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Valdosta High School

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8-F 1989 Football Edition



FOOT

BALL '89



2-E 1989 Football Edition

Kickoff '89

The Waldoosta Daily Times

Bazemore Is Back ^{VDT}

Friday, Aug. 4, 1989

Makes Surprise Visit To Wildcat Football Practice

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Former Valdosta High School Wildcat head football coach Wright Bazemore proved that seeing is believing. Thursday afternoon Bazemore made a surprise appearance at the Wildcats' football practice. According to Valdosta head football coach Nick Hyder, it was a very uplifting moment for his team to see Bazemore back on his feet after suffering a stroke in May.

"It was just a very inspirational moment for myself and this football team to see him at practice," said Hyder. "He has made a remarkable comeback in such a short period of time. He was able to acknowledge the fact that the players were speaking to him. It was just a special moment for us, and I'm sure it is for many Wildcat fans."

According to his wife, Betty, Bazemore's rehabilitation process has been ahead of schedule. In fact, the Bazemore's arrived back in Valdosta on July 27, from the Roosevelt-Warm Springs Rehabilitation Institute.

"It was just good to have him home and he was glad to be home," said Mrs. Bazemore. "Although his speech has not fully returned, he is now walking with the aid of a cane."

From the time he left for the rehab institute back in May, he has not taken off his 'Cat hat he wears. Friends came by and asked him if he wanted to go watch the Wildcats' practice. And even though I think he was a bit scared about going to see the players so soon, he loves the Wildcats and he didn't need much encouragement to go."

According to Mrs. Bazemore, he will undergo further rehabilitation and is expected to be back on Cleveland Field for the Wildcats' opening game against Camden County on Sept. 1.



Junior Deric Cotton runs through offensive drills at a Valdosta High School practice. Cotton is battling for the starting quarterback job with senior Jason Nichols.
VDT Sun., Aug. 13, 1989



The hard-hitting Valdosta Wildcat defense may be ready for one of their best seasons in years. They return seven starters on the defense from a year ago.
VDT Sun., Aug. 13, 1989

Wildcats Prepare For 1989 Football Season Practice Today At 6

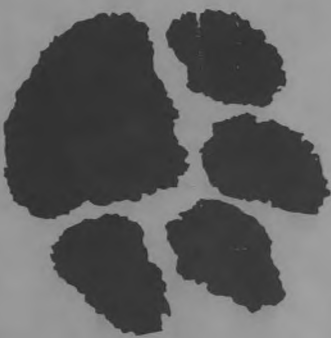
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

For the first time since last spring, the Valdosta Wildcats football team was back on the practice field Monday afternoon for their first official conditioning drills of the 1989 season.

Nearly 70 players took part in the workout with nearly 20 others awaiting physicals and the end of summer school before joining their teammates.

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said the players would go through the same drills for the next two weeks as they did Monday.

"Right now, we're working on weightlifting, running and agility. We'll go through the same schedule for the next two weeks. If we did what we did last year, we'll spend the final week before camp working



with pads and dummies," Rudolph said.

Rudolph said about 12-15 players were not yet out of summer school while 8-10 others were still awaiting physical examinations. One of those players was senior linebacker Anthony Williams who plans to be one of the main cogs of the defense this fall. Williams said he is eagerly awaiting the start of practice.

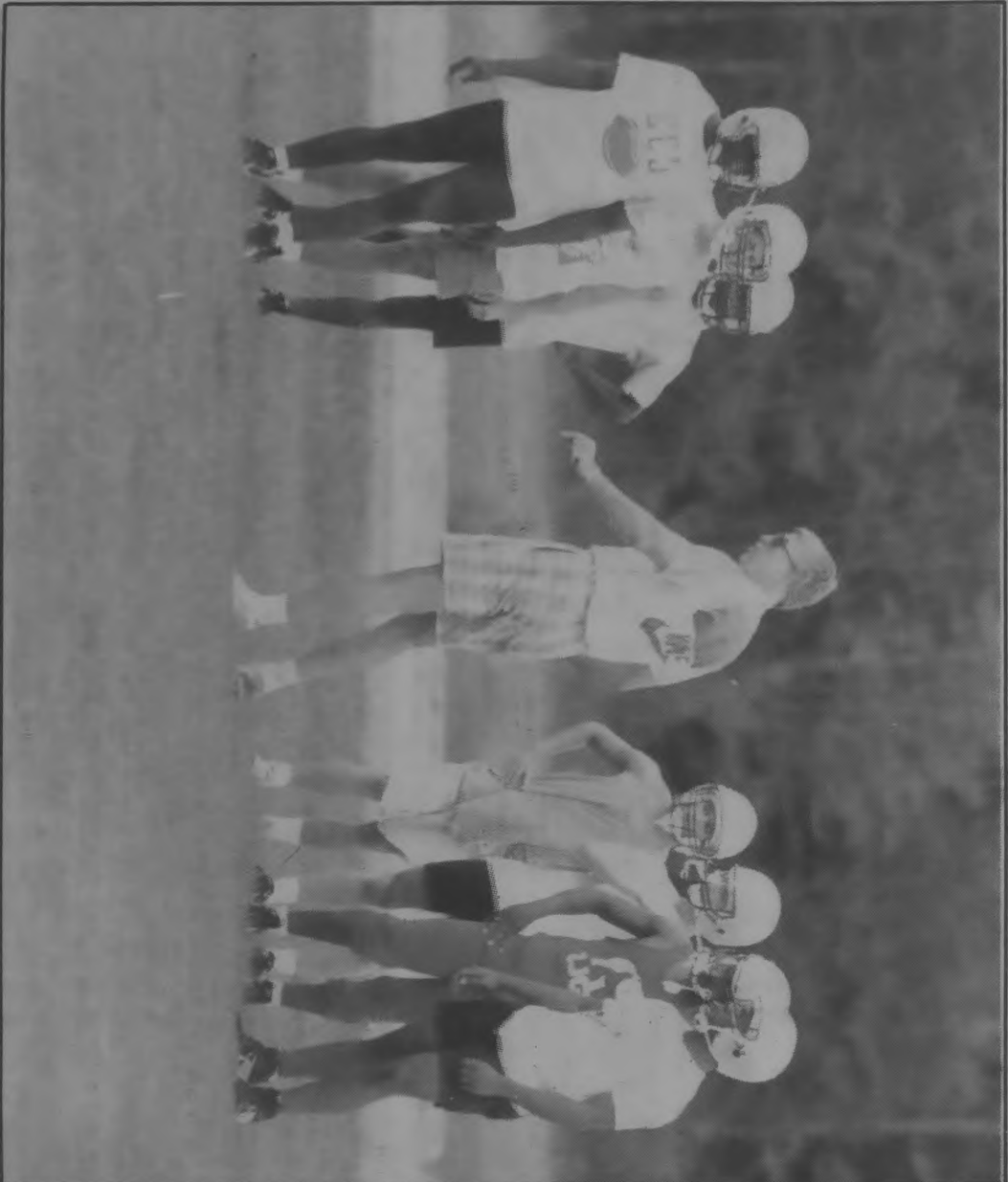
"I've been working all summer and I can't wait to get back on the field. This year's defense can be a real good one and we're all ready to

show it. There's nothing like the start of football season," Williams said.

The first day of camp will be on Monday, August 14. They will spend those three weeks working the kinks out and preparing for their first opponent, the Camden County Wildcats, who will visit Cleveland Field on September 1. The Wildcats will compete in five games before opening their subregion schedule on October 13 when they host the Bainbridge Bearcats.

Following spring practice, VHS head coach Nick Hyder was extremely pleased with the work ethic his team had shown and also impressed with the team's defensive work. The defense returns eight part-time or fulltime starters from a year ago while the offense returns only four.

Some coaches, including Rudolph and Charles Tarpley, will leave this week for Athens where they will watch the North-South all-star contests. Three former Wildcat players will participate. Coleman Rudolph and James Roberts in the football game and Andy Rykard in the baseball game.



Valdosta High School defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph takes time out to instruct his defensive secondary players. Valdosta

begins the season at Cleveland Field September 1, against Camden County — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

South Squads Loaded With Local Flavor

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When the South All-Star teams clash with the North All-Star teams this weekend in Athens, there will be a local flavor for south Georgia sports fans.

Eleven of the area's best players will represent four local schools in this year's games.

The action begins in Athens Wednesday, July 26 and concludes Friday, July 28.

On Wednesday night, a 5:30 p.m. double-header baseball game between the North and South squads will take place, with the



ROBERTS



RUDOLPH



RYKARD



COOPER



SPAFFES



HAMILL

boys' and girls' basketball games set for tipoff at the University of Georgia Coliseum on Thursday night beginning at 6 p.m.

The action builds to a fever pitch, as the South and North All-Star football teams set foot on Georgia's San-

ford Stadium for an 8 p.m. kickoff. Berrien County High School heads the list of local schools with the most participation in this year's action.

Former Berrien County Rebellete standout Melissa Maeckey will play for the South's girls' basketball team.

Cook High's own Julia Morris will also be playing for the girls' South All-Star team.

Valdosta High School will have three players in two different sports. Tennessee-Chattanooga signee James Roberts and Georgia Tech fellow Jacket signee Coleman Rudolph will play for the South football team. Clinch County head football coach Don Tyson, will be an assistant coach for the South squad.

Former Parther and Georgia High School football Player of The Year Herbert Mingo will also be a part of the South football team.

Parental Expectations Important In Kids' Success

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Lifestyles Writer

Often athletics and extra-curricular school activities may appear to be the most important part of a student's life, but appearances are often deceiving.

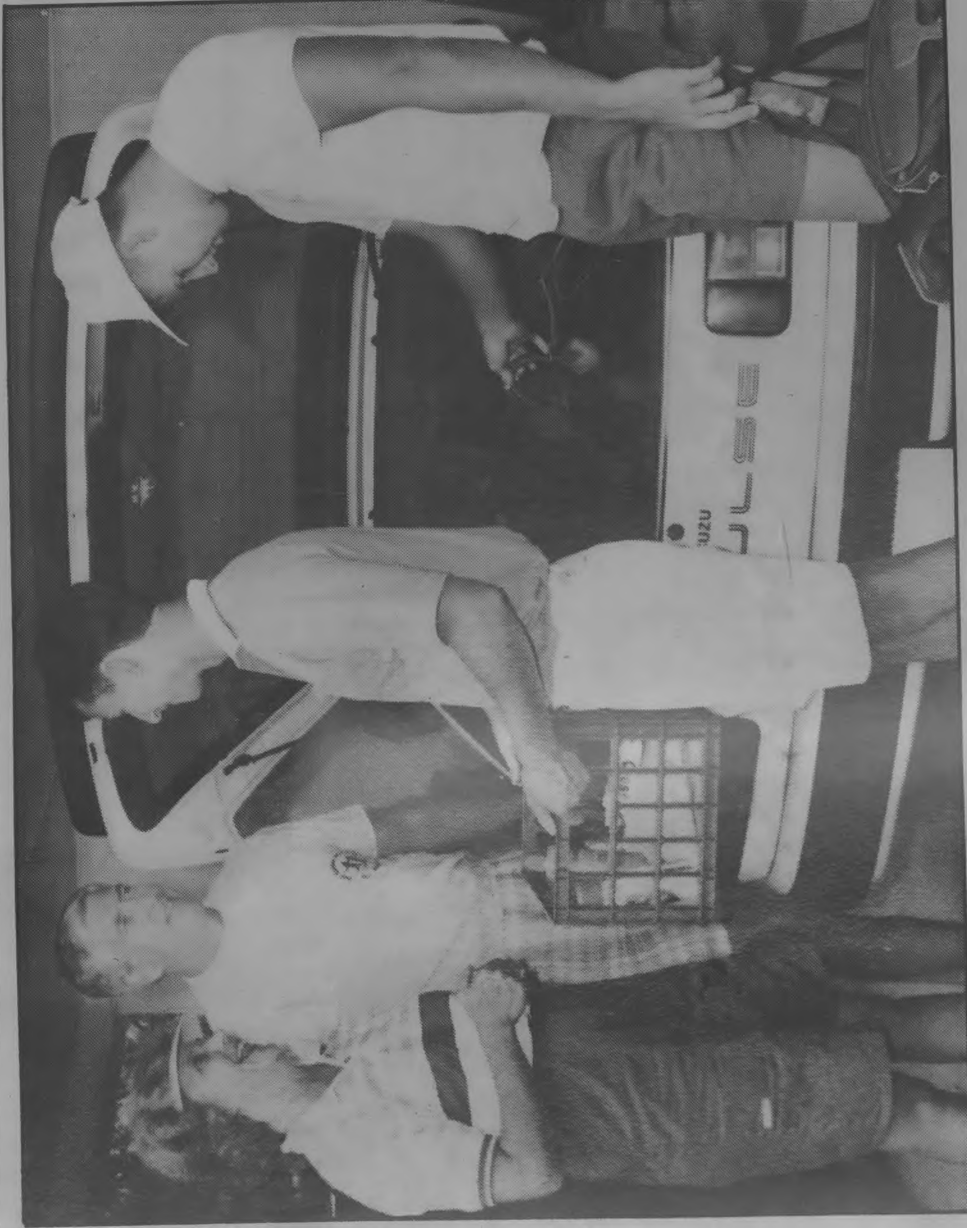
Russ Rudolph, 21, and Coleman Rudolph, 18, sons of Jack and Marsha Rudolph of Valdosta, spent four time-consuming, tedious years on the football field while they were students at Valdosta High School. However, as important as football is to this very committed football family, academics have come first.

"I'd tell the parents of children who are going to be in athletics that without academics you're not going to play ball because you have to pass five out of six subjects ... now it's getting to the point if you don't do this, you don't play," said Coleman.

Coleman, a 1989 graduate of VHS, is the third member of the Rudolph family to be an honor graduate at the high school, following his mother and brother. Jack Rudolph, defensive coordinator at VHS, was a 1955 honor graduate from Grady High School in Atlanta. Mrs. Rudolph also shares with her sons the honor of being a VHS senior superlative. Coach Rudolph shared the same honor at Grady.

Although Russ agrees strongly with his brother about academics, he said the discipline a student learns while playing ball in junior high and high school carries him all the way through school and later, too.

Both boys sported good academic and extra-curricular credentials at



Marsha and Jack Rudolph assist sons, Russ (1) and Coleman, as they load the car in preparation for leaving for college at Georgia Tech — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

VHS as well as athletic credentials. Both were members of Beta Club, Key Club, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The combination of credentials makes for a good all-

around student athlete. Russ was president of FCA and his freshman class as well as treasurer of the senior class. He was also president of the youth choir at First United

Methodist Church and member of the youth council. He is a student at Georgia Tech and frequently on the dean's list. He is president of Kappa Alpha fraternity and head football

manager for the Tech football team. Until recently, Coleman was a member of First Methodist youth council and the Regeneration Youth Choir. He will attend Georgia Tech in the fall on a football athletic scholarship.

In citing those people responsible for motivating them toward academic achievement, both boys named their parents as the key motivators. "In our family our parents expected us to make A's and B's," said Russ. "Whatever your parents expect of you is what a kid will do. If parents accept mediocrity, that's what they'll get. Not everybody is the same. Mediocrity is doing below the best you can do."

Russ said he remembers early in his school career one of the motivating factors in his home was making good enough grades to stay off restriction. "In our family our parents expected us to make A's and B's," Coleman said he remembered the "roof coming off of the house when Russ brought home C's."

Russ said it was his dad's job to "get onto us about school and her (his mother's) job to get onto us about other things." He said other things includes his activities outside of school and his participation in church. He said he attributes school to his dad, but if "I didn't have breakfast in the morning and supper

at night, I wouldn't have achieved either."

Coleman added, "He got onto us and she stood behind him." Emphasizing parents must take a united stand together concerning their children, he said there was always a "oneness" with his parents.

Russ said it is imperative for parents to lay out the game plan for their children early in their lives. "Parents have to jump on their kids early." He also emphasized parental help and guidance are musts. When asked if some of his teachers made a difference, Russ said they did. "But if I hadn't had someone pushing me at home, the teachers wouldn't have made a difference."

Coleman qualified his brother's statement about what parents expect of their children and what they must do. "A healthy kid with no mental or emotional problems can do well in school, but their parents have to be on them constantly. It makes a difference."

Mrs. Rudolph recalled a coach telling her how lucky they were to have good students and "good kids." When he asked her how they accomplished that feat, she replied, "We raised our kids the way we were were raised. The more you put into life, the more you get out of life."

'Whatever your parents expect of you is what a kid will do. If parents accept mediocrity, that's what they'll get. Not everybody is the same. Mediocrity is doing below the best you can do.'

— Russ Rudolph
Georgia Tech Senior

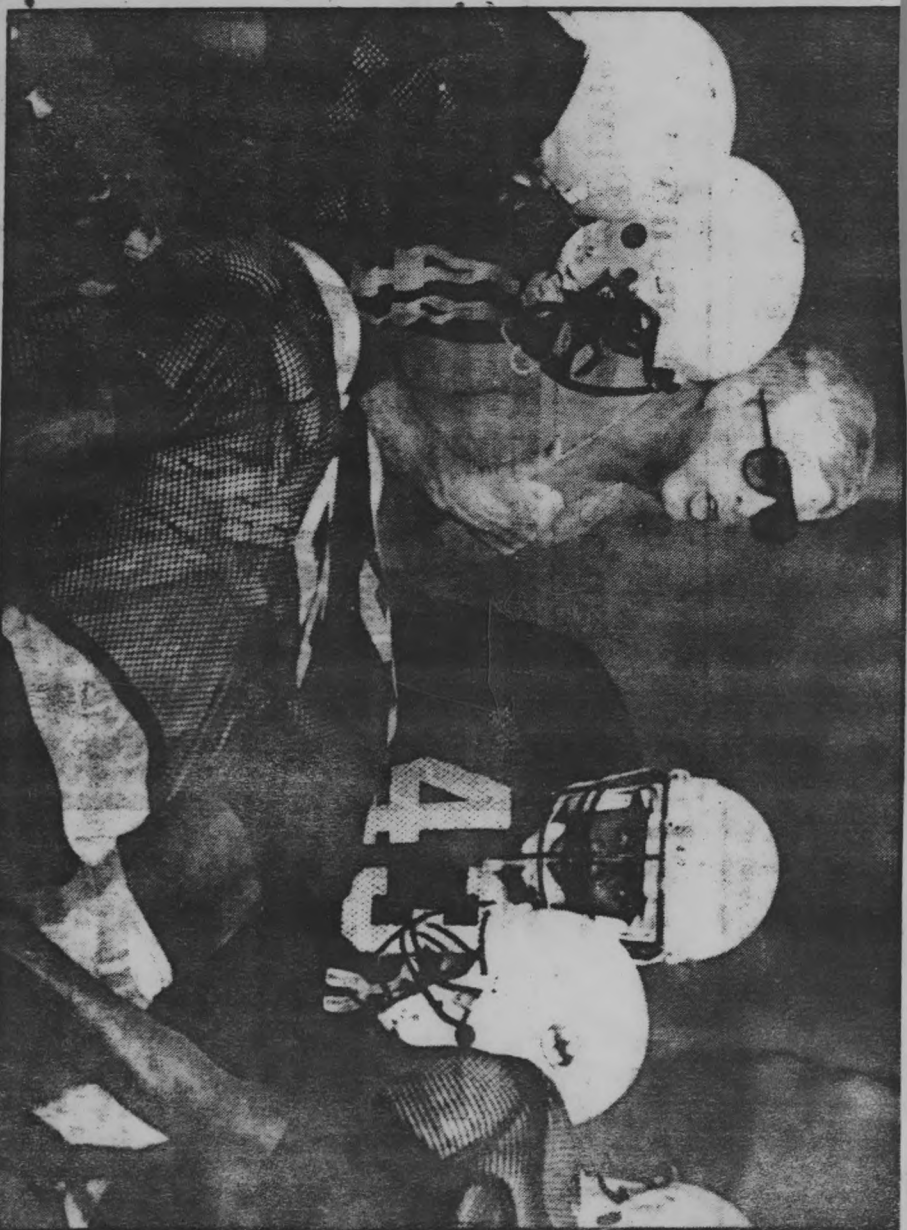
Sun., Aug. 13, 1989

Looking For Success On Their Own Field Of Dream

For the past two weeks, the Valdosta High Wildcats have been working out in conditioning drills and in shoulder pads. The defending Region I-AAAA champions will turn up the intensity a notch this week when their annual camp begins.

The Wildcats will hold their first official scrimmage this Friday night at Cleveland Field and many believe they have the talent to repeat as region champions. The defense was solid in the spring and their offense has shown in the preseason workouts that they can throw and run with success.

The Wildcats have amassed a 39-2 record over the last three years that include three region championships and one state and national championship in 1986. That kind of success breeds success and seniors such as linebacker Anthony Williams, quarterback Jason Nichols, offensive lineman Matthew Butler, tailback Joe Wright, defensive back Chris Hart and noseguard Robert Fillmore will be able to show their team what it takes to win in one of the toughest regions in the South.

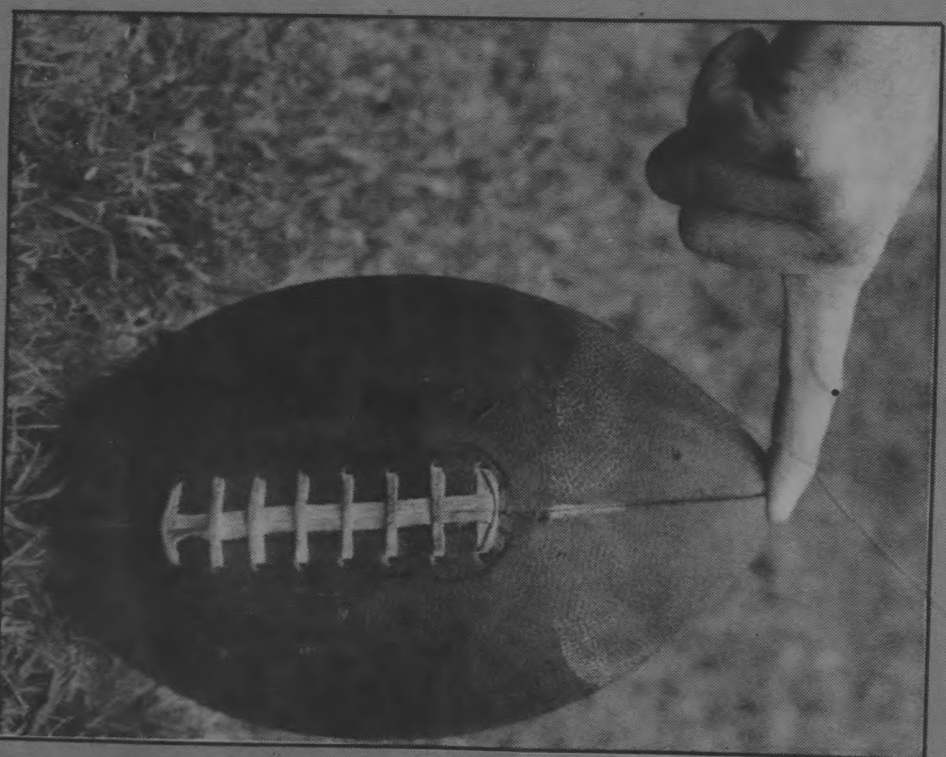


Valdosta defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph instructs his players during a scrimmage against the VHS offense. The Wildcats

first test will come on September 1 against the Camden County Wildcats at Cleveland Field.

25 Cents

VDT Sept. 1, 1989 Friday



Tonight's The Night

The 1989 football season begins for area high schools tonight. At Valdosta, the Wildcats host Camden County. The Lowndes Vikings travel to Warner Robins. Brooks faces Cook; Berrien is at Pellham; Clinch is at Calhoun; and Valwood is at Brookwood — Photo by Paul Leavy.

Nichols Lost For Season

Senior Suffers Broken Leg

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Senior quarterback Jason Nichols, who was the projected starter for the Valdosta Wildcats this season, suffered a broken left leg during the Wildcats first day of football camp Monday afternoon. The injury will put him out of action indefinitely but coaches and team doctors said he will miss the 1989 season.

As the first team offense matched up with the first team defense Monday afternoon, Nichols dropped back to pass. With his receivers covered, he darted to his right and ran the ball for about a 10-yard gain. He was brought down by two Wildcat defenders and when he hit the ground, his leg twisted.

He was taken to South Georgia Medical Center where X-rays showed a break in both of the bones in the lower leg. VHS head coach Nick Hyder said the biggest tragedy was that 1989 was Nichols senior season.

"Jason took every snap as our only quarterback in the fall and he had earned his position. It's a crying shame that he will miss his senior year because he had worked so hard to accomplish what he had," Hyder said. "We just appreciate everything Jason did for this team and our heart goes out to him."

Nichols missed most of the 1988 season when he suffered a small cracked bone in his lower leg during the Wildcats game with the Waycross Bulldogs. With Nichols out, the quarterbacking duties fall mainly on the shoulders of junior Deric Cotton although Hyder said the job will not be handed to anyone.

"Deric was going for the quarterback job himself and he is now our top contender. But he is still overcoming some injuries to his knee so we'll have to wait and see. Jamey Waters will get some more work and we will also look at Alton Hitson, Joe Wright and Steve Jar-millo," Hyder said.



Linebacker Anthony Williams (44) and tight end Mickey McSwain (81) do battle during Valdosta High's Monday

morning practice as they opened their 1989 football camp — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Valdosta junior wide receiver Justin Bridges catches a pass from teammate Jamey Waters during Friday night's scrimmage at Cleveland Field. The

team has two more weeks of practicing before opening their 1989 schedule against Camden County — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Offense Evens Score On Defense

Hyder Gives Wildcats Passing Grade For Standoff In Scrimmage

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Sat, Aug 19, 1989
VBT

Many Wildcat fans were expecting a dominating defensive performance during Valdosta High's first scrimmage at Cleveland Field Friday night. What those fans saw was an almost even matchup between an offense that mixed the run and the pass and a defense that was equally stingy of both.

The 21-7 score after the game was of secondary importance to the fans, coaches and players. Several players were being tested to see how they would react to game-type situations and most passed with flying colors according to VHS head coach Nick Hyder.

Junior quarterback Alton Hitson led the first team offense after being switched from wide receiver earlier this week to make up for the loss of senior Jason Nicholas to a broken leg. Hitson's varsity scrimmage debut was a success as he completed 9-of-11 passing attempts.

Senior fullback Joe Wright scored two touchdowns with runs of 2 and 3 yards. His second touchdown came one play after he returned a punt 48 yards before being knocked out of bounds.

Running back Carlos Parker also had a touchdown with a 1-yard run and sophomore quarterback Jamey Waters teamed up with junior receiver Dexter Dudley for a 64-yard touchdown to score the only points for the second team offense.

The third candidate for the Wildcat quarterback job, junior Deric Cotton, sat out the game with a bad knee. However, he practiced Friday morning and Hyder said he would be practicing again Monday.

Hyder viewed the scrimmage as exciting and was impressed with the performance of his team on both sides.

"The reason Alton Hitson is a successful quarterback and athlete is that his teammates will step forward and play hard for him. He is a great leader and a tremendous athlete. Jamey Waters was also impressive tonight and stood in there and threw the ball well. He did not hurt himself tonight," Hyder said.

While the offenses used big plays to score or at least set up scores, the first and second team defenses had their share of big plays.

Frederick Henton stopped several plays in the offensive backfield and Chris Hart stopped one drive with an interception. Hyder also noted good efforts by Andre Hampton, Robert Fillmore, Dexter Daniels and George Copeland.

"Overall, it was a good night. We had about 1,000 people here tonight but I've always contended that an offense and a defense cannot both have a good night. There is still a lot of competition at several positions including the interior lines and the running backs. We also have some young players who caught the coaches' eyes tonight," Hyder said.

Nine different Wildcats hauled in passes during the scrimmage with Dudley's touchdown being the longest. Justin Bridges, Sam Hogan, Carlos Folsom, Carlos Moore, Tracy Smothers, Steve Jarrillo and Tracy Carter also caught at least one pass apiece.

Hyder complimented all of his coaches following the scrimmage and added that one member of the Wildcat staff has been extremely valuable during the past week.

"Our team trainer, Jim Burroughs, should probably have his salary tripled with all of the work he's done this week. We've had some injuries but we don't make excuses. We've got to get ready to play and not worry about those things. Most of the players who have been bruised or hurt are coming along well and all of the trainers and doctors who work with us deserve the credit for that," Hyder said.

MDT

'Cats Offense Gets On Track Hitson Joins QB Picture

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats received another scare Tuesday morning when junior quarterback Deric Cotton went down after a blow to his knee. Fortunately for the Wildcats, Cotton was not seriously hurt and returned to the practice. He was one of three quarterbacks who led a Wildcat offense to a successful day on the field.

"Today the offense moved the ball a lot better than they did yesterday. If the score were kept on a scoreboard, the defense would've won but the offense looked better than they had. We had some fine passing performances and some excellent catches by several receivers," Hyder said.

Cotton joined junior Alton Hitson and sophomore Jamey Waters as the quarterbacking trio for the workouts. Hitson moved in Tuesday to replace senior Jason Nichols who broke his leg Monday and will miss the 1989 season. Although one of his leaders is out, Hyder said he still feels comfortable with the quarterbacking situation.

"Deric has been working hard and would've challenged Jason for the starting job. He has a slingshot of an arm and is very capable. Alton Hitson is a fine athlete who has been a flanker and a running back and he had a good day. Jamey Waters is a tenth grader who has improved fifty percent since we started working out and we are also pleased with him," Hyder said. "We were very comfortable with Jason at quarterback but now we have to do some other things."

Speaking from his hospitable bed at South Georgia Medical Center, Nichols was in good spirits and kept

up his hopes about one day returning to the Wildcat program in some form.

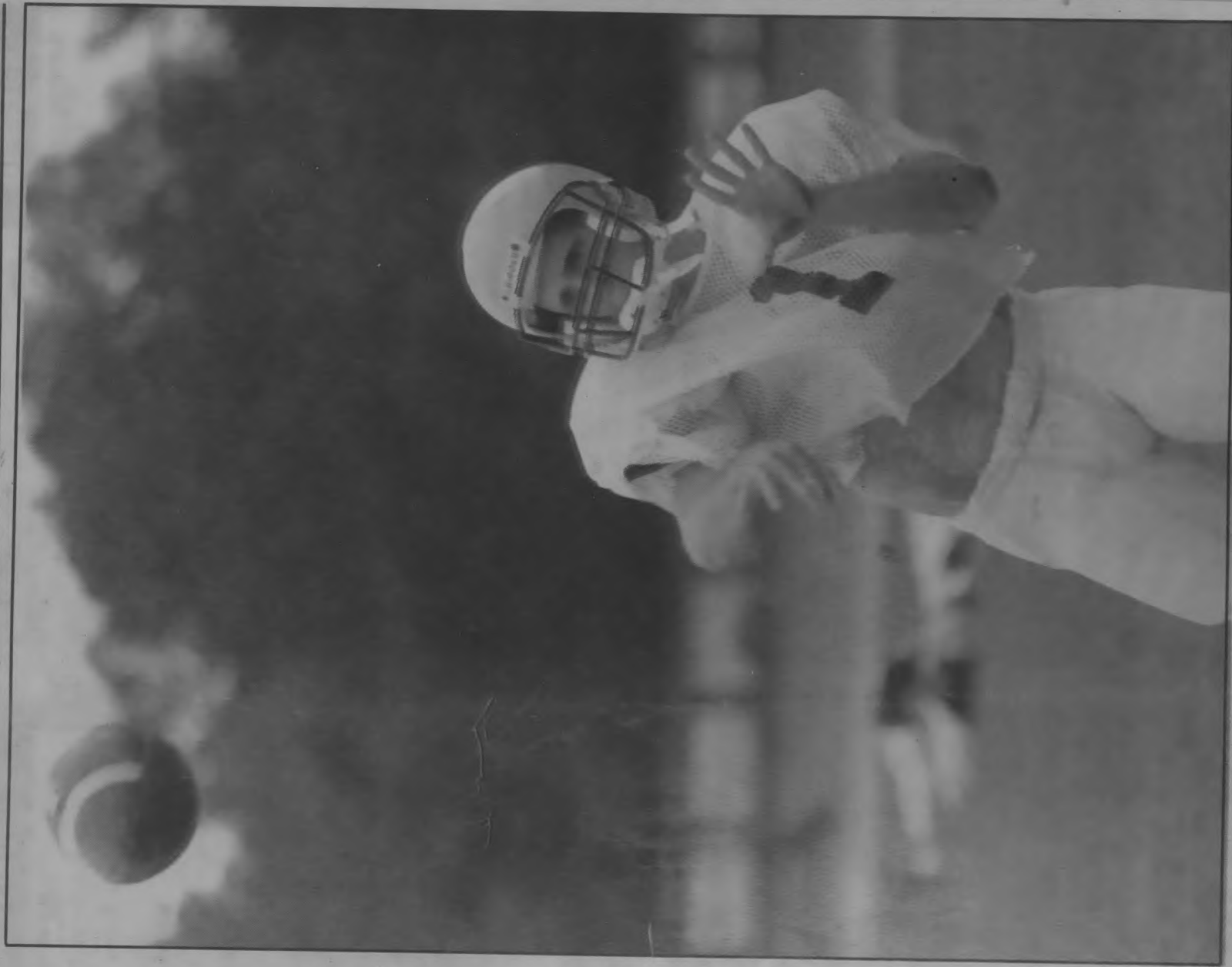
"It's feeling a lot better," Nichols said. "I knew right when I was hit that it was broken. When I broke my leg last year, I ran on it for a couple of plays. But I knew this time I couldn't do anything."

"One person won't make or break our offense and I know that they can do just as good without me. There are a lot of talented players on our offense," Nichols added. "I thought I was coming along well but I'm still looking forward to getting back in shape and playing baseball in the spring. I'm really looking towards that."

The Wildcats offensive line, which lost four starters from last year, has been more than holding its own against one of the toughest VHS defenses in recent memory. One of those linemen is 265-pound junior tackle Shaun Eilders. He joins returning starter Matthew Butler and Lowndes transfer Brooks Atkins to anchor a line which may be the strongest part of the offense.

"Eilders played four games during his freshman year and he can stand in there with the best in the region. Brooks Atkins, Matthew Butler, Jason Peters, Jarrett Johnson, Giles Godwin, Kevin Wilkerson and Bucky Allen are the other members of that group and I think we'll be able to alternate them in and out a good bit," Hyder said.

Hyder added that he the kicking game was working ahead of schedule. Sophomore Dow Drury returns and the kicker and Eric Phillips and Steve Jarmillo have both gotten work at punter. Receivers Carlos Folsom, Tracy Smothers and Carlos Moore also caught Hyder's eye during the practice.



Valdosta quarterback Jason Nichols, seen here warming up, will miss his senior year as the result of a broken leg during the 'Cats' Monday afternoon practice. The Wildcats' Photo by Paul Leavy.

backup quarterback Deric Cotton suffered a blow to his knee Tuesday morning, but he returned for the afternoon session — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Wildcat running back Carlos Parker dodges a would be Camden County tackler and heads up field Friday at Cleveland Field. The 'Cats routed the visitors 34-0 Friday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

land Field. The 'Cats routed the visitors 34-0 Friday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

'Cats Defend Expectations

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcat defense has been built up and built up since the beginning of spring practice. Friday night in Cleveland Field, those expectations were met with tremendous success.

Holding Camden County's defense to minus-25 yards in total offense, the Wildcats won their season opener 34-0, trouncing of the "other" Wildcats from St. Mary's.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said the night was a success for his team and especially his spectacular defense.

"We cannot complain about our defense. We are right on schedule or maybe even a little ahead of where I thought we were. Jack Rudolph, Freddy Waters, Keith Middleton and Charles Tarpley all did a great job preparing this unit and it was a very team-oriented effort," Hyder said.

The Camden offense was supposedly going to be built around full-back Dexter Burch. But the bruising runner saw very limited action and only carried the ball one time during the game. Camden head coach Bill Thombs said Burch recently had a cyst removed and they decided to

keep him out of action.

Almost lost in the middle of the great defensive effort was a good night on offense. Junior tailback Joe Wright led the Wildcats rushing attack with 59 yards on 12 attempts including a 34-yard touchdown that opened the Wildcat scoring in the first quarter.

As planned, the Wildcats used a two-quarterback system and it worked well. Junior Alton Hitson started the game but only threw two passes in the first half. He was relieved in the middle of the second quarter by junior Deric Cotton who took the offensive attack to the air.

Cotton completed his first pass to wide receiver Carlos Moore for 16 yards and, with 1:41 left in the first half, found Moore again. This time, Moore was in the end zone to haul in Cotton's 26-yard aerial and put the Wildcats up 14-0 going into half-time.

Without Burch in the backfield, Camden had to rely almost solely on quarterback Marlowe Mobley. Mobley showed some scrambling ability but could not hold off the defensive rush all night.

Early in the fourth period, Mobley went back to pass and was hit by several Wildcats. He fumbled and

See 'Cats, Page 3B

From Page 1B

defensive lineman Robert Fillmore recovered on the Camden 17-yard line. Three plays later, sophomore Dow Drury kicked a 34-yard field goal to put the 'Cats up, 17-0.

Mobley was hurt when he lost the ball and had to leave the game. His replacement, Keith Cummings, found out quickly how tough the VHS defense was when, on third and eight, he was intercepted by Trampis Wrice at the Camden 48-yard line. Wrice returned the ball to the Camden 10 before being finally knocked out of bounds.

On the Wildcats' next offensive

play, tailback Chris Chachere ran in the touchdown to put the game on ice at 24-0.

Wildcats' defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was a bit surprised at Camden's total offensive yardage but was not surprised at the way his team played.

"I'm proud of everyone on our defense. We alternate 16 players and the second bunch stood with this team just as well as the first group. We were still running to the football even in the third and fourth quarters and on a hot night like this, that says something," Rudolph said.

Drury added another field goal, a

34-yarder, and Albert Edmonds scored on a 2-yard run to round out the Wildcat scoring. Drury was perfect on four extra point attempts.

Valdosta—Carlos Moore 26 pass from Deric Cotton (Drury kick)
Valdosta—Drury 34 field goal
Valdosta—Chris Chachere 10 run (Drury kick)
Valdosta—Drury 34 field goal
Valdosta—Albert Edmonds 2 run (Drury kick)

Valdosta-Camden County

At Valdosta		Camden County	
Valdosta		Camden County	
5	First downs	0	
29-118	Rushes-yards	28-(27)	
8-18	Comp.-att.	2-11	
90	Yards	2	
1	Intercepted	2	
5-31.0	Punting	7-27.4	
5-35	Penalties	9-47	
1-0	Fumbles-lost	4-2	

Valdosta 7 7 0 20-34
Camden County 0 0 0 0-0

Scoring Summary

Valdosta—Joe Wright 34 run (Dow Drury kick)

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta-Wright 12-59, Carlos Parker 8-20, Shawn Gay 1-7, Alton Hitson 3-(7), Cotton 2-(2), Mickey McSwain 1-2, Moore 1-(5), Dexter Mitchell 1-2, Kendrick Patrick 1-1, Chachere 2-10, Edmonds 2-8, Camden County-Marlowe Mobley 10-(26), Terrance Baker 5-(7), Burt Miller 3-2, Dexter Burch 1-2, Corey Dawson 1-2, Keith Cummings 1-3.

Passing: Valdosta-Cotton 3-9 63, Hitson 2-5 8, Jamey Waters 3-5 19, Camden County-Mobley 1-8 2, Cummings 1-3 0.

Receiving: Valdosta-Moore 2-42, McSwain 2-21, Dexter Dudley 2-12, Brice Hunter 1-7, Justin Bridges 1-5, Tracy Carter 1-3, Camden County-Harry Cummings 1-3, Rama Nightingale 1-0.

'Cats' Offensive Line In Very Good Hands

VDT Monday, Aug 21, 1989

The Valdosta Wildcats lost four starters from last year's offensive line. But they return senior **Matthew Butler** and **Shaun Eilders**, who started four games as a freshman. **Brooks Akins**, who started on the defensive line for Lowndes last season, is also on that line and he is a proven player...

Eilders may help the team with more than just his playing ability. During last Friday night's scrimmage, he was very vocal on the sidelines cheering on both the offense and defense...

The Wildcats punt return specialists **Joe Wright** and **Carlos Moore** both had big nights during the scrimmage as they set their team up with good field position several times. Moore was looked at during the scrimmage after taking a hit on the shoulder but he walked off the field when the game was over...

Chris Hart's interception during the scrimmage may be the start of a great senior season for

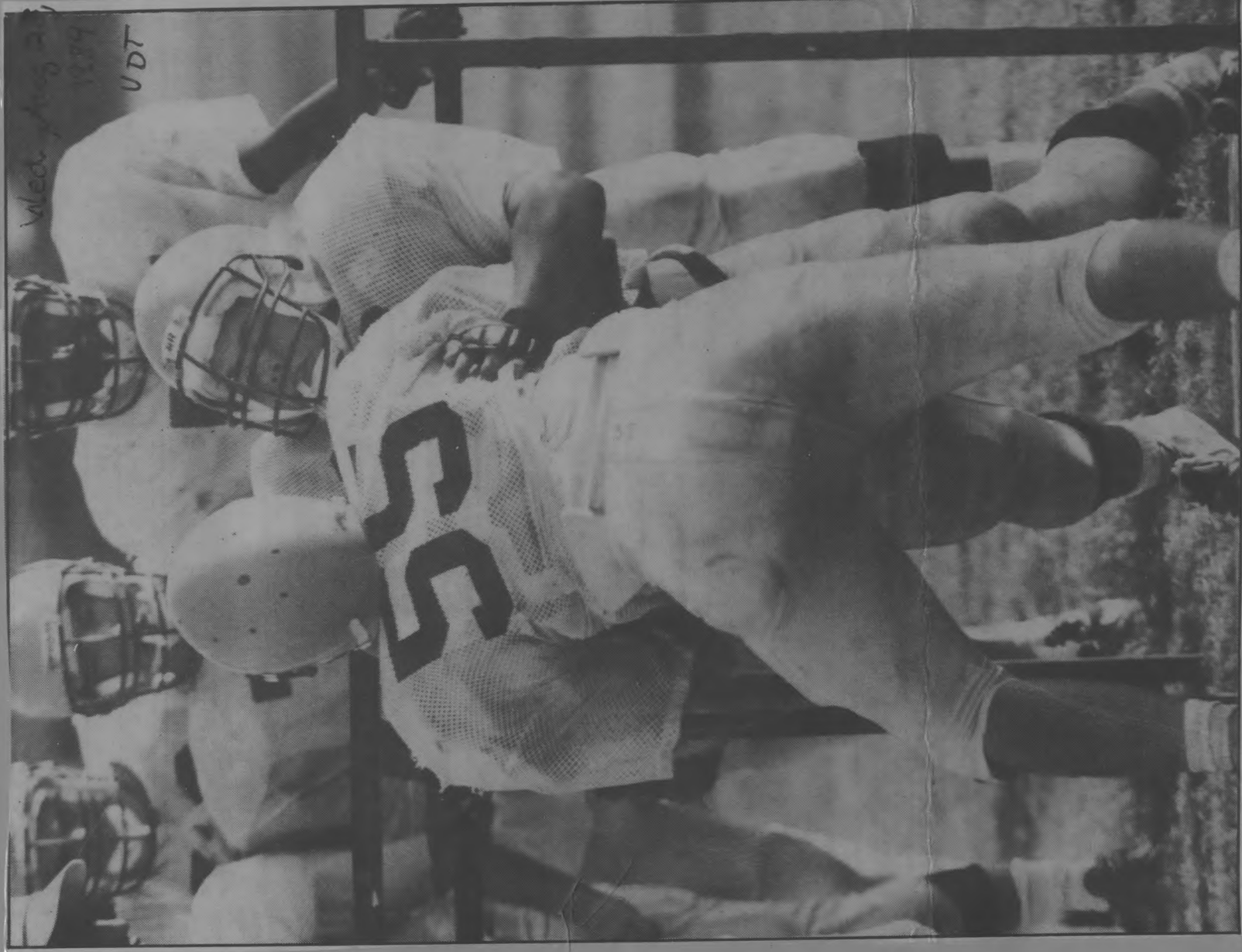
Wildcats Notebook

the cornerback. **Hart**, who is also a member of the Wildcat basketball team, is the younger brother of **Dwayne Hart** who is battling for a starting spot in the Valdosta State College defensive backfield...

The running back picture is still competitive with several backs looking for a starting spot. Sophomore **Albert Edmonds** kept his name in the running with a good performance in the final quarter of the scrimmage...

Last year's quarterback **Ben Hogan** did well on a preseason speed test at the University of South Carolina and some coaches are considering moving him to the offensive or defensive backfield.

—Chris Beckham



Valdosta High Wildcats' offensive linemen **Giles Godwin (55)** and **Matthew Butler (52)** square off against each other, as they go through their blocking drills during practice

Tuesday afternoon. The Wildcats finish their second week of football camp Friday with a team scrimmage at Cleveland Field to begin at 6 p.m. — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

'Cats Ready For Tonight

VDT Friday, Aug 25, 1989

around 6 p.m.

VHS head coach **Nick Hyder** said the team improved over the last week of the camp and Thursday's scrimmage worked to his team's advantage.

"We had the coaches off of the field and officials and everything and it was a good experience for us. We think the team performed well," Hyder said.

Defensive lineman **Andre Hampton**, line-backer **Dexter Daniels**, defensive back **Adrian Lewis** and running backs **Carlos Parker** and **Joe Wright** were just a few of the players that impressed Hyder with their work in the scrimmage and over the last week of camp.

By **CHRIS BECKHAM**
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats saved their best for last Thursday night as they were honored with a dinner sponsored by the Valdosta Touchdown Club. Before the dinner, the team went through a simulated scrimmage and were finally introduced to the fans and given awards following the workout.

The Wildcats will wrap up their annual two week camp with a picture and media day at Cleveland Field today at 4:30 p.m. That will be followed by a full scrimmage, the last before their season-opener next Friday against Camden County. The scrimmage will start as soon as pictures are done, probably

Hyder Pleased With Second Day

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder was pleased with Tuesday's practice adding that it was a marked improvement over the team's performance Monday.

"Today was a lot better than Monday. The first day of practice after camp is usually pretty miserable because the players have to sit in class all day and it takes a toll when they hit the field," Hyder said. "But yesterday was better than any other first day of school practice that I can remember."

The Wildcats have been preparing this week their opener this Friday night at Cleveland Field against the Camden County Wildcats. Camden,

who finished 5-5 last season before forfeiting their five wins, played well in the second half against Valdosta in last year's opener and Hyder knows they'll be ready to play when they come to town.

"Coach Bill Thombs is a good coach and we've been looking a lot at last year's film. We know that they will be anxious since they had to forfeit their wins last year," Hyder said. "The AAA ball that is played in south Georgia is about as good as the AAAA ball. They'll be bigger than us in size although they say they're not."

The Wildcats' practices do not involve hitting sleds or dummies. Instead, the team scrimmages over

Hyder

From Page 1-B

and over again. The coaches feel that kind of contact is good for the team but it also makes them even more anxious to see action against the other team.

"We need to play. It's hard to tell where we are but our kids have worked hard and they've kept a good attitude. But it's hard to tell how they'll react in a game-type situation until we see them on the field. With that kind of pressure, we don't know what they'll do," Hyder said.

Hyder said he was very comfortable with quarterback Jason Nichols at the controls before Nichols was lost for the year with a broken leg. But the coach has continued to get good performances from juniors Alton Hinson and Deric Cotton who are battling for the top quarterback job.

"Alton has the edge right now but Deric is getting close to where we need him to be. We're starting to feel a little bit better about him. There are a lot of things our offense can do and we hope to be able to mix it up quite a bit," Hyder said.

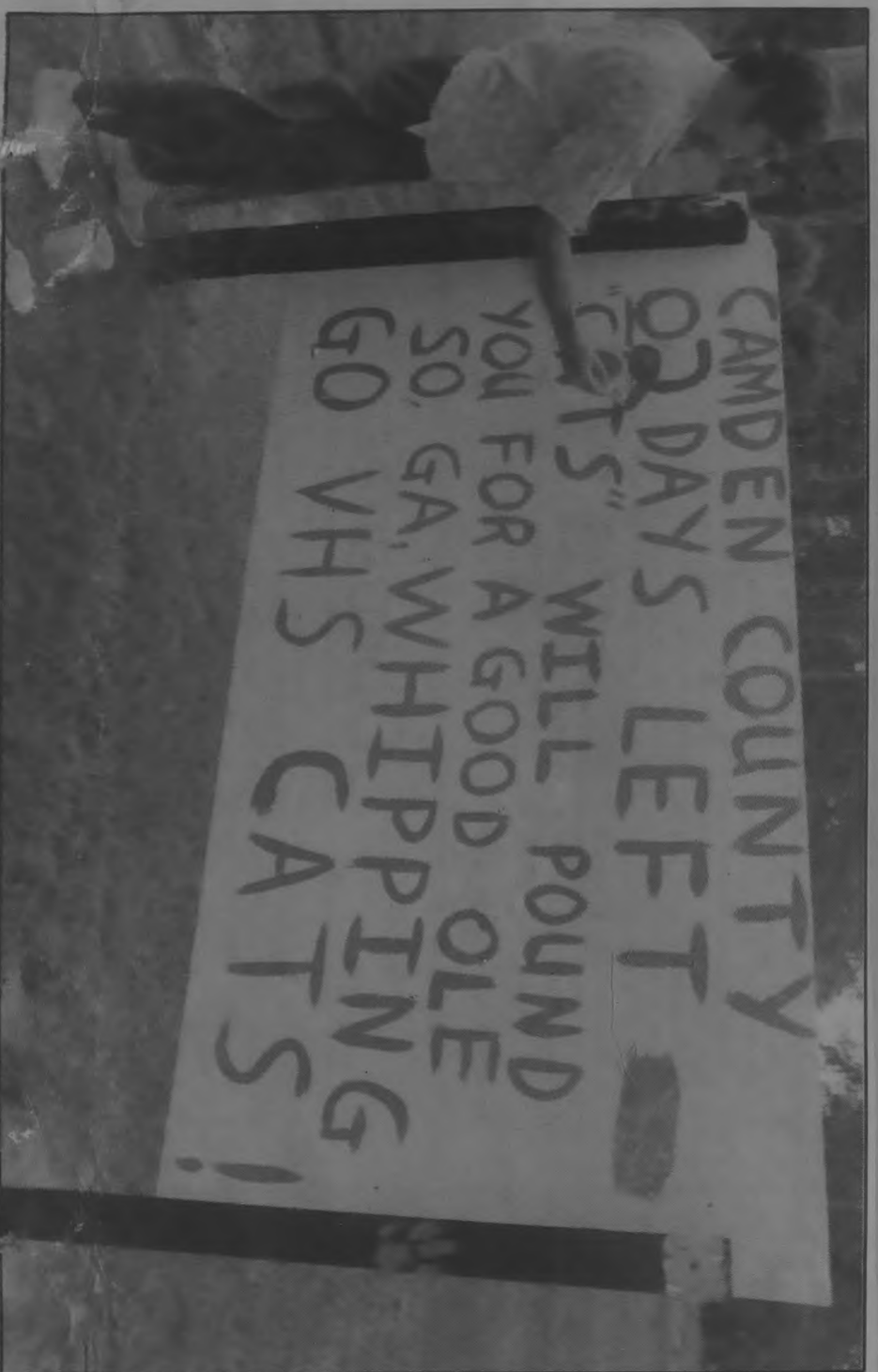
Hyder also mentioned sophomore Albert Edmonds who turned his head in Tuesday's practice. Edmonds is one of many backs battling Joe Wright and Carlos Parker for playing time in the Cats backfield.



Junior quarterback Deric Cotton attempts to break away from a defender during the Wildcats' practice Tuesday afternoon. The

Cats open up at home this Friday against Camden County — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT Aug 30, 1989



VDT

Wild About The Cats

Thurs. Aug. 31, 1989

Larry Lyons reminds motorists on Ga. Highway 221 (Lakeland Highway) of the Valdosta Wildcat clash Friday at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats host Camden

County in their season opener. Lyons, a 1970 VHS graduate, has been painting a sign for every Valdosta game since 1984 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Sunday Aug 27, 1989

8-E 1989 Football Edition

Aug 27, 1989

Valdosta's Unbeaten String On 1-AAAA Minds

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

For the last three years, the once very competitive Region 1-AAAA has been dominated by the Valdosta High Wildcats. Valdosta has not lost a regular season game in since 1985 but several teams hope to end that streak during 1989.

In the 1989 Region 1-AAAA coaches poll, the Wildcats finished in first place garnering all but one of the first place votes and 25 total points. Coffee County High was second with 20, Tift County was third with 15, Colquitt was fourth with 12, Bainbridge was fifth with 11 and Lowndes finished last with five points.

Most coaches noted that Lowndes' low ranking was due more to not knowing how a turnover in coaching staffs would affect the team.

Here is a look at the Region 1-AAAA:

TIFT COUNTY - The Blue Devils' strength lies in their huge offensive line where they return several key players. The biggest is senior tackle Brad Calhoun who weighs in at 270 pounds. He will be joined by senior Don Cole (215), junior Lee Bryan (200) and junior Clay Shiver (250). Senior Jonathan Jones is the returning tight end.

That line will need to produce to protect a backfield that is very shallow and very small. Junior Mickey Weldon will start at quarterback after missing last season with damage to his exterior cruciate ligament in his knee. Junior tailback Ricky Jennings will carry most of the running workload. Tift returns only 50 yards in total experience in their backfield. Michael Ewings returns as their impact receiver. He has major college potential.

The Devils have no returners on the defensive line but senior Gary Lupo has been impressive at end. Shiver started both ways last year and may be called in again to do the same. Junior inside linebacker Mark Johnson was second on the team in tackles last season and will anchor that position.

COLQUITT COUNTY - The Packers led by head coach Jim Hughes are coming off of their third

Region 1-AAAA

Here is the Region 1-AAAA preseason football poll as picked by the league's coaches. The poll includes teams by rankings with last year's record, first-place votes and total points. Totals were tabulated by a 5-4-3-2-1 point system.

- 1) Valdosta (12-1), 5, 25
- 2) Coffee County (7-3), 1, 20
- 3) Tift County (4-6), 15
- 4) Colquitt County (6-5), 12
- 5) Bainbridge (4-5-1), 11
- 6) Lowndes (3-7), 5

consecutive 6-5 record. Their leader on the field may be under some pressure since his older brother happens to be the new head coach at the University of Georgia. Senior Bucky Goff played behind Samford signee Ben Wiggins last season and has very little experience.

Senior receiver Tim Lewis is the main weapon on the offense where he has started for two years. The Packers have no returners in the backfield but will get some help from senior Spindola Merritt, senior Adrian Herring and junior Eric Hawkins.

Senior Darius Dawson led the team with 104 tackles last season, 50 more than anyone else, and he will be one of the top defensive players in the region. Other defensive standouts include senior defensive tackle Deon Williams, sophomore linebacker Jerry Brooks and junior linebackers Ty Greene and Matt Madison.

COFFEE COUNTY - The Trojans may be the darkhorse candidate to upset the Wildcats in the region race. The Trojans return 24 seniors and 13 starters from a year ago at key positions. Leading the offense will be quarterback Reggie Ingram who passed for 560 yards, ran for 167 yards and scored five touchdowns in 1988.

The Glover cousins, Reggie and

Jonathan, will handle most of the running chores while four starters return on the offensive line. The biggest is 6-5, 250-pound Charlie Smith.

The leader of the Trojan defense is 6-foot, 212-pound senior linebacker Andy Rease. He is a four-year starter and is another of the tough linebackers in the region. Other returners on the defense include linebacker Clifford Kirkland, defensive linemen Royce Burkett, Kelvin Chandel, and David Drury and cornerback Tyrone Eady.

The overall Coffee team has size in places but is overall small as a team.

BAINBRIDGE - The Bearcats are coming off of a 4-5-1 record in 1988 and head coach Sonny Smart will look to improve on that in his second year at the helm.

The key players on the offense will be 198-pound sophomore running back Vidal Lively and 166-pound junior running back Rodney Close. Close was a linebacker last season but he hopes to add some punch to the offense this year.

Two players are vying for the starting nod at quarterback. Sophomores Pat Gaines and Brian Powell are both young but one will be the leader of the offense. Anchoring the offensive line will be 252-pound junior guard John Hinson.

The Valdosta High School Wildcats have a moment of silence for prayer prior to their 1988 game with Lowndes High School - Times File Photo by Paul Leavy.



Wildcats Are Getting Some E(special)ly Solid Play

Monday Aug 28, 1989

Valdosta Notebook

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said after the scrimmage that he is considering moving sophomore tailback Albert Edmonds to linebacker so the talented youngster could see more playing time.

During the annual Wildcat fitness tests this past week, senior defensive end Frederick Henton scored an incredible 242 points, the highest of any team member. Henton weighs only 190 pounds but bench presses over 320 pounds and runs the 40-yard dash in 4.55 seconds. The Wildcat tests are based on speed, strength and agility. Henton also sported a new haircut for the Wildcat picture day before the scrimmage.

-Chris Beckham

The Wildcats looked loaded on both their first team offense and defense Friday night. But one area that may have gone unnoticed was the special teams.

Joe Wright ran one punt back for a touchdown and the returners set up their offense in good shape several times during the night...Dow Drury not only nailed all of his extra points, but he also booted a long field goal during the scrimmage. Along with that, he kicked off during the second half of the scrimmage. Linebacker Anthony Williams, who kicked off last year, held that responsibility during the first half.

While working with the second team, punter Steve Jarmillo got most all of the punting activity since the second team offense never scored on the first team defense. Returning punter Eric Phillips got in a few kicks toward the end of the scrim-

VALDOSTA WILDCATS



VALDOSTA WILDCATS SCHEDULE

Colors: Black and Gold

SEPT. 1	.....	at CAMDEN CO.
SEPT. 9	.....	GREENE-TALIAFERRO
SEPT. 15	.....	at WAYCROSS
SEPT. 29	.....	NORTHSIDE (WR)
OCT. 6	.....	at STATESBORO
OCT. 13	.....	BAINBRIDGE.
OCT. 20	.....	COLQUIT CO.
OCT. 27	.....	TIFT CO.
NOV. 3	.....	at COFFEE CO.
NOV. 10	.....	at LOWNDES

Sun. Aug 27, 1989 VDT



STAN GRUBB

Sports Writer

'Cats To Have A Breather

Just when I thought everything was safe, it's time for the opening week of high school football picks.

Although I did not keep a record last season, I can tell you it wasn't anything to write home about. This year a seasonal record will be kept for all of you who would like to see just how the crystal ball is working in 1989.

There have been a lot of changes in the local and state high school football front. But the questions left to be answered are this: Will the changes be better? How will the players react? Will the fans pack the stands? It will not take long to find out in this state.

On paper, Nick Hyder's Valdosta High Wildcats look to be the favorites to win what some people are calling "The Wildcat" region. Region 1-AAAA is where most fans can find the best in Georgia high school football. It always seems that each year in 1-AAAA, any team has the capability to beat the other on a given night.

I know one team hoping that holds true — the Tift County Blue Devils. As many of you know, the road team in the Valdosta-Tift series has caused problems for the home team. Well, this year Tift is coming home to "Death Valley." But first things first.

Camden County at Valdosta

It will be a battle of the 'Cats in Cleveland Field as the Camden County Wildcats will try to improve on their point total from last year.

In 1988, the Valdosta Wildcats put the game away before 9 p.m. That's great if you are a "Dallas" television fan or someone who likes to beat the crowd home. If you're a football fan like most in Valdosta, it gets old in a hurry. Not so much that Valdosta is stomping the opponent, but that the Wildcats are not even being tested. But it beats losing.

Although most coaches hate for people to predict their team to play very well or destroy the other squad, Valdosta has no worries Friday night.

This is one cat that Valdosta can handle.

As far as Camden County even breaking the scoreboard, well, your guess is as good as mine.

I figure it will be a great chance for Valdosta's reserves to get a lot of game action. Therefore, Camden stands a reasonable chance at denting the scoreboard. If Valdosta doesn't want them to score, they will not.

On offense, the 'Cats have no Ceaser or Roberts in the backfield, but Carlos Parker and Company should do just fine. As far as quarterback, the very few times I've seen Alton Hitson or Deric Cotton play, they have done the job. At times, Valdosta needs no quarterback.

Without delaying the suspense any longer ... **VALDOSTA** by 24.

Hyder Recalls Last Meeting

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

During last year's Camden County-Valdosta matchup, the Wildcats from Valdosta had things going their way in the first half by scoring 31 points. However, the tough Camden defense held their opponents scoreless in the second half and gained VHS head coach Nick Hyder's respect.

Following that contest, the Camden squad played some good ball and finished the year 5-5. However, they were forced to forfeit all five of their wins due to the use of an over-age player, wide receiver Michael Baker.

Last season definitely left a bad taste in the team's mouths and they no doubt want to start again this Friday night in Cleveland Field with Valdosta.

One of the leaders of the Camden

'Cats will be senior fullback Dexter Burch, a 5-9, 235-pound load. Burch has started for three years at guard but was moved to the backfield in the spring. He will be a key for coach Bill Thombs' run-and-shoot offense that returns only two more starters.

Junior Marlo Mobley started the last two games at quarterback last year and will return to duty there this season. Junior linemen David Bowen and Clay Clark are the other two returning offensive starters at center and guard, respectively.

The Camden defense allowed an average of over 21 points per game last season but have five starters back this year. The big boys, as usual, are on the defensive line where 260-pound senior Stephen Mayner and 220-pound Nathan Deen call home.

Senior Harold Griffin may be the best defender at linebacker and he

will be joined by Burt Miller and Dave Boeck. With Mobley gone to quarterback, senior Emanuel Butler takes over as the leader of the secondary.

Hyder said that his team continued their good week of practicing Wednesday and are ready to get the season started.

"The team seems pretty serious in practice and we'll find out Friday night if there is anything that we've been overlooking. They have several good athletes including Mobley at quarterback. He has great mobility and he can break a long run any time," Hyder said. "This is one of the best openers we're going to play in quite a while.

"Usually, depth is an advantage to us but we're still searching for it this year. We hope we start to find some of that Friday night. Coach Thombs is a good coach and good coaches don't lose two years in a row," Hyder said.

SPORTS

'Cats Are Second Best At Least They Are After The Season's First Prep Poll

Wire, Staff Reports

After being ranked the top team in the state throughout last season, the Valdosta Wildcats enter the 1989 season ranked second behind the Warner Robins Demons according to the Associated Press' panel of Georgia sports writers and broadcasters.

In other classes, the panel members predicted Thomasville will end up on top of Class AAA, Washington-Wilkes will lead Class AA and Lincoln County will prove to be best in Class A.

Class AAAAA

Warner Robins and Valdosta missed a matchup last year when Valdosta's Wildcats were upset in the quarterfinal round by Bradwell Institute, 16-14. Warner Robins ousted Bradwell 34-6 in the semifinals, then routed Brookwood for the title 33-7.

The powerful finish for the team that was unranked as the season began propelled it into the national limelight. A USA Today preseason poll selected Warner Robins as the No. 2 prep team in the nation, behind only Pine Forest High School of Pensacola, Fla. Valdosta also is on the newspaper's list, at No. 14.

No team has won back-to-back titles in Georgia's Class AAAAA. Hyder said being ranked second in the state gives his team yet another goal to shoot for.

"I'm just proud that high schools are ranked. It's good way for a lot of high schools to be noticed," Hyder said. "Number one is where everyone would like to be and it just gives us more incentive to play harder and try to bump the number one

Class AAA

Thomasville will be paced by Thomas Bostic, who rushed for 894 yards and passed for 860 last year as quarterback. He is one of 11 starters returning from last year's squad.

Class AA

Washington-Wilkes dropped a 17-16 decision to Robert E. Lee in last year's championship game. While the AP panel split its first place votes between the two, Washington-Wilkes picked up enough support from other ballots to take the top spot over Robert E. Lee.

Class A

Lincoln County lost to Clinch County 21-7 in last year's quarterfinals of Class A, but it got the nod in this year's preseason poll.

Here is the 1989 preseason poll of The Associated Press' board of sports writers and broadcasters ranking Georgia's high school football teams. Team names are followed by first place votes in parentheses, where applicable, and total points:

Class AAAAA

1. Warner Robins (10), 127
2. Valdosta (3), 115
3. Griffin, 95
4. Southwest DeKalb, 74
5. Brookwood, 62
6. (tie) McEachern, 46
7. Clarke Central, 46
8. Tift Co., 32
9. Morrow, 30
10. Douglas Co., 21

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Baldwin, Bannaker, Bradwell Institute, Brunswick, Cedar Shoals, Coffee County, Crestwood, Newnan, Newton County, Northside-Warner Robins, Riverdale, Wheeler.

Class AAA

1. Thomasville (11), 126
2. Stephens Co. (1), 100
3. Dalton (1), 93
4. Marietta, 78
5. Worth Co., 72
6. Thomson, 66
7. Crisp Co., 37
8. Carrollton, 28
9. Winder-Barrow, 27
10. Hart Co., 18

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical

Ga. Prep Poll

order: Albany, Central Thomasville, Clarkston, Gainesville, Lakeside-Atlanta, North Springs, Northwest Whitfield, Statesboro, Tucker and Wayne County.

Class AA

1. Washington-Wilkes (6), 123
2. Robert E. Lee (6), 108
3. Lovett, 95
4. Mary Persons, 67
5. Rockmart, 50
6. West Rome, 43
7. Early Co., 41
8. Manchester, (1) 39
9. Waycross, 29
10. Fitzgerald, 19

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Adairsville, Campbell-Fairburn, Cartersville, Cook, Darlington, East Hall, Greene-Taliaferro, Jackson, Mitchell-Baker, Oconee County, Perry, Screven County, Sequoyah, Turner, Vidalia.

Class A

1. Lincoln Co. (9), 120
2. Dacula (2), 101
3. Clinch Co. (2), 91
4. Metter, 82
5. Wilcox Co., 71
6. Monticello, 63
7. Palmetto, 45
8. Claxton, 40
9. Warren Co., 29
10. Bowdon, 17

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Brookstone, Buford, Commerce, Greenville, Heard County, Pelham, Savannah Christian and Trion.

Graduation Special For Hatcher Trio

Friday, June 2, 1989

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

Fraternal triplets Paul, Josie and Honey Hatcher will be, as far as they know, the first triplets to graduate from Valdosta High School.

"A bunch of twins are graduating, but we're the only triplets," Josie said.

The three were born in Valdosta and have been going to school together all their lives, although rarely in the same classes. Graduation, for them, will be an experience which would not be the same if all three had not made it together.

"I don't think I would have gone through graduation without all three of us," Honey said. "It would not have felt right. It's kind of like the three Musketeers, all for one and one for all."

The children of Bonnie and Bud Hatcher, have different jobs, interests and personalities.

"They are really three different people and three individuals and have been since they were born," Bud Hatcher said.

As they grew up, the Hatchers say they squabbled just like any other brothers and sisters, but most of the time stuck together. They get along better now than when they were youngsters. Their descriptions of each other definitely reflect the differences in their personalities. Paul likes hunting and fishing, "boy things", Josie said.

Honey is the shy one, and Josie can meet anyone and "make an instant friend," Honey said.

While they fought as youngsters, they say they have grown up a lot and learned to get along. Their lives have really been no different than sisters and brothers who are not triplets, at least from their point of view.

"They (students) never treated us See **TRIPLETS**, Page 3A



Paul, Josie and Honey Hatcher try on their graduation attire. The triplets will graduate together from Valdosta High School. — Times Staff Photo By Paul Leavy.

Triplets

Friday, June 2, 1989

From Page 1A

any different," Honey said. "It's never been, there's the three famous triplets, they treated us just like anyone else."

People do often assume the triplets are interested in the same things. But the Hatchers say, they are totally different.

Paul said being one of triplets in high school has been fun, but sometimes, being the only boy in the

group isn't so great.

"They (Josie and Honey) take sides with each other if we get in an argument," Paul said. Honey and Josie said, even when they were getting along, there were times when Paul felt left out because Honey and Josie did "girl" things together.

"I sometimes wished there were two boys and one girl, or three boys," Paul said.

Hyder: No One Is Forced To Pray

VD T June 1, 1989

JAY JONES
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High football coach Nick Hyder said his team will continue to pray before games despite the recent Supreme Court decision to let stand a ban on organized prayers before high school football games.

The Supreme Court, without comment, refused to review a ruling in a Douglas County case that such pregame prayers are unconstitutional.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, by a 2-1 vote Jan. 3, said prayers carried over the public address system before Douglas County High School football games should be stopped.

Hyder said no one was forced to pray.

"We have always had prayer before the games in the past," Hyder said. "As a team we will continue to pray and if a youngster does not want to participate then he

can step aside and it won't be held against him. It will be up to the board of education to decide whether we continue a pregame prayer for the crowd, but we don't want to force pray anybody. I don't think Jesus would force it on anybody."

In a ruling affecting all public schools in Georgia, Alabama and Florida, the appeals court said organized prayers violated the separation of church and state required by

past the Constitution.

Douglas County school board lawyers told the justices that pregame prayers have become "as much a part of the tradition of high school football as the national anthem, marching bands, cheerleaders and baton twirlers."

Hyder said perhaps more effort should be placed in combating drugs and teen pregnancy than questioning **PRAYER**, Page 2A

From Page 1A

ing the legalities of pregame football prayers.

"When they start taking 'In God We Trust' off the money then I will think they are being serious about separating church and state," Hyder said. "Maybe those people worried about forcing prayer on people should start worrying about people forcing drugs on our kids. Those

drug dealers don't think much about prayer and that's what we have to concern ourselves with."

Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman said the school board have not decided if the schools will be allowed to have a pregame prayer but tentatively said would follow the courts' decision.

"I don't agree with ruling since they open the Supreme Court and

Congress with a prayer, but we're not above the law but so I think would follow the ruling."

Altman said Valdosta High pregame prayers are done by different students representing the school's organizations like 4-H and the Y Club. He added the school asks no pastors from the community for the prayer.

While disagreeing with the ruling

Altman said he wasn't sure if a mass disobedience of the law by area school systems would have much affect.

"I think it would make those in authority take a second look at the banning, but it would be difficult because those who made the decision also control the purse strings. It's hard to run a school system without money," Altman said.

Saturday

September 2, 1989



Valdosta junior tailback Joe Wright explodes through an opening in the Camden County defense for the first touchdown of the season for the Wildcats. The 'Cats won, 34-0. See story on page 1B — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.



Kip McLeod (left), daughter Kristine, and Ralph Starling make the most of a pre-game moment of silence at Friday's Valdosta-Camden game — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

All Quiet On The Grid Prayer Front

By **SHERRIE FARABEE**
Times Staff Writer

The transition from a prayer to a moment of silence before the football game went off without incident at Valdosta High School's season opener Friday against Camden County.

Before the game, Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman asked fans to share in a moment of

silence and "consider the welfare and safety" of the young people in their prayers.

The change is in compliance with a recent court ruling banning prayer before football games and other public school athletic events and activities. The ruling, the result of a case by a Georgia resident, ruled prayer before games unconstitutional.

Before past Valdosta High games,

a prayer was offered by school club members or other students representing the student body, Altman said.

"We're in a position now where some of the things we're doing, like not opening the game with a prayer, are not what we would prefer to do," he said. "We would prefer to have the prayer; at the same time we do know we are responsible to

follow the law of the land and at this time, until something is done, this is the law."

Several people attending the game said they were not happy about the change.

After the observance, fan Jerome Foreman said he believed prayer before the games should continue. Other fans shared his view.

"Everybody in my family is very

upset," said Jeane Tarpley, wife of coach Charles Tarpley and parent of a team member. "My husband is a coach, my son is a player and my littlest son is a water boy and he was very upset about it."

Valdosta Marjorie Campbell said she did not think anyone in Valdosta was against prayer before the foot-

See PRAYER, Page 2A

Prayer

From Page 1A

ball games.

"I think they should have the prayer," she said. "I don't think any one person should decide what everyone else does. If they don't like

it they can leave."

Opinions among students attending the game were mixed. Lisa Blair, 15, said she thought there should be a prayer before the game. "I think it helps the game," she

said.

Eric Miller, 15, said he thought the moment of silence was "cool" and Chris Hutton, 15, said he was comfortable with the change and whether a prayer or silence was offered did not matter to him.

High School Scores

Camden Co.	0	Berrien Co.	18
Valdosta.....	34	Pelham.....	14
Lowndes.....	15	Clinch Co.....	22
Wrrr Robins.....	28	Calhoun Co.....	14
Brooks Co.	0		
Cook.....	13		
Valwood.....	6		
Brookwood.....	13		



Former Valdosta coach Wright Bazemore and his wife, Betty, were among the fans at Valdosta's season opener Friday night in Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Fitting Start To Wildcats' Season

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Wright Bazemore, who was struck down early this summer by a stroke, returned to the field where he helped shape the Valdosta High Wildcats into one of the most successful high school football teams in history.

Friday night as the Wildcats opened their season against Camden County, Bazemore and his wife, Betty, attended the

game as the coach accomplished a goal he'd been looking forward to for many weeks.

Prior to the start of the game, Bill Middleton, a former player under Bazemore, made a speech and welcomed Coach Bazemore to the game. He also presented his former coach with a gold painted brick taken from the old Valdosta High School.

Bazemore continues to undergo physical therapy at home after several weeks of recuperation in Warm Springs.

VHS Gets Back To Work Wildcats Still Looking For Depth

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

After taking a day off for Labor Day, the Valdosta High Wildcat team returned to practice Tuesday for the first time since their 34-0 win over the Camden County Wildcats. Head coach Nick Hyder said the practice was geared more toward the offense Tuesday while the defense will look at more closely Wednesday.

Another thing the VHS coaches were looking for was depth among the team's backups. The starters turned in stellar performances last Friday night and Hyder said his backups are improving daily.

"Our frontrunners are doing a good job but we wanted to take a look at some of the younger players and develop some more depth. We like to create competition at different positions so that the players will work harder. In turn, that helps the team," Hyder said.

This week's opponent will be the Greene-Taliferro Tigers this Saturday night at Cleveland Field at 8 p.m. The Tigers were blown out by Thomson last Friday night, 32-7, and their game this weekend may not be any easier. But Hyder said his team will not overlook their opponents.

"The way we see it, the score is 0-0 until somebody does something about it regard-

less of what the prognosticators say. We're not going to take anyone lightly," Hyder said.

One position that the Wildcats are creating some competition is at punter. Steve Jar-millo punted in the first half last Friday night while Eric Phillips did the job in the second half. Both did a good job and Hyder said he will continue to work both until one emerges as the best.

"One of the secrets to our system is that we make our team better by creating competition. We prepare kids for next year and it also helps us not become fat and lazy in the middle of the season," Hyder said. "Sometimes we may know one kid is better than another but we let them continue to compete. Sometimes the other kid will beat out the starter and that helps our team. A player that quits fighting may also quit in the middle of a game."

The Wildcats also began to simulate the Tigers' wishbone offense during Tuesday's practice and, although Greene-Taliferro were beaten badly last week, Hyder said the Valdosta High scouts were impressed with some facets of their team.

"Our scouts did a fine job with their reports and that is a definite advantage for us. They beat Thomson last year and Thomson was obviously ready for the matchup.

Sports

'Cats Hang In At Number Two

The Associated Press

Robert E. Lee of Thomaston replaced Washington-Wilkes at the top of the Class AA poll in this week's AP high school football rankings, but the other three top teams — Warner Robins, Thomasville and Lincoln County — held their No. 1 spots.

Washington-Wilkes dropped out of the top spot and down to fifth after a 16-7 loss to Class A Lincoln County in a battle of No. 1 teams. That allowed Robert E. Lee, last week's second-ranked Class AA team, to move up even though it did not play.

Thomasville, a 26-7 winner over Colquitt County, was a unanimous selection in Class AAA. No other top team received more than eight of the ten first-place votes cast in each class.

New teams moving onto the list from The Associated Press board of sports writers and broadcasters included New-

nan, Cedar Shoals, Baldwin, Coffee, Mitchell-Baker and Tilton.

Class AAAA

Warner Robins, with eight first-place votes, maintained last week's margin over No. 2 Valdosta, which received two votes for the top spot.

Last week's third-ranked team, Griffin, fell to ninth after a 19-14 loss to Newnan. Newnan rode its victory into the seventh spot on the poll. Southwest Dekalb, Brookwood and McEachern, sitting third through fifth, each rose one spot from last week.

Class AAA

Thomasville's 28-point lead over second place Marist and Dalton gave it the largest margin among this week's No. 1 teams. Marist moved up from fourth after a 7-0 win over last week's No. 2, Stephens Co., which fell to seventh. Dalton, which did not play, moved from third.

The Valdosta Daily Times

High School Poll

Sept 6
1989

Here is the latest poll of The Associated Press board of sports writers and broadcasters' ranking Georgia's high school football teams. Team numbers are followed by won-lost record, number of first-place votes and total points.

Class AAAA

1. Warner Robins (1-0), 8, 78.
2. Valdosta (1-0), 2, 70.
3. Southwest Dekalb (1-0), 68.
4. Brookwood (1-0), 62.
5. McEachern (1-0), 52.
6. Marrow (1-0), 50.
7. Newnan (1-0), 27.
8. Griffin (0-1), 13.
9. Cedar Shoals (1-0), 11.
10. (tie) Baldwin (1-0), 11.
11. Coffee (1-0), 11.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Bainbridge, Broadwell, Effingham, Evans, Greene, Hartwell, Irwin, Jones, Lanier, Northside-Warner, Robins, Riverdale, Tift Co.

Class AAA

1. Thomaston (1-0), 10, 100.
2. (tie) Marist (1-0), 72.
3. Dalton (0-0), 72.
4. Worth Co. (1-0), 68.
5. Thomson (1-0), 52.
6. Crisp Co. (1-0), 44.
7. Stephens Co. (0-1), 40.
8. Carrollton (1-0), 28.
9. Hart Co. (1-0), 24.
10. Winder-Berrow (1-0), 19.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Aetna, Buford, Brookstone, Buford, Commerce, Irwin Co., Palmetto, Wrens.

Class AA

1. Robert E. Lee (0-0), 8, 92.
2. Lovett (1-0), 2, 88.
3. Mableton (0-0), 67.
4. Rockmart (1-0), 60.
5. Rye, Lakeside (0-1), 53.
6. West Point (1-0), 49.
7. West Point (1-0), 49.
8. Early Co. (1-0), 38.
9. Monticello (1-0), 29.
10. Mitchell-Baker (1-0), 14.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Campbell-Fairburn, Cartersville, Fitzgerald, Hartwell, East Hall, East Rome, Swainsboro, Vidalia.

Class A

1. Lincoln Co. (1-0), 8, 78.
2. Decatur (1-0), 1, 62.
3. Clinch Co. (1-0), 1, 74.
4. Meigs (1-0), 58.
5. Wilcox Co. (1-0), 53.
6. Monticello (1-0), 50.
7. Warren Co. (1-0), 46.
8. Gordon (1-0), 37.
9. Tilton (1-0), 17.
10. Brown (1-0), 10.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Aetna, Buford, Brookstone, Buford, Commerce, Irwin Co., Palmetto, Wrens.

Wednesday, September 6, 1989 1-B

No. 4 Worth County, No. 5 Thomson and No. 6 Crisp County each moved up one spot. Carrollton stayed in eighth, followed by Hart County and Winder-Berrow, which traded places from last week.

Class AA

Robert E. Lee held a lead of only four points over Lovett, up from third last week. Mary Persons and Rockmart also climbed one spot to third and fourth, making room for former No. 1 Washington-Wilkes at fifth.

West Rome held onto sixth while Waycross, 41-13 winner over Ware County, rose from ninth to seventh, followed by Early County and Manchester.

Class A

The first six places in the Class A poll remained unchanged from the preseason poll. Lincoln County, Dacula and Clinch County formed the top tier with 98, 83 and 76 points, followed by Metter, Wilcox County and Monticello with 58, 53 and 50.



Wildcat running back Carlos Parker dodges a would be Camden County tackler and heads up field Friday at Cleveland Field. Photo by Paul Leavy.

'Cats Defend Expectations

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcat defense has been built up and built up since the beginning of spring practice. Friday night in Cleveland Field, those expectations were met with tremendous success.

Holding Camden County's defense to minus-25 yards in total offense, the Wildcats won their season opener 34-0, trouncing one of the "other" Wildcats from St. Mary's.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said the night was a success for his team and especially his spectacular defense.

"We cannot complain about our defense. We are right on schedule or maybe even a little ahead of where I thought we were. Jack Rudolph, Freddy Waters, Keith Middleton and Charles Tarpley all did a great job preparing this unit and it was a very team-oriented effort," Hyder said.

The Camden offense was supposedly going to be built around fullback Dexter Burch. But the bruising runner saw very limited action and only carried the ball one time during the game. Camden head coach Bill Thombs said Burch recently had a cyst removed and they decided to

keep him out of action. Almost lost in the middle of the great defensive effort was a good night on offense. Junior tailback Joe Wright led the Wildcats rushing attack with 59 yards on 12 attempts including a 34-yard touchdown that opened the Wildcat scoring in the first quarter.

As planned, the Wildcats used a two-quarterback system and it worked well. Junior Alton Hisson started the game but only threw two passes in the first half. He was relieved in the middle of the second quarter by junior Deric Cotton who took the offensive attack to the air.

Cotton completed his first pass to wide receiver Carlos Moore for 16 yards and, with 1:41 left in the first half, found Moore again. This time, Moore was in the end zone to haul in Cotton's 26-yard aerial and put the Wildcats up 14-0 going into halftime.

Without Burch in the backfield, Camden had to rely almost solely on quarterback Marlowe Mobley. Mobley showed some scrambling ability but could not hold off the defensive rush all night.

Early in the fourth period, Mobley went back to pass and was hit by several Wildcats. He fumbled and

See 'Cats, Page 3B

'Cats

From Page 1B

defensive lineman Robert Fillmore recovered on the Camden 17-yard line. Three plays later, sophomore Dow Drury kicked a 34-yard field goal to put the 'Cats up, 17-0.

Mobley was hurt when he lost the ball and had to leave the game. His replacement, Keith Cummings, found out quickly how tough the VHS defense was when, on third and eight, he was intercepted by Trampis Wrice at the Camden 48-yard line. Wrice returned the ball to the Camden 10 before being finally knocked out of bounds.

On the Wildcats' next offensive

play, tailback Chris Chachere ran in the touchdown to put the game on ice at 24-0.

Wildcats' defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was a bit surprised at Camden's total offensive yardage but was not surprised at the way his team played.

"I'm proud of everyone on our defense. We alternate 16 players and the second bunch stood with this team just as well as the first group. We were still running to the football even in the third and fourth quarters and on a hot night like this, that says something," Rudolph said.

Drury added another field goal, a

34-yarder, and Albert Edmonds scored on a 2-yard run to round out the Wildcat scoring. Drury was perfect on four extra point attempts.

Valdosta-Camden County At Valdosta

Valdosta	Camden County
5	0
29-118	28-(27)
8-18	2-11
90	
1	2
5-31.0	7-27.4
5-35	9-47
1-0	4-2
Valdosta	7 7 0 20-34
Camden County	0 0 0 0-0

Scoring Summary

Valdosta—Joe Wright 34 run (Dow Drury kick)

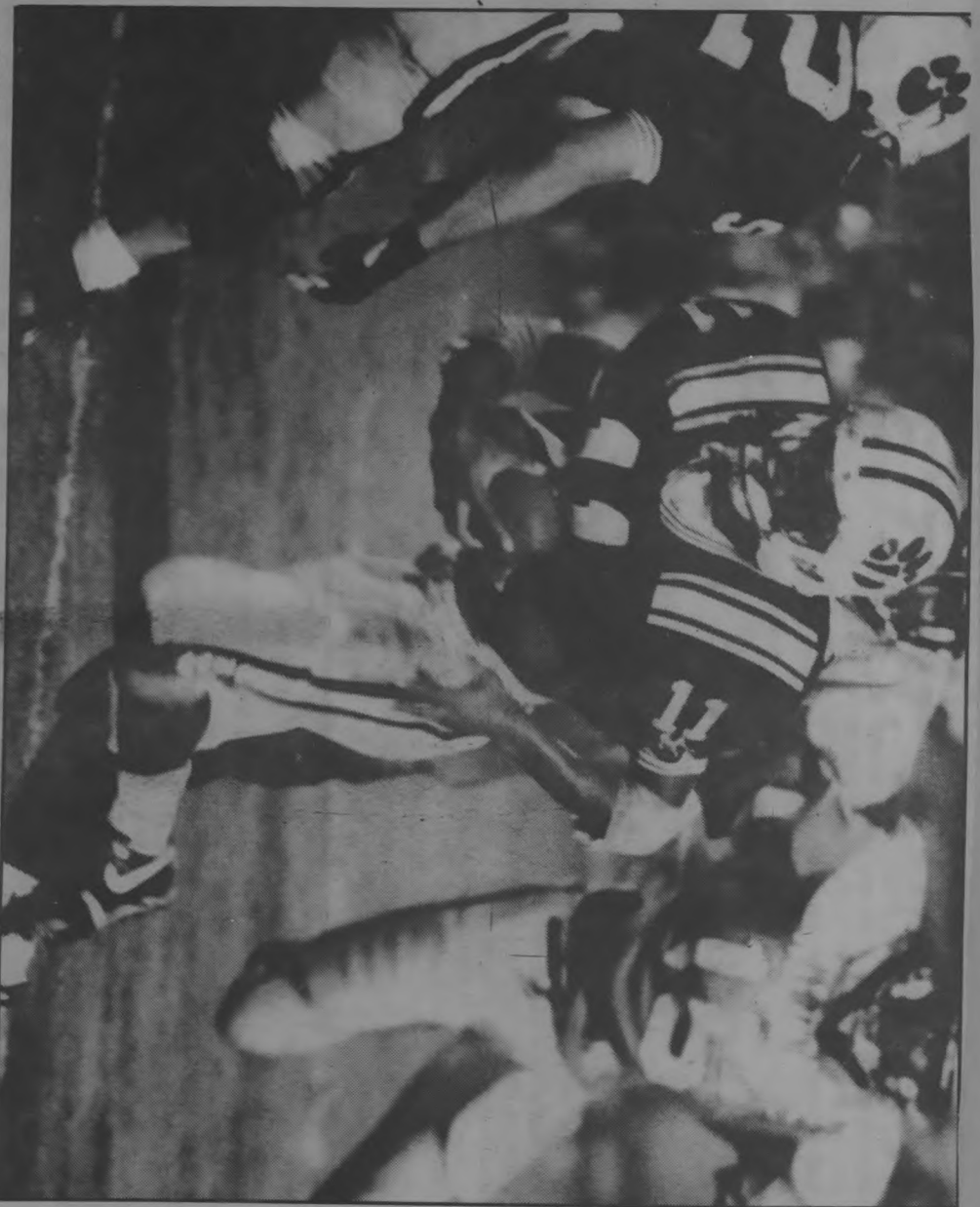
Valdosta—Carlos Moore 26 pass from Deric Cotton (Drury kick)
Valdosta—Drury 34 field goal
Valdosta—Chris Chachere 10 run (Drury kick)
Valdosta—Drury 34 field goal
Valdosta—Albert Edmonds 2 run (Drury kick)

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta—Wright 12-59, Carlos Parker 6-20, Shawn Gay 1-7, Alton Hisson 3-(-7), Cotton 2-(-2), Mickey McSwain 1-2, Moore 1-(-5), Dexter Mitchell 1-2, Kendrick Patrick 1-(-1), Chachere 2-10, Edmonds 2-8, Camden County—Marlowe Mobley 10-(-26), Terrance Baker 5-(-7), Burt Miller 3-2, Dexter Burch 1-2, Corey Dawson 1-2, Keith Cummings 1-3.

Passing: Valdosta—Cotton 3-9 63, Hisson 2-5 8, Jamey Waters 3-5 19, Camden County—Mobley 1-3 2, Cummings 1-3 0.

Receiving: Valdosta—Moore 2-42, McSwain 2-21, Dexter Dudley 2-12, Brice Hunter 1-7, Justin Bridges 1-5, Tracy Carter 1-3, Camden County—Harry Cummings 1-3, Rama Nightingale 1-0.



Valdosta junior tailback Joe Wright explodes through an opening in the Camden County defense for the first touchdown of the season for the Wildcats. The Cats won, 34-0. See story on page 1B — Times Photo By Paul Leavy.



Kip McLeod (left), daughter Kristine, and Ralph Starling make the most of a pre-game moment of silence at Friday's Valdosta-Camden game — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

All Quiet On The Grid Prayer Front

By SHERRIE FARABEE
Times Staff Writer

The transition from a prayer to a moment of silence before the football game went off without incident at Valdosta High School's season opener Friday against Camden County.

silence and "consider the welfare and safety" of the young people in their prayers.

The change is in compliance with a recent court ruling banning prayer before football games and other public school athletic events and activities. The ruling, the result of a case by a Georgia resident, ruled prayer before games unconstitutional.

Before the game, Valdosta School Superintendent Walter Altman asked fans to share in a moment of

a prayer was offered by school club members or other students representing the student body, Altman said.

"We're in a position now where some of the things we're doing, like not opening the game with a prayer, are not what we would prefer to do," he said. "We would prefer to have the prayer at the same time we do know we are responsible to

Prayer

follow the law of the land and at this time, until something is done, this is the law."

Several people attending the game said they were not happy about the change.

After the observance, fan Jerome Foreman said he believed prayer before the games should continue. Other fans shared his view.

"Everybody in my family is very

upset," said Jeane Tarpley, wife of coach Charles Tarpley and parent of a team member. "My husband is a coach, my son is a player and my eldest son is a water boy and he was very upset about it."

Valdosta Marjorie Campbell said she did not think anyone in Valdosta was against prayer before the foot-

See PRAYER, Page 1A

From Page 1A

ball games.

"If I think they should have the prayer," she said. "I don't think any one person should decide what everyone else does. If they don't like

it they can leave."

Opinions among students attending the game were mixed. Lisa Blair, 15, said she thought there should be a prayer before the game.

"I think it helps the game," she

said.

Eric Miller, 15, said he thought the moment of silence was "cool" and Chris Hutton, 15, said he was comfortable with the change and whether a prayer or silence was offered did not matter to him.

High School Scores

Camden Co.....	0
Valdosta.....	34

Saturday
September 2, 1989

Lady 'Cats Finish 3rd

Staff Report VDT Sept. 11 1989

TIFTON — The Valdosta High Lady 'Cats finished third in the 11-team Tift County Lady Devils Invitational Softball Tournament Saturday at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex. Valdosta (7-2) won three games and lost two.

The victories came against South Cobb, 7-6 in nine innings, Wheeler, 8-5, and Warner Robins, 6-0. The losses came against Riverdale, 9-4, and the eventual tournament champion, host Tift County, 17-1.

In the South Cobb game, Valdosta trailed 4-1 in the seventh before a three-run rally, sealed by Adrian Cowart's game-tying hit, sent the

contest into extra innings. DeDe Dennis has the game-winner.

Against Wheeler, Laura Dennis and Cassandra Twine each led the way with two hits each. Shannon West had four hits, and Laura Dennis and Ashley Schleusner two apiece, in the Warner Robins' game. Schleusner and Cowart had two hits in the Riverdale contest. Kendra Elliott and Amanda McGhin did the pitching for the Lady 'Cats.

Valdosta will next play on Tuesday at home against 1-AAAA South foe Bainbridge. The doubleheader will start at 4:30 p.m. On Thursday, Valdosta will travel across town to Lowndes for a 4:30 league twinnbill.

VHS Offense Catching Up

VDT Tues., Sept. 12, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

It is natural for an offense, especially on the high school level, to take a little longer to gel than the defense. Playing sound offensive football involves more timing and more cohesiveness than playing sound defense.

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder said he thought it would take his 1989 offense into the fourth or fifth game of the season to really get going. But in Monday afternoon's practice, the offense showed that they did not want to wait that long.

"The offense had a good day," Hyder said. "They're starting to get into the rhythm a little bit more and their timing is getting better."

One change on the offense was the move of defensive lineman Kevin Miller to offensive tackle. Miller, a 260-pound senior, drew praise from Hyder as well as offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker for his work on the offensive line.

Last Saturday night, the Wildcats defeated Greene-Taliaferro 24-0 at Cleveland Field. The AA Tigers

were expected by many to lose by an even wider margin but Hyder said the credit should be given to Greene-Taliaferro for playing a good game.

"Greene-Taliaferro will figure in their region although their 0-2 already. They lost their first game to Thomson and we expect them to challenge Thomasville for the AAA title," Hyder said. "Camden came out and got a big win last Friday night and that shows that they can also play. We think that both our offense and defense have played well and we hope we'll continue to improve."

Through eight quarters of regular season play, the VHS defense has yet to allow a point. In fact, they have given up only three first downs and one of those came on a penalty. One of the leaders of that defense is defensive end Frederick Henton. Henton, a 190-pound senior, spent most of last Saturday night waiting for Tiger running backs when they were handed the ball.

The Wildcats will continue to prepare this week for their Friday night matchup with Waycross.

'Cats' Hart Is Always On The Move

Wed., Sept. 13, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Chris Hart lives a full life. He is president of the senior class at Valdosta High, in the Spanish Honor Society, in the Science Club, in the Interact Club, on the Math Team and is the president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

And in his spare time, Hart stays in shape as a member of the Wildcat football team.

But Hart is not just on the team. He is a senior. And a starter. And the captain. With such a heavy schedule, how does Hart juggle his busy schedule?

"You just have to keep your prio-



CHRIS HART

rities straight. If you put God first, everything else falls in place. After I have my quiet time in the morning, the rest of the day goes better. It's not that tough but it can get hectic sometimes," Hart said.

Hart is starting for the second year in the Wildcats' defensive secondary. Before the team's final pre-season scrimmage, Hart was named as the team's captain, an honor that he considers a big one.

"Being captain is a great honor but it also brings a big responsibility. The thought of knowing the other players think that highly of you is great. The one thing I try to do on and off the field is bring forth some team unity. That's what it's all

about," Hart said.

Hart's competitive roots are genetic. His brother, Dwayne, was the captain of the 1985 Wildcat squad where he was a two-year starter at cornerback. Hart continued his career at Valdosta State College where he is one of the veteran members of the secondary there.

Chris said he gained a lot of knowledge about being a good football player and a good person from his older brother.

"He gave me a few tips on how to guard a receiver and how to talk to the guys on the field. Dwayne's a great motivator and I get a lot from him. He kind of taught me how to be a leader and I still watch him play improve."

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So far in 1989, the Wildcat defense has turned many a head. They have not allowed a point and only two first downs, excluding penalty first downs. In two games, they have allowed a total of 32 total offensive yards. But Hart is not surprised.

"First of all, this defense has been playing together since our seventh and eighth grade year. We strive for a shutout every game. We want to keep a '0' on the scoreboard for as long as we can," Hart said. "Against Camden, we held them to no first downs and Coach Rudolph said that was the first time he'd ever seen that. But the thing is we can still improve."

VDT, Sept 13, 1989

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By CHRIS BECKHAM
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The Valdosta Daily Times Thurs, Sept. 14, 1989

Valdosta Wildcats



Matthew Butler



Fred Henton

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: Waycross Bulldogs

WHERE: Memorial Stadium in Waycross.

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S RESULT: Valdosta 24, Greene-Taliaferro 0.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAYS ABOUT LAST WEEK: "Our defense turned in another strong performance and our offense did a lot of good things. Greene-Taliaferro came at us hard and played well so it was a good win for us."

TOP PERFORMANCES: Tailback Joe Wright and fullback Carlos Parker teamed for 141 yards. The defense allowed 57 total yards and only two first downs.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAYS ABOUT WAYCROSS: "The Waycross Bulldogs are a tough team every year and Dale Williams is a fine head coach. He gained his 200th win last year and he always has his team ready. They lost a tough ballgame last week so we know they'll be coming after us."

PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR: Tailback Jason Perry and linebacker Thad Dowling.

KEYS TO VICTORY: "We need to continue our good work on defense because Waycross will come at us with a lot of things. We hope we continue to improve on offense in the run and the pass department."

SCORING AVERAGES Offense: 29.0; Defense: 0.0.

RADIO: WAAC, FM 93.

Cont.

Cont. Prepp Standings

Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Valdosta	0	0	0	2	0	0
Waycross	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colquitt County	0	0	0	1	1	0
Bainbridge	0	0	0	1	1	0
Lowndes	0	0	0	0	2	0
Tift County	0	0	0	0	2	0
Last Week's Results						
Valdosta 24, Greene-Taliaferro 0						
Thomasville 26, Lowndes 14						
Monroe 3, Bainbridge 0						
Coffee 35, Waycross 13						
Colquitt County 28, Central (Thomasville) 7						
Worth County 22, Tift County 16						
This Week's Games						
Bainbridge is off						
Coffee at Dodge County						
Colquitt County at Kendrick						
Lowndes at Hartaway						
Tift County at Columbus (Saturday)						
Valdosta at Waycross						

Developing Character/A Weekly Feature



Best friends Tammy Crowe, left, and Michelle Jones are varsity status debaters on the Valdosta High debating team — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

VDT Fri., Sept. 15, 1989

They're Always Ready To Argue

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

Michelle Jones and Tammy Crowe are devoted debaters. Eavesdrop on their conversations between classes at Valdosta High School and you're more likely to hear about the exploits of Solidarity in Poland than the latest gossip.

Miss Crowe and Miss Jones have been on the debate team for three years. They have both graduated to varsity debate status (the highest) and, at personal expense, attended debate camps this summer.

Miss Crowe, 16, a junior, went to camp at Wake Forest University for three weeks and Miss Jones, 18, a senior, traveled to Baylor University in Waco, Texas, for two weeks. Both camps included a rigorous schedule of research and laboratory sessions.

"Our first priority in life is debate," Miss Jones said. "We work our schedules around it."

And how did arguing in public become so important to these teenagers?

"My dad made me go to the first meeting ... I was really reluctant at first but now I'm hooked," Miss Crowe said.

"I got into it because I like to research," Miss Jones said. "We don't do a lot of research in school."

Part of debating involves keeping track of current events. Miss Crowe said before she got into debate, she never read anything but *Seventeen* magazine. Now, to keep on their toes, both girls regularly read news magazines such as *Newsweek* and *Time*.

"Debating helps you to think quickly on your feet ... and stay informed," Miss Jones said.

Another reason the girls enjoy debate is because of the friends they make at tournaments and at camp. Miss Jones said the team competes in about 12 tournaments each year and misses about 15 days of school.

Miss Crowe said she writes many friends she's met. In addition to sharing news about their lives, they share "evidence" — facts and sources used to support arguments

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

VALDOSTA vs WAYCROSS

VDT Friday, September 15th

8:00 p.m.

Memorial Stadium — Waycross

Adult and student tickets will go on sale at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to Cleveland Field) Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon. Student tickets will also be sold at Valdosta High and Valdosta Junior High. Good season tickets are available.

Lady 'Cats Win Two From LHS

VDT Fri., Sept. 15, 1989

Staff Report

The Valdosta High School Lady 'Cats softball team stayed perfect in the Region 1-AAAA South with Thursday's sweep of host Lowndes High by the scores of 9-6 and 8-5.

Valdosta is now 11-2 overall and 6-0 in the league. Leading the way in the first game for the Lady 'Cats was DeDe Dennis and Cassandra Twine with three hits and three RBI each. Dennis also scored twice. Laura Dennis added two hits and drove in three runs. Kendra Elliott recorded the first of two mound wins on the day.

In the second game, Shannon West had three hits, two runs and an RBI. Adrian Cowart and Ashley Schleusner had two hits apiece.

Vicki Williams had two hits, including a triple, in the first game for the Lady Vikings.

Valdosta will next play on Monday at home against unbeaten Tift County. The doubleheader will begin at 4:30 p.m.

in a debate. When asked if they trusted evidence offered by their competitors, the girls answered affirmatively. There's a sort of honor among debaters, they agreed.

The girls weren't required to attend camp but applied and were accepted because they wanted to improve their skills. "Most debaters don't go to camp," Miss Crowe said.

The VHS team placed fourth in the state last year, but the girls say because of several "very promising novices" (the first level) who have joined, Miss Jones and Miss Crowe said they expect to have an "awe-

some year."

Both girls are considering a law career, but Miss Crowe said she might shift gears in college because she also loves math and science.

Talley Leading Way To New Dawg Era

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

ATHENS — When the Georgia Bulldogs take the field Saturday against the Baylor Bears in their season opener, it will not only be the debut for first-year head football coach Ray Goff, but may also be the unveiling of another era.

That era being a new Valdosta area starting quarterback for the Georgia Bulldogs, with Greg Talley making his starting debut at the helm.

The Georgia opener is sure to have a definite Lowndes County flavor, as former Lowndes High School star David Hargett will be on the other side of the football at strong safety.

Former Valdosta Wildcat stars Ben Lane and Carlo Butler are also expected to see action against the

Bears.

According to Talley, it has been a long wait for his team. But they are hoping it has been worth the wait.

"Jittery is a word, but so is anxious, and I think that is exactly what this team is with the first game two days away," said Talley. "We've gotten pretty tired of hitting on each other. Saturday will be a welcome site. I just hope the outcome is to our liking."

"I think the guys are just ready to get a chance to see what we look like up against an opponent," said Hargett. "We are anxious to see just what we can do. And from a secondary standpoint, we have something to prove. We were last in the Southeastern Conference in pass defense and we want to improve on that for sure."

Talley, a 6-foot-1, 185-pound red-shirt sophomore, will be making his



DAVID HARGETT

first start as the Bulldogs' signal-caller. It is a position Talley has dreamed about being in.



GREG TALLEY

"I've been looking forward to this day for some time," said Talley. "But to be honest, I really haven't

thought about it too much this week. I've been spending a lot of time preparing for a great Baylor defensive team. I can't let my emotions get in the way of what I need to do. I'll think about what it meant to me to take the first snap after the game. But for now, it's time to get down to business."

Hargett will lead a Bulldog secondary which has been hit hard by injuries. But the 6-foot-1, 188-pound strong safety was very candid about Georgia's defensive backfield.

"We have had to make some adjustments with the loss of (Chuck) Carswell, but right now I'd have to say we're ready to go," said Hargett. "The secondary has been looking real good. George Wynn and Chris Watson have stepped in a done a fine job."

According to Talley and Hargett, Lane, who is a red-shirt 6-3, 255-

pound freshman center, and freshman signee Butler, (6-3, 190) have improved steadily.

Lane is expected to see a lot of action at center for the Bulldogs, while Butler, who was a moved from the defensive backfield to linebacker, is also expected to see some action against Baylor.

Baylor enters the game on the heels of a 33-7 loss at the hands of the Oklahoma Sooners last week.

Talley and Hargett expect the Bears to come into Sanford Stadium itching for their first win.

"They have a great team and according to their coach, they are supposed to have one of their best defenses ever in the school. So with that in mind, we have to be prepared to play some good football Saturday," said Talley. "It doesn't matter what the score was last week. That was last week."

This Year's Wildcats Won't Let The Memory Of Rose Wilt Away

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

During the 1988 Valdosta High-Waycross High football game, the Wildcats lost one of their starters to an injury in the 28-6 victory. That starter was senior defensive back Kenny Rose. What no one knew then was that Rose had played his last game.

Less than two weeks later, at the Wildcat practice field, Rose was walking around the track still unable to take part in the practice. Suddenly, he collapsed and died. Rose, who was admired and respected as a leader off and on the field by both players and coaches, was gone.

Last Friday night, the Wildcats travelled to Memorial Stadium in Waycross to battle the Bulldogs. Once again, the Wildcats had a tough time before outlasting Waycross 41-18. Coaches will tell you that any win is a good one but the victory over WHS Friday night was special in another way to the 'Cats.

"Last year, Kenny Rose was hurt during the Waycross game and he is still very special to us. We talked about him a bit before the game and all of the players, especially the ones

who played with Kenny for a while, were fired up for the game," Hyder said.

One of Rose's teammates in the secondary was senior Chris Hart. Besides being teammates, the two were close friends who liked to stay together on the field and off the field. Hart said his senior year and especially the Waycross game was dedicated to his lost pal.

"Kenny and I grew real close when we were both in FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). He was a real good friend and a great competitor. I think about him before every game and that is one of the reasons I want us to win this year. I'd like to win every game for Kenny," Hart said.

Besides being a solid defensive football player, Rose impressed the coaches with his hard-working attitude and good work habits. Hyder said that is one reason he wants the memory of Rose to stay strong.

"He stands for our priorities. He is what the Wildcats are all about. Kenny was the type of player that you teach other players to be like. He still has a very positive influence on this football team," Hyder said. In the first half of Friday's game,

the Bulldogs executed three pass plays that went for touchdowns against the 'Cats defense and they were the first touchdowns given up by the Wildcats all year. Although the secondary had been burnt, they rebounded and shut down the Bulldog passing attack in the second half.

And as they did, Hart displayed a reminder of why the Wildcats play hard. A towel hanging from his belt read "#9 ROSE". The towel represented more than just a team leader. It represented the Wildcat tradition and it represented a good friend.

UDT Sept 12, 1989

A Different Angle On The Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Deland Guthrie sees Valdosta Wildcat football in a different way. He has attended nearly every game for the last four years and knows most of the players and coaches on a first-name basis.

And although Guthrie watches each game from the sidelines, his view is still somewhat different than that of the coaches or players. He sees the game through the eye of a videocamera.

Guthrie, 28, has been taping the Wildcat games since 1985. His tapes are shown at the weekly meetings of the Valdosta Touchdown Club for coaches, parents and fans to view. He said being away from home is about the only tough aspect of his job and he emphasized that his hobby has many benefits.

"I've developed a real good relationship with the players and their families and I try to keep up with former players after they've graduated. Since I also take year-book pictures, I know most of the players from their freshman year on," Guthrie said.

Guthrie, who is employed at Garner Walker Photography, has been involved in photography for the past eight years. He began as a stockboy at Camera America and moved up to manage both Valdosta stores. Two of the people he worked with were taking the pictures at Wildcat games and, when they left, he took

over the job.
"We used to take pictures of the game with a 16-millimeter camera. But it got to be really expensive and so we switched to videotape," Guthrie said. "Now we can use the stop and slow motion and it still works well. The Touchdown Club meets once a week but I've only been to one meeting. Normally, I'm pretty busy shooting when they have the meetings so it's hard to go."

Guthrie gets some experienced help on most of his trips from Stan Bishop, who was a member of the original Wildcat film crew. Guthrie said Bishop's experience helps him a lot.

"Stan's been doing this kind of thing for years and he goes with me to make sure everything runs smoothly. He's a great guy to have around and he makes my job a lot easier," Guthrie said.

Guthrie's understanding of sports is also a big plus. He is a graduate of Georgia Christian and played college basketball at Michigan Christian Junior College in Rochester, Mich. Besides basketball, he is also a former dirt-track racecar driver.

Still an avid race fan, Guthrie raced cars for three years at the Thunderbowl Speedway and is still involved with the sport as a member of a pit crew. When his wife had their first child, Guthrie decided that driving race cars may not be the safest thing he could do and he hung up his racing gloves.



Deland Guthrie cleans and inspects his video camera that he uses at Valdosta High games to insure against any problems — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VHS Using A Stable Of Backs

V.D.T. Tues., Sept. 20, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

After practicing three days during their off-week, the Valdosta Wildcat football team returned to the practice field Monday as they began preparation for their Friday night matchup with the Northside-Warner Robins Eagles.

The Wildcats, 3-0, used their off-week to continue working on improving their depth and creating competition at several positions. One position that has been competitive since day one has been the quarterback spot and offensive backs coach Mike O'Brien said it has improved all players concerned.

"Alton (Hitson) pulled a groin muscle against Waycross but he wanted to play some receiver so we let him. Both he and Deric (Cotton) have been working this week and we need the competition to get better," O'Brien said. "One may do some things a little better than the other but now they're beginning to meet in the middle. Both can run

and both can pass and both are able to do it all.

"Of course, we'd love to have Jason (Nichols) back there but we have to play with the hand we were dealt and I feel like we're getting better," O'Brien said.

After watching films and looking at scouting reports of the Eagles, O'Brien says he is impressed with their defense. He hopes his team will continue to be able to mix up their offensive looks.

"They (Northside) have a pretty good secondary returning and they look pretty solid but not earthshaking," O'Brien said. "This year, we don't have anything to hang our hat on. Last year, we had the two big backs and a big offensive line. This year, I have more quality depth at that position than I've ever had. I think we're growing as an offensive unit."

The two starters in the backfield, Carlos Parker and Joe Wright, have been aided by several players coming off of the bench.

Lady 'Cats Pull It Off

VT Sept. 19, 1989

VHS Takes Two From Tift County

Staff Reports

Three years ago, Valdosta High School began their own girls' softball team. Monday afternoon on their home field, the Lady 'Cats proved that that move was one of genius.

The Lady 'Cats upped their Region 1-AAAA South subregion record to a perfect 8-0 by upsetting the Tift County Lady Blue Devils in a doubleheader. They edged TCHS in the first game 5-4 before cruising to a win in the second game, 15-6.

What makes the wins even more outstanding is that, since they began their program, the Lady Blue Devils had only been beaten in one regular season game. They have won the AAAA state championship for the last two years and have been recognized as the toughest team in the state. Until now.

"These wins are definitely the biggest ones in this program's history," said Lady Wildcat head coach Susan Montgomery. "We almost got them last year but we couldn't quite do it. Tift County has a long tradition of super softball teams and so this was a huge win for us."

Down 1-0 in the second inning of the first game, the Lady Wildcats struck back with two runs. But the big blast came in the fifth inning when first baseman Laura Dennis slammed a three-run home run over

the 250-foot fence to put VHS on top 5-2.

The Blue Devils fought back with two runs in the seventh and final inning and threatened to at least tie the score with the bases loaded. But the VHS defense held and got out of the inning with the win. Amanda McGhin was the winning pitcher and Adrienne Cowart aided the offense with two basehits.

The second game was a little easier for Montgomery's squad as they scored three runs in the first inning and five more in both the third and fourth innings to secure the win. McGhin also won the second game on the mound for VHS.

Dennis added two more hits in the second contest as did shortstop Shannon West. But the big hit was delivered by Cassandra Twine who nailed a grand slam to put the game out of reach.

Montgomery, whose team is 13-2 overall, said she feels her team has a definite shot for their first ever region championship.

The Lady Wildcats will be back at home Wednesday when they play Ware County in a non-region game. Their matchup with the Lady Trojans from Coffee County will be their last game of their regular season. The region tournament will be begin next Tuesday at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex in Tifton. The championship will be played on Thursday.

VDT Sept. 20, 1989
The Valdosta Daily Times



William Long Whitesell received the Eagle award, Scouting's highest rank Sept. 10 at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. He is the senior patrol leader of Troop 415 under the direction of C. Terry Hunt. William's service project, planting 1,000 pine trees to reforest the old Valdosta landfill, was coordinated through Eric Hahn, superintendent of Valdosta city parks. William is in the ninth grade at Valdosta High School.



VHS NEWS
Compiled, Written by VHS Students
VDT Sept. 20, 1989

VICA Officers Elected

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America launched its 1989-90 school year with a "get-acquainted" meeting Sept. 6 at Valdosta High School.

Adviser Lynn Wilson presided over the meeting and spoke of advantages of being a VICA member. On Sept. 8 officers were elected as follows: President Spencer Iverson; Vice President Dan Altman; Secretary Laurie Parramore; Treasurer Malcolm Tyson; Historian Bill Alexander; Reporter Zan Eanes; Chaplain Jeff Moxley; and Parliamentarian Justin Bridges.

At their first officers' meeting on Sept. 12, they discussed fund-raisers for the upcoming year and planned a breakfast for Friday at Shoney's.

VDT Sept. 20, 1989

Interact Meets

Interact had its first officers' meeting Sept. 10. Interact is a service organization at Valdosta High School sponsored by Rotary of Valdosta.

This year's officers are President Alan Golivesky, Senior Vice President Stephanie Rodgers, Junior Vice President Liz Foster, Sophomore Vice President Bert Eidson, Attendance Secretary Barb Isom, Recording Secretary Catherine Rowe, Treasurer Katherine Coleman, Parliamentarian Robin Golivesky, Historian Larry McCain, Chaplain Nikki DeMott, Social Projects Chairman Carmie Wright, Social Projects Chairman Martie Sineath, Community Projects Chairman Lamontica Pride, International Projects Chairman Wynne Johnson, Polio Plus Chairman Nikki Norris, Arrive Alive Chairman Caroline Seago, Reporter Spence Carver.

