backcourt mate will be senior John Iverson. The Wildcat frontline is led by 6-4 senior Lonnie Phillips, 6-5 junior Vincent Williams, sophomore Jason King and junior Carlo Butler. Butler's playing status is

unconfirmed due to an injury suffered in last weekend's action.

On the other side of the ledger, Wilkes is making sure his team understands the capability of the Valdosta Wildcats.

"Anytime you go into a contest of the magnitude of Lowndes-Valdosta the emotional factor comes into play," said Wilkes. "Valdosta has the weapons to beat anyone. Valdosta's ball control type offense is a key concern for our team. We must be prepared for all angles, because that is what they do best. (Gary) Campbell, (John) Iverson, (Vincent) Williams, and (Carlo) Butler can make things happen from anywhere."

Along with the Lucas brothers and Brown, Wilkes' Vikings will include senior guard Bryan London and junior Calvin Murphy in the backcourt along with senior Derrick Thomas.

Montgomery's team for the first time in the last decade will be setting its sights on defeating the Vikettes twice in the same season. But for that wish to become a reality, Valdosta must find a way to stop the region leading Lowndes squad. Led by senior's Laine Scarborough and Carol Bradley.

Scarborough leads the Vikettes averaging 19.4 points per game and has scored 66 in her last three contests. Bradley is second on the Vikettes averaging 16.

"We can't allow these two players to enjoy a great evening. Scarborough

and Bradley make the Vikettes wheels and turn. But it's the entire teams productivity that is the real concern," said Montgomery. "In the past few games Lowndes has been getting good play from its bench. To be in a position to win, all avenues must be covered."

The Lady Wildcats will be led by senior forward Valerie Plummer. Plummer averages 13 points per game. With Plummer will be the team's leading rebounder junior center Swandolyn Phillips. Phillips is grabbing close to 10 rebounds per contest.

The rest of the probable starters include junior guard Sissy Anderson, sophomore forward Cassandra Twine, and freshman guard Ashley Schlessner.

Goode's philosophy will be the continuation of an entire team effort to get the job done.

"Everyone will have to do her share. Entering this contest, the overall team confidence is becoming more evident and I certainly hope that trend continues against Valdosta," said Goode. "It has been a joy to see the other members of the team picking up the slack and coming to the front. Our success does not rely on just Scarborough and Bradley. And the rest of players are beginning to lessen the load."

With Scarborough and Bradley, Goode's supporting cast will include forwards Stephanie Hall and Christy Campbell and guards Jill Dykes and

Julie Eason.

One sidenote to the Vikettes attack, Scarborough will be trying to add to her career point total which eclipsed the 1,000th mark with her 20 point performance in last weekend's action versus Thomasville. Scarborough has 1,005 total points.

The bottom line for each of the four teams' entering round two of the cross-town rematch seems to be centered around each team looking to play up their ability.

"We only expect to play our game and hopefully be successful," said Miller. "It doesn't get any easier."

Wilkes had a comment along those lines saying, "We have to look at this game as a very pivotal region contest, as well as a cross-town clash."

"Balanced scoring and timely defensive play will determine our fate," said Montgomery. "We really need to look at this as just another game. If that's possible."

Goode expressed the importance of the turnover situation that has plagued her squad.

"The turnovers we have given up this season has been a thorn in our side, but actually if you can show me a person that has no turnovers, I would say they do not touch the ball very often," said Goode. "Basically, we just need to execute the way we're capable. Eliminate as many mistakes as possible and we stand a better chance for victory."

Trojans Sweep Pair From 'Cats

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Dougherty High School came into Friday night's Region 1-AAAA contests with Valdosta High School headed for bear but unfortunately for VHS coaches John Miller and Susan Montgomery, their teams had too little ammunition to shoot back.

The Lady Wildcats were dropped in the opener 51-31 while the 'Cats fell behind early and lost 71-61.

In the boys' game, Dougherty broke out to a 10-2 lead as the Trojans hit their first five shots of the night. VHS tied the score at 22-22 but then would be as close as the 'Cats would get.

Dougherty, 7-5 and 3-2 in region play, placed four players in double figures led by Cedric Irvin with 46 points. Lorenzo Hall added 15 and Johnny Macchold and Mark Davis had 13 each.

Valdosta, 3-6 and 0-4, also placed four players in double figures led by Cedric Butler with 14, James Manning with 13 and Jason King and Vincent Williams 10.

"We just got behind too fast and were never able to climb out of the hole," Miller said. "This was our worst performance of the year. We couldn't dribble and we couldn't pass. We were just not ready to play Dougherty at all and as a coach, that's my fault."

Dougherty coach Charlie Givens agreed that his Trojans' quick start was the difference in the game.

"Our press was working very well on that particular run," he said. "We were able to get two or three quick turnovers and got some easy shots off of them."

Dougherty built its lead to 22 points, 30-8 with just over six minutes left in the first half.

The 'Cats managed a short 5-0 run to cut the lead to 36-19 but the Trojans

(Boys)
Dougherty (7) — McLloyd 13, Davis 13, Carter 6, Irvin 16, Hall 15, Davis 2, Merritt 2, Simmons 4, Valdosta (6) — Irverson 4, Manning 13, Campbell 9, King 10, Butler 14, Williams 10
Dougherty..... 21 19 17 14—71
Valdosta..... 8 15 17 23—61
Record — Valdosta 3-6, 1
Next game — tonight at 7th County

(Girls)
Dougherty (51) — Smith 21, R. Jefferson 6, Cheek 1, Smith 15, Davison 4, Martin 2, W. Jefferson 2, Phillips 10, Valdosta (31) — Plummer 4, Anderson 2, Phillips 10, Wine 7, Dennis 4, Schmeuser 4
Dougherty..... 9 14 8 20—51
Valdosta..... 2 4 14 11—31
Record — Valdosta 2-7, 13

held on to a 40-21 halftime lead.

"That quick lead opened things up for us," Givens said. "But after the first quarter it was an even game. I take my hat off to Valdosta. They've improved a 100 percent since the last time we faced them. We were in a dogfight from the second quarter on."

In the fourth quarter, the 'Cats slowly chipped away and cut the lead to 61-51 on a pair of free throws by King.

The 'Cats had several opportunities to cut the lead under 10 but the Trojans' defense responded to the Valdosta challenge and held the 'Cats off.

In the girls' game, Dougherty opened with a tough pressure defense and that proved to be too much for the Lady 'Cats as the Lady Trojans rolled to a 23-6 halftime lead.

Shon Smith paced the Lady Trojans with 21 points followed by Karen Smith with 15. Swandolyn Phillips led Valdosta with 10.

But as their male counterparts would do in the next game, the VHS ladies managed a rally late in the third quarter and eventually cut the lead to 33-23 on a short jumper by Laura Dennis. However 10 points would be as close as VHS would get.

The Lady 'Cats move to 2-7 and 0-4 on the year.



VHS' Swandolyn Phillips Drives Past Lenora Martin



Johnny McLloyd Attempts To Block Gary Campbell

—Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Lowndes Sweeps Pair From Valdosta

Viking Defense Sparkles

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Torrid outside shooting and a dominating front line spelled the end for the Valdosta Wildcats, as the Lowndes Vikings crushed the Wildcats 61-45 in a Region I-AAAA showdown played at the Valdosta gymnasium last night.

It was the second win as many tries over the 'Cats this season for Terry Wilkes' Vikings, but more importantly brings the Vikings even in region play at 3-3 with an overall record of 9-6.

The loss drops the Wildcats to 4-9 on the season and John Miller's squad is now winless in seven region games.

The Vikings were led in scoring by two of their baseline players, Israel Brown and Arney Lucas. Brown and Lucas each scored 19 on the night, while collecting over 20 rebounds between them.

Miller's 'Cats were paced by forward James Manning and center Vincent Williams. Each player tallied 10 points in the contest.

The question was simple entering the rematch according to Wilkes and Miller, who was simply going to be the team to take charge. The Vikings answered that question, and then some.

The game was decided early as Lowndes jumped out to an impressive 22-7 advantage after one period of play. The first-period outburst was keyed by the outside shooting of Viking forward Brown and guard Derrick Thomas. Brown was 3-of-3 from the field in the early going, while Thomas drilled his opening two shots as well in the first period.

Thanks to the intimidating 6-foot-9 Marvin Lucas, 6-5 Arney Lucas, and 6-2 Brown, the Vikings held Valdosta to only three shots from the field in the first period and 12 for the half.

Lowndes picked up where they had left off building a 34-13 lead courtesy of Thomas and Brown. Thomas nailed a jumper at the 3:21 mark of the second period which gave the Vikings the comfortable lead.

Valdosta's Gary Campbell scored his team's first points of the second quarter after a 4-minute drought dating back to the opening period. Lowndes simply did not allow Miller's



VHS's Gary Campbell Watches As Israel Brown Dunks Ball

squad any second chances in the contest.

In the first half alone, the 'Cats were out rebounded offensively and defensively 19-10-6.

"The rebounds set the stage for our scoring," said Wilkes. "Entering the contest we stressed the importance of keeping Valdosta from getting second chances and it was very evident that it was the big key tonight."

As for the tremendous Viking outside prowess, it was set up primarily by Valdosta's sagging play by the guards on defense.

"I have no regrets with the strategy, they were just on tonight and it hurt us," said Miller. "The biggest key was our lack of boardwork. We just simply didn't even show up. Lowndes made us

Bradley Shines As LHS Gets Revenge For Loss

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Neither Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery nor Lowndes head coach Elinor Goode appeared very happy after the VHS Lady Wildcats fell to Lowndes' Vikesettes 58-41 at Valdosta High Tuesday night. Montgomery didn't enjoy taking the Region I-AAAA defeat and Goode didn't think her team played very well.

The Vikesettes avenged an earlier 42-38 loss to the Lady 'Cats to even the season series at 2-2. Lowndes is 7-7 overall and 5-1 in region play. Valdosta falls to 3-10, 2-5.

"We came out in the second half and let our mental guard down," said Goode. "We knew to come out in the second half expecting them to press. We just stood around and turned the ball over. It was a turnover plagued game."

Lowndes led 33-16 at the half, but the Lady 'Cats managed to cut the lead to 10 points twice in the third period.

Valdosta played Lowndes closer in the final period. The Lady Wildcats were down 49-35 but scored six straight points to cut the lead to eight, 49-41.

That was it for Valdosta. Lowndes closed out the game by hitting 6-of-8 free throws and Jill Dykes added her second 3-point basket to account for the final 58-41 tally.

Lowndes' Carol Bradley led all scorers with 22 points. She was 7-of-7 from the field in the first half and pulled down 13 rebounds.

"We held her down in the first game," said Montgomery of Bradley. "I'm not worried about her getting the ball, but I was hoping to keep her from getting so many rebounds. That's where she gets a lot of her points and she did tonight."

Laine Scarborough added 19 for Lowndes and Dykes finished with 10 points.

Valerie Plummer led Valdosta with 14 points. Teammates Swandolyn Phillips and Cassandra Twine added 10.

Valdosta led 42 in the opening moments, but the Vikesettes ripped off 18 of the next 20 points to lead 20-6 after one period.

"We had way too many turnovers in the first quarter, and that killed us," said Montgomery. "We played with them pretty much during the rest of the game."



Vikette Stephanie Hall Dribbles Past Ashley Schleusner

night, Valdosta plays host to Monroe

free-throw line. The Lady 'Cats were only 5-of-17 at the charity stripe. Lowndes outrebounded Valdosta 38-35. Both teams committed a combined 42 turnovers.

Lowndes will host Dougherty Friday

Lowndes (41) — Brown 19, A. Lucas 19, M. Lucas 9, D. Thomas 6, Murphy 4, L. Williams 4.
Valdosta (45) — V. Williams 10, Manning 10, Campbell 7, J. Iverson 5, King 5, Butler 4, Phillips 2.
Lowndes..... 22 16 6 17 — 61
Valdosta..... 7 10 8 20 — 45
Records: Lowndes 9 & 3-3; Valdosta 4 & 7-7
Next Game: Dougherty at Lowndes, Westover at Valdosta (Friday)

Lowndes (58) — Bradley 22, Scarborough 19, Dykes 10, Culpepper 3, Eason 2, Hall 2, Brown, Thomas.
Valdosta (41) — Plummer 14, Phillips 10, Twine 10, Anderson 5, Dennis 2, Schleusner, Larry.
Lowndes..... 20 12 13 — 58
Valdosta..... 10 16 9 — 41
Records — Lowndes 7 & 1; Valdosta 3 & 10, 2 & 5
Next Game — Dougherty at Lowndes, Westover at Valdosta (Friday)

Lowndes Vikings Start Season-End Stretch

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

With less than a month remaining until the Region 1-AAAA tournament, every game is a critical one for the Lowndes High School Vikings and Vikettes.

The Vikettes, despite their 7-7 overall mark, are 5-1 in region play while the Vikings are 9-6 and 3-3. Both teams will be looking to improve those marks when the Dougherty Trojans invade the Lowndes gym Friday night. Action begins with the girls' game at 7 p.m. In other games, Region 1-AAAA

take care of our business at home. We've already lost to Westover at home so we need to start making those home games count as wins. We're 3-3 right now and a win over Dougherty would put us over .500 in the region and give us a big boost."

Dougherty enters the game with an overall mark of 9-6, 5-3 in Region 1-AAAA while the Lady Trojans are 3-10 and 3-5.

leader Westover visits Valdosta, Tiftarea plays at Valwood, Irwin County at Cook, Bacon County at Berrien County, Clinch County at Lanier County, Echols County at Atkinson County, Lafayette at Hamilton County, Westwood at Georgia Christian, Wakulla at Madison County, Open Bible at Victory and Brooks County travels to Lee County.

"This is a very critical part of the season to say the least and this game against Dougherty is a very important one," said Viking coach Terry Wilkes. "It's hard to win on the road, so it's crucial we win at home."

"We were fortunate to pick up a road win at Valdosta, but it's a must that we

Tuesday night, the Trojans fell to Westover by a 74-64 score while the Lady Trojans lost 64-57.

"Dougherty is very quick, runs a zone press and uses a lot of man-to-man defenses," said Wilkes said. "They have tremendous leapers, are

very aggressive on defense and I'm sure they will come right after us.

"This game will go a long way towards telling how we stack up. We had Westover beaten by 12 or 13 points midway through the 3rd period and let it get away. We had Monroe down by 18 and let them come back on us. I think we've showed we can play with the good teams, but I'm tired of just being able to play with them. I want to start beating them."

The Vikings have been sparked of late by some great play by the front line, particularly Israel Brown and the Lucas brothers, Arney and Marvin.

Against Valdosta, these three effectively kept the 'Cats off the boards.

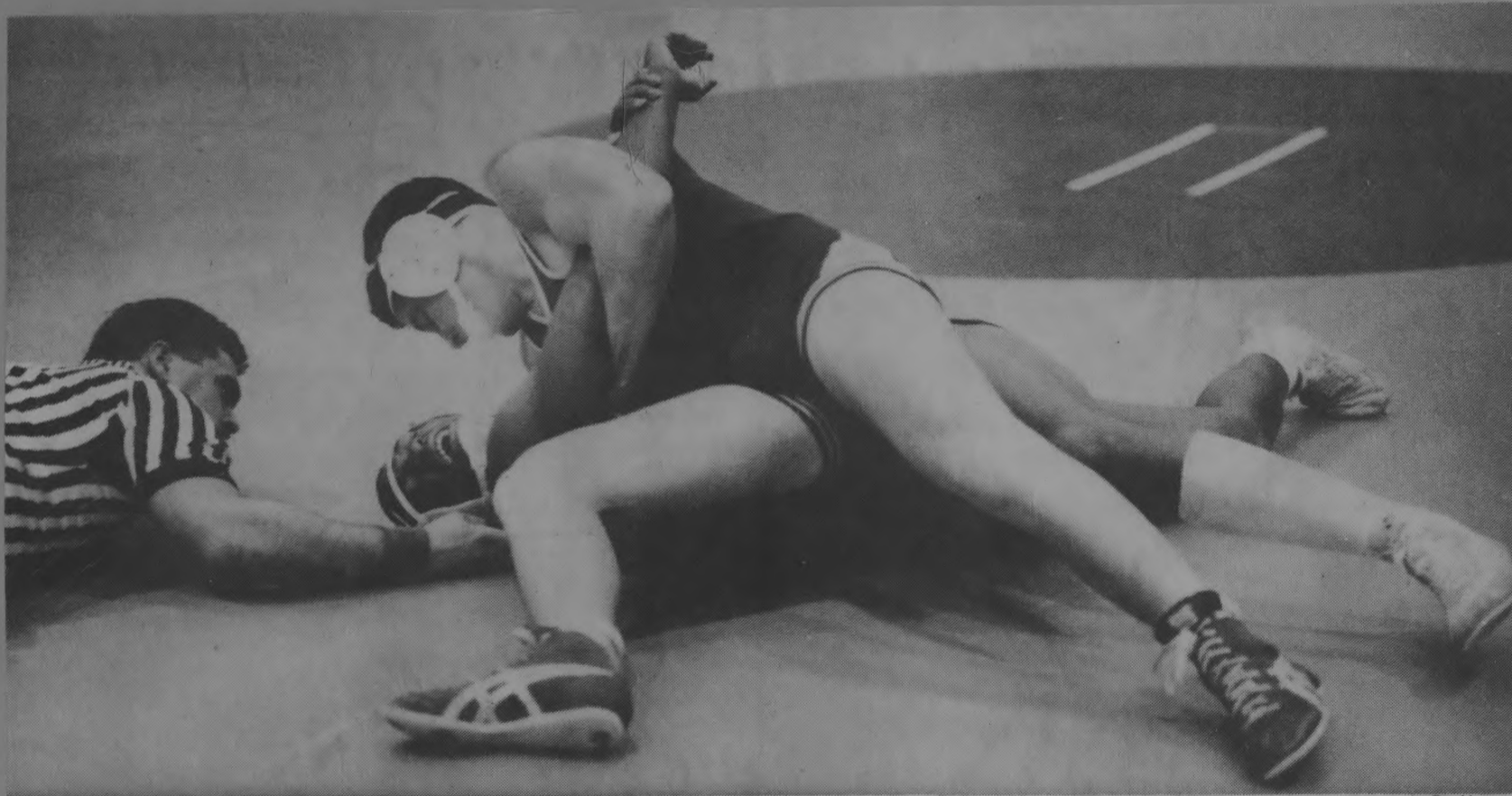
"In the first half we looked as well as we have at anytime this year," said Wilkes. "In the second quarter, we didn't miss a shot, going 8-for-8 enabling us to go to a 21-point lead."

"Israel scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Arney Lucas had 19 and 10 and our big man Marvin scored 9 and had 9 rebounds. We've been hurt at times this year on the inside by not blocking out and not getting good position. Against Valdosta we did a much better job and gave them only one shot a lot of the time."

The Vikings will need to continue to get such play against Dougherty who will try to use its quickness as much as it can.

"With their full-court press, they will be able to dictate the tempo of the game a little bit," said Wilkes. "When Dougherty runs the press, they know you will have to use your quickness or either try to move the ball down the court by making good passes and if you turn the ball over you're playing right into their hands."

"We've seen pressure before. Against Thomasville they tried it one time but we moved the ball right down the court using some crisp passes, scored and we never saw it the rest of the night. Sometimes we handle it and sometimes we don't. We'll just have to see"



by Paul Leavy

Vikings' Darren Broome Proceeds To Pin Valdosta's Steve Smith To The Mat In Wrestling Action Last Night

VDT 1-28-88

Peterman And Broome Unbeatable

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

As time for the area wrestling tournament draws near, two local wrestlers who appear to be peaking are Lowndes' Darren Broome and Valdosta's Steve Peterman.

Broome, at 189 pounds, won the Hardaway Invitational as did VHS 103-pounder Peterman a sophomore. When Lowndes and Valdosta clashed Thursday night at the Lowndes gym, Peterman and Wildcats took a 45-27 win over the Vikings.

Broome, however, ended the match on a positive note for Lowndes, pinning Valdosta's Steve Smith. Valdosta

forfeited the heavyweight class while sickness caused Lowndes head coach Newnan Sanchez to forfeit at 112 and 171.

"Darren has really worked hard at his wrestling," said Sanchez. "He works hard on his conditioning and is always working out. He's really dedicated himself and it looks like it's paying off."

While Broome gave Viking fans something to cheer about at the end of the match, it was Peterman who got the Wildcats off on the right foot.

Peterman remained unbeaten at 103 by pinning Lowndes' Doug Stewart in just 39 seconds. Valdosta's Ashley Fann drew a forfeit at 112 and Truett Wakefield pinned Viking Brandon

Powell as VHS jumped out to an 18-0 lead.

At 125, Lowndes' Lee Hendricks had a slim lead over Justin Bridges, but Bridges managed to gain a reversal and score back points in the final second to win 13-11.

Valdosta's Jason Finland then pinned Bryan Rice and Valdosta led 33-0 after Chuck Bonner pinned Brett Jones.

"We felt like we had a chance to win at 125, and 135, but it just didn't happen for us," said Sanchez.

The first Viking win came at 140 where Bobby Bramlett decisioned Jeff McLeod 8-5. Lowndes followed with two more wins as Jimmy Hiers pinned Jason Griffin at 145 and Billy Swords

earned a 16-1 technical pin over David O'Dell, but Valdosta still led 33-15.

Valdosta's Derrick Phillips pinned Viking Justin Jones at 160 to make it 45-15 before Broome won and Miller took his forfeit at heavyweight to account for the final 45-27 tally.

"I think all the kids wrestled real hard," said Valdosta head man Jim Landrum. Both Newnan and I have real young teams, but the kids did real well."

Valdosta 45, Lowndes 27

103 — Peterman (V) pinned Stewart. 112 — Fann (V) won by forfeit. 119 — Wakefield (V) pinned Powell. 125 — Bridges (V) decisioned Hendricks. 130 — Finland (V) pinned Rice. 135 — Bonner (V) pinned Jones. 140 — Bramlett (L) decisioned McLeod. 145 — Hiers (L) pinned Griffin. 152 — Swords (L) pinned O'Dell. 160 — Phillips (V) pinned Jones. 171 — Moorman (V) won by forfeit. 189 — Broome (L) pinned Smith. HWT. — Miller (L) won by forfeit.

Valdosta Falls To Patriots

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Georgia's third-ranked team, the Westover Patriots, invaded Valdosta High and came away with their 18th consecutive win Friday night.

Westover stopped the Valdosta Wildcats 65-44 in a Region 1-AAAA clash. The Lady Wildcats suffered the same fate as they fell to the Lady Patriots 61-36.

(Boys)
Westover (65)— Tinch 19, Whitaker 15, Ward 9, Wingfield 6, Ford 4, Studdard 4, Lee 4, Ragsdale 2, Anderson 2.
Valdosta (44)— Williams 15, King 12, Phillips 8, Campbell 3, Manning 2, Moore 2, Lynn 2.
Westover.....13 19 23 10—65
Valdosta.....10 9 11 14—44
Records—Westover 18-0, 9-0; Valdosta 4-10, 0-8.
Next Game—Tiff at Valdosta (Tuesday)

(Girls)
Westover (61)— Brett 22, Brown 10, Green 8, Williams 8, Sweat 6, Jenkins 3, Thomas 2, White 2.
Valdosta (36)— Phillips 9, Dennis 8, Anderson 4, Plummer 4, Schlesner 4, Twine 2, Larry 2, Manning 2, Braswell 1.
Westover.....17 17 16 11—61
Valdosta.....12 8 12 4—36
Records—Westover 4-14, 3-6; Valdosta 3-11, 2-6.
Next Game—Tiff at Valdosta (Tuesday)

The loss drops the Wildcats' record to 4-10 overall and 0-8 in region play. The Lady 'Cats fall to 3-11 with a region mark of 2-6.

For Willie Boston's region-leading Patriots, this marked the first time in three years that the Patriots managed to stretch their winning streak to 18, after having it stopped at 17 the past three seasons.

The Patriots were able to use their powerful rebounding prowess along with a very intimidating running game, giving them their 9th win in region play.

Miller's Wildcats found themselves on the short end of a 32-19 score at intermission, after holding the Patriots to a season low 13 points in the opening period.

"Tonight was simply a situation where the overall talent came back to haunt us," said Valdosta head coach John Miller. "The effort was really tremendous, but the points simply did not come."

According to Westover head man Willie Boston, he was very pleased about extending the winning streak, but most of all getting the all-important region win.

"The winning streak is one thing, but the region contests are the most important," said Boston. "Our team has played very well thus far this season. I just hope we do not become complacent or overconfident, because



VDT 1-30-88

Lonnie Phillips Shoots Against Reginald Tinch

—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

the season is far from over."

The bottom seemed to fall out for the 'Cats in the final two stanzas. The Patriots began building leads behind a smothering defense that caused four early Wildcat turnovers — all of which led to Westover buckets.

Led by the 19-point production of center Reginald Tinch and the 15 points of forward Eric Whitaker, Boston's Patriots battled through the Wildcat defense, posting leads of 14 and 16 points throughout the second half of play. Of course, a 23-point third period helped Westover as well.

The Wildcats were led by 6-foot-5 forward Vincent Williams. Williams scored 15 points, 9 rebounds, and had two blocked shots. Williams' teammate Jason King pumped in 12 points on the night.

In the girls' contest, the Lady Wildcats were simply unable to sustain any true scoring threats throughout the entire evening, as the Lady Patriots were delivering from inside and outside.

The Lady 'Cats, only trailing 17-12 after the opening period, were held to single digits in two of the final three periods. That in itself was Valdosta's undoing.

The Lady Patriots built a 34-20 lead at intermission thanks to seven Lady Wildcat miscues. The main gun for the Lady Patriots was guard Shannon Brett. Brett scored 22 total points, 12 of which came in the second period.

The Lady 'Cats were led in scoring by junior Swandolyn Phillips. Phillips pumped in 9 points on the night, while teammate Laura Dennis added 8.

Breeze Performs At VHS

VDJ 1-30-88

Times Staff Report

When Valdosta High School students went to band class Thursday many did not expect to hear a class assignment put to music.

Students were treated to a performance of the United States Navy band, "Sea Breeze," and the music was anything but taps.

Instead the band rocked the high school for an hour playing pop hits by George Harrison, Billy Idol, Foreigner and Joe Cocker.

The six-member band played guitar, saxophone, trombone and drums for students as part of its tour on the way to North Florida.

Navy recruiter Bob E. Toole arranged for the Navy performance at VHS. The group performed at Valwood Wednesday before gracing the stage at VHS and will head to North Florida and their home in Orlando in a few days.

The band usually performs their music for Navy dances, recruitment ceremonies and an occasional funeral. That's when the trumpeteer's eerie song of taps fills the air.

But until then, when the band can, it performs for the public.

And for the day, the class assignment was to sit up, pay attention, and enjoy.

Rows of heads bobbed as vocalist Tim Ornato delivered a throaty rendition of Joe Cocker's "Unchain My Heart."

Eliciting squeals from the audience, the band turned up George Harrison's "I Got My Mind Set On You." Singer Bing Waldon danced into the center of the floor singing to student Tawanna Wilson. Then he dropped a bundle of roses in her lap.

As the group broke into Tommy James' "Mony, Mony," recently released again by Billy Idol, the crowd's steady applause grew louder.

"We didn't expect this at all," Simone Allen, 15, said. "A Navy band came one year and it wasn't like this."

When the band instructor informed his class they would be hearing another Navy band performance, students



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Chris "Hawk" Hawkins wails on a saxophone solo.

expected an orchestra and plenty of brass.

When electric guitars and amplifiers were plugged in, the smiles spread quickly.

"We came in here expecting an orchestra, not a band," she said. Miss Allen joined singer Paul Mauro on the stage before the band closed its show with the rhythm and blues classic

'Gimme Some Lovin'."

Christopher Hawkins played a gleaming golden saxophone after donning black Ray Bans as Brian Freeman, who also plays bass, blew his trumpet to the tune.

Mauro also played trumpet as well as singing. Mike Whitaker played the keyboards and synthesizer, Anthony Miller played the horns and Ornato played bass, drums and trombone.

"This band is like musical chairs," Mauro said, after the audience rose to its feet in a standing ovation. "They play everything."

The band visited Pierce and Bacon Counties before coming to Valdosta, and will tour North Florida before heading home to Orlando.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Lonnie And Swandolyn Phillips Keep Basketball A Family Affair At Valdosta High

Brother Sister Combo A Hit At VHS

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For Swandolyn and Lonnie Phillips, sports has been a way of life. Not just from a personal aspect, but family oriented as well.

From their mother and father and right on down the line, the Phillips household has been influenced by the sportsworld in one facet or another.

Both Swandolyn and Lonnie attend Valdosta High School and are members of their respective basketball squads.

Swandolyn, a 6-0 junior, roams the baseline for Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcat team, holding down the strong forward position.

Lonnie, in his senior season as a member of John Miller's Wildcat team, anchors the pivot position at 6-4.

According to both Swandolyn and Lonnie, their interest in the sport of basketball was simply handed down through the years.

"Basketball is a sport that we simply grew up playing," said Swandolyn. "In general, I would say our basketball roots particularly stem from from our mother's interest in the sport. It has been an ongoing process for us. It's a sport that I have found to be the one I most enjoy playing."

"To be honest, basketball was truly a sport that I felt that I had no chance of getting to play," said Lonnie. "When I was younger this sport was something I enjoyed playing, but just wasn't really excelling in it to make it worthwhile. But as I began to grow and learn certain facets of the game, it became more enjoyable."

According to both Swandolyn and Lonnie, being members of such an athletically inclined family meant not

only as a player, but as a person as well.

"At times it has been a blessing in disguise in many ways. On one hand, having family members that are familiar with the sport in which you perform is important, but having members of your family that are always concerned about you as a person and your attitude towards others is something that can't be measured," said Swandolyn.

"No question, my family has played a major role in my playing basketball to begin with," said Lonnie. "For me, my father has been the backbone for the things I have been able to accomplish in basketball. Whether it was lifting weights or simply learning the game, he was there. As for the overall family aspect, the encouragement has been simply tremendous."

Swandolyn, now in her second season with the Lady 'Cats, has been enjoying a fine year. Swandolyn is the leading rebounder on the team averaging over 10 rebounds per contest, while scoring an average of close to 10 points as well.

Swandolyn had to sit out her sophomore season due to a knee injury suffered late in her freshman year.

In his third year with the Wildcats, Lonnie has been the leading window man for the 'Cats averaging over 12 rebounds per game and close to 8 points per game.

In the midst of disappointing seasons, both Swandolyn and Lonnie expressed thoughts concerning their teams performance as well as personal observations concerning their status as basketball players.

"By no means is our team enjoying a great season, but by the same token the progress is being made," said Swandolyn. "Coach Montgomery is simply good for this team. She is a very smart coach and seems to know

what it is going to take from her players as well as the overall team concept to be successful at Valdosta. She always finds the time for her players and is very direct in her actions on the court."

According to Swandolyn, coach Montgomery has been the focal point behind the success she has enjoyed at Valdosta.

"Surrounding all sports, I have always had an attitude problem for some reason. But because of coach Montgomery's personal approach and her basic idea of individualism in a team sport has been a major influence," said Swandolyn. "Thanks to coach Montgomery, I have been able to cope with this problem and hold my interest in the sport, as well as being a better person."

"Well, when I arrived on the varsity squad two years ago, the talk centered around the lack of winning basketball clubs at Valdosta. The team's approach was simply that we had not one thing to do with those seasons. But we did have something to say about the future," said Lonnie. "As the years have rolled past, as a member of the Wildcat squad, one thing has remained the same and that is a strong desire to keep getting better. From that standpoint, that is exactly what has occurred, although the overall records would lead someone to believe otherwise."

"As an individual player I have just tried to give it my best every time I played. This is not an individual sport, but I take special pride in playing to the best of my ability in every contest."

Even though Swandolyn and Lonnie have and are enjoying the sport of basketball, each expressed certain interests after their playing days are finished at Valdosta High.

Clinch Hoping For Repeat Performance Against Berrien

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In the first contest between Clinch County and Berrien County on Jan. 19, Clinch County swept both games. Bill Parsons' Pantherettes held off a furious rally by Larry Maffit's Berrien Rebelettes by the score of 65-60, while Allen Robbins' Panthers defeated Clay Clark's Rebels 66-61 in a game that went to the wire. Tonight's contests between the two in Nashville figure to be as exciting.

Entering tonight's game Parsons' Pantherettes will be looking to extend their winning streak to 17, as the Pantherettes enter with an impressive

16-0 record this season, and are ranked third in the state. The Rebelettes will enter the game sporting a 13-6 record.

On the boys' side of the ledger, the No. 1-ranked Clinch Panthers will enter the game at 14-2, while the Berrien Rebels come into the contest at 9-9. But records and rankings meant little in the last contest.

Other basketball games of interest include Lowndes at Colquitt County, Tift County at Valdosta, while Valwood entertains Westbrook. Cook is at Ware County, Lanier is at Echols, Brookwood is at Georgia Christian, Madison is at Jefferson, Open Bible hosts Byne, and Brooks is at Terrell County.

According to both Maffit and Parsons, the rematch should prove to

be as entertaining as the first contest.

"It will be by far our toughest challenge," said Parsons. "They are a quality club and they will be ready for us, especially after the loss two weeks ago."

"Clinch is a very talented team and I'm sure that the rematch will be just as exciting," said Maffit. "For us, we must be better prepared to play both mentally as well as physically."

"To be honest, I didn't think we played very well in the first game at Clinch and to beat Clinch, you must play four periods," said Maffit. "In the opening game we had some opportunities, but let them slip away. We must get off on the right foot tonight if we are to be successful."

According to Parsons, the sheer fact of having the early setback could prove to weigh very heavily.

"No question about it, Berrien will come into the game sky high," said Parsons. "We must be able to simply play our game and not let it affect our play. By the same token, we must have the same type of emotional effect if we hope to continue the winning streak."

Maffit's Rebelettes are led by center-forward Molly Clark. Clark leads the Rebelettes in scoring average with 13 points per contest and is pulling down an average of over 10 rebounds per game.

Clark will be flanked by forward Shonda DeBerry and guard Melissa Mackey. DeBerry enters with a scoring

average of 9, while Mackey averages close to 10 points for Maffit's crew.

Parsons' squad is led by guards Heavenly Bryant and Schawanna Cunningham. Bryant is averaging close to 14 points per game and Cunningham is averaging close to 10.

Clay Clark's Rebels will be trying to find a winning combination against the Panthers. In the last meeting, the Rebels came up on the short end by five points and will be looking to turn the tables on the Panthers.

Clark's starting lineup will include 6-foot-3 center Kenneth Green, 6-4 forward Travia Pitts, and 6-3 forward Scott Purvis.

And anchoring the backcourt will be guard Scotty Harris. Harris is the leading assist man, dishing out eight

assists per game while averaging close to 10 points per contest.

According to Robbins, one of the biggest factors for his Panthers will depend on the effectiveness his team will have on the road, even though the Panthers will be playing their 5th straight contest away from home.

"It is really a hard game to tell. The game will be tough as always, but the key for us will be playing hard on the road," said Robbins. "Hopefully our emotion will be up the entire game. In a game of this nature, the team that adapts to any and all situations will probably enjoy the most success."

Robbins will counter with 6-2 center Skip Jones, 6-1 forward Mike Swinson, and 5-8 guard A.C. Cooper.

VHS Players Honored At Awards Banquet

VDT 2/2/88
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The little guys came home with some impressive hardware after the annual VHS football awards banquet held at the school Monday night.

Senior quarterback B.J. Mason, who led his team to a 12-1 record and a Region 1-AAAA title, was named the most valuable offensive player. Mason stands close to 5-foot-8, 160 pounds. The quarterback also won the Howard Bridges Memorial Scholastic Award as the top scholar-athlete on the squad.

The most valuable defensive player went to 165-pound secondary man Reginald Dandy, who was one of the team's tackling leaders and a dangerous punt return man as well. Dandy was also named the best defensive back.

Following Valdosta State College head coach Mike Cavan's address, it was fitting that these youngsters be so honored.

Cavan spoke on what legendary Notre Dame coach Knute Rockne looked for in a football player. Rockne said the keys were brains, dependability, ambition, positive thinking, and a willingness to work.

Mason and Dandy certainly epitomized those qualities during their tenure at Valdosta High.

As expected, junior running back James Roberts was named the team's best runningback. Roberts rushed for over 1,000 yards during the season and was the Region 1-AAAA offensive player of the year.

Seniors Andy Anderson and Coronzoa Greene won the best offensive and best defensive lineman awards. Parade-All-American Charles Steward

was a shoe-in as the team's best receiver.

Senior linebacker Beau Laskey won the linebacker award and placekicker Todd Peterson won the special teams award. Peterson led the region in scoring after the regular season and kicked a 47-yard field goal to beat rival Lowndes 10-7.

Jack Morgan won the Mark Stevens Memorial Sportsmanship Award, and Eric Toth won the Julian Lefiles Memorial Spirit of Wildcats Award.

Center David Hazelhurst took home the Dynamite Goodloe Memorial Most Improved trophy, and Scott Barton and Todd Pitchford was named the most loyal 'Cats.

Two Super Skinner awards were given out — Kenny Rose won it on the defensive side of the ball while Chris Chachere won it on offense.

Valdosta's seniors were all recognized: Timmy Holmes, Charles Steward, Will Troutman, Todd Peterson, Demetricus Waters, Keith Henry, B.J. Mason, Eric Toth, Reginald Dandy, Steve French, Bernard Hitson, Carlos Coleman, Dwayne Bullard, Bobby Brooks, Beau Laskey, Jack Morgan, Todd Pitchford, Andy Anderson, Kenneth Berrian, Wade Lindsey, Coronzoa Greene, Scott Barton, and manager Shad Burroughs.

The Valdosta Junior High coaches and VHS coaches and wives were recognized for their input into the season.

In a touchdown club meeting after the awards, it was motioned that Sandy Atkins would be club president next season, relieving Bud Hatcher after two straight terms.

The program itself was dedicated to Jon "Chicken Man" Burch.

Lowndes 3rd, 'Cats 4th After First-Round Action

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High got a boost from the heavier weight classes and Valdosta only had to send six wrestlers to the mat during the first round of the Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament at Valdosta High Friday night.

Heading into this morning's semifinal round, Tift County leads the tournament with 22½ points, followed by Effingham County with 19, Lowndes 17½, and Valdosta and Dougherty with 14 each.

After Lowndes' Doug Stewart earned a pin at 103, the Vikings dropped three matches until Bobby Bramlett (140) pinned Westover's John Fields.

At 145, Jimmy Hiers earned a 12-3 victory over Jason Lovett of Effingham.

Darren Broome (189) and Chuck Miller (Hwt) finished the action for Lowndes with pins. Broome's was a 17-0 technical pin.

"I think we have some talented wrestlers everywhere," said Viking head coach Newnan Sanchez, objecting to the notion that he's depending on his heavier kids. "We got everyone in the semifinals we thought would be there. We were hoping to pull out that match at 135 (Brett Jones), but it just didn't work out. But we didn't expect that pin at 103 either. That was nice."

The combinations of wins and byes leaves Lowndes with eight of 13 wrestlers in this morning's semifinal round, scheduled to start at 11:30.

Of Valdosta's six who wrestled, four won. Ashley (171) and Ryan Moorman (160) both earned pins, as did Jason Finland at 130.

At 125, Justin Bridges squeaked out a 7-2 win over Westover's Earl Price.

At 140, Valdosta's Tully McVey took to the mat after Chuck Bonner broke a collar bone earlier this week. McVey was eventually pinned, but drew praise from Valdosta head Jim Landrum.

"I can't say enough about McVey," said Landrum. "I pretty much jerked him out of the lunch line and told him he was going to wrestle. Actually, he and Shad Harris were the only junior



Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament

varsity wrestlers to volunteer to wrestle with us this past week. Both of them deserve a hand.

"Everything's going pretty much how I expected it would," said Landrum. "I hated to see Truett Wakefield lose, but you never can tell."

After the 11:30 semis today, the wrestlebacks will begin at 1:30. The consolation get underway at 6 p.m., followed by the finals at 7:30.

Team Scores

Tift County 22½, Effingham County 19, Lowndes 17½, Valdosta 14, Dougherty 14, Monroe 8, Westover 4, Colquitt County 4.

Individual Results

103 — Stewart (L) pinned Collins (TC), 112 — McDaniel (EC) pinned Campbell (D), 119 — Taylor (TC) pinned Dykes (D), Green (W) pinned Wakefield (V), Bowen (EC) pinned Griffin (L), 125 — Smith (D) pinned Hall (M), Gillison (EC) pinned Barron (TC), Bridges (V) decided Price, 130 — Finland (V) pinned Rice (L), Sears (TC) pinned Hill (EC), 135 — Pevay (EC) decided Ramsey (W), Lewis (M) pinned Jones (L), 140 — Bramlett (L) pinned Fields (W), Baldwin (M) pinned Reid (D), Wilson (TC) pinned McVey (V), 145 — Branch (TC) decided Plymel (CC), Brown (D) pinned Jones (W), Hiers (L) decided Lovett (EC), 152 — Johnson (D) decided Spradley (CC), 160 — Moseley (D) pinned Hall (W), Gibbs (TC) pinned Jones (L), Yarbrough (CC) pinned Robinson (EC), R. Moorman (V), pinned Roberts (M), 171 — Daniel (TC) decided Ward (CC), Griffith (EC) pinned Staley (L), A. Moorman (V) pinned Brunson (W), 189 — Goodwin (TC) decided Gerico (EC), Broome (L) pinned Reda (W), Hwt. — Miller (L) pinned Perry (CC).



VHS' Truett Wakefield Tries To Work Guillotine On Westover Opponent

MVP Honors In Wrestling Could Have Gone To Anyone

While Dougherty's Michael Gilyard was named the most outstanding wrestler of the Area 1-AAAA Wrestling tournament, there were plenty of others who could have justly claimed the trophy.

Valdosta's Stever Petermann at 103 pounds pinned every opponent he faced. He has lost only two matches this year, both of them came at while he wrestled at 112.

Lowndes' Bobby Bramlett pinned his Effingham County opponent in the finals. The list could go on and on.

Jawing Around

In Saturday morning's semifinal

Hogan would have been proud. Yarbrough, however, should have kept his mouth shut. He eventually got pinned by Moorman.

Snakebit

Sometimes things just don't go right. Ask Valdosta freshman Justin Bridges. VHS head coach James Landrum thinks Bridges might have set a school record for 1-point losses after failing to Lowndes' Lee Hendricks in the tournament semis. The young man has lost six by just one point during the year. Chin up, Justin.



Area 1-AAAA Wrestling Tournament

Sunday, February 7, 1988

VHS Edged Out By Dougherty

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats were so very close to regaining the Area I-AAAA Wrestling Tournament title they lost last year to Dougherty High. Wildcat head coach Jim Landrum could only shake his head after Dougherty won the trophy for the second consecutive year, edging the Wildcats 168½-166 in the Valdosta gym Saturday night.

Lowndes finished third with 133½ points, followed by Effingham County with 76 points, Tift County 72½, Westover 55, Monroe 48, and Colquitt

County 17.

"If we could have just won one more match anywhere in the tournament, we would have won it all. It was that close," said Landrum. "But the kids wrestled as hard as they could, and that's all I can ask."

"Steve Peterman is a sophomore, and Maurice Dean is a sophomore. It will be nice to have them back next year."