Among this year's advisers are Jim Studstill, Lesa Hill, and Nancy Hjort.

The first regular meeting will be Thursday.

Wildcats Continue To Evaluate Their Squad

VDT Sept. 20, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

For high school football teams, a off week can be used for many things. It's a time for injuries to heal and a time for that team to make preparations for the rest of the season.

Fortunately for the Valdosta High, the Wildcats have no major injuries that need to heal. But the squad and head coach Nick Hyder are using their off week to evaluate their team and continue their work for their next game.

"We've done some pretty intensive work and we're still working on our timing. We've put in some long hours and we're also looking for depth. And of course, we're preparing ourselves for our game with Northside-Warner Robins," Hyder said.

The season to date has pleased Hyder and the coaching staff. The Wildcats have posted three wins over Camden County, Greene-Taliaferro and Waycross by an average score of 33-6. The much-heralded defense has been as tough as most expected while the offense has improved steadily with each game. But Hyder said there remains many things that can be worked on.



"We're working to create more competition among our players and several youngsters have begun to step forward. We are also emphasizing discipline and building character in our players," Hyder said. Although the 'Cats lost starting

quarterback Jason Nichols during the preseason, the offense has not missed a beat. Both Alton Hisson and Deric Cotton have performed admirably as they have both led the offense several touchdown drives.

"Alton can play both quarterback and wide receiver and can play both positions well. Slowly, Cotton has begun to take on a bigger role and we thought he performed well in the Waycross game the other night," Hyder said. "He has never had to take to the throttle before but that is what he is doing now."

Leading the Wildcat scoring barrage has been running back Carlos



NICK HYDER

Lady 'Cats Fall To Lady Blue Devils In Region Play

Thursday Sept. 22, 1989
Staff Reports

TIFTON — The Valdosta High School Lady 'Cats softball team must now fight their way back through the loser's bracket after falling, 7-1, to the Lady Blue Devils of Tift County in the Region 1-AAAA Girls' Softball Tournament at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex.

In a game that saw the Tift County squad outthit the Lady 'Cats 11 to 7, all eight runs were scored in the opening two innings of play.

The Tift County Lady Blue Devils jumped out to a 3-0 lead after their first at-bat, then in the bottom of the first inning the Lady 'Cats answered with a run on a single by Laura Dennis.

But with the Lady 'Cats threaten-

ing with runners at first and second and Cassandra Twine at the plate, Tift County's shortstop Christie Redinger made a running catch in left field on a ball hit by Twine, jumped to her feet and tossed to second to double-up Dennis and stamp out the rally.

Valdosta was led by Dennis, who was a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate with an RBI.

The loss puts the Lady 'Cats into the loser's bracket finals today at 4:30 p.m. against the Coffee High Lady Trojans. Coffee defeated the Vikettes of Lowndes High, 11-8.

The winner will take on the Lady Blue Devils beginning at 5:45 for the subregion title. If a second game is necessary, it will be played at 7 p.m.

In earlier action, the Lowndes High Vikettes rallied to defeat the

Lady Bearcats from Bainbridge, 7-6, and Coffee edged Colquitt, 8-7.

The Vikettes were led by first baseman Randi Dale Fountain, who went 3-for-4 with four RBI.

Shannon McKinnon went 2-for-4 for Lowndes and Irene Brown went 2-for-3, while Vicky Williams and Lisa Wolfe each had a single for the Vikettes.

Vikes Wary Of 'Cats' Kicking Game

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Although the kicking game is one of the most overlooked areas in high school football, but the Lowndes High Vikings' opponent on Saturday, the Camden County Wildcats, are one of the best in the area of special teams play. And that is what was on the mind of Viking head football coach Rick Tomberlin when his Lowndes team hit the practice field Tuesday.

"They execute very well in an area of football where it is sometimes most critical and often overlooked. Camden County has blocked three punts in four games played and have scored on all three," said Tomberlin. "Many games are won

and lost in the kicking game and we need to find a way to protect our punter."

The Vikings, 2-2 on the year, will be looking for their third consecutive victory in Saturday's contest at Wildcat Field.

But in order for the Lowndes team to enjoy success on Saturday, Tomberlin knows that his team must put in quality time in preparing for what will be a talented Wildcat squad.

The Wildcats enter the game 1-2 on the year after an 18-14 setback at the hands of Brunswick on Monday night.

"In looking at the practice, I think we did a good job in starting to prepare for Camden. Most of the time your first practice of the week is a

little off due to the changes and new alignments for the other team," Tomberlin said. "Plus, playing on Saturday is not a favorite with me, but we have to play the hand we were dealt. For them I think it is easier to play on Saturday having played on Monday."

Lowndes' kicking game is in good hands with the play of sophomore placekicker Chris Singletary and sophomore punter Matt Futch.

Futch is among the Region 1-AAAA leaders in punting with a 37.2 yard average, while Singletary has hit on 11-of-13 extra-point attempts.

"I feel pretty good about of kicking game and we are very young at those spots as well," Tomberlin said. "In addition, our kick returner is a freshman, Cedric Neloms and our

punt returner is a junior, Jeffrey Thomas. So we are a very young in the kicking department."

The Vikings will face another team in Camden County which is a very physical football team.

In fact, Lowndes has not one player over 200-pounds on their defensive squad and their lone 200-pound member on offense are their starting tackles.

"We have a small team compared to some of the teams that we play. A lot of other teams have a junior variety of this size," said Tomberlin. "But we feel that this team is making a lot of progress each week. We have to stay focused because we have another tough one against Camden."

Lady 'Cats Edge Vikettes, 3-1

Staff Reports

TIFTON — The Valdosta High Lady 'Cats capitalized on a pair of errors by the Lowndes High Vikettes to advance into today's championship round of the 1989 Region 1-AAAA Girls' Softball Tournament with a 3-1 victory played at E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex.

The Vikettes and Lady 'Cats had failed to determine a winner after seven innings of regulation and needed nine innings.

In the top of the ninth inning, Valdosta's Cassandra Twine scored the eventual winning run and later, teammate Lisa Vincent added the insurance run on the second error of the inning.

In the Valdosta ninth, Laura Dennis led off the inning with a walk, then Twine reached on a fielder's choice. Vincent singled and an infield fly sent Twine to third. She later gave Valdosta their first lead of the game as VHS' Amy Alfson stepped to the plate and reached on an error by the Vikettes' second baseman, scoring Twine. Then Kin-dra Elliott was walked allowing Vincent to score the Lady 'Cats' third run of the game.

Lowndes put together a pair of

action, today at 5:45 for the right to move into the championship bracket on Thursday.

Lowndes advanced to meet Valdosta after they defeated the Colquitt County Lady Packers 7-1 in first-round action.

Lowndes was led by first baseman Irene Brown, who had a pair of RBI singles in the first and fourth inning.

Brandy Hobbs also had an RBI single and Shelley Lieupo had a triple and a run scored in the sixth inning for the Vikettes. Teammate Vicky Williams had two hits for Lowndes.

In other opening round tournament action, Coffee defeated Bainbridge 18-3 in six innings.

The 9-6 Vikettes will meet the Lady Bearcats from Bainbridge at 4:30 p.m. today, while the Lady Packers of Colquitt County will play the Coffee High Lady Trojans at 4:30 in early action.

The two winners will then meet at 5:45 p.m., with the winner of that contest moving into the championship game on Thursday at 5:45 to play the winner's bracket champion to be determined in the contest between Valdosta High and Tift County.

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The two winners will then meet at 5:45 p.m., with the winner of that contest moving into the championship game on Thursday at 5:45 to play the winner's bracket champion to be determined in the contest between Valdosta High and Tift County.

Sports

Tuesday, September 26, 1989 1-B

Lady 'Cats In Search Of Softball Title

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Lady 'Cats of Valdosta High School will be the top seed today when the Region 1-AAAA South Girls' Softball Tournament gets underway at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex at Friendly City Park in Tifton.

The five-team, double-elimination event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a pair of opening round games slated.

The Vikesettes of Lowndes High will play the Colquitt County Lady Packers at 4:30 p.m., while the host Tift County Lady Blue Devils take on

the Coffee High Lady Trojans at 4:30.

The winner of the Lowndes-Colquitt game will then play the Lady 'Cats at 5:45 p.m. for the right to advance into the winner's bracket.

The five teams will resume play on Wednesday in the second round of the tournament, with the finals scheduled for Thursday.

According to Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery, getting an opening round victory is important to her team.

"Our team plays much better when we are not behind and that's the approach we have to take going

into the tournament," said Montgomery. "Our team knows the importance of getting that first win.

It just seems to set you up for the rest of the tournament. Because it's much harder to beat a team twice. And if you have to fight your way out of the loser's bracket that's what you face."

The Lady 'Cats finished the 1989 season with an 8-2 record. But Montgomery is not banking on past records going into the tournament.

Montgomery's squad posted wins over the region favorite Tift County, but fell in a pair of games to the Coffee Lady Trojans late in the year.

"We didn't play well late in the year and lost to Coffee twice. I think that we kinds had a letdown after the Tift series," said Montgomery.

"We have to get back to playing sound softball. I think that we play good defense and when we are on our game, our offense is pretty good."

Valdosta's leading hitter and RBI producer is junior Laura Dennis.

Along with her teammates, the Lady 'Cats have been able to score a large number of runs in 89.

"We've hit the ball well this year and that must continue in the tournament if we have any hopes of

moving on. Things become a little easier when you are in the winner's bracket," said Montgomery. "I don't like to play catch up. And that will be the situation if we do not come out and play good softball. In the loser's bracket you have to play extra games and if you make the championship, you have to beat that team twice to win the championship."

"I think we have a real good chance of winning the region tournament, but we have to play better than we've played lately," she said. "We have to play up to our potential."

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta Debater Finishes Seventh In Contest

By ASHLEY CONNELL

Valdosta High debaters participated in the Westminister Novice Debate Tournament in Atlanta Saturday.

Students debated the national high school debate topic for 1989-90, "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a nationwide policy to decrease overcrowding in prisons and jails in the United States."

Sophomore Laura Barbas finished as the seventh place negative speaker among 300 debaters in the novice division. She was the top speaker among VHS debaters. She teamed with sophomore Matt Baker to earn a 2-2 record. They defeated teams from Therrrell and Gainesville schools.

Freshman Stephanie Everett and junior David Farber finished as the eighth place affirmative team out of 75 entered in the tournament. With a 3-1 record they defeated teams from Darlington, McNair, and Windsor-Barrow schools. They were the top team among VHS debaters.

Other debaters included the affirmative team of senior Christie



VHS News
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

Bauer and junior Jimmy Green and the negative team of sophomores Kristin Ganas and Angela Jones. These teams won decisions over teams from Winder-Barrow, Harlem, and Shiloh schools.

On Saturday, the students competed in four rounds of policy debate using the 8-3-4 time limits with cross examination. They did not switch sides of the resolution, but remained on the affirmative or the

negative side for the entire tournament. At the end of the fourth round, awards were announced and the students received copies of the ballots with results from each round in which they participated.

"The Westminister tournament is designed for those debaters with little or no experience in this activity. Students have been getting ready by participating in practice rounds and discussion sessions on this new topic," said Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS. "We gained some valuable tournament experience this weekend."

Senior Michelle Jones and junior Tammy Crowe served as judges. Director of debate Frank Hjort and student teacher Alma Nicholson served as chaperones.

The next tournament for VHS debaters is the Northside High School in Warner Robins Friday-Saturday. This will be an important tournament for Miss Jones and Miss Crowe as it is an All State qualifying tournament. Debaters must reach the semi-final round in varsity debate to qualify. The All State

Debate is an all-expense-paid tournament for championship debaters from the four Georgia High School Association classifications.

In other debate news, new officers were elected for 1989-90. They are Michelle Jones, president; Tammy Crowe, vice president; Ashley Connell, secretary; Kevin Hiers, treasurer; and Matt Baker, parliamentarian.

VICA Meets

VHS VICA students met Friday at Shoney's for a breakfast meeting.

The meeting was called to order by president, Spencer Iverson. Jeff Geier, former VICA member and second place winner in VICA Skill Olympics, spoke to the group about the benefits of VICA membership. Plans for the Homecoming parade were also discussed.

Thursday
Sept 27, 1989

Success Was No Stranger To West

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

While Valdosta High School may have been the home of some of the flashier quarterbacks in the state of Georgia, none were as productive as former Wildcat signal-caller Ted West.

By the time the 5-10, 170-pounder finished his high school football career in 1983, he led his Valdosta clubs to more consecutive victories than any other starting quarterback in the school's history. West, who was the starter in his junior and senior campaigns, racked up 26 consecutive victories and a Class AAAA state football championship in 1982 over Peachtree, 10-7.

"It was just a unique opportunity to go through. I think back to those days many times," said West. "I can still remember coach (Nick) Hyder talking to us about the opposing team and about our school obligations. Now that it's all over, I think back to those days. I have some fond memories of Valdosta High. We had some good times. I just blended

Former Valdosta High Wildcat quarterback and Valdosta State College pitcher Ted West holds a pair of school records, while performing at both insitutions. West is the winningest quarterback in Valdosta High football history and has the most appearances by a pitcher at VSC —Times Photo by Mike Tanner.



in well with the talented players we had on our teams such as Chris Major and Dana Brinson, who are now playing professional football."

But West was not excitedly groomed, however, for the Valdosta quarterback job coming out of junior high school. He spent his first year at the Valdosta Junior High School looking into the eyes of the opposing quarterback as a linebacker.

"When coach (Norman) Sainz came back to the junior high the next season, I was asked if I would like to be the quarterback. I thought, sure, I'll give it a shot," said West. "Lucky for me, things worked out."

For many Valdosta fans, they seemed to watch his performances with as much amazement as well as anticipation. Even though West was not cut out of the Valdosta quarterback mold, he got the job done.

In his four seasons at Valdosta, the Wildcats won 48 games, while losing just four times, and made four consecutive Region 1-AAAAA championship appearances.

West, who is now an insurance salesman for Combined Insurance

Company of America, was as equally at home on the pitching mound.

In his three seasons as the ace pitcher for the Wildcats, he compiled a 29-4 record, which is also a school record for most wins by a pitcher.

West was then off to Valdosta State College, where he played for Tommy Thomas' Blazer baseball team. In his freshman season of 1985, he set the VSC mark for most appearances by a pitcher 24 and by the time his career came to an end in 1988, he was the VSC career leader in that statistical department with 70 career appearances.

"Coming out of high school, not many schools were interested in me as a football player because of one reason or another. And I chose to play baseball for coach Thomas at VSC. Although recent years have been tough on the VSC baseball program, they have a winning tradition," said West. "In fact, we went to the Division II College World Series my freshman year in '85 and finished fourth in the nation. I have no regrets about choosing baseball or

going to VSC. Coach Thomas is a fine coach and I enjoyed being associated with that program.

"I was approached about playing some football at VSC and coach Thomas agreed to it, but I just figured that I had no possible future in football after college. But in baseball, I had a slim chance of moving on," he said. "Unfortunately, things didn't go that way. But I had fun at VSC and I enjoyed playing baseball there."

Even though his record-setting high school and college days didn't bring him instant stardom, the former VHS and VSC performer is content with his numbers he produced in his playing days and enjoys his time spent with his wife Terri and son Trey.

"I have some fond memories of my playing days. I don't look back and wish I could change one thing," said West. "From Valdosta High to VSC, it was great. I was just fortunate to be a part of two fine programs and surrounded by great players which made much easier."

Northside Will Not Be A 'Little' Game For Wildcats

VDT
Sept 28
1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

"We've just got a bunch of little bitty boys and we hope Valdosta's big old boys don't hurt us too bad."

Those were the words of Northside-Warner Robins head football coach Stan Gann concerning his team's upcoming appearance at Cleveland Field Friday night to meet the Wildcats. But unless his players gained a lot of weight since the last time he looked, some of his "boys" are anything but little bitty.

Defensive tackle John Shaffer is 231 pounds; offensive tackle Issac Ferrell is 248 pounds; defensive tackle Chad Averett is 255 pounds. Little? Bitty?

"They've got some athletes," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "Their secondary is very strong and their quarterback is a tremendous athlete. The Averett boy that plays on the defensive line is a major college prospect. It's going to be a tough south Georgia football game and whoever wins is going to have to



LEWIS

AKINS

work for it."

The Wildcats have been looking at the Northside team on film but have even had some problems there. It seems that on the tape of the Northside-Central Macon game, 12 of the 26 first-half offensive plays erased.

"It's kind of like the Nixon tapes," said Hyder. "I don't know what happened but those things happen some time."

Northside runs a Wing-T offense and they run it well. Last season, they were defeated in the region championship by Warner Robins, 7-3, and the Demons went on to win the state championship. But the

game was closer than even the score indicated. A Northside touchdown at the end of the game was called back to give the Demons the win.

During the week before the Northside game last season, Wildcat defensive back Kenny Rose collapsed and died on the practice field. During Wednesday's practice, the Wildcat players requested to have their daily devotionals on the spot of the field where Rose collapsed.

"We like to think that we've all lived our lives so that one year after our death, we are still remembered," Hyder said. "This morning, we had over 200 people at our FCA meeting and most of them were there in honor of Kenny."

According to Hyder, Northside plays a 50 defense with good defensive schemes and good adjustments. But the Wildcats have had a week off to prepare for the game and they appear ready.

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta Wildcats vs.
Northside-Warner Robins Eagles
at Cleveland Field

WILDCAT OFFENSE		
# Pos.	Player	Yr. Wt.
15	QB Alton Hiltson	Jr. 170
11	RB Joe Wright	Sr. 145
22	FB Carlos Parker	Sr. 182
88	FL Carlos Moore	Jr. 140
19	SE Tracy Smothers	Sr. 168
58	C Jarrett Johnson	Sr. 208
52	G Matthew Butler	Sr. 211
51	G Jason Peters	Jr. 214
77	T Shawn Elders	Jr. 264
50	T Brooks Akins	Sr. 223
81	TE Mickey McSwain	Sr. 190
EAGLE DEFENSE		
16	E Jay Helwig	Sr. 165
22	E Troy Crosby	Jr. 171
79	T Chad Averett	Sr. 255
63	T John Shaffer	Sr. 231
90	DG Chris Niswender	Jr. 150
34	LB Vernard Williams	Jr. 172
51	LB Willie Collier	Sr. 167
42	CB Steve Paris	Sr. 142
48	CB Pat Crawford	Sr. 163
43	S Travis Bernby	Sr. 178
38	S Jevon Ingram	Sr. 140
25	K Tewayne Durham	Sr. 167
WILDCAT DEFENSE		
46	T Robert Fillmore	Sr. 180
94	T George Copeland	Sr. 215
91	NG Andre Hampton	Sr. 187
48	E Dexter Daniels	So. 190
47	E Frederick Henton	Sr. 185
44	LB Anthony Williams	Sr. 250
49	LB Bruce Daniels	Sr. 204
28	CB Trampus Wrice	So. 150
26	CB Adrian Lewis	Sr. 190
32	S Chris Hart	Sr. 174
23	S Marshun Lane	Jr. 170
2	K Dow Drury	So. 150
6	P Steve Jarrillo	So. 152
Head coach: Nick Hyder		
EAGLE OFFENSE		
10	QB Tirone Mckenzie	Sr. 171
32	TB Gabriel Daniels	Jr. 168
25	WB Tewayne Durham	Sr. 167
46	FB Heath Martin	Sr. 200
31	SE Johnny Bagley	Sr. 186
54	C Brian Hill	Sr. 160
66	G Duane Phelps	Jr. 165
64	G Reggie Wilcox	Sr. 155
70	T Isaac Ferrell	Sr. 248
73	T Kevin Jernigan	Jr. 185
83	TE Donnell Williams	Sr. 200
Head coach: Stan Gann		
Wildcats On The Air: WAAC FM 93		
Valdosta Record: 3-0		
Last Week's Result: Open Date		
Northside Record: 2-1		
Last Week's Result: Northside 35,		
Southeast Macon 6		

VDI
Sept. 29, 1989

Lady 'Cats Finish At 16-7

Fall To Tift Co. In Sub Tourney

Staff Report **VDI Sept. 29, 1989**

TIFTON — The season is over for the Valdosta High Lady 'Cats but it wasn't a bad year at that.

The Lady 'Cats lost 5-0 in the finals of the 1-AAAA Subregion softball tournament Thursday to Tift County, which won for the fourth straight year. Valdosta ends the season 16-7. The tournament was held at the E.B. Hamilton Softball Complex.

"It was a good season. But this was not a good game," said VHS head coach Susan Montgomery, referring to the championship game.

The Lady 'Cats collected seven hits, with Vashi Manning leading the way with two, but committed six errors. Of the five Tift County errors, all but one were unearned. The biggest inning was the third when Tift County scored three on three errors with two outs.

"We gave them a lot and we had some opportunities that we didn't take advantage of. But, I'm proud of the whole team.

"We set some goals and we reached them. We wanted to show Tifton that we could play with them and we did that. And, we can only get better."

The Lady 'Cats reached the championship game by beating Coffee, 5-4, in the finals of the loser's bracket earlier in the day.

In that game, Cassandra Twine went 4-for-4, including a two-run triple in the third inning. She later scored on Laura Dennis' RBI-single to put VHS up 3-1.

Adrienne Cowart added the fourth run when her sac-fly scored Jennifer Launey, who had two hits on the day, in the fourth. The fifth and deciding run came also in the fourth when Ashley Schlausner walked and later scored on Shannon West's fielder's choice.

The Lady 'Cats had their troubles in the field this game as well as they booted the ball five times but turned three double plays. West was a standout at short.

9th Grade Wildcats Win, 47-0

Staff Report **VDI Sept. 29, 1989**

It didn't matter who coach John Davis put in, the result was the same. The Valdosta High School 9th grade Wildcats ripped into Pierce County, 47-0, Thursday at the school.

The win upped the 'Cats' record to 3-0. The next game is set for 5 p.m. Thursday at VHS against Tift County.

Tommy Speed and Alfred Barnes each scored two touchdowns. Speed's came on runs of 5 yards. Barnes scored from 15 and 20 yards out. Steve Everson and Brock Sanford both scored on 5-yard runs. Jason Jelks scored on a 60-yard punt return. Clark Drury was good on 5-of-7 PATs.

Other standouts offensively were hard-running Brian Thomas and Wayne Devane, who shared time at quarterback and tight end.

Wed, Oct. 4, 1989

Two VHS Debaters Win Award

By ASHLEY CONNELL

Two Valdosta High debaters won an award at the Northside High School debate tournament this past weekend in Warner Robins.

Senior Michelle Jones and junior Tammy Crowe made the finals in the varsity division with a 3-2 record. They won decisions over top teams from Brookwood, Carrollton, and Warner Robins schools. With the 3-2 record the pair qualified for the octo-finals elimination round, made up of the top 16 teams in the 42-team varsity draw. In the octo-finals Miss Jones and Miss Crowe met Carrollton again and lost on a 2-1 decision. In the elimination rounds there is a panel of three judges that determines the winner.

In the novice division senior Christie Bauer and junior Jimmy Green finished as the 10th place affirmative team with a 3-2 record. Green was the top speaker among Valdosta debaters in the novice division. They defeated teams from Appling, Brookwood, and Westminster schools. Sophomore Kristin Ganas and junior David Farber had a 3-2 record and finished as the 15th place negative team in the novice division. Miss Ganas and Farber won decisions over teams from Appling, St. Pius, and Warner Robins schools. There were more than 80 teams in the novice division.

Also participating in the two-day tournament was junior Ashley Connell, who served as a judge in the novice division. Sophomore Angela Jones and freshman William Whitesell made the trip as alternates. Director Frank Hjort judged extemporaneous speaking, and student teacher Alma Nicholson served as a judge in debate.

VHS debaters plan to participate in the Mercer University debate tournament later this month. The Debate Club is also planning to host its annual invitational debate tournament in January.

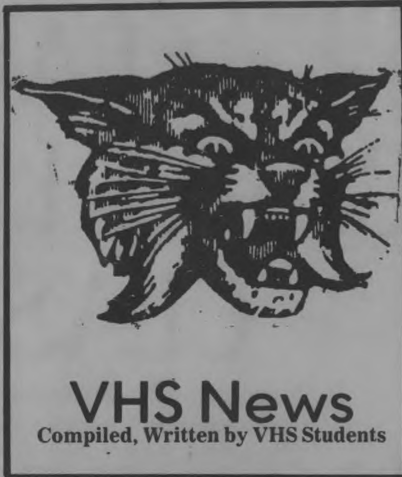
The national high school debate topic for 1989-90 is "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a nationwide policy to decrease overcrowding in prisons and jails in the United States." "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a nationwide policy to decrease overcrowding in prisons and jails in the United States."

FBLA Elects

By JENNI CANTRELL

Valdosta High School recently elected officers for the Future Business Leaders of America.

The officers-elect are as follows: President Suzette Davidson, daughter of Gregory and Mae Browning; Vice Presidents, Letesha Bradley, daughter of Clifford and Rachel Bradley; Jibade Johnson, son of Dr. and Mrs. David Hargett; Gayla



Miller, daughter of George and Cora Miller; Tangie Morrison, daughter of Shirley Stibbens; Heather Strayhorn, daughter of Jack and Kathy Strayhorn; LaSharon Walker, daughter of Leroyce Orr; Secretary Carla Davis, niece of Connie Carson; Treasurer Latechia Brown, daughter of James and Loretta Scott; Reporter Jenni Cantrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Cantrell; Historian Sebastian Davis, son of Raymond J. Davis; Parliamentarian Leigh Helms, daughter of Danny and Bette Helms.

The club sponsor is Maxine Martin.

VICA Attends

Vocational Industrial Clubs of America officers attended the VICA Fall Leadership Conference in Atlanta Friday-Sunday.

Those in attendance were Spencer Iverson, president; Dan Altman, vice president; Laurie Parramore, secretary; Malcom Tyson, treasurer; Jeff Moxley, chaplain; and Barb Ison, health occupations president. The students were accompanied by Lynne Wilson, adviser.

The officers attended workshops on Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, How to Make Meetings Fun, Personal Appearance and Etiquette and Club Meeting Procedures. All officers attending the conference received the VICA Statesmen Award for 100% accuracy on a VICA Knowledge test.

Interact Meets

SPENCER CARVER

Interact had their first meeting Sept. 21.

Jerseys were handed out and yearly dues were collected. President Alan Golivesky talked to the freshmen and all other new members about what Interact is. Chaplain Nikki Demott read the devotional. All officers were introduced to the new members.

Everyone signed up for at least one committee.

Cole Sullivan is adviser for Inter-

act. He attended Valdosta High from 1975-1979 and was in level 3 classes. Sullivan played the trombone in the band.

"The funniest thing that has happened in my teaching career has been seeing the reactions of teachers who taught me and see me now," Sullivan said.

After high school Sullivan went to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for a forestry degree, and to Valdosta State College for a secondary education degree in social studies.

He started teaching at Valdosta High just 10 years after graduating there. Sullivan taught under Sue Lawrence. Sullivan said, "When I student taught I saw that the teaching atmosphere was good and I was

used to the noise level."

Sullivan is not the only teacher in his family; his sister teaches in Thomasville.

In addition to teaching and Interact, Sullivan is involved with the youth at Christ Episcopal and has been a member of the Air National Guard, 283rd Combat Communications Squadron, based in Savannah, for the past seven years.

VHS Offensive Line Paves Way

Mon, Oct 2, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

After each of the first three Valdosta High Wildcat football games, offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker muttered as he walked off the field, "We're coming along. We're getting there."

But after the Wildcats' 35-0 destruction of Northside-Warner Robins Friday night at Cleveland Field, Baker was a little more upbeat. His line had spent the evening carving huge holes in a Northside defensive line that lacked neither size nor talent. Their work paid off in five VHS touchdowns and a career night for fullback Carlos Parker, who tallied 229 yards in just a little over one-half of play.

"They really got after it tonight," Baker said. "They came off the ball hard and this group has been working hard all year."

Of the five offensive linemen, only one was a starter last season, senior Matthew Butler. Butler is listed as a guard but he regularly plays guard, tackle and center. Friday night, he went a little further by switching to tight end in the opening series of the game.

"Mickey (McSwain, the regular starting tight end) had a hurt shoul-

der and so I played tight end the first series," Butler said. "I only went out on one pattern and (quarterback) Alton (Hitson) was blitzed so he had to run."

Butler wasn't the only flexible member of the group. Senior Brooks Akins doubled as a defensive lineman in certain situations and also played on special teams.

"Brooks has improved all year and he's getting better every game. Shaun Eilders, Jarrett Johnson, Jason Peters, Kevin Miller and

Kevin Wilkerson all played great," Baker said. "And don't forget about Mickey McSwain. He came in and played even though he's been hurt."

But the line's success did not end with run blocking. Although the Wildcats elected to pass only four times, two of those were big comple-

tions. The first one came on a third-and-23 from the VHS 1-yard line. Hitson spotted junior wide receiver Scott Stuart, who made a great catch for 33 yards and an important first down.

The other completion came late in the fourth quarter. Hitson took the snap, fumbled the ball, picked it up and hit running back Shawn Gay, who raced to the end zone for a 55-yard score.

Roberts Has Huge Day For UTC Mocs

Staff, Wire Reports

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Dino Stafford hit Derwin Brewer with a 35-yard pass to boost Middle Tennessee State to a 24-7 victory over Tennessee-Chattanooga Saturday night.

Middle Tennessee, a member of the Ohio Valley Conference, is now 3-2 overall, while Tennessee-Chattanooga, a Southern Conference mem-

ber, falls to 1-3.

The Moccasins' James Roberts, a former Valdosta High standout, posted his team's only touchdown on 73-yard punt return midway through the first quarter.

Roberts, who last week was the Southern Conference player and freshman of the week, rushed for 154 yards on 22 carries. He also caught two passes for 31 yards.

Wildcats Prepare For SHS

Wed. Oct. 4, 1989
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Forget a 21-0 loss to the Tift County Blue Devils last week. Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder knows better than to let those numbers fool him. He knows that the Statesboro Blue Devils are worthy of his team's full attention despite their lackluster performance in Tifton.

Statesboro will be hosting the Wildcats this Friday night in the Wildcats last non-region game of the regular season. Statesboro had compiled a 3-1 record, including a win over the Effingham County, before losing in Tifton last Friday. In fact, Hyder thinks that loss may give the Blue Devils something more to play for this Friday.

"Tift County didn't do us any favors last week by beating Statesboro. When you're wounded and your pride's hurt, you always come back fighting harder. That is just human nature. Statesboro is wounded right now so that makes our game even tougher," Hyder said.

The Wildcats are coming off what most believe to be their best game of the season so far. In their 35-0 shelling of Northside-Warner Robins, the Wildcats posted their best night rushing the ball and the defense collected its third shutout in four games.

Hyder was glad to see his team progress but he believes the best is yet to come.

"We haven't peaked. We still have several things on both our defense and our offense that need to be worked out. We worked late today because we're still working on some things," Hyder said.

The Statesboro offense revolves around the performance of senior tailback Tony Grant. Grant has already amassed nearly 900 yards on the year although he was held to only 61 against Tift County.

"He's for real," Hyder said. "He scored on us last year the first time he touched the ball. He is very strong and they have good size on the line to get him some holes. He was definitely one of the best, if not the best back we saw all of last year," Hyder said.

Statesboro comes into the game unranked while the Wildcats are still second in the state in this week's AAAA poll. The Wildcats were also listed as the 11th best team in the nation in the USA Today high school football poll. The Warner Robins Devils are the second-ranked team in the USA Today poll while Pensacola-Pine Forest remains the number one team.

10-A Wednesday, October 4, 1989



Math Poster Winners

From left, Ashley Schleusner won second place, Anthony Scruggs, first, and Catherine Rowe, third, in a poster contest at Valdosta High School to promote mathematics educa-

tion. Honorable mention winners were Jason Sims, Ashley House, Karen Green, Becky Guess and Jason Morris. — Photo Special To The Times.

Thurs. Oct. 5, 1989
Wildcat Tradition

Will Air Tonight

The 'Wildcat Tradition' television show will be on tonight from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Valdosta Cable channel 36 and Falcon Cable channel 15 in northern Lowndes County.

Tonight's show will be hosted by Valdosta Wildcats' head football coach Nick Hyder and Calvin McGuyrt, along with regulars Buck Belue and Simone Allen.

Special guests include Miss Patsy Smith, known as the Wildcat Lady and teacher at Valdosta High School for 32 years; former quarterback Ted West; Georgia Bulldogs' Carlo Butler and Stan Grubb, former Valdosta student trainer and now a sportswriter at the Valdosta Daily Times.

Brooks Finds His Own Success

Thurs. Oct. 5, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — At Valdosta High School, former offensive coordinator Butch Brooks earned the respect of his players and peers. Today, he is still considered among the state's finest coaches, turning the Washington-Wilkes Tigers into a championship contender in Class AA.

Brooks began his coaching career at Valdosta High School in 1971, where he was an assistant for 10 seasons, until spring of 1981.

In his first season at Valdosta High, he was under the leadership of former head coach Wright Bazemore. Before his departure in 1981, Brooks worked under a pair of VHS head coaches Charlie Greene and Nick Hyder.

"It was a great experience to just be a part of what a lot of people in the state consider as the premiere high school football team. The fans were very knowledgeable and helpful," said Brooks. "And of course, I learned my trade under one of the greatest coaches of all-time, Wright Bazemore. I also learned a lot under Charlie Greene and Nick Hyder. Each in their own way was a big influence in my coaching."

In his years at Valdosta High

School he was also the school's head baseball coach. Among his baseball accomplishments, Brooks led the Wildcats to the state baseball championship in 1978.

But it was a phone call in the spring of '81 from Washington-Wilkes High School, which gave Brooks his opportunity to run the show.

"I really had no intentions of going to Washington-Wilkes when they called. But I discussed with them some things that I was interested in doing if they wanted to turn their football program around," said Brooks. "I guess at every point and time each coach wants to be the head coach and athletic director and the time came for me. After a few things were taken care of at my request to turn the program around, I chose to move into the head coaching ranks."

And a successful move it has been.

Brooks has led the Tigers to four consecutive appearances in the Class AA South Georgia Championship game since 1985 and appeared in the state championship game three times, 1985, '86 and '88. Washington-Wilkes' best record under Brooks has been a 14-1 mark in 1985.



Butch Brooks prowled the sidelines for the Valdosta High Wildcats as the offensive coordinator. Now he watches Washington-Wilkes as the head coach — File Photo.

Valdosta Wildcats

Thurs. Oct. 5, 1989



Joe Wright



George Copeland

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: Statesboro Blue Devils

WHERE: Statesboro

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 6, 8 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: Valdosta 35, Northside-Warner Robins 0.

WHAT COACH Nick Hyder SAID ABOUT LAST WEEK: "We played a very complete game and had some good things happen to us. Our offense had a very good night and both of our quarterbacks did an excellent job. The offensive line opened up some big holes and Carlos Parker did some excellent running even after he got into the open field. Our defense played well again and they never let Northside get too close to the end zone."

TOP PERFORMANCES: Fullback Carlos Parker 229 yards and defensive end Andre Hampton made nine first hits, three sacks and five assisted tackles.

WHAT COACH Hyder SAYS ABOUT Statesboro: "Statesboro has some good athletes and they've got an excellent running back in (Tony) Grant. He's the center of their offense and he's for real. Their defense has also played tough all year."

PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR: Grant and defensive tackle Virgil Herrington.

KEYS TO VICTORY: "We need to continue to play well and keep Grant in check. We want to keep them away from the end zone and we hope our offense will continue to click."

SCORING AVERAGES: Offense — 33.25; Defense — 4.5.

Correction Fri., Oct. 6, 1989

In the Thursday, October 4 edition of the Times, a Valdosta High School football player was incorrectly identified. The player shown in a picture was defensive guard Andre Hampton and not defensive tackle George Copeland. Both are starters for the Wildcat defense.



HAMPTON

Hampton, 187-pound senior, made nine first hits, three quarterback sacks and five assisted tackles last week in the Wildcats 35-0 win against Northside-Warner Robins. The Times regrets the error.

—The Associated Press

Committee Bids For Six Teams

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

A recommendation has been made to the Georgia High School Association concerning a reclassification of the Columbus area schools, which make up the North subregion of Region 1-AAAA.

"The region representatives met Monday to talk about several issues which concern our region, such as sports playoff formats and other issues which have to do with the academic area of the schools in Region 1-AAAA," said Colquitt County Athletic Director Jim Hughes. "The Columbus schools let it be known that they are consid-

ering playing in a Class AAA region next season and therefore, a proposal was made for a six-team region made up of the existing Region 1-AAAA teams."

According to Hughes, the proposal was drawn up at the Region 1-AAAA meeting on Monday afternoon and will now await the decision from the Georgia High School Association next weekend in Thomaston.

Providing the proposal meets with GHSA approval, Region 1-AAAA would consist of Valdosta, Lowndes, Tift County, Colquitt County, Bainbridge and Coffee.

"The committee recommended that we make the proposal about the six-team region in the fact that the

Columbus schools were considering stepping down into Class AAA," said Hughes. "This is something that happens every two years and just does not have anything to do with just Region 1-AAAA. Every region in the state had a similar meeting concerning the future of the region and who will be a part of it. The Columbus schools had interest of going to Class AAA for several reasons."

According to Lowndes High School Athletic Director Rick Tomberlin, the move to a six-team region was simply an economic decision on behalf of the Columbus area schools.

"I'm sure playing the teams in the

other subregion did not have anything to do with it. The Columbus schools just decided that making a move to Class AAA would better benefit their area in terms of money, travel, and playoff considerations," said Tomberlin. "For the remaining six teams, if that ends up being the case, it will be a new task of finding five non-region opponents. I think that it is a move that is welcomed by the teams on this side due to travel involved. All of their schools, except one, are not Class AAAA size anyway. It will be interesting to see just how the state rules on this proposal."

Hughes impressed that the propo-

sal was simply a proposal and that the Georgia High School Association must show its approval.

"I don't see any reason why they will not approve the proposal, but it's in the hands of the Georgia High School Association at this point. We meet and make recommendations concerning certain items on our agenda that concern Region 1-AAAA. And if we want anything passed, it's up to the GHSA," said Hughes. "They will pass final judgement on the plan. This was just a recommendation on behalf of the Region 1-AAAA committee members about a reclassification of our region."

Parker Making The Most Of His Chance For VHS

Thurs., Oct 5, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High Wildcat fans who were watching last week's win over the Northside-Warner Robins Eagles might have been reminded of last year's potent running back duo of James Roberts and Isaac

Player of the Week

Caesar.

Although Roberts and Caesar are no longer around, the Wildcat running attack has not dropped off. Leading the way is fullback Carlos Parker, who rambled for 229 yards last week, and has been named the *Valdosta Daily Times'* Player of the Week.

"I did the same things that I've done all year," said Parker. "It just finally all came together. All the backs look to score whenever they get the ball. We don't do any different when we get the ball near the goalline," Parker said.

This season is the first Parker has started as a Wildcat after watching Roberts and Caesar grind out the yardage for two years. But Parker is glad he got the chance to see two talented backs do their thing.

"I was like a student when I was backing those guys up. I watched what they did well and I learned from their mistakes. That made me a lot better prepared when the situation came up," Parker said. "They could be down and still play an up game. I learned a lot from them."

The Wildcats are currently 4-0 and ranked second in the state's AAAA poll. But Parker is not overlooking anyone on their schedule and he has learned from the last two years that overlooking oppo-



Carlos Parker rambled last week against Northside of Warner Robins for 229 — Times Staff Photo by Mike Tanner.

nents can hurt you.

"We're still working on getting to the top," Parker said. "We're taking everything one game at a time. This season is like climbing a ladder and the step you don't think about is the one that will knock you down."

Clinch County's Dondre Lacey continues to impress the opposition and he added to his already impressive statistics. Although the Panthers fell to Wayne County, 15-13,

Lacey snagged 16 balls for 224 yards and two touchdowns. Clinch head coach Don Tison said Lacey does not do anything special. He just produces.

"He's got good concentration and he's pretty fast. He just has a great knack for catching the ball, especially in a crowd," Tison said. "He's a great athlete and I'm glad we've got him."

Defense Taking Charge

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

After one look around the south Georgia football scene, the final scores of the 1989 season will make one believe that this is the year of the offense.

Fred Edmonds and Dondre Lacey have kept the Clinch County passing attack alive and well. Donnie Carter has led Cook's wishbone to several wins. Valdosta High's Carlos Parker and Lowndes High's Chris Wright are two of the top rushers in the Region 1-AAAA. Tim Lambert and Tony Barnhart are a potent one-two punch at Brooks County. Frankie Wilkens has found his way into several opposing end zones for Madison County. The Valwood Valiants have unveiled their passing game and rolled up 50 points against Marantha two weeks ago.

But there is still one group that believes success is based on a hard-nosed defense. The Valdosta Wildcats have given up only four touchdowns in their first five games and they have collected three shutouts. The senior-laden squad has produced some good results and VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said he has been pleased with their performance.

* Cont

"I think any time that you really evaluate an offensive or defensive team, you find things that need improving," Rudolph said. "If I ever find a game that I don't need to work with them, my job will be over and they'll find someone else."

Although the 'Cats have proven to have one of the region's toughest defenses, no individual stars emerge more than others. But Rudolph said there have been some pleasant surprises.

"Guys like Dexter Daniels, who came up from the ninth-grade team, Travis and Marshun Lane and several others have come up and shown they can play. These were kids that we hoped would do well," Rudolph said. "When you have a lot of good players who are on a good level, you just hope some of the others will rise up and join them on that level."

This week, the Wildcats will face their first region foe when the Bainbridge Bearcats come to town.

VDT

Prep Standings

Team	Region 1-AAAA South League			Overall				
	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.
Coffee	1	0	0	1.00	5	0	0	1.00
Colquitt County	1	0	0	1.00	2	3	0	.400
Valdosta	0	0	0	.000	5	0	0	1.00
Tift County	0	0	0	.000	3	2	0	.600
Lowndes	0	1	0	.000	2	4	0	.333
Bainbridge	0	1	0	.000	1	3	0	.250

Last Week's Results
 Bainbridge was off
 Coffee 26, Lowndes 7
 Northview (Ala.) 14, Colquitt County 13
 Tift County 35, Lee (Jaxville, Fla.) 14
 Valdosta 38, Statesboro 7

This Week's Games
 Bainbridge at Valdosta
 Appling County at Coffee
 Lee County at Colquitt County
 Lowndes at Tift County

Bearcats Invade VHS

By **CHRIS BECKHAM**
 Times Sports Writer

So the Bainbridge Bearcats are 2-3? Well, don't expect head coach Nick Hyder and his Valdosta High coaching staff to take the team lightly. Hyder knows full well that this week, his team gets their first taste of Region 1-AAAA ball in 1989. And Hyder knows how bitter that taste can be.

"They are big and they are fast. Welcome to Region 1-AAAA. All of our coaches who have scouted them have said that they should probably be undefeated. They have a good solid team and we're going to have our hands full," Hyder said.

The heart of the Bainbridge team is the size on their offensive and defensive lines. Much of that comes from the presence of 320-pound tackle Ben Clemons. But he isn't the only big one that can be found in the trenches. They have several 255 and 260-pounders on the line and Hyder knows that defense will be tough to move the ball on.

"It will be a battle of two teams that have a tremendous emphasis on their defense. Their offense has done well at moving the ball but they only have two seniors on the offense," said Hyder. "Since this is our first region game, it adds a dimension to the game. We have to look at it like any team can beat us because they can."

Hyder's team has not lost a region game in the past three years and he would like to keep that streak going. The Wildcats' defense has continued their formidable play while the offense has also found their niche. Quarterback spot has not been hurt by the use of two players. In fact, the performance of both Alton Hinson and Deric Cotton has solidified the position.

"Bainbridge is also using two quarterbacks like we are and we are seeing a lot of teams doing that. Rodney Close is also a quality tailback and their other running back has broken off more than a few 50-yard runs," Hyder said. "They also have a kid at defensive back named Bernard Hamilton who our coaches think is the best defensive back we've seen this year."

But it's not just the coaches who know the importance of the game. The Valdosta players are fully aware that the important part of the schedule begins Friday night.

"Everybody in the region is tough and that includes Bainbridge," said junior tackle Shaun Eilders. "Clemons played last year and he's a real good player. They are big all over and they're the biggest team we've seen. It's going to be tough because anybody can beat anybody in this region."

Bainbridge has played one region game and they lost it to Colquitt County, 14-7 earlier this season. The most inspiring part of Valdosta's practice

Valdosta Wildcats



Carlos Moore



Anthony Williams

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: Bainbridge Bearcats

WHERE: Valdosta

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 13, 8 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: Valdosta 38, Statesboro 7.

WHAT COACH NICK HYDER SAID ABOUT LAST WEEK: "I was very proud of the way our team came from behind and kept their poise. Carlos Parker had another great game and he does things that you just can't coach. It was a big win for us."

TOP PERFORMANCES: Carlos Parker 149 yards rushing and three touchdowns and the Valdosta defense held running back Tony Grant to 89 yards on 21 carries.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAYS ABOUT BAINBRIDGE: "This is our first region game and Bainbridge has a good solid team. Like us, they have two quarterbacks and we've seen a couple of teams like that. The first thing our scouts said when they saw the films on them was that they should be 5-0 and not 2-3."

PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR: Big 320-pound defensive tackle Ben Clemons and running back Rodney Close.

KEYS TO VICTORY: "Being consistent is always a key and we need the breaks to go our way. Last week, we had some bad breaks but we were able to overcome them which was good."

SCORING AVERAGES: Offense — 34.4; Defense — 5.0.

Wednesday was a visit from former coach Wright Bazemore. Bazemore, who suffered a stroke last spring, came out to take a look at the 'Cats and the team responded by gathering near him for their daily devotional.

Bainbridge's wins have come against Central-Thomsonville and Shaw-Columbus while they lost to Colquitt County, Jefferson of Florida and Monroe. Those three losses were by a combined total of 11 points.

Overall, Belue Didn't Have A Bad Career At All

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VDI, News, Oct. 12, 1989

When Valdosta High School football fans reflect on the school's past history, one name is synonymous with Wildcat football. Buck Belue.

Belue was the first quarterback in the 75-year history of the Wildcats' football team that was the starting quarterback all of his four football seasons at the school from 1974-77. That achievement has not been matched since.

"I don't wish that upon any quarterback at Valdosta High School. It was a situation where our team faced a lot of schools which were gunning for the 'Cats. We finished my first year with a record of 3-7 and it was a learning experience to say the least," said Belue.

"I was the same as a lot of kids that grow up in Valdosta looking forward to that day when you'll be a part of the Wildcat football team. But as that first season went along, I found myself wondering if this is really what I was looking forward to for so many years."

Besides being Belue's first season, it was also the first year for coach Nick Hyder.

Belue, who with his brother Blake, run their own company called the Belue Company, Inc., pointed out that it was a tough way to start out for everyone involved.

"I'm sure that seeing a freshman at quarterback did not help anyone's confidence level. If you talked to the

upperclassmen, I'm sure they would have given anything to have someone of their equal leading the team," said Belue.

But from that point on, Belue's leadership abilities increased and so did the Wildcats' overall records. The next three seasons saw Valdosta in the playoffs. In Belue's senior campaign of 1977, the Wildcats marched all the way to the Class AAA state championship contest.

"The highlight of that season and possibly my career, was when we defeated the Warner Robins Demons (defending national champions) and snapped their long winning streak," said Belue. "They had lost several key players off that team from the year before, but they were still a great football team. Unfortunately, the most disappointing moment of my career was the following week when we lost to Clarke Central (16-14) in Athens for the state championship."

Ironically eight months later, Belue was in Athens taking snaps at the University of Georgia.

"Looking back on it, I was very fortunate in the interest that was shown coming out of high school. But looking at some of the teams which showed interest in me such as Notre Dame and Miami (Fla.), it was very flattering," said Belue. "My decision was simple. I wanted to live in Georgia. The state institution had a great reputation. Maybe not on the national level, but in the Southeast."

The Bulldogs completed a dream season in his junior year of 1980, when they captured the national championship with a perfect 12-0 season and a 17-10 victory over Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl.

"It was a dream come true for all of us and certainly the Georgia fans," said Belue. "We finished 6-5 the year before and I was coming off a broken leg and there was lot of uncertainty going into the year. And while everyone remembers Herschel Walker, we had a lot of great athletes on that team."

But it may have well been a cool December afternoon against the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in Sanford Stadium, which put Belue into the spotlight at Georgia.

In his freshman year of 1978, Belue came off the Bulldogs' bench in relief of starter Jeff Pyburn and rallied the team back from a three-touchdown deficit to edge the Jackets, 29-28.

"That game was the biggest as far as giving my teammates confidence in me as a leader and what I could do on the football field. It was a situation where we were behind and throwing almost every down," said Belue.

After Georgia, he played in the Montreal Expos' minor league baseball system for two years. He then put back on the football gear when he played two seasons for the Jacksonville Bulls of the USFL.



Former Valdosta High quarterback Buck Belue sits behind the desk now instead of behind a center. Belue and his brother, Blake, own Belue Company, Inc. here in Valdosta — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

In all, the Dogs won a pair of Southeastern Conference crowns under Belue and a national championship.

"It hasn't been a bad career. enjoyed it," said Belue. "I was surrounded with a lot of talented players and good coaching staffs."



Student/Employee

Ginny Williams has been a part-time employee at Country Cobbler for the past three months. In her spare time, the Valdosta High School student enjoys tennis and shopping.

Colquitt County Holds Bad Memories For The Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Four years and 39 games ago, the Valdosta High Wildcats experienced a close encounter of the unusual kind. It was the last time the Wildcats lost a game at Cleveland Field and the loss came to Colquitt County Packers, 21-14.

Friday night, the Pack is back. Colquitt County will bring their 3-3 record into Valdosta for both team's second Region 1-AAAA contest of the year. Both are 1-0 in the region but one team will leave Death Valley without that spotless record.

"Colquitt very well could be 5-1," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "They've lost two one-point games and they lost to Thomasville who turned around and got beat by Central of Thomasville and Colquitt beat them. The capability is there."

Many thought that the continuation of the Wildcats' regular-season winning streak would depend on defense in 1989. But the Wildcat offense has started to get on track with 96 points scored in their last three games. The passing combination of Alton Hinson and Deric Cotton and the production from a stable of running backs, led by region leader Carlos Parker, has given the Wildcats even one more weapon.

"I think we've shown steady progress in our offense and we've worked for consistency. I've been saying all year that we've been working for competitive depth and we still are," Hyder said. "We're still trying to develop an attitude that we can adjust to whatever we need to."

Although the Wildcats' offense has gained more steam every week, the defense has lost none of theirs. A tremendous pass rush that has netted 19 quarterback sacks has been the biggest obstacle for opposing offenses to overcome. But Hyder is convinced that fullback Nathan Williams will be the 'Cat defense's biggest test yet.

"Nathan Williams gives the Packers a dimension that we haven't had to deal with yet. The Grant kid from Statesboro was a great running back but he doesn't have the company to go with him that Williams does," Hyder said. "Bucky Goff is a versatile quarterback and Tim Lewis is a great punt returner and a receiver. They always seem to have someone like him over there."

The only common opponent for the two teams this season has been the Bainbridge Bearcats. Colquitt defeated Bainbridge 14-7 while the 'Cats shutout the visiting Bears last weekend, 23-0. Hyder said that although the Bearcats lost both games, he feels they are still a quality team and that made the region even tougher.

Hyder also voiced his approval at the Georgia High School Association's ruling Monday to allow two teams from every region to advance to the state playoffs. He said he backed that proposal long ago and is glad to see it put into action.

"We advocated that idea 10 years ago and I think Charlie Greene was the one who proposed it in the early 1970's. It will make each region redo their thinking on how to decide on what two teams to make it the most competitive. But each region will be autonomous and that's the great thing about the Georgia High School Association," Hyder said. "The vote was 13-1 for the move and that shows the support the idea received."

Valdosta Wildcats



Shaun Eilders



Bruce Daniels

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: Colquitt County Packers
WHERE: Cleveland Field
WHEN: Friday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m.
LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: Valdosta 23, Bainbridge 7.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAID ABOUT LAST WEEK: "We certainly respect Bainbridge and we played well last week. Any win in this region is a big one and we improved last week as a team."
TOP PERFORMANCES: Carlos Parker 15 rushes for 116 yards, defense had six quarterback sacks.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAYS ABOUT COLQUITT COUNTY: "This will be the biggest test for our defense yet. They are a great representative of this region and they will be fired up about the game. We'll have our hands full and it should be a very intense game."

PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR: Fullback Nathan Williams and linebacker Darius Dawson.
KEYS TO VICTORY: "They've moved the ball on everyone that they've played so we will be tested. They are solid at every position and we're going to have to try and stop their fullback Williams. But we will also have to watch the rest of their offensive weapons."
SCORING AVERAGES: Offense — 32.5; Defense — 4.16.

Forget Records When VHS, LHS Play

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High School ninth grade head football coach John Davis feels that the records can be thrown out the window, as his Wildcats will take on the Lowndes High ninth grade squad today at 5 p.m. at Martin Stadium.

"I don't really care what the records are when it comes to Valdosta and Low-

ndes in any event, especially football," said Davis. "I know we had better come to play football."

The undefeated Wildcats come into the contest sporting a 5-0 mark, while the Vikings are 0-4.

The Vikings, however, have been on a steady surge in their past two games. In their opening two games they were shut-out and assistant coach Jim Morrell feels that the Vikings are playing with more

enthusiasm.

"We've come a long way from our opening two games of the year," said Morrell. "This team has been improving all year. We have not won a game on the year, but the kids have been playing pretty hard. And we will need to be at our best against Valdosta."

Vikings' head coach Bill Pate's team is led by quarterback Cedric Neloms and tailback Otis Fleming.

Prep Slate

Friday, Oct. 20
Colquitt Co. at Valdosta, WAAC AM-93
Lowndes is off
Mitchell-Baker at Brooks Co.
Berrien Co. at Bacon Co.
McIntosh Co. Aca. at Cook
Trinity at Westbrook
Hamilton Co. at Keystone Hgts.
Daytona-Seabreeze at Madison Co.
Clinch Co. is off
Valwood is off

1-AAAA Stats

Here are the football statistics for the Region 1-AAAA South after play of week of Oct. 13.

TEAM STATS

Team	Offense	Rsh	Pas	TD	FG	Pts
Colquitt Co.	6	204	1284	45	9	175
Lowndes	6	167	1202	40	16	121
Tift Co.	7	1567	1113	45	15	119
Bainbridge	6	1506	619	887	18	132
Colquitt Co.	6	1207	837	370	10	69

RUSHING

Team	Att	Yds	TD
Colquitt Co.	24	282	1633
Colquitt Co.	19	266	1204
Lowndes	15	232	1202
Bainbridge	18	222	1113
Tift Co.	10	186	837

PASSING

Team	Com	Att	Int	Yds	TD
Colquitt Co.	62	132	9	887	6
Lowndes	42	88	2	569	3
Colquitt Co.	30	86	8	454	2
Colquitt Co.	28	61	2	407	0
Colquitt Co.	35	78	7	405	1
Bainbridge	32	101	11	370	2

DEFENSE RUSHING

Team	Att	Yds
Colquitt Co.	155	135
Colquitt Co.	188	508
Bainbridge	204	658
Tift Co.	231	974
Lowndes	211	1005
Colquitt Co.	278	1426

PASSING

Team	Com	Att	Int	Yds	TD
Bainbridge	23	91	4	237	1
Valdosta	26	91	2	258	1
Colquitt Co.	40	97	1	427	3
Lowndes	27	47	5	469	7
Colquitt Co.	28	83	3	560	2
Tift Co.	49	115	6	622	4

SCORING

Team	FG	TD	Pts
Colquitt Co.	0	4	25
Colquitt Co.	0	4	26
Colquitt Co.	2	9	66
Colquitt Co.	2	10	74
Lowndes	1	14	96
Colquitt Co.	5	22	153

PUNTING

Team	No	Avg
Phillips (V)	15	38.6
Furch (L)	24	38.3
Jo. Jones (T)	25	36.0
Harper (C)	11	31.7
Hamilton (B)	9	31.0
Goff (CC)	3	30.0
Jarvis (V)	3	30.0
Gaines (B)	14	29.9

INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING

Player	Att	Yds
Parker (V)	71	98
Williams (CC)	62	109
J. Glover (C)	61	109
Wright	72	62
Lively (B)	56	79
Jennings (T)	48	78
Ingram (C)	74	44
R. Glover (C)	61	49
Thomas (L)	37	69
Wright (V)	74	29
Johnson	81	29
Merritt (CC)	54	43
Washington (L)	38	32
R. Closs (B)	42	41
Burns (L)	57	30

PASSING

Player	Com	Att	Int	Yds
Weldon (T)	61	121	5	817
Goff (CC)	34	73	0	360
Thomas (L)	22	46	1	329
Hinson (V)	19	32	1	316
Parham (B)	14	42	0	268
Ingram (C)	14	25	0	191
Gaines (B)	12	54	1	162
Elliott (C)	8	24	0	128

RECEIVING

Player	AVG	No	Yds
Ewings (T)	15.8	32	507
Lewis (CC)	11.6	15	174
Flanders (B)	14.4	12	173
Coeland (L)	16.8	9	151
Blowey (C)	21.9	6	126
Blomgren (T)	23.2	5	108
Folsom (V)	21.5	4	86
Jo. Jones (T)	9.4	9	85
Brown (T)	42.0	2	84
Coward (L)	16.8	5	84
Gay (V)	20.5	4	82
Washington (L)	15.2	5	76
Martin (B)	18.5	4	74
Middlebrooks (CC)	9.3	8	74
Mali (T)	19.1	7	65
Merritt (CC)	31.0	2	62
Thomas (L)	10.2	6	61
McSwain (V)	10.6	5	53
Jackson (B)	16.0	3	48

SCORING

Player	T	F	1	Tot
Parker (V)	13	0	0	78
J. Glover (C)	9	0	0	54
Williams (CC)	7	0	0	54
J. Glover (C)	4	0	0	42
Wright (V)	2	0	0	36
Draper (V)	0	5	0	19
Ewings (T)	5	0	0	32
Wright (L)	5	0	0	34
Washington (L)	0	2	0	13
Hughes (CC)	3	0	0	18
Goff (CC)	3	0	0	18
Ingram (C)	0	2	0	12
J. Jones (T)	3	0	0	18
Lively (B)	3	0	0	18

Prep Standings

Region I-AAVA South

Team	League			Overall		
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
Valdosta	1	0	1.00	6	0	1.00
Coffee	1	0	1.00	6	0	1.00
Colquitt County	1	0	1.00	3	3	.500
Tift County	1	0	1.00	4	2	.667
Lowndes	0	2	.000	2	5	.286
Bainbridge	0	2	.000	1	4	.200

Last Week's Results

Valdosta 23, Bainbridge 0
 Coffee 21, Appling County 14
 Colquitt County 46, Lee County 0
 Tift County 15, Lowndes 6

This Week's Games

Eufaula (Ala.) at Bainbridge
 Coffee at Tift County
 Colquitt County at Valdosta
 Lowndes is off

Thurs, Oct. 19, 1989
 VDI, Oct. 19, 1989

VDI Sat Oct 21, 1989

GEORGIA (2-3)

Georgia was upset by Ole Miss, 17-13, last week. Things aren't going too well. But, the Dogs do take on Vanderbilt this Saturday. At Vandy's homecoming?

Greg Talley is 55 of 97 for the year for a 57 percent completion rate. He has 679 yards passing, five interceptions and two touchdowns. Center **Ben Lane** was listed as doubtful before the Ole Miss game but played. A lot. **David Hargett** is sixth on the team in tackles with 34 total, 21 solo, one sack, two tackles for losses and one pass deflection.

VDI, Fri. Oct. 20, 1989 Valdosta, Georgia



Academics Cited

Valdosta High head football coach **Nick Hyder** pins an honor roll button on **Russ Dodson**, a fourth-grader at S. L. Mason Elementary School, as **Layton Fillion** (left) and **Emory Patterson** await. Hyder spoke to more than 100 honor roll students Thursday, praising their effort and encouraging them to continue good work - Photo by **Mike Tanner**.

Visitors Steal The Show

Colquitt Co. Invades Cleveland, Posts Upset Of Valdosta, 7-0

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Following the Valdosta-Colquitt County matchup Friday night, Packer head coach hugged Diane Forbes, producer of the ABC television show '20/20' who had been in town to do a feature on the Wildcat program. Barely able to hold back a smile, Hughes asked, "Does this mean we'll get a little more TV time?"

The reason Hughes asked is because his team had accomplished what very few, if any, had given them a chance to do. They came into Valdosta and defeated the Wildcats, 7-0.

The win gave the Packers a 2-0 Region 1-AAAA South record and made them 4-3 overall while the loss was the first for the Wildcats on the season.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said the loss was not a major surprise. He knew that the Packers would be a stiff challenge and they did what they had to do to win the game.

"They stopped us on the goalline a couple of times and their defense made some good adjustments when it got to that part of the field. We made some mistakes but that is all part of it. The best team on the field is supposed to win and they did tonight," Hyder said.

The game featured two outstanding defensive performances by both teams with only one big play separating the two on the scoreboard.

The winning points came on an option play at the Wildcat 26-yard line with 4:20 remaining in the game. On second-and-8, Packer quarterback Bucky Goff, brother of University of Georgia head coach Ray Goff, faked an inside handoff to fullback Nathan Williams and ran to his right. As he was hit, he pitched the ball to senior tailback Spindola Merritt, who raced down the sideline for a touchdown.

"I saw an opening," Goff said, "and I started to run it. But I felt the pressure from their linebackers so I pitched it. I got hit but I looked up into the stands after I was on the ground. I saw our fans go crazy and I knew it was something good."

"I felt we could win the game all week and our coaches did a good job getting us ready. Playing in front of national TV didn't have that much to do with it but it did give us an extra boost," Goff added.

The play, called a "34 base option right" in the Colquitt County play-book, turned out to be the difference. The Packers have run it several times this season and VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said he expected to see it sometime during the game.

"We'd seen the option on film but I think that was the only time they ran it all night. They just got past our man and our defense thought that the quarterback was going to run it. That one bad play turned out to be the turning point in the game," Rudolph said.

"We knew it would be tough but it's on nights like this that you know you love your kids whether they win

or lose. Our backs are up against the wall now and we've got to fight back."

The game also featured the two top rushers in the region with Colquitt's Williams and Valdosta's Carlos Parker. But neither had a big night as both ran into great defenses. Williams finished with 77 yards on 21 carries while Parker tallied 72 yards on 22 attempts.

Valdosta had their chances to score in both halves but mistakes and the Packer defense kept them from reaching the end zone.

'... We made some mistakes but that is all part of it. The best team on the field is supposed to win and they did tonight.'

— VHS Coach Nick Hyder

A Joe Wright punt return after CCHS's first possession of the game gave the 'Cats the ball at the Packer 34-yard line. But two plays later, Colquitt County's interception leader Anthony Bridges came up with the big play and pulled down an Alton Hitson pass at the 3 to stop the drive.

The Packer offense struggled throughout the first half and never got it past their own 34.

And as they have all year, the Valdosta defense set up the offense. In the second quarter, linebacker Bruce Daniels blocked a Goff punt and Valdosta took over at the CCHS 18.

Valdosta kept it on the ground and earned a first-and-goal at the Packer 5-yard line. But the Packer defense stood tall as the Wildcats went for it on fourth down at the 1.

Parker, who has ran for 13 touchdowns this season, tried to dive over the top for his 14th. But the defense grabbed his legs and kept him from the end zone.

Things looked bright for the Wildcats early in the second half as they took the opening kickoff and drove downfield. They ran the ball 13 times before reaching the Packer 5. To beef up the blocking, the Wildcats sent 250-pound linebacker Anthony Williams and 190-pound nose-guard Andre Hampton into the backfield. On the next play, Parker dove to the 1 and Valdosta was knocking on the door.

But on second down, an illegal procedure penalty closed that door and moved them back to the 6-yard line.

On third down, Hitson was sacked by strong safety Quessie Bethune and the 'Cats had to attempt a field goal. But Dow Drury's try was wide right and the scoreless tie remained.

On the game-winning drive, the Packers took over at their own 49-yard line. Exhausted in nearly all of his offensive schemes throughout the game, Hughes elected to leave the work to Williams.

His fullback responded by catching an 8-yard pass and running the ball on the next five consecutive plays for 17 yards.

But on the seventh play of the drive, Hughes gambled on the

element of surprise. It was an inside fake to Williams that held the defense and launched the touchdown run by Merritt.

"Nathan Williams is a fine back and we knew that he was their main man coming in," Hyder said. "But that was their option play and it was well-executed. We didn't take this game lightly because this Colquitt team has played this Wildcat team tough from the eighth grade on."

"I wished we would've scored when we got down close but I wouldn't have done anything different," Hyder added. "They just did a good job and we have to bounce back. It was a well-earned victory for Colquitt County High and it goes to show the quality of teams in this region."

After the touchdown, the Wildcats had one more chance to drive the field. Hitson started their final drive with an 18-yard pass to Mickey McSwain and Parker added seven more on the next play. With the clock still ticking, Hitson hit Steve Jarmillo for a 9-yard gain and

another first down to stop the clock.

After stalling, the Wildcats kept moving with a fourth-down-and-five pass from Hitson to Carlos Folsom for nine yards. But the next play sealed the upset.

From the CCHS 25-yard line, Hitson looked for McSwain again but the pass was tipped into the air by linebacker Mat Madison and intercepted by linebacker Ty Greene. The Packers fell on the ball to end the game.

The game marked just another triumphant visit to Cleveland Field by Hughes. The last loss for the Wildcats at Cleveland Field came against Hughes' Packers in 1985 and the last time the Wildcats were shut out at Cleveland Field was in 1974 by William Andrews and the Thomasville Bulldogs. That team was coached by Jim Hughes.

"I thought both teams played well and I happen to like defensive football," Hughes said. "But I did not anticipate a shutout. We're delighted to win this game because Valdosta is an excellent team. They'll be all right."

"We've run the option some this year and I felt like we could get it off," Hughes said of the winning play. "Merritt barely got it in the end zone but it was just enough."

And after his team had won the game, Hughes looked to Forbes again.

"I guess we changed the storyline a little bit, huh?"

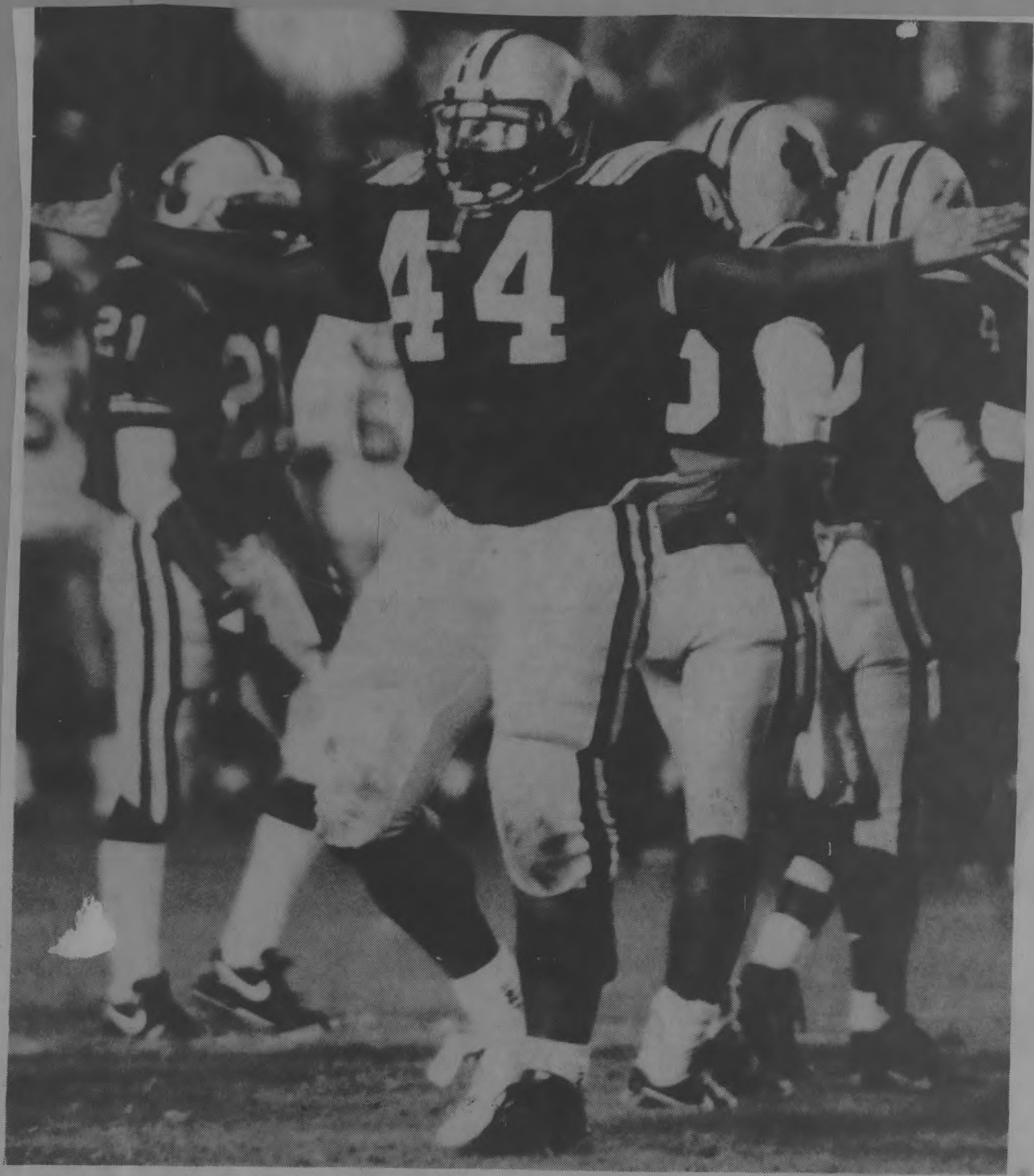
Colquitt-Valdosta		
Packers	Wildcats	
6	First downs	13
35-105	Rushes-yards	49-108
2-5	Comp.-att.	5-12
11	Yards	45
0	Intercepted	2
6-34.0	Punting	4-29.3
2-10	Penalties	3-35
0-0	Fumbles-lost	2-0
Colquitt		0 0 0 7-7
Valdosta		0 0 0 0-0

Scoring Summary
C—Spindola Merritt 26 run (Parks Hughes kick) 4:20, 4th

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Colquitt-Nathan Williams 21-77, Merritt 4-33, Bucky Goff 9-(-5), Adrian Herring 1-0, Valdosta-Carlos Parker 22-72, Joe Wright 12-29, Alton Hitson 14-5, Chris Chachere 1-2.
Passing: Colquitt-Goff 2-5-0 11, Valdosta-Hitson 5-9-2 45, Deric Colton 0-4-0 0.
Receiving: Colquitt-Tim Lewis 1-3, Williams 1-8, Valdosta-Mickey McSwain 1-18, Carlos Moore 1-11, Steve Jarmillo 1-10, Carlos Folsom 1-9, Chachere 1-(-3).

The Valdosta Daily Times
Saturday, October 21, 1989

Sports



Wildcat defensive captain and starting
linebacker Anthony Williams looks to his
sideline for directions as the Wildcat defense

tried to stop the Colquitt County Packers
Friday night. The Packers upset the Wild-
cats, 7-0 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

'20-20' Eyes Wildcat Loss

But Comes Away Impressed

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Never mind the 7-0 loss to the Colquitt County Packers Friday night. When the producers, correspondents and camera people from the ABC newsmagazine "20/20" wanted a story on high school football, they came to Valdosta. And they left having found what they were looking for.

The production team from the long-running television show arrived in Valdosta last Tuesday after scouting the Wildcats for the past several months. They interviewed coaches, players, longtime fans and other residents during their week-long stay and producer Diane Forbes said she

came away with a winner.

"We wanted a story to show the nation on Thanksgiving weekend because it is a big football weekend. High school football combines family and football unlike any other kind of sport," Forbes said.

"All the high school players still live at home with their parents and since Thanksgiving weekend is so family-oriented, we wanted to celebrate high school football."

After coming up with the basic story idea, the show's researchers quickly went to work to find a high school team with a great tradition. Correspondent Bob Brown said the decision to pick Valdosta was not

See

The Valdosta Daily Times

Sat. Oct 21, 1989



ABC Television correspondent Bob Brown (center) prepares to film a segment about Wildcat football for the program "20/20"

Friday night at Cleveland Field. The Wildcats lost to Colquitt County, 7-0 — Times Photo By Mike Tanner.

Wildcats

From Page 1A

that hard.

"Our researchers found out pretty quickly that Valdosta has the most successful high school football team in the nation. They've been featured in Sports Illustrated and some other magazines and it's a fact that this system is truly phenomenal," Brown said.

"The system has produced great teams and the stories behind those teams are amazing."

Brown mentioned several factors that he thinks make the Wildcats one of America's premier prep football teams, emphasizing the bond between the Wildcat team and the Valdosta community.

"The one thing I've learned that makes the Wildcats such a success is that every time a team takes the field, it's not just the team that's playing the game. It's everyone who has ever played for the Wildcats.

They're all on the field at the same time. It's a tremendous story," Brown said.

The production staff spent Tuesday and Thursday in Valdosta at the Wildcats' practices and school functions, interviewing players and coaches. On Wednesday, the crew went to Moultrie to speak with Colquitt head coach Jim Hughes and his team.

On Friday, they attended the game, a 7-0 upset win for the visiting Packers, and they were scheduled to leave Valdosta and head back for New York this morning.

"I've come away from this week with a very good feeling," Forbes said. "The people we've met in the community have been very kind and these boys have been an inspiration. They deserve to win because they work very hard at their game. There are no bad things and there is no controversy surrounding this team.

It has made our job very enjoyable this week."

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said he was proud that the newsmagazine chose his team to feature.

"It is always an honor for high school football to be recognized. This will show how tough the Region 1-AAAA is and we don't think there is a tougher region in the nation. We're glad they chose us and we're glad that all of high school football will be publicized," Hyder said.

Brown, who was born in football-mad Oklahoma, said he is a big fan and that made this particular assignment a good one.

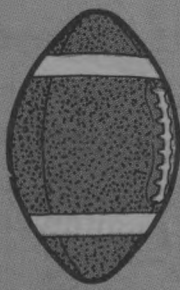
"This has been a lot of fun. I've got to leave at 4 a.m. this morning to go to Germany so this was a nice break in the action. We think the nation is going to like what Valdosta has going down here," Brown said.

Saturday

October 21, 1989

High School Scores

Valdosta.....	0	Cook.....	38	Trinity.....	9	Coffee Co.....	26
Colquitt Co.....	7	McIntosh Co.....	6	Westbrook.....	6	Tift Co.....	7
Madison Co.....	42	Berrien Co.....	31	Hamilton Co.....	25	Brooks Co.....	13
Seabreeze.....	15	Bacon Co.....	0	Keystone Hts.....	35	Mitchell-Baker.....	33



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Wildcats On Parade

Valdosta High students celebrate Homecoming 1989 as they parade down Patterson

Street during Friday afternoon's festivities — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Top Teams In I-AAAA Square Off

Valdosta Hosts Colquitt County

Fr. Oct 20, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VDT

The Valdosta Wildcats will square off with the Colquitt County Packers tonight at Cleveland Field.

Both teams come into tonight's Region 1-AAAA South game undefeated in region play and house some of the finest talent in the region.

Colquitt's sophomore tailback Nathan Williams is the second leading rusher in the league with 672 yards on 109 carries.

The Colquitt County offense is led by senior quarterback Bucky Goff. Goff is second in the region is passing hitting on 34-of-73 attempts for 360 yards.

The Wildcats have the leading rusher in Carlos Parker, who has carried the football 98 times for 694 yards. Parker, who is averaging 7.1 yards per carry, is also the leading scorer in the region with 78 points.

Valdosta has won three consecutive times against the Packers, with Colquitt's last win coming in 1985 in Cleveland Field 21-14.

McIntosh Co. Aca. at Cook

The Cook High Hornets are at 2-1 in Region 2-AA and will look to improve on that stat tonight in Adel.

Cook will be hosting McIntosh County Academy, which were one-point losers to region for Berrien County two week's ago.

The Hornets are coming off a tough overtime victory over Berrien County.

If the Cook offense can get back on track, Frankie Cowan's Hornets will move to 3-1 in the region.

Berrien Co. at Bacon Co.

Berrien County is coming off a very emotion loss to region rival Cook High last week.

But coach Bart Shuman was pleased with his team's performance against the powerful Hornets.

Shuman, however, hopes that his team will be able to stay away from a big letdown this week.

Other area games of interest tonight include Brooks County traveling to Camilla to take on Mitchell-Baker; Hamilton County will be looking for their first win of the year against Keystone Heights; Westbrook hosts Trinity; and Madison County entertains Daytona Seabreeze High School.

Oct. 20, 1989 VDT

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta Wildcats

vs.
Colquitt County Packers
at Cleveland Field

# Pos.	Player	Yr.	WL
15	QB Alton Hilson	Jr.	170
22	RB Carlos Parker	Sr.	182
11	RB Joe Wright	Sr.	145
19	FL Tracy Smothers	Sr.	168
88	SE Carlos Moore	Sr.	140
58	C Jarrett Johnson	Sr.	211
52	G Matthew Butler	Sr.	208
51	G Jason Peters	Sr.	214
77	T Shaun Elders	Jr.	264
50	T Brooks Akins	Sr.	223
81	TE Mickey McSwain	Sr.	190

PACKER DEFENSE

74	T Deon Williams	Sr.	235
91	T Scott Underwood	Jr.	190
92	E Alton Jones	Jr.	205
36	E Richard Nelson	Sr.	180
44	LB Mat Madison	Jr.	190
45	LB Ty Greene	Jr.	185
48	LB Darius Dawson	Sr.	200
24	S Daniel Dalton	Sr.	150
47	S Quessie Bethune	Jr.	175
28	CB Pat Harper	Sr.	170
21	CB Anthony Bridges	Jr.	165
12	P Bucky Goff	Sr.	185

WILDCAT DEFENSE

87	T Andre Scruggs	Jr.	255
94	T George Copeland	Sr.	215
91	G Andre Hampton	Sr.	187
48	E Dexter Daniels	So.	190
47	E Fred Henton	Sr.	185
44	LB Anthony Williams	Sr.	250
49	LB Bruce Daniels	Sr.	204
28	CB Trampis Wrice	So.	150
32	CB Chris Hart	Sr.	174
21	S Travis Lane	Sr.	155
23	S Marshun Lane	Jr.	170
2	K Dow Drury	So.	150
35	P Eric Phillips	Jr.	180

Head coach: Nick Hyder

BULLDOG OFFENSE

12	QB Bucky Goff	Sr.	185
23	TB Spindola Merritt	Sr.	160
9	FB Nathan Williams	So.	180
6	SE Chris McCranle	So.	165
15	FL Tim Lewis	Sr.	175
60	C Shannon Croy	Sr.	160
62	G Brian Smith	Sr.	230
63	G Scotty Jarvis	Jr.	200
58	T Roger Brady	Sr.	220
78	T Chad Spires	Jr.	225
84	TE Michael Boppre	Jr.	190

Head coach: Jim Jones

VDT

Saturday, October 21, 1989 3-A



Homecoming Queen

Valdosta High School senior Simone Allen was crowned Homecoming Queen before Friday's VHS-Colquitt County game — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

'Cats Muscle By Vikings

VDI Fr., Oct. 20, 1989
By RON EVANS
Times Sports Editor

Lowndes High School ninth grade football coach Bill Pate said that Valdosta was just too strong. Valdosta High coach John Davis said it didn't matter. He wasn't sure it was over until the final horn.

Whenever Lowndes and Valdosta get together, as did the ninth grade teams Thursday at Martin Stadium, all things are equal.

"The game was a lot closer than the score said," said Davis, following his Wildcats' 24-0 victory, which moved them to 6-0 on the year. "We never felt safe. They were close the whole way. They stuck right with us."

"They are stronger that we are," said Pate, whose team falls to 0-5. "That was the key to the game. But, we never gave up. I'm proud of the boys for that. We could have quit since we came in 0-4, but never did."

Both teams end their seasons next Thursday. Valdosta will travel to take on undefeated Colquitt County. Lowndes will visit Coffee. Both games are at 5 p.m.

Valdosta rolled up 301 yards in total offense with 221 coming on the ground. Brock Sanford led the way with 90 yards on 11 carries, followed by Tommy Speed with 76 on 13 rushes. Both also scored touchdowns.

Sanford scored the first touchdown of the game with 6:47 left in the first on a 20-yard romp. Clark Drury added the first of three PATs on the night.

VHS went up 10-0 with 2:13 left in the opening stanza as Drury connected on a 36-yard field goal.

Lowndes, which garnered just 134 yards in offense, 91 on the ground led by Otis Fleming with 62 yards on 15 totes, never really threatened. "We've had that all year. We just needed a break or something, but never got it," said Pate.

The pads were popping in the second half as Valdosta controlled things.

A Marcus Williams' 22-yard run made it 17-0 with 2:38 left in the third quarter and Speed ended the game. See 'Cats, Page 3B



Valdosta High School ninth grade running back Brock Sanford (24) tries to break the tackle of Lowndes' defender Tony Miller

(56) in their game Thursday at Martin Stadium. Valdosta won, 24-0 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

'Cats

From Page 1B

Game's scoring with a 3-yard burst with 3:20 left in the game.

Defensively for Lowndes, Cedric Mathis and Dana Smith were standouts.

Franklin Wiseman and Jason Jelks were standouts for the VHS defense while Jesse Hunter and Andy Harrison anchored the offensive line.

Valdosta-Lowndes	
Wildcats	Vikings
16	8
41-221	39-91
6-15	3-20
80	43
0	1
3-313	6-338
6-45	1-15
5-2	2-1
Valdosta	Lowndes
10 0 7 7-24	0 0 0 0-0

Scoring Summary
 V—Brock Sanford 20 run (Clark Drury kick) 6:47, 1st
 V—Drury 36 FG 2:13, 1st
 V—Marcus Williams 22 run (Drury kick) 2:38, 3rd
 V—Tommy Speed 3 run (Drury kick) 3:20, 4th

Individual Statistics
 Rushing: Valdosta—Steve Everson 7-(-11), Sanford 11-90, Williams 2-15, Speed 13-76, John Bell 1-8, Jerome Security 3-29, Brian Thomas 2-15, Alfred Barnes 2-(-1), Lowndes—Otis Fleming 15-62, Cedric Neloms 8-4, Demarcus Rizer 6-25
 Passing: Valdosta—Everson 6-14-0, 80 yards; Regan 1-0-0, 9
 Receiving: Valdosta—Shadrick Green 3-42, Speed 2-33, Bell 1-5, Lowndes—Bert Craven 1-5, Neloms 1-9, Fleming 1-29

VDI Fr., Oct. 20, 1989

Visitors Steal The Show

Colquitt Co. Invades Cleveland, Posts Upset Of Valdosta, 7-0

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Following the Valdosta-Colquitt County matchup Friday night, Packer head coach hugged Diane Forbes, producer of the ABC television show '20/20' who had been in town to do a feature on the Wildcat program. Barely able to hold back a smile, Hughes asked, "Does this mean we'll get a little more TV time?"

The reason Hughes asked is because his team had accomplished what very few, if any, had given them a chance to do. They came into Valdosta and defeated the Wildcats, 7-0.

The win gave the Packers a 2-0 Region 1-AAAA South record and made them 4-3 overall while the loss was the first for the Wildcats on the season.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder said the loss was not a major surprise. He knew that the Packers would be a stiff challenge and they did what they had to do to win the game.

"They stopped us on the goalline a couple of times and their defense made some good adjustments when it got to that part of the field. We made some mistakes but that is all part of it. The best team on the field is supposed to win and they did tonight," Hyder said.

The game featured two outstanding defensive performances by both teams with only one big play separating the two on the scoreboard.

The winning points came on an option play at the Wildcat 26-yard line with 4:20 remaining in the game. On second-and-8, Packer quarterback Bucky Goff, brother of University of Georgia head coach Ray Goff, faked an inside handoff to fullback Nathan Williams and ran to his right. As he was hit, he pitched the ball to senior tailback Spindola Merritt, who raced down the sideline for a touchdown.

"I saw an opening," Goff said, "and I started to run it. But I felt the pressure from their linebackers so I pitched it. I got hit but I looked up into the stands after I was on the ground. I saw our fans go crazy and I knew it was something good."

"I felt we could win the game all week and our coaches did a good job getting us ready. Playing in front of national TV didn't have that much to do with it but it did give us an extra boost," Goff added.

The play, called a "34 base option right" in the Colquitt County play-book, turned out to be the difference. The Packers have run it several times this season and VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph said he expected to see it sometime during the game.

"We'd seen the option on film but I think that was the only time they ran it all night. They just got past our man and our defense thought that the quarterback was going to run it. That one bad play turned out to be the turning point in the game," Rudolph said.

"We knew it would be tough but it's on nights like this that you know you love your kids whether they win

or lose. Our backs are up against the wall now and we've got to fight back."

The game also featured the two top rushers in the region with Colquitt's Williams and Valdosta's Carlos Parker. But neither had a big night as both ran into great defenses. Williams finished with 77 yards on 21 carries while Parker tallied 72 yards on 22 attempts.

Valdosta had their chances to score in both halves but mistakes and the Packer defense kept them from reaching the end zone.

'... We made some mistakes but that is all part of it. The best team on the field is supposed to win and they did tonight.'

— VHS Coach Nick Hyder

A Joe Wright punt return after CCHS's first possession of the game gave the 'Cats the ball at the Packer 34-yard line. But two plays later, Colquitt County's interception leader Anthony Bridges came up with the big play and pulled down an Alton Hitson pass at the 3 to stop the drive.

The Packer offense struggled throughout the first half and never got it past their own 34.

And as they have all year, the Valdosta defense set up the offense. In the second quarter, linebacker Bruce Daniels blocked a Goff punt and Valdosta took over at the CCHS 18.

Valdosta kept it on the ground and earned a first-and-goal at the Packer 5-yard line. But the Packer defense stood tall as the Wildcats went for it on fourth down at the 1.

Parker, who has ran for 13 touchdowns this season, tried to dive over the top for his 14th. But the defense grabbed his legs and kept him from the end zone.

Things looked bright for the Wildcats early in the second half as they took the opening kickoff and drove downfield. They ran the ball 13 times before reaching the Packer 5. To beef up the blocking, the Wildcats sent 250-pound linebacker Anthony Williams and 190-pound noseguard Andre Hampton into the backfield. On the next play, Parker dove to the 1 and Valdosta was knocking on the door.

But on second down, an illegal procedure penalty closed that door and moved them back to the 6-yard line.

On third down, Hitson was sacked by strong safety Quessie Bethune and the 'Cats had to attempt a field goal. But Dow Drury's try was wide right and the scoreless tie remained.

On the game-winning drive, the Packers took over at their own 49-yard line. Exhausted in nearly all of his offensive schemes throughout the game, Hughes elected to leave the work to Williams.

His fullback responded by catching an 8-yard pass and running the ball on the next five consecutive plays for 17 yards.

But on the seventh play of the drive, Hughes gambled on the

Cont.

element of surprise. It was an inside fake to Williams that held the defense and launched the touchdown run by Merritt.

"Nathan Williams is a fine back and we knew that he was their main man coming in," Hyder said. "But that was their option play and it was well-executed. We didn't take this game lightly because this Colquitt team has played this Wildcat team tough from the eighth grade on."

"I wished we would've scored when we got down close but I wouldn't have done anything different," Hyder added. "They just did a good job and we have to bounce back. It was a well-earned victory for Colquitt County High and it goes to show the quality of teams in this region."

After the touchdown, the Wildcats had one more chance to drive the field. Hitson started their final drive with an 18-yard pass to Mickey McSwain and Parker added seven more on the next play. With the clock still ticking, Hitson hit Steve Jarmillo for a 9-yard gain and

another first down to stop the clock.

After stalling, the Wildcats kept moving with a fourth-down-and-five pass from Hitson to Carlos Folsom for nine yards. But the next play sealed the upset.

From the CCHS 25-yard line, Hitson looked for McSwain again but the pass was tipped into the air by linebacker Mat Madison and intercepted by linebacker Ty Greene. The Packers fell on the ball to end the game.

The game marked just another triumphant visit to Cleveland Field by Hughes. The last loss for the Wildcats at Cleveland Field came against Hughes' Packers in 1985 and the last time the Wildcats were shut out at Cleveland Field was in 1974 by William Andrews and the Thomasville Bulldogs. That team was coached by Jim Hughes.

"I thought both teams played well and I happen to like defensive football," Hughes said. "But I did not anticipate a shutout. We're delighted to win this game because Valdosta is an excellent team. They'll be all right."

"We've run the option some this year and I felt like we could get it off," Hughes said of the winning play. "Merritt barely got it in the end zone but it was just enough."

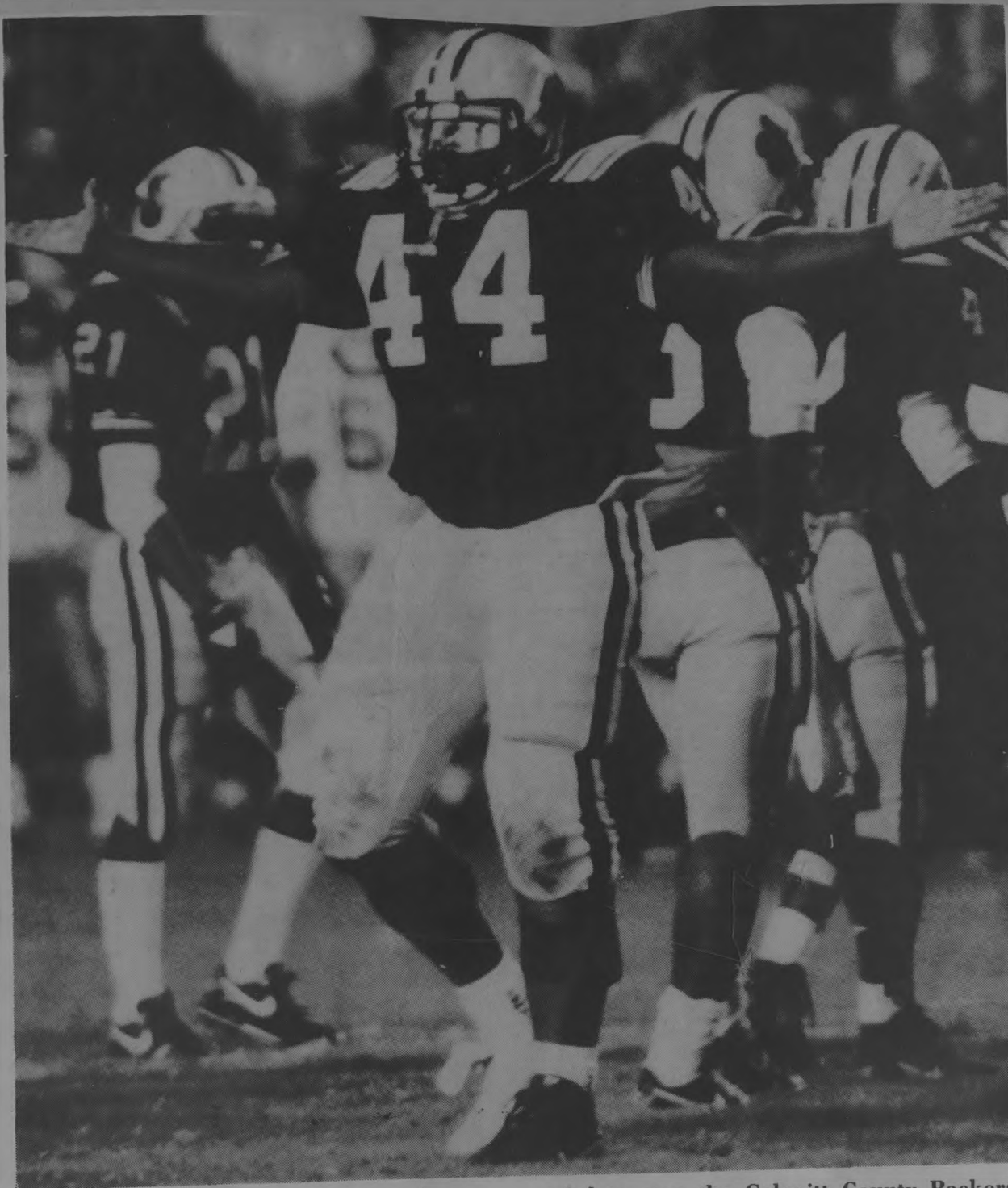
And after his team had won the game, Hughes looked to Forbes again.

"I guess we changed the storyline a little bit, huh?"

Colquitt-Valdosta		
Packers		Wildcats
6	First downs	13
35-105	Rushes-yards	49-108
2-5	Comp.-att.	5-12
11	Yards	45
0	Intercepted	2
6-34.0	Punting	4-29.3
2-10	Penalties	3-35
0-0	Fumbles-lost	2-0
Colquitt		0 0 0 7-7
Valdosta		0 0 0 0-0

Scoring Summary
C—Spindola Merritt 26 run (Parks Hughes kick) 4:20, 4th

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Colquitt-Nathan Williams 21-77, Merritt 4-33, Bucky Goff 9-(5), Adrian Herring 1-0, Valdosta-Carlos Parker 22-72, Joe Wright 12-29, Alton Hitson 14-5, Chris Chachere 1-2.
Passing: Colquitt-Goff 2-5-0 11, Valdosta-Hitson 5-9-2 45, Deric Cotton 0-4-0 0.
Receiving: Colquitt-Tim Lewis 1-3, Williams 1-8, Valdosta-Mickey McSwain 1-18, Carlos Moore 1-11, Steve Jarmillo 1-10, Carlos Folsom 1-9, Chachere 1-(3).



Wildcat defensive captain and starting linebacker Anthony Williams looks to his sideline for directions as the Wildcat defense Sat. Oct. 21, 1989

tried to stop the Colquitt County Packers Friday night. The Packers upset the Wildcats, 7-0 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

UDT

1-AAAA South Has Two In The Top 10

Oct. 28, 1989

The Associated Press

The four top teams remained the same and only four new faces appeared in the Georgia high school football rankings this week as teams moved closer to key regional battles.

Thomasville and Lincoln County remained unanimous choices in classes AAA and A, while Warner Robins and Lovett held onto their No. 1 rankings in classes AAAA and AA in voting by The Associated Press board of sports writers and broadcasters.

CLASS AAAA

Warner Robins again collected all but one first-place vote, with Valdosta receiving the other.

Morrow's 40-0 win over Region 4-AAAA rival Henry County pushed it from sixth to fifth. Morrow now has victories over two of the four top challengers in its region. It beat 10th-rated Griffin and has yet to face ninth-rated Newnan and LaGrange.

The only other region with more than one team in the Class AAAA top 10 is Region 1-AAAA South. Second-rated Valdosta and No. 8 Coffee will play in November.

CLASS AAA

Two of the top three teams in Class AAA hope to keep undefeated records intact for a Nov. 10 showdown. Thomasville, No. 1, and Worth County, second, are both in Region 1-AAA West.

Thomasville survived a serious challenge last weekend as Albany went ahead 14-0 and led 17-14 early in the fourth quarter. But Thomasville charged back behind backup quarterback Eric Simon to win 28-17. Starting quarterback Charles Bostick was out with a sprained ankle.

CLASS AA

Voters showed their respect for No. 1 Lovett by moving Cartersville down only one notch, to a tie for 10th, after its 26-0 loss to the front-runner.

Washington-Wilkes fell from second to seventh after a 28-0 loss to Clarke Central, allowing five teams to move up one spot each.

The Class AA list includes three sets of regional rivals: No. 4 Manchester, No. 6 Mary Persons and No. 8 Robert E. Lee from Region 4-AA; No. 4 Early County and No. 5 Mitchell-Baker in Region 1-AA; and No. 2 Rockmart and No. 10 Cartersville in Region 7-AA South.

CLASS A

Brookstone was the only team in Class A to climb, moving from 10th to eighth. It jumped over Trion and Bowdon, Region 6-A rivals who will square off this week.

Other regional rivals among the Class A leaders include No. 1 Lincoln County and No. 4 Warren County in 4-A; and Metter, in third place, Claxton, fifth, and Reidsville, tied for tenth, in 3-A West.

Prep Poll

Here is the latest poll of The Associated Press board of sports writers and broadcasters ranking Georgia's high school football teams. Team names are followed by won-lost record, number of first-place votes and total points.

CLASS AAAA

1. Warner Robins (4-0), 11, 119.
2. Valdosta (3-0), 1, 107.
3. Southwest DeKalb (3-0), 92.
4. McEachern (4-0), 77.
5. Morrow (4-0), 65.
6. Brookwood (3-0), 62.
7. Cedar Shoals (4-0), 52.
8. Coffee (3-0), 39.
9. Newnan (3-1), 29
10. Griffin (2-2), 9.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Central Macon, Wheeler.

CLASS AAA

1. Thomasville (4-0), 12, 120.
2. (tie) Marist (3-0), 95.
- Worth Co. (4-0), 95.
4. Dalton (3-0), 94.
5. Winder-Barrow (3-0), 68.
6. Carrollton (3-0), 64.
7. Crisp Co. (2-1), 36.
8. Thomson (3-1), 31.
9. Tucker (4-0), 24.
10. (tie) Northside-Atlanta (4-0), 11.

Statesboro (3-1), 11.
Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Hart County, Northwest Whitfield, Stephens County, Wayne County.

CLASS AA

1. Lovett (3-0), 10, 118.
2. Rockmart (3-0), 93.
3. Manchester (3-0) 2, 90.
4. Early Co. (3-0), 79.
5. Mitchell-Baker (3-0), 72.
6. Mary Persons (2-1), 42.
7. Wash.-Wilkes (2-2), 40.
8. R.E. Lee (2-1), 35.
9. Cook (3-0), 24.
10. (tie) Cartersville (3-1), 15.

Jeff Davis (4-0), 15.
Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: East Hall, East Rome, Fitzgerald, Perry, Vidalia, Waycross, West Rome.

CLASS A

1. Lincoln Co. (4-0), 12, 120.
2. Dacula (4-0), 106.
3. Metter (4-0), 92.
4. Warren Co. (3-0), 72.
5. Claxton (3-0), 67.
6. Wilcox Co. (2-0-1), 62.
7. Clinch Co. (3-1), 56.
8. Brookstone (3-0), 31.
9. Trion (3-0), 22.
10. (tie) Bowdon (2-2), 12.

Reidsville (3-0), 12.
Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Buford, Monticello, Portal.

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta High Wildcats
vs.
Tift County Blue Devils
at Cleveland Field

#	Pos.	Player	Yr.	Wt.
15	QB	Alton Hinson	Jr.	170
22	RB	Carlos Parker	Sr.	182
11	RB	Joe Wright	Sr.	145
19	FL	Tracy Smothers	Sr.	168
88	SE	Carlos Moore	Sr.	140
58	C	Jarrett Johnson	Sr.	211
52	G	Matthew Butler	Jr.	180
51	G	Jason Peters	Sr.	214
77	T	Shaun Elders	Jr.	264
50	T	Brooks Akins	Jr.	223
81	TE	Mickey McSwain	Sr.	190

WILDCAT OFFENSE

E	Gary Lupo	Jr.	190
E	Stacy Tisby	Sr.	208
T	Hudson Brack	Jr.	250
T	Robert Watts	Jr.	215
LB	Ken King	So.	220
LB	Mark Johnson	Jr.	170
LB	Stephen Hobby	Jr.	184
CB	Eric Walker	Jr.	170
CB	Larry Green	Jr.	171
FS	Dewayne Washington	Sr.	181
SS	Tyrone Lester	Sr.	175

WILDCAT DEFENSE

46	T	Robert Fillmore	Sr.	185
94	T	George Copeland	Sr.	215
91	E	Dexter Daniels	So.	190
47	E	Fred Henton	Sr.	185
91	G	Andre Hampton	Sr.	187
44	LB	Anthony Williams	Sr.	250
49	LB	Bruce Daniels	Sr.	204
28	CB	Tramps White	So.	150
26	CB	Adrian Lewis	Sr.	160
32	SS	Chris Hart	Sr.	174
23	FS	Marshun Lane	Jr.	170
2	K	Dow Drury	So.	150
35	P	Eric Phillips	Jr.	180

Head Coach: Nick Hyder

BLUE DEVIL OFFENSE

OB	Mickey Weidon	Jr.	160
RB	Jason Jones	Jr.	170
RB	Lyric King	Jr.	157
WR	Michael Ewings	Jr.	175
C	Clay Shiver	Jr.	245
G	Rocky Laster	Jr.	200
G	Keith Newell	Jr.	202
T	Rad Calhoun	Sr.	290
T	Clint Manning	So.	220
FL	Gannon Hall	Jr.	165
TE	Jonathan Jones	Jr.	195

Head coach: Gene Brodie

V.D. T. *Oct. 29* *WILDCAT*

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-7-4

Valdosta Wildcats defeated the Lowndes High Vikings, 20-3, under first-year head coach Nick Hyder.

14 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic



4-B Sunday, October 29, 1989

Officials Pay Their Dues

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

When it comes to being an official in the state of Georgia, it's as easy as one, two, three.

There are three steps by which the officials in Georgia are classified — Registered, Approved and Certified.

The By-Laws set up by the Georgia High School Association show just what it takes to move up the ranks as a high school official. One must be 18 years of age and a high school graduate or just 21 years of age to become a GHSA Registered official. You also need to file proper references of character and possibilities of officiating ability.

To become a state sanctioned official, one must be registered with one of more than 20 Regional Official Associations around the state of Georgia and pass a two-part GHSA test concerning the particular sport to officiate.

The two-part test is both open and closed book, with the open book test being part one of the two-part instructional series, along with a \$15 fee per sport per year to the GHSA. After a score of at least 75 on both parts of the tests are achieved, the registered official may move to an approved status in the state.

"It's an ongoing process by which you move the ranks as a state official and the first thing you have to do if you wish to become an official is to be registered through one of the regional association directors in a particular area of the state," said GHSA's Associate Executive Director Tommy Gillebeau.

"It's a training process with

instruction. And you don't just walk off the street and start officiating varsity games. You earn that right. It might take you until you are 24 or 25-years-old before you are working as a certified official in a state play-off game in any sport. We try and make sure that the most dedicated officials are working the most critical games for two schools. We try and do our best."

An approved official must officiate a minimum required of contests in registration.

The secretary of the local officials association must validate the number of games or contests an official works during the season by reporting these to the State Office 15 days following the state championship contest in that sport.

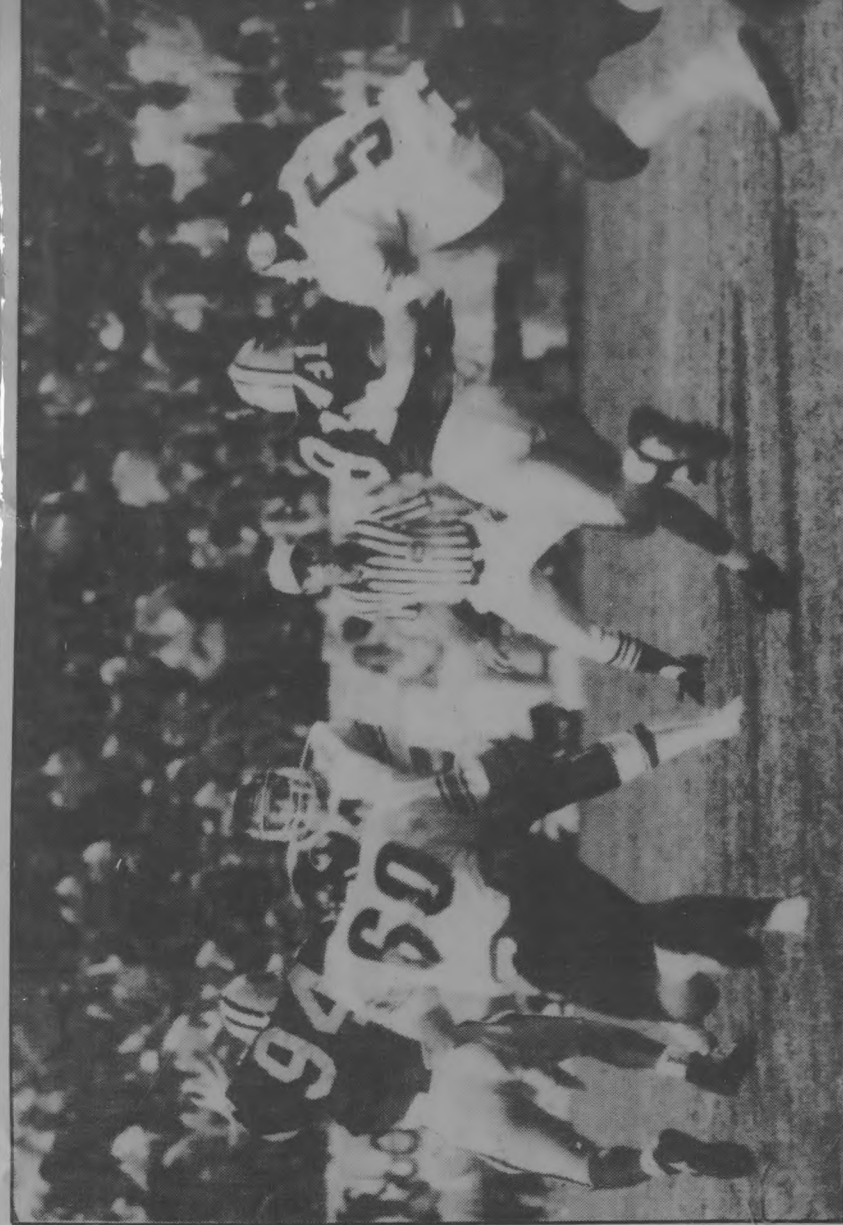
The GHSA, however, does require the attendance to at least one state clinic and two local clinics each year.

"The number of regional meetings or clinics are determined by the regional director. Most have up to four," said Gillebeau. "We have our requirements and they have theirs."

But how is an official in the state of Georgia evaluated when the high school officials? And who determines the qualifications for state competition?

The regional directors and not the GHSA practically determines the officiating crew for state games because the GHSA does not have a working system of evaluating them on a game-by-game basis.

"The Georgia High School Association is informed by the regional officials directors concerning the status of a particular official in that



High school officials have several steps to complete before they can get the best seat in the house, calling the action on the field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

of the state rules examinations for those two years running.

The official must also attend the GHSA interpretation meetings and officiate a minimum number of required contests in that area of registration, which can vary around the state.

The minimum requirements in order for a year of service to be credited to an official is: baseball - eight varsity high school games; basketball - 10 girls and 10 boys games; football - five games; gymnastics - five meets; soccer - five games; softball - eight games; swimming - five games; volleyball - eight games; and wrestling - five meets.

Area associations also set their own guidelines as to the officiating

fee of their organization. An officials' fee in football and baseball in the state of Georgia ranges from \$25 to \$35 per game, while a basketball contest fee is around the \$50 mark, \$25 per game, for girls and boys games.

"The area regions decide on the amount of cost per game per crew and they send it to the particular school that is wishing to have their officiating crew," said Gillebeau.

"Then they either send it to their office accepted or they go to another region for officials. But the biggest thing to mention is that both teams must agree on the officiating crew by the home team. The visitors have a chance to voice their opinion."

Get Better

VHS' Butler Well Knows

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Georgia, south Georgia in particular, has long been known for its hard-nosed brand of football. Some say it is the best in the nation. One person who can attest to that is Matthew Butler and he speaks from experience.

"I started playing football in Louisiana when I was in junior high school and we moved to Valdosta when I was in the eighth grade. Football down here is much more intense and people take it more seriously," Butler said. "In Louisiana, there are maybe one or two good teams. But down here, there are good teams everywhere. There's just more tradition down here."

Butler is a 6-foot, 212-pound starting offensive lineman for the Valdosta Wildcats. He is the only returning starter from a year ago and has played a key role on this year's squad, playing at all five offensive line positions and tight end. Butler's belief is that if a player knows what to do at one offensive line position, he can play them all.

"I usually start at tackle and if I know what to do there, then you know the responsibilities of the guard and center, too. The Valdosta offense is set up so that each player has the best angle on every block. You just do what is most logical," Butler said.

Butler is in the midst of his fourth varsity season with the 'Cats and he sees a major difference in the 1989 squad compared to past teams.

"The big difference with our offense is that we don't have the big backs like the last couple years. Last year, if we made a small hole, it was enough because they were so big," Butler said. "That's not downing Carlos (Parker) or Joe (Wright) or any of the backs. But James (Roberts) and Isaac (Caesar) were just a lot bigger."

Less than two weeks ago, a string of 36 consecutive regular season victories was broken when Valdosta was upset by the Colquitt County Packers. It was only the third time the 'Cats had lost in four years but, as a senior who has been around, Butler finds a silver lining in the loss and says he was not discouraged by it at all.

"I've said for the last two years that I would rather lose in the regular season before we go into the playoffs. That loss to Colquitt made us realize that we are human and



MATTHEW BUTLER

"I've said for the last two years that I would rather lose in the regular season before we go into the playoffs. That loss to Colquitt made us realize that we are human and we're not unstoppable. It helps us realize that we can't lose again. Hopefully, we've gotten it out of our way."

— Matthew Butler

we're not unstoppable. It helps us realize that we can't lose again," Butler said. "Hopefully, we've gotten it out of our way."

Off the field, Butler tries to squeeze as much activity into his spare time as possible. His mother, Marilou Butler, is the secretary for the Valdosta State Blazer football office and he helps her out by taking up tickets at the Blazer home games.

Even more of his spare time is spent on stage. Butler is a guitarist in the band "High Heel Flip Flop" which he formed with some friends from Valdosta High. Butler got serious about playing guitar when he was 13 and he got a little help from someone who had some experience.

"My dad was a guitarist with the 'Safaris' who recorded 'Wipeout'. We played it the other night and it was pretty wild because that was their biggest song," Butler said. "The band's been real good about my playing football. We've only played twice this season and one of those was on an open week. After football, the band and my girlfriend, there's not much time for anything else."

GHSA Upholds Call By Game Referee

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Georgia High School Association's Executive Director Bill Fordham and Assistant Executive Director Tommy Guillebeau ruled in favor of the referee who made the fumble call late in the game last Friday between Tift County and host Valdosta High at Cleveland Field. The game was a Region 1-AAAA South contest won by Valdosta, 14-7.

Tift County head coach Gene Brodie filed an official protest Monday morning concerning a fumble, which came in the final 1:01 of the contest with Valdosta leading. Brodie questioned the referee's decision to overrule the

two line judge's which signaled a touchdown for Tift County.

After meeting with the referee in question and reviewing the film, Fordham and Guillebeau upheld the decision of the referee to overrule the line judge's touchdown call and rule a fumble by Tift County running back Ricky Jennings.

Brodie was told by Fordham and Guillebeau, after dropping off a copy of the tape early Monday morning in Thomaston, that they would get with him later that day.

Brodie and his staff received a faxed letter Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. stating that it was a judgement call on behalf of the referee and a judgement call can not be overturned.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-7-8

Valdosta beat the Lowndes High Vikings twice.



The first time coming during the regular season at Cleveland Field where they played with out lights on the home side. The final was 22-0. In the playoffs, it was 21-7.

10 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

'Cats Drop To 5th

The Associated Press

Marist regained sole possession of first place in Class AAA and Warner Robins was a unanimous choice for No. 1 in Class AAAAA in the latest Associated Press high school football poll.

Warner Robins has been No. 1 all year, but each week it shared first-place votes with former No. 2 Valdosta. But Warner Robins swept the field this week after Valdosta's surprising 7-0 home-field defeat at the hands of Colquitt County.

CLASS AAAAA

Valdosta's loss knocked it from second to fifth, with Southwest DeKalb, McEachern and Coffee each moving up a spot to fill the opening.

Morrow climbed from ninth to seventh after a 27-14 victory over former No. 6 Newnan, which disappeared from the top 10.

CLASS AAA

Worth County's 35-14 victory over Dougherty was not enough to keep it in a tie with Marist, a 35-0 winner over Woodward Academy.

Thomasville moved up to No. 4, changing places with Winder-Barrow after beating Lee County 53-12.

CLASS AA

All top Class AA teams that played last week — and even one that didn't — collected victories. Lovett held onto first place after Jackson County was forced to forfeit because the officials, for which it was responsible, did not show up.

CLASS A

Reidsville's 19-13 defeat by No. 3 Metter dropped it from sixth to eighth, allowing Bowdon and Claxton to move up one notch each to sixth and seventh.