Landrum will send 10 wrestlers to the state tournament next weekend. Lowndes will send eight, the same number as last year.

"We needed more wins in the semis if we wanted to finish any better than third, but we just didn't get them," said Lowndes head Newnan Sanchez. "We lost at 145 by one point and that was a hard one. Jimmy (Hiers) just couldn't turn him over there at the end. "We made Valdosta and Dougherty sweat a little."

Dougherty entered the final round with a 148½-146 lead over Valdosta and both teams had eight individuals in the finals, with six head-to-head meetings. Valdosta won three with two pins, while Dougherty one three with one pin.

Perhaps the most dramatic Valdosta win was at 140 where Jason Finland held off Dougherty's Alonzo Wallace 4-3 to place first.

Valdosta's Steve Petermann (103) opened things up by pinning Dougherty's Marcus Hill. Wildcats Brian Mueller (145) placed first by pinning Trojan Reginald Brown.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta's Maurice Dean (Bottom) Tries To Earn Back Points Off Of Lowndes High's Billy Swords

Dougherty, however, won at 135 where Reginald Dykes just got by Jeff McLeod 8-5.

Valdosta brothers Ryan and Ashley Moorman also both fell to Dougherty opponents.

Wildcat Maurice Dean (152) was the fourth VHS wrestler to win in the finals, edging Lowndes' Billy Swords in a 6-4 match that was a battle. It was the only final match that pitted

Lowndes against Valdosta. Ashley Fann was second at 112.

Lowndes had three champions. Bobby Bramlett (140) pinned Effingham's Craig Stanfield in just 50 seconds. Darren Broome won at 189 in a 3-2 thriller. At heavyweight, Chuck Miller pinned Monroe's Keith Wallace in 1:24.

Valdosta's Steve Smith (189) finished third and Justin Bridges (125) was fourth.

Dougherty's Michael Gilyard was named the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

Team Scores
Dougherty 168½, Valdosta 166, Lowndes 133½, Effingham County 76, Tift County 72½, Westover 55, Monroe 48, Colquitt County 17.

Finals
103 — Petermann (V), pinned Hill (D), 112 — Nix (W) decided Fann (V), 119 — Taylor (TC), pinned Williams (M), 125 — Smith (D), pinned Hendricks (L), 130 — Finland (V), decided Wallace (D), 135 — Dykes (D) decided McLeod (V), 140 — Bramlett (L) pinned Stanfield (EC), 145 — Mueller (V) pinned Brown (D), 152 — Dean (V) decided Swords (L), 160 — Mosley (D) decided R. Moorman (V), 171 — Gilyard (D) pinned A. Moorman (V), 189 — Broome (L) decided Dent (D), H.W. — Miller (L) pinned Wallace (M).

'Cats Drop Pair To Tift County

VDT 2/3/88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Tift County's Tony Ross nailed a 13-foot jumper at the buzzer as the Blue Devils defeated the Valdosta Wildcats in a Region 1-AAAA thriller last night at Valdosta High School, 61-59.

The Valdosta Lady Wildcats suffered the same fate as they fell to the Lady Devils 55-53 in a game that went to the wire.

The loss was a bitter pill to swallow for Wildcat head man John Miller, who saw his team blow several leads.

"This is a real tough one," said Miller. "I guess you could say it was a matter of just not closing the books. We had our opportunities to put it away, but didn't get it done."

The Blue Devils managed to overcome a 53-46 deficit in the final period. The Devils scored a total of 13 points in the final 2:03.

Trailing 37-34 at the intermission, the Wildcats looked as if they were going to let the Devils have their way. Tift County opened the third period by scoring the first five points opening up a 42-34 advantage.

Led by senior Gary Campbell, Miller's crew started clawing its way back, outscoring Tift 13-2 during the run. Campbell was the team's scoring leader combining for 16 points, three of which were of the 3-point variety, while dishing out four assists.

Five-foot-ten guard Spencer Iverson and 6-5 center Vincent Williams scored 10 points in the contest and combined for 10 points in the third period as Valdosta helped itself to a 47-45 lead entering the final period of play.

Valdosta led by five, 53-48, with 3:49

remaining.

With 2:03 to play, Tift began making its comeback. After a basket by Campbell, Tift swiped the basketball from Valdosta on two consecutive possessions, trimming the margin to four at 55-51 with 1:45 left.

Valdosta did not find the Tift County press to its liking and coughed the ball up twice more, resulting in a 55-55 tie with :50 seconds left.

After a James Manning free-throw gave Valdosta a slim 56-55 lead, Foster sank a running jumper in the lane as the Devils went back on top 57-56 with :39 seconds left.

Tift once again came up with a loose ball and converted it into points, as Elijah Jones sank a pair of free throws with :21 seconds to play putting the Devils out in front by three at 59-56.

But with only seven ticks on the clock, Manning drilled a long ranged 3-point bomb knotting the score at 59-59.

But Ross had the game winner. "I am so proud of our guys. It's tough to lose like this," said Miller. "We played well enough to win, but didn't protect the lead very well."

Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats came from 12 points down in the final period, despite a 29 percent performance from the charity stripe, before bowing to the Lady Blue Devils.

Trailing 49-37 entering the final period of play, Montgomery's team combined an aggressive defense with timely scoring to climb their way back into the game.

Valerie Plummer, who led VHS with 19 points, and Cassandra Twine with 18, helped narrow the gap to 53-46 with 1:55 remaining in the contest.

Twine converted on a 3-point play to make it 55-53 with :34 seconds left.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cat Spencer Iverson Drives Through The Middle

A last second shot by Ashley Schleusner was off the mark.

"With the region tourney just around the corner, I'm glad to see our effort at this level," said Montgomery. "We just need to learn to get after the basketball more. Taking some chances and trying to make things happen is a key for this team."

(Boys)

Tift County (61)— Foster 16, Williams 15, Colvin 10, Ross 6, Jones 5, Merritt 4, Watson 2, McCant 2, Thomas 1.

Valdosta (59)— Campbell 16, S. Iverson 10, Williams 10, Manning 9, Butler 8, King 4, Phillips 2.
Tift Co.....15 22 8 16—61
Valdosta.....10 24 13 12—59
Records— Valdosta 4-11, 0-9; Tift County 4-12, 2-7.
Next Game— Valdosta at Dougherty (Friday).

(Girls)

Tift County (55)— Burns 19, Rutland 15, Vickers 8, Howard 7, DeShazer 4, Uhl 2.
Valdosta (53)— Valerie Plummer 19, Twine 18, Phillips 11, Anderson 4, Schleusner 1.
Tift Co.....14 22 13 6—55
Valdosta.....16 9 12 16—53
Records— Valdosta 3-13, 2-7.
Next Game— Valdosta at Dougherty (Friday).

Valdosta Drops A Pair To Coffee County

VDT 2-7-88

In Local High School Action

From Staff Reports

DOUGLAS — The Valdosta Wildcats fell to Coffee County 72-53 here Saturday night in a non-region contest.

Coffee jumped out to a 19-14 lead after one quarter and led 34-28 at the half. After that it was all Coffee as the Trojans outscored Valdosta 38-26 in the last two periods of play.

James Manning was the only Wildcat in double figures with 20 points. Lonnie Phillips followed with eight, while Gary Campbell and Vincent Williams had six each.

The Lady Trojans rolled by Valdosta 78-53. Valerie Plummer finished with 23 points and Swandolyn Phillips finished with 14.

The 'Cats travel to Colquitt on Tuesday.

(Boys)

Valdosta (53) — S. Iverson 2, Manning 20, Phillips 8, Campbell 6, S. Iverson 2, Butler 5, Moore 2, Williams 6.
Coffee (72) — Bidwell 1, Hough 6, Murphy 12, Bussey 8, Edmondson 16, James 10, Ingram 5, Mitchell 4.

Valdosta.....14 14 13 12—53
Coffee.....19 15 19 19—72
Record— Valdosta 4-12.
Next Game— Tuesday at Colquitt.

(Girls)

Valdosta (53) — Plummer 23, Phillips 14, Twine 2, Dennis 3, Schleusner 6, Manning 5.
Coffee County (78) — Braswell 4, Carter 26, McFadden 14, Paulk 14, McClellan 7, Meriweather 2, Chaney 2, Peterson 1, Bennett 2, Tucker 2, Loft 2, Faulkner 2.
Valdosta.....10 12 17 14—53
Coffee.....24 11 17 27—78
Record — Valdosta 3-13.



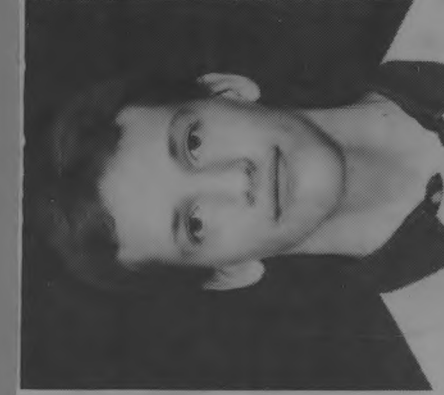
STEVE PETERMANN



ASHLEY FANN



TRUETT WAKEFIELD



JUSTIN BRIDGES



JASON FINLAND



JEFF MCLEOD



CHUCK BONNER



BRIAN MUELLER



MAURICE DEAN



RYAN MOORMAN



ASHLEY MOORMAN



STEVE SMITH

Tourney Starts Friday

VDT 2-3-88

VHS Wildcats Hoping To Regain Wrestling Trophy

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the first of two articles previewing the Region 1-AAAA Area Wrestling tournament at Valdosta High. Thursday - Lowndes High.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team is hoping to win back the area wrestling title it relinquished last season. VHS head coach Jim Landrum knows the task won't be an easy one.

Dougherty's Trojans won the event last year, and the Lowndes Vikings were second, followed by Valdosta.

The Wildcats posted an 11-4 record in dual matches and placed in three tournaments this season. All of the losses were close. Class AA state champ

"I don't really know," said Landrum. "It's going to be a battle. We beat Dougherty in a dual match this year, but you never really know about tournaments."

Both teams wrestled in the Hornet Classic and in the Southwest Invitational. Twice Dougherty finished above the 'Cats.

"They're a good tournament team," said Landrum. "They have four or five kids who can go all the way to the finals. I don't know if we do have four or five and that could make a difference."

Cook beat Valdosta 42-22, but it was 30-22 with two matches left and Valdosta's Steve Smith could have won the 189-pound match.

Valdosta lost to Berkmar, Suwannee, and McEachern by three points, but Landrum isn't counting any unhatched chickens.

Jason Finland 130, Jeff McLeod 135, Chuck Bonner 140, Brian Mueller 145, Maurice Dean 152, Ryan Moorman 160, Ashley Moorman 171 and Steve Smith 189.

Landrum was hoping Will Hancock would be able to wrestle at heavyweight, but a knee injury will keep him out of the tournament.

"We essentially have a young team," said Landrum. "At one time or another, we've started six sophomores and four freshmen."

Wildcat fans will notice the return of Maruice Dean. Dean quit the team two weeks ago, but then had a change of heart. Landrum let the team decide if Dean could return. The answer was yes.

One or two wrestlers can determine the outcome of the team standings, and Landrum is watching Bridges and

McLeod intently. Bridges, only a freshman, has lost four dual matches by only one point and two tournament matches by one point.

McLeod has wrestled at 140 as well as 135. He went up to 140 for a while just to recover from the rigors of cutting weight, and wrestled well there.

At 103, Petermann is undefeated and has won three tournaments. His only loss of the season came at 112 when he was defeated by Cook's Andrell Durden, a state champion.

The Area 1-AAAA wrestling tournament will start Friday night at the VHS gym, with round one starting at 7:30.

Round two will take place Saturday morning at 11:30, followed by the wrestlebacks at 1:30. There will be then be a break in the action and the

consolation round will start at 6 p.m. followed by the finals at 7:30.

Admission will be \$3 per person, per session. The final round admission will be \$4. Children under 12 will only be charged \$2. A tournament pass can be purchased for \$10.

The prices are fixed by the Georgia High School Association, and VHS is only allowed to keep enough money to cover operating costs.

Landrum enjoys hosting the tournament, and hopes Valdosta will continue to do so.

"The credit really goes to the administration. I like hosting it, but Bill Aldrich (VHS Principal) has to put in for it. He's done that for us, and we've been fortunate to get it."



Area Stars Deciding

By **MIKE COLOMBO**
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta tight end Charles Steward has committed to the University of South Carolina and will sign with the school later this week. He told *The Times* of his decision Monday afternoon.

One of the more highly recruited athletes in south Georgia, Steward was courted by many top schools before making his decision. Steward will join former Wildcat Michael Tolbert, who signed with the Gamecocks in 1987. Steward visited Auburn, Florida, and Pittsburgh.

"I like the school and the surroundings at South Carolina," said Steward. "Everybody's crazy about football there and I just made my mind up that's where I wanted to be."

Steward is planning to sign at his home Thursday evening.

In other developments, VHS quarterback B.J. Mason, placekicker Todd Peterson, and linebacker Beau Laskey have earned appointments with the Naval Academy and will meet with officials Thursday.

According to head coach Joe Wilson, Lowndes High will send one player to Division I and two players to Division I-AA schools.

Lowndes' defensive end Bennie Pierce is scheduled to sign at his home Wednesday morning with Auburn University. Noseguard Chuck Miller, too,

received some attention from Auburn but told *The Times* he intends to sign with the Florida A&M Rattlers. Lowndes' speedy receiver and kickoff return specialist Rozell Orr will also sign with Florida A&M according to Wilson.

Wilson confirmed Monday afternoon that linebacker Freddie Richardson will not graduate this spring, and will not sign.

Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder was pleased with the attention his players have gotten thus far, especially with the three going to Navy.

"That says a lot for our school system as well as the student-athlete," said Hyder. "It is an honor to sign with any of the service academies. These three young men have the grades to go to any school in the country. They are Ivy League material."

"Steward was highly recruited and I'm proud that he's going to South Carolina. Michael Tolbert signed with them last year, and I think things will work out very well for Charles there."

Steward, 6-foot-1, 230 pounds, was a member of the All-Region I-AA team at tight end. He also made the All-State team and was named a Parade All-American. In his senior year, Steward caught 20 passes for 250 yards and five touchdowns. He was also an all-region punter, averaging 36.9 yards per kick.

Steward had perhaps his best statistical year as a junior member of Valdosta's state and national champi-



BEAU LASKEY
Naval Academy



TODD PETERSON
Naval Academy

onship team. That season, he pulled down 37 catches for 498 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Placekicker Todd Peterson also made the All-Region team and led the region in scoring with 78 points. He kicked a 47-yard field goal to defeat Lowndes High.

Laskey was a member of *The Times'* All-Area team, and had a solid senior season after recuperating from shoulder surgery.

Mason was the second team All-Area quarterback. He completed 56-of-86 passes for 562 yards and six



B.J. MASON
Naval Academy

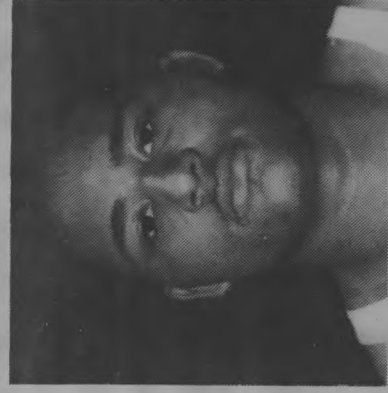


BENNIE PIERCE
Auburn

touchdowns. Mason also ran for 572 yards and 11 touchdowns.

"I know they run a wishbone offense at the Naval Academy, so he has a shot at it," said Hyder of his quick former quarterback. "I can't tell you how proud I am. We have a string of quarterbacks who have signed with Division I schools going back to Teddy West. Teddy could have played football, but decided to play baseball and I think things have worked out well for him."

Pierce and Miller were both members of the All-Region and All-Area squads. Both averaged close to 10



CHUCK MILLER
Florida A&M



BEN SMITH
Valdosta State

tackles per game.

Orr was one of the region's leading pass receivers and was an extremely dangerous kickoff returner. He opened the Valdosta-Lowndes game by returning the kickoff 101 yards for the apparent score. Unfortunately for Lowndes, kickoffs cannot be returned out of the end zone.

"These young men were extremely coachable and I don't know where we would have been without them," said Wilson. "I am pleased that they are continuing their careers."

Other players who are potential signees are Valdosta's Reginald



ROZELL ORR
Florida A&M



CHARLES STEWARD
South Carolina

Dandy, Andy Anderson, and Coronzo Greene.

Greene has been offered a scholarship with Northeast Oklahoma, but he may wait for a four-year college offer.

Dandy has talked with Tennessee and South Carolina but said Monday he will probably not sign this week.

Former Wildcat Ben Lane has committed to Georgia, and Marly Howell is expected to sign a deal with Valdosta State College. Howell played the last two seasons with Northeast Oklahoma A&M Junior College. Berrien quarterback Ben Smith is expected to sign with VSC as well.

Hyder Pleased That Dedication Has Paid Off

When I made my first venture into Valdosta High, I couldn't help seeing the letters ccsmpkdoc scribbled on most of the blackboards in the coaches' offices. Good old ccsmpkdoc was everywhere.

It wasn't until last football season that I bothered to ask what it meant, but Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder could recite the strange acronym in his sleep.

The cc stands for Christian commitment, the smmp for spiritual, moral, mental, and physical fitness, and the kdcc for the kicking game, defensive game, offensive game, and collision.

Hyder fought vehemently to keep spring football and to prevent the no-pass, no-play rule from being implemented. He was successful in both, but insists that his football players are students as well as athletes, and has always been concerned with academics.

Three of Hyder's players, B.J. Mason, Beau Laskey, and Todd Peterson, have all gained appointments to the Naval Academy and were pursued for their strong academics as well as their football ability.

So much for those who like to refer to all football players as dumb jocks. "I think it says a lot for the school

system when you send kids to elite institutions like the service academies," said Hyder. "Those kids could have gone anywhere. They worked hard in class and they had to in order to get a \$60,000 scholarship and that's just about how much they are worth these days."

"Education is why we're here," said Hyder. "If that weren't true we'd just say let's play ball and go home. If you play ball but don't get the grades you're in trouble. It would be like going home, putting a football on your plate and trying to cut it and eat it. I've never seen a football like that and I've been in this business 41 years."

Hyder has always been quick to point out that student-athletes and others in extra-curricular activities have higher grade point averages as a whole than students who are not involved in school activities. That is one reason Hyder rallied so hard against those who would have implemented the no-pass, no-play rule — a rule that would only hurt those students already making fairly good grades.

"I think everything's on the way up," said Hyder. "For a long time, we were in the hill and valley type thing. We were up and down."

Hyder said he agreed with the basic goals of Proposition 48. Students now

have to score at least a 700 on the SAT (15 on the ACT) and maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 to get into college. Some schools have their own guidelines even stricter.

"It's there for the kids if they want it," said Hyder. "700 is not that high of a score. Get in there and study if you want to play ball! The kids have to learn to take advantage of what's there for them."

"We are part of education, and academics are what we want. Our football players as a whole have that same attitude and it rubs off on the town. If it were opposite, the system would destroy itself."



Mike Colombo
Times Sports Editor

Hyder uses these 10 letters to build football players, students, and people, and it would be hard to argue that the Valdosta coach isn't getting results.

Wildcats Defeat Packers' Capturing First Region Win

From Staff Reports

MOULTRIE — The Valdosta Wildcats captured their first Region 1-AAAA of the season by defeating the Colquitt County Packers 60-59 Tuesday night.

The Lady Packers defeated the Lady 'Cats 63-53 in the opening contest.

According to Wildcat head coach John Miller this win was sweet.

"We've been through some tough times to say the least. But this team never quit and came up big winners tonight," said Miller. "For our team, this game has been a long time coming and now we have the monkey off our back."

The key play of the night for the 'Cats came with just :52 seconds showing on the clock as Valdosta's Spencer Iverson hit a free throw to culminate a 3-point play, giving the 'Cats a 60-59 lead. Valdosta held off Colquitt in the final seconds.

Freshman Michael Moore led the Wildcats in scoring as well as rebounds. Moore tallied 19 points and had over 12 boards.

"Moore was very impressive tonight," said Miller. "He really played an exceptional game and came up with some key plays throughout the contest. He simply did a terrific job."

Wildcat guard Gary Campbell also pumped in 12 points for Miller's team.

In the girls' game, Montgomery's team could only come up with 16 total first half points, but scored 37 in the

second half.

The Lady 'Cats were led in scoring by Valerie Plummer. Plummer scored 12 points while Ashley Schelusner added 11 and Swandolyn Phillips 10.

Valdosta will try to make it Region 1-AAAA win No. 2 when it travels to Albany tonight to take on Dougherty.

This game was rescheduled because of the ice in Albany last Friday night.

(Boys)

Valdosta (60) — Manning 8, Campbell 12, S. Iverson 13, Moore 19, Williams 6.

Colquitt County (59) — Sumner 12, Mannsfield 14, Ackson 8, Grose 4, Roberts 4, Henry 2, Williams 8, Martin 6, Lewis 1.

Valdosta..... 9 21 12 18 — 60

Colquitt..... 16 10 20 13 — 59

Records — Valdosta 5-12, 1-9.

Next Game — Valdosta at Dougherty (Tonight).

(Girls)

Valdosta (53) — Plummer 12, Anderson 8, Phillips 10, Twine 2, Dennis 8, Schelusner 11, Braswell 2.

Colquitt Co. (63) — Poole 17, Yearby 13, Johnson 13, Williams 16, Hall 1, Troup 1, Lampley 2.

Valdosta..... 8 8 12 25 — 53

Colquitt..... 13 20 19 11 — 63

Records — Valdosta 3-14, 2-9.

VHS Loses A Pair

VDT 2-11-88

From Staff Reports

ALBANY— Both Valdosta squads fell to defeat at the hands of Dougherty in a Region 1-AAAA clash Wednesday night. John Miller's 'Cats lost by the score of 80-60, while Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats were beaten 52-48.

The loss drops the Wildcats' record to 5-13 overall and the Lady 'Cats are now 3-15 on the year.

Miller's team was led by 6-foot-5 forward Vincent Williams. Williams pumped 10 points in the contest and had 11 rebounds.

Senior guard Gary Campbell chipped in with 9 points while teammate Spencer Iverson scored 6.

After a relatively close first half, the Trojans proceeded to take control of the contest scoring 21 points in the third period while holding Miller's

team to just 10 points.

In the girls' contest, Montgomery's troops came up a little bit short led by the 15-point performances by Valerie Plummer and Swandolyn Phillips.

Laura Dennis chipped in with 8 points in the game, but the Lady 'Cats simply could not overtake the Lady Trojans.

Valdosta host Monroe Friday night. It will be VHS' last home game.

(Boys)

Valdosta (60) — J. Iverson 2, Williams 10, Hart 3, Campbell 9, King 4, Phillips 5, S. Iverson 6, Lynn 2.

Dougherty (80) — McLoyd 2, Davis 18, Carter 17, Irvin 20, Hall 12, Merritt 10, T. Davis 1.

Valdosta..... 17 13 10 20 — 60

Dougherty..... 25 15 21 19 — 80

Records — Valdosta 5-13, 1-10; Dougherty 13-8, 7-4.

Next Game — Monroe at Valdosta (Friday).

(Girls)

Valdosta (48) — Plummer 15, Phillips 15, Twine 6, Dennis 6, Schelusner 4.

Dougherty (52) — Smith 13, Smith 17, Cheek 7, Jefferson 10, Martin 5.

Valdosta..... 11 16 9 12 — 48

Dougherty..... 14 16 6 16 — 52

Records — Valdosta 3-15, 2-9; Dougherty 4-14, 4-7.

Gamecocks Hoping Steward's Good Fortunes Will Continue

By MIKE COLOMBO VDT 2-12-88
Times Sports Editor

If tight end Charles Steward can do for the University of South Carolina what he did for the Valdosta High Wildcats, the Gamecocks will enjoy peace and prosperity for four years.

Steward, who signed with South Carolina Thursday night, can boast that under his tenure at VHS, the Wildcats amassed a 51-4 record as well as two state and national titles.

A four-year starter, Steward caught the first pass of the 1984-1985 season and the last pass of the 1987-1988 season. And there's a whole lot more in between.

"What can I say about Charles Steward?" said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "We were 51-4 while he was here. We miss him already. He had a hand in all those wins along with a foot and a shoulder."

The 6-4, 225-pound senior was a captain for Valdosta last year. He was a Parade All-American, a member of the Georgia All-State team, a member of the All-Region 1-AAAA team, as well as a member of *The Times'* All-Area team. He has also been unanimously selected to participate in the Georgia North-South All-Star game scheduled for Athens this spring.

"We are excited about what Charles can do for our program," said South Carolina recruiter Frank Orgel.

"I feel real good about going to South Carolina," said Steward. "I think I can do something there like I did at Valdosta and it's a chance to get a good education."

The Gamecocks will keep Steward at the tight end position because his overall blocking ability complements a great pair of hands.

"Tight end is what I played in high school and I enjoyed it. I think I can help the team there," said Steward.

Steward said he intends to major in Business Administration, and said he will do his best to keep his priorities straight.

"I know in college I'll have more responsibilities with academics. Academics come before anything."

During his senior season, Steward caught 20 passes for 250 yards and six touchdowns. Steward had a better statistical year as a junior when he caught 37 passes for 498 yards and 10 scores.

Steward is also an excellent punter. He was the All-Region first team punter, averaging 36.9 yards per kick.



Staff Photo By Mike Colombo

Charles Steward Makes It Official

Three VHS Players Are Midshipmen Bound

VPT 2-22-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

For B.J. Mason, Todd Peterson, and Beau Laskey, it is simply a chance of a lifetime. The Valdosta gridders made it official Thursday afternoon as each young man inked a pact to play for the Navy Midshipmen football team while attending the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., next fall. Due to the academic prowess of Mason, Peterson, and Laskey, each received appointments to the Naval Academy symbolizing that each met the academic requirements for enrollment.

This marks the first time in service academy history that three players were chosen simultaneously from the same school.

The Wildcat players will become members of what is said to be the third best recruiting class in the nation for '88.

Before signing on to play for Elliot Uzelac's Midshipmen, each visited various schools around the nation, including the other two service academies at West Point and Colorado Springs.

"The Naval Academy simply offered me the best of everything I could possibly want," said Peterson. "Although the football aspect was something I had hoped for, the academic side was something that can be matched at no other institution and that is my foremost priority. There was simply more choices of various opportunities with the Naval Academy than with any other of the academies."

"The Naval Academy will challenge me as a person in a way no other school could have hoped to," said Mason. "In that regard, plus the

overwhelming security that comes with the academy, it is an honor to be able to attend such a fine institution. I truly did not entertain any college football decision unless it was a part of a very competitive academic surrounding because that is all I have my sights on — an impressive education from an acknowledged academic school."

"Attending the Naval Academy is really something I have had my sights on for some time," said Laskey. "No school anywhere can equal the type of atmosphere nor the academic areas that the Naval Academy offers. There is almost no end to the range of goals within one's grasp at the academy."

Wildcat head man Nick Hyder was pleased to see his football players go on to college, but was even more impressed because of Navy's sterling academic reputation.

"This simply says a great deal about the overall character as well as the devotion each of these young men have strived towards their entire career in academics," said Hyder. "The family members of these young men are to be commended, and it also makes a statement concerning the faculty and staff at Valdosta High School in general. This is something that the school cherishes as much as the young men themselves, simply because of the nature of this type of achievement. If nothing else, these men are a testimony to what hard work and dedication can ultimately reap."

Uzelac, in his second-year stint as the Navy head coach, was previously an assistant for Bo Schembechler at Michigan, as was his present Midshipmen staff.

Each player was very impressed by Uzelac's staff and expressed great

interest in becoming a football player at the academy.

"He and his staff simply made me feel at ease. They are relatively new to the program and are trying to instill qualities in a team I would enjoy being a member of," said Mason.

Laskey echoed those statements. "They made me feel very welcome as well as comfortable," said Laskey. "I found the coaching staff one of the most dedicated and caring anywhere. But most of all, I just wanted to be a part of such a class program."

Mason, Peterson, and Laskey will each attempt to duplicate for the Midshipmen the skills that endeared them to the Wildcat braintrust.

Mason showcased his blinding speed as a wide receiver for Hyder's 'Cats before taking over the controls at quarterback as a senior. As a wide out, Mason averaged over 15 yards per reception and averaged close to two touchdowns per contest.

In his senior season, Mason led the Wildcats to a 12-1 record and Region 1-AAAA title while compiling impressive statistics along the way. Showing his versatility, Mason was 56-of-86 in the passing department, connecting for a total of 562 yards and six scores while rushing for 572 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Mason was recruited to the Navy squad as a future quarterback due in part to the wishbone type offense the academy employs. According to Mason, he will gladly move back to his original position if asked to.

"Overall, the quarterback spot is what I will be vying for due to the offensive intentions of the squad," said Mason. "But if team success and better opportunity for playing time seems to lie at the wide receiver



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Peterson, Laskey, and Mason Sign Papers With The Naval Academy Thursday

position, then that will be what I will dedicate myself to playing."

The long range place kicking expertise of Peterson should be a welcomed sight for the Midshipmen staff.

Peterson connected on 54-of-58 PAT's and had eight field goals to his credit. Peterson also cranked 95 percent of his kickoffs into or out of the opponents' end zone.

Peterson led Region 1-AAAA in scoring, with 78 total points. For his efforts, Peterson was named to the All-Region squad as well as The Times' All-Area team.

Although Peterson will be taking some lofty stats to the academy, he was very outspoken about his expected early duties with the team.

"Basically, due to the fact that they already having an excellent placekicker, I expect to be relegated to the kickoff team, and simply battle for the starting placekicking job as the year wears on," said Peterson. "I just want to be a contributing factor to the team, regardless of my status on the

ballclub."

For "Cat linebacker Beau Laskey, the job of inside linebacker will be his domain for the next four seasons.

Laskey, at 6-2 220, will be trying to fill a very big void on the Midshipmen squad at the linebacker position. According to Laskey, simply getting used to the system and making things work holds the key to his success.

"It's a waiting game really," said Laskey. "Different people, new system, and new teammates. It will take a lot of getting comfortable with the system, and developing into the type of player they want."

Laskey rang up an average of seven tackles per contest in his senior season for the Wildcats. For his efforts, Laskey was named to The Times' All-Area team. Laskey managed to have a solid senior campaign even though recuperating from a shoulder surgery.

Hyder was very complimentary concerning his players' ambitions as well as their gametime performances throughout their careers at Valdosta.

"Todd is one of the most gifted placekickers anywhere," said Hyder. "He has been such a valuable asset to this team and to this institution. It has simply been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to be associated with Todd. He is a fine young man."

"Beau's football is still ahead of him," Hyder said. "Beau has meant a great deal to this team. His giving nature and true will to succeed regardless of the situation have made him a better person as well as a football player. Beau is a young man destined to reach whatever goal he sets out to conquer."

"I would have to truly rank B.J. right up there with some of the best quarterbacks Valdosta has witnessed. His style of play should and will be a valuable asset to the Naval team," said Hyder. "B.J. has simply characterized the very type of individual we like to associate ourselves with here at Valdosta. He is a young man with proper priorities and can succeed at anything he chooses to pursue."

LHS, VHS Wrestlers Headed To State Tournament

VPT Thurs. Feb. 11, 1988
By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Tomorrow, there will be no tomorrow for the Valdosta Wildcat and Lowndes Viking wrestling teams.

VHS and LHS head to Atlanta for the Class AAAA state tournament to be held at McEachern High School.

Action begins Friday morning at 11:30.

"I think the kids did really well all week," said VHS head Jim Landrum. "They have a tremendous attitude and worked real hard."

Viking head man Newnan Sanchez is just glad that the injury bug hasn't shown up.

"We don't have any serious injuries," said Sanchez. "We haven't worked too hard because I didn't want to see anybody get hurt now."

"There's not that much coaching to

do right now. I'm just trying to maintain what we've done so far."

Landrum, too, said his squad had avoided serious injury, although both Ryan and Ashley Moorman have been trouble with sore shoulders.

Valdosta was scheduled to leave for Atlanta this afternoon while Lowndes left late this morning.

Valdosta will have 10 wrestlers in the competition, Steve Petermann at 103, Ashley Fann at 112, Justin Bridges

125, Jason Finland 130, Jeff McLeod 135, Brian Mueller 145, Maurice Dean 152, Ryan Moorman 160, Ashley Moorman 171, and Steve Smith 189.

Eight Viking wrestlers will make the trip led by Bobby Bramlett 140, heavyweight Chuck Miller, and Darren Broome at 189. All three were Area 1-AAAA champions. Also representing Lowndes will be Doug Stewart 103, Jimmy Hiers 145, Tom Barker 112, and Lee Hendricks 125, and Billy Swords

152. "I think the kids have a tendency to get real tight before state," said Sanchez. "For a lot of them, it's a new experience and sometimes they pressure themselves a little bit."

"There will be nearly 100 teams there and every bracket will have 32 kids," said VHS' Landrum. "It's pretty intense. You know if you don't win every one, your only chance is to come back through the wrestlebacks."

Monroe Splits With Valdosta

VDT Sat, Feb 13, 1988

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High School Lady 'Cats captured their first home victory this season by defeating the Lady Tornadoes from Monroe, 51-37, in a Region 1-AAAA battle Friday night at Valdosta. In the nightcap, the Monroe Tornadoes held off the pesky Valdosta Wildcats to win by the score of 61-52.

For both Valdosta coaches it was simply a case of mood swings and mistakes. On one hand, Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats, much to her dismay, managed to squander an enormous 15-point halftime margin over the Lady Tornadoes, while John Miller's 'Cats, after only trailing by 3 at intermission, proceeded to turn the ball over three times with the Tornadoes scoring on each and every opportunity, widening the lead to 10 points.

"This team simply has to learn to play with full intensity throughout an entire ballgame," said Montgomery. "Tonight was an example of almost giving one away. I'm ecstatic about the victory, but this team can't let up, we have to be more aggressive."

"I was really overall proud of our team's effort on the night. We simply let them grab a healthy lead early after intermission, and it came back to haunt us," said Miller. "We never gave up though, and kept plugging. I was glad to see we didn't fold our tents up when they took the wide lead."

Led by the 15 point performance of guard Gary Campbell, the 'Cats gave the Tornadoes all they wanted and then some.

Miller's squad came out chomping at the bit, as they quickly dashed out to an early four-point lead. But as would be the case on this night, Monroe seemed to have the answer for every Wildcat scoring onslaught.

After each was knotted up at 11-11 after one period, Monroe took a 30-27 halftime lead courtesy of Reginald Taylor's 7-point first half.

The first three minutes of the second

(Boys)
Monroe (61)— Taylor 16, C. Brown 12, W. Brown 11, Guest 6, Gilbert 5, Jones 5, Hutchinson 2, Sheppard 2, Branch 2.
Valdosta (55)— Campbell 15, Williams 8, Manning 7, King 7, Lynn 6, S. Iverson 4, Moore 2, Phillips 2, Hart 1.
Monroe.....11 19 19 12—61
Valdosta.....11 16 12 13—52
Records— Valdosta 5-15, 1-11
Next Game— Valdosta at Buchholz (Tonight).

(Girls)
Monroe (37)— Morrell 12, Clemons 8, Jackson 8, Thomas 6, Hargrove 3.
Valdosta (51)— Phillips 19, Schleusner 11, Twine 6, Dennis 6, Anderson 5, Plummer 4.
Monroe.....11 4 18 4—37
Valdosta.....12 18 8 13—51
Records— Valdosta 4-15, 3-9

half proved to be the 'Cats' undoing as the Tornadoes quickly pumped in the first 7 points of the period, taking a commanding 10 point lead before Miller's bunch sank their first second half bucket.

That would be the story the rest of the contest as the Tornadoes held the 'Cats at bay, while Valdosta attempted a late fourth period rally that saw the 'Cats pulling as close as 5 at 57-52 late.

"I'm just so happy to see this team showing a lot of character down the stretch," said Miller. "We are basically working for the region tourney, and it's good to see us playing hard."

For Montgomery, the shoe was on the other foot. Montgomery saw her squad storm out to a 30-15 halftime advantage behind the 11 first half points of senior Swandolyn Phillips. Phillips was the game's leading scorer with 19.

Guard Ashley Schleusner had a very good night, scoring 11 points and 3 assists. Schleusner was the recipient of two coast-to-coast fast break layups, both coming from teammate Phillips.

The Lady 'Cats didn't post a second half score until the 2:15 mark. By that time, they saw a once 30-15 lead cut to just a single digit at 30-29.

But when they had to stiffen, Montgomery's team did just that. The Lady 'Cats simply toughened when they had to, only allowing the Lady Tornadoes just two scores in the last minutes of the second and fourth periods.



Sissy Anderson And Valerie Plummer Battle Monroe Player For Loose Ball

—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinet



Sports Capsule

From Staff, AP Reports

VDT 2-15-88

VHS Finishes 17th In AAAA Tourney

Valdosta finished 17th in the Class AAAA wrestling tournament held this past weekend in Atlanta.

The Wildcats totalled 41 points and hid four wrestlers finish fifth — Jeff McLeod, Ryan Moorman, Brian Mueller, and Steve Petermann.

Lowndes' Bobby Bramlett and Darren Broome also finished fifth.

by Tom Watson's 4-putt collapse, turned back Richard Zokol's back-nine challenge and scored a one-stroke victory Sunday in the Hawaiian Open.

"That's what we stand out there and beat balls for, what we practice for, what we work for," Wadkins said. "It's fun. That's the fun of the whole thing. You get into the middle of it and it's gut-check time. You've got to see if you can do it one more time."

He did.

VHS And Buchholz Split

From Staff Reports

VDT 2/14/88

GAINESVILLE, FLA.— Valdosta split with Buchholz in basketball action played here Saturday night. Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats won their second consecutive game by disposing of Buchholz 57-40, but John Miller's Wildcats came up on the short end of a 85-62 score.

Jason King and James Manning were the point leaders for the 'Cats. Manning pumped in 15 points, while King was the leading scorer with 21 and yanked down 12 rebounds on the night.

"Jason turned in a fine performance for us tonight," said Miller. "This game tonight was his best all year."

In the girls' contest, Montgomery's team simply took hold of the situation and never let go.

After only allowing Buchholz to a

(Boys)
Valdosta (62)— Manning 15, King 21, Campbell 7, Phillips 2, S. Iverson 6, Moore 6, Hart 2, Lynn 1, Williams 2.
Buchholz (85)— Thomas 31, Gereeser 14, Peoples 14, Freeman 6, J. Reed 2, Brockington 13, T. Reed 5.
Valdosta.....15 14 18 15—62
Buchholz.....19 28 18 20—85
Records— Valdosta 5-15; Buchholz 21-5.
Next Game— Suwannee at Valdosta (Monday).

(Girls)
Valdosta (57)— Plummer 14, Anderson 2, Phillips 5, Twine 22, Dennis 2, Schleusner 10, Braswell 2.
Buchholz (40)— Brockington 28, Brost 2, Reichert 2, Webb 2, Hawkins 6.
Valdosta.....14 16 14 13—57
Buchholz.....12 2 14 12—40
Records— Valdosta 5-15; Buchholz 5-15.

single basket in the second period, the Lady 'Cats scored 16 points in the period to take command.

Leading the way for Valdosta was Cassandra Twine. Twine scored 22 points in the contest.

Valdosta finishes the regular season Monday night as they host Suwannee at home.

Valdosta Swept By Suwannee

VDT 2/16/88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Suwannee High School played Valdosta a visit Monday night in local basketball action and walked away victorious in both the boys' and girls' contest.

The Suwannee Bulldogs simply would not let the Wildcats breath, as they posted an impressive 67-46 win. In the girls' game, the Lady Bulldogs from Suwannee posted double-digit leads on separate occasions in the ballgame, only to witness Susan Montgomery's Lady 'Cats pick themselves up come storming back each time.

The Lady 'Cats had their chances, but saw each of them slip away as the clock began to fade. But on this night it would be the 28 percent free throw shooting that would haunt the Lady 'Cats. Suwannee sneaked away with a 46-44 win against Montgomery's crew.

After several different periods of adjustments and timely scoring streaks, Montgomery's team just couldn't seem to shake what would be their worst nightmare on the evening and was to be free throws.

According to Montgomery, her squad's poor execution in the crucial spots was the difference in the game.

"We had our chances and simply gave them all away," said Montgomery. "We did not make our shots count, but more importantly tonight we did not play well down the stretch when the mental aspect of the game began to set in."

Early on it looked as if it were going to a bad shooting night for the Lady 'Cats as they only hit on 1-of-8 field goals in the first five minutes of the contest.

Led by Cassandra Twine's five point, five rebound first period, the Lady 'Cats were only down by a basket at 9-7. For the game, Twine and teammate Ashley Schleusner led the Lady 'Cats with 12 points each.

As the Lady 'Cats stepped onto the floor to begin the second half of play, they were looking at a 26-20 deficit. Thanks much in part by the scoring of Suwannee's Tonya Fowler. Fowler turned in the game's top performance

with 27 points.

In the opening moments of the fourth period, Suwannee stretched its lead to 39-28 before the Lady 'Cats began their march.

Valdosta proceeded to score the next ten points, taking the lead away from Suwannee 40-39 with 4:33 left in the third period on a layup by Schleusner.

Two possessions later, a Sissy Anderson jumper in the lane tied the game at 43-43. But much to Montgomery's dismay, the baskets quit falling the rest of the way. At this point, Valdosta was a mere 3-of-11 from the line and had a golden opportunity to take an advantage late. With Suwannee up 44-43, a foul and a technical on the Suwannee head coach gave the Lady 'Cats four free throws with just under 1:00 left. But Valdosta sank only 1-of-4 and saw Suwannee add a pair of late free throws to win it by two.

"Although we have never had any true leads this season to work with, tonight showed that we do not play well with a lead," said Montgomery. "We just did not stay into the game mentally when we had to. At times we just started swaying away from what had gotten us back into the game, and the poor free throws simply killed us."

Valdosta did not find the boys' contest to their liking at all. John Miller's 'Cats simply did not have it, and Suwannee was simply clicking on all cylinders.

Led by Kevin Hicks' 23 point performance, the Bulldogs quickly raced out to a 22-8 lead after one period.

In the final 3:00 of both the second and third periods, Miller's team was 0-for-11 in the field goal department, missing on several long range bombs.

Jason King turned in another fine performance for Valdosta scoring 17 points, and snagging 7 rebounds. But it would be far from enough on this night, as Valdosta could only sink at total of 5 field goal attempts in the final period before bowing to Suwannee.

"As of right now, this game is history," said Miller. "Our team must now show its poise and dignity and come back to practice ready to play. I hope with the Region 1-AAAA tourney on the horizon that this team regroups and develops a high intensity level."



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Vincent Williams And Gary Campbell (21) Battle For Ball

(Boys)
Suwannee (47)— Hicks 20, Brown 12, Basserman 9, T. Brown 6, Washington 5, Herring 4, Ford 4, Williams 3, DePass 2, Barker 2.
Valdosta (46)— King 17, Campbell 12, Williams 6, Phillips 5, Moore 4, Manning 2.
Suwannee.....22 10 17 18-67
Valdosta..... 8 11 12 15-46
Records— Suwannee 19-4; Valdosta 5-16.
Next Game— Region 1-AAAA Tourney in Moultrie (Thursday 9 p.m.)