Whatever Happened To . . . / A Weekly Feature About Former Sports Stars

Thurs., Oct. 24, 1989

Adversity Made

Lastinger Better

Former Wildcat, Bulldog Quarterback Overcame Odds

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Adversity has always played a key role in the success and failure of many high school, college and professional teams. But it was adversity which brought out the best in former Valdosta High and University of Georgia quarterback John Lastinger.

As the senior signal-caller for the Wildcat football team in 1978, Lastinger suffered a separated shoulder in the state sectional playoffs against Westside of Augusta, which sidelined the 6-foot-2, 175-pound for the remainder of VHS' championship drive.

Two years later as a backup quarterback for the Georgia Bulldogs, he injured his knee in spring workouts and was redshirted. In fact, Lastinger would face four knee operations over the next four years.

But, with his many injuries and constant pressure on behalf of the media and fans, Lastinger was determined to bounce back from the setbacks.

"It was a big disappointment the way my senior year of high school football ended. I guess what hurt the most was that it was my senior year and we were in the playoffs," said Lastinger.

"We had such a great team and it meant a lot to me to be the starting quarterback — what was a state championship team. I think the biggest thing that helped our team was coming so close in the state championship the year before to Clarke Central (16-14), before losing. It was tough to just stand on the sidelines the final two games and

watch a game go on that you worked so hard to be a part of."

The Wildcats and the Griffin Bears tied 7-7 for the 1978 state championship at Cleveland Field.

"I think when you look at some of those players which were on that Griffin team such as Willie Gault, Freddie Gilbert, Jeff Jackson, and a couple of others, all of these players either played in the professional ranks or are presently playing in the professional ranks now," said Lastinger.

"Just looking back on that game, it just goes to show you what kind of talent we were up against. I almost get a feeling of how fortunate we were to even stay on the field with them."

Lastinger's shoulder healed and he was off to the University of Georgia. A team which already was sporting a former Wildcat standout, Buck Belue at quarterback.

"I looked at Georgia and saw that there were a lot of young talent at the school. The future of Georgia football looked very bright," said Lastinger.

"I guess from an individual standpoint, it wasn't a very good decision with Buck already at Georgia and would be the starter three of my four years. But even though I knew I would have to wait my turn, I guess I just put the team outlook ahead of personal goals and achievements. I just wanted to be a part of the bright Georgia football future."

Lastinger, who is now working in the Marketing Department of SAFT, Inc., in Valdosta, began his college career in the defensive secondary, before a move to the quarterback spot in the spring of 1980.



Former Valdosta High and University of Georgia quarterback John Lastinger takes a break from his job in the marketing department at SAFT, Inc., here in Valdosta — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Unfortunately for Lastinger, he would never see the hedges of Sanford Stadium, as a knee injury placed him on the redshirt list for 1980.

The injury put his quarterback career in jeopardy, but after the rapy, he was behind the Bulldog center the next season.

After a backup role to Belue in 1981, Lastinger took over the starting spot in his junior and senior seasons.

In 1983, Lastinger had his finest hour as a quarterback in the Cotton Bowl versus the second-ranked Texas Longhorns.

With his Bulldogs trailing, 9-3, late in the fourth quarter, Lastinger raced 17 yards for the go-ahead touchdown to give Georgia a 10-9 lead, which would also be the Bull-

dogs' margin of victory.

"That '83 season was a situation where we were without Herschel (Walker) and the players on the team wanted to show everyone that we were not just a one-man team," said Lastinger.

"Personally, it was certainly a big moment in my football career to be able to maybe erase some of the hardships I had the past few years by scoring that touchdown. From a fans' standpoint, I took a lot of criticism and it was very rewarding to score against Texas that day and in that manner."

"Although many fans think I was a great quarterback because of the final thing I did on the field, I think I was an average quarterback," he added.

Thursday, October 26, 1989 3-B

Devils' Game In The Air

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Region I-AAAA has long been known for its conservative, grind-it-out type of football and the Tift County Blue Devils have long been one of the powerhouses of the region.

But this season's Blue Devil squad has found their success in the air. Head coach Gene Brodie's squad has been the most pass-oriented team in the subregion this year and, Friday night, they will bring their air attack into Cleveland Field for a big subregion contest against the Valdosta Wildcats.

Brodie's Blue Devils are 4-3 on the year and 1-1 in the subregion. That puts them in a tie with Valdosta in the subregion and puts the pressure on the Blue Devils to perform.

"This is definitely the biggest one we've played. It's a must game. We're having to throw a little more than usual because we don't have the great running game," Brodie said. "Michael Ewings (TCHS wide receiver) is having a good year and so is Mickey (Weldon, starting quarterback). They compliment each other very well."

The Blue Devils' top-ranked passing offense will be matched up with the top defensive team in the region. The Wildcats have been able to put plenty of pressure on opposing quarterbacks this year and Brodie is well aware of that.

"We've seen them play twice this year and their defense is so quick. No one's been able to throw the ball against them all year and I don't think we'll be able to either," Brodie said.

Leading the way up front for the Blue Devils is junior center Clay Shiver at 245 pounds and senior tackle Rad Calhoun at 290 pounds. Tight end Jonathan Jones has also proven to be a capable blocker and receiver and tight end.

Defensively, the Blue Devils have had some problems. They rank near or at the bottom of every defensive statistic in the region and have been hampered by injuries.

Leading the way on defense is free safety Dwayne Washington. Washington, a 181-pound senior, has 74 tackles in seven games. The numbers are quite impressive but the two opposing coaches see them in two different lights.

"Washington is a very talented player," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "He's a lot like the defensive back we saw from Bainbridge and he's been having a great year. He can do a lot of things for Tift County and he is a tremendous hitter."

"I'm not too sure what it says about your team when your leading tackler is a defensive back," said Brodie. "We've been giving up way too many yards. We may be the worst defensive team in the conference. The best thing that could happen to us is if they fumble a lot."

Both teams are rebounding from subregion losses last Friday night although the two do not compare in magnitude. Coffee High was expected to defeat the Blue Devils and did, 26-7. But no one expected the Colquitt County Packers to defeat Valdosta but they

Valdosta High Wildcats



Mickey McSwain



Dexter Daniels

THIS WEEK'S OPPONENT: Tift County/Blue Devils

WHERE: Cleveland Field

WHEN: Friday, Oct. 27, 8 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: Colquitt County 7, Valdosta 0.

WHAT COACH NICK HYDER SAID ABOUT LAST WEEK: "Colquitt County played a great football game and they deserved to win. But our team has bounced back in practice this week and that's what we've got to have."

TOP PERFORMANCES: Carlos Parker 72 yards rushing and Bruce Daniels had one blocked punt and two sacks.

PLAYERS TO WATCH FOR: Split End Michael Ewings and defensive back Dwayne Washington.

WHAT COACH HYDER SAYS ABOUT TIFT COUNTY: "They have one of the top athletes in the region in Michael Ewings. He's a fantastic receiver and he can do it all. Their quarterback is a fine athlete and their defensive secondary is probably the best we've seen. It will be another battle for our squad."

KEYS TO VICTORY: "We've got to try and slow down Ewings a little bit. Offensively, we'll just do what we can against their defense. We need our team to be fired up and our fans to be fired up. This is a very important game for us because the loser is just about out of it."

SCORING AVERAGES: Offense — 27.9; Defense — 4.6.

did, 7-0. Brodie admits the Packers did him no favor.

"The Cats are going to be mad. We're definitely concerned about that. Their coaches will probably have them extremely fired up Friday night. We had better be ready for a crazy team if we even have a chance," Brodie said.

VHS 9th Graders End 7-0

Wildcats Beat Packers, 20-18

V.D.I. Friday, Oct. 27, 1989
Staff Report

MOULTRIE — The Valdosta High School 9th grade football Wildcats ended the season perfect, despite what might have happened at the end of the game Thursday against host Colquitt County at Mack Tharpe Stadium.

VHS

From Page 1B

hold off the Packers, who scored twice and recovered an onside kick with 1:23 left on the 'Cat 39.

The Wildcats end the season 7-0 while the Packers finish at 4-1-1.

Clark Drury started the scoring for the visitors with two 27-yard field goals in the first half. He also made both PAT attempts in the game.

Colquitt County tied things up in the third period after Jeremy Merritt hit Sharone Roberts with a 20-yard scoring toss. Brock Santford then blocked the PAT kick.

With 1:19 left in the third, Tommy Speed broke loose for a 24-yard touchdown romp off a trap play.

After a Packer fumble, VHS drove four plays with Steven Everson hooking up with John Bell for a quick 17-yard touchdown pass play with 9:23 left in the game. Drury was again good as VHS led 20-6.

On the next possession, Colquitt County drove 11 plays ending with Jimmy Merritt's 15-yard run for six points with 4:43 left. The 2-point pass attempt was tipped at the line of scrimmage.

After holding VHS on its next possession, Colquitt County drove 80 yards in nine plays ending with a 3-yard run by Reggie Scott with 1:23 left. The 2-point try failed as two Packer receivers dropped the ball.

Prep Standings

Nov. 6 Oct. 1989

Team	Region I-AAAA South			Overall				
	W	L	T	Pct.	W	L	T	Pct.
Colfee	2	0	0	1.00	7	0	0	1.00
Colquitt County	2	0	0	1.00	4	3	0	.571
Valdosta	1	1	0	.500	6	1	0	.857
Tift County	1	1	0	.500	4	3	0	.571
Lowndes	0	2	0	.000	2	5	0	.286
Bainbridge	0	2	0	.000	2	4	0	.333

Last Week's Results

Bainbridge 14, Eufaula (Ala.) 7

Colfee 26, Tift County 7

Colquitt County 7, Valdosta 0

Lowndes was off

Bainbridge at Colfee

Lowndes at Colquitt County

Tift County at Valdosta

This Week's Games

Bainbridge at Colfee

Lowndes at Colquitt County

Tift County at Valdosta

Georgia Prep Poll

CLASS AAAA

1. Warner Robins (7-0), 13, 130.
 2. Southwest Dekalb (7-0), 115.
 3. Metcham (7-0), 96.
 4. Colfee (7-0), 93.
 5. Valdosta (6-1), 61.
 6. Wheeler (7-0), 51.
 7. Morrow (7-1), 48.
 8. Griffin (5-2), 43.
 9. Central Macon (7-1), 20.
 10. Cedar Shoals (7-1), 14.
- Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Bradwell Institute, Brookwood, Durwood, Ellingham Co., Habersham Central, LaGrange, Marietta, Newnan.

Debater Wins Top Speaker

The Valdosta Daily Times

Award At Mercer Meet

By ASHLEY CONNELL

Junior Ashley Connell won the first place speaker award at the Mercer University Debate Tournament Oct. 14.

She teamed with junior Jimmy Green to go undefeated and win the first place affirmative team award in the five-round tournament. Green also won the third place speaker award out of more than 60 speakers. They won decisions over two teams from Appling County, and one each from Henry County, Lakeside Augusta, and Peach County high schools.

Also participating in the two-day tournament were sophomores Laura Barbas and Matt Baker. On the negative side of the resolution, they won decisions over two teams from Warner Robins. They teamed with Miss Connell and Green to compile a 7-3 won-loss record and received the third place four-person team award.

"The affirmative team was well-prepared with the case removing juveniles from adult holding facilities," said Director of Debate Frank Hjort. "They effectively dealt with the negative responses on these issues."

The national high school debate topic for 1989-90 is "Resolved: That the federal government should adopt a nationwide policy to decrease overcrowding in U.S. prisons and jails."

VHS debaters plan to participate this month in tournaments in Leesburg and Carrollton. Valdosta will host an invitational tournament in January.

FBLA Officers

By JENNI CANTRELL

The Valdosta High School Future Business Leaders of America held its annual officer installation banquet Oct. 24.

A covered-dish dinner was served as more than 50 members and guests gathered to witness the installation of their new 1989-90 officers. New officers participating in the event were Suzette Davidson, president; Gayla Miller, Latesha Bradley, Tangie Morrison, LaSharon Walker, and Heather Strayhorn, vice presidents; Carla Davis, secretary; Latesha Brown, treasurer; and Leigh Helms, parliamentarian.

Region 2 Vice President Tonya Brooks from Hazelhurst officially installed the officers with a candle-light ceremony. Miss Brooks also shared her ideas about what a leader should be. She was joined by her adviser, Martha McBride. Advisers from Valdosta High attending were Maxine Martin, Karen Folson, and Barbara Edmondson.

Suzette Davidson presided over the program. Latesha Bradley led the group in the FBLA creed. Heather Strayhorn gave the invocation. Leigh Helms introduced the speaker for the evening.



VHS News
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

PAMS Club

By TARNISHA PRIMROSE

The PAMS Club officers for the 1989-90 school year are President Nikki Norris; Vice President Kenyarda Moore; Secretary Melanie Wiggs; Assistant Secretary Kimberly Rayford; Treasurer Rhonda Payton; Parliamentarian Monica Barnes; Chaplain Marsha Tucker; Project Chairmen Golda Christie, Tonya Reese, and Cynthia Anderson; Reporter Tarnisha Moore.

The club inducted 28 new members. Myel Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Robinson, was selected Miss PAMS. She represented the club in the homecoming parade along with Jason Griffin, her escort.

PAMS is a service club which was organized more than 25 years ago at Pinevale High School. The letters PAMS stand for Personality, Appearance, Manners, and Scholarship.

Science Club

By WYNNE JOHNSON

Valdosta High School Science Club sponsors traveled to Macon Oct. 14 where they participated in the Fall Leadership Conference.

They attended several workshops including Science Olympiad and Science Bowl.

The club has joined the Georgia Junior Academy of Science. This state organization's goals are to promote the appreciation of science and to encourage students to participate in science-related activities and careers.

Last Thursday the Science Club held elections for new officers in the Little Theater. The following students were inducted: Wynne Johnson, reporter; Laura Barbas, historian; and Nicky Legg, parliamentarian. Previously elected officers are James Inman, president; Spencer Iverson, vice president; Jason Finland, secretary; Dan Altman, treasurer; Nikki DeMott, projects chairman; and Wynne Johnson, district student representative.

The next event for the Science Club will be a competition at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus. James Inman, Nicky Legg, Bert Eidson, John Peeples,

Jeff Ballentine and Greg Gaumont will compose the Valdosta team.

Interact News

By ROBIN GOLIVESKY

The Valdosta High School Interact Club met Oct. 19.

The Valdosta Rotary Club sent three of their members to talk about Rotary. Dr. Ren Christie spoke of the different purposes of Interact and how they were related to Rotary. Tom Shelton further elaborated on Dr. Christie's words and spoke of the nationwide chain of Rotary clubs. Finally, Dr. S.W. Mar-

tin discussed the origins of the Valdosta Rotary Club dating back to 1919.

Other Interact news includes the participation in the Walk America in association with the March of Dimes Oct. 14. Members helped to blow up balloons for the beginning of the race.



Despite Georgia's 17-14 loss to the Tennessee Volunteers, quarterback Greg Talley said he will again start this Saturday against

Mississippi. Talley completed 12 of 18 passes against UT this past Saturday — AP Laser-photo.

Talley Says He's Still The Starter

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VST. Times, Oct. 10, 1989

ATHENS — While some Georgia Bulldog football fans may be anticipating a change this week at the starting quarterback position, that assumption might be a bit premature.

In a telephone interview with the *Times*, former VHS quarterback and now UGA quarterback Greg Talley pointed out that he and freshman Preston Jones will again be platooning this weekend in Oxford, Mississippi.

"I spoke with coach (Ray) Goff Monday morning about the situation and according to him, I'm still the starter and nothing has changed," said Talley. "He told me that Preston and I will share time against Mississippi this week and I expected that decision. I think Preston has done a fine job and is deserving of some playing time. I can't look at this thing as a week to week competition between Preston and I. My job is cut and dry. Do the best I can and hope to lead the team to victories."

Even though in a relief role, Jones brought the Bulldogs to within three points last week against Tennessee connecting with wide receiver Arthur Marshall on a 39-yard touchdown pass and tossing a strike to Brian Cleveland for the two-point conversion. However, Talley hit on 12-of-18 passes for 186 yards.

"I was very pleased with my personal performance last week, but to be honest, you can never be pleased with your performance when your team is 2-2 on the year and a 3-point loser in a game you throw for 186 yards," said Talley. "We have to prepare hard to get back on track in the Southeastern Conference standings with this week's game against Ole Miss. They are a deceptively good football team. This game will not be an easy one by any means."

"As far as the quarterbacking situation goes, I can't keep looking over my shoulder and listen to the people talk," said Talley. "It's obvious to me that coach Goff has confidence in me and my ability or I wouldn't be the starter. This is something I was mentally prepared for when I came here. This is the first time at Georgia I've been in this situation but it just comes with the territory. My job is to play well and it's coach Goff's job to prepare the lineups that he thinks will beat the opposing team."

Teacher Honored For Achievement

By Women's Organization

By ELIZABETH BUTLER
Times Lifestyles Editor

A teacher of the learning disabled in the Valdosta City Schools was named Woman of Achievement Tuesday night by the Valdosta Business and Professional Women's organization.

Larionna Williams, department chairman at Valdosta High School, was announced as the winner at a banquet at the Holiday Inn.

She and the nine other candidates had been honored at a reception Oct. 17 at the chamber of commerce during National Business Woman Week.

Mrs. Williams received a bacne-

Wad, lor's degree in education and psychology from Spelman College in Atlanta, a master's degree from Atlanta University, and a master's degree in learning disabilities from Valdosta State College. She was inducted into the Georgia Association of Educators Hall of Fame in 1987.

She was sponsored in the competition by the American Association of University Women. She serves as president of that organization as well as the South Georgia Chapter of the Georgia Council of Exceptional Children.

Mrs. Williams writes a weekly social column for "The Valdosta Daily Times."



Husband Frank Williams looks on as wife Larionna reacts to being named Woman of Achievement by the Valdosta Business and

Professional Women's organization at a Tuesday evening ceremony — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT. Med. Nov. 1, 1989

Time Is Now For The 'Cats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

If Region 1-AAAA fans are still shaking their heads in confusion Friday night in Douglas, do not be surprised. Friday night marks the first time in a long time that the Valdosta Wildcats will go into a game as the underdog. Wildcats, underdogs?

Their Friday night foe will be the Coffee High Trojans, who are undefeated and ranked fourth in the state's AAAA poll. The game has much on the line for both teams. If Valdosta loses, they are out of the region playoff picture. If Coffee loses, they will be forced to win their last game against Colquitt County to insure a playoff spot.

"They are certainly a fine football team," VHS head coach Nick Hyder said. "They are a senior-laden team with seven senior starters on defense and 11 fulltime or parttime starters on offense. They were a tough team last year and they will be even tougher Friday night."

To make the Wildcat-Trojan matchup even more interesting, if possible, is the fact that in 18 meetings between the teams, Coffee High has never won. 0-18.

"Every year is a brand new challenge for our team and these players don't have anything to do with what has happened in any previous

games. We just have to face up to the challenge they will give us this year," Hyder said. "In all the years that we've faced Coffee, this is the toughest I've ever seen them. That includes the 1982 team that was a tremendous squad."

Both teams come into the game following wins that were preserved in the last minute of play. Valdosta forced a Tift County fumble last Friday night with one minute remaining and held on to a 14-7 win. The Bainbridge Bearcats missed a two-point conversion in the final minute as Coffee squeaked out a 27-26 decision, their closest of the year.

Hyder realizes that his team has its' back to the wall once again and he calls the game the biggest challenge his team has faced in recent memory.

"We will probably be the underdog Friday night but you have to wear what you have to wear. This is the game for us. We've got to play well if we want a chance. Coffee is that good," Hyder said. "We know they'll run the ball because they have run it all year. They've run it on everybody they've faced. And they can also throw it. Their quarterback, Reggie Ingram, is probably the finest all-around quarterback we've seen all year."



The Valdosta Wildcats are preparing for their Region 1-AAAA clash against the Coffee High Trojans. Valdosta enters Jardine

Stadium with a 2-1 region mark, while the Trojans are undefeated in three region contests — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

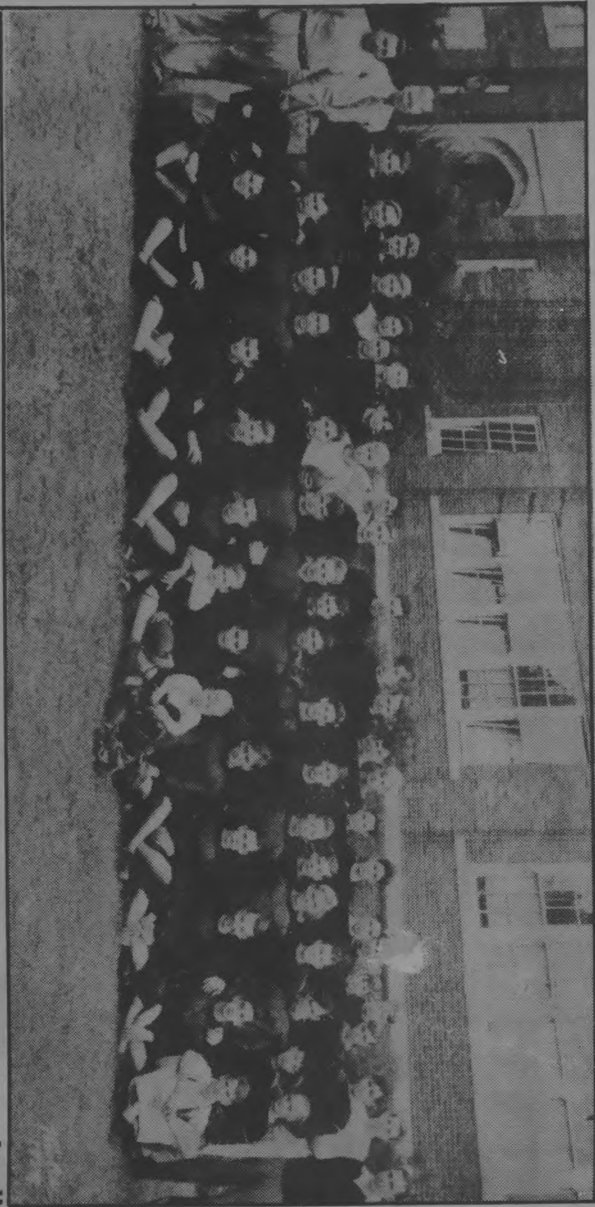
1-9-7-9



The two teams split meetings as quarterback Eric Thomas led the Vikings to a 15-14 win during the regular season. In the playoffs, Valdosta QB John Bond rambled 74 yards for a 24-21 win.

9 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

VDT Wed. Nov. 1, 1989



Someone had to begin the Valdosta Wildcat football tradition that stands today and this

1929 team had a part in one of the school's first winning seasons — Special Photo

Wildcat Tradition Began Early

VDT Wed Nov 1 1989

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Before the Valdosta Wildcats became one of the nation's top-notch football teams there were the groups of players and coaches who started that tradition.

One of those teams was Coach Mike Herndon's 1929 'Dosta Wildcats.

Charles O'Neal of Valdosta was a freshman player on the "squad" and remembers 1929 as a winning season for Valdosta High School.

"We won most of the games that year," he said. "That was my first year at the school and my first one on the football squad. I played till 1932."

Coaches for the year 1929, according to O'Neal, included Herndon, Mr. House and Mr. Langstrom. Superintendent A.G. Cleveland appeared with the team for the group picture (he is the tall, white-

haired man in the back row). Herndon is the dark-haired man in the gray sweat shirt.

As for O'Neal, he enjoyed working with the coaches but it was also the chance to play football with his brother. "My brother Lonnie O'Neal was already on the squad, so I got to play the game with him for a year or so," he said.

O'Neal said the rules were different 60 years ago. High school football was new and not the well-established institution it is today.

"I'm not sure," O'Neal said. "But I believe the 1929 squad was about the third year Valdosta High School even played football."

A game that proves the difference was the Wildcats season finisher against Albany, O'Neal said.

"I remember one of the players, Robert Oliver, made a touchdown," O'Neal laughed. "And the referee said he had stepped out of bounds or something."

"Anyway Herndon and the referee

had a pretty big disagreement over the call. So Herndon finally walked over to the players and said 'Let's go.'"

And the team did.

"He (Herndon) just walked us all off the field," O'Neal said. "And we didn't go back. But we still won the game."

O'Neal said the 1929 squad also played all their games during the afternoon because there were no lights on the fields.

As for the line-up, O'Neal said it was their tradition of playing Thomasville on Armistice Day and Moultrie on Thanksgiving.

The team played with less equipment and fanfare than Valdosta High School but according to O'Neal the 1929 squad didn't lack any spirit.

"No we had plenty of spirit," he said. "We had plenty of that."

HIGH SCHOOL

***** FRI, NOVEMBER 3, 1989

The Atlanta Journ

UTION

F-7

Valdosta May Miss Playoffs for First Time Since 1974

Wildcats Could Make History if They Lose to No. 3 Coffee Tonight

By Matt Winkeljohn
Staff Writer

Valdosta is 7-1, ranked No. 7 in Class AAAA, owns years of tradition and still has another game after playing at No. 3 Coffee tonight.

But if the Wildcats lose tonight, they might be history.

Or at least they might make history. Not since 1974, coach Nick Hyder's first year, has Valdosta failed to make the playoffs. The Wildcats were 3-7 that season, when Hyder had to dismiss 12 players for disciplinary reasons.

If Valdosta loses to Coffee and Colquitt County (5-3, 3-0) wins tonight at Tift County (4-4, 1-2), both Coffee and Colquitt will be 4-0 in region 1-AAAA South when they play next week in the last game of

the regular season.

That would mean the winner of that game would host a region playoff game against the second-place region 1-AAAA North team and the loser would travel to play the 1-AAAA North champion.

And Valdosta would be out of the playoffs with a 2-2 sub-region record.

Valdosta is 2-0 against Coffee and coach Bonwell Royal in Hyder's 15-year career.

If Valdosta wins both its remaining games, and if Colquitt wins tonight but loses at home to Coffee next week, all three schools would end up 4-1 in the sub-region, having beaten each other.

The tie would be broken by point differential in games among the three schools. In case of a tie between the final two teams, Colquitt would be hurt by

having four losses overall, although it beat Valdosta 7-0 two weeks ago.

In other playoff developments:

■ Defending Class AA champion R.E. Lee (4-4, 2-3) will have to struggle to make the four-team playoffs in region 4-AA. The Rebels, who have been to the playoffs eight straight years, are currently in fifth place behind Jackson, Perry, Manchester and Mary Persons.

R.E. Lee hosts Harris County (2-6, 2-3) this week and travels to Perry (7-1, 4-1) next week.

■ Smyrna (5-3, 4-3), a first-year school that emerged from the consolidation of Wills and Campbell of Smyrna, is tied with Paulding County (4-4, 4-3) for fourth place in region 5-AAAA. The Tigers play at Paulding tonight.

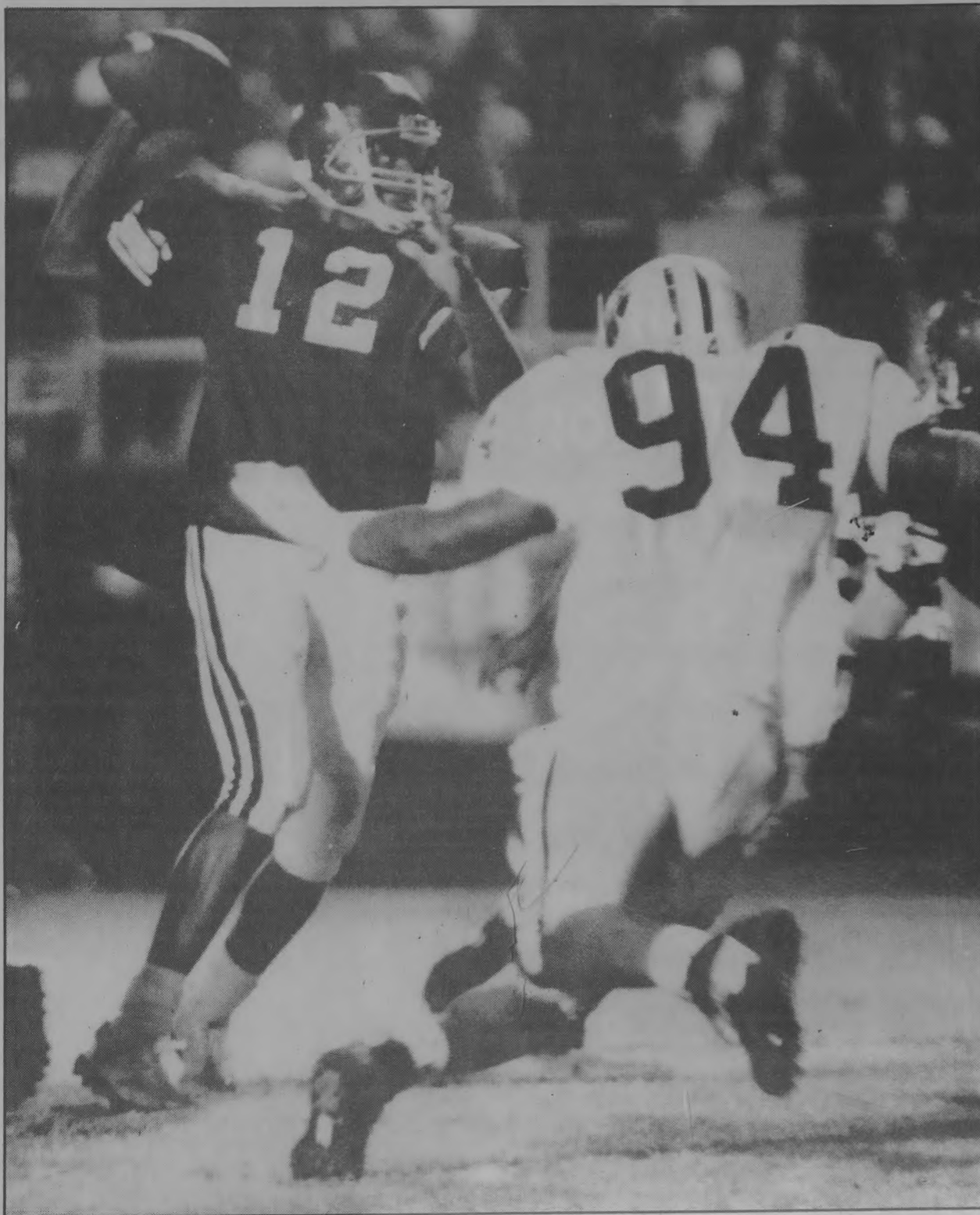
■ Norcross (7-1, 4-0) plays at No. 6 Cedar Shoals (7-1, 3-1) in a region 8-AAAA Division A game. Parkview (5-3, 3-1) also is still in the race to qualify for a sub-region berth.

■ Stephens County, which lost to Thomasville in the Class AAA championship game last year, is still in the postseason hunt despite a 3-5 record.

The Indians have lost two games in overtime, and three others by scores of 7-3 once and 7-0 twice. With a region 8-AAA West record of 1-1, Stephens County is tied with Franklin County behind Hart County (7-1, 2-0).

Stephens County hosts Franklin County tonight and plays at Hart County next week.

■ Palmetto, the Class A runner-up last year, is likely to go to the playoffs despite a 2-6 record and losses by scores of 43-0, 44-0, 24-7 and 37-7. The Raiders are 1-0 in the three-team region 7-A. They've already beaten Mt. Zion (3-5, 1-1), and next week they host their other region rival, Temple (0-6, 0-1).



Coffee High quarterback Reggie Ingram (12) throws under extreme pressure from

Valdosta's George Copeland — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

'Cats — Sat. Nov. 4, 1989

From Page 1B
gain and took over on downs.

The VHS matched their opponents' feat and held Coffee deep in their own territory. The Trojans' punt was fielded by Carlos Moore and he scooted down the right sideline to the Coffee 12. This time, Parker did it all himself with a touchdown run on the first play.

Dow Drury added the extra point and gave the Wildcats their first lead of the game.

The Wildcat defense continued to play tough and did not allow a Coffee first down in the third quarter. On the Trojans' first drive of the final quarter, VHS came up with their usual big play. Safety Chris Hart stepped in front of an Ingram pass at the CHS 36 and returned it to the 8-yard line.

Four plays later with 8:51 left in the game, Drury delivered with a 25-yard field goal to make the score 10-3.

Coffee's last two drives of the game ended with interceptions by Adrian Lewis and Hart.

Daniels, a senior linebacker for the Wildcats, led his team with nine tackles. He said the win was the result of a total team effort.

"We all pulled together tonight and did it. All week, they've been sending us stuff and we knew we were the underdog coming in. Coffee played well but our offense and defense and coaching staff got it done," Daniels said. "We knew we had to stop them from running the ball and we did."

Coffee totalled only 44 yards on the ground and had seven completions out of 23 attempts with three interceptions.

Valdosta will finish their regular season next Friday night when they visit Martin Stadium for their annual 'Winnersville Classic' battle against the Lowndes High Vikings. A win next Friday night will put the 'Cats

in the playoffs for the 15th consecutive year.

Valdosta-Coffee		
Wildcats		Trojans
8	First downs	8
39-150	Rushes-yards	27-44
2-4	Comp.-att.	7-23
23	Yards	86
0	Intercepted	3
5-35.6	Punting	5-36.4
7-55	Penalties	2-10
2-1	Fumbles-lost	1-0
Valdosta	0 0 7 3-10	
Coffee	3 0 0 0-0	

Scoring Summary
C—Andy Spivey 26 FG, 27, 1st
V—Carlos Parker 12 run (Dow Drury kick) 3:19, 3rd
V—Drury 25 FG 8:51, 4th

Individual Statistics
Rushing: Valdosta-Parker 16-75, Alton Hitson 16-76, Joe Wright 6-(-)1, Anthony Williams 1-0. Coffee-Jonathan Glover 15-35, Reggie Glover 2-6, Reggie Ingram 5-3, Tyrone Eady 2-1.

Passing: Valdosta-Hitson 2-4-0, 23 yards. Coffee-Ingram 7-20-1, 86 yards; Eady 0-1-0; Paul Elliott 0-2-2.

Receiving: Valdosta-Carlos Moore 1-12, Mickey McSwain 1-11. Coffee-Spivey 4-28, Eady 1-41, Dexter Collins 1-12, J.Glover 1-5.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-8-2



Valdosta took advantage of seven Viking interceptions to defeat Lowndes, 22-0. John Porter and Chris Major each had 55-yard interception TD returns. VHS went on to go 15-0 and won the state title.

**6 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic**

VDT Sat., Nov. 4,



Valdosta High drum major Simone Allen congratulates Dawn Linder, drum major for the Pelham High School marching band for

earning the Sweepstakes Award during Saturday's 13th Annual Southern Open Band Competition — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Bands Shine In Southern Open

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Sunday
Nov. 5, 1989

A long Saturday filled with the glitter, pageantry and spirit of Georgia and Florida high school bands yielded sweet fruit for Bainbridge High, as it took home the Traveling Trophy and Plaque Award

as Grand Champion of the 13th annual Southern Open at Cleveland Field.

"It was a great day," said Mary Allen, president elect of the Valdosta Band Boosters. "The weather was wonderful and the band performances were superb."

Accolades were numerous as the

competition's 13 bands marched into the crisp night and back onto the field for the awards ceremony which concluded the day at 10:30 p.m.

Terry Parker High of Jacksonville, Fla., had to settle for first runner-up in the competition, with Baldwin High of Milledgeville coming in

See BAND, Page 3-A

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-8-4



En route to their fourth national championship, the Valdosta High Wildcats rolled up 223 yards in total offense to beat the Lowndes Vikings, 28-6. Tony Anderson led VHS with 135 yards and 2 TDs.

4 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

V.D.T.

Monday Nov. 6, 1989

Band

From Page 1-A

third.

Bainbridge also took first in the Gold Division finals, followed by Terry Parker, Baldwin and Wolfson High of Jacksonville, Fla.

The Silver Division finals were captured by Bremen High, followed by Madison County (Fla.) High, Marietta High and Hawkinsville High, in that order.

The competition, which began at 5:30 p.m., followed an all-day band festival. This year's event was the first to combine the festival and competition into one Southern Open. Fourteen high school bands par-

ticipated in the festival, including Pelham High, Atkinson County High, Cook County High, Hawkinsville High, Bishop Kenny High (of Jacksonville, Fla.), Bremen High, Madison County (Fla.) High, Marietta High, Villa Rica High, Terry Parker High, Countryside High (from Clearwater, Fla.), Baldwin High, Central Gwinnett High and Bainbridge High.

Bands participating at the competition were identical to those at the festival, except for the additional entrant of Wolfson High. Pelham High and Atkinson County High participated only in the festival.

The all-day festival was a non-competitive event, that is, the bands were judged against a score sheet, rather than each other, Ms. Allen said.

Sponsored by the Valdosta High Marching Cats band, the festival concluded in mid-afternoon with the launching of the First State air balloon from the 50-yard line of Cleveland Field into the almost cloudless blue sky.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

The below listed procedures will be followed for the purchase of tickets for the Valdosta - Lowndes game to be played on Friday, November 10, 1989 at Martin Stadium, 8:00 p.m.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS - BAND MEMBERS: Football players and band members whose parents are season ticket holders can purchase tickets at Valdosta High School, Monday, November 6, 1989.

TOUCHDOWN CLUB MEMBERS: Touchdown Club Members who are season ticket holders can purchase tickets at Valdosta High School, Monday, November 6, 1989 at 7:00 p.m. (prior to regular Touchdown Club meeting).

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Tickets will go on sale at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to stadium) from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 1989.

OTHER WILDCAT FANS: All remaining tickets will go on sale at the Ticket Outlet at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 8, 1989.

PREP FRIDAY

A first for Coffee?

Unbeaten Trojans think this is the year they can beat Valdosta

By Scott Alderman

Times-Union correspondent

VALDOSTA, Ga. — The entry on page 31 of the Valdosta High School football program/media guide is innocent enough. Under "series history" between Valdosta and Coffee County/Douglas High, it reads, "18-0-0, 1,000, 18 games."

For Valdosta, it's just part of its impressive football history. For Coffee, it's a reason to get ever more fired up for tonight's showdown with the Wildcats in Douglas.

Jardine Stadium is expected to be full with a crowd of more than 10,000 for the crucial Region 1-AAAA South game. Both teams need a win — Valdosta more than Coffee — to secure a spot in the sub-region playoffs.

Coffee, 8-0 and ranked fourth in the state, shares the sub-region lead with Colquitt at 3-0. Valdosta, tied for fifth in the state rankings, is 7-1 overall and 2-1 in the sub-region, having lost to Colquitt 7-0 two weeks ago.

The 18-0 series edge, naturally, is being played down by the respective head coaches.

"As far as I'm concerned, that doesn't amount to a hill of beans," Coffee coach Bonwell Royal said. "This is only the third time I've coached Coffee against Valdosta, and only the second time for these players to play Valdosta. Actually, I think it could mean more to them [Valdosta] as a pride thing than it could help us."

"These kids had nothing to do with what has happened over the years between the schools," said Valdosta coach Nick Hyder. "Coffee could use that more to its advantage. It's more incentive for them, I think."

For the first time in a long time, Valdosta will go into a game as the underdog, something Hyder says is "new for us. But Coffee should be favored. They just flat out come straight at you with power and explosiveness."

The game will match the Trojans' powerful running game — first in the sub-region with an average of 258 yards per game — against Valdosta's rushing defense, which has allowed a total of 244 yards this season.

"That's a tremendous defense," Royal said of the Wildcats. "They're not that big, but they are so quick and strong. Our running against them is the key to the whole game."

Led by end Frederick Henton and linebacker Anthony Williams, both seniors, Valdosta's defense has allowed only six touchdowns and 39 points. Coffee has scored 226 points (28.3 per game).

The Trojans have their own defensive leaders



— Bruce Lipsky/staff

Alton Hitson: Part of Valdosta's QB team

— guard Royce Burkett and linebackers Andy Reese and Clifford Kirkland — and they have held opponents to only 73 total points, including 26 last week in a one-point victory over Bainbridge. Valdosta has averaged 26.1 points a game, but has been held to 14 points in its last two games.

Valdosta's running game is led by senior Carlos Parker, whose 857 yards on 140 carries (6.1-yard average) and 14 touchdowns lead the region. Joe Wright, a 145-pound junior, has 341 yards on 95 carries.

Coffee's offense is built around running back Jonathan Glover, a senior who has gained 790 yards in 131 carries (6.0-yard average) and 13 TDs; his cousin, Reggie Glover, a junior who's gained 352 yards on 64 carries; and quarterback Reggie Ingram, a senior who has 397 yards on 54 attempts.

The Glover cousins have reversed their roles this season. Reggie was the starter before suffering a knee injury in the third game of the year. That's when Jonathan got the fullback job, one he's not relinquished since Reggie returned to full speed.

Neither team passes often. Ingram has hit on 21 of 42 for 263 yards, while the Valdosta quarterback tandem of Alton Hitson and Deric Colton is 53 of 111 for 660 yards.

Figuring out the sub-region race can get tedious. If Valdosta wins tonight, Colquitt would be in the driver's seat — if it beats Tift County tonight in Tifton. But Colquitt plays Coffee next week in Moultrie.

Either Coffee or Colquitt could win the sub-region if one of them wins their remaining two games. The sub-region winner will be host to the second-place team from the North half of Region 1-AAAA, while the second-place team in the South will travel to Columbus to face the North winner.

If Coffee wins tonight, Valdosta would still have a chance at second place, but only if Colquitt loses to both Tift and Coffee, Valdosta beats Lowndes and Tift beats Bainbridge. With those results, Coffee would be first with a 5-0 sub-region record, while Valdosta, Colquitt and Tift would be tied for second place with 3-2 records.

Since none of those three would have beaten the other two, the tie is broken by comparing the winning percentage vs. all AAAA competition. Games against out-of-state schools would not count.

Based on this method, Colquitt would be eliminated because its record vs. AAAA schools would be 3-3. Valdosta and Tift would have 4-2 records, and the tie would then be broken on head-to-head competition. Valdosta beat Tift 14-7 last week.

But even without these confusing possibilities, the game is expected to be a classic battle.

"Our backs are against the wall," Hyder said. "They've [Coffee] got two great athletes and they just blow you out of there. This is Region 1-AAAA football as advertised."

Royal echoed Hyder's sentiments.

"I think we'll find out just how good we really are," he said.

THE SCOREBOARD

Nov 3, 1989

WEEK'S Fla. T. U.

DULE

W

GEORGIA TODAY

Starting times 8 p.m.
Bainbridge at Lowndes (1-AAAA South)
Valdosta at Coffee (1-AAAA South)
Colquitt County at Tift County (1-AAAA South)
Appling County at Camden County (2-AAA)
Ware County at Wayne County (2-AAA)
McIntosh County Academy at Waycross (2-AA)
Charlton County at Atkinson County (2-A)
Twin County at Clinch County (2-A)
Thomasville Central at Lee County (1-AAAA)
East Albany Dougherty at Thomasville (1-AAAA West)
Savannah Benedictine at Savannah Beach (3-AAAA "A")
Effingham County at Savannah Johnson (3-AAAA "A")
Savannah Jenkins at Bradwell Institute (3-AAAA "B")
Cairo at Albany Westover (1-AAA East)
Terrell County at Brooks County (1-AA)
Early County at Tift County (1-AA)
Wilhelm-Baker at Seminole County (1-AA)
Tift County at Berrien County (1-AA)
Adel Cook at Berrien County (2-AA)
Fitzgerald at Berrien County (2-AA)
Brantley County at Pierce County (2-AA)
TOMORROW
Brunswick at Savannah Windsor Forest (3-AAAA "B")
Savannah at Savannah Groves (3-AAAA "B")
North County at Albany
Open: Glynn Academy; Albany Monroe; Statesboro.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, November 3, 1989

B

First Win Could Be The Biggest

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

It's time.

Tonight in Jardine Stadium, the Valdosta Wildcats will hope their dominance of Coffee High continues as they try for their 19th consecutive victory against the Trojans. The Wildcats are 7-1 and 2-1 in the Region 1-AAAA South while the Trojans are enjoying their most successful season in history with an 8-0 record, 3-0 in the subregion.

The teams, the fans and the coaches all know how important THE game is.

"Valdosta is similar to us," said Trojan head coach Bonwell Royal. "They have good running backs, a good offensive line and they try to muscle you around and stick it down your throat. They have one of the best defenses around."

"This is the best team in the history of Coffee County," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "This is what everybody tells me and I see no reason to debate it."

The outcome of the game will either clear up the region playoff picture or make the final week of action even more important depending on the winner.

The two representatives from the Region 1-AAAA South will be determined first by region record. If there is a tie between two or more teams, the teams with the best winning percentage against AAAA schools this season will break the tie. Coffee has not faced any other AAAA opponents outside of the subregion while Valdosta defeated the Northside-Warner Robins Eagles.

Colquitt County's only game against a AAAA opponent outside of the subregion was a 14-13 loss to Kendrick High School of Columbus

If the fourth-ranked Trojans win

tonight, they will finish either first or second in the subregion depending on the outcome of their final game with the Colquitt County Packers.

If the Trojans lose, they would have to win their final game against the Packers to stay in the playoffs. A win for Coffee against either the Wildcats or the Packers will put them in the playoffs.

If the Wildcats win tonight, their shot at the subregion playoffs becomes much brighter. If they win their final two games, they are in. If

they defeat Coffee but lose to Lowndes a week from tonight, the 'Cats have a better than 50 percent chance of making the playoffs depending on the outcomes of the Colquitt County-Coffee, Colquitt County-Tift County and Tift County-Bainbridge games.

If the Wildcats lose tonight, there is only one way they can still make the playoffs. The Packers must lose both of their final two games, Tift County must lose to Bainbridge next week and the Wildcats must defeat Lowndes next Friday night.

Wildcats Came Up With Needed Win

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder called the game the biggest he could remember. His Wildcats needed a victory Friday night over the undefeated Coffee High Trojans to stay in the hunt for a place in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs.

And the 'Cats delivered with a 10-3 win. The win came partly from the play of the tenacious defense and a turnaround performance by the VHS kicking game that suffered against the Tift County Blue Devils only a week earlier.

"Our kicking game did a lot for us tonight," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "Eric Phillips pinned them

deep with his punting, Carlos Moore had a big runback of a punt and Dow Drury delivered with an important field goal and extra point. It was what we needed to do to win."

The region's leading rusher, VHS senior Carlos Parker, had another big night with 75 yards on 15 carries, including the Wildcats only touchdown from 12 yards out. But he finished an unusual second to quarterback Alton Hiltson for the team's leading rushing honors. Hiltson picked through the Coffee

V.D.T. Monday, Nov. 6, 1989

Wildcats Recap

defense for 76 yards on 16 carries.

And Parker and Hiltson gained their yardage despite the absence of one of the Wildcat's most important offensive cogs. Senior offensive lineman Matthew Butler missed the game with a knee injury. But the line got an inspired performance from center Jarrett Johnson.

"Jarrett Johnson played the best game of his life. And he did it with a 103-degree temperature," said offen-

sive line coach Jerry Don Baker.

"The whole line played well tonight and we were really pleased with their effort in the second half."

The Wildcats also garnered three interceptions, two by Chris Hart and one by Adrian Lewis.

The win by Valdosta sets up their annual battle with the Lowndes Vikings this Friday. A win in Martin Stadium will put them into the playoffs. The other subregion representative will be decided in Moultrie where Coffee visits the Colquitt County Packers. The winner will join the Wildcats.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-8-1

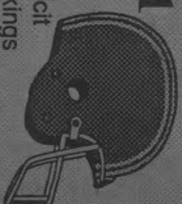
Valdosta rallied from a 13-6 deficit to defeat the Vikings

20-13 at Martin Stadium. The 'Cats' final two TDs came from quarterback David Parker and running back Pernell Bee.

7 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

V.D.T.

Friday, Nov. 3, 1989



'Cats Get It Done

With Playoffs On The Line, VHS Beats No. 4 Coffee, 10-3

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

DOUGLAS — All week long, the Valdosta Wildcats had prepared for their battle with the undefeated Coffee High Trojans. But in their back of their minds loomed the prospect of their elimination from the state playoffs for the first time since 1974.

And Friday night, their preparations paid off. The Wildcats further muddled the Region 1-AAAA playoff picture with an upset 10-3 win over the previously undefeated and fourth-ranked Coffee High Trojans.

Both teams are now 8-1 overall and 3-1 in the subregion. Colquitt County High, which defeated Tift County, 17-0, Friday night, leads the playoff race with 4-0 subregion mark.

"It was like the whole history and tradition of Wildcat football was riding on this game tonight," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "Our defense clawed and scratched and fought and did everything they could to win tonight. Our offense did what they had to do to win."

The game showcased the subregion's top two defensive teams and they played brilliantly in the first half. The only score before the inter-

mission came on a 26-yard field goal by Coffee's Andy Spivey with 27 seconds left in the first period.

That score capped a 17-play drive which featured a surprisingly successful Coffee passing game. Three of the five first downs on that drive came through the air and from quarterback Reggie Ingram.

The first-half damage that the Trojan offense inflicted could have been much worse. On the next Valdosta drive, the 'Cats fumbled and Coffee took over on the VHS 39-yard line. They drove to the 17-yard line before a Bruce Daniels' quarterback sack and a pass breakup by Anthony Williams forced Coffee to attempt a 38-yard field goal which the Trojans missed.

Meanwhile, it took the Valdosta offense until their second drive of the third quarter to get on track. Running back Carlos Parker started it off with a 20-yard run that advanced VHS to the Coffee 19. Parker and quarterback Alton Hitson took turns running the ball and moved it to the 1-yard line.

But on fourth-and-goal from the one, Coffee stood tall. They stuffed Williams, who was brought into the backfield as a blocking back, for no

Sec 'Cats, Page 3B



Valdosta players Carlos Parker (22) and Carlos Folsom celebrate Parker's 12-yard

score in the third quarter to beat Coffee, 10-3 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Sports

VHS 9th Graders End 7-0

Wildcats Beat Packers, 20-18

V.D.T

Staff Report *Fr. Oct 27, 1989*

MOULTRIE — The Valdosta High School 9th grade football Wildcats ended the season perfect, despite what might have happened at the end of the game Thursday against host Colquitt County at Mack Tarpe Stadium.

Leading 20-6 with 9:23 left in the final quarter, the Wildcats had to

hold off the Packers, who scored twice and recovered an onside kick with 1:23 left on the 'Cat 39.

The Wildcats end the season 7-0 while the Packers finish at 4-1-1.

Clark Drury started the scoring for the visitors with two 27-yard field goals in the first half. He also made both PAT attempts in the game.

Colquitt County tied things up in the third period after Jeremy Merritt hit Sharone Roberts with a 20-yard scoring toss. Brock Sanford then blocked the PAT kick.

With 1:19 left in the third, Tommy Speed broke loose for a 24-yard touchdown romp off a trap play. With Drury's kick, VHS was up 13-6.

After a Packer fumble, VHS drove four plays with Steven Everson hooking up with John Bell for a quick 17-yard touchdown pass play with 9:23 left in the game. Drury was again good as VHS led 20-6.

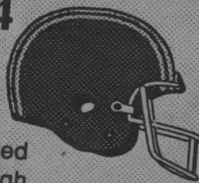
On the next possession, Colquitt County drove 11 plays ending with Jimmy Merritt's 15-yard run for six points with 4:43 left. The 2-point pass attempt was tipped at the line of scrimmage.

After holding VHS on its next possession, Colquitt County drove 80 yards in nine plays ending with a 3-yard run by Reggie Scott with 1:23 left. The 2-point try failed as two Packer receivers dropped the ball.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-7-4



Valdosta
Wildcats defeated
the Lowndes High
Vikings, 20-3, under
first-year head coach
Nick Hyder.

14 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

Fr. Oct. 27, 1989 VDT

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta High Wildcats
vs.
Tift County Blue Devils
at Cleveland Field

WILDCAT OFFENSE

#	Pos.	Player	Yr.	Wt.
15	QB	Alton Hitson	Jr.	170
22	RB	Carlos Parker	Sr.	182
11	RB	Joe Wright	Sr.	145
19	FL	Tracy Smothers	Sr.	168
88	SE	Carlos Moore	Sr.	140
58	C	Jarrett Johnson	Sr.	211
52	G	Matthew Butler	Jr.	180
51	G	Jason Peters	Sr.	214
77	T	Shaun Elders	Jr.	264
50	T	Brooks Akins	Sr.	223
81	TE	Mickey McSwain	Sr.	190

BLUE DEVIL DEFENSE

E	Gary Lupo	Jr.	190
E	Stacy Tisby	Sr.	208
T	Hudson Brack	Jr.	250
T	Robert Watts	Jr.	215
LB	Ken King	So.	220
LB	Mark Johnson	Jr.	170
LB	Stephen Hobby	Jr.	184
CB	Eric Walker	Jr.	170
CB	Larry Green	Sr.	171
FS	Dewayne Washington	Sr.	181
SS	Tyrone Lester	Sr.	175

WILDCAT DEFENSE

46	T	Robert Fillmore	Sr.	185
94	T	George Copeland	Sr.	215
91	E	Dexter Daniels	So.	190
47	E	Fred Henton	Sr.	185
91	G	Andre Hampton	Sr.	187
44	LB	Anthony Williams	Sr.	250
49	LB	Bruce Daniels	Sr.	204
28	CB	Trampis Wrice	So.	150
26	CB	Adrian Lewis	Sr.	160
32	SS	Chris Hart	Sr.	174
23	FS	Marshun Lane	Jr.	170
2	K	Dow Drury	So.	150
35	P	Eric Phillips	Jr.	180

Head Coach: Nick Hyder

BLUE DEVIL OFFENSE

QB	Mickey Weldon	Jr.	160
RB	Jason Jones	Jr.	170
RB	Lyric King	Jr.	157
WR	Michael Ewings	Sr.	175
C	Clay Shiver	Jr.	245
G	Rocky Laster	Jr.	200
G	Keith Newell	Jr.	202
T	Rad Calhoun	Sr.	290
T	Clint Manning	So.	220
FL	Gannon Hall	Jr.	165
TE	Jonathan Jones	Sr.	195

Head coach: Gene Brodie

Fr. Oct. 27, 1989 VDT

Sports Hall Of Fame To Add Three More

V.D.T. Monday Nov. 6, 1989

Griffin Made Big Strides

Staff Reports

In the fall of 1946, Joe Griffin was a smallish but fiercely competitive nose guard and offensive lineman for coach Wright Bazemore's Valdosta Wildcats. Today, he is Major General Joseph W. Griffin, United States Army, and currently Adjutant General of the state of Georgia.

As head of the Georgia Department of Defense, General Griffin commands the military division, which is comprised of 11,000 members of the Georgia Army National Guard and 3,500 airmen of the Air National Guard. He was appointed Adjutant General on Nov. 1, 1983 and was promoted to Major General on Feb. 29, 1984.

At Valdosta High, Griffin played under both Bazemore and coach Buck Thomas during his prep career. The '46 Wildcats finished the year at 8-3, losing in the South Georgia playoff, 27-19, to Waycross. Following graduation from VHS in

1947, Griffin enrolled at the University of Georgia, and was graduated from there before enlisting in the Army in 1952.

Griffin commanded an Infantry Heavy Weapons Company in the active Army and later joined the Georgia Army National Guard. He was inducted into the Infantry Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning in 1980, and his awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal. Also, included in his long and impressive list of military credentials are completion of the Army War College program and Harvard University's program in national and international security.



JOE GRIFFIN

'Knuck' Was 'Cats' Buddy'

Staff Reports

His parents called him Bill. His high school teammates called him first 'Buddy' and later 'Knuck.'

But, by whatever name, William Matthew 'Knuck' McCrary will always be remembered as one of the greatest fullbacks in Valdosta High School football history.

Playing under coach Bobby Hooks (and assistant coach Wright Bazemore) on the 1940 squad, Knuck, who was also a standout in track, led the 'Cats to their first ever official state championship, beating Cedartown, 21-0, in Albany.

Following graduation from VHS in 1941, Knuck attended Mercer University on a football scholarship. He later transferred to the University of Georgia and played under coach Wally Butts. In 1943, Knuck joined the Army Air Corps and played and



KNUCK MCCRARY

coached football during his service career.

After the army, Knuck returned to the University of Georgia and graduated in 1947. He coached the Sparks-Adel High School team from 1948 to 1951, winning a state championship in Class B in 1949. That team also played in the Turpentine Bowl in Valdosta. His record was 23-4.

Knuck began coaching at Moultrie High in 1951 and coached there until his untimely death from a heart attack in 1965. Knuck led the Packers to and through one of the greatest periods in their football history, winning 67 games, losing 51 and tying five.

Knuck's 1963 Moultrie High teams finished as the state's runners-up. He faced Bazemore 14 straight years, compiling a record of 3-9-2.

Vinson: Sideline Standout

Staff Reports

The late Skinny Vinson is a unique addition to the Sports Hall of Fame. He never was a great athlete in school, though he did played a little golf and tennis.

Instead, Skinny is being inducted because he is remembered as one of the greatest sports fans and supporters in the history of Valdosta-Lowndes County.

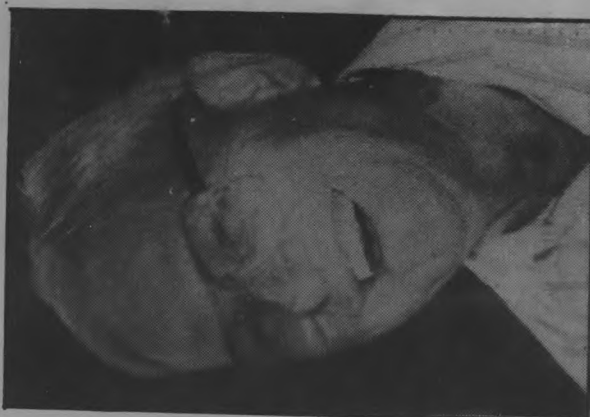
Officially known as Thomas Marvin Vinson, Jr., but always called 'Skinny' as far back as anyone can remember, he was a devout fan of Valdosta athletics for 75 years. He was seen without exception at numerous local sporting events, from midget league football to Valdosta State College baseball, and

everything in between. He was especially fond of Valdosta High football, and was a founder, long-time member and director of the Valdosta Touchdown Club.

Skinny's interest in sports began when he was a student at VHS in the mid-20's. His father owned a downtown drug store and helped encourage Skinny's interest in local sports. After graduation from VHS and later the University of Georgia, Skinny returned to Valdosta to follow in his father's footsteps as a pharmacist.

When his father died in 1957, Skinny continued the family business at the corner of Ashley and North Streets. The spot was a favorite one for local sports fans and young athletes as well, and Skinny would sit for hours with these people, just talking sports.

Skinny's interest in local sports continued in full force until his passing in 1988. Valdosta may never see another sports fan like him.



SKINNY VINSON

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-8-5



Lowndes High became the first team since 1979 to beat the Valdosta High Wildcats twice in the same season. The first was a 10-0 regular-season win. The second was a 14-7 win at Martin Stadium in the playoffs.

3 Days Until The
Winnersville Classic

VOT

Tuesday Nov. 7, 1989

Banquet Set For Nov. 7

Staff Reports

The Valdosta-Lowndes County Sports Hall of Fame will induct three new members at the annual banquet on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Georgia Tech head football coach Bobby Ross will be the principal speaker at the meeting to be held at the Valdosta Country Club at 7:30 p.m.

The new inductees will be Knuck McCrary, Major General Joe Griffin and Skinny Vinson. Also, the Athlete of the Year will be named.

"We have been fortunate to have top notch speakers in the past and this year is no exception," said John B. Lastinger, chairman of the Hall of Fame committee.

A capacity crowd of about 300 is expected.

Winnersville Classic Week Begins

Vikings Have A Lot To Gain, Little To Lose



Wildcats Have So Much To Gain, So Much To Lose

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Who says the 1989 Winnersville Classic doesn't mean anything to the Valdosta Wildcats?

The 'Cats (8-1) have a playoff berth and a possible Region I-AAAA South championship riding on the outcome. Also, bragging rights in Valdosta and Lowndes County are up for grabs.

According to Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder, the rivalry is certainly alive at Valdosta High School.

"It's always been a very hard-fought football game and the thing I'm impressed with is the fact that in Lowndes here is a team that has played a pretty tough schedule and have held their own against some good teams such as Tift County and Warner Robins," said Hyder.

"Coach (Rick) Tomberlin inherited that schedule with a very young team, but instead of complaining about it, he and his staff have played hard and they are to be com-

mended. I have no reason to believe that this game means more to one team."

Hyder pointed to Monday's practice as a start of what he hopes will be a very productive week of practices for his team.

"Leaving the field today I was pleased with the practice," said Hyder. "We have a lot to work on and we are coming off a very, very emotional game against Coffee last week. We need to be sure and give Lowndes our attention."

"We always try and go by a way of priorities and keep everything in it's proper perspective. Lowndes is deserving of that," said Hyder. "It's interesting because we actually want to do our very best in every game and put ourselves in the best possible chance to win."

According to the Valdosta football players the Valdosta-Lowndes contest is always tough regardless of the teams' records.

"You can forget who has a better record, this game has always been tough," said Valdosta tackle Shaun Elders. "The records don't matter in a game like this. This is the most important game simply because it is the next one for us. We just want to play our best."

"We always try and go by a way of priorities and keep everything in it's proper perspective. Lowndes is deserving of that. It's interesting because we actually want to do our very best in every game and put ourselves in the best possible chance to win."

— VHS Coach Nick Hyder

"We are coming off a big game against Coffee, but none is bigger than this one," said offensive lineman Brooks Atkins. "I played against Valdosta two years before coming here and I know that Lowndes will be ready to play this game. It means their season. They have nothing to lose."

The Wildcats are led on offense by tailback Carlos Parker. Parker is the region leader with 932 yards rushing and 90 points scored.

As a team, Valdosta is second in the region in offense with 219 points in nine games and have scored 28 touchdowns.

There is no debating that Valdosta's heart and soul is on defense led by senior 245-pound linebacker Anthony Williams.

The Wildcats are tops in the region in almost every statistical category. They are the best against the run yielding just 288 yards rushing and they are No. 2 against the pass allowing just three scores. Valdosta has given up a measly 42 points in nine outings.

"Our coaching staff has done a fine job getting the kids prepared to play in this tough region each and every week and they should get all the credit," said Hyder. "Our kids have worked pretty hard all year to be in a position to go to the playoffs and our coaches as well as our players are to be commended."



Lowndes High Vikings' quarterback Jeffrey Thomas, seen here against Valdosta last year, will lead his Vikings into battle with the

Wildcats Friday night at Martin Stadium. The Wildcats lead the Winnersville Classic series 21-5 — Times File Photo.

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, November 7, 1989 1



RON EVANS

Sports Editor

Countdown Begins For Winnersville Classic



Lowndes Coach Rick Tomberlin will be trying to get ready for his first Winnersville Classic — File Photo.

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Friday night's matchup between the Valdosta High Wildcats and Lowndes High Vikings at Martin Stadium will mark the 27th meeting between the two teams. But this year's Winnersville Classic will have a new kid on the block.

It will be the first Winnersville Classic for the Vikings' head coach Rick Tomberlin. Valdosta's Nick Hyder will be making his 17th appearance, along with playoff games versus Lowndes on five other occasions.

"I am excited about it and I'm also a bit leery of the situation because of the outside events planned for the week I just hope our team can keep their minds on Valdosta," said Tomberlin.

"It's a great challenge for this team to play a tremendous program and team in Valdosta, probably the premier team in the country. It's a big test for all of us."

Hyder was very complimentary towards his team's opponent, pointing out that his team must play well.

"First of all, I don't know how many seniors they have on their team that start. I don't think it is very many. Lowndes is an awfully young football team, but they have never quit all year playing very tough against all of their opponents this year," said Hyder.

"It should be another hard-fought ballgame between the two teams. They proved against most people this year that they have talent, led by one of the best athletes in the region in Jeffrey Thomas. Coach Tomberlin and his staff have done a fine job with their young team."

With the tremendous community atmosphere surrounding the Winnersville Classic, both Hyder and Tomberlin raise what they consider valuable points about this year's contest and the past meetings.

"Win or lose for our team, I want it to be a pleasant memory for our kids," said Tomberlin. "It's a rivalry and it should be. It's a chance for the community to come closer together, not apart. We want to play well and play to win. But keep the rivalry on the field."

"Although the people I come in contact with are pretty professional about the thing, I think that most of the people in our community can learn a lot by the young men that play in this game," said Hyder. "These kids play hard and work hard and go to FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) meetings together. They ride on the same buses together to FCA meetings and when they get off the bus, they are friends and it's the same way on the field. They play hard on the field and play tough against each other. But, afterwards they are friends."

While the 'Cats (8-1) enter the contest with a playoff berth hanging in the balance, the Vikings (2-7) are playing for pride. But both coaches are quick to point out that the records will have no bearing on the outcome.

"It will be another emotional test for our team as it has been for the last three weeks," said Hyder. "I think our last three weeks have been a learning experience for the entire county. Anytime these two teams get together emotions run high."

"The long and the short of it for



Valdosta Coach Nick Hyder has seen a few Winnersville Classics, 17 regular season games to be exact — File Photo.

us is that we can go into the game knowing that we have nothing to lose and everything to gain," said Tomberlin. "If they beat us, they are supposed to beat us. But if we win, and I would like to think we are very capable of it, then you've got a big story."

The Vikings will be in search of their first win over Valdosta since 1985 when they took a pair of wins from the Wildcats on their way to winning the Region 1-AAAA crown. The Wildcats, on the other hand, have yielded just 13 points to Lowndes in the last four games combined, including a 41-0 thrashing last season in Cleveland Field.

Panthers Have Tough Road Back To State Repeat

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Although most of the area high school football teams are fighting for a playoff berth, the basketballs have been flying through the air for most of the area basketball squads.

The local cage teams have been gearing up for what they hope will be a very productive year in 1989-90. And, most have to only look as far as Valdosta and Clinch County to see that there are a lot of expectations for the coming basketball season.

Last year, Susan Montgomery led the Valdosta High Lady 'Cats into the state playoffs for the first time

since 1981, while Allen Robbins' Clinch County Panthers captured their second Class A state title in three seasons with a 65-55 win over Richmond Hill in Macon.

"It felt good to reach that point last year and I think everyone enjoyed the state competition and would like to go back," said Montgomery. "It's been on most everyone's mind since we started camp back in October. But we still have a lot of work to do. We are excited there's no doubt."

"It was a great championship by a great team," said Robbins. "But we lost 10 players from that team and we've got out work cut out for us this year."

The Lady 'Cats finished 13-12 overall last year and 6-4 in Region 1-AAAA South. They knocked off the previous No. 1 team in the subre-

gion, Bainbridge last year in the 1-AAAA South tournament and added to their climb an win over No. 8-ranked Carver 41-38 in the Region 1

VHS Cage Booster Meeting Set Nov. 7

Staff Reports

The Valdosta High School Basketball Boosters will hold their first meeting of the 1989-90 season on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the VHS auditorium.

The 1989-90 Wildcat teams, coaches and cheerleaders will be introduced and all members and interested parties are urged to

attend. Membership will also be open for anyone who would like to join. Individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$15 per year.

Plans for the season's activities will be discussed and committee chairman will be accepting volunteers. Please come out and support the Wildcat Basketball Program.

tournament in order to reach the state.

The Lady 'Cats lost just two starters off the '88 squad and top returners include senior center Cassandra Twine, 6-foot-2, juniors Ashley Schlessner, Vashli Manning and Laura Dennis.

The Panthers finished 26-2 last year on their way to the championship. However, the Panthers will have only forward Dondre Lacey (6-2) as a returning starter. Senior Ben Sims and sophomore Fred Edmunds will be among the players Robbins will be looking to for help in his frontline.

Last year Terry Wilkes' Lowndes High Vikings finished second in

Region 1-AAAA South, but fell one game shy of the Region 1-AAAA tournament.

The Vikings were 13-9 overall and 6-4 in region play. Wilkes is looking for great things from senior center Marvin Lucas (6-10½). Along with Lucas, the Vikings will have additional inside muscle from senior Billy Moore (6-6) and California transfer junior Keith McQueen (6-5).

John Miller's Valdosta Wildcats will have the luxury of four seniors in the probable starting frontline from a team that went 9-14 last year. But Miller pointed out that his team lost seven of 11 players from last season and his seniors must show some leadership.

Let THE Game Begin

'Cats, Vikings Sharpen Pens

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

It is more than a game, it's a way of life.



TOMBERLIN

The Valdosta Wildcats and the Lowndes High Vikings are preparing to write another chapter in the football history books for Valdosta and Lowndes County, as the two teams meet for the 27th time at Martin Stadium Friday night.

The Wildcats come into the game winners of eight of their nine games played in 1989 and another victory would clinch a Region 1-AAAA playoff spot.

Rick Tomberlin and his young Vikings have managed to win just two games this season, but they are aware that a win over one of the state's best football teams would ease a lot of pain from what has been a tough season.

That fact doesn't escape VHS head coach Nick Hyder.

"I'm been impressed with the coaching staff at Lowndes High and coach Rick Tomberlin. They have done a super job with the young team that they have," said Hyder.

"But they are a team that concerns me a great deal. They have some pretty good offensive weapons led by one of the best athletes in this region in Jeffrey Thomas. Thomas is a player that can control a game if you let him."

Thomas comes into the game with 310 yards rushing and 399 yards passing.

Tony Copeland is the leading Lowndes receiver with 10 catches for 165 yards. Former Wildcat and now Viking split end Victor Jackson is next on the Viking receiving list with 89 yards on seven receptions.

The Vikings are a team that is trying to snap a six-game losing streak and in the process build for the future.

"Thomas, along with their backs P.J. Burns, Clay Washington, are players that can make things happen," said Hyder. "They also have some very fine defensive players in Anthony Hargett, Damion Shiver,



Big Tilt On Horizon

The Valdosta Wildcats begin to put the final touches on their practices for the 27th annual Wingersville Classic against cross-

town rival Lowndes High School. Valdosta leads the series 21-5 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.



Randall Godfrey just to name a few. I hate naming names, but these are kids that could play for anybody. Lowndes has played some pretty good teams this year and most of all their games were played close."

The Wildcats have many weapons of their own led by Region 1-AAAA South rushing leader Carlos Parker.

Parker needs just 69 yards to break the 1,000-yard mark for the season, which would make him the third VHS back to reach that mark

in two seasons. Last year, former VHS standouts, James Roberts and Isaac Ceaser, each collected 1,000 yards.

Valdosta is expected to be led by junior signal-caller Alton Hitson. Hitson gives the Wildcats both a passing as well as a running threat at that spot.

When Hitson decides to put it up, he will be looking to his talented receivers led by junior Carlos Moore. Along with Moore the 'Cats' receiving corps will include tight end Mickey McSwain and split end Carlos Folsom.

According to LHS head coach Rick Tomberlin, their defense may be in a class by themselves.

"They have just a super defensive squad and they are a very talented athletes," said Tomberlin. "We will have our work cut out for us on

offense just trying to get a few yards. They are probably the best team around and we're going to have to play a perfect ballgame."

The Valdosta defense ranks first in Region 1-AAAA South in total defense.

Jack Rudolph's VHS defensive squad has allowed just 49 points in nine games played and just 288 yards rushing.

The VHS defense includes the likes of linebackers Anthony Williams and Bruce Daniels, linemen George Copeland, Andre Hampton, Robert Fillmore, Dexter Daniels and end Frederick Henton.

The Lowndes High defense, while it does not have the tremendous size of the 'Cats, have held their own against some tough 1-AAAA teams.

Here is the latest poll of The Associated Press board of sports writers and broadcasters ranking Georgia's high school football teams. Team names are followed by won-lost record, number of first-place votes and total points.

CLASS AAAA

1. Warner Robins (9-0), 12, 120.
2. Southwest DeKalb (9-0), 106.
3. McEachern (9-0), 87.
4. Valdosta (8-1), 74.
5. Morrow (8-1), 53.
6. Griffin (7-2), 52.
7. Coffee (8-1), 46.
8. Cedar Shoals (8-1), 38.
9. Marietta (9-0), 25.
10. Central Macon (8-1), 23.

Also receiving votes, in alphabetical order: Brookwood, Clarke Central, Colquitt Co., Effingham Co., LaGrange, Wheeler.

Wed. V.D.T. Oct. 18, 1989
VHS In National Forensic League

By **ASHLEY CONNELL**

Valdosta High School has been granted chapter membership in the National Forensic League.

The charter was approved by the Georgia District Committee Sept. 30 and Valdosta High School has now been added to the national roster, according to a letter from NFL national secretary, James M. Copeland. All credit points, memberships, and degrees now on record as an affiliate member will be transferred to the new chapter. The VHS chapter is one of 25 chapters in the Georgia District of the National Forensic League.

Founded in 1925, the NFL is a speech honorary society which is represented in 2,200 schools nationwide. More than 717,852 students and teachers have gained membership, including former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, newswoman Jane Pauley, actor James Dean, television star Art Linkletter, Sen. David Boren, singer Bette Midler and host Oprah Winfrey. It also sponsors district and national competition in cross-examination debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, extemporaneous speaking, original oratory, dramatic and humorous interpretation, and student congress. The charter will be valid for three school years. Enrollment of 50 members or degrees within that time will qualify the chapter to renew the charter.

"VHS debaters have always worked hard to be competitive," said Director of Debate Frank Hjort. "This NFL charter will provide students the added recognition for their participation and success in speech and debate events."

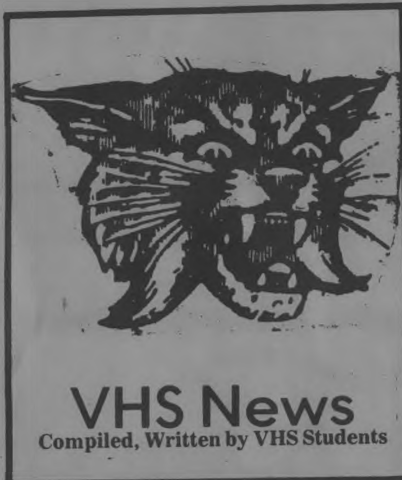
Charter members include seniors Christie Bauer, John Casker, and Michelle Jones; juniors Ashley Connell, Tammy Crowe, David Farber, and Jimmy Green; sophomores Matt Baker, Laura Barbas, Kristin Ganas, Kevin Hiers, and Angela Jones; and freshman Stephanie Everett.

DECA Elects

By **CAROLINE SEAGO**

The Valdosta High School chapter of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) held its annual officers election breakfast Sept. 21 at Shoney's Restaurant.

John Field, vocational supervisor at Valdosta High School, directed the meeting and spoke to the students on the importance of electing responsible officers to represent their club. Immediately following the breakfast, the elections began by means of secret ballot. The results were President Charlie Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Grady Lacy; Vice President Christine Burke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Burke; Secre-



tary Jennie Strickland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Strickland; Treasurer Nikki DeMott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry DeMott; Reporter Caroline Seago, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Seago; Chaplain Traci Selph, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Selph; Director of First Period Pam Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett; Director of Second Period Malynda Pruette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Pruette; Director of Third Period Allison McAllister, daughter of Harriet S. McAllister; Director of Fourth Period Burke Sherwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carol Sherwood; and two sweethearts; Joy Purvis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Purvis, and Jay McDonald, son of Julian McDonald and Debra McDonald.

Science Club Plans

By **JASON FINLAND**

Valdosta High School's Science Club opened the 1989-90 school year with the election of officers held Sept. 28.

With the leadership of sponsors Karen Burroughs and Perry Baskin, the Science Club is planning such

projects as Science Bowl, the Science Olympiad, and a science fair. To lead the club in these activities, President James Inman, Vice President Spencer Iverson, Secretary Jason Finland, Treasurer Dan Altman, and Projects Chairman Nikki DeMott were elected by the members.

Y-Club Officers

By **BELINDA JAMES**

The officers elected for the 1989-90 school term for the Valdosta High School Y-Club are Ada Burch, world extension chairman; Dede Burgess, president; Chandra Cooper, vice president, daughter of John and Doris Cooper; Liz Foster, school and projects chairman; Belinda James, publicity chairman; Wendy McConnell, treasurer; Chassity Loving, vice president of programs; Karen Cain, chaplain; and Dashanti Jefferson, secretary.

Those who attended the Southwest District Rally Oct. 3 at Lowndes High School were Dede Burgess, Chassity Loving, Belinda James, Shandra Cooper, Karen Cain, Ada Burch, Michael Seago, and Wendy McConnell.

Key Club

By **JAMES INMAN**

The Key Club, under the leadership of Bob Bolton and Mike O'Brien, has elected its officers for the 1989-90 school year.

President Matthew Butler, Vice President Mickey McSwain, Secretary Brooks Akins, Treasurer Shannon Myers, and Sargeant-at-Arms Jason Peters took office at the first meeting of the year. The club is planning many projects for this year, including the upcoming Walk America. The club recently inducted 73 new Key members.

V.D.T.
 Wednesday ~~Nov. 1, 1989~~ NOV. 1, 1989

By **JAMES INMAN**
 VHS Senior

Terrific Teachers

When I first came to Valdosta High School, I was new to the city of Valdosta as well. Having moved from Texas, I had heard only of Valdosta High School in terms of the accomplishments of the renowned football team. However, now, I am well aware of the versatility of the school and its quality programs.

My best teacher has not been one individual, but a combination of insightful teaching practices, peer support, and solid leadership. Throughout my high school career, I have had many outstanding teachers. They are Lesa Hill, Susan Allen, Richard Sturtevant, Jackie Altman, Lee Pulliam, Viola Hodge, Elsie Nicholas, Mary Ann Saliba, Mike Rogers, Martha Smart, Kathy Sheeley, Jeanne Tarpley, Fred McLeod, Susan Montgomery, Perry Baskin, Susan Lawrence, Jimmy Taw, Nancy Hjort, Karen Algier, Jana Whitehead, Janeen Josey, James Burroughs, Mary Ann Gonis, Tina Strickland, Leslie Combs, Beth Northcutt, Patty Smitherman, Roseanne Capeless, and Nancy Jackson.

All of these individuals have greatly touched my life through their outstanding skills and friendly encouragement.

But, socially, Valdosta High School has taught powerful lessons to me as well. Everyone is friendly, and everyone cares about their peers. After more than three years here, I have been fortunate in establishing many truly special friendships. Through these relationships, I have learned the value of trust and respect for everyone's views. I feel that I have greatly improved my leadership skills by following the examples of those who have led me. The principals, counselors, club sponsors, coaches, librarians, and secretaries have all contributed greatly to my development as a leader. At Valdosta High School, everyone is special. For, in reality, a new lesson is learned every time a person interacts with another.

Through this article, I hope that I have recognized some of the many important components of Valdosta High School, my greatest teacher.



Parting Of The Vikings' Defense

Valdosta High School running back Carlos Parker (22) spies an opening in the Lowndes High defense during play in Friday's Winnersville Classic at Martin Stadium. The hole was

courtesy of Jason Peters (51) and the rest of the 'Cats line. VHS won the game, 17-0. See related story, page 1-B — Times

Photo by Paul Leavy.

VPT Nov. 11, 1989
Sat.

The Classic: There Were No Losers

By FRANK SAYLES JR.
Times Managing Editor

The last seconds had ticked off the clock on the scoreboard at A.B. "Sonny" Martin Stadium Friday night.

The scoreboard was stopped at 17-0, third down and 12 yards to go with the football on the 45-yard line.

Many of the fans already were heading toward their cars.

The Valdosta High School Wildcats, victorious in the 27th Winnersville Classic over Lowndes High School, gathered and knelt at midfield. They were joined by several LHS Viking players. On the sideline, a band played "Amazing Grace."

The players — black and white, LHS and VHS students — began softly singing "Amen." After a few moments, Wildcat Head Coach Nick Hyder joined them. He knelt and led the group — all members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes — in prayer.

"There are no losers on this field," the coach told them. "We

hope this witnessing here in front of all these people shows young people can lead the way."

The Lowndes players, although they lost the annual meeting between the crosstown rivals, congratulated the Valdosta Wildcats and walked off the field with their heads high. Throughout the game,

See WINNERS, Page 3-A

Winners

From Page 1-A

the Viking fans also remained undaunted, clapping and cheering their team on until the final gun sounded in the cool, Valdosta night.

There was hardly an empty seat during the game, played on Lowndes' turf. Handmade signs posted around the concrete stadium carried such messages as: "Veto Valdosta" and "If You Can't Scratch With The Big Cats, Get Out Of The Sandbox."

Viking Coach Rick Tomberlin, in his first Winnersville Classic, did not smile much this night. Even when his team advanced and the Lowndes fans erupted in deafening cheers, Tomberlin did not show emotion. It is a tough thing to be a new head coach at a school. Building a winning football program takes time.

The football battle was not the only rivalry going on between the two schools Friday night. Members of the award-winning LHS band stood in a corner of the stadium, banging the drums and readying themselves for their halftime show. Just a few steps away, members of the VHS band did the same, tuning up for their moment on the field.

The game still was going on, but

to the bands it may as well have been further than a football field away.

When the Winnersville Classic was over, when the pageantry had ended, when the last play had been run and the final whistle blown, long lines of cars snaked slowly out of the parking lot. The student athletes and the student musicians were among the last to leave the stadium.

One young Wildcat player, his

unscarred helmet in his hand, was put into the game in the final quarter. An assistant coach walked with him off the almost deserted field.

"Be ready," the coach counseled. "You never know when you'll be called."

"Yessir," the young man said. He nodded, then trotted off toward the locker room, perhaps in anticipation of another night when his number is called.

Photos By
Mike Tanner

Banding Together

By KELLI BOWMAN
Times Staff Writer

The Winnesville Classic is known for being the king of Lowndes County football contests but band students at both schools say the guys pounding each other out on the field aren't the only ones competing.

"The Valdosta game is like another contest because we're rivals ... instead of eight judges we have 20,000. We prepare hard for it," said Bobbie Vallotton, Lowndes High School band member.

"We have friends in the (LHS) band, it's exciting to play against them," said Deborah VanNus, a Valdosta High School band member said.

LHS color guard member Kimberly Hart said she enjoys playing together with the Valdosta band

during the game opening. "Band competition is a sure way of expressing yourself ... it's learning to get along together and showing that although we don't go to the same school we can be as one."

Christie Bauer a VHS senior in the band dance line said performing in the Winnesville Classic gets her adrenalin pumping. "Whether they say so or not, it is a competition."

The 260 member LHS Marching Bridgemen Band is under the direction of band director Billy Martin who's directed the Bridgemen 22 years, and Assistant Director, Howard Weinstein. Martin said the band does nothing special to prepare for the classic but it is an especially exciting time for the students.

And an especially sentimental time for seniors, Martin said. It was the last time they'll march at home. VHS band director, Steven Hankla

said although the 155 member band's primary purpose Friday night was to support the football team, "The Marching Cats" get excited when they perform with the "Bridgemen." "We do get a little more excited about playing someone here at home than out of town."

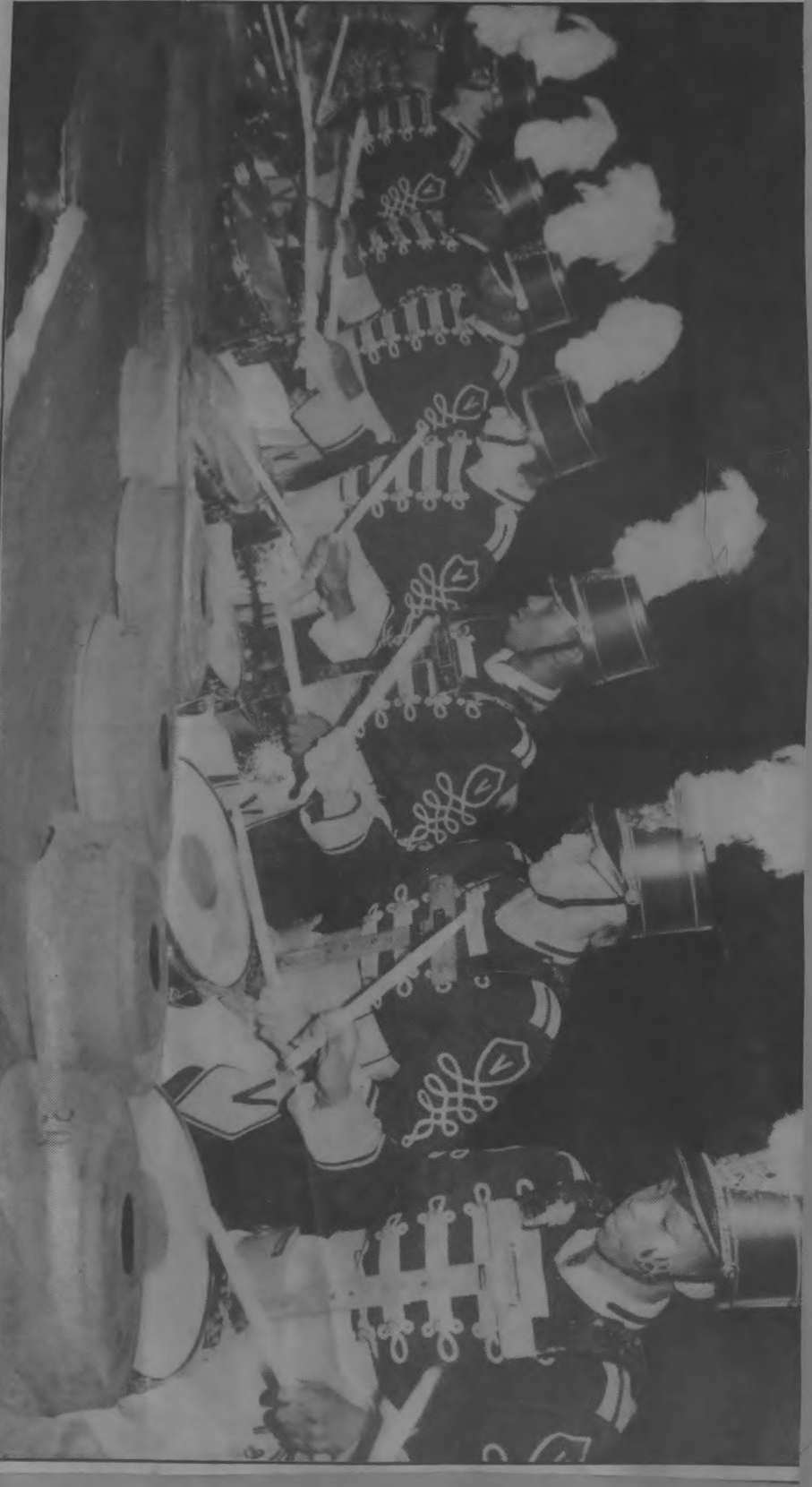
Hankla said for a long time, the "Cats" have lived in the shadow of the "Bridgemen." "They've worked real hard to have a band of equal quality and they think they do," Hankla said.

The "Bridgemen" were Grand Champions in both regional contests they competed in this fall: the Azalea City Classic in Palatka, Florida and the Spirit of the South Championship in Tifton.

Hankla led both bands in the Star-Spangled Banner at the joint opening. Traditionally the visiting band director leads the open



A talented Valdosta soloist plays for an appreciative Winnesville audience.



The Wildcat percussion section shows its versatility, as well as its auto-mechanical expertise by playing the brakes.

It's Showtime

27th Annual Winnersville Classic Set For Tonight

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Fri., Nov. 10, 1989

The Valdosta High Wildcats and the Lowndes High Vikings renew their heated rivalry tonight at 8 p.m. at Martin Stadium. It will be the 27th meeting of the two schools in what is called the Winnersville Classic.

The Wildcats hold a series advantage of 21-5. The Vikings have not posted a win over the 'Cats since 1985, when the Vikings became the first team since 1979 to beat the Wildcats twice in one year.

But there has been a changing of the guard as Lowndes is headed up by first-year head coach Rick Tomberlin. Valdosta's Nick Hyder will be making his 17th appearance in the classic.

Hyder said the game should not only be a great football game but also a showcase for every level of high school athletics.

"It's going to be another classic just like it always is. The game itself should be another tough one for us but the whole night should really be something to see," Hyder said.

"The bands will be competing against each other and the cheerleaders and everything. There will be a lot of pageantry that will be involved and the entire community will be treated to a great night."

"We're going to be pretty close to full strength," said Tomberlin. "We've faced Warner Robins, who is the top-ranked team in the country, and Thomasville, who are the defending AAA state champions. But we think that Valdosta is the best team we've seen all year. There is no question that they have the best defense we'll see."

The objectives are very clear for each team and in this rivalry, the unexpected is usually the probable.

Valdosta (8-1) is within one victory of making the Region 1-AAAA playoffs, with the Vikings (2-7) looking to stop a five-game losing skid.

The Wildcats are led by their intimidating defense which is the league leader in almost every category.

Valdosta's defense is led by 250-pound senior linebacker Anthony Williams. He will be joined by standouts defensive teammates Chris Hart, Fred Henton and Bruce Daniels.

Offensively, the 'Cats look to tailback Carlos Parker to carry the load. Parker leads the region in rushing with 932 yards and will be looking to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark tonight.

Lowndes is young, but not without their own stars. Junior quarterback-receiver Jeffrey Thomas has

See CLASSIC, page 3-B

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta Wildcats
vs.
Lowndes Vikings
at Martin Stadium

VIKING OFFENSE

#	Pos.	Player	Yr.	Wt.
17	QB	Jeffrey Thomas	Jr.	181
35	RB	Clayton Washington	So.	185
1	FB	P.J. Burns	Sr.	200
81	FL	Mike Matchett	Sr.	155
21	SE	Tony Copeland	Jr.	130
50	C	Donnie Anderson	Jr.	160
59	G	Clay Green	Sr.	175
64	G	Sherman Maine	Jr.	161
77	T	Andy Pollock	Jr.	230
54	T	Glenn Morgan	Sr.	232
10	TE	Chad Cowart	Jr.	180

WILDCAT DEFENSE

47	E	Fred Henton	Sr.	185
48	E	Dexter Daniels	So.	190
46	T	Robert Fillmore	Sr.	185
94	T	George Copeland	Sr.	215
89	G	M.J. Johnson	Jr.	190
44	LB	Anthony Williams	Sr.	250
49	LB	Bruce Daniels	Sr.	215
28	CB	Adrian Lewis	So.	185
26	CB	Tramps Wrice	Sr.	150
32	SS	Chris Hart	Sr.	180
21	FS	Travis Lane	Sr.	160

VIKING DEFENSE

55	NG	Kashon Boswell	Jr.	230
72	T	John Donaldson	Jr.	230
88	E	Damon Shiver	So.	205
31	G	Anthony Hargett	So.	190
2	ILB	Jerry Register	Jr.	175
26	ILB	Alonzo Williams	Jr.	185
9	OLB	Jon Begue	So.	165
24	OLB	Randall Godfrey	So.	200
37	CB	Alton Crawford	So.	160
14	CB	Jason Clements	Jr.	155
18	DB	Brett Whiddon	Sr.	180
52	K	Chris Singletary	So.	180
6	P	Matt Futch	So.	152

Head Coach: Rick Tomberlin

WILDCAT OFFENSE

15	QB	Alton Hinton	Jr.	170
22	RB	Carlos Parker	Sr.	185
11	RB	Joe Wright	Sr.	150
19	WR	Tracy Smothers	Sr.	170
50	C	Brooks Atkins	Sr.	225
51	G	Jason Peters	Sr.	210
60	G	Kevin Wilkerson	Jr.	270
77	T	Shaun Elders	Sr.	260
79	T	Kevin Miller	Jr.	140
88	WR	Carlos Moore	Jr.	190
81	TE	Mickey McSwain	Sr.	150
2	K	Dow Drury	So.	150
35	P	Eric Phillips	Jr.	185

Head coach: Nick Hyder

Classic

From Page 1B

been explosive all season for the Vikings passing for 399 yards and rushing for 310.

A healthy Chris Wright will also aid in the offensive power for the Vikings. The junior tailback has missed virtually all region contests this season, but has over 400 yards rushing in just five total games played.

Thomas will more than likely share time with senior quarterback Chris Overman. Thomas and Overman will be looking to junior Tony Copeland when they decide to pass. Copeland is among the region leaders with 165 yards on just 10 receptions.

"We need to really go out and play four quarters of good football against Valdosta," Tomberlin said. "The kicking game will be very important. When we get stopped, we will need to be able to kick ourselves out of trouble and not let them have good field position. We need to make them drive the field on us and not give up easy points."

"I think our best chance to win will be if it is a low-scoring game. If we can keep it close going into the fourth quarter, we may be able to do something," Tomberlin added.

"This game really helps high school football and that is good. We're glad to be able to play Valdosta. We can't win the region championship or the state championship. But we may have a chance to win the county championship and that may even be better."

"They have some very talented youngsters on offense with Wright and Washington and Burns and, of course, Jeffrey Thomas. He is probably as good an athlete as there is in the state of Georgia," Hyder said.

"We'll have to be ready for the element of surprise. There's no reason for either team to hold anything back. We know they'll do whatever they can to win."

Other games of interest around the area will have a Region 2-AA match-up as the Waycross Bulldogs pay a visit to Adel to take on the Cook High Hornets. The winner finishes second in the league and will host a first-round playoff game.

Clinch County will be trying to keep their playoff hopes alive as they travel to Pearson to take on Atkinson County; Berrien County goes to Brantley County; Tri-County is at Brooks County; Maranatha visits Westbrook; Hamilton County plays Union City; and Madison County takes on Wakulla.

Winnersville

Classic Snapshots

1-9-8-8

Valdosta finished off a perfect 10-0 regular-season mark with a 41-0 blowout of the Lowndes Vikings. The game was the final one for LHS coach Joe Wilson. James Roberts and Isaacs Ceaser each scored two TDs for VHS.

Game Day Of The

Winnersville Classic



VJHS Hopes For Success Without Sainz

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

According to Valdosta Junior High School Principal Mrs. Brenda Smith, eighth-grade head football coach Norman Sainz decided that he would step down from his post as head football coach effective at the end of the 1989-90 school year and turned in his resignation on Oct. 31, 1989.

"There were no problems and

nothing to it," said Smith. "He presented his resignation to me on that day and informed me that he was interested in being relieved of his coaching duties. I accepted his resignation and forwarded it to our school superintendent, which is proper procedure."

"The situation was brought to me roughly six to eight days ago about Coach Sainz stepping down from his coaching duties," said Valdosta City Schools Superintendent Walter Al-

man. "Coach Sainz has been a fine coach at Valdosta High School and Valdosta Junior High School. It must be mentioned that coach Sainz will, however, resume his teaching at the junior high. He just wanted to step down from coaching."

Sainz declined further comment, while Valdosta Athletic Director Nick Hyder chose not to express his feelings on the matter at this time.

"We all wish Coach Sainz well. His record speaks for itself at this

school and we just wish him all the luck in the world," said Smith. "I can't say specifically about his future, but he will continue teaching at Valdosta Junior High School."

In his 11 seasons as the head football coach, Sainz rolled up a career record of 57-4-1, including four consecutive undefeated seasons from 1980-83.

"He had spoken with me earlier this year and told me that there may be a chance that he would not

resume his coaching duties for the next year," said Altman. "He feels that he would like to spend some time away from coaching and that's about it."

"I feel very confident with the coaches we have at the junior high that we will continue the success that coach Sainz began," said Smith. "We have some very fine coaches here and they have played a big role in the success in recent years."

Friday, November 10, 1989 3-B

Sports

'Cats Recall Winning Ways

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

There have been more than a few legends started and reputations upheld during the annual Winnersville Classic game between Lowndes and Valdosta High Schools. The Wildcats hold a 21-5 edge in the series and, consequently, former 'Cats have stored many a winning memory in the backs of their minds.

Though they share different memories and remember separate moments in the series, all former Wildcats agree that regular-season records or statistics or last year's game means nothing when the Wildcats and the Vikings tangle.

"The Valdosta-Lowndes game was usually the game at the end of the year to determine the Region 1-AAAA regular season champion," said former Wildcat quarterback and current University of Georgia quarterback Greg Talley. "I remember that we lost to them twice during my junior year and then bounced back to beat them twice in 1986, which was my senior year. The big play for me in those games was the region championship game in 1986 when I threw a long touchdown pass to Guy Belue."

One of the closest finishes in the series' history was engineered by former Wildcat quarterback John Bond. In 1979, the Wildcats were trailing the Vikings 21-17 with less than three minutes remaining in the game. But the excitement was not over.

"They had a linebacker named Adam Reese who had played a great

game," Bond said. "The play was called a '16-fake-and-36'. I faked to our fullback, Carl Wilcox, and our tailback, Irvin Rowe, threw the block that sprung me."

Bond followed his teammates' block and scampered 74 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown and the Wildcats won 24-21 in Martin Stadium. Bond's run was one of the most exciting plays in the series' history. However, he also harbors a memory that is not too thrilling.

"In my junior year, someone had thrown a chain over the power lines and the lights went out on the field. We still played and I dropped a pass later on. Coach (Butch) Brooks (former Wildcat assistant) was pretty mad and I tried to use the darkness as an excuse. It didn't work," Bond said.

Valdosta State College cornerback Dwayne Hart started during three games against his crosstown rivals while he was a cornerback at VHS. This year will mark the first time that Hart will not be able to see the game since he will be on the road to Florence, Ala., where the Blazers will play the North Alabama Lions.

But Hart still has a special interest in the game that will keep his attention high.

"I'll be trying like crazy to pick it up on the radio. My little brother Chris will be playing and I'll be praying real hard for him," Hart said. "Both teams are always pumped up for the game and I have a lot of respect for Lowndes. They are always tough in that game."

Sports

For The Record

Friday, November 10, 1989
The Valdosta Daily Times



Drum Majors David McArthur and Alison Williams from LHS visit with VHS's Simone Allen and Michael Young. Sun. Nov. 12, 1989 VDT



Sun. Nov. 12, 1989

VHS's John Allen treats the fans with his talented play

Wildcats Open Up Against Wildcats

Mon. Nov. 13, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High basketball Wildcats and Lady Wildcats' will open the 1989-90 season on the road in Statenville tomorrow night against Echols County beginning at 6 p.m. It will be a battle of the 'Cats in enemy surroundings for Valdosta.

The Lady 'Cats are coming off one of their more productive years in many years as a state playoff team in 1988, while the Wildcats are hoping that experience will be the key for them as they return four seniors in their starting five.

Valdosta will be taking on an Echols County club that has one game under their belt. Both the Echols County girls and boys teams opened play last Friday night against Nicholls.

The Lady Wildcats of Echols County posted a 46-44 win, while the Wildcats dropped their first game under first-year head coach Carl Beldsoe, 78-71.

Valdosta Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery admits that her team may be a step behind on Tuesday.

"Realistically, I don't think we are really ready to play basketball," said Montgomery. "But I think the kids are ready to play because they are tired of practicing. It's a first for us starting so early. But maybe this will take care of two things, being on the road and it being our first game. Both of those areas are always question marks."

Echols County head girls' coach Brenda Allen hopes that her team can play with the talented Valdosta team.

"We are a pretty young team. We

are basically sophomores mixed in with some good freshmen," said Allen. "The key in this game will be Valdosta's height advantage against us. We have to somehow get into an outside shooting game and take our chances."

While Montgomery pointed out that a probable lineup will not be determined until today, Valdosta will be led by senior center Cassandra Twine (6-3). Along with Twine will more than likely be sophomore Esther Benjamin (6-3), junior Laura Dennis and junior Vashti Manning.

Allen's probable starting lineup will include sophomores, center Michelle Smith and forward Rebecca Hiers, freshman forward Penny Carter, junior guard Teresa Richardson and senior guard Janie Corbett.

Although he has a lot of experience at his disposal, VHS Wildcat head coach John Miller is still concerned about losing seven out of 11 players from last year.

"It's hard to say, sometimes practice doesn't tell you much," said Miller. "When you lose that many you have to worry. But we've got some players that have some game-time experience. We just have to play as well as we are capable of. Don't try and force things."

Echols County and Beldsoe, who was unavailable for comment, are a very quick team. And Miller is not taking anything for granted.

Miller's probable starting lineup includes junior forward Michael Moore, senior forwards Jason King and James Manning, along with a pair of senior guards, Spencer Iverson and Major Lynn.



Valdosta High Lady Wildcat coach Susan Montgomery hopes to lead her squad to a repeat appearance in the state playoffs beginning with Tuesday's opener at Echols County — File Photo.



Valdosta High and Lowndes High players came together following the end of the Winnersville Classic Friday at Martin Stadium. Wildcat player Marshun Lane (23) consoles Viking Jerry Register. VHS won the game, 17-0. Times Photo By Mike Tanner.

V.D.T. Monday Nov. 13, 1989

Vikings Pack It In, 'Cats Pack Up For Playoff Trip

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats and the Lowndes High Vikings took different paths entering the 27th annual Winnersville Classic at Martin Stadium last Friday, and they are taking different routes after the game.

The Wildcats grabbed an early 10-0 halftime edge and went on to defeat a scappy Viking bunch, 17-0, marking their second consecutive shutout of the Vikings since 1970 and 1971. VHS has shutout the Vikings three of the past four years.

The Wildcats recent domination of the series continued as the Vikings have only scored a total of seven points in the past four Winnersville games and a total of 13 points dating back to 1986. The Wildcats have scored 113 points in the same time period. They also now lead the series, 22-5.

Early in the contest it was a defensive struggle at 3-0 midway through the second quarter.

But the Wildcats caught the Viking secondary napping when with 1:28 remaining before intermission, VHS quarterback Alton Hitson connected with a wide open Joe Wright on a 37-yard touchdown strike. The score moved the 'Cats out in front to

stay at 10-0.

A 34-yard touchdown run with 5:29 left in the game by Region 1-AAAA South rushing leader Carlos Parker put it away for Valdosta.

"I think the passing game is just a situation in which we have grown as an offense and not so much that Lowndes didn't do their job," said VHS coach Nick Hyder. "The passing game takes almost twice as long to coach. But we are happy with our progress."

"We really were happy with the way things were going early with our defense and our offense," said Lowndes head football coach Rick Tomberlin. "We knew going in we couldn't run straight at them, but could possibly run the option. But we just had a couple of breakdowns which hurt us."

"I think the Lowndes kids can really hold their heads high. They played a tough game and it was also a very well coached game on their part. It was simply another tough Winnersville Classic," said Hyder. "We're really proud of the 'Cats, too. I think we made some fine adjustments during the game and our coaches and players did a super job."

The Valdosta defense was simply too much for the Vikings. In all, the Vikings could muster only 51 yards in total offense, while being led by

senior linebacker Anthony Williams, who had 13 tackles.

"I think that our defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has no peers and we can't forget the work of the assistants — Freddie Waters, Charles Tarpley and Keith Middleton," said Hyder.

But Lowndes' defense had its moments led by sophomore lineman Anthony Hargett and sophomore defensive end Damion Shiver.

Hargett had seven tackles, while Shiver led the team with nine. Teammates Brett Whiddon and Antwan Graham each had interceptions to stamp out a pair of VHS drives.

The Wildcats ended the regular season at 9-1 and 4-1 in Region 1-AAAA South, while the Vikings finished the year 2-8 and winless in the region, including a six-game losing streak.

But while it's time for the Vikings to pack it in, the Wildcats must pack up as they will face the Region 1-AAAA North champion Shaw High Raiders in Columbus at Kinnett Stadium 8 p.m. Friday night.

One sidenote to the playoff season this year not only includes Valdosta, but each of their five non-region opponents — Greene-Taliaferro, Northside-Warner Robins, Waycross, Camden County and Statesboro — have made the playoffs.

Valdosta High School Students Earn Honor Roll

Tuesday, November 14, 1989 7-A

Principal William E. Aldrich has announced the Valdosta High School honor roll for the first six weeks.

Thaddeus Agar, Gina Albritton, Milzi Albritton, David Alexander, Simone Allen, John Allen, Clinton Alfred, Dan Altman, Gordon Armstrong, Julie Arnold, Latasha Arnold, Chiquita Askew, Mary Aycock, Laurie Bajalia, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Rachel Bailes, Jeffery Ballentine, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Becky Barnette, Timothy Bass, Christie Bauer, Brook Bearden, Joel Bius, Leslie Bius, Zanthia Bivins, Anna Blamar, Kelli Bland, Michelle Bostock, Lateisha Bradley, Eric Bramble, Derek Branham, Luther Brantley, Justin Bridges, Bayh Brindger, Kimberly Brinson, Brandon Brooks, Lori Brooks, Felecia Brown, Latchia Brown, Linda Brown, Christina Browning, Keisha Brunson, Freda Bruton, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse Budd, Stacy Burnett.

And Heather Burns, Jonathan Burns, Kris Bush, Justin Cabral, David Carter, Tawana Carter, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Janie Clark, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman,

Will Coleman, Clayton Coley, Ryan Collins, Ashley Connell, Chandra Cooper, James Cooper, Tanganiya Cooper, Ben Copeland, Nancie Corley, Christine Cortez, Laura Courson, Melanie Cowart, John Cowell, Stan Cox, Ryan Coyne, Tamara Crowe, Pamela Daniels, Timothy Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Kemisha Davis, Sebastian Davis, Scott Demott, Michael Alan Demott, Nikki Demott, Glair Dempsey, Jed Denard, Charles Devane, Willie Donaldson, Michael Drumheller, Clark Drury, Derek Duncan, Mary Duplantis, Beth Edwards, Jennifer Edwards, Kelly Edwards, Jane Edwards.

Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Kendra Elliot, Timothy Etheridge, Peter Failor, Wilson Faircloth, Jack Farber, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Melissa Field, Jason Finland, Victoria Finnessee, Meredith Fletcher, Seymour Floyd, Andrew Ford, Regina Ford, Liz Foster, Curt Fowler, Lydia Freeman, Robyn Freeman, Robert Fudge, Rookie Gage, Addison Gaitor, James Galloy, Michael Galloy, Kristin Ganas, Michelle Gaskins, Gregory Gaumont,

Melissa Gier, India Giuly, Brenna Goff, Alan Goliwesky, Robin Goliwesky, Julie Gordon, Felecia Gosier, Sheila Gray, Detron Green, Jimmy Green II, Michelle Green, Keesha Green, Kerri Beth Greenway, Dena Griffin, Ward Griffin, Jada Griffin, Parker Grow, Darrell Hall, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Hoke Hampton.

And Michael Hampton, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Amanda Harris, Dajuan Harris, Christopher Hart, Eboyne Hatcher, Rhonda Head, Marirose Henkels, Craig Hensley, Stacy Michelle Hesters, Kevin Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Sylvia Hobbs, Grant Hollenbeck, Monica Hope, Michael Hopper, William Howard, Vanessa Hull, Mathew Hunt, Bert Hunt, Nathan Ingram, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Margaret Iverson, Spencer Iverson, J.J. Jack, Steve Jaramillo, David Jenkins, Hanif Jenkins, Brian Johnson, Deborah Johnson, Diene Johnson, Jimika Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Wynne Johnson, Xavier Jones, Christine Jordan, Emily Josey, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kilgard, Jennifer Kinsey, Amy Knowles, Daniel Knowlton, Teresa

Lamprey, Margaux Laskey, Jennifer Launey, Nicky Legg

Also, Tammy Lester, Kendra Lewis, Samuel Lightsey, Bill Little, Christopher Lock, Karmell Logan, Brandon Lovett, Amy Lowery, Nancy Lujan, Craig Lyons, Jennifer Matthews, Michael McAtee, Allison McAllister, Larry McCain, Tammy McCain, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Tammy McKee, Josie McKyer, Michael McLatcher, Jessica McMullen, Robert McSween, Tammy Means, Eric Mierzejewski, Eric Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Mal-ette Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Robert Moody, Angela Moore, Kenyada Moore, Pamela Moore, Timeta Moore, Rebecca Morgan, Alita Morrell, Betty Morris, David Morrisette, Crystal Morrison, Tangie Morrison, Meredith Mosby, Marcus Moss, Jill Mueller, John Myer, Shannon Myers.

Mark Nestor, Latammy Newsome, Tracy Norman, Nicola Norris, Michael Norwood, Tim O'Brien, Stephanie O'Neal, Ryan Ogden, Christa Olson, Elizabeth Owens, Katherine

Hilary Skinner, Christy Slope, Joel Smith, Lakeshia Smith, Rhonda Smith, Sheila Smith, William Smith, Mabry Smith, Jason Sorrells, Gregory Soshnik, Tonya Southerns, Jennifer Spencer, Paige Stabell, Meredith Stanaland, Brian Stanley, Bill Steinberg, Chester Stewart, Davidae Stewart, David Stillwell, Heather Strayhorn, Jennie Strickland.

And Leilani Struzick, Jarrod Stump, Julie Suggs, Sherry Swigart, Kevin Swinford, Brad Tarpley, Nathan Tart, Shawn Taylor, Syreeta Thomas, Tanya Tovar, Cassandra Twine, Adam Van Nus, Miriam Vendemo, Alysia Walker, Angela Walker, John Walker, Lasharon Walker, Nicole Warneke, Chantell Washington, Jennifer Weaver, Johnathan Westfall, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, Natarsha White, William Whitesell, Liz Whit-

field, Erin Williams, Kimberly Williams, Lester Williams, Pamela Williams, Ginny Williams, Terrence Wilson, Brenda Wiseman, Will Woodall, Shunda Woods, Afusso Wright, Carma Wright, Laurie Young, Michael Young, Scott Youngblood, Shaonn Young and Jeff Zager.

Taylor Finally Gets His Shot At VHS Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

One year ago, all David Taylor could think about was doing well in the playoffs. As the offensive coordinator at Kendrick High School in Columbus, he was preparing his charges for a game with the Colquitt County Packers in the first round of the state playoffs.

Kendrick won that game, 24-21, and advanced to the region championship game against the Valdosta Wildcats. Kendrick was not as fortunate against the undefeated Wildcats and lost, 35-14. Before the 1988 season, the Tigers were a doormat team. But with good coaching and skilled athletes, they advanced to the subregion

championship. Taylor had been a success and when he got a chance to take on another challenge, he did.

That challenge came in the form of the head coaching job at Shaw High School. Like Kendrick before their championship year, Shaw was far from being a juggernaut in the region. In fact, they had won only one game in their four years before hiring Taylor as the head man in April.

Obviously, Taylor's winning influence has had immediate effect. This season, Shaw has turned their program around with a (7-3) record and a subregion championship. This Friday night, they will be hosting the Valdosta Wildcats at Kinnett Stadium in Columbus in the first round of the state playoffs. The Raiders

1-AAAA Playoffs

will be the underdogs. And that is a role that suits Taylor just fine.

"I've got to give a lot of credit to our kids and my assistant coaches. They have really worked hard together and it has been that combination that has given us the winning record," Taylor said. "I had no idea that we could be this successful this season. We just wanted to be respected and gradually build this thing up. I couldn't be prouder of this team and especially the seniors that we have."

Taylor not only brought his winning ways to Shaw, but also his run-oriented, wing offense. Senior run-

ning back Larry Moore has been the leading ground-gainer with 751 yards. At 6-1, 185 pounds, Moore does not get much chance to rest as he doubles as the team's inside line-backer.

The Shaw quarterback is senior Ronnie Gaines and, though he has the talent, he does not get much of a chance to show it, according to Taylor.

"In our offense, throwing the ball is a penalty," Taylor said. "We completed eight out of 13 passes last week and that is by far the most we've thrown it all year."

Defensively, Shaw has held their opposition to just over 100 total yards per game. The defense is led by inside linebacker Ernest Anderson, free safety Jessup Marshall and

outside linebacker Lamar Griggs. "Our defense has done a tremendous job this year," Taylor said. "They've kept us in the race."

Shaw has already made a tremendous improvement from past years but they are not ready to pack it in. A victory against the Wildcats would not only keep their season alive, but it add an even bigger footnote to the season that just was not supposed to be this successful.

"The legend of Valdosta football hangs with them every time they play," Taylor said. "They have a tremendous tradition over there. I think it's going to be a big challenge for our team and it makes the game a little different situation. Our kids would definitely love to beat them."



Former Valdosta coach Wright Bazemore and his wife, Betty, were among the fans at Valdosta's season opener Friday night in Cleveland Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Fitting Start To Wildcats' Season

Sept. 2, 1989 Sunday
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Wright Bazemore, who was struck down early this summer by a stroke, returned to the field where he helped shape the Valdosta High Wildcats into one of the most successful high school football teams in history.

Friday night as the Wildcats opened their season against Camden County, Bazemore and his wife, Betty, attended the

game as the coach accomplished a goal he'd been looking forward to for many weeks.