(Girls)
Suwannee (46)— Fowler 27, Graham 6, Owens 6, Spencer 5, Brown 2.
Valdosta (44)— Twine 12, Schleusner 12, Plummer 8, Anderson 7, Phillips 2, Dennis 2, Manning 1.
Suwannee..... 9 17 11 9-46
Valdosta..... 7 13 8 16-44
Records— Suwannee 10-10; Valdosta 5-16.
Next Game— Region 1-AAAA Tourney in Moultrie (Wednesday 9 p.m.)

VHS Girls Unable To Stop Colquitt County

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

For one quarter, the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats looked like they would end a disappointing season with a small bit of prosperity. The Lady 'Cats trailed No. 2 seed Colquitt County 13-12 after the first stanza of their Region 1-AAAA tournament battle, but Colquitt eventually pulled away for a 58-43 win.

The loss ends Valdosta's season with

a 5-17 record. Colquitt, 12-8, goes on to play Monroe 4:30 Friday.

Valdosta played a patient half-court offense in the first quarter, and center Cassandra Twine got three baskets after offensive rebounds as Valdosta led 10-7 early before Colquitt came back to lead 13-12.

Twine finished with 18 points and had 10 of those in the first half.

During the second quarter, however, Colquitt began to assert itself. The Lady Packers outscored Valdosta 12-4 to lead 25-16 at the 4:12 mark and led

30-21 at the intermission. Things only got worse for the Lady 'Cats in the third period as they were outscored 12-6 and Colquitt went into the final period with a 42-27 lead.

The Lady Packers' biggest lead was at 20, 49-29, but Valdosta cut the margin back to the final 15-point decision.

"We just quit doing what worked," said VHS head coach Susan Montgomery. "Ashley Schleusner shot the ball well then stopped and we stopped getting the ball inside. But

that's because of a lack of experience. It just doesn't register with them sometimes when they're doing something right. They don't always realize it.

"I thought that third quarter really did us in. For some reason, we find ourselves standing around late. I don't know why."

Twine went 7-of-12 from the field and pulled down 14 rebounds to go along with her 18 points. Valerie Plummer added eight points for VHS. Sissy Anderson and Schleusner had six each

and Swandolyn Phillips added 5. Colquitt was led by Phaedra Hill with 16 points. Patricia Johnson and Tangela Yearby had 13 points each.

"There was some improvement this year," said Montgomery, whose team only won three games last year. "I wish I had seen more. But we're pretty young. We only have two seniors, so we have something to build on next season."

Also advancing in the girls' bracket were Dougherty and Monroe. Lowndes' Vikesettes will play Dougherty Friday

night at 7:30. The tournament continues tonight with the Lowndes boys taking on host Colquitt at 7:30 and Valdosta playing Monroe at 9 p.m. The 6 p.m. game features Tift County and Dougherty.

(Valdosta vs. Colquitt)
Colquitt County (58) - Hill 16, Johnson 13, Yearby 13, Poole 12, Williams 4.
Valdosta (43) - Twine 18, Schleusner 6, Plummer 6, Anderson 6, Phillips 5, Dennis, Larry, Manning.

Colquitt.....13 17 12 16-58
Valdosta.....12 9 6 16-43
Records - Colquitt 12-8, Valdosta 5-17.
Next game - Colquitt vs. Monroe, 4:30 Friday.

State Berths At Stake In Region 1-AAAA Tournament

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Berths in the upcoming state tournament will be on the line when the Region 1-AAAA basketball tournament gets underway Wednesday afternoon at Colquitt County High School.

Action begins with the first round of the girls' division 6:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. At 6:00 it will be the No. 5 seeded team Dougherty versus No. 4 Westover, at 7:30 No. 3 Monroe will battle No. 6 Tift County, and at 9:00 No. 7 Valdosta will take on No. 2 Colquitt County.

The Lowndes Vikesettes, the No. 1 seeded team, has a first round bye and will play the winner of the Dougherty-Westover game at 7:30 Friday night. At 4:30 Friday afternoon, the Monroe-Tift winner will meet the Valdosta-Colquitt winner.

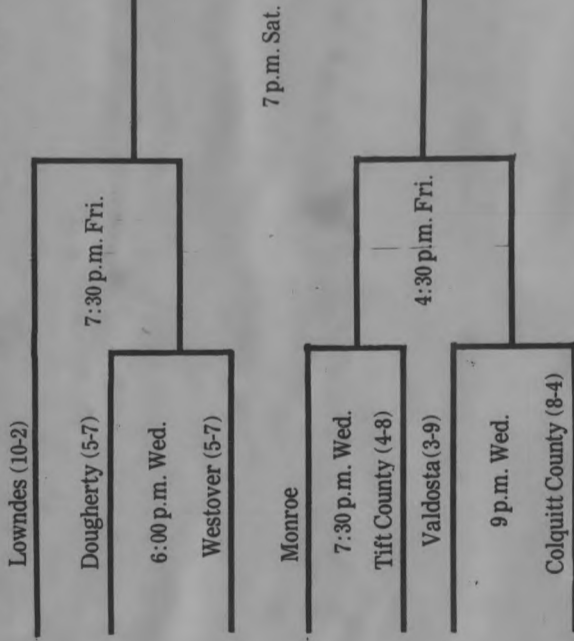
Boy's action gets underway Thursday night with No. 5 Tift County taking on No. 4 Dougherty at 6:00. At 7:30 No. 3 Lowndes will meet No. 6 Colquitt and No. 2 Monroe.

Westover, the No. 1 seed has a bye and will meet the winner of the Tift County-Dougherty game at 9:00 Friday night while the Lowndes-Colquitt winner will face the Valdosta-Monroe winner at 6:00 Friday.

The girls' championship game will be 7:00 p.m. Saturday and the boys' championship game will be 8:30.

"I think we came out as good as good as could be expected," Lowndes Viking head coach Terry Wilkes said concerning his team's No. 3 seed. "I was a little disappointed for a while. We had a chance for the No. 2 seed but we let two (Tift County and Monroe) get away from us at home.

Girls' 1-AAAA Pairings



"But what has to be real pleasing was after we had our backs against the wall, we went over to Dougherty and won. The kids just did what they had to do. We had a lead in regulation, lost it, but kept battling in overtime and won the game. I guess the fact that we came back makes it that much sweeter."

Had the Vikings lost to the Trojans, Lowndes would have been seeded No. 4 and would have been faced with the task of beating Westover to make it to the championship game.

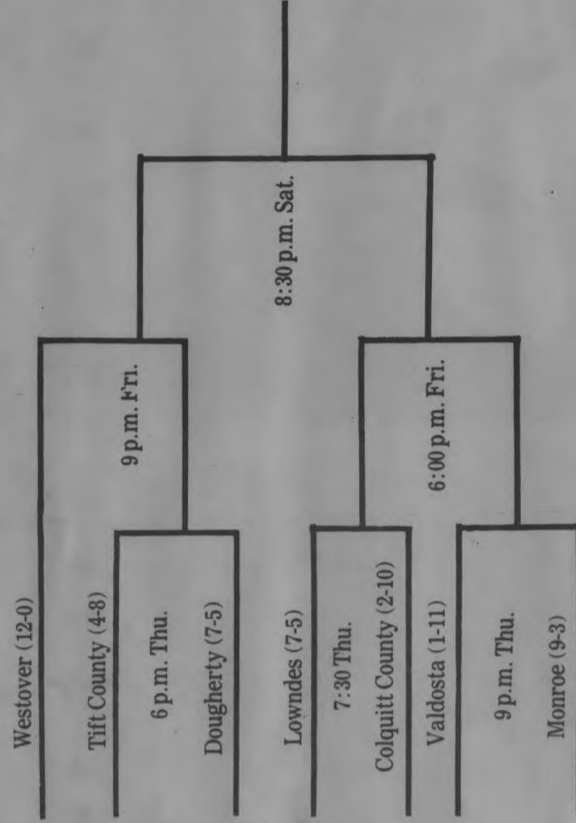
Instead the Vikings will be facing No. 6 Colquitt County on its home floor and that fact alone has Wilkes very concerned.

ment with some kind of letdown," he said. "Colquitt County has always given us fits. They beat us twice last year and even though we beat them by 3 and 12 points this year, they play the type of game that makes it hard to deal with. They're the host team and are going to come at us with no holds barred. We've got to play aggressively because they feel they have nothing to lose."

The Valdosta Wildcats haven't won but one Region 1-AAAA game and nobody is picking John Miller's crew to do any better come Thursday night against first round opponent Monroe, but Miller won't just throw in the towel.

"Our team has a pretty good attitude right now," he said. "We played

Boys' 1-AAAA Pairings



Monroe close both times this year. They have a fine team, 16-6 overall and 9-3 in Region 1-AAAA but we seem to match up pretty good.

"Monroe has the potential to win the whole tournament but we feel we match up with them as good as anybody else in the region. We hope they may be looking ahead but their coach is such a good one I'm sure they will be fired up."

Westover enters the game with a 23-0 mark and is the prohibitive favorite to win the Region 1-AAAA tournament but Miller feels several teams have the capabilities to knock the Patriots off.

"I mentioned Monroe but I also feel that Dougherty and Lowndes have the potential to play with Westover. I think size could be the factor. Dougherty and

they have improved a lot since then."

The Vikesettes could possibly be without the services of starter Carol Bradley. The senior injured her ankle against Dougherty Friday night and her status is doubtful for the tournament.

Goode was concerned about what affect Bradley's loss would have on her team, but after watching the Vikesettes go through their paces in practice Tuesday afternoon, the Lowndes coach is optimistic.

"They looked pretty sharp," Goode said. "I was real pleased. The girls haven't practiced a lot without Carol but yesterday they worked well. The girls have overcome a lot this year and I feel they will overcome this."

"I feel their are two factors involved here. First, the girls want to see Carol get another shot at playing next week and second, it's a matter of pride."

"Either Colquitt or Westover could challenge Lowndes," Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery said. "Westover just beat Colquitt and seem to be peaking at just the right time."

The Valdosta Lady 'Cats have won only five games but Montgomery has generally been pleased with her team's performance and looks forward to the challenge that the 1-AAAA tournament presents.

"I think we've actually played pretty well of late," she said. "We open with Colquitt County Wednesday night and my attitude is they've got to beat us. If we play to the best of our abilities we'll have a shot. But we can't make any mistakes, none whatsoever."

"We've lost several games by letting down mentally. We could have had a couple of more wins if we could have played 100 percent physically and mentally from beginning to end. We've made a lot of improvement over the year but we've still got a lot to do."

From The Classroom...

Debaters Win Big At Competition

VDT 2-20-88

By Jay Connell

Valdosta High debaters won eight awards at West Georgia College last weekend.

Seniors Terry Snyder and Cindy Supp won the second place negative team award with a 4-1 won-loss record.

Snyder was eighth place speaker and Miss Supp was tenth place. On the affirmative, senior Holly Davis finished as second place speaker. Miss Davis teamed with senior Toby Baskin to win the sixth place team award.

The rest of the awards were in the division for first-year debaters. Sophomore John Casker and junior Marty Diamond had a 3-2 record and finished as the sixth place affirmative team. Freshman Tammy Crowe and sophomore Michelle Jones won sixth place negative team award. Miss Crows was sixth place negative speaker. Senior Barry Golivesky served as a judge during the two-day competition.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

The national high school debate topic for 1987-88 is Resolved: That the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America. Under the topic VHS affirmative teams argued for an overthrow of the current Cuban regime.

"This is the first tournament where every Valdosta debater has won an award. It is especially rewarding for our seniors because this was their last tournament. But for the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen the future looks bright," said Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS.

In other debate news, Valdosta High finished second in the Region 1-AAAA debates held January 20 in Tifton. Junior Jay Connell was named second place affirmative speaker.

Other VHS students competing in the region tournament were Kelly Shelton, Terry Snyder and Cindy Supp. Tift won first place in the three-round tournament. Other schools competing were Dougherty and Lowndes high schools.

Jaime Gagliardi, Shannon Harris, Kelly McBride, Deania Denmark and Sharon Patrick in opening and closing; Anna Field in prepared speech and Laura McMillan in job interview.

In the trade and industry competition, Chad Burroughs won third in Practical Nursing. In art and drafting, Mike Harrell placed first. Chris Harrell also won first place in the area of air conditioning cooling and gasoline engine repair. In the division of bricklaying, Keith Gunter placed first. Dan Altman won a second place award in machine drafting, and Russell Melligan won first place in residential wiring. The first and second place winners will travel to Columbus in March to compete in the district competition.

New Equipment

VDT 2-20-88

The Foreign Language Club has bought a television, VCR and stand for the Foreign Language Department of Valdosta High, according to Club President Brooke Price.

"The members worked hard selling candy to raise the money for this project" reported Miss Price. "The Foreign Language faculty needed this equipment to show cultural and educational videos."

Spanish teacher Elsie Nicholas said, "This is fantastic! Now we can use our materials as they apply to what we are teaching rather than waiting for the equipment."

Sponsor Patty Smitherman reports that member Nicole Coursen sold the most candy. "It was fun and I sold all of it in a week," said Nicole.

The club has also purchased the Spanish movie version of a classic Spanish book for presentation during Foreign Language Week and for later use by the Spanish classes.

DECA Winners

Of the eighteen students which attended the seventh district competition last weekend, all of the students qualified for state competition which will be held in Atlanta on March 18. The district competition was held in Savannah, Georgia, last weekend where the students competed in co-curricular contest with other students from the southwest Georgia area.

The students who qualified are: Catherine Kaiser, who won 1st place in the speech competition; Nick Tomlinson, who won 1st place in Job interview; Chris Griner, who won 1st place in marketing spelling-vocabulary; Melanie Dennard, who won 3rd place in general merchandising master employee level and Jeff Lahr, who won 2nd place in general merchandising supervisory level.

Also, Stephanie Culverhouse, who won 2nd place in apparel and accessories Master employee level; Paige Braswell, who won 1st place in apparel and accessories supervisory level; Susan Burns, who won 2nd place in advertising services; Kevin Griffis, who won 2nd place in vehicles and petroleum marketing; Kim Courson, who won 2nd place in food marketing master employee level and Len Davis, who won 1st place in food marketing supervisory level.

And, LeAnn Hendrix, who won 1st place in full service restaurant management; Kevin Glorious, who won 2nd place in quick serve restaurant management; Lynn Simmons, who won 2nd place in general marketing supervisory level; Gina Hampton, who won 2nd place in the economics testing event; Toby Baskins, who won 1st place in the math testing event and Stephanie Gupton, who won 2nd place in hotel and motel management master employee level.

Pancake Supper

VDT 2-20-88

By Stephen Cain

The Valdosta High NJROTC held a Pancake Supper Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The supper was held at the McDonalds on West Hill and will include all the pancakes you can eat.

The money raised at this event will help to pay for the costs of upcoming field trips. The unit will be attending field meets at Savannah State College and Florida A&M in the upcoming months.

VICA Competition

By Laura McMillan

On Feb. 7, VICA students traveled to Colquitt County High School to compete in the area VICA Skills Olympics. Valdosta placed first overall. In the leadership competitions, Valdosta won four first place awards. The first place winners were:

Kevin Breeden in extemporaneous speaking; Rusty Mace, Wendi Connell,

Wildcats And Vikings Take To The Gridiron Again

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer
Feb. 24, 1988

The Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes Vikings are popping the cork on yet another year of Region 1-AAAA football.

The Valdosta Wildcats break the seal on their '88 campaign Monday with the beginning of spring practice. Head coach Nick Hyder and his staff prepare to develop underclassmen as well as hone the skills of some of the returning players.

The Vikings ushered in the new season last Tuesday as head coach Joe

Wilson and his staff have begun to try and fill some key positions that were left vacant due to graduation.

But according to both Hyder and Wilson, spring practice is basically for the development of future players and the teaching of the basic fundamentals of football.

"Spring is simply the time for players who are moving into different levels of competition," said Hyder.

"The transition period begins as low as the recreation leagues, to the junior high ranks, as well as the varsity squad. But the biggest and most important area is that spring offers more time for the teaching of fun-

damentals to our players. Every player will try and show the capacity to improve."

"The fundamentals of the sport are the most important," said Wilson. "The spring offers our kids a chance to prepare themselves for the season ahead, as well as give our staff a chance to evaluate the team's talent."

The Wildcats and Vikings will be entering this year's spring campaign sitting on different plateaus.

Hyder's 'Cats finished the 1987 season 12-1 and claimed yet another Region 1-AAAA championship.

Wilson's Vikings finished 5-5 and did not see post season action for only the

third time in some ten years.

Wilson was blunt about his '88 football campaign, but expressed both enthusiasm and eagerness when referring to his situation.

"We've got some very big holes to fill and little time to do it in," said Wilson.

"We were decimated with losses on both the defensive and offensive sides of the ball. When you lose players such as an All-America in (Freddie) Richardson, and the region's leading rusher in (Mark) Walker, you're not too happy about things. We have our work cut out for us, but I'm certainly pleased with the attitudes of our young men. We have a very hardworking bunch."

Wilson was quick in pointing out that because of the demanding schedule that most Region 1-AAAA teams endure, spring practice is a major focal point in producing a quality product for the upcoming season.

"In this league, you had better be ready to go when the whistle blows," said Wilson. "The newcomers, Coffee and Bainbridge, will find out it's tough keeping up with the Joneses."

Hyder was quick in pointing out that among some of the greatest Wildcat needs will be in the kicking game. The Wildcats will try and find replacements for both punter Charles Steward

and placekicker Todd Peterson.

"We will be working on trying to find stability in both of those areas. The loss of two premier kickers would be a great loss for anyone," said Hyder.

"Trying to find people who can fulfill the kicking roles is very important."

Hyder's chore does not however stop at that point.

The Wildcat braintrust must find a replacement at the quarterback position. The 'Cats will be without the services of B.J. Mason, and must make key decisions in that area.

Leading the list of possible quarterbacks to step in and take the starting post is Ben Hogan.

See Football, Page 3-C

Football

Continue From 1-C
Wilson and his staff are faced with the same dilemma.

With the departure of quarterback Rhett Akins, it looks as if Chris Overman will be assuming the role as the Viking triggerman. Overman saw limited time at quarterback last season, one game was in a starting capacity.

The Vikings look to have a very solid unit on the defensive side of the ball with such returnees as linebacker Antwoine Clark and defensive tackle Casper Vinson. Other Vikings that will be seeing valuable playing time will be receiver Jason Orr, defensive back Reggie Glance, offensive lineman Chris Hubert, and offensive lineman Doug Hubbard.

The Valdosta Wildcats hope to cover all bases on both offense and defense.

The Wildcat forte will definitely fall under the offensive category. Leading the list on offense will be the running back trio of James Roberts, Isaac Ceaser and Lawrence Sharpe.

Leading the way on the defensive ledger will be defensive tackle Zabria Bell. Bell will be flanked by defensive

unity, and it gives each a chance to get some valuable work done," said Wilson. "When you take into consideration injuries, and the length of the season, spring practice is a necessity."

Both teams will wind up their spring practice with an intrasquad contest on the final day of practice. Valdosta will have its intrasquad game March 11, while Lowndes will finish up March 5.

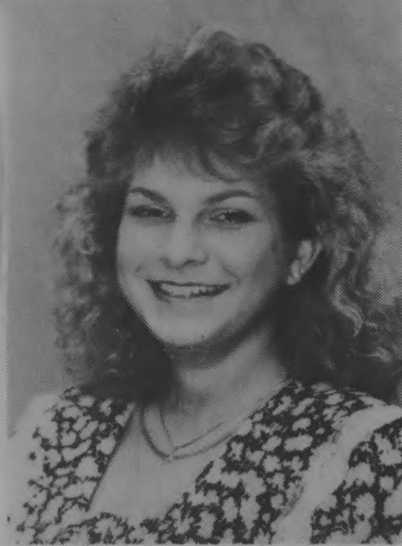
New Georgia High School rules forbid playing spring games unless they are intrasquad contests.



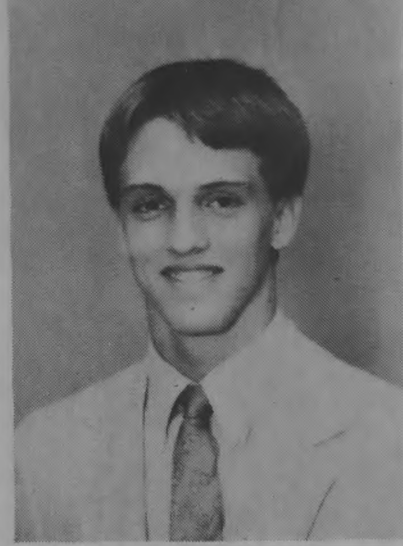
VDT 2-24-88

Cat Attack

West Sullivan gets a lift from several of his School. Practice began Monday and will end Valdosta Wildcat teammates during Tuesday's March 11 with a scrimmage at Cleveland spring practice session at Valdosta High Field.—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy



SHANNON TAW
Scholastic All-American



JASON BRIDGES
Talented Athlete

VDT Tues. Feb. 23, 1988

General James Jackson Chapter DAR Honors Students, Teacher

The General James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored American History Month essay winners.

The winning students, who wrote on their favorite patriots, were Crystal Starling and Kimberly Russell of Lowndes High School, Shannon Taw and Jason Bridges of Valdosta High School, Kern Autrey and Heather Epes of Valwood School. Winning seventh graders, Gretchen Marshall and Jeffrey Chiu of Valwood, wrote on *U.S. Constitution: Road to Ratification*. Bill Herring, a LHS history teacher, was also honored with a certificate of appreciation.

Shannon is the 16-year-old daughter of Jimmy and Brenda Taw. She is a junior at VHS where she is batgirl for the baseball team, matgirl for the wrestling team, parliamentarian for the Student Council and a member of the Interact Club. She was named Scholastic All-American and Academic All-American for 1987 and 1988, and was listed in *Who's Who in American High Schools*. She was in the Spanish Honor Society in 1987 and named Best VHS history student in 1986. She wrote about Amelia Bloomer as her favorite American patriot.

Jason is the son of Jim and Joanna Bridges. He is a 16-year-old junior at

VHS where he is vice president of the Interact Club, secretary of the Junior Class, a member of the Key Club and the All Area football team, treasurer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of Student Council in 1987, and captain of the freshman football team in 1986. He received a Governor's Honors nomination in history, a United States Achievement Academy history award, and was named a Scholastic All-American this year. He wrote about the average American citizen as his favorite American patriot.

Mon., Feb. 22, 1988

Book On Kennedys Reviewed

The American Broadcasting Company has plans for a possible miniseries based upon the Kennedy and Fitzgerald families as portrayed by Doris Goodman in *The Fitzgerald and Kennedy Family: An American Saga*.

Sandra Connell, head of the media department at Valdosta High School, reviewed the possibilities in the book written by the former Harvard professor. Mrs. Goodman, who taught government at Harvard, lives with her husband and family in Concord, Mass. According to Mrs. Connell, the author gained the confidence of the Kennedy family through her husband's association as the Kennedy lawyer for more than 25 years.

Mrs. Connell said book reviews, such as the one she gave for the Literary Guild, are an integral part of her work. She, too, enjoys writing and is presently working on a family history.

According to Mrs. Connell, *The Fitzgerald and the Kennedy Family* is divided into three parts. Each section is based upon a relationship or an association of relationships in the two families.

In the first section the author educates the reader about Rose Kennedy's father and the joining of the Kennedy with the Fitzgerald family. Although Rose Kennedy married Joseph Kennedy against her father's wishes, it proved to be a successful union and would later be very influential in American politics.

Joseph Patrick Kennedy, Rose's husband, is the subject of the second section of the book. Kennedy, the patriarch of the Kennedy family,



SANDRA CONNELL
Heads VHS Media Department

masterminded the plan for the introduction of the Irish Catholic influence in American politics. He was a successful entrepreneur acquiring a great deal of wealth during the course of his life. Joseph Kennedy served as ambassador to England, but the real

Kennedy influence on American politics came through their children.

The last section of the books discusses the "Golden Trio" of the Kennedy children: Joe Jr., John, and Kathleen. Although there were nine children, these three were the ones apparently singled out for opportunity. However, Kathleen never reached her full potential as she was killed in a plane crash when she was 28. Joe Jr., who was the oldest child, was originally tapped for the quest for the presidency of the United States. Unfortunately, he was killed in a plane crash while flying a mission in World War II. John was the last of the "fair-haired" children who finally accomplished the goal their father had outlined for them.

Verda Will Zant was chairman of the hostesses for the February meeting at the Valdosta Country Club. Other hostesses include Nadine O'Steen, Selma Witherington, Laura Lee Wisenbaker, Elizabeth Greneker, Frances Allen, Hazel Flatau, Irene Orlieb, Kathryn Holt, and Nettie C. Williams.

Among the guests at the meeting were Helen Wright and Mrs. Walter Martin.

VDT

LHS, VHS Announce Schedules

VDT, Sun., Feb 28, 1988

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High and Lowndes High have announced their respective football schedules for the 1988 football season.

VHS opens at home with Camden County on September 2, followed by a Saturday game on Sept. 10 at home against Greene-Taliaferro.

On Sept. 16, Valdosta hosts Waycross and the night of Sept. 23 is the open date.

Valdosta's first away game is on Sept. 30 against Northside-Warner Robins, followed by an Oct. 7 game at

home against Statesboro.

On Friday Oct. 14, Valdosta travels to Bainbridge, followed by two more road games, at Colquitt County on Oct. 21 and Tift County on Oct. 28.

Valdosta plays host to Coffee at home on Nov. 4 and then ends the season against Lowndes High at home on Nov. 11.

The Wildcats are playing six at home and four away.

The Vikings also have six home dates and four road appearances as well.

Wilson's Vikings open their season at home versus Warner Robins September 2. The Vikings next travel to Thomasville Sept. 9. Lowndes then

plays its next three contests in the friendly confines of Martin Stadium starting with Hardaway Sept. 16, followed by Dodge Co. Sept. 23, and Camden Co. Sept. 30.

The final five games will be against Region 1-AAAA opponents.

Lowndes is at Coffee Co. October 7, then returns home Oct. 14 to host Tift Co. before taking a week off with an open date scheduled for Oct. 21.

The final home game for the Vikings will be Oct. 28 as Lowndes plays host to Colquitt Co. The Vikings round out the '88 season with road games on Nov. 4 at Bainbridge, and Nov. 11 at Valdosta High.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

STAR Student Jeffrey Lahr, Teacher Perry Baskin Take Closer Look At Spectrograph

Valdosta High STAR Students Share Honor 21 Years Apart

VDT, Sun., Feb. 28, 1988

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

In 1967, Valdosta High school senior Perry Baskin was named the VHS STAR Student.

He's been back at the high school now since 1978 as a physics teacher and once again he's a star.

This time, though, Baskin has been selected as the STAR Teacher by the 1988 STAR Student Jeffrey Lahr.

"When he teaches us physics, he tries to teach us how to think logically instead of just memorizing," Lahr said.

Baskin is just as complimentary of Lahr.

"It is a great honor to be selected as a STAR Student. I am real proud Jeff was selected," Baskin said.

It is indeed an honor to be chosen as the STAR Student or Teacher of a high school.

Each year, the seniors with the highest Scholastic Aptitude Test score in an accredited high school who are in the top 10 percent of their class are chosen throughout the state to compete in the STAR Program.

In turn, the student chooses the teacher who has had the greatest impact on their academic career.

STAR, which stands for Student Teacher Achievement Recognition, has been sponsored locally by the Valdosta Kiwanis Club since its inception 30 years ago, according to club spokesman J.C. Funderburke.

The Business Council of Georgia

administers the program for the state of Georgia.

Lahr and Baskin were recognized by the Valdosta Kiwanis Club at their Feb. 19 meeting and will now attend the district banquet March 14 at Valdosta State College. If Lahr wins district competition, he will advance to the State STAR competition.

The state STAR winner receives a one week's tour of Georgia.

"This activity recognizes academic achievement and professionalism in teaching," Funderburke said.

Lahr is excited over winning the STAR status since he plans to attend Georgia Tech in the fall to major in industrial design.

"I hope this will help me get scholarship money," Lahr said. Baskin said that is one of the most positive aspects of the STAR program.

"This opens doors for Jeff. Being named STAR Student makes it easier to get into more exclusive colleges and to get scholarship money," he explained.

Baskin received two scholarships for his academic achievements having to turn one of them, from Georgia Tech, down.

Instead, Baskin stayed here to attend college earning his 4-year degree in physics and his masters in molecular physics from Valdosta State College.

He never intended to be a teacher in 1967. It was just one of those things.

"Most STAR students don't wind up being teachers," Baskin said with a laugh.

But he added some people are born

to teach and after a stint as a community epidemiologist, he decided in 1978 to teach high school physics.

Lahr shares Baskin's love of science and says his two favorite subjects are science and math.

Moving here from Missouri in 1985, Lahr said it took him a while to get use to rural south Georgia after having lived in much larger cities in the Midwest.

He's never considered himself a bookworm or an egghead, and says he doesn't enjoy work.

"I think I'm the opposite of the stereotype," Lahr said.

He does like to learn and that has motivated him to do well in school. His interest in learning does make him an easy student to deal with. However, he prefers fishing, hunting, golf and basketball to homework.

"It is much easier to teach a student with a strong interest. You can go a lot further a lot faster," said Baskin.

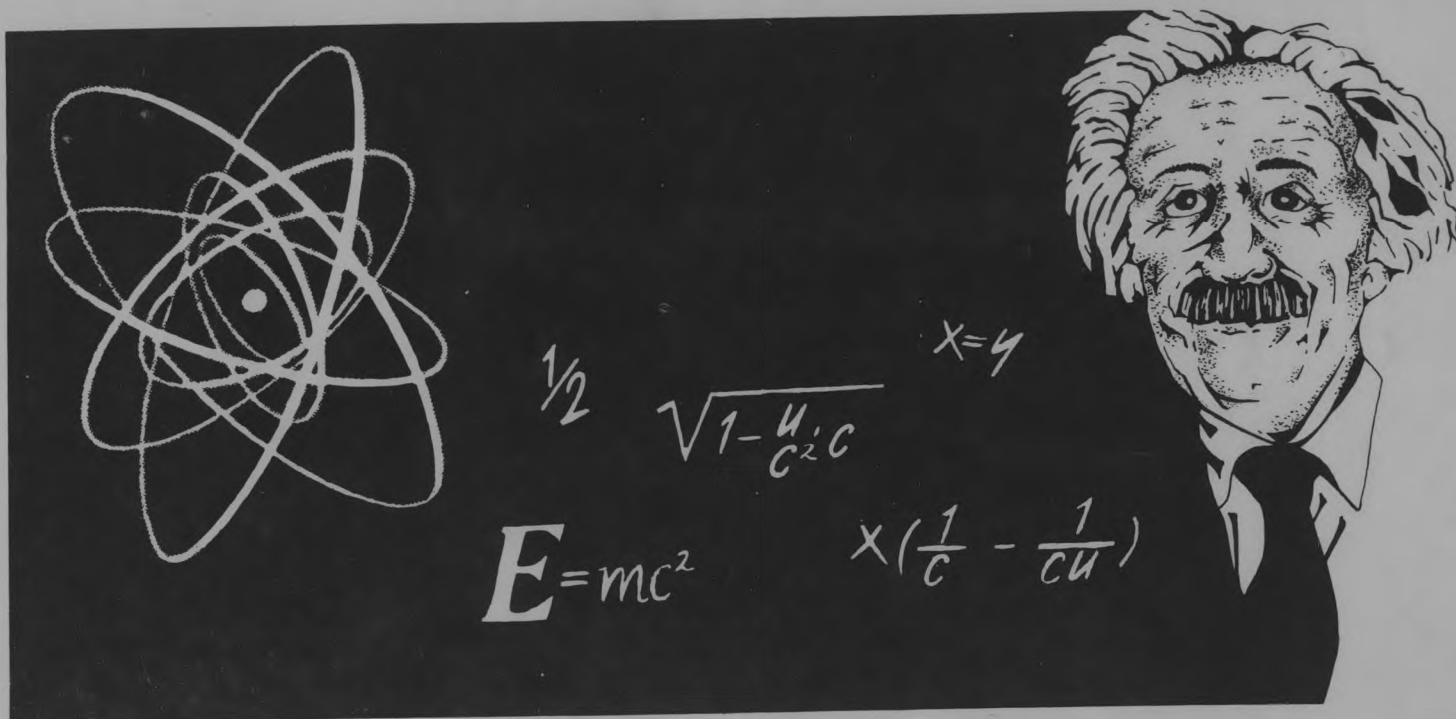
Baskin is not only proud of Lahr but is also pleased and honored to be selected as the STAR teacher.

He remembers having to select a teacher when he was STAR student.

"I chose my math teacher Francis Worstall ... She was a very good teacher and I felt like it would mean a lot to her," he said.

"The STAR program is a big asset to education. It gives a teacher recognition that hasn't had any, and usually, it's a decent teacher chosen," Baskin said.

Baskin should know. After all, he's had a two-STAR career.



A NEW MULTI-IMAGE SHOW!

SCIENCE AND MATH — IT'S WORTH IT! IS A FASCINATING 8½-MINUTE SHOW THAT DESCRIBES HOW SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ARE APPLIED IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND IN TODAY'S HIGH-TECH ARMY. THE COMPUTER PROGRAMMED SHOW USES SIX PROJECTORS AND THREE SCREENS TO TELL YOU HOW A KNOWLEDGE OF GEOMETRY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, OR MATH CAN BE A STEPPING STONE TO A CAREER IN ENGINEERING, DESIGN, TRANSPORTATION, ELECTRONICS, OR MEDICINE, TO NAME A FEW. SOME OF THE ARMY SKILLS MENTIONED INCLUDE COMPUTER SPECIALIST, FIELD ARTILLERY CREWMAN, VIDEO TECHNICIAN, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER, AND CARTOGRAPHER. THESE ARE SOME OF THE FIELDS IN WHICH SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE.

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APPEARING AT VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL

ON FEBRUARY 24, 1988

COURTESY OF YOUR LOCAL RECRUITER

SSG RONALD E. BROWN

Baseball Preview

Four Teams Tied For 2nd In 1-AAAA

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Region 1-AAAA baseball standings are bottlenecked at the No. 2 position, but Colquitt County is enjoying a slight cushion at No. 1 as the region play nears the halfway point for all teams.

Colquitt owns a 5-1 region record. Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County, and Westover are all tied for second with identical 3-2 marks. Dougherty is 1-4 and Monroe is winless at 0-5.

With only the top four teams going to the region tournament, its starting to look like scramble time for the teams near the bottom.

Lowndes County has a chance to gain a little leverage tonight when the Vikings travel to Albany to take on Westover at 7:30. The Vikings then host Tift County Wednesday at 7:30 and finish the week at Colquitt County 7:30 Friday night.

Charles Tarpley's 'Cats stayed in the hunt with a big win over Lowndes Friday after losing to Westover in the final inning Thursday afternoon.

The 'Wildcats host Ware County today at 4:30 in a non-region contest, and VHS travels to Albany Tuesday night for a 5 p.m. game against Dougherty. Valdosta hosts Colquitt County Wednesday at 4:30. The 'Cats will also play host to Berrien County 4:30 Saturday.

In a grudge match at the Class A level, the Lanier County Bulldogs host the defending Class A champions Clinch County 4:30 Tuesday afternoon in Lakeland.

When the two first met in Homerville, the Panthers waltzed away with an easy 17-2 whipping of Lanier.

Lanier County head coach John White is hoping his team will fare a little better playing at home against Clinch.

"We just didn't get any key hits," said White. "We left the bases loaded the last three innings. They played about as well as they could and we didn't play well at all."

White said ace Troy Foster will start in tomorrow's contest.

The unbeaten Class AA Berrien County Rebels will play at Colquitt County tonight in a game that matches the Region 1-AAAA leader with the Region 2-AA Southwest leader. Berrien, however, has beaten Valdosta twice and Tift County once, so don't look for Bart Shuman's troops to absorb loss No. 1.

Berrien gets back into subregion play Tuesday, hosting Waycross at 5 p.m. The Rebels play at Coffee County Wednesday at 7 p.m. On Friday, Berrien once again takes on arch-rival Cook High in a subregion game of the utmost importance. Cook has only one loss and that came against Berrien last

week in Berrien. The two tangle Friday night at 7 p.m. in Adel.

Cook plays at subregion foe Bacon County at 4:30. On Saturday, Cook will play host to Broxton at 2 p.m.

This Week's Games

- Monday, April 11
 - Ware County at Valdosta (4:30)
 - Berrien County at Colquitt County (7:00)
 - Lowndes at Westover (7:30)
- Tuesday, April 12
 - Valdosta at Dougherty (5:00)
 - Clinch County at Lanier County (4:30)
 - Waycross at Berrien County (5:00)
 - Cook at Bacon County (4:30)
- Wednesday, April 13
 - Tift County at Lowndes (7:30)
 - Berrien County at Coffee County (7:00)
 - Colquitt County at Valdosta (4:30)
- Thursday, April 14
 - Atkinson Co. at Lanier County (4:30)
- Friday, April 15
 - Broxton at Lanier County (4:30)
 - Lowndes at Colquitt County (7:30)
 - Berrien County at Cook (7:00)
- Saturday, April 16
 - Berrien County at Valdosta (4:30)
 - Broxton at Cook (2:00)

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sun., April 10, 1988

Berrien County Defeats Valdosta 10-2

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

NASHVILLE—The Berrien County Rebels showed just why they are considered one of the best teams in south Georgia as they disposed of the Valdosta Wildcats in grand style 10-2 at Rebel Field here Saturday.

Bart Shuman's Rebels broke open a tight 3-2 contest with seven runs on five hits in the Berrien fifth to take a 10-2 lead, putting the game out of reach.

The win gives the Rebels a 12-0 mark on the season and marks their 11th straight home win at Rebel Field. For Charles Tarpley's Wildcats, it was a matter of just not being able to hold

down the fort against the relentless Rebels. Tarpley's crew drops to 7-6 on the year.

"We just have to take games one at a time," said Shuman. "Once again, in many areas we played very tough baseball, but there's a long way to go. There is always room for improvement."

Tarpley was pleased with his squad's effort, but was disappointed at the mistakes made.

"Overall, playing tough for four innings and only being down by one run against a top team such as Berrien makes anyone feel good," said Tarpley. "We're still make too many mistakes, plus we are still in need of finding a pitcher that can hold his

ground entering the game in relief," said Tarpley.

The seven run Rebel fifth inning was keyed by Wildcat miscues along with clutch Berrien hitting.

Scott Purvis, the starter and winning pitcher for Berrien, led off the inning with a double against VHS reliever Brannen Pruette. Ben Smith countered with a base hit to right. Pruette then retired the next two Rebel batters, but then the roof caved in on Pruette and Valdosta.

After a stolen base by Purvis and a passed ball by Wildcat catcher David Cole allowed Purvis and Smith to move up, another passed ball by Cole and a wild pitch by Pruette scored both runners to make the score 5-2 Berrien.

Rusty Harrelson then walked, moved to second on an error, and Ronnie Ash delivered a two-out, run-scoring single. Two batters later, Jason Hamil put a cap on an impressive day at the plate for Berrien with a grand slam homer over the left-center field fence to make it 10-2.

The lone Valdosta runs came in the top half of the fifth inning as the Wildcats combined two hits and a walk by Purvis to produce two runs. Pablo Campa led off with a walk, followed by an Adam Avila single. Campa scored on a double by second baseman John Iverson. Shortstop B.J. Mason scored Avila with a sacrifice fly to right. The Valdosta inning ended, however, on the same play with the Rebel infield

throwing out Iverson at third.

The leading hitters for Valdosta were Andy Rykard and Adam Avila. Each went 2-for-3 and Avila accounted for a scored run. Iverson, Bernard Hitson, and Ashley Bass went 1-for-3 on the day for Valdosta.

The Rebels were led by Hamil. Hamil went 3-for-4 with five RBI and three runs scored. Purvis also matched Hamil's output going 3-for-4 with one RBI.

The Wildcats next host Ware County at Bazemore Field Monday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. Berrien hits the road Monday, traveling to Moultrie to tangle with Colquitt County beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Valdosta	Berrien Co.
Iverson 2b	Correly 3b
Mason ss	Ramsey 1f
Moore rf	Hamil ss
Rykard dh	Purvis p
Hitson cf	Smith cf
Cole c	Shipes dh
Bass 3b-p	S. Nix 2b-dh
Campa lf	D. Nix dh
Cullen p	Harrison lb
Thomas dh	Houston dh
Avila 1b	Ash c
Totals	Totals
.....25 2 7 2	.....29 10 12 9
Valdosta	Berrien
.....000 020 0-2	.....001 070 x-10
E - Iverson, Bass, Campa, Hamil, DP - Berrien Co. 1.	LOB - Valdosta 8, Berrien Co. 7. 2B - Iverson, Hamil,
Purvis, Smith, S. Nix. HR - Hamil, SB - Hamil, Smith.	VP - Mason, Houston.
Valdosta	IP H R ER BB SO
Cullen (L, 2-3)	3 5 3 3 1
Pruette	2 6 7 6 2 3
Bass	1 1 0 0 0 0
Berrien Co.	7 7 2 2 3 7
Purvis (W, 5-0)	WP - Cullen, Pruette. PB - Cole 2. Ash. HBP - Smith
by Cullen. T - 1-45.	

'88 'Cats Coming Together

VDT 3-5-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

With the graduation of All-American tight end Charles Steward and receiver Bernard Hitson, the Valdosta High coaching staff has been looking long and hard for nimble receivers and hard-hitting tight ends.

Receiver coach Bob Bolton thinks he has found some candidates for the positions during spring football practice.

At wide out, Bolton said he was impressed with the work of Kelly Dawsey as well as Keith Beal, and Shannon Myers.

"I would say Dawsey has been a surprise for us," said Bolton. "He doesn't have tremendous size (5-10, 165) but he's got good speed. All these guys have potential and have worked really hard," said Bolton.

Catching notice at tight end are Lee Thomas and Mickey McSwain. Both played sparingly behind Steward last season.

"Both look good and that's going to be a competitive situation," said Bolton. It's unusual for us to be so close there, but that's good for the team".

Unfortunately for Valdosta, Steward was also a first-class punter and placekicker Todd Peterson will also be gone come fall.

Joe Wright is a leading candidate for the punter spot and defensive end Coleman Rudolph and Dow Drury have show some skill at kicking the ball through the uprights.

The Wildcat staff made a defensive move that has left linebacker coach Charles Tarpley one man short and defensive coordinator and secondary coach Jack Rudolph one man wealthier.

VHS Student

Wins Award

VDT 3-2-88

Deann Dasher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Dasher of Valdosta, has been selected as a United States national award winner in leadership by the U.S. Achievement Academy.

Deann attends Valdosta High School.

VHS Banquet Honors Basketball Players

VDT 3-15-88

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High school honored its basketball players for a job well done as the Wildcats held their annual basketball banquet and awards ceremony Monday night at the high school.

For the varsity 'Cats, Gary Campbell walked away with the Most Valuable and Best Defensive player award.

Senior Kevin Elliott was awarded the Wildcat Spirit Trophy as well as a trophy for having the highest scholastic average on the team. John Iverson won the trophy for Most Hustle, Jason King Most Improved, James Manning the Best Free Throw Percentage and Best Offensive, Vincent Williams Best Rebounder, and Lonnie Phillips the Sportsmanship

Linebacker Carlo Butler has been moved to safety largely because of his speed and tackling ability. In the secondary, Butler will join Jason Bridges, Kenny Rose, and Chris Hart. Rose and Hart saw extensive playing time last year despite not being designated as starters. Bridges returns as a starter.

Coleman Rudolph and Fred Henton have returned at the defensive end spots but Tarpley said he was also pleased with Maurice Dean and Craig Johnson. The squad is young and Tarpley is excited.

"I think we're going to be able to really rush the quarterback," said Tarpley. "Coleman and Henton of course are back but Dean and Johnson are looking good too."

Of that group, Rudolph is the elder statesmen. He will be a senior next fall.

Anthony Williams returns at one of the linebacker spots, and Tarpley is still seeking some more linebackers. One young man who has been noticed is Bruce Daniels.

Coach Muddy Waters has lost just two defensive lineman, and should return noseguard Eric Fillmore and tackle Zabria Bell. Those expected to make an impact in the fall are George Copeland, Andre Hampton, Aundra Scruggs, M.J. Johnson, and Wille Simon.

With the likes of Isaac Ceaser and James Roberts at running back and Ben Hogan and Jason Nichols at quarterback, the offensive backfield is pretty well set. Offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, however, will be minus three very good lineman come fall.

Returning will be David Hazelhurst, Andy Rykard, Shaun Eilders, and Steve Smith. Matthew Butler could also play a key role in the fall along with Steve Adkins.

"Butler has played five different positions for us already," said Baker.

Baker is also busy implementing new look among his lineman. New high school rules allow offensive lineman to extend the arms and push with the hands.

"I thought that would be easy to coach, but I was wrong," said Baker. "They're just so used to tucking those arms in."

Award, which was presented by the VHS Key Club.

For the Lady 'Cats Valerie Plummer won the Most Valuable and Best Offensive Player Award.

Swandolyn Phillips Wildcat Spirit, Vashti Manning Most Improved, Sissy Anderson Most Hustle, Best Defensive and the Sportsmanship Awards, Kanawha Braswell Best Scholastic Average and Cassandra Twine Best Rebounder.

For the B-Team boys, Darryl Roberson won Most Improved, Major Lynn and Spencer Iverson Best Offensive and Chris Hart won Best Defensive.

Derrick Cotton won Most Improved for the Ninth Grade boys, Jed Dennard and Michael won Best Offensive and Corey Brazeal won Best Defensive.

Dandy Signs With Coffeyville College

VDT. Wed. Mar. 9, 1988

From Staff Reports

Valdosta High cornerback Reginald Dandy has signed a letter of intent to play football with Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville Kansas.

Dandy was VHS' leading tackler in the secondary last season and made *The Times'* all-area team as well as several other post-season teams.

A defensive captain last season for VHS, Dandy was also a dangerous punt return specialist.

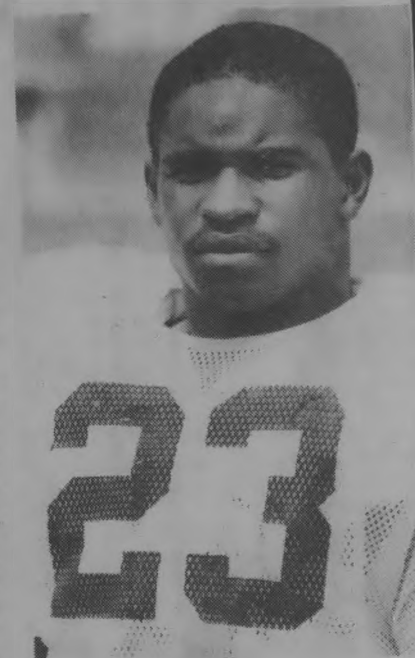
The Red Raiders are coached by Dick Foster and Skip Foster is the recruiting genius for the team.

"We think highly of the Valdosta program," said Coach Foster. "They turn out some athletes there and we expect Reggie to come in here right now and contribute."

While CCC may not be a household name in the Valdosta area, 'Cats fans should consider Dandy's selection as a vote for the VHS system.

The Red Raider staff can only recruit 10 out-of-state players each year because of NCAA regulations.

Coffeyville has also seen some quality athletes come through its doors. Houston's Mike Rozier played at the college as did Mel Grey of the New Orleans Saints.



REGINALD DANDY

The Red Raiders won the national junior college title in 1983 and has made it to the playoffs almost every year during Foster's 13-year tenure with the school.

C-4

The Florida Times-Union, Jackson

BRIEFING

3-16-88

From news services and staff

Valdosta's Bazemore named to Hall of Fame

Former Valdosta High football coach **Wright Bazemore** has been selected along with 13 other people for induction into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Mo., this year. Bazemore,



Bazemore

who coached the Wildcats to 15 Georgia championships and three mythical national championships in 28 seasons (1940-42 and 1946-71), retired in 1978 with a 290-43-6 record. Three of the inducted athletes announced today by the National Federation of State High School Associations were former pro football players — quarterback **Len Dawson** of the Kansas City Chiefs, flanker **Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch** of the Los Angeles Rams and fullback **Jim Taylor** of the Green Bay Packers. The other inducted athletes were **Cliff Hagan**, now the University of Kentucky athletic director and former star for the St. Louis Hawks of the NBA; **Randy Matson**, who won a silver medal in the shot put at the 1964 Olympics and a gold medal at the 1968 Olympics, and **Brutus Hamilton**, an amateur track phenom of the early 1900s in Missouri and Olympic silver medal winner in the decathlon in 1920. Others selected for induction were high school coaches **August Bossu**, Cleveland; **Bob Jamieson**, Greensboro, N.C.; **Bob Siddens**, Waterloo, Iowa; and **Ralph Tasker**, Hobbs, N.M. Also, contest officials **Dan Gaylord**, Birmingham, Ala., and **Mel Otero**, Albuquerque, N.M.; and athletic administrator **John Youngblood**, Arlington, Va.



—Times Staff Photos by Paul Leavy

Patty Smitherman Tops Huevos Motulenos With Peas



Spanish And Mexican Dishes Provide International Flavor For National Foreign Language Week Celebration

Internat'l Dinner Highlights Week

VOT Tues., Mar. 8, 1988

FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Staff Writer

This is National Foreign Language Week, and the language instructors at Valdosta High School are commemorating the week with special activities planned at the high school.

Foreign countries have flavors uniquely theirs. The foreign language teachers have used international recipes to help bring home the originality of the customs of foreign countries along with other activities scheduled at the high school this week.

The purpose of the National Foreign Language Week is to promote the awareness of foreign language and how foreign language can especially be a valuable job skill today.

The week-long activities held in the school will culminate in an international dinner for VHS foreign language

students Friday.

According to Patty Smitherman, who has coordinated the recipes and made some of them for our food display today, each of the four language teachers have brought home recipes of foods they have enjoyed in their travels.

Mrs. Smitherman, who has traveled to Spain and Mexico, likes paella, cider-roasted chicken, pastries, and Spanish fruits.

Susan Davis, who teaches French and Spanish, also traveled to Spain and Mexico. Her favorite foods include seafoods from Spain, especially fried squid, and Mexican tacos. In Mexico the tortilla used in a taco is soft, not fried, and filled with small pieces of steak, not ground meat, according to Mrs. Smitherman.

Elsie Nicholas, who teaches Spanish, has as her favorites the fresh fruits of Chile, Valencian paella from Spain, and the hot pepper and breads from

Mexico.

Sharon Gandy, department head and French teacher, loves the French pastries, cafe au lait, cheese in puff pastry, croissants, beignets, and pies from France. Crepes, or some form of crepes, are popular desserts in Spanish-speaking countries as well as in France. The crepe recipe here is from the language department's "cultural experiences" recipes prepared by the students for their fellow classmates.

In Spain Mrs. Gandy, too, enjoyed paella (which is a seafood dish made with saffron seasoning). She remembers pasta as a side dish in Italy and fresh dill used in their foods.

The tortilla is a way of life in Spain and is quite different from its counterpart in Mexico. The only thing that the two do have in common is the Latin root "torte," which means a round cake. According to Mrs. Smitherman, a Spanish tortilla is an

omelette. Spaniards generally do not eat corn even in bread. "Corn is for animals," said Mrs. Smitherman.

Of the wild game eaten by the Spanish in abundance are quail and rabbit. Seafood is also abundant and popular. Vegetables by themselves are not well-liked in Spain. Rare white asparagus is good in the spring and summer, and greens similar to col-lards are fairly well-eaten. Rice dishes usually accompany main courses, especially paella.

Almonds, egg yolks, and honey are legacies of the 700-year-old Arab influence in Spanish desserts.

In Mexico the foods are generally spicier than in Spain, but not always hot or heavy. Chocolate, which the Aztecs used and the Spanish carried back to Spain, is used even in a sauce for baked chicken. Cooking in Mexico varies according to region, said Mrs. Smitherman.

VHS Scrimmage

VOT. Thurs., March 10, 1988

Friday Night

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer



The 1988 spring football campaign has been a success according to Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder. The Wildcats will close up shop Friday night at Cleveland Field with a split squad intrasquad scrimmage. A ninth grade scrimmage is scheduled for 6 p.m., to be followed by the varsity scrimmage set for 7 p.m.

Hyder feels that there have been some key changes in the Valdosta squad that will enhance the team's play due in part to a dedicated effort on behalf of the younger players that are in the Wildcat spring camp.

According to Hyder, this season's spring practice has pretty much gone true to form.

"That is exactly what our spring is built around — preparing the younger kids to make the move up to the varsity level," said Hyder. "In this league it is simply imperative that this area be taken care of. Along the way, the veterans must show improvement and dedicate themselves to become better players and teammates."

The Wildcats, although going through one their worst spring setbacks due to ineligibility and injuries, have managed to make strong headway in the 1988 spring season.

The Wildcat running game, coached by Mike O'Brien, includes three top returning backs in James Roberts, Isaac Ceaser, and Lawrence Sharpe. Sharpe suffered an injury in the early part of spring has been unable to return this spring practice. But Roberts and Ceaser have once again performed well.

"This spring the running game has gone very well, except for the depth factor," said O'Brien, "due to injuries and other situations. Although we have some talented people in camp, the true depth is not there. Overall, except for backup spots, it has gone very well."

Complementing Roberts and Ceaser in the backfield are Carlos Parker. Parker has shown great athletic ability and the Wildcat staff is hoping for good things from Parker. Kendrick Patterson has been outstanding according to Hyder. Patterson is returning from an ankle injury suffered in spring drills, but is to see action Friday.

Also having a good spring are Michael Simon, and Sugar Robinson. Greg Troutman, who is also a member of the running back corps, has been sidelined due to knee surgery.

Taking over the quarterback position will be Ben Hogan. Hogan has come through the ranks and paid his dues, according to Hyder. Now it's time for Hogan to produce the numbers.

According to O'Brien, Hogan has been impressive in his overall quarterback skills this spring.

"Ben has shown great leadership, and his ability to read the defense has improved 100 percent this spring," said O'Brien.

Having an impressive spring campaign as well are Jason Nichols and upcoming freshman standout Derrick Cotton.

Keith Beal and Wes Sullivan have been leading the way in the wide receiver department.

Backing up those two will be Shannon Myers and Dexter Dudley. The upcoming sophomores on the receiving corp will be Steve Jarmillio, Justin Bridges, Sam Hogan, Michael Simon, Scott Stewart, Reginald Bryant, and Robbie Williams. According to Hyder, freshman Kelly Dawsey has been the spring standout at wideout, showing excellent speed and quickness.

The Wildcat offensive line is blessed with three returnees in David Hazlehurst, Andy Rykard, and Shaun Eilders.

Looking to form backup roles are Steve Smith, Steve Adkins, and one of the most athletic offensive linemen, Matthew Butler, along with Will Hancock.

Also contributing on the line are Jared Johnson, Giles Godwin, Ron

Hasty, Jerad Howell, Matt Little, Mike Griffin, and Chad Meadows.

Sohomore reserves look to be Andre Zanders, Derrick Phillips, Bucky Allen, Keith Jones, and Tod Radish.

Hyder feels that the tight end spot will be a strong suit for the 'Cats. Battling for that position will be Lee Thomas, and Mickey McSwain. According to Hyder, he feels the 'Cats have a top one-two punch in those two talented players.

The Wildcat defensive line should prove to be very competitive according to defensive line coach Freddie Waters. Waters feels that with the nucleus he has, plus the total effort that his younger players are showing, the defensive line should prove to be very strong.

"The work ethic has been enormous on the defensive line," said Waters. "I've been very pleased in not only the play of our returning linemen, but the progress made by the younger group."

The 'Cat front is comprised of Zabria Bell, Andre Hampton, and George Copeland. Willie Simon, and Kevin Miller have also been impressive in spring drills.

Chad Walker, Ricky Thomas, Dexter Daniels, James Osbourne, Kevin Major, Richard Thomas, and upcoming freshman Willie Thomas have all had good spring workouts.

According to ends and linebacker coach Charles Tarpley, the defensive end spot should be one of the best in school's history.

Coleman Rudolph heads the list on the defensive end slot with Fredrick Henton anchoring down the other side for the 'Cats.

Backups that have had a good spring practice are Maurice Dean, and Craig Johnson, Brad Tarpley, and Marcus Moss.

The linebacker spot will be led by third year performer Anthony Williams. Along side Williams will be Bruce Daniels, Jon Davis, Eric Duncan, and Quin McCormick.

One of the biggest moves the 'Cats made this spring involves the secondary where standout linebacker Carlo Butler now will roam the secondary for the 'Cats as a saftey.

Jason Bridges, saftey, will provide the senior stability to the secondary as the only returnee at that spot. The corners will be the domain of Chris Hart, and Kenny Rose. Secondary players making the move from the ninth grade are Steve Sanders, Reggie Mitchell, Dexter Mitchell, Kelly Holmes, Sam Lightsey, Eric Phillips, and Dustin Yost.

Hyder and his staff have placed careful consideration upon the Wildcat kicking game.

"More intensity and importance has been stressed in this area," said Hyder. "Every facet of the kicking game is simply too important."

The kickoff duties have been placed upon the shoulders of Coleman Rudolph. Rudolph has excelled in this area and Hyder has been pleased with his progress.

The placekicking chores have been handled by Quin McCormick, and Dow Drury.

Andy Rykard, and Carlos Parker have performed very well in the punting area for Valdosta.

Once again the Wildcat athletic training area is in the very capable hands of head trainer Jim Burroughs. Burroughs will have the opportunity to have on his staff three very qualified student trainers. Shane Burroughs, and Jay Hollingsworth are the two upper classmen, while the newest member of the staff will be James Payne.

Landrum Will Be Missed By Many

VOT. Thurs., March 10, 1988

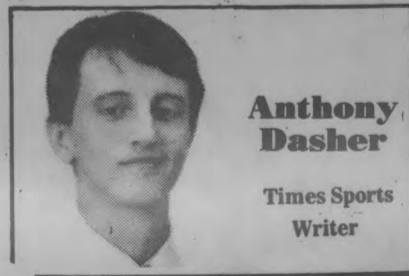
I admit when I first moved to Valdosta almost one year ago, the prospect of covering high school wrestling didn't exactly excite me.

Call it fear of the unknown, I don't know. I just didn't want to sound like an ignoramus in my stories.

But after watching Valdosta and Lowndes in a couple of matches, I finally began to catch on. By the time the Region 1-AAAA championships were over, I finally felt like I knew what I was writing about.

One thing I did find out, and I might add in a hurry, that Lowndes coach Newnan Sanchez and Valdosta coach James Landrum went out of their way in helping me, as well as my fellow sports writers, in any way they could.

Speaking of Landrum, Valdosta High School has lost a great coach, teacher and friend. Landrum has resigned to become a sales representative with



Anthony Dasher

Times Sports
Writer

Precision Shooting Equipment Incorporated, and will not return to the school next fall. VHS's loss is Precision's gain, but Landrum will be missed by the wrestling faithful at VHS.

Another thing I noticed watching high school wrestling, is that it's a very intense sport whose competitors must

pull out enormous reserves, deep from inside, if they are to prevail.

Unlike football, where the entire team must act as one, wrestlers, once on the mat, have nobody to help them but themselves.

The wrestling program at Valdosta High was Landrum's baby. 12 years ago Landrum started up the program at Valdosta and molded it into one of the most competitive outfits in south Georgia and the state. The number of wrestlers the 'Cats send to state competition proves that.

But coach Landrum was more than a coach, he was a friend to his wrestlers. There never was a time when he didn't take time to talk to each individual wrestler after each and every match. Be it to congratulate or console, Landrum was always there.

Landrum was, and is, as fine a wrestling technician as there is in the

state of Georgia. Landrum wrestled competitively, thus he was able to give hands on experience to his grapplers.

Landrum worked personally with each wrestler, demonstrating each move correctly, so to prevent injuries, and also to help his men get mentally ready for each match.

Landrum has built quite a wrestling tradition at Valdosta High School. I hope this excellence can continue.

We have excellent wrestling programs at Lowndes and Cook High School and it will be a shame if Valdosta High School can't find a coach who is also a technician of the sport, to help the program continue to grow.

Not everyone can play football and basketball and the kids who go out for a sport as intense as wrestling, need an experienced hand to guide them.

Tarpley's Wildcats Have Holes To Fill

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Like a pilot of old, Valdosta High head baseball coach Charles Tarpley enters the 1988 season flying by the seat of his pants.

The 1988 Wildcats won't be too familiar to the average fan. Only two starters are back after last season, B.J. Mason and pitcher Andy Rykard.

"Mason started the last two years for us at outfield and we've moved him to shortstop, and Rykard played a little third base and pitched last year in three varsity games. No one else has even played in a varsity game," said Tarpley.

"We're going to start playing seniors and give them the opportunity to play, but even they will be inexperienced."

Valdosta will begin its season 4:30 Tuesday afternoon at VSC's Billy Grant Field in the Rebel Classic tournament hosted by Berrien County. The Wildcats will play the winner of

Lanier County and Madison County, who square off at 4:30 Monday at Valdosta High's baseball field.

Rykard is scheduled to start the contest and Brandon Pruette will be the relief man if necessary. Sean Cullen is listed as the No. 2 pitcher right now.

"We have no senior pitching whatsoever, so we'll be young and inexperienced there as well," said Tarpley. "Pruette, Cullen and Adam Avila will really have to come through for us if we're going to have any kind of year.

"Our pitching will have to carry us because right now I don't see that much hitting going on," said Tarpley.

Tarpley is also concerned about the catching spot. Eric Toth and Bill Kirby caught last season. Kirby graduated and Toth has decided not to play baseball. That leaves Tarpley with David Cole and Jason Nichols, neither who have any varsity catching experience. Cole has been used primarily as an outfielder.

Avila will start at first base and Lee Thomas is expected to see some action there.

John Iverson and Ray Maples will play second base with Mason starting at short backed up by Cullen.

Chuck Moore or Anky Rykard will play at third. Moore has impressed Tarpley this spring, but injured an ankle last week.

Tarpley has his eyes on seven outfielders — Kevin Elliott, Greg Leong, Pablo Campa, and Bernard Hitson. Tarpley also expects Ben Hogan, Shannon Myers, and Jason Bridges to see some playing time.

Many of the 'Cats have been involved in spring, and that do has been a problem for Tarpley.

Wildcats fans will notice a difference in the Region 1-AAAA Tournament this year. Instead of the 1 against 4, 2 against 3 two-out-of-three series, the region tournament will be a double-elimination four-team tournament at the site of the No. 1 team after the regular season.

Tarpley said this set up will make it hard for one great pitcher to win the tournament for his team.

"With it being double elimination, the number two and number three pitchers will become much more important," said Tarpley.

According to Tarpley, the best teams on paper headed into the season are Tift County, Colquitt, and Monroe. Tarpley also warned the defending champion Westover should again be tough despite losing some good players.

"I don't think there's going to be one dominant team. It may come down to the last game to see who gets into the tournament," said Tarpley.

"Our kids have worked hard. We'll see what happens when it gets here."

After the Rebel Classic, VHS will host Cecil Barber's Clinch County Panthers on Tuesday, March 22. That game will start at 4:30.

VHS Girls' Beat Lowndes In Tennis

The Valdosta High girls' tennis team went to 2-0 on the year with an 11-2 whipping of Lowndes High here Tuesday night.

Nancy Smith was the bright spot for Lowndes as she won her singles match 6-0, 6-0 and Smith and Gina Cumby won in doubles 6-1, 6-0.

Singles winners for Valdosta were Shannon Harris, Margaret Anne Sineath, Josie Hatcher, Paige Stabell, Kelly Edwards, Honey Hatcher, Meg Rainey and Wynne Johnson. VHS doubles winners were Harris and Stabell, Josies Hatcher and Honey Hatcher, and Edwards and Rainey.

Valdosta will host Westover, Monday April 4, at 3:30.

Valdostan Tops In Navy ROTC

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School senior Anne Clark has a simple philosophy when it comes to school work.

"If I'm going to take a class, I want to do the best I can do. If you don't, then it's boring," Miss Clark said.

Perhaps that attitude is why Miss Clark was recently selected as the recipient of the Joe Guillian Award for the Top Academic Cadet for Naval Junior ROTC in the country.

She may have spent part of her last four years of high school studying the Navy, but her future will be looking toward the sky as an officer with the United States Air Force.

Miss Clark was recently notified that she had received an appointment to the Air Force Academy, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

She believes winning the Guillian Award improved her chances for the appointment.

Winning the award was no small feat, when one considers she competed for the honor against the top cadets from over 230 NJROTC units in schools across the country.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Larry Cupp, director of the NJROTC program at VHS, Miss Clark was selected for the

honor based on her SAT score, her grade point average and a resume detailing her honors and accomplishments.

Cupp said he was confident Miss Clark would win the competition from the very beginning.

"When I submitted Anne's name, I felt confident she was a winner. She's always been a winner. I'm glad to see I'm right," he said.

In addition to being the top cadet in the nation, the 17-year-old young woman is also the top of her unit at VHS serving as the commanding officer this year.

"I just oversee the unit," she said.

She has moved up through the unit during her four years as a cadet and said she has grown through the experience.

"It takes a lot of time, but I enjoy it. JROTC has helped me a lot. It's taught me leadership," Miss Clark said. "I've learned as much in that as anything else."

As a member of an Air Force family, Miss Clark has had many learning experiences living in many different locations around the world.

"I've grown up in the Air Force. I've lived all over the world, and it really broadened my thinking," Miss Clark, who is the daughter of retired Col. Richard R. Clark and Jacqueline

Clark, said.

She and her family have lived in California, Virginia, South Carolina and Italy to name a few.

"We were in Italy three years. I'd go back yesterday if I had the chance," she said.

Without a television during those years in Italy, she developed a love for reading she continues to enjoy.

Her favorite subjects though are science and math and her goal is to be an engineer.

She'll be an Air Force engineer, competing against more than 13,000 other top high school students from throughout the nation for the appointment. She is one of 1,400 students to receive an Air Force Academy appointment.

"I've always wanted to go to the Air Force Academy," she said.

She has no reservations about competing at the male-dominated academy.

"I think at the academy I'm going to be equal. I'm not trying to be a pilot. I will be judged on my merit as an engineer," she said.

As an engineer, she would like to work with aeronautical design and perhaps be an engineer for the space program.

She selected her career by examining what she enjoyed in school.



ANNE CLARK

"As an engineer, I won't be caught in one field," she said.

The attributes which led to her winning the Joe Guillian Award and being selected to the Air Force Academy should make her a top cadet once again as she begins her Air Force future.

"Anne is very mature, dedicated, extremely brilliant and inquisitive. Anything she begins, she finishes," said Cupp.

VHS Drops Opener 12-8

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Lanier County is off and running, and Tuesday afternoon it was at Valdosta's expense. The Bulldogs stole 15 bases against VHS in the Wildcats' season opener in the 1988 Rebel Classic at Valdosta State's Billy Grant Field. The result was a 12-8 Lanier County victory.

Lanier, 6-0, will play Berrien County Thursday at 7 p.m. in a winners bracket game. Berrien beat Clinch 11-2 Tuesday.

Valdosta, 0-1, falls into the losers bracket and will play tonight at 7 p.m. against Clinch County. Today's 4:30 game pits Madison County against Brooks County, both losers on Monday.

"We knew going in that we had to get the pitching and play good defense to have any hope of winning," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We walked nine batters and that combined with some errors cost us the game."

The contest was tied at 6-6 after four innings, but Lanier broke the deadlock in the top of the fifth. Chuck Phillips singled off 'Cat reliever Brandon Pruette, reached third on two consecutive wild pitches, and scored on a double steal.

Lanier scored two more runs in the sixth with the help of two Valdosta

errors. Eric Curtis had an RBI single and he later scored on an error after stealing second and third.

Valdosta cut Lanier's lead to 9-8 in

	ab	r	h	bi
Lanier	41	10	10	0
Williams, 2b	4	1	1	0
Dorsey, pr	5	2	3	1
Lee, 3b	4	1	0	0
Foster, c-p	3	2	2	2
Johnson, rf	3	2	2	2
Curtis, f-cf	4	1	2	2
Phillips, cf-pc	4	1	2	2
Watson, pr	0	0	0	0
Shaw, lb	5	0	1	1
O'Quinn, ss	3	0	0	0
Bryant, lf	3	1	0	0
Totals	33	12	10	7

	ab	r	h	bi
Valdosta	40	11	3	12
Iverson, 2b	2	2	1	0
Hinson, rf	4	1	2	0
Mason, ss	4	1	2	3
Rykard, p-3b	3	1	1	3
Pruette, dh-p	3	1	1	1
Elliott, lf	0	0	0	0
Avila, lb	4	0	0	0
Cullen, 3b	1	1	1	1
Leon, lf	2	0	0	0
Campa, cf	3	0	1	0
Cole, c	2	0	0	0
Thomas, ph	2	1	0	0
Totals	26	8	8	6

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lanier	3	6	5	4	5	2
Phillips (W)	2	2	3	2	4	2
Foster	2	0	0	0	0	1
Valdosta	4	7	6	4	4	6
Rykard (L, 0-1)	3	3	6	5	5	4
Pruette (L, 0-1)	2	3	6	5	5	4
WP - Phillips, Rykard 2; Pruette 2, PB - Cole. HBP - by Pruette (Johnson). 1 - 2-4; A - 100.						

the bottom of the sixth. John Iverson walked and later scored on a B.J. Mason single. Bernard Hitson also walked and scored on a Andy Rykard groundout.

But Lanier wasn't done. The Bulldogs clinched the victory in the top of the seventh as Alex Lee had an RBI

single and a VHS error scored pinch runner John Dorsey and Lee.

Phillips got the win for Lanier, but Troy Foster shut the door on Valdosta in relief, retiring six consecutive batters to end the game.

Lanier jumped out to a 4-0 lead after one-half an inning on RBI singles by Antwan Johnson and Phillips, a VHS error, and a wild pitch.

But in the bottom of the inning, VHS made it 4-3 on a two-run triple by Rykard and he scored on a single by Pruette.

Lanier's Kevin Shaw doubled home Curtis in the third to make it 5-3, but Valdosta tied it in the bottom of the inning when Cullen singled home Pruette and an error later scored Cullen.

Lanier scored a single run in the fourth on an RBI single by Johnson and Valdosta accounted for the 6-6 deadlock in the bottom of the inning when Mason scored in a wild pitch.

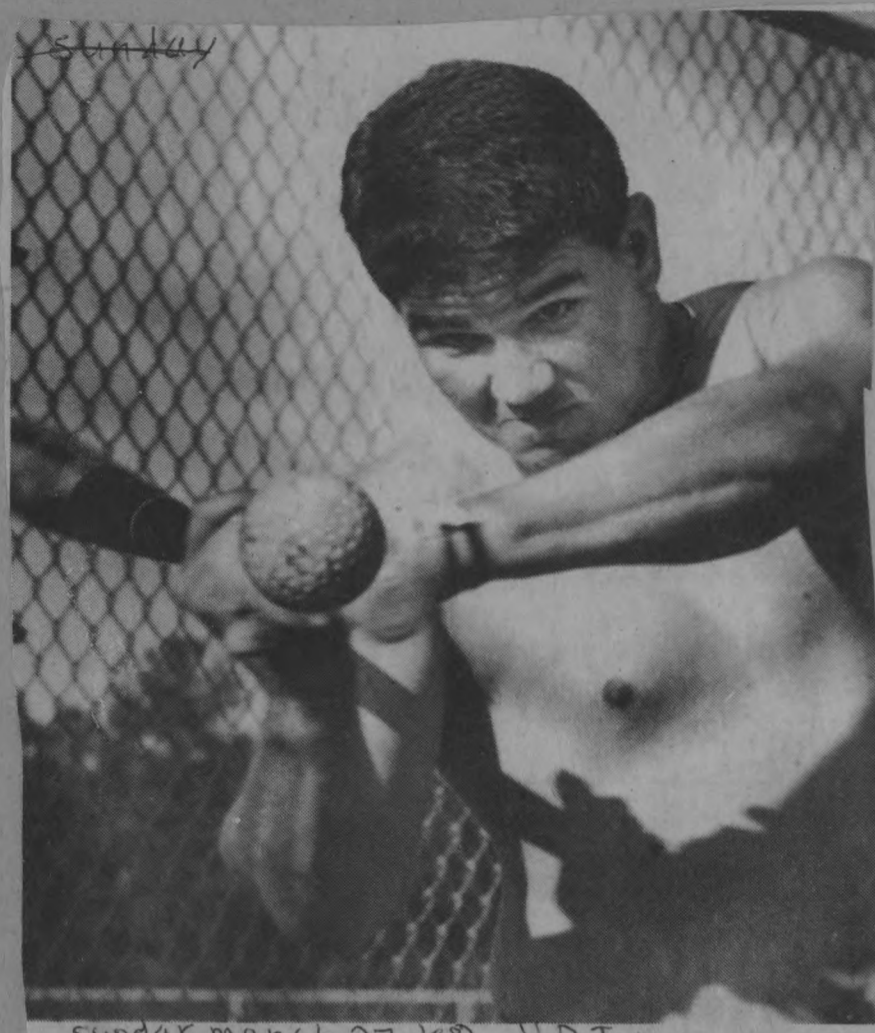
Rykard led VHS at the plate in a 2-for-3 performance with three RBI and two extra base hits. Mason also had two hits for Valdosta with an RBI.

Curtis stole four bases for Lanier and scored three times. Lee went 3-for-5 at the plate while Johnson and Phillips had 2 RBI each.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Valdosta Third Baseman Sean Cullen Awaits Throw As Lanier's Alex Lee Slides In



Sunday
sunday march 27, 1988 VDT
Andy Rykard Concentrates During Batting Practice



Charles Tarpley Plays Sandy Koufax

VHS Survives; Brooks Takes Madison

Errors The Difference

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

With elimination staring them in the face, the Valdosta Wildcats managed to pull out an 11-10 extra inning victory over the Clinch County Panthers, but the Panthers gave them some help.

The tying and winning runs for Valdosta crossed the plate courtesy of two Clinch County errors in the eighth inning as the 3-2 Panthers were eliminated from the Rebel Classic Wednesday afternoon at Billy Grant Field.

Valdosta, 1-1, stays alive to play Brooks County this afternoon at 4:30. In tonight's 7 p.m. game, Lanier will battle Berrien.

Although the Wildcats and Panthers scored a total of 21 runs in the game, defense was neither team's forte for this contest as the Wildcats and the Panthers committed a combined tournament record 17 errors.

"It was simply one mistake after another, really," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We were just fortunate to pull this one out. The only lucky thing for us was that Clinch was having the same problem. All we did was survive."

"You can't make these kinds of mistakes and expect to win many games," said Clinch head man Cecil Barber. "If the error total was reversed we probably would have come out winners, but that is part of the game, and all we can do at this point is make corrections."

Tied 9-9 in the top half of the eighth, Valdosta's B.J. Mason walked, stole second and third, and Andy Rykard also walked and stole second to put runners on second and third with one out.

Two consecutive Clinch errors scored both runners to give Valdosta an 11-9 lead.

Clinch answered with a run to close the gap to 11-10 on Valdosta error that saw Clinch's John Hughes cross the plate. But Rykard struck out Brent James to end the game and preserve the one-run victory.

To Clinch's credit, the Panthers



Valdosta Wildcat Adam Avila squares around to lay down a bunt against the Lanier County Bulldogs in the second round of the Rebel Classic played Tuesday. Valdosta lost the

What Form

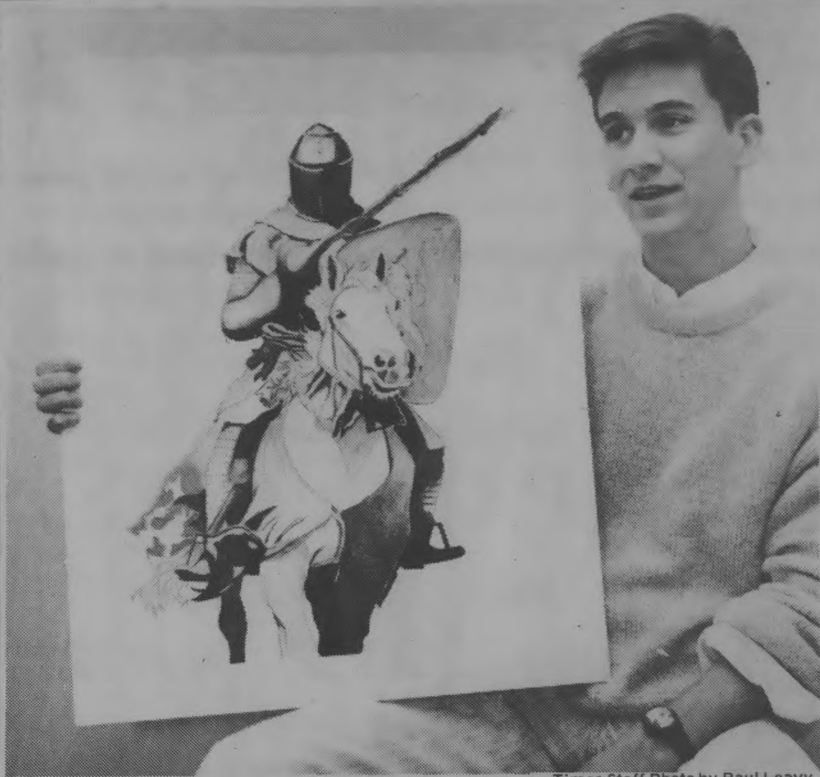
Valdosta rallied for six runs in the sixth inning and that is what made the difference. I would like to make excuses for our play, but I can't."

Rykard, the winning VHS pitcher, had an inside the park home run to go along with a 2-for-2, two RBI performance. Mason went 1-for-3 for Valdosta with three runs scored.

Clinch starting pitcher Austin DeLoach suffered the loss, but went 2-for-4 with three RBI. Les Teston followed DeLoach's lead, going 2-for-4 with one

Valdosta	Clinch	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Iverson, 2b	Cooper, ss	4	1	1	0	4	0	0	0
Hinson, rf	Bell, lf	4	1	0	0	4	2	1	0
Mason, ss	Spates, rf	3	3	1	1	3	0	0	0
Rykard, 3b-p	DeLoach, p	2	4	2	2	4	1	2	3
Coles, c	Bridges, lb	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	1
Moore, dh	Teston, cf	4	0	1	0	4	1	2	1
Bridges, pr	Hughes, c	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	1
Hoan, pr	James, c	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Thomas, 1b	Calley, dh	4	1	1	1	4	1	0	0
Cullen, p-3b	Sessoms, 2b	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Campa, cf	Stovall, pr	4	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
Elliott, lf	Totals	2	1	0	1	35	10	7	6
Pruette, dh		1	0	0	0				
Totals		33	11	7	5				

Valdosta	Clinch	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
E - Cooper, 2, K. Bridges, Teston, Hughes, James, 4		5 2/3	6	8	5	7	7
Iverson, 2, Mason, 2, Rykard, 2, Coles, Cullen, LOB, Clinch		2 2/3	1	2	0	1	5
10, Valdosta, B. Sessoms, DeLoach, Campa, 3B							
Hughes, H.P. Rykard, SP, Bell, Spates, DeLoach, 3							
Teston, 2, Hughes, James, Hinson, 2, Mason, 3, Rykard,							
Elliott, 2, SF - Thomas, Mason.							



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

Patrick Carlson Displays One Of His Works

VDT
Thurs Mar 17, 1988

VHS Student Depicts Message In Cartoons

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

The cartoon depicts a bottle of alcohol hitchhiking as a car zooms down a fictitious highway.

Despite the funny-page look of the illustration, the message lettered across the drawing is deadly serious.

"Don't Take A Drink For A Drive!"

That poster drawn by Valdosta High School senior Patrick Carlson was the recent winner of a statewide Arrive Alive poster contest netting him a \$1,000 college scholarship. Arrive Alive is an organization that encourages young people to avoid drinking and driving.

"I was shocked that I won," said the 18-year-old Carlson.

His winning the contest didn't surprise his art teacher, Anita Perdue, at all.

"I would think he could give Gary Larson, (creator of the 'Far Side'), a run for his money any day," Ms. Perdue said.

For Carlson drawing, especially cartoons, just comes naturally. He's been doing both as long as he can remember.

"I've been drawing all my life. The earliest I remember drawing cartoons was when I was in junior high.

Carlson draws a variety of characters, but enjoys creating caricatures of

animals, particularly dragons and dogs.

"I don't really like to draw people. It's hard to draw bodies and trying to get everything in proportion.

His style has hints of Jim Davis, the creator of "Garfield", as Carlson likes to round out the features of his pen and ink pets.

"I like the rounded eyeballs that give them that cute look," Carlson said.

He has been influenced by a number of cartoonists.

"I take little bits from each," he said.

Ms. Perdue admits she was a bit apprehensive when she first realized that Carlson liked to cartoon, because many artists become stuck in a rut when they begin cartooning.

But Ms. Perdue said he is a multi-talented artist.

"I have not run across anything he can't do well. Patrick just has a real good sense of artistic judgement," she said.

Carlson does want to be a professional artist and perhaps one day do his own books in the style of Berke Breathed's "Bloom County."

He hopes to one day attend art school, an expensive venture, but he'll begin his college career with his scholarship winnings at Valdosta State College.

"I want to go to art school, but you know, I'm kind of short of funds," he said with a laugh.

Now he's content drawing for class and his friends.

"They're always asking me to draw stuff for them," he said about his friends.

He paints his cartoon menagerie on t-shirts and jeans for his closest buddies as a favor not for money.

"I don't take pay; it's just for fun," he said.

Mistakes Plague Wildcats

VDT, Tues Mar 29, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Valdosta didn't execute in the field and didn't execute on the bases. VHS head coach Charles Tarpley, however, was ready to execute some of his players after the 'Cats dropped a 5-2 decision to Colquitt County here Monday afternoon.

The loss drops Valdosta to 3-4 overall and 0-1 in Region 1-AAAA play. Colquitt goes to 3-2, 1-0. VHS will play at Clinch County 4:30 Wednesday and will take on Monroe in Albany in another region game Friday at 4:30.

In other Region 1-AAAA opens Monday, Tift County dropped Lowndes 3-2, and Westover beat Monroe 4-2.

"In the second and third innings, base-running errors took us out of the game," said Tarpley. "We could have had them to sleep. I knew we weren't going to hit the ball real well, but I thought this team would scratch its way to a couple of wins. What ticks me off is they're not taking the coaching."

Leading 2-0 going into the fifth, Valdosta saw the lead disappear. Shorstop Ben Wiggins led off with a triple against 'Cat starter Andy Rykard and he scored on a single.

Tarpley called a pitchout on the next Packer batter but VHS catcher David Cole didn't see the sign. The result was a 2-run homer that put Colquitt ahead 3-2.

Colquitt added two insurance runs in the sixth to account for the final 5-2 score.

Valdosta should have scored more than two runs, squandering golden opportunities in the second and third innings.

In the Valdosta second, center fielder Bernard Hitson opened with a single and reached third when Lee Thomas made it to first on an error.

But then disaster struck. David Cole struck out and on the pitch Thomas tried to steal second. He came in standing up and overran the bag to be tagged out. On the play, Hitson was supposed to break for home, but failed to do so and Pablo Campa grounded out to end the inning.

In the third, Valdosta had the bases loaded with no outs. Sean Cullen was thrown out trying to score from third on a passed ball that advanced both John Iverson and Chuck Moore. Mason then walked to reload the bases, but a strikeout and a pop-up ended the inning with no runs scored.

Once again, Wildcat pitcher Rykard performed well in defeat, only to see his record fall to 1-2. Rykard scattered eight hits for five runs, struck out six and walked none. Chris Hart, 1-0, got the win for the Packers in relief, going two innings and allowing two hits, two walks, and striking out five.

Mason collected Valdosta's only extra-base hit, and according to Tarpley was the only batter to really connect at the plate.

"I thought the game was in doubt all the way. We were just happy to win one," said CCHS coach Jerry Croft. "We got the pitching we needed even though it looked ragged in spots. Chris Hart did an exceptional job."

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Colquitt	ab	r	h	bi
Iverson 2b	2	0	1		Ponder cf	3	1	1	
Moore 3b	4	0	1		Jenkins rf	3	1	1	
Mason ss	3	0	1		McCranie lf	3	0	1	
Rykard p	3	0	0		McAlpin c	3	0	1	
Hitson cf	4	0	1		Brock 1b	3	0	1	
Thomas 1b	2	1	1		Wilson pr	0	1	0	
Cole c	3	1	1		Whitley dh	3	1	1	
Campa rf	2	0	0		Wilgins ss-p	3	1	1	
Cullen dh	1	0	0		Goff 3b-ss	3	0	1	
Elliott rf	0	0	0		Merritt 2b	2	0	0	
Totals.....	24	2	5	1	B Buckner 3b	0	0	0	
					Totals.....	26	5	8	4

Valdosta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Rykard (L, 1-2)	6	8	5	4	0	6
Colquitt						
J Buckner	3	2	0	0	3	3
Wiggins	1	1	2	1	2	0
Hart (W, 1-0)	2	2	0	0	2	5
WP — Rykard, PB — McAlpin, T — 1:50, A — 75.						

Bazemore Reflects On Magnificent High School Coaching Career

Sun. Mar. 20, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor



Valdosta High School Coaching Legend Wright Bazemore Stands By Trophies In Home — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

When Wright Bazemore was coaching high school football, he knew what he was doing. The former Valdosta High football coach would sound foolish attempting to lessen his accomplishments or his skills, and Bazemore makes no attempt to do so.

"I'm not bragging, but I don't think anybody can be a better play caller than I was for the simple reason that I knew what I could do," said Bazemore.

"I can sit on a field and if you scrimmage 22 on one end and 22 on the other, I can tell you what all 44 boys did. Very few coaches can do that. I learned that in the navy, how to use my peripheral vision. On the very first play I ran from scrimmage I could tell you every play I could run to hurt you with."

And Bazemore did put some hurting on the opposition. During his coaching career, Bazemore won 290 games, lost 43 and tied six for an .855 winning percentage.

Because of his phenomenal coaching record, Bazemore has been chosen for induction into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City, Missouri. The hall is part of the National Federation of State High School Associations. The induction ceremony will take place in Kansas City on July 8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Thirteen others will also be inducted into the hall, including former NFL stars Jim Brown, Lenny Dawson, and Elroy Hirsch.