Prior to the start of the game, Bill Middleton, a former player under Bazemore, made a speech and welcomed Coach Bazemore to the game. He also presented his former coach with a gold painted brick taken from the old Valdosta High School.

Bazemore continues to undergo physical therapy at home after several weeks of recuperation in Warm Springs.

Valdosta Begins Season

'Cats Start It Up In Statesville

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High's boys and girls basketball teams will be making their 1989-90 debut tonight in Statesville against Echols County. The opening tip-off will be at 6 p.m. Valdosta will be taking on Echols County teams that already have a game under their belt this season.

Brenda Allen's Lady Wildcats of Echols County defeated Nicholls 46-44, while the Echols Wildcats fell by seven to Nicholls under first-year head coach Carl Bledsoe.

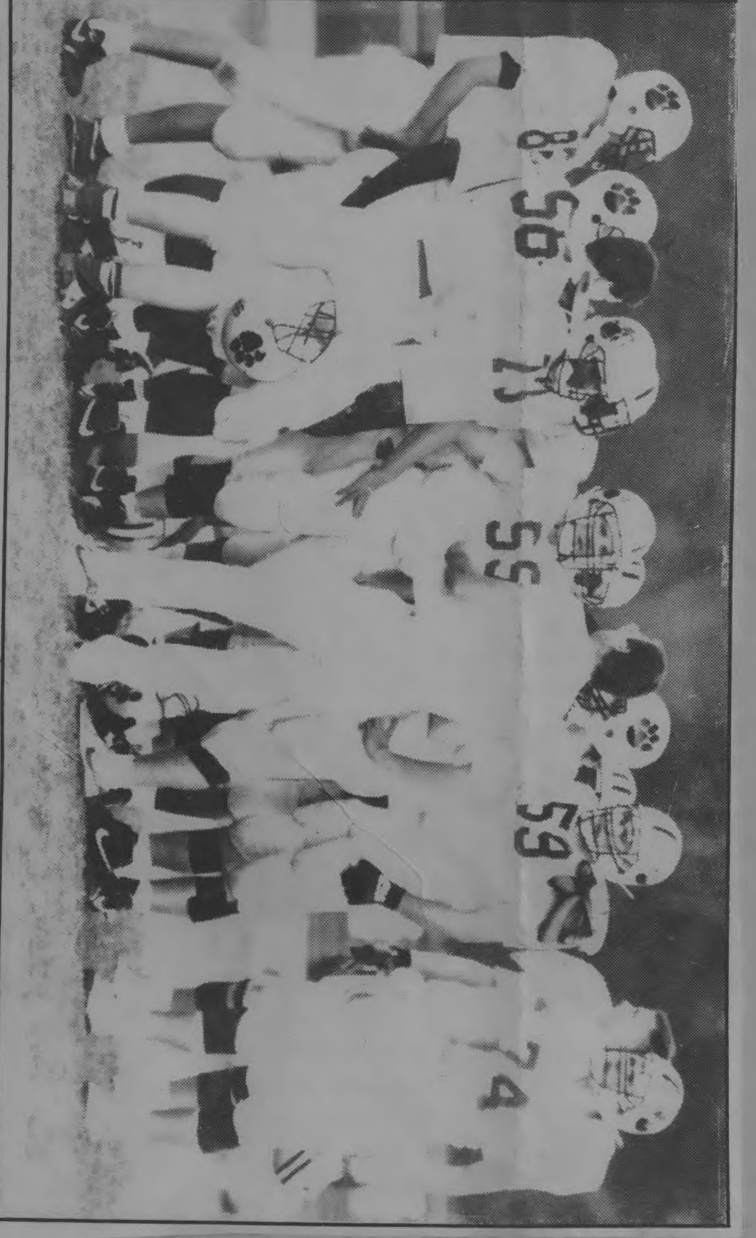
The Lady 'Cats of Valdosta are hoping that they can repeat their fine performance from a year ago which saw them make the state tournament for the first time in seven years.

John Miller is hoping his VHS Wildcats will have enough experience to guide them to a winning season and a possible Region 1-AAAA tournament berth.

Valdosta's girls squad is led by senior center Cassandra Twine, 6-foot-3. Esther Benjamin (6-3), Laura Dennis (5-10) and junior Vashli Manning will also see action for Valdosta. Two starters, forward Swadelyn Phillips and guard Sissy Anderson, were lost from last year's squad.

The VHS Wildcats post a team with four seniors and one junior. The Wildcats lost some heavy-duty rebounding when last year's seniors Ubie Brandley, Carlo Butler and Jerry Robinson graduated last year. But there is some experience in the Wildcats' perimeter game.

The three starting seniors for Miller are guards Spencer Iverson and Major Lynn, along with senior forwards Jason King and James Manning. The center will be junior Michael Moore.



The Wildcats are one of two teams in the subregion to continue afternoon practices after the regular season ended Friday. The

Wildcats will travel to Columbus this Friday to face Shaw High School in the first round of the state playoffs — AP Laserphoto.

Second Season Begins For Valdosta Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The first ten games are over. Now, the Valdosta High Wildcats have to go into their second season, the playoff season, and they will do so with a lot on their minds.

"Now, we've got a whole new set of thinking. I'm awfully proud of the players and the coaches and the way they've performed following the loss to Colquitt County," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "We've had some big players go down late this year but we've also had some key young people to move in and take their place."

In their 17-10 victory over Lowndes High Friday night, the Wildcats missed the services of starting offensive lineman Matthew Butler and starting noseguard Andre Hampton. Butler is still hampered by a knee injury and may be back this Friday while Hampton is suffering from mononucleosis. He is out indefinitely.

The Wildcats suffered two major

injuries at the beginning of the year when quarterback Jason Nichols and defensive end Jonathan Davis were both knocked out with leg injuries.

"This team seems to be able to respond to adversity and that's good. They've had to do it all year. We've had our share of the bad breaks but they team never got their heads down," Hyder said. "I've liked the attitude of this team all year long. They're serious although there are several clowns on the team."

The Wildcats' lone loss of the season, a 7-0 loss to Colquitt County, may have been the turning point of the entire season. They rebounded after that with big wins over an undefeated Coffee High team and their two arch-rivals, the Tift County Blue Devils and the Vikings.

"I don't like to think that a loss helps you but I do think that game was educational. I would've rather done it with a win but Colquitt showed up ready to play and beat

us," Hyder said. "But we've got some kids on this team that have a lot of experience and that has helped us this year. Anthony Williams is 48-3 in the games he has played for Valdosta while Chris Hart, Bruce Daniels, Robert Fillmore, George Copeland and all of the players have a lot of experience. Hopefully, that will help us during the playoffs."

The Wildcats' first game in the Region 1-AAAA playoffs will be against Shaw High School of Columbus, the north subregion winners. Hyder admits that his team is banged up entering the game. But he also said most teams are this time of year.

"I wonder about somebody's schedule is they're 100 percent going into the playoffs. We're still dealing with some injuries and some illnesses but we've got some depth. There have been some pleasant surprises as far as our backups go and they're ready for the playoffs to begin," Hyder said.

Echols Scares Lady Wildcats

Wed. Nov. 15, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer VDT

STATENVILLE — Someone forgot to tell the Lady Wildcats of Echols County that Susan Montgomery's Valdosta squad was the favorite going into Tuesday night's contest between the two schools.

Echols County stayed on Valdosta's heels the entire game with Montgomery's squad's biggest advantage being a six-point margin midway through the second quarter. But Valdosta's height advantage was the difference down the stretch as Valdosta pulled out a 43-40 victory over Echols County in their season opener.

In the boys' action, Valdosta grabbed an early 21-13 lead and never looked back as they posted an impressive 85-48 win over Echols County.

Valdosta Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery pointed out that she thought her team was just not ready to play and her worst nightmare almost came true.

Trailing by just two with under 3:00 left in the game, Echols County missed on four separate occasions from the line, each of which could have possibly tied and given the Lady Wildcats of Echols their first lead of the game.

In fact, Echols held Valdosta stand-out Cassandra Twine scoreless midway through the final period. Twine, however, did bounce back to score eight points in the game for VHS.

"It's back to the drawing board. We just were not ready to play basketball. The kids were eager, but we just were not ready to play sound basketball," said Montgomery. "We didn't have any good practices lead-



Valdosta Lady 'Cats' guard Vashti Manning drives in for the score against Echols County in VHS' basketball opener Tuesday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcats

From Page 1B

short.

John Miller's Valdosta Wildcats rode the shooting arm of Jason King, who scored 22 points to lead his team.

Valdosta scored more than 20 points in every period, while Carl Beidsoe's Echols team could only muster 19 second-half points.

At the half, VHS had a 42-29 advantage and increased that to 57-37 with 2:00 left in the third period. Ernest Lowe had 14 points for

VHS and teammate Major Lynn added 13.

"We have the type of team that we like to play a high-tempo game," said Miller. "We did that tonight, but Echols gave us a good first half. We were us able to package a few points early in the second half."

"After the first half, we were still in it," said Beidsoe. "We just did not get into our offense and the boards killed us in the second half."

Boys Game

Valdosta-Echols
VALDOSTA (85) — Jason King 22, Ernest Lowe 14, Minor
1, Ferrell Scott 10, Spencer Iverson 7, James Man-
ning 6, Michael Moore 4, Jed Dennard 3, Eddie Emmanuel
2, Corey Brazel 2, Fred Brown 2.
ECHOLS (48) — Carl Mitchell 22, Shan Garner 10, Alfred
Williams 7, Joey Sordani 5, Doyie Rogers 4.
21 21 21 21 — 85
13 16 10 9 — 48

Records: Valdosta 1-0, Echols 0-2.
Next Game: L. onier at Valdosta (Tues. Nov. 21); Echols at
Lowndes (Fri. Nov. 17).

Girls Game

Valdosta-Echols
VALDOSTA (43) — Laura Dennis 11, Cassandra Twine 8,
Vashti Manning 6, Ashley Schlusser 6, Esmer Benjamin
4, Tracy Troulman 2, Shannon West 1.
ECHOLS (49) — Michelle Smith 15, Darleen Riley 9,
Patricia Carter 6, Teresa Richardson 6, Terri Keith 2.
Valdosta
6 13 7 17 — 43
Echols
4 9 12 15 — 40

Records: Valdosta 1-0, Echols 1-1.

ing into this game at all. I think this opened our eyes and showed us that we've got a lot of work to do. I would like to believe we are a better team than this, but we need some more work."

The game's leading scorer was Echols' Michelle Smith, who had 15 points and eight rebounds.

"I'm real satisfied with our play tonight," said Echols' head coach Brenda Allen. "We played pretty good defense considering Valdosta's height. But the free throws hurt us."

A layup and a free throw by Smith brought her team within one point with 5:58 remaining in the game. Two possessions later, Twine cashed in on a pair of free throws to give VHS a 32-27 lead.

Echols' Teresa Richardson tied the game at 32-32 with 3:39 left on a breakaway layup. Both team traded baskets for the next few possessions, but baskets by Vashti Manning and VHS' leading scorer Laura Dennis, who had 11 points, gave VHS a 40-35 lead with 1:15 to play.

Valdosta was able to escape with the three-point victory, after a last-second 3-point shot by Echols fell

See WILDCATS, Page 4B

She Wins First Place Speaking

By ASHLEY CONNELL

Sophomore Laura Barbabas won the first place speaker award during the weekend at the Lee County Debate Tournament in Leesburg, Ga.

Junior Jimmy Green also received the third place speaker award in the open division that included more than 125 debaters.

In the team awards, Miss Barbabas joined with freshman Stephanie Everett to finish the two-day tournament with a 5-0 won-loss record and win the second place negative team award. The pair defeated teams from Americus, Hardaway, St. Pius, and two from Warner Robins high schools.

On the affirmative, Green teamed with sophomore Kevin Hiers to capture the third place affirmative team award. Green and Hiers finished the tournament with a 3-2 record, winning decisions over teams from Carrollton, McIntosh, and Terrell high schools.



VHS NEWS
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

schools.

In original oratory, junior David Farber won the third place award. Farber wrote and delivered a speech on a topic of his choice. He also entered extemporaneous speak-

ing, which requires speakers to prepare a speech on selected topics on national and international issues.

In varsity debate, junior Tammy Crowe and senior Michelle Jones finished with a 3-2 record, defeating teams from McIntosh, Warner Robins, and Westminster schools.

"This tournament always brings the strongest teams from around the state. We are pleased to return from this competition with these awards," said director of debate Frank Hiert, an English teacher at VHS. "Miss Barbabas wins first place speaker in only her third placement, and Farber wins third place in original oratory, an event in which he has never participated before. These students really worked some magic this weekend. All of these awards are a reflection of a real team effort."

In an earlier tournament in October in Calhoun, Green and Hiers were finalists in the novice division.

Other debaters participating at Calhoun were Miss Crowe, Miss Everett, Farber, and Miss Jones. John Miller, a math teacher at VHS, and student teacher Alma Nicholson accompanied the students on the trip to Calhoun.

VHS debaters plan to enter a tournament at Carrollton High School this weekend.

Interact Club

By ROBIN GOLIVESKY

Valdosta High School Interact Club was hosted by Lowndes High School Interact for a pizza party at Mazzi's Pizzeria Friday night before the Winnersville Classic.

The social given by Lowndes honoring Valdosta High Interact was part of the Winnersville Week Celebration.

Reunions

V.D.T

Fri. Nov. 17, 1989

ing will be held Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. at Muldoon's Restaurant. All class members are requested to call in (after 5 p.m.) current addresses to Emily Schroer Dacus at 244-5614, Cissy Williams Luke at 247-9926 or Kathy Hendrix Turner at 242-2844 or mail to Emily S. Dacus, 8 Ocean Drive, Valdosta, Ga. 31602.

VHS Class Of '70

The Valdosta High School Class of '70 20-year class reunion meet-

Mr. Food's

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta High Wildcats
vs.
Shaw High Raiders

#	Pos.	Player	Yr.	WT.
15	QB	Ailton Hilson	Jr.	170
22	RB	Carlos Parker	Sr.	182
37	RB	Chris Chachere	Sr.	150
19	FL	Tracy Smothers	Sr.	168
88	SE	Carlos Moore	Sr.	140
50	C	Brooks Atkins	Sr.	223
60	G	Kevin Wilkerson	Sr.	210
51	G	Jason Peters	Sr.	214
77	T	Shaun Elders	Jr.	264
39	T	Bucky Allen	Jr.	210
81	TE	Mickey McSwain	Sr.	190
2	K	Dow Drury	So.	150
RAIDER DEFENSE				
57	DT	Darron Reed	So.	245
61	DT	Larry Moore	Sr.	224
32	DE	Marvin Whittlesey	Jr.	197
87	DE	Cedric Thomas	Jr.	180
22	LB	Larry Moore	Sr.	180
66	LB	Ernest Alexander	Sr.	185
8	LB	Lamar Griggs	Jr.	172
35	LB	Chris Patterson	Sr.	190
29	FS	Jessup Marshall	Sr.	150
18	CB	Travis Jackson	Sr.	150
88	CB	Derrick Jones	Sr.	140
17	P	Ronnie Gaines	Sr.	175
WILDCAT DEFENSE				
47	DE	Fred Henton	Sr.	185
35	DE	Eric Phillips	Jr.	185
46	DT	Robert Fillmore	Sr.	185
94	DT	George Copeland	Jr.	215
89	NG	M.J. Johnson	Jr.	190
44	LB	Anthony Williams	Sr.	250
49	LB	Bruce Daniels	Sr.	204
32	CB	Chris Hart	Sr.	174
28	CB	Travis Wrice	So.	150
21	FS	Travis Lane	Sr.	160
23	SS	Marshun Lane	Jr.	170
35	P	Eric Phillips	Jr.	185
RAIDER OFFENSE				
17	QB	Ronnie Gaines	Sr.	175
22	RB	Larry Moore	Sr.	190
13	FB	David Powell	Fr.	141
16	SE	David Curry	Jr.	168
3	FL	Vince Robertson	Sr.	160
87	TE	Cedric Thomas	Sr.	180
39	C	Russ Aldridge	Sr.	223
55	G	Chris Patterson	Sr.	190
66	G	Ernest Alexander	Sr.	185
62	T	Bill Canamere	Sr.	219
57	T	Myron Burton	So.	200
55	K	Chris Patterson	Sr.	190
Head Coach: David Taylor				

'Cats Want Revenge

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Wed. Nov. 22, 1989

When the Colquitt County Packers defeated the Valdosta Wildcats nearly five weeks ago at Cleveland Field, they ruined more than just the 'Cats perfect record. They put a bad taste in the collective mouths of the players and that sourness has only gotten worse in five weeks.

Friday night in Mack Tharpe Stadium, the Packers will look to do what no one has done since Lowndes High School did it in 1985. They want to beat the Wildcats twice in one year. In fact, only two other teams besides the Vikings have been able to sweep the Wildcats twice in a season (Tift County in 1979 and Jesup High in 1954.)

And if it's up to some of the Wildcat seniors, Colquitt County will not become a charter member of that elite club Friday night.

"This time around, our team isn't looking for any revenge or anything," said Wildcat captain Chris Hart. "We just got to play hard. In order to win, we'll have to make less mistakes than they do. This week has been real intense at practice and everything is shaping up fine."

The first game was a defensive struggle that remained scoreless going into the fourth quarter. But then there was the play. Colquitt

County quarterback Bucky Goff took the snap, rolled right and, at the last possible second, flipped the ball to a trailing Spindola Merritt. Merritt did the rest as he jaunted to the end zone for the winning score.

And since that night, that one play has been on the Wildcats' minds. They are hoping that just one less mistake this Friday night will mean a win and, by the way, another region championship.

"This is for the region

championship and that's the only reason we need to play as hard as we can," said senior linebacker Bruce Daniels. "There isn't any pay-back. This is just the next step. They've got a good defense and so do we. Their offense has started to roll and ours is getting better too. It's going to be a real game."

After the loss, the Wildcats received a letter from someone in Moultrie. Enclosed in the letter was a poem to the team reliving the night of the first victory. Not all of the Wildcats read the poem but

almost all of them heard about it. They now feel that it's their job to take care of any future creative writers from the Moultrie area.

"There were some things said after the game that I didn't think were necessary. I didn't see the poem but I heard about it. I guess they didn't think they would see us again. But we're both back," Hart said. "When they beat us, it gave them a lot of confidence. But now it's time to take the confidence back out of them."



STAN GRUBB

Sports
Writer

Thurs. Nov. 16, 1989

Local Teams Dreaming Of State Title

It's the season that really counts — the playoffs.

Forget the non-region opponents, the time has come for the best teams in each region to step forward and play top-notch football.

After a season which started back in July for most teams, it all comes down to a one-game season, with five possible to be played for some selected high schools. For others, it's to the hardwood and a possible basketball playoff.

It's true I have come down hard on the Wildcats in recent picks and comments towards the play of the team. But when you are a VHS graduate and former team member, it gets tough sometimes to just sit back and watch the team not play up to their capabilities.

I have a feeling that we haven't seen the last of the 'Cats for 1989.

Most everyone was ready to count them out after the loss to Colquitt County during the regular season, especially with Coffee High around the corner. But Coffee proved that they were not up to the challenge against both Valdosta and Colquitt and therefore they are sitting at home after winning eight straight games.

That's one thing about Region 1-AAAA, it's a 10-game season. And Coffee finally found that out.

But I'm sure you're saying to yourselves, "But Stan, you picked Coffee to win." Lets just say I knew what I was doing.

After all, I missed the Winnersville Classic by just four points. I said VHS by 21 and it was 17.

The overall record is now 53-27 after going 2-1 last week.

Valdosta at Shaw

The Shaw Raiders (7-3) will try to knock the Valdosta Wildcats from the playoffs.

The Wildcats will enter Kinnett Stadium, which is the home of the Raiders, as the state's No. 3-ranked football team. A win would put VHS in the region title game against the winner of the Colquitt County-Kendrick contest.

The 'Cats could possibly host only one playoff game in 1989. With the semifinals and state up north, VHS would host the sectionals in Cleveland Field as their lone home playoff game. The only way VHS would host the Region 1-AAAA championship is if Kendrick defeats Colquitt and of course VHS wins.

It should be a defensive struggle against Shaw.

Both teams are solid in that department, with both team partial to the run.

Look for VHS' defense to prove to be the better of the two...VALDOSTA by 14.



Valdosta High Wildcats' Joe Wright looks for blocking at Tuesday's VHS practice. The Valdosta Wildcats will take on the Colquitt

County Packers in Moultrie Friday night for the Region 1-AAAA football championship — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Wildcats To Start Home Schedule Tonight

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head basketball coach John Miller is a worried man. Although his Wildcat team opened their season last week in impressive fashion by routing the Echols County Wildcats, 85-48, Miller will have to wait until tonight to see if his team is any more consistent than last year's.

Tonight at VHS, the Lanier County Bulldogs will visit the Wildcats in VHS's home opener. Miller said that last week got the first game jitters out of the way but

sometimes, the second game jitters can be just as bad.

"Last year, we would play real well one game and not play well the next game. We're just hoping to have some consistency this year. We played well during our first game and I'm hoping we won't go back down this game," Miller said.

Making up the 'Cats starting lineup tonight will be Jason King, Michael Moore, Major Lynn, James Manning and Spencer Iverson. The lineup does not offer much height—King and Moore are the only two over six feet—and that is a problem

that Miller hopes to lessen with hard work.

"We're expecting a tough game tonight. Coach Sorrells over there always has a good team ready and I'm sure he will tonight. Everything went right for us the other night (against Echols County) and we were pleased," Miller said. "But we have to play hard night in and night out if we're going to keep winning. I wasn't surprised by any one person in particular. But I was pleased with everybody's performance."

The Lady Wildcats also scored a win in their first game against

Echols, but it came somewhat differently. Valdosta received a scare but survived and hung on to win, 43-40. Head coach Susan Montgomery said some changes are needed and she hopes they will begin tonight.

"I didn't feel like we played as well as we should have but we knew that Echols was going to have a good team and they did. We've had some good practices this week with some different looking good and we're looking at our team from all the angles," Montgomery said.

Montgomery hopes to shake the rustiness from her team tonight by

changing the starting lineup. Junior guard Vashiti Manning and junior forward Laura Dennis will be joined in the lineup by sophomore center Esther Benjamin, freshman guard Shannon West and junior forward Jennifer Launey.

"I think our potential outweighs what we showed on court. Once we get a few games under our belt, we should start getting better toward the end of the year," Montgomery said. "But at least that means we'll be heading in the right direction."

Game time for the girls' game is 6 p.m. at Valdosta gymnasium.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Thursday, November 23, 1989

Win Over Valdosta Sparked Packers

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The first time the Colquitt County Packers played the Valdosta Wildcats this season, the result qualified as one of the biggest upsets of the year. But that game was played five weeks ago and, according to Packer head coach Jim Hughes, that is where that game will stay.



"I don't think the first game has anything to do with this game," said Hughes.

"What happened then has no bearing on Friday night. We won then but we still have to win Friday. The revenge factor is something that sportswriters and fans create. We don't need to complicate the game with things like that."

The win over the Wildcats has seemingly unleashed the Pack's potential. Since that game, they have allowed only one touchdown, a late touchdown to Kendrick High last week. In their last seven games, the Packers have outscored their opponents 142-12.

Those are pretty impressive credentials for a team that started the season 3-3. But Hughes thinks his team's turnaround is due to a simple growing up process.

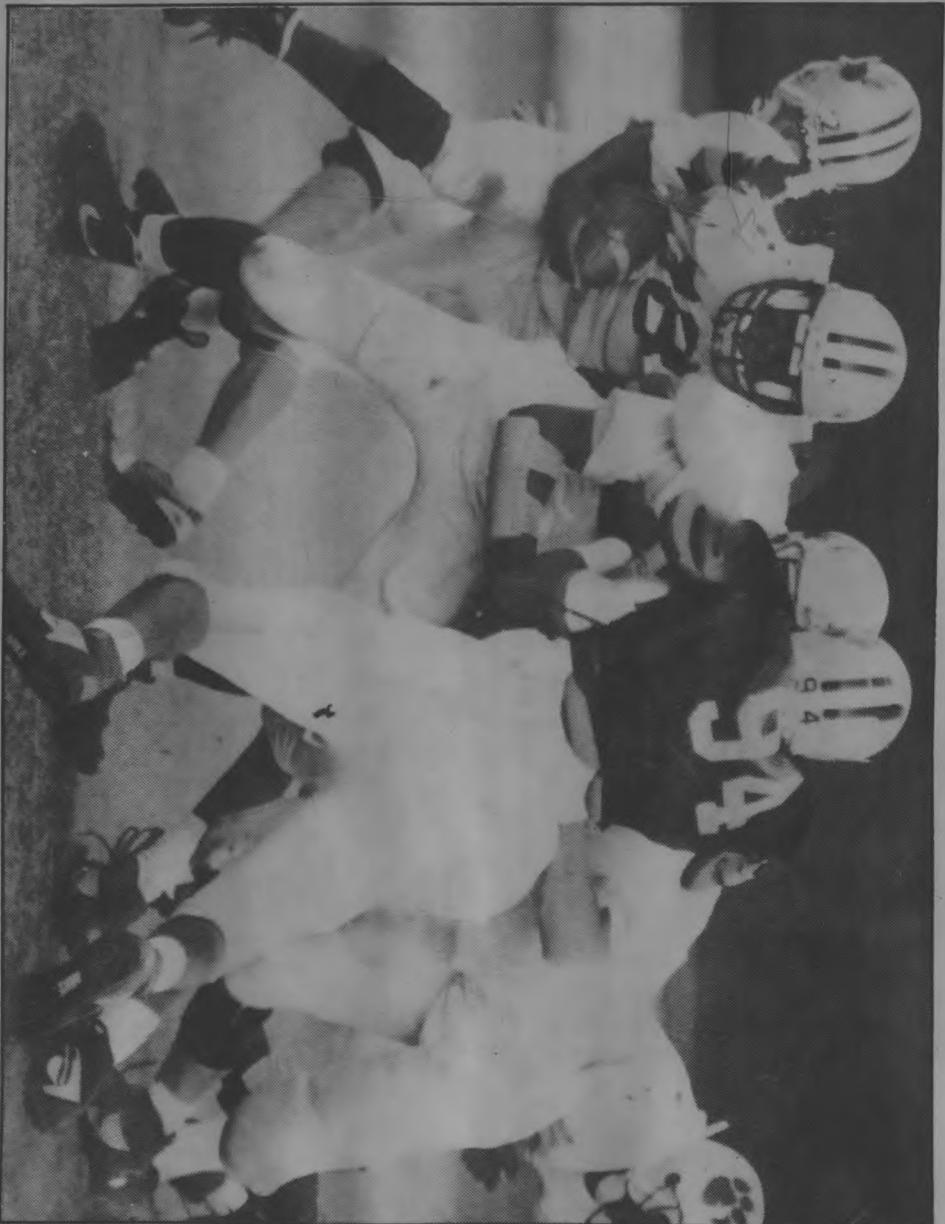
"I don't think it's been as much of a turnaround as it has simply been a maturation process. We have just stayed with our guys and they've improved over the year," Hughes said.

Aside from the Packers' tremendous defensive track record of late, the offense has done an equally good job of putting the points on the board. In the last six games of the season, quarterback Bucky Goff has completed 46 of 72 passes for 643 yards and five touchdowns and only three interceptions. During the first half of the year, Goff struggled with 28 completions of 63 attempts for 274 yards, four interceptions and no touchdowns.

Sophomore fullback Nathan Williams finished second in the region's rushing race to Valdosta back Carlos Parker with 1,043 yards. Wide receiver Tim Lewis has also thrown his name into the hat of dangerous Colquitt weapons with 38 catches for 550 yards and three touchdowns.

"We know that this is a good Valdosta team. They don't allow many points or many yards and you can't ask for much more than that. I don't recall seeing a better defense than Valdosta's," Hughes said. "On offense, they continue to improve. (Quarterback Alton) Hilson's running has improved as has his passing."

"I don't believe the two teams have changed that much since the first game," Hughes added.



The Valdosta Wildcats have been preparing all week for their rematch with the Colquitt County Packers. This time, the game will

be for the region championship and a shot at the state title — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Tuesday, November 21, 1989

Hyder Pleased With Report On Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Following his team's 20-7 domination of Colquitt County Friday night for the Region 1-AAAAA championship, VHS head coach Nick Hyder glanced at his watch. It was 10:23 p.m. and Hyder recognized the significance of the time.

"Right about now, the nation is learning about the Wildcat tradition. And tonight, we added a footnote to that chapter of the story," Hyder said.

The Wildcats' first game with the Packers along with the entire history of the Valdosta team and their

success was highlighted on the ABC-TV newsmagazine "20/20" last Friday night. The feature was the second of the three segments of the program and it drew favorable responses from its' subjects.

"I was well-pleased with the piece," said Hyder. "When they do something like this, the first thing I hope is that we don't get embarrassed. They have to crowd a lot into 12 minutes but I think they did a good job of capturing what we try to do."

Hyder said that only one day after the showing, he personally received responses from all over the country. "I've gotten calls from Dallas,

New Jersey, North Carolina, California and other places all across the country. I even got a call from a college in southwest Texas that offered me a job. They even started talking salary but I told them I am pretty happy where I am," Hyder said.

The coach said he has viewed a videotape of the feature several times and he added that the closing remarks by defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph was his favorite part of the segment.

"Jack's statements at the end of the story was exactly how we feel about our kids. No matter what happens we'll always love them and all of the coaches and the players feel

that same way," Hyder said. Although the Packers won the game while "20/20" was in town, Hyder did not feel that added a damper to the show. In fact, the coach felt the upset added even more interest to the story.

"The emotion of losing actually made the story a better one than if we'd had won. The only thing that I wish they had included was how much we stress academics on our team. We had a lot of interviews with them and that is one thing that we definitely stressed," Hyder said. "But they just chose not to use it."

After the feature, co-anchor Barbara Walters compared one of Hy-

der's statements to his team to that of former British prime minister Winston Churchill, who ironically was a major influence in Hyder's life. Hyder said his statement that was pointed out was indeed inspired by Churchill.

"It comes from his inspiration. The law of competition tells you to never quit. The feature proved that our kids are doing their best," Hyder said. "We have nothing to defend. Some have asked me about our prayer but we don't force any of our kids to pray. I'm in favor of it and I think it is a very great influence on our team."

4-C Sunday, November 26, 1989

LaGrange Tired Of Taking A Beating

The Associated Press

LaGrange got pushed around a bit during the regular season in Region 4-AAAA, but in two playoffs games the Grangers have shown they don't want to be pushed around any more in Georgia prep football.

After beating No. 6 Griffin last week 26-9, unranked LaGrange (9-3) pounded No. 5 Morrow 48-9 Friday night to take the region championship and advance to the state tournament.

Morrow (10-2) was one of three ranked AAAA teams and 11 ranked teams in all four classes to lose in the regional finals. The biggest upset was pulled off by unheralded Cedartown (7-5), which won the 7-AAA championship with a 24-21 victory over No. 3 Carrollton (11-1).

Six different players scored touchdowns for LaGrange, with tailback Earlie Dunlap getting two.

LaGrange took a 21-3 lead with a 28 yard pass to Joe Brooks from Rodney Hudson as time ran out in the first half. Hudson ran for 71 yards, passed for 105 and threw for two touchdowns.

Cedartown got two touchdowns each from Burg Doff and Cassius Clay to build a 24-0 lead, but saw it trimmed to three late in the fourth quarter after Carrollton's Danny Stapleton connected with Michael Higgins for a 74-yard scoring pass.

Carrollton had a chance to tie in the final minute of the game, but a 25-yard field goal attempt missed. Valdosta, tied for third in the Class AAAA rankings with Warner Robins, got revenge for its only reg-

ular-season loss by defeating Colquitt County 20-7.

A first-quarter fumble by Colquitt County (8-4) led to Valdosta's first score, with Carlos Parker getting the first of two his touchdowns. Parker rushed for 101 yards for Valdosta (11-1).

Brunswick's defense held Bradwell Institute to 32 yards rushing to secure a 9-7 victory in Region 3-AAAA. With Bradwell (8-4) leading 7-3, Brunswick (9-3) went 62 yards in nine plays to open the second half, capping the drive with a 3-yard scoring run by Carlton Nelson, who rushed for 90 yards.

A 35-yard pass from Christian McDonald to James Roberts set up the score.

Linebackers Isaac Swinson and Jason Mavromat then took control,

shutting down Bradwell's offense. Roberts added a pass interception with 38 second remaining to seal the victory.



STAN GRUBB
Sports
Writer

Thurs. Nov. 23, 1989

Pressure On Packers Not Wildcats

Revenge, revenge, and revenge. One word that means something to a lot of different people, but can only mean one thing to Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcat football squad — a region championship.

A victory over the Colquitt County Packers in Friday's Region 1-AAAA football championship is on the minds of the Wildcat players. The Wildcats were in this similar spot back in 1985 when the Packers entered the 'Hog Pen' as the favorites to beat Valdosta.

In 1985, a Homecoming defeat at the hands of the Packers was remembered as the 'Cats managed to beat Colquitt, 14-13, thanks to extra-point woes on behalf of the Packers.

In that same year, the Packers dropped several games due to a missed extra-point and again were haunted by that fact in the playoffs. Valdosta's offense has still been out to lunch late in the year, much like myself. And a high-scoring barrage Friday would almost seal their fate.

But with two of the region's best defenses on the field, expect the points to be a premium as in the 7-0 Colquitt win earlier.

Even though the 'Cats posted 21 points against Shaw, only 14 were via the offensive route, while Carlos Moore's dazzling punt return accounted for the other six points.

No one keeps a record of whether is offense, defense or special teams. Just as long as you have more points at the end of the game, you win. Coach Hyder would agree.

Wildcats Try Not To 'Ware' Down

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Last year, the Valdosta Wildcats boys' basketball team played two games against the Ware County Gators and each was about as different as they could be. In the first game, in Waycross, the Wildcats were dominated and were beaten by 20 points.

The second game was played at VHS in their last regular-season home game. Head coach John Miller decided to finish their home schedule by playing his only five seniors of last year, Jerry Robinson, Uble Brandley, Carlo Butler, Darryl

Roberson and Vincent Williams, for the entire game. The seniors' ability and pride got them through as they won the rematch by 10.

Tonight, at Valdosta High School, the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats will play host to the Gators and Lady Gators. VHS, 2-0, will face their toughest test of the season, according to Miller.

"This is going to be our biggest test of the year," Miller said. "Ware County has a lot returning and they have a lot of excellent shooters. They also have a big man who is 6-4 and plays real tough."

The Wildcats' first two games were wins over Echols County and

Lanier County. But Miller said his team still has much improving to do if they are to be competitive later in the season.

"We've got to be concerned with giving an extra effort. We've got to play hard every night if we want to be successful. By playing hard, our defense will get better and we'll quit making so many mistakes. We've been giving up too many easy shots but whether we'll improve remains to be seen."

Jason King has led the Wildcats in scoring during the first two games and he will be joined in the starting lineup by Michael Moore, Spencer Iverson, Major Lynn and

Ernest Lowe. James Manning and Farrell Scott should also see plenty of action.

The Lady Wildcats played their best game of the year last week against the Lady Bulldogs of Lanier. Center Cassandra Twine played only half of the game but still managed to score 28 points against Lanier.

Twine had some help as she dominated the Lady Bulldogs down low from Esther Benjamin and Laura Dennis. Ashley Schlausner, Yashti Manning, Shannon West, who had 10 points last week, Natasha Johnson, Dede Dennis, Janie Clark, Jennifer Lanney and Traci Troutman should also see action.

Better Line Has

Aided Wildcats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

If anyone is wondering how the Valdosta Wildcats scored three touchdowns in their region championship win over Colquitt County last Friday night, against a defense that had yielded only two touchdowns in its' last six games, a quiet answer may be found lining up over the ball before the snap.

The Wildcat offensive line, the one that has juggled its' starting lineup due to injuries throughout the latter half of the year, has finally gotten into its' groove. Against the Packer defensive line, which had a good size advantage, the line graded out higher than in any other game this season, said VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker. And that is exactly what he's been counting on.

"It's been kind of hard with Mat-thew (Butler) being the only one back from last year with any experience. Then, he got hurt and we had to move some people around. But with everybody back now, I think we've just started to gel," Baker said.

Ironically one of the few starters who saw any time on the offensive line last season. Starting tackle Brooks Akins was a linebacker at

Lowndes High last year. The other starting tackle, Shaun Elders, missed last year due to a knee injury. This is also the first starting year for guards Jason Peters and Kevin Wilkerson.

And there is one more member of the starting crew who has punched his time card as often as any of the other five. Tight end Mickey McSwain is the Wildcats' leading receiver on the year although he is only thrown one of two passes a game. The rest of the time, McSwain can be found looking for someone to take out, just like his mates on the line.

"Mickey's the best blocking tight end we've had here in ten years," Baker said. "He is willing to sacrifice his body and he is really a team player. Since we don't throw that much, he is usually called on to block and he can do it."

Butler, also an offensive captain, said that the difference between the first Packer-Wildcat game, a 7-0 win for Colquitt, and the second one was a mental one.

Akins, the newcomer to the team and its' winning ways, said he knew that it was just a matter of time before the line blossomed and he thinks that time is now.



Valdosta High senior Carlos Parker (22) looks for running room against the Colquitt County Packers. The Wild-

cats captured the Region 1-AAAA championship with a 20-7 victory — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Revenge Sweet For VHS

Wildcats Claim 35th Region Title With 20-7 Win Over Pack

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

MOULTRIE—For the first six games of the season, the Valdosta Wildcats scored points at will, dominating opposing offenses and won games with ease. However, when they got into their subregion schedule, they became a team that won by close margins and were not as successful delivering the knockout punch.

Friday night, that dominating punch returned.

In front of a packed Mack Tharpe Stadium crowd, the Wildcats controlled the game both offensively and defensively and came away with their fourth consecutive Region 1-AAAA title by whipping the Colquitt County Packers, 20-7.

While the Packers' storybook season ended at 8-4, the Wildcats chance at a state title remains intact. Next week, Valdosta will host Brunswick High who defeated Bradwell Institute, 9-7, in their region finale Friday night.

The win over the Packers

avenged the Wildcats' only loss of the year at Cleveland Field on October 20 when the Pack upset the 'Cats, 7-0. The memory of that loss must have stuck in Valdosta's mind as they swarmed every Packer offensive attack that could be mustered and ground out the yardage consistently on offense.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder praised his team's effort and their ability to get up for the important rematch.

"They (the defense) played like they have all year. We've lived

through the season with not scoring so much but tonight we got a lot of yardage. We were able to move it successfully and our offensive line did a great job of making the holes," Hyder said.

The battle of the region's best was won at the line of scrimmage. The Valdosta defensive line kept constant pressure on CCHS quarterback Bucky Goff and held him to only one completion in the first half. They finished with four

See WILDCATS, page 3B

Wildcats—

From page 1B

sacks on the night.

And while the defense was taking their periodic rests on the sidelines, the offense found what it has been looking for all year: consistency. Running back Carlos Parker ran for 101 yards and the 'Cats continually came up with the first downs when needed to keep drives alive.

The first Wildcat score came directly from a Packer miscue. Fullback Nathan Williams' fumble deep in Packer territory was recovered by Fred Henton. Four plays later, Parker went over the left side of the offensive line for the touchdown. Dow Drury's extra point gave Valdosta a 7-0 lead.

But the next Wildcat score did not come so quickly. In fact, Valdosta put together an 11-play, 63-yard drive that ended with Parker scor-

ing from the 3-yard line. During the drive, the 'Cats converted on two third downs and one fourth down situation.

The 'Cats scored again in the third period. Again, the offense used a series of running plays and a perfectly-executed fake punt by Henton to move down the field. After moving to the 2-yard line, quarterback Alton Hinson snuck it in for their final score of the night. The extra point was blocked but fortunately for the 'Cats, it would turn out to be a moot point.

When Goff finally got time to throw, he delivered. In the fourth quarter, Goff delivered with a bomb to wide receiver Tim Lewis, who made a one-handed catch and sprinted to the end zone for the only moment of glory the Packers had.

Wildcats	Packers
13	7
53-184	25-61
2-3	6-20
29	131
1	1
4-31.3	7-30.4
7-45	8-48
2-1	2-1
Valdosta	7 7 6 0-20
Colquitt	0 0 0 7-7

Valdosta-Colquitt
First downs
Rushes-yards
Comp.-att.
Yards
Intercepted
Punting
Penalties
Fumbles-lost

Scoring Summary

Valdosta—Carlos Parker 1 run (Dow Drury kick), 4:30, 1st
 Valdosta—Parker 3 run (Drury kick), 6:09, 2nd
 Valdosta—Alton Hinson 2 run (kick blocked), 3:45, 3rd
 Colquitt—Tim Lewis 53 pass from Bucky Goff (Parks Hughes kick), 10:12, 4th

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta-Parker 24-101, Hinson 12-31, Joe Wright 9-25, Chris Chachere 6-20, Eric Phillips 1-(3), Fred Henton 1-10, Colquitt-Nathan Williams 13-53, Spindola Merritt 4-13, Adrian Herring 2-3, Goff 6-(49).
 Passing: Valdosta-Hinson 1-2-1 9, Wright 1-1-0 20, Colquitt-Goff 6-20-1 131.
 Receiving: Valdosta-Mickey McSwain 1-20, Carlos Folsom 1-9, Colquitt-Lewis 4-102, Cliff Middlebrooks 1-10, Williams 1-20.

Wildcats' Robert's

Top Frosh

Set Nov. 25, 1989

The Associated Press

ASHEVILLE — Former Valdosta High School tailback James Robert's was named Freshman of the Year as the 1989 Southern Conference coaches announced the all-conference football team Friday.

Robert's, who is the starting tailback at Tennessee-Chattanooga, was the league's third-leading rusher with 1,067 yards. Robert's also received four first-place votes.



He was also a second-team member at running back.

ROBERTS

Senior tailback George Searcy of East Tennessee State and senior linebacker Junior Jackson of Tennessee-Chattanooga were also top selections to the squad. Searcy, who gained 1,324 yards in 10 games this season, was named the offensive player of the year. Jackson, the conference's leading rusher and tackler who recorded 180 tackles in 11 games, was selected the defensive player of the year.

Searcy, the first ETSU player to lead the Southern Conference in rushing, received three of the eight first-place votes for offensive player of the year. Jackson, who finished his career at UTC by recording 10 or more tackles in 21 straight games, got five first-place votes for defensive player of the year.

In second place for offensive player of the year was Furman quarterback Frankie DeBusk. Kelly Fletcher, end-outside linebacker for Furman, came in second in balloting for defensive player of the year.

Jimmy Satterfield, who guided Furman to the Southern Conference championship, was named coach of the year.

Satterfield, who has led the Paladins to a 7-0 conference and 10-1 overall record heading into the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, received six first-place votes.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

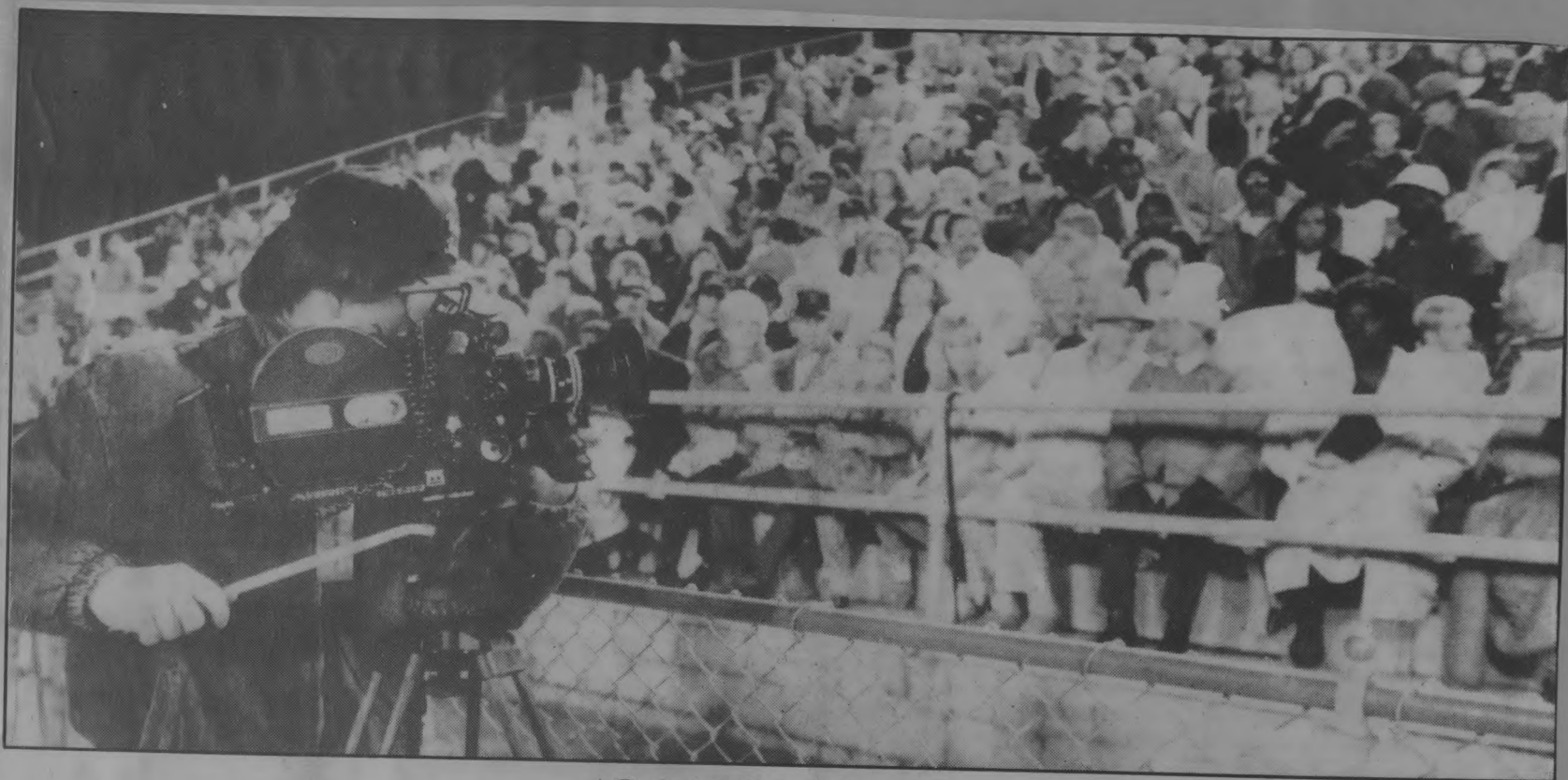
QUARTER FINALS
 Valdosta vs Brunswick
 Friday, December 1, 1989
 Cleveland Field — 8:00 p.m.

Ticket procedures as follows:

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to Cleveland Field) on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Season ticket holders in section K & L will retain their seats.

OTHER WILDCAT FANS: Tickets can be purchased at the Ticket Outlet on Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

STUDENTS: Tickets will be on sale at all schools.

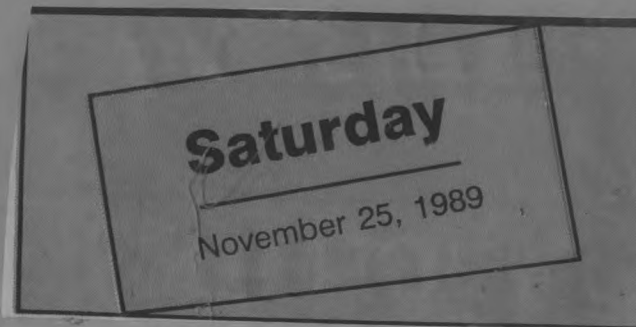


'20/20' Vision

An ABC-TV cameraman films part of a football game between Valdosta High School and Colquitt County High in

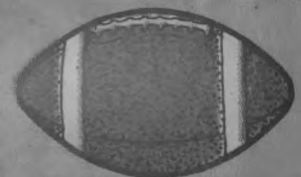
October for the television show "20/20." The footage of the Wildcats aired Friday night — Times Photo By Mike Tanner.

Sat. Nov. 25, 1989



High School Scores

Valdosta.....20	Brunswick.....9	Mitchell-Baker.....25	Waycross.....16
Colquitt.....7	Bradwell Inst.....7	Early Co.....24	Fitzgerald.....0
Worth Co.....14	Clarke Cent.....17	Warner Robins.....30	SW Dekalb.....24
Thomasville.....12	Brookwood.....7	Cent. Macon.....3	Mays.....20



Wildcats Try Not To 'Ware' Down

Tues. Nov. 28, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Last year, the Valdosta Wildcats boys' basketball team played two games against the Ware County Gators and each was about as different as they could be. In the first game, in Waycross, the Wildcats were dominated and were beaten by 20 points.

The second game was played at VHS in their last regular-season home game. Head coach John Miller decided to finish their home schedule by playing his only five seniors of last year, Jerry Robinson, Ubie Brandley, Carlo Butler, Darryl

Roberson and Vincent Williams, for the entire game. The seniors' ability and pride got them through as they won the rematch by 10.

Tonight, at Valdosta High School, the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats will play host to the Gators and Lady Gators. VHS, 2-0, will face their toughest test of the season, according to Miller.

"This is going to be our biggest test of the year," Miller said. "Ware County has a lot returning and they have a lot of excellent shooters. They also have a big man who is 6-4 and plays real tough."

The Wildcats' first two games were wins over Echols County and

Lanier County. But Miller said his team still has much improving to do if they are to be competitive later in the season.

"We've got to be concerned with giving an extra effort. We've got to play hard every night if we want to be successful. By playing hard, our defense will get better and we'll quit making so many mistakes. We've been giving up too many easy shots but whether we'll improve remains to be seen."

Jason King has led the Wildcats in scoring during the first two games and he will be joined in the starting lineup by Michael Moore, Spencer Iverson, Major Lynn and

Ernest Lowe. James Manning and Farrell Scott should also see plenty of action.

The Lady Wildcats played their best game of the year last week against the Lady Bulldogs of Lanier. Center Cassandra Twine played only half of the game but still managed to score 28 points against Lanier.

Twine had some help as she dominated the Lady Bulldogs down low from Esther Benjamin and Laura Dennis. Ashley Schleusner, Vashti Manning, Shannon West, who had 10 points last week, Natasha Johnson, Dede Dennis, Janie Clark, Jennifer Launey and Traci Troutman should also see action.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, November 17, 1989

B

State Playoffs Await 'Cats Again

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

For the 15th consecutive year, the Valdosta Wildcats' football season did not come to an end after the regular season and they will once again move into the state playoffs tonight when they visit Shaw High School of Columbus at Kinnett Stadium. Kickoff is set for 8 p.m.

Though the Wildcats are a veteran of the playoffs, Shaw is a relative newcomer to postseason action. And Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder said that factor may indeed work to the favor of the Raiders.

"This season has been a very historical one for Shaw. That may give them an extra incentive to win. This is probably the biggest game in their history," Hyder said. "We've had a good week and our coaches, like always, have been working double overtime this week. They've really outdone themselves trying to prepare for a talented Shaw team."

Valdosta, 9-1, are tied for third in the state's AAAA rankings while Shaw is 7-3 and unranked. Shaw finished first in the Region 1-AAAA North standings while the 'Cats finished second behind Colquitt County, the only team to defeat them, in the south subregion.

Both teams have used stingy defense and a ball-control offense to advance to the top. Hyder said the similarities in the two squads could surface tonight.

"We've seen them on three videos and so I don't really know enough to say that we are that similar. But that is possible. They have some good hitters and some good speed. There's no doubt that they have talent," Hyder said.



Running back Carlos Parker will attempt to lead his Valdosta Wildcats past the Shaw Raiders tonight in Columbus. Parker rushed

for over 1,000 yards and scored 16 touchdowns this year — Times File Photo/Paul Leavy.

Valdosta's offense is led by senior running back Carlos Parker who led the subregion in rushing this season and was the only back to rush for more than 1,000 yards. His running mate will be senior Chris Chachere who replaces senior Joe Wright in the starting lineup. Wright had two teeth pulled this week but will see playing time.

The Wildcat offensive line has been hit by injuries during the second half of the season. Tonight, Brooks Atkins, Shaun Elders, Kevin Wilkerson, Jason Peters and Buckley Allen will start. It will be Allen's first start of the season. Hyder added that seniors Matthew Butler and Jarrett Johnson will also play as they continue to come back from

injury. Fans who want to see the game can find Kinnett Stadium by getting on Victory Drive once inside Columbus. Take a right onto the Lindsey Creek Bypass and travel until hitting the North Bypass on Exit 7. The stadium can be seen on the left and Exit 6 runs by it.

4-B Monday, November 20, 1989

Hyder Thrilled To Be In Finals

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

While the Valdosta Wildcats did not exactly thrill head coach Nick Hyder on offense totalling five fumbles in their 21-12 Region 1-AAAA playoff victory over the Shaw High Raiders last Friday night, they did advance to meet the Colquitt County Packers in Moultrie Friday night for the 1989 1-AAAA football championship.

"I'm just happy to be advancing," said Hyder. "A win is a win and we'll take it. I really have no particular team I would like to face, just as long as we are there."

The Wildcats used the talents of Carlos Parker, Carlos Folsom and Carlos Moore to account for all three touchdowns Valdosta put on the board against the Raiders.

Parker's score came on a 1-yard run capping a 25-yard drive in the final seconds of the first quarter to lead 7-0. He also led all rushers with 71 yards on 16 carries.

The 'Cats posted their second and third touchdowns in the second quarter.

The first came on an impressive 85-yard kickoff return by Moore and then some three minutes later, VHS quarterback Alton Hiltson connected with Folsom on a 32-yard touchdown pass to give the Valdosta team a commanding 21-0 halftime advan-

tage.

As usual, VHS' tremendous defense was impressive stopping the Raiders on a first-and-goal situation in the early moments of the contest. Linebacker Robert Fillmore jarred the football loose from Shaw tailback Larry Moore, while teammate Marshun Lane recovered for VHS.

Later in the game, cornerback Chris Hart stepped in front of a Ronnie Gaines pass and returned it 10 yards. Hart, however, suffered a twisted ankle on the play and did not return in the contest.

VHS TD Club Holds Meeting

Staff Reports

The Valdosta High Touchdown Club will hold their weekly meeting tonight at the VHS Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Head football coach Nick Hyder will review the game film of the VHS-Shaw Region 1-AAAA playoff game and offer comments concerning the Wildcats' championship game this Friday versus the Colquitt County Packers in Moultrie.

Touchdown Club members, who are also season ticket holders, may purchase their tickets for the 1-AAAA championship game prior to the meeting.

Young Pirates Not Intimidated By VHS

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Brunswick head football coach John Willis says that his team is full of youth and inexperience.



Valdosta vs. Brunswick The Showdown

And while that is usually a disadvantage, Willis said it just might work in his team's favor Friday night when they meet the Valdosta Wildcats at Cleveland Field in the first round of the AAAA state playoffs.

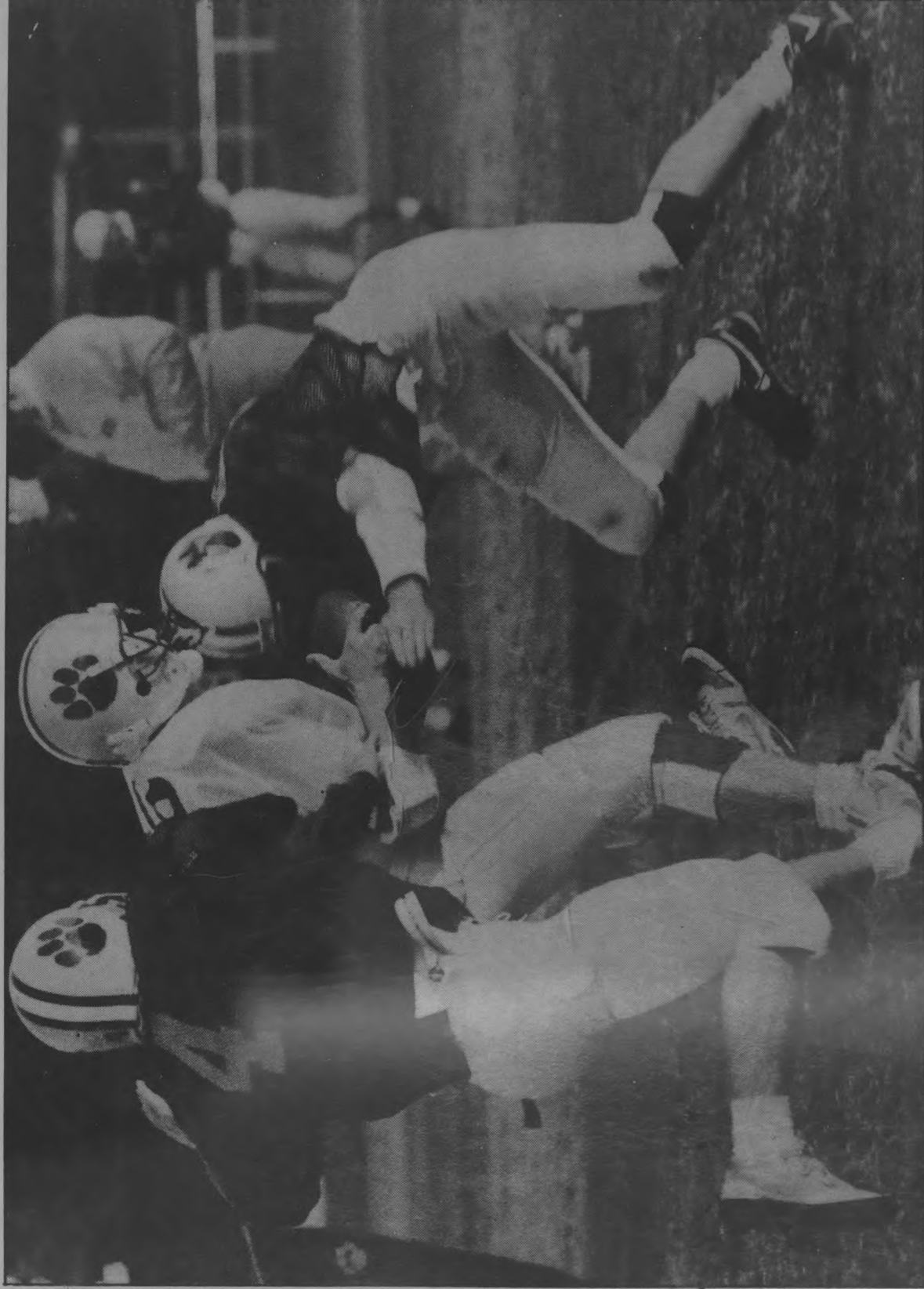
"Our boys are so young that they don't know any better than to be afraid of Valdosta. They're too young to know what they're doing," Willis said. "I like that attitude. To them, it's just another game."

The Pirates are 9-3 after defeating Bradwell Institute last week 9-7, for the Region 3-AAAA championship. Willis, in his tenth and most successful year at the school, said his team is a group of overachievers whose hard work has continued to carry them in the postseason.

"We've been up and down all year and how we do Friday night all depends on which team shows up. Our defense has been pretty consistent all year and we just try to take what the other defense gives us when we're on offense," Willis said.

Almost all of Brunswick's games have been decided by less than a touchdown. Their three losses were to Wayne County, 7-0, Groves of Savannah, 15-12, and to crosstown rival Glynn Academy, 14-7. The Pirates avenged that regular-season loss by beating Glynn in the playoffs, 16-14.

Most of Brunswick's success has been due to their tenacious defense. They are allowing only 8.7 points per game while the offense is averaging 18.5 points an outing.



Valdosta High School. The Wildcats will host the Brunswick Pirates, Friday night — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

some injuries and we got knocked out. This year, our depth has really made a difference," Willis said.

Unlike the Wildcats, the Pirates have not gotten much publicity around the state or in the polls this year. But Willis thinks his team has a definite shot at the upset and he said he is still expecting his team to peak.

"Nick (Hyder, VHS head coach) is known for what he does best and that is get his kids to play for him.

For us to beat them, we'll have to play a near perfect game," Willis said. "We haven't played well all year. Friday night, everything might fall into place. But with high school kids, you never know. One night, they're terrific and the next night, they can't walk straight."

"The potential for our team to do well is certainly there. But if it doesn't turn into results Friday night, we'll be back home. We've got to have great intensity and put our best foot forward," Willis added.

Valdosta receiver Tracy Smothers prepares to be hit by two defenders during Wednesday afternoon's practice at

quarterback Christian McDonald) threw for 200 yards in one game this season but we just don't call on him to throw much," Willis said.

The defense has a good blend of seniors and juniors but Willis refused to name any stars. He said any of them can dominate a game on a good night.

"Our defense just swarms to the ball. In one game, one of our players had 14 tackles and you can better believe that he was hustling. We had some talent last year but we had

When the Pirates have the ball, they like to keep it on the ground. And with good reason. Junior tailback Carlton Nelson has piled up 1,314 rushing yards, which ranks him second on the school's single-season rushing list. Nelson gained 100 yards or more in each of the last six games of the year until last week when he gained 90 on Bradwell.

"I would have to say that we run it more than throw it. But we have the ability to throw the ball. Our

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, November 28, 1989

B

13th Game Has Been Unlucky For VHS

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Monday afternoon at the Valdosta High School practice field, a sign was stuck in the ground behind one of the end zones. The sign didn't read "Region Champs" or "All The Way To State" or even "Go Wildcats." Instead, it proudly proclaimed the practice field as the Valdosta "Yard of the Month."

Head football coach Nick Hyder will throw out orders several times during a practice to make sure someone is picking up the empty

cups, towels or other items which have been thrown down on the sidelines. He takes great care of his practice field, but the sign could be a symbol of what the team has accomplished in 1989 and what they can still achieve.

Friday night in Moultrie, the Wildcats neatly tucked away their fourth straight Region 1-AAAA title while at the same time avenging their only loss of the year. They downed Colquitt County 20-7 and, at the same time, marked a significant accomplishment for Hyder. For the first time since the days of legend-

ary head coach Wright Bazemore, Valdosta has won the region championship four consecutive years.

In 1986, the Wildcats took advantage of winning the region and went on the win the state championship. But the last two years have not held such pleasant post-season memories. In 1987 and 1988, the Cats started the state playoffs with spotless records but fell immediately to Carver-Columbus and Bradwell Institute. This year's mysterious 13th game will be against Brunswick High School this Friday night at

Cleveland Field. But to Hyder, the mystery behind the team's frustration is no mystery at all.

"Carver just had some superb athletes and it really surprised me when they were knocked off the next week. Against Bradwell last year, they just made their field goals," Hyder said. "During both years, we had the type teams to win it all. But it's Game 13 for everybody. We have to work just as hard now and not let up just because we've won the region."

Unlike the past two years, the

Wildcats reach the playoffs with a loss already on the record. Hyder said that may help his team realize how important a win would be against Brunswick.

"We'll be playing in our 13th game but we won't be going for our 13th win. I think the loss to Moultrie has helped us so far. It helped us against Coffee when we needed a big game and I think it helped last Friday night. But the players know that another loss would be the end of the year. And that puts a lot of importance on every game we play from now on," Hyder said.

Wildcat Wrestlers

Start Year Tonight

Tue Nov. 28, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Tonight at 6 p.m., the Valdosta Wildcats will start what they hope will be a successful wrestling season when they host the Colquitt County Packer squad.

Last year's Wildcat squad finished first in the area with a 12-2 record and 13th in the state tournament out of 75 teams. From that team, only two members, Ashley Fann and Jim Garber, were lost and that gives second-year head coach John Davis



DAVIS

a reason to be optimistic about the 1989-90 team.

"We're looking for some good things out of this group. We've got some good young kids coming in along with some of our top wrestlers from last year," Davis said. "I hate to make predictions early in the year so we don't. There a lot of good teams in the area."

Top returners for the Wildcats include seniors Steven Petermann, Jason Finland and Maurice Dean and junior Derrick Phillips. All did well in the area meet last year with

Petermann finishing third in the state in the 119-pound division.

Other wrestlers who will be on the mat Thursday include Tim Garland, Jason Giddens, David Richardson, Steve Johnson, Terry Troupe, Chuck Bonner, Jason Griffin, Andrew Denmark and Ryan Mooman.

Davis added that when the Cats football season ends, Brooks Akins, Eric Phillips, Justin Bridges and Scott Jones will all return to the team.

Davis said that his squad's first test against the Packers should be a tough one.

"Colquitt County always has some good athletes and they are getting stronger. Since football is over for them, they've got some more depth on their team. And they always have good athletes," Davis said.

Davis said each team in the sub-region should be strong with Coffee High as one of the favorites.

"Lowndes has a new coach and they'll probably be good and Tift County has been building their program up for the past few years. We've also got to wrestle against Fitzgerald and Suwannee from Florida this year and both of them are always tough," Davis said. "And of course, we have Cook on the schedule. Coach (Barry) Davis does a tremendous job of getting his team ready and they don't ever have a down year."

VHS Wrestlers Start Strong By Downing Packers, 60-18

VDT, Fri., Dec. 1, 1989

By Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team opened their 1989-90 wrestling season in a big way Thursday night by dominating the Colquitt County squad, 60-18. The Wildcats used seven pins and three decisions to down the rival Packers.



DAVIS

Head wrestling coach John Davis said that his team's performance was a pleasant surprise due to their youth and the absence of several wrestlers who are still playing football.

"I thought they all did a good job and I was really pleased with their effort. We had some younger kids

who came in a did a great job in their first meet," Davis said. Tim Garland (103-pound class), Terry Troupe (130), Steven Petermann (135), Maurice Dean (152), Andrew Denmark (171), Ryan Moorhead (189) and Derrick Phillips (heavyweight) all pinned their opponents to help down the Packers. Jason Giddens (112), Jason Finland (140) and Chuck Bonner (145) all won their matches by decision.

The fastest of the pins came from Petermann and Moorhead, who both downed their opponents in 20 seconds. "I thought that Tim Garland and Terry Troupe and Andrew Denmark all did a great job in their first varsity matches and Steven and Ryan picked up right where they left off last year," Davis said. Ironically, Phillips' pin came over Colquitt's Brian Smith, an offensive lineman for the Packer football team

This Saturday, VHS will welcome over 150 wrestlers from across the state to the Dr. John's Clinic and Takedown Tournament. Dr. John Raber, a professor at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, will be on hand to instruct the wrestlers. He is an official for college tournaments and has officiated in the Olympics.

that lost the region championship to the Wildcats last Friday night. Phillips is doubles as an offensive lineman for the Wildcats.

"Colquitt County is always a pretty strong team and so that might be a good sign for our team. But we've got a real tough schedule and I know we'll see a lot of good teams this year," Davis added. "And we will also get to see some good individual wrestlers this weekend. That will be a good experience for our guys."

and I just don't think the competition is that strong this year. We shouldn't have lost at all but they (Colquitt County) slipped up on us."

The Wildcats have lost in the first round of the state playoffs for the last two years but that does not worry their most ardent fans. One fan takes a very special interest in the club and has some real kinship with the team.

"We are very proud of this year's

Comaneci Mystery ... Page B-3

Ware Eyes Heisman ... Page B-3

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, December 1, 1989

B

Longtime Wildcat

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

When the Valdosta Wildcats take the field tonight against the Brunswick Pirates, they will be attempting to advance to the semifinals of the state playoffs for the first time in three years.

And several longtime fans of the team think the game with Brunswick may only be a technicality.

Three local fans seem to think that the 1989 Wildcat squad is the one that can regain the state's AAAA football title. And they are emphatic in their reasons why.

"This team doesn't have as many individual stars like Isaac Caesar and James Roberts," said Dr. Ren Christie. "This is just a well-balanced team. The defense is definitely one of the best I've ever seen. I'd like to shake their hands. They're

the ones that have kept it going all year."

L.E. Deming has been a season ticket holder since 1937 and has watched the Wildcats play since he was a child. He thinks this year's squad is ready to go all the way and he is already predicting a big win for tonight's game.

"I think they'll beat Brunswick by three touchdowns," Deming said. "I think we've got a pretty good team

Victory For VHS

team" said Wendell Bolton, father of VHS wide receiver coach Bob Bolton. "We moved here from Tifton in 1948 and we've only missed 15-20 home games since then. I think they'll win the state championship. Those two teams that beat them the last two years, they took them too lightly. But Friday night, they should be right on top of them."

Tickets Available

Seats are still available for tonight's Valdosta Wildcat-Brunswick Pirate state playoff contest at VHS' Cleveland Field, according to Jack Puckett of the school superintendent's office.

Tickets can be purchased at the superintendent's office on the corner of Williams Street and Ann Street today from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For information, phone 333-8500.

Tickets will also be on sale at the gate.

VALDOSTA WILDCATS

The below listed procedures will be followed for the purchase of tickets for the Valdosta-Colquitt Co. Region 1-AAAA Championship game to be played on Friday, November 24, 1989 at Mack Tharpe Stadium, 8:00 p.m.

SEASON TICKET HOLDERS: Tickets will go on sale at the Ticket Outlet, 1204 Williams Street (next to stadium) from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 21, 1989.

OTHER WILDCAT FANS: All remaining tickets will go on sale at the Ticket Outlet at 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, and 8:00 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday November 23 and Friday November 24.

'Cats Look To Get One Step Closer

UDT Dec. 1, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

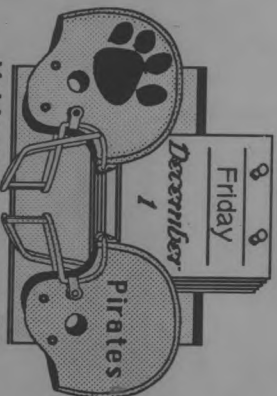
When the Valdosta Wildcats run onto Cleveland Field Friday night for their game with the Brunswick Pirates, more than just the state championship will be on their minds. For many players, it will be their last appearance on the field that they have lost only two games on in four years.

And head coach Nick Hyder hopes that is enough incentive for his team to avoid the third loss.

"The fact that this is the seniors' last home game has certainly been noticed by them. But you can't complain about how we've played on the road," Hyder said. "But if I had my preference, I guess we'd glad to be playing at home. To be honest, we're proud to be playing anywhere."

When Hyder looks back on the season to date, the bad points are largely outnumbered by the good ones. And he remembers the times when his team had to do well and did it with their backs against the wall.

"The second half we played against Coffee, the first three quarters of last week's game with Colquitt County and the second half against Waycross were all highlights of this year. We also fought back against Statesboro after we were



Valdosta vs. Brunswick The Showdown

down," Hyder said. "Right now, everyone's back is to the wall. We've made some mistakes but I think we're still climbing."

The Brunswick-Valdosta matchup is a similar one with both being run-oriented teams and both having great defenses. Hyder said that Brunswick's star tailback, Carlton Nelson, reminds of him of two of his own.

"Nelson looks like a combination of Carlos Parker and Isaac Caesar. (Quarterback Christian) McDonald is a good leader with great speed and he does a fine job of leading their team. They also have a receiver named James Roberts who is a fine athlete and an excellent player," Hyder said.

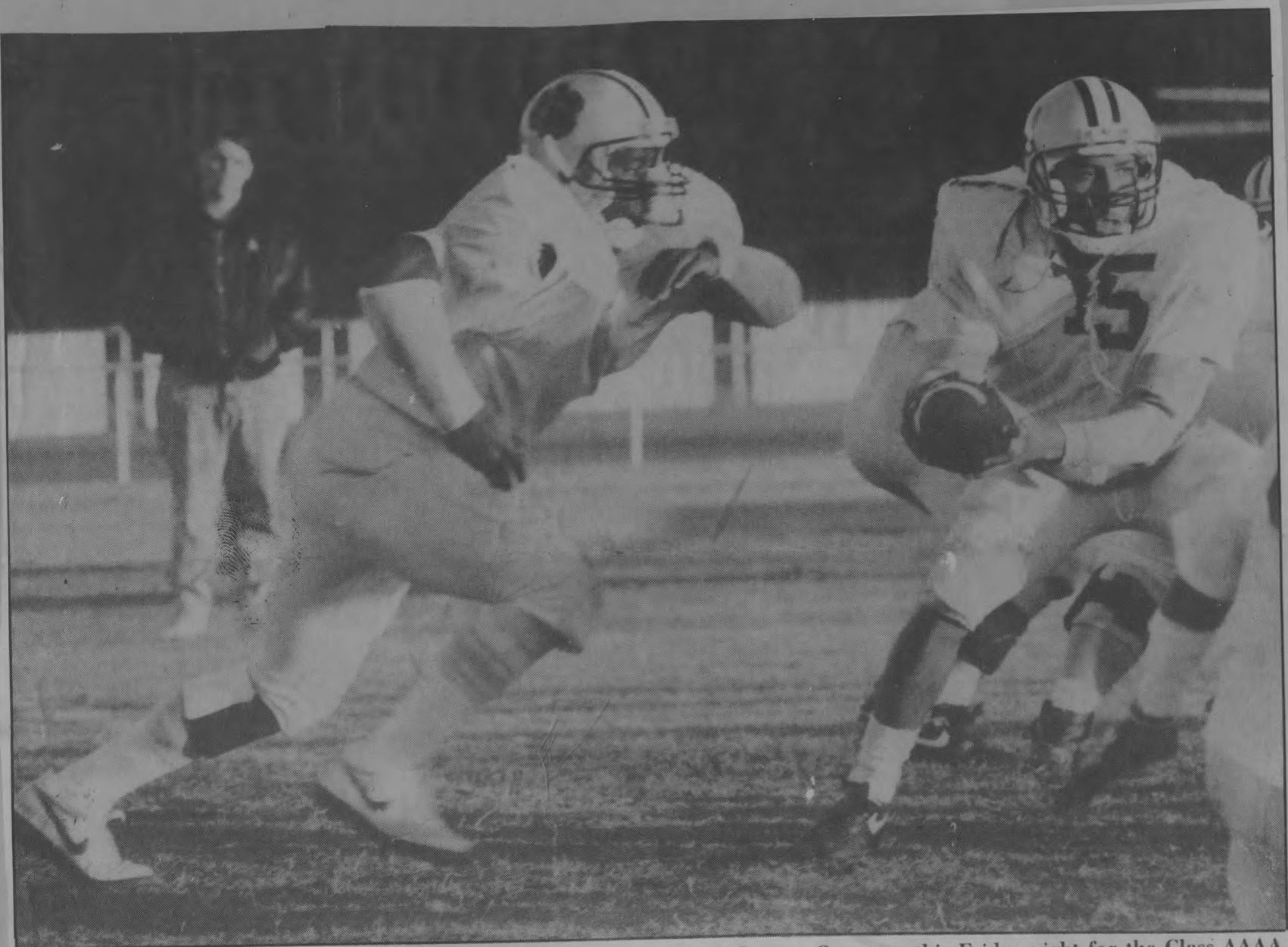
In last week's region championship win over Colquitt County, the Wildcats were without

See Wildcats, page 4B



The Wildcats running attack has been the backbone of their offense all year and they

hope it aids them against Brunswick tonight — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.



Valdosta High running back Carlos Parker (left) prepares to take the handoff from quarterback Alton Hitson (15) during the Wildcats' practice Monday afternoon. Valdosta will play

the LaGrange Grangers this Friday night for the Class AAAA South Georgia Championship in LaGrange — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

VDT, Tues. Dec. 5, 1989

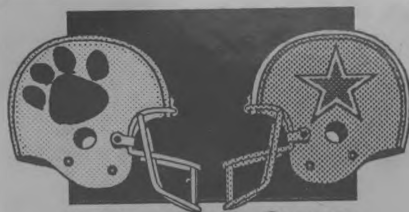
Wildcats In For Toughest Test

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The attitude around the Valdosta High Wildcat practice field is a little different this week than it was a week ago. Last week, Valdosta knew that Brunswick High was a good team, but the 'Cats wiped away the fear of another 13th-game loss as they pummeled the Pirates 42-0.

But Monday afternoon, the general feeling was that this Friday night will bring tougher competition. The Wildcats will be facing the LaGrange Grangers for the south Georgia championship in Callaway Stadium. And everyone involved feels that a 42-0 repeat may be asking a bit much.

"We played LaGrange in 1986 and 1987 and we have great respect for them," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "They've beaten Griffin, Morrow and Warner Robins in the past three weeks and that is some very tough competition. Traditionally speaking, they come out of a very tough region."



Valdosta vs. LaGrange The Showdown

Though Brunswick failed to present any great challenge for the Wildcats, the game was a success for Valdosta in several other ways.

"We got to play over 100 kids against Brunswick and that is the most we've ever played in one game since I've been here," Hyder said. "It was good for those kids to get some playing time in a playoff game because they contribute a lot to our practices. The starters couldn't be as effective as they are without the practice that they get from the younger kids in practice."

Hyder noted that running back

Chris Chachere had his best game ever against the Pirate defense as he ran for 118 yards. Hyder also mentioned defensive end Fred Henton's rundown and touchdown-saving tackle on a Brunswick punt return, offensive linemen Jason Peters' blocking and a spectacular run by senior Carlos Parker for a touchdown as other highlights of the victory.

After the game, Hyder refused to take credit for the call that put Parker in the end zone.

"Brooks Akins (senior offensive lineman) called that play. It was an unbalanced line with triple receivers to the left and we pitched it to Carlos on the right. Then we let Carlos do what he does best. He's got great natural ability and he showed it on that play," Hyder said.

Although the Wildcats will be playing football during the first week in December for the first time in three years, Hyder said he would've been happy with a win of any kind last Friday night.

"I would have been happy if we

would've won 7-6 and I'll still be happy with that as long as we have the seven. We're proud to be in the playoffs and we share that pride with the other three schools that are still alive," Hyder said. "But LaGrange is a great team and it looks like this will be our toughest challenge yet."

VHS State Playoff Tickets On Sale

Tickets for the state playoff game between Valdosta and LaGrange may be purchased from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. today at the Valdosta City Schools Superintendent Office on the corner of Williams and Ann Street.

The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students. All tickets, however, are general admission and an immediate sellout is expected by both schools.

Valdosta Still Unbeaten, Echols County Falls Again

VDT, Wed., Dec. 6, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta boys' and girls' basketball teams completed a regular-season sweep of Echols County Tuesday night at the Valdosta gymnasium.

The VHS Wildcats jumped out to a 15-point, 21-6 first period advantage and went on to defeat Karl Bledsoe's Echols club, 87-51, while the VHS Lady Wildcats held the Echols Lady Wildcats to just one field goal in the first period as they crushed Echols, 51-33.

Valdosta's boys team is now 4-0 and the Lady Wildcats are now 3-1. Echols' boys drop to 2-5 and the girls' are now 3-4 on the year.

VHS jumped out to a 9-2 run to open the contest and their lead climbed to as much as 12 at 18-6 with under 1:00 to play in the first period. After the first quarter ended, Echols found themselves down, 21-6.

"We came out pretty strong early and it helped us. We did the job early in the game," said Miller. "I think when Echols had a couple of kids go down with ankle injuries it hurt them too. Because they showed tonight and have shown in the past that they can hit the three-point shots and stay close."

Valdosta's inside game of center Michael Moore, forward Ernest

Boys Game

Echols-VHS
ECHOLS COUNTY (51) - Alfred Williams 14, Shawn Garner 13, Carl Mitchell 11, Doyle Rogers 8, Zack McEady 2, Dirvin Price 2, Joey Sandlin 1.
VALDOSTA (87) - Michael Moore 20, Ernest Lowe 19, Major Lynn 17, James Manning 14, Farrell Scott 9, Eddie Emmmanuel 4, Theron Lane 4.

VHS
Records: Valdosta 4-0, Echols 2-5.
Next game: Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m. at VHS (Sat., Dec. 9); Echols at Irwin Co. (Fri., Dec. 8).

Girls Game

Echols-VHS
ECHOLS COUNTY (33) - Michelle Smith 10, Rebecca Hiers 9, Terese Richardson 5, Penny Carter 4, Doreen Riley 3, Terri Keith 1.
VALDOSTA (51) - Esther Benjamin 14, Cassandra Twine 12, Louro Dennis 8, Yashni Manning 6, Ashley Schuster 7, DeDe Dennis 4.
Records: Valdosta 3-1, Echols 3-4.

Lowe and guard Major Lynn proved to be too much for Echols County.

Moore led Valdosta with 20 followed by Lowe with 19 and Lynn with 17. Lynn and guard James Manning kept the Echols team off-balance with their quick outlet passes down court to wide open teammates for the easy baskets.

Manning finished the night with eight assists and had 14 points for VHS.

Echols was led by Alfred Williams with 14. Shan Garner had 13 and Carl Mitchell scored 11 points.

The Lady Wildcats of Valdosta followed suit, pouring on the points early and often against the smaller Echols squad. Valdosta opened the

game hitting on its' first four trips down the court and took an 18-4 first period lead.

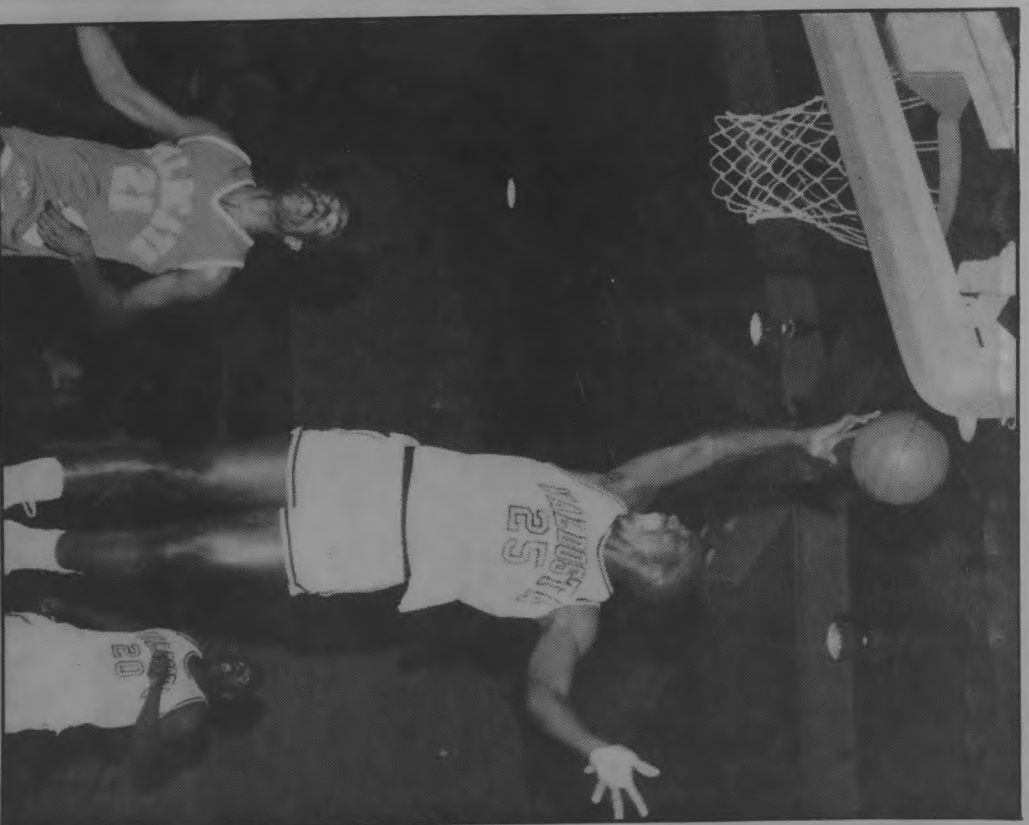
Valdosta was led by center Esther Benjamin, who tossed in a game-high 14 points to go along with 14 rebounds and four blocked shots. Teammate Cassandra Twine, who was used sparingly in the second half, scored 12 points and had eight rebounds.

"Our play was a lot better this time around against Echols. The team was hustling more and I was just pleased with the overall effort," said VHS coach Susan Montgomery. "Another big difference in this game than in the first one was that our team got back on defense. We challenged a lot of shots and that's what we have to do. It was a big boost for us."

Echols had only five field goals in the first half alone against the VHS Lady Wildcats. They were led by Michelle Smith with 10 and Rebecca Hiers with 9.

Valdosta's basketball teams will return to action against Berrien County on Saturday night, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at the VHS gym. The game was moved from Friday to Saturday due to the Class AAAA football playoffs in which Valdosta is involved.

Echols County will go on the road to play Irwin County Friday night at 7 p.m.



Valdosta High Major Lynn drives to the basket as Echols County guard Alfred Williams watches Tuesday night. VHS defeated the visiting Wildcats, 87-51 - Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

It's good to see the Cats playing football on Week No. 14.

They certainly corrected the record books with a 42-0 killing of Brunswick. My pick of 14 points over the Pirates turned out to be very generous. But that's the way I like it.

By the way, my overall record is 55-27 if anybody is still keeping count. And I expect to end the football year 57-27.

The Grangers from LaGrange have been on the rise for the past five weeks. Two of their playoff opponents, Morrow and Griffin, routed the Grangers during the regular season only to see the roles reversed in playoff action.

They have an explosive offense, but will be going up against probably the best defense in the state.

It looks as if Valdosta has saved their best football for when it counts. This is the part of the playoff season where the coaching comes into play more than athletic ability. I can't forget proper scouting as well.

If all of that is true... VALDOSTA by 13. VDT. Thurs. Dec. 7, 1989

VHS, Packers Lead All-Region Team

VDT. Vled. Dec. 6, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats and the Colquitt County Packers played twice during the 1989 football season with each team winning one game each. Ironically, both of those teams also tied with 11 total representatives apiece on the 1989 All-Region 1-AAAA South football team.

And even more ironic is the fact that both teams were represented by Players of the Year.

Wildcat senior running back Carlos Parker was the only back in the subregion to surpass the 1,000-yard mark rushing during the regular season and he was named the subregion's Offensive Player of the Year. Parker garnered 27 points in the Player of the Year voting which tied him with Tift County receiver Michael Ewings. But Parker received more first-place votes and was awarded the honor.

On defense, Colquitt County junior cornerback Anthony Bridges led all subregion defenders with nine interceptions and was named the subregion's Defensive Player of the Year. He tallied 33 points in the voting to win the award.

The Packers shook off a sluggish 2-3 start and won their next six games, four by shutout, to finish in the region championship against Valdosta. The 8-4 record was the best for Colquitt County since 1984 and in his seventh year at the Packer helm, head coach Jim Hughes was named the subregion's Coach of the Year.

"We've said before that we were very proud of this particular group of youngsters," Hughes said. "We were 2-3 at one point in the season but they were able to turn around and they played very well in the second half of the year. I hope we can pick up from that point next season."

Offensively, Parker was the key for Valdosta's traditionally successful ground attack in 1989. Parker sat on the sidelines for two years while former VHS teammates, and former All-Region members, James Roberts and Isaac Caesar ran the ball. But in 1989, Parker made the most of his chance.

He carried the ball 179 times for 1,082 yards and also led the region in scoring with 17 touchdowns. He scored a touchdown in all but two of Valdosta's 13 games.

"Carlos has done a tremendous job for us this season and he has really taken on the role of a leader,"

six touchdowns and was the key to the Blue Devil passing game which was also tops in the subregion.

Joining Ewings as the other first team receiver was Colquitt County's Tim Lewis. Lewis finished the regular season with 32 catches for 496 yards and three touchdowns. In the region championship game against Valdosta, Lewis hauled in four more aerials for 102 yards and the Packers' only touchdown.

The first team tight end is Tift County's Jonathan Jones. Brown led all subregion tight ends with 15 catches for 174 yards and one touchdown.

The Coffee High Trojans led the subregion in rushing offense and, as a result, two of their offensive linemen were named to the first team. Senior tackle Charlie Smith (6-5, 255) and senior guard Scott Harper (6-0, 205) were major contributors to the Coffee offense that piled up 2,148 yards rushing in 1989.

Joining those two on the first team offensive line are Tift County junior center Clay Shiver (6-2, 245), Bainbridge junior guard John Hinson (5-10, 270) and Colquitt County senior tackle Roger Brady (6-2, 235).

For the second year, Valdosta sophomore Dow Drury is the first team kicker. Drury booted seven field goals in the regular season along with 23 extra points. He has added nine more extra points in postseason playoffs.

Valdosta, which led the subregion in both passing and rushing defense, placed five of its players on the All-Subregion team. Two of those started on the Wildcat defensive line that produced a total of 24 quarterback sacks in the 10-game regular season.

Senior noseguard Andre Hampton (6-1, 187) and senior end Fred Henton (5-11, 185) were both named to the first team. Hampton tied for a team-leading six sacks while Henton totalled five.

Joining those two on the defensive line are Coffee High's Royce Burkett (6-0, 195) and Lowndes High's Anthony Hargett (5-11, 190). Burkett had 75 tackles for the Trojans along with three sacks and two blocked punts. Hargett had two fumble recoveries, six sacks and 76 total tackles for the Vikings.

As usual, the subregion was rich in quality linebackers. Making the first team were Colquitt County senior Darius Dawson, Coffee High senior Andy Rease and Valdosta

See All-Region, page 2B



Valdosta senior running back Carlos Parker was the only runner in the subregion who surpassed 1,000 yards in the regular season — Times File Photo/Paul Leavy.

Valdosta senior running back Carlos Parker was named the 1989 All-Region 1-AAAA South Offensive Player of the Year. Parker



HART



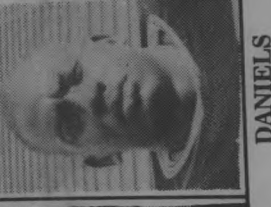
HAMPTON



WILLIAMS



HENTON



DANIELS



DRURY

said Wildcat head coach Nick Hyder. "He has great natural ability and can cut when he gets in the open. He's the kind of player that a coach enjoys coaching."

Joining Parker as the other first team running back is sophomore fullback Nathan Williams from Colquitt County. Williams was second in the region in rushing with 958 yards in the regular season and 129 more in the two Packer playoff games. Like Parker, 1989 was his first year



HARGETT

as a starter. Another first-year man for Hughes' Packers who turned in a stellar performance was quarterback Bucky Goff. Goff com-

pleted 66 passes on 125 attempts for 840 yards and four touchdowns during the regular season. But most impressive were his statistics in the second half of the season. His statistics as a senior outweighed former Moultrie star, and Bucky's older brother, Ray Goff, current University of Georgia head coach.

Ewings led the region in pass receptions and was named to the first team at wide receiver. Ewings caught 43 passes for 648 yards and

All-Region

From page 1B

High seniors Bruce Daniels and Anthony Williams.

Dawson (6-1, 200) was hampered during the regular season with a knee injury but was still a dominating force for the Packers. He finished with 86 tackles, one sack, two fumble recoveries and two interceptions. Reese (6-0, 212) had 94 tackles with two interceptions, three fumble recoveries, four caused fumbles and two blocked passes. He was a four-year starter for the Trojans.

Daniels (6-1, 204) and Williams (6-2, 250) each collected four quarterback sacks for the Wildcats. Both are seniors and Williams is the only defensive player ever to start for four years since head coach Nick Hyder took over in 1974.

Leading the defensive secondary is Bridges. A 5-10, 165-pound junior, Bridges was the key to the Packer pass defense and the main reason that Colquitt County led the subregion with 21 regular-season interceptions. His nine interceptions were returned for a total of 106 yards and three of them stopped opponents' drives inside the Packer 5-yard line.

Anthony played very well for us this year against both the pass and the run. He plays with a lot of enthusiasm and, although he's not a very big youngster, he is a very capable defensive back. We're delighted that his play and the work of our defensive unit combined created the attention that it did," Hughes said.

Bridges is joined in the secondary by Valdosta's Chris Hart (5-10, 174) and Tift County's Dewayne Washington (6-0, 200). Hart had six interceptions and got another in the Wildcats' first-round playoff win over Shaw High of Columbus. Washington led Tift County with 104 total tackles and had one interception.

The first team punter is Lowndes sophomore Matt Futch. Futch had 45 punts for an average of 38 yards a kick.

The first team return specialist is Ewings. He averaged 11.5 yards per punt return.

The second team offense is led by Coffee's senior quarterback Reggie Ingram. A true double-threat, Ingram passed for 514 yards while rushing for 404 yards and scoring four touchdowns. Joining Ingram in the backfield is teammate Jonathan Glover and Bainbridge running back Vidal Lively. Glover rushed for 847 yards and scored 13 touchdowns while Lively rushed for 715 yards and scored five touchdowns.

The second team wide receivers are Tift County's Gannon Hall and Bainbridge's Stanley Flanders. Flanders was third in the subregion with 20 catches for 328 yards and four touchdowns while Hall finished fourth in the subregion with 18 catches for 225 yards and two touchdowns. The second team tight end is Coffee's Andy Spivey who led his team with 13 catches for 164 yards.

The offensive line is led by three Valdosta seniors. Center Matthew Butler (6-3, 215), guard Jason Peters (6-0, 215) and tackle Brooks Atkins

(6-2, 225). Joining them are Colquitt County senior guard Brian Smith (6-0, 230), and Tift County senior tackle Rad Calhoun (6-2, 290).

The second team kicker is Colquitt County sophomore Parks Hughes. Hughes kicked three field goals and 23 extra points for a total of 32 regular season points.

The second team defensive line consists of Bainbridge High's Alton Miller and Ben Clemons, Valdosta's Robert Fillmore and Tift County's Gary Lupo. Miller had 65 tackles and three sacks for the Bearcats while his teammate Clemons added 55 tackles and two sacks. Fillmore led the Wildcats with eight sacks, including two in the region championship win against Colquitt, while Lupo had five sacks for the Blue Devils and recovered one fumble.

Colquitt County linebackers Matt Madison and Ty Greene were named to the second team along with Coffee High's Clifford Kirkland and Tift County's Ken King. Madison led the Packers with 89 tackles and had five sacks while Greene had 79 tackles and three sacks. Kirkland had 88 tackles and one fumble recovery for Coffee while King had 92 tackles.

The second team secondary is

made up of Bernard Hamilton of Bainbridge, Daniel Dalton of Colquitt County and Coffee's Ingram. Hamilton had four interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns. Dalton had three interceptions and 67 tackles while Ingram collected five interceptions on the year.

Lowndes High's Jeffrey Thomas is the second team return specialist with an average of 12.2 yards per return on punts and kickoffs.

The 1989 All-Region 1-AAAA South team was selected by the sports departments of the Valdosta Times, the Tifton Gazette, the Moultrie Observer, the Bainbridge Post-Searchlight and the Douglas Enterprise.

Grangers Hope Upsets Continue

THIS Dec. 7, 1999 VDT

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Three weeks ago, the LaGrange Grangers were not thinking state championship. They were just trying to survive a first-round playoff game against the Griffin Bears, a team that defeated them by 19 points during the regular season.

But the Grangers did more than just survive. They blossomed. They avenged the earlier loss and bounced the Bears, 26-9. The next week, they upset the Morrow Mustangs, 48-9, for the Region 4-AAAA championship.

Then, last week, the Grangers pulled off their biggest trick of the season. In the first round of the state playoffs, the Grangers rallied in the second half to defeat the Warner Robins Demons, 16-10.

Now, the Grangers are preparing for what they hope will be their fourth upset. Friday night, they play host to the Valdosta Wildcats in the state's AAAA semifinals. And LaGrange head coach Gary Guthrie feels his team's progress through the season was due to a simple matter of growing up.

"At the beginning of the year, we had a young team and, in the big ballgames early, we didn't perform particularly well and we got beat. When the players realized that we had the ability, they tightened up their bootstraps and got one win after another," Guthrie said. "The games against Griffin and Morrow were real emotional. That was a big factor."

A lot of LaGrange's success can be attributed to their offense and its' leader, sophomore quarterback Rodney Hughes. Hughes has passed for 2,134 yards on 137 completions of 228 passes. But that's not the only way Hughes can hurt a defense. When his receivers are covered,



Valdosta vs. LaGrange South Ga. Title

Hughes can pick up the yards on the ground. He has carried the ball for 601 yards and ten touchdowns.

"We're reaping the dividends of playing him some last year," Guthrie said. "He's been consistent all year and that's been the main thing. He hasn't had a real bad game this year. That consistency has been a big plus."

Guthrie has compared his young quarterback to former LaGrange greats Vince Sutton, who went to the University of Alabama, and DeChane Cameron, who is at Clemson. And he said Hughes may be better than both.

The LaGrange offense has turned its' performance up a notch late in the season. But Guthrie knows that, this Friday night, they will face one of the toughest defenses in the state.

"They (Valdosta) have a tremendous defense. It is one of the most aggressive and most physical defenses I've seen in a long time. We will be challenged to the max," Guthrie said.

Ricardo Rutledge is the Grangers' leading rusher with 1,037 yards in 185 carries. He scored one of the touchdowns against Warner Robins last week as he rushed for 102 yards.

"He's our fullback in our offensive scheme and he comes up with the tough, short yardage stuff. People know we'll use him," said Guthrie.



Valdosta tailback Chris Chachere, who had his best game of his career last week against Brunswick, goes through a hole during a VHS practice. Chachere tallied 118 yards last weekend — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcats Wary Of LaGrange Challenge

VDT, Thurs Dec. 7, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Excuse the Valdosta Wildcats if they are caught with a grin on their face entering this week's South Georgia Championship game against the LaGrange Grangers. Friday's contest will mark the first time they have played on Week No. 14 since 1986.



PARKER

And although the Wildcats are happy about their success, they are ready to put on their gameworn faces under the lights of Callaway Stadium.

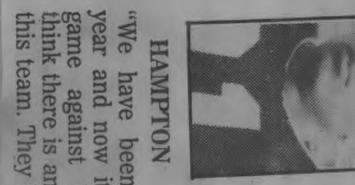
Despite a season-long battle with injuries and their first regular-season loss since 1985, the Wildcats remain as one of 16 teams in the state which have a chance to claim a championship and one of only four teams in Class AAAA.

"We are glad we are playing this week, I'll tell you that," said Region 1-AAAA South Offensive Player of the Year Carlos Parker. "It's been pretty much the same type of practice we've had all year. We are just trying to improve and make adjustments for our next opponent."



PETERS

"I'm sure everybody has a few butterflies in their stomach. This is the first time we've played in this game for a few years," said Parker. "This is just one step on the ladder for us if we want to win the state championship. So we need to look no further than LaGrange. Both the offense and the defense are making changes for LaGrange and just making sure we are prepared for the game. People say it all the time, but it's one at a time for us."



HAMPTON

Valdosta's defense has been stingy in the three playoff games. Linebacker Anthony Williams (6-0, 245 sr.) and senior noseguard

Peters pointed out that his team has come a long way since their regular-season loss to the Packers. "We're not going to get caught looking ahead in this one. We can't," said Peters. "It's a one-game season now. The intensity has been very high all week during practice and we have only one thing on our minds — LaGrange."

Andre Hampton (6-1, 187) feels that they will need a repeat performance this week against an explosive Granger offense if they hope to play for the Class AAAA state championship. "They have a great offense and we need to play as a unit to have our best chance at winning," said Hampton. "We have to play hard, but play unselfish football. We've been working hard all week and we know what's ahead of us."

"Our defense has heard a lot about LaGrange's offense and we've tried to make the adjustments this week for them," said Williams. "A win over a good team like that would be a big boost for everyone. We need to step it up a notch."

"It will be a tough battle to be won on the field," Williams added. "It's a matter of proving who is a better team on Friday. And just who wants to win the state championship. They have a great offense and we feel we have a pretty good defense."

The Wildcats have won their last six games and would like nothing than to make it seven games against the Grangers.

Valdosta will be going up against one of the more explosive offensive teams in the state in LaGrange, led by sophomore quarterback Rodney Hughes.

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

Faculty Support Growing At VHS

VDT Thurs. Dec. 7, 1989
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Sometimes, school spirit is not only for pep rallies and signs and cheerleaders. Supporting a team does not have to be a vocal job and Sonya Wilcox proves that many times during the course of a school year.

Wilcox is the director of guidance at Valdosta High School and has been at the school for 11 years. But after work, Wilcox stays busy supporting the Wildcat athletic events and, during basketball season, she is the scorekeeper for both basketball teams.

"We aren't paid very much so we don't do it for the money. Coach Miller and Coach Montgomery were just looking for someone and I've always been interested in the athletic program," Wilcox said. "They asked if I would consider doing it and if they would teach, I'd do it."

Wilcox has been the scorekeeper for two years and has also kept score at the area wrestling tournament when it was held at Valdosta High. She admits she knows some things about the sport before taking

the job, but she has learned a lot in a short time.

"When I played basketball in junior high and in high school, we played halldoor. When I started (keeping score), I didn't know a high post from a low post. But there are some things that I have to know. It's crucial that the scoring and keeping up with the fouls are done correctly," Wilcox said. "I have to know about a lot of rules that have to do with players coming in and out and substituting."

Wilcox enjoys meeting the people from visiting teams and enjoys watching the games themselves. But she thinks the most important thing about being at the games is letting the team know that they have support from their faculty.

"I think it's real important that our faculty be involved with what our students do outside school. It's important to our students to see that support," Wilcox said.

"The teams have improved and that's due to good, hard work and fine coaching. Valdosta High School has good competitive basketball and they are on the upswing," Wilcox said.



Sonya Wilcox has been the scorekeeper for the Valdosta Wildcats and Lady Wildcats for two years. She feels that school spirit can start with the administration — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Hitson Has Fit In Well

NOT Thurs. Dec. 7, 1989
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

If someone had told Alton Hitson at the end of the 1988 football season that he would be the starting quarterback for the Valdosta Wildcats, he probably would have ignored the comment.

But when quarterback Jason Nichols suffered a broken leg on the opening day of football camp, Hyder and his staff turned to Hitson to lead their squad. And 13 games later, the Wildcats have posted a 12-1 record and are just two victories away from claiming their 20th state championship.

"I was very, very nervous taking my first snaps after we lost Jason. He was a great quarterback and I hate that he was injured," Hitson said. "I had my doubts about things when I first went in there. I think I fumbled four or five snaps because I was so nervous. But I settled down and my teammates helped me and we just made improvements every day.

"It was all very different to me

See Hitson, page 4B



Alton Hitson started preseason camp as a wide receiver but has started at quarterback for all of Valdosta's 13 games this year. Hitson has made it a successful transition — Times File Photo/Paul Leavy.

Hitson

From page 2B
because I was a wide receiver and it was a little strange being the Valdosta quarterback. Coach (Nick) Hyder worked with me, along with everyone else, and things have worked out so far," Hitson said.

The 5-10 junior has accounted for 215 yards on 109 carries and three touchdowns. But he has gained 147 of those yards in his last four games.

"The offensive line has adjusted well all year and has certainly taken the load off me. They have done a good job of protecting me and blocking for me and the rest of the offensive players," said Hitson. "The only thing I had going for me, I guess, was that I was a quarterback in the ninth grade. But it's a different situation at the varsity level. I know a lot of Valdosta fans were wondering how things would work out when Jason was hurt, but my teammates are always giving me words of encouragement and I appreciate that."

Hitson pointed out that his family members have also been a big influence in his growth as the Wildcat quarterback.

"My mom (Gloria Hitson) and my sister (Sonya Davis) have shown a lot of interest this year and have been in full support of me and the team," said Hitson. "It's just been a big change this year for all of us, one we didn't expect, but we have all worked very hard and because of it, we are where we are. At the beginning of the year, we pointed to Dec. 16 (class AAAA state title game

date) and we wanted to be playing football on that date and we are within one game of doing that.

"But we all know that we have to earn a spot in the state game and we have a chance to do that with a win against LaGrange," Hitson said.

This week's game against the LaGrange Grangers for the south Georgia championship is the 14th game of the season for Valdosta and the 'Cats own a 10-4 overall record in the series. However, Hitson stated that this Friday's game is the most important and the only thing on his mind.

"I'm looking forward to Friday night. We all are," said Hitson.





VDT, Fri., Dec. 1, 1989 *Finishing Touches*

Patsy Smith, an art instructor for the Valdosta City Schools system, puts the final strokes on the 50 yard line 'Cat' at Cleveland Field where the Valdosta Wildcats will host the Pirates of Brunswick High tonight in a playoff game

at 8 p.m. Mrs. Smith, who has been painting Cleveland Field for 25 years, is being assisted by City of Valdosta employees R.C. Redish, left, and Kevin Rose — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Tackling The Cold Weather Blues

By **FRANCES GOLIVESKY**
Times Lifestyles Writer

As the temperature drops on football fans, on players and on coaches tonight at Cleveland Field, Jack Frost will be nipping at more than one's nose.

He'll go for anything that's exposed when the temperature falls into the predicted 30s.

Tonight, it's expected to be more than just chilly. It's going to be downright cold as the Valdosta High School Wildcats host the Brunswick Pirates in the 'Cats third play-off game in their quest for the state title.

While the players and coaches have other factors to be concerned about, such as Brunswick's junior tailback Carlton Nelson with a total of 1,314 rushing yards to his credit, the cold weather will be a major factor for the fans in the stands.

Although many a fan has been known to generate a lot of hot air before game time, all the hot air collectively will not heat Cleveland Field if the wind knocks at the gates to Death Valley. What to do. What to do. What to do.

"Layer thyself" as in a layer cake answers Hal Drake of the Outdoors Shop here.

"Most people don't know how to dress for cold weather," said Drake. "To keep from getting cold, it's better to layer your clothing rather than bundling up."

Thermal underwear has just about replaced the traditional long johns as the most popular insulation under clothing. Basic thermal underwear generally is 100 percent cotton developed originally for the Navy during World War II. It's designed to have pockets of air to keep the body warm. One area merchant recommended thermal underwear and a sweatshirt as the No. 1 combination against the cold.

However, Drake said there are new products which include polypropylene sock liners designed to take moisture away from the feet and, consequently, keep the feet warm.



Diane Bolton, Lynn Fletcher, and LaTonya Butler show the proper way to keep warm for tonight's Valdosta-Brunswick playoff showdown — Times Illustration by Paul Leavy.

"Feet are the easiest to get cold. If someone wore these sock liners and then put wool or cotton socks over them, their feet would be warm as toast. You don't need thick socks either."

How about insulated underwear? That's on the market, too. Hunters have known about insulated underwear for years. Football fans who live in the Great North Country probably have known about insulated underwear. Insulated under-

wear has arrived in South Georgia. Drake said insulated underwear is not bulky because it is not quilted.

"It is also made of polypropylene," he said. "Some of the underwear is a combination of half polypropylene and half wool."

Some families who have passed Wildcat season tickets down from one generation to the next also have passed the long johns as well. Long johns will never be totally discarded. In some cases they're a family tradition.

Chris Hart, Wildcat starting safety, said the ballplayers on the

field don't have to worry about the cold. "I could wear my T-shirt," Hart said. "I'll work up enough heat so I don't even think about being cold."

From heated stadium seats to pocket hand and feet warmers, fans will be out for the big one. One police official said he's even seen fans with moving-storage blankets.

However, the Wildcats can offer the fans the best combination of warming elements when they serve them an exciting game for an appetizer and "Brunswick stew" for the main course.

'Cats Go For South Title

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

When the seniors on the Valdosta High Wildcat football team were in their freshman year, their team won the Georgia AAAA football championship. Tonight at Callaway Stadium in LaGrange, those seniors will have their chance to earn the right to play for that honor again.

The 12-1 Wildcats will square off against the 10-3 LaGrange Grangers in the AAAA South Georgia Championship tonight. Both coaches anxiously await the start of what both believe will be a tremendous game. But they are awaiting the outcome even more.

"We're just proud to be in the final four and I'm sure I speak for all of the other coaches too," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "We're nervous because they have a wonderful quarterback and a good line and there should be a big crowd for the game. Whether we can stop their offense remains to be seen."

"It should be a great game," said LaGrange head coach Gary Guthrie. "There's nothing quite like a Friday night and the opportunity to get on the field and play a team like Valdosta. We hope we can give them all the hospitality on the field and give them a good game between the stripes."

The game should highlight the explosive LaGrange offense against a ferocious Valdosta defense. Sophomore quarterback Rodney Hudson is described as a scrambler who can throw the ball well. He will have to contend with a Wildcat defense that



VHS head coach Nick Hyder goes over some instructions with his offensive line during this week's practice — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

has tallied 32 quarterback sacks through 13 games. They should get plenty of opportunities to add to that total tonight.

"I think the play of both lines will be a big factor as well as the kicking games. We have to have the ability to play together and blend together as a team," Hyder said.

Meanwhile the Granger defense, led by linebacker Rodney Hunt and defensive lineman James Gray, has only allowed one touchdown in all

ing this week's practice

Paul Leavy.

game on the road since 1985, a 16-14 loss to Bradwell Institute in the playoffs last year. But Hyder said they have looked both good and bad on the road this season.

"In the first half against Waycross, the first quarter against Statesboro and the fourth quarter against Shaw, we didn't play that well," Hyder said. "I think we're capable of playing either way. We've been good and bad."



Valdosta vs. LaGrange South Ga. Title

three of their playoff wins.

The Wildcats have only lost one

Wildcats Win Again

From Staff Reports

The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling team won their second match in as many tries this season as they scorched Camden County, 52-18 Thursday afternoon at the Valdosta High gym.

Winners for the Wildcats included Tim Garland in the 103-pound class (pin), Steven Petermann in the 130-pound class (pin), Jason Finland in the 135-pound weight class (decision), Justin Bridges in the 140-pound class (pin), Chuck Bonner in

the 145-pound class (pin), Maurice Dean in the 152-pound class (pin), John Ramey in the 160-pound class (pin), Ryan Moorman in the 160-pound class (pin) and Derrick Phillips in the heavyweight class.

Petermann got his pin in 38 seconds while Phillips got his pin in 47 seconds. But Moorman got his the fastest with a 17-second pin.

Saturday, the junior varsity team will compete in a tournament in Suwannee, Fla. Next Tuesday, the varsity will host a meet with the high school teams from Suwannee, Gresham, Westover and Lowry at the Valdosta gym.

Tonight's Lineups

Valdosta High Wildcats
vs.
LaGrange Grangers

WILDCAT OFFENSE		WILDCAT DEFENSE	
Pos.	Player	Pos.	Player
QB	Alton Hittson Jr.	DG	Derek Ferrell
RB	Carlos Parker Sr.	DG	James Gray
RB	Chris Chachere Jr.	DT	Chris Huzzie
FL	Tracy Smothers Sr.	DT	Rex Reed
SE	Carlos Moore Sr.	DE	Greg Talley
C	Jaret Johnson Sr.	DE	Rodney Hunt
G	Jason Peters Sr.	LB	Rico Baker
G	Kevin Wilkerson Sr.	LB	Anthony Franklin
T	Brooks Akins Sr.	DB	Buster Owens
T	Shaun Elders Jr.	DB	Mike Berry
TE	Mickey McSwain Jr.	DB	Early Duntlap
K	Dow Drury Sr.	P	Derek Ferrell
		WILDCAT DEFENSE	
		DE	Fred Henton Sr.
		DE	Dexter Daniels Sr.
		DT	Robert Fillmore Sr.
		DT	George Copeland Sr.
		DT	Andre Hampton Sr.
		LB	Anthony Williams Sr.
		LB	Bruce Daniels Sr.
		CB	Adrian Lewis Jr.
		CB	Trampis Wrice Sr.
		SS	Chris Hart Sr.
		FS	Travis Lane Sr.
			Head Coach: Nick Hyder
GRANGER OFFENSE		GRANGER DEFENSE	
QB	Rodney Hudson	QB	John Ramey
RB	Early Duntlap	RB	Ricardo Rutledge
RB	Buster Owens	WR	Mike Berry
WR	Joe Brooks	TE	Chris Herring
TE	Chris Herring	C	James Gray
G	James Gray	G	William Yates
G	William Yates	T	Hilton Dixon
T	Hilton Dixon	T	Scott Simons
K	Scott Simons	K	Head Coach: Gary Guthrie

Valdosta Debaters Capture First Place

By ASHLEY CONNELL

Valdosta High debaters won six awards this past weekend at the Central Forum in Thomasville.

Junior Ashley Connell and freshman Stephanie Everett won first place award in the junior varsity division. Miss Connell also won the second place speaker award while Miss Everett was awarded the 10th place speaker out of 25 debaters in the division. In the quarterfinals Miss Connell and Miss Everett defeated Warner Robins, advancing to the semifinals against Northside of Warner Robins. In the semifinals, a three-judge panel including James Brey, FSU debate coach, voted 2-1 for Valdosta over Northside. In the final round the pair won on a 3-0 decision over Lee County. In the preliminary rounds on Friday night and Saturday morning, Miss Connell and Miss Everett compiled a 4-1 won-loss record, winning decisions over teams from Central, Dublin, Lee County, and Warner Robins.