Unlike the pros, Bazemore didn't have a camera in his face all the time, and feels that there are a lot of deserving high school coaches out there who just don't get the publicity.

"I know they don't," said Bazemore. "I've been fortunate, but for high school coaches it's impossible to get the media exposure college coaches or professionals get. For that reason, I'm extremely honored to get his kind of award, especially to get honored along with people like Len Dawson and Jim Brown."

Bazemore considers the honor not just his but Valdosta's as well.

"It's not only an honor for me. I feel like it's an honor for all the coaches I had with me, the great players, managers, and cheerleaders."

"An honor like this is not an individual honor. It goes to

the whole community, to the whole area.

"When I was coaching, Berrien, Cook, and Brooks and all those schools that have good programs now didn't have football, so people there were a great portion of our fans. During many a game, I had to get 50 or 75 tickets for people who lived in the Worth County area. People from that area came to see us play regardless of where it was."

Bazemore was known for an exciting brand of football, and the sagacious coach has often been credited for being ahead of his time. Like every coach, Bazemore liked to win, and he did everything fair and in his power to do so. According to Bazemore, he made officials change the rule book more than once.

"We never cheated," said Bazemore. "Every coach we played can tell you we never played dirty. But we did do everything within the rules to win."

"For instance, all the rule books said was that you had to kick off behind the 40-yard line. Well, we scored on a team and got ready to kick off, but kicked off from the 30 instead of the 40. The other team had a restraining line, so we just kicked it, let it roll 10 yards and fell on it, and it was our ball."

Bazemore also ran the center sneak to perfection, and he said they started telling the officials when they were running it so the refs could make sure it was legal.

"One time my center was the leading scorer and rusher in the region," said Bazemore. "We ran the play that smooth."

Bazemore would further confuse defenses by putting 14 men on the field and then waving three off just before the ball was snapped. This along with the center sneak and the easy on-side kick are no longer legal.

Bazemore used the one-back offense long before John Riggins and the Washington Redskins, and used the shotgun before Tom Landry made it a staple for the Dallas Cowboys.

In 1971, VHS beat Avondale 62-12, and Bazemore said that part of the reason was that Avondale had no clue as to how to stop the one-back offense.

When all is said and done, Bazemore credits the city of Valdosta for much of his success. He also sited the middle school feeder program as an important element in the Wildcats' success story.

"One thing that makes us good is that we run the same plays with the same terminology from 6-12," said Bazemore.

"Coach Sainz (Norman Sainz) does a good job at the junior high and those boys can come up here during spring practice and run the plays with the varsity."

Valdosta High Lists Students On Honor Roll

Friday March 25, 1988

VDT

Valdosta High School students making the honor roll for the fourth six weeks included the following:

Ninth Grade — John Allen, Larry Allen, Kelli Bland, Perry Branch, Wendy Breitzman, Brandon Brooks, Mindee Butler, Lisa Carter, William Coleman, Ryan Collins, Ashley Connell, Nancie Corley, Tamara Crowe, Pamela Daniels, Jennifer Davis, Troy Demont, Glair Dempsey, Michelle Dewitt, Du Diesing, Meredith Fletcher, Elizabeth Foster, Nicholas Gonis, Jennifer Griffin, Ward Griffin, Stephanie Hinton, Jill Hodges, Samuel Hogan, JJ Jack, Steven Jaramillo.

And Hanif Jenkison, Amy Kilgard, Samuel Lightsey, Chassitty Loving, Amy Lowery, Donna Lowery, Richard Lowery, Vashti Manning, Tina McGee, Tiffany Minchew, Kenyada Moore, Meredith Mosby, Christa Olson, Alfred Preston, Holly Rentschler, Steven Sanders, Marcus Scurry, Anna Smitherman, Teresa Spolden, Lori Spurlock, Peter Taormina, Nathan Tart, Deepak Vasandani, Miriam Vendemo, Melissa Wheeler, Zac Wilder and Robert Williams.

10th Grade — J. Simone Allen, Dan Altman, Jeffery Ballentine, Robert Berrian, Linda Bines, Latesha Bradley, Latechia Brown, Linda Brown, Candy Browning, James Coffman, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman, Shawn Coursen, Jeremy Crowder, Sara Demott, Kelly Edwards, Sylvia Edwards, India Giuly, Alan Golivesky, Robin Golivesky, Jada Griffin, Sandra Harris, Cynthia Helms, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Jaret Johnson, Joseph Jones, Emily Josey, Nicky Legg, Kenneth Lester.

Also, Keith Lewis, Brian Long, Lisa Lovoll, Cristie Lowe, Helen Miller, Thomas Moser, Shelby Neece, Brenda Priddy, Margaret Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, Catherine Rowe, Angela Scott, Maria Smith, Meredith Stanaland, Lamont Stewart, Heather Strayhorn, Pamela Williams, Virginia Williams, Alfonza Willis, Jason Wood and Scott Youngblood.

11th Grade — Keith Beal, Michelle Bellew, Marchell Bemby, Gerald Bennett, Tanya Bennett, Amy Bowling, Jason Bridges, Tracy Burgsteiner, Tina Campbell, Edward Casteloes, Latrena Cody, David Coleman, James Connell, Meredith Coogan, Nicole Coursen, Tracy Cowart, Jennifer Crane, Julius Daniels, Deann Dasher, Melissa Demott, James Dewar, Kevin Dowling, Sandy Downs, Stephanie Drawdy.

And Beverly Edmondson, Amy Faircloth, Jill Gaertner, John Geier, Mona Gibbs, Susanne Grant, Wendy Griffin, Charles Harris, Leslie Hiers, Rachel Hill, Bennett Hogan, Donya Holmes, Yulanda Holmes, Pamela Hoover, Karen Jamieson, Michelle Jamieson, Roslyn Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Kim Kerins, Keri Kirby, Shannon Lancaster, Carlas Larry, Freda Lewis, Gina Marafino, Leslie McComb.

Also, James McDaniel, Darrin McLeod, Meredith McMillan, Mindi Miller, Darlene Mitchell, Monica Morrisette, Margaret Mosby, Marilyn Moss, Tonya Nolan, Andre Norwood, Valenci Patterson, Tasha Quarterman, Jeffrey Register, Edna Roberts, Sophia Roberts, Tasha Roberts, Kenneth Rose, Hal Rowe, Coleman Rudolph, Shaun Rudolph, Richard Rykard, Julie Sadler, Detrici Seawright, Kellie Sessions.

And Dexter Sharper, Kelly Shelton, Jill Singletary, Ann Marie Sorenson, Jennifer Staley, Leigh Struble, Shannon Taw, Robert Thomas, Matthew Tittle, Teresa Van Sickle, Sholanda Wade, Sandra Wang, Natars Washington, John Washnock, Melissa Wetherington, Kevin Whigham, Nicole White, Christina Wilkinson, Dawn Williams and Valerie Wright.

12th Grade — Edward Anderson, Kim Anderson, Laura Bailey, Tracy Balch, Sonji Barnes, Patricia Barrett, Scott Barton, Felecia Bell, Stacy Berrian, Paige Braswell, Emma Braswell, Kevin Breeden, Debbie Broadie, Shannon Brooks, Kelisa Brown,

Michael Brown, Tanyala Brown, Claude Brunson, Dwayne Bullard, Susan Burns, Patrick Carlson, Tracey Chandler, Anne Clark, David Cole.

Also, Steven Crombie, Steph Culverhouse, Mark Daughtrey, Rhonda Davis, Alecia DeLoach, Deania Denmark, Lisa Dodds, David Dodson, Laura Downing, Erika Duckworth, Denise Eberhard, Kevin Elliott, Jeffrey Faircloth, Larita Felton, Alfred

Foster, Jaime Gagliardi, Corey Gay, Kevin Glorius, James Godwin, Barry Golivesky, Kenneth Gonis, Cathe Green, Ella Green, Christophe Griner.

And James Gross, Stephanie Gupton, Maredith Hall, Gina Hampton, Brian Harris, Shannon Harris, Angela Heard, Rhonda Henderson, Mary Hendrix, Susan Hill, Tracy Horton, Debra House, Jennifer Inmon, John Iverson, Derrick Jackson, Eric Jackson, Wilma Jackson, Nicholas Jennings, Rebecca Johnson, Stephanie Johnson, Diane Jones, Seletha Jones, Faylene Joyner, Pamela King, Jeffrey Lahr.

Also, Beau Laskey, Tracy Lees,

Gregory Leong, Herman Lindsey, Penny Little, Russell Mace, William Mason, Cynthia Matherly, Kelly McBride, Laura McMillan, Melanie

Meeks, Andrew Miller, Stephanie Moody, Marianne Moore, Timothy Moore, Jack Morgan, Stacy Morris, Carlis Moses, Brian Mueller, Nancy Nichols, Marilois Owens, Sabrina Paige, Joseph Paoletti, Sharon Patrick, Joseph Peterson.

And Melissa Quinterio, Roderick Richardson, Dyron Riley, Coy Roberts, Diane Robertson, Richard Rogers, Janet Rose, Misti Rowe, Dustin Sanders, D.D. Sapp, Charles Sargent, Lisa Scherer, Lynn Simmons, Kellie Smith,

Patricia Smith, Terry Snyder, Amy Steedley, Sheila Stevens, Charles Steward, Audra Stuart, Suzanne Studstill, Cynthia Supp, Gloria Thomas, Rosalyn Thompson.

Also, Anne Wansley, Debra Waters, Sabrina Watson, Arika White, Kenneth Wiatrak, Vic Williams and Michele Winfrey.



Sunday March 27, 1988 VDT

VHS Pitcher Andy Rykard Slides Into Second Against Lanier During Rebel Classic

'Cats Fall 11-8 To Clinch

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

All you have to do is look at the 15 base runners left out by Charles Tarpley and understand why head coach Clinch County Tuesday afternoon.

Valdosta, which pounded out 14 hits, left the bases loaded in the second, third, fourth and seventh innings. But aside from the third inning when the 'Cats plated four runs, they scored only twice over the other three.

"We couldn't pitch, we couldn't get the hits when we needed them and we had 18 base runners that didn't score," said Tarpley. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Third baseman Andy Rykard and left fielder Chuck Moore had home runs for Valdosta while A.C. Cooper and King Bridges had homers for Clinch.

Yet despite all the runs that were scored, it was some careless base running by Valdosta and a great throw by Panther left fielder Les Teston that meant the difference in the game.

The Panthers got their breaks in the bottom of the sixth inning. With Clinch up 9-8, Valdosta had a runner on first at Region 1-AAAA foe Colquitt County. Clinch, 4-2, will host and nobody out. Kevin Elliott lofted a routine fly ball into Nicholls in a Region 2-A game 4:30 Friday afternoon in left field. However the runner at first took off as soon as the Homerville ball was hit and was standing at second base as the Clinch County Panthers threw the ball to first to complete the double play.

As it turned out, that play probably cost Valdosta the game. But the 'Cats weren't done yet. The next batter John Hughes c Iverson singled then stole second giving the 'Cats another opportunity to tie the game.

But Clinch would come up with the defensive play of the game. Left fielder Chuck Moore laced a single to left field which at the time looked good enough to score Iverson, but Teston picked up the ball on the first hop and fired a strike to catcher John Hughes to nab Iverson by a good three feet.

"That throw was what turned the game around for us," Clinch head coach Cecil Barber said. "I've always felt if you can kill a runner at the plate it will make all the difference in the world, change the entire complexion. Today it meant the ballgame."

According to Tarpley, there was no excuse for the base running blunder in the sixth but the Wildcat coach took full responsibility for sending Iverson home.

"We were one run down at the time and had to take a chance," he said. "I thought Iverson would be able to score but their left fielder made the big play."

Clinch scored five runs in the first inning off Valdosta starter Sean Cullen, the big blow being a 2-run homer by

Valdosta came back with a solo shot by Rykard in the second before scoring four in the third, two coming on a two-out single by Kevin Elliott to cut the Clinch lead to 7-5.

"I'm still concerned that we haven't developed a killer instinct," Barber said. "I thought in the second we would have a shot to put it away. Their pitcher, it seemed like to me, was throwing softer than he was in the first but we couldn't get to him."

Clinch scored two runs in the fifth, one on a leadoff homer by Cooper. Valdosta scored two more in the bottom half of the fifth on a pair of throwing errors by the Panthers to cut the lead to 9-8 but that was as close as the 'Cats would get.

Barber's defending Class A state champions plated two insurance runs in the seventh, both scoring on a 'Cat throwing error.

Valdosta, 3-3, will return to action 4:30 Monday afternoon at Region 1-AAAA foe Colquitt County. Clinch, 4-2, will host in a Region 2-A game 4:30 Friday afternoon in

ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
3	2	1	1	Iverson/2b	3	2	1	1
4	1	1	0	Moore lf	4	1	1	0
4	1	1	1	Mason ss	4	1	1	1
2	2	3	3	Rykard 3b	2	2	3	3
3	2	1	0	Thomas 1b	3	2	1	0
3	0	0	0	Hilson cf	3	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	Pruette p	2	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	Chie c	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Elliott rf	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	0	Totals	31	8	14	5

ab	r	h	bi	Clinch County	ab	r	h	bi
3	2	1	1	Bell rf	3	2	1	1
4	1	1	0	Spates cf	4	1	1	0
4	1	1	1	Spates 3b	4	1	1	1
2	2	3	3	Bridges p	2	2	3	3
3	2	1	0	Hughes c	3	2	1	0
3	0	0	0	Wesley 1b	3	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	James 2b	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Essens 3b	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	Ormeron dh	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	0	Totals	29	11	9	8

	502	200	2-11
Valdosta	014	102	0-8
Clinch	014	102	0-8

	H	R	E	R	B	B	S	O
Valdosta	4	8	6	3	2	1		
Clinch	3	5	2	0	3	1		

Local Teams Split

Moore Home Run Sparks Wildcats

coach Charles Tarpley said. "It was a good win for us. They jumped on us early by scoring two runs, but didn't get the ball out of the infield."

Clinch scored their first two runs on groundouts by Skip Jones and A.C. Cooper.

Pruette, 2-1, went six innings before giving way to Sean Cullen in the seventh inning. Cullen picked up his first save of the year.

Jamie Spates was the starter for the Panthers going six innings. Cooper pitched the seventh and took the loss.

Valdosta will travel to Albany tomorrow to take on Region 1-AAAA

foe Monroe. Clinch will host Lanier County this afternoon at 4:30.

Wendy Lanier pitched a no-hitter in game one as Georgia Southern swept a softball double-header from Valdosta State by the scores of 16-0 and 16-4.

In game two, the Lady Blazers managed seven hits, two by Tonya Long and Loree Johnson.

VSC is 1-13 on the year and will travel to Carrollton Friday to take part in the West Georgia College Invitational. The three-day tournament will last through Sunday.



Valdosta's John Iverson Turns Double-Play Against Clinch
—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek



Times Staff Photo By Joey Ivansco

Valdosta Coach Charles Tarpley (L) Encourages Team, Hopes To Earn Playoff Spot This Week

Magic Number For Wildcats: 2

Lowndes' Playoff Hopes Rest With Valdosta-Colquitt Outcome

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

The magic number for Valdosta's baseball team is two.

If the Wildcats can sweep Central of Thomasville today and Tuesday, they will defend their region championship in the playoffs next week.

Wednesday, the Wildcats can earn the sub-region championship by beating Colquitt County in Moultrie.

Foul weather forced several postponements in the Valdosta schedule. The result was two additions — today's game with Central and Wednesday's game in

Moultrie — to the final week's schedule.

The week should put a strain on the Wildcat pitching staff, but Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley said he's not worried.

"I'm more worried about the hitting," Tarpley said. "If we hit the ball, I don't worry. I feel like our pitchers can get the ball over the plate and do all right."

Junior Ted West has been Tarpley's main man in '83.

West has yet to lose a game, and has been the pitcher called upon in every crucial sub-region game this year. West pitches today and Wednesday, while Rick

Rupp is slated to pitch at Central Tuesday.

Rupp gets one of his most critical assignments of the spring, trying to knock down the Jackets to clinch a playoff spot — assuming the Wildcats beat Central today.

Rupp won three playoff games last year, including a win against Kendrick in the state playoffs. However, his most difficult test this year came against Tift County, a game he lost.

The biggest game of the week, whether or not Valdosta has clinched a playoff spot or not, is Friday. The season's final regular game pits the Wildcats against

Lowndes in a game most important to the Vikings.

If Valdosta beats Colquitt Wednesday, Lowndes can tie for second and force a on-e-game playoff with the Packers if it beats Valdosta.

Tarpley said he hopes the game becomes that critical for Lowndes.

"We're going to try to win them all," Tarpley said. "But the big game is Friday against Lowndes."

"I hope they're still in it when we play them," Tarpley added. "I hope we beat Colquitt, then Lowndes. We'd have a better chance to win if they have something to gain. If they're out of it,

they might be relaxed. They could play tight if they're playing for the playoffs."

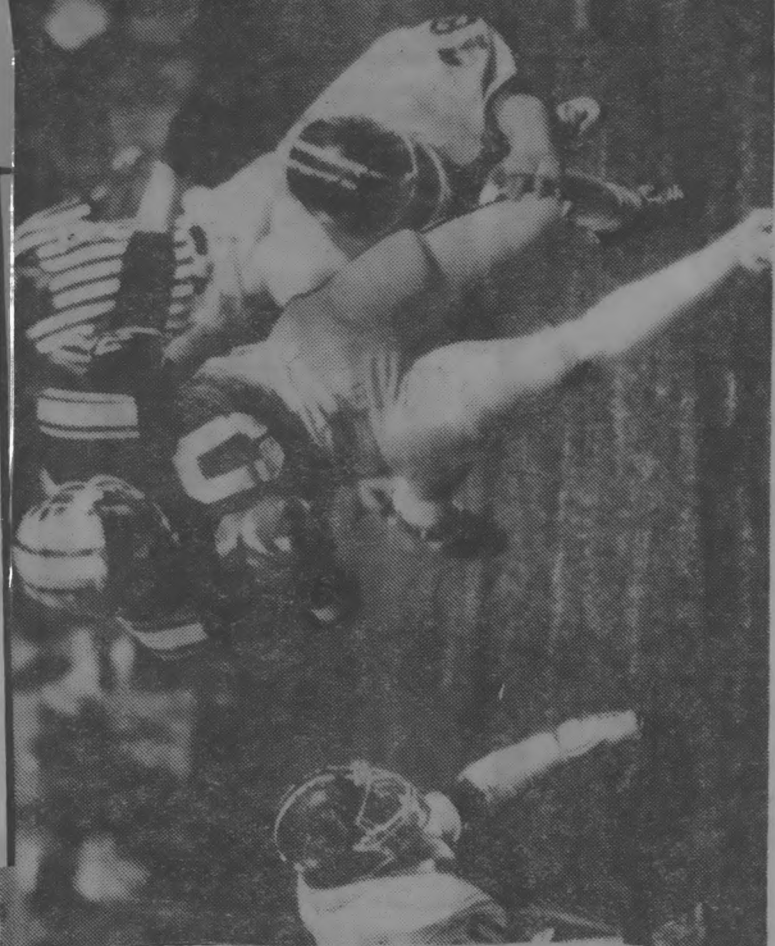
Tarpley said he would ask West to pitch Friday's game if the junior said he was ready following the two games he was already scheduled to play this week.

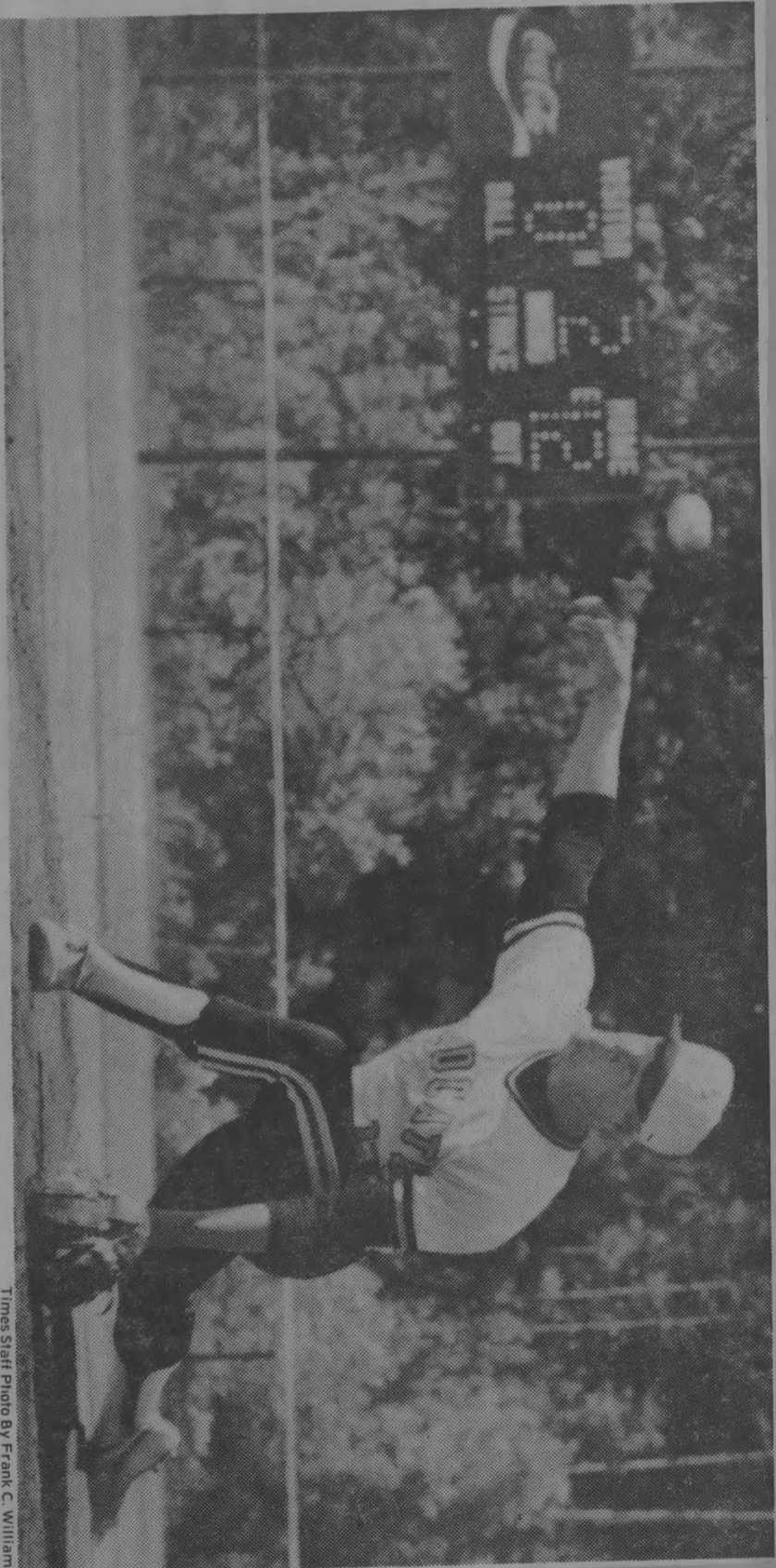
If West was unable to go, Rupp, or possibly Mike Moore, could pitch against Lowndes. Pitching Wednesday could be a gamble with the playoffs beginning next Tuesday.

Lowndes, almost certainly, will have to go to the entire staff, if necessary, to beat Valdosta or else the season will be over.

Another Look At Victory

(Left) Valdosta Running Back Pernell Bee Breaks From The Grasp Of A Would-Be Warner Robins Tackler. (Right) Wildcat Wide Receiver Rob Mitchell Battles With Demon Defensive Back For Possession Of A Pass Thrown By 'Dosta Quarterback Ted West. (Below) Cat Running Back Dana Brinson Pops Through A Hole In The Warner Robins Defensive Front. Valdosta Defeated The Demons 14-7 Friday Night At Cleveland Field And Is Headed For Next Saturday Night's Showdown With Peachtree For The Class AAAA State Championship. (Staff Photos By Joey Ivansco)





Times Staff Photo By Frank C. Williams

Valdosta Pitcher Rick Rupp Had It Easy As His Teammates Scored 26 Runs To Sink Central Of Thomasville For Second Day In Row

'Cats Roll, While Central Folds

By MACK BROWNING
Times Staff Writer

Terrible thing happened to Central of Thomasville on its way to the region baseball playoffs: The Jackets fell apart.

No, it was worse than that. Members of Central's pitching staff, a group epoxied together throughout most of the year by ace left-hander Michael Greek, fell on their collective faces the last two weeks of the season. The result was a six-game losing streak to close out a season that had begun so promisingly.

And each defeat was not your typical nip-and-tuck ball game. The pitching staff now a frazzled group, opposing hitters bombed away sending Central home with lopsided defeat after lopsided defeat.

Valdosta dealt the final, humiliating blow Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field,

whipping the Yellow Jackets 26-9 to clinch a playoff spot in 1-AAAA.

The Wildcats can clinch the sub-region championship today with a win over Colquitt County in Moultrie. Ted West is slated to pitch for Valdosta.

Having cemented in place the final nail in Central's coffin Monday with a 10-3 win in Thomasville, Valdosta exploded for 12 first-inning runs. The 'Cats sent 17 men to the plate in the inning and hit three home runs, two by Marty Shiver. Shiver's first homer in the inning followed West's solo shot.

For the game, Valdosta smacked eight home runs, none of which were in doubt.

Valdosta starting pitcher didn't exactly fool anybody, giving up seven hits and seven earned runs in five innings of work. But his performance seemed sterling next to the five

Central hurlers. Give little Mark Henley, the Jackets' fourth pitcher, credit for a moral victory. He lasted over four innings on the mound, giving up 10 hits and four earned runs. His three predecessors, Ray King, Gene Singletary and Michael Greek, managed only one full inning between them. In that span, reaching into the second inning, Valdosta got 12 hits and 16 runs.

Amazingly, every run scored in the big first inning was scored after two were out. In fact, the Wildcats first two batters of the game filed out before West hit his homer, only his first of two on the afternoon.

Valdosta could have gotten more, but over 30 minutes later, the third base umpire called Blake Belue out for not tagging third base while on his way to score off Rupp's single.

As well as Valdosta has hit the ball lately, no one would be amazed at the high score — except that two weeks ago Central was undefeated in the sub-region and appeared in good shape for a playoff bid.

However, Central coach Sam Sweat had worked through the sub-region schedule with lefty Greek, his best pitcher by far. When rainout created several back-to-back games, Central was in trouble.

Sweat has used King, Singletary, Henley and Doug Wilson — in addition to Greek — but none have been effective. Even Greek, pressed into service on days he might otherwise be resting, faltered late.

One could see late last week the Valdosta onslaught coming. Still, who could have imagined a combined total of 36 runs against a team in contention most of the season?

ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Taylor cf	4	1	0	Gunkins ss	2	2	1
Pyle lf	2	1	2	Hing ph-ss	2	1	0
Fithwood if	1	1	0	Perry 2b	4	2	2
Henley ss-p	3	1	2	Gandy ph-2b	2	2	1
GRC cp-lb	3	2	3	West rf	4	3	2
Stewart lb	0	0	0	Purvis ph-1b	2	0	1
Singletary 1b-p	3	1	1	Spivey c	4	2	2
Stanley rf	1	0	0	Goff ph-c	2	1	0
King ph-if	3	0	0	Reaves cf	4	3	1
Monte lf	1	0	0	Rupp ph-3b	3	1	0
Brooks c	3	1	1	Belue lb	3	1	1
Walker ph	1	0	0	Parke ph lb	1	1	2
Wilson 2b-ss-p	3	0	0	Scruggs if	3	2	3
Harrell on	2	1	0	Rupp ph-if	2	1	1
TOTALS	30	9	8	30	9	8	7

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
King	0.2	6	9	8	3
Singletary	0.1	3	3	0	1
Greek	0.0	3	4	4	1
Henley	4.1	9	6	4	1
Wilson	0.2	1	1	1	0
VHS	5.0	7	7	3	3
Rupp	2.1	1	2	2	0
Moore	2.1	1	2	2	0
Winner	—	—	—	—	—
Losers	—	—	—	—	—
Singletary 2, Henley 3, PB	—	—	—	—	—
Brooks, HBP	—	—	—	—	—
Harrell by Rupp	—	—	—	—	—

0-0-0	3-0	0-9-8-7
12-4-1	151	-7-26-23-4
E	—	Johnson, Singletary, Brooks, Wilson 2,
Greek, King, Silver, West, Register 2, Left	—	—
CHS 4, VHS 4, 2B	—	Perry, Reaves, HR
2, Shiver 2, Perry, Reaves, Parker, Gandy, 5B	—	—
—	—	Goff, Scruggs

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
King	0.2	6	9	8	3
Singletary	0.1	3	3	0	1
Greek	0.0	3	4	4	1
Henley	4.1	9	6	4	1
Wilson	0.2	1	1	1	0
VHS	5.0	7	7	3	3
Rupp	2.1	1	2	2	0
Moore	2.1	1	2	2	0
Winner	—	—	—	—	—
Losers	—	—	—	—	—
Singletary 2, Henley 3, PB	—	—	—	—	—
Brooks, HBP	—	—	—	—	—
Harrell by Rupp	—	—	—	—	—

Westover Rally Sinks Wildcats

VDT 4-8-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

In baseball, walks are often deadly. They certainly murdered Valdosta's hopes against Westover here Thursday afternoon with the help of a cruel April breeze that blew to right field.

Valdosta led 10-5 and needed only three more outs to seal up the Region 1-AAAA victory. The Patriots, however, scored six runs in the top of the seventh and closed the door on Valdosta in the bottom of the inning to take an 11-10 victory. The Wildcats fall to 6-5, 2-2. Westover is 7-6, 3-2. Valdosta will host Lowndes today at 4:30.

	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Westover
Home 2b	4	2	0	0	Iverson 2b	3	1	1	0	3
Kempth dh-p	2	2	0	0	Moore rf	3	2	0	1	2
Goodson 1b	2	3	2	1	Mason ss	4	1	1	2	4
Welch lf	2	2	1	2	Rykard dh	4	2	3	2	4
Montague rf	4	1	1	5	Elliott lf	4	1	0	0	4
Griggs 3b	4	0	2	0	Hilson cf	4	1	1	0	4
Fields pf	0	1	0	0	Thomas 1b	2	0	1	2	2
Hall cf	3	0	0	0	Bass 3b	4	1	3	3	4
Foster ph	0	0	0	0	Cole c	3	1	1	0	3
Schroeder c	3	0	1	0	Avila ph	1	0	0	0	1
Collins ss	3	0	1	1	Totals	37	11	8	9	37

Westover.....	104	000	6	-	11
Valdosta.....	403	030	0	-	10
E - Horns, Goodson, Griggs, Mason 2, DP - Valdosta					
1, LOB - Westover 5, Valdosta 9, 2B - Cole, HR - Goodson, Montague, Rykard, SB - Mason, Thomas, SF - Collins.					

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Westover	3 1/3	8	7	4	7	1
Hayes	1 1/2	0	0	0	0	0
Bennett	2 1/2	3	3	2	1	0

*Kempth (W, 1-1)
*Kempth left in the fifth, re-entered in seventh. Bennett pitched to one batter in the fifth, and completed the sixth.

Valdosta	6	4	7	5	8	1
Pruette	1	4	4	3	1	0
Cullen (L, 2-2)						
WP - Pruette, PB - Cole, T - 2:30, A - 75.						

Westover drew two walks to open the inning against Cat starter Brannen Pruette. Reliever Sean Cullen did no better. Cullen walked the bases loaded and then gave up a single that scored one run, kept the bases loaded, and made it 10-6 Valdosta.

Patriot right fielder Lance Mon-

tague then slapped a grand slam to right that rode the wind and tied the score at 10-10 with no outs.

Chip Griggs followed with a single and pinch runner Tony Fields went to third on a ball that Valdosta shortstop B.J. Mason flagged down but threw wide of first base. David Collins scored Fields on a sacrifice fly to close out the scoring.

"Pruette walked the first two and I felt I had to go get him," said a dismayed VHS head man Charles Tarpley. "But Cullen went in and couldn't find the plate either. We just didn't get the job done on the mound."

Cullen got the loss to fall to 2-2, yielding four runs, three earned, on four hits and one walk.

"There's no doubt that was our biggest inning of the year," said Westover head coach Ron Best. "They had some big innings, too."

After Westover took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first on a solo homer by Billy Goodson, Valdosta rallied in the bottom of the inning to take a 4-1 lead.

Mason singled home Jon Iverson, Lee Thomas walked to force home Chuck Moore, and Ashley Bass hit a 2-run single to score Andy Rykard and Mason.

The Patriots erupted for four in the third to take a 5-4 lead, but the Wildcats made it 7-5 in the bottom of the inning on an RBI single by Bass, an RBI walk by Moore and a fielder's choice by Mason.

Valdosta opened the lead to 10-5 in the fifth on a 2-run homer by Rykard, his fifth of the year, and an RBI single by Thomas.

Bass was the batting hero for VHS after winning the starting spot at third last week. He went 3-for-4 with three RBI and one run scored. Rykard went 3-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored.



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy

The Runner Is Out At Second As John Iverson Tries To Turn Double Play

Lowndes Girls Edge Valdosta And Coffee Track Teams

From Staff Reports

VDT 4-8-88

The Lowndes High girls track team came away with 55 points to edge arch-rival Valdosta in a three-team meet at Valdosta High Wednesday afternoon.

Valdosta finished with 45 points while Coffee County finished with 38.

First place finishers for Lowndes include Jackie Powell in the 440 yard dash, Marie Alderman in the 100 meter and 220 dash, Vernellia Alderman in the 110 yard hurdles and Jeanne Wehner in the 880 yard run.

Also, the team of Sadie Straughter, Powell, Vernellia Alderman and Marie Alderman won first in the 440 relay. The mile relay team also won first place. The team consist of Straughter, Wehner, Powell and Marie Alderman.

Second place finishers for Lowndes include Wehner in the high jump and Powell in the 220. Third place finishers include Dana Hillman in the discuss, Lisa Samaras in the one mile run, Vernellia Alderman in the 440, Missy Casey in the 880 and Terrell Matchett in the 110 yard hurdles.

For Valdosta, first place finishers include June Gartman in the shot put and discus and Susie Jones in the one mile and two mile.

Second place finishers include Kim Kerins in the one mile, Suzette



Sports Capsule

From Staff, AP Reports

Davidson in the low hurdles and Cynthia Anderson in the two mile.

Valdosta's next meet will be Monday, April 11 at Coffee County while Lowndes will compete Thursday, April 11 in Tifton.

Valdosta, Lowndes Split In Tennis

In high school tennis action Thursday afternoon, the Valdosta girls beat Lowndes 10-3 while the Lowndes boys beat the 'Cats 6-3.

Valdosta's girls are now 3-1 while the Lowndes boys are 2-2.

Singles winners for Valdosta's girls include, Margaret Anne Sineath over Gina Cumby 2-7, 7-6 (7-4) 6-4, Josie Hatcher over Laurie Fanney 6-1, 6-1, Paige Stabell over Amy Janney 6-4, 6-3, Kelly Edwards over Lena Galbreath 6-3, 6-2, Meg Rainey over Tonia Powers 6-3, 6-1, Marianne Moore over Kim Gay 60, 7-5 and Stephanie Hinton over Dee Wetherington 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles winners for Valdosta were the team of Rainey/Wynne Johnson over Galbreath/Blanton 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, Moore/Shannon Harris over L. Janney/Powers 6-3, 6-3 and Hinton/Marsha Harris over Gay/Wetherington 6-1/6-1.

Singles winners for Lowndes include Nancy Smith over Wendy Griffin and Kathy Blanton over Honey Hatcher 6-3, 6-2. In doubles, the team of Smith/Cumby beat Griffin/Edwards 6-2, 6-0.

In boys' action for Lowndes, Joe Delao beat David Coleman 6-1, 6-3, Terry Dembkowski beat James Inman 6-2, 6-2 and Darren Broome beat Chris Trice 6-1.

Winners for Valdosta were Steven Chitty over Mike Gonzalez 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, Mark Beard beat Jason Biery 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 and Chad Harris beat Mark Tillman 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles action Lowndes won all three matches. Delao/Biery beat Coleman/Trice 6-0, 6-2, Gonzalez/Dembowski beat Chitty/Beard 6-2, 6-1 and Broome/Tillman also won their match.

VHS Y-Club Members Active; Variety of Events Are Planned

VDT 4-9-88

By Melanie Wiggs

VHS Y-Club members will be active in many school, local and community projects throughout the month of April.

Local projects include a lock-in for high school Y-Club members and their guests. The lock-in will be held on April 22.

Also members will be attending CLC, Christian Life Conference, May 6, 7 and 8 in Moultrie, Ga.

Community projects include a car wash on April 16. A location has not yet been decided.

In other business, a meeting will be held Tuesday. CLC and other projects, some listed above, will be discussed. Members are also reminded to pay CLC money by April 15.



VHS News

Compiled, Written By VHS Students

Cadet Training

By Stephen Cain

The Valdosta High School Naval Junior ROTC took an elite group of cadets to boot camp orientation at the Navy Recruit Training Station in

Orlando, Fla.

The cadets received training in many different areas such as water survival, basic seamanship, and military drill.

The cadets also learned many leadership skills which will prove useful throughout their lives.

Debaters Compete

By Jay Connell

Valdosta High debaters participated in the Eighth Annual Golden Isles Forensic Tournament at Glynn Academy in Brunswick on March 25 and 26.

Students competed in two divisions of debate and interpretive reading.

The two-day event was the final tournament this season.

In the varsity division, for more experienced debaters, were juniors Jay Connell and Kelly Shelton. Competing in the junior varsity division were sophomores John Casker and Michelle Jones and freshmen Ashley Connell and Tammy Crowe.

JV debate is limited to only first year debaters.

All debates used the switch-side, cross examination format and advocated the 1987-88 national high school topic, Resolved: That the United States government should adopt a policy to increase political stability in Latin America.

Competing in interpretive reading was senior Toby Baskin. Senior's Holly Davis and Terry Snyder served as debate judges at the tournament.

Miss Crowe was the top speaker for VHS, receiving the tenth place speaker award. Also in the JV division, Miss Jones was 19th, Miss Connell, 22nd, and Casker, 27th out of 82 speakers in the two day tournament.

Vikings, Valdosta Facing Region Contests

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Headed into the current baseball season, Lowndes head coach Noel George and Valdosta head man Charles Tarpley targeted Tift County and Colquitt County as the teams to beat. The Vikings and the Wildcats, meanwhile, were not supposed to do that well.

Both squads have a chance to firm up their chances at a Region 1-AAAA playoff spot with two more region games scheduled for this week.

Tonight, the Vikings will host Dougherty at 7:30 and Valdosta will play host to defending Region 1-AAAA champion Westover at 4:30.

Valdosta and Lowndes end the week's festivities by squaring off against each other on 4:30 Friday at Valdosta High.

Tarpley considers today's game against Westover more important than the Lowndes game. With the top four teams going to the double-elimination region tournament, Tarpley would like to get ahead of the three Albany schools.

The Wildcats have already beaten Monroe and they play Dougherty on Tuesday.

"I need to win this one bad," said Tarpley. "If we can win this one, we'll be in good shape against Lowndes because I'll probably be able to throw Andy Rykard against them."

Lowndes fell to 3-7 overall after losing to Suwannee 11-6 Wednesday night.

"After last night I don't know," lamented George. "I thought we were playing pretty good. Maybe we got it out of our system."

"I think we can play with Dougherty. I don't know what kind of team they have, but I know we have to play ball. You have to play ball to beat everybody."

George said Tad Evans would probably get the nod tonight on the mound, and fireballer Wayne Williams would throw against Valdosta on Friday. Williams beat the 'Cats once last season.

Brandon Pruyette was scheduled to start today for Valdosta with Sean Cullen in relief and Rykard is scheduled for Friday's battle against the

Vikings.

Tarpley may also make some lineup changes. He wants Rykard to rest today, so he won't be in the field. Outfielder Kevin Elliott may get a chance to hit after knocking a home run against Tifton Tuesday.

Lowndes and Valdosta were both plagued by poor hitting in the first weeks of the season, but they seem to be coming out of it.

Lowndes popped Monroe 15-0 on April Fool's Day and on Tuesday, the unheralded Wildcats stepped on Tift County 18-3.

Talley Now No. 1 For UGA Bulldogs

The Associated Press

ATHEENS, Ga. — Wayne Johnson, the top candidate for the Georgia Bulldogs' quarterback spot, will miss the rest of spring football practice with a sprained knee.

"Needless to say, it's a real loss, because Wayne, after three days, was working himself into a position to be able for the first time to assume a leadership position and get some work toward stabilizing the opportunity he has," said Coach Vince Dooley.

"This now throws a monkey wrench into the situation," Redshirt freshman Greg Talley of Valdosta is left as the No. 1 quarterback.

"It's a bad thing that Wayne got hurt," Talley said. "It's a situation where you've got to come in and not think about it but just take advantage of it."

During the Bulldogs' first scrimmage of the spring Saturday, Talley completed 10 of 11 passes for 103 yards.

Junior Joey Hester and redshirt freshman Derrick Harris follow Talley on the depth chart. Dooley said two other redshirt freshmen — Pat Rinard and Mike Martin — are waiting behind them.

"It's definitely going to be hard," said Johnson, who wore a brace on



GREG TALLEY

his injured knee Friday. "It takes a frame of mind that when I go back I'll just work harder."

He said it was particularly frustrating because it came "when I was getting my timing back and feeling relaxed."

Johnson, a Bulldogs backup quarterback the past three seasons, was injured during Thursday's practice when a pass rusher fell against his knee.

"The doctor said it will be at least three to four weeks," Johnson said. "That's the spring there."

Valdosta Defeats Monroe

VDI Sat., April 23, 1988
From Staff Reports

ALBANY — The Valdosta Wildcats evened their Region 1-AAAA record at 1-1 with a 6-4 win over the Monroe Golden Tornadoes here Friday night. The 'Cats are 5-4 overall.

Valdosta erupted for four runs in the third and two in the fifth to take a 6-0 lead.



Andy Rykard, 2-2, got the victory for the Wildcats, going four innings. Sean Cullen finished up for the Wildcats.

Valdosta committed just two errors and mustered eight base hits.

The Wildcats scored four in the third when Bernard Hitson, John Iverson, Chuck Moore, B. J. Mason, and Rykard all singled.

In the fifth, Moore tripled home Iverson and Mason singled in Moore. Moore was held to just five hits.

Moore finished with two hits, a double and a triple and Mason finished with three singles and two runs batted in.

Valdosta will play host to Tift County on Tuesday at 4:30 in another Region 1-AAAA contest.



—Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta High's Adam Avila Slides Into Second As Berrien's Stan Nix Awaits

Valdosta never mounted a scoring threat as not one VHS base runner made it to second during the game. Berrien is now 3-0 on the year while Valdosta falls to 3-2. Valdosta earned the right to play Berrien by beating Lanier County earlier in the day 9-4. Sean Cullen got his second win of the year, giving up seven hits, striking out 11 batters and walking only five.

Cullen also had a three-run homer in the second inning and finished with four RBI, going 2-for-2. John Iverson had a 2 RBI double and while Lee Thomas and Pablo Campa rapped out two hits each. Alex Lee crunched a two-run homer for Lanier's Bulldogs while Rodney Flowers and Ashley O'Quinn had RBI singles. Lanier is now 6-2 on the year.