VHS News
Compiled, Written by VHS Students

In the varsity division, junior Tammy Crowe and senior Michelle Jones were finalists. During the two-day tournament they accumulated a 3-2 preliminary record, defeating Thomasville and two teams from Lee County. In the quarterfinals, Miss Crowe and Miss Jones lost a 2-1 decision to a Lee County team they had defeated earlier on Friday. Miss Crowe won the second place speaker award with Miss Jones being awarded the seventh place speaker position.

Also in the varsity division for their first time at this tournament were junior Jimmy Green and sophomore Kevin Hiers. The pair won only one decision, defeating a team from Thomasville.

Also participating were junior Thad Agar and freshman William Whitesell. Competing in the novice division the team finished with a 2-3 record with wins over teams from Albany and Lowndes high schools.

Director of debate Frank Hjort and student teacher Alma Nicholson accompanied the students on the trip.

In an earlier competition in November two debaters received awards at the Carrollton High School debate tournament. Green won the ninth place speaker award out of more than 65 students in the junior varsity division. Green teamed with Hiers to compile a 4-1 preliminary won-loss record and finish as the sixth place team out of 32 teams in the division.

Green and Hiers won decisions over teams from Gordon Central, Grady, Warner Robins and Westminister schools. In the first elimination round, they lost a 2-1 decision to Lakeside Augusta and received an octofinalist trophy.

In the novice division, Agar and Miss Everett finished the two-day tournament with a 3-2 record. They won decisions over Lithia Springs, and two teams from Pacelli high schools. Also in the novice division, junior Jack Farber and freshman Lee Scott compiled a 3-2 record in the five-round tournament. Farber and Scott defeated teams from Calhoun and Cherokee high schools. Their third win came with a bye in the first round.

Also attending were Miss Crowe, who served as a judge, student teacher Alma Nicholson, and Hjort.

Grangers Are No Strangers To Valdosta

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta Wildcats have faced the LaGrange Grangers only 14 times. But during those meetings, there has been much on the line. In 1952 and 1953, both teams fought for the state AAAA championship with the Wildcats winning both games 30-0 and 48-7.

Their last two meetings were in 1986 and 1987 and both were season-openers for the two squads. And, just like their prior games, the Wildcats came out on top.

In 1986, the Wildcats entered the game as the second-ranked team in the state. However, it was the Grangers who stood above them in the preseason poll. That game featured many future major college players on both squads. VHS was led by quarterback Greg Talley, running back Jerome Callaway, offensive lineman Jodie Sprentle and tight

end Charles Steward.

But the Grangers had a back of their own who can still remember the importance of the game.

"There was a lot of emotion in that game," said Ramon Allen, now the starting tailback at Valdosta State College. "During the game, a lot of the players' tempers were pretty short and it was a good game. I thought I could've done better but Valdosta was real strong. I didn't think their defense would be that strong."

But it was Allen who broke the ice for the Grangers and got the scoring started. He scored on a 5-yard run to put LaGrange up early in the first quarter. However, it was a lead that they did not enjoy for too long.

Callaway returned the favor by scoring on a 42-yard run later in the first quarter to tie the game at 6-6. In the second quarter, Talley rolled out to pass but saw an opening and scored from eight yards out to put



Valdosta vs. LaGrange
South Ga. Title

the 'Cats up for good at 13-6.

Corozoa Greene intercepted a pass from LaGrange star quarterback DeChance Cameron which halted one Granger scoring drive and Dan Tillman put the game away with a 32-yard field goal in the third quarter.

Callaway finished the night with 90 yards on 17 carries while the entire Granger offense could only run for 68 yards. The Granger offense was crippled by seven fumbles.

The Valdosta Daily Times Wednesday, December 6, 1989



Both teams finished successfully that year with Valdosta winning the state championship with a perfect 15-0 record. LaGrange finished at 12-2 and lost to Clarke Central in the state semifinals. Allen finished the season with over 1,000 yards and 16 touchdowns.

The teams opened their seasons with each other again in 1987 and the result was a little more lopsided for the Wildcats. The Valdosta offense amassed a total of 444 yards on offense to propel them to a 40-7 romp over the Grangers.

The Wildcat offense was led by quarterback B.J. Mason and running back Lawrence Sharpe. Mason rushed for two touchdowns and threw for another while Sharpe also scored twice. Future starting quarterback Ben Hogan also had a touchdown toss to Earl Carter from 41 yards out. Mason's TD passes went to Steward and Carter. Mason finished the first night of

his senior season with six completions of seven attempts for 127 yards while Carter caught four passes for 123 yards. Sharpe rushed for 82 yards. Meanwhile, the Grangers found it tough to do anything offensively as they were held to only 3 yards rushing and 38 yards passing.

But the player who led LaGrange in rushing that night was a sophomore named Ricardo Rutledge. Friday night, Rutledge will be leading his team against the Wildcats again and VHS head coach Nick Hyder knows of Rutledge's prowess.

"Rutledge is a hard runner. He's a big back with good speed and he's one of the top players on their offense, which is a very good one. This is probably the best offense we've seen all year," Hyder said.

Valdosta leads the series 10-4 but the two games played in 1986 and 1987 are the only two played since Hyder took over in 1974.

All-Area

From page 1B
Earning the quarterback honors is Lowndes High Vikings' junior Jeffrey Thomas. At 6-1, 181, Thomas led the Vikings in every offensive category except rushing. He hit on 31-of-95 passes for 413 yards and one touchdown, while rushing 95 times for 349 yards and two scores. He also had a 12.2 yard return average on punts.

The first-team receivers are Clinch County senior Dondre Lacey (6-2, 180) and Valwood junior Jeff Haskins (6-2, 185). Lacey averaged over 13 yards per catch and two touchdowns a game, while Haskins hauled in over 600 yards in receiving for the Valiants.

Valdosta's Mickey McSwain (6-2, 192) is the all-area tight end with 12 catches on the season, while teammate Matthew Butler (6-2, 215) is one of the four first-team offensive linemen.

Hamilton County senior Billy Cumbess (6-6, 285), Westbrook

senior Craig Ives (6-3, 240), Madison County junior Steve Ward (6-2, 230) and Cook High senior Hank Pitts (6-0, 205) rounds out the starting linemen.

Both the Wildcats and the Hornets dominated opposing offenses all year as they shut out teams a combined. The Valdosta Wildcats and Cook High Hornets were dominating all season long. And that success is reflected in the first-team defensive unit.

Williams is joined by teammate Bruce Daniels (6-2, 215), Cook senior Charles Clayton (6-0, 185) and Brooks County senior Tony Jackson (6-0, 175) at the linebacker spots.

The starting four defensive linemen include Valdosta seniors Robert Fillmore (5-11, 180) and Fred Henton (5-11, 185) along with Cook High senior Tony Graham (6-1, 240) and Lowndes High sophomore Anthony Hargett (5-11, 195). Hargett was the team leader in tackles for the Vikings with 76, while Graham tallied 46 tackles for the Hornets

and rushed for 439 yards at the full-back position.

Fillmore led the Wildcats with eight quarterback sacks from his defensive tackle position while Henton had six sacks at defensive end.

The secondary is filled by Valdosta senior Chris Hart (5-10, 180), Berrien County senior Tarrell Tillman (6-0, 190) and Cook junior Donnie Carter (5-10, 148).

Lowndes sophomore Matt Futch is the punter with a 38.0 yard average, while Valwood Valiants' sophomore Chris LaMontagne is the placekicker. LaMontagne connected on 13-of-14 extra point tries and was perfect on three field goal attempts.

The second team consists of Cook High's Carter at quarterback, while the running backs are Stephen Banks of Berrien County and Tim Lambert of Brooks County.

Lowndes High's Randall Godfrey (6-2, 200 so.) and Clinch County's Anthony McNeil (185 so.) round out the linebackers.



The Cook High coaching staff was a major reason why the Hornets ended their season

with an 8-2 record and a spot in the Region 2-AA playoffs — Times File Photo.

UP↑ Dec 8, 1989

Wilkins, Williams Lead All-Area Team

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

While the Valdosta Wildcats move closer to the coveted 1989 Class AAAA state football championship, 13 of their players claimed spots on The Valdosta Daily Times' 1989 All-Area Football Team.

The players were selected by the Sports Department of the Valdosta Daily Times through nominations of head football coaches in the area.

Headlining the squad was Cook High Hornets' head football coach Frankie Cowan. Cowan, along with his entire coaching staff, were named Coaches of the Year, while Madison County Cowboys' tailback Frankie Wilkins was named the Offensive Player of the Year and Valdosta linebacker Anthony Williams earned Defensive Player of the Year honors.

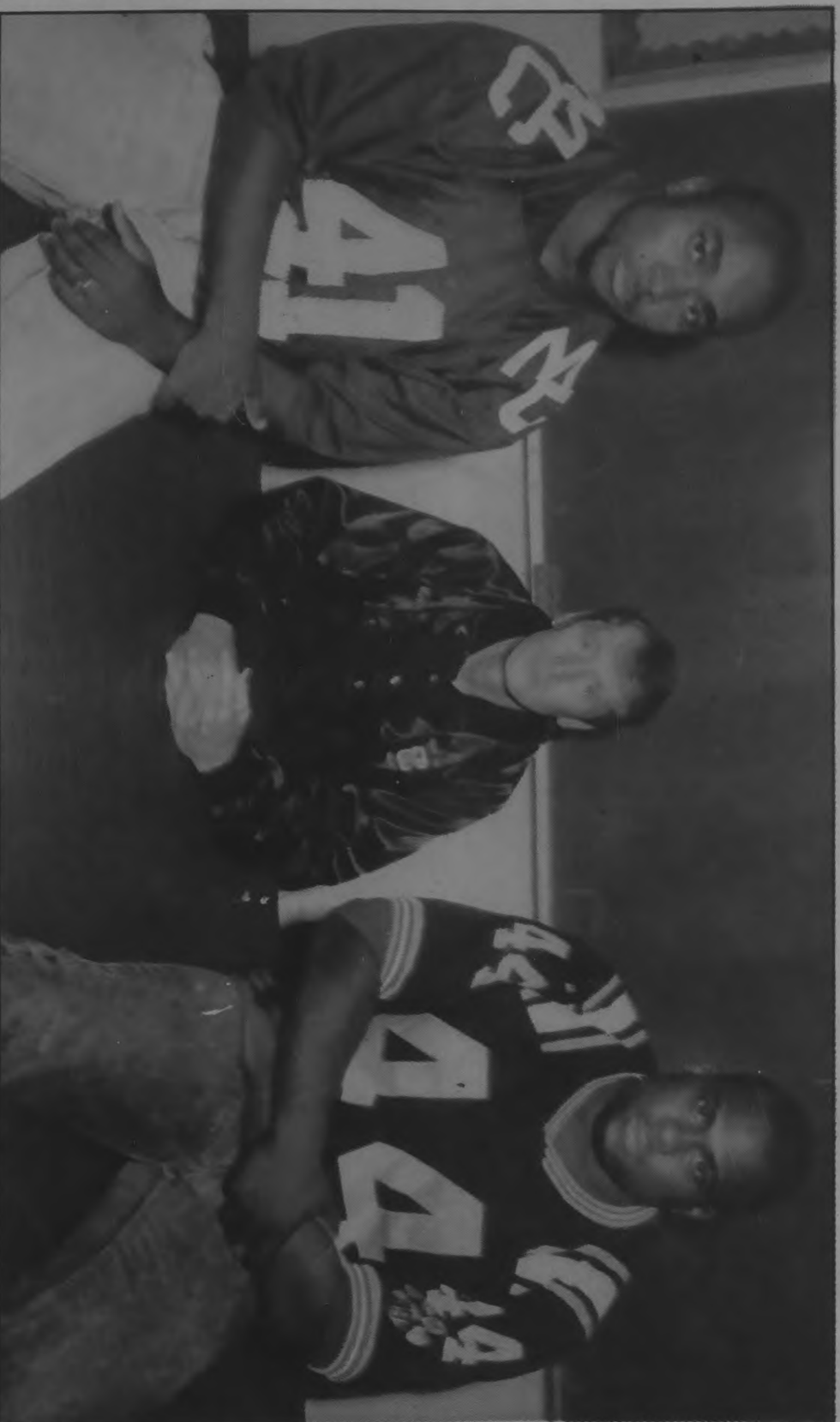
Cowan and his staff led the Hornets to an 8-2 regular-season mark and a second consecutive Region 2-AA football playoff spot.

Wilkins, a 6-0, 185-pound junior was the key to success for Bud O'Hara's Madison County squad.

Wilkins, who has a 3.4 grade point average, rushed for 1,544 yards on 138 carries, scoring 20 times for the Cowboys. He also had an 8.6 yard average on kick returns and accounted for 136 points for Madison County, including a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

"I appreciate the award and it is a reflection of the work by our whole team," said Wilkins. "The team helped me do the things I did this year. I'm going to work hard to improve for next year."

VHS' Williams (6-2, 250) is the only defensive player ever to start four years under head coach Nick Hyder. The Wildcat defensive unit has been the backbone of the team's 12-1 record and Williams had a large hand in the that defensive prowess. Williams, who is being recruited



Madison County running back Frankie Wilkins, left, and Valdosta linebacker Anthony Williams, right, were named as the top players on the 1989 All-Area team. Cook High head

by many of the nation's top college football teams, averaged over nine tackles a game, along with four quarterback sacks.

"Our entire defense has done a great job and anyone off our team deserved being named the best defensive player," said Williams. "Our team is working toward a state championship right now and that

would be a good way to finish the season off."

Cowan admitted that he was stunned at being named the area's top coach, but was very proud of his Hornets.

"It's a surprise to me. I'm excited because we have a very hardworking staff and group of players," said Cowan. "I would like nothing more

than to be preparing for a playoff game this week, but sometimes it just doesn't work out. We had a lot of dedication from the staff and players this year enabling us to win eight games this season.

"The kids have worked hard to get better and it's showing," Cowan added. "We are trying to build each year. And the last five years, this

coach Frankie Cowan, center, and his staff were named as the coaches of the year after the Hornets ended the season with a spot in the playoffs — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

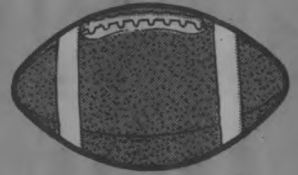
team has shown improvement each year."

Joining Wilkins in the All-Area, first-team backfield is VHS' running back Carlos Parker (5-10, 185 sr.). Parker has rushed for 1,410 yards on 238 carries and 22 touchdowns in 13 games to lead the Wildcats offensive attack.

See All-Area, page 3B

High School Scores

Valdosta.....24	Clarke Central.....21	Worth Co.....21	Marist.....14
LaGrange.....13	S.W. DeKalb.....20	Thomson.....8	Hart County.....7
Bowdon.....20	Mitchell-Baker.....25	Lincoln Co.....25	Greene-Tal.....25
Brookstone.....7	Manchester.....16	Wilcox Co.....6	Cartersville.....3



Saturday

December 9, 1989

Clarke Central Awaits Wildcats

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Two of the most dominant teams in the state will again square off for the 1989 Class AAAA state football championship, when the Valdosta Wildcats travel to Athens to take on Billy Henderson's Clarke Central Gladiators Saturday at 8 p.m.

At least one of the schools has appeared in the state

championship contest in eight of the past 12 years.

Valdosta's last title came in 1986, as they were 28-0 winners over the Gladiators at Cleveland Field, snapping Clarke Central's 29-game winning streak in the process. Nick Hyder's 'Cats also went on to claim their 5th mythical national championship in the school's impressive football history.

Next Saturday's title clash will See **OPPONENT**, Page 3B

Opponent

From Page 1B

mark the fourth time the Gladiators, 11-3, have appeared in the state championship contest in the past six seasons, with the Wildcats, 13-1, going for their 20th state championship, and their fourth in this decade.

The last time the two teams met in Athens, Clarke Central captured the Class AAA state championship with a 16-14 decision over the Buck

Belue-led Wildcats in 1977.

Valdosta's route to the upcoming state championship game came by way of LaGrange, where the Wildcats defeated the Grangers, 24-13. The Gladiators upset the state's previously No. 1-ranked team, Southwest DeKalb Panthers, 21-20. That victory was the second time the Gladiators had defeated the Panthers for the North Georgia championship in the past four years.

The last victory came in 1986.

The Gladiators have won 10 consecutive games, since a 1-3 start.

With their win over LaGrange, Valdosta has now won seven straight.

Valdosta and Clarke Central have one common opponent this year, the Statesboro Blue Devils.

Valdosta defeated Statesboro, 38-7, while Clarke Central fell to Statesboro on the fourth week of the season.

Wildcats Lasso Grangers, 24-13

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

LAGRANGE — The South Georgia AAAA football championship was billed as a matchup of the Valdosta Wildcat defense and the LaGrange High offense. The irresistible force against the immovable object.

Friday night in LaGrange's Callaway Stadium, the object remained unmoved.

Actually, Valdosta defenders did quite a lot of moving as they stormed in for eight sacks and contained Granger quarterback Rodney Hudson just enough to earn a 24-13 win and advance to the state championship game next Saturday.

Their opponent will be the Clarke Central Gladiators, who defeated the Southwest DeKalb Panthers, 21-20, last night, for the North Georgia championship.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder recognized the challenge presented by the Grangers, who led 13-12 at halftime.

"It's tough that someone had to lose that game. Either team could have won," Hyder said. "Our defense played a tremendous game and our offense did what it had to do to win."

As if both teams did not have enough to worry about with each other, they also had to contend with terrible weather conditions. At opening kickoff, the field was damp and slick. By the second quarter it was a quagmire, making any kind of creative cutting and running extremely difficult.

Another result of the soggy playing conditions was total of six Valdosta fumbles and two interceptions by LaGrange. It was not a pretty football game.

Though it was the Granger offense that got most of the advance publicity, the VHS offense moved the ball 77 yards on their first drive for the game's initial score.

As usual, the Wildcats did it all on



Valdosta High running back Carlos Parker (22) fights for extra yardage as LaGrange defenders close in for the tackle.

the ground. In fact, VHS did not throw the ball all night.

Junior quarterback Alton Hitson was effective on the ground though,

Valdosta went on to beat LaGrange, 24-13 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

fourth-and-goal from the 2-yard line.

But the first of three conversions was missed and Valdosta took a quick 6-0 lead.

On LaGrange's second offensive play of the game fullback Ricardo Rutledge fumbled and Bruce Dan-

See WILDCATS, Page 3B

Wildcats

From, page 1-B

iels recovered for the Cats. Six plays later, senior Chris Chachere went over the right side for a 4-yard touchdown and, suddenly, VHS was up 12-0 and making it look easy.

But just as quickly as the Valdosta offense took the attention away from LaGrange, the Grangers got it back. Hudson showed his versatility by running for 28 yards to jump start a drive and, under heavy pressure from the Valdosta defensive front, passing to Tracy Heard for 48 yards and a Granger touchdown with almost seven minutes left in the first half.

The next important offensive play for LaGrange was made by punter Derrick Ferrell. He booted a kick from the Valdosta 38-yard line to the Wildcat 1. That play proved important because on the next play Hitson fumbled to give LaGrange an easy shot at the end zone. Hudson cashed in two plays later. A botched extra point attempt held the Grangers lead to 13-12.

After passing the momentum back and forth in the first half, Valdosta quickly answered the question of which way it would swing in the second. Joe Wright returned the second-half kickoff 52 yards to the LaGrange 35-yard line.

Runs by Parker and Chachere moved the ball to the 2-yard line where Chachere scored over the right side. Another extra-point attempt failed and VHS had the lead back at 18-13.

The LaGrange offense found the going rougher in the second half as they managed only one first down.

The Valdosta defensive front of noseguard Andre Hampton, defensive tackles George Copeland and Robert Fillmore and defensive ends Fred Henton and Dexter Daniels along with linebackers Anthony Williams and Bruce Daniels stayed in steady pursuit of the harried LaGrange signal caller.

Quarterback sacks by the Wildcats forced the Grangers to punt several times.

But, with just over one minute left to play, the Grangers blocked a VHS punt and had one more shot at finding the end zone and the victory.

Hudson's first pass was broken up



Valdosta defensive end Fred Henton wraps up the LaGrange quarterback in the backfield. The Wildcats held the Grangers scoreless in the second half of their 24-13 victory — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

by defensive back Trampis Wrice. Hudson was dropped for no gain on the next play. With the clock showing :10, Hudson took the final snap. He rolled left and was hit as he released his last pass. The ball went up and was caught by Hampton.

Hampton took off and rambled 50 yards for the last touchdown, crossing the goalline as the last second ticked off the clock.

LaGrange's season ended at 10-4 while the Wildcats move to 13-1.

Valdosta-LaGrange

Wildcats	Grangers
11	5
46-169	29-14
00-00	6-17
000	99
	Yards

0	Intercepted	2
4-28.8	Punting	6-31.8
1-15	Penalties	2-20
6-3	Fumbles-lost	2-1

Valdosta	12	0	6	6-24
LaGrange	0	13	0	0-13

Scoring Summary

VHS—Carlos Parker 2 run (kick failed) 3:52, 1st
 VHS—Chris Chachere 4 run (pass failed) :17, 1st
 LHS—Tracy Heard 48 pass from Rodney Hudson (Heard kick) 6:54, 2nd
 LHS—Hudson 1 run (run failed) :15, 2nd
 VHS—Chachere 2 run (run failed) 9:40, 3rd
 VHS—Andre Hampton 50 interception return (no pat) 0:00, 4th

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Valdosta—Carlos Parker 26-101, Chris Chachere 12-37, Alton Hitson 7-31, Fred Henton 1-0. LaGrange—Ricardo Rutledge 11-26, James Reed 1-28, Early Dunlap 3(-6), Rodney Hudson 14-34.
 Passing: Valdosta—none. LaGrange—Rodney Hudson 6-17 99.
 Receiving: Valdosta—none. LaGrange—Tracy Heard 3-68, Michael Berry 2-35, Joe Brooks 1-5.

Making The Right Moves

By JIMMY ESPY
Times News Editor

Brooks Akins makes no bones about it.

"I came to Valdosta to win a state championship and Saturday night I'll get that chance, said Akins, the Wildcats' 6-1, 225 pound offensive right tackle. "It was definitely the right thing to do."

Akins played two years of varsity football at Lowndes, starting on the defensive line under then head coach Joe Wilson.

He transferred to Valdosta after the 1988 school year.

That's when things really got interesting.

"It wasn't so much switching schools," Akins said. "If you've seen a Valdosta practice and a Lowndes practice when Joe Wilson was there, you know they are basically the same."

"What was a big change was

switching over from the defensive line to offense. At the beginning I preferred defensive line, but the more I played offense and the more I learned about it, the more I liked it. Now, I'd say I like them about the same," Akins said.

Akins describes himself as a part finesse, part power lineman. But it wasn't always that way.

"At the beginning, I just tried to overpower people, just bull somebody off the line," Akins aid. "Coming off the defensive line, I didn't know the techniques. As the season has progressed, I still use my power but I've also learned to block better, to use more finesse."

Akins is quick to praise Wildcat offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker and his fellow linemen for their help.

"From the first day I was here, Coach Baker has helped me a lot," Akins said. "Even now that I have been playing offense all year and

See AKINS, page 3B



Valdosta offensive lineman Brooks Akins, right, and his teammates read up on their upcoming game with the Clarke Central Gladiators this Saturday night in the AAAA state championship — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

comes to the surface when he talks about Saturday's championship clash with Clarke Central.

"All the focus has been on the defense this year. But I think our offense is going to put some points on the board," he said. "Maybe it helped us some. The defense has gotten most of the attention and, in the playoffs, I think some of the other teams have overlooked our offense."

"We've been improving since the first game and we've improved every single game," Akins said. "We haven't hit our peak yet. Hopefully we will Saturday night."

Coach Baker gives a glowing report on his right tackle.

"Brooks Akins is probably one of the finest young men I have ever coached," Baker said. "I don't mind saying this, he's the kind of young man I would like my boys to grow up to be like. He's a real credit to his parents and his grandparents."

"I think having played defensive line may have helped Brooks," Baker said. "By playing defense, he got a good understanding of what an offensive lineman needs to do."

"Brooks came here at a time when we were hurting for offensive linemen. We had about five linemen flunk or quit the team and we had a desperate need," Baker said.

Baker knew he had a talented athlete in Akins, but he said the team also received a bonus.

"Brooks has been a real leader for this team," Baker said. "From the first day he was here, he's been a leader. I remember seeing him, in his first practice, knock a player down. From that time on, he had the respect of this team. Brooks gives 150 percent from the time the ball is snapped till the whistle blows."

Akins, 18, plans to play college football. He's already visited Georgia, Florida and Georgia Southern, but says he has no college prefer-

ence. Baker says Akins is a definite college prospect.

"He will be play college football somewhere," Baker said. "It might be on offense or back on defense, but he can play."

Brooks is the son of Buzz and Pam Akins of Valdosta, and has two brothers, Rhett and Eli.

Mason, Laskey Spark Navy Upset

VDT Sun., Dec. 16, 1989

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Frank Schenk kicked a 32-yard field goal with 11 seconds left as Navy rallied for a 19-17 upset victory over Army Saturday, giving the Midshipmen the lead in the 99-year-old series with their first win since 1985.

The winning drive was kept alive when quarterback Alton Grizzard lunged for a first down on fourth-and-2 at the Army 35. It was Grizzard's third fourth-down conversion of the game.

Two Valdosta natives proved to be a large factor for the Midshipmen. Former VHS quarterback B.J. Mason caught two passes, one for a touchdown, for 64 yards. Linebacker Beau Laskey also had a big day with over 20 tackles from his linebacker spot, 11 in the first half.

The victory gave Navy a 42-41-7 advantage in the 90-game series and snapped the Midshipmen's three-game losing streak against the Cadets (6-5).

The Cadets had taken a 17-16 lead on a 21-yard field goal by Keith Havenstrife with 2:06 left in the third quarter. The score was set up by a 36-yard pass from Byron McWilliams to Sean Jordan that put the ball at Navy's 11.

Navy, which entered the game

Navy-Army

Navy 9 0 7 3-19
Army 0 14 3 0-17

Navy—Mason 54 pass from Grizzard (kick failed)
Army—FG 38 Schenk
Navy—Cass 1 run (Havenstrife kick)
Army—Cass 1 run (Havenstrife kick)
Navy—Purifoy 3 run (Schenk kick)
Army—FG 21 Havenstrife
Navy—FG 32 Schenk
A—15:21

Navy	Army
18	17
61-174	40-208
162	70
0	3
8-11-0	2-6-2
3-86	2-61
0-0	0-0
5-45	4-31
27:46	32:14

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Navy, Grizzard 21-60, Bergholt 12-40, Mason 2-46, Jordan 2-70, Purifoy 31-56, Mason 11, Army, McWeather 26-84, McWilliams 11-38, Cass 8-32, Thomas 14-52, Foy 12-31, Bergholt 12-21, Army, Jordan 2-70.

PASSING—Navy, Grizzard 8-16-0-162, Army, McWilliams 2-4-2-70.

RECEIVING—Navy, Smith 3-46, Mason 2-64, Dawson, 2-31, Bergholt 12-21, Army, Jordan 2-70.

with eight losses in 10 games — three to Division I-AA teams — took a 9-0 lead on its first two possessions.

The Midshipmen took the opening kickoff and drove 76 yards on 6 plays, scoring on a 54-yard pass from Grizzard to Valdosta Mason with 11:36 left in the quarter after Grizzard converted a fourth-down play. The extra point was missed after a bad snap.

Navy got the ball right back on an interception by Bob Weissenfels, and Schenk kicked a 38-yard field goal for a 9-0 lead.



Valdosta High graduate and Navy halfback B.J. Mason celebrates with his teammates after scoring the first touchdown of the game as Navy upset Army, 19-17 — AP Laser-photo.

Kingpins Clash For Class AAAAA Title

VDT Mon., Dec. 11, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

While the names have changed, the objective has remained the same for both the Valdosta Wildcats and the Clarke Central Gladiators — a state football championship.

These two teams have dominated the state's highest classification in the past 12 years. This Saturday's state finals in Athens will mark the eighth time in the past 12 years that the Wildcats or Gladiators have appeared in the championship game.

"I have the utmost respect for the Valdosta football program and head coach Nick Hyder. They are winners and have proven that over the course of 70 years," said Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson. "They have a commitment to excellence. They have tremendous talent on this year's team and have proven they are the south's best team."

The Gladiators, 11-3, won their way into the championship round by defeating the Southwest DeKalb

Panthers' 21-20 in last Friday's North Georgia championship game in Athens. Along the way, the Clarke Central team has beaten such teams as Wheeler, 27-0, Brookwood, 17-7, in the playoffs.

Henderson and VHS head coach Nick Hyder are no strangers to the championship scene. Saturday's clash will mark the fourth meeting between the two head coaches, with Hyder holding a 2-1 edge.

"We haven't had a chance as of yet to study the game films, but I do know that under Coach Henderson they are well-coached," said Hyder. "He is one of the greatest all-around coaches in high school football. He is a motivator and gets the most out of his kids. They earned the right to be in the championship by beating a strong Southwest DeKalb team Friday."

In fact, the Gladiators started out the season 0-2 after losses to arch-rival Cedar Shoals and R.E. Lee out of Montgomery, Alabama. They later lost to Statesboro in their fourth game of the year.



Valdosta vs. Clarke Central AAAA STATE

CHAMPIONSHIP

But Henderson feels that his team has made large strides toward a title shot since that point.

"After such a slow start at 1-3, it's a tribute to our players that we are playing Valdosta for the state championship," said Henderson. "They played very hard late in the year and we beat a good Southwest DeKalb team last week."

Clarke Central will be making its fourth appearance in the state finals in the past six years, two of those

coming against Valdosta in 1984 and 1986.

The Wildcats, however, will be going for their 20th state championship as well as their fourth title in the decade.

"Naturally, we are very proud of our team and coaching staff. You do what you have to do to get to this point. I think it starts with senior leadership," said Hyder. "And there is no question in my mind that Clarke Central is very deserving to be playing in this game. Our team has improved a great deal each week and that's what you have to do if you want to be in the state championship."

Valdosta and Clarke Central have met in Athens only one other time back in the Class AAA championship game of 1977, with Clarke Central edging the 'Cats, 16-14.

"Everything has changed since that night in 1977," said Henderson. "These are two entirely different teams. The past will have nothing to do with this game."

State Tickets On Sale Today

Tickets for the Class AAAAA state football championship game between the Valdosta Wildcats and the Clarke Central Gladiators in Athens can be purchased today from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the VHS Superintendent's office on the corner of Williams and Ann Street.

The tickets prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and will be \$5.00 at the gate on game-day.

Game time is scheduled for 8 p.m., but the gates will open at 5:30 p.m.

All tickets, however, are general admission and a sellout is expected. There are only 4,000 available to VHS fans with a specific color code on them.

Hyder Believes Clarke Is Tops

VDT. Tues., Dec. 12, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Week 15. In high school football, that translates into the very best, the teams who have overcome the necessary odds to gain a shot at the most coveted title available.

This Saturday night in Athens, the Valdosta Wildcats have a shot to win the AAAA state championship for the fourth time this decade. And VHS head coach Nick Hyder knows that his final 1989 opponent, the Clarke Central Gladiators, have earned their billing as the best team in north Georgia.

"This is the Super Bowl, the Kentucky Derby and the World Series for us," Hyder said. "It's our equivalent to those events. It's the dream game for every team on the high school level. And Clarke Central is far and away the best team we've faced this year."

Some high praise from the coach whose team competes in one of the most competitive regions in the state and has faced three playoff teams outside their subregion



Valdosta vs. Clarke Central
AAAA STATE

CHAMPIONSHIP

schedule. Their style is taken from the Wildback handbook on football. Strong running game, tenacious defense and that mysterious intangible that pulls wins from sure defeats; tradition.

"They have some big backs," said Hyder. "Carlos Folsom and Kenneth Richardson are both quality runners Wesley Middlebrooks executes the offense well at quarterback. This team has tremendous athletes, more than anyone else we've seen."

Despite the big numbers and
See Hyder, page 4B

'Cats Want To Correct Miscues

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Can a team win a state championship with a weak kicking game? An offense that does not pass? A problem hanging on to the ball?

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder hopes that question can go unanswered. Although his team suffered from all of the above last Friday night against the LaGrange Grangers, the head coach believes his team has the ability to avoid an encore this Saturday night when they visit Clarke Central in Athens for the state AAAA championship.

"Our kicking game was a concern for us. But we just seemed to adjust to what we had to and go on. But Monday's practice had a lot of emphasis on that part of our game," Hyder said.

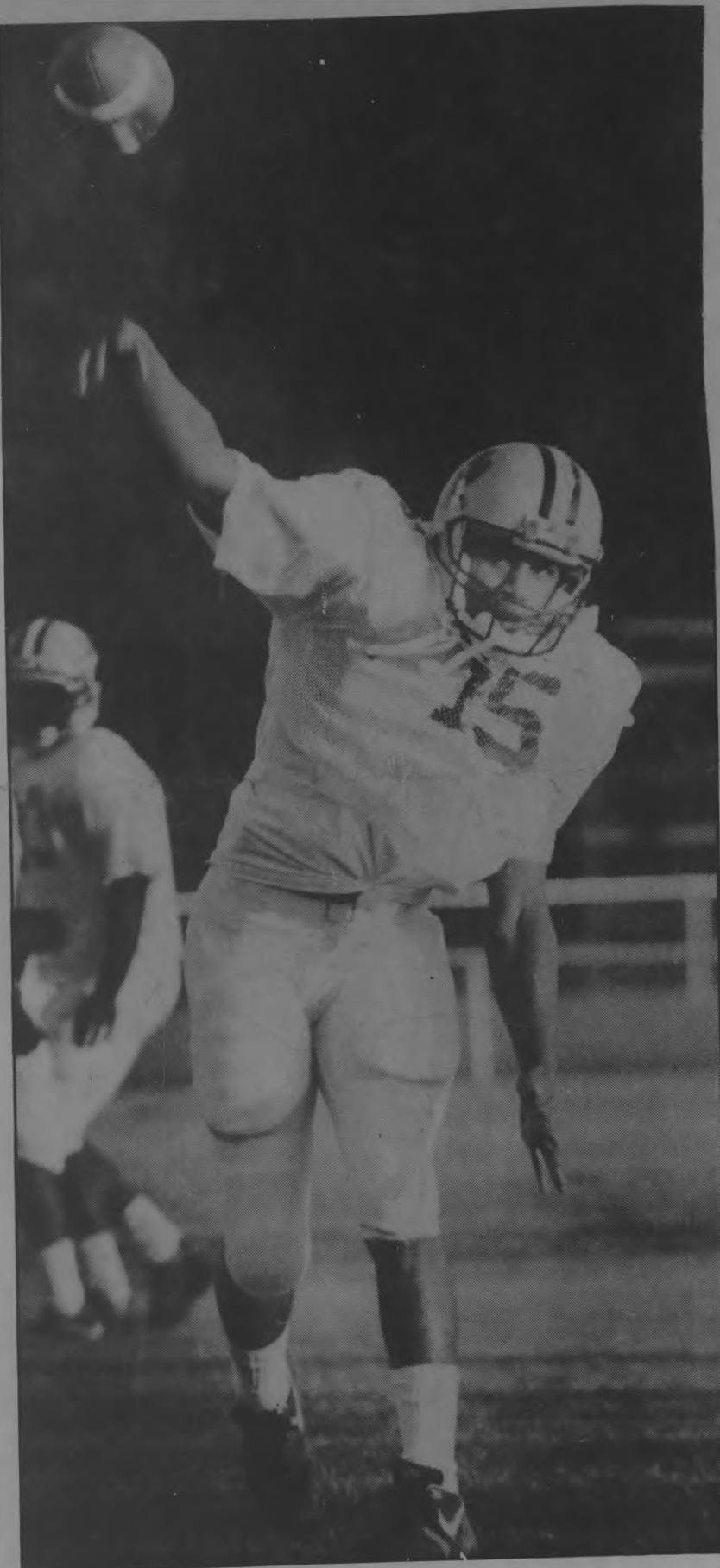
The Wildcats missed an extra point after their first touchdown and

blew two conversion opportunities later after a run and a pass attempt both failed. Their last score came as time ran out and no conversion was attempted.

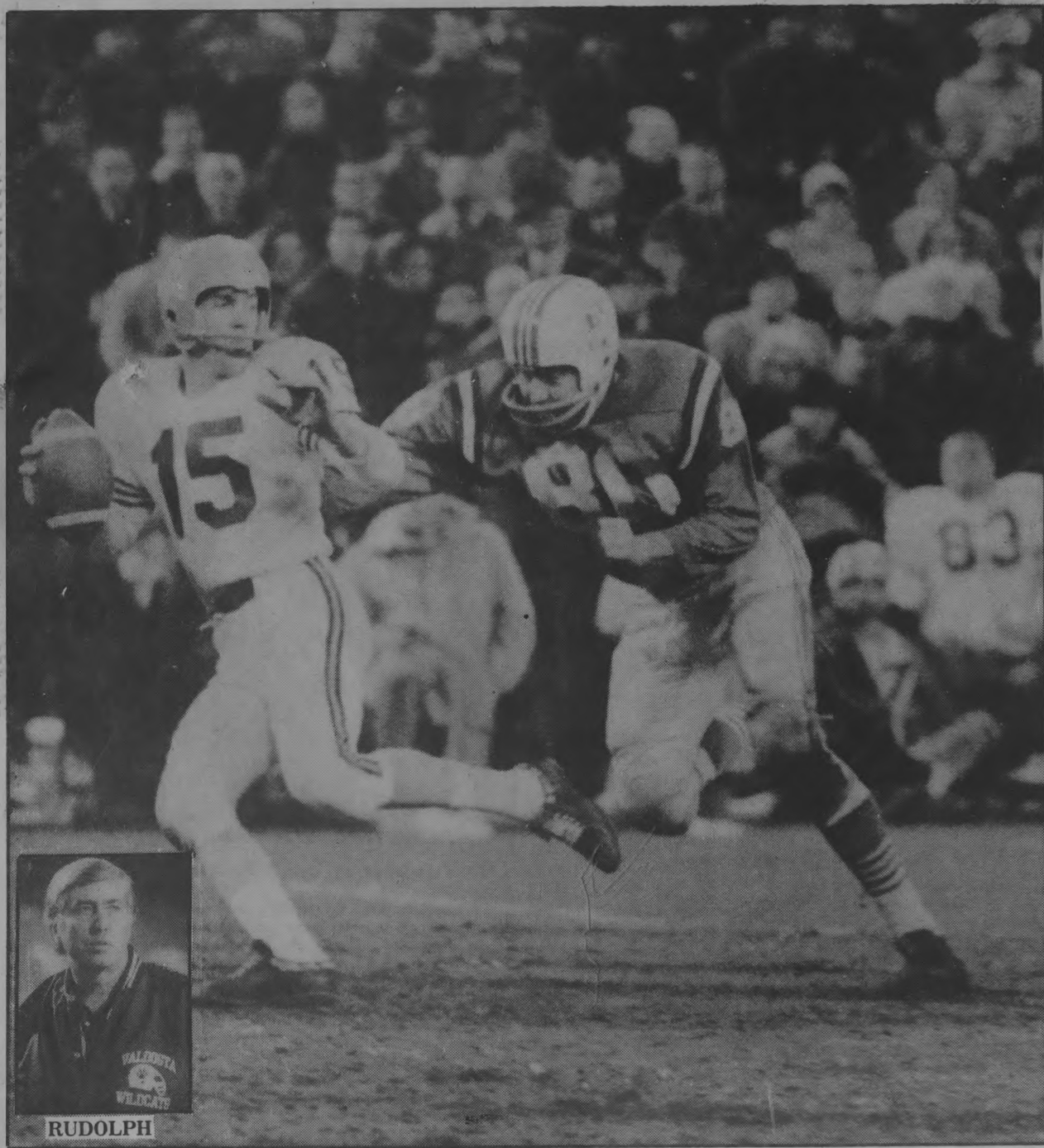
But the failure to score after the touchdowns could have been a disastrous one. After blocking a punt, the Grangers had the ball with just over a minute left in the game. A LaGrange touchdown, which was not an impossibility considering their explosive offense, would have won the game.

"Actually, I thought we made the extra point. But I was not at the right angle. My theory is that if it's close, it can go either way," Hyder said. "The footing was difficult and that might have been the reason. It was one of the reasons that we didn't pass the ball and it might have caused some of our fumbles."

One of the six Wildcat fumbles came on their own 1-yard line and resulted in LaGrange's second touchdown.



VHS quarterback Alton Hitson works on his passing during the Wildcats' practice Monday afternoon — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.



Jack Rudolph (80), former linebacker with the Boston Patriots and current VHS football coach, puts the heat on Buffalo Bills quarterback Jack Kemp — Special Photo.

'You were always concerned about someone might be brought in to take your place. We used to say we had 33 coming, 33 staying, and 33 going all the time.'

— Jack Rudolph
Former Boston Patriot

Life Of NFL Pro Not All Glamour

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Lifestyles Writer

As Hank Williams Jr. welcomes "all his rowdy friends" to Monday night football, wives of America groan while their husbands dig in for the evening.

Maybe it's Sunday afternoon and many of these same men lounge on their sofas calling the plays with a passion almost akin to the passion exhibited by the players on the television screen. If it's Sunday afternoon football, some men will find a cozy place to sleep through the first TV game and arise to watch with vim, vigor, and vitality the second game.

Jack Rudolph, Valdosta High School defensive coordinator, played with the then Boston Patriots from 1960-66 and retired from the Miami Dolphins in 1967. Although he shares some views with Laskey, he said in the years he played before Laskey began, circumstances were different. But he agreed about the exhibition games. "It was awfully important to do well during the exhibition games," said Rudolph. "You had to produce or you were gone. There were less teams then and only 33 players on a team. I would say back then it was harder to make a team; but today it's harder to compete because the athletes are bigger and better."

Rudolph said during one season the Patriots had 342 guys come through their program. "You were always concerned about someone might be brought in to take your place. We used to say we had 33 coming, 33 staying, and 33 going all the time. You couldn't even sign a lease on an apartment."

The days between games were and still are physically and emotionally taxing. Monday morning (depending upon which day the team played) finds players reviewing the previous game and tending to their injuries. "Generally everyone had some sort of aches which

needed to be tended to. Even bruises were sometimes painful," said Rudolph. For most teams Tuesdays are reserved for coaches to preview films of the upcoming competition. Laskey said it was a rule every team had to provide the next opponent with game films.

Rudolph said Tuesday was a critical day for members on his team. "When I played if you were with the team through Tuesday (payday), the rest of the week was easy," he said. "If on Tuesday, they told you to report with the game book, you knew you were going. The worst part of the game was the constant doubt of whether you were going to be there next week, or what you would do if they let you go."

Rudolph's games were generally played Friday nights, the standard game night in the American Football League. However, with the merger of the two leagues and the formation of the modern NFL, games are generally played Sundays and Monday nights. Therefore, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays teams spend concentrating on game plans for the next opponent. "Tuesdays the coaches worked on the plans," said Laskey. "Wednesday was offensive day with concentration on everything for the offense all day long, using the defense for next week's game," said Laskey.

Rudolph said the best part of his pro career was the camaraderie he shared with the 33 members of his team. "We were all going through the same thing," said Rudolph. "We did so much together to survive then ... today it's more of an individual thing."

"Your body

Valdosta Sweeps Visiting Berrien

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

outscored Berrien County 16-10 in the final period and in the process turned the Berrien County press to their advantage.

"I think we were a little shaky in the beginning when they applied the pressure, but in the later stages of the game, where it was the most critical, we made better passes through the pressure, and simply settled down," said Montgomery. "That was the key for us, to just settle down. It was better to give the ball up on the 10-second call, rather than just have them steal a bad pass and take it in for an easy basket."

Valdosta guard Ashley Schlieusner canned a pair of free throws with 5:11 to go, giving VHS their first lead of the game since the opening two minutes.

Teammate Laura Dennis later gave VHS a 35-32 lead by hitting a pair of free throws.

But Berrien stayed on VHS' heels behind the shooting of Deberry and Walker. Deberry scored 18 and

See Wildcats, page 3D

10/19/89

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

"Pressure gave us the lead and pressure probably killed us too," said Berrien County Rebelettes' first-year coach Cliff Ranew after watching his team blow a nine-point, second half lead and lose to the Valdosta Lady Wildcats, 43-40.

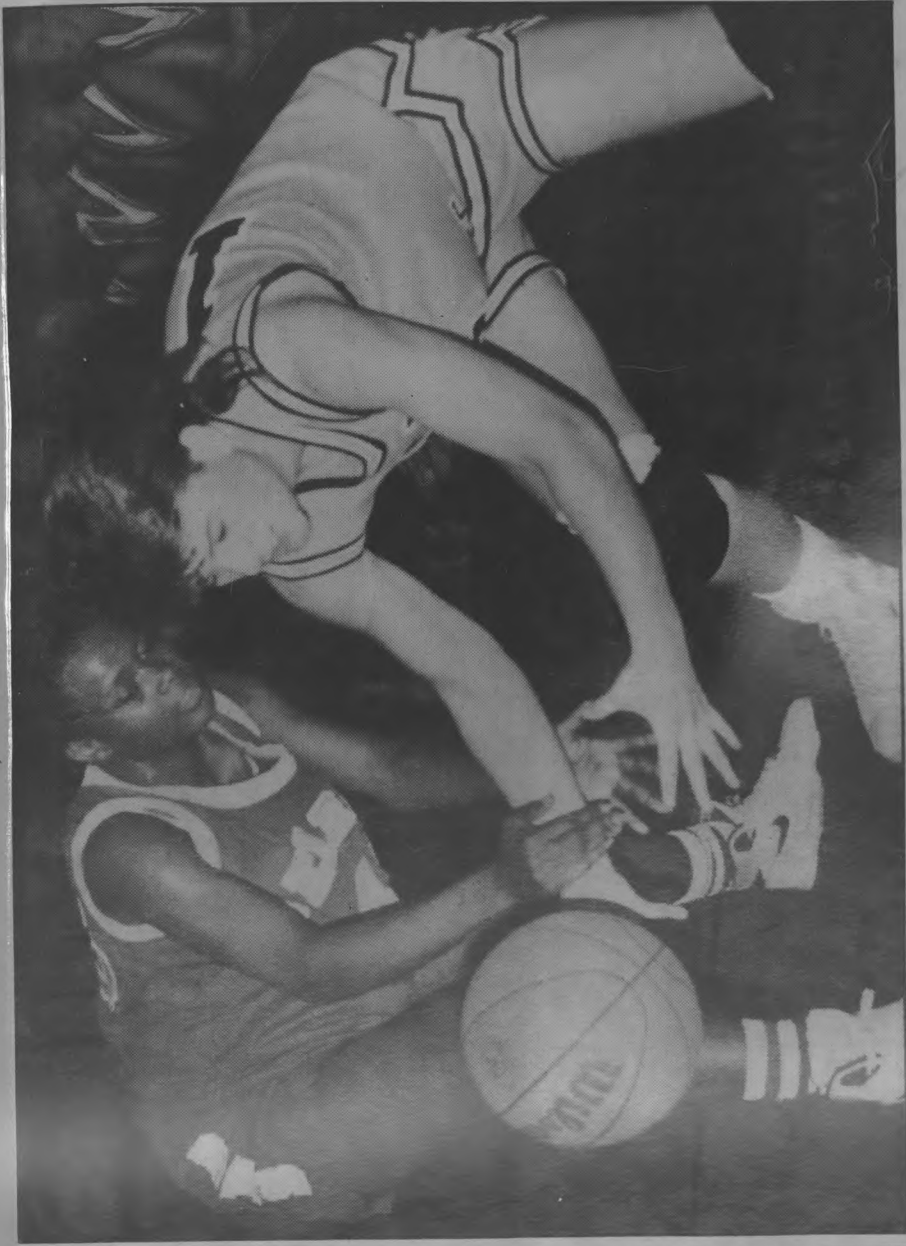
In the boys contest, homesteading Valdosta held off a furious rally by the Rebels to post their fifth consecutive victory, 74-68.

The Lady Wildcats and Rebelettes are now 4-1, while the Rebels drop to 2-3 on the year.

First half pressure by the Rebelettes allowed them to erase an early two-point lead by the Lady Wildcats and take a 16-14 halftime lead.

The Rebelettes quickly pushed their lead to as many as five points in the third period, thanks in large part to steals by Shonda Deberry and Rhonda Walker.

But Susan Montgomery's team



Valdosta High's Dede Dennis reaches for a loose ball during the Lady Wildcat-Rebel-

lette game Saturday night at VHS gymnasium — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcats

— From page 1D

Walker scored 12 to lead Berrien. With 1:00 left and VHS hanging on to a 38-36 lead, Valdosta guard Shannon West stepped in front of a Berrien pass and scored, giving the Lady Wildcats a 41-36 lead. Valdosta was led in scoring by center Cassandra Twine, who had 18 points and 15 rebounds.

"I think we just got caught looking up at the scoreboard," said Ranew. "The pressure helped us and hurt us. They did a good job adjusting."

Valdosta Wildcats' head coach John Miller did not express much enthusiasm with his team's performance, though he was happy to gain the win.

"We came out the way I wanted and expected us to, but we just didn't play well enough on the boards," said Miller. "And we didn't shoot our free throws well either. But, we're 5-0 and I'm happy about that."

Valdosta ripped off a 19-8 first period lead and at times threatened to run away with the game.

But behind Keith Jackson's 23 points, Berrien rallied from a 10-point, second half VHS lead and briefly had a chance to go ahead before Valdosta's fast-breaking

offense reasserted itself.

The fast pace of the contest seemed to favor Valdosta, with guards Major Lynn and James Manning feeling especially at home.

Lynn tossed in 15 points, Manning added 12 and Ernest Lowe scored 13 for Valdosta. VHS' scoring leader was Jason King with 17.

"They have a real quick team and I just tried to tell our kids that we needed to slow it down," said Berrien coach Clay Clark. "I thought both teams were comfortable with the way the game was being played. It's just that it is always tough to play from behind like we had to play tonight."

Boys Game

Berrien Co.-Valdosta
BERRIEN CO. (48) — Keith Jackson 23, Eric Taylor 15, Aniwon Corlier 10, Michael Wiley 7, Travis Pitts 3, Torrell Tillman 2, Mark Miller.
VALDOSTA (74) — Jason King 17, Major Lynn 13, Ernest Lowe 13, James Manning 12, Spencer Iverson 13, Farrell Scott 2, Michael Moore 1.
Berrien Co.
Valdosta

Records: Berrien 2-3, Valdosta 5-0.
Next Game: Hamilton Co. at VHS (Thurs. Dec. 14); Berrien at Waycross (Tues. Dec. 12).

Girls Game

Berrien Co.-Valdosta
BERRIEN CO. (40) — Shonda Deberry 18, Rhonda Walker 12, Dera Harkins 4, Lamarice Green 4, Gwen Green 2.
VALDOSTA (43) — Cassandra Twine 18, Vashiti Manning 8, Laura Dennis 7, Ashley Schlieusner 4, Shannon West 4, Esther Benjamin 2.
Berrien Co.
Valdosta

Records: Berrien 4-1, Valdosta 4-1.
8 8 14 10-40
9 5 13 16-43

Gators Skin

'Cats

Wed. Nov. 29, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Following a basketball doubleheader Tuesday night with Ware County High School, the Valdosta High post-game lockerrooms were completely different. Clapping and shouts of excitement permeated the walls of the boys' dressing room while the girls' lockerroom was punctuated with silence.

The reasons for those type reactions were strong ones. The Wildcats put together their strongest game to date and outran the Ware County Gators, 71-47. On the other hand, the Lady Wildcats seemingly did everything wrong and wound up suffering a 58-37 loss to the Lady Gators. The boys remain undefeated at 3-0 while the girls are now 2-1.

The girls' game was dominated by the Lady Gators from start to finish. They kept the ball in the hands of guard Casey Denton, who poured in most of her 14 points from long-range, and forward Kelly Durham, who got most of her points on the inside. Offensively, VHS star center Cassandra Twine was held in check. See GATORS, page 3B



Valdosta Lady Wildcats' Esther Benjamin (24) fights for the rebound against the Lady Gators from Ware County. Ware County defeated Valdosta, 58-37 — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

GATORS

From page 1B

for most of the night, scoring only nine points and gathering nine rebounds.

VHS head coach Susan Montgomery was not only unhappy with the final score, but also her team's lack of hustle.

"Frankly, we didn't show anything. They took balls away from us, they out hustled us all night and they just beat us. I hope the one thing this game did was show our team what kind of work they need to do," Montgomery said. "We play well in practice but it's up to them to do it in the game."

While the Lady Wildcats folded early, the boys' squad looked strong in game long. The Wildcats extended their 17-15 lead late in the first quarter with junior center Michael Moore leading the way. Moore finished the game with 23 points and 15 rebounds and dominated the Gators throughout.

The Wildcats never broke off a big run but chipped away at the lead in the first half. Since they had so much success with it in the first half, VHS relied solely on their forward Jason King and forward Ernest Lowe providing all of the third-quarter points.

Head coach John Miller said that his team's effort pleased him but he still sees improvement down the road.

"We got up and down the floor

tonight. We were a little more ready to play but we can still do better," Miller said. "We know that Moore can play and he came out strong tonight. We're not an extremely talented team, we don't have great size and we're not great shooters. But if we hustle we can overcome that."

Both teams will host Echols County next Tuesday night.

Boys Game

Ware County-Valdosta
Ware County (27) — Kevin Brooks 4, Michael Culpeper 14, David Grizzle 4, Jason Horrikerood 9, Steve Head 11, Chris Gordon 1, Brad Purcell 2, John Swinefort 2.
VALDOSTA (7) — Ferrell Scott 4, Spencer Iverson 4, James Manning 3, Ernest Lowe 16, Jason King 12, Malor Jones, Ashley Braxton 2, Michael Moore 21.
Ware County
Records: Valdosta 3-0
Next Game: Echols County at Valdosta, Dec. 5.

Girls Game

Ware County-Valdosta
Ware County (58) — Sabrina Tillman 15, Jean Hampton 2, Gina Corbett 1, Casey Denton 14, Tamara Crosby 2, Becky Dossan 4, Kelly Durham 14, Kelly Growler 4.
VALDOSTA (37) — Tracy Troutman 4, Dede Dennis 1, Laurel Dorell 4, Shemeka West 2, Esther Benjamin 6, Valerie Manning 2, Ashley Schenckler 4, Cassandra Twine 3.
Ware County
Records: Valdosta 2-1
Next Game: Echols County at Valdosta, Dec. 5.

Valdosta Sweeps Lanier

'Cats

Wed. Nov. 29, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Tuesday night at the Valdosta High School gymnasium, the VHS Wildcats defeated visiting Lanier County, 64-55. But by seeing the expression on Wildcat head coach John Miller's face, the win lacked what he wanted to see in his team.

The Valdosta Daily Times Valdosta

From Page, 1B

in the second quarter," said Lanier head coach George Sorrell. "We wanted to come in here and be patient and be selective with our fast break. Coach Miller did a fantastic job with preparing his team."

Senior forward Jason King scored 14 of his team-high 24 points in the second half with most coming from offensive rebounds and short jumpers in the lane. Their lead climbed to 15 points in the second half before Lanier got rolling again. Late in the game, they made another run at the 'Cats but failed to get closer than eight points.

Lanier guard Dwight Boone led the Bulldogs with 24 points while King also led the Wildcats in rebounding with 12. James Manning had 12 points and added eight rebounds.

The girls' game was never close as the Lady Bulldogs were content to bomb away from three-point range, although without much success. Valdosta's offense was geared more toward the inside game with center Cassandra Twine scoring 28 points.

Boys Game

Lanier County-Valdosta
Lanier County (55) — Dwight Boone 24, Jerome Williams 9, Terrance Williams 8, Joseph Crines 4, Isaac Cannon 4.
VALDOSTA (64) — Spencer Iverson 9, James Manning 12, Ernest Lowe 4, Jason King 24, Malor Lynn 9, Michael Boone 7, Ferrell Scott 1.
Lanier County
Records: Valdosta 11-8
Next Game: Ware County at Valdosta (Tuesday), Nov. 28.

Girls Game

Lanier County-Valdosta
Lanier County (60) — Poullette Brockington 2, Serena Moore 8, Tawanna Moore 11, Tommy Williams 4, Crystal Hodley 4, Kim Strimons 1.
VALDOSTA (59) — Laura Dennis 7, Shannon Schlessner 7, Esther Benjamin 6, Notasha Johnson 2, Ashley Lady Bulldogs 8.
Lanier County
Records: Valdosta 8-4
Next Game: Ware County at Valdosta (Tues. Nov. 28).

"I'll give Lanier a lot of credit. They came out and out hustled and outscrapped us. We got a big run in the second quarter and that's what we need to do," Miller said. "But we have got to play better defense. There is just no way around it. I was really disappointed in our defense tonight."

The Bulldogs came out fast in the boys' game and jumped out to a 7-2 lead early in the first quarter. But the Wildcats fought back and grabbed their first lead, 12-11, with 6:10 left in the first half. But it didn't take long for that lead to grow. Valdosta ruled the second quarter and outscored the Bulldogs 24-8. That gave the Wildcats a 30-19 halftime lead.

"Valdosta runs the break very well and we tried to play their game. See VALDOSTA Page 3B



Valdosta's Laura Dennis is fouled on her way to the basket against the Lanier County Lady Bulldogs. Valdosta swept Lanier County in local basketball action — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.



Valdosta High running back Carlos Parker takes the handoff from quarterback Alton Hitson during a Wildcat practice. The

Wildcats are getting ready for their Class AAAA championship game versus Clarke Central — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Wildcats Close ^{WDT} In On 20th Title

By STAN GRUBB ^{Wed}
Times Sports Writer ^{Dec. 13, 1989}

A victory Saturday night against the Clarke Central Gladiators in Athens, would give the Valdosta Wildcats their 20th Georgia state football championship, to go along with another Region 1-AAAA championship.

Battling injuries and illness all season long, the Wildcats made it to the South Georgia Championship contest for the first time in three years. The Cats also claimed a 1-AAAA title with a 20-7 win over Colquitt County, avenging an earlier 7-0 defeat.

The Wildcats possessed one of the state's most feared defensive units, led by senior linebacker Anthony Williams, who averaged nine tackles a game.

In 14 games this year, the Valdosta defense posted six shutouts, including back-to-back blankings of Camden County and Greene-Taliaferro.

Senior tailback Carlos Parker led the Wildcats in rushing with 1,082 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Parker was also the Region 1-AAAA Offensive Player of the Year.

With former Wildcat head coach Wright Bazemore on hand at Cleveland Field, the season started out

the way the Wildcats had planned, with a 34-0 win over Camden. Joe Wright led Valdosta with 59 yards on 12 carries and one touchdown. The defense held Camden to minus five yards total offense.

VHS improved to 2-0 with a 24-0 rout of Class AA foe Greene-Taliaferro at Cleveland Field. Parker scored a pair of touchdowns to lead the way for VHS, while the Wildcat defense held Greene-Taliaferro to 57 yards.

The 'Cats then traveled to Waycross for showdown with the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs were not intimidated, however, as they scored 18 first-half points to stay within striking distance of Valdosta, who led at halftime, 21-18.

But Parker rushed for 111 yards on 22 carries to help power a second-half surge as Valdosta went on to rip Waycross, 41-18.

Parker began to pick up steam in game No. 4 against Northside-Warner Robins. He ran for 297 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Valdosta attack. Valdosta went on to defeat Northside, 35-0, posting their third shutout in four games played.

Valdosta next took on the Statesboro Blue Devils and came away with a 38-7 victory. But the Wildcats

See 'CATS, Page 5B

From Page 1B

found themselves behind early on an 8-yard touchdown run by the Blue Devils' Tony Grant. Valdosta's defense stood tall from that point on. Collecting over eight sacks, the defense was led by Robert Fillmore, who accounted for four sacks.

In their first Region 1-AAAA South contest, Valdosta closed the door on a very talented Bainbridge Bearcat squad, 23-0.

Joe Wright's two touchdowns led the VHS scorers, while defensive standouts George Copeland, Robert Fillmore, Andre Hampton and Anthony Williams each had five unassisted tackles.

With the Wildcats climbing the USA Today national rankings poll to No. 11, the Colquitt County Packers came to call at Cleveland Field on a cold and windy Friday night.

Two hours later, the Packers had the upset of Valdosta, 7-0, on a 26-yard, fourth quarter touchdown scamper by tailback Spindola Merritt.

The 'Cats then needed three consecutive wins over subregion foes Tift County, Coffee and Lowndes to secure a playoff spot. They did just that.

The Wildcats found themselves on the short end of a 7-6 score with 7:53 remaining against the Tift County Blue Devils, until tailback Joe Wright scampered 37 yards giving Valdosta the lead. Quarterback Alton Hitson connected with Shawn Gay in the left corner of the end zone for the 2-point conversion and VHS led, 14-7.

With 1:37 left, the Blue Devils came roaring down the field on a long pass play. On second down from the VHS 1, Tift tailback Ricky Jennings charged through the line but fumbled after a hit by VHS' cornerback Chris Hart. Robert Fillmore and Trampis Wrice made the recovery to keep the 'Cats' championship dreams alive.

The 'Cats championship route then went down Highway 221 to Jardine Stadium in Douglas for a contest against the undefeated Coffee High Trojans.

Valdosta's defense, led by senior defensive lineman George Copeland, shut down the Trojans.

Parker's 12-yard touchdown run with 3:19 in the third quarter and a 25-yard field goal by placekicker Dow Drury in the fourth quarter gave the 'Cats a 10-3 win.

Valdosta finished the regular-season in fine fashion against cross-town rival Lowndes. VHS blanked the Vikings 17-0 behind scores by Wright, Parker and Drury.

It was the 'Carlos Connection' at Kinnett Stadium in Columbus as the Wildcats received first-half scores by Carlos Parker, Carlos Moore and Carlos Folsom, beating Shaw High, 21-12.

The game everyone had been waiting on since October 20, a rematch with Colquitt, would decide the 1989 Region 1-AAAA champion.

Valdosta gained revenge with a 20-7 thrashing of the Packers. The Wildcat defense was led by Williams, Fillmore, Copeland and Fred Henton, while Parker led the attack with two touchdowns and 101 yards rushing.

Week No. 13 had been a nightmare for the 'Cats the past two years, but this season the Wildcats snapped out of those doldrums. They dominated the Brunswick Pirates, offensively and defensively, on their way to a 42-0 South Sectional championship victory at Cleveland Field.

Valdosta captured a spot in the Class AAAA championship game on a rainy Friday night in LaGrange.

Valdosta jumped out to an early 12-0 advantage only to see the Grangers score twice within a span of three minutes to take a 13-12 lead at intermission.

The 'Cats dug in and simply took control in the second half defensively, putting a cap on the LaGrange offense.

In fact, senior noseguard Andre Hampton sent the Wildcats into the finals in grand fashion picking off a Granger pass and racing 50 yards for the score as the clock expired. Valdosta won 24-13 setting up the ninth meeting between the Wildcats and Clarke Central/Athens High School.

Valdosta leads the series 4-2, with two ties. Valdosta has won the past two meetings in 1984, 21-7, and 1986, 28-0.

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

Sewell Tossing His Time To 'Cats

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The tossing of his hat into the Friday-night skies signifies another touchdown for the Valdosta High Wildcats. But while the players and coaches celebrate and talk about what went right, Harry Sewell makes sure everything goes right the next time.

Sewell has been associated with the team since 1984 when the 'Cats won their 18th state championship. He was asked to help out as a volunteer and, six years later, he remains a volunteer despite countless hours devoted to the team.

"I think it would be hard for me to do this at any other school," Sewell said. "Everything I do is on a volunteer basis — I'm not on anyone's payroll. I just love being out there, I love the players, I love the coaches and I don't mind getting my hands dirty. I do just about everything and anything for the team."

Sewell's summation of his duties is correct. On autumn Friday nights, he

stands and remains beside head coach Nick Hyder as the game is played. He makes sure the coaches' radios work; the game balls are pumped up and ready for use; the coaches can see; the errands are run; etc. and etc. and etc.

His list of jobs is endless as is his enthusiasm.

"I spend a lot of time raising money for the athletic fund. Stuff like that is important to me because that fund is used when someone in one of the players' family dies or someone is sick. I also help Mrs. (June) Hyder find jobs for the kids during the summer. There's a lot to be done and I try to do it," Sewell said.

But Sewell's toughest duties come before the game, days before the game. Much of the Wildcats' practice time is spent scrimmaging and Sewell plays an important role. An important, and unenviable, role.

"I'm one of the very few people in Valdosta with the guts to be the only official at a Valdosta High practice," Sewell laughed. "I catch it from both sides." See SEWELL, Page 2-B



Harry Sewell (left), who volunteers his help to the Valdosta High School football

team, talks with head coach Nick Hyder — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Practice Heats Up For Vikings, Wildcats Sewell

Staff Reports

The humid weather was not welcomed by the Lowndes High Vikings Tuesday, but head coach Rick Tomberlin said it was a must.

"I felt like the kids were a little slow today due to the weather," but we probably needed a hot day," said Tomberlin. "These are the types of days we're going to see in the summer camp and we need to get use to it. We need to suck it up and get better before Aug. 31."

According to Tomberlin, the defense set the tone for the Vikings' seventh practice after early possessions by the offense.

"We are not moving at the rate ofensively that we did between the first two days of workouts," said

Spring Notes

Tomberlin. "I think there are a lot of reasons for it, but we need to work harder as a team. Although it wasn't a good day for us, the weather and everything helped us a lot. Right now, the kids in backup roles are getting more critical work and those are who we are going with due to ineligible players."

Viking defensive lineman Lewis Davis has been the biggest surprise and top player through seven workouts according to Tomberlin. Davis' emergence on the defensive front gives the Vikings an additional bonus in depth.

The Vikings will be taking an individual approach to practice today.

More group sessions and fundamental work will be on the agenda. Due to the number of scrimmage minutes by the Vikings through seven days, Tomberlin feels his team needs to slow down a bit on head-to-head competition and increase individual preparation.

AT VALDOSTA, the weather was also part of the football talk.

"The heat is good for conditioning," said head coach Nick Hyder. "It teaches that you've got to be in shape to play this game. Some good lessons were learned today."

"That's what football is all about in South Georgia. And it gets about 15 degrees hotter down here."

The offense also began to heat up on Tuesday. "The offense did a better job thanks to the leadership of Al-

ton Hinson, Shaun Elders and Steve Jaramillo. It's getting a little bit better every day."

Hyder also commended the work of offensive coaches Bob Bolton, Jerry Don Baker and Mike O'Brien. "We're making some strides and we're making progress," Hyder said.

"Because (the offense is) not giving up and they've fought hard is an indication of what I think is really there," Hyder said. "That comes from the leadership."

It was the first day the defense hadn't dominated the offense.

"The defense was steady, but the coaches will pick them up a little bit," said Hyder. "The offense had a little better day than yesterday, but I'd say the defense won the scrimmage."

From Page 1-B

sides but I don't take anything from the offense and the defense or the coaches. I used to let them intimidate me but now I stick to my guns."

When he's not pumping up footballs or providing rides in his van, Sewell owns a video store at Moody Air Force Base as well as another in Valdosta. Owning his own business provides him with the needed time to pursue his gridiron hobby.

Before the start of the 1986 Valdosta campaign, Sewell's wife Vicky presented him with a hat to wear during the games. After one Wildcat score, Sewell threw his hat into the air. And working with the winningest high school football team in America

means his hat has some serious hang time.

"I get a new hat at the beginning of each year. I put it on for the first time on the first day of summer camp and I wear it until the awards banquet after the season," Sewell said. "When I threw it up for the first time, it was just out of pure excitement. I just grabbed something and let loose."

"I don't believe in jinxes but once the season starts, we don't change anything," Sewell added. "Whatever we coached do for the first game, they do for the rest of the year."

And who scored the touchdown that sent the first hat into its initial orbit? "I don't know. But I could look in the films and tell you," Sewell said.

Valdosta Scouts Blaze Championship Trail

Wed. Dec. 13, 1989
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VDT

There are many reasons for success in high school athletics, with the coaches and players getting most of the attention.

But VHS head coach Nick Hyder feels that the work by his 10 scouts is a major reason the Wildcats are playing for the Class AAAA state championship Saturday night.

"I wrote on the blackboard, 'Good job scouts, come with us to Athens' before last Sunday's meeting," said Hyder. "Our football scouts have

done a great job and they are a lot of the reason we are where we're at. I wanted them to know that their hard work and effort was appreciated.

"They put in a lot of hours on the road and preparing the scouting reports on our opponents to help our coaches stay informed with what our opponents are doing," he added. "It takes ten hours to fill out a report on a team and they turn their research in to me on Sunday. It's been a key to our success and I'm glad that we have such hard-working coaches to help myself and

our coaching staff prepare a good gameplan for the teams we play. I think it's one of the best scouting systems around."

Hyder pointed out that in most cases the varsity scouts graduate their way up to the varsity coaching level at VHS. He pointed to coaches Al Akins and Jerry Don Baker as examples.

Valdosta's scouting staff includes Rusty Redshaw, Bruce Begue, William Davis, Ray Lloyd, Ronnie Pitcock, Hodges McClendon, John Davis, Jerome Register, Tim Horton and Bob Sutherland.

"Basically, we keep up with the play of all subregion as well as region teams and I think it is a very well-devised plan to stay prepared for each and every team," said scouting coordinator Norman Sainz. "I think the scouts are seeing the fruits of their labor in the fact that we are playing Saturday night. I've seen a lot of scouting techniques and plans by certain teams and they don't come close to the scouting methods we use.

"We have some teams scouted up to three and four weeks in advance, providing we get that far," he said.

"The assignments are made with travel and convenience in mind on behalf of our scouts. We have four scouting groups."

Most of the scouts see up to 15 games a year, usually following the same team.

"My satisfaction comes from just knowing that we are doing something to help the kids," said Redshaw. "We are in charge of simply breaking down the opposing team for our varsity coaches and giving them the most thorough scouting assignment we can."

See SCOUTS, Page 5B

Scouts

From Page 1B

"I feel like it is certainly a big part of the organization," said Pitcock. "I've been in football for many years and it doesn't replace being with your team all year, but it is a big help for our players and coaches and I feel good about that."

Success for a scout can be judged in many different ways, but Horton believes that in some instances scouting can be the difference between winning and losing.

"It's a lot of work and the road gets long, but knowing that what we do can sometimes have a bearing on

the outcome makes it all worthwhile," said Horton.

Former VHS offensive lineman William Davis said his background is helpful in scouting an opponent.

"I think having some type of athletic background of any kind can be helpful to someone who is a scout, and in my case, it certainly helps being a former football player," said Davis. "We put a lot in it. But you have to if you want to get the most out of it. That's what we are trying to do. Give the coaches something they can go by or build on in preparation for a specific team."

Class AAAA State Tickets Going Fast

Wed. Dec. 13, 1989

VDT

There are only 2,400 tickets remaining for Saturday's Class AAAA state football championship game between the Valdosta Wildcats and the Clarke Central Gladiators.

Tickets can be purchased from the VHS Superintendent's Office on the corner of Williams and Ann Street from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. through Friday.

All tickets are general admission and a sellout is expected for the ninth meeting between the two schools.

The prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

The Valdosta High tickets have their own color code on them, however, they are marked for Friday, Dec. 15 in Athens.

The game is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday night, Dec. 16 in Athens at Clarke Central High School.

VHS fans are urged to disregard the pre-date information posted on the tickets.

Tickets can also be purchased at the gate on gameday, but the price will be \$5.00 at the gate.

Clarke Central officials have stated that the gates will open on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

VHS Wrestlers

Win Duel Meet

By Staff Reports

VDT

Wed. Dec. 13, 1989

Valdosta High's wrestling team swept a pair of matches from Westover High School and Dougherty High School Tuesday night at the VHS gymnasium.

The Wildcats defeated Westover, 61-9, and Dougherty, 58-18.

Valdosta is now 4-0 on the year and will next take part in the Cook High Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15-16.

In the match against the Westover Patriots, Valdosta recorded wins from Tim Garmon by decision in the 103-pound division, Chris Thigpin (119) by pin, Steve Peterman (130) by pin, Justin Bridges (135) on a .23 pin, Jason Finland (140) on a 1:30 pin, Chuck Bonner (145) with a .43 pin, Jason Griffin (152) by pin, John Ramney (160) by decision, Andrew Denmark (171) by pin, Ryan Moorman (189) by pin and heavyweight Derrick Phillips by decision. The Wildcats were led in the

Dougherty match by Garmon by decision, Thigpin by pin, Peterman by pin, Bonner by pin, Griffin by pin, Ramney on a .32 pin, Moorman on a .29 pin and Phillips by decision. Patriots 42, Vikings 33; Trojans 41, Vikings 36

The Lowndes High Vikings' wrestling squad dropped a pair of matches to Westover and Dougherty at the VHS gymnasium.

Dougherty defeated LHS, 41-36, while Westover scored a 42-33 win over the Vikings.

The Vikings had six wrestlers win matches against Dougherty High including Tom Barker, of the 125-pound division, with a .35 pin, Bryan Rice (135) with a .38 pin, Chuck Pearson (140) with a .52 pin, Jamie Lamon (145) by pin, Waymond Wright (160) by forfeit, John David (171) by decision.

Against the Westover Patriots, Lowndes had wins from David Black (103) by forfeit, Barbary Singletary (119) by forfeit, Barker by pin, Rice by pin, Pearson by pin and Wright by pin.



Pinning Move

VHS' Chris Thigpin puts Westover Patriots' wrestler in a pinning position. Thigpin pinned Westover's Will Creech in the second

period of a match at Valdosta High School Tuesday night. For complete results see page 3B — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Henderson Eyes Valdosta Game

1989
Thurs., Dec. 14, 1989

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

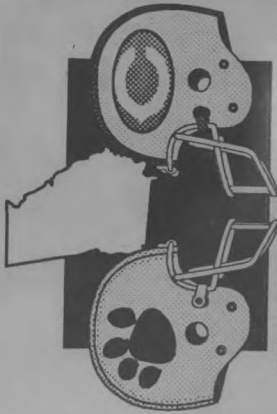
ATHENS — When it comes to winning football games in Georgia, Billy Henderson takes a backseat to no one.

Henderson is in his 29th year of coaching, which includes 234 victories and a state championship victory over the Valdosta Wildcats in 1977.

Henderson's rise to football fame did not begin under the tall pines at Memorial Stadium in Athens.

From the age of 13, the Macon native had his future planned.

"There were two things in my life I knew I wanted to be when I grew up. One was to be a major league baseball player and the other was to be a football coach," said Henderson. "When I was 13-years-old, I told my mom that I was going to be a baseball player. And if I couldn't do that, I'd be a coach for anybody who would give me a chance. In both areas you have to prove yourself before you can ever hope to



Valdosta vs. Clarke Central
AAAA STATE

CHAMPIONSHIP

advance."

After graduation from the University of Georgia, Henderson played two years in the Chicago Cubs' farm system. Then he became an assistant football coach under John 'Stooge' Davis at Jefferson High School in Macon.

The coaching road saw Henderson go from Jefferson to Athens High School (now Clarke Central,) to Furman University and then the

See Henderson, page 6B

Slow Start Did Not

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

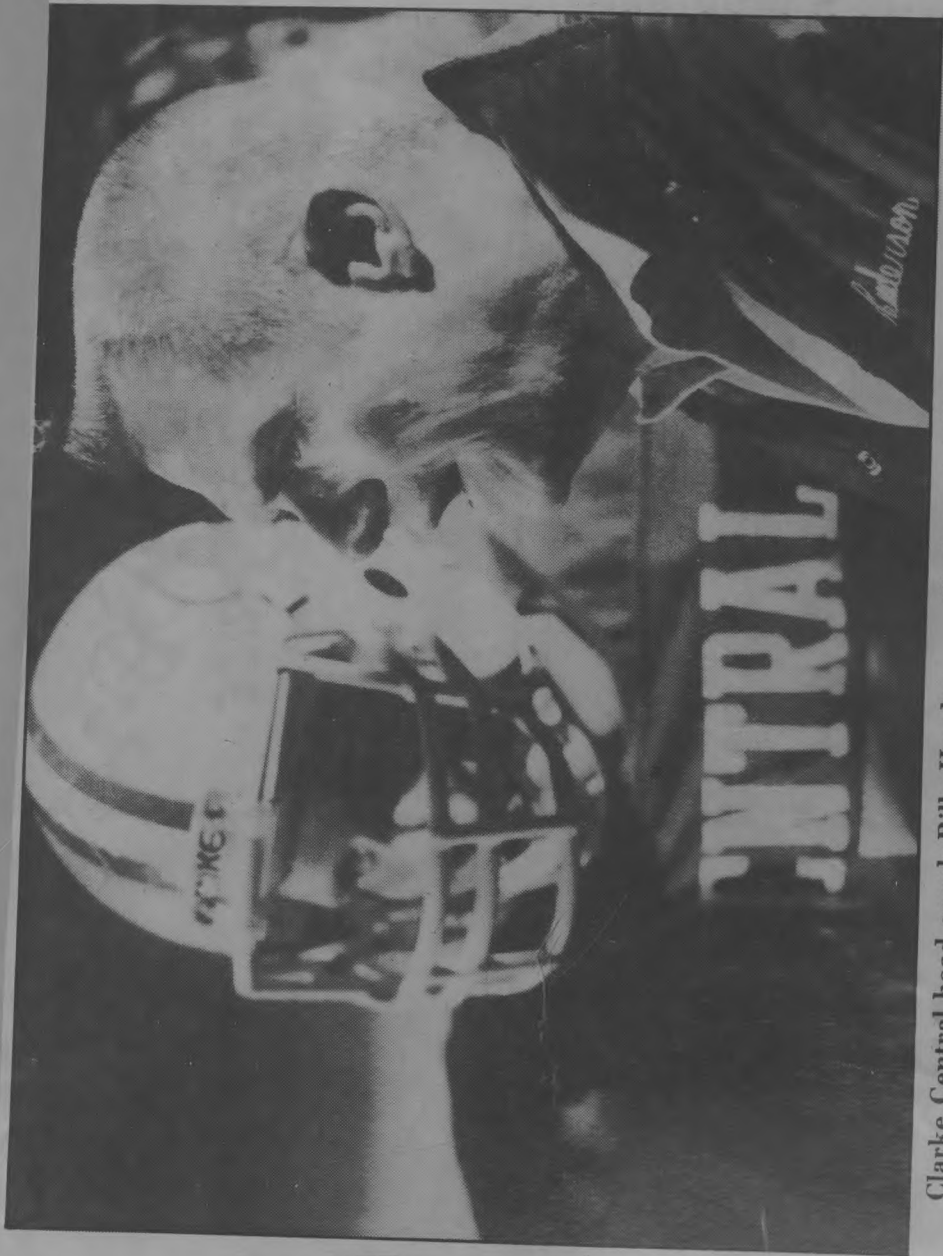
For the Clarke Central Gladiators, the state championship football game has become a commonplace occurrence.

However, four games into the 1989 season, Billy Henderson's Gladiators were, 1-3. But a forfeit and ten wins later, the Gladiators will be playing in their fourth title game in the past six years.

"Our season did not start off good

and some people were saying that we were in an off-year. But I knew we were playing some pretty good football against some pretty good teams in Cedar Shoals (who Clarke Central later defeated by forfeit) and R.E. Lee out of Montgomery, Alabama," said Henderson. "We just got whipped by some people early on and the rest of the state I guess put us to rest.

"But the kids rallied behind the fact that we got off to such a slow start and were determined to have a



Clarke Central head coach Billy Henderson gives instructions to a player during the

Gladiators' 1986 state championship game against Valdosta — Special To The Times.

Throw Gladiators Off Track

Valdosta has no merit as far as I'm concerned. Even though we have some seniors on this year's team who were freshmen in '86, it doesn't have any bearing on the outcome of Saturday's game."

Freeman is the team's leading rusher with a 4.5 average, including a 5-yard scoring jaunt with 2:44 remaining in last week's North Georgia championship game which lifted the Gladiators over Southwest DeKlab, 21-20.

Joining Freeman in the Clarke

Central backfield is senior fullback Kenny Register (6-0, 190).

The Gladiator offense is led by senior quarterback Wesley Middlebrooks (5-9, 160).

Middlebrooks' targets on passing routes are split end Clay McElroy (6-2, 165), flanker Robert Edmonds (6-1, 170) and wide receiver Brian Taylor (5-10, 167).

The Clarke Central defense is led by defensive end Charles Gladden (6-0, 170) and defensive tackle Chris Cannon (6-1, 195).

Bigger Not Always Better For VHS

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Football fans who take a look at the Valdosta High program and then look at the Wildcats' defensive statistics must be rubbing their eyes. The VHS defensive line that has harassed opposing quarterbacks with their ferocious pass rush all season averages 196 pounds per player.

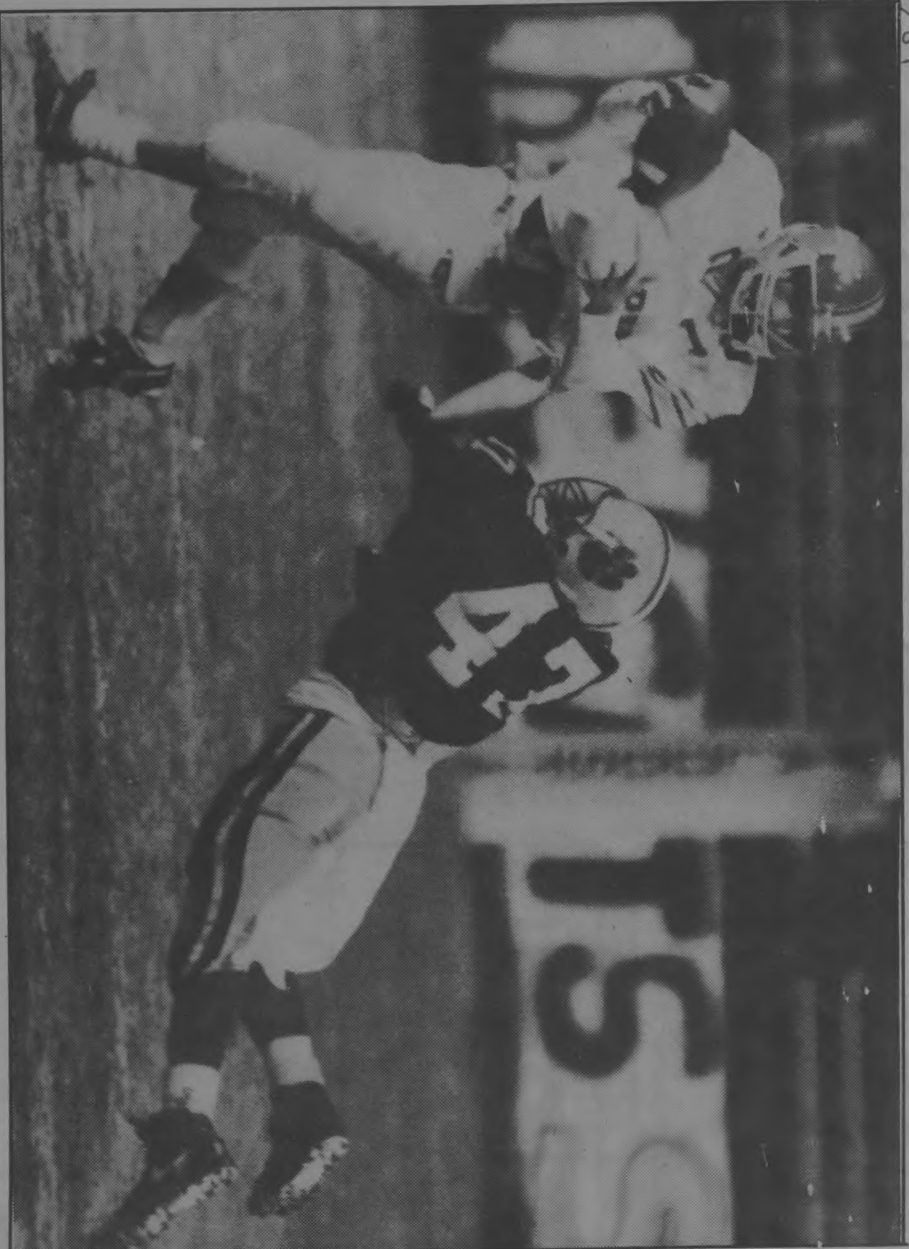
Ten years ago, that kind of size would have been above average. But these days, most offensive lines average well over 200 pounds. So if Valdosta has been outweighed in nearly every single game they have played, how have they become so successful?

"A lot of times, people tend to dwell on size, but this group has great enthusiasm," said VHS defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph. "The chemistry of these kids who have played together for awhile is a great intangible. There's been a real desire for them to do well."

This Saturday night in the AAAA state championship game, the Wildcats will face a Clarke Central offensive line that averages about 235 pounds. So far, the VHS defense has met every challenge they've faced and because of that, head coach Nick Hyder said he has all the faith in the world in his defensive front five.

"They're a pretty tough bunch. I think they would play with bones sticking out of their legs. If I was going into battle, I would want them with me," Hyder said.

The starting front five is made up of four seniors and one sophomore.



Senior defensive end Fred Henton has given opposing quarterbacks problems all year with their relentless pass rush — File Photo/Mike Tanner.

All have similar qualities, but Rudolph evaluated each in a different way.

Senior noseguard Andre Hampton — "A big surprise this year. Has utilized his speed so that he has been able to make a lot of plays

other, noseguards usually don't make."

Senior defensive tackle Robert Fillmore — "He's been a big play player for us. He may not be a fast as some of the other ones, but he's probably the quickest. That has

enabled him to get into the opposing backfields a lot this year."

Senior defensive tackle George Copeland — "He's been our most dependable lineman, especially during the latter part of the year. Game See Wildcats, page 3B

Wildcats Continue To Win, Sweep Hamilton

By Staff Reports

Jason King's 19 points led the Valdosta Wildcat basketball team to their sixth consecutive win as they rolled past the Hamilton County Trojans 91-51 at Valdosta High School Wednesday night.

In the girls' game, the Lady Wildcats got 24 points from Cassandra Twine to grab a big lead early as they edged the Lady Trojans, 53-48. In the boys' game, Valdosta jumped out to an early 21-9, first

period lead and never looked back. They built the lead to 49-30 by intermission.

"Our team played a lot better than the last time we played a game," said VHS head coach John Miller. "We shot the ball better from the line and our inside game, especially our rebounding, has improved."

James Manning and Ernest Lowe had 14 points for VHS while Spencer Iverson scored 12. Other scorers included Michael Moore with eight, Major Lynn with seven. Eddie

Emmanuel with five and Corey Brazeal, Fred Brown and Farrell Scott with four.

The Lady Wildcats started quick and went up on Hamilton 16-8. But they let that lead slip away in the second period and the Lady Trojans tied the game 21-21 at halftime.

The turning point in the game was the big run by the Lady Wildcats in the third quarter. They upped their lead to 20 points before they began substituting in the fourth. "I was proud of the way we came

back and played well in the third quarter," said VHS girls' coach Susan Montgomery. "What I hate is that we lost the big lead we got early in the game. Good teams don't let up like that and we just can't have that."

Montgomery added that Twine is continuing to play well as is her entire inside game and the play of her guards.

to her. Esther (Benjamin) also played well and that's our bread and butter. If we can get the ball into them, they can score. Tonight Cassandra could get down low and post up and do what she does best."

Valdosta's next game will be Friday at 6 p.m. in the Albany High School Holiday Tournament against the state's No. 1-ranked team, the Westover Patriots. The Lady Wildcats will also participate in the tournament and they will play Friday at 4:30 against the Lady Patriots.

Wildcats

From page 2B

In and game out, he grades out higher than any of our other linemen."

Senior defensive end Fred Henton — "He's the rock that stabilizes the whole group. A very enthusiastic player. A super athlete."

Sophomore defensive end Dexter Daniels — "He's the youngest of the bunch. He's been working hard all year to improve and it's worked. He should continue to get even better."

Along with their enthusiasm, the front five has utilized their tremendous speed to stop opposing offenses cold. Three of the starters, Hampton, Fillmore and Henton, are members of the VHS 440 relay team. Copeland said that this weekend's clash with the Gladiators is especially important since it will be the last time the seniors will play a high school game.

"We all want to go out with a bang and the way to do that is to play together. Clarke Central has got some big backs. They look like James and Isaac (former VHS running backs James Roberts and Isaac Caesar). This will be the toughest team we've faced this year, but we are going to try as hard as we can," Copeland said.

VHS Not Short On Support

Wildcat Cheerleaders Do The Job

By FRANCES GOLIVESKY
Times Lifestyles Writer

Similar to the many groups at Moody Air Force Base whose job it is to support the fighter pilots, the Valdosta High School cheerleaders use "support the team" as their job description.

As outlined by Meredith Stanaland, cheerleader captain and three-year varsity veteran, the cheerleaders support the team, get others to support the team, promote school spirit and set a role model for other students.

"We're here to support the team and create a good relationship between the players and the school," she said.

Secret Pals, a program adopted by the cheerleaders this year, is helping not only to create a good relationship between the players and cheerleaders, but to enable the players to feel good about the job they are doing for the school.

"Jana Whitehead, our sponsor, really brainstormed this idea," said Miss Stanaland. "Through this, we've tried to motivate the players."

"With Secret Pals, we've tried to build their spirits," said Bayh Brindger, co-captain and a three-year varsity cheerleader. "We've encouraged them and let them know we're thinking about them each, personally," she said.

"We let them know even if they don't play well, we care."

Secret Pals is an anonymous program in which each cheerleader has five or six players to "remember" each week they play a game.

"Each one of us makes things like cookies, cupcakes, write notes, give candy, and sometimes balloons to the boys during the week," said Paige Stabell, another three-year varsity veteran. "We've gotten closer to each other. We've learned something about the players we didn't know before."

The three girls will be cheering their last game Saturday night. Understandably, they have mixed emotions about that. They already have had their final game at Cleveland Field, and they said they were sad. Their hearts will have a tinge of sadness as they approach this final game for the state championship, but they also will be full of anxiety.

However, cheering and rousing the crowd demands the cheerleading squad be upbeat for the game. So they tell the guys to do the best they can, and that "we'll still love them if they don't win."

While their hearts will be warm, the weather is expected to be cold in Athens.

"I think about how cold it is supposed to be," said Miss Stanaland. "But I also think about how I started high school as a junior varsity cheerleader when we won the state championship, and I certainly would like to leave my high school career with a state championship, too."



The Valdosta High cheerleading squad prepares for their final game of the year. The cheerleaders' job goes past entertaining the crowd from the sidelines — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Nichols' Uneasy About Last Game

Friday, Dec 15, 1999
 By CHRIS BECKHAM
 Times Sports Writer



Valdosta High quarterback Alton Hitson rolled to his right during Thursday afternoon's practice and released his pass. The ball was tipped by one receiver at the 2-yard line and caught by another in the corner of the end zone.

The unusual play received some claps from other players and it put a little excitement in the daily Wildcat practice routine. But one of the biggest smiles belonged to an admirer who was not wearing a single pad. He had a different respect for that kind of play.

When the Wildcats were preparing for their season last spring, Jason Nichols was the only player who would have made that play. Nichols was the only healthy quarterback VHS had and he entered the preseason football camp as the starter.

Then, it happened. On the first day of camp, Nichols moved out of the pocket and rolled to his right. Instead of throwing the ball away, he decided to run and, as he planted his left leg, was hit. The leg snapped and so did his dream of becoming the next Valdosta High quarterback.

That was nearly four months ago. Nichols has missed the first fourteen games of his last year in high school and he is trying to prepare himself to miss the fifteenth. The AAAA state championship game against Clarke Central High School this Saturday night in Athens. This was the game that Nichols has hoped the Wildcats would be in for the past five years and finally, he will be there to realize his dream.

From the sidelines. "I looked up to all of the former Valdosta quarterbacks. I figured out that this season, if we made it to the state championship, we would be playing up north," Nichols said. "Five years ago, I planned that I would be the one to take the Wildcats up north and bring one home. It's hard to just sit back and watch."

Nichols has been on the Wildcats' sidelines all year, watching his team play game after game. His team won all but one regular season game and averaged that loss to Colquitt County in the region championship. His team was featured nationally on "20/20", the ABC television news magazine. His team is preparing to play for Valdosta's 20th state championship.

But Nichols admitted that sometimes he doesn't feel like it is his team at all.

"Every now and then, I feel like I'm kind of left out of everything. But anyone would feel like that. I get a lot of enjoyment out of watching my teammates and the other seniors do well," Nichols said. "When I was playing, I didn't realize how much talent I had around me. But watching them from the outside, I get a better look. There are some very talented players on our offense."

Injuries are a constant in football at any level. And Nichols is reminded of his every day that he puts on a brace instead of putting on his cleats. He is also reminded of how his season, and high school career, ended.

"I think about that play at least ten times every day. I think of what would've happened if I had ran a different way or if I had thrown it out of bounds or if I would've been sacked. But then I think that it could've happened on the very next play," Nichols said.

Nichols' replacement as the starter has been junior Alton Hitson. Hitson was moved from his wide receiver position after Nichols' injury and has started every game. Nichols has been able to watch his former receiver guide the team into the state championship contest. Hitson's performance has drawn a big thumbs up from Nichols.

"Alton's just a great athlete. When the offense has a bad series or something, a lot of people will ask me if I thought I could've done better," Nichols said. "He could've been pushing me for my job if he had been at quarterback."

Nichols said that near the beginning of the season, he would have dreams about being the quarterback of the Wildcats. His team would win. He said those dreams sparked his hope that, if Valdosta made it to the state championship, he might be able to play. But he realized that those dreams would not come true.

"I realized that I wouldn't be able to play in the state championship. But I'll be there watching. And I'll be rooting for the team like crazy," Nichols said. "And if they win, no one will be happier than me."

CLARKE CENTRAL

MILLEDGE AVE.

ATHENS

HWY 129

THE ROAD TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Not Many Tickets Left

There are only 600 adult and 500 student tickets remaining for Saturday's Class AAAA state football championship game between the Valdosta Wildcats and the Clarke Central Gladiators.

Tickets can be purchased from the VHS Superintendent's Office on the corner of Williams and Ann Street from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. through Friday.

All tickets are general admission and a sellout is expected for the ninth meeting between the two schools.

The prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

The Valdosta High tickets have their own color code on them, however, they are marked for Friday, Dec. 15 in Athens.

The game is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday night, Dec. 16 in Athens at Clarke Central High School.

VHS fans are urged to disregard the pre-date information posted on the tickets.

Tickets can also be purchased at the gate on gameday, but the price will be \$5.00 at the gate.

Clarke Central officials have stated that the gates will open on Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Jason Nichols watches the Wildcats practice Thursday afternoon. Although his year ended prematurely, he has confidence that his team will end their season with a win Saturday night — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

PICKING THE CHAMPION

Gladiators get the nods over 'Cats

By Lawrence Dennis

Nick Hyder likes to say this Valdosta team has developed its own personality.

Though the Wildcat coach doesn't say as much, the truth is that the personality of this team can be pretty easily summed up.

It doesn't have an abundance of talent and it's not huge. For all the talk about how physical the Wildcats are, they haven't really overpowered many people.

The backbone, the defense, though not big, has been exceptional. The offense, though bigger than the defense, has been adequate, at best.

In fact, many Valdosta fans believe that talent-wise, the 1987 and '88 teams that lost in the quarterfinals had more business being in the state championship game than this club.

That's the personality of this team — it manages to win somehow, even when it has no business winning.

But as Hyder says, the Wildcats haven't faced anyone like Clarke Central this year.

It could come down to a field goal, and if it does, the Gladiators have an ace-in-the-hole in Eric Smith, who has kicked a 57-yarder this year.

On that basis, and on the premise that heart can only overcome talent so many times ... **CENTRAL 10, VALDOSTA 6.**

Sports writer Lawrence Dennis covers high school football in South Georgia for The Florida Times-Union.

By Steven Colquitt

Clarke Central coach Billy Henderson is basically an open-book kind of guy. He has always worn a crew-cut, he has always run a Power-I offense and he has always built up the opposing team with lines like "They could

break the long one at any time."

But sometimes, just sometimes, Henderson's open-book nature shines through even more. Twice, he has proclaimed opponents as looking "like a pro team" — the 1986 Valdosta team and the 1987 Montgomery (Ala.) R.E. Lee team. After those proclamations, the Gladiators went out and got thumped 28-0 against Valdosta and 31-7 against Lee.

This time around, though, there have been no "pro team" comparisons made. Henderson certainly respects Valdosta, but is not as fearful (for lack of a better word) of the Wildcats as he was in 1986. Rather, Henderson has prepared for this one like it was any other game.

He has had fun this week.

"We've worked too hard to come up short now," he told his players after a rain-soaked practice session Tuesday. He punctuated the statement by taking play-diagram cards and tearing them up. "These Xs and Os don't mean a thing. You [the players] do."

By the way — as a testament to the looseness of the players and coaches — that practice ended with the Gladiators doing belly-flop slides along the wet field and even down a small hill. *Fun stuff.*

"We expect to be here every year," said Henderson, who has guided Central to the playoffs for 15 straight years. "We instill that in our players from the beginning. It's a new experience everyday. The games are intense and the pleasure is the everyday association with people."

Also, Central has been a dominant home team. Clarke Central was won three state championships, and in each of those years (1977, 1979, 1985), the Gladiators won the title game playing at home. That adds up to ... **CENTRAL 17, VALDOSTA 14.**

Steven Colquitt is assistant sports editor of the Athens Banner-Herald.

VALDOSTA'S SEASON

VALDOSTA 34, CAMDEN COUNTY 0 — The Wildcats opened the season against a respectable Class AAA team with a win that wasn't as one-sided as the score indicated. The defense held Camden to minus-27 yards offense and no first downs and made 11 tackles for losses, but Valdosta only led 14-0 going into the final period.

VALDOSTA 24, GREENE-TALIAFERRO 0 — The Wildcat defense dominated, limiting the Class AA Tigers to two first downs and 57 yards' total offense, all on the ground. Greene-Taliaferro played Valdosta tough on defense, stopping the Wildcats twice in fourth-and-short situations. Quarterback Alton Hiltson threw a 27-yard TD pass to Tracy Smothers, fullback Carlos Parker scored twice on runs and Dow Drury kicked a 32-yard field goal.

VALDOSTA 41, WAYCROSS 18 — The Class AA Bulldogs became the first team to score on Valdosta and the only team during the season to score three touchdowns, all in the first half on passes of 69, 92 and 10 yards. Valdosta scored three first-half TDs on two Parker runs and then won going away in the second half.

VALDOSTA 35, NORTHSIDE 0 — Parker ripped the defense of the Class AAA Eagles from Warner Robins for 229 yards and three touchdowns, all three scores and 197 yards in the first half. The defense held Northside to 42 yards rushing and 42 passing.

VALDOSTA 38, STATESBORO 7 — The Wildcats fell behind the Class AAA Blue Devils early 7-0 after fumbling at their 8, but led 14-7 at the half and blew Statesboro out in the second half. The scores included a 57-yard pass from backup QB Deric Cotton to Carlos Folsom and a 32-yard Joe Wright punt return. Parker finished with 147 yards, while the defense held Devil running back Tony Grant to 89 yards on 21 carries. Grant finished the second-leading rusher in the state with 2,190 yards.

VALDOSTA 23, BAINBRIDGE 0 — The Wildcat defense held Bainbridge to 14 yards' total offense, minus-25 on the ground, and intercepted three passes in the Region 1-AAAA (South) opener. Parker rushed for 116.

COLQUITT COUNTY 7, VALDOSTA 0 — The defense, as usual, was outstanding — the Packers only got beyond their own 40 once, but scored on a 37-yard pitch back sweep in the fourth quarter. The Wildcats, who had earlier wasted two scoring opportunities deep in Packer territory, tore down the field to a first down at the Colquitt 25. But a Hiltson pass was intercepted with less than a minute left and the Packers were intercepted with less than a minute left and the Packers held on to hand Valdosta its first regular-season shutout at Cleveland Field since 1974, Hyder's first year.

VALDOSTA 14, TIFT COUNTY 7 — A loss wouldn't necessarily have knocked Valdosta out of the region playoffs for the first time since 1974, but they could ill afford one with unbeaten Coffee and Crosstown archrival Lowndes coming up. They almost got it, when, with Valdosta leading 14-7 and a minute left, Tift running back Ricky Jennings either scored or fumbled before crossing the goal line after the Blue Devils recovered a Wildcat fumble and drove to the 1. The referee ruled it a fumble and Valdosta got the ball at its 20 and ran out the clock. Tift coach Gene Brodie appealed the decision to the Georgia High School Association, to no avail.

VALDOSTA 10, COFFEE 3 — A loss to the fourth-ranked and undefeated Trojans would definitely have eliminated the Wildcats, and with Coffee leading 3-0 at halftime, Valdosta was on the verge. But in the second half, a Carlos Moore punt return set the Wildcats up at the Coffee 12 and Parker scored on an option pitch.

VALDOSTA 17, LOWNDES 0 — The archrival Vikings played the Wildcats tough, but Hiltson hit Wright with a 37-yard scoring pass, Parker scored from 34 yards out and Drury hit a 25-yard field goal as the defense held Lowndes to 51 yards of total offense and Valdosta finished the regular season 9-1.

VALDOSTA 21, SHAW 12 — The Wildcats romped to a 21-0 halftime lead over the 1-AAAA (North) champions in Columbus, but Shaw took advantage of five turnovers in the second half to make it close. Moore's 86-yard touchdown punt return was the high point in a game Valdosta coach Nick Hyder called "ugly."

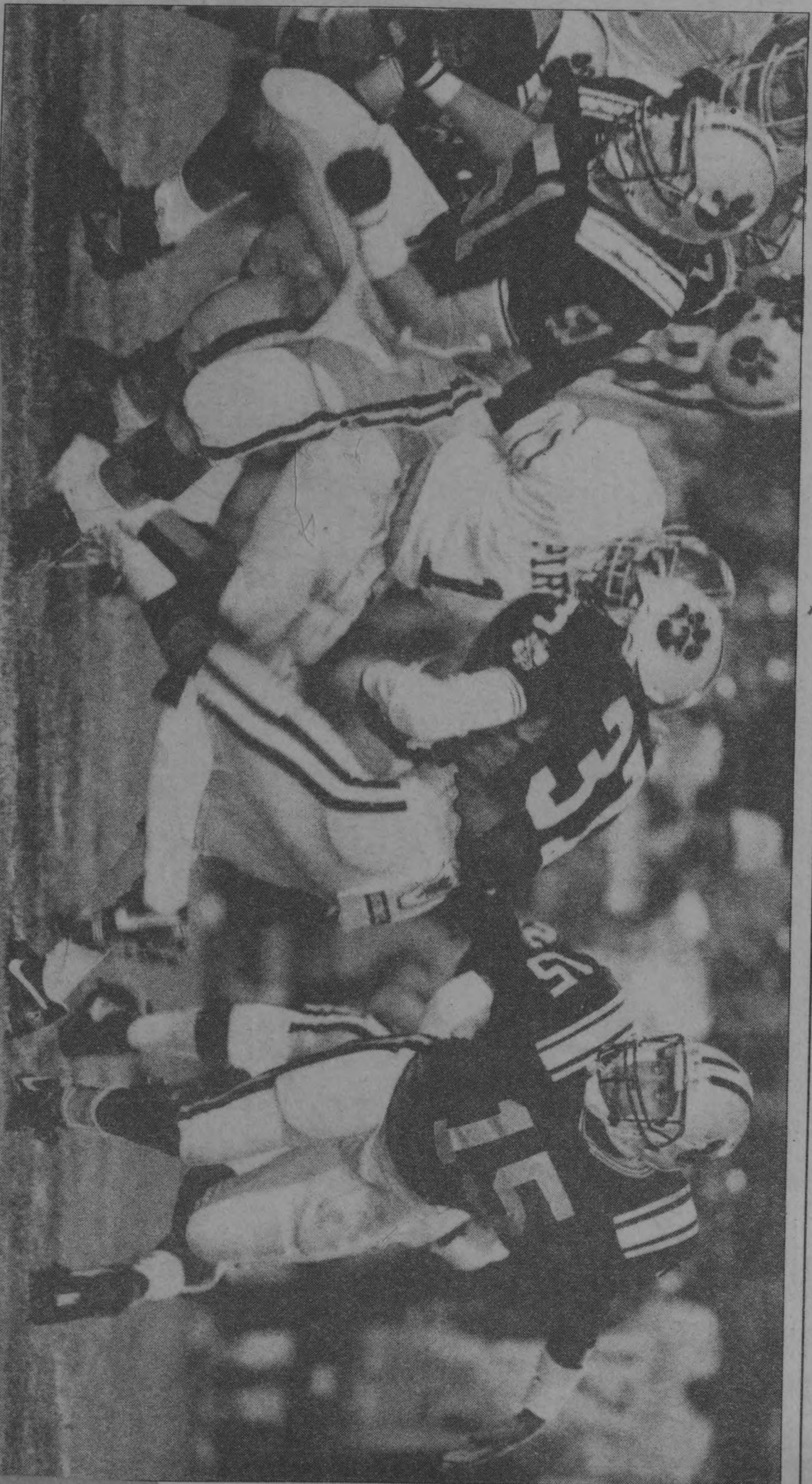
VALDOSTA 20, COLQUITT 7 — Valdosta dominated the first three quarters as the offense seemed to have found a new spark and the defense mercilessly harassed Packer quarterback Bucky Goff in the Region 1-AAAA title game in Moultrie. Goff threw a 53-yard TD pass early in the fourth period, but the defense shut down the Packer offense twice in the shadow of the Wildcat goal to preserve the victory and give Valdosta its 35th league title. Parker rushed for 103 yards and the defense sacked Goff four times.

VALDOSTA 42, BRUNSWICK 0 — The Wildcats took a 13-0 halftime lead over the Region 3-AAAA champion Pirates with two long drives and two defensive stands inside their 15 after a blocked punt and a 91-yard kickoff return. Valdosta exploded for 29 points in the second half. The defense held Brunswick to 18 yards total offense and one first down as Valdosta won its first state quarterfinal game since 1986.

VALDOSTA 24, LAGRANGE 13 — The defense faced its sternest test of the season in scrambling, passing Granger sophomore quarterback Rodney Hudson. The Wildcats drove 77 yards through the rain and mud for a score on their first possession, then scored again at the end of the first quarter after recovering a fumble at the LaGrange 25 and led 12-0. Hudson eluded a fierce rush to hit on a 47-yard scoring pass, then the Grangers made it 13-12 with 15 seconds left in the half when they scored from a yard out after Valdosta fumbled at its 1.

The Wildcats scored on their first possession of the third quarter after Joe Wright set them up at the LaGrange 35 with a 54-yard kickoff return to make it 18-13. Middle guard Andre Hampton intercepted a desperation Hudson pass with 15 seconds left in the game and ran it back 56 yards to produce the final score. Valdosta sacked Hudson five times for 35 yards in losses, held him to 93 yards, 70 yards below his average, on six completions in 17 tries with two interceptions and limited the Grangers to 34 yards rushing, minus-31 in the second half. The Wildcats only threw one pass, on an unsuccessful two-point conversion try, as they won their seventh straight since the loss to Colquitt.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP '89: VALDOSTA-CENTRAL



Valdosta quarterback Alton Hitson (15) and tailback Chris Chachere (37) are major reasons why Valdosta is 13-1 and is playing in the state championship game. Hitson, a wide receiver, stepped in in August when scheduled starter Jason Nichols was lost for the season with a broken leg. Chachere, a reserve most of the season, has come on strong in the four playoff games. Blocking is senior guard Jason Peters (51).

Central's size, quickness

Worry Valdosta's Hyder

Florida Times

By Lawrence Dennis

Sports writer

ATHENS, Ga. — Tonight's Class AAAA state championship game between old state-title rivals Valdosta and Clarke Central could be seen as a classic example of an old philosophical dilemma.

The one about the irresistible force and the immovable object.

But Valdosta coach Nick Hyder is afraid that the irresistible force — Central's offense — may be too strong for the so-far immovable object — the Wildcats' defense.

"We haven't faced anyone like them," said the Valdosta coach, who hopes to lead the Wildcats to their 20th state title since 1940 and his fifth since coming to the school in 1974. "We haven't played a team with two big, fine running backs like them or with an offensive line as big and fast as them."

It's no secret that Valdosta has lived by its defense this year on the way to its 13-1 record and its 23rd state championship berth.

"Everybody we've talked to says this is an outstanding defensive team that has carried them all year," said Gladiator coach Billy Henderson, now in his 17th year at Central and going for his fourth state title. "It'll be a great challenge for our offensive team."

The Gladiator offense, led by the big running backs, 215-pound junior tailback Carlos Freeman and 230-pound senior fullback Kenneth Richardson, has met the challenges on the way to a 12-2 record.

Last week in the North Georgia championship game against previously unbeaten Southwest Dekalb, Central trailed 20-14 midway through the fourth period and rallied to win 21-20.

Valdosta's defense also met a challenge last week — holding LaGrange quarterback Rodney Hudson to 93 yards passing and sacking him five times for 35 yards in losses to beat the Grangers 24-13. Hudson

this year to do so.

But quickness, not size, has been the reason for Valdosta's defensive success. The Wildcat defensive line averages about 190, compared to a Central offensive front that averages about 235.

End Frederick Henton and middle guard Andre Hampton weigh in at 190, while tackle Robert Fillmore is only 180 and Marcus Moss, the other end, is only 160. The biggest player on the line is tackle and defensive co-captain George Copeland, who's 215.

The Valdosta linebackers, who often cheat up to play almost as standup linemen, are bigger. Anthony Williams, a four-year starter and a Florida Times-Union Super 11 presaison selection, is one of the biggest players on the team at 245, while Bruce Daniels is 215.

The Wildcat offensive line is bigger, averaging about 230.

It has been particularly effective in the playoffs opening holes for Valdosta's primary offensive threat, fullback Carlos Parker. The 190-pound senior has speed and statistics similar to Freeman's — 1,548 yards on 264 carries for 22 touchdowns, including 107 yards and a score in last week's win over LaGrange.

The other Wildcat running backs, Joe Wright and Chris Chachere, have rushed for 398 and 363 yards, respectively, while quarterback Alton Hitson has just 236 yards, but has been relatively effective in the playoffs on option keeps.

Hitson has completed 39 of 77 passes for 540 yards.

Valdosta has averaged 252 yards a game, 191 rushing, and Central's first priority is to stop the run.

"We're going to try and shut down their running attack," said senior tackle McAllister Stephens, a three-year starter who's one of the biggest Central defenders at 235 pounds. "I hope the offense can get some touchdowns if we hold them down."

■ We haven't faced anyone like them. We haven't played a team with two big, fine running backs like them or with an offensive line as big and fast as them."

— Valdosta's Nick Hyder

came into the game with 2,137 yards passing and 601 rushing.

But as Hyder said, Valdosta still hasn't come across a pair of backs like Freeman and Richardson.

Freeman has rushed for 1,572 yards on 308 carries and 19 touchdowns. He has rushed for 100 yards or more in eight of Central's 14 games. Richardson has gained 522 yards on 94 carries and has scored five TDs.

Though Henderson had rather run than pass — the Gladiators have 2,512 yards on the ground and 1,193 in the air — Central has a competent passer. Quarterback Wesley Middlebrooks (165, Sr.) has completed 40 of 83 with three interceptions for 805 yards and nine scores.

The main reason for that offensive proficiency, and what worries Hyder most, is the Central offensive line, led by 250-pound senior tackle Kevin Morse, 255-pound junior tackle Charles Sheats and 235-pound senior center Matt Messer.

"Morse runs a 4.7 40 and benches 450 pounds," the Valdosta coach said. "We don't have anybody on the field like that."

The Wildcat defense has held opponents to 392 yards rushing and 857 passing — an average of 89 total yards — and 5.2 points a game. And if Freeman does rush for 100 yards tonight, he'll be the first back

It's going to be cold tonight

12-16-89

From staff

The Atlanta National Weather Service office forecast for Athens yesterday called for rain turning to snow or sleet last night and temperatures in the low 20s.

Highs are forecast for today in the mid-30s with sunny skies.

The forecast for tonight's 8 o'clock kickoff is for north-northeast winds of 10-12 mph and tem-

peratures in the mid-to-upper 20s, dropping to the teens by the end of the game, with a possibility of single-digit lows early tomorrow morning.

The playing surface at Central's Death Valley Stadium is expected to be frozen over by game time.

Little chance of precipitation is predicted for tonight or tomorrow.

Monday
December 25, 1989

Merry Christmas

Indians Contact Wildcats

By Staff Reports

The McEachern Indians have joined the list of possible opponents on the Valdosta High Wildcats' football schedule for next season.