FHA'ers Attend District Meet

Sat. March 26, 1988 VDT

By Gloria Thomas

The Valdosta Junior High and Valdosta High Future Homemakers of America, along with their advisers, Anna Mashburn and Karen Zahniser, recently attended the FHA Spring District meeting at Colquitt County High School.

More than 400 delegates, advisers, and guests assembled on "Super Saturday" to elect the State FHA presidential candidates, parliamentarian, and music and recreation chairperson.

The candidates presented skits which depicted their FHA accomplishments which qualified them for their positions.

The FHA Spring District Meeting is a cooperative event between the junior high school and high school.

Literary Team Wins

By Jay Connell

Valdosta High School finished in third place in region 1-AAAA literary competition last Saturday at Lowndes High School. Tift High School won first place with Lowndes placing second overall. VHS students competed in 14 events.

First place winners for VHS were Brian Mueller, oral interpretation; Chad Harris, typing; and Kelly Shelton, oral interpretation.

Second place winners were Cindy Supp, essay; Daniel Jackson, solo; Dan Altman, piano; Kelly Shelton, extemporaneous speaking; and the quartet of David Jackson, Cedric Johnson, Dexter Mitchell, and Dexter Sharper.

Third place winners were Michael Young, spelling; Blair Barnett, solo; and Jay Connell, extemporaneous speaking. Finishing in fourth place were Sandra Wang, piano; and Kevin Elliott, essay.

Ashley Connell participated in the



spelling competition.

Valdosta also received three points for finishing in third place in the Region 1-AAAA one act play competition in November and nine points for second place in the Region 1-AAAA Debates in January.

The winners in each literary event on Saturday received seven points for first place, five points for second place, three points for third place, and one point for fourth place toward the literary trophy. The first place winner in each literary event in each region qualifies to participate in the State Literary Meet next month at Mercer University in Macon.

DECA Development

Seventeen Valdosta High School DECA Chapter members attended the Georgia DECA Career Development Conference March 18-20.

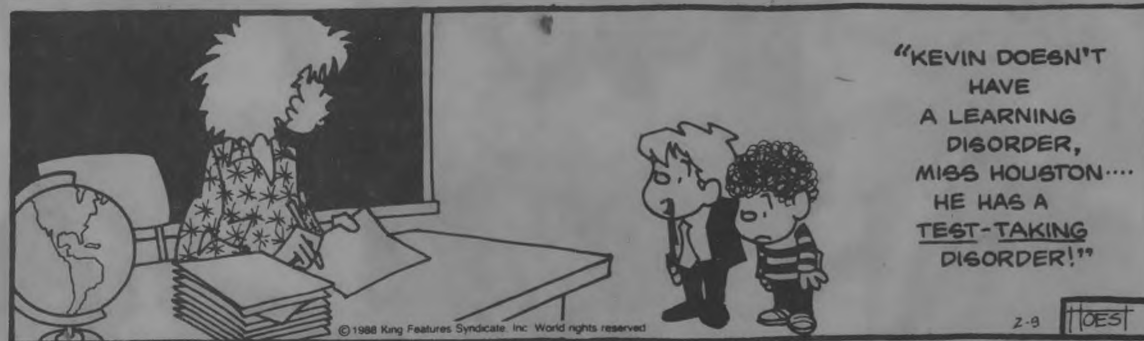
Six of the Valdosta High students became state finalists and will compete for national honors at the national DECA conference in Salt Lake City, Utah the last week in April.

Each student who attended the state conference participated in career development workshops designed to enhance their career awareness.

The students who attended from Valdosta were: Len Davis, Nick Tomlinson, Chris Griner, Jeff Lahr, Brian Harris, Kevin Glorius, Toby Baskins, Lynn Simmons, LeeAnn Hendrix, Kim Courson, Paige Braswell, Gina Hampton, Stephanie Gupton, Stephanie Culverhouse, Michele Winfrey, Susan Burns, and Catherine Kaiser.

Susan Burns, who competed in Advertising and Display Services, won 1st place; Stephanie Culverhouse, who competed in Apparel & Accessories, won 2nd place; Toby Baskins, who competed in Math, won 1st place; Michele Winfrey, who competed as reporter of the year, won 3rd place; Catherine Kaiser, who competed in Business Speech, won 3rd place; and Len Davis, who competed in Food Marketing, won 4th place.

What A Guy!





Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Colquitt Infielder Awaits To Apply Tag On Ashley Bass

Colquitt Overtakes 'Cats 5-3

VDT 4-14-88

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Like a boxer, Valdosta had its opponent on the canvass and the ref was counting off the seconds, but the Wildcats were the ones who took the knockout punch on the chins.

Valdosta had a 3-1 lead with two outs in the sixth inning, only to see the Packers tie it in the sixth. Colquitt scored two more in the eighth to win 5-3.

The 'Cats would have tied Colquitt for the Region 1-AAAA lead with a win, but Valdosta is now 9-7 overall and 4-3 in region play while the Packers go to 10-4, 6-1.

"I guess that shows how good we really are," said a disgruntled Charles Tarpley, the Wildcats' head coach. "We just didn't do the little things right. We played good ball but let the little stuff beat us."

Colquitt won the game on a 2-run single in the eight off of starter Andy Rykard, but an equally crucial moment came in the sixth when Valdosta allowed the Packers to tie it.

Valdosta led 3-1 and Moultrie had center fielder Marcus Ponder on

Colquitt County	ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Ponder cf	4	2	1	0	Iverson 2b	3	0	0	0
Jenkins rf	4	0	0	0	Mason ss	4	2	2	0
McCraine lf	3	2	0	0	Moore rf	4	1	1	2
McAlpin c	2	0	1	2	Rykard p	4	0	2	1
Whaley dh	2	0	1	1	Bass 3b	3	0	1	0
Sims 2b	4	0	0	1	Hilton cf	3	0	1	0
Brook 1b	4	0	0	0	Cullen cf	3	0	0	0
Buckner p	4	1	1	1	Elliff lf	4	0	0	0
Wiggins ss	3	0	0	0	Thomas 1b	3	0	0	0
Goff 3b	3	0	2	0	Cole c	3	0	0	0
Totals	31	5	6	4	Totals	30	3	7	3

Colquitt County
Buckner (W, 5-0)
Valdosta
Rykard (L, 4-3)
WP — Buckner, Rykard 2. PB — Cole. T — 2:38. A — 100.

third with two outs. Left fielder Eric McCrane then reached on an error that scored Ponder to make it 3-2. McCrane then stole second and he scored on a single to knot the game.

Moultrie's Jon Buckner, 5-0, then allowed Valdosta just one hit during the last three innings to ice the victory.

Valdosta, however, didn't go too quietly. In the bottom of the eighth

shortstop B. J. Mason hit a long fly ball that unfortunately was caught at the deepest part of the park, and right fielder Chuck Moore did the same.

Rykard, who fell to 4-3, deserved a better fate. He struck out nine batters, walked only two, and scattered six hits.

"Andy pitched a whale of a game for us again," said Tarpley. "You can't take anything away from him."

Valdosta made it 2-0 in the bottom of the first when Moore hit his third homer of the year with Mason on base after doubling.

The Packers made it 2-1 in the second on a Buckner homer, but the 'Cats moved ahead 3-1 in the third when Rykard doubled home Mason.

Valdosta, however, could manage just two hits over the next four innings with just three base runners.

Buckner's stats were similar to Rykard's. The left-hander struck out nine, walked one and yielded seven hits.

Both Rykard and Mason went 2-for-4 at the plate, and each had a double while Rykard had an RBI. They were the only two 'Cats with two hits.



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

Jim Landrum Addresses Crowd At Monday Night's Banquet

VHS Wrestling Banquet Held

VDT Tues, April 12, 1988

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Eighth Annual Valdosta Wrestling Banquet was a little more somber than the previous seven and for good reason. Monday night's festivities marked the last farewell of VHS head wrestling coach Jim Landrum, who will leave teaching and wrestling behind after school ends this spring.

It truly is the end of an era at Valdosta, and hopefully the beginning of another successful one as far as wrestling is concerned.

Landrum built the 'Cat wrestling program pretty much from scratch 14 years ago. His first team consisted of one man, who went on to win state.

The next year, Landrum got it going with a full squad.

"Everybody quit at least once that

first year," said Landrum at the banquet. "I don't think they really knew what it was all about."

Six years ago, a feeder program was established at Valdosta Junior High School under the direction of Mark Freeman and Bruce Begue.

Freeman, too, is leaving coaching after this season. He will be an assistant principal at the junior high.

There to say some kind words about Landrum were Greg Prime, VHS' first three-time region champion, Lowndes head coach Newnan Sanchez, and VHS assistant coach John Davis.

Perhaps Sanchez' comments were the most appropriate.

"Every coach molds character, but not all coaches mold it in the right direction," said Sanchez. "Jim really cares about the kids. He's a fine man."

Senior Ashley Moorman took home the MVP award. Moorman was 11-3

this past season in dual meets, 26-7 overall, and 82-23 during his career. Moorman also won the most pins award with 17. His brother, Ryan Moorman, was the runner up with 15 pins.

Steve Petermann was named the most outstanding wrestler, the first time a sophomore has been given the award. Petermann accumulated a 29-4-1 overall record and won four tournaments during the year.

Senior Brian Mueller was named the most dedicated and also registered the quickest pin — 13 seconds.

Nick Gonis was named the best hustler, Chuck Bonner won the most improved award, Jeff McLeod Spirit was named the most outstanding ninth-grade grappler.

Eric Phillips was named the most outstanding junior varsity wrestler, and Tim Garland won the JV hustle award.

Wildcats Pound Tift Co.

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

The Tift County Blue Devils were the favorites when they invaded Valdosta High Tuesday afternoon for a Region 1-A-AAAA baseball matchup with a 3-0 region mark. Valdosta's Wildcats, however, played like the 3-0 team and came away with an 18-3 pounding of the Blue Devils.

"We were just happy to put one on the left-hand side," said Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "A lot of people didn't expect us to win this one, and I don't think we expected ourselves to win either."

But win Valdosta did, upping its overall record to 6-4, 2-1 in region play. Tift falls to 7-3, 3-1.

Valdosta took advantage of seven Tift errors, four by shortstop Ray Merritt. Valdosta also pounded out 15 hits.

Valdosta, meanwhile, committed only two errors and Andy Rykard went the distance to get the win, scattering only seven hits, striking out five and walking one. Rykard was also the offensive hero for Valdosta, hitting a grand slam as well as a three-run homer and sacrificing in another run in a 2-for-4 performance.

The Wildcats led 6-0 after four innings and exploded for six runs in the fifth to make the game an embarrassment for Tifton. All six runs came with two outs. Designated hitter Sean Cullen led off



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy
Sean Cullen Attempts To Break Up Play



—Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy
Wildcat B.J. Mason Slides In Safely To Second Base As Tift Player Reaches For Ball

with a single but the next two batters were out without advancing the runner. Catcher David Cole then singled to put runners on first and third.

John Iverson then singled home Cullen and moved Pablo Campa to second, who was pinch running for Cole.

Chuck Moore then singled home Campa and Iverson later scored on a wild pitch to make it 9-0. B.J. Mason drew a walk with Moore on third and Rykard followed with a 3-run homer to make it 12-0.

The Wildcats scored six more runs in the sixth on Rykard's grand slam, a leadoff homer by Kevin Elliott and an RBI groundout from Ben Hogan.

Tift didn't score until the seventh when Rykard also walked his first batter. Merritt had an RBI double, left fielder Rhett Calhoun an RBI groun-

dout, and Jeremy Jones singled home a run.

Valdosta's Lee Thomas had an RBI single in the second and he scored on an error in the same inning to put Valdosta up 2-0. VHS made it 5-0 in the third on RBI by Ashley Bass and Bernard Hisson and a wild pitch that scored Rykard. In the sixth Rykard made it 6-0 when he sacrificed Iverson on a long out to center field.

Mason went 2-for-3 with a double. Elliott went 2-for-2 with an RBI, and Cole went 2-for-3.

"I think that was the best we have hit the ball so far this year," said Tarpley. "Rykard did a good job on the mound, and two of their hits in the seventh inning should have been caught."

Valdosta will host Westlover 4:30 Thursday and Lowndes 4:30 Friday; both are region games.

ab	r	h	bi	Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Tift	
4	0	2	1	Merritt ss	3	2	1	0	Goodwin lf	
3	0	1	0	Cavanaugh lf	3	0	1	0	B Henderson	
3	0	1	0	Calhoun lf	3	0	1	0	Sauls	
3	0	0	0	McLain c	3	0	0	0	Valdosta	
3	0	0	0	Silver c	3	0	0	0	Rykard	
3	0	0	0	Abbott cf	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Chestnut cf	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Davist	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	D Henderson rf	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Waldrop 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Goodwin 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	B Henderson 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Woelber 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Thomas 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Thomas 2b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Sauls p	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Jones 1b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Avila 1b	3	0	0	0	W	
3	0	0	0	Totals	37	18	15	15		
3	0	0	0	Tift County	37	18	15	15		
3	0	0	0	Valdosta	37	18	15	15		
3	0	0	0	E—Merritt 4, McLain, Henderson, Jones, Moore, Bass,						
3	0	0	0	DP—Tift 1, LOB—Tift 6, Valdosta 8, 2B—Merritt,						
3	0	0	0	Sauls, Mason, HR—Rykard 2, Elliott 1, SB—						
3	0	0	0	Cavanaugh, Mason, SF—Rykard.						
3	0	0	0	Tift County						
3	0	0	0	Goodwin (L, 2.2)	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
3	0	0	0	B Henderson	2	5	5	1	1	2
3	0	0	0	Sauls	3	6	7	7	2	2
3	0	0	0	Valdosta	1	4	6	6	3	2
3	0	0	0	Rykard (W, 3.2)	7	7	3	3	1	5
3	0	0	0	W—Goodwin 2, Henderson 2, T—2, 3B, A—100.						

McLane Sets VHS Record In Monroe Meet

VDT 4-17-88
ALBANY — Valdosta High School finished fifth in the 18 team Monroe Invitational track meet Friday afternoon but pole vaulter gave Paul McLane gave his team something to cheer about as he set a new school record in the event.

McLane vaulted 12 feet and six inches to capture the event. It was the only first place finish recorded by the 'Cats.

Bainbridge won the meet with 118 points, followed by Westover with 85. Valdosta was fifth with 40.5 points.

Wildcat Hubert Davidson placed in three events, finishing fifth in the 400 meter relay and 110 meter hurdles and sixth in the 300 meter I.H.

Carlos Butler placed fourth in the 200 meter dash and sixth in the 400 meter dash.

Isaac Ceaser was fifth in the long jump and James Roberts was third in the 100 meter dash.

Keith Beal was sixth in the triple jump.



Sports Capsule

From Staff, AP Reports

for the 150-lap race and picked up the winner's purse of \$2,600.

Hedgecock, from High Point, N.C., finished second and Fleming, from Mount Airy, N.C., came in third.

Pole sitter Gary Myers and the next two fastest qualifiers, Junior Miller

and Satch Worley, were wiped out on a wreck in the eighth lap. There were four caution flags during the race, covering a total of 31 laps.

VHS Track Teams Notch Victories

VDT. Tues, April 12, 1988
Both the Valdosta girls and boys track team came away with victories in a rain shortened meet Monday afternoon in Douglas. The Lady Wildcats defeated Coffee County for first place honors totaling 46 points to Coffee's 31. The Wildcats also distanced Coffee for first winning 47-45.

Both teams captured their second consecutive wins on the year.

First place winners for the Lady Wildcats were June Gartman in the shot put and discus, Susie Jones one mile and two mile run, and Tracey Chandler in the 400-meter dash.

Second place finishers were Tracey Chandler in the high jump and long jump, Cynthia Anderson one mile and two mile run, Laurie Paramore 400-meter dash, and Beth Edwards 100-meter dash.

Third place winners were Suzette Davidson in the high jump, Crystal Ray one mile, and Anita Matchett 100-meter dash.

First place finishers for the Wildcats were Hubert Davidson in the 400-meter relay, and Carlos Butler-400-meter dash. Second place finishers include Isaac Ceaser in discus and long jump, Carlos Butler high jump, and Jim Garber in the 1600-meter run.

Third place finishers include Zabria Bell in the shot put, Adrian Dawsey high jump, Hubert Davidson long jump, Jimmy Bell triple jump, and Demetrius Jones 400-meter dash.

The next track meet for both Valdosta teams will be Friday, April 15, in the Monroe Invitational in Albany.



VDT. Fri, April 15, 1988 Jazzin'

Jonathan Hasting keeps the beat as the Valdosta High School Jazz Band entertains the downtown Brwon Bagging crowds Thursday at lunch. — Times Staff Photo By Bob Lupinek

Rykard Top Man

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Considering the circumstances surrounding the baseball season of one Andy Rykard, it would be easy to see why the Valdosta junior would have every reason to be a little self-centered.

In a season that has seen Rykard almost single handedly take full control and carry the Valdosta club to victory, Rykard plays down his role of superman.

"Regardless of my performance, good or bad, it's a team game, and my teammates play a very large role in my success," said Rykard. "They have been there with me every step of the way, lending support wherever needed."



ANDY RYKARD

Valdosta head man Charles Tarpley, however, credits Rykard with thorough baseball knowhow, and said that without Rykard, his team would be finding wins tougher to come by.

"Andy is it, period," said Tarpley. "He has carried us many times this season, and without him we would not be the team that we are at this point and time. Rykard has added a new dimension to this team and that is impressive performances game in and game out."

Rykard is a deceiving 4-3 on the mound, while batting an even .500, going 20-40 at the plate this season. In his 40 appearances at the plate, Rykard has walked 11 times, hit seven home runs and has driven in 34 runs.

Rykard's athletic talent is also evident on the gridiron, where he plays both guard and center for Jerry Don Baker's offensive line at Valdosta. But according to Rykard, baseball stands a bit higher on his list than football. "I just love baseball and I always have," said Rykard. "Through the ranks of the Boys' Club leagues, to the summer leagues I participate in now, I feel baseball is the sport I enjoy the most."

According to Tarpley, Rykard has always had the tools to become a great baseball player and feels that through his off-season dedication to the sport, Rykard has become the consummate team player that he is.

"Andy has attended baseball camps and has practically been with me since his eighth-grade year. Andy never settles for second best at anything," said Tarpley. "I feel Andy's conditioning through football has helped him out a great deal. But when it comes right down to it, Andy is just a top notch baseball player in any book. In fact, we offered him really no assistance."

Tarpley even state that all three of Rykard's losses were ones the team blew.

Rykard has not been by himself in this neverending pursuit to in baseball. His father (Richard) has had a very big impact upon his baseball prowess.

"My parents, especially my dad, has been there the entire way," said Rykard. "Every summer league that I've ever participated in my dad was the coach. He has really been behind me 100 percent in anything I've ever tried to accomplish. But I can't forget my mom, because for as many games that my dad's been to, she just may have been to more. I could not do it without them."

Baseball is the road Rykard would like to travel when his playing days at VHS are over. But he was quick in pointing out that all of that will just be a wait and see situation.

"It's all up in the air at this point. I have another season to play, plus I'm not guaranteed another good season," said Rykard. "But yes, I would like to be able to play baseball when high school is over, but all of that's not my decision to make. All I can do is try and do the best I can for Valdosta High School."

The Valdosta Daily Times Sports

Sun., April 17, 1988

1-C

Berrien Defeats Valdosta In Extra-Innings 12-11

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Writer

For the second time in two days, the undefeated Berrien County Rebels were taken to extra innings but came away winner. In one of the most exciting games seen at Bazemore Field in quite some time, Berrien beat Valdosta 12-11 in 10 innings Saturday.

The winning run came in the form of an RBI single by Rusty Harrelson that scored Dan Nix, who had walked and stolen second.

"I don't think I can stand too many more of these," said Berrien head coach Bart Shuman, who saw his team go to 17-0 with the win.

Valdosta head coach hopes the game

will prove a confidence builder, especially since his team rallied from an 11-1 deficit after 4 innings of play.

"We had our chances to win, but just couldn't get the hits when we needed them," said Tarpley. "But I'm proud of the kids. We were down 11-1 and came back. I heard some of their fans grumbling because he took some of his starters out, but we just started hitting the ball. It didn't make any difference."

Valdosta's biggest blown opportunity came in the bottom of the ninth inning when the fat lady started warming up.

The 'Cats had runners on first and third with one out when Bernard Hitson hit a chopper and Andy Rykard was thrown out trying to score from third. On the play, Hitson ended up safe at

the third and one in the fourth to lead 11-1 before John Iverson hit an RBI single in the fourth to make it 11-1.

Valdosta then got to Berrien starter Scott Purvis in the fifth for seven runs. Rykard hit a two-run homer while Iverson, Moore, and Campa all had RBI singles.

Purvis stayed in the game through seven innings.

"This kid's supposed to be a top prospect," said Shuman. "I wanted to leave him in there and see what he would do. He missed a start this week, and I wanted him to work at least seven innings."

Lee Stallings came in for the last three innings and got his fifth win of the season against no losses. He allowed only two hits and struck out

one. Bass was the hard-luck loser for Valdosta and is now 1-1. He pitched a solid five innings and yielded just two hits, struck out five and walked three.

Purvis led Berrien at the plate, going 2-for-3 with five RBI. Valdosta's Rykard went 3-for-5 with five RBI.

On Friday night, Berrien all but wrapped up the Region 2-AA Southwest crown with a 10-inning win over subregion foe Cook High. The game was tied 6-6 when Jason Hamil doubled home two runs to give the Rebels the win. Hamil also got the win on the mound, upping his record to 6-0.

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O'Berry ss	1 0 1 1	Avila lb	6 1 1 0
Purvis p/ss	3 2 2 5	Bass 3b/p	6 1 2 0
Smith cf	3 0 0 0	Thomas pr	0 1 0 0
Sapp cf	1 0 0 0	Hilton cf	6 1 3 0
D. Nix rf	3 1 1 0	Campa lf	3 1 3 1
Harrelson lb	2 0 0 0	Nichols c	2 0 0 0
Houston lb	4 1 2 1	Cole c	3 1 2 1
Ash 3b	1 0 0 0	Totals	49 11 19 10
S. Nix 2b	2 3 1 0		
Herring 2b	3 1 2 0		
Stallings p	1 0 0 0		
Totals	41 12 14 10		

Berrien County	262	100	000	1-12
Valdosta	000	170	300	0-11
E - Ash 2, Harrelson 2, Rykard, Bass, DP - Valdosta 2				
LOB - Berrien 12, Valdosta 16. 2B - Correll, Moore, HR				
- Purvis 2, Rykard, SB - Hamil, Purvis 2, Smith, D. Nix,				
S - Ash, SF - Rykard.				

Berrien	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Purvis	7	17	11	6	11	1
Stallings (W, 5-0)	3	2	0	0	0	1
Valdosta						
Pruette	1 1/3	6	8	8	4	3
Cullen	3 2/3	6	3	1	4	4
Bass (L, 1-1)	5	2	1	1	3	5
WP - Purvis 4, Cullen 3, Bass, PB - Correll, Cole 2,						
Nichols, HBP - By Bass (Ash), T - 3:30, A - 100.						

A Special Day For Very Special People



Olympic-Style Parade Featuring All Athletes Signaled The Beginning Of A Full Slate Of Games

Friday was filled with hugs, smiles, hard work and lots of winners as more than 300 mentally retarded athletes competed in the Special Olympics Summer Games at Valdosta High School.

Run totally by volunteers, this year's games were a great success as evidenced by the fun enjoyed by the athletes.

"The Special Olympics games do so much for the participants' self-esteem, and it gives them a chance to compete like everyone else," Area Games Coordinator Deb Baber said.

Nine counties including Atkinson, Lowndes, Brooks, Cook, Berrien, Lanier, Echols, Tift and Clinch participated in Friday's games along with athletes from Valdosta City Schools, Parkwood Developmental Center and Lowndes Service Center.

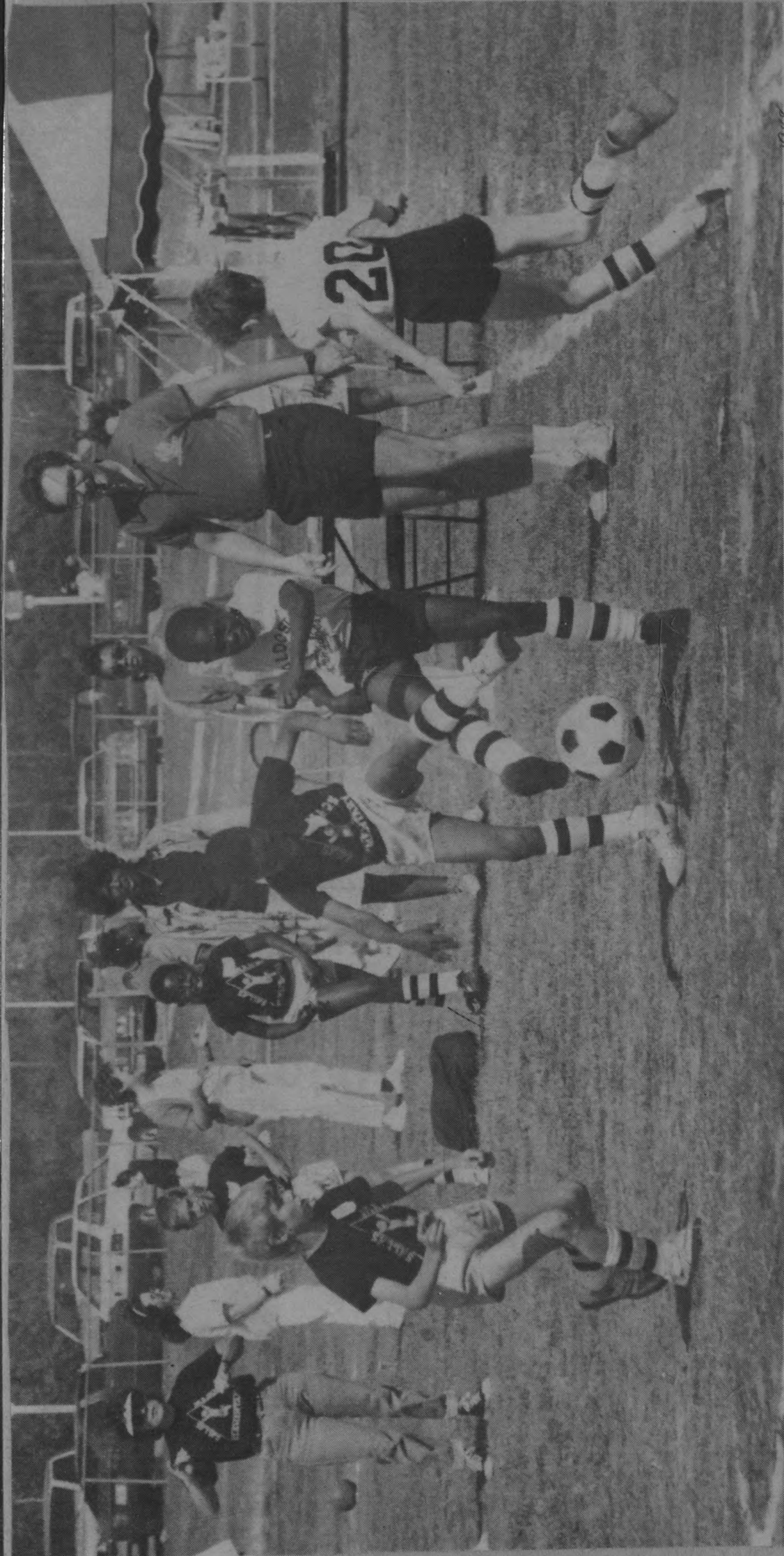
Several events were held for the first time this year including a bicycle race and developmental games. The developmental events were for those who are profoundly retarded and may also be physically handicapped.

Since the games must be geared to a wide range of abilities, the developmental games offer something for those who could not participate otherwise.

The developmental events included a 10-meter assisted walk, a wheelchair race and a soccer kick.



Matt Hits The Clown's Nose

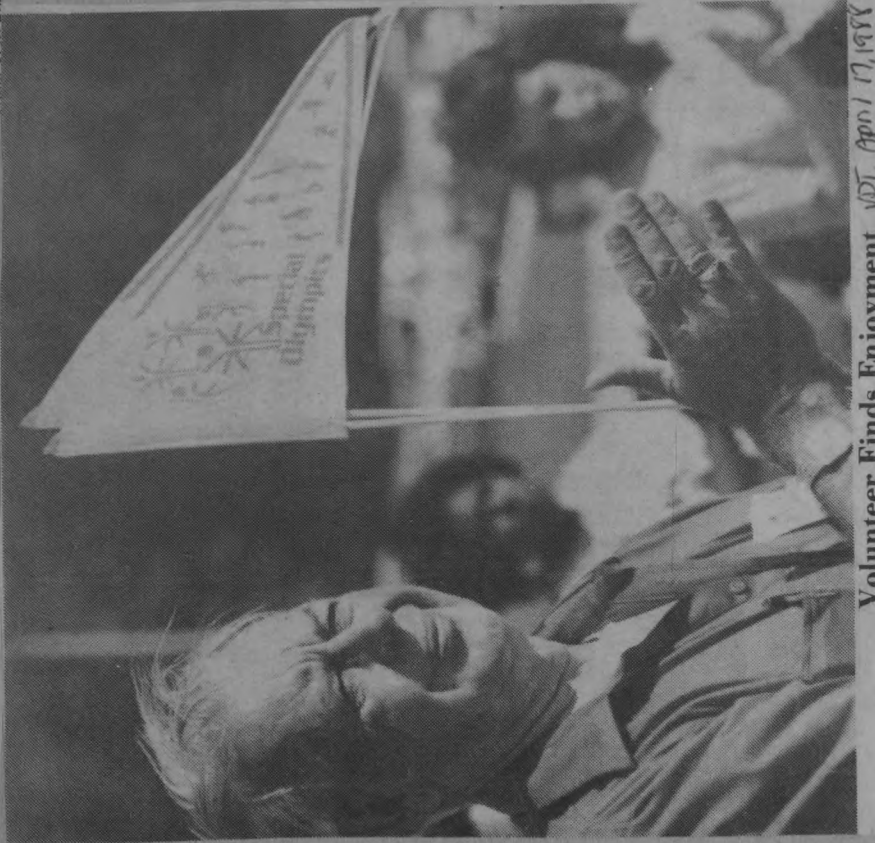


Soccer Was The Favorite Game Played By West Gordon And Sallas Mahone Elementary Schools VDT. April 17, 1988

Times State Photo by Bob



Sonny Shroyer Helps Nathan Traylor VDT. April 17, 1988



Volunteer Finds Enjoyment VDT. April 17, 1988



Ben Brian Completes Jump *WST April 19, '88*

VHS Girls Track Finishes Third

DDT 4-22-88
Valdosta High placed third out of five in a girls' track meet at Coffee High Wednesday.

The Lady 'Cats accumulated 43 points and finished behind Lowndes with 54 and Coffee with 52.

Susie Jones took first in the 3200 meter run with a time of 13:18. June Gartman finished second in the shot and the discus while Jones finished second in the 1600 meters.

Student Honored For Academics

DDT 4-21-88
Valdosta High School student Stephanie Gupton has been named a Scholastic All-American by the National Secondary Education Council.

The scholars must earn a 3.3 or better grade point average. Only scholars selected by a secondary school instructor, counselor, or other qualified sponsor are accepted.

Stephanie is the daughter of Shirley Gupton and Steve Gupton.

Valdosta Track Squads Capture Wins In Three-Team Meets

WDT Tues, April 19, 1988
By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High boys and girls track teams showed that they will have to be reckoned with in the upcoming Region 1-AAAA meet as both the 'Cats and Lady 'Cats swept through their respective three-team meets Monday afternoon at Valdosta High School.

Coach Freddy Waters' boys had the easiest time, garnering 109 total points compared to second place Berrien County who finished with 34. Lowndes, the other team involved in the boys' meet, ended with 27.

The Valdosta girls had a tougher time but came out on top in the end, edging Tift County 56-49. Colquitt

County was third with 31 points.

The Region 1-AAAA girls meet is April 26th and 27th in Albany while the boys will compete the next week, May 3-4. The boys' meet will also be in Albany.

"We've got a lot of young kids, some who have never ran track and some who've ran but were ineligible last year," Waters said of his boys team. "But I feel we have a chance come the Region 1-AAAA meet."

"We've got the Blue Devil Invitational up first this Friday. Hopefully we'll be able to duplicate the same kind of performances there that we did here today."

Of the 16 events, Valdosta's boys took first place in 13.

Isaac Ceaser won two events as did

Hubert Davidson. Ceaser won the discus with a throw of 122'10 and the long jump with a leap of 20'1/4," while Davidson won the 110 high hurdles with a time of 16:38 and the 330 intermediate hurdles with a time of 45:77.

Angelo Lewis of Berrien County took first in the high jump with a leap of 5'8", Keith Beal of Valdosta won the triple jump with a leap of 39'7", Paul McLane vaulted 12'0" to win the pole vault and Frank Jordon of Berrien ran the mile in 5:16.22 to take first place honors.

Other first place winners for Valdosta were Carlos Butler, 53:48 in the 440-yard dash, James Roberts, 11:05 in the 100-yard dash, Jimmy Bell, 2:16.5 in the 880-yard run, and Carlos Parker, 23:93, in the 220-yard dash.

Berrien's Jordan won the 2-mile run while Valdosta's No. 1 440 relay team and mile relay team won their events.

Lowndes' best finishes came in the high jump and 2-mile run, with the Vikings earning second place finishes in each event. Jeff Thomas and Devin Batton took home the honors in the respective events.

The Vikings' Clayton Washington managed a third in the long jump, James Lawrence in the 440-yard dash and John Smith in the 880-yard run. The Lowndes' 440 relay team also finished third.

"We have several young freshman on our team but I'm pleased with the way things are working out," Viking coach Bill Wilhelm said. "We have a lot of young guys and this is only our

second meet of the year. We might not win every time out but the guys are having a good time."

Other second place finishers include Zabria Bell in the shot put, Chris Vinson of Berrien County in the discus, Beal in the long jump and Kenneth Green of Berrien County in the triple jump.

Other second place finishers were D. Butler of Berrien in the mile run, Valdosta's Jeffrey Butler in the 440-yard dash, Fredrick Henton in the 110 high hurdles, John Washnock in the 880-yard run. Henton was also second in the 330 intermediate hurdles.

Valdosta's No. 2 440 relay and mile relay team also finished second.

For the Valdosta girls, first place winners included June Gartman in the shot put with a toss of 34'2", Tracey Chandler, 1:07.36 in the 440-yard dash and Suzette Davidson, 17:03 in the high hurdles.

The Lady Wildcat 440-relay team, consisting of Beth Edwards, Chandler, Davidson and Bridgette Davis earned a first place finish as did the mile relay team consisting of Laurie Parramore, Davis, Davidson and Chandler.

Second place finishers include Gartman in the discus, Davidson in the high jump, Susie Jones in the mile run, Edwards in the 100 meters, Davis in the 220-yard dash and Jones in the 2-mile run.

The Lady 'Cats next meet will be Wednesday at Coffee County.

Tift Comes Back To Beat Valdosta

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

TIFTON — Early on, the Tift County Blue Devils did all they could to give Valdosta High a Region 1-AAAA win here Wednesday night, but in the end it was the Wildcats who let the Blue Devils escape with a 7-5 victory.

Thanks to four Tift errors, Valdosta had built a 5-2 lead heading into the bottom of the fourth, but thanks to what Wildcat head coach Charles termed "stupid mistakes", Valdosta let the host Blue Devils score five runs over innings four and five for the win.

Valdosta drops to 11-9 overall and 5-4 in Region 1-AAAA. Tift County improves to 11-5 and 7-2.

"It was just a typical Valdosta game where we get a lead then make stupid mistakes toward the end to lose it," said Tarpley. "Leadoff walks in both innings killed us. However, both times

we had a chance to get out. We just couldn't make what should be simple plays.

"It happened all night long. For instance, our shortstop can't get under a high bouncer, our pitcher can't catch a pop-up, our outfielders stay back and don't go after balls, the catcher lets a ball get by on a throw and our third baseman drops a foul pop. Plays like that just killed us."

Valdosta, which got each of its leadoff men on during the first five innings, scored twice in the third to take a 2-0 lead.

Andy Rykard plated the first run when he drove in John Iverson with a single. He was followed by Ashley Bass who drove in B.J. Mason from third on a sacrifice fly. However on the play, Rykard, who was on second base, was thrown out trying to tag on Bass' fly ball.

Tift tied the game at 2-2 before Valdosta scored three unearned runs in

the fourth.

Bernard Hitson scored when the Tift third baseman dropped the ball on the center fielder's steal of third. Then with runners on first and second, John Iverson lined a single to center but the throw back went all the way to the Tift dugout for a two-base error, allowing Pablo Campa and Lee Thomas to walk in from second and third. But that was the last break the Wildcats would get.

After Ray Merritt walked off Valdosta starter and loser Sean Cullen to lead off the fourth inning, Bryce Abbott hit a pop just in front of the mound but Cullen was unable to recover in time to throw out the Tift County center fielder.

Joel Goodwin then bounced into a fielder's choice putting runners on first and third, and Derrick Henderson followed with a sacrifice fly scoring Merritt. Thomas Woebler hit a single to plate Goodwin. On the play, the throw got by the Valdosta catcher

1-AAAA Standings

	W	L
1. Colquitt Co.	8	2
2. Tift Co.	7	2
4. Westover	5	3
3. Valdosta	5	4
4. Lowndes	4	4
5. Dougherty	1	8
6. Monroe	1	8

allowing Woebler to reach second.

Designated hitter Jeffrey Sauls then lined a double to right-center field scoring Woebler. Sauls got a second chance when the Wildcat third baseman dropped a foul ball what would have been the third out of the inning.

In the fourth, the Blue Devils scored their final two runs. One run scored on a fielder's choice when a high bouncer to short wasn't handled and the second on a double by Abbott. A throwing error allowing both runs to move to

second and third also hurt the 'Cats. "I told the kids before the game that this would be a gut check and that's exactly what it turned out to be," Tift County head coach Tommy Seward said. "We made a lot of mistakes but Valdosta hit the ball all night long forcing us to do so."

Cullen, 2-4, took the loss for Valdosta. The right-hander went six innings, giving up all seven runs, four earned, six hits, walked four and struck out one.

Goodwin, who came in relief of starter Russ Davis, earned the win for the Blue Devils. Goodwin allowed only two hits and struck out six over the final 3½ innings. Bass led Valdosta with three hits.

"If we had held the lead for one more inning I would have brought in Andy Rykard," Tarpley said. "But with big games with Lowndes and Westover coming up, I didn't want to use him if I didn't have to. We almost have to beat Lowndes if we want to make it into the playoffs. Both of us have four Region 1-AAAA losses and one more will make it awfully tough."

Valdosta will travel to Lowndes Friday for a 7:30 p.m. game with the Vikings before going to Albany Monday afternoon to take on Westover.

	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Valdosta	21	10	3	1	20	10	3	1
Iverson 2b	3	1	2	0	3	1	2	0
Mason ss	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Moore rf	4	0	1	1	4	0	1	1
Rykard dh	4	0	3	1	4	0	3	1
Bass 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hogan pr	4	1	1	0	4	1	1	0
Hitson cf	4	1	1	0	4	1	1	0
Campa lf	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Cole c	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Thomas 1b	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Totals	28	5	8	2	21	7	5	5
Valdosta	.....	002	300	0	—	5		
Tift County	.....	002	320	000	—	7		
E — Bass, Hitson, Thomas, McLane, Merritt, Abbott, Woebler, DP — Valdosta 1, LOB — Valdosta 6, Tift County 3, 2B — Abbott, Sauls, SB — Hitson 5 — Cavanaugh, SF — Bass, Jones.								
Valdosta								
Cullen (L, 2-4)								
Tift County								
Davis								
Goodwin (W, 4-2)								
WP — Davis, Balk Cullen, T — 1-4P, A — 50.								

'Cats Avoid Loss To Ware County With Big Strikeout

From Staff Reports

WAYCROSS — Valdosta held off a seventh-inning rally to defeat Ware County 7-6 here Tuesday afternoon in a non-region baseball game.

With two outs and the bases loaded, pitcher Brannen Pruette struck out Ware's leadoff batter to end the game. Pruette got the victory for Valdosta, upping his record to 2-1. Pruette struck out seven batters.

No Wildcats got more than one hit, and no one had an extra base hit. Catcher David Cole had a single,

three RBI, and scored a run while Lee Thomas and Kevin Elliott also had RBI singles.

Valdosta's other two runs came on first-and-third double steals.

The 'Cats, 11-8, travel to Tifton tonight for a crucial region game with the Blue Devils.

VHS Tennis Team Beaten By Colquitt

The Valdosta High School tennis girls were defeated by Colquitt County Tuesday afternoon 6-3.

The loss drops Valdosta to 4-3 on the year.

Kelly Edwards and Honey Hatcher picked up the only singles wins for the Lady 'Cats. Edwards beat Paige Ward 6-4, 6-2 while Hatcher won by forfeit.

In other singles action, Anna Fun-derburk, a recent Brigham Young signee, beat Paige Stabell 6-0, 6-0. Michelle Layfield beat Wendy Griffin 6-4 6-1 and Carla Marshall took three sets to beat Josie Hatcher 1-6, 6-1, 6-1.

In doubles, the Lady 'Cats No. 3 team of Josie and Honey Hatcher won by forfeit.

Colquitt's No. 1 and No. 2 doubles

team also won. The team of Fun-derburk/Layfield beat Grif-fin/Edwards 6-0, 6-1 while Marshall/Dean beat Stabell/Harris.

Valdosta's next match is Thursday, April 21 at Tift County.

On Monday, April 25, the Region 1-AAAA tournament will be played at ABAC.



VDT 4-25-88

VHS Queen Is Crowned

Valdosta High School Junior Jennifer Knotley, 16, was crowned Miss VHS during competition Saturday night. Miss Knotley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Knotley of Valdosta. — Times Staff Photo by Bob Lupinek

Valdosta FBLA Wins Big At State

VDT 4-23-88

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America was represented by a delegation of 17 students and four parents and advisors at the FBLA State Conference on April 15-17. Competition and campaigning filled the three days with excitement.

Presidential candidate Matthew Lawrence, Campaign Manager Margrethanne Sineath, and students Brian Mueller, David Cole, Keith Ludlum, Michael Brown, Debra Waters, Kelisa Brown, Tanya Mabry, Sirena Gosier, Sherri Whigham, Misti Rowe, Kelly Smith, Penny Little, Mandy Greene handed out suckers, peanuts, badges and note clips all day Friday.

Support also came from Maxine Martin and Johnny Martin, advisors, and from parents Lamar Cole and Lyn Butler, as well as from many Valdostans back home.

When the campaign booths opened, over 1,500 students from all over Georgia flooded the room with questions and comments to the candidates for state offices.

Matthew captured the hearts of most of the voters and won the office of FBLA State President for 1988-89.

It was a great weekend for Valdosta High. Students also walked away with several other awards.

David Cole won first place in Business Law. Amy Steedley came in third in Information Processing. Keith Ludlum was fifth place in Introduction to Business.