No contracts have been exchanged or signed, but the Indians and Wildcats have discussed the possibility of playing for the next two years.

"We are simply negotiating with them, along with several other schools for possible games next year," said VHS head football coach Nick Hyder. "Nothing else can be done at this point and time other than just talks among the interested schools.

"The time for possible contract settlements, I think, is in late February," he added. "We are just looking into possible games with those who are interested."

Earlier this month, the Valdosta squad came to a verbal agreement with R.E. Lee High School, of Montgomery, Ala., to play the next two seasons.

Among some of the other schools interested in playing the Wildcats next football season include the Camden County Wildcats and Columbia High School, of Lake City, Florida.

Mon
Dec 25 1990 VOT

New Year's Greetings

4-B Friday, January 12, 1990

The Valdosta Daily Times

Valdosta High Has Busy Wrestling Weekend

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High Wildcats' wrestling team will be put through the paces this weekend with two days of activities.

Tonight, they will go against the Central High Yellow Jackets beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the VHS gymnasium. They will also be one of four teams competing in a multi-team meet Saturday at VHS.

John Davis' Wildcats have enjoyed an impressive season to this point, winning eight times and losing only once — to McEachern, the defending Class AAAA state champions. Davis, however, is not banking on an area or state championship just yet.

"Right now, our wrestlers are improving each day and are where I had hoped they'd be at this point

and time. But every meet's a new situation with new wrestlers and we have a long way to go," said Davis. "Our wrestlers are just trying to reach their full potential. This is the time of year where every single match is important. And we've been pretty lucky to have the type of senior leadership that is needed to go a long way in wrestling, and give the younger wrestlers encouragement."

Tonight's opponent will be the Central High Yellow Jackets (2-5), coached by Darryl Dean. The Yellow Jackets are in their first year of competition under Dean and their lone victories have come against Albany High and Irwin County.

"We know that you don't take any one lightly in wrestling. We've seen Central in the Cook tournament earlier this year and they have some

good athletes," said Davis. "One match, one point here or there could be a big difference. So, we try to prepare for each match and do not spend much time comparing records."

Although Central's Dean feels his team's chances for victory are slim against VHS, his team will be competitive.

"They're a great wrestling team. Probably the best in southwest Georgia. We are going to be competitive and our kids are looking forward to wrestling a great program such as Valdosta," said Dean. "They will certainly be the best we've seen all year. They have already beaten every team we've faced. They are simply a quality wrestling team and it will be an honor for us to get that sort of mat experience against them."

The probable Valdosta wrestling lineup includes Tim Garland (103), Ryan Thiggin (112), Chris Thiggin (119), Scott Jones (125), Steve Peterman (130), Justin Bridges (135), Jason Finland (140), Chuck Bonner (145), Maurice Dean (152), John Ramey or Jason Griffin (160), Derrick Phillips (171), Ryan Moorman (189) and heavyweight Eric Phillips.

Central High's probable lineup includes Chris MacRae (103), Ben MacRae (112), Chad Morris (119), Mike Quick (125), Dana Rolland (130), Israel Gomez (135), Levi Alday (140), Harold Dillard (145), Donnell Green (152), Desmond Bell (160), Rick Dunn (171), Jonathan Davis (189) and heavyweight James Diggs.

Saturday's meet will include host Valdosta, Lowndes High, Coffee High and Fayette County from

Atlanta. Each squad will participate in three matches, which will begin at 3 p.m. There will be two mats for the meet.

At that time, Valdosta will wrestle Fayette County, while Lowndes takes on Coffee High.

At 4:30 p.m., Valdosta wrestles Lowndes, with Fayette and Coffee squaring off. The final matches will begin around 6 p.m. as Valdosta takes on Coffee and Lowndes meets Fayette County.

"This will be a first for us," said Lowndes High wrestling coach Jim Morrell. "I think we're going to like it and it will give the boys the chance to compete against strong competition. Everyone's guaranteed three matches and sometimes you get the chance to wrestle twice as a team at some meets. So, it will be

something we're looking forward to."

Lowndes' record on the year in regular team dual meets is 3-5.

LHS' probable starting lineup includes David Black (103), Sean Rodriguez or Robert McDougal (112), Barbary Singletary (119), the 125-pound class is undetermined, Brandon Powell (130), Bryan Rice (135), Chuck Pearson (140), the 145-pounder is undetermined, Mark Bagley, Jamie Lammon or Rod McDougal (152), Waymon Wright (160), Jeffrey Vickers or John Davis (171), Junior Westbury (189) and heavyweight Mike Crosby.

The Lowndes lineup is subject to change due to today's wrestle-offs.

Wildcats Miss Region Upset

VDT, Sat., Jan. 6, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Just one shot, just one pass, just one bounce ...
Only if the Valdosta High Wildcats could have had one of those go the right way at the right time in the fourth quarter Friday night against Bainbridge High.

Instead, the Wildcats fell short of what would have been the upset heard round South Georgia. Bainbridge left with a 79-74 prep basketball victory, salvaging a split in the Region 1-AAAA South doubleheader.

Valdosta High's girls improved to 7-2 overall, 1-1 in region play, with a 60-41 victory over Bainbridge.

The Wildcats' late rally fell short when Spencer Iverson's 3-pointer from the right corner with 19 seconds left was long. That would have tied the game; instead, Bainbridge (9-0) sank a late field goal for the final margin of victory.

Iverson's (22 points, three 3-pointers) late miss was the last of Valdosta's chances to either catch up with or go ahead of the visiting Cats.

Many came early in the fourth quarter, before Bainbridge broke out to a short-lived nine-point (72-63) lead with two minutes left.

"I can't say enough about those guys. We played a heck of a basketball game," Valdosta coach John Miller said. " (Bainbridge) are a very good basketball team. We had our shot at it if we could have got a big break."

Valdosta lived by the 3-pointer to make it close in the final two minutes. James Manning (17 points) made two long bombs, while Major Lynn (15 points) added another.

Iverson also had a 2-point basket.

"We did a super job of shooting 3-pointers and playing defense," said Miller. We were right there but we couldn't get that one little break right there."

Early in the fourth quarter, Valdosta had five chances to either tie

Boys Game
Bainbridge-Valdosta
BAINBRIDGE (79) — Willie Perry 34, Torrance Green 11, Antonio Jones 11, Charles Burke 10, Bernard Hamilton 6, David Curry 4, Willie West 3.
VALDOSTA (74) — Spencer Iverson 22, James Manning 17, Major Lynn 15, Michael Moore 13, Ernest Lowe 7.
Valdosta 21 20 17 21-79
Bainbridge 18 17 19 20-74
Next Game: Valdosta at Lowndes (Tue., Jan. 9).

Girls Game
Bainbridge-Valdosta — Renita Hines 19, Cynthia Butler 9, Lori Sandra Roberts 5, Mickie Humphrey 5, Tracy McCortney 4.
VALDOSTA (69) — Cassandra Twine 19, Ester Benjamin 17, Vashti Manning 12, Laura Dennis 7, Shannon West 3, DeDe Dennis 2.
Valdosta 93 87 12 19-41
Bainbridge 15 16 15 14-60
Records: Bainbridge 5-4, Valdosta 7-2.

the game or lead. The Wildcats missed on all five, beginning with a charging call on Lynn with 6:52 left. That wiped out a basket.

"That charging call was the key ... that took away a three-point play for us," said Miller.

A missed shot, traveling, and two more missed shots followed. Bainbridge was led by guard Willie Perry, who had his second straight post-Christmas 30-point game. This one was for 34 points, including 5-of-6 free throws down the stretch.

Not much else went right. "This has always been a hard place to play. We're a fast break team, a pressure team," said Bainbridge coach Larry Slaughter. "Give some credit to Valdosta's quickness. But we can't run our break on this carpet, and we can't press. It's the most horrible surface in America to me. It needs to be outlawed."

Michael Moore added 13 points for Valdosta (6-3 overall, 0-2 in region).

Valdosta girls coach Susan Montgomery may have gotten a late Christmas present from her Lady Cats. Valdosta used its height advantage to take a 31-10 lead by halftime, what Montgomery called her team's best half of the season.

"In the first half you couldn't ask for them to play better," she said.



Valdosta guard Vashti Manning drives past Cynthia Butler Friday night during the Lady

'Cats 60-41 win at Valdosta High — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

VDT, Sat., Jan. 6, 1990 Wildcats—

From page 1B

"Now they can't tell themselves that is not our type of team. We proved that."

Bainbridge didn't make its first field goal until the 1:32 mark of the first quarter, and had only three made field goals in the first half. Many of the shots were turned away by sophomore center Ester Benjamin (17 points).

Valdosta steadily built the lead to 26 points twice in the third quarter. Bainbridge, with Renita Hines scoring 12 of her 19 points, outscored the Lady Cats 19-14 in the last eight minutes.

Cassandra Twine led Valdosta with 19 points, 10 in the third quarter. Vashti Manning had 12 points.

Wildcats Return From Week-Long Layoff

By Greg McIlvain
Times Sports Editor

Don't be fooled. Maybe Valdosta High has played just one varsity basketball doubleheader in two weeks, but the Wildcats and Lady Wildcats have been busy.

Both boys' coach John Miller and girls' coach Susan Montgomery say they've put in a few new wrinkles for the last weeks of the season — beginning with back-to-back road games beginning tonight.

The Wildcats and Lady Wildcats play Region 1-AAAA South games tonight at Coffee County, then travel into Florida Saturday night to meet Hamilton County.

Valdosta has played just once since Jan. 13, but that game was a big one for John Miller's boys team. The Wildcats knocked off previously-unbeaten Bainbridge, 83-80, on the road.

It was VHS' first road win of the season, and its first subregion win. Miller also called it the program's biggest victory.

"I would have like to have played again after a win like that," said Miller. "We had a schedule problem there, and had the time off."

"Either it'll help us get our legs back under us or take our momentum away."

The girls lost a 48-47 decision on a made free throw with no time remaining.

"We've had some hard practices this week. We're going to give Coffee a new look; we're going to play man-to-man defense and catch

them off guard," said Montgomery. "We've had four strong days of practice this week."

"I think it has done us good to prepare ... and we were able to look at (Coffee) Tuesday night."

This is the first meeting between Valdosta and Coffee this season. The two teams meet again on Feb. 9 at VHS in the subregion finale.

The girls game pits two of the sub-region leaders. Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcats are 10-3 overall, 4-1 in the sub-region. Coffee, See VALDOSTA, Page 14B

Valdosta

From Page 1B

which blew past Lowndes Tuesday night, is 12-3 overall, 5-1 in the sub-region.

"It's real important. We can get an idea where we stand in the sub-region," Montgomery said. Both teams have lost to Bainbridge this season. "We're going up there to play as good as we can play. If we lose, it was because we got beat by a better team. We can't go up there and make a lot of mistakes, like we did at Bainbridge."

Valdosta's boys enter the game with an 8-5 record, 1-4 in the sub-region. Coffee, which lost to Lowndes Tuesday night, is 8-7 overall, 3-4 in the sub-region.

Valdosta has already beaten Hamilton County earlier this season. The boys won in a 91-51 rout with Jason

King scoring 19 points. Cassandra Twine had 24 points in the Lady Wildcats' 33-48 victory. VHS plays its first home game since a Jan. 5th game against Bainbridge on Tuesday night against in-county rival Lowndes.

VHS Adds On New Schools

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Three new opponents, two from the state of Alabama, the renewal of an old rivalry and a full slate of Region 1-AAAA games make up the 1990 and 1991 Valdosta High School football schedules.

The Wildcats open the 1990 season on Saturday, Sept. 1, against Powder Springs' McEachern High. The slate features six home games, including the Nov. 9 Winnersville Classic against Lowndes High.

McEachern won 12 straight games last year before losing in the quarterfinals, and has finished the regular season unbeaten the last three seasons. "They wanted to venture out and play more cross-state rivals," said Hyder.

Joining McEachern are two Alabama high schools with winning traditions — Bessemer's Jess Lanier and Montgomery's Robert E. Lee. All three schools are coming to Cleveland Field in both 1990 and 1991.

Lee won the Alabama Class-6A (largest classification) state title in 1986. It made at least the quarterfinals (two wins) each year from 1985 to 1988 before losing in the second round this season. It spent the early part of the 1989 season ranked No. 1 in the state.

Lanier, located near Birmingham, lost to eventual Class 6A state champion Anniston, 21-16, in this year's quarterfinals. Lanier made the 6A semifinals in 1987.

The two schools met for the 6A state title in 1986, when Lee won, 13-7. Lee also defeated Lanier last season, and will meet again to open their seasons on Sept. 7.

(Lee coach) Spence McCracken called us four years ago and wanted to play, but we didn't have any dates.

1990 Schedule

Sept. 1	McEachern (H)
Sept. 7	Camden Co. (H)
Sept. 14	Wayne Co. (A)
Sept. 21	Jess Lanier (AL) (H)
Sept. 28	Lee (AL) (H)
Oct. 12	Bainbridge (A)
Oct. 19	Colquitt (A)
Oct. 26	Tift (A)
Nov. 2	Coffee (H)
Nov. 9	Lowndes (H)

They called us two years ago and we had a date, but they didn't want to come down here twice," said Hyder. "He called this year and asked if we still had the same deal. We did."

Lee, Jess Lanier, Camden and McEachern will receive an \$8,000 guarantee each year to play in Valdosta for two years. That's double the usual guarantee visiting teams receive. "They do real well. They all agree," Hyder said.

Valdosta will play at Jessup's Wayne County on Sept. 14. It's the first time the schools have met since Wayne County won 15-14 in a 1975 South Georgia playoff game. The schools last met in the regular season in 1969, when Valdosta High recorded its fifth-straight shutout of Wayne, 34-0.

"Jessup and Valdosta have had a good record over the years, especially in the 1940s and 50s," said Hyder. "We could develop something real interesting."

St. Mary's Camden County enters its third year of a series with VHS. This opponent had been the Wildcats' opener the past two years, with victories of 31-14 and 34-0. As before, Camden County will come to Valdosta to play.

See SCHEDULE, Page 14B

Schedule

From Page 1B

After an open date on Oct. 5, the Wildcats open Region 1-AAAA play. Region games take on a different meaning this season, with the region champion receiving a bye into the 16-team state championship playoffs. The second- and third-place teams will meet on Nov. 16 or 17 to determine the region's No. 2 team into the playoffs.

"We feel like our region is as tough as anything in our state. It's always tough," Hyder said. "For years people in this town have felt the regular season should mean something. Since 1975 and 1976, the

winner of the region has to come back and play again, and play a team they may have beat.

"We would like for the regular season to give you a region winner that goes in the playoffs. Now you've got an honor for being No. 1."

Valdosta will go on the road for three-straight region games — Bainbridge, Colquitt County and Tift County. The regular season ends with home games against Coffee County and Lowndes.

The 1991 schedule has the Wildcats at home for eight straight games. After a visit to Coffee, the Winnersville Classic will be played at Martin Stadium.

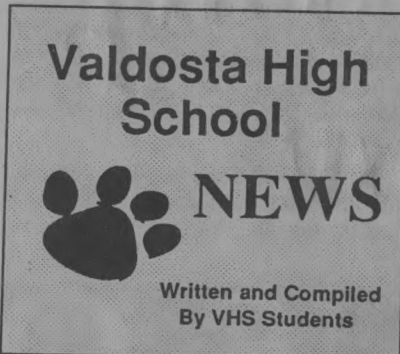
VDI, Fri, Jan 26, 1990

VHS Marketing Students To Compete

Eighteen Valdosta High School marketing education students will be competing against students from throughout Southeast Georgia this Thursday.

The purpose of the DECA competition is to select district winners and district competitors for state competition in March.

Students competing are: Michelle Jones, Speech; Tracie Selph, Job Interview; Caroline Seago, Reporter of the Year; Kelly Edwards, General Merchandising Master Employee Level; Jennie Strickland, General Merchandising Supervisory Level; Joy Purvis, Finance and Credit; Ginny Williams, Apparel and Accessories Master Employee Level; Meredith Stanland, Apparel and Accessories Supervisory Level; Jill Mueller, Advertising Services; Burke Sherwood, Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing; Michael Phagan, Food Marketing Master Employee Level; Belenda Burleigh, Food Marketing Supervisory Level; Charlie Smith,



Full Service Restaurant Management; Shawn Coursen, Quick-Serve Restaurant Management; Ben Copeland, General Marketing Master Employee Level; Allison McAllister, General Supervisory Level; Katay Burke, Economic Test; and Nikki Demott, Math Test.

All students are senior, first-year marketing education students. The Competition will be held at Effingham County High School in Spring-

field.

Y Club News

The Alpha-Iota-Omega Y Club thanks students at Valdosta High School for their support in electing a Valentine's King and Queen for 1989-90. The club congratulates Daniel Knowlton and Crystal Ray for being elected the 1989-1990 Valentine's King and Queen. Congratulations Daniel and Crystal.

VHS Debate Team

Valdosta High's debate team finished third at the State AAAA debate competition last weekend at Mary Persons High School in Forsyth. Representing VHS was the affirmative team of junior Jimmy Green and senior Michelle Jones. The negative team consisted of junior Tammy Crowe and freshman Stephanie Everett.

The four debaters qualified for state competition when they fin-

ished first in the South sub-region tournament at Valdosta State College Jan. 9 and first in the region 1-AAAA tournament at Mercer University in Macon on Jan. 26. Other schools competing in the state debates were Brookwood, Henry County, Northside-Warner Robins, Osborne, Roswell and Therrell High schools.

With 24 ballots cast during the tournament, Valdosta debaters won 13 and lost 11. VHS won four ballots against Henry County, but could only win two each against Brookwood, Osborne, Roswell and Therrell, and one in the rounds with Northside. Northside won the state title, followed by Brookwood in second. Roswell finished in fourth place.

Frank Hjort, director of debate at VHS, chaperoned and served as a judge in the state A, AA, AAA debates held at the same time as the AAAA debates.

Lady 'Cats Capture Struggle

Wed.
Jan. 13, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

VDT

Chalk it up to just one of those nights?

Both Susan Montgomery and Larry Maffit, in their own ways, praised the defensive efforts of their teams. The rebounding was good, too.

The offense? That's another story. Together, the Valdosta High and Lowndes High combined for 62 points in the meeting of county rivals and Region I-AAAA South foes. The Lady Wildcats had the majority, coming away with a 34-28 victory on the carpet at VHS.

"Defense dominated the game," said Lowndes coach Larry Maffit. "I thought we came out and attacked their guards real well and forced them to have to worry about spending more time dribbling the ball than looking inside to the big people. And I thought we did a better job of rebounding tonight."

"The thing I was pleased with was our defense," said VHS coach Susan Montgomery, who was Maffit's assistant at Berrien before moving to Valdosta. "You're going to come out some nights when your offense is just not going to click good. But you ought to come out every night and play defense."

Click it did not. "We were just real sluggish on offense," Montgomery said. "Our guards, they seemed to

See LADY CATS, Page 3B

LOWNDES vs. VALDOSTA

Girls' Game

LOWNDES (28) — Latina Childs 10, Catina Brown 5, Vicky Williams 4, Lori Culpepper 4, Shanell Jenkins 3, Delicia Carlo 2.

VALDOSTA (34) — Cassandra Twine 18, Esther Benjamin 6, Laura Dennis 4, Vashiti Manning 4, Shannon West 2.

LOWNDES 7 5 10 6-28

VALDOSTA 7 8 12 7-34

Records: Valdosta 11-5, 5-2; Lowndes 9-8, 3-6.

Lady Cats

From Page 1B

have a little bit of trouble with the pressure. It just made them slower; and we couldn't get our offense going."

The win keeps Valdosta in the midst of the 1-AAAA South race. The Lady Wildcats (11-5 overall) are 5-2 in the sub-region. Ex-league-leader Coffee was upset at Tift County Tuesday, falling to 6-2. Bainbridge now leads at 7-2.

"It seemed like when they did come back we'd go inside where we should go all night, and we would get the big basket," said Montgom-

ery.

The lone player nearly immune to the chilly night was Valdosta forward Cassandra Twine, who scored 18 points — including four of VHS' seven fourth-quarter points. Lowndes had six points, with Latina Childs getting four of them to contribute to her 10-point night.

"Give Valdosta credit," said Maffit, whose team dropped to 9-8 overall, 3-6 in the sub-region. "They did what they had to do to win, and Susan does a good job with them. But it was a 100 percent turnaround from the first time (a 52-34 Valdosta win at Lowndes).



Valdosta High's Cassandra Twine loses possession of the basketball as a Tift County

player defends during Friday's game — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Iverson Ignites Wildcats' Rally

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High guard Spencer Iverson took matters into his own hands Friday night, igniting a 17-4 third-period run as the 'Cats defeated Tift County, 69-61, in a Region 1-AAAA South doubleheader.

In the opener, the Lady Wildcats moved another step closer to claiming the regular-season subregion title, sinking 13 free throws in the final period to dispose of the Lady Blue Devils, 51-41.

While the Lady Wildcats were getting the job done at home, their cross-town rival Lowndes High was also getting into the act. The LHS Vikings upset the Bainbridge Kittens, 47-39, which moves the Lady Wildcats (12-5, 6-2) just percentage points behind the Lady Trojans from Coffee High. Coffee routed Colquitt 52-37 Friday to improve to 7-2 in the subregion.

The Wildcats, now 10-7 and 2-6 in the subregion, handed the Blue Devils their ninth consecutive defeat. Tift is now 6-15 overall and finish the subregion at 2-8.

VHS Wildcats' head coach John Miller not only wanted to stay out of the subregion cellar, but he was looking for some kind of spark after

TIFT at VALDOSTA

Boys Game
TIFT COUNTY (41) — Gannon Hall 17, Travis Williams 17, Trevor Richardson 10, Jonathan Jones 9, Felix Taylor 4, Brian White 4.
VALDOSTA (69) — Spencer Iverson 26, Jason King 14, Ernest Scott 12, James Manning 10, Michael Moore 4, Tift Co.
Records: Valdosta 10-7, 2-6; Tift Co. 6-15, 2-8.
Next Game: Valdosta at Ware County (Tonight).

Girls Game
TIFT COUNTY (41) — Ivey Vickers 11, Tori Strawler 10, Lisa Patterson 8, Kim Lester 8, Claire Moon 4.
VALDOSTA (51) — Cassandra Twine 17, Estimer Benjamin 11, Yosshi Manning 7, Laura Dennis 6, Shannon West 7, Tift Co.
Records: Valdosta 12-5, 6-2; Tift Co. 9-12, 4-6.

back-to-back subregion losses to Coffee and Lowndes. He would get both. Iverson was next to unstoppable for VHS scoring 26 points to lead all scorers, which included two three-point bombs.

"We talked about momentum at halftime. We were down to Tift and I mentioned to them about our slow second-half start at Lowndes," said Miller. "We needed to get out fast and make some baskets."

"Spencer had the best game he's ever had for this team," he added. "He got us going and Ernest Lowe came through with a couple dunks and gave us a lot of momentum."

Valdosta built a 58-44 advantage on Tift thanks to a pair of dunks by Ernest Lowe. See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

From Page 1-B

nest Lowe. Lowe scored 12 points, Jason King 14 and James Manning added 10 points.

Tift made a late rally cutting the VHS led to seven points with under 2:00, but King and Iverson provided six of the final seven points scored in the game.

"We didn't do a very good job of holding our lead," said Miller. "Tift was a very aggressive team all the way through the game. I think our attention slipped a little when it shouldn't have."

Although the Lady Wildcats tallied 13 points in the final period, they needed every single basket. Tift County's defensive pressure forced VHS into six turnovers all of which led to Tift points.

In fact, Valdosta did not have but five field goals in the entire second half and had not one field goal in the final period. VHS' first score in the final period came with 4:15 left in the game.

"In the Lowndes game Tuesday, our big people did not flash to the basketball on the press and we did it

again tonight," said Lady Wildcats' head coach Susan Montgomery. "Things did get a little crazy in the third quarter and for most of the fourth, but I have to give our kids some credit. They made the free throws down the stretch including Shannon West, who was 6-for-6."

"No field goals disturbed me, but there have a been many games this year where we didn't shoot the ball well from the line, and it was good to see our people get the job done tonight."

Valdosta's inside pressure by Cassandra Twine, Laura Dennis and Esther Benjamin rattled the Lady Blue Devils for much of the game. Twine and Benjamin combined for six blocks to go along with 20 rebounds. Twine led the Wildcats with 17, Benjamin had 11, while Dennis scored six points and had five rebounds.

But the fourth period damage was done at the line by West and guard Yashti Manning. West had six free throws, Manning canned five, with Laura Dennis accounting for the final two.

Road-Wary 'Cats Go To Bainbridge

Friday, Jan. 19, 1990
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High's Wildcat head basketball coach John Miller hopes that his team will have answer to his team's road woes as they take on the Region 1-AAAA South's leader, the Bainbridge Bearcats, tonight in Bainbridge.

The girls' game will begin at 7 p.m. with the boys tipping off around 8:30.

The Wildcats, 7-5 overall and 0-4

in the subregion, have had very little road success this season and Miller's worries are doubled with the site of the Bearcats.

"Going into their home and their gymnasium is going to be really tough," said Miller. "They are a team that's been beating other subregion teams by as much as 30 points in their gym. Taking into consideration that we've not fared well on the road this year, I'm concerned."

See VALDOSTA, Page 3B

Valdosta—

From Page 1B

After an earlier 60-41 victory over Bainbridge back on Jan. 5, the Lady Wildcats would have to be considered the favorites entering tonight's action. And while that may be true, VHS' head coach Susan Montgomery is also concerned.

"Anytime you play away from home it's just different. And Bainbridge is a good basketball team at home," said Montgomery. "They are not only a tough team to beat at home, but I know Coach Byrd has been trying to come up with a way to beat us. I certainly know that the outcome will be much lower regardless of who wins."

The Lady Wildcats, at 10-2 and 4-0 in the subregion, could take a commanding edge in the subregion with a win tonight.

"To be honest, after the Colquitt game I told our players that we were 4-0 in the subregion and in first-place and that everyone will be coming after you," said Montgomery. "I told them that to stay at No. 1, you have to play like No. 1. And this will be a big challenge for us to stay undefeated after tonight."

While Miller is worried about his team's road failures, his team enters Bainbridge with a lot of confidence.

The mighty Bearcats managed to survive an upset bid by the Wildcats, 69-64, back in January.

"Our team shot the ball very well and rebounded very well in the first game, and that's what we have to do this time around," said Miller.

Wildcats Shine In Tourney

From Staff Reports

COLUMBUS—The Valdosta Wildcats finished second out of 28 teams in the Hardaway Wrestling Tournament held at Hardaway High School here Friday and Saturday. Troup County of LaGrange, the defending AAA state champions, won the tournament with a total of 255½ total points.

The Wildcats finished with 176 points while Columbus-Baker had 119 to finish third. Dublin High was fourth with 106½ and Columbus-Spencer was fifth with 105. The second-place finish was the highest for Valdosta in the four years they have competed in the tourney.

"They had teams from Alabama and Atlanta so they had a real good group. We're real pleased with the turnout," said head coach John Davis. "Troup County has dominated this tournament for years so we were pleased to be able to stay with them. We got a lot of support from some people who were there and that helped."

Valdosta had seven wrestlers finish in the top four places of their respective weight divisions with one wrestler winning his class. Maurice Dean won the 152-pound weight class and continued to build on his unbeaten streak this season. Dean won the Cook High Invitational earlier this year and is 15-0 this season.

Other top finishers included Steven Petermann in the 130-pound class (2nd), Ryan Moorman in the 189-pound class (2nd), Jason Finland in the 140-pound class (3rd), Derrick Phillips in the 171-pound class (3rd), Justin Bridges in the 135-pound class (4th), Chuck Bonner in the 145-pound class (4th) and Eric Phillips in the heavyweight class (4th).

Davis said the tournament was also a great chance to take a look at other teams from the Region 1-AAAA.

"It really helps us to be able to look at the other teams because we have the area tournament coming up in a couple of weeks," Davis said. "It gives us an idea of what we'll be up against with the Columbus teams. There are some tough teams in our area including Coffee which wasn't at the tournament. They'll probably be favored in the area tournament."

The Wildcats will travel to Suwannee, Fla. Tuesday for their next match.

Friday June 19, 1990

Matgirls Contribute Their Special Touch

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The grunts, groans and sweat of high school wrestling do not conjure up many feminine thoughts. But the sport is unusually popular with high school girls who enjoy lending their support and spare time to the team.

Both Valdosta High and Lowndes High have their own group of scribes who take care of keeping score, keeping time, running the ally popular 101 concession stands, take up tickets, clean mats and even distribute oranges to their wrestlers. They are known as matgirls and they provide a lot to the area's local wrestling teams.

"I've always liked wrestling and being a matgirl is just a good way to show my support," said Jamey Rainwater, captain of the VHS matgirls. "Wrestling doesn't appear to be to hard when you're watching it. But it really is. This is my fourth year doing it and I really enjoy it."

Rainwater is one of 19 members of the matgirl squad. The Viking squad also has 19 varsity and junior varsity members. Elizabeth Teasley, one of the Lowndes supporters, said it is important for the team to receive as much support as possible. "The football team and the base-

ball team always have a lot of funds but the wrestling team doesn't get that much publicity. That's why we all like to do it," Teasley said. Although wrestling is not as popular as other spectator sports, becoming a matgirl is just as tough a process. It takes more than just signing up to be selected.

"You have to try out in front of a group of senior wrestlers and teachers and they vote. They look at your grades and how well you answer questions during the interview," said VHS senior Bayh Brindger. "This is only my first year doing it because I had more time on my hands this year. I like the sport and even though the cleaning up isn't too much fun."

Lowndes junior Tracy Bennett said she was invited to a wrestling match as a freshman and enjoyed so much she decided to try out for the matgirl squad the next year.

"One of the wrestlers asked me to come and watch when I was a freshman. Then last year, I dated one of the wrestlers and so I tried out for the matgirls. He graduated but I stayed on the squad," Bennett said. "Most of the matches are on the weekends so it doesn't take a lot of

Matgirls

From Page 1B

time out of my schedule. I enjoy watching it and support them as much as I can."

The work of the matgirls not only helps the wrestlers prepare for the matches, it takes a load of worries off the wrestling coach's mind. Valdosta wrestling coach John Davis said the matgirls are truly the unsung heroes of the team.

"They really take a lot of pressure off of me. They do a tremendous amount of work and they also have to keep a high academic standing. It takes a special girl to be a matgirl," Davis said. "They know what to do before I can even tell them what to do. They know how much our team and I appreciate them. A lot of times, it can be easy to take them for granted. But we know they work very hard."



Jennifer Ramsey, senior; Maria Hurrealde, sophomore; Jamie Rainwater, senior; and Bayh Brindger, senior; all work on keeping

track of times and scores during a recent wrestling match at Valdosta High School - Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Hyder Wants 'Cats To Stay On Course

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of stories looking into the future of football in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

Some Valdosta High School football fans just may not want to leave the 1980s. Who could blame them.

The highlights: 125 wins, four state titles and two national titles. It was another decade to add upon the rich Wildcat tradition.

But now we're in the 1990s. The question: Where can a program already among the nation's best go in the new decade?

"My theory has been that we want to continue to improve the tradition that was started here in 1913," said veteran VHS head coach Nick Hyder, who coached the Wildcats through the decade. "We want a continued cooperation with what has been the success here — the community elects the school board, then they have one employee. He's the superintendent of schools. He, in turn, recommends the administration, my principal. Then we work with our 24-man coaching staff in all sports, work with the principals at the junior high, and the faculty.

"We don't want the athletic tail wag the academic dog. That cooperation is a commitment, so we'll continue that and continue to grow in that area and work in those areas."

There are other areas Hyder recognizes he and all concerned with the Wildcats will have to deal with in the 1990s. To deal with some of it, Hyder will continue to present his system of values to current and future Wildcats: God first, family second, academics third, friends fourth and team fifth.

"We want to improve the priorities, but part of that is the academic program ... we want to continue (the priorities)," Hyder said. "We more or less prove our program brings out



the best in our participants. When you're doing your best, you have the best chance to win. That's my plans for the 90s, and I'd like to sit here 10 years from now and say it worked."

He also plans to stay with the commitment the football program has made to the band, cheerleaders and fans, and try to improve conditions at Cleveland Field.

"We're going to work with them. We're going to work with our Touchdown Club, which is our communication with our parents and the business community, and in so doing everybody in Valdosta has a share in the Wildcat program. We don't sell shares, but you share if you choose to be a part of it," Hyder said.

The coach's concerns are much like those of others dealing with today's youth — how to direct them away from drugs and alcohol toward something else. Hyder experienced his share of player problems over drugs and alcohol, "the scourge of our present time," Hyder said, in the 1980s.

He wants to overcome "evil with good. If your busy building up your physical and mental strengths, you aren't looking for a substitute, which to me are what drugs and alcohol represent — a losing substitute," he said.

See VALDOSTA, Page 3B



Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder takes the game ball with him after another victory — Times Staff Photo

Valdosta VDT, Sun., Jan. 21, 1990

From Page 1B

said. "Football, the practice and the games, is the purest form of teaching. A youngster volunteers to play. He volunteers to discipline himself. He volunteers, in that discipline, to go by the rules and objectives."

Valdosta High enters the 90s going to a more regional schedule to go with its national publicity. With some non-region area schools declining to schedule the Wildcats, Hyder has reached into Alabama for two opponents — Montgomery's

Robert E. Lee and suburban Birmingham's Jess Lanier. VHS will tentatively open the season Sept. 1 against Atlanta McEachern. Lake City, Fla., will be on the VHS schedule in 1992.

"These people sought us out. They wanted to play us, and this is rare. Not many people call us to play, and my phone is listed," Hyder said. "We feel like regional interest is good and things are heading in that direction."

Still, Hyder plans to keep the Wildcats from going on long regular-season trips. He said he turned down a trip to play in Hawaii because the organizing group would not pay for the band's and cheerleaders' transportation. When the Wildcats can offer a big financial guarantee for a team to come here, money has won. "They Everybody comes out the better for it," said Hyder. "There are folks in Atlanta who will take this financial guarantee."

Hyder has a list of improvements he'd like for Cleveland Field, begin-

ning with the visitors' dressing facilities. Improvements to the press box, concession stands and security are also talked about.

Wildcat Defense Anything But Ineffective

VST, Thurs., Oct. 12, 1989

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Sports Writer

Player of the Week

One look at the Valdosta Wildcat defense brings many words to mind. But one word that doesn't describe them is ineffective. The unit has continued the high standard of play they began with their first game of the year and they have all been voted as *The Times* player of the week.

The defense began their year by completely stifling the Camden County offensive unit as they finished the game with -25 total yards and no first downs. Senior George Copeland said that was the best game the team has played all year.

"They didn't get any first downs on us and that was a big accomplishment. I think we're trying to improve as a group and grow as a team. We're getting better," Copeland said. "We'll be all right if we don't have any injuries and if we don't get a big head."

The defense has collected three shutouts and they have only given up four touchdowns all season. But great athletes are not the only reason the unit has been so successful. According to team captain and starting safety Chris Hart, the secret is togetherness.

"We've all known each other since the seventh or eighth grade. We know how we all react and that really helps us. That way, we don't make as many mistakes," Hart said. This year's defense has been compared of successful Wildcat defenses of the past. But senior linebacker

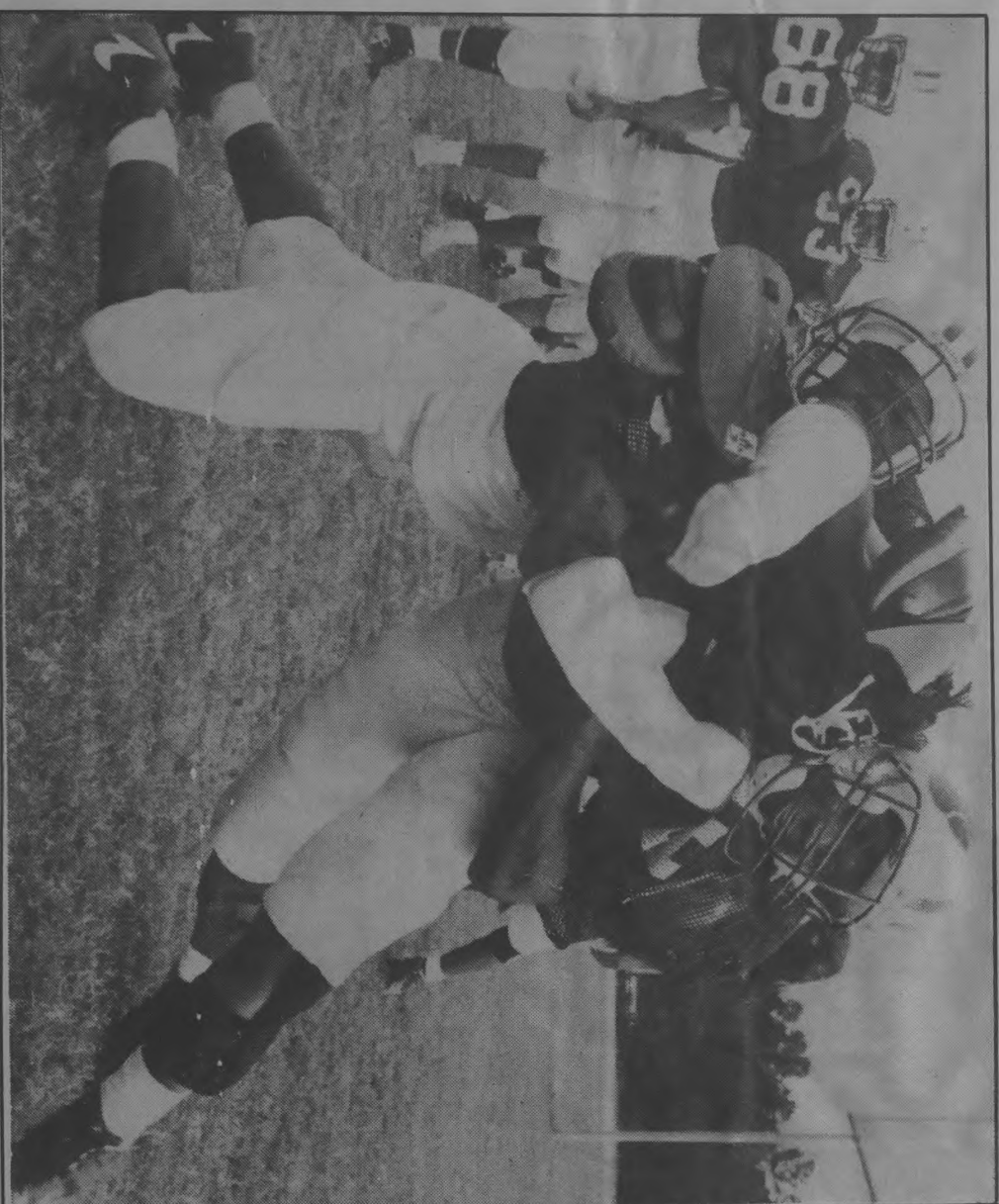
and defensive captain Anthony Williams said he doesn't like being compared to other Wildcat defensive teams.

"Being compared to them motivates us to do better than those other teams. We want to be the best," Williams said. "As a team captain, I have to show a great deal of leadership and so do a lot of the other players. We're all in it together. If I make a mistake, they correct me and if they make one, I correct them. We all work as one."

This Friday brings on the Bainbridge Bearcats, the first of the Wildcats' five Region 1-AAAA games that Valdosta has left on their schedule. The Bearcats have proven they have the ability to score points and Hart said this will be the team's toughest test to date.

"All the teams from now on will be tougher. This is the region schedule and everyone we face has a good team. Everything from now on is for the playoffs and that makes everyone play extra hard," Hart said.

Another nominee for the player of the week is Valwood quarterback Wayland Wiseman. Wiseman has been the leader for the Valiants' offense as they have unveiled their successful passing attack.



The Valdosta defense has registered three shutouts and given up only four touchdowns this season. The group should get their biggest test this Friday against the Bainbridge High Bearcats — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Cocher Mends At Home

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Nick Hyder is used to watching his Valdosta High football team from the sidelines. Now he's on a different sideline, watching the world from his residence while he mends from hip replacement surgery.

"I'm getting better every day. My movement is good, but I still have to follow my doctor's orders," said

Hyder, who had the surgery Dec. 28 in Orlando. He moves around his home with the aid of a walker, and has been out just once — that a trip to Macon to select players for Georgia's two all-star football games. He returns Feb. 14 to Orlando to begin the next phase of his post-operative rehabilitation.

"It's getting stronger, and it doesn't hurt any more. My hip felt See HYDER, Page 3B

Hyder

From Page 1B

like a giant toothache," Hyder said. "I'd lay down at night and try to sleep and it ached."

"It was time to get something done about my hip. If I had done it in June, I wouldn't have been ready for July and August. Hopefully I'll be stronger at that point."

Contact and reminders from former players have helped in Hyder's recovery. "We teach them that a well-conditioned athlete recovers quickly if he takes care of himself. My old players are writing saying a well-conditioned coach ought to recover quickly," he said.

Hyder's wife, June, "does a beautiful job, and folks like Harry Sewell

come by every day to check on me and get my mail," Hyder said.

The coach's work, however, hasn't stopped. He's turned his room into an office, where he's worked on schedules and budget, the all-star picks and his students' grades. "But I miss the everyday contact with the students," said Hyder.

He's thankful for the hundreds of

inquiries, letters and cards he's received since the surgery. "Even our opponents seemed to care," he said. "There's a healing effect in people who care."

Hyder plans, barring a setback, to resume an active schedule in late February or March. That includes a number of out-of-town appearances at clinics and conventions.

Thursday, January 25, 1990

Wildcats No. 7 On Nat'l. List

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Valdosta High School's football program made the top ten for 1989 in one of the country's oldest high school football polls.

National Sports News Service, a Tempe, Ariz.-based group which covers high school football, has ranked the Wildcats No. 7.

The group also serves as a historian for the sport, and notes that Valdosta High, according to its research, has won more games than any high school football program in the nation.

The Wildcats built onto that lead this season. Their 14-1 record, which included the school's 20th state championship, gave VHS a 664-136-12 record since beginning the sport in 1913.

Ranked behind Valdosta High, according to NSNS, is Washington High School in Massillon, Ohio. The Washington High Tigers went 10-3 this season, improving the overall record to 635-169-35. That school began playing prep football in 1894.

The Wildcats were ranked by at least two national polls this season. USA Today's final poll had

Valdosta High ranked 11th.

VHS head coach Nick Hyder and NSNS editor Barry Sollenberger both noted that the NSNS poll is one of the oldest in the nation, going back more than 60 years. "This is a very prestigious thing," said Hyder.

"To be ranked nationally is very rare," added Hyder, noting the thousands of high school football programs in the United States. "And to be ranked with one loss is quite an honor."

The Wildcats were the highest-ranked team with a loss. Three other teams with losses were also ranked.

Sollenberger told *The Valdosta Daily Times* from his Tempe office that the lone loss, a 7-0 regular-season decision to Colquitt County at Cleveland Field, was outweighed by a number of plusses.

"They're traditionally so strong and they won the state championship again," Sollenberger said. "They shouldn't be penalized for a loss. All good teams get beat once in a while."

That Oct. 20 loss, which was avenged by a 20-7 Region 1-AAAA

See WILDCATS, Page 2-A

Letters To The Editor

Valdosta Wildcats Definitely Not Overrated

This letter is in response to a letter that appeared in your paper last month. Being a dedicated Valdosta Wildcat fan, I just couldn't believe the statement that was made about the Valdosta High Wildcats being highly overrated.

First of all, let me point out something. How in the world can the 'Cats be overrated when their record speaks for itself? How can an overrated team win 20 state championships and five national championships and be overrated? How can a team which finished the '80s with a record of 125-10 be overrated?

There is no other school that can match that record. The Valdosta Wildcats have worked hard to get the recognition that they are getting. The 'Cats were counted out after the loss to Moultrie. But there's one thing

that Coach Hyder stresses, and that is never, never quit.

Coach Hyder and his staff are the best in the nation. How can anyone

come up with this overrated junk, I'll never know. Sound likes jealousy to me. Congratulations, Wildcats.

Jackie Proctor
Stockton

Wildcats

From Page 1-A

title win on Nov. 24 in Moultrie, was picked by NSNS as the "Upset of the Year".

Sollenberger said the game was so selected because VHS was the highest-ranked team with a loss and because Colquitt was an unranked team. What didn't figure into the decision was that ABC-TV's news program 20/20 was in town the night of the upset working on a story, and that the loss was avenged the night the story aired.

It was the second time in three years that Valdosta High suffered the upset of the year, according to NSNS. It also happened in 1987, when Columbus Carver won 21-7 in the South Georgia title game.

Permian High School in Odessa, Texas, was NSNS' mythical national champion for 1989. The winningest playoff team in Texas history, Permian scored 628 points and allowed just 97. The school opened in 1959, according to NSNS, and have won 84 percent of its games.

Sheridan, Ind.'s, Brett Law was NSNS' player of the year. For his career, Law ran for 6,895 yards and scored 141 touchdowns.

Cleveland, Ohio's St. Ignatius' Chuck Kyle was coach of the year. The school has won back-to-back state titles. The team finished 1989 ranked No. 3.

1989 TOP TEN

National Sports News Service Poll



RANKING	RECORD
1	Odessa, Texas 16-0
2	E. St. Louis, Ill. 14-0
3	St. Ignatius, Ohio 13-0
4	Upper St. Clair, Pa. 15-0
5	Fontana, Calif. 14-0
6	Richmond, N.C. 15-0
7	Valdosta 14-1
8	Anniston, Ala. 15-0
9	Hazlewood East, Mo. 14-0
10	Bradenton Manatee, Fla. 13-1

NSNS' game of the year was Bradenton, Fla.'s Manatee High School's 46-45, three-overtime win over Sarasota Riverview. Manatee finished the season ranked No. 10 with a 13-1 record.

Lowndes, Valdosta Expecting Wars

Wildcats Think They Are Due

January 30, 1990

Vikettes Look For A Shot At Redemption

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

During the 1987-88 basketball season, the Lowndes Vikings and the Valdosta Wildcats split regular season games. They repeated the split last season. Earlier this year, the Vikings won the first of the two games, 66-51 and, according to history, the Wildcats are due for a win. But they aren't taking anything for granted.

"That may be the way it has gone but we can't go by that," said Wildcat senior starting guard Spencer Iverson. "We don't expect them to be any less aggressive just because they don't have all their players. In fact, I expect them to be more aggressive."

The first time the two teams met, the Vikings used their advantage inside and 31 points from the hot hands of Ollie Daniels to control the game. Lowndes, 4-4 in the subregion, still has Daniels but Marvin Lucas and Keith McQueen are gone.

However, don't expect the Vikings to fall apart inside. Senior Billy Moore and sophomore Randall Godfrey have taken matters into their own hands and performed for head coach Terry Wilkes. Neither

Girls' Lineups

Valdosta Lady Wildcats
C-Cassandra Twine Sr.
F-Laura Dennis Jr.
F-Natasha Johnson So.
G-Shannon West Fr.
G-Vashti Manning Jr.

Lowndes Vikettes
C-Lori Culppepper So.
F-Latina Childs Jr.
F-Delicia Carlo So.
G-Shanell Jenkins So.
G-Catina Brown Jr.

Boys' Lineups

Valdosta Wildcats
C-Michael Moore Jr.
F-Jason King Sr.
F-James Manning Sr.
G-Spencer Iverson Sr.
G-Major Lynn Sr.

Lowndes Vikings
C-Billy Moore Sr.
F-Randall Godfrey So.
F-Ollie Daniels Jr.
G-Leon Williams Sr.
G-Eric Peeler Jr.

saw any action during the first game but Godfrey is excited about his first shot at the Wildcats.

"I used to like coming off the bench to help out Marvin and it was hard to get used to starting. But I've faced some other teams in the region and I'm ready for Valdosta. We're not too deep and it's going to take our whole team to win," Godfrey said.

Valdosta, 1-5 in the subregion, may have two things going their way. First, they will have guard Major Lynn in the starting lineup. Lynn, who led the team in scoring during the first game with 15 points, has missed the last two games due to illness but will return against Lowndes tonight. Secondly, the Wildcats are 7-1 when playing on their home carpet dating back to last season. The second statistic is

the one Iverson likes to think about. "We really like playing on the carpet," Iverson said. "It slows the ball

down on the break and our opponents have heard so much about it that I think it intimidates them. But we've played on it for four or five years and we love it."

"We're approaching this like any other game," said Godfrey. "We had a good practice today and we're ready for them. The main thing we have to do is stay out of foul trouble because we don't have a lot of depth or height on the bench. If we work together, we can play well and win."

"We've got to concentrate on staying consistent. We get up for the big games but we don't for the others," Iverson added. "Tomorrow is a big game and we need to start winning some region games to make a move."

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Off the court, Cassandra Twine and Latina Childs are good friends. On the court, they both love to win. Unfortunately, friendship and competition do not mix.

Twine, the senior standout for the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats, and Childs, a junior star for the Lowndes Vikettes, meet tonight in a rematch of their first game exactly three weeks ago. In that meeting, the Lady Wildcats took advantage of their tremendous height advantage to win the game, 52-34.

Twine was a big factor in that game, scoring a game-high 21 points, and she sees no reason why the same outcome cannot result from tomorrow night's game.

"It should be like last time," Twine said. "We're the same two teams playing and nothing has changed. We had the height advantage last time and we just played well. Everybody's pumped about a week before this game because everybody says it's for the bragging rights."

Childs, who led the Vikettes with 10 points in the first matchup, agrees with Twine about the importance of the inside game. But she thinks the second half of the traditional regular-season twinbill with the Lady Wildcats stands a good chance of going her way.

"We're starting to shoot better on

the inside and we've been working hard on our rebounding," Childs said. "But we don't want a halfcourt game. We want to run the break and take it on the floor to try and draw some fouls. We've been missing some layups lately and we just need to concentrate more."

The two teams are in the exact middle of the subregion standings. Valdosta is third with a 4-2 subregion record while Lowndes is fourth with a 3-5 region mark on the year. Childs knows that a victory by the Vikettes can inch them up the standings and, at the same time, give the young team a much needed shot of confidence.

"We're getting a lot better and we know we can beat them if we stay in the game mentally. Everything else will fall into place. But we can't be sloppy and we can't let them run us over," Childs said.

The Lady Wildcats, who at one time stood atop the subregion standings, have struggled as of late with a three-game losing streak to show for it. Losses against Bainbridge and Coffee has put their subregion status in jeopardy. Twine thinks a win over the crosstown rival will be the solution to their problem.

"We'll get it back together. This game means a lot to us because a win can get us back on track. We've been losing confidence and we really need a win right now. That would get us going in time for the last few games," Twine said.

'Cats, Vikes Enter Area Wrestling Tourney

Feb. 2, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Both Valdosta High's John Davis and Lowndes High's Jim Morrell enter this weekend's Area 1-AAAAA wrestling tournament with cautious optimism.

The schools are two of the 13 entered in the two-day event at Columbus Shaw High School. The top six wrestlers in each of the 13 weight classes advance to next weekend's state AAAA meet at McEachern High in Powder Springs.

Two rounds of competition will be held today, with semifinals beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday. The consolation round will follow, with the finals at 6:30 p.m.

Davis' Wildcats are the defending area champions, when the area included only South Georgia schools. VHS finished 13th in the state meet. Lowndes was third in last year's area and 34th overall under former coach Newman Sanchez.

Area Tournament Wrestling Lineups

LOWNDES HIGH	WEIGHT CLASS	VALDOSTA HIGH
David Black (Fr.)	103	Tim Garland (Jr.)
Robert McDougle (Fr.)	112	Ryan Thigpen (Fr.)
Barbary Singletary (Soph.)	119	Chris Thigpen (Sr.)
no wrestler	125	Scott Jones (Soph.)
Brandon Powell (Sr.)	130	Steve Petermann (Sr.)
Bryan Rice (Sr.)	135	Justin Bridges (Jr.)
Chuck Pearson (Soph.)	140	Jason Finland (Sr.)
Jamie Lamon (Jr.)	145	Chuck Bonner (Sr.)
Mark Bagley (Sr.)	152	Maurice Dean (Sr.)
Jamie Hartle (Soph.)	160	Jason Griffin (Sr.)
Jeffrey Vickers (Jr.)	171	Derrick Phillips (Jr.)
Junior Westbury (Soph.)	189	Ryan Moorman (Sr.)
Anthony Hargett (Soph.)	HWT	Eric Phillips (Jr.)

This year's coaches are cautious, but feel their squads can qualify all team members for the state tournament. Valdosta has wrestlers in all 13 weight classes, while Lowndes will enter 12 wrestlers.

"I'm trying to be as positive as possible, but I feel we have a chance

of showing I know we're capable of," said Morrell. "I don't want to count my chickens before they're hatched, but I feel good about our team."

Among the 1-AAAA South schools, Davis is most concerned about Coffee High, which defeated Valdosta in a head-to-head match this season. "And they're a real good tournament team," he said.

And both coaches got to see the Columbus opposition in a recent tournament at Hardaway High, where Valdosta finished second to AAA power Troup. "Baker, Spencer and Hardaway, there's a lot of good competition going around," Davis said. "We saw a lot of kids we'll be facing, and we matched up real good with them."

Valdosta enters the meet with two defending area champs — senior Jason Finland (now at 140 pounds) and junior Eric Phillips (now at heavy-weight). Senior Steve Petermann

(130) was second in the area, but third in the state meet at 119 pounds. Lowndes senior Mark Bagley (132) finished second to Finland in last year's area meet.

"We've been working for this all year long ... this is one more step we have to take to get to state," said Petermann. "We've come together as a team in the last few weeks, so we can take region if we work hard at it and get support from our lower weights."

"For some of them this is the first real big important meet. If we have some of our younger men win some matches, we can take it."

The Vikings have been working hard to rebuild their team. Seven of the 12 matmen are underclassmen.

"They've been working real hard and putting in some long hours," said Morrell. "Everybody is up for the area meet and they're just anxious to get up there and get with it." Times Sports Writer Stan Grubb contributed to this report.

Cullen Among Wildcats Honored At Banquet

May 30, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Senior pitcher Sean Cullen was named the Most Valuable Player as the Wildcats held their annual baseball banquet at Valdosta High School Tuesday night.

Cullen, who finished the year 5-7, had just 18 walks in 79 innings pitched for Valdosta as the ace of the pitching staff. Valdosta's overall 1990 baseball record was 9-12.

The 9-12 record marked the first losing season in Wildcat head coach Charles Tarpley's 20-year career, 16 at Valdosta High.

Tarpley also spoke to the Wildcat team members, parents and guests concerning the loyalty shown by the 1990 squad and his assistant coaches Mike O'Brien and Keith Middleton.

Valdosta High seniors Cullen, Ashley Bass, Tracy Carter, Shannon Myers and Jason Nichols were honored for their final seasons.

Nichols, who batted .277 and had 10 RBI as the team's designated hitter, received the Spirit of the Wildcat award. The Best Defensive Player for the Wildcats was second baseman Rookie Gage. Gage finished with a fielding percentage of .961 with only two errors all year.

Bass, who led the team in all offensive statistics, was named as the team's Best Offensive Player. Bass batted .365 with 21 RBI and led the team in doubles, home runs and hits. Chad Alson was named as the 9th grade Most Valuable Player and Matt Baker received the Most Valuable Player honors for the junior varsity squad.

Stanley, Williams Pace Team

Two local high school freshmen, Eric Stanley of Valdosta High and Michael Williams of Lowndes High were leading medal winners in the YMCA regional south field Sports Swimming Festival held in Spartanburg, South Carolina last weekend.

Williams' finishes include fourth place in the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle, a seventh place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke and sixth place in the 100-yard backstroke. Stanley's finishes include a pair of fifth place awards in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, and sixth place finishes in the 100-yard breaststroke and the 200-yard individual medley.

Stanley also finished third in both the 100-yard and 200-yard butterfly.

Valdosta Takes Down Tift

TIFTON — The Valdosta High Wildcat wrestling team its record to 12-3 on the year rolling past Tift County, 54-15, here Tuesday.

Ten VHS wrestlers claimed victories against the Blue Devils, seven of which were by pin. VHS wrestlers with pins included Ryan Thigpin (112), Jason Bridges (135), Chuck Bonner (145), Maurice Dean (152), Jason Griffin (160), Derrick Phillips (171) and Ryan Moorman (189). Steven Petermann (130), Jason Finland (140) and Eric Phillips (hwt.) all won with decisions.

VHS Beta Club Inducts

VHS Beta Club inducted members at its annual banquet. Inducted were Thaddus Agar, Maria Baratta, Michelle Buckland, David Farber, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Jim Galloy, Brenna Goff, Ward Griffin, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Sha-londa Hannans, Angela Harper, Maritrose Henkels, Natasha Johnson, Janice Mallory, Nicole Mitchell, Matt Baker, Jacqueline Bellflower, Latechia Brown, Bert Eidson, Michael Galloy, Greg Gaunond, Jimmy Green, Kerti Greenway, Chris Hart.

And Kevin Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Bill Howard, Teresa Lamprey, Jennifer Launey, Anne McCrane, Maggie McDonald, Anita Matchell, Tiffany Minchew, Cedric Mobley, Ryan Moorman, John Peoples, Sarita Rainey, Holly Reitscher, Mary Richards, Davidae Stewart, Shannon Yow, Jennifer Matthews, Ben Pitchford, Nick Reed, David Richardson, David Roddey, Allison Roush, Richard Shelton, Greg Sosnick, Brian Stanley, John Walker, Jennifer Weaver, Melissa Wheeler, Justin Bridges, Crista Evans.



Valdosta High girls' coach Susan Montgomery makes her point from the sidelines — Times File Photo

Lady Wildcats Get In Three-Way War

Feb. 2, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Tuesday night's news from Tifton was a mixed blessing for the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats.

Coffee High lost its Region 1-AAAA South game Tuesday night. With that, and Valdosta's defense-oriented win over Lowndes High, there was a virtual three-way tie for the subregion lead. Bainbridge now leads at 7-2, with Coffee 6-2 and Valdosta 5-2.

On the other hand, the upsetter at Tifton — Tift County High — is Valdosta's next opponent. The two schools meet for a subregion doubleheader at VHS tonight, the girls tipping off at 7 p.m. The guys, now the bottom two teams in the subregion, play afterwards.

The games are the beginning of a busy weekend for Valdosta High. The Wildcats and Lady Wildcats play at Ware County Saturday.

"The most important thing we have to worry about is Tifton," said Lady Wildcats' coach Susan Mont-

gomery. "We can't worry about the race and who is going to help us.

"We talked about it at practice Wednesday. (Tift) is going to come out here fired up. They are going to come in here after us."

Valdosta (11-5, 5-2) has its three remaining subregion games — Tift, Colquitt County and Coffee — all on the VHS carpet. Bainbridge ends its subregion play at Lowndes tonight, with Coffee playing at Colquitt tonight and at Valdosta next Friday.

"If we can play well and win these games, or just even play well, I think that's going to be an advantage to us," said Montgomery. The subregion tournament starts Feb. 15 at Bainbridge.

If the Lady Wildcats need any other inspiration, Montgomery will remind them of a 39-35 win at Tifton — a game which went down to the final minute.

"We've got to think about what we are going to do to make them play in our hands, play our game," Mont-

See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

Valdosta

Feb. 2, 1990

From Page 1-B

gomery said. "We've got to play our game. Last time, when we went up there, we played their game. We came out with a win, though it wasn't a nice-looking win ... I'm sure we don't have the big head as close as it was."

John Miller's Wildcats (9-7, 1-6) will clinch last place (the No. 6 seed) in the subregion if they lose tonight. Tift won the first meeting, 59-54.

"We've just got to keep working on the things we're doing and get

better at it, and get ready for the tournament," said Miller. "It all boils down to the tournament."

Valdosta's lone subregion win came at Bainbridge, a team which has already clinched the subregion regular-season title.



— Staff/file
Fullback Carlos Parker has been Valdosta's leading offensive threat, rushing for 1,548 yards and 22 touchdowns.

Seniors Williams, Morse are old 'friends' on line

There'll only be one player on each side of the line tonight who was a starter when Valdosta and Clarke Central last met for the state championship in 1986.

Fittingly enough, they will probably be facing each other across the line often tonight as they did then, when both were freshmen.

Kevin Morse is now a 255-pound senior tackle for Central and Anthony Williams is a 245-pound senior linebacker for Valdosta.

The Wildcats won the last game, in Valdosta, 28-0, but Morse believes things will be different tonight.

"I think it'll be a better game this time," he said. "We played them hard [in '86], but they were just so much bigger and stronger than we were. I think we're more evenly matched."

"I agree that's it's probably evenly matched," Williams said. "Their of-

fensive line has good size and speed and they are very physical."

Both players agreed that playing in the state championship game as freshmen was special, and Morse added that he remembers Williams well.

"I played right across from No. 44 [Williams]," he said, "and I remember a fourth-and-1 where he came right across my face and made a tackle that stopped us. It stopped our momentum, and it sort of threw me off, too."

What's it going to take to win tonight?

"I believe it will be a highly emotional and physical game," Williams said. "The team with the biggest heart is going to win it."

"We'll be playing in front of a whole lot of folks, and we've just got to get pumped up and ready to go," Morse said.

— Lawrence Dennis

VALDOSTA, CENTRAL AT STATE

Wildcats have the edge

Though tonight's meeting between Valdosta and Clarke Central for the Class AAAA championship will mark the seventh time schools from the two towns have met for state titles, it's officially only the fourth time the two schools have played.

The other three games were played between Valdosta and Central's predecessor, Athens High, in 1955, 1965 and 1969. Athens won 40-21 in '55, Valdosta won 14-13 in '65 and the teams tied 26-all and were co-champions in '69.

Since then, Central won 16-14 in 1977 and lost 21-14 in 1984 and 28-0 in 1986.

Valdosta leads the overall series, which began in 1920, 4-2-2.

Here's what happened in the schools' last three meetings.

1986

VALDOSTA 28, CENTRAL 0

— Both teams came into the game at Cleveland Field 14-0, and the Wildcats had their second USA Today national title in three years on the line. Valdosta was No. 1 in the USA Today poll.

Central was the defending state champion, and the Gladiators' last loss had come to the Wildcats on the same field in the 1984 championship game.

Valdosta took control early, storming to a 21-0 halftime lead. The Wildcats drove 60 yards in nine plays, with quarterback Greg Talley diving over from the 1 with 6:54 left in the first period. Valdosta scored in the second period on a 10-play, 77-yard march on another 1-yard dive by Talley. The senior quarterback then hit tight end Charles Steward with a 40-yard scoring pass with 1:07 left.

Central didn't get a first down until its first possession of the second half, but a play later, Valdosta defensive back Walt Gill caught a fumble in midair and rambled 48 yards to the Gladiator 1. Fullback James Roberts scored on the next play to make it 28-0 with 8:54 left in the third period.

Central finally threatened in the fourth quarter, but was stopped inside the Valdosta 10 with 2:14 left.

1984

VALDOSTA 21, CENTRAL 14

— The Wildcats were 14-0 and top ranked by USA Today, while Central was 13-1.

Tailback Tony Anderson put Valdosta ahead in the first quarter when he capped a six-play, 44-yard drive with a 1-yard run on the Wildcats' first possession.

Central tied it up in the second quarter on a 1-yard run by tailback Doug Davenport and it was tied at the half.

Central scored on its first possession of the third quarter when Davenport went in from the 1 to climax a 15-play, 78-yard drive and led 14-7 going into the final period.

Valdosta's offense got tough when it had to, marching 80 yards, with Anderson diving in from the 2. The score was tied with 9:57 left in the game.

After the Valdosta defense stuffed Central after the ensuing kickoff, Anderson almost single-handedly won the game. He fielded the Gladiators' punt at his 38 and wasn't stopped until he was knocked out of bounds at the 3. He went in from there on a sweep with 6:22 left.

Anderson and Davenport scored all the touchdowns in this "Game of the Tailbacks."

1977

CENTRAL 16, VALDOSTA 14

— Ironically, the only Wildcat team to lose in a state championship meeting between the two schools may have been the best of them all.

All-America quarterback Buck Belue led the Wildcats into the game 12-1 after Valdosta's first loss in history to crosstown archrival Lowndes, 7-2, during the regular season. Central was 13-0.

The title at stake was the last AAA championship — Class AAAA wasn't created until the following year.

Valdosta was put in a 16-0 hole early. The Gladiators used a 61-yard drive engineered by quarterback Jim Bob Harris and capped by a 4-yard scoring run by tailback Stan Davis to take a 7-0 lead on their first possession.

After the ensuing kickoff, Valdosta was backed up to its 9 by a penalty, and Belue was knocked out of the end zone while trying to pass to make it 9-0 with 7:46 still left in the first period.

Central safety Lionel Huff put the Gladiators on the board for the last time in the game when he went 54 yards with a Belue pass that had hit Frank Council in the hands and bounced high in the air.

Valdosta stormed back on a three-play, 78-yard drive, with Belue hitting wide receiver John Lastinger with a 32-yard scoring pass. Belue ran for two to make it 16-8 at the end of the first quarter.

The Wildcats scored on the last play of the third quarter when Belue hit Council with a 28-yard strike, but Belue's run for two to tie the score was stopped a yard short.

Valdosta drove 72 yards to the Central 14 but faced a fourth-and-8 with 1:23 left. Steady Robert Baldwin came in to try a 31-yard field goal, well within his straightaway kicking range.

Central coach Billy Henderson called two timeouts as the Wildcats came up to the line, and the strategy may have worked. The snap to holder was high and Belue had to pull it down quickly. Baldwin hit it low, and though the kick was true, it floated high and came down 10 yards short.

Central ran out the clock, but Belue spoke for the Wildcats.

"I know talk is cheap, but I think we're a better team than they are," he said after the game. "We just gave them too many breaks."

— Lawrence Dennis

Sluggish Wildcats Split At Colquitt

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

MOULTRIE — Both the Valdosta Wildcats and the Lady Wildcats looked as if they just were not ready to play basketball here Friday night at Colquitt County High School.

Although the VIIS girls' team battled their sluggishness and came away a winner, the boys' team was not as lucky.

The Lady Wildcats shook off a slow start and a poor offensive showing to defeat the Colquitt County Lady Packers, 50-33. The

half and were dominated by the Packers, 73-59.

The Lady Wildcats upped their record to 9-2 overall and while they remain undefeated in the subregion, the Wildcats are now 6-5 overall and 0-4 in the region.

The difference in the boys' game could have been found on the glass backboards of Espy Gymnasium. The Packers outrebounded Valdosta 52-22 with Colquitt County getting much of their scoring from offensive rebounds.

"That was definitely the difference tonight. We didn't tackle the backboards and they did. They got us

Boys Game
VALDOSTA (59) — Spencer Iverson 15, James Manning 2, Ernest Lowe 2, Jason King 16, Major Min 10, Michael Moore 10, Jed Demard 2, Eddie Emanuel 2.
COLQUITT (73) — Greg Daniels 2, Tim Lewis 2, Garland Dozier 27, Kenneth Clark 16, Wade Sansbury 2, Rodney Troupe 10, Allan Jones 1, Darius Dawson 1, Mark Moley 4, Lewayne Mapp 8.
VALDOSTA
COLQUITT
Records: Valdosta 6-5, 0-4; Colquitt 7-4, 4-1.
Next Game: Valdosta at Lanier County tonight

Girls Game
VALDOSTA (50) — Vasti Manning 14, Shannon West 6, Esther Benjamin 14, Laura Dennis 7, Cassandra Twine 5, Bede Dennis 2, Natasha Johnson 2, Andrea Poole 2, Stephanie Tillman 2, Trice Traube 6, Monique Hill 6, Lisa Phillips 2, Mary Henry 4, Zena Hall 2.
VALDOSTA
COLQUITT
Records: Valdosta 9-2, 4-0; Colquitt 3-8, 0-5.
Next Game: Valdosta at Lanier County tonight

Wildcats suffered a major scoring drought of their own in the second

dosta hung within striking range until about four minutes were left to play. The Packers then proceeded to blow out the visitors, again using their prowess inside.

Forward Jason King led the Wildcats with 16 points while Iverson chipped in with 15. Garland Dozier was the big gun for the Packers, collecting 27 points.

"At the beginning of the year we were successful running the ball up and down the court. But we didn't make the right decisions tonight and we didn't make very smart passes," Miller said. "But with our size, that's

See VALDOSTA, Page 3B

there all night," VHS head coach John Miller said. "We came out hot in the second half and all of a sudden we couldn't make anything. We also had some crucial turnovers."

Colquitt stayed ahead throughout the first half but the Wildcats never let the lead stretch farther than seven points. But the Wildcats owned the last two minutes of the half, scoring the final seven points of the half. They led 31-30 at intermission.

With 6:38 left in the third period,

Moultrie rallied for an 8-point lead at the end of the third period. Val-

Valdosta

From Page 1B

the only way we can play."

On paper, the Lady Wildcats, undefeated in the subregion, should have had an easy time with the Lady Packers. But they didn't. In fact, Valdosta could not secure the win until midway through the fourth quarter.

But with their record still flawless in the Region 1-AAAA South, head coach Susan Montgomery still felt good about the game.

"I told them we were lucky to win tonight, but that is a quality that good teams have; to play poorly and still win," Montgomery said. "Vashti

Manning played a good game tonight. She hustled on defense and made them think twice about passing the ball. I was also pleased with our free throw shooting."

Manning, along with Esther Benjamin, led the team with 14 points. They had to make up for the poor night star forward Cassandra Twine had shooting the ball. Twine scored only two points in the first half and finished with only five points.

The Lady Wildcats led by only seven at the end of the third quarter but soon put the game out of reach. Valdosta travels to Lakeland to face Lanier County tonight. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.



Wildcat Legend



Cats Rout Central

Wrestlers Use 12 Pins In 72-3 Win

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

The Valdosta High wrestling team made short work of the Central High Yellow Jackets Friday night as they racked up 12 pins on their way to an easy 72-3 victory at Valdosta High gymnasium.

Eight of VHS' 12 pins came in the first period.

Central High, in only its first year of wrestling competition, managed to win one out of 13 matches keeping Valdosta from sweeping the match.

Central's Ben MacRae was the only wrestler that stood between Valdosta and a perfect score.

MacRae's 14-8 decision in the 112-pound weight class gave his team their lone three points in the meet.

"Our wrestlers came out fired up and we've always looked at each opponent as if it is the last wrestling match of the year. We try and always take the fight to our opponent," said VHS wrestling coach John Davis. "I have to give Central and Coach Dean credit. They are a first-year program, but none of his guys quit. They have some good looking athletes. We'll be seeing more from them in the future."

With the win, Valdosta improved its dual meet record to 9-1, while Central drops to 2-6. Central's Dean praised his own squad as well as Valdosta after the loss.

"I told our wrestlers before the match that we were facing probably the best wrestling team in southwest Georgia and just do your

best. They did that. My proof is that until tonight, our wrestling team had not lost a match by more than 25 points," said Dean. "We were just up against a great program. But none of my guys quit on the mat. They fought hard. They were just up against a quality wrestling team that is very good with their techniques."

Valdosta's Tim Gartland got his team going with a pin with just 23 seconds left in the third period. Then after MacRae edged VHS' Ryan Thigpin in the 112-pound class, the 'Cats rolled.

Valdosta's domination began with Chris Thigpin's 1:43 second period pin of Chad Morris. Scott Moore countered with a first-period pin with 57 seconds left. And then the state's third-place finisher in 1988, Steve Peterman, gave VHS a 24-3 advantage by pinning Dana Holland with 35 seconds remaining in the opening period.

Justin Bridges, Jason Finland and Chuck Bonner all accounted for first-period pins increasing Valdosta's lead to 42-3. With 44 seconds left, Maurice Dean rolled Central's Donald Green over for a second-period pin, then Jason Griffin gave VHS a 54-3 lead with a first-period pin on Central's Desmond Bell at the 33-second mark.

Derrick Phillips, Ryan Moorman and Eric Phillips closed out the VHS domination with pins. Derrick Phillips and Moorman's pins came in the first period.

Valdosta returns to the mat today hosting a meet at VHS versus Coffee, Lowndes and Fayette County. The matches begin at 3 p.m.



Valdosta's Jason Finland (top) and Central's Levi Alday wrestle during

Friday's match at VHS — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

People File

Meet...

- **NAME:** Laurie Bajalla
- **RESIDENCE:** Valdosta
- **OCCUPATION:** ValdostaHigh School Junior.
- **HOBBIES:** Track, spending time with friends, and being VHS junior class vice-president.
- **QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "Failure to prepare is like preparing to fail"

Local Folks



VDJ M M 15, 1992

Wildcats Whip Lanier County

VDT, Sun. Jan. 14, 1990
VHS Gets Doubleheader Sweep

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

LAKELAND — With a break in their subregion schedules, the Valdosta High Wildcats and Lady Wildcats had a chance to gain some confidence and prove to themselves that they could play well on the road. They were not disappointed in the result.

The Lady Wildcats outscored the Lady Bulldogs of Lanier County 24-4 in the first quarter and rolled to an easy 60-29 win. The Bulldogs of Lanier County hung a little bit tougher in the boys' game but they also victim to a more powerful squad, losing 69-46.

The Wildcats go to 7-5 with the win while the Lady Wildcats are now 10-2.

The damage to the Lady Bulldogs' ego could have been much worse had it not been for guard Tawanna Moore, who poured in 21 on her team's 29 points. Meanwhile, the Lady Wildcats took the suspense out of the game early, feeding the ball inside to their inside duo of Cassandra Twine and Esther Benjamin time and time again. Each finished the game with 12 points apiece.

Midway through the second half, Valdosta head coach Susan Montgomery emptied her bench with 12 players scoring at least a basket.

"We said before the game that we wanted to execute better and rebound a lot better," Montgomery said. "We did that. We got everyone to play and they all took part in the win. We also did a good job from the free throw line."

The Wildcats looked as if they would have just as easy a time in their game, jumping out to a 10-2 advantage in the first quarter. Lanier narrowed that gap some before a score and a free throw by Jason King and two free throws by Ernest Lowe stretched the lead to 17-8.

Lanier refused to quit and fought back to 23-19. Then King and Lowe took over again. King converted a

Boys Game

Valdosta-Lanier

VALDOSTA (69) — Spencer Iverson 10, Major Lynn 7, Jason King 21, James Manning 10, Ernest Lowe 14, Corey Brazeal 2, Michael Moore 3, Tharon Lane 2.

LANIER COUNTY (46) — Jerome Williams 17, Martis Mack 12, Isaac Cannon 10, Terence Williams 3, Marcus McGriff 2, Joseph Clines 2.

Valdosta 19 16 19 15—69
Lanier Co. 12 10 10 14—46

Records: Valdosta 7-5, Lanier County 3-9.
Next Game: Valdosta at Bainbridge (Friday, Jan. 19).

Girls Game

VALDOSTA (60) — Tracy Troutman 7, Dede Dennis 4, Laura Dennis 4, Amanda McGhin 2, Shannon West 2, Esther Benjamin 12, Vashli Manning 8, Natasha Johnson 1, Jennifer Louney 2, Cassandra Twine 12, Lisa Vincent 2, Janie Clark 4.

LANIER COUNTY (29) — Tawanna Moore 21, Paulette Brockington 2, Maxine McGriff 2, Tammy Williams 4.

Valdosta 24 17 13 06—60
Lanier Co. 04 09 06 10—29

Records: Valdosta 10-2.

three-point play, hit two free throws while Lowe bombed in a 3-pointer from the corner and slammed home two more to put Valdosta up by 11 late in the first half. The Wildcats led 35-22 at halftime.

The second half of the third quarter finally put the game out of reach. A hook shot by Michael Moore and two scores by King made the lead 44-26 with 3:53 left in the third. Later, a drive and a putback by Spencer Iverson, another score by King and two free throws by Lowe ended the quarter with Valdosta up 54-32.

"We looked like we were playing a little angry and upset at the way we had been playing the last couple of game," head coach John Miller said. "We won on the road and desperately needed to do that. Rebounding is just going to be a problem all year with our size. I thought we played hard but we could play better."

Both Wildcat squads will take almost a week off before traveling to subregion rival Bainbridge next Friday night. The Wildcats will be looking for their first subregion win against the undefeated Bearcats while the Lady Wildcats look to keep their subregion record unblemished. They are currently 4-0.

In B-team action Saturday night, Matt Baker was perfect on 14 free throw attempts as he hit 30 points and Valdosta won 64-48.



Valdosta High's Natasha Johnson and Jennifer Launey close the gap on a Lanier

County player Saturday night in Lakeland — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Early Coffee Pins Defeat Valdosta

VDT, Sun. Jan. 14, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Coffee High coach Bud Drew expected a tough day of competition Saturday at Valdosta High's four-team wrestling tournament.

What he and the Trojans got was three victories, including a 45-24 day-ending stunner over the host Wildcats.

"I didn't think we would coming up here," Drew said about the three wins. "I was looking at Valdosta being real strong. In a tournament you never know what is going to happen."

What propelled the Trojans past the Wildcats (10-2) was a quick start through the lower weight classes. A decision plus four straight pins — by Rodney Pope, Anthony Lott, Stacy Grady and Ricky Lomax — gave Coffee a 27-0 lead.

"Anytime you get ahead a bit that's going to give you some self-confidence," said Drew. "That really was a deciding factor in the match. We got a little bit ahead and got the edge. That helps."

"That was a hard deficit to come back on. But we say the best excuse

is no excuse," said VHS coach John Davis. "We got beat by a better team tonight. We've just got a lot of hard work in front of us."

Valdosta did get it within 27-15 on a decision won by Justin Bridges and pins by Jason Finland and Chuck Bonner, but a Valdosta forfeit at 152 pounds followed by Brandon Bailey's third pin of the day, this over Jason Griffin in 1:44, sealed the win.

"I was worried a bit, but my 160 (Bailey) did a good job," said Drew.

A big surprise came with Lomax' pin. "I just wanted to keep from him getting pinned. That was my words to him, and he went out and reversed it," Drew said.

Valdosta was led by 189-pounder Ryan Moorman, who recorded two pins and a 4-3 decision over Coffee's Scott Harper. Moorman's two pins came in 13 and 19 seconds.

Bonner also had two pins and a decision. Bridges had two pins and a draw, while 103-pounder Tim Garland, 119-pounder Chris Thigpen and 140-pounder Jason Finland each had two pins and a loss.

Coffee's top wrestlers behind Bailey — See WRESTLE, Page 3D

Wrestle

From Page 1D

ley included 119-pounder Lott (two pins, decision); 125-pounder Grady (two pins, forfeit); heavyweight Tim Tyson (pin, two decisions) and 112-pounder Pope and 189-pounder Harper (two pins, one loss).

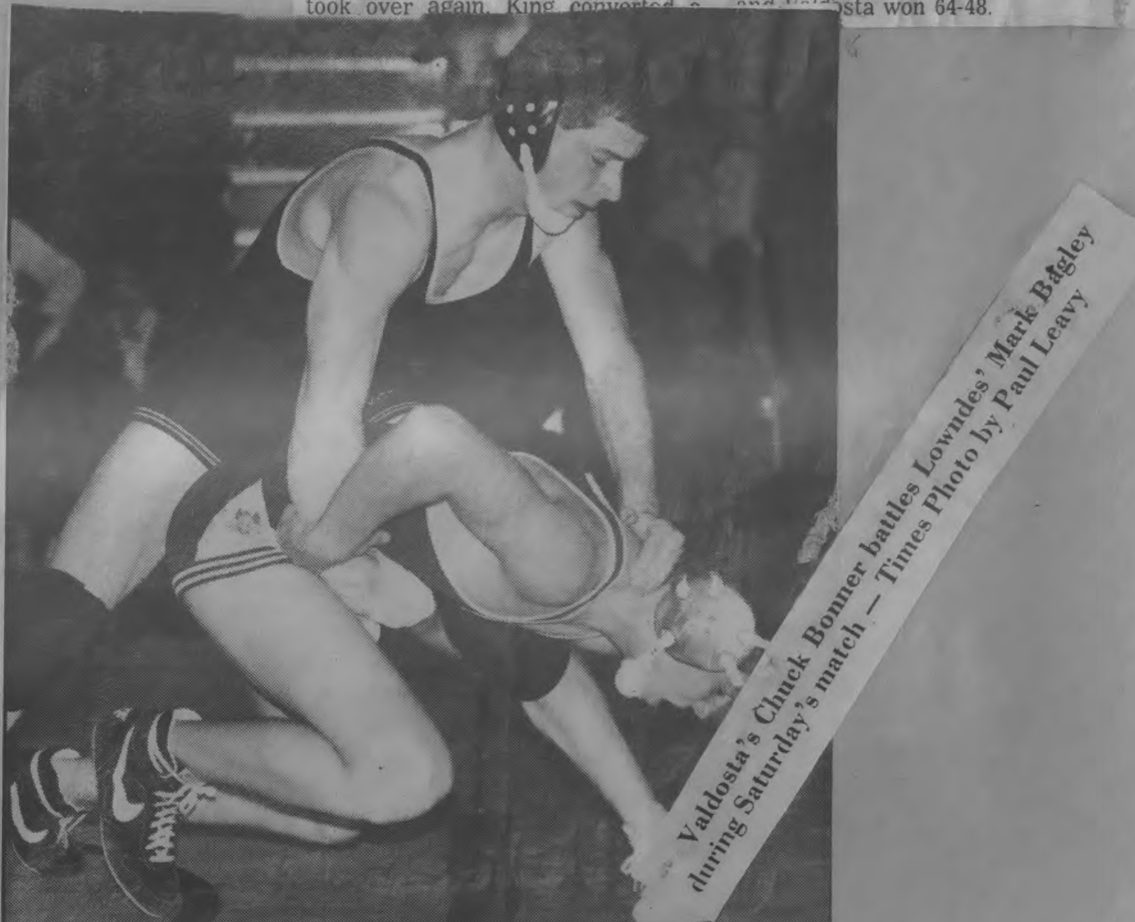
Coffee had beaten Lowndes 56-16 and Fayette 38-26 in earlier matches.

Valdosta won its first two matches of the day, beating Fayette 44-20 and Lowndes 62-12. In the Fayette match, Valdosta was down six points

(20-14) before ripping off five straight pins in the final matches.

Mark Bagley (decision) and Robert McDougale (pin) recorded Lowndes' only match-wins of the day. Lowndes and Fayette did not wrestle.

The Vikings also had 171-pounder John Davis suffer a neck injury in his match against Valdosta's Derrick Phillips. Davis was taken from the gym on a stretcher and taken to South Georgia Regional Medical Center, where he was listed in good condition Saturday night.



Valdosta's Chuck Bonner battles Lowndes' Mark Bagley during Saturday's match — Times Photo by Paul Leavy



Jeannette Coody, community involvement team chairperson for Levi Strauss Co. in Valdosta, watches as Valdosta High School seniors Stephanie Oliver (foreground) and Carma Wright use the new medical library videotape system made possible by a Levi grant — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

New VHS Library Focuses On Nursing

VDT, Wed. Jan. 17, 1990
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Since Valdosta High School set up a medical library in December, health occupations students there say understanding and performing the duties of medical professions is much easier.

VHS was able to set up the library after the school was given a \$4,500 grant by Valdosta's Levi Strauss and Co., said Janie McGhin, a registered nurse who has been teaching at VHS for about two years.

The library consists of medical books which are not available in the school's main library and "vision centers," computer monitors and screens which allow a student to insert a videotape and watch instructional programs related to nursing.

"You don't have to have (the teacher) show you what to do, and it's always more interesting to see what you're studying rather than just read about it," said VHS senior Anita Matchett.

Another senior, Carma Wright, said watching the videos helps her better understand textbook material.

Ms. McGhin said she purchased about 30 books, 21 videotapes on basic nursing skills and three video monitors.

"They (the students) see pictures in a book, but it's not the same as ac-

tually watching it," Ms McGhin said. "We're not only facing a nursing shortage — we're facing a shortage in all medical fields. That's why it's important that we show students all that is available to them."

Ms. McGhin worked to get the grant with Jeanette Coody, Levi Strauss' Community Involvement Team chairman. The Levi team grants funds to various community projects each year, Ms. Coody said.

"We evaluate the needs and the segment of the community being reached. We try to reach all segments of the community," she said. "We had never helped Valdosta High School. We had helped other schools — especially elementary schools."

Without Levi's grant, VHS would not have been able to establish a medical library, Ms. McGhin said.

Wildcat Teams Take Two Paths

VDT, Thurs. Feb. 15, 1990
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Both Valdosta High basketball squads are entering the Region 1-AAAA South tournament today with winning records. But one's road to a subregion title will be a bit tougher and a little longer than the other's.

The Lady Wildcats finished their season with a 14-7 record and an 8-2 mark in the subregion. With that, they earned a first-round bye in the tourney and will face the winner of today's Lowndes-Tift County game. Head coach Susan Montgomery is not making any predictions about who her first opponent will be. But to her, it doesn't make much difference.

"Regardless of who we play, we're going to have to control the tempo of the game. Against Lowndes, we would like to get them into a half-court game and take away their break. Against Tift County, we would like to contain their outside shooters because that's what they like to do," Montgomery said. "Whoever we play first, we'll have to play good defens-

ively. The last couple of games, we've played good defense in the third and fourth quarters. We don't want to get behind early and play catch up. We want to jump out quick."

The Lady Wildcats are led by their potent one-two inside punch of senior Cassandra Twine and sophomore Esther Benjamin. They will be joined by junior Laura Dennis, sophomore Natasha Johnson, junior Vashti Manning, freshman Shannon West and sophomore Dede Dennis as regulars on the court.

Last season, the Lady Wildcats advanced through the subregion tournament and the region tournament before losing in the first round of the state playoffs. Most of the 1989-90 squad was on the team last year and Montgomery hopes the experience gained last year will pay off on the court now.

"I feel sure it will help," said Montgomery. "I felt like we had a good team last year but we didn't have anyone who had experienced playing on that level. Now we do and

See VALDOSTA, Page 4-B

Valdosta

From Page 2-B

I think this year's team knows it's crunch time. We've been playing the last several game like it's our last one and I think we just want it more."

Meanwhile, the Wildcats will have to earn their right for a shot at the title the hard way. Valdosta begins the tournament this afternoon with a 5:30 game against the Lowndes Vikings. During the regular season, LHS swept its crosstown rivals but head coach John Miller hopes the third time is a charm.

"Lowndes is a good team but we're just approaching this as a region tournament game. We want to keep playing and, to do that, we've got to beat Lowndes," Miller said. "We know who we're playing and that they're our rivals but we're trying to put more emphasis on advancing."

Aside from host Bainbridge, no team would seem to have an advantage on the Bearcats' court. But if Miller can't host the tourney, Bainbridge would definitely be his second pick. Nearly a month ago, the Wildcats pulled a huge upset by edging the previously-unbeaten Bearcats, 83-80. When Bainbridge visited Valdosta, the game was close

throughout before Bainbridge prevailed.

The Wildcats will have one of their top scorers and rebounders, senior Jason King, back in the lineup tonight. King missed the last week of the regular season with chicken pox. He returned to practice Wednesday.

But Miller's battles against inju-

ries and illnesses is not over yet. Forward Ernest Lowe is suffering from a sore neck muscle and will not start against Lowndes although he should be able to play.

The Wildcat starting lineup will probably consist of center Michael Moore, forwards James Manning and Spencer Iyerson and guards Farrell Scott and Major Lynn.

Four Wildcats Chosen For All-Star Games

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

VD Mon. Jan. 15, 1990

which the Georgia Head Coach Robert Davis of Warner Robins, will pick the remaining six players for the Georgia squad at a later date.

"I've coached in the North-South All-Star game and I was the first coach selected for the Georgia-Florida All-Star game, and I feel that the process has improved steadily for the Georgia-Florida selection," said VHS head football coach Nick Hyder. "We met Thursday and tried to pick the best possible players to represent the state. No arguments among anyone, just trying to gather the best players for the team."

"Only two players from the same school can be represented on either team and I feel that both Anthony

and Chris were two players deserving of the honor.

"Anthony's numbers in high school as a four-year letterman speaks for itself and Chris is an outstanding football player as well as an outstanding student and is someone I'm proud to say represents our team and school."

The intra-state North-South All-Star football representatives were also named Thursday.

Valdosta running back Carlos Parker and offensive lineman Matthew Butler were named to the South squad.

"The only difference in the naming of the North-South and Georgia-Florida is that the Georgia state

game has alternates which are named," said Hyder. "Among some of the alternates for the South squad are VHS tight end Mickey McSwain and offensive lineman Brooks Atkins.

"I personally voted for Colquitt's outstanding receiver Tim Lewis and Tift County's clutch receiver Michael Ewings, but they were named to the South's alternate list. I think all the selections were very objective. The process is a very good one for everyone involved."

"I thought that Carlos would have been very deserving of a spot on the Georgia-Florida squad. His 25 touchdowns were quite impressive and I don't know if anyone in the state had better numbers," he added.

The game is scheduled for July 27, at Bobby Dodd Stadium in Atlanta.

The remaining eight players for

Sec ALL-STARS, Page 3B

WILDCATS

From Page 1B

both the North and South squads will be chosen by the head coaches at a later date. However, their eight players picked can include representatives from the Georgia-Florida clash.

The South coach has not been determined, but the offer has been extended to LaGrange head coach Gary Guthrie. If Guthrie does not accept, the offer will then be extended to Griffin head coach Lloyd Bohannon. The North's head coach is Southwest DeKalb's Buck Godfrey.

Along with Williams and Hart, the Georgia-Florida All-Star football team includes center Kevin Morse (Clarke Central), center Boyd Andrews (school unknown), offensive linemen Steve Roberts (Dalton), Floyd Lewis (Central-Carrollton), James Holcombe (Worth County), Brent Duggins (Carrollton), Greg O'Neal (Baldwin), Jermaine Howard (school unknown).

The wide receivers are Andre Hastings (Morrow) are Hason Graham (Southwest DeKalb). The quarterbacks are Derrick McDowell (Warner Robins) and Joe Dupree (Southwest Macon).

Running backs are Garrison Hearst (Lincoln County), Bobby Ellison (Manchester), Mike Thornton (Albany) and Tony Grant (Statesboro).

The Georgia defense includes linebackers Stacy Jones (Hart County), Travis Jones (Wilkinson County) and defensive linemen Williams (Valdosta), Steve Latson (Wayne County) and Tracy Huzzie (Troupe County). The defensive ends are Charles Spatlin (Windor-Barrow) and Chris Reese (Thompson).

The defensive backs include Hart (Valdosta), Jerome Williams (Thomasville), Reggie Ingram (Coffee),

Greg Tremble (Warner Robins) and Bill Montgomery (Bowdon). The Georgia placekicker is Eric Smith (Clarke Central).

Along with VHS' Parker and Butler, the South representatives for the North-South All-Star football game includes quarterbacks Kowalski Lewis (Worth County) and Corbett Reynolds (Thomson). The wide receivers include Daron Hodges (Mitchell-Baker) and Marcus Griffin (Wilcox County). The running backs are Parker (Valdosta), Ricardo Rutledge (LaGrange), Frank Harvey (Terrell County) and Daron Whitaker

(Warner Robins).

The offensive linemen are Butler (Valdosta), David O'Hara (Monroe), Justin Clark (Perry), John Ludwick (Lincoln County), Brock Scott (Reidsville), Scottie Griffin (Montgomery County), Scott Talifer (Cairo), Cedric Graham (Mitchell-Baker) and the tight end is James Warner (Newnan).

The South defense includes tackles Virgil Herrington (Statesboro) and O.J. Patrick (Miller County). Noseguard Ben Clemons (Bainbridge), defensive ends Darius Dawson (Colquitt County) and Harold Griffin (Camden County).

'Cats,
Coming
To
Area



Valdosta High's Alton Hitson slides into home plate for the County. Pitcher Stephen Hiers is covering the plate after a wild Wildcats' first run during Thursday's 9-5 win over Brooks pitch — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Wildcats Answer Wake-Up Call, 9-5

VDT, Fri. March 23, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The wake-up call came, and it was answered.

After watching Tim Lambert's grand-slam home run — the wake-up call — sail over the left-field fence, the Valdosta High Wildcats rallied in the next two innings to take a 9-5 high school baseball victory over Brooks County Thursday afternoon at Bazemore Field.

Valdosta scored three runs in the bottom of the third to answer Lambert's blast and tie the game, then plated five more runs in the fourth to break the tie for good. It was Valdosta's fourth win over Brooks this season — four of VHS's five wins (5-5).

"That gets your attention, gets your head back in the game," senior designated hitter Jason Nichols, who

BROOKS COUNTY		VALDOSTA HIGH	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Barkley 3b-p	2 1 0 1	Hitson cf-c	3 1 1 0
Proctor lf	3 1 0 0	O'Brien c	0 0 0 0
Barnes c	4 0 1 0	Gage 2b	3 1 1 1
Lambert cf	4 1 1 4	Bass c-p	4 2 0 0
Hiers p-ss	4 0 1 0	Thornton rf	2 2 2 1
Morton ph	0 0 0 0	Nichols dh	4 2 2 2
J.Jones lb	2 0 0 0	Myers lf	3 0 1 0
Williams pr	0 0 0 0	Akins rf	0 0 0 0
Gregory 2b	4 1 2 0	Jarmillo ss	3 0 1 1
Hadley rf	2 0 0 0	Tarpley lb	3 0 0 0
E.Jones ss-3b	1 1 0 0	Cullen 3b	2 1 1 0
		Carler cf	0 0 0 0
Totals	26 5 5 5	Totals	27 9 9 5

BROOKS COUNTY 004 001 0-5
VALDOSTA HIGH 103 500 -9

E—Hiers, Lambert, Proctor 2, Barkley, Gage, Jarmillo.
DP—Valdosta 1, LOB—Brooks 8, Valdosta 5. HR—Lambert. SB—Gregory, Hitson, Myers, Jarmillo, Thornton 2, Nichols.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Brooks						
Hiers L	4	7	9	6	3	2
Barkley	2	2	0	0	0	0
Valdosta						
Waters	31.3	3	4	4	7	5
Bass W, 2-2	32.3	2	1	0	1	2

had RBI singles in both the third and fourth, said of the home run.

"In our ballpark people are going to hit home runs. The problem is walking the three guys (ahead of him)," said Valdosta head coach

Charles Tarpley. "That's what you hope you don't do and he did it."

The Wildcats — up 1-0 when Alton Hitson scored on a wild pitch in the first — got into the jam when starter Jamey Waters walked three of the first four batters to open the third. Waters ran the count to 3-2 on Lambert, who promptly poked the next pitch toward Perimeter Road.

VHS began the comeback in the third off losing pitcher Stephen Hiers. Nichols singled home the first run, and Steve Jarmillo brought home another run with an infield single. Nichols tied the game when he came home on a passed ball.

Brooks threatened in the fourth, when Donnell Hadley and Eric Jones walked. Tarpley called on winning pitcher Ashley Bass to relieve Waters, and the 'Cats got out of the jam with a ground out and a strikeout.

"Ashley came in and did a good job and we got some runs," said Tarpley.

Valdosta mixed four hits with three Brooks errors to break the 4-4 tie. Rookie Gage snapped the deadlock with his sharp single to left, scoring Sean Cullen (single). Two errors and a fielder's choice put Gage at third and Bass at second, then Byron Thornton (2-for-2) singled home Gage. Nichols plated Bass with a single to left.

Thornton and Nichols later executed a double steal, scoring Thornton. Nichols got the last run when he scored on a wild pitch.

Bass limited Brooks to two hits in the final 3½ innings, giving up an unearned run in the sixth when Valdosta's defense broke down for three infield errors. Bass struck out two and walked one.

Bryan Gregory had two hits for Brooks.

Valdosta hosts Tift County in a sub-region game this afternoon.



Valdosta's Arthur McCommehead gets tagged out at home plate by Brooks catcher Eric Barnes to end a seven-run second inning during Thursday's Rebel Classic game at Berrien County High School in Nashville. — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Have Fun, Win Twice

VDT. Sun. April 15, 1990
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In what was a carnival atmosphere at Bazemore Field Saturday, the Valdosta High Wildcats broke a two-game losing streak by disposing of the Leesburg, Fla., Yellow Jackets, 12-1 and 11-5.

Valdosta first baseman Brad Tarpley led his team in hitting going 4-for-7 in the doubleheader with one run scored and five RBI. Leesburg's Donnie Dickson led his team with four hits and three runs scored.

In between the games, both teams and their fans shared a moment eating food and exchanging stories about each team's baseball seasons. Plus, the players on both squads were able to share some time just talking baseball from a Georgia and Florida perspective.

VHS head coach Charles Tarpley was pleased with his team's effort, but was also glad the Florida school enjoyed its short stay.

"Our team really hit the ball well today, even though their pitchers

were not like anything we've seen all year," said Tarpley.

"Even though we won both games, I would have to say that both schools had a good time today. Hopefully making some new friends and playing a little baseball," Tarpley added.

Valdosta is now 8-11 on the year with two games remaining — against Colquitt County at home Tuesday and at Lowndes High Thursday.

Leesburg is now 6-14 on the year.

The first game lasted just 80 minutes and 4½ innings, as the Wildcats banged out 15 hits in just 24 at-bats.

Valdosta scored six runs in the opening two innings for a 12-1 lead paced by run scoring single's by pitcher Sean Cullen, shortstop Steve Jaramillo and Brad Tarpley. VHS catcher Ashley Bass chipped in with a first-pitch three-run home run over the left-field fence in the first inning.

Shannon Myers, Rookie Gage, Byron Thornton and Jason Nichols, along with Bass and Cullen accounted for VHS six runs in the first.

Valdosta finished things off in the second, with six more runs. Myers, Gage, Tracy Carter and Brad Tarpley each drove in VHS runs.

Leesburg's lone run of the game came in the first inning on a sacrifice fly by Art McKee, which scored Dickson, who doubled to start the game.

Leesburg built a 4-0 lead on Valdosta with single runs in the first and third innings. Then Rick Isbill's two-run double to center scored Scott Batsch and Andy Miller for the four-run advantage.

The 'Cats struck for nine runs in the fourth after Leesburg starter Bobby Moore, who had held VHS hitless to that point, developed a blister on his pitching hand and was forced to exit.

VHS took full advantage of his absence, sending 14 batters to the plate and collecting eight hits. Gage, Bass, Myers, Chad Allison, Matt Baker and Brad Tarpley all had had RBIs in the inning. Tarpley accounted for a two-run double pushing the lead to 8-4, before Alfson's single scored Baker for the inning's ninth run.

the first inning. A seven-run second started them off, and it ended with a four-run outburst in the fifth which brought the run-rule in effect.

The uprisings came from the top and the bottom of the order. Leadoff hitter Alton Hitson reached base in each of his five at-bats, scoring four times. The Nos. 2 and 3 hitters, Rookie Gage and Ashley Bass, each had two hits. Gage had a two-run single in the second. In 15 trips to the plate, the trio reached base all 15 times.

And the bottom three in the batting order — Sean Cullen, Steve Jaramillo and Jason Nichols — combined for nine runs, with each getting two hits. Nichols had two RBI.

Tarpley used two sophomore pitchers to shut down Brooks' bats. Joel Bius went three innings, allowing two hits with four strikeouts. Matt Baker went the final two innings, balancing two strikeouts with two walks and no hits.

Brooks scored its lone run in the third. Eric Barnes opened the inning with a double, and scored on Jim Jones' single to right.

'Cats Make Turnaround

VDT. Fri., March 9, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

NASHVILLE — After being one-hit the night before, Valdosta High's 16-1 victory over Brooks County just may have been welcomed news.

The Wildcats recorded the five-inning victory Thursday afternoon in the final round of the sixth annual Rebel Classic baseball tournament. The two teams will meet again today, at 4:30 p.m. at Valdosta State College's Billy Grant Field, in the consolation game of the tournament.

Valdosta, now 1-2, did get 10 more hits than it did in the 4-1 loss to Lowndes High Wednesday night. And it became another team to take advantage of an error-plagued Trojan team which fell to 1-5.

"We didn't make errors, but I don't know why," said Valdosta High coach Charles Tarpley. "We hit the ball better, but we weren't facing those other pitchers."

"I'm just happy to win one ... we needed to win one and get out of confidence up."

Brooks committed seven errors on Thursday, increasing its tournament

WILDCATS 16, TROJANS 1		at h b i	
BROOKS	001 00-1	VALDOSTA	34 12
Barkley ss-3b	3 0 0	Hitson cf	3 1 2
Jones lf-1b	3 0 1	Gage 2b	3 1 2
Lombert p-cf	2 0 0	Bass 3b	2 0 2
Hiers lf-p	2 0 0	Thornton rf	2 0 2
Proctor dh	2 0 0	Carter pr-rr	0 0 0
Jackson rf	2 0 0	Tarpley 1b	4 0 0
Hodley rf	2 0 0	McCommehead lf	1 0 0
Gregory 3b-ss	2 0 0	Myers lf	1 0 0
Williams cf-ll	2 1 0	Cullen ss	3 3 2
Barnes c	2 1 0	Jaramillo ss	4 3 2
Edwards 2b	1 0 0	Nichols dh	3 1 1
Total	17 1 2 1	Totals	31 16 11 8
Brooks County	001 00-1		072 34-16
Valdosta High	072 34-16		

IP H R ER BB SO	
Lombert L	1 2 4 4 3 1
Hiers	3 1 3 9 12 2 3 2
Valdosta	
Barkley, 1b	3 2 1 1 1 4
Lombert pitched to four batters in the 2nd.	
HB-Nichols (by L. Hodley), Gage (by Hiers), WP-	
Baker, Lombert, Hiers, BK-Lombert 2.	

total to 22. Of the 31 runs the Trojans have allowed in three games, only nine have been earned.

But Valdosta did what neither Lowndes nor Berrien could do to Brooks in the first two games — run away from the Trojans. The other two teams posted a combined 15 runs.

The Wildcats did their damage in 3.1 innings, after going scoreless in

Injured Wildcats Host Pack

VDT, Tues, Feb. 6, 1990
 By CHRIS BECKHAM
 Times Assistant Sports Editor

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The Wildcats have been bitten by the injury bug so much this season, they may stop practicing altogether. It seems almost every time they take the court, at least one of their more familiar faces are reapplying bandages or taking their dose of medicine. Not a good sign for a team preparing for the playoffs.

Tonight, the Wildcats host the Colquitt County Packers, 9-9 on the season. Their overall mark pales in comparison to the Wildcats, 11-7 on the year. But the difference lies in the games that count. The Pack is 5-4 in the subregion and battling for second place entering the tournament next week. Valdosta is stuck in fifth with a 2-6 record.

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"It seems that every time we get some momentum going, something happens that sets us back," Miller said. "But we've got a three-game winning streak going and we'd like to keep building on that. The key is going to be how aggressive we are. We can't get caught standing around."

The resurgence of point guard Major Lynn has Miller feeling a little better.

See WILDCATS, Page 3B



The Valdosta Lady Wildcats need two wins championship. Tonight, they host the 0-9 Lady Packers — Times File Photo.

Wildcats

From Page 1B

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VDT, Tues, Feb. 6, 1990



VHS News
 Compiled, Written by VHS Students

VDT, Wed, Oct. 23, 1989

Club Officers Attend State Convention

By JAMES INMAN

Key Club President Matthew Butler and Vice President Mickey McSwain traveled Oct. 2 to the state leadership convention.

They learned of the state project for the year, the Boy's Ranch. The VHS Key Club is planning to actively participate in this project and serve as a leader to the Key clubs.

Each Friday, two Key members are afforded the opportunity to eat at the Kiwanis Club with its members.

This year, the Key Club jerseys will be black with old gold lettering and white cuffs.



VHS' Major Lynn (25) will lead the Wildcats into battle against Bainbridge tonight / Times File Photo by Mike Tanner.

Wildcats Get Going Tonight

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer Jan. 5, 1990

In their last seven appearances on their home court, the Valdosta Wildcats boys' basketball team has come away a winner. But tonight, the floor that has proven to be magic will get its' biggest test of the season.

The Bainbridge Bearcats, perennially one of the top teams in south Georgia, visit Valdosta for a Region 1-AAAA contest. The Lady Bearcats and the Lady Wildcats will start the doubleheader at 7 p.m.

As if a visit from the Bearcats was not enough to give head coach John Miller a headache, he may also be without one of his top players. Senior forward Jason King sprained his ankle Tuesday night against the Tift County Blue Devils and Miller is unsure whether King will be able to play.

"Jason was playing real well against Tift County the other night and was getting a lot of rebounds early in the game. Then all of a sudden, I saw him lying on the floor," Miller said. "If he plays, it will give us a big boost, but right now I'm not counting on him."

The loss of King makes the small Wildcat team even smaller. The Wildcats will go with sophomore Ernest Lowe if King cannot play. Valdosta enters tonight's contest 6-2 on the year but still looking for their first subregion win of the sea-

Valdosta

From Page 1B

VDT Jan. 5, 1990

son. "There is no doubt we have to find a way to get back on track," said Miller. "Our team is playing hard and with a lot of enthusiasm, but we weren't executing late in the game in our last two games as we had done the six games before. The loss in Tifton was an example of that."

The rest of the probable starting lineup for the Wildcats includes guards Spencer Iverson and Major Lynn and frontliners James Manning and Michael Moore.

VHS Lady Wildcats' head coach Susan Montgomery has decided to open with a taller lineup for the Lady Bearcats.

The Lady 'Cats' starting group will include center Cassandra Twine (6-foot-3), along with forwards Esther Benjamin (6-3, soph.) and Laura Dennis (5-10, jr.). "I know that in the past Bain-

bridge has been a very aggressive team and they go after every loose ball. But I also have noticed that they like to play man-to-man, so I've decided to go with a taller frontline to take advantage of what is normally a scoring situation for us, a man-to-man defense," said Montgomery. "We have to do a good job on the boards. That will be the key, and usually is for our team."

The Lady Wildcats are 6-2 on the year and are 1-0 in subregion play.

The Lady 'Cats' expect to have a battle on their hands with the Lady Bearcats, who own a victory over defending Region 1-AAAA South champions, the Coffee High Lady Trojans.

"I think that our players are aware of what each of these subregion games mean," said Montgomery. "I've always said that if we just try and play our game, we'll win some games. We need to do just that against Bainbridge."

Lowndes, Valdosta Claim Burger King Wins

From Staff Reports

Lowndes Middle School and Valdosta Junior High School claimed two wins apiece Saturday during the second day of the Burger King Invitational at Valdosta High School.

LOWNDES NINTH GIRLS 36, **BROOKS COUNTY** 24: Amy Seidling canned 14 points to lead the Lowndes team over Brooks. Mentha McNorton chipped in 11 points for Lowndes while Brooks' Mandee Armstrong led all scorers with 16 points.

LOWNDES NINTH BOYS 55, **LANIER COUNTY** 26: Rod Slater pumped in 16 points as Lowndes romped Lanier County. Tony Miller

added nine points for Lowndes. Alphonso Boone and Keven Henry had ten and seven points for Lanier County, respectively.

VALDOSTA NINTH BOYS 46, **LAKE CITY NINTH** 34: The Wildcat ninth-grade team got 15 points from Andre James to beat Lake City. Stephen Everson added nine points for Valdosta. Darnadrick Cason led Lake City with 12 points while Akil Tunisli chipped in six points.

ECHOLS COUNTY EIGHTH GIRLS 28, **VALDOSTA EIGHTH** 15: Sharesha McCutkins led Echols County with 10 points as they advanced to the eighth grade girls championship game. Cynthia Fudge

added eight points. Martavia Irvin led Valdosta with eight points while Yoland Benjamin added four.

COOK MIDDLE 46, **HAHIRA MIDDLE** 35: Gloria Morris led the Wasps with 18 points while Keisha Newsome added 17. Nicky Perry led Hahira with nine points and Amber Griner had eight points.

LANIER EIGHTH BOYS 44, **HAHIRA MIDDLE** 35: Stevie Williams led all scorers with 19 points and led Lanier County in the championship round. Pat Boone added 16. Michael Roberts had 13 for Hahira while Stephen Gregory had seven points.

VALDOSTA EIGHTH BOYS 42, **COOK MIDDLE** 27: Carlos James

scored 10 points while Andre Ferrell, Leron Poutian and Cedric Bell all had eight points to lead Valdosta. Chauncey Scruggs led Cook with eight points and Ben Smith had six points.

Tournament play will resume Monday. Games will include Brooks County's boys' ninth grade against Lake City boys' ninth grade and Hamilton County's ninth grade boys against Lanier County's ninth grade.



CHRIS BECKHAM

Sports Writer

Wildcats

Fight Their

Bad Breaks

John Miller must be wondering what he did to deserve a season of bad breaks.

The Valdosta Wildcat basketball team had not constructed a winning season in five years and Miller, the head coach, was hoping this season would be the exception. He returned a scorer (Jason King), a rebounder (Michael Moore) and an outside threat (Spencer Iverson).

He also returned a lot of bad luck. For starters, King missed several games early in the season due to an ankle injury. Once he returned, starting point guard Major Lynn missed a couple of games due to sickness and was not at full strength for a couple of others. Aside from Lynn's scoring and passing, he is one of the better rebounding guards around.

Entering the final week of the regular season, with the all-important subregion tournament coming up next week the bad breaks continued. King was felled again, this time to chicken pox. At Monday's practice, Iverson had to leave due to pains in his stomach.

If there are two things the Wildcats lack, it is depth on their bench and size. With King out, both areas are affected. Another missed player will force Miller to use his inexperienced bench more than he would like.

If there is a bright side, it is that Valdosta has already won enough games to ensure a winning regular season record. By defeating Colquitt County Tuesday night, the Wildcats have clinched their first winning season in five years. A win in their last home game against Coffee Friday night would be an outstanding way to finish a rough season.

Across town, Lowndes High has also experienced a different season than they had anticipated. With several strokes of the pen, the Vikings went from the biggest team in the subregion to the smallest. But the loss of several players who were caught in academic difficulties had a positive effect on the team. They won four straight subregion games, mainly due to the marksmanship of outside gunners Ollie Daniels and Leon Williams.

Now, the Vikings will probably be fourth entering the subregion tourney. That pits them against Valdosta in the first round, a team they swept during the regular season. Will the third time be a charm or will the Wildcats finally figure out the key to beating the Vikes? Stay tuned ...

With the season quickly drawing to a close, several players will be overlooked in the mounting storm of final statistics and averages. A few notables:

Eric Peeler: Any scoring the LHS junior point guard gives his team is a bonus, but his leadership is invaluable. Peeler is super quick, a great defender and rarely makes a bad pass. Watch his eyes while playing defense and see his level of intensity.

Shannon West: West runs the Valdosta Lady Wildcats from the point and shows tremendous poise for only a freshman. Like Peeler, West is not the consummate shooter. But she is adept at penetrating and dishing off to the big girls inside.

Tara Williams: The best freshman player I've ever seen on the high school level. The Clinch County post player can dominate a game with scoring and rebounding. Barring an injury, she'll be an great player throughout high school and college.

Shonda Deberry: The senior at Berrien County is a great athlete. Even when her outside shot is off the mark, which is rare, she will find a way to help her team. She is also a smart player who does not get flustered after making mistakes.

Catina Brown: Watching Brown play is like watching a tornado. I've only seen her shoot from the outside once all year. But she is deadly when she takes the ball to the hoop. She is the perfect complement to Larry Maffit's fast-break offense and press defense.

Ernest Lowe: Only a Wildcat sophomore, Lowe has become what may be the most valuable asset Miller has. He can come off the bench and rest a starter or start in place of an injured player. As the season has progressed, Lowe has improved tremendously.

The players few see: The Valdosta area is blessed with a wealth of talent on the private school level. Anytime you can catch one of these games, you almost can't miss having a great time. And the talent is real. If you don't think so, catch Kip Henderson, Andy Dukes, Gizman Abbas, Robbie Dixon, Chad Domincy, Katie Marcoux, Alison Sykes, Joy Lanier and Sherry and Susan Combs.



The Valdosta Lady Wildcats need two wins championship. Tonight, they host the 0-9 this week to claim the subregion Lady Packers — Times File Photo.

Injured Wildcats

Host Pack

VDT Tues. Feb. 6, 1990
By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

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See WILDCATS, Page 3B

Wildcats

VDT Tues. Feb. 6, 1990

From Page 1B

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Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, February 9, 1990

B

Lady 'Cats Go For Title Tonight

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The Region IAAAA South regular-season girls' basketball title is up for grabs tonight at Valdosta High.

Valdosta High meets Coffee High in the contest, set to tip off around 7 p.m., with the boys' game following. It is the regular-season home finale for the Wildcat teams, which play at Berrien County Saturday night.

Both the Lady Wildcats (13-6 overall) and Lady Trojans enter tonight's game with 7-2 sub-region records. The winner gets the sub-

'We've got to play four quarters of defense ... We've got to hold them to about 45 points to win. That's our plan.'

—Susan Montgomery
VHS girls head coach

region title, the No. 1 seed and a first-round bye in next week's sub-region tournament at Bainbridge.

The loser ties Bainbridge for second place. Since both Valdosta and Coffee split with Bain-

bridge this season, the No. 2 seed will be decided by a coin toss at the region meeting in Bainbridge on Sunday. The No. 2 seed gets a bye into Friday's semifinals, while the No. 3 and No. 6 Colquitt County in a first-round game.

"It's time for us to peak, it's time for us to play our best," said VHS head coach Susan Montgomery. "If we are playing our best, it's fitting that it's the game to decide."

The best, or near it, is what Valdosta may need tonight. Coffee has won four of its last five meetings with the Lady Wildcats, including a 63-46 win at Coffee earlier this season.

The lone win came last year on VHS' carpet. "One advantage we have is playing at home," said Montgomery. "We've lost one game at home, and that was to Ware County (a Class AAA power)."

Spell Montgomery's plan to win D-E-F-E-N-S-E.

"We've got to play four quarters of defense," she said. In the first game at Coffee, "the first half we played good defense and we were up five at halftime."

"In the third quarter we didn't play as good a defense, and we got down, but only by five. In the fourth quarter we didn't play any defense." See LADY 'CATS, Page 12-B

Wildcats Eye Top 10 Finish

VDT, Fri., Feb 9, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Confidence is at a high point. The team will enter the state championship meet in full force.

So how will the Valdosta High Wildcats wrestling team fare in this weekend's state wrestling meet? The opinions vary among the Wildcats themselves.

"In the top 10 of 75 teams. That's a goal we can reach," said head coach John Davis.

Others, those who will wrestle beginning this morning at McEachern High in Powder Springs, are more confident. "The top three. We have the potential to if we wrestle really well," said senior Steve Petermann, who himself finished third in the state AAAA tournament (119 pounds) last season. "If we wrestle as well as we did in the region, we can do it."

"This is the best team we've had so far," added senior Ryan Moorman. "We ought to be in the top five, if not the top three."

Last year the Wildcats finished 13th among 76 teams. They have al-

ready repeated as area champions, totaling 241½ points in last week's meet in Columbus. Coffee High, which handed VHS one of its two dual-meet losses this season, was second at 201½.

Davis concedes the team title to defending champion and host McEachern, which Davis said returns 11 of 13 starters from last season. "I see them coming away with it again," he said. "They get more wrestling time as we get more football time. But the See VALDOSTA, Page 12-B

Valdosta

VDT, Fri., Feb 9, 1990
From Page 1-B

southern teams are going to have some good kids up there."

The Wildcats take two area champions to McEachern — Peter Ann (now at 130 pounds) and 140-pound senior Jason Finland. Finland is a three-time area champ.

Five other VHS wrestlers reached the area finals. Maurice Dean (152)

was upset, dropping his first match of the season. Others included Justin Bridges (135), Derrick Phillips (171), Mootman and Eric Phillips (heavyweight).

Chuck Bonner (145) came through the estate-backs to finish third. Chris Thigpen (119), Scott Jones (125) and Jason Griffin (160) all

were fifth, while Tim Garland (103) and Ryan Thigpen (112) were sixth.

"They all could do a real good job and get us some points. We don't have one or two to win it for us," said Davis. "In the state championships quality counts more than quantity, but it will definitely be an advantage for us to have (all 13 wrestlers) there."

Lady 'Cats

VDT, Fri., Feb 9, 1990
From Page 1-B

To combat that, "we've worked real hard and put some new defenses in," said Montgomery. "We're looking at running four different defenses, and one of them should work."

"We've got to hold them to about 45 points to win. That's our plan."

Montgomery said Valdosta can remedy its problems and win the game. In past losses, "I think it's more us. They pressured us and we've turned the basketball over. Up there we tried to force things inside. When our guards are open they're going to have to make the shots."

"We owe Coffee a good game," said senior forward Cassandra Twine. "We just have to play like we're capable of playing. I know we

can beat them. We just have to do what we can do."

John Miller's Wildcats (12-7 overall) have won three straight games despite a rash of sickness and injury. Forward Jason King has missed a week of school with the chicken pox. Spencer Iverson and Major Lynn have also battled ailments.

"All I ask is that we play hard and overcome any liabilities," said Miller. The winning streak, despite the adversity, "shows a little character in our team," Miller said. "Plus, in all three games we were behind."

Valdosta has clinched the No. 5 seed for the region tournament. Coffee needs a win tonight to finish second in sub-region play. If not, Colquitt, Coffee and Lowndes finished tied for second at 5-5.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Monday, February 5, 1990

VHS Dominates Region Tourney

From Staff Reports

COLUMBUS—The Valdosta Wildcat wrestling squad came home from Shaw High School in Columbus with top honors this weekend as they finished strong and ran away with the Region 1-AAAA championship.

The Wildcats' domination was so complete that all 13 wrestlers who participated finished in the top six places in their class and earned a berth in the state championships to be held this weekend at McEachern. VHS head coach John Davis knows that will give his team an advantage and he was excited about the weekend's results.

"All the hard work these kids have put in this year paid off this weekend," Davis said. "There was really a lot of good wrestling up there. The competition was excellent and our

kids did a heck of a job."

The Wildcats totalled 241½ points to win going away over second-place Coffee, who finished with 201½. Baker High School of Columbus finished third at 144. Spencer-Columbus was fourth at 130 and Shaw-Columbus was fifth at 113½. Lowndes High finished 11th with a total of 41 points.

Leading the way for the champion Wildcats were senior Steven Petermann in the 130-pound class and senior Jason Finland in the 140-pound class. Both took first place for VHS. Petermann now stands at 27-3 on the year while the championship was the third consecutive one for Finland.

"Both of those guys have been real leaders for us," Davis said. "They have been a part of this program for four years and deserve

everything that they win."

The Wildcats also had five other wrestlers who reached the finals. Justin Bridges (135), Maurice Dean (152), Derrick Phillips (171), Ryan Moorman (189) and Eric Phillips (heavyweight). Dean's loss was his first of the year.

Finishing third in the tourney was Chuck Bonner (145). Chris Thigpen (119), Scott Jones (125) and Jason Griffin (160) all finished fifth while Tim Garland (103) and Ryan Thigpen (112) finished sixth.

Two Vikings also qualified for the state tournament this weekend. Chuck Pearson finished fourth in the 140-pound class while Mark Bagley finished fourth in the 152-pound class.

The state champion will be determined by

the team with the number of total points after the finals. Having 13 wrestlers in action will no doubt help the Wildcats but Davis knows how tough the competition will be.

"The younger guys who finished fifth and sixth really helped us out a lot because they picked up some important points. Hopefully, they'll do the same thing at McEachern," Davis said. "In the state championships, quality counts more than quantity but it will definitely be an advantage for us to have that many there."

"Another thing that really helped us was the strong show of support we got from the parents and the administration and the student body and our Takedown Club. That makes it a lot easier on us and it makes these kids want to do better," Davis added.

Wildcats, Vikings Need Experience

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

If asked where they thought their teams will finish this season in the Region 1-AAAA South baseball race, Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley and Lowndes head coach Steve Kebler would probably argue vehemently. Both believe they have a definite shot to finish in the cellar although both would love to be proven wrong.

With the start of the season coming up next week, the two teams have been practicing for the past three weeks. The respective teams are indeed anxious to start the season, but their coaches are more apprehensive.

"We're just not real good right now. We're struggling," said Kebler.

"But before, we weren't even struggling. The attitude has been good but we've just got so far to go. We're just not real strong."

"The rain has put us behind but it's put everybody behind so that doesn't make much difference," Tarpley said. "We've got some spots to fill and we've still got some injuries that we are unsure about. We lost a lot of talent last year."

The main Wildcat missing from a year ago is now putting on his uniform on the other side of town. Andy Rykard set several team records before graduating in 1989 and continuing his career at Valdosta State. Both the team's best hitter and pitcher, Tarpley is busy searching for the player or players that will pick up the slack.

"Sean Cullen will be our top pitcher and Ashley Bass is going to

pitch a lot too. He's started for the last two years at third base but we really need some pitching," Tarpley said. "We don't have a lot of seniors and we've got a lot of players still trying to nail down a spot."

The Wildcats' infield includes Brad Tarpley at first base, Rookie Gage at second base and Steve Jar-millo at shortstop. Cullen will play third base when he's not on the mound and Bucky Allen, Chris Green and Matthew Baker taking over the rest of the team.

Alton Hitson will alternate with Bass behind the plate.

The outfield picture is not as clear. As many as six players will see some action there at the beginning of the year until Tarpley decides on a set rotation. That group includes Hitson, Jason Nich-

ols, Mike Akins, Byron Thornton, Shannon Myers and Arthur McConnehead.

The Vikings finished last year with a 5-16 record and Kebler thinks it will take even more time before his team starts showing marked improvement. The only players who have come close to nailing down starting positions are Richard Skoby at second base, Houston George at first base and Chris Overman in the outfield.

"These kids have never won at the varsity level and that's going to be real important that they learn how. We're just going to have to play team ball and try to hang on. The other teams (in the subregion) are way ahead of us," Kebler said.

The Vikings and the Wildcats will both begin their seasons next week in the Rebel Classic.

'Cats

3-14-90

Master Brooks

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

QUITMAN—The Valdosta High Wildcats continued their early-season mastery of the Brooks County Trojans Tuesday afternoon.

Ashley Bass struck out eight Trojans batters on his way to recording his first victory of the year as the Wildcats won for the third consecutive time against Brooks, 16-2.

Valdosta is now 3-2, while Brooks County's record falls to 1-7 on the season.

The big inning was what powered the 'Cats past the Trojans.

Charles Tarpley's Wildcats came up with five runs in the fourth inning to erase an early 1-0 Brooks advantage.

In fact, Valdosta escaped possible serious damage in the bottom of the second inning.

Brook County's Tony Jackson singled to score Tim Lambert for the one run lead. Brooks later loaded the bases with just one out, but were unable to cross the plate not one more time in the inning.

Tarpley's crew answered back with five-run fourth inning ignited by a homer by Bass.

Valdosta later increased its 5-1 lead with three runs in the fifth inning to take a commanding 9-1 lead.

"We hit the ball well and the pitching was fine," said Tarpley. "I can't ask for anymore than that. I thought we good things to take the lead and maintain it."

Bass, who pitched five innings on the day, also helped himself at the plate with two hits. Teammates Rookie Gage and Authur McConnehead each had a pair of hits in the victory.

Lambert accounted for both Trojan runs as he finished the day with a line-drive home run to left in the fifth inning.

Valdosta's Jamie Waters, who pitched the final two innings for VHS, had a three-run homer over the centerfield fence in the seventh to give his team a 16-2 lead.



Watching Valdosta High's Matthew Butler, Zan Eanes, Marilon Butler, Nick Hyde and Angie Pearce — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

VHS' Butler Stays Home

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Now, the question isn't where Matthew Butler will play college football. The question is where on the field he'll play for Valdosta State.

Butler signed a national letter of intent to play for the Blazers at his home Friday afternoon. The all-star lineman for Valdosta High became the 23rd freshman signee this recruiting season for the Blazers, and 27th overall. VSC head coach Mike Cavan said the Blazers may sign one more player.

At 6-foot-2, 215 pounds, Butler is the smallest of 13 linemen the Blazers signed. If he stays a lineman, unless he continues to add muscle to his frame, etc.

He won't be playing quarterback or running back. "I wasn't born with the capabilities to play that, he joked. "I'll probably be most happy at linebacker or tight end. I've started at tight end in high school, but I haven't played defense since junior high."

"If they can put some more weight on him at VSC, he's going to really help them," said VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, who worked with Butler for four years. "He can play anywhere along

the front, and he's a great specialty man. He can deep-snap and covers well on punts."

Butler sees the start of the 1990s as a time of the Blazers will make an upward surge in the football ranks. "They're starting to grow, and you can tell they're getting a good tradition here." It's a place where I can grow and grow with it.

(VSC) is trying to become a university, and that status will help them get athletes. They're starting to play good, quality football. In the next couple of years they're going to be in the playoffs and maybe win a conference championship."

Butler knows about championships. He was an offensive co-captain on this year's AAAA state championship team, and a reserve when the Wildcats won a national title in 1986. He earned a spot on the South team in this summer's Georgia all-star football game, and was recently honored by the 100% Wrong Club in Atlanta.

"If I could, I would do it all again," Butler said. "I'd go through all four camps again, all the summers. It's worth it, and all the weeks' work is worth a Friday night."

Butler will be the second member of his family to join the Blazer foot-

ball family. His mother, Marilon, is the football-office secretary. That, Matthew said, didn't really figure into his decision.

"I never really went up to the football office until they recruited me," Butler said. "I suppose you could say there was a little bit (of influence), but not much."

Butler's coaches past and present had high praise for him.

"He was very consistent and cooperative," said VHS head coach Nick Hyde. "We used him at tight end, center, offensive guard and tackle. In his four years we were 53-

"VSC is getting another winner. I'm proud the Wildcats are going to be a part of the Blazer program, and it's going to be big in the 1990s. Matthew will help in that effort."

"Matthew is strong academically, and that means he's going to be with us for four or five years," Butler said. "He's not going to fall out of school. He's a good, strong student who's going to get a degree at Valdosta State College."

"He's been in an outstanding program, and we're glad to have anyone from that program."

VSC defensive coordinator Bill Hyde made the short trip down Bayree to sign Butler.

'Cats' Hopes Dashed

2-17-90

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — For eight minutes, the Valdosta High Wildcats thought they could do the unthinkable. Staying close to the top-ranked Bainbridge Bearcats, the Wildcats had visions of a second upset in the Bearcats' backyard.

Then reality hit home Bainbridge-style. The Bearcats ripped off a 10-2 run to begin the second quarter and dashed any upset notions by blowing out the Wildcats 80-53 in the second round of the Region 1-AAAA South playoffs here Friday night.

The Wildcats ended their season with a 13-10 record while Bainbridge rises to 18-2. The Bearcats will face Coffee High for the championship tonight at 8:30.

"We got beat and we got beat bad but we had a good year," said VHS head coach John Miller. "I'm proud of our season and I think we turned the corner. It's tough to beat this team (Bainbridge) anytime, but especially when you've already beaten them once."

The Wildcats hoped that their outside shooters could get hot enough to pull off the upset as they did on Jan. 18 when they beat Bainbridge 83-80. But the VHS' top guns were not as hot Friday night and when they missed, they rarely got another chance. Bainbridge dominated with 55 rebounds while Valdosta totalled a mere 19 boards.

"I'm sure the fact that they had already beaten us once this year pumped our team up. It's easier to get up for a team that has proven they can beat you," said Bainbridge head coach Larry Slaughter. "Valdosta is a good club with a lot of speed and quickness and two guys who can play inside. But our team was fired up tonight."

Bainbridge started the game in typical Bearcat fashion by scoring the first seven points of the game. But after building a 17-7 lead, VHS started clicking and closed the gap. A 3-point play by James Manning. See VALDOSTA, 2-B

VALDOSTA VS. BAINBRIDGE
VALDOSTA (53) — Spencer Iverson 3, James Manning 11, Ernest Lowe 8, Jason King 10, Adior Lynn 10, Michael Moore 8.
BAINBRIDGE (80) — Willie West 4, Charles Burke 9, Tony Webb 8, Willie Perry 20, Bernard Hamilton 7, Torrance Green 18, Antonio Jones 16, David Curry 2.
VALDOSTA RECORDED BY
Receivists: Valdosta 13-10; Bainbridge 18-2.

Lady 'Cats

Have A Shot

Monday Feb. 5, 1990

By STAN GRUBBS VDT
Times Sports Writer

So close, but yet so far.

With 18 games under their belt, only two teams stand in the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats' way of claiming the Region 1-AAAA South regular-season girls basketball title. Those two teams are the Lady Packers from Colquitt County and the Lady Trojans from Coffee High.

Colquitt remains winless in nine tries in subregion games, while Coffee is atop the standings at 7-2. But both will have to take travel to the Valdosta High gymnasium this week.

The Lady Packers come to call on the Lady 'Cats tomorrow night beginning at 6 p.m., with Coffee and VHS squaring off for the championship at 7 p.m. on Friday, providing Colquitt does not disrupt the Lady Wildcats' plans.

Valdosta (6-2) enters this week of subregion competition needing a sweep of Colquitt County and Coffee to capture the subregion crown outright, thanks to the Lowndes High Vikes' upset of the Bainbridge Kittens, 47-39, last Friday night.

The key game, however, will be Friday against Coffee because a VHS loss to Colquitt and victory over Coffee would put the Lady 'Cats into a three-way, first-place tie at 7-3 with Coffee and Bainbridge. Because each team split against the other during the regular-season, it would force a coin toss between the three schools.

The tie-breaking system is done by virtue of head-to-head competition and then by a coin toss at Bainbridge, the tournament site, on Sunday.

The loss by Bainbridge finished the subregion season for the Kittens at 7-3. In fact, there are only three schools in subregion action this week. Each of the games have playoff implications for the subregion tournament.

The first and second-place finishers will be awarded a bye, while the No. 4 team plays the No. 5 team and the No. 3 and No. 6 teams meet. The winner of those games will take on the No. 1 squad, while the No. 2 team gets the third and sixth-place winner.

While the task may seem simple against Colquitt County, the Lady

Wildcats will need to do something which has alluded them for five consecutive games against Coffee — win.

"We have to beat Colquitt and Coffee. It's that simple," said Lady Wildcats' head coach Susan Montgomery. "We don't want to be in the same bracket with Bainbridge and we would certainly like to win the championship and finish first."

"But at this point, I just want our team to play well," she said. "No matter the outcomes. We have to play well at this time of the year."

The final three girls' tournament slots are much clearer.

Larry Maffitt's Vikeses (4-6) will face the Tift County Lady Blue Devils (4-6) in a first-round subregion tournament game on Feb. 15.

Both teams tied for fourth and split during the regular season, so the two teams must determine which color uniform to wear, on which bench to sit and lockerroom to use with a coin toss — in Bainbridge.

Colquitt, who will finish last regardless of the VHS outcome, must wait until possibly Sunday to find out who their opponent will be.

On the boys side of the ledger, Bainbridge (9-1) put an exclamation point on their regular-season championship with a 97-57 blowout of Terry Wilkes' Lowndes High Vikings on Friday. The Vikings finished with a subregion record of 5-5 and could finish in third place depending upon the Coffee High Trojans' outcome against the Valdosta High Wildcats.

A Trojan victory over VHS Friday will wrap up second place, with Colquitt County, presently 5-4, taking third place. Regardless of its outcome with the Wildcats, Colquitt would be No. 3 because of a regular-season sweep of Lowndes.

The Vikings would then finish fourth, putting them in Bainbridge's bracket, and play either Valdosta (2-6) or Tift County, who has completed their subregion slate at 2-8.

A Coffee loss to Valdosta would give Colquitt second place and force a coin toss between Coffee and Lowndes for third place.

The Valdosta Wildcats need a victory over Colquitt or Coffee to avoid a tie with Tift and another coin toss. Both teams split during the season.

Wildcats Receive Awards

From Staff Reports 2/7/90

Valdosta High School head football coach Nick Hyder and two of his players were honored over the weekend by Atlanta's 100% Wrong Club at their All Sports Jamboree and 55th Anniversary.

The club honored Hyder, offensive lineman Matthew Butler, and defensive back Chris Hart. Butler and Hart were given the Two Friends Award while Hyder was named the Georgia High School Coach of the Year. The award was the third bestowed upon Hyder from the 100% Wrong Club. He was also named the Coach of the Year in 1982 and 1984.

See WILDCATS, Page 3-B

Wildcats

From Page 1-B

The club also honored Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams and WAGA-TV sports anchor Jeff Hullinger with their Toast Masters Award. Atlanta Braves outfielder Lonnie Smith was given the Bill Lucas Memorial Award, Auburn head coach Pat Dye was named the NCAA Coach of the Year. Andre Ware was given the NCAA Player of the Year Award and Keith McCants was given the NCAA Defensive Player of the Year Award.

On Monday, Hyder was honored as one of the four state

championship football coaches by the Macon Touchdown Club. Hyder joined Marist coach Allen Chadwick, Mitchell-Baker coach Jack Johnson and Lincoln County coach Larry Campbell. Denver Broncos head coach Dan Reeves was the featured speaker at the meeting that was attended by Ray Goff of Georgia, South Carolina head coach Sparky Woods, Atlanta Falcon head coach Jerry Glanville, former Falcon head coach Leeman Bennett and others.

The Macon club also honored the top seven high school football players in the state and the top seven scholar-athletes.

Wildcat Banquet Tonight

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Former Heisman Trophy winner and Auburn assistant football coach Pat Sullivan will be the guest speaker tonight at the 45th annual Valdosta Touchdown Club banquet. The banquet will be held at the Valdosta High School Auditorium beginning with a dinner at 7 p.m.

The 1989 Wildcats won the state's AAAA championship by defeating Clarke Central in the final game. Touchdown Club president Dave McCracken said he is expecting one of the biggest turnouts ever.

"With the state championship plus a great speaker like Coach Sullivan, we're expecting a lot of people," McCracken said.

All Touchdown Club members will be admitted to the banquet for free with their tickets being paid by their membership dues. Non-members can get tickets at the door for \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

With a 14-1 record in 1989, the Wildcats finish the decade with a mark of 125 wins and 10 losses, a new state record. In addition, the 'Cats were ranked as the number seven team in the country by National Sports News Service and 11th nationally by USA Today.

For the third successive year, the Wildcats received national recognition when ABC television followed stories by ESPN and Sports Illustrated. The 'Cats were featured on the November 24 segment of "20/20" highlighting their homecoming game against Colquitt County.



SULLIVAN

Auditorium beginning with a dinner at 7 p.m.

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B Page 3-B

The Valdosta Daily Times

Saturday, January 20, 1990

Sports

Wildcats Pull Off Upset, 83-80

From Staff Reports

BAINBRIDGE—The Valdosta Wildcats got their first subregion win of the year in a big way here Friday night by upsetting the previously unbeaten Bainbridge Bearcats, 83-80.

Bainbridge entered the game ranked second in the state.

In the girls' game, the Lady Bearcats pulled an upset of their own when Cynthia Butler hit a free throw with no time left on the clock to give Bainbridge a 48-47 win.

The Valdosta boys are now 8-5 overall and 1-4 on the year while the

Bearcats fall to 13-1 and 6-1 in the subregion. The Lady Wildcats are now 10-3 and 4-1 in the subregion.

"This is the biggest win we've ever had. Nothing even comes close," said Wildcat head coach John Miller.

"This was our first road win and I can't imagine anything being any bigger. We were down by 16 at the half and I just told them to keep their heads up. What can you say? I'm extremely proud of this team."

"It takes a team effort to win a game like this. Everyone from the starters to the guys at the end of the bench were into the game," Miller

added. "Just when everyone was counting us out, we come over here and win a big one. They said it wasn't going to be close when we got away from the carpet. But we ran right with them. I'm still in shock."

The Wildcats did not choke once they fought back and got the lead. Up by five with two minutes remaining, the Wildcats were nearly perfect from the free throw line, hitting 16-18 at the line during the final period. Guard Major Lynn led the Wildcat scorers with 20 points. Spencer Iverson added 18, Jason King added 17 and Ernest Lowe added 15. Antonio Jones led Bainbridge with 22 while

Willie Perry and Torrence Green added 19 and 18, respectively. The Lady Wildcats found themselves in an unusual position early in the game, down by ten at the end of the first quarter. But they hit 22 points in the second quarter and led 26-21 at the half.

The game was tied with six seconds left to play in regulation and the Lady Bearcats inbounded the ball. As the horn sounded, Butler shot the ball and was fouled. With no time left, she missed the first but nailed the second and finished the upset.

"Losing like that doesn't help any. But we should have never been in that position. We didn't rebound well and they just outplayed us. They deserved to win," said VHS coach Susan Montgomery. "We just have to come back and work on some of the basics."

While free throw shooting help the Wildcats, it was an obstacle for the Lady Wildcats. VHS was 6-16 from the free throw line. Esther Benjamin led the Lady 'Cats with 16 points while Cassandra Twine added 15. Renita Hines led Bainbridge with 11.

The Wildcats are off until next Friday when they travel to Douglas to meet the Coffee High Trojans.

VHS Clinches Winning Year

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

2/1/90

With standout Jason King on the sidelines, nursing an illness, teammate Michael Moore took charge leading the Valdosta High Wildcats to a 70-61 Region 1-AAAA South victory over the Colquitt County Packers at the VHS gymnasium Tuesday.

Moore scored 20 points, had 14 rebounds and five blocked shots as the Wildcats clinched their first winning basketball season in six years.

Susan Montgomery's Lady Wildcats (13-6-7-2) took care of business against the Lady Packers, crushing Colquitt, 65-31. With the win, the Lady Wildcats will now meet the Lady Trojans of Coffee High (7-2) Friday at VHS for the Region 1-AAAA South regular-season championship.

Valdosta, 12-7 and 3-6 in subregion play, clinched fifth place in the subregion and will play cross-town rival Lowndes High next Thursday in the opening round of the subregion basketball tournament.

Colquitt (9-10, 5-5) paid a bigger price for its defeat as it finishes the

COLQUITT CO. VS. VALDOSTA

COLQUITT COUNTY Boys Game
Troupe 10, Garland Douer 13, Tim Lewis 5, LeWoyne Mopp 2, Alton Jones 2.
VALDOSTA (70) — Michael Moore 20, Spencer Iverson 18, Ernest Lowe 13, James Manning 11, Major Lynn 5, Farrell Scott 3.
Colquitt
Valdosta
Records: Colquitt 9-10, 5-5; Valdosta 12-7, 3-6.
Next Game: Coffee at Valdosta (Friday).

COLQUITT COUNTY Girls Game
Tatum 7, Mary Henry 4, Zina Hall 4, Angela Smith 3, Andrea Poole 2.
VALDOSTA (65) — Cassandra Twine 19, Esther Benjamin 18, Shannon West 10, Yashti Manning 8, Leura Dennis 6, Tracy Trounmon 2, Loretta Johnson 2.
Colquitt
Valdosta
Records: Colquitt 4-15, 0-10; Valdosta 13-4, 7-2.
3 11 6 11-31
10 13 20 22-45

Regular season in third place. Their loss enables the Coffee High Trojans, 5-4 in the subregion, to clinch second place in the subregion, regardless of its outcome at Valdosta Friday.

"You have to admire the type performance that Michael Moore turned in," said Wildcats' head coach John Miller. "With people out, someone has to step up and have a great game. Michael was just tremendous."

"Our team played very well to See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B



Valdosta High guard James Manning attempts to pass the ball to teammate Chris Hart (12) during the Wildcats' subregion game with the Colquitt County Packers Tuesday night. Valdosta won the game, 70-61 — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

night. Colquitt was trying to slow things down, but we like to push the ball up the floor. So, we began to pressure them more defensively and the game's momentum simply changed," he said. "It seemed to take Colquitt out of what they wanted to do or at least what they were having success doing."

The Wildcats, who had four players in double figures, took only their third lead of the game with 6:44 remaining on a pair of free throws by Ernest Lowe. After two trips down the floor, VHS' Moore rebounded a Chris Hart miss and scored to give the Cats a 48-47 advantage.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Lowe and Farrell Scott gave the Wildcats a lead they would never relinquish at 55-48. A steal by guard Spencer Iverson and a slam by Moore brought the crowd to its feet, but more importantly gave the Cats a

37-48 cushion. Iverson finished with 18 points, Lowe had 13, and James Manning 11 for VHS.

The Wildcats outscored the Packers 25-14 in the fourth period and their third subregion win this season.

With the possibility of a one-game shot for the championship against Coffee on the horizon, Montgomery told her troops it was their game to win or lose. Montgomery's team gave her a 42-point second half performance closing their 13th win on the year.

"I was kinda angry with our players yesterday talking about Coffee and stuff. I told them that I can call the plays and make the sideline adjustments, but they are gonna have to prove how bad they want this one tonight," said Montgomery. "It was their game to win or lose. Knowing the Coffee game would mean the championship if we won, our players did a fine job."

"Our subs also helped out a lot and I was pleased with the overall effort of all our players," she added. "I would love to see a lot of VHS fans for the game Friday against Coffee. It means a lot our players and the game is very important in the subregion race. Basically, our basic plan is to play well. I've said it so many times, but it's true. We have to play the way we're capable of."

The Lady Wildcats held as much as 30-point lead on the Lady Packers, midway through the third period. The Lady Wildcats were led in scoring by Cassandra Twine and Esther Benjamin. Twine scored 19 points, six rebounds and had two blocked shots. Benjamin added 18, nine rebounds and swatted away six Lady Packer shots.

Freshman guard Shannon West tossed in 10 points had three steals and five assists. West was 4-of-5 from the field, with two free throws. Teammate Yashti Manning scored eight points and Laura Dennis had six.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Monday, February 12, 1990

B

Wildcats Finish Ninth In State

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta High Wildcat wrestling squad finished their successful season by placing ninth in the Class AAAA state wrestling tournament this weekend in Powder Springs at McEachern High School.

The squad finished higher than any other team from this area. McEachern won the tournament while Parkview took second and Redan took third as the northern part of the state continued their stranglehold on the title. But Wild-

cat head wrestling coach John Davis thinks south Georgia is slowly catching up.

"We're pleased with the way we represented the south," said Davis. "We are steadily improving. There was a kid from Tifton that won his class and a wrestler from Coffee placed second. All of the southern coaches were glad to see the power shift our way a little bit."

Valdosta's highest finisher was senior Ryan Moorman. Moorman placed third in the 189-pound class and Davis said Moorman's success stemmed from his triumph over nagging injuries.

"He's been working off a lot of injuries this year and he's had to overcome a lot of obstacles. He has done one heck of a job for us this year and he made everyone proud this weekend," Davis said.

The Wildcats were in second place until the semifinals where Davis said they suffered some "heartbreaking losses." But he was very satisfied with the performance.

"We placed in the top ten out of 76 teams and that makes me very proud. This was a good season for us. We finished 13th in the state last year so we're coming along. Several of our kids really took it to them so if we keep

working hard, we'll be up with those teams before long," Davis said.

Although the Wildcats saw several seniors finish their prep wrestling career, he will still have a good nucleus returning for next year and the following seasons. Davis was glad some of his younger talent got to participate and he thinks that will help the program continue to build.

"It's always good experience for the younger wrestlers to get that exposure," Davis said. "Several seniors told me this weekend that this was the first time they'd been here and not felt intimidated. They'd been there before."



GREG
McILVAIN
Times
Sports Editor

Feb. 12, 1990
Hyder

Continues To Heal

Thoughts for a Sunday ... Slowly but surely Nick Hyder is working his way back into a busy schedule.

The veteran Valdosta High football coach has spent the new year recovering from hip-replacement surgery he had Dec. 28 in Orlando. While he's made a few trips outside his home since then, they've been limited.

Hyder returned to Orlando on Wednesday for a checkup with Dr. Lewis Brady, who replaced Hyder's left hip with an artificial one made of Titanium.

"I feel great, and I'm getting stronger," said Hyder. He's traded in his walker for a cane, and has resumed his typical, busy off-season schedule of speaking engagements. After watching Matthew Butler sign his scholarship with Valdosta State on Friday, he headed out-of-town to a clinic in Minnesota.

And while he's not ready to run a fly pattern just yet, he will be returning to his duties at Valdosta High soon — though budgets, scheduling, hiring, etc., have kept him very busy at home.

And yes, you Wildcat football players, Hyder's return to school means the off-season strength and conditioning program will begin soon, probably in early March.

Stay tuned about spring practice.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Tuesday, March 27, 1990

B

New Assistant Part Of Cats' Changes

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

A new face and some reassignments are part of a revised coaching staff for Valdosta High and Valdosta Junior High schools.

Larry Jester, a defensive football assistant at Bainbridge High School, has been hired to replace retiring Freddie Waters as defensive line coach. Jester, 33, will also coach boys track, as did Waters, and teach physical education. Jester's wife, Patricia, has also been hired as a home economics teacher at Valdosta Junior High School.

John Davis, last season's ninth-

grade head football coach and varsity wrestling coach, is moving to the junior high school where he will be an assistant principal, athletic director and eight-grade (Tomcats) head football coach.

Ronnie Pitcock, a ninth-grade assistant football coach last season, will become head coach, the third ninth-grade head coach in three years. Davis had replaced long-time ninth grade coach Al Akins, who was moved to a varsity assistant spot for the 1989 season.

Valdosta High athletic director and head football coach Nick Hyder said Jester's hiring marks the first major change in the Wildcats' varsity coaching staff in almost a decade, though there have been some additions in past years.

Hyder said Jester came well-recommended by Bainbridge officials as well as other references. Besides wanting to join the Wildcat program, the Jesters have also expressed an

interest in furthering their education at Valdosta State College.

Jester coached outside linebackers and defensive ends at Bainbridge High for one year. The 1980 Fort Valley State graduate coached at his hometown school, Jackson, for 3½ years and Monticello for five years before moving to Bainbridge.

"Coach Hyder is a class act himself, and Valdosta has a solid program," Jester told *The Valdosta Daily Times* in a telephone interview from Bainbridge. "I was looking for a program to enhance my future. I told Coach Hyder that I, too, want to be a head coach one day."

The Jesters have two children, eight-year-old Brian and two-year-old Jacinta.



coach for a year in the mid-1980s.

His ninth-grade team went unbeaten last season (7-0), and his wrestling teams won area titles both years he coached.

Davis — an Americus native who graduate of Georgia Southwestern and Valdosta State — takes over for Norman Sainz, the long-time junior high coach who resigned last year to turn his attention to teaching and

other business interests.

The junior high football program consists of four teams, with over 200 participants. The feeder program for the highly-successful varsity "is as important to us as recruiting is to the colleges and the draft is to the pros," Hyder said. The Tomcats, the top-level team in the program, went 52-3-1 in the 1980s.

In Davis "we've got a first-class coach. He's a proven winner and a known coach here," Hyder said.

Pitcock, a former Lowndes assistant who played for the "Cats in the late 1960s, will be assisted by Tim Horton. Pitcock's brother, John, is an assistant in the junior high program.

Valdosta is continuing to search for a head wrestling coach who may assist with the ninth-grade football program, Hyder said. Some assistant coaching positions at the junior high must also be filled up and/or filled.



On Inspection

Cadet Lt. Cndr. Farrell Scott leads Navy
Cndr. Curtis White through a personal
inspection of the flag team at Wednesday's
Tanner.

Thursday Feb. 8, 1990 VDT

Valdosta High NJROTC annual inspection.
See story, page 12-A — Times Photo by Mike

Valdosta High ROTC Receives Top Marks

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta High School's Reserve Officer Training Corps program passed the U.S. Navy's annual inspection with flying colors Wednesday.

Navy Cndr. Curtis White, based in Charleston, S.C., said the VHS ROTC program is "looking excellent." He inspected the program for cadet appearance, performance and administrative practices, such as uniform maintenance and budget spending.

The school has 109 cadets this semester, slightly less than last semester's ROTC enrollment, said VHS Lt. Cndr. Larry Cupp. The program is funded by the Navy and supplemented by the Valdosta school system, he said.

"A high percentage of students who go through ROTC for three to four years, go into the service," Cupp said. He said some high school graduates go to college and participate in ROTC programs while some others go straight into military service.

VHS's program is one of only 232 Navy Junior ROTC programs in the United States, White said.

"Regardless of what people think of the program, it's not set up for recruiting," White said. "It's there to teach students patriotism, discipline and self worth."

VHS senior Farrell Scott is the cadet lieutenant commander for the program.

"I'm pursuing a military career in the Navy," Scott said. "I'm seeking a ROTC scholarship right now to attend college and become an officer in the Navy."

Anthony Story, private first class in the Marines, went through VHS's ROTC program before graduating last year. He was here Wednesday right from boot camp.

Story said his high school experience has been a great help to him in his military career.

"It motivated me," Story said. "I went there (to boot camp) knowing that I was ahead of the other recruits. I helped a lot of the other recruits."

Story said he is grateful that his high school had a good ROTC program.

'Cats' Hopes Dashed

UDT Feb 17, 1990

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE—For eight minutes, the Valdosta High Wildcats thought they could do the unthinkable. Staying close to the top-ranked Bainbridge Bearcats, the Wildcats had visions of a second upset in the Bearcats' backyard.

Then reality hit home Bainbridge-style.

The Bearcats ripped off a 10-2 run to begin the second quarter and dashed any upset notions by blowing out the Wildcats 80-53 in the second round of the Region 1-AAAA South playoffs here Friday night.

The Wildcats ended their season with a 13-10 record while Bainbridge rises to 18-2. The Bearcats will face Coffee High for the championship tonight at 8:30.

"We got beat and we got beat bad but we had a good year," said VHS head coach John Miller. "I'm proud of our season and I think we turned the corner. It's tough to beat this team (Bainbridge) anytime, but especially when you've already beaten them once."

The Wildcats hoped that their outside shooters could get hot enough to pull off the upset as they did on Jan. 18 when they beat Bainbridge 83-80. But the VHS' top guns were not as hot Friday night and when they missed, they rarely got another chance. Bainbridge dominated with 55 rebounds while Valdosta totalled a mere 19 boards.

"I'm sure the fact that they had already beaten us once this year pumped our team up. It's easier to get up for a team that has proven they can beat you," said Bainbridge head coach Larry Slaughter. "Valdosta is a good club with a lot of speed and quickness and two guys who can play inside. But our team was fired up tonight."

Bainbridge started the game in typical Bearcat fashion by scoring the first seven points of the game. But after building a 17-7 lead, VHS started clicking and closed the gap. A 3-point play by James Manning,

See VALDOSTA, 2-B

VALDOSTA vs. BAINBRIDGE

VALDOSTA (53) — Spencer Iverson 3, James Manning 11, Ernest Lowe 8, Jason King 13, Major Lynn 10, Michael Moore 8.

BAINBRIDGE (80) — Willie West 4, Charles Burke 9, Tony Webb 8, Willie Perry 20, Bernard Hamilton 4, Torrance Green 18, Antonio Jones 16, David Curry 2.

VALDOSTA 17 8 14 14—53
BAINBRIDGE 19 25 22 13—80

Records: Valdosta 13-10, Bainbridge 18-2.

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

two layups by Major Lynn and a dunk by Ernest Lowe tied the game at 17-17 with 1:01 left in the first.

Despite the quick comeback, the excitement to Valdosta's season ended there. Bainbridge scored the next eight points and then gradually stretched its lead through the second period. They scored the last eight points of the half and came out just as strong by scoring the first six points of the second half to go ahead, 50-25.

From there, it was never a game. Bainbridge's Willie Perry continually bombed from the outside while Antonio Jones and Torrance Green made the most of their second and

third chances on the inside. A Perry layup put Bainbridge up by 30 points with 7:38 left to play.

A late Wildcat spurt closed the gap to 20 points but it was much too little and much too late.

"We could've just laid down but we didn't give up," Miller said. "We got killed on the backboards but it wasn't because of lack of effort. I'm really proud of these seniors. I feel like this program is headed in the right direction."

Perry led Bainbridge with 20 while Green added 18 and Jones had 16. Jason King led his team in his final high school game with 13 points. Senior guard Major Lynn added 10.

Wednesday, March 7, 1990 A-7

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Takes On 'Foreign' Competition

Valdosta High School students competed in the Foreign Language Association of Georgia at Shiloh High School on Saturday.

After competing in areas of French and Spanish, Valdosta students earned 10 awards. First place winners were Brandon Lovett (French I), Holy Rentschler (French II), Jennifer Matthews (Spanish I), and Michelle Buckland (Spanish III for native speakers).

Among the second place winners were Wendy McConnell (Spanish II), and John Ramey (Spanish III).

Valdosta High School



NEWS

Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

Third place winners included Margaux Laskey (French I), Jimmy Green (French II), Chris Spurlock (French III) and Brook Bearden (Spanish I). Other competitors included Christa Olson (French III) and Anita Matchett (Spanish II). Chaperones were Elsie Nicholas and Nancy Light.

Y-Club Thanks

The Alpha-Iota-Omega Y-Club at Valdosta High School thanks the

following club members for joining in and making all school and community projects for the month of February a success:

Dede Burgess, Chassity Loving, Dashanti Jefferson, Michael Seago, Karen Cain, Ada Burch and Vira Jones.

Secretary Dashanti Jefferson reminds all club officers and members that the Christian Life Conference will be held May 4-6 at Norman Park.



Watching Valdosta High's Matthew Butler Butler, Zan Eanes, Marilou Butler, Nick Hyde and Angie Pearce — Times Photo by Paul Leavy
Feb 17, 1990

VHS' Butler Stays Home

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Now, the question isn't where Matthew Butler will play college football. The question is where on the field he'll play for Valdosta State.

Butler signed a national letter of intent to play for the Blazers at his home Friday afternoon. The all-star lineman for Valdosta High became the 23rd freshman signee this recruiting season for the Blazers, and 27th overall. VSC head coach Mike Cavan said the Blazers may sign one more player.

At 6-foot-2, 215 pounds, Butler is the smallest of 13 linemen the Blazers signed. If he stays a lineman, unless he continues to add muscle to his frame, etc.

He won't be playing quarterback or running back. "I wasn't born with the capabilities to play that," he joked. "I'll probably be most happy at linebacker or tight end. I've started at tight end in high school, but I haven't played defense since junior high."

"If they can put some more weight on him at VSC, he's going to really help them," said VHS offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker, who worked with Butler for four years. "He can play anywhere along

the front, and he's a great speciality man. He can deep-snap and covers well on punts."

Butler sees the start of the 1990s as a time of the Blazers will make an upward surge in the football ranks. "They're starting to grow, and you can tell they're getting a good tradition here." It's a place where I can grow and grown with it.

"(VSC) is trying to become a university, and that status will help them get athletes. They're starting to play good, quality football. In the next couple of years they're going to be in the playoffs and maybe win a conference championship."

Butler knows about championships. He was an offensive co-captain on this year's AAAA state championship team, and a reserve when the Wildcats won a national title in 1986. He earned a spot on the South team in this summer's Georgia all-star football game, and was recently honored by the 100% Wrong Club in Atlanta.

"If I could, I would do it all again," Butler said. "I'd go through all four camps again, all the summers. It's worth it. The Friday nights are worth it, and all the week's work is worth a Friday night."

Butler will be the second member of his family to join the Blazer foot-

ball family. His mother, Marilou, is the football-office secretary. That, Matthew said, didn't really figure into his decision.

"I never really went up to the football office until they recruited me," Butler said. "I suppose you could say there was a little bit (of influence), but not much."

Butler's coaches past and present had high praise for him.

"He was very consistent and cooperative," said VHS head coach Nick Hyder. "We used him at tight end, center, offensive guard and tackle. In his four years we were 53-

3. "VSC is getting another winner. I'm proud the Wildcats are going to be a part of the Blazer program, and it's going to be big in the 1990s. Matthew will help in that effort."

"Matthew is strong academically, and that means he's going to be with us for four or five years," Butler said. "He's not going to fail out of school. He's a good, strong student who's going to get a degree at Valdosta State College."

"He's been in an outstanding program, and we're glad to have any one from that program."

VSC defensive coordinator Bill Hyde made the short trip down Baytree to sign Butler.

Feb 20, 1990

Appeal Policy Passes

Homeless Can Appeal When Denied School

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

VDT

Children of the homeless and homeless youths who are denied permission to attend a Valdosta school can now appeal the decision.

The Valdosta Board of Education adopted a grievance procedure for the homeless on Monday. The state Department of Education is requiring all school systems to develop a local policy for the resolution of disputes for the education of the homeless.

At the board's January meeting, members heard the first reading of the policy which entitles those who are denied school entrance to appeal to the board and, if necessary, the state Board of Education.

In January, Superintendent Walter Altman said he only denies entrance to youths about one or two times a year. They are usually older students who have no immediate proof of age or no parent or guardian supervision, he said.

"Local boards of education really have no obligation to kids who do not live in their communities," Altman said at Monday's meeting. "We've had a few older kids with no

See SCHOOL, Page 2-A



ALTMAN

School

From Page 1-A

past history or records of school. We've had difficulty realizing if they really want to go to school or if they're there for some other reason."

Altman said school officials should be careful of who is allowed to attend schools to shield other youths from drug and alcohol influ-

ences. He also said the Valdosta School System is struggling to keep up with a growing student population, leaving little — if any — room for transients.

In other matters:

- The board voted to hire architects to develop reroofing plans for all of Southeast Elementary School and the lunchroom at Sallas Mahone Elementary School.

Altman said the roofs have been declared as being in an "emergency state," making the projects eligible for state funding.

- Board members heard a sick leave bank proposal which allows participation of all school system employees who work at least 30 hours a week, who are eligible to accumulate sick leave and who have been employed for at least 120 con-

secutive days.

According to the proposal, those who volunteer to participate donate one day of their sick leave to the bank. To draw days from the bank, an employee must be out of work for at least 30 consecutive days, and present a doctor's statement explaining why they must miss work and an estimate of how many days that employee must be out.

Dressing Up

Valdosta, Lowndes Students Following School Codes

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Some students in the Valdosta school system think Bermuda shorts should be allowed instead of mini skirts, but others think the dress code is fine like it is.

Currently, students in grades 7 through 12 are not allowed to wear any kind of shorts, but girls are allowed to wear mini skirts no more than two inches above the knee.

"If we are able to wear skirts above the knee, we should be able to wear shorts," said Kerri Greenway, a senior at Valdosta High School. "They just don't want us to be comfortable."

Miss Greenway said she thinks VHS students dress well and "that is good," she said. But she does not think shorts no higher than two inches above the knee would lower the dress standards and would be as easy to monitor as mini skirts.

Some parents of kids in the city school system also feel long shorts should be allowed.

"I think the Bermudas are precious and appropriate if they are worn to the knees or right above the knees," said Gayle Mosby, who has a 7th and 11th grader in Valdosta schools. "Of course you have those who abuse the privilege, but I think the mini skirts are more revealing."

Dennis Tipton, principal of Lowndes High School, said they began allowing long shorts and not allowing mini skirts this year, and no problems have resulted from the change.

"We found the walking shorts are longer than some of these mini skirts," Tipton said. "The clothing styles have changed so much, and we found the shorts to be less provocative than mini skirts. They're covered up more with shorts than with some mini skirts."

VHS Principal William Aldrich said is considering asking the student council if they would like to allow Bermuda shorts as part of their dress code.

"The students have had very little trouble with the dress code," Aldrich said. "Visitors always compliment us on how well the students are dressed in terms of being well groomed."

VSC senior Chris Hart said the dress code is fair as it is and thinks allowing shorts could cause problems.

"We have a lot of visitors at our school just because of the name Valdosta," Hart said. "When people come in, we want to show them what class is all about. I think our dress code exemplifies the class of our schools."



Kerri Green (left), a senior at VHS, is able to wear a mini-skirt on campus, while Shannon Courson of LHS, can wear shorts — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Students Learn New Languages

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Bonjour!

That's how Valdosta's gifted elementary students are greeting each other and their teachers these days.

The city school system's special education program, in conjunction with Valdosta State College, is sponsoring a French instructor to teach young children the fundamentals of the language.

"It's much easier for them (children) to reproduce the sounds of the language because their speech pattern is not as set in as ours," said Rebecca Hutchinson, third-grade teacher at Sallas Mahone Elementary.

The teacher, Anne Marie Bourg, a native of southern France, has been teaching French to Valdosta's gifted elementary students for three years, since she moved here with her husband who is employed at SAFT, Inc. — a French-based company.

"When we came here I had two

(young) kids who didn't speak English," Mrs. Bourg said. She said her children's teachers worked especially hard with her kids to teach them English, and within two months, they were able to function in the American classroom.

"I felt I had to do something to say 'Thank you for helping my children,'" she said. "I decided the way to do that was to teach French."

Mrs. Bourg does more than teach the words and sounds of French — she shares the country's culture with the kids.

She centers her lessons around the seasons of the year. Last week, students learned about Mardi Gras. She said the children show particular interest in everyday life in France.

Mrs. Bourg, from Tarbes, France, teaches about 80 gifted students from Sallas Mahone, S.L. Mason and W.G. Nunn elementary schools.

"She's a natural teacher," said Gall Eldridge, coordinator for volunteer services in the city school system. "We've never had someone to teach all the classes like she does."

VDT March 4, 1990

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, February 16, 1990

B

Valdosta Knocks Off Lowndes

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

BAINBRIDGE — The Valdosta-Lowndes boys' basketball matchup Thursday night did not have many of the elements of a cross-town rivalry. No thundering screams of excitement from a sea of fans. No home-court advantage and no "bragging rights" on the line.

Instead, the two teams got their incentive knowing that the game would be the final one if they failed to win. And that was enough for the Wildcats.

After battling the Vikings to the wire for much of the game, Valdosta finally defeated Lowndes, 63-58, and advanced to the semifinals of the Region 1-AAAA South tournament. The

VALDOSTA vs. LOWNDES

Boys Game
VALDOSTA (43) — Spencer Iverson 12, James Manning 13, Major Lynn 12, Michael Moore 6, Jason King 8, Ernest Lowndes (58) — Eric Peeler 9, Randall Godfrey 13, Ollie Daniels 12, Sedrick Neloms 12, Leon Williams 2, Billy Moore 8, William Sims 2
Valdosta 7 21 17 18-43
Lowndes 9 18 15 16-58
Records: Valdosta 13-9; Lowndes 11-10.

win was Valdosta's first against Lowndes all year, but it was definitely the most important.

"The seniors tonight did a heck of a job. This is their 13th win this year and that has come a long way from five wins three years ago. Thirteen wins is the second most we've had here in 10 years. The seniors are the reason," head coach John Miller said.

"I don't know the answer to what happened tonight," said Terry Wilkes, LHS head coach. "I guess the

third time's a charm. Colquitt County beat us in the tournament two years in a row after we swept them in the regular season and Valdosta did to us this year. That's to their credit. They did what they had to do."

Valdosta finally got what it had been searching for all year — balanced scoring from their entire lineup. James Manning led the way with 13 points while Spencer Iverson, Major Lynn and Ernest Lowe all scored 12 points.

Despite leading most of the way, the Wildcats could not blow the game open. They led 51-46 before LHS center Billy Moore scored twice inside to cut the lead to one point with 4:20 left. Valdosta scored five unanswered points to raise the lead again and it looked as if the Vikings would be out.

Viking freshman Sedrick Neloms hit two free throws with 1:19 left to cut Valdosta's lead to 59-54. There was time left for Lowndes to catch up, but Jason King converted a 3-point play and sank another free throw late in the game to stave off the rally.

Lynn, Iverson and Manning controlled the game early as they scored VHS' first 17 points. Lowndes retaliated with their scoring duo of Randall Godfrey and Ollie Daniels, who scored several times from inside the lane.

The Vikings' troubles came from the perimeter. In the first half, LHS was 7-of-14 from inside the lane but only 2-of-14 from the outside. Also, Godfrey, who scored consistently in the first half, missed most of the second half with foul trouble.

"We're at our best when we have balanced scoring because that means we played like a team," Miller said. "We made some key baskets and spread it out. We also got some key defensive rebounds toward the end that only gave them one shot. I think we've earned some respect."

Valdosta, now 13-9, will face Bainbridge tonight at 8:30 p.m. The Bearcats have only lost twice all year, but once was to the Wildcats in Bainbridge in January.

"We've got a mountain to climb. But we should be confident. They'll be tough but I think we can hang with them. We're excited to still be here," Miller said.

The loss ended the Vikings' season at 11-10.

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, April 27, 1990

B

'Cats Get Third At Subregion

Staff Reports

The Valdosta High boys' track team was nipped for second place in Thursday's Region 1-AAAA South meet held at Coffee County High School in Douglas.

Bainbridge ran away with the team title, scoring 164 points. Tift County scored 96 points for second, with Valdosta getting 91 points and third place.

Host Coffee finished fourth at 61 points, with Lowndes fifth at 42 and Colquitt sixth at 29.

Nine Valdosta High athletes qualified for next week's Region 1-AAAA South track meet in Douglas, as well as two VHS relay teams.

No information on individual Lowndes athletes was made available.

Jason Griffin is Valdosta's only two-event individual qualifier. Griffin finished second in the 110 meter hurdles (no time reported) and third in the 300 meter hurdles (41.64).

Two VHS athletes were sub-region champions in field events. Spencer Iverson won in the long jump, leaping 22 feet, 6.75 inches. Vidal Lowe won the high jump, clearing the bar at 6 feet, 6 inches.

Other Wildcats to qualify for the region meet — which came from the top four finishers in all events but the sprints, where the top three fin-

ishers qualify — are Dexter Daniels (third in shot put, 47.74), Eric Phillips (third in discus, 131-1), Terrance Daniels (third in triple jump, 42-2 1/2), Frederick Henton (third in 100 meters, 11.24), Jason Sorrells (fourth in 1,600 meters, 4:57.42) and Scott Jones (third in 800 meters, 2:06.2).

Two relay teams will also advance. The 400-meter team finished third (43.42 seconds). It consists of Chris Hart, Henton, Adrian Lewis and Iverson. Steve Sanders and Terrance Daniels are alternates.

The 1,600-meter relay team finished fourth (3:29.79). That team was made up of Frank

Henderson, Aldrich Graham, Lowe and Quinton McCormick. Iverson and Griffin are the alternates.

Other Valdosta High athletes to score in the sub-region meet but failed to advance to region included:

Dexter Daniels (fifth in discus), Henderson (fourth in 400 meters, fifth in 110 meter hurdles), Alexander Hodge (sixth in 800 meters), Henton (sixth in 200 meters), McCormick (sixth in 300 meter hurdles), Sorrells (sixth in 3200 meters), and the second 1,600 meter relay team (sixth, Jones, Sanders, T. Daniels, Hodge, Darin Logan and Henton).

Mike Johnson Silences 'Cats

V.D.T. Mar. 8, 1990
By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High needed more than the cold weather to cool down Lowndes High Vikings' pitcher Mike Johnson.

The right-handed sophomore finished just one pitch away from the record books, tossing a one-hitter in a 4-1 victory over crosstown rival Valdosta in the sixth annual Rebel Classic baseball tournament at Billy Grant Field.

Johnson pitched seven innings, allowed no earned runs, while striking out 10 Wildcat batters to record his first win.

"I had no idea that this would happen, and I didn't think I would pitch a no-hitter," said Johnson. "The defense behind me tonight was great and when you get that, it makes your job on the mound a lot easier."

"I thought that my curve ball was very effective for me and the high inside pitch worked well," he said. "A start like this can only help me and my teammates. It was a big win for us."

The win improves the Vikings' overall season record to 2-0, but more importantly puts them into Friday's championship game opposite the host Berrien County Rebels. Valdosta remains winless after two games.

"It's early in the year, but I like the attitude of our players," said Lowndes High head coach Steve Kebler. "I was very surprised by the hitting of our team tonight and was happy for Mike. He pitched a super game. I'm just glad to be in the championship for the kids."

For Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley, it was too much of a repeat of his team's opening loss to Berrien on Tuesday.

"We had the same type of thing tonight that we had Tuesday. Pretty good pitching, but no defense or hitting," said Tarpley. "You would think that we could get two good performances out of more than just one area. Right now, the pitching is all we've been able to do."

Valdosta's lone hit came off the bat of second baseman Rookie Gage on a single to center with two outs in the sixth inning.

The Vikings racked up four runs on eight hits led by catcher Greg Powell and right fielder Chris Overman. Both went 2-for-3, with Powell having an RBI.

Rebel Classic At A Glance

Berrien County.....	2-0
Lowndes High.....	2-0
Valdosta High.....	0-2
Brooks County.....	0-2

TUESDAY'S RESULTS at Nashville

Dr. Frank Carter Field
Lowndes 4, Brooks 2
Berrien 7, Valdosta 4

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS at Valdosta State College

Billy Grant Field
Berrien 11, Brooks 6
Lowndes 4, Valdosta 1

TODAY'S GAMES at Nashville

Dr. Frank Carter Field
4:30 — Valdosta vs. Brooks
7:30 — Berrien vs. Lowndes

FRIDAY'S GAMES at Valdosta State College

Billy Grant Field
4:30 — Valdosta vs. Brooks
7:30 — Berrien vs. Lowndes

After a grounder by Alton Hitson scored teammate Authur McConnehead, giving Valdosta an early 1-0 lead, the Vikings pounded out three hits in the bottom of the fourth to tie it at 1-1.

Two errors in the fifth allowed Viking second baseman Richard Scoby, who walked to start the inning, to score and give his team a 2-1 lead. In the sixth, the Vikings put it away scoring a pair of runs. After a leadoff triple by Houston George, Powell's single to left gave LHS a 3-1 advantage. Three batters later, Powell came around to score on a Valdosta error.

Valdosta committed five errors in all and 10 errors in their opening two games combined.

VIKINGS 4, WILDCATS 1			
VALDOSTA		LOWNDES	
ab	r h bi	ab	r h bi
Hitson c	3 0 1	Scoby 2b	2 1 0 0
Gage 2b	3 0 1 0	Gilbert cf	4 0 1 0
Bass p	3 0 0 0	Booker ss	4 0 0 0
Thornton rf	1 0 0 0	Marev dh	3 0 1 0
Akins cf	3 0 0 0	Burns pr	0 0 0 0
Tarpley 1b	3 0 0 0	Johnson p	3 1 1 0
Cullen 3b	3 0 0 0	George 1b	2 0 1 0
McConnehead lf	2 1 0 0	Albritton pr	0 1 0 0
Nichols dh	2 0 0 0	Powell c	3 0 2 1
Jarmilla ss	0 0 0 0	Whiddon pr	0 1 0 0
Totals	23 1 1 1	Scruggs 3b	2 0 0 0
Valdosta High		Overman rf	3 0 2 0
Lowndes High		Totals	26 4 8 1
E—Tarpley 3, Cullen 2, George, Johnson, LDB—Valdosta 3, Lowndes 8. 3B—Gilbert, George. 5B—Scoby, Gilbert.			
IP H R ER BB SO			
Valdosta			
Bass L, 0-1	6	8	4 1 3 0
Lowndes			
Johnson W, 1-0	7	1	1 0 2 10
WP—Johnson, PB—Hitson, Powell.			



Valdosta High second baseman Rookie Gage tags out a sliding Chris Overman as he attempts to steal second during Wednesday's game —Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Berrien Takes 'Cats' Charity

VST, Wed., March 7, 1990
6th Rebel Classic Begins

By STAN GRUBB
 Times Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Valdosta High was in a giving mood and the Berrien County High Rebels simply took what they needed.

Charles Tarpley's Wildcats committed four errors which resulted in a four-run sixth inning to help Berrien County to a 7-4 victory in Game No. 2 of the 6th annual Rebel Classic.

The Rebel Classic moves to VSC's Billy Grant Field today for a pair of games which includes a 4:30 p.m. battle between Berrien County (1-0) against Brooks County (1-3). The 7:30 p.m. contest will pit Valdosta (0-1) against crosstown rival Lowndes (1-0).

Valdosta's hard-luck loser in this case was Sean Cullen, who allowed just two earned runs on just five hits. Unfortunately for him, he played only one position on this night.

"I had heard going in that they had only one pitcher with experience and it put them in a tough spot. But we made a lot of mistakes too. What happened to them in the one inning is part of baseball and I have no control over what the other team does," said Berrien County head coach Mark Murad. "It's a win for us, and I'm very happy."

Tarpley was very complementary towards his starter and pointer out that his defense let him down.

"He (Cullen) is all I have really. The kid pitched good enough to win and all of that mess happened," said Tarpley. "Going into, or at least I thought, that we had a decent defense. When someone scores four runs and no hits in the inning there is nothing else you can say."

Valdosta rallied from an early 1-0 Berrien County lead to take a 4-1 advantage behind the hitting of catcher Ashley Bass and first baseman Brad Tarpley.

The Wildcats scored three runs in the fourth inning. The opening two runs came on a single by Tarpley, which scored Bass and Mike Akins. Tarpley's single chased Berrien starter Riley O'Berry for sophomore reliever Chris Walker. Walker's bases-loaded walk to Shannon Myers gave VHS a 3-1 lead. Tarpley had three RBI to lead VHS.

Tarpley then scored Bass, who singled, on a sacrifice fly to center in the fifth increasing the lead to 4-

Rebel Classic At A Glance

Berrien County.....	1-0
Lowndes High.....	1-0
Valdosta High.....	0-1
Brooks County.....	0-1

TUESDAY'S RESULTS at Nashville Rebel Field

Lowndes 4, Brooks 2
 Berrien 7, Valdosta 4

TODAY'S GAMES at Valdosta State College Billy Grant Field

4:30 — Berrien vs. Brooks
 7:30 — Lowndes vs. Valdosta

THURSDAY'S GAMES at Nashville Rebel Field

4:30 — Valdosta vs. Brooks
 7:30 — Berrien vs. Lowndes

FRIDAY'S GAMES at Valdosta State College Billy Grant Field

4:30 — consolation game
 7:30 — championship game

1. Berrien cut the VHS lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the fifth inning on two runs. After an opening single by Danny Roberts and a walk to Walker, Roberts then scored on a Valdosta error. One batter later, Scottie Bennett singled to right scoring Walker to make it 4-3.

Walker, O'Berry, Michael Spells and Derrick Cornelius all scored in the wild sixth inning — all by way of errors.

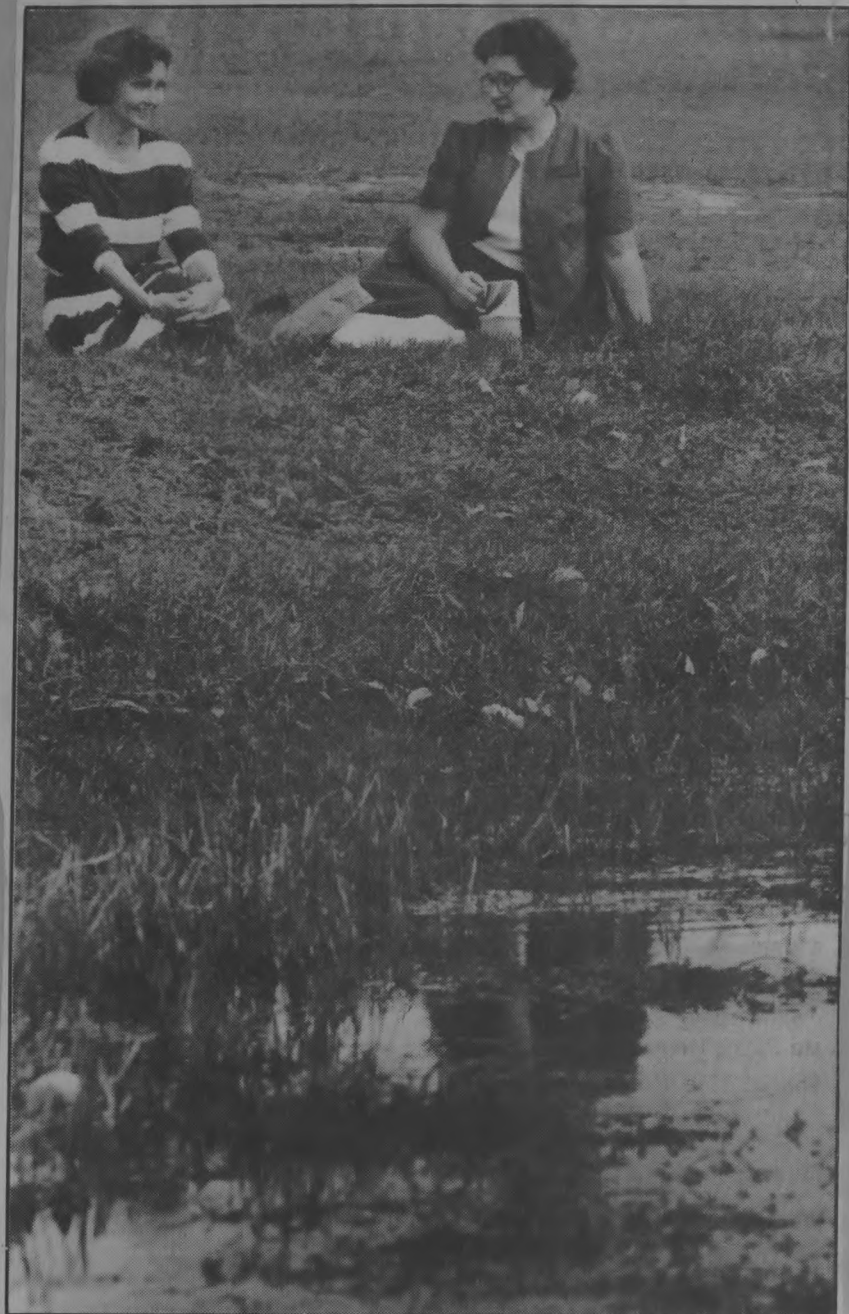
The Rebels accounted for four runs with a single hit and just two walks. Walker got his first varsity win in relief of O'Berry.

REBELS 7, WILDCATS 4

VALDOSTA	ab	r	h	bi	BERRIEN	ab	r	h	bi
Myers lf	2	0	1		Roberts rf	4	1	1	0
Gage lf	4	0	0		Walker dh-p	2	2	0	0
Bass c	3	2	2		O'Berry p-ss	3	1	1	0
Akins rf	3	1	1		Spells cf	4	1	0	0
Thornton dh	4	0	0		Bennett 2b	2	0	1	1
Tarpley 1b	3	1	1		Danforth lf	2	1	1	0
Cullen p	2	0	0		Sellers 3b	3	0	0	0
Jarmillo ss	3	0	0		Lovein 1b	3	0	1	1
Hiltson cf	2	0	0		Cornelius c	3	1	0	0
Totals	26	4	4	4	Totals	29	7	5	2

Valdosta High 000 310 0-4
 Berrien County 010 024 x-7
 E—Jarmillo 3, Gage, Green, Bennett, Sellers, LOB—
 Valdosta 7, Berrien 9, 2B—O'Berry, Lovein, SB—Carter 2,
 Bass, Danforth, SF—Tarp'ly.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Valdosta						
Cullen L, 0-1	6	5	7	2	6	7
Berrien County						
O'Berry	3	1	2	3	3	2
Walker W, 1-0	3	2	2	1	1	2
HB—Hiltson (by Walker), WP—Cullen, O'Berry 2, BALK—Walker.						



Quiet Lunch

Carol Busch (left) and Faye Nitschke, both Valdosta High School office staff employees, get away from the desks and enjoy a quiet lunch on the banks of the pond in front of VHS - Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Wildcats Slam Trojans, 14-3

3/10/90

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

Not much went well for the Brooks County Trojans Friday afternoon at Billy Grant Field. But at least, the consolation game of the sixth annual Rebel Classic brought to a merciful end four merciless beatings in four long days.

For the second day in a row, it was the Valdosta Wildcats who gained the upperhand on Brooks and, once ahead, they never looked back. After receiving five runs in the first inning on only one hit, the Wildcats breezed to a 14-3 win and a third-place finish in the tournament.

The Trojans ended the tourney with an 0-4 mark. But it was worse than that.

"It's good to win," said VHS head man Charles Tarpley. "We didn't hit it but we didn't have to. They're wild and they gave it to us. They walked us about 13 times and when they walk your leadoff hitters a lot, you're going to get some runs."

The Wildcats took advantage of the 13 walks and five errors on the part of the Trojans while punching out seven hits of their own. No Wildcat gained more than one hit but no one needed to. During the last three frames, Tarpley emptied his bench to let most of the younger players on the squad get in some action. Senior starter Sean Cullen picked up the win.

After the five-run first, Valdosta scored three runs in the second, two in the third and one in the fifth and

three in the sixth. Aside from Cullen, sophomore Jamey Waters and freshman Steven Everson saw time on the mound.

"Just like last night, this win helps us. It gives us some confidence. We pitched some young guys and they got some good work," Tarpley added. "We've got over another week before our region schedule starts. We would've liked to have done better in this tournament. Lowndes looks like they have a couple of good pitchers so it'll be tough when we see them later. But I guess if I had my choice, I'd rather lose to them now and beat them later."

Brooks will get four days of rest before trying to get back at the Wildcats. They host Valdosta in Quitman next Tuesday in both teams' next contest.

Valedictorians Hold Big Dreams

May 14, 1990

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Valdosta and Lowndes high schools' valedictorians have big dreams, and judging from the track records of their 10-year predecessors, there should be no trouble making those dreams reality.

"I've always wanted to be a doctor," said 17-year-old Alison Williams, Lowndes High School's 1989-90 valedictorian. "I really want to do something in the medical field."

Miss Williams, whose academic average of 97.59 is the third highest in the school's history, is the first black student to be honored as valedictorian and star student.

The daughter of Herbert and Alice Williams of Valdosta, Miss Williams plans to attend Georgia Technical Institute. Although she is not exactly sure what she'll major in, she is strongly considering biomedical engineering.

This year's Valdosta High School valedictorian, James Inman, also has high aspirations.

"I want to work as a lawyer for an engineering firm," said Inman, the son of Lt. Col. Ralph and Mrs. Sandra Inman. "I've been with the military all my life, so I'd like to stay in one place and improve myself within a single company."

Inman plans to attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., to major in mechanical engi-

neering. His ultimate goal is to be a corporate lawyer for an engineering firm.

"Number One is something I've always wanted to be," he said. Not only does Inman have a perfect grade point average, but he has excelled in athletics as well. During his freshman, sophomore and junior years, Inman played varsity golf and tennis, concentrating only on tennis in his senior year.

"I've tried to mold myself into the image of a true athlete," he said.

Dreams as high as these filled the two schools' valedictorians 10 years ago.

William David New, 1979-80 VHS valedictorian, attended Georgia Tech where he earned a degree in industrial engineering in 1984. He began working for IBM Inc., in North Carolina, as an industrial engineer after graduating from college.

Two years later, New was transferred to IBM's marketing division, and two promotions ago, he became an advisory assistant engineer for insurance accounts.

He attributes much of his success to his high school education. "I felt college was a continuation of high school. I never felt overwhelmed," he said.

Much of the problem-solving skills New developed in high school and in college have helped him advance with IBM, he said.

"Those skills I use everyday," New said. "Valdosta was a great place to grow up."

Today, New has a "great job," is married to the former Mary Jessica Blanton, and has three children: six-year-old Charles, three-year-old Lauren and four-month-old Camille.

He is looking forward to his high school reunion in June. "It'll be fun to see how people have changed over the years," he said.

LHS's 1979-80 valedictorian, Royce Oliver, is still fulfilling his dreams. He is currently finishing his first of three years at Columbia Law School in New York, N.Y.

"I don't think I knew when I was a senior in high school that I would go to law school," Oliver said. "It wasn't till my junior year in college that I decided to go."

In 1984, Oliver graduated with honors from Harvard University, where he earned a degree in economics. Several eye operations kept Oliver at home in Valdosta recovering before he entered law school last year.

Because his father was in the military and moved around a lot, Oliver spent only his senior year at LHS. But that year holds many fond memories for him.

"I miss big-time high school football," he said. Oliver and one of his friends kept statistics at LHS games.



May 27, 1990

Valdosta High School senior Sharisa Hope, left, prepares a fast food order for a waiting customer at McDonald's on U.S. Highway 84. — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

VHS Students Make Honor Roll

Principal William Alrich has announced the honor roll students for Valdosta High School for the fifth sixth weeks.

Thaddeus Agar, Desi Albritton, Gina Albritton, Simone Allen, John Allen, Larry Allen, Clint Allred, Valerie Armstrong, Ruby Arnold, Mary Aycock, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Rachel Baliles, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Becky Barnette, Alison Bass, Christie Bauer, Linette Bauzo, Brook Bearden, Tamula Berrian, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Kelli Bland, Joel Boatright, Michelle Bostock, Sherryl Boyd, Latesha Bradley, Eric Bramble, Derek Branham, Justin Bridges, Bayh Brindger, Jessica Brown, Latechia Brown, Keisha Brunson, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Michelle Burgess, Kathleen Burke, Stacy Burnett, Latonya Byrd, Ingrid Carroll, Angela Carter, Diane Carter, Spence Carver, Chris Chachere, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Todd Coker.

Katherine Coleman, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Suzanne Conard, Ashley Connell, Paige Cook, Ben Copeland, Melanie Cowart, Rebecca Coyne, Tamara Crowe, Demetrius Daniels, Pamela Daniels, Suzette Davidson, Carla Davis, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Glaire Dempsey, Greg Denly, Garti Dennis, Kiska Dennis, Wayne Devane, Rose Dewar, Michelle Dewitt, Clark Drury, Shawn Eady, Beth Edwards, Jenny Ed-

wards, Kelly Edwards, Jane Edwards, Bert Eidson, Jennifer Eidson, Steven Eppes, Peter Failor, Wilson Faircloth, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Jason Finland, Victoria Finnessee, Regina Flannigan, Meredith Fletcher, Luis Flores, Andrea Ford, Liz Foster, Curt Fowler, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman, Sonia French, Sabrina Fuller, Rookie Gage, Addison Gaitor.

James Galloy, Laverne Gamble, Kristin Ganas, India Giuly, Brenna Goff, Christopher Gomez, Julie Gordon, Felicia Gosier, James Grady, Deldra Gray, Shelia Gray, Jimmy Green, Chris Greene, Chris Gregg, Amy Griffin, Ward Griffin, Mose Griffin, Parker Grow, Melissa Hale, Eunice Hall, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Lucretia Hand, Shalonda Hannans, Lisa Hargett, Angela Harper, Sandra Harris, Andreu Harrison, Marinese Hart, Rhonda Head, Cynthia Helms, Frederick Henton, Kevin Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Sam Hogan, Laura Holland, Grant Hollenbeck, Tammy Hoover, Monica Hope, Bill Howard, Matthew Hunt, Nathan Ingham, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Spencer Iverson, JJ Jack, Willie Jackson, Lemuel Jacobs, Crisie James.

Jenifer Jones, Tredessa Jones, Christine Jordan, Emily Josey, Mark Kassum, Erin Kelly, Tina Kerns, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kilgard, Wendy Kuter, Teresa Lamprey, Wanda Lane, Jennifer Launey, Theresa Law-

son, Kenneth Lester, Sam Lightsey, Alana Lovelace, Brandon Lovett, Christie Lowe, Amy Lowery, Donna Lowery, Janice Mallory, Ben Matson, Jennifer Matthews, Allison McAllister, Derick McBurrough, Amanda McClellan, Marlin McClure, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Tina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Jason McGhin, Irish McGriff, Amanda McHenry, Tory McKinnon, Jessie McMullen, Eric Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Mary Minks, Kyle Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Reginald Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Angela Moore, Kenyarda Moore.

Pamela Moore, Ryan Moorman, Tangie Morrison, Meredith Mosby, Marcus Moss, Monica Motes, Melisse Mounger, Jill Mueller, Sarah Muntz, Mike Nestor, Jennifer Neyens, Nicola Norris, Robby Norris, Melissa Norwood, Michael Norwood, Tim O'Brien, Ryan Ogden, Jodi Osborne, Elizabeth Owens, Jeffrey Panetti, Hemali Patel, Melissa Paulk, John Peeples, Jason Peters, Kordelya Peterson, Ben Pitchford, Michael Pope, Celina Pye, Dan Rackley, Patricia Radney, William Raines, Sarita Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, John Ramey, Scott Ramirez, Eddie Rawls, Mary Ann Rawls, Crystal Ray, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Holly Rentschler, David Richardson, Arthur Rizer, Tiffany Roan, Michael Roberts, Sirica Roberts, Dustin Robinson, Myel Robinson.

David Roddey, Stephanie Rodgers, Janet Rogers, Allison Roush, Amy Rowe, Catherine Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Kelly Rowell, Cynthia Rumph, Lattina Sadler, Ryan Sanderson, Monica Savage, Latonya Scott, Lee Scott, Clarence Scurry, Margaret Sermons, Shayna Shapiro, Melody Shaw, Dayne Shelton, Christy Shepard, Willie Simon, Sabrina Simpson, Tarnishia Sirmans, Rodney Smallwood, Monica Smirnoff, Aimee Smith, Joyette Smith, Kalena Smith, Lakeshia Smith, Shelia V. Smith, Sheila D. Smith, Jason Sorrells, Greg Sosnik, Latonya Speed, Jennifer Spencer, Perlita Spencer, Charles Spray, Richard Starr, Bill Steinberg, Jennifer Steverson, Davida Stewart, Andy Stone, Heather Strayhorn, Jennie Strickland, Julie Suggs, Bobby Sutton, Brad Tarpley, Nathan Tart, Christina Taylor, Richard Thiele, Tanya Tovar, Tracy Troutman, Adam Van Nus, Deborah Van Nus, Miriam Vendemo, Lisa Vincent, Vickie Wade, Alysia Walker, John Walker, Lasharon Walker, Patty Warren, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, Kenya Webb, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, Cecile White, William Whitesell, Prorhonda Whitlock, Bar-tunde Williams, Debra Williams, Jeffrey Williams, Kimberly Williams, Omega Williams, Shwanda Williams, Ginny Williams, Alfonza Willis, Antalia Wingate, Kelly Wingrove, Shunda Woods, Angeila Wright, Carma Wright, Michael Young, Scott Youngblood, Shannon Yow.

May 28 1990

5/27/90 In Our Area

Valdosta DECA Students Honored

The Valdosta High School chapter of Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) honored students and businesses during its 42nd Annual Employer-Employee Banquet Thursday.

Norman Greene, VHS DECA marketing education coordinator, said the banquet is the club's way of showing appreciation to employers for working with the program during the year.

Students were also awarded for their accomplishments in DECA.

- Award winners are:
- Nekoosa Packaging Co. — Outstanding Service Award.
 - Community leaders and businessmen Ron Butler, Rep. Robert Patten, D-Lakeland, and Mike Bass — Life Membership Awards.
 - VHS student Traci Selph — Coordinator's Award.
 - VHS student Nikki Demott' — Bobby Montague Memorial Award for Most Dependable Rookie of the Year.
 - VHS student Charlie Smith — W.E. Glenn Award for Most Valuable DECA Member.
 - VHS student Jennie Strickland — Warren Horton Memorial Award for Most Outstanding DECA Member.

Race To Region Title Continues

Jan. 30, 1990

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

With the girls' championship still to be decided, the Bainbridge Bearcats clinched the Region 1-AAAA boys' South regular-season basketball championship last Friday night.

The Bearcats (8-1) won the title by virtue of their 75-48 victory over the Colquitt County Packers in Bainbridge.

Now, the Bearcats will hope to continue their torrid pace through the 1-AAAA South boys' tournament which will be held on their home floor beginning Feb. 15.

The Bearcats finish out their region schedule Friday at Lowndes High.

The Lady Trojans from Coffee High School put themselves into the driver's seat for the girls' title with their victory last Friday over the Valdosta High Lady Wildcats. Coffee, who is at 6-1, leads the Lady Bearcats from Bainbridge and Valdosta High by a slim margin.

Bainbridge is 7-2 in the subregion, while Valdosta has lost its last two subregion outings to drop to 4-2 with four games remaining. Both of those losses came at the hands of the league-leaders Bainbridge and Coffee.

The Lowndes High Vikettes' and the Lady Blue Devils from Tift County are knotted with 3-5 subregion marks each having a pair of games left. Colquitt County's Lady Packers are winless at 0-8.

With their loss at Bainbridge, the Packers fell to 5-3 in the subregion with two games to be played against Coffee Friday, at home and Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Valdosta. On the heels of the Packers are Terry Wilkes' surging Lowndes High Vikings at 4-4 with a victory over Tift County last Friday.

Lowndes has two games remaining against arch-rival Valdosta tonight at Valdosta and close out the subregion schedule at home versus the champion Bearcats on Friday.

The Coffee Trojans are 3-4, the

1-AAAA South

BOYS

x-Bainbridge	8-1
Colquitt County	5-3
Lowndes	4-4
Coffee	3-4
Tift County	2-6
Valdosta	1-5

x—clinched championship

GIRLS

Coffee	6-1
Bainbridge	7-2
Valdosta	4-2
Lowndes	3-5
Tift County	3-5
Colquitt County	0-8

Sub-region games remaining: **Tonight**—Lowndes at Valdosta; **Coffee** at Tift. **Friday**—Bainbridge at Lowndes; **Coffee** at Colquitt; **Tift** at Valdosta. **Feb. 6**—Colquitt at Valdosta. **Feb. 9**—Coffee at Valdosta.

Blue Devils are 2-6 and Valdosta is 1-5. But the Wildcats' lone win was against Bainbridge on the Bearcats' home floor less than two weeks ago.

Valdosta, on the other hand, has all four of its subregion games on the carpet at Valdosta High School. Valdosta's opponents will include Lowndes, Tift County, Colquitt and Coffee.

VHS Students Witness London Riots

4-3-90
By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

"No poll tax" chants, broken glass and burned cars were witnessed first-hand by some Valdosta High School students and chaperones who were spring-breaking in London, England, on Saturday.

"It was very frightening," said Jan Burns, a VHS teacher who went along on the trip of about 30 students and 10 chaperones whose nine-day vacation included visits to cities between Edinburgh, Scotland and London.

Their final stop was London, on the first day of an anti-tax demonstration there.

A protest by 40,000 people against a new tax turned Englanders violent Saturday when thousands of militants smashed windows, set cars ablaze and battled police for several hours at Trafalgar Square and other London locations. Hundreds of people were injured and hundreds were arrested.

Sixteen-year-old Nathan Tart, a junior at VHS, said he and his friend Jed Dennard, another VHS student, were stranded for a brief time in downtown London when the "tube" — or subway — was shut down as a result of the riots. Tart and Dennard walked to the riot scene to witness the event.

"We were just real curious — we weren't scared," Tart said. "We got there after a big riot. They had pretty much put out all the fires by the time we got there. The bobbies (policemen) told us the riots would come and go."



Valdosta High School teacher Jan Burns and student Nathan Tart recall their weekend in London. Around 30 VHS students visited England with several getting caught near areas where rioters were protesting the British poll taxes — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Mrs. Burns and Tart, as well as other students and teachers at the scene, saw smashed windows and some rioters as they tried to get back to their hotel rooms.

VHS student Liz Foster was at Piccadilly Circus about 10 minutes before a riot broke out there. She saw people carrying "No Poll Tax" signs. She also saw a girl whose face was

bloody, but Miss Foster is not sure the girl's injuries resulted from the riot.

Tart and Mrs. Burns said it seemed the rioters "weren't as concerned about the issue" as they were making the protest "a big party."

Before she knew the magnitude of the riots, Mrs. Burns noticed traffic congestion while on a tour bus.

"We didn't know if the traffic was from the boat race between Oxford and Cambridge (universities) on the Thames River or not," she said. "We really hadn't given much thought of what was happening out there (in riot locations). As we rounded a corner, we noticed that windows were broken out."

"It was frightening, but it was exciting," she said.

6-A Wednesday, March 14, 1990

Lifestyles

VHS Wins Math Competition

TIFTON — Valdosta High School was the first place overall team finisher among class AAAA and AAA schools entered in the high school mathematics competition sponsored by the Division of Science, Mathematics and Nursing at Abraham Baldwin College.

Valdosta's team will represent the region at the State Mathematics Tournament April 28.

The Coastal Plain Regional Education Service Agency assisted in the competition at ABAC. Directors were Cathy Franklin and Donald Massey.

The competition consisted of a 90-minute written examination and an hour-long ciphering contest. Team winners were judged on a combined score of the two events.

In the competition among ninth and tenth graders, Melinda Cargile from Irwin County was the first place finisher among class A schools, and Andy Browning from Lanier County was the second place finisher. In the AAAA competition, Ashley Sutherland of Lowndes finished first.

In team competition among ninth and 10th graders, Irwin County finished first among class A schools, followed by Lanier County. Fitzgerald finished first among class AA schools, followed by Brooks County. Lowndes finished first place among AAAA schools, followed by Valdosta.

In the 11th and 12th grade competition, Duncan Sinclair of Colquitt County High finished first among



Members of the VHS Math Team are (from left) Matthew Hunt, James Inman, Nicky Legg, Bert Eidson, Amy Kilgarden, adviser Fred McLeod, Courtney Minchew, adviser Mary Ann Saliba, Lee Scott, and Greg Clark — Contributed Photo.

class AAAA individuals, followed by James Inman from Valdosta.

In the team competition for 11th and 12th graders, Irwin County finished

first in class A, followed by Lanier County. Fitzgerald finished first in class AA, followed by Cook. Valdosta finished first in class AAAA, followed by Colquitt County.

'Cats Win Home Opener

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

There is no place like home. And for the Valdosta High Wildcat baseball team, it showed Wednesday.

Valdosta scored at least two runs in six innings as they defeated the Clinch County Panthers, 16-4, at Bazemore Field.

The victory was VHS' fourth consecutive win and gives them a 4-2 record, while the young Panthers fall to 0-2.

"A win is a win. And at this point, I'll take it," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We hit the ball well and scored five runs in the first inning. Their coach told me that he had a lot of young kids and maybe it broke their back to have to make up those kinds of runs that early.

"But the play of our people pleased me and (Sean) Cullen pitched very well. All I could have asked of him," Tarpley stated. "It's early still, and I think both of us are just trying to see what we've got and hopefully get prepared for league competition."

WILDCATS 16, PANTHERS 4			CLINCH COUNTY			VALDOSTA			
	ab	r	h	bl		ab	r	h	bl
Shirley cf-p	2	0	1	1	Hiltson cf	2	1	1	1
Metts 1b-2b	4	1	0	0	Everson ph	1	1	0	0
Edmonds ss-p	3	2	1	0	Gage 2b	3	2	2	0
Morrison c	4	0	1	0	Howell 2b	0	1	0	0
Bennett lf-cf	2	0	0	0	Kellerman ph	1	0	1	2
Flowers cf	1	0	0	0	Waters ph-p	0	1	0	0
Carter p-1f	2	0	0	0	Boss c	3	2	0	0
Lacey 1b	1	1	0	0	O'Brien ph	1	0	0	0
Leecase rf	2	0	0	0	McConneh, rf	4	1	1	0
Parker rf	1	0	0	0	Carter rf	1	0	0	0
Rewis 3b	2	1	0	0	Nichols dh	4	1	3	3
Guess dh	0	0	0	0	Green 3b	1	0	0	0
Booth 2b	2	0	0	0	Cullen p	2	1	1	1
Calley lf	1	0	0	0	Allen ph	1	0	0	0
Sims lf	0	0	0	0	Baker 3b	0	0	0	0
					Jarmillo ss	4	1	2	0
					Tarpley 1b	2	3	2	0
					Myers lf	3	1	1	1
					Akins lf	0	1	0	0
Totals	27	4	21	1	Totals	35	16	14	8

CLINCH COUNTY	200	001	1-	4
VALDOSTA	222	223	R-	14

E—Edmonds, J. Morrison, Lacey, Carter, Myers, 2, Tarpley, Green, McConnehead, LOB—Clinch 8, Valdosta 7, 2B—Gage, Tarpley, 5B—Edmonds, Gage, Nichols, Myers, SF—Hiltson.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Clinch County						
Carter L, 0-1	2	9	7	3	1	0
Shirley	2	3	4	1	1	0
Bennett	1	1	2	2	1	1
Edmonds	1	1	3	2	1	2
Valdosta						
Cullen W, 2-1	5	2	2	0	2	5
Waters	2	1	2	2	3	3

WP—Shirley, Edmonds, Waters, PB—Morrison, HBP—Boss (by Bennett), Tarpley (by Edmonds).

Cullen held the Panthers to just two hits in five innings to earn his second win. Cullen did not allow an earned run, while striking out five. Jamey Waters pitched the final two

innings for the 'Cats, striking out three and allowing just one Panther hit.

Dallon Shirley, Fred Edmonds and Kevin Morrison each had one hit for Clinch County, with Edmonds scoring two of the Panthers' four runs.

"We're real young, and we're just learning to play with each other," said Clinch County head coach Cecil Barber. "Valdosta hit the ball extremely well and we made a lot of errors. We're just trying our best right now and try to turn things around.

"We've only played two games and many of our players are just getting use to baseball after basketball," he said. "So, we didn't look good, but we can play a lot better than we played today."

After three Valdosta errors plated two Clinch County runs in the first inning, the 'Cats struck for five runs in the bottom half of the first.

Valdosta collected five runs on six hits and had one Clinch County error. Scoring in the inning for Valdosta was Alton Hiltson, Rookie Gage, who was 2-for-3 on the day, Arthur McConnehead, Jason Nichols and Cullen.



Lady Wildcat Bayh Brindger clears the high jump bar Monday afternoon at Valdosta

High School. Brindger is a senior — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Wildcats, Vikettes Rule

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Tuning up for the subregion meets, Lowndes' and Valdosta's high school track teams competed against each other Monday afternoon at Valdosta High.

As has been the story this season, the Lowndes girls and Valdosta boys came away with victories. Lowndes' girls scored 73 points to Valdosta's 39, with Tift County adding 25.

Valdosta's boys bested Lowndes in a dual meet, 94-33.

"The girls responded real well again," said Lowndes girls coach Hiram Johnson. "But I'm hoping we're not there yet. I'm hoping we're really going to peak for the subregion, and run some of our best times at that time."

"Lot of work, dedication, lot of pride today. We won it," said Valdosta boys coach Freddie Waters. "We're a young team, and they're learning every track meet. I think by the time we get to subregion we'll be all right."

The girls have their subregion meet next Wednesday at Tifton, while the boys run subregion at Coffee on April 26.

Veronica Williams continued to lead the Lowndes

girls, scoring three individual firsts (long jump, 100 and 200 meters) while joining in two winning relay teams.

Six other Lowndes athletes won firsts, with Lazonya Berrian setting a school record in the discus (103 feet, 4 inches). Latina Childs won the mile, Vicky Williams the 400 meters, Nadine Burchett the 800 meters, Shannel Jenkins the 100-meter hurdles and Brenda Pelton the two-mile run.

Veronica Williams, Jenkins, Pam Jones and Wanda Floyd made up the 400-meter relay team, while the Williamses, Childs and Burchett were the winning 1,600-meter relay team.

Valdosta's boys won 12 of the 15 events in running over Lowndes. Double winners included Dexter Daniels (shot put and discus) and Jason Sorrells (mile and two mile).

Spencer Iverson won the long jump, Videll Lowe the high jump, Terrance Daniels the triple jump, Chris Hart the 100 meters, Jason Griffin the 110-meter hurdles and Scott Jones the 800 meters.

Hart, Iverson, Frederick Henton and Adrian Lewis teamed to win the 400-meter relay, while Frank Henderson, Aldridge Graham, Lowe and Quentin McCormick joined to win the 1,600 meter relay.

Lowndes' winners included James Lawrence in the 200 and 400 meters and Chris Wright in the 300-meter hurdles.

Will Wildcats Be Shaken

Once Again?

3-26-90

I was just a young man still getting my feet wet in the newspaper business in 1952 when the announcement came that the University of Kentucky had been placed on probation by the NCAA and that there would be no basketball in Lexington the forthcoming season.

This action by the all-powerful collegiate governing body came after two Kentucky players were convicted in a point-shaving scandal. It is easy to forget the coach of the Wildcats at that time was Adolph Rupp, but the Baron was so powerful he did not lose his job. As a matter of fact, he went on to become one of the greatest coaches in the history of the game.

Rupp, often referred to by sports writers as "the man in the brown suit," coached Kentucky to 27 Southeastern Conference championships and four national titles. Few teams have dominated a game like the "Cats did in those days.

Just about everybody knows the climate is not so pleasant in Lexington these days. While the university awaits an April date before the NCAA Infractions Committee to answer 18 alleged rule violations, some Kentucky fans are wondering if history could repeat itself. Is there a possibility the NCAA will shackle the mighty "Cats with the death penalty once again?

That possibility probably did exist before Eddie Sutton resigned at Kentucky this past week, only hours after vowing he would not quit because it would be an admission of guilt. Whether Sutton was guilty of any of the infractions, he was the man in charge and he should have known what was going on. Certainly, he should have known if one of his assistant coaches sent \$1,000 in cash to a prospect out on the West Coast.

Sutton, who was following in the footsteps of Rupp as one of the premier coaches of his day, contends he was not asked to resign, Infractions Committee and that included the resignation of long-time athletic director Cliff Hagan back in November.

It is perhaps pure irony that Hagan would have been co-captain, along with Frank Ramsey, on that 1952-53 Kentucky team that played nothing but scrimmages among its own players. And Hagan was an All-America selection on the 1953-54 Kentucky team that won 25 consecutive games without losing but declined a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Unfortunately for Eddie Sutton, he did not have the power of an Adolph Rupp and it is doubtless any coach at Kentucky will ever have that kind of dominating role again. And, if you listen to the rumors, Sutton was a weak man in some respects. One report surfaced which said Sutton had offered to fire his assistants if he would be retained as coach.

There will, of course, be a complete housecleaning in the Kentucky basketball program. The athletic director is gone and Joe Burch has been filling in until C. M. Newton officially takes over on April 1. The head coach is gone and so is Dwayne Casey, the assistant accused of paying off a top prospect.

VHS Wins Region Literary

Valdosta High finished in first place in the Region 1-AAAA literary meet at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus.

Winning first place awards in the events were J Connell in extemporaneous speaking and the quartet of Dexter Sharper, Dexter Mitchell, David Jackson, and Cedric Johnson. Second place winners were J Connell, essay; Kelly Shelton, extemporaneous speaking; Jason Berke, oral interpretation; and Mona Gibbs, typing. Michael Young tied for first in spelling.

VHS' debate team finished first in an earlier competition, contributing 12 points toward the literary trophy. First place winners in extemporaneous speaking and quartet received seven points and all second place winners received five toward the first place finish overall. Hardaway finished second, followed by Coffee County, Kendrick, and Lowndes. Fourteen schools competed in the March 18 meet.

Other students competing were Dan Altman, piano; Leslie Hiers, essay and piano; Chad Harris, typing; Margaret Mosby, solo; Laura Barbas, spelling; and the trio of Angela Howard, Tefe Stove, and Natwashiel Tumbling.

"It was a proud moment for Valdosta High School," said Frank Hjort, literary coordinator, about receiving the first place trophy. "This demonstrates that Valdosta can excel in other areas in addition to athletics. Many of these students worked long hours preparing for these events. One student mentioned how a discussion on radon in physics class helped him prepare his speech. Another student referred to his French teacher when discussing his

spelling score sheet. 3-29-90

Faculty members directly involved in preparing students for various events were Jackie Altman, Jan Burns, Steve Hankla, Maxine Martin, and Lee Pulliam. Herman Revels, choral director at VHS, and Hjort accompanied the students on the trip. Carolyn Sirmans drove the bus.

The quartet and extemporaneous speaking first place winners will enter the State AAAA Literary Meet at Mercer University in Macon April 8.



Valdosta Teaches Tift County A Lesson 5-1

By ANTHONY DASHER 4-1-90
Times Assistant Sports Editor

TIFTON — Tift County learned a bitter lesson Friday night; it's not better to give than receive.

But Valdosta High was not complaining as the Wildcats took advantage of six Blue Devil errors to post a 5-1 Region 1-AAAA South win over Tift County.

The game was tied 1-1 through five innings of play before the 'Cats put together a two-run sixth which proved to be the deciding inning of the game.

With two outs and Andy Rykard on first, Byron Thornton followed with a single to put runners on first and second. The next batter, Ray Maples, followed with a single scoring Rykard. On the play, the throw went over the catcher's head putting runners on second and third.

Lee Thomas followed with a bouncer to third but the throw from Jeffery Sauls was wild which allowed Thornton to score the 'Cats third run of the game.

"Up until yesterday I had been in a slump," Maples said of his game-winning hit. "This win gives us a good start heading into the rest of our region schedule."

Rykard, 3-1, picked up the win for the Wildcats. The senior went seven innings gave four hits, one run, walked one and struck out six. Tift's Ken Thomas, 3-1, took the loss.

Valdosta totaled eight hits on night led by Jason Nichols and Byron Thornton with two hits apiece. The 'Cats also played a fine defensive game led by shortstop Steve Jaramillo who recorded six assists on the evening.

"It was just a great effort by the kids," Valdosta head coach Charles Tarpley. "Andy pitched a great game, Thornton hit the ball well today and Jaramillo made some clutch plays from shortstop. The whole team gave a good effort."

Valdosta, 7-2 overall and 2-0 in Region 1-AAAA South, put the game away as three straight errors allowed Rookie Gage and Nichols to score the final two runs of the game.

The 'Cats scored their first run of the game in the first inning when Rykard doubled in Nichols. Tift tied the game in the second on a single by Clay Shiver.

Valdosta will host Daviess County, Ky. this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the 'Cats return to Region 1-AAAA South action when Coffee County comes to town.

"They've got four pulpwoods on their team and some tough pitchers," Tarpley said. "We'll see how good we are."

Earlier Friday, the Valdosta B-team defeated the Tift County B-team 2-1. Brad Tarpley had the game-winning hit when he drove in Arthur McConnehead and Matt Baker with two outs in the seventh inning.

Newton will bring a lot of good qualities to the program, including an integrity questioned by none. And you can bet he will insist on finding a coach with those same qualities. Kentucky will survive its latest plight just as the Wildcats survived that disastrous season that wasn't in 1952-53, but it will take time.

Kentucky often has been referred to as the Cadillac of college basketball and certainly no program has been more successful. Don't expect any Cadillac treatment when the NCAA hands out its sentence next month. Right now, the basketball program at Kentucky looks more like a T-Model Ford that has been in a wreck.



Valdosta High School Wildcats' Rookie Gage (15) slides safely into third base in the first inning against the Bainbridge Bearcats at Bazemore Field Tuesday. The Wildcats went on to

defeat the Bearcats 9-5 to win their first South Subregion victory. — Times Staff Photo by Paul Leavy.

Wildcats Take South 1-AAAA Victory

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Although the Valdosta Wildcats captured their first Region 1-AAAA South Subregion baseball victory of the season and collected 10 hits en route to beating the Bainbridge Bearcats 9-5 Tuesday afternoon at Bazemore Field, head coach Charles Tarpley was not very impressed by

See Box, Page 2-B

his team's performance.

"I hate to say it, but we didn't really play that well today and we didn't hit in the clutch again," said Tarpley. "But I am very happy for our team because it was our first subregion game and we needed to win it. I told the players before the game that it was the biggest game of the season for us. You don't know how important it is to get off to a

good start in the subregion."

Leading the way for Tarpley's Wildcats was pitcher Andy Rykard. Rykard went the distance for his second win of the season, but did give up seven hits to the Bearcat batters.

Three Valdosta players collected two hits on the day. Carlos Moore went 2-for-4 and Ashley Bass and Alton Hitson each went 2-for-3.

The Wildcats looked as if they were going to run away and hide from the Bearcats early posting five runs in the first two innings.

In the Valdosta first, they sent 10 batters to the plate scoring four times. Moore led off the inning and reached base on the first of eight Bearcat errors in the game.

Rookie Gage then walked, and after a stolen base and another error, Moore scored on an error to give VHS a 1-0 lead. Catcher Jason Nichols walked, and Rykard reached on a Bainbridge error allowing Gage to score to make it 2-0. Bass singled to score Nichols to make it 3-0. One out later, Lee Thomas singled in Rykard to make it 4-0.

Nichols scored for VHS in the second inning on a fielder's choice by Byron Thornton.

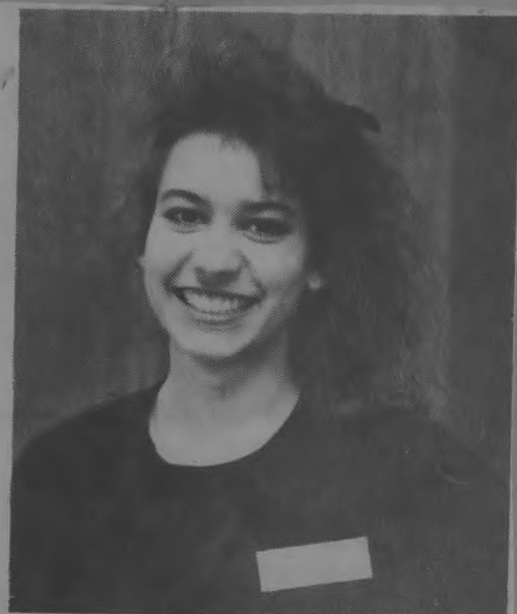
With the score 5-1 entering the fourth inning, Bainbridge cut into the VHS lead to make it 5-3 on a two-run blast by designated hitter Darrell Willis. Willis' homer scored Bryon Powell, who singled with two outs.

Valdosta pushed its lead to 8-3 with three runs in the fourth. Rykard scored on an error after reaching base on an error. Bass, who singled, later scored on sacrifice fly by Thomas. Then Owen Davis' RBI single scored Thornton with two outs.

Another two-run homer, this time by Bainbridge's Mitch Parker, made the score 8-5 after five innings of play.

The Wildcats held on getting one final run to close out things in the sixth inning as Moore singled home Hitson, who singled to start the inning off.

The Wildcats are now 4-2 on the year. They play again at Bazemore Field today at 4:30 p.m. against the Clinch County Panthers.



3-31-90 Receptionist

Wendi Wilder, 17, has been the receptionist at Baytree Road Veterinary Clinic for the last two months. Miss Wilder, a senior at Valdosta High School, enjoys horseback riding and hunting, and plans to work with animals. She said her heroine is lady gunslinger Annie Oakley.

4-4-90



Valdosta High first baseman Brad Tarpley awaits the throw to complete a sixth-inning double play as Lowndes pitcher Michael Johnson tries to dive safely back into first — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Vikings Blank 'Cats, 10-0

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

Here's the story of the dids vs. the did nots.

The dids — Lowndes High — took advantage of Valdosta High mistakes, scored runs and won a cross-town Region 1-AAAA South baseball contest. The did nots — the Wildcats — didn't take advantage of Michael Johnson's early wildness and didn't score in the 10-0 game played at Bazemore Field Tuesday afternoon.

The Vikings (9-4, 2-3) posted all 10 runs in the first mistake-plagued four innings, while Johnson (4-1) and company stranded seven Valdosta runners in the first three innings.

"I couldn't get the ball over," said Johnson, who had four walks, a hit batsmen and two wild pitches in the first three innings. "You can't throw strikes and you can't give your team a chance to help you. Whenever I threw strikes, the team did what they were supposed to."

"Same old thing. Early on we had our chances," said Valdosta coach Charles Tarpley. "We had people in position to score, but we can't get a

VIKINGS 10, WILDCATS 0

LOWNDES				VALDOSTA					
	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Gilbert cf	4	0	0	0	Myers lf	3	0	0	0
Scoby 2b	4	2	1	0	Akins ph	1	0	0	0
Scruggs 3b	3	3	2	2	Gage 2b	2	0	0	0
Morey lf	2	1	0	0	Bass c	4	0	1	0
Whiddon if	1	0	1	0	Thornton rf	1	0	1	0
Johnson p	4	2	3	3	Nichols dh	2	0	0	0
George 1b	4	0	2	2	Hitson cf	2	0	0	0
Powell c	3	0	0	0	Cullen p	2	0	0	0
Coward ph	1	0	0	0	Jarmillo ss	3	0	0	0
Booker ss	3	1	1	0	Tarpley 1b	2	0	0	0
Albritton ph	1	0	0	0	McConnehead ph	1	0	0	0
Overman rf	4	1	2	0	Green 3b	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	10	12	7	Totals	23	0	2	0

LOWNDES HIGH 302 500 0-10
VALDOSTA HIGH 000 000 0-0

E—Booker, Gage 2, Jarmillo, Green, LOB—Lowndes 5, Valdosta 9. DP—Valdosta 2. 2B—George. HR—Johnson, Scruggs.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Lowndes Johnson W, 4-1	7	2	0	0	6	7
Valdosta Cullen L, 2-5	7	12	10	3	1	6

hit. We don't hit the ball at all, and we don't hit in the clutch." Lowndes used the long ball to capitalize on two Valdosta mistakes, then batted around in the fourth to score the last five runs.

Valdosta starter Sean Cullen (2-5) began the game easily, recording two straight outs. But Jimbo Scruggs' single was followed by Ken Morey's popup behind first base was lost.

Instead of being out of the inning, Johnson came to bat. He popped Cullen's first pitch over the center-

field fence, just left of the green wall. Lowndes 3, Valdosta 0.

In the third, Richard Scoby opened the inning by reaching on a Steve Jarmillo fielding error. Scruggs, the next batter, yanked a pitch over the right-field wall. Lowndes 5, Valdosta 0.

Lowndes completed the scoring in the fourth, mixing four hits with a walk and two VHS errors.

Shannon Booker and Chris Overman began the inning with singles, and moved up a base on a wild pitch. Stephen Gilbert grounded to a drawn-in infield, but second baseman Rookie Gage misplayed the ball and two runs scored. Gilbert was thrown out trying to advance to second.

Another run scored on third baseman Chris Green's throwing error, and Houston George followed with a two-run double to left-center, scoring Scruggs and Johnson.

Johnson went 3-for-4 with three RBI, personally outhitting the Wildcats (5-7, 0-4), who had two back-to-back third-inning hits. But it wasn't easy.

"He wasn't concentrating," said Lowndes coach Steve Kebler. "He didn't pitch as well as he could

pitch. When he threw strikes we were alright."

"When I threw strikes they made the plays out here," added Johnson. "I can't ask nothing else from them."

In the first, Johnson hit Gage and intentionally walked Byron Thornton after a three-ball count. But Jason Nichols struck out to end the inning.

Alton Hitson led off the second with a walk, but Johnson picked him off first. Cullen walked and Jarmillo reached on shortstop Booker's error, and each moved up a base on a wild pitch. But Shannon Myers grounded out for the third out.

In the third, Ashley Bass got the first VHS hit with a sharp single to left. Thornton followed with a single to center, and Nichols walked. Hitson grounded to Houston George at first, who threw home to force Bass. Cullen popped out to end the inning.

From there, Johnson settled down, retiring 12 of the last 14 batters he faced, giving up walks in the fifth and seventh. He struck out seven.

It was a change of outcome for the Vikings, which had lost three sub-region games all by one run. "Thank goodness. I'm tired of them," said Kebler.

4-11-90

The Valdosta Daily Times



Jimmy Taw, left, chairman of the Valdosta High School history department, and registrar for the Selective Service System, regis-

ters Mickey McSwain, VHS senior. Looking on is Principal William E. Aldrich — Selective Service Photo.

VHS Helps In Selective Service Registration

Valdosta High School is making the selective service registration process quick and easy by participating in the Selective Service High School Registrar Program whereby a staff member of the high school is appointed to accept registrations.

Jimmy Taw, chairman of the history department at VHS, has accepted the responsibility of providing this service to Valdosta's young men.

By adding his name to the Selective Service list, a young man not only complies with the law but also guarantees his eligibility for some important federal benefits, such as federal student aid, job training, and federal employment. Georgia also has state legislation which requires registration as prerequisite for obtaining state scholarships, loans, and grants.

'Cats Rally For Win

4-8-90

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

MOULTREE — Finally, the monkey has been removed from the back of the Valdosta High baseball squad.

The Wildcats, perennial late-inning losers this season, grabbed an opportunity to redirect that trend Saturday afternoon and never let go. By scoring six of their runs in the last two innings, the 'Cats upset the Colquitt County Packers 10-9, gaining their first subregion win of the year in the process.

"We started hitting the ball this week and I didn't know if we would ever win one," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We've been snake-bit all year and we just haven't been able to go a whole game. The kids did all you can ask today and we finally won one. This one really helps our morale."

While Valdosta's record is a submediocre 1-5 in the subregion, the numbers misrepresent how close the 'Cats have been. In three of those losses, Valdosta led after four innings only to give away victories in the key frames. But Saturday, it was Colquitt County that was struck with a case of the late-inning nerves.

Leading 9-4 entering the sixth inning, the expected Packer massacre looked to be well intact. But slowly the Wildcats reentered the picture. Alton Hitson reached first on a fielder's choice as the Packers awaited the third out at any time. Instead, Rookie Gage walked and Ashley Bass singled to score Hitson. Then, Byron Thornton cleared the bases with a three-run home run that suddenly pulled Valdosta within one.

Earlier in the game, Thornton drove in two runs with a double.

Still down by one in the last inning, Brad Tarpley singled with one out to keep the threat alive. Hitson followed that with a single and Gage got the third consecutive hit, scoring pinch-runner Shannon Myers. Bass grounded out to second for the second out while Hitson raced home with the winning run.

Colquitt got a two-out double in the bottom of the seventh inning but was stranded when Cullen fielded the last ground ball and tossed it to Tarpley for the final out.

Cullen stayed on the entire game after a very rocky start. He gave up four hits and four runs before recording his first out of the game. Singles by Chris McCranie, David Dunn, Bucky Goff and a home run by John Buckner, all to start the first inning, put Cullen in a deep hole early.

"Sean didn't walk anybody and was putting it to them. He stayed strong the whole game," Tarpley said. "Byron hit it well all this week and especially today. I'm happy and proud for the kids. They just never gave up."

Valdosta Lady Cats Win Meet

Staff Reports March 24, 1990

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Valdosta High Lady Wildcats track team continued to have its way as it topped 10 Florida high schools to win the Bolles Bulldog Classic meet held Friday.

The Lady Wildcats totalled 87 points to outdistance second-place finisher Clay High School who had 78 points. St. Augustine High finished a distant third with 40 points.

Of the 15 events, Valdosta claimed first-place finishes in four of them. That coupled with two second places and five third places earned them the victory. The Lady 'Cats have won three of the four meets they have participated in this season with wins in both Tifton and Valdosta.

In the 4x400 relay race, the team of Beth Edwards, Bayh Brindger, Felicia Ponder and Shawanna Brown finished first with a time of 4:20. Brindger gained another first in the 400 meters with a time of 1:04.3.

Brindger was also part of the other first-place Valdosta relay team. She along with Edwards, Chantell Washington and Lulu Gamble won the 4x100 relay event with a time of 51.94. DeDe Dennis also finished first in the 800 meters with a time of 2:36.

Michelle Hendricks was second in the high jump with a leap of 4'8". Edwards gained more points for the team with a second in the 200 meters. She finished with a time of 26.67.

Dennis, Hendricks, Ponder and Washington all gained third-place finishes. Dennis finished third in the discus with a throw of 87'10" while Hendricks was third in the 100 meters low hurdles with a time of 17.48. Ponder was third in the 400 meters with a time of 1:04.6 while Washington picked up two third places. She was third in the 200 meters with a 26.93 mark and was third in the 100 meters.

Valdosta picked up more points with five fourth-place finishes and two sixth-place finishes.

The Lady Wildcats, after the spring break, will next compete on Tuesday, April 2 in Douglas.

Tarpley Watches Defeat

By Stan Grubb
Times Sports Writer
Apr. 6, 1990

If Valdosta High baseball fans thought there was something missing in Thursday's subregion game versus Bainbridge, they needed to look no further than the left-field stands.

For only the second time in 24 years of coaching baseball, head coach Charles Tarpley was a spectator and not in the dugout.

"It was tough to sit there and just watch my team in a subregion game," said Tarpley. "But what made things worse is that in baseball, a suspension often comes the following day."

Tarpley made reference to his next game, Georgia High School Association baseball suspension, due to being ejected in Wednesday's 16-8 loss to Clinch County. Tarpley's ejection came when was arguing a controversial base running call.

Tarpley, however, was not alone as assistant coach Mike O'Brien was also ejected in the same inning of the Clinch game leaving the on-field duties to assistant Keith Middleton.

"I was frustrated and I was caught up in the situation. I was wrong, but I felt I had to stand up for my kids too. I would do that again, but I'm not proud of it," said Tarpley. "The only problem I had was that the man said our kid was out due to running out of the base-line. Well, the base to begin with was 12 inches off the line, but he said we'd have to play it like that, then that happened," he said.

"The Clinch kid took a step back to field the ball and our runner hit him. He had no choice, he couldn't avoid it because of where the first baseman was. We were fine, until their coach jumped off their bench complaining. And the call was changed."



Bainbridge Bearcats' Daryl Willis is tagged out trying to steal second base by Valdosta High second baseman Rookie Paul Leavy.

Bearcats Rally To Thump VHS

By Stan Grubb
Times Sports Writer

With just two innings to play against the Bainbridge Bearcats Thursday afternoon, it looked like the Valdosta Wildcats were going to claim their first subregion win of the season.

But those plans fell through when the Bearcats came up with six runs on five hits in the sixth inning to bounce the Wildcats, 12-8, at Bazemore Field.

Bainbridge's win gives them a 3-2 subregion record, while Valdosta remains winless in the subregion at 0-5.