VHS was named with chapter rating of "excellent." VHS also received honorable mention for its annual report and a medalion for membership increase.

VHS FBLA wishes to thank all of the following persons and businesses for their contributions to Matthew's campaign: Clarence Paine; Dover, Sherwood and Shelton; Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Howell; Densol Griffen; Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Chapman; Mr. and Mrs. Julian Shierling; Bill Sineath; Mr. and Mrs. James Wright; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Aldrich; Camera America; Georgia Peanut Commission; First State Bank; Dr. William J. Martin; Russell Lawrence; Mr. and Mrs. James Wright; Park Avenue Bank; Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Martin.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fri., April 22, 1988

Lowndes-Valdosta Game Important

By MIKE COLOMBO
Times Sports Editor

Tonight's baseball game between Valdosta and Lowndes is not only for local bragging rights; it will play a big part in deciding who goes to the Region 1-AAAA playoffs and who stays home come May 2. The two square off tonight at 7:30 at Lowndes High.

Only the top four teams go to the

playoffs this year, and barring disaster two of the top spots are already taken.

The Colquitt County Packers and Tift County Blue Devils lead the region with identical 8-2 region records after Tifton edged Monroe last night.

Westover has a 5-3 league mark for third, followed by Valdosta at 5-4 and Lowndes at 4-4. Dougherty and Monroe are pretty much out of the picture at 1-8 and 1-9, respectively.

Should Valdosta topple the Vikings tonight at Lowndes, Valdosta will take a 1½-game lead over Lowndes at the number four spot with just two games left for Valdosta and three left for Lowndes.

Lowndes will also play two crucial games next week against Westover. The Patriots will play at Lowndes on Wednesday at 7:30, and on Thursday, the Vikings travel to Albany where the two will play again. The back-to-back

games were the result of a rainout. Viking head man Noel George said Tad Evans would get the nod on the mound tonight.

"I reckon he's been our most consistent pitcher, but we haven't really done enough winning to say who's consistent or not. Actually, I think the whole pitching staff has done pretty well; we just haven't played well behind them.

"We obviously need to win. It's a

pretty big game."

Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley will counter with Andy Rykard, who has been the main mound man for the 'Cats this season as well as being one of Valdosta's most lethal hitters.

"Whoever wins this game definitely has the inside track," said Tarpley. "If we win, we'll be in good shape. The only thing that could really hurt us is a loss to Dougherty next week," but they've only won one region game."

1-AAAA Standings

Colquitt Co.	W	L
Tift Co.	8	2
Westover	8	2
Valdosta	5	3
Lowndes	5	4
Dougherty	4	4
Monroe	1	8
	1	9



Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy

BJ Mason Slides Safely Into Second Base As Monroe's Kono Smith Stretches For Throw

Give 1988 VSC Blazers A Break

Moore, Bass Pace 'Cats

VDT TUESDAY April 19, 1988

By ANTHONY DASHER
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School stayed right in the thick of the Region 1-AAAA playoff picture by defeating region foe Monroe 14-9 Monday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

With the win, the 'Cats improve to 10-8 overall, 5-3 in Region 1-AAAA, one game behind second place Tift County who is at 6-2. The Blue Devils beat Dougherty Monday 6-0 in the only other region contest. Colquitt County leads Region 1-AAAA with a 7-1 record.

"Coming into this week, we knew that we needed to win 3-out-of-5 to make it into the playoffs. Now we need to make it 2-out-of-4," Wildcat head coach Charles Tarpley said. "But at this point I just feel proud to win any of them."

Both Valdosta and Monroe pounded out 11 hits apiece but thanks to five Tornadoc errors, the 'Cats were able to keep the visitors at bay. Valdosta committed four errors.

Right fielder Chuck Moore and third baseman Ashley Bass swung the big bats for Valdosta, each driving in three runs. Moore, who also scored three runs, went 3-for-3, including a 2-run double and a solo home run. Bass' three RBI came on singles. Second baseman John Iverson also went 3-for-3.

Andy Rykard was the starting and winning pitcher for Valdosta. Rykard, 5-3, went seven innings, gave up 11 hits, nine runs, six earned, walked one and struck out four.

"I don't know why, but Monroe always seems to play well against us," said Tarpley. "Against anybody else they don't seem to hit, but against us they hit nothing but shots. It's strange. Andy shut Tift and Lowndes down pretty good. Yet Monroe, a team not known for their hitting, comes in here and hits taters all over the place."

However it was the 'Cat bats who came to life early, scoring six first inning runs on five hits and three Tornadoc errors.

With the bases loaded and one out, Bass singled hard to left field scoring B.J. Mason and Moore. On the play, the ball scooted away from the Monroe left fielder allowing Andy Rykard to move to third and Bass to second.

Monroe	ab	r	h	bi
Smith ss	3	1	0	1
Williams 2b	4	0	3	4
Hudson c	3	0	1	0
Clayton 1b	4	1	0	0
Glover cf	4	1	1	2
Malone p	3	1	1	0
Kendell lf	3	2	2	0
Van Dyke rf	4	1	1	1
Camrill 3b	2	2	2	0
Totals	30	9	11	8

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi
Iverson 2b	3	1	0	1
Cullen ph	4	0	3	4
Mason ss	3	0	1	0
Moore rf	4	2	0	0
Rykard p	4	3	3	3
Bass 3b	3	1	0	1
Hitson cf	3	1	2	3
Hitson cf	3	2	2	0
Campa lf	3	2	2	0
Cole c	2	2	2	0
Elliott ph	1	1	0	0
Thomas 1b	3	1	0	0
Avilla ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	28	14	11	9

Monroe	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Malone (L)	5	11	14	11	3	2
Hudson	1	0	0	0	0	2
Valdosta						
Rykard (W, 5-3)	7	11	9	7	1	4
WP - Malone 2, HBP - By Malone, (Hitson, Cole), T - 2:20, A - 45.						

Rykard scored on a wild pitch by Dexter Malone, Bernard Hitson followed with a walk, then with runners on first and third, left fielder Pablo Campa lifted a sacrifice fly to score Bass with run number four.

Then with runners on first and third, Lee Thomas singled softly to right but the Monroe cut-off man's throw was wild allowing Hitson to score from third and David Cole, who walked, to ramble around all the way from first.

Moore made the score 7-0 with his solo home run in the second inning but Monroe came back with three runs in the third on five hits to cut the lead to 7-3.

Valdosta answered with two runs in the bottom of the third when the Monroe right fielder dropped a routine fly ball off the bat of Iverson.

Monroe added three in the fourth but Valdosta put the game away with five more in the fifth. Moore had the big hit in the inning with a 2-run double. Rykard also drove in a run with a ground out in the inning but it was a significant one. It was the junior's 40th RBI of the season.

Monroe scored an unearned run in the sixth and two in the seventh on a 2-run homer by Kevin Glover.

Valdosta will travel to Ware County today to make up a game that was rained out last week. Wednesday, Valdosta will travel to Tifton to take on the Blue Devils in what will be a key Region 1-AAAA matchup before traveling to Lowndes for another big region game.



Pablo Campa Hustles Back To First Base As Houston George Awaits Throw

Times Photo By Paul Leavy

VHS Thrashes Vikings

VDT 4-23-88

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The anxiously awaited rematch between rivals Lowndes and Valdosta proved to be nothing but a lopsided rout. When the two clubs hooked up at Lowndes Field, it was a hitting and pitching onslaught by the 'Cats that was the difference as the Valdosta Wildcats escaped early inning trouble to dispose of Lowndes 10-3 in a Region 1-AAAA clash played here Friday night.

According to both Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley and Lowndes head coach Noel George, the squandered Viking opportunities early combined with a magnificent overall display from Valdosta were the determining factors.

"We just didn't take full advantage of early opportunities," said George. "We stranded too many base runners early. Plus, it was just a matter of time before Rykard hit his groove, which he did. Missed opportunities

Valdosta	ab	r	h	bi	Lowndes	ab	r	h	bi
Iverson 2b	3	3	1	0	Meeks 2b	2	1	1	1
Mason ss	5	2	3	3	Evans p	4	0	1	0
Moore rf	4	2	3	1	Hightower ss	4	0	1	0
Rykard p	4	1	3	4	Bush dh	3	0	0	0
Bass 3b	5	0	1	0	Davis lf	0	0	0	0
Hilton cf	3	0	0	0	Williams 3b	3	0	1	0
Campa lf	4	0	2	0	George 1b	3	0	0	0
Avila dh	4	1	1	0	Folsom c	3	0	0	0
Cole c	0	0	0	0	Overman cf	2	1	0	0
Thomas 1b	4	1	0	0	Kelly rf	3	1	3	1
Totals.....	36	10	14	8	Totals.....	27	3	7	2

Valdosta.....103 420 0-10
Lowndes.....100 100 1-3
E — George 2, Evans, Williams, Mason, DP — VHS
1. LOB — VHS 10, LHS 8. 2B — Rykard, Meeks, Kelly.
HR — Rykard, Kelly. SB — Iverson, Moore, Kelly. SF — Meeks.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Rykard (W, 5-3)	7	7	3	3	2	8
Lowndes						
Evans (L, 3-4)	7	14	10	5	3	5

WP — Rykard, Evans 3. HBP — Bush. T — 2:00.

hurt, but Valdosta played very well once they got past the first two innings."

In the first inning, Lowndes left the bases loaded with only one run scored. In the second inning, Will Kelly singled and stole second, but couldn't come home.

"The key's in the game were obviously escaping early inning

trouble, plus Rykard's great pitching performance," said Tarpley. "Once we settled in, we played pretty much a complete game."

In the fourth inning, Rykard hit a 2-run homer to make it 4-1 Valdosta.

"I feel Rykard's two-run homer kinda burst Lowndes' bubble," said Tarpley.

The victory for Valdosta raises its overall mark to 12-9, but more importantly gives the 'Cats a 6-4 region record. The loss leaves the Vikings 5-12, 4-5 and on the brink of post season elimination.

The Wildcats pounded out a total of 14 hits against Lowndes starter and loser Tad Evans, while the Vikings could only muster just four hits in the first six innings of play.

Rykard, now 5-3, led the 'Cats going 3-for-4 with four RBI including his 2-run homer.

After both teams each scored opening inning runs to make it 1-1, the Wildcats struck for seven runs in the next two innings to grab a commanding cushion.

1-AAAA Standings

	W	L
Colquitt County	9	2
Tift County	8	3
Westover	6	3
Valdosta	6	4
Lowndes	4	5
Dougherty	1	9
Monroe	1	9

Friday's Results

Valdosta 10, Lowndes 3
Colquitt 2, Tift 1, 8 innings
Westover 8, Dougherty 2

In the third, leadoff man John Iverson scored on a Viking error that allowed Chuck Moore to reach base. Then Rykard deposited a 2-2 offering by Evans deep over the left field fence giving the 'Cats a 4-1 lead.

Valdosta answered with four in the fourth, while sending ten batters to the plate. The run scoring hits were delivered by B.J. Mason, who had a 2-run single, and Rykard came through with a run scoring double to the wall in center.

The final two Viking runs came in the bottom of the fourth inning on a sac fly by Roger Meeks and a towering homer in the seventh.

VHS' Davidson First In Region 1-AAAA Track Meet

VDT. Thurs. 2
May 5, 1988

From Staff Reports

ALBANY — Hubert Davidson secured a spot in the Class AAAA state track meet by taking first place in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 15:34 at the Region 1-AAAA track meet here at Hugh Mills Stadium Wednesday

afternoon. Two other 'Cats will also be advancing to state competition. Paul McLane, who finished second in the pole vault with a jump of 12'6" and Isaac Ceaser, who finished second in the discus with a throw of 125' 11", will also advance to the state meet along with Davidson.

The state meet will also be held in Albany.

In the overall standings, Westover won the meet with 139 total points. Tifton was second with 111 points, Colquitt County third with 91, Dougherty fourth with 81.5, Valdosta fifth with 56, Monroe sixth with 15 and

Lowndes seventh with 1.5. "We had a good season but in the end had some misfortune when (James) Roberts pulled a groin muscle and Carlos Butler pulled a hamstring," said Valdosta coach Freddie Waters. "These were our two horses." According to Waters, the injuries

sustained by Roberts and Butler probably cost the 'Cats higher finishes in several events. Butler has been unable to perform for the past four weeks.

Other Wildcat finishers included the 400 meter relay team which finished third in the competition. The team finished with a time of 44:21.

In the 100 meters, Roberts was third with a time of 11:29, Ceaser was sixth in the long jump with a leap of 20'5", Keith Beal fifth in the triple jump and sixth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:08:29 and Jim Garber was sixth in the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:59:98.

Wildcats Surprised Many

VDT. Thurs. May 5, 1988

The Valdosta Wildcats may have been ousted from the Region 1-AAAA baseball tournament, but for a team that returned only two starters I'd say they did pretty well.

The 'Cats finished the year with a 13-12 mark and anybody who had seen them during preseason wouldn't have given a dime for their chances.

But with pitcher-designated hitter Andy Rykard and shortstop B.J. Mason back from last year, head coach Chales Tarpley somehow put together a team that on any given day, proved they could play with anybody in the area.

Just ask the Tift County Blue Devils, who the 'Cats mauled during the regular season.

The 'Cats also gave Colquitt County, the Region 1-AAAA regular season champions, fits each time they played during the year. Westover also had to reach deep from within to hold off Valdosta. The 'Cats also played undefeated Berrien County close on a couple of occasions.

In most of their losses, the 'Cats were hurt by the big inning in which the opponent would score five runs or more to offset any Valdosta comeback attempt.

Valdosta's cross-town rivals, the Lowndes Vikings only won seven game all year long but managed to stay in the hunt for a Region 1-AAAA playoff spot until a loss to Westover in the final regular season game cost the Vikings a tie with Valdosta.

Noteworthy

Valdostan Semifinalist In 'TEEN Contest

Wendi Connell, 17, of Valdosta is among the 16 regional semifinalists in the "TEEN Magazine's eighth annual Great Model Search.

The contest is sponsored by Maybelline, Ups 'N Downs Stores, and The Gillette Co. Each semifinalist receives a cosmetic bag with a variety of products from Maybelline and a special-edition oversized style Great Model Search T-shirt from Ups 'N Downs Stores.

The contest divides the country into six geographical regions. Each month (January through May), 16 regional semifinalists will appear in "TEEN. The judges will then select 16 regional super semifinalists from the monthly winners to appear in "TEEN's June '88 issue. Finally, 12 finalists will be selected to compete in the Great Model Search pageant. Their photos will be featured in the July '88 issue.

Wendi, who attends Valdosta High School, has also won three other honors. She was accepted for inclusion in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, honored by the United States Achievement Academy and was named a Scholastic All-American by the National Secondary Education Council.

She is the daughter of Tommy and Sharon Connell of Valdosta.



WENDI CONNELL
Receives Four Honors

the 1988 Georgia Statewide Spelling Bee. She was one of 10 district winners who made it to the finals in Atlanta.

Area Students Are Named Scholastic All-Americans

VDT. 5-15-88
Two Valdosta area students have been named Scholastic All-American Scholars by the National Secondary Education Council.

Crystal Sandlin, who attends Echols County School in Statenville, was nominated for the national award by Coach Brenda Allen. Crystal is the daughter of James and Phyllis Sandlin.

The NSEC has established the Scholastic All-American Scholar Award Program in order to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The Scholastic All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3 or better grade point average.

The council selects Scholastic All-American Scholars upon the exclusive recommendations of teachers, coaches, counselors, and other qualified sponsors.

VHS Student Will Visit France

VDT 5-6-88

FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Staff Writer

Holly Davis, a Valdosta High School senior, is putting the finishing touches on an already accomplished academic career.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlton L. Davis has been invited to attend a three-week program in France sponsored by the Lions Club of France through Lions Club International. Jim Fisher, president of the Valdosta Lions Club, sponsored Holly's application and is credited by Holly as being responsible for making the opportunity available and securing the invitation for her to participate.

Holly will travel to Poitiers, France, July 9 to spend a week with 500 students selected worldwide and then will spend another two weeks staying with a French family. "We'll have a week of cultural activities and tours together before we separate to visit our host family," she said.

Holly is completing her fourth year of high school French including a six-week study program in French last summer in the Governor's Honors Program at Valdosta State College. She's looking forward to the opportunity to polish her dialect with the French people.

The Lions Club study program and GHP are only a portion of her summer study achievements.

When Holly took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in the seventh grade as part of Duke University's Talent Identification Program, she became acquainted with the summer study programs at Duke University. In her eighth grade year she took Latin I by correspondence and followed with Latin II at Duke the next summer.



HOLLY DAVIS
Lions Club Program

Through the TIP Duke program Holly has also taken Chinese and Japanese.

The TIP summer program is an intensive study open to students who meet scoring requirements on the SAT. "I enjoyed my classes at Duke because the other students were intelligent and interesting and I got a lot of specialized attention from the teachers," she said. "I've made friends through the program that I see from year to year."

According to Holly TIP students are interested in learning for learning's sake, but the students at GHP had "a firm sense of where they are going in life and making their lifelong goals." She said the Governor's Honors students have already made definite college plans, also.

The VHS senior has enrolled in

Carleton College in Northfield, Mass., and plans to report to the college Sept. 4. She is very excited about *U.S. News and World Report's* labeling Carleton third in the country in national liberal arts colleges.

Holly's time these days is not always spent on the receiving end of learning. She is giving her leisure hours during the afternoons to teaching as well by participating in Literacy Volunteers of America, a volunteer organization whose purpose is to teach reading skills to illiterate teen-agers and adults.

"I learned about Literacy through a TIP friend from another city," she said. Holly has been teaching reading fundamentals at South Georgia Regional Library since her introduction to the program in January. She has been able to develop her own approach to teaching the reading based on the six-week training program. "I gear the teaching toward the student's interests. It's been a wonderful experience."

Holly's myriad of scholastic accomplishments has given her the leisure to muse over so many career possibilities. At the present time they include pursuit of a multi-lingual career, a continued interest in the study of French, the possibility of teaching special education, or maybe the study of modern English literature.

This "most likely to succeed student" will most likely succeed in whatever choice she makes because learning is both a hobby and a career for Holly and she enjoys the challenge of mastering something new.

The Valdosta Daily Times, Sat., May 7, 1988 5

VHS Student Nation Business Winner

The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Diane Smothers has been named a United States National Award winner in Business Education.

This award is a prestigious honor very few students can ever hope to attain. In fact, the Academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Diane Smothers, who attends Valdosta High School was nominated for this National Award by Mrs. Maxine Martin, a Business teacher at the school.

A biography will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook, published nationally.

The Academy selects national winners upon the exclusive recommendations of teachers, coaches, counselors or other school sponsors and upon the Standards of Selection set forth by the Academy. The criteria for selection are a student's academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability, and recommendation from a teacher or director.

Diane Smothers is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Kedrie Smothers. The grandparents are Mrs. Maggie Lee Smothers of Chipley, Fla., and Mrs. Jewel Snell of Bonifay, Fla.

Interact Sponsoring Arrive Alive Project

By Leslie Hiers

During Prom and Graduation season, Interact is sponsoring an awareness program for Arrive Alive. Patrick Carlson created the theme "Don't take a Drink for a Drive" on his contest-winning poster. This theme is being printed on small cards and placed in rented tuxedos, corsage and boutonniere boxes, and graduation diplomas. The purpose of this project is to promote a safe and fun end for the 1987-88 school year.

Language Students Excel In Competition

Foreign Language students from Valdosta High School attended the Georgia Southern Oratorical competition in Statesboro last Saturday, April

23rd.

Those attending in French were: Chris Spurlock (2), Carma Wright (3), Tommy Moser (1), Page Broomberg (2), Pam Hoover (2), Lee Bennett, Allison McAllister (3), Lin Brown (2), William McElveen, Jamey Dewar (1), Truett Wakefield, Tonya Nolan, Susie Grant (2), Carole Jones (3), Holly Davis and Rosalyn Thompson (2).

Those attending in Spanish were: Eric Grant (3), Toni Essinger (2), Mari Minks, Jennifer Staley, Jennifer Guest, Tanya Bennett (2), Cassandra Gordon (3), Marilyn Moss, Paul McLane, Jamie Essinger, India Giuly (1), Nick Gonis (2), John Ramey, Jack Farber (1), Catherine Register (3), Farrell Scott, and Tony Sargent (2).

The winners are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Miss Susan Davis, Mrs. Elsie Nicholas and Mrs. Patty Smitherman,

teachers at VHS, accompanied the group.

1988 Honor Students Recognized

Times Staff Reports

Anne Clark is the 1988 Valdosta High School Valedictorian, it was announced Tuesday evening at Honors Night.

Miss Clark is the daughter of Col. and Mrs. Richard R. Clark of Valdosta.

Joseph Todd Peterson and Brian Mueller tied for salutatorian, and Gregory Leong was selected as the third honor graduate.

Stephanie Culverhouse was chosen as the Best All-Around Senior.

Several hundred honors were presented during the evening ceremony.

The 1988 Honor graduates and their parents are: Laura Bailey, Dr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey; Toby Baskin, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Baskin; Sheri Boyd, Steve and Gloria Boyd; Emma Braswell, Earl and Ellen Braswell; Michael Brown, Mrs. Ann Brown; Susan Burns, Mrs. James Burns and the late Dr. Burns; Anne Clark, Col. and Mrs. Richard R. Clark; David Cole, Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Cole; Holly Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Charlton Davis; Melonie Dennard, Dr. and Mrs. James Dennard; Erika Duckworth, Mrs. Marion Duckworth; Kevin Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Braswell; Katherine Farley, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent P. Farley and Kevin Glorius, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Glorius.

Also Barry Golivesky, Lamar and Carreen Golivesky;



BRIAN MUELLER



TODD PETERSON

Kenneth Gonis, Dr. and Mrs. George Gonis; Christopher Griner, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griner; Brian Harris, Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Harris; Rhonda Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Willie L. Henderson Jr.; John Hotard, Dr. and Mrs. Gabriel Hotard; Derrick Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt Jackson; Jeffrey Lahr, Dr. and Mrs. J. Stephen Lahr; Beau Laskey, Bill Laskey and the late Mrs. Laskey; Gregory Leong, Mr. and Mrs. Munn H. Leong and Penny Little, Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton Little.

Also, William J. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Mason; Laura McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McMillan; Miguel Melendez, Mr. and Mrs. Rolando Melendez; Erica Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly D. Dawsey; Timothy Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson E. Moore; Brian Mueller, Lt. Col. and Mrs. Tim Mueller; Joseph Paoletti, Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Paoletti; Todd Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Gregory Peterson; Brooke Price, Mr. and Mrs. George Price; Melissa Quintero, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Quintero; Lisa Sherer, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Turner; Melissa See, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Banks; Terry Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Snyder; Cynthia Supp, Col. and Mrs. Peter Supp; Rosalyn Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Thompson Jr.; Truett Wakefield, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wakefield; Sabrina Watson, Mrs. Corine Watson and Stefanie Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Webb.

The 1988 Senior Superlatives are David Cole, Erica Miller, Beau Laskey, Melissa Quintero, Laura Bailey, Brian Mueller, Laura McMillan, William Mason, Anne Clark, John Iverson, Melanie Dennard, Brian Harris, Stephanie Culverhouse, Joy O'Neal, Gregory Leong and Susan Burns.

Community, State and National Award Winners:
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, David Ford; American Legion Post 13, Legion NJROTC Awards, Bronze, Craig Carter, Silver, Farrell Scott, Gold, Rhonda Henderson; Boy's State, Jason Bridges and Lee Thomas; American Legion Post 503, Boy's State, David Jackson and James Garland; American Legion Auxiliary Post 13, Girls' State, Amy Bowling and Susanne Grant; Daedalian Award, Anne Clark; Daughters of American Colonists, NJROTC Award, Christa Olson; Daughters of American Revolution, Good Citizenship Award, Stephanie Culverhouse and NJROTC Award, Michelle Johnson; Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship Award, Erika Duckworth; Georgia Tech Presidential Scholar, Greg Leong; Howard Bridges Memorial Scholarship Award, Jack C. Morgan.

Also Kiwanis Club, Star Student Jeff Lahr, Star Teacher Perry Baskin, Levi Strauss Scholarship, Melissa Quintero; Literary Guild, Excellence in Literature Award, Rosalyn

VHS Creates Another Football Scholarship

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Features Editor

The first annual William Howard Bridges Scholarship Scholastic Award was presented Tuesday at Honors Night program at Valdosta High School.

Jack C. Morgan III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morgan Jr. of Valdosta, received the award from former VHS Coach Wright Bazemore. Bazemore was hired as coach when Bridges was principal of the school. Bridges, who died in 1976, served two terms as principal of VHS — from 1939-49 and from 1958 until his retirement in 1968. Both of young Morgan's parents attended VHS while Bridges was principal.

"It was really a shock," the senior said of the award. "I feel very honored."

The scholarship award was begun by Bridges' son-in-law, Earl Wetherington of Valdosta. It will be awarded annually to a senior football player who did not get a full scholarship, scholastic or athletic. Wetherington said the scholarship money will be sent directly to the student's choice of colleges and can only be used for room, board, tuition, or for books.

Morgan will be attending Valdosta State College this fall, and later will transfer to another school to pursue his interest in oceanography.

This year's scholarship recipient played football four years despite

having a blood clot in a vein in his torso for a couple of years. Morgan has also been active off the playing field as a member of Key Club, Interact Club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* and *Distinguished American High School Students*.

"He is an excellent student," said Virginia Wisenbaker, VHS counselor. "He is well liked by both faculty and students."

A plaque will be hung inside the lobby at Valdosta High School with the names of the winners of the Bridges scholarship each year. Serving with chairman Wetherington on the board of trustees for the scholarship fund are VHS Coach Nick Hyder, Principal Bill Aldrich, banker Lamar Newbern, and two direct descendants.

Another award given in memory of the long-time principal is the Howard Bridges Cup which is awarded each fall by the Valdosta Touchdown Club to the athlete with the highest grade point average.

A native of Sharpsburg, Bridges received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Mercer University and did further graduate work at Duke University and Columbia University. His life profession centered around the field of education, first in teaching and coaching and then in school administration. He followed this field of endeavor in the school systems of Bainbridge, Dublin, Macon and Valdosta.

Thompson; Moody Enlisted Wives' Club Scholarship, Chris Griner; Moody Officer's Wives Club Scholarship, Brian Mueller and Cindy Supp; United States Air Force Academy Appointment, Anne Clark and AFROTC Scholarship, Greg Leong.

United States Naval Academy Appointments, William Mason, Todd Peterson, Beau Laskey; Valdosta Board of Realtors Essay Winners, Second Place, Meredith McMillan and First Place, Jay Connell; Valdosta Junior Women's Club Scholarship, Patricia Smith; Valdosta Technical School Scholarship, Diane Denese Jones; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1777 Award, Kenyon Jones; Woodman of the World (Tie), Shannon Taw and James McDaniel; Wymodausis Club, Alice Bingle Essay Winners, Third Place, Kellie Smith, Second Place, Terry Snyder and First Place, Rosalyn Thompson.

Art Awards:
Most Outstanding Freshman, Ashley Connell; Most Outstanding Sophomore, Scott Ramirez; Most Outstanding Junior, Kelly Coleman and Most Outstanding Senior, Patrick Carlson who was also the winner of the state Arrive Alive Poster contest and the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Academic Athlete Student of the Year is William J. Mason

Business Education Awards:
The winners are: Outstanding Keyboarding Student, Laura Bailey; Outstanding Typewriting Student, Barbara Ison; Outstanding Accounting Student, Terry Snyder; Business Law Student, Deania Denmark; Vocational Office Training, Kathy Farley; Outstanding Business Student, David Cole.

English Awards:
English awards went to: Most Outstanding Freshman, Amy Kilgard and Ashley Connell; Most Outstanding Sophomore, Dan Altman; Most Outstanding Junior, Meredith McMillan and Most Outstanding Senior, Kathy Farley.

The regional winners of the RESA Writing Fair were: Poetry, Sheri Boyd; Prose, Kevin Elliott; Most Outstanding Drama Student, Barry Golivesky and Most Outstanding Debate Student, Jay Connell.

Foreign Language Awards:
Most Outstanding French I Student, Chris Spurlock; Most Outstanding French II Student, James Dewar; Most Outstanding French III Student, Tonya Nolan and the Most Outstanding French IV Student, Rosalyn Thompson.

Most Outstanding Spanish I Student, Katie Smitherman and Nick Gonis; Most Outstanding Spanish II Student, Chris Kelly and Most Outstanding Spanish III Student, Tanya Bennett.

Math Awards:
Most Outstanding Geometry Student, Amy Kilgard; Most Outstanding Algebra II Student, James Inman; Most Outstanding Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus Student, Chris Griner; Most Outstanding Calculus Student, Greg Leong; American High School Math Exam, First Place, Greg Leong, Second Place, Roslyn Johnson and Third Place, Anne Clark; Coastal Plains RESA Math Tournament, First Place Comprehensive Test, Greg Leong and First Place Algebra II Test, James Inman.

Naval Science Awards:
Naval Science Award winners are: Distinguished Cadet, First Year, Mike Akins; Second Year, Bonita Lopez; Third Year, Robert Burroughs; Fourth Year, Anne Clark; Retired Officers' Association (Leadership Award), Edward Hart.

Science Awards:
Most Outstanding Science Student winners are: Physical Science, Amy Kilgard; Biology, Dan Altman; Chemistry, Pat Hoover and Physics, Toby Baskin.

Social Studies Awards:

The Most Outstanding Social Studies Students are: Freshman, Kelly Hamm, Kenyarda Moore and Holly Rentschler; Sophomore, Jason Finland and Virginia Williams; Junior, Pam Hoover and Jay Connell; Senior, Brian Mueller and Todd Peterson.

Outstanding Vocational Students:

The Area Winners of the Skill Olympics are: Wendi Connell, Jaime Gagliardi, Shannon Harris, Kelly McBride, Deania Denmark, Rusty Mace, Ashley Mooreman, Sharon Patrick, Kevin Breeden, Anna Field, Laura McMillan, Mike Harrell, Chris Harrell, Keith Gunter, Russell Melligan, Dan Altman and Shad Burroughs. Kevin Breeden and Laura McMillan were also district winners.

DECA

Winners of the DECA State Competition are: Catherine Kaiser, Stephanie Culverhouse, Susan Burns, Jefferson Davis, Toby Baskin and Michelle Winfrey.

District winners are: Catherine Kaiser, Nick Tomlinson, Chris Griner, Melanie Dennard, Jeff Lahr, Stephanie Culverhouse, Paige Braswell, Susan Burns, Kevin Griffiths, Kim Courson, Jefferson Davis, LeAnn Hendrix, Kevin Glorius, Lynn Simmons, Brian Harris, Gina Hampton, Toby Baskin, Stephanie Gupton and Michelle Winfrey.

Trade and Industry and Industrial Arts Outstanding Students:

Drafting, Dan Altman; Electro-Mechanics, Russell Melligan; Graphic Arts, Tony Hall; Health Occupations, Stephanie Drawdy; Industrial Arts, Christopher Gross; Metals, Tony Sargent; Transportation, Chris Harrell; Construction, Keith Gunter and Home Economics, Pamela Rome.

The winner of the Plymouth Trouble Shooting Contest was Kevin Griffiths, sixth place, and James Poor.

Regional Literary Competition Winners:

Region first place winners are Brian Mueller, Boys' Oral Interpretation; Charles Harris, Boys' Typing and Kelly Shelton, Girls' Oral Interpretation.

Second place winners were Dexter Sharper, David Jackson, Cedric Johnson and Dexter Mitchell for Boys' Quartet; Jay Connell, Kelly Shelton, Terry Snyder and Cindy Supp for Debate; Kelly Shelton, Girls' Extemporaneous; Cindy Supp, Girls' Essay; David Jackson, Boys' Solo and Dan Altman, Boys' Piano.

Third place winners were Laura Bailey, Toby Baskin, Blair Barnette, Ada Burch, Jennifer Cantrell, Chris Carlson, Anne Clark, Holly Davis, Kevin Elliott, Amy Faircloth, Lydia Freeman, Barry Golivesky, Susie Grant, Amy Kilgard, Greg Leong, Marlious Owens, Catherine Register, Kelly Shelton, Heather Skiles, Terry Snyder, Ann Sorenson, Jennifer Staley, Cindy Supp, Melissa Wetherington, Melissa Wheeler and Micayle Williams for One-Act Play.

Also Michael Young, Boys' Spelling; Blair Barnette, Girls' Solo and James Connell, Boys' Extemporaneous.

Fourth place winners were Sandra Wang, Girls' Piano and Kevin Elliott, Boys' Essay.

State Literary Competition Winners:

Charles Harris, second in Boys' Typing; Brian Mueller, third in Boys' Oral Interpretation; Kelly Shelton, fifth place in Girls' Oral Interpretation and Dan Altman, fifth place in Boys' Piano.

State of Georgia and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit for Juniors:

Winners are Jason Bridges, James Connell, Christopher Demont, James Dewar, Marty Diamond, Charles Harris, Leslie Hiers, Ben Hogan, Pamela Hoover, Michelle Jamieson, Roslyn Johnson, James McDaniel, Meredith

The Valdosta Daily Times,

At Valdosta

Wed., May 11, 1988 9-A

High

McMillan, Tasha Quarterman, Coleman Rudolph, Kelly Shelton, Sandra Wang, Melissa Wetherington and Dawn Williams.

Sandra Wang and Christopher Demont were honored as participants in the Governors Honors Program.

National Merit Program:

The National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students are Laura Bailey, Laura McMillan, Terry Snyder and Cynthia Supp.

National Merit Scholars are Anne Clark, Holly Davis, Jeff Lahr and Greg Leong.

The winner of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students was Erika Duckworth.

Georgia Scholars include Toby Baskin, Anne Clark, Holly Davis, Jeff Lahr, Greg Leong and Cindy Supp.

Individual Scholarship Winners:

Edward Anderson, Baker University in Kansas and Northwestern University in Minnesota both for football; Laura Bailey, UGA President's Scholarship, UGA Music Scholarship and Florida State University Award and FSU Music Scholarship; Toby Baskin, Valdosta State College Foundation Scholarship; Kenneth Berrian, Morris Brown College for football; Sheri Boyd, Georgia Southern College Bell Honors Scholarship; LaTonya Brown, Morris Brown College Choir Scholarship; Susan Burns, UGA Scholarship and Mercer University; Shad Burroughs, Livingston University, Student Trainer Scholarship and Patrick Carlson, \$1,000 scholarship and the Atlanta College of Art Portfolio Scholarship.

Also Anne Clark, Georgia Tech Presidential Tuition Scholarship, National Merit Scholarship and Air Force ROTC Type I Scholarship; David Cole, Presbyterian College, Belk Scholarship; Reginald Dandy, Northeast Oklahoma Junior College for football; Holly Davis, Macalester College the Dewitt Wallace Distinguished Scholar; Kevin Dubard, Morris Brown College, Navy ROTC Scholarship; Erika Duckworth, Florida A&M University's President's Merit Scholarship; Kevin Elliott, Wofford College, Cumberland College and Alcoa Scholarship; Steven French, Morris Brown College for football; Angela Greene, Ministers Wives/Widows of the AME Church and Coronzo Greene, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Coffeyville Community College, Northeast Oklahoma Junior College and Morris Brown College all for football.

And Edward Hart, the David Lipscomb College Scholarship; Bernard Hiltson, Morris Brown College for football; John Iverson, Black History Action Committee Scholarship; Jeff Lahr, Georgia Tech Merit Scholarship

and National Merit Scholarship; Beau Laskey, appointment to United States Military Academy at West Point, Appointment to United States Air Force Academy, University of South Carolina, the Citadel and the University of Virginia for football; Greg Leong, National Merit Scholarship, Air Force ROTC Scholarship, Naval ROTC Scholarship; Laura McMillan, Vanderbilt University Scholarship and Miguel Melendez, University of New Mexico, the Amigo Scholarship and the Excel Scholarship.

Also, Erica Miller, Spelman College, Florida A&M President's Special Scholarship and education scholarship from the Miss Black Valdosta Pageant; Brian Mueller, Clemson Alumni Presidential Scholar; Todd Peterson, Appointment to United States Military Academy at West Point, Appointment to United States Air Force Academy, East Carolina, University of Arkansas and Valdosta State College for football; Brooke Price, Agnes Scott Centennial Award Scholarship; Lisa Scherer, P.E.O. Society Scholarship; Terry Snyder, Georgia Southern College Bell Honors Scholarship; Charles Steward, University of South Carolina for football; Cynthia Supp, Savannah College of Art and Design; Rosalyn Thompson, Florida State University Southwest Georgia Non-residency Tuition scholarship and University of Georgia Alumni Scholarship.

Also Rebekah Van Nus, Brewton Parker College Music Scholarship, Demetrius Waters, Morris Brown College for football; Chad Zahniser, National Merit Special Scholarship from State Farm and LaRita Lynn Felfon, Valdosta Association of Educators Scholarship.



ANN CLARK

JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM



ELKS CLUB LODGE

TICKETS \$4.00 PER COUPLE

MAY 7, 1988

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

VHS Reaches Out For City's Special Children

By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Teaching children with special needs to survive in today's world is the premise of the special education program at Valdosta High School.

"We teach the things they need to know to get along in the community when they leave school," according to Faith Cooper, head of the VHS Special Education Department.

Three types of children are taught at the department including the mentally handicapped, those with learning disorders and students with behavior disorders.

The department deals primarily with the mentally handicapped who range from the severely handicapped, IQ's 25-40, to the mildly handicapped, IQ's 55-70.

All children in the mentally handicapped department must also be below grade level and have low social skills,

VDT Thurs., May 5, 1988

Mrs. Cooper said.

While the program is vocationally based, basic skills such as reading and math are also taught.

"We teach functional math and reading such as how to read and pay with checks and how to figure prices when buying groceries," Mrs. Cooper said.

Health and safety as well as social and daily living skills are two other classes designed specifically for their exceptional children.

"These are skills for everyday living such as how to get along with others and how to make decisions," she said.

In the afternoon, many of the students leave school for jobs in the community. The students work at restaurants, schools and even construction jobs.

"They are just normal kids," Mrs. Cooper said.

In conjunction with Exceptional Children's Week, observed May 2-6, several events have been planned to honor the students.

VDT Sat., May 14, 1988

Valdosta Language Students Compete

Foreign Language students from Valdosta High School attended the Georgia Southern College Oratorical competition in Statesboro April 23.

Those attending in French were: Chris Spurlock (2), Carma Wright (3), Tommy Moser (1), Page Broomberg (2), Pam Hoover (2), Lee Bennett, Allison McAllister (3), Lin Brown (2), William McElveen, Jamey Dewar (1), Truett Wakefield, Tonya Nolan, Susie Grant (2), Carole Jones (3), Holly Davis and Rosalyn Thompson (2).

Those attending in Spanish were: Eric Grant (3), Toni Essinger (2), Mari Minks, Jennifer Staley, Jennifer Guest, Tanya Bennett (2), Cassandra Gordon (3), Marilyn Moss, Paul McLane, Jamie Essinger, India Giuly (1), Nick Gonis (2), John Ramey, Jack Farber (1), Catherine Register (3), Farell Scott, and Tony Sargent (2).

The winners are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.

Miss Susan Davis, Mrs. Elsie Nicholas and Mrs. Patty Smitherman, teachers at VHS, accompanied the group.

FBLA Elects New Officers

By Chad Harris

The Future Business Leaders of America chapter of Valdosta High School has announced the 1988-89 officers.

The officers are President, Matthew Lawrence (also Ga. State FBLA President); Vice-President, Jay Langdale; Secretary, Chad Harris; Treasurer; Chassity Loving; Projects Chairman, Angela Brown; Reporter, Mindee Butler and Historian, Jibade Johnson.

Student In Top 10 In DECA

FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Staff Writer

Distributive Education Clubs of America has included a Valdosta High School student on its national honor roll of achievers.

Stephanie Culverhouse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Culverhouse, placed in the top 10 students at DECA's national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She competed against 150 students in the apparel and accessories category on the master level.

After winning second place in the state, she earned the privilege to compete at the national competition. The contest format includes a written examination and impromptu role-playing with the panel of judges.

"I was given a sheet of paper with a retail situation which I had to act out with the judges," said Stephanie. "After the first round all but 21 students were eliminated and then I had to role-play with the judges again."

The first situation Stephanie had to act out with one judge while another judge observed what happens to many retailers who hold sales. Stephanie recounted how the judge, as a customer, came to her (the salesman) to inquire about a skirt advertised on sale. The sale item was not in the store at the time and Stephanie role-played how she would handle a customer who came looking for a specific article of clothing and was not able to find it.

"I told her I could order the skirt from the catalog or give her a raincheck, or show her a similar skirt. I ended up selling her two other skirts," she said.

Stephanie said she had been coached to think on her feet and she said, "If you can come up with a quick answer that will satisfy the judge as a customer, you might have a chance to win."

After the extensive competition Stephanie was "surprised" to be included in the top 10 students in her category.

"I enjoyed seeing the Great Salt Lake and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir while I was there," she said. "I missed some of the other sightseeing because I had to prepare for the final



Times Photo By Paul Leavy

Stephanie Culverhouse Competes In Apparel, Accessories

competition."

The VHS senior is about to complete an already accomplished year at the high school. She is president of the VHS Student Council and DECA club as well being captain of the cheerleaders. She is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Interact Club, and 1987-88 Homecoming Court. Stephanie is listed in *Who's Who Among American High School Students*.

Stephanie's most recent achievement was announced Tuesday night at Honors Night at the high school when she was named "Best All-Around Senior Superlative." She also received the Gen. James Jackson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolu-

tion's Good Citizenship Award during the same awards ceremony.

The Best All-Around Senior plans to continue working at Cornerstone Fashions while she attends Valdosta State College in the fall and to major in marketing. After college Stephanie hopes to join a department store and become the primary buyer in juniors or ladies ready-to-wear.

VHS honor graduate Susan Burns, daughter of Mrs. James Burns and the late Dr. Burns, also won the privilege to compete at the conference in Salt Lake City for the national contest by winning first place in the state competition in advertising and display services.

McLane, Ceaser, Davidson Ready For State

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When the 1988 track season began for Paul McLane, Isaac Ceaser, and Hubert Davidson, dreams of a possible state championship were just that. But today in Jefferson, these three tracksters will have a shot at as the Class AAAA state track meet gets underway.

The meet runs from today through Saturday at Jefferson High School. Davidson leads the way for the Valdosta tracksters, taking first-place

honors in the Region 1-AAAA meet with a mark of 15.34 in the 110-hurdles.

Both McLane and Ceaser enter this year's state field by posting second-place finishes in the Region 1-AAAA track meet last weekend.

McLane claimed runner-up status in the pole vault, with a vault of 12'6", while Ceaser, who was a third-place finisher in Region 1-AAAA last season, placed second in the discus. Ceaser's throw measured 125'11".

"After a third-place finish last season, I made a promise to myself to make the state competition the next time around," said Ceaser. "It is a

great honor to make such a talented field and I feel that each of us has a good chance to place in the state tournament."

McLane echoed Ceaser's statements saying, "To come this far this season, especially considering some of the funny turns our team experienced this year, I'm very pleased to make the state field."

Davidson was very outspoken about his championship finish and just hopes that overall magnitude of the state tourney will not sway him away from his duties.