The Wildcats (5-9) were successful early against Bainbridge, scoring seven runs in the first two innings, thanks in part to right fielder Byron Thornton.

Thornton crushed an Alan

BEARCATS 12, WILDCATS 8	
BAINBRIDGE	VALDOSTA
Willis lf	Hilton c
Harrell 3b	Gage 2b
Close cf	Bass p-3b
Powell ss	Thornton rf
Tarpley 1b	Akins pr
Parker lb	Nichols dh
Lively rf	Corier cf
McCook 2b	Myers lf
Bennett c	Cullen 3b-p
McLendon p	Jarmillo ss
Harrison p-ss	Tarpley lb
Totals	Totals
32 12 12 10	32 12 10

BAINBRIDGE	VALDOSTA
114	86
250	90
0	8

E—Willis, Close, Harrison 2, Jarmillo, Thornton, LOB—Bass, G, VHS 8, 28—Willis, Harrell, Harrison, Nichols, HR—Close, Lively, Thornton, SB—Close 2, Akins, IP H R ER BB SO	
Bainbridge	1 5 5 4 1 0
McLendon	1 3 4 2 2 0
Andrews	2 2 1 1 2 0
Harrison	3 2 3 1 0 0
Powell W, 4-2	5 9 10 8 7 4
Valdosta	2 3 2 2 0 1
Bass L, 2-3	
Cullen	
DP—BHS 2, VHS, BALK—Harrison 2, McLendon.	

McClendon offering deep over the left field fence in the first inning for a 2-0 VHS lead. Thornton was the team leader for Valdosta going 3-for-4 with a home run, double, one run

Gage in the first inning at Bazemore Field — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

scored and three RBI. BHS' Brian Powell, who was the game's winning pitcher, had an RBI single in the first and teammate Vidal Lively scored on a Valdosta error in the second for a 2-2 tie.

Thornton and the Wildcats picked up where they left off in the next frame, accounting for five runs on seven hits and chasing McLendon from the mound after 27 pitches in the inning.

Sean Cullen, Steve Jarmillo and Brad Tarpley had consecutive singles to begin the inning, with Tarpley's scoring Cullen to make it 3-2. One error and one out later, Rookie Gage slapped a double into the right-field gap which plated Jarmillo and Tarpley, putting VHS up, 5-2.

A basehit by Ashley Bass, a Bearcat error and a Thornton single boosted the Wildcat lead to 7-2.

Rodney Close and Lively cut the Valdosta lead to just one run at 7-6 in the top of third with a pair of two-run homers.

Close's two-run shot, which scored teammate Mike Harrell, cleared the center field wall. Two batters later, Lively took an offering over the left-field fence.

In the VHS fourth, Bass singled and went to second on a balk.

Thornton then stepped to the plate and drilled a line shot off the fence in center. Bass was waved around third, but Close's throw from center was on target to nail him at the plate. With one out, Thornton stole single to left by Shannon Myers.

Trailing 8-6, Bainbridge took command of the game in the sixth inning. The Bearcats sent 11 batters to the plate scoring six times to take a 12-8 lead.

Speaks For Itself

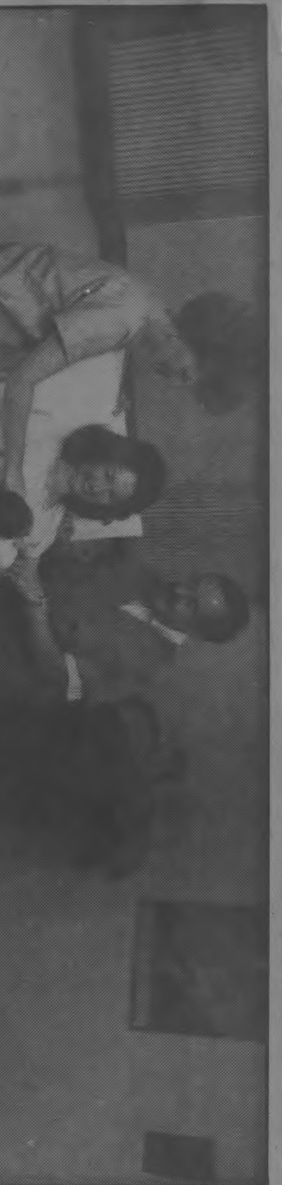
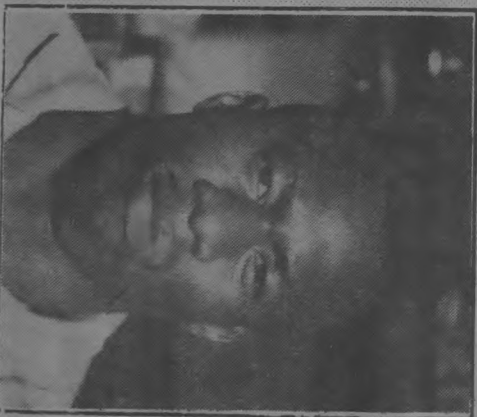
Feb 1, 1989
Apr. 6, 1989

People File

Local Folks

Meet...

- NAME: Carlos Parker
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: Senior at Valdosta High School and a utility clerk at Food Max.
- HOBBIES: Sports, working and being with his friends.
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "If you aim at nothing you will hit it."



Vickie and Steve Hanlka watch their newborn child, Chase, at the new Labor, Delivery, and Recovery suite at South Georgia

Medical Center. Standing at left is Debbie Crews, head nurse for the Labor Delivery Ward — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Labor-Delivery Suite

Opens At Local Hospital

By CHARLIE GAY
Times Staff Writer

Hospital officials led a gathering of expectant mothers and interested citizens on a tour of South Georgia Medical Center's newly renovated, \$1.4 million labor and delivery suite Sunday.

"This is not only a whole new look for us, it's a whole new concept of bringing babies into this area," said hospital administrator John S. Bowling at a dedication ceremony held prior to the tour.

Twice the size of the old wing, the new suite offers Valdosta area expectant mothers the best of both worlds, the latest in obstetric technology along with the comfort of a homelike environment.

"We're trying to create a very clinically safe, non-threatening

atmosphere," Pat Puckett, associate director of maternal/child nursing told *The Valdosta Daily Times*. "That's the trend of obstetrics today."

The renovated facility includes three rooms specially designed to allow labor, delivery and recovery in the same room as well as two traditional labor rooms, a high-risk labor room, one traditional delivery room and one Caesarean section room.

The suite is a far cry from the traditional state-looking setting. Purple carpeting and pastel pink walls in the hallway, pastel green-and-pink-splashed tile and bedroom-style furniture in the LDR rooms combine to give the suite a bright, comfortable feeling.

As part of the concept to make the expectant mother feel at

home, most clinical equipment in the rooms is concealed behind sliding doors and curtains.

New equipment includes two new Genesis birthing beds that can be adjusted to allow labor, delivery and recovery. The new suite also has a new computerized intercom system.

Interior decoration was designed by Ms. Puckett, head nurse of labor and delivery Debbie Crews and executive secretary Jan Sylvester, with the guidance of architect Nix Mann and Associates of Atlanta.

Bowling said the suite should be open to patients by the end of this week or the beginning of the next.

Construction on the project began September 1, 1989 — Labor Day, appropriately enough.

Rally Makes VHS Champs



April-9-90 VDI

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta Wildcats and Lady Wildcats proved Friday night just how important it is to play well in the fourth quarter.

Down by 13 at the half and by eight entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Wildcats dominated the final period to take the Region 1-AAAA South title with a 59-51 win over the Coffee High Lady Trojans.

Unfortunately for VHS, the Wildcats suffered from a fourth-quarter rally by the Trojans to lose a chance at the subregion sweep. Coffee rallied from a five-point deficit in the final period to blow out the Wildcats, 80-68.

With the win, the Lady Wildcats finish subregion play with a 8-2 mark, 14-6 overall. The Wildcats finish with a 3-7 subregion record and are 12-8 overall.

The Lady Trojans gained a huge lead early in the contest as they took away the Lady 'Cats inside game and took advantage of their own. Coffee led 14-4 after the first period. Valdosta's outside shooters had trouble hitting the open jump shots and trailed by as much as 18-4 early in the second period.

The shooting drought ended when Laura Dennis drilled a baseline jumper with 6:20 left before halftime. Tracy Troutman followed as did Dennis again and Shannon West. The Lady 'Cats continued to chip away at the lead and a Cassandra Twine bucket closed the gap to 27-18 with 3:25 left. Coffee led 31-18 at halftime.

Valdosta High's Cassandra Twine (34) reaches out with Coffee High's Katy Lott (31) for the basketball during Friday's

Region 1-AAAA South contest at Valdosta High. The Lady Wildcats won the game, 59-51 — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

"We knew they would sag on our big girls and leave us open outside," said head coach Susan Montgomery. "But what I wanted to do was See VALDOSTA, Page 3-B

From Page 1-B

penetrate. We didn't do it in the first half. Our defense was what killed us the most in the first half. We weren't aggressive and didn't trap. They were killing us inside."

Coffee kept the lead in double digits until late in the third quarter when Vashti Manning converted a 3-point play to cut the score to 42-33. After Coffee's Ciscely Paulk scored inside, West nailed a 3-pointer with one second left in the quarter to make the score, 44-36.

And Valdosta kept the rally going. Three consecutive scores cut the lead to 44-42 and the Lady 'Cats finally tied the game at 47 when Dennis hit one free throw. They got their first lead of the game, 51-49, on a putback by Twine with 3:05 left to play.

The Lady 'Cats then stopped Coffee on offense and continued to score when they had to. Manning scored from the baseline, Twine hit inside and West hit four free throws in the last 20 seconds to ice the win.

"They (Valdosta) came out in the second half and were aggressive," Montgomery said. "The guards penetrated and our press worked well. They played their heart out and, if they had played like that the whole game, we might've won by 20. Vas-

COFFEE AT VALDOSTA

Boys' Game
COFFEE (80) — Billy Vereen 14, Derek Carter 6, Anthony Burch 8, Mark Moore 15, Bubba Bailey 27, Reggie Ingram 10.
VALDOSTA (67) — Michael Moore 4, Spencer Iverson 26, Ernest Lowe 19, James Manning 8, Major Lynn 10, Chris Hart 1.
Coffee 21 14 20 25—80
Valdosta 20 19 19 10—68
Records: Valdosta 12-8 (3-7).
Next Game: Valdosta at Berrien County (tonight).

Girls' Game
COFFEE (51) — Sanshell Bussey 7, Kim Page 15, Caroline Lott 4, Maniaue McClelland 17, Ciscely Paulk 8.
VALDOSTA (59) — Shannon West 15, Esther Benjamin 6, Cassandra Twine 16, Vashti Manning 13, Laura Dennis 7, Tracy Troutman 2.
Coffee 14 17 13 07—51
Valdosta 04 14 18 23—59
Records: Valdosta 14-6 (8-2).

hti Manning got into it in the second half, Shannon West played well in a crucial game and Laura Dennis did a great job on the boards. We played like we were a team."

In the boys' game, the Wildcats finally fell to a Coffee team that exploited Valdosta's weakness inside. But the Wildcats stayed in the game and led much of the way through three quarters.

Ernest Lowe and Spencer Iverson led the Wildcats back into the game after falling behind 8-0. A basket by Lowe with one second left in the opening period cut Coffee's lead to 21-20.

Iverson put VHS on top with the first score of the second period. But they could never extend the lead

past four points and led 39-35 at the half, with Iverson totalling 16 points.

Coffee came out in the second half with seven unanswered points to retake the lead at 42-41. Valdosta regained control on three straight baskets of their own, one by Iverson and two by Major Lynn, and led most of the third quarter. Entering the final stanza, VHS was up 58-55.

To start, the fourth period did not look all that bad for the Wildcats. Lynn hit two free throws to give VHS their biggest lead of the game at 60-55 with 7:31 left. Coffee went on a 21-2 run and blew the game wide open with 2:05 left. Center Bubba Bailey directed Coffee's comeback with 12 of the 21 points. Bailey was able to work inside since Wildcat center Michael Moore fouled out and power forward Jason King missed the game due to illness.

"We were never in the flow of the game defensively," VHS head coach John Miller said. "We weren't as patient as we should have been in the fourth quarter and their size hurt us inside. I was satisfied with our effort but we just didn't have it in the fourth quarter."

In the boys' B-team game, Trampis Wrice scored 16 points and Frank Mazion scored 12 to lead the Wildcats to a 54-35 win over Coffee.

Lady 'Cats Press Way To Crown

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

In their five previous meetings with the Lady Trojans of Coffee High School, Susan Montgomery's Valdosta High Lady Wildcats gave it everything they had only to see their championship dreams disappear.

However, Friday night in front of a noisy crowd at Valdosta High School, the crown fit perfectly as the Lady Wildcats (14-6, 8-2) won the regular season Region 1-AAAA South subregion championship, 59-51.

"It just feels great to finally beat these people," said Lady 'Cats' senior center Cassandra Twine. "I'm just happy for this whole team."

The Lady Wildcats — coming back from an 18-4 deficit — simply wrestled away the 1989-90 subregion championship from the See LADY 'CATS, Page 3-B

Lady 'Cats

From Page 1-B

mighty Lady Trojans with smothering defensive pressure. And the Lady Trojans didn't just bend under the pressure, they broke.

"I just felt that everything I did tonight was in the best interest of the team," said freshman Shannon West, one of the VHS guards who began to heat up in the second half.

In fact, a key basket which sparked the VHS comeback bid came when West nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key at the third period buzzer which cut the Lady Trojan lead to 44-36.

"They were giving us the outside shot and Coach Montgomery just told us to keep taking it," said junior Vashli Manning.

"I think our people were just a little timid on taking the outside

shots early and I just told them to settle down. They were packing it in on us as expected," said Montgomery. "Our gameplan offensively was to penetrate, but they were allowing us to do that. Laura and Shannon kept us alive early shooting from the outside.

"But my gosh, I have to give my team a lot of credit. Coming back from 13 points down at the half and hustling up and down the court in the second half says a lot to me. It says they wanted to be champions."

"Coach Montgomery just told us that we could do it and we kept telling each other that," said Lady Wildcat senior Jamie Clark. "She told us that we had to come out and play our game."

The Lady Wildcats hawked the Lady Trojans' every move, using

fullcourt defensive pressure that forced five turnovers in the third period alone.

Lady Wildcats' sophomore Esther Benjamin, who fouled out late in the contest, played a large role in the rally. The 6-foot-4 Benjamin battled to contest many Coffee shots.

When asked if that was by instruction of her head coach, the teary-eyed Benjamin stated, "Yes."

"We were suppose to play that way in the first half," said Montgomery. "The team everyone saw in the second half is our team. Esther did a good job inside and she turned in a great quarter and a half having four fouls.

"What can you say?" said Montgomery. "I told them we have to beat these people if they want to be champions. I'm very proud of our kids."

Hyder Back Home

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High Wildcats' head football coach Nick Hyder returned home from Orlando, Fla. Thursday, eight days after having hip-replacement surgery performed by Dr. Lewis Brady.

"I feel just fine and it's great to be home. I'm home a couple of days early. I guess that's what happens when you do what you're told and follow orders by the doctor," Hyder said. "It was a situation where my wife made me get a checkup and I got the operation because of the situation I was in."

"Dr. Brady is a hip specialist and



HYDER

performed a similar operation on Coach (Wright) Bazemore back in 1979," Hyder said. "Everything went very well and although I can move around somewhat, I will not be able to get back to work until February."

The process was a very complex one according to Hyder, but was successful.

"Dr. Brady told me that there were some arthritic problems with my hip and that the x-rays taken were pretty messy," said Hyder. "They went in and cleaned everything out and later filled the cavity with titanium with the use of a computer. Dr. Brady learned this technique in Belgium."

"I'll be six months before I'm back to 100 percent, but I feel good," he added. "I'm looking to go back to work in February. But for now, things are pretty strict on what I can and can't do. I'm just doing what the doctor tells me."

Bailey Rips Wildcats, 6-4

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Coffee High's Bubba Bailey had just two hits against Valdosta High Thursday afternoon. But they were two more than head coach Charles Tarpley had hoped for at Bazemore Field.

The Trojans' power-hitter accounted for five of his team's six runs as they defeated the Wildcats, 6-4. The win keeps Coffee alive in the hunt for a 1-AAAA baseball playoff spot after back-to-back wins over VHS and Bainbridge. Coffee is now 7-11 and 4-4 in the subregion, Valdosta drops to 6-11 and 1-7.

"It was a win they needed to stay in this thing and you could see it," said Tarpley. "We were two pitches away from maybe winning it, but they had some key hits and we didn't. Our pitchers really pitched well in the loss. Coffee just did what they are capable of."

In other subregion action Thursday, Colquitt County handed the league-leading Tift County Blue Devils their first subregion defeat, 4-3. A victory by Lowndes High over Bainbridge tonight would put Coffee, Colquitt, Bainbridge and Lowndes in a second-place logjam. All would be tied for second at 4-4.

Bailey, who finished the game with two hits, a run scored and five

RBI, made his presence known in the first inning.

With teammates Scott Taylor, who singled to left, and Reggie Ingram, who walked, on first and second base, Bailey stroked a looping fly to center for a two-run double giving his team a quick 2-0 lead.

The lead stayed that way until the bottom of the fourth inning when the VHS bats came alive.

Valdosta, who had just one hit off of Coffee starter and winner Bruce Taylor in the opening three innings, had three hits in the inning. After Rookie Gage walked to open the VHS fourth, Ashley Bass doubled to left, scoring Gage and cutting Coffee's lead to 2-1.

Bass then went to third on Byron Thornton's single to center and scored four pitches later when Taylor, the catcher, attempted to pickoff pinch-runner Chad Alfson, who stole second base.

Alfson later came around to score on an error by the Coffee catcher giving VHS their first and only lead of 3-2.

The Wildcats' lead would only last only 15 pitches, as Coffee took the lead for good in the fifth inning on a three-run homer to left by Bailey.

VHS' Thornton provided his team with their final run of the game in the sixth with a solo home run to center.

Fr. April 13, 1990

Blue Devils Just Edge Wildcats In 11th, 2-1

VDT. Wed, Apr. 11, 1990
Staff Reports

TIFTON—The line between first place and last place in the Region 1-AAAA South is a fine one indeed.

The first-place Tift County Blue Devils had to wait 11 innings to score on a play at home plate before they got away with a 2-1 win over the last-place Valdosta Wildcats Tuesday night. The win lifts Tift County to 7-0 in the subregion while the Wildcats drop to 1-6. The victory for the Blue Devils guarantees them a spot in the post-season playoffs.

Sean Cullen pitched the first 10 innings for the Wildcats, giving up only five hits and walking none. Because of GHSA rules, a pitcher can only pitch ten innings in a game. Ashley Bass relieved Cullen and the Wildcats missed two fly balls to centerfield to put two runners on with no outs. After a fly out and a walk, Tift's Mickey Weldon hit a high hopper to third base. The throw home was not in time to catch Richard Cavanaugh and the game was over.

The Wildcats left 11 men on base while the Blue Devils only left two.

The Blue Devils started the game by scoring a run in the first inning. Cavanaugh hit a line drive to center and was bunted to second. Jeffrey Sauls drove in Cavanaugh to put Tift County up early.

The Wildcats scored their run in the fifth. Steve Jarmillo doubled and moved to second on Brad Tarpley's ground out. Alton Hilton then got a basehit that drove in Jarmillo and made the score 1-1.

"That's the way our season's gone," said VHS head coach Charles Tarpley. "We played good defense and played as good as he could but we couldn't clutch hit. We had the chances to drive in some runs but we didn't. But when you see pitching like they got, you haven't got a prayer. I was coaching third base and I couldn't see the ball."

"Their field is a hard one to play on at night and I don't think our centerfielder ever saw either one of those two fly balls," Tarpley added.

Where They Stand

REGION 1-AAAA SOUTH STANDINGS	
Tift County	7-0
Bainbridge	4-2
Lowndes	3-4
Colquitt County	3-4
Coffee	2-4
Valdosta	1-6

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Tift County 2, Valdosta 1
Lowndes 8, Coffee 4
Bainbridge 12, Colquitt County 7

UPCOMING GAMES

Wednesday, April 11	Coffee at Bainbridge
Thursday, April 12	Coffee at Valdosta
Tift County at Colquitt County	Friday, April 13
Lowndes at Bainbridge	Saturday, April 14
Leesburg, Fla. at Valdosta	Tuesday, April 17
Tift County at Lowndes	Colquitt County at Valdosta
Thursday, April 19	Valdosta at Lowndes

END OF REGULAR SEASON

Local Folks



People File

VDT. Tues, May 8, 1990

Meet...

- NAME: Lynn Wilson
- RESIDENCE: Valdosta
- OCCUPATION: DCT Coordinator and VICA Advisor at Valdosta High School
- HOBBIES: Working with her children and her students
- QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Please support VHS's VICA students as they head to Tulsa for the VICA National Competition"

Wildcats Start

By Studying Grades

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

VDI Sat May 5, 1990

The troops have been assembled, the tools of battle distributed and their credentials checked.

Now it's time for spring football practice.

At Valdosta High School, about 127 candidates will hit the varsity practice field beginning Monday around 3:45 p.m. Another 60-70 will come over from Valdosta Junior High to work for the ninth-grade team. And at the junior high, some 250 candidates will begin making their way on one of four teams.

But the work toward preparing for the two-week practice period started long before this past week. It started by checking on grades.

"We work to prepare for who's academically eligible," said Valdosta head coach Nick Hyder. "It is the strength of having spring practice. And I'm saying that loud."

When the state Board of Education had said, for a time, that there would be no spring football practice for 1990, Hyder said there should be practice to give coaches an academic checkpoint.



SPRING FOOTBALL 1990

'Payback' Begins With Spring Drills

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Since the final game of the 1989 football season, the Lowndes High Vikings' cry has been "Wayback to Payback". And head football coach Rick Tomberlin feels the time has come to put the plan into action.

Tomberlin, who will begin his second spring workout with the club on Monday, admits he is looking forward to a very profitable spring conditioning.

"We were a bunch of young colts. And I do mean that, but I think we're about ready to come of age," said Tomberlin. "These players have worked very hard on our conditioning since the end of last year and had a large number of multiple-sports participation by the athletes."

"We feel good about entering this year's spring workouts, and have good response to a voluntary, early-morning weightlifting which was open to anybody," he said. "I know

that we are going to be in better physical shape than last year at this time. And through the special workout sessions and clinic we had, the players are a lot more confident."

The Vikings' 10-day, spring workout schedule will be from Monday-Friday from 4 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. A team meeting is scheduled before each workout and a scrimmage will be held in the second week.

The 1990 version of the Vikings will include a defense which returns 10 of 11 starters and an offense which returns nine out of 11 starters. Lowndes, however, will be without the services of eight of 19 returning starters.

All of the Vikings' varsity members have taken part in extensive weight training sessions.

"We were a very weak football team last year," said Tomberlin. "But right now we are at the point of great anticipation to start the spring and mending the fence."

"The kids and our staff are hungry to show we're not the same team and to a better job," said Tomberlin. "I'm not setting here with enthusiasm saying this and that about next year. But I know we are going to be better and improved."

Kenny Rose Still Remembered

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

VDI Sun May 6, 1990

Nearly a year and a half ago, another Valdosta High football season was going according to plan. The Cats were 3-0, ranked first in the state and eyeing their possible fourth state title of the decade.



ROSE

Then a tragedy struck that affected the lives of the players forever. Kenny Rose, a senior cornerback for Valdosta, collapsed while walking around the practice-field track and later died. The perspective of the season, the sport and life changed for the players, coaches and friends who knew and loved Rose.

Van Phillips, the assistant girls' basketball coach at VHS, was new to the school that year and he had never met Rose. But he realized how important and what kind of inspiration Rose was when he saw the outpouring of emotion following the death. Phillips felt as if he had lost a friend he had never met and he determined not to let the memory die.

Tuesday night at the Valdosta High School honors night, the first Kenny Rose Memorial Scholarship will be handed out to a college-bound senior. The scholarship will be worth \$1,000 to be applied toward any college of the recipient's choice. Coach Phillips, a member of the Board of Trustees that chooses the recipient, spoke with *The Times* about how the scholarship fund was set up and the future of the award at Valdosta High.

QUESTION: Since you never met Kenny, what inspired you to start a drive to set up a scholarship?

Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

PHILLIPS: I had just come to Valdosta High right before Kenny passed away. The reaction by the whole school really shook me. I just decided to do this because I wanted to do something so everyone would always remember Kenny.

QUESTION: What was the atmosphere around the high school the day after Kenny died and why did it surprise you?

PHILLIPS: There was total silence. They announced it during homeroom and there was total silence the whole day. Nobody did anything. The teachers, the kids and the coaches were all affected. That said something to me about the what kind of person Kenny was. Anytime this

terrible of an experience happens, you expect sadness. But this was different.

QUESTION: Who is eligible for the scholarship and how is the recipient selected?

PHILLIPS: We decided how to select the student according to the wishes of Kenny's parents. The award will go to a varsity athlete, band member or a member of the chorus who ranks high in their class academically. We narrowed the field to seven students and had them fill out forms and give them back to us. The board is made up of several people like myself, Kenny's parents, Coach (Nick) Hyder and Pete Stone.

The person who receives the award will carry a big responsibility. We want to pick someone who exemplifies the caring toward other people that Kenny showed. The scholarship was set up for two reasons. First, to honor Kenny and also to help some-

one who may not be able to go to college otherwise.

QUESTION: How was the money for the scholarship fund raised?

PHILLIPS: For three days, we went around to each homeroom and collected money from the students. In that time, we collected \$1,700. Some of that was donated by the clubs, but most came directly from the kids' donations. The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) really helped out by going to each homeroom. The amount of money we collected is a real tribute to Kenny. The fact that all the students knew Kenny and really respected him made it a lot easier to collect the money.

We had to go to a lawyer and establish a trust fund and send off an application to the IRS. We are really glad to have the first one set up but we are still a long way from our goal. Our goal is to raise \$15,000, de-

posit it into the trust fund and award the interest every year. Right now, we have about \$2,200.

QUESTION: What have you learned about Kenny through setting up the fund although you never knew him?

PHILLIPS: He had, and still has, the respect of Valdosta High School. Kenny was the kind of friend and player that everyone loved. We hope that this scholarship will get bigger and continue to grow each year. We want the scholarship to always be there. A lot of kids and teachers have worked hard to establish it and I'm very glad of the reception we've gotten.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Kenny Rose Memorial Scholarship Fund can do so by contacting Coach Phillips or Coach Hyder at the high school or contacting Kenny's father, Reverend Booker T. Rose, or Rogee Childs at Georgia Power.

With Memorial Scholarship

Students Selected For Honors Program

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

Several students from Valdosta and Lowndes High School have been selected for the Governor's Honors Program.

Selection criteria included overall grade point average, grade point average in the field of competition, a written application, community and school involvement and an interview with educators in Atlanta, said Ron Irwin, public information director for the Lowndes County Board of Education.

Those entering the theater selection process also had to audition in front of an audience. And portions of the foreign language interview were conducted in Spanish, he said.

This year Lowndes High had a record six students selected for the program, Irwin said.

Students chosen from Lowndes High are: Gene Conoley, who competed in foreign language; Scott Dickson, theater; Jeremy Dykes, mathematics; Stephanie Powell, communicative arts; Kathy Stutzman, communicative arts; and Al Walker, social studies.

Students competing for Valdosta High School were: Kelli Bland, Nathan Ingham, Kim Williams and Mickey McAfee, all of whom competed in music. Michael Young competed in social studies; Liz Foster, in communicative arts; and Amy Kilgard competed in mathematics.

Also at Lowndes High, William Scott Hanner has been named a

United States National Award winner in band competition. The academy recognizes less than 10 percent of students nominated, said George Stevens, executive director of the academy.

Students must be recommended by their teacher. They also must show leadership qualities, enthusiasm, motivation to learn, dependability and citizenship, said Stevens. Hanner was recommended by LHS band director Billy Martin.

Lowndes County Board of Education has another student to boast about.

Timmy Jerry, a senior, was selected as Georgia's Most Improved Student of the Year in the Related Vocational Enrichment Camp held at St. Simons Island last week.

Students and teachers from 70 schools attended the meeting. The program is designed to provide life and career skills to special needs high school students, said Irwin.

Among the areas Jerry improved was attendance. He was absent 30 days as a freshman and had perfect attendance in his senior year, Irwin said.

His grade average improved from 80 to 91 this year and his vocational grade average went from 78 as a freshman to its present grade of 92, Irwin said.

Jerry has also participated in the Job Training Partnership Act and work experiences coordinated by the school and the Georgia Rehabilitation Services.

VHS Wrestlers Get Their Awards

VDT. Wed., Apr. 25, 1990 8-3

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The Valdosta High wrestling team, which continued its improvement during the 1989-90 season, honored its players, coaches and matgirls Tuesday night at the annual banquet held at the Sheraton Inn.

The Wildcats finished the season with a 12-3 record and placed ninth in the state AAAA tournament in Atlanta. The banquet, which honored all of the wrestlers on the varsity and junior varsity squads, was also the last banquet for head coach John Davis. Davis, who has headed the team for two years, is leaving to take over the junior high football program as well as taking on a spot as an assistant principal.

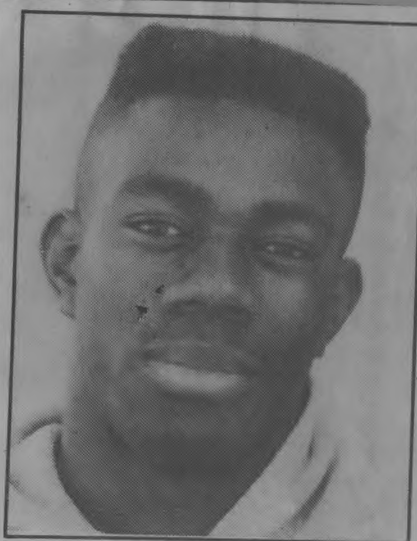
"This really is a special night. Working with kids of this caliber and with the backing we've had has been great. I'm very sure this wrestling program will continue to succeed and keep improving. It was a very special year for me and all the wrestlers," Davis said.

After a dinner, Davis outlined the team's accomplishments during the past season. Highlights of the year included a win over McEachern during the regular season before the Atlanta high school went on to win the state championship. Against some of the top teams in the state, Valdosta lost by only one point to Etowah and two points to McEachern later in the year and they defeated Sprayberry.

Several Valdosta wrestlers and matgirls also recollected their most memorable moments from the past season.

The Wildcats' Most Valuable Wrestler Award went to Maurice Dean. The Most Outstanding trophy was presented to Steve Petermann while Jason Finland was given the Most Dedicated Award. Junior twins Eric and Derrick Phillips tied for the Spirit of the Wildcats Award while Chris Thigpen was given the Most Improved Award. Chuck Bonner was also awarded as he won the "No Pain, No Gain" Award. Ryan Thigpen won the Most Valuable Freshman Wrestler Award.

The award for most pins was won by Bonner as he collected 19 pins on



MAURICE DEAN

the year. The runnerup for most pins was Finland with 18. Ryan Moorman got the award for the quickest pin with a time of 13 seconds.

On the junior varsity level, Fleming Brooks won the Most Outstanding JV Award while Bobby Mangham was given the Best Hustler Award.

All awards except most pins, most pins runnerup and the quickest pin were voted on by the team.

"The team has come such a long way and there is so much potential that I think they're definitely headed in the right direction," Davis said.

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Takes On 'Foreign' Competition

Valdosta High School students competed in the Foreign Language Association of Georgia at Shiloh High School on Saturday.

After competing in areas of French and Spanish, Valdosta students earned 10 awards. First place winners were Brandon Lovett (French I), Holly Rentschler (French II), Jennifer Matthews (Spanish I), and Michelle Buckland (Spanish III for native speakers).

Among the second place winners were Wendy McConnell (Spanish II), and John Ramey (Spanish III).

Valdosta High
School

NEWS

Written and Compiled
By VHS Students

Third place winners included Margaux Laskey (French I), Jimmy Green (French II), Chris Spurlock (French III) and Brook Bearden (Spanish I). Other competitors included Christa Olson (French III) and Anita Matchett (Spanish II). Chaperones were Elsie Nicholas and Nancy Light.

following club members for joining in and making all school and community projects for the month of February a success:

Dede Burgess, Chassity Loving, Dashanti Jefferson, Michael Seago, Karen Cain, Ada Burch and Vira Jones.

Y-Club Thanks

The Alpha-Iota-Omega Y-Club at Valdosta High School thanks the

Secretary Dashanti Jefferson reminds all club officers and members that the Christian Life Conference will be held May 4-6 at Norman Park.

Wed., March 7, 1990



CHRISTINE BUELL

Studies Abroad

Christine Buel, a student at Mercer University in Macon, has been accepted to study her senior year at Oxford University in Oxford, England.

She also made the dean's list in the College of Liberal Arts for the winter quarter. To attain the list, a student must receive a grade point average of 3.66 or better.

A 1987 graduate of Valdosta High School, she is concentrating in English and theatre.

She is the daughter of Vickie Buel of Valdosta.



VDT Thurs. ^{Mar. 8, 1990} **Let's Get This Right**

Valdosta High School baseball coach Charles Tarpley, right, tries to prove a point with umpire Jack Sharpe during the Wildcats'

4-1 loss to Lowndes County. For story and details on the Rebel Classic, please see Page 2-B — Times Photo by Paul Leavy.

Valdosta High

FBLA Competes In Hazelhurst

VDT Thurs. Mar. 8, 1990
Twelve Future Business Leaders of America students traveled to Hazelhurst for the Region 2 FBLA Conference Feb. 17.

Nine students placed in the events: first, Shayna Shapiro (Job Interview); Heather Strayhorn (Keyboarding Applications Advanced); second, India Giuly (Machine Transcription); third, Curt Fowler (Mr. CBE), Leigh Helms (Mrs. CBE) and Latesha Bradley (Accounting I). Also placing fourth, LaSharon Walker (Keyboarding Applications); fifth, Carla Davis (Public Speaking) and Tonya Southers (Business English).

Other participants included: Suzette Davidson, Latechia Brown and Gayla Miller.

The students were accompanied by advisers Maxine Martin and Judy Grant.

— By LaSharon Walker, FBLA Member

Valdosta Track Team Rolls

TIFTON — The Valdosta High girls' track team raced past the field in a meet held here Wednesday.

Valdosta compiled 106½ points, while their closest challenger, Tift County, had just 55½ points. Turner County accounted for 26 points and Worth County finished up with just 12.

Valdosta winners included Michelle Hendrix's High Jump (4-8). Bayh Brindger finished third in the high jump event. first place in the Long Jump went to Beth Edwards (15-8¼). Chantell Washington was second, followed by Tiffany Wright.

The Valdosta team of Washington, Wright, Antina Matchett and Edwards captured the 440 relay with a 53.47 mark. The mile run went to Maggie McDonald (6:09) and Paige Stabell finished in third place.

Brindger captured first place in the 440 dash with a time of (1:06). Shawanna Brown was second. Washington was first in the 100 meters race at 13.3 with Edwards taking third place. Angie Redden finished third in the low hurdles. DeDe Dennis captured first in the 880 run with a time of (2:41). Edwards finished first in the 220 dash with a time of (28.16) while Washington was second.

Maggie McDonald was first in the two-mile run (14.09), with Heather Burns taking second. Valdosta won the mile relay with the team of Felicia Ponder, Edwards, Brown and Brindger. The winning time was 4:40. The Valdosta team of Althea Cochran, Wright, Hendrix and Redden was second.

Valdosta's next meet will be at home March 13 at 4:30 p.m. against Tift County and Colquitt County.

VDT Thurs. March 8, 1990

Miss VHS Aims To Be The Best That She Can Be

By **FRANCES COLIVESKY**
Times Lifestyles Writer

The new Miss Valdosta High School is no rookie at pageants, performing, and being in the spotlight before a crowd.

Simone Allen, daughter of Ronald and Jane Allen of Valdosta, was crowned Saturday night capping a year of honors and wins including 1989-90 Homecoming Queen.

The VHS senior shared Marchin Cats drum major honors with Mike Young this year, an honor Simone said has probably been the most gratifying of all. "Being drum major has taught me leadership and responsibility ... taught me to depend on no one but yourself." She said drum major duties include leading practice twice a week, running music for each section and spending hours listening to songs, doing drill charts and setting up the field. Learning diplomacy has been a by-product of the job as well. "When you have 150 people in front of you, you have 150 views. You have to take into consideration what they all want while you are getting them to do what you want them to do."

Miss VHS was president of her freshman class, treasurer of the sophomore class, secretary of the junior class, and a member of the VHS Student Council this year. Club and school activities include drill team member, and bat girl for the baseball team for two years, membership in Interact for four years, Spanish National Honor Society for two years, Fellowship of Christian Athletes for four years, Science Club and Math Team, and member of the One Act Play.

FCA has been the most rewarding for her. "It's been a good opportunity for me to be able to share my religion with other people and to talk about things," she said. "No one is

forced to join, and we've had 200-300 people come to the meetings. It's been important to me to be able to share with other people." Because of her enthusiastic support of the program, Simone was one of the featured speakers at Wintersville Week Rally "Christ Makes Winners" during her junior year.

"To be the best you can be" is behind Simone's drive for winning, performing, and accomplishing. "I had that goal when I joined the band my freshman year, and I think the band has come a long way toward this goal all these years. But whatever you do, you should always try to do it the best you can. In high school you should get involved in a lot of activities. If you don't get involved, then you don't have any feelings about the school ... and you won't have the opportunity to be the best of the best."

Simone sings in the choir at First United Methodist Church and taught Sunday School there this year.

She has won a bassoon scholarship to the University of South Carolina and learned Thursday that she had won a place on the 1990-91 USC dance line.

Simone has volunteered her time to the Soup Kitchen and to Special Olympics. The Special Olympics held a fascination for her because of the students involved. "I helped to transport VHS students to the Special Olympics. Those kids really try. They give 100 percent to what they do."

Beyond the music, there is either law or pediatrics in Simone's future. "What I like about law is knowing how to help people ... make a better society." But she loves children. "I love to babysit. Sometimes I'll just call up some of the kids I babysit for and take them to the movies. I love to spend time with kids. They are so truthful, even in their mischievous ways. And kids are usually anxious to become your friends."



Simone Allen, newly-crowned Miss Valdosta High School, is planning a career either in law or pediatrics — Times Staff Photo By Mike Tanner.

4-36-90

Grades Are Part

Of 'Cats Needs

Monday May 21, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor VDT

Before the Valdosta High football team will pass — or run, or block, or hit, or anything else football-like, its members must pass in the classroom.

If not, they'll do just like 15 players did this past spring practice. Watch from the sidelines.

"Of the 15 ineligible, I saw about 10 of them with their jaws hanging way down. That's the way it ought to be," said head coach Nick Hyder after Friday's scrimmage at Cleveland Field. "They're getting behind, but if they are competitors they'll come back and help the team."

That's the first of many challenges which the Wildcats face before reporting to pre-camp workouts, or the two-week camp which begins Aug. 13. But there are plenty more. Plenty to do to prepare for a set of opponents Hyder calls the toughest the Wildcats have faced "since I've been here," he said.

"I don't think anybody left here satisfied," Hyder said after the scrimmage. "If they did, we're in trouble. But if you left here committed and dedicated to conditioning, to working on quickness, to working on size, to working on execution and correcting mistakes..."

If all that, the Wildcat coaches may find some of that depth they're calling for on both sides of the ball.

"We've got to build — build their bodies and stay in shape," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley.

Valdosta 1990

Sept. 1	.....McEachern
Sept. 7	.....Camden County
Sept. 14	.....at Wayne County
Sept. 22	.....Jess Lanier (Ala.)
Sept. 28	.....Robert E. Lee (Ala.)
Oct. 5	.....OPEN
Oct. 12	.....at Bainbridge
Oct. 19	.....at Colquitt County
Oct. 26	.....at Tift County
Nov. 2	.....Coffee
Nov. 9	.....Lowndes

He has watched a defense which may be hard-pressed to match the 1989 defensive unit, though that would be a difficult thing for most groups to do.

"We're a step or two slower," Tarpley said in comparison. "We're not going to be as fast because we had the fastest defense we've had in years and years. It may be years before you get one like that. We had so much speed in the front five."

"I would like for everybody to stay in good shape, work towards better shape and be a half-step faster. I think the strength is there, the aggressiveness is there."

When camp opens, the offensive Wildcats will be looking to continue the work from spring practice, getting a number of inexperienced players ready for their first full-time duty. The academic reports will either give the offensive backfield a surplus of players, or a group of little-known names.

See VALDOSTA, Page 2-B

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

"We've got to find depth, and continue to improve," said Hyder.

On defense, Tarpley wants more of a no-nonsense unit. "We have a tendency to let up a little bit," he said. "We want four plays and get out. Give 100 percent when you are on the field."

"Some people let up a bit. A bad play on offense costs you 3 yards. A bad play on defense costs you seven (points)."

'Cats Practices

Set Camp Base

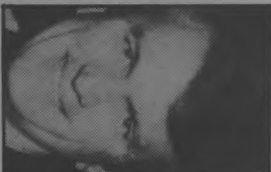
Sunday May 20, 1990
By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor VDT

Valdosta High's early start on the 1990 football season does do at least one thing for the Wildcats.

"We're two weeks farther along than we would have been if we didn't have spring practice," said defensive coordinator Charles Tarpley. "We're ready for camp, and that's what we wanted to do."

Other than that, all the Wildcats coaches got a good, if not early, idea about the first VHS team of the 90s. The two-week spring-practice session ended Friday night with a scrimmage at Cleveland Field.

The early idea — the Wildcats are up at linebacker and the defensive backfield, at quarterback and receiver,



HYDER

ers, and in the kicking game.

And where much of the graduation losses hit — both sides of the line and at running back — there's still work to be done.

"We needed a lot of repetitions to make up for lack of experience, which happens every year on some side of the ball," said head coach Nick Hyder.

In Friday's final scrimmage, the offense was limited to 115 total yards in 78 plays. There were seven first downs, two by penalty, and just four plays over 10 yards.

"I think we came a long way," said Tarpley about the defense. "We got what we wanted accomplished, we got a lot of kids an opportunity to play and practice. We got all our defenses in. They'll forget them, but they do have them in their minds."

"We're ready for camp, and that's what we wanted to do. We got a lot of young kids and new kids that know the defenses, and you can't do that See VALDOSTA, Page 5-B

Valdosta

From Page 1-B

during camp." Junior-to-be Dexter Daniels leads a growing group of linebackers. Senior Nathan Tart was the other spring starter, and waiting in the wings is senior Jonathan Davis. He hasn't played since midway in his sophomore season because of two broken legs.

Then there's the two rising sophomore linebackers, Marcus Williams and Franklin Wiseman. Williams ran back an interception for a touchdown Friday night.

Tarpley also noted the play of three defensive ends, which work with the linebackers. The list includes three seniors — Marcus Moss, Eric Phillips and Brad Tarpley, the coach's son. Down lineman Andre Scruggs topped a list of players stepping up to fill in on the front three.

The defensive backfield has the most experience returning. Marshun Lane, Adrian Lewis and Trampis Wrice each started last year. At least three different players worked at the other safety spot vacated by Navy-bound Chris Hart. Wrice and Lewis also showed their skills as punt returners Friday night.

The most-worked assistant coach this spring was offensive backs coach Mike O'Brien. With three top backs academically ineligible, he worked hard with inexperienced varsity returnees, walk-ons and rising ninth graders. Juniors Albert Edmonds (32 yards on 10 carries Friday) and Brian Wiseman were Friday's starters.

At least O'Brien had an experienced quarterback returning starter Alton Hiltson. "That was a plus," said Hyder.

Backup quarterbacks Jamey Waters and Steven Everson also got plenty of work. When Hiltson and company

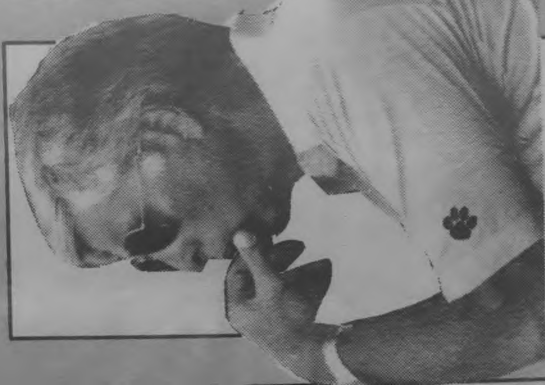
weren't running, they did throw some. Senior Steve Jaramillo caught two passes Friday, one for a score. Tight ends Reginald Mitchell and Craig Hunt were continually noted during practice.

Behind O'Brien in work was offensive line coach Jerry Don Baker who had one starter (tackle Shaun Elders) back among five interior players. Center Giles Godwin and tackle Bucky Allen led the newcomers, all who are continuing to learn the different types of protection needed for the offense.

Place-kicker Dow Drury is back and he kicked a field goal Friday. Jaramillo stood out as a punter, but he will be challenged by Phillips — who didn't punt Friday simply because he didn't wear a white (offensive) jersey.

Hyder commented the work of the coaches. It included new defensive line coach Larry Jester, who drove back and forth from Bainbridge each day for practice. "He added a new chapter to Wildcat football history," Hyder told the Valdosta Touchdown Club Thursday night.

Wildcat Changes



Long-time Valdosta High School assistant football coach Jack Rudolph is leaving the Wildcat varsity to help coach VHS' ninth-grade team and watch his son, Coleman, play college football. Stories on page 1-B.

May 4, 1990 VDT

Sports

The Valdosta Daily Times

Friday, May 4, 1990

B

Rudolph Answers Family Call

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

On most any wall in the Valdosta High football locker room area, the Wildcats can read about a model priority system for life — God, family, academics, friends, then team.

Family is important for 21-year VHS assistant coach Jack Rudolph as well. That's why he's stepping down as the Wildcats' varsity defensive coordinator to coach defense for the ninth-grade football team. He will also serve as a varsity scout.

Jack and Marsha Rudolph's young and growing son Coleman is a rising sophomore at Georgia Tech. He's a projected starter on the Yellow Jackets' defensive line this fall, though a sprained right knee ended his spring practice a week early.

The Rudolphs want to be there to see Coleman play for the Jackets — home and away — for the next three years. In addition, older

son Russ has two more quarters at Tech before he graduates.

Jack Rudolph says that's why he's making the move to the ninth-grade team, which plays its games on Thursdays and doesn't practice on Fridays.

"Time doesn't stand still for anybody. If you got a fixed period, you've got to take advantage of that fixed period of time," Rudolph said. "These three years aren't going to roll around for us again."

"When you have a tough decision ... it helps if you have priorities to go to. If you really believe in these priorities, then the decision might be tough but it's made."

"Family is one of the top two priorities. When we came down to this decision, I wanted to be where my boy was, especially when he's on the road. I knew my wife was going to travel to every ball game. It's not that I wanted her to travel alone, because I think she possibly could have handled it, but I didn't want her to be in the stadium (alone)."

The domino effect leading to this week's move began on April 21 when Coleman was injured in a goal-line situation scrimmage. "We had a real scare, and both of us were there," Rudolph said. "I'd seen (Coleman) get hurt before, because he's been hurt here. I had never been there with my wife when something like that happened, and it was scary."

The Rudolphs returned last weekend to Atlanta for the T-Night game, finding out from team doctors about Coleman's knee injury. The young Rudolph had already begun rehabilitation, and no surgery was necessary.

"I felt good that they weren't going to hold him out (this season), and he was in their plans. We wanted to be there."

The Rudolphs attended Tech's home games last season. They'd leave soon after VHS' game on Friday night, then drive straight to Atlanta.

This season Tech has road games at Maryland, Virginia, Wake Forest and North Carolina. "I can't leave at 10 p.m. (Friday) and

drive to College Park or Winston-Salem," said Rudolph.

So when Rudolph returned from Monday's Region 1-AAAA golf tournament in Tifton (he's also the golf coach), he sat down with Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder and worked out the move.

"If it were my son, I'd want to be there, too," said Hyder. "We've known he wanted to do this as soon as Coleman was projected to be a starter. This family has backed their children since day one."

"I hate to lose him, but family is a priority." Rudolph played linebacker at Georgia Tech from 1957-1959. He played six years for the old Boston Patriots of the American Football League, then played one season for the expansion Miami Dolphins of the AFL.

He's had two stints at Valdosta High, from 1967-1972 and from 1975 to now. He was officially promoted to defensive coordinator for last season. The Wildcats won 14 region and eight state titles during Rudolph's tenure.

'Cats Adjust Football Staff

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

● Tim Horton, who was the ninth-grade line coach last season, has been promoted to ninth-grade head coach.

"This gives coach Horton an opportunity to be a head coach, and it keeps coach Rudolph where he likes to be — on defense," said Hyder.

● Greg Hutchison has been hired to be the varsity wrestling coach and offensive coach for the ninth-grade football team. Hutchison comes to Valdosta High from Gardner-Webb College. He will teach history.

Earlier this spring, Jester — an football assistant last season at Bainbridge High — was hired to fill the retiring Freddie Waters' position. At that time, ninth-grade head football coach and varsity wrestling coach John Davis was named head football coach and assistant principal at Valdosta Junior High School. Davis replaced long-time junior high coach Norman Sainz, who resigned his coaching position.

"This makes for some new challenges," said Hyder. "We've got some rebuilding to do on our staff, but we've got some eager coaches and experienced people to fill some spots."

Tarpley was Hyder's defensive coordinator when the pair coached at West Rome High School in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Tarpley — who is also VHS' baseball coach — followed Hyder to Valdosta in 1974.

"It's some big shoes to fill because Jack has done a great job," said Tarpley, a 24-year veteran of high school coaching. "We have a good program going and a good staff ... I think we can try to keep it going."



Changes

Long-time VHS assistant coach Jack Rudolph, above center, will be moving to the school's ninth-grade program. Another long-time assistant, Charles Tarpley (right), will become the 'Cats defensive coordinator — Times File Photos



Less than one week before spring football practice begins, there's been another switch in the Valdosta High School coaching staff.

Defensive coordinator Jack Rudolph has, for family reasons, requested a move to be defensive coach for the ninth-grade team. The 21-year veteran of the Wildcat staff has a son, Coleman, who as a sophomore is projected to contribute to the Georgia Tech defense this fall. Rudolph's desire is to watch his son, a rising sophomore, play college football for the next three years.

Valdosta High head coach Nick Hyder said Thursday that linebacker coach Charles Tarpley will be elevated to the defensive coordinator's position. But because of a new coach coming to the VHS staff, Tarpley will coach linebackers for at least the spring, if not for next season, before becoming a full-time coordinator like Rudolph was in 1989.

The other moves include:

● Al Akins, a former ninth-grade head coach who was a varsity offensive assistant last season, will be a defensive assistant. He will work with the defensive down linemen this spring, and work with new assistant coach Larry Jester, who has been slated to coach the linemen.

● Ronnie Pitcock, who was the ninth-grade defensive assistant last season and was to be the ninth-grade head coach, will now fill Akins' spot as offensive assistant and scout-team coach.

Hitson Back For Wildcats

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

There may not be too many things certain in life. But in the Wildcat way of football, there's at least one.

Alton Hitson begins today, the start of spring practice, as the No. 1 quarterback ... right where he left off in Athens last season.

"Alton starts right where he left off," said Valdosta High head football coach Nick Hyder. "He's established. We've got to find those to play behind him."

Oh, but when you look back a year ago, during last spring practice, you may not remember Alton Hitson the quarterback. He's not among the guys shown in the quarterback photo in the 1989 football program.

"He didn't take more than 12 or 14 snaps the entire spring practice, and that's our fault," said Hyder. "We let Jason Nichols do both units, and he did have a great spring."

Once in a while, Hyder admits, "we'd hint at the fact that something might happen."

In fall practice, it did. Nichols broke a leg, and Hitson was thrust into the quarterback position — with little experience.

It didn't matter that Hitson suffered from hip pointers on both hips. He learned and he played.

"They needed someone to play the position," said Hitson. "I could barely walk, but we had to keep the team going."

"He has a tremendous pain threshold. He'll play," Hyder added. "He's a great competitor. That's why he's so well-liked."

The rest is history. The 'Cats went 14-1 and won the school's 20th state championship.

In the title game, a 33-13 win over Clarke Central, Hitson threw for one touchdown and ran 61 yards for another score. He ran for 83 yards on 13 carries, doing his part to make the Wildcat offense click.



Spring football practice begins today for Georgia High School Association-member schools.

●Valdosta High starts practice around 3:45 p.m.

●Lowndes High starts practice around 4 p.m.

Other area school will also be conducting workouts.

And Hitson was named the team's most valuable offensive player at the annual banquet earlier this year.

"It was one of the greatest honors I've ever received," he said, modestly.

But now it's a new season, and Hitson said there's a little more pressure on him as the returning starter at quarterback. "It puts a little more pressure on me to know a little more about the position," he said. "I wasn't too patient last year, but now I'm a little more experienced."

Hitson doesn't consider himself the typical quarterback, like, say, that guy the Atlanta Falcons liked so much and the Indianapolis Colts drafted No. 1 last month. He's someone who thought he'd be catching the football last season, and expects some spring-time work as a runner and receiver this spring while others get more time at quarterback than he did a year ago.

"I'm not terribly fast, and I can't throw it that well," Hitson said. "I just try to put the ball in the end zone."

And after a whirlwind 1989, what can he do to top it in 1990? It starts by going 15-0, not 14-1, and bringing home another state title, he says.

Spoken like a true Wildcat leader.

Schools 'Fail' Rules

Altman Says Study Citing Valdosta Unfair

Staff, Wire Reports *May 1, 1990*

Valdosta's school system was one of 14 systems in Georgia ranked as one that consistently failed to comply with state education rules during 1988-89, according to a new state report. But the city's school superintendent said Monday the ranking was "unfair."



The report, "Public School Standards: Official Report of Results for the 1988-89 School Year," documents the initial inspection of the schools during the 1988-89 school year. Schools found to be in violation were reinspected in the fall of 1989.

Problems cited in the report included teachers working outside their area of expertise and ineligible students participating in extracurricular activities.

The 14 school systems found to be noncompliant were: Atlanta, Baldwin County, Barrow County, Bibb County, Clarke County, Crawford County, Dublin, Dougherty County, Jefferson City, Richmond County, Twiggs County, Valdosta, Walker County and Warren County.

"Every school system is required by the state to be 100 percent in compliance with the rules," said Walter Altman, school superintendent for Valdosta.

Valdosta's schools got a single black mark in the inspections, Altman said, over a physical examination for a junior high school student playing in a fall football drill.

"The state requires football players to have their physical signed by a certain date, and his wasn't," Altman said. The school system was ruled in violation of state standards, he said.

"It isn't fair," Altman said. "We appealed the decision, but (the appeal) didn't go anywhere."

Once that violation was logged, there was no way to remedy it, Altman said.

For The Fun Of It/About Other Sports Stars



Dr. Jose Campa stands in front of some of the sports memorabilia he has collected in his two decades in Valdosta — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

Campa Has

Watchful Eye

By CHRIS BECKHAM
Times Assistant Sports Editor

The walls of Dr. Jose Campa's office illustrate his fondness for high school athletics. His devotion and unselfishness to area high schools goes beyond simply being a volunteer. With the increasing awareness on safety in high school sports, Dr. Campa has gladly accepted the role as consultant to today's young athletes.

Dr. Campa moved to Valdosta in 1972 and began his work at Valdosta High with Dr. Paul Boone. Although never officially named the team's physician, Dr. Campa has kept his watchful eye on the athletic teams there since 1972 and he has seen a lot of changes.

"I started when Charlie Greene was the head coach and after my first year, he presented to me a team jacket. That was very special," Dr. Campa said. "Then Nick (Hyder) came here and made some changes. One thing he has changed is the attitude about injuries. The coaches are willing to learn how to prevent injuries and Nick talks to the team about safety before every practice. That's very important."

When Dr. Campa is not in his office, he can likely be found at a football field, a baseball field, a basketball court or a track. He spends nearly every afternoon watching some team practice and is ready in case he's needed. What Dr. Campa means to the program is shown in his office. There are autographed game balls from state championship games, signed balls from junior high school winning streaks and a picture that Dr. Campa displays with pride. The color picture is of Hyder

at a Wildcat practice some years back. Hyder is viewing his team's workout, the wind blowing through his hair with the stern look of concentration etched on his face. The photo symbolizes something special to Dr. Campa, who received the picture as a gift.

"This picture means this man shows dedication, honesty," Dr. Campa said as he studies the picture. "It shows he cares, that he believes all of us are children of God without differences. I'm so proud of this picture. I would never sell it."

Though he is found often at Valdosta High and Valdosta Junior High, Dr. Campa shows no prejudice. He often aided former Lowndes High coach Joe Wilson, the teams at Open Bible School as well as the teams at Brooks County High. But health problems forced him to cut back on his activities.

Dr. Campa's office hallway is filled with pictures of former great athletes from their early adolescence to their successful prep years. Most of the athletes stay in touch and contact him when they visit Valdosta. But it is not only the star athletes that the doctor is proud of.

"Anyone who learned about how to be a good person, I'm proud of. That means football players, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, carpenters, anyone," Dr. Campa said.

Dr. Campa came to the United States in 1954 as an exchange student after growing up in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. He is a veteran of the Mexican Army and, after serving in the army, was given the chance to stay in the states to study. His plans to return to his homeland were changed when he married and decided to stay.

Valdosta Faces

Different Needs

By STAN GRUBB
Times Sports Writer

Valdosta High head basketball coach John Miller and Lady 'Cats' head coach Susan Montgomery will be entering tonight's I-AAAA South subregion game with considerably different needs.

Miller's crew must find a way to neutralize the Vikings' impressive height, while Montgomery's squad must come with the answers to the Vikettes defensive pressure.

The Wildcats (6-3, 0-2) are winless in the subregion, as are the Vikings, with Miller pointing to tonight's contest as a possible confidence builder.

"Playing Lowndes in their own gymnasium, and with all of that height, it's going to be tough," said Miller. "Their size can present a lot of problems for us. We would like to play an up-tempo game, but Lowndes will have a lot to say about that. At this time, their are seven subregion games to be played after Lowndes, and this one is not critical. But it would be a confidence builder for our people if we could steal one on their home floor."

The Wildcats may once again be without the services of standout forward Jason King, due to an ankle injury. Even though Miller points out that the Wildcats are not a one-man team, ironically, all of VHS' losses have come without King in the lineup.

"Jason's situation is day-to-day and we'll just have to see," said

Miller. "I'm not counting on it at all. I would sure love to have him for this one, but that's the way things go."

The Wildcats are hoping to be able to use what some subregion coaches consider as the fastest team in the subregion to good use.

Valdosta's probable starting lineup will include the likes of center Michael Moore (6-foot-5), forwards Ernest Lowe (6-2) and James Manning (6-0). The guards will be Major Lynn (5-11) and Spencer Iverson (5-11).

Lynn and Moore are the team's scoring leaders averaging over 10-points per contest, with Moore averaging 12 rebounds a game.

"Our team has been playing well of late and we'll certainly need a big game against Lowndes," said Miller. "We're going to try and take what they'll give us. If we can get off to a good start early, it will help us out a great deal."

The Lady Wildcats (7-2, 1-1) can expect to face a Vikette team which loves to press from anywhere on the floor.

Montgomery, who was unavailable for comment, was once a former assistant under LHS coach Larry Maffit at Berrien County High. So, the two squads may mirror the other in some regards.

The Lady Wildcats will be banking on their tall frontline of center Cassandra Twine (6-4) and Esther Benjamin (6-4) to pose problems for the Vikettes.

Lewis Heads

Ultra Cat List ^B

VDI Tues, May 8, 1990

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor



SPRING FOOTBALL 1990

Practice notes, 3-B

What's your definition of a Ultra Cat?

Faster than an opposing defender? More powerful than an oncoming blocker? Able to leap the defense in a single bound?

Just start with senior-to-be defensive back Adrian Lewis, one of three Valdosta High football players who received Ultra Cat status on their fitness scores recorded last week.

Judged on strength, speed, agility and endurance, the Wildcats are graded and put into one of at least eight categories.

Lewis (242 points) edged past two other defensive teammates, senior defensive end Marcus Moss (238) and junior linebacker Dexter Daniels (234), for top honors. All three players received Ultra Cat status.

Seven other players were received a Superior Cat ranking, while 22 others were named Super Cats.

"I really worked hard taking the test. I feel pretty good," said Lewis. "I think I did my best, and I'm trying for 250 (points) on the next test."

The fact that the three Ultra Cats all play different positions does show that bigger, stronger players don't have an advantage here.

"The bigger guys make up points on sheer strength. The smaller guys can make up points on speed and endurance, agility and a reasonable amount of strength," said strength coach Bob Bolton. "On those three guys, it's a combination of all four things. They've got the right body

types for strength, speed and endurance and also agility."

Lewis' rise to the top came from work he did outside normal means. He's not in a physical education class this year so he could work on other academic matters, but he worked in the weight room and ran track.

"Coach (Freddie) Waters and coach (Jerry Don) Baker worked with me on my speed," said Lewis about the track coaches. Lewis ran on the 4X100-meter relay team and the 200 meters.

But it's not like Lewis has come from nowhere. He started all but one game last year at right cornerback, and is looking to help fill the leadership role in the secondary left void by Chris Hart's graduation.

And like his job, he doesn't want to lose that spot atop the fitness scores.

"After spring practice, I'm going to try and work hard and get the 250," Lewis said.

And for those behind him? "Anybody who can try to take me, come on with it," he said.



Hitting Away

Two Valdosta High defensive players work Tarpley (left) during the first day of spring under the eye of defensive coordinator Charles practice — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

The Valdosta Daily Times

VHS Students Aim For Nationals

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

After winning first-place awards in the state Vocational Industrial Clubs of America competition in Atlanta last weekend, eight Valdosta High School students will travel to Tulsa, Okla. in June to vie nationally. That is, if VHS's VICA chapter is able to raise \$5,000 by May 18 to send the winners.

"Our students will represent Georgia in five categories of the national competition," said Janie McGhin, health occupations instructor at VHS. She said no students made it past state competition last year, and this is the first year the school has had so many to compete nationally.

In fact, VHS is hailed as having the first freshman student to win in state competition. Freshman Julie Gordon won the state Exploratory Health competition, and is looking forward to her trip to Tulsa.

Other VHS winners are Jack Farber who won in Extemporaneous Speaking; David Carter who won in Graphic Communications; Anita Matachett who won Surgical Technology; and a five-member team — Rebecca Morgan, Stephanie Oliver, Chassitty Loving, Miss Matchett and Barb Ison — that won in the Health Occupations Knowledge Bowl.

Other students who competed on the state level were Christa Evans, Dan Altman, Permelia Moore, Richard Thiele and Clarence Duvall.

The VICA chapter received a superior rating, which is the highest ranking possible, said Lynn Wilson, VHS's Diversified Cooperative



Valdosta High School VICA National competitors (front from left) Julie Gordon, David Farber, Stephanie Oliver and David Carter will compete in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the national contest with fellow VICA members (back from left) Chassitty Loving, Rebecca Morgan, Anita Matchett and Barb Ison — Times Photo by Mike Tanner.

Training coordinator and VICA advisor. Mrs. Wilson said it will cost about \$500 for each student to pay for airfare, hotel, food and registration. May 18 is the national registration deadline.

"If we win at the national competition, we'll go to Tokyo, Japan, to compete internationally," said Mrs. McGhin, instructor for seven of the eight state winners. "We're going to start learning Japanese because, I'm telling you, we are going to Japan." Many of the students attributed their statewide success to Mrs. McGhin's encouragement and enthusiasm. "She was so enthusiastic about it, her enthusiasm pushed us," said VHS senior Miss Matchett. Other students were complimentary of Mrs. McGhin's work and support.

Valdosta businesses and citizens who funded the students' trip to Atlanta for the state competition were The Learning Tree; First America Drugs; Valdosta Printing; Pronto Press; Young, Young & Ciyati; Dover, Sherwood & Shelton; and Dr. Mark Eanes. Mrs. Wilson said those who want to help the students go to Tulsa can mail checks written out to VHS to the school.



Valdosta's Spencer Iverson (11) drives past Lowndes' Randall Godfrey during Tuesday night's game — Times Photo by Mike Tanner

Wed. Jan. 31, 1990

Valdosta High School Names Honorees

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

James Inman, Valdosta High School graduating senior, was honored as the school's 1990 valedictorian during an awards ceremony Tuesday.

Inman, the son of Lt. Col. Ralph and Mrs. Sandra Inman, has excelled academically and is very active in extra-curricular activities at VHS.

Other VHS winners and honorees include:

Travis Lane won the Alpha Kappa Alpha scholarship.
Chester Stewart, Michael Norwood and Eric Stone American Legion Medal for Naval Reserve Officer Training Core (NJROTC).
Nathan Tart and Jimmy Green won Boys' State awards.
Jennifer Launey and Holly Rentschler won Girls' State awards.
Kelsie Green won the Junior Daedalion Award, and Michelle Johnson won the Senior Daedalion Award.
Dejaris Washington won the Daughters of American Colonists NJROTC award.
Chris Hart won the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.
Keesha Green won the DAR NJROTC Award Scholarship.
Spencer Iverson won the Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship.
Jere Johnson won the Howard Bridges Memorial Scholarship.
Jason Finland won the Kenneth Jerome Rose Scholarship.
James Inman won the Kiwanis Club Star Student Award.
Joanne Farpley won the Kiwanis Club Star Teacher Award.
Christa Evans won the Literary Guild's Ruth Templeton - Webble Smith Award for Excellence in English Literature.
Wynne Johnson and James Inman won the Moody Officers' Wives Club Scholarships.
Grant Hollenbeck won The Retired Officers' Association's Leadership Award.
James Inman and Chris Hart won the United States Naval Academy Appointments.
Eric Bramble won the Valdosta Technical Institute's Award.
Cory Stutz won the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 777 Award.
Nicole Mitchell and Kelli Bland won the Woodmen of the World Awards.
Catherine Rowe, Emily Josey and Michael Lininger won respectively the 1st, 2nd and 3rd awards from the Wymondausis Club.
Christopher Wheeler and Jennifer Edwards won Most Outstanding Freshman Art Students.
Rachel Bailes won Most Outstanding Sophomore Art Student.
Ashley Connell won Most Outstanding Junior Art Student.
Mary Duplantis won Most Outstanding Senior Art Student.
Chris Hart won Academic Athlete Student of the Year.
Jennifer Launey won Outstanding Keyboarding Student of the Year.
Keriyada Moore won Outstanding Typing Student of the Year.
Jason Finland won Outstanding Accounting Student of the Year.



JAMES INMAN

Shunda Woods won Outstanding Data Processing Student of the Year.
Shayna Shapiro won Outstanding Business Law Student of the Year.
Todd Coker won Outstanding Business Business Education Student of the Year.
Heather Strayhorn won Outstanding Business Education Student of the Year.
Courtney Minchew won 9th Grade Excellence in English.
Laura Barbas won 10th Grade Excellence in English.
Ashley Connell and Liz Foster won 11th Grade Excellence in English.
James Inman and Dan Altman won 12th Grade Excellence in English.
Ashley Connell won for Poetry in the RESA Writing Competition and was honored as Co-Editor of Literary Magazine.
Will Coleman won for Prose in the RESA Writing Competition.
Michelle Jones for Excellence in Debate.
Michael Linger won Most Improved in Composition.
John Casker won Most Improved Senior in Drama.
Liz Foster was honored as Co-Editor of Literary Magazine and Governor's Honors Program.
Saria Rainey and Brandon Lovett won Most Outstanding French I Students.
Holly Rentschler won Most Outstanding French II Student.
Rachel Bailes won Most Outstanding French III Student.
Ann McCranie and Laura Barbas won Most Outstanding Spanish I Students.
Antia Matchett won Most Outstanding Spanish II Student.
Michelle Buckland and John Ramey won Most Outstanding Spanish III Students.
Christopher Wheeler won Most Outstanding Algebra I Student.
Jennifer Edwards won Most Outstanding Geometry Student.
Bert Eidson won Most Outstanding Algebra II Student.
Brandon Lovett won Most Outstanding Trigo-

nometry Student.
Amy Kilgard won Most Outstanding Pre-Calculus Student and Governor's Honor Program.
James Inman won 2nd Place Comprehensive in the Coastal Plains RESA Math Tournament.
Courtney Minchew, Lee Scott, Greg Clark and Matt Hunt won 2nd Place Team Overall Junior Division in math competition.
James Inman, Nicky Legg, Bert Eidson and Amy Kilgard won 1st Place Team Senior Division in the math competition.
Bryan Morrow won the Distinguished Cadet - 1st Year Naval Science Award; Gary Ross won 2nd Year; Christa Olson won 3rd Year; and Farrell Scott won 4th Year.
Jennifer Spencer and Wilson Faircloth won Most Outstanding Students in Biology 9th Grade.
Bert Eidson won Most Outstanding Student in Biology 10th Grade.
Sardia Rainey won Most Outstanding Student in Chemistry.
James Inman won Most Outstanding Student in Physics.
John Peoples, Nicky Legg, Mike Galloy and Kelly Holmes won 1st Place Team in the Region Science Bowl.
In the Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science, Laura Barbas won 1st Place in English; Kelly Holmes won 1st Place in Biology; Brian Stanley won 2nd Place in Math; Bert Eidson won 3rd Place in Computer Fundamentals; Nicky Belflower won 3rd Place in Chemistry; Bill Howard won 3rd Place in Physics.
In the Region Competition of the Science Olympiad Team, Chris Hart, Brian Stanley, Jennifer Eidson and Jennifer Spencer won 1st Place in Penetration; Wilson Faircloth won 3rd Place in Tree Identification; Chris Gregg and David Farber won 3rd Place in Computer Programming; and in the state competition, Nicky Legg, John Peoples, Mike Galloy and Bert Eidson won 3rd Place in Science Bowl.
Brook Bearden and Courtney Minchew won Most Outstanding Freshman Social Studies Students.
Bert Eidson won Most Outstanding Sophomore Social Studies Student.
John Peoples won Most Outstanding Junior Social Studies Student.
Barb Ison won Most Outstanding Senior Social Studies Student.
Michael Young won Governor's Honors Program in Social Studies.
Outstanding Students of the Year in Vocational Education are: Michelle Jones, Traci Selph, Caroline Seago, Kelly Williams, Jennie Strickland, Joy Purvis, Ginny Edwards, Meredith Stanaland, Jill Mueller, Burke Sherwood, Belinda Burleigh, Charlie Smith, Shawn Courson, Ben Copeland, Allison McAllister, Kathy Burke and Nikki DeMott.
Vocational Industrial Clubs of America Skill Olympic winners are Jack Farber, Christa Evans, Spencer Iverson, Lin Brown, Tangle Sirmans, Zan Flares, Malcolm, Tyson, Laurie Parramore, Freda Burton, Dan Altman, Hanif Jenkins, Amy, Alison, Barb Ison, Carma Wright, Pernella, Moore, Willie Simon, Bobby Benefield, Richard Thiele, David Carter, Mikey McSwain, Jarrod Walker, Stephanie Oliver, Chassity Loving, Anita Matchett, Rebecca Morgan and Julie Gordon.
Valerie Armstrong won Outstanding Home Economics Student.
Technology Student Association Competition winners are Ben Pritchford, Jonathan Burns, Ryan Sanderson, Jimmy Fields, Tiffany Roan, Keith McCrath and Alan Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Chris Thomas and John Pritchcock.
Region Literary Competition winners include Michelle Jones, Michael Young, Cedric Johnson, Dexter Thomas, Russell Jackson, Dexter Dudley, Jimmy Green, Tammy Crowe, Stephanie Everett, Amy Kilgard, Kelly Wingo and Laura Barbas.
The State of Georgia and University of Georgia Certificates of Merit for Juniors winners are Torra Crowe, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Jarrod Gage,

Cedric Mobley, Nicole Mitchell, Jennifer Launey, Michelle Bostock, Justin Bridges, Meredith Fletcher, Tiffany Minchew, Ashley Connell, Claire Dempsey, John Peoples, Kelli Bland, Kim Williams, Michael Young, Davidae Stewart, Meredith Mosby, Sam Lightsey, Stephanie Hinton, Liz Foster, Janice Mallory and Holly Rentschler.
Governor's Honors Program in Music Winners are Kelli Bland, Mickey McAfee, Nathan Ingham and Kim Williams.
Commented Students of the National Merit Scholarship Program are James Inman, John Ramey and Heather Strayhorn.
John Casker was honored as a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.
Farrell Scott was honored as a commended student by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.
John Ramey was honored as a Georgia Scholar Nominee.
Honor Graduates include Simone Allen, Dan Altman, Christina Bauer, Jacqueline Belflower, Latechia Brown, John Casker, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman, Melanie Cowart, Stan Cox, Sara M. DeMott, Kelly Edwards, Jane Edwards, Crista Evans, Jason Finland, Michael Galloy, Shawn Gay, India Giuliy, Alan Golivesky, Robin Golivesky, Chris Hart, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Spencer Iverson, Jaret Johnson, Wynne Johnson, Emily Josey, Nicky Legg, Michael Linger, Jill Mueller, Joshua Pappardrea, Jamie Rainwater, John Ramey, Catherine Rowe, Kelly Rowell, Farrell Scott, Shayna Shapiro, Heather Strayhorn, Virginia Williams.
The first honor graduate was James Inman, second honor graduates were Nicky Legg and India Giuliy and the third honor graduate was Alan Golivesky.
Senior Superlatives include Nicky Legg, Farrell Scott, Emily Josey, Dan Altman, Paige Stabell, James Inman, Jason Nichols, Cassandra Twine, Jason Griffin, Simone Allen, Christ Hart, Bayh Brindger, Spencer Iverson, Jason Finland.
Best All Around Senior was awarded to Chris Hart.
Scholarships awarded include Simone Allen from the University of South Carolina; Dan Altman from Mercer University; Jacqueline Belflower from Mercer University; Eric Bramble from Valdosta Tech; John Casker from the University of Georgia; George Copeland from Tennessee State University; Jason Finland received the Kenneth Jerome Rose Scholarship; Greg Gaumond from the University of South Carolina-Alumni Scholarship; Shawn Gay received Levin's Scholarship and Sports Chiropractic Organization for Research and Education Scholarship; Alan Golivesky from the Georgia Tech Institute of Technology; Robin Golivesky from Emory University; Jason Griffin from Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Chris Hart appointment of Naval Academy Preparatory School; James Inman from Vanderbilt University; Harold Sterling Vanderbilt Scholarship; Moody Officers Wives Club, Appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and Air Force ROTC Scholarship; Spencer Iverson from Coca Cola Scholar Foundation Award; Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship; Clark College, Morris Brown; Wynne Johnson from Moody Officers' Wives Club; Michelle Jones from Mercer University; Jason King from Georgia Southern College; Travis Lane from Alpha Kappa Alpha; Matthews Means from Valdosta State College; Jill Mueller received the Moody Top Three Scholarship; Juvon Peters from Carson Newman College; Joy Purvis from Mercer University; John Ramey from Davidson College; Catherine Rowe from Warren Wilson College; Kelly Rowell from Wingate College; Farrell Scott received a Naval ROTC and Air Force Scholarships; Rodney Strayhorn from the University of Florida; Heather Twine from Valdosta State College; Cassandra Twine from Dominion University; Nikki DeMott from Mercer University and Berry College; Bayh Brindger from Mercer University; Gregory Williams from Mercer University; Anthony Williams from Florida A&M University; and Bruce Daniels from Florida A&M University.



Valdosta High's John Walker, a rising junior defensive back, packs his equipment in preparation in the Wildcat locker room for the upcoming two-week spring football practice — Times Photo by Paul Leavy

'Cats Gear Up For Title Defense

VDT, Sun., May 6, 1990 C

By GREG McILVAIN
Times Sports Editor

The question has been asked 19 times before.

Valdosta High football fans have watched their team win a Georgia state championship. Confidently they knew the Wildcats could return to the top. Just maybe, under their breath, they asked how.

Ask again, Wildcat fans. The 1989 team left Athens with the school's 20th state title. So how will Valdosta High answer the call in 1990?

Veteran head coach Nick Hyder, the staff and some 127 players will begin to answer that question beginning Monday at the high school. The two-week spring practice period begins then, working toward a scrimmage May 18 at Cleveland Field.

Objective No. 1 for Hyder — find unity and leadership in the new group.

"We lost a group of state-championship seniors, but we also play a lot of people. We have either a starter or alternate (from last year) at every position," said Hyder. "We want to see if that fits together or how that blends."

Offensively, the Wildcats return an experienced quarterback in rising senior Alton Hitson, who stepped in



after a pre-season injury to Jason Nichols to run the team. And while Hitson got few snaps as a backup last spring, Hyder said the quarterbacks will see more action — including junior Jamey Waters and sophomore Steven Everson. Senior Deric Cotton will also be among that bunch, though he'll get a good, long look at safety first.

Hitson and company will have some new faces in the backfield. Already hit some by graduation, some other backs won't be eligible for practice. Junior Albert Edmonds, a fullback-turned-linebacker-turned-fullback, may be the best of the available lot.

The spring-practice period runs from Monday to May 18.

AT VALDOSTA HIGH:

- Practice: 3:45 p.m. daily.
- Touchdown Club's annual fish fry at 7 p.m. May 17 at the high school cafeteria.

● Final scrimmage on May 18 at Cleveland Field. First of two games begins at 6 p.m.

AT LOWNDES HIGH:

- Practice: 4 p.m. daily.
- Final scrimmage time to be determined.

"We're going to have a lot of good, young running backs get an opportunity," said Hyder.

Other familiar faces on offense include flanker Steve Jaramillo, split end Carlos Folsom, tight end Craig Hunt and linemen Shaun Eilders, Bucky Allen, Giles Godwin, Tim O'Brien, Derrick Phillips and Jay Bowling.

The defense's new look begins on the coaching staff. Coordinator Jack Rudolph has moved to the ninth-grade team and line coach Freddie Waters has retired. Charles Tarpley is the new defensive coordinator, Al Akins will handle the line on a temporary basis and new assistant

coach Larry Jester, now in Bainbridge, will visit.

"We did lose a lot of starters," said Tarpley, who isn't planning any changes on the defensive side. "We want to look. Our goal has always been to have 22 players ready to play against good team."

"Last year we had a great defense, but we probably played fewer people."

The Wildcats' new linebackers are catching the eye of college scouts — Dexter Daniels and Jonathan Davis. A front three of guard M.J. Johnson and tackles Ricky Thomas and Andre Scruggs have plenty of experience.

The defensive secondary has three of the top five players return — seniors Marshun Lane and Adrian Lewis and junior Trampis Wrice. Cotton, a multipurpose player last season, will get first shot at safety since the 'Cats quarterback situation is pretty stable.

Spring practice may also be a test for Hyder himself. He had hip-replacement surgery last December just two weeks after the state-championship game, and didn't return to school until February.

"I feel good, and I don't get as tired though I do get a good night's sleep," said Hyder.

Cats Finish Fourth

VDT

Staff Reports May 4, 1990

Valdosta High's golf team finished fourth in the Region 1-AAAA tournament held Monday at the Spring Hill Country Club.

The Wildcats missed the logjam at the top of the team standings, in what VHS coach Jack Rudolph called the tightest in 10 years. Hardaway won the team title with a 314, with Coffee at 315 and Colquitt at 316. Hardaway and Coffee advance to the state tournament May 14 in Brunswick.

Valdosta finished at 328. Drew Respress led the 'Cats with a 78, with

Sam Hogan shooting 79, Dow Drury 84 and Dan Altman 87.

"I'm tickled to death," said Rudolph. "Thirty days ago we went up there for the Blue Devil Invitational and shot a 356. Today we shot a 328. That's a 28-stroke improvement within a month's time."

"I'm only sorry that we didn't start the season that way," said Rudolph, noting that only one of his top six golfers — Altman — is a senior.

Lowndes High finished at 339. Tom Price shot 76, with Jim Langdale following at 84, Brian Stewart at 89 and Travis Harrison at 90.

Two Track 'Cats 5/4/90 vpt Qualify For State

Two members of the Valdosta High boys track team qualified for the state Class AAAA meet with their performances Wednesday in the Region 1-AAAA meet in Douglas.

Videl Lowe high-jumped 6 feet, 8 inches to finish second in his event, while Eric Phillips threw the discus 143 feet to also finish second.

Both will advance to the state meet May 10-12 in Jefferson.

No athlete from Lowndes High qualified for the state meet.

Bainbridge won the Region 1-AAAA team title, edging Kendrick, 100-97. Spencer was third at 75.

Carver edged Valdosta for fourth, 45-44, by placing third in the mile relay.

Other scores included: Coffee 26, Tift 21, Colquitt 20, Shaw 18, Lowndes 12, Hardaway and Baker 4.

Valdosta High athletes who scored but didn't advance included: Spencer Iverson (third, long jump); Frederick Henton (sixth, 100 meters); Jason Griffin (third, 110-meter hurdles; fourth, 300-meter hurdles); and Scott Jones (sixth, 800 meters).

March 4, 1990

The Valdosta Daily Times

Honor Roll

Valdosta High

Thaddeus Agar, Gina Albritton, David Alexander, Simone Allen, John Allen, Larry Allen, Clint Allred, Dan Altman, Gordon Armstrong, Pinky Arnold, Ruby Arnold, Chiquita Askew, Mary Aycock, Laurie Bajala, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Rachel Ballew, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Becky Barnette, Brook Bearden, Jacqueline Belflower, Erik Biskupiak, Joel Bius, Anna Blannar, Kelli Band, Michelle Bostock, Jennifer Boughton, Latesha Bradley, Eric Bramble, Derek Branham, Luther Brantley, Justin Bridges, Bayh Brindger, Brandon Brooks, Felecia Brown, Jessica Brown, Latechia Brown, Linda Brown, Shawanna Brown, Christina Browning, Keisha Brown, Freda Bruton, Melissa Buckland, Michelle Buckland, Kayse Budd, Stacy Burnett, Justin Cabral, Ingrid Carroll, Tawana Carter, Spence Carver, Che Christie, Gregory Clark, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman, Will Coleman, Elizabeth Collins, Ryan Collins, Suzanne Conrad, Ahsley Connell, Ben Copeland, Melaniebecca Coyne, Tamara Crowe, Nancy Curry, Pamela Daniels, Matt Daughterty, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Sabrina Davis, Jason Day, Nikki Demott, Glaire Dempsey, Michael Drumheller, Mary Duplantis, Beth Edwards, Jennifer Edwards, Kelly Edwards, Jane Edwards, Shaun Elders, Jennifer Eidson, Crista Evans, Peter Failor, Wilson Faircloth, Jack Farber, Lisa Felts, Andy Ferrell, Jason Finland, Meredith Fleicher, Luis Flores, Sevimond Floyd, Shalina Flucaas, Liz Foster, Curt Fowler, Robyn Freeman, Shonda Freeman, Robert Fudge, Rookie Gage, Addison Galator, James Galloy, Michael Galloy, Michelle Gaskins, Gregory Gaudmond, Melissa Geier, India Gully, Lacarra Godfrey, Brenna Goff, Alan Golivesky, Robin Golivesky, Shelia Gray, Deuron Green, Jimmy Green II, Kerri Greenway, Ward Griffin, Jada Griffin, Parker Grow, Darrell Hall, Kenneth Hall, Jennifer Halter, Michael Hampton, Shalonda Hannans, Angela Harper, Dajuan Harris, Christopher Hart, Holly

Hastings, Ebonye Hatcher, Marirose Henkels, Craig Hensley, Cleveland Herring, Stacey Hesters, Kevin Hiers, Stephanie Hinton, Tonya Hodge, Sam Hogan, Grant Holtenbeck, Bill Howard, Matthew Hunt, Nathan Ingham, James Inman, Barbara Ison, Margaret Iverson, Spencer Iverson, JJ Jack, Willie Jackson, Hanif Jenkins, Brian Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Natasha Johnson, Wynne Johnson, Jenifer Jones, Tredessa Jones, Xavier Jones, Emily Josey, Amy Kilgard, Roy Kilgard, Jennifer Kinsey, Daniel Knowlton, Wendy Kuter, Teresa Lamprey, Margaux Laskey, Jennifer Launey, Nicky Legg, Christee Leynes, Samuel Lightsey, Michael Linger, Durwin Logan, Alana Lovelace, Brandon Lovett, Amy Lowery, Nancy Lojan, Heather MacDonald, Lee Mackey, Wade Manly, Jennifer Matthews, Michael McAfee, Allison McAllister, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Amanda McGhin, Josie McKyer, Jessica McMullen, Robert Miller, Sweet, Tammy Means, Eric Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Kyle Mitchell, Mallette Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Beth Moore, Kenyada Moore, Pamela Moore, Timeta Moore, Jill Morgan, Tangie Morrison, Meredith Mosby, Marcus Moss, Jill Mueller, John Myer, Shannon Myers, Mark Nestor, Mike Nestor, Jason Nichols, Tracy Norman, Nicola Norris, Tim O'Brien, Stephanie O'Neal, Ryan Ogden, Katherine Owens, Sophia Owens, Joshua Papandrea, Hemali Patel, John Peebles, Katesa Peterson, Kordelya Peterson, Carl Phillips, Ben Pitchford, Felecia Ponder, Michael Pope, Dan Rackley, Jasmin Ragheb, Sarita Rainey, John Ramey, Jamie Rainwater, Crystal Ray, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Holly Rentschler, Mary Richards, David Richardson, Tiffany Roan, Sirica Roberts, Myel Robinson, David Roddey, Janet Rogers, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Kelly Rowell, Cynthia Rumph, Leigh Salliba, Brian Sanders, Jarvis Sanders, Alan Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Monica Savage, Kathy Schader, Susan Scherer, Lee Scott, Marcus Scurry, Shayna Shapiro, Bryan Shealy, Dayne Shelton, Christy Sheppard, Tangela Sir-

mans, Tarnishia Sirmans, Hilary Skinner, Monica Smirnoff, Joyette Smith, Kalena Smith, Lakeshia Smith, Jason Sorrells, Greg Sosnik, Tonya Southerns, Amy Spann, Jennifer Spencer, Perleta Spencer, Meredith Stanland, Brian Stanley, Jennifer Stevenson, Davidae Stewart, Heather Strayhorn, Jenny Strickland, Julie Suggs, Miki Swilley, Brad Tarpley, Nathan Tart, Shawn Taylor, Tanya Tovar, Miriam Vendemo, Angela Walker, John Walker, LaSharon Walker, Nicole Warneke, Jennifer Weaver, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, Natarsha White, William Whitesell, Kimberly Williams, Lester Williams, Shwanda Williams, Ginny Williams, Terrence Wilson, Will Woodall, Shunda Woods, Afuso Wright, Tony Wright, Deirdre Yale, Michael Young, Scott Youngblood, Shannon Yow, Jeff Zager.

Valdosta follows its defense to state final again

By Lawrence Dennis

Sports writer

LAGRANGE, Ga. — Valdosta coach Nick Hyder said before his Wildcats' state Class AAAA semifinal game against LaGrange Friday night that his team had never faced a quarterback like Granger sophomore phenom Rodney Hudson.

But he might have added that Hudson (6 foot 1, 180 pounds), who has an ability to scramble that makes him almost impossible to sack, had never faced a defense like Valdosta's either.

As it has all year, the Valdosta defense did the job, and the offense, despite some costly mistakes, put up enough points to beat the Grangers 24-13 in the cold, rain, mud and wind at Callaway Stadium.

The victory improved Valdosta to 13-1, and more important, sent it into Saturday night's state championship game in Athens against old playoff rival Clarke Central. Central upset Southwest Dekalb 21-20 Fri-

day to set up its fourth meeting with Valdosta for a state title since 1977.

The key score for Valdosta came 2:20 into the third period when it started the second half just as it had the first — scoring on its first possession.

With Valdosta trailing 13-12, Joe Wright returned the second-half kickoff 54 yards to the LaGrange 35. A few plays later, tailback Chris Chachere went over on a first-and-goal from the 2 to put Valdosta ahead to stay.

The Grangers became only the third team this season to score in double digits against the Wildcats, but the Valdosta defenders really weren't responsible for one of those touchdowns.

The Wildcats' defense:

● Held Hudson, who came into the game averaging 210 yards of total offense, to 164. He had 93 yards passing on six completions in 17 attempts and 33 yards rushing.

● Sacked him five times for 35 yards in losses, tackled him three times for no gain when he was forced to scramble away from pressure and harassed him throughout the game, forcing bad throws and two interceptions.

● Held the Grangers to 31 yards rushing — minus 34 in the second half — and 124 yards of total offense.

● Set up the 5-yard touchdown run by Chachere that gave the Wildcats a 12-0 first-quarter lead when defensive co-captain Bruce Daniels recovered a fumble by LaGrange running back Ricardo Rutledge at the Granger 25.

● Sealed the win with an interception by middle guard Andre Hampton that closed the door on Hudson and the Grangers and turned into a 56-yard touchdown run as the clock ran out.
"The weather dictated a lot of what we did," said coach Gary Guthrie, whose Grangers (10-4)

completed their role as the Cinderella team of the AAAA playoffs. "But Valdosta had a lot to do with it, too. They're a great team."

If it hadn't been for the talent of Hudson, who came into the game with 2,134 yards passing, 601 rushing, 20 passing TDs and 10 running, it might have been a blowout.

"We've got to get that boy in college quick," Hyder said of Hudson. "I'll stick by what I said earlier. He's just as good as advertised. He's for real."

He showed that after Valdosta took its 12-0 lead. It scored on a fourth-and-goal 3-yard run by fullback Carlos Parker with 3:52 left in the first quarter to cap a 12-play, 77-yard drive on the first possession. It scored again on Chachere's run with 17 seconds left in the period.

Dow Drury's PAT kick after the first TD was wide left and quarter-back Alton Hitson's pass for two — the only one Valdosta attempted all

night — was caught out of the end zone.

An exchange of punts later, LaGrange started at its 24 on its only effective drive of the game.

Hudson displayed his now-you've-got-him, now-you-don't scrambling ability by eluding three onrushing Valdosta defenders who could have tackled him for a loss to pick up a first down at the Wildcat 48.

Hudson then scrambled away from pressuring defenders on a third-and-9 to hit wide receiver Tracy Heard at the goal line for a 47-yard touchdown.

Scott Simon's PAT kick made it 12-7 and the Grangers took the lead minutes later after LaGrange punter Derrick Ferrell pinned the Wildcats at their 1.

Hitson lost the wet ball on a sneak on the first snap and LaGrange's Rex Reed fell on it at the 1. Rutledge was stacked up at the 1-foot line, but Hudson went over on a sneak on the next play.

The attempted two-point conversion pass fell incomplete, but LaGrange led 13-12 with 15 seconds left in the half, setting up Valdosta's opening drive of the third quarter.

LaGrange had a final chance when an Eric Phillips punt was blocked, giving the Grangers the ball at the Wildcat 44 with 45 seconds left.

With 15 seconds left, Hudson made a desperation toss while in the grasp of two Valdosta defenders. Hampton picked it off on the right sideline and went all the way untouched as the clock ran out.

Valdosta 24, LaGrange 13

Valdosta	LaGrange
17	0
0	13
0	0
0	24
0	13

Valdosta
 V—Parker 3 run (kick failed)
 V—Chachere 5 run (pass failed)
 V—Heard 47 pass from Hudson (Simon kick)
 V—Hudson 1 run (pass failed)
 V—Chachere 27 run (pass failed)
 V—Hampton 36 run with interception (PAT not attempted)

Valdosta	LaGrange
10	6
44-162	25-31
00	93
1-0-0	17-6-2
3-2	2-1
2-10	4-20

First downs
 Rushes-yds
 Passes-yds
 Penalties-yds

VHS Class Of 1937 Had Many Firsts

By SUSAN A. SMIGIELSKI
Times Staff Writer

With upcoming high school graduations, many are thinking back to the day when they grasped their diplomas.

The Valdosta High School class of 1937 is one that made some changes.

The class of 100 seniors was the largest class ever to graduate from the high school before 1937 and it was the last time the students had to purchase their school books. Following that school year, free books were provided to the students, said Susan McKey Thomas, a life-time resident of Valdosta and a member of the graduating class.

It was also the last year the ladies of a graduating class wore white dresses and the men wore suits. The next class wore cap and gowns, she said.

The class motto was "Today we follow, tomorrow we lead." Class president was Noah Langdale, the vice president was Louie Peeples White and the secretary-treasurer was Billy Peeples.

Langdale recently retired as the president of Georgia State University and Mrs. White served with the American Red Cross during World War II. She is now very active in local civic organizations.

The top two graduates were Margaret Pardee Butterly and Walter Carter.

Mrs. Butterly went to the Juilliard School of Music in New York City



The 1937 graduating class from Valdosta many firsts — Special photo courtesy of the High School was a group that experienced Lowndes County Historical Society.

and is presently a member of the faculty. Carter is an Industrial Chemistry Professor at Georgia Technical Institute.

The high school's principal was J.P. Mott and the superintendent of schools was A.G. Cleveland. The mayor of Valdosta was J.D. Ashley.

The kids danced the big apple and the jitterburg to such songs as "I

Double Dare You," "Josephine," "Never in a Million Years," "Sail Along, Silvery Moon," "The Nearness of You," "Once in Awhile," "Harbor Lights," "Where or When" and "Shall We Dance."

The best movie of the year many young men took their dates to see was "Life if Emile Zola." They then took the dates for a Coco-Cola they purchased with a nickel.

Also for a nickel, the members of the class rode a street car, made a telephone call and could buy enough stamps to mail a letter or two post-cards.

Gas was a mere 11 cents a gallon and a Chevy sold for \$600. And anything labeled "Made in Japan" meant it was junk. The average 3-bedroom house cost \$4,100 and the average yearly income was \$1,893.

VHS Students Win Invent America

95-18-90

By LAURA JOHNS
Times Staff Writer

Three Valdosta High School students won first-place awards at the Invent America state competition at Clayton State College in Morrow.

Holly Rentschler, daughter of Barbara Rentschler, tied for first place in the 11th-grade division, winning a \$500 savings bond for her "Sock-of-the-Month Club" invention. Her invention was designed as gifts to be given to friends or relatives who have everything.

Dan Altman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Altman, and Spencer Iverson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Iverson, won first place in the senior division of team competition, a new category this year. Each won plaques for their invention, a "Basketball Goal for the Visually Impaired."

Their invention has a sound tone which helps the blind person find the hoop. Once the hoop is

located and the ball is shot, a signal sounds if the goal is made.

Janeen Josey, Invent America system coordinator, said state competition is the highest level for high school students, but grades kindergarten through eighth can compete on a national and international level.

Four students in grades three through eight from Valdosta City Schools also attended the state competition, but their inventions will be judged in Washington, D.C., later this month.

Those attending were Emory Patterson, Alex Stroud, Daniel McCranie and Amy Register. Each of these students placed first at the district competition, allowing them to compete statewide.

Patterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Christie Patterson Jr. and a third-grader at S.L. Mason Elementary, invented a "Dry Box," an apparatus that allows shoes, paper and other items to dry in only minutes.

Stroud, a fourth-grader at S.L. Mason, invented a "Comfortapad," a soft cushion on the neck area used while wearing seat belts. Stroud is the son of Gary and Jean Stroud.

McCranie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Slade McCranie, is a fifth-grader at West Gordon Elementary. His invention is a "3-in-1 Trash Can," designed as an easy way to separate glass, paper, and aluminum for recycling without having three different trash cans.

Miss Register, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Register, invented a "Better Mixing Bowl," allowing a spatula to hook onto a mixing bowl to scrape contents from the sides as the mixer turns the bowl. She is a seventh-grader at Valdosta Junior High School.

Mrs. Josey said Invent America operates through the city school gifted program, but officials are considering extending the program to other students.



Taking The Handoff

Sunday May 20, 1990

Valdosta High running back Art Gordon takes a handoff from Friday's spring scrimmage at Cleveland Field — Times Photo by
quarterback Jamey Waters in the midst of the blocking during Paul Leavy NDT

~~_____~~, Sunday, May 6, 1990 B-5

VHS Students On Honor Roll

Valdosta High Principal William Alrich has announced the honor roll for the fourth six weeks.

Students listed were Thaddeus Agar, Michael Akins, Desi Albritton, Gina Albritton, Bill Alexander, David Alexander, John Allen, Larry Allen, Clint Allred, Angela Anderson, Deborah Anderson, Michael Anderson, Chris Andresen, Pinkey Arnold, Ruby Arnold, Mary Aycock, Cliff Baker, Matthew Baker, Russell Baker, Susan Baldwin, Maria Baratta, Laura Barbas, Becky Barnette, Billy Barthel, Ashley Bass, Linette Bauzo, Maribel Bauzo, Brook Bearden, Honey Bentley, Tamula Berrian, Joel Bius, Lesli Bius, Yasmine Bivins, Kelli Bland, Joel Boatright, Tracey Bonner, Michelle Bostock, Latesha Bradley, Luther Brantley, James Braswell, Kimberly Breeden, Justin Bridges, Felecia Brown, Jessica Brown, Shawanna Brown, Melissa Buckland, Kayse Budd, Allison Burch.

Kathleen Burke, Stacy Burnett, Heather Burns, Jonathan Burns, Means Butler, Latonya Byrd, Justin Cabral, Belinda Cantrell, Ingrid Carroll, Angela Carter, David Carter, Loretasha Carter, Spence Carver, Christine, Gregory Clark, Janie Clark, Monica Clifton, Todd Coker, Katherine Coleman, Will Coleman, Ryan Collins, Suzanne Conard, Ashley Connell, Paige Cook, Ben Copeland, Christine Cortez, Melanie Cowart, Rebecca Coyne, Ryan Coyne, Leslie Crane, Tamara Crowe, Tiffany Daniels, Matt Daugherty, Carla Davis, Hilary Davis, Shannon Davis, Sabrina Davis, Wilhelmina Davis, Nikki DeMott, Glarie Dempsey, Greg Denly,

Wendy Kuter, Teresa Lamprey, Wanda Lane, Jennifer Launey, Theresa Lawson, Nicky Legg, Christee Leynes, Sam Lightsey, Michael Linger, Bill Little, Durwin Logan.

Alana Lovelace, Brandon Lovett, Any Lowery, Lewis Lynch, Christine Malcom, Janice Mallory, Jennifer Matthews, Allison McAllister, Amanda McClellan, Marlin McClure, Ann McCranie, Maggie McDonald, Stephanie McEady, Tina McGee, Gina McGee, Amanda McGhin, Irish McGriff, Sharon McKinnon, Jessica McMullen, Mickey McSwain, Robert McSween, Tammy Means, Eric Miller, Courtney Minchew, Tiffany Minchew, Kyle Mitchell, Mallette Mitchell, Nicole Mitchell, Reginald Mitchell, Beth Mitchell, Cedric Mobley, Kenyanda Moore, Pamela Moore, Sherman Moore, Rett Moore, Jill Morgan, Betty Morris, David Morrisette, Tangie Morrison, Meredith Mosby, Marcus Moss, Monica Motes, Jill Mueller, Michael Mulligan, Sarah Muntz, Shannon Myers, Demita Nelson, Mark Nestor, Mike Nestor.

Jason Nichols, Robby Norris, Melissa Norwood, Michael Norwood, Tim O'Brien, Stephanie O'Neal, Ryan Ogden, Jeffrey Panetti, Hemali Patel, Melissa Paulk, John Peoples, Katresa Peterson, Kordelya Peterson, Veronica Phillips, Zanthea Phillips, Philip Pieplow, Ben Pitchford, Michelle Pitts, Latarca Ponder, Michael Pope, Dan Rackley, Patricia Radney, William Raines, Sarita Rainey, Jamie Rainwater, John Ramey, Scott Ramirez, Crystal Ray, Angela Redden, Nick Reed, Tami Reed, Holly Rent-

schler, Mary Richards, Michelle Riley, Tiffany Roan, Trent Roberson, Michael Roberts, Sirica Roberts, David Roddey, Stephanie Rodgers, Janet Rogers, Rhoda Ross, Allison Roush, Timothy Roush, Amy Rowe, Robin Rowe, Jeremy Rowell, Kelly Rowell.

Cynthia Rumph, Alan Sanderson, Ryan Sanderson, Monica Savage, Kathy Schader, Latonya Scott, Lee Scott, Shayna Shapiro, Dayne Shelton, Christy Sheppard, Willie Simon, Martiele Sineath, Rodney Smallwood, Monica Smirnoff, Brian Smith, Charles Smith, Joyette Smith, Kalena Smith, Lakeshia Smith, Patricia Smith, Mabry Smith, Jason Sorrells, Greg Sosnik, Tonya Southers, Amy Spann, Jennifer Spencer, Charles Spray, Tina St. Cyr, Jamey Steinberg, Bill Steinberg, Davidae Stewart, Andy Stone, Tefe Stone, Jill Story, Heather Strayhorn, Corey Strickland, George Strickland, Jennie Strickland, Julie Suggs, Miki Swilley, Kevin Swinford, Nathan Tart, Richard L. Thiele, Anthony Thomas, Teto Thomas, Paula Thomas, Tanya Tovar, Judson Turner, Miriam Vendemo, Alysia Walker, John Walker, Lasharon Walker, Chantell Washington, Jamey Waters, Jennifer Weaver, Roger Weaver, Leslie Wetherington, Trent Wetherington, Christopher Wheeler, Melissa Wheeler, William Whitesell, Jeffrey Williams, Kimberly Williams, Omega Williams, Ginny Williams, Kenneth Wingrove, Will Woodall, Lashonna Wrice, Afusso Wright, Angella Wright, Carma Wright, Laurie Young, Michael Young, Scott Youngblood, Shannon Yow, and Jeff Zager.

Continued next page

May 6, 1990

VHS

From Page 1-A

Altman, Christina Sarah Bauer, Jacqueline Nicole Belflower, Latechia Tashun Brown, John Scott Casker, Christopher Todd Coker, Katherine Shaw Coleman, Melanie Elizabeth Cowart, Stanley Covington Cox Jr., Sara Nicole Demott, Kelly Ann Edwards, Sylvia Jane Edwards, Crista LeAnn Evans, Jason Brent Finland and Michael James Galloy Jr.

Also, Shawn Gay, Robin Ann Goli-vesky, Christopher Andrew Hart, Barbara Anne Ison, Spencer Warren Iverson, Jaret Eddins Johnson, Wynne Randle Johnson, Emily Shea Josey, Michael Erik Linger, Jill Marie Mueller, Joshua Daniel Papandrea, Jamie Ruth Rainwater, John Miles Ramey, Catherine Rowe, Kelly Ann Rowell, Farell Marcellus Scott, Shayna Shapiro, Heather Ann Strayhorn, Virginia Grace Williams.

Christopher Andrew Hart was recognized as the Best All Around Senior, and Joy Whaley Purvis was honored as having perfect attendance during her 12 years of school.

Other graduates include Mark Alan Adair, Marion Everette Adams II, John Brooks Akins, William Thomas Alexander, Amy Dawn Alfson, Valerie Felica Armstrong, David Korte Arnold, Ruby Lavoris Arnold, Chiquita Latrelle Askew, Jeffery Charles Ballentine, Candice Nicole Banks, Shane Thomas Barnhart, Ashley Robert Bass, Corey Samuel Bea, Pamela Lee Bennett and Stephanie Chereese Bennett.

Also, Honey Lynn Bentley, Robert Lee Berian, Tamula Tameka Berrian, Greta Voncil Vonzella Berry, Kimberly Ann Beverly, Linda Gail Bines, David Timothy Bishop, Erik Michael Biskupiak, Steve Wilford Blankenship, Joel Mahone Boatright, Charles Stephen Bonner, Latesha Yvette Bradley, Eric Von Bramble, James Bernard Braswell, Bayh Julia Brindger, Lori Lenore Brooks, Frederick Lanard Brown, Kelvin Dewayne Brown, Linda Faye Brown, Monolito Montoya Brown.

Also, Reginald Bernard Brown, Christina Lynn Browning, Freda Latrelle Bruton, Jerald Nicole Bryant, Reginald Keith Bryant, Dana Allison Burch, Michelle Lynn Burgess, Christine Elizabeth Burke, Kathleen Mary Burke, Belenda Anne Burleigh, Angela Denise Butler, Jeffery Bernard Butler, Heather Joanna Caino, Tara Laigh Campbell, Ryan Dennis Cannon, Craig William Carter, David Christopher Carter, Glenda Yolanda Carter and Tracy Jermaine Carter.

Also, Monica Lettye Ann Ceaser, Christopher Bernard Chachere, Golda Tanyka Caroline Benigna Christie, Janie Clark, Lori Nichole Clemons, Alfreda Lastonia Cochran, Rachel Loretta Coleman, Benjamin Irvin Copeland Jr., George Ashley Copeland Jr., Laura Leigh Courson, Shawn Walter James Courson, John

Howard Cowell, Jacquelyne Michelle Cox, Rhonda Michelle Crawford, Paul Wilbert Cribbs Jr., Sean Patrick Cullen, Bruce Dwayne Daniels.

Also, Lester Daniels Jr., Pamela Lynette Daniels, Suzette LaTrelle Davidson, Carla Evette Davis, Sebastian RoShon Davis, John Early Day III, Maurice Brian Dean, Garti Carolynna Dennis, Kiska Tameka Dennis, Jack Donaldson III, Terry Roshon Dukes, Natasha Vemita Duncan, Mary Clare Duplantis, Randal Durrah, Shawn Antwan Eady, Nancy Zan Eanes, Elizabeth Marie Edwards, Leigh Ashli England, Colby Brian English and Robert Lee Fillmore.

Also, Victoria Mechelle Finnies-see, Renee Faith Flowers, Tara Sabrina Flucas, Ian William Folsom, Andrew Lee Fc III, Curtis Gerald Fowler II, Nealana Lynn Freeman, Sonia Evette French, Ell Maurice Fuller, Jack Cyril Fuller, Sabrina Latrice Fuller, Addison William Gaitor Jr., Antonio Bernard Garrett, Michael Saunders Garwood Jr., Shawn Davan Gary, Beverly Michelle Gaskins, Gregory Wade Gaumont.

Also, Pamela Paxson Giddens, Joe Gilliard III, Tyrone Davis Glaster, Renita Trelene Gloster, Christopher Lamar Gomez, Felicia Regina Gosier, James Matthew Grady, Tracy DiShun Graham, Sheila Michelle Gray, Hattie Lee Green, Kerri Beth Greenway, Jada Lyn Griffin, Jason Eric Griffin, Jennifer Caroline Griffin, Stephen Michael Griffin, Christopher Charles Gross, Kevin Lee Hall, Hoke Andre' Hampton, Lisa Renee Hargett, Deirdre C. Morrison Harrell and Felicia Elizabeth Harris.

Also, Sandra Gail Harris, Holly Jeanne Hastings, Jonathan Wayne Hastings, Ronald Lee Hasty, Rhonda Monique Head, Cynthia Leigh Helms, Anquetette Longvette Henderson, Frederick Antonio Henton, Cleveland Wesley Herring Jr., Shannon Elizabeth Hill, Alexander Henry Hodge, Tonya Melissa Hodge, Muriel Marissa Holmes, Stacy Lamont Holmes.

Also, Sharisa Delania Hope, Vanessa Hull, Meredith Ince, Willie Russell Jackson, Lemuel Laveme Jacobs, Belinda Maria James, Felicia Denise James, Jeffrey David Jankosky, Hanif Asim Jenkins, Cedric Leonard Johnson, Darcy Haywood Johnson, Gregory Lamar Johnson, Michelle Renee Johnson, Steven Craig Johnson, Wendy Patricia Johnson, Woodrow Vincent Johnson, Anthony Leon Jones, Lewis Alvin Jones Jr., Michelle Renee Jones and Tinease Delois Jones.

Also, Tredessa Denise Jones, Frederick Lawrence Keeling, Quintina Joyce Kerns, Jason Bernard King, Daniel William Knowlton, Travis Devonne Lane, Wanda Michelle Lane, Theresa Lynn Lawson, Ken-

V. Times 6-7-90

neth James Lester, Eddie LaKeith Lewis, Kimberly Denise Lewis, Kimberly Lisi, Carlos Demetrius Lissimore, Keith Christopher Lock, Alisa Elisabeth Lovoll, Cristie Michelle Lowe.

Also, Keith Allan Ludlum, Marcus Antonio Lynch, Major Lynn Jr., Alesia Evette Mabry, James Edward Manning, Anita Valaria Matchett, Tawanya Yvette Matthews, Derrick Nathaniel Mays, Allison McAllister, Larry Jerome McCain, Rhonda Dantelle McClendon, Julian Russell McDonald III, Carlton Darrell McDuffie, Sharon Denise McKinnon, Melanie Alicia McPipkin and Michael Timothy McSwain.

Also, Joseph Chadwick Meadows, Matthew Robert Means, Russell Mark Melligan, Gayla Annette Miller, Mari Lynn Minks, Allen Lamar Mitchell, Bart Theo Mizell, Helen Remenliza Monroe, Hee Chul Moon, Sherman Franchot Moore, James Ryan Moorman, Tonya Beth Morey, Joseph Chadwick Morin, Tangie Shantle Morrison, Jeffrey Darin Moxley, Rachel Kimberly Murray, William Shannon Myers, Christopher Brady Newsome, Anthony Charles Newton, Valerie Michelle Newton, Jason Christopher Nichols.

Also, Lori Elizabeth Norman, Nicola Ann Norris, Stephanie Lores Oliver, James Thomas Osborne Jr., Jeffrey Jonathan Panetti, Barry Robert Parker, Carlos Antonio Parker, Esperanza Birhinia Monique Parker, Laurie Lynn Parramore, Albert Lee Patterson, Sheila Evette Perry, Steven Gales Petermann, Jason Eric Peters, Angela Peterson, Thomas Michael Phagans II, Carl Eugene Phillips, Petra LaTrelle Phillips, Ivey Webster Plair, Angela Beth Pompey, Alfred Bernard Preston and LaMonica Ruth Pride.

Also, Malinda Leigh Pruette, Joy Whaley Purvis, Patricia Marilyn Radney, Jasmin Pamela Ragheb, Scott VanSant Ramirez, Eric Antonio Ramsey, Tonya Meshell Reese, Velma Jean Riley, Trent Avery Roberson, LaTonya Ann Roberts, Luther Roberts Jr., Efreim Zimblist Abercrombie Robinson, Myel Jensen Robinson, Stephanie Renee Rodgers, Christopher Michael Rosa, Sanita LaShawn Ross.

Also, Herbert Amos Rumlin, Clarence Edward Ryan Jr., Diana Deloris Saucier, Amy Catherine Sayre, Charlie Lee Scurry Jr., Jennifer Caroline Seago, Kimberly Traciann Selph, Julie Ann Sheets, Michael Todd Sherman, Harrison Burke Sherwood, Willie Charles Simon Jr., Sabrina Simpson, Keith Bernard Sims, Martiele Virginia Sineath, Tangela Yvette Simans, Rodney Dwayne Smallwood, Andre Demetrius Smith and Charles Lemuel Smith.

Also, Keith Lamonte Smith, Lisa Mitchell Smith, Maria Antionette Smith, Terrence Chantre Smith, Toshia Antoinette Smith, Tracy Lynn Smothers, Kathryn Ann Soper, Tonya Southers, Charles Daron Spray, Ashley Paige Stabell, Meredith Lynn Stabell, James Isaac Steinberg Jr., Ian Lamont Stewart, Eric LaNorris Stone, Jennifer DeLoach Strickland, Samantha Strickland, Jarrod Rhymes Stump, Keith Whitley Taylor.

Also, Richard Leroy Thiele, James Christopher Thigpen, Dexter Sebastian Thomas, Dwayne Thomas, Marcus Demetrius Thomas, Timothy Wayne Tillman, Keith Bernard Tolley, Judson Louis Turner, Cassandra Yvette Twine, Malcolm Guevara Tyson, Deborah Suzanne VanNus, Mary Shea Varn, Vickie Conuella Wade, Jarred Brian Walker, LaSharon Diane Walker and Valencia Brown Walker.

Also, Tanya Varshea Weatherspoon, Forrest Lehman Weeks, Jonathan Wayne Westfall, Natarsha Nicole White, Sharon Yvonne White, Landon Craig Wilder, Kevin Will Wilkerson, Anthony Bernard Williams, Baratunde Yero Williams, Delores Davis Williams, Omega Teresa Williams, Pamela Diane Williams, Veronica Dionne Williams, Alfonza Willis, Yolanda Regina Wiseman, Shannon Michael Woods, Shunda Michelle Woods, Afusso Wright, Angeila Michelle Wright, Carma Alisha Wright, Gegory Scott Youngblood.

The 1989-90 class officers were president Chris Hart, vice president Spencer Iverson, secretary Farell Scott and treasurer Nicola Norris. Jason Griffin served as the Student Council president.