"To be honest, I knew that I was

very capable of obtaining the region championship. Now it's time to see what I can do against the state's best," said Davidson. "I feel the pressure will be on me being the champion, but I feel that I'm ready for competition."

Valdosta High track coach Freddie Waters' expectations for his team and team and for these three state qualifiers were very high.

"It was a rollercoaster year, really. When the season began, I truly felt as if our entire team had a very good chance to qualify for state," said Waters. "But the adversities this team had to go through and the costly injuries suffered to (James) Roberts and (Carlo) Butler seemed to cut off what was an even flow. Our chances were endless until the injuries."

"For these three men to make the state field tells you a lot about dedication. McLane, Ceaser, and Davidson had their sights set all year long and they simply obtained their

goals in the region," said Waters. "If these three men meet their capabilities at the state meet, they will certainly be in the top of their categories."

Entering into the flashy spotlight of state competition often has certain effects upon certain people. But for McLane, Ceaser, and Davidson they see it more as an opportunity to do the best they can do, rather than a pressurized situation.

"I place pressure on myself," said Davidson. "The only thing I'm going to do is the best that I can do and hope it is enough."

McLane feels that switching to a different pole has been the extra ingredient towards his success. But would like to state that nothing will change come Thursday afternoon.

"I'm just going to let the cards fall where they may," said McLane. "I'm going to give it my best shot and just be thankful that I made the prestigious competition."

VHS Chooses Teacher Of The Year

Karen Vaught-Alexander, an English teacher at Valdosta High School, was selected as Teacher of the Year for VHS.

Mrs. Vaught-Alexander also coaches several events for literary, is the high school Writing Fair Coordinator and the sponsor for the school literary magazine.

A part-time instructor for the Valdosta State College English department, she has also taught at Atkinson County High School, Brantley County High School, South Georgia College and Indiana State University.

With a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a master's degree from Indiana State University, she is completing her doctorate in English language at Indiana University.

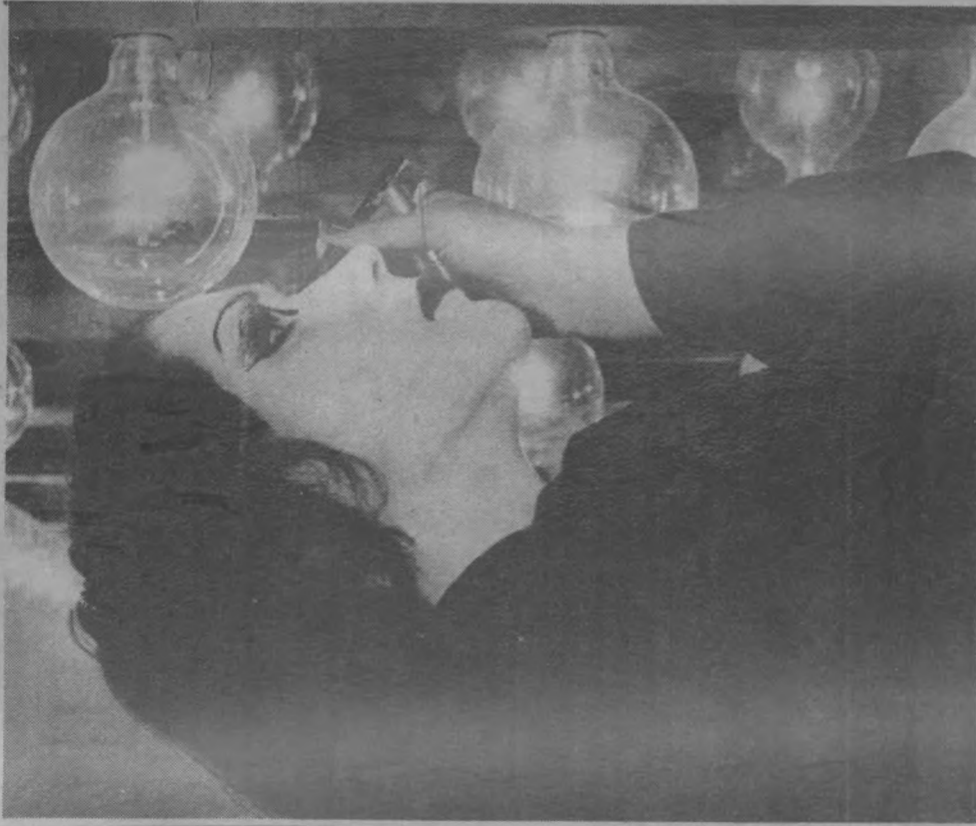
Her doctoral dissertation is concerned with contexts and connections for reading and writing in the high school classroom.

Her husband, David Vaught-Alexander, formerly in the United States Air Force, is a pre-chiropractic student at VSC.

Being selected Teacher of the Year is the "highest compliment of my teaching career," Mrs. Vaught-Alexander said.



KAREN VAUGHT-ALEXANDER
VPI 5-23-88



Observer photo by Denise Seif

It's show time

Blair Barnett, 17, adds finishing touches to her theatrical make-up Friday before stepping on to the Withers Auditorium stage to perform in "The Magic Flute." The Valdosta High School student was among 75 students selected from seven high schools to compete in the annual Region 1-AAAA Literary One-Act Play Festival. Eddie Milledge of Monroe High was voted best actor, and DeeAnn Ladson of Colquitt County High was voted best actress. The 33-member cast of Lowndes High performed "Playing for Time" by Arthur Miller to win first place and will advance to the Dec. 4 state competition.

Sunday, May 15, 1988

Shuman, Rykard Head All-Area List

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In his seven years as Berrien County head coach, Bart Shuman has molded the Rebel baseball program into a virtual south Georgia powerhouse. Under Shuman's wing, the Rebels have seen state quarterfinal action three times in the past four seasons. Berrien has had two state semifinal appearances, including Tuesday's scheduled games against Hancock Central.

Valdosta High School junior Andy Rykard was nothing short of spectacular all season long for head coach Charles Tarpley's Wildcats. Rykard proved to be a complete player day in and day out, compiling some solid statistics.

For his efforts, Shuman has been named the 1988 Coach of the Year on *The Times'* All-Area baseball team. Rykard has been named the All-Area Player of the Year for his accomplishments.

Shuman has won five region titles in his seven years and is presently the owner of a 27-game undefeated winning streak.



Bart Shuman

Until this season, the only other South Georgia Championship appearance by the Rebels was in 1982 when they lost to Harlem.

Seven Rebel players represent Berrien in this year's All-Area field, headed by pitchers Scott Purvis and

Jason Hamil. Both were two-time selections.

"You've got to give all the credit to the team," said Shuman. "The kids really worked hard and played hard."

For the Valdosta Wildcats, the light at the end of the tunnel was none other than pitcher Andy Rykard. Rykard's number was called upon constantly for Valdosta and he often delivered.

Considered by many as the closes thing to a one-man team, Rykard simply went about his business producing some of the finest individual stats around.

"It's a great honor for anyone to receive. It's something that speaks highly of the Valdosta baseball program and Rykard," said Tarpley. "This award will be something that I'm sure Andy will hold with great pride."

As the Wildcat ace pitcher, Rykard amassed a 7-5 mark. Those numbers may not appear impressive, but he had an ERA of 1.90. At the plate he batted a scorching .465, stroked 11 home runs, and scored 27 runs.

In what was his junior season, Rykard broke a major milestone in Valdosta Wildcat baseball history. His 49 RBI breaks the old mark of 46 set back in 1978 by Wildcat great David White.

"Andy just always made something happen for our ballclub," said Tarpley. "With the great talent in this area, I feel he is in many ways very, very, deserving of the award. It has been said many times over, but all he did was carry us."

"An award of this manner should not only give Andy something to strive for in his senior season, but serve as a stepping stone for our young team. Having someone of Andy's caliber on our team is tremendous in regards to leadership and overall ability."

* * *

The Berrien County Rebels paced the



Andy Rykard

selections with seven players selected.

Defending Class A champions and Region 2-A champions Clinch County Panthers placed four players on the squad.

The Lanier County Bulldogs had three players on the team. Region 2-AA Southwest runner-up Cook, placed two players on the team, as well as Brooks County, while Valdosta, Lowndes, and Valwood each had one member on the All-Area squad.

Berrien County senior Scott Purvis was a unanimous choice for first team shortstop. Purvis' sticky glove and uncanny ability to zero in on the baseball made him a shoe-in for the position.

Purvis, a member of the South All-Star team, was a dominating presence for Shuman's Rebels.

"Scott is in a class by himself. I really believe that," said Shuman. "I know colleges can't offer him everything, but this kid is really the top of the line in all areas. I haven't seen

anybody this year in his category, maybe Andy Baker (Cook high catcher)."

Purvis had 44 hits in 88 at bats for an even .500 average. Purvis also has a slugging percentage at .898, while hammering seven home runs, and eight doubles.

The Berrien County standout drove in 45 runs, two of which were of the game winning variety. Purvis also has 10 stolen bases to his credit.

The first team all-area catcher was another unanimous choice selection as well. Cook High senior Andy Baker stood head and shoulders above any around.

Baker batted .358 for the 17-2 Hornets, with 32 RBI and a .601 on base percentage. A tremendous throwing arm made him the best defensive catcher around.

"Andy has done nothing less than an outstanding job for us each season. Andy worked very hard and didn't mind putting in the extra time needed to be the best at his position," said Cook head coach Bob Owsley. "He's a leader on and off the field. A deserving person for the all-area honor."

Baker hit a total of six homers, while

driving in 32 runs. Berrien County senior Rusty Harrelson is the first team first baseman. Harrelson committed just five errors this season for Berrien County, while posting a solid .365 average with 24 RBI, three of which were game winners for the Rebels. Although Harrelson hit just two homers, he carried a slugging percentage of .541 to the plate.

Harrelson is joined on the first team by Lanier County second baseman junior Alex Lee.

Lee's offensive prowess was almost second to none in terms of run production. He batted a cool .625 for the Bulldogs with 35 RBI. Lee cranked out eight homers as well as accounting for 18 doubles on the year.

"No one on our team came close to him in offensive production," said Lanier head coach John White. "With the exception of (Andy) Rykard, I think he was the most dangerous batter in the area. He was simply consistent."

Holding down the hot corner on this year's squad is Lowndes senior third baseman Wayne Williams. Williams, who was a second team performer last

See All-Area, Page 4-c

FIRST TEAM				AVG.		W-L		ERA	
POS.	NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS						
1b	Rusty Harrelson	Berrien County	Senior	.365		9-0	2.79		
2b	Alex Lee	Lanier County	Junior	.625		10-0	2.38		
ss	Scott Purvis	Berrien County	Senior	.500		6-1	1.02		
3b	Wayne Williams	Lowndes	Senior	.280					
c	Andy Baker	Cook	Senior	.358					
of	Jamie Spates	Clinch County	Junior	.453					
of	Fred Watts	Brooks County	Junior	.400					
of	Clay Rampey	Berrien County	Senior	.325					
dh	Andy Rykard	Valdosta	Junior	.465					
p	Scott Purvis	Berrien County	Senior						
p	Jason Hamil	Berrien County	Junior						
p	Derrick Merritt	Cook	Senior						

SECOND TEAM				AVG.		W-L		ERA	
POS.	NAME	SCHOOL	CLASS						
1b	King Bridges	Clinch County	Senior	.380		11-4	1.72		
2b	Jason Hamil	Berrien County	Junior	.446		5-1	1.52		
ss	AC Cooper	Clinch County	Junior	.400		7-0	1.22		
3b	Steven Hiers	Brooks County	Sophomore	.385					
c	Ronnie Ash	Berrien County	Junior	.290					
of	Ben Smith	Berrien County	Senior	.291					
of	Austin Deloach	Clinch County	Senior	.300					
of	Antwan Johnson	Lanier County	Senior	.480					
dh	Chad Edwards	Valwood	Freshman	.500					
p	Troy Foster	Lanier County	Senior						
p	Andy Baker	Cook	Senior						
p	Lee Stallings	Berrien County	Junior						

.....All-Area

From Page 1-C
season, was a defensive bright spot for the Vikings.

Williams batted .280 with 12 RBI for Noel George's Vikings. On the mound, Williams posted a 2.20 ERA to go along with his clutch fielding.

"Wayne was a bright spot in a dismal season," said Noel George. "Wayne came to play every day."

The all-area outfield consists of Clinch County junior Jamie Spates, Brooks County junior Fred Watts, and Berrien County senior Clay Rampey.

A big man, Spates combined relentless power at the plate along with blinding speed to become one of the most talented outfielders on this year's squad.

Spates stepped to the plate 86 times coming away with 39 total hits for a .453 batting average. Spates had 21 RBI with two home runs and 18 runs scored to go along with 20 stolen bases.

"Jamie has been an improving player since he started here," said Clinch head man Cecil Barber. "He made a good habit of giving it his all."

Watts could be described as a diamond in the rough. For a not-so-talented Brooks County team, Watts was not only the best on his squad, but one of the best in the area.

The lanky Watts was a .400 hitter for Ted Folsom's Trojans with six home runs, 25 RBI and 20 stolen bases. As a pitcher, Watts was 3-3 with an ERA under 3.00.

Rampey, Berrien's all-purpose outfielder, made things tough on each and every opponent. Rampey's ability to flag down fly balls and mastery with the stick made him a unanimous all-area selection.

Rampey's fielding percentage is .947 with 17 putouts, while only committing a single error all season. At the plate Rampey is batting .325 with six homers and 26 RBI.

Leading the list on the all-area pitching rotation are Berrien standouts Purvis and Hamil. And completing the '88 rotation is Cook High's Derrick Merritt.

Purvis is the straw that stirs the drink. In 69 2/3 innings pitched, he has posted a 9-0 record with a 2.79 ERA. Purvis has struck out 77 batters, while walking just 33.

The hard-throwing Hamil simply terrorizes hitters with his overwhelming speed and dazzling control. Hamil is 10-0 in 79 1/3 innings pitched, allowing 54 hits and striking out 82.

Hamil is sporting a 2.38 ERA yielding just 27 earned runs this season.

"Hamil has comparable skills to Purvis. He has all the tools, just in a different style," said Shuman.

Merritt was known as the workhorse for Owsley's Hornets.

In 52 innings worked, Merritt won six games and lost once. He had an ERA of 1.02 with 61 strikeouts.

"Derrick never stepped away from a challenge," said Owsley. "Derrick has developed into a very fine pitcher. He has a little of everything."

In addition to his impressive statistics, Merritt also is the owner of a no-hitter and two one-hitters this season.

Rounding out the first team is the designated hitters spot and filling the shoes is none other than the player of the year, Andy Rykard.

Clinch County senior first baseman King Bridges heads the all-area second team. Bridges batted .380 with two homers, 17 RBI and 15 runs scored for Barber's Panthers.

Hamil takes the second base position on the second team. Hamil's all-around ability and athletic talent made it unanimous. Hamil owned a .446 average with seven home runs and 42 RBI.

Steven Hiers, a Brooks County sophomore, is the second team third baseman and the only sophomore to make the team. Hiers batted .385 with two home runs and 31 RBI. On the mound Hiers was 5-6 with a 3.21 ERA and 59 strikeouts for the Trojans.

Clinch County junior A.C. Cooper is the second team shortstop. Cooper batted .400 with 34 hits in 85 at bats

including four home runs. Cooper drove in 13 Panther runners, and scored 27 himself. Cooper stole 22 bases as well.

Berrien County junior Ronnie Ash is the second team catcher. Ash's fabulous work behind the plate has proven to be the stability factor for the Berrien County pitching staff. Ash batted .290 with one home run and 12 RBI. Ash committed just five errors in 27 games.

Roaming the outfield on this year's second team is Berrien County senior Ben Smith, Clinch County senior Austin Deloach, and Lanier County senior Antwan Johnson.

Smith, the Rebels' center fielder, made a habit of cutting runners down as well as tracking down fly balls. Smith batted .291 with a slugging percentage .387, three home runs and 17 RBI.

Deloach, a representative on this year's South All-Star team, batted .300 for the defending Class A champs. Deloach collected 30 hits in 100 at bats with one homer and 16 RBI. The Panther outfielder also scored 14 runs, and had 14 stolen bases.

Johnson batted a torrid .480 with two home runs and 24 RBI. Among Johnson's extra bases hits include 4 triples and six doubles.

"Antwan always gave 100 percent. I would have to say that he was one of the most offensive producers in the area," said White.

The second team pitching staff includes last year's defensive player of the year Lanier's Troy Foster. Cook's Andy Baker, and Berrien County's Lee Stallings.

Foster's second home was certainly on the pitching mound. On his domain, Foster posted an 11-4 record, an ERA of 1.72 with 90 strikeouts. At the plate Foster batted .463, with 39 RBI, and 24 runs scored. He also had 12 doubles on the year.

"Troy is well deserving of this honor. I feel that he slided as far as the South All-Star team goes, but overall, he's still one of the area's best," said White.

When it came to pitching, Cook's Baker held his own with the best the area had to offer. Baker had a 5-1 record and an ERA of 1.52. In 47 innings of work, Baker struck out 66 batters.

Although Stallings often got lost in the Berrien County pitching shuffle, he has proven himself worthy of an

all-area selection. Stallings has worked 46 innings and has a won-loss record of 7-0. In those 46 innings, he has allowed just 31 hits, striking out 52 batters, while only yielding just 11 walks.

The designated hitter on the second team is Valwood's leadoff man freshman Chad Edwards.

Edwards is simply the consummate leadoff man and one of the best pure hitters in the area. Edwards batted .500 for the Valiants and had an on-base percentage of .600.

The 1988 All-Area team was selected by the sports staff of *The Times*. Area coaches provided all pertinent statistics.

Camden County Getting Ready For Valdosta Game



Anthony Dasher
Times Sports
Writer

I've heard of getting a high school football team prepared for an upcoming opponent but this is ridiculous.

Here we are almost four months until the start of the 1988 high school football season and already rumblings are being heard from St. Mary's and Camden County where the Wildcats are already getting ready for their season opener with Valdosta High School.

Now correct me if I'm wrong, but hyping a team for one opponent, especially the first game of the year, is just a little silly.

According to an article from the

anxious to get their third crack at the Wildcats this fall. Camden has defeated Lowndes the past two years.

But that's what Thombs and his assistants are apparently doing, driving home this 'beat Valdosta or our season is lost' attitude. This is a terrible burden to place on high school youngsters.

But I guess that's what happens when your football program is as deep in tradition as Valdosta's. Everybody points to you as the game which could turn a season around.

Yet Camden is also a school which has achieved a moderate amount of

success the last few years. The Wildcats, who have won the last two Region 2-AA Southeast subregional championships, are moving up to Class AAA this year.

The article goes on to call the 'Cats the 'most vaunted high school team in America' and the Camden-Valdosta game will be a David against Goliath sort of deal.

Anytime you have a school located near any kind of military base, King's Bay Naval Base as the case is with St. Marys, you never know who will be playing for you.

At first glance this will be a battle of

were. "Men, it's 125 days till Valdosta. You've got the chance of a lifetime. You can be a great football team...if you wanna play," he said.

Pretty strong words from a team that will return only seven starters total, two on defense and five on offense.

I don't care who you are. To put your complete emphasis on the first game of the year is just a little insane, especially four months before the game. If I was Thombs, I would be more concerned about my region schedule. Plus I'm sure that head coach Joe Wilson and his Vikings are

two teams with young, inexperienced players on both side of the line, especially on defense.

But according to Thombs, this is much more than a game, it's the season.

Could it be just a smokescreen to catch the 'Cats off guard? I'm not sure. The article ends by pointing out how much respect Camden has for Valdosta and that part I'm sure is true but the last two sentences in the story has me confused.

It says, "Valdosta, too, will need to be ready. It's 122 days to Camden." Enough said.

VDJ 5-19-88

VHS Band Members Honored Tuesday

VDT May 19, 1988
By AMY SWANN
Times Staff Writer

Laura Bailey was selected as Senior Bandmember of the Year Tuesday night at Valdosta High School's Marchin' Cats band banquet and awards ceremony.

Held at the VHS cafeteria, hundreds of parents, students and guests

gathered for the program.

The freshman band members were given their letters and the sophomore and junior members were honored with a certificate. But the night belonged to the senior members who were recognized individually.

The senior band members included: Jennifer Ash, Laura Bailey, Sheri Boyd, Carla Burgman, Brant Campbell, Len Davis, Paula Davis,

Seletha Jones, Penny Little, Cassie Tonsil, Rebekah Van Nus, Michaelann Wells, David Ford and Clayton Madison.

Several special awards were also presented.

The Tex Mullis Loyalty Award was presented to Seletha Jones by members of the Mullis family. Tex Mullis was a member of the VHS band in the 60s and was killed while serving his

country during the Vietnam War.

The Lucy Stewart Memorial Award was presented to Penny Little by Miss Stewart's brother. She too was a member of the Marchin's Cats but was killed in a car accident in the early 70s.

Bandsman of the Year went to freshman John Allen and the Spirit of the Marchin's Cats Award went to Wynne Johnson.

Other awards and their recipients include: the John Phillip Sousa Award, Laura Bailey; Rookie of the Year, Holly Rentschler; Louie Armstrong Jazz Award, Woodrow Johnson and Senior Jazz Players, Clay Madison, David Ford and Laura Bailey.

Band Booster President for 1987-88 — Ivey Plair Jr. — turned over the leadership of the organization to 1988-89 President Richard Pye.

The boosters have already begun work on the 1988 Southern Open Band Competition and are planning for a trip to Michigan in the fall. The Marchin' Cats have been invited to perform in the 62nd Annual Michigan Thanksgiving Day Parade.

VHS DECA Banquet Set For Tonight

The 40th annual Distributive Education Club employer-employee banquet will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Valdosta High School cafeteria.

Tonight's banquet will celebrate the club's anniversary and all past presidents of the VHS DECA Club and the members of the 1948 club have been invited to attend.

Marvin Brown, state superintendent of marketing education, will be one of tonight's guests.

Vocational 'Super' Coordinates Program

John Field, vocational supervisor at Valdosta High School, fulfills his position with various duties. Being involved with the several vocational departments, such as Home Economics, Business Education, and the Work-Study Programs, Mr. Field carries out the rules and concepts of the state education board.

He supervises not only at VHS, but also the students at Valdosta Junior High School. His chief duty is to coordinate these vocational programs and keep them running smoothly.

Field is originally from Jacksonville, Fla., and has three daughters. His educational backgrounds includes a B.A. in psychology, a master's degree in special education, an education

specialist degree in school administration, and a certificate as a vocational director.

Part of his initial job was the vocational education of the handicapped, so from these he was given the opportunity to become the director of vocational education for the Valdosta City School System. Mr. Field also fulfilled the position of principal at West Gordon Elementary School.

Mr. Field was quoted as saying, "I think the vocational education program at Valdosta High School is one of the most important programs offered." He thinks more students should take advantage of the program because he has seen from his own experiences that the most successful business leaders



JOHN FIELD

have come from the vocational education program.

Distributive Education Adds To Finished Product Quality

During the past few years, one of the biggest outcries to the education establishment, from the general public as well as from politicians, has been the high cost of education versus the quality of the end product.

The purpose of this article is not to argue either of these two points, but to present some very interesting figures about Distributive Education as they relate to cost and product.

Last year, there were MDE programs located in 128 high schools, with over 13,000 high school students enrolled during the 1987-88 school year.

The money earned by MDE students came to over \$18 million. It is safe to say that this money went back into the economy.

Certainly we can conclude from these figures that co-op education is definitely a good investment in dollars and cents. However, let's look at the end product of our education process.

Our MDE students work a unique situation in that they are able to receive valuable work experiences and classroom training while attending their regular classes. Students who sign up for ME during their junior and senior years of high school, take their required subjects, English, Math, Science, and History, as well as a class in ME.

Under no circumstances does ME interfere with a student's academic courses. In fact, ME is an academic elective accepted by colleges throughout the U.S.

Upon completion of classes each day, the students go to their jobs and work about 3-5 hours. This on the job training is a very valuable experience for our students, since they are treated as a regular employee.

ME students receive no special privileges. They receive normal starting salaries for beginning employees and are

expected to produce in a like manner. However, employers are very cooperative in working with the ME teacher, to coordinate the student's job responsibilities with his classroom training.

In fact, many employers find that ME students can perform some responsibilities, such as stockkeeping, display, and record keeping, that they might have to hire a full-time employee just for this one skill.

Through these unique experiences, classroom training and on-the-job-work experiences, employers benefit as well as the students. The investment of time and money on the part of the employer is returned in the form of a well-trained employee that most likely will be working with him several years.

Students benefit from the practical training they receive while still in high school. The student is well prepared to enter the job market upon graduation from high school.

In fact, we are finding that more and more students are continuing to work with their ME employers while attending post secondary institutions or going to work for them full time after high school graduation.

The success of the investment in the ME program can be evaluated by its end products, throughout the city of Valdosta and our nation. Many graduates of our local ME program can be found in successful business and professional careers.

The feature article of this insert in the ME section about Mr. Williams, is certainly typical of the many young people who have come through our program. Certainly we can see that cooperation between the state education department, the local school system and the business community can produce a good product, with a realistic dollar investment.

DECA Students Win At State

Of the 18 students who attended the state wide DECA Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, six students qualified for national competition.

The competition was held March 18-20 for DECA students throughout Georgia. These students joined to compete in various contests related to marketing.

The students who qualified for national competition are: Susan Burns, first place in Advertising Services; Stephanie Culverhouse, second place in Apparel and Accessories; Toby Baskins, first place in Marketing Math Event; Michele Winfrey, third place in the Reporter-of-the-Year event; Catherine Kaiser, third place in Business speech; and Len Davis, fourth place in Food Marketing Supervisory Level.

Altman Strong ME Supporter

One of the strongest supporters of the Marketing Education program is Walter G. Altman III, superintendent of Valdosta City Schools.

Altman approves fully of the Marketing program. Altman feels ME is "a great chance for on the job experience."

"When you evaluate the job market," according to Mr. Altman, "only 15 percent of the available jobs go to those with college educations. The training is not theory based, but skill based with 85 percent of the jobs going to vocational students."

When asked if the Quality Basic Education Act could affect the Vocational program, Altman said, "it could hurt if we are not careful." Altman feels the money that goes to ME is very well spent.

ME Program Can Provide Opportunity

The Marketing Education Program seeks to provide each student an opportunity to:

1. Prepare for gainful employment and for advancement in a distributive occupation.
2. Gain an understanding and appreciation of the American private enterprise system as a cornerstone of American democracy.
3. Build an awareness of the civic, social and moral responsibilities of business to society.
4. Develop the use of ethical standards in business.
5. Stimulate interest in a chosen marketing occupational field by providing an understanding of the opportunities it offers in becoming a contributing member of society.
6. Prepare to analyze consumer demand and to satisfy the needs and wants of consumers intelligently, efficiently, and pleasantly.
7. Develop increased competence in marketing.
8. Contribute to the improvement of the techniques in marketing and distribution.
9. Advance the objectives of the total educational program.
10. Develop sensitivity to changes in marketing practices, and procedures as they are affected by social, economical, technical, and educational developments, and adapt to such changes.
11. To strive to develop among employers, employees, and consumers a wider appreciation of the value of specifically trained personnel in marketing.

Williams Develops Successful Business

Fleming Williams, a 1970 graduate of the Marketing Education program at Valdosta High School, has developed a very successful business based on the concept of quality workmanship and valuable marketing skills.

Williams began his career in the automobile business soon after graduation from high school. His first efforts were a small used car lot in downtown Valdosta. Through hard work and many long hours, he became one of the most successful used car dealers in South Georgia. Fleming and his brother, Larry, also a marketing graduate of Valdosta High School, continued to operate their used car business until 1982, when Fleming developed a strong interest in the luxury van business.

Fleming started his van business in 1982 when he began buying finished vans from other dealers. He was quoted as saying, "I became dissatisfied with the workmanship and the quality of the vans I was buying, so I decided to start my own business and production plant." Mr. Williams began his van conversions in a small building in Adel, Georgia, completing only two or three vans a week.

Since that beginning, demand for his products has soared so high, he has built a modern facility on I-75 with the capacity to satisfy his customer's demand. By employing only 13 workers, Williams is able to insure quality workmanship. He keeps in touch with his customers to assure their satisfaction.

In February 1987, Mr. Williams moved Van Versions to the new plant which gave them the capacity to

produce from 60 to 70 vans a month to 120 to 150 a month.

"I feel very strongly about the high school Marketing Education program," Williams said, "because it helped me so much to get started in my career." Williams is an example of a Marketing Education student who put his marketing skills to use and had the dedication to achieve the goals he had set for himself.

Mr. Norman Greene, Williams' Marketing Education coordinator in high school, said, "I enjoyed having them both in my Marketing program at the old Valdosta High School." Mr. Greene said he could remember Fleming always talking about going into business for himself when he graduated from high school. He set goals high and worked hard to achieve them. Mr. Greene closed his interview by saying, "It is always a satisfaction to see one of your former students become a success in his life. Furthermore, it is even more satisfying to see him become a fine family man and a pillar of the community."

Ninety-nine percent of the work Van Versions does is for dealers, but some individual custom work is done. Williams distributes his products through dealers in Tallahassee, Atlanta, and Orlando. He can also secure vans for individual customers from these dealers.

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DECA

Education and Business working Hand in Hand...

Stephanie Culverhouse Ends Outstanding Year With Club

VHS Marketing Education Chapter is completing an outstanding year under the direction of the president, Stephanie Culverhouse, and the other officers.

Stephanie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Culverhouse. She is currently employed at Cornerstone Fashions. As club president, Stephanie's responsibilities include organizing and planning all club activities and offering her leadership at all club functions.

Stephanie has excelled in many, if not all, of her academic subjects at VHS. She is a first-year student in Marketing Education and feels that the club had a good year as it successfully competed in the annual district, state,

and national competitions.

Other officers elected this year were Rad Johnson, Vice-President, son of Joanne Cohen; Natalie Bishop, Secretary, daughter of Royce and Delia Bishop; Gina Hampton, Treasurer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hampton; Michele Winfrey, Reporter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Williams; Anne Wansley, Chaplain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wansley; Brant Campbell, Sargent-at-Arms, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford Campbell; Susan Burns, Sweetheart, daughter of Ms. Jan Burns; and Melanie Dennard, Sweetheart, daughter of James and Sue Dennard.



STEPHANIE CULVERHOUSE

Students Go To Top

Two Valdosta High School students attended the National DECA Conference in Salt Lake City from April 27 to May 1. Stephanie Culverhouse competed in Apparel and Accessories and Susan Burns competed in Advertising Services. Norman Greene, advisor of the Valdosta chapter of DECA, also attended the national event.

The students must have competed in district and state competitions and have placed in the top three of their contest to qualify for national competition. At nationals they competed with other marketing students from all over the nation.

Stephanie received a semi-finalist medallion for placing in the top 21 students of her contest. She then competed and advanced to the 10 of her contest. Because of her last competition, Stephanie received a finalist medallion.

Having national winners emphasizes the basis of DECA education.

Education is the issue statewide as well as nationwide during the 80's. Education should be designed to meet the needs of all students as well as the

community.

Academics are important for all students and especially those enrolled in vocational education programs. Vocational education further develops the academic skills of the students by providing training needed for entry level positions in the business world.

Vocational instruction enhances academics by making it more current, relevant, and practical. Many vocational students do attend college where they further their educational training in a related field of study. They realize the importance of having a marketing skill because of the competition in today's job market.

Most importantly, however, they have utilized the vast area of technical expertise available through the vocational programs offered in Georgia school systems, while at the same time reinforcing their academic competence.

Excellence in education will only be achieved when the vocational and academic disciplines work together to meet the unique, and individual, needs of each student. Vocational education does make a difference.

Cooperative Training Is Me Base

Marketing Education is a cooperative vocational education program designed to meet the needs of 11th- and 12th-grade students who are preparing to enter employment in the field of marketing, merchandising, and management.

Marketing Education provides an opportunity for the schools and business community to work together.

The program provides an opportunity to combine academics and vocational skills. In the area of mathematics, students are expected to be able to figure a mark-up percentage and compute cash discounts. English skills are utilized when writing resumes, communicating orally with customers, and researching marketing problems within the community.

The Marketing Education Program is divided into classroom instruction, on the job training, and DECA. Competency-based classroom instruction and on-the-job supervised training provide students the opportunity to acquire marketing knowledge and to develop the attitudes and skills necessary for success in distributive occupations, marketing careers, and marketing education.

The topics taught in the classroom include employability skills, marketing functions, economics of marketing, advertising and display, free enterprise, personal selling, physical distribution, marketing math, merchandising management, and entrepreneurship.

On-the-job training then puts these competencies learned in the classroom into practical use. Students are placed in selected business in the community for their training experience, where they do a variety of tasks, while learning first hand about the operation of business. Most students work between 15 and 30 hours a week. Marketing Education students are rated by their training sponsors on the quality of work performed and receive credits toward graduation requirements based on their performance at the job site.

The third phase of the program, DECA, is designed to promote high ideals on the local, state, and national levels. These purposes are clearly stated:

1. DECA encourages free enterprise, economic awareness, and practical experience.

2. DECA encourages civic responsibility.

3. DECA believes in competition. DECA provides the ME student an opportunity to develop social and leadership skills through participation in club activities. In addition to their local chapter activities, students have an opportunity to participate in competitive events on the district, state, and national level. These competitive events are competency based and relate to what the students are being taught in the classroom and on the job. DECA is the showcase of the Marketing Education program.

On The Cover...

After 40 years, the Distributive Education Club is stronger than ever, and drawing on a rich history, the DECA leaders of the 80's are planning for the future. The cover shows the club members during the formative years in the 1940s. The members pictured include: First Row: Mock, Marlene Holland, Alma Eunice, Dolphus Eunice. Second Row: Webb, Vickers, Miss Quarterman, Eugenia Holland, Bray, Hughes. Third Row: Ervin, Blanton, Nussbaum, Downing, Yale, White, Dasher, Barker. Fourth Row: Pittman, Forthe, Wetherington, St. John, Adolph Hughes, Todd.

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DECA Diamond Is Club Symbol

The DECA emblem is symbolic of all the things that the ME clubs of America offer its members. The emblem, a diamond, is a familiar sight to DECA students. The DECA diamond symbolizes vocational understanding, civic consciousness, social intelligence and leadership development.

After participating in the marketing education program, a student has become well prepared to take his or her place in the business world. He or she has developed a vocational understanding.

Civic consciousness is taught to the student through both class and chapter work. The student learns through the community by studying its needs and planning community betterment.

Through the social activities and events sponsored by DECA, the student will gain social intelligence. The DECA student attends workshops and conferences, as well as enjoyment activities and these combined things help the student develop his or her poise and social graces.

Leadership development is the last point of the diamond. To achieve development in leadership the student attends workshops and conferences that teach them to be good leaders, as well as good followers.

The diamond's center contains a wrapped package that indicates a job well done and well-rounded education. This is achieved through cooperation of the school administrator, teachers, parents, businessmen, and students.

These opportunities offered through the DECA club work together to develop the student as a better person.



Sweetheart Melanie Dennard With DECA Emblem, Past Pictures And Winning Trophies

Competitions Offer Experiences

Competitive events are only one of the numerous ways marketing education creates learning opportunities for more than 250,000 marketing education students throughout the United States and Canada.

Once a year, the marketing education students in each of their district join to compete in the assigned. At district competition, the students compete in their events by taking a written competency-based exam and by acting out a role playing situation.

Students who place in the top three are eligible for state competition. The top four students in each competitive event at the state convention are eligible for the national competition.

Members from the Marketing Education chapter at Valdosta High traveled to Savannah, Georgia, on Feb. 6 to participate in the District 7 competitive events.

These students competed in the competency-based events areas of Apparel and Accessories, Finance and Credit, Food Marketing, Quick-Serve

restaurant Marketing, Full Service Restaurant Marketing, General Marketing, General Marketing, General Merchandising, Advertising Services, Service Station Retailing, Business Speech, Job Interview, and Reporter of the Year.

Valdosta High School chapter of DECA won the first place in overall in district competition this year. The chapter won eight first-place awards, nine second-place awards, and one third-place awards.

ME And DECA Goals Common

What is ME? Marketing Education identifies a program of instruction which teaches marketing, merchandising and management.

What is DECA? DECA identifies the program of student activity relating to Distribution Education Clubs of America and is designed to develop future leaders for marketing and distribution. DECA is the only national student organization operating within the nation's schools to attract young people to careers in marketing merchandising and management.

ME students have common objectives and interests in that each is studying for a specific career objective. DECA activities have tremendous psychological effect upon the attitudes of students, and many students have no other opportunity to participate in social activities of the school or to develop responsibilities of citizenship. DECA members learn to serve as leaders and followers and they have the opportunity for state and national recognition that they would not have otherwise.

Marketing Education instruction and DECA activity constantly emphasizes America's system of competition and private enterprise. Self-help among students is the rule rather than the exception and DECA leaders give constant encouragement to continued education. History has proven that whenever a nation's channels of distribution fail to function, that nation is shortlived. As DECA attracts more of our youth to study marketing and distribution, the total DE program becomes a vital necessity to our national economy.

DECA chapter activities are always school-centered, thus contributing to the school's purpose of preparing well-adjusted, employable citizens. Chapter activities serve the Distribution Education teacher as a teaching tool by creating interest in all phases of marketing and distribution study, and serve as an avenue of expression for individual talent.

The chapter is the "show window" for the student achievement and progress and is the public relations arm of the ME instructional program who are interested in marketing, management and distribution careers and assists in subject matter presentation.

DECA members have made numerous studies and surveys to aid the economic development of their own community. Individual and group marketing projects continue to encourage this type of contribution. Many businesses favor hiring ME students because of their interest in training and their related school study of that particular business. Many leaders in business and government have praised DECA for its civic-related activities.

Students and Parents Working Together In ME

There are several students enrolled in the Marketing Education program this year who are employed by their parents.

Among these students are Brant Campbell, Sandy Campbell Music Center; Stephanie Gupton, Steve Gupton Attorney-at-law; Brian Harris, Big B Dry Cleaners; Keith Harris, Harris Construction; Gina Hampton, Top 40 Video; Honey Hatcher, Gerlock Dance Studio; Nick Murray, Weeks

Textile Mill Outlet; and Chris Trice, The Valdosta Country Club Tennis Shop.

Nick Murray, son of Martha Hendrix, says that he feels more at ease working with his mom. There are a few ME functions that require time spent out of the classroom. Working for a parent makes it easier to ask for time off when necessary.

Not only do the students find advan-

tages but so do the parents who hire DECA students. Mrs. Hendrix finds that students who work prepare themselves for the future in the business world and develop a sense of pride. Students who work for their parents get an opportunity to see how the business is operated.

Chris Trice, another student who works with his mom, says, "Working with my mom allows me to spend more time with her."

Working for a parent is beneficial in many ways. Mrs. Trice was quoted as saying, "I enjoy working with my son and seeing him put his marketing skills to use."

All students working with their parents in the ME program agree that it is very rewarding in more ways than one. Asking for time off, asking questions about the job, and asking for raises are among the things made easier by being employed by a parent.

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Parents Offer Students Support

Parents of ME students support and recognize the importance of ME. A few parents of ME students were recently interviewed.

Mrs. Williams, mother of ME student Michele Winfrey said, "Michele has learned a great deal from the ME program. Experience is crucial in today's work force." Michele Winfrey, a senior ME student, is employed at Modern Photographics. She states, "My mom understands that ME takes up a lot of my time. She approves though, after all, ME can be incorporated into my future."

Another Marketing Education student, Chris Trice, agrees with his mom that the ME program is preparing him for his future career goals. Mrs. Trice was quoted as saying, "Marketing Education is showing Chris what the real world of marketing is all about and he is getting valuable first-hand experience from his on the job training."

Most parents of the marketing education students agree that DECA is a great preparation step for their son or daughter's career. Once he has had the experience of working in high school, he will find adjusting to fellow employees and working with the public much easier.

The opinions of the two interview parents is the average of all the parents of the Marketing Education students. The training these students are receiving now will serve as valuable experience to use in their future careers. All students participating in the Marketing Education program will benefit by becoming the future community leaders of tomorrow.



Marketing Education Students Show Their Ability In Clothing "Store Front"

ME Students Make Good Employees

Norman Greene, coordinator of the ME program at Valdosta High School, frequently visits the local businesses which employ his marketing students. By visiting these businesses, he can talk with the employers about the quality of work they are receiving from their ME employees.

Greene was pleased with the results of his recent interview with Scott Nichols, owner of Modern Photographics. Nichols, presently employing marketing students, says, "I believe marketing education students make

better employees since they are being graded for their performance on the job as well as in the classroom."

Having been a marketing student himself, Nichols is a great supporter of DECA and thinks DECA is working to make many of the great leaders of tomorrow.

Another pleasing interview Greene had was with Brad Zeithlin, the manager of Camera America.

Mr. Zeitlin says, "Employing a Marketing Education student is both rewarding and exciting. To allow a

student to develop and mature as well as accept increasing responsibility rewards the student and the employer. The student begins to develop initiative and aggressiveness in the business which will inevitably be advantageous as the student develops into the infrastructure of today's business society."

The Valdosta High School Marketing Education Program has 56 students working for 47 different businesses throughout Valdosta.

Students Win Trip To State

Of the 18 students which attended the seventh district competition last weekend, all of the students qualified for state competition which will be held in Atlanta on March 18. The district competition was held in Savannah, Georgia, last weekend where the students competed in co-curricular contests with other students from the southwest Georgia area.

The students who qualified are: Catherine Kaiser, first place in the speech competition; Nick Tomlinson, first place in the Job interview; Chris Griner, first place in marketing spelling-vocabulary; Melanie Dennard, third place in general merchandising master employee level; Leff Lahr, second place in general merchandising supervisory level.

Also, Stephanie Culverhouse, second place in apparel and accessories Master employee level; Paige Braswell, first place in apparel and accessories supervisory level; Susan Burns, second place in advertising services; Kevin Griffis, second place in vehicles and petroleum marketing; Kim Courson, second place in food marketing master employee level; Len Davis, first place in food marketing supervisory.

Also, LeAnn Hendrix, first place in full service restaurant management; Kevin Glorious, second place in quick-serve restaurant management; Lynn Simmons, second place in general marketing master employee level; Brian Harris, second place in general marketing supervisory level; Gina Hampton, second place in the economics testing event; Toby Baskins, first place in the math testing event; and Stephanie Gupton, second place in hotel and motel management master employee level.

DECA Is Self-Supporting Organization

1. DECA is the only student organization operating through the public and private schools of the nation to attract young people to careers in marketing and distribution.
2. DECA encourages private enterprise and economic awareness through individual instruction, studies in marketing projects, exposure to successful business leaders, individual and group awards, and practical experience in business establishments.

3. DECA encourages civic awareness and responsibility through professional conferences, chapter activities, school improvement projects, and support of community activities.
4. DECA maintains a series of state and national competitive events — all designed to stimulate and motivate student interest, career encouragement, and occupational competence.

5. DECA believes in competition and offers awards and recognition to student members and advisors for outstanding accomplishments.
6. DECA maintains its own scholarship loan program to assist and encourage its members toward higher education.

7. DECA pays its own way. Its national headquarters and staff are maintained entirely by student dues and other internal income.
8. All contributed funds are used directly for student benefit through our program of student activity: awards and recognition, career conferences, program development, public information, career encouragement, scholarship loans.
9. Your support of DECA will help in developing future leaders for marketing and distribution.



